

**Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy  
STATED MEETING MINUTES  
February 13, 2010**

Bonhomme Presbyterian Church  
14820 Conway Road  
Chesterfield, Missouri 63017

Elder Neal Donaldson, Moderator  
Rev. Terry L. Epling, Stated Clerk

**CONVENING THE MEETING**

**1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer**

The Moderator, Elder Neal Donaldson, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The Moderator prayed an opening prayer. The presbytery sang together the hymn *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*. The Rev. Kyle Erickson, Associate Pastor of Bonhomme Presbyterian Church, read Luke 9:28-36. Elder Mike Willock, Second Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, led the presbytery in a unison prayer.

**2. Quorum and Roll**

The Rev. Terry Epling, Stated Clerk, declared that a quorum was present as indicated by those marked "X" on the Roll (**Addendum I**).

**3. Docket**

The proposed docket was approved by consent.

**4. Welcome from the Host Congregation**

The Moderator thanked the session, staff and members of Bonhomme Presbyterian Church for hosting the presbytery. The Rev. Dr. Thomas Pfizenmaier, pastor, welcomed the presbytery on behalf of the church.

**5. Corresponding Members and Introductions**

On the recommendation of the Stated Clerk, presbytery seated the following persons as corresponding members:

Rev. Nancy Kahaian, Northern Kansas Presbytery, Synod Interim Executive

Rev. Douglas Kelly, Southern Kansas Presbytery, Board of Pensions

Rev. Edward Wicklein, Honorably Retired, Santa Fe Presbytery

The Moderator welcomed those elders and ministers attending a meeting of this presbytery for the first time and invited them to be introduced.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. Stated Clerk's Report**

**A. Minutes**

The Mission Council reviewed the minutes of the presbytery's Stated Meeting on November 14, 2009 and recommended their approval. Without objection the minutes were approved.

Presbytery Stated Meeting Minutes, February 13, 2010

**B. 2010 Equalization Report**

The Stated Clerk recommended, and presbytery approved by consent, adoption of the following equalization formula to redress the imbalance of resident ministers and the number of elders entitled to vote in presbytery:

**Elders as mandated by the *Book of Order* G-11.0101a:**

Based on their membership as of December 31, 2009:

One church is entitled to four elder commissioners (1501 or more members);

Ladue Chapel (1562) **Commissioners: 4**

Four churches are entitled to three elder commissioners (1001-1500 members);

Bonhomme, Chesterfield (1471)

Webster Groves (1279)

Dardenne, Dardenne Prairie (1140)

First, Kirkwood (1093) **Commissioners: 12**

Three churches are entitled to two elder commissioners (501-1000 members);

St. Mark, Ballwin (841)

First United, Belleville (772)

Southminster, Crestwood (560) **Commissioners: 6**

The remaining 83 churches are entitled to one commissioner. **Commissioners: 83**

**Subtotal: 105**

**Additional Elders as provided by the *Book of Order* and *By-Laws***

*The Book of Order mandates that each elder elected moderator shall be enrolled as a member of presbytery for the term of office. It allows that other elder officers, chairpersons of constitutional committees, members of council, the executive presbyter, associate executives and other elders in exempt staff positions may be enrolled as members of presbytery for the term of office or duration of service. Lay Pastors may also be commissioned to responsibilities that include voice and vote at presbytery meetings.*

**The following elders are therefore enrolled as commissioners to presbytery:**

Neal Donaldson, Calvary, Mehlville	Moderator
Don Marshall, St. Mark, Ballwin	Treasurer
Pat Cook, Calvary, Belleville	Mission Council
Linda Dencker, New Hope, St. Peters	Mission Council
Thom Hood, Cote Brilliante, St. Louis	Mission Council
Maggie Michael, First, Kirkwood	Mission Council
Herman Noah, Westminster, St. Louis	Mission Council
Bernice Thompson, Third, Moline Acres	Mission Council
Robert Thornberry, First, Alton	Mission Council
Mike Willock, Second, St. Louis	Mission Council
Judy Pickett, John Calvin, Bridgeton	Presbytery staff
Cindy Corley, John Calvin, Bridgeton	Presbytery staff
Christy Foster, Steelville	Presbytery staff
Robert Cardwell, Argo	Commissioned Lay Pastor
Paul Devine, Trinity, University City	Commissioned Lay Pastor
Gary Gerdt, Salem, Alton	Commissioned Lay Pastor
Julie Gvillo, The United, Wood River	Commissioned Lay Pastor
Carolyn Newcomb, St. Charles	Commissioned Lay Pastor
Cedric Portis, Third, Moline Acres	Commissioned Lay Pastor

Presbytery Stated Meeting Minutes, February 13, 2010

Mark Stone, Zion, Fosterburg	Commissioned Lay Pastor
Jerry Wray, Bethalto	Commissioned Lay Pastor
Jeanne Zimmerman, Maryland Heights	Commissioned Lay Pastor

