



Greenwood Ministries Association
616.754.7258

10/23/2018

Dear Friends and Family of Camp Greenwood,

The Presbytery Greenwood Administrative Commission (GAC) has released their preliminary report.

IT RECOMMENDS SELLING ALL CAMP GREENWOOD PROPERTY!

Attached is the complete [GAC Preliminary Report](#). The Presbytery is hosting regional meetings to receive comments from the Presbytery before crafting their final motion for the critical December 4th VOTE. Please attend! Those regional discussions are:

October 28th 3:30 pm at North Westminster, Lansing.

October 28th, 3:30 pm at Westminster, Grand Rapids.

November 1st at 7:00 pm at 1st Presbyterian Church, Paw Paw.

November 1st at 7:00 pm at 1st Presbyterian Church, Jackson.

If you cannot attend these meetings, or have comments or questions you can address them by emailing Cal Bremer moderator of the GAC at cbremer07@gmail.com or at 541 Bluff Drive, Middleville, MI 49333 by **Nov 9th**.

There are many documents referenced in this preliminary report. One is the GMA year-to-date [budget through Sept](#). You will see that we are currently in the black for the year! Praise God! We are also still earning income from our guest groups and donations. Thank you! Please note that our 2018 year to date income would have been \$4500 higher if the GAC had modified our lease to allow us to sublet the retreat center to a Woodbeck Lake neighbor who was remodeling their home. Unfortunately, the Presbytery did not allow us to do so. It is disingenuous that the Presbytery is willing to SELL land to fund ministry, while not allowing us to LEASE land to fund ministry.

Also referenced in this document is our draft [2019 budget](#). We were very modest in our estimates for camper increases and conservative in our financial planning. Also not included are any grants we are applying for, nor potential savings on the cost of a 2019 audit, since we completed a very thorough financial review in 2018. We also have received some generous gift-in-kind help in 2018 and promises for more help in 2019. The floors in cabins one and two have already been refinished, painting the interior of the cabins are being planned, and beautiful new landscaping work has begun at Camp Greenwood by members of a generous congregation.

The 2017 GMA financials were dramatically affected by the purchase of new mattresses which needed to be replaced to remain in code (\$13,953.25). This was unexpected as it was the Camp Greenwood Agency and GMA's understanding that this would be [paid in 2016](#) by the Presbytery either through the Greenwood capital fund or the \$17500 that was to be allocated to the Agency from a [sale of Camp Greenwood Land](#) in 2016.

The Presbytery proposal correctly identified that the total number of campers did decrease in 2018. That decrease is largely a result of difficulties the camp experienced the past couple of years, difficulties which have been mitigated with the hiring of Jake Dayringer as our Camp Director. It also doesn't recognize the increased quality of the campers experiences. Additionally, all of our scholarship campers were fully funded with campership money in 2018, which is an important and a sustainable change from our financial practices in 2017. We anticipate a greater emphasis on fundraising for needy campers in future years and thus project that our camper numbers will increase proportionally.

The Greenwood Administrative Commission noted that a significant amount of our revenue has come from guest groups. They did not note that this represents the excellent camping experiences of 200+ people from church groups, many of which are from churches in our Presbytery, such as Holt, Holland, Sturgis, Mason, Delta Lansing, and North Kent. 600+ other people participated in ministries through Wedding retreats, Servant Leadership, Environmental Appreciation, Community outreach, and Families/Small groups. --Some of which are PLM Presbyterians who have brought their extended families or other guests to experience God's presence at Camp Greenwood. While these ministries are not as direct as Church Camp or as easily quantifiable, they are still significant and very important ministries to continue. We repeatedly hear reports from these church groups about the enormous positive impact their congregations gain from enjoying fellowship and relationship-building in our camp setting.

Already scheduled for 2019 is another Christian ministry running a one week camp. This will give us the opportunity to partner with other faith communities to encourage and help build healthy congregations. Also already booked are two band camps during which campers not only experience God's amazing creation but also experience the Christ-like servant love of the Greenwood counselors acting as support staff for them. For many band camp kids, this would perhaps be their first contact with any Christian organization. We also already have a wedding booked for 2019 and interest from more couples.

The Presbytery was not convinced that the camp will be sustainable in the future because of the declining US birth rate and the shrinking size of the Presbyterian Church and other demographic factors. This ignores the fact that Greenwood is just beginning to build relationships with other denominations and organizations and also ignoring the fact that if the camp fails, our purchase agreement will mandate that all the Camp property reverts back to the Presbytery.

While the report declares that Greenwood campers can simply go to another Presbyterian Camp, our local Presbyterian camps frequently have waiting lists and do not have the capacity to accommodate our campers. The Presbytery also does not have the staff to manage camp scholarship funds.

In conclusion, the Greenwood Ministries Association completely disagrees with the preliminary report. We are a viable and sustainable ministry. We are in the black financially, we are offering opportunities to build dynamic leaders, healthy congregations, and to form faith communities that challenge, encourage, and equip Christ's disciples. We have made huge strides in our organizational and financial development as a new non-profit 501c(3) organization and we will continue to grow stronger each year following God's call to build up the body of Christ through God's work at Camp Greenwood.

As Always,

Camp Greenwood Forever

The Greenwood Ministries Association Board

PS. Please join us in the Presbytery regional discussions!

October 28th 3:30 pm at North Westminster, Lansing.

October 28th, 3:30 pm at Westminster, Grand Rapids.

November 1st at 7:00 pm at 1st Presbyterian Church, Paw Paw.

November 1st at 7:00 pm at 1st Presbyterian Church, Jackson.

Or let Calvin Bremer moderator of the GAC know your comments, questions, or concerns at cbremer07@gmail.com or at 541 Bluff Drive, Middleville, MI 49333 by **Nov 9th**.