# Presbytery of Great Rivers ASSEMBLY MINUTES

# **STATED MEETING**

The Presbytery of Great Rivers met in Stated Meeting February 26, 2019 at Five Points in Washington, IL at AM. The meeting was called to order, opened with prayer and song by Moderator Elder Gary Terpstra. The purpose of the meeting was for worship. Moderator Elder Gary Terpstra led the meeting in worship and the transaction of business. An offering was collected for the Presbyterian One Great Hour of Sharing in the amount of \$829.00

Acknowledgment of Native American Heritage of the Assembly Site: We meet today on the land of the Peoria, Meskwaki, and Sauk.

We were welcomed to the Assembly meeting by Moderator Elder Gary Terpstra.

# **QUORUM**

A quorum was declared and established through the roll of participants through the registration forms. QUORUM & ROLL

The roll was established by registration. The Moderator declared that a quorum was present with the roll established per registrations as follows: 'A' = Absent 'EX' = Excused

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FIGURE SOMMISSIONERS

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CITY & Church	TEACHING & RULING ELDERS SERVING CHURCHES 46	ELDER COMMISSIONERS
A=Absent E=Excused	SERVING CHURCHES 46	OR ALTERNATES 42
	Mr. Jeremy Westlake	N/A
	Rev. Ann Elyse Van Winkle (1st listing)	
	CLP Sue Shike	
Alexis, NorwoodA	CLP Gary Pullen	N/A
	CLP Sandi Woodard	
Bartonville, Trinity	Rev. Steve Barch	N/A
Biggsville, United	CLP Kathie Whitson	Marilyn Simmons
Bloomington, Saint. Luke	Rev. Andrew Gifford	John Otto
Bloomington, Second	Rev. Kathy Stoner Lasala	Tom Young
Bushnell, First	Rev. Elissa Bailey	David Strand
Buffalo Hart	Rev. Mary E. Jessup	Janice Wray
Canton, First	VACANT	Terry Frame
Carlinville, Federated	Rev. Megan Biddle	Nate Rush
Carrollton, FirstA	Kirby Ballard	N/A
Carthage, First	VACANT	N/A
Carthage, Fountain GreenA	Mr. Mark Hanson	N/A
Chatham, ChathamA	Rev. James Reitz	N/A
Chenoa, First	VACANT	Marcia Wahls
Clayton, First	Rev. Kay Daniel	N/A
Clinton, Clinton	Rev. Paul Stroup	Leland Wright
Coal Valley, First	Rev. Tim W. Snart	N/A
Danvers, FirstA	Rev. Tim Mitchell	Kent Wurmnest
Delavan, First	Rev. Jean Sparks	N/A
Divernon, FirstA	Rev. Steve Smith	N/A
E. Moline, First	Rev. Rebecca A. Sherwood	Denise Maxwell
Edwards, KoreanA	Rev. Hyaekwang Kim	N/A
Elmwood, First	Rev. Marla Bauler	N/A
Eureka, Eureka	CLP Bob Montgomery	Norma Foley

_	Rev. Linda Philabaun	
•	Rev. Shawn Smith	
Geneseo, First	Rev. Tim Doty	Steve Durian
Green Valley, First	VACANT	N/A
Greenview, United	VACANT	N/A
Hamilton, Bethel	ACLP Robert Wagner	N/A
	ARev. Gary Elg (1st Listing)	
Jacksonville, First	Rev. Jonathan Warren	Dave Truesdell
	ACLP Pam Moore	
Knoxville, First	ARev. Ken Shedenhelm	N/A
LeRoy, First	Rev. Annie McMillan	Naomi Chaplin
Lewistown, First	CLP Penny Frame	N/A
Lincoln, First	Rev. Adam Quine	Julie Kasa
Macomb, First	Ms. Erin Marth	N/A
Macomb, Scotland Trinity	ARev. Gary Elg (2 <sup>nd</sup> Listing)	N/A
Mason City, United	Rev. Charlotte Poetschner	N/A
Media, Community	ACLP Amy Booker Hirsch	N/A
Middletown, First	VACANT	N/A
Milan, First	Rev. Joyce Chamberlin	Debbie Bonnett
Monmouth, Faith	ARev. Brandon Ouellette	N/A
	ARev. Daniel Ott	
_	ACLP Mike Claver	
	AMr. Richard Young	
	AMr. Mark Anderson	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Rev. Mark Bedford	
	VACANT	
	ARev. Lawrence R. Gaylord	
Normal, First		·
	Rev. Robert W. Ryder	<i>N/A</i>
	Rev. Susan M. Ryder	
	ARev. Linda Baldwin	
•	ACLP Sheila Sheer	•
-	ARev. Samuel Gibb	
	Rev. Forrest Krummel	
	Rev. Laura Reason	
	Rev. Denise Clark Jones	
,	ARev. John Nelson	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Ms. Diane Ludington	
	Rev. Lonna Chang-Ren Lee	
	AMr. Ron Cox	
· •	Rev. Harry Losey	
•	Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle	•
	VACANT	
Ruck leland Broadway	VAOANI	
	Pov Drow Nagle (4st tiatian)	Kon Elaak
Rock Island, Gloria Dei	Rev. Drew Nagle (1st listing)	
Rock Island, Gloria Dei Rock Island, Good Shepard	Rev. James Benson	James Bertelsei
Rock Island, Gloria Dei Rock Island, Good Shepard Rock Island, South Park		James Bertelsei Kenn Shoemake

		Rev. Drew Nagle (2 <sup>nd</sup> Listing)		
Springfield, First		Rev. Susan Phillips		
Springfield, Hope		Rev. Charles S. GoodmanLaCl		
Springfield, Knox	A	Rev. Paula Carmichael		
Springfield, Korean		Rev. Jaechul Kim		
Springfield, Third		Rev. Joe EbyTom	Tom Turnbull	
Springfield, Westminster		Rev. Blythe KiefferKath	Kathy Germeroad	
Springfield, Westminster	A	Rev. Trajan McGillJim k	Kincaid	
Springfield, Westminster		Rev. Christian Choi Alan	Wallace	
Stronghurst, Stronghurst	A	Mr. Phillip Cooper		
Tallula, Rock Creek	A	Rev. David Daniel		
Viola, United	A	Rev. Matt DowneyDick	Whittington	
		VACANT <i>N/A</i>	J	
Virginia, First	A	Rev. Marcia Forman		
		Mr. Carl Wiggins		
= =		CLP Dan Colvin		
		VACANTMelo	dy Wiseman	
		VACANT <i>N/A</i>	,	
		Rev. Cheyanna Losey		
		Rev. Robert Kerr		
		Rev. Marla Bauler (2 <sup>nd</sup> Listing)	Watts	
Jessica Hawkinson, VM Mike Paddock, M@L Randall Saxon, HR				
Cheryl Lunday, HR Rick Tindall, HR				
Cheryl Lunday, HR Rick Tindall, HR Kathy Mitchell, HR		EAM MEMBERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS bers of Presbytery)	TOTAL:	
Cheryl Lunday, HR Rick Tindall, HR Kathy Mitchell, HR  ADMINISTRATION & VISION (Not Listed Elsewhere - votin) Bill Harfst	ng memb	bers of Presbytery) CT OR PRIOR MODERATOR		
Cheryl Lunday, HR Rick Tindall, HR Kathy Mitchell, HR  ADMINISTRATION & VISION (Not Listed Elsewhere - votin) Bill Harfst  MODERATOR / MODERATO (Not Listed Elsewhere - votin) Gary Terpstra Mike Orr Susan Sawers	og meml OR ELE	bers of Presbytery) CT OR PRIOR MODERATOR	TOTAL:	

PRESBYTERY STAFF TOTAL: 01

Patti Parrish

TOTAL ATTENDANCE 109

#### WORDS OF WELCOME

Introduction of new Minister Members of the Presbytery. We welcome Rev. Christian Choi to our Presbytery as he is serving as the Associate Pastor of Family Ministries at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield, IL.

