

PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK  
 STATED MEETING FOR FEBRUARY 13, 2018  
 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 in a Stated Meeting at the First Presbyterian Church of Belvidere, Illinois. Moderator Rev. Matt Robinson called the meeting to order with prayer at 9:30 AM. The church host, Elder William Villont, welcomed the commissioners and described the arrangements for the day.

**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 two suggested amendments to the proposed docket that was online for the Commissioners. They were to insert a time for the Board of Pensions immediately following lunch and to add a report from the Nominating Committee following the report of the Personnel Committee. A motion was made, seconded, and **Voted** to approve the following docket as amended.

- 9:00 Registration and Networks and Partnerships Center
- 9:15 First Time Commissioner Orientation
- 9:30 Opening Prayer
  - Assembly Meeting Guidelines
  - Stated Clerk's Report - Adoption of the Docket/Approval of Minutes/Orientation to the meeting/ New Elders and Ministers Introduced.
- 9:45 Worship
- 10:45 Break
- 10:55 Board of Pensions
- 11:00 Learning Opportunity: Compass and Map: Using the Revised Directory For Worship and new *Book of Common Worship* Together - David Gambrell (Associate for Worship, Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Mission Agency)
- 12:15 Lunch and Networks and Partnerships Center
- 1:00 Board of Pensions
- 1:10 Community Building
- 1:15 Life Together (Business Plenary Session)
  - Stories of Mission and Ministry
  - Committee on Preparation for Ministry Jan Chandler
  - Commission on Ministry Jim McCrea
  - Synod Report Kim Hulen
  - Presbyterian Women Bev Scharlau
  - Committees of Council
  - Council Report Mike Selburg
    - Concurrence of General Assembly Overtures
    - Assembly planning Committee Matt Robinson
    - Business Affairs Committee Bill Ward
      - Treasurer Frank Finch
      - Stronghold Kathie Luke
      - Mission Laurie Walker
      - Personnel Anita Stuart-Steva
      - Nominating Martha Logeson
- 2:30 Corporation/Trustees
  - Administrative Commission, Washburn Matt Robinson

Motion to forgive Stronghold 2010-2016 receivable \$279,423.02

2:45 Unfinished and New Business

3:00 Adjourn with Prayer

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery will be April 10, 2018 at the Fox Valley Presbyterian Church, 227 East Side Drive, Geneva, Illinois. Registration at 9 am. Meeting at 9:30 am. This will be an abbreviated business meeting so that the Presbytery may participate in Boundary and Ethics

A motion was made, seconded, and **Voted** to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2017 Stated Meeting and the December 12, 2017 Called Meeting of Presbytery.

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 members:

David Gambrell Office of Theology and Worship  
Greg Albert New Brunswick Presbytery  
Eric Heinekamp Chicago Presbytery  
Kenneth Green Chicago Presbytery

He reported on additional Session records review:

Approved without exception: Presbyterian Church of Fulton

Approved With Exception:

Westminster, DeKalb  
First Presbyterian, Savanna  
Westminster, Rockford  
First Presbyterian, Elgin.

He then presented the 2017 Necrology report of Ruling Elders who had entered the Eternal Kingdom during the past year. He led the Presbytery in a prayer of thanksgiving for the lives of these dedicated servants.

#### **GENERAL PRESBYTER REPORT**

Advised/counseled/coached/pastored Sessions and pastors concerning various issues  
Member of the Illinois Conference of Churches Public Policy Committee  
Preached at United Presbyterian Church, Freeport and AuSable Grove, Yorkville  
Attended Credo Conference sponsored by the Board of Pensions  
Staffed the Commission on Ministry, Nominating Committee, Mission, Business Affairs  
Committee, Council and Trustees  
Assisted Pastor Nominating Committees in their search process  
Assisted churches searching for interim/transitional pastors, performed computer matching for Pastor  
Nominating Committees to consider, conducted background checks on finalists and Consulted with the  
PNCs and COM as needed  
I gave background and reference checks when called by other Presbyteries  
Participated in the Synod Executive Collegium.

#### **WORSHIP**

The service of worship for the day was led by the Belvidere church with Rev Robert Kopp singing and playing the hymn with his guitar. The sermon was given by Rev Doug Forsberg from the Rochelle church. Communion was served to the Presbytery by intinction.

Following worship, Presbytery took a ten-minute break at 10:45

### **STORY OF MISSION AND MINISTRY**

Debbie Damron, from Ottawa First Presbyterian Church, gave a slide presentation of their extensive work and aid given to the people of Uganda over the last eleven years. They have helped to build a school and a medical clinic there. A new library with 13,000 volumes is being planned as the next project. Presbytery responded to her report with applause for a job well done.

### **BOARD OF PENSIONS PRESENTATION**

Ken Green from the Board of Pensions gave a presentation which included a description of the process by which they created a "Theology of Benefits." He highlighted the existence of grants to help seminarians with college or seminary debt loads. He invited the churches to attend one of the regional conferences for employers and influencers about benefits. It will preview the changes for 2019.

### **LEARNING OPPORTUNITY**

David Gambrell, who is an Associate for Worship from the Office of Theology and Worship, shared ideas for using the about-to-be-released *Book of Common Worship* and the revised *Directory for Worship*. He referred to them as our worship "compass and map." He described their histories of creation and amendment as well as their usefulness for many different liturgical situations and environments. Following his slide presentation he answered several questions from the commissioners.

### **LUNCH INSTRUCTIONS, PRAYER, AND NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS CENTER**

Host Bill Villont gave instructions regarding the lunch break. Moderator Rev. Matt Robinson offered the mealtime prayer of grace. Commissioners were encouraged to visit the displays in the Networks and Partnerships Center.

Presbytery reconvened at 1:00 PM with prayer by Rev. Matt Robinson, who presided.

### **BOARD OF PENSIONS (CONTINUED)**

Ken Green continued his presentation by speaking about the retirement savings plan. He then gave out a handout that showed deductible amounts for 2018. It also listed copayment maximums and out-of-pocket limits for this year. The Board has dropped the 34% premium for Seminary students. A new program has been created to assist people with diabetes. He expressed hope that the Board may recommend an experience apportionment this year at its upcoming meeting. The Teledoc service is entering its second year and has had many member's praise its helpfulness.

### **TEAM BUILDING**

Danny Pierce from Stronghold led an exercise to arrange commissioners by twos and have these pairs learn three things about each other. He then had us turn back-to-back and say what we had learned.

### **LIFE TOGETHER (BUSINESS PLENARY SESSION)**

#### **COMMISSION ON MINISTRY**

Moderator Rev. Jim McCrea presented the report. He moved on behalf of the commission that Presbytery approve the dissolution of the pastoral relation between Rev. William Ward and the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Rockford effective February 28, 2018 and transfer Rev. Ward to Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery pending their request. Rev. Ward has been called to be the pastor of the Providence Presbyterian Church in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

He then made a motion on behalf of the commission to dissolve the position of Associate Pastor for family ministries at Westminster Rockford to concur with an action taken at a congregational meeting on January 28, 2018. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

The Commission then moved that the commission of CRE Gretchen Hammeke be expanded for her to moderate the Session of Westminster, Rockford in the absence of the moderator from February 15, 2018 to February 28, 2018 and appoint her to moderate the Session as of March 1, 2018. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

Rev. McCrea then move to approve the dissolution of the associate pastoral relationship between Kim Hulen and the Oswego church effective February 11, 2018 and move her status to member-at-large of Blackhawk Presbytery. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

He then moved to approve the dissolution of the associate pastoral relationship between Jeri Baker and the Morris church effective December 31, 2017 and transfer her membership to Miami Valley Presbytery pending their request. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

He moved that Presbytery grant honorably retired status to Diane Jochum effective March 26, 2018 and to Ken Wilson effective January 1, 2018. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

Rev. McCrea then moved on behalf of the Commission that Presbytery approve the following policy: "Boundary training is required for all people in pastoral ministry and shall be taken at the earliest opportunity when one first enters the Presbytery. Renewal of that training shall be required every three years." After discussion, Presbytery **Voted** unanimously to approve.

The Commission also reported to the Presbytery the following actions taken by the Commission on Ministry:

They approved Rev. Daniel DeBeer to serve as interim pastor at Princeton from January 1, 2018 to February 28, 2018 with the possibility of renewal.

Salary	8,863.33
Professional reimbursement	<u>650.00</u>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9,513.33</b>

LaPrairie has contacted the COM asking to begin the process to leave the PC(USA). We have given them a copy of the process approved by this Presbytery and COM Area 3 has appointed three people to form the Presbytery's portion of the Conversation Team. Those three are Elders Suzanne Finefield and Adelaide Kern (both of whom are former Moderators of COM) and the Rev. James Friedmeyer.

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Bev Scharlau presented the report. The Spring Gathering will be April 27 at the Princeton church the program will feature Barbara Baker's trip to Indonesia. The Churchwide Gathering will be in Louisville from August 2-5. The Fall Gathering will be different from usual because it will meet at the Illinois Food Bank in Galena on September 29<sup>th</sup>. The churches are continuing the cozy blanket ministry. They are being stored at the Coal City church.

### **PRESBYTERY COUNCIL**

The Rev. Mike Selburg, Council Moderator, presented the report. The Council nominated Rev. Dr. John Rickard for Stated Clerk, and Rev. Eric Heinekamp to serve as Parliamentarian. There were no nominations from the floor. Presbytery **Voted** to elect them.

Martha Logeson was then nominated for the chair of the Nominating Committee with Rev. Dr. Dale Dykstra and Elder Donna Beitel of AuSable Grove church as members of the Nominating Committee. There were no nominations from the floor. Presbytery **Voted** to elect them.

The Council created a task force to study the creation of a Committee on Representation. It formed a different task force to study the process by which we select General Assembly and Synod Commissioners. He pointed out a new paper called "Getting to Know..." which introduced newer pastors Dan Robertson of First Presbyterian Church of Fairbury and Deb Swets of Plainfield Wheatland Presbyterian Church.

Included with this report were the requests of four Presbyteries to concur with their overtures to General Assembly.

1. Composition and Responsibilities of the Session – Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois (OVT-028). A motion was made and seconded to concur with this overture. Presbytery **Voted** to concur.
2. On Directing the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation to divest from Fossil Fuel and Actively Invest in Securities that focus on Renewable Energy –Presbytery of Hudson River (OVT- 006) After considerable discussion, Presbytery **Voted** to concur.
3. On Engagement with the Issue of Climate Change – Presbytery of New Covenant (OVT-014) A motion was made for Presbytery to Not Concur with this overture. Presbytery **Voted** not to concur.
4. On Amending the Directory for Worship – Presbytery of Wabash Valley A motion was made and seconded to concur with this overture. Presbytery **Voted** to concur.

#### **ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Rev. Matt Robinson gave the report. He spoke of the April Stated Meeting's presentation of the half-day "Healthy Boundaries and Ethics Training" led by Mark Sundby from Leaderwise.

He asked if Presbytery would wish to have David Gambrell return to lead a one-day workshop the day before our June meeting of Presbytery. The response was positive that these arrangements be made.

The September meeting will offer a 90-minute Soul Shop workshop led by John Dillon, Laurie Walker, and Anita Stuart-Steva. This training equips churches to minister to those impacted by suicide.

#### **BUSINESS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Rev. Bill Ward gave the report. The committee meets quarterly or more often if necessary. The committee voted to send \$171.78 to each of forty-nine retired pastors from a fund they oversee. He then introduced Frank Finch to give his treasurer's report. The Presbytery balance is \$102,391.30; higher than the previous year. Stronghold came up to a deficit of only \$6,819.50. This represented a strong gain in financial position for them as well. A motion was made, seconded, and **Voted** to approve the treasurer's report and file it for audit.

#### **STRONGHOLD COMMITTEE**

Chair Rev. Kathie Luke gave the report. She thanked the treasurer for highlighting the much-improved financial position of Stronghold. They have received \$50,000 more in reservation income than the previous year. The Stronghold booth at the Resource and Partnership Center had camp brochures, posters, and information about the summer season today. A series of work camps will help prepare the facility for the coming year. A motion was made, seconded, and **Voted** to approve the report.

### **MISSION COMMITTEE**

Chair Laurie Walker led the report. The Committee approved a \$1,000 request from First Presbyterian Church of Sterling for the UNITE Camp Mission Project. This is a cooperative ecumenical effort of seven Sterling churches to provide CommUNITY Vacation Bible School, ecumenical youth retreats, and ecumenical fall festivals and worship.

The Committee approved \$500 in support for the Illinois Conference of Churches.

The Committee will be contacting churches to find mission projects that we can affirm, support with prayer, and share as an inspiration for other churches.

An event called Covenant Gathering, sponsored by the Synods of Lincoln Trails and Covenant, meets at the Geneva Center in Rochester, Indiana on July 8-13. The retreat is for all ages, but they are hoping to begin a group for young adult leaders by offering scholarships. Send an email of interest to the Mission Committee by March 8<sup>th</sup> if anyone is interested.

She also reminded Presbytery that funding for Mission Grants and Peacemaking Grants is available for partial start-up funding for new initiatives.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION – WASHBURN CHURCH**

Rev Matt Robinson gave the report that transfer of this property is still under review by attorneys.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Moderator Martha Logeson presented the report. Following the resignation of Elder Claire Brennecka as General Assembly commissioner-elect, alternate Elder Jeanne Ohms (Hanover First) will serve as commissioner. She placed the name of Elder Sharon Hall of the First Presbyterian Church of Kewanee to serve as alternate commissioner to General Assembly. There were no nominations from the floor and Presbytery **Voted** to elect her.

### **TRUSTEES**

Rev. Matt Robinson presented the report. He made the motion on behalf of the Trustees that the Presbytery forgive the 2010-2016 receivables from Stronghold in the amount of \$279,423.02.

After discussion, Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

### **UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

Elder Dorothy Henderson came forward to express her appreciation for Rev. Bill Ward as he leaves our Presbytery. Presbytery expressed its appreciation by applause.

Rev. Stephen Bowie rose to point the Presbytery's attention toward the Confirmation Retreat at Stronghold to be held February 23-25. He expressed a desire for a pastor's respite retreat in the future.

### **ADJOURNMENT AND PRAYER**

A motion was made, seconded, and **Voted** to adjourn. Rev. Matt Robinson gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Dr. John Rickard, Stated Clerk

Rev. Dr. Dale Dykstra, Recording Clerk

The next Stated Meeting will be April 10, 2018 at the Fox Valley Presbyterian Church, 227 East Side Drive, and Geneva, Illinois. Registration begins at 9 am. The meeting will be called to order at 9:30 am.

This will be an abbreviated docket for the business meeting so that the Prebytery may participate in Boundary and Ethics training.