

**Winnebago Presbytery  
Stated Meeting  
February 9, 2008  
Frame Memorial Presbyterian Church, Stevens Point, WI**

**Convening the Meeting**

The meeting convened with worship in the sanctuary of the Frame Memorial Presbyterian Church in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Worship was led by the Presbytery Moderator, Elder Barbara Jordanger and the Rev. Susan Zencka. The Rev. Ted Tromble, the Rev. Julie Meadows and the Rev. John Billings assisted in the celebration of Holy Communion.

Following worship, the Moderator, Elder Barbara Jordanger, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.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		
Dennis Cobb		X	
Marion Conditt	X		
C. Nelson Craig	X		
Kathleen Dooley		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		

**08/01 It was VOTED to excuse those so listed.**

**Churches Represented**

Abbotsford	Tinneka Boschma
Amberg	Not Represented
Aniwa	Not Represented
Appleton	Beverly Craig
Arpin	Lillian Nelson
Athelstane	Not Represented
Crivitz	Not Represented
De Pere	Lora Warner
Fond du Lac	Lew Smith
Gleason	Calvin Patterson
Green Bay First	Jennifer Solper
Green Bay Preble Park	Judy Nighorn
Green Bay Wequiock	Not Represented
Kiel	Not Represented
Kimberly	Not Represented
Lakewood	Patty Earnest
Laona	Katie Collins
Manitowoc	Not Represented
Marinette	Not Represented
Marshfield	Not Represented
Melnik	Not Represented
Merrill	Kay Smith
Neenah	Guenter Petermann
New Franken	Not Represented
Oconto	Not Represented
Omro	Brenda Beck
Oshkosh	Rosangela Berbert
Pembine	Not Represented
Pickett	Not Represented
Schofield	Margaret Hawkins
Shawano	Not Represented
Sheboygan	Keith Rowe
Stevens Point	David Arey
Wabeno	Louis Spaude
Wausau	Jack Anderson and Mary Sperduto

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Wausaukee	Not Represented
Weyauwega	Mary Williams
White Lake	Not Represented
Wild Rose	Not Represented
Winneconne	Rosemary Shade

**08/02 It was VOTED to excuse those so listed.**

**Commissioned Lay Pastors:** Max Ballard, Warren Kraft, Cheryl LePak and Dennis Mannering  
George Buchanan - Excused

**Certified Lay Pastors:** Jim York (Synod Commissioner)

**Certified Lay Pastor Students:** Jessica Harrison, Wendy Mannering, and Jess Wakefield

**Visitors:**

Waupaca	Bonnie Conditt
Wausau	Mary Anderson
Weyauwega	Melinda Brace, Brittaney Billington, Hunter Billington, and Cole Rasmussen

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

**Presbytery Committee/Commission Members:** Barbara Boehler, Peter Hessert, Darrel Johnson, Don Nighorn, and Pam Schroeder

**Presbytery Staff:** Nancy Barczak

**Corresponding Members**

**08/03 It was VOTED to seat Commissioned Lay Pastor Alyson Janke, John Knox Presbytery, as a Corresponding Member.**

**08/04 It was VOTED to grant early leave to the Rev. Sid Bouldin.**

**08/05 It was VOTED to adopt the docket as distributed.**

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

**Introduction of New Elders and Visitors**

First time elder commissioners were introduced from Abbotsford, DePere, Omro, Oshkosh, and Schofield. Members of the confirmation classes at Weyauwega and Stevens Point were also welcomed.

**Report of the Stated Clerk and Referral of Papers**

The Clerk, Dr. Michael Lukens, read a letter of greetings and thanks from the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Urabá Presbytery in Colombia dated December 19, 2007.

Dr. Lukens reminded Clerks that the annual statistical reports are due February 20, 2008. They must be filed online. Necrology reports are due to the Clerk for reporting to the May Presbytery meeting.

