

COORDINATING COUNCIL

Luke Harkey, Chair

January 30, 2010

The Coordinating Council of the Presbytery makes the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the Presbytery receive for study and use the attached Mission Statement, approved by the Coordinating Council, for possible adoption by Presbytery at its April 27, 2010 meeting, to replace the current Mission Statement (and possibly the Vision Statement). (Attachment 1)

2. THAT the Presbytery of Western North Carolina call the Rev. Jorge Alvarado as evangelist/new church development pastor, to serve half-time at Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel Fellowship in Hickory, N.C., contingent upon the receipt of his Religious 1 (R1) Visa.

(Jorge will work ½ time at Emanuel and ½ time in Salem Presbytery. The cost will be shared by both PWNC and Salem Presbytery. The Religious Workers Visa is being applied for by the Salem Presbytery on behalf of both of us. We are hoping this will be completed by the end of February. Jorge previously had an R1 Visa with the Presbytery of Sierra Blanco. Since he has changed positions, he needs a new R1 Visa. Until Rev. Alvarado has an R1 Visa, he will be a member at large in our presbytery {as approved by Committee on Ministry}, where he will reside.)

OM 3. THAT Elder Jack Suddreth be re-elected as Treasurer of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina for 2010.

4. THAT the following change within the Standing Rules of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina be made to item VI. A. Representation Division. (A copy of the current responsibilities of the Committee on Representation and Racial/Ethnic Sub-Committee, along with the *Book of Order* reference, are included with this recommendation.) (Attachment 2)

**OM 5. THAT the following person be elected to serve on the Nominating Committee:
Rev. J. Richard Hobson (B) Class of 2012**

OM 6. THAT permission be granted for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to be celebrated at Presbytery sponsored events and mission trips during 2010.

OM 7. THAT permission be granted to the North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage to celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at the Pilgrimage at Camp Harrison, NC the weekend of April 8-11, 2010. (This will be administered by Presbyterian ministers for the Presbytery of WNC and surrounding Presbyteries.)

- | | |
|----|---|
| OM | 8. THAT the following person has been selected to serve as a representative on the Board at the Presbyterian Home for Children in Black Mountain for the year 2010.
Ms. Mary V. Atkinson (B) |
| OM | 9. THAT Larry Poe be elected to serve as a commissioner to Synod, for a three year term, beginning in January of 2010. (Becky Stanley is our other commissioner.) |

FOR INFORMATION:

10. THAT the Coordinating Council approved sending a letter of thanks to all churches which have submitted their financial support to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina for 2009.
11. THAT a list of upcoming events of the Presbytery can be found on the back of the Presbytery Docket.
12. THAT the Coordinating Council reports approval of the following Nickel A Meal Grants:
- | | |
|---|---------|
| Jericho Road Soup Kitchen | \$6,000 |
| Thermal Belt Outreach - for Feed-A-Kid Backpack | 4,000 |
| Feeding Avery Families | 4,000 |
| Neighbors in Need | 5,000 |
| Macon County Care Network | 5,000 |
13. THAT the Coordinating Council reports approval of the following International Grants:
- | | |
|--|----------|
| Malawi: | |
| Soy Porridge
(food for Children's Ward - Nkhoma Hospital) | \$20,000 |
| Cameroon, Africa: | |
| Relufa - Community Grain Bank | 15,000 |
| Guatemala: | |
| PDA Guatemala Food Crisis | 10,000 |
| Haiti | |
| Road to Life Yard Project | 2,000 |
| Guatemalan Children's Nutrition Program*
(*Funds will be released pending restart of the program.) | 3,000 |
14. THAT William Kantonen was nominated to Synod to be elected as its future Moderator. He will be an additional representative from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. Dr. James Aydelotte will also serve as Presbytery's member of the Synod's Permanent Judicial Commission.
15. THAT the Peace and Justice Committee's endorsement of Rev. James Aydelotte, as the educational representative of the Israel/Palestine Mission Network, was received, giving Dr. Aydelotte permission to communicate educational material to congregations.

