

Internet Maintenance Committee Report

2022 GLGP Mtg @ Synod — Marion, IN
June 21-24, 2022

Dear Fathers & Brethren,

At our most recent spring meeting (3/3/22), presbytery appointed our committee “to oversee all presbytery internet maintenance functions.” In addition, the court opted to “establish the ongoing role of Internet Maintenance Technician (IMT) to be appointed each spring, with an annual stipend of \$500, to handle the technical details related to the Presbytery’s internet functions”, after which it voted to “approve the reappointment of IMT *pro tem*, Andrew Imeson, to serve as IMT until the Spring of 2023.” So far, we have been greatly blessed and impressed by Mr. Imeson’s assistance in managing and maintaining our presbytery internet functions. Thanks to him, our website now offers access to digital presbytery minutes dating back into the 1990s.

On 3/3/22, presbytery also decided to “refer the matter concerning the proper method of public access to presbytery documents [AIC Minutes, 10/22/21] to the internet maintenance committee, to report back with a proposal at the 2022 synod meeting of presbytery.” To this end, our committee met on 4/13/22 via Zoom to discuss the issue of accessing presbytery documents, along with several additional avenues for enhancing clerical efficiency. This discussion resulted in the following recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That presbytery remove the password-protection feature from its website,¹ with the understanding that any document classified by the court as sensitive or confidential shall neither be posted on the presbytery website, nor distributed via the delegates list without password-protection.²
2. That presbytery classify the presbytery roster, containing the personal names and addresses of its delegates and their families, as a sensitive document to be distributed via email, but not posted publicly on the presbytery website.
3. That presbytery authorize the IMC, in consultation with Mr. Bishop, to implement a user-friendly online travel expense reimbursement form in time for the 2023 spring meeting of presbytery.
4. That presbytery the ordinary process for certifying presbytery delegates³ as follows:
 - A. Session clerks shall receive the link to a Session Certification Form hosted via the presbytery website to be completed each year by January 31.⁴
 - B. Session clerks, on session’s behalf and with session’s approval, shall certify the name and valid credentials of each active elder on the session — *good for the entire calendar year* — indicating which elders are expected to serve as delegates at the spring meeting.⁵
 - C. Session clerks shall be responsible to notify the clerks in a timely manner, using this form, whenever a RE⁶ is added to, or subtracted from, the list of certified, credentialed elders on the session.

¹ At present, the GLGP website is not search engine indexable, meaning that it will not show up among search engine results. This feature would not change.

² If there are any items presently on our website which delegates believe should be removed, “speak now” as they say.

³ DCG 6.2 (D-31): “The session of each congregation within the presbytery shall send delegates to each meeting of presbytery; these would normally include a teaching elder and a ruling elder, but congregations with more than one hundred members (communicant and baptized) shall be entitled to an additional delegate. Each presbytery shall determine its policies for other certifications and for participation in the travel fund.”

⁴ At-large TEs will also receive a link with instructions for indicating whether or not they plan to attend the meeting. This is not included in our proposal because it is merely for informational purposes and does not involve formal certification.

⁵ This would certify all active REs throughout the entire calendar year. Those not designated to participate in a given meeting would automatically qualify to serve as alternates if necessary. The purpose of “certification” is to confirm an elder’s credentials along with the session’s will that he participate in a given meeting. Arguably, this is redundant in the case of TEs, since the presbytery already holds their credentials. Without seeking to determine this question one way or the other, the proposed process would include certification for all elders serving on local sessions, both ruling and teaching.

⁶ Since TE credentials are held by the presbytery itself, this would only be necessary with respect to REs.

- D. The IMT shall maintain the resulting database of certified, credentialed delegates on behalf of the clerks, including an official record of RE credentials within the GLGP
 - E. Prior to each *additional* meeting of presbytery, session clerks shall use this form to indicate which elders (REs + TEs) plan to attend the meeting, once again, as a courtesy to the presbytery clerks.
 - F. All certifications shall be confirmed via legally binding E-Signature technology, without any need for handwritten signatures, snail mail, and/or scanned PDFs.
5. That presbytery receive this report as a whole.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Kuehner, Ch.
Nathan Eshelman
Andrew Imeson, Cons.