

August 14, 2018 – for distribution on September 15

RECOMMENDATION to ALBANY PRESBYTERY via its COORDINATING COMMITTEE

From the Staffing Process Advisory Team

Koinonia Team

[Koinonia in NT Greek = “common life” or “life in common”]

Pursuant to the final paragraph of our June 5 annual report, SPAT recommends forming an ongoing, permeable team to guide Albany Presbytery toward more Christ-like common life. We suggest calling this the Koinonia Team. We see it working in partnership with Presbytery’s elected officers and executive staff – e.g., the Executive Committee. We believe this goal can be accomplished without needing to change any Standing Rules. [C.f. Rule III.B]

What would the Koinonia Team do? It might, for example:

- Plan and/or implement spiritual retreats;
- Plan and/or implement seminars, workshops, etc.;
- Provide forums (especially during pre-meeting Open Space) for conversation around difficult topics, or maybe matters that are important but not urgent;
- Address "insider/outsider" dynamics – wherever and however they appear;
- Plan and implement celebrations – though not replacing those of COMAC.

This past year, SPAT has served similar functions in order to remedy identified deficits. But once SPAT gets discharged, what will happen? Who will devote ongoing, proactive attention toward improving relationships at all levels? Presbytery’s quality of life is vitally important, yet currently it seems to fall between the cracks of regular responsibilities.

We offer the following procedural recommendations:

- a) Let the Coordinating Committee delegate authority to the Executive Committee to establish a Koinonia Team, charging the KT to strengthen Christlike culture, improve communication, and conduct related events.
- b) Each June, the rising Moderator will appoint 5 persons to assist him/her, and to guide presbytery staff, in working to improve Presbytery’s common life.
- c) Terms of service will be 1 year, starting in November, same as for the Moderator. (Appointment in June allows time for orientation and continuity.)
- d) No more than 2 members of any KT will be eligible for a succeeding term.
- e) No member of the KT may serve more than 2 consecutive terms.
- f) The KT should be represented on the Coordination Committee.
- g) The KT will manage its budget allocation plus any other funds it may source.

We note, with thanks, that the Budget & Finance Committee has already included provision for such work in its 2019 first-draft budget.