

Heartland Presbytery
MINUTES
November 11, 2008

COVENANT:

As the body of Christ, we covenant with God and with each other to affirm our unity in Jesus Christ and share Christ's ministry with others as the Holy Spirit leads us.

At 9:06 a.m., Moderator Rev. Tamara Miller convened the one Hundred Ninety-second stated meeting of Heartland Presbytery in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Paola, Kansas.

Following the opening prayer, the Stated Clerk declared a quorum present and the **Stated Clerk moved approval of the docket with the following additions: under the Report of Committee on Ministry, add approval of the administrative commission for Ruskin Heights Presbyterian Church (FL-1); under the Report of Council, add approval of the 2009 Stated Meetings of Heartland Presbytery (FL-2); and an Order of the Day for a time of remembering our veterans at 10:55 a.m.** The Stated Clerk also explained that the lavender floor paper which was not numbered as FL-3 was the corrected text of the "Covenant of Closure" under the Report of Committee on Ministry on pages 6-7 of the printed docket. The lavender paper is a duplicate of Item 10 in the packet. It was seconded and the docket was approved.

Building Community

First-time Commissioners were introduced and welcomed by the presbytery. No guests were introduced and the following corresponding members were present:

Sarah Oenning, Development Officer for the Presbyterian Manors
Mr. Tim Allen, Executive Director of Aberdeen Village
Mr. Rich Maxwell, Presbyterian Children's Services
Mr. Tom Stroud, The Peanut Butter Project
Rev. Nancy Kahaian, Interim Synod Executive and Member, Presbytery of Northern Kansas
Rev. Jeff Light, Heartland Presbyterian Center and Member, Presbytery of Northern Kansas

Rev. Jeff Cochran moved these persons be seated as corresponding members. It was seconded and approved.

Announcements for the Good of the Community included an invitation to attend the Net Results Conference on November 12th at the Presbyterian Church of Stanley; activities of the Presbyterian Women and a reminder from the Nominations Committee to complete the nomination forms included in the worship bulletins for the offering of time, talent and treasure during worship.

Preparing for Worship the presbytery shared their joys and concerns which included Gerri Ziegler, member of First of Clinton lost her husband Bob last month, First of North Kansas City has lost long time member and active presbyter Lowell Listrom last week whose memorial service will be this Saturday, Rev. Bob Curtis and Rev. Nancy Profit, members at large, who continue battling cancer.

Worship was led by the Rev. James Wilkins, pastor of St. Paul, Kansas City, MO, who preached on the covenantal value "affirm and give thanks for our gifts" with leadership from the Nominations Committee and the Committee on Representation. The Offering of our Treasures benefited the Paola Association for Church Action and the Osawatomie Ministerial Alliance and our Offering of Time and

Talent invited presbyters to participate in the committee structure of the presbytery. The sacrament of the **Lord's Supper** was co-concelebrated by the Reverend Davis Young and his daughter Reverend Kimby Young. Also present was Elder Candis Young Lochmann from the Ward Parkway church.

Rev. Maryann Farnsworth presented the **Report of the Stated Clerk** which included:

1.) The Stated Clerk received the following **resignations**:

Rev. Kathie Knehans and Mary Lou Simmons – POINT Reps to GAC's
Educational Ministries – Theology, Worship and Education

Bob Langworthy – LAMP Board of Directors - Class of 2008

Rev. Ilona Buzick – Congregational Ministries Division – Class of 2009

Rev. Joe Pallikkathayil, HR - Associate Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee and the
Congregational Ministries Division – Class of 2008

2.) The Stated Clerk received the following written **Reports** on behalf of the presbytery: **First, KCKS Administrative Commission Interim Report** and the **Acting Associate Executive Presbyter's Report**

3.) The Stated Clerk received correspondence from the **Presbytery of Maya Quiche**.

4.) **A decision was rendered by the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission in the appeal of the Synod's PJC decision being brought by Elder Robert Sundquist, First, Paola, KS; Rev. Mark Hawke, First, Olathe, KS; Rev. Elise Sharrett-Hawke, Member at large; Elders Di and Chuck Lupton, First Olathe, KS.** The remedial case concerning the Committee on Ministry motion that was adopted on June 16, 2007, was formerly known as Elder Robert Sundquist, First, Paola; Rev. A. Kirk Johnston, First, Paola; Rev. Laurie Johnston, Hillsdale; Rev. Mark Hawke, First, Olathe; Rev. Elise Hawke, Member at Large; Elder Di Lupton, First, Olathe; Elder Chuck Lupton, First, Olathe; Rev. Doug Burford, Ward Parkway, Kansas City; Elder Thomas Neff, Westminster, Ottawa; Rev. Jodi H. Mathews, Leawood; and Rev. R. Kent Mathews, Westminster, Ottawa; v. Heartland Presbytery. The trial was October 24, 2008, in Baltimore, MD.

The committee of counsel was Rev. Chad Herring, Southminster, Prairie Village, KS, Moderator; Rev. Landon Whitsitt, First, Liberty, MO; and Elder Stacey Gunya, Village Church, Prairie Village, KS.

The GAPJC sustained the decision of the Synod of Mid-America's PJC. The full decision will be spread across the permanent minutes of the presbytery and a copy of those minutes provided to the GAPJC per their order.

The GAPJC Decision is Item 4A and an interpretative letter from the committee of counsel is Item 4B.

Rev. Chad Herring presented an interpretative presentation on the final decision by the GAPJC. The presbytery's actions were ruled as constitutional. The full 14 page decision will be spread upon the official minutes of the presbytery but will not be included in the copies circulated through the presbytery.

At 10:55 a.m., the **Order of the Day** was called to remember and honor our Veterans on Armistice Day. The Reverend Joe Carle led the presbytery through a history of the day, two minutes of silent reflection and a reading of the Confession of 1967. The Moderator then led the presbytery in prayer.

Elder Di Lupton moved to rescind and amend the motion approved on June 16, 2007 forming an administrative commission to work with churches seeking dismissal in the fifth point which read:

5. Other congregations may be added to this list by vote of the Committee on Ministry or the Presbytery Council, or such subcommittees as they may designate, according to procedures established by those bodies.

by deleting “by vote of the Committee on Ministry or the Presbytery Council, or such subcommittees as they may designate, according to procedures established by those bodies” and inserting “only by recommendation of Committee on Ministry and approval of the Presbytery.”

Rev. Mark Hawke seconded it. Elder Di Lupton spoke to the motion expressing concern that other churches can be added with out a vote of presbytery and since both Synod PJC and GAPJC commented on this paragraph, it would clarify the presbytery’s intent.

Rev. Chad Herring noted that the only other church added was Gashland and the presbytery voted to add Gashland to the administrative commission’s care. He expressed concern about the “speed” at which a church could be added and requiring a called presbytery meeting or waiting for a stated meeting would remove the possibility of the presbytery being able to provide pastoral care to that church and its members.

Rev. Mark Hawke expressed that having an administrative commission take original jurisdiction of a church can cause damage and the amendment would guard against a misuse of power.

Rev. Leslie King, moderator of the administrative commission, stated that the facts are the administrative commission has not usurped power nor abused it and has taken great care to ensure that every constitutional requirement or recommendation about process in working with churches and pastors has been followed exactly.

The motion failed 19 - 120.

Rev. Tom Thomas moved to dismiss the Committee of Counsel with gratitude. It was seconded, approved and applauded.

The Stated Clerk presented the **Consent Agenda** as follows:

1.) The Council recommends approval of the following:

a.) The minutes of the Heartland Presbytery Stated Meeting of September 9, 2008.

b.) The Committee on Representation’s annual report to the Synod of Mid-America’s Committee on Representation.

c.) Approval of the Annual Review of Session Minutes Report prepared by the Church Order and Listening Division.

d.) Administrative Policy: “Congregations in our Presbytery should not accept the donation of cemetery plots in the future.”

Rationale: Cemetery plots are some of the most difficult real estate to sell. Most cemeteries will not buy the plots back. Many cemetery plots have upkeep fees attached to them. If the owner is deceased, then the fees cannot be collected. But, if the owner, a person or a church, is still alive/existing, then the debt is due on a regular basis. Therefore, even though the donor’s stewardship is appreciated, churches of the Presbytery are discouraged from receiving cemetery plots as donations.

e.) Administrative Policy: “Each entity (committee, division, or board) with a seat on Council has responsibility to appoint an official representative to stand in for voice and vote if the moderator of the entity (committee, division, or board) is unavailable. The appointed representative’s name shall be communicated to the stated clerk or moderator of council at least 24 hours in advance.

Staff members who are ex officio members of any entity of the Presbytery may have voice but not vote at council meetings even when acting as the appointed representative of that particular entity.”

f.) Administrative Policy: “When minister members identify themselves in the media, minister members should identify themselves with their employing organizations or as “Minister Member, Heartland Presbytery”.

Rationale: *This policy was developed in response to concern raised by the Session of Chapel Hill (Blue Springs, MO) after reading an editorial in a local newspaper.*

g.) The request of the Church Development and Redevelopment Division that the presbytery make a commitment to pray for CD&R, the Council and Heartland Presbytery to discern God's will for church development and redevelopment within the Reign of God.

2.) The Council recommends approval of the following addition (in bold) to the existing Presbytery Display Administrative Policy adopted in 2005 which reads “That, effective immediately, it become Council practice to authorize display space—space permitting—for an entire calendar year at a time, with groups contacting the presbytery office no less than two weeks before the meeting to confirm their need for the space. At locations where space is not available, none shall be provided.”

“Ordinarily, display space will be authorized for non profit organizations that are affiliated with PC (USA) and/or Heartland Presbytery or are supported by PC (USA) and/or Heartland Presbytery or share a common mission with the PC (USA) and/or Heartland Presbytery. Council may invite for-profit vendors (including Church Development Corporation, banks, insurance companies, specific selling vendors, etc.) be invited for a one time meeting to offer information at a ‘Vendor's Fair’.”

Rationale: The purpose of the displays is the education, advancement and promotion of a common mission. Presbytery Council may invite vendors and agencies to display for a specific purpose. The intent is that organizations should be non-profit and share the mission of Heartland Presbytery. (Submitted by the Stewardship and Mission Committee)

- 3.) **The Committee on Ministry recommends approval for Savannah Presbyterian Church (MO) to form a small church PNC per G-14.0226b.**
- 4.) **The Stated Clerk recommends the presbytery dismiss with gratitude the administrative commission for installation of the Rev. Krista Kiger as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of St. Joseph, Missouri, as of the conclusion of the service on September 28, 2008.**

Elder Mary Ann Grimes, Clerk of Session welcomed the presbytery on behalf of First, Paola. She noted it was a special day and her joy is great. One year ago, no could have imagined this would happen. She expressed the congregation's gratitude for support and the many gifts from the presbytery, in kindness, prayers and generosity. The congregation was thankful the presbytery was here to celebrate. The Session expressed their appreciation to the Administrative Commission especially moderator Rev. Leslie King and the Osawatomie Church for their support. Special mentions were made of commission members, the presbytery staff and the many pastors who have led worship in the past year. They continue to be grateful for the services of Moderator Diane Quaintance who is more than just a moderator to them. Jim Zakoura who is a member of both the administrative commission and the Osawatomie church has been invaluable. Elder Grimes gave special recognition to their organizer Nancy Oliver and all her committees. As Clerk of Session, Elder Grimes shared the good news that their Session has voted to pay per capita on 100 members. They continue to clarify their membership rolls. They are in the process of completing a mission study and the PNC has been established. They have added four new members and baptized six children in the past year. Things are going very well at First Presbyterian Church, PC (USA) in Paola, KS.

Consent Agenda Vote

The Moderator asked if any item should be removed from the consent agenda. Non were removed. The consent agenda was approved by consensus.

Elder Bev Barr presented the report of the **Committee on Ministry**. On behalf of the committee, Elder Barr examined **Elder Paul E. Moss** in the areas of his understanding of God's sense of timing in calling persons to ministry; his understanding of the functions of a CLP in G-14.0562 and his theology of hope. There were no questions from the presbytery. **Jeff Cochran moved the examination be arrested**. It was seconded and approved. After Elder Moss was excused from the meeting, the presbytery had no questions for the committee.

1.) The Committee on Ministry moved that Heartland Presbytery approve the commissioning of Elder Paul E. Moss as the part-time (average of 20 hours per week) Commissioned Lay Temporary Supply Pastor as First Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Kans., effective November 11, 2008 – October 31, 2009; and approve the covenant effective November 1, 2008 – January 31, 2009, renewable with one month's notice pending successful examination and authorize him to perform all the functions listed in G-14.0462 a-e. Terms are as follows:

Salary

\$ 8,160

Housing	\$ 8,160
Professional Exp.	\$ 2,400
Continuing Ed	\$ 1,500
Study Leave:	2 weeks (40 hours)
Vacation:	One week per quarter

2.) If needed, other examinations and action items as needed following the COM meeting on November 6th.

3.) **On behalf of Council, the Committee on Ministry moved the approval of the 2009 Minimum Effective Salary Guidelines (per G-11.0103n) as follows:**

Full-time Minister of Word and Sacrament:

Effective salary	\$35,560.00
Pension	3,911.60
Disability	355.60
Major Medical	6,934.20
TOTAL	46,761.40

3/4-time (Based on 30 hours per week)

Effective salary	\$26,670.00
Pension	\$ 2,933.70
Disability	266.70
*Major Medical	6,438.90
TOTAL	\$36,309.30

1/2-time (Based on 20 hours per week)

Effective salary	\$17,780.00
Pension	\$ 1,955.80
Disability	177.80
*Major Medical	6,438.90
TOTAL	\$26,352.50

Heartland Presbytery Minimum Effective Salary for full-time Commissioned Lay Pastors and Certified Christian Educators is set at 85% of the Heartland Presbytery minimum for ministers of Word and sacrament.

The motion was approved.

4.) **On behalf of Council, the Committee on Ministry moves the approval of the Covenant of Closure as follows:**

COVENANT OF CLOSURE

The Rev. _____; the _____
Church of _____, Missouri/Kansas, and the Committee on Ministry of
Heartland Presbytery having discussed the intent and requirements of the Presbytery's "Ministerial
Practice in Relationship to a Former Parish" policy enter into the following covenant:

1. The Rev. _____ agrees
 - a. not to involve him/herself in any leadership or advisory role (public or private) in the _____ Church of _____, Missouri/Kansas;
 - b. not to intervene, support or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement or dispute;
 - c. not to officiate in any special events in the lives of former parishioners or of the congregation, including weddings, funerals, baptisms, worship leadership, church anniversary activities, etc. unless expressly invited by the Moderator of the Session;
 - d. to refuse requests for pastoral services made by members of the _____ congregation;
 - e. to recognize that some conflicts make it unwise for a prior pastor to return to visit a previous congregation, and as a matter of professional courtesy, to establish an understanding with the new Moderator of Session regarding subsequent visits to the church, attending worship or attending a special event;
 - f. to refrain from giving opinions or direction regarding church business that could undermine the transition necessary for the church and the development of the relationship between the congregation and a new pastor;
 - g. in the event that the departing pastor continues to live in the area and does not begin service to another church, he/she will not normally attend congregational events for at least one year, or at least one year after a new pastor is installed. After this period, in consultation with and invitation by the session and the current pastoral leadership, the departing pastor may resume worshiping and fellowship within the congregation, provided that the requirements above continue to be observed; however,
 - h. if the departing pastor has family, (spouse, children, grandchildren) who remain active in the former congregation, in consultation and with the approval of the current pastoral leadership, he/she may attend isolated "special events" in the life of the relative, e.g., baptism, ordination, marriage, Christmas programs, always being careful to observe the criteria contained in this agreement.

It is understood that this policy does not affect or require the termination of friendships with individuals in the former congregation.

2. The Session and members of the _____ congregation agree
 - a. not to initiate pastoral or professional contact with previous pastors;
 - b. to respect the terms of the Covenant of Closure agreed upon by The Rev. _____ outlined above;
 - c. to interpret the terms of the Covenant of Closure to the congregation; and
 - d. to incorporate this agreement in the Session minutes.
3. The Presbytery of Heartland's Committee on Ministry shall
 - a. interpret this Covenant of Closure to the Session of _____ Church;

- b. be the Presbytery's agent in reminding the parties to this Covenant of Closure of the principles of the Covenant in the event any transgressions are reported to it;
- c. note this agreement in the minutes of the Committee on Ministry; and
- d. consider setting aside portions of this policy if requested by a departing pastor and the session of the former congregation.

I have read the Presbytery's policy, "Ministerial Practices in Relationship to a Former Parish." I understand these policies and agree to abide by them.

_____ Pastor	_____ Date
_____ Clerk of Session	_____ Date
_____ Name of church	_____ City
_____ Committee on Ministry Representative	_____ Date

Rev. Jim West expressed concern about the treatment of associate pastors to which the committee responded that 3.d. spoke to that concern. Long tenured associate pastor Rev. Duane Stephens expressed appreciation for the policy as he looks to retirement after 40+ years. Rev. Seth Wheeler asked question of clarification regarding interim pastors and the policy. Elder Barr clarified that the policy did apply to interims that need to let the new pastor establish his or her ministry. Rev. Alex Wales expressed concern about COM's support for retired ministers and the formalization of the policy citing that the New Testament was written by a pastor sending letters to his former congregations. Elder Barr responded that the apostle Paul had fewer competitors in the pulpit and that often times when we love the church we have to let go and let someone else learn how to do it.

The policy was approved with a few dissenting votes.

Due to the hour, the Moderator invited Social Justice Ministries Division to provide the first of their "Part 1" on the docket.

Presbyterian Children's Services

Sue Letizia spoke on behalf of PCS and their Advent Booklet. Financial support and volunteers are always welcome.

The presbytery recessed for **LUNCH** at 12:01 p.m. following prayer led by Elder Meri Tetwiler from the host church.

At 1:03 p.m., the Moderator reconvened presbytery with prayer.

Reports from **Table Talks** expressed gratitude for good stewardship drives especially time and talents; new folks stepping up to take on responsibilities; the presbytery staff's commitment and dedication; their churches' staffs; enjoyment of shared meals at presbytery meeting; the summer program at the camp; the diversity of the presbytery; and social justice engagement of presbytery.

Presbyterian Manors

Development Officer Sarah Oenning introduced Suzanne Willey, Director of Marketing at Aberdeen Village and Tim Allen, Executive Director of Aberdeen Village. The presbytery was reminded about the Good Samaritan Fund that provides lifetime care for those residents who exhaust their personal resources. They use \$1,000,000+ from the Good Samaritan Fund to support this worthy cause. The presbytery viewed a video about the manors including highlights of the newest location Aberdeen Heights in Kirkwood, MO.

Heartland Presbyterian Center

Board President Elder Jim Pearl thanked the presbytery for sending their campers to HPC for the past 50 years. Over 350+ groups have met annually at the camp. Over 350,000 youth have camped and over 100,000 adults have attended seminars. Following their video, Rev. Jeff Light continued by thanking the presbytery for changing lives with their faithful financial from congregations, individuals and the presbytery's budget. Volunteer support is critical and a list of opportunities for individuals or groups was distributed. The new Hopper Network is one volunteer in each congregation that is the communication link between the camp and the congregation. Those interested in volunteering as Hoppers should contact Jeff Light at the camp.

Administrative Commission for Ruskin Heights Presbyterian Church

The Report of the Committee on Ministry continued at this time (1:42 p.m.) **Moderator Bev Barr moved on behalf of COM approval of the Administrative Commission for Ruskin Heights with the powers listed and the following members:**

Leigh Hamman (WFE - John Knox Kirk);

Rev. Tim Hoare (WMC – MAL);

Rev. Molly Jones (WFC – Presbyterian Church of Stanley);

Dr. Paul Thompson (WME- First, Lee's Summit);

and with at least additional three persons (balancing between elders and ministers, gender and race) whom COM will add with the permission of the presbytery to be reported at the next stated meeting.

Elder Barr made the following correction to the report:

“Background: The session of the Ruskin Heights Presbyterian Church has informed the Committee on Ministry that it wishes to consider the discontinuation of its ministry. The session has had conversations on this matter with the congregation and the executive presbyter of Heartland Presbytery. ~~The session has approved a plan and time line for concluding its ministry on or about Sunday, May 31, 2009.~~ The session has requested through Committee on Ministry that Heartland Presbytery join them in conversation and planning for this cessation of mission and ministry by the Ruskin Heights Presbyterian Church.”

Rev. Carla Gentry, Stated Supply Pastor of Ruskin Heights, shared some of their story and their reason for making this request of the presbytery. The session requested the administrative commission to invite the presbytery to minister and struggle with them about their future mission and ministry. Elder John Field from the church spoke to the financial status of the congregation. They are equally supported by their congregational pledges, their renting tenant and their investments. Their tenant is leaving at the end of May 2009.

The motion was approved.

The Report of the Committee on Ministry actions having been taken since September 9, 2008, was included in the packet.

Elder Sunok Pai presented the **Report of Council** beginning with a report on the October 20, 2008 Council Meeting. Most of the actions taken during that meeting were on the consent agenda or were brought to the floor during this report.

On behalf of Council, Elder Sunok Pai moved approval of the 2009 Stated Meetings of Presbytery as follows:

Saturday, February 21	Parkville Presbyterian Church, Parkville, MO
Saturday, March 7 (Amendments only)	Colonial Presbyterian Church, KCMO
Tuesday, April 28	Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church, KCMO
Saturday, June 20	Tarkio Presbyterian Church, Tarkio, MO
Saturday, September 19	Grandview Park Presbyterian Church, KCKS
Tuesday, November 17	Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, OPKS

The motion was approved.

Report of the Trustees

Rev. Ron Patton, Moderator of the Board of Trustees presented their report. A Policy on Cemetery Plots was on the Consent Agenda. One of the churches of the Presbytery asked permission from the Presbytery to sell cemetery lots that had been donated to the church. The Trustees unanimously concurred with the sale and requested that the Moderator write an article on the issue of churches receiving cemetery lots as donations. Such an article was written and published.

Recently, one of the churches in our Presbytery received a gift of cemetery plots. They were sure the donor thought they were practicing good stewardship in making the gift to the church. The Session of the particular church asked the Trustees of the Presbytery if they approved of the church selling the cemetery plots. Unanimously, the Trustees communicated that the Session should sell the cemetery plots as soon as possible. In addition, the Trustees advised that congregation and all the congregations in our Presbytery not to accept the donation of cemetery plots in the future.

First, cemetery plots are some of the most difficult real estate to sell. Most cemeteries will not buy the plots back. Second, many cemetery plots have upkeep fees attached to them. If the owner is deceased, then the fees cannot be collected. But, if the owner, a person or a church, is still alive/existing, then the debt is due on a regular basis.

Even though the donor's stewardship is appreciated, churches of the Presbytery are discouraged from receiving cemetery plots as donations.

New Horizons-Odessa, Mo Loan Report

For the last several months, the Heartland Presbytery Negotiating Team made up of representatives of the Odessa Administrative Commission, the Board of Trustees, the Business Affairs Committee of Presbytery Council, the Church Development-Redevelopment Division and the Staff of the Presbytery have been meeting with representatives of the Church Development Corporation of the Synod of Mid-

America in an attempt to resolve the problems surrounding the loan to the New Horizons Congregation originated in 2001 and renegotiated in 2005.

Facts:

1. The loan was originally \$750,000 for 15 years (180 payments) at an interest rate of 7.5%.
2. The refinanced loan was for \$750,000 for 15 years (180 payments) at an interest rate of 6.25%.
3. The Presbytery is the guarantor of the loan, which means that before CDC would foreclose on the loan, Heartland Presbytery is expected to pay off the loan.
4. The congregation has had difficulty making the loan payments and the loan has been declared in default.

There have been three face-to-face meetings between the Presbytery Negotiating Team and representatives of CDC with a number of proposals/scenarios for satisfying this loan. The Interim Synod Executive was involved in the most recent meeting. As of this date, there is no agreement between the parties. Discussions will continue in person and via e-mail.

The negotiating team believes we have come to the best solution possible at this time.

On behalf of the negotiating team, I move that the Presbytery authorize the negotiating team to “buy out” the loan from Church Development Corporation to the New Horizons Presbyterian Church, Odessa, Missouri for a sum of not more than \$600,000.00 with the source of the funds as follows:

**Heartland Presbytery – not to exceed \$550,000.00
Requested of the Synod of Mid-America - \$50,000.00**

Upon transfer of funds, all claims by the Church Development Corporation in regards to this loan will be satisfied.

The Trustees of Heartland Presbytery are empowered to execute any and all instruments to satisfy this action.

The Administrative Commission for New Horizons Presbyterian Church, Odessa, Missouri, in consultation with the New Horizons Presbyterian Church, is empowered to negotiate a pay back schedule to the Presbytery and/or Synod of the funds.

The concerns of the presbytery included utilizing the majority of our reserve funds. David Hintz, CEO of Church Development Corporation spoke to some of the concerns expressed by the presbytery about loan rates, the several different previous negotiations with the congregation, the \$47,000+ in back payments and the meetings with the presbytery’s negotiating team. The current outstanding principal balance is \$721,000 with an additional \$47,000 in back payments.

The Moderator called for a voice vote. Rev. Patton called for a division of the house.

The motion was approved: 84 - 31 with 7 abstentions.

Leawood Presbyterian Church Loan:

The Board of Trustees recommends that Heartland Presbytery concur with the request of Leawood Presbyterian Church, 2715 W. 83rd St., Leawood, KS 66206-1150 to purchase the

property and the house directly west of the church (2727 W. 83rd St., Leawood KS – Leawood Lot 782 LWC-0680 0001 0061, County of Johnson, State of Kansas) for a purchase price not to exceed a total of \$239,000.00 with the following provisions:

- 1. The purchased property and present property of the Leawood Presbyterian Church will serve as collateral to any loan in connection with the purchase of the above said property;**
- 2. The approval of Heartland Presbytery is only for the encumbering of the Leawood Presbyterian Church property and in no way places Heartland Presbytery as the guarantor of the loan;**
- 3. A professional appraisal of the property to be purchased is filed with the Stated Clerk of Heartland Presbytery;**
- 4. Future use of the purchased property (i.e. rental of the house) be approved by the Heartland Presbytery; and**
- 5. That Leawood Presbyterian Church obtain at least two loan proposals to submit to the Trustees of Heartland Presbytery for approval.**

Information:

1. Leawood Presbyterian Church has supplied a copy of the Minutes of the Congregational Meeting on October 26, 2008 recording the vote to approve the purchase was unanimous.
2. Leawood Presbyterian Church has provided a professional appraisal of the property to be purchased. (The value of property and house appraised at purchase price.)
3. Leawood Presbyterian Church has supplied a statement that their property is debt free.
4. Leawood Presbyterian Church has supplied a copy of a pledge from a member who will pay the mortgage until funds received by the capital fund drive are sufficient to begin making payments.

Questions from the presbytery included if the presbytery is not the guarantor of the loan then does it abide by the constitutional requirements of Chapter 7 and the answer was yes. Concern was expressed about a member pledging to make the mortgage payments until the loan proceeds come through for them. Elder Jim Wright from Leawood shared with the presbytery that the congregation has grown from 60 to 90 members in one year and 26 will be joining in two weeks. They are averaging 120 in worship with 30 children in Sunday School (up from 0 last year). The loan will not take more than 30-90 days to be approved so relying on the member's pledge would be minimal.

The motion was approved unanimously – no abstentions.

Kaw Prairie Community Church Loan:

On July 29, 2009, Heartland Presbytery authorized the Board of Trustees to negotiate any language issues involving the loan by the Mission Investment Fund (MIF) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) to the Kaw Prairie Community Church. The Kaw Prairie Community Church is the first union (Presbyterian Church USA) – federated (ELCA) congregation to be formed. For that

reason, the structure of the relations between the Kaw Prairie congregation, the Presbytery and the Central States Synod (ELCA) are unique and ground-breaking.

As the Trustees, Presbytery staff, Presbytery legal counsel and representatives of the ELCA worked on the loan documents, it became evident that the original concepts of how the loan and mortgage would be structured did not comply with the Book of Order and the criteria of the Mission Investment Fund (MIF) for making such loans. It was not a matter of any doubt about the viability of the loan, but rather how the interests of the Presbytery and the MIF could be protected.

There were countless e-mails, conference calls and hours of research by all parties. On Friday, November 7 a conference call was held involving the following persons:
Heartland Presbytery – Rev. Charles Spencer, Dr. Ron Patton, Mr. Henry Dyhouse, Mr. Paul Gault
Heartland Presbytery Legal Counsel – Ingrid Van Bibber
ELCA/MIF – Devin Burg, Amelia Dawkins, Colleen Palmer
ELCA/MIF Legal Counsel – Frank Patton
Kaw Prairie Community Church – Pastor Dan McKnight

Considerable discussion was held concerning the various aspects of the Kaw Prairie Community Church Loan, PCUSA polity, ELCA/MIF criteria and civil law. It was determined that the best course of action is to deed the land to the Kaw Prairie Community Church with certain conditions. Upon recording of the deed, the ELCA/MIF will release the fund of the mortgage directly to the Kaw Prairie Community Church.

It was also determined that further discussions will be held to adjust the constitution and by-laws of the Kaw Prairie Community Church to more clearly address concerns that have arisen during the discussions of the last three months. There will also be a review of the agreement between the Presbytery and the ELCA Synod to assure it reflects our understanding of how we do mission and ministry together.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Heartland Presbytery, Rev. Ron Patton moved that Heartland Presbytery execute a Quit-Claim Deed of:

All that real estate described as follows: Lot 1, Kaw Prairie Church First Plat, a subdivision in the City of Lenexa, Johnson County, Kansas, together with all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereto (the “Property”).

Said Quit-Claim Deed shall be in consideration of the sum of Ten (\$10) DOLLARS.

Details of the Quit-Claim Deed shall be entered into the Minutes of Heartland Presbytery.

The Quit-Claim Deed does include the following requirements which the Trustees, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America Mission Investment Fund and their legal counsels believe are in harmony with the polity of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

Subject to the following requirements:

- a. The Property must be used as a church for a Federated Church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and a Union Church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (together, the “Congregation”), and**

- b. Any and all uses and dispositions of the Property shall be in compliance with the polity of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and with the Plan of Agreement for a Federated/Union Congregation (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)/Plan of Union (Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)) for Kaw Prairie Community Church, Lenexa, KS (the "Plan of Agreement"), including but not limited to the requirements listed on the attached Schedule 1, and**
- c. Any and all signage, advertising material (stationary, business cards and alike), and other communication material (electronic and non-electronic) shall clearly identify the Congregation as a Federated Church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and a Union Church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and**

The grant of the Property contained herein is subject further to a reversionary interest retained by Grantee if either of the following events occur:

- a. the Property ceases to be used as a church for a Federated Church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and a Union Church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (together, the "Congregation"), or**
- b. the Grantee ceases to be a Federated Church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church or a Union Church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).**

If either of the foregoing events shall occur, then the Property shall immediately and automatically revert to Grantor without any further action on the part of either Grantor or Grantee. Grantor may record notice of the occurrence of the above events and third parties may rely on such notice. Any personal property located on the Property shall be divided between Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in accordance with the Plan of Agreement.

The motion was approved.

In order to execute the Quit-Claim Deed and facilitate the transfer of funds from the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America to Kaw Prairie Community Church, Lenexa, Kansas, **on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Heartland Presbytery I move the adoption of the following "Consent of Heartland Presbytery:"**

The undersigned, being the Moderator of the THE HEARTLAND PRESBYTERY, a presbytery of the Synod of Mid-America and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (the "Presbytery"), does hereby certify that the following actions were authorized pursuant to the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) at a meeting of the Presbytery duly held on November 11, 2008:

- 1. The Board of Trustees may donate the property described on the attached Exhibit A (the “Property”) to the Kaw Prairie Community Church (the “Congregation”) for the purpose of building a church on the Property.**
- 2. The donation of the Property shall be subject to the following conditions:**
 - a. The Congregation must remain a Federated Church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and a Union Church of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and**
 - b. If the Congregation ceases to be either a Federated Church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church or a Union Church of the Presbyterian Church (USA), then the personal property of the Congregation shall be divided equally between Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Property shall revert to Grantor**
 - c. Any and all uses and dispositions of the said property shall be in compliance with the polity of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and of the Presbyterian Church (USA)ⁱ and the Plan of Agreement for a Federated/Union Congregation (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)/Plan of Union (Presbyterian Church (USA)) for Kaw Prairie Community Church, Lenexa, KS, and**
 - d. Any and all signage, advertising material (stationary, business cards and alike), and other communication material (electronic and non-electronic) clearly identify the Congregation as a Federated Church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and a Union Church of the Presbyterian Church (USA).**
- 3. The Presbytery authorizes the Congregation to obtain a loan in the approximate amount of \$3,000,000.00 from Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, a Minnesota corporation (“Lender”), to finance construction of the church on the Property. The requirements and reversionary interests set forth in paragraph 2 hereinabove shall be subject to, and any owner of the Property during any time that said loan is outstanding shall be subject to, the Kansas Mortgage by the Congregation in favor of Lender.**
- 4. The Board of Trustees is authorized and directed to enter into and deliver any and all transfer deeds or other documents required to effect the purposes of this Consent, and to take from time to time any other actions which the Board of Trustees shall in its discretion determine to be necessary or appropriate to effect the transactions contemplated by this Consent. Any member of the Board of Trustee may execute such documents and such signature shall evidence the Presbytery’s absolute intention to be bound thereby.**
- 5. Any and all of the acts of the Board of Trustees in connection with the transactions described in or referred to in the foregoing paragraphs, whether heretofore or hereafter done or performed, which are in conformity with the intents and purposes of the foregoing paragraphs, are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved in all respects.**

Questions from the presbytery included the risk involved for both the presbytery and the ELCA; the settlement of assets if the congregation was dissolved by either denomination; and that neither denomination is guaranteeing the loan.

