

## **Heartland Presbytery MINUTES November 17, 2009**

Heartland Presbytery convened its 197<sup>th</sup> stated meeting in the sanctuary of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Overland Park, Kansas, on Tuesday, November 17, 2009.

### **Convening Activities**

Moderator Elder Jack Schrimsher rapped his gavel to call the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and led the presbytery in an opening prayer.

The Stated Clerk declared there was a **quorum** present.

### **Approval of the Docket**

The Stated Clerk moved approval of the docket as prepared by Council. There were no amendments or corrections offered. It was seconded and approved.

### **Building Community**

Clerk of Session Kevin Mason welcomed the presbytery to Grace Covenant and then thanked the presbytery for starting Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church twenty-five years ago. They are active in all forms of mission and ministry including the CROP Walk and the Interfaith Housing program for the homeless four nights annually along with a myriad of other projects.

Many **first time commissioners** were introduced to the presbytery.

### **Seating of corresponding members**

The Stated Clerk moved that the following corresponding members be seated with voice:

Walter Olker  
Rev. Nancy Kahaian, Synod Interim Executive  
Rev. David Winters, HR  
Rev. Joe Pallikkathayil

Presbyterian Foundation  
Presbytery of Northern KS  
Presbytery of the Pacific  
Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy

It was seconded and approved.

### **Announcements for the Good of the Community**

There were several announcements of events and needs across the presbytery in which individuals and congregations could participate.

### **Preparing for Worship**

Joys and Concerns for Prayer during Worship included Taylor Hess sharing the news of the death of former Village Church Interim Pastor Rev. Dan Little from brain cancer yesterday in Wisconsin and those engaged in education ministry and mission work in Pakistan were lifted up.

### **Worship including the Lord's Supper**

Rev. Meg Peery McLaughlin preached the sermon on Revelations 19 on the theme of the marriage supper of the Lamb and then celebrated the sacrament with host pastor Rev. J. McKell. The offering benefitted equally the Harold Thomas Center Community Mission Fund and the Shawnee Service Center.

### **Seating of an Additional Corresponding Member**

Rev. Tom Thomas moved that the Rev. Isaiah Muita of the Western Association of Missouri Mid South Conference of UCC be seated as a corresponding member. It was seconded and approved.

### **Presentation of the Consent Agenda**

The Stated Clerk presented the consent agenda as follows:

- (1.) **The Council recommends Presbytery approve the minutes of the Council's Stated Meeting of August 17, 2009 and the Council's Called Meeting of August 24, 2009 (Item 2).**
- (2.) **The Council recommends Presbytery approve the minutes of the Stated Meeting of September 19, 2009.**
- (3.) **The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moves that Marjorie Taggart (Westport, KCMO) be removed from the roll of candidates per her request received by CPM on October 27, 2009.**
- (4.) **The Council moves that Presbytery receive the report of the Committee on Representation for 2009.**
- (5.) **The Church Order and Listening Division moves that Presbytery receive the report on Session Minutes and Church Register Reviews for the year ending 12/31/2008.**
- (6.) **The Stated Clerk moves that the Presbytery approve the request of Trinity Presbyterian Church of St. Joseph, MO, to be removed from the roll of conscience with the Board of Pensions (PCUSA).**
- (7.) **The Committee on Ministry moves that the Presbytery grant First Presbyterian Church of Corder, MO, a waiver from the limitation on reelection (of elders) after six years due to limited membership. (G-14.0202b). (The congregation approved this request on October 18, 2009.)**
- (8.) **The Council moves approval of the Church Resource Center Board's Guidelines as Administrative Policy 8 in the Manual of Administrative Operations.**
- (9.) **The Council moves that Presbytery receive the Accountant's Review Report for the year ending 12/31/2008.**
- (10.) **The Committee on Ministry moves that the Presbytery's Pulpit Supply Honoraria Schedule for 2010 remain the same as the 2009 rates.**
- (11.) **The Stated Clerk moves that the administrative commissions for following pastors' installations be dismissed with gratitude:**

