

**Heartland Presbytery Minutes**  
**Two Hundred and Twentieth Stated Meeting – Saturday, July 12, 2014**  
**Covenant Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO**

**Opening, Docket and Welcome**

Moderator TE George McCall opened the meeting with prayer at 9:00 AM. Stated Clerk RE Sally Hinchman declared there was a quorum of 57 teaching elders, 54 ruling elder commissioners from churches, 8 ruling elders from Presbytery Council and staff, 2 Commissioned Ruling Elders and 1 corresponding member.

Moderator McCall called for new business, there being none the docket was approved as presented.

TE Kirk Perucca, Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church welcomed the commissioners. First time commissioners were welcomed and the corresponding member was seated.

**Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda was approved as follows:

1. Council recommends the presbytery receive the minutes of the Presbytery Council on April 7, 2014 and incorporate them in the minutes of May 3, 2014 stated meeting of the presbytery.
2. Council recommends the presbytery approve the minutes of the stated meeting of the presbytery on May 3, 2014.
3. Acting as an Administrative Commission the Trustees approved recommending that Heartland Presbytery approve a commercial loan and allow the congregation of Shawnee Presbyterian Church, Shawnee, KS to move forward with the purchase of a residence for the use of TE Craig Gibson and his family, but only after if subject to all of the following conditions:
  - a. The Shawnee session will consult with the Heartland Presbytery lawyers to insure that all aspects of these transitions are in full compliance with all legal requirements.
  - b. The Shawnee session will make an application for tax exemption of the residence with the assistance of the lawyers from Polsinelli.
  - c. The Shawnee session will work with and gain approval from the Heartland Presbytery Commission on Ministry in regards to making revisions to the terms of call for TE Craig Gibson. The revised terms will then be submitted to the congregation for approval.
  - d. The Shawnee session will work with and gain approval from Heartland Presbytery prior to any sale of the residence. In this effort the Board of Trustees will be advised and consulted from the outset of the process.
4. Trustees recommend to Heartland Presbytery approval of the sale of the two properties owned by the First United Presbyterian Church, Paola, KS with the following conditions:
  - a. The sale is contingent on an affirmative vote at the June 1, 2014 congregational meeting. The minutes from the meeting will be provided to the Heartland Presbytery Board of Trustees.
  - b. The session of Paola will provide to the Heartland Presbytery Board of Trustees all appropriate paperwork relating to the sale of the residences upon completion of that process.
5. Trustees recommend approval that Trinity Presbyterian Church, St. Joseph, MO be

- permitted to sell their existing building.
6. Trustees recommend approval that Trinity Presbyterian, St. Joseph, MO be permitted to worship at the Holiday Inn & Suites of St. Joseph, MO located at 3600 N. Village Dr. until such time as a new location is identified.
  7. Trustees recommend that First Presbyterian, Gardner, KS to enter into a 'shared space' agreement with the Methodist New Church Development Congregation (First Light) with the proviso that all ancillary issues are addressed.
  8. Commission on Preparation for Ministry recommends the following persons to read ordination exams:  
TE Brian Ellison, RE Janet Kelley, RE Wayne Letizia, TE James Walker, TE Glenda Watts, TE Kimby Young, Alternates – TE Heather Jepson and TE Ken Perreault.
  9. Dismiss with thanks the Ordination & Installation Commission for Candidate Norlita Kaul at First Presbyterian Church, Osawatomie, KS on May 17, 2014.
  10. Dismiss with thanks the Ordination Commission for Candidate, Kirstin Austin at Central Presbyterian Church, KC, MO on May 31, 2014.
  11. Dismiss with thanks the Ordination Commission for Candidate Karen Wagner at Southminster Presbyterian Church, Prairie Village, KS on June 1, 2014.
  12. Receive the report from the stated clerk.
  13. Receive the 2014 Financial Report.

#### **Report of General Assembly Commissioners**

RE Maggie Blankers thanked the presbytery for electing her as a commissioner. She provided an overview of how the General Assembly does its work. Also highlighted the election of Moderator RE Heath Rada and Vice Moderator TE Larissa Kwong Abazia with much appreciation for their leadership in moderating the meeting.

TE Pat Jackson focused his remarks on the decision for divestment with 3 companies that provide equipment used by the Israeli military in the occupation of Palestine: Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions. He said that commissioners heard from multiple persons on all sides of this difficult issue.

#### **Administrative Commission for Bethel Presbyterian Church, KC ,KS - RE Mac Fletchling**

He asked the presbytery to keep this congregation in their prayers. The Commission meets monthly with the session regarding their ministry. The church members have started a new Bible Study and will participate in the "New Beginnings Program".

#### **Administrative Commission for Linwood Property - TE Ron Galvin**

He reviewed the actions of the Commission regarding the Linwood Property and the redevelopment of the Harold Thomas Center. The Commission made changes to their bylaws so that the board's size is more reflective of their work.

#### **Mission and Social Justice – RE Maggie Blankers**

TE Kirk Perucca talked about the concern of Gun Violence in the world, United States and this community. He urged churches to become "A Gun-Free Zone". He also announced there will be an International Peacemaker in the presbytery September 9 – October 2, 2014 from Madagascar.

TE Ellen Marquardt shared highlights of the Spring trip to Maya Quiche' and showed a slide

show of trips over the past 5 years.

### **Presbyterian Urban and Immigrant Ministry Network – TE Donna Chavez**

The Argentine Presbyterian Church, KC, KS used their PUIMN shared mission money to develop an Amigos Program for children and youth on Wednesday afternoon during the school year and for 2 weeks during the summer. These dollars have enabled this congregation to reach out to needs in their community.

### **Reports of General Assembly Commissioners**

TE Sandra Stogsdill Brown had great respect for the commissioners who came prepared on the issues before the assembly. She served on the committee that dealt with “Marriage and Civil Union” and appreciated the process their committee followed to deal with these sensitive issues. She also appreciated how respectful commissioners were with each other even when they may disagree on the issues.

TE Jason Carle highlighted the following:

- The celebration of the 248 “1001 New Worshipping Communities” and the number that are thinking outside the box.
- Appreciated the role of the Young Adult Advisory Delegates (YAAD) in committee and also in plenary.
- The 20<sup>th</sup> year celebration of the Young Adult Volunteers Program (YAVS) and that 30% of them go into ministry.
- The synods will decrease from 16 to 10 - 12 in the next 2 years with Puerto Rico being one of them.

### **Report of the Executive Presbyter – TE Charles Spencer**

He talked about how the presbytery is living on the edge regarding decisions that have been made by the presbytery and some churches. Decisions like the redevelopment of the Linwood Property; relocating the presbytery offices to 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian, Olathe, KS the end of July; the Arabic Fellowship becoming a 1001 Worshipping Community; the departure of several churches; hard decisions for the Administrative Commission working with churches leaving; the need to increase per capita due to a congregation withholding their payment and churches leaving.

### **Heartland Presbyterian Center – RE Michael Kruse**

During the 2014 summer 2500 children and youth will attend the overnight camps, day camp and traveling day camps. The “I Love Camp” campaign has raised \$900,000 to date and refurbished the Genesis Center and built 2 new swimming pools. He reminded the presbytery that the next stated meeting will be at the Heartland Center and his appreciation for serving on the board.

### **Worship**

In preparation for worship Moderator McCall called for prayer requests. Rev. Tex Sample preached followed by the celebration of the Lord’s Supper with TE’s Kirk Perucca and Nikki Cooley. Inspirational music surrounded this service. An offering of \$1,192.75 was received with the presbytery’s portion to help with the debt for the pools at Heartland Center and for the church to assist with sending their children and youth to camp.

### **Recess, Lunch and Reconvene**

Moderator McCall called on TE Kirk Perucca to offer a prayer for lunch and then declared the presbytery was in recess. Moderator McCall reconvened the presbytery at 1:05 PM and TE Elizabeth Meador led the presbytery in prayer.

### **Announcements for the Community**

Numerous commissioners shared highlights of events at their churches.

### **Report of the Resource Director for Christian Education – RE Malinda Spencer**

“Oasis” will be held October 19 – 21, 2014 at the Embassy Suites near the airport. Registration will soon be online. She then showed a DVD from the Resource Center called “All Washed Up”.

### **Presbytery Council – RE Vera Phillips**

RE Don Haring presented the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the 2015 Budget for Budget and Finance Committee. He explained there will be a \$5.11 increase in the per capita and that the shared mission budget is basically remaining flat.

RE Teresa Clark for Personnel Committee moved that the presbytery concur with the request from TE Leigh Gillis that the Associate Executive Presbyter, Heartland Presbytery relationship be dissolved effective July 31, 2014 in order that she might begin August 1, 2014 as Interim Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Goldsboro, NC. The motion was approved. Words of appreciation were shared regarding her ministry in Heartland Presbytery. It was announced that there would be an Open House at the office on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 from 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM in honor of Leigh.

### **Congregational Ministries – TE Jonathan Mitchell**

“Embracing Hope” will be January 24, 2015 at Trinity Presbyterian, Independence, MO. The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly Gradye Parsons will be the keynote presenter. He then introduced members of the Youth Council who shared a video of their last event and announced upcoming youth events. Churches were encouraged to nominate 1 junior high youth and 1 senior high youth to serve on the Youth Council.

### **Commission on Ministry – TE Ky Weekley**

The COM Moderator presented the actions of the Commission since the last presbytery meeting. There were no questions and the report was received.

#### Actions taken at the May 1, 2014 meeting:

1. Authorized RE Susan Baker, Dick Beutler, Jean Darby, Bill Kidd, Sandy Melton, Darlene Oberman from **Faith PC, Raytown, MO** to administer or preside at the Lord’s Supper, following the completion of training, for specific services, that were previously reported, when no TE was available. Book of Order G-3.0301b.
2. Approved the COM minutes of April 3, 2014 stated meeting.
3. Approved the transfer of TE **Mary Wright** from the rolls of Heartland Presbytery to John Calvin Presbytery.
4. Removed **John Johnson** from the rolls of Heartland Presbytery
5. Granted the status of Honorably Retired to **Teaching Elder Alvin L. Zimmerman, Jr.** effective date April 1, 2014.
6. Granted the status of Honorably Retired to **Teaching Elder Shannon Jung**, effective June 30, 2014.

7. Dissolved the pastoral relationship between **Teaching Elder John R. "Bo" Burgener** and Presbyterian Church of Stanley, OPKS, effective May 4, 2014.  
 May Salary plus benefits: \$5,642  
 June Salary plus benefits: \$5,642;  
 July benefits: \$1,932.
8. Granted permission for **Teaching Elder John R. "Bo" Burgener** to officiate a wedding on August 29, 2014 at Presbyterian Church of Stanley, OPKS, already approved by Teaching Elder Eric Laverentz.
9. Approved the MIF, APNC for **Second Presbyterian Church**, KS, MO.
10. Granted permission for **Rev. Randal Nicholas**, from the Presbytery of Blackhawk, to labor within the bounds of Heartland Presbytery to officiate a wedding in Excelsior Springs, MO on August 1, 2014.
11. Granted permission for **Rev. Dr. Christopher W. Keating**, Pastor (Woodlawn Chapel Presbyterian Church) Wildwood, MO to labor within Heartland Presbytery to officiate a wedding on May 10, 2014 at Mission Hills Country Club, PV, KS.
12. Granted permission for **Teaching Elder Jason Carle**, to serve communion at Heartland Center this summer, once for the Staff Vespers, and once during the Sr. High MADD camp.
13. Accepted **TE Joe Pallikkathayil's** resignation from Heartland Presbytery, pending approval of his transfer to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
14. Approved Jim Coats, HR for pulpit supply list.

Actions taken at the June 5, 2014 meeting:

1. Approved the COM minutes of May 1, 2014 stated meeting.
2. Approved the renewal Temporary Supply contract between **Teaching Elder Carla Libby Gentry**, and Belton Presbyterian Church, Belton MO effective for a term of 12 months, June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015, full time. Terms are as follows:

Salary \$ 8,030.00  
 Housing \$11,000.00

**Reimbursable expenses (by voucher):**

Automobile Expenses \$ 250.00  
 Continuing education \$ 250.00

Full BOP

Vacation: 4 weeks

Continuing Ed: 2 weeks

3. Approved the renewal of Temporary Supply contract between **Teaching Elder Charles David Cliburn**, with Woodville Presbyterian Church, in Oregon, MO, serving approximately 10 hour per week with 50% for Oregon Presbyterian Church, and 50% for Woodville Presbyterian Church, beginning July 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014.

Salary \$1,000.00  
 Housing Allowance \$8,500.00  
 Travel & Professional \$4,400.00  
 Automobile expenses (.56 cents/per mile)

Full BOP

Vacation: 4 weeks (1 week per quarter)

Continuing Ed: 2 weeks (1 week per every 6 months)

4. Approved the terms of call for **Teaching Elder Charles David Cliburn**, Temporary Supply, with *Stony Point Presbyterian Church*, Trimble MO, serving approximately 10 hours per week; for a period of 6 months (not to exceed twelve months), beginning July 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014. Terms are as follows:

Salary	\$1,200.00 annually (\$100/month)
Housing	\$8,340.00 annually (\$695/month)
Full BOP	\$5,970.00 annually (\$495.50/month)
<b>Mileage Reimbursement:</b>	\$1,500-\$2,500 annually Pd by voucher at IRS rate
Vacation:	4 weeks (approx. 40 hrs or 4 Sundays)
Continuing Ed:	Notice of time off must be received within a reasonable Time frame for the session to secure pulpit supply.

