

MINUTES
Heartland Presbytery Stated Meeting
Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Heartland Presbytery convened its 192nd stated meeting at a.m. on Tuesday, September 9, 2008, in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Olathe, Kansas.

Moderator Rev. Tamara Miller called the meeting to order with three raps of the gavel and then led the presbytery in prayer.

The Stated Clerk declared a quorum was present.

Stated Clerk Rev. Maryann Farnsworth moved the **approval of the docket** as it was included in the presbytery packet. It was seconded. The Moderator called for New Business. There was none. The docket was adopted. Bill McEachen seconded the motion.

Many first time commissioners were introduced. The following corresponding members were seated:

Rev. Nancy Kahaian	Interim Executive, Synod of Mid-America, Member of the Presbytery of Northern Kansas
Rev. Robert Sheldon	Associate Executive for Funds Development, Synod of Rocky Mountains, Member of Presbytery of the Plains and Peaks
Elder Laurie Anderson	Member, Presbyterian Church of Stanley
Elder Walter Olker	Presbyterian Foundation
Elder Rachel Lausch	Translator for Maya Quiche Presbyters
Rev. David Winters	Presbytery of the Pacific
Juan Lopez Gomez	Stated Clerk, Maya Quiche Presbytery, Guatemala
Pedro Ordonez, Saquic	Treasurer, Maya Quiche Presbytery
Jose Augusto Sapon, Puac	Vice-Moderator, Maya Quiche Presbytery
Rev. Barbara T. Todd	Missouri River Valley Presbytery
Rev. J.R. Bo Burgener	Missouri River Valley Presbytery
Rev. John Welch	Missouri Annual Conference, United Methodist Church

Many **guests** in attendance were introduced to the presbytery.

Announcements made for the good of the community included:

Congregational Ministries Division's AGAPE Conference; First, Clinton's 150 Anniversary Celebration on September 27-28; PW Fall Cluster meetings on Oct 3, 4, 10 and 11th; Colonial is hosting October 17-18 Willow Creek simulcast; Theological Education Fund; HEAR Conference in October at the Heartland Presbyterian Center; ARMSS representative Dennis Haines introduced the presbytery to this organization's services; St. Luke will be hosting a two day event of fellowship/music to pray for the revival and renewal of

PC(USA) on September 25-27; Rich Maxwell from PCS introduced the new director of their mentoring program; Crop Walk is providing announcements for congregations to use in worship; Ky Weekley invited members of presbyter to come on the November 8-15 trip to Guatemala at a cost \$1300 and the deadline to sign up with a \$600 deposit is September 25.

The presbytery shared the following **joys and concerns** for prayer during worship:

Elder Ann Rich death of husband, Trinity, Independence, MO

Rev. Bob Curtis – cancer treatment

Laura Donnelly Glover (Rev. Art Donnelly's daughter)

Mary Johnson (widow of Rev. Dave Johnson) broke rib in a fall and is recuperating at Aberdeen Village temporarily.

The presbytery enjoyed the opening activities so much that it delayed worship by 25 minutes.

The presbytery was led in worship by the Stewardship and Mission Interpretation Committee. Special Guest Preacher the Rev. Robert L. Sheldon preached the sermon called "Three Things in Stewardship that Do Not Work but We Continue to Do". The presbytery celebrated the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Rev. Maryann Farnsworth presented the **Report of the Stated Clerk** as follows:

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

Jessie Light (WFYL) from the Synod Youth Ministry Committee – Class 2008

Barbara Scott (WFL) First, Liberty from Synod Youth Ministry Committee – Class 2009

Regina Minturn (WFE) Overland Park, OPKS from Church Resource Center Board – Class 2008

Brian Hathhorn (WME) John Knox Kirk, KCMO from Heartland Presbyterian Center Board of Management – Class 2009

2.) The Stated Clerk received the following written **Interim Reports from Administrative Commissions**:

- New Horizon, Odessa

- First, KCK

- For Churches Seeking Dismissal

Rev. Leslie King moved on behalf of the Administrative Commission that original jurisdiction be returned to the Session of First, Paola, with the exception financial matters with regard to legal and real property issues. It was approved.

