

Winnebago Presbytery
Presbytery Council
Minutes
April 17, 2007

The Council of Winnebago Presbytery convened on April 17, 2007, at 9:35 a.m. at the Presbytery office in Appleton, Wisconsin, beginning in devotions led by Anne Dropp.

Present:

Barbara Jordanger	E, Moderator of Presbytery
Tom Beck	M, Vice Moderator of Presbytery
Anne Dropp	E, Personnel Committee
Chuck Valenti-Hein	M, Finance Committee
Barbara Goldthwaite	E, Nominating Committee
Stephen Wright	M, Preparation for Ministry
Nancy Barczak	E, Associate for Administration
Margaret Dakins	E, Presbyterian Women
MaryLou Opgenorth	E, Synod Commissioner
Barry Johnson	E, Treasurer
Paul Huxtable	M, Committee on Ministry
Cyndy Little	M, Past Moderator
Lucy Rupe	M, Presbytery Executive
Sarah Moore-Nokes	M, Presbytery Associate Executive
Michael Lukens	M, Stated Clerk

Visitor: Rev. Greg Neel, Executive Presbyter, Milwaukee Presbytery

Excused: Chuck Valenti-Hein.,

1. Discussion of Governing Body Issues

Council discussed the present consultations within the PCUSA about the viability of presbyteries and synods, often termed: "Communion & Conversation." Gregg Neel and Sarah Moore-Nokes, both of whom have experiences in these consultations, led the discussion about challenges before the Church in the context of social change and the pressure-points that Middle Governing Bodies are feeling. They presented a proposal for conversation of representatives from six presbyteries on the eastern side of the Synod of Lakes & Prairies, to be held in the summer of 2007. Council, by consensus, agreed that such conversations could be valuable.

2. Approval of Minutes

Council Voted to approve the Council Minutes (with revision) from its meeting in January, 2007.

3. Staff/Officer Reports

- The Moderator reported on her visits to the various congregations for worship, her participation in the installation of the Rev. Marcia Thomas in Abbotsford as well as the celebration of the Winneconne Church with Nelson Craig as "Pastor Emeritus"

and her attendance at the Synod CoM/CPM meeting. The Moderator also announced the Clerk's receipt of an allegation of misconduct, her appointment of an Investigating Committee (from those persons previously elected by the Presbytery to the Investigating Committee pool) and the commencement of Committee's its work.

- Stated Clerk reported on the work of the first quarter of the year, including the statistical reporting of our congregations and the year-end reports that Presbytery submits to the Office of the General Assembly.
- Associate Executive Presbyter
The Associate Executive Presbyter submitted a written report on the Synod Stewardship Training Pilot Program, notes on the recent activity of the Resource and Program Coordinating Team and the new "blogging" activity on the Presbytery website.
- Executive Presbyter
The Executive Presbyter reported on her work with the "Reforming Ministry" project of the PCUSA, dealing with issues connecting theology and education as well as her forthcoming trip to a seminary in Mozambique as a part of this project. She reported on the Synod CoM/CPM event. She reflected on her service on the Board of Pensions and the pressures that the PCUSA is facing. She announced the itineration of mission personnel within Presbytery in the period October 12-19.

4. **Old Business**

- Council reviewed the February meeting of Presbytery. It was judged that the logistics worked well, in light of the limited size of the Wild Rose Church. The CPM report and its continuing business regarding the ordination examination of a candidate were also reviewed.
- The matter of reviewing examination protocols, assigned to the Clerk and representatives from CPM and CoM, has not received attention to date. [This refers to a proposal from the Clerk, "Examination Protocol for Presbytery & Sessions," focused on ordination examination of Candidates and of ministers seeking enrollment in Presbytery in light of the action of the 217th General Assembly and briefly discussed by Council at its January meeting] It is hoped that this review and report would be available to Council at its August meeting.
- Council received a proposed "Winnebago Presbytery Communication Guidelines" policy statement that would clarify goals, selection criteria for various media and privacy procedures for Presbytery publications and communications. There was a consensus that Council will review and consider the proposal at its next meeting.

5. **New Business**

- Council received a proposal for a pre-presbytery meeting on 8 May, from Susan Phillips, Nancy Siewert, and Jean Hamersky, for a forum on "Ethics and Public Policy" utilizing material from the Wisconsin Council of Churches, specifically a presentation DVD of an address by Prof. Walter Brueggemann. This forum would

convene in the Shawano Church at 11:00 a.m., would include time for discussion and would adjourn in time for the meeting of Presbytery.

Council **voted** to approve this event as an official program of the presbytery, with no financial commitment from the Presbytery budget.

- Council considered the situation of Committee on Representation in the life and work of Presbytery.
Council **voted** to recommend to Presbytery that the work of the CoR be combined with that of the Nominating Committee, so that the same committee would serve both functions with distinctive reports.
- Council agreed to postpone consideration of the WCC social policy statement “Reconciled in Christ with Creator and Creation: The Worshipful Work of Caring for the Earth and People” (adopted 12 December 2006) to Council’s meeting in August.

6. **Committee Reports**

- Nominating Committee [Goldthwaite] [no report]
- Personnel Committee [Dropp] reported that the reviews of the Executive Presbyter (five-year review) and the Stated Clerk (annual) will take place on April 24.
- Presbyterian Women [Dakins] reported on the forthcoming Spring Gathering [April 28] at the Wausau First Church and its planning for a retreat on October 19-20 at Pine Lake.
- Synod Commissioners [no report]
- Committee on Ministry [Huxtable] reported that he is just beginning his service as CoM Moderator.
- Finance Committee reported [Johnson] on its review of insurance and investment matters. The 2006 Audit report will be presented at the May meeting.
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry [Wright] reported on the presentation of a new inquirer at the May meeting of Presbytery and the prospective completion of the candidacy process and ordination planning for Ms. Judi Holmes-Jensen.

7. **May Meeting of Presbytery**

Council reviewed the docket for the May meeting.

Council **voted to instruct** the Clerk to arrange the final docket for the September stated meeting of Presbytery in consultation with the Moderator and staff.

7. **Next Council Meeting**

Council will meet next on 21 August 2007, at the Presbytery Office with opening devotions by Cyndy Little, Barbara Jordanger leading the study of *Identity—Polity—Praxis. Ecclesiology and the Presbytery*, by Paul K. Hooker, pp. 1-20, and Tom Beck the closing prayer.

8. **Adjournment**

Council adjourned in prayer [Stephen Wright] at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael B. Lukens
Stated Clerk