

DOCKET  
Meeting of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska  
June 30, 2018  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Minden, Nebraska

*As approved by the Presbytery at the December 5, 2000, meeting, the meetings of Presbytery shall be set in the worshipful context of thanksgiving. We ask that cell phones be turned either to off or vibrate during the meeting and that people receive their calls outside of the meeting.*

**THE PRESBYTERY GATHERS**

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|-----------|--|-----------|
| 8:30 a.m. | Registration and Fellowship<br>Provided by First Presbyterian Church, Minden |           |
| 9:00 a.m. | The Call to Order  | Ivan Dean |
| 9:05 a.m. | Welcome  | Dan Davis |

**THE PRESBYTERY HEARS GOD’S WORD**

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| 9:15 a.m. | Worship with the Celebration of the Lord’s Supper.<br>The offering today will be sent to Mission 180 |  |
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**WE RESPOND TO HEARING THE WORD**

- |            |   |                                    |
|------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 10:20 a.m. | The Report of the Stated Clerk<br>Enrollment/Quorum<br>The Presentation of the Docket<br>Seating of Corresponding Members<br>Introduction of First Time Commissioners<br>Approval of minutes for March 24, 2018 | Polly Deppen-Williams<br>pages 3-7 |
| 10:40 a.m. | Report of the Executive Presbyter   | Polly Deppen-Williams<br>page 8    |
| 11:00 a.m. | General Assembly Report   | Polly Deppen-Williams              |
| 11:20 a.m. | Youth Committee   | Dan Davis                          |
| 11:30 a.m. | Committee on Ministry   | Kirwin Stewart<br>pages 9-10       |
| 11:40 a.m. | Committee on Preparation for Ministry   | Jill Boyd<br>page 11               |

11:45 a.m.	Information on Ministry grants and the Malmsten Fund (Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation)	Audrey Richert
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:15 p.m.	Prayers of the People with Song	
1:30 p.m.	Council Report	Joyce Dean page 12
	Business and Budget	Steve Soundy
	Personnel	David Boyd page 13
	Nominating	Linda Anthony page 14
1:50 p.m.	Presbyterian Women	Annabelle Wells page 15
1:55 p.m.	New Business	

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

2:10 p.m.	ADJOURN WITH PRAYER	Ivan Dean
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MINUTES PRESBYTERY OF CENTRAL NEBRASKA  
MARCH 24, 2018  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, COZAD, NEBRASKA

PRESBYTERY ATTENDANCE

ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Atkinson, First –	Kearney, First – Julie Tye
Aurora, Presbyterian UCC – Mary Maul	Kenesaw, First –
Axtell, First –	Keystone –
Beaver City, First –	Lebanon, Community –
Benkelman, First –	Lexington, First – Robert Copper
Broken Bow, First – Roger Loehr	Lexington, Buffalo Grove –
Campbell, Westminster United –	Loup City, First –
Central City, United –	Minden, Westminster United – Ron Thomsen
Cozad, First – Wayne Howard	North Platte, First – Dan Ridgway
Danbury, First –	O'Neill, First –
Edgar, Church of the Plains – David Nienkamp	Orleans, First – Duane Bantam
Ewing, Bethany –	St. Paul, First –
Ewing, UM-PC (USA) –	Stapleton, First –
Fairfield, Community –	Stuart, Community –
Fullerton, First – Lorrie Robinson	Superior, First –
Gothenburg, First – Vicki Peterson	Sutherland, First –
Grand Island, First –	Valentine –
Hastings, First –	Wood River, First –
Hastings, Second –	
Holdrege, First –	

MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Greg Allen-Pickett - P	Cheryl Lamb – A
Kathryn Bates - P	Berke Landrum – P
David Boyd – P	Karen Larson – A
Jill Boyd – P	David Matheke, HR – E
Bruce Bradley - P	David McCarthy – E
Don Canady, HR - P	Joan McCarthy – E
James Cooke, HR – E	Doug McHargue – E
Dan Davis - P	Frank Medsker, HR – E
Stuart Davis - A	Roger Nelson, HR – E
Ivan Dean – P	William Nottage-Tacey, HR – E
Steve Deines, HR – E	Charles Olsen, HR – E
Polly Deppen-Williams – P	Caroline Price-Gibson – HR - E
Lisa Ewald - A	Stephen Price-Gibson – HR - E

