

Wednesday Mail
January 12, 2011

Last weekend the 2011 Council members gathered in retreat at Geneva Center to focus on leadership and planning, and convened again this week at University Church of Purdue in West Lafayette to meet with Council's University Church task force, University Church's Board of Directors, and elders from its closest neighboring congregation, Central.

Council offers these priorities for our Presbytery:

1. Discern God's mission by incorporating Scripture, prayer and spiritual formation in our life together.
2. Enhance ministry partnerships and model effective communication.
3. Be good and faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to us.

From these priorities, Council will set its own goals, and urges ministry teams, committees and congregations to name and share their goals at their first meetings, including those that may reach into partnering with one another or with our whole presbytery. Goals will provide foundation for effective meeting time, framework for reporting, and proposed budgeting—as well as keeping us all focused on our commitments to God's mission among us.

Council reviewed specifics of our revised standing rules and bylaws to consider what it means to “live into” them as we live out priorities, goals, staffing, and funding decisions. Specific actions of Council:

- Dismissed the Geneva Center Visioning Team with gratitude for its dedication and work, and passed its report to the new Presbytery Visioning Ministry Team. VMT is asked to assess the role of GC in the ongoing mission and overall ministry of Wabash Valley and its churches, and to propose a strategic vision consistent with our priorities and resources, building upon the recommendations from the GCVT.
- Approved recommendation to Assembly in support of Geneva Center budget for 2011, revised to include benefits participation for an employee.
- Approved increase in GC rates for hospitality services and summer camp.
- Approved priorities for Geneva Center staff to use when scheduling with our presbytery and contracting with other groups.
- Authorized specific teams to enforce the mediated agreement with Kokomo and to make client decisions in litigation brought by a Ladoga member.
- In light of its heating emergency, granted a \$50,000 gift to University Church for its HVAC upgrade, anticipating a matching contribution from the Synod of Lincoln Trails and capital fund-raising of \$25,000 from the University Church community. All anticipate these major upgrades to infrastructure will be also funded with a pending loan from the Presbyterian Loan and Investment Program.
- Endorsed the ongoing and evident ministry of University Church and committed to name a team to negotiate specifics of a unique campus ministry relationship with our presbytery. A detailed proposal to accept the University Church ministry into our presbytery will be brought to the Presbytery Assembly for its vote.