

**Minutes**  
**Heartland Presbytery**  
**Stated Meeting**  
**February 21, 2009**

Heartland Presbytery gathered for its 193rd Stated Meeting on Saturday, February 21, 2009, in the sanctuary at the Parkville Presbyterian Church in Parkville, Missouri.

At 9:05 a.m., Moderator Reverend Tamara Miller convened the presbytery with three raps of her gavel and opened the meeting with prayer.

The Moderator declared a quorum was present.

**The Stated Clerk moved approval of the docket as presented.** It was seconded and approved.

**Building Community**

Many first-time commissioners were introduced and **Rev. Jeff Cochran moved that the following corresponding members be seated:**

<b>Rev. Doug Kelly</b>	<b>Presbytery of Southern Kansas</b>	<b>Board of Pensions</b>
<b>Rev. David Winters, HR</b>	<b>Presbytery of the Pacific</b>	
<b>Rev. Jay Collins</b>	<b>Presbytery of Twin Cities</b>	<b>JKV Hospice</b>
<b>Walter Olker</b>	<b>Presbyterian Foundation</b>	
<b>Joyce Holley</b>	<b>Church World Service/Crop Walk</b>	

It was seconded and approved.

There were no guests were introduced.

Announcements for the good of the community included a National Gathering invitation from Presbyterian Women and their Spring Clusters; an Estate Planning Seminar at Covenant Presbyterian Church on March 8<sup>th</sup> presented by Rev. Dr. James Foster Reese from the Presbyterian Foundation; the Peanut Butter Project brochure was distributed; and many others too numerous to list.

The presbytery moved to a time of **worship including the Lord's Supper and the Installation of the 2009 Moderator Elder Jack Schrimsher**. His pastor Rev. Brian Ellison preached on 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 and the covenantal value: "Proclaim and celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ to one another and the world in our worship, ministry & mission."

Moderator Schrimsher called the meeting back to order at 11:07 a.m.

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

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

From Congregational Development and Redevelopment Division:		
Mary Brown (WFC)	Colonial, KCMO	Class of 2011
Brian Williams (WME)	John Knox Kirk, KCMO	Class of 2011
Robert Nicholson (WME)	First, Paola, KS	Class of 2011

From Congregational Ministries Division:  
Betty Miller (WFE) Trinity, Independence, MO Class of 2010

2.) From the Congregational Ministries Division: The Annual Training Event, “Making Agape a Way of Life” was a big success! Thank you to Pine Ridge Church for hosting our event and a special thanks to Rev. Jim Gordon, Pastor; Craig Holstedt, Associate Pastor and Carla Hilton, Certified Christian Educator for all of their help in making this event a success. The training event conducted 16 training sessions which were attended by 143 participants from 24 churches from Heartland Presbytery.

3.) The Stated Clerk received a written Report on behalf of the presbytery from the First, KCKS Administrative Commission.

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

1.) The Council recommends approval of the **minutes of the Heartland Presbytery Stated Meeting** of November 18, 2008.

2.) The Council recommends that Heartland Presbytery **dissolve the Taiwanese Fellowship** (housed in the Leawood Presbyterian Church) effective December 28, 2008.

Rationale: The remaining members of the Fellowship joined the Leawood congregation on December 28, 2008. The need for the Taiwanese Fellowship no longer remains.

Rev. Brian Ellison welcomed the presbytery to the historic Parkville church.

**The Stated Clerk moved approval of the Consent Agenda as presented earlier.** No items were removed. The consent agenda was seconded and approved.

Elder Bev Barr, Moderator of the **Committee on Ministry** led the presbytery through their report.

The Committee on Ministry recommends the presbytery:

1.) Examine and approve Elder Will Howard to be the commissioned lay pastor to the St. Matthew Presbyterian Church, Grandview, MO, for 15 hr. per week, effective April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010, and authorized to perform the functions listed in G-14.0562a-e. Terms are as follows:

Salary	\$13,200
Professional Development	\$ 1,800
Professional Leave (Study Leave) – 2 weeks annually	
Vacation – 4 weeks annually	
AA/EEO guidelines were followed	

Elder Howard was examined in the areas of his understanding of the presence of God in the life of others today; his sense of call to St. Matthew; his understanding of reformed theology and the role of pastor; and his functions as a lay pastor and which of those functions, he finds the most challenging. Elder Howard looks forward to moderating the session but believes it will take time to feel comfortable in that role. Elder Howard confirmed that he could answer all the constitutional questions in the affirmative including being governed by its polity and abiding by its discipline. Questions from the presbytery included identification of his home church and what he believes will be the most exciting aspect about being a CLP at St. Matthew.

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

Les Harris, Moderator of the Pastor Nominating Committee from St. Matthew spoke with great enthusiasm as to their call to Elder Will Howard.

Elder Howard was excused briefly from the meeting. There were no questions for the Committee on Ministry. COM has appointed Reverend Seth Wheeler as his mentor and Reverend Duane Stephens as his supervising pastor.

The main motion was approved.

2.) Examine and approve Elder Eddie Tanon, to be the commissioned lay pastor for NorthEastminster Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO for 20 hrs per wk effective February 1, 2009 – January 31, 2010, and authorized to perform the functions listed in G-14.0562a-e. Terms are as follows:

Salary	\$7,553.04/yr
Housing	\$7,560.00/yr
Full Pension/Medical	
Mileage reimbursed at current IRS rate for travel related to church programs and activities, not including mileage from place of residence to church.	
Cell Phone Reimbursement	\$ 50.00/month
Professional Reimbursement	\$2,000.00/yr
Study Leave: 2 weeks per year	
Vacation: 4 weeks	
AA/EEO guidelines were followed	

Elder Tanon was examined in the areas of his understanding of the sacraments; his theology of hospitality as he hopes to implement it at NorthEastminster; his understanding of why the Book of Order would allow a CLP to have all the functions of a pastor; and he affirmed his ability to answer all the constitutional questions including agreeing to be governed by the church's polity and abiding by its discipline.

Questions from the presbytery included his understanding of the Trinity in his daily life (which the Stated Clerk ruled out of order) and his perception of what kind of redevelopment needs to happen in Heartland Presbytery to which he answered multi-cultural worship and welcomed diversity in the congregations.

Elaine Joslyn, Clerk of Session from NorthEastminster, spoke to their joy of being "stunned by how good God is" by bringing Elder Tanon to them. A group of ten from the church came forward in support as Elder Johnson spoke to the presbytery.

Elder Tanon was excused briefly from the meeting. His supervising pastor will be Reverend Ron Patton and his mentor pastor will be Reverend Ron Galvin.

The moderator of the Blairstown session, Reverend David Irwin, reported his joy as he moderated the session meeting when Eddie Tanon applied to the CLP program.

Questions from the presbytery included clarification of the number of hours he is called to serve and an understanding from COM as to the appropriate theological questions for a CLP candidate. It was explained by the Stated Clerk that COM set the standard that questions appropriate to a candidate applying to come under care would be appropriate. [G-14.0560 states: The elder shall be examined by the appropriate committee of presbytery as to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and the areas of instruction

mentioned earlier.” Those areas are instruction in Bible, Reformed Theology and Sacraments, Presbyterian Polity, preaching, leading worship, pastoral care, and teaching.]

The motion was approved.

The presbytery then commissioned Elder William P. Howard to be lay pastor in and for the St. Matthew Presbyterian Church in Grandview, Missouri, and Elder Eddie Tanon to be lay pastor in and for the NorthEastminster Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

3.) Examine and approve the transfer of the Reverend Jay Collins, from the Presbytery of Twin Cities. Rev. Collins is serving as a Chaplain through the John Knox Village Hospice Program. His terms are as follows:

Salary	\$45,760
Medical	\$4,839.38
Travel:	\$0.44 cents/mile
Vacation:	25 days annually
Pension	through employer’s program

Reverend Collins was examined in the areas of how his hospice ministry helps him to maintain the “authentic self” that he mentioned in his biography; his understanding of the sacraments in his ministry since he had not mentioned them in his statement of faith; his active participation in previous presbyteries of membership; and he affirmed his ability to answer all the constitutional questions in the affirmative including agreeing to be governed by its polity and abiding by its discipline.

Questions from the presbytery included his attendance at a non-PC (USA) seminary (Gordon-Conwell) and how it strengthen his Presbyterian identity and why he chose hospice chaplaincy over hospital chaplaincy.

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

There were no questions for the COM from the presbytery.

The main motion was approved.

The Committee on Ministry’s Report was in the packet.

Joys and Concerns included.

Rev. Brian Ellison reminded the presbytery about finding their lunch and shared prayers of joys and concern along with grace for the meal. Joys included the news that the morning offering benefitting the Heartland Presbytery’s Candidates’ Scholarship Fund was \$1,390.00; the meals ministry of First, Maryville being recognized by the city for their efforts; Linwood United Church had received an award from UTS/PSCE for their work with neighborhood youth and children; Reverend Richard Morris’ loss of his mother; Moderator Jack Schrimsher in the loss of his father; Reverend Abby Abendroth was recovering at home; Elder Charlotte Thurman of First, Higginsville needs prayers for healing; Elder Bev Barr thanked the presbytery for their prayers for her parents; and many silent prayers not mentioned.

At 12:00 p.m., the presbytery observed the **ORDER OF THE DAY** by stopping for lunch and Table Talks.

Rev. Brian Ellison said grace before the meal.

At 1:07 p.m., Moderator Schrimsher reconvened the presbytery with three enthusiastic raps of his gavel and a prayer for the meeting.

Reverend Charles Spencer presented the **Report of the Executive Presbyter** which included the recognition of Linwood United Church with the Katherine Hawes Award for Effective Youth Ministry from Union Theological Seminary/ PSCE; explaining the request to sessions to endorse the presbytery's covenantal values as a means of expanding the mission and ministry of the presbytery through local congregations; the Stewardship Kaleidoscope event and an update on the tenants of the Harold Thomas Center. The ELCA Central States Synod vacated their space at the end of January and all of the other tenants are shared mission recipients through reduced rental rates. There needs to be a future conversation about the future of the Harold Thomas Center and its use.

Reverend Matthew Reeves, Moderator of the **Committee on Preparation for Ministry** presented their action item with assistance from CPM members Reverend Mark Hawke and Reverend John Williams. The guidance statement is strictly for the benefit of Heartland Presbytery but also for the larger church as our candidates receive calls in many other presbyteries across the country. The experience of the CPM tells them that things that matter most are grounding in Presbyterian theology, Presbyterian polity, work in the languages and exegetical tools -most of which are seldom offered at all in non-PC (USA) seminaries. It was explained that the nature of the call to ministry often takes us out of our comfort zones while many of our inquirers and candidates expect and sometimes demand that their calls will not be outside the bounds of Heartland Presbytery. Strongly recommending that inquirers and candidates attend a PC (USA) seminary is the first step in helping them understand the broad geographic nature of God's call. Mentoring local seminary students as they prepare to take the ordination exams has driven home to the committee that there is much offered in a PC (USA) seminary that others simply cannot or do not offer. This is a guideline not a presbytery policy because each exception to a presbytery policy would require the action of the presbytery whereas a guideline would allow the committee to make exceptions on the presbytery's behalf.

**The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moved that Presbytery endorse the Seminary Guidance Statement as a working framework for the CPM's ministry with those preparing for ministry. It is understood that this Guidance Statement would be interpreted and applied by the CPM on an individual basis with each person under care of the Presbytery.**

### **Committee on Preparation for Ministry Heartland Presbytery**

#### **Seminary Guidance Statement**

**The Heartland Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry understands that a calling to serve the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a Minister of Word and Sacrament is a calling that must be identified by a candidate but also confirmed by the church.**

**In order to provide the Presbyterian Church with pastors who have received the best possible theological education, who are grounded in the Reformed tradition, and who have an understanding of and commitment to ministry within the Presbyterian Church, the Heartland Presbytery Committee on Ministry (CPM) follows these guidelines in its ministry with those preparing for ordination as Ministers of Word and Sacrament:**

- **The Committee strongly encourages all years of theological education to be taken at a seminary of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

- **The Committee requires that a period of study of at least one year in residence be taken at a seminary of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**
- **Students enrolled at Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seminaries will receive priority in the Committee's disbursement of financial aid.**
- **Students who take a majority of their education at a non-Presbyterian seminary may be assigned additional requirements by the Committee.**

**The CPM intends to use this policy as a general guideline when counseling potential Inquirers and Candidates regarding seminary choice, and when determining what expectations will be for particular Inquirers and Candidates. The Committee will apply the policy on a seminary by seminary and person by person basis.**

Concerns expressed by the presbytery included the changing nature of the committee itself and a later committee requiring a student previously exempted to the guidance statement to attend a PC (USA) seminary.

**Rev. Chad Herring moved the following insertion to the end of the second bullet: “or to demonstrate to CPM's satisfaction a plan for instruction in Reformed and Presbyterian theology and polity, preferably through a seminary of the Presbyterian Church (USA).” It was seconded.**

Discussion about the amendment included the amendment provides better guidance; and use of the word “required” in the second bullet does not make it sound like a “guideline” but a policy.

The moderator put the motion to amend by Rev. Chad Herring to the presbytery. The amendment was approved.

Further discussion of the amended motion included the inconsistency between the word “guideline” and the last paragraph which uses “policy”.

**Rev. Seth Wheeler moved to amend the guideline statement changing the word “policy” throughout the document to “guideline” for consistency. It was seconded and approved.**

Discussion continued on the twice amended motion which included the “grandfathering” in of those currently enrolled as inquirers and candidates enrolled in non-PC (USA) seminaries with which the CPM concurred.

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- **The Committee strongly encourages all years of theological education to be taken at a seminary of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**
- **The Committee requires that a period of study of at least one year in residence be taken at a seminary of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or *the demonstration of\* to CPM's satisfaction a plan for instruction in Reformed and Presbyterian theology and polity, preferably through a seminary of the Presbyterian Church (USA).***
- **Students enrolled at Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seminaries will receive priority in the Committee's disbursement of financial aid.**
- **Students who take a majority of their education at a non-Presbyterian seminary may be assigned additional requirements by the Committee.**

**The CPM intends to use this ~~policy~~ guideline as a general guideline when counseling potential Inquirers and Candidates regarding seminary choice, and when determining what expectations will be for particular Inquirers and Candidates. The Committee will apply the ~~policy~~ guideline on a seminary by seminary and person by person basis.**

The amended main motion above was approved with one negative vote.

Rev. Donna Chavez, Co-Moderator of the **Social Justice Ministries Division** led the presbytery through their report.

**Celebrating Mission Grants:** The division awarded ten grants to area mission groups in 2008 and those are listed with information about their mission work in the attachment.

### **The Peanut Butter Project**

Tom Stroud from Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church spoke about the Peanut Butter Project which uses a locally produced peanut butter to feed hungry children in Malawi and Sierra Leone. The Peanut Butter Project is based in St. Louis because a Washington University School of Medicine professor Dr. Mark Manary became aware of the malnutrition in Malawi and he developed a nutrient infused peanut butter that can save the lives of children. Rachel, a pre-med student at Washington University School of Medicine, informed the presbytery that 25% of the children in Malawi die each year from malnutrition. Zachary also a pre-med student has been to Malawi but he worked in the bottling factories that produced the 245 gram bottles of peanut butter which supplies a child a day's worth of nutrition – saving its life. He cultivated sources for the bottles, peanuts and distribution of the peanut butter for the factory. Since the Peanut Butter Project began the recovery rate from malnutrition is over 90%! Grace Covenant has sent a gift of \$43,000 to build a peanut butter factory in Sierra Leone. It is hoped that many churches in the presbytery will add the Peanut Butter Project to their mission budgets. Visit [www.projectpeanutbutter.org](http://www.projectpeanutbutter.org) for more information.

### **Peacemaking Certificates Presentation**

Two churches have made a re-commitment to Peacemaking: Linwood United Church and Village Church. They will be celebrated in grand form at the Peacemaking Festival on March 28<sup>th</sup> at Colonial Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, MO. Registration for the festival is free including dinner. No shows for the dinner are billed \$8 each for their uneaten meals.

### **Report from the Guatemalan Partnership Trip**

Reverend Ky Weekley reported that they attended the Maya Quiche meeting and the Moderator of Presbyterian Women presented them with a beautiful banner which was given to PW Moderator Lula Bounds. Heartland Presbytery PW had provided funds to the Maya Quiche PW. Rev. Weekley thanked the churches that make designated gifts to the Guatemalan Partnership over and above their mission pledge to the presbytery. July 26<sup>th</sup> will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Maya Quiche and Heartland Presbytery will have a significant delegation in attendance at the meeting. Two trips are going: July 24 -31 or July 24-28 are travel options for members of Heartland Presbytery. Since there are twenty-two churches in Maya Quiche Presbytery, the partnership would like to present a Heartland Presbytery banner to each of those congregations. Ten churches have already volunteered.

Rev. Heidi Peterson, Moderator of the **Committee on Nominations** presented the slate of nominees for election as follows:

**PRESBYTERY COUNCIL**

Class of 2011

Leslie King (WFC), First, Osawatomie, KS  
Henry Gower (WMC), MAL  
\_\_\_\_\_ Elder  
\_\_\_\_\_ Clergy

Church Order and Listening Division  
Class of 2011

Rene Myers (WFC), New Horizon, Odessa  
\_\_\_\_\_ clergy  
\_\_\_\_\_ clergy  
\_\_\_\_\_ elder

Committee on Ministry  
Class of 2011

Jean Murphy (WFC), MAL

Committee on Preparation for Ministry  
Class of 2009

Henry Gower (WMC), MAL  
\_\_\_\_\_ elder  
\_\_\_\_\_ elder

Class of 2011

\_\_\_\_\_ elder  
\_\_\_\_\_ elder  
\_\_\_\_\_ elder  
Doug Sprouse (WMC), HR  
John Williams (WMC), HR

Committee on  
Representation

Tom Carlisle (WME) Moderator  
Westport, KCMO

Class of 2011

Jarrett McLaughlin (WMC), Village  
\_\_\_\_\_ youth  
\_\_\_\_\_ clergy

Congregation Development and Redevelopment Division  
Class of 2011

\_\_\_\_\_ elder

\_\_\_\_\_ elder  
\_\_\_\_\_ clergy

Congregational  
Ministries Division

Class of 2011

Daryle McDonald, (WME) Moderator  
First, Olathe, KS  
Paul Gaug (WMC), Brookdale, St.  
Joseph  
Barbara Todd (WFC) Chapel Hill,  
Blue Springs, MO

Social Justice Ministries Division  
Class of 2009

\_\_\_\_\_ elder

Class of 2010

\_\_\_\_\_ elder  
\_\_\_\_\_ clergy

Class of 2011

\_\_\_\_\_ clergy

Sexual Misconduct  
Response Panel

Moderator: \_\_\_\_\_

Class of 2011

Katie Roberts (WFE), Chapel Hill, Blue  
Springs, MO  
John Swisher (WMC), Lexington, MO  
Joseph Carle (WMC), Ward Parkway,  
KCMO  
Emerson Abendroth (WMC), HR  
John Williams (WMC), HR

Stewardship and Mission  
Interpretation Committee

Class of 2010

Mary Jorgenson (WFE) Moderator  
\_\_\_\_\_ elder

Class of 2011

Sandra Stogstill (WFC), First,  
Lee's Summit, MO  
Tom Johns (WMC), HR  
Herb Lewis (WME), Argentine, KCKS  
Karen Potter (WFE), Colonial, KCMO

WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP  
Class of 2010

Tom Thomas (WMC) Moderator  
\_\_\_\_\_ clergy

Class of 2011

\_\_\_\_\_ clergy  
\_\_\_\_\_ clergy  
\_\_\_\_\_ elder  
\_\_\_\_\_ elder

HEARTLAND CENTER MANAGEMENT BOARD



**The Council recommends that Presbytery approve the sale of the property and that the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Kansas be authorized to act on behalf of the Presbytery in all matters regarding the sale of the property located at 4000 Victory Drive, Kansas City, Kansas. In addition, the Administrative Commission may consult with the Trustees of the Presbytery if they need assistance in executing such sale.**

*Rationale:* The Crossroads Christian Cathedral has offered \$600,000 for the facilities with an April 1, 2009, closing date. Crossroads has 100% financial through a reputable mortgage company. The trustees and presbytery's financial administrator have reviewed the contracts. First, KCKS, is securing their own legal counsel to assist them with the transaction. See Item #2 for more information.

**Reverend George McCall moved an amendment inserting at the end of the presented motion: “and that the Administrative Commission be granted the power to authorize on behalf of the Presbytery a temporary rental or lease agreement by First Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, KS, for a period up to six months.”**

It was seconded and approved.

The amended main motion as follows was approved: **The Council recommends that Presbytery approve the sale of the property and that the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Kansas be authorized to act on behalf of the Presbytery in all matters regarding the sale of the property located at 4000 Victory Drive, Kansas City, Kansas. In addition, the Administrative Commission may consult with the Trustees of the Presbytery if they need assistance in executing such sale and that the Administrative Commission be granted the power to authorize on behalf of the Presbytery a temporary rental or lease agreement by First Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, KS, for a period up to six months.**

## **Lease between First, Liberty, MO and Clay County**

**The Council recommends that Presbytery approve the continuation of a lease agreement between First Presbyterian Church, Liberty, Missouri and Clay County, State of Missouri for the parking lot of First Church.**

Rationale: Details of the contract have been reviewed by the Board of Trustees and it is in order.

The motion was approved.

Elder Bond Faulwell led the presbytery through the **Financials Reports** ending 12/31/2008 which included the Statement of Activities and the Statement of Financial Position. Elder Faulwell corrected the total net assets and liabilities should be \$3,122,351.14.

The presbytery then recognized 75 sessions and the Presbyterian Urban Ministry Network which have endorsed the Heartland Presbytery **Covenantal Values** by presenting a framed certificate commemorating the event.

There was no new business.

Host pastor Rev. Brian Ellison reminded presbyters how to find their cars and to stuff their pockets with goodies for the road. The presbytery applauded Moderator Schrimsher's leadership during his first meeting.

Moderator Schrimsher reminded the presbytery of the next two presbytery meetings:

**Called Meeting on Saturday, March 7, 2009**, 9:00 a.m. at Colonial Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, MO for the business of voting on the amendments from the 218th General Assembly and the next **Stated Meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2009**, 9:00 a.m. at the Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, MO.

At 3:01 p.m., Moderator Schrimsher **adjourned the presbytery with prayer** and a resounding rap of his gavel.

Submitted by,



Rev. Maryann S. Farnsworth,  
Stated Clerk

Approved by Council: March 23, 2009  
Approved by Presbytery:

\* A grammatical change by Presbytery Council (page 7)

Attested by:

