

# MINUTES OF PRESBYTERY – FEBRUARY 27, 2010

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAND ISLAND

The stated meeting of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska was held on February 27, 2010, at the First Presbyterian Church of Grand Island. Meeting was called to order in prayer at 9:05 a.m. by Moderator Anne Quigley with the assembled singing the hymn “Morning Has Broken.” The Rev. Caroline Price-Gibson, host pastor, welcomed all.

### STATE OF THE PRESBYTERY

Moderator Quigley presented a written State of the Presbytery report, verbally highlighting these points:

- The completion of the sale of Westminster Woods resulted in full funding for the Stuckey Children and Youth Ministry Fund, providing scholarships for campers and retreat attendees.
- Due to the repayment of reserve funds loaned to Westminster Woods, the creation of two new funds is now a reality—the Mission Development Fund and the Racial Ethnic Ministry Fund (which supports the Sudanese Commission).
- The First Presbyterian Church in Axtell celebrated 125 years of ministry on May 31, 2009.
- Stephen Price-Gibson was elected to serve as parliamentarian for the presbytery for the term 2010-1012.
- The Sudanese Administrative Commission is at work with the Sudanese worshippers at the church in Grand Island.
- Quad Presbytery talks resumed in the fall of 2009.
- The Presbytery has been singing this past year at presbytery meetings.

“Without our heart we cannot have faith or love or life,” stated the moderator. “It is in our heart that we hear and know and understand and experience the love of God.”

### WORSHIP WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

The presbytery worshipped, the Rev. Bill Nottage-Tacey preaching a sermon titled, “Open Armed Pastors in Open Door Churches among Open Hearted People.” Outgoing moderator Quigley officiated at the Installation and Commissioning. Installed as presbytery officers for 2010 were Kathy LaRocque as moderator and Mark Diehl at vice-moderator. Commissioned as General Assembly commissioners were Kathy LaRocque as minister commissioner, Wayne Owens as elder commissioner, and Ben Owens as young adult advisory delegate. The offering was received for disaster relief in Haiti through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Pastors Caroline Price-Gibson and Bill Nottage-Tacey presided at the Lord’s Table as the sacrament of communion was celebrated.

### REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

The newly installed moderator, Kathy LaRocque, presided. The roll was formed, and the General Presbyter declared a quorum was present. Enrollment for the meeting was:

Atkinson, First	Dennis Rupert
Aurora, Presbyterian UCC	Zandee Nelson
Axtell, First	Bette Dimon
Beaver City, First	Ben Ellis
Benkelman, First	absent
Broken Bow, First	absent
Campbell, Westminster United	Ardyce Johnson
Central City, United	absent
Cozad, First	Mary Jane Whiting
Danbury, First	absent

Edgar, Church of the Plains	excused
Ewing, Bethany	Dorothy Lambert
Ewing, UM-PC (USA)	absent
Fairfield, Community	Orvis Peshek
Fullerton, First	Kelly Zarek
Glenvil, Hanover	Glenn Hunnicutt
Gothenburg, First	absent
Grand Island, First	C. Dale Smith
Hastings, First	Cindy Strasheim
	absent
Hastings, Second	absent
Holdrege, First	Bob Stolz
Kearney, First	Stephen Miller
Kenesaw, First	absent
Keystone	Mary Lou Crofuut-O'Brien
Lebanon, Community	absent
Lemoyne, Bethany	excused
Lexington, First	Judy Moomey
Lexington, Buffalo Grove	absent
Loup City, First	excused
Minden, Westminster United	Bob Money
North Platte, First	absent
O'Neill, First	Jim Symonds
Ord, First	Emanuel Sich
Orleans, First	absent
St. Paul, First	Linda Peterson
Stapleton, First	Gaile Cook
Stuart, Community	absent
Superior, First	Melissa Jensen
Sutherland, First	Bill Fulcher
Valentine	absent
Wood River, First	Gary Luhn

#### MINISTER ATTENDANCE AT PRESBYTERY

Bob Anderson	present
Elaine Besthorn	present
Lloyd Boyce	present
Leanne Brower	present
Roy Byrd – HR	excused
Don Canady – HR	present
James Cooke – HR	excused
Matt Coplen	present
John Curtiss	excused
Ivan Dean	present
Eric Ford	excused
Donald Gray – HR	excused
Erica Harley	excused
Cynthia Harvey	excused
Amy Jo Hawley	excused
James Hawley	absent
Bob Houser	present
Bud Israel	excused
Silas Kessler – HR	excused
Cheryl Lamb	absent
David Lamb	absent
Berke Landrum	present

Kathy LaRocque	present
David Matheke	absent
David McCarthy	excused
Joan McCarthy	present
Doug McHargue	excused
Scott McCormick – HR	excused
Roger Nelson – HR	excused
William Nottage-Tacey	present
Tim Oleksy	absent
Charles Olsen – HR	present
Caroline Price-Gibson	present
Stephen Price-Gibson	present
Jay Snell – HR	excused
Kirwin Stewart	present
Robert Thom – HR	excused
Caroline Vickery	present
H. Eldin Wells – HR	present
Adam White	present
Karen Woo	present
Gui-Jie Zhang	excused

#### COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR ATTENDANCE AT PRESBYTERY

Russell Barelmann	present
Ellen Campbell	present
Neil Collins	absent
Joyce Dean	present
Mark Diehl	present
Marcine Farmer	absent
Beth Fotinos	present
Ethel Fox	excused
Tom Gould	absent
Suzanne Harland	present
Linda Lambert	present
Keith Theobald	absent
Wayne Owens	present
C.L.Wimer	present

#### CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS

Elizabeth Moses	present
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#### CERTIFIED ASSOCIATION OF PRESBYTERIAN ADMINISTRATORS

Angie Palmer	present
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#### CHAIRPERSONS OF COMMITTEES

Geneva John	PW
Linda Anthony	Nominating
Julie Rickertson	Business Budget
Anne Quigley	Council
Wes Stevens	Synod Commissioner

#### CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Phil Brown	Northern Waters Presbytery
Doug Kelley	Northern Kansas Presbytery

Kris Adler

Missouri River Valley

VISITORS

Annabelle Wells	Kearney First
Dylan Nicol	Kearney First
Matt Case	Kearney First
Tyler Newby	Kearney First
Austin Vollmer	Kearney First
Joe Hanson	Kearney First
Norma Peshek	Fairfield Community
Ben Owens	Atkinson
Thea Houser	Kearney First
Marilyn Sonderup	Fullerton
Polly Meyer	Grand Island
Bill Quigley	Valentine
Ronald L. Johnson	Holdrege
Karen Empfield	Stapleton
Nit Wang	Sudanese Fellowship
Penny Koenig	HELP Adult Services
Delma Wilson	Keystone

PRESBYTERY VOTED TO ADOPT THE DOCKET as amended to allow ten minutes at 10:30 a.m. for HELP Adult Services, followed by the Axtell mission report.

PRESBYTERY VOTED TO SEAT as corresponding members: Phil Brown (Northern Waters Presbytery), Doug Kelly (Southern Kansas Presbytery), and Chris Adler (Twin Cities Presbytery).

First Time Commissioners were introduced.

PRESBYTERY VOTED TO APPROVE as corrected the minutes for the October 24, 2009, stated meeting of presbytery. [All corrections were typographical spelling corrections.]

The General Presbyter presented the **Status of Minister Report for 2010:**

CONTINUING MEMBERS – ACTIVE – December 31, 2009

	<u>Occ.</u>	<u>Ordination</u>	<u>Received</u>
Robert E. Anderson	101	09/27/1972	2003
Elaine Besthorn	101	11/15/1972	2009
Lloyd Boyce	111	12/07/1980	2001
Leanne C. Brower	101	07/01/2007	2007
Roy Byrd	299	06/18/1959	2000
Don Canady	299	06/01/1984	2009
James Cook	299	06/25/1959	2002
Matthew E. Coplen	101	07/12/1998	2002
John Curtiss	103	06/03/2001	2004
Ivan Dean	101	04/09/2008	2008
Eric Ford	151		2009
Donald Gray	299		
Erica L. Harley	101	01/16/2000	2003
Cynthia Harvey	101	11/24/1991	2007
Amy Jo Hawley	151	08/26/1991	1999
James R. Hawley	101	10/31/1993	1999
Robert Houser	304	05/09/1971	2002

Bud Israel	158		2003
Silas G. Kessler	109	1934	1937
Kathleen LaRocque	101	08/21/1994	2001
David McCarthy	641	09/28/1986	2001
Joan L. McCarthy	643	03/01/1987	2001
Doug McHargue	106	06/22/2008	2008
Scott McCormick	299	07/11/1956	1970
C. Roger Nelson	299	02/22/1961	
William Nottage-Tacey	101	08/17/1975	2003
Timothy Oleksy	101	10/31/1999	2006
Charles M. Olsen	299	06/11/1961	2005
Caroline Price-Gibson	101	10/30/1977	2008
Stephen Price-Gibson	106		2008
Jay R. Snell	299		
W. Kirwin Stewart	101	04/28/1996	2007
Robert D. Thom	299	07/12/1953	1979
Caroline A. Vickery	101	10/16/1988	2003
Eldin Wells	299	1969	2008
Adam P. White	503	05/28/2006	2006
Karen Woo	105	09/14/2000	2003
Gui-Jie Zhang	791	08/24/2003	2009

MEMBER AT LARGE – December 31, 2009

Cheryl K. Lamb	797	05/21/2000	2000
David F. Lamb	797	09/29/1985	2001
P. Berke Landrum	797	11/03/1996	2003
David Matheke	797	10/15/1971	2002

INACTIVE MEMBER

LAY PASTORS WITH COMMISSIONS – December 31, 2009

Russ Barelmann	107	Loup City and Ord
Joyce Dean	107	Beaver City
Mark Diehl	107	Superior
Marcine Farmer		Benkelman
Beth Fotinos	107	Kenesaw
Ethel Fox	107	Buffalo Grove
Thomas Gould	107	Kenesaw
Suzanne Harland		Aurora
Linda Lambert	107	Fullerton
Wayne Owens	107	Atkinson and Stuart
Keith Theobald	107	Danbury and Lebanon
C. L. Wimer	107	Campbell

LAY PASTORS LICENSED

Ellen Campbell	Dean Seger	Phil LaRoe
Wes Stevens	David Johnson	

(Both Wes and David have commissions to serve non-Presbyterian churches)

The General Presbyter, reporting that the commissions to ordain and install Elaine Besthorn have each completed their respective work, moved to dismiss the commissions with thanks. PRESBYTERY VOTED TO APPROVE THE DISMISSAL of the commissions.

The chairpersons of the 2010 presbytery committees were commissioned by the General Presbyter.

The General Presbyter reported that the following persons have become the alternates to the Permanent Judicial Commission as the former members of the commission still in the Presbytery of Central Nebraska:

Titus Swan	Rev. Roger Nelson	Don Sampson
Doug State	Rev. David McCarthy	

The General Presbyter reported that the presbytery's minutes were reviewed by the synod on February 21 and were recommended to be approved without exception.

The General Presbyter expressed thanks to the Loup City church for being the first church to accept the challenge of helping send young people to youth triennium even though they have no young people to go. They have sent money to help pay for scholarships.

General Presbyter requested that the churches of the presbytery pray by name the church and the minister for that Sunday on the presbytery prayer list.

As for budget/finance concerns, the General Presbyter reported that the presbytery ended the year 2009 with almost \$7,000 of unpaid per capita. The presbytery paid to the synod and General Assembly what per capita the churches failed to pay. That is a double loss for the presbytery.

#### **HELP ADULT SERVICES**

The presbytery heard a report on HELP Adult Services from Penny Koenig, the organization's executive director. HELP provides respite services and medical equipment loans for people, as well as Christmas stockings for the incarcerated.

#### **AXTELL MISSION REPORT**

The presbytery heard a report from Betty Dimond about the "All American Celebration" in Axtell. This community outreach program was initiated by First Presbyterian's pastor, Erica Harley. The Fire Department puts on a fireworks show.

#### **YOUTH MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

Melissa Jensen presented the Youth Ministry Committee report. So far, 28 youth will be going to the Youth Triennium. Applications for camp scholarships are due June 1.

#### **REPORT OF THE COUNCIL**

Anne Quigley, Council Moderator, presented the Council report. The Council will spend its May meeting looking at the immediate financial future of the presbytery in addition to more long range strategies for addressing possible financial shortfalls. Council recommended that the Presbytery Goals for 2010 be approved (second reading). PRESBYTERY VOTED TO APPROVE the Goals for 2010. PRESBYTERY GOALS 2010-2012

1. To serve Churches in the presbytery as they seek to develop and grow.

Objective 1 – Increase the number of churches participating in evangelism training provided by the evangelism training team of our presbytery

Objective 2 – Reconstitute the presbytery Invite a Friend/Media Campaign

Objective 3 – Conduct conversations with the ministers/lay pastors of the presbytery about the training/consulting resources available for local church use  
Objective 4 – Use presbytery meeting time to introduce training/consultation resources available for local church use

2. Partner with its congregations to be involved in mission in their local communities.
  - Objective 1 – Continue to provide leadership for local church mission self studies
  - Objective 2 – Call and train more mission self study leaders
  - Objective 3 – Require an annual report of local mission efforts and celebrate that mission work at a presbytery meeting annually
  - Objective 4 – At triennial visits ask if a self-study has been done recently and suggest such a study at least every five years
  - Objective 5 – Promote the Mission Development Fund and its use by local congregations
  - Objective 6 – Include a report back request in both the Church Development Fund and Mission Development Fund application forms and share those reports with the presbytery
  - Objective 7 – The presbytery council will study mission opportunities to commend to local churches for their support
3. Partner with its local congregations to be involved in mission beyond the presbytery boundaries.
  - Objective 1 – Call and orient a team in the presbytery to plan an annual trip by the presbytery
  - Objective 2 – Train the above team to consult with local congregations as they plan mission trips
  - Objective 3 – Continue to invite missionaries to itinerate in the presbytery as well as speak at presbytery meetings
4. Reach children, youth, and young adults in the life of the presbytery.
  - Objective 1 – Increase the number of churches participating in the youth ministry committee events
  - Objective 2 – Work with local congregations to call younger adults to serve on boards of the church
5. Develop Racial Ethnic Ministry in the presbytery and the state of Nebraska
  - Objective 1 – Orient the Sudanese Commission and develop a working relationship with the worshipping fellowship in Grand Island
  - Objective 2 – Develop a Nebraska Racial Ethnic Ministry Team or Task Force

### **Personnel Committee**

Kirwin Stewart reported that the Personnel Committee has conducted annual reviews with Angie Palmer and Bob Houser, emphasizing with Bob the need for his self-care. “Angie is an incredible asset.” Personnel Committee made two recommendations to presbytery:

1. That Angie become ex-officio member of the Nominating Committee with no vote.  
PRESBYTERY VOTED TO APPROVE.
2. To change Angie’s job title, “Office Manager,” to “Presbytery Administrator.”  
PRESBYTERY VOTED TO APPROVE.

With applause by the commissioners, the presbytery went on record to show its concurrence with Personnel Committee’s report of the annual reviews.

### **Business and Budget Committee**

On behalf of Business and Budget, motion made to change the title of Treasurer to “Presbytery Cosignatory.” PRESBYTERY VOTED TO APPROVE.

# *PRESBYTERY COSIGNATORY POSITION DESCRIPTION*

## PRESBYTERY OF CENTRAL NEBRASKA

**TITLE:** Presbytery Cosignatory

**PURPOSE:** To serve as a second signature and legal signature when documents require

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** This position is accountable to the Business Budget Committee and Personnel Committee of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Serve as a second signature on checks that exceed \$1,000
2. Serve as a legal signature for documents requiring a signature of an officer of the presbytery

**REVIEW:** At the end of each term a representative of the personnel committee and the General Presbyter shall meet with the treasurer to review the position description and possible changes that need to be made to it.

### **Quad Presbytery Consortium**

The consortium is scheduled to meet April 16-17 at Camp Calvin Crest (which will be the same time and place as Committee on Ministry training and General Assembly commission training for the four presbyteries).

### **CHANGE IN DOCKET**

The General Presbyter recommended that the Presbyterian Women report be moved to after lunch. PRESBYTERY VOTED TO APPROVE.

### **SUDANESE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION**

The presbytery heard a report from the Sudanese Administrative Commission, presented by Kirwin Stewart. The Sudanese Fellowship meets Sunday afternoons at First Presbyterian Church, Grand Island, for up to two hour worship services. Nit Tue Wang, an elder in the fellowship, reported on their vision of becoming a church, asking for presbytery's help in getting them chartered as a church and their desire to help churches in the Sudan.

### **REPORT OF THE SYNOD**

Synod Executive Phil Brown reported on the Synod of Lakes and Prairies as it looks at its future. Bill Nottage-Tacey is a member of the five-member synod task force

### **HABITAT VIETNAM**

Substituting for Roger and Kay Payne (who are habitat building in New Mexico), members of the Kearney chapter of Habitat for Humanity, Ken Mumm and Randall Heckman, presented a slide show on Habitat Vietnam. The Kearney Area chapter participated in building Habitat houses in a poor Vietnamese fishing village.

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH SONG**

Reassembling after lunch, the presbytery sang "Every Time I Feel the Spirit." Prayers of the people were led by minister member Caroline Vickery. The prayer time closed with the singing of "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian."

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Presbytery heard a report from Geneva John, moderator of Presbyterian Women. The Coordinating Team met in January to plan the year. The Spring Gathering will take place in Lexington on April 17. The fall meeting will be at Camp Comeca on September 24-25.

### **TWIN CITIES AREA PRESBYTERY: GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Kris Adler presented a report from the Committee on Local Arrangements for the General Assembly at Minneapolis in July 2010.

### **BOARD OF PENSIONS**

Doug Kelly, Regional Representative of the Board of Pensions, reported on changes for 2010: no drug deductible, flat fee for generics, dues stayed the same, Active Health is new vendor.

### **MISSION REPORTS**

#### **St. Paul**

Linda Peterson reported on the St. Paul church's knitting and quilting ministry. Quilts are given to the County Sheriff to be given to children who are homeless or victims of domestic violence. Prayer shawls are given to shut-ins and hospitalized. Other ministries: baby caps for Africa; chair pads for cold chairs in church, afghans for Crisis Center (domestic violence center).

### **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

Melissa Jensen reported for the Youth Committee. 28 youth (so far) are going to Youth Triennium. Camp scholarship applications are due June 1.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Linda Anthony presented the following nominations from the Nominating Committee:

Presbytery Cosignatory Class of 2012 – John Rademacher	Self Development of People Class of 2012 – David Johnson
Inter-Presbytery Committee Class of 2012 – Dean Seger	Permanent Judicial Commission Class of 2013 – Don Anthony
Committee on Ministry Class of 2010 – committee still looking for an elder	

There were no nominations from the floor of presbytery. PRESBYTERY VOTED TO DIRECT CLERK TO CAST AN ELECTING BALLOT for all nominees.

### **COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

Stephen Price-Gibson reported that Committee for Preparation for Ministry will be bringing much to the June and October presbytery meetings which will require more than one minute of time on the docket.

### **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

Matt Coplen, COM moderator, announced that the third annual spring prayer retreat will be held on April 12-14. He reported that COM has voted to require Ethics/Boundaries training for all of the presbytery's pastors—Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Commissioned Lay Pastors. Failure to participate would be reflected in any reference checks during subsequent call searches or reviews of

lay pastor commissions. Notation of attendance or absence will be made in each pastor's file and communicated to each pastor's session. Such training will be required on a three year cycle.

These recommendations were presented from COM:

1. That Rev. Stephen Deines' membership be transferred from Homestead Presbytery to Presbytery of Central Nebraska with the status of Honorably Retired. PRESBYTERY VOTED TO APPROVE.
2. That a Parish Associate covenant between Rev. Eldin Wells and First Presbyterian Church of Kearney (through Rev. Cynthia Harvey) be approved:  
\$25 per hour  
Not more that 20 hours per week  
Teaching, pastoral care work, and visitation will be the emphasis.  
PRESBYTERY VOTED TO APPROVE.

### **SYNOD COMMISSIONER**

Commissioner Wes Stevens reported that the Synod of Lakes and Prairies met on January 17-19. Executive Phil Brown had already reported on the task force looking at the synod's future. There was a pre-meeting educational event on racism. The synod will do some administrative responsibilities that Dakota Presbytery is unable to meet.

### **COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATION**

In the absence of John Harrington, Bob Houser presented the report of the Committee on Representation. 46 men and 39 women serve on committees of the presbytery. The committee reached the following conclusions:

1. The male/female distribution on several committees is still not what it needs to be based upon the presbytery demographic. To have more men serving on presbytery committees than women doesn't match the presbytery population demographic. Committees that we need to be especially concerned about are Committee on Preparation for Ministry, the Permanent Judicial Commission, and Youth Committee.
2. We have improved greatly in the balance of chairpersons male to female.
3. Of the fourteen churches that don't have lay membership on committees all are quite small, but special effort should be made by the nominating committee to seek out members of these churches to serve on committees in the future.
4. Geographically, there are now 14 committee members from west of Highway 283. If Broken Bow, Lexington, and Beaver City are added in the number increases to 26. This is an improvement from 2009.
5. Racial Ethnic representation on committees is really quite good. Six of the 86 committee members are racial ethnic. This is actually a stronger percentage than the presbytery demographic indicates.

### **THE PRESBYTERY IS SENT FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

PRESBYTERY VOTED TO ADJOURN with prayer by moderator LaRocque. The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska is scheduled for June 26, 2010, at Stuart Community Church.