

**Winnebago Presbytery
Stated Meeting
May 11, 2010
First Presbyterian Church, Marshfield, WI**

Convening the Meeting

The Moderator, the Rev. Marcia Thomas, and Esmeralda the Goose, declared a quorum present and the meeting was called to order with prayer at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian Church, Marshfield, Wisconsin..

Roll Call	Present	Excused	Absent
Craig Alwin	X		
Randal Argall	X		
Darryl Baker	X		
Thomas Beck			X
John Billings		X	
Sid Bouldin	X		
Marion Conditt		X	
C. Nelson Craig		X	
Edward Esler		X	
Robert Everhard	X		
Timothy Fulop		X	
Clifford Haskins		X	
Donald Heeringa		X	
Richard Hill		X	
Paul Huxtable	X		
Roy N. Johnson		X	
William Kamke			X
Donald King	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		
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		
Rachel Reeves Schwab		X	
Edward Slusser	X		
Greg Smith	X		
Michael Spangler	X		
Ted Spurduto	X		
Lois Swanson	X		
Wilfred Tabb		X	
Roll Call	Present	Excused	Absent

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Marcia Thomas	X		
Charles Valenti-Hein			X
Sara Ver Burg	X		
Colin Webster		X	
Tom Willadsen	X		
Tom Williams	X		
Janet Wolfe	X		
Wright, Stephen A.H.	X		
Margaret Zedan		X	
Susan Zencka	X		

10/26 It was VOTED to excuse those so listed.

Churches Represented

Abbotsford	Cindy Koch
Amberg	Not Represented
Aniwa	Not Represented
Appleton	Not Represented
Arpin	Lillian Nelson
Athelstane	Excused
Crivitz	Not Represented
De Pere	Not Represented
Fond du Lac	Roy K. Johnson and Jim Hubbard
Gleason	Calvin Patterson
Green Bay First	Nancy Siewert
Green Bay Preble Park	Not Represented
Green Bay Wequiock	Not Represented
Kiel	Not Represented
Kimberly	Not Represented
Lakewood	Patty Earnest
Laona	Linda Mentz
Manitowoc	Théo Lynne Hoffman
Marinette	Not Represented
Marshfield	Don Zais
Melnik	Ruth Prochazka
Merrill	Not Represented
Neenah	Howard Kidd and Gina Struensee
New Franken	Not Represented
Oconto	Not Represented
Omro	Cindy Doughty
Oshkosh	Barbara Goldthwaite
Pembine	Not Represented
Pickett	Not Represented
Schofield	Bob Petts
Shawano	Ed Moede
Sheboygan	Keith Rowe
Stevens Point	David Arey
Wabeno	Louie Spaude
Wausau	Mary Sperduto
Wausaukee	Excused
Weyauwega	Edie Zabo
White Lake	Not Represented
Wild Rose	Not Represented
Winneconne	Excused

10/27 It was VOTED to excuse those so listed.

Commissioned Lay Pastors: Max Ballard, Cheryl Lepak, Dennis Mannering, Wendy Mannering, and Jess Wakefield.

CLPs Excused: Alyson Janke, Warren Kraft, and Lin Wittmann

Trained Lay Pastor: Jim York

Lay Pastor Student: Jessica Harrison and Phil Kinzel

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Council Members:

Bette Hoytink, Barbara Jordanger, Jan Nelson, Jeanne Nymoen, and Jean Schneider

Visitors:

Appleton	Ginny Baker
DePere	Anne Dropp
Marshfield	Phil Phillips

Presbytery Staff:

Nancy Barczak

[Attendance Summary: Elders/21; Ministers/35; CLPs/8; Council Elders/5; Visitors/3; Staff/1; Others/1]

Early Leave:

10/28 It was VOTED to grant early leave to the Rev. Julie Meadows.

Corresponding Members

10/29 It was VOTED to seat the Rev. Rebecca Johnston as a Corresponding Member.

Privilege of the Floor:

10/30 It was VOTED to grant privilege of the floor to the Rev. Amy Bertschausen, Disciples of Christ, and Ms. Cathleen Wille, United Church of Christ. Both women were in attendance representing the Samaritan Counseling Center of the Fox Valley.

Adoption of the Docket:

10/31 It was VOTED to adopt the docket as distributed.

Report on Arrangements: The Rev. Julie Meadows and Elder Bruce Lautenschlager welcomed everyone to the church and noted the arrangements for the day.

