

Moderator Report – IMC Assembly 2022

Those who attended the March 2021 IMC Assembly via zoom heard Joe Liechty present approaches for congregations to talk about difficult issues using the Colossian Way format. In mid-April IMC pastors were invited to join an introduction to the Colossian Way via zoom. On May 3 25 interested people from IMC churches participated in a sample Colossian Way session on Political Talk. On May 4 15 people joined in a sample session exploring dialogue around Sexuality.

In April and May MLT and CLT met 5 times, exchanging many emails, to decide IMC’s next steps for discerning issues around same sex marriage and credentialing. Some wanted a timeline for resolving this question before the 2022 Assembly. Others wanted to proceed with an open-ended approach of seeing where interest in the Colossian Way and other dialogue efforts led. We are obviously proceeding with patience.

In early June pastors were invited to schedule a time to talk with the Church Life Team about life in their congregations and what would be most helpful from IMC, including any discernment in their congregations regarding questions around IMC credentialing and same sex marriage. The conversations that materialized were good and productive.

IMC leadership has viewed the process around the credentialing question as **Dialogue** (speaking and listening), **Deliberation** (exploring options), and **Decision** (how we will decide). Dialogue and Deliberation do not necessarily need to be sequential. One can inform the other.

MLT and CLT had earlier brainstormed around the question, “What are the possible range of options for credentialing?” It is hoped that our resulting range of options (on website) might be one resource for a congregation to stimulate Dialogue and Deliberation around ways forward for IMC.

The October Constituency Leadership Council focused largely on the Repentance and Transformation (R/T) resolution to be considered at the May Special Delegate Assembly. Since each IMC congregation will need to decide whether to send delegates to the May Assembly, Darrel sent the most recent information at that time to pastors December 2.

As MCUSA prompted area conferences to resource their congregations for considering the R/T resolution, Darrel collected possible responses to the resolution from the March and October CLC meetings, from other sources, and offered that to the MLT as something we could give IMC congregations to use, if they choose, to begin discussion around the R/T resolution. (on website)

IMC has continued to partner in support of the Nepali Outreach Ministry. In the past year IMC also worked to provide mutual aid to congregations facing special challenges, largely from the pandemic.

In hope and faith, Darrel Miller

Darrel Miller