

Presbytery of Wabash Valley
Summary of Council July 26th

Pam Camren moderated the regular meeting of Council this week at Geneva Center, opening with Psalm 146 and the Gospel lectionary reading for the day. Noting the story of feeding the 5000 is sandwiched between encouragement to take a break and get a little rest, and at the end of the day, Jesus went off by himself to pray—congregations and their commissioners and pastors are invited to the overnight September Assembly to rest, to experience some guided focus on spirituality including the labyrinth, to do some Presbytery business on Saturday morning, and to enjoy a picnic lunch and the afternoon playing at Geneva Center. Council took the following actions:

- Consistent with its previous decision in principle to accept the transfer of University Church property from the Synod of Lincoln Trails, Council acting as the Board of Directors of the Presbytery of Wabash Valley approved the formation of an “LLC” as a subsidiary corporation of the Presbytery of Wabash Valley, authorized to receive the transfer of property and encumbrances (the pending PILP loan) of the University Church property (Westminster Foundation for Students of Purdue University). Synod will accept and close on the PILP loan for renovations that will be recorded against the real estate, then transfer both to the PWV-LLC.
- Council’s task force on University Church presented another draft of a joint proposal for bringing in University Church as a specialized ministry of Presbytery of Wabash Valley, showing revisions to include a majority of PC(USA) members on its Board, all Board members to be elected by the Presbytery assembly, commitment to worship and ministry consistent with Reformed Theology and the Constitution of PC(USA), and other aspects of being “Presbyterian.” One more revision will be proposed to the University Church Board, and Council will review again in August, prior to reaching a recommendation to present to the Assembly for its consideration in September.
- Approved reimbursement for John Ritchie’s participation in the Pastoral Care Network Conference as step toward supporting more pastoral care for pastors and their families.
- Heard testimony of impact of camping program from GCMT, Frank and Council members who have been serving as shepherds for the Geneva Center summer campers. GC Ministry Team is continuing its focused visioning for Geneva Center ministry and consulting with other camp and conference center leaders. Frank is temporarily managing the staff and day-to-day operations.
- Approved recommendation from Stewardship Ministry Team that the Presbytery move to a fiscal year, July to June, and approved first reading of proposed budgets for first six months of next year, through July 2012, by the September Assembly.
- Acknowledged sale of the Range Line manse and the congregation’s payoff of its emergency loan in early 2008 from Presbytery, plus interest. To celebrate this milestone, Council approved a gift of \$2,000 to the congregation to invest in its future ministry.
- Heard updates from several committees and ministry teams about their ongoing work.