Introduction of New Elders and Visitors

First time elder commissioners were introduced from Abbotsford and Schofield. Presbytery welcomed the Rev. Julie Meadows' sons, Nathaniel and Franklin, and new minister member: the Rev. Michael Spangler.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

10/32 It was VOTED to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2010 Presbytery Meeting. (distributed online)

10/33 It was VOTED to dismiss, with thanks, the Administrative Commission to Install the Rev. Sherwood McKay at First Presbyterian Church, Weyauwega, on April 25, 2010.

The Clerk reported the resignations of the Rev. Cyndy Little and the Rev. Don Houdeshell from the Committee on Ministry.

Dr. Lukens reported the election of Permanent Judicial Commission Officers: Peter Hessert as Moderator and Susan Zencka as Clerk.

Further, he reported on the Synod Review of 2009 Presbytery Minutes, which were approved with one exception: that the record does not provide a Committee on Ministry report that indicates the specific work of ministers who are not under the jurisdiction of the presbytery (G-11.0411 and G-11.0502a). [n.b., CoM does such a review but the record is silent--MBL]

The Clerk gave a verbal report, echoing an earlier mailing, that Ted Tromble renounced jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (USA) on April 12, 2010.

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The Clerk presented a proposed Standing Rule and Manual of Administration Operations change for a 2nd reading and action.

10/34 It was VOTED to amend the Standing Rules of the Presbytery by adding the following section to the list of duties of the Moderator:

5.1.8. appoint an investigating committee from the pool of persons elected by the Presbytery upon notice from the Stated Clerk of receipt of an allegation, according to the provision of the Rules of Discipline (D-10.0201.b.).

10/35 It was VOTED to amend the Manual of Administrative Operations in Section VI (Committees Formed by Winnebago Presbytery) by adding a new sub-section F to establish a committee as a pool of persons available for appointment by the Moderator to serve on an investigating committee as required by the Rules of Discipline, D-10.0200., so that the new sub-section would read:

VI. F. Investigating Committee Pool

Membership: The pool will consist of 6 elected persons, in three classes of two persons serving for not more than two three-year terms.

10/36 It was VOTED to receive the summary statistical reports (2009) and include them in the permanent minutes.

MINISTERIAL STATISTICAL REPORT: 2009

Number of Churches in Presbytery	40
Minister Members on Roll, <u>December 31, 2008</u> :	56
Ministers Received: Darryl Lee Baker (Charlotte)	1
Ministers Died: Thomas M. Hutt	1
Ministers Dismissed:	3
Russell Tillotson (Western North Carolina) [Pending]	
Barbara Carmichael (Chicago)	
Scott T. Marrese-Wheeler (John Knox)	
Joseph Ripley (Milwaukee)	
Ministers Moved to Inactive:	0
Ministers on Inactive Status	0
Ministers Temporarily Excluded	0
Ministers Removed:	2
Curtis A. Larson (dismissed to local congregation)	
Gail Irwin (returned to United Church of Christ)	
Ministers Restored:	0
Ministers on Roll: December 31, 2009	51
[total gains=1; losses=6]	
Commissioned Lay Pastors enrolled 2009	2
Lina Wittmann	
Jess Wakefield	
Commissioned Lay Pastors Total	10
Pastoral Dissolutions	3
Pastoral Installations	0
Honorable Retirement	0
Candidates Taken Under Care: 2009	0
Candidates Presently Under Care	0
Inquirers Enrolled: 2009	0
Inquirers Total	2

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Permanent Judicial Commission

Expired-Term Roster

2010

The Book of Order [Rules of Discipline: D-5.0206(d)] requires that Presbytery maintain a roster of persons whose term on the Permanent Judicial Commission has expired within the last six years. Persons in this group are to be called upon if the PJC is unable to sustain a quorum for conducting judicial business.

There are four persons, whose terms have expired within six years, eligible to serve as alternates on the PJC:

- Max Ballard [DePere] 2009
- Richard Moore [Neenah] 2009
- David Arey [Stevens Point] 2007
- Marian Seagren-Hall [Wausau] 2005

WINNEBAGO PRESBYTERY

2009 Elder Commissioner Roster: January 1, 2010

Commissioner Representation for Churches:

One Elder Commissioner from each Church in Presbytery	= 40
Extra Commissioners:	= 4
One extra Commissioner from Churches over 500:	
DePere First United	
Fond du Lac First	
Neenah First	
Schofield Covenant Community	
Officers of Presbytery [Elders]	= 2
Additional Elders	= 7
(Permanent Committee Moderators and Members of Council)	
Total Elder Commissioners	= 53

Minister Members/Elder Commissioner Ratio in Presbytery: 43 : 53

[Total Minister Members of Presbytery =51] Resident Ministers of Presbytery = 43
[excludes eight non-resident members or resident members unable to attend]

Minister/Elder ratio [43 : 53] is acceptable according to *Form of Government* [G-11.0101b], which prohibits any ratio favoring number of resident ministers.

Church Membership Changes/2009

Churches increasing in membership = 10
Churches decreasing in membership = 27
Churches remaining the same in membership = 3

Total Male Elders = 155
Total Female Elders = 189
Total Male Deacons = 49
Total Female Deacons = 215

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WINNEBAGO PRESBYTERY

2009 Summary of Church Statistics

[submitted to the Office of the General Assembly]
24 February, 2010

Total Active Membership at end of 2008 = 7563
2009 Gains = 299
2009 Losses = 580
Net difference from 2008 = -281

Total Active Membership at end of 2009 = 7282
Female members = 4003
Inactive members = 1107
Baptized members [not counted within active members] = 1359

Total Adherents = 9811 [active members + baptized + inactive]
[in 2008 = 9716; in 2007 = 9685]

Baptisms: children/123; adults/9 = 132 [2008 = 100]

Average Church Attendance [across the Presbytery]: 3007 [2008 = 3163]

Christian Education = 2633
Children = 1616
Adults = 640
Teachers = 377

Congregational Composition
Asian = 47
Afr.American = 18
Nat.American = 28
Hispanic = 28
White = 7047
Other = 114

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Summary Financial Data 2009

Receipts

Giving Units = 4964
Budgeted Income = \$ 6,168,564.
Budgeted Expenses = \$ 6,474,346.

Regular Contributions = \$ 5,121,850.
Capital Funds = \$ 460,628.
Investment Income = \$ 1,654,281.
Bequests = \$ 434,472.
Other Income = \$ 378,573.
Subsidy/Aid = \$ 37,873.

Total Receipts = \$ 8,087,677.

Expenditures

Local Program = \$ 5,318,277.
Local Mission = \$ 269,374.
Capital = \$ 461,639.
Investment = \$ 122,504.
Apportionment = \$ 205,489.
Validated Mission = \$ 476,552.
Other Mission = \$ 94,026.
Theological Fund = \$ 9,277.

Total Expenditures = \$ 6,957,138.

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TOWARD HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

Amy Bertschhausen and Cathy Wille presented Part II of a four part series on the dynamics of change.

WORSHIP

Presbytery moved to the sanctuary at 11:30 a.m. for worship and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Worship leaders were the Rev. Susan Zencka, the Rev. Marcia Thomas, Elders Jeanne Nymoer and Dennis Mannering.

RECESS FOR LUNCH

Following the offering of grace, the meeting recessed for lunch prepared and served by members of the Marshfield congregation.

SPEAK OUT

- Elder Wendy Mannering announced that the Forest Larger Parish will be launching another Alpha Program this fall with participation from other area churches.
- Elder Jim York thanked presbyters for their prayers, cards and support over the past six weeks preceding and following his wife's death.
- The Rev. Susan Phillips announced that the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) and the Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC) have agreed to join together in the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) in June 2010 at a uniting General Council to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Elder Diane Betz shared that the DePere church has created a community garden on its property with four raised beds and a meditation space in the center.
- The Rev. Janet Wolfe announced that the Marshfield Church has also set aside space for a community garden with approximately 35 beds.
- The Rev. Richard Manny announced that the Rev. Marcia Thomas has agreed to join him in July on the Habitat 500 bicycle ride to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity.
- The Rev. Ed Slusser thanked presbyters for their prayers and support at the time of his brother's death.
- Elder Theo Lynne Hoffman announced the upcoming rummage sale at the Manitowoc Church with the proceeds going to the local domestic abuse shelter.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL (Appendix A)

The Rev. Marcia Thomas reported that Winnebago and Milwaukee Presbyteries held a joint council meeting in April at Pilgrim Center. Most of the time was spent in an educational period with the Rev. Sarah Drummond, author of *Holy Clarity*, discussing the need and importance for planning and evaluation.

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DIRECTIONAL TASK FORCE REPORT

The Rev. Ted Spurduto reported that over the last month the Directional Task Force wrapped up most of its work and appointed a writing team—Richard Manny, Marcia Thomas, Barbara Jordanger and himself—to prepare a draft report. It will be shared with task force members and others, before it is finalized for presentation to Council and Presbytery in the fall.

CONSENT AGENDA

10/37 It was VOTED to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

- **COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION**

The Report of the Committee on Representation to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies was received. It will be made a part of the permanent minutes and forwarded to the Synod. (Appendix B)

- **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

1. Committee recommends that the Stated Supply Contract between the Rev. Wil Tabb and Kimberly Presbyterian Church be renewed for a period of one year, effective June 1, 2010.
2. Committee recommends that the Stated Supply Contract between the Rev. Don King and the Riverside Gleason and Merrill First Churches be renewed for a period of one year, effective June 1, 2010.
3. Committee recommends that the Stated Supply Contract between the Rev. William Kamke and the Wequiock and Robinsonville Churches be renewed for a period of one year, effective June 1, 2010.
4. Committee recommends that the Stated Supply Contract between the Rev. Cyndy Little and Arpin First Church be renewed until September 1, 2010.
5. Committee recommends that the Interim Contract between the Rev. Tom Williams and Fond du Lac First Church be renewed through May 31, 2010.
6. Committee recommends approval the Annual Ministerial Report as attached to the Committee on Ministry written report.

- **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

1. Committee recommends that Presbytery receive the 2009 Financial Review prepared by Erickson and Associates and that it be made a part of the permanent minutes. (Appendix C)
2. Committee has reviewed and renewed the Presbytery's insurance coverage effective April 1, 2010 to April 1, 2011. Committee recommends the Certificate of Insurance be made a part of the permanent minutes. (Appendix D)

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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Elder Jan Nelson reported on a successful spring gathering at the Oconto First Church, and she encouraged presbyters to attend "The Wonders of God's Promises," the Synod Presbyterian Women's gathering June 16-19 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

The Rev. Rebecca Proefrock introduced Elder Phil Kinzel, Melnik, who has completed all courses and was examined by representatives of the Committee on Preparation and the Committee on Ministry for certification as a Trained Lay Pastor.

10/38 It was VOTED to certify Elder Phil Kinzel, Melnik, as a Trained Lay Pastor.

A brief certification service, including the constitutional questions, was conducted. Mr. Kinzel was presented with a certificate and a gift of a home communion set.

Ms. Proefrock introduced Inquirer Brita Hansen (Frame Memorial, Stevens Point) to make a brief statement about her faith journey as she is presented for Candidacy. Ms. Hansen responded to questions about her faith journey, and then was excused.

10/39 It was VOTED to enroll Brita Hansen as a Candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Ms. Hansen was welcomed with applause.

A brief service was conducted and Ms. Hansen was presented with the gift of a book.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Elder Bette Hoytink reported the following actions were taken by the Committee on behalf of the Presbytery.

- Committee appointed the Rev. Richard Moore to be Moderator of the Session at First United Presbyterian Church, DePere, effective April 15, 2010.
- Exit interviews were conducted with Mr. Tromble and the Session.
- The Session of the DePere First United Church has contracted with the Rev. Rebecca Johnston, Northeast Wisconsin Association of the United Church of Christ, to serve as Transitional Pastor, effective May 1, 2010.
- Committee received the Rev. Michael Spangler, Honorably Retired, into membership effective April 15, 2010 from East Iowa Presbytery. Mr. Spangler resides in Sheboygan. His faith statement and bio are attached. He was invited to make a brief statement about himself.
- Committee dismissed the Rev. Don Houdeshell, who has been serving as Interim Pastor at Marshfield First, to East Iowa Presbytery, effective May 1, 2010. Exit interviews will have been conducted by the time of the Presbytery meeting.
- Committee appointed the Rev. Julie Meadows and the Rev. Joy Nelson-Jeffers as co-Moderators at Marshfield First, effective May 1, 2010.

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- Committee approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Sara Ver Burg and Memorial Presbyterian Church, Appleton, effective June 30, 2010. The Congregational meeting was held May 2, 2010. All financial obligations will have been met by June 30. Elders to attest to congregational action will be present. Exit interviews have been scheduled. Ms. Ver Burg will become a member-at-large of Winnebago Presbytery. Elder Jeanne Nymoen attested to the congregational meeting and shared a representative email thanking her for the gifts she has shared with the congregation.
- The Rev. Rachel Reeves Schwab will be moving to Lowell, MI (Lake Michigan Presbytery) where her husband has received a Call. Committee approved Ms. Schwab's request to remain a member-at-large of Winnebago Presbytery at this time.
- Committee granted permission for the Rev. Timothy Fulop to continue laboring outside the bounds in Heartland Presbytery as Dean of the College and Vice President of Academic Affairs at William Jewell College in Liberty, MO for a period of one year.
- Committee reports that all churches have complied with the request to provide copies of their child protection policies to the Presbytery.

