COMMP:
An Introduction

SUPPORTING & PROMOTING HEALTHY MINISTRIES & VITAL CONGREGATIONS

LAKE HURON PRESBYTERY

JANUARY 24, 2024

Why/What is COMMP?

Commission on Ministry & Ministry Preparation

A Commission authorized by the Presbytery of Lake Huron to conduct and act on behalf of the presbytery as called out in the Book of Order *G-3.0307 Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to Its Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Congregations*

- Presbyteries shall be open at all times to communication regarding the life and ministry of their congregations.
- Each presbytery shall develop and maintain mechanisms and processes to serve as pastor and counselor to its ministers of the Word and Sacrament, commissioned pastors (also known as commissioned ruling elders), and certified Christian educators of the presbytery;
- to facilitate the relations between the presbytery and its congregations, ministers of the Word and Sacrament, commissioned pastors, and certified Christian educators; and to settle difficulties on behalf of the presbytery where possible and expedient.
- Each presbytery shall develop and maintain mechanisms and processes to guide, nurture and oversee the process of
  - preparing to become a minister of the Word and Sacrament
  - facilitate the presbytery's oversight of inquirers and candidates,
  - reception and oversight of minister of the Word and Sacrament members,
  - approval of calls for pastoral services and invitations for temporary pastoral services,
  - oversight of congregations without pastors,
  - dissolution of relationships, dismissal of members,
  - close relationship with both member congregations and ministers of the Word and Sacrament,

Who is COMMP?

G 3.0307: (Presbytery) may delegate its authority to designated entities within the presbytery. Such entities shall be composed of ruling elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament in approximately equal numbers, bearing in mind the principles of unity in diversity in F-1.0403. All actions carried out as a result of delegated authority must be reported to the presbytery at its next regular meeting.

15 members elected by Presbytery

- Equal distribution between Teaching and Ruling Elders
- 3 Classes of 5 members each
- 3 year term, eligible for a second term.
  - After 6 years, member must take a minimum of a one year break
- Diverse representatives as equally distributed as possible from all 4 regions

When/Where is COMMP?

With Regards to Business

- COMMP Meetings – Business, Reports, Actions
  - 4th Wednesday of each month on Zoom with the following exceptions:
    - 3rd Wednesday in November
    - Typically no scheduled meeting in July & December. Decision made the month prior based on pendinig business.
    - Occasional email vote may be taken if deemed required due to timing
- COMMP Moderator reports actions/recommendations taken by COMMP to Council and Presbytery at all meetings.

In Support of Congregations and Pastors

- Moderators for Sessions and Congregational meetings
- Facilitators for church discussions. I.e. vision & mission; ministry models; pastoral calls; roles and responsibilities etc.
- Liaisons to sessions and pastors – providing guidance on questions on Book of Order, issues, etc

How does COMMP serve the presbytery?

The work of the COMMP is shared by three Teams:

- Commission on Ministry Preparation
- Administrative Team
- Transition & Interview Team

Commission on Ministry Preparation

Develop and maintain mechanisms and processes to oversee the process of presbytery members discerning and preparing to become:

- A Minister of the Word and Sacrament,
- A Certified Ruling Elder, or
- A Certified Christian Educator

To facilitate the presbytery's oversight of inquirers and candidates

Administrative Team

Oversee and Ensure fair and equitable compensation for Ministers of the Word and Sacrament (called and installed), Temporary Relationships (Ordained or CRE), Pulpit Supply and other types of contracted pastor positions.

Review and recommend updated minimum terms of call for presbytery approval annually

Oversee grant requests from churches and pastors. I.e. technologyetc for small churches, continuing education

Review, modify, update and create COMMP Handbook, policies and procedures as requested

Transition & Interview Team

Support and facilitate session and congregation discussions regarding ministry models and church vision and mission directions

Support sessions and congregations through the dissolution and transition process

Support sessions and PNC's through the Call process including recommendations to COMMP for approvals of mission statements and readiness of a congregation to elect a PNC

Support sessions in the search process for part-time ministry

Interview and make recommendation to COMMP regarding potential called & installed candidates; temporary relationship candidates (both ordained and CRE); pulpit supply candidates.

Conduct exit interviews for pastors leaving positions

State Clerk & Other Business

Bring requests for Moderators to be assigned for Session and Congregational Meetings

Bring requests for validated ministries

Bring requests for clergy transfers

Visioning and implementing new models for healthy and vibrant congregations and ministries and how best to support them

Approval of temporary membership in the presbytery for other denominational clergy (those not in full communion)

Moderating issues and disagreements between sessions and pastors

Other business as requested by presbytery

Your Role on COMMP

Each member is assigned to a Team

- Expect to spend minimum of 1-2 hrs per month supporting the work of your team

Supporting our congregations through

- Liaisons as able
- Moderating sessions and congregational meetings as able
- Listening teams as needed

Pray for the presbytery, our pastors and our congregations