

MINUTES
Heartland Presbytery Council
March 23, 2009

- PRESENT:** Henry Gower, Terry Miller, Marcus Cumpton, Lula Bounds, Daryle McDonald, Jerry Bos, Heidi Peterson, Carla Gentry, Chad Herring, Dan McKnight, Bond Faulwell, Seth Wheeler, Craig Holstedt, Marge Blank, Mary Jane Houston, Tom Carlisle, Matthew Reeves, Tom Thomas and Tamara Miller
- STAFF:** Charles Spencer, David Cliburn and Maryann Farnsworth
- EXCUSED:** Bev Barr, Cheryl Keimig, Bill Johnson, Betty Miller, Ron Patton, and Jack Schrimsher
- ABSENT:** Kirk Perucca, Cynthia Schendel and David Warm
- VISITORS:** Rev. Ky Weekley and Elder Martha Malsbary, Representatives from the AEPNC; Rev. Nancy Kahaian and Elder Taylor Hess from the Synod of Mid-America Mission Study Discernment Task Force; Rev. Sandra Stogsdill and Elder Gail Cunningham, Presbyterian Women Co-Moderators beginning April.

Moderator Tamara Miller called to order the stated meeting of the Heartland Presbytery Council with prayer at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Harold Thomas Center for Reconciliation.

The Stated Clerk recommended an amendment to the docket to include a report from Presbyterian Women following the 8:29 p.m. Report from the Committee on Nominations.

Rev. Chad Herring moved approval of agenda as amended. It was seconded and approved.

Introduction of Visitors:

Presbyterian Women: Rev. Sandra Stogsdill and Elder Gail Cunningham

AEPNC: Elder Martha Malsbary and Rev. Ky Weekley

Synod: Rev. Nancy Kahaian and Elder Taylor Hess

Henry Gower moved that our visitors be granted voice for their presentations. It was seconded and approved.

First Order of the Day: AEP Nominating Committee

Rev. Ky Weekley reviewed the Church Information Form for the council. The Council approves the document so that it may be circulated among prospective candidates. Questions from the Council included in Part 2, page 5, the description of characteristics “sense of security in being an associate” and its redundancy; “understanding mid-western culture” and its meaning and possible deterrence to potential candidates; the ability to interpret mission and ministry in both rural and urban settings as opposed to an “understanding of mid-western culture”; might it be a trigger to further and deeper conversation with candidates?

Heidi Peterson moved the approval of the Church Information Form. It was seconded.

Discussion continued and included Part II, page 3 under the section called “Key Theological Issues” the use of the “relevance of the church” as a key theological issue.

The Church Information Form was approved with one negative vote.

For Information:

After reviewing page ten of the “Employee Handbook” (adopted 11/2004), Presbytery will need to approve the job description for the AEP in April.

Second Order of the Day: Synod of Mid-America Mission Study Discernment Task Force

The task force posed several questions to the council:

What does the synod do well?

What does the synod do that Heartland Presbytery can do without?

What is the synod not doing that Heartland Presbytery needs?

What is it that synod does or could be doing that presbyteries could not do themselves?

Following discussion of the last question, the Synod’s Mission Study Task Force members thanked the council for their participation and excused themselves from the meeting.

Stated Clerk Maryann Farnsworth presented the Consent Agenda as corrected:

- 1.) **The Stated Clerk recommends:**
 - (a) **The Presbytery Council approves the minutes of the January 26, 2008, stated meeting of Council. (Item #2) Removed**
 - (b) **The Presbytery Council approves the minutes of the February 20, 2009, stated meeting and the March 7, 2009, called meeting of presbytery. (Items #3-4) Removed**
- 2.) **The Business Affairs Committee recommends receiving the 2007 Financial Review. (Item #5)**
- 3.) **Presbyterian Women request approval from Council to celebrate the Lord’s Supper during PW Spring Cluster Meeting at Northminster Presbyterian Church, KCMO, on April 18, 2009, with the Reverends Seth Wheeler and ~~Sandra Stogsdill~~, officiating.**
- 4.) **The Church Order and Listening Division recommends Council approve the request of Fairfax Presbyterian Church opening a new session minutes book.**

The Stated Clerk recommended the removal of Items 1a and 1b the she corrected Item 3 with the deletion of “and Sandra Stogsdill,” and the “s” on “Reverends”.

Leadership Reports:

Executive Presbyter Charles Spencer recommended that the presbytery council consider itself as the “presbytery’s session” bringing perspectives from their committees and divisions; to dream dreams for

the presbytery; to make the council a place to bring to life the covenantal values in some part of the presbytery; to examine the potential for opportunities for mission and ministry through the presbytery and to let council meetings be a place to imagine the best Heartland Presbytery can be and help to bring it to life.

Acting Associate Executive Presbyter David Cliburn highlighted that more than 70 congregations have endorsed the covenantal values; Rev. Shirley Hill, Cameroon missionary is in the presbytery itinerating throughout the presbytery for the next ten days; and the Peacemaking Festival is coming on March 28th at Colonial Presbyterian Church.

The Report of the **Presbytery Moderator Jack Schrimsher** was read by Tamara Miller.

Council Moderator Tamara Miller reported that Leslie King has been moved from Business Affairs to Personnel.

