

**The Heartland Presbytery Council Stated Meeting
MINUTES
March 22, 2010**

PRESENT: Betty Miller, Don Spencer, Karen Hanover, Marcus Cumpton, Al Zimmerman, Bev Barr (Moderator Elect and representing COM), Bond Faulwell, Carla Gentry (Vice Moderator and representing Stewardship), Henry Gower, Tom Carlisle, Terry Miller, Dan McKnight, Mary Jane Houston, John Williams, Allison Seed, Bill McEachen, Kirk Perucca, Mark Braden (representing Worship and Fellowship), Ron Patton, Glenda Watts (representing CPM and PW), Jeff Clayton, and Chad Herring

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

EXCUSED: Jack Schrimsher, Heidi Peterson, Leslie King, Cindy Wilcox, Chris Herring, Gail Cunningham, David Warm, Nancy Whitworth

At 7:02 p.m., Presbytery Moderator Chad Herring called the Council to order with prayer.

Moderator Herring moved that Rev. Carla Gentry be elected Vice-Moderator 2010. It was seconded. **Henry Gower moved that the nominations cease.** It was seconded and approved. The main motion was approved.

Vice- Moderator Carla Gentry assumed leadership of the Council meeting.

Approval of Docket

The Council added the following items to the council docket: The 2011 Presbytery and Council Meeting dates under the Stated Clerk's Report; correction to Consent Agenda in 1.) (a) that the January 25 Stated Meeting Minutes to include Betty Miller and Don Spencer in attendance; and prior to adoption of the presbytery docket insert "New Business" and add an invitation from the Heartland Presbyterian Center to host Council on May 16 including dinner.

John Williams moved approval of the docket as amended. It was seconded and approved.

Terry Miller welcomed the council to Linwood United Church and gave instructions to all the necessary areas and how to access the wireless.

Council Business

Consent Agenda

Stated Clerk Maryann Farnsworth presented the Consent Agenda as follows:

- 1.) **The Stated Clerk recommends:**
 - (a) **That Presbytery Council approve the Executive Session Minutes of January 25, 2010 (Doc #1) and the minutes of the January 25, 2010, stated meeting of Council (Doc #2).**

According to RONR, executive session minutes are approved in executive session unless “secrecy has been lifted by the assembly” which happened during the February 20, 2010, presbytery meeting.

(b) That Presbytery Council approve the minutes of the February 20, 2010, stated meeting of presbytery. (Doc #3)

- 2.) **Stewardship Division recommends that Presbytery Council approve their request for a second “Noisy Offering” during their presbytery report. The proceeds of the Noisy Offering will be added to the worship service’s offering.**
- 3.) **Worship and Fellowship Division recommends that Presbytery Council approve the April 20th Presbytery Worship Offering being divided equally between the Haitian Fellowship for Haiti Earthquake Relief and the Heartland Presbyterian Center’s Campership Scholarship Fund (at the request of the First, Pleasant Hill Session.)**

For information: This service’s theme is Invocation [W-2.4005]. The annual Necrology Report will be included in this worship service.

The Moderator asked if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda. There were no items removed.

Stated Clerk’s Report

1. Correspondence from the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly was received thanking Heartland Presbytery for its 100% fulfillment of per capita in 2009. (DOC 4)
2. Report from Synod Commissioner John Wall re: March 2010 Synod Assembly (DOC 5)
3. Conflict of Interests Forms need to be completed by all serving persons on our divisions, committees and council and returned to the Stated Clerk.
4. Review by Committees and Divisions of Administrative Policies for inclusion in the Manual of Administrative Operations need to continue.
5. 2011 Presbytery and Council Meeting dates – Bond Faulwell moved approval of the dates presented. It was seconded and approved.

Consent Agenda Vote – approved as presented

Report of the Committee on Nominations – no report

Report of the Committee on Ministry

In Chris Herring’s absence, Bev Barr reported they did not anticipate scheduling any minister examinations at the April Presbytery meeting. COM continues to strive to connect liaisons with particular churches for relationship building between the presbytery and congregations.

The COM Executive Committee was charged by COM at its March meeting to assemble the membership of the Administrative Review Committee (ARC) per G-9.0408 – G-9.0409 for Colonial Presbyterian Church to work with the church in their discernment process as they consider their denominational ties prior to July 1. Charles Spencer stated that the ARC has no power but may review the documents distributed to the congregation; review the process of discernment; and will represent the presbytery at session meetings when invited and at the four town hall meetings that begin on March 27.

Jeff Clayton moved that the Council endorse the Committee on Ministry's recommendation to appoint an Administrative Review Committee per G-9.0408 and G-9.0409 to work with Colonial Presbyterian Church during its time of discernment. It was seconded and approved.

Business Affairs

Statement of Activities 2/28/2010 (DOC #6Rev)

Moderator Bond Faulwell noted that our net income in Doc #6Rev is positive but we are in the negative on shared mission. Per Capita is in good shape as of end of February.

Statement of Financial Position 2/28/2010 (DOC #7)

Under Designated Assets, Land for NCD is now zero as we have transferred ownership of that land to Kaw Prairie. The New Horizon mortgage loan value has been added to the Assets.

Per Capita Report 2/28/2010 (DOC #8Rev) Approximately 74% what is due from the churches has been received.

Shared Mission Report 2/28/2010 (DOC #9) Churches have pledged \$284,935 which is more than last year's pledges. Receipts to date are less than those received in the same time frame as last year. Some of the pass-through special offerings are coming through our books as we are now a Central Receiving Agency of the church. This will be a recurring process through the year.

CPIP Payment (DOC #10) CPIP concluded business as of 6/1/2009 and have been working to avoid bankruptcy. Each presbytery received an assessment (\$27,793.01 to Heartland) to ensure that future claims will be honored. The Synod of Mid-America has offered to pay ½ of each presbytery's assessment in their boundaries. **Bond Faulwell moved that Council approve the Business Affairs' recommendation to pay ½ of the Heartland Presbytery assessment in the amount of \$13,896.51.** It was approved.

Report from Personnel Committee

Moderator Jeff Clayton made the following report.

- 1.) The Personnel Committee moves that Presbytery Council recommend to Heartland Presbytery the appointment of an Ad-Hoc search committee at its April Stated Meeting to recommend a candidate to the Committee on Nominations for the office of Stated Clerk to fill the term commencing in January 2011. The Ad Hoc search committee shall consist of two members named by the Personnel Committee, two members named by the Committee on Nominations, one member of Presbytery Council named by the Council Moderator, and two at-large members from Heartland Presbytery named by the Moderator of Presbytery. The search committee shall solicit applications from interested elders and Ministers of Word and Sacrament and make a report and recommendation to the Committee on Nominations no later than their October meeting so that Presbytery can act on a recommendation from the Committee on Nominations and elect a Stated Clerk at the Stated Meeting of Presbytery in November.**

Jeff Clayton indicated that this motion and the subsequent one come as a result of the Personnel Committee's extensive review of staff structure, job descriptions, possible Manual of Administrative Operations revisions, and the practices of other judicatories. He indicated that the process outlined in the motion invites prayerful discernment in three ways—by the Presbytery as it considers a new term for Stated Clerk, by a person who may be presently holding the office, and by others who may have an interest in the elected office. He noted that the process neither assumes nor precludes the re-nomination of a person who may presently hold the office.

Discussion followed regarding the rationale for recommending an alternative to the current process; concerns about the incentive of individuals to apply for the position if the term is only three years; and the history of the process of electing a Stated Clerk in Heartland Presbytery.

The motion was approved.

2.) The Personnel Committee recommends to Presbytery Council that the process for filling the office of Stated Clerk outlined above be referred to the Church Order and Listening Division to be incorporated into the Manual of Administrative Operations of Heartland Presbytery as the standard procedure in Heartland Presbytery for electing a Stated Clerk to a three-year term or when filling an unexpired term.

The motion was approved.

