

Update on Council Meeting of June 22, 2010

Council gathered in the air-conditioned Big Room of Geneva Center to consider the following business of the Presbytery:

- Vice Moderator Pam Camren convened the meeting with a welcome and introduction of Rev. Tim Jones, our Acting General Presbyter.
- John Ritchie led small group study of the Transformation Journey Bible study for June, Isaiah 11: 1-6. Groups shared their insights about its messages for Presbytery, the “foretaste of the reign of God,” with phrases like:
 - Hear the radical call to step out with courage
 - Unexpected peacefulness in the midst of the rest of life
 - Glimpses of God’s reign keep us going, until we get another glimpse
 - Images of newness and unexpectedness, different from what we expect—can we find that in new leaders, new ways of finding leaders with new vision
- Approved calendar proposed for 2011 Council, Assembly and planning meetings.
- Reviewed current Presbytery priorities and goals as printed in brochure to be distributed and on website.
- Supported Acting GP Tim Jones and his agenda to complete personnel reviews, lead review of filing system to assure access, support pastors and congregations in transition, and encourage transitions not yet complete in preparation for new General Presbyter.
- Considered financial reports through May showing consistent giving to Presbytery through congregations for operations and generosity for basic missions, and committed to build proposed 2011 mission budget around the enthusiasm for some emerging priorities not currently nested in Ministry Teams or Committees. Team was named to propose remission budget revisions for AMT review and consideration at July Council meeting.
- Heard enthusiasm of General Presbyter Nominating Committee for the caliber of candidates they are reviewing.
- Missional Transformation Coordinating Team reported on the three regional gatherings they hosted for sessions of the congregations participating in the first wave of the Transformation Journey. Sessions had both opportunities to learn more about the transformation process, and about one another as neighboring congregations.
- Discussed aspects of the application process for grants from the Ministerial Excellence Fund administered by the Synod, funded by a grant from Lilly Foundation.
- Noted the joint meeting of Committee on Preparation for Ministry and Committee on Ministry to interview a potential first-call candidate.
- Considered the best strategy for encouraging task forces to communicate regularly to Council and to complete their work.
- Pastor AJ Mildenberg closed the meeting with prayers for those living with storm damage, floods in basements and fields, and medical issues, and for the generosity that surrounds us with food, community, and comfort.