

2008 - 38 -  
 April 25 - 26, 2008  
 United Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, North Dakota

**PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS  
 NINETY-FOURTH STATED MEETING**

April 25 - 26, 2008

United Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, North Dakota

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its stated meeting at the United Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, North Dakota, on April 25 - 26, 2008, beginning at 11:00 a.m.

STATED  
MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Moderator David Thompson with a prayer. The roll was taken by means of registration blanks filled out by attendees. The following ministers were present unless otherwise noted:

CALL TO  
ORDER &  
OPENING  
PRAYER

P - Present; E - Excused; A - Absent; HR - Ministers Honorably Retired, excused if absent; LOB - Ministers laboring outside the bounds of the Presbytery, excused if absent. (Numbers preceding ministers' names are ecclesiastical occupational designations).

ROLL  
(Ministers)

**MINISTERS** (21)

	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Meeting #</u>		
			<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
151	Anderson, John (UMC)	Lisbon	A	P	
151	Chesnut, Kathleen (UCC)	Belfield	A	A	
299	Christman, Dave (HR)		E	E	
111	Cory, Darrel	Tri-County Parish	P	P	
299	Cunningham, Dale (HR)		E	E	
118	Danielson, Cheryl	Tri-County Parish	P	P	
118	Danielson, Marlin	Tri-County Parish	P	P	
151	Dealey, Byron (ECNA)	Langdon	P	A	
109	Dove, Ben (HR)		E	E	
101	Edwards, Robert	Minot	P	E	
101	Emerson, Nancy	Moorhead	P	P	
151	Gale, Lee (UMC)	Grafton	P	A	
299	Gibbs, John G. (HR)		E	E	
101	Graf, Gretchen Daneke	Grand Forks	P	P	
299	Graham, Ron (HR)		E	E	
299	Green, Joseph F. (HR)				EE
103	Holtey, Mary Jo	Fargo	P	P	
151	Kersey-Russell, Jeanie (UMC)	Arvilla/Emerado	A	P	
101	Kincaid, Jacob	Bismarck	P	P	
101	Kuhn, Paul	Rolla - St. John	P	P	
151	Lavery, Tom (UMC)	Bottineau	E	E	
791	Meier, Mindy	Bdecan	A	P	
111	Monteith, Donna	Grandin/Hunter	P	P	

2008 - 39 -  
 April 25 - 26, 2008  
 United Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, North Dakota

ROLL (continued)	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Meeting #</u>		
			1	2	3
299	Potter, Doris (HR)		E	E	
101	Reikow, Deanna	Mandan	P	P	
103	Rucker, Vicki	Bismarck	P	E	
299	Roy, Emery (HR)		E	E	
299	Scherbenske, Marvin (HR)		E	E	
101	Shelton, Keri	East Grand Forks	P	P	
101	Shive, Steven	Fargo	E	P	
101	Stith, Matthew	West Fargo	P	P	
797	Swanson, Joan	LaMoure/Edgeley	P	P	
101	Thompson, David L	Jamestown	P	P	
302	Traylor, Charles	Exec Presbyter	P	A	
103	Tweit, Julie	Fargo	A	A	
151	Vorlage, Timothy (UMC)	Nekoma	A	A	
644	Watts, Gary	Jamestown College	A	A	
797	Werth, Amanda		E	E	
111	Werth, John	Cavalier	P	P	
101	Wolpert, Dan	Crookston	P	P	
101	Woodford, Don	Hallock	E	E	

The following churches were represented by elders as indicated ( E - excused, — not represented, without excuse): (19)

Angus, Angus-Tabor:	—
Argyle, Community Presbyterian:	—
Arvilla, Arvilla Presbyterian:	—
Baker, Westminister Presbyterian:	—
Bathgate, First Presbyterian:	—
Belfield, First Presbyterian:	—
Bismarck, First Presbyterian: (1)	—
(2)	—
Bismarck, Glencoe Sloan Memorial:	—
Bottineau, United Parish:	—
Buffalo, First Presbyterian:	Bill Grieve
Calvin, Glenila Presbyterian:	—
Casselton, Westminister Presbyterian:	—
Cavalier, Cavalier Presbyterian:	—
Colgate, Colgate Presbyterian:	—
Cooperstown, First Presbyterian:	Paul Motter
Crookston, First Presbyterian:	—
Devils Lake, Westminister Presbyterian:	Jean Baker
Dilworth, Dilworth Presbyterian:	—
East Grand Forks, Mendenhall:	Marilyn M. Ogden
Edgeley, First Presbyterian:	—
Ellendale, Presbyterian-U Methodist:	—

2008 - 40 -  
 April 25 - 26, 2008  
 United Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, North Dakota

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<b>ROLL</b> (continued)		<b>ROLL</b> (continued)
Emerado, Emerado Presbyterian:	—	
Fairview, Community Presbyterian:	—	
Fargo, First Presbyterian: (1)	Eric Johnson	
(2)	—	
Fordville, Community Presbyterian:	—	
Forest River, Community Presbyterian:	—	
Gilby, Gilby Presbyterian	Vicki Bunker	
Grafton, Federated Church:	Jane Thompson	
Grand Forks, First Presbyterian:	Pat O'Donnell	
Grandin, Grandin Presbyterian:	Donna Preston	
Hallock, First Presbyterian:	—	
Hamilton, First Presbyterian:	—	
Hannah, Hannah Presbyterian:	—	
Hazelton, First Presbyterian:	—	
Hunter, First Presbyterian:	E	
Inkster, Inkster Presbyterian:	—	
Jamestown, United Presbyterian:	Mark Love	
LaMoure, First Presbyterian:	—	
Langdon, Presbyterian Church of Langdon:	Eleanor Sand	
Lisbon, First Presbyterian:	—	
Mandan, First Presbyterian:	Stephen Schroeder	
Minnewaukan, First Presbyterian:	—	
Minot, First Presbyterian: (1)	Betty Hill	
(2)	—	
Minto, Knox Presbyterian:	Ellen Misialek	
Moorhead, First Presbyterian:	Elizabeth Swee	
Nekoma, Nekoma Presbyterian:	—	
Oakes, First Presbyterian:	—	
Park River, Federated Church:	—	
Pillsbury, Baldwin:	—	
Portal, First Presbyterian:	—	
Red Lake Falls, First Presbyterian:	—	
Rhame, Lyle Presbyterian:	—	
Rolla, Presbyterian Church of Rolla/St. John:	—	
Rugby, Emmanuel United Church:	—	
Ryder, Calvary Presbyterian:	—	
Steele, First Presbyterian:	—	
Tower City, Tower City:	Mary Cockerill	
Towner, Towner Presbyterian:	Elaine J. Hendrickson	
Walhalla, Park Center-Walhalla:	—	
Watford City, First Presbyterian:	—	
Webster, Webster Chapel:	Wayne Lindenberg	
West Fargo, Community Presbyterian:	Boots Misheski	
Westhope, First Presbyterian:	—	

ROLL (continued)      **ROLL** (continued)  
Willow City, First Presbyterian:      —  
Wilton, First Presbyterian:      —

**CANDIDATES/INQUIRERS**

Curtis Brophy

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

Rev. Andy Kennaly (Clearwater Forest)

**ELDERS WITH VOICE AND VOTE(Present unless otherwise noted)**

**COMMISSIONED LAY PASTORS**

Ken Adams (UCC)  
Catherine Bliss      E  
Don Casmey      A  
Mark Frueh      A  
Kevin Kaufmann  
Rick Larson      A  
Dixon Moorhead  
Lorelee Rude      A  
Thomas Potter      A  
Bill Weispfenning

**ELDER OFFICERS**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Name</b>	
Vice Moderator	Pat O'Donnell (Grand Forks)	
Council Chair	Dixon Moorhead (West Fargo)	
CO Nominations/Session Rec	Don Hariman (Grand Forks)	E
GA Commissioner	Lana Schultz (Casselton)	
SDOP	Diane Wray Williams (Moorhead)	A
Synod Commissioner	Cheryl Biller (Moorhead)	
Presbyterian Women	Elizabeth Swee (Moorhead)	

(Not otherwise noted)

**FORMER MODERATORS**

None

**NON-MEMBER PASTORS**

Paul Keil (Fordville/Park River)

**PRESBYTERY OFFICERS**

Charles Traylor    Executive Presbyter  
Michael R. Lochow    Stated Clerk  
Bill Weispfenning    Treasurer

2008 - 42 -  
 April 25 - 26, 2008  
 United Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, North Dakota

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**VISITORS - 3**

Laurie Elhard (Staff), Harvey Sand (Langdon) and Russ Bunker (Gilby)

ROLL  
(continued)

**SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCE**

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Ministers	21	6	14
Commissioners	19	48	1
Elder Officers	5	1	1
Former Moderators	0(4)		
Comm Lay Pastors	4(10)	5	1
Candidates/Inquirers	1		
Corresponding Members	1		
Non-Member Pastors	1		
Presbytery Officers/Elder	1(2)		
Visitors	3		
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>17</b>

Summary of  
Attendance

A quorum was present and members were reminded of how roll was taken.

QUORUM

Presbytery voted to enroll as a corresponding member the Rev. Andy Kennaly [Program Director, Clearwater Forest] and granted privilege of the floor and voice to Curtis Brophy [Inquirer candidate] and those ministers present from other denominations who are serving pulpits in the Presbytery of the Northern Plains and are not temporary members.

CORRES-  
PONDING  
MEMBERS

Voice

First-time commissioners and visitors were introduced.

The reports of the Presbytery Council and the Stated Clerk were removed from the Consent Agenda which, consisting of the reports of the following individuals and committees, if any, were received and approved, where appropriate:

CONSENT  
CALENDAR

- Executive Presbyter
- Committee on Representation
  - Social Concerns/Mission Advocacy Ministry Team
  - Emerging Churches Coaching Team
  - Commissioners to Synod
  - Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery
  - Sexual Misconduct Response Coordinating Team
  - Presbyterians for Restoring Creation
  - Older Adult Ministry
  - Nominating Committee

The agenda prepared for the meeting by the Stated Clerk after consultation with Presbytery Council, as amended, was approved.

AGENDA

David Thompson extended greetings from the host church. Thompson outlined allowable street parking and noted that meals will be in the fellowship hall with a freewill offering.

STATED CLERK The report of the Stated Clerk was received and the following recommendations were **adopted**:

(Minutes) 1. **Minutes.** The minutes of the January 25, 2008, stated meeting were approved with the following corrections:

- a. On page 2008-1 changing the occupational designations for Cheryl and Marlin Danielson from 111 to 118;
- b. On page 2008-4 to add Elaine Hendrickson as the elder commissioner from Towner Presbyterian;
- c. On page 2008-5 to add Charlene Gault (Rugby) as a visitor and to make the corresponding adjustments in the Summary of Attendance: Commissioners present from 21 to 22 and absent from 45 to 44, and visitors from 6 to 7; and
- d. On page 2008-13 Necrology Report 2007 to correct the spelling of Gerald Fagerlund from the Presbyterian Church of Rolla/St. John.

(PJC Roster) 2. **ROSTER OF RECENTLY RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION (PJC).** In accordance with the provisions of the **Rules of Discipline (D-5.0206b)**, **the following roster of names of those members of the Permanent Judicial Commission whose terms have expired within the past six years be spread upon the minutes:**

Class of 2006 - Elders Arnie Boyum and Delton Roelofs and Minister David Thompson  
Class of 2004 - Elders Kevin Kaufman  
Class of 2003 - Elder Fern Watkins

(Insurance) 3. **INSURANCE.** In compliance with the Book of Order (G-11.0308) requirement that **“The Presbytery shall obtain property and liability insurance coverage to protect its facilities, programs, staff, and elected and appointed officers”** and the Synod of the Lakes and Prairies requirement that **the extent of such insurance coverage be noted annually in the Presbytery minutes**, the Presbytery of the Northern Plains spread upon its minutes that it currently has in force and effect the following insurance coverage:

Premises - personal property	\$ 191,600
General liability	
(other than products-completed aggregate limit)	\$ 3,000,000
Products-completed operations	\$ 3,000,000

2008 - 44 -  
 April 25 - 26, 2008  
 United Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, North Dakota

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Stated Clerk (continued)

Personal and advertising injury Each occurrence limit	\$ 1,000,000	(Insurance, continued)
	\$	
	1	
	,	
	0	
	0	
	0	
	,	
	0	
	0	
	0	
Property damage limit (any one occurrence)	\$ 1,000,0 00	
Medical expense limit (any one person)	\$ 2,000	
Sexual misconduct	\$ 250,000/\$500,0 00	(Annual Statistical Report)
Employers liability endorsement		
Bodily injury by accident	\$ 500,000	
Bodily injury by disease	\$	
	5	
	0	
	0	
	,	
	0	
	0	
	0	
Aggregate limit for bodily injury or disease	\$ 500,000	
Employee dishonesty	\$ 250,000	
Forgery or alteration - depositors forgery	\$ 10,000	

The insurance is carried through Vaaler Ins. Inc. at an annual cost of \$3363.00.  
 The current policy covers the period from October 30, 2007, through October  
 30, 2008.

2008 - 45 -  
 April 25 - 26, 2008  
 United Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, North Dakota

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Stated Clerk  
 (cont)  
 (Statistics,  
 continued)

Stated Clerk (continued)

AFFILIATE MEMBERS -25 [69]  
 AVERAGE CHURCH ATTENDANCE - 2,815 [2,736]  
 BAPTISMS: Children - 76 [86]; Adults - 4 [7]  
 ELDERS: Male - 201 [196]; Female - 183[175]; Total - 384 [371]  
 DEACONS: Male - 45 [43]; Female - 112 [109]; Total - 157 [152]  
 AGE DISTRIBUTION  
 25 & Under - 1,007 [1,094] 26-35 - 1,088 [1252] 36-55 - 953 [999]  
 56-64 - 971 [967] 65 & Over - 1,884 [1941]

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Hearing: 231 [242] Mobility: 252 [263] Sight: 72 [71] Other: 130 [113]

RACIAL ETHNIC COMPOSITION

	Membership	Elders	Deacons
Asian	14 [20]	0 [0]	0 [0]
Black	27 [28]	0 [0]	1 [1]
Native American	65 [27]	5 [0]	3 [0]
Hispanic	4 [3]	1 [0]	1 [0]
White	5,535 [6291]	351 [342]	153[147]
Other	2 [2]	0 [0]	0 [0]

CHILDREN SCHOOL: ENROLLMENT BY AGE GROUP

Birth - 3	70 [117]	Age 4	62 [75]	Kindergarten	71 [94]
Grade 1	91 [66]	Grade 2	57 [83]	Grade 3	77 [68]
Grade 4	64 [76]	Grade 5	54 [99]	Grade 6	84 [81]
Grade 7	72 [69]	Grade 8	79 [88]	Grade 9	78 [76]
Grade 10	63 [81]	Grade 11	51 [72]	Grade 12	42 [64]
Young Adults	133 [46]	Over 25	263 [513]	Teacher/Officer	267 [227]
Total: 1,832 [2133]					

FINANCES

Potential Giving Units -	3,301 [3,617]
Budgeted Income	4,152,147 [3,842,990]
Budget Expense	4,697,482[4,575,444]
Receipts	
Regular Contributions	3,810,933 [4,030,565]
Capital and Building Funds	667,043 [764,653]
Investment and Endowment	513,276 [436,387]
Bequests	162,557 [125,423]
Other income	446,707 [385,068]
Subsidy or Aid	0 [ 387,000]

2008 - 46 -  
 April 25 - 26, 2008  
 United Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, North Dakota

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Stated Clerk (continued)

Stated Clerk  
(continued)

Expenditures

Local Program	3,812,839,241 [3,456,241]
Local Mission	309,226 [350,770]
Capital Expenditures	971,155 [1,367,391]
Investment Expenditures	145,436 [101,389]
Per Capita Apportionment	184,243 [164,579]
Validated Mission	180,284 [187,076]
Theological Education Fund	2,775 [3,375]
Other Mission	66,206 [180,776]

Gretchen Graf noted that the insurance numbers were reduced when the office closed and a refund check has been received.

The written report of the Treasurer Bill Weispfenning was received and consisted of a narrative statement, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Activities, and Dedicated Accounts all for the period ending March 31, 2008. [See **Appendix 1**] He specifically spoke of per capita, general mission giving, and new accounts in the statements.

TREASURER

(App 1)

Bill Weispfenning reported on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee. The Committee is asking that requests for next year be submitted by July 31<sup>st</sup>. The budget should be ready for approval at the October meeting of Presbytery. The Committee will be preparing budgets for two years forward so they are asking committees to look at their needs for 2010, as well.

BUDGET &  
FINANCE

Presbytery took a brief break at 11:25 a.m. and reconvened at 11:32 a.m.

Worship was led by the LaMoure Readers Theater which presented "Christ in the Concrete City". Worship ended with a prayer offered by David Thompson.

Worship -  
LaMoure  
Readers  
Theater

Presbytery broke for lunch at 12:27 p.m. and reconvened at 1:22 p.m.

The Presbyterian Church of Grandin, North Dakota, presented two grant requests, which were approved: (1) to purchase a grocery scale for the Dorothy Day Food Pantry in Moorhead, Minnesota; and (2) to pay shipping costs to send school books to Malawi Africa.

(Grandin grant  
requests)

Presbytery Council presented a request from the Willow City First Presbyterian Church Closing Commission to sell the land upon which the church currently sits. Any sale proceeds will be first applied to the cost of demolition of the church building, second to the purchase of a plaque celebrating the work of God in Willow City and beyond through the offices of the First Presbyterian Church.

COUNCIL  
(Willow City  
Closing Comm.  
Property  
request)

2008 - 47 -  
April 25 - 26, 2008  
United Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, North Dakota

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- (Zutz & Wagar nominated)** Presbytery Council nominated Joanne Zutz (Red Lake Falls) and Edie Wagar (Towner) for terms on the Nominating Committee ending in 2010. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Zutz and Wagar passed.
- COM The written report of the Committee on Ministry was received and presented by Deanna Reikow. There were no action items.
- CPM  
**(Brophy inquirer)** On behalf of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry Mary Holtey moved to receive Curtis Brophy as an Inquirer. Brophy was introduced to the commissioners and talked about his faith journey. The motion carried. Holtey also reported that Sandy Goehring Podoll has passed all of her ordination exams. She has been accepted at Union Seminary in a PhD program in church history and will begin her studies this fall.
- CHOGORIA  
PARTNER-  
SHIP Matt Stith reported that the political situation in Kenya has improved dramatically. They now believe they can proceed with their planned trip.
- CLEAR-  
WATER  
FOREST Rev. Any Kennaly, Program Director at Clearwater Forest, spoke of his recent arrival. He talked about his background and presented a history of Clearwater Forest.
- YOUTH  
COUNCIL David Thompson presented a written report for the Youth Connection Council. About 80 youth attended a retreat last weekend. There will be a youth conference at Jamestown College on June 6, 7 & 8. The summer mission trip is full. Thompson thanked the Presbyterian Women for their monetary contribution to the youth programs.
- SESSION  
RECORDS  
**(Policy Changes)** The Session Records Committee presented proposed language changes to the Presbytery's Manual of Operations. Changes were proposed at the January 2008 stated meeting and referred back to the Sessions Records Committee for possible changes in accordance with the discussion that occurred at the January 2008 meeting. The Committee again proposed the same language changes. The Committee proposed that the language in P-6.0108, A. *Review the session minutes and congregational rolls of each church in the presbytery once each year*, be changed to:
1. Discontinue the present practice of reading records and rolls at meetings of presbytery especially in recognition that we are considering new ways to "do" presbytery meetings. This will allow members of the committee, who are also commissioners and voters to fully participate in the deliberations of the meeting.

2. Designated reading activities be designated at sites in each of the quadrants of the presbytery in each calendar year. This reading activity will be overseen by members of the committee.
3. Clerks of session especially and moderators of session in each quadrant be expected to be present with their books annually and fully participate in the procedures which will both train and explain the necessity for the various methods used in compiling information. The reading sessions will also be a forum for the exchange of ideas which can be helpful at the time and also be of value to Council and Presbytery. This is a “bottom up” activity for information.
4. Reports will be made to presbytery as they occur and as a formal annual report naming complying and non-complying congregations.

John Werth moved and the presbytery **approved** the following amendment to the policy as proposed:

Retain paragraphs 1, 2, and 4 unchanged and in paragraph 3 replace “Clerks of session especially and moderators of session in each quadrant be expected to be present with their books annually” and add a sentence to the end of the paragraph so the paragraph now reads

Either the clerk of session or moderators of session are expected to present their record books annually. The moderators and clerk are urged to attend and fully participate in the procedures which will both train and explain the necessity for the various methods used in compiling information. The reading sessions will also be a forum for the exchange of ideas which can be helpful at the time and also be of value to Council and Presbytery. This is a “bottom up” activity for information. Whether or not a specific church’s clerk or moderator is present to participate in these readings, the church is expected to present their records for review.

Steve Shive moved to delete the last added sentence and approve the policy as amended. The motion passed on a vote of 27 yes, 10 no, with 2 abstentions.

Paul Kuhn reported for the Willow City Church Closing Commission. They just need to sell their property and will issue their final report at the October meeting of Presbytery.

Willow City  
Closing  
Commission

The written report of the Administrative Commission for the Grand Forks church was presented by Nancy Emerson. The report of the Administrative Commission was the following:

Grand Forks  
Admin  
Commission

( GF Admin  
Commission)

Grand Forks Admin Commission (continued)

The administrative commission assigned to work with the First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks has been at work for approximately 15 months. In that time, the commission met regularly and observed the session as it conducted business, the congregation at annual and congregational meetings, and the pastor as she moderated. In addition, at the request of the session, the commission reviewed several processes used by the session in their work. The administrative commission deems the following to be true, and has reported this to the congregation:

1. the ruling elders have behaved appropriately and with integrity;
2. the pastor, Rev. Graf, has acted appropriately and done her job well and honestly;
3. processes used by this session to do their work, specifically nominating, staff review, and membership review, are appropriate and in accordance with the Book of Order;
4. the existing session has a solid foundation on which to begin their work.

The administrative commissioners have also observed the session to be faithfully following and implementing a vision of what God is calling this church in Grand Forks to be and where it is to be led. The elders, pastor, and staff have tried very hard to allow each member and participant to see and discern how they can find their place in the diverse mission to which the session believes and continues to reaffirm this church to be called. One of the more painful challenges created in that effort has been to honor those who have had a difficult time finding their place in this mission. The commission affirms and encourages the growth that continues to be realized in the faithful expression of this session to lead the church in the mission God calls them to in their community.

The commission believes the greatest assistance they were able to provide was to affirm the work of the elders, pastor, clerk, and staff in the wake of complaints directed at them. No specific habits, processes, or other behaviors were found to require targeted coaching or correction. It is notable that the session always welcomed the commission's presence, listened attentively to comments and suggestions made by commissioners, and expressed gratitude for our presence and work with them.

It is the intention of the commission to continue in this current year to monitor session meeting agendas, reports, and minutes by correspondence, and to be available for assistance as requested by the session.

2008 - 50 -  
April 25 - 26, 2008  
United Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, North Dakota

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The commissioners next listened to and participated in the Good News segment.

GOOD  
NEWS

The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The Planning Retreat was conducted from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Worship, including the celebration of Communion, was held beginning at 7:00 p.m.

(Planning  
Retreat)

The Planning Retreat continued on Saturday, April 5, 2008, beginning at 9:00 a.m. with the closing worship held at 11:30 a.m. The closing worship included the commissioning of the Chogoria travelers and the General Assembly commissioners.

***The next meeting of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains is scheduled for October 3 -4, 2008, at First Presbyterian Church, Moorhead, Minnesota, beginning at 1:00 p.m.***

Next Meeting

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael R. Lochow, Stated Clerk

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