Board of Trustees - No report

Report from the Associate Executive Presbyter Search Committee

The Co-Moderators were unable to join the council so Charles Spencer reported on their behalf that they will be presenting their candidate for the AEP at the April presbytery meeting. The candidate has decided not to notify her congregation until following her examination on the floor. No further information was released.

Leadership Reports

Executive Presbyter Charles Spencer reported that the presbytery is doing well but could be doing better. COM continues to reach out to vacant churches through Face to Face events and the Pastoral Residency Program to try to introduce new faces in ministry to the churches. Presbytery wide events are allowing for the lay people to get acquainted and exchange ideas. Difficult situations always diminish the individual church in the situation and the presbytery. Presbytery needs to build up the other churches by demonstrating vitality and the benefits of presbytery membership.

Acting Associate Executive Presbyter David Cliburn reported that the Arabic Speaking Fellowship was received as an immigrant fellowship at the February presbytery meeting. They hope to call their first pastor who is a member of the Synod of Egypt and will arrive the week following Easter. He hopes to be ordained by the PC (USA) although financial obligations to serve in the Egyptian church to repay his Cairo Presbyterian Seminary loans may be an obstacle.

Director of Community Mission Bill Johnson reported that the Ivanhoe Neighborhood endured the highest number of murders in Kansas City. Breaking and entering crimes had increased with the economy's downfall. In this neighborhood, there's a church on every corner but 50% of the youth in the area are un-churched. Bill is involved in helping coordinate efforts of the church to band together to be more effective. Bill worked with the National Week of Prayer to End AIDS programming. Rev. Sam Mann gave the closing prayer at the week's end of activities. Bill continues to work with veterans to claim their benefits having learned that one veteran worked for ten years to gain his benefits.

LAMP did not receive the tax credits for which they had applied.

Presbytery Moderator Chad Herring reported he is learning the role of the moderator. He enjoyed his first presbytery meeting and has participated in his first ordination on March 14th for Amy Ramirez-Spears at Grandview Park. Previous Moderator Jack Schrimsher presided at Bonnie Grabowski's ordination and installation at First, Savannah, MO. The Rev. Kirk Perucca will be installed on March 28, 1:30 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church, KCMO.

Council Moderator – Vice Moderator Carla Gentry read an emailed report from Jack Schrimsher who had survived his foot surgery and its immediate pain, however, his mother has taken a turn for the worse today and our prayers are coveted.

New Business

Bill McEachen moved that the one-time invitation to the Council to meeting at the Heartland Presbyterian Center on May 17, 7:00 p.m. be accepted and a meal will be provided at 6:00 p.m. to those who wish to dine at the conference center. Donations for the dinner would be gladly be accepted. The motion was seconded and approved.

Approval of the Presbytery Docket

Moderator Chad Herring recommended that the Report of the AEPNC be named an Order of the Day and moved to 11:25 and Stewardship pushed back to 11:50. The Order of the Social Justice Ministries Division was reversed and the spelling of Thwake Village corrected. The Guatemalan Partnership was added under Announcements. Committee on Ministry will conduct the AEP candidate's examination for membership in the context of the Report of the AEPNC. If COM has no other business than its report, the 2:30 slot for COM will be removed and adjournment will be at 2:30.

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

Marcus Cumpton moved that the Council adjourn. It was seconded and approved.

Vice- Moderator Carla Gentry adjourned the meeting with prayer at 8:45 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

NEXT PRESBYTERY PACKET DEADLINE:

Tuesday, April 13, 2010, 5:00 p.m.
(Reports, PowerPoints, video & FYI)

NEXT PRESBYTERY MEETING:

Tuesday, April 20, 2010, 9:00 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church
Pleasant Hill, MO

NEXT COUNCIL PACKET DEADLINE:

Tuesday, May 11, 2010, 5:00 p.m.
(Docket time requests for Council & Presbytery)

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

Monday, May 17, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Location: **HEARTLAND PRESBYTERIAN
CENTER – Dinner at 6:00 p.m.**