

**Heartland Presbytery
MINUTES
June 20, 2009**

Heartland Presbytery gathered for its 195th stated meeting on Saturday, June 20, 2009, in the sanctuary of the Tarkio Presbyterian Church at 700 Maple Street in Tarkio, Missouri.

Moderator Jack Schrimsher offered the opening prayer at 9:00 a.m. then a quorum was declared by the Stated Clerk.

Approval of the Docket

The Stated Clerk recommended the following corrections to the docket:

On page 4 – Under CPM, change the home church of Molly Dowell Baum from First of Leavenworth to First of **Atchison, KS**.

On page 5 – Under Committee on Nominations, add an “e” at the end Dorothy Clarke’s last name.

The Moderator asked for new business and any other amendments or corrections to the docket. There were none.

The Stated Clerk moved the docket as corrected. It was seconded and approved.

Rev. Rachel Lancey welcomed the presbytery to Tarkio and shared a brief history of the congregation and community.

Building Community

Several first-time commissioners were introduced.

The Stated Clerk moved that these Reverend James Gale (Pby New Hope) and Walter Oelker from the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation be seated as corresponding members. It was seconded and approved.

Announcements for the Good of the Community including Oasis, the upcoming Christian Education event in October; Neema Fellowship has received a \$50,000 grant from the General Assembly’s Walton Family Fund for new church development; the Camp for Kids Fund matches gifts to Heartland Presbyterian Center if gifts are made through their fund; following the business meeting of the Presbytery in September, the congregation of Grandview Park will host a fiesta for fun and fellowship for the presbytery; Kirk Perucca and Diane Waddell traveled with Church World Service mission trip to Kenya and are available as a free program for congregational or education classes; and AEPNC is having two interviews on Monday and covets for the prayers of the presbytery as they continue their work.

Preparation for Worship

Joys and Concerns for Prayer included all those on the list of concerns in the Connections; Bev Barr who is hospitalized for complications from her broken leg; and an offering of thanksgiving for the arrival of pastor Jonathan Mitchell in Maryville.

Worship including Holy Communion

Reverend Jim Gordon, pastor at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church, KCMO, delivered the sermon on Eucharist as grace and Reverend Rachel Lancey celebrated the sacrament. The presbytery's offering was split between the Fairfax/Westboro/Tarkio Food Pantry and the Harold Thomas Center for Reconciliation Community Mission Emergency Fund which the presbytery was later told was \$900.

The Consent Agenda

The Stated Clerk presented the Consent Agenda below:

- 1. The Presbytery Council recommends approval of the minutes of the March 23, 2009 Stated Meeting of the council. (Item #1)**
- 2. The Presbytery Council recommends approval of the minutes of the April 28, 2009, Stated Meeting of Heartland Presbytery. (Item #2)**
- 3. The Committee on Nominations recommends that the Rev. Allison Seed, Presbytery Council member at large, be moved from the Class of 2011 to the Class of 2009.**
- 4. The Council recommends approval of the following Mondays for Council Meetings in 2010:
January 25 March 22 May 17 August 16 October 18**
- 5. The Council recommends approval of the following dates and locations of Stated Meetings of the Presbytery in 2010:**

Saturday, February 20	Southminster, Prairie Village, KS
Tuesday April 20	First, Pleasant Hill, MO
Tuesday, June 15	Host: St. Paul (KCMO)
	LOCATION: Linwood United
Saturday, September 18	First, St. Joseph, MO
Tuesday, November 16	Effingham Union, Effingham, KS
- 6. The Council recommends approval of the following administrative policy concerning Death Notification Policy:**

“When there is a death in the immediate family of a minister member (spouse, parent, child, sibling or in-law), there will be an email notice sent to all minister members of presbytery with the details including services and contact information for the family. The request for prayers for the family in their loss will appear in the next issue of Heartland Connections.

This special email will come from pastoralconcerns@heartlandpby.org and will include a “do not reply to this email” instruction so the staff does not have another email inbox to check, however, the presbytery’s contact information will appear in the email.”

No items were removed from the consent agenda.

Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk presented her report below:

1. The Stated Clerk received the following resignations:

Robert Langworthy (WME) Second, KCMO	CDR	Class of 2009
Duane Stephens (WMC) First, Independence	SJM	Class of 2011

The Stated Clerk added the following resignations received after the presbytery packet had been posted online:

Debbie Jones (WFE) Blue Ridge, Raytown, MO	CPM	Class of 2010
Bill Parrott (WMC) Stony Point, Trimble, MO	CMD	Class of 2011

2. The Stated Clerk received the report on the Spring Meeting of the Synod of Mid-America (Item #3)
3. The Stated Clerk received the following Administrative Commission Reports:

Churches Seeking Dismissal from the Denomination (Item #4)

First, Kansas City, Kansas (Item #5)

The Administrative Commission, has taken the following actions and the Stated Clerk moved they be admitted to record:

A. On April 30, 2009, the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Kansas, acting on behalf of the Presbytery, approved the final contract for the sale of the property of First Presbyterian Church, as amended and assigned.

B. On April 30, 2009, the Administrative Commission, acting on behalf of the Presbytery, approved the rental agreement for worship and office space between First Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Kansas, and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Kansas, for a period of up to six months, effective June 1, 2009.

It was seconded and approved.

New Horizon, Odessa, MO (Item #6)
Ruskin Heights, Kansas City, MO (Item #7)
Sudanese Community Church, Kansas City, MO (Item #8)

4. The Stated Clerk received a report from Acting Associate Executive Presbyter Reverend David Cliburn on the Kansas City Arab Christian Church. (Item #9)

Consent Agenda Vote

The Stated Clerk moved the consent agenda as printed in the docket. It was seconded and approved.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Rev. Matthew Reeves

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moved that Heartland Presbytery enroll Molly Dowell Baum as a candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Molly, a member of First Presbyterian Church in Atchison, KS, attends San Francisco Theological Seminary. Molly became an inquirer in June, 2006.

The committee examined Molly concerning the meaning of her Christian faith as she has passed through the twists and turns of life and her shift from the performing arts after college to claiming her call in ministry.

There were no questions from the presbytery.

Jeff Cochran moved the examination cease. It was seconded and approved.

Molly was excused briefly from the meeting. The main motion was approved.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moved that Heartland Presbytery enroll Abbey Patterson as a candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Abbey, a member of Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, KS, attends Austin Theological Seminary. Abbey became an inquirer in June, 2007.

The committee examined Abbey in the areas of her understanding of God working in her daily life; her CPE experience and its impact on her understanding of her call to ministry; and why it matters to her that she is called to the ministry of Word and sacrament.

Rev. Tom Thomas inquired about her Christian pilgrimage prior to her joining of the staff at Village Church as a summer intern.

Elder Bob Seed moved that the examination cease. It was seconded and approved.

Abbey was excused briefly from the meeting. The main motion was approved.

Family, friends, members of their home congregations and CPM members moved to surround Abbey and Molly with their support as they were received under care during a brief reception for candidates.

Stewardship and Mission Interpretation

Reverend Carla Gentry reminded the presbytery about the August 24th deadline for ordering the Mission Yearbook through the Presbytery Office. Order forms are in the presbytery packet and posted on the presbytery website.

Committee on Ministry

Rev. Jean Murphy led the committee's examination of Rev. James Gale in the areas of how his always being active in the church will help or hinder his ministry with those who are un-churched or have not been involved in many years; his understanding of "reformed and always reforming" and how he would explain it to those unfamiliar with that concept or theology; the intersection of discipleship and membership growth; the role of lay ministry in moving the church forward in partnership with the pastor and he affirmed that he could answer all the constitutional questions for installation in the affirmative.

Questions from the presbytery included his understanding of the importance of the congregation's relationship to the presbytery and how he would enhance the congregation's involvement in the presbytery.

Jean Murphy moved that the examination cease. It was seconded and approved.

Joe Grimstead from the PNC at Shawnee spoke on behalf of the congregation about their joy in finding James Gale.

Questions for the committee from the presbytery included if the effective salary would be sufficient for housing and salary.

The main motion below was approved.

The Committee on Ministry recommends the request of the Reverend James Gale for transfer of membership from pending successful examination on the floor of presbytery in order to accept a call to be pastor of the Shawnee Presbyterian Church, Shawnee, KS effective August 1, 2009, as follows:

Cash Salary (Effective Salary)	\$40,500
Supplement for Social Security Tax	\$ 3,098
Foregone interest on below-market loan	\$ 0
TOTAL income reported to IRS	\$43,598
Full medical, pension	
Vacation leave of 4 weeks annually	
Study leave of 2 weeks annually, cumulative up to 4 weeks	
Moving expenses	\$ 1,000

It is understood that the following expenses of ministry will be reimbursed through an accountable plan:

Travel expense at IRS allowable rate per mile up to	\$ 1,200
Continuing education reimbursement, cumulative to \$2,400	\$ 1,200
Professional expenses (books, memberships, etc.)	\$ 1,000
AA/EEO Guidelines were followed	

Recognition of the Honorable Retirement of the Reverend R. Duane Stephens as Associate Pastor, First, Independence, MO

Reverend Allison Seed and Doris Wilson spoke in celebration of Duane's 42 years in ministry. Moderator Schrimsher presented Duane with a certificate of honorable retirement. Duane served two years as United Methodist seminary field education student then joined the staff as a Presbyterian associate pastor for forty years.

The Report from the Committee on Ministry (Item #13) summarizing the actions they have taken on behalf of the presbytery in May and June was presented for information.

Order of the Day: Lunch

The presbytery recessed for lunch at noon following grace offered by host pastor Reverend Rachel Lancey.

At 1:00 p.m., the moderator gavelled the meeting to order and then led the presbytery in prayer.

Malinda Spencer reminded the presbytery of the scholarship grants available for people to attend Oasis in October. The Moderator drew the name of Ann Rich to receive free OASIS Registration. Should Ann Rich be unable to attend, first alternate was Cindy Houston from Grace Covenant and second alternate was Paula Isrig from Second, Kansas City.

Church Order and Listening Division

Rev. Landon Whitsitt introduced Elder Martha Malsbary who served on the Assembly Committee on the new Form of Government at the 218th General Assembly. Ms. Malsbary led the presbytery through an overview of the documents which included the FOG Study Guide Preface; Missional Ecclesiology Defined; Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, Form of Government; and the Advisory Handbook for Councils.

The Assembly Committee on which she served determined that they should expand the current task force and three members of the Assembly Committee to the new FOG task force. The new task force has sent out the documents listed above to the whole church for feedback by June 30th so that they may prepare their work for the 219th General Assembly in a timely fashion. Additional information can be found at www.pcusa.org/formofgovernment.

Presbyterian Women

Rev. Sandra Stogsdill led the commissioning of Church-wide Gathering Participants including Elder Gail Cunningham who represented the three voting delegates from the presbytery and all the attendees who were present at the presbytery meeting.

Committee on Nominations

The Moderator moved that Reverend Kimby Young (WFC) from Grace Covenant, OPKS, be nominated for the Class of 2011 of the Committee on Nominations. It was seconded and approved.

Reverend Kimby Young then presented the report of the Committee on Nominations as follows. Those names listed in bold red **Arial** type were verbal additions to the docket from the committee.

Church Order and Listening Division

Class of 2010

_____ Clergy

Class of 2011

_____ Clergy

Verna Lee Carter (WFE) Brookdale, St. Joseph
Larry Stone (WME) Colonial, KCMO

Committee on Ministry

Class of 2011

Madeline Mercer (WFC) Pleasant Hill, MO

Linda Wise (WFE) Brookdale, St. Joseph

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Class of 2009

Dorothy Clarke (WFE) Ward Parkway, KC MO

_____ Elder

Class of 2011

_____ Elder

_____ Clergy

Committee on Representation

Class of 2011

_____ Clergy

_____ Youth

Congregational Development and Redevelopment Division

Class of 2009

_____ Elder

Class of 2011

_____ Elder

_____ Clergy

Congregational Ministries Division

Class of 2010

Cindy Wilcox (WFL) Village, Prairie Village, KS

Class of 2011

_____ Clergy

Social Justice Ministry Division

Class of 2010

Graham Houston (WML) Parkville

_____Clergy

Class of 2011

_____Clergy

Stewardship and Mission Committee

Class of 2010

Charlas Rhodes (BFE), Linwood, KC MO

Worship and Fellowship Division

Class of 2010

_____Elder

Class of 2011

_____Clergy

Nominees for Readers of Fall 2009 Standard Ordination Exams:

Primary Ministers: Henry Gower and Glenda Watts

Alternate Ministers: Doug Sprouse and John Williams

Primary Elder: Cheryl Keimig, Parkville

Alternate Elder: Ravin Graham, First, Lee's Summit, MO

The moderator called for nominations from the floor. **Rev. Paul Gaug nominated Rev. Dennis Haines, HR, to the Class of 2011 for Congregational Ministries Division.**

The slate of nominees including those added by the committee and those nominated from the floor were approved.

Minute for Mission

Rev. Alex Wales alerted the presbytery about the 2010 Stewardship Kaleidoscope event in Indianapolis, March 15-17, 2010. Visit www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org for more information.

Report of the Executive Presbyter

Rev. Charles Spencer provided an overview of the history of the Word from the oral age to the printed age to the broadcast age to now the digital age as presented in the book Grace Unleashed by Rex Miller. He reminded the presbytery of the upcoming workshop on July 12th at the Northminster Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Mo called "Technology for the Growing Church".

Report of Council

Rev. Carla Gentry, vice-moderator of the Council gave a summary of the May 18, 2009 Council Meeting.

Elder Bond Faulwell presented the report of the Business Affairs Committee including an overview of the Financial Reports ending 4/30/2009.

The Statement of Activities (Item #19), the cash flow statement, demonstrates overall income is currently ahead of expenses.

The Statement of Financial Position (Item #20), the balance sheet, shows assets of \$3,298,764.04 and liabilities of \$1,528,675.87 which means the presbytery's net assets are \$3,298,764.04.

The Per Capita Report (Item #21) shows what churches have contributed in 2009 thus far.

General Mission Report (Item #22) showed that \$108,743.43 has been received as of the end of April which is slightly more than 2008 at the same time.

Shared Mission Report (Item #23) showed the contributions of churches and their pledged amounts in 2009.

The first reading of the 2010 Operations Budget (Item #24) includes a recommended per capita as follows:

Presbytery	\$ 21.97
Synod	\$ 3.34
<u>GA</u>	<u>\$ 6.15</u>
Total	\$31.46

In 2008, the per capita budget was \$714,153 and \$705,682 in 2010 which is based on a per capita of \$31.46 (\$1.56 increase).

The first reading of the 2010 Mission Budget included a projection of the same income in 2010 as 2009 which creates a projected deficit of \$63,593.11.

Questions about the budgets included learning where the dollars come from to pay the unpaid per capita by congregations to synod and General Assembly (extra dollars are included in the budget for that item) and the future building use of the church and LAMP considering the maintenance expense involved.

First Reading of Amendments to the Manual of Operations (Item #26)

Rev. Landon Whitsitt took comments and questions from the presbytery which included the Lay Ministries Committee – will they have a seat on council; if COM and CPM appoint someone to the LMC – would that person know in advance they could potentially have more responsibilities that another member of COM or CPM might be; what is the process of discernment as to where CLP's are needed and how does COM work with the LMC so there is no overlap; should it be a sub-committee of COM or CPM? Change 24.2 to read "This *division* shall"; consider adding a heading on 24.3 and should the list a-d under 24.3 belong under functions?

Church Order and Listening will take these questions and concerns and present their recommendations to the council at its August meeting.

Social Justice Ministries Division

Elder Marge Blank led the presentation of the division's report. The division postponed the portion of their report concerning the Heartland Presbyterian Center's Environmental Center until the September presbytery meeting.

Rev. Kirk Perucca presented information on the **Peacemaking Offering**. Currently, 35 churches support the offering which supports mission co-workers itinerating through the presbytery; Festival of Peacemaking in April each year; and information about conflicted areas of the world. The committee distributed offering banks to the presbyters. 60% of our churches have made the "Commitment to Peacemaking" and the presbytery committee is researching how churches can recommit and receive recognition.

Ms. Marla Taylor explained the relationship of **Presbyterian Children's Services** with Operation Breakthrough in Kansas City, MO matching adult mentors with youth participants. She asked the churches to pray for the children at risk in Kansas City. Churches can send mentors or financial support for the program.

Rev. Ky Weekley from the **Guatemalan Partnership** brought greetings from the Moderator and Vice-Moderator of Maya Quiche Presbytery. The next trip is leaving July 24-28 with nine participants from our presbytery. During their trip, the 22 banners will be presented to each of the 22 churches in Maya Quiche. Rev. Weekley offered a prayer of dedication for the banners and our growing relationship with Maya Quiche. There will be a fall trip October 30-November 7 to Guatemala and the deadline for registering for the \$1200 trip is August 24th. Information is available through the presbytery office.

As there was no further business, the Moderator thanked the members of the Tarkio church for their fine hosting and the other nearby churches that joined in making the day a great success.

At 2:35 p.m, Elder Taylor Hess moved the presbytery adjourn. It was seconded and heartily approved. The Moderator reminded the presbytery of their next meeting on Saturday, September 19th, at the Grandview Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, KS, and closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Approved by Council: August 17, 2009

Approved by Presbytery: September 19, 2009

Attested by:

