

First Drafts...Approvals...Laying on of Hands
Council Summary
by Linda L. Long, Stated Clerk

Yesterday, May 25th, Council took a number of significant actions to address the future of our Presbytery, plus approved some more routine matters. Following our work, we celebrated the contributions of Ray and Sheryl Fancher with a reception and remembrances from their interim time with us. Main Council actions:

- Approved an agreement for transitional ministry to welcome **Rev. Dr. Tim Jones**, honorably retired minister member of Presbytery of Scioto Valley. He will continue until such time as our Presbytery is ready to install its next General Presbyter. "Tim" was approved to "labor within our bounds," and will remain a minister member in Ohio while he brings his considerable interim leadership experience to us.
- Caught a glimpse of the first draft of the **proposed revisions to the Article of Incorporation, Bylaws and Standing Rules** for our Presbytery. Ministry teams and committees are encouraged to review them and bring feedback for Council discussion at its June 22nd meeting.
- Approved **covenants with Whitewater Valley** to begin June 1st that provide accounting and bookkeeping services for our Presbytery and Geneva Center finances. Eric Herzog continues as our Financial Consultant doing treasurer duties, and Whitewater Valley staff will fill our bookkeeping needs resulting from Doug Capper's resignation several months ago.
- Approved the revision of a search team for Geneva Center director to a **Geneva Center Visioning Team** that includes additions of Larry Kalas, our acting director for Geneva Center, the moderator of the Geneva Center Ministry Team, and 2-3 additional perspectives, with responsibility to report to Council with a vision for the Geneva Center ministry, a Master Plan, a recommendation concerning pros and cons of forming a 501c3 corporation for that ministry, and other matters that emerge during its discernment. Pam Camren has agreed to remain as moderator of the team during the transition time until the Visioning Team is constituted.
- Approved **priorities and goals** to guide our work as Presbytery during 2010. You will find those on our website at <http://www.ourpresbytery.org/forms.htm> in Council box click on "Priorities with Smarter Goals."
- Approved a **task force of Council on small membership congregations** to work collaboratively across ministry teams for Administration, Church Development, Missional Transformation, Committee on Ministry, representatives from smaller congregations, and staff to consider criteria for viable ministry, alternative structures for viable ministry, and methods for addressing non-viable ministry. This team will address holistically the issues unique to our congregations who average less than 50 people in worship each week. Recommendations will come back to Council within six months.
- Approved a number of other proposed matters, and reviewed reports from every staff member, officer, committee, team and task force except one.

- Closed with laying on of hands and prayer after encircling Ray Fancher and sharing appreciation of his leadership and ministry among us.

And we did enjoy our meeting on a very warm day with the air-conditioning running in the Big Room at Geneva Center!

-- Blessings,

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