

**Coordinating Commission Report
Presbytery of Transylvania
August 20, 2019**

Since the May Presbytery meeting, the Coordinating Commission has met two times: June 11, 2019, and July 30, 2019.

Recommendations for Presbytery Approval:

1. The Coordinating Commission recommends that the Presbytery elect ruling elders Gayle Burns and David Hoskins to the Class of 2021 and teaching elder Mary Reed to the Class of 2022 on Commission on Representation.
2. The Coordinating Commission moves that a sabbatical period for Camp Burnamwood begin on October 1, 2019, and last through calendar year 2020. At the 2020 Annual presbytery meeting, the Coordinating Commission will present a progress report to the presbytery updating the work of discernment of the camping ministry and outlining any recommended next steps.

Proposed Burnamwood Sabbatical

Proposal: The Coordinating Commission is proposing a sabbatical for Camp Burnamwood. This sabbatical period would begin once the summer 2019 camping season is complete and after the effective date of Robby Lear's resignation as Camp Director, September 30, 2019.

Rationale: Robby's resignation offers the presbytery an opportunity to step back and reflect deeply on what our camp could be or needs to be. Most everyone is aware that the camp has not been financially sustainable for decades. Despite Robby's and the Burnamwood Commission's best efforts, we have not been able to reverse the downward trend of both campers and revenues. The Burnamwood Commission has been diligent in finding ways to ensure that the camp has been well maintained as well as searching for new sources of funding. We appreciate and applaud their work. Even with these efforts, the camping program hasn't made a significant turn toward sustainability. There are a number of reasons for this reality: changing culture, other camping options, location, shrinking presbytery youth population. Our fondness for what the camp has been cannot cloud the reality of its current financial situation.

We know a sabbatical of the camping program will grieve some in the presbytery and they might want us to continue current operations by any means necessary. We understand these concerns, but we cannot simply continue "as is" without doing potential financial damage to the presbytery as a whole. We also know a sabbatical will be a relief for some in the presbytery and others might wish to see the camp closed and the property sold. We understand these concerns, yet we believe neither of these options is the best long-term strategy for the presbytery. Our hope is that once we are past these initial stages of grief or relief, we can engage the hard work of discerning what ministry opportunities the camp affords us that will make an impact in Estill County, Eastern Kentucky, Transylvania Presbytery, and across the church.

As far as the near future, here's what the Coordinating Commission envisions:

First things first: the camp is NOT closing and is NOT being sold.

-So, if you hear this message being shared, please correct the incorrect gossip.

Personnel: We plan to keep Kevin Turpin (Site Manager) on in his current capacity managing the property and facilities. We do not want to see the buildings or grounds fall into disrepair. One of our hopes for the sabbatical period is that we will continue working to improve our facilities. Day-to-day Burnamwood operations will be overseen by a team comprised of Kevin Turpin (Site Manager), Philip Lotspeich (General Presbyter) and Robyn Justus (Business Manager). If the day-to-day management during the sabbatical time proves too much for this team, the Administration Commission will add people to this team as necessary to accomplish the necessary tasks. Any major renovations would be approved by the Trustees of the Presbytery.

Rentals: With Kevin on site, we retain the ability to rent to groups that wish to use the camp. However, to minimize administrative duties, we will cease renting the camp to non-Presbytery/PCUSA church groups, except for groups connected to Kevin/Estill County, so we can maintain a presence in Estill County. We would also continue rentals with those groups to whom we have rented in the past and those who have a long-term relationship with the camp, including the Stanton Presbyterian Church. Churches of Transylvania Presbytery and related organizations would still be able to rent the camp for retreats, meetings, and weekend events. Rates will stay the same as they are now. If any Transylvania Presbytery church desires to join with other churches to host a retreat for youth or adults, they would rent the camp and execute the retreat on their own. One of our hopes for this sabbatical period is that churches and other long-term users would continue to utilize the camp. All rentals will be approved by the Administration Commission.

Financial Impact: The proposed Burnamwood sabbatical would begin on October 1, 2019. The immediate savings to the Burnamwood budget for 2019 is \$16,181 in camp director salary and benefits through the end of the year.

The 2020 proposed budget based on the sabbatical would be \$88,000 for 2020 compared to the 2019 current Burnamwood budget of \$223,200. Projected percentage of presbytery unified giving funds used for Burnamwood in 2020 is 45% as compared to 83% (2018) and a projected 76% (2019).

Projected Budgeted Revenue highlights for 2020:

- Unified giving to Burnamwood: Estimated \$58,000 as compared to \$70,000 in each of 2018 & 2019. In 2020, no additional presbytery reserves would be needed to supplement Burnamwood's budget. (The total additional allocation of reserves (amounts over budget) was \$38,008 in 2018 and an estimated \$29,200 in 2019.)
- Burnamwood Gifts: Estimate of receiving \$20,000 as compared to \$49,818 in 2018 and an estimated \$50,000 in 2019. Our hope is that individuals and churches would continue to donate to Burnamwood during the sabbatical period.

- Presbyterian Rentals: Estimate of receiving \$10,000 as compared to \$10,409 in 2018 and an estimated \$10,500 in 2019. Presbytery churches and related organizations will still be able to rent the camp at current rental rates.

Projected Budgeted Expense highlights for 2020:

- Administrative costs: Estimated \$6,000 as compared to \$10,089 in 2018 and an estimated \$10,000 in 2019.
- Personnel costs: Estimated \$32,000 as compared to \$112,228 in 2018 and an estimated \$104,000 in 2019. Kevin Turpin would continue as Site Manager during the proposed sabbatical period.
- Facilities costs: Estimated \$50,000 as compared to \$73,433 in 2018 and an estimated \$60,000 in 2019. Our hope is that the presbytery will work to improve camp facilities during this sabbatical period.

Burnamwood Commission: The Coordinating Commission envisions ending the work of the Burnamwood Commission at the end of 2019. This move in no way detracts from the gratitude we have for their work. The Burnamwood Commission and the camping program were faced with a set of circumstances that would have made it difficult for any constellation of members to fix. Our recommendation is that in the absence of a commission, the Administration Commission will oversee property, rentals, and financial issues and the Coordinating Commission will be responsible for mission and future planning for the camp.

Logging Update: At the March 14, 2019, stated meeting, the presbytery gave the Burnamwood Commission permission to log a portion of the camp property. The Coordinating Commission asks that the Burnamwood Commission continue working on this issue and make a final recommendation on logging or to make an alternate recommendation with a Wildlife Preserve proposal. The Burnamwood Commission has been the entity most deeply involved in assessing the best way forward and the Coordinating Commission believes that this group should make the recommendation about next steps. The Coordinating Commission will recommend to Commission on Representation that Matt Falco (chair, Burnamwood Commission) be elected, if the way be clear, to an open seat on Coordinating Commission, as a way to provide continuity and understanding of camp issues. (Matt and Robby have visited other camps and have been working to develop paths toward future sustainability and the Coordinating Commission doesn't want to lose this knowledge and background.)

Vision Team: By the 2019 Annual meeting of the Presbytery in December, the Coordinating Commission will name a "Vision Team" that will begin to discern future uses and programming of the camp. The Coordinating Commission, prior to the 2019 Annual meeting, will develop a guiding statement for the vision team's work. The vision team will make a status report at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Presbytery. This vision team will not have oversight of the camp's daily operations nor will they address decisions about the camp's future. Any final decision about the future of the camp will be recommended by the Coordinating Commission and presented to a Stated or Called meeting of the Presbytery for approval.

What's Next?: If the presbytery approves the proposed sabbatical for Camp Burnamwood, the Stated Clerk has identified next steps and other actions that will be recommended at the December presbytery meeting:

1. Administration Commission will eliminate position of Camp Director.
2. Maintain position and keep Kevin Turpin, Site Manager, on staff. Kevin will maintain camp property and upkeep as well as manage internal rentals (our PCUSA churches, ministry partners in Estill County & First Presbyterian Church, Stanton, & other groups as approved by Administration Commission).
3. Coordinating Commission will recommend a manual change deleting the Burnamwood Commission as a standing commission of the presbytery, effective December 31, 2019.
4. Coordinating Commission will recommend a manual change granting authority for handling camp property, rentals, finances, and staffing to Administration Commission.
5. Coordinating Commission will recommend a manual change granting authority for discerning, reviewing, and planning future of camping ministry to Coordinating Commission.
6. Coordinating Commission will request Burnamwood Commission continue reviewing logging option or suggest other proposals, to be presented to the December 2019 presbytery meeting.
7. Coordinating Commission will recommend to Commission on Representation that Matt Falco be elected to an open seat on the Coordinating Commission. If the way be clear, this action will allow continuity of camp operations planning that was started prior to the Camp Director's resignation.
8. The Coordinating Commission will name a Burnamwood Vision team and report those names to the December 2019 Annual Presbytery meeting.
9. The Coordinating Commission will draft a purpose statement for the Vision team that will guide their work during the sabbatical time.