

Meeting of the Leadership Circle
Kamloops Okanagan Presbytery
Tuesday January 12, 2010
At Trinity United Church in Vernon

Present: Fred Duck, Jim Hannah, Jim Taylor, Lily Watson, Sharon Ferguson-Hood, Marion Hollingshead, Ivy Thomas, Norma Fraser, Juanita Austin, Judith Hardcastle (chair)

Regrets: none received

Judith's tentative agenda was accepted without dissent.

We had a one-minute **check-in** around the table.

There was discussion of whether Presbytery would be meeting in Golden... ever... And that led to discussion of why we have Presbytery in February (see below).

Lily led us in a period of **devotion**. She used Isaiah 43:18 – "I am doing a new thing..." She invited us to think about what new thing God is doing in our lives or in the church.

Jim T said he thought the governance system of his congregation was breaking down, and he thinks the church will survive it.

Ivy agreed. She thinks the transformation needed in the church is so huge that we're not willing to think about it.

Sharon thinks the church needs to set an example at General Council and Conference levels. If they don't change, why would congregations?

Judith would like to see the church operating in a visionary mode rather than a survival mode.

Norma thinks her church has gone through a transformation already.

Lily waxed enthusiastic about restructuring the governance of her church; it is actually creating a community.

We sang "Deep in our Hearts"

Moved Jim H, seconded Marion, and carried: that the minutes of the September meeting be accepted as circulated.

Jim T is to send out the September minutes again. There are some problems with the Yahoo list, so maybe he should set up his own e-mail address group.

Jim H thinks we should simply set up a simple distribution list.

Sharon Ferguson-Hood's e-mail is fergusonhoodsharon@hotmail.com

Upcoming Presbytery meeting in Penticton.

The focus is Transformational ministry. Judith had invited Marcus Borg (who said no, but thanks) and Peter Short. In the meantime, we were told that Racial Justice workshop was mandatory for ministry personnel. So Judith cancelled Peter Short as leader. Lay people are welcome, at the workshop but it is not mandatory for them. Richard Chung will be leading it. Ivy pointed out that there is no money in the Presbytery budget for honoraria, etc. for famous speakers. There is a small amount for special materials, etc. What we can get, if we apply far enough in advance, is grants. The way the system works is that Leadership Circle dreams up the ideas, but Management Team has to approve expenses.

We are still trying to work within the theme of Transformational Ministry. There were some feelings that a format was being imposed on us, after the worship team had done the planning in October already.

The consensus shifted towards continuing the theme of Transformational Ministry, and put up a firewall between the Racial Justice workshop and the theme of Presbytery itself.

Juanita suggested that the theme does not involve saying what the new transformed church is going to look like, but how do we deal with fear. If change is the only constant, then there is constant fear of change. Constant does not mean that we use the same words for everything, or that we sing the same things – the constant is a loving connection with an ever-moving spirit.

Lily wondered if Worship could expand to take more time, to help to shape the Presbytery mentality.

Judith suggested that Worship should do their thing as planned, and the Management Team will be instructed to work around it.

Normal worship times are Friday night, Saturday morning, and Saturday evening, about 30 minutes each time. Also responsible for the gathering and song periods.

Timing of Presbytery

Sharon says that several clergy will not be attending Presbytery because it is the first Sunday of Lent this year. Sharon questioned the timing of Presbytery.

Jim H wondered why we can't just move Presbytery to a later time in the Spring, since we don't have a Conference meeting coming up in May.

Presbytery has traditionally been held on X week in Y month, every year. These dates are largely determined by other events: Banff Men's Conference, Western Women's Conference, BC Conference, and – during Kim's time as Conference Minister – the meetings of Kootenay Presbytery. We count on people putting those dates into their calendar, and keeping those dates sacrosanct.

Policy on mileage

The workshop is separate from the Presbytery meeting, so some may attend the mandatory workshop and then go home. Either way, mileage is payable – either by the congregation or by the Presbytery. The purpose of combining the workshop and Presbytery is to save one set of mileage.

Agreed, that we need to state this idea as a formal policy.

Agreed, Presbytery will meet as scheduled, and we will never again ever get ourselves into this pickle again.

Lunch

We broke for lunch at 12:25

We resumed meeting at 1:00. Norma Fraser and Juanita Allen left to meet to plan worship. Jim Hannah had to leave for other commitments.

Visitation Guide

Ivy had sent out many pages about the Visitation Guide. The worship materials were modified because there may be lay people leading a team, rather than an ordered minister.

The major change dealt with questions to the spouse. The language of the existing questions didn't work very well. Trina Duncan would like to have the questions to the minister and spouse together deleted altogether. Eliminating the questions doesn't mean that we ignore the spouse, but that these questions are not appropriate.

We agree to delete this section.

There was a sense that the time lines suggested in the Visitation Guidelines are overly optimistic. In a large congregation, or in a conflicted congregation, even a full day is insufficient.

