

STATED MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2009

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SHENANDOAH, IA

MINUTES OF
THE PRESBYTERY OF MISSOURI RIVER VALLEY
(Pending approval on February 20, 2010)

The Presbytery of Missouri River Valley held its November stated meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Shenandoah, Iowa on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, with Moderator Rev. Andrew Cook opening the meeting at 5:00 pm with prayer.

Presbvters worshipped and celebrated the sacrament of communion.

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.

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

The Presbytery seated the following as corresponding members: Walter Olker, Development Officer with the Presbyterian Foundation (elder, West Side Presbyterian Church, Lawrence, KS), and Stephanie Huisman, on staff at Dundee (minister member of the Central Plains Classis, Reformed Church in America).

THE ROLL

MINISTER MEMBERS:

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

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| 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 |
| Portia Iverson |
| <i>Harold Johnson, HR (E)</i> |
| <i>William Alan Jones (A)</i> |
| Robert Jordan |
| Kevin Keaton |
| Robert Keefer |
| <i>Chet Kiehl (Inactive)</i> |
| <i>Kevin Killion (Inactive)</i> |
| <i>Ronald Kinsey, HR (E)</i> |
| *Jerry Lamb |
| <i>Paul M. Lundell, HR (E)</i> |
| <i>Larry Maley (A)</i> |
| Paul Masters |
| <i>David Matsumura (A)</i> |
| <i>Jeff McDonald (A)</i> |
| <i>Robert Meanor, HR (E)</i> |
| Lyle Meester |

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|--------------------------------|
| <i>Richard Meyer, HR (E)</i> |
| <i>Gregg Miller (A)</i> |
| Mark Miller |
| George Moore |
| Nadia Mullin |
| Matt Nieman |
| <i>William Osick, HR (E)</i> |
| Russell W. Palmer, HR |
| Loren Parker, HR |
| David Paul |
| Caryn Pedersen |
| <i>John Pettit, HR (E)</i> |
| Stephen Pike |
| Steve Plank |
| <i>Gale Prentice, HR (E)</i> |
| Nancy Profit |
| * <i>Carl Ratcliff (A)</i> |
| <i>D. Gregory Reid, HR (E)</i> |
| Dee Jay Reiff, HR |
| <i>Gun Song Rhee (A)</i> |
| Nancy Ross-Hullinger |
| Kirk Ryckman |
| <i>Marvyn Schultz, HR (E)</i> |
| Darin Seaman |
| *Aaron Simons |
| <i>Richard Skelley, HR (E)</i> |

STATED MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2009

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SHENANDOAH, IA

| |
|------------------------|
| Rick Sleyster |
| Jon Sloan |
| Dean Sparr |
| Ed Steinmetz |
| Howard Svoboda, HR (E) |

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| Roger Todd, HR |
| Sara Tonje |
| Leslie Traylor |
| Ronald Van Heukelom (A) |
| Sandra Wainwright |

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| Gary Warren |
| Dwight Williams |
| Mark Witmer, HR (E) |
| Jay Yu, HR (E) |

* = 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:

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|-------------------------|------------------|
| Anderson Grove | -- |
| Avery | Janice Bright |
| Avoca | -- |
| Benson | -- |
| Bethany | Bob Sieck |
| Carson | Kay Evans |
| Carter Lake | -- |
| Castelar | Alan Owens |
| Center Ridge | -- |
| Central | Kathy Stockham |
| Church of the Cross (2) | Karen Morey |
| | -- |
| Church of the Master | Gary Shelton |
| College Springs | -- |
| Dundee (3) | Roger Fitch |
| | Jim Scott-Miller |
| | -- |
| Essex | -- |
| Faith (2) | Chuck Shafer |
| | Jerry Stone |
| Faithful Shepherd | Gwen Mason |
| First (Bellevue) | -- |
| First (Omaha) | Joyce Lane |
| Florence | -- |
| Fort Calhoun | -- |
| Gethsemane | Gary Driver |
| Glendale | -- |
| Hope | -- |
| Korean | -- |
| Missouri Valley | Kathryn Brandon |
| Mosher-Pilgrim | Sue Barrett |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Mount View | Lois Clauson |
| Murray | ---- |
| Neola | Dale Jensen |
| New Horizon | Mike Kern |
| New Life | -- |
| Oakland-Sharon | Ruth Murray |
| Peace | Gerry Zerse |
| Plattsmouth | -- |
| Randolph | -- |
| Red Oak | Dianene Hildreth |
| Shelby | -- |
| Shenandoah | Judy Nelson |
| Sidney | Sandra Bengtson |
| Sudanese Presbyterian Fellowship (2) | -- |
| Trinity (Clarinda) | -- |
| Underwood Hills | Bob Howard |
| United Trinity, Hamburg | -- |
| Valley Baptist-Presbyterian | -- |
| Villisca | Linda Moore |
| Wales | -- |
| Walnut | -- |
| West Hills (2) | -- |
| | -- |
| Westminster (Clarinda) | Elfrieda Reents |
| Westminster (Co. Bluffs) | John Bare |
| Westminster (Omaha) | Teresa Fuhr |
| Wheeler Memorial | Elizabeth Bader |
| Woodbine | -- |

ELDER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

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| Kris Adler (A) |
| Geri Clanton (A) |
| Andrew Cook |
| Marilyn Dierks |
| Carol Dworak (A) |

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| Carolyn Grice (A) |
| Joan Hackett |
| Peggy Mago (A) |
| Susan Mayer (A) |
| John Morey |

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| George Morgan (A) |
| Mike O'Bradovich |
| Carole Warnes |

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NOVEMBER 10, 2009

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SHENANDOAH, IA

COMMISSIONED LAY PASTORS:

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

VISITORS:

Susan Lockwood (Faith), Bonnie Brown (Central), Zelda Gutha (New Horizon), Marion Skelley (First, Omaha), Megan Wright (Westminster, Clarinda), J.A. Campbell (Westminster, Clarinda), Ruth Cook (Underwood Hills), Sandy Wood (Glendale), Joel Brady (Mount View), Ruthellen Reed (Westminster, Clarinda), Lewis Pinch (Church of the Master), Janet Greenwood (Trinity, Clarinda), Eva Parker (Westminster, Council Bluffs), Lynn Baldwin (Shenandoah), Laurie Nettelmann

Number of ministers present: 49

Number of elder commissioners present: 39

Total number of persons eligible to vote: 88

WELCOME OF NEW MINISTERS AND FIRST-TIME ELDERS

New ministers and first time elders were introduced and welcomed.

WELCOME FROM THE HOST CHURCH

Elder Judy Nelson welcomed Presbytery to the church.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS

No new business was introduced. However, the Rev. Keith Cook was recognized by the Presbytery for his work as the editor of the Presbytery's online weekly newsletter. He is retiring from this work; the Rev. Jody Filipi will take over this project beginning in January.

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. This is the last stated meetings of Presbytery for 2009. The meetings have been 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 invitations from the Sessions of the Florence Presbyterian Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church (Clarinda) to host Presbytery meetings in 2010. If the Presbytery votes to approve the proposed *Manual of Administrative Operations* at this meeting, then Council will be setting the four Presbytery meeting dates in 2010 (with the exception of the August 27-28 meeting, which dates are already set), and I will inform those two sessions about available dates. If the new *Manual* is not adopted, then the meeting dates for 2010 would be January 23, March 20, May 18, August 27-28, and November 9.
5. Elder Diana Barber, our Synod's Associate Executive for Leadership, will be in our Presbytery on November 15 and 16 to lead discussions about the proposed new Form of Government that will be considered by the 219th General Assembly in Minneapolis this next summer. The Sunday discussion group will meet at Central Presbyterian Church in Omaha at 7:00 p.m. The Monday discussion group will meet at New Horizon Presbyterian Church in Council Bluffs at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Barber also will be leading the Committee on Ministry in an examination and discussion of this document at their meeting that Monday at 4:30, also at New Horizon Church.

6. I received the audit of the Presbytery's 2008 financial records. The report, dated August 5, 2009, notes two "reportable conditions that we believe to be material weaknesses:
- "The Organization does not have employees on staff that have been educated and trained in the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. This function is performed by the outside auditor.
 - "The small size of the accounting staff does not permit the segregation of duties to provide those internal controls that would provide for checks and balances that a larger accounting staff would provide."

This was referred to the Finance Section of Council, which has been aware of this condition for years. Most of the accounting functions of our Presbytery are handled by the Synod, so the Finance Section feels that appropriate safeguards are in place that address these identified material weaknesses. The rest of the audit report shows that things are well in order. The complete audit is included in the Presbytery documents for the November docket. [Attachment 1]

7. I occasionally am asked to write official interpretations about questions that arise within Council and/or its committees and sections. This year I have written three such interpretations at the request of different Presbytery committees. Those have been:
- Regarding the use of the money from the sale of the Miller Park Presbyterian Church property
 - Regarding the use of the money from the settlement agreement between the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley and Covenant Presbyterian Church of Omaha
 - Regarding the question of ongoing vs. annual funding for the Presbytery's Youth Ministries Committee

These all have been reported to and received by Council.

8. I have received a request from Judy Peterson, the Clerk of Session of the Carter Lake Community Presbyterian Church, requesting permission to waive the requirement of rotation of Session elders due to the small size of their congregation. This is an allowable request for the Presbytery to receive and consider, and the Presbytery may act on it based upon G-14.0226c:
- "If in any church it is impossible because of limited membership to provide for the rotation of terms, the congregation may request a waiver of the limitations on reelection after six years. The presbytery may grant the exemption by majority vote for three years at a time, subject to renewal or revocation at any time by majority vote."

I move that the Presbytery grant this exemption through 2012, at which point the congregation may reapply if they deem it necessary. Presbytery granted this exemption.

9. I moved that the Commission to install the Rev. A. David Paul as the Assoc. Pastor of First Pres in Omaha, NE on Nov. 8, 2009 be dismissed with our thanks.
10. I was informed that the Finance Section approved the request of the congregation of the United Church of Avoca to sell property they won to Mr. and Mrs. Becker for \$45,000. The Legal Description is: Lots 15 and 16, Avoca Land and Loan Company Addition to the Town of Avoca, Pottawattamie County, Iowa, 312 W. Wool Street, Avoca, IA.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Presbytery voted to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- That the minutes of the August 21-22, 2009 stated meeting of Presbytery be approved, including any minor editorial changes that have been brought to the Stated Clerk's attention.
- That the following actions taken by the Presbytery Council at its September 24, 2009 and October 22, 2009 meetings be approved:

A-1 The Stated Clerk presented plans for implementing the Quad Presbytery Covenant conversations.

The following people from our Presbytery will be our representatives to these continuing dialogues: Kevin Keaton (EP), a member of Council, a member at-large from the Presbytery, and the Stated Clerk. Council authorized the chair of Council and the Moderator of Presbytery to appoint the at-large member from Presbytery, and Council will appoint its representative.

- A-2 Council voted to send budget item #5430 to Habitats for Humanity organizations in Douglas County, Sarpy County, and Council Bluffs.
- A-3 Council voted to send budget item #5440 to the Central America Inter-Presbytery account (for CEPAD).
- A-4 Council voted to send the balance of budget item #2095.52 to Crossroads Connection.
- A-5 Council voted the following for paying expenses for alternate commissioners from our Presbytery to the General Assembly:
- Costs of travel of whichever is less of travel for plan fare or auto reimbursement;
 - Double-occupancy hotel with GA housing network for three nights of housing;
 - Registration fee for GA observer;
 - Four days of meals at GA per diem;
 - Parking at economy lot rate.
- A-6 Council voted that the chair of Finance Section would be authorized to sign any financial papers, such as the audit, in cases of the absence of the Presbytery Treasurer, other than papers that require the signature of a corporate officer.
- A-7 Council authorized the Stated Clerk to sign uniform sale agreements with Fred Scott of N.P. Dodge Real Estate for the Lowe Avenue and Clifton Hill church properties.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER REPORT

Executive Presbyter, Rev. Kevin Keaton reported.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL REPORT

Chair of Council, Elder John Morey reported.

Elders John and Karen Morey reported on the Strategic Plan.

John Morey proposed the attached Manual of Administrative Operations for adoption. Stated Clerk, Rev. Steve Plank, brought forth several items listed as "Errata" which would be corrected in the final version. Presbytery voted to implement the Errata as outlined by the Stated Clerk.

Rev. Dwight Williams proposed an amendment to add a 6th bullet under "spirituality, Theology & Worship"

Purpose: Section

Encourage theological discussion within the presbytery, including speakers and/or discussion at

a) presbytery meetings, and

b) at other events and times

Presbytery approved the amendment.

Presbytery then voted to implement the amended Manual of Administrative Operations. [Attachment 2]

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

Chair of the Committee, Rev. Sally Carlson, reported on the actions of the committee. The commissions for Certified Lay Pastors Al Zimmerman and Bill Wood were renewed and Rev. Carlson led Presbytery in prayer.

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery by the Committee on September 22, 2009:

A-1 Approved Rev. Stephanie Huisman, RCA, to officiate the sacraments at Dundee Presbyterian at the direction of their session.

A-2 Transferred membership of Nancy Redman to East Iowa Presbytery.

A-3 Move that Howard Dotson's installation at Westminster, Omaha, will be November 15 at 3:00pm. Becky Balestri, Rick Sleyster, Sue Rafferty, Carolyn Grice, Greg Carlson will be the installation commission. Andy Cook will moderate the commission.

A-4 Approved the pulpit supply agreement with the Sidney church and Nancy Proffit, for 20 hours service, 3 Sundays preaching/month, with the church reimbursing for mileage and other benefits. This agreement meets with the Board of pensions approval within Rev. Proffit's disability benefits.

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery by the Committee on October 27, 2009:

A-5 Approved the transfer of Lowell Knauss to the Presbytery of New Brunswick.

A-6 Approved the contract for Portia Iverson to serve as interim pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) of Papillion, Nebraska. The contract specifies her duties; the terms of the agreement are salary of \$20,000 and housing allowance of \$25,000; full pension and medical through the Presbyterian Board of Pensions; Dental insurance; auto allowance reimbursable at IRS standard rate up to \$2,400; continuing education of two weeks and \$1,000; and four weeks of vacation; unused vacation will be paid at the completion of the agreement.

A-7 Approved Patrick Bracken, minister candidate from Muskingum Valley Presbytery, for the pulpit supply list.

A-8 Endorsed Jodi Filipi for international mission services.

A-9 Approved contract for Stated Supply between Gethsemane Presbyterian Church and Dee Jay Reiff, to begin November 1, 2009. His duties are clearly spelled out; they will pay \$147 per week for pulpit supply and \$89 for each session meeting; \$22 mileage for each trip to the church; for any service over that stipulated (e.g. hospital calls, special church event): \$20 per hour plus travel reimbursement at IRS rate. Further, the Session and Mr. Reiff agree to keep the total cost of pastoral services at not more than \$1200 per month. Contract to be reviewed in six months.

A-10 Voted to renew Al Zimmerman's commission as lay pastor to serve the Florence Church for three years.

A-11 Voted to renew Bill Wood's commission as lay pastor to serve as CLP at Glendale for three years.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Chair of the Committee, the Rev. Gary Eller, reported on the actions of the committee.

The committee continues to meet monthly and to work with our Inquirers and Candidates who are attending seminary and seeking calls. We invite your prayers for those under our care:

Andrew Clausen (Dundee Presbyterian Church - Omaha) – an Inquirer and first year student at Trinity Evangelical Seminary, Deerfield, Illinois;

Brad Hertzler (Dundee Presbyterian Church - Omaha) – a Candidate and senior at Dubuque Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa;

Susan Lockwood (Faith Presbyterian Church - Omaha) – a seminary graduate and Inquirer who is seeking to become a Candidate at this presbytery meeting;

Richard Morhardt (Church of the Cross - Omaha) – an Inquirer and first year student at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky;

Michael Plank (Central Presbyterian Church – Omaha) – a Candidate and senior at McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois;

Jessica Weitze (Dundee Presbyterian Church – Omaha) – a Candidate serving in educational ministry in Mexico, Missouri and a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey. In October 2009 two members of our committee, Bonnie Brown (Elder – Central Presbyterian– Omaha) and Rev. Deborah Boucher-Payne (Chaplain – University of Nebraska Medical Center) served as graders for the recent Ordination Examinations in Dallas, Texas.

