

**Docket**  
**Meeting of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska**  
**July 11, 2020**  
**First Presbyterian Church Kearney, Nebraska**

*As approved by the Presbytery at the December 5, 2000, meeting, the meetings of Presbytery shall be set in the worshipful context of thanksgiving. We ask that cell phones be turned either to off or vibrate during the meeting and that people receive their calls outside of the meeting.*

**THE PRESBYTERY GATHERS**

8:30 a.m.	Registration and Fellowship	
9:00 a.m.	The Call to Order	Kirwin Stewart
	Welcome	Nancy Tuma
	Report of the Stated Clerk	Polly Deppen-Williams
	Enrollment/Quorum	pages 3 - 5
	The Presentation of the Docket Seating of Corresponding Members	
	Introduction of First Time Commissioners	
	Approval of the Minutes of the October 26 meeting	pages 6 - 9

**THE PRESBYTERY HEARS GOD'S WORD**

Worship	David McCarthy
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**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

Report of the Executive Presbyter	Polly Deppen-Williams pages 10 - 12
Council Report	Jon Beggs pages 13 – 21
Business and Budget	Don Anthony pages 22 – 23
Personnel	Eddie Mariel page 24
Committee on Preparation	Jill Boyd page 25
Committee on Ministry	Joyce Dean pages 26-30

Nominating Committee Report

Linda Anthony  
page 31

New Business

Prayers of the People

**THE PRESBYTERY IS SENT FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

ADJOURN WITH PRAYER

Kirwin Stewart

## STATED CLERK'S REPORT

### October 26, 2019

The Stated Clerk determines that the number of teaching elders having membership in good standing and temporary members in the Presbytery of Central Nebraska totals 39; of these a total of 29 currently reside within the bounds of the Presbytery. The number of ruling elder commissioners and ruling elder members entitled to attend and vote at any meeting is 53\*.

Therefore, it is the opinion of the Stated Clerk that NO REMEDIAL ACTION is needed to redress any imbalance in voting as required.

The following is the current roster of those members of the permanent judicial commission whose terms have expired within the past six years (D –5.0206b):

Class of 2017	Class of 2015	Class of 2013
David McCarthy	C. Roger Nelson	Don Anthony
Mary Jane Whiting	Ben Ellis	Caroline Price –Gibson
	Bill Dill	

The following is the listing of the membership of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska as of October 26, 2019:

#### 101 – Pastor or Co –pastor

Greg Allen-Pickett  
Ivan Dean  
David Boyd  
Jill Boyd

Becky Dobitsch  
Guy Helms  
Eddie Mariel  
Kirwin Stewart

#### 105 – Interim Pastor or Interim Associate

Nancy Tuma

#### 107 – Ruling Elder Commissioned to a Church (CRE)

Joyce Dean  
Mark Diehl  
Dave Irwin  
Brad Jepsen

Gary Smith  
Keith Theobald  
Wayne Owens

#### 108 – Temporary Relationship

Doug McHargue  
Sharon Rees

#### 151 – Member of Another Denomination (Temporary Membership) – Pastor

Ethan Feistner (ELCA)  
Momo Larmena (UMC)  
Vern Olsen (UMC)

#### 153 – Member of Another Denomination (Temporary Membership) – Associate Pastor

Damen Heitmann (UCC)

299 – Honorably Retired

Kathryn Bates\*\*  
Bruce Bradley\*\*  
Don Canady  
James Cooke  
Steve Deines  
David Matheke\*\*  
Frank Medsker

Roger Nelson  
William Nottage –Tacey  
Caroline Price –Gibson\*\*  
Stephen Price –Gibson\*\*  
Charles Olsen  
Robert Thom\*\*  
H. Eldin Wells

304 – Executive & Stated Clerk of a Synod or Presbytery

Polly Deppen-Williams

643 – Educational Institute –Administrative Staff

Joan McCarthy

791 – Presbytery Validated Ministry

Kristin Hamner\*\*

797 – Member at Large

Lisa Ewald  
John Gallentine\*\*  
Cheryl Lamb\*\*  
Berke Landrum

David McCarthy  
Karen Woo\*\*  
Gui –Jie Zhang

\*\*Does not reside within the bounds of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska

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**Churches in the Presbytery of Central Nebraska:**

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Atkinson, First   | 19. Hastings, Second           |
| 2. Aurora, PUCC  | 20. Holdrege, First            |
| 3. Axtell, First   | 21. Kearney, First             |
| 4. Beaver City, First  | 22. Kenesaw, First             |
| 5. Benkelman, First  | 23. Keystone                   |
| 6. Broken Bow, First   | 24. Lebanon, Community         |
| 7. Campbell, Westminster United                                  | 25. Lexington, First           |
| 8. Central City, United  | 26. Lexington, Buffalo Grove   |
| 9. Cozad, First  | 27. Minden, Westminster United |
| 10. Danbury, First   | 28. North Platte, First        |
| 11. Edgar, Church of the Plains<br>(Heartland Shared Ministries) | 29. O'Neill, First             |
| 12. Ewing, Bethany   | 30. Orleans, First             |
| 13. Ewing, UMC –PCUSA  | 31. St. Paul, First            |
| 14. Fairfield, Community   | 32. Stuart, Community          |
| 15. Fullerton, Fullerton Community UMC/PCUSA                     | 33. Superior, First            |
| 16. Gothenburg, First  | 34. Sutherland, First          |
| 17. Grand Island, First  | 35. Valentine                  |
| 18. Hastings, First  | 36. Wood River, First          |

Additional Information:

- The presbytery has obtained insurance and worker's compensation coverage from The Insurance Board.
- 2018 Statistical Reports were completed and sent to the General Assembly.
- A report of pastoral compensation has been received by the presbytery and was presented to the October 26, 2019 meeting at First Presbyterian in Hastings, NE.

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\*Taken from the Presbytery Manual Standing Rules:

- 2.20 In addition to elder commissioners from sessions, Presbytery shall enroll for the term of service the Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk, Moderator of Presbytery, Vice Moderator of Presbytery, the moderator of the Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Youth Committee, Nominating Committee, Council and Council's Committees, and the elder Commissioner to Synod, whether or not the elder serves as a commissioner for his/her session.

**MINUTES PRESBYTERY OF CENTRAL NEBRASKA  
OCTOBER 26, 2019  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HASTINGS, NEBRASKA**

**PRESBYTERY ATTENDANCE**

**ELDER COMMISSIONERS**

Atkinson, First –  
Aurora, Presbyterian UCC –  
Axtell, First – Paula Fuestman  
Beaver City, First – Gina Ellis  
Benkelman, First –  
Broken Bow, First –  
Campbell, Westminster United –  
Central City, United –  
Cozad First – Mary Jane Whiting  
Danbury, First –  
Edgar, Church of the Plains –  
Ewing, Bethany –  
Ewing, UM –PC (USA) –  
Fairfield, Community – Joyce Dean  
Fullerton, First –  
Gothenburg, First – Jackie Kuxhausen  
Grand Island, First – Gary Smith  
Hastings, First – Kay Georgiana

Hastings, Second – VeAnn Lindgren  
Holdrege, First –  
Kearney, First –  
Kenesaw, First – Heidi Shurigar  
Keystone –  
Lebanon, Community –  
Lexington, First – Mary Reed  
Lexington, Buffalo Grove –  
Loup City, First –  
Minden, Westminster United – Julia Thomsen  
North Platte, First – Dan Ridgway  
O'Neill, First – Jessica Clark  
Orleans, First –  
St. Paul, First –  
Stuart, Community –  
Superior, First – Jennifer Jensen  
Sutherland, First –  
Wood River, First –

**MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT**

Greg Allen –Pickett – P  
Kathryn Bates – HR –excused  
David Boyd – P  
Jill Boyd – P  
Bruce Bradley – P  
Don Canady – HR – excused  
James Cooke – HR – excused  
Dan Davis – A  
Stuart Davis – A  
Ivan Dean – P  
Steve Deines – HR – excused  
Polly Deppen-Williams – P  
Rebecca Dobitsch – P  
Lisa Ewald – A  
John Gallentine – A  
Guy Helms – P  
Cheryl Lamb – A

Berke Landrum – P  
Eddie Mariel – P  
David Matheke – HR – excused  
David McCarthy – P  
Joan McCarthy – P  
Doug McHargue – excused  
Frank Medsker – HR – excused  
Roger Nelson – HR – excused  
William Nottage –Tacey – HR – E  
Charles Olsen – HR – excused  
Sharon Rees – P  
Kirwin Stewart – P  
Robert Thom – HR –excused  
Nancy Tuma – P  
H. Eldin Wells – HR – P  
Karen Woo – excused  
Gui –Jie Zhang – A

**COMMISSIONED PASTORS**

Joyce Dean – P  
Mark Diehl – A  
Dave Irwin – A  
Brad Jepsen – A

Wayne Owens – A  
Gary Smith – A  
Keith Theobald – A

## **CERTIFIED ASSOCIATION OF PRESBYTERIAN ADMINISTRATORS**

### **CHAIRPERSONS OF COMMITTEES**

Don Anthony, Business & Budget; Linda Anthony, Nominating; Jon Beggs, Moderator Presbytery; David Boyd, Personnel; Jill Boyd, Committee on Preparation for Ministry; Ivan Dean, Council; Kirwin Stewart, Committee on Ministry, Annabelle Well, Presbyterian Women

### **CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

Ethan Feistner, Mark Adams

### **VISITORS**

Kathy Helms, Judy Howard, Brian Johnson, Harold Korb, Joel Rasmussen, Audrey Richert

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The stated meeting of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska convened at 9:00 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska, on Saturday, October 26, 2019. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Moderator Jon Beggs. The Presbytery and Presbyterian Women were welcomed by Rev. Gregg Allen – Picket, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. He explained that the meeting was centered around mission work and the partnership with the United States/Mexican Border church partners.

### **STATED CLERK'S REPORT**

Stated Clerk Polly Deppen-Williams presented her report, including that there is no imbalance in the number of teaching elders and the number of ruling elders entitled to vote at any meeting, therefore no remedial action is needed to redress any imbalance in voting. She also presented the current roster of the members of the permanent judicial commission whose terms have expired within the past six years.

As required, she presented the list of the membership of Presbytery and churches in the Presbytery of Central Nebraska, along with information on insurance, that Statistic Reports were completed, and the report of pastoral compensation had been presented to Presbytery.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to move the June 27, 2020, Presbytery meeting to July 11, 2020, because of a date conflict with General Assembly.

It was moved, seconded and approved to allow two Elders at the First Presbyterian Church in Kenesaw to serve a third consecutive term because of the small number of people available to serve.

The roll was formed. Stated Clerk Polly Deppen-Williams declared a quorum present.

The docket was presented and approved.

It was moved and seconded to seat Mark Adams as a corresponding member.

First –time commissioner Jennifer Jensen of Superior was introduced.

The minutes of the June 22, 2019, Presbytery meeting were approved, seconded and carried, after correction of the name of Bob Butz.

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S REPORT**

Annabelle Wells presented the report of Presbyterian Women. She stated that the Presbyterian Women were glad to be meeting at the same time as Presbytery. It is the first time the two groups have shared a meeting date.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Linda Anthony, Chairman, presented the printed nominating committee report, with the correction that Dave Irwin was to be removed from the 3 –year term on the Committee on Preparation. Linda moved that the slate be approved. It was seconded and passed.

### **WORSHIP WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

The Presbytery entered into worship, which was conducted by Presbyterian Women, Greg Allen –Pickett and Mark Adams. The offering collected was to go to Frontera de Cristo, the Presbyterian border ministry in Douglas/Agua Prieta. Greg Allen –Pickett and Mark Adams officiated at the Lord's Supper, with Brian and Laurie Johnson, Kay Georgianna and Nancy Grams assisting as servers.

### **WE RESPOND TO HEARING THE WORD**

Executive Presbyter Polly Deppen-Williams presented her report, including the meetings she has attended with pastors and others, churches visited and Presbytery related meetings. She also met with Synod and Denomination leaders and completed an update to Presbytery Rolls & Registers. Polly continues to work of the update of the Presbytery Manual.

Executive Presbyter Polly announced that Guy Helms will be installed on November 17<sup>th</sup> as the new pastor at the Valentine church. The first retreat to be held for 1<sup>st</sup> call pastors will be at the Aurora leadership center on November 4 –8.

### **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT**

Kirwin Stewart, Chairman, presented the report, including the Church Moderators appointed, and FIT interviews conducted for Presbyterian UCC Church, Aurora, and Bethany/O'Neil. The COM has approved Guy Helm's Installation Commission for November 17 at 4:30 pm. The COM approved the request of First Presbyterian, Superior, to form a PNC. The COM approved the transfer of Rev. Guy Helm's membership from Wyoming Presbytery to Central Nebraska Presbytery. The COM also approved Penny Schultz to serve the Aurora PUCC Church as Commissioned Pastor, with her installation November 10<sup>th</sup>.

The transfer of Revs Stephen and Caroline Price Gibson's memberships to Baltimore Presbytery was approved. The COM moved Rev. Dr. David McCarthy to Member at Large status.

The Litany of Praise for the First Presbyterian Church of Stapleton was led by Kirwin Stewart. The manse has been sold. Polly Deppen-Williams and Steve Soundy were thanked for their work on this project. The church building has been gifted to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church which is the remnant of PCUSA members.

### **COUNCIL REPORT**

Ivan Dean, Chairman of Council, presented the Council report. There have been no actions of Council which require Presbytery approval. Council accepted the invitation of First Presbyterian Church, Kearney, to host the Presbytery meeting March 28, 2020. First Presbyterian Church, Grand Island, has withdrawn an earlier invitation to host this meeting.

### **BUSINESS AND BUDGET REPORT**

Don Anthony, Chair of the Business and Budget Committee, presented the report. The Council voted to approve the 2020 CNP Budget as presented. The Council also voted to approve the Draft Investment and Spending Policy prepared by Jim Koon and to have Business and Budget continue moving forward.

The Council voted to approve the opportunity for churches in central Nebraska combining work comp policies under a master policy to be held by Presbytery of Central Nebraska. The Presbytery would pay the premium and be reimbursed by the churches.

#### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

David Boyd, Chair of the Personnel Committee, presented the report. The Committee reviewed the work of Judy Howard and Polly Deppen-Williams and made recommendations to Council regarding their compensation.

Ivan Dean as Chair of Council presented the budget to the Presbytery. The Council recommended the Presbytery receive the budget which was approved.

#### **PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

Jill Boyd, Chair of the Preparation for Ministry Committee, presented the report. The Committee voted unanimously to seek Presbytery approval of Logan Ellis being ready to seek a call. The Presbytery approved. Kailen Soncksen is under the care of the Committee as an Inquirer. The Committee planned to meet with Janet Rasmussen who is pursuing the path to become a certified lay pastor after this Presbytery meeting.

The CPM was approved to act on behalf of the presbytery to receive individuals under care as inquirers, assess them and move them to candidacy when ready, and certify them ready to seek a call when they have completed all requirements and all other tasks or decisions related to the CPM with those under their care.

#### **NEBRASKA PRESBYTERY FOUNDATION**

Audrey Richert presented information on the Nebraska Presbytery Foundation. There are funds available for church expansion or increase of church activities.

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Jon Beggs, Moderator, led the prayers of the people.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to come before the Presbytery.

#### **INSTALLATION**

Jon Beggs, Moderator, installed Kirwin Stewart as the 2020 Moderator of the Central Nebraska Presbytery and Sharon Rees as the 2020 Vice Moderator.

It was moved and seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting.  
Kirwin Stewart closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Executive Presbyter & Stated Clerk Report to the Presbytery  
July 11, 2020**

This is not going to be a typical EP report because since my last report in March life has been atypical. My regular report lists the churches I visited, and committee meetings and synod/denominational events I attended along with other information about the work I am doing for the presbytery.

Life changed when I returned from the gathering of Synod Presbytery Leaders in Dubuque, IA, over March 12-13. While we were there leaders from Wisconsin had to leave abruptly after hearing that the Governor was closing schools and possibly putting a travel ban into effect. Eventually, we ended our time together so we could head back to our respective homes.

Since then, life has revolved around Zoom meetings, phone calls, and answering lots and lots of questions. I started to keep track of these things and I finally gave up. I must say how proud I am of the churches, members, elders, and pastors in this presbytery! Everyone has lived into this new reality in such creative ways. We are not through this time of pandemic and an end is not in sight so I encourage all of you to be safe and to make sure you pay attention to the recommendations of your local health department.

On another note . . . I have been asked if I am going to respond with a statement regarding issues related to racism and the recent events surrounding the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and many others. My hope is that we will begin, as a presbytery and as local churches, to have intentional conversations about how we have contributed to the sin of racism in our country and in our churches. This is not an issue to be solved with a single statement stating where we have done wrong and where we hope to do better. I believe we need to read, to learn, and talk with one another in the hope that we can move to a place of reconciliation and peace.

Please do not hesitate to call me 308-520-8216 or email [polly@centralnepresby.org](mailto:polly@centralnepresby.org) if you have any questions or would just like to say hi.

Grace & peace,  
Polly Deppen-Williams  
Executive Presbyter & Stated Clerk

## **Executive Presbyter & Stated Clerk Report to the Presbytery for the meeting on March 28, 2020**

**Since our last meeting, I wanted to share some of what I have been doing as your Executive Presbyter & Stated Clerk:**

### **Meetings with Pastors & Others:**

- 10/30/19 – call with Bill McConnell from Presbyterian Mission Agency
- 10/31/19 – Zoom call with Becky Balestri & Deb Boucher-Payne re: PLR Grant
- 11/11/19 – meet with Kirwin Stewart re: COM Meeting
- 11/19/19 – lunch with pastor in the presbytery
- 12/9/19 – meet with Art Philips, retired UMC pastor
- 12/11/19 – lunch with pastor in presbytery
- 12/12/19 – Zoom call re: PLR
- 12/18/19 – call with mentor Ken Baker
- 1/6/20 – meeting with Joyce Dean, new COM Moderator
- 1/9/20 – meeting with Joyce Dean & Kirwin Stewart in Fairfield
- 1/15/20 – call with mentor Ken Baker
- 1/15/20 – call from Co-Moderator Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri
- 2/4/20 – meet with Jon Beggs re: Council agenda
- 2/26/20 – call with mentor Ken Baker
- 2/27/20 – Pastors' Lunch Bunch at Cunningham's on the Lake, Kearney (7 in attendance)
- 3/6/20 – memorial service for Russ Barelmann at Bethany PC in Ewing

### **Churches Visited:**

- 11/12/19 – moderate session meeting at FPC Superior
- 11/13/19 – train PNC at FPC Kearney
- 11/17/19 – worship at Keystone Presbyterian Church
- 11/21/19 – FPC Grand Island session meeting
- 12/4/19 – FPC Grand Island called session meeting
- 12/8/19 – Penny Schulz Installation at Aurora Christian Church
- 12/15/19 – FPC Gothenburg Christmas Cantata & Dinner
- 12/22/19 – preach at FPC North Platte
- 1/5/20 – preach at FPC Kearney
- 1/16/20 – moderate FPC Grand Island session meeting
- 1/19/20 – worship at Buffalo Grove PC, Lexington
- 1/26/20 – worship and moderate annual meeting at FPC Grand Island
- 2/9/20 – preach at WUPC Minden
- 2/20/20 – moderate FPC Grand Island session meeting
- 3/1/20 – worship at Community PC, Fairfield & Community UCC, Nelson
- 3/1/20 – train PNC at FPC Superior

### **Presbytery Related Meetings**

- 11/4-8/19 – PLR Retreat at The Leadership Center in Aurora, NE (10 participants from Central NE Presbytery)
- 11/12/19 – COM Meeting
- 11/16/19 – PLR & Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation Steering Committee Meeting
- 11/19/19 – Business & Budget Meeting

- 12/16/19 – Meeting re: Cotner College at Lincoln First Christian Church
- 1/4/20 – Fit interview for two churches in presbytery
- 1/14/20 – COM Meeting
- 1/24/20 – Board Meeting for Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation
- 1/28/20 – Business & Budget meeting
- 2/4/20 – Personnel Committee meeting
- 2/11/20 – Council meeting
- 2/11/20 – COM Zoom meeting
- 2/16-19 – PLR Couples Retreat in Lincoln at The Graduate (13 participants from Central NE Presbytery)

#### **Synod & Denomination Meetings**

- 11/12/19 – Synod EP Zoom Call
- 12/11/19 – Synod EP Zoom Call

#### **Other projects:**

- Year-end statistical forms for the denomination were completed – woohoo!
- Continue to work on the Presbytery Administration Manual (I hope to bring it to the July meeting for a first reading)
- Planning for second PLR Retreat in Aurora, NE November 16-19, 2020
- Schedule minute review for presbytery

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- 3/11-13/20 – meet in Dubuque at UDTs for Synod EP Forum
- 3/21/20 – Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation Board Meeting in Omaha (cancelled)
- 5/3-8/20 – Presbytery Leader Formation Year 2 Residency at Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond, VA (cancelled)
- 5/28-29/20 – Synod Clerks' Presbytery Minute Review at Lakeshore Center in Iowa (cancelled)
- 6/20-27/20 – General Assembly in Baltimore, MD (virtual)

Grace & peace,  
 Polly Deppen-Williams  
 Executive Presbyter & Stated Clerk

Submitted March 4, 2020

# Council Meeting Minutes

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February 11, 2020

## Council Attendance

Council Chair	Jon Beggs	Present
Moderator	Kirwin Stewart	Excused
Vice-Moderator	Sharon Rees	Present
COM Chair	Joyce Dean	Present
CPM Chair	Jill Boyd	Excused
NOM Chair	Linda Anthony	Present
Personnel Chair	Eddie Mariel	Present
Business & Budget Chair	Don Anthony	Present
PYC Chair	Vacant	
Synod Commissioner	Sue Medsker-Nedderman	Present
Presbytery Women Chair	Annabelle Wells	Present
Member-at- Large	Vacant	
Executive Presbyter	Polly Deppen-Williams	Present

The Council gathered for a regular scheduled meeting. Jon Beggs opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with prayer.

Council minutes from September 24, 2019 were **APPROVED** as presented with one correction for the date of the presbytery meeting. It was changed to March 28, 2020.

Council heard reports from:

### Executive Presbyter

- reported on her work as EP and Stated Clerk
- She will be attending the Couples Retreat in Lincoln (Feb. 16-19) for the Pastoral Leadership Revitalization program with the grant we received with the Omaha Presbyterian Theological Seminary Foundation.

### Personnel Committee

- Completed Judy Rothenberger's review as CNP Office Administrator
- In October Personnel will look at renewing Polly Deppen-Williams as Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk for an additional 3 years.

### Business & Budget

- Reviewed the 12/31/2019 summary sheet
- Discussed transferring money from checking to New Covenant Funds
- Council **APPROVED** changing the cash management policy to say 15-20% of the annual budget will be kept in checking.
- An individual leadership grant of \$1000 was given to FPC Hastings for a member who is a YAV (Young Adult Volunteer) with the PCUSA.
- The committee will begin doing spot checks of the office credit cards to verify that purchases are according to presbytery policy.
- The committee will be receiving the checking account statement from the Synod for review.
- Discussed that Worker's Comp Policy

### Nominating Committee

- Lisa Ewald, COM and Dave Irwin, CPM
- Still need additional people of COM and other committees
- Linda Anthony will be continuing as chair of the Nominating Committee and it was **APPROVED** by the Council.

## Other Committee Reports:

### COM

- Logan Ellis will be examined for ordination this afternoon at 2:00pm. He will be presented at the March 28<sup>th</sup> presbytery meeting
- FPC Kearney & FPC Grand Island have completed their MIFs and COM will be discussing their approval this afternoon.

CPM – no report

### PW

- PW members will be meeting with Presbytery at the March meeting at FPC Kearney.
- They will be putting together cleaning buckets for the PDA warehouse at Good Shepherd PC in Lincoln.

Synod – committee had no report

Youth – no chair and no report

**The Presbytery Docket** for the March 28, 2020 meeting to be held at First Presbyterian Church, Kearney was reviewed. Co-Moderator Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri will be preaching and leading a workshop of the book, Neighborhood Church: Transforming Your Congregation into a Powerhouse for Mission, following lunch. The offering will be given to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help Puerto Rico. Information is online and will be sent by PCN News for ordering the books. There will be 8-10 copies available at the registration table if needed.

## Other business:

- Polly will be speaking with George Thietje from The Insurance Board to schedule a time for active shooter training.
- Invitations from the following churches to host presbytery meetings were accepted:
  - July 11, 2020 – Valentine
  - October 24, 2020 – Broken Bow
  - June 26, 2021 – Holdrege
- Council Dates for 2020:
  - May 19, 2020 at 10:00am
  - September 15, 2020 at 10:00am

## Future Presbytery Locations & Dates:

The meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 11:10am and closed in prayer by Eddie Mariel

**Next Stated Council Meeting: May 19, 2020 at 10:00am**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Polly Deppen-Williams  
Executive Presbyter & Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of Central Nebraska

# Council Meeting Minutes

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March 18, 2020

## Council Attendance

Council Chair	Jon Beggs	Present
Moderator	Kirwin Stewart	Present
Vice-Moderator	Sharon Rees	Present
COM Chair	Joyce Dean	Present
CPM Chair	Jill Boyd	Present
NOM Chair	Linda Anthony	Present
Personnel Chair	Eddie Mariel	Present
Business & Budget Chair	Don Anthony	Present
PYC Chair	Vacant	
Synod Commissioner	Sue Medsker-Nedderman	Present
Presbytery Women Chair	Annabelle Wells	Present
Member-at- Large	Vacant	
Executive Presbyter	Polly Deppen-Williams	Present

The Council gathered for a special meeting via Zoom. Polly opened the meeting at 10:00 am with prayer.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Presbytery meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 28. Co-moderator Vilmarie Cintron-Oliveri will not be coming. The Stated Clerk of the PCUSA has halted domestic travel beginning March 16, 2020. After some discussion, all agreed that possible business to be discussed could be tabled until the July meeting. Council **APPROVED** cancelling the March Presbytery meeting.

Council discussed that churches be advised to follow the recommendations of the President: avoid gatherings of more than 10 people for the next 15 days. Churches who are currently streaming are encouraged to continue this form of worship. Presbytery will reimburse costs of Zoom to do so.

The meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 11:00 am with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Judy Rothenberger

# Council Meeting Minutes

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April 2, 2020

## Council Attendance

Council Chair	Jon Beggs	Present
Moderator	Kirwin Stewart	Present
Vice-Moderator	Sharon Rees	Present
COM Chair	Joyce Dean	Present
CPM Chair	Jill Boyd	Present
NOM Chair	Linda Anthony	Present
Personnel Chair	Eddie Mariel	Present
Business & Budget Chair	Don Anthony	Present
PYC Chair	Vacant	
Synod Commissioner	Sue Medsker-Nedderman	Excused
Presbytery Women Chair	Annabelle Wells	Present
Member-at- Large	Vacant	
Executive Presbyter	Polly Deppen-Williams	Present

The Council gathered for a special meeting via Zoom. Polly opened the meeting at 10:00 am with prayer.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the COVID-19 crisis. Following discussion, Council VOTED TO RECOMMEND that in person worship be suspended until further notice. This also applies to church meetings and all church activities.

The use of Zoom for worship and meetings was discussed. Presbytery will reimburse churches who want to meet in this manner. Technology grants are also available to help churches upgrade equipment to assist with streaming of worship services.

Polly will send written communication to all churches in addition to email communication outlining guidelines that can be followed. The Presbytery website will also have COVID-19 resources which can be easily accessed by congregations.

The meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 11:00 am with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Judy Rothenberger

# Council Meeting Minutes

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April 27, 2020

## Council Attendance

Council Chair	Jon Beggs	Present
Moderator	Kirwin Stewart	Present
Vice-Moderator	Sharon Rees	Present
COM Chair	Joyce Dean	Present
CPM Chair	Jill Boyd	Present
NOM Chair	Linda Anthony	Present
Personnel Chair	Eddie Mariel	Present
Business & Budget Chair	Don Anthony	Present
PYC Chair	Vacant	
Synod Commissioner	Sue Medsker-Nedderman	Present
Presbytery Women Chair	Annabelle Wells	Present
Member-at- Large	Vacant	
Executive Presbyter	Polly Deppen-Williams	Present

The Council gathered for a special meeting via Zoom. Polly opened the meeting at 1:00 pm with prayer.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Governor's recommendations about loosening restrictions on worship in Nebraska beginning on Sunday, May 6.