- Sudanese Community Church

- Neema Fellowship/NCD

(The Stated Clerk noted a correction on Page 2, Item 1, paragraph 2, line 3 should read that "more than 250 participants in worship".)

3.) The Stated Clerk received a report on the **Summer Meeting of the Synod of Mid-America** which is included in the presbytery packet.

- 4.) The Stated Clerk received the report of the **Committee on Preparation for Ministry** concerning the committee's Seminary Policy Statement referred to them during the June 10, 2008 meeting of presbytery. It is included in the presbytery packet for information only since it is a committee policy only.

- 5.) **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 will be heard by the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission on October 24, 2008, in Baltimore, MD.** 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 committee of counsel in this case is Rev. Chad Herring, Southminster, Prairie Village, KS, Moderator; Rev. Landon Whitsitt, First, Liberty, MO; and Elder Stacey Gunya, Village Church, Prairie Village, KS.

Rev. Tom Thomas made a **point of order with reference to Item 4** of the Stated Clerk's Report, he believed the Committee on Preparation for Ministry had overstepped its bounds in setting a policy that "requires" an inquirer or candidate to attend a PC (USA) seminary. Rev. Tim Waggoner noted that in the Minutes of the June 10th stated meeting that the committee was to bring the policy back to the presbytery for a vote of the body. The Rev. Matthew Reeves, Moderator of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry responded to the presbytery about the committee's desire to not have it be a presbytery adopted policy so that the committee would have more flexibility in applying the policy. **The Stated Clerk recommended that the CPM receive the referral of the presbytery again and review the policy, considering the concerns voiced in the presbytery before the policy is placed on the docket of the presbytery.**

The Stated Clerk then presented the Consent Agenda as follows:

- 1.) **The Council recommends Presbytery approve the minutes of the June 10, 2008 stated meeting and the minutes of two called meetings of Heartland Presbytery on July 29, 2008.**

Rev. Mark Hawke, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Olathe, Kansas, welcomed the presbytery noting the locations of important rooms in the church and sharing some of its history. Mark's wife, Rev. Elise Sharrett-Hawke is parish associate.

The Moderator returned the presbytery's attention to the **consent agenda**. The Moderator asked if any item should be removed from the consent agenda. None were removed. **The Stated Clerk moved the approval of the consent agenda.** It was seconded and **approved**.

Elder Don Haring shared a **Minute for Mission** on behalf of the Stewardship and Mission Interpretation Committee. The Moderator reported that the offering during worship which will benefit Presbyterian Disaster Response Fund totaled \$1,510.50.

Rev. Ky Weekley, moderator of the **Guatemalan Partnership**, reported on the gift of the Presbyterian Women for the women of Maya Quiche Presbytery. Rev. Weekley introduced the presbyters from Maya Quiche Presbytery: Juan Lopez Gomez, Stated Clerk; Pedro Ordenez, Saquic, Treasurer; and Jose Augusto Sapon, Puac, Vice-Moderator. Rachel Lausch provided interpretation for the presbytery. The funding from Heartland Presbytery has allowed Maya Quiche to start two new churches this year. Maya Quiche presented Moderator Tamara Miller with an afghan woven in Guatemala which had "A Gift from Guatemala" woven into it. The Moderator then used the afghan as a parament on the pulpit for the duration of the meeting.

The Moderator, Stated Clerk and Executive Presbyter signed the **Partnership Agreement with Maya Quiche** along with the Vice-Moderator, Stated Clerk and Treasurer of Maya Quiche renewing the covenant for another four years.

Elder Bev Barr began the report of the **Committee on Ministry**. Elder **Olain Francois** was introduced to the presbytery. Elder Francois was examined for commissioning as a lay pastor to Christ Presbyterian Church and to serve the First Haitian Fellowship as lay pastor effective September 10, 2008, with the terms of \$8,400 designed as housing. Elder Francois was examined in the areas of his sense of call to be a commissioned lay pastor, his appreciation for and understanding of Presbyterian polity and the reformed faith, and his gifts for ministry at Christ Presbyterian Church. Questions from the presbytery included what things excited him most and what concerned him most about being a commissioned lay pastor. Elder Francois affirmed that he could affirmatively answer all the constitutional questions for commissioning and that he would be governed by the church's polity and abide by its discipline.

