

CLT REPORT TO PRESBYTERY of NEW BRUNSWICK 6.9.20

A. COVID-19 Update:

1. Ongoing conversations and projects

- weekly zoom calls for pastors and congregational leaders continuing - thanks to Sharyl Dixon (Kingston, COM Chair), Cherry Oakley (Westminster Trenton, Moderator), and Gooitzen van der Wal (Lawrenceville, Elder, CLT) for facilitating.
- Out of the Weekly Zoom Calls, worship sharing, and music resource sharing efforts are continuing. Contact Rev. Sharyl Dixon (Kingston) to help with future worship sharing; contact Elder Mike Meduski (Hamilton Square) re. music resource sharing. Thanks to Sharyl and Mike for their leadership.
- Pandemic Response Conversation Group - meeting weekly on Monday mornings at 9am, consisting of county resourcing reps, leaders of Grants, UMNC, & Social Witness, with Moderators and Transitional leader - all welcome - for zoom link contact presbytery office.

2. **New action:** At the Pandemic Response Group's request: The CLT wishes to identify one or more leaders from each county in our presbytery to take part in their county's COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) in order to inform our presbytery's and congregation's community engagement. Currently, presbytery members are involved in Mercer and Somerset County. If any are already engaged in Hunterdon or Somerset COADs, please inform the CLT; if you would be interested in engaging with the Hunterdon or Somerset COAD, or any other, and need assistance in doing so, please contact the CLT.

B. The CLT is convening a group to lead us in responding to racism and bias.

For more information contact the CLT.

C. Grants.

1. Grants received to date from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance/Presbyterian Mission Agency for outreach or mission continuity:

Milford - \$2500

Westminster, Trenton - \$2500

Iglesia Presbiteriana Nueva Vida, Hamilton - \$2500

Arabic New Worshipping Community - \$2500

CAFE para el Alma New Worshipping Community - \$7500

Witherspoon Street, Princeton - \$5000

Dayton - TBD

2. The CLT asks the presbytery to endorse and adopt two grant applications:

- a. PDA Short/Long-Term Recovery Grant (completed and submitted on May 7).

MOTION: Endorse and adopt a \$25,000 Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Short /Long –Term Recovery Grant application request submitted on May 7 to help in funding staffing/leadership personnel to establish a Mission Networking Group within the Presbytery.

Rationale: The grant project requests \$25,000 to "Create an ongoing presbytery network between local and regional congregational & community crisis/disaster/emergency resources" by establishing a Mission Network Working Group, enabled by a part-time presbytery staff role of Mission Networker, part-time compensated leadership roles among 6 existing presbytery members, and other volunteer participants. The funding is for a 12-month project. For further details see grant application, attached.

PROJECT FUNDS:

\$30,000 = from Presbytery sources:

\$5,000 from Peacemaking Fund [approved]

\$15,000 from Urban Fund [there are funds available both at the discretion of the Trustees and the Urban Mission Network Committee; we would work out details]

\$5,000 from congregational/presbytery gifts [we would have a fund drive]

\$5,000 from current staffing support [Presbytery administration would provide office support]

\$25,000 = PDA Short/Long Term Recovery Grant

TOTAL = \$55,000

PROJECT BUDGET:

\$28,500 Networker compensation (1 person)

\$19,000 County & urban center leads compensation (6 people) [funds would be given to local congregation church to offset employee compensation]

\$5,000 Presbytery office administrative support

\$2,500 Travel (\$0.575/mi), meeting hospitality, communications

TOTAL = \$55,000

- b. Application to Presbyterian Mission Agency for Vital Congregation Initiative Grant (\$50,000). **MOTION: Endorse and adopt a \$50,000 Presbytery Mission Agency grant for the Vital Congregation Initiative (VCI) to assist in funding VCI activities within the Presbytery for the years 2021 and 2022.**

Rationale: The PMA has notified all VCI presbyteries they are eligible for a grant to fund their participation - to compensate facilitators, cover congregational costs, send participants to conferences, etc. This grant application is in process. The grant proposes the presbytery commit \$10,000 in each 2021 and 2022 to the VCI. \$5,000 is contained in our 2020 budget for VCI expenses.

3. The CLT will hold a Post-Presbytery on Thursday, July 30 from 7-8:30pm to discuss the presbytery's application for the Lilly Thriving Congregations Grant, submitted on the presbytery's behalf on Monday, June 1. The presbytery will be asked to endorse and adopt the grant application at our regular meeting on Saturday, September 12.

- D. The CLT calls for a special meeting of the presbytery on Tuesday, July 14 at 7:00pm** to adopt a new staffing configuration, position description/s, and compensation, and to elect/appoint a search team for this/these position/s, with candidate/s to be brought to the presbytery at our September presbytery meeting for approval.

E. CLT Initiatives:

1. Vital Congregations Initiative (VCI) - see separate documents; "equipping" portion of meeting tonight with VCI national staff Carlton Johnson and PNB facilitator coach Tom Bryson
- National conferences are now scheduled to be held online July 21-22. Everyone encouraged to take part; more information to be provided as soon as available. Facilitator conference August 17-18.
 - See our presbytery timeline in separate documents.
 - If you Session would like to discuss becoming involved, please contact a facilitator: Nina Reeder at ninareeder@gmail.com or Molly Dykstra @ mollymdykstra@gmail.com.

2. Matthew 25: we are now at seven congregations in our presbytery! One more (20% of our congregations) and we can act to become a Matthew 25 presbytery. We hope to do so at our September meeting.

- Milford
- Ewing/Covenant
- Westminster Trenton
- Witherspoon Princeton
- Flemington
- Bound Brook
- New Brunswick

F. CLT gives thanks

We are very thankful that Rev. Leslie Dopps-Allsop has joined the Presbytery as the interim Presbytery leader. Leslie has been a great support for the staff, the CLT, and Trustees, and she has been very involved with the Grant applications, spending more than the contracted 10 hrs/week during this difficult pandemic time. Thank you, Leslie!

Also, a big thank you to the teams that have been writing Grant applications during the last two months.