

November 15, 2003 Presbytery Meeting

Report of the Actions Taken at the November 6, 2003 Meeting of Council/Trustees

The Council of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon met for its Stated Meeting at University Presbyterian Church, Tempe. After determining that a quorum was present Chair, Ralph Meredith called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM with prayer and a brief devotional.

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES & AGENDA APPROVED

The minutes of October 2, 2003 were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial report as of October 31, 2003 was reviewed and approved as presented.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT

Rev. Ken Moe referred to the printed material that was in the Council packet and highlighted the following:

WELCOME

Curtis Kearns, who has served as Director of the National Ministries Division for the past 10 years, was welcomed by members of Council and introductions were made around the table. He thanked Ken and members of Council for the opportunity to be a part of today's meeting. He is visiting with presbytery councils throughout the country to say thank you to the largest 40 contributors to General Assembly mission and to recognize the contribution that the churches in these presbyteries make. He gave a brief background of the General Assembly entities and talked about the two kinds of mission support; shared mission support (unrestricted giving) and direct mission support (money given with instructions as to where the money should go). Grand Canyon Presbytery is among 10% of presbyteries that give shared mission support. The unrestricted mission support that our presbytery gives helps us because it can come back to our presbytery in mission partnership funds. Our last five years of giving has been consistent. We rate very high in the church in per number of contributions.

At the GAC level, the church is involved in taking a look at our mission programs strategically. Where are we taking the GAC's mission in the future? Resources are getting stretched; some choices will need to be made. So far in the planning process, the Council has a purpose statement and the following goals for the program:

1. Evangelism
2. Justice
3. Leadership
4. Spiritual Formation

To help with future planning, Curtis Kearns asked the following questions of Council and invited responses that he could take back with him.

1. What are your hopes for this presbytery and do you believe they are complementary by what you know of the GA (referring to the four goals just mentioned).
2. As a presbytery, what are your primary concerns about the near future?
3. What messages would you like us to take back to the GAC about how we can work together more effectively?

After a lively discussion, Council members thanked Curtis Kearns for coming to visit and invited him to stay for the remainder of the meeting if his schedule permitted.

Council recessed. Trustees' meeting convened.

TRUSTEES

Evangelism and Church Development Recommendation Re: Sale of Peoria North Property

Background Information: At a joint meeting (October 25, 2003) of the Evangelism and Church Development Committee and Property Committee a MOTION was made and seconded:

MOTION:

To request the Presbytery Council to take steps to sell the Peoria North property and use the proceeds for new church development.

After an opportunity for discussion, Council VOTED to TABLE this MOTION until the December Council Meeting.

It was requested that the following information be available for Council at the December meeting:

1. The amount of money paid on the property
2. The amount of money still owed
3. The savings that the presbytery would be looking at
4. An estimate of what it would cost to bring in another NCD pastor to begin this process again
5. And some assessment of whether this money is really necessary for another NCD that is already going, or should we be putting this money in a new place?
6. Pictures of the property would be helpful
7. A zoning map of the area.

Trustees recessed. Council Meeting reconvened.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT

Rev. Ken Moe referred to the printed report that was in the Council packet and highlighted the following:

ICC Property Update

The Office Management Team of the ICC Board met yesterday to consider actions with regard to selling the property. Commercial real estate agent Jim Watkins of Lee and Associates met with the OMT and discussed the prospects for sale. Optimistically, sale to an investor, who would make improvements and lease the space back to current occupants, could net (after selling costs) up to \$650,000. Sale to a user/occupier, who would take over the property for a different use, could net up to \$750,000. He estimated a sale could take as much as eight months to close, possibly longer. The commission would be 5% of the sale price. The current balance of the mortgages on the property is about \$635,700. There are three mortgages, all held by the Disciples of Christ denomination. The OMT acted to call a special meeting of the ICC Board for 11-19-03 at 1:00 pm to authorize the signing of a listing agreement.

Property Manager Dave Kauffman will prepare figures as to additional costs to the remaining partners for 2004 as a result of the Synod of the Southwest vacating its ICC space.

Biehn Colony Trust Update

The Biehn Colony Trust Board is making progress concerning the distribution of all the remaining property. The plan is to give all the home sites to Habitat for Humanity to build 18 houses for qualifying residents of Guadalupe and to give the three commercial lots to Las Fuentes Health Clinic for a medical complex and dialysis center.

