

OUR MEETING TODAY - COMMUNAL DISCERNMENT

JUNE 9, 2007

The Presbytery of Grand Canyon approved at the March 16-17, 2007 Stated Meeting that the Presbytery consider the Overture from the Session of the Kingman Presbyterian Church, received as an item of New Business at its January 20, 2007 Annual Meeting, informally by engaging in a structured process of Mutual Invitation and Dialogue for at least both the March 16-17, 2007 and the June 9, 2007 Stated Meetings.

The Kingman Overture reads as follows:

“In its discernment of the essentials of Reformed polity and for the sake of the peace, unity, and purity of the church, the Presbytery of Grand Canyon adopts the principle that compliance with the standard for ordination adopted by the whole church in the Book of Order is an essential of Reformed polity. Therefore, any departure from the standards for ordination expressed in the Book of Order will bar a candidate from ordination and/or installation by this governing body. Provisions of the Book of Order are signified as being standards by use of the term ‘shall’, is/are to be, ‘requirement,’ or equivalent expression.”

At the March meeting small groups engaged in the Mutual Invitation process and responded to these two questions:

- What passage(s) of Scripture speak to you about this Overture?
- What issues in the Overture are of most concern to you?

Responses to these questions were then shared in plenary by those who had accepted the role of Recorder.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Ministry / Theology and Worship Task Group-Living Out the Recommendations of the Theological Task Force completed summaries of the responses to the two questions addressed by the Mutual Invitation groups based upon the written summaries of the responses provided by the Recorders in each group.

In an effort to expose the presbytery to the next step in a structured Mutual Invitation and Dialogue Process for consideration of the Kingman PC Overture the Rev. Victoria Curtiss, who served on the Theological Task Force has been invited to present a workshop on Communal Discernment. Rev. Curtiss is a Spiritual Director and Teacher and Church Consultant with 26 years experience as Pastor and Presbytery Executive with a focus on: preaching and teaching, conflict facilitation, communal spiritual discernment, training leaders of small groups and redevelopment and renewal. She holds a B.S. from Illinois State University, Normal Illinois and a Master of Divinity with honors from McCormick Theological Seminary.

Rev. Curtiss will conduct a one-hour workshop on Communal Discernment followed by a one-half-hour (1/2) Question and Answer period.

Following the time dedicated to Communal Discernment there will be time for a brief feedback of the responses to the two questions reflected above. (See Paper C-3.)

As requested by the Presbytery Council on May 3, 2007 the Stated Clerk will then present the advice paper on clarifying the action of the 217th General Assembly (2006) on the matter of adoption of Amended Recommendation #5 of the Report of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church. (See Paper C-4.)

Following the Stated Clerk’s presentation the Presbytery will be in Recess for Lunch for a time of fellowship and conversation around the table.