

MINUTES
PRESBYTERY OF CENTRAL NEBRASKA
JUNE 24, 2017
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HOLDREGE, NEBRASKA

The stated meeting of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska convened at 9:04 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, O'Neill, Nebraska, on Saturday, June 24, 2017.

PRESBYTERY ATTENDANCE

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Atkinson, First – No Commissioner
Aurora, Presbyterian UCC—Mary Maul
Axtell, First—Marcia Lindau
Beaver City, First-- No Commissioner
Benkelman, First-- No Commissioner
Broken Bow, First-- No Commissioner
Campbell, Westminster United-- No
Commissioner
Central City, United-- No Commissioner
Cozad, First-- Dixie Menke
Danbury, First-- No Commissioner
Edgar, Church of the Plains -- David
Nienkamp
Ewing, Bethany No Commissioner
Ewing, UM-PC(USA) No Commissioner
Fairfield, Community-- No Commissioner
Fullerton, First-- No Commissioner
Gothenburg, First – Jan Gill
Grand Island, First – June Usrey
Hastings, First – Karen Doerr
Hastings, Second—Ve Ann Lindgren
Holdrege, First—Blake Johnson

Kearney, First – Steve Miller
Kenesaw, First-- No Commissioner
Keystone-- Mary Lou Crofutt
Lebanon, Community-- No Commissioner
Lexington, First-- No Commissioner
Lexington, Buffalo Grove-- No
Commissioner
Loup City, First-- No Commissioner
Minden, Westminster United -- Julia
Thomsen
North Platte, First – John Beggs
O'Neill, First – Bill Walters
Orleans, First-- No Commissioner
St. Paul, First-- No Commissioner
Stapleton, First-- No Commissioner
Stuart, Community-- No Commissioner
Superior, First-- No Commissioner
Sutherland, First-- No Commissioner
Valentine -- No Commissioner
Wood River, First— No Commissioner

TEACHING ELDERS

Greg Allen-Pickett-- P
Kathryn Bates-- P
Elaine Besthorn-- A
David Boyd-- P
Jill Boyd-- P
Bruce Bradley-- P
Don Canady — HR--P
James Cooke — HR--excused
Dan Davis-- P
Stuart Davis-- A
Ivan Dean-- E
Steve Deines — HR--excused

Polly Deppen-Williams-- P
Lisa Ewald-- A
John Gallentine-- A
Cynthia Harvey-- A
Cheryl Lamb-- A
Berke Landrum-- P
Karen Larson-- P
David Matheke — HR--excused
David McCarthy-- P
Joan McCarthy-- P
Doug McHargue-- A
Frank Medsker — HR--excused

Roger Nelson — HR--excused
Steve Nofel-- A
William Nottage-Tacey--HR--P
Charles Olsen — HR--excused
Caroline Price-Gibson-- P
Stephen Price-Gibson-- P

Kirwin Stewart-- P
Robert Thom — HR--excused
H. Eldin Wells — HR--P
Karen Woo-- P
Gui-Jie Zhang--A

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

Joyce Dean-- P
Mark Diehl-- E
Marcine Farmer-- A
Beth Fotinos-- A
Ethel Fox-- A
Dave Irwin-- A
Brad Jepsen-- A

David Johnson-- A
Linda Lambert-- E
Phil LaRoe-- A
Wayne Owens-- A
Gary Smith-- A
Keith Theobald-- A
C.L. Wimer-- A

CERTIFIED ASSOCIATION OF PRESBYTERIAN ADMINISTRATORS

Rose Miller

CHAIRPERSONS OF COMMITTEES

Steve Soundy, Business and Budget; Annabelle Wells, PW.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Raymond Meester, Homestead Presbytery, and Rick Underwood, Presbytery of Western Colorado.

VISITORS

Russ Barrelmann, Anne Bohlke, Pam Canady, Bette Dimon, Bill Harrold, Ramona Meester, Sharon Rees, Judy Rothenberger, and Faye Underwood. Visitors from the Hanover Church were Don Buhr, Joyce Harrenstein, Jan McMahon, and Phyllis O'Dey.

