

**MINUTES**  
**Heartland Presbytery Council**  
January 26, 2009

**PRESENT:** Matthew Reeves, Betty Miller, Marcus Cumpton, Bond Faulwell, Ginny Wirtz, Craig Holstedt, Heidi Peterson, Carla Gentry, Mary Jorgenson, Leslie King, Cheryl Keimig, Terry Miller, Ron Patton, Chad Herring, Kirk Perucca, Mary Jane Houston, Tom Carlisle, Marge Blank and Tom Thomas

**EXCUSED:** Bev Barr, Lula Bounds, Bill Johnson, Tamara Miller, Dan McKnight, Seth Wheeler and Daryl McDonald

**VISITORS:** Ky Weekley and Martha Malsbary, Co-Moderators from the AEPNC

At 7:00 p.m., Presbytery Moderator Jack Schrimsher opened the meeting of the Heartland Presbytery Council with prayer. The council met in the conference room of the Harold Thomas Center for Reconciliation on January 26, 2009.

Moderator Schrimsher explained that this afternoon, the presbytery office received word that Council Moderator Tamara Miller was ill and unable to attend. The council has yet to elect a Vice-Moderator so the Stated Clerk ruled that the Presbytery moderator should convene the council.

**Presentation of the Docket**

The Stated Clerk offered the following additions to the docket:

To the Stated Clerk's Report, add 6.) **Charles Spencer on behalf of the planning team for the Stewardship Kaleidoscope that Council approve the celebration of the Lord's Supper during that conference and that Shannon Webster, pastor First Birmingham, member of Sheppards and Lapsley Presbytery be granted permission to labor in the bounds to officiate. The service will be Tuesday, March 10 in the sanctuary of Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church.**

Strike the Leadership Report from Council Moderator Tamara Miller but leave the appointment items listed below her report then add: **Election of a Vice-Moderator.**

Following the Election of a Vice-Moderator, add "**Report from the Board of Trustees**" whose report was printed on a separate floor paper distributed prior to the opening prayer.

Under Council Business, add item 4.) **Blue Ridge church has requested a display table at the February 21 meeting for the purpose of selling their new cook book.**

**Chad Herring moved the approval of the docket as amended. It was seconded and approved.**

**Chad Herring moved that the AEPNC co-moderators Ky Weekley and Martha Malsbary have voice during the Order of the Day.** It was seconded and approved.

**Order of the Day:** Report from the Associate Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee

**Heidi Peterson moved the approval of the position description as printed below.** It was seconded.

**POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER FOR  
CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY**

**TITLE:** *ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER FOR CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY*

**PURPOSE**

To engage in and empower the ministry, mission, revitalization, and growth of the congregations of Heartland Presbytery and to affirm and strengthen that ministry for all generations of the church.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Associate Executive Presbyter for Congregational Vitality is accountable to Heartland Presbytery through the Executive Presbyter and the Personnel Committee of the Presbytery Council.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

**A. Primary Responsibilities**

1. To be a pastoral link among congregations and between the congregations and the presbytery, including but not limited to visiting no fewer than two Sundays a month at the various churches of Heartland Presbytery with the possibility of preaching on those Sundays.
2. To support and encourage revitalization and growth within the congregations of Heartland Presbytery.
3. To oversee and work with the Heartland Presbytery Resource staff in providing the best resources, events, and ideas appropriate for all levels of church with specific needs in Christian Education and Youth Ministry.
4. To interpret the vision and mission of Heartland Presbytery and the larger Church in the congregations.

**B. Other Responsibilities**

1. To participate in staff meetings and staff retreats at Presbytery and when appropriate at the Synod and General Assembly level.
2. To work in collegial relationship with the Executive Presbyter suggesting creative ideas and solutions to situations presented.
3. To participate in the planning and coordination of Presbytery's ministry and mission as well as building a team approach to ministry working with members, officers, and staff of Presbytery.
4. To staff various committees within Heartland Presbytery including but not limited to Congregational Development and Redevelopment and Congregational Ministries Divisions.
5. To share responsibility with the Executive Presbyter as a pastor to the pastors.
6. To undertake additional duties as assigned by the Executive Presbyter in consultation with the Council's Personnel Committee.

7. To be available, in consultation with the Executive Presbyter, to assist with Synod and General Assembly responsibilities.

**RELATIONSHIPS**

- Work with other Presbytery staff in the development, implementation, and coordination of the Presbytery visions, goals and programs.
- Be available in consultation with the Presbytery Executive, to assist with Synod and General Assembly responsibilities.
- Consult, coordinate, and oversee the needs, ideas, and goals of the Heartland Presbytery Resource Center and its director.

**EVALUATION**

There is an annual review and evaluation of performance in relationship to the position described by Presbytery Council's Personnel Committee. There shall also be a comprehensive review and evaluation at least every five years.

**TERM**

This person is elected as an exempt employee for an indefinite term which is subject to termination in accordance with the Personnel Policies of Heartland Presbytery."

The AEPNC co-moderators reported they had utilized the Vision Report as a significant source for their work. The council discussed and asked questions of the AEPNC co-moderators which included concerns about the lack of new church development in the description at A.b. The AEPNC discussed at length how staff "staff" committees and divisions and that it was more important to assist congregations than presbytery committees. They were hoping to get more of a generalist with an emphasis on growing the body of Christ. So, is this person an advocate for new church development? Charles Spencer added that new church development, as it became available to explore in the presbytery would deeply involve this person. They are seeking a unique blend of youth and experience. It was written to attract candidates to a responsibility that currently does not exist but may attract folks that have an interest in advocating for funds development to allow for new church development.

**Chad Herring moved that A. b be amended to read: "To support and encourage revitalization, growth and new church development within Heartland Presbytery."**

Craig Holstedt inquired about the support of the Guatemalan Partnership through this position. It was referenced in other responsibilities in B.c. in a general sense in the use of the word "mission". In Ellen Marquardt's exit interview, she expressed confidence in the International Partnership Committee's ability to function independently with very little support from staff.

Cheryl Keimig, Moderator of Personnel, noted that in Primary Responsibilities under C, the AEP could be caught in a conflict of interest since the Executive Presbyter evaluates and supervises the AEP and the AEP is to provide supervision and evaluate the Resource Center Director. Currently, the Resource Center Director is married to the Executive Presbyter. The AEPNC responded that an option would be to have the Resource Center Director reviewed by the Personnel Committee as long as there is a family relationship on the presbytery staff.

The amended description was approved.

## **Presentation of Consent Agenda**

Stated Clerk Maryann Farnsworth presented the consent agenda as follows:

- 1.) **The Stated Clerk recommends:**
  - (a) **The Presbytery Council approve the minutes of the October 20, 2008, stated meeting of Council.**
  - (b) **The Presbytery Council approve the minutes of the November 11, 2008, stated meeting of presbytery.**
- 2.) **The Presbytery Council approves access to display space at any meeting where space allows in 2009 for the following organizations:**
  - Presbyterian Children's Services**
  - Presbyterian Foundation**
  - Heartland's Presbyterians Pro-Life**
  - Crop Walk/Church World Service**
- 3.) **The Congregational Development and Redevelopment Division requests the Council recommend to Heartland Presbytery that the Taiwanese Fellowship utilizing the Leawood Presbyterian Church be dissolved effective December 28, 2008.**

*Rationale:* The remaining members of the Fellowship joined the Leawood congregation on December 28, 2008. The need for the Taiwanese Fellowship no longer remains.
- 4.) **The Social Justice Ministries Division requests approval of 30 minutes on the February 21 stated meeting docket for the purpose of awarding two Peacemaking Certificates, announcing mission grants, hearing a report from participants of the latest trip of the Guatemalan Partnership and to introduce the Peanut Butter Project.**
- 5.) **Presbyterian Women request 3 minutes during Announcements at the February 21 stated meeting.**
- 6.) **Charles Spencer on behalf of the planning team for the Stewardship Kaleidoscope that Council approve the celebration of the Lord's Supper during that conference and that Shannon Webster, pastor First Birmingham, member of Sheppards and Lapsley Presbytery be granted permission to labor in the bounds to officiate. The service will be Tuesday, March 10 in the sanctuary of Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church.**

## Leadership Reports

Executive Presbyter Charles Spencer shared that his sharing during the afternoon mini-retreat would suffice for his report.

Acting Associate Executive Presbyter David Cliburn shared that his sharing during the afternoon mini-retreat would suffice for his report.

Presbytery Moderator Jack Schrimsher report that he had attended the nation-wide gathering of presbytery and synod moderators. He added a day for training in parliamentary process which he found quite valuable. Since he began serving as moderator on January 1, he has attended five different churches worship services. He is open to visit churches by invitation for special events and to bring greetings. At this time, he does not perceive himself to be a guest preacher.

On behalf of Council Moderator Tamara Miller, Jack Schrimsher made the following appointments:

Bond Faulwell will moderate the **Business Affairs Committee** and the following members will join him on the committee: Leslie King, Carla Gentry and two more at large members yet to be elected. Also serving as ex-officio are Terry Miller, presbytery treasurer; Chad Herring, Presbytery Moderator-Elect; Brian Hathorn, Financial Manager and Charles Spencer, Executive Presbyter.

Cheryl Keimig will moderate the **Personnel Committee** and the following members will serve on the committee: Seth Wheeler, Betty Miller, Mary Jane Houston and one at large member yet to be elected. Also serving as ex-officio is Charles Spencer, Executive Presbyter.

**Cheryl Keimig moved that Carla Gentry be elected Vice-Moderator of Council 2009.** It was seconded. There were no nominations from the floor and the council cast a unanimous ballot.

## Report of the Trustees

Sale of the property of First Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Kansas located at 4000 Victory Drive, Kansas City, Kansas.

**1.) Ron Patton moved that Presbytery approve that the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Kansas be authorized to act on behalf of the Presbytery in all matters regarding the sale of the property located at 4000 Victory Drive, Kansas City, Kansas. In addition, the Administrative Commission may consult with the Trustees of the Presbytery if they need assistance in executing such sale.**

**Rationale:** *The following is an e-mail communication from the Rev. George McCall, Moderator of Presbytery's Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Kansas.*

*" At the Session meeting last night, realtor Cherise Sedlock presented not one, but TWO, firm offers to purchase the church property. Mt. Sinai Church offered \$450,000, and Crossroads Christian Cathedral offered \$600,000. Both parties have paid earnest money. They have 100% funding from the same lender, Chase Atlantic Mortgage Services.*

*The Session voted to accept the Crossroads Christian Cathedral offer, subject to the approval of the congregation and the Presbytery. The Session, advised by Cherise, also voted to make a counter-proposal of \$600,000 to Mt. Sinai, as a back-up should something happen to the CCC bid.*

*The closing date requested by CCC is April 1, 2009. The renters would be allowed to stay, at least for awhile. First Church would plan to leave by that date (but could lease back space).*

*The Session voted to add the matter of approving this sale to the business of the annual congregational meeting on February 1.*

*There is an existing agreement between the Session and the Presbytery drafted two years ago by the Administrative Commission with the Stated Clerk's help and advice, to conserve the bulk of the proceeds of any sale. We all need to be very aware of the provisions of that agreement during the coming months."*

**Chad Herring moved the following amendment (underlined): that Council recommend that Presbytery approve the sale of the property and that the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Kansas be authorized to act on behalf of the Presbytery in all matters regarding the sale of the property located at 4000 Victory Drive, Kansas City, Kansas. In addition, the Administrative Commission may consult with the Trustees of the Presbytery if they need assistance in executing such sale. It was seconded and the amendment was approved.**

The main motion was approved unanimously.

**2.) The Trustees recommend (4 yes, 1 not voting) that Council recommend that Presbytery approve the continuation of a lease agreement between First Presbyterian Church, Liberty, Missouri and Clay County, State of Missouri for the parking lot of First Church.**

*Rationale: Details of the contract have been reviewed by the Board of Trustees and is in order.*

The motion was approved.

## **Update on Covenantal Values**

David Cliburn reported that 63 churches have endorsed the covenantal values and only one church has declined to sign the values. The final contacts need to be made by those persons who volunteered to visit but those visits have not been made as of this date. Council members were asked to contact their pastors if their home church has not endorsed the covenantal values. If there is a follow up call to be made or a first call to be made, please do it this week.

A question was raised about the next step of how we will hold each other accountable to living out the covenantal values.

## **Council Business**

**Bond Faulwell moved the approval of the consent agenda. It was seconded and approved.**

## Stated Clerk's Report

Maryann Farnsworth presented the following items:

- 1.) The **presbytery meeting evaluations** from November 11, 2008, were forwarded to the Council on November 13. 16 evaluations were received.

