

Presbytery Council Report

November 13, 2018 Presbytery Meeting

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY ASSEMBLY ACTION:

-2nd Reading of GA Commissioners and YAAD Election process, and vote. Motion comes from the Council. (See attachment on Blackhawk Presbytery Website- November 2018 Presby Mtg)

-Approval of 2019 Blackhawk Presbytery Budget. Motion comes from the Council (See attachment on Blackhawk Presbytery Website- November 2018 Presby Mtg)

-Approval of Karen Gerhard-Conner (Oregon, First) to fill the vacancy for the class of 2019 on the Nominating Committee. Nomination comes from the Council.

-Approval of updated Ecclesiastical Administrative Manual. Updates include removing mention of the Business Affairs Committee (motion carried in June 2018 to remove BAC) and correcting verbiage in certain areas as errors have been found. Motion comes from the Council.

The Council met on September 25th at Stronghold.

John Rickard presented the following recommendation by the GA223 (Overture 10-13):
“Encourage mid councils to begin their meetings with an acknowledgment of whose land they are meeting on”. The discussion included mention of other “sins of the past” by our nation and people (i.e. slavery), and the foreign concept of land ownership to the indigenous peoples. It was **Moved/seconded/approved** to include such acknowledgement as part of Confession during the worship service at the yearly Presbytery meeting held at Stronghold. It was further **Moved/seconded/voted** to ask the Presbytery Assembly Planning Committee to ensure this is done.

VISIONING AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mike recapped previous conclusions leading to today’s topic: to create a tool(s) to operationalize the Presbytery’s ability to live into the vision statement.

The PAPC team has suggested the Presbytery break out into small groups for the next few meetings. Groups would be assembled roughly by size and demographics. We will begin in February by asking attendees to discuss and try to characterize their church’s context. It is important to not only identify the context, but also to learn to be content with it by letting go of the past and notions of what church ‘ought to be’.

We will follow in April by moving on to define what it means to be a thriving faith community within that context. What is the history of this word choice of “thriving” in the Mission /Vision statement? Dictionary definition – related to success or prosperity, as in a business. Successful vs. Thriving might be the difference between a quantitative measure vs qualitative judgement. In evaluating whether they are thriving, a church may ask itself how their community would miss

them if they closed? Is attention to buildings, liturgies, etc. adding or distracting from being “the Church” or thriving? Is there a generational difference? We’ll explore this together in April.

We also discussed continuing educational needs of leaders (MWSes, CREs, Session elders, etc.). How can our presbytery do better at offering continuing education? We will begin by talking with CREs about what further education they believe they would benefit from, as well as what subject matter should have been included, if any, in their initial training. The goal is to begin to focus on providing better education opportunities to CREs and to make that training available to other leaders in the presbytery as well.

On October 23rd, the Council met via a phone meeting for a few brief items.

Candidate Scholarship

An application for the newly instituted Ordination Scholarship Fund has been received from Alex Regets (currently serving our Peotone congregation as a student pastor). CPM has approved his application. Council **moved/seconded/voted** to approve a \$500 scholarship to Alex Regets to defray educational expenses.

Recommend Budget to Presbytery

It was **Moved/seconded/voted** to recommend Presbytery adopt the proposed 2019 budget (presented for first reading in September), setting the 2019 per capita at \$25.71 for Blackhawk Presbytery. The total per capita for 2019 will be \$38.47.

End Note:

It has been a great honor to serve Blackhawk Presbytery in the capacity of Council Moderator for these past 1.5 years. I am very pleased and excited with our presbytery and where it is going. The Council has put in a tremendous effort in our infancy to help BP get to where it needs to be. We now have a defined Vision and Value Statement and have completed a strategic planning process that will set the course of the Presbytery living into a healthy and active Christ-centered future. I look forward to moving onto the Mission Committee and help BP serve Christ to the best of our ability.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg