

STATED MEETING  
MAY 19, 2009

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
WALNUT, IOWA

MINUTES OF  
THE PRESBYTERY OF MISSOURI RIVER VALLEY  
(Pending approval on August 21-22, 2009)

The Presbytery of Missouri River Valley held its May stated meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Walnut, Iowa on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, with the Moderator, Elder Andrew Cook, opening the meeting at 5:07 pm with prayer and the opening hymn, "In Christ There Is No East or West."

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Presbytery was called to order with a responsive reading and 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:**

Thomas Albaum
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>
MaryAnn Calta
<i>Deena Candler (A)</i>
Greg Carlson
Sally Carlson
<i>*Tom Clark (A)</i>
J. Keith Cook, HR
<i>*James Crapson</i>
<i>William Denny, HR (E)</i>
Sarah Dickinson
<i>Howard Dooley, HR (E)</i>
Neal Earley
Gary Eller
Jody Filipi
Ed Fish, HR
Roy Fox, HR
Lyle Franzen
<i>David Grimm, HR (E)</i>
Ernest Gutha, HR
<i>John Hansen (A)</i>

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

Loren Parker, HR
Caryn Pedersen
<i>John Pettit, HR (E)</i>
Stephen Pike
Steve Plank
Nancy Profit
<i>Gale Prentice, HR (E)</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>Marvyn Schultz, HR (E)</i>
<i>Darin Seaman (A)</i>
<i>*Aaron Simons</i>
Richard Skelley, HR
Rick Sleyster
Jon Sloan
Dean Sparr
Ed Steinmetz
<i>Howard Svoboda, HR (E)</i>
Roger Todd, HR
Sara Tonje
Leslie Traylor
Ronald Van Heukelom
Sandra Wainwright
Gary Warren

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Dwight Williams
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Mark Witmer, HR (E)
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Jay Yu, HR (E)
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\* = 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	Janice Bright
Avoca	--
Benson	Claude Smith
Bethany	Bob Sieck
Carson	JoAnn Patrick
Carter Lake	--
Castelar	David Klostermeyer
Center Ridge	--
Central	Kathy Stockham
Church of the Cross (2)	Tom Searson Laurie Lambert
Church of the Master	John Molacek
College Springs	Jim Book
Dundee (3)	Kim Clure Jill Cochran Jim Scott-Miller
Essex	--
Faith (2)	Jerry Stone
	--
Faithful Shepherd	--
First (Bellevue)	--
First (Omaha)	Joyce Lane
Florence	--
Fort Calhoun	--
Gethsemane	Gary Driver
Glendale	--
Hope	--
Korean	--
Lowe Avenue	Cleve Evans
Missouri Valley	Kathy Brandon

Mosher-Pilgrim	Mary Lou Melton
Mount View	Lois Clausen
Murray	Rich Gregerson
Neola	Enid Sparr
New Horizon	Mindy Brewer
New Life	--
Oakland-Sharon	Don Hering
Peace	Dustin Suess
Plattsmouth	David Fizette
Randolph	--
Red Oak	Karl Allen
Shelby	--
Shenandoah	Patti Gee
Sidney	Richard McClure
Sudanese Presbyterian Fellowship (2)	-- --
Trinity (Clarinda)	Barb Reese
Underwood Hills	Bob Howard
United Trinity, Hamburg	--
Valley Baptist-Presbyterian	Craig Huffman
Villisca	Linda Moore
Wales	Randy Jones
Walnut	James McDermott
West Hills (2)	Laurayne Hall Robert Hilkeman
Westminster (Clarinda)	Dale McAllister
Westminster (Co. Bluffs)	John Bare
Westminster (Omaha)	Teresa Fuhr
Wheeler Memorial	Elizabeth Bader
Woodbine	--

**ELDER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:**

Kris Adler
Geri Clanton
Andrew Cook
Marilyn Dierks
Marjorie Douthit (A)

Carol Dworak
Diane Greenfield (A)
Carolyn Grice
Peggy Mago (A)
Susan Mayer

John Morey
George Morgan (A)
Mike O'Bradovich
Bill O'Donnell (A)
Carole Warnes (A)

**COMMISSIONED LAY PASTORS:**

David Krueger (Walnut), William Wood (Glendale), Al Zimmerman (Florence)

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**VISITORS:**

Bonnie Holtz (Walnut), Jim Campbell (Westminster, Clarinda), Ruthellen Reed (Westminster, Clarinda), Carol Ann Smith (Benson), Will Clanton (Church of the Cross), Ruth Cook (Underwood Hills), Sandy Wood (Glendale), JoAnn MacDonald (First, Omaha), Gloria Myer (Walnut), Darlene Stuart (Walnut), Zelda Gutha (New Horizon), Linda Ploen (Walnut), Marion Skelley (First, Omaha), Ron Sealock (New Horizon), Cal Parrott (New Horizon), Leo Rechtenbach (Walnut), Pat Toolles (New Life), Eva Parker (Westminster, Council Bluffs), Kaley Swartz-Brown (Church of the Master), Barb Eslick (Walnut)

Number of ministers present: 50                      Number of elder commissioners present: 53

Total number of persons eligible to vote: 103

**WELCOME OF FIRST-TIME ELDERS**

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

**WELCOME FROM HOST CHURCH**

Commissioned Lay Pastor David Krueger and Elder Gloria Meyers welcomed Presbytery to First Presbyterian Church.

Vice Moderator Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger assumed the chair and called for the introduction of new business.

**SCRIPTURE READING #1**

The Rev. Dwight Williams read Second Corinthians 5:17-20.

**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.
3. The stated meetings of Presbytery for 2009 are scheduled as follows:
  - Saturday, January 24 Council Bluffs: Bethany Pres.
  - Saturday, March 21 *(1:00-4:00 diff. time)* 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. Members of the Permanent Judicial Commission attended a training event on April 4 that was led by Laurie Griffith, Manager of Judicial Process and Social Witness for the General Assembly. Members of PJC's from two other presbyteries also attended this event. During the meeting, our PJC elected their officers for this term: the Rev. Dr. Russ Palmer, Moderator and Elder Pam Otto, Clerk.
5. The Moderator and Vice-Moderator appointed an Investigating Committee to investigate allegations raised in a letter received by me. Elder Linda Wendel is the chairperson of this committee, and the Rev. Dick Meyer is the secretary.
6. The Lowe Avenue Administrative Commission, at its first meeting on April 14, 2009, elected the following officers: the Rev. Charles Bulger, Moderator, and Elder Dave Kellogg, Clerk.
7. The Rev. Kevin Duffee's transfer last year to Pueblo Presbytery has been rescinded because they have not voted to receive him. Therefore, he remains a member-at-large of our Presbytery.
8. I have received details about the renewal of a loan taken out by Faith Presbyterian Church. The Finance Section has reviewed and approved this.
9. With the consent of the Committee on Ministry, I would like to present Presbytery ID cards to our four Commissioned Lay Pastors: Bill Wood (serving the Glendale church), Al Zimmerman (serving the Florence church), David Krueger (serving the Walnut church), and Michael Kuach (serving the Sudanese Fellowship)

**APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

1. That the minutes of the March 21, 2009 stated meeting of Presbytery be approved.
2. That the following actions taken by the Presbytery Council at its April 23, 2009 meeting be approved:
  - A-1 That, when the Presbytery discusses the proposed Constitutional amendments, speakers be limited to two minutes each, and total discussion time be no longer than 65 minutes.
  - A-2 The Council of the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley established a Communications Task Force comprised of 3-5 individuals, who shall evaluate the communications network(s) of the Presbytery and make an initial report back to Council no later than its meeting on June 25. Task Force members will be Rev. Keith Cook, Susan Mayer (or her designee from Educational Ministries), David Krueger (or his designee from Committee for Congregations) and Caryn Pederson (or her designee from Theology and Worship).

The Communications Task Force shall conduct

    - an evaluation of existing communication tools/ methods
    - a survey of the most effective ways to communicate with the Presbytery including
      - the preferred forms of communication for a congregation
      - the preferred recipient(s) of communication for a congregation

The Task Force shall make recommendations including, but not limited to

    - a strategy of communication for the Presbytery
    - improving/enhancing current systems of communication
    - creating/developing new methods of communication
    - revising/eliminating unused or under-utilized forms of communication a plan for communication in a time of emergency or crisis
  - A-3 The Council passed a motion that the Chair of Nominations, the Stated Clerk, and the Executive Presbyter review the Manual of Operations, sections, committees, and the work with which they are tasked to see if any restructuring or changes could be made to improve our current structure. This group will report back to Council.
  - A-4 It was reported that the Sudanese Commission formed a task force to review and evaluate the current facility in which the Sudanese Presbyterian Fellowship now meets.
  - A-5 Council instructed the Stated Clerk to work with Elder Diana Barber from the Synod office to set up conversations within the Presbytery about the proposed new Form of Government.
  - A-6 Council reviewed and approved the March 31, 2009 financial report.

**EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER REPORT**

Executive Presbyter, Rev. Kevin Keaton, reported on his work in the Presbytery.

**FINANCE REPORT**

The Rev. Mark Miller reported on the financial status of the Presbytery. Elder Mindy Burr from New Horizon Presbyterian Church presented a proposal to sell 12 acres of land to the Council Bluffs School District for \$500,000. The legal description of the land is: 12 acres of Lot 5, New Horizon Subdivision, Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. Presbytery approved this transaction pending the approval of the New Horizon congregation on Sunday, May 24, 2009.

**SCRIPTURE READING #2**

**COUNCIL REPORT**

Elder John Morey, chair of Council, reported on the Annual Plan as outlined on the Presbytery website.

**SCRIPTURE READING #3**

The Rev. Rick Sleyster read Romans 12:14-16 and Ephesians 4:13-16

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

The Rev. Sally Carlson, COM Chair, reported on the actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery by the Committee on April 28, 2009 and added that A-1 is still in process because the terms of call are not yet available.

A-1 Approved the Temporary Supply relationship between the Session of Dundee Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Stephanie Huisman, who is ordained in the Reformed Church in America.

A-2 Corrected the contract figures for Russ Palmer as Stated Supply of Lowe Avenue Church which COM incorrectly reported to the Presbytery. The correct figures are: effective salary of \$9,216, hospital visits reimbursed at \$30 per visit, \$1,000 reimbursable expenses (including travel and continuing education), four weeks vacation, and two weeks continuing education.

A-3 Approved the Temporary Supply Agreement between the Session of Benson Presbyterian Church and the Rev. MaryAnn Calta, effective May 1, 2009. This is a part-time (20 hours per week) position, with the following responsibilities:

- Lead worship and preach 4-5 Sundays per month
- Do pastoral calling on sick, shut-ins, and prospective members
- Officiate at weddings and funerals as requested.
- Plan and moderate session and congregational meetings
- Work with boards and committees to assist them in carrying out their assigned tasks
- Train newly elected officers
- Perform other administrative duties as requested by the Session
- Teach and/or provide resources for Confirmation Class

The Terms of the Agreement are:

Cash Salary	\$	2,320
Housing allowance	\$	18,000
Deferred compensation	\$	2,995
<b>Effective Salary</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>23,315</b>
Board of Pensions	\$	9,926.10

Professional reimbursable expenses:

Travel at IRS rate \$ 840

Continuing Ed. \$ 700

Paid vacation of four weeks annually

Paid continuing education leave of two weeks annually

A-4 Voted to:

- Approve the call of First Presbyterian Church of Omaha to the Rev. A. David Paul to be the Associate Pastor, with the terms as indicated below, pending the action of the congregation on May 3, 2009,
- Receive Rev. Paul as a minister member of our Presbytery pending his transfer from Pittsburgh Presbytery,
- Approve him beginning this ministry on June 1, 2009.

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The terms being proposed are as follows:

Cash Salary	\$ 36,000
Housing allowance	\$ 24,000
<b>Effective Salary</b>	<b>\$ 60,000</b>
Board of Pensions	\$ 18,900
Additional benefits	\$ 2,630
Professional reimbursable	\$ 1,000
Travel at IRS rate	\$ 1,500
Continuing Education	\$ 1,000
Moving Expenses	\$ 5,000
Paid vacation of four weeks annually	
Paid continuing education leave of two weeks annually	

Rev. Carlson presented the following as a motion and it was approved by Presbytery.

Actions Recommended to Presbytery by COM

R-1 That the Reverend Rob Hubler be received from the Presbytery of the Pacific and be placed on the pulpit supply list.

**SCRIPTURE READING #4**

The Rev. Jody Filipi read Proverbs 18:13 and Ephesians 4:15-16

**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

The Rev. Gary Eller reported that Andrew Clausen from Dundee Presbyterian Church will enter seminary this fall and Presbytery voted to enroll him as an Inquirer. Presbytery approved the receipt of the report from the committee.

**SCRIPTURE READING #5**

The Rev. Sara Tonje read from Acts 15 and invited Presbytery to participate in the reading with responses.

Moderator Andrew Cook assumed the chair.

**LEGISLATION SECTION REPORT - VOTING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION**

Proposed Amendments from the 218<sup>th</sup> (2008) General Assembly were grouped for voting purposes. Following discussion by members of Presbytery, Rev. Jody Filipi led Presbytery in prayer for discernment. During the voting process hymns of faithfulness, *Come Thou Font of Every Blessing* and *The Church's One Foundation* were sung.

Amendments C,D,E and J received 91 yes votes, zero no votes and 5 abstentions.

Amendments F and I received 87 yes votes, 6 no votes and 5 abstentions.

Amendments K, L, M and N received 93 yes votes, zero no votes and 5 abstentions.

Amendment B received 50 yes votes, 41 no votes and 6 abstentions.

Amendment G received 79 yes votes, 15 no votes and 4 abstentions.

Amendment H received 89 yes votes, 5 no votes and 4 abstentions.

Amendment A received 84 yes votes, 10 no votes and 4 abstentions.

Elder Mike O'Bradovich, chair of the Legislative Section, moved that the Theology and Worship Committee be instructed to design and implement a series of theological conversations within the Presbytery about this and other issues important to the Church. Presbytery approved the motion.

**COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS**

The Committee recommends that Leanne Johnson, First Omaha, be appointed to the Calvin Crest Board. The Presbytery voted to elect this person to that position.

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**MISSION AND MISSION INTERPRETATION**

Elder Geri Clanton, chair of Mission and Mission Interpretation, reminded Presbytery that Komarek Trust applications are due June 15.

Rev. Lyle Meester recounted the mission work of Mt. View Presbyterian Church.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioned Lay Pastor David Krueger, for the Committee for Congregations reported that the fellowship event originally scheduled for June will be moved to August.

The Rev. Ernie Gutha reported on the OWLS organization, the older adult ministry, events scheduled for September.

The Rev. Caryn Pedersen, chair of Theology and Worship, reported on two spiritual growth events; one for June 27 in Shenandoah and another in September, both to be led by Rev. Jody Filipi.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION**

The Presbytery concluded its meeting with worship, including the celebration of the Sacrament of Communion, led by Commissioned Lay Pastor David Krueger.

**ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING HYMN**

Moderator Andrew Cook adjourned the meeting and Presbyters sang *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*.

Eileen Adickes  
Recording Clerk

Steven W. Plank  
Stated Clerk