

VISIONING COUNCIL REPORT

Sue Krummel, Executive Presbyter, proposed that the council interview a group of students at Bradley University. The purpose is to gain their perceptions about the world, particularly members of Christian churches. Steve A., Phil B., and Alexa C. will develop questions. Arrangements will be made to conduct the survey during our next meeting.

The report of the Assembly Planning Team was received. Churches who have agreed to be responsible for hospitality details are: Danvers, greeters; Korean Church Peoria, AM snacks; and Hope-Springfield, worship space decorations. Julie Bainbridge, PGR staff, joined the group to discuss the logistics of set-up and communion. Two educational opportunities will be offered: for pastors, Preaching for Lent and Easter, and for commissioners, Church Transformation. The council, at the request of the planning team, revisited the decision to have the executive presbyter preach at the three assemblies. After discussing our initial rationale, the Visioning Council affirms their desire to have Sue preach at each assembly to support our Vision for the presbytery. A request from the director of Camp Wyoming to address the floor at the assembly meeting was denied. The council will suggest a display table to reach a target audience. At the request of the Assembly Planning Team the Visioning Council will assume a more active role in planning meetings. Tasha Blackburn has agreed to develop the liturgy for the worship areas of the docket.

ACTION ITEM Maura McGrath Nagle, coordinator for Youth Triennium, requested information on financial assistance from the presbytery for youth attending. A motion to provide T-shirts and bus transportation and to pay for background checks for the adults attending was approved. Dick will work with Maura on the development of a list of adults attending, their contact information, and background checks.

Annual reports from Adjunct Staff Dick Johnson, Training, and Stephen Whitaker, Electronic Communication were received and reviewed. Sue reported orally for Bill Myers, COM Staff, and Kathy Casey, Disaster Response Team. Kathy asked to be relieved of her responsibilities. It was agreed that assistance for flood relief in the Illinois counties affected is no longer needed except for building materials for some individuals. The remainder of the PDA Funds will be disbursed for those needs. The PGR Mission Yearbook of Prayer article for 2011 was received and approved. The VC thanks Stephen Whitaker for authoring the article.

The Ad Hoc Committee for planning future pastor and lay retreats met together over the lunch break. Names were submitted for possible presenters for future events. Sue and Phil will begin making contacts. A display for the Magnetic Church lay event will be developed for use at the assembly meeting to promote it. Registration forms will be placed on each of the 25 tables.

The moderator provided copies of the guidelines and the application form for the Mission Initiative Funds (MIF). These were reviewed for information and clarity.

ACTION ITEMS Mission Initiative Fund Applications

- A request from FPC Springfield for \$2,400. for the Samaritan Program. The request was **denied** for lack of complete information.
- A request from FPC Rushville for an additional \$2,000. to meet additional costs of the ramp necessary for clients to access the Welcome Center. The application was **approved**.
- A request from FPC Lincoln to furnish and equip the old Pizza Hut building now owned by Lincoln Jr. College to be used for a coffee house for young adults. The purpose would be to provide a venue for an alternate worship service in the community and provide space for music groups. The Visioning Council declined to approve financial support at this time. They **approved** of the spirit and concept of the project and applaud the support of the congregation. The council asks the group to **resubmit** their request after some aspects of the project have been defined.

Presbytery of Great Rivers
February 23, 2010

ACTION ITEM Details of the “Stand Down” event for homeless veterans sponsored by Good Will and held in Peoria in 2009 were shared as a possible use for Peacemaking Funds. A motion to support the “Stand Down” Project for 2010 with \$5,000 from Peacemaking Funds was approved.

The executive presbyter reviewed the changing patterns of giving to mission funding within the denomination. Sue also provided two papers, Funding and Behavioral Economics for our study.

Future dates suggested for VC meetings: March 11, May 13, August 12, and October 14, 2010.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 2:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Miller, recorder