Teaching elder Kirwin Stewart, pastor of First Church, Holdrege, welcomed the presbytery.

WORSHIP WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The presbytery entered into worship, which was a celebration of the ministry of the Hanover Presbyterian Church. Liturgists were teaching elders Dan Davis, Carolyn Price-Gibson, and commissioned ruling elder Joyce Dean. Teaching elder Bill Nottage-Tacey was the preacher; and teaching elder Kirwin Stewart officiated at the Lord's Supper. An offering was received for the Feed My Starving Children Ministry.

A quorum was declared.

The agenda as amended was approved as amended. By unanimous consent, the overture was added to the docket and the standing rule requiring the reading of this motion was suspended.

First time commissioners were introduced.

Teaching elder Rick Underwood, Presbytery of Western Colorado, was seated as a corresponding member.

The minutes of the March 25, 2017 presbytery meeting were approved as corrected.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

The Stated Clerk determines that the number of teaching elders having membership in good standing and temporary members in the Presbytery of Central Nebraska totals 32; of these a total of 27 currently reside within the bounds of the Presbytery. The number of ruling elder commissioners and ruling elder members entitled to attend and vote at any meeting is 49. Therefore, it is the opinion of the Stated Clerk that NO REMEDIAL ACTION is needed to redress any imbalance in voting as required.

The following is the current roster of those members of the permanent judicial commission whose terms have expired within the past six years (D-5.0206b):

Class of 2015	Class of 2013	Class of 2011
C. Roger Nelson	Don Anthony	Joan McCarthy
Ben Ellis	Caroline Price-Gibson	
Bill Dill		

The following is the listing of the membership of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska as of January 1, 2017

101 - Pastor or Co-pastor

Bruce Bradley
Ivan Dean
David Boyd
Jill Boyd
Dan Davis
Polly Deppen-Williams
Karen Larson
Caroline Price-Gibson
Stephen Price-Gibson
Kirwin Stewart

105 - Interim Pastor or Interim Associate

Steve Nofel

107 - Ruling Elder Commissioned to a Church

Joyce Dean
Mark Diehl
Marcine Farmer
Beth Fotinos

Ethel Fox
Dave Irwin
Brad Jepsen
David Johnson
Linda Lambert
Phil LaRoe
Gary Smith
Keith Theobald
Wayne Owens

108 - Temporary Relationship

Steve Deines
Doug McHargue
David McCarthy
Karen Woo

151 – Member of Another Denomination (Temporary Membership)

Stuart Davis

191 – Designated Pastor

Kathryn Bates

299 – Honorably Retired

Don Canady
James Cooke
Steve Deines
David Matheke
Frank Medsker
Roger Nelson
William Nottage-Tacey
Charles Olsen
Robert Thom
H. Eldin Wells

641 – Educational Institute-Pastor/Chaplain

David McCarthy

643 – Educational Institute-Administrative Staff

Joan McCarthy

797 – Member at Large

John Gallentine
Cheryl Lamb
Berke Landrum
Gui-Jie Zhang

The minutes of the Administrative Commission to install teaching elder Greg Allen Picket, and the minutes of the Administrative Commission to install teaching elder Ivan Dean and commission commissioned ruling elder Joyce Dean, are included as Attachment A and B.