Elder Wendy Mannering presented the remainder of the report.

10/40 It was VOTED to commission Trained Lay Pastor Phil Kinzel to serve as Moderator and coordinator of the ministry team serving the Melnik Presbyterian Church, effective May 11, 2010 – May 11, 2013.

He is authorized to preach, celebrate the sacraments, and officiate at weddings. Other duties may include pastoral/hospital calls and conducting funerals. Mr. Kinzel is responsible for scheduling worship leadership and other pastoral duties he is not able to fulfill. He is the primary liaison with the Committee on Ministry. Terms: (Presbytery policy prohibits posting of this information. Full minutes are available upon request from the presbytery office.)

10/41 It was VOTED to commission Trained Lay Pastor Warren Kraft to serve as part of the ministry team of the Melnik Presbyterian Church, effective May 11, 2010 – May 11, 2013.

He will provide worship leadership under the coordination of Elder Kinzel. Mr. Kraft is authorized to preach, celebrate the sacraments and officiate at weddings. He may be invited by Elder Kinzel and/or the Session to provide other pastoral responsibilities. Terms: (Presbytery policy prohibits posting of this information. Full minutes are available upon request from the presbytery office.)

10/42 It was VOTED to continue the commission of Commissioned Lay Pastor Max Ballard to serve as part of the ministry team of the Melnik Presbyterian Church through May 13, 2013.

He will provide worship leadership under the coordination of Elder Kinzel. Mr. Ballard is authorized to preach, celebrate the sacraments and officiate at weddings. He may be invited by Elder Kinzel and/or the Session to provide other pastoral responsibilities. Terms: (Presbytery policy prohibits posting of this information. Full minutes are available upon request from the presbytery office.)

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The Rev. Tom Williams, Interim at Fond du Lac, was thanked for his service to the congregation and to the Presbytery. Mr. Williams has accepted another Interim position in Madison beginning June 1 and will transfer to the John Knox Presbytery.

Mr. Williams thanked the Executive Presbyter, staff, and the Committee on Ministry for their support to the congregation, the Pastor Nominating Committee, and to him as Interim Pastor.

RESOURCE AND PROGRAM COORDINATING TEAM

Elders Bette Hoytink (Winneconne) and Jeanne Nymoen (Appleton), representing the six women from the presbytery who attended, thanked the Presbytery for the opportunity to participate in the Women's Lambing Weekend at the Heifer International Ranch in Arkansas.. They asked presbyters to join them in singing a song to the tune of "Morning Has Broken" (written by the group on the trip home) which summed up their experience.

Elder Anne Dropp encouraged presbyters to sign up and attend Synod School in July. Information is available on line.

The Rev. Richard Manny shared a brief video clip from Colombian Presbyterians participating the Days of Prayer and Action.

10/43 It was VOTED to concur with the Chicago Presbytery Overture to the General Assembly regarding violence in Colombia.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

10/44 It was VOTED to concur with the request of the Covenant Community Presbyterian Church, pending congregational approval, to sell the property at 2315 Oakwood Boulevard, Wausau, described as: Lots Five (5) and Six (6) in Block Nine (9), Eau Claire Heights Addition to City of Wausau, with the proceeds to be used for capital improvements. The Session is to report to the Finance Committee final approval of the congregation and the proceeds amount.

10/45 It was VOTED to concur with the action of the Melnik Presbyterian Church to realign and justify its property lines [cited below] in conjunction with the Melnik Cemetery Association in four specific exchanges, two alterations by each entity, by quit claim deeds. [legal descriptions of property alterations will be cited in the Permanent Minutes].

The March 31, 2010 financial statement is appended to the permanent minutes. (Appendix E)

The Rev. Richard Manny presented a certificate recognizing the pledged 2% increase in Unified Mission Giving. A certificate for a pledged 4.5% increase was presented to Wild Rose.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

10/46 It was VOTED to change the Terms of Call for the Rev. Lucille K. Rupe as Executive Presbytery, effective May 11, 2010, by reducing the cash salary and increasing the housing allowance. (Presbytery policy prohibits posting the details of this information. Full minutes are available upon request from the presbytery office.)