- 16. THAT people connected with Presbytery's youth work have background checks performed, specifically the Youth Committee, adults connected with the Youth Council, adults going to the Triennium as chaperones and others as designated by the Youth Committee or Council. (The background checks will include sexual misconduct and driving record.)**
- 17. THAT the Council voted to send letters to all PWNC churches, with a separate letter going to those who have a Guatemalan partner church, concerning the misconduct of the Guatemalan Partnership Health Program's Treasurer in Guatemala, along with plans to address the financial issues and restore the future ministry of this program.**
- 18. THAT the information submitted from New Vision in Conover and Presbytery's Youth Ministry be received as information. (Attachments 3 & 4)**
- 19. THAT Seminar 2 of the Acts Initiative will now only be one day, Saturday, March 13, 2010, and the cost will be \$10 per person. (Attachment 5)**

Coordinating Council Attachment 1

THE MISSION OF OUR PRESBYTERY

Strengthen congregations to be faithful and vital witnesses to Jesus Christ

Equip Congregations for Ministry

- Foster spiritual and numerical growth
- Guide the calling of faithful and effective Pastors
- Support churches in transition or crisis

Make Disciples

- Promote spiritual formation in Bible, theology and service for all ages
- Enhance the churches' worship of God
- Encourage those called to ministry

Together we build
relationships and
partnerships

Witness to God's Love

- Promote Biblical understanding of mission
- Engage in the mission of God everywhere
- Support our Missionaries and partnerships
- Proclaim the Gospel of God's love

Strengthen People in Ministry

- Support church leaders, elders and church professionals
- Develop effective communication
- Provide meaningful officer training

STRATEGIC GOALS

Background:

In October 2003, the Presbytery of Western North Carolina approved a Mission and Vision Statement : *"In partnership with Sessions, foster vital and faithful congregations to be effective witnesses for Jesus Christ."*

In July 2004, the presbytery approved the vision statement: *"The desert is blooming. By God's Grace we will see the changes in our lives, share what we have seen, and be signs of the Grace of God at work in the world."* The purpose was to motivate people to change, even when change is uncomfortable.

The Strategic Goals Committee was charged with the responsibility to review, update, develop, and refine Mission and Vision Statements in light of many changes and to structure it to aid in implementation. Since the Mission and Vision Statements were originally approved, there have been many changes. They were challenged to see what God was calling the Presbytery to be and do at this time in its life together. The current Strategic Goals Committee has been doing just that.

We have experienced changes in our presbytery, our churches, our nation and the world. There have been changes in leadership in churches and the presbytery. The overall worship attendance and membership of the churches has decreased while on the other hand Presbytery's mission benevolence in our bounds and the world has increased. Recently the overall economic situation has gotten worse.

The church in America is closer to the early church in some ways verses the 1950s. People no longer come to church "because we built it." Many people are not involved in church.

Our churches have been in conflict over issues such as sexuality, marriage, interpretation of scripture, etc., causing some churches to leave our denomination and others feeling more isolated.

Early when they began their work, the Strategic Goals Committee reported to Council that we will need to be open to transformation to the likeness of Christ. The Mission field is that of our new cultural context. The long journey of transformation requires a sense of "holy urgency."

In the process of reviewing, updating and expanding the Mission Statement, the Committee has worked hard to try to hear God's voice for this Presbytery at this time.

- They looked at the Biblical Mandates.
- They reviewed the outline of a church's mission in our *Book of Order*.
- They collected and listened to input from members who attended the October, 2008, presbytery meeting. All of input from the individual sheets were collected, collated and used to look at needs and priorities.
- Different people took a survey to a number of individual Sessions which looked at a congregation's progress on the priorities of reaching out:

- (inviting/welcoming), growing spiritually(forming), and doing mission
- (sending), as well as their evaluation of support from Presbytery. The surveys proved helpful to churches in their planning.
- They reviewed the Strategic plans of other presbyteries and literature about vital churches.

From this work, the Strategic Goals Committee developed a Mission Statement that included four Mission Action Areas and an underlying Commitment of implementation to build relationships and partnerships:

The Committee Shortened the previous Mission Statement, but in their work affirmed the overall direction of the Presbytery.

