

Council Report by Vice Moderator Laura Reason

It's been several years since I've attended a Council meeting at the Rochester Presbyterian Church – in fact it's been long enough that the congregation has torn down their 110 year old building, built a new one, added a lot of parking and changed their name to Community Presbyterian Church. On October 25th, it was a delight to meet in the new CPC building and enjoy the gracious hospitality of the church ladies.

The missional transformation process this congregation is involved in is visible from the street, with signage and ample accessible parking that flows into a spacious welcoming area at the heart of the building. The welcoming space is anchored from behind by a modern commercial kitchen, and opens both to the east and west in multi purpose spaces. To the east is a large open space that clearly serves for worship, meetings and fellowship. Every pastor present seemed green with envy over the comfortable couches near the kitchen pass through window, trying to figure out how such a space could exist in the sanctuaries back home. The rooms to the west serve for administrative purposes, education, care and nurture. The careful thought given to honoring the congregation's history through the use of beloved old pieces of furniture, Bibles and stained glass were complemented by up to date low maintenance building materials and tasteful modern equipment. The ladies cooking lunch demonstrated their concern for green living by using real glasses, china and PW silver.

While no formal moment was seized in the meeting for thanks, the Council members reminded out-going Council Moderator John Ritchie throughout the day that completing three years as Vice Moderator, Moderator and Council Moderator did not preclude continuing in his presbytery service. John did not disappoint, bringing a long held dream forward in this Council meeting for approval. Having recruited interested participants, taken classes at Big Tent on pastoral care and finding ways to fund the work without a negative impact on the 2012 budget, the Council approved the proposal to form a Pastoral Leadership Care Committee effective January 1, 2012.

In other business:

the Council heard a substantial report from the Stewardship Ministry Team as they continue to analyze and recommend faithful use of the presbytery's resources

received and reviewed the reports of the officers, staff, commissions and committees

approved the Columbia City Administrative Commission proceeding to negotiate with The Refuge, a non denominational ministry concerning lease or purchase of the former First, Columbia City church building. Any negotiated package will come back to Council for approval.

Noted the consulting contract with the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association for a visioning process for Geneva Center led by Rich

Swartwood.