10/47 It was VOTED to adopt the Presbytery Personnel Policies as revised. The final document will be appended to the Permanent Minutes and posted on the Presbytery web site. (Appendix F)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elder Jean Schneider presented the slate of nominees to fill committee vacancies. The Moderator called for additional nominations from the floor; there were none.

10/48 It was VOTED to elect Elder Lin Wittmann (Wausaukee/Athelstane CLP) to the Session Record Review Committee (2012-1st term); Elder Jan Nelson (DePere) to complete an unexpired term (2011) on the Finance Committee; and The Rev. Mary Ann Petro (Wausau) to complete an unexpired term (2012) on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

STAFF REPORTS

The Rev. Sarah Moore-Nokes, Associate Executive, announced she is on approved sabbatical leave, by arrangement with the Personnel Committee.

The Rev. Lucy Rupe spoke about the on-going theme of change, noting that it is all around us. There are many changes for all of us personally, in our congregations, in our Presbytery, and in our communities. She invited presbyters to spend a few moments thinking and sharing about those changes and considering the possibilities for Winnebago Presbytery.

NEWS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The Moderator reported that the Presbytery had received a request to endorse the Rev. Eric Nielsen, Northern Waters Presbytery, as a candidate for Moderator of the 219th General Assembly. No action was taken regarding this request.

Elder David Arey, Frame Memorial, Stevens Point, MOVED the following resolution.

Whereas **the Middle East Study Committee (MESC) was created by the 218th General Assembly (2008) and appointed February 2009 by the current and two previous moderators and charged said Committee “to prepare a comprehensive study, with recommendations, that is focused on Israel/Palestine within the complex context of the Middle East” (*Breaking Down the Walls*, page 43); and**

Whereas **“The complex content includes two, ongoing wars, one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan and the northwest border regions of Pakistan, wars that, like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, involve issues of U.S. involvement, a use of force, an occupation, and religious tension.” (*Breaking Down the Walls*, page 43); and**

Whereas, **“Even as this statement addressed first to Presbyterians and to the government of our own nation, the United States, it is also an invitation to respectful and frank conversation addressed to other Christians, to Jews, and to Muslims both here and abroad, and to persons of every nation who seriously seek peace.” (*Breaking Down the Walls*, page 43); and**

Whereas, **the MESC met four times: April 1-3 (Washington, D. C.), August 17 – September 1 (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine), November 11-13 (New York City), and January 29-30 (Louisville, Kentucky) for a total of 18 days; (*Breaking Down the Walls*, footnote 74 page 29); and**

Whereas, **the final report from the MESC (*Breaking Down the Walls*) was not published until March 10, 2010, the 219th General Assembly (2010) will convene on less than four month later on July 3, 2010, it is 173 pages in length, and it contains sixty (60) recommendations in eight categories making it manifestly impossible for the Commissioners to the 219th General Assembly have the time necessary to prudently discern and compassionately act on this Report; and**

Whereas, **what the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adopts as policy on Israel/Palestine has national and international ramifications ecumenically, theologically, and geopolitically;**

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THEREFORE, the Winnebago Presbytery respectfully submits to the Stated Clerk of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, the Moderator and Vice Moderator of the Middle East Peacemaking Issues Committee #13, and the members of said Committee, its recommendation that the 219th General Assembly:

1. Thank the Middle East Study Committee for their work;
2. Authorize the creation of a Monitoring Group on the Middle East for the next two years that will consist of the members of the MESC; and
3. Commend *Breaking Down the Walls* to be studied by individual Presbyterians, Presbyterian study groups, Sessions, Presbyteries, and any other interest parties with their written comments submitted to the Monitoring Group on a timely basis so that the Monitoring Group reports what it learns from the written comments they receive to the 220th General Assembly.

10/49 It was VOTED to adopt the resolution.

Elder Bruce Lautenschlager thanked presbyters for meeting in Marshfield, indicating it was a pleasure to host Presbytery.

ADJOURNMENT

10/50 It was VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m. following prayer and benediction offered by the Moderator.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Barczak
Associate for Administration

Michael B. Lukens
Stated Clerk

Appendices:

- A – Presbytery Council Minutes – April 12-13, 2010
- B – Committee on Representation Report
- C – 2009 Financial Review Report
- D – Certificate of Insurance
- E – March 31, 2010 Financial Statement
- F – Personnel Policies (Revised)
- G-- Annual Report on Ministers (Committee on Ministry)
- H-- Submissions of the Rev. Michael Spangler

[These Minutes approved on September 14, 2010. Minutes Ref. 00/00]