The Clerk requests that Council give direction regarding the **continued use of presbytery meeting evaluations**.

**Heidi Peterson moved that the Council cease soliciting feedback on presbytery meeting evaluations.** It was seconded. The motion was approved.

- 2.) The Clerk requests that Council make a recommendation to Worship and Fellowship Division about continuing **table talks and reporting in 2009**.

Evaluations in 2008 indicate enjoyment of randomly assigned seating at lunch but frustration with table talks because of difficulty hearing one another as well as simply wanting a break from organized activities.

The Parkville church is unable to seat 200 persons in a way that would allow for conversation in a small group. We will also have meetings in two very small churches this year. Others expressed concern about hearing issues. From the Vision Report, the purpose of table talks was to provide a non-threatening way to build relationships.

Tom Thomas asked that the Worship and Fellowship Division reconsider things beginning at the April meeting. However, table talks will be conducted at Parkville and Worship and Fellowship will write the questions.

- 3.) Correspondence from the Synod of Mid-America Higher Education Committee was received by the Clerk requesting a response concerning their proposed 2009 budgeted support of \$7,303 to **University of Central Missouri's (Warrensburg, MO) campus ministry program**:

We invite the Council to describe the following:

1. Please tell us about the interaction between the presbytery's ministries and the campus ministries within your bounds.
2. Please tell us how the current practice of funding campus ministries relates to the mission and vision of Heartland Presbytery, and whether it "strengthens" you as a partner presbytery, and enables you to "do ministry" that you "cannot accomplish alone."

**Ron Patton moved that the Stated Clerk respond to the synod on behalf of the Council with negative responses to the above questions since the presbytery has no higher education ministry committee nor does it have that responsibility assigned to any committee.** It was seconded and approved.

**4.) Blue Ridge church has requested a display table at the February 21 meeting for the purpose of selling their new cook book.**

**Mary Jorgenson moved that the request be declined as it does meet any requirements of the display policy passed by Council in 2008.** It was seconded. Discussion included whether a host church could sell an item during a presbytery meeting. Host churches sometimes do sell items from their church offices. It was approved.

### **Business Affairs**

Bond Faulwell shared that the Executive Presbyter's review of the budgets during the afternoon's mini-retreat would suffice for his report. Most importantly, the presbytery is solvent. The December 31 figures do not reflect the New Horizon church loan buyout since it did not close until 2009.

The council received the following reports:

- General Mission Report 12/31/2008
- Shared Mission Report 12/31/2008
- Per Capita Report 12/31/2008
- Statement of Financial Position 12/31/2008
- Statement of Activities 12/31/2008

### **Approval of the Presbytery Docket**

Maryann Farnsworth presented the proposed docket.

**Tom Thomas moved that the offering on February 21 be given to the Heartland Presbytery Candidates' Scholarship Fund.** It was seconded and approved.

Craig Holstedt requested five minutes at 11:55 a.m. for Church Order and Listening to report on the Amendment Information Workshops and to remind the presbytery about the March 7<sup>th</sup> called meeting for the purpose of voting on the amendments.

Craig Holstedt also requested that the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting be added to the bottom of the docket as the next meeting of presbytery.

Tom Thomas added table talks at lunch and reporting back to the presbytery immediately following the reconvening of the presbytery with prayer at 1:05 p.m.

**Tom Thomas moved the approval of the docket as amended.** It was seconded and approved.

**Ron Patton moved to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.** It was seconded and approved.

The closing prayer was offered Charles Spencer.

Submitted by,



Rev. Maryann S. Farnsworth  
Stated Clerk

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**NEXT PRESBYTERY PACKET DEADLINE:**

**Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 5:00 p.m.**

**NEXT PRESBYTERY MEETING:**

**Saturday, February 21, 2009, 9:00 a.m.  
Parkville Presbyterian Church**

**CALLED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY FOR VOTING ON THE AMENDMENTS:**

Saturday, March 7, 2009, 9:00 a.m.  
Colonial Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO

**NEXT COUNCIL PACKET DEADLINE:**

**Tuesday, March 17, 5:00 p.m.**

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:**

**Monday, March 23, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

Approved by Council: March 23, 2009

Received by Presbytery: April 28, 2009

Attested by:

