

MEMBERS PRESENT

- CLERGY: Dave Duquette, Jeff Brower, R.C. Smith, William Bender, Steve Simmons, Steve Brundage, Dick McClain
- ELDERS: Jim Hoegg, David Dunbar, Janet Ney, Sally Heimbach, George Smits, Bob Nickels

MEMBERS EXCUSED

- CLERGY: Tillie Chase, Laddie Benton, Fred Rogers
- ELDERS: Barbara Quigg, Tom Tranbaugh

TEACHING PRESBYTER

- CLERGY: Steven H. Shussett

The meeting of Presbytery Council was held on Thursday, February 5, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery. The meeting was called to order by Elder Jim Hoegg, Chair. A quorum was present.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

Elder Jim Hoegg led the group in a study of John 6: 24 – 35. After listening to the passage, members broke into groups of 2 or 3 and shared their answers to a number of questions derived from the passage.

DETERMINATION OF AGENDA

The Council **accepted** the proposed agenda

BUSINESS:

001. Synod Disaster Assistance Network

- ***The Issue:*** The Synod of the Trinity is in the process of establishing a Disaster Assistance Network. Donegal and Carlisle Presbyteries have already elected to join. The question is whether Lehigh Presbytery wants to join too. (There is no cost associated with membership.)
- ***Recommendation:*** That Lehigh Presbytery joins the Synod of the Trinity Disaster Assistance Network.
- ***Action:*** Council **voted** to approve this recommendation.

002. Council Members' Choices of Teams on Which to Serve in 2008:

- ***The Issue:*** Given the changes in Council membership in 2008, it is necessary to reconstitute the membership of the Council's working teams. These choices were as follows:

Administrative	Mission	Vision
Tillie Chase	Laddie Benton	Jeff Brower
Janet Ney	Sally Heimbach	Steve Shussett
Jim Hoegg	Bill Bender	R.C. Smith
Dave Dunbar	Steve Simmons	Bob Nickels
George Smits	Steve Brundage	Dave Duquette
Barbara Quigg	Fred Rogers	Dick McClain
	Tom Tranbaugh	

003. Review of Grant Application and Approval Process

- **The Issue:** Council was presented with several grant applications for its consideration. Upon further discussion, it was concluded that each needed to have been reviewed by the Mission Team before Council would act on them.
- **Recommendation:** That all the grant applications received be forwarded to the Mission team for their review and recommended action.
- **Action:** Council voted to approve this recommendation.

004. Computer Rentals for GA

- **The Issue:** Bob MacIntyre has asked that the Council act on identifying the source of funds for renting computers for GA commissioners. In 2006 it was \$135/ computer, and we rented for two commissioners and a YAD. This year it was suggested that we estimate at least \$150/computer (it has been two years and this is CA!) for four commissioners, a YAD, and the stated clerk if he is going and needs to rent a laptop.
- **Recommendation:** That Council authorizes the expenditure of up to \$1,000 for computer rentals at GA from per capita funds.
- **Action:** Council voted to approve this recommendation.

Other Business

CARE TEAMS

Council **voted** to reauthorize three existing Care Teams (Worldwide Ministries, Helping Hands, and Brainerd) for 2008.

REGIONAL WINTERFESTS

There will be two regional Winterfests next year, rather than a single event. The first will be on February 23, 2008 at Slatington and will focus on continuing education for church officers with topics on Healthy Congregations (led by Dennis Zimmerman), Church Leaders as Spiritual Leaders (led by Steve Shussett), Faith Community Parish Nursing (led by Deb Gilbert) and Treasurer Education (led by Dave Boltz).

The second will be held at East Stroudsburg on March 1, 2008 and will focus on continuing education for church officers (led by Roberta Kearney), Church Leaders as Spiritual Leaders (led by Steve Shussett), Faith Community Parish Nursing (led by Jan Marsh) and Stated Clerk Education (led by Bob Nickels).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. by Chair, Elder Jim Hoegg, with prayer.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY COUNCIL WILL BE AT 7:00 PM TUESDAY APRIL 1, 2008 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF LEHIGH PRESBYTERY, ALLENTOWN PA.

Robert R. D. Nickels
Stated Clerk

MEMBERS PRESENT

CLERGY: Dave Duquette, Jeff Brower, Tillie Chase, William Bender, Fred Rogers
ELDERS: Jim Hoegg, David Dunbar, Sally Heimbach, George Smits, Barbara Quigg, Bob Nickels

MEMBERS EXCUSED

CLERGY: Laddie Benton, Steve Simmons, Steve Brundage, Dick McClain, R.C. Smith
ELDERS: Janet Ney, Tom Tranbaugh

TEACHING PRESBYTER

CLERGY: Steven H. Shussett

The meeting of Presbytery Council was held on Thursday, February 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery. The meeting was called to order by Elder Jim Hoegg, Chair. A quorum was present.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

Elder Jim Hoegg led the group in a study of I Peter 1: 3-9. After listening to the passage, members broke into groups of 2 or 3 and shared their reactions to what they had heard.

DETERMINATION OF AGENDA

The Council **accepted** the proposed agenda

BUSINESS:

001. 2008 Chair of the Nominating Committee

- ***The Issue:*** The Rev. R.C. Smith has consented to continue as chair of the Nominating Committee

- ***Action:*** Council **voted** to approve the Rev. R.C. as Nominating Committee chairman for 2008.

002. Hosts For Presbytery Stated Meetings In 2009:

- ***The Issue:*** The following congregations have offered to host Presbytery meeting in 2009:
 - January 24, 2009 – First PC of Hokendauqua, Whitehall
 - April 28, 2009 – First PC of Hokendauqua, Whitehall
 - June 23, 2009 – Westminster Village, Allentown
 - September 22, 2009 – Middle Smithfield PC, East Stroudsburg
 - Pennside PC, Reading
 - Westminster Village, Allentown
 - November 21, 2009 – United PC, Pottsville
 - First PC, Leighton
 - Hope of Christ PC, Summit Hill

It's up to Council to determine which invitations to accept.

