

MEMBERS PRESENT

CLERGY: Dave Duquette, Fred Rogers, Dick McLain
ELDERS: Sally Heimbach, David Dunbar, Janet Ney, Wilson Chen, George Smits, Bob Nickels

MEMBERS EXCUSED

CLERGY: Laddie Benton, Steve Simmons, Tillie Chase, William Bender, Jeff Brower, R.C. Smith,
ELDERS: Jim Hoegg, Tom Tranbaugh, Barbara Quigg,

TEACHING PRESBYTER

CLERGY: Steven H. Shussett

The meeting of Presbytery Council was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery. The meeting was called to order by Elder Sally Heimbach, Presbytery Moderator. A quorum was present.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

The Elder Dave Dunbar led the group in a Bible Study of John 1:1, John 1:14, and Romans 12: 1 - 2. After reading the passages, Council members were asked to discuss how they related to each other and also to the Jeremiah Initiative.

DETERMINATION OF AGENDA

The Council **accepted** the proposed agenda.

BUSINESS:

Report of the Administrative Team

001. New Office Clerk

- ***The Issue:*** Presbytery has hired Gloria Fetter as our new Office Clerk. She was selected from among more than five candidates. Her compensation will be \$8.50 per hour. She began working on May 12, 2008.
- ***Recommendation:*** That Council approve this new hire
- ***Action:*** Council ***voted*** to approve this recommendation.

002. Personnel Manual

- ***The Issue:*** Lehigh Presbytery does not have a personnel manual. The Administrative team recommends that we develop one.
- ***Discussion:*** We already have several manuals from other presbyteries and organizations that can readily be adapted to our needs.
- ***Recommendation:*** That the Administrative Team undertake the development of a Lehigh Presbytery personnel manual within the next three months.
- ***Action:*** Council ***voted*** to approve this recommendation

003. Janet Mishkin's Resignation and Staffing Camp Brainerd in Summer, 2008

- ***The Issue:*** Janet Mishkin has submitted her resignation as Director of Camping Ministry, effective June 15, 2008. She recommends that Presbytery hire Jen Mathias Henshue as Camp Brainerd Summer Coordinator, effective June 15, 2008.
- ***Recommendation:*** That the position to Summer Coordinator be offered to Jen Mathias Henshue, the specifics of compensation to be established and validated by Council (probably via e-Mail).
- ***Action:*** Council **voted** to accept Janet Mishkin's resignation with gratitude and also to accept her recommendation to offer the Summer Coordinator position to Jen Mathias Henshue, details to be determined.
- ***Follow-Up:*** Janet Ney will follow up to determine the financial specifics and sources.

Report of the Mission Team

004. Camp Brainerd Vacation Bible School Grant Request

- ***Recommendation:*** The Mission team recommends that Council approve this request for \$2,200 from Mission Reserves.
- ***Action:*** Council **voted** to approve this recommendation

005. Pennside Family Promise Grant Request

- ***Recommendation:*** The Mission team recommends that Council approve this request for \$2,500 from the Peacemaking fund.
- ***Action:*** Council **voted** to approve this recommendation

006. College Hill Youth Group Mission Trip Grant Request

- ***Recommendation:*** The Mission team recommends that Council approve this request for \$1,600 from the Peacemaking fund.
- ***Action:*** Council **voted** to approve this recommendation

Other Business

DISCUSSION OF TEAM EFFECTIVENESS

The current team structure (Administrative, Mission, and Vision) was instituted to enable Council members to focus on discrete areas in which they have both skills and interest, and also to allow the work of the Council to go forward without requiring a full Council meeting every month. So far this year, the teams have experienced difficulties in trying to meet. This, in turn, has raised the question of whether another approach would be preferable. The discussion was wide-ranging. It was pointed out that the team structure has been effective in prior years – so the concept is not inherently unacceptable. The Mission team reported on its use of e-Mail in place of face-to-face meetings, but the Vision team didn't think e-Mail would solve its problems. The group concluded that, for the moment, Council should redouble its efforts to have team meetings regularly and see if this solves the current problems.

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.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

The Committee on Representation reported its concern that the Presbytery has not adopted handicapped access requirement for churches that host Presbytery meeting. Council asked COR to recommend what the specific requirements should be and indicated its intention to incorporate this recommendation into Presbytery's practice in 2010. For the remainder of 2008 and the entirety of 2009, Presbytery will work with host churches to ensure acceptable handicapped access.

PRESBYTERY HOSTING ASSIGNMENTS IN 2009

Council voted to accept the following requests to host future Presbytery meetings:

- January 24, 2009 – First PC, Lehighton
- April 28, 2009 – First PC of Hokendauqua
- June 23, 2009 – Westminster Village
- September 22, 2009 – Middle Smithfield PC, East Stroudsburg
- November 21, 2009 – Hope of Christ PC, Summit Hill
- January 23, 2010 – United PC, Pottsville

RECONSIDERATION OF DISTRIBUTION OF BIBLES

At a previous meeting, Council had voted to send Bibles received from First Church Allentown to an individual in Ghana who had requested them – if the cost did not turn out to be prohibitive. As it happens, the cost turned out to be too great. Accordingly, Council **voted** to donate these Bibles to Kids Peace (who will pick them up at the Presbytery office).

TAMAQUA INSURANCE COSTS

There is a need to purchase liability insurance for the vacant Tamaqua church building, which may well be sold soon. Given the significant renovation costs that Hope of Christ is currently facing, the church has asked Council for Presbytery financial assistance to pay the \$600 premium. Council voted to loan Hope of Christ church the funds for the premium – with the understanding that the loan will be repaid from the proceeds of the sale of the building.

STEVE SIMMONS' RESIGNATION FROM COUNCIL

Council **voted** to accept the Rev. Steve Simmons resignation from Council with thanks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. by Elder Sally Heimbach with prayer.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY COUNCIL WILL BE AT 7PM TUESDAY AUGUST 5, 2008 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF LEHIGH PRESBYTERY, ALLENTOWN PA.

Robert R. D. Nickels
Stated Clerk