

PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK
STATED MEETING FOR JUNE 12, 2018
STRONGHOLD CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER
OREGON, ILLINOIS

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 in a Stated Meeting at the Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center of Oregon, Illinois. Moderator Rev. Matt Robinson called the meeting to order with a prayer at 9: 30 A.M.

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. The Stated Clerk pointed out the table tents on the commissioner’s tables with the pictures of the international staff at Stronghold along with a fun fact about them. A new feature was the packs of sticky notes on the tables. These were for people to write prayer requests upon before affixing them to a board in Knox Hall. A prayer team lifted them throughout the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the docket by adding a request from the Henry church to the report of the Trustees. It was moved and seconded to approve the docket as amended. The motion was **Voted.**

“This is a joint meeting of the Ecclesial 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 Docket/Approval of Minutes/Orientation to the Meeting/New Elders and Pastors Introduced	
9:45	Worship	
	Commissioning of Summer Camp Counselors	
	Commissioning of General Assembly Commissioners	
10:30	Break	
10:45	Illinois Conference of Churches	Executive Director, Laurie Vial
11:00	Learning Opportunity: Malawi Mission CoWorker:	Jeremy Garbat-Welch
11:45	Life Together (Business Plenary Session)	
	Synod Report	Kim Hulen
	Presbyterian Women	Bev Scharlau

	Nominating	Mark Hughey
12:00	Lunch and Networks and Partnerships Center	Matt Robinson
1:00	Life Together (Business Plenary Session)	
	Stories of mission and ministry	
	Committees of Council	
	Council Report	Mike Selburg
	Assembly Planning Committee	Matt Robinson
	Business Affairs Committee	
	Treasurer	Frank Finch
	Stronghold	Kathie Luke
	Mission	Laurie Walker
	Personnel	Anita Stuart-Steva
	Committee on Preparation for Ministry	Jan Chandler
	Commission on Ministry	Jim McCrea
1:45	Corporation/Trustees	
	Administrative Commission: Washburn	Matt Robinson
2:00	Unfinished and New Business	
2:15	Adjourn with Prayer	

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery will be September 11 at the First Presbyterian Church, 100 E. Lincolnway, Morrison, Illinois. Registration at 9:00 AM, Meeting At 9:30 AM.

A motion was made, seconded, and **Voted** to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2018 Stated Meeting of Presbytery as presented.

The Stated Clerk requested invitations to host the Stated Meetings for 2019. The April 9, 2019 meeting will be at the First Presbyterian Church of Morris and the September 10, 2019 meeting will be held at the Oswego Presbyterian Church.

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
Staff the Commission on Ministry, Nominating Committee, Mission, Council, Presbytery Assembly Planning Committee, and Trustees.
Assist churches searching for Interim/Transitional pastors and Pastor Nominating Committees, performed computer matching for Pulpit Nominating Committees to consider, conducted background checks on finalists and consulted with PNCs and COM as needed.
I give background and reference checks when called by other Presbyteries
Drafted policy for Candidate Scholarship and Education Debt Relief grants.
Participated in Synod of Lincoln Trails Legal Roundtable and Executive Collegium

Participated in orientation for General Assembly Commissioners
Presbytery Minutes Review at Synod
Conducted Clerk of Session training
Participated in national conference call regarding General Assembly proposed Per Capita increase.

The Stated Clerk invited churches to introduce first-time-attending Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders. They included Rev Ernest Gardner, Interim Transitional Lead Pastor at Westminster Church of Rockford; Ruling Elder Donna Dykstra of Kewanee; Ruling Elder Sue Williams of Rockford Westminster; and Ruling Elder Jerome Pittman of the Oregon church.

WORSHIP

The worship was presented by the Stronghold Staff and Director Danny Pierce. The service was led by staff members who took various liturgical parts of the worship with Dr. Pierce presenting the sermon. It encouraged people to extend beyond belief what they do for the Lord. An offering was received to fund scholarships to Stronghold summer camp. During the service the 2018 General Assembly Commissioners were commissioned to their task. The summer staff at Stronghold was introduced. They, too, were commissioned to their efforts. The service concluded with the Commissioners receiving communion by intinction.

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

After a fifteen-minute break, the report of the Illinois Conference of Churches of Churches was given by their Executive Director, Laurie Vial. She thanked the Presbytery for our financial support. They are conducting a self-study to find future directions for the Synod. Our John Rickard is a member of their Public Policy Committee.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY – MALAWI MISSION CO-WORKER

Presbytery welcomed a mission co-worker from Malawi, Africa, Rev. Jeremy Garbat-Welch. He offered a power-point presentation about the country and the various ministries there that he supports. He shared Ezekiel 3:16-21. His work is partnered with the Church of Central Africa (CCAP). About one-third of the population are Presbyterian. Jeremy works with the clergy and lay leaders in the churches throughout the three large sections of the nation. Ministers will serve about 7,000 members and six churches each. He also works with chaplains in hospitals, prisons, and schools.

LIFE TOGETHER – (BUSINESS PLENARY SESSION)

Vice Moderator Dale Prindiville assumed the chair. Since the Presbytery was ahead of schedule, the next committee reports were heard before lunch.

SYNOD REPORT

Synod Commissioner Kim Hulen presented her report. The Lincoln Trails Synod met over April 20-21 in Indianapolis. The most important business was to form a Council to conduct routine business and to find a vision for the purposes and opportunities of the Synod. Rev. Dr. Laurie Ferguson was a featured speaker. Synod continued to fund mission projects with grants from Synod funds.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

President Bev Scharlau presented the report. The new Church World Service challenge is for 75 Hygiene kits, 50 school kits, and 3 clean-up buckets per church. The Women's triennial meeting will be in Louisville on August 2-5. Mention was made of the new Horizons Bible Study. The Coordinating Team will meet in July. The next Presbytery gathering of Presbyterian Women will have a mission focus, working at the Northern Illinois Food Bank on September 27.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Rev. Mark Hughey presented the names of Deb Swets from the Plainfield Church to become a member of the class of 2019 on the Presbytery Assembly Planning Committee and Laurie Walker of Au Sable Grove church to the same committee in the class of 2020. There were no nominations from the floor. Presbytery **Voted** to elect them.

COUNCIL REPORT

Rev Dr Mike Selburg reported that the discovery process by the Council is ongoing. A fuller report will be given at the September meeting. They are also well along on crafting a suggested new policy for electing Commissioners to General Assembly.

He then nominated two members to fill vacancies on the Nominating Committee. They are Teresa Hagenbuch, DeKalb Westminster (class of 2018) and Alan Manchester, Bolingbrook (class of 2020). There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made, seconded and **Voted** to elect them to fill the existing vacancies.

Because the Council had assumed many of the duties previously carried out by the Business Affairs Committee, he made a motion that the Business Affairs Committee be dissolved, with all of its duties being transferred to Council. After discussion, Presbytery **Voted** to dissolve the Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Frank Finch presented a 12-page printed report. Presbytery cash accounts have decreased from the past year, but remain strong. The change is due to the fact that Stronghold is \$56,855.45 in arrears in payroll reimbursement. Stronghold cash accounts, however, have increased vs the past year. Maintenance accounts cash balances have decreased because of significant expenses in 2018. These include work on roof repairs and bathrooms. The gift shop account has

increased over last year due to new business. It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to approve the report of the treasurer.

LUNCH AND NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS CENTER

Ryan Anderson explained the arrangements for the luncheon being served by the staff at Stronghold and offered the prayer for grace.

LIFE TOGETHER (CONTINUED)

Moderator Rev. Matt Robinson reconvened the meeting at 1:00 PM with prayer.

STORIES OF MISSION AND MINISTRY

Ruling Elders Jean Lisk and Valerie Kryder presented a pictorial report on the “Bethlehem Market Place” project of Rockford Westminster Church. It is an alternative gift fair where people who need no additional “things” can visit booths of various mission activities at the church. This way they can give a card that tells the recipient that a gift has been made in their name to a worthy cause. In the first year of 2014 they raised \$5,000. This has grown to \$7,000 this past year. Presbytery applauded the report.

