

PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK
STATED MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 11, 2018
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MORRISON, ILLINOIS

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 in a Stated Meeting at the First Presbyterian Church of Morrison, 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.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the docket as presented. 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
 - 1st reading revising Ecclesiastical Manual removing Business Affairs Committee.
 - Approving locations for 2019 Stated Meetings
- 9:45 Worship
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Greetings from Sara Dingman, Executive Synod of Lincoln Trails
- 11:00 Learning Opportunity: Soul Shop
- 12:15 Lunch and Networks and Partnerships Center Matt Robinson
- 1:00 Life Together (Business Plenary Session)
 - Stories of mission and ministry
 - Presbyterian Women Bev Scharlau
 - Nominating Doug Forsburg
 - Committees of Council
 - Council Report Mike Selburg
 - Treasurer Frank Finch
 - Assembly Planning Committee Matt Robinson

	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	Matt Robinson
	Administrative Commission, Washburn	
2:00	Unfinished and New Business	
2:15	Adjourn with Prayer	

A motion was made, seconded, and **Voted** to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2018 Stated Meeting of Presbytery as presented.

First time attending Elders included:

Sandy Cummin from Romeoville
 Marcia Karol from Au Sable Grove
 Audrey Dyer from Oswego

The Stated Clerk moved that Presbytery adopt the following schedule for Stated Meeting sites for 2019:

February 12:	First Presbyterian Church of DuPage, Bolingbrook
April 9:	First Presbyterian, Morris
June 11:	Stronghold, Oregon
September 10:	Oswego Presbyterian Church
November 12:	2 nd Congregational/1 st Presbyterian, Rockford

Presbytery **Voted** to adopt the schedule.

Dr Rickard spread the proposed document revising the Ecclesiastical Administrative Manual (see attached) before the Presbytery for a first reading. The essence of the changes were to eliminate the Business Affairs Committee and assign its responsibilities to the Presbytery Council.

The Clerk then presented his report of activity since the last Stated Meeting:

(Although a good part of my summer was spent recovering, some things still got done)

Attended 223rd General Assembly as a Commissioner
 Attended retirement celebration for Dale Dykstra
 Member Illinois Conference of Churches Public Policy Committee
 Staff the Commission on Ministry, Nominating Committee, Council, Presbytery
 Assembly Planning Committee, and Trustees.

Assist churches searching for interim/transitional pastors and Pastoral Nominating Committees, performed computer matching for Pastor Nominating Committees to consider, conducted background checks on finalists and consulted with PNCs and COM as needed.

Provided background and reference checks to calling Presbyteries
Participated in Synod of Lincoln Trails Collegium.

WORSHIP

The worship was presented by the Commissioners to this summer's General Assembly, who took various liturgical parts of the worship with each member presenting a message featuring one aspect of the anagram "PCUSA", which was the guiding statement for the Assembly as follows:

Prayerful, Courageous, United, Serving, Alive.

Each section was followed by verses of hymns which reflected the message being shared.

REPORT OF THE SYNOD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After a ten-minute break, the report of the Synod was given by their Executive Director, Rev. Sara Dingman. She thanked the Presbytery for our financial support. They are beginning a program of "coaching" both Ruling and Teaching Elders to create action rather than simply "studying" issues. Also new is a re-working of the Synod website.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY – SOUL SHOP

Presbytery received training in suicide prevention from a program entitled "Soul Shop." Members of the Presbytery had attended a workshop about this important topic and shared in the presentation. They included Rev. Anita Stuart-Steva, Rev. Matt Robinson, Rev. John Dillon, and Elder Laurie Walker. The format encouraged Presbytery Commissioners to respond personally to many questions in a power-point presentation.

The central point was that we all should "ask" friends or loved ones if they are (or ever have) considered suicide if they manifest behaviors that worry us about their mental stability. The catchword "CALL" stood for Commit, Ask, Listen, and Lead to safety. Hand-outs included the National Suicide Hotline phone number 1-800-273-8255.

GENERAL PRESBYTER HONORED

Rev. James McCrea came forward to honor (and "roast") General Presbyter Rev. Dr. John Rickard upon his 40th anniversary of his Ordination. Besides the shared highlights of his careers, John received a lovely picture and one GIANT cupcake with the number "40" on it.

LUNCH AND NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS CENTER

The host pastor, Rev. Mike Selburg, explained the arrangements for the luncheon being served in the church basement and offered the prayer for grace.

LIFE TOGETHER – (BUSINESS PLENARY SESSION)

Vice Moderator Dale Prindiville assumed the chair and re-opened the meeting with prayer.

STORIES OF MISSION AND MINISTRY

Rev. Christina Berry of the Sterling Church introduced the assembly to Sauk Valley UNITE, an ecumenical project that UNITED local teens for a week of fun, worship, teaching, and service to the community by painting 5 houses. This group of four churches also sponsors a very successful Vacation Bible School for their community. Further plans include an ecumenical retreat and a pastor's book group.