The Synod's review of presbytery minutes took place on April 27 and 28 at the Okoboji Lakeshore Presbyterian Center at Milford, Iowa. The review of the 2016 minutes of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska indicated four silences:

1. It was not noted that a quorum was present at the special June 11, 2016 meeting.
2. It was not noted that the October presbytery meeting was opened with prayer.
3. No record was made of the parity between the number of teaching elder and ruling elder commissioners.
4. A report concerning the terms of call for teaching elders was not recorded.
5. There is no record of the examination of minister candidates.
6. There was no report on the type of work in which each minister of the presbytery is engaged

GENERAL ASSEMBLY AMENDMENTS

The votes on the following General Assembly amendments for the *Book of Order* were: ALL APPROVED

16-A, Child and Youth Protection Policy: Approved

16-B, Parity in Committees: Approved

16-C-1, Minister of Word and Sacrament: Approved

16-C-2, Minister of Word and Sacrament: Approved

16-C-3, Minister of Word and Sacrament: Approved

16-C-4, Minister of Word and Sacrament: Approved

16-C-5, Minister of Word and Sacrament: Approved

16-C-6, Minister of Word and Sacrament: Approved

16-C-7, Minister of Word and Sacrament: Approved

16-C-8, Minister of Word and Sacrament: Approved

16-D, Relationship to the PC(USA) of a Person Who Has Renounced Jurisdiction of the Church: Approved

16-E, Certified Service Requirements: Approved

16-F, Ministry of Members: Approved

16-G, Access to the Lord's Table: Approved

16-H, Directory for Worship: Approved

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Reporting for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry was teaching elder Jill Boyd.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry met on May 4, 2017 to discuss general processes and begin preparing for annual consultations with Logan Ellis (Inquirer), Zach Spurgeon (Inquirer),

David Johnson (Candidate), and Sharon Rees (Candidate). Those consultations will be conducted on July 18, 2017.

Upon recommendation of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, the presbytery approved requiring all candidates for ministry complete 1 unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) before being approved to seek a call. Presbytery approved making an exception for the CPE requirement for candidate David Johnson, as he is expected to complete his ordination requirements in the next few months, and it would be unfair to him to add this requirement at this time.

The following people were elected to be readers for the PCUSA ordination exams during the weeks of August 7-11 and November 6-10, 2017. For the August, 2017 exam: teaching elder Kirwin Stewart, ruling elder Mary Jane Whiting, and alternate teaching elder Berke Landrum; for the November, 2017 exam: teaching elder Kirwin Stewart, ruling elder Susan Medsker-Nedderman, alternate Carol Shackleton.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Teaching elder Polly Deppen-Williams reported for the Nominating Committee. A plea was made for names for the various positions that need to be filled.

COUNCIL REPORT

Teaching elder Steven Price-Gibson reported for the Council.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Personnel Committee met on May 30, 2017, for the purpose of conducting the 90 day review of the Office Administrator, Judy Rothenberger. She received a positive review and the committee believes she has done a great job of working into the position. It was determined that the job description was appropriate. There is a need to do some updating in terms of technology, but some of these will wait until the new Executive Presbytery is called.

BUSINESS-BUDGET

Ruling elder Steve Miller reported. A request from Naomi Okoye, First Presbyterian Church, North Platte for financial support to attend the 2017 Regional and National APA Conferences was tabled for further clarification. The Committee approved a \$200 donation to Karen Reiter, a former temporary office receptionist for health-related expenses. The donation will be considered mission. The contract with Pitney Bowes for a postage meter will be cancelled. The credit card used by Angie Palmer, a former employee has been destroyed, and a new card will be issued for Judy Rothenberger, the current Office Administrator.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

Teaching elder Kirwin Stewart reported that the committee is up and running and on schedule.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Ruling Elder Annabelle Wells reported on behalf of Presbyterian Women of Central Nebraska. She reported on the Spring Gatherings on May 4 at the Church of the Plains Edgar, and on May 6, at First Presbyterian Church, North Platte. The fall meeting will be at the First Presbyterian Church, Axtell, with the theme “Redeemed to Serve.”

YOUTH REPORT

Reporting for the committee was teaching elder Dan Davis. The Committee has awarded camperships for fourteen campers from five churches attending five different camps, for a total of \$1,782.50. The Committee also assisted Senior high youth from First Presbyterian Church, Grand Island to attend a Christian Youth Leadership Conference, and for the Director of Faith Formation and youth Ministry, First Presbyterian Church, Grand Island, to attend the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators annual meeting.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Teaching elder Polly Deppen-Williams reported.

The Committee reported the following actions taken on behalf of the presbytery:

On April 20, 2017:

1. Approved the installation for teaching elder Gregory Allen Pickett as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, on Sunday, May 4, 2017 at 4:00pm at Hastings First.
 - Installation Commission:
 - Moderator: Joyce Dean, Community Presbyterian Church, Fairfield
 - Teaching Elder: David Boyd, First Presbyterian Church, Gothenburg
 - Teaching Elder: Jill Boyd, First Presbyterian Church, Cozad
 - Ruling Elder: Darnice Nyce, Second Presbyterian Church, Hastings
 - Ruling Elder: Chris Junker, First Presbyterian Church, Hastings
 - Guests of the Commission:
 - Bryce Wiebe
 - Chuck Sparks
 - Christine Chakoian

2. Approved the installation of teaching elder Ivan Dean as Co-pastor of Community Church, Fairfield, on Sunday, June 4, 2017 at 4:00pm, at Community Presbyterian Church, Fairfield.
 - Installation Commission:
 - Joyce Dean - Moderator - Ruling Elder
 - Kirwin Stewart - Teaching Elder
 - Caroline Price-Gibson - Teaching Elder
 - Jan Broderick - Ruling Elder
 - Thomas Kluver - Teaching Elder

3. Approved Commissioning service for Joyce Dean as Co-pastor of Community Church, Fairfield, Sunday, June 4, 2017 at 4:00pm, at Community Presbyterian Church, Fairfield

- Commissioning Commission
 - Ivan Dean - Vice-Moderator - Teaching Elder
 - Kirwin Stewart - Teaching Elder
 - Caroline Price-Gibson - Teaching Elder
 - Jan Broderick - Ruling Elder
 - Thomas Kluver - Ruling Elder

- 4. Approved the formation of a pulpit nominating committee for First Presbyterian Church, North Platte

- 5. Approved the following Moderators:
 - Beaver City – Polly Deppen-Williams
 - Keystone – Kirwin Stewart
 - North Platte – David Boyd
 - Stapleton – Karen Woo

On June 13, 2017:

- 6. Approved Ministry Information Forms (MIFs) for the following churches:
 - First Presbyterian Church Broken Bow
 - First Presbyterian Church Lexington

- 7. Approved the formation of a pulpit nominating committee for First Presbyterian Church, St. Paul

- 8. Approved a request from Dean Seeger for a baptism and wedding

- 9. Transferred Steve Nofel to Pueblo Presbytery effective July 1, 2017

- 10. Approved Jill Boyd as Moderator for Buffalo Grove

- 11. Received a report from the congregational meeting to approve the formation of Fullerton Community Church which is a Union congregation of First Presbyterian Church in Fullerton, NE and First United Methodist Church in Fullerton, NE. The congregational meeting was held on Sunday, June 4, 2017 and moderated by Stephen Price-Gibson. The union was approved by both congregations on that day. The effective date of August 1, 2017.

Presbytery approved the formation of an Administrative Commission to help the Stapleton church as they near the end of their agreement with Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church at the end of 2017. Commission members elected were:

- Kirwin Stewart, Teaching Elder

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Jan Brodrick

ATTACHMENT B

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION TO INSTALL
TEACHING ELDER GREG ALLEN-PICKETT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MAY 7, 2017**

Meeting of the Commission for the Installation of Reverend Greg Allen-Pickett First Presbyterian Church of Hastings May 7, 2017

The Presbytery of Central Nebraska Installation Commission consisted of the following individuals, all of whom were present for this brief meeting prior to the service of Installation:
Moderator: Commissioned Ruling Elder Joyce Dean - Community Presbyterian Church, Fairfield
Teaching Elder: David Boyd - First Presbyterian Church, Gothenburg Teaching Elder: Jill Boyd - First Presbyterian Church, Cozad Ruling Elder: Darnice Nyce - Second Presbyterian Church, Hastings Ruling Elder: Chris Junker - First Presbyterian Church, Hastings

Joyce opened the meeting with prayer. Greg thanked everyone for their participation and support and reviewed logistics for the procession and service.

Jill moved that the installation commission be dissolved at the conclusion of the Installation service. David seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned as the service of worship began.

Respectfully submitted by Reverend Jill R. Boyd, appointed clerk for the commission

ATTACHMENT C

Heartland Shared Ministries Agreement

Salem Lutheran, Edgar Presbyterian, Clay Center UCC

A covenant for the purpose of uniting the pastoral leadership of separate congregations into effective and inspired ministry.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Heartland Shared Ministries is to know and serve God and to be servants of God to all people by living our faith in Jesus Christ. To help carry this mission forward with the rural demographic realities faced in the twenty-first century, the Heartland Shared Ministries will provide shared ordained pastoral leadership. A Coordinating Council with representatives from each of the participating congregations will give oversight and

planning for the Shared Ministries. To accomplish this, the Coordinating Council will work closely with the denominational judicatory of each congregation, and be guided by them. May this mission be blessed by the Love of God, the Grace of Christ, and the Presence of the Holy Spirit.

Denominational Accountability

Each congregation in the Covenant will have respect for the other denominations' methods and rules of governance. The three congregations comprising this joint witness shall be subject to the constitution of each denomination involved. Wherever the constitutions of the denominations differ, the mandatory provisions of one shall apply in all cases when the others are permissive. Wherever there are conflicting mandatory provisions, the congregational council shall petition the next higher councils or governing bodies to resolve the conflict.

Clergy

~~Two (2)~~ One (1) ordained pastors and one (1) part time pastor will serve the three ~~(3)~~ congregations. Heartland Shared Ministries congregations.

~~Kathryn Bates is currently serving the Church of the Plains (Presbyterian, U.S.A) in Edgar. Her call is to be the Designated Pastor of the Church of the Plains. Therefore, she and the congregation are under a legal contract for her to serve through June 30, 2016, at which time a decision would be made to either make the relationship permanent or to end the relationship. It is understood that the Rev. Bates will serve the partnership as one of the two pastors through June 30, 2016, at which time the three congregations and the Rev. Bates will make a determination as to whether to make the relationship permanent or to end the relationship.~~

Calling the Pastors

A Pastor Nominating Committee will consist of two (2) individuals from each congregation. Terms of the Call will be consistent with the denominational polity of the pastor being called. Each congregation will have a congregational meeting for the purpose of ratifying the recommended call of the Pastor Nominating Committee. The vote totals from each congregation will be shared with the Coordinating Council and be open to all members of each congregation. Two of the three congregations must approve the candidate presented by the Pastor Nominating Committee before a call can be extended. The rotation by denomination of the pastor will be as follows: 1. (first) Presbyterian (U.S.A.), 2. (second) U.C.C. 3. (third) E.L.C.A. It is also understood that no denomination will have two pastors for the three (3) churches at the same time. Exceptions can be made with the approval of all participating congregations.

Compensation

The Salary and Benefits of the pastors and staff will be paid through a hired bonded entity. Each congregation will deposit funds into the joint account to compensate its staff.

Each congregation's percentage of the pastors' compensation and other shared expenses shall be based on Giving Units. "Giving Units" is understood to be those in an immediate family (husband, wife, and children) living at home giving from December 1 to November 30 of each year. The Coordinating Council will report the percentage due from each congregation by January 1 of each year.

Parsonage/ Manse locations

It is recommended that a pastor live in one of the parsonages/ manses provided by one of the congregations in the covenant.

It shall be stressed to a pastor candidate that they are to be very much part of each of the three congregations' communities.

The sharing of costs for utilities and maintenance will be determined for each congregation by the Coordinating Council. This should be approved by each congregation's council / session.

Worship Service Time / Worship Service Traditions

Worship Service times for each congregation will be established and coordinated by the Coordinating Council and pastors with recommendations considered from each congregation's Council or Session. Pastors will be expected to honor each congregation's worship traditions.

Congregation and Pastor Relations--Accountability and Discipline

If a problem arises between a congregation and a pastor, the Personnel Committee of that congregation will address the concern. If needed, the Coordinating Council can then attempt to pro-actively address the concern. Then if not settled or corrected, the appropriate denominational judicature of the pastor is contacted to handle the concern. Accountability and discipline follows the pastor's denominational guidelines.

Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council formed by this Covenant will consist of two (2) members from each congregation. A term of office on the Coordinating Council will be four (4) years. Election of each congregation's two (2) members will alternate with one being elected every two years. No one (1) Coordinating Council member shall hold office for more than two (2) terms in succession. That individual must be off the Coordinating Council for at least one (1) full year before being eligible for re-election. Each pastor will be an ex-officio member of the Coordinating Council. The first year of the agreement, each congregation will elect one (1) member for a four (4) year term and one (1) member for a two (2) year term in order to begin the staggered rotation.

The Coordinating Council will determine the offices needed on the Council for effective and inspired leadership.

The Coordinating Council will meet once each quarter and will meet in special session called by a pastor or officer of the Council as needed.

Four (4) to include at least one (1) from each congregation will constitute a quorum. At least one pastor will be present.

Specific duties of the Coordinating Council are set forth above in this Covenant. In addition the Coordinating Council will:

- a. Help coordinate common Mission efforts of the congregations.
- b. Study and make recommendations for improvement and changes of the Covenant Agreement.
- c. Serve as a liaison between the congregations.
- d. Consult with denominational leadership.
- e. Submit a budget each year to the congregations by January 1.

A Congregation's exit from or joining the Covenant Agreement

The exit procedure for a church wanting to leave the Covenant is:

- a. At least six (6) months written notice must be given to the remaining churches.
- b. Financial support will continue from the exiting church during the notice period.

Any congregation seeking to join the Covenant Agreement may apply, in writing , through the Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council shall consider the request and inform the congregations of their findings.

Any congregation joining the Covenant must be approved by all participating congregations and denominations.

Records

Records of the Coordinating Council and of the bonded financial entity shall be kept by each congregation.

Changes in the Covenant Agreement

Changes in the Covenant Agreement are to be approved by each congregation and by each denominational judicature.

ATTACHMENT D

The Presbytery of Central Nebraska overtures the 223rd General Assembly to add to G.211 Certified Church Service the following:

G. 2.1104 Administrative Personnel Association (APA)

Administrative Personnel Association (APA) certified persons have been called to service within particular churches, governing bodies, and church-related entities. These individuals endeavor to reflect their faith through their work and to strengthen the church through their dedication with the purpose to improve the quality of professionalism and to affirm the ministry of the lay church professional.

Members of the Administrative Personnel Association (APA) include secretaries, administrative assistants, bookkeepers, and support staff in church-related settings.

Certification is overseen and granted by the Administrative Personnel Association; the requirements for certification are reported to the appropriate body of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. A formal liaison relationship will be developed between the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Administrative Personnel Association.

a. Skills and Training

Certified Administrative Personnel Assistants are persons certified and called to service in the ministry of church administration in congregations and councils. They shall have skills and training in church polity, church history, reformed theology, spiritual growth and discipline, office administration, Directory for Worship, Book of Confessions, General Assembly Entities and other areas of professional development beneficial to the church.

b. Councils Responsibility

The presbytery shall affirm the skill and dedication of these certified persons by providing for recognition at presbytery at the time of their certification and by inviting certified employees to presbytery meetings, granting them the privilege of the floor with voice only at all presbytery meetings, and in the case of Certified APA members who are ruling elders, the privilege of voice and vote at all its meetings.

Names of those who have earned certification through APA shall be transmitted to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, which will forward them to the Office of the General Assembly and to the Stated Clerk of the presbyteries in which those persons labor.

RATIONALE

A request from twelve women attending a business administration course at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA laid the groundwork for a professional organization to be created. In 1976 the Administrative Personnel Association was founded by Joyce Bauer and in almost 42 years APA has expanded to 8 regions which include all 50 states with a membership of 254 representing churches of all sizes, including those denominations we are with communion, presbyteries, synods, and the different agencies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

APA defines its active members as all persons engaged in administrative work in any local church or church-related institution, governing body or agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), or those denominations with which we have communion.

APA is ruled by the body but leads by the Executive Board and Council. Our Executive Board is made up of elected officials to include the president, president-elect, immediate past-president, certification chair, membership chair, secretary, and treasurer. The Council is composed of the following: The National Executive Board, all Regional Presidents, and National Conference Planning Chair.

The mission of APA is to offer the opportunity for professional development and personal growth for those called by God to serve as support staff of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and those denominations we are with communion. The mission is accomplished by providing continuing education events for certification, and occasions for fellowship, worship and spiritual nurture and prayer at both National and Regional meetings, as well as, APA sponsored training events.

We offer three levels of certification with the opportunity to receive recognition for every 50 hours of continuing education beyond level 3. Our members may also receive an additional certificate in Concentrated Studies in Polity, Communications, Administration and Facilities Management, Theology, Church History, and Finance after completing another 25 hours in each

of these areas of studies. Approved instructors are required to teach the requested amount of time for the class. Approval is given by our Certification Chair. The Council on Accreditation and Standards reviews the levels to ensure the classes being taught are current with what is happening in the church and office administration. Elective hours include conflict management, designing for communication, technology classes, financial matters, and other classes that provide professional growth and understanding of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Below explains the breakdown for each level.

LEVEL I Core Courses

Church History (Part 1)	2.5 hours
Church History (Part 2)	2.5 hours
Polity 1 (Part 1)	2.5 hours
Polity 1 (Part 2)	2.5 hours
Office Administration	2.5 hours
Spiritual Growth and Discipline	2.5 hours
Theology – Christian Perspectives of the Church (Part 1)	2.5 hours
Theology (Part 2)	2.5 hours
Total Core Hours	20 hours
Total Elective Hours	20 hours
Total Hours Required	40 hours

LEVEL II Core Courses

Directory for Worship	2.5 hours
Legal Matters	2.5 hours
PC(USA) History Since Reunion (Part 1)	2.5 hours
PC(USA) History Since Reunion (Part 2)	2.5 hours
Polity II	2.5 hours
Office Administration	2.5 hours
Spiritual Growth and Discipline	2.5 hours
Total Core Hours	17.5 hours
Total Elective Hours	27.5 hours
Total Hours Required	45 hours

LEVEL III Core Courses

Book of Confessions	2.5 hours
GA Entities	2.5 hours
Polity III	2.5 hours
Office Administration	2.5 hours
Spiritual Growth and Discipline	2.5 hours
Total Core Hours	12.5 hours
Total Elective Hours	37.5 hours
Total Hours Required	50 hours

The current reading of the Book of Order is too vague and places us in a category of “other”. Before the changes made to the form of government, APA had been recognized previously by

General Assembly, and under the former section G- 14.0740 we had been affiliated with the Office of Vocation and had a PCUSA staff liaison. We had also been listed in the directory and Book II. However, after NFOG was approved, we were lost in translation and had struggled since to be specifically identified by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for our service and dedication to the larger church.

The Administrative Personnel Association continues to struggle with being identified as a Presbyterian Church U.S.A. organization because there is no defined line connecting us to the larger church. Even though we are currently recognized as a certified body by the larger church, it still does not identify that we are PCUSA. As a result, this continues to put into question the status of our 501c3 status.

The lack of support and recognition from our leaders within the larger church that do not know or choose not to recognize our existence has also impacted the long lasting relationship between APA and the PCUSA church.

Therefore, we ask that after 42 years of service to the church that we are again specifically named and recognized in the Book of Order for our support and commitment to belonging to the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.