

DRAFT MINUTES
Indian Nations Presbytery
Coordinating Council
April 21, 2021
Zoom Video Conference
Minutes

Members present: TE Rick Baggett; RE Melissa Gill; RE Karen Girdner; RE Blake Harrison; RE Sue Johnson; RE Mark Leidner; TE John McKinnon, Vice-Moderator; RE Martin McNeese; TE Mitch Miller; RE Mike Mize; RE Deanna Piercy; RE Craig Stanley; RE Vicki Zimmerman

Ex-officio: TE Tracy Evans, Stated Clerk; RE Charlotte Lovett, INP Moderator; TE Charlie Smith, Interim Presbytery Pastor; TE Abbey Walker; TE Scott White, Moderator

Excused: none

Absent: TE Jan Burns-Hintze; RE Janet Labude; TE Joe Meinhart

Also in attendance: TE Tim Blodgett, General Presbyter, Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery; Sue MacHugh, INP staff; TE Joseph Moore, Presbyterian Foundation, member of Plains and Peaks Presbytery; RE Bill Wiles, Treasurer, Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery

Call to order, Opening Prayer

The moderator called the meeting to order with prayer at 1:00 pm. A quorum was present.

The Council read together the INP Mission Statement: *We rely on the Triune God to empower and equip us to be a presbytery of faith, hope, love, and witness for the sake of Christ.*

Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was **approved**.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the March 17, 2021 meeting were **approved**.

Officer and Staff Reports:

CC Moderator Report

- No report

Interim Presbyter Pastor Report

- IPP Smith provided a reflection on the anniversary of the OKC Bombing which took place on Monday. As we move forward, the presbytery will need to be able to improvise as has been done especially in the last year during pandemic. He referenced MaryAnn McKibben Dana's book *God, Improv and the Art of Living* as a good read on the subject.
- Another resource that the presbytery will be using is "Project Regeneration" from the Presbyterian Foundation. See information below.

Stated Clerk Report

- TE Greg Amen has resigned from the Committee on Administration.
- TE Jan Burns-Hintze has resigned from the Committee on Nominations and Representation.
- During the application for the loan, PILP found that the property of Covenant, OKC is in the name of Indian Nations Presbytery. Work on transferring it to Covenant is in process.

INP Moderator Report

- Evaluation of presbytery meetings—Sue MacHugh is working on that survey and hopes to have a draft for review soon.
- RE Lovett moderated a called presbytery meeting on Monday, April 19, 2021.

Committee Reports

Committee on Administration:

- **Motion** to obtain the services of an attorney for use on an as-needed basis. The Administrative Assistant would be the designated contact to work with the attorney. Invoices from the attorney must be approved for payment by the Stated Clerk and Presbytery Pastor. **Motion approved.**
- Note: The type of services anticipated are drafting of quit claim deeds, warranty deeds, help with the transfer of ownership of royalties when churches have closed, and general legal issues. INP would be billed on an hourly basis at an agreed rate. The procedure of working with the attorney would involve an initial discussion with the Administrative Assistant, Stated Clerk and Presbytery Pastor to determine if contact with the attorney is appropriate for the situation. If all are in agreement, then the attorney will be consulted. The current Administrative Assistant, Sue MacHugh, is a graduate of the Department of Legal Assistant Education, University of Oklahoma Law Center.

- **Motion** that the following language be added to the Position Description (PD) for Stated Clerk. Language is to clarify “at will” status.
*Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, this is not an employment contract. Your employment is considered “terminable at will” and may be terminated by either you or Coordinating Council at any time, with or without cause. **Motion passed.***
- **Motion** to provide a scholarship of \$5000 to Tylar Gregg, inquirer under care of INP, for courses in Presbyterian Polity, Reformed Theology and Worship. Money to come from the Mission Fund (A/C #53553). **Motion passed.**
- COA is assessing the accounts of Texas Presbyterian Foundation, looking at their use and maximizing growth.

Committee on Ministry:

- Pastor Nominating Committees are finding successes in their work and there are three churches who seem to be close to calling candidates for pastor.
- Sabbatical Leave Guidelines have been developed and approved by COM. The guideline will be disbursed to the churches in the presbytery.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

- Moderator Mize has had conversations with a possible inquirer and with an RE who is completing the Certificate in Ministry program at Austin Seminary.

Committee on Nominations and Representation

- The committee will begin working in earnest on the nominations for the fall.

Board of Trustees

- No report.

INP Foundation Board

- No report.

Network Reports

Congregational Support Network

- **Motion** to approve technology grants for Memorial, Norman for \$ 7956.39 and to Westminster, OKC for \$8161. **Motion passed.**

Care of Pastoral Leaders Network

- No report.

Youth Ministry Network

- No report.

Continuing Business

- June 5th state presbytery meeting is to be a hybrid of in-person and online, with in-person at FPC, OKC.
- No COVID guidance this month will be provided as the churches seem to be navigating their particular needs well.

New Business

Presbyterian Foundation

- TE Joseph Moore presented Project Regeneration, a program of the Presbyterian Foundation (PF) to help congregations through forum gatherings to hear from Foundation staff and members, learn from one another, and identify and model best practice approaches to the unique dynamics of small churches. PF introduces the Project Regeneration service which offers resources to congregations whose financial sustainability may be in question.
- Information will be presented about the program at the June presbytery meeting.

Dwight Mission

- RE Bill Wiles presented the financial status of Dwight Mission, Inc., and explained the deficit. TE Tim Blodgett further explained EOP's stance on their actions.
- Dwight Mission has requested additional funding of \$25,000 from both INP and Eastern OK Presbytery and \$10,000 from Cimarron Presbytery for support as negotiations continue with the Cherokee Nation. Committee on Administration has identified the funding source as Account 9683, Camp Hoya (balance \$29,771.47). When sale is completed, Presbyteries will be reimbursed. **Motion to approve the loan of \$25,000 to Dwight Mission was passed.**

Sharing Time

The moderator asked for Good News from the Pews, and any comments, concerns, or questions.

- The issue of racism was brought up by RE Blake Harrison and the need to address it.

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- Council will work to have its next meeting as a hybrid with in-person and Zoom on May 19

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator White at 2:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy L. Evans
Stated Clerk