

**PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK
STATED MEETING FOR APRIL 12, 2016
FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HENRY, ILLINOIS**

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened Tuesday, April 12, 2016, in a Stated Meeting at First United Presbyterian Church, Henry, Illinois. Moderator Rev. Julie Raffety called the meeting to order with Scripture and prayer at 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Jim Friedmeyer welcomed the Presbytery to the First United Presbyterian Church of Henry.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. John Rickard, declared that a quorum was present as indicated by the enrollment sheets at the registration tables. He highlighted the day's activities and the Network and Partnerships Center. A motion was made, seconded, and voted to **approve** the Docket.

- 9:00 Registration and Networks and Partnerships Center
- 9:15 First Time Commissioner Orientation
- 9:30 Opening Prayer/Stated Clerk's Report
Adoption of Docket/Approval of Minutes/Orientation to the Meeting/New Elders & Pastors Introduced
- 9:45 Worship
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Learning Opportunity: A proposal to re-structure the Presbytery
- 12:15 Instructions for Lunch
- 12:15 Lunch and Networks & Partnerships Center
- 1:00 Life Together
Church Paper Swap – We will be doing a “church paper swap” at the April Presbytery meeting in an effort to get to know one another and each other's churches better. Please come prepared with a business card, church bulletin, or church newsletter to exchange! Each Teaching Elder, CRE, and/or ruling elder should bring their own item! Excited to exchange with you!
Business Plenary Session:
Business Affairs Committee (ad hoc Structure report), Treasurer/Trustees, Stronghold (Announcing Executive Director), Nominating, Administrative Commissions (Washburn), CPM, COM, Mission Strategies and Resources Board (Recommendation on Supporting Fossil Fuel Divestment), Personnel
- 2:30 New and Unfinished Business
- 2:45 Adjourn with Prayer

A motion was made, seconded and **approved** to accept the minutes of the February 9, 2016 Stated Meeting without exception.

Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders attending for the first time were introduced.

It was moved, seconded and **approved** to seat the following Corresponding Members:
Rev. Eric Heinekamp, Temporary Supply Pastor of Bolingbrook, Chicago Presbytery
Rev. Richard Dr. Richard Tindall, Interim Pastor of Pontiac, Great Rivers Presbytery

Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. John Rickard highlighted the following items:

- The First Presbyterian Church of Manteno has been added to the list of approved Session Minutes, leaving 24 churches that have not been read to date.
- Reservations for the Communications Workshop on April 22 are still being accepted until April 14.
- Orientation and training for new Clerk's of Session will be Saturday, May 21, from 10 to about 1 at Stronghold. Please make reservations.
- Presbytery office received notification that the Session of Oswego Presbyterian Church has signed on as a co-sponsor with Ridgefield Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church in support of the fossil fuel divestment overture.
- General Assembly has notified the Presbytery that Oswego Presbyterian Church and Ridgefield Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church have been certified as Earth Care congregations.

The Presbytery received the Stated Clerk's report.

WORSHIP

The Service of Worship for the day was presented by Rev. Jim Friedmeyer, First: Henry, who preached a sermon on "Always Changing, Always the Same". Also assisting in the Service was Rev. Dale Dykstra, Elder Andrew Downey, Rev. Brian Hall, Elder Adelaide Kern, Elder Janet Marshall, Elder Betty Oliver, CRE Melinda Stephenson, Rev. David Tellinghuisen, along with music by the Choir.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY: A PROPOSAL TO RE-STRUCTURE THE PRESBYTERY

The Reverend Doug Forsberg spoke briefly on the recommendation for the establishment of two Boards responsible for providing oversight, accountability and direction for Presbytery & Stronghold, respectively. All committees currently responsible for the financial and missional direction of the Presbytery would be combined into the Presbytery Board and the Stronghold Committee would be repositioned as a Stronghold Board. All other committees would retain the current structure, reporting directly to Presbytery.

The Presbytery then broke up into small groups for discussion. One group was led by Rev. Dr. Bill Ward and Treasurer Lou Ann Breckenridge on Visioning & Administrative Board of Directors, Rev. Jeff Borgerson and Stronghold Fund Development Director John Mecklenburg on Stronghold Board of Directors, and Rev. Dale Ambler on Commission on Ministry.

After the small group discussions, the Presbytery gathered back in the Sanctuary and Rev. Doug Forsberg gave a report on some of the concerns that was brought up in the group discussions.

The Timeline was reviewed on these changes:

- At the June Presbytery Meeting there will be a vote on the proposal.
- September Meeting – 1st reading of Bylaw changes required to adopt this proposal.
- November Meeting – 2nd reading & vote on Bylaw changes.
- 2017 – Proposed Restructuring effective date.

The Presbytery received the Ad Hoc Restructuring Committee Report.

LUNCH INSTRUCTIONS, NETWORKS & PARTNERSHIPS CENTER

The Reverend James Friedmeyer gave lunch instructions and offered up prayer. The Presbytery was dismissed to go to lunch and check out the Networks & Partnerships Center.

The Presbytery reconvened with prayer by Moderator Rev. Julie Raffety.

LIFE TOGETHER

CHURCH PAPER SWAP

Moderator Rev. Raffety explained what the members should do about exchanging information on their church with someone sitting near them. They were also to write down a prayer request to give to each other and pray for that request until the next meeting in June.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – (Ad Hoc Structure Report)

Moderator Rev. Raffety read for a point of information, the motion that was approved at the February Presbytery Meeting.

- *As of 12/31/15, Presbytery reserve funds include uncommitted Church Development funds, totaling \$223,673.41. Presbytery has the authority to release Church Development funds.*
- *BAC requests Presbytery approval to release Church Development funds on hand from that designated purpose to make these funds available for Presbytery cash flow as needed.*

TREASURER/TRUSTEES

Treasurer Lou Ann Breckenridge reported on the Treasurer's Report to Presbytery and answered questions.

Lou Ann presented the Board of Trustees report. She announced that the Presbytery has property on Lake Thunderbird that is for sale. If no offer is received by June 1, 2017, the Trustees have authorized Presbytery to abandon this land. Annual costs for this property include \$130/year in Real Estate Taxes, plus an annual \$294 Association fee (includes maintenance, water and usage fee). These fees are due June 1.

Retired Clergy Housing Allowance: One of the annual Trustee responsibilities is to determine whether and how much of a Retired Clergy Housing Allowance should be distributed to those retirees who remain a member of Blackhawk Presbytery. Unfortunately, the 2015 earnings, including market value adjustments for investment accounts, resulted in a net loss of \$8,866.75. So, the Trustees will not be able to make a Retired Clergy Housing Allowance this year.

The Catherine Schroeder Fund is designated for One Great Hour of Sharing. Each year, the earnings on this account are remitted to PCUSA. Unfortunately, the 2015 earnings, including market value adjustments, resulted in a net loss of \$649.76. So, the Trustees will not be able to make a One Great Hour of Sharing donation this year.

The Presbytery received the Treasurer/Trustees Report.

STRONGHOLD – Announcing Executive Director

Moderator Rev. Judith Hardie reported that the deficit in February was mostly made up in March. She also reported that the Search Committee, now Transition Team, has found our new Executive Director.

Ryan Anderson, Stronghold Program & Summer Camp Director, reported on the Summer Camps. They are in need of college age students to serve on the 2016 Summer Camp Ministry team. They are also in need of a health officer. If you know of anyone that would be interested in these positions, please have them get in contact with Ryan at Stronghold.

Motion was made, seconded and **approved** to seat as Corresponding Member Rev. Dr. Cheyanna Losey from Great Rivers Presbytery.

Moderator of the Search Committee, Cheyanna Losey, announced that a new Executive Director has been hired. The Search Committee has been officially renamed as the Transition Team. The new Director is Dr. Danny Pierce and he will begin June 1, 2016. A welcome event for Danny and his family is being planned for the summer and details will be shared in the near future.

Richard Simpson, Stronghold Director of Youth Ministry & Church Outreach, introduced Heather and Blair to report on the AmeriCorps NCCC work being done at Stronghold. The workers have been working hard to help with land restoration at Stronghold as well as helping the maintenance department repair and restore some of our buildings. They have also completed projects such as repairing and repainting benches, sanding and painting the castle stairs and helping to refurbish the bedrooms in the Sears Center to name a few. They are looking for 18-24 year olds to join their emergency management team. For more information, email Richard Simpson at Richard@strongholdcenter.org.

The Presbytery received the Stronghold Report.

NOMINATING

Moderator Reverend Dr. Bob Kopp thanked his Committee for all of their hard work, and then made the motion to nominate the following:

Stronghold Committee Nominee: Betsy Johnson, Class of 2018, Ruling Elder

Synod of Lincoln Trails Commissioner Nominee: Bill Pittenger, Class of 2018 Ruling Elder

The Moderator then called for nominations from the floor. Motion was made, seconded and **approved** to close nominations. Motion was then **approved** for the above slate.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS – (Westminster: Aurora)

Rev. Craig Herr reported that the Aurora Westminster Presbyterian Church has been dismissed and the Commission hopes to have the process recommendations at the June Presbytery Meeting.

COM

Moderator Suzanne Finefield presented the Committee on Ministry Report. She made the following motions which were **approved**:

Moderators:

- Rev. Mark Hughey for First: Kankakee effective May 1, 2016
- Rev. Mark Hughey for First: Peotone effective May 1, 2016
- Rev. Roy Backus for First: St. Anne effective May 1, 2016
- Rev. Roy Backus for Central: New Lenox effective April 1, 2016
- Rev. Judith Hardie for First: Marengo effective February 1, 2016

Dissolutions:

- The Dissolution of Call between Rev. Hope Sibson and New Lenox Central Presbyterian, effective 3/31/2016.

Terms of Dissolution:

Monthly compensation April 1, 2016 – September 30, 2016:

Salary and Housing	\$	3,847.33
Pension and Medical		1,414.17
Medical Reimbursement		334.33
SECA Offset		<u>296.42</u>
Total (6 month) Severance Package	\$	35,515.50

- The dissolution of the contract between Rev. Jonathan Krogh, designated pastor, and First Presbyterian Church of Peotone, effective 5/1/2016.
- The dissolution of the contract between Rev. Jonathan Krogh, designated pastor, and First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee, effective 5/1/2016.

Rev. Jonathan Krogh thanked the Presbytery for their love and prayers.

Transfers:

- The transfer of Rev. Spencer Homan to Presbyterian of Northern Plains pending request.
- The transfer of Jonathan Krogh to Chicago pending their request.

Installation

- The Installation Commission for Rev. Jennifer Loeb Olson at Yorkville AuSable Grove on May 1, 2016:

Clergy/Teaching Elders:

- Rev. Dr. John Rickard – General Presbyter and Stated Clerk
- Rev. Roy Backus – First: Morris
- Rev. Jan Chandler – Church of Hope: Gardner
- Rev. Betty Weidert – Honorably Retired

Ruling Elders:

- Vice Moderator, CRE Dottie Morrizo – Schapville Zion: Elizabeth
- Laurel Walker – Au Sable Grove: Yorkville
- Jay Roth – First: Morris
- Ken Mozingo – First: Oswego
- Karen Williams – Westminster: Joliet

Ecumenical Representataive:

- Rev. Chuck Maney – Interim Pastor: Union Congregational Church (UCC): Somonauk

Contracts:

- The Contract between **First Presbyterian, Pontiac, and Rev. Dr. Richard Tindall** to serve as Interim Pastor effective April 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016. Rev. Tindall will be employed on a .375 time basis. He is a member of the Great Rivers Presbytery and was approved to labor within the bounds of Blackhawk.

Cash Salary	\$	18,000
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PCUSA 403b Church Contribution 3,500

TOTAL EFFECTIVE SALARY \$ **21,500**

4 weeks vacation, 2 weeks Continuing Education, \$1,000 Continuing Ed. Expense.
Should this agreement be terminated prior to its expiration, the pastor shall be provided full compensation and benefits for 30 days from the date of notification, or until the next pastoral call, whichever occurs earlier. The pastor may terminate the agreement with 30 days written notice, forfeiting any compensation beyond that date.

- The Contract between **Dr. Carroll Smith and Winnebago First Presbyterian Church** to serve as an Approved Interim/Temporary Pulpit Supply from Jan. 1, 2016 – Dec. 31, 2016. Following approved coursework and examination by Presbytery COM/CPM, Dr. Smith has been approved to administer the sacraments for Winnebago First during his tenure there. Terms: Monthly cash salary of \$3,500; monthly auto allowance of \$500.00; 3 weeks vacation.

- The Contract extension between **Dale Tolly, CRE and Braidwood First Presbyterian Church** for 12 months effective 1/1/2016 – 12/31/2016.

Cash Salary	\$	15,609
Housing Allowance		11,831
Medical		5,027
SECA		1,569
Retirement/Savings 403(b)		2,000
Medical Reimbursement		1,000
Professional Expenses at .575 per mile		5,090
Study Leave Expense		<u>1,250</u>

Paid Vacation 4 weeks

Continuing Education Time 2 weeks

Extended sick time: Ten weeks unused vacation time from prior years banked as extended sick time, or payable at termination of contract.

Total Salary/Benefits Package \$ **43,376.00**

Miscellaneous Actions taken by COM:

1. Approved 2016 Summary Terms of Call Report (see separate document).
2. Approved the resolution that "All requests for additions to the pulpit supply list are to be made to the General Presbyter".

Please remember in prayer our many churches without pastoral leadership or who are in transition. Thirteen churches have had long term vacancies and rely on regular pulpit supply, eight have interims, seven are newly vacant, and 48 out of 76 congregations have a called pastor or CRE.

MISSION STRATEGIES AND RESOURCES BOARD – (Recommendation on supporting Fossil Fuel Divestment)

Moderator Laurie Walker reported on the following items that were approved by the MSRB:

- The Living Waters Partnership application from Fox Valley Presbyterian and Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian.

- The Earth Care Network application submitted by Oswego Presbyterian and Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian, both Earth Care congregations, certified by the Environmental Ministries Office of PC(USA).
- The Kenyan Partnership Peacemaking Grant application for \$4,000 to cover travel and help cover partner meals for their January 2017 mission trip.

She also encouraged members to support transportation for Triennium 2016 through their free will offering at the April and June Presbytery meetings.

Also, the MSRB members expressed a concern that the Visioning & Administrative Board from the Restructuring Committee has so many responsibilities that the focus the MSRB maintains on mission may be lost.

After Ken Mozingo and Rick Johnson spoke on the Fossil Fuel Divestment Overture and presented a slide presentation, Ken made the motion and it was seconded: ***To concur with the PCUSA Fossil Fuel Divestment Overture.***

Discussion was held. Motion was made, seconded and **approved** to call for the question. The motion was then **approved** by a vote of 42 yes, and 20 no.

PERSONNEL

Moderator Reverend Dr. Anita Stuart-Steva introduced a survey for the purpose of assisting in the annual review of the General Presbyter/Stated Clerk. Participants are asked to return the surveys as soon as possible to facilitate the evaluation process. This information will be confidential.

The Committee plans to review the rest of the Presbytery Staff in the months to come.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Rev. Stephen Bowie reported that the Confirmation Retreats at Stronghold are highly recommended and encouraged others to participate in them. He also announced that in September he is going to Cuba for Witness for Peace. For more information on that, contact Rev. Bowie

Rev. Jim Friedmeyer highlighted the Wee Kirk Conference to be held October 4-6, 2016 in Indiana. This is a conference for small church leaders.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded and **approved** to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 p.m. The Moderator gave the closing prayer.

The next meeting of the Presbytery will be at First Presbyterian Church, 209 West Livingston Street, Pontiac, Illinois, on June 14, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. John Rickard, Stated Clerk

Karen McClenthen, Recording Clerk