**Commissioners: 22**

<b>Total Elder Commissioners:</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Total Resident Ministers on the Roll:</b>	<b>168</b>
<b>Total Imbalance:</b>	<b>41</b>

### **Correction of the Imbalance**

The stated clerk recommended and presbytery continued by consent its rule, established in 2003, whereby the imbalance is redressed in 2010 by the lack of participation of more than forty one honorably retired resident ministers. (G-11.0100b)

### **C. Commissioning of Lay Pastor**

Elder Neal Donaldson, Moderator, reported that, as authorized by the presbytery, he presided at the commissioning of Elder John O'Connor as Lay Pastor of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church during their service for the Lord's Day on January 17, 2010. The commissioning was in general accordance with the *Book of Occasional Worship* with one exception; since the congregational responses were not printed in the bulletin nor available as an insert, he read both the moderator's part and what would normally have been the people's response. All constitutional questions were asked of the candidate and of the congregation and all such questions were responded to in the affirmative.

In addition to the members of St. Andrew, Elders Jim and Pat Cook (Calvary, Mehlville) were present for the commissioning.

### **D. Administrative Commission to Install**

The administrative commission authorized by the presbytery to install the Rev. Dewey Johnson as pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, Crystal City, Missouri, met at the church at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 10, 2010.

A quorum was present consisting of the following commissioners:

- Rev. Pam'la Cowan
- Rev. Carol DeVaughan
- Rev. Mark Medina
- Elder Neal Donaldson, Moderator
- Elder Susan DeClue, Grace

The meeting was convened by the Moderator and opened with prayer. Elder DeClue was elected the clerk of the commission. The order of worship was reviewed. The Rev. Edward Wicklein (Santa Fe Presbytery) and the Rev. Thomas Clifton, a minister of the American Baptist Church, were seated as corresponding members and invited to participate in worship leadership. Rev. Johnson answered affirmatively all the constitutional questions required for installation. The meeting to conduct the installation was adjourned following worship with the benediction by Rev. Johnson.

### **E. Death of Minister Member**

The Stated Clerk reported the death of the Rev. John W. Irwin on January 7, 2010, in St. Louis, Missouri. Rev. Irwin was 76 years old and had served most recently in retirement as

interim pastor of Potosi Presbyterian Church and on the Committee on Representation. He retired December 31, 1998.

## 2. Mission Council

### A. Synod and Its Future

At its most recent meeting, the Synod of Mid-America proposed a change in the plan of representation by the presbyteries to the Synod. The number of commissioners to Synod from each of its six presbyteries was weighted according to the size of the membership of each presbytery. The Synod proposed that this be changed to four commissioners from each presbytery - two ministers and two elders.

Mission Council recommended and presbytery concurred without objection with this plan of representation.

#### **Rational:**

*The Synod of Mid-America recently adopted the recommendations of its Mission Study Task Force and suspended its Operating Manual to establish a minimal organizational structure on a temporary basis. The structure eliminated a significant number of committees that had been in place for some years, but whose activities recently had been significantly reduced. The new structure retained the officers (Moderator, Stated Clerk and Treasurer), the constitutional committees (Permanent Judicial Commission, Committee on Representation, and Nominating Committee), and established four additional committees (Executive, Partnership, Personnel, and Finance), which will encompass the duties of the previous committees to the extent that they had specific responsibilities. The reduced number of commissioners will result in an appropriate number for the new structure. Besides better organization, given the current activities of the Synod, the reduced number of commissioners will also allow for significant cost savings.*

### B. Manual of Operations Proposed Amendment

On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, Mission Council recommended and presbytery approved by consent an amendment to the *Manual of Operations* as follows:

[proposed additions in are ***bold italics***, deletions are in ~~strike through~~.]

“4.174 Executive Committee

“The Executive Committee shall consist of the Moderator of Mission Council, who shall be Moderator of the Executive Committee, the Moderator of Presbytery, the Stated Clerk who shall serve as secretary of the Executive Committee, the Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery, and ~~two (2)~~ ***three (3)*** additional members elected by and from the Mission Council annually. ***Those members shall include the current Moderators of the Financial Management Committee, the Property Committee, and the Personnel and Office Management Committee.***

“The Executive Committee shall prepare the docket for meetings of the Mission Council, provide assistance and counsel to the Executive Presbyter in emerging matters and shall recommend to the Mission Council a slate of nominees for the Nominating Committee and shall nominate the Moderator and Vice-Moderator of the Nominating Committee.

“A quorum of the Executive Committee shall be three (3) members.”

Presbytery Stated Meeting Minutes, February 13, 2010

**C. 2010 Amended Budget Recommendation**

The 2010 budget recommendation was amended to account for funding for the Youth Triennium in the Resourcing and Equipping Ministry Team line. Mission Council recommended and presbytery approved by consent the budget as amended.

