

Committee on Ministry – Oversight Group
Meeting Minutes November 4, 2020
Meeting via Zoom

Present: Jack Acri, Richard Beck, Kim Cran, Jeffrey Gerber, Steve Johnson, Kathryn Ketchum, Doris Powell, Nayiri Karjian

At 10:09 AM Jeff opened with prayer following some “election night” conversation.

Talmadge/David Brumbaugh update

A consultant, Richard Brubaker, is doing a process with surveys (over 160 members participated in the survey) and conversations. The new Moderator is communicating with Nayiri. The Association is paying half the cost for the process.

Bonnie Jean Montgomery update

Nayiri asked our advice about responding (or not) to a letter Jean Montgomery wrote to John Dorhauer (cc Nayiri, her lawyers and others) about Jean’s desire to circulate her profile (which has never been submitted) to churches seeking interims. A simple factual clarification may be appropriate: Churches seeking interims aren’t advertised. They work with the Association to receive profiles of “good fits.” There is no rule that a profile can’t be circulated if the person is in litigation with one of our churches. Of course, she is free to send her profile to a church.

Healthy Practices

Upcoming: “bonus” Healthy Practice on 11/11 (Wednesday): Self Care and Wellness (50 already registered). Laura Stephens Reed will address, in the context of pandemic: Self Comfort, Self Care, Sabbath / Priorities, Permission, Planning, Parameters and Partners / and Lament.

Debriefed: 10/1/2020 Digital Church – Cameron Trimble via Zoom

There was a range of reactions as the event went beyond “nuts and bolts” to relevance for our churches now and into the future.

Kim mentioned needing guidance on different issues like:

Growing resistance to digital church as people “hit a wall” and just want to worship in person.

Challenge of doing a stewardship campaign online and not seeming “transactional.”

Kathy found the Generosity workshop energizing... how technology can motivate for mission.

Nayiri noted the Tuesday morning gatherings on Zoom of authorized ministers frequently touch on related issues and concerns. The idea sharing can be creative.

We may need to revisit Digital Church in future events.

Healthy Practices vs. Continuing Education:

Can education focusing on other faiths be a healthy practice?

Nayiri shared “Requirements for Healthy Practices” (on our website). It could be relevant to our ministries considering the divisiveness in our country today. If we offer this, it’s from our perspective and addresses how it connects to our ministries.

Potential future events/topics:

- How to deal with Covid Fatigue and Resistance – Nayiri has an idea for a leader.
- From evaluations: Pastor time allocation (work/leisure boundaries?) (see 11/11/event).
- Sustaining digital ministries for the long term.
- How to turn “visitors” to online worship into contributors.
- Maybe a series:
 - Covid Part 1: Covid Fatigue
 - Covid Part 2: What We’re Learning
- Race Issues (straddles Continuing Ed & Healthy Practices) (Dr. Love who presented 3/2018 was mentioned.)

Given our rapidly changing times (Covid, election, etc.), we agreed it may be best not to plan a whole year of topics but plan an event at a time.

Nayiri developed a resource (on website) “2021 Healthy Practices for Ministry For Authorized Ministers” Events (which also informs attendees from other denominations) to announce dates and outline an agenda. It can be updated as we determine topics:

2021 Healthy Practices 9AM-1PM (We may alter to 9AM-Noon due to Zoom format) dates are:

3/6 Saturday

5/5 Wednesday

10/7 Thursday

After some general discussion of the drawbacks of Zoom meetings replacing in-person meetings, we adjourned around 11:20.

Upcoming Committee on Ministry Meetings (via Zoom):

COM-Oversight – (need to confirm future dates)

COM – Special meeting Thursday 11/5, regular meeting 12/3

Submitted by Doris Powell