

Winnebago Presbytery
Presbytery Council
Minutes
October 16, 2007

The Council of Winnebago Presbytery convened on October 16, 2007, at 9:45 a.m. at the Presbytery Office in Appleton, Wisconsin, beginning in a service of morning prayer taken from the life of the Iona Community, led by the Rev. Chuck Valenti-Hein.

Present:

Barbara Jordanger	E, Moderator of Presbytery
Stephen Wright	M, Preparation for Ministry
Chuck Valenti-Hein	M, Finance Committee
Barbara Goldthwaite	E, Nominating Committee
Nancy Barczak	E, Associate for Administration
Margaret Dakins	E, Presbyterian Women
Cyndy Little	M, Past Moderator
Anne Dropp	E, Personnel Committee
Mary Lou Opgenorth	E, Synod Commissioner
Paul Huxtable	M, Committee on Ministry
Lucy Rupe	M, Executive Presbyter
Sarah Moore-Nokes	M, Associate Executive Presbyter
Michael Lukens	M, Stated Clerk

Visitor: Elisabeth Cook, PCUSA Mission Worker

Excused: Tom Beck and Barry Johnson.

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 the distinctive "notes of the Kirk" found on pp.20-31.

2. Discussion with Eli Cook about the Mission Work of the Church

Elisabeth Cook, Mission Worker in Costa Rica, spoke to the program: Mission Challenge 07 and its focus on the relationship between presbyteries and mission workers for communication and a deeper sense of PCUSA work around the world. Council viewed a DVD on the Mission Challenge 07 and the Church's worldwide mission. There was a discussion about funding matters and how the mission program is promoted.

3. Review of Council Minutes

Council voted to approve Council Minutes from August 21 and September 11, 2007.

4. 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, held in July, about the future course of the presbyteries. These conversations have continued through conference calls, leading to plans for a meeting of the presbytery staffs later this month (October). These conversations are 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.

5. Staff & Officer Reports

- The Moderator reported on her visits to the churches of Presbytery and the schedule for the remaining visits.
- The Clerk reported on the recent national meeting of presbytery and synod clerks. The Clerk also reported on the receipt of notice of a Remedial Complaint against the Presbytery by a minister member of Presbytery, received on 12 October 2007. This matter is now filed with the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission.
- The Executive Presbyter reported on her work with the Board of Pensions/EP Forum. She also attended the Colombia network meetings in Louisville and reported on continuing supportive relationships in a variety of ways with the Presbyterian Church in Colombia. She commented on the value of the Mission Challenge 07 program. She reflected on the heavy involvement of Presbytery leadership in administrative and judicial affairs, the impact of this in the life of the Presbytery, and how we deal with this extensive employment of personnel.
- The Associate Executive Presbyter reported on the forthcoming (second) Presbytery youth camp and the involvement of young people from a variety of churches in Presbytery. She commented on her continuing engagement in the “Six-Pack” consultations of presbyteries and her work with the electronic communications within Presbytery. She also mentioned the increased resource funding for programmatic and emerging needs in collaborative projects between churches and Presbytery.

6. Old Business

Council reviewed the September meeting of Presbytery. The Moderator reported on a meeting of the Moderator, Associate EP and the Clerk with Scott Marrese-Wheeler, Stephen Wright and Susan Zencka in consideration about Presbytery meeting schedules, the difficulties of accommodating all situations and needs, and sensitivity to the careful use of consent agendas in those areas where there might be substantial discussion or contention. Council also reviewed briefly the stewardship presentation and the address of Diego Huguita. Several positive comments were received about the presentations.

7. New Business

- Nominees for the Presbytery Nominating Committee:
Council **voted** to recommend to Presbytery a second term on the Nominating Committee for Barbara Boehler and Edward Slusser and that Barbara Goldthwaite be elected to serve another year as Moderator of the Committee.
- Council **voted** to send the Moderator and a second person appointed by the Moderator (Minister) as Delegates to the Wisconsin Council of Churches Annual Meeting (Green Lake), December 10-11, 2007.

- Council **voted** to recommend that the 2008 Budget designate the following Ecumenical components:

-Wisconsin Council of Churches	\$6,680.
-Ecumenical Hispanic Ministry	6,000.
-Hands of Christ Deaf Ministry	10,000.
- Council **voted** to recommend that the 2008 Council budget line be set at \$1800.
- Council considered themes for Presbytery meetings in 2008. A global mission focus was approved by consensus as a year-long emphasis.
- Council received a set of draft guidelines of Winnebago Presbytery communications. Council **voted** to recommend to Presbytery the document: “Communication Guidelines” as a policy for adoption.
- Council **voted** to recommend to Presbytery the following 2008 Council dates:
 - January 15, April 15, August 19, and October 21

8. Synod and Committee Reports

- Synod Commissioner [Opgenorth] reported on Synod events and recent decisions.
- Committee on Ministry reported on its current actions. It recommended that Presbytery schedule a presentation at the November meeting on professional boundaries.
- Finance Committee [Valenti-Hein] reported on the 2008 budget preparation and the Small Church Fund distribution policy.
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry [Wright] reported that it has no pending items for consideration by Presbytery.
- Personnel Committee [Dropp] reported on editing of position descriptions and its continuing discussion of future staffing needs.
- Resource and Program Coordinating Team [Moore-Nokes] reported on plans for a presentation at the meeting of Presbytery regarding the Harbor House program.
- Nominating Committee [Goldthwaite] reported on a number of GA/YAD applications and its presentation of a full slate of nominations for the November meeting of Presbytery.

9. Presbytery Meeting Planning (November)

- Council, in consultation with Committee moderators, suggested time allotments for the November meeting docket.
- Council approved by consensus a presentation on “Professional Boundaries” by a specialist, to be arranged by the Executive Presbyter.

- A brief presentation will be made by a representative of Church World Service.
- Worship should be immediately after lunch (1:00).
- The Stewardship Survey will be administered by Richard Moore before the lunch.

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.

For the Council meeting in January, 2008, Stephen Wright will lead the opening prayer/devotion period and Chuck Valenti-Hein will give the closing prayer. The Moderator will lead the study portion, based on the “praxis” section of the Hooker booklet (pp. 31-42).

10. Adjournment

Council adjourned in prayer by the Moderator at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Lukens
Stated Clerk

PROPOSED

Winnebago Presbytery Communication Guidelines

RATIONALE

In 2006, as part of the process of creating a purpose statement, the Council of Winnebago Presbytery articulated increased communication as one of our current priorities. As the office staff continues to work to enhance and increase communication in and among the 40 congregations of Winnebago Presbytery, we feel it necessary to put in place some guidelines for all communication including, but not limited to, the various Winnebago Presbytery web pages, other electronic communication such as *News and Notes*, and print publications.

GOALS

As we seek to be the body of Christ, Winnebago Presbytery wishes to provide a forum for individuals, congregations, committees, task groups and other relevant entities of the Presbytery to:

- Promote events
- Share information
- Issue invitations
- Dialogue on topics of interest in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Increase communication between the Presbytery offices, task groups, committees and congregations
- Provide a central location for necessary documents, information and links

GUIDELINES

The communications of Winnebago Presbytery, both print and electronic, will announce and/or report on issues and events associated with all levels of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and especially those particular congregations within the bounds of this Presbytery. Items which give evidence of the Christ-led ministry of Winnebago Presbytery are encouraged for communication throughout this Presbytery and, when appropriate, the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Because of legal, ethical and theological concerns, those items which promote businesses or profit-making enterprises of individuals or groups will not be communicated through any media means of Winnebago Presbytery.

These Communications Guidelines shall be applicable to all individuals, particular churches, and groups who wish to communicate through Winnebago Presbytery.

PRIVACY

- Individual street addresses, phone numbers, or personal email addresses may not be published without permission. Inclusion of a street address or an email address in a submission will be considered implied permission.
- All photographs of children and youth (or artwork by them) submitted for use on the website must be accompanied by a release form signed by the youngster's parent or guardian. (Form to be created and posted on website)

Information for this document was compiled after reviewing communication guidelines and policies from the following Presbyteries: Seattle, Twin Cities Area, Philadelphia, and Central Florida.
Revised 10/16/2007

- No information about any visitor to the Winnebago Presbytery website will be stored or sold. If applicable, financial information submitted for registration purposes will be transmitted on a separate, secure site.

LOGISTICS

- Submissions should be sent to info@winnebagopresbytery.org
- Photos should be submitted as JPG files and with permission of those pictured.
- News and Events submissions should be brief and list relevant links
- The deadline for *News and Notes* (Winnebago Presbytery's weekly e-news) is Thursday at noon.

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Revised 10/16/2007

Winnebago Presbytery Communication Guidelines

REPORT OF ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER TASK FORCE
August 2007

Task Force Participants: Steve Blackstock, Kathleen Dooley, Cathy Chisholm, Lyn Zais

Our Assignment: Evaluate effectiveness of AEP Position

What we asked:

1. In what ways has the AEP ministry interacted with you?
2. What changed as a result of the AEP interaction with you?
3. In what way do you think differently?
4. If the AEP job didn't exist, what would you miss?
5. Is this position working?

The AEP Position

- Provides professional resourcing, visioning, planning, advocacy
- Helps to develop and support programming
- Recruits volunteers that are essential to support Presbytery programming.
- Organizes volunteers and facilitates their work (Volunteers are much more willing to be volunteers because of the function of this position)
- Provides the energy and coordination that supports the energy of others and promotes their growth as leaders
- Facilitates resource sharing
- Provides connectional links between churches (Gathering, Presby Pack, Winnebago News and Notes, Mission Trips)
- Strengthens internet communications throughout Presbytery
- Assists in networking small churches, their ideas, staff, and resources
- Manages Presbytery responsibilities such as Mission Grants and Free Trade Items, Confirmation Camp, Triennium Task Group
- Lobbies for emerging needs on strength of perceiving the big picture of Presbytery

Recommendation of AEP Task Force:

Without reservation, the task force recommends the continued support of the Associate Executive Presbyter position. The position is perceived as a vital part of creating and supporting a programmatic Presbytery.