**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Indian Nations Presbytery**

**Coordinating Council**

**December 16, 2020**

**Zoom Video Conference**

**Minutes**

**Members present**: TE Jan Burns-Hintze; TE Ron Fike; RE Melissa Gill; RE Karen Girdner; RE Sue Johnson; RE Janet Labude; RE Martin McNeese; TE Joe Meinhart; RE Mike Mize; RE Deanna Piercy; RE Craig Stanley

**Ex-officio:** TE Tracy Evans, Stated Clerk; RE Charlotte Lovett, INP Moderator; TE Charlie Smith, Interim Presbytery Pastor; TE Scott White, Moderator

**Excused:** TE Rick Baggett; RE Blake Harrison; TE John McKinnon, Vice-Moderator.

**Absent**: TE Abbey Walker

**Also in attendance**: RE Ernest Isch, Westlake Pres;Sue MacHugh, INP Administrative Assistant; RE Mark Leidner, Co-Moderator of Congregational Support Network

**Call to order, Opening Prayer**

The moderator called the meeting to order with prayer at 1:01 pm. A quorum was present.

The Council read together the INP Mission Statement: We rely on the Triune God to empower and equip us to be a presbytery of faith, hope, love, and witness for the sake of Christ.

Visitors were welcomed and were given voice in the meeting.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda for the meeting was **approved**.

**Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting were **approved** as presented.

**CC Moderator Report**

* The Moderator supported the 2020 INP stewardship letter for 2021 congregational pledges
* He attended the closing worship service of Central Presbyterian Church, OKC.

**Interim Presbytery Pastor Report**

* In his report, the IPP shared his goal of ramping up communications in the presbytery. To that end, he is planning on launching a new iteration of the newsletter, aided by Thomas Riggs, Synod of the Sun Communications Coordinator.
* He is working on a Bible study and recording a sermon once a month for presbytery churches to use, giving pastors some respite.
* He reminded the body of a guiding rule: **Fail often. Fail forward. Fail fast.**
* The Oklahoma Presbyterian Network is developing a Youth Network to address needs for camps and conferences for Presbyterians in the state. Smith recommends Jonathan Sergent (First, OKC), Lexi Hurley (First, OKC) and Tracy Dowell (Hillcrest, OKC) to serve. **Motion approved.**
* The Stewardship Mailing went out December 3. A letter and packet were mailed to all Moderators and Clerks.

**Stated Clerk Report**

* The Stated Clerk reported that she continues to work with Korean Lawton church, which is a little out of her job description. This is a continuation of relationships developed before Charlie Smith arrived. He is part of the conversations and actions, too.
* She is still contacting churches for representatives on the council from different regions in the presbytery.
* Received word from the chair of the Board of Trustees that the presbytery needed to vote on the sale of the Central Presbyterian Church, OKC property. **Motion approved** to call a meeting of the presbytery on January 8, 2021 at 10:00 for the purpose of receiving the report from the Administrative Commission for Central Presbyterian Church, OKC and vote on the sale of the property.

**INP Moderator Report**

* Moderator Lovett attended the Moderators Conference via Zoom, hosted by the General Assembly. She learned a lot and found it beneficial. There was good deal of emphasis on Native Americans and she may want to incorporate this into presbytery worship in 2021.
* She asked for other input into presbytery worship, especially for the February meeting.

**Committee Reports**

Committee on Administration:

* COA has developed an information sheet on grants available to congregations for various needs.
* At an earlier meeting, Coordinating Council referred to COA the development of possible policies to make grants/loans to congregations for building repairs. COA gave lengthy discussion to this topic in its meeting. The consensus of the committee was the topic requires in-depth study by CC and potentially to be part of a long-range financial plan for the presbytery.
* With Congregational Support Network, developed a Technology Survey that was sent to all churches.
* Staff reviews will take place December 17, 2020.
* Because of increasing COVID cases, the INP office will only be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 3pm until further notice.

The body voted to go into Executive Session.

The body came out of Executive Session and resumed business. **Motion approved** to increase salary for the Accountant by 3% to $13,600 and increase salary of Administrative Assistant to $30,000.

Committee on Ministry:

* COM recommends to Coordinating Council that the Korean Lawton church be supported with up to $2000/month for up to three months as they bring in an interim pastor while also paying their retiring pastor who will be paid through March 2021. **Motion approved.**
* In a correction from last month, COM recommends that the Pastor Grant Program change the wording and content of the sentence “The purpose of this grant is to assist congregations with 100 members or less to meet the minimum effective salary” to “The purpose of this grant is to assist congregations in becoming more competitive in pastoral searches.” **Motion approved.**
* **Motion approved** for Pastor Grant to Covenant Presbyterian Church, OKC of $25,000 the first year, reducing for three years as delineated in Pastor Grant Program.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

* CPM and COM have been working on a policy on Commissioned Ruling Elders(CRE) and Preaching Elders (PE). The policy was presented to the Council. **Motion approved** to receive the policy. See attached.

Committee on Nominations and Representation

* Moderator Gill had no report.

**Network Reports**

Congregational Support Network

* Co-moderator Mark Leidner made a report on the technology grants that have been made and ones that are being considered. Total to date (for both categories) is $42,929.98. He reminded the body that technology is a tool; not an end. There are pastoral considerations when addressing needs, asking what can INP do to engage smaller, quiet church congregations.
* **Motion approved** to grant the following technology grants:
	+ Church of the Savior, OKC $ 900.00
	+ First Presbyterian Church, Ada $6,573.78
	+ First Presbyterian Church, OKC $8,996.38
	+ United Presbyterian Church, Shawnee $1,690.00

Care of Pastoral Leaders Network

* No report

INP Youth Ministries Network

* No report

**New Business**

* Westlake Presbyterian Church, Bethany submitted a request for assistance with tree limb and debris removal from the October ice storms (the City of Bethany does not provide this for church properties). Estimated cost is $6500. Motion approved to provide $4000 for debris removal.

**Sharing Time**

The moderator asked for Good News from the Pews, and any comments, concerns, or questions.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator White at 3:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy L. Evans

Stated Clerk