

Winnebago Presbytery
Council Minutes
April 15, 2008

The Council of Winnebago Presbytery convened on April 15, 2008 at 9:45 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Neenah, Wisconsin beginning in a service based on *A Guide to Prayer for All God's People*, by Reuben Job and Norman Shawchuck led by Barbara Goldthwaite.

Present:

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| Tom Willadsen | M, Moderator |
| Margaret Dakins | E, Presbyterian Women |
| Anne Dropp | E, Personnel |
| Barbara Goldthwaite | E, Nominating/Committee on Representation |
| Paul Huxtable | M, Committee on Ministry |
| Barry Johnson | E, Treasurer |
| Barbara Jordanger | E, Immediate Past Moderator |
| Dennis Mannering | E, Vice Moderator |
| Richard Manny | M, Finance |
| Judy Nighorn | E, Resource and Program Coordinating Team |
| Stephen Wright | M, Committee on Preparation for Ministry |
| Margaret Zedan | M, Synod Commissioner |
| Lucy Rupe | M, Executive Presbyter |
| Sarah Moore-Nokes | M, Associate Executive Presbyter |
| Nancy Barczak | E, Associate for Administration |

Guests: Phil and Lorie Gates, Presbyterian Accompaniment Program

Excused: Michael Lukens and Jim York

Welcome and Introductions: Since this was the first gathering of Council since elections, some time was spent getting acquainted.

Study and Discussion: Members engaged in a discussion of the *Recommendation Regarding Chapter I-IV of the Form of Government* from the Report of the Form of Government Task Force to the 218th General Assembly (2008).

Presbyterian Accompaniment Program: Phil Gates, Prescott, AZ, spoke to Council regarding his experiences as a Presbyterian Accompanier in Colombia and how that experience has transformed his life. He commended the Presbytery for its ongoing relationship with the Presbytery of Urabá, noting that it is located in a very rural area of the country where life can be extremely difficult because of the various factions.

Review of Council Minutes: Council approved the minutes of the January 15, 2008 Council minutes.

Moderator's Report: Tom reported that he has participated in two installations since he took office in February, Randy Argall at Green Bay First and Bob Goebel at Wausaukee/Athelstane.

Associate Executive Presbyter: Sarah reported that 43 youth and 11 adults participated in the Spring Thing event this past weekend. They travelled to Madison and spent the night at Pres House on the UW campus and participated in a mission activity. Planning for the fall youth camp is underway. Promotional materials for the October 29-November 1 event will be available soon. She reported that the Wisconsin Presbyteries have withdrawn from the 6-Pak

conversations regarding reshaping presbyteries, but will continue the conversation as the 4 Wisconsin presbyteries.

Stated Clerk's Report: In the absence of the Clerk, Lucy presented his written report, and provided an update regarding the three judicial cases within the Presbytery.

Executive Presbyter: Lucy noted that the three judicial cases have put presbytery leadership, including both staff and volunteers, under a great deal of stress over the past year as sensitive and difficult issues were addressed while attending to ongoing tasks. She would like to explore ways to express appreciation.

Immediate Pastor Moderator: Barbara Jordanger reported that she had participated in the Commissioning service for Lay Pastor Richard Kreager at Winneconne First in February.

Associate for Administration: Nancy reported that she has been working with Sarah and the Task Group to continually improve and expand communications with churches and individuals. We are nearly four months into a trial period of the Synod Office providing financial services for the Presbytery. An audit of the 2007 financials will be reported at the May Presbytery meeting.

Review of February Presbytery Meeting: The Mission 2008 DVD was well-received. Sarah reported attendance figures for the day. Appreciation was expressed for the worship service and the inclusion of the choir.

Lunch: Tom offered grace prior to lunch.

Synod Commissioner: Margaret Zedan noted that much of the time at Synod Meetings is spent in Committee. Considerable discussion related to the continuation of Dakota Presbytery. The Synod is financially good shape. The next meeting is at the end of this month.

Margaret also offered a report on her experience as an Ordination Exam Reader and offered the recommendation that readers be elected for three year terms. Many presbyteries do this so that a person can be trained the first year and have two more years. She noted that 43 readers completed 1055 exams.

Committee on Ministry: Paul reported the committee hasn't met since January; the next meeting is later this week. Nothing to report at this time, but there will be actions for Presbytery.

Finance: Richard reported that his first meeting as moderator will be April 28, when they will receive the audit report, evaluate the 6-month financial trial period with Synod and begin to look at the 2008 financial reports and begin to think about the 2009 budget. Council discussed the fact that a budget was approved with a \$60,000 deficit. As we look to the future, we need to seriously consider what is possible. Options would appear to be cut expenses—with the most logical being staff or program—or increase our income. It is understood that churches are facing similar situations, but we need to communicate the Presbytery's financial situation to our congregations as we seek to be responsible.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry: Stephen indicated there is no report at this time.

Personnel: Anne Dropp reported that the committee meets May 1 to conduct the annual reviews for the Associate Executive, Executive, and Stated Clerk.

Resource and Program Coordinating Team: Judy reported that the deadline for new task group proposals has been changed to August 1. It is hoped that some new ideas will be generated.

Nominating/Committee on Representation: Barbara Goldthwaite reported there is no report from Nominating as all positions are currently filled. There will be a report from the Committee on Representation to the Presbytery.

Presbyterian Women: Margaret Dakins reported that Lucy will be the features speaker and worship leader at the Spring Gathering on April 26th. The Fall Retreat will be at Pine Lake October 3-4.

Council **voted to approve** a request for the Rev. Lucy Rupe to celebrate Communion at the Spring Gathering on April 26, 2008.

Other Business: Council considered the Moderator's request to change the August Council meeting to the 12th, but it was determined that the best date is August 19 as scheduled. The Vice Moderator, Dennis Mannering, was asked to preside at that meeting in the Moderator's absence.

Wisconsin Council of Churches Annual Meeting – December: Tom will ask Susan Zencka if she would like to attend as the minister delegate again this year. An elder delegate is still needed.

May 13, 2008 Presbytery Planning: Items for inclusion – Mission 2008 – Thrift Shops, Milton Mejia as part of Global Partnership, Scott Anderson from the Wisconsin Council of Churches, GA Commissioner commissioning as well as the regular reports. The final docket will be constructed by staff in consultation with by the Moderator.

Council **voted to approve** a display of material from the ecumenical organization ESTHER at the May meeting of Presbytery.

Next Meeting: August 19, 2008

Stephen Wright will be responsible for opening devotions.

Tom will ask **Michael Lukens** to lead the study discussion.

Richard Manny will be responsible for the closing prayer.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m. following the closing prayer by Paul Huxtable.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Barczak
Associate for Administration