

2010 - 59
June 11 - 12, 2010
Jamestown, North Dakota

PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS
SPECIAL MEETING
June 11 - 12, 2010
Jamestown, North Dakota

SPECIAL MEETING The Presbytery of the Northern Plains of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held a special meeting at Jamestown College, Jamestown, North Dakota, on June 11-12, 2010, beginning at 11:00 a.m.

PURPOSE & CALL In accordance with the Form of Government (G-11.0201) the purpose of the special meeting was set forth in notices sent to each minister and the session of every church on May 11, 2010, as follows:

In accordance with the Form of Government (G-11.0201) and at the request of the Presbytery Council whose membership consists of at least two ministers and two elders from different churches on March 18, 2010, to wit: the Revs. Darrel Cory (Mayville Lutheran/Gran Parish), Marli Danielson [Cooperstown], Mary Holtey [Fargo], and David Thompson [Jamestown] and Elders Pat O'Donnell (First, Grand Forks), Casey Chapman [First, Bismarck], Kevin Kaufmann [Westminster, Devils Lake], Marilyn Ogden [Mendenhall, East Grand Forks] and Lorelee Rude (Baker-Downer Westminster), a Special Meeting of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains has been called for Friday and Saturday, June 11-12, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. at Jamestown College, Jamestown, North Dakota, for the following purposes:

- (1) to continue the process for setting the Presbytery's priorities for the future, and business associated with that process, and
- (2) any other business which may properly come before the commissioners.

Pursuant to G-11.0201 (Book of Order) no other action may be taken at this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order with prayer led by Moderator Mary Holtey at 11:03 a.m. Elaine Hendrickson moved to elect Adam Copeland as Secretary Pro Tem until the stated clerk arrives. The motion carried.

The roll was taken by means of prior registration with the Presbytery office and when complete was as follows:

2010 - 60
June 11 - 12, 2010
Jamestown, North Dakota

ROLL

MINISTERS (19)

Dan Billings	Deborah Burger	Adam Copeland
Darrel Cory	Cheryl Danielson	Bob Edwards
Nancy Emerson	Gretchen Graf	Brian Hazard
Paul Henschen	Mary Jo Holtey	Richard Kargard
Steve Minnema	Donna Monteith	Deanna Reikow
Vicki Rucker	David Thompson	John Werth
Dan Wolpert		

Excused: Martin Danielson, Jake Kincaid., Keri Shelton, Matthew Stith, Gyun H. Tak, and all Honorably Retired Ministers not present.

ELDERS REPRESENTING CHURCHES (17)

Arvilla	Arlene Paulson
Casselton	Marie Koenig
Cavalier	Lynette Flage
Devils Lake	Jean Baker
East Grand Forks	Marilyn Ogden
Forest River	Frances Greer
Gilby	Vicki Bunker
Grand Forks	Pat O'Donnell
Hallock	Dorothy Bergh
Hunter	Bob Bell
Jamestown	Jim Bond
LaMoure	Cathy Scheibe
Moorhead	Gayle Mostad
Red Lake Falls	Pauline Purath
Tower City	Jane Pierce
Towner	Elaine Hendrickson
West Fargo	Bonnie Thompson

COMMISSIONED LAY PASTORS

Barb Ault
Cathy Bliss
Casey Chapman
Mark Frueh
Kevin Kaufmann
Tom Potter
Lorelee Rude

ROLL
(continued)

ELDER OFFICERS

Lorelee Rude	Vice Moderator
Cheryl Biller	Synod Commissioner
Kevin Kaufmann	CPM

NON-MEMBER PASTORS

Mark Flaten	Colgate
Dann Pageler	Walhalla

(Not Otherwise Noted)

FORMER MODERATORS

Bill Weispfenning (Jamestown) 2002
Dixon Moorhead (West Fargo) 2007

PRESBYTERY OFFICERS

Steve Minnema	Interim Executive Presbyter
Michael Lochow	Stated Clerk
Bill Cawley	Treasurer

CANDIDATES

Jessica Zolondek Under care of Greater Atlanta Presbytery

VISITORS (15)

Curt Biller (Moorhead), Lori Billings (Gilby), Russ Bunker (Gilby), Laurie Elhard (Staff), Anita Erickson (Colgate), Sharon Johnson (Colgate), Doreen Larson (Jamestown), Melanie Mewes (Colgate), Marlene Motter (Colgate), Katie Nettell (Devils Lake), Everett Paulson (Arvilla), Dale Shook (Fargo), Diane Weispfenning (Jamestown), Susan Wismer (South Dakota), and Frank Zolondek.

Total Attendance - 67

Stated Clerk Michael Lochow joined the meeting.

CORRES-
PONDING
MEMBERS

VOICE

Presbytery **voted to enroll** as a corresponding member the Rev. Susan Coller (Minnesota Valleys Executive Presbyter) and Susan Wismer (South Dakota Presbytery). Privilege of the floor and voice was given to Nancy Legerski (Certified Lay Pastor), Lynette Flage (Elder, Cavalier) and Dale Shook (Elder, Fargo) and to those ministers present from other denominations who are serving pulpits in the Presbytery of the Northern Plains and are not temporary members.

2010 - 62
June 11 - 12, 2010
Jamestown, North Dakota

It was moved and approved that those persons attending workshops be given voice for this meeting as well.

QUORUM The clerk advised that a quorum was present and the Moderator declared a quorum present. A quorum as stated in the Bylaws, Article IV, B-4.0500 is as follows: *A quorum of the Presbytery shall be any three minister members and the elder members present, provided that at least three particular churches are represented by elders.*

AGENDA It was moved that the agenda be approved, as amended, by adding the following items during the 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting on Saturday, June 12, 2010:

1. A report from the Nominating Committee.
2. A vote on the priorities which were discerned during the 3:00 p.m. agenda item on Friday, June 11, 2010.

First-time commissioners and visitors were introduced.

Zolondek
Preached
Examined Jessica Zolondek, a candidate under care of the Greater Atlanta Presbytery and certified by that presbytery as ready to receive a call, was presented for examination for ordination. Rev. David Thompson moved that she be given privilege of the floor and voice which was approved. Zolondek preached as part of the opening worship service. Following the reading of her statement of faith, Jessica answered questions from the floor.

Examination
Successful Catherine Bliss moved that the examination be arrested and the commissioners approved. Zolondek was excused from the meeting. Commissioners declared the examination to be successful and that Jessica Zolondek be approved for ordination pending the approval of her call.

COM The following Committee on Ministry recommendations were approved with the amendment as indicated to item #4:

Zolondek
Terms of Call

1. That the Presbytery of the Northern Plains, under the provisions of G-11.0411 validate as a ministry of service beyond the jurisdiction of the church the position of full-time chaplain at Trinity Health Systems in Minot, ND, for candidate Jessica Zolondek. Such service does comply, without exception, with the criteria enumerated in G-11.0403 for active membership in the presbytery. It should be noted that the Form of Government requires that "such permission shall be subject to review and renewal annually."

COM
(continued)

Committee on Ministry (continued)

2. That the presbytery find the terms of the contract adequate (e.g. within the presbytery's minimum guidelines). They are as follows: "her annual salary will be \$37,000, plus a \$3,900 call package," and that it permit her to enter into the contract.
3. That the presbytery upon her ordination as a minister of Word and Sacrament, authorize Rev. Zolondek to administer the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper in her position as chaplain at Trinity Health Systems of Minot, ND.

Zolondek
Commission

4. That the presbytery create an administrative commission consisting of vice-moderator Lorelee Rude, the Reverends Bob Edwards and Cathy Hedmark (ELCA), Cliff Nelson (UMC), elders Mark Frueh (Minot) and Tammy Ericson (Buffalo), to ordain Candidate Zolondek on August 1, 2010 at the First Presbyterian Church of Minot *and one additional Presbyterian minister from this presbytery to be added later.*

Zolondek
member on
ordination

5. That the presbytery upon her ordination, enroll Reverend Jessica Zolondek as a minister member of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains.

Recess

Presbytery recessed for lunch at 12:20 p.m.

SUE
COLLER

Following lunch the Rev. Sue Collier presented the keynote address titled "How to Teach Old Churches New Tricks."

Following the afternoon break the commissioners broke into groups for the order of business titled "Discerning Our Priorities Going Forward."

WORSHIP

Worship in Voorhees Chapel followed the evening meal. Those participating in the worship service were the Revs. Adam Copeland, Cheri Danielson and Bob Edwards; Elders Lorelee Rude and Mark Frueh; and musicians Bill Wojnar (organ) and Mary Reed (flute) with Copeland preaching.

Saturday, June 12, 2010

Workshops

The meeting convened 8:00 a.m. with Saturday morning with prayers. The commissioners were dismissed to attend the workshops of choice. The first round of workshops included: Examen: A Technique for Prayerful Discernment (Dan Wolpert); Best Practices in Community Mission (Sue Collier) and Empowering Creative Leadership (Leadership Task Force). The second round of workshops included

Partnering With Chogoria (Nancy Legerski), Social Capital in Your Community (Lynette Flage), Best Practices in Creative Worship (Deanna Reikow) and Finding Peace in the Midst of Conflict (Gretchen Graf).

BUSINESS
MEETING

Oil Lease

The business portion of the meeting began at 11:07 a.m. with the report of the Corporate Affairs Committee of Council presented by Michael Lochow, secretary. The report contained two items of business. The first item regarded the oil lease with Marathan Oil which the Presbytery authorized at the October 2009 meeting. The Presbytery has been advised that the First Presbyterian Church of Werner, ND, closed in 1958 and the title to the church property remained in the name of the Werner church rather than being transferred to presbytery. The Corporate Affairs Committee recommended and the Presbytery voted to approve taking the action necessary to transfer the title to the land which was the site of the First Presbyterian Church of Werner to the Presbytery of the Northern Plains.

Grand Forks
request to sell
organ

The second item was a request from the First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks, ND, to sell their organ. The Corporate Affairs Committee of Council recommended the following: *That the Presbytery of the Northern Plains delegate to its Council the authority, after an appropriate examination of the process followed in the Grand Forks Church leading to that church's request for permission to sell its organ, to decide within two months of the adjournment of this meeting whether or not to give that permission.*

Following debate Tom Potter moved to substitute the following motion for the main motion:

That the Presbytery approve sale of the organ on the basis of the vote by the First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks.

The moderator declared the main motion to be perfected. Casey Chapman offered an amendment to the substitute motion which the chair ruled to be out of order as it was in the form of another motion rather than an amendment.

It was then moved to amend the substitute motion by inserting the words "whether real or personal" between the words "organ" and "on" so the motion would read as follows: *That the Presbytery approve sale of the organ, whether real or personal, on the basis of the vote by the First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks.* The motion was approved and the moderator declared the substitute motion perfected.

The commissioners then voted to substitute the substitute motion for the main motion. Following that vote the commissioners voted to approve the new main motion (substitute motion, as amended).

COUNCIL

The written report of the Presbytery Council was presented by Pat O'Donnell. It contained two action items from Council minutes [See, Appendix 1] which were approved in the following form:

Appendix 1

COM
membership to
fifteen

1. To recommend to Presbytery that the bylaws be amended to provide for a Committee on Ministry of fifteen members with the new member's terms staggered [one, two and three year terms] to keep the individual classes on the Committee equal in size.

Presbytery -
Four meetings
per year

2. To recommend to Presbytery that the bylaws be amended to include the four meetings a year plan in the following form with the option to expand a meeting to two days and the new schedule to begin with the June 2011 meeting:

Four meetings a year:

Month - Location:	March - Northeast; June - West; September - Southeast, December - Video Conference
Length:	March - 2 day; June - 1 day; September - 1 day; December - 1 day.
Days of week:	March - Fri/Sat; June - Monday; September - Saturday; December - Saturday by video conference.

The December location in Month-Location was amended to be consistent with the language in Days of the Week by substituting "Video Conference" for the word "Northeast."

COM
(continued)

The remaining portion of the report of the Committee on Ministry was presented by Dale Shook (Fargo). On recommendation of the Committee the following action items were approved:

Hazard temp.
member

1. The Reverend Brian Hazard (UMC) be enrolled as a temporary member of the Presbytery for so long as he continues to serve the churches in Tower City and Buffalo. (In accordance with G-11.0405a)

Frueh full-time
at Minot

2. A revision in the local commission of Commissioned Lay Pastor Mark Frueh with the First Presbyterian Church of Minot. The revision approved by session increases Frueh's hours from the current three days per week to full time. The new terms are:

COM
(continued)

Committee on Ministry (continued)

Frueh terms

- Annual salary of \$43,000
- SECA of \$3,320
- Retirement contribution of \$2,000
- Continuing Education of \$600 and two week
- Vacation of four weeks
- Medical Insurance allowance of \$4,800
- Effective June 1, 2010

**Sveet call to
LaMoure &
Edgeley**

3. In light of congregational approval at a meeting on April 26, 2010, the call of the LaMoure and Edgeley Churches to the Rev. Elaine Bidgood Sveet as part-time pastor, effective October 1, 2010, according to the following terms:

Terms of Call

- a. That you may be free to devote an average of 20 hours per week to the ministry of Word and Sacrament among us, we promise to obligate ourselves to pay you in regular monthly payments the following effective salary and the following vouchered expenses:
- i. Cash salary: \$20,000; fair rental value of manse: \$6,000.
TOTAL \$26,000
 - ii. Reimbursable expenses (by voucher): automobile expense (IRS rate): \$4,000; SECA Supplement (up to 50%); \$1,989; continuing education: \$500; moving costs (up to) \$5,000.
 - iii. Full medical, pension, disability and death benefits coverage under the Board of Pensions; paid vacation of five weeks; paid continuing education of two weeks.

**Sveet member
upon receipt of
credentials**

4. Upon receipt of her credentials from the United Church of Canada and her successful completion of required background checks, the Reverend Elaine Bidgood Sveet be enrolled as a minister member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and an active member of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains.

**Sveet moderate
LaMoure &
Edgeley**

5. Upon her enrollment, the Reverend Bidgood Sveet be named moderator of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgeley and the First Presbyterian Church of LaMoure, effective October 1, 2010.

**Emerson
dissolution**

6. To concur with the request of the Rev. Nancy Emerson and the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead, MN, that their pastoral relationship be dissolved, effective July 1, 2010.

**Emerson
member-at-
large**

7. Following the dissolution of this relationship that the Rev. Nancy Emerson be designated as a member at large of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains. (G-11.0406b)

NOMINATING
Wolpert
Clearwater
Board

The report of the Nominating Committee was given by the Rev. Darrel Cory. He placed in nomination for a seat on the Clearwater Forest Board of Directors, the name of the Rev. Daniel Wolpert. There were no nominations from the floor and Rev. Wolpert was elected.

O'Donnell
Moderator Pro
Tem

Action on the Presbytery priorities was postponed until after the lunch break. Moderator Holtey had to return to Fargo to attend to other commitments and Vice Moderator Lorelee Rude was unavailable, so without objection Elder Pat O'Donnell was appointed moderator pro tem for the remainder of the meeting.

Groups Priority
Reports

The presbytery convened after lunch with a prayer by the Rev. Steve Minnema. Each group which had considered a topic reported the following:

Group 1:

Assignment: To identify the presbytery's top priority as we seek to build stronger connections between the presbytery and its congregations.

Response: To emphasize sister church relationships within the presbytery for purposes of support and encouragement and including:

- The sharing of best practices
- Worship exchanges

Group 2:

Assignment: To identify the presbytery's top priority as we seek to reclaim our heritage as Presbyterians.

Response: To become more Presbyterian, we feel that people need to know what that means. We recommend the development and use of uniform materials for use in congregations. These could:

- Be age appropriate for pre-confirmation, confirmation and adults (Christian education, elder and deacon training)
- Be divided into segments for use in several sessions.

Group 3:

Assignment: To identify the presbytery's top priority as we seek to empower leadership in our congregations.

Response: To offer combined elder and clergy retreats determined by region and size. The could:

- Focus on the dynamics of vision (Where are we? Where do we go?) and ministry (which includes empowering congregations)
- Leadership to come from within and outside the presbytery

Group 4:

Assignment: To identify the presbytery's top priority as we seek to join together in mission.

Response: To continue the conversation now beginning to discern the future shape of presbytery's mission beyond itself.

Priority Report
(continued)

Group 5:

Assignment: To identify the presbytery's top priority as we seek to nurture ministry in and through our congregations.

Response: As we believe that every person is gifted and every gathering of people is gifted, we believe that the presbytery's priority needs to be to encourage the offering of these gifts. This should include staff support responsible for connecting people to the work they are called to do.

Group 6:

Assignment: To identify the presbytery's top priority as we seek to improve our communication.

Response: To make crossing the digital divide (such as introducing video conferencing, webinars, on line meetings, Twitter, etc.) part of our ministry, enabling this in every congregation. This should include:

- Additional staff, i.e., a Creative Technology Advocate, to enable congregations to connect with Christ's mission in the world.

Priorities referred
to Council

It was moved and seconded to endorse the priorities as discerned. It was then moved to amend the motion to read: "To endorse the priorities as discerned and refer to Council for further discussion." The amended motion was carried and the main motion as amended was passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 1:33 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Michael R. Lochow, Stated Clerk

THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS BLANK