

DOCKET
Meeting of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska
March 24, 2018
First Presbyterian Church
Cozad, 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
Provided by First Presbyterian Church, Cozad | |
| 9:00 a.m. | The Call to Order | Ivan Dean |
| 9:05 a.m. | Welcome | Jill Boyd |

THE PRESBYTERY HEARS GOD'S WORD

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| 9:15 a.m. | Worship with the Celebration of the Lord's Supper.
<i>The offering today will be sent to L24 Kids.</i> | |
|-----------|---|--|

WE RESPOND TO HEARING THE WORD

- | | | |
|------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 10:20 | The Report of the Stated Clerk
Enrollment/Quorum
The Presentation of the Docket
Seating of Corresponding Members
Introduction of First Time Commissioners
Approval of minutes for October 28, 2017 | Polly Deppen-Williams
pages 3-11 |
| 10:40 a.m. | Report of the Executive Presbyter | Polly Deppen-Williams
page 12 |
| 10:50 a.m. | Presbyterian Women | Annabelle Wells
page 13 |
| 11:00 a.m. | Youth Committee | Dan Davis |
| 11:10 a.m. | Committee on Ministry | Kirwin Stewart
pages 14-15 |
| 11:25 a.m. | Committee on Preparation for Ministry | Jill Boyd
page 16 |
| 11:45 a.m. | Bryce Wiebe, Director of Special Offerings, PCUSA | |
| 12:00 p.m. | Lunch | |

1:15 p.m. Prayers of the People with Song

1:30 p.m. Council Report
Business-Budget
Personnel
Nominating

Joyce Dean
page 17
Steve Soundy
page 18
David Boyd
pages 19-21
Linda Anthony
page 22

2:15 p.m. New Business
Overtures

pages 23-24

THE PRESBYTERY IS SENT FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

2:30 p.m. ADJOURN WITH PRAYER

Ivan Dean

MINUTES PRESBYTERY OF CENTRAL NEBRASKA
OCTOBER 28, 2017
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ATKINSON, NEBRASKA

The stated meeting of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska convened at 9:00 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Atkinson, Nebraska, on Saturday, October 28, 2017. Moderator Joyce Dean opened the meeting with prayer.

PRESBYTERY ATTENDANCE

ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Atkinson, First --
Aurora, Presbyterian UCC-- Mary Maul
Axtell, First--
Beaver City, First--
Benkelman, First--
Broken Bow, First—Roger Loehr
Campbell, Westminster United--
Central City, United--
Cozad, First--
Danbury, First--
Edgar, Church of the Plains -- David
 Nienkamp
Ewing, Bethany
Ewing, UM-PC(USA)
Fairfield, Community--
Fullerton, First--
Gothenburg, First --
Grand Island, First --
Hastings, First -- Anne Bohlke
Hastings, Second—
Holdrege, First—

Kearney, First --
Kenesaw, First--
Keystone--
Lebanon, Community--
Lexington, First--
Lexington, Buffalo Grove--
Loup City, First--
Minden, Westminster United -- Steve
 Soundy
North Platte, First -- Denny Ridgway
O'Neill, First -- John Waterbury
Orleans, First--
St. Paul, First--
Stapleton, First--
Stuart, Community--
Superior, First--
Sutherland, First--
Valentine, -- C J Leonard
Wood River, First—

MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Greg Allen-Pickett-- E
Kathryn Bates-- P
David Boyd-- P
Jill Boyd-- P
Bruce Bradley-- E
Don Canady — HR--P
James Cooke — HR--excused
Dan Davis-- P
Stuart Davis-- A
Ivan Dean-- P
Steve Deines — HR--excused
Polly Deppen-Williams-- P
Lisa Ewald-- A
John Gallentine-- A

Cheryl Lamb-- A
Berke Landrum-- E
Karen Larson-- P
David Matheke — HR--excused
David McCarthy-- E
Joan McCarthy-- E
Doug McHargue-- P
Frank Medsker — HR--excused
Roger Nelson — HR--excused
William Nottage-Tacey--HR--excused
Charles Olsen — HR--excused
Caroline Price-Gibson-- P
Stephen Price-Gibson-- P
Kirwin Stewart-- E

