

Winnebago Presbytery
Presbytery Council
Minutes
August 19, 2008

The Council of Winnebago Presbytery convened on August 19, 2008, at 9:40 a.m. at the Presbytery Office, Appleton, Wisconsin, beginning in morning prayer and reflections led the Executive Presbyter, Lucy Rupe.

Present:

Dennis Mannering	E, CLP, Vice Moderator of Presbytery
Barbara Goldthwaite	E, Nominating Committee
Richard Manny	M, Finance Committee
Margaret Zedan	M, Synod Commissioner
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: Tom Willadsen, Barry Johnson, Judy Nighorn, Stephen Wright, Paul Huxtable.

1. Council Study & Discussion

Council focused on a general overview of the proposed new Form of Government proposal, led by Dr. Lukens. He reviewed the genesis of the revision project from the 217th GA, the action of the 218th GA, the major principles at work in this proposal, and the schedule for continuing study and further development by the GA Task Force.

2. Review of Council Minutes

Council **Voted to Approve** Council Minutes from April 15, 2008.

3. Structure Proposals

Council received a report from the Nominating Committee regarding a change in the Standing Rules on the installation sequence for presbytery officers and the commencement of terms of office, which will be recommended to Presbytery.

Council also received a report on a recommendation that will come before Presbytery at its September meeting from Finance Committee to create of a Grants Allocation Committee that would centralize the consideration for and allocation of monies from special funds of presbytery, including local mission grants, Genesis Fund, and the Small Church Grant Fund.

4. Staff & Officer Reports

- The Vice Moderator reported on his participation in the discussions of the “4-Pak” group.
- The Clerk reported on continuing need for judicial counsel in relation to questions from pastors, the Committee on Ministry, and formal procedures in regard to the remedial case: Wolfe v. Winnebago.
- The Executive Presbyter reported on the Call process in the Oconto and Fond du Lac churches and the on-going needs within other congregations, including the possibilities of

shared ministries with the Northeast Association, UCC. She also reminded presbyters that Diego Hugueta will be in Presbytery in late September as a part of the “international peacemaker” program and that a presbytery group will be going to Colombia in October, continuing and reaffirming our partnership with Uraba Presbytery. The mission emphasis in presbytery meetings will be implemented by a documentary filmmaker in September, David Ketterer regarding Education in Pakistan, and K.T. Ockels, Manager of Projects and Operations of World Mission of the General Assembly.

- The Associate Executive Presbyter reported on the 218th General Assembly in San Jose, with reflections on some interpretations about its “radical” posture in regard to issues of property and sexual relations. She presented an outline of Presbytery’s programmatic and project emphases in 2006 and 2007 and projects for 2009 on the basis of the work and mission of the Resource & Program Coordinating Team.
- The Associate for Administration reported on the continuing editing of “News and Notes” and her participation soon in the Conference of Presbyterian Communicators as well as preparation for the fall programmatic sequence.

5. Old Business

- Council **Voted to Approve** as a commissioner to the Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Council of Churches on December 8-9, 2008 (Green Lake): Rev. Susan Zencka. A lay commissioner is yet to be appointed.
- Council reviewed the Wolfe v. Winnebago remedial case, the Decision of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission to uphold Wolfe’s appeal and to remand the case back to the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission for trial. Council discussed preparation and process related to the pre-trial conference in early October, 2008.

6. New Business

- Council discussed Presbytery and Council meeting dates for 2009.
Council **Voted to Recommend** to Presbytery the following dates:
Presbytery 2009: 7 February (Saturday); 12 May (Tuesday)
15 September (Tuesday); November 14 (Saturday)
Presbytery Council 2009: 13 January (Tuesday); 21 April (Tuesday)
25 August (Tuesday); 20 October (Tuesday)

Council discussed sites for presbytery meetings, with recommendations to come to Presbytery in September, contingent upon invitations from the churches.

- Council **Voted to Authorize** advertisement of a Wisconsin Council of Churches Workshop on preaching featuring Dr. Anna Carter Florence, scheduled in Appleton on 23 October, 2008.
- Council approved by consensus a Day Retreat for Council on 21 October, with the site to be announced.
- The Associate EP reported on the various consultative discussions between governing bodies (“6-Pak”, “4-Pak”, “2-Pak”, involving the four Wisconsin presbyteries plus two presbyteries in Minnesota), with parallel and different groups discussions in Iowa and Minnesota. The focus is on ways for presbyteries to work more closely together, especially in terms of programmatic cooperation, mission, and revised staffing patterns. The “6-Pak” is not currently meeting. The “4-Pak” (Wisconsin presbyteries) discussion continues. The “2-Pak” (John Knox and Northern Waters

presbyteries) has become a more intensive discussion in recent months, with discussion of combination of program and staff.

7. Committee Reports

- Finance Committee [Manny] reported on the Committee's review of presbytery investments and investment guidelines, the updated loan situation of the churches, and the cost options of an annual audit "review" rather than a full audit, with a potential recommendation to Presbytery of an audit review twice and a full audit once in a three year cycle.
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry reported [Rupe] on the continuing status of Presbytery's Candidate and Inquirers (2).
- Resource & Program Coordinating Team [Moore-Nokes] reported on the current state of projects and events, with emphasis on the forthcoming youth camp (29 October – 1 November).
- Nominating Committee [Goldthwaite] reported that the Committee will bring a proposal for a change in terms of office for a first reading and the nomination for Synod YAD in September with the full range of nominations to come to Presbytery in November for all present committee vacancies and renewals.
- Presbyterian Women reported on its recent Gathering and its PW Retreat in October. Council Voted **to Authorize** the Rev. Susan Zencka to be the Minister of Word and Sacrament for Holy Communion at this retreat.

8. Review of May Presbytery Meeting

Council briefly reviewed the meeting in Winneconne.

9. Presbytery Meeting Planning (September)

- Council, in consultation with Committee moderators, suggested time allotments for the September meeting docket.
- Council discussed options for pre-meeting sessions, e.g., Christian Educators, discussions with General Assembly Commissioners and Session Records Review.

Council **voted** to instruct the Clerk to arrange the final docket for the September meeting of Presbytery, in consultation with the Moderator and Presbytery staff.

10. Next Meeting of Council

For the Council meeting on 21 October, 2008, Stephen Wright will lead the opening prayer/devotion period and Judy Nighorn will give the closing prayer. The Moderator and the Clerk will lead the study portion, as part of Council's continuing discussion the proposed revision of the Form of Government.

Adjournment

Council adjourned in prayer by the Richard Manny at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Lukens
Stated Clerk