

Minutes
Leadership Team of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon
June 3, 2020

Mission Statement: To ensure that the vision and values of the whole Presbytery are sustained
by engaging in and encouraging ongoing reflection, exploration and prayer.

The Leadership Team commission of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon met for its stated June meeting via Zoom teleconference. The meeting was called to order by John Poling, Moderator, at 4:00 p.m. with prayer. A quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Danforth
Jean Montgomery
Jan Palmer

John Poling
Laurie Porter
George Saylor

Ben Seller
Craig Weber

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Fischer (Treasurer)

Brad Munroe (Pres Pastor)

Bob Schulz (St Clerk/Assoc)

OTHERS PRESENT

Beth Kath (Assoc St Clerk)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joseph Ellis

MINUTES APPROVED

The minutes of the May 6, 2020 meeting of the Leadership Team were approved as presented.

LEADERSHIP CONVERSATION

Brad Munroe reported the GC 2020 Vision Task Force was drafting a report on future possibilities for our shared staff plan with Presbytery de Cristo. Staff duties were being ranked. A report was to be made at the July Leadership meeting regarding either 1) the two presbyteries discontinuing the shared staff or 2) an adjusted shared staff plan. The July conversation was not going to cover a third option of merging the presbyteries.

There was discussion of a Covid-19 PDA \$25,000 grant application for Navajo Nation relief. It was noted the application incorrectly stated it was approved by Leadership on May 26, 2020. There was discussion of providing a way for Grand Canyon members to donate to Navajo relief. Approximately \$50,000 had already been received. The Synod of the Southwest had applied for a \$250,000 Presbyterian Mission Agency grant. The following was approved:

MOTION: Approved 1) insertion of a donation button on the Presbytery website to facilitate donations for Navajo relief and 2) approved, retroactive to May 25, 2020, a Grand Canyon application for a \$25,000 PDA Covid-19 relief grant for Navajo Nation Relief for Churches and Families.

George Saylor introduced Pastor Curt Gentry from Renovation Church, formerly Biltmore Church of the Nazarene. The congregation had been slowing dying. Curt proposed closing the church and preparing for a “hard restart” after a number of months based on a radically different concept. Instead of “settlers” they would move to becoming “explorers.” The Biltmore members approved the plan even though the outcome might not appeal to their age group. Worship now included loud praise music and there was a concentration on community outreach. Membership had grown to 300, with 175 attending weekly worship. Curt said success of such a church restart depended on having a pastor who was excited about starting new things.

Brad Munroe introduced scientific information indicating the possible danger of singing during worship services as our churches reopened. A letter based on Presbytery de Cristo's Leadership decision to prohibit singing in churches had mistakenly been sent out to our pastors and Clerks of Session. There was discussion of whether the guidance given to our churches should be "recommended" versus "required." It was noted that Sessions, not the Presbytery, would be legally responsible for their decisions. The following, as amended, was approved:

MOTION: Approved strongly recommending caution regarding congregational singing in our Presbytery's Guidelines for Reopening and authorized Brad Munroe and Bob Schulz to communicate this to our churches.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION/NETWORK REPORTS

Operations/Bob Schulz – trying to fill open committee positions.

Resources/Scott Fischer – approved revised John Calvin cost of \$60,000 for interior improvements for the first phase of work; approved \$450,000 First Light property purchase and proposed renovations of \$529,000.

COM/Brad Munroe – approved allowing Southminster to use 2017 mission study in its current MIF; Community Payson has new pastor; Community Pinetop candidate to preach followed by congregational vote.

Reconciliation Team/Brad Munroe – recruiting HR members; actions on hold; planning Big Event workshop; postponed emotional systems training may be reformatted to once per week instead of week-long event.

CPM/Brad Munroe – CRE applicant ready for final assessment; renounced jurisdiction pastor completed psychological evaluation for consideration of re-entering system, if approved by CPM as Inquirer will be sent back to PJC to resume case; two new Inquirers from Church of the Master.

Cong Resourcing/Jan Palmer – celebrating creative First Light ministry of Kristin and Brandon Willett, to close on property in July, need funds for chairs, etc., may be able to qualify for 4th year of NWC grant; Evangelical Arabic fellowship got PDA grant due to Estawri's loss of school salary.

PWP/Mary Danforth – May meeting in Chinle cancelled; planning virtual October meeting in Phoenix; next in-person meeting likely in March 2021.

CNN (Native Ministries)/Laurie Porter – PCUSA directory of Native churches to be ready in July; has asked Irv Porter to include her in Zoom meetings; working on several grant applications, including one for Central in GC and another for Papago United in dC.

Peace & Justice/Bob Schulz – as of now PCUSA is still sending out annual international visitors.

Older Adult Ministry/Brad Munroe – senior awards luncheon postponed indefinitely, registration funds will be returned to churches; hoping for October reschedule.

Cross-Cultural Ministries/Brad Munroe – postponed Pentecost celebration, may reschedule for October at Orangewood; meet once a month and offer each other good support.

TREASURER REPORT

Scott Fischer reported that as of the end of May the Connecting budget was in the positive by \$11,263 and the Mission budget was ahead by \$6,971. A copy of the April Presbytery Financial Report was distributed with materials for this meeting.

PRESBYTERY PASTOR REPORT

Brad Munroe reported that an email was sent out each Monday morning with updates on Covid-19. He was continuing to hold weekly Pastor Check-in Zoom gatherings. Brad was concerned about our

Teaching Elders, many with emotional resources running thin. When asked about our churches' finances he said most are OK, some were a little off.

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STATED CLERK/ASSOCIATE REPORT

Bob Schulz reported the New Light Anthem property had been inspected and issues fixed. The appraisal came in higher than the \$450,000 purchase price. The insurance application was done and closing was set for July 15.

Concrete shingles had been removed at Central and the new roof was on. All drawings for renovation and AC installation had been submitted to the City of Phoenix for code review.

A report on contamination remediation at First Sacaton was due and it would then be submitted for approval to ADEQ.

Paperwork had been submitted to the State Department of Revenue to forgive taxes assessed on our churches in error. Mission del Sol's PILP loan was dependent upon reversal of 2019 taxes.

ADJOURN

It was noted that many of our churches were experiencing higher attendance with virtual worship, including people who usually did not attend. This was a possible subject to be explored further.

The motion was made to adjourn and the meeting was closed in prayer at 6:10 p.m. The ministries and needs of our congregations and their staffs were lifted up. The next meeting of the Leadership Team was scheduled for July 1, 2020 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Kath

Recording Secretary