

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

July 21, 2011

Attending: Mark Barger-Elliott, John Cox, Leslie Gilreath, Linda Knieriermen, Chris Prokos, Larry Slager, Anne Weirich, Zoe Wilcox. Staff: John Best, Katherine Culpepper.

Members Excused: Rick Campbell, Jeff O'Neill, Seth Weeldreyer. Staff: Janet Magennis.

Devotions: John Best led devotions taken from the devotions from the recent "Big Tent" gathering.

Appointment of Recorder: John Cox appointed recorder in the absence of Stated Clerk Magennis.

VISIONING

1. Budget Items:

- a. Katherine Culpepper provided an update on the scholarship and grant application process. There will be an improved chart (with links) on the Lake Michigan Presbytery website.
- b. The "Deep and Wide Fund" is a fund created from dividends Budget and Finance has determined to be available. Budget and Finance encourages disbursement of the money. After discussion a motion prevailed that Leadership Team will control this fund and use it for unbudgeted needs. Mark Barger-Elliott will work with John Best and Katherine Culpepper to compose a communication to presbytery about the fund.
- c. John Best reported that some staff vouchered expense items have been reduced, but no staff salaries have been cut.

1. Stated Clerk's Report:

A written report on Operations Manual update was provided and reviewed prior to the meeting. There were questions about how to present the updates and the approval processes for these and future updates. After discussion motions prevailed to retain the title "Leadership Team" as "Leadership Council" may be confusing considering the use of the term "council" in the New Form of Government; and to continue the discussion next meeting when the Stated Clerk can be present.

1. Planning for September and November Meetings of Presbytery:

It was reported that the PC(USA) Moderator's availability for the September meeting is in question due to circumstances of her employment. Her availability probably will not be known until the week prior to the meeting. Alternatives discussed included asking the Moderator for a video (live or recorded) presentation and inviting the Vice-Moderator to attend in her stead. John Best will attempt to contact Moderator Bolbach. There was also discussion about allowing the theme "forbearance" to evolve into "engagement". The discussion will be continued at the August meeting.

1. Docket Time Request Standards:

There was discussion about the need to have standards for the allocation of time. Due to the team's lack of understanding of how the docket is actually constructed, it was decided to continue the discussion in August when the Stated Clerk can be present.

1. Details for Moderator's Visit: Tentative plans were made but are now on hold until the Moderator's or Vice-Moderator's availability can be determined.

COUNCIL/LEADERSHIP TEAM BUSINESS

1. 2012 Stated Meeting dates and Locations: Possible dates and locations suggested were:

- Saturday, February 11 at Lansing North/Westminster
- Tuesday, April 10 (2 days after Easter) at Holt
- Tuesday, June 12 (retirees) at Brooklyn
- Tuesday, September 11 at Big Rapids
- Saturday, November 10 at Battle Creek First

Concerns were expressed about a meeting 2 days after Easter and about recognizing retirees and Brooklyn, considering the distance of travel for many. Alternatives suggested included moving the April meeting to a week later, eliminating the spring meeting - meeting only four times, and recognizing retirees at another meeting. The discussion will continue in August.

Note: It appears the presbytery by-laws still call for six meetings a year. Whatever is decided a change in by-laws is apparently needed. *(STATED CLERK'S NOTE: Current bylaws reflect only five (5) meetings as scheduled by the Leadership Team. That bylaws revision was done some time ago.)*

1. Offering Designation for September: Suggested were the Korean congregation and the Burmese fellowship. A final decision will be made at the August meeting.
1. Replace Vicky Parker on Nominating Committee: The name of Elder Steve Volkhardt of Grand Rapids Forest Hills was submitted. Mr. Volkhardt was the chair of the PNC that called Rick Raum. A motion prevailed to appoint Mr. Volkhardt.

TEAM REPORTS

1. Presbyter's Update: A written report was submitted. John Best highlighted concern about the turn-over in leadership, many chairs will be leaving the post and a number of logical replacements will be leaving the committees and teams. He also reported he continues to deal with the aftermath of the new ordination standards.
 - AMT: A written report was received.
 - SMT: A written report was received.
 - OMT: No report.
 - DMT: Verbal report, Campus Ministries are concerned about funding issues but are dealing with them.
 - TASK FORCE Updates:
 - a) Communications: Leslie Gilreath reported.
 - b) Evangelism: John Sterner will attend a conference in November.
 - c) Staffing/Structure Review: John Best would like to attend to "Narrative Journey" seminar at Western Seminary. This is an ecumenical group dealing with such matters. A motion prevailed to fund his attendance to \$1,000.00 from the Deep and Wide fund.

Recorded by John Cox