

VISIONING COUNCIL REPORT

March 11, 2010

Members of the Visioning Council convened at Westminster PC at 1:30 PM. The meeting was called to order by Moderator Dick Johnson with thoughts on music production and the song "He Touched Me" in particular. This led to a discussion of how a committee such as the Vision Council can promote an attitude of change.

Our new member, Jim Reis, shared the success of the PresbyGrow Study used with the Quincy group.

Sue summarized the evaluation sheets from the assembly meeting. The majority of participants who responded were positive about the new venue. Suggestions shared that would improve the meeting (such as lighting, music, pastor introductions, microphones on the floor) will be implemented in the next assembly.

The next assembly will be the annual meeting. It will include Q&A with GA commissioners, necrology, and workshops: for pastors (Preaching Stewardship) and for commissioners (Youth Ministry).

Randy Saxon, Moderator of the Administration Council has requested a joint meeting with the Visioning Council.

A request from Maura McGrath Nagel for participants of Youth Triennium to sell T-shirts was received. Discussion was tabled until more information is available.

The closing of the Hopedale Church will create some funds for our group which will be designated for Bible School resources.

The number of registrations received for the Magnetic Church event was discussed. It was moved that the event be cancelled. The motion was passed.

Mission Initiative Funding Applications (MIFA) received and acted upon were:

- Washington Presbyterian Church requested \$2,000 to launch a ecumenical project entitled Threads of Love to provide free clothing to anyone in need. The project was approved.
- The Carlinville Federated Church requested \$450 for use in an ongoing project entitled "Take It To Town". Local area volunteers provide labor to accomplish "dream projects" for area residents. The application was tabled until more information is provided.
- Milan Presbyterian Church requested \$700 to support a Mission Trip to Pine Ridge Reservation, Pine Ridge South Dakota. The congregation hopes to continue a relationship with the Ogalala people. The request was approved.
- A request for \$4000 from the Appanoose Presbyterian Church to support Summer School with God was tabled until further discussion with the coordinator. PGR supported their efforts in 2009.
- Westminster Presbyterian Church, Peoria requested \$5,000 to support an additional teacher for the Infant Care Center. The VC is denying the request since it is not a new initiative. We ask this congregation to use \$5,000 from their resources to hire a teacher for the center. In return the VC will grant \$5,000 on a new mission initiative.

At 4:00 PM the members present began preparing to meet 30 students from a diversity class at Bradley University. We paired off with 6 students to 2 council members, shared a light meal while discussing values, faith issues, church and Christianity. Although they were a small sample we found value in the exercise. We will look for another venue to repeat the process. The students retired to take a test but not before expressing the desire to repeat the exercise.

Members of the Visioning Council convened at the Presbytery Office at 9:30 on May 13, 2010. Dick Johnson presided by way of conference phone due to weather conditions in Henderson County prohibiting travel. The minutes of the March 11, 2010 meeting were approved.

The first item on the agenda was to consider the application process for Mission Initiative Funds. The moderator, having had a number of constructive conversations about funding or the lack of it as it relates to responsible stewardship, made recommendations for changes in the process. It was the intent of the VC to allocate one-third of the Shared Mission Funds at each presbytery meeting. This has not always been possible due to lack of

information provided on the form, poor communication about the intent of the project, unclear goals, diverse definitions of mission and limited applications.

The VC adopted the following guidelines:

- The first priority will be given to fund those requests made by a session or by a group of sessions for projects that are being undertaken for the first time, or are a significant expansion of an already existing project where new populations are to be served, or services are to be provided to areas or address concerns and needs not previously addressed.
- The second priority will be given to those applications from a session or group of sessions for funding of a project or projects that have been in existence and the request is for "maintenance" support. Funds would be provided on a shared grant basis with no less than 40% of the total funds needed being supplied by the applicant. In addition there must be evidence provided that members of the congregation are invested in this project and that those funds in the support of the project of interest shall require a written explanation that describes their rationale as well as a statement describing how these funds relate to their theology of stewardship resources.
- Annually, no more than 30% of the mission funds available will be used by the VC to provide sessions and congregations with training and strategy support in developing their philosophy / theology of mission outreach and stewardship of resources.
- It was agreed by the Council that no applications will be considered in the future without personal communication with the applicant of the funds or those knowledgeable.

The Council also voted to budget money for the National Youth Triennium on a three-year cycle and to carry those moneys forward each year in order to have the necessary funds for the Triennium.

The application form for Mission Initiative Funds will be changed to include the complete budget of the project for which the session is requesting funding.

The following Mission Initiative Fund Applications were received/reconsidered with additional information and acted upon:

- Carlinville Federated Church - A request for \$450 to support project "Take It To Town 2010", tabled from the March VC meeting, was approved following clarification from the session.
- A request from Appanoose Presbyterian Church for \$4,000 to support "Summer School with God" tabled from the March VC meeting was approved. A conversation with the coordinator answered questions about the budget for the event. Although the Presbytery supported the event last year the outreach to unchurched children in the area fulfills new missional approaches. The VC would welcome area churches to partner with Appanoose to support their efforts; it might be a way to provide youth from other churches with a mission trip experience as they help to lead the Bible School.
- Westminster Presbyterian, Peoria - A request denied at the March VC meeting was reconsidered after clarification about the project. The request for \$5,000 for the Infant Care Center was approved.
- Canton First Presbyterian Church. A request for \$1,500 for seed money which the congregation will match to begin a new initiative the "Health and Wellness Clinic of Fulton County." A church representative was available to explain the passion of those involved on the projects and other funding support for the project. The VC approved matching any funding by the congregation up to \$5,000.
- A request by Milan Presbyterian Church for \$20,000 to support and expand the "Spring Forward Learning Center" which provides after school tutoring and mentoring of vulnerable populations of children in the Milan / Rock Island Area. It will be co-sponsored by Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church and Church of Peace (ELCA). The requested was approved.

