



Mission Council Meeting Minutes February 10, 2009 • 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Attendance: Present: Doris Peterson, John Alves, Alfred Johnson, Eric Spencer, Muriel Lovell
Ex-officio: Kevin Yoho, Warren McNeill, Connie Cosgrove, Nil Bhavsar
Prospective Member: William Brown

Excused: Laurie McNeill, Bill Trafton

Call to Order: Doris Peterson, moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Devotional and Prayer: Rev. Eric Spencer

Mission Statement: Recited in unison

MSP: (Moved, seconded and passed) Motion to adopt the agenda

MSP: (Moved, seconded and passed) Motion to approve minutes of the November 11, 2009 meeting

MSP: (Moved, seconded and passed) Motion to approve minutes of teleconference of January 16, 2009

Financial Brief: Nil presented a review of finances accompanied by written documents. He responded to questions regarding the report.

General Presbyter's Report: Announced Leadership Conference in April and invited members to attend; Encouraged COM, Mission Council and Board of Trustees to collaborate on new and innovative ideas. He spoke on characteristics of several types of churches as they look at themselves, and assess their trajectory in mission.

- *Holy Engagement* describes a congregation that is already in a transformation phase, embracing new and innovative ideas, connecting to the community. These congregations require resources to keep moving in a missional, outward, direction. Holy Engagement can be considered as an optimal expression of the missional church.
- *Holy Invitation* - A Holy Invitation is extended to congregations that are cruising along in a status quo cycle that can change direction and choose to get involved with their community in more effective ways. They are poised to try new things and have the capacity to do so. With few unmanageable stressors, the church can initiate innovative approaches to ministry and mission. These congregations are invited toward Holy Engagement.
- *Holy Affirmation* is extended to congregations who are in a high capacity, high-resource phase of their life. They are consistently modeling wellness and effectiveness and are now challenged to be a resource to others who want to engage their own community in new ways, too. These congregations are affirmed in their abundance of resources and energy so they can empower other congregations toward Holy Engagement.
- *Holy Companionship* – The presbytery offers holy companionship to congregations who have diminishing or no resources and do not have the capacity to move forward except in a hospice-care mode. With no relief in sight, congregational stressors are impeding their health and effectiveness while exhausting their resources. Companionship churches deserve a pastor's care and may eventually choose to consider

the dissolution of their congregation, unless partnership, union, or other outside resources can invite them to re-engage with their community.

- Holy Ground* – God loves the world, and everywhere is sacred. When one of our presbytery's sites can no longer sustain a congregation and its worship, it remains a Holy Ground location to become a place where non-congregational, or non-worship ministry can serve the community in transforming ways. Alternative use and the re-purposing of the church building and grounds, or in rare instances, the sale of the property, can lead to new ways to serve the community in the name of Jesus Christ.

Emphasis on creative planning of new ways to do ministry. The Presbytery has a new website. Consultation meeting at Stony Point on March 6-7. Council should be represented. Several persons Indicated an interest in attending.

Warren McNeill was asked to elaborate on the function of the Mission Council according to the Standing Rules. Warren suggested that greater communication is needed and that COM, BOT and MC should consider meeting jointly to share ideas.

Work Team Reports

Global Mission Partnership (Johnson) Evangelism and Church Growth will be the focus of the group. The Taiwanese church will also assist by sponsoring a Health and Wellness program in conjunction with other planned activities.

Hunger Work Team (Spencer) Work team has not as yet been formed. Trafton has been unable to coordinate the program. He suggested that Rev Johnson proceed with organizing the team.

MSP (moved, seconded and passed) that Rev. Johnson call members to organize the team and plan for implementation.

Leadership Event Work Team (Johnson) The date for the event is April 25. A location for the event is being sought . Possible workshops: Veterans, Seniors, Immigration, Officers' Training, Mission

Presbyterian Transformation (Peterson) Harambee is consultant to the group. Progress is being made in preparation of application for the 5013C.

West Orange Collaborative Work Team (Yoho) Pleasantdale has opted out of the group and will have an interim pastor. There are three churches working in the collaborative.

Globalization and Middle East Work Team (Lovell) The application for the 5013c has been submitted for The Community Partnership of Essex and Union County (Elizabeth and Irvington Learning Centers). The team will host members of several groups from the national office in Louisville for a tour of the ports and a group consultation on globalization issues. Plans are being made to sponsor a two week campership for high school youth in our Presbytery.

MultiMedia Work Team (Yoho) An allocation of \$37,000 has been received from the Presbyterian Partnership Group to plan program using high technology equipment. Harambee will serve as consultant to the program.

Report of the Moderator: Mrs. Cosgrove spoke of the meeting on 2/18 for a discernment process regarding overtures to be voted upon at the March meeting of Presbytery. She encouraged all to attend and to disseminate information about the meeting to their respective congregations.

Devotional for next meeting: Mr. William Brown

Charge and Benediction: Rev. Yoho

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 10, 2009 7:00 PM
By Muriel Lovell