Following discussion, Council stated that it was a local Session decision but that we would strongly encourage churches to be in contact with their local health departments regarding local guidelines.

The Presbytery office will be mailing a letter with a packet of information to each church supporting our recommendations.

The meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 2 pm with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Judy Rothenberger

# Council Meeting Minutes

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May 19, 2020

## Council Attendance

Council Chair	Jon Beggs	Present
Moderator	Kirwin Stewart	Present
Vice-Moderator	Sharon Rees	Present
COM Chair	Joyce Dean	Present
CPM Chair	Jill Boyd	Present
NOM Chair	Linda Anthony	Present
Personnel Chair	Eddie Mariel	Present
Business & Budget Chair	Don Anthony	Present
PYC Chair	Vacant	
Synod Commissioner	Sue Medsker-Nedderman	Present
Presbytery Women Chair	Annabelle Wells	Present
Member-at- Large	Vacant	
Executive Presbyter	Polly Deppen-Williams	Present

The Council gathered for a regular scheduled meeting. Jon Beggs opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with devotion and prayer.

Council heard reports from:

Executive Presbyter

- Reported on her work as EP and Stated Clerk

Personnel Committee – no report

Business & Budget

- Continue to monitor financial position during this time

Nominating Committee

- People are needed to serve on Nominating Committee
- Linda will create worksheet for all other committees

COM

- Logan Ellis will begin serving Axtell First Presbyterian Church on June 1.

CPM – no report

PW – no report

Synod

- Sue reported that committee met for a 3-hour meeting via Zoom on May 5
- Synod school has been cancelled

Youth

- Polly reported that the camp scholarship application posted on the website has been updated

## **New Business**

- Presbytery is scheduled to meet on July 11, 2020 in Valentine.
- Council **VOTED TO APPROVE** this meeting be held on Zoom instead of “in-person”.

**Future Presbytery Locations & Dates:**

**Zoom - July 11, 2020**  
**Broken Bow - October 24, 2020**  
**Holdrege - March 27, 2020**

The meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:55 am and closed in prayer by Joyce Dean

**Next Stated Council Meeting: June 9, 2020 at 10:00am**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Judy Rothenberger

# Council Meeting Minutes

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June 9, 2020

## Council Attendance

Council Chair	Jon Beggs	Present
Moderator	Kirwin Stewart	Present
Vice-Moderator	Sharon Rees	Present
COM Chair	Joyce Dean	Present
CPM Chair	Jill Boyd	Present
NOM Chair	Linda Anthony	Present
Personnel Chair	Eddie Mariel	Present
Business & Budget Chair	Don Anthony	Present
PYC Chair	Vacant	
Synod Commissioner	Sue Medsker-Nedderman	Present
Presbytery Women Chair	Annabelle Wells	Present
Member-at- Large	Vacant	
Executive Presbyter	Polly Deppen-Williams	Present

The Council gathered for a regular scheduled meeting. Jon Beggs opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with devotion and prayer.

Minutes of the May 19, 2020 meeting were **APPROVED** as presented.

Council heard reports from:

Executive Presbyter

- Reported on her work as EP and Stated Clerk
- General Assembly will meet virtually beginning June 19, 2020

Personnel Committee – no report

Business & Budget

- Continue to monitor financial position during this time

Nominating Committee

- People are needed to serve on Nominating Committee
- Linda has created a worksheet for openings on all committees
- Recommended that those currently serving as Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and Council Chair continue to serve during 2021. Council **VOTED TO APPROVE** this recommendation.

COM – no report

CPM – no report

PW

- Researching options for a fall meeting via Zoom

Synod

- Limited online options are being planned for Synod School late in the summer

Youth - no report

The **Presbytery Docket** for the July 11, 2020 meeting to be held on Zoom was discussed.

- Vote to be “opposition only”

- Devotion will replace “normal” worship
- Zoom Coffee Time will be planned
- Offering will be dedicated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. On line giving option will be available during meeting time. Council **VOTED TO APPROVE** this charity.

#### **Other Business**

- Ordination of Logan Ellis will be planned at a future time.
- Installation of Linda Lambert will be planned at a future time.
- Presbytery sponsored active shooter training seminar will be rescheduled

#### **Future Presbytery Locations & Dates:**

**Zoom - July 11, 2020**

**Broken Bow - October 24, 2020**

**Holdrege - March 27, 2021**

**Valentine – June 26, 2021**

The meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 10:55 am and closed in prayer

**Next Stated Council Meeting: September 15, 2020 at 10:00am**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Judy Rothenberger

		YTD		% Annual
		Budget	Variance	Budget
Presbytery Income		Ytd		
UMS Presbytery	27528	31250	3722	37%
Per Capita	54933	54786	147	42%
Synod support	833	4167	3334	8%
Investment Income	245	12421	12176	1%
Others	170	7500	7330	1%
Total Income	83709	110124	26415	32%
Presbytery Expenses				
Synod & GA Per Capita	23632	23632	0	42%
Operations	12543	12875	332	41%
<i>Committees</i>				
Council	0	4479	4479	0%
B&B	0	146	146	0%
Personnel	0	229	229	0%
COM	135	1792	1657	3%
CPM	438	1167	729	16%
Nominating	0	83	83	0%
Perm Judicial	0	42	42	0%
Youth	0	2500	2500	0%
Presby Mtg & Comm	0	708	708	0%
<i>Total Committees</i>	<i>573</i>	<i>11146</i>	<i>10573</i>	<i>2%</i>
Mission	1978	6542	4564	13%
Staff Exp	46825	55388	8563	35%
Other operating	1042	1042	0	42%
Total Operating Exp	86593	110624	24031	33%
Total Operating Income minus Expenses	18172	500	18672	