5. Approved the terms of call for **Teaching Elder Sandra Stogsdill Brown**, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Topeka, KS, effective June 29, 2014, terms are as follows:

Salary	\$24,100.00
Housing	\$30,000.00
SECA Tax Allowance	\$ 4,139.00
Continuing Education Reimbursement	\$ 1,000.00
Other business and Professional Expenses:	\$ 2,162.00
Vacation:	4 weeks (including 4 Sundays)
Continuing Ed/Study Leave:	2 weeks (including 2 Sundays)

6. Dissolved the pastoral relationship between **Teaching Elder Sandra Stogsdill Brown** and First Presbyterian Church, Lee's Summit, MO, effective June 28, 2014.

7. Dismissd from the rolls of Heartland Presbytery the following to their respective new presbyteries:

**Teaching Elder Sandra Stogsdill Brown** to Northern Kansas Presbytery

**Teaching Elder Elaine McRobbie** to National Capital Presbytery

8. Granted permission for **Teaching Elder Andy Cullen**, to officiate a wedding on July 20, 2014, in Portland, Oregon.

9. Granted permission to **Kaw Prairie Community**, Lenexa, KS to form an APNC.

10. Granted permission to **First Presbyterian Church, Higginsville**, MO to form a PNC.

11. Approved **Teaching Elder John "Bo" Burgener** to the Pulpit Supply list.

12. Approved **Teaching Elder Ralph Mitchell** to serve on the AC, First, Olathe KS

13. Approved **Ruling Elder Larry Deatz**, from First, Fairfax, to serve on the AC, Oregon

14. Approved **Teaching Elder Tom Osborne** to serve on the AC, Oregon

15. Approved the MIF Pt 1&2 APNC, for **Southminster Presbyterian Church**.

16. Granted permission for **Teaching Elder David Moore**, to labor outside the bounds of Heartland Presbytery.

17. Approve the terms of call for **Teaching Elder Cynthia Holder Rich**, Head of Staff, First Presbyterian Church, Findlay, OH, effective, August 15, 2014, terms are as follows:

Salary	\$56,000.00
SS Supplement	\$ 4,284.00
Housing Allowance	\$24,000.00
Full BOP	
Additional Medical/Dental	\$ 3,000.00
Ministry expense reimbursement including but not limited to continuing education and mileage at IRS rate	\$ 4,800.00
Vacation:	5 weeks (including 5 Sundays)
Continuing Ed.:	2 weeks

(Moving expenses to be covered in full)

18. Dissolved the pastoral relationship between **Teaching Elder Cynthia Holder Rich** and Village Presbyterian Church, Prairie Village, KS, effective July 6, 2014.

**19.** Granted permission for **Teaching Elder Jason Ku** to take interim/transitional ministry training, granting up to \$700 from the Garnett Fund as a scholarship.

**20.** Approved the call of **TE Sally Wright** as Associate for Special Offerings Ambassador Program (Presbyterian Mission Agency) with terms as follow:

Salary           \$53,000

Full BOP

Travel – Covered

**21.** Approved **TE Sarah Butler** as Moderator of Administrative Commission for Oregon Presbyterian Church.

**Nominating Committee – RE Gail Cunningham**

With no nominations from the floor the following persons were elected:

Church Orders and Listening

2016 – RE Nancy Ehrlich (WFE) – First, Independence, MO

TE Dennis Haines (WMC) – HR

RE Carolyn Rich-Nickens (WFE) – Trinity, Independence, MO

Congregational Ministries

2015 – RE Lucy Berry (WFE) – Trinity, Independence, MO

2016 – TE Karen Wagner (WFC) – Southminster, Prairie Village, KS

Mission and Social Justice

2016 – TE Norlita Kaul (WFC) – First, Osawatomie, KS

TE Kirk Perucca (WMC) – Covenant, KC, MO

2014 – RE Ruth Davidson (WFE) – Southminister, Prairie Village, KS

Stewardship

2016 – RE Diane Prigmore (WFE) – Second, KC, MO

TE Sally Wright (WFC) – Validated Ministry

2015 – TE Sarah Butler (WFC) – Trinity, St. Joseph, MO

Worship and Fellowship

2014 – RE Ann Keeling (WFE) – to serve as Moderator

**Adjournment**

Moderator TE George McCall closed the meeting with prayer at 2:00 PM.

Respectively Submitted

Sally J Hinchman, Stated Clerk