

Winnebago Presbytery
Presbytery "Council"¹
Minutes

August 23, 2011

The "Council" of Winnebago Presbytery convened on August 23, 2011, at 9:45 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Neenah, Wisconsin, beginning with devotions led by the Rev. Ted Spurduto.

Present:

Jeanne Nymoen	TE, Moderator of Presbytery
Ted Spurduto	TE, Vice Moderator of Presbytery
Marcia Thomas	TE, Past Moderator of Presbytery
Bette Hoytink	RE, Committee on Ministry
Jim York	RE, Synod Commissioner
Jean Schneider	RE, Representation & Nominating Committee
Alice Ackermann,	RE, Presbyterian Women
Nancy Siewert	RE, Resource & Program Team
Mara Liz Rivera	TE, Personnel Committee
Richard Manny	TE, Finance Committee
Sarah Moore-Nokes	TE, Associate Executive Presbyter
Nancy Barczak	RE, Associate for Administration
Michael Lukens	TE, Stated Clerk

Excused: Margaret Zedan, Robert Merriam, Stephen Wright

"Council" Study

"Council" continued with its study sessions on the book, *The Three Laws of Performance* (2009), by Steve Zaffron and Dave Logan. The Moderator led "Council" in an overview of the second section of the book and its theses, followed by discussion.

Review and Approval of "Council" Minutes

"Council" reviewed and **voted to approve** the Minutes of the "Council" meeting from 5 April 2011.

Presbytery Strategy for 2011

- Presbytery meeting themes for 2011:
 - September theme: Alcohol Abuse in Northeastern Wisconsin

 - November theme: workshops re: new Form of Government, Session clerks, church operating manuals, stewardship, etc.

- Assessment of Presbytery's transition:
 - Staff reported (written) on the leadership team process and effectiveness.

¹ In light of the revised Form of Government, "council" refers exclusively to governing bodies (Session, Presbytery, Synod, General Assembly). Thus, Presbytery's "Council" has to be renamed.

“Council” reviewed the continuing Wisconsin presbyteries strategy discussion, principally focused on a trial year with a centralized office (Stevens Point) for program coordination, staffing consultation and collaboration.

Council **voted** to take the proposal regarding a central office of Wisconsin presbyteries for a trial period in 2012, effective 1 January 2012, to Presbytery for its consideration and action. [See appendix]

Staff and Officer Report

- The Stated Clerk reported on the work of two current Administrative Commissions: Preble Park AC and the Forest Larger Parish AC. The Clerk also reported on correspondence from four churches requesting “dismissal” from the PCUSA.
- The Vice Moderator reported for the Leadership Team on a proposal for dealing with the four churches that are seeking separation from the presbytery and the PCUSA.

"Council" **voted** to recommend to Presbytery that the Moderator appoint a working group to create a policy regarding church requests for dismissal and make its recommendation at the November 2011 Presbytery meeting.

- Immediate Past Moderator reported on her work regarding worship at Presbytery meetings.
- The Associate Presbytery Executive reported that the regular work of Presbytery seems to be going well, with increased activity by a number of volunteers and the gratitude of Presbytery for this most valuable service.
- The Associate for Administration reported on the continuing work within the Presbytery office and all seems to be going well

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee (Manny) reports that overall funds and expenses are as expected.
- Personnel Committee (Rivera) reported on its continuing reviews.
- Presbyterian Women (Ackermann) reported on the Spring Gathering, its most recent mission trip in South Dakota, and the plans for the forthcoming Fall Retreat.
- Resource and Program Coordinating Team (Siewert) meets in the next week.
- Global Mission (Manny) reported on the coming visit of Diego Higueta, from Urabá Presbytery and the Colombian Presbyterian Church
- Synod Commissioners (York) reported that Synod meets next in October.
- Committee on Ministry (Hoytink) has met three times since the last meeting of “Council”, with work on its manual, the creation of a new process of CoM liaison with each congregation for quarterly reports, review of terms of Call, review of the minimum pastoral compensation, Board of Pension prospective increases, reports of triennial visits, continuing forums regarding the work of Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE), and the commencement of a task group to consider guidelines for viable congregations.
- Committee on Preparation for Minister has a new moderator, Rev. Margaret Zedan.

“Council” Review of the May (2011) Presbytery Meeting

Council reviewed the May 2011 meeting of Presbytery, with generally positive assessment.

“Council” Planning for the September Meeting of Presbytery

"Council" discussed the plans for the September Presbytery meeting and instructed the Clerk to prepare the final docket in consultation with the Moderator of Presbytery and the Presbytery staff.

Miscellaneous Business

"Council" **voted** to nominate to Presbytery for the Nominating Committee: Linda Boldt (RE) and Matthew Sauer (TE).

Adjournment

“Council” adjourned in prayer (Nancy Siebert) at 12:25 p.m.

"Council" meets next on 11 October 2011 at First Church, Neenah. Opening devotions will be led by Michael Lukens and the closing prayer by Alice Ackermann.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael B. Lukens
Stated Clerk

July 28, 2011

TO: The Councils of John Knox Presbytery, Northern Waters Presbytery, Milwaukee Presbytery, and Winnebago Presbytery.

FROM: Rev. Sarah Moore-Nokes – Winnebago Presbytery Associate Executive Presbyter
Rev. Dana Knapp – Northern Waters Presbytery Interim Executive Presbyter
Rev. Ken Meunier – John Knox Presbytery Executive Presbyter

SUBJECT: Presbyteries Working Together

Over the last three years all four Wisconsin Presbyteries have experienced significant events that have caused a change to either the staffing pattern; the geographical location of the presbytery office; a steady decline in membership and at best a flat financial picture. In the last few months the following changes have occurred:

- John Knox Presbytery has an offer pending on the sale of their office
- Winnebago Presbytery is in the process of moving to a new location (target Dec 2011)
- Milwaukee Presbytery does not currently have an executive presbyter
- Winnebago Presbytery does not currently have an executive presbyter
- Northern Waters Presbytery has an interim executive presbyter

We, the executive staff of Northern Waters, John Knox and Winnebago presbyteries, held a meeting in Stevens Point, Wisconsin to discuss the reality of these changes and ways to consider working together in the future. As a result of this meeting, we would like to invite your Council to consider the possibility of sharing resources (staff, offices, etc...) statewide on a trial/transitional basis. We are not looking to change the geographic bounds of the presbyteries or the status of any of the currently employed staffed. Rather we would like to invite you to consider joining the other presbyteries, with large geographic areas in Wisconsin, in sharing an office space in Stevens Point, Wisconsin for a one year trial/transitional basis beginning in 2012.

- This would allow for better use of executive staff among all presbyteries (for example, some executive functions may be combined or shared based on skill set and /or geographical location)
- It would allow for collaboration among the administrative support staff for financials, communication, meeting logistics etc...
- It would allow for better stewardship of resources by consolidating office equipment and office supplies (copiers, postage meters, scanners, etc...) as well as services (phone, DSL, etc....)
- In many cases, committees and commission from different regions may work together for events, training, and shared mission.
- On a trial basis would give us an opportunity to explore other ways in which we can work together.

We would like you to consider taking this proposal to your next presbytery meeting. We hope a decision can be made in the respective presbyteries by November 30, 2011. This would allow us to begin our trial year journey together on January 1, 2012.

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