

## MINUTES

### Heartland Presbytery

Saturday, February 9, 2008

Linwood United Church, Kansas City, Missouri

#### 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.**

Moderator Sunok Pai led the presbytery in prayer at 9:02 a.m. to open the 189<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of Heartland Presbytery.

Rev. Jim Gordon moved the **approval of the docket** as approved by the Council. It was seconded and approved.

Several first-time Commissioners were introduced.

The Stated Clerk moved the following persons be seated as **corresponding members**:

Cindy Wissinger from the Church Development Corporation  
Rev. John L. Williams from Missouri Union Presbytery  
Rev. James West from Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery

It was seconded and approved.

There were no guests present to be introduced.

The presbytery shared several announcements along with joys and concern for prayer. The Rev. Meg McLaughlin led the presbytery in prayer.

The presbytery participated in Worship which included the **Installation of Rev. Tamara Miller as Moderator of Heartland Presbytery 2008, and the celebration of the Lord's Supper**. Rev. Don Sears, HR was the preacher.

At 10:55 a.m., Rev. Maryann Farnsworth presented the **Report of the Stated Clerk**.

The Stated Clerk moved that: **The Presbytery dismiss with gratitude the investigative committee of Candis Lochman (Ward Parkway PC, KCMO), Martha Malsbary (Colonial, KCMO), Reverend Madeline Mercer (Pleasant Hill, MO), Rev. Joe Pallikkathayil (St Luke, KCMO now HR) and Reverend Ky Weekley (Grace Covenant, OPKS). Rationale: The pastor renounced jurisdiction and the committee's investigation ceased.**

It was seconded and approved.

**The Stated Clerk moved that the Presbytery amend the previously adopted Overture 24 on Reestablishment of the Office of Environmental Justice as follows:**

**Direct the Director of the General Assembly Council to reinstate the Office of Environmental Justice in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a vital and integral part of the ministry and mission of the Church to help protect and save God's creation.**

**Rationale to Overture:**

***Reaffirmation of the statements of the 183rd, 187th, 192nd, 193rd, 195th, 196th, 199th, 201st, 202nd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 208th, 210th, 211th, 213th, 215, and 216th General Assemblies (1971, 1975, 1980, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2006) will reflect the determination of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that protection of the environment is an essential part of the Christian faith. (The rest of the rationale to the overture is unchanged.)***

***Rationale to Motion:*** *Motions to “reaffirm” are out of order according to Robert’s Rules of Order. Leaving it in the body of the motion would cause its deletion prior to going to the assembly.*

### **For Information:**

- 1.) The Reverend **Edward K. Longabaugh** (pastor, Gashland PC, KCMO) has renounced the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (USA) (G-6.0701) when he notified the Stated Clerk he had accepted membership in the New Wineskins Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church on January 14, 2008. (G-11.0416) The Stated Clerk has deleted his name from the roll of ministers in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The Reverend **John Douglas Burford** (member at large) has renounced the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (USA) (G-6.0700) on February 7, 2008, when he notified the Stated Clerk in writing and in person. The Stated Clerk has deleted his name from the roll of ministers of Word and sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Per Mr. Burford’s request, his letter to the Stated Clerk was shared with the presbytery as follows:

“I have been struggling for years to discern God’s next call on my life. Recent circumstances and provisions have made it clear that I am to return to roots that have never left me and pursue again a simple of house church with an emphasis on organic multiplication. I don not believe that this vision is compatible with PCUSA polity. Therefore, with an irenic spirit, I hereby renounce the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (USA) pursuant to section G-6.0700 of the Book of Order.

Words cannot express how grateful I am for the privilege of the benefits, knowledge, experience, associations and relationships that have been afforded me as a Presbyterian minister of Word and Sacrament. I will always have a profound respect and a large place in my heart for the Presbyterian body of believers and for Heartland Presbytery, specifically.

As you remove my name from membership, please know that I am with you in Christ’s service, J. Douglas Burford.”

At Mr. Burford’s request, the Stated Clerk notes for the minutes that at the time of his removal from membership, John Douglas Burford was a member in good standing and he was not the subject of any investigations, allegations or charges of misconduct.

- 2.) The Stated Clerk received a resignation from Rev. Chad Herring in the Class of 2009 on the HPC Board of Management/
- 3.) The Synod Permanent Judicial Commission (SPJC) dismissed the remedial case **Rev. Mary Brown v Heartland Presbytery** on the preliminary questions (D-6.0305) by a vote of 7-0 with the moderator abstaining. The complaint was against the presbytery council which under the Book of Order is not a governing body over which the synod has jurisdiction. The full decision is in the presbytery packet and will be spread upon the official minutes of the presbytery meeting today.

The Presbytery wishes to extend its deepest gratitude to the committee of counsel: Rev. Heidi Peterson, Rev. Clay Cook and Elder Henry Dyhouse.

**INSERT FULL SPJC DECISION HERE in Brown v. Heartland Presbytery**

- 4.) The Synod Permanent Judicial Commission (SPJC) heard the case **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** in a remedial case concerning the Committee on Ministry motion that was adopted on June 16, 2007. Prior to the trial, complainants withdrew specification of error d (an allegation that the presbytery's action was insufficiently pastoral).

The Synod Permanent Judicial Commission ruled that four of the remaining five specifications (a, b, c, and f) in the complaint were not sustained while one specification (e) was sustained. In their response to specification of error e, the SPJC cautioned the administrative commission not to assume original jurisdiction of a session “merely because the session has called a meeting for the purpose of considering actions that may lead to separation from the PC (USA).” In the order, the Administrative Commission was reminded to follow the process described in G-11.0103s (assuming original jurisdiction of a session), and if they decided they needed to assume original jurisdiction, to make a determination that a session is “unable or unwilling to manage wisely the affairs of its church” after a thorough investigation and a full opportunity to be heard. In addition, the SPJC gave its “considered view” that, in adding churches to the care of the Administrative Commission, “churches should only be added to the list by vote of the presbytery.”

\* Mr. Kirk Johnston withdrew his name from the complaint on January 22, 2008.

The full decision is Item 3 in the presbytery packet. The Stated Clerk will spread the decision of the SPJC across the official minutes of the presbytery meeting today. There is a 45 day window for appeal by either party.

The presbytery wishes to extend its deepest gratitude to the committee of counsel: Rev. Chad Herring, Rev. Landon Whitsitt and Elder Stacey Janssen.

**INSERT THE FULL SPJC DECISION HERE in Sundquist, et al v. Heartland Presbytery.**

- 5.) The Stated Clerk has received allegations against a member minister and has formed an **investigative committee** in accordance with the Manual of Operations with the following members: Laraine Edwards (John Knox Kirk, KCMO), John Tapp (First, Lee's Summit, MO), Jim Bernard, Jr (Second, KCMO), Reverend Carla Gentry (Ruskin Heights, KCMO) and Rev. Mark Medina (First, Independence, MO).
- 6.) The Stated Clerk has a list of the **current overtures** before the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in the FYI section of the Presbytery Packet.
- 7.) The 2007 Annual Report of the **Presbyterian Women** of Heartland Presbytery is included in the packet.
- 8.) The interim reports from the following **administrative commissions** are attached:

Churches Seeking Dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (USA)  
First, Kansas City, Kansas  
New Horizon, Odessa, MO  
Sudanese Community Church

The Rev. Leslie King presented an update from **Administrative Commission on Churches Seeking Dismissal from the PC (USA)**. Their work continues at First, Paola as the acting session. The commission continues to work with the Hillsdale and Gashland Presbyterian Churches.

