

MISSION STRATEGIES AND RESOURCE BOARD

Meeting March 17, 2016

Doug Forsberg gave a **Restructuring Committee Report** explaining that a new Visioning & Administrative Board would combine and replace MSRB, the Trustees, BAC, Personnel, Presbytery meetings and Learning Ops. MSRB members expressed the following concerns:

- The VAB has so many responsibilities that the focus the MSRB maintains on mission may be lost.
- Churches are energized by a missional focus and if that is replaced by an administrative focus, churches may languish.
- When representation in committees is cut so drastically, churches may become less vested in Blackhawk.
- Such restructuring will concentrate power in a very small group that will not be representative of all of Blackhawk.

MSRB voted to approve the Living Waters Partnership application from Fox Valley Presbyterian and Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian. The Living Waters Partnership will provide support and encouragement for churches interested in Living Waters for the World (LWW). Fox Valley Presbyterian has worked with LWW since 2007. Their team has completed 11 projects in Guatemala as of April 2016. Ridgefield-Crystal Lake has its first project underway, also in Guatemala. A development trip took place in January 2016, with the installation phase set for July 2016. More information is available on the Blackhawk website.

MSRB voted to approve the Earth Care Network application submitted by Oswego Presbyterian and Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian, both Earth Care congregations, certified by the Environmental Ministries office of PC(USA). The network will provide opportunities for congregations to:

- celebrate God's glory in creation
- know and understand the threats to God's creation and its healing
- manage our facilities in a manner respectful of all creation
- and encourage public policy and community involvement to protect and restore the earth.

MSRB voted to approve the Kenyan Partnership Peacemaking Grant application for \$4,000 to cover travel and help cover partner meals for their January 2017 mission trip. This trip will celebrate the twentieth year anniversary of the partnership and have the purpose of strengthening current church/parish partnerships and establishing new church/parish partnerships. There are currently ten church/parish partnerships.

MSRB shares communication from a **missionary, César Carhuachín**, from Colombia offering to speak while in the area June 9-August 8. He will be speaking Sunday June 12 at the two morning services of Ridgefield-Crystal Presbyterian Church. Contact him at Cesar.Carhuachin@pcusa.org

MSRB encourages presbyters to **support transportation for Triennium 2016** through their free will offering at the April and June Presbytery meetings..