

**The Heartland Presbytery Council**  
**MINUTES**  
**October 19, 2009**

**PRESENT:** Marge Blank, Betty Miller, Mary Jane Houston, John Williams, Bond Faulwell, Karen Hanover, Henry Gower, Kirk Perucca, Dan McKnight, Chad Herring, Bill McEachen, Bev Barr, Ron Patton, Jeff Clayton, Tom Carlisle, Terry Miller, Sandra Stogsdill, Allison Seed, Mary Jorgenson, Carla Gentry, , Tom Thomas, Jack Schrimsher, Tamara Miller and staff Maryann Farnsworth, Bill Johnson, Dan Scheneman and Charles Spencer.

**EXCUSED:** Heidi Peterson, Matthew Reeves, David Cliburn, Marcus Cumpton

**ABSENT:** Jerry Bos, Donna Chavez, Gail Cunningham and David Warm

**GUEST:** Jan Bloomingdale, Synod Commissioner

**Call to Order with Prayer**

Moderator Tamara Miller opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 p.m.

**Approval of Docket**

**Allison Seed moved to amend the docket to include a report on the recent Synod meeting by Jan Bloomingdale and grant her voice.** It was seconded and approved. Moderator Miller recommended the report be scheduled for 7:15.

**Ron Patton amended the docket a motion for the location of 2010 Council meetings** It was seconded and approved. It was scheduled following the Synod Report.

**Jeff Clayton moved that the docket be approved as amended.** It was seconded and approved.

**Consent Agenda**

Stated Clerk Maryann Farnsworth presented the nine part consent agenda as follows:

- 1.) **The Stated Clerk recommends:**
  - (a) **That Presbytery Council approve the minutes of the August 17, 2008, stated meeting of Council (Item #1) and the August 24, 2009, called meeting of Council (Item #2).  
Excuse Tom Thomas on August 24.**
  - (b) **That Presbytery Council approve the minutes of the September 19, 2009, stated meeting of presbytery. (Item #3)  
Page 21, #1 insert additional words**

- 2.) **Church Order and Listening Division moves that Council recommend the Presbytery approve the Church Resource Center Board's Guidelines as Administrative Policy 8 in the Manual of Administrative Operations. (Item #4)**
- 3.) **Church Order and Listening Division moves that Council recommend the Presbytery approve the Report on the Review of Session Minutes Year 2008 as attached. (Item #5)**
- 4.) **The ~~Committee on Nominations~~ Moderator of Council recommends that Council ratify the assignment of at-large council member Rev. Jeff Clayton to the Personnel Committee.**
- 5.) **The Stated Clerk recommends approval of the request from Aberdeen Village Presbyterian Manor 15 minutes of Presbytery docket time on November 17, 2009.**
- 6.) **The Stated Clerk recommends approval of the request from Karen Garrett, Trustee from the Presbyterian Foundation and Development Officer Walter Olker for 15 minutes on the November 17, 2009, presbytery docket.**
- 7.) **The Stated Clerk recommends approval of a 20 minute presentation by Presbytery Historian Nancy Ehrlich on the history of the presbytery at its 200<sup>th</sup> stated meeting on June 15, 2010, hosted by St. Paul church at the Linwood United Church.**
- 8.) **The Committee on Ministry recommends the Council approve the 2010 Pulpit Supply Policy and Honoraria Policy. (Item #6) **REMOVED****
- 9.) **The Committee on Representation moves the Council recommend to Presbytery the approval of the 2009 Report on Representation. (Item #7)**

### **Report on Synod Meeting by Jan Bloomingdale**

The Synod of Mid-America met on October 15-16 and concurred with the overture from Synod of the Rocky Mountains. The overture is offered in case the new Form of Government does not pass the flexibility for synods in defining their responsibilities and passing down to the presbyteries the responsibilities they will not be covering. The synods could also share staff and commissions across synod boundaries.

The Report of the Synod Mission Task Force was approved which included suspending the bylaws, manual of operations and standing rules effective October 18, 2009, through 2010 to re-structure down to 24 commissioners in 2010 working in four committees (six commissioners per committee) and an executive committee. The immediate impact on Heartland is paring down our eight commissioners to the four in 2010. Concern expressed included the action of the synod possibly violating the Book of Order with respect to how commissioners are elected; violations against the Manual of Operations of the Synod about previous notice not being given to the commissioners prior to arriving at the meeting place; the lack of transparency of the process in the face of a major change; options for redressing the actions of the synod including a letter from the Council strongly recommending a called assembly to correction these perceived violations; a remedial case; or a written request to the GA Stated Clerk as to whether the BOO has been violated with

copies to the synod; Rev. Ryan Kapple is moderator elect and will serve on the Executive Committee; and Rev. Rachel Lancey will be moderator of one of the other committees.