Rev. Maryann Farnsworth presented the **Consent Agenda**. No items were removed. The Stated Clerk moved the consent agenda as printed in the presbytery docket as follows:

- 1.) **Council recommends the approval of the minutes of the November 17, 2007, stated meeting of Heartland Presbytery.**
- 2.) **Council recommends the approval of the minutes of the December 18, 2007, called meeting of Heartland Presbytery.**
- 3.) **Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends the removal of Nancy Janisch from the roll of candidates at her written request.**
- 4.) **Dismiss with gratitude the administrative commission appointed to ordain and install Sandra Stogsdill as associate pastor of First, Lee's Summit, MO.**

Host Pastor Rev. Tamara Miller welcomed the presbytery to Linwood United Church and an elder presented a brief history of the church.

Since no items were removed from the **Consent Agenda**, it was approved by consensus as presented above.

Rev. Charles Spencer presented the **Report of the Executive Presbyter**.

Elder Bev Barr, Moderator of **Committee on Ministry** presented the report of the committee beginning with the recognition of those elders who have most recently completed **Commissioner Lay Pastor training**: Elder Paul Moss of Covenant, KCMO and Elder Eddie Tanon of the Blairstown church. Rev. Charles Spencer led the presentation. Following presentation of their certificates of completion, the Moderators of the Presbytery and Committee on Ministry greeted them.

The Committee on Ministry moved that the **Presbytery concur with the Committee's action reported on November 18, 2007, to add Gashland Presbyterian Church to the care of the Administrative Commission for Churches Requesting Dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (USA). (This recommendation is under consideration for COM action on February 7, 2008.)**

*Rationale: The Session of Gashland Presbyterian Church notified the COM Moderator, Presbytery Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk that effective January 14, 2008, they had disaffiliated with the PC (USA) and joined the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.*

*The Stated Clerk of the EPC believes Gashland is a member of the New Wineskins Transitional Presbytery of the EPC. An email received by Heartland Presbytery's Stated Clerk dated January 18, 2008, from Bill Meyer, Chairman of the Joint Commission overseeing the New Wineskins Presbytery of the EPC Transitional Presbytery stated: "On Jan. 14, 2008 I received communication from both the congregation and Ed Longabaugh requesting that we act upon their applications based on the action of the congregation to*

*disaffiliate itself from Heartland Presbytery and the PC(USA), and Ed's decision to renounce the jurisdiction of the Presbytery and denomination. The Commission acted upon those requests and we now consider both the congregation and pastor to be members of the New Wineskins EPC Transitional Presbytery. It is our understanding that when a congregation disaffiliates itself from its past relationship and a pastor renounces jurisdiction, they both have, in fact, become independent entities, and we receive them accordingly.”*

*This declaration by Gashland and the EPC has no effect on the congregation's status in the PC(USA) as the power to dismiss, dissolve or divide a congregation is a power of the presbytery only (G-11.0103i). There is no “disaffiliation” in the Book of Order.*

*The action proposed today is not necessary according to the June 16, 2007, action of presbytery, or according to the order of the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission (Item #3), which only recommended--rather than required--that the full presbytery act to add churches to the list. Nevertheless, the COM wants to comply as completely as possible with both the letter and the spirit of the PJC decision, and therefore brings this recommendation.*

*The Administrative Commission has already begun work with the congregation, and this action will only reaffirm the AC's authorization to respond to the congregation's request for dismissal.*

There were no questions for the Committee. The motion was approved with one dissenting vote.

Due to the hour, the Committee on Ministry's Report was suspended. The Order of the Day to Recognize **Mardy Cottrell's 25 years of service to Heartland Presbytery** began at 11:37 a.m.

Mardy's tenure included service under eight executive presbyters and interim executive presbyters and about as many associate executives. Mardy's job description changed many times over the years and the English and History major evolved into the computer expert and bookkeeper. Mardy was presented with a \$1,000 check, an azalea and small centerpiece. Mardy thanked the presbytery for 25 years of friendships and challenges that kept encouraging her personal and professional growth.

