

**Heartland Presbytery Council**  
**MINUTES**  
**October 18, 2010**

**PRESENT:** Terry Miller, Nancy Whitworth, Tom Carlisle, Vera Phillips, Mary Jane Houston, Bond Faulwell, Carla Gentry, Bev Barr, Don Spencer, Kirk Perucca, John Williams, Dan McKnight, Bill McEachen, Ron Patton

**EXCUSED:** Jeff Cochran, Chad Herring, Karen Hanover, Leslie King, Heidi Peterson, Glenda Watts, Mark Braden, Cindy Wilcox, Marcus Cumpton, Allison Seed and Bill Johnson

**ABSENT:** David Warm, Gail Cunningham, and Chris Herring

**STAFF:** Charles Spencer, Leigh Gillis, Maryann Farnsworth

**Call to Order with Prayer**

Moderator Jack Schrimsher opened the meeting with the Lord's Prayer at 7:02 p.m.

Stated Clerk Maryann Farnsworth made the following corrections to the docket:

Page 2, Item 2: Move the retreat to March 21, 2:00 – 9:00 p.m.; move the May meeting from May 16 to May 23 at the request of the Presbytery Moderator; and accept the offer of Linwood United Church to host the council meetings in 2011.

Page 2, Unfinished Business, add item 3, "Update on Colonial Legal Case"

By common consent, the corrected docket was adopted.

**Consent Agenda**

Stated Clerk Maryann Farnsworth presented the consent agenda as follows:

- 1.) **The Stated Clerk recommended:**
  - (a) **That Presbytery Council approve the Minutes of August 16, 2010 stated meeting of Council. (Doc #1)**
  - (b) **That Presbytery Council approve the minutes of the September 18, 2010, stated meeting of presbytery and the called meeting on September 20, 2010. (Docs #2-3)**
- 2.) **Committee on Representation recommended Presbytery Council approve the annual report to the Synod of Mid-America. (Doc #4)**
- 3.) **Church Order and Listening Division recommended Presbytery Council approve the annual report on the Review of Session Minutes and Registers. (Doc #5)**
- 4.) **The Trustees recommends Presbytery Council approve the sale of a small portion of Immanuel Presbyterian Church's land to the City of Kansas City consisting of**

**4,522 square feet of property; a temporary easement of about 9,076 square feet during construction of the right of way on the initial property for \$8,700.00; two trees and a sign near the intersection of Chouteau Parkway and NE Parvin Road.**  
(Doc #6)

*Rationale: The sale of the land at 3800 NE Parvin Road in Kansas City, Mo is part of the Chouteau Parkway Project. The re-purposing of this land will give the church more visibility on Parvin and Chouteau streets.*

### **Stated Clerk's Report**

The Stated Clerk reported the members of the Administrative Commission for Mound City, Mo:

Rev. Rachel Lancey	Tarkio PC	Moderator of the AC
Rev. Bill Bridgewater	Community and Maxwell Hts, St. Joseph	
Rev. Jonathan Mitchell	First, Maryville	
Rev. Heather Walchar	Trinity, St. Joseph	
Elder Bev Barr	First, St. Joseph	
Elder David Lancey	Oregon/Woodville	
Elder Linda Wise	Brookdale, St. Joseph and COM	

and will have its first meeting on Sunday, October 24 at 2:00 p.m.

**Jeff Clayton moved that Council set its meeting dates for 2011 as follows:**

**January 24**

**March 21 Retreat and Meeting – 2:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**May 16**

**August 15**

**October 17**

**Location: Linwood United Church**

It was seconded and approved by common consent.

### **Consent Agenda Vote**

**Tom Carlisle moved approval of the consent agenda.** It was seconded and approved.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Report from Visitation Team to the Presbyterian Church of Stanley Session**

Executive Presbytery Charles Spencer, Presbytery Moderator Chad Herring, former Nominations Moderator Heidi Peterson and COM Liaison Jay McKell met with the session to clarify the understanding of the role of a GA commissioner representing the presbytery and not the individual congregation; the meaning of the word “endorse” as it was used in the application form; and they made progress in improving communication between the session and presbytery. Jeff Clayton expressed his appreciation for the four who visited PCOS on behalf of council.

#### **Overture Advocate Policy Review and Implementation**

The policy gives authority to the Council to decide whether an overture needs an advocate and should address reimbursement of costs involved for each advocate. The council needs to plan the funding of the policy during Assembly years and how many days of the Assembly are overture advocates necessary.

### **Colonial Update**

Charles Spencer reported that a small number of the administrative commission will meet with legal counsel on October 19. Colonial is suing the presbytery for control of their property. Gashland's lawsuit was dismissed in county court. It will be appealed by the presbytery. Both churches believe themselves to have been started and supported without any denominational investments of money or real property. Research through old presbytery minutes effectively disputes that claim.

Legal expenses year to date are about \$98,000 on Colonial and Gashland. At least \$110,000 in fees will be due by year end because 2009 legal bills were sent to a wrong address.

