

## Vision team minutes

The vision team of the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey met via Zoom for its regularly scheduled meeting at 4PM on Thursday November 18th 2021.

Presbyters in attendance were:

TE Timothy Son  
RE Skip winter  
TE Grace Rorher  
RE Linwood Bagby  
CP Kirk Woodward  
TE Wanda Lundy  
TE Bill Schramm  
TE Ron Thompson  
TE Berj Gulleyan  
TE Dan Martian  
RE Gayle Griffin  
CP Maria Santa  
TE Jeremy Campbell  
TE Steve Huston

The Agenda adopted was adopted by unanimous consent.

The Vision Team met with **David Hooker** Founder and Principal Narrator of **Counter Stories consulting**. He had the opportunity to share about his process and focus on creating a narrative of a shared future. Presbyters had opportunities to ask questions and then engaged in a robust discussion of both his process and again the merits of an outside facilitator at the request of the Finance Task Force.

A **Motion** to move forward with counter stories consulting to begin the phase one design process. it was seconded and **VOTED**. It was noted that we should get an estimate of cost.

It was **VOTED** to approve the Community ministries commission, the grants review commission, and the Property and Insurance commission position descriptions for addition to the manual of administrative operations.

In light of the late hour and diminishing the quorum it was VOTED to fix the time to which to adjourn to Thursday 12/2 at 4PM to complete the agenda.

The Meeting was reconvened at 4PM on December 2nd 2021 via zoom. Following an opening prayer 3 attentional items were added to the agenda by unanimous consent.

The vision team discussed the remaining items from the recommendations of the Finance Task Force. They observed with regard to the creation of a separate Board of Trustees that the new presbyteries in NJ had been set up in a unicameral system as regards trustees and spiritual leadership/vision accountability so that our arrangement isn't unique. It was also shared that between the Property and Insurance Commission which was already created, and the recommendation for an Capital Asset Commission the majority of the traditional responsibilities of a Board of Trustees if not all of them are already assigned. Skip shared about the rational behind the recommendations, and the concerns underlying them. Presbyters shared concerns both about the recommendations specifically, and about representation at the decision making

table going forward. As a result of the discussion the following actions were moved and **VOTED** without objection.

- 1) To request that the vision team revise their proposal for a Capital Assets Commission and return to vision team as soon as possible a position description for a Stewardship and Investments Commission which will manage the presbytery's investments, coordinate efforts around mission giving, and per capita interpretation both of which are expressions of stewardship, and plan for and make recommendations toward investment in people. This group will also maintain and recommend amendments to the presbytery's investment policy(s.) It is requested that this position description follow the format of the others in the administrative manual, and hoped that the Vision Team can receive the document for their 12/16/21 meeting.
- 2) in the short term to authorize the Finance Task force to direct investment of the proceeds received from the Zimmerman Trust, as well as make any necessary changes to the presbyteries current investments in accordance with the Draft Capital Investment Policy they submitted until the Stewardship and Investments Commission is nominated and elected (anticipated for the Feb 2022 meeting of the Presbytery.) It was noted that investments made should be mindful of the visioning process taking place and in vehicles which will allow adjustment/reinvestment if necessary in light of the results of that process.

It was the thinking in the discussion that the newly constituted Stewardship and Investment Commission would be given the opportunity to review the Draft Capital Investment Policy once they are elected and solicit feedback as they see fit prior to presenting it to the presbytery for approval (anticipated May 2022.)

It was moved seconded and **VOTED** to elect Rev. Denise Kennedy Associate Treasurer of the Presbytery.

It was moved seconded and **VOTED** to approve the expense for treasurer Paul Karoyan's excess November hours as submitted.

It was agreed by unanimous consent that the Presbytery would assist as necessary the AC serving St. Augustines in Paterson including providing funding to cover expense pending the closing of the sale of the real estate. Such funds would be repaid upon the closing of the real estate transaction. Presbyters on the Vision Team were grateful for the hard work of the AC and the emerging plan to protect the ministry of the "multiservice" in that neighborhood.

Members of the vision team were updated on the status of boy scout and pastoral sexual misconduct lawsuits filed as a result of the extension of the statute of limitation. The three former presbyteries are implicated currently in approximately 7 boy scout cases, and one pastoral sexual misconduct case. The stated clerk is working with the presbytery attorney and researching prior insurance coverage.

The docket having reached its end, the Rev. Dr Wanda Lundy, Moderator, closed the meeting in prayer lifting up concerns on the hearts of team members and the meeting was adjourned at 6:21PM

Attest

Rev. Jeremy T Campbell

Stated Clerk, Secretary, Organizing Co-Leader