**Homestead Presbytery Council Agenda**

**April 26, 2022**

COUNCIL MEMBERS (Quorum 1/3 plus moderator)

P-Present, A-Absent, E-Excused

***By Virtue of Chairing Committees:***

P-Kris Brammer – Program & Grants

P-Charity Potter – Commission on Ministry

P-Joyce Douglas – Administration & Finance

P-Carl Eskridge – Administration & Finance

P-Teresa Bartlett – Nominating

P-Jane Holtzclaw – Preparation for Ministry

P-Chris Peters – Disaster Response Team

VACANT – New Worshiping & Church Vitality

***By Virtue of Office:***

P-Steve Earl (Interim Executive Presbyter)

P-Erica Nelson (Interim Stated Clerk)

P-Ed McClymont (Treasurer)

P-Terri Sherman (PW & Presbytery

Moderator)

VACANT (Presbytery & Council Vice

Moderator)

P-Steve Piper (Council Moderator)

***At Large:***

P-Steve Pointon (Class of 2022)

P-Joan Berglund (Class of 2023)

P-Teri Wendel (Class of 2024)

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**Call to Order and Opening Devotions** Steve Piper

A quorum was established and the moderator led the council in opening devotions.

**Check in** – so-good’s and no-good’s (celebrations and concerns)

**Consideration and Adoption of the Docket**

**Approval of Minutes** *(all minutes are on the homestead website)*

1. Presbytery Minutes – February 19, 2022

2. Council Minutes – March 8, 2022 called meeting

Approval of the January Council Meeting minutes will need to happen over email after this meeting, as we do not have access to them right now.

Both sets of minutes were approved as presented. Council also received and approved the minutes from the two Administrative Commissions, one to install Rev. Edward Yang as pastor/head of staff of Columbus Federated Church and one to install Rev. Michele Monroe-Clark as pastor of New Zion Presbyterian Church.

**May 19 Presbytery Meeting:**

The May Presbytery meeting will be located at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lincoln. Start time will be 10:00. New Commissioner training and orientation will start at 9:30. Stephen Earl and Erica Nelson will cover the orientation.

Council approved designating PDA, and specifically the account to give aid to Ukraine, as the recipient of the offering.

Deadlines for the packet information: reports for the packet are due on May 5th and will be published on May 9th. Reports for the addendum are due on May 12th and will be published on the 13th. We will need to have registrations due by a week before the meeting, so Westminster can plan for the right number of people for meals. The price of meals will be set at $10.

Westminster has asked their childcare folks to plan for those who need it.

Worship: Worship will include communion and communion cups will be used for efficiency. The strategy team will take on planning worship and will ask Thomas to preach. Thomas and Chris will work together on communion liturgy. We will also be commissioning our GA delegates, this will be planned between Thomas, Stephen Earl, and Erica.

Education: strategy team will be taking care of the education portion. They will focus on the mission statement. They will have planning to do around this.

**Discussion Topics**

1. LeaderWise report

2. Strategy Task Force Report and Recommendations for Presbytery

3. Items from communications with churches

4. Actions subsequent to recent resignations

5. Nominating committee candidate - Tom Osborne

6. Market assessment on Calvin Crest property

7. Rotation of council moderator, vice moderator, and moderator

8. AC for church closings

**LeaderWise report**: We received a report back from LeaderWise and their main focus is on restoring trust in the system. If we do that well, generally conflict will disappear. We would like to start this at the presbytery meeting. LeaderWise gave several suggestions on how to rebuild trust and the strategy team pulled from those on how to get to the work of rebuilding. They are slowing down the plan to move forward with the employee restructure to focus on relationship building.

**Strategy Task Force Report and Recommendations for Presbytery:** COM has already started to do some of their rebooting work and had a good meeting at the beginning of April. The strategy team is going to make phone calls to every church again, either in person or by zoom in June and July. The strategy team is offering three zoom dates around “Our Correctional Church – a conversation with the strategy team.” Those will be open to whoever wants to be on, and they will try to have other committees be present as well. Those dates will occur on June 15, September 18, and December 8. At the May Presbytery meeting during the education time, they will be focusing on the new mission statement and have discussion around how it resonates around the presbytery and what to do with it going forward. The strategy team acknowledges that slowing down like this may make it so we don’t have the employee restructure by December when Stephen Earl leaves. If that is the case, we can make do and there are national church resources to help with this.

We need an affirmation from the Council on this approach and there is still work that needs to be done between the strategy team and the council. We discussed if we want to go forward with this plan. There are concerns about whether or not we will do work into why we have lack of trust. There’s also a lack of understanding of what presbytery is.

This means that we will no longer be doing the second reading of the restructure plan at the May meeting.

**Items from communications with churches:**

The group brought forward any particular communications of note.

**Actions subsequent to recent resignations:**

There were a number of resignations out of COM and COM has been named as one of the sources of major problems. This makes sense as COM is the connectional point around the presbytery. Unless COM is healthy in itself and can break the system of mistrust, it will continue to perpetuate that mistrust. They are looking at doing a two-day retreat to really dive into what work needs to be done for reconciliation and how it can happen. Part of this process will be straddling the line between confidentiality and transparency. It has been COM culture to be informed of everything that happens in the committee and it doesn’t need to be this way. They’ve been trying to foster a new way of doing things and have been a microcosm of the structural issues going on in the presbytery as a whole.

COM has been divided into teams: Transitions, Critical Needs, Liaisons, Oversight. They will present this restructure at presbytery in May and will also discuss the issue of how boundary training was handled at the February meeting.

**Nominating committee candidate – Tom Osborne:**

No discussion.

**Rotation of council moderator, vice moderator, and moderator:**

We will hold this topic for another meeting, as this will take a while. This discussion will require a look at the bylaws.

**AC for church closings:**

We have two churches ready to close and one that is still in discussion. Humbolt was supposed to finish worshiping on Easter Sunday, however they want to stick together through August. We will pick up their utility bills through then. Akron is asking to be dissolved as they have not had a presbyterian pastor in 75 years. We will dismiss them and sell them their property for a small amount.

There are seven people identified to serve on an Administrative Commission that will serve from May of 2022 through May of 2023 and they will work on all three churches, rather than electing commissions for each individual church. The EP, Stated Clerk, and Chair of COM are in charge of putting together an AC, however we would like to have Council approval of this plan as we are doing something different from what we have done in the past. Council approved this format to take this forward to Presbytery.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council entered executive session to discuss a confidential matter.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS ENDED**

**Staff, Officer & Commissioner Reports**

1. Presbytery Moderator Terri Sherman

2. Council Moderator Steve Piper

3. Synod Commissioner Joan Berglund

4. Treasurer Ed McClymont

5. Interim Stated Clerk Erica Nelson

6. Interim Executive Presbyter Stephen Earl

EP Report: Stephen will be away for the next two weeks. However, he will be working away from home the second week.

Stephen’s priorities post the new plan to put a pause on the strategy work will be presented to the presbytery. Those priorities are: Coordination of work of the strategy team and LeaderWise action plan, Support of the COM re-do, AC for closing churches, Personnel and Administration. It is important to also discuss that the process for calling a new pastor is not a quick one and that the work should be intentional and not just regurgitating old work.

**Committee & Organization Reports**

1. Administration & Finance Carl Eskridge/Joyce Douglas

2. Commission on Ministry Charity Potter

3. Committee on Preparation for Ministry Jane Holtzclaw

4. Disaster Preparation Response Team Chris Peters

5. New Worshipping Communities & Church Vitality Development Vacant

6. Nominating Teresa Bartlett

7. Presbyterian Women Terri Sherman

8. Programs & Grants Kris Brammer

Disaster Preparation Response: there is interest in helping Ukrainian refugees, however we will not be likely receiving Ukrainian refugees here. There is work being done on how to financially support refugees. They would like to remind churches to fill out the disaster form and will send that out again.

Nominating: there is a motion to elect two people to COM. That will be sent on to presbytery.

Programs & Grants – the M&M for Lenten Family books, 50 books were purchased and 15 are still remaining and we will give them out next year.

**New Business**

1. Alan Brehm would like to have some suicide prevention training for the presbytery.
2. Next meeting will be July 19th, 3:00 pm and probably the same room. Steve Pointon will do opening devotions.
3. Think about where we want to have the August meeting. We may try to have it at Camp Calvin Crest.

**Adjournment with Closing Prayer** – Stated Clerk adjourned in prayer