

Report to Presbytery of Transylvania  
Social Witness and Mission Committee  
December 3, 2005

Action Items to Council:

1. The committee recommended to Council the following changes to the motion presented to Presbytery at the September 2004 Presbytery meeting concerning the establishment of a Self Development of People Committee. This change reflects an update to the General Assembly guidelines for SDOP Committees. Previously the requirement was for a committee of nine people, seven of whom had to be Presbyterians. Changes underlined.

*“The members of the Committee shall be nominated by the Social Witness and Mission Committee and elected by the Presbytery. The Committee shall be composed of five (5) members. At least four (4) of the members shall be members of the Presbyterian Church (USA); a majority of the members shall be racial/ethnic minority persons. Members shall serve for a three-year term, with eligibility to serve another consecutive three-year term. The Committee shall elect its own chairperson.”]*

2. The committee placed in nomination with Council the following five people to serve as the Self Development of People Committee: Gary Brooks, Juanita Callahan, In Soon Chi, Lou Anna Red Corn and Mohammed Nasser (the only non-Presbyterian) [A handout with biographical information will be available at the Presbytery meeting.]

Information Items

1. On October 26, Linda Crawford and Jon Martin had a conference call with Bert Henson, relief coordinator for South Alabama Presbytery Katrina efforts in Mississippi. Bert shared information about First Presbyterian of Pascagoula and relief work for church, member-homes, and neighborhoods.

- Much has been done, much remains to do.
- Work teams are scheduling weeks into summer 2006
- Some groups show up for work unannounced
- Skilled labor is needed
- Inspections slow reconstruction
- Creative ideas are helpful (office volunteers, supply preaching)
- Synod has named Transylvania as coordinator of four churches participating in Pascagoula-directed hurricane relief: Peachtree PC in Atlanta, PC in Lexington, SC, Saxa Gotha PC in Salisbury, NC, and Vassar PC in Michigan. Bert was aware of this, but had no insight into what shape this coordinating might take.

2. Two Presbytery-wide work trips for hurricane clean-up and rebuilding are scheduled in January 2006 to Pascagoula, MS. The trips are coordinated with South Alabama Presbytery. Each trip will be limited to 15 people. The dates are January 14-19 (Saturday through Thursday) and January 21-28 (Saturday through Saturday). Work crews will meet on Friday night at the south end of the Presbytery (TBD), have dinner and some worship time together, then leave Saturday morning for Mississippi.

3. Churches are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to the December meeting. The Chapel Hill Church has a food pantry.

4. News information can be sent to the Presbytery office to share by email and web. Perhaps some information about what churches are doing/have done for hurricane relief.