Revs. Bill Filbern and Ron Patton spoke to the presbytery about the history and the present progress of the Haitian Fellowship and its relationship to Christ Presbyterian Church.

Elder Bev Barr moved that the examination be arrested. It was seconded and approved.

There were no questions from the presbytery.

Elder Bev Barr moved that Elder Olain Francois the approval of the commissioning of Olain Francois to Christ Presbyterian Church with authority listed in G-14.0562 a, b,d,e and approves the 1 ½ days/week CLP Covenant between Elder Olain Francois and Christ Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO effective September 1, 2008, with a housing allowance of \$8,400. Bill Filbern will continue as moderator and participate in worship along with Rev. Eric Garbison's participation in worship. Ron Patton will be his mentor. The motion was approved.

Following the examination, Elder Francois was commissioned by the presbytery to Christ Presbyterian Church surrounded by his wife and friends.

The presbytery recessed at 12:02 p.m. for lunch and fellowship. Rev. Mark Hawke offered grace.

The presbytery reconvened with prayer by Moderator Rev. Tamara Miller at 1:04 p.m. Individuals from each table reported on the structured conversation. Since each table had a different question related to stewardship and mission, reports were varied and interesting.

The Committee on Ministry report continued.

The Rev. **John Robert “Bo” Burgener** was examined for transfer from Missouri River Valley Presbytery in order to accept a call as associate pastor of mission and evangelism at the Presbyterian Church of Stanley. Rev. Burgener was examined in the areas of his early childhood experience of Catholicism guides him as he communicates his faith to seekers; how did he explain “holy scripture is canonical and is a certain rule of faith above everything else” to seekers who have experimented in many different spirituality practices; and he answered affirmatively that he could answer all the constitutional questions for installation and he agreed that he would be governed by the church’s polity and abide by its the discipline.

Elder Lynn Lee spoke on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Stanley affirming Bo’s call to ministry among them and the congregation’s vote to call him.

Bev Barr moved that the examination be arrested. It was seconded and approved.

Mr. Burgener was excused from the meeting. **Moderator Bev Barr moved that the examination be sustained and the call be approved including the terms:**

Salary	\$23,500
Housing	\$25,000
Professional Reimb.	\$ 5,000
Full Pension and Medical	
Moving Expenses	\$ 7,500 (not to exceed)
Study Leave: 2 weeks annually	
Vacation: 4 weeks annually	
AA/EEO Guidelines were followed	

The Rev. **Barbara Tooker Todd** was examined by the Committee on Ministry in the areas of her experience and education in interim ministry in preparing a congregation for their next installed pastor; and from her statement of faith, she explained what she meant in stating “the Bible is the Word of God and it is window revealing the way God has related to peoples in the past” which is a paraphrase of the Westminster Confession. The presbytery had no questions.

Elder Dave Christianson spoke on behalf of Chapel Hill and their great desire “to get this done quickly”.

Rev. Jeff Cochran moved that the examination be sustained. It was seconded and approved.

There were no questions of the committee.

Elder Bev Barr moved that the examination be sustained and Rev. Todd be transferred from Missouri River Valley Presbytery in order to serve as the interim pastor of Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church in Blue Springs, MO, effective October 1, 2008, with the following terms:

Salary/Housing	\$51,300
Auto Reimb.	IRS rate (\$0.585)
Continuing Education	\$ 650
Moving Expenses up to	\$ 1,500
Full Pension/Medical	
Vacation – 4 weeks vacation per year	
Study Leave – 2 weeks per year	
AA/EEO Guidelines were followed	

It was approved.

The Rev. **John Allen Welch**, a United Methodist minister in the Missouri Annual Conference was examined for temporary membership in the presbytery by the Committee on Ministry in the areas of his abilities and gifts he will bring to Fairfax and their community; his participation in the United Methodist Conference the last 36 years and how he hopes to participate in Heartland Presbytery; and he affirmed that he could abide by the discipline and governance of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The presbytery had no questions of Rev. Welch.

Elder Richard White spoke on behalf of the Fairfax church and how they appreciate his ministerial experience, creativity and he suggested that Rev. Welch may want to transfer to the PC (USA) as the Fairfax congregation has a history of converting UMC pastors to the PC (USA).

