

Winnebago Presbytery
Presbytery Council
Minutes
October 21, 2008

The Council of Winnebago Presbytery convened on October 21, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at the Pine Lake Camp, near Waupaca, Wisconsin, beginning in morning prayer and reflections led the Rev. Stephen Wright. Council members reflected individually and briefly on the personal importance of the season.

Present:

Tom Willadsen	M, Moderator of Presbytery
Dennis Mannering	E, CLP, Vice Moderator of Presbytery
Barbara Goldthwaite	E, Nominating Committee
Paul Huxtable	M, Committee on Ministry
Margaret Zedan	M, Synod Commissioner
Stephen Wright	M, Preparation for Ministry
Barbara Jordanger	E, Immediate Past Moderator
Jim York	E, Synod Commissioner
Margaret Dakins	E, Presbyterian Women
Anne Dropp	E, Personnel Committee
Lucy Rupe	M, Executive Presbyter
Sarah Moore-Nokes	M, Associate Executive Presbyter
Nancy Barczak	E, Associate for Administration
Michael Lukens	M, Stated Clerk

Excused: Richard Manny, Barry Johnson

1. Reflections on “Stepping into the Future”
Council spent the morning session in discussion on an assessment of the present understanding of the role and mission of the presbytery and the challenges of the future, under the leadership of the Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, Assistant with the Bishop, East Central Wisconsin Synod, ELCA.

[Break for Lunch]

2. Report on the [continuing] Form of Government Task Force (218th GA)
The Clerk reported on the history and foundational matters of the Fog Task Force at its inception (216th General Assembly, 2006) in its task of recommending a revised Form of Government, its primary focus and recommendations to the 217th General Assembly (2008), the principal continuing issues, and the current status of the reconstituted Task Force that is to report to the 218th General Assembly (2010).
3. Minutes of August Meeting of Council
Council **voted** to approve the Minutes of Council from 19 August 2008.
4. Staff/Officer Reports
 - The Moderator reported on his activities, including forthcoming installations of new pastors in Presbytery.

- The Vice-Moderator reported on the forthcoming Moderator’s Conference in Louisville in November.
- The Executive Presbyter reported on the tremendous extra load on our volunteers through the judicial processes and our appreciation for this ministry. She reported on forthcoming installations and the continuing value and extension of the lay pastor program. She reflected on the problems in personnel referencing in today’s climate and likely changes in the referencing process. She raised the issue of what is appropriate for the Committee on Ministry to report on personal matters to the whole Presbytery.
- The Associate Executive Presbyter reported on current programming in the life of Presbytery, especially the extensive activity in October. She reported on the conversations between presbyteries in the Synod and a new initiative of collaborative conversations within the Synod.
- The Associate for Administration reported on preparation for the November meeting of Presbytery.

5. Old Business

- Council reviewed the proposal for a formal hearing at the November meeting of Presbytery that would deal with the recommendation from the Committee on Ministry re: the pastoral work of the Rev. Dr. Janet E. Wolfe.

Council **voted** to approve such a formal hearing on the CoM recommendation according to the proposed schedule [attached].

- Council **voted** to approve Barbara Goldthwaite as a delegate to the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Council of Churches (2008).

6. New Business

- Council discussed the “next steps” as we follow-up on the morning discussions and the advisability of a further discussion on several of the shared ideas.
- Council considered nominations for the Nominating Committee. Council **voted** to recommend to Presbytery for membership on the Nominating Committee: Barbara Goldthwaite (2nd term, Moderator), Richard Moore (2nd term), and another person who will be recruited by the Presbytery Moderator.
- Council voted to designate the ecumenical portion of the Genesis Fund as follows:
 - \$2650 to Uraba Presbytery
 - \$2650 for Meija Family support
- Council voted to recommend that the 2009 Budget include following items:
 - \$10,000: Hands of Christ Deaf Ministry
 - \$6000: Hispanic Ministry
 - \$6880: Wisconsin Council of Churches
- Council voted to recommend in the 2009 Budget: \$1500 for Presbytery Council (line item 5160p)
- Council determined themes for 2009 meetings of Presbytery:
 - February [Oshkosh]: “Buildings and Beyond”
 - May [Manitowoc]: “Integrating Technology”
 - September [Wabeno]: “Welcoming Through Accessibility”
 - November [Merrill]: “Music for Everyone”

7. Committee and Commissioner Reports

- Committee on Preparation for Ministry [Wright]—no report.
- Personnel Committee [Dropp] continues its staff review schedule.
- Resource and Program Coordinating Team [Nighorn] reported on its continuing work with task groups and its encouragement for further programmatic initiatives, such as Heifer International “Lambing Weekend for Women” [March 2009] and the Seminar on Colombian-U.S. Relations to take place in Washington, D.C. in February 2009.
- Nominating Committee [Goldthwaite] reported on its preparation for presenting a full slate for committee and officer nominees at the next Presbytery meeting.
- Presbyterian Women [Dakins] reported on its forthcoming programs.
- Synod Commissioners reported [Zedan and York] on the recent report of Synod on the future of Dakota Presbytery, the 2009 Synod per capita assessment, the conclusion of regular campus-ministry funding in 2011, and the prospective return of peacemaking funds.
- Committee on Ministry reported [Huxtable] that an interim minister is now set for Fond du Lac First and likely will be soon at Marshfield First.
- Finance Committee—no report.

8. Presbytery Time Survey Summary

Council considered the summary of evaluations from the last Presbytery meeting (Crivitz) regarding the later start-time of presbytery, as a part of the trial period and evaluation for the afternoon-evening presbytery meetings.

Council **voted** to set the time-sequence for Presbytery meetings in 2009 as 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

9. Docket for the November Meeting of Presbytery

Council considered the docket and time allotments for the November stated meeting and instructed the Clerk to arrange the final docket in consultation with the Moderator and the Presbytery staff.

10. Preparation for the January meeting of Council

Opening Devotions will be led by Anne Dropp. The Council study portion will be led by the Moderator and Clerk. The closing prayer will be given by Barbara Jordanger.

Council meeting was rescheduled for **Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.** at the Presbytery Office.

Adjournment

Council adjourned in prayer by Judy Nighorn at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Lukens
Stated Clerk