

**Winnebago Presbytery  
Stated Meeting  
February 12, 2011  
Covenant Community Presbyterian Church, Schofield, WI**

**Opening Worship**

Presbytery opened with worship in the sanctuary of Covenant Community Presbyterian Church. Worship leaders were the Rev. Dr. Stephen Wright, the Rev. Marcia Thomas, the Rev. Sid Bouldin, and Commissioned Lay Pastor Jess Wakefield. Worship included the celebration of Holy Communion.

**Convening the Meeting**

The Immediate Past Moderator, the Rev. Marcia Thomas, declared a quorum present and the meeting was called to order in the Activity Room of Covenant Community Presbyterian Church, Schofield, Wisconsin.

Ms. Thomas announced that Presbytery Council had previously installed the new Moderator Elder Jeanne Nymoen since she was attending the Moderators Conference in Louisville in November. At this time, she bestowed the symbols of the office—the Moderator's Stole, the Moderator's Cross, and plaque. She also presented Ms. Nymoen with a gift from the Presbytery of Urabá, a beaded cross necklace created by the indigenous people of the Urabá region. Ms. Thomas ended the presentation with prayer.

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Craig Alwin		X	
Randal Argall		X	
Darryl Baker		X	
Thomas Beck			X
John Billings		X	
Sid Bouldin	X		
Kevin Buchanan	X		
Marion Conditt		X	
C. Nelson Craig		X	
Edward Esler		X	
Robert Everhard		X	
Jack Harrison	X		
Clifford Haskins		X	
Donald Heeringa		X	
Richard Hill		X	
Paul Huxtable	X		
Roy N. Johnson		X	
William Kamke		X	
Kathy Keener-Han	X		
Donald King			X
Ray Larson	X		
Cynthia Little		X	
Michael Lukens	X		
John Lyford		X	
Sherwood McKay	X		
Richard Manny	X		
Richard Marcy	X		
Craig Mansur			X
Peter Markey		X	
Paul Martin	X		
Patricia Matthew		X	
Julie Meadows		X	

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<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Richard Moore	X		
Sarah Moore-Nokes	X		
Joy Nelson-Jeffers	X		
Barbara Peterson		X	
Mary Ann Petro		X	
Susan Phillips	X		
William Plank		X	
Rebecca Proefrock	X		
Mara Liz Rivera	X		
Lucille Rupe		X	
Matthew Sauer			X
JoAnn Schoblaski		X	
Edward Slusser		X	
Greg Smith		X	
Michael Spangler		X	
Ted Sperduto	X		
Lois Swanson			X
Wilfred Tabb		X	
Marcia Thomas	X		
Sara Ver Burg	X		
Colin Webster		X	
Tom Willadsen	X		
Janet Wolfe	X		
Wright, Stephen A.H.	X		
Margaret Zedan			X
Susan Zencka	X		

**11/01 It was VOTED to excuse those so listed.**

**Churches Represented**

Abbotsford	Cindy Koch
Amberg	Not Represented
Aniwa	Not Represented
Appleton	Beth Lepinski
Arpin	Lillian Nelson
Athelstane	Excused
Crivitz	Not Represented
De Pere	Jan Nelson
Fond du Lac	Jim Hubbard
Gleason	Calvin Patterson
Green Bay First	Nancy Siewert
Green Bay Preble Park	Ken Sann
Green Bay Wequiock	Not Represented
Kiel	Not Represented
Kimberly	Not Represented
Lakewood	James Lentz
Laona	Not Represented
Manitowoc	Théo Lynne Hoffman
Marinette	Not Represented
Marshfield	Not Represented
Melnik	Ruth Prochazka
Merrill	Not Represented
Neenah	Howard Kidd and Gina Struensee
New Franken	Not Represented
Oconto	Excused
Omro	Helen Ann Jepsen
Oshkosh	Rosangela Berbert
Pembine	Not Represented
Pickett	Not Represented
Schofield	Kay Smith
Shawano	Ed Moede
Sheboygan	Keith Rowe
Stevens Point	David Arey

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Wabeno	Louie Spaude
Wausau	Mary Sperduto
Wausaukee	Excused
Weyauwega	Not Represented
White Lake	Not Represented
Wild Rose	Not Represented
Winneconne	Rosemary Shade

### 11/02 It was VOTED to excuse those so listed.

**Commissioned Lay Pastors:** Max Ballard, Phil Kinzel, Cheryl Lepak, Wendy Mannering, Dennis Mannering, and Jess Wakefield  
CLPs Excused: Warren Kraft, Dick Kreager, and Lina Wittmann

**Certified Trained Lay Pastor:** Ned Grossnickle

**Lay Pastor Student:** Jessica Harrison

**Council Members:** Alice Ackermann, Jeanne Nymoen, and Jean Schneider

**Presbytery Committee Members:** Barbara Jordanger

**Christian Educator:** Marilyn Paulson

**Presbytery Staff:** Nancy Barczak

#### **Visitors:**

Abbotsford	Robert Johaneck, Carina Haines, Erva Ruppert, Tineke Boschma, Grace Schraufnagel, and Ken Haines
Appleton	Rita Oestreich
DePere	Anne Dropp
Marshfield	Carolyn Opitz
Melnik	Virginia Menchl
Oshkosh	Carol Joubert
Schofield	Ruth Wrynski
Wausau	Virginia Heinemann, Sally Schell, Allen Roberts, and Pat Morse

#### **Early Leave:**

There were no requests for early leave.

#### **Corresponding Members**

There were no corresponding members present.

#### **Adoption of the Docket:**

### 11/03 It was VOTED to adopt the docket as distributed.

**Report on Arrangements:** The Rev. Sid Bouldin welcomed presbyters to Schofield and reported on the arrangements for the day.

#### **Introduction of New Elders and Visitors**

First time elder commissioners and visitors were introduced from Appleton, Lakewood, Marshfield, Melnik, Omro, Oshkosh, Schofield, and Wausau.

#### **STATED CLERK'S REPORT** (Dr. Michael Lukens)

### 11/04 It was VOTED to approve the minutes of the November 12-13, 2010 Presbytery stated meeting as distributed.

The Clerk read greetings from the Episcopal Diocese of Fond du Lac, and Urabá Presbytery.

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**11/05** It was VOTED to dismiss, with gratitude, the Administrative Commissions to install the Rev. Jack Harrison as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac, and the Rev. Marcia Thomas, as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Abbotsford. The installations took place on January 9, 2011.

**Statistical Reports:** The deadline for submitting statistical reports is fast approaching.

There are no pending judicial proceedings at this time.

Clerk reported that the Rev. Mary Ann Petro is currently laboring outside the bounds of Presbytery and within the bounds of Donegal Presbytery by permission.

Clergy will soon be receiving the annual minister report forms for completion.

**HEALTHY PRACTICES FOR HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS** (Elder Jeanne Nymoen)

Moderator Nymoen announced that Council had decided to continue the theme of Healthy Congregations in 2011 focusing on the “nuts and bolts.” She gave an overview of plans for presentations at the remaining three meetings in 2011.

Presbyters were invited to respond to three questions to assist in planning for the upcoming educational pieces.

1. Considering the topics you've just heard, what is of most interest or need?
2. What other areas would you like training in?
3. What resources do you have to offer that you would be willing to share?

Presbyters responded with ideas and recommendations.

**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY** (The Rev. Rebecca Proefrock)

Ms. Proefrock reported that following repeated attempts to communicate with Elder Elizabeth Murphy, First Church, Arpin, with no response, the Committee has removed her from the roster of lay pastor students.

Elder Rosangela Berbert (Oshkosh First) was introduced as having completed the requirements of the Presbytery's training program and has been examined jointly by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and the Committee on Ministry. Ms. Berbert responded to questions from presbyters regarding her faith statement.

**11/06** It was VOTED to certify Elder Rosangela Berbert as a Trained Lay Pastor.

Elder Jessica Harrison (Winneconne First) was introduced as having completed the requirements of the Presbytery's training program and has been examined jointly by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and the Committee on Ministry. Ms. Harrison responded to a questions from presbyters regarding her faith statement.

**11/07** It was VOTED to certify Elder Jessica Harrison as a Trained Lay Pastor.

A brief certification recognition service was conducted. The Moderator presented the Trained Lay Pastors with certificates, and Ms. Proefrock presented each of them with *A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants*.

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**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** (The Rev. Mara Rivera)

Ms. Rivera reported that the annual review for Associate for Administration Nancy Barczak was completed successfully in December.

She also announced that the reviews for the Associate Executive Presbyter and the Stated Clerk would be conducted on March 17.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** (Elder Jean Schneider)

Committee nominated Marilyn Paulson, Wausau First, to fill a three-year term on the Resource and Program Coordinating Team.

The Moderator asked for additional nominations; none were received.

**11/08 It was VOTED to elect Marilyn Paulson to a three-year term on the Resource and Program Coordinating Team.**

**RESOURCE AND PROGRAM COORDINATING TEAM** (The Rev. Ted Sperduto)

Mr. Sperduto introduced the reports from the Team.

Elder Jess Wakefield promoted the summer camping programs through the United Church Camps, Inc.

Elder Gina Struensee reported that PIE (Presbyterians in Education) would be meeting at Covenant Community Church tentatively set for March 26 from 9 a.m. – noon around the topic of young children in worship. She invited persons interested in the Christian education to sign up for the PIE Google group by contacting her or Sarah Moore-Nokes.

Ms. Struensee reported that Presbytery task group funds were made available to conduct training events toward Christian Education certification. A class is planned for early August and will be taught by Jane Rogers Vann, Professor Emerita of Christian Education at Union Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education. Watch for details.

Elder Lorn Gordon, Covenant Community, spoke about the food pantry established in 1996. It has grown considerably over the years. The congregation recently recommitted to the project and now has a space dedicated fulltime to the pantry. The project has received funding from a variety of sources including Presbytery local mission grants.

The Rev. Richard Manny, Dr. Michael Lukens, the Rev. Marcia Thomas, Ms. Carol Joubert, Elder Keith Rowe, and the Rev. Mara Rivera reported on the November trip to Medellin where Urabá and Winnebago jointly hosted an educational event for the three presbyteries in Colombia. It was reported as a powerful event; the Urabá delegation showed much strength and perseverance. They travelled for 30+ hours to attend. Horrendous mudslides in Colombia disrupted their travel, and they had to walk three miles carrying their belongings to reach the cars that had been sent to meet them. Members of the delegation and others who have travelled to Colombia are willing to make presentations for congregations.

Mr. Manny reported that the Task Group will be meeting soon to make further plans for this year. Elder Gert Walsh from Sheboygan is currently in Colombia attending the Presbyterian Church Colombia Network meeting.

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### **RECESS FOR LUNCH**

Presbytery recessed for lunch prepared and served by members of Covenant Community in Fellowship Hall following prayer by Elder Wendy Mannering.

### **SPEAK OUT**

Moderator Nymoer reconvened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. with "Speak Out."

- The Rev. Marcia Thomas thanked the Installation Commission for the service on January 9 and invited the Moderator to attend the Abbotsford "Feast of Fools" on the last Sunday of February at 10:30 a.m.
- The Rev. Tom Willadsen announced that Oshkosh held a successful interfaith festival with nine faiths represented on the Grand Opera House.
- Elder Dennis Mannering reported that seven churches had participated in a gathering for Elder, Deacon and Clerk training.
- The Rev. Mara Rivera promoted Synod School and announced that she and the Rev. Susan Phillips are responsible for worship. She requested anyone who might be attending and might have extra room to contact one of them because they will have quite a bit of material to transport.
- The Rev. Susan Zencka announced that the western cluster of churches will be gathering once a month. The next event will be Tuesday, March 8, at Stevens Point, 12:30 for pancakes.
- The Rev. Kathy Keener-Han shared a story of inviting and welcoming a former member back into the congregation.
- The Rev. Susan Phillips invited everyone to attend the Caregiving Workshop at Shawano on March 19. The leader will be the Rev. Joy Nelson-Jeffers.
- The Rev. Richard Marcy, Crivitz, invited presbyters to consider volunteering time at Camp Daniel in the Crivitz area. Volunteers serve as caregivers for attendees who have physical challenges.
- Elder Jess Wakefield invited presbyters to attend the March 5 Food Pantry fund raiser at Covenant Community. There will be a Sicilian Dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by a live and silent auction.
- Elder Cheryl Lepak announced an ecumenical event in New Holstein at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on February 20 called Empty Bowls. It will be a soup supper to raise funds for the hungry.

### **PRESBYTERY COUNCIL** (Moderator Jeanne Nymoer)

Vice Moderator Sperduto moderated for the period of the Council report. (Appendix A – Council Minutes)

Ms. Nymoer reported on the activities of staff and officers during this transition time in the Presbytery. She announced that all staff will be meeting with the staff members of Milwaukee, John Knox, and possibly Northern Waters Presbyteries on March 14 to explore how we might work together as we move into the future.

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**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** (Elder Alice Ackermann)

Ms. Ackermann announced the Spring Gathering will be April 30 at Weyauwega First. The featured guest will be Susan Leiber (DePere) who will speak about her “Dakota Experience.”

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BOOK OF ORDER** (Dr. Michael Lukens)

The Stated Clerk outlined the process for discussing the amendments, and stated who was eligible to speak and/or vote on the issues. The Moderator reminded presbyters that discussions of the proceedings are not to be recorded.

The amendments were not taken in order, but divided into three categories for voting—those likely to produce little or no discussion, those that generated some discussion, and those which might have considerable discussion.

- 11/09 It was VOTED to CONCUR with Amendment 10-B regarding Removing Stated Clerk or Clerk of Session.**
- 11/10 It was VOTED to CONCUR with Amendment 10-D regarding Nominating Committees.**
- 11/11 It was VOTED to CONCUR with Amendment 10-E regarding Presbytery Rolls and Registers.**
- 11/12 It was VOTED to CONCUR with Amendment 10-F regarding Certified Christian Educators.**
- 11/13 It was VOTED to CONCUR with Amendment 10-G regarding Synod Function.**
- 11/14 It was VOTED to CONCUR with Amendment 10-H regarding Nominations Process.**
- MOTION to CONCUR with Amendment 10-I regarding Prayer Added to Ordination and Installation Services. MOTION FAILED.**
- 11/15 It was VOTED NOT TO CONCUR with Amendment 10-I regarding Prayer Added to Ordination and Installation Services failed.**
- 11/16 It was VOTED to CONCUR with Amendment 10-J regarding Stay of Enforcement.**
- 11/17 It was VOTED to CONCUR with Amendment 10-K regarding Preliminary Questions.**
- 11/18 It was VOTED to CONCUR with Amendment 10-L. regarding Review the Work of Investigating Committee.**
- MOTION TO CONCUR with Amendment 10-M regarding Time Limit. Motion FAILED.**
- 11/19 It was VOTED NOT TO CONCUR with Amendment 10-M regarding Time Limit.**
- 11/20 It was VOTED to CONCUR with Amendment 10-C regarding Requiring Sexual Misconduct Policy.**
- 11/21 It was VOTED to CONCUR with Amendment 10-N regarding Appeal of “Not Guilty” Verdict.**

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**11/22 It was VOTED to CONCUR with Amendment 10-O regarding Decision of Permanent Judicial Commission.**

**11/23 It was VOTED to CONCUR with Amendment 10-A regarding Gifts and Requirements.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** (The Rev. Richard Manny)

Mr. Manny reported that Presbytery ended the year with a much smaller deficit than anticipated. The year-end financial statement is attached as Appendix B.

Congregations will be receiving letters of thanks for their mission giving, and they will be recognized for their giving efforts at the May Presbytery meeting.

Mr. Manny reported that the Finance Committee had negotiated a per capita adjustment with DePere First Church due to the church split and consequent membership loss in 2010.

**11/24 It was VOTED to concur with the request of the First United Presbyterian Church, De Pere, to mortgage their church property (see description at Minutes Reference: 2006/43) in the amount of \$240,000 at 6.5% through M & I Bank for the purpose of financing the recent extension of the building for its "Family Life Center."**

**11/25 It was VOTED to grant permission for Shawano First, Kiel First and Melnik Presbyterian Churches to pay their 2011 per capita apportionment quarterly.**

**11/26 It was VOTED to concur with the request of First Presbyterian Church, Green Bay, to mortgage property (description: Appendix C) in order to seek a loan up to \$160,000 for refurbishment of their organ. Bank First National has offered to provide the loan with options that allow First Presbyterian to choose either 3 or 5 year terms (before interest rate adjustments) with fixed interest rates of between 4.5% and 5.5%.**

Moderator Nymoen announced that a reporter who was present to report on the Amendments discussion was requesting the opportunity to take a photograph of the meeting for the local newspaper.

**11/27 It was VOTED to approve the photograph on the condition that it did not make the body appear fat.**

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY** (The Rev. Marcia Thomas)

Ms. Thomas announced that there had been a change to the first item listed under information, and presented the revised motion for approval.

**11/28 It was VOTED to approve a 4-month part-time, temporary supply contract extension between the Rev. Greg Smith and Preble Park Presbyterian Church beginning January 1, 2011. The terms of the contract are:** (Presbytery policy prohibits posting of this information in the online edition of the Minutes but it is available upon request.)

Ms. Thomas reported on two actions taken by the Committee on behalf of the Presbytery

- Committee approved a 20 hr/week interim pastor contract between the Rev. Sara Ver Burg and First Presbyterian Church Omro for a 6 month period, effective January 17,

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2011. Contract may be renewed if all parties concur. Terms of the contract are: (Presbytery policy prohibits posting of this information in the online minutes but it is available upon request.)

- Triennial Visits were completed with the Sessions of First Church, Wausau, and Hogarty Church, Aniwa.

**11/29 It was VOTED to grant permission for Elder Don Landwehr, a member at Faith Crivitz, to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion at Amberg United and Pembine First for an additional three months through May 2011.**

It was MOVED to grant permission for elders who are trained lay pastors who have been certified by Winnebago Presbytery to celebrate Communion within the bounds of Winnebago Presbytery for a period of one year (February 2011-February 2012).

**11/30 It was VOTED to AMEND the motion to read, "elders who are trained lay pastors who have been certified ...when invited by a session..."**

**11/31 It was VOTED to grant permission for elders who are trained lay pastors who have been certified by Winnebago Presbytery to celebrate Communion within the bounds of Winnebago Presbytery, when invited by a session, for a period of one year (February 2011-February 2012.)**

**11/32 It was VOTED to concur with the request of Memorial Presbyterian Church, Appleton, to close the position of Associate Pastor.**

**11/33 It was VOTED to concur with the request of First Presbyterian Church, Omro to grant the status of Pastor Emeritus to the Rev. Edward Slusser, effective February 12, 2011.**

**11/34 It was VOTED to grant permission for the Rev. Mary Ann Petro to labor outside the bounds of Winnebago Presbytery as a chaplain serving Hospice of Lancaster Country in Lancaster, PA.**

Ms. Thomas reported that during the transition period, the leadership team has asked the COM Chair, Bette Hoytink, to document her time doing committee work.

#### **ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER** (The Rev. Sarah Moore-Nokes)

Ms. Moore-Nokes reiterated the steps being taken during the transition period of the presbytery. She highlighted the fact that staff and the Stated Clerks of at least Milwaukee, John Knox and Winnebago Presbytery will be meeting on March 14 to discuss ways of working together.

#### **SYNOD COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

The Rev. Marcia Thomas indicated that Synod Commissioner Jim York was ill today and suggested presbyters refer to the printed Synod Meeting Summary that was distributed.

#### **NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

The Rev. Susan Zencka reminded presbyters that the proposed new Form of Government amendment will be voted on at the May Presbytery meeting. She also noted that an educational session is scheduled for March 10 at 4:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Weyauwega.

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**ADJOURNMENT WITH PRAYER**

**11/35 It was VOTED to adjourn the meeting following prayer by the Moderator at 3:25 p.m.**

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer, lifting up the joys and concerns that had arisen during the day.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Barczak  
Associate for Administration

Michael B. Lukens  
Stated Clerk

Appendix A: Presbytery Council Minutes January 11, 2011  
Appendix B: December 2010 Financial Report (Year-end)  
Appendix C: Green Bay First Church Property Description