

**Winnebago Presbytery  
Stated Meeting  
May 13, 2008  
First Presbyterian Church, Winneconne, WI**

**Convening the Meeting**

The meeting convened with worship in the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church in Winneconne, Wisconsin. Worship was led by the Commissioned Lay Pastor Dick Kreager, with assistance from CLP Jess Wakefield, CLP Max Ballard, CLP Dennis Mannering, CLP Alyson Janke, Elder Wendy Mannering and the Rev. Mara Rivera. Ms. Rivera and Mr. Kreager presided at the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Following worship, the Moderator, the Rev. Tom Willadsen, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m.

<b>Roll Call</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Randal Argall	X		
Thomas Beck			X
Gisele Berninghaus			X
John Billings		X	
Sid Bouldin	X		
Barbara Carmichael	X		
Marion Conditt		X	
C. Nelson Craig	X		
Edward Esler		X	
Robert Everhard		X	
Timothy Fulop		X	
Robert Goebel	X		
Clifford Haskins		X	
Donald Heeringa		X	
Richard Hill		X	
Judith Holmes-Jensen			X
Thomas Hutt		X	
Paul Huxtable	X		
Gail Irwin		X	
Roy N. Johnson		X	
William Kamke			X
Donald King	X		
Curtis Larson			X
Cynthia Little	X		
Michael Lukens	X		
John Lyford		X	
Ronald McDuffie		X	
Richard Manny	X		
Richard Marcy	X		
Craig Mansur			X
Peter Markey		X	
Scott Marrese-Wheeler	X		
Paul Martin		X	
Patricia Matthew		X	
Julie Meadows		X	
Richard Moore	X		
Sarah Moore-Nokes	X		
Joy Nelson-Jeffers		X	
Barbara Peterson		X	
Susan Phillips	X		
William Plank		X	

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<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Rebecca Proefrock	X		
Joseph Ripley	X		
Mara Liz Rivera	X		
Lucille Rupe	X		
Matthew Sauer	X		
JoAnn Schoblaski		X	
Rachel Reeves Schwab		X	
Edward Slusser	X		
Ted Sperduto	X		
Lois Swanson			X
Wilfred Tabb	X		
Marcia Thomas	X		
Ted Tromble	X		
Charles Valenti-Hein			X
Richard Warch			X
Colin Webster		X	
Tom Willadsen	X		
Janet Wolfe	X		
Wright, Stephen A.H.		X	
Margaret Zedan	X		
Susan Zencka	X		

**08/16 It was VOTED to excuse those so listed.**

**Churches Represented**

Abbotsford	Not Represented
Amberg	Not Represented
Aniwa	Not Represented
Appleton	Beverly Craig
Arpin	Not Represented
Athelstane	Not Represented
Crivitz	Cara Behrendt
De Pere	Lee Richardson and George Cornell
Fond du Lac	Lyle Dorn and Jean Morgan
Gleason	Calvin Patterson
Green Bay First	David Wilson
Green Bay Preble Park	Judy Nighorn
Green Bay Wequiock	Not Represented
Kiel	Not Represented
Kimberly	Not Represented
Lakewood	Mary Ellen Keller
Laona	Linda Mentz
Manitowoc	Théo Lynne Hoffman
Marinette	Not Represented
Marshfield	Not Represented
Melnik	Ruth Prochazka
Merrill	Kay Smith
Neenah	Guenter Petermann and Gina Struensee
New Franken	Not Represented
Oconto	Glenn Blum
Omro	Ginger Selle
Oshkosh	Harriet Martin
Pembine	Not Represented
Pickett	Not Represented
Schofield	Jess Wakefield
Shawano	Ed Moede
Sheboygan	Ann Grittinger
Stevens Point	David Arey
Wabeno	Louis Spaude
Wausau	Not Represented

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Wausaukee	Not Represented
Weyauwega	Edie Zabo
White Lake	Not Represented
Wild Rose	Julie Friedl
Winneconne	Rosemary Shade

