

**PRESBYTERY OF WABASH VALLEY
MINUTES OF STATED ASSEMBLY
November 17, 2009
Peabody Retirement Community
North Manchester, IN**

Organist David Eicher called the Assembly to gather with his organ prelude. Presbytery Moderator Carol McDonald called the assembly to order on November 17, 2009, at 10:05 a.m. EST with a prayer for remembering the saints and the singing of "For All the Saints." Those remembered:

- Rev. Clyde Allison
- Rev. Judith Becker
- Rev. Thomas Burney
- Rev. James Jacobs
- Rev. Louis Schumm
- Rev. Larry Sharpless,
- Rev. Leon Smith
- Elder Jodi James, Michigan City and moderator of Committee on Representation
- Elder Marty Horn, Rossville

A quorum of the assembly was established (Roll at Appendix A) and the docket was approved as amended. (Appendix B)

Executive Director Jeff Brasie welcomed the Assembly on behalf of the Peabody community. Moderator McDonald called upon Elder Pam Camren to send good wishes on behalf of the Presbytery to Tom Roots, the Geneva Center Director, departing for a new position in Texas. Elders and ministers attending Presbytery Assembly for the first time were introduced. Corresponding members seated by consensus were:

- Rev. David Crittenden, Synod of Lincoln Trails co-executive, Presbytery of Ohio Valley
- David Eicher, organist, Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky
- Eric Herzog, Presbytery of Whitewater Valley
- Lisa Longo, PC(USA), Presbytery of Whitewater Valley

The Consent Agenda was approved with no reservations.

- Approved Minutes of the September 18-19, 2009 meeting of Presbytery
- Approved reported actions of Council (Appendix D) including audit report for 2008.
- Approved reported actions of COM. (Appendix E)

On behalf of the Missional Transformation Coordinating Team, Rev. Ray Fancher led Bible study and reflection on Genesis 11:30 and 12:1-4a and Romans 17, highlighting the message that transformation is God's gift, not what we do. It is God who makes all things new, gives life where only death, and empowers to us and through us to show others along the way.

Continuing to celebrate God's grace, Kevin Bowers, moderator of Committee on Ministry, and Donna Enersen, moderator of Committee on Preparation for Ministry, recommended Jessica Wietzke, Presbytery of Missouri Valley, for examination for her call as associate pastor to Calvary Presbyterian Church in Logansport. Ms. Wietzke preached on Exodus, Ch. 3, describing Moses' encounter with the burning bush and

closed with prayer. She then read her faith statement, after which the assembly asked questions of Ms. Wietzke. Following questions, her examination was arrested by consent of the Assembly. With Ms. Wietzke and family absent from the room, she was unanimously approved for ordination to her call (Appendix F). Rev. Doug Mankell, senior pastor of Calvary, gave a prayer of thanksgiving for this new ministry in our Presbytery.

Moderator McDonald recognized Nick Clark, commissioned lay pastor for Burrows Presbyterian for the last five years and acknowledged his retirement and move to Texas. His pastor, Kevin Bowers, noted his years of service on COM, and Alice Christian, member of Burrows, gave thanks for his ministry.

2010 Youth Triennium. Rev. Bill Smutz, of the Design Team, urged congregations and families to send young people to the 2010 Youth Triennium on the Purdue campus in July. New ideas, the diversity of Presbyterians from around the world, and amazing worship often open the eyes of youth to the larger church of PC(USA). The theme "For Such a Time As This" from the Book of Esther will offer words and images that invite a deeper faith in the anticipated 3500 attendees. It offers an opportunity to consider how to live faithfully, when most cultural experiences have nothing to do with faith. Mary Wilson is registrar for the Presbytery of Wabash Valley.

Nominating Committee moderator Adi Veenendaal placed in nomination McKenzie Cobban from First, Valparaiso as an alternate Youth Advisory Delegate, and Andrew Betts from Sunnyside, South Bend, as an alternate elder commissioner to complete the slate of commissioners and alternates to the 219th General Assembly. Also placed in nomination were members for the Committee on Ministry and Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Appendix H). From the floor, Adi placed Elder Mae Leech, CLP for Geetingsville, in nomination as Training Team Moderator for COM. With no other nominations from the floor, all were unanimously elected.

Next Steps in Presbytery Leadership Task Force. Rev. John Ritchie, moderator of this task force, placed three items for action before the assembly:

1. Renewal of Agreement for Transitional Ministry - The task force moved approval of an agreement with Rev. Ray Fancher as the Interim General Presbyterian for an extended five-month period, beginning January 1, 2010 and ending on May 31, 2010 (Appendix I). Motion approved.

2. Covenant of Agreement for Services and Compensation - The task force moved approval of an agreement with Books in Order, Inc. (Attachment J) for financial and consulting services to the Presbytery for a 3 1/2 month period (October 16, 2009 through January 31, 2010), said services to be provided primarily by Eric Herzog. Rev. Ritchie noted that this agreement included a \$200 per month increase in compensation from the current agreement with Mr. Herzog. Motion approved.

3. Slate of Nominees for General Presbyterian Search Committee - The task force placed in nomination a slate to serve on the General Presbyterian Search Committee (Appendix K). There were no nominations from the floor and the slate was elected unanimously:

- Rev. Bruce Haapalainen, Moderator, Westminster-Munster;
- Rev. Mary Ann Banning, First-Mishawaka;
- Elder Ann Bingaman, First-Kokomo;
- Elder Joe Hufford, Rossville;
- Rev. AJ Mildenberg, Bethel PC of Shannondale, Crawfordsville;

- Elder Peg Weir, Central-Lafayette; and
- Rev. Stan Wilson, Ligonier.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Moderator McDonald called the Assembly to worship with the singing of "God of Grace and God of Glory." With consent of the Assembly she postponed her sermon to the afternoon.

1. Commissioning of Lay Pastor - With joy and celebration, Rev. McDonald presided over the commissioning of Joseph Kiama as lay pastor for the new church development probe, the Michiana All Peoples Church (MAP) in South Bend. Mr. Kiama answered the examination questions for commissioning. Rev. Steve Braden, a member of the Church Development Ministry Team, offered prayer for this new ministry and its leaders. Leah Kiama and other members of the new congregation led the Assembly in singing an African hymn of celebration in Swahili.

2. Installation of Officers – Rev. Carol McDonald, outgoing Moderator of Presbytery, installed Rev. John Ritchie as the new Moderator of Presbytery, presenting him with the Moderator's stole and gavel. Rev. Ritchie then installed the following officers: Elder Linda Long in her second term as Stated Clerk, Rev. Bill McLean as Recording Clerk, Rev. Carol McDonald as Moderator of Council, and Elder Pam Camren as Vice Moderator of Presbytery. Rev. McDonald recognized those finishing their terms in leadership positions and Ray Fancher prayer for the Presbytery. Grace before the meal was spoken by Rev. McDonald.

Order of the Day - Lunch at 12:30 p.m. EST

Moderator Ritchie reconvened the Assembly at 1:40 p.m. with the singing of "I Come With Joy." Rev. McDonald preached on Genesis 12:1-4 and Mark 1: 16-20, tracing the nexus of God's call and community. Abram heard God's call and went in community. The fishermen heard Jesus' call, and went in community. How will we as the voice of the church speak in the month to come? Will we speak with voices of generosity, energy, vision and encouragement? She draped John Ritchie with a Celtic Disciples Cross to wear for his year as Assembly Moderator, purchased in community at the 218th General Assembly, in addition to a gavel fashioned from the wood of a closed church, the traditional moderator stole and the Book of Occasional Services.

The gathered offering was dedicated, through prayer led by Chaplain Sue Babovec, to the PC(USA)'s Christmas Joy Offering to benefit Board of Pensions assistance programs, and Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education. Retired clergy and elders of the Peabody community led the Assembly's celebration of the Lord's Supper, with music by the Peabody Carolletes.

Moderator Ritchie called attention to three stewardship and finance seminars:

- Stewardship Kaleidoscope conference on March 15-17 in Indianapolis, sponsored by a partnership of Synods, PILP, General Assembly Mission Council, and foundations and endowments.
- Render Unto Caesar, a financial and tax planning workshop sponsored by the Board of Pensions on compensation, medical benefits and retirement planning.
- Getting in Shape Fiscally, a seminar is designed for clergy and spouses, and lay Benefits Plan members under age 50.

New Hymnal Project. Elder, organist, and Hymnal Editor David Eicher from Presbyterian Publishing in Louisville illustrated to the assembly the collaborative process for developing a new Presbyterian hymnal, intended to span the whole church. Detailed information can be found at presbyterianhymnal.org. Presbyterian Publishing is funding the hymnal project, with plans to unveil at the 2014 General Assembly

Council Report. Rev. Stan Wilson, moderator of Council, moved its recommendation (Appendix G) to suspend Standing Rule 7.03 regarding terms of moderators of committees. Elder Adi Veenendaal was nominated by the Council Nominating Committee Task Force to serve one more year, her 7th, on the Nominating Committee, her second year as Moderator. With no nominations from the floor, she was elected unanimously.

Nominating Task Force of Council nominated Rev. Stan Wilson to serve on the Nominating Committee, class of 2012. There being no other nominations, he was unanimously approved.

Administrative Ministry Team moderator Ann Bingaman presented the 2010 General Basic Mission Budget and Operating Budget for second reading and approval (Appendix L, M). Per capita remained the same at \$32.16, resulting in an anticipated \$28,395 deficit in the general operating budget. No raises are budgeted for staff. Elder Bingaman moved for approval of the General Operating 2010 budget. It was approved. Ann Bingaman then moved approval of the Basic Mission Budget for 2010. It was approved.

Financial consultant Eric Herzog reviewed the new format and significances of the consolidated third-quarter statements of Presbytery's Basic Mission Resources and Investment (Appendix P), General Operating (Appendix Q) Fund Balances (Appendix R) and Balance Sheet (Appendix S).

Eric also reviewed the 2010 Budget of Presbytery's Geneva Center for its First Reading, and the third-quarter year-to-date statement of income and expenses (Appendix T).

Dismissal of Administrative Commissions. Stated Clerk Linda Long offered a resolution (Appendix U) addressing and dismissing Administrative Commissions, listing six to be dismissed with gratitude:

1. Attica-Williamsport and Frankfort
2. Granger
3. Kokomo
4. Ridgedale
5. Troy
6. Covenant-West Lafayette

After discussion of whether or not the work of particular administrative commissions was finished, or whether they had been notified of their impending dismissal, there was a motion to amend the motion to exclude the ACs for Attica-Williamsport and Kokomo. After affirmation of the responsibility of Council to handle the civil litigation filed by First, Kokomo against the Presbytery, the amendment to exclude was defeated. With a few voicing dissent, the Assembly voted to dismiss the six administrative commissions. Rev. Ritchie led the Assembly in prayer for grace, peace and healing.

Resolution on Policy for Administrative Commissions. Stated Clerk Long presented a proposed policy on administrative commissions for first reading (Appendix V). Questions and discussion highlighted the desire for continuing conversations and opportunities to debrief with the dismissed administrative commission members.

Interim General Presbyter Ray Fancher gave an update on the Missional Transformation Journey and its intended outcomes:

- 13-15 churches already committed with more in various stages of deciding.
- 97 session members from 28 congregations joined the Come and See meetings.
- Coaches Training will begin the weekend of January 15-16.
- Coaches will train again February 12
- Clusters of coordinating teams from committed churches will kick off their training February 13.

Ray closed by noting that transformation is what God calls us to do in an ongoing way. We may lament some of our experiences. Do we know what we are really hungry for? We take a personal journey of faith, but always in community. Our journey won't be where we already are. We journey toward that distant land that we see as God's people. We go together.

Assembly adjourned at 4 pm by singing "Amazing Grace."

Next Stated Assembly: February 23, 2010, Geneva Center, Rochester, IN at 9:55 a.m., EST.

Additional reports filed and distributed:

- Administrative Commissions Summary (Appendix W):
- Annual report of Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Appendix X):
- Granger Administrative Commission(Appendix Y):
- Church Development Ministry Team and Michiana All People's Church (Appendix Z):
- Ladoga AC (Appendix AA):
- Ridgedale AC(Appendix BB):
- Stated Clerk's reports #1 and #2 with report of Records Review (Appendix CC):
- University Church Team (Appendix DD)

Respectfully,

Linda L. Long, Stated Clerk
Kathy Staddon, Recording Clerk