

Leadership Team Report

May 12, 2018

Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse Annual Stated Meeting

Since papers distributed for the February 10, 2018 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery, the Leadership Team has held meetings on February 22, March 22, and April 26, 2018.

The Leadership Team met on February 22, 2018 at Robinson Elmwood United Church.

Present: Linda Russell, Mario Bolivar, Donna Hunt, Nancy Johnston, Lennie Turner, Karen Green, Howard Rose, Nancy Wind, Diane Monger,

Excused: Linda Even, Beth DuBois, Banu Moore, Linda Van Buskirk, Shawn Reyburn, Lynn Jacques

Ex-Officio: Rita Hooper, Gordie Howard, Larry Beasley

Guest: Tom Oak

The Leadership Team met on March 22, 2018 at Robinson Elmwood United Church.

Present: Linda Russell, Donna Hunt, Nancy Johnston, Lennie Turner, Karen Green, Howard Rose, Nancy Wind, Lynn Jacques, Beth DuBois, Diane Monger

Excused: Linda Even, Banu Moore, Linda Van Buskirk, Mario Bolivar

Ex-Officio: Rita Hooper, Gordie Howard, Larry Beasley, Shawn Reyburn

The Leadership Team met on April 26, 2018 at Robinson Elmwood United Church.

Present: Linda Russell, Mario Bolivar, Donna Hunt, Lennie Turner, Linda Even, Karen Green, Howard Rose, Nancy Wind, Beth DuBois, Lynn Jacques, Diane Monger, Banu Moore

Excused: Gordie Howard, Nancy Johnston, Linda Van Buskirk, Shawn Reyburn

Ex-Officio: Rita Hooper, Larry Beasley

Guest: Tom Oak

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery on February 22:

- A-1 Approved the dissolution of the Administrative Commission working with First Presbyterian Church of Auburn, NY with gratitude for their service.
- A-2 Approved the Human Resources Work Group's recommendation to pay the Stated Clerk for additional time worked in January and February 2018, and voted to increase the Stated Clerk's position from 10 hours/week up to 15 hours/week beginning March 1, 2018. The LT directed the Stated Clerk to redirect inquiries or requests when possible and appropriate in order to stay within the 15-hour limit.
- A-3 Rescheduled the Annual Stated Meeting of Presbytery from Tuesday, May 15 to Saturday, May 12.

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery on March 22:

- A-4 Approved the Communications Work Group's recommendation to hire website designer Jess Haswell at a cost of \$1800.00 with the stipulation that Ms. Haswell would be accountable to Mario Bolivar and Patrick Heery from the Communications Work Group.
- A-5 Approved the Treasurer's recommendation to merge the Weil Fund with the Mission Initiatives Fund.
- A-6 Accepted with regret Elder Larry Beasley's resignation as Stated Clerk effective May 31, 2018.

- A-7 Approved transferring the responsibility for conducting background checks from the Robinson Elmwood United Church office to Paula Lamberson, presbytery bookkeeper, effective April 1, with profound thanks to Robinson Elmwood for graciously and professionally handling this service for Presbytery for over eight years.
- A-8 Approved the Agreement for Rev's James and Banu Moore to serve as Interim Pastors at the First Presbyterian Church of Scipioville for a period of 12 months beginning March 1, 2018. (Agreement attached.)
- A-9 Approved the Agreement for Elder Gail Banks to serve as Commissioned Lay Pastor at Amboy Belle Isle United Church through March 2019. (Agreement attached.)

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery April 26, 2018:

- A-10 Voted to write a letter to Synod in support of Auburn-Westminster's application for a Synod Innovation Grant to support a Children & Youth Ministry initiative at Westminster-Auburn. They seek Synod support for program development and coordination of this growing ministry over the next two years, with the expectation that it will be self-supporting once it is up and running. The church is also using their Great Commission funds to start this initiative.
- A-11 Approved a grant of \$5,500 from the Mission Initiatives Fund to Onondaga Hill Presbyterian Church for their Group Workcamp mission in Syracuse in June 2018.
- A-12 Approved a grant of \$3,000 from the Mission Initiatives Fund to South-Valley Presbyterian Church to support their "Appleseed Outreach" mission where they offer a gathering space/time for the community, meaningful worship, activities and mentoring for youth and children, and serve 60-80 meals each week on the South Side of Syracuse.
- A-13 Referred to the Leadership Team's New Worshipping Communities Work Group a request from Rev. Beth DuBois that "Appleseed Outreach" be recognized by Presbytery as a New Worshipping Community.
- A-14 Considered a first draft of a Mission Initiatives Fund Policy submitted by Rev. Beth DuBois which will be further developed and shared with Presbytery for its approval.
- A-15 Approved an application for Use of Restricted Funds from General Assembly (Fund F58691) from the Morrisville Community Church for support of the church's food pantry in the amount of \$1,453. The Food Pantry is an emergency program that provides three meals a day for three days for persons in need due to a sudden, tragic event, joblessness, or lack of resources from fixed incomes. This application is now sent to the Synod, and, if approved there, will be forwarded to the General Assembly for consideration.
- A-16 Approved the Finance and Property Work Group's recommendation to write-off outstanding 2016 per capita of \$4130.05 (East Syracuse, Mexico, Northminster; additional 2016 write offs were taken earlier); and to write-off outstanding 2017 per capita of \$9,382.65 (Fayetteville, Mexico, Port Byron, Korean Church of Syracuse, Robinson, and Taunton).
- A-17 Approved the appointments of Rev's. Richard and Ginny Smith as Temporary Supply Pastors at First Presbyterian Church of Marcellus beginning May 1, 2018 and ending September 14, 2018. (Covenant attached.)
- A-18 Approved the Interim Ministry Agreement between Rev. Dr. Kathleen A. Waters and the Henrietta United Church of Christ on Henrietta, NY for a period of 12 months beginning May 30, 2018. The position is a ¾ time position. (Agreement attached.)

- A-19 Approved the Preparation for Ministry Work Group's recommendation to grant Inquirer Shavonn Lynch a Fay Giddings scholarship in the amount of \$2,373.00.

Recommendations to Presbytery:

- R-1 The Leadership Team recommends that Presbytery extend the terms of the four current officers of Presbytery – Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Chair of Leadership Team, and Vice-Chair of Leadership Team – for up to one year, to suspend Standing Rules 2.02-2.06 for one year, and to amend Article VI of the Bylaws accordingly.

Rationale: There are six officers of the Presbytery: Moderator and Vice-Moderator of Presbytery, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Leadership Team, Stated Clerk, and Treasurer (Bylaws Article IV). The problem identified is that, because of the confluence this year (2018) of the terms of Presbytery officers, the terms of the Moderator and Vice-Moderator of Presbytery, and the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Leadership Team, all will end on May 31. With the current Standing Rules (2.03-2.06), this confluence causing the loss of four offices at one time will reoccur every six years. Recommendations from the Leadership Team for staggering the terms of these four officers in order to alleviate this are being prepared for consideration by Presbytery at a future meeting of Presbytery. The Leadership Team received suggested amendments to the Standing Rules in question from our previous Stated Clerk in 2017, but has not yet been able to properly consider them due to the Stated Clerk's early retirement and the subsequent need to address transition matters that were time sensitive. In addition to the pending loss of the above mentioned four officers, Presbytery's current Stated Clerk will conclude his service to our Presbytery effective May 31.

Therefore, the Leadership Team recommends that Article VI of the Presbytery Bylaws be amended to read as follows: *"The Leadership team of the Presbytery is what has at various times been described as 'The Council, The General Council, The Executive Committee, etc.'* *The Leadership Team shall consist of 15 individuals, each of whom shall be a member of one of our churches or of the Presbytery, and who shall be elected for a (3) year term without possibility for immediate renewal with the exception that under extenuating circumstances, should Presbytery deem it necessary or prudent, Presbytery may vote to extend the term of an officer for up to one additional year.* *In addition, one member, between the ages of 16 and 21 inclusive, shall be elected by the Leadership Team, upon nomination by the appropriate Work Group, to serve for a period of one (1) year...."*

[Complete Bylaws and Standing Rules attached.]

- R-2 The Leadership Team recommends that Presbytery approve establishing the position of Acting Stated Clerk (10 hours) with a focus on serving stated meetings of Presbytery and as a general polity resource, and empower the Leadership Team to prepare a position description and compensation agreement, to search for and to appoint said Acting Clerk.
- R-3 The Leadership Team recommends that Presbytery approve the position of Communications Coordinator (10 hours) with a focus on the weekly e-newsletter (40%), website updates (40%) and social media updates (20%); and empower the Leadership Team to prepare a compensation agreement, to search for and to hire said Communications Coordinator.

- R-4 The Leadership Team recommends that Presbytery approve a position of Presbytery Leader as proposed by the Visioning Work Group and empower the Leadership Team to develop a position description using new and previous input from Presbytery members to include such things as serving as the “face” of the Presbytery; building relationships with and among congregations and neighboring presbyteries; being a pastor to pastors; and, working with the Leadership Team, help articulate, model and implement presbytery’s vision and ministry.

Recommendation from the Leadership Team Chairperson:

- R-5 That Presbytery approve an application for Use of Restricted Funds from General Assembly (Fund F59251) for support of their Boaz Project outreach ministry which has supported refugees in the greater Syracuse area since 2007 through classes in computer skills and English, as well as an annual Vacation Bible School in partnership with local ethnic churches near Lodi Street. Since 2007 the program has served more than 1138 refugees from 36 countries. The Boaz Project has also established an internship contract with Syracuse University and has partnered with the Applied Learning Experience program of Onondaga Community College.

[NOTE: Application attached. This application was received prior to the May 1 Presbytery deadline but after the April 26 meeting of the Leadership Team. Thus the recommendation is coming directly to the floor of Presbytery. If approved by Presbytery, the application will be sent to the Synod, and, if approved there, will be forwarded to the General Assembly for consideration.]