

**BLACKHAWK MISSION COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting October 16, 2019**

The BMC approved **\$1,000 for Dekalb Westminster's Community Dinners Program**. This is a community rebuilding project designed to develop ties with the disadvantaged by providing a hot meal in a safe and comfortable environment. The grant money will be used to purchase equipment that will help reduce costs by improving the ability to prepare and stage food.

The BMC has created a subcommittee called the **Pastoral Leadership Options Exploration Team** to create and compile resources for churches seeking non-traditional leadership options. Their first meeting will be November 14 at 1:00 pm at Stronghold.

Along with the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the BMC recognizes **Willow Creek Presbyterian Church in Caledonia and United Presbyterian Church in Freeport** at the next Presbytery Meeting for their gifts to the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. At Caledonia, on the third Sunday of every month, the children in the congregation collect a "Change for Change" offering. Their contribution was about six months in the works, and the children selected the gift of bunk beds (which they were most excited about), a cow, and an emergency life kit.

The BMC celebrates the **success of Triennium** and invites Triennium Registrar, Stephen Bowie to give a report to the Presbytery Assembly.

The BMC reminds all presbyters that Blackhawk Presbytery is committed to be a **Matthew 25 Mid-Council**. All churches are encouraged to consider making the same commitment. Information is available at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>

BMC continues to encourage churches to share their mission success stories at a presbytery meeting. To do so, contact the Blackhawk Presbytery office.

The BMC reminds all churches that local funding for **Mission Grants and Peacemaking Grants** is available for partial start-up funding for new initiatives. Applications are available on Blackhawk's website. Further grant **Applications & resources may be obtained from the Mission Program Grants website at** <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/1001-2/mission-program-grants/>

Next meeting of the Blackhawk Mission Committee is **January 23, 2020** at 12:00 p.m. at Stronghold.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Walker

To : John Rickard, General Presbyter  
Blackhawk Presbytery Mission Committee  
From: Stephen Bowie, 2019 Triennium Registrar  
Date: Oct. 13, 2019  
Re: Triennium Wrap Up

1. Pre-event Outreach

In addition to speaking about Triennium at several presbytery meetings, every church in the presbytery received a contact from me one way or another about the event. Most were by telephone.

2. Participating congregations:

The following congregations participated in the group that we sent together:

Westminster – Rockford

Willow Creek – Caledonia

Third – Rockford

Ridgefield-Crystal Lake

First - Fairbury

Fox Valley had a group that attended and traveled on their own. I had a brief conversation with their leader about this – but otherwise do not know why they chose this option.

3. Delegation:

The delegation was made up of 37 leaders and young people.

Westminster leadership: 1 male, 1 female

Willow Creek leadership: 1 male, 1 female

Third leadership: 3 males

Fairbury leadership: 1 male, 1 female

4. Expenses:

Loreen Stravers will provide a breakdown of expenses. Expenses included

Registrations

Bus Charter

Trading pins

Tee shirts

5. Reflection – See attached comments by Jennifer Lucido (Westminster)

6. Presbytery Report –

I would like to request time for participants to make comments and to show photos.

7. Expenses/ Income \$23,802.20/ \$23,802.20 (Bus Transportation \$3,300)


## Triennium Reflections

What a blessing to be a part of this year's delegation to Purdue University for the youth Triennium. It was wonderful traveling with a bus full of kids from the Blackhawk Presbytery. I watched as friendships were formed and kindnesses shown. Through worship and play the kids learned that they are not alone in their faith, but a part of a world wide Presbyterian Church.

Throughout the week we read and applied the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin, the Prodigal son and the gospel account of Jesus and Peter walking on the water. We heard Robert Robinson's story of wandering and redemption. His hymn "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" was a major theme for the week. Such a beautiful story and hymn! It will always hold a special meaning for me, going forward.

In our Blackhawk Delegation gatherings and Small Group meetings with kids from all over the country, we explored these Bible stories and looked for ways they still impact our lives today. On our last day we were challenged to take our faith back to our home churches, schools and communities.

The most significant part of the week for me, were the daily worship services. The auditorium filled with 6000+ students and advisors was a powerful experience. The worship leaders got us started with "energizers"- learning motions to worship songs. Students participated in each part of the service. We heard presentations from groups from Puerto Rico, the Philippines and a Chicago Youth Gospel Choir. The offering for the week went to rebuild the youth camp Guacio in Puerto Rico which was badly damaged in hurricane Maria. We heard testimonials from past campers whose lives were changed after attending the camp. One such camper went on to follow his heart and attend seminary.

Worship began the week by encouraging us to "tune our hear", to listen to what God is teaching us. That "Jesus sought us, while still a stranger" though I am "prone to wander" and want to do what I want to do. Humbly we were asked to say "Here's my Heart" Lord, at our 4th service which ended with communion. Our final worship service revolved around asking God to "take and seal it" . Pastor CC Preached a dynamic sermon based on Acts 1:1-8 "

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" "He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

CC dramatized the discussion and actions of the Disciples standing looking up, waiting.... With humor she spoke to us as witnesses to "Go" take our faith and the gospel to our homes (Jerusalem), our neighborhoods (Judea) our regions and country (Samaria) and to the world (end of the earth). She had an illustrator draw his take on the verses, with concentric circles radiating out across the page. Such a meaningful way to end the week!

In closing, God called and we went. Not knowing what to expect. He touched and moved us. My prayer is that He continues to touch and move us, to remember what we learned and take it to heart and apply it. Thank you Westminster for supporting your youth and David for his leadership and song!

Blessings,  
Jenny Lucido