

Transition Task Force Report

Almost two years ago, Indian Nations Presbytery entered a time of transition with the retirement of general presbyter Aaron Carland. With his departure, the presbytery began a process of self-evaluation and spiritual discernment, confronting an unhealthy system that had pervaded this presbytery for decades. Lack of transparency, mistrust, feelings of exclusion, a priority of rules over relationships, lack of training for committee moderators – these were just some of the problems that made up our identity as Indian Nations Presbytery. In order to adjust to the lack of a general presbyter and to sketch a way forward, the presbytery approved the formation of a Transition Task Force, a task force under the direction of the Mission Strategy Group. While filling the leadership vacuum in the presbytery office and looking closely at the structure of the presbytery were two obvious issues for the task force to tackle, it became clear that the larger issue was a cultural one. How do we as a presbytery become who God is calling us to be? What are the deeper issues we need to address in order to heal and transform as individuals, congregations and as a presbytery? In order to assist us in this process, David Sawyer was hired as a consultant. Additionally, an administrative commission from the Synod of the Sun was formed to walk alongside the presbytery and to support the presbytery as it entered this time of uncertainty and visioning.

To this end, the Transition Task Force developed questions asked at 8 listening sessions around the presbytery through the summer of 2017, striving to hear the hurt, frustration and anger within the presbytery. The task force has understood from the beginning that healing can't begin until the wounds are aired. The task force has offered its members to the presbytery for the purpose of hearing issues from individuals that may have been too sensitive to talk about in a more public setting.

Following a time of gathering data from the members of presbytery, the data was interpreted. A helpful hypothesis was formed about the presbytery's dysfunction.

- "A long-standing "ministry corporation" model in which a GP and a few leaders overfunctioned, alternatively rigid and random, kept the presbytery operating with low expectations, with a goal of surviving not thriving.
- Overfunctioning leadership made it easier for other leaders and members and committees by relieving them of leadership responsibilities.
- It also led to extensive loss of trust and isolation. However the isolation allowed some congregations to find creative ways to thrive." (David's report from July 18, 2017.)

Having come to this hypothesis, the Transition Task Force began working toward an action plan, focusing on creating opportunities for healthy relationships and structures within the presbytery. The task force whittled its foci down to these:

1. *"A conversational shift:* Going back to the presbytery through additional listening sessions to report back its findings and to ask for more feedback to ensure that the task force heard the expressed concerns of the presbytery. These conversations were to move away from the ministry corporation model of being presbytery and to move toward a covenant community.

2. *Enhanced information sharing through the presbytery website and social media.*
3. *Education and empowerment of leaders:* Moderator Ron Fike began by designing and leading a day for committee moderators to begin to communicate with each other and to build those committee relationships.
4. *Training and re-organizing the COM:*
5. *Build healthy relationships among pastors.”*

The Transition Task Force purposefully began the slow work of helping to shift the culture of the presbytery instead of rushing to update structure and leadership models. Having thoughtfully and carefully equipped the presbytery to move toward health and after observations that relationships were healing and trust was being restored within the presbytery, the task force felt it was time to begin looking at the structures and leadership of the presbytery. In August of this year, the task force formed two smaller task forces to address these needs. These two task forces have begun their work by initially meeting together, recognizing that each task force's work affected the other's. The smaller task forces will be exploring models that other presbyteries are using and are looking at the data gathered from the presbytery during this transition time. They feel it is important that they not rush through their work but to do it right and thoroughly. It is hoped that by early 2019, the task forces will have reports for the presbytery as to their possible recommendations and conclusions. Many of you have asked when this process will be finally finished. While we know that God is never finished with us and is always reshaping and reforming, this particular part of our work together will be finished when there are new agreements about (1) the presbytery's structure and process; (2) the presbytery's leadership model; and (3) the presbytery's way of being a presbytery together.

The last year and a half have been challenging but rewarding work. We are thankful for the presbytery staff – Lee Ann, Sue, and Matt- who have ridden the waves this transition time has created. They have been dedicated to their roles and have been flexible when needed to be, often taking on tasks left by a leadership vacuum. The task force has been led ably and faithfully by David Sawyer and supported by the Administrative Commission. The task force has tried to look for the deeper questions rather than be satisfied by easy answers. As we move into what we hope will be the final lap of the transition process, we give thanks to God for God's presence and power within the task force but especially within the presbytery. While people come and go within a presbytery, God has been a constant and it is in order to more faithfully serve God that we do this work together. Please pray for us as we continue to do the work you've asked us to do and please pray for God's continued guidance as we work to become a covenant community.

Indian Nations Presbytery Youth Report for October 2018

The Indian Nations Presbytery Youth Committee has been meeting monthly. We have had 2 successful gatherings since the end of Summer

1. Youth met up at Frontier City in August and enjoyed our time together. We had about 45 reservations but some people did not show. We even had 3 youth come up from Duncan!!
2. Youth Leader Gathering on Sept 15th at Second Wind in Norman. There were about 10 people in attendance. This committee helped to resource them, hear the needs of volunteers in smaller and multi-cultural congregations. We are planning a nuts and bolts how to lead games and lessons session for later in the year.
3. Leigh has been in contact with other OK presbyteries to arrange for travel plans to Triennium. No one else has a registrar currently so we can not report on status of travel arrangements.

[Here is the Calendar for the 2018-2019 School Year](#)

4th SUNDAY

(4th Sunday of most months)

All middle and high school youth. Fellowship time with games, a little worship and a lesson.

Bring a snack to share! Keep an eye on INP Youth Facebook Page for locations. Mostly in OKC Metro area.

