

STATED MEETING
APRIL 24, 2010

FLORENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OMAHA, NE

MINUTES OF
THE PRESBYTERY OF MISSOURI RIVER VALLEY
(Pending approval on August 27 & 28)

The Presbytery of Missouri River Valley held its April stated meeting at Florence Presbyterian Church, Omaha, Nebraska, on Saturday, April 24, 2010 with Moderator Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger opening the meeting at 11:00am with prayer. The opening hymn was "When Morning Gilds the Skies." Rev. Jody Filipi led Presbytery in the call to worship.

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.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Older Adult Ministries requested some time under New Business.

WELCOME BY MODERATOR

Rev. Ross-Hullinger welcomed Presbytery.

WELCOME FROM THE HOST CHURCH

Certified Lay Pastor Al Zimmerman welcomed presbyters to Florence Presbyterian Church.

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

It was moved and seconded to seat the following as corresponding members: The Rev. Phil Brown, Synod Executive of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, member of the Presbytery of Northern Waters; the Rev. Chet Mason, member of the Presbytery of South Dakota.

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>
Deborah Boucher-Payne
<i>William Bowers (A)</i>
<i>Kenneth Bunnell, HR (E)</i>
MaryAnn Calta
Deena Candler
<i>Greg Carlson (A)</i>
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
<i>Neal Earley (A)</i>
Gary Eller
Jody Filipi
Ed Fish, HR (E)
Roy Fox, HR
Lyle Franzen (A)
David Grimm, HR (E)
Ernest Gutha, HR
John Hansen
Mary Hansen, HR (E)
Mike Harvey
<i>Rob Hubler (E)</i>
<i>Stephanie Huisman (A)</i>
*Melvin Hurst (A)
<i>Portia Iverson (A)</i>
<i>Harold Johnson, HR (E)</i>

<i>William Alan Jones (A)</i>
<i>Robert Jordan (A)</i>
Kevin Keaton
<i>Robert Keefer (A)</i>
Kevin Killion (Inactive)
<i>Ronald Kinsey, HR (E)</i>
*Jerry Lamb (A)
<i>Paul M. Lundell, HR (E)</i>
Paul Masters
<i>David Matsumura (A)</i>
<i>Jeff McDonald (A)</i>
<i>Robert Meanor, HR (E)</i>
<i>Lyle Meester (A)</i>
<i>Richard Meyer, HR (E)</i>
<i>Gregg Miller (A)</i>
<i>Mark Miller (A)</i>
<i>George Moore (A)</i>
Nadia Mullin

Matthew Nieman
William Osick, HR
Russell W. Palmer, HR
Loren Parker, HR
David Paul
Caryn Pedersen
John Pettit, HR (E)
Stephen Pike
Steve Plank
Gale Prentice, HR (E)
Nancy Profit (A)
*Carl Ratcliff (A)

<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>Maryn Schultz, HR (E)</i>
<i>Darin Seaman (A)</i>
*Aaron Simons
<i>Richard Skelley, HR (E)</i>
Rick Sleyster
Jon Sloan
Dean Sparr

<i>Ed Steinmetz (A)</i>
<i>Howard Svoboda, HR (E)</i>
<i>Barbara Todd (A)</i>
Roger Todd, HR
Sara Tonje
<i>Leslie Traylor (A)</i>
<i>Ronald Van Heukelom (A)</i>
<i>Sandra Wainwright (A)</i>
Gary Warren
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	Janice Bright
Avoca	Carol Kyle
Benson	Barb Soseman
Bethany	Bob Sieck
Carson	--
Carter Lake	Randy Hawkins
Castelar	David Klostermeyer
Center Ridge	--
Central	Martha Hansen
Church of the Cross (2)	Carol Dworak
	--
Church of the Master	Jerry Magner
College Springs	--
Dundee (3)	Jim Scott-Miller
	Wayne Wiley
	--
Essex	--
Faith (2)	Carol Phillips
	Jerry Stone
Faithful Shepherd	--
First (Bellevue)	--
First (Omaha)	Joyce Lane
Florence	Debbie Parks
Fort Calhoun	--
Gethsemane	Shirley E. Meyers
Glendale	--
Hope	--
Korean	--
Missouri Valley	--
Mosher-Pilgrim	Sue Barrett

Mount View	Joel Brady
Murray	--
Neola	Deborah Williams
New Horizon	--
New Life	Bennie Jones
Oakland-Sharon	--
Peace	Joan Hackett
Plattsmouth	--
Randolph	--
Red Oak	--
Shelby	--
Shenandoah	--
Sidney	Jeffrey Penn
Sudanese Presbyterian Fellowship (2)	--
Trinity (Clarinda)	--
Underwood Hills	Bob Howard
United Trinity, Hamburg	--
Valley Baptist-Presbyterian	--
Villisca	--
Wales	Sue Jones
Walnut	--
West Hills (2)	--
	--
Westminster (Clarinda)	Richard Wiese
Westminster (Co. Bluffs)	Eva Parker
Westminster (Omaha)	Teresa Fuhr
Wheeler Memorial	Mary Rezac
Woodbine	--

STATED MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2006

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LAVISTA, NEBRASKA

ELDER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

Kris Adler
Jim Carruthers
Andrew Cook
Gayle Duda

Carolyn Grice
Joan Hackett
Ed Lynn
Susan Mayer

John Morey
Mike O'Bradovich
Carole Warnes

COMMISSIONED LAY PASTORS:

Al Zimmerman (Florence)

VISITORS:

Zelda Gutha (New Horizon), Alan Reinarz (First, Omaha), Beth Galli (Benson), MaryAnn Fox (Underwood Hills), Kathleen Osick (First, Omaha), Shirley Young (Wheeler), Bonnie Brown (Central), Brad Hertzler (Dundee)

Number of ministers present: 37 Number of elder commissioners present: 37

Total number of persons eligible to vote: 74

WELCOME OF FIRST-TIME ELDERS

Several first time elders were introduced and welcomed.

WORDS OF GREETING FROM THE SYNOD EXECUTIVE, THE REV. PHIL BROWN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION-ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS-PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Vice Moderator, Rev. Matt Nieman asked all to continue our worship with confession and greeting.

Elder Beth Galli led Presbytery in the prayer of confession.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED – SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Michael F. Harvey read the scripture and proclaimed God's word.

Presbyters sang "I Come With Joy"

Rev. Caryn Pedersen and Commissioned Lay Pastor Al Zimmerman celebrated the Lord's Supper with Presbytery.

STATED CLERK REPORT

Stated Clerk Steve Plank reported the following:

1. All reports have been filed with the General Assembly and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies as required as of this date, including the Annual Presbytery Report to the General Assembly.
2. All correspondence received on behalf of the Presbytery has been assigned, referred, or answered. Included was the resignation of Elder Dick Corwine as one of our elder commissioners to General Assembly. Alternate Elder Mike O'Bradovich was contacted and agreed to serve in this position.
3. Beginning with our February minutes, you will notice that I have included new notations in the minutes, indicating the year and number of each action that the Presbytery took – for example, **2010-001** indicates that this is the first action that the Presbytery took in the year 2010. After the last meeting of each year, I will compile an Annual Digest of the actions the Presbytery took during that year. I hope that this will provide a helpful summary of the Presbytery's actions, as well as provide an easier and quicker way to research Presbytery actions.
4. I will be on sabbatical leave from April 25 – May 5, and from July 24 – September 5. At its April 8 meeting, the Presbytery Council voted to fund the portion of my sabbatical that Central Presbyterian Church was not able to fund out of its regular operating budget. The following is from the focus statement for my sabbatical work:
"For more and more congregations, the day is rapidly drawing to a close when each can have its own

building, run its own programs, support its own mission causes, and call and hire its own staff.

Resources are too limited. Our continued insistence on doing things by ourselves results in fewer members, an inability to support staff or buildings, and closing church doors.”

