

**PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK**  
**STATED MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2017**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MANTENO, ILLINOIS**

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened Tuesday, September 12, 2017, in a Stated Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Manteno, Illinois. Moderator Rev. Mike Selburg called the meeting to order with 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. 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  | Mike Selburg       |
|       | Stated Clerk's Report   | John Rickard       |
|       | Adoption of Docket/Approval of Minutes/Orientation to the Meeting/<br>New Elders and Pastors Introduced, corrections to Ecclesiastical Manual |                    |
| 9:45  | Worship   |                    |
| 10:45 | Break   |                    |
| 11:00 | Stories of Mission and Ministry   |                    |
| 11:30 | Life Together (Business Plenary Session)  |                    |
|       | Committees of Council   |                    |
|       | Council Report  | Mike Selburg       |
|       | Personnel   | Anita Stuart-Steva |
|       | Business Affairs Committee  | Bill Ward          |
|       | (First Reading of 2018 Budget)  |                    |
|       | Treasurer   | Frank Finch        |
|       | Stronghold  | Kathie Luke        |
|       | Mission   | Laurie Walker      |
|       | Assembly Planning Committee   | Mike Selburg       |
| 12:00 | Lunch and Networks & Partnerships Center  |                    |
| 1:00  | Community Building Activity   |                    |
| 1:15  | Life Together (Business Plenary Session) Continued  |                    |
|       | Presbyterian Women  | Bev Scharlau       |
|       | Committee on Preparation for Ministry   | Jan Chandler       |
|       | Nominating  | Martha Logeson     |
|       | Commission on Ministry  | Jim McCrea         |
|       | Commissioning of Lay Pastors  |                    |
|       | Trustees  | Mike Selburg       |
|       | Administrative Commissions: Washburn  |                    |
| 2:15  | New and Unfinished Business   |                    |
| 2:30  | Adjourn with Prayer   |                    |

Next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery will be **November 14, 2017** at Stronghold, Oregon, IL.  
Registration at 9:00 a.m., Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Learning Day: Monday, November 13, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Soul Shop.

A motion was made, seconded and **approved** to accept the minutes of the June 13, 2017, 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 Members:

Rev. Eric Heinekamp – Presbytery of Chicago

Jamison Wheeler – Episcopal Church

Alex Regets – Student Pastor at Peotone, IL

Stated Clerk/General Presbyter Rev. Dr. John Rickard gave the following report:

Stated Clerk Report:

Locations of 2018 Stated Meetings of the Presbytery:

February 13: 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian, Belvidere

April 10: Fox Valley Presbyterian Church, Geneva

June 12: Stronghold, Oregon

September 11: 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian, Morrison

November 13: Westminster Presbyterian, Joliet

Continue assisting sister Presbytery in disciplinary case.

Acted as Clerk for sister Presbytery for called meeting.

General Presbytery Report:

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

Illinois Conference of Churches Public Policy Committee

Synod of Lincoln Trails Executive Collegium

Moderated/met with the Sessions of Harvard, Princeton, and Elgin

Attended worship and brought greetings from the Presbytery at Sandwich for their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Federated church.

Met with representative from Olivet Nazarene University regarding preaching partnership.

Worked with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Long Term Recovery Committee of LaSalle County regarding tornado recovery.

Staff the Commission on Ministry, Nominating Committee, Mission, Business Affairs Committee, and Council.

Assisted Pastor Nominating Committees in their search processes.

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.

Stated Clerk/General Presbyter Rev. Dr. John Rickard made a correction to the Ecclesiastical Manual: **To change the wording Teaching Elder to Minister of Word and Sacrament**, due to changes in the Book of Order.

**WORSHIP**

The Service of Worship for the day was presented. Presbytery was led in worship by Pastor Carrie Kapral – CRE Elwood, Pastor Tanya Muzzarelli – CRE Marengo, Elder Karen Weis – Westminster Rockford, Pastor Chrystal Abbott – CRE Manteno, and Rev. Dr. John Richard – GP Blackhawk Presbytery, who preached a sermon entitled “Threatened with Resurrection”. The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was observed by intinction.