Ivy points out that this is a stopgap measure, to improve the materials, pending a major revision by Conference staff and Conference ministers.

Moved Fred, seconded Lily, carried: *that the proposed changes be accepted in principle and forwarded to the Management Team for final approval.*

Ministry Personnel Groups

There are three Ministry Personnel Groups – South, North, and East. South and North have been meeting fairly regularly; East has too, but they had not advised Ivy of their meetings, so she wondered if they were doing so.

Categories of Ministry

There was discussion of the Licenced Lay Worship Leader program. It has been decided that LLWL will not be mandatory for those seeking Designated Lay Minister status.

The licence must be renewed annually. One of the questions that would be asked is how active they have been. If they have not done any services, perhaps their licence should not be renewed.

The status of DLMS and CDMs are unclear, subject to adjustment.

The training modules include introduction to the liturgies, the use of commentaries, an introduction to theology...

Dawne Taylor felt that being the leader for this program was too much work for one person. Marion suggested that more than one person should be involved as instructor/facilitator.

There are no standard LLWL programs across Presbyteries. Some presbyteries have no program at all.

Most of Dawne's recommendations deal with Management Team concerns – budget, time, structure, etc.

Jim raised the question of making sure that the person knows what they are NOT qualified to do – by analogy, that a nurse may not do neurosurgery – such as serious counselling, interim ministry, etc. Other restrictions are that they cannot do three weeks in a row, can never lead the sacraments, or wear vestments.

The Leadership Circle would like to see the course outline and learning objectives. We think that the course should be evaluated after one or two programs have been completed.

No one wants to deal with the question of people who prove to be incompetent. Local congregations are hesitant to say anything negative about a member of their own community. Is anybody going to say No? And if so, at what stage of this process? It's one thing to encourage people; quite another to lead them down the garden path.

Ivy will take our comments and feedback to the Management Team.

Leadership Training

Ivy has been asked to develop a workshop for leadership roles in JNAC, JSC, and Transitional teams. She will be doing such a workshop for the Resource Fair in the fall. It is getting increasingly difficult to get people to sit on these committees. Part of the purpose is to get enough people trained that they can perform on these committees.

Future Presbytery meetings

Ivy circulated a list of potential sites for Presbytery meetings through to 2013.

2010 Spring -- Pentiction

2010 Fall -- First Kelowna

2011 Spring -- Westbank

2011 Fall -- Golden

2012 Spring -- Winfield

2012 Fall -- St. Paul's Kelowna

2013 Spring -- Salmon Arm

Ivy has been in touch with the congregations to ensure that they are available and willing.

Leslie Stirling has revised the booklet "So you're hosting Presbytery."

Both E&S and Pastoral Relations are closed committees, so there is no way that new members can decide if this is a working unit on which they could be useful and valuable. There are some very touchy subjects dealt with, so confidentiality itself is not sufficient.

There is nothing to stop extra people attending Presbytery. Non-official delegates may not vote, and may not chair a working unit, but they can attend and anybody can be part of a working unit.

Dates of Spring Presbytery

The spring dates are constrained by Conference meetings, and by Conference Executive. Correspondence has to be in two or three weeks ahead. Conference Executive meets in March. We do not typically send things to Conference Executive, but if we do, we need to be in time. Things like remits have to be voted on by the membership of Presbytery.

All the outlying presbyteries suffer from poor weather during February. Only the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island presbyteries have good weather conditions for early meetings.

In 2011, Ash Wednesday is March 9. We could move things two weeks along for 2011 to March 4-6. We suggest that in future years, the Presbytery meet the weekend before Ash Wednesday.

We will recommend this to the Management Team, to explore the possibilities.

The Pattern of our Governance

We feel it is important for the LC to meet separately from the MT – we get a lot more done in a full day of six hours. It was originally planned that the Conference Minister would be at both groups. Kim decided that it was more important for him to be at the Management Team; this group has since felt that it is important for Ivy to be at both.

There was some animated discussion about holding sequential meetings, on two days, with the feasibility of some members of the various teams staying overnight to meet with the other group.

Leadership Circle currently meets four times a year. Maybe twice a year would be sufficient for joint meetings, if we really want to work together. Ivy suggests that there be two meetings between presbytery meetings, with the first being a visioning meeting, separately; the second being a nuts-and-bolts joint meeting.

After the visioning day, we can declare that this is what we are going to do; we do not accept any mandatory intrusions from other courts.

Membership of the Leadership Circle

Fred wondered about his three year term on Conference Executive, which effectively expires as when Conference would be, if there were conference. If he is not on Conference Executive after May, then he is not any more a Presbytery member at large. Is it important to have someone from LC or MT on Conference Executive?

Next meeting

The post-presbytery meeting will be Wednesday March 24, the week preceding Palm Sunday, in Sicamous. Ivy will do devotions; Fred will provide lunch.

Meeting declared **adjourned** at 3:01 p.m.

Judith Hardcastle
President

Jim Taylor
note taker