WORKING BUDGET

	<b>2009 Adjusted Budget</b>	<b>2010 Budget</b>
<b>Revenue &amp; Gifts:</b>		
General Mission	507,679	479,211
Per Capita	400,000	481,247
Prior Year Per Capita	3,000	3,000
Clergy Pledges/ Special Appeal	5,000	10,000
Program Fees:		
<i>Resourcing &amp; Equipping</i>	2,900	15,350
<i>Mound Ridge</i>	64,950	68,850
<i>Leadership in Ministry</i>	5,300	13,850
Investment Income	10,000	5,000
Other Income		
<i>Mission Council</i>	18,000	18,000
<i>Resourcing &amp; Equipping</i>	1,800	1,800
<i>Justice and Compassion</i>	6,000	4,500
Transfers from Restricted:		
<i>Resourcing &amp; Equipping</i>		1,500
<i>Justice and Compassion</i>		
<i>Mound Ridge</i>	4,000	5,000
<i>Leadership in Ministry</i>	3,000	0
<i>Congregational Dev.</i>	25,000	25,000
<i>Transfer from MC Restricted</i>	35,204	0
	<b>1,091,833</b>	<b>1,132,308</b>
<b>Team Expenditures:</b>		
Congregational Development	14,040	12,800
Resourcing & Equipping	10,350	27,500
Mound Ridge	150,519	163,699
Leadership in Ministry	47,420	53,250
Justice & Compassion	14,265	15,100
Dismantling Racism & Privilege	6,120	5,650
Mission Council- Total	669,920	675,644
MC- Other - \$15,388		**
MC- Benevolence - \$11,700		
MC-Finance - \$11,000		
MC-Governance - \$5,600		
MC-Personnel - \$536,056		
MC-Property - \$51,800		
Total - \$675,644		
Synod & GA Per Capita	179,199	178,665
	<b>1,091,833</b>	<b>1,132,308</b>

Presbytery Stated Meeting Minutes, February 13, 2010

Church Membership (Dec. 31 2008)	19,918
Presbytery	17.01
Synod	2.82
GA	6.15
Total Per Capita Rate	<u>25.98</u>

\* Note: This budget reflects the inclusion of Youth Triennium income & expenses

\*\* This reflects savings in Personnel Costs due to salary freezes & position reduction

**D. Personnel and Office Management**

**a. 2010 Compensation**

Mission Council, on the advice of the Personnel Committee, recommended and presbytery approved by consent providing no increases in compensation to the employees of the presbytery in 2010.

**b. Position Closed**

Mission Council, on the advice of the Personnel Committee, recommended and presbytery by consent abolished the position of part-time administrative assistant effective December 31, 2009. The position was held by Amy Anderson for over a year. The committee expressed to her the appreciation of the presbytery for her service.

**c. Hunger Action Enabler Job Description**

Mission Council, on the advice of the Personnel Committee, recommended and presbytery approved by consent an updated job description for the Hunger Action Enabler and authorized advertisement to fill the position. **(Addendum II)**

**d. 2010 Terms of Call**

Mission Council, on the advice of the Personnel Committee, recommended and presbytery approved the following terms of call for the ministers employed by the presbytery:

**Paul Reiter, Executive Presbyter**

Salary	\$54,990
Housing	\$29,000
<b>Total Effective Salary</b>	<b>\$83,990</b>
Board of Pensions Dues	\$26,646
Medical Deductible	\$600
Professional Development	\$1,500
Professional Expenses	\$8,500

**Amy Fowler, Associate Executive for Congregational Development**

Salary	\$39,245
Housing	\$25,000
<b>Total Effective Salary</b>	<b>\$64,245</b>
Board of Pensions Dues	\$20,426
Medical Deductible	\$600
Professional Development	\$2,000
Professional Expenses	\$5,000

**Susan Niesen, Associate Executive for Leadership in Ministry**

Salary	\$4,800
Housing	\$36,744
<b>Total Effective Salary</b>	<b>\$41,544</b>
Board of Pensions Dues	\$13,275
Medical Deductible	\$600
Professional Development	\$1,000
Professional Expenses	\$4,000

**Terry Epling, Stated Clerk**

Salary	\$25,182
Housing	\$16,000
<b>Total Effective Salary</b>	<b>\$41,182</b>
Board of Pensions Dues	\$13,161
Medical Deductible	\$600
Professional Development	\$1,000
Professional Expenses	\$2,400

**E. Nominations**

There being no nominations from the floor, Mission Council recommended and presbytery approved without objection the election by acclamation of the following persons to the Nominating Committee:

Class of 2012 - Susan Knight (WFE, Ladue Chapel); Betty Bucknell (WFE, First United, Belleville); Elizabeth Dick (WFC); and Roy Myers (BME, Northminster, Dellwood);

Class of 2010 – Rob Cardwell (WME, Argo); and,

Joan Marshall (WFC), Moderator of the Nominating Committee for 2010.

