

Winnebago Presbytery
Presbytery Council
Minutes

October 20, 2009

The Council of Winnebago Presbytery convened on October 20, 2009 at 9:45 a.m. at the Presbytery Office in Appleton, Wisconsin, beginning in a period of devotion led by Lucy Rupe.

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
Rebecca Proefrock	M, Preparation for Ministry
Stephen Wright	M, Session Records Review
Richard Manny	M, Finance Committee
Lucy Rupe	M, Executive Presbyter
Sarah Moore-Nokes	M, Associate Executive Presbyter
Nancy Barczak	E, Associate for Administration
Barry Johnson	E, Treasurer
Michael Lukens	M, Stated Clerk

Excused: Tom Willadsen, Margaret Zedan, and Jan Nelson.

1. Council Study Period

Council continued its study of the work by Phyllis Tickle, *The Great Emergence. How Christianity is Changing and Why* (Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2008), focusing on the third section (pp. 119-165), with its summary assessment of the Emergent Church movement in descriptions and graphic representations of divergent and centering directions within the church today. Council discussed the continuing issue of our grounding authorities, in Scripture, community, and the foundation in Jesus.

2. Council Minutes

Council **voted** to approve the Minutes of Council from its meeting on 25 August, 2009.

3. Directional Task Force Report

The Task Force reported (Jordanger) on three organizational and staffing options that will be presented to Presbytery for discussion at the November 2009 with potential revisions toward a final option. A final recommendation is proposed for the May 2010 meeting. Council discussed the options and timeline for Presbytery discussion.

4. Staff and Officer Reports

- The Moderator reported on his recent activities, including moderating the recent commissioning of Max Ballard as Commissioned Lay Pastor in Melnik.

- The Vice Moderator reported on a draft proposal for change at presbytery meetings in 2010 to transform reporting of committee work and to accommodate more time for discussion of presbytery transition and change. Council will continue discussion of the proposal at its next meeting.
- The Clerk reported on areas of current work: judicial update related to the case: Wolfe v. Winnebago Presbytery, the work of the Session records review process, and providing resources and counsel with ministers and sessions. The Clerk gave special thanks to the Presbytery staff for its support of the Clerk.
- The Executive Presbyter reported on several items in the life of Presbytery, highlighting the visit (April 12, 2010) of Sarah Drummond, Professor at Hartford Seminary, in a joint meeting between the Councils of Milwaukee Presbytery and Winnebago Presbytery on April 13 at the Pilgrim Center (Green Lake), with a special focus on planning and evaluation in the life of the presbytery. Dr. Rupe announced that the Appleton Memorial Church has selected the Rev. Darryl Baker as its interim pastor, commencing in December. She indicated that the clergy clusters have been going well. The Fond du Lac, Marshfield, and Weyauwega churches are proceeding well in their search processes. She mentioned the potential value of Skype technology in the work of presbytery units. She also mentioned persons who are in the midst of personal crisis and are to be remembered in prayer and support.
- The Associate Executive Presbyter reported that the Youth Camp (28-31 October) planning is complete and is shaping up to be a wonderful event. Rev. Moore-Nokes reported on continuing work with various task groups, her work in technology training at both presbytery and synod levels and her continuing work at the national church level on the impact of cultural change in the life of the churches. Planning is underway with Milwaukee Presbytery on joint programmatic efforts related to the 219th General Assembly in July in Minneapolis and the Triennium (July, 2010).
- The Administrative Associate reported and requested that materials for the November Presbytery meeting be submitted by 26 October.

5. Old Business

Council reviewed the September meeting of Presbytery, held at Wabeno, in unanimous appreciation for the wonderful hospitality of the Wabeno church and Forest Larger Parish.

The visit of the Rev. Diego Higuera, Executive Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Colombia, was well received and very successful. It was a fortuitous and productive time for all. Through his visit, the Presbytery was reminded of the substantial impact of this partnership for both presbyteries.

Council **voted** to appoint Cyndy Little and Mary Sperduto as delegates to the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Council of Churches in December (Green Lake).

6. New Business

Council **voted** to recommend to Presbytery the nomination of Jean Schneider to serve as Moderator of the Nominating Committee.

Council **voted** to set the following meeting dates for 2010:

Tuesday, January 12

Monday/Tuesday, April 12-13 (Joint meeting with Milwaukee Presbytery)

Tuesday, August 24

Tuesday, October 19

7. Committee Reports

- Personnel (Barbara Jordanger) reported that it will conduct the annual review the work of the Administrative Associate at its next meeting.
- Resource and Program Coordinating Team (Judy Nighorn) reported on the work of the continuing task groups.
- The Nominating Committee (Barbara Goldthwaite) will present nominations for committee members and moderators at the November meeting of Presbytery.
- The Committee on Ministry (Wendy Mannering) reported on the continuing need and importance of staff resource and leadership (Dr. Rupe) in the work of the Committee, the recommendation to Presbytery for approval of Elder Carlos Rivera for administration of Holy Communion in the Hispanic community, Senda de Amor, and the committee's preparatory work for the special meeting of Presbytery on 13 November at the Merrill Church.
- Finance Committee (Manny) submitted materials on the Presbytery budget for 2010, specifying recommended changes in mission support percentages to Synod and General Assembly as well as a suggested increased in mission support by the churches, an increase in per capita apportionment, and a recommended 2% increase in staff compensation. The Committee also distributed a chart of congregational giving over the last ten years, listing actual pledge totals in 2009 and the totals with a 2% increase in 2010. Council discussed issues related to mission-giving and per capita increases.
- The Synod Commissioner (Jim York) reported on a variety of Synod actions, its financial situation, and the continuing work with Dakota Presbytery.
- The Session Records Review Committee (Wright) reported on the four clustered review sessions for church records held earlier in the month. The response and results were quite positive, with further plans revolving around a list of common questions and implementing continuing education for Session clerks.
- The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Proefrock) reported on the interviews of CLP candidates and inquirers as well as the Committee's assistance in the development of faith statements.

Council discussed the forthcoming visit of Prof. Amy-Jill Levine, noted expert in the fields of Judaism and Early Christianity and Jewish-Christian relations, who is scheduled to be a scholar-in-residence at Cnesses Israel Synagogue in Green Bay in May, 2010. The program of lectures and seminars is co-sponsored by a number of churches.

Council **voted** to endorse this program and to support it financially, with a referral to the Resource and Program Coordinating Team to determine the amount of the Presbytery contribution.

7. Presbytery Meeting Docket (14 November 2009)

Council discussed the docket and reporting needs for the November meeting of Presbytery and instructed the Clerk to construct the docket in consultation with the Moderator and staff of Presbytery for distribution.

8. Assignments for the January Meeting of Council

For Council's meeting in January 2010, Jan Nelson will lead the opening devotions and prayer; Marcia Thomas will lead the study time, and the Closing Prayer will be led by Barbara Jordanger.

Council expressed its appreciation to Barbara Goldthwaite and Barry Johnson as they complete their terms of service on the Nominating Committee and as Treasurer, respectively.

9. Adjournment

Council adjourned in prayer (Barbara Goldthwaite) at 12:50 p.m.

10. Council meets next on 12 January 2010 at the Presbytery Office in Appleton.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Lukens
Stated Clerk