

Full Agenda for First Council Meeting of 2012

Summary by Linda L Long, Stated Clerk

Our Council - who serves as a coordinating team of presbytery leadership for our teams, committees, commissions and task forces as well as the corporate Board of Directors and commission for our presbytery between Assemblies - met for its regularly stated meeting in the PWV conference room at Geneva Center with only three absent.

- Council Moderator Pam Camren opened with a reading from Sounds of the Eternal, a Celtic Psalter by J. Philip Newell, that invited each to be "wholly alive" in God. Pam led prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.
- Seventeen Council members introduced themselves and shared in community their insights gained from the Matthew 7: 24-27 scripture reading for January.
- Presbytery teams, committees and commissions were urged to articulate goals for their work based upon the presbytery priorities and our mission to create, connect and nurture congregations and ministries to fulfill Christ's mission. Drafts of policies and procedures for how each group works together will be gathered to develop a working document of presbytery operations.
- Council members were asked to complete the annual conflicts of interest disclosure statement.

Council actions taken:

- Created a committee of Council dedicated to handling church and presbytery property matters. Jill Kitowski agreed to serve as moderator, along with at least two others with real estate and property experience.
- At request of those who traveled to Haiti last summer and shared their stories with the Assembly, Council created a committee of Council to encourage and plan congregational partnerships, particularly among small congregations, and mission trips to assist in the recovery of the people of Haiti, and named Rev. Chuck Compton (Flora) and Jeff Brown co-moderators.
- Approved by consensus some renovations to move Geneva Center office from under Presbytery office to the lobby/gift shop welcoming area.
- Approved scholarship fund for Confirmation Retreat April 27-29, 2012.
- Approved closure of Michiana All Peoples' Church as a new ministry development probe. That community may continue to meet as a fellowship or house-church, with three of them nearing completion of training in specialized immigrant ministry leadership.

Information provided for Council consideration:

- Frank Vardeman, who continues to provide executive leadership for Geneva

Center, announced that **Rev. David Lawrence** will serve as Summer Camp Director and will be visiting congregations to encourage youth and congregational participation. **Cathy Adley** has been promoted to serve as Geneva Center Manager.

- Received preliminary 2011 year-end financial statements for Presbytery's basic mission, operations and Geneva Center, and the revised 2012 budget for Geneva Center.
- Minutes of those congregational leaders gathering to discern the wisdom of creating a smaller geographic presbytery in Northeast Indiana.
- "Growing in God" proposal from the New Ministry Development Team as adjunct to Ladoga preschool.
- Presentation by ruling elder from Ogden Dunes Community Church.
- Proposal for Geneva Center fundraising