

MINUTES
Heartland Presbytery Council
Monday, January 24, 2011
Linwood United

PRESENT: Beverly Barr, Donna Chavez, Mark Braden, Jeffrey Clayton, Barry Dryer, Bond Faulwell, Carla L. Gentry, Karen Hanover, Chad Herring, Mary Jane Houston, William H. McEachen, Dan McKnight, Terry Miller, David Nzioka, Heidi Peterson, Ann Rich, Glenda Watts, John L. Williams, Al Zimmerman.

EXCUSED: Tom Carlisle, Jeffrey Cochran, Marcus Cumpston, Donald R. Galvin, Chris Herring, William Johnson, Leslie King, Jonathan Mitchell, William S. Parrott, Ron Patton, Vera Phillips.

ABSENT: David Warm

STAFF: Charles W. Spencer, Leigh Gillis, David E. Meerse.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with prayer by Council Moderator Chad Herring. Treasurer Terry Miller welcomed Council members to Linwood United, and reviewed the site arrangements for new members.

COUNCIL DOCKET

The Council docket, as presented by the Stated clerk, was approved with the following corrections and additions:

Correct the language concerning General Assembly Commissioners in the item in the Consent Agenda coming from the Church Order & Listening Division.

Add: "Election of Council Vice Moderator" to the Report of the Council Moderator

Add: "Personnel Committee report" prior to the Executive Presbyter's Leadership Report.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

The Stated Clerk reviewed the attendance sheet, the availability of Council Handbooks for new members, and the requests for excused absences from the meeting, which were granted by Council vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Stated Clerk presented the proposed consent agenda.

The following item was WITHDRAWN from the Consent Agenda, and referred to the Church Order & Listening Division:

2.) *From the Committee on Ministry:*

To recommend to Presbytery that the Manual of Operations be amended as follows:

To add to 16.4: POWERS GIVEN TO C.O.M. BY HEARTLAND PRESBYTERY the following language:

to authorize the celebration of the Lord's Supper by authorized bodies of the Presbytery.

The following items were WITHDRAWN from the Consent Agenda:

Approval of the Minutes of the October 18, 2010 Council Meeting; and

Approval of the Minutes of the Presbytery Stated Meeting of November 16, 2010.

Following his apology for the delay in getting these documents into the hands of Council members, the Stated Clerk RECOMMENDED, and Council APPROVED, the following process for review:

That Council members would review the two sets of minutes at their leisure, and send suggested changes and/or corrections to him by January 31, 2011, so the corrected minutes would be included in the packet for the February 12, 2011, Stated Meeting.

The following remaining item on the Consent Agenda was APPROVED as corrected:

1.) *From Church Orders & Listening Division:* Amend Administrative Policy # 7, Nomination Procedures for GA and Synod Commissioners; section labeled Selection of Elder Commissioners and Alternates to the General Assembly; B. SELECTION; 4.as follows:

Strike: Applicants for Elder Commissioner must have the endorsement of their Session.
Add:

5. THIS PAGE TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SESSION OF THE APPLICANT'S CHURCH

An elder desiring to serve as a commissioner to General Assembly may self-nominate or may be nominated by the session of the elder's congregation of membership, with that elder's consent. In either case, the Session of the congregation where the applicant's membership resides must complete this page as part of that person's application.

1. _____ (name of applicant) has been an ordained elder at least three years, is on the active rolls of _____(name of congregation), and to our knowledge has no ecclesiastical charges pending against him/her at the present time

2. Sessions may use the space below to share any information about the applicant you think will assist the Presbytery Nominations Committee in their discernment.

Moderator

Clerk of Session

LEADERSHIP REPORT

Council Moderator Rev. Chad Herring

Pending their acceptance, Council Moderator Herring NOMINATED the following at-large members of Council to the Council committees indicated:

PERSONNEL: Rev. Donald R. Galvin, Elder Vera Phillips

BUSINESS AFFAIRS: Rev. William S. Parrott

They were unanimously ELECTED.

Upon his recommendation, the Council unanimously ELECTED the Rev. Carla Libby Gentry to be Council Vice-Moderator for 2011.

