Summary of July 15 Council Work

Council moderator-for-the-day **Jeff Cover,** Central Presbyterian Church, Lafayette, opened with silent prayer, welcomed newly elected Personnel Ministry Team Moderator **Sandy Carlson**, First Presbyterian Church, Michigan City, and led Council's reading and discussion of Lev. 19:9-18.  Conversation connecting the Scripture to today ranged from noting congregations have neighbors, too; the time it takes to invest in relationships; a paradigm shift from "me" and "mine" to seeing the needs of others and sharing to meet those needs, punctuated five times by "I am the Lord;" and linking to the parable of the Sower who generously scatters seed wherever it may land, without knowing where it will take hold and root.

Twelve elected members of Council plus ex officio members at the table spent an hour reviewing the recommendations of the Joshua Journey 2 team with input from Geneva Center team, and asked for additional details at its August meeting.

Actions of Council acting as a commission:

* Received information that Transformation Grant of $100,000 is available from the Synod (as a result of the sale of University Church property) upon letter of application for the funds.   Congregations are invited to craft proposals to presbytery's New Ministry Development Team or Transformation Ministry Team for these funds.  Creative ideas might include new ministry with young adults, campus ministry, or a "1001 Worshiping Community" (see [http://www.onethousandone.org](http://www.onethousandone.org/)).
* Approved recommendations from Property Committee to provide quitclaim deed to transfer small Anderson Cemetery to Greenfield Township, Whitley County for maintenance; permission to The Presbyterian Church, La Porte to accept gift of land donation to congregation and to sell property; and for committee to engage with Indiana Landmarks, Inc. to sell the building of the former Columbia City church.
* Approved preliminary draft of 2012 Financial Review, pending request for addendum of property; established minimum unrestricted financial reserve of $300,000 (roughly 5-6 months of average operating/mission expenses of the presbytery); coordination with Ministerial Excellence Fund to provide funded workshops on church finances for congregations in September and October.
* Received preliminary 2013-14 fiscal year report for presbytery and six-months report for Geneva Center, both showing deficits that are likely to be modified during the next few weeks.  Presbytery is currently showing unrestricted reserves of $487,308 plus additional $69,546 that could be redirected by Council to reserves or mission projects.
* Approved recommendations of its taskforce to nominate J**an Sandos** (RE, Rossville); **Kristi Slaby** (RE, Rensselaer); and **Hank Cox** (RE, Christ, Winfield) for election by assembly to the Nominating Committee.
* Changed date of October Council meeting to October 14.
* Heard reports from 221st GA Commissioners **Bill McLean** and **Jill Kitowski** concerning their experiences and agreed that presbytery votes to consider six Book of Order amendments and addition of the Confession of Belhar to Book of Confessions will be held at the February 2015 assembly.
* Received for information the written reports of action by COM and CPM.

- Linda Long, Stated Clerk