

Heartland Presbytery MINUTES April 20, 2010

Heartland Presbytery gathered for its 199th Stated Meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, in the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Hill, Missouri.

At 9:00 a.m., Moderator Chad Herring **called the meeting** to order with prayer.

The Moderator declared a **quorum**.

Before adopting the docket, the presbytery corrected the spelling error on the Consent Agenda, Item C line 2, “Stanly” to “Stanley” and on page 4, at 1:25, “Mission and” was inserted into “Social Justice Ministries” to read “Mission and Social Justice Ministries.”

The Moderator asked for **New Business**. There was none.

Approval of the Docket

The Stated Clerk moved adoption of the amended docket. It was seconded and approved.

Building Community

Elder Patty Sudhoff welcomed the presbytery to Pleasant Hill.

Several **first-time commissioners** were introduced.

The following **corresponding member** was seated: Rev. Leigh B. Gillis from the Presbytery of New Hope.

There were several **announcements** for the good of the community including: Peacemaking Festival/PW Spring Gathering this Saturday at Village Church; Festival of Sharing on October 16th in Sedalia which benefits Church World Service with an ingathering to assist in disaster response locally and globally; Guatemalan Partnership will host another trip to Maya Quiche Presbytery November 4-11; an invitation to participate in the Immigration Prayer Vigil; and pastors and churches were reminded of “Older Adults Month” in May and urged to visit and share communion with homebound and institutionalized members.

The Presbytery shared its **Joys and Concerns for Prayer** during Worship including the Reverend Al Zimmerman in the loss of his mother this past Sunday; Betty Miller as she recovers from her badly broken leg; national healthcare issues and their impact on the daily lives of our members and communities; and Elder Bob Girarity of First, Independence, recovering from surgery.

Worship including the Lord’s Supper and the Necrology Report

The Rev. Leslie King preached a sermon titled and the Rev. Madeline Mercer celebrated the sacrament. The moving and beautiful annual remembrance of our elders and ministers who have joined the Church Triumphant was observed.

Consent Agenda

Rev. Maryann Farnsworth, Stated Clerk presented the consent agenda as follows:

A) The Council recommended that Presbytery approve the minutes of the January 25, 2010, stated meeting of Council and Executive Session of Council.

B) The Council recommended that Presbytery approve the minutes of the February 20, 2010, stated meeting of presbytery.

C) The Trustees of Heartland Presbytery recommended Heartland Presbytery concur with the request of The Presbyterian Church of Stanley (Kansas) to refinance their loan/mortgage with Church Development Corporation (Kansas). The following are the details of the refinance:

Purpose of the refinance: to improve cash flow

Interest rate reduction from 6.75% to 5.50%

Pay-off date change: from August 2019 to August 2024

Amortization: 15 year amortization)

Original pay off is October 2030 (The new payoff is 6 years less than the original note

Payment per month: Reduced from \$12,000 to approximately \$8,600 (savings of \$3,400 per month. - new Payment amount depends on loan balance when restructure is completed)

This action pending receipt of minutes of Congregational Meeting of the Presbyterian Church of Stanley approving this refinance and copies of the new loan documents from Church Development Corporation.

Rationale:

Presbyterian Church of Stanley is in year 3 of capital campaign. Additional principal payments will be made throughout 2010. Presbyterian Church of Stanley plans to have a debt reduction campaign in 2010 to finish paying off the mortgage (the length of the campaign is undetermined at this time).

D) Congregational Ministries Division recommended Heartland Presbytery approve the Rev. Andrew Florio celebrating the Lord's Supper at the April 24, 2010, Junior High Retreat at the Heartland Presbyterian Center.

E) Committee on Ministry recommended Heartland Presbytery approve a waiver of the limitation of two consecutive terms for an elder as allowed by G-14.0226.c for Korean United Presbyterian Church of Kansas.

