

COUNCIL
Presbytery of Cincinnati
June 27, 2018

Present: Class of 2018: Rev. Maurice Mitchell, Class of 2019: Rev. Adam Fronczek, Elder John Martin; Class of 2020: Elder Bill Bogdan, Rev. Carol Ferguson; Representatives: Rob Heidenreich (Trustees)

Excused: Class of 2018: Elder Joellen Grady, Elder Frank Martin, Rev. Nancy Ross-Zimmerman; Class of 2019: Elder Carol Burnett, Rev. Tyler Pettigrew, Class of 2020: Elder Bob Northcutt, Rev. Russell Smith

Absent: Representative from Personnel

Officers Present: Elder Bob Young, Rev. Adam Fronczek, Rev. Lisa Stenner, Elder Couper Gardiner

Ex-Officio **Present:** Dr. Nancy Kahaian, Rev. Melana Scruggs

On June 27, 2018, at 6:00 PM, a stated meeting of the Presbytery Council was called to order with prayer at the presbytery office by Lisa Stenner, Council Moderator.

Dwelling in the Word

Luke 18:1-8 was read twice and people were encouraged to think about what God is saying to us and how God listens to us.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved, seconded, and approved that the minutes of the April 18, 2018 minutes be approved.

Reports from Officers and Staff

1. Chair of Council (Lisa Stenner)

Lisa attended the Festival of Faiths. There were over 90 exhibitors and over 2000 people. She had some great interactions with people. It will happen again next year. It was a great networking opportunity, with twelve different religions and quite a few groups that are doing ministry in new ways. She will bring leftover resources to the September presbytery meeting – including Muslim conversation resource from the PC (USA).

2. Moderator (Bob Young)

a. AC for Sardinia Congregation will report to November presbytery meeting so they can celebrate their 200th anniversary before they close. Members of the AC are: Carol Ferguson TE (Crescent Springs, KY), Jack Sawyer RE (Christ, Milford, OH), and Ken DeWeese RE (Sardinia, OH). Elder Sawyer is the Chair of the Administrative Commission.

b. Report on Presbytery Night at the Reds Game. 163 people purchased tickets to attend.

c. August 3 is the Synod Assembly in Maumee, Ohio. Anyone is invited to attend the meeting.

d. September 9, 2018 will be a Celebration Service for Deb Uchtman at Bethel-Murdoch.

3. Vice-Moderator (Adam Fronczek)

It was moved, seconded, and approved to change the November presbytery meeting from North Church to Knox Church.

4. Stated Clerk (Melana Scruggs)

a. Made suggestions about bylaw changes.

1. In Article III, Section 1, needs to read: "The officers shall be ... and must be a teaching elder or ruling elder and a member of presbytery."

2. G-3.0103 states that the Committee on Representation "should not be merged with another committee or made a subcommittee of another committee." Therefore, it would be prudent to change all instances of "Committee on Nominations and Representation" to "Committee on Representation" and have that committee bring nominations to the presbytery as well as keeping track of appropriate representation on the committees.

3. In Article VII, Section 1 the terms of service are listed as two years with no one serving more than four consecutive years. But under the Committee on Ministry it states that COM members are eligible for up to six years. If that is the case, you might want to put a disclaimer in the more general statement that COM is exempt from that rule.

4. It might also be prudent to think about making the COM a commission if it will have the power to receive members between presbytery meetings. Many presbyteries are doing that, but it really needs the full power of the presbytery, hence a commission, not just a committee.

b. Reported on increase in General Assembly per capita for 2019 to \$8.95. GA Per capita for 2018 is \$7.73.

c. AC for Synod of the Covenant will be appointed by the Co-Moderators and has been given the authority to assume original jurisdiction, if deemed necessary.

5. Treasurer (Couper Gardiner)

The Council reviewed financial reports for discussion purposes.

6. General Presbyter (Nancy Kahaian)

a. The Lombard-Mennonite workshop expense will be shared with Maumee Valley Presbytery for the "Conflict in the Church: Entrusted with the Message of Reconciliation Workshop" on September 21-22, 2018.

b. Nancy distributed her report to the Council: attendance at GA; vacation and continuing ed in July and October; Grow Pastors Initiative; Lilly Grant based on reconciliation including Richard Blackburn on being reconciled to self, and a section on listening and being reconciled to others, and finally a section on being reconciled to God through reading Scripture.

c. Nancy informed Council of her meeting with the Personnel Committee, which was conflictual and tense. Lisa Stenner volunteered to attend the next meeting of the Personnel Committee meeting.

d. Campus Ministry report: Trustees and COM will continue oversight of this work and the Presbyterian intern from Davidson, who is also a member of the church in Wyoming.
It was moved, seconded and approved to refer ongoing oversight of campus ministry to the Trustees and COM.

e. CHE network – helps communities with growth and evangelism and health concerns. Idea is to break the cycle of poverty in local communities. They began new work in the USA to see if this model could work in impoverished areas here. Nancy spoke to people who are doing this work in Lockland. There will be a training in the model at RLPC and Nancy has a commitment from 11 congregations. The cost is \$700, which includes lunch and supper. Nancy is asking Council to grant \$1200 from Local Mission Partnerships

It was moved, seconded, and approved to take extraordinary action to provide grant money of \$1200 to provide the CHE training at Reading-Lockland. Funds provided from Local Mission Partnerships.

f. A church planter, from mission partner in Egypt who has planted over 250 house churches, is going to come and talk about how to start house churches in Muskingum Valley Presbytery, and that presbytery is inviting Miami Valley, Scioto Valley and Cincinnati presbyteries to a luncheon to meet him and hear his presentation. This will be Wednesday, September 12 in Zanesville, and please contact Nancy if you are interested in attending.

7. Carol Ferguson talked about the Cincinnati Facebook group and encouraged Council to begin a Facebook page, which would require an administrator to approve placement of items. A Facebook page is a marketing tool – it would send out the items that the presbytery wants to share about its work. Carol is willing to set it up and be the point person on it. Nancy suggested that the group page be taken down and a new page be started. Carol will preview the page at the August Council meeting, and pending their approval, bring the page to the September meeting of presbytery and presbytery will be given information about the page concept during the “Council Report”. It will launch after that the September Presbytery Meeting, as the way be clear.

Reports from Committees, Work Teams, Task Forces, Related Groups

1. Local Mission Partnerships

Grant Requests:

CLASP – has been funded on a regular basis. Three Presbyterian churches have run this mission together. They requested only \$1000 last year but did not meet their budget. They are requesting \$5,000 to help fund their program.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to fund the request of \$5,000 for CLASP.

Jean S. Wiggins Choral Scholars – from Indian Hills Church and has been funded previously. The request is for endorsement and funding of almost \$22,000, which includes staff, which has not been part of grant funding in the past.

It was moved, seconded, and disapproved to fund this request for \$22,000 for the Jean S. Wiggins Choral Scholars.

Nancy will communicate this decision to the church.

Nancy reminded Council that local mission funds can be used to promote pastor groups like the Grow Initiative that just took place.

Finneytown Oasis Hub – asking for endorsement and funding. Requesting \$10,000 funding for the camp that is currently taking place. Request came in after the last meeting. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to decline the request for \$10,000 for the Finneytown Oasis Hub.**

Cincinnati Parish Collective – Presbyterian churches have participated, but this is not a Presbyterian mission. The Presbytery participated at some level last year. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to decline the request from the Cincinnati Parish Collective.**

Reports:

Reading-Lockland – grant sent directly to Reading-Lockland and used for expenses to host the summer program.

Nancy suggested perhaps the Council should consider taking initiative to invite congregations in the Presbytery to work together to fund mission that aligns with the Presbytery's mission. This initiative could include local churches in general proximity to University of Cincinnati getting together to talk about collaborative mission opportunities for campus ministry near UC.

2. Congregational Development Task Force –
No report.

3. Outdoor Ministry and Christian Education Scholarship Mission Team – scholarships are included in the budget, so there is no fund.

4. Presbyterian Youth Task Force - Six churches sent youth to Montreat summer conferences. Tried to have a back-home group meeting as a whole presbytery but could not find a place to do that. Youth Council will begin to meet together again. They met last week and are putting together plans for a mission trip and retreat next year and conversations around some difficult issues like immigration and racial reconciliation.

Nancy suggested a trip to discover what Presbyterians have done for racial reconciliation and support in the Cincinnati area.

Concluding Worship and Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

FUTURE MEETINGS

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, August 15, 2018, 6:00 PM at the Presbytery Office