Rev. Jeff Cochran moved that the examination be arrested. It was seconded and **approved**.

Rev. Welch was excused from the meeting briefly.

Bev Barr moved that the examination be sustained and Rev. John Allen Welch be enrolled as a temporary member in Heartland Presbytery in order to serve as temporary stated supply at Fairfax Presbyterian Church effective July 1, 2008 – January 1, 2009, with the following terms:

Salary	\$ 10,920.00/per year
Housing/Utilities	\$ 6,000.00/per year
Auto Reimb.	IRS current rate (\$0.585)
Cont. Ed. Reimb.	\$ 1,000.00/vouchered per year
Vacation: 4 weeks annually	
Continuing Education: 2 weeks annually	
AA/EEO Guidelines were followed	

It was approved.

COM Moderator Bev Barr moved the following policy on behalf of the committee:

According to G-10.0103b, the presbytery appoints moderators of session. When a church is without a pastor, Committee on Ministry will appoint a moderator of the Session. The Session's responsibility to that moderator includes:

Mileage: To be reimbursed for round-trip travel at the current IRS professional mileage rate.
Honoraria: A Session will consider some form of honorarium in appreciation for their moderator's time. (Approved by COM, June 5, 2008 and amended by COM, August 7, 2008.)

The policy was approved.

Rev. Charles Spencer gave the **Report of the Executive Presbyter** as follows: the Northwest churches in the presbytery gathered to discuss mission and ministry in that part of the presbytery in July and the churches in the southern part of presbytery from Ruskin Heights south will gather for a similar discussion in October; and he added a fourth stewardship activity that doesn't work to Bob Sheldon's list— a generic ask without a vision- and tied it into churches that want to call a "generic pastor" instead of defining who they are, their mission and ministry and what type of pastor they need to lead them in that definition, mission and ministry. It was duly noted that it was the Executive Presbyter's birthday.

Elder Dan Scheneman, Executive Director of the **Heartland Presbyterian Center Management Board** presented the new Hopper Network. During camp, the hopper is the person at the dining hall table who gets to hop up and get the food from the kitchen to the table. The Center is recruiting a hopper from every church to be their communicator for alerting the congregation to the needs of the camp and available programs at the center.

Elder Don Spencer, Moderator of the Committee on Nominations moved that Carla Hilton (WFE) Pine Ridge, be elected as a Commissioner to Synod of Mid-America, Class of 2009.

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

Elder Don Spencer moved that Rev. Ron Patton, HR, (WMC) Class of 2010 be named Moderator, Heartland Presbytery Board of Trustees, for 2008.

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

Rev. Kirk Perucca, moderator of the Social Justice Ministries Division, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Immigrant Detention 09-11 on behalf of the division.

Elder Di Lupton moved that the resolution be postponed for action to the November 11, 2008, meeting of presbytery for consideration. It was seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 67 – 55.

The Commitment to Peacemaking was re-committed to by the Linwood United Church and will be recognized at a future meeting by the Peacemaking Committee.

Elder Sunok Pai presented the report of the **Presbytery Council**. At the Council's August meeting, the Council approved their minutes from May 19 and a called meeting on July 29th. Those minutes were included in the presbytery packet.

The council heard from two organizations with which the presbytery relates: the Church Development Corporation and the Immigrant Justice Advocacy Movement.

The Council continues to receive requests from committees, board and divisions for changes to the Manual of Operations. These are being referred to Church Order and Listening Division so that one "packet" of changes will eventually come to the presbytery for the mandatory two readings prior to adoption.

The Council reviewed the evaluations of the June presbytery meeting. The council relies on your feedback to improve our meetings as we strive to live by and live into our covenantal values. Please complete and return your evaluation at the registration table before you leave today.

Probably the most important work accomplished by the Council in August was its continuing effort to implement the covenantal values throughout the presbytery. At each council meeting, committees and divisions have reported on their implementation of the covenantal values at their meetings. Now, the Council wants to invite every Session to endorse the covenantal values as their own way of living together as a congregation. The process will be:

A letter will be sent later this week to every clerk of session explaining the covenantal values and request the session's endorsement.

