

**Coordinating Council
Report to the Presbytery - December 1, 2020**

Reflections of Interim Executive Presbyter, Cheryl Galan

Two years ago, I accepted your call to engage the presbytery in a process that will culminate in a new vision statement describing the soul and substance of the Presbytery of Carlisle in 2025. And here's what happened next:

Practicing Agility.....We set out, on the way from 'what has been' to 'what will be' with digital disciples, learning components at presbytery meetings, flexible meeting schedules and new configurations of people to engage the work of the presbytery.

Canoeing the Mountains..... We discovered the old maps no longer serve us well and named our intention for a year of experimentation. With a spirit of adventure, we began to adapt. We became a Corps of Discovery, heading into uncharted territory with a mission worthy of our utmost dedication.

Traversing the Rockies...A global pandemic forces us to ditch our canoes, ask for help, find horses and cross the mountains. We proceed on:

- **We forge deep relationships among pastors and across congregations**, with weekly Zoom gatherings, monthly support groups, and new coaching cohorts for pastors. Zoom gathers us across congregations for book study, Pop-up seminars on timely topics, and in mutual learning and support.
- **We come alongside congregations in pastoral transition, conflict, struggle or change**. Through the gifts of a wise, strong and engaged Commission on Ministry, we actively support, guide and adapt with congregations, as we all navigate new challenges and opportunities.
- **We stay connected in every way possible**. In spite of physical distancing, e-newsletters and social media posts keep us informed; a Zoom Pro bundle for small churches puts an essential tool within financial reach; we use our website, social media and You Tube channel to curate and deliver content for congregations to use and share.
- **We focus on the mission!** - Vulnerable neighbors receive care. Partnership with Krislund, Lend-A-Hand, and Honduras takes new forms. We speak up in public spaces. We build coalitions across race, culture and creed. We shrink our office footprint, that we may travel more lightly.

Now...we are just beginning to imagine ourselves as a post-pandemic presbytery...we engage the questions of what it means to thrive as the church dispersed, deployed and distributed. As the COVID-19 fog lifts we will consider what role the presbytery will play, as new forms of the gospel emerge.

Presbytery Meetings In 2021

The Coordinating Council announces the following dates for the presbytery to gather in 2021. Meeting dates follow the pattern explored in 2020, with two Saturday meetings and two Tuesday meetings. For the first half of the year, we will meet on Zoom. By fall, we hope to be able to gather in person. ***Please note that the February meeting includes a Church Officer Training component.***

Saturday, February 27

A morning meeting on Zoom that includes learning opportunities for Elders, Deacons, Clerks of Session, and Pastors

Tuesday, May 25

An evening meeting on Zoom

Saturday, September 25

A morning meeting....hopefully in person, if pandemic conditions allow.
Location TBD

Tuesday, December 7

An evening meeting....hopefully in person, if pandemic conditions allow.
Location TBD

Honduras Mission Partnership

Responding to a recommendation from the Honduras Partnership Team, the Council approved a gift of **\$3,500** from Honduras Partnership Funds, to the Presbyterian Church in Honduras, to be used for their efforts in providing relief aid due to the destruction of Tropical Storms Eta and Iota. This leaves sufficient funds for building one home in 2021, either by traveling to Honduras or sending money, whichever is deemed best for the partnership. The Council also approved a special offering to benefit the Presbyterian Church in Honduras at the December 1 presbytery meeting.

Year-End Reports

Ordinarily, we distribute hard-copy packets containing year-end reporting forms to be returned to the presbytery after the first of the year. Since we are not able to meet in person this year, the forms will be posted to the presbytery web-site, with instructions and deadlines emailed to Clerks of Session, Moderators of Session, and Treasurers. These forms are found under Clerks of Session, on the drop-down menu under the Documents/Forms tab of the web-site. Those who are unable to complete the forms electronically may request that a hard copy be mailed to the Clerk of Session. Watch for an email coming later this month, with links to the following reports:

- Instructions for Year-End Reports and Statistical Reports for the Office of the General Assembly
- 2021 Minimum Terms of Call for Ministers of the Word and Sacrament
- Minister Terms of Call Report Form
- Necrology Report Form
- Insurance and Indebtedness Form
- Church Pledge Form
- Directory Form
- Contribution Form