At noon, the Moderator gave instructions for the table talks during lunch and led the presbytery in grace using a prayer from India.

At 1:02 p.m., the Moderator reconvened the presbytery with prayer from Kenya.

Rev. Tom Thomas, Moderator of Worship and Fellowship Division, led the presbytery through the reports from the **Table Talks** about diversity in presbytery meetings. Comments included the diversity of worship styles during presbytery meeting, the sense of presbytery being an extended family, the new presbytery moderator is bringing diversity to the presbytery meeting, appreciation for the processes used at presbytery meetings to get folks acquainted and the importance of presbytery worship being an opportunity for many pastors to worship without the responsibility of leading worship.

Elder Bev Barr moved on behalf of the **Committee on Ministry that the examinations be sustained and that these elders be commissioned as lay pastors as follows:**

**Elder Cheryl Keimig** (Parkville PC) called to be lay pastor of First, NKC was examined in the areas of faith, doctrine and her readiness to serve in the congregation that has called her. Elder Keimig's biography and statement of faith were distributed at registration. Elder Keimig shared her sense of call to be a CLP; her understanding of the role of a lay pastor; she confirmed her ability to answer affirmatively the constitutional questions and affirmed that she would be governed by our PC (USA) polity and abide by our discipline.

There were no questions from the presbytery. The examination was arrested. Elder Lou **INSERT ELDER COMMISSIONER'S NAME HERE** from First, NKC spoke of their excitement in calling Elder Keimig.

**Elder Bev Barr moved the examination of Elder Cheryl Keimig be sustained, the terms of call approved and that Elder Cheryl Keimig be authorized to perform the all functions listed in G-14.0562.**

Elder Keimig was excused from the meeting. There were no questions from the presbytery. The motion was approved.

The report of the Committee on Ministry continued with the **examination of Elder Linda Lynam**, First, Warrensburg. Elder Lynam shared her faith journey. The committee examined Elder Lynam in the areas of her understanding of the bible, the sacraments and her ability to affirm all the commissioning questions and her willingness to be governed the polity and abide by the discipline of the PC(USA) which she affirmed.

Questions from the presbytery included understanding her self-care plan as a lay pastor while teaching full-time.

Moderator of Jacoby Chapel Rev. Alex Wales spoke on behalf of Jacoby Chapel expressing their excitement about Elder Lynam's service with and to them.

**Rev. Alex Wales moved to arrest the examination.** It was seconded and approved.

Elder Lynam was excused from the meeting. There were no questions for the committee.

**Elder Bev Barr moved the examination of Elder Linda Lynam be sustained, the terms of call approved and that Elder Linda Lynam be authorized to perform the all functions listed in G-14.0562.**

It was approved.

The presbytery commissioned Elder Cheryl Keimig to serve First, NKC and Elder Linda Lynam to serve Jacoby Chapel, Warrensburg.

**Elder Bev Barr moved that Rev. John Williams be received by transfer from Missouri Union Presbytery, effective February 29, 2007, the date of his retirement as Synod Executive of the Synod of Mid-America.**

Rev. Williams was examined by the committee in the areas of his sense of call, changes in the denomination during his ministry, sin and evil, and his ability to answer affirmatively all the constitutional questions including abiding by its polity and being subject to its discipline.

There were no questions from the presbytery for Rev. Williams or the committee.

The examination was arrested and sustained unanimously.

**Elder Bev Barr moved that Rev. James West be received by transfer from the Presbytery of Charleston-Atlantic in order to be called as pastor of Colonial, KCMO and OPKS, pending congregational approval on February 10, 2008, to start on INSERT DATE HERE with the following terms of call:**

Salary	\$67,500
Manse	\$67,500
Auto Allowance	\$ 5,000
Family Travel Allowance	\$ 2,500
Full pension/medical	
Moving Expenses	100% reimbursed
Travel Expense	100% at IRS allowed rate
Travel & Entertainment	\$ 1,000
Cell Phone	\$ 600
Expense Account	\$ 3,500
Study Leave: 2 weeks annually	
Vacation: 5 weeks annually	
AA/EEO Guidelines were followed	

The committee examined Rev. West in the areas of his faith journey and his conversion from the moderate stream of the Southern Baptist denomination; his understanding of scripture, his understanding of his new role as senior pastor in a church twice the size of any church he has served as an associate pastor, and his ability to answer affirmatively all the constitutional questions including being governed by its polity and abiding by its discipline.