Council Business

Chad Herring moved to approve **Items 2, 3 and 4 on the Consent Agenda**. It was seconded and approved.

Item 1 included several name corrections and a grammatical change in the February 21 minutes to the CPM "Seminary Guidance Policy".

Henry Gower moved that **Items in 1 be approved**. It was seconded and approved.

The **Stated Clerk's Report** included:

- 1.) The Council's response to the **Synod of Mid-America's Higher Education Committee** concerning the current campus ministries within our presbytery. Letter attached. (Item #6)
- 2.) Appreciation for moderators who are getting Conflict of Interest Statements from each person who serves on their presbytery committee, division, board, council or commission so that everyone will have a completed 2009 statement on file with the Stated Clerk.

The Stated Clerk reminded the council that Ravin Graham has graciously consented to taking minutes for the May meeting of council as she will be attending her son's graduation...again. Heidi Peterson reported that the **Committee on Nominations** is now calling pastors and clerks of sessions seeking names of laypeople to place on committees and divisions. Cooperation in developing a pool of eligible prospects would be most appreciated.

Lula Bounds reported for the **Presbyterian Women** which included circulating their flyer for the Presbytery-wide Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering on April 18th at Northminster Presbyterian Church; and July 11-15, 2009, National Gathering of PW will be in Louisville, Kentucky which includes a gathering of Presbyterian Clergywomen.

Tom Thomas presented the report of the **Worship and Fellowship Division** as follows:

1.) Table Talks: Council asked the Division to re-evaluate the process used for Table Talk & Reports; a recurring complaint is that the venues where lunch is served make it difficult to hear conversations across the table.

The Worship and Fellowship Division recommended that Table Talk be continued. Where noise is a problem, no more than two or three will be asked to share. We will include questions for table talk at lunch in the worship order of service to save paper.

The Council's discussion included difficulty in hearing in the fellowship halls. The Table Talk questions will be provided by Worship and Fellowship Division which will be in consultation with the worship leadership and printed in the worship bulletin.

The motion was approved with one negative vote.

2.) Evaluations at Presbytery meetings (which Council voted to suspend.)

The Worship and Fellowship Division recommended that Council continue to provide opportunities to evaluate each Presbytery meeting. We suggest that an opportunity could be provided with a simple question on the last page of the Docket, along with a box prominently displayed where people could make responses.

Worship and Fellowship Division will write the question, designate a collection point and recommend a report format.

The motion was approved.

3.) Worship for April 28, 2009 {including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper & the Necrology Report) – Docket 1 ¼ hours

Preaching – GA Moderator Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow; Celebrant: Rev. Jim Gordon

Necrology Report – David Joslyn and Rob Cromwell

Offering: **The council approved the offering going to the Pentecost Offering (PC999999) and the 40% that stays locally will be designated to the Front Porch Alliance.**

Information:

1. The Worship and Fellowship Division has instructed its Moderator to ask that each person involved in planning presbytery worship review W-1.2006, those chosen to preach review W-2.2007, and each person celebrating the Lord's Supper review W-3.3612-3.3615 to make sure that worship at presbytery conforms to the Directory for Worship.

2. By a unanimous vote at our meeting March 10th, the Worship and Fellowship Division commends Rev. Charles Spencer for his sermon and the Church Order and Listening Division for the Worship they

planned and conducted at the called meeting of Presbytery March 7, 2009. What a marvelous experience of *liturgy* (the work of the people) it provided for us!

Beginning in June, the worship services during presbytery will focus on the meaning of communion according to the Directory for Worship through April 2010.

Bond Faulwell presented the report of **Business Affairs** by reviewing the following reports:

- Statement of Activities 2/28/2009 (Item 7)
- Statement of Financial Position 2/28/2009 (Item 8): On page 4, Net Assets plus Liabilities should add up to Total Assets but it does not equal \$3,329,470 as it should be.
- Per Capita Report 2/28/2009 (Item 9)
- General Mission Report 2/28/2009 (Item 10): Budget is \$730,000 and only \$170,000 is pledged.
- Shared Mission Report 2/28/2009 (Item 11)

Business Affairs will be requesting 2010 information and requests from the committees and divisions in the next few weeks. Their goal is to create the budget and offer it to the churches for inclusion in their budgets for 2010.

Maryann Farnsworth presented the proposed **Presbytery Docket**. The 11:10 Minute for Mission was deleted and Gail Cunningham inserted as presenter for PW.

The Stated Clerk reminded the council that due to the extended time between the council meeting and the presbytery meeting, the Stated Clerk may need to rearrange the docket somewhat, if need arises.

There was no further business for the presbytery council.

Heidi Peterson moved that the council adjourn. It was heartily seconded by several members. The motion was approved.

Moderator Miller adjourned the meeting with prayer at 8:44 p.m.

Submitted by,



Rev. Maryann S. Farnsworth, Stated Clerk

Approved by Council: May 18, 2009

Approved by Presbytery: June 20, 2009

Attested by: 

NEXT PRESBYTERY PACKET DEADLINE:
Tuesday, April 21, 2009, 5:00 p.m.

NEXT PRESBYTERY MEETING:
Tuesday, April 28, 2009, 9:00 a.m.
Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church

NEXT COUNCIL PACKET DEADLINE:
Tuesday, May 12, 5:00 p.m.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:
Monday, May 18, 2009, 7:00 p.m.