**3. Nominating Committee**

**A. General Assembly**

There being no nominations from the floor, the Nominating Committee recommended and presbytery approved without objection, the election by acclamation of the following persons as commissioners, alternate commissioners, and young adult advisory delegate to the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2010):

Gary Ferbet (WMC) Bonhomme, Chesterfield

Linda Maconochie (WFC) First, Union

Anne Epling (WFC) Faith Des Peres, Frontenac

Alternate: Christian Boyd (WMC) Presbytery Staff, New Creation NCD

Elder Neal Donaldson (WME) Calvary, Mehlville

Elder Jim Starks (WME) Hunter Memorial, Sikeston

Elder Beverly Tsai (AFE), Taiwanese of Greater St. Louis, Ballwin

Alternate: Stephanie Knopf (WFE) Southminster, Crestwood

Young Adult Advisory Delegate: Katie Keating (WFYA) Woodlawn Chapel, Wildwood

**B. Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

There being no nominations from the floor, the Nominating Committee recommended and presbytery approved without objection, the election by acclamation of William Russell (WMC) to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry in the class of 2011.

#### **4. Committee on Ministry**

##### **A. Moderators of Session**

The Committee on Ministry recommended and presbytery approved by consent the appointment of the following persons as Moderators of sessions:

- Rev. Paul Kabo to the session of First Presbyterian Church, Ste. Genevieve;
- Rev. Richard Hause to the session of Cote Brilliante Presbyterian Church;
- Rev. Jerry Compton to the session of Potosi Presbyterian Church;
- Rev. Bruce Owen to the sessions of First Presbyterian Church of Perryville and Brazeau Presbyterian Church.

##### **B. Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship and Transfer of Membership**

The Committee on Ministry found in order the terms of call of the Rev. June Ewing as pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Topeka, Kansas, and approved the dissolution of her pastoral relationship at First Presbyterian Church, Ste. Genevieve, pending congregational action to concur. The committee acted on behalf of presbytery to dismiss Rev. Ewing to the Presbytery of Northern Kansas with the effective date of call, February 8, 2010.

##### **C. Permission to Labor within our Bounds**

The Committee on Ministry acted on behalf of presbytery to renew permission in 2010 for the Rev. Anne Jones, a minister member of Southeast Illinois Presbytery, to labor within the bounds of this presbytery while she serves as Interim Pastor of Pacific Presbyterian Church, Pacific, Missouri.

##### **D. Transfer of Membership**

The Committee on Ministry acted on behalf of presbytery to approve the transfer of the Rev. Joseph Pallikkathayil to the Presbytery of the Peaks, and granted permission for him to labor within the bounds of that presbytery as Interim Pastor until the transfer of membership is requested by the presbytery.

##### **E. Pastoral call and transfer of membership**

The Committee on Ministry acted on behalf of presbytery to find in order the call of the Rev. N. Elizabeth Lindsey as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Denison, Texas. The committee dismissed Rev. Lindsey to Grace Presbytery effective January 1, 2010 at their request.

##### **F. Temporary Supply Contract**

The Committee on Ministry acted on behalf of presbytery to approve the temporary supply contract with the Rev. Patrick Gruber and the congregations of Trinity Chapel, Cuba (at nineteen hours per week and \$28,600 annually) and First Church, Cuba (at nine hours per week and \$13,200 annually). Both contracts include reimbursable allowances for continuing education and travel expense, and vacation time, but do not include provisions for pension or healthcare dues.

##### **G. Appointed of Pastoral Mentor**

The Committee on Ministry acted on behalf of presbytery to appoint the Rev. Renita Heinzl as Pastoral Mentor to the Rev. Brendan Dempsey.

## **H. Designated Pastor**

The Committee on Ministry acted on behalf of presbytery to approve the call of the Rev. Pam'la Cowan for a two-year term as Designated Pastor of the Sun Light Larger Parish (inclusive of First Church, Park Hills, First Church, Fredericktown, and First Church, Ironton) according to the terms approved by the three congregations. Rev. Cowan installation was conducted by a commission appointed by the Moderator on Sunday, February 7, 2010.

## **I. Interim Pastor Contracts**

### **a. Webster Groves**

The Committee on Ministry acted on behalf of presbytery to approve an extension of the interim contract between the session of Webster Groves Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Mark Medina. The contract is for six months, beginning January 1, 2010 and ending on June 30, 2010, with an option to renew for an additional six months. Termination provisions are consistent with the presbytery's policy.

### **b. First, Granite City**

The Committee on Ministry acted on behalf of presbytery to approve an extension of the interim contract between the session of First Presbyterian Church, Granite City and the Rev. Gene Fowler for an additional year beginning January 6, 2010.