The Clerk provided a report regarding the three pending cases:

- Wolfe vs. Winnebago Presbytery Remedial Case filed with the Synod was reviewed by the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission officers in December. The ruling was to dismiss the case based on initial qualification tests. Ms. Wolfe has filed an appeal which must be heard by the full Synod PJC. The full Synod PJC will examine and rule on the

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initial tests on March 14, 2008.

- Investigating Committee #1 received an allegation against a minister member of presbytery and is still in the process of determining if charges will be filed. All information remains confidential until a charge might be filed.
- Investigating Committee #2 received an allegation and filed a charge of misconduct against the Rev. Dennis Cobb on January 26, 2008. A pre-trial conference has been scheduled for February 12, 2008. The disposition of the case will be reported to Presbytery.

Dr. Lukens reported that a copy of Boston Presbytery Overture 045 concerning the Heidelberg Catechism is available on the New Materials Table. He plans to bring a motion to the floor to support this overture during the time for New and Miscellaneous Business at the end of the day. He encouraged presbyters to read and consider supporting the overture.

### **Consent Agenda**

The Moderator presented the Consent Agenda for consideration.

**08/06 It was VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**

### **Finance Committee Report**

**Item # 1 To grant permission to Kiel First Church to make quarterly per capita payments in 2008.**

### **Committee on Ministry Report**

**Item # 1 To commission Certified Lay Pastor Warren Kraft to First Presbyterian Church, Oconto, to serve as Moderator for a period of three months (renewable) beginning February 2008.**

**Item # 2 To commission Certified Lay Pastor Richard Kreager to First Presbyterian Church, Winneconne, to serve as Visitation Evangelist Pastor, effective January 22, 2008 for three years. The terms have been omitted for privacy reasons. The information is available to presbyters from the Presbytery Office and is included in the permanent minutes of the Presbytery. Responsibilities: assist pastor with worship, 7 weeks pulpit supply while pastor is away, administer Sacraments when pastor is not available.**

**Item # 3 To transfer the Rev. Kathleen Dooley to Chicago Presbytery at her request, effective February 9, 2008.**

**Item # 4 To approve the Administrative Commission for the Installation of the Rev. Randal Argall as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Green Bay at 4:00 p.m. on February 10 and to elect the following members of the Commission: the Rev. Thomas Willadsen, Oshkosh First (Presbytery Moderator); the Rev. Gail Irwin, Green Bay Preble Park; the Rev. Susan Phillips, Shawano First; the Rev. Rebecca Proefrock, Non-Parish; Elder Don Kisela, Green Bay First; Elder Wendy Mannering, DePere First United; Elder David Henderson, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Milwaukee,**

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Wisconsin; and the Rev. Jan Davis, Honorably Retired, Northeast Association, UCC.

Item # 5 To seat the Rev. Jan Davis and Elder David Henderson as corresponding members of the Commission.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

08/07 It was VOTED to concur with the request of the Wabeno Church and the Forest Larger Parish in its application to the Presbyterian Church Mortgage Loan Program:

The Presbytery of Winnebago (a "Corporation") of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) having received and reviewed the loan application of the First Presbyterian Church of Wabeno, a member in good standing of this Presbytery, approved the loan application and guarantees the repayment of principal and interest on the loan to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation ("CLP") in an amount not to exceed \$90,000. The officers of the Presbytery Corporation as listed on the attached Affidavit/Certificate of Incumbency marked Exhibit "A" are authorized to sign a Guaranty Agreement for this loan as agents of the Presbytery Corporation.

The Rev. Chuck Valenti-Hein presented year-end financial reports for the Presbytery as information. The Finance Committee was pleased to note 100% pay up for Presbytery Per Capita, and that unified mission giving for Presbytery program totaled \$215,485.55 against a budget of \$201,400 and pledges of \$211,472. All the churches are to be commended for their generous support of the Presbytery's mission!

The balance of the Operating Fund was \$25,677.74, below the required ceiling of \$30,000, and the Presbytery's Reserve Fund balance was \$215,867.46, below the required ceiling of a total of 6 months of the annual budget, and so no adjustments to balances or extra allocation for mission were made.

As planning and consultations begin for the 2009 budget cycle, the Finance committee was asked to provide an estimate for the Presbytery's share of Per Capita for 2009, and an estimate of mission pledges for the same year. As we have yet to hear from many member churches regarding 2008 mission pledges, the wisdom of the committee and past experience suggested that we provide an estimate of 3% increase in mission giving and a \$1 increase in Presbytery per capita.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Ms. Anne Dropp reported that the annual review of the Associate for Administration was conducted in December with a positive outcome. She further noted that the rest of the staff reviews will be conducted at the end of April and invited anyone who would like to make comments should be in touch with her.

### **COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

The Rev. Stephen Wright reported that annual consultations had been held with Inquirers Julie Wald and Brita Hansen and Candidate Under Care Lisa Valenti-Jordan.

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Following its final assessment with Ms. Valenti-Jordan, the Committee certified her ready to be examined for ordination, pending completion of final academic requirements (graduation from seminary) and pending a call.

Ms. Wald (United Seminary) and Ms. Hansen (Austin Seminary) continue in the Inquirer phase.

### **RESOURCE AND PROGRAM COORDINATING TEAM (RPCT) – PART I**

The Rev. Richard Manny reported for the **Global Mission Partnership Task Group** and announced they have begun recruiting participants for the 2008 Mission Study Trip to Urabá Presbytery in Colombia. The focus this year will be jointly exploring environmental and human rights issues. Anyone interested should contact the Presbytery Office by April 1. The trip will be scheduled in late summer or fall.

Churches will be receiving information regarding the Days for Prayer and Advocacy for Colombia April 17-18.

Ms. Pam Schroeder reported for the **Mission Grants Task Group**. The Task Group produced a Power Point Presentation showing how 2008 mission dollars are used in partnership with local congregations. Each congregation received two CDs that can be used for interpretation with their congregations. Presbyters watched the show and responded with applause.

Ms. Judy Nighorn, RPCT Chairperson, introduced Ms. Rosangela Berbert, staff therapist with the Samaritan Counseling Center of the Fox Valley. Ms. Berbert is the director of Project Open Door, a youth counseling service in Oshkosh. The program is an extension of the Samaritan Center.

Executive Presbyter, Lucy Rupe, announced that the preceding presentations were the kickoff to Mission 2008. Presbytery Council adopted a mission focus for the year. In May, we will hear from the Forest Larger Parish and Omro First regarding the Thrift Store. A September topic is not yet determined, and in November Hunter Farrell, Director of World Wide Ministries of the denomination, will be our guest.

### **RECESS FOR LUNCH**

Ms. Jordanger announced that there is a display of pictures on the board above the materials table in the hall showing some of the churches and people visited during her year as Moderator. She and her husband, Rich, visited every congregation in the Presbytery and were warmly welcomed.

Following prayer, the meeting recessed for lunch in the Fellowship Hall prepared and served by members of Frame and the Confirmation Class.

### **SPEAK OUT**

- **Good resources for planning mission work trips** are Border Ministries, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (Gulf Coast) and Pres House at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.
- The **Fond du Lac Church** is hosting an annual sit down dinner on February 10 to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity.
- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** has provided a \$10,000 grant to the Presbytery to be used in the aftermath of the Crandon shootings. Representatives from the area schools, clergy, Potawatomi Tribe, St. Mary's Hospital/Ministry Healthcare and area funeral homes have now formed the **Forest County Committee for Peace and Reconciliation**. It was determined that

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the focus for the grant funds would be providing resources to help young people develop coping skills for all types of crisis situations.

- **Wausau First** will be celebrating their 150th anniversary on June 7-8.
- **Covenant Community Church** in Schofield offered their building as an overnight stop for youth Mission Work trips in the area. April 1th will be their annual Gourmet Dinner and Auction to raise funds for the Food Pantry.
- A handbell concert is scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> at **Omro First**.
- A Puerto Rican cooking class will be offered at **Senda de Amor**, the ecumenical Hispanic ministry in the Fox Valley, on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Dick Kreager will be commissioned as Lay Pastor at **Winneconne First** on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>.
- **Shawano** is celebrating a new web site that does a great job of expressing who they are.
- **Green Bay First** will host the Installation of their new Pastor, Randy Argall on February 10 at 4 p.m.
- **Wausau First's** stewardship chair, not computer literate, was so inspired by the stewardship presentation on e-giving last fall that the church has made the option available. It is now functional and they are receiving gifts via e-giving.

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

A Synod School Power Point presentation was shown and Ms. Anne Dropp reported that the Presbytery Synod School Task Group will be offering scholarships this year. Forms will be available in the Presbytery Office and on-line in the near future. The goal is to have 25-30 participants from Winnebago Presbytery.

### **EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT**

The Rev. Lucy Rupe asked presbyters to introduce themselves to someone they did not come to the meeting with and share something good that is happening in their congregation. After several minutes she noted that the animation and smiles told her that good things are indeed happening throughout the Presbytery. She expressed personal thanks to the staff members who spent many hours preparing the Mission 2008 CD's and to Rich Jordanger for the wonderful pictures of our churches.

### **ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT**

The Rev. Sarah Moore-Nokes announced that some people believe the Presbyterian Church (USA) is dying and proceeded to list many of the often sited reasons. But, she noted, people and congregations are beginning to respond in other ways – allowing space and freedom to allow growth to happen. The Presbytery is continuing to do mission, it is moving with new technology, we are collaborating with other presbyteries, we are working toward making our funding more flexible and local congregations are making changes as well. Her challenge to all is to engage in some “risky business”. She encouraged congregations to allow something to die if it is time for that to happen and to push the envelope for something new.

### **PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CHURCH MUSICIANS (PAM)**

Ms. Judy Bond encouraged pastors, worship leaders, church musicians, choir members, youth and children to consider attending the PAM Westminster Conference on Worship and Music July 6-11, 2008 in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. The theme is God's Love: Shattering the Darkness.

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### **PRESBYTERY COUNCIL**

Moderator, Barbara Jordanger, reported that Council has requested the Stewardship Task Force to continue its discussion of further work on stewardship development in the Presbytery, and the Nominating committee was asked to review the starting dates for terms following election to make the transitions for committees smoother.

Ms. Jordanger thanked outgoing Finance Committee Moderator, Chuck Valenti-Hein, for his years of service on the Committee and as Moderator. He was presented with a thank-you gift.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

On behalf of the Committee, Ms. Barbara Goldthwaite nominated persons to fill various committee vacancies. The Moderator called for additional nominations from the floor; none were forthcoming.

**08/08**            **It was VOTED to elect the following persons:**  
**COM - Bette Hoytink (E) Winneconne (11-1); Glenn Blum (E) Oconto (11-1)**  
**CPM – John Evans (E) Oshkosh (11-1)**  
**Finance – Joseph Ripley (M) Weyauwega (10-1); William Plank (M) Kohler (11-1)**  
**RPCT – Jennifer Zander (L) Fond du Lac (09-1)**

### **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

The Rev. Paul Huxtable presented a revised "Commissioned Lay Pastor Program Policies and Procedures Manual" for a first reading. He invited presbyters to review and suggest changes or corrections prior to the next meeting.

