

MINUTES OF
THE PRESBYTERY OF MISSOURI RIVER VALLEY
(Pending approval on November 10, 2009)

The Presbytery of Missouri River Valley held its August stated meeting at Calvin Crest Camp and Conference Center on Friday and Saturday, August 21 and 22, 2009, with Vice- Moderator Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger opening the meeting at 7:04pm with prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A QUORUM

The Stated Clerk, Rev. Steven W. Plank, announced that a quorum was present.

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The docket was adopted.

THE ROLL

MINISTER MEMBERS:

<i>Thomas Albaum (A)</i>
Becky Balestri
Kathryn Bates
<i>Stuart Baxter, HR (E)</i>
<i>William Beatty, HR (E)</i>
<i>John Besançon (A)</i>
<i>Deborah Boucher-Payne (A)</i>
<i>William Bowers (A)</i>
Charles Bulger, HR
<i>Kenneth Bunnell, HR (E)</i>
<i>MaryAnn Calta (A)</i>
<i>Deena Candler (A)</i>
Greg Carlson
<i>Sally Carlson (A)</i>
*Tom Clark
J. Keith Cook, HR
*James Crapson (A)
<i>William Denny, HR (E)</i>
Sarah Dickinson
<i>Howard Dooley, HR (E)</i>
Neal Earley
Gary Eller
Jody Filipi
<i>Ed Fish, HR (E)</i>
Roy Fox, HR
Lyle Franzen
<i>David Grimm, HR (E)</i>
Ernest Gutha, HR
<i>John Hansen (A)</i>
<i>Mary Hansen, HR (E)</i>

<i>Mike Harvey (A)</i>
<i>Ronald Hawkins, HR (E)</i>
<i>Rob Hubler (E)</i>
*Melvin Hurst
<i>Portia Iverson (A)</i>
<i>Harold Johnson, HR (E)</i>
<i>William Alan Jones (A)</i>
Kevin Keaton
Robert Keefer
<i>Ronald Kinsey, HR (E)</i>
<i>Lowell Knauss (A)</i>
*Jerry Lamb (A)
<i>Paul M. Lundell, HR (E)</i>
<i>Larry Maley (A)</i>
<i>Paul Masters (A)</i>
<i>David Matsumura (A)</i>
<i>Jeff McDonald (A)</i>
<i>Robert Meanor, HR (E)</i>
Lyle Meester
<i>Richard Meyer, HR (E)</i>
Gregg Miller
Mark Miller
<i>George Moore (A)</i>
<i>Matthew Nieman (A)</i>
<i>William Osick, HR (E)</i>
<i>Russell W. Palmer, HR (E)</i>
Loren Parker, HR
David Paul
Caryn Pedersen
<i>John Pettit, HR (E)</i>

Stephen Pike
Steve Plank
<i>Gale Prentice, HR (E)</i>
<i>Nancy Profit (A)</i>
* <i>Carl Ratcliff (A)</i>
<i>Nancy Redman, HR (E)</i>
<i>D. Gregory Reid, HR (E)</i>
Dee Jay Reiff, HR
<i>Gun Song Rhee (A)</i>
Nancy Ross-Hullinger
<i>Kirk Ryckman (A)</i>
<i>Marylyn Schultz, HR (E)</i>
Darin Seaman
*Aaron Simons
<i>Richard Skelley, HR (E)</i>
Rick Sleyster
Jon Sloan
<i>Dean Sparr (A)</i>
Ed Steinmetz
<i>Howard Svoboda, HR (E)</i>
<i>Roger Todd, HR (E)</i>
Sara Tonje
<i>Leslie Traylor (A)</i>
<i>Ronald Van Heukelom (A)</i>
<i>Sandra Wainwright (A)</i>
<i>Gary Warren (A)</i>
Dwight Williams
<i>Mark Witmer, HR (E)</i>
<i>Jay Yu, HR (E)</i>

* = Member of another denomination serving a Presbytery church

** = Member of another Presbytery

HR = Honorably Retired (Excused in accordance with the Manual of Operations, Chapter D)

ELDER COMMISSIONERS:

Anderson Grove	--
Avery	--
Avoca	Kathy Burns
Benson	Leslee O'Bradovich
Bethany	Bob Sieck
Carson	--
Carter Lake	--
Castelar	Alan Owens
Center Ridge	--
Central	Don Swanson
Church of the Cross (2)	Karen Morey Will Clanton
Church of the Master	Dee Moriarty
College Springs	--
Dundee (3)	Roger Fitch Jim Scott-Miller --
Essex	--
Faith (2)	Chuck Shafer Jerry Stone
Faithful Shepherd	--
First (Bellevue)	--
First (Omaha)	Joyce Lane
Florence	--
Fort Calhoun	--
Gethsemane	--
Glendale	--
Hope	--
Korean	--
Missouri Valley	Kathryn Brandon
Mosher-Pilgrim	Sue Barrett

Mount View	Joel Brady
Murray	--
Neola	--
New Horizon	Zelda Gutha
New Life	Patricia Rudiger
Oakland-Sharon	--
Peace	Dustin Suess
Plattsmouth	--
Randolph	--
Red Oak	--
Shelby	--
Shenandoah	--
Sidney	--
Sudanese Presbyterian Fellowship (2)	Peter Malual --
Trinity (Clarinda)	--
Underwood Hills	Bob Howard
United Trinity, Hamburg	--
Valley Baptist-Presbyterian	Craig Huffman
Villisca	--
Wales	--
Walnut	--
West Hills (2)	-- --
Westminster (Clarinda)	Ruthellen Reed
Westminster (Co. Bluffs)	Eva Parker
Westminster (Omaha)	Teresa Fuhr
Wheeler Memorial	--
Woodbine	--

ELDER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

Kris Adler
Geri Clanton
<i>Andrew Cook (A)</i>
Marilyn Dierks
Carol Dworak

Carolyn Grice
<i>Joan Hackett (A)</i>
<i>Peggy Mago (A)</i>
Susan Mayer
John Morey

<i>George Morgan (A)</i>
Mike O'Bradovich
<i>Bill O'Donnell (A)</i>
<i>Carole Warnes (A)</i>

COMMISSIONED LAY PASTORS:

David Krueger (Walnut), Michael Kuach (Sudanese Fellowship), Al Zimmerman (Florence)

VISITORS:

Patrick Brusnahan (Central), Janis Keim (Church of the Master), Ruth Cook (Underwood Hills), Bev Macek (Church of the Master), D.A. Hanna (Church of the Master), Amy Sievers (Avoca), Jim Sievers (Avoca), Rick Rudiger (New Life), Mary Ann Fox (Underwood Hills), Renee Toliver-Clark (New Life), Pat Tooles (New Life), Marilyn Kratz (Mosher-Pilgrim), Reta Johnson (Missouri Valley), Ken Bunnell III (Peace), Lon Jacobsen (Avoca), Gary Tupper

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(Westminster, Omaha), Kareen Hickman (Nebraska Food Bank), Penny Koenig (HELP Adult Services), Luis Vasquez Pineda (Nicaraguan Partner), Rev. Felix Garcia Hernandez (Nicaraguan Partner), Marta Lopez (Nicaraguan Partner)

Number of ministers present: 33 Number of elder commissioners present: 36

Total number of persons eligible to vote: 69

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Rev. Dr. Laura Mendenhall, Minister Member of Greater Atlanta Presbytery
Jay Wilkinson, Stated Clerk & Treasurer of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, Elder member of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Woodbury, MN.
Walter Olker, Development Officer with the Presbyterian Foundation, Elder member of West Side Presbyterian Church, Lawrence, KS.
Don & Cleo Croson of Interfaith Response.

WELCOME OF FIRST-TIME ELDERS

Elders attending Presbytery for the first time were introduced and welcomed.

WELCOME FROM CALVIN CREST

Craig Huffman, Executive Director of Camp Calvin Crest provided the welcome and introductory information.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

"DO NOT BE AFRAID: STEWARDSHIP IN CHURCH AND LIFE" - PART I

Presentation by Rev. Dr. Laura Mendenhall

EVENING PRAYER

Presbytery gathered for evening prayer.

ADJOURN FOR THE NIGHT

Vice-Moderator Ross-Hullinger adjourned the meeting at 8:38pm.

RECONVENE WITH WORSHIP & COMMUNION

Vice-Moderator Ross-Hullinger reconvened the meeting at 8:56am.

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS – PART II

Rev. Stephanie Huisman, member of Central Plains Classis, RCA, Director of Christian Education at Dundee Presbyterian Church

MISSION AND MISSION INTERPRETATION

Elder Geri Clanton and Rev. Lyle Franzen reported on the Nicaraguan partnership
Nicaraguan partners shared their work (sewing co-op) and talked to the shared ministry of MRV Presbytery
Luis Vasquez Pineda- translator
Rev. Felix Garcia Hernandez- ecumenical pastor in La Concepcion; member of the committee in Nicaraguan partnership
Marta Lopez – coordinator of the sewing collective (Garden of Elegance) – collective if formed by 17 partners (people); 10 women working in the collective; other 7 partners are in other institutions; collection is making clothing, home furnishings such as bedspreads, school uniforms, etc.; this will help the country economically as their

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production increases; trust in the presbytery to continue supporting the collective; on behalf of the collective, Marta brings blessings and thanks to the presbytery
The partnership with Nicaragua began in November 1999.

"DO NOT BE AFRAID: STEWARDSHIP IN CHURCH AND LIFE" - PART 2

Presentation by Rev. Dr. Laura Mendenhall

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Rev. Gary Eller reported on the progress of the candidates and inquirers. One of our candidates is in the search process.

Komerck trust has given money to four of our students to be used toward their seminary education.

Rev. Deborah Boucher-Payne and Elder Bonnie Brown were elected to read ordination exams in Dallas, TX. Rev. Gary Eller was elected as an alternate.

RECESSED FOR LUNCH

Vice-Moderator Ross-Hullinger recessed the meeting with prayer.

RECONVENED MEETING

The meeting was reconvened with the hymn *Shout to the Lord*, #2074.

CALVIN CREST PRESENTATION

Executive Director, Craig Huffman reported on the state of the camp.

STATED CLERK REPORT

1. All reports have been filed with the General Assembly and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies as required as of this date.
2. All correspondence received on behalf of the Presbytery has been assigned, referred, or answered. Two items of particular interest are:
 - a. The Presbyterian Historical Society is offering scholarships to its annual Local Church History Seminar held at Stony Point Center in New York. The scholarships are for congregations that are at least 50 years old, have fewer than 250 members, and have a demonstrated financial need. The deadline for applications is February 18, 2010, and you may find more information by calling the PHS at 215-627-1852.
 - b. The General Assembly Nominating Committee is looking for people to serve on approximately thirty boards, councils, commissions, and committees. "Which one might God be calling you to consider," they ask. If you are interested in finding out more about serving the Church at the General Assembly level, please see me, or go to www.pcusa.org/nominations.
3. The stated meetings of Presbytery for 2009 are scheduled as follows:

Saturday, January 24	Council Bluffs: Bethany Pres.
Saturday, March 21 (<i>1:00-4:00 diff. time</i>)	Omaha: Church of the Master
Tuesday, May 19	Walnut: First Pres.
Friday-Saturday, August 21-22	Calvin Crest
Tuesday, November 10	Shenandoah: First Pres.
4. I have received an invitation from the Session of the Florence church to host the March 20, 2010 Presbytery meeting. We currently are in the process of updating the Presbytery's Administrative Manual of Operations, and that presumably will come to the Presbytery with proposed changes in meeting dates for Presbytery meetings. Assuming the *current* configuration, the dates for 2010 Presbytery meetings are:

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Saturday, January 23	<i>open</i>
Saturday, March 20	Florence
Tuesday, May 18	<i>open</i>
Friday-Saturday, August 20-21	Calvin Crest
Tuesday, November 9	<i>open</i>

The Presbytery is open to receiving invitations from other churches for the available meeting dates. Please send such invitations to the Stated Clerk. However, be aware that the Presbytery should receive the new proposed Administrative Manual before the end of the year, and the finalized meeting dates for 2010 will be approved at that time.

5. As was reported by me via email to the Presbytery on June 15, 2009, the Investigating Committee appointed in April by our Presbytery moderator and vice-moderator has completed their work and submitted their written report to me as required by the *Book of Order*. Their determination was that no charges would be filed in this matter.
6. Sure to be a “hot item,” the new *Book of Order, 2009/2011* is now available! All “polity geeks” are encouraged to be the first on your block to get one! But seriously, each minister, elder, deacon, and congregation should have the current version of Part II of our Constitution. Joan has ordered copies to have available at the Presbytery office, so please contact her if you’d like one. You also may order it directly from the Office of the General Assembly, and it’s available to download at <http://www.pcusa.org/oga/constitution.htm>.
7. The results of the review of Presbytery minutes by the Synod have been received. The 2008 minutes of the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley were approved with the following exception: the review and summary of Presbytery insurance is not recorded. The Presbytery’s Roll Book was reviewed, and it was approved without exception. The report of the Presbytery’s oversight and implementation of the Equal Opportunity Employment program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) through our Committee on Ministry was received and approved by the Synod’s Minutes Review Committee.
8. I am appointing Elder Kris Adler as the Recording Clerk for this Presbytery meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Presbytery voted to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. That the minutes of the May 19, 2009 stated meeting of Presbytery and the minutes of the July 22, 2009 special meeting of Presbytery be approved, including any minor editorial changes that have been brought to the Stated Clerk’s attention.
2. That the following actions taken by the Presbytery Council at its June 25, 2009 meeting be approved:
 - A-1 Council adopted the Covenant Renewal for Councils relating to the Quad-Presbytery Collaborative. The Stated Clerk will bring to the September Council meeting recommendations regarding how we will implement the Covenant.
 - A-2 Council referred to Nominations Committee the resignations of Kathryn Bates from the Committee for Congregations, and of Diane Greenfield as chair and member of Christian Social Responsibility Committee.
 - A-3 Council referred to our Self-Development of People committee a communication from Homestead Presbytery, informing us of their decision to “discontinue participation in the Regional Self-Development of People Review Committee... effective April 16, 2009.”

- A-4 Council approved the transfer of \$2,146 from the 95.03 account (Reserve Fund) to the 95.43 account (Hispanic/Latino Commission).
- A-5 Council approved the following recommendation of the Mission and Mission Interpretation Committee: "Crossroads Connection and Good News Jail and Prison Ministry shall receive the distribution of the net proceeds resulting from the sale of Miller Park Presbyterian Church as follows – 10% of the net sale shall be equally divided between Crossroads Connection and Good News Ministry by the Mission Committee authorizing \$853.07 per month to each organization over the NEXT TWELVE (12) MONTHS beginning in July 2009 and ending in June 2010 for a total of \$10,236.80 to each organization."
- A-6 Regarding disbursement of \$30,000 payment received from Covenant Presbyterian Church, Council approved the following recommendation of the Mission and Mission Interpretation:
- a. \$5,000 to Presbytery's Committee on Youth Ministries for Presbytery-wide youth events.
 - b. \$5,000 to the Presbytery's Hispanic Commission (of which we direct them to use up to 25% for their current ministry and 75% for Latino leadership for a developing congregation).
 - c. \$5,000 to Crossroads Connection (we have already made this distribution).
 - d. \$5,000 to Camp Calvin Crest.
 - e. \$6,000 to Sudanese Fellowship Ministry.
 - f. \$4,000 for New Church Development.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER REPORT

Executive Presbyter, Rev. Kevin Keaton reported.

FINANCE REPORT

Chair of Finance Section, Rev. Mark Miller, commented on the financial status of the presbytery.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL REPORT

Chair of Council, Elder John Morey, reported. The Strategic Plan 2009 goals were reviewed.

Sunday, September 27th @ 2:00pm, a rededication service will be held at Mount View Presbyterian Church for the organ that was relocated from Miller Park Presbyterian Church.

THEOLOGY AND WORSHIP REPORT

Chair of Theology and Worship, Rev Caryn Pederson, reported on the action of the committee.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

The Rev. Robert Keefer, vice chair, presented the report of the Committee on Ministry.

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery by the Committee on June , 2009 :

A-1 COM voted to place the Rev. Dr. Russell Palmer on the Pulpit Supply List.

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery by the Committee on July 21 , 2009 :

A-2 Approve the call and transfer the Rev. Regina Maas to the Presbytery of Southern Kansas.

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery by electronic vote:

A-3 Approve the Rev. Tom Albaum for interim training in August.

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Actions Recommended to Presbytery by COM:

R-1 Approve the installation date for the Rev David Paul on Nov. 8, at First Presbyterian Church, Omaha, with the following commission members: Gary Warren, Charles Bulger, Vonice Darling, Roger Todd, Sarah Dickenson, Lynn Baldwin, Sally Carlson, Andy Cook (Moderator) and one additional elder.

R-2 Approve the call from Dundee Presbyterian church to the Rev. Dr. Robert Jordan, effective September 14, 2009. The terms are as follows:

Cash Salary \$ 102,000
Board of Pensions \$ 32,130
Professional reimbursable expenses: 6,000
Travel at IRS rate \$.55/mile
SECA \$ 7803

Paid vacation of four weeks annually and paid continuing education leave of two weeks annually.

Moving costs up to \$10,000

Sabbatical – In the seventh year of service, the congregation will provide four a 3 month clergy renewal leave, continuing the salary and benefits for that period, and providing for pulpit supply in the pastor's absence.

R-3 Grant the status of honorably retired to the Rev John Besançon as of August 31, 2009. He will be retired for Board of Pension purposes, but is not retiring from the VA chaplain position.

R-4 Approve the minimum terms of call for 2010 be the same as for 2009, except that in addition to a minimum Continuing Education allowance of \$1016, add the following statement:

Those clergy who participate in a professional development event offered by the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation shall receive the time and registration cost of one (1) event above and beyond the Minimum Terms for Professional Development. Those clergy, however, who elect not to participate in an OPSF event shall not receive additional time and funds.

Honoraria shall remain the same in 2010 as 2009:

Supply Preaching	\$147
Funeral	\$177
Pastoral Visit	\$30
Session Meeting	\$89
Wedding	\$177
Wedding Rehearsal	\$89

OWLS (OLDER, WISER, LIVELIER SAINT)

Rev. Ernie Gutha reported on the OWLS event that will be held in September at Camp Calvin Crest.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

SUDANESE COMMISSION

CLP Michael Kuach gave a report on the Sudanese Fellowship. He reports the church is doing well. The fellowship and commission is discussing the relocation of the church because of the condition of the current building. A van was purchased for \$5,000 in order to provide transportation to the fellowship members. First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue, NE provided school supplies for the children of the Sudanese Fellowship.

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NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business. It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The motion carried.

CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Moderator Ross-Hullinger adjourned the meeting with prayer at 1:45 p.m.

Kris Adler
Recording Clerk

Steven W. Plank
Stated Clerk