

Presbytery of Missouri River Valley

Summary of Meeting of November 12, 2011

Stated Clerk Steve Plank was unable to participate in this meeting, so I substituted for him. I suppose I should call myself “acting stated clerk” or “stated clerk pro tem,” but I rather like “understated clerk.” We met at the West Hills Church in Omaha; during our worship the pastors of West Hills – George Moore and Deena Candler – presided at the Lord’s Table and Ruling Elder Pat Shipley proclaimed the Word from Ephesians 4:17-32.

We welcomed two new Teaching Elder members of Presbytery: Dan Voigt, the Pastor at United Trinity Church in Hamburg, Iowa and Patrick Bracken, an Army Reserve chaplain.

The real Stated Clerk reported that the Investigating Committee appointed in April to consider a request for vindication had completed its work, finding “that vindication as requested (in this matter) is not appropriate;” they also did not find reason to file charges. That committee was dissolved. Two churches (Westminster Council Bluffs and New Life Omaha) asked that the requirement to rotate terms on session be waived; those requests were granted. And we expressed our appreciation to Ruling Elder Eileen Adickes (of the Carson, Iowa Church) for nearly seven years of service as recording clerk; this was her last meeting in that capacity.

We made two changes in our manual of operations. One of them changes the composition of the Presbytery’s Personnel Committee and the other one clarifies that a person filling an unexpired term (on a presbytery committee) for two years or less may go on to serve two full terms in that same position. The Committee on Ministry reported doing a bunch of things on behalf of the Presbytery; some of them are:

- Revising the procedure for examining teaching elder members to reflect the Form of Government adopted this year
- Approving the service of Bill Bowers to the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Omaha
- Granting permission to Kathryn Bates to labor outside the bounds of the presbytery while she is residing in Heartland Presbytery.

We elected a lot of people to do God’s work through our Presbytery; take a look at the Nominating Committee report to see the entire list. I’ll mention that Ruling Elder Pat Shipley will be Moderator in 2012 and Teaching Elder Sarah (Sally) Carlson will be Vice Moderator.

And we adopted a budget for 2012. Something important to note: the mission budget is flexible; it will be adjusted based on how much sessions actually pledge to support Presbytery mission in 2012. The per capita budget, however, is set at \$352,045 (compared to \$350,082 in 2011), and includes a per capita apportionment to sessions of \$19.61 per member. Total per capita, then is \$31.24 (6.63 for GA and 5.00 for Synod).

Before we adjourned we were told that Castelar Presbyterian Church celebrates its 125th anniversary in January, to which we can say (in the words of Sara Tonje), “Woo hoo!”

Robert A. Keefer, Understated Clerk