Questions from the presbytery included what does he appreciate about the PC(USA) and his response included the scriptural basis of the Book of Order.

Elder Glenn Miller, Moderator of the PNC shared their joy in God finding Jim West for them after weekly meetings for eleven months. The PNC interviewed him for six hours during his first interview. They are enthusiastic and without reservation in nominating to be pastor of Colonial PC.

Rev. West was excused from the room. There were no questions for the committee on ministry.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Elder Bev Barr reminded the presbytery about following the Book of Order G-14.0530 when seeking a pastor or associate pastor. The Committee on Ministry meets the first Thursday and will process any requests at their meeting.

Elder Don Spencer, Moderator of **Committee on Nominations** presented the committee's report.

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 moves the following persons be elected to serve in Heartland Presbytery:**

(Names in bold italics were added by the Committee on Nominations prior to moving the slate.)

**Committee on Ministry**

Ron Galvin (1) (WMC) Lee's Summit, MO, First, Vice-Moderator  
Ginny Kadyk (1) (WFE) Prairie Village, KS, Southminster – 2010

**Committee on Nominations**

Don Spencer (2) (WME) KCMO, Pine Ridge – Moderator  
Heidi Peterson (2) (WFC) KCMO, Central – Vice-Moderator

**Congregational Development and Redevelopment Division**

Mary Brown (1) (WFC) KCMO, Colonial – ~~Moderator~~  
***Rev. Dan McKnight (1) (WMC), Kaw Prairie - Moderator***

**Worship & Fellowship Division**

Correction: David Joslyn (1) [WME] KCMO, NorthEastminster, Class **2009**  
Robert Cromwell (1) (WMC) Raytown, Faith – Class of 2009

**Presbytery Council:**

Bond Faulwell (1) (WME) Grace Covenant, Class of 2010  
Mary Jane Houston (1) (WFE) Linwood United, Class of 2009

***Church Order and Listening Division:***

*Robert Ziegler (1) (WME) Clinton – Class of 2010*

***Committee on Preparation for Ministry***

*Robert Seed (1) (WME) Independence, MO Trinity - Class of 2010*

***Committee on Representation:***

***Tucker Penner (WMLY) KCMO, Second Class of 2008***

***Congregational Ministries Division:***

***Betty Miller (WFE) Independence, Trinity Class of 2010***

***Stewardship and Mission:***

***John Walls (BME) Belton, First Class of 2010***

There were no nominations from the floor. It was approved.

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

Commissioners

Larry Satorius (1) (WMC) – Class of 2008

Permanent Judicial Commission

Allison Seed (1) (WFC) – Class of 2010

There were no nominations from the floor. **On behalf of the committee, Elder Spencer moved the slate as presented.** It was approved.

The Committee on Nominations nominates the following persons be elected to serve as Commissioners to the **218th General Assembly** in San Jose, CA on June 21-28, 2008:

Elders

Don Spencer, Pine Ridge (WME)  
Mary C. Jorgenson, Southminster (WFE)  
Martha Malsbary, Colonial (WFE)  
Bond Faulwell, Grace Covenant (WME)

Alternates

Vic DeJong, Pine Ridge (WME)  
Ravin Graham, Lee's Summit, First (WFE)  
Kaitlin Dryer, Chapel Hill (WFEY)  
Tom Eagle, Lee's Summit, First (WME)

Ministers

Tamara Miller, Linwood United (WFC)  
Carla Gentry, Ruskin Heights (WFC)  
Matthew Reeves, Parkville (WMC)  
Jeff Mercer, Chaplain, VA Hospital (WMC)

Alternates

Diane Quaintance, HR (WFC)  
Glenda Watts, Overland Park (WFC)  
Jay McKell, Grace Covenant (WMC)  
Mark Moon, NorthEastminster (WMC)

Youth Advisory Delegate

Jessie Light, Southminster (WFY)

Alternate

Angela Holstedt, Pine Ridge (WFY)

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate was approved as presented.

