

Coordinating Council Report to Presbytery, February 27, 2018

Information Items

At its February 15, 2018 meeting, the Coordinating Council reviewed a “revised overture to the 223rd General Assembly entitled “America’s Interfaith Context and the Church’s Challenge.” This revised overture is the result of several meetings of the Special Group formed by action taken at the December 5, 2018 meeting of Carlisle Presbytery. The group was asked to review and make any changes it saw fit to the original overture submitted by the Session of the Pine Street Presbyterian Church. The special group met several times and forwarded its recommendations onto the Pine Street Session. The Session of the Pine Street church approved the revised overture at its meeting of September 23, 2018.

As a result of the review of the revised overture, the Coordinating Council unanimously recommends the passage of the overture and its submittal to the 223rd General Assembly.

Council voted to appoint Stated Clerk Jim Speedy as **Interim Head of Staff for Administration** effective March 16, 2018, serving until an Interim Executive Presbyter is hired and asked the Administration Committee to concur.

Action Item

The Coordinating Council of the Presbytery of Carlisle moves that page IV-4, Item 5 of the Standing Rules of Carlisle Presbytery be revised as shown below. The change is shown with words to be eliminated as a ~~strike-out~~. Additions to the Standing Rules are in ***Bold Italics***. This change to the Standing Rules, if approved by the Presbytery will be effective March 1, 2018. “The docket of each stated meeting will be planned by the Coordinating Council, utilizing action teams to plan a variety of worship experiences using different musical traditions and varieties of prayer forms. All stated meetings of the presbytery will ~~begin with~~ ***include*** worship. ~~and will include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.~~ The worship at the ~~February~~ ***first*** stated meeting ***of the calendar year*** will ***ordinarily*** include the ***Sacrament of the Lord's Supper as well as the necrology of Ruling Elders who died in the previous year*** and the installation of the new Moderator and Vice-Moderator.”

Rationale

The Coordinating Council has received comments over the last few years that the Presbytery needs to offer a variety of worship experiences to meet the varied spiritual needs of our Presbyters. It also has received comments that meetings sometimes are compromised due to too many things being included in worship or the business portion of the meeting being “compressed” due to worship being longer (because of the current requirement that Communion be served at all meetings). This is particularly true for evening meetings.

We want worship to be a consistent high point of every Presbytery gathering. The Coordinating Council believes this change would allow for other creative celebrations and observances such as: Renewal of Baptismal vows, Renewal of Ordination vows, Foot washing, Service of Healing and Wholeness, extended times of prayer (for each other and for our congregations), singing, and small group reflection, in addition to other creative forms of worship. Currently it is hard to do any of these things and celebrate the Lord’s Supper and preach, all in 45-60 minutes or less.