

The Heartland Presbytery Council
Stated Meeting
MINUTES
January 25, 2010

PRESENT: John Williams, Mary Jane Houston, Gail Cunningham, Tom Carlisle, Bond Faulwell, Nancy Whitworth, Jack Schrimsher, Bill McEachen, Allison Seed, Ron Patton, Kirk Perucca, Chad Herring, Leslie King, Jeff Clayton, Dan McKnight, Alex Wales, Marcus Cumpton, Al Zimmerman, Henry Gower, Carla Gentry, Terry Miller, Karen Hanover and Cindy Wilcox

EXCUSED: Glenda Watts, Sandra Stogsdill and Beverly Barr

STAFF: Charles Spencer, David Cliburn, Bill Johnson and Maryann Farnsworth

GUESTS: From the Synod of Mid-America, Nancy Kahaian, Rachel Lancey and Ryan Kapple

The Council of Heartland Presbytery held its stated meeting in room 133 at Village Presbyterian Church, Prairie Village, Kansas, on January 25, 2010.

At 7:00 p.m., Moderator Jack Schrimsher **called the meeting to order with prayer.**

Adoption of the Docket

The Executive Session was moved to just prior to adjournment. Kirk Perucca moved approval of the docket. It was seconded and approved.

Leslie King moved the following Corresponding Members were seated: Rev. Nancy Kahaian, Interim Executive of the Synod of Mid-America; Rev. Ryan Kapple, Moderator Elect of the Synod; and Rev. Rachel Lancey; Moderator of the one of the Synod's Committees. It was seconded and approved.

Special Order: Report from the Synod of Mid-America

In early 2008, the synod assembled a synod mission study committee and their final report was given at the October 2009 synod assembly meeting. It reduced itself temporarily to four committees plus the Book of Order committees. There will be 24 commissioners equally representing each presbytery in the synod. As of this date, five presbyteries have concurred. Questions from the council included the process of seeking the concurrence of the presbyteries' by asking the smaller presbyteries' concurrence before the two largest presbyteries; its recordkeeping of that assembly meeting and the access presbyters have to those records; the lack of transparency about the process; if the presbytery be supportive of a radical temporary change in the synod assuming the Holy Spirit is at work in this process; the lack of communication from the synod to the presbytery; the impact the synod's restructuring on our nominations process; the racial ethnic balance of the commissioners since Heartland is one of the few presbyteries who can provide racial ethnic commissioners; commissioner orientation at the March synod assembly meeting will include ways to report back to each of the presbyteries; and the synod's lack of response to a question concerning the meaning of "ratio" as described in G-12.0101a.

Jeff Clayton moved that the Council recommend the Presbytery's concurrence with the Synod's action at their October 15, 2009, assembly meeting to change the manner in which presbyteries are represented at the synod level to 24 commissioners, four from each presbytery including two elders and two ministers. It was seconded.

The motion was approved with two dissenting votes.

Information for the presbytery packet from the synod will include a written report from the synod that details the transitional plan for the synod which the synod office will provide to the Stated Clerk. It was suggested that our synod commissioners Rachel Lancey and Ryan Kapple be called on at the February 20 presbytery meeting to present the motion during the council's report.

The synod guests left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Special Order: Review of Actions

In relationship to the correspondence between the presbytery council's leadership and the Synod's Executive Committee in November and December 2009, the Council was invited to provide feedback to the leadership concerning the above correspondence. Jeff Clayton stated he was surprised at the leadership's first letter to the synod which included mention of a remedial complaint when the neither the council nor the presbytery had authorized said action and it was not in accord with the council's conversation. Ron Patton stated that the leadership did an excellent job in carrying the sense of the council's discussion at its October meeting and that discussion did include the possibility of a remedial complaint. Dan McKnight urged the council to see the synod's restructuring as an invitation to provide more opportunity for creative restructuring throughout the church. Carla Gentry stated the lack of transparency was the key factor in the first council letter and the synod's responses seemed to be more intimidation than collaboration and that Council should model transparency for the church. Jack Schrimsher stated that one learning he had was the need for more conversation with our synod commissioners and training for them by the synod and presbytery.

Presentation of Consent Agenda

Maryann Farnsworth presented the consent agenda as follows:

- 1.) **The Stated Clerk recommends:**
 - (a) **That Presbytery Council approve the minutes of the October 19, 2009, stated meeting of Council.**
 - (b) **That Presbytery Council approve the minutes of the November 17, 2009, stated meeting of presbytery.**
- 2.) **At the invitation of the Session of Linwood United, the Council approves having all its 2010 stated and called meetings in their fellowship hall.**
The Council decided to have its January retreat at Village Church and that it would determine the meeting location for the remainder of 2010 during the January meeting.

- 3.) **The Stated Clerk recommends approval of the request from Karen Garrett, Trustee from the Presbyterian Foundation for 15 minutes on the February 20, 2010, presbytery docket.**

Due to the birth of her first grandchild, Karen was unable to use her approved docket time in November. Walter Olker, Development Officer spoke instead.

