As we move toward our October 17th presbytery meeting where we will discuss and decide between three options for our life together as a presbytery, I am encouraged by the interest that has been expressed and the willingness of pastors and elders to do the work of preparation. To aid in that work, I am summarizing each option and today looking at option B—the adjusted shared staffing option.

Six years ago, we began an experiment with the Presbytery of Grand Canyon to share staff. The original equation for cost and services was based on the number of churches and members in each presbytery and was set at a 70%/30% split, with Grand Canyon assuming 70% of costs and de Cristo 30% of costs. Two years ago, after both presbyteries had churches closed and Grand Canyon had churches transfer to ECO, a time audit was conducted by staff and the cost sharing adjusted to 68%/32%. This additional 2% of shared expenses accelerated de Cristo’s budget dilemma that has led to our 2020 vision discernment. After study by both presbyteries’ vision task forces, and with approval by both Leadership Commissions, Option B proposes to adjust the shared staffing arrangement as follows:

- Financial sharing will be adjusted to 3/4 to 1/4,
- Staff service provision will remain at approximately 2/3 to 1/3.

For anyone reading this who has taken fourth grade math—fractions—you will note that 1/4 and 1/3 are different from one another, which begs the question: why would Grand Canyon agree to this arrangement? The short answer is: because they can. The long answer is: because they believe in the connectional church.

The even longer answer is a bit more complicated. The Presbytery of Grand Canyon is able to bear more of the financial burden through little merit of their own—not to be critical, so please don’t misunderstand me. The primary reason Grand Canyon has as large of an endowment as they do is because of the aforementioned dissolutions and dismissals of congregations, which swelled their endowment by $5,000,000. Using investment income to support their operating budget allows them to carry a larger financial burden. Further, with the staffing and operational adjustments of Option B, Grand Canyon’s per capita will increase, though fairly marginally, and their task force and leadership commission accepted this reality if it means being able to support de Cristo’s operations. Simply put: they believe in the connectional church.

The adjusted shared staffing option is described in the task force report can be found on pages 16-18, ([https://presbyterydecristo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/PdC-FINAL-5.0.pdf](https://presbyterydecristo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/PdC-FINAL-5.0.pdf)). Brief, four to six minute introduction videos for each option can be found on the website—scroll to the bottom of the home page—and are posted here: ([https://presbyterydecristo.org/pdc-vision-task-force/](https://presbyterydecristo.org/pdc-vision-task-force/)). (These are new and only recently uploaded, by the way. Please check them out!)

On behalf of the Leadership Commission and the task force, I ask that Sessions elect their commissioners to presbytery early enough that commissioners can read the report and attend one of the Zoom Town Hall meetings, which will be held at the following times:

Saturday, 9/26 at 9:00 a.m. –
As we move toward a season of discernment as a presbytery, I pray our dialogues will be seasoned with the Spirit’s wisdom and God’s grace as we seek to live as Christ’s Body.

Grace out,
Brad Munroe

P.S. I have been asked about the per capita rates for each option, so here they are (also found on page 3 of the report): Independent - $42.01, Adjusted Shared Staffing - $41.50, New Creation - $38.10.

Click here to read this and other missives

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**SEPTMBER**

- 24- 4 p.m. Macedonia Ministries
- 26- Task Force Town Hall via Zoom - 9 a.m
- 29- Task Force Town Hall via Zoom - 1 p.m.

**OCTOBER**

- 3- Task Force Town Hall via Zoom - 1 p.m.
- 8- Task Force Town Hall via Zoom - 9 a.m.
- 17- Presbytery meeting via Zoom - Register

**HELPFUL LINKS**

- Latest from the Board of Pensions
- Weekly News update from PC(USA)
- Presbyterians Today
- Presbyterian Older Adult Network

**ACTIVE SHOOTER PLAN FOR CHURCHES**

- From our Partners Companeros en Mision

**2020 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL**

**STEWARDSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

1- Representative Maggie Harmon will be hosting a workshop that looks at stewardship in the context of being in the midst of pandemic, and major social stressors. It’s FREE and will offer some theory around how we approach our lives as more holistic experiences of stewardship and some practical tips that can be applied right now (even as we remain in virtual community or move to hybrid functioning). There are two sessions on different days, one morning, one afternoon

2- Stewardship Kaleidoscope will be online this year, three morning sessions over subsequent Tuesday’s starting in late September. I have a number of scholarships available through the Foundation that will drop the cost from $45 to $25 for the entire program. If you have churches or groups you think would benefit from attending and could use the scholarship please just have them reach out to me and I will share the registration code. General registration is of course also available and you can get more information about this year’s content at: https://stewardshipkaleidoscope.org/
Click Here to Join via Facebook Live

Friday, September 25 (date change)
Viernes, 25 de septiembre (cambio de fecha)

5 pm Arizona/Sonora/Pacific
6 pm Mountain, 7 pm Central, 8 pm Eastern

FRONTERA DE CRISTO IN THE NEWS

LOUISVILLE — Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar live and minister on the border of the U.S. and Mexico in the shadow of a 30-foot steel dividing wall, grateful for the opportunity to provide witness to the reality that “Jesus is our peace and has destroyed the dividing wall of hostility.”

READ MORE

REGISTER FOR BORDER MINISTRIES EVENT

1- Registration for the 2020 Presbyterian Border Region Outreach (PBRO) event, "Gospel Hospitality & the Kingdom of God," is now open!

This online event will be hosted by the ministry site Pasos de Fe y Esperanza in Ciudad Juárez, and presented through Zoom. The conference begins on Friday, November 6 and will conclude with morning worship on Sunday, November 8.

Registration is $20 per person or $40 for a household of 2 or more. Each individual or household will receive a Zoom link in order to participate.

The registration fee includes: pre-conference workshops, 3 worship services, Saturday lunchtime workshops, a special concert on Saturday evening and interpretation services during regular conference sessions.

CLICK HERE FOR FLYER

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

- Those impacted by COVID 19
- Those experiencing fires, floods and other disasters
- St. Andrew’s and the Toole family after Jim’s recent cancer diagnosis

Job Opportunities

Goods and Services- Pastoral robes

Visit our Website

Presbytery de Cristo | 602-468-3820 | Fax- 602-468-3824 | pbyoffice@gmail.com | www.presbyterydecristo