Rev. John Williams gave his final **Report as the Synod of Mid-America Executive**. The synod will engage in a yearlong mission study probably by utilizing the councils of each presbytery. They will call an interim synod executive to help with the mission study. He noted that the denomination has changed much in the forty years of his ordained ministry and that many challenges were yet to come but they would be approached with God's gifts to God's people.

Rev. Landon Whitsitt presented the report of the **Church Order and Listening Division**. **On behalf of the Council, Rev. Whitsitt moved the adoption of the Manual of Administrative Operations effective February 10, 2008.**

Rev. Mary Brown expressed her opinion about the conflict of interest policy because it could exclude some from the decision-making conversations. Rev. Whitsitt invited Rev. Carla Gentry, former moderator of the COAL Division and leader of the Manual writing team to respond to Rev. Brown's concerns about her unfamiliarity with the "Life Together" document from General Assembly. Rev. Gentry explained that RONR provides for voice for members but also provides for organizations to create their own standing policies to govern themselves such as a conflict of interest policy. The recommended conflict of interest policy is modeled from the "Life Together" document and includes common practices of corporation life that set minimum standards of ethical behavior for their boards and members.

The manual of administrative operations was approved with two negative votes.

Elder Sunok Pai presented the **Report of Council** which included her final report as Moderator of Presbytery. She participated in 13 ordinations or installations out of the 15 that happened during her year as moderator of presbytery. She attended presbytery meetings, council meetings, some committee and division meetings and 25

churches during their special celebrations. She complimented the presbytery staff for their dedication and hard work.

The **Council Minutes of October 22, 2007** were approved in January and were included in the packet.

The following **actions of January 13, 2008 Meeting** were taken on behalf of presbytery:

The Presbytery Council's first meeting of the year was their annual planning retreat. The council focused a significant amount of time on the Vision Report and worked on **measurable milestones** that incorporate newly adopted covenantal values into the work of the presbytery. The Council also had their business meeting during the retreat.

The Council heard annual reports from the professional staff of the presbytery. The council approved the Presbytery minutes from November 17 and December 18, 2007 along with the Council meeting of October 22, 2007. The minutes for January will be approved at their March meeting and are not available to the presbytery until they are finalized.

There were assignments made for the newest members at large on the council including:

**Business Affairs:** Chad Herring (moderator), Ruth Crawford, Erwin Sprick and Carla Gentry  
**Personnel:** Bob Lehleitner (moderator), Laurie Johnston, Cheryl Keimig and Seth Wheeler  
**Trustees:** Ron Patton and Marcus Cumpton

The council **approved the amendment to Overture 24**, the overture to re-establish the Office of Environmental Justice which was approved by the presbytery today under the Stated Clerk's Report. Each division represented gave a brief report to the Council.

The council also heard from Rev. Jeff Clayton who was representing the Mission Outreach and Social Justice Division. **MOSJ had voted unanimously to ask Council to docket a motion that would rescind the action of presbytery on November 17, 2007, that approved the substitute motion now called the Overture to End the War in Iraq.** MOSJ did not believe the rationale could be rewritten and that the motion had to be completely rewritten or rescinded.

After discussion, the **Council declined the request of MOSJ to docket that motion and instead passed the following motion:**

**The Council recommends that the presbytery rescind the motion to refer to MOSJ the re-writing of the rationale for the Overture to End the War in Iraq due to MOSJ's inability to re-write the rationale and instead refer the motion to Church Order and Listening Division to re-write the rationale.**

*Rationale: MOSJ has declined to re-write the rationale for several reasons. The Council decided that referral to Church Order and Listening Division that typically reviews the overtures prior to their coming to the floor of presbytery be assigned the rewriting of the rationale. The final version would be reported under the Stated Clerk's Report at the April 12, 2008, stated meeting.*

The presbytery's discussion included MOSJ Division Moderator Kirk Perucca explaining the division's position on the November 2007 overture and their discussion about trying to rewrite the rationale. Rev. Landon Whitsitt, Moderator of COAL Division sought clarification on the motion that it would be reported to presbytery and that presbytery would not re-approve the overture and Moderator Miller concurred. Elder Vic DeJong asked that presbytery support the overture that was approved and COAL's rewriting of the rationale.

The motion was approved with a few dissenting votes.

Rev. Chad Herring presented the report of the **Business Affairs Committee**. Rev. Herring noted that the Per Capita Report (12/31/2007) reflected the final commitments of individual congregations to the administrative ministry of the presbytery. Per capita is a high moral obligation of connectionalism. The 2008 per capita is \$28.96.

Rev. Chad Herring noted that the Mission Giving Report (12/31/2007) reflected that over \$786,000 was received for mission through the presbytery. Good stewardship on the part of those entities that benefit from the mission giving budget kept the budget in line for 2007.

Rev. Herring thanked the presbytery for their support of the per capita and mission giving in 2007.

Rev. Kirk Perucca presented the report of the **Mission Outreach and Social Justice Division**

**Mission Outreach and Social Justice moves that the Presbytery adopt the following overture to the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly:**

**Overture. Heartland Presbytery overtures the 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to do the following:**

**Direct the General Assembly to request Presbyterian congregations and individual members to highly encourage the use of non-disposable food service items, and to refrain from the use of disposable food service products, particularly styrofoam and other non-biodegradables; to use non-disposable bags for packing items purchased in the commercial market, and to refrain from using plastic bags; to choose tap or home or church-filtered water instead of bottled water or soda, and to refrain from purchasing those liquids in plastic bottles. Even though this represents only a part of what we can do to live in a more environmentally just manner, it is extremely important in beginning to live sustainable, healthy lives.**

The motion with complete rationale is attached. Moderator of Earthkeepers Dianne Waddell spoke to the overture on behalf of the MOSJ Division.

The overture was approved with one dissenting vote.

There was **New Business** for the presbytery in the form of a Commissioner's Resolution because the minister member has given the presbytery previous notice, this action required only a simple majority to pass.

**Rev. Jeff Clayton moved that Heartland Presbytery rescind the action taken at the stated meeting on November 17, 2007, approving the substitute motion to overture the General Assembly on the Iraq war.**

Rev. Clayton spoke to his motion citing logical inconsistencies within the text of the overture.

Moderator Miller reminded the presbytery of the impact of rescinding a previous motion.

**Rev. Kimby Young moved that the presbytery limit debate to 15 minutes total with each speaker being limited to 2 minutes each.** The motion was seconded and approved.

The motion to rescind was debated. When all who wanted to speak had spoken, the moderator put the motion to rescind before the presbytery. There were 47 votes to rescind and 61 votes against and one abstention. The motion failed.

Moderator Tamara Miller **announced the next stated meeting will be Saturday, April 12, 2008, 9:00 a.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Stanley in Overland Park, Kansas.**

**Rev. Tom Thomas moved that the presbytery adjourn.** It was seconded and approved.

Moderator Miller **adjourned the presbytery with prayer at 3:21 p.m.**

*Maryann S. Farnsworth*

Rev. Maryann S. Farnsworth, Stated Clerk

These minutes were approved on:

3/24/2008 By Council

4/12/2008 By Presbytery

Attested to by:

*Maryann S. Farnsworth*