

MINUTES
Indian Nations Presbytery
Coordinating Council
September 21, 2022
Meeting by Zoom Video and In-Person at INP Office

Members present: TE Rick Baggett¹; RE Maribeth Culpepper; RE Debra Kauffman; RE Janet Labude; RE Martin McNeese; TE Mitch Miller; RE Mike Mize; RE Russell Newville; RE Cheryl Pennington; RE Julie Spencer; RE Craig Stanley; RE Elizabeth Wallace;

RE Charlotte Lovett, Moderator;

Ex-officio: TE Tracy Evans, Stated Clerk; TE Charlie Smith, Interim Presbytery Pastor; TE Abbey Walker, INP Moderator; RE Vicki Zimmerman, Co-Moderator of Congregational Support Network

Excused: RE Melissa Gill; RE Mark Leidner; RE Bonnie Meisel; RE Wayne Osmond;

Absent: TE Joe Meinhart; RE Ken Metcalf;

Also in attendance: RE Sue MacHugh, INP Staff;

Call to order, Opening Prayer, Quorum

The meeting opened with prayer led by Tracy Evans at 1:05. A quorum was present.

Approval of Voice

RE Sue MacHugh and RE Vicki Zimmerman were given voice.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the August 17, 2022 meeting were **approved**.

Officer and Staff Reports:

CC Moderator Report

- Moderator Lovett presented two recommendations for the Committee on Nominations and Representation, RE Maribeth Culpepper and TE Scott White, for the class of 2025. There were no nominations from the floor. **Motion** to approve the two candidates was **approved**.
- Lovett thanked those who have served on the Coordinating Council and will be rotating off after this meeting. The body expressed great thanks for their service.

¹ The designation TE is Teaching Elder (or Minister of Word and Sacrament); RE is Ruling Elder.

Interim Presbyter Pastor Report

- Smith presented a written report.
- He spoke on communicating with others, especially that we can't assume everyone knows what is happening in the presbytery
- We need to talk about money and the lack of it, as well as resources, budgets and financial health and stability. This is not unique to INP.
- Visits to churches and preaching schedule were included in his report.

Stated Clerk Report

- Evans presented the draft docket for the October 14 meeting as prepared by the Moderator, Vice-Moderator and Evans. It was **approved**.
- The registration cost for presbytery meetings has been \$12, with \$10 per registrant going to the host church for meals and other expenses. The staff has suggested the price be raised to \$15 with \$12 going to the church. **Motion** to approve the price increase was **approved**.
- **Motion** to serve communion at the upcoming presbytery meeting was **approved**.
- The password for the online INP directory will be updated. A notice will be sent by email as well as placed on the website indicating this change and to contact the presbytery office for the new password.
- Discussion regarding the 33 amendments that will be coming forth for vote by the presbytery. Consensus decision that there will be 90 minutes devoted to the voting at the February meeting, with any "leftover" votes to be addressed at the June meeting. The Stated Clerk and the GA commissioners will look at how these will be presented to the body, including possible omnibus motions.
- TE Abbey Walker is having a baby soon. She becomes the Council moderator on October 19. As this is the meeting that the Council votes on who will serve as Council Vice-Moderator, and there may be a need for someone to fill in for Walker at that meeting, **motion** to have RE Charlotte Lovett be prepared to act as moderator of the October 19 meeting if TE Walker is not available.

INP Moderator Report

- TE Walker reported that she will be on Family Leave from October 20 to January 9.

Committee Reports

Committee on Ministry:

- TE McNeese presented actions taken by the COM.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

- The committee met on September 4th. They will bring inquirer Nash Carey to the floor of presbytery for a vote to move him to candidate status.

- COPM and COM will hold a training session for Ruling Elders who wish to become Preaching Elders or Commissioned Ruling Elders the weekend of October 28-30.

Committee on Nominations and Representation

- The committee continues its work on getting candidates for vacant positions.

Committee on Administration

- RE Stanley shared a chart on the Texas Presbyterian Foundation's Balanced Fund as of June 30, 2022
- The Long-Range Financial Task Force has in interim report and wanted comments from Council. (Attached)
- Council felt that regional gatherings to discuss mission and ministry of the presbytery would be the most helpful way to move forward in discernment.

Board of Trustees

- No report.