Prepared 3/18/20  
Number of Months 5

2020  
Budget

75000  
131488  
10000  
29810  
18000  
264298

56716 Part of Operations on financials  
30900

10750  
350 Part of Council on financials  
550 Part of Council on financials Includes gifts  
4300  
2800  
200  
100  
6000  
1700  
26750

15700

132931  
2500  
262997  
1301

**Personnel Committee Report to the Regular Meeting of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska  
being held Saturday, July 11, 2020**

The Personnel Committee met in the meeting room of the Presbytery offices on February 4, 2020 at 10:30am. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- A. follow up with previously proposed corrections and updates to the Personnel Committee sections of the Presbytery Administrative Manual;
- B. review Office Administrator, Judy Rothenberger
- C. review and update, as needed, the position description for the Office Administrator position

If anyone is interested in seeing corrections and updates to the Personnel Committee sections of the Presbytery Administrative Manual, I'd be happy to provide you with meeting minutes reflecting those changes.

Judy's review went very well. No concerns have been brought to the committee about Judy. Judy had no concerns to bring to the committee.

If anyone is interested in seeing corrections and updates to the position description for the Office Administrator position, I'd be happy to provide you with meeting minutes reflecting those changes.

Stated Clerk and Executive Presbyter, Rev. Polly Deppen-Williams, indicated to the committee that, as it currently stands, the renewal timeframe for each of her positions, Stated Clerk and E.P., are on *different* renewal schedules. Rev. Deppen-Williams indicated a desire for the Personnel Committee to review these renewal schedules and, if deemed appropriate, recommend to the ***Presbytery*** that the renewal schedule for the Stated Clerk position be modified so as to coincide with the renewal schedule for the Executive Presbyter position, and recommend to the ***Council*** that the renewal schedule for the Executive Presbytery position be modified so as to coincide with the renewal schedule for the Stated Clerk position. The committee will have this work on the agenda for our next scheduled meeting so as to have a proposal to Council before our next scheduled Presbytery meeting and accompanying proposal to Presbytery at the next scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Edgar C. Mariel, Chair of Personnel Committee

Committee on Preparation for Ministry  
Presbytery of Central Nebraska Meeting  
July 11, 2020

Current members of the CPM include Greg Allen-Pickett, Mary Lou Clark, Becky Dobitsch, Dave Irwin, Julia Thomsen, and Jill Boyd (chair).

The CPM had a Zoom meeting on June 10, 2020 to discuss individuals under care and plans for annual consultations.

**Kailen Soncksen** has completed her first year of seminary and is currently taking a summer course of Greek. Plans are in the works for her annual consultation with the CPM in late August.

**Janet Rasmussen** continues to express interest in the commissioned lay pastor program. She took some time off from classes earlier this year but has enrolled in a summer one. We expect to meet with her for her annual consultation in late summer or early fall.

We are excited to report that we expect another Inquirer to come under our care in August.

The CPM established co-liaisons for Kailen when she came under care last year and that has worked out very well for everyone. So well, in fact, that we unanimously agreed to use that model going forward with all those under care, at least as long as we have the folks to do it. At this time, we have a committee of six, and in August we will have three individuals under care, so we will be pairing a Teaching Elder and Ruling Elder with each.

Discussion of the development of a CPM Operations Manual has been postponed until after annual assessments are completed.

We remain available as needed and consider it a privilege to serve on the CPM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Boyd

**COM REPORT  
MARCH 28, 2020**

**Approved Moderator for the ensuing year.**

- Beaver City – Kirwin Stewart
- O'Neill and Bethany – Dean Segar
- Sutherland – Kirwin Stewart
- St. Paul – Doug McHargue
- Keystone Presbyterian Church quarterly – Rev. Eddie Mariel (meets in Paxton)
- Superior- Rev. Ivan and Joyce Dean
- Kenesaw- Brad Jepsen
- Axtell – Baron and Nancy Cole
- Grand Island – Polly Deppen-Williams
- North Platte – David Boyd

**Approved MIF's for the following:**

First Presbyterian Church, Kearney  
First Presbyterian Church, Grand Island

**Examined Logan Ellis and certified him ready for ordination.**

**Approved the Terms of Call for Logan Ellis and First Presbyterian Church, Axtell.**

**Effective salary**

Cash salary	\$26,500
Housing Allowance	20,000

**Reimbursable expenses (Vouchered)**

Automobile Expense (\$0.570)	\$1,500
Business/Professional Expense	700
SECA Supplement	3,557
Continuing Education	700

<b>Board of Pensions</b>	<u>\$20,162</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$70,162</b>

**Sent Letters to all Clerks and Pastors with COM Liaison contact information**

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Dean, COM Moderator

## **Logan Ellis Statement of Faith**

I believe in the Triune God, Who is formed of, and in, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is the dynamic unity and celebrated distinctions of these three persons. Each member of the Triune God can only be understood through their self-giving relationships in, with, and through each other. God is not divisible, and is supremely sovereign over all creation, which was spoken forth into being by God from nothing. God is abounding in love, cloaked in mystery, enacts justice, and ultimately is far beyond our understanding. All we can understand comes through God's self-disclosure through His special relationship with the chosen people of the Old Testament, and His complete disclosure in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, entering into our humanity.

I believe that humanity was created in the Image of God. Just as God is Triune, humanity can only be understood in its relationships with each other, the Triune God, and creation. We live into our true identity when we emulate God's relationships. Unfortunately this reflection has been shattered through sin. I believe that original sin has not only sundered God's relationship to humanity, but also humanity's relationship with itself and creation. We understand the world through broken glasses, as sin has crept into every crevice: down to the core of humanity. It hinders and damages all aspects of humanity's relationships, identity, and function.