The Committee felt there needed to be "Mission Action/Focus Areas" for which goals could be developed. From the goals, objectives could be developed, as well as ways to measure our efforts.

They then reviewed this 12 page document and shared it with about 25 individuals across the presbytery and visited these people to hear their feedback. These individuals were both clergy and laity from large and small churches, from a broad spectrum of theological perspectives with, varied involvement in presbytery, etc. Some interviewees have been very active with presbytery while others were selected who might not be supportive of the current direction of presbytery. Based on the feedback from the first document, they have narrowed the goals and developed a more targeted document for Presbytery's strategic plan.

Their work was reported to the Council on a regular bases. Implementation, therefore, has already begun in a number of areas. **Their final report to Council was approved and has been recommended to the Presbytery.**

Special thanks goes to members of the committee, both past and present: Otis Wilson, chair, Ike Kennerly, Bob Battaglin, Bob Tietz, Patrick Perryman, Tee Gatewood, Thelma Cumbie, Mark Stanley, Abby Redman, Bill Wuehrmann, James Aydelotte, Kevin Frederick, Helen Hall, Jim Wallis and Arthur Burgess.

Coordinating Council

Attachment 2

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION AND RACIAL ETHNIC SUB-COMMITTEE CURRENTLY

Committee on Representation

As described in the *Book of Order* (G-9.0105b), the principal function of the Committee on Representation shall be to advise Presbytery with respect to its membership and that of its committees and other units in implementing the principles of participation and inclusiveness, ensuring fair and effective representation in their decision making. In carrying out this charge, the Committee on Representation shall serve as a resource for the Nominating Committee. Specifically, the committee shall have the following duties:

1. To advocate representation of racial/ethnic members, women, varied age groups including youth, persons with disabilities, as well as persons from small churches and all geographical areas for Presbytery.
2. To review the performance of Presbytery in these matters, and report to Presbytery annually on results of the previous year and make recommendations for any needed corrective action.
3. To determine achievable representation and discover potential racial/ethnic nominees for committees and other units in consultation with racial/ethnic constituencies, sessions and the Nominating Committee.
4. To advise the Presbytery on the employment of personnel in accordance with the principles of participation and representation in conformity with a church-wide plan for equal employment opportunity (G-13.0201b and G-4.0403).

The membership of this committee is specified in the *Book of Order* (G-9.0105a). Exceptions to these requirements shall be allowed by the Presbytery only if it is unable to secure the participation or representation of the necessary persons. This fact shall be made a part of the official record of the Presbytery.

Racial/Ethnic Sub-Committee

The Racial/Ethnic Sub-Committee shall encourage unity among the diversity of the various racial/ethnic groups and individual members, within the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

Its responsibilities include:

1. Assisting the Nominating Committee with racial/ethnic resource persons for various committees.
2. Assisting the Committee on Representation in its efforts for participation and inclusiveness.
3. Assisting and monitoring the related working groups (or task forces), e.g. Presbytery level Women of Color and the African-American Advisory Group.
4. Encouraging Racial/Ethnic congregations in their mission, heritage preservation and ministry.
5. Promoting appreciation and understanding of the uniqueness of individuals and groups with different gifts and cultural backgrounds.

The Racial/Ethnic Sub-Committee shall, when possible, consist of nine persons, including: African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans and European Americans.

PROPOSAL FROM THE COORDINATING COUNCIL: EXPANDING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION TO INCLUDE THOSE OF THE RACIAL ETHNIC SUB-COMMITTEE

[Underlined/Shaded words have been added.]

Committee on Representation

As described in the *Book of Order* (G-9.0105.b), the principal function of the Committee on Representation shall be to advise Presbytery with respect to its membership and that of its committees and other units in implementing the principles of participation and inclusiveness, ensuring fair and effective representation in their decision making. In carrying out this charge, the Committee on Representation shall serve as a resource for the Nominating Committee. Specifically, the committee shall have the following duties:

1. To advocate representation of racial/ethnic members, women, varied age groups including youth, persons with disabilities, as well as persons from small membership churches and all geographical areas for Presbytery.
2. To review the performance of Presbytery in these matters, and report to Presbytery annually on results of the previous year and make recommendations for any needed corrective action.
3. To determine achievable representation and discover potential racial/ethnic nominees for committees and other units in consultation with racial/ethnic constituencies, sessions and the Nominating Committee.
4. To advise the Presbytery on the employment of personnel in accordance with the principles of participation and representation in conformity with a church-wide plan for equal employment opportunity (G-13.0201.b and G-4.0403).
5. To assist and monitor the related working groups (or task forces), e.g. Presbytery-level Women of Color and the African-American Advisory Group.
6. To encourage racial/ethnic congregations in their mission, heritage preservation and ministry.
7. To promote appreciation and understanding of the uniqueness of individuals and groups with different gifts and cultural backgrounds.

The membership of this committee is specified in the *Book of Order* (G-9.0105.a). Exceptions to these requirements shall be allowed by the Presbytery only if it is unable to secure the participation or representation of the necessary persons. This fact shall be made a part of the official record of the Presbytery. The committee's membership shall, whenever possible, consist of twelve persons, including African-Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans and European Americans, as well as those with disabilities.

The item "Racial/Ethnic Sub-Committee" will no longer be needed, since it is included above.

The committee shall consist of: Equal numbers of men and women. A majority of the members shall be selected from the racial ethnic groups (such as Presbyterians of African, Hispanic, and Asian descent and Native Americans within the governing body, and the total membership shall include persons from each of the following categories: majority male membership; majority female membership; racial ethnic male membership; racial ethnic female membership; youth male and female membership; persons with disabilities. Total number of members on committee shall be 12.

Book of Order 2009-2011

G-9.0105 Committee on Representation

a. Each governing body above the session shall elect a committee on representation, whose membership shall consist of equal numbers of men and women. A majority of the members shall be selected from the racial ethnic groups (such as Presbyterians of African, Hispanic, and Asian descent and Native Americans) within the governing body, and the total membership shall include persons from each of the following categories:

- (1) majority male membership
- (2) majority female membership
- (3) racial ethnic male membership
- (4) racial ethnic female membership
- (5) youth male and female membership
- (6) persons with disabilities.

Advise Regarding Membership

b. Its main function shall be to advise the governing bodies with respect to their membership and to that of their committees, boards, agencies, and other units in implementing the principles of participation and inclusiveness to ensure fair and effective representation in the decision making of the church.

Advocate and Resource

c. The committee on representation shall serve both as an advocate for the representation of racial ethnic members, women, different age groups, and persons with disabilities, and as a continuing resource to the particular governing body in these areas. The committee on representation shall review the performance of its own governing body in these matters and shall report annually to it and to the next higher governing body with recommendations for any needed corrective action. The committee on representation shall consult with the nominating committee of its own governing body.

Consult with Racial Ethnic Membership

d. Prior to nomination or appointment of racial ethnic members to committees, boards, agencies, or other units, the committee on representation shall consult with the appropriate racial ethnic membership through a person or persons designated by that racial ethnic membership. In situations where racial ethnic membership is low, the committee on representation of each governing body shall consult with racial ethnic members, sessions, nominating committees, and persons designated by national racial ethnic membership to discover potential racial ethnic members of such body and to determine achievable representation. Prior to nomination or appointment of women to the above agencies, the committee on representation shall consult with the appropriate constituencies of women through a person or persons designated by those constituencies.

Employment of Personnel

e. The committee on representation shall advise the governing body on the employment of personnel, in accordance with the principles of participation and representation (G-4.0403), and in conformity with a churchwide plan for equal employment opportunity. (G-13.0201b)

f. The committee on representation shall not, in any governing body, be merged with any other committee or designated as a subcommittee of any other committee.

G-9.0106

Exceptions

a. Exceptions to the provisions of G-9.0105a requiring a majority of the members to be selected from racial ethnic groups shall be allowed by a governing or electing body only if it is unable to secure the participation or representation of the necessary persons, and this fact shall be made a part of the official record of the governing, electing, or appointing body. No exception is permitted to the requirement that each governing body above the session elect a committee on representation.

b. An exception under G-9.0106a may be allowed for up to one year by governing body action at a meeting. The approval of such exception shall be promptly reported by the stated clerk to the next higher governing body through its stated clerk and committee on representation, which committee shall monitor the lower governing body and its committee on representation during the period of the exception.

