

Council Meets at Goshen First

Council members traveled from around the presbytery to gather at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Goshen to begin with prayers by Council Moderator Laura Reason, share the Christmas story from Luke, and do the business of presbytery:

- Prayers for healing for Frank Vardeman and family as he undergoes a second surgery on his knee.
- Approved planning a Congregational Leaders Development event for the September 13-14, 2013, Assembly and contracting with Dr. Rodger Nishioka (Associate Professor of Christian Education at Columbia Theological Seminary) as keynote speaker, workshop leader, and to lead worship at the September Assembly Retreat.
- Authorized establishing a dedicated fund for "Facebook Group" of some 360 former Geneva Center camp counselors and friends to deposit funds they raise for renovation of "Cabin 1" as a Craft Cabin.
- Celebrated the approval of the second year grant of \$20,000 from Mission Development Resources Committee (MDRC) of PC(USA) Mission Agency in support of presbytery's Missional Transformation work with congregations.
- Approved purchase of 100 new Glory to God hymnals for presbytery and Geneva Center, to take advantage of early discounts and free shipping, to be paid from the Corporation Fund.
- Approved practice of posting Assembly documents on the presbytery website, subject to exceptions primarily for confidential matters identified by consultation among General Presbyter and officers of presbytery.
- Approved corporate resolution, distributed Christmas gifts of thanks to staff, announced review of General Presbyter had been completed; approved several items concerning property repairs and maintenance and possible sales. Ridgedale church building will be sold by December 31, 2012, or sold at auction.
- Consulted on format for presbytery's Manual of Operations, reviewed preliminary financial reports for presbytery and its Geneva Center ministry, discussed reports from COM, CPM, Geneva Center Ministry Team.
- Reluctantly denied approval of general proposal for Confirmation Retreat in April, after discussion noting there is presently no one committed to lead the retreat, with the departure of Rebecca Kirkpatrick, the loss of Dan LeMonnier, and the inability of Anna Parkinson to attend.
- Consulted with Steve Braden, coordinator of the Visioning Ministry Team, about planning the visioning process as envisioned by Council and mandated by Assembly vote in November. Specific proposal based upon at least three alternatives will come to January Council meeting for action.
- Following a period of executive session, voted on matters of legal representation.

Next meeting of Council is scheduled at Geneva Center for Tuesday, January 22, 2013, at 10 am EST.

Linda Long, Stated Clerk