

from the desk of Gini Courter

September 20, 2007

Friends

I spent last week in my traditional “start of the church year” meetings: GAMAP, the Grid Meeting, and the GA Planning Committee meeting. This year, Pat Solomon tossed in a very productive meeting of the Committee on Committees. What a great way to kick off the fall, to begin celebrating the start of an intense and meaningful new year with the Board of Trustees. I hope you're looking forward with joy, too.

The October meeting in odd years is the most jam-packed Board meeting because it includes new member orientation and our bi-annual retreat. Some committees are meeting on Wednesday, and we end with the Coordinating Council (CoCo) meeting on Sunday afternoon. (New Board members are especially invited to come to the CoCo meeting as part of your board orientation, and join some of us for dinner afterwards.)

We normally have one free night at each Board meeting, but not this time. There's a long break on Friday afternoon and again on Saturday evening between the Board meeting and the Finance Committee's budget discussion. That's how it works sometimes (about once every two years!)

The pace within the meeting will be brisk. All reporting slots have been shortened, so folks who are creating reports should check the times listed in the agenda. As a reminder to all trustees, old and new, make sure you read your board packet ahead of time, as we don't schedule time to read in the meeting. Specifically I'd like you to read the rules of the Board of Review. Due to a bylaw change that the Board put on the GA agenda (what were we thinking?!) we need to approve these rules. Be ready with questions and discussion on Saturday during the secretary's report.

You've all seen discussion on our June decision to formalize what the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee has been doing for the past year and extend their charge to include accessibilities and sunset the Accessibilities Committee. During my report on Sunday I'll share my thoughts about the process we used to communicate the decision, both before and after the fact (which I've also shared with the Openness Committee), and we'll have time for brief discussion.

Information from Dr. Helen Bishop, both summary and detail, from the GA 2007 Open Space sessions is included in the Board packet. Skim it now. We'll be discussing it in January, but wanted both the board and the folks who participated at GA to have it in hand as soon as was possible. You'll hear more about next steps in congregational input into the Board ends work during my report on Sunday.

The October meeting promises to be jam-packed and fun-filled. I look forward to seeing each of you in a few weeks.