Volunteers from presbytery committees, divisions, board and council will be contacting clerks of session to schedule a brief visit with each session beginning this month to explain the covenantal values and encourage that session's endorsement.

As sessions endorse the covenantal values, the presbytery will present to each of those congregations a certificate suitable for framing during presbytery meetings in 2009.

The Council hopes you will welcome your covenantal values visitor and schedule their ten minute visit as soon as possible. Elder Pai recognized Acting Associate Executive Presbyter David Cliburn. He led the presbytery through a recitation of the covenant and covenantal values.

The Rev David Cliburn moved on behalf of Council that Heartland Presbytery request each session to endorse the covenant and covenantal values of Heartland Presbytery.

Discussion included how congregations could incorporate the presbytery's covenant and covenantal values into the life of their congregations without diminishing or replacing their own covenants and covenantal values.

The motion was approved.

Elder Sunok Pai called on Rev. Chad Herring, Moderator of the Business Affairs Committee to present the current financial reports and the adoption of the 2009 Operating and Mission Budgets.

There were no new issues beyond those reported at the June 10th stated meeting. Receipts for per capita and mission are behind which is generally expected at the end of summer.

Elder Di Lupton asked about Item 20, page 3 “Legal Counsel” overages and what is the limit for legal expenses in the budget. Business Affairs Committee will bring recommendations to the Council at a later date which may include using the proceeds of the Hillsdale church negotiations to cover the legal expenses of the administrative commission. Budget categories adopted by the presbytery are guidelines based on recommendations by committees, divisions and staff and are not set permanently.

Executive Presbyter Charles Spencer explained that the legal expenses incurred by the presbytery have been in response to other entities bringing ecclesiastical suits or civil suits against the presbytery and the presbytery’s need to defend itself. Heartland Presbytery has not initiated any ecclesiastical or civil suits.

Elder Taylor Hess asked if the 15 churches that have not contributed their per capita in 2008 are expected to fulfill their per capita by year’s end. It is hoped that conversations between those sessions and presbytery leadership will succeed in helping those sessions direct some or all of their per capita obligations to the presbytery.

The 2009 Operations Budget was based on per capita being \$29.90 (up 94 cents total or a Heartland Presbytery 3.24% increase over 2008.) **On behalf of Council, Rev. Chad Herring moved the approval of the 2009 Mission Budget and the 2009 Operations Budget with a per capita of \$29.90.** It was approved.

The **Report of the General Assembly Commissioners** (part 2) was presented. Rev. Tamara Miller reported on the worship at General Assembly from its pageantry of the opening worship to the wide variety of **preaching and worship** styles in the daily worship experiences, the slow times at GA encouraged the younger commissioners to write haiku about their experiences at GA, and she shared some of the writings from the General Assembly Moderator Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow and Stated Clerk Rev. Grady Parsons who were elected at this assembly.

Rev. Matthew Reeves reported on **General Assembly Procedures** where he was assigned. GAP deals with the workings of the GA and the GAC which included sustentative reflection on what it means to be the church and how we express the church in a global community. Creeds and confessions reflect what the church should be and believe. In 1908, the National Council of Churches at its formation adopted a social creed. At the 218th GA, the adoption of a new **Social Creed for the 21st Century** was approved to “bring a message of hope in fearful times”. There are two changes to the Book of Confessions are being sent to all the presbyteries for their approval – a change in some of the wording in the **Heidelberg Confession** to the original German and Latin. For example, changing “God’s own eternal son” to “God’s own natural son”. The flashpoint for some is in the changing of the text to delete the reference to 1 Corinthians which was inserted by scholars in the 1960’s. To approve these changes, 2/3 of the presbyteries vote affirmatively in 2008-9 then the 2010 General Assembly will need to vote in the affirmative before the Book of Confessions can be changed. The **Confession of Belhar** was approved to be added to the Book of Confessions. It would be the first confession from outside the western world since it originates from South Africa during Apartheid. The (reformed) Church of South Africa adopted it in 1986. Its emphasis is on unity in Christ and condemns division or forced separation among any people who confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

Elder Bond Faulwell spoke about the **Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations Committee** on which he served. A new **ecumenical policy statement** for the Presbyterian Church (USA) which included references the NCC, WCC and WARC; immigration; Habitat for Humanity and Heifer International. An overture that called for tolerance in Christian, Jewish and Islamic community relationships. It solicits additional dialogue between those faith communities as equals to discuss current social issues. This committee received an invitation to interfaith dialog come from 138 Muslim clerics encouraging a conversation on common grounds that they all share.. To be Presbyterian means to be ecumenical.