INP Foundation Board

- The INP Foundation met and approved grants to ten churches for a total of \$31,746. Eight grants were matching grants, 5 grants were first time grants and 3 were for indigenous churches.

Network Reports

Congregational Support Network

- RE Zimmerman reported that there is a congregation pursuing a tech grant and the network is working with them on that.

Pastoral Care Network

- A retreat for Teaching Elders, Commissioned Elders and Christian Educators will be October 17-18 at St. Crispin's Camp and Conference Center.

Youth Ministries Network

- Dwight Night was held September 11 at Westminster OKC's north campus, which included Eastern Oklahoma and Cimmaron presbyteries. About 80 were in attendance.

New and Continuing Business

- None

Sharing Time

Adjournment

- **Motion** to adjourn **passed**. Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Charlie Smith at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy L. Evans
Stated Clerk

Indian Nations Presbytery
LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL TASK FORCE
INTERIM REPORT

May 17, 2022

The Long-Range Financial Task Force (LRFTF) is comprised of members Melissa Gill, Debbie Kauffman, John McKinnon, Tom Rheinlander, Mitch Miller, and Craig Jones.

Beginning on March 25, 2022 the Task Force has held four meetings. In the absence of receiving a formal charge, the Task Force developed this Statement of Purpose:

“Through a general review of INP’s financial resources, operations, and mission giving practices, the Long-Range Financial Task Force will make recommendations to the Coordinating Council toward improving the stewardship of INP’s financial support for its mission and the ministries of its member churches.”

To-date, the Task Force has explored the following topics:

- Perceptions, lingering sentiments, misinformation, low levels of trust, and generally ineffective communication that is shaping INP’s environmental context within which the Task Force is functioning.
- Lack of an inspiring INP vision and operating focus to which member churches want to commit their support, and the achievement of which INP’s financial resources can be directed.
- Current operating status of the Indian Nations Presbytery Foundation (INPF) and its operational relationship to INP.
- Sample financial information compiled by the INP: monthly operational financial statements, annual budgets; data the Task Force may be lacking
- Trends in mission giving by member churches
- Possible revisions to improve INP’s current “Monthly Remittance Form”

Currently approximately 40% of INP member churches contribute funds to the presbytery. It makes little sense to encourage enhanced and sustained giving when an effective “case” for supporting INP’s mission does not exist or at best is unclear to churches. Carrying out LRFTF’s stated purpose is greatly inhibited by this fact, since the purpose of INP’s financial resources should be used to advance and sustain a viable stated vision.

In light of its deliberations thus far, the Task Force is of the opinion that a phased approach is warranted in order to enable the achievement of its stated purpose. To this end, it believes there are immediate, short-term, and longer-term issues that require action.

Immediately:

- Communicate to each member church INP’s overall plan to establish by year-end a vision and plan of action for addressing immediate, short-range, and long-range needs within the Presbytery to fulfill its overall mission of supporting church ministry.
- Strengthen and sustain effective communication and heightened understanding throughout the presbytery
- Endorse corporate, operating, and funding changes underway that will expand and strengthen the impact of Indian Nations Presbytery Foundation’s grant program.

- Review current and future data needs to effectively support the work of INP, including an improved process for church statistical and mission information reporting.
- Establish a work group to plan how the presbytery and its churches can live into INP's mission and vision.

Short-Range:

- Establish a work group to explore INP's support for churches that are at-risk to decline or close.
- Develop expectations and training tools for Coordinating Council gatherings and its representatives to clearly communicate INP's financial health to churches.
- Improve the manner by which churches report overall mission giving
- Develop a means for regularly reporting overall financial activity/trends of INP
- Develop digital communication and an annual live stream to present INP's budget and stewardship campaign to member churches, along with sources and uses of revenue.
- Identify alternative models for: growing INP's assets; sustaining INP's operations

Long-Range:

- Explore alternative models for carrying out INP's operational functions
- Explore the continual relationship between INP and INPF to their mutual benefit.
- Set a target of 90% of member churches contributing time, talent, and/or treasure to the INP.
- ?? More to come as we continue to work!

The Task Force will keep the Coordinating Council apprised of its ongoing work and welcomes questions and suggestions along the way.

Respectively submitted,

Craig W. Jones, Chair