

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

September 16, 2010 – 1 pm
Presbytery Office

Attending John Cox, Jeff O'Neill, Larry Slager, Andy Thorburn, Zoe Wilcox, Seth Weeldreyer, Anne Weirich. Staff: *John Best, Rich Lichti, Janet Magennis*. Guests: Treasurer Larry Nelson, Moderator of Budget & Finance Tedd Oyler.

Members excused: Rick Campbell, Harry Johnson, Linda Knieriemen, Chris Prokos

Devotions: Zoe Wilcox shared a quote, "It doesn't matter whether you are short of money, people, energy or time, the things that God invites you to do are always greater than the resources you start with." *Dr. Bruce Wilkinson* We discussed this and then offered grace before the lunch.

Minutes were sent for email approval previously and were in the presbytery packet online.

VISIONING

- Discussed terms of LT people and nominating needs. John Best will work with the Nominating Committee to replace outgoing members Harry Johnson, Andy Thorburn and John Cox, who has been elected as Vice Moderator. Anne Weirich and Larry Slager are both eligible for re-election.
- Discussion of our Visioning Statement status – Thorburn will send to all in preparation for the next meeting. It appears to be a document that overwhelms others since they do not work with it like we do, so it needs to be simplified to use with them – like the one presented at the September stated meeting. We agreed to share the newer version.

COUNCIL/LEADERSHIP TEAM BUSINESS

We met with Budget and Finance Moderator Tedd Oyler and Treasurer Larry Nelson to prepare for final budget deliberations. Resourcing our process for budget in the past has been a function of B&F but they felt this year that the decisions on how to allocate shared mission dollars should more properly be a policy approach to the stewardship of available resources. Two line items identified with significant increases are Higher Education and Greenwood. Shared mission receipts have been in steady decline and we are looking at a 20% non-payment of per capita. The shared mission revenue is the area where B&F is seeking LT direction.

LT's responsibility in this work is to set policy direction for budgeting. Andy Thorburn discussed the background on the Greenwood request and there could be some alteration of their request. The response from us to them at this point is that we need their help to balance the overall budget. Higher Education background indicates that we pay the salaries and other denominations pay the programming. We need to obtain detailed data on the total budgets in order to make our decisions.

We agreed we need some better data and will provide some more focus on our identified priorities. We then have a starting place for consensus. This is where discernment hits the road? We need a per capita update on how we compare on the presbytery allocation. We want to come out of a gathering with ministry team moderators with a balanced budget,

and we will need to also make decisions on the revenue end. We need to depend upon the agency or team to bring the background information needed.

Our strategy here is to make choices that reshape the funding allocations now and in the short-term and there are questions targeted to each unique situation. We decided that we need someone from the two main Book of Order committees.

Assignments:

1. A joint communication from Seth Weeldreyer, Linda Knieriemen and Tedd Oyler – by September 21st
 2. A focus on priorities that reflects and reshapes each committee's request that comes from the liaisons to each team – with staff members corresponding with COM and CPM. The invitations should tell them to come prepared to answer these questions.....*If you had to reduce your budget by 10-20% how would that affect your ability to continue to meet our goals and foci. Rank by High, med or low priority with the presbytery goals/foci. (Self-prioritizing in relation to the goals.)* Submit in advance to Andy Thorburn by October 14.
- We further discussed future worship planning at stated meetings. Weirich reported about November's worship plan that it will be more integrated among the work. Only concerns were about keeping timing under firm control. We discussed the plan of the day and how and if we should introduce one piece of the items to vote upon – request to consider the amendment on ordination. We have not heard back from our request to the GA Moderator. John Best and Seth Weeldreyer will figure this out.
 - We finalized our appointments to the Nominating Committee with indications from Andy Thorburn and Paula Vader Hoven that they would agree to serve.

REPORTS/UPDATES

- Presbyter's Report – John Best gave a verbal report on activities and received affirmation from the Team that he is doing exactly what we envisioned for our General Presbyter, and he is meeting our expectations. It has been challenging and busy.
- Stated Clerk Janet Magennis reported on hosts for 2011 PRESBYTERY DATES:

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| Saturday February 12, 2011 | PORTAGE WESTMINSTER |
| Tuesday April 12, 2011 | HASTINGS |
| Tuesday June 14, 2011 | SPRING LAKE |
| Tuesday September 13, 2011 | EAST LANSING EASTMINSTER |
| Saturday November 12, 2011 | GRAND HAVEN |

We adjourned with prayer by Zoe Wilcox at 4:40 pm.

Recorded by Janet Magennis, Stated Clerk

NEXT MEETINGS: October 21, 2010, location TBA, then December 9, 2010, location TBA – The Stated Clerk will inquire from GR Eastminster and Schoolcraft if those dates would work for them to be our hosts.

OCTOBER 21 DEVOTIONS: Jeff O'Neill
MEAL: Chris Prokos and Zoe Wilcox

DECEMBER 9 DEVOTIONS: Harry Johnson
MEAL: Larry Slager and Anne Weirich