

**Leadership Committee Minutes
July 9, 2015
Conference Call**

Attendance: Present for all or part of the meeting were:

Leadership Committee Members

Kevin Yoho	Marci Glass
Nancy Ramsay	Landon Whitsitt
Mark Brainerd	Harold Delhagen

Excused:

Neal Presa
Rafael Medina

Staff:

Vince Patton	Rebecca Snipp
Michelle Bartel	Penny Franklin

Call to Order Kevin Yoho called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Nancy Ramsay opened the meeting with prayer, and Kevin lead a time of sharing, asking committee members and staff the question “How have you seen God at work in your community and/or family?”

Agenda The meeting agenda was adopted as presented.

Update on Leadership Committee Referrals Vince Patton and Michelle Bartel gave a progress update on referrals assigned to the Leadership Committee. Following each portion of the update, staff answered questions and made clarifications as needed.

Seminary Relations Report Michelle Bartel reported that Heath Rada will come to the Committee on Theological Education (COTE) meeting in September 2015 to talk about his interest in theological education.

Michelle is setting up a series of visits to seminaries during the coming year to nurture relationships with presidents, faculty members, administrators, and students. She is also working on the website to make the interface more accessible.

COTE is working on a self-study that is due to the 222nd General Assembly (2016).

Nancy Ramsay asked Michelle to check with COTE on referral Item 7.02, which contains a sentence that includes seminaries. The Association of Theological Schools revised a standard to now require M.Div education to engage in an interfaith context. She is interested in hearing an update from COTE on how various schools are addressing this.

Racial Ethnic Leadership Vince Patton gave the following report on Racial Ethnic Leadership Development:

Development

Simone Adams-Andrade, who served as the Associate for Educational and Financial Support for Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges, resigned her position in Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries (RE&WM). She has accepted the position of Coordinator for Budget and Mission Effectiveness in the Theology, Formation and Evangelism Ministry Area. Rhashell Hunter and Ruth Gardner are finalizing a plan to fill this position. The title for the position may change. An official announcement will be sent to presidents of Historically Presbyterian Racial Ethnic Institutions (HPREI) within the next couple of days.

The day before the June 2015 Church-Wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, RE&WM held an African American Presbyterian Clergywomen's retreat. Thirty-three women participated. This was the first time in more than 20 years that African American clergywomen came together for a conference of their own.

Plans are underway for the Racial Ethnic Executive Leadership Institute, to be held at Montreat Conference Center August 19-21, 2015. The purpose of the event is to provide racial ethnic leaders with an opportunity to enhance their leadership skills, network, and be intentional in pursuing leadership roles and positions. One-day passes will be offered to those wishing attend the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration that weekend.

Jewel McRae and others in RE&WM have begun planning the Racial Ethnic and New Immigrant Seminarians Conference, to be held at the Alex Haley Farm in Clinton Tennessee.

For the upcoming Big Tent conference, RE&WM has reached out across ministry areas in launching the "Ask Me Why You Matter to Me" campaign, which is in response to continued violence and discrimination against people of color. The scriptural basis for the campaign is John 13:34. There will be promotional items (buttons, brochures, website) and the hashtag is SpeakAntiracism.

Briefing on September PMAB Meeting

Vince Patton reported that RE&WM plans to bring the following to the September board meeting:

An action item will be presented from Cook Native American Ministries (CNAM) regarding the final disbursement from the Christmas Joy Offering. The chair of CNAM has written a letter requesting that the PMAB reconsider. The members of the Leadership Committee asked Vince to pass along their sentiment to the appropriate individuals that they do not believe that Cook qualifies for funding through the Christmas Joy Offering according to the Institutional Standards for participating in the offering.

Information items will be presented on the Presbyterian Women and the "Ask Me Why You Matter to Me" campaign.

Michelle Bartel reported that Theology, Formation and Evangelism will bring the following to the September meeting:

A possible action item will be presented on the changing context of federal student loans, which raises questions for our ongoing student and parent loan program for undergraduate students.

Information items will be presented on progress on referrals, COTE, and other seminary relations issues.

Future Conference Calls

The committee agreed that these calls are helpful, and that another call be scheduled between the September 2015 and February 2016 meetings.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 11:54 a.m. Kevin Yoho closed the meeting with prayer.