Robert Thom — HR--excused
H. Eldin Wells — HR--P

Karen Woo-- P
Gui-Jie Zhang—A

COMMISSIONED PASTORS

Joyce Dean-- P
Mark Diehl-- A
Marcine Farmer-- A
Beth Fotinos-- A
Ethel Fox-- A
Dave Irwin-- A
Brad Jepsen-- A

David Johnson-- A
Phil LaRoe-- A
Wayne Owens-- P
Gary Smith-- A
Keith Theobald-- A
C.L. Wimer—A

CERTIFIED ASSOCIATION OF PRESBYTERIAN ADMINISTRATORS
None

CHAIRPERSONS OF COMMITTEES

Steve Soundy, Business and Budget; Annabelle Wells, PW.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Raymond Meester, Homestead Presbytery.

VISITORS

Ramona Meester, Alex DeVeyra, Dean Seger, Zoe Claussen, Evelyn Fox, Russ Barrellman, Lara Goeke, and Jean Mellon.

Wayne Owens, Commissioned Pastor, Atkinson, welcomed the presbytery.

WORSHIP WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The presbytery entered into worship. Dan Davis was the preacher; and Dan Davis and Wayne Owens co-officiated at the Lord's Supper. An offering was received for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

A quorum was declared.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Raymond Meester reported that the memberships of the following people from the Hanover Presbyterian Church, which has been dissolved, were transferred to First Presbyterian Church, Hastings: Shaina Lay, Tammy Lay, Tanner Lay, Todd Lay, Tyler Lay, Joyce Harrenstein, Duane Ochsner, Georga Ochsner, Donald Dean Buhr, Glenn Hunnicutt, Nadine Killinger Hunnicutt, Don L. O'Dey, and Phyllis Ione O'Dey.

The stated clerk announced that the online Statistics of the Church reports will be open on December 1, 2017, and the deadline for filing these reports is February 1, 2017.

All clerks of sessions should have received an email concerning the Congregational Annual Questionnaire. They were encouraged to complete the questionnaires.

The stated clerk reported on the recent Mid-Councils Leadership Gathering in St. Louis, Missouri.

The agenda was approved as amended.

Alex De Veyra, Director of Financial Services for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, was introduced.

First time commissioners were introduced.

The minutes of the June 24, 2017, presbytery meeting were approved as corrected.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

Stephen Price-Gibson reported for the Council.

Ivan Dean, Moderator of the Designated Executive Presbytery Search Committee, gave a summary on the work of the Committee and the process they used. The committee nominated Polly Deppen-Williams, and Council elected her for a three year term. Presbytery celebrated her election. The terms of call are as follows:

- Hours 20 hours per week
- Salary \$26,000
- Housing \$24,000
- Total Effective Salary \$50,000
- Social Security Offset \$ 3,825
- Board of Pensions \$18,250
- Vacation 4 weeks
- Study Leave 2 weeks
- Travel \$ 3,500 (vouchered expense)
- Continuing Education \$3,500
- GA Expense \$ 5,000
- Total \$84,075.00

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joyce Dean reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The committee presented its slate of officers. The floor was opened for nominations. The following were duly elected:

Moderator – Ivan Dean

Vice-Moderator – Jon Beggs

Council Chairperson – Joyce Dean

Council at Large Class of 2020 – Dean Seger

Committee on Ministry

Chair – Kirwin Stewart

Class of 2019 – Gary Smith

Class of 2020 – Caroline Price-Gibson

Class of 2020 – Dan Davis

Class of 2020 – David McCarthy

Committee on Preparation

Chair – Jill Boyd

Class of 2020 – Greg Allen Pickett

Class of 2020 - Karen Woo

Personnel Committee

Chair – David Boyd

Class of 2020 – Richard Elliot

Class of 2020 – Judy Biehl

Business and Budget Committee

Chair – Steve Soundy

Class of 2020 – Allen Philips

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2021 – Beth Isnogle

Class of 2023 – Stephen Price-Gibson

Class of 2023 – Carol Skinner

Sexual Misconduct Team

To replace Eldin Wells – Don Anthony

Youth Ministry Committee

Chair – Dan Davis

Class of 2020 – Jacob Hild

Class of 2020 – Logan Ellis

Youth Class of 2018

Aubree Warner

Carter Wenburg

Synod Commissioner

Elder Term begins in April 2018

YAD - Logan Ellis (one year)

GA Commissioner-223rd GA (2018)

Minister of Word and Sacrament Commissioner -- Karen Woo

Minister of Word and Sacrament Commissioner Alternate -- Dan Davis

Elder Commissioner -- Sharon Rees

Alternate Elder Commissioner – Rose Miller

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Annabelle Wells reported that PW had their Fall Gathering at the First Presbyterian Church, Axtell, on September 9. An offering was received for Kristin Hamner and the work she is doing for Foundation for Peace in the Dominican Republic.

COUNCIL-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

David Boyd reported. The Committee is very satisfied with the work and progress of the Office Administrator Judy Rothernberger. She is making necessary changes in the office.

COUNCIL-BUSINESS BUDGET

Steve Soundy reported.

Business and Budget recommended the 2018 Presbytery of Central Nebraska budget, and it was approved by the presbytery. (See Attachment A.)

Upon recommendation of the Council, Presbytery approved the 2018 per capita:

Presbytery \$ 18.87

GA \$ 7.73

Synod \$ 5.40

Total \$ 32.00

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Dan Davis reported. A high number of camp scholarships were funded.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Polly Deppen-Williams reported. The Committee reported on the following actions done on behalf of the presbytery:

Approved First Hastings hiring Rev. Damen Heitmann (UCC) as a part-time non called/installed Associate Pastor.

Appointed the following Session Moderators:

- Beaver City – Dan Davis (beginning November 2017)
- Grand Island – Bill Nottage-Tacey (beginning March 2018)
- Kearney – Polly Deppen-Williams (beginning February 2018)
- O'Neill and Ewing– Martha Atkins (ELCA Pastor serving in Homestead Presbytery, temporary member of Homestead Presbytery)
- Valentine – Lisa Danielson (member South Dakota Presbytery)

Upon recommendation of the committee, presbytery approved that the minimum effective salary for 2018 be \$45,500.

Upon recommendation of the committee, presbytery approved that the fee for moderating Session meetings and Congregational meetings be increased from \$35 to \$50 per meeting plus mileage being paid at the current IRS rate.

COM reported that they approved the terms of call ministers of the presbytery.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Joyce Dean reported that CPM met on July 18, 2017 to conduct annual consultations with Logan Ellis (Inquirer), Zach Spurgeon (Inquirer), David Johnson (Candidate), and Sharon Rees (Candidate).

Following the consultations, on September 25, 2017, Zach Spurgeon withdrew from the process. He was released from care at that time. He is no longer an Inquirer in the PCUSA.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

Presbytery entered into a time of hymn singing and prayer, led by Karen Larson.

INSTALLATION

Ivan Dean was installed as moderator, and Jon Beggs was installed as vice-moderator of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska.

Presbytery adjourned at 11:36 AM. Joyce Dean led in a prayer for lunch. Ivan Dean closed the meeting with prayer.

