

Vision Team  
DRAFT minutes 8/22/2023

#### Attendance

##### Members

Leah Fowler  
Berj Gulleyan  
Doris Peterson  
Kirk Woodward  
Debbie Murphy  
Gayle Griffin  
Roger Widicus  
Linwood Bagby  
Joanne Van Sant  
Marcus Lambright  
Jeremy T. Campbell  
Steve Huston

##### Excused

Dan Martian  
Denise Kennedy  
Maria Santa  
Dave Myers  
Wanda Lundy

Vision Team met for its regular meeting on zoom at 4:30 PM on August 22nd 2023.

First addressed were some procedural issues. Acting in their capacity as the trustees of the corporation the Vision team **VOTED** to approve the sale of the former Central Presbyterian Church Newark according to the revised terms of sale, following the latest round of litigation. It is expected that the closing will take place on or about September 1st. While the original sale price was to be \$400,000 the final sales proceeds will now be \$537,500.

A request from Elizabethport Presbyterian Center that the presbytery approve refinance of an existing loan through Pilp was introduced. The current loan through a commercial bank requires Eport to annually reapply including an annual commercial appraisal of the property at their expense and is at a higher than market rate. They have been making timely payments on the loan since its inception about 15 years ago and have paid down the approximately 4 Million load to a current balance of about 2.6 million. Since they are a subsidiary of the presbytery they qualify for a fixed rate loan through PILP. It **VOTED** to approve their loan application.

The bulk of the discussion was around the end of the lease of the current office. Our lease expires at the end of April 2024, and we must give notice to the landlord by the end of October as to our intent to renew or not. Given the high cost of the office, and the relatively infrequent use by anyone other than staff it was recommended by the task group thinking about this, and then **VOTED** by the vision team **not to renew**. There was some discussion of what to do instead, acknowledging that there needs to be a place to receive mail and to store some required files, as well as places for the staff to work, and for meetings to take place. The idea of distributed staff across a few locations in smaller offices, preferably in a church where any rent paid would help go to ministry and mission, had a lot of support. The team working on this will continue to explore possibilities but it was agreed we are moving out of the current space.

Rev. Steve Huston introduced the interview guide which will provide input for the discernment process. This process is based on an appreciative inquiry model. Given the lateness of the hour it was agreed that interviews would be completed in pairs with the feedback and information provided by the end of the month. Once the vision team completes their interviews the same process can be used to gather information from others.

Rev Steve Huston closed with prayer at 5:16.

Attest

Rev. Jeremy T. Campbell  
Stated Clerk/Corporate Secretary