INP OCTOBER YOUTH EVENT

Date: October 27th

Time: 5-8pm

Location: First Pres OKC

All middle and high school youth welcome. We will have a zombie mystery experience... "the Zombie ate your brains in the library with the candlestick"....hey, we are trying to be spooky here....

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTHQUAKE: Let Your Light Shine with Solar Under the Sun

Date: November 16-18

Location: Central Christian Camp in Guthrie OK

5th to 8th grade youth. Cost is \$75 per person if you register before October 8th and \$85 after that. This one is gonna be big fun! We are going to talk about how God calls us to be light in darkness. Youth will be challenged to think globally about energy and how we can partner with Solar Under the Sun to help those living without basic and reliable electricity!

Click [here](#) to register online

INP MEET UP AT THE DEVON ICE RINKDate: January 2nd

TIME: 4:00pm until we are too cold and tired to deal anymore

LOCATION: Devon Ice Rink

All middle and high school youth welcome. Join us at Myriad Botanic Gardens in downtown OKC to skate and have fun! We will probably get pizza or do something for dinner. We are hoping the street cars will be online by then. We will keep you posted!

INP Annual LOCK-IN AND NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICEWHEN: January 20 – 21st

TIME: 8:00pm Sunday – late afternoon Monday

LOCATION: Lock-in at FPC Norman
Service at Food and Shelter in Norman

All middle and high school youth welcome. We will have an all INP Youth Lock-in, followed by a prayer breakfast and service at Food and Shelter, a tiny house homeless ministry. We are still looking for a Martin Luther King Day worship service for our group to attend.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTHQUAKEDATE: March 8-10th

TIME: 7:00pm Friday – noon Sunday

LOCATION: Canyon Camp in Hinton, OK

9th to 12th grade youth. Theme and registration TBD

TRIENNIUM

July 16-20

On the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana

INP will travel together, registration and fee details TBD

INP youth committee contactsLeigh Miller leighbarnettmiller@gmail.comJessica Dixon jdixon@fpcnorman.orgMolly Rambur mrambur@fpcnorman.org

Please Like and join our INP Youth Facebook Page!

[INP Youth Facebook](#)

Indian Nations Presbytery Youth Ministry Dates for 2018 and 2019

4th SUNDAY

(4th Sunday of most months)

Date: September 23rd

Time: 2-4pm

Location: First Pres OKC

All middle and high school youth. Fellowship time with games, a little worship and a lesson. Bring a snack to share!

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INP youth committee contacts

Leigh Miller leighbarnettmiller@gmail.com

Jessica Dixon jdixon@fpcnorman.org

Molly Rambur mrambur@fpcnorman.org

FROM: Indian Nations Presbytery Foundation
DATE: October 1, 2018
SUBJECT: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Indian Nations Foundation Board of Directors met on Tuesday, September 25, 2018, to review Grant Applications. Seven (7) churches submitted eight (8) Grant Applications for a total of \$87,500. All eight (8) requests were granted in some amount. The grants were evaluated on the basis of the Foundation purpose (INP Foundation Bylaws Article I, Section 2) "to raise monies above the normal budgetary process" to meet the future needs of the Presbytery for such needs for church plant repairs, modifications, and Building Codes through grants, immediate needs (such as bringing structures up-to-code), and if the church had previously received a grant. The amount available for grant rewards was \$22,482.73. The amount awarded was \$22,000.

ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE PRESBYTERY

The Foundation approved the following grants:

1. First Presbyterian Church, Altus, a grant of \$4,000 to assist with repair of stained glass windows (36) through the entire facility. This was a matching grant. Additional funds were not able to be provided because of the balance of available funds.
2. First Presbyterian Church, Altus, a grant for \$4,000 to assist in the replacement of the roof and have the roof redone in the Education building because of leaking. This was a matching grant. Additional funds were not able to be provided because of the balance of available funds.
3. First Presbyterian Church, Chandler, a grant for \$2,000 to assist renovations in the kitchen and bathrooms. This was a matching grant. Additional funds were not able to be provided because of the balance of available income funds. Also, the church received a grant in March.
4. Columbian Memorial Presbyterian Church, Colony, a grant of \$3,000 to assist with the renovations of the kitchen and bathrooms. This was a matching grant. Additional funds were not able to be provided because of the balance of available funds.
5. Santa Fe Presbyterian Church, Edmond, a grant for \$1,000 to assist with roof repairs for the sanctuary and classrooms. This was a matching grant. Additional funds were not able to be provided because of the balance of available funds. Also, the church received a grant in March.
6. Church of the Savior, Oklahoma City, a grant for \$1,000 to assist with replacement/upgrade of their sign. Even though the Board felt this request was outside the purview of the purpose of the Board they wished to show good faith to the church. This was a matching grant.

7. Church of the Covenant, Oklahoma City, a grant for \$3,000 towards the replacement of Fellowship Hall windows. This was a matching grant. Additional funds were not able to be provided because of the balance of available funds.
8. First Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City, a grant for \$4,000 towards the repair of the Moeller organ. This was a matching grant. Additional funds were not able to be provided because of the balance of available funds.

For Fiscal Year 2018, the Board has awarded \$37,000 to eleven (11) churches. The amount of funds available for grants was the result of accumulated earned interest in the account and the recovery of the stock market. The last regular award of grants was in 2013. Due to market conditions grant requests were not solicited since 2013. In 2016, two grants were awarded for \$2,024.54. Going forward the amount available for grants will be the earned interest on the market value of the account. The market value of the Foundation account on March 31, 2018, was \$311,225.26.

The Foundation received a donation of \$50 from the Columbian Memorial Presbyterian Church, Colony. A note of appreciation will be sent by Board President, Russell Nelson.