

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

June 5, 2020 e-vote on billboards and newspaper ads

On June 5, 2020 the Leadership team received a request from Dr. Jamaluddin Amanullah of the Islamic Foundation of Peoria, that was brought to us through Dr. John Nixon and Gary Davis. The request was to endorse the putting up of a few Billboards and newspaper advertisement mentioning the following message only: "Pray AND Act to End the Pandemic of Racism." A motion was made and seconded to endorse the message and an approving vote was taken via email.

July 21, 2020 Special Called Meeting

On a Special Called meeting on July 21 via zoom, the Leadership Team of Great Rivers Presbytery voted that, out of an abundance of caution to limit the spread of the coronavirus in our community, all presbytery assemblies and committee meetings hosted by the presbytery will be virtual for the remainder of 2020. The churches who were invited to host the remaining presbytery assemblies in 2020 will have the opportunity to host us at a later, safer date.

It was also voted to commend the letter, received by the team, from Dr. Frank Lasala to the congregations of the Presbytery. He is an Emergency Room physician treating Covid-19 patients and former Medical Director of two County Health Departments, as well as member of Faith United Presbyterian Church of Monmouth. This letter contains recommendations for safe gathering for churches. He has agreed to be a volunteer resource person for your congregation if you have questions about safety protocols for your community.

We then reviewed the recommendations made in our May 19 "Statement on COVID-19 from the Leadership Team of Presbytery of Great Rivers" and reaffirmed it with the additional recommendation for contact tracing in your congregation.

August 5, 2020 Leadership Team Meeting

On August 5, 2020 the Leadership Team met for its regularly scheduled meeting via zoom. We opened with a lesson from the PC(USA) Matthew 25 Bible study, focusing on verses 31 to 46. Then we entered into discussion with the Rev. Molly Casteel in preparation for the presentation she will make to the August 29, 2020 Presbytery of Great Rivers Assembly. Rev. Casteel is from the Office of the General Assembly where she is the Assistant Stated Clerk for Equity and Representation. Following this discussion we addressed what some of our next steps might be following the Presbytery Assembly presentation. It was moved and seconded to recommend to the assembly the formation of a new committee, CARE (Committee on Accessibility, Representation, and Equity). To that end **we are seeking members for a task force** that would work through the by-law changes necessary to form this committee. **[You may submit your name for consideration to Maura McGrath Nagle at: mauramcgn@att.net]** The Task Force would report back to the November Presbytery Assembly.

Other actions taken on that day were: to set the date reports were due from the committees as 8/19/2020; that the Presbytery of Great Rivers Team and Committee Chair Handbook be adopted; that the Lead Presbyter for Transformation and the Visioning Team work together to interpret the outcomes from the "Discussion on Visioning for the Presbytery" at February 18, 2020 Assembly.

Information on 2020 Presbytery Assemblies:

Offerings for 2020 Assemblies

August 29, 2020: Peace and Global Witness Offering

November 14, 2020: Christmas Joy Offering

The following keynote speakers have been confirmed for 2020 Assemblies:

August 29, 2020 – Molly Casteel – OGA Assistant Stated Clerk

The following Preachers have been confirmed for 2020 Assemblies:

August 29, 2020 – Rev. Matthew Wilcox

Other items for Assembly planning:

Communion will be celebrated at the November 14, 2020 assembly