20 I believe that in the Incarnation, God took on our sinful humanity by Jesus  
21 Christ, effectively bonding Christ to our depraved condition. Christ became our  
22 intercessor to God through holding both divine and human natures. These natures are  
23 collaborative and integrative: there is no competition or domination of one over the  
24 other. Christ lives in perfect relationship to God and creation, and took on the  
25 suffering of sin for all humanity through the Passion. Christ suffered the furthest  
26 depths of humanity, and truly died. Christ descended to Hell itself, and bridged the  
27 separation between humanity and God. Our human nature died with Christ. After  
28 three days, Christ victoriously arose from the dead triumphant. Since our human  
29 nature was bonded to Christ, it arose with him. Christ ascended, along with our  
30 renewed human nature, to the Triune Godhead. Our relationship to God has been  
31 restored, and we are now in communion with God.

32 This is not the end of the humanity's story, however. We still live in a world  
33 ravaged by the effects of sin, and it groans in eagerness for the full restoration by  
34 Jesus. Christians are continually transformed through the work of the Holy Spirit. The  
35 Holy Spirit serves a crucial role in mediating Christ to humanity, and leads the Church  
36 in service and complete allegiance to Christ. The Christian is living into the new  
37 nature bound to Christ. There are times of victory and defeat, but the presence of  
38 Christ is guaranteed every step of the way. There is comfort in the Christian life as  
39 God is sovereign over all creation and is in relationship with us.

The Church is formed of those who have been led and accept bondage to Christ's rule, death, and life through the waters of baptism. The faithful gather to worship God in community: reflecting the image of God they are created in. Through the sacrament of Communion, Christians participate in fellowship that cuts through time and space in celebration and remembrance of Christ's atoning work. The Church confesses its witness that has been given to it by the Holy Spirit and seeks to testify to the miraculous grace, love, work, power, and justice of the Triune God. I believe the Church must look in anticipation to the return of Jesus Christ and work the fields of Christ: all creation. I believe the return of Christ will be a renewal of creation, which gives Christians hope as it will come from the same Triune God who tenderly spoke all into being.

### **Logan Ellis Biographical/Faith Journey**

I am from Beaver City, Nebraska. It is a classic rural town in Nebraska. My immediate family includes my parents, Ben and Gina, and my two younger sisters, Peyton and Savanah. I was raised in First Presbyterian Church, Beaver City. As I became more involved in my youth group and church activities, I remember becoming more and more engaged with scripture, particularly the Old Testament stories. I found many great experiences through the mission team and other activities such as being a part of a yearly passion play. I was challenged in my faith when I realized my actions did not reflect my beliefs, which cultivated my understanding of interacting with others. My vocational discernment has been a path of God affirming this sense of call to pastoral ministry. I have always wanted to help others as a vocation, and more and more God was affirming and developing my gifts of ministry. I became very interested in theology, and read works such as the *Institutes* and several apologetic works. After high school I was accepted to Hastings College.

While at Hastings, my degree of study was Religion with an Emphasis in Christian Ministry, and a minor in Psychology. During college I was able to be heavily involved in several religious groups such as: a Christian fraternity, a Christian Ministry group, and a worship ministry group. I also experienced a great shift in my life when I began to live my faith more intentionally. My faith was expanded and

67 challenged as I was learning more and more about the great Christian tradition in various classes,  
68 experiences, and conversations among my brothers and sisters in faith. Before college, I felt my call to  
69 be a rural minister as I experienced how impactful it can be. During college, many of my friends in Christ  
70 affirmed my educational gifts, and opened my eyes to another call: education. I had many great  
71 mentors in college to explore what this meant for my original call. I read and studied several important  
72 theological texts such as the *Confessions* and the *Freedom of the Will*. During my time in Hastings I met  
73 my wife, Erin. She has been profoundly important to my life in providing me with a new way to see  
74 things, and a new way to understand being in relationship with others.

75 I graduated from Hastings College and then was accepted into the first year of a special program  
76 at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. This program was called the Young Adult Ministry  
77 Scholar program, which was a unique opportunity to develop and explore my call and gifts of ministry.  
78 By the end of the first year, I was the only one left in the program's first year. Currently there are 14  
79 scholars in this growing program. While attending UDTs, I was very fortunate to have the preparation of  
80 Hastings College. I am involved with multiple aspects of the undergraduate campus such as the food  
81 pantry, student scholars, campus ministry, and student advising. In this special role, I also taught  
82 undergraduate classes including one of my own making. I have been able to appreciate how the two  
83 calls of ministry, rural ministry and education, do not conflict, and work together. I passed my  
84 ordination exams, along with my classes at UDTs. I was able to be in multiple ministries such as a  
85 seminarian intern at two churches, pulpit supply for several churches, and start a young adult ministry.  
86 After my second year of ministry, Erin and I were married. Marriage has been a profound blessing to us.  
87 We are currently discerning the place to which God is calling and the potential ministry for both of us. I  
88 feel that my call has reflected Peter's, who was lovingly led by Jesus as a rural person to proclaiming and  
89 testifying to Jesus's life, death, and resurrection.

## Nominating Committee Report 2020

**Moderator** – Kirwin Stewart

**Vice-Moderator** – Sharon Rees

**Council Chairperson** - Jon Beggs

**Council at Large** – Bill Walters

### **Committee on Ministry**

3 year term: Gary Smith

David Boyd

Mark Diehl

Lisa Ewald

### **Committee on Preparation**

1 year term: Mary Lou Clark

3 year term: Dave Irwin

Julia Thomsen

### **Personnel Committee**

3 year term: Eunice Alexander

Ivan Dean

### **Business and Budget Committee**

1 year term: Guy Helms

3 year term: Don Anthony

Bob Butz

### **Permanent Judicial Commission**

Ivan Dean

### **General Assembly Commissioners**

Pastor Sharon Rees

Elder Brian Johnson

YAD Keeran Woode