Presbytery of Great Rivers
July 27, 2010

The Executive Presbyter addressed a misunderstanding about leadership responsibilities for the Youth Triennium. Sue is seeking a volunteer to handle necessary details for the event.

An attempt will be made to involve youth in the next Presbytery meeting, July 27, 2010.

Dr. William Greenway has agreed to be the speaker for the second annual Pastor's' Day on Friday September 24 in Peoria.

Sue presented information about the GA Self Development of People Program and the funds available. 16% of the presbytery's OGHS contributions are available for the program meeting the requirements of it. The VC declined to appoint an SDOP committee for the presbytery unless an opportunity we are unaware of develops.

Volunteers are needed for the event "Stand Down" for homeless veterans that we agreed to give support. It will be held at Obrien Field / Peoria in the fall. A stand down to a veteran, in particular a homeless veteran means a time of rest, relaxation, and resources. They will receive coats and sleeping bags at the event. It was noted this could become a work trip for a congregation.

May 13, 2010

Members of the Visioning Council convened at the Presbytery Office at 9:30 on May 13, 2010. Dick Johnson presided by way of conference phone due to weather conditions in Henderson County prohibiting travel. The minutes of the March 11, 2010 meeting were approved.

The first item on the agenda was to consider the application process for Mission Initiative Funds. The moderator, having had a number of constructive conversations about funding or the lack of it as it relates to responsible stewardship, made recommendations for changes in the process. It was the intent of the VC to allocate one-third of the Shared Mission Funds at each presbytery meeting. This has not always been possible due to lack of information provided on the form, poor communication about the intent of the project, unclear goals, diverse definitions of mission and limited applications.

The VC adopted the following guidelines:

- The first priority will be given to fund those requests made by a session or by a group of sessions for projects that are being undertaken for the first time, or are a significant expansion of an already existing project where new populations are to be served, or services are to be provided to areas or address concerns and needs not previously addressed.
- The second priority will be given to those applications from a session or group of sessions for funding of a project or projects that have been in existence and the request is for "maintenance" support. Funds would be provided on a shared grant basis with no less than 40% of the total funds needed being supplied by the applicant. In addition there must be evidence provided that members of the congregation are invested in this project and that those funds in the support of the project of interest shall require a written explanation that describes their rationale as well as a statement describing how these funds relate to their theology of stewardship resources.
- Annually, no more than 30% of the mission funds available will be used by the VC to provide sessions and congregations with training and strategy support in developing their philosophy / theology of mission outreach and stewardship of resources.
- It was agreed by the Council that no applications will be considered in the future without personal communication with the applicant of the funds or those knowledgeable.

The Council also voted to budget money for the National Youth Triennium on a three-year cycle and to carry those moneys forward each year in order to have the necessary funds for the Triennium.

The application form for Mission Initiative Funds will be changed to include the complete budget of the project for which the session is requesting funding.

The following Mission Initiative Fund Applications were received/reconsidered with additional information and acted upon:

- Carlinville Federated Church - A request for \$450 to support project "Take It To Town 2010", tabled from the March VC meeting, was approved following clarification from the session.
- A request from Appanoose Presbyterian Church for \$4,000 to support "Summer School with God" tabled from the March VC meeting was approved. A conversation with the coordinator answered questions about the budget for the event. Although the Presbytery supported the event last year the outreach to unchurched children in the area fulfills new missional approaches. The VC would welcome area churches to partner with Appanoose to support their efforts; it might be a way to provide youth from other churches with a mission trip experience as they help to lead the Bible School. Visioning Council approved the amount of \$4,700.
- Westminster Presbyterian, Peoria - A request denied at the March VC meeting was reconsidered after clarification about the project. The request for \$5,000 for the Infant Care Center was approved.
- Canton First Presbyterian Church. A request for \$1,500 for seed money which the congregation will match to begin a new initiative the "Health and Wellness Clinic of Fulton County." A church representative was available to explain the passion of those involved on the projects and other funding support for the project. The VC approved matching any funding by the congregation up to \$5,000.
- A request by Milan Presbyterian Church for \$20,000 to support and expand the "Spring Forward Learning Center" which provides after school tutoring and mentoring of vulnerable populations of children in the Milan / Rock Island Area. It will be co-sponsored by Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church and Church of Peace (ELCA). The requested was approved.

The Executive Presbyter addressed a misunderstanding about leadership responsibilities for the Youth Triennium. Sue is seeking a volunteer to handle necessary details for the event.

An attempt will be made to involve youth in the next Presbytery meeting, July 27, 2010.

Dr. William Greenway has agreed to be the speaker for the second annual Pastor's' Day on Friday September 24 in Peoria.

Sue presented information about the GA Self Development of People Program and the funds available. 16% of the presbytery's OGHS contributions are available for the program meeting the requirements of it. The VC declined to appoint an SDOP committee for the presbytery unless an opportunity we are unaware of develops.

Volunteers are needed for the event "Stand Down" for homeless veterans that we agreed to give support. It will be held at Obrien Field / Peoria in the fall. A stand down to a veteran, in particular a homeless veteran means a time of rest, relaxation, and resources. They will receive coats and sleeping bags at the event. It was noted this could become a work trip for a congregation.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Brent Mitchell and adjourned at 12:00.

The next meeting of the VC will be Thursday August 12, at 9:30 AM in the presbytery office in Peoria.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Miller