

Vision Team Report
February 21, 2023

It was reported in the February 2023 Vision Team report that I asked the Vision Team to consider a job description for a new Administrative Operations Committee. They did just that and approved the job description at their March meeting. The purpose of this new committee, one of four institutional committees (nominating, representation, finance, admin) is to oversee, “the policies, procedures, systems, and staff that enable the Presbytery to implement its decisions and provide for the responsible administration of the Presbytery.”

Among its Book of Order responsibilities, the admin/ops cmte will maintain an advisory handbook. They will also oversee our manual of administrative operations which includes the sexual misconduct and child and youth protection policies. The cmte will employ and manage presbytery staff. Finally, the cmte is responsible for making sure the presbytery has property and liability insurance coverage “to protect presbytery facilities, programs, staff, and elected and appointed officers.” In addition to the Book of Order responsibilities, the cmte will also provide guidance to the presbytery on issues of personnel, property and insurance, legal matters, and office technology, space, and location.

There was a robust discussion about whether this was too much work for one group. That is why, like the finance cmte, the admin/ops cmte has the flexibility to create its own subcommittee(s) to assist it with its work. Any subcommittee it creates will report directly to the admin/ops cmte who in turn reports directly to the presbytery (mid-council).

The Vision Team will now turn its attention to working with the Nominating Cmte and the Cmte on Representation to update their job descriptions. Once that is complete, the Vision Team will start working on those committees focused on mission and ministry to our members and the communities they serve.

At the same time it continues to organize the presbytery, the Vision Team is also concerned about the missional invitation to, “cultivate community” and provide opportunities to share time with one another. To that end, the Vision Team determined that rather than bringing people together solely for the purpose of relationship building, they would utilize the natural course of presbytery life to encourage organic relationships to develop. Since this was already happening around the presbytery on a smaller scale (workshops and support groups), the Vision Team believed the best way to do this on a larger scale was to re-establish an in-person presbytery meeting. The month of April included several small meetings in addition to the regular meeting of the whole team. The goal of these meetings was to manage the details of coming together not only in person but also on zoom. Not only will this be our first in-person meeting as a new presbytery, it will also be our first attempt at a hybrid presbytery meeting.

Steve Huston
Organizing Co-Leader
Convener of the Vision Team