

Committee/Commission Reports for 8/17/2024 Presbytery Meeting

(*Gold Star Reports for July 16, 2024 Leadership Team Meeting)

FELD

Members Present: Shelli Dart, Ricky Holbert, Rudy Wang, Jim Gaines, Suzanne Gorhau

We've put a system in place with Nicole and Tina for communication about scholarships and getting the money where it needs to go. Shelli and Rudy will work on documenting the workflow so when we have a transition in leadership, the process can continue smoothly.

*Ricky and Suzanne will put together the new commission training for the August Presbytery meeting and beyond.

*FELD voted to participate in the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation Pastoral Leadership Revitalization program. Suzanne will communicate that to PLR and be the liaison.

*FELD is planning to host a Child Protection Training with Project Harmony in August, one in person and one over zoom. We'll let the presbytery know through the Wednesday email when it's scheduled. FELD would like the Leadership Team to discuss whether this is required for churches or whether it's optional.

*Shelli is discussing with Hope Presbyterian Church whether FELD could partner with them on their mental health event.

*Suzanne will work with Nicole to get rid of the old resources in the PMRV Office. We'll invite people to come take any resources they want and we'll work on getting rid of the recyclables.

*FELD has asked Nicole to ask in the Wednesday email if churches would be interested in a Church Officer Training that FELD organizes. Depending on the response, we'll gauge the interest in something like this.

*Gethsemane would like some help with their MediaShout worship software. FELD will ask Nicole to ask in the Wednesday email if there are any churches that use MediaShout that would be willing to help Gethsemane learn how to use it.

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne Gorhau, Chair

Personnel

No report – meeting in October

Social Justice and Peacemaking

No report

Stewardship of Resources

Treasurer's report –

- YTD Income as of May 31, 2024 is 233,464. YTD Expenses as of May 31, 2024 are 152,364 for a net income of 81,000 YTD. 81% of Per Capita income has been received as well as 54% of mission income. Our per capita from churches is about equal to last year at this time. Per capita and Mission and Ministries expenses show no abnormal expenses through May.
- Investments Recap:
 - Balance on 12-31-21 was \$1,201,101.81.
 - Balance on 12-31-22 was \$1,001,456.24.

- Balance on 12/31/23 was \$1,191,549.15.
 - Balance on 06/15/24 was \$1,303,870.25.
- We gained about \$60K in the last month. The economy and inflation are continuing to affect the markets. We are invested in the long term with income and growth funds at New Covenant Funds. We have finally gained back all our 2022 losses in this last year. Let's hope the trend continues through the current year.
- PMRV Audit – A proposal for reviewing the Presbyteries finances for calendar year 2023 has been received from Bland and Associates PC. They are recommending either a Compilation of Financial Statements (modified cash basis) for \$5,000 or a Review of Financial Statements (modified cash basis) for \$6,500 and a full audit for \$10,000.. They do not feel that a full audit is necessary. Given the costs of these things, Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved that Presbytery assemble a small group from our churches to review the Presbytery's finances. Presbytery needs to act on this at the August meeting.
- We discussed the possibility of using students from Bellevue U or UNO to review our books as well. The Book of Order states:
 - *G-3.0113 Finances*
 - *Each council shall prepare and adopt a budget to support the church's mission within its area.*
 - *A full financial review of all financial books and records shall be conducted every year by a public accountant or committee of members versed in accounting procedures.*
 - *Reviewers should not be related to the treasurer(s). Terminology in this section is meant to provide general guidance and is not intended to require or not require specific audit procedures or practices as understood within the professional accounting community.*
 - We interpret this to preclude the use of students to perform a review for us. We reiterated our current recommendation that Presbytery engage three elders from within our Presbytery to review our finances each year.
- **Trinity Clarinda** – The congregation voted to sell their manse at a meeting on 5/5/24. SOR recommends that Presbytery allow them to move forward with the sale. A special meeting of the Presbytery will be held on 6/19/24 to approve the sale. Here is the motion to go to Presbytery:
 - *Approve sale of Manse by Trinity Presbyterian Church, Clarinda, IA North sixty two (62) feet of the west one hundred fifty (150) of block two (2) of Johnson's Addition to the City of Clarinda, Page County, Iowa. Deed #4134*
 - *Information: Buyer pre-approved. Sale price \$147,500 – close June 28, 2024. The plan is to put the \$ in a CD or other related fund, for future use if the congregation gets a pastor that needs housing. Motion passed 3 to 0.*
- **Westminster Council Bluffs** – *Special Congregational Meeting of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Council Bluffs, IA, Sunday, June 2, 2024*
 - *On Sunday, June 2, 2024 immediately after worship at 11:30 a.m. Rev. Portia Iverson, Temporary Supply Pastor, called to order with prayer a Special Congregational Meeting of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Council Bluffs, IA. Members of the congregation had been mailed a letter at the end of May explaining the need for such meeting and*

explaining all members of the church attending would be asked to vote on selling and closing the church. The call of the meeting had also been announced from the pulpit for two consecutive Sundays as well as that Sunday.

- *The first order of business was to elect Session member Floyd Tornblom as Temporary Clerk of Session for this Special Meeting as the Pro Tem Clerk of Session Chris Gillette was out of town on vacation.*
- *Rev. Iverson stated the purpose of the meeting was to vote by ballot on a Resolution: 1) to sell the church for a suggested price of \$125,000 with the understanding that the sale price could be higher or lower, and 2) to close the church by December 30, 2024 whether or not the church had sold as of that date and to dissolve Westminster Presbyterian Church, Council Bluffs and the corporation with members deciding individually where to worship in the future.*
- *Of the ten individuals present on Sunday, June 2nd, five were voting members. The vote was unanimous (5-0) to sell the church and to dissolve Westminster Presbyterian Church, Council Bluffs, IA and the corporation by December 30, 2024 with members deciding individually where to worship when the church closed. Reverend Iverson closed the meeting with prayer at 11:50 a.m. Motion passed 3 to 0.*
- **Discussion about SOR becoming a Commission:** SOR does not feel that it would be appropriate at this time for us to become a commission so we may more quickly approve property sales and transfers. We believe that these are necessarily Presbytery business that requires full Presbytery approval.

Respectfully submitted, Michael G. Elliott

Worship Committee

June 27, 2024

- **Present:** Mike Geiler, Kris Oertell, Becky Balestri, Ardys Hansum
- **Excused:** Bob Keefer, Mike Harvey

We checked in, answering this question: What is your go-to prayer form?

We read the covenant and opened with prayer.

Serious planning: The St. Thomas Mass service for the August presbytery meeting. Agreed on the stations, and Taize songs. The committee 'nominated' Becky to write the liturgy for the service. We are inviting Brian Long to host communion. Becky and Mike will make a short trip to Calvin Crest to scope out where the stations can be located. We'll treat Craig Huffman to lunch. If the decision has not already been made, Worship recommends that the offering go to Calvin Crest.

Other items:

Nicole has sent out a survey on whether pastors want to resume worship for pastors, educators and CLPs.

Becky will get together with Suzanne Gorhau about hosting a con ed event.

Theology on Tap continues to go well.

Adjourned with prayer by Mike Geiler, aka, Young Mike

Next meeting is July 18, at 9:00 am at The Presbyterian Center

Respectfully submitted, Becky Balestri