Introduction of new Ruling Elder Commissioners.

MSA to seat corresponding member Rev. Sara Dingman, Presbytery of Whitewater Valley.

## **OPENING BUSINESS**

The Assembly MSA the Docket with the following changes:

- Admin team report up after lunch at 1pm by Joyce Chamberlain
- · Removal of item for ethics training.

## **CURRENT BUSINESS** (Appendix A)

MSA to approve the omnibus motion that included the Stated Clerk's report and Financial Team report (Appendix B). Personnel Committee report was removed.

**MSA** that all written reports be entered into the permanent minutes.

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

CLP Sandi Woodard presented the Personnel Committee report. Stated Clerk job description is under review.

## **LEAD PRESBYTER FOR TRANSFORMATION REPORT** (Appendix B)

LPT Rev. Ryan Landino sent a video message as he was at a leader development seminar in Louisville. He sent greetings and prayers.

## **VISIONING TEAM REPORT (Appendix C)**

The Visioning Team Report was presented by Rev. Jonathan Warren, chair. Rev. Jonathan spoke about the visioning grants that are available for our churches to apply and receive funds from the Presbytery to help do the work in which they are called. Encouraged all to sign up for the Presbytery e-newsletter.

Rev. Adam Quine from First in Lincoln received a MIFA Grant and spoke about the funds they had received and the work they are doing. They recognize the need to be relational in their community especially in the midst of the opioid epidemic that they are experiencing in their community. So, they looked at how they would collaborate with other churches and organizations. As a result, they created a community when children who don't feel like they fit in with other crowds where they can come and explore avenues without judgment. Most at risk group is 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

\$15,000 is being set aside by the Presbytery for Youth Triennium. The Presbytery will cover 1/3 of the cost for students and adult leaders to go to the triennium.

# **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT**

The Committee on Ministry report was presented by Rev. Shawn Smith, chair. He ask that all please turn in your calls and contracts. March 23<sup>rd</sup> at First Pres Bushnell, there will be a training for elders to receive communion training.

**MSA** that Pulpit Supply Language for the COM Handbook be changed:

Section III, part 2, D add the following: "All requesting to be placed on our Pulpit Supply list, must

complete the application process that includes a theological exam and a criminal background check. If Ministers of Word and Sacrament, who are members in good standing of a neighboring presbytery, request to be placed on our Pulpit Supply list, they may receive permission to labor inside our bounds by completing our application process and by confirmation of their status with their presbytery. This process includes confirmation of a criminal background check within the past three years."

**MSA** request from Rock Island, Gloria Dei Church for waiver/exempt from term limits for elders, allowing Ken Flack to serve a fourth consecutive term of three years as a member of session.

Rev. Susan Phillips introduced Rev. Christian Choi to our Presbytery.

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

The Committee on Preparation of Ministry report was given by Rev. Matt Wilcox, chair.

## **LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT (Appendix D)**

The Leadership Team report was presented by Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle, Moderator-Elect. (Appendix E)

The Leadership team is working to decide how to use the Synod transitional grants. Transitional ministry training funds currently remain the same.

**MSA** to add to the bylaws under Article VI, Section 6, Attendance: "Electronic participation and voting, moderated by the Leadership Team, is permissible under the guidelines of Robert's Rules."

**MSA** the following persons to serve as members of the Cooksville Administrative Commission: Teaching Elders: Drew Nagle, chair, Annie McMillan, and Kathy Stoner Lasala Ruling Elders: Leland Wright and Kent Wurmnest

#### **INTERFAITH TEAM REPORT**

The Interfaith Team report was presented by John Nixon

Event taking place about Rabbi Rosen and his lecture that will be on March 26th. "Facing Israel/Palestine: A New Model for Interfaith Relations" on Tuesday, March 26th, at 7:00pm at First Federated-Peoria's Life Together Center. We will welcome Rabbi Brant Rosen, rabbi of Congregation Tzedek Shalom in Chicago, Midwest Regional Director of the American Friends Service Committee, and author of Wrestling in the Daylight (2017). He will model how to engage in dialogue around one of the most challenging global discussions of our time from the perspective of commonly held values." Other events are coming.

