

**PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK
STATED MEETING FOR JUNE 13, 2017
WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CALEDONIA, ILLINOIS**

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened Tuesday, June 13, 2017, in a Stated Meeting at Willow Creek Presbyterian Church, Caledonia, Illinois. Vice Moderator Rev. Matt Robinson called the meeting to order with prayer at 9:30 a.m.

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. A motion was made, seconded, and voted to **approve** the Amended Docket with the following additions: A Commissioning Service for the Stronghold Summer Camp Counselors after lunch and the report from the Presbytery Assembly Meeting Planning Committee after the MSRB report.

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| 9:00 | Registration and Networks and Partnerships Center | |
| 9:15 | First Time Commissioner Orientation | |
| 9:30 | Opening Prayer | Matt Robinson |
| | Stated Clerk's Report | John Rickard |
| | Adoption of Docket/Approval of Minutes/Orientation to the Meeting/
New Elders and Pastors Introduced, corrections to Ecclesiastical Manual | |
| 9:45 | Worship | |
| 10:45 | Break | |
| 11:00 | Synod Presentation | Sara Dingman |
| 11:15 | Stronghold Covenant, small group discussion | Kathie Luke |
| 12:15 | Lunch and Networks & Partnerships Center | |
| 12:50 | Community Building Activity | |
| 1:10 | Life Together (Business Plenary Session) | |
| | Stronghold Commissioning Service | Kathie Luke |
| | Mission Strategies and Resources Board | Laurie Walker |
| | Presbytery Assembly Meeting Planning Committee | Anita Stuart-Steve |
| | Personnel | Anita Stuart-Steve |
| | Treasurer | Frank Finch |
| | Trustees | Karen Krum |
| | Business Affairs Committee | |
| | Nominating | Martha Logeson |
| | Committee on Preparation for Ministry | Jan Chandler |
| | Commission on Ministry | Dottie Morizzo |
| | Administrative Commissions: Washburn | |
| | Presbyterian Women | Bev Scharlau |
| 2:15 | New and Unfinished Business | |
| 2:30 | Adjourn with Prayer | |

Next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery will be **September 12, 2017** at First Presbyterian Church, 64 S. Walnut Street, Manteno, IL. Registration at 9:00 a.m., Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

A motion was made, seconded and **approved** to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2017, Stated Meeting without exception.

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

Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. Rickard gave the following report:

2018 Stated Meeting Locations:

February 13 – First, Belvidere
April 10 - Fox Valley, Geneva
June 12 - Stronghold – possible Monday workshop
September 11 - TBD
November 13 - TBD

Continue assisting sister Presbytery in disciplinary case.

Presbytery 2016 minutes have been approved by Synod as “gloriously stupendous”

Corrections to recently approved Ecclesiastical Administrative Manual:

1. Article VII, Section B1 Presbytery Assembly Planning Committee composition: inadvertently left out “and two at large members.” So that it should read:

“The Presbytery Assembly Planning Committee shall consist of the Presbytery Assembly Moderator, Vice-Moderator, General Presbyter, Stated Clerk, and two at large members.”

2. Clarify composition of the following committees: Mission, Personnel, Business Affairs, and Stronghold Camp and Retreat.

Currently reads: “balanced representation of Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders, and members of congregation.”

Recommend to read: **“balanced representation of Teaching Elders and members of congregation.”**

There were no objections from the Presbytery.

General Presbyter Report:

Advised/counseled/coached/pastored sessions and pastors concerning various issues.

Led worship and preached at: 1st Galena and 1st Sterling.

Attended retirement reception for Jeff Borgerson.

Staff the Commission on Ministry, Nominating Committee, Mission Strategies and Resources Board, Business Affairs Committee, and Board of Moderators.

Assisted church 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 give background and reference checks when called by other Presbyteries.

Completed draft of Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) for congregational use

Assisted Stronghold in planning for Armed Forces recognition and WWII re-enactment.

Attended Board of Pensions Regional Consultation.

Rev. Dr. John Rickard referred two questions that he had received from Rev. Bob Kopp to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and Commission on Ministry. The questions were:

- 1.) *Knowing the majority allows, applauds, and advocates same-sex nuptials, how does Blackhawk Presbytery regard candidates for ordination and pastors who feel called to our presbytery who don't?*
- 2.) *If the highest court of our denomination mandates all pastors to allow, applaud, and advocate same-sex nuptials, how will Blackhawk Presbytery regard currently installed pastors who won't?*

Motion was made, seconded and **approved** to receive the Stated Clerk/General Presbyter Report.

WORSHIP

The Service of Worship for the day was presented. Those assisting in the Service were Rev. Judith March Hardie, who gave a message on "Unity and Diversity, Equality and Love," Rev. Dr. Anita Stuart-Steva, Rev. Jennifer Olson, and Rev. Kathleen Luke. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed by intinction.

It was moved, seconded and **approved** to seat the following Corresponding Member:
Rev. Sara Dingman – Synod of Lincoln Trails Transitional Executive

SYNOD PRESENTATION

Rev. Sara Dingman presented a slide presentation of work at Synod strengthening and partnering with the eight Presbyteries of SOLT and reported on the following:

- The Board of Directors gave a \$10,000 check for Blackhawk Presbytery to use for the witness and work of the congregations.
- Synod is committed to strengthening CPM and COM and getting Presbyteries to work together.
- Synod Sankofa – on August 16-20, 2017, a busload of participants will travel to hot spots in Illinois and Indiana and have discussions about race.
- Creation Lab – group of Presbyterian artists to go around the United States to put on workshops and labs.
- Boundary Training for Clergy
- From Dream Team to a New Leadership Training – Creation of a Council to get resources to Presbyteries.

We then viewed a video entitled "All Hands In".

Motion was made, seconded and **approved** to receive the Synod Report.

STRONGHOLD COVENANT, SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Moderator Rev. Kathie Luke reported that they are in the process of separating Blackhawk Presbytery and Stronghold. The Presbytery then divided into four groups for a time of questions, answers, and concerns pertaining to the draft Covenant Agreement.

LUNCH INSTRUCTIONS AND NETWORKS & PARTNERSHIPS CENTER

The Presbytery was given lunch instructions and prayer was offered by Rev. Judith Hardie.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

The Summer Camp Counselors led the Presbytery in a time of singing.

The Presbytery reconvened with prayer by Vice-Moderator Rev. Matt Robinson who presided over the meeting.

STRONGHOLD CAMP COMMISSIONING

Moderator Rev. Kathie Luke thanked the Presbytery for their input during the Small Group Discussions. She reported that the World War II Days was a success. Even though financially it did not do as well, the re-enactors are planning to come back and with many people attending, it helped with promoting our summer camp events.

Rev. Luke then presided over a Commissioning Service of the Summer Camp Counselors and Staff.

Dr. Danny Pierce, Stronghold Executive Director, thanked the work of the counselors and he was presented with cards that were signed by Presbytery Members thanking him for his service.

Motion was made, seconded and **approved** to receive the Stronghold Committee Report.

BUSINESS PLENARY SESSION

MISSION STRATEGIES and RESOURCES BOARD

Moderator Laurie Walker reported on the following:

- A report delivered by Rev. Sue Krummel from the First Presbyterian Church of Princeton concerning their Celebrating Diverse Gifts event on April 30.
- Funding for Missions Grants and Peacemaking Grants is available for partial start-up funding for new initiatives.
- Reminded all churches of the Church World Service Kit Challenge explained on the Blackhawk Presbytery website under Mission Opportunities. Please report any difficulties in collecting the materials for the 25 school kits, 10 hygiene kits, and 10 clean up kits so that we can give CWS our feedback for future collections.
- Blackhawk Mission Committee (BMC) alerts all churches that Blackhawk has funds available to facilitate the formation of work groups in the event of a tornado or natural disaster.

Moderator Laurie Walker made the motion and it was **approved** for the revised Kenya Partnership Memorandum of Understanding. (***Attachment***) (Imenti Presbyteries have already voted to approve this agreement.)

The BMC joins the Kenya Partnership Committee in seeking interest from additional churches in Blackhawk in forming church to parish partnerships. A one-page application is available from Claire Brennecka or Laurie Walker.

Moderator Walker then shared a greeting from Rev. Samuel Riungu, Secretary of Partnership Committee Imenti Presbyteries.

Motion was made, seconded and **approved** to receive the MSRB Report.

PRESBYTERY ASSEMBLY MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Dr. Anita Stuart-Steva reported on the following:

- September 12, 2017 – We would like any church interested in sharing a short (5-7 minute) presentation of a mission they are working on. This presentation can include a PowerPoint. Contact Loreen Stavers in the Presbytery Office if you are interested.
- Monday, November 13, 2017 – Seminar – Soul Shop for Leaders – Equipping congregations (through this one day training designed for clergy, staff, lay pastors, and faith-based clinicians) to minister to persons impacted by suicidal desperation. This includes four groups of persons:
 1. Persons who are currently engaged in suicidal thinking
 2. Persons who are concerned about a friend or family member who may be suicidal
 3. Persons who have lost a friend or family member to suicide
 4. Persons who have recovered from a period of suicidal thinking in the past

Please plan on attending this seminar and help us spread the word to ecumenical associates.

Motion was made, seconded and **approved** to receive the Presbytery Assembly Meeting Planning Committee Report.

PERSONNEL

Moderator Rev. Anita Stuart-Steva made the motion and it was **approved** to accept The Presbytery Health Reimbursement Arrangement Plan. (*Attachment*)

Moderator Rev. Anita Stuart-Steva reported on the Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) Presbytery of Blackhawk for Installed Pastors and Associate Pastors. This Plan needs to be approved by the Sessions of the Churches in Blackhawk Presbytery and it needs to be renewed every year.

This summer the Personnel Committee will be holding annual reviews of the Presbytery staff and will make recommendations to BAC as necessary for any changes to the 2018 budget. If anyone has a comment to make regarding the performance of any of the Presbytery staff, please contact the Personnel Committee.

Motion was made, seconded and **approved** to receive the Personnel Report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Frank Finch reported on the Financial reports for Presbytery as of 4/30/17. Stronghold is improving as they were minus \$9,743.92 as of 4/30/17 and the prior year to date they were minus \$18,900.39.

Motion was made, seconded and **approved** to receive the Treasurer's Report.

NOMINATING

Moderator Martha Logeson made the motion for the following slate:

Parliamentarian – TE - Eric Heinekamp

Business Affairs Committee – Moderator - 2018 TE - Bill Ward

Council - Moderator – 2018 RE - Mike Selburg
2018 RE – Karen Krum
2019 RE – Jim Keely
2020 TE – John Dillon
2020 RE – Bill Villont
2019 TE – Bob Kopp
2018 TE – Judith Hardie

Presbytery Planning 2019 TE –Sue Krummel

Personnel - 2020 CM – Sandra Little (co-opted for 2017)

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.

Motion was made, seconded and **approved** to receive the Nominating Committee Report.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Rev. Jan Chandler reported that Mike Engle and Kathy Linn both have started the CRE process.

Rev. Chandler made the motion and it was **approved** for the following:

- ***Passing Karen Williams and Jack Berghorst onto the COM to be commissioned as CRE's.***

The Minutes from the CPM Meetings for May and June, 2017, were available for Presbytery Members to read.

Motion was made, seconded and **approved** to receive the Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

CRE Dottie Morizzo made the motions and they were **approved** for the following:

- The dissolution of pastoral relationship between Kit Stanich and the McHenry Faith congregation and grant Rev. Stanich honorably retired status effective July 31, 2017. Congregation has approved this dissolution on June 4.
- The request from Geneva Fox Valley to take the following actions in order to begin the process of calling an Associate Pastor:
 1. Establish the position of Associate Pastor of Discipleship in this church;
 2. Concur with the job description approved by the Session on May 23, 2017 and presented to the congregation at this meeting; and
 3. Grant the congregation permission to elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee at a duly called congregational meeting as soon as a slate is prepared by the Nominating Committee.
- Expand the commission of Crystal Abbott to include moderating the Peotone Session.

- Grant permission for Sandi Graber to serve communion at Peterson Meadows nursing home in Rockford and Kindred Hospital in Sycamore on a very part-time basis.
- Re-Commission Melinda Stephenson as CRE at Sparland La Prairie.
 - Appoint Moderators**
 - Rev. Kathleen Luke at Shannon Prairie Dell
 - CRE Crystal Abbott at Peotone
 - Rev. David Jones at Rockford Korean
 - Rev. David Jones at Waterman
 - Rev. Bob Kopp at Harvard

ACTIONS TAKEN BY COM:

CONTRACT EXTENSIONS:

Hope Sibson, Interim Pastor for Plainfield Wheatland effective June 5, 2017

<i>Salary</i>	\$	22,500
<i>SECA</i>		3,500
<i>Housing</i>		<u>21,000</u>
Sub-total	\$	47,000
<i>Pension</i>		5,786
<i>Life/Medical</i>		12,887
<i>Death/Disability</i>		526
<i>Medical Reimbursement</i>		4,000
<i>Continuing Education</i>		1,500
<i>Professional Expenses</i>		<u>4,100</u>
Sub-total	\$	28,799
Grand Total	\$	75,799

Melinda Stephenson, CRE, as pastor of Sparland La Prairie Untied

<i>Salary</i>	\$	8,500
<i>Manse Value</i>		4,000
<i>Social Security Allowance</i>		<u>1,000</u>
Effective Salary	\$	13,500
<i>Utilities</i>		6,150
<i>Pension (12%)</i>		1,620
<i>Medical Dues (24.5%)</i>		10,780
<i>Study Leave % (voucher)</i>		1,750
<i>Mileage (government rate)</i>		1,000
<i>Prof. Expenses (voucher)</i>		1,500
<i>Med. Suppl. (6%)</i>		<u>810</u>
Total	\$	37,110

MISCELLANEOUS

1. ***The committee is working with Dakota Community to help them get substitute pastoral coverage.***

Rev. Bill Ward then introduced Steve Kannaka and Ray Charlette, members from the Marengo First Presbyterian Church who spoke on their ongoing partnership with Rockford Westminster Presbyterian Church. The pastoral support relationship with Westminster has been God's blessing for Marengo. Please see the Attachment to read the entire report.

Motion was made, seconded and **approved** to receive the Commission on Ministry Report.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS: WASHBURN

General Presbyter & Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. John Rickard gave an update on the Washburn Church. The Commission is just about done with their work and are waiting for a bill from the Title Company.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Moderator Bev Scharlau reported on the following events for Presbyterian Women:

- 2017 Synod Triennium on June 24, 2017 at the United Presbyterian Church in Peoria, Illinois. The Theme will be "Sabbath Keeping."
- The Cozy Blanket Ministry continues with handmade quilts, lap robes, prayer shawls, afghans and tied fleece for the ministry that began when tornadoes struck our Presbytery.
- July 8th Meeting in Waltham, IL – Coordinating Team
- Church World Service Kits Challenge 2017 – each congregation asked to make at least 25 school kits, 10 hygiene kits, and 10 clean-up kits and bring to the November Presbytery Meeting at Stronghold.

Motion was made, seconded and **approved** to receive the Presbyterian Women's Report.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

GP/SC Rev. Dr. John Rickard made the motion, it was seconded and **approved** to correct the April 4, 2017 Presbytery Meeting Minutes under Commission on Ministry Report – to read:

The dissolution of pastoral relationship between Yong (Paul) Kim and the Rockford Korean congregation and grant Rev. Kim honorably retired status effective July 31, 2017. Congregation has approved this dissolution.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded, and **approved** to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m. The Vice Moderator Matt Robinson, gave the closing prayer.

The next meeting of the Presbytery will be at First Presbyterian Church, Manteno, IL, on Tuesday, September 12, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. John Rickard, Stated Clerk

Karen McClenthen, Recording Clerk