**08/17** It was VOTED to excuse those so listed.

**Commissioned Lay Pastors:** Max Ballard, Richard Kreager, Dennis Mannering

**Certified Lay Pastor Students:** Jessica Harrison and Wendy Mannering

**Visitors:**

DePere	Jean Schneider
Fond du Lac	David Carmichael
	Jennifer Zander (Christian Educator)
Lakewood	Meghan Keller (GA Youth Advisory Delegate)
Sheboygan	Gert Walsh and Keith Rowe
Wabeno	Diane Spaude
Weyauwega	Cynthia Ripley and Andrea Crane

Wis. Council of Churches Scott Anderson, Executive Director

**Council Members:** Margaret Dakins, Anne Dropp, Barbara Goldthwaite, and Barbara Jordanger

**Presbytery Staff:** Nancy Barczak

**Corresponding Members**

**08/18** It was VOTED to seat Commissioned Lay Pastor Alyson Janke, John Knox Presbytery, and the Rev. Milton Mejia, North Coast Presbytery, Presbyterian Church of Colombia, and the Rev. Maynard Beemer, Northeast Wisconsin Association, UCC, as Corresponding Members.

**Early Leave**

**08/19** It was VOTED to grant early leave to the Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler.

**Adoption of the Docket**

**08/20** It was VOTED to adopt the docket as distributed.

**Report on Arrangements:** The Rev. Mara Rivera welcomed everyone to the church and noted the arrangements for the day.

**Introduction of New Elders and Visitors**

First time elder commissioners and visitors were introduced from Crivitz, Fond du Lac, Lakewood, Manitowoc, Neenah, Omro, Oshkosh, Weyauwega, and Wabeno.

**WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

Mr. Scott Anderson, Executive Director, brought greetings from the 13 denominations that make up the Wisconsin Council of Churches. He thanked presbyters for allowing Lucy Rupe to serve as the Board President, and thanked the Presbytery for its long-standing support and involvement.

**REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK AND REFERRAL OF PAPERS**

**08/21** It was VOTED to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2008 Presbytery minutes.

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**08/22** It was VOTED to dismiss the Administrative Commission to Install the Rev. Randal Argall as Pastor at Green Bay First on February 10, 1008 with gratitude for their services.

**08/23** It was VOTED to dismiss the Administrative Commission to Install the Rev. Robert Goebel as Pastor at Wausaukee and Athelstane on April 6, 2008 with gratitude for their services.

**08/24** It was VOTED to dismiss Investigating Committee 1 with gratitude.

**08/25** It was VOTED to dismiss Investigating Committee 2 with gratitude.

The Clerk reported that Presbytery minutes had been reviewed and approved by the Synod of Lakes and Prairies with the following exception:

(1) The presbytery (page 1526) adopted a policy which "combines" the work of the Committee on Representation with that of the Nominating Committee. This could be construed to be in violation of G-9.0105, and should be clarified.

Dr. Lukens recommends that the item be re-addressed in the fall, after the General Assembly has received the Form of Government Report in June.

The year-end statistical reports were reviewed and made part of the permanent minutes.

The Clerk reported that, although he was elected as Overture Advocate for Presbytery's overture to the General Assembly, he has been given another substantial responsibility at GA that precludes such service, but believes that there will be sufficient advocacy from other presbyteries with similar overtures related to the Heidelberg Confession.

Overture 94 from Chicago Presbytery relating to the Free Trade Agreement with Colombia was also lifted up for presbyters' information.

**08/26** It was VOTED to receive the Necrology Report for 2007.

### **Judicial Matters**

The Clerk reported that **Disciplinary Case 2007/1**, an allegation of misconduct came forward from a member of one of the churches in Presbytery against a minister member of Presbytery. An Investigating Committee was appointed by the Moderator in March, 2007, consisting of Rev. Cyndy Little (Moderator), Tom Williams (E, Appleton), Ed Slusser (M), and Marcia Thomas (M).

This case has now been resolved through an Alternate Form of Agreement, approved by the Permanent Judicial Commission on 3 April 2008. The agreement is a matter between the Presbytery and the Minister against whom the allegation was made and is available to Sessions, Minister Members and Elder Commissioners of Presbytery and is to be included in the Permanent Minutes of Presbytery. An AFR means that the PJC did not pursue a charge and there was no trial to determine guilt or innocence. The case is closed.