### **STORIES OF MISSION AND MINISTRY**

There were four stories of Mission and Ministry that were received and enjoyed by the Presbytery:

1. Rev. Mike Selburg spoke of a Mission trip that he has participated in called Yucatan Peninsula Mission. He encouraged churches that would be interested in this mission to talk to him about details.
2. Ken Mozingo, Oswego, reported on the Environmental Ministries – Earth Care Congregations – Oswego Church is an Earth Care Congregation – called to Restore the Creation. He highlighted on the following: Adopt A Highway, Community Garden, Styrofoam Recycling, Ugly Fabric Quilt Challenge, and Monarch Waystation.
3. Bev Scharlau, Waltham, reported on their church volunteering at the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Rockford. Some of their duties were packing and sorting items to be distributed.
4. Rev. John Dillon, Ridgefield-Crystal Lake, reported on the Right Center Left Production Co. which is a Theatre Company and presents a Dinner and Play, with proceeds donated to charity. They did three shows a weekend and this year they presented more than one play. Different groups provide volunteers to work on weekends and receive compensation for their work.

Dorothy Henderson invited members to a program at Central Presbyterian Church in New Lenox called “Eleanor Roosevelt,” a living history portrayal by Leslie Goddard. This will be held Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.

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

#### **COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL**

##### **COUNCIL REPORT**

Moderator Rev. Mike Selburg reported on the Council’s work. We read in unison Our Vision Statement, and highlighted on Our Values, Who We Are, Meeting Courtesies, Meeting Basic Rules, and Roberts Rules of Order Process. The Council has discussed the timeline for changing the Vision Statement and agreed that the November Presbytery meeting would be a good time to gain input from the Presbytery Assembly.

##### **PERSONNEL**

Moderator Anita Stuart-Steva reported on the Committee’s meeting with the Presbytery Bookkeeper, Treasurer, Staff Assistant and General Presbytery/Stated Clerk. The Committee made the following recommendations to BAC for the 2018 Budget:

- Increase compensation for the Treasurer from \$4,800 to \$6,000.
- Raise salary of Staff Assistant by \$.50/hour.
- Increase salary of General Presbyter/Stated Clerk by 3%, which is his first raise in 5 years.

Also reported was churches can receive a new copy of Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) or you can go to their website.

### **BUSINESS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Moderator Rev. Bill Ward reported on the Per Capita dues. The Ad Hoc Committee of Rev. Ward, Rev. Mike Selburg, Rev. John Rickard and Rev. Jim McCrea reviewed the status of Per Capita Assessment – of the 75 churches in our Presbytery, 22 have paid 100% of their PCA, 23 have paid 50% of their PCA, and the others have been contacted. Some of the problems facing these churches are: financially unstable (can't pay), unaware they were not paid up, aware but they are addressing it in a positive manner, using PCA for protest toward General Assembly mostly, and we have not heard from some of the churches.

The Presbytery Meals are going from \$5.00 per person, to \$8.00 per person in 2018.

Moderator Rev. Bill Ward presented the 2018 Presbytery Budget for the first reading, to be voted on at the November Presbytery Meeting.

### **TREASURER**

Frank Finch reported on the financial status, stating that Stronghold did phenomenal this summer. They went from negative to a positive financially.

### **STRONGHOLD**

Moderator Rev. Kathie Luke presented the **COVENANT** between the Presbytery of Blackhawk ("Blackhawk Presbytery" or "BP"), Inc. and the Stronghold Committee, which is to become Stronghold Center, Inc. (SC, Inc.) for its first reading.

Other events that will be happening at Stronghold are:

***The Murder Mystery Night***

***Olde English Faire***

***Stronghold Men's Retreat***

***Stronghold Women's Retreat***

***Also – the Light Up Stronghold – We need LED lights – You can bring them to the November Presbytery Meeting at Stronghold or drop them off at your leisure.***

### **LUNCH INSTRUCTIONS AND NETWORKS & PARTNERSHIPS CENTER**

The Presbytery was given lunch instructions and prayer was offered by CRE Chrystal Abbott.

The Presbytery reconvened with prayer by Moderator Rev. Mike Selburg who presided over the meeting.

### **COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITY**

Ryan Anderson, Stronghold Program & Summer Camp Director, led the Presbytery into a getting to know each other activity by splitting them into groups and asking each other questions to learn more about each other.

Ryan then reported on the Summer Camp Program – Stronghold had a great summer with a great staff.

Dr. Danny Pierce, Stronghold Executive Director, and John Gerlach also spoke on behalf of Stronghold. They encouraged the Presbytery members to remember to give to the Stronghold ministry.

