

COORDINATING COUNCIL REPORT PRESBYTERY OF MACKINAC FEBRUARY 23, 2019 MEETING

Your Coordinating Council has met three times since the September 2018 Presbytery Meeting, at the close of that meeting to get organized, in November, and again in January.

ACTION ITEM 1: Adopt the practice of beginning Presbytery of Mackinac Meetings with a unison praying of the following:

“Gracious God, by the prompting of the Holy Spirit and by following the way of Christ, we offer ourselves to you. In order to lead and serve our Presbytery, help us to function with energy, enthusiasm, honesty and transparency, seeking to leave our personal agendas in your hands. May we honor each person’s presence and perspective, listening fervently and seeking the good of the whole. Almighty God, because you have loved us and respected us first, allow us to love and respect one another. As we nurture our individual lives, help us to pray daily for each other, honoring the life we make in you. Through Christ, we pray. Amen”

ACTION ITEM 2: Adopt the following:

“HOLY MANNERS COVENANT OF THE PRESBYTERY OF MACKINAC

Being a member of the Presbytery of Mackinac I pledge that I will endeavor to follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ and love the Lord God with all my heart, mind and soul and love my neighbor as Jesus loves me. Further, I will pray regularly for the Presbytery, other members of the Presbytery and Presbytery staff and leadership. During Presbytery Meetings I will treat everyone as I want to be treated, showing respect for them and their opinions. When the Presbytery has made a decision, I will abide by and support that decision whether I had previously supported it or not. Through all of my efforts on behalf of the Presbytery, my church and in my life I will seek to continue conscious contact with the Holy Spirit. I realize that we each are a part of the Body of Christ and have a part to play in our efforts to love and serve the Lord.”

BACKGROUND FOR ABOVE ACTIONS: In the past, some members of our Presbytery believed we acted in a less than Christ like fashion at our Council and Presbytery meetings. They felt so strongly about this that they wrote letters to the Synod of the Covenant, a factor in leading to the Synod appointing the Administrative Commission in August of 2017. That Commission prepared and submitted a Report to the Synod in August of 2018. The Report as adopted includes requirements and recommendations for our Presbytery.

Knowing what the final Report of the Commission was going to include and realizing we needed to address our member's concerns, in May of 2018 your Coordinating Council held a retreat prior to the Presbytery Meeting. As a result of that Retreat, during which we brainstormed, a committee volunteered to take all our ideas and present a Holy Manners Covenant for the Coordinating Council at the Council's next meeting. This led to the presentation and adoption of a full page covenant. This year's Council reviewed and adopted the Holy Manners Covenant with a one word change and determined that a condensed version should be presented for adoption by the Presbytery to meet the concerns of our members, comply with item 1a. of the Administrative Commission's Report and follow the example of Jesus in our interactions before, during and after meetings.

INFORMATION: The Coordinating Council is continuing to review our Manual of Operations, our By Laws and the Administrative Commission Report. Individual Council Members and Committees have been asked to address specific issues and report back. At our next Council Meeting considerable time will be set aside to discuss our overall mission, trying to determine what God would have us do and how to do it.

Your Coordinating Council has the responsibility to appoint members to the Nominating and Representation Committee. We currently need a female Ruling Elder from the Western Lower Peninsula for the class of 2021 and will need to appoint two people for the Class of 2022 at the September 2019 Presbytery Meeting. If you would like to serve, please contact our office manager, Raeann Dunlop, or Council Chair, Richard Wissell at rjwissell@sbcglobal.net

Respectfully submitted,
Richard A. Wissell, DrPH, Ruling Elder
Coordinating Council Chair