

The Committee on Mission and Congregations proposes to Presbytery that we suspend the Committee on Mission and Congregations until we can define a clearer and narrower function of this committee.

The current bylaws (6.3.1.2) read,

*6.3.1.2 Function This committee is charged with the task of appointing and coordinating working groups and task forces involved in the Presbytery's mission.*

Our committee of three tried to gather, meet, and plan initiatives that broadly supported congregations and our mission (which was our understanding of our purpose). We found that our agenda was driven by the vision of one person (which isn't necessarily bad, but isn't necessarily serving the whole Presbytery, either). We had so much leeway to work on anything we wanted, that we were paralyzed by possibility. Furthermore, the three particular people on this committee had diametrically opposed schedules and had a very difficult time finding a time to meet.

We celebrate the work of our Presbytery, and have noticed that task forces and working groups are appointed without needing us. The Racial Justice Task Force, the Budget and Strategy Task Force, and the Operating Manual Task Force (to name a few) have all been staffed and gotten to work. The Committee on Ministry, Council, Nominating Committee, and our Stated Clerk have collaborated together - and did a much better job staffing and better equipping the task forces to do their work than our committee ever could have. Those bodies have deeper roots and a better view of the bigger picture for working groups and task forces than our committee does.

Furthermore, we have also noticed that new growth in our presbytery has happened without our involvement or intervention. New England GLOW, for example, arose independent of and without input from the Committee on Mission and Congregations (how wonderful!). Churches and pastors have communicated with each other about how we have navigated COVID's impacts - without CMC facilitating those relationships or conversations.

When good ideas arise in our Presbytery, we can just *do* them; at this moment in time this committee feels we don't need a committee structure to manage that work. But if our Presbytery grows to become so innovative as to be burdensome to our current structure, then we should reevaluate and build more structure accordingly.

Signed,

Rev. Katie Cole, chair

Rev. Trina Portillo, vice-moderator (and committee member)