John Calvin Presbytery

Called General Council Meeting (by Zoom)

October 15, 2020

Minutes

Members present: Diane Cooke, Reina Daleske, Jim Holt, Chris Miller (Moderator), Joan Russell, Toni Spieth, Lorraine Whittington

Member excused: Bill Agnew

Member absent: Lou Ellen Hartley

Ex-officio present: Beth Kick, Stated Clerk; Malinda Spencer, Pastoral Presbyter;

 Dennis Winzenried, Treasurer

Moderator Chris Miller opened the stated meeting of the General Council in prayer at 10:03 a.m. on Thursday, October 15, 2020. The meeting was held by Zoom videoconference during the coronavirus pandemic.

Beth Kick read the Morning Psalm (147:12-20) and opened the meeting in prayer.

Stated Clerk Report

Beth noted that a quorum was present and reviewed the revised docket. Two practices having already occurred with the hosts for the presbytery meeting, no further practice was conducted today.

1. Diane Cooke moved **that the following dates be set for Presbytery meetings for 2021: February 27, May 20, August 3, and November 6**.—seconded and approved

2. Jim Holt moved **that the following hosts be approved for 2021, if the way be clear: Trinity, Springfield – February 27 (Zoom meeting)**

 **First, Parsons – May 20 (Zoom meeting)**

 **First, Iola – August 3**

 **First, Neosho – November 6**—seconded and approved

*(Jim also noted that second Tuesdays in August are primary election days every other year in Missouri so this date should not represent a permanent change.)*

3. Chris Miller moved **that General Council stated meetings for 2021 be set for January 28, April 29, July 8, and October 14 at 10 a.m. if meeting by Zoom and at noon if meeting in person**—seconded and approved

4. The motion passed on October 1 to change to a calendar year for officers and committee members beginning in 2021 was again discussed. Hearing only continued approval for the idea, Lorraine Whittington agreed that COR would contact all those affected after the Presbytery approves the motion.

5. The committee agreed to extend an invitation to Landon Whitsitt to say farewell during the Presbytery meeting in addition to hearing a report from one of our Synod commissioners.

6. Suggestions for historical information to share at the 200th Presbytery meeting were discussed.

Pastoral Presbyter’s Report

For Information: The Administrative Ministries Committee plans to meet Tuesday and plans to bring motions to the floor of Presbytery concerning 2021 per capita, the 2021 budget, terms of call for Pastoral Presbyter and Stated Clerk, and providing medical coverage for the Pastoral Presbyter’s family. (Malinda and Beth left the virtual room for a few minutes at the Treasurer’s request.)

1. Chris Miller moved **that Presbytery continue the agreement begun in 2020 whereby the Presbytery provides a grant of $11,000 to First Presbyterian Church, Webb City, Missouri to pay for pastor participation in medical dues in the Board of Pensions for the Reverend Charles Spencer, which will cover their family with a savings to John Calvin Presbytery of about $16,000 for the year 2021.**—seconded and approved

2. Malinda Spencer presented a new approach to transitional ministry which involves the possibility of hiring a transitional minister to work with all our churches on interim tasks while supply preachers continue to lead in worship. A subcommittee of COM is exploring this possibility with Malinda.

Committee on Ministry Report

Reina Daleske moved on behalf of COM **that General Council approve funding for COM members to attend online Conflict Resolution Training through the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center.**—approved

Moderator’s Report

Chris Miller reported that he sent a letter urging extra care of their pastors to the churches (sessions/personnel committees).

Chris Miller closed the meeting in prayer at 11:21 a.m.

Submitted by Beth Kick