In **Disciplinary Case 2007/2**, an allegation of misconduct against a minister member of Presbytery came forward from the Stated Clerk based on a report from an agency within the Church on 24 May, 2007. An Investigating Committee was appointed by the Moderator that date, consisting of Rev. Mara Rivera (M, Moderator), Marian Seagren-Hall (E), Bruce Brink (E), and Charles Valenti-Hein (M; resigned in September).

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A Charge against the Rev. Dennis L. Cobb was filed with the Permanent Judicial Commission by the Investigating Committee on 21 January, 2008. The case has been terminated by renunciation. The officers of the PJC convened a Pre-trial Conference on 12 February, 2008, but just prior to that Conference, Mr. Cobb renounced the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (USA), which immediately removed him from any standing in the Church and meant the immediate cessation of the case. The Charge did not go forward to trial by the PJC and no judgment was rendered. Mr. Cobb has been removed from the rolls of Presbytery and notice given to the Office of the General Assembly for his removal from all rolls in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

In **Remedial Case 2007/1**, the Rev. Dr. Janet Wolfe, a Minister Member of Presbytery, brought forth a complaint against the Presbytery, which was filed with the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies on 14 October, 2007. The Moderator of Presbytery appointed a Committee of Counsel to defend the Presbytery in this matter, composed of John Billings (M), Margaret Zedan (M) and Duane Patterson (E). The Officers of the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission met on 8 December, 2007, and rendered a Preliminary Judgment that the complaint did not meet all of the necessary conditions for the filing of a valid complaint and summarily dismissed the Case. Rev. Wolfe appealed this judgment to the full Synod PJC, which met on 14 March, 2008, to hear the rationale of the complainant and of the Presbytery in this matter. The Synod PJC that date decided to support the earlier judgment of its officers and dismissed the Case on the grounds that it did not meet one of the four qualifying conditions for adjudication (Book of Order/Rules of Discipline D-6.0305), namely that "the complaint states a claim upon which relief can be granted." The Committee of Counsel submitted two briefs to the Synod at the two stages in this process. The Complainant has appealed the decision of the full Synod PJC to the Permanent Judicial Commission of the General Assembly. The GAPJC has notified Presbytery that a hearing is scheduled for July 25, 2008.

**08/27 It was VOTED to go into closed session.**

The Alternative Form of Resolution document was shared with presbyters. The Clerk reported that the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission is final and there can be no debate.

**08/28 It was VOTED to receive the report and enter the Alternative Form of Resolution into the permanent minutes.**

**08/29 It was VOTED to move into an informal session.**

**08/30 It was VOTED to move back into formal session.**

**08/31 It was VOTED to move back to open session following prayer offered by the Moderator.**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**08/32 It was VOTED to adopt the Consent Agenda including the following items:**

1. Committee recommends that Presbytery extend the appointment of Commissioned Lay Pastor Warren Kraft as Moderator at First Presbyterian Church, Oconto, through December 31, 2008.

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2. Committee recommends that Presbytery commission Certified Lay Pastor Jean Hamersky to serve as Moderator, to preach, and to officiate at the Sacraments at First Presbyterian Church, Kiel, through December 31, 2008.
3. Committee recommends that Presbytery grant permission for Commissioned Lay Pastor Warren Kraft to officiate at a wedding at First Presbyterian Church, Kiel, on May 31, 2008.
4. Committee recommends that Presbytery grant permission for Certified Lay Pastors Bonnie Weideman and Jim York to officiate at Holy Communion at the First Presbyterian Church, Abbotsford, when the pastor is unavailable, for a period of one year beginning June 1, 2008.
5. Committee recommends that Presbytery approve the extension of the contract between Commissioned Lay Pastor Dennis Mannering and Elder Wendy Mannering and the Forest Larger Parish for a period of three years from June 1, 2008 through May 31, 2011.
6. Committee recommends that Presbytery approve the Stated Supply Pastor/Commissioned Lay Pastor Renewal Requests for a period of one year beginning June 1, 2008 for:  
  
