



Council Minutes - 8.20.18 @ 1:00pm

NURTURE FAITH – MAKE DISCIPLES – MEET NEEDS

Members present: Tim Pollock, Matt Skolnik, Tom Houston, Tim Schenkel, Frank Walburg, Dave DeVries, Joan Brode, Sheila Ellenberger, Mary Jane Knapp & Tricia Petraven. Via Zoom: Kathy Kettlewell Excused: Wes Jones & Ben George Minutes Recorder: Bev Potts

Tim Pollock opened the meeting with prayer at 1:10pm and shared devotions. Tim read Ephesians 5:15-20. Making the most of our time because the days are evil. We think that “making the most of our time” means we need to be more productive, but Paul thinks that we should make the most of our time by understanding the will of the Lord, singing songs, and giving praises to the Lord. It’s never a waste of time to worship the Lord. You should budget your time as a resource like you do with your tithe. Not giving God our leftovers.

Motion: To approve the docket. **Motion carries unanimously.**

A quorum was declared by Stated Clerk, Tim Pollock.

Relationship Building & Support

- Personal check-ins & mutual prayer – after members shared, Matt prayed.

Visioning and Planning

- Organize Council around our 3 Mission objectives to help our churches:
1) Nurture Faith; 2) Disciple People; 3) Meet Community Needs

There was once a Worship committee who prepared the worship service for the Presbytery meetings. Need someone who will continue to be on Council to head up that committee.

Nominating committee is struggling. Need folks keeping track of names for suggestions. Maybe have a Mission Vision team that would meet monthly, brainstorming ideas. We have no Mission Committee. Matt can reach out to other Presbyteries for models to give us ideas. We have standing groups that are doing well having regular meetings and functioning. Parish Elders, Retreat Ministry Mission Group, Calling Commission. We no longer have an active Equipping committee. Maybe we need to concentrate for the next couple of years, the momentum and the excitement that the Presbytery once had. When the programs stopped, the momentum stopped. On a corporate level, we need to let the churches know that we are here to help them. Acts Leadership Initiative and Healthy Congregations. We need to teach the churches how to build relationships with the outreaches that they have. There is a big need to teach our churches to change behaviors on how to relate to outsiders and to welcome people into the community.

Nurturing Faith means Soul Care. Discipling is about developing people to become leaders. Like pairing day care children with folks in nursing homes, forming relationships. Going to the churches and asking “What do you need?.” Maybe we can use our open spaces during Presbytery meetings to allow all of the folks to discuss these subjects. We will circle back to this conversation again next month. Tricia said she would share some of the conversation during the September Presbytery meeting.

Financial/Administration: Kathy K / Joan B

- The financial Report was received
- **Motion:** To approve the Rittman Community Grant application from the Partnering fund.
Motion carries unanimously
- **Motion:** To approve the following Grant Policies and Procedures: Grants will be available to all churches in the Presbytery in the Fall of each year to assist the churches in equipping existing ministries or forming new ministries that are consistent with the objectives of MVP.
Motion carries unanimously
- **Motion:** To approve the following policies for reimbursing travel expenses associated with supporting the mission of MVP, effective July 1, 2018:
*The MVP General Presbyter will be reimbursed for travel associated with training, continuing education, and miscellaneous travel through his Terms of Call. If the General Presbyter engages in travel to support the overall mission of the Presbytery, it is acceptable to charge his travel cost to the respective mission category (nurture faith, discipling, and partnering) to the extent of the approved budget in these categories.
*The Moderator, Administrative Assistant, Treasurer, Stated Clerk & Chair of Administration may be reimbursed for travel if assisting churches directly in carrying out the mission of the Presbytery. Traveling by individuals in these positions to and from Council meetings will not be reimbursed. Total aggregate reimbursement will not exceed the aggregate budget unless otherwise approved by Council.
*The Chair of Parish Elders and Parish Elders themselves will be reimbursed for travel associated with carrying out the mission of the Parish Elders ministry but the Chair of PE will not be reimbursed for travel to and from Council meetings. Total aggregate reimbursement will not exceed the aggregate budget unless otherwise approved by Council. **Motion carries**
- Building Update – in terms of selling the Mission Center property, Joani has contacted Randy to let him know that we need Presbytery's approval first. Will pursue PHOC further at a later date. We have a bid for \$45,000 for the Waynesburg First Presbyterian Church and the manse and once the purchase agreement is signed, we will be closing. The church will be used as a dance studio.

Organizational Business and Action Items

- **Motion:** To approve minutes from July 16, 2018 Council Meeting. **Motion carries unanimously**
- Tim Pollock reported that he held a second Session Minutes Review at Bloomfield PC with 10 to 12 people in attendance. The third meeting is set for Oct. 6th, 2018.

Information Sharing

- There are some proposed Book of Order changes 2018 that Tim will present to Presbytery.
- Parish Elders report: Recommending minimum salary to go to \$44,000. Also recommending that the Presbytery add a policy that all pastors attend, every 2 years, Healthy Boundaries training. It is a 2 hour video that they need to watch. The training will be done through the Faith Trust Institute. An ecumenical group. If a pastor does not get the training, they will no longer be in good standing with the Presbytery. Will gather in Parishes.
- New Philadelphia First Presbyterian Church is approving a new call. Ordination & installation is tentatively set for Sept. 16th. He will be examined at the Sept. 8th Presbytery meeting.
- Calling Cohort Networking will be meeting **August 28**, 9:30-2:30 (lunch @ noon)
- Pioneers in Faith Zoom Webinar: Session Leadership as Christendom Falls **Sept. 5** @ 7 pm
- Dr. Hany Rizkalla will be with us at the **September 8th** Presbytery meeting, at no cost to MVP. He will remain with us for the following week and parishes are encouraged to set up trainings with him regarding: the beauty of small churches, starting small churches, and the difficulties of small churches.

- Ayana Teter from Board of Pensions will also join us for the **September 8th** Presbytery meeting. She will speak about new BOP initiatives including: “Pathways to Renewal”, Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations, Ministerial Education Debt Assistance, Health Care options for 2019, Employer Agreement and Annual Enrollment forms.
- Planting Churches after Christendom with Dr. Hany Rizkalla
 - **Sept. 9th** @ Unity PC in morning
 - **Sept. 10th** @ Linden Road PC in evening
 - **Sept. 11th** @ Ashland First PC in evening
 - **Sept. 12th** @ Trinity PC, Zanesville in daytime with guests coming from Miami Valley and Cincinnati Presbyteries
 - **Sept. 13th** @ Pioneer PC in evening
- Healthy Congregations Leadership gathering on **Oct 2nd**, 9:30am to 1pm (lunch @ noon)
- RMMG Fall Day Retreat @ PHOC on **Oct. 4th**
- Session Minutes review meeting for Clerks **Oct. 6th**, 10-noon (location TBD)
- Family Day at Southeastern Correctional Center – Lancaster, **December 1**, 12:30-3:30
- Family Day at Noble Correctional Institution – Caldwell, **December 2**, 12:30-3:30

The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by Tricia Petraven at 3:20pm.