

Winnebago Presbytery
Presbytery Council
Minutes
January 6, 2009

The Council of Winnebago Presbytery convened on January 6, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Neenah, Wisconsin, beginning in morning prayer and Epiphany reflections led by the Elder Anne Dropp. Council spent time in fellowship discussing favorite Christmas and New Year's songs and the wonders of winter.

Present:

Tom Willadsen	M, Moderator of Presbytery
Barbara Goldthwaite	E, Nominating Committee
Paul Huxtable	M, Committee on Ministry
Stephen Wright	M, Preparation for Ministry
Barbara Jordanger	E, Immediate Past Moderator
Jim York	E, Synod Commissioner
Judy Nighorn	E, Resource & Program Coordinating Team
Margaret Dakins	E, Presbyterian Women
Richard Manny	M, Finance Committee
Anne Dropp	E, Personnel Committee
Rebecca Proefrock	M, incoming CPM 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: Barry Johnson, Margaret Zedan, Marcia Thomas, Wendy Mannering, Dennis Mannering.

1. Opening Devotions focusing on Epiphany and new beginnings were offered by Anne Dropp.
2. Discussion of GA Form of Government Task Group Preliminary Report

The Moderator and Clerk reported on the GA Form of Government Task Group draft (October 2008) of a revised recommendation regarding the PCUSA Constitution, containing selective revisions in the FoG as proposed to the 218th General Assembly in June, 2008. Council discussed several issues, notably the revised membership categories as well as the shift from a regulatory to a missional model. At the February stated meeting of Presbytery, the Clerk will solicit interest in a special task group for developing possible Presbytery recommendations to the GA Task Group, for presentation to the Presbytery at its May stated meeting.

Council also discussed selected parts of the small group responses about the role and direction of Presbytery from the Council's retreat in October 2008.

Council considered the suggestion of the Executive Presbyter that Council needs to lead in a deeper and more detailed review of the future of the Presbytery, in light of continuing

substantial change in Church and society.

It was **voted** that a subgroup of Council be formed for the purpose of examining the future directions of the Presbytery and bringing appropriate recommendations to the Presbytery.

3. Review of Minutes of October 2008 Meeting of Council

Council **voted** to approve the Minutes of Council from 21 October 2008.

4. Staff/Officer Reports

- The Executive Presbyter reported on the significance of the relationship with Urabá Presbytery in Colombia and the ways in which this importance was reflected in the October trip of several members of Presbytery to Urabá, an importance both for the churches in Urabá and for us as a Presbytery. Rev. Rupe also reported on the use of the Presbytery Genesis Fund (2008) in Urabá churches and within its interior mission.
- The Associate Executive Presbyter reported on four new task groups in various mission projects within the Presbytery. Rev. Moore-Nokes also clarified her increasing role in national task groups, dealing with technology and managing rapid technological change.
- The Associate for Administration reported on the present work regarding year-end final reports, especially financial reporting.
- The Moderator reported on the installation of the Rev. Craig Alwin at the Oconto First Church and the installation of Rev. Sara Ver Burg at the Appleton Memorial Church.
- The Stated Clerk reported on the present judicial case (remedial) before Presbytery and the forthcoming trial on 14 January. He also assessed the prospect of further judicial activity in 2009 and their cost in both time and funds.

5. Old Business

- Council reviewed the November (2008) meeting of Presbytery. Council discussed the various reactions to the Wolfe Hearing at the Presbytery meeting and the options on the continuing matter before Presbytery regarding this case.
- Report on the Wisconsin Council of Churches annual meeting (December, Green Lake) was given by Lucy Rupe, who presided at her final meeting as President of the WCC. She reported on the primary themes and issues within the WCC and the remarkable leadership of the Rev. Scott Anderson as its Executive Director.

[Break for Lunch]

6. Committee and Commissioner Reports

- Presbyterian Women reported (Dakins) on the forthcoming Spring Gathering on 25 April 2009 and the continuing planning for the Fall Gathering.
- Committee on Ministry reported (Huxtable) that the Committee is engaged in three major endeavors regarding pastoral oversight and review, in addition to the normal duties of the Committee, e.g., interim pastoral placements.

- Finance Committee reported (Manny) on the commencement of the new budgeting process (for 2010).
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Wright and Proefrock) reported on the annual consultation process for inquirers.
- Personnel Committee reported (Dropp) on the evaluation process, including the recent evaluation and discussion with the Associate for Administration.
- Resource & Program Coordinating Team (Nighorn): no report.
- Nominating Committee reported (Goldthwaite) on the present vacancies on Finance Committee and the Resource and Program Coordinating Team.

7. Docket for the February Meeting of Presbytery

Council considered the docket and time allotments for the February stated meeting, including its framing theme of “Buildings and Beyond,” time requests from committees, and the installation of new officers. It instructed the Clerk to arrange the final docket in consultation with the Moderator and the Presbytery staff.

8. Words of Appreciation for Outgoing Members of Council

Council expressed its appreciation for the work and ministry of those who are concluding their tenure on Council: Anne Dropp (Personnel Committee), Barbara Jordanger (Immediate Past Moderator) who now becomes the new Moderator of the Personnel Committee, Stephen Wright (Committee on Preparation for Ministry), who becomes the new Moderator of the Session Records Review Committee, and Paul Huxtable (Committee on Ministry), with commendations to each for this time of leadership and service.

9. Preparation for the April meeting of Council (Presbytery Office)

Council **voted** to change the meeting of Council to April 14.

Opening Devotions will be led by Tom Willadsen. Council will be reading *The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why* by Phyllis Klee. The Council study portion will be led by the new Moderator, Dennis Mannering. The closing prayer will be given by Richard Manny.

10. Miscellaneous Business

Council **voted** to authorize Max Ballard to celebrate and officiate at the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper at the Marinette Pioneer Church on 1 February.

Council adjourned in prayer by Barbara Jordanger at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Lukens
Stated Clerk