CLP George Buchanan – Hope Presbyterian Church, White Lake  
CLP Alyson Janke – Wild Rose Presbyterian Church  
The Rev. William Kamke – Robinsonville and Green Bay Wequiock  
The Rev. Donald King – Riverside Presbyterian, Gleason, and Merrill First Presbyterian  
CLP Dennis Mannering – Forest Larger Parish-Lakewood, Laona and Wabeno  
Elder Wendy Mannering – Forest Larger Parish- Lakewood, Laona and Wabeno  
The Rev. Wil Tabb – Kimberly Presbyterian  
CLP Fred Wadsworth – Pembine First and Amberg United
7. Committee recommends that Presbytery approve the extension of the Interim Pastor contract between Pioneer Presbyterian Church, Marinette, and the Rev. Craig Mansur through December 31, 2008.
8. Committee recommends that Presbytery validate the ministry of the Rev. Timothy Fulop as Dean of the College and Vice President for Academic Affairs at William Jewell College, Liberty, MO.
9. Committee recommends that Presbytery designate 100% of the Stated Clerk's salary as Housing Allowance, effective May 13, 2008.
10. Committee recommends that Presbytery receive the Annual Ministerial Report. (Appendix A)
11. The Finance Committee recommends that Presbytery receive the final report of the audit of the church's financial records through December 31, 2007, performed by Erickson and Associates, SC, and dated April 28, 2008. (Appendix B)

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Margaret Dakins, PW Moderator, reported on the successful spring gathering and announced plans for a fall retreat.

### **COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION**

Barbara Goldthwaite presented the report and accompanying statistics.

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**08/33 It was VOTED to receive the Report of the Committee on Representation to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. (Appendix C)**

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Anne Dropp reported that the annual reviews for the Executive Presbytery, Associate Executive Presbyter, and the Stated Clerk were successfully completed on May 1, 2008.

**RESOURCE AND PROGRAM COORDINATING TEAM – PART I**

**Global Partnership**

Richard Manny reported eight people had expressed an interest in participating in the fall trip to Urabá Presbytery. The Task Group will be finalizing plans over the summer. We are completing the first five years of our partnership in Colombia at the end year.

**08/34 It was VOTED to approve the renewal of the Covenant Relationship with Urabá Presbytery, Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia, for five years beginning January 2009.**

The Rev. Milton Mejia, a member of the North Coast Presbytery, who is currently living in Chicago and studying at McCormick, spoke about the Presbytery's relationship with Urabá. He indicated it has given them a sense of hope and has forced the larger church in Colombia to consider them as valuable members of the denomination.

**Congregational Initiated Mission**

Dennis Mannering introduced the presentation regarding three separate, but connected, thrift store projects in the Presbytery. Jean Schneider from DePere talked about the work of the ecumenically sponsored store in the Green Bay area.

Ed Slusser introduced two instrumental persons in the formation and ongoing work of the Thrift Store in Omro. He noted it began as a joint project of First Presbyterian and the local Catholic Church. The store received a \$3,000 Rural Ministry Grant from the Presbyterian Church (USA) through Winnebago Presbytery. The store did very well financially and strongly believed the grant should be shared, so it was returned to the Presbytery.

The Forest Larger Parish thought a Thrift Store was needed in the area and determined it would be more successful if there was an ecumenical base. They went to Jean Schneider in DePere for the basics on how to begin their project. Their funds were increased when the Presbytery paid the \$3,000 from the Omro Thrift Store forward.

All three stores have done well enough financially that they have or soon will be moving into larger facilities.

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY – PART I**

**08/35 It was VOTED to grant the status of Honorable Retirement to the Rev. Barbara Carmichael, effective July 1, 2008, and that the pastoral relationship with the First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac, be dissolved effective June 30, 2008 pending the vote of the congregation.**

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Ms. Carmichael was presented with a corsage and a certificate of Honorable Retirement. Elders Lyle Dorn and Jean Morgan spoke to the fact that the congregation would be taking action in June. They thanked Ms. Carmichael for her leadership during her time in Fond du Lac.

A motion to transfer Ms. Carmichael's membership to Chicago Presbytery was withdrawn at this time.

The Moderator, Tom Willadsen, led presbyters in a Service of Recognition for Ms. Carmichael's retirement.

### **RECESS FOR DINNER**

The Moderator offered prayer before the body recessed for dinner prepared by members of the congregation.