- **Recommendation:** To accept the invitation of FPC Hokendauqua to host the April meeting, to accept the invitation of Westminster Village to host the June meeting, and to ask the Stated Clerk to enter into discussions with United PC, Pottsville, First PC Lehigh, and Hope of Christ PC Summit Hill regarding hosting the other three stated meetings.

- **Action:** Council agreed to approve this action.

003. Redressing The Imbalance In 2008

- **The Issue:** The Book of Order states: “When the number of resident ministers entitled to vote in the presbytery is greater than the number of elders so entitled, it shall redress this imbalance annually by providing for the election, appointment, or selection of additional elders...” To this end, Presbytery has requested the clerks of session at the following 25 churches to provide an additional commissioner this year:

First, Allentown	Freeland
First United, Ashland	First, Hazleton
Parish of Bangor/Roseto	First of Hokendauqua
First, Bethlehem	Korean, Whitehall
Pleasant Valley, Brodheads ville	First, Lehigh
Catasauqua	First, Mahanoy City
Church of the Mountain, DWG	Middle Smithfield, E.Stroudsburg
East Stroudsburg	First, Milford
College Hill, Easton	Community, Mt. Bethel
First, Easton	Faith United, Pen Argyl
Olivet United, Easton	United, Pottsville
Faith, Emmaus	First, Reading
	Pennside, Reading

- **Action:** Council agreed to approve this action.

004. Korean Presbyterian Council Funds Request

- **The Issue:** The Korean Presbyterian has communicated to each of the 3 Presbyteries containing members (Lehigh, Philadelphia, and Northumberland) a need for \$1,000 to fund its 2008 events.

- **Recommendation:** To grant \$400 from Mission Reserves (or 1/3 of their funding requirements) to the Korean Presbyterian Council – with the understanding that if and when 2008’s Mission account becomes sufficient, this money will be returned to the Mission Reserves from Mission.

- **Action:** Council voted to approve this recommendation.

005. Funding The 2008 Grant for The BARN

- **The Issue:** In January, Council voted to grant the BARN \$10,000 in 2008. However, it did not specify where the funds should come from.

- **Recommendation:** To provide the \$10,000 from NCD Reserve Funds #1161.

- **Action:** Council voted to approve this recommendation.
006. Camp Brainerd VBS Grant Request
- **The Issue:** Camp Brainerd has requested \$2,200 to fund its 2008 Vacation Bible School.
 - **Recommendation:** To defer action on this request to permit investigation/discussion of alternative approaches to funding VBS
 - **Action:** Council voted to approve this recommendation.
007. Grant Request For Expenses Incurred For Refreshments And Child Care At Regional Winterfest Events.
- **The Issue:** There has been a request for a grant of \$100 to fund refreshment and child care expenses at the two Winterfest events.
 - **Recommendation:** To approve a grant of \$100 from 2008 Mission budget
 - **Action:** Council voted to approve this recommendation.
008. Grant Request For Expenses To Be Incurred In Two Pastors Retreat Events In 2008
- **The Issue:** The expenses associated with the two Pastor retreats this year will amount to \$400. A grant for this amount has been requested.
 - **Recommendation:** That Council approves a grant of \$400 from the Mission Reserve fund.
 - **Action:** Council voted to approve this recommendation.
009. Synod Eastern Transformation Network Coaching Training Funding
- **The Issue:** In January, 2008, \$1500 was taken from Mission Reserves to pay for Lehigh Presbytery's participation in the Eastern Transformation Network. Subsequently it was learned that this was more than was needed.
 - **Recommendation:** That \$740 be returned to the Mission Reserve account, that \$560 be returned to the Teaching Presbyterian's expense account, and that \$200 be sent to the Eastern Transformation Network.
 - **Action:** Council voted to approve this recommendation.
010. Travel Expense Reimbursement
- **The Issue:** Laurel Brundage has requested to be reimbursed for housing, meals and an entertainment event associated with a September, 2007 multicultural event (approved by Council in September, 2007)
 - **Recommendation:** That Council approves the reimbursement in accordance with the existing travel reimbursement policy and also that the Administrative team re-evaluate the current travel reimbursement policy.
 - **Action:** Council voted to approve this recommendation.

Other Business

NCD CARE TEAM

Dave Duquette reported on the NCD Care Team's intended plan of action for this year. The plan entails researching what has worked in other places, developing goals and objectives based on this learning, creating a job description for an NCD person, and putting that person in place.

TEACHING PRESBYTER'S REPORT

Steve Shussett reported that he has been nominated to the Mission Resource Development Committee of GA.

He also outlined his thinking about a Presbytery-wide commitment to the General Assembly Mission Initiative, "Lehigh Presbytery Mission Challenge '08" designed to support Presbyterian missionaries worldwide. Specifically, he proposed that efforts be made to get 1% of the Presbytery members to agree to the "one dollar a day" campaign. Contributions will be sent to the Presbytery, and can be designated for the part of the world desired by the contributor. Council approved his bringing this proposition to the floor of this month's Stated Meeting in whatever form he sees fit.

APPROVAL OF THE STATED MEETING DOCKET

Council **voted** to approve the draft docket. – with the proviso that the Executive Committee may revise the docket as needed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. by Chair, Elder Jim Hoegg, with prayer.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY COUNCIL WILL BE AT 7:00 PM TUESDAY MAY 20, 2008 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF LEHIGH PRESBYTERY, ALLENTOWN PA.

Robert R. D. Nickels
Stated Clerk