Recommendation:

1) That the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley approves Susan Lockwood, an Inquirer in our presbytery, as a Candidate for Ministry (G-14.0405). Susan has been endorsed by the Session of Faith

STATED MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2009

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SHENANDOAH, IA

Presbyterian Church – LaVista and received the approval of CPM at our October 15, 2009 committee meeting. She has prepared a Statement of Faith for your consideration.

The committee reported that Michael Plank was certified ready for examination for ordination, pending a call (G-14.0450).

Presbytery examined Susan Lockwood and received her as a Candidate under Presbytery's care. Moderator Andy Cook questioned Ms. Lockwood and received affirmative answers to the questions from *The Book of Order*.

Elder Bonnie Brown and the Rev. Deborah Boucher-Payne reported on the reading of ordination examinations.

Vice Moderator Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger assumed the chair.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Chair of the Committee, Elder Carole Warnes presented the report. No nominations were received from the floor. Chair of Committee on Representation, Elder Marilyn Dierks, approved the slate of nominees. Presbytery voted to approve the slate as presented.

*Denotes Chair

MODERATOR OF PRESBYTERY

(2010) The Reverend Nancy Ross-Hullinger

VICE MODERATOR OF PRESBYTERY

(2010) The Reverend Matthew Nieman

CHAIR OF COUNCIL

(2010) Elder Andrew Cook – Church of the Master

COUNCIL AT LARGE

(2012) Elder Carolyn Grice – New Life (*first term*)

(2012) The Reverend Roger Todd (*first term*)

POLICY AND POLITY

(2010) The Reverend Bill Beatty (*first term*)

(2010) Elder Jan Pellant – New Horizon (*first term*)

(2010) Elder Matt Darling – Central (*first term*)

(2011) The Reverend Russell Palmer (*first term*)

(2011) * Elder Michael O'Bradovich - Benson (*first term*)

(2011) Elder Marilyn Dierks – Underwood Hills (*first term*)

(2012) The Reverend Ken Bunnell Jr (*first term*)

(2012) Elder Carol Dworak – Church of the Cross (*first term*)

(2012) Elder Vonice Darling – Lowe Avenue (*first term*)

STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

(2011) The Reverend Becky Balestri (*first term*)

(2012) Elder Dick Corwine – Hope (*second term*)

(2012) The Reverend Dee Jay Reiff (*second term*)

PERSONNEL

(2010) * Elder Ed Lynn – New Horizon (*first term*)

(2011) Elder Ken Bunnell III - Peace (*first term*)

(2012) The Reverend Ron Van Heukelom (*second term*)

STATED MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2009

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SHENANDOAH, IA

EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

- (2012) * Elder David Krueger - Walnut (*second term*)
- (2012) The Reverend David Paul – (*first term*)
- (2012) Elder Clara Beatty – Faithful Shepherd (*first term*)

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

- (2011) Elder Miles Russell – Center Ridge (*first term*)
- (2012) The Reverend Keith Cook (*first term*)
- (2012) The Reverend Deena Candler (*first term*)
- (2012) The Reverend Charles Bulger (*second term*)
- (2012) Elder Roger Wehrbein – Plattsmouth (*first term*)
- (2012) Elder Teena Kern – New Horizon (*first term*)
- (2012) Elder Ron Meyer – Church of the Master (*first term*) \

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

- (2012) The Reverend Steven Pike (*second term*)
- (2012) Elder Bonnie Brown - Central (*second term*)
- (2012) Elder George Thompson – First, Bellevue (*first term*)
- (2012) Elder Lewis Pinch, MD – Church of the Master (*first term*)

SPIRITUALITY, THEOLOGY, AND WORSHIP

- (2010) Elder Michael Heller – Underwood Hills (*first term*)
- (2010) Mr. Alan Reinarz – First, Omaha (*first term*)
- (2011) Elder Muriel Baldwin – Shenandoah (*first term*)
- (2011) (elder or lay member)
- (2012) The Reverend Becky Balestri (*first term*)
- (2012) * The Reverend Caryn Pedersen (*second term*)
- (2012) Elder Beth Galli – Benson (*first term*)

FAITH, EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- (2012) * Elder Susan Mayer – Central (*second term*)
- (2012) The Reverend Roger Todd (*first term*)
- (2012) (elder or lay member)