The following actions were taken by the Committee since the previous Presbytery meeting:

- Approved an application from the Rev. Ted Tromble for certification with the Association of Professional Chaplains.
- Transferred the Rev. Mary Pol to Northern Waters Presbytery, effective January 22, 2008.
- Granted permission for the Rev. Margaret Zedan to labor outside the bounds in the Southeast Association of the United Church of Christ in order to serve as Interim Pastor at Trinity United Church of Christ in Brookfield, Wisconsin.
- Triennial visits have been completed with the DePere, Oconto, Lakewood, Laona, Wabeno and Sheboygan Sessions.
- Granted permission for the Rev. David Crail (Retired Wesleyan, United Methodist) to celebrate the Sacraments through October 31, 2008 in his capacity as Temporary Supply Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Arpin.
- Received the Rev. Robert Goebel into membership, effective January 22, 2008, so that he might serve as Pastor at the First Presbyterian Churches, Athelstane and Wausaukee, pending Presbytery's approval of the Terms of Call.

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- Concurred with the request of the Rev. Tom Beck and First Presbyterian Church, Oconto, to dissolve the pastoral relationship, effective December 31, 2007.
- Approved a contract for a Ministry Team to provide transitional pastoral leadership to First Presbyterian Church, Oconto. They have contracted with the Rev. Fred Schultz, Honorably Retired (United Methodist) for six months, renewable, from February – July and Certified Lay Pastor Warren Kraft for three months, renewable, from February – April. Mr. Kraft will preach once a month and serve as Moderator.

**08/09** It was VOTED to approve the Terms of Call for the Rev. Robert Goebel as three-quarter time pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Athelstane and First Presbyterian Church, Wausaukee, effective March 1, 2008. The Terms have been omitted for privacy purposes. The information is available to presbyters from the Presbytery Office and are included in the permanent minutes of the Presbytery.

It as reported that the churches met Presbytery's EEO policy in conducting its pastoral search.

**08/10** It was VOTED to approve the Administrative Commission for the Installation of the Rev. Robert Goebel on April 6, 2008 at 4 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Wausaukee, and to elect the following members of the Commission:  
The Rev. Tom Willadsen, Oshkosh First (Moderator)  
The Rev. Lucille Rupe, Executive Presbyter  
The Rev. Randy Argall, Green Bay First  
The Rev. Richard Marcy, Crivitz Faith  
Elder Dean Bork, Wausaukee  
Elder Lin Wittman, Athelstane  
Elder Anne Dropp, DePere  
Elder Patricia Pottratz, Marinette, Pioneer

**08/11** It was VOTED to concur with the request of the Melnik Presbyterian Church to grant permission for Elder Phil Kinzel to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, for a period of one year beginning February 10, 2008, when a Minister of the Word and Sacrament is not available.

**08/12** It was VOTED to grant permission for Elder Wendy Mannering, DePere, First United, to officiate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on April 6, 2008.

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

Synod Commissioner, Jim York, gave a brief report after attending his first Synod Meeting in January.

**08/13** It was VOTED to concur with Boston Presbytery's Overture 045 to the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on Restoring the Heidelberg Catechism to its Historic Form.

**08/14** It was VOTED to name Dr. Michael Lukens as the Presbytery's Overture Advocate.

The Rev. Janet Wolfe announced the upcoming National Workshop on Christian Unity to be held in Chicago April 14-17. She asked if the presbytery could make any financial assistance

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available if someone is interested in attending. The Associate Executive Presbyter responded that this was a possibility.

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

The Moderator, Barbara Jordanger, invited any past Moderators present to come forward to stand with the Rev. Tom Willadsen and Elder Dennis Mannering as they were being installed as Moderator and Vice Moderator, respectively.

The gentlemen were presented with the crosses of their respective positions and the Moderator was presented with the gavel.

The newly installed Moderator, the Rev. Tom Willadsen, thanked Ms. Jordanger for her year as Moderator and presented her with a shawl depicting Celtic symbols.

**08/15            It was VOTED to adjourn the meeting following the closing prayer at 2:30 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT WITH PRAYER**

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer, lifting up the joys and concerns expressed by presbyters during this day.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Barczak  
Associate for Administration

Michael Lukens  
Stated Clerk

Attachments: December Financial Reports  
Presbytery Council Minutes – January 15, 2008