

Working toward healing (v2.)

Last fall Council shared with Presbytery this paper outlining things Council wanted to do to work toward healing and a new sense of purpose. Council says this document is firmly written “in the sand,” meaning this stuff is going to get changed as we work through it. A couple of things, however, have become more solid.

In the fall Council identified several significant issues. They were: (1) lack of trust (2) no common mission (3) more input in making decisions (4) conservatives don't feel like they fit (5) don't know each other (6) structure is directed toward presbytery, not congregations. Through the process outlined below we hope to address these issues.

November 2014 – At the Presbytery we encouraged conversations around tables and played “The Ungame.” The budget was presented for a first reading, but we learned that the Budget and Finance Committee would not be ready for the second reading and vote until March.

January 2015 – Opportunities made available around the Presbytery to talk with Council members. Website is being updated with new 2015 information.

February 2015 – No Presbytery meeting but, General Council will receive the report of the SARC and reflect on it. That will be shared with the Presbytery.

March 2015 – At the Presbytery meeting we will discuss and vote on the proposed amendments to the Book of Order. Second reading and vote on 2015 budget.

April 25, 2015 – A retreat led by Dr. David Olsen. We will work on vision and mission priorities for the Presbytery.

May 2015 – General Council will reflect on results of retreat. It may discuss structural changes that would implement the new mission goals. At the Presbytery meeting we will all hear results of the retreat and ideas for structural change.

June 2015 – General Council will organize small groups for the summer.

Summer 2015 – Small group meetings throughout the presbytery to discuss new mission goals and proposed structural changes. Pros and cons.

September 2015 – Council reflects on results of small group meetings and proposes amended new structure. First reading of new structure at September Presbytery meeting.

November 2015 – At Presbytery meeting, second reading and vote on mission goals and structure. First reading of the 2016 budget, which will reflect those new goals and structure. Report of Nominating Committee based on new structure.

January 2016 – At Presbytery meeting, second reading and vote on budget for 2016.