- 4.) **The Stated Clerk recommends that Kaw Prairie Community Church host the September 2010 presbytery meeting and that First, St. Joseph host the February 2011 presbytery meeting.**

Item #2 was removed from the Consent Agenda.

Henry Gower moved approval of Items #1, 3 and 4 on the consent agenda. It was seconded and approved.

Consideration of Item #2: Discussion included the need for more space than Harold Thomas Center provides, access to electrical outlets for computers, and a reminder that the invitation from Village Church to meet in its facilities in 2010 still stands. Item #2 was approved.

Council Business

The Stated Clerk's Report included:

1. Annual implementation of the presbytery's Conflict of Interests policy: Each member of a committee or division must complete the form and return it to the Stated Clerk
2. Administrative Policies for inclusion in the Manual of Administrative Operations need to be reviewed by the appropriate committee or division. The administrative policies were distributed last year and the goal is to bring the finalized policies to the March Council meeting.

For Information: COAL has received three overtures to the 219th GA and these will go to the February meeting. There is a fourth overture being worked on by another Session which may come forward.

Committee on Nominations

Jack Schrimsher moved that Don Spencer be nominated as Moderator of the Committee on Nominations. It was seconded and approved.

Moderator Don Spencer reported about a misunderstanding during the nomination and election of GA Commissioners and their sessions' endorsements. In using the words "session's endorsement", the committee was seeking certification of active membership in good standing and ordination as an elder. On session did not endorse the elder commissioner although the commissioner was an active member in good standing and an ordained elder. The committee will be changing the application prior to the 2012 General Assembly nominations process. The Committee on Nominations welcomed committees and divisions suggesting names to the Committee on Nominations to serve among them.

Mary Jane Houston moved that Jeff Clayton be ratified as Moderator of Personnel Committee. It was seconded and approved.

Board of Trustees

Moderator Ron Patton reported that the Ruskin Heights property is under the care of the Trustees. First, Kansas City, KS's property will under the care of the Board of Trustees, if it does not sell prior to their dissolution.

Business Affairs

Moderator Bond Faulwell reviewed the following financial statements:

- **Statement of Activities** 12/31/2009: Cash flow combining both the operations and mission budgets and we are in the black.
- **Statement of Financial Position** 12/31/2009: Assets and liabilities have not changed much in the aggregate.
- **Per Capita Report** 12/31/2009: Each church is accounted for in this report.
- **Shared Mission Report** 12/31/2009: Presbytery receives 64% of the mission giving for its mission and ministry. Each church's giving is accounted for in this report. The presbytery appears to be in a positive cash flow situation for January 2010 as well.
- **CPIP Update:** CPIP was going to go out of business due to more claims than they had cash to pay those claims. They have continued moving toward bankruptcy and have requested \$27,393 contribution from Heartland Presbytery to keep them afloat along with all other clients making contributions. Charles Spencer, Brian Hathorn and Bond Faulwell have concurred it would be more effective to help our own CPIP insured congregations if they needed help in fulfilling a claim than to make a contribution to CPIP for its survival. CPIP used an insurance broker and did not include a non-compete clause in that contract so when CPIP chose not to renew their contract with the insurance broker, the insurance broker offered renewals through their own programs. CPIP lost 1/3 of their clients nationwide which is one factor in their crisis. Claims of \$100,000 or more come through the pool but the question pending is: Would future claims resulting from embezzlement or misconduct that happened during the CPIP coverage time and would Lloyd's of London still cover the portion of the claim that is greater than \$100,000?

Stewardship and Mission

Moderator Alex Wales explained that Kansas Campus Ecumenical Ministry requested permission of each presbytery allowing them to solicit the congregations directly. In the past, the Synod funded campus ministry and now there are no funds at the synod level.

Stewardship and Mission Division moved that permission be granted to the Kansas Ecumenical Campus Ministry (KCEM) to directly solicit funds from Presbytery Churches for their capital campaign.

A brochure about the KCEM capital campaign was included in the council packet.

The motion was approved.

Congregational Ministries

Moderator Cindy Wilcox reported that "Embracing Hope" hosted 225 participants and the evaluations have been positive. She expressed appreciation for the committee's dedication to the event. The event next year will be on January 22, 2011 at the Brookdale Presbyterian Church in St. Joseph, MO.

Worship and Fellowship

Worship and Fellowship recommended that the February 20 Presbytery Offering be equally divided between the Harold Thomas Center for Reconciliation Community Emergency Fund and Interfaith Hospitality Network of Johnson County, Kansas.

The motion was approved.

For Information: The theme of the February worship experience is evangelism and new church planting. The Reverends Landon Whitsitt and Chad Herring will be preaching together.

The Division has been pleased with the presbytery's response to the worship offerings and hopes to create greater understanding of the mission of the Harold Thomas Center Community Emergency Fund by including it more than once each year.

Social Justice Ministries

Moderator Al Zimmerman reported that before the March Council meeting, five members of SJMD will travel to Kenya to help build a medical clinic and bore hole for a well.

