

Heartland Presbytery Minutes
Two Hundred and Thirty Ninth Stated Meeting – Saturday, April 14, 2018
John Knox Kirk, Kansas City, MO

Opening, Docket and Welcome

Moderator TE Don Wilson led the presbytery in a Call to Worship and opening prayer at 9:00 am. Stated Clerk RE Sally Hinchman declared a quorum (Any 10 teaching elders who are members of the presbytery and 10 ruling elders commissioned by their sessions, provided that at least 3 congregations are represented by ruling elders.) of 54 teaching elders, 52 ruling elders from congregations, 8 ruling elders from Presbytery Council, moderators and the stated clerk, 2 CRE's, 2 Inquirer/ Candidate's, 3 staff, 23 visitors and 1 corresponding member.

The docket was presented with a few corrections and approved with no new business.

TE Chad Herring welcomed the presbytery to John Knox Kirk. First Time Commissioners were welcomed and introduced. TE Robert Bardeen from Coastal Carolina Presbytery was seated as a corresponding member.

Consent Agenda

Stated Clerk Sally Hinchman presented the Consent Agenda as printed in the packet. All items were approved.

1. Approve the Presbytery Council Minutes of January 29, 2018 and recommend to presbytery to incorporate them in the stated meeting minutes of February 13, 2018.
2. Approve the Stated Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2018.
3. Received the Year to Date Financials. (Business Affairs)
4. Approve First Presbyterian, Albany, MO permission to sell their church building at the request of the session and congregation. (Trustees)
5. Receive the report of the Administrative Commission.
6. Dismiss with thanks the Administrative Commission for ordination of Candidate Paula Isgrig on Sunday, March 18, 2018 at Chapel Hill Presbyterian, Blue Springs, MO.
7. Receive the Report of the Stated Clerk.

Worship, Necrology and Celebration of the Lord's Supper

TE Chad Herring preached on "To Stand Where Jesus Stands". For the Necrology report carnations decorated a cross for the one teaching elder and fifty eight ruling elders who died in 2018. TE Sally Wright joined TE Herring in the Celebration of the Lord's Supper. An offering of \$865.00 was received for the "Heartland Presbytery Youth Encounter" to be held in June at Heartland Presbyterian Center.

Nominations Committee

The following persons were elected to serve:

Committee on Representation

Class 2020

Ann Ditty	wfre	t-2	First Presbyterian, Lee's Summit, MO
-----------	------	-----	--------------------------------------

Worship and Fellowship

Class 2019

Len Carrell	wmte	t-1	Village Presbyterian, Prairie Village, KS
-------------	------	-----	---

Synod of Mid-America Commissioners

Class 2018

Rachel Dannar	wfte		First Presbyterian, Atchison, KS
---------------	------	--	----------------------------------

Paul Rock

wmte

Second Presbyterian, Kansas City, MO

Korean United Administrative Commission

TE Brian Ellison reported the AC has great concern that through the years this congregation has had 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 and the Korean community. The AC is leaning towards coming to a subsequent presbytery meeting with recommendations for how to best end this ministry. No final decision has been made. He asked the presbytery to please continue to pray for this congregation, its pastor and the AC.

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

An Alternate Bible Content Exam for Candidate Rodger Nishioka was approved. The standard exam is not appropriate for Dr. Nishioka because he served on the task force to review all of the questions from previous Bible Content Exams 2011-2013 and 2015-2017. He has seen all of the questions and a high percentage of the questions are reused. A motion to the time limit (G-2.0602) be waived for Candidate Rodger Nishioka. Motion was approved.

Presbytery Council

Business Affairs Committee said that only a Summary of the Year to Date Financials will be put in the packet. The full financials will be available on the website.

Personnel Committee announced the Search Committee had hoped to present a candidate at this meeting. Unfortunately after 2 face to face interviews neither candidate accepted the position due to circumstances. The committee is committed to finding the right person.

Commission on Ministry

The Administrative Manual Chapter 4 for the COM was amended with the following changes:

1. 4.3.1. D.7 To grant permission for teaching elders, who have a covenant or contract, to labor inside the bounds of another presbytery, and to labor outside the bounds of Heartland Presbytery (G-3.0306).
2. 4.3.1 C.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 or appointed (designated by presbytery).

Both motions were approved.

TE Becky Chamberlain conducted the examination for membership for **TE Robert Bardeen, HR**. TE Lonnie Lee moved that he be received as a member and transfer from Coastal Carolina. Motion was approved.

Action Items on March 1, 2018

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.

Actions taken at the April 5, 2018 COM meeting:

1. Revised item 2 on COM Checklist for Calling a Pastor to read: *Interim pastor and congregation enter into a spiritual discernment process to discover or reconfirm its call to ministry. The Support Team will determine if a formal mission study is needed.*
2. Approved for COM Executive Team to serve as Heartland liaison to PCUSA Board of Pensions.
3. Transfer **TE Charles Spencer** to John Calvin Presbytery effective April 5, 2018.
4. Approved the reassignment of TE Ron Patton to the northwest support team.
5. Approved TE Elizabeth Strobel as team leader of the east central support team.
6. Approved the attached temporary supply contract (30 hours per week) between the Butler Presbyterian, Butler, MO and **TE Mari Lyn Jones**, effective February 24, 2018, for an indefinite period at the following annual terms: salary \$14,900 (of which \$4,500 is deferred compensation), housing \$9,600, full pension, mileage reimbursed at the IRS rate, vacation one week per quarter.
7. Approved the attached CRE contract (15% time) between Jacoby Chapel Warrensburg, MO and **CRE Paul E. Moss** effective January 1, 2018, for a period of one year at the following annual terms: salary \$3,900, housing \$3,900, travel/professional expense reimbursement \$300, continuing education \$300, vacation four weeks (accrued at the rate of one week per quarter), and study leave two weeks.
8. Approved the attached temporary supply contract (50% time) between Northminster Kansas City, MO and **Robert McGee** (Disciples of Christ minister) effective April 2, 2018, for three months at the following monthly terms: salary \$1,000, housing \$845.40, healthcare \$400, mileage reimbursed at the IRS rate up to \$400, phone and misc. prof. expenses up to \$200, vacation of one week per quarter, and study leave of one week per six months.
9. Authorized Robert McGee to celebrate the sacraments at Northminster, Kansas City, MO
10. Appointed **TE Chris Herring** liaison for the PNC of Northminster, Kansas City, MO
11. Approved the attached interim pastor contract (20 hours per week) between the United Christian Presbyterian Church Richmond, MO and **Doug Gilpin** (Disciples of Christ minister) effective March 3, 2018, for a period of one year at the following annual terms: salary \$11,550, housing \$15,000, healthcare \$4,200, mileage up to \$5,000 reimbursed at IRS rate, and social security \$1,250.
12. Recommended that **TE Robert Bardeen** be examined for membership in Heartland at the April 14, 2018, meeting of presbytery.
13. Placed **TE Robert Bardeen, TE Bill Bridgewater, and TE Mark Braden** on the Pulpit Supply List A.
14. Approved (pending the completion of a fit interview) the attached interim associate pastor covenant (25 hours per week) between Village Presbyterian, PV, KS and **TE Becky Chamberlain** effective April 3, 2018, for a period of one year at the following annual terms: salary \$28,000, pension \$3,360 (12% of salary), FICA \$2,142, mileage reimbursed at the IRS rate, four weeks vacation (including 4 Sundays), and two weeks study leave (including 2 Sundays).
15. Approved the attached temporary supply contract (10 hours per week) between First Presbyterian, Savannah, MO and **TE Nate Mochizuki**, effective April 2, for a period of one year at the following terms: salary \$10,800, mileage reimbursed at the IRS rate, and four weeks vacation (including 4 Sundays).
16. Approved the CRE contract (15 hours per week) between St. Matthew, Presbyterian, Grandview, MO and **CRE Will Howard** effective April 1, 2018, for a period of one year at the following terms: salary \$17,160, travel and continuing education \$700, vacation four weeks (including 4 Sundays), and study leave two weeks (including 2 Sundays).
17. That COM continue **Robert Eaddy's** appointment as moderator of the St. Paul Presbyterian, KC, MO session through the end of 2018 as the east central support team monitors his relationship with the church as pulpit supply preacher.
18. Appointed RE Jan Myers as moderator of the Northminster, Kansas City, MO session.
19. Received the Covenant of Pastoral Departure and Session Exit Interview for TE Jenny McDevitt.
20. Accepted with regret Sarah Butler's resignation from COM effective May 1, 2018.

21. Approved the following COM Policy Statement on the Purpose and Use of Fit Interviews:

The Committee on Ministry (COM) is one of the mechanisms and processes by which Heartland Presbytery serves as “pastor, counselor, and advisor” (*Book of Order 2017-2019* G-3.0307). COM utilizes a Fit Interview to “examine the call, character, education, ecclesiastical status, and professional training of persons seeking admission into the Presbytery” (Heartland Presbytery *Manual of Operations* 4.3.1 C. 3). The COM Fit Interview provides feedback to the search committee who “shall receive and consider the presbytery’s counsel on the merits, suitability, and availability of those considered for the call” (G-2.0803). The Fit Interview further aids the COM as it fulfills the task to “recommend to Presbytery the ordination, reception, installation, discipline, and removal of teaching elders” (HP *Manual of Operations* 4.3.1 C. 4). The report from the Fit Interview team shall be reported to the full COM. The report may reach a dissenting decision which must be reported to the full COM as well (Administrative Policy #12, COM Handbook, Section 4. b.).

Church Planting and Revitalization Division

TE Hallie Hottle shared information regarding the declining membership of both Heartland Presbytery and the PC(U.S.A.). Shawn Kang who works with the 1001 New Worshipping Communities had recently spent time in Heartland Presbytery. The Open Table that meets at Second Presbyterian has been selected as one of seven residency sites for the 1001 New Worshipping Communities.

Congregational Ministries Division

TE Pat Jackson invited the presbytery to attend the Kansas City Royals ballgame on June 2, 2018. The Youth Council is sponsoring this event.

One Minute Announcements

Individuals shared celebrations and events in the congregations, presbytery and their communities.

Presbytery Council Discussion Groups

Participants at the meeting were divided into small groups for a discussion regarding the vision and mission of Heartland Presbytery.

Recess, Prayer and Lunch

TE Chad Herring gave directions for lunch and offered a prayer. Moderator Wilson recessed the meeting until 1:00 pm.

Reconvene with Pray

Moderator Wilson reconvened the meeting with prayer at 1:00 pm.

Church Order and Listening Division

TE Nate Mochizuki presented the following Overtures to be sent to the 2018 Meeting of the General Assembly. All four Overtures were approved with no debate.

1. On Celebrating the Gifts of People of Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities in the Life of the Church.
2. On Reclaiming the Historical Reformed Understanding of Religious Liberty.
3. Affirming and Celebrating the Full Dignity and Humanity of People of all Gender Identities.

4. On Promoting Democracy, Good Governance, Human Rights and Sustainable Development in Madagascar.

He reminded the presbytery of the dates for the reading of session minutes.

Mission and Social Justice Division

TE David Nzioka thanked the presbytery for supporting Thawke Village in the Presbytery of East Africa. In May there will be another trip to the village. RE Scott Stanley encouraged individuals to participate in the next trip.

TE Steven Andrews presented a resolution regarding The Poor People's Campaign which was adopted.

Historian

RE Nancy Ehrlich shared a story about a young man who wanted to become a minister and eventually he was ordained in the late 1800's.

Adjourned with Prayer

Moderator TE Don Wilson thanked John Knox Kirk for hosting the meeting and for their hospitality. He adjourned the meeting with prayer at 1:40 pm.

Submitted by

Stated Clerk RE Sally Hinchman