CALVIN CREST BOARD

- (2012) The Reverend Rick Sleyster (*second term*)
- (2012) Elder Leanne Johnson – First, Omaha (*first term*)

MISSION

- (2011) * The Reverend Jody Filipi (*first term*)
- (2012) The Reverend George Moore (*first term*)
- (2012) Elder Al Zimmerman – Florence (*first term*)
- (2012) Elder Leslee O’Bradovich - Benson (*first term*)

LATINO HISPANIC WORKING GROUP

- (2011) (minister, elder, or lay member)
- (2012) * The Reverend Lyle Franzen (*second term*)
- (2012) The Reverend Greg Carlson (*first term*)
- (2012) Elder David Klostermeyer – Castelar (*second term*)

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NOVEMBER 10, 2009

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SHENANDOAH, IA

SUDANESE ADMINISTRATION WORKING GROUP

(2012) Elder Patty Maun- Underwood Hills (*first term*)
(2012) (minister, elder, or lay member)
(2012) (minister, elder, or lay member)

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PEACEMAKING

(2010) The Reverend Lyle Meester (*first term*)
(2010) Elder Al Zimmerman – Florence (*first term*)
(2011) The Reverend Aaron Simons (*first term*)
(2011) Elder Vonice Darling - Lowe Avenue (*first term*)
(2012) The Reverend Russell Palmer (*first term*)
(2012) * Elder Jim Carruthers – Faithful Shepherd (*first term*)

COMMISSIONERS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(2010) The Reverend Rick Sleyster
(2010) The Reverend Sally Carlson
(2012) The Reverend Lyle Franzen – Alternate for The Reverend Rick Sleyster
(2012) The Reverend Nancy Ross-Hullinger – Alternate for The Reverend Sally Carlson
(2012) Elder Marilyn Dierks – Underwood Hills - Alternate for Elder Bonnie Brown
(2012) Elder Michael O’Bradovich – Benson - Alternate for Elder Dick Corwine

COMMISSIONERS TO SYNOD

(2010) The Reverend Richard Meyer

MISSION AND MISSION INTERPRETATION

In the absence of Chair, Geri Clanton, the Rev. Neal Earley from Faith Presbyterian Church, LaVista spoke regarding having a possible Malawi Partnership with Missouri River Valley.

I rejoice in the many missions that our Presbytery and our churches are involved in at this time. I rejoice in the partnerships that we already have with churches in other parts of the world.

I would like for the Mission Committee and our Presbytery to consider beginning a partnership with a Malawi Presbytery in addition to the relationships we already have as a Presbytery. Four visitors from Malawi shared at our Presbytery meeting on March 21st meeting at Church of the Master. They were the Rev. Dr. Silas Ncozana, Rev. James Kanyochole, Lemelani Thawani, and Ivy Kaluwa.

When the Rev. Dr. Silas Ncozana was here, he requested that we have a two tiered partnership. A partnership between the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley and Zomba Presbytery in Malawi would be appropriate, in addition to the continuing partnership between Sadzi Church in Malawi, and Faith Church in LaVista, Nebraska.

Elder Chuck Shafer from Faith Presbyterian Church reported on a trip to Malawi.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

MRV PW Moderator Joan Hackett reported on the activities of the organization.

PWP Annual report to Presbytery

PW Purpose

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,

To support the mission of the Church worldwide,

To work for justice and peace, and

To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God’s Kingdom.

STATED MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2009

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SHENANDOAH, IA

Good evening—my name is Joan Hackett and I am the Missouri River Valley (MRV) PW Moderator. Each November Presbytery receives an annual report from PW. The following are some highlights from the past year.

This past summer, nine (9) women from MRV joined 2400 other women at the PW Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, KY. The theme of the 5-day event was “God Will Do Wonders Among You.” Through wise financial practices, MRV PW was able to pay our share of our voting representatives’ expenses to this meeting as well as to provide six (6) \$200 scholarships for MRV PWs. Our vice-moderator, Marge Adey, and treasurer, Lois Fedderson, represented MRV PW as the voting reps to the Churchwide business meeting. One important piece that was favorably voted upon was the incorporation of PW Churchwide. This fall MRV PW offered 2 Fall Meetings—one at Church of the Cross in Omaha and the other at Carson Presbyterian in Carson, Iowa. We reinstated workshop sessions and lunch after the meeting as a way to increase enthusiasm and fellowship. The change was well received. Ninety (90) women representing 22 churches attended.