F) Presbytery Council recommends the Presbytery approve the following Heartland Presbytery Stated Meetings in 2011:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Saturday, February 12 | First, St. Joseph, MO |
| Tuesday, April 12 | _____ |
| Saturday, June 18 | Westminster, Ottawa, KS |
| Tuesday, September 13 | _____ |

Saturday, November 12 _____

Rev. Heidi Peterson request that Item C be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Report of the Stated Clerk

G) 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.

H) The following persons' resignations have been received:

Heartland Presbyterian Center Board of Management:

Jim Robinson (1) WMC, At Large, Class of 2011

Kent Fuller (1) WME, First, Maryville, MO, Class of 2010

I) The Council set the following dates for their meetings in 2011:

January 24; March 21; May 16; August 15 and October 17.

The following reports from Administrative Commissions were included in the presbytery packet:

Congregations Requesting Dismissal from the PC(USA)

First, Kansas City, Kansas

Ruskin Heights – no report

Neema, Prairie Village, KS

Consent Agenda Vote

The Consent Agenda (Items A, B, D – F) was approved.

Item C – Reverend Heidi Peterson asked the amount of the loan to be re-financed. Reverend Eric Laverentz, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Stanley, responded that it was roughly \$985,000. **Reverend Ron Patton moved approval of Item C.** It was seconded and approved.

Heartland Presbyterian Conference Center

Elder Dan Scheneman creatively reminded the presbytery to send their children, volunteers and money to camp this summer using the context of a game show.

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Report of the Associate Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee

Elder Martha Malsbary and the Reverend Ky Weekley, co-moderators of the AEPNC gave an overview of the process in calling the Reverend Leigh B. Gillis as Associate Executive Presbyter for Congregational Vitality. The position description, her biography and statement of faith were included in the presbytery packet.

J) The Associate Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee moved that Reverend Leigh B. Gillis be called as Associate Executive Presbyter for Congregational Vitality of Heartland Presbytery pending successful examination before the presbytery. Beginning June 1, 2010, the terms of call are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Salary | \$41,500.94 |
| Manse Allowance | \$20,000.00 |
| Full Board of Pensions | \$19,372.80 |
| Dental | \$ 330.60 |
| Professional Expense | reimbursable up to \$ 9,000.00 |
| 1 month vacation | |
| 2 weeks study leave | |
| Moving Expenses | \$ 8,000 |

Committee on Ministry

Elder Bev Barr led the examination for membership of AEP Candidate Rev. Leigh B. Gillis. She was examined in the areas of her sense of call to the position; the influence of particular persons on her faith development and how she believes an AEP can influence others in their faith development; building trust during fractious times in her work as an AEP; her gifts for training church officers for service in the greater church; her impression of how Presbyterian polity helps the church; and Leigh affirmed her willingness to abide by our polity and be governed by its discipline.

Questions from the Presbytery included her vision for transformational ministries in congregations; and God's continuing revelation through the Word and work of the Holy Spirit and how that happens today.

Reverend Gillis was temporarily excused from the meeting.

Jeff Cochran moved that the examination cease and that motion J be sustained. It was seconded and approved.

Reverend Gillis was welcomed back into the meeting with a standing ovation.

Reverend Henry Gower moved that the Associate Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee be dismissed with gratitude following her installation as AEP for Congregational Vitality. It was seconded and approved.

Included in the presbytery packet was the Committee on Ministry Report.

Stewardship Division

Rev. Carla Gentry led the report by reminding the congregations that ordered Presbyterian program calendars to please pick them up during the meeting.

Elder Don Haring reported on Stewardship Kaleidoscope in Indianapolis, IN. Next year's conference will be in Phoenix during in the spring of 2011.

Reverend Sandra Stogsdill demonstrated a stewardship idea call "A Noisy Offering" as a mission funding opportunity in which children collect the coins from the congregation using decorated coffee cans or metal pails.

Report of the Executive Presbyter

Rev. Charles Spencer reported on the good secrets of the presbytery. In any given year, 30% of Heartland churches are growing. The theme of the Mission Yearbook 2011 is "Growing Churches Deep and Wide" which will include an article from Heartland Presbytery highlighting four very different growing congregations: Neema NCD; First, Osawatomie, KS; Leawood; and Kaw Prairie. The recent "Face-to-Face Event" included four PNC's and three candidates although it is not yet clear if any matches will happen because of the event. Heartland is one of three presbyteries selected by General Assembly for pastoral residences for first call pastors for a designated period of time. Congregations interested in participating should contact him.

Church Resource Center

Elder Malinda Spencer invited the presbytery to PLACE (Presbyterian – Lutheran Association of Christian Educators) on Wednesday at noon at the Presbyterian Church of Stanley on the topic of technology in the church. Four books were offered on the honor system for pastors to read and pass along to another pastor. The Christian Educators Event "Oasis" will be in October in Excelsior Springs, MO.

Report from the Synod of Mid- America

Elder John Wall reported on the committee assignments of our commissioners; the closing of the Presbyterian Foundation office on March 31; the extension of the Synod's Interim Executive for nine months; changes in Church Development Corporation; they participated in leadership development and futurist, Rex Miller, author of Millennium Matrix.

ORDER OF THE DAY: LUNCH

Rev. Madeline Mercer offered Grace before the Meal.

At 1:00 p.m., the Presbytery reconvened the presbytery with prayer led by Moderator Herring.

Reverend David Cliburn spoke briefly about his experience as the Acting Associate Executive Presbyter for the past three years. His last day will be May 23, 2010. Leigh Gillis will begin June 1. He will not be attending committee or division meetings the rest of 2010. His future is undecided at this time. He thanked the staff for their support especially his collaborative relationship with Charles Spencer.

Mission and Social Justice Ministries Division

Reverend David Cliburn gave an update on the **Arabic Christian Presbyterian Fellowship** and their invitation to a Synod of the Nile seminary graduate to be their pastor. The Division has decided to emphasize our immigrant fellowships during this year.

A report from the Thawke Village mission trip was presented by Reverend Tom Are, Reverend David Nzioka, Reverend Jarrett McLaughlin, Reverend Kirk Perucca, Joan Bechtle, and Lanny Bechtle. The floor and walls to the health clinic have been built and the next step is to put on the roof. Village, First, Olathe; First, Atchison; Neema; and First, Atchison, contributed the funds to build the health clinic. The nearest health clinic has been a two hour walk from Thwake. The next project is a bore hole since the villagers walk a mile each way loading 20 gallons of water on donkeys to carry it back to the village. They met with delegations from the Presbyterian Church of East Africa and presented a sculpture to Executive Presbyter Charles Spencer from the PCEA.

Rev. David Nzioka updated the presbytery about Neema Fellowship NCD and their search for their own building. They welcome gifts from individuals and churches toward that effort. The presbytery was invited to walk with them.

Presbytery Council

Rev. Carla Gentry, Vice-Moderator reported that most of the action items from the Council's March 22nd stated meeting were either on the consent agenda or the presbytery would take action during this report.

Personnel Committee

Rev. Jeff Clayton, Moderator of the Personnel Committee and council member made the following motion:

K) 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.

The Personnel Committee has worked about 18 months on issues of accountability, staff cohesion, and staff structure. Their work included a review of the job descriptions, the Manual of Administrative Operations and what other judicatories do.

The motion sets out a process of how the presbytery nominates and elects its Stated Clerk each term. The Council referred the process if approved by presbytery to Church Order and Listening Division for possible inclusion in the Manual of Administrative Operations. The motion invites the discernment of the person currently in the position, the discernment of an ad hoc search committee to seek a Stated Clerk and the discernment of the presbytery in electing its Stated Clerk. There is nothing that neither presumes nor precludes the current Stated Clerk from re-election.

Questions from the presbytery included the process for naming the ad hoc committee which will include two persons from each Personnel and Nominations; presbytery's process the last time the term was renewed; and presbytery should have had a greater voice in the process of selecting the ad hoc discernment committee.

The main motion was approved with a few dissenting votes.

Business Affairs

Elder Bond Faulwell presented an overview of the presbytery's financial status as of March 31, 2010.

Statement of Activities – The mission portion of the budget is in an \$11,346.08 deficit. The per capita portion has a balance of \$214,655.16 making cash flow healthy.

Statement of Financial Position is in line.

Per Capita/Shared Ministry Report demonstrated how each church is responding to shared mission and per capita giving. It would be helpful to the planning process to know if a church needs to re-schedule its payment schedule. There is approximately a \$109,000 shortfall in Shared Mission Giving for the first quarter of this year as compared to last year.

Committee on Nominations

Elder Don Spencer added names to the slate and those additions are highlighted in red.

Racial designation: (A) Asian (B) Black (H) Hispanic (N) Native American (W) White

Gender: (M) Male (F) Female

Ecclesiastical classification: (C) Clergy (E) Elder (L) Layperson (HR) Honorably Retired

(CLP) Commissioned Lay Pastor
Other designation: (Y) Youth (D) Disabled (YAD) Youth Advisory Delegate
(1) or (2) reference to terms served

L) The Committee on Nominations moves the following persons be elected to serve in Heartland Presbytery:

Church Order and Listening Division:

Class of 2012 – Elder

Committee on Ministry:

Class of 2011 - Clergy

Rev. Andrew Florio (WMC) Chapel Hill, Blue Springs, MO

Class of 2012 – Elder

Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

Class of 2010 – Elder

Carla Hilton (WFE) (1), Pine Ridge

Class of 2011 – Elder

Class of 2012 – Elder

Tim Hayden (1) WME, Grace Covenant, Lenexa, KS

Committee on Representation:

Class of 2012 – Clergy

Class of 2012 – Youth

Congregational Development and Redevelopment Division:

Class of 2012 –Elder

Congregational Ministries Division:

Class of 2011 – Clergy

Class of 2011 – Elder

Lay Ministry Committee:

Class of 2011 – Elder

Barbara Bever (WFE) Covenant, KCMO

Moderator: Jeff Cochran

Mission & Social Justice Division:

Class of 2010 – Clergy

Class of 2011 – Clergy

David Winters, HR (WMC)

Class of 2011 – Clergy

Class of 2012 – Clergy

Stewardship and Mission Division:

Class of 2010 – Clergy

Moderator:

Carla Gentry (WFC) (2) MAL, Class of 2012

Worship & Fellowship:

Moderator:

Mark Braden (1) WMC, Blue Ridge, KCMO

Class of 2011 – Clergy

Class of 2012 – Clergy

Joel Whiteside (1), Immanuel, KCMO

Class of 2010 – Elder

Sexual Misconduct Response Panel:

Class of 2012 – Clergy or Elder (2)

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate with the three additions was **approved**.

Today's offering was announced as \$1324.56, including the Noisy Offering. After the meeting, an additional gift of \$662.28 was added to this offering. The total of \$1968.84 was then split equally in three ways to the Harold Thomas Center for Reconciliation Community Emergency Fund, the Heartland Presbyterian Center Campership Fund, and the Haitian Fellowship for earthquake relief.

There was no **New Business**.

The Moderator reminded the presbytery of its next meeting of Heartland Presbytery on Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. It will be hosted by the congregation of St. Paul Presbyterian Church at the Linwood United Church, Linwood Blvd at Olive Street in Kansas City, MO

Elder Terry Miller moved that the meeting adjourn. It was seconded and approved.

Moderator Chad Herring **adjourned the presbytery meeting with prayer** at 2:02 p.m.

Submitted by Reverend Maryann S. Farnsworth, Stated Clerk



Approved by Council: 5/17/2010

Approved by Presbytery: