

PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK
STATED MEETING FOR APRIL 10, 2018
FOX VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GENEVA, ILLINOIS

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 in a Stated Meeting at the Fox Valley Presbyterian Church of Geneva, Illinois. Moderator Rev. Matt Robinson called the meeting to order with a prayer at 9: 30 AM.

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 presented the proposed docket for the meeting, making one amendment with the addition of the report of the Nominating Committee immediately before the Consent Agenda. He noted the changed format due to the large block of time allotted to the Healthy Boundaries and Ethics Training. A motion was made, seconded and **Voted** to approve the amended docket:

This is a joint meeting of the Ecclesiastical body, the Presbytery of Blackhawk and the Corporate body, the Presbytery of Blackhawk, Inc.

9:00	Registration and Networks and Partnerships Center	
9:15	First Time Commissioner Orientation	
9:30	Opening Prayer	
	Stated Clerk's Report	
	Adoption of the Docket/Approval of Minutes/Orientation to the Meeting/New Elders and Ministers.	
9:45	Worship	
10:00	Life Together (Abbreviated Business Session)	
	Committee on Preparation for Ministry	Jan Chandler
	Committee on Ministry	Jim McCrea
	Corporation/Trustees	Matt Robinson
	Nominating Committee	Doug Forsberg
	Consent Agenda (To be acted on in a single motion unless removed for discussion.)	
	Committees of Council	
	Council Report	Mike Selburg
	Assembly Planning Committee	Matt Robinson
	Stronghold	Kathie Luke
	Mission	Laurie Walker
	Personnel	Anita Stuart-Steva
	Business Affairs Committee	
	Treasurer	Frank Finch
	Unfinished and New Business	
10:50	Break	
11:00	Healthy Boundaries and Ethics Training	
12:30	Lunch and Networks and Partnerships Center	

1:30-4:00 Healthy Boundaries and Ethics Training Continued

4:00 Adjourn with prayer

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery will be June 12, 2018 at Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center, 1922 N. IL. Rte. 2, Oregon, IL. Registration at 9:00 AM. Meeting at 9:30 AM.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2018 Stated Meeting of Presbytery. Motion **Voted**.

The Stated Clerk made a motion, receiving a second, to have Presbytery grant a waiver of G-2.0404 limiting the terms of service to six consecutive years for the First Presbyterian Church of Elgin, Illinois Board of Deacons. The motion was discussed and Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

The Session minutes of First Presbyterian Church, Elgin were approved with exceptions.

The Stated Clerk presented an updated necrology report of Ruling Elders who have passed into God's Kingdom during the past year. A prayer was offering in thanksgiving for their service.

He explained the process for most of the morning session and all of the afternoon hours today as being comprised of the required Healthy Boundaries and Ethics training. Commissioners had to sign a special registration form and receive a packet of information. Certificates of Completion were available to attendees at the end of the day's presentation.

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

It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to seat the following corresponding member:

Eric Heinekamp of Chicago Presbytery

The Clerk then presented his report of activity since the last Stated Meeting:

- Advised/counseled/coached/pastored sessions and pastors concerning various issues
- Member Illinois Conference of Churches Public Policy Committee
- Preached at Freeport, Woodstock, Middle Creek, Gibson City
- Staffed the Commission on Ministry, Nominating Committee, Mission, Business Affairs Committee, Council, Presbytery Assembly Planning Committees and Trustees
- Assist churches searching for interim/transitional pastors and Pastor Nominating Committees, performed computer matching for Pastor Nominating Committees to consider, conducted background checks on finalists and consulted with the PNCs and COM as needed
- I give background and reference checks when called by other Presbyteries
- Working with Trustees and Presbyterian Foundation in assessing and reallocating long-term funds for better returns
- Trained people to lead Missional Analysis Process in congregations in transition
- Consulted with a Session regarding future of the church and leadership options

- Approved First Presbyterian Church, Elgin's records with exceptions.

WORSHIP

The worship for the meeting was presented by the staff of the Fox Valley Church. John Stombree played the beautiful organ, while Rev. Stephanie E. Anthony and Rev. Melinda B. Hinners led the liturgy and presented a dramatic sermon entitled "A Strange Week."

LIFE TOGETHER (ABBREVIATED BUSINESS SESSION)

COMMITTEE on PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Rev Jan Chandler, moderator, presented the report. The Committee conducted reviews and made further recommendations for Frank Shepherd to continue as an Inquirer and Jerald Buchenau to continue preparation to become a CRE.

The Presbytery interviewed Alexander Regets who wished to become an Inquirer. He is a student at Western Theological Seminary on track to graduate in May, 2019. He is serving as a student pastor at our First Presbyterian Church of Peotone, Illinois. Recommendations included his taking the Bible Content Exam in September and to continue his studies. Rev Chandler then introduced Alexander. Upon questioning, he was asked to give a brief summary of his walk in faith that has led him to consider the ministry as a career. After his response there were no further questions. The committee moved that Presbytery approve Alexander's application to become an Inquirer. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

COMMISSION on MINISTRY - Items for Presbytery Action

Per the request of the Rockford Korean church, COM recommends to Presbytery that they be granted an exception from the minimum terms of call for pastors since their membership numbers and finances do not allow them to meet the minimums. They understand that the Board of Pensions minimums for pension and medical will not be exempt and that the church will be billed according to those minimum.

Presbytery **Voted** to Approve

The Commission moved that the commission of CRE Laurie Walker be expanded to permit her to officiate at weddings for the AuSable Grove congregation. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

The chair moved on behalf of the commission for Presbytery to approve the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Rev. Mike Brazelle and the Gibson City congregation effective April 2, 2018 and move his status within the Presbytery to member-at-large. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

The Commission moved for Presbytery to approve the dissolutions of the interim pastoral relationship of Rev Winn Alley and Wilmington, First church effective March 4, 2018. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

Rev. McCrea moved on behalf of the Commission to dissolve the interim pastoral relationship between Rev. Tom Allen and the Harvard church effective April 22, 2018. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

It was announced that the Commission had taken the following actions on behalf of the Presbytery. These need no confirming vote of Presbytery.

Princeton is working on an interim pastoral contract with Rev. John Cole. The terms will be announced when they are available.

Terms of Call for CRE Dale Tolley for Braidwood from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

Cash Salary	15,729.00
Housing Allowance	11,831.00
Medical	5,027.00
SECA	1,569.00
Retirement (403b)	2,000.00
Medical Reimbursal	1,000.00
Professional Reimb	6,329.00
Study Leave Allow	1,250.00
Grand Total	44,735.00

Vacation: 4 weeks, Continuing Education: 2 weeks

Extended sick leave: Twelve weeks unused vacation time from prior years banked as extended sick time and/or payable at termination of contract.

Terms of Dissolution

Rev. Mike Brazelle and Gibson City, effective April 2, 2018

Severance Pay – six months of salary	17,000
Use of Manse	5,250
Board of Pensions	10,323

Terms of Dissolution

Rev. Tom Allen and Harvard, effective April 22, 2018.

Severance Pay – one month of salary	6,795.62
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Appointed Moderators

Rev. Kathleen Luke at Dakota starting in May

Rev. Roy Backus at Gibson City

Rev. Roy Backus at Wilmington First

Miscellaneous

Approved transfer of Rev. Blake Severson to Great Rivers Presbytery

Rev. Duane McDonough has resigned from his supply position in Dakota.

Received with thanks the report of the Administrative Commission to install Rev. Deb Swets as pastor of Wheatland Presbyterian Church at Plainfield.

It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to approve the report of the Commission on Ministry. The annual report of pastoral terms of call was presented for information.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Rev. Doug Forsberg gave the report. He placed the name of Rev. Stephen Bowie be approved for the vacant 2019 seat on the Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center Committee. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

CONSENT AGENDA – Committees of Council

Rev Kathie Luke requested that the Stronghold Committee report be held out for further consideration by Presbytery. The Moderator agreed to this request. Hearing no other requests to remove items from the consent agenda, Presbytery **Voted** to approve the reports of:

- Council
- Assembly Planning Committee
- Stronghold
- Mission
- Personnel
- Business Affairs
- Treasurer

STRONGHOLD CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER COMMITTEE

Rev. Kathie Luke presented the proposed six-page summary of the Stronghold 2018 budget. The only change from the budget as it was presented in November, 2017 was the deletion of the item for World War Two Days. This event will not be held this year. The Moderator invited any further questions and received none. Presbytery then **Voted** to approve.

The following are summaries of printed reports approved in the consent agenda.

COUNCIL

The Council met in February and March. They began a process of looking into the future. Their intent was to fulfill one of its responsibilities, “to continually develop, evaluate, and recommend to Presbytery the ongoing vision, priorities, and actions for Blackhawk Presbytery.” They are studying a book entitled *Participating in God’s Mission: A Theological Missiology for the Church in America.* This is a part of the “Gospel and our Culture Series.

MISSION

The Mission Committee approved three grants: \$1,500 for the First Presbyterian Church of Ottawa toward transporting medical supplies and equipment for Uganda; \$750 in support of Stronghold’s application to hold the first annual Middle Retreat for Evangelism and Discipleship; and \$500 for Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle for its Mosaic of Peace Trip to the Holy Land.

TREASURER

The treasurer was unable to be present, but his printed report of eleven pages was posted on the Presbytery website and distributed to the commissioners.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

There was no old or new business presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Stephanie E Anthony of the host church came forward and gave hospitality directions for the period between this business meeting and the 11:00 Healthy Boundaries and Ethics Training's onset, as well as offering the mealtime grace for lunch.

ADJOURNMENT AND PRAYER

A motion was made, seconded, and **Voted** to adjourn at 10:20 AM. The Moderator, Rev. Matt Robinson, offered the closing prayer.

Presbytery was directed to restrooms, the available refreshments and the room for the Healthy Boundaries and Ethics Training. Commissioners were advised to register a second time if attending the Training.

HEALTHY BOUNDARIES AND ETHICS TRAINING

The workshop was conducted from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM and from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM. It was led by Dr. Mark Sundby who has served as a pastor, but is now the Executive Director and Staff Psychologist for LeaderWise, Inc. Besides Blackhawk Presbytery, there were participants from Chicago and Wabash Valley and Great Rivers Presbyteries. Ministers and Ruling Elders were invited to register in order to obtain a Certificate of Completion at the conclusion of the training.

Instruction was conducted in a discussion format, assisted by a PowerPoint presentation. There was a packet of information for each participant that included several self-tests about their understandings of boundaries, checklists of potential situations that would cause boundary and ethics concerns, and various measuring scales concerning stress. Questions were welcomed and answered by Dr. Sundby. At 3:00 PM, the training was complete and Certificates were distributed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Dr. John Rickard, Stated Clerk

Rev. Dr. Dale Dykstra, Recording Clerk.

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