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| **Council...**  ***What it means to be "Church Leaders" in today's culture*** |

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| Council met Tuesday March 18th primarily for a time of communal discernment.  Moderator **Kevin Bowers** opened the meeting with the Scripture reading from Exodus 17: 1-7.  Members explored together for half an hour what it means to be "church leaders" in today's culture with today's congregations in the midst of today's experiences of change.  Three clusters of Council members probed notions of key functions of presbytery work and potential shifts in how that work is organized.  **Jill Kitowski**, as convener of ongoing Joshua Journey work, facilitated consensus about some key principles-like focusing on relationships, not structure-that fed later discussion of the need to synthesize competing notions of priorities emerging from the Joshua Journey teams, from the survey responses from congregational members, from the experiences of commission and committee leaders who serve on Council, and from the responsibilities outlined by the Book of Order.  **Ron Steuderman** and **John Thomas**, two members representing the University Church board of directors, talked with Council about their process for responding to the Synod's sale of its 320 North property in West Lafayette, and to invite presbytery participation in their assessment of who they are and who they wish to become as a "specialized ministry" of Presbytery.  They seek to move toward plans for different space and possibly different structure for making decisions and funding their worshiping community.  **Marylynn Boatright**, member of Council and also on Synod's administrative commission, reported on its work for Synod and its eight presbyteries concerning the property, and **Terri Thorn** led prayers of blessing for Council and University Church.  After discussion, Council assigned next steps in response to request from Church of the Good Shepherd to resolve outstanding matters between the congregation and its PC(USA) presbytery.  **Eric Herzog** and **Alan Griffin** (Stewardship Ministry Team) reviewed with Council the effects upon planning presbytery work and supporting budgets when congregations don't communicate about their inability or refusal to make per capita contributions to the greater church that is funded by those anticipated contributions.  Council also took action to:   * Endorse the application of Wabash Avenue, Crawfordsville congregation to Synod for a grant to support its "Mission Through Music and Manual Labor" project. * Approve taskforce of **Jim Dougans, Ron Miller** and **Marylynn Boatright** to nominate Nominating Committee members for election by Presbytery Assembly. * Approved minutes and received financial reports and reports from General Presbyter and Stated Clerk.                                                                           - Linda Long, Stated Clerk |
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