

*Hard questions, deep discussions, more specific sense of mission, explicit cooperation...all markers of Council Meeting on March 22, 2011*

Council Moderator John Ritchie convened with a reading of Ann Weems' poem "Numbers Game" and prayer. For half an hour, Council members explored together the challenge to be salt and light as Jesus taught his disciples in the Sermon on the Mount. Ideas sparked by those images led us to name ways to be gifts of mission to the world. Actions and conversations on behalf of our Presbytery by Council:

- Extensive conversation about the role of Geneva Center in the mission of our Presbytery. The GC Ministry Team is encouraged to envision and implement programs year round for all ages to strengthen its ministry beyond basic hospitality.

- Affirmed Larry Kalas as Director of Geneva Center, removing his temporary status as Acting Director.

- Referred Lehman & Lehman consulting report from 2008 and proposal from 2010 back to the GC Ministry Team as base for bringing recommendations to Council for strengthening the ministry and viability of Geneva Center.

- Urged each team and committee of Presbytery to define specific goals for themselves that implement the priorities approved by Council and the Assembly:

- Discern God's mission by incorporating Scripture, prayer and spiritual formation in our life together.

- Enhance ministry partnerships and model effective communication.

- Be good and faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to us.

- Began to define Council's own operating goals in light of the priorities. Council members asked hard questions of one another such as:

- Do our structures work well, or can we do better? Emphasis on "do," not more study.
- Might Presbytery committees such as Personnel and Stewardship serve as a resource on those issues for congregations, as well as develop policies and processes in support of Presbytery and staff?
- What if pastors and CLPS went on a mission trip, both to labor together and to study Scripture together?
- What does "spiritual formation" really mean in terms of what we do? Can we articulate a more refined understanding to implement and share with others?
- Will every team, committee and task force prepare reports in writing for Council that can be read in advance, so that meeting time is dedicated to the kinds of deeper, collaborative discernment shared in this meeting?
- How can Presbytery efforts be more relevant to churches and ministries today?
- How can we communicate better, a two-way street for celebrating, learning, supporting one another?
- How can we invite congregations to engage with one another more deeply through Presbytery work: teams, committees, retreats, partnerships in ministry?

- Approved dates for Assembly and Council meetings in 2012. See margin for "Save the dates!"

- Reviewed 2010 end of year financial reports, and year to date reports for 2011 from our Financial Consultant, Eric Herzog.

- Summary by Linda Long, Stated Clerk