### **SPEAK OUT**

**Synod Commissioner Report** – Margaret Zedan reported on the actions taken at the spring Synod Meeting held at Mt. Olivet.

Ted Sperduto invited presbyters to attend the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events planned at Wausau First on June 7 and 8.

Jess Wakefield invited presbyters to attend the dedication of the new sanctuary at Covenant Community in Schofield on June 15.

Judy Nighorn reminded presbyters that there are still presbytery scholarships available for those attending Synod School this summer. The deadline is June 1.

Margaret Dakins announced that Oconto will be celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> in October.

Dick Kreager expressed his appreciation to the Presbytery for the Commissioned Lay Pastor Program and for approving his commission at Winneconne.

Alyson Janke brought greetings from John Knox Presbytery and announced that Wild Rose will again be hosting a Gmanfu Ganu in September.

### **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY PART II**

**08/36** It was VOTED to authorize the Executive Presbyter and the Moderator of the Committee on Ministry, in consultation, to expend up to \$300 from the Pastoral Emergency Fund without further committee authorization.

**08/37** It was VOTED to refer the Certified Commissioned Lay Pastor Procedures Manual back to the Committee on Ministry for further revision and that it be brought back to the September meeting of Presbytery.

Paul Huxtable reported the Rev. Joseph Ripley is seeking to have his membership status transferred to the Presbyterian Church (USA) from the United Church of Christ. He is already a member of Winnebago Presbytery because he is serving as Designated Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Weyauwega.

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**08/38 It was VOTED to grant an exception for the Biblical Exegesis exam for the Rev. Joseph Ripley.**

Mr. Ripley presented his faith statement and stood for examination.

**08/39 It was VOTED to arrest the examination.** Mr. Ripley was excused for the duration of the discussion.

**08/40 It was VOTED to sustain the examination.**

**08/41 It was VOTED to receive the Rev. Joseph Ripley as a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Minister of Word and Sacrament, effective May 13, 2008.** Mr. Ripley was welcomed with applause.

**08/42 It was VOTED to grant permission for CLP Warren Kraft to lead the celebration of Holy Communion at First Presbyterian Church, Neenah, on June 22, 2008.**

#### **Report of Actions Taken by the Committee Since the February Presbytery Meeting**

1. Committee reviewed the annual reports of the Certified and Commissioned Lay Pastors, as well as those enrolled in the Lay Pastor Program.
2. Committee approved the re-appointment of Stated Supply Pastors and Moderators for one year.

#### **RESOURCE AND PROGRAM COORDINATING TEAM – PART II**

Jessica Harrison reported that 55 youth and adults participated in the Spring Thing which involved an overnight trip to Madison where they worked with Wisconsin Family Ties, a statewide not-for-profit organization run by families for families that include children and adolescents who have emotional, behavioral, and mental disorders. They spent the night at Pres House on the campus of the University of Wisconsin.

She invited everyone to consider the fall camp in later October. Plans are already underway to make it an exciting event.

Presbyters were asked to name something they would like to see the Presbytery do. When ideas were shouted out, individuals were presented with a Task Group Proposal Form and encouraged to think about it seriously. Funds are available to begin work this year.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Richard Manny reported there were no items for action since the audit was received in the consent agenda. He called attention to the projected deficit and noted that presbytery will be using Reserve Funds to cover the deficit, but that cannot continue indefinitely. The Committee will be looking seriously at the initial budget requests in August before presenting a first reading to the September meeting of Presbytery.

#### **NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**08/43 It was VOTED to approve the minutes of the Weyauwega First Church minutes with minor exception.**

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The Moderator, Tom Willadsen, presented Matthew Sauer with a pewter cup commemorating the birth of his son, Joshua Tucker, in February.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**08/44      It was VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. following the benediction.**

The Clerk read the names of those Elders and Minister Members who had died during the previous year; this was followed by the singing of "For All the Saints."

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer lifting up the joys and concerns that had been expressed during the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Barczak  
Associate for Administration

Michael B. Lukens  
Stated Clerk

Appendix A: Annual Ministerial Report  
Appendix B: 2007 Audit Report  
Appendix C: Committee on Representation Report  
Appendix D: Presbytery Council Minutes – April 15, 2008