Staff Reviews Completed

The Personnel Committee met with all members of the presbytery staff on October 29th for annual reviews. On behalf of the staff, Ken thanked the Personnel Committee for its genuine care and insightful guidance. He also commended the staff for their continued hard work and faithfulness in the face of financial restraints. Morale remains high despite the difficult times and the staff's understanding of the reality that there is no money in the budget for next year raises.

Lay Committee Statement on Per Capita

Recently, *The Layman* published a call for churches and individual Presbyterians to redirect or restrict per capita and general mission giving to the denomination. Members of Council need to be aware of this development and the importance effective communication on the matter of paying per capita and general mission giving. During discussion, questions were raised as to the relationship of the *The Layman* and the Presbyterian Lay Committee to the General Assembly. Dick Coffelt indicated that the PCUSA Website lists *The Layman* under Links of Interest for “Affinity and Advocacy Groups and Publications” but has no listing for the Presbyterian Lay Committee. Discussion ensued as to what it meant to be an affinity or advocacy group.

The following MOTION was made:

That the Presbytery of Grand Canyon write an Overture to remove the Presbyterian Lay Committee as an affinity group from its jurisdiction within the Presbyterian Church.

After an opportunity for discussion, Council VOTED to TABLE the MOTION.

The Stated Clerk was requested to find out the nature of the relationship, if any, of The Presbyterian Lay Committee and *The Layman* to the Presbyterian Church (USA).

STATED CLERK REPORT

Dick Coffelt reported on his attendance at the Office of the General Assembly Polity Conference held in Philadelphia on October 30th through November 2nd and characterized the meeting as one of the best Polity Conferences he has attended in the past 10 years. Topics discussed included: the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution; presentation and report by a group of the GAC for outlining *Book Of Order* changes to help facilitate PCUSA prevention, education and response to child sexual abuse; a 3segment video *Guide for Theological Discussion with a Difference* produced by the Theological Task Force and presented by the Co-chairs of the Theological Task Force; Per Capita with leaders from four presbyteries offering different strategies in cases of with holding of per capita; Immigrant Issues relating to self forming congregations and immigrant pastoral leadership; a chance to experience a portion of a new adult curriculum resulting from the Common Faith Common Mission emphasis in OGA and finally a presentation by William “Beau” Weston, Presbyterian Elder and associate professor of sociology at Centre College on his newest book *Leading from the Center – Strengthening the Pillars of the Church*. Dick recommended that the Council consider asking Martha Sadongei, a member of the Theological Task Force, to present the video to the Council for possible use at a presbytery meeting. He also indicated that he had purchased several copies of Beau Weston’s book for review by the Council Chair, Moderator, Moderator-Elect and Executive Presbyter for their consideration as a possible book for discussion by the Council over a period of several meetings.

ASSOCIATE FOR NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES REPORT

Judy Wellington referred to her written report, which was in the Council packet. She highlighted that the activities she undertakes are ones that promote a middle governing body connection with Indian congregations and Indian ministries at a presbytery, synod and national level. This is done through a variety of contacts and working relationships that have come about as a result of taking time to listen.

“Most Native American Congregations are in a maintenance mode, rather than a strategic mode. Interviews revealed that the administrative move of Native American Churches from the Board of National Missions to presbyteries in the 1960’s occurred without strategic transitioning of the churches toward more self-support. After 200 or so years of total support of Native American missions, this shift was viewed by many Native American communities as breaking a promise to ‘always provide a church to the community.’” (G.A. Task Force Report on Ministries with Native Americans)

At the close of her report, Judy recommended that chairpersons of the ECD, Educational Ministries and COM Committees make this report available to next year’s committee in preparation for consultation with the Committee on Native American Ministries. We will need to teach and learn from one another just as the missionaries and tribal interpreters did in the beginning. Council requested that her entire report be posted on the Presbytery of Grand Canyon Website, (go to www.pbygrandcanyon.org to view her entire report).

AGENDA PLANNING

Brian Paulson and Kate Wilmoth shared plans for the November Presbytery Meeting, which will be centered around our experience of worship and our experience of the Lord's Supper. Dr. Howard Rice, Interim President at Cook College and Theological School will be preaching.

