

Winnebago Presbytery  
**Presbytery Council**  
**Minutes**  
**April 14, 2009**

The Council of Winnebago Presbytery convened on April 14, 2009 at 9:45 a.m. at the Presbytery Office in Appleton, Wisconsin, beginning in reflections (Genesis 1:20) led by the Rev. Tom Willadsen and morning prayer by Rev. Marcia Thomas.

Present:

Marcia Thomas	M, Vice Moderator of Presbytery
Barbara Goldthwaite	E, Nominating Committee
Barbara Jordanger	E, Personnel Committee
Jim York	E, Synod Commissioner
Judy Nighorn	E, Resource & Program Coordinating Team
Margaret Dakins	E, Presbyterian Women
Richard Manny	M, Finance Committee
Tom Willadsen	M, Past Moderator of Presbytery
Rebecca Proefrock	M, Preparation for Ministry Moderator
Lucy Rupe	M, Executive Presbyter
Sarah Moore-Nokes	M, Associate Executive Presbyter
Nancy Barczak	E, Associate for Administration
Michael Lukens	M, Stated Clerk

Excused: Dennis Mannering, Barry Johnson, Margaret Zedan, Wendy Mannering.

1. Council Study Period

Council began its study of the recent work by Phyllis Tickle, *The Great Emergence. How Christianity is Changing and Why* (Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2008), focusing on the first section (pp. 1-39) and questions related to church transitions as “rummage sale” (what currently can or should be relinquished versus what needs to be retained) and three strands of analysis: spiritual, corporeal (physical), and moral.

2. Council Minutes (6 January, 2009)

Council **voted** to approve the Minutes of Council from its meeting on 6 January 2009.

3. Directional Task Force Report

The Task Force reported (Jordanger) on its meeting on March 11, 2009. The TF discussed the situation of the other presbyteries in the Synod, in consultation with the Synod Executive and the general downsizing pattern in Synod and presbyteries. This impacts not only staffing but also all layers and funding-streams. The office relationship with the UCC Northeast Association is also a factor for Presbytery. Council reviewed and proposed revisions to a draft of a TF survey of pastors and sessions, in regard to staffing and office needs. Council **voted to approve** the draft for distribution.

The next meeting of the Task Force is 2 June 2009 in Shawano.

#### 4. Staff and Officer Reports

- Moderator (excused) reported in a written report.
- Vice Moderator had no report.
- The Clerk reported on a number of areas of current work: judicial update, year-end reports, presbytery policy reviews, Synod conference of presbytery clerks, and suggestions for presbytery meeting dates in 2010.

Council **voted to recommend** the following dates for meetings of Presbytery in 2010:

February 13 (Saturday)

May 11 (Tuesday)

September 14 (Tuesday)

November 13 (Saturday)

- The Executive Presbyter reported on several items in the life of Presbytery, regarding changes in pastoral leadership for the deaf ministry program and the Hispanic ministry, cooperative ecumenical relationships in northeast Wisconsin, and the continuity of work between CPM and CoM. She also reported that the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Council of Churches will be December 14-15, 2010, at the Green Lake Conference Center and that Presbytery has two delegates to be appointed.
- The Associate Executive Presbyter reported on the Synod discussions among presbytery staff, especially in terms of shared programming, which nonetheless involves some implementational difficulties. The partnership work with churches through the RPCT is going very well. The AEP technological training efforts, both within Presbytery and as a Synod consultant, are a major present focus. The EP and AEP are meeting one on one with each pastor in Presbytery and this effort has been well-received. The child protection policy is also under review and a revised policy will be presented to Presbytery.
- The Associate for Administration reported on technological enhancements within Presbytery's operation and the need to receive written reports for the May Presbytery meeting docket by the end of April.

#### 5. Old Business

Council reviewed the February stated meeting. Comments were offered on the educational portion of the meeting. The AEP mentioned that there are technological issues in relation to Church sites for the meetings of Presbytery beyond five churches that have special technical space and equipment.

#### 6. Committee Reports

- Finance Committee reported (Manny) on year-end reports for 2008, the grants allocation for mission projects, Synod funding matters, and investment losses.
- Preparation for Ministry Committee reported (Proefrock) on the Synod CPM/CoM training conference in February, the addition of CLP supervision and training matters to the tasks of the Committee, current financial stresses on our candidates and CLP trainees.
- Personnel Committee reported (Jordanger) that the annual review of the Executive Presbyter, Associate Executive Presbyter, and Stated Clerk will occur on 21 April, 2009.
- The Resource & Program Coordinating Team reported (Nighorn) on the progress and development of partnership projects with churches and scholarships/grants, the success of the Presbytery Seminar on Colombian-U.S. Relations in February in Washington, D.C.,

the wonderful reports from participants in the Women's Lambing Weekend at Heifer International Ranch in Arkansas.

- The Nominating Committee reported (Goldthwaite) that all vacancies in Presbytery committees and units have been filled. The CoR Committee will report to Presbytery at the May stated meeting of Presbytery.
- The Committee on Ministry reported (Rupe) on a pending CLP approval and the continuing issue of the Minister at Large membership category.
- Presbyterian Women reported (Dakins) on the Spring Gathering (25 April) and its mission work. She also reported this is her last meeting as PW Moderator; Jan Nelson will replace her as Interim Moderator.  
Council **voted to approve** Holy Communion at the PW 2009 Spring Gathering, with the Rev. Susan Zencka officiating.
- The Synod Commissioner reported (York) on the recent Synod meeting, its contemporary emphases, new task groups, and the continuing matter of Dakota Presbytery.
- Session Records Review (Wright excused): no report.

7. Presbytery Meeting Docket (12 May 2009)

Council reviewed the meeting theme: "Integrating Technology."

Council discussed the docket and reporting needs for the May meeting of Presbytery.

Council instructed the Clerk to construct the docket in consultation with the Moderator and staff of Presbytery for distribution.

8. Assignments for the August Meeting of Council

For Council's meeting in August, Judy Nighorn will lead the opening devotions and prayer; Dennis Mannering will lead the study time, focused on the Tickle book, part II (pp. 41-117); and the Closing Prayer will be led by Wendy Mannering.

9. Adjournment

Council adjourned in prayer (Manny) at 12:15 p.m.

10. Council meets next on 25 August 2009 at the Presbytery Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Lukens  
Stated Clerk