**Jeff Clayton moved that the Council direct the Stated Clerk make inquiry with the OGA specifically concerning constitutional questions concerning their action at Synod and report back to the council via email.** It was seconded and approved.

The Stated Clerk is to request a copy of the commissioners' report from the Mission Study Task Force for distribution to the council membership.

**Ron Patton moved that the Council accept the invitation of Village Church to meet at their facilities for all stated and called meetings of the Council in 2010.** It was seconded. The meeting room as adequate space, electrical hookups and wi-fi for computers and for 4 out of 5 meetings, a \$6 per person dinner is available to any council member.

Concerns expressed included adding to the distance traveled to the council meetings; the possibility of a "test case" at Village; proximity to the presbytery offices; and what it means to meet in the urban core; the cost of meeting in HTC is an additional 30 hours of utilities each year and Shared Mission Giving is down \$20,000 for 2010; LAMP project getting started in late 2010 or early 2011; option of using Linwood United for meetings; and having the January Council Retreat meeting at Village.

The motion failed.

**Bev Barr moved that the January 2010 Council Meeting Retreat be located at Village Church and at that time, the current council present will decide where the rest of their meetings will be for 2010.** It was seconded and approved.

**Report on Presbytery Meeting Evaluations** – No report

### **Report from Stewardship Committee**

Mary Jorgenson reported that she has not had confirmation from Grace Covenant about available space for such a workshop during the lunch hour.

**The Stewardship Committee recommends the Council schedule a workshop over lunch during the November 17, 2009, stated meeting (pending Grace Covenant's approval for use of space) on sound financial practices in the congregation offered by Brian Hathhorn.** (It would be a mini version of workshop he offered at Stewardship Kaleidoscope in March.)

### **Council Business**

Ron Patton moved that the **Consent Agenda 1-7 and 9** be approved. It was seconded and approved.

**The COM Pulpit Supply and Honoraria policy** was removed from the Consent Agenda. Tom Thomas requested a Book of Order citation for presbytery being responsible for all persons filling our pulpits (G-11.0502f). Concerns expressed follow: An acknowledgment that the policy is appropriate in churches with vacant pulpits but not in any church with an installed pastor or a pastor under contract. The compensation

schedule differentiating between ruling elders and teaching elders is in conflict with the theology of the church that declares parity in the priesthood of all believers. The significant increase from \$90 in 2009 for ministers to \$150 in 2010 may be cost prohibitive to many churches when travel expenses are in addition. Many churches have set their 2010 budgets and have included less than \$150 per week for pulpit supply. It is also a justice issue since installed and contracted pastors are subject to the same minimum salary guidelines in 2010 as 2009. The process used by COM for determining who is accepted on the pulpit supply list seems to be an assumption of more responsibility by COM than is necessary by the Book of Order.

The Council recommended that COM re-name the “approved minimum honorarium” to the “suggested minimum honorarium”; that the pulpit supply honoraria schedule not be changed in 2010 from 2009 and that future recommendations for increases be approved by the presbytery in June each year. The Council requested that COM review the honoraria differentiation between elders and ministers for theological soundness.

**Ron Patton moved that the policy be referred back to COM for perfection utilizing the feedback from the Council.** It was seconded and approved.

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

1. **PowerPoint Presentations or video presentations to be used during a presbytery meeting** must be sent in full to the Stated Clerk by the presbytery packet deadline in order to be available during the meeting.
2. The Moderators have set Monday, January 25, 2010 as the **Council Retreat** beginning at 3:30 p.m. and ending by 9:00 p.m. Dinner and a stated meeting will be included.
3. Reminder: Committees and Divisions should review their **Administrative Policies** in the Manual of Administrative Operations and make a recommendation to Council in January for either amending or approving them as written.

**The Report of the Committee on Nominations** (Item #8) was submitted by Moderator Heidi Peterson.

### **Presbyterian Women**

Sandra Stogsdill reported the October 10<sup>th</sup> was a very successful fall gathering of 107 people. It consolidated their planning sessions and educational workshops. They will dovetail with the Festival of Peacemaking event and utilize their workshops as their own.

### **Leadership Reports**

Executive Presbyter Charles Spencer reported that various events are getting good participation across the presbytery including the four COM events over the last 18 months; the Oasis event for Christian educators; and members in the churches respond well to events that are meeting their needs. He encouraged moderators to return to their committees and divisions asking for creative ways to meet the needs of congregations in their particular area of concern.