### **BLACKHAWK MISSION COMMITTEE**

Moderator Laurie Walker reported on the following Mission work:

- The BMC approved the Elgin Mission Grant Application for \$1,000 to go toward the cost to replace their church's lift.
- BMC approved the Ridgefield Crystal Lake, Westminster (DeKalb), First (Galena) Peacemaking Grant Application for \$225 grant to help support the peacemaker speaker, Paola Schellenbaum from Italy who will be speaking at the following events in October:
  - Tuesday, Oct. 10 & Wednesday, Oct. 11 – Galena
  - Thursday, Oct. 12 – Westminster DeKalb
  - Friday, Oct. 13 – Westminster DeKalb
  - Sunday, Oct. 15 – Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian (RCLPC).
- BMC approved the donation of \$500 to support the Illinois Conference of Churches.
- BMC reviewed the history of **Peace and Global Witness Offering** collections, which funds Blackhawk's Peacemaking Grants.
- 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.
- The Committee reminded all churches of the Church World Service Kit Challenge explained on the Blackhawk Presbytery website under Mission Opportunities.

Thanks were given to those members who brought Clean-Up buckets today. There were 115 collected today. They reminded members to bring all kits (and more buckets) to the November Presbytery Meeting at Stronghold.

Rev. Steve Bowie spoke of Cuba and David Cortez Fuentes, who teaches at the Evangelical Theology Seminary in Cuba. He asked for prayers for the people there since Hurricane Irma hit the area.

#### **ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Moderator Rev. Mike Selburg reported on the **2017 Learning Opportunities:**

***Sept. 12 – (Manteno) Stories of Mission & Ministry***

***Nov. 13-14 – (Stronghold) Monday event – Soul Shop (suicide prevention and awareness training)***

***Tuesday – Council to plan/execute a discussion around current Vision Statement***

***1 hour – Sharing Mission & Ministry – Yorkville (Heifer), Morrison, Peacemaker visit.***

#### **2018**

***Feb. 13 – (Belvidere) Presentation around using the Church Year to enhance worship & church Activities. Possible continued discussion about revising Vision Statement***

***April 10 – (Geneva Fox Valley) – Will do Synod-sponsored half day Boundary Training***

***Condensed business meeting/worship in the morning, training in the afternoon.***

***June 12 – (Stronghold) – Will we want a Monday seminar event since we'll be at Stronghold?***

***Sept. 11 – (Morrison) TBD***

***Nov. 13 – (Joliet Westminster) – Need to discuss the impact on CWS Kits Harvest, traditionally held in Nov. at Stronghold***

Rev. Anita Stuart-Steva reported on the event to be held Monday, November 13, 2017 at Stronghold Castle (the day before the November Presbytery Meeting), called "Soul Soup – Ministering to Suicidal Desperation". This event is open to everyone and is designed to equip faith community leaders to minister to those impacted by suicidal desperation.

## **BUSINESS PLENARY SESSION**

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Bev Scharlau reported on the following:

Fall Gathering – September 23, 2017 at Joliet Westminster Church, Joliet, IL

2017 Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women – “For the Healing of the Nations”

Sunset Gap – *Bridging the Gap Between Nutrition and Health*, Cosby, TN - \$50,000

A refrigerated box truck for its food pantry in rural Appalachia. (Just one of the areas that our gifts will help.)

2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women – August 2-5, 2018 in Louisville, Kentucky

Bev reminded everyone of the Church World Service Kits Challenge – 700 Clean-Up Buckets are needed. Don't forget your buckets at the November Presbytery Meeting.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Moderator Martha Logeson made the motion and for the following nominations:

***Moderator of Committee on Preparation for Ministry***

***Jan Chandler – to fill vacancy left by Ryan Pixton who has left Blackhawk Presbytery***

***Commission on Ministry***

***Class of 2019 – RE – Claire Brennecka – Harvard (Area-1)***

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.

### **COMMISSION ON MINISTRY**

Rev. Roy Backus made an omnibus motion, and they were **approved** for the following:

- ***Extend the commission of CRE Claire Brennecka for Harvard until January 1, 2018 to allow the congregation a little more time to call an interim pastor. Also, extend her commission to Valley High Nursing Home for the same period.***
- ***Commission CRE Jack Berghorst to administer sacraments, perform weddings and funeral services, and moderate session at New Lenox Central and have voice and vote at presbytery.***
- ***Commission CRE Tanya Muzzarelli to serve sacraments and moderate session (20 hours per week) for Marengo effective September 16, 2017 to December 31, 2018.***
- ***Extend the commission of CRE Carrie Kapral to serve sacraments, perform weddings and funeral services and moderate at Elwood Community and have voice and vote at presbytery.***
- ***Commission CRE Barbara D'Souza to administer sacraments to Area 1 churches. The idea is to authorize her to serve as a substitute leader for the congregations in this region. The presbytery previously approved a similar situation for CRE Al Lisk. The COM is asking for approval of this specific commission without turning this into a precedent. Instead, we ask to reserve the authority for COM to discuss similar future situations on a case-by-case basis.***

- *Receive Rev. William “Winn” Alley, interim pastor at Wilmington First, with dual standing in both the UCC and the PC(USA).*
- *Dissolve the relationship between Rev. Ryan Pixton and Fox Valley effective August 15<sup>th</sup>. The terms of dissolution are:*
  1. *Continuation of salary, housing allowance, medical reimbursement, and pension and medical for six months at the effective date of resignation or on the first day of employment in a full-time position.*
  2. *Provide favorable recommendations.*
  3. *Pay for Rev. Pixton’s second week of CREDO.*
  4. *Pay any final expenses related to the youth ministry cohort in progress.*
  5. *Pay up to \$1,600 for Rev. Pixton to participate in a vocational discernment program with LeaderWise.*
  
- *Dissolve the relationship between Rev. Jennifer Olson and Au Sable Grove effective Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Rev. Olson is accepting a call to a church in Denison, Iowa. Elder Frank Chandler moderated the congregational meeting on Sept. 3. The terms of dissolution are:*
  1. *Unused earned vacation will be paid.*
  2. *The manse will be vacated by September 15, 2017.*
  3. *Medical coverage continues through the end of September, 2017.*
  
- *Transfer Rev. Frank Fisher, Member at Large, to Chicago Presbytery.*
  
- *The attached Minimum Terms of Call.*
  
- *Appoint the following Moderators:*
  1. *Rev. Paul Nelson to moderate the Session at McHenry Faith.*
  2. *Rev. Bob Kopp to moderate the Session at Harvard First.*
  3. *Rev. Matt Robinson to moderate the Session at Au Sable Grove effective Sept. 3, 2017.*

**REPORTING ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY COM:**

**TERMS OF CALL**

- CRE Tanya Muzzarelli to serve part-time (20 hours per week) at Marengo.

Salary	\$	18,000
Stipend beyond 20 hours/week	\$	15.00 per hour
Travel	\$	15.00 per round trip from home 3 times per week @.54 cents
Vacation – Four Sundays per Calendar year		
Professional Expenses	\$	600.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>19,863</b>
  
- Rev. William Torgesen Interim Pastor for McHenry

Salary	\$	38,663
Housing		22,000
Medical – Full coverage with Board of Pensions (the Exact dollar amount is currently unknown since		

The Board of Pensions determines payments  
Differently for non-Presbyterians and we have  
been unable as of yet to get a figure for this.)

Medical Reimbursement	\$	2,500
Continuing Education		1,500
Books		300
Vacation - 1 week per quarter		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>64,963 plus medical</b>

- CRE Jack Berghorst to serve at New Lenox effective September 12, 2017.  
Salary 20 hours per week at \$30 per hour  
Mileage and Tolls At IRS Rate
- Geneva Fox Valley has been approved to form an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.
- Dismiss the Administrative Commission for the installation of Rev. Caleb Suydam at Park Church, Streator.
- Approve the Administrative Commission for the installation of Rev. Joel Stevenor at Waltham on September 16 at 2:30 p.m. Commissioners to be named later.  
Teaching Elders: Susan Presley, Mendota  
Dr. Roy Backus, Morris  
Matt Robinson, Joliet Westminster  
Jack McConaghey, Honorably retired  
Ruling Elders: Jane Stevenor, Waltham  
Amy Ploch, Waltham  
Jeff Novota, Mt Zion  
Kathy Kleckner, Waltham
- Approve Administrative Commission for the installation of Rev. Daniel Robertson on October 15, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Fairbury, IL.  
Ministers: Canessa Lockhart Lagan –First, Pontiac  
Roy Backus – First, Morris  
Jan Chandler – Gardner  
Bo Mircea – First Joliet  
Elders: Dave Perry – First, Morris  
Diana Dooley – First, Pontiac  
Matt Kilgus – First, Fairbury  
Frank Chandler - Gardner  
Ecumenical Representative: Rev. Stephen Goodwin – ELCA - Retired

**Contract Extension**

- CRE Carrie Kapral serving Elwood Community:  
Salary \$ 33,500  
Pension (tax-sheltered annuity or other plan) 7,500  
Continuing Education 1,500  
SECA Allowance 1,700  
Professional Expenses 3,800  
Travel Reimbursement at IRS rate  
Continuing Education time 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays  
Vacation 4 weeks, including 4 Sundays  
Discretionary Days 4 days with prior notice when possible, including 2 Sundays  
**Grand Total \$ 48,000**



### Contract Extension Correction

Correction on the contract for Melinda Stephenson CRE, as pastor of LaPrairie United Presbyterian Church. The Pension figure reported at the June Presbytery meeting was \$1,620. That number should have been \$1,992.

### Miscellaneous

There are two important Board of Pensions deadlines to keep in mind:

- **October 13:** The deadline to submit final Employer Agreements for 2018 on Benefits Connect.
- **October 30-November 17:** The enrollment period for 2018 benefits from the Board of Pensions is, 2017. Go to the "Selecting 2018 Benefits" section of the Board of Pensions website (pensions.org).

In response to a request for a statement assuring pastors and sessions who are concerned about being forced to participate in same-sex marriage ceremonies, the COM refers to an existing statement passed by Blackhawk Presbytery on November 11, 2014:

*Teaching Elders and Sessions conscience regarding performing or not performing same sex marriages as follows: Acknowledging same sex nuptials are legal in Illinois and the PCUSA affords discretion to its teaching elders by the authoritative interpretation of the 221a General Assembly to preside or not preside at such rituals-ceremonies-rites and particular churches may host or not host such ordinances upon Session approval subject to the review of higher judicatories. Blackhawk Presbyteries will honor the consciences of teaching elders and particular churches within its bounds, noting its members are divided among those who embrace the authoritative interpretation as witness to progressive theology and those who reject it according to traditional Christianity. Presiding/participating teaching elders and hosting churches may exercise their consciences as permitted by the authoritative interpretation. No efforts to force teaching elders and session who decline to preside/participate/host will be encouraged, enabled, or condoned. Those who embrace and those who decline do not need to fear ministerial infringements or vocational reprisals in Blackhawk Presbytery.*

The Presbytery Council has asked the COM to urge all sessions in Blackhawk Presbytery, while planning their budgets for 2018, to consider giving their pastors at least a cost of living increase of 2 percent.

Moderator Rev. Mike Selburg then presided over a Service of Commissioning of Lay Pastors Jack Berghorst, Tanya Muzzarelli and Carrie Kapral and closed with a prayer.

Moderator Rev. Mike Selburg made the motion, it was seconded and **approved** to receive all the reports.

### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded, and **approved** to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m. The Moderator gave the closing prayer.

The next meeting of the Presbytery will be at Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center, Oregon IL, on Tuesday, November 14, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. John Rickard, Stated Clerk  
Karen McClenthen, Recording Clerk

**PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK  
STATED MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2017  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MANTENO, IL**

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened Tuesday, September 12, 2017, in a Stated Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Manteno, Illinois. Moderator Rev. Mike Selburg called to meeting to order with prayer at 1:51 p.m.

**CORPORATE TRUSTEES**

President Rev. Mike Selburg announced the Officers for the Trustees are: Mike Selburg: President; Matt Robinson: Vice President; Laurie Walker: Secretary; and Frank Finch: Treasurer.

Motion was made and **approved** for *First Presbyterian, Belvidere, to sell their manse for \$140,000 with proceeds to go to various mission projects and a tithe to go to Presbytery. Rev. Bill Ward spoke to this action.*

Motion was made and **approved** that *Blackhawk Presbytery “quit claim back” the Lake Thunderbird property in the spirit of gifting the property back to the association.*

Other Information:

1. The Trustees approved to have the auditors come to the next Council meeting to give their report and answer questions.
2. The Trustees approved to authorize Jim Keely to find a manager for the property in Washburn.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. John Rickard, Stated Clerk

Karen McClenthen, Recording Clerk