

## **The Report of the Coordinating Council February 25, 2023**

On January 11, 2023, the members of the Coordinating Council and the Administration Committee met to begin planning for the transition in Presbytery Leadership, as Cheryl Galan, Interim Executive Presbyter, retires June 1, 2023. Also present for this meeting was Forrest Claassen, Synod Executive, who will serve as a resource to the Presbytery Leader Search Team, upon their election by the presbytery.

After this meeting, the following three Working Groups were established.

### **Working Group to Nominate a Presbytery Leader Search Team**

Heather Sigler, Jim Warnock, Gary Myers

This group was charged with seeking Search Team nominees to be elected by the presbytery February 25. In identifying nominees, the group sought to represent congregations of various sizes and geography, diversity of age, gender, and culture, and both ministers and ruling elders. As the Search Team explores models of leadership beyond the box of current experience, navigating toward an unknown future, they will benefit from qualities such as flexibility, availability, imagination and openness of mind, heart and spirit. With appreciation for the benefits of our connectional system, the Search Team nominees will also work with awareness of the unique challenges and opportunities of leadership in the current liminal time. The slate of nominees will be presented for presbytery action, February 25, 2023.

### **Working Group to recommend a position description framework and a title that describes the role of the presbytery's next leader**

Nickie Shaddock, Doug Beltzner, Win Cleland, Norma Mateer, Nancy Conklin

This group is working to describe the role and responsibilities of the next presbytery leader. Recognizing that the challenges, and opportunities facing our congregations call for new dimensions in presbytery leadership, the Council has adopted a model for two full-time presbytery leaders. The Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership (Kristal Smith) fulfills the functions of the office of the Stated Clerk while also supporting congregations in pastoral transitions and cultivating new models for fulfilling the leadership needs of congregations.

The second full-time position will prioritize spiritual, relational, and organizational elements of leadership required in times of adaptive change. The position will encompass the administrative functions of the 'Executive,' while also making significant space for collaborative, entrepreneurial work that generates new possibilities and hope! The group is looking at examples of presbytery leadership models across the denomination. They're talking with Kristal and Cheryl about the work that's currently asked of them. And they're thinking about how the new position may center time and

space for leadership devoted to developing pastors, congregations, partnerships for emerging ministries that bring the gospel to life in the contexts of our communities.

### **Working Group on Presbytery Purpose and Core Values**

Emily McCachren, Emily Dame, Kent Carter, Janice Tiedeck, John Shaddock,  
Roz Presby, Scott Bowerman, Rose Jewell-Jordan

Drawing from insights gleaned through presbytery meetings over the past 3 years, this group is working to articulate a purpose for the Presbytery of Carlisle, for the next 2-3 years and to describe the presbytery's unifying Core Values. Their work is framed by questions such as:

- What do we see and hear from our congregations and leaders today that reveals the core values in play among us, the common motivators and energy sources that fuel endeavors?
- How would we describe the purpose(s) of the presbytery for the next 2-3 years, given current opportunities, challenges and realities?

This work does not originate 'from scratch' but builds on the learning experiences, observations, and adaptations of the past 3-4 years. It recognizes that we remain 'in between' the dismantling of structures that have defined the shape and form of the presbytery and the emergence of new patterns that will transform congregations and support new forms of witness in our communities.

The three working groups are meeting concurrently with the goal of checking in with each other at the Coordinating Council meeting in March. After a shared conversation, the groups will summarize the work and offer it to inform the Search Team.

Please include the Presbytery Leader Search team in the prayers of your congregation. The Council and Search Team will keep the presbytery informed about the search.