Presbytery of Central Nebraska
2018 budget

ACCT	DESCRIPTION	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
INCOME			
4003	UMS PRESBYTERY	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 85,000.00
4101	PER CAPITA	\$ 129,660.00	\$ 134,048.00
4172	SYNOD STAFF SUPPORT	\$ 18,225.00	\$ 16,402.00
4013	DESIGNATED PRESBYTERY MISSION		
4102	PRIOR YEAR PER CAPITA		
4190	INTEREST INCOME	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
4195	GAIN (LOSS) ON INVESTMENT		
4180	OTHER INCOME & DONATIONS		
4185	DONATIONS		
4138	PEACEMAKING PRESBYTERY		
4634	GE STUCKEY FUNDS	\$12,837.00	\$20,000.00
4635	MISSION DEVELOPMENT	\$4,357.00	\$10,000.00
4636	CHURCH DEVELOPMENT	\$4,800.00	\$5,000.00
	JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP INCOME		
	CRAWFORD SCHOLARSHIP INCOME		
4710	INSURANCE INCOME		
4730	NET CALENDAR SALES		
	TOTAL	\$ 270,179.00	\$ 270,750.00
OPERATING EXPENSE			
5101	GA PER CAPITA	\$ 32,415.00	\$ 32,381.00
5102	SYNOD PER CAPITA	<u>\$22,906.00</u>	<u>\$22,621.00</u>
	SUBTOTAL	\$ 55,321.00	\$ 55,002.00
5221	RENT/UTILITIES	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00
5225	TELEPHONE	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,000.00
5229	POSTAGE	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
5230	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
5231	SOFTWARE & MAINTENANCE	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
5250	WEB SITE & DSL SERVICE	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
5232	COPIER MAINTENANCE	\$ 800.00	\$ 500.00
5233	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$ -	\$ 500.00
5235	EQUIPMENT PURCHASE	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
5260	PURCHASED GIFTS	\$ -	\$ -
4900	INSURANCE EXPENSE LIABILITY		\$ 3,200.00
	SUBTOTAL	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 35,900.00
COMMITTEE EXPENSE			
COUNCIL			
5309	COUNCIL TASK FORCE	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,300.00
5301	BUSINESS & BUDGET	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
5241	INSURANCE BONDING	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 2,000.00
5241	AUDIT	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
5321	PERSONNEL	\$ 350.00	\$ 400.00
5332	PERSONNEL CMTE GIFTS	\$ -	\$ 200.00
5208	SEXUAL MISCONDUCT	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
5215	GA COMMISSIONER	<u>\$ 150.00</u>	<u>\$ 150.00</u>
TOTAL COUNCIL		\$ 9,550.00	\$ 8,500.00
COM			
5343	COM MEETINGS	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
5430	COM RESOURCES & TRAINING	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
5440	COM EMERGENCY FUND	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,100.00
5435	COM CHURCH SUPPORT		
5460	COM VISITATIONS & SUPPORT	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
TOTAL COM		\$ 4,100.00	\$ 4,100.00

Presbytery of Central Nebraska
2018 budget

PRESBYTERY MTG. & COMMISSIONS		
5323 M & C MILEAGE	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
5530 M&C MEALS		
5328 M & C INSTALLATIONS	<u>\$200.00</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>
TOTAL P M & C	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,700.00
NOMINATING COMMITTEE		
5313 NOM CTE	<u>\$ 400.00</u>	<u>\$ 200.00</u>
TOTAL NOM CTE	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00
PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMITTEE		
5317 PJC	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
5209 SPECIAL DISC CTE		
TOTAL PJC	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
VOCATIONS/CPM		
5910 VOCATIONS/CPM MTG	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
5920 INERPRES CHURCH EVENT	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
5915 CANDIDATES ASSESSMENT	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
5930 CLP TRAINING/SCHOLARSHIPS	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
TOTAL VOC/CPM	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00
YOUTH MINISTRY		
6550 YMC MEETINGS	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
6551 YOUTH TRIENNIUM		
6552 CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
6553 YOUTH EVENTS	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
6557 TRAINING	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00
TOTAL YOUTH MINISTRIES	<u>\$ 5,500.00</u>	<u>\$ 6,000.00</u>
TOTAL COMMITTEE EXPENSES	\$ 24,150.00	\$ 23,400.00
MISSION PROJECTS		
5920 PRESBY VOC (PASTOR SCHOOL)		
6702 RURAL RESPONSE HOTLINE	\$ 550.00	\$ 1,000.00
6705 INTERCHURCH MINISTRIES	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
6720 WEE KIRK	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
6730 WELCOME CENTER	\$ -	\$ -
KRISTIN HAMMER		
ADMIN. LEARNING RETREAT		
APA LEADERSHIP TRAINING SUPPORT	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -
CHURCH ADMIN. CONTINUING EDUCATION		\$ 2,000.00
LEADERSHIP DEV SCHOLARSHIPS	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
PRESBYTERY ENRICHMENT EVENTS		\$ 5,000.00
TECH. AND ASSISTANCE GRANTS	<u>\$ 45,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 25,000.00</u>
TOTAL MISSION PROJECTS	\$ 51,250.00	\$ 36,700.00
OFFICE AND STAFF EXPENSES		
7000 EP SALARY	\$50,000.00	\$26,000.00
EP HOUSING		\$24,000.00
7004 EP PENSION & BENEFITS	\$18,000.00	\$18,250.00
EP SOCIAL SECURITY REIMB.	\$3,825.00	\$3,825.00
7009 EP TRAVEL (VOUCHERED)	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
7011 EP CONTINUING EDUCATION		\$3,500.00
7013 EP GA EXPENSE		\$5,000.00
7260 EXECUTIVE MISSION EXPENSE		
TOTAL TEP EXPENSE	\$ 75,325.00	\$ 84,075.00

Presbytery of Central Nebraska
2018 budget

TEMPORARY STATED CLERK EXPENSE			
7040 STATED CLERK SALARY	\$	6,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
7041 STATED CLERK PAYROLL TAXES	\$	459.00	\$ 918.00
7044 STATED CLERK TRAVEL	\$	1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
7045 TSC OFFICE			
CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$	1,000.00	
7048 RECORDING CLERK SALARY			
7049 RECORDING CLERK MILEAGE			
7050 ASST STATED CLERK SALARY			
7051 ASST STATED CLERK TAXES			
7054 ASST STATED CLERK TRAVEL			<u>0</u>
TOTAL STATED CLERK EXPENSE	\$	8,659.00	\$ 14,118.00
OFFICE SUPPORT STAFF EXPENSE			
7051 PRESBYTERY ADM. SALARY	\$	20,800.00	\$ 20,800.00
7055 FICA	\$	1,591.20	\$ 1,591.20
7056 ADM PENSION/BENEFITS			
7057 ADM. CONT. EDUCATION	\$	1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
7058 ADM. MILEAGE	\$	500.00	\$ 500.00
8345 ADM APA EXPENSE			
7360 CLEANING SERVICE	\$	550.00	\$ 550.00
7365 FICA	\$	80.00	\$ -
7059 TEMP. STAFF SUPPORT	\$	500.00	\$ 500.00
7070 SYNOD FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$	<u>2,500.00</u>	\$ <u>2,500.00</u>
JOHNSON SXCHOLARSHIP EXPENSE			
CRAWFORD SXCHOLARCHIP EXP.			
TOTAL SUPPORT STAFF/OFFICE EXPENSE	\$	27,521.20	\$ 27,441.20
TOTAL EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF EXPENSE	\$	111,505.20	\$ 125,634.20
TOTAL EXPENSE		<u>\$ 273,226.20</u>	<u>\$ 276,636.20</u>
TOTAL INCOME AND TRANSFERS	\$	270,179.00	\$ 270,750.00
NET GAIN OR (LOSS)	\$	(3,047.20)	\$ (5,886.20)

Executive Presbyter & Stated Clerk Report to the Presbytery

This is my first report to the Presbytery as your new Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk. I am so excited about this new position! I have been interested in presbytery leadership since serving on my first presbytery committee over 20 years ago. I truly believe that God has brought me to this point in my ministry and I look forward to the work we will be doing together.

I wanted to share a few things from the past months:

- At the beginning of November 2017, I attended Stated Clerk training at the General Assembly offices in Louisville, KY. It was a lot of information to process, but the folks there are so helpful. Ray Meester has been a great resource for me when I have questions. The amazing thing is that he still answers my phone calls!
- I am proud to say that Central Nebraska Presbytery is up-to-date with all presbytery related reports. 88% of the churches in the presbytery completed all or part of their 2017 annual statistical reports. The presbytery is made up of 36 churches with 3973 members.
- The presbytery may be good at sending in our statistical reports, but only 10 churches submitted their session minutes for review. Maybe we need to look at a different way of reviewing minutes? I would love to hear your suggestions.
- At the end of January, I made my first congregational visit to Valentine to moderate their annual congregational meeting. Now that I am no longer serving as Interim Pastor at FPC Lexington, I am free to visit congregations in the presbytery. If you have a special event or would like me to preach, please give me a call. My hope is to visit each congregation in the presbytery over the next year.
- I attended Winter Pastors' School at Camp Calvin Crest at the beginning of February. It was a great week of learning and fellowship with other pastors.
- We have several churches in the presbytery that are looking for pastoral leadership. I am committed to helping PNCs and Interim Search Committees in their work. I love Nebraska and this presbytery, and I want other pastors to know what wonderful churches we have in our presbytery.
- Here are a few upcoming events in my schedule:
 - April 24-26 – Synod Training Event for COM and CPM moderators at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, Minnesota on the topic of “Mental Health and Ministry”
 - April 29-May 1 – Synod Meeting at Mt. Olivet Center in Farmington, MN
 - May 1-2 – Synod EP Forum at Mt. Olivet Center in Farmington, MN
 - May 10-11 – Synod Records Review at Lakeshore Center at Okoboji in Iowa
 - June 15-23 – General Assembly in St. Louis, MO

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

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

Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

Celebration: Living in the Joy of the Lord

“They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.” Psalm 145:7

April 26, 2018

1:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
204 East Everett
O’Neill, NE
No cost or registration
1:00 until 4:00

April 28, 2018

9:00 a.m. coffee
Westminster United Presbyterian
Church, 109 North Colorado
Minden, NE
Cost: \$10.00
9:30 until 1:30
Registration deadline: April 25
Send to Donna Schwenka
1294 Sycamore
Minden, NE 68959
308 832-1611 or 308 832-2170

The Spring Gathering will include worship with Communion. The program will be presented by Kili Wenburg, the Director of Adult Education and Spiritual Formation at First Presbyterian Church, Hastings. Come and prepare to be challenged and grow.

Upcoming Event

Churchwide Gathering: August 2-5, 2018 Louisville, Ky
Scholarships available from Central Nebraska Presbyterian Women.
Annabelle Wells, moderator annabelle.wells@gmail.com

COM Report

March 24, 2018

Presbytery Meeting

First Presbyterian Church of Cozad

On behalf of the presbytery, the Committee on Ministry approved the following items:

COM meeting schedule for 2018:

4 in person meetings 1:00-4:00pm:

- January 9
- March 13
- June 12
- October 9

4 Zoom teleconference meetings 10am-Noon:

- February 15
- May 17
- August 16
- November 15

COM appointed the following Church Moderators:

Beaver City – Rev. Dan Davis

Grand Island – Rev. Bill Nottage-Tacey (beginning March 2018)

Kearney – Rev. Polly Deppen-Williams (beginning February 2018)

O'Neill – Rev. Martha Atkins (ELCA Pastor serving in Homestead Presbytery)

Valentine – Lisa Danielson (member South Dakota Presbytery)

Sutherland – Rev. Kirwin Stewart

St. Paul –Rev. Doug McHargue

Keystone – Rev. Dan Davis

Lexington – Rev. Kirwin Stewart

Superior- Rev. Ivan and Joyce Dean

Transfers:

COM took action to transferred Rev. Karen Larson to twin cities Presbytery

Exit interviews were conducted for:

Rev. Caroline Price Gibson

Rev. Stephen Price- Gibson

COM approved the following churches to Form PNC's

First Presbyterian Church of Axtell

First Presbyterian Churches of O'Neil & Bethany

Additional actions taken by COM on behalf of Presbytery:

First Presbyterian church / Cornerstone EPC Stapleton:

COM has been working for a number of months with The Cornerstone EPC congregation and the remnant PCUSA members.