Rev. Carla Gentry highlighted the **500th Jubilee of John Calvin coming in 2009**. She was assigned to **Bills and Overture Committee** which monitored the work of the committees and assigned commissioner resolutions to the appropriate committee. If the process of a committee wasn't working well, Bills and Overture Committee would work with the leadership to smooth out their process by the next business session. Through her work, she learned about the GAPJC, the Racial Ethnic Committee and the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations.

She outlined the **processes for amending the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions**. The Book of Order process begins when the amendment booklets are distributed to the presbyteries. Each presbytery docket their voting process at a meeting prior to May 18, 2009, General Assembly's deadline for inclusion in the 2009-2011 Book of Order. A simple majority of all presbyteries is all that is required to amend the Book of Order. The Book of Confessions process is much longer. The 218th GA appointed a Committee of 15 to make a recommendation to the 219th GA (2010) which will either vote to send the amendments to the presbyteries or not. Presbyteries would vote in late 2010 or early 2011 and 2/3 of the presbyteries would need to approve those changes. If the presbyteries vote in the affirmative, that vote goes to the 220th GA (2012) which must also approve the changes with a 2/3 majority before the Book of Confessions can be amended.

Elder Mary Jorgenson served on **Church Orders and Ministry Committee** which dealt with the John Knox Overture 05-12 passed in committee by 43-15 and was passed on the floor of the assembly. It affirmed the previous GA's decision that presbyteries may consider departures from the essential tenants but are not required to accept that departure and rescinded the authoritative interpretations of 1979 (PCUS) and 1978 (UPCUSA). This was an affirmation of the GAPJC decision and will not come to the presbyteries for a vote. The second overture 05-09 Boston Overture (passed in committee by 41-11) and passed on the floor of the assembly which is the amendment to G-6.0106b. These issues were not the "elephants in the room" that no one wanted to discuss but the "opportunities in the church" for building community through listening and dialogue.

Rev. Jeff Mercer reflected on the Sunday worship which was held simultaneously in two locations and shared via video between locations. During the service, the missionaries, military chaplains and volunteers in mission were commissioned. He was on the **Polity Committee** which dealt with the definition of marriage, the review of the synods' minutes and issues around same sex unions.

Elder Martha Malsbary reported on the **Form of Government Committee** of 68 persons. They had one agenda item with 15 amendments. The goal of the re-write was to make the polity more missional, provide more flexibility for presbyteries and make it more user friendly. Ultimately, it was sent to a new task force made up of the old task force with additional members from the 218th GA Committee to be sent for discussion in presbyteries and congregations prior to the 219th GA.

Elder Don Spencer reported on his work on the **Worship and Spiritual Renewal Committee**. They had three overtures to consider: reaffirming our common faith in Jesus Christ before significant votes on the floor of the assembly; solemn assemblies; and the use of communal discernment. Communal discernment involves the whole body giving strong voice to both majority and minority opinion and works toward consensus by gathering in Christ, listening to the Holy Spirit and moving forward as one group.

The moderator thanked all the commissioners for their reports and reminded the presbytery that all of the commissioners including YAD Jessie Light who could not attend the presbytery meeting welcome invitations from churches to speak on the issues of General Assembly.

Since there was no further business and no new business to attend to, the moderator entertained a motion to adjourn.

Elder Mary Jorgenson moved that the meeting adjourn. It was seconded and approved.

Moderator Miller reminded the presbytery to return their evaluations and led the presbytery in prayer.

With a loud rap of the gavel, the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m. by Moderator Tamara Miller and a good time was had by all.

Submitted by,



Rev. Maryann S. Farnsworth
Stated Clerk

Approved by Council: 10/20/2008

Approved by Presbytery: 11/11/2008

Attested to by:

