

PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA
REPORT OF COUNCIL
JULY 14, 2009

Since the Annual Stated Meeting of Presbytery on May 14, 2009, Council has met twice: May 30, in Retreat at Eagle Crest Presbyterian Homes, Roseville, MN, and for the regular meeting on July 25, also at Eagle Crest.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESBYTERY:

1. At the May Presbytery meeting the following Bylaws revision was presented for first reading. It is now to be put for a vote:

Amend Article VI, Presbytery Council as follows:

Membership of Council shall be nominated by the Nominating committee and elected by the Presbytery at its Annual Meeting or as terms expire. The Council shall be comprised of the following: (Sections in italics shall be added).

Six Members at large, chosen from diverse geographical areas
Council Chair, may be the immediate past Moderator of the Presbytery
Representative from Committee on Ministry
Representative from Board of Trustees
Representative from Nominating Committee
Representative from Church Development Team
Representative from Personnel Committee
Representative from Mission and Witness Committee
Moderator of Presbytery
Vice Moderator of Presbytery
Treasurer
Stated Clerk, who shall serve as secretary
Executive Presbytery (without vote)
Any Associate Executive Presbyters (without vote)

Rationale:

The Mission and Witness Committee, which has been working toward formal organization since the Work Groups were disbanded, is now ready to be elected, recognized, and to assume its role as described in the Manual of Operations.

Amend first paragraph of Article VI as follows by inserting the italicized words:

The Presbytery shall consist of the following committees: Presbytery Council, Nominating Committee, Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Committee on Representation, permanent Judicial Commission, as mandated by Book of Order [Form of Government G-9.0902]. The Presbytery shall also elect the following committees: Bills and Overtures, Board of Trustees, church Development Team, Advocates for Integrity in

Ministry, Commissioned lay Pastors, *Mission and Witness Committee*, Personnel Committee, Self Development of People, and other ad hoc task forces as are deemed necessary.

2. The following amendment to the Manual of operations is now put to a vote;

The Mission Outreach Team shall be known as the Mission and Witness Committee.

Meetings:

Membership: The committee shall consist of five elders, four ministers, elected by Presbytery. One will be nominated as chair. Executive Presbytery will be ex officio. At present, this is a group appointed by the Nominating Committee. Membership information will be effective when it is formally established as a Committee and members are elected by Presbytery.

Purpose: The mission of the Mission and Witness Committee is to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ by facilitating partnerships that support the mission of the Church. Partnerships may be with other churches or denominations within the Twin Cities Area, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), partner churches around the world, ecumenical partners, or appropriate community agencies that witness to that love.

Responsibilities:

1. The Mission and Witness Committee will oversee all mission oriented task forces, and administer the disbursement and distribution of funds as designated in the budget. This will include the Presbytery portion of the Peacemaking Offering.
2. The Mission and Witness Committee designs processes for partnership development, identifies areas of potential ministry, communicates partnership opportunities, facilitates enactments of partnerships, and interpretation of mission.
3. That the Presbytery of The Twin Cities Area approve the per capita assessment for the Presbytery portion payable in 2010 at \$19.06. This represents no change from 2009. Synod and General Assembly portions will also remain the same, making the total per capita \$30.01.

REPORT TO PRESBYTERY:

Synod of Lakes and Prairies The synod approved \$213,000 in grants for campus ministries and \$30,000 for an Iowa Hispanic ministry. Plans are in place for a second Collegiate Ministries conference. A summary of the April 26-28, 2009 meeting is on the web at <http://www.lakesandprairies.org/PDFFiles/SYNSUMMARY-SPRING09.pdf>. To find out more about what the Synod does go to <http://www.lakesandprairies.org/mission.html>

Presbyfest 2009 - Celebrating John Calvin and Five Centuries of Lay Leadership, Saturday, November 14 at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, MN. This event will feature keynote speaker, Dr. Cynthia Rigby, and many workshops designed to strengthen congregational lay leaders. Registration will be open in late summer. The Presbyfest Planning Team is seeking 2-3 persons to join the team to assist with organizing and implementing this event. It's a creative, energetic and fun group to work with! If interested, contact presbyfest@ptcaweb.org.

Council Goals 2009-2010 Council chose to use “Affirm Local Congregations” as the overall theme, with the goal to **“Build Spiritual Energy through Nurture”** Goals for council, suggested for the year, were as follows:

- **Affirm local congregations* - Major overall theme**
- **Create opportunities for small group dialogue (other than dinner) at Presbytery meetings (leading to Presbytery goals)—include 30 minutes for group discussion at each Presbytery meeting**
- **Focus on the six Great Ends of Church as themes of the six Presbytery meetings and the purpose of the Presbytery (as per the Book of Order.**
- **Talk with congregations about how they are meeting them.**
- **Council becomes nomadic; five-10 meetings per year in congregations, listening to their stories.**
- **Mission and Witness will present goals for priority and funding**
- **Offer two new lay leadership initiatives annually, such as officer training, evangelism and faith training**

July theme: The First Great End of the Church: **“The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind”**

The purpose of this conversation is to build connections among congregations and to support a network among congregations in the PTCA.

In small groups, as assigned:

- Each group should appoint a recorder who will report the main topics or themes on the sheet of paper provided Best Practices, Proclaiming the Gospel and make sure that it is left in the box provided by the end of today's meeting.
- Address the question: What is your congregation's “Best Practice” in proclaiming the gospel that you would want to share with other congregations?

The PTCA officers and council will review the reports and create Blogs on www.ptcaweb.org to allow for further conversation and dialog and hopefully clusters or affinity groups of congregations that would be in partnerships around those emerging topics.