Rev. Joe Carle moved the previous question. It was seconded and approved.

The main motion was approved with one dissenting vote. This ended the report of the Trustees.

Elder Sunok Pai continued the report of the Council by sharing that the Minutes of August 25, 2008 Council Meeting had been approved and were in the presbytery's packet.

Members of Presbytery Leadership have been out and about in our session meetings across the presbytery inviting sessions to endorse the Covenantal Values. Our ultimate goal is to recognize every church in our presbytery at the February meeting for adopting the Covenantal Values. We will be presenting a framed certificate to representatives from every church that has endorsed it by the end of January. As of this week, 27 church sessions have been visited and have signed the covenant.

Congregational Ministries Division is exploring new marketing avenues through radio public service announcements to encourage attendance at Presbyterian events and churches.

Elder Pai invited Rev. Chad Herring to present an overview of the Financials Reports ending 09/30/2008 which were included in the presbytery packet.

Business Affairs approved a waiver of two months rent to the ELCA Central States Synod expressing our gratitude for their patience as we repair the roof. The committee also approved bills regarding the repairs on the building's roof.

Elder Don Haring presented the report of the **Stewardship and Mission Committee** which included the top ten churches in total mission giving and in mission giving per capita. Three churches appeared on both lists: Parkville, First of Independence and Southminster in Prairie Village.

Rev. Charles Spencer presented the **Report of the Executive Presbyter** which included a request for the brightest and the best to be nominated from their congregations to serve on presbytery committees and an update on the repairs to the Harold Thomas Center which included a new roof and the top eight feet of bricks on the building were replaced. Timing of the brick work and roof replacement allowed for a few weeks of rain to soak some portion of all four floors in the building. Volunteers who can do professional quality prep and paint work for the ELCA synod offices would be most welcomed.

Rev. Donna Chavez introduced the second part of the **Social Justice Ministries Division** report and invited Elder Laurie Anderson to speak on the resolution. Laurie is the President of the board of IJAM and a member of the Presbyterian Church of Stanley. She was a PW participant on the border exploring the issues of immigration. That trip was highlighted in a recent issue of Horizons magazine. Laurie Anderson spoke passionately about her experiences accompanying detainees to their deportation trials.

Resolution on Immigrant Detention

Rev. Donna Chavez from the Social Justice Ministries Division on behalf of the Peacemaking Committee moved that Heartland Presbytery adopt the following Resolution on Immigrant Detention:

Whereas the 214th and 216th General Assembly passed and affirmed the Presbyterian Policy on Immigration;

Whereas the Heartland Presbytery affirms this resolution;

Whereas the Peacemaking Committee of the Heartland Presbytery supports the New Sanctuary Movement KC (and as it transitions to Immigrant Justice Advocacy Movement);

Be it therefore resolved that the Heartland Presbytery adopt and support the 218th General Assembly Resolution 09-11: A Resolution to Study Immigration Detention in the United States.

And specifically:

- **Support regional study seminars across the church focusing on detention and immigration and promote these events with connectional structures as appropriate.**
- **Partner with ecumenical and interfaith entities to build/join in coalitions against detention.**
- **Advocate for alternatives to detention.**

The committee recommendation is to recognize, support, and strengthen its alliance with Immigrant Justice Advocacy Movement (IJAM) - the only faith-based, interdenominational, community organization working solely on immigration issues in the KC metro area.

The full rationale was in the presbytery packet as was a summary of Presbyterian Polity on Immigration produced for the 216th General Assembly.

Elder Ray Harter from First, Clinton, MO read the following letter from the session expressing their concerns about making a political statement by adopting this resolution.

Dear Heartland Presbytery:

We, the Session at First Presbyterian Church in Clinton, Missouri, wish to address the request for Presbyterian churches to rebuke the privatization of prisons for illegal immigrants. We understand that many illegal immigrant prisoners are treated inhumanely. As Christians we agree that, no matter their legal status, all humans deserve humane treatment. As it says in Isaiah, "Feed the hungry, house the homeless, clothe the naked." We have no conflict with ministry to aid and assist these prisoners, to provide for their needs. Nor do we have a problem with citizen oversight of federal programs, as it is proper that our government be accountable to its citizens.

However, we take exception with the request to make a political statement through the body of the church. As it says in Matthew, "Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's." We believe that this is Caesar's business, and that the Heartland Presbytery should not be used to specific political purposes. To inform our congregation is acceptable; to give them options to take action is acceptable. To ask us to take time away, however, from the administering the house of the Lord in order to pursue political matters as a church body is divisive to our members, inefficient use of our time and resources, and a potential abuse of the time-honored American tradition of separation of church and state.

Matters like illegal immigration and the detention of prisoners is complicated and cannot be solved easily, especially if restrictive mandates are placed. These matters are best solved by our elected representatives. This is not a matter to be addressed by the church body directly. We are willing to donate resources to ministry for prisoners, we will welcome calls for volunteers to assist them, we will open our doors to citizen meetings to educate and organize, but we will not resolve to condemn any specific political policy as that is not our place.

Sincerely,

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Clinton, Missouri

Debate included the harsh treatment of detainees as a violation of conscience; the call to witness for those who do not have a voice; a complete understanding of the expression "partner with"; concrete ways to "recognize, support and strengthen its alliance with IJAM".

The motion was approved with 12 abstentions and no votes against it.

Tom Stroud from the Peanut Butter Project was not present for his presentation.

Elder Don Spencer presented the **Report of the Committee on Nominations** as follows:

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

The Committee on Nominations moved the following persons be elected to serve in Heartland Presbytery:

MODERATOR ELECT 2009: Rev. Chad Herring (WMC)

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

POINT “Persons of Instruction in Nurture and Training” (a GA program)

Class of 2011:

Malinda Spencer (1) (WFL), First, Lee’s Summit

Cathy Broockerd (1) (WFL), John Knox Kirk

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

CHURCH RESOURCE ADVISORY BOARD:

Class of 2010:

Class of 2011:

Cathy Broockerd (1) (WFL), John Knox Kirk

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

COUNCIL:

Class of 2011:

Betty Miller (1) (WFE) Trinity, Independence, MO

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

HEARTLAND PRESBYTERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Class of 2011:

MODERATOR: Rev. Ron Patton (2) (WMC), HR

Marcus Cumpton (2) WME)

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

CHURCH ORDER AND LISTENING:

MODERATOR: Craig Holstedt (WMC)

Class of 2010:

_____ (Elder)

_____ (Clergy)

Class of 2011:

_____ (Elder)

_____ (Clergy)

_____ (Clergy)

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

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY:

MODERATOR: Beverly Barr, (2) (WFE), First, St. Joseph, 2010

CLASS OF 2011:

_____ (Clergy)
Rev. Ron Galvin (2) (WMC), First, Lee's Summit
Rev. Nancy Profit (1) (WFC), Member at Large
Rev. Molly Jones (1) (WFC), Stanley
Robert Stikeleather (2) (WME), First, Independence
Wilbert "Bill" Rinne (2) (WME), Colonial, KCMO
Mary Jane Houston (1) (WFE), Linwood United
_____ (Elder)

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

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY:

MODERATOR: Matthew Reeves (2) (WMC) Parkville

Class of 2009:

_____ (Elder)
_____ (Elder)
Rev. John "Bo" Burgener (1) (WMC), First, Stanley

CLASS OF 2011:

_____ (Elder)
_____ (Elder)
_____ (Elder)
_____ (Clergy)
_____ (Clergy)
Rev. Glenda Watts (1) (WFC), Overland Park

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

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION:

Class of 2011:

_____ (Elder)
_____ (Clergy)
_____ (Youth)

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT:

Class of 2009:

_____ (Clergy)

Class of 2010:

Rev. Elise Sharrett-Hawke (1) WFC), First, Olathe

Class of 2011:

Brian Williams (2) (WME) John Knox Kirk, KCMO
_____ (Elder)

Mary Brown (2) (WFC) Colonial, KCMO
Jim West (2) (WMC) Colonial, KCMO

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

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES DIVISION:

Class of 2009:

_____ (Clergy)

Class of 2011:

Rev. William Parrott (2) (WMC), Stony Point
Michelle Phillips (2) (WFL), Parkville

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRIES DIVISION:

CO-MODERATORS:

Rev. Donna Chavez (1) (WFC), Argentine
Marge Blank (1) (WFE), Overland Park

Class of 2010:

_____ (Clergy)

Class of 2011:

Rev. Don Sears (2) (WMC), HR
Rev. Alfonzo Tot (2) (HMC), Grandview Park
Rev Al Zimmerman (1) (WMC), Atchison
Marli Klumb (2) (WFE), Overland Park
Marge Blank (2) (WFE), Overland Park
Laurie Anderson (1) (WFE), Stanley
Di Lupton (1) (WFE), First, Olathe

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

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT RESPONSE PANEL:

Moderator: _____

Class of 2011:

_____ (Elder)
_____ (Elder)
_____ (Elder or Clergy)
_____ (Clergy)
_____ (Clergy)

STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE:

Class of 2010:

_____ (Elder)

Class of 2011:

_____ (Elder)
_____ (Elder)
_____ (Clergy)

(Clergy)

WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP DIVISION:

Class of 2010:

(Clergy)

Class of 2011:

(Elder)

(Elder)

(Clergy)

(Clergy)

ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER NOMINATING COMMITTEE (AEPNC):

Don Schomacker (WMC) HR

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

HEARTLAND CENTER BOARD OF MANAGEMENT:

Moderator: Jerry Bos (WME) Pine Ridge (2)

Class of 2011:

Jerry Bos (2) (WME), Pine Ridge

Dr. Mary Lightfoot (1) (WFL), First Lee's Summit

Larry Williams (1) (WME), Southminster

Paul Parsons (1) (WMC), Colonial, KCMO

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

The Committee on Nominations moves the following persons be elected to serve in the Synod of Mid America:

Synod Commissioners

Class of 2011:

Taylor Hess WME (2) Village

Ryan Kapple WMC (1) Leawood

Molly Jones WFC (1) Stanley

YAD Commissioners

Class of 2009:

Emily Frazier WFY (2) Parkville

Stacia Privett WFY (1) Trinity – Independence

Synod Nominating Committee - Tom Carlisle (WME) (1) Westport, Class of 2011

Synod Higher Education Committee: Elbert Darden (BMC) (1) Member at Large, Class of 2009

Synod Personnel Committee: Dennis Haines (WMC) (2) St. Luke, Class of 2011

Synod Youth Ministry Committee:

Anna Warm WFY (1) (WFYL) Second, Class of 2009

Michelle Phillips (WFL) (1) Parkville, Class of 2011

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

There was no **New Business**.

After a long meeting, many voices in the presbytery moved that the meeting be adjourned, it was seconded by many more voices and approved with a loud and hardy “aye”.

Moderator Rev. Tamara Miller after reminding the presbytery of its next meeting on Saturday, February 21, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in the Parkville Presbyterian Church in Parkville, MO for the installation of Elder Jack Schrimsher as Presbytery Moderator 2009, **adjourned the presbytery with prayer at 3:58 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Maryann S. Farnsworth, Stated Clerk
Heartland Presbytery

Approved by Council: 1/26/2009

Approved by Presbytery: 2/21/2009

Attested to by:


