

Winnebago Presbytery
Presbytery Council
Minutes
January 15, 2008

The Council of Winnebago Presbytery convened on January 15, 2008, at 9:45 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Neenah, Wisconsin, beginning in morning prayer and reflections led by the Executive Presbyter, Lucy Rupe. The Moderator led a round of introductions of members of Council as well as incoming members, including reflections from the season.

Present:

Barbara Jordanger	E, Moderator of Presbytery
Chuck Valenti-Hein	M, Finance Committee
Barbara Goldthwaite	E, Nominating Committee
Nancy Barczak	E, Associate for Administration
Judy Nighorn	E, Resource & Program Coordinating
Cyndy Little	M, Past Moderator
Anne Dropp	E, Personnel Committee
Paul Huxtable	M, Committee on Ministry
Lucy Rupe	M, Executive Presbyter
Sarah Moore-Nokes	M, Associate Executive Presbyter
Michael Lukens	M, Stated Clerk

Visitors: Dennis Mannering, Richard Manny, Tom Willadsen

Excused: Tom Beck, Barry Johnson, Wil Tabb, Stephen Wright, Mary Lou Opgenorth, and Margaret Zedan, and Jim York.

1. Council Study & Discussion

Council continued its discussion of Paul Hooker's work: "Identity-Polity-Praxis. Ecclesiology and the Presbytery" (Office of Theology and Worship Occasional Papers Series 2), focused on praxis and challenges of change in the context of affirming tradition, pp.31-42.

2. Review of Council Minutes

Council **voted to approve** Council Minutes from October 16, 2007.

3. Inter-Presbytery ("Six-Pack") Conversations

Sarah Moore-Nokes reported on the discussions of the six presbyteries in the eastern portion of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies about the future course of the presbyteries.

These conversations have continued as part of a national effort to encourage presbyteries to think together about the best way for governing bodies to work together and share resources, including opportunities for collaboration and structural adjustments. The next meeting will be in Eau Claire in February.

5. Staff & Officer Reports

- The Moderator reported on the completion of her visits to all of the churches of Presbytery and voiced her special commendation of our CLPs in their service of several small churches.

- The Clerk reported on year-end reporting tasks, particularly congregational statistical reports and the various reports of Presbytery to the Office of the General Assembly. The Clerk also reported in general outline about timeframes for three continuing judicial processes: the remedial case of Wolfe v Winnebago and two disciplinary investigations.
- The Executive Presbyter reported on the prospective work within Presbytery on various changes that are pending in the life of the PC(USA) and how this will affect the need for task force work. There is also a need to determine the focus of our presbytery meetings in the coming year. It is already arranged that Hunter Farrell, the new World Mission director for the PCUSA, will speak to Presbytery in May. She also raised the question whether this might be a time for review of structure and functions in light of the proposed revisions in the *Form of Government* (PCUSA).
- The Associate Executive Presbyter reported on the (second) Presbytery youth camp and its great success with involvement of young people from a variety of churches in Presbytery and several adult volunteers. She commented on her continuing engagement in the “Six-Pack” consultations of presbyteries and her work on furthering the communication opportunities within Presbytery, including attention to specific groups of professionals within presbytery, such as Christian educators. She also mentioned the opportunities of networking in programmatic and emerging needs, especially with UCC and ELCA personnel.
- The Associate for Administration reported on year-end reporting preparation, on mission-giving, per capita, and financial reports.

[Lunch Break]

6. Old Business

- Council reviewed the November meeting of Presbytery, noting how well the technology works for presentations and sharing.
- Rev. Willadsen reported on the Moderator’s Conference, as the Moderator-elect.
- The Moderator gave a report on the Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Council of Churches in December at Green Lake.
- Rev. Richard Moore reported on the results of the Stewardship Survey, through a written list of local church reactions and changes reported as a result of the presbytery presentations. He offered reflections about Presbytery’s work on this focus and directed questions to Council about the next steps. The consensus of Council is that the Stewardship Task Group should continue with its discussion of further work on stewardship development.
- The Executive Presbyter reported on a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance grant for the Crandon community as part of the PDA program in emergency assistance.
- The Associate Executive Presbyter raised the issue of the commencement dates for new committee moderators and the awkward relation of this schedule in relation to committee work. The Nominating Committee was urged to review the timing relation of committee moderator elections with commencement of duties.

8. Synod and Committee Reports

- The Synod of Lakes & Prairies will meet January 20-22, 2008.
- Committee on Ministry reported on its current actions and a meeting forthcoming on 22 January.

- Finance Committee [Valenti-Hein] reported that year-end reports will be recommended to Presbytery in February.
- Personnel Committee [Dropp] reported on the successful and affirming review of Nancy Barczak as the Associate for Administration..
- Nominating Committee [Goldthwaite] reported that it will bring to Presbytery nominees for all present committee vacancies.

9. Presbytery Meeting Planning (February)

Council, in consultation with Committee moderators, suggested time allotments for the February meeting docket.

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

10. Words of Appreciation

The Moderator expressed special appreciation for the work and service of Rev. Cyndy Little and Rev. Chuck Valenti-Hein, who are completing terms on Council.

For the Council meeting on 15 April 2008 Barbara Goldthwaite will lead the opening prayer/devotion period and Paul Huxtable will give the closing prayer. The Moderator will lead the study portion, based on the Moderator choice of text and focus, which will be sent in advance to the Council.

Adjournment

Council adjourned in prayer by the Moderator at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Lukens
Stated Clerk