

LEADERSHIP TEAM MINTUES

October 27, 2011

Attending: Vice Moderator John Cox, Leslie Gilreath, Moderator Linda Knieriemen, Jeff O'Neill, Chris Prokos, Seth Weeldreyer, Anne Weirich, Zoe Wilcox. Staff: GP John Best, Stated Clerk Janet Magennis.

Excused: Rick Campbell, Mark Barger-Elliott, Larry Slager, Associate Presbyter Katherine Culpepper.

DEVOTIONS: Jeff O'Neill opened with devotions and prayer.

Minutes from September 2011 were sent by email for approval.

ANNOUNCEMENTS were shared:

1. AP Culpepper will convene a consultation on Camping with leaders of Chicago's Camp (Saugatuck), Camp Henry and Camp Greenwood, sometime in mid-November.
2. Staff Services met with G. Hoekman for his annual review on 10/24.
3. AMT is planning a Saturday Seminar day May 5, 2012. They will be asking if DMT, Church Growth, Educator Fellowship may want to schedule also, to have a keynoter, joint worship.
4. GP Best and SC Magennis just attended the denomination's Fall Polity Conference in Pittsburgh.
5. Dissolution Policy Task Force will be meeting twice prior to LT.
6. GRAPES: The Grand Rapides Area Presbyterian Evangelical Group will sponsor and lead another luncheon time theological discussion group on gratitude/thanksgiving theme, with Laura Smit leading. We have given the green light to this group.
7. Staffing Design Team has been convened.
8. Staff is working on moderator training ideas for all units, with many leadership changes set for next year

DISCERNMENT and VISION for the Presbytery:

1. 2012 Presbytery Meeting Planning Calendar was discussed. Two host opportunities remain.
2. Linda Knieriemen reported on a gathering of past moderators and shared the meeting notes. We will pass along to the Staffing Design Team the notes on staffing roles. It was agreed that this was valuable input and will implement into our Operations Manual recommendations that include:
 - a. The Moderator will select a Theme for the Year relevant to spiritual growth and nurture of the presbytery. Themes for worship and stated meetings may be an extension of this theme.
 - b. The decision about allocation of the Presbytery offering may relate in some way to our region or for the community in which the meeting is taking place, however there should also be a clear default position of PDA or one of the denominational offerings appropriate to the season.
 - c. Continue a meeting, perhaps annually, of the Presbytery Moderator, Vice Moderator and previous moderators to glean the experience and wisdom of these leaders.
 - d. Establish cycles for agencies and ministry teams to report. Ghana, Nicaragua, Higher Ed, Greenwood, GA Commissioners, etc are assigned a meeting for a major report every two years.
3. The Gil Rendle books were distributed and assigned everyone to begin reading for discussion on December 1.

4. GP Best shared his report and news of the presbytery.

REPORTS AND COUNCIL ACTION:

1. November 2011 stated meeting final planning. At this meeting will be included:
 - a. Jenni Whitford, Christian Educator at Jackson First has been certified. This will be recognized with a special liturgy by the CPM.
 - b. Celebration of Saints and Communion will take place.
 - c. There will be a disciplinary matter on the docket.
2. AMT recommended for first reading necessary bylaws amendments. SC Magennis shared the proposed amendments and a motion prevailed for the Leadership Team to bring them to the presbytery for first reading on November 12, 2011.
3. The review and updating of our Operations Manual has been underway since the summer. Written by Janet Magennis and reviewed by Janet Van Lear, they have been tweaked since the information received from the Fall Polity Conference. The group moved through the review and will allow time for final edits, planning for approval and adoption at the December 1 LT meeting. The body does not need to approve the Handbook revisions, but a motion prevailed to bring the SMT recommendation for alteration of the presbytery structure to the November 12 stated meeting.
 - a. *The work on bylaws and the Operations Manual will meet the presbytery's vote to move to full operation under the 2011-2013 Book of Order by the November 12 stated meeting.*
 - b. *The Stated Clerk offered her suggestion that the presbytery consider addition of a third focus point that incorporates our commitment to our denominational connections. It was asked that this be recorded for future discussion.*
4. Three grant applications for *Deep and Wide* funds were considered:
 - a. A decision on the Global Hosanna Fellowship application was postponed to December 1 with Jeff O'Neill and Anne Weirich engaging the grant writers in further discussion.
 - b. Holt First application was considered. Since our grants are only one year a motion prevailed to change the language to a one-year request. A second motion to allocate \$1,000 for one year was approved.
 - c. An in-house technology application was considered and postponed to December 1 with Seth Weeldreyer and Zoe Wilcox doing additional research.
 - d. It was decided that we will not consider grants that do not arrive at least one week prior to the LT meeting.
5. Several suggestions for replacing Randy Painter on the Nominating Committee were discussed and those individuals will be asked.
6. The Dissolution Task Force has met and a draft policy is underway.
7. Other Ministry Team updates were briefly discussed. The Youth Strategy Team has requested that the February 2012 stated meeting offering be allocated to their programs.

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 pm and Jeff O'Neill closed with prayer.

The next meeting of the Leadership Team is December 1, 2011.

Recorded by Janet Magennis, Stated Clerk