As of December 31, 2017, the agreement to share the church property had come to an end. A Presbytery Commission was formed and it was concluded that the remnant members of the PCUSA were no longer meeting nor able to continue financial support of the church property. After much prayer and negotiation, the Commission recommended and COM agreed to gift the church building to the Cornerstone EPC church and retain the Stapleton manse as property of the PCUSA in order to sell it to created seed money for future Presbytery endeavors.

Legal steps have been taken to transfer the Church deed over to the Cornerstone EPC group and to secure a realtor to prepare the church manse for sale.

FPC Lexington Eddie Mariel has been hired by FPC Lexington as "Supervised ministry" position , much like that of a "student pastor". He will remain under the care of Presbytery of San Fernando's CPM. And upon completion of ordination exams and candidacy would be eligible for ordination in September. Eddie began his ministry in Lexington on February 4th.

Items for presbytery action:

COM Recommends to have Presbytery vote on Rev.'s Stephen and Caroline Price – Gibson to become Honorably retired.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Presbytery of Central Nebraska Meeting
March 24, 2018

Current members of the CPM include Greg Allen-Pickett, Jim Gallentine, Dave Irwin, Karen Woo, and Jill Boyd (chair).

The CPM met on February 6, 2018 to conduct a final assessment of David Johnson. He preached for the committee, provided the required paperwork, and interacted with grace as we questioned him and offered feedback. The CPM voted unanimously to certify him ready to seek a call. He will be introduced at this meeting and we will remain available to him as he discerns with God what his next step will be.

The other two people currently under care are Sharon Rees and Logan Ellis. They both took some of their ordination exams in January, and they both passed what they took.

The CPM will remain available to our inquirers, candidates, and the Presbytery, and we will begin preparing for annual consultations of Sharon and Logan, which will take place this summer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Boyd

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL REPORT

MARCH 24, 2018

A Recording Clerk will be hired to serve at each Presbytery meeting. Compensation will be \$100.00 per meeting plus mileage and expenses.

Personnel reported that Raymond Meester will be retiring January 31, 2018 as Temporary Stated Clerk. Polly Deppen-Williams will assume this responsibility as Stated Clerk in addition to serving as Executive Presbyter. It is **recommended that her compensation be adjusted as follows:**

	<u>Executive Presbyter</u>	<u>EP & Stated Clerk</u>	<u>Stated Clerk Only</u>
Hours	20 hours per week	30 hours per week	10 hours per week
Salary	\$26,000	\$38,000	\$12,000
Housing	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$ 0
Total Effective Salary	\$50,000	\$62,000	\$12,000
Social Security Offset	\$ 3,825	\$ 4,743	\$ 918
Board of Pensions	\$18,500	\$22,940	\$ 4,440
Vacation	4 weeks	no change	
Study Leave	2 weeks	no change	
Travel	\$ 3,500	no change	\$ 0
Professional Expenses:	\$ 3,500	no change	\$ 0
Denominational			
Commitment Expenses:	\$ 5,000	no change	\$ 0

Start date	November 2, 1017	February 2, 2018
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Other Business:

- Presbyterian Women requested permission to serve communion at their 2 spring gatherings: O'Neill on April 26 and Minden on April 28. Council **VOTED TO APPROVE** this request.
- Briefly discussed setting up area or neighborhood pastoral groups. More details to be discussed in May.
- Boundary training will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Kearney on Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 9 am to 3 pm. Deb DeMeester will be the trainer.
- Requests have been received to hold the Monthly Pastors Lunch on a different day than Tuesday – to encourage attendance. This will be done in future months.
- CPM reported that David Johnson is ready to accept a permanent call.
- COM reported that the Stapleton manse has had water damage and CNP is currently dealing with repairs and an insurance claim.
- The updated website was viewed.