## **CAMP STRONGHOLD**

Elder Lance Slavish presented a report on the Stronghold camp.

They are in need of additional female camp counselors and supplies. In addition to this, they need campers!

#### **WORSHIP**

Today worship was led by our Moderator and Moderator-Elect in liturgy. Synod Executive Rev. Sara Dingman presented the word with the Scripture from Exodus 34:29-35. The sermon title "Removing the Veil" spoke about letting our lights shine in our ministries and in our lives by "removing the veil" that we are behind. The Synod is bringing initiatives to help churches and pastors with this. Need to find ways to bring joy back into our lives and ministries.

An invitation to the offering was given as a way of a visual prayer in the ways the One Great Hours of Sharing goes to help those in need.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Please take your membership cards home!
- Electronic voting info will be on the website.
- Food pantries needing support due to government shut down. Thank you to Westminster in

Springfield for their assistance with food pantries.

- Mission Trip with 2<sup>nd</sup> Pres in Bloomington to Florida panhandle at Dogwood Acres, a PCUSA camp. This will take place in March and is Hurricane Michael work.
- Shawn's announcement
- Greetings brought from Cimarron Valley.
- Synod School in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies will be coming up this summer.
- Habitat for Humanity Choir and fundraiser is coming up. More info to come.
- Danvers Church will be celebrating 190 years this year!
- We rejoice in the work of Mary Jessup and her ministry at Buffalo Hart. She has been there for 26 years. She will be retiring and leaving at the end of April. We give thanks for her and the church.
- Farmington church will be getting a new pastor and thanks was given for the pastor who had been serving there.
- Rev. Chip Roland reported that a CPE program is now at St. Francis in Peoria.
- An announcement about what Messy Church is and how the Jacksonville church is doing this.
- Rev. Jessica Hawkinson spoke about the LUX institute being full. This is exciting!
- Pekin Church is continuing to work with the hydroponics systems and are extending that even further into the community.

#### ADMINISTRATION TEAM REPORT

The Administration Team report was presented by Rev. Joyce Chamberlain. Info about the new office.

## BILLS AND OVERTURES TEAM REPORT

The Bills and Overtures Team report was presented by Rev. Elissa Bailey, Stated Clerk.

The Moderator-Elect Rev. Maura McGrath-Nagle closed the meeting with a blessing and prayer and at 2:04pm and was declared adjourned.

The next Stated Presbytery Assembly meeting will take place on Saturday, June 8, 2019 at First Presbyterian Church, Macomb, IL.

## Appendix A

## Stated Clerk's Report

Recommended action to the floor of Presbytery:

THAT THE STATED CLERK'S REPORT BE ENTERED INTO THE MINUTES AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN BE ADOPTED.

# 1. Members to be received, dismissed, Honorably Retired, REMOVED, or deceased

## THAT the following minister(s) be received:

Rev. Christian Choi from the San Joaquin Presbytery

Rev. Andy Sonneborne from South Eastern Illinois Presbytery

## THAT the following minister(s) be listed as Honorably Retired:

N/A

# THAT the following minister(s) be Dismissed:

Rev. Cathy Allen be dismissed to East Iowa Presbytery.

Rev. Troy Agema to be dismissed to the Presbytery of Grand Canyon as a Member At Large.

Rev. Carl Stoldt, Honorably Retired, be dismissed to Presbytery of Sacramento.

# THAT the following minister(s) be Removed from Rolls:

N/A

## Deceased:

N/A

## 2. CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS

Dismiss the commission who installed Rev. Christian Choi as associate pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield, IL on January 20, 2019 at 4:00 pm.

# 3. CORRESPONDENCE

Approve request from Rock Island, Gloria Dei Church for waiver/exempt from term limits for elders, allowing Ken Flack to serve a fourth consecutive term of three years as a member of session.

## Appendix B

## Report of the Lead Presbyter for Transformation, 2/15/19

I am now halfway through my seventh month as Lead Presbyter for Transformation, and I can say that it has been an inspiring joy serving our community of churches. I remain focused on building relationships, fostering partnerships, and strengthening communication channels across the presbytery. So far, I have had meaningful visits with almost a third of the 90+ Presbyterian Churches in our Presbytery. I have enjoyed sharing messages of hope in God's presence through times of transformation from the pulpit, have enjoyed connecting with fellow presbyters about what you most value about the faith life of your worship communities. I have felt honored to serve as a resource person/deliberation partner for both sessions and pastors.

These recent months have showed me the strong need for pastoral leadership for and with the presbytery. With the tragic death of Rev. David Daniel by car accident before Thanksgiving, with a number of other hospitalizations including that of Rev. David Esche, and other family illnesses, deaths, and traumas across our presbytery, I have found value in offering pastoral support in the form of serving as a kind of "pastor to the pastors." I continue to be astonished by your deep love for Jesus Christ and each other that leads you to bear one another's burdens (for example, I am impressed with how churches came together to support our neighbors in Southeastern Illinois Presbytery in the wake of the Taylorville tornado). I continue to pray for each of you and your churches, and welcome your prayer concerns/updates. I also encourage all our presbyters to pursue the best exercise, rest, and care rhythms that foster your spiritual, mental, and physical health; I laud your efforts to protect your boundaries, including Sabbath rest, vacation, and continuing education.

Of course, this winter has been rocked by the hardest inclement weather I have yet experienced while living in the Midwest! I am happy to notice careful discernment for whether to hold or cancel church gatherings in dangerous conditions, especially with consideration in mind for our more elderly members and commuting preachers. This has also created a unique challenge for how the presbytery can still conduct its business despite the weather when so many churches rely on swift responsiveness from our committees. I am so pleased to see more and more presbytery gatherings successfully utilize the technology we have available to help us interact virtually, but I am grateful for the earnest reflection and conversation regarding the limitations of these channels. It does not look like virtual meetings will *replace* physical meetings anytime soon, but they look to serve us well as a way to complement our physical meetings so people who otherwise cannot participate may still be included. Our gatherings...

## Appendix C

## Visioning Team Report

Available Shared Mission Grants – There are several shared mission grants available for your church to apply to this year (see attachment included following report). Please help by sharing the shared mission grants description with your church staff, session, deacons, etc. At the Presbytery assembly, we will have copies available that we would like you to share.

- 1. Worship Initiative Grant: for churches to take worship into the community outside their buildings (max. \$500).
- 2. Bucks for Blessing: for each PGR member church who partners with another congregation to do something that blesses the community (max. \$1000).
- 3. Sabbatical Grant (max. \$2000 for currently serving pastors + \$500 for church expenses during pastor's absence for pastors who are planning a Session-approved sabbatical).
- 4. Church Consulting Grant: for approved church consultant to help churches live into their mission, vision, and values or transformation process (max. \$2500 matching)
- 5. Mission Initiative Funding Application (MIFA): for a project/program that is a church's mission initiative (1st year: max \$5,000 matching, 2nd and 3rd years at decreased amount)

During the February Assembly there will be a short presentation from First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln about The Center for Creativity and Community. They received \$5000 Mission Initiative Funding (50% matching). The target population is students between 12-16 years old. They are working alongside a local coffee shop, St. John United Church of Christ, and a musical festival team.

Youth Triennium, July 16-20, 2019 We want youth and adult leaders from our Presbytery to attend Presbyterian Youth Triennium this summer: July 16-20, 2019. The Presbytery will pay 1/3 of the cost, \$185 for all youth (entering 9th grade through graduated 12th grade), and adult leaders attending Triennium. The Presbytery will cover the cost of a charter bus with several pick-up locations across our Presbytery, t-shirts, and PGR buttons. Please register through the Presbytery office <a href="mailto:office@greatriverspby.org">office@greatriverspby.org</a> (see attached flyer following report).

**Presbytery e-Newsletter** We encourage all staff, active elders, clerks and church members in the Presbytery to sign up for the e-Newsletter and follow the Presbytery of Great Rivers <u>Facebook</u> page. Please include the following sentence in your bulletin announcements. God is doing great things in Presbyterian churches all around us. Sign-up for the Presbytery of Great Rivers e-Newsletter at <u>www.greatriverspby.org/newsletter</u>

## Additional items:

- We use the 95 Theses shared during the November 2018 Assembly to help in creating a vision for our Presbytery.
- We will likely set aside funds for townhall meetings and/or Assembly speakers.
- If it's the second time a church applies for a bucks for blessings or worship initiative grant, the team will discuss future sustainability and growth and creating new options/ideas/aspects for that project.
- Our team voted to encourage leadership team to use Synod funds for transitional ministry training.
- The following Grant Applications were reviewed and approved:

## **Bucks for Blessings**:

- First Presbyterian Church of Farmington \$1000 for its July 28-August 1, 2019 Community VBS project in partnership with Faith Presbyterian church-Yates City; First Baptist Church-Farmington, and The United Methodist Church of Farmington.

- First Presbyterian Church of Geneseo \$1000 for its Feeding the Needy program in partnership with Hope Church of Christ, Moline, and Mt. Zion Baptist Church, East Moline.

# Sabbatical Grant:

- Rev. Dr. Cheyanna Losey \$2,000 for a Sabbatical to enter a time of rest, renewal, and reflection from May 27-Sept. 9, 2019, and the United Church of Woodhull \$500.
- Visioning Team meeting dates: April 30, August 13, and October 8. Please send grant applications 2 weeks ahead of our meeting.

Rev. Jonathan Warren, Visioning Team Chair First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville (217) 245-4189, jwarren@firstpresjax.org

# Appendix D

## Leadership Team Report

The Leadership Team met on February 12, 2019, with the following results. No action is required of the assembly.

- Creation of a task force to oversee disposition of synod grants was formerly approved at the August 22, 2018 Leadership Team meeting. At *this* meeting, task force personnel were appointed by the moderator: Maura McGrath Nagle, Julio Garcia, and Elissa Bailey. Maura McGrath Nagle will be chair.
- Action was taken to affirm the use of the remaining monies designated previously from the Synod Transformation Grant for Transitional Training as so designated.
- The Visioning Team and Committee on Ministry will together study if they would recommend the
  presbytery engaging in the Vital Congregations Initiative and, if positive, will work through the new
  synod grants task force to locate the funding.
- Action was taken designating the offering received at the February 26, 2019 assembly to One Great Hour of Sharing.
- Communion will not be celebrated at the February 26 assembly meeting.
- The clear consensus was that selection of the preacher for assembly meetings should be made
  with greater lead time. In the future the choice will be discussed at the second prior Leadership
  Team meeting.
- The particulars surrounding the upcoming office move were reviewed.

#### REQUIRING ACTION OF THE ASSEMBLY:

- 1. A motion is needed for a second reading of the addition to the bylaws under Article VI, Section 6, Attendance: "Electronic participation and voting, moderated by the Leadership Team, is permissible under the guidelines of Robert's Rules." No second needed.
- 2. A motion is needed for the assembly to approve the following persons to serve as members of the Cooksville Administrative Commission:

Teaching Elders: Drew Nagle, chair, Annie McMillan, and Kathy Stoner Lasala Ruling Elders: Leland Wright and Kent Wurmnest

As approved at the September 22, 2018 assembly, the Cooksville Administrative Commission shall have the power to conclude the following actions:

- 1. To assume original jurisdiction of the First Presbyterian Church of Cooksville (Illinois), acting as its session.
- 2. To dissolve the union relationship of the Union Church of Cooksville.
- 3. To assert the claim of the Presbytery of Great Rivers (successor to the Presbytery of Bloomington) to any property of the First Presbyterian Church of Cooksville, whether known or not known at this time, or property which may come as beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.