

**PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK
STATED MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2016
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, JOLIET, ILLINOIS**

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened Tuesday, September 13, 2016, in a Stated Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, Illinois. Moderator Rev. Julie Raffety 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. 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 and Pastors Introduced
- 9:45 Worship
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Report from the 222nd General Assembly Commissioners
- 11:15 Restructure Proposal, tabled at June meeting for September meeting
- 11:45 Mission Presentation: NIU Campus Ministry
- 12:00 Instructions for lunch
- 12:15 Lunch and Networks & Partnerships Center
- 1:00 Life Together (Business Plenary Session)
Stronghold, Nominating, Administrative Commissions (Washburn, Dismissal Policy, Bethany)
CPM, Mission Strategies and Resources Board, COM, Personnel, Business Affairs Committee
(First Reading of 2017 Per Capita and Mission Budgets), Treasurer/Trustees
- 2:45 New and Unfinished Business
- 3:00 Adjourn with Prayer

A motion was made, seconded and **approved** to accept the minutes of the June 14, 2016, Stated Meeting without exception.

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

It was moved, seconded and approved to seat the following Corresponding Member:
Rev. William Kramp – Central Florida Presbytery

Stated Clerk Report:

2017 Presbytery Meeting Locations:

February 14, 2017 -	TBD
April 4, 2017 -	Westminster, Rockford
June 13, 2017 -	Willow Creek Presbyterian Church, Caledonia
September 12, 2017 -	TBD
November 13-14, 2017 -	Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center, Oregon

Presbytery's 2016 Minutes have been reviewed by Synod and approved without exception. Indeed, the term used to describe our minutes was "awesome." Thank you Karen McClenthen and Loreen Stravers!

Session Records review are being scheduled for October of this year. Dates, times, and places will be emailed to Clerks and Moderators when they are determined.

General Presbyter Report:

(The Personnel Committee has asked that I briefly report to the Presbytery my activities.)

- Attended the 222nd General Assembly in Portland, OR.
- Attended meetings of the Illinois Conference of Churches Public Policy Committee
- Attended the four Town Hall meetings sponsored by the Ad Hoc Structure Task Force
- Working with Danny Pierce as he takes hold of the position of Executive Director for Stronghold.
- Attended National Workshop on Practical Presbytery Leadership
- Staffed the Administrative Commission to Bethany, Committee on Ministry, Nominating Committee, Mission Strategies and Resources Board, Business Affairs Committee, Board of Moderators, and assist Stronghold Committee as needed.
- Eight churches are currently in the search process: I assist churches in securing interim/transitional pastors, perform computer matching for Pastor Nominating Committees to consider, conduct background checks on finalists and consult with the PNC and COM as needed. I give background and reference checks when called by other Presbyteries.
- Have consulted with several congregations and Teaching Elders regarding transitions and have preached three times between June and August.

The Presbytery received the Stated Clerk's Report.

WORSHIP

The Service of Worship for the day included the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Rev. Craig Herr gave a message entitled "An Opportune Time" with the Scripture from Luke 10:1-11 (NIV). Those assisting in the Worship today were Rev. Dale Ambler, Rev. Bob Haas, and music by Anna Johnson and Bev Adelman.

Stated Clerk Rev. John Rickard made the motion, it was seconded and **approved** to seat Rev. Sara Dingman from, Interim Executive from the Synod of Lincoln Trails.

The Stated Clerk also reminded the Presbytery that everyone must login and register for the Board of Pensions & Medical Plan changes for 2017 now.

REPORT FROM THE 222ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS

Elder Loreen Stravers, Rev. Blake Richter, and Rev. Kim Hulen each shared their experiences at the General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. The new Co-Moderators of General Assembly are Rev. Denise Anderson and Rev. Jan Edmiston; and the new Stated Clerk is Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson. The Commissioners all thanked the Presbytery and their Churches for the opportunity to attend the General Assembly and pointed out that you can go to PC-BIZ.org and find out more information about GA.

YAAD Paulie Stevens had a written report in the Presbytery Packets about her experiences at General Assembly.

RESTRUCTURE PROPOSAL, (tabled at June meeting for September meeting)

Rev. Doug Forsberg reported on the many listening opportunities and conference call that was held in the last few months.

Rev. Forsberg, for the Ad-Hoc Committee, made the motion, and it was seconded to withdraw the motion to approve the Restructure Proposal. They have decided that since the Committee was formed one year ago, the need for change has grown and this proposal does not go far enough. Also, that this is a critical moment for Presbytery and we need to be united.

Rev. John Rickard, General Presbyter/Stated Clerk, thanked the Ad-Hoc Committee for all of their hard work on this proposal but we need to continue on with the work.

