

Coordinating Team Report

Presbytery Meeting, June 24, 2017

It is so difficult to put a condensation of extended conversations into a report, especially when the discussions are philosophical and cover wide ranges of thought. I can only put down snippets of what the CT has discussed in the last two meetings but, suffice it to say, the CT is working diligently to identify needs which will help shape the future direction of the Presbytery.

Discussion on diversity

We realize that CT doesn't represent the rich diversity of our presbytery. We need to engage age, gender, racial/ethnic, geographic, philosophic, and ability/disability diversity in CT and in the presbytery. How do we encourage folks with these diverse backgrounds to serve on committees, and how can we listen for and represent the views and voice of the minority population of the Presbytery? CT has come up with some thoughts and ideas which we will try to implement where possible.

- Asking folks to work on task forces of the networking committees and inviting new folks to meet with the committees is a good strategy for involving more people.
- Rethink the meeting times/days for greater participation from younger and working people.
- Greater use of technology so folks don't have to travel to Albuquerque.
- Have the meetings in segments so people can come in and out of the meetings or record meetings for listening later.
- Meet in a location other than in Albuquerque.
- As we involve more folks, we need to let CORP know so they might contact them for future committee members.

Effective planning for Presbytery meetings

CT had a long discussion about how to effectively plan for meetings. As it stands, different agendas come to table and "first item submitted for the docket wins". Committee chairs asked how they could plan ahead. How do presbytery meetings get planned in a cohesive manner? The whole point of networks is so that they can work with congregations and work with each other. This does not seem to be happening in a cohesive manner.

CT has to be the focal point for having these discussions, or the chairs of the committees need to meet together. The first CT retreat was about what the heck are we doing, but in the future this could really be about planning for a full year or even further ahead. Each group could bring their visions and desires about what needs to be addressed at presbytery

meetings. And then the whole group could pull these ideas together. That would also allow everyone to have a voice.

150th Presbytery Anniversary

The task force for planning the 150th anniversary celebration has begun meeting and planning, as you will hear at the June Presbytery meeting. We agreed that we would like to pull as much history from the north as possible, and if there are those in the community who would like to add their voice, I think Susan Keil Smith and Kathy Rhoades would appreciate hearing from you.

Policy for Nuevas Noticias

Sharon would like to have a written policy to guide what will and will not be included. Do we publish information from outside groups? Do we put in a lot of information from PCUSA? What we have been including is information on our churches and our partners. We include some national information that affects everyone. George Huggins will be convening a group.

At our retreat in February, the Coordinating Team established the following goals.

Goal #1 - Increase and improve communication

- Present networking concepts to every church session
- Increase usability of website which will increase usage
- Provide a website for every church who desires one and help for all churches needing help
- Provide a Facebook page for pastors
- Contact every church

Goal #2 - Develop membership growth and discipleship

- Compile resource lists ie: worship/bible study etc.
- Increase diversity on administrative commissions
- Young adult relationship development
- Leadership training (ie: Theo Academy)

Support for Small Churches

How do we support the smaller churches? Reminder: We are one body. We're sharing in ministry. We need to partner together and walk alongside each other. A real partnership including visits, teaching support and participating in mission together. However, it is the reality that many small churches need financial support.

Elizabeth I. Morgan

Chair of the Coordinating Team