

VISION COUNCIL REPORT

Shared Mission Giving Pledge Form and Letter

After discussion with regard to Shared Mission Giving, the Council voted to have a letter sent with the pledge form for 2011 emphasizing OUR mission, clarifying the separation of GA and Presbytery and the percentages of giving- 42 1/2% presbytery, 15% GA, 42 1/2% for mission.

Mission Initiative Funds

The Council discussed **the Mission Initiative Fund program** as it concludes its third year. The evaluation included the following: congregations have taken the encouragement to do new work; the Council is receiving applications that better fit the criteria and more of them; the congregations and the presbytery as a whole are beginning to catch on to the program.

One member asked if congregations that receive funds are, indeed, reporting back. The answer is "yes" at the November presbytery meeting each year. The members were especially proud of the Mission Fair in 2008. The conclusion was that it is amazing how the program has grown in three years. The question was asked about how we tell the story of how it has grown.

In relation to the Mission Initiative Funds, the Council members also reviewed the budget of the presbytery. The Council **VOTED** to recommend to the Administration Council that the Mission Initiative Fund line item be increased so that the presbytery spend what it receives as income through the shared mission contributions.

The Council **VOTED** to place a three year limit on any particular program for which a congregations makes a grant application. The second year will be no more than 60% of the first year grant and the third year will be no more than 30% of the first year grant. Use of the Mission Initiative Funds for programs that have been previously funded will be no more than 20% of the total funds given in grants.

MISSION INITIATIVE APPLICATIONS:

The following applications were approved for the amount listed.

1. Korean Presbyterian, Peoria: to teach the language and culture to students.
Requested and approved amount: \$2,000.
2. Quincy New Church Development: To send 2 members to New Church Development Meeting in Texas.
Requested and approved amount: \$2980.
3. Viola United Presbyterian: to bring the gift of Christian music to youth and youth to Christ by giving guitar lessons.
Requested amount \$4,000. Approved amount \$2000.
4. Virginia First Presbyterian: for a community children's after school choir and Bible club.
Requested and approved amount \$3515..
5. Mason City United Presbyterian: use of multiple methods to provide info about the congregation and its ministries.
Requested and approved amount \$1050.
6. Mason City United Presbyterian: to build a resident praise band/group of musicians, develop talents.
Requested and approved amount \$1000.

7. Seaton Presbyterian Church: to create a safe, age appropriate playground for the community families.
Requested and approved amount \$20,000.
8. Lincoln First Presbyterian: work with an established business to provide musical programming and Christian fellowship.
Requested and approved amount \$7,600.
9. United Presbyterian, Peoria: family Christmas program, outreach to families in need.
Requested and approved amount: \$500.
10. First Presbyterian, Pekin: "Fun Fueling Faith" program for outreach to neighborhood children.
Requested and approved amount: \$10,000.
11. First Presbyterian, Morton: "Fifth Quarter Fridays" program for high school students:
Requested and approved amount: \$3611.
12. Faith, Monmouth: "Wash Day Ministry" program to provide a place within the church building for families in need to do their laundry.
Requested and approved amount: \$7,150.

These approvals will necessitate the use of funds beyond those budgeted for Mission Initiative Grants.

New Church Development Grant from General Assembly

The Synod Grant for the Quincy New Church Development was read and discussed. The grant is a First-Level New Church Grant Application to the Synod of Lincoln Trails, Presbytery of Great Rivers. This grant is in need of a \$25,000 match for the amount requested of GA. The application includes a Foundational Statement, a Vision Statement, and a Mission Plan. The application also includes job descriptions and responsibilities for the new pastor, a church secretary, and a director of music. The Council voted to provide the required \$25,000 matching amount from general reserves.

New Adjunct Staff Position

The Council approved an **Adjunct Staff** contract with Shelly Akins of Rushville to serve as editor for PIFs and CIFs to assist congregations and pastors in the search process. She will be paid \$20 per hour for up to four hours per church or pastor.

Presbytery Meeting Evaluation

The Council evaluated the presbytery meetings in 2010. The conclusion was that presbytery members are in favor of continuing to meet at Five Points in Washington and in continuing the training at meetings since it is a way of supporting pastors and congregations.

The Council talked about the meetings at which we will discuss amendments from General Assembly. The Council **VOTED** to recommend to Bills and Overtures that the debate on the amendments be limited as to the amount of time for discussion.

Vacation Bible School Grant Application

The Council **APPROVED** a simple application for the Vacation Bible School grants from the remaining funds from the sale of the Hopedale church building. Funds will be sent as applications are received.

Evaluation of the Presbytery Structure at the conclusion of the first three years

The Council evaluated the overall changes in the presbytery in the last three years as follows:

- There has been great progress made over the three years.

- There is an attendance problem at all Councils and committees of the presbytery.
- Phil Blackburn will work on a way to have a Visioning discussion held more broadly across the presbytery.
- The Visioning Council needs to find a way to have less administrative discussions and more visioning discussions.
- This Council had no real charge or agenda when it started and pushed forward with the hope of empowering congregations.
- The Council wanted to be a gadfly to the congregations of the presbytery and has accomplished this.
- Creativity has been institutionalized.
- The Council needs to find the “next big thing”: evangelism; worship; church buildings, etc.