

## Highlights of Saturday, April 14, 2018 Stated Meeting of Heartland Presbytery

- John Knox Kirk warmly welcomed the presbytery on a cold and windy day.
- TE Chad Herring served as the preacher of the day. He and TE Sally Wright served as celebrants for the Lord's Supper. The offering of \$865.00 was received for scholarships the Heartland Youth Encounter at Heartland Presbyterian Center in June. Carnations decorated a cross for teaching and ruling elders who died in 2017 for the Necrology Report.
- First Presbyterian, Albany, MO was given permission to sell the church building.
- Members were elected to serve on committees, divisions and for synod commissioners.
- A report was presented by the Korean United Administrative Commission. The AC has great concern that through the years this congregation has ongoing conflict and dysfunction. They continue to attack and undermine pastor after pastor. They are also in deep financial crisis with some individuals withholding money. The congregation's witness is severely compromised in the community. The AC is leaning towards coming to a subsequent presbytery meeting with recommendations for how best to end this ministry in its present form. No final decision has been made. Please pray for the congregation, its pastor and the AC in these coming weeks.
- The Commission on Preparation for Ministry requested two exemptions for Candidate Rodger Nishioka. To give him an alternate Bible Content Exam and to waive the time limit. Both motions were approved.
- RE Maggie Blankers shared that only a summary of the year-to-date financials will be in the presbytery packet. The full financials are available to be downloaded on the website.
- TE Jean Murphy shared that the Search Committee had hoped to present a candidate for the Transitional Executive Presbyter. Unfortunately after 2 face to face interview neither candidate accepted the position due to circumstances. The committee is committed to finding the right person.
- The Commission on Ministry made some minor changes to their Manual of Operations.
- TE Robert (Bob) Bardeen, HR was examined for membership and transfer from Coastal Carolina Presbytery.
- TE Hallie Hottle reported several shared some information regarding the declining membership of both Heartland Presbytery and the PC(USA). Also that Shawn Kang who works with the 1001 New Worshipping Communities had recently spent some time in Heartland Presbytery. The Open Table at 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian will be one of the seven residency sites.
- Congregational Ministries Divisions will host an outing at the ballpark on June 1, 2018.
- Numerous individuals gave one minute announcements.
- Presbytery Council provided questions for discussion in small groups about the vision and mission of Heartland Presbytery.
- The presbytery approved 4 Overtures for General Assembly:
  - On Celebrating the Gifts of People of Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities  
In the Life of the Church
  - On Reclaiming an Historical Reformed Understanding of Religious Liberty  
Affirming and Celebrating the Full Dignity and Humanity of People of all Gender  
Identities
  - On Promoting Democracy, Good Governance, Human Rights and Sustainable  
Development in Madagascar
- TE David Nzioka thanked the presbytery for supporting Thawke Village in the Presbytery of East Africa. Next month there will be another trip. RE Scott Stanley encouraged individuals to participate and this will be his 3<sup>rd</sup> trip.

- Mission and Social Justice Division presented and resolution regarding the Poor People's Campaign which was adopted.
- Historian Nancy Ehrlich shared a story about a young man who wanted to become a minister and eventually was ordained in the late 1800's
- The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

**Next Stated Meeting – Tuesday, June 5, 2018  
First Presbyterian, Atchison, KS**