I plan to visit with seminary professors, seminary field education directors, General Assembly staff members, and the leadership of several congregations who are finding new ways to be the Church of Jesus Christ. By the end of my sabbatical, I will have developed one or more models of how the congregation I serve, as well as other congregations in our Presbytery, might work together to share staff, facilities, resources, and programs.

In the midst of other new things I'll be doing and trying during these weeks, I will be trying one more thing: blogging. I've not had a blog before, but my hope is that this effort will do two things. First, it will provide a record of my conversations, readings, study, and reflection during my sabbatical. Second, it will provide an opportunity for those who are interested to journey with me, and to engage in a web dialogue of thoughts, reflections, ideas, and reactions. I would welcome the partnership of those who would like to follow along or add to this project as it unfolds. My blog is at <http://splank51.blogspot.com/>.

I am most appreciative of the Council's action, and of the Presbytery's support, as is the Session of Central Presbyterian Church. You all have their thanks as well as mine.

5. I have received the required written report of the Committee on Representation. Elder Marilyn Dierks, the chairperson of this committee, met regularly with the Nominating Committee, consulting with them about the importance of good representation on the Presbytery's committees. I will attach this report to the minutes of this meeting, and will file the report with the Synod.
6. I received a letter on April 8 from Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, to our Presbytery. The letter expresses “a special word of appreciation... for your faithful stewardship in 2010. More than ever, maintaining the connection that links together the body of Christ is crucial for the faithful witness of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Your presbytery's full support for 2010 per capita apportionment is a tangible sign of commitment to that vision, and I am extraordinarily grateful.”
7. The following summary of Presbytery's annual statistical report to General Assembly for the year 2009 is noted for the record:
 - a. The number of churches as of January 1, 2009 was 54. No new churches were organized, and none were received from or dismissed to other presbyteries. Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church was closed. The number of churches as of December 31, 2009, therefore, was 53.
 - b. The number of ministers on the roll of Presbytery as of January 1, 2009 was 84. One minister died during the year (Ronald Hawkins), four ministers were transferred to other presbyteries, and four ministers were received from other presbyteries. As a result, the number of ministers on the roll as of December 31, 2009 was 83.
 - c. The annual statistical reports were submitted to General Assembly as required, with the exception of Woodbine. This is the third year (at least) that they have not reported. The active membership of the congregations was 10,398 as of January 1, 2009, and the December 31, 2009 membership was 10,020, a loss of 378 members during the year. Our thanks to all of the clerks and other individuals who worked hard to gather the information and submit these reports. A special word of thanks goes to Joan Royer, our Administrative Assistant at the Presbytery office, who does so much to support and complete this process! Some interesting highlights of the reports show that...
 - i. 4,318 children, youth, and adults were involved in the educational ministries of our congregations, led by 480 teachers.
 - ii. The churches in our Presbytery received just over \$11 million in regular contributions during 2009, and received over \$500,000 in bequests.
 - iii. On an average Sunday morning, 5,025 Presbyterians and others gather in our congregations to worship God.
 - iv. There were 172 adult professions of faith in Jesus Christ during 2009 in the churches of our Presbytery.

8. One of the key principles of Presbyterian church polity is to have equal numbers of ministers and elders in all governing bodies above the session. For this reason I am required to report annually to Presbytery any imbalance between the number of resident ministers on the roll of Presbytery and the number of elders who are entitled to vote at Presbytery meetings, so that adjustments can be made if necessary to maintain the parity of ministers and elders at Presbytery meetings (G-11.0101b).

As of the end of last year, there were 81 ministers on the active roll of Presbytery, 76 of whom reside within the Presbytery. In the above citation from the *Book of Order*, it is permissible for a Presbytery to decide that honorably retired ministers who are not active in Presbytery may be excluded in figuring the balance of ministers and elders in attendance at Presbytery, and our Presbytery has so decided in the past. Given that decision, there are 11 retired ministers who would not be included in the calculation. In that case, the number of ministers who have to be matched with elders would be 65.

In addition to one elder commissioner from each church (a total of 53), there are five extra commissioners that churches with more than 500 members are eligible to send to Presbytery (two from Dundee, and one each from Church of the Cross, West Hills, and Faith). In addition, there are 11 elders who are members of Council. There are also four commissioned lay pastors who have a vote in Presbytery as elders. Two representatives of the leadership of the Sudanese Fellowship have been given the vote in Presbytery as elders. Therefore the total number of elders entitled to vote at Presbytery meetings is 75.

Since the number of elders eligible to vote exceeds the number of ministers, it is not necessary to provide for additional elder commissioners for the period from May 2010 through April 2011.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Items 1 and A4 will be considered under the Presbytery Council reports. Elder John Morey asked that A5 be removed and considered under the Presbytery Council report.

Presbytery approved the remainder of the Consent Agenda.

1. That the minutes of the February 20, 2010 stated 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 March 18, 2010 and April 8, 2010 meetings be approved:
 - A-1 The 2010 goals for the Strategic Plan, as listed in the Council report for this meeting.
 - A-2 Referred to Social Justice and Peacemaking a motion that Presbytery meet in churches that have handicapped accessibility between floors and at least one handicapped accessible restroom at a minimum.
 - A-3 That the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry group (POAM) be placed under the umbrella of the ministry of the Evangelism and Discipleship Committee.
 - A-4 That the Presbytery fund the balance of the sabbatical plans of Rev. Steve Plank and Central Presbyterian Church by taking \$2,000 from account 2095.321, and applying for a mini-grant from the Mission Committee for the balance of \$1,750 (\$1,600 of the total costs are being funded by the congregation).
 - A-5 That Council reaffirm the policy which states that the reserve fund be at least 50% of the annual budget. All of those committees affected by the mission budget reduce their budgets by a percentage that equals the deficit percentage at the time of the report for Presbytery, and that the churches of the Missouri River Valley Presbytery be asked to reevaluate their mission giving in light of this report.

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OMAHA, NE

- A-6 Based upon the report of Stewardship and Resources, every mission funded committee should review their line item budgets and reflect a 43% reduction at this time.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER REPORT

Executive Presbyter Rev. Kevin Keaton reported on his work and physical recovery.

FEASTING TOGETHER IN THE LORD'S NAME

Vice Moderator Matt Nieman prayed before Presbyters enjoyed lunch.

RECONVENING PRESBYTERY

Vice Moderator Matt Nieman reconvened Presbytery with prayer following the meal.

RESPONSES TO THE WORD

Elder Allen Reinartz offered prayers for the people and called for the offering.

COUNCIL REPORT

The Council of the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley held a special meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2010, at Central Presbyterian Church. The purpose of the meeting was to develop the 2010 goals for the Presbytery's Strategic Plan.

Present: Andy Cook (chairperson), Nancy Ross-Hullinger, Matt Nieman, John Morey, Neal Earley, Dwight Williams, Roger Todd, Gayle Duda, Sally Carlson, Gary Eller, David Krueger, Jody Filipi, Ed Lynn, Mike O'Bradovich, Jim Carruthers, Caryn Pedersen, Mark Miller, Kris Adler, Steve Plank, Carole Warnes, Carolyn Grice

Ex officio: Penny Koenig

Absent with notice: Kevin Keaton, Susan Mayer, Dick Meyer, Joan Hackett,

Also: Karen Morey (Strategic Planning consultant)

Committee chairpersons put their proposed goals on newsprint around the room, and then the Council went through a process of focusing in on the specific goals the Council wants to set for 2010. A total of 38 different goals were listed, from which the members of Council then selected the top ten as priorities for this year. These goals are:

1. Create one pre-presbytery event which will provide professional development for clergy, CLP's, and interested lay people by November Presbytery meeting.
Champion: Sally Carlson
2. Hold Presbytery-wide Worship event with 80% of MRVP churches participating by August 2010.
Champions: Susan Mayer and Caryn Pedersen
3. By 12/31/10, identify, train 6-8 persons to be transformational coaches to churches of MRVP.
Champions: David Krueger and Roger Todd
4. Hold one major Presbytery fellowship event in 2010.
Champion: David Krueger
5. Develop resources and collaborate with congregations to connect them with mission opportunities: (Mission)
 - a. U.S. mission trip in 2010 with emphasis on youth
 - b. International mission trip to Nicaragua in 2010.
 - c. Continue to disseminate information on other mission opportunities*Champion: Jody Filipi*
6. Conduct a spiritual growth event in the morning before the November Presbytery meeting.
Champion: Caryn Pedersen
7. Expand the youth and adult leadership base to 5 people beyond the committee through training and education events and opportunities.
Champion: Kris Adler

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OMAHA, NE

8. Lead two presentations at Presbytery to raise awareness of mission activities and meet 2010 mission budget.
Champions: Mark Miller and John Morey
9. Conduct two prayer services in 2010:
 - for General Assembly in June
 - for healing in December*Champion: Caryn Pedersen*
10. Develop a skills/talents database in Presbytery, with interactive webpage by 12/31/10.
Champion: Carole Warnes

The Council of the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley held its regularly scheduled meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, 2010, at Central Presbyterian Church.

Present: Andy Cook (chairperson), Nancy Ross-Hullinger, Matt Nieman, John Morey, Neal Earley, Dwight Williams, Gayle Duda, Carolyn Grice, Gary Eller, David Krueger, Susan Mayer, Jody Filipi, Carole Warnes, Ed Lynn, Jim Carruthers, Caryn Pedersen, Mark Miller, Kris Adler, Dick Meyer, Joan Hackett
Ex officio: Kevin Keaton, Penny Koenig
Absent with notice: Steve Plank, Sally Carlson, Mike O'Bradovich
Absent without notice: Roger Todd
Also: Karen Morey (Strategic Planning consultant)

The actions of Council from this meeting are included in the Consent Agenda.

Chair of Council, Elder Andy Cook moved that Item 1 from the Consent Agenda be considered as follows: Correction to the February Presbytery Minutes: The minutes noted that the Moderator "led Presbytery in prayer for the listed deceased." A member questioned the "papist" nature of that phrase. Duly corrected and without objection the Stated Clerk will amend the minutes to read "led Presbytery in prayers of thanksgiving for the lives of the ministers and elders of our churches who died in the past year." Motion approved by Presbytery. Elder Cook also made a motion that the funding described in A-4 be amended and approved. The amendment shall read as follows:

- A-4 That the Presbytery fund the balance of the sabbatical plans of Rev. Steve Plank and Central Presbyterian Church by take \$3,000 from 2095.321, and \$750 to be applied for a mini-grant from the Presbytery Mission Committee. (\$1,600 of the total costs are being funded by the congregation).
[Presbytery Action 2010-019]
Presbytery approved the motion.

Elder Cook also moved that the Nominations Committee be filled with the following members: 3 yr term Lois Federsen, First Omaha; Lon Jacobsen, Avoca; and Robert Hilkeman, West Hills, and a for a partial term (to the end of 2010) – Jim McDermott from Walnut; Chair for the Year – Carole Warnes, First Bellevue. Presbytery approved the motion. **[2010-020]**

Moderator Nancy Ross- Hullinger assumed the chair.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

Rev. Sally Carlson reported for the Committee.

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery by the Committee on February 23, 2010:

A-1 Concurred with Central Presbyterian Church on Rev. Steve Plank's sabbatical plan. **[2010-021]**

A-2 Granted permission for Dundee Presbyterian Church to form an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. **[2010-022]**

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery by the Committee on March 23, 2010:

A-3 Moved and carried to delete Chet Kiehl from the inactive membership roll of the Presbytery, as specified in G-11.0406c. He was put on the inactive list on March 17, 2007. **[2010-023]**

A-4 Dismissed Rev. Bill Bowers to Homestead Presbytery at the request of Homestead's Stated Clerk and Rev. Bowers. **[2010-024]**

A-5 Approved Rev. Chet Mason for membership in MRV, pending his move to the Omaha area in June. **[2010-025]**

In addition to these actions, there are three attachments:

1. 2010 COM teams and the churches for which they care. [Attachment 1]
2. Minister Member Classification report. [Attachment 2]

Rev. Carlson also asked that Rev. Barbara Tooker-Todd be added to the list and also designate Howard Dotson from Westminster as 101. **[2010-026]**

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY REPORT

Rev. Gary Eller, Chair, presented the report.

On April 8, the Committee met with John Molacek, who is seeking to become an Inquirer in our presbytery. John is a member of Church of the Master in Omaha and a senior theology major at Creighton University. John was endorsed by his home church's Session to become an Inquirer and assigned a Session liaison.

After discussing his spiritual journey that has led him to this point in his life, the committee voted to enroll John Molacek as an Inquirer. **[2010-027]** CPM has scheduled a meeting with the Session of Church of the Master for Thursday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. to review the Inquirer process with them and the various duties of the Inquirer, the home church, and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

In addition, we have reviewed the status of each of our other Inquirers and Candidates. We are current on information for each of them and all have a liaison with our committee. Under care are:

Brad Hertzler – a member of Dundee Presbyterian in Omaha and Candidate – graduating from The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and heading to the University of Nebraska Medical Center to pursue a medical degree.

Andrew Klausen – a member of Dundee Presbyterian in Omaha and Inquirer – continuing as a first year M.Div. student at Trinity Evangelical Seminary in Deerfield, Illinois.

Susan Lockwood – a member of Faith Presbyterian in LaVista and Candidate – who recently passed her Ordination Exams.

Richard Morhardt – a member at Church of the Cross in Omaha and Inquirer – who is a first year student at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Michael Plank – a member of Central Presbyterian in Omaha and Candidate – who is seeking a call to ministry.

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FLORENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OMAHA, NE

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Keith Cook presented the Nominating Committee report and Presbytery approved the motion to accept the report as presented. [2010-028]

Presbytery Council Member-at-Large

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

Stewardship of Resources

(2010) Elder
(2011) Elder Michael Wendell – Church of the Master *(first term)*

Committee on Ministry

(2011) Elder

Evangelism and Discipleship

(2011) Member

Faith Education & Discipleship

(2010) Minister

Latino Hispanic Working Group

(2012) Diane Greenfield – Underwood Hills *(first term)*

Sudanese Fellowship Working Group

(2011)

Young Adult Advisory Delegate to General Assembly

(2010) Lauren Watson - Bethany

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mission Update – Rev. Jody Filipi asked for stories from each church on their mission work and activities.

Rev. Filipi reported for Elder Jackie McLellan on the five vacancies in the Sudanese Working Group.

STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Rev. Becky Balestri and Elder John Morey reported for the Committee, and Chair of Council, Elder Andy Cook made a motion to accept recommendation A-5 from the Consent Agenda.

Moderator Nancy Ross-Hullinger led Presbytery in prayer about the motion.

The motion to adopt A-5 was approved by Presbytery.

A-5 That Council reaffirm the policy which states that the reserve fund be at least 50% of the annual budget. All of those committees affected by the mission budget reduce their budgets by a percentage that equals the deficit percentage at the time of the report for Presbytery, and that the churches of the Missouri River Valley Presbytery be asked to reevaluate their mission giving in light of this report.

[2010-029]

POLICY AND POLITY COMMITTEE

Elder Mike O’Bradovich reported for the Committee and presented a proposed overture to General Assembly regarding the lack of protective information and treatment of HIV/AIDS for prisoners. The overture is entitled, “Full Access to HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Services in U.S. Correctional Facilities.”

19-06 Overture: On Full Access to HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment in U.S. Correctional Facilities

Missouri River Valley Presbytery Overture Advocate: Rev. Howard Dotson

Bibliography & Reader available to Health Committee Commissioners:

1. Routine Testing of Inmates in Correctional Facilities.
2. Centers for Disease Control (2009) *HIV Testing and Implementation: Guidance for Correctional Facilities*.
3. Centers for Disease Control (2006) HIV Transmission Among Male Inmates in a State Prison Georgia, 1992-2005. *Morbidity & Mortality Report* 55(15) 421-426
4. Centers for Disease Control (2003) *Prevention & Control of Infections*.
5. Centers for Disease Control (2001) *HIV/AIDS Counseling & Testing in the Criminal Justice System*. IDU/HIV Prevention. August 2001.
6. Berendt et al. (1994) Voluntary Testing for HIV in a Prison Population with a high prevalence of HIV. *American Journal of Epidemiology* 139 (9) pp.918-926.
7. UNDOC (United Nations Office of Drugs & Crimes) *HIV Testing & Counseling in Prisons & Other Closed Settings*.
8. UN AIDS (1997) *Prisons & AIDS*
9. World Health Organization. *Effectiveness of Interventions to Address HIV in Prisons*.
10. World Health Organization (1999) *Guidelines on HIV Infections & AIDS in Prisons*.

HIV Prevention in Corrections Bibliography:

1. Balogun, Joseph A; Abiona, Titilayo C; Lukobo-Durrell, Mainza; Adefuye, Adedeji S; Sloan, Patricia E (2010) Development and evaluation of a psychometric instrument designed to assess HIV risk behaviors of prison inmates. *Journal of Correctional Health Care*. Vol.16(1), Jan 2010, pp. 67-78.
2. Braithwaite, Ronald L; Arriola, Kimberly R. J. (2008) Male prisoners and HIV prevention: *A call for action ignored*. *American Journal of Public Health*. Vol.98 (Suppl 1), Sep 2008, pp. S145-S149.

3. Bryan, Angela; Robbins, Reuben N; Ruiz, Monica S; O'Neill, Dennis (2006) Effectiveness of an HIV Prevention Intervention in Prison Among African Americans, Hispanics, and Caucasians. *Health Education & Behavior*. Vol.33 (2), Apr 2006, pp. 154-177.
4. Grinstead, Olga A; Zack, Barry; Faigeles, Bonnie (1999) Collaborative research to prevent HIV among male prison inmates and their female partners. *Health Education & Behavior*. Vol.26(2), Apr 1999, pp. 225-238.
5. Grinstead, Olga; Eldridge, Gloria; MacGowan, Robin; Morrow, Kathleen M; Seal, David W; Sosman, James M; Zack, Barry (2008) An HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Prevention Program for young men leaving prison: Project start. *Journal of Correctional Health Care*. Vol.14(3), Jul 2008, pp. 183-196.
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After discussion, the motion passed. **[2010-030]** The Stated Clerk will file the overture with General Assembly. Motion to name the Rev. Howard Dotson as Overture Advocate and allot \$300 for expenses was approved by Presbytery. The money will be taken from 2095.19.

SPIRITUALITY, THEOLOGY AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Rev. Caryn Pedersen reiterated the goals listed in the Presbytery Council report.

LOWE AVENUE COMMISSION

The final report was given by The Rev. Charles Bulger.

Appointment of the Commission: The Presbytery appointed the Commission on March 21, 2009 to assist in carrying out the dissolution of Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church. Members are Rev. Russell Palmer, Rev. Charles Bulger, Rev. Richard Sleyster, Elder Peggy Mago (Lowe Avenue), Elder Sylvia Lanham (Bellevue, First), Elder Wallace Stern (Presbyterian Church of the Cross), and Elder David Kellogg (Presbyterian Church of the Master). Rev. Kevin Keaton, Executive Presbyter served in an ex officio capacity. The initial meeting of the Commission was convened by Rev.

STATED MEETING
APRIL 24, 2010

FLORENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OMAHA, NE

Steven Plank, PMRV Stated Clerk. The Commission elected Rev. Charles Bulger as moderator and David Kellogg as clerk.

Meetings of the Commission: The Commission held seven meetings. The minutes of those meetings, together with attached correspondence and other documents, are included with this report as Attachment 1. **[Note: all of the attachments to this final report of the Commission are filed with the permanent minutes of this Presbytery meeting, and are available upon request to the Stated Clerk.]** The members also met with the Lowe Avenue Session on May 12, 2009. Areas of responsibility were delegated to the commission members, who met separately with officers of Lowe Avenue on many occasions.

Final Worship and Celebration: At the request of the Lowe Avenue Session, the final worship was held at the church building on July 5, 2009, with a reception following. The service was led by Rev. Palmer, and all the members of the commission took part. The congregation filled the sanctuary to overflowing. The reception was provided by the Buckingham family in the church basement. The bulletin for the service is Attachment 2.

Life and History of the Congregation: A display celebrating the life of the congregation and various historical milestones was shown at the reception. A written history of the church is Attachment 3.

Session and Other Records: Working with the Lowe Avenue Clerk of Session, the Commission collected the records of the congregation and prepared them for shipment to the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The records were transferred to Stated Clerk of Presbytery for review and shipment. A list of the records is Attachment 4.

Members of the Congregation: The Clerk of the Session provided a list of the 17 current members at the time of dissolution. Rev. Bulger wrote a letter to each of those members encouraging them to transfer membership to another congregation. At the time of this report, we are aware of three members who have joined other congregations, and four members who are planning to join another church soon. Several of the members are homebound or in nursing homes. The Commission requested that the Stated Clerk of Presbytery ask nearby congregations to assume pastoral care of members who have not transferred. The Membership List is Attachment 5 and the letter to members is Attachment 6.

Church Building and Land: The Commission worked with the Presbytery's attorney and the Lowe Avenue Session to transfer title in the building and land to Presbytery. That transfer is complete. The Commission hopes that a use will be found for the building that will continue Christian ministry in the Lowe Avenue neighborhood. Failing that, the Commission further hopes that a way will be found to preserve and use the stained glass windows in an appropriate ministry.

Other Church Assets: The Lowe Avenue Session worked hard to see that assets were used to good purpose. Items that had been given as memorials were in some cases offered to the families who had given them. Other items were given to persons who could best make use of them. A large list of available items was publicized to the other churches of Presbytery. Some of those who received items made donations to the church. The remaining cash balance of \$7,919.66 was transferred to Presbytery.

Claims: Under paragraph 7 of its appointment, the Commission has the power to assert the claim of Presbytery to any property of the Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church not known at this time or which may come to the church in the future as the beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time. After inquiry, we are unaware of any such property, but we hereby publicly assert Presbytery's claim to such property which may become known in the future.

Documents of Dissolution: At the request of the Lowe Avenue Session, the dissolution date was set as July 5, 2009. The Commission worked with the Presbytery's attorney and the Session to assure that the appropriate resolutions were passed by the Session, and that the appropriate notice was given to the Nebraska Secretary of State regarding dissolution of the corporation.

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OMAHA, NE

Acknowledgments: The Commission is grateful for all the pastors, officers, and members of Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church who made such a difference in the neighborhood and beyond over the 122 years of its existence. Of course, churches and communities everywhere will continue to feel Lowe Avenue's influence through the lives of children and adults who were nurtured there. We are grateful to Rev. Russell Palmer, the supply pastor who guided Lowe Avenue through the difficulties and challenges associated with concluding the ministry of the congregation. We particularly want to thank the Session members who worked so hard through the dissolution process.

Motion was made to receive the final report of the Commission. After discussion, the motion passed. Motion was approved to dissolve the Commission with thanks. [2010-031]

NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Ernie Gutha spoke to Presbytery about the OWLS group and POAM. September 15 and 16 are set aside to celebrate older adults in the Presbytery.

Elder Andy Cook commissioned the General Assembly Commissioners and Alternates: Rev. Sally Carlson, Rev. Rick Sleyster, Elder Mike O'Bradovich, Elder Bonnie Brown, and alternates, Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger and Rev. Lyle Franzen. The YAAD, Lauren Watson, who was not able to be at this meeting, will be commissioned in her home congregation, Bethany Church of Council Bluffs.

Rev. Becky Balestri made the following motion: "that when our churches respond faithfully to the mission of the presbytery, the mission budget will be increased accordingly." After discussion, the motion was approved by Presbytery. [2010-032]

SENDING - ADJOURNMENT

Presbyters sang "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine." Moderator Nancy Ross-Hullinger led Presbytery in prayer and adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Recording Clerk
Elder Eileen Adickes

Stated Clerk
Rev. Steven W. Plank