Future Presbytery Locations and Dates:

- March 24, 2018 – First Presbyterian Church, Cozad
- June 30, 2018 – Westminster United Presbyterian Church, Minden
- October 27, 2018 – TBD

BUSINESS AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Central Nebraska Presbytery, Kearney, NE

Current members of Business and Budget Committee are Steve Soundy, chair; Steve Miller, Allen Phillips and Shoshana Patocka.

The committee has not met – no financial reports have been received from Synod since October, 2017.

A completed audit of the financial statements, which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2016 has been received from Dana F. Cole & Company, Certified Public Accountants. In their opinion, the year ended in conformity with accepted accounting principles.

We would like to thank Doug Garey, Jane Bauer and Dian Lauby for their work on this committee.

Personnel Committee Report March, 2018

The Personnel Committee has met twice since the beginning of the year. Our first meeting was held on Wednesday, January 10th, and was called specifically to handle the business of adding the role of Stated Clerk onto the Reverend Polly Deppen-Williams' responsibilities.

The two main issues the committee discussed were the title of the new position and the compensation.

Originally, the committee had assumed that when Reverend Deppen-Williams added the role of Stated Clerk, this would change her title to Designated General Presbyter, but in consultation with other Executive Presbyters, Polly became aware that the term General Presbyter does not necessarily describe the combination of the roles of Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk. At her suggestion, the committee decided to give her both titles. So now the Reverend Deppen-Williams is our Designated Executive Presbyter and our Stated Clerk.

The issue of compensation had been discussed in the past with an eye toward the day when this dual role would become a reality. For ease of use, the compensation for the two positions is combined in the terms of the Reverend Deppen-Williams' employment. In essence, it adds to her compensation as ½ time Designated Executive Presbyter the compensation the presbytery was paying for the Reverend Ray Meester to be our ¼ time Stated Clerk, but with no additional expenses built in. This represents a small savings to the presbytery. Both issues were discussed and approved by the council. The terms of the Designated EP position and the combined EP/Stated Clerk position is provided below.

The committee met again on Wednesday, February 28th. The purpose of this meeting was to hire a recording clerk. With the Reverend Deppen-Williams serving the dual role of Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk, her time at presbytery meetings will already be in demand. For that reason, the committee deemed it prudent to fill the position of recording clerk. The position will pay \$100 per meeting, plus travel expenses.

We had three qualified applicants interested in the position. One of the candidates withdrew for health reasons. The committee discussed the remaining applicants thoroughly and decided to offer the position to Judy Howard of Cozad. Judy has served as a clerk of session for the Buffalo Grove congregation and also served as Stated Clerk for the presbytery for a year early in the transition. Judy accepted the position and joins us this morning. You will find a working copy of the recording clerk job description below.

**Terms of Call for Designated Executive Presbyter of Central Nebraska Presbytery
Rev. Polly Deppen-Williams**

	<u>Executive Presbyter</u> 20 hours per week	<u>EP & Stated Clerk</u> 30 hours per week
Hours		
Salary	\$26,000	\$38,000
Housing	\$24,000	\$24,000
Total Effective Salary	\$50,000	\$62,000
Social Security Offset	\$ 3,825	\$ 4,743
Board of Pensions	\$18,500	\$22,940
Vacation	4 weeks	no change
Study Leave	2 weeks	no change
Travel	\$ 3,500	no change
Professional Expenses:	\$ 3,500	no change
Denominational Commitment Expenses:	\$ 5,000	no change
Start Date:	November 1, 2017	February 1, 2018

RECORDING CLERK POSITION DESCRIPTION

PRESBYTERY OF CENTRAL NEBRASKA

TITLE: Recording Clerk

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this position is to provide clerical support for the Stated Clerk for all regular Presbytery meetings.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

This position is accountable first to the Stated Clerk and in all matters to the Presbytery Personnel Committee.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Recording Clerk will be responsible for the following:

1. Taking draft minutes at each of the regularly scheduled presbytery meetings. (This does not include *Special* meetings called.)
2. Presenting the draft of said minutes for the Stated Clerk to edit.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Basic understanding of Presbyterian polity.
2. Computer training and/or experience with word processing, the internet, and email.
3. Strong oral and