Rev. James Wilkins reported to SJMD his personal experience of discrimination in the Power and Light District because he was wearing a cross which is sometimes a gang symbol. SJMD will be following up with the Cornish Management on Rev. Wilkins' experience. Kirk Perucca and James Wilkins will do a "test run" together by dressing alike and either wearing crosses or not.

Reporting under SJMD during presbytery will also be the Festival of Peacemaking and Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women along with the report from the Guatemalan Partnership.

Leadership Reports

Executive Presbyter Charles Spencer distributed brochures about the Stewardship Kaleidoscope in Indianapolis in March. He believes the attendance at "Embracing Hope" indicates the presbytery's willingness to come to events that are relevant to their congregations. 2008 and 2009 shared mission giving was about the same which was the first time it hasn't declined from one year to the next. Since Labor Day, there have been seven installations and six of those pastors were from outside the presbytery. The following prayers were requested by Charles Spencer: Rev. Jim West's mother had emergency surgery on Sunday and Jim has left to be by her side as she recovers and the Korean United Church had a tumultuous congregational meeting yesterday and Pastor Yang has resigned.

Acting Associate Executive Presbyter David Cliburn report he has been in the position for 33 months. He found the CMD event last Saturday was very fulfilling for him personally. He encouraged each committee or division to host a workshop at the 2011 CMD event which originates from the work of their committee or division. The Arabic Speaking Christian Fellowship's pastor could not get through immigration so they may choose not to become a Presbyterian Fellowship in February. CDR will report the outcome following its next meeting.

Director of Community Mission Bill Johnson thanked the council for including the HTC Emergency Fund in the presbytery offerings. In 2009, nine evictions were stopped due to the presbytery's generosity. Second Presbyterian Church started the fund and still provides annual funding of the mission of HTC. Bill reported that the LAMP Board is still awaiting the state and federal governments' responses to the application for tax credits. Front Porch Alliance youth are hosting a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for Haiti this Friday, January 29 at the Harold Thomas Center. Bill has worshipped with the Haitian Fellowship the last two Sundays. 25 family members related to our Presbyterian members have been counted as lost in the earthquake. Christ PC donated \$10,000 to the Haitian Fellowship for them to make their own response to the disaster.

Presbytery Moderator Chad Herring attended the Moderators' Conference in November 2009 in Louisville. He has attended a personnel committee meeting in January since becoming moderator.

Council Moderator Jack Schrimsher had no report as council moderator for the last 24 days.

Approval of the Presbytery Docket

Moderator Chad Herring moved the docket as amended by the body. It was seconded and approved.

Old Business

Presbytery Meeting Evaluations Sub-Committee: Convener Leslie King had no report. It should be removed from future dockets.

The Council moved into **Executive Session** at the request of the Personnel Committee. Leslie King, Secretary for the Personnel Committee was selected as Clerk for the Executive Session. All presbytery staff and visitors are excused for the evening.

Adjourn with Prayer

Moderator Schrimsher closed the meeting with prayer at 9:50 p.m.

Submitted by: 

Rev. Maryann S. Farnsworth, Stated Clerk

Approved by Council: 3/15/2010

Approved by Presbytery: _____

DATES TO REMEMBER:

NEXT PRESBYTERY PACKET DEADLINE:

Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 5:00 p.m.

NEXT PRESBYTERY MEETING:

Saturday, February 20, 2010, 9:00 a.m.
Southminster, Prairie Village, KS

NEXT COUNCIL PACKET DEADLINE:

Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 5:00 p.m.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

Monday, March 22, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Heartland Presbytery Council
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MINUTES
January 25th, 2010

Present: Jeff Clayton, Bond Faulwell, John Williams, Marcus Cumpton, Dan McKnight, Alex Wales, Kirk Perucca, Bill McEachen, Al Zimmerman, Henry Gower, Ron Patton, Terry Miller, Nancy Whitworth, Jack Schrimsher, Chad Herring, Allison Seed, Gail Cunningham, Carla Gentry, Karen Hanover, Betty Miller, Mary Jane Houston, Cindy Wilcox, Don Spencer, Tom Carlisle

Leslie King was appointed Clerk for the Executive Session.

CHANGES IN TERMS OF CALL FOR STAFF OF HEARTLAND PRESBYTERY:

On behalf of the personnel committee, Rev. Clayton moved that the council recommend to Heartland Presbytery changes in the terms of call for David Cliburn, Maryann Farnsworth and Charles Spencer for a raise of 1.5% of their effective salary.

Motion to amend the motion 1.5 to 2.0% - Dan McKnight moved an increase of 2% for ordained staff. Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On behalf of the personnel committee, Rev. Jeff Clayton presented a timeline of personnel concerns that have come to the attention of the personnel committee since early 2009. Following Rev. Clayton's brief statement, the personnel committee allowed time for the council to ask questions or raise concerns. Jeff asked the council to pray for the work of the Personnel committee and the Presbytery staff.

Executive session was concluded.

Ron Patton moved adjournment . Alex seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed in prayer Moderator Jack Schrimsher at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Leslie King
Secretary of Personnel Committee