



## Committee on Representation

Report for the September 14, 2019 Presbytery of Riverside Meeting

Members in attendance: Wilson Kayange, Moderator; Mary Bolaños; Ralph Mueller;

Excused: William Lee

The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Wilson Kayange

Wilson led the group to reflect on Acts 6:1-4. Folks identified words and phrases that resonated with them, or that stood out, and together the group pondered the passage in relation to who we are as the Committee on Representation: There are a balance of tasks within this early community as with the Presbytery; the early community was diverse—as is the Presbytery; care of the widows was important—as was also the service of the word of God. We continued to reflect on the Committee on Representation in this context—that as those who were called to serve had a specific task to accomplish, so does COR.

Wilson and Ralph presented the COR committee description from the Presbytery Manual of Administrative Operations. Those in attendance were interested in expanding the scope of COR beyond the minimum responsibilities contained in the MoAO. Leadership ought to rotate—Ruling and Teaching Elders; COR ought to work with the Committee on Nominations—to facilitate broad representation in the Presbytery. Perhaps members of the committee will visit Sessions during the course of the year; during the LEaD event COR might offer diversity training, work with others to continue Kaleidoscope Institute communication styles.

COR might also seek to influence the ways the Presbytery Assembly engages in discernment, to draw from other cultures—and to encourage people with alternative traditions of discernment and decision to lead the Presbytery at times to embrace other ways of being and doing the work of the Assembly. To encourage experimentation.

With regard to the Personnel Committee, COR believes there may be a place for the committee to be involved early on in the search process for Presbytery leadership, and to be a voice that consistently serves to point to opportunities to embrace the diversity that exists within the bounds of the Presbytery.

In future meetings COR will be looking to reflect on and discern where power is in the Presbytery; to identify those who are influencers—and likewise, those who seem not to have access to power, and to be an advocate for more fuller participation; likewise, beginning with COR and moving to other committees, to encourage committees and the Assembly as a whole to work hard to more fully draw-in a broader representation of the Presbytery into the Presbytery's work and life.

A few key operative words—and ideas to keep in mind: visitation—congregations, sessions, presbytery committees, teams, and commissions; ethnicity inside and outside of the churches of the Presbytery; discover ways to incorporate youth into the life and work of the Presbytery.

Catch-phrase: COR is the Prophet of the Presbytery.

Meetings: to be held monthly, generally, between 4 and 6 PM the 1<sup>st</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month, provided William is available.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Mary Bolaños

Next meeting date: September 3, 2019 at First Presbyterian Church, Redlands

By Wilson Kayange

Chair, Committee on Representation.