



# MUSKINGUM VALLEY PRESBYTERY

*Journeying with Jesus to touch the World!*

## **Council Minutes**

**9.17.18 @ 1:00 pm**

### **To assist our congregations in NURTURING FAITH – MAKING DISCIPLES – MEETING NEEDS**

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

Tim Pollock opened the meeting at 1:05pm with devotions. Tim read from the devotion book, Gift and Task by Walter Brueggemann. It is very intense and punchy. It's like a cranky old man, but in a good way. From the Apocrypha. Tim then closed devotion time with prayer.

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

It was declared by the Stated Clerk that we have a quorum.

#### **Relationship Building & Support**

- personal check-ins & mutual prayer – members shared

#### **Organizational Business and Action Items**

- **Motion:** To approve minutes from August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Council Meeting. **Motion carried unanimously**

#### **Financial/Administration:** Joan Brode

- Personnel – Joani meeting with Matt for a quarterly review
- Property – Title agent for Waynesburg property is asking for a resolution of corporation. Joani and Tim will work together to get the language correct.
- PHOC – Administration would like to grant them specific authorization on behalf of Presbytery to conduct certain businesses, such as the oil and gas lease. Everything, short of selling property. This would make it more efficient for them.
- Next steps on Mission Center property: Property was appraised at \$230,000. Joani has spoken to Randy Smart. We have a lot of work to do first.
- Digitizing and shredding – items need to be gone through to see what needs digitized or thrown away or sent to the Presbyterian Historical Society. Joani will be contacting GP's who are already using virtual offices to get their perspective.
- There was discussion about Presbytery meeting expenses – The offering was divided 3 ways between the mission accounts. Charges for lunches and possible raising Per Capita to cover costs. We need to know ahead of time if there will be charges for musicians and/or trainers. We should use our current model for a year to see what happens.
- Financial report was presented and received.
- Joani and Mark Unrue will be working on the pledge letters for retired pastors.

## **Visioning and Planning**

- Council organization Follow-up – We started a discussion last month about reorganizing Council with teams under our 3 vision objectives. Help congregations Meet Needs, Nurture Faith & Outreach. Our mission is to equip and support congregational leaders to Meet Needs, Nurture Faith & Outreach to their Communities. One major focus should be on Leaders and relationships among churches. Bring in health initiatives. Equipping churches. Matt has seen the needs in the churches for training in communication with community. Also on biblical basics and spiritual direction. Elders need to be trained that leadership is more than management. Coming with leadership are difficult decisions, and how to stand within those difficult decisions without anxiety or injecting any discord into the system. It would be better to go to the specific areas to do the training. Local connections are very important. Our churches also need help with “next steps” in terms of Outreach. In the past 2 years, one of our churches has reached 1500 individuals in the community. You can help them with food, but how do you take the next step with those people, how do you create relationships? The things that have been discussed are already focusing around our current mission statement. Take concepts/modules from Healthy Congregations to share with congregations. This conversation will be continued next month.

Anne Weirich is willing to do an extra year as our Synod Commissioner, but for only one year.

## **Information Sharing**

- Healthy Congregations Leadership gathering on **Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 9:30am to 1pm (lunch @ noon)
- RMMG Fall Day Retreat @ PHOC on **Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>**
- Session Minutes review meeting for Clerks **Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>**, 10-noon @ John Knox PC
- 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
- Stated Meeting will be held on **December 8<sup>th</sup>**, at the Wooster Westminster PC

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm and closed in prayer by Joan Brode.