Vice Moderator Dale Prindiville assumed the chair to enable Rev. Matt Robinson to make his Committee report.

ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Rev Matt Robinson reported for the committee. The September meeting will do a 90-minute Soul Shop workshop led by John Dillon, Laurie Walker, Anita Stuart-Steva, and Matt Robinson. We will also hear from General Assembly Commissioners as they report on the St Louis Assembly.

November’s meeting at Westminster in Joliet will include the installation of officers. They will also receive the CWS Challenge kits. Another feature will be a report from the Northern Illinois Food Bank’s new Joliet facility.

STRONGHOLD

Rev. Kathie Luke gave the report. The Stronghold staff led another activity song, “Psalm 150.” The Committee is continuing to work toward the goal of completely separating the Presbytery and Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center. They have settled on a 501c3 format for the camp business structure and are working with a lawyer to help to bring that about. The summer season has begun and they have hired a truly diverse and talented staff.

MISSION

Chairperson Laurie Walker gave the report. Blackhawk Mission Committee (BMC) heard a report from Rev. Judith Hardie from Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle regarding her Mosaic of Peace trip to the Holy Land. Judith shared what she witnessed concerning the plight of Palestinian Christians, Muslims and Jews seeking peace and justice. She is willing to share with interested churches in Blackhawk.

Blackhawk Mission Committee (BMC) members are making plans to contact session clerks this fall to find mission projects that we can affirm, support with pray, and share as an inspiration for other churches.

The BMC reminds all churches that funding for **Mission Grants and Peacemaking Grants** is available for partial start-up funding for new initiatives. Applications are available on Blackhawk's website.

Motion made, seconded, and **Voted** to approve the report.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Chair Jan Chandler presented the report. They met on May 4, 2018.

The committee held their annual consultation with Michael Engle, which was very positive. Following the meeting, recommendations were made to guide his next year of development and study.

After reviewing the proposed Fund for Ordination Scholarships and Education Debt Relief for Pastors, it was moved that we recommend passage of this program. It has been posted on the Presbytery website and is available in print for this meeting.

The committee reviewed the lists of candidates, inquirers, and CRE's.

Candidate Elizabeth Stites has completed seminary and is taking her ordination exams. The committee moved that she be certified ready for examination, pending a call when she completes all ordination exams. Discussion followed.

CRE Jeanne Ohms has met all requirements to be commissioned as a lay pastor. It was moved that she be declared ready for commissioning.

An omnibus motion was made by the Chair to approve the Fund for Ordination Scholarships and Education Debt Relief, to approve Candidate Elizabeth Stites as ready for examination pending a Call, and to commission CRE Jeanne Ohms. Motion **Voted**.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Chairman Rev. Jim McCrea presented the report. Action items included:

COM recommends that the conversation period with the La Prairie church is no longer productive and therefore should be terminated and that the Presbytery move forward with the formation of an Administrative Commission to proceed to negotiating terms for dismissal. The chair moved that this be done. After discussion, Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

Presbytery also **Voted** to authorize COM to appoint five to seven people to act on the Presbytery's behalf on this Administrative Commission.

Rev McCrea moved that Presbytery commission CRE Ray Lantz to lead the Gibson City congregation on a part-time basis from May 1, 2018 to January 31, 2019 in everything but moderating the Session. Presbytery **Voted** to approve. Rev. Roy Backus will continue to moderate the Session during this period.

Moderator Matt Robinson then conducted the service of commissioning for Ray Lantz to Gibson City and Jeanne Ohms to Hanover. He asked the required Constitutional Questions which they answered in the affirmative. Moderator Robinson then declared them to be duly commissioned to their ministries.

Chairman McCrea then moved for the Commission that Presbytery extend the contract between the LaPrairie church and CRE Melinda Stephenson for one month to July 31, 2018 to help with the transition at that congregation. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

The chairman moved that Presbytery approve the dissolution of the pastoral relation between Rev. Dr. Dale Dykstra and the Elmira and Kewanee churches effective June 30, 2018 and grant Honorably Retired status to Dale Dykstra.

Ruling Elder Betty Oliver testified that the Elmira Church approved this request to retire made by Dr. Dykstra at a congregational meeting on June 3, 2018. Ruling Elder Judy Hankins likewise testified that the Kewanee Church had a congregational meeting on June 3, 2018 and the request was approved with regret. Following discussion, Presbytery **Voted** to approve and grant Honorably Retired status as requested. Moderator Matt Robinson conducted the service to confer Honorably Retired status in behalf of Dr. Dykstra. He presented Dale Dykstra with his certificate of Honorably Retired status from the denomination with his thanks. Dr. Dykstra was invited to the podium and spoke to the Presbytery about his perceptions of the nature of ministry through his 46 years of ministry. Presbytery rose to a standing applause for his service.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY COM

CRE Contract

CRE Ray Lantz for Gibson City from May 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019

Salary/Housing	\$25,000.00 per year
Continuing Ed	1,000.00 per year
Vacation	4 weeks per year
Cont. Ed.	2 weeks per year

CRE Contract

CRE Claire Brenneka for Harvard from April 23, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

Salary/Housing	\$2,066.66 per month
Car Allowance	350.00 per month
Vacation	4 weeks per year
Cont. Ed.	2 weeks per year

Transitional Lead Pastor Contract

Rev Ernest L. Gardner III to Rockford Westminster Church

Cash Salary	70,000	Reimbursable Expenses (by voucher)	
Housing Allowance	13,000	Automobile (54.5/mile)	\$BR
Total Effective Salary	83,000	Business/professional	2,650
		Continuing Education	2,400
		Med Reimbursement	550
		Other Allowances	8,880
		Moving Costs	750
		Total Reimb Expenses	15,230

Full Medical, pension, disability, and death benefit

Coverage by Board of Pensions	30,710
SECA	6,000 Paid

Vacation 3 weeks, Continuing Education, 2 weeks

Total Terms of call: \$134,940

Ministry Information Form was approved for Au Sable Grove.

APPOINT MODERATORS

Rev. Susan Presley at Elmira and Kewanee, starting July 1, 2018.

Rev. Greg Albert at Winnebago, First, starting in June.

MISCELLANEOUS

Rev. John Cole, interim at Princeton, has terminated his contract and has left the Presbytery.

Approved transfer of Rev. Blake Severson to Great Rivers Presbytery.

Approved transfer to Rev. Jennifer Suydam from North Central Iowa Presbytery to Blackhawk Presbytery as of March 18, 2018.

Approved the transfer of Rev. Kenneth Shedenhelm from Blackhawk to Great Rivers Presbytery as of December 5, 2017.

Approved transfer of Rev. Ernest Leatherbury Gardner III from Charlotte Presbytery.

CORPORATION/TRUSTEES

The Trustees reported through Rev. Matt Robinson. Stronghold shared the following maintenance and equipment needs:

The hot water heater for the kitchen and Brubaker Center is broken. Replacement costs \$3,500.

One lawn mower required over \$1,300 in repairs.

One lawn mower needs to be replaced at a cost of \$12,000.

We are losing the road up the hill. Proper repair is to rebuild the road. @ \$20,000

The Trustees moved that the Presbytery of Blackhawk authorize Frank Fitch and John Rickard to re-negotiate Stronghold's current loan with Central Bank (approx. balance \$135,289 @ 6%) to borrow an additional \$50,000 for capital needs.

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

It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** that Henry Church be allowed to sell a property for \$5,000. The Session and Congregation had voted to permit this sale.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Mike Selburg rose to show a picture presentation of the Morrison Church's free produce table as an idea that others might wish to pursue.

ADJOURNMENT AND PRAYER

A motion was **Voted** to adjourn at 2:08 PM. The Moderator offered the closing prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. John Rickard, Stated Clerk

Rev. Dr. Dale Dykstra, Recording Clerk

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