## **J. Temporary Membership**

### **a. Rev. Jerry Compton**

The Committee on Ministry acted on behalf of presbytery to accept the Rev. Jerry Compton, a minister of the United Methodist Church, for temporary membership during the term of his service as temporary supply pastor of Potosi Presbyterian Church and appointed him moderator of the session for a one year term beginning January 1, 2010. The Rev. Paul Bembower will serve as his mentor.

### **b. Rev. Bruce Owen**

The Committee on Ministry acted on behalf of presbytery to accept the Rev. Bruce Owen, a minister of the United Methodist Church, for temporary membership during the term of his service as temporary supply pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Perryville, and Brazeau Presbyterian Church, and appointed him moderator of the sessions for a one year term beginning January 1, 2010. The committee will name a mentor to assist him.

## **K. Presbytery Membership Roll**

The Committee on Ministry recommends the adoption of the attached roll as the Presbytery Membership Roll as of December 31, 2009. **(Addendum III)**

## **MISSION COUNCIL DISCERNMENT TEAM**

Elder Jim Cook, Chair of the Mission Council Discernment Team, spoke to the presbytery regarding an invitation by the team to engage all ministers, committee and team members, and sessions in a 10 day period of bible study, prayer and listening to God as the presbytery seeks to discern the future of its structure, staffing, and programmatic priorities. Presbytery viewed a video presentation framing the issues before the presbytery. Rev. Paul

## Presbytery Stated Meeting Minutes, February 13, 2010

Reiter, Executive Presbyter, spoke about the process of discernment. Rev. Amy Fowler, Associate Executive Presbyter for Congregational Development, described the bible study. The Rev. Pam Laing, pastor of The United Presbyterian Church, Wood River, encouraged the participation of all members of presbytery and every session. Copies of the video and bible study were distributed. The Moderator thanked St. Luke's Hospital for donating the printing of the bible study booklets.

### **HONORABLE RETIREMENT RECOGNITIONS**

Presbytery recognized the honorable retirements of the Rev. William Gillespie and the Rev. Paul Kabo.

Elder Neva Ross and Elder Barbara Calhoun (Clerk of Session) from First Presbyterian Church, Cape Girardeau, and the Rev. John Goodman spoke to the ministry of Rev. Kabo. Rev. Kabo addressed the presbytery. Presbytery thanked Rev. Kabo and his wife Alice for their service to the church.

Elder Thom Hood from Cote Brilliante Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, spoke to the fifty-three year ministry of Rev. Gillespie at Cote Brilliante. Rev. Gillespie addressed the presbytery. Presbytery thanked Rev. Gillespie and his wife Martha for their service to the church.

The Moderator led the presbytery in a prayer of blessing.

### **MISSION COUNCIL**

#### **1. Overture to General Assembly**

On the recommendation of Mission Council presbytery approved the following overture to the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2010):

#### **On Expanding the Scope of the Review of Biennial Assemblies**

The Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy respectfully overtures the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2010) to lead the church in considering the form and function of our General Assembly meetings by:

1. Expanding the action of the 214<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2002) which charged the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly to prepare an evaluation of biennial assemblies after the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (item 02-01 of the 2002 Assembly), instructing this study committee to consider the whole of the General Assembly meeting in its form and function;
2. This review is to include, but is not limited to, matters of financial stewardship, the use of alternative forms of discernment, the number of commissioners and advisory delegates as well as the role of advisory delegates, the schedule for moderatorial elections, the environmental impact of assemblies, the frequency of meetings, and models for governance for future generations;
3. In appointing the members of the special task group or committee (outlined in the 2002 action), the Stated Clerk and Executive Director of the General Assembly Council shall pay particular attention to appointing a generous representation of members younger than 40;
4. The report of this study and any recommendations shall come to the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2012).

***Rationale***

The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) was charged by the 214<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2002) to prepare an evaluation of biennial assemblies instructing the committee to consider the whole of the General Assembly meeting in its form and function. This group was asked to review the following:

“The assigned task shall be to ascertain the impact of biennial assemblies on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in terms of its ministry and mission; stewardship including per capita apportionment, mission dollars, and special offerings; communication including knowledge of the General Assembly and its work in the church, on governance of the church; the Form of Government and overtures sent to the General Assembly; use of judicial process and ways of dealing with conflictual issues, as well as addressing the theology of our Form of Government and how it has been impacted by biennial assemblies;] and bring a report to the 220th General Assembly (2012).” (Minutes of the 212<sup>th</sup> GA, Item 02-01)

Since the charge was given to COGA to review biennial General Assemblies the church has benefited from the work of the Theological Task Force on the Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church, which modeled decision making utilizing discernment and consensus and challenged the church to adopt new methods of decision making at all governing body levels. Sessions, presbyteries and synods across the church have experimented with different ways of making decisions. The General Assembly, as the most formal governing body, has been less adaptive and slower to respond to the growing enthusiasm for alternative methods of discernment in decision making. This is a conversation that needs to occur at the General Assembly level. The review of biennial assemblies provides an opportunity for it to occur within a larger conversation about the form and function of the General Assembly.

The expanded review should address the effectiveness of the current standing committee model and whether a different organizational model might better facilitate the use of discernment as a core value. It should consider the effectiveness of the current overture process and potential alternatives to it which could free the assembly to spend more time on larger, more strategic questions of vision and mission that will shape the future of the church. The review should address the number and role of commissioners and advisory delegates and how the General Assembly might engage the wisdom of middle governing body leaders (staff and officers). The review should assess the environmental impact of General Assembly meetings and whether there are ways to increase efficiency and reduce the overall environmental impact. Because this review will affect the General Assembly’s function in the foreseeable future, the review team should intentionally include many members under the age of 40.

This proposed expansion of the review functions of the committee would allow the church to have more than just a tweaking of the existing biennial model; it would allow a vehicle to explore a new way of being the church when we meet in assembly.

**2. Nominating Committee Process**

The Mission Council approved the attached Nominating Committee Process Overview and shared it for the information of presbytery. (**Addendum IV**)

**3. Recognitions**

Presbytery expressed its appreciation for the service of Elder Elly Commings upon the completion of her term as Moderator of Mission Council in 2009, Moderator of Presbytery in

## Presbytery Stated Meeting Minutes, February 13, 2010

2008, and Vice Moderator of Presbytery and the Council in 2007. The Rev. Carol DeVaughan presented Elder Commings with a Presbyterian Church (USA) cross as a symbol of thanksgiving for her dedicated service.

The Rev. Paul Reiter, Executive Presbyter, recognized Elder Barbara Lewis, former Administrative Assistant on the staff of the presbytery. Elder Lewis has been unable to work due to medical disability. Presbytery expressed its appreciation for her many years of service. Elder Lewis attended the meeting as the commissioner from her church, Westminster, St. Louis.

### 4. Board of Pensions

The Rev. Doug Kelly, Regional Representative for the Board of Pensions, addressed the presbytery regarding changes in the pension plan that came into effect in 2010.

### Lunch Recess

The Rev. Gary Ferbet, Executive Pastor of Bonhomme Church, addressed the Presbytery regarding preparations for lunch. He announced tours of the church featuring the technological improvements recently completed in the worship spaces and education facilities. Rev. Ferbet prayed a blessing of the meal. Presbytery recessed for lunch.

Presbytery reconvened at 1:00 p.m. with music recorded by the choir of Second Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, from *The Transfiguration* by Larry King. The Moderator prayed a prayer for illumination. Deacon Marsha Walter, Bonhomme Presbyterian Church, read Luke 9:35-43a. Presbytery sang together the hymn *Transform Us*.

## BUSINESS

### 1. Committee on Ministry

#### a. Appointment of Moderator

On the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry, presbytery appointed the Rev. Grant Gillard as Moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Cape Girardeau, effective March 1, 2010.

#### b. Authorization of Elders to Administer Communion

The Committee on Ministry announced a training event for elders who have been recommended by their Sessions for instruction in the administration of the Lord's Supper as provided by G-11.0103z. This instruction is being offered as a way of supporting congregations which in present circumstances may not be able to secure the services of a minister of Word and Sacrament to administer the sacrament.

Presbytery approved the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry that these elders, whose instruction has been requested by their sessions, be authorized, pending completion of training, to administer or preside at the Lord's Supper in their designated congregation, through March 6, 2011: Debbie Bust (Potosi), Ivan Wallace (Rock), Tom Cavicchia (Affton), Paul Mayberry (Curby Memorial), Verna Pickles (Southampton), Everett Page (Cote Brilliante), Richard Thurston (Kampsville), Richard Sisk and Chance Shewmaker (Elm Street).

**c. Commissioning as Lay Pastor**

The Committee on Ministry conducted a goodness-of-fit interview and an examination for membership with Elder David Zweh who completed preparation to be commissioned as a lay pastor. The sexual misconduct policy of the presbytery and its commitment to dismantling racism training were presented, and the related signed documents are on file at the office.

Presbytery approved the recommendation of the committee to commission Elder David Zweh as Lay Pastor of Carondelet-Markham Memorial Presbyterian Church for three years, subject to annual review, with these functions of ministry: administer the Lord's Supper, administer the sacrament of baptism, have voice and vote in the meetings of the presbytery, perform a service of Christian marriage when invited by the Session and allowed by the state, and moderate the session of the congregation under the supervision of the Moderator and supervising pastor, Rev. Susan Finley.

Elder Zweh will receive a stipend of \$1200 per month, for 20 hours a week, with responsibilities in preaching, pastoral care, visitation and support, evangelism and teaching, and leadership of the transformation team of the congregation. Vacation and study leave are provided, consistent with denominational policy.

**d. Extension of Interim Contract**

The Committee on Ministry approved an extension of the interim pastor relationship between the Rev. Ann Pitman and the session of First of St. Louis, University City, through April 15, 2010.

**e. Renewal of Stated Supply Relationship**

The Committee on Ministry approved the contract for Stated Supply between the Rev. John C. Johnson and the session of Mizpah Church, Bridgeton, effective January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010. The contract is for 10 hours per week, with preaching and pastoral care responsibilities, with an annual stipend of \$4,800.00.

**f. Dissolution of pastoral relationship**

In order that the way may be clear for his retirement, at the request of the pastor and with the concurrence of the congregation in a meeting held on January 31, 2010, the Committee on Ministry acted on behalf of presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Paul Kabo and the congregation of First Church, Cape Girardeau, effective February 28, 2010.

The committee acted on behalf of the presbytery to approve Rev. Kabo's retirement effective March 1, 2010, and enrolled him as an Honorably Retired member of the presbytery.

**g. Change in Terms of Call**

Following consultation with the Committee on Ministry and with the concurrence of the co-pastors, the congregation of Glendale Presbyterian Church on January 24, 2010, approved changes in the terms of call for their co-pastors, the Rev. Jay Kanerva and the Rev. Elizabeth Kanerva. The committee acted on behalf of presbytery to approve the changes in the calls, which increase Rev. Jay Kanerva's call from one-half time to three-quarter time, and decreases the call of Rev. Elizabeth Kanerva from full time to three-quarter time.

The terms of call approved for Elizabeth Kanerva are: \$32,497 effective salary; \$3000 in reimbursable professional expenses (travel and continuing education), and a social security offset of \$2486.00.

## Presbytery Stated Meeting Minutes, February 13, 2010

The terms of call for Jay Kanerva include \$28,498 in effective salary, \$3500 in reimbursable professional expenses (travel and continuing education), a social security offset of \$2180, and \$5000 Health Flexible Spending Account, along with participation in the dental and optional death benefit plan of the Board of Pensions.

The calls of both pastors include participation in the Board of Pensions plans, and study leave of 2 weeks annually, and vacation of 4 weeks.

### **2. Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

#### **a. Alternate Examination Process**

Presbytery approved on a unanimous voice vote the alternate ordination examination process recommended by the Committee on Ministry for Candidate Jerry Chang as follows (G-14.0427):

The questions asked the candidate will be offered in an oral examination format in the areas of Theological Competence, Worship and Sacraments, and Church Polity. The format for Biblical Exegesis will be written.

The questions for the oral exams will be prepared by the alternative examination committee appointed by the CPM and modeled on recent standard ordination exams, in consultation with the Rev. Dr. John McCall. (Dr. McCall is a minister member of the PCUSA, currently serving in Greensboro, N.C. His current call follows extended service on the faculty of the Taiwanese Presbyterian Seminary in Taiwan.) The Biblical Exegesis examination will be the one recently administered by the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee (PCCEC).

The oral examinations in each area will consist of 3 questions, of the type asked in the standard ordination examinations, with appropriate time offered (projected to be 20 minutes) for the candidate to respond; during the exam Rev. McCall or Rev. Jim Chi will translate the questions into Mandarin or Taiwanese, as agreed between translator and student. The exegetical exam will be offered and written in English, but extended time will be allowed for completion of the exam.

Graders for the exams will be drawn from the presbytery's pool of elders and ministers who have read standard ordination exams; none of our graders have the ability to grade the exam in either Mandarin or Taiwanese. For the oral exams, the goal is to have the questions posed by Rev. McCall or by Rev. James Chi, and to be answered by Mr. Chang in Mandarin or Taiwanese, with simultaneous translation into English. Training for the graders will be provided by Rev. Steve Ranney and Rev. Barbara Willock, both elected and experienced members of the PCCEC.

### **3. Overture to the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

The Stated Clerk, Rev. Terry Epling, reported that he had received an overture to the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly from the session of Second Presbyterian Church, St. Louis. The Rev. Mary Gene Boteler, pastor of Second Church, spoke to the overture on behalf of the session. The moderator invited discussion. Three ministers and one elder spoke to the motion; two in favor and two opposed. There being no further discussion the moderator called for the vote. Presbytery approved the following overture on a voice vote:

The Presbytery of Giddings Lovejoy respectfully concurs with the overture of Western Reserve Presbytery and submits the following additional rationale requesting the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2010) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Delete the current text of G-6.0106b, and substitute the following:

*Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G-14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.*

***Rationale***

The integrity of the church demands that those who serve in ordained office meet high standards – always seeking to live according to the life and teaching of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we affirm in the words of the Theological Declaration of Barmen:

Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death. (8.12)

And yet no person follows perfectly; each of us is entirely dependent for our salvation, and for our growth in faith and obedience, on the grace of Christ:

For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:22b-26)

The Office of Theology and Worship in a publication on *Ordination and Authority* correctly points out that the vows of ordination create a hierarchy of authority: obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, guided by the confessions, governed by the church's polity, within a collegial ministry. This demands that the ultimate authority in call is Jesus Christ, and we further recognize that a call to ministry is never the result of our perfection but of Christ's ability to make us useful, even in our imperfection.

The current text of G-6.0106b was added to the *Book of Order* in an attempt to bring closure to the issue of the ordination of persons in same-sex relationships; instead, it has brought continual contention to the Presbyterian Church (USA). It purports to apply even-handedly to all candidates, but is overwhelmingly used only to exclude gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons – many of whom exhibit abundant gifts and strong calls to ministry. With its reference to “any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin,” it has rarely or never been honestly applied to any candidate ordained or installed since its adoption.

The PCUSA has no consensus in the interpretation of Scripture on issues of same-sex practice. When convictions about important issues are so different, and so firmly-held, our long-standing Presbyterian commitment to freedom of conscience and mutual forbearance is vital to maintaining our fellowship:

That, while under the conviction of the above principle we think it necessary to make effectual provision that all who are admitted as teachers be sound in the faith, we also believe that there are truths and forms with respect to which men of good characters and principles may differ. And in all these we think it the duty both of private Christians and societies to exercise mutual forbearance toward each other. (G-1.0305)

The proposed amendment would maintain high standards for ordination and installation by renewed focus on the questions candidates must answer, but without imposing a single, highly contested interpretation of Scripture on the whole church.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Congregational Development Ministry Team**

Presbytery approved the recommendation of the Congregational Development Ministry Team, with the concurrence of the Property Committee of Mission Council, that the presbytery sell the presbytery's real property located at 9407 Manchester Road, Rock Hill, Missouri (the current location of the United African Presbyterian Fellowship, formerly Rock Hill-South Webster Presbyterian Church), at no less than fair market value as determined by the Property Committee, and that the proceeds be distributed according to the presbytery's formula (80% to the Church Development Fund and 20% to the Mission Council unrestricted fund.

#### **Rationale**

*United African Presbyterian Fellowship has been located in the Rock Hill property for five years, almost wholly supported by grant funding through Congregational Development funds. Though vitally engaged in ministry and mission with immigrants and refugees, the fellowship is not financially self-sustaining and does not anticipate becoming so in the near future. Southminster Presbyterian Church has become a mission partner congregation in support of United African Fellowship and other partners are being sought.*

*In accordance with the Welcoming Immigrant & International Christian Communities Policy, as amended by action of the Presbytery in May 2009, immigrant/refugee fellowships will ordinarily be hosted by an existing congregation of the Presbytery. Such a host congregation is being sought for United African, with the goal of relocation by the end of June 2010.*

*The Congregational Development Ministry Team will take action, from the portion of the proceeds allocated to the Church Development Fund, to establish a salary/benefits assistance fund for pastoral leaders of immigrant/refugee groups affiliated with the Presbytery, and to set aside grant funding for the host congregation to assist in renovation of space to be used by United African Fellowship if necessary.*

*The ministry team reported expenditures of \$561,008 from church development funds for immigrant ministries since September 1, 2005, distributed as follows: United African - \$359,783; Carondelet-Markham Memorial - \$135,225; Nendeni (Kenyan Fellowship) – \$66,000. In addition, mission program grants of \$105,000 have been received from General Assembly and Synod for support of Carondelet-Markham.*

## **CLOSING WORSHIP**

There being no further business the presbytery agreed without dissent to adjourn following worship. The Moderator led the presbytery into closing worship with prayer. Presbytery sang the hymn *Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory*. Worship leadership was provided by Elder Elly Commings (John Knox), Rev. Carol DeVaughan, Elder Neal Donaldson (Calvary),

Presbytery Stated Meeting Minutes, February 13, 2010

Rev. Alexandra Hendrickson, Rev. Bruce Melton, Rev. Thomas Pfizenmaier, Rev. Kimberly Skilling, Rev. William Vincent, and Elder Mike Willock. Lynn Packwood, director of music at Bonhomme Presbyterian Church, the Chanel Choir and Karen Stevenson, organist, provided music leadership.

An offering was received in support of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance earthquake relief in Haiti. Rev. Pfizenmaier and Moderator Donaldson co-presided at the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Elder Donaldson delivered the closing benediction. Presbytery adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Rev. Terry Epling,  
Stated Clerk

*The remainder of this page is intentionally blank.*