

MINUTES
Heartland Presbytery
Called Meeting
March 7, 2009

The Presbytery of Heartland gathered for a properly called special meeting on Saturday, March 7, 2009, at Colonial Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

At 9:00 a.m., pianist Karen Potter began the prelude then Moderator Jack Schrimsher opened the meeting with prayer. The moderator declared the only business before the presbytery was consideration of the constitutional amendments and ecumenical statements sent to the presbyteries by the 218th General Assembly (2008).

The Stated Clerk moved that Corresponding Member the Reverend Jan DeVries, Presbytery of de Cristo and Executive of the Synod of the Southwest, be seated. It was seconded and approved.

Approval of the Docket

The Stated Clerk Reverend Maryann Farnsworth addressed the docket by inviting Reverend Craig Holstedt, Moderator of the Church Order and Listening Division to provide an overview of the design and format of the meeting. The entire meeting is a service of worship. Our consideration of the amendments and ecumenical statements is part of our response to God's Word.

Reverend Holstedt moved the approval of the docket as presented. It was seconded and approved.

Reverend Jim West, Lead Pastor of Colonial welcomed the presbytery.

Moderator Elect Reverend Chad Herring began the worship service leading the presbytery in a litany of Heartland Presbytery's Covenant which was adopted in September 2007 then Reverend Herring called the presbytery to worship.

After a hymn, time of confession, scriptures (Genesis 11:1-7 and Ephesians 3:1-12) and sermon titled "Through the Church" preached by the Reverend Charles Spencer, Executive Presbyter, the presbytery offered its prayers to God. Following the Passing of the Peace and a hymn, the presbytery began considering of the four proposed ecumenical statements.

218th GA Commissioner Elder Bond Faulwell presented background information on the **Ecumenical Statement with the Moravian Church (08-N)**.

Reverend Craig Holstedt moved approval of amendment 08-N.

Discussion included one presbyter's praise of the amendment since she had been baptized as a Moravian and then became a Presbyterian.

The presbytery voted by written ballot.

218th GA Commissioner Elder Bond Faulwell presented background information on **the Ecumenical Statement with the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (08-M)**.

Reverend Craig Holstedt moved approval of amendment 08 -M.

Discussion included clarification on the meanings of “covenantal partnership” and “covenantal relationship.”

The presbytery voted by written ballot.

218th GA Commissioner Elder Bond Faulwell presented background information on the **Ecumenical Statement with the Episcopal Church (08-L)**.

Reverend Craig Holstedt moved approval of amendment 08-L.

There was no discussion. The presbytery voted by written ballot.

218th GA Commissioner Elder Bond Faulwell presented background information on the **Ecumenical Statement with the Roman Catholic Church (08-K)**.

Reverend Craig Holstedt moved approval of amendment 08 –K.

There was no discussion. The presbytery voted by written ballot.

In one voice, the presbytery professed their faith reciting lines 52-76 from the “Brief Statement of Faith.”

218th General Assembly Commissioner Elder Don Spencer presented background information on **Amendment 08 –C concerning replacing “sympathy” with “compassion” in G-6.0202b and G-6.0401.**

Reverend Craig Holstedt moved approval of amendment 08-C.

There was no discussion. The presbytery voted by written ballot.

218th General Assembly Commissioner Elder Don Spencer presented background information on **Amendment 08 –D concerning changing the name of the General Assembly Council throughout the Book of Order.**

Reverend Craig Holstedt moved approval of amendment 08-D.

There was no discussion. The presbytery voted by written ballot.

218th General Assembly Commissioner Elder Martha Malsbary presented background information on **Amendment 8-E concerning non-geographic presbyteries.**

Reverend Craig Holstedt moved approval of amendment 08-E.

Discussion included clarification of the application of the sunset clause in the amendment and its impact on the current non-geographic presbyteries and a question about whether non-geographic presbyteries vote on the same matters as geographic presbyteries.

The presbytery voted by written ballot.

Reverend Rachel Lancey read 5.233 from the Second Helvetic Confession concerning the Christian education of children. Then the presbytery joined together in singing the old children's hymn, "Jesus Loves Me".

The presbytery received a message from **General Assembly Moderator Reverend Bruce Reyes-Chow**. He wanted Heartland Presbytery to know that he was lifting us up in his prayers as we considered the constitutional amendments and ecumenical statements.

218th General Assembly Commissioner Reverend Tamara Miller presented background information on **Amendment 08-I concerning Certified Christian Educators**.

Reverend Craig Holstedt moved the approval of amendment 08-I.

Discussion included clarification between "shall" and "may"; use of the proper ballot (blue 08-I); and the difference between a "Certified Christian Educator" and a "Certified Associate Christian Educator".

The presbytery voted by ballot.

218th General Assembly Commissioner Reverend Tamara Miller presented background information on **Amendment 08-F concerning presbytery membership of Certified Christian Educators**.

Reverend Craig Holstedt moved the approval of amendment 08-F.

Discussion included voting against the amendment for the consistency of a national standard by keeping the authoritative interpretation and clarification of whether certification is or is not an ordained position.

The presbytery voted by ballot.

The presbytery joined in singing the hymn of the 218th General Assembly "What Does the Lord Require" based on Micah 6:8.

218th General Assembly Commissioner Reverend Matthew Reeves presented background information on **Amendment 08-G concerning synod membership on permanent committees**.

Reverend Craig Holstedt moved the approval of amendment 08-G.

There was no discussion. The presbytery voted by ballot.

218th General Assembly Commissioner Reverend Matthew Reeves presented background information on **Amendment 08-H concerning the five ordination exams**.

Reverend Craig Holstedt moved the approval of amendment 08-H.

Discussion included clarification that a student unclear about their call to ordination later in their seminary career or even after graduation and if they would be prohibited from taking the ordination exams other than after their second year of seminary.

The presbytery voted by ballot.

218th General Assembly Commissioner Reverend Carla Gentry presented background information on **Amendment 08-J concerning alternative forms of resolution.**

Reverend Craig Holstedt moved the approval of amendment 08-J.

Discussion included opposition to the amendment because amendment violates that professional principle of mediation and arbitration.

The presbytery voted by ballot.

The presbytery joined in singing “Here I am, Lord.”

218th GA Commissioner Reverend Carla Gentry presented background information on **Amendment 08-A concerning vows of membership.**

Reverend Craig Holstedt moved the approval of amendment 08-A.

Discussion included opposition to the amendment as it is unnecessarily restrictive; removes the distinction between the reaffirmation of faith and transfer of membership; and affirmation of the Advisory Committee on the Constitution’s comments in the amendment booklet.

The presbytery voted by ballot.

218th General Assembly Commissioner Elder Mary Jorgenson presented background information on **Amendment 08-B concerning church officers amending G-6.0106b, G-14.0240, and G-14.0450.**

Reverend Craig Holstedt moved the approval of amendment 08-B.

Discussion began before lunch but was not concluded.

Order of the Day was called. The presbytery was led in prayer by Clerk of Session Larry Stone and then recessed for lunch.

Discussion continued following the Moderator’s call to order with prayer. Discussion was through and balanced between opposing views.

Reverend Jeff Clayton moved that debate be extended no more than 25 minutes. It was seconded. The motion failed to receive a 2/3 affirmative vote (103/99).

The presbytery then proceeded immediately to vote by ballot on Amendment 08-B.

While the ballots were being counted, the presbytery moved to a time of silent prayer in preparation for the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Accompanied by guitar, the presbytery joined in singing “Sanctuary” and participated in the breaking of bread and sharing of the cup lead by Reverends Rachel Lancey and Craig Holstedt.

Following the celebration of the sacrament, the presbytery sang the hymn “We are one in the Spirit”.

Moderator Schrimsher reported the **Results of the Ballots** as follows:

Amendment	For/Against/Abstention
08-A	81/132/7 Fail
08-B	127/90/5 Pass
08-C	199/17/3 Pass
08-D	203/9/4 Pass
08-E	196/16/3 Pass
08-F	72/140/6 Fail
08-G	228/6/0 Pass
08-H	189/26/0 Pass
08-I	60/148/9 Fail
08-J	149/55/13 Pass
08-K	202/13/1 Pass
08-L	185/28/2 Pass
08-M	215/2/0 Pass
08-N	207/7/2 Pass

Moderator Schrimsher expressed the presbytery's gratitude to the members, staff and pastors of Colonial for hosting the presbytery. The Moderator reminded the body of its **next meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, 9:00 a.m. at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church – Kansas City, MO.**

As there was no other business for the presbytery, **Reverend Tom Thomas moved that the presbytery adjourn.** It was seconded and approved.

At 2:16 p.m., Moderator Schrimsher offered the benediction and the presbytery was adjourned singing the Doxology having honored God with their Christ-like conduct throughout the service of worship.

Submitted by,



Reverend Maryann S. Farnsworth
Stated Clerk

Approved by Council: March 23, 2009

Approved by Presbytery: April 28, 2009

Attested by:

