

Foothills Presbytery

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August 19, 2015

Dear Clerks of Session, Pastors, and Members and Friends of Foothills Presbytery,

After months of careful study and review of the history of operations, the legal issues and the finances of the Buc Outdoor Center (BOC), the Buc Outdoor Center Transitional Board with the approval of Council has come to a determination regarding the operation of Buc Outdoor Center for 2016 and for a ten year plan beyond that.

In past years, the Unified Budget has included a line item for BOC in the amount of \$100,000; however, BOC has operated at a deficit for several years and Presbytery Operating Reserves have been used to cover that deficit in addition to the regular budgeted amount. Most recently in 2014, \$60,700 in Reserve Funds were used for the operating deficit and we project an additional \$51,000+ deficit in 2015 in spite of the best camping attendance in many years and the best cabin rental season ever. Due to the necessity of moving toward a smaller Unified Presbytery Budget and our inability to continue covering operating deficits, ***we must raise \$220,000 to operate Buc Outdoor Center in 2016.*** These gifts must be received by October 31, 2015.

Therefore, if you are willing to donate, please send those funds by October 31, 2015. The donated funds will be held in a restricted account. Should the Presbytery receive those funds we will form a Leadership Team to plan for Summer Camp 2016. We encourage churches to donate over and above their commitments to the Unified Giving Budget of Presbytery in order to ensure the continuation of Presbytery's other ministries.

If we do not receive the \$220,000 to operate BOC, we will not have Summer Camp in 2016, cabin and lodge rentals will cease on or about January 15, 2016, and all donations received for the purpose of continuing the Buc Outdoor Center will be returned to the donors.


The Buc Outdoor Center Transitional Board and Council have further concluded that the only viable long-term plan for Buc Outdoor Center is the establishment of a 501(c)(3) eleemosynary entity. In order to form such an entity, to create the necessary permanent Board, to hire the appropriate staff, to deal with long deferred maintenance and improvement, and to have enough money to continue to operate, money needs to be raised to fund a \$3 million Buc Outdoor Center Operating Fund. That amount represents \$300,000 per year for ten years in addition to the \$200,000 per year the Buc Outdoor Center receives in fee revenue to provide an annual operating budget of \$500,000. This amount is required for a safe, quality operation of the facility.

Foothills Presbytery needs to receive actual gifts and certified pledges toward that BOC Operating Fund by July 31, 2016. Again, all funds will be held in a restricted account and if the goal is not met the donations will be returned to the donors. Again, we encourage donations to be over and above commitments to Presbytery's Unified Budget.

The Buc Outdoor Center Transitional Board and Council are quite aware of the difficulty of this situation but as we are called to be good stewards of the gifts God's people freely give, we are confident that these decisions reflect that good stewardship.

We ask that you please make your congregations aware of this request.

Approved by Foothills Presbytery Council.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amos A. Workman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Amos Workman
Moderator