**Rev. Pat Jackson, Blue Ridge, Raytown, MO – October 11, 2009**  
**Rev. Jonathan Mitchell, First, Maryville, MO – October 18, 2009**  
**Rev. Norwood "Woody" Brown, Rolling Hills, OPKS – October 25, 2009**  
**Rev. James Gale, Shawnee, Shawnee, KS – November 1, 2009**  
**Rev. Heather Walchar, Trinity, St. Joseph, MO – November 8, 2009**  
**Rev. Jason Carle, Overland Park, OPKS – November 15, 2009**

### **Report of the Stated Clerk**

Rev. Maryann Farnsworth reported receiving an allegation from another presbytery against a minister member of Heartland. The recently adopted and amended Manual of Administrative Operations failed to include a process for appointing investigating committees so she followed the previous manual's process until the presbytery itself could appoint the investigating committee.

**The Moderator of Presbytery moved that the following investigation committee be appointed by the presbytery in this matter: Rev. Allison Seed, Trinity, Independence, MO; Elder Stacey Janssen, Village, PVKS; Elder Mitch Fiser, Southminster, PVKS; Rev. Beth Walden-Fisher and Elder Mike King from another presbytery.**

It was seconded and approved.

### **Reports from Administrative Commissions**

Written reports were included in the presbytery packet from the administrative commissions for:

- First, Kansas City, KS
- Neema, Prairie Village, KS
- New Horizon, Odessa, MO
- Ruskin Heights, Kansas City, MO
- Sudanese Community Church, Kansas City, MO

**The Stated Clerk moved that the Administrative Commission for New Horizon, Odessa, MO be dismissed with abundant gratitude as its commissioned tasks have been accomplished.**

It was seconded and approved.

Elder David Joslyn, after presenting a history of the Sudanese Community Church and the work of the administrative commission offered the following motion:

**The Sudanese Community Church Administrative Commission moves that Heartland Presbytery dissolve the Sudanese Community Church as a PC (USA) congregation at their request effective December 30, 2009.**

It was approved.

**Rev. David Cliburn, on behalf of the commission, moved that the Administrative Commission for the Sudanese Community Church be dismissed with gratitude effective December 30, 2009.**

It was seconded and approved.

Administrative Commission for Congregations Seeking Dismissal from the PC (USA) – no report

### **Consent Agenda Vote**

No items were removed from the consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved.

### **Minute for Mission: “The Joy Offering”**

Rev. Alex Wales having donned a contemporary Santa hat reminded the presbytery about the areas support and almost concluded within one minute.

### **Presbyterian Foundation**

Walter Olker, Development Officer, explained the mission of the Presbyterian Foundation as cultivating gifts to support God’s mission through individuals, congregations and governing bodies. The Foundation is now allowing donors of charitable gift annuities to make their gift now and receive annuity income for life but a portion of that initial gift is may be made available to the charitable beneficiaries before the donor’s death.

### **Aberdeen Village**

Rev. Larry Thornton, Chaplain; Suzanne Willey, Director of Marketing; and Tim Allin, Executive Director from Aberdeen Village shared an update on Aberdeen Village. Residents have access to many spiritual development opportunities from classes to weekly worship. Elders and pastors may volunteer to either teach or share in 5:00 p.m. Sunday vespers by calling Larry at Aberdeen Village. Visitors to Aberdeen are welcome just contact Suzanne Willey

for a full tour of the facilities. Tim Allin reported that the partnership with the presbyteries of the synod has allowed them to reduce entrance fees by up to 10% in certain cases as they seek to serve the community.

The Moderator announced that today's **offering from worship** was \$1,325.00!

