

Winnebago Presbytery
Presbytery Council
Minutes
August 25, 2009

The Council of Winnebago Presbytery convened on August 25, 2009 at 9:45 a.m. at the Presbytery Office in Appleton, Wisconsin, beginning in a period of devotion led by the Judy Nighorn.

Present:

Dennis Mannering	E, Moderator of Presbytery
Marcia Thomas	M, Vice Moderator of Presbytery
Barbara Goldthwaite	E, Nominating Committee
Barbara Jordanger	E, Personnel Committee
Wendy Mannering	E, Committee on Ministry
Jim York	E, Synod Commissioner
Judy Nighorn	E, Resource & Program Coordinating Team
Margaret Zedan	M, Synod Commissioner
Jan Nelson	E, Presbyterian Women
Richard Manny	M, Finance Committee
Lucy Rupe	M, Executive Presbyter
Sarah Moore-Nokes	M, Associate Executive Presbyter
Nancy Barczak	E, Associate for Administration
Michael Lukens	M, Stated Clerk

Excused: Barry Johnson, Tom Willadsen, Stephen Wright, Rebecca Proefrock.

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 second section (pp. 47-117) and questions related to the radical shift in intellectual and social context of the church in modernity, with its resultant challenges for social, theological, and moral authority. Council discussed the constant challenge in the analysis of constant change as well as the search for moral authority in contemporary life.

2. Council Minutes

Council **voted** to approve the Minutes of Council from its meeting on 14 April 2009.

3. Directional Task Group Report

The Task Force reported (Jordanger) on August 24th meeting. The Group discussed the survey results from a canvas of church sessions and ministers within Presbytery. It plans for a period of discussion during the September presbytery meeting around three questions: the role of presbytery staffing in relation to congregational life and need; potential changes in staffing; and potential increase in volunteer responsibilities. The Group will analyze further the results from these small group discussions at its next meeting on 23 September.

4. Staff and Officer Reports

- Moderator reported on his recent activities, including Directional Task Force leadership, visits to small churches, commissioning of pastoral leadership at the Athelstane and

Wausaukee churches, and participation in the Pastors' Sabbath event in Jacksonville last April.

- Vice Moderator reported on her plan to attend the Moderators Training event in Louisville in November.
- The Clerk reported on a number of areas of current work: a judicial update re: Wolfe v. Winnebago and providing polity resources and counsel with ministers and sessions.

The Clerk reported consequences of the Decision and Order of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission in Wolfe:

www.pcusa.org/permanentjudicialcommission/decisions. The Synod Permanent Judicial Commission will formally convey the Order of the GAPJC with the requirement that the Committee on Ministry repeat its recommendation to Presbytery regarding the pastoral activity of the Rev. Dr. Janet Wolfe and do so before the end of the year. The Clerk recommended that Presbytery commence its planning for this report immediately.

Council discussed several options, including a called special meeting in December or November prior to the Stated Meeting.

Council **Voted** to recommend to the Moderator that there be a called special meeting of Presbytery on Friday, 13 November, for a dedicated session to hear the report of CoM with its recommendations related to the Rev. Dr. Janet Wolfe.

The site decisions for presbytery meetings in 2010 were also reported:

February 13 (Saturday) at First United, DePere
May 11 (Tuesday) at Marshfield First
September 14 (Tuesday) at Fond du Lac First
November 13 (Saturday) at Neenah First

- The Executive Presbyter reported on several items in the life of Presbytery, highlighting the personal discussions and listening sessions that the Executive Presbyter and the Associate Executive Presbyter are holding with each pastor in presbytery and the common assessment that these discussions have proved most valuable. She also reported on several ministerial changes in the life of presbytery.
- The Associate Executive Presbyter reported that there are 12 task groups in the programmatic life of Presbytery, her leadership in technology classes within presbytery for ministers and lay leaders and the prospective Presbytery youth camp (grades 6-12) on October 28-31.

5. Old Business

Council reviewed the May meeting of Presbytery, held at Manitowoc. Staff appreciated the ease and functionality of the technical dimension of the meeting.

6. New Business

Council considered the Ecumenical Support Budget for 2010.

Council **Voted** to approve the Ecumenical Support Budget for 2010 at \$7500 (total) for three programs: Hands of Christ Deaf Ministry, Senda de Amor, Wisconsin Council of Churches).

Council considered the educational component for the Presbytery meetings in 2010, focused on components planned and conducted by the Samaritan Counseling Center of Fox Valley. Council **Voted** that the Samaritan Counseling Center of Fox Valley plan and conduct a series of programs with an educational focus on “health and wholeness” at the four meetings of Presbytery at a cost of up to \$1500.

Council discussed nominations for the Presbytery Nominating Committee.

Council **Voted** to recommend to Presbytery that Jean Schneider be asked to serve a second three-year term and a minister member be asked for a new three-year term.

It was announced that the Rev. Diego Higuera would be within Presbytery, 2-8 October, 2009 as a participant in the International Peacemaking Program of the denomination.

Council **Voted** to authorize the Rev. Susan Zencka to officiate at the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper at the Presbytery Educators’ conference, Green Lake, September 21, 2009.

7. Committee Reports

- The Nominating Committee (Barbara Goldthwaite) will present nominations for GA and Synod Commissioners and presbytery officers at the September meeting of Presbytery.
- Committee on Ministry reported (Wendy Mannering) reported on the continuing triennial visits, recent pastoral dissolutions with consequent pastoral searches. The Committee will have a retreat in October in coordination with the Milwaukee CoM.
- PW reported (Jan Nelson) on the 13th Fall Retreat at Pine Lake Camp on 2-3 October with a musical theme. The Spring Gathering is set for April 24, featuring Tom Logan on the Marian Medical Program (shallow well emphasis).

Council **Voted** to authorize the Rev. Marcia Thomas to officiate at the Sacrament of Lord’s Supper at the PW Fall Retreat on 3 October.

- Finance Committee reported (Richard Manny) on Presbytery investments and a recent interview with brokers about an improved equity performance, an update on congregational loan status, a recommendation forthcoming to Presbytery on the Small Church Endowment Grant Program, receipt of certification of local church insurance coverage, and a property disposition recommendation from the Green Bay First Church. The Committee has prepared a proposed 2010 Presbytery Budget, for presentation at the September meeting for information.

7. Presbytery Meeting Docket (15 September 2009)

Council reviewed the meeting theme: “Accessibility.”

Council discussed the docket and reports for the September meeting of Presbytery and instructed the Clerk to construct the docket in consultation with the Moderator and staff.

8. Assignments for the October Meeting of Council
For Council's meeting in October, Jan Nelson will lead the opening devotions and prayer; Wendy Mannering will lead the study time, focused on the Tickle book, part III (pp.119-167), and the Closing Prayer will be led by Barbara Jordanger.
9. Adjournment
Council adjourned in prayer (Wendy Mannering) at 12:35 p.m.
10. Council meets next on 20 October, 2009, 9:30 a.m. at the Presbytery Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Lukens
Stated Clerk