A motion was made, seconded and **approved** to instruct Rev. John Rickard and Rev. Julie Raffety to appoint a Crisis Management Team to deal with the issues of culture, finance and structure.

The Crisis Management Team would consist of Teaching Elders Julie Raffety, Eric Heinekamp, and Jim Friedmeyer; and Ruling Elders Laurie Walker, Jack Berghorst, and Lee Ekstrom.

The motion to withdraw the motion to approve the Restructure Proposal was then **approved**.

MSRB Moderator Laurie Walker made the motion, it was seconded and **approved** to refer to the newly formed Crisis Management Team the Substitute Restructuring Proposal for Blackhawk Presbytery for consideration. (see attached report)

MISSION PRESENTATION: NIU CAMPUS MINISTRY

Rev. Blake Richter, Westminster, DeKalb gave a report on the Campus Ministry at Westminster Presbyterian Church in DeKalb, IL. The Director of Campus Ministry is Autumn James, and she is also in the Youth Ministry and is Christian Educator. The Campus Ministry is open to all NIU and Kishwaukee College students and they are invited to a home cooked meal on Wednesdays, and bagels on Sunday. They are active in service which includes a food pantry available for NIU students. Rev. Richter thanked the Presbytery for making this ministry possible and for all their support.

Rev. Sara Dingman from the Synod of Lincoln Trails shared a short story and gave the Presbytery this charge: "O Sing unto the Lord for the Lord has done marvelous things".

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Rev. Ryan Pixton made the motion and it was **approved** to enroll David Hegge as an Inquirer effective June 14, 2016.

Julia Jones gave a brief report on the Northern Illinois Food Bank – September is Hunger Action Month. The Food Bank is always looking for volunteers to assist in their ministry. There will be a "Full on Faith" opportunity to volunteer from February 11-18, 2017.

LUNCH INSTRUCTIONS AND NETWORKS & PARTNERSHIPS CENTER

The Presbytery was given lunch instructions and prayer was offered by Moderator Rev. Julie Raffety.

The Presbytery reconvened with prayer by Moderator Rev. Julie Raffety who presided over the meeting.

An offering was taken for the Coins for Kenya and \$359.60 was collected.

BUSINESS PLENARY SESSION

STRONGHOLD

Rev. Judith Hardie reported on the following:

Assisting the staff in policy development and implementation and budget development & review;

Providing leadership in fundraising and fund development;

Being in partnership with staff in strategic planning and to act as a think tank with staff for the betterment of Stronghold ministry;

The 501(c)3/LLC Task Force Report.

The Presbytery received the Stronghold Committee Report.

NOMINATING

Moderator Rev. Bob Kopp made the motion for the following slate:

Committee on Ministry –

Jean Lisk, Ruling Elder – Class of 2019, 1st term, Area 1

Karen Williams, Ruling Elder – Class of 2018, 1st term, Area 4

Gary Panetta, Teaching Elder – Class of 2019, 1st term, Area 2

COM Moderator for 2017 – Jim McCrea, Teaching Elder (Class of 2018)

Committee on Preparation for Ministry –

Susan Presley, Teaching Elder – Class of 2017, 1st term

Mission Strategies and Resources Board –

David Spaulding, Teaching Elder – Class of 2019, 1st term

Wade Ditty, Teaching Elder – Class of 2019, 1st term

Vice Moderator (filling current vacancy due to resignation)

Mike Selburg, Teaching 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.

The Presbytery received the Nominating Report.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS

Rev. Craig Herr presented to the Presbytery for the first reading the Blackhawk Presbytery Dismissal Policy (which will be voted on at the February, 2017 Presbytery Meeting) along with a schedule of Forums that will be held to discuss the Policy. The dates and meeting places are the following:

Wednesday, October 5th at 7:00 p.m. – First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, IL

Saturday, October 8th at 10:00 a.m. – AuSable Grove Presbyterian Church, Yorkville, IL

Thursday, October 13th at 7:00 p.m. – Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rockford, IL

***Wednesday, October 19th at 7:00 p.m. – Ridgefield Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church,
Crystal Lake, IL***

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LOVES PARK, IL.

Rev. Anita Stuart-Steva made the motion and it was seconded to not enforce the current policy for church dismissal for Bethany Presbyterian Church, Loves Park, IL.

Motion **failed**.

Motion was made and seconded to dismiss the Administrative Commission for Bethany Presbyterian Church, Loves Park, IL.

Motion was **approved**.

Motion was made and seconded to reconsider the previous motion to not enforce the current policy for church dismissal for Bethany Presbyterian Church, Loves Park, IL.

Motion made, seconded and **approved** to close debate.

The motion to reconsider was then **approved**.

The motion to not enforce the current policy for church dismissal for Bethany Presbyterian Church, Loves Park, IL, was then **approved**.

Motion was made and seconded for Presbytery to adopt the Letter in the packets to be sent to Bethany Presbyterian Church, Loves Park, IL.

Motion was made, seconded and **approved** to table the above motion regarding the letter until Presbytery acted on the dismissal of Bethany: Loves Park, IL.

Motion was made and seconded that Bethany, Loves Park, IL be dismissed to the Great Lakes Presbytery of the Evangelical Order of Presbyterians (ECO) with all assets including property and building, dismissal to be followed by the Presbytery joining together in the Litany for Dismissal; and that the rolls and registers be copied for the church, at the church's expense, and returned to Presbytery.

Motion was made, seconded and **approved** to call for the question.

The motion to dismiss Bethany Presbyterian Church, Loves Park, IL was then **approved**.

Motion was made, seconded and **approved** to withdraw the tabled motion for Presbytery to adopt the Letter to Bethany Church in Loves Park, IL.

The Litany for Dismissal was then held.

MISSION STRATEGIES AND RESOURCES BOARD

Moderator Laurie Walker reported on the Living Waters for the World Network which Ridgefield/Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church and Fox Valley Presbyterian Church, Geneva has been involved in this project.

The Special Offerings at Presbytery Meetings in September and November will go toward the Coins for Kenya.

MSRB approved donating \$500 to the Illinois Conference of Churches; and giving the Northern Illinois Food Bank report time during the Presbytery meeting.

The MSRB also discussed the Restructuring Proposal with the suggestion that a substitute proposal be presented that preserved MSRB and combines BAC and BOM.

The Presbytery received the MSRB Report.

COM

Rev. David Spaulding made the motions and they were **approved** for the following:

Moderators:

Rev. Bill Ward for Marengo First effective September 1, 2016.

Rev. Susan Presley for Waterman effective October 1, 2016.

REMINDER: **Moderators are paid by the church, for mileage, and per hour, door to door, according to the fee schedule set by Presbytery (available on the Presbytery website under COM and reprinted below).**

Transfers

The Rev. Cathy Allen (Interim, Waltham) from Homestead Presbytery.

The Rev. Steven Neal Allen, HR, from Homestead Presbytery effective 9/13/16.

The Rev. Scott Vandenheuval to Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery effective 7/1/16.

The Rev. Cheryl Lunday to Great Rivers Presbytery effective 9/13/16

The Rev. Brad Rogers to Peace River Presbytery effective 7/18/16

Dissolutions

The relationship between the Rev. Brad Rogers and Rockford Westminster effective July 17, 2016.

The relationship between the Rev. Roger Boekenhauer and the Waterman Church effective September 25, 2016.

Dissolve Position

The position of Associate Pastor held by Rev. Brad Rogers at Westminster, Rockford effective July 17, 2016.

Change of Status

The change of status to “retired” for Rev. Roger Boekenhauer effective September 25, 2016.

Contracts

The Interim contract between Rev. Hope Sibson and Wheatfield Presbyterian, effective June 13, 2016. This contract will be in effect for one year.

<i>Pastor Effective Salary</i>		
<i>Salary</i>	\$	22,500
<i>SECA</i>		3,500
<i>Housing</i>		<u>21,000</u>
<i>Sub-total</i>	\$	47,000
<i>Pension 11.0%</i>	\$	5,170
<i>Life/Medical 23.0%</i>		10,810
<i>Death/Disability 0.9%</i>		423
<i>Medical Reimbursement</i>		4,000
<i>Continuing Education</i>		1,500
<i>Professional Expenses</i>		<u>4,100</u>

Sub-total \$ 26,003.
Grand Total \$ 73,003

**Time Off: 30 days of Vacation, 4 Days of Sunday's Off, 2 Days off on Sunday Leave,
14 days Continuing Education (2 Sundays, Pastoral Care)**

Note: Mileage is in Professional Expenses

The extension of Rev. Jim Camp's interim contract with Fulton Presbyterian until November 27, 2016.

Renewal of Donna Gericke's contract with Shannon, Prairie Dell effective 9/1/16 – 8/31/17 for 15-20 hours per week, cash salary of \$32,642. Paid time off: 10 Sundays/year.

Renewal of Melinda Stephenson's contract with LaPrairie.

Commissions

Commission CRE Claire Brennecka to give communion at Winnebago Middle Creek on October 2, 2016.

Extend the Commissions of CRE's Tanya Muzzarelli and Gretchen Hammeke from Rockford Westminster to Marengo First to administer the sacraments and perform weddings at Marengo effective 9/1/16 – 4/15/17 when the arrangement will be reviewed.

Moderator Rev. Julie Raffety then led the Presbytery in a Commissioning Service for Claire Brennecka, Tanya Muzzarelli and Gretchen Hammeke, followed by prayer.

FYI

Churches without installed pastors, or about to be without, some may have interims....

Streator, Fairbury, Fulton, Garden Plain, Hanover, LaRose, Peotone, Pontiac, Princeton, Oswego, Plainfield, New Lenox, Dakota, Oregon, Kankakee, St. Anne, Bolingbrook, Rockford Third, Marengo (in a provisional arrangement with Rockford Westminster), Waltham, Watseka, Waterman, Wilmington, Winnebago First.

Triennial Visit Completed

Henry, Savanna, Franklin Grove, Sparland La Prairie
Scheduled: Dakota

COM Reminder

The second annual meeting of the whole for 2016 will be on Tuesday, October 25, at 11 a.m. Please let me know if you cannot attend this meeting.

REMUNERATION SCHEDULE FOR SESSION MODERATORS

The Commission on Ministry has approved the following Remuneration schedule for Session Moderators:

- \$25 per hour for a congregation with fewer than 150 members
- \$50 per hour for a congregation with 151-300 members
- \$75 per hour for a congregation with more than 300 members
- Mileage is to be paid at the current IRS Rate (\$0.54 per mile in 2016)
- Travel time is included in the hourly rate

The Presbytery received the Committee on Ministry Report.

Vice Moderator, Rev. Mike Selburg then presided over the meeting.

PERSONNEL

Moderator Rev. Anita Stuart-Steva gave the Personnel Report. She thanked everyone who turned in evaluations for the review of the General Presbyter. Overall they were very positive.

For your information:

- Lou Ann Breckenridge, the treasurer, has offered to reduce her stipend for 2017 from \$6,000 to \$4,800 to more accurately reflect the time she spends in the office. The stipend covers her mileage.
- John Rickard, the General Presbyter/Stated Clerk, has offered to reduce his salary for 2017 by \$15,000 to help balance the per capita budget.

Budget recommendations:

- Raise the salary of the staff assistant by 3%. She has not had a pay increase since she was hired in 2012.
- Allocate \$400 for additional training of the bookkeeper in the Quicken program.

The Presbytery received the Personnel Report.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (First reading of the 2017 Per Capita and Mission Budgets)

Moderator Rev. Julie Raffety read a motion that was approved by the BAC Committee:

To charge the Stronghold Committee to live within budget established by Presbytery (i.e. \$50,000 and currently paid insurance, taxes and accounting) and to prepare a transition plan (within 60 days) for self-sufficiency or closure and sell, with due consideration given to closure of summer camps, reduction of staff and maintenance provided by contracted help.

The 2017 Per Capita and Mission Budgets were presented for the First Reading.

The Presbytery received the Business Affairs Committee Report.

TREASURER/TRUSTEES

Treasurer Lou Ann Breckenridge reviewed the Financial Report. Current cash balances reflect a net cash loss of \$25,734.67 for the month; \$182,428.75 year-to-date; and \$356,391.10 from previous year balances.

At the current rate of usage, 2017 reserve cash on hand will be exhausted in approximately 9 months.

Lou Ann made the following motions for the Trustees, and they were **approved**:

- The First Presbyterian Church of Morris, IL to proceed with the restoration of their stained glass windows at a cost of \$47,124. Pledges towards this project currently total \$29,000, and additional pledges and fundraisers are anticipated. They are also requesting permission to seek financing as needed. In addition, they offered Presbytery the opportunity to contribute to this project if there is money available.

The Trustees have voted to approve this project, but have declined to offer a financial contribution, due to Presbytery's current cash position.

- The Hanover United Presbyterian Church to put their manse on the market for sale as soon as possible. The reason for doing so is the fact that they will never be able to afford a full time minister who would live in the manse. Therefore, the expenses that come with the upkeep and repair are draining their budget.

The Trustees voted to approve this sale.

- The First Presbyterian Church of Sterling to do some major repairs to their sanctuary, including plaster and repainting of the sanctuary and the replacement of the air conditioning system in the sanctuary. Estimates for these projects total approximately \$75,000, which will be funded using capital campaign funds on hand, currently just over \$90,000.

The Trustees have voted to approve this request.

The Presbytery received the Treasurer/Trustees Report.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Rev. Conley Zomermaand, Oswego, announced that the property that the Church was looking to sell, has been sold.

Presbytery was reminded of the November Presbytery Meeting and the Program on Monday, November 7th, with Co-Moderator of General Assembly Rev. Jan Edmiston.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded, and **approved** to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m. The Vice – Moderator, Rev. Mike Selburg gave the closing prayer.

The next meeting of the Presbytery will be at Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center, Oregon, IL, at 9:00 a.m. on November 8, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. John Rickard, Stated Clerk

Karen McClenthen, Recording Clerk