

**Minutes  
Heartland Presbytery  
April 28, 2009**

Heartland Presbytery convened for its 194th Stated Meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at the Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Convening Activities**

Moderator Jack Schrimsher rapped his gavel three times at 9:09 a.m. to convene the presbytery and opened the meeting with prayer. The Stated Clerk declared a quorum was present.

The Stated Clerk presented the Council approved docket for the day with corrections in the Consent Agenda and the addition of New Business from the Board of Trustees.

Corrections on the consent agenda item 4 include the correct number of members is 22,433 not 23,510 which makes for a loss of 951 members or 3.9% in 2008. Those 82 members from the former Hillsdale PCUSA church comprise 8.6% of that total loss.

The Board of Trustees on behalf of First, St. Joseph, has an item to be approved under New Business.

**With those amendments, the Stated Clerk moved adoption of the docket.** It was seconded and approved.

**Building Community**

Many first-time Commissioners were introduced.

The seating of corresponding members included:

|                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| The Reverend Bruce Reyes-Chow       | Pby San Francisco          |
| The Reverend Mark Hughes            | Pby Great Rivers           |
| The Reverend Jonathan Mitchell      | Pby Kendall                |
| The Reverend John Ross              | Pby de Cristo              |
| Mr. Joe Walker                      | Church World Service/CROP  |
| Mr. Dave Howery and Mr. Randy Sharp | Inter-Serv, St. Joseph, MO |

There were no guests.

There were many announcements for the Good of the Community.

Joys and Concerns included the Reverend David Moore's loss of his mother, several of our HR ministers are struggling with health issues; churches searching for pastors; churches who have recently called pastors; the Moderator's wife's family as they learn how best to care for their 96 year old mother; Rev. Wally Thurman in the loss of his wife; the outstanding Heartland Presbytery Youth Retreat recently held; mother of Bev Barr; those who have lost employment; Gail Neal, wife of Rev. Doug Kelly, BOP Representative to Heartland who is in a body cast.

**Worship and the Lord's Supper**

The Presbytery then joined in **Worship including Holy Communion and Remembering the Saints of the Presbytery**. The Reverend Bruce Reyes-Chow, Moderator of the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly preached the sermon which was dynamic and inspirational. The offering benefited the General Assembly's Pentecost

Offering of the PC (USA) with 40% designated to the presbytery's mission with children and youth through the Front Porch Alliance. The Moderator also participated in the celebration of the One Great Hour of Sharing/Presbyterian Hunger Program Grant to First, St. Joseph, MO. By the lighting of a candle and the chime of a bell, the presbytery remembered each minister and elder who joined the Church Triumphant in 2008.

The presbytery enjoyed several minutes of **Dialogue with the Moderator of the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**. Questions included the future of the emergent church; the role of Presbyterian Women in the emergent church; the impact of budget cuts at General Assembly on mission in the future; mission networks will be created or will naturally spring forth from the congregations for focused on a particular passion; unified giving vs designated giving; technology and the speed that information is communicated out to the church by GA.

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

1. The Stated Clerk received the following resignations:  
Bob Banker (WME), Second, KCMO                      Church Order & Listening  
Michelle Phillips (WFL) Parkville                      Synod Youth Committee
2. The Stated Clerk received the following Administrative Commission Reports:  
Churches Seeking Dismissal (Item #2)  
First, Kansas City, Kansas (Item #3)  
Neema Christian Fellowship, Prairie Village, KS (Item #4)  
New Horizon, Odessa, MO (Item #5)  
Ruskin Heights, Kansas City, MO (Item #6)  
Sudanese Fellowship, Kansas City, MO (Item #7)

Speaking on behalf of the First, Kansas City, Kansas, Administrative Commission, The **Reverend George McCall moved that Presbytery admit to record the following: "On February 26, 2009, the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Kansas, acting on behalf of the Presbytery, approved the reduction in the contracted purchase price of the property from \$600,000 to \$550,000."**

There were no questions. The motion was approved.

3. The General Assembly amendment voting continues across the church but all amendments except 08-B have received enough votes to pass. The impact of the passing of the two amendments on Certified Christian Educators means each presbytery will have to decide if Certified Christian Educators will have voice and vote. However, Certified Associate Christian Educators will have neither voice nor vote. The Authoritative Interpretation adopted last summer by the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly is now void.

## **Presentation of the Consent Agenda**

1. The Presbytery Council recommends approval of the minutes of the February 21, 2009 Stated Meeting of Heartland Presbytery. (Item #8)
2. The Presbytery Council recommends approval of the minutes of the March 7, 2009, Called Meeting of Heartland Presbytery. (Item #9)

3. The Presbytery Council recommends that the Presbytery receive the financial review for the year ending December 31, 2007. (Item #10)
4. The Stated Clerk recommends approval of the Presbytery Statistical Report as of December 31, 2008, as follows:

|                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| 181 ministers  | (loss of 13 ministers or 7%) |
| 106 churches   | (loss of 1)                  |
| 22,433 members | (loss of 951* or 3.9%)       |

\*82 members (8.6%) were from Hillsdale Presbyterian Church which was dissolved April 12, 2008.

5. The Stated Clerk recommends Heartland Presbytery approve the Equalization Formula effective June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010:

| <u>Church Membership (as of 12/31/2008)</u> | <u>Elder Commissioners</u> |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1-99  | 1                          |
| 100-250                                     | 2                          |
| 251-250                                     | 3                          |
| 451-1100                                    | 4                          |
| 1101-4500                                   | 5                          |
| 4501-6000                                   | 10                         |

This provides 189 elder commissioners. This formula is unchanged from 2008-9, however, letters will be sent to Clerks of Session via US Mail confirming each church's correct number of elder commissioners.

### **Consent Agenda Vote**

The Stated Clerk presented the Consent Agenda. Rev. Doug Sprouse requested that Item 5 be removed from the Consent Agenda. **Rev. Chad Herring moved that the Consent Agenda items 1-4 be approved.** It was seconded and approved.

At noon, **Order of the Day** prevailed. Host pastor Rev. Jim Gordon **welcomed** the presbytery to Pine Ridge and instructed the presbyters as to how to find their fellowship hall. Then Rev. Gordon led the presbytery in grace.

### **Presbytery Reconvenes**

At 1:05 p.m., the Moderator rapped his gavel and led the presbytery in prayer. The presbytery returned to the docket and the Consent Agenda.

Rev. Doug Sprouse spoke to Item 5 on the Consent Agenda. Rev. Sprouse expressed concern about the gap between the two larger membership church levels (5 commissioners and 10 commissioners). His request was to have more of a "step up" plan breaking down the 1100+ churches to move gradually between 5 and 10 commissioners.

The Moderator put the question to the presbytery and Item 5 of the Consent Agenda was approved.

### **Report of the Executive Presbyter**

Rev. Charles Spencer shared that many congregations are experiencing membership losses and are concerned. Churches may request assistance from the presbytery if the churches can tell the

presbytery what they need. Committee on Ministry has hosted three regional gatherings asking what the churches need from the presbytery. One gathering has requested three more gatherings concerning the topics of building maintenance, technology and evangelism. The presbytery was urged to follow up on how to provoke one another toward love and good deeds. A book called Unbinding the Gospel recommends that each pastor set aside 30 minutes each day to pray for their congregation and Charles Spencer requests that all ministers and commissioners add time to every day to pray for the presbytery. "The Partnership of Prayer" booklet is used by the presbytery staff every Tuesday. Charles Spencer requested that the week before a pastor's church is being prayed for that he or she would like the staff to include in their prayers. He encouraged the presbytery to share the needs of each church of their churches and to provoke one another to best practices in those areas and pray for one another.

## **Report of the Committee on Nominations**

The Committee on Nominations nominated the following persons to serve:

### **PRESBYTERY COUNCIL**

#### **Class of 2011**

\_\_\_\_\_ Allison Seed (WFC) Trinity, Independence

\_\_\_\_\_ Karen Hanover (WFE) John Knox Kirk, KC MO

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder

#### **Class of 2009**

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder

### **Church Order and Listening Division**

#### **Class of 2011**

\_\_\_\_\_ Clergy

\_\_\_\_\_ Clergy

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder

### **Committee on Ministry**

#### **Class of 2011**

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder

\_\_\_\_\_ Clergy

### **Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

#### **Class of 2009**

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder

#### **Class of 2011**

\_\_\_\_\_ Mary Sue Thomas (WFE) Grace Covenant, Overland Park

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder

\_\_\_\_\_ Elder

### **Committee on Representation**

#### **Class of 2011**

\_\_\_\_\_ Clergy

\_\_\_\_\_ Youth

**Congregational Development and Redevelopment Division**

**Class of 2011**

Jean Riddle (WFE) Trinity, Independence

\_\_\_\_\_ Lay

\_\_\_\_\_ Clergy

**Sexual Misconduct Response Panel**

**Class of 2011**

John Williams (WMC), Moderator

**Social Justice Ministries Division**

**Class of 2009**

\_\_\_\_\_ Lay

**Class of 2010**

\_\_\_\_\_ Lay

\_\_\_\_\_ Clergy

**Class of 2011**

\_\_\_\_\_ Clergy

**Worship and Fellowship Division**

**Class of 2010**

Rick Behrens (WMC) Grandview Park, KC KS

**Class of 2011**

Mark Braden (WMC) Blue Ridge, Raytown

Karol Palmer (WFE) Trinity, Independence

Mariann Tow (WFE) John Knox Kirk

\_\_\_\_\_ Clergy

The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor.

