

Winnebago Presbytery
Presbytery “Council”¹
Minutes

October 11, 2011

The Council* of Winnebago Presbytery convened on October 11, 2011, at 9:45 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Neenah, Wisconsin, beginning with devotions led by the Rev. Michael Lukens.

Present:

Jeanne Nymoen	RE, Moderator of Presbytery
Ted Sperduto	TE, Vice Moderator of Presbytery
Marcia Thomas	TE, Immediate Past Moderator of Presbytery
Bette Hoytink	RE, Committee on Ministry
James York	RE, Synod Commissioner
Jean Schneider	RE, Representation & Nominating Committees
Margaret Zedan	TE, Preparation for Ministry 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: Robert Merriam, Stephen Wright

Welcome to the Rev. Diego Higuita

The Council* welcomed the Rev. Diego Higuita, Executive Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia, who brought greetings from Urabá Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church of Colombia. He spoke first about the value and importance of the partnership between us. This partnership has contributed to the effort toward peace and hopefulness, as our communication with each other means opportunities for both presbyteries in sharing and mutual support. He went on to speak about the major emphases of the Colombian church and the Presbytery in evangelism, education, and diaconal service in the community, with special attention to youth work and continuing societal issues. He presented as well an official communication from the Presbyterian Church of Colombia to the United States Congress, stating the Church's assessment of and concerns about the proposed Free Trade Agreement between the U.S. and Colombia.

Approval of Council* Minutes

Council* **voted** to approve the Minutes from its meeting of August 23, 2011 (with editorial corrections).

Council* Business

- Feed-back re: “Alcohol Abuse” presentation at the September meeting
- Topics for the November meeting of Presbytery

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.

- Meeting dates for 2012 for recommendation to Presbytery: 11 February; 1 May; 11 September; 17 November
- February 2012 Presbytery focus: Board of Pensions
- Transition assessment and strategy update report (Moore-Nokes)
- Appointment of persons for the relocation facility process for 2012 in the Fox Valley area and in Stevens Point:

Council* **voted** to appoint RE Jeanne Nymoen, RE Nancy Barczak, and TE Sarah Moore-Nokes to implement arrangement for an office site in the Fox Valley area for 2012.

Council* **voted** to appoint TE Susan Zencka, pastor of the Stevens Point Frame Memorial Church, a ruler elder from the Frame Memorial Church, and another person as needed (appointed by the Frame Memorial Church Session) as an ad hoc task group for selection of an office facility in Stevens Point, in collaboration with the appointed representatives with Northern Waters and John Knox Presbyteries.

- Dismissal Request Policy Work Group is at work on the development of a policy for presentation to the November meeting of Presbytery.
- Wisconsin Council of Churches annual meeting. Council* voted to appoint TE Marcia Thomas and RE Jim York, RE Jeanne Nymoen to represent Presbytery at the Wisconsin Council of Churches annual meeting, Dec. 12-13 at the Green Lake Conference Center.

Staff and Officer Report

- The Stated Clerk reported on the work of the two current Administrative Commissions of Presbytery: Preble Park AC and the Forest Larger Parish AC.
- Council voted to recommend to Presbytery the following 2012 sites: February: Shawano; May: Marshfield; September: Winneconne; November: Neenah
- The Vice Moderator reported on participation within the Executive Leadership Team, work with a regional social justice group (Naomi), and the Dismissal Request Work Group.
- The Moderator reported on the Dismissal Request Group and her continuing schedule of visitations with the churches of Presbytery.
- The Immediate Past Moderator, who will be rotating off the Council,* celebrated its work and fellowship and reported on the work of the western cluster of churches.
- The Associate Executive Presbyter reported on the energy and life reflected in the transitional process within Presbytery. She reflected on her work with the General Assembly Climate and Change Task Group, her teaching within the program of McCormick Seminary, participation in the program of the Midwest Ministry Development Center, her appreciation for collegial support within the Presbytery, and the forthcoming "Presbytery Camp."
- The Associate for Administration reported on the arrival of a new staff person (part-time), Kris Desens.

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee (Manny) reported on the final budget for 2012.

- Nominating and Representation Committees (Schneider) reported on its continuing need for nominees.
- Personnel Committee (Rivera) reported on the agenda for the next meeting, dealing with staff support during the time of transition and the possibility of changing the performance review process and job descriptions..
- Presbyterian Women (Ackermann) reported on the Fall Retreat at Pine Lake and the forthcoming planning meeting for preparation of the 2012 Spring Gathering.
- Resource Coordinating and Program Team (Siewert) reported on its forthcoming meeting.
- Global Mission (Manny) reported that an advocacy group will be in Washington, D.C., November 1-3, to meet with Latin American advocacy offices and to discuss concerns related to Colombia, based on our partnership with Urabá Presbytery, with congressional and senate staffs and appropriate State Department officers.
- Synod Commissioners (York) reported on Synod discussions related to property issues and the need for a coordinated policy between presbyteries, as well as the continuing discussion of the value of a synod in a time of substantial change.
- Committee on Ministry (Hoytink) reported on the forthcoming fall retreat later in October, with a focus on the future configuration of tasks, coordination with John Knox and Northern Waters presbyteries, examination of an incoming minister, as well as its normal duties.
- Session Records Review (Lukens) reported on two approaching records reviews for Session clerks (October 15 and 19) with a third to be added yet this year. The revision of the Checklist to conform with the new Form of Government is also underway.
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Margaret Zedan) will meet soon with interviews with CREs and changes in the examination reading process.

Council* Planning for the November Meeting of Presbytery

Council* discussed the plans for the November Presbytery meeting (an overnight meeting) and instructed the Clerk to prepare the final docket in consultation with the Moderator of Presbytery and the Presbytery staff.

Adjournment

After reflections by “retiring” members, Marcia Thomas and Richard Manny, Council* offered its commendation and adjourned in prayer, led by Alice Ackerman and using a Dakota version of the Lord’s Prayer.

Council* meets next on 17 January 2012 at the Neenah First Church. Opening devotions will be led by Jeanne Nymoer and the closing prayer by Ted Sperduto.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Lukens
Stated Clerk