John Gallentine - A  
Robert Thom, HR - E  
H. Eldin Wells, HR – P

Kirwin Stewart – P  
Karen Woo – E  
Gui-Jie Zhang – A

#### COMMISSIONED PASTORS

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

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

#### CERTIFIED ASSOCIATION OF PRESBYTERIAN ADMINISTRATORS

#### CHAIRPERSONS OF COMMITTEES

Jon Beggs, Co-chair Personnel; David Boyd, Personnel; Jill Boyd, Committee on Preparation for Ministry; Dan Davis, Youth Committee; Joyce Dean, Council; Steve Soundy, Business & Budget; Kirwin Stewart, Committee on Ministry; Annabelle Wells, Presbyterian Women

#### CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

#### VISITORS

Pam Canady; Jackie Kuxhausen; Bruce Wiebe, Director of Special Offerings, PCUSA; Steve & Doris Anderson, Cozad First

The stated meeting of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska convened at 9:00 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Cozad, Nebraska, on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The meeting was opened with prayer and called to order by Moderator Ivan Dean. The Presbytery was welcomed by Rev. Jill Boyd, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church.

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

The presbytery entered into worship. Jill Boyd was the preacher. Bruce Wiebe spoke on the advantages and benefits people receive through special offerings of PCUSA. Jill Boyd, Ivan Dean, Ben Wiebe, Mary Jane Whiting and Larry Whiting co-officiated at the Lord’s Supper. An offering was received for L2 for Kids, a nonprofit which provides new school clothes for children in need.

#### WE RESPOND TO HEARING THE WORD

The roll was formed. Stated Clerk Polly Deppen-Williams declared a quorum present.

#### STATED CLERK’S REPORT

The Report of Stated Clerk Polly Deppen-Williams was heard by the Presbytery.

The Docket was presented and approved as presented.

Guest, Bryce Wiebe, Director of Special Offerings, PCUSA, was introduced.

The following First Time Commissioners were introduced: Janice Farrell, Fullerton; Lorrie Robinson, Clerk, Fullerton; Julie Tye, Kearney; Wayne Howard, Cozad; Vicki Peterson, Gothenburg, Don Thomsen, Westminster Presbyterian, Minden; Robert Copper, First Presbyterian, Lexington.

The Minutes of the October 28, 2017 meeting were approved as presented.

#### EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT

Executive Presbyter Polly Deppen-Williams presented her report. She attended Stated Clerk training in Louisville, KY, in November 2017. Ray Meester has been a great resource of assistance for her.

Central Nebraska Presbytery is up-to-date with all presbytery-related reports. Membership in 36 churches is 3973 members. Only 10 churches submitted their session minutes for review. Polly made her first congregational visit to Valentine in January to moderate their annual congregational meeting. She is no longer serving as Interim Pastor in Lexington, so is free to visit congregations in the presbytery.

Polly attended Winter Pastors' School at Calvin Crest the beginning of February.

Several churches in the presbytery are looking for pastors. Polly is committed to helping PNC's and Interim Search Committees in their work, spreading the word that we have wonderful churches in our presbytery.

Upcoming events in her schedule:

April 24-26 – Synod Training Event for COM & CPM moderators in Minnesota

April 19-May 1 -Synod Meeting, Mt. Olivet Center, Farmington, MN

May 1-2 – Synod EP Forum, Mt. Olivet Center, Farmington, MN

May 10-11 – Synod Records Review, Lakeshore Center, Okoboji, Iowa

June 15-23 – General Assembly, St. Louis, MO

To reach EP Polly, 308 520 8216 or [polly@centralnepresby.org](mailto:polly@centralnepresby.org)

#### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN REPORT

Annabelle Wells reported for Presbyterian Women. April Spring Gatherings, April 26, First Presbyterian Church, O'Neill, no cost or reservation, and April 28, Westminster United Presbyterian Church, Minden, \$10 registration due by April 25. Each Gathering will include

worship with communion and a program presented by Kili Wenburg, Director of Adult Education & Spiritual Formation, First Presbyterian Church, Hastings.

The PW presentation was interrupted by a couple of gals on stick horses giving information on the churchwide gathering in Louisville, KY, August 2-5.

To reach Annabelle [annabelle.wells@gmail.com](mailto:annabelle.wells@gmail.com)

#### COMMITTEE ON YOUTH REPORT

Dan Davis reported for the Committee on Youth.

#### COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

Kirwin Stuart reported on the Committee on Ministry.

THE PRESBYTERY VOTED to allow Karen Woo to labor outside the bounds of Central Nebraska Presbytery.

#### COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY REPORT

Jill Boyd reported on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. She introduced David Johnson, who is now ready to accept a call to ministry. He gave a brief statement of his activities and background.

Bryce Wiebe, Director of Special Offerings, PCUSA, was introduced. There are 4 special offerings during the year. Our work begins at the Communion Table. The church is only the church when it leads us from inside to outside. The church needs to be in partnership with its members to reach out to others. He is grateful for the church's participation in reaching out to the world.

#### PRESBYTERY COUNCIL REPORT

Report by Joyce Dean, Chairman. She reported on the compensation for stated clerk and executive presbyter, which the council has approved.

THE PRESBYTERY VOTED to approve the compensation for stated clerk and executive presbyter.

Next Presbytery meeting, June 30, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minden.

#### BUSINESS & BUDGET REPORT

Report by Steve Soundy, Chairman of Business and Budget. The last presbytery financial statement was dated September 30, 2017. Bills of the presbytery have been paid. The business and budget committee has been assured that everything is in order. He hopes to have a financial statement by April. The committee has not met because of not having a financial statement. The synod has paid bills and not taken the money from the presbytery account. The budget for this year, which was approved in October, is in the packets for this meeting. Kirwin Stewart reported the Stapleton church building was gifted to the church and the manse was kept by presbytery.

#### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

David Boyd, Chairman, reported for the personnel committee. It was discussed at the meeting that the title general presbyter does not necessarily mean stated clerk and executive presbyter, so Polly Deppen-Williams will be known by the title executive presbyter and stated clerk. The committee needed to fill the position of recording clerk. The position was described and Judy Howard was introduced as the new recording clerk. David stated that the presbytery is now fully staffed with no one holding a temporary position. The personnel committee provided a gift to Raymond Meester.

THE PRESBYTERY VOTED to invite Raymond Meester to the next presbytery meeting and recognize him for his service to the presbytery.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The executive presbyter presented the report.

THE PRESBYTERY VOTED unanimously to accept the slate as presented.

#### NEW BUSINESS

The Overture from Houston regarding climate change was presented by the executive presbyter. It was moved and seconded to support this Overture. Further discussion disclosed that this Overture does not divest PCUSA investments from fossil fuels. The competing Overture was not received in time to be presented at this meeting. The motion and second was withdrawn and no action was taken.

Moderator Ivan Dean lead the prayers of the people with song, accompanied by Joyce Dean at the piano. He then offered a prayer for lunch. Presbytery adjourned with a prayer at 11:20 A.M.

## Executive Presbyter & Stated Clerk Report to the Presbytery

As I write this report, I am getting ready to go to St. Louis for General Assembly. I have never been to GA before, so I am not quite sure what it will be like. I was told to sit, watch and listen. I am sure that I will have a lot to report at our presbytery meeting.

One of the big things that I have been working on is revising our Presbytery Manual. I am working with Joyce Dean, Sue Medsker-Nedderman and Kirwin Stewart to update terminology and procedures. Presbytery will have a chance to read and discuss the manual changes before it is presented for approval.

Since our last meeting, I wanted to share what I have been doing as your EP & Stated Clerk:

- Preached and led worship at FPC Kearney for Maundy Thursday and Easter
- Continued to moderate the Session at FPC Kearney and helped with their search for an Interim Pastor
- Met with the PNC at FPC Axtell as they begin their search for a Pastor
- Had bi-weekly phone calls with my EP Mentor, Ken Baker from the Presbytery of San Fernando
- Met with George Thietje from the Insurance Board with the UCC to determine the best insurance coverage for our presbytery
- 4/22 Preached at FPC Holdrege
- Participate in the following Synod Events
  - 4/24 to 4/26 COM/CPM Training in Buffalo, MN
  - 4/29 to 5/1 Synod Meeting in Farmington, MN
  - 5/1 to 5/2 Synod EP Forum in Eagan, MN
  - 5/9 to 5/11 Presbytery Minutes Review in Lake Okoboji, MN
- 5/13 Preached at United Presbyterian Church in Benkleman
- Started meeting weekly with Sharon Rees to serve as mentor for a practicum on preaching with Dubuque Seminary
- 6/10 Worshipped with Fairfield/Nelson at Manna Retreat Christian Camp
- Met with Trent Svehla with GuideOne to determine best insurance coverage for our presbytery
- 6/14 to 6/24 General Assembly in St. Louis

Presbytery Committee Meetings/Groups:

- 4/18 Personnel
- 4/19 Presbytery Lunch Bunch in Hastings
- 5/15 Council
- 5/15 Manual Revision
- 5/17 COM
- 5/24 Presbytery Lunch Bunch in Lexington
- 6/2 COM Fit Interviews with 2 candidates
- 6/4 COM Fit Interview with 1 candidate
- 6/12 Manual Revision
- 6/12 COM
- 6/13 CPM
- 6/28 Presbytery Lunch Bunch in Kearney

Before our next presbytery meeting on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, I will be attending the following:

- 9/30 to 10/2 Synod Meeting in Farmington, MN
- 10/2 to 10/3 Synod EP Forum in Eagan, MN
- 10/5 to 10/9 Mid Council Leaders Meeting and Association of Stated Clerks and Association of Mid Council Leaders meeting in Chicago, IL

I am working my way around the presbytery on Sunday mornings. If you have a special Sunday worship service or celebration let me know! Please do not hesitate to call me 308-520-8216 or email [polly@centralnepresby.org](mailto:polly@centralnepresby.org) if you have any questions or would just like to say hi.

Grace & peace,  
Polly Deppen-Williams  
Executive Presbyter & Stated Clerk



## **COM Report**

June 30<sup>th</sup> 2018

Presbytery Meeting - Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minden, Ne.

### **COM approved the following 2018 meeting dates:**

In person meetings 1:00-4:00pm

- June 12
- October 9

Zoom teleconference meetings 10am-Noon

- August 16
- November 15

### **COM appointed the following Church Moderators:**

- Beaver City – Rev. Dan Davis
- Grand Island – Rev. Bill Nottage-Tacey
- Kearney – Rev. Polly Deppen-Williams
- O’Neill/Bethany – Dean Segar
- Valentine – Lisa Danielson (member South Dakota Presbytery)
- Sutherland – Rev. Kirwin Stewart
- St. Paul –Rev. Doug McHargue
- Keystone – Rev. Dan Davis
- Lexington – Rev. Kirwin Stewart
- Superior- Rev. Ivan and Joyce Dean

### **COM approved the following church MIF**

First Presbyterian Church of Axtell

### **COM Conducted Fit interviews for the Following**

- Saturday June 2, 2018 COM met on behalf of The First Presbyterian Church North Platte
- Saturday June 2, 2018 COM met on behalf of The First Presbyterian Church of Broken Bow
- Monday June 4, 2018 COM met on behalf of The First Presbyterian church of Kearney (interim position)

**Additional action taken by COM on behalf of Presbytery:**

- **COM approved** raising the pulpit Supply fee from \$75 for one service and \$100.00 for two services (plus mileage at IRS rate) to \$100.00 for one service and \$125.00 for two services (plus mileage at IRS Rate)
- **COM approved** Mary Lou Crofutt to administer the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper for The Keystone Church. Rev. Dan Davis will provide retraining for Mary Lou Crofutt and any others from the Keystone church who would be willing to assist with these duties.

**\*\*Items for presbytery action:**

Supplemental paperwork will be distributed at the Registration table.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry  
Presbytery of Central Nebraska Meeting  
June 30, 2018

Current members of the CPM include Greg Allen-Pickett, Jim Gallentine, Dave Irwin, Julia Thomsen, Karen Woo, and Jill Boyd (chair).

The CPM met on June 13, 2018 to orient new members, share updates on those currently under care (Logan Ellis and Sharon Rees), select dates for conducting their annual assessments, and identify potential readers for this year's ordination exams.

Annual Assessments will be conducted on Friday, July 13, 2018 at the Presbytery office in Kearney.

A slate of readers for 2018 ordination exams will be presented to the presbytery at this meeting.

Once annual assessments are completed, the CPM will begin to review and develop current policies and procedures for inclusion in the Presbytery Manual of Operations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Boyd

**PRESBYTERY COUNCIL REPORT**  
**June 30, 2018**

**Council heard reports from:**

- Executive Presbyter – 2018 per capita GA rate is \$7.73. Will increase to \$10.71 in 2019; \$11.45 in 2020. This will be discussed more at future meetings.
- Personnel Committee – recommended a salary increase for Administrative Assistant of 3.5% effective March 1, 2018. Council **VOTED TO APPROVE** this increase.
- Business & Budget – reported that a Financial Statement has not been received from Synod since September, 2017. Committee did authorize a Leadership Grant for Naomi Okoye for continuing education.
- Nominating Committee – Angie Palmer has agreed to serve on the Youth Committee pending approval of Presbytery.

The Presbytery Docket for the June 30, 2018 meeting to be held in Minden was reviewed. It was **APPROVED AS MODIFIED**. The offering received during worship will be donated to Mission 180. Council **VOTED TO APPROVE** this cause. Council also **VOTED TO GRANT AUTHORITY** to Dan to arrange for a guest preacher.

**Other Business:**

- COM reported that the Stapleton manse water damage has been repaired and is now listed for sale.  
Two neutral pulpits have been scheduled for pastors seeking calls to fill CNP pulpits.
- Briefly discussed setting up area or neighborhood pastoral groups. A subcommittee will meet at the Presbytery Office on July 10, 2018, 10 a.m. – noon to further discuss this need.
- CPM reported that annual Assessments of Inquirers & Candidates will be held in July.
- Youth reported that Camperships need to be promoted as does Youth Triennium 2019.
- GuideOne has provided insurance coverage for PCN. Due to a 1% deductible increase, the Presbytery is in the process of researching options offered by other providers.
- Audrey Richert, Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation, has requested time at the June Presbytery meeting to present information on Ministry Grants and the Malmsten Fund. Council **APPROVED** this presentation.
- Boundary training will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Family Life Center, Kearney on Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 9 am to 3 pm. Deb DeMeester will be the trainer. Council **VOTED TO APPROVE** a fee of \$20.00 for food & materials. Details will be mailed.
- The Council **UNANIMOUSLY GRANTED** authority to Joyce to request and accept sites for future Presbytery meetings.

Respectfully submitted by  
Joyce Dean, Moderator

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**Central Nebraska Presbytery  
Personnel Committee  
Report for the June 30, 2018 Presbytery Meeting**

The Personnel Committee of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska met on April 18, 2018 for the purpose performing an annual review of our Office Administrator, Judy Rothenburger who started in that position on March 1, 2017

Judy detailed some of the many positive changes that have occurred in the office over the last year. Cost savings have been experienced due to the cancelation of the postage meter, data support program, several subscriptions, and the cleaning service. In addition, the phone and computer systems have been updated, the office now has keyless entry so on weekdays the office can be accessed by members of the presbytery without Judy or Polly having to be on site.

The biggest challenges that Judy faces is with working on the financial piece of her job with the Synod. The dramatic changes that the Synod has undergone in assisting presbyteries with their financial and reporting obligations has made keeping our financial dealing straight a challenge, but we are able to meet our obligations and once the Synod's transition is complete this situation should resolve itself.

All in attendance agreed that Judy has handled her position in an exemplary fashion. She works well independently, she looks for ways to make the office operate more efficiently, and she is a delight to work with. The committee has received no negative feedback regarding Judy's performance or the change of the Office Administrator position from full-time to part-time.

The committee unanimously approved a recommendation to council that Judy should receive a 3.5% pay increase effective on her anniversary date. Council has since concurred with this recommendation.

Polly also updated the committee on her travel plans through General Assembly and other matters.

Respectfully submitted by David Boyd, Co-chair

**Nominating Committee – June 30, 2018**

The following people have agreed to serve on Presbytery Committees:

Angela Palmer – Youth Committee

David Neinkamp – Nominating Committee

Central Nebraska

## Presbyterian Women Spring Gatherings

### **Celebration: Living in the Joy of the Lord**

**“They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.” Psalm 145:7**

**Where: O’Neill April 26, 2018** 1:00-4:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church 204 East Everett; no cost or registration

**Minden April 28, 2018** 9:00-1:30 p.m. Westminster United Presbyterian Church, 109 North Colorado; cost: 10.00 Registration

Worship was led by Pastor Linda Lambert in O’Neill and worship with communion was led by Pastor Dan Davis.

**Kili Wenburg**, spiritual director at First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, presented a program on Celebration. Celebration expresses gratitude, reinforces what we value, and makes us mindful of present happenings. Most importantly, it brings us into a right relationship with the Lord. Worship is our opportunity to celebrate a God who loves us.

**Churchwide Gathering:** August 2-5, 2018 in Louisville, KY; Linda Anthony is our voting representative. See Annabelle for scholarship information.

**Marsha Davis** shared PW reading results. **Darline Watson** demonstrated making sleeping mats from plastic shopping bags.

PW is looking for a woman to follow God’s leading to be the next PW moderator in Central Nebraska.

**Fall Gathering: September 22, 2018 at Lexington.**

Annabelle Wells, Moderator