Report to Presbytery Council regarding 2004 Presbytery Meetings

The Agenda Planning Committee met at Horizon Presbyterian Church on October 17, 2003:

1. To continue planning for the November 15, 2003 Stated Presbytery Meeting, and
2. To discuss, upon referral from the Presbytery Council Meeting of October 2, 2003, the ramifications of reducing the number of presbytery meetings per year, the proposing of the four meeting dates for 2004, whether the meeting should be on Saturdays, weeknights or week days, the ultimate savings in moving from five to four meetings as well as anticipating the questions that might be raised at the November meeting.

Recommendation on Number of Presb ter t from the Council Minutes of October 2, 2003)

The Budget Committee recommended that the Council recommend to the Presbytery at its meeting on November 15, 2003 a suspension of the Bylaws and Standing Rules that provide for five presbytery meetings per year and hold only four meetings in 2004 with the understanding that at the end of 2004 there would be an evaluation of how effective it was to reduce the number of meetings.

Following discussion, both pro and con on the wisdom of taking such action, the Council VOTED to recommend to the Presbytery at the November 15, 2003 Stated Meeting a suspension of the Bylaws and Standing Rules to permit the rescheduling of the number of presbytery meetings in 2004 from five to four.

In order to look at the ramifications of reducing the number of presbytery meetings per year, the proposing of the four meeting dates for 2004, whether the meeting should be on Saturdays, weeknights or weekdays, the ultimate savings in moving from five to four meetings as well as anticipating the questions that might be raised at the November meeting, the Presbytery Council VOTED to REFER implementation plans to the Agenda Planning Committee and asked that the Agenda Planning Committee report back at the November Council Meeting on these matters.

Recommendations

- Paper C- 7 "Proposed Suspension of the Bylaws to Permit the Scheduling of Four Presbytery Meetings Per Year" was reviewed by the Agenda Planning Committee and has been included in the mailed Call to the November 15, 2003 Presbytery Meeting and has been posted on the Presbytery Website
- The Agenda Planning Committee recommends the following schedule of Presbytery Meetings for 2004:
 - Saturday, January 24,2004 - Chandler Presbyterian Church
 - Saturday, April 24, 2004 - Mission del Sol Presbyterian Church or Southminster Presbyterian Church
 - Friday, September 17 and Saturday, September 18,2004 - Community Presbyterian Church, Payson
 - Saturday November 13, 2004 - Scottsdale Presbyterian Church or Southminster Presbyterian Church

After opportunity for discussion, Council VOTED to APPROVE the recommended schedule of Presbytery Meetings for 2004 for presentation to the Presbytery for its approval.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COUNCIL UPDATE REPORT

Mary Lynn Walters thanked members of Council for the opportunity to serve on the GAC and gave an update. She reported that the suggestions Council made at the August meeting were presented to the GAC; they were addressed and will be addressed further as their meetings continue. She read their vision statement. They are working to identify objectives for each of the four goals (that Curtis Kearns mentioned earlier).

ACTION ITEMS**Peoria North Building Fund****ECD MOTION:**

That Council designate he funds from the Peoria North New Church Development for a new church development projects at the discretion of the ECD Committee.

(The funds are currently held by the Peoria North group; they will be returned to the presbytery.)

After discussion, an AMENDMENT (shown in italics and ~~striketrough~~) was made to the MOTION:

That Council, *on recommendation from the ECD Committee* designate funds from the North Peoria New Church Development for any new church development projects ~~at the discretion of the ECD Committee.~~

Council VOTED to APPROVE the AMENDMENT as presented, and then VOTED to APPROVE the AMENDED MOTION.

Betania Community Center

Council VOTED to concur in the request of Betania Presbyterian Church to circulate the information provided to the Council, at their November 6th meeting, to churches within the Presbytery of Grand Canyon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL

October 29th, the Personnel Committee met from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and conducted interviews with all of the presbytery staff. The cover letter and questionnaire to be circulated regarding Ken Moe's five-year comprehensive review are being finalized and people will be requested to return their completed questionnaires to the committee by January 15th.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of Council will be Thursday, December 4, 2003 at Mountain View Presbyterian Church. Council will deal with the tabled item first on the December agenda. The January Council meeting will be January 8th at a location yet to be determined.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM; Lorelei Hillman gave the closing prayer.