

MESSAGE OF COUNCIL CHAIR

Shortly after the September Presbytery meeting an informal discussion took place regarding the current status and effectiveness of the Presbytery and its relationship with the member churches. It was recognized that the Presbytery was not improving its services to its member churches. The question became how can we analyze the current status and move forward? It was decided that an evaluation should be conducted by an independent source.

There were discussion meetings that took place shortly after the September Presbytery Meeting and before the January 19th Council Meeting. As a result of these “mini” meetings, it was decided to determine how to engage the process. Contact was made with the Synod Interim Executive, Chip Hardwick. He, in turn, identified three organizations that could provide us with the services we had outlined. Moderator Rev. Anne Hebert, Vice-Moderator Sue Fantini, Stated Clerk Kay Morrill, Office Manager Raeann Dunlop and myself undertook the process of contacting each of these organizations. Discussion with the principals of each took place and contact with their references was also included in the process. The group which best fit our purpose was Holy Cow. This organization has a process designed to determine the health of the member congregations, the health of the Presbytery and evaluate the relationship of the Presbytery and the member churches. The analysis of the relationship is based upon data collected from each member church as well as the Presbytery itself. Once the data is collected and evaluated, a plan would be devised for implementation. Upon review of the data and discussion of the proposed plan, the decision to carry forth with the plan would be made. Holy Cow represented that the process could be completed within eight weeks with an estimated cost of \$6,500.00 to \$10,000.00, dependent upon HC’s involvement in the plan’s implementation. The references provided for the group were exceptionally strong. This process allows for direct participation in the collection of the data which would result in a lower net cost. **It is the recommendation of council that a formal motion for retention of Holy Cow to undertake the analysis process be made and approved.**

At the January meeting a plan for reorganization submitted by the Reorganization Committee was discussed and approved by Council for presentation and consideration by the Presbytery as a whole.

The viability of the Vital Congregation Initiative was also discussed with the determination that there was no significant interest in the program and that it had basically ceased to have any appreciable function. Approval to formally discontinue the program is recommended.

We cannot remain as we have been, to do so yet expect better results is Einstein’s definition of insanity.

“God made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing” (*Ephesians 2:10 NCV*).

Continuing in His Service and Keeping the Faith,
Bill

