

WESTERN ASSOCIATION REPORT TO THE 2024 ANNUAL CELEBRATION

The Western Association has this year been beginning to live into its new set of Constitution and By-Laws which overall has gone fairly smoothly with of course some expected adjustments along the way. The Association Council meets monthly on “Zoom” the second Sunday afternoon of each month. Under the new structure the three Standing Committees are no longer elected as separate bodies, but are formed as sub-committees of the Council. These three committees are: Nominating, Leonhart, and Planning. The Nominating Committee works to fill positions on the Association Council and Committee on Ministry (Rev. Tim White, Chair) as well as various Conference positions that require Western Association representation. The Leonhart Committee meets to distribute funds to new an innovative projects. The Planning Committee organizes the full Spring and Fall Meetings of the Association. This past year this included a joint Spring Meeting with Prairie Association at Pilgrim Park and the Fall Business Meeting at Canton. We thank all who have served committees and boards.

One of the last things that came before the Association Council last year was a request to share with our churches the minutes of our meetings to foster a broader awareness of what is going on in the Association. This request was thought to be a great idea, but also met with two concerns: (1) either having to forward unapproved minutes or wait and distribute minutes after approval which would mean that there would be over a month delay which seemed to defeat the purpose of timely communication. (2) a slight concern of minutes at times containing confidential materials. The Council decided that right after each meeting the Moderator would write a summation of what went on at the meeting and forward it to the churches. This has been done with an invitation for local churches to share any events they are having so nearby Western Association church members could be made aware and possibly attend. Also to try to foster a sense of greater community the Moderator has physically visited all of the churches in the Association this past year and plans on doing so next year as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Mark C. Binder
Moderator of the Western Association