### **Business Affairs Committee**

Bond Faulwell reported a combined loss of about \$53,000. Per Capita is in the red by \$49,011. Mission is running at a loss of \$101,832 for year to date. \$262,599 is the presbytery's portion of shared mission although we are behind by \$13,000 as compared to last year. Current to prior year is down and it is mainly due to the depreciation of the building.

### **Update on Property: Ruskin Heights and First, KCKS**

Ruskin Heights is being shown but the two offers received are requesting owner financing. First, KCKS is being sought after by the same congregation which has failed repeatedly to close and a Korean speaking congregation. The presbytery has received an insurance claim settlement on the basement at First in the amount of \$44,000 to make repairs, replace the boiler and prevent it from happening again.

### **Worship and Fellowship Division**

Vice Moderator Carla Gentry moderated the council meeting while Moderator Schrimsher briefly stepped out of the room. **Ron Patton moved that the Council approve the November 16<sup>th</sup> Presbytery offering benefit only the Effingham Community Thanksgiving Fund.** It was seconded and approved.

Moderator Schrimsher returned to moderate the meeting.

### **Heartland Presbyterian Center**

Nancy Whitworth updated the council on the Capital Campaign and plans for a new dining hall. The new dining hall will be renovated to be a larger and air conditioned hall. The day camp is housed in the dining hall building and is bursting at its seams. Bathroom facilities will be upgraded and accessible. The fund has over \$502,000 in hand. "Grace Abounds: Adding a Leaf to the Table" is the campaign name. They have been interviewing design/build teams and hope to still break ground on December 4, 2010 and use the facilities by late 2011. The three year pledge campaign goes public this week. The total cost is \$850,000. Their contingency plan is to do the expansion and improvements in stages as funding becomes available.

### **Mission and Social Justice Ministries Division**

Al Zimmerman presented the division's thoughts and concerns about Proposition A.

**The Mission and Social Justice Ministries Division recommends the Council join them in expressing their opposition to Proposition A on the Missouri ballot on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Rationale:** On the November 2nd ballot, Proposition A will ask voters if they wish to vote on eliminating or retaining the earnings tax in St. Louis and Kansas City, without finding a substitute means of paying for the services mentioned above. Although these two cities are the only cities in the state with an earnings tax, the entire state must vote on the issue. The current earnings tax is a one percent tax on salaries, wages, commissions and other compensation, paid by all employed city residents whether they work in the city or elsewhere, and by all non-residents who work in the two cities. The issue would also prohibit any other city from ever adopting an earnings tax, even if they decided at the local level that this would be the best option for them. The earnings tax makes up about one third of St. Louis' general revenue budget and close to 40-percent of the Kansas City budget.

Giddings-Lovejoy and John Calvin Presbyteries have endorsed their opposition along with the Church and Society Mission Team of Missouri Union Presbytery. Charles Spencer reported that 501(c)(3) organizations must limit their advocacy and cannot endorse particular candidates.

If approved, the educational piece provided by the Mission and Social Justice Division will be included in the Connections. The article was written by Debbie Howland, Moderator of the Missouri Union Presbytery Church and Society Team.

The motion was approved with a few dissenting votes.

Jeff Clayton and Kirk Perucca left the meeting at this time.

### **Leadership Reports**

**Executive Presbyter Charles Spencer** reported that Bill Johnson was absent tonight due to gall bladder surgery which will be followed up with twice weekly chemotherapy. Bill's wife, Sammie continues to be in treatment at the University of Arkansas Little Rock for her chemotherapy.

Associate Executive Presbyter Leigh Gillis thanked everyone for their participation in her installation service. She has been visiting churches in the presbytery on Sunday mornings. She reported Rev. Glenda Watts was doing better following her knee surgery.

Director of Community Mission (no report)

Presbytery Moderator (no report)

Council Moderator Jack Schrimsher thanked the council for their support during his time as council moderator.

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

Moderator Jack Schrimsher presented the docket. **Carla Gentry moved that the COAL Report be an "Order of the Day"**. It was seconded and approved.

**Ron Patton moved that the docket be approved as amended.** It was seconded and approved.

Leigh Gillis was asked to have the educational workshops piece moved up in the Connections and on the website.

**New Business** (none)

**Adjourn with Prayer**

By common consent, the meeting was adjourned and Moderator Jack Schrimsher closed the meeting with prayer at 9:12 p.m.

Submitted by,



Rev. Maryann S. Farnsworth, Stated Clerk

Approved by Council: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Presbytery: \_\_\_\_\_

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**NEXT PRESBYTERY PACKET DEADLINE:**

**Tuesday, November 9, 2010, 5:00 p.m.**  
**(Reports, PowerPoints, video & FYI)**

**PRESBYTERY MEETING:**

**Tuesday, November 16, 2010, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Effingham (KS) Union Church**

**NEXT COUNCIL PACKET DEADLINE:**

**Tuesday, January 18, 2011, 5:00 p.m.**  
**(Docket time requests for Council & Presbytery)**

**COUNCIL MEETING:**

**Monday, January 24, 2011 7:00 p.m.**  
**Location: Linwood United Church**