Coordinating Council Attachment 3



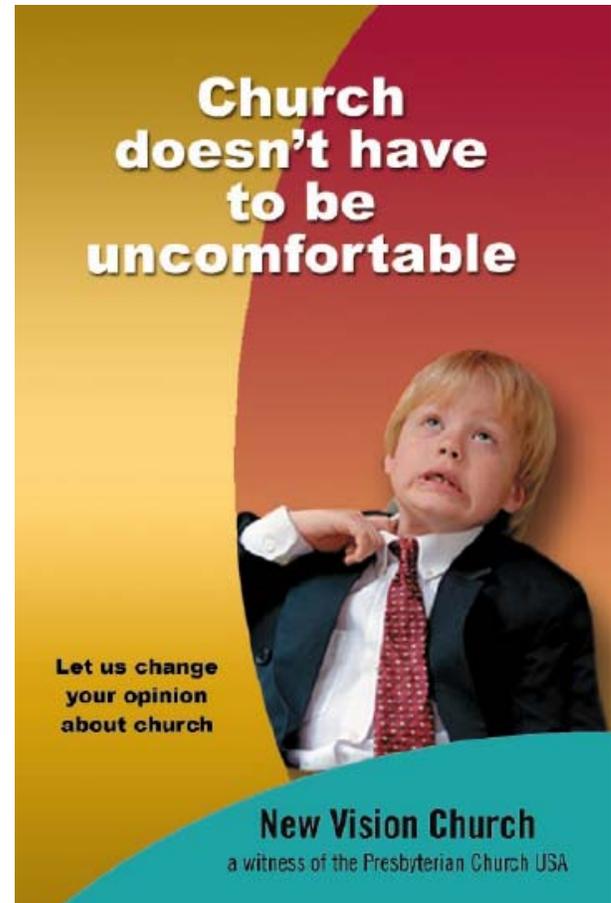
This NCD began in a unique way. In 2004 a small group came to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina (PWNC) asking to be a new Presbyterian church. They had started a non-denominational church that had not succeeded. They had a building in a prime location on a main highway, near an interstate exit, one mile from a new Wal-Mart. The building had a traditional sanctuary seating almost 200, a fellowship hall with kitchen, education and office rooms, and ample parking. With the facility that is appraised at \$1.5 million, there was a \$450,000 mortgage.

We launched as a new congregation on Palm Sunday 2009. A committed and creative Joshua Team had met every Tuesday since the beginning of the year to plan the outreach and service for this date. There had been four mailers, newspaper ads as well as personal invites.

OUR VISION AND MISSION

As our focus in a Bible Belt community with large Baptist and Missouri Synod churches, we saw a need to attract the “de-churched.” They are those who have had a church background, but are disillusioned, bored or hurt by the institutional church. We seek to bring a gospel of God’s grace that is healthy and healing.

In our worshipping congregation, there are only two people with any Presbyterian background, and



almost all of the people who came after the launch were either de-churched or un-churched.

We have Core Values that help guide our life together:

- The most important person is the NEXT person through the door
- We pray like it all depends on God; and work like it all depends on us.
- Everything is an experiment
- Playing it safe is risky - God does BIG
- We cannot outgive God

WORSHIP

At our Sunday worship you will see a reflection of the community: white, African American and Hispanic; country club members and those who are out of work. We have a talented praise



band with a creative songwriter, and also use familiar hymns. The Pastors preach a dialogue sermon style that captures people attention.

OUTREACH

We commit 5% of congregational giving for local mission; 5% for Presbytery and 5% for a international mission that is still to be identified. We take up a monthly collection called Feed The Hungry that goes to the local soup kitchen and our pack-a-bag program. The Pack-a-Bag program is in partnership with our neighborhood elementary school and provides weekend meals for around 80 students every week. We have a bi-monthly ministry at a local nursing home. In the fall we partnered with a special high school to help students get into the sports leagues, and built strong ties with many Hmong students. We support Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministries (local food pantry and thrift shop), the Corner Table (local soup kitchen) and Hickory Habitat for Humanity.



RELATIONSHIPS

Much energy is spent in bringing together a diverse people. One of the special delights was the \$1500 raised this Christmas to help two of our families that are without jobs.

DISCIPLESHIP

In the last year we have developed an active TEENS Group (meets every week), KIDs Club (meets once a month) along with Sunday School for kids and

adults, three small groups and a children's church program during worship. We have a paid nursery attendant during activities. We had a Vacation Bible School and a One Night in Bethlehem program for all ages.



THE PRESBYTERY PROJECT

New Vision Church is guided by a Steering Team, appointed by the Presbytery, and responsible to the Evangelism Committee. Dr. Jerry Bron (Southminister, Gastonia) has led this Steering team since its inception.

Ann and Frank Aichinger came as organizing pastors in June 2008. One of the largest challenges before them was to work with those who were there, and help them become both Presbyterian and a new congregation.

There would not be a church here without the generosity of the Presbyterian Church USA. We have a grant from the General Assembly, as well as the support of PWNC. These paid over half of the expenses of the NCD in 2009. A gift paid for all the launch and publicity. As we grow, the congregation continues to struggle to pay their share of the expenses.

The congregation of New Vision asks for your continued prayers and thanks PWNC for their generosity and vision to partner with us to build a witness to the Presbyterian Church USA here in Conover with faithful footsteps and joyful spirits.

Coordinating Council Attachment 4

Year at a Glance for Youth Ministry Western North Carolina

SARW: 10 youth from Youth Council attended the Southern Annual Recreation Workshop, where they took courses in the arts, worship leadership and how to lead groups. PWNC PYC was represented well one morning before worship, leading the entire conference in an energizer to wake folks up!



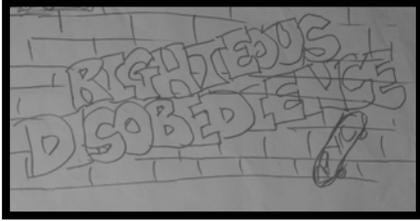
March 1st Middle School Rally gets snowed out and the keynote speaker drives from Louisville, KY to Asheville before having to turn around and head home! Thanks Adrian.



March 22nd for a rescheduled event, the **Middle School Rally** was a huge success as churches from all over the Presbytery gathered in Montreat for an afternoon of community building, worship, music, keynote and small groups.

Mission Trip: July saw the first ever combined mission trip to CROSS in Charlotte with Holston Presbytery youth and leaders. With youth from 12 years old through graduated seniors, the group covered 30+ outreach ministries in the urban setting of Charlotte. From working with the elderly, to clothing closets, to after school day camps, to food distribution, to drug and alcohol rehab facilities, the young people from our Presbytery and Holston showed great compassion and a hard work ethic the entire week.





The new year for PYC begins with 18 youth representing 11 churches in our Presbytery. Our first event together finds us participating in the Let's Celebrate event in Morganton, and then heading to Camp Grier for the rest of our Orientation Retreat. Lots of hard work, team building, singing and planning happens in a short amount of time. Our theme for the Fall of '09 and Spring of '10 comes from passages in Esther, reinterpreted as "Righteous Disobedience." Yes, you read correctly! Sometimes it takes a leader like Esther to give us the hope that we, too, can stand up for what is right.

September '09: The Senior High Rally held in Montreat (on a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon) sees over 100 high schoolers attend. In fact, we ran out of nametags and starting cutting them out of construction paper as youth kept coming in the door. The high schoolers were able to hear their Vice-Moderator, Byron Wade, speak on the theme of "Righteous Disobedience."



Middle School Retreat: In mid-November, about 140 middle schoolers and their leaders gathered at Camp Grier for an intense weekend of activities, bible study, games, food, four square and hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ, as Neeley Lane Rentz led the retreat, digging into the story of Esther (it is not an easy book of the Bible to understand!). Camp Grier provided a welcome backdrop for a great weekend.

MONTHLY updates at www.presbyterywnc.org under the Youth section. If you are not checking it out every month-you should be!