Moderator Herring indicated that his goal for the MARCH COUNCIL RETREAT was to address how the Council can become a more robust visioning component of the Presbytery. Time will be set aside at the retreat to discuss leadership roles and responsibilities. The General Assembly Vice Moderator Rev. Landon Whitsitt, a member of the Assembly's special committee on leadership, will be joining the retreat for that discussion. Additional leadership may be brought in for the retreat.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Rev. Jeffrey Clayton

Rev. Clayton reviewed the process used by the Committee at the end of 2010 to evaluate the 3 senior staff, which included self-evaluation & evaluations from others familiar with their work. In the case of Stated Clerk Rev. Maryann Farnsworth, the committee did both a 3-year comprehensive review and a one-year review. The Committee held follow-up meetings with both Executive Presbyter Rev. Charles Spencer and Associate Executive Rev. Leigh Gillis. Using the results of their own self-evaluation and the input from others as a guide, those two staff engaged in conversations for forward planning. Rev. Farnsworth declined in writing to participate in annual review; that was attached to the Rev. Farnsworth's 3-year review. Other staff persons were reviewed by their supervisors; the supervisors went over with the individuals those reviews, which were then placed in the individual's files then placed in personnel files. Rev. Clayton indicated that this completed the annual staff review process for 2010.

LEADERSHIP REPORT

Executive Presbyter Rev. Charles Spencer

The Executive Presbyter encouraged the Council to become a visioning body, not just a business meeting. The Rev. Spencer noted that as he travels about the Presbytery he hears a lot about "losses" of membership, with all the negative connotation that term implies. But, in looking at past statistics, it is clear that losses due to death and other statistically-recorded reasons are pretty stable from year to year. Over that same period of time, the number that has significantly declined is "gains." In 2000, Heartland Presbytery congregations reported gains of @ 1500; by 2009, that number had declined to @560. Rev. Spencer encouraged the Council to take the leadership in a serious conversation about how to increase the number of gains in congregations. In response to questions concerning lack of session knowledge about what presbytery does, the Executive Presbyter indicated the need to get people excited about such Presbytery-promoted programs as Stewardship Kaleidoscope, and expressed the view that excited session members would then move a discussion about Shared Mission Giving to a higher place on the session agenda. Concern was also expressed about how to prevent church officers from acting as a barricade to information reaching the session and congregation members.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Elder Bond Faulwell

In the absence of the year-end financial documents (subsequently made available via internet), Elder Faulwell presented the following verbal report, beginning with an overview of financial performance in 2010. He identified some potential financial problem issues of which Council needed to be aware. 2010 saw an overall loss of \$80,741 compared to a profit of \$34,588 in 2009. This loss, however, is consistent with the results in 2008 which was also \$80,000. This is not acceptable. In reviewing the statements of activities, Elder Faulwell noted that again it is Shared Mission where we have the problem. From a cash standpoint, Per Capita had a surplus of \$14,897 down from \$31,162 in 2009. Shared Mission had a loss of \$95,125 compared to a surplus of \$3,424 in 2009. Income to Mission was down from \$502,000 in 2009 to \$459,000 in 2010 while expenditures increased from \$498,000 to \$554,000. Most areas were under budget. The single largest area over budget was Heartland Presbyterian Center, which was \$23,510 over budget. The problem is not overspending as much as it is we are not receiving enough for Mission work. During 2011 if we don't receive more Mission money we will have to look at cutting areas and/or reviewing each expenditure by Business Affairs before it is made. Neither is a situation we want. We need to support our camp, our urban and rural ministries, as well as the work of the PC (USA) nationally, but we can't keep operating at a deficit.

Elder Faulwell then pointed out that our asset balance sheet while done properly from an accounting standpoint really overstated our situation. For example, the Harold Thomas Center is valued at almost \$1 million and there is no way we could secure that type of money for the building. Also, much of our assets represents money the HPC owes the Presbytery but it is unlikely this will be repaid especially if the camp needs more support than the budgeted amount.

Elder Faulwell also noted that there were potential financial problems that could wreck havoc on us. The HTC continues to function but it is an old building and there are many improvements that need to be made as well as potential expensive repairs or replacements to mechanical and electrical systems, parking lot, and roof. These repairs would far exceed the value of the Center. Another area of concern is the two churches which we are attempting to sell - Ruskin Heights and First Kansas City, KS. First is a very large church and expenses for roof replacement and repair of electrical and mechanical systems would be well over \$100,000. Ruskin could be rented out - it is in generally good shape. First KCK, however, would have to have major repair work done if it were to be rented and as the landlord we could continue to have major financial obligations.

