

Headlines from Council's Meeting October 26th

by Linda L. Long, Stated Clerk

- With a lighted candle to remind us of God's presence, Council studied and shared insights for half an hour on the meanings and implications of being instruments of the reign of God as taught by Christ in Luke 4:14-21
- Our November Assembly will vote on the proposed New Form of Government (reviewed by Rev. Paul Hooker with us at the September Assembly).
- In executive session, Council heard report from its mediation team concerning litigation. Final agreement to settle and dismiss the lawsuit brought by Kokomo - First and to dismiss this congregation to the EPC should be ready for consideration at the November Assembly.
- Honored departing Acting General Presbyter Tim Jones with appreciation and a gift of pottery pitcher and bowl for his work with us the past five months.
- Recommended revised Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Standing Rules for adoption by the Assembly in November.
- Approved plans for the February 22, 2011 Assembly to consider amendments proposed by 218th GA concerning ordination vows in G-6.0106b, adding prayer to installation and ordination service, and several revisions to the Rules of Discipline. May 24, 2011 Assembly will consider adding the Confession of Belhar to the Book of Confessions and several other amendments to the Book of Order.
- Reviewed financial reports for Presbytery and expressed concern about the 18 congregations who are not contributing money for our shared work as presbytery and PCUSA with per capita contributions.
- Recommended that 2011 Geneva Center budget prepared by Administrative Ministry Team be provided to Assembly for its first reading in November, and Presbytery's mission and operating budgets for second reading and approval.
- Extended Acting Director Larry Kalas's contract while the Geneva Center Visioning Team continues its work with incoming General Presbyter Frank Vardeman.
- Approved continuing support of the Michiana All People's Church under the leadership of CLP Joseph Kiama and a support team from the Church Development Ministry Team.
- After reviewing report of the Administrative Commission for Ladoga concerning continuing dissention and failure of the congregation to meet basic criteria for viable ministry for two years, developed recommendation to Assembly that the charge to the AC be revised, that the sparsely attended worship services end December 31st, and that the ministry of the preschool continue in the building until the end of the school year in May under the supervision of the AC acting as Session.
- Considered the challenges facing Council's University Church Taskforce, and requested a called Council meeting at University Church to consult in person with representatives of UC Board, the Taskforce and local congregations.
- Celebrated the contributions of outgoing Council Moderator Carol McDonald with a tub of bottles of water decorated by Council members.