

Highlights of the February 21, 2015 Stated Meeting of Heartland Presbytery

- On a cold and icy morning the presbytery was greeted warmly by the Shawnee Presbyterian Church members followed by a concert by the Central Standard Barbershop Chorus.
- Moderator McCall called the meeting to order, welcomed 1st time commissioners and corresponding members were seated.
- TE Jim Gordon presented the history of the Linwood Presbyterian Church, the Harold Thomas Center and the Linwood Area Ministry Project (LAMP). He shared information regarding the funding for the remodeling project, the tax credits, and donations from foundations. The final source of funding of \$400,000 is hoped to be raised through a matching gift from Presbyterians. Commissioners were urged to give generously to the morning offering for LAMP.
- TE Pat Jackson's sermon "The Blessing of Christ" focused on the wider church. He was joined by TE Craig Gibson in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The offering total was \$1,878. RE Vera Phillips was installed as moderator of the presbytery. TE George McCall was thanked for his service as moderator.
- Chris McDonald, Jo Randolph and Rachel Lausch shared highlights of the recent trip to Maya Quiche'. They spoke of attending the ordination of Ph..... the 1st female ordination in Maya Quiche'. They thanked the presbytery for supporting this partnership for 20 years.
- Many individuals were elected to presbytery positions.
- TE Carla Gentry presented the 2014 year end financials. She talked about how the shared mission dollars were being used for mission and ministry throughout the presbytery. Commissioners were urged to participate in both the shared mission budget and per capita.
- TE James Gale brought greetings from the Synod of Mid America and thanked the presbytery for paying their synod per capita. He announced that the presbytery will receive a \$10,000 mission grant to be used for direct support of congregations. Every 3 years on third of the pastors (serving congregations) will be invited to attend a retreat in the spring.
- Mat Vaughan from Youth Ministry Institute Midwest was introduced as a partner of the synod. This organization is providing support, training and consultation for persons working in youth ministry.
- The Administrative Commission for the Arabic Fellowship announced that Amgad Megally will be ordained by the Synod of the Nile on March 28, 2015 at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church at 3:00 PM. Everyone is urged to attend.
- The Administrative Commission for Bethel Presbyterian Church is walking alongside the congregation as they discern their future.
- 1st Presbyterian Church, Olathe, KS will host a Health Fair on March 28 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.
- The Administrative Commission for the Presbyterian Church of Stanley is working closely with the 'true church' as they navigate their ministry these days. They are moving forward in electing a new session for the PCUSA faithful.
- TE Sarah Butler shared some background information regarding some struggles that the small rural Oregon Presbyterian Church has been facing these recent years. The congregation decided to close on January 4, 2015. Presbytery approved the AC's recommendations regarding disposing of their property and remaining funds.
- Congregational Ministries shared the information and announced upcoming events:
 1. Approximately 200 participated in the Embracing Hope Event.
 2. Over 200 youth and adults attended the Youth Rally and tubing experience in January.
 3. The Youth Council will meet on Sunday, February 28 at 1st, Lee's Summit.

4. This is the final year that the We Believe curriculum will be published. Growing in Grace and Gratitude will soon be published.
- Executive Presbyter, Charles Spencer reminded the presbytery that individuals and congregations perceive experiences and information differently. Some see the glass half full and others see the glass as half empty. He urged Presbyterians to 'know' what our denomination believe, even if we may disagree. Members were urged to attend the Stewardship Kaleidoscope March 9 – 11, 2015 especially since it is in the KC, MO area.
 - TE Kathleen Knehans shared information about the work of the AC for the Dotte Initiative and their excitement of calling a pastor for this new church development.
 - TE Ron Stewart, HR from the Presbytery of Great Rivers was examined and received as a member of the presbytery.
 - Candidate Terra Pennington was examined for membership pending her ordination. She will begin her work on March 1, 2015 as the pastor for the Dotte Initiative NCD.
 - TE Jonas Hayes and Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church received approval for applying for the Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering.

Next Stated Meeting of Presbytery – Tuesday, April 21, 2015
Southminster Presbyterian Church, 6306 Roe, Blvd., Prairie Village, KS 66208