Director of Community Mission Bill Johnson reported he went with David Warm to learn about the low income housing tax credits. He joined the Ivanhoe neighborhood in a two mile protest march against violence in the area. He is grateful for the offerings the presbytery has given to the Community Mission

Fund which supplement what Second Presbyterian of Kansas City gives to the mission here. He continues to work with homeless veterans to provide social services for a better life.

**Presbytery Moderator** Jack Schrimsher submitted a written report (**Attachment A**) to the Council which included seven installations this fall; recommended that council select a few designated individuals to keep the Manual of Administrative Operations up to date; and reported that the retreat meeting in January 2010 will start with an extended discussion about changing formats, times and dates for presbytery meetings and council meetings.

**Council Moderator** Tamara Miller shared a letter from Grandview Park Presbyterian Church thanking the presbytery for inviting them to host the September 19<sup>th</sup> Presbytery meeting because it strengthened them as a congregation.

**Ron Patton moved that the text of the letter be entered into the council minutes.** It was seconded and approved. (**Attachment B**)

Moderator Miller shared that attending the building dedication at Kaw Prairie gave her congregation ideas on how to make their sanctuary more user friendly for the hearing impaired.

### **Business Affairs**

Bond Faulwell reported that the total assets are about \$3.3 million. Net assets are \$1.7 million. The preliminary report on 9/30 is that the mission budget is \$42,000 behind budget. Currently, there is a surplus in the per capita budget.

The Auditor's Review Report for 12/31/2008 was a satisfactory audit report. The presbytery is audited then the HPC is audited and both reports are merged for the Auditor's Review Report. Most of our net worth is land and facilities. On page 14, assets due from HPC, \$345,349 is listed as an asset but since it is a subsidiary of the presbytery it is money we owe ourselves.

***Approval of the Auditor's Review Report should be placed on the presbytery's consent agenda on November 17.***

Concern was expressed about the number of churches that make no mission pledges or contributions and the follow-up with those churches. Ideas included making this a topic of the January Council Retreat and part of an annual visit pattern: triennial visit, stewardship visit and a council visit.

- Statement of Activities 8/31/2009
- Statement of Financial Position 8/31/2009
- Per Capita Report 8/31/2009
- General Mission Report 8/31/2009
- Shared Mission Report 8/31/2009
- Auditor's Review Report on 2008

**Chad Herring moved that the January 25<sup>th</sup> Council Retreat Meeting begin at 3:30 p.m.** It was seconded and approved.

**Committee on Ministry**

Bev Barr encouraged attendance at installations since we have so many in the next five weeks. Get acquainted with the new pastors via email, at a presbytery meeting or a note to welcome them. The presbytery is reshaping itself into relationship networks with fellow ministers and members as well as partnering with congregations with shared interests.

**Approval of the Presbytery Docket**

The following changes were made: COM moved to 11:20 a.m. Presbyterian Foundation was moved to 10:50 and Aberdeen Village to 11:05 in order to add an additional honorable retirement recognition and make room for the examination of a possible AEP candidate. Rev. Meg McLaughlin, Village Church, will be preaching and Rev. J. McKell, Grace Covenant will preside over the Lord's Supper. The offering will be evenly divided between the Harold Thomas Center Community Mission Fund and the Shawnee Service Center.

**Jeff Clayton** moved approval with those changes. It was seconded and approved.

**Ron Patton** moved the council adjourn. It was seconded and approved.

Moderator Miller **adjourned the Council with prayer** at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Maryann S. Farnsworth, Stated Clerk

Approved by Council: 1/25/2010

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

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**NEXT PRESBYTERY PACKET DEADLINE:**

**Tuesday, November 10, 2009, 5:00 p.m.**  
**(Reports, PowerPoints, video & FYI)**

**NEXT PRESBYTERY MEETING:**

**Tuesday, November 17, 2009 9:00 a.m.**  
**Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
**Overland Park, KS**

**NEXT COUNCIL PACKET DEADLINE:**

**Tuesday, January 19, 2010, 5:00 p.m.**

**NEXT: COUNCIL RETREAT!**

**Monday, January 25, 2010, 3:30 p.m.**  
**Dinner and Stated Meeting included**  
**Village Church – Prairie Village, KS**

**ATTACHMENT A:****Moderator's Report to Council on October 19, 2009**

Since the last Council meeting I installed:

The Reverend Jeffrey Patrick Jackson as pastor at Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church, Raytown, MO, October 11, 2009

The Reverend Jonathan E. Mitchell as pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Maryville, MO, October 18, 2009

Future installations are scheduled as follows:

October 25, 2009, 2:00 p.m. – The Rev. Norwood V. “Woody” Brown III at Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church, Overland Park, KS

November 1, 2009, 4:00 p.m. – The Rev. James Gale at Shawnee Presbyterian Church, Shawnee, KS

November 8, 2009, 4:00 p.m. – The Rev. Heather Walchar at Trinity Presbyterian Church, St. Joseph, MO

November 15, 2009, 4:00 p.m. – The Rev. Jason Carle at Overland Park Presbyterian Church, Overland Park, KS

November 21, 2009 (Saturday), 4:00 p.m. – The Rev. Andrew Cullen at John Knox Kirk Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO

I attended a dinner September 26, 2009, celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church, Overland Park, KS. I regret that I was unable to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for Kaw Prairie Community Church on September 27, 2009.

The next meeting of the task force searching for more efficient ways to manage the finances and financial reports of the Presbytery and Heartland Center is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. at HTC.

I am still looking for new members for the Nominations Committee and would appreciate any suggestions or other assistance that may be offered.

No matter how often we tweak and amend the Manual of Administrative Operations, there always seems to be something forgotten and left out or in need of modification. I would suggest the Council and/or Church Order and Listening Division recruit and appoint one or two volunteers to be responsible for receiving and processing suggestions for keeping that Manual up to date.

I am still astonished by how many long-time Presbyterians I have met at various church functions who do not seem to know or understand what the Presbytery is or what it does. There seems to exist a wholly fictional perception that the Presbytery is some large, impersonal corporate entity of bigwigs who spend their time in some far off luxurious office complex dreaming up new and diabolical ways to obstruct the wishes and intentions of local congregations. Of course, nothing could be farther from the truth, but the “disconnect” that is demonstrated by that perception is very disconcerting. Perhaps there is a need to offer refresher courses for members of our local congregations on Presbyterian polity and what it means to be Presbyterian. I sometimes feel that the groups that experienced alienation and a need to separate from Heartland Presbytery in actuality ran away from the very system of governance that offered the method to achieve the very things they were searching for. During the past year, while visiting the various congregations, I have tried to emphasize the inclusiveness and connectedness of all Presbyterians within Heartland Presbytery while assuring them that they are an important part of the larger church.

I am increasingly concerned by the length and tone of the stated meetings of the Presbytery and how that may negatively affect attendance and participation. There must be other ways necessary church business can be transacted that will make such meetings more pleasant, inviting, worshipful, and pastoral. Therefore, the “retreat” portion of the initial meeting of the Council in 2010 will be dedicated to exploring new and innovative ways to run meetings and transact business. Be thinking about such possibilities over the next few months so you will be prepared to participate fully in that discussion.

Jack H. Schrimsher, Moderator

## ATTACHMENT B:

**Grandview Park Presbyterian Church**

1613 Wilson Boulevard  
Kansas City, Kansas 66102  
913 . 371 . 6431

The Reverend Tamara Miller  
Moderator of Council  
Heartland Presbytery  
3210 Michigan Avenue, Suite 200  
Kansas City, Mo 64108

September 22, 2009

Dear Tamara,

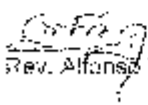
On behalf of the congregation and session of Grandview Park Presbyterian Church we would like to thank the council for the great opportunity to host the 196<sup>th</sup> meeting of Heartland Presbytery.

Were it not for the work of the Rev. David Cliburn, this event would not have taken place at Grandview Park. Less than two years ago David came to worship with us. He brought greetings from the presbytery and affirmed who we are as a congregation. Such words of affirmation are rare for small churches like us. A short time after that the invitation was extended to host presbytery. We are truly grateful for David's ministry to us, and his initiative, which produced this opportunity.

Our thanks also go to the council for agreeing to bring the meeting to Grandview Park. The year-and-a-half we spent in preparation strengthened us in ways we are only now beginning to understand. It was a wonderful opportunity and we hope that you will continue to offer these kinds of opportunities to "unlikely suspects" like us in the future.

We thank you once again for your visit with us and pray God's continued blessings on Heartland Presbytery's mission and ministry.

La Paz de Dios,

  
The Rev. Alfonso Tot and the Rev. Rick Behrens

*We seek to serve as a community of faith,  
spiritually connected with the community around us,  
reflecting the diversity of community  
in a church that is full!*