We are currently planning our April meeting, which will include a program by the PW Synod representative who went on the recent PW Global Exchange to Eastern Europe.

MRV PW also has a representative on the PW Synod Team. Marge Adey, from MRV, and others on the team are putting the finishing touches on the PW Synod Gathering for June 16-19 at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Iowa. The theme is “The Promise of God’s Wonders”. MRV PW will offer \$1500 in scholarship money. We are serious about supporting leadership and spiritual growth.

Using the PW purpose as our guide, we encourage Bible study, either using material from Churchwide which this year is the study of Joshua, or using a study of the groups own choosing.

We “work for justice and peace” with many local outreach programs such as hats, mittens and socks for the Visiting Nurse Association, making over 3,000 Christmas stocking for HELP—Adult services prison outreach, making and filling shelter bags with personal care items, sewing lap robes for nursing homes, collecting sheets and donations for our Presbyterian Hospitals in Africa and much more.

Through our dollars and our leadership, we continue to “support the mission of the Church worldwide.”

Last year, MRV PW gave \$15,220 in Churchwide Mission support.

Like any organization, we have a few problems, but, we are now setting goals, examining our jobs and ways of operating, looking ahead and reaching out to others. A positive attitude and trust in Jesus Christ can go a long way,

PW is good for the church—both locally and nationally.

For example, at one national event, PW Churchwide raised \$70,000 in \$20. gift cards for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Bellewood Children’s Homes, \$51,00 in offering toward theological educational grants for women, and \$3,500 for 2-cents a meal hunger program—that’s over \$124,000 at ONE event. On top of that, PW Churchwide is the largest contributor of undesignated funds to the PC(USA). Many of you may recall that the need for undesignated funds has been a “hot button issue”. Through the Thank Offering in the fall and the Birthday Offering in the spring, PW supports additional projects in the synods and internationally. Unfortunately, there were no projects in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies this year.

A common misconception is that PW giving will siphon off funds from local stewardship. This is not true. PW giving is about additional above and beyond support for the mission of PC(USA). That’s what makes it so noteworthy. An expression of thanksgiving is important part of PW—whether it is through monetary offerings or participation in mission, peace making, or social justice projects. PW is not all about the money.

Another misconception is that we are the “Kitchen Queens”. We are not all “kitchen queens”. Truth be told—warmth, hospitality and fellowship often start with food from the kitchen and spreads to the church and community as we break bread together in the name of Jesus Christ. In this fast paced world, many churches as well as PW are finding that time for fellowship needs to be included in our gatherings and meetings. MRV PW is working harder at “building an inclusive, caring community of women”.

In conclusion, please take these things into consideration and ask yourselves—do you have PW in your church? Why wouldn’t you want PW? If you don’t know very much about PW in your church...please make time to find out more. What can you do to recognize PW’s work in your church? How can your church help support PW? Please call me for ideas to start or revitalize a PW group.

STATED MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2009

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SHENANDOAH, IA

PW can be a blessing for your church, the community, and the world. MRV PW is working hard to be a blessing to all.

COMMITTEE FOR CONGREGATIONS

Chair of the Committee, CLP David Krueger reported and requested folks gifted with prayer to pray for the Presbytery.

PERSONNEL SECTION

Chair of the Committee, Rev. Mary Ann Calta, reported that annual reviews were imminent for Executive Presbyter Rev. Kevin Keaton and Administrative Assistant Joan Royer. Joan was honored with a standing ovation for her outstanding work.

FINANCE SECTION

Chair of the Committee, the Rev. Mark Miller explained the financial report and presented the 2010 budget. The report and budget was approved. [Attachment 3]

CLOSING HYMN, PRAYER, AND ADJOURNMENT

Presbyters sang "Give Thanks" and Vice Moderator Nancy Ross-Hullinger closed the meeting with prayer at 8:10 p.m.

Eileen Adickes
Recording Clerk

Steven W. Plank
Stated Clerk