Chaplain Colonel David Terrinoni, recently retired from the USAF, reported to the Presbytery. He has moved 18 times in 31 years of service: 46 countries, 8 deployments, and 5 wars. He considers himself a missionary to young adults in the Air Force and wanted to extend his gratitude to members of Blackhawk for their support.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

President Bev Scharlau presented the report. She told Presbytery that there will not be the normal Fall Gathering this year, but that September 29 would be a Presbytery-wide work day at the Northern Illinois Food Bank instead. Thirty volunteers are needed and registration ends on September 19.

She reported on the Louisville Triennial that had met in August. 1,600 women from 11 countries were present. Eight ladies from Blackhawk Presbytery were able to attend. In an offering there, a total of over \$83,000 was raised.

She reminded Presbytery that the Church World Service kits should be brought to the November meeting. The boxes are to be sealed shut with the amount and type of kits clearly marked on the outside. The process fee checks should be brought to the meeting at that time.

The new Presbyterian Women's Bible Study is in print. Pledge sheets are out and she thanked participating churches for their support. A kit for Thank Offerings is available.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair Rev. Doug Forsberg presented the report. He nominated Charles Johnson from Sandwich Church to be the Vice-Moderator of Presbytery in 2019. The reason for electing a Vice Moderator now instead of in November is so that this person can attend the national PC(USA)

Moderator's Training in the fall. After an opportunity for nominations from the floor, Presbytery **Voted** to elect him.

He then nominated Ernest Gardner from the Westminster Church in Rockford to fill a 2019 term on the Commission on Ministry. After an opportunity for nominations from the floor, Presbytery **Voted** to elect him.

COUNCIL REPORT

Rev. Mike Selburg reported that the strategic planning process by the Council is continuing, with an emphasis upon our contexts and the needs within them.

The final draft for a new process for selecting General Assembly Commissioners and YAADS (see attached) was submitted for a first reading to the Presbytery.

Council has directed the Presbytery staff to begin posting the year-to-date per capita payments of Blackhawk Churches on the Presbytery home page and Assembly meetings pages.

The Council moved to nominate Kathy Linn (First Pres, Galena) to the Nominating Committee for both the class of 2018 and 2021. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

Rev. Selburg moved on behalf of Council to nominate Rev. Doug Forsberg to remain on the Nominating Committee for the class of 2021 and also to serve as the Nominating Committee Moderator for 2019. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Frank Finch was not present, but he presented an 8-page printed report. Presbytery cash accounts have increased from the past year, but remain strong. Stronghold is \$122,295.10 in arrears in payroll reimbursement. Of the total in arrears, \$22,190.47 is from 2017. Currently in August they have paid back \$30,980.67. The \$50,000 in Stillman bank can be used to pay down this debt reducing it to \$41,314.43 at this point.

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 and summer camp. It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to approve the report of the treasurer.

LIFE TOGETHER (CONTINUED)

Moderator Rev. Matt Robinson assumed the chair.

ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Rev Matt Robinson reported for the committee. 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 and the opportunity to volunteer at the facility following the meeting on Nov. 13.

STRONGHOLD

Rev. Kathie Luke gave the informational report. 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 develop the by-laws and other documents that are necessary. The summer season has concluded with nearly 800 campers. Once again, they hired a truly diverse and talented staff. She reminded Presbytery that the Olde English Faire will be held on October 6 and 7 and that volunteers are needed.

MISSION

Chairperson Laurie Walker gave the report. Funding for Mission Grants and Peacemaking Grants is available for partial start-up funding for new initiatives. The committee will be sending a letter this fall to the churches to find mission projects that can be affirmed and supported with prayer.

PERSONNEL

Rev. Anita Stuart-Steva gave the report. The committee reviewed the employer pension and medical plan options for 2019. The Presbytery offers both Pastor Participation (ordained) and Menu (non-ordained options to its current staff. The currently approved policies include;

- The Pastor Participation group requires Pension/Death and disability and medical. The Presbytery also offered Dental at the employee's expense.
- The Menu option included medical PPO with the Presbytery paying 50% of the member's premium and death and disability and dental at the employee's expense.

The Committee approved the addition of the following options:

- For both pastor participation and menu groups – vision eyewear coverage at the employee's expense.
- Under Menu options – add availability of a High Deductible Health plan and a Health Savings account. This would require that Presbytery budget for the 50% of the employee participation in the PPO medical plan, but if the employee chooses the High Deductible Plan, we take that same dollar commitment to pay 50% of that premium and contribute the rest to a Health Savings Account. The presbytery already budgets for 50% of the member's premium, so any increase will only reflect changes in the BOP's charges.

Budget Recommendations

- \$.50/hr increase for Loreen Stravers

- In consultation with Danny Pierce, Blackhawk Presbytery and Stronghold agree to increase Treasurer Frank Finch's compensation from \$6,000 to 12,000 annually. This will result in an increase of \$1,500 to the Presbytery budget.

The chairman moved in behalf of the committee to have Presbytery approve the above recommendations. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Chair Jan Chandler presented the report.

The committee met with Alex Regets. He had submitted the paperwork to be moved from inquirer to candidate status. He submitted a Statement of Faith to the Committee and they made it available to the Commissioners before this meeting. He will be graduating from Western Theological Seminary in May of 2019. He will be taking his Ordination Examinations before seeking Ordination. He is shifting from seeking Ordination by the Reformed Church in America to the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Alex presented his biographical sketch and was available to answer questions about the progression of his understanding of his Call to ministry. Following the questions and his responses, he was escorted from the room. Following brief discussion, it was moved and seconded to approve granting Alex Regets the status of Candidate under the care of Blackhawk Presbytery. Presbytery **Voted** to approve. He was escorted back into the room where the Presbytery rose and greeted him by singing the Doxology.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

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

The committee moved to approve dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Rev. Judith March Hardie and the Caledonia Willow Creek Church effective September 23 (although she does have some vacation time beyond that) and transfer her membership to Grace Presbytery upon their request. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

He moved that Presbytery approve dissolution of the pastoral relationship between CRE Carrie Kapral and the Elwood Church effective September 30. She plans to remain a member of COM and has been placed on the pulpit supply list at her request. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

The committee moved to permit CRE Charles Johnson for one time to perform a baptism at Waterman on September 16th. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

Rev. McCrea moved that Presbytery renew the commissions of Barb D'Souza to serve all Area 1 churches and Tanya Muzzarelli to serve the Westminster Rockford Church for three years. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

He moved to dissolve the position of installed pastor at Rockford Korean Church effective September 1, 2018 pending congregational concurrence. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

ACTIONS REPORTED OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY COM

Terms of Call:

Rev. Angela McClane pastor for Princeton beginning October 1, 2018:

Salary/ Housing	\$40,000
Fair Rental Value of Manse	12,000
Utilities Allowance	4,160
<i>Total Effective Salary</i>	<i>56,160</i>
Business/Professional Expenses	3,900
Mileage (\$.54 per mile)	1,200
SECA Supplement (up to 50%)	4,044
Continuing Education	1,500
Medical Reimbursement	3,370
Moving Expenses (up to)	<u>7,500</u>
Total Terms of Call	77,764

Terms of Call:

Rev. Spencer Lawrence as Interim Pastor for Kewanee/Elmira from July to September 2018:

Salary @ 3.5 modules/week (Sunday afternoon, evening, Monday morning, Monday afternoon) 14 hours at \$20.00 per hour.	\$280
Total Monthly Salary	\$2,230/month
Worship Leading module @ 200.00 per week	\$800/month
Mileage (.54/mile- approx. 300 mi/wk)	\$650/month
Sunday Evening Housing	\$500/month

Terms of Call:

Rev. David Barnes Interim pastor for Princeton from June 1 to August, 2018:

Salary \$1,200/month
Mileage reimbursement @.54/mi

Approve Au Sable Grove to form a Pastor Nominating Committee

Approved a one-month extension for Melinda Stephenson at La Prairie church

Approved sabbatical for Rev John Walker from Ottawa Church from April 22 to August 15, 2019.

Appoint Rev. James Friedmeyer to moderate the Session at La Prairie.

Appoint Rev. Roy Backus to moderate Session at Elwood.

Approved the formation of a Pastor Nominating Committee at Westminster Rockford.

Approved the formation of a Pastor Nominating Committee for Kewanee-Elmira.

Those who missed the boundary training during the April Presbytery meeting, have two opportunities to do make-up training. The events are October 1 at Indiana Presbyterian Church in Vincennes, IN and October 2 at Mitchell Presbyterian Church in Mitchell, IN Each presentation will run from 10:00 a.m. to 3 P.m. and lunch will be provided. Mark Sundby, M.Div., Ph.D., L.P. and Executive Director of LeaderWise is conducting both of these workshops. He is an outstanding presenter. The deadline to register is September 20th. To register, go to <http://www.presbyteryov.org/news/event-registration>. **Please remember that boundary training is required for all those who lead a church in this Presbytery.**

CORPORATION/TRUSTEES

The Trustees reported through Rev. Matt Robinson.

Matt moved on behalf of the Board to permit the Fulton Presbyterian Church to sign for an addendum to their current mortgage in the amount of \$72,655 for the purpose of resurfacing their parking lot. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

The Board moved that Presbytery approve the request of the Waltham Presbyterian Church to spend up to \$150,000 of currently-held funds to replace the church's roof. Presbytery **Voted** to approve.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS There was no old or new business.

A motion was made, seconded, and **Voted** to adjourn at 2:35 PM. The Moderator offered the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. John Rickard, Stated Clerk

Rev. Dr. Dale Dykstra, Recording Clerk

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery will be September 11, 2018 at the First Presbyterian Church, 100 E. Lincolnway, Morrison, IL. Registration at 9 AM, Meeting at 9:30 AM.