

COM Report to Presbytery, April 14, 2018

Action Items

1. Approve the following amendment to Heartland Presbytery Manual of Operations for the Commission on Ministry, 4.3.1 D.7.

Current language under “Powers Given to COM by Heartland Presbytery”:

7. To grant permission [for teaching elders] to labor within and outside the bounds of Presbytery. [bracket added]

Proposed language:

7. To grant permission for teaching elders, who have a covenant or contract inside the bounds of another presbytery, to labor outside the bounds of Heartland Presbytery (G-3.0306).

Background:

Prior to the revision of the *Book of Order* in 2011-2012, the *Book of Order 2009-2011* stated (G-11.0401):

- a. Every minister shall ordinarily be a member of the presbytery where his or her work is situated. A minister called to work not under the jurisdiction of a presbytery may apply for reception to the presbytery in which he or she will be resident, or to another presbytery, or retain membership in the presbytery where he or she is currently a member. The presbytery may grant a minister permission to engage in work which is outside its geographic bounds or which is not under its jurisdiction, but no presbytery shall permit a minister to engage in work which is within the geographic bounds of another presbytery and which is properly within the responsibility of another presbytery without consent of that presbytery. Such permission and consent shall be reviewed and renewed annually. The stated clerk of the presbytery shall inform ministers who seek permission to labor outside the bounds of the presbytery of their membership that they must first seek permission to labor within the bounds of the other presbytery. In January of each year the stated clerk of the presbytery of which the ministers are members shall correspond with those other presbyteries in which such ministers labor, informing them of the ministers’ addresses. A minister who is serving as a minister in a church outside the United States may, with the approval of presbytery, accept ministerial membership in that church for the period of such service without affecting his or her membership in the presbytery of this church. (G-11.0411)

- b. The authority for granting permission to labor within or outside the bounds of the presbytery may be delegated by presbytery to its council or committee on ministry, with the provision that all such actions be reported to the next stated meeting of the presbytery.

The *Book of Order 2017-2019* includes the revisions first included in the 2011-2013 edition of the *Book of Order*. In an apparent effort to simplify the procedure, it states (G-3.0306): “Every minister of the Word and Sacrament shall ordinarily be a member of the presbytery where his or her work is situated and of the presbytery where she or he resides.” It continues: “A minister of the Word and Sacrament who is serving in a church outside the United States may, with the approval of the presbytery, accept membership in that church for the period of such service without affecting his or her membership in a presbytery of this church.”

It may be wise, though not required, for the stated clerk of Heartland Presbytery to share the address and contact information of the teaching elder with the stated clerk of the presbytery in which the teaching elder is laboring. During the annual review of ministers of the Word and Sacrament in validated ministries, this procedure may help the stated clerk and the COM in their efforts to conduct the review.

2. Approve the following amendment to Heartland Presbytery Manual of Operations, Commission on Ministry, 4.3.1 D.7.

Current language:

9. Have the authority to recommend powers and membership on administrative commissions to be elected by Presbytery.

Proposed language:

9. Have the authority to recommend powers and membership on administrative commissions, directly related to the functions and powers of the Commission on Ministry, to be elected by Presbytery.

Background:

The functions of Presbytery Council in the Manual of Operations (3.10.6.1) include three related specifically to Council's oversight of administrative commissions:

- f. Have the responsibility and the right to review and comment to Presbytery on all of the actions of the committees, commissions, divisions, and related entities; and to recommend to Presbytery that such actions be given further consideration by the appropriate parties.
- k. Report at least annually to Presbytery about progress made, mission coordinated, and goals and objectives achieved. Council's reports to Presbytery shall specifically state actions taken by council to identify, develop, and support mission priorities and actions taken in its oversight of commissions, committees, divisions, and related entities.
- m. Approve the membership and powers of administrative commissions it may from time to time recommend, for appointment by Presbytery.

In many cases, the administrative commissions should report to Council since Council bears responsibility for oversight of the commissions. It has become the practice, in some instances, for the Commission on Ministry to recommend persons for membership on administrative commissions doing work outside the purview of the COM thereby leading to administrative commissions reporting to COM instead of Council.

The Manual of Operations of the Presbytery, in the section on the Functions of the Commission on Ministry, includes (4.3.1 C. 9.): The Commission on Ministry shall "have the authority to recommend powers and membership on administrative commissions to be elected by Presbytery." It would appear to be the intent and spirit of this section that the administrative commissions recommended to Presbytery by COM would be ones "directly related to the functions and powers of the Commission on Ministry." For example, D.4. under "Powers Given to the COM by Heartland Presbytery," includes: "To approve Administrative Commissions to ordain and install."

Even though the Functions of COM include item 6, "Carry out any other duties assigned to it by the Presbytery," it seems clear that the "membership and powers of administrative commissions," falls upon Council if the commissions are doing work not directly related to the Functions and Powers of COM. For this reason, the amendment proposed to the Manual of Operations would clarify the types and tasks of administrative commissions recommended by COM.

Actions Taken at the March 1, 2018 Meeting

1. Grant permission for TE Glenda Watts and Danelle McKinney to serve Communion at the Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women at First Leavenworth on April 21, 2018.
2. Approved the membership of an administrative commission for ordaining Paula Isgrig as Teaching Elder on March 18, 2018: TE Don Wilson (moderator of Heartland Presbytery), TE Krista Kiger (First, St. Joseph), TE Elizabeth Meador Strobel (Trinity, Independence), TE Andrew Florio (Chapel Hill, Blue Springs), RE Don Nimmer (First, Warrensburg), RE Geoff Katchmarik (New Horizon, Odessa), RE Anthony Isgrig (Chapel Hill, Blue Springs), and corresponding members TE Sarah Parker (Twin Cities Presbytery), and RE Leisha Reynolds (Church of the Pilgrims, Washington, DC).

3. Place Paula Isgrig on the Heartland Presbytery Pulpit Supply List (A).
4. Approved RE Bev Barr as at large member of the northeast support team and RE Sue Trast as at large member of the southwest support team.
5. Approved the transfer of TE Kevin Jones to Mission Presbytery effective March 1, 2018.
6. Dissolved the pastoral relationship between TE Jenny McDevitt and Village Church effective February 28, 2018.
7. Move TE Jenny McDevitt to member at large of Heartland Presbytery effective March 1, 2018.
8. Approve TE Chris Herring as an at-large member of the northwest support team.
9. Approve the attached revision of 4.3.1 D.7. of the Heartland Presbytery Manual of Operations.
10. Approve the attached revision of 4.3.1 D.7. of the Heartland Presbytery Manual of Operations.
11. Approve up to \$1,000 from the COM budget for consultant costs for the work of the Administrative Commission for the Korean Church.