In the discussions which followed, the following points were made:

- 1.) No Shared Mission dollars are used to make up a shortfall in per capita.
- 2.) This is not the best time to try to sell church property; buyers want the Presbytery to loan them the purchase price.
- 3.) Some churches which support the Presbytery financially are stretched because they have undertaken significant capital improvement campaigns, and have signed 30-year mortgages.
- 4.) Presbytery determined that the Harold Thomas Center should be a "mission site." It remains that, but when the Lutherans moved out of the Center, @\$50,000 in income was lost. Besides the Presbytery, the remaining tenant, the Front Porch Alliance, provides only a nominal rent, which makes the HTC an expensive mission.

The Executive Presbyter concluded the discussion by indicating that a number of these issues will be addressed again during the course of the year, since the present course is not financially sustainable; but, at the same time, it would take only an increase of 4-5% in Shared Mission giving to reverse the current trend.

LEADERSHIP REPORT

Presbytery Moderator Elder Beverly Barr.

Moderator Barr reported that her theme for this year will be: Unity in Spirit and in Work. Moderator Barr will encourage the Presbytery to work toward a more unified sharing of gifts & talents among the Presbytery's congregations. She encouraged Council members to give potential nominees for Presbytery service to Nominations Committee Moderator Ann Rich.

Moderator Barr also reported on the

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION TO INSTALL THE REVS. ARON AND AYANA TETER

Which consisted of the following persons: Rev. Andy Cullen, John Knox; Rev. Charles Spencer; Executive Presbyter; Rev. Paul Rock, Second Presbyterian; Wynn Braswell, Elder, South-Broadland; and Beverly Barr, Elder, First, St. Joseph. Additionally, the Rev. James Lee, New Covenant Fellowship, Austin, Texas, preached the ordination sermon.

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & REDEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Rev. Dan McKnight, Division Moderator

Rev. McKnight reported that the Division is changing their grant allocation process from one funding what had been previously funded to a process in which each applicant was asked to provide specific, measurable, annual plans for redevelopment. Rev. McKnight reported that, under the new procedures, grants had been made to 3 churches; two proposals were tabled, and the applicants were asked to provide further information.

Rev. McKnight also reported that the Division was dividing itself into two subcommittees, one for development, and another for redevelopment.

LEADERSHIP REPORT

Associate Executive Presbyter Rev. Leigh Gillis

Rev. Gillis distributed materials relating to the Acts 16:5 Initiative, which have gone out to all congregations. She emphasized that the Initiative is an intentional program for congregational redevelopment which involves the presbytery and congregations walking along together.

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP DIVISION

Rev. Mark Braden, Moderator

On behalf of the Division, the Rev. Braden proposed that the offering at the February 12, 2011, Presbytery meeting should be divided as follows: one-half to St. Joseph Ministries, under the supervision of the Presbytery Moderator, and one half to Thwake Village.

The Executive Presbyter reviewed the evolution of the assigning of the Presbytery meeting offering.

The MOTION was APPROVED.

The Rev. Braden indicated that during 2011, the Division is going to stress "unity" as the theme for the year, and will be requesting pastors to focus on that theme.

LEADERSHIP REPORT

The Rev. William Johnson

In the Rev. Johnson's absence, Executive Presbyter Spencer reported on the death of Bill's wife, Sammie, and her interesting history of involvement with educational desegregation in Memphis Tennessee. He further noted that Bill is maintaining limited office hours, praised his ministry of the Harold Thomas Center, and noted that memorials to Sammie have been established at the Thomas Center and in Memphis.

PRESBYTERY DOCKET

The Stated Clerk proposed two possible dockets for the February 12th Stated meeting, one which divided the report of the Church Order and listening Division, and one which kept that report together. The Council unanimously adopted the docket which kept the Division report together.

Church Order & Listening Division Moderator the Rev. Heidi Peterson noted that the Division had made no recommendation concerning placing any limits on the amount of time to be allocated to each speaker; if such a proposal were to be made, it would have to come from the body itself.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, it ADJOURNED WITH PRAYER by Moderator Herring at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David E. Meerse
Stated Clerk