

Presbytery of Great Rivers Minutes
November 3, 2018

The Mission of the Presbytery:

"We are called to share Christ's love by partnering in service, uniting in worship, and risking in ministry"

STATED MEETING

The Presbytery of Great Rivers met in Stated Meeting November 3, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church in Galesburg, IL at 10:03am. The meeting was called to order, opened with prayer and song by Moderator-Elect Elder Gary Terpstra. The purpose of the meeting was for worship. Moderator-Elect Elder Gary Terpstra led the meeting in worship and the transaction of business. An offering was collected for the Presbyterian Christmas Joy Offering in the amount of \$540.

Acknowledgment of Native American Heritage of the Assembly Site: We meet today on the land of the Peoria, Meskwaki, and Sauk.

We were welcomed to the First Presbyterian Church of Galesburg, IL by Rev. Shawn Smith. Ecumenical Greetings were brought to us by Rev. Dr. Monica Corsaro, Director of Student Life, Knox College.

QUORUM

A quorum was declared and established through the roll of participants through the registration forms.

- Introduction of new Ruling Elder Commissioners at tables
- There were no corresponding members present.

OPENING BUSINESS

- The Assembly **MSA** the Docket as printed.

WORSHIP

Rev. Shawn Smith invited us into worship with song and prayer. The Scripture reading for this day was Ephesians 2:8-10, 13-22. Often pastors are asked if this is the worst time in American history. "The Field of Bloom" was a book that Shawn spoke about. This opening paragraph spoke about the fighting that was taking place at Polling places in the 1800's. While we might not be in the same place we once were as a country, we must be honest with what we are currently facing. How are we called to be who we are called to be in the midst of our frustrations and sadness about our current situation? We refuse to give in and say that it is just the way things are and do nothing. "We are all called to live as such time as this." God breaks down the dividing wall and calls us to walk into this reality by commanding us to love God and to love others. God takes the puzzle pieces of our lives and puts the puzzle together, not for our benefit, but for God's.

The offering was then taken for the Christmas Joy Offering which is a PCUSA Special Offering.

CURRENT BUSINESS

MSA that all written reports be entered into the permanent minutes.

Omnibus Motion: **MSA** to approve the omnibus motion that included the Stated Clerk's report, the Lead Presbyter's Report, and the Administration Team Report.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Cheyanna spoke to some changes that had occurred in the nominating committee report and asked for additional nominations to come by lunch time.

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

Rev. Drew Nagle

Motion to receive the report to add to the bylaws under Article VI, Section 6, Attendance: "Electronic participation and voting, moderated by the Leadership Team, is permissible under the guidelines of Robert's Rules." No second needed. **Approved**. This will be concluded in the February Meeting.

VISIONING TEAM REPORT

Rev. Joe Eby

Dave T. brought before the Assembly a report on what First Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville did with their \$200 talent grant. They worked with Kremmer Village as they needed to replace the roof on one of their buildings. Not only did the church participate with their funds but they also physically showed up to help and make this happen.

BILLS AND OVERTURES

Elder Gary Terpstra

The link for the Proposed Amendments is on the website and can be viewed before our February meeting. We will vote at the meeting.

SYNOD COMMISSIONER REPORT

Rev. Laura Reason

Rev. Laura brings greetings from the Synod and spoke to the programing that is taking place at the Synod level and the ways they are working for the Presbyteries. They are currently working on a coaching initiative. They also support the academy, community training, MALT, new pastor's training, covenant gatherings, Synod School, #MeToo events, and much more! There is money to give away for innovated ministry.

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

Tim Doty

Tim spoke about the work that the Illinois Conference of Churches is doing and especially the work they are doing around the polarization that is taking place in our country. This conference is funded by individuals, fundraisers, and other givers.

INTERFAITH TEAM REPORT

Elder Gary Davis

"The 95 Theses of Great Rivers Presbytery" – Rev. Ryan Landino, LPT

Lead Presbyter for Transformation Ryan Landino lead a twenty-minute discussion on the "95 Theses of Great Rivers Presbytery;" a document compiled from the 11/14/17 presbytery assembly that named ninety-five hopes for the future of the church. The conversation centered on the importance of cultivating a sanctified imagination, referencing "imaginative gridlock" from Edwin Friedman's "Failure of Nerve." The discussion questions used were: 1) *"Which two or three do you find yourself really resonating with, and why?"* 2) *"What do we need to let go of in order to embrace these hopes more fully?"* 3) *"Where in your own church do you see one of these hopes actually being realized?"* 4) *"What are some concrete steps you can do in your own context to make these hopes come alive?"* Presbyters were encouraged to take copies of the document back with their sessions and continue creating "dream spaces" that encourage imagination and innovation in our ministries.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Three confirmations students from Woodhull came to the meeting and are working on a scavenger hunt!
- Jessica Hawkinson spoke about the LUX theological institute
- Leland Wright spoke about Clinton having a Spaghetti Dinner in which everyone is invited.
- Drew Nagle: Reading ordination exams: Reading takes place at own location. February and May.
- Joyce Chamberlain: worship service at Tri City Jewish Center
- First Presbyterian of Springfield celebrated their 150th anniversary!
- December 2 will be the ordination of Jennifer Hardin at First Presbyterian of Springfield at 4pm.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Cheyanna Losey

The NC moves that all Clerks of Sessions are encouraged to send in to the Presbytery (Nominating Committee) a roster of all their ordained ruling elders. (Those currently serving on Session and those whose term has ended). No second needed. **Approved.**

The following Slate was presented. No additional nominations from the floor. **Approved.**

Administration Team (3 openings and chair)

- Rev. Joyce Chamberlain, first term, Class of 2021
- Rev. Ann Else Van Winkle, second term, Class of 2021
- Rev. Kathy Stoner-Lasala, second term, Class of 2021
- Elder Julio Garcia, CHAIR
-

COM (10 openings and chair)

- Rev. James Benson, second term, Class of 2019
- Rev. Frosty Krummel, first term, Class of 2020
- Rev. Jean Sparks, second term, Class of 2021
- Rev. Marla Bauler, second term, Class of 2021
- Rev. Shawn Smith, second term, Class of 2021
- Elder Diane Ludington, second term, Class of 2021
- Elder Mary Watts, second term, Class of 2021
- Elder Penny Frame, second term, Class of 2021
- Elder – OPEN, Class of 2021
- Elder – OPEN, Class of 2021
- Rev. Shawn Smith, Chair

CPM (6 openings and Chair)

- Rev. Becky Sherwood, second term, Class of 2019
- Elder Sue Sawers, first term, Class of 2020
- Rev. OPEN, Class of 2020
- Rev. Mark Bedford, second term, Class of 2021
- Elder – OPEN, Class of 2021
- Elder – OPEN, Class of 2021
- Rev. Matt Wilcox, Chair

Moderator-Elect

- Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle

Personnel Committee (3 openings)

- Rev. Frosty Krummel, first term, Class of 2021
- Rev. – Ann Elyse Van Winkle, first term, Class of 2021
- Elder – Mike Orr, first term, Class of 2021

PJC (4 Openings and Chair)

- Rev. Charles Cunningham, first term, Class of 2020
- Rev. Beth Hamilton, first term, Class of 2020
- Rev. Joe Eby, first term, Class of 2023
- Elder Charlie Minert, first term, Class of 2023
- Rev. Blythe Kieffer, Chair

Synod Commissioner

- Elder Penny Frame, second term

Visioning Team (8 openings and chair)

- Elder Lance Slavish, second term, Class of 2019 (correction from last meeting)
- Elder – OPEN, Class of 2019
- Rev. Jessica Hawkinson, second term, Class of 2019
- Rev. Jennifer Sakata, second term, Class of 2020

- Elder Christine Westerlund, second term, Class of 2021
- Elder – OPEN, Class of 2021
- Elder – OPEN, Class of 2021
- Rev. Erin Marth, first term, Class of 2021
- Rev. Jonathan Warren, Chair

Presbyterian Home Board

- Elder Janice Wray, Class of 2021

Thank you to everyone who has served on the committees who are now finishing their terms. Administration Team is responsible for the following nominations.

Nominating Committee (5 openings and chair) Nominated by the Administration Team

- Rev., OPEN, Class of 2019
- Elder, OPEN, Class of 2020
- Elder, OPEN, Class of 2021
- Rev., OPEN, Class of 2021
- Rev., OPEN, Class of 2021

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

Elder Kent Wurmnest

Motioned to approve and adopt the manual for Commissioned Lay Pastors. No second needed. **Approved.**

COMMITTEE ON THE PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Rev. Drew Nagle

Motion to enroll Timothy McGee in the discernment and education process for becoming a Commissioned Lay Pastor. Interview was conducted on August 30, 2018.) No Second needed. **Approved.**

Motion to record that Diane Ludington has successfully completed the competence and knowledge interview in the CLP process and the statement that she is certified ready for commission. The interview was conducted September 27, 2018. No second needed. **Approved.**

Motion that the Presbytery approve the following to be readers for the Standard Ordination Exams in 2019: No Second needed. **Approved.**

- Rev. Soren Warren
- Rev. Lawrence Doty
- Elder Sheila Sheer
- Elder Sue Sawers

CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF THE PRESBYTERY

Presentation of Ordination Certificates

- Rev. Charlotte Poetschner
- Rev. Sam Gibb
- Rev. Dr. Laura Reason
- Rev. Peggy Vogelsinger
- Rev. Darwin Smith
- Rev. Gordon Page
- Rev. Rick Tindall
- Rev. Dr. Randall Saxon
- Rev. John Porter JR
- Rev. Joseph Eby
- Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham-Kieffer
- Rev. Tim Mitchell

Presentation of Honorably Retired Certificate

- Rev. Dr. Paul Spalding

Appreciation of Departing Leadership

- Rev. Chuck Goodman, Administration Team
- Elder Kent Wurmnest, COM
- Rev. Drew Nagle, CPM
- Rev. Cheyanna Losey, Nominating Committee
- Elder Gary Davis, Treasurer
- Rev. Joe Eby, Visioning Team

Installation of Moderator, Moderator-Elect, and Lead Presbyter for Transformation

Holy Communion was celebrated with the assembly with the newly elected Moderator and Moderator-Elect administering the sacrament and serving it to the congregation.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion, no second needed, and **approved** for the assembly to request that the PGR create a task force to work with Community Presbyterian Church of Sherrard. The Moderator will appoint a task force.

The Assembly sang together in praise for God's blessings. The Moderator-Elect Rev. Maura McGrath-Nagle closed the meeting with a blessing and prayer. The assembly adjourned at 2:04pm and was declared adjourned.

The next Stated Presbytery Assembly meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at Five Points in Washington, IL.