### **Associate Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee**

Rev. Ky Weekley and Elder Martha Malsbary reported on the progress of the search for a new AEP. The job description and CIF were developed and approved by Council early in the year. Sixty-five PIF's have been received and reviewed. On site interviews have not yielded a candidate. The AEPNC has lost three members in its year of existence so they continue as a group of six. The AEPNC covets the prayers of the presbytery as it continues its search.

### **Committee on Ministry**

**Elder Bev Barr moved that presbytery approve the request for transfer of the Rev. Joe Pallikkathayil from Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy pending their approval and successful examination on the floor of presbytery.**

Rev. Pallikkathayil was examined in the areas examined included his statement of faith, how being an interim is different from being an installed pastor; and he affirmed he would be governed by our church's polity and abide by its discipline.

Questions from the presbytery included his loyalty to professional baseball teams and the questioner was disappointed by the response of there is no baseball team to which he is loyal; why did he value the PCUSA; and his understanding of his experience of joy.

There were no questions for the committee.

The motion was approved.

### **Celebration of Ordination Anniversaries**

Many of those being honored were present. The presbytery spontaneously began singing the Doxology at the calling forward of the Reverend G. Wilbert Whiteside who had been ordained 65 years.

### **Honorable Retirement Recognitions:**

**COM moved that the Reverend Dotty Hoopes be granted the status of honorable retired effective December 1, 2009.** It was approved.

Rev. Dotty Hoopes was honored for 20 years in ministry as she retired from the Belton Presbyterian Church after ten years. She has been very active in the community so her retirement will leave a void not only in the congregation but also the community and the larger church where she has actively served.

**COM moved that the Reverend Anton Jacobs be granted the status of honorable retired effective December 31, 2009.** It was approved.

Rev. Anton Jacobs was honored for 35 years of ministry as he retires from the United Church of the Good Shepherd in Kansas City, Kansas, which is a UCC/PCUSA congregation. Rev. Jacobs is UCC. He has brought peace and understanding to the congregation and has improved the personal and spiritual lives of the individual members of the church.

The report from the Committee on Ministry was included in the packet and the presbytery had no questions about their report.

COM Moderator Bev Barr expressed her appreciation for the prayers of the presbytery and its encouragement. She thanked the members of COM who have worked so hard during the two years she has served as moderator.

### **Report of the Executive Presbyter**

Rev. Charles Spencer thanked the presbyters who have served in 2009 on the many committees, divisions and commissions. He thanked Pine Ridge and Colonial churches who sent teams to renovate the third and fourth floors of the Harold Thomas Center which is a mission center in the community. He thanked Mary Jane Houston who has volunteered in the presbytery office for modeling how volunteers may be helpful to the ministry of the presbytery. He thanked those who have been attending installations of pastors.

He encouraged churches to have adequate signage welcoming visitors and members alike. Kaw Prairie Community Church has found new ways to welcome their worshippers: free wi-fi, a full sized indoor playground and a coffee bar to rival Starbucks but the heart of their growth process has been to more than 2,000 door to door visits by pastor Dan McKnight and business manager Dick Frohardt. Every congregation in the presbytery has the ability to grow if they invite others and welcome them into their midst.

### **ORDER OF THE DAY: LUNCH**

At 11:55 a.m., Rev. Kimby Young offered grace before the meal and invited 32 persons to attend the lunch time workshop on "Sound Financial Practices in the Congregation".

Moderator Schrimsher **reconvened the Presbytery with prayer .**

### **Minute for Mission:** "Stewardship Kaleidoscope 2010"

Elder Don Haring encouraged all congregations to have at least one participant to the annual conference on stewardship in Indianapolis in March 2010.

### **Congregational Development & Redevelopment**

Rev. Dan McKnight gave a brief history of the birth of **Neema Fellowship** and celebrated the award of the General Assembly's **Walton Award for New Church Developments** in the amount of \$50,000. The award is given to churches that are new and growing and is trying to acquire facilities.

**Kaw Prairie Community Church** has grown from 40-60 in the middle of Johnson County but five years later, last Sunday 450 persons attend worship last Sunday. Dan McKnight shared photos of the dedication of the new facility in late September.

**Arabic Christian Fellowship Update** was given by David Cliburn. The fellowship will be requesting PCUSA Fellowship status in February 2010 then calling their pastor at the same meeting. Demographics show there are significant numbers of Arab speaking persons in the greater Kansas City area. Non-Arabic speaking worshippers listen to English translations of the prayers and sermon through the listening devices. The fellowship worships at Grace Covenant on Saturday evenings and everyone is welcomed.

### **Report of Council**

Rev. Carla Gentry, Vice-Moderator gave the report about the October 17, 2009 Council Meeting which included designing the meeting today and approving minutes from their previous meeting and the September presbytery meeting. The council heard a report on the October 2009 Synod Meeting which generated a lively discussion. The council's first meeting in 2010 is an extended meeting/retreat to discuss improving presbytery meetings and increasing mission support to the presbytery.

### **Business Affairs Committee**

Elder Bond Faulwell commented on the Statement of Activities ending 9/30/2009 shows that we are in a negative cash flow of \$14,763. Per Capita Report as of 9/30/2009 and Shared Mission Report as of 9/30/2009 will be in good shape if all pledges are fulfilled in the shared mission budget and per capita is fulfilled.

### **Committee on Nominations**

Rev. Heidi Peterson reported for the committee.

**The Committee on Nominations moves that Elder Beverly Barr (First, St. Joseph, MO) be called into service as Moderator Elect of Heartland Presbytery for 2010.**

The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. The motion was approved.

**The Committee on Nominations moves that the following persons be called into the service of the presbytery to the following committees and divisions:**

The committee added a few names and they are noted in red.

### **Church Order and Listening Division**

#### Class of 2010

\_\_\_\_\_ Minister

\_\_\_\_\_ Minister

#### Class of 2011

Rev. Mark Hughes (WMC) St Luke, Kansas City. MO

#### Class of 2012

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder

Rev. Pat Jackson (WMC) Blue Ridge, Raytown, MO

Rev. Heidi Peterson (WFC) Central KCMO

Rev. Jason Carle (WMC) Overland Park, OPKS

### **Committee on Ministry**

#### Class of 2012

Rev. Jay McKell (2) (WMC) Grace Covenant

Rev. George McCall (2) (WMC) H.R.

Rev. Kathie Knehans (2) (WFC) Validated Minister

\_\_\_\_\_ Minister

#### Class of 2012

Bob Grant (2) (WME) Parkville, Parkville, MO

Donna Patton (2) (WFE) Village, Prairie Village KS

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder

Moderator, COM: Rev. Chris Herring, HR

### **Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

#### Class of 2010

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder

Class of 2011

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder

Class of 2012

Rev. Donna Chavez (WFC) Argentine United

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder

Moderator, CPM – Rev. Glenda Watts, MAL

**Committee on Representation**

Class of 2011

\_\_\_\_\_ Minister

\_\_\_\_\_ Youth Elder/Lay

**Church Development and Redevelopment Division**

Class of 2011

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder/Lay

Seth Wheeler (WMC), Northminster, KCMO (nominated from the floor)

Class of 2012

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder/Lay

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder/Lay

**Congregational Ministry Division**

Class of 2010

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder/Lay

Class of 2011

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder/Lay

Class of 2012

Diane Prigmore (WFL) Second, KC, MO

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder/Lay

Moderator: Cindy Wilcox

**Mission and Social Justice Division**

Class of 2010

\_\_\_\_\_ Minister

\_\_\_\_\_ Minister

Class of 2011

\_\_\_\_\_ Minister

Class of 2012

William McEachen (WME) Village, P.V. KS

Dennis Haines, HR (WMC)

\_\_\_\_\_ Minister

\_\_\_\_\_ Minister

\_\_\_\_\_ Minister

Moderator, SJM: Rev. Al Zimmerman

### **Permanent Judicial Commission**

#### Class of 2015

Ed Rucker (WME) Ward Parkway

### **Sexual Misconduct Response Panel**

#### Class of 2012

Julie Warm (2) (WFE) Second, KC MO

Martha Fletcher (2) (WFE) Second, KC MO

Moderator: Rev. John Williams

### **Stewardship and Mission Division**

#### Class of 2012

James Gale (WMC) Shawnee

Moderator: Rev. Alex Wales

### **Worship and Fellowship Division**

#### Class of 2010

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder/Lay

#### Class of 2012

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder/Lay

\_\_\_\_\_ Minister

Moderator: \_\_\_\_\_

The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor. **Elder Harold Scott nominated the Reverend Seth Wheeler (WMC), Northminster, KCMO to the class of 2011 of the Congregational Development and Redevelopment Division.**

The nominations from the committee and the floor were approved.

### **The Committee on Nominations moves the following persons be called into service to the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly convening July 3-10, 2010, in Minneapolis, MN:**

#### GA Elder Commissioners

Rich Nolf, Trinity, St. Joseph

Laurie Anderson, Pres. Church of Stanley, KS

Michael Kruse, Ward Parkway, KC, MO

#### Alternates

Don Haring, Central, KC MO

Cheryl Keimig, Parkville, MO

Kevin Mason, Grace Covenant, Overland Park, KS

#### GA Minister Commissioners

Donna Chavez, Argentine United, KC, KS

Landon Whitsitt, First, Liberty, MO

Madeline Mercer, Pleasant Hill, MO

#### Alternates

Jean Murphy, Chaplain, Validated Minister

Chad Herring, Southminster, Prairie Village, KS

Glenda Watts, Member-At-Large

#### YAD

Josh Dean, Village, Prairie Village, KS

Jordan Herring, Southminster, Prairie Village, KS

The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor for General Assembly commissioners. There were none.

The nominees listed were elected as commissioners were approved.

**The Committee moved the nomination of Jordan Herring (WFYL) to be YAD to the Synod of Mid-America in the class of 2010.** The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. The nomination of Jordan Herring was approved.

For information:

Committee confirmed Michelle Jones, educator at Chapel Hill as **POINT person for GA Christian Education** purposes. She joins Malinda Spencer, Resource Center Director and Cathy Broockerd, program staff at John Knox Kirk.

### **Social Justice Ministries Division**

Rev. Donna Chavez invited Rev. Ky Weekley to give a report on the November **Guatemalan Partnership Trip** which included the possibility of a hands on mission trips to construct specific projects or programs. They have formed mutually agreed upon guidelines for coordinating those mission trips among the recipient churches and partnerships between Presbyterian Women in Heartland and Maya Quiche presbyteries.

### **Healthcare Reform Presentation**

Rev. Donna Chavez, Laurie Anderson (PC of Stanley, OPKS) and Larry Williams (Southminster, PVKS) provided the PCUSA perspective on health care and health care reform along with stories of individuals in the area and their struggles with adequate healthcare coverage. Included in the presbytery packet were several items for background information. Discussion included the justice issues around providing more adequate healthcare coverage for all.

**New Business** - none

### **Adjourn with Prayer**

**Rev. Henry Gower moved that the presbytery adjourn.** It was seconded and approved by a standing vote of all commissioners and ministers members present.

Moderator Schrimsher reminded the presbytery that their **next stated meeting** is Saturday, February 20, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary of Southminster Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, KS. Included in the festivities of the day will be the installation of 2010 Moderator Rev. Chad Herring.

The Moderator gave the **closing prayer** at 2:10 p.m. a full half hour ahead of the docket.

Submitted by,



Rev. Maryann S. Farnsworth  
Stated Clerk

Approved by Council: 01/25/2010

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