**Elder Taylor Hess moved that Dr. William McEachen (WME), Village Church, Prairie Village, KS, be nominated to the Class of 2009 on the Presbytery Council. It was seconded and approved.**

**Moderator Schrimsher nominated the following persons to serve on the Committee on Nominations in the Class of 2011:**

**Connie Young (WFE) Southridge, Roeland Park, KS**

**Lou Hanson (WME) First, North Kansas City, MO**

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

The entire slate (including the Committee on Nominations nominees) was approved.

The Moderator reported that the **Pentecost Offering** during worship totaled \$960.

### **Social Justice Ministries Division**

Rev. Donna Chavez began the report with Rev. Ky Weekley of the **Guatemalan Partnership**. The next trip to Guatemala is in late July and the reservation deadline is Friday, May 4 through the presbytery office. Moderator Schrimsher will be representing the presbytery at the Maya Quiche 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as an indigenous presbytery. A part of this trip will include exploring the possibility of church to church partnerships between presbyteries. There will be an additional trip to Guatemala in November 2009.

Mr. Josef Walker thanked the presbytery for their participation in the **CROP Walk**. 22 Heartland Presbytery congregations have led the participation and fundraising for years for CROP Walk. CROP will have a Royals Nights from which they will benefit from the purchase of tickets. Mr. Walker invited the presbytery to consider attending as a form of evangelism by inviting neighbors and visitors to the game as well as realizing the opportunity for marketing on the jumbo screen and television.

Mr. Dave Howery and Randy Sharp from **Inter-Serve in St. Joseph, MO**, reported on their mission and the Cold Weather Shelter Ministries in St. Joseph. Inter-Serve has been “Faithfully Serving People” since 1909. They are the voice for the voiceless and stand with the vulnerable in northwest Missouri. They offer boys’ club and girls’ club; food pantry; rent assistance; citizenship classes; and senior programs. The Cold Weather Shelter just began recently and attracts many homeless veterans to their services. Many of the homeless served are mentally ill and several have been referred to long term treatment because of Inter-Serv.

### **Stewardship and Mission Interpretation**

Elder Mary Jorgenson provided a “Minute for Mission” on the 2009 national conference “Stewardship Kaleidoscope” hosted in part by Heartland Presbytery. March 15-17, 2010 will be the next conference in Indianapolis, IN. By visiting [www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.com](http://www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.com), handouts from the 2009 conference are available and this will be the registration point for the 2010 conference in the fall.

### **Associate Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee**

Elder Martha Malsbary and Rev. Ky Weekley reported for the committee which included presenting the job description for the Associate Executive Presbyter as follows:

## **HEARTLAND PRESBYTERY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)**

### **POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER FOR CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY**

**TITLE: ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER FOR CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY**

#### **PURPOSE**

**To engage in and empower the ministry, mission, revitalization, and growth of the congregations of Heartland Presbytery and to affirm and strengthen that ministry for all generations of the church.**

#### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

**The Associate Executive Presbyter for Congregational Vitality is accountable to Heartland Presbytery through the Executive Presbyter and the Personnel Committee of the Presbytery Council.**

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **A. Primary Responsibilities**

- 1. To be a pastoral link among congregations and between the congregations and the presbytery, including but not limited to visiting no fewer than two Sundays a month at the various churches of Heartland Presbytery with the possibility of preaching on those Sundays.**
- 2. To support and encourage revitalization, growth and new church development within Heartland Presbytery.**
- 3. To oversee and work with the Heartland Presbytery Resource staff in providing the best resources, events, and ideas appropriate for all levels of church with specific needs in Christian Education and Youth Ministry.**
- 4. To interpret the vision and mission of Heartland Presbytery and the larger Church in the congregations.**

### **B. Other Responsibilities**

- 1. To participate in staff meetings and staff retreats at Presbytery and when appropriate at the Synod and General Assembly level.**
- 2. To work in collegial relationship with the Executive Presbyter suggesting creative ideas and solutions to situations presented.**
- 3. To participate in the planning and coordination of Presbytery's ministry and mission as well as building a team approach to ministry working with members, officers, and staff of Presbytery.**
- 4. To staff various committees within Heartland Presbytery including but not limited to Congregational Development and Redevelopment and Congregational Ministries Divisions.**
- 5. To share responsibility with the Executive Presbyter as a pastor to the pastors.**
- 6. To undertake additional duties as assigned by the Executive Presbyter in consultation with the Council's Personnel Committee.**
- 7. To be available, in consultation with the Executive Presbyter, to assist with Synod and General Assembly responsibilities.**

## **RELATIONSHIPS**

- Work with other Presbytery staff in the development, implementation, and coordination of the Presbytery visions, goals and programs.**
- Be available in consultation with the Presbytery Executive, to assist with Synod and General Assembly responsibilities.**
- Consult, coordinate, and oversee the needs, ideas, and goals of the Heartland Presbytery Resource Center and its director.**

## **EVALUATION**

**There is an annual review and evaluation of performance in relationship to the position described by Presbytery Council's Personnel Committee. There shall also be a comprehensive review and evaluation at least every five years.**

## **TERM**

**This person is elected as an exempt employee for an indefinite term which is subject to termination in accordance with the Personnel Policies of Heartland Presbytery."**

Elder Martha Malsbary gave a brief history of the committee's work since its election.

**On behalf of the Committee, Elder Malsbary moved the approval of the Associate Executive Presbyter's job description.**

There were no questions, comments or amendments offered. The motion was approved.

The presbytery also received in the presbytery packet the CIF (Item #13) and a copy of the advertisement for Outlook Magazine (Item #14).

**Presbyterian Women**

Elder Gail Cunningham presented the report of the Presbyterian Women. The Heartland Presbytery's Presbyterian Women (HPPW) are making some changes beginning this fall including one presbytery gathering on Saturday, March 10, 2010 at Second Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO. The recent Spring Gathering at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, MO, was exciting, informational and inspiring and they celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. HPPW has a webpage under "Additional Links" on the presbytery's website. HPPW requests that congregations share their PW stories with them for inclusion on the website. The National Presbyterian Women Gathering will be this summer in Louisville. Grant money is still available through the HPPW to attend the national gathering. Early Bird Registration ends May 15 for the discounted fee of \$315. Joyce Walker will come to Village Church in the fall to work the leadership through the Horizons Bible Study on Saturday, August 22 and \$15 includes lunch. This is not limited to Presbyterian Women – everyone is welcome.

**Presbytery Council**

Rev. Tamara Miller reported for the Presbytery Council met on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and on behalf of presbytery approved the Church/Presbytery Information Form for the Associate Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee. The Synod Interim Executive and Elder Taylor Hess, a member of the Synod's Mission Study Discernment Task Force interviewed the council as to synod's effectiveness and mission directions for the future.

The Council approved their minutes of their January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting and those are Item #16 in the presbytery packet. The Council edited the minutes of the Stated Meeting of February 21<sup>st</sup> and approved the minutes of the Called Meeting of March 7<sup>th</sup>. Both were on the consent agenda approved earlier today.

The Council concurred with Worship and Fellowship Division's request to continue Table Talks and Presbytery Meeting Evaluations.

Worship and Fellowship also reported that beginning in June, 2009, each of our next five presbytery worship services will highlight one of the meanings of the Lord's Supper. The Worship and Fellowship Division also commended everyone involved in the called meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> for making the whole meeting "liturgy" which means "the work of the people".

The Council also reviewed the financial reports including the December 31, 2007 financial review. Business Affairs has already begun the budgeting process for 2010.

The Council set the docket for today's presbytery meeting and agreed to meet again on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Elder Bond Faulwell reviewed the Financial Reports ending 3/31/2009 including the General Mission Report (Item #17); the Per Capita Report (Item #18); the Shared Mission Report (Item #19); the Statement of Activities (Item #20) and the Statement of Financial Position (Item #21).

Presbytery income comes from per capita and mission giving as represented in Items 17 and 18. The Statement of Financial Activities shows net assets of \$1,745,000. Committees are requested to make their budget requests for 2010 by May 15.

The Council Report ended with the Recognition of Covenantal Values Endorsements by five additional sessions: Colonial; First, Paola; Neema Fellowship; Woodville; and Village Church.

### **Stewardship and Mission Interpretation**

Rev. Alex Wales presented another "Minute for Mission" about Heartland Presbyterian Center. Giving to presbytery mission includes support of the summer camping program and year round activities.

### **Committee on Ministry**

Elder Bev Barr led the presbytery through the committee's examination of **Rev. Mark Hughes** in the areas of science and religion; "doing mission" vs "being mission" from his Statement of Faith; training church officers and members to be servant leaders and Rev. Hughes affirmed that he could answer all the constitutional questions for installation including being governed by its polity and abiding by its discipline.

Questions from the presbytery included curiosity about his last call being about two years long to which he responded that medical care that his family needed was not available and the major employers in Edgerton, Illinois, created further health complications for his family.

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

Elder Mike Gould from St. Luke spoke on behalf of PNC and several church members who were also present to their joy in finding Rev. Hughes who will be the fourth pastor of the St. Luke congregation. The congregational meeting vote was on April 26, 2009.

**The Committee on Ministry moved that the Presbytery approve the request from Rev. Mark Harrison Hughes for transfer of membership from the Presbytery of Great Rivers pending successful examination on the floor by the presbytery in order to accept a call to be pastor of St. Luke Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO, effective June 15, 2009.** (Item #22) Terms of call are in the COM Report (Item #25).

Elder Bev Barr led the committee's examination of the **Rev. Jonathan Mitchell** in the areas of the importance of the confessions; the meaning of "an authentic experience of faith" and how will he help the people of Maryville find that along with meaningful relationships; training a Session to equip and enable them to complete their tasks as provided in G-6 and Rev. Mitchell affirmed that he could answer all the constitutional questions for installation including being governed by its polity and abiding by its discipline.

There were no questions from the presbytery.

**Rev. Allison Seed moved that the examination be arrested.** It was seconded and approved.

Larry Rusco speaking on behalf of the Pastor Nominating Committee expressed appreciation for the presbytery's support through COM, consistent pulpit supply and session moderating. The church is very excited about Jonathan coming to Maryville.

**The Committee on Ministry moved that the Presbytery approve the request from Rev. Jonathan Mitchell for transfer of membership from the Presbytery of Kendall (eastern Idaho) pending successful examination on the floor by presbytery in order to accept a call to be pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Maryville, MO, (Item #23) effective June 22, 2009.** Terms of call are in the COM Report (Item #25).

The motion was approved.

Elder Bev Barr led the committee's examination of the **Rev. Dr. John Ross** in the areas of sacraments and why the sacraments were not included in his statement of faith; the differences between serving an older congregation and an urban and younger congregation; his ideas on help a younger congregation grow in faith and numbers; and Rev. Ross affirmed that he could answer all the constitutional questions for installation including being governed by its polity and abiding by its discipline.

Questions from the presbytery included his understanding of the interim tasks as opposed to an installed pastor.

**Rev. Paul Gaug moved that the examination be arrested.** It was seconded and approved.

Carol Grimaldi, Moderator of the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee spoke on behalf of the committee which was also present. She also expressed their appreciation to Associate Pastor Don Fishers, Executive Presbyter Charles Spencer, COM Moderator Bev Barr and COM liaison Brian Ellison.

There were no questions for the Committee on Ministry.

**The Committee on Ministry moved that the Presbytery approve the request from Rev. John Ross for transfer from the Presbytery of de Cristo pending successful examination on the floor by the presbytery to serve as Interim Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO. (Item #24)** Terms of call are in the COM Report (Item #25).

Included in the presbytery packet was the Report from the Committee on Ministry (Item #25). There were no questions or comments concerning the COM report.

## **New Business**

**The Trustees of Heartland Presbytery moved that Presbytery approve the establishment by First Presbyterian Church, St. Joseph, Missouri of a line of Credit from Commerce Bank for up to \$175,000 (one year repayment plan) at a minimum rate of 4% and a maximum rate of 5.5%**

**for the purpose of making certain needed repairs on their physical structure including waterproofing, roofing, sheet metal, and masonry work. No guarantee by the presbytery is required.**

There were no questions or discussion. The motion was approved.

Moderator Schrimsher thanked the host church Pine Ridge for their hospitality and reminded the presbytery of its next meeting on Saturday, June 20, 2009, at the Tarkio Presbyterian Church.

Elder Ann Keeling moved that the presbytery **adjourn with prayer**. It was seconded and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Submitted by,



Rev. Maryann S. Farnsworth  
Stated Clerk

Approved by Council: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Presbytery: \_\_\_\_\_

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_