

Winnebago Presbytery
Presbytery Council
Minutes
January 12, 2010

The Council of Winnebago Presbytery convened on January 12, 2010 at 9:45 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Neenah, Wisconsin, beginning in a period of devotion led by Jan Nelson.

Present:

Marcia Thomas	M, Moderator of Presbytery
Jeanne Nymoen	E, Vice Moderator
Barbara Jordanger	E, Personnel Committee
Dennis Mannering	E, Past Moderator of Presbytery
Wendy Mannering	E, Committee on Ministry
Ted Sperduto	M, Directional Task Force Moderator
Jim York	E, Synod Commissioner
Judy Nighorn	E, Resource & Program Coordinating Team
Jan Nelson	E, Presbyterian Women
Richard Manny	M, Finance Committee
Bette Hoytink	E, Committee on Ministry
Lucy Rupe	M, Executive Presbyter
Sarah Moore-Nokes	M, Associate Executive Presbyter
Nancy Barczak	E, Associate for Administration
Michael Lukens	M, Stated Clerk

Excused: Margaret Zedan, Stephen Wright, Rebecca Proefrock, Robert Merriam, Jean Schneider.

Guest: Ms. Cathy Wille

1. Council Minutes

Council **voted** to approve the Minutes of Council from its meeting on 20 October, 2009, with one correction (p. 3: Jean Schneider as Moderator nominee for Nominating Committee).

2. Council Discussion and Consideration about the Future Course of the Presbytery

Council, led by the Moderator, the Rev. Marcia Thomas, discussed a framework for considering the future direction of the Presbytery, using as background the book: *Transitions—Making Sense of Life's Changes* by William Bridges.

A. Role of Council

Council discussed generally the inevitable challenges of change

B. Directional Task Force

Council discussed the collected and summarized notes from small-group discussions at the November meeting of Presbytery regarding options for change. The cluster concept was highlighted and examples were explored. The matter of communication with churches and members regarding Presbytery's mission efforts, its financial situation, and the necessary changes ahead became a discussion focus. Strategies for dealing with challenge and change were lifted up.

C. Perspective from the Samaritan Counseling Center

Jeanne Nymoen introduced the work of the Samaritan Counseling Center in promoting the concept of "healthy congregation" and the leadership of Cathy Wille.

D. “Visioning the Future”: The Intersection of Council, the Directional Task Force, and the Healthy Congregations Project.

Cathy Wille described her background, training, and the work of the Center. The focal issue is the response of the church in the face of change and grief about change in current life and loss. She differentiated between technical and adaptive change and the greater difficulty in the latter. She also noted stages in confrontation with change and the necessity of moving through each distinct stage on the way to real change and new vision, as well as dealing with fear of failure and feelings of uncertainty. There is a variety of understandings of change, including a determination of what is to be affirmed in the present operation and how this can be changed for the better. She noted that the commitment of Council and the wider presbytery leadership is essential in order to meet the challenge of change. Finally, she reflected on the necessity of grounding in Scripture and a biblical basis for vision.

Ms. Wille talked briefly about prospective presentations to Presbytery, using some of the same principles of the “healthy congregation” process as a way of enabling Presbytery’s approach to a new or renewed vision.

3. Proposed Presbytery Agenda (in Worship Format) & Synopsis of Committee Work

Council determined the general process and outline for the discussion of change at the Presbytery meeting in February.

The Moderator led Council in reviewing a model of worship for Presbytery meetings in 2010, based on a distributed outline of the various parts for a service of prayer.

Council **voted** to continue the practice of Holy Communion at each worship service.

4. Presbytery Operational Business

- A. Council discussed the docket for the February meeting and instructed the Clerk to construct the docket in consultation with the Moderator and staff of Presbytery.
- B. Amendment to Child Protection Policy
Upon referral by Presbytery at its September 2009 meeting, Council considered briefly an additional section for the Child Protection Policy re: “digital communication” but there was no action on this proposed amendment.
- C. Council discussed the planning for a joint Council Meeting with Milwaukee Presbytery on 12-13 April at the Pilgrim Center, Green Lake.
- D. Council considered several miscellaneous items for information.

5. Adjournment

Council adjourned in prayer by Barbara Jordanger at 12:40 p.m.

Council meets next on 12-13 April (with Milwaukee Presbytery Council) at the Pilgrim Center, Green Lake.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Lukens
Stated Clerk