



Vision: To advise the Presbytery Assembly regarding the development of procedures and mechanisms for promoting and reviewing the Presbytery Assembly's programs related to inclusiveness and representation, to advocate for diversity in leadership, and to consult with the Presbytery Assembly on the employment of personnel, in accordance with the principles of unity in diversity.

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Moderator Wilson Kayange at 1:08 PM via Zoom.

In attendance: Mary Bolaños, Ralph Mueller; Excused: Rafik Ibrahim

1. For Reflection: 1 Samuel 4:1-11

Folks noticed the elders determined on their own to bring "the Lord's Covenant" from Shiloh before going to battle. The Philistine's noticed the response of the Israelites when the Ark came into the camp, and determined their god—the gods who struck the Egyptians with plagues; the resolve of the Philistine's was strengthened—and a great defeat came to the Israelites. Today we're tempted to have many false gods; yet God declares: "I am here. Trust me." Question: What is our Ark? What's in our Ark?

2. Zoom meetings with sessions. Wilson will contact Stated Clerk Tom Rennard and Presbytery Leader Lee Ireland to see if there's a list of regular Session meeting days of the month and times for our various congregations.
- First Presbyterian, San Bernardino meets the 4th Wednesday at 4 or 5 PM
 - First Presbyterian, Redlands meets the 3rd Monday at 6:30 PM
 - Ridgecrest Presbyterian meets the 2nd Monday at 6:30 PM

COR members are to work-on what we hope to accomplish in meeting with Sessions. Who is COR? What is our Purpose? What is our responsibility with the Presbytery and Congregations? How can we be a resource to congregations? What might Sessions want us to know about the congregation and community? What insights might they have to offer COR and the Presbytery, that might help other congregations, the Presbytery, and Presbytery leadership discover barriers and obstacles (often unseen, not recognized or understood) that discourage us from being more representative of our communities in our membership? Who are the poor in your community, and what root causes of poverty are known? What conversations are happening around race and opportunity?

3. For Presbytery Assembly, September 12, 2020. Following discussion COR members would like to be able to use "our" time to have the Presbytery Assembly go into a number of break-out meeting rooms for discussion of two or three questions. Initial questions or topics for conversation: what do people see in the 8 minute 46 second video of George Floyd's death—the police, the witnesses, and George Floyd? What is coming out into the open in light of the protests? What does it mean to live in a society where some people are treated as less than full persons? What do we make of the perspective that in some parts of the country, slave patrols evolved into police forces? Reflect on the founding principles of the organization *Black Lives Matter*. What is the church's role or roles in this particular time? In re-forming as the Presbytery Assembly,

each group's reporter would have 30-45 seconds for a brief report; with notes to be e-mailed to COR.

4. Presbytery Leadership: COR members request to be present at the August 18 Zoom meeting of the Nominating Committee to address the importance of diversity in identifying future leadership of the Presbytery, particularly with regard to the Vice-Moderator of Presbytery; the Presbytery Leader, and the Stated Clerk. Likewise, COR would like to emphasize the need for diversity in the Search Committees for the Stated Clerk and Presbytery Leader. For the Search Committees, to present 3 or 4 viable candidates for the positions.

The next COR meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 1, 2020 with the time to be confirmed.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Mary Bolaños at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ralph Mueller