

## **Heartland Presbytery Council Minutes October 19, 2015**

The following persons were PRESENT: RE Maggie Blankers, TE Eric Garbison, TE Carla Gentry, TE Bonnie Grabowski, RE Fran Haney, RE Don Haring, RE Susan Letizia, TE Elaine Loggi, RE Kathy Lueckert, TE George McCall, RE Vera Phillips, TE Karen Wagner, TE Ky Weekley and RE Larry Williams.

The following persons were EXCUSED: TE Tom Are, RE Mary Jane Houston, TE Heather Jepsen, TE Kevin Jones, TE Kathleen Knehans, RE Michael Kruse, RE Terry Miller, TE David Nzioka, and TE Glenda Watts.

The following persons were ABSENT: RE Gail Cunningham, RE Teresa Clark, RE Shirley Nichols, TE Sam Mann, TE Paul Rock, RE David Warm, and TE Kimberley Young.

The following staff were PRESENT: RE Sally Hinchman and TE Charles Spencer.

Moderator TE George McCall called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. RE Maggie Blankers offered the devotional and opening prayer. The docket was approved as presented.

### **Report of the Stated Clerk RE Sally Hinchman**

#### **Action Items:**

1. Approved the Council Minutes on August 31, 2015 and recommend to presbytery to incorporate them in the September 22, 2015 stated meeting of presbytery minutes.
2. Approved the Minutes of Heartland Presbytery on September 22, 2015.

#### **Communications/Information:**

1. A host is needed for the Tuesday, November 15, 2016 stated meeting of presbytery.
2. Dedication of the Redevelopment of the Linwood Area Ministry Project will be held Sunday, November 1, 2015 at 3:00 PM.

### **Council Moderator – TE George McCall**

Moderator McCall thanked RE Larry Williams for providing him with his summary of Heartland Presbytery Programs and Projects. This document will be included in the packet for the presbytery meeting in 2016.

### **Moderator elect – TE Carla Gentry**

She reported that she attended the Moderator's Conference sponsored by the Office of the General Assembly. She is hoping to do some pulpit exchanges next year so she can get into some of the congregations in the presbytery.

### **Business Affairs – RE Don Haring**

The year to date financials were reviewed.

### **Congregational Ministries Division – TE Karen Wagner**

The division is creating a task force to help plan the presbytery's participation in the 2016 Youth Triennium. Embracing Hope will be February 6, 2016 at Southminster Presbyterian, PV, KS.

### **Presbyterian Urban and Immigrant Ministry Network – TE Eric Garbison**

The network is hoping that they will soon get some staff support from an Associate Presbyter to assist them with their work.

**Worship and Fellowship – TE Elaine Loggi**

The preacher will be Alonzo Johnson, Associate for Peacemaking from the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The offering will assist with the move of the Presbytery Offices.

**Executive Presbyter – TE Charles Spencer**

The presbytery staff and he continue to be asked “When will the presbytery move their offices back to 3210 Michigan?” The answer the staff can give is “We don’t know.” The project had some cost overruns and there is little money left to complete the space for the Presbytery Offices. They have received two bids that range from over \$100,000 to over \$600,000. They are waiting for a third bid that was due last week. The west end of the old sanctuary is not handicap accessible and as result this space has not been leased. The presbytery was to have use of the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Conference Room and storage in the basement in the Harold Thomas Center. The Conference Room has been leased to another tenant and the basement is unavailable. As a result the offices are now projected to be in the west end of the old sanctuary. He continues to hope that volunteers can be used to help complete the presbytery portion of the facility. When the offices are completed we will move.

He learned that 70% of individuals taking the Bible Content Exam failed the exam. It is apparent that individuals were only memorizing past exam questions since 2009. This past year the exam did not use any of those questions. There is a concern that many of the individuals in seminary did not grow up in the church with a strong church school background. He hopes Heartland Presbytery congregations will also improve their Christian Education Program for those who participate in Church School.

The closing preacher at the Polity Conference was J. Herbert Nelson for the Washington Office. He challenged the participants to stop seeing the bad in the church but to celebrate and teach the good news.

**Presbytery Docket – RE Vera Phillips**

The proposed docket was approved.

**Adjournment and prayer**

Moderator McCall adjourned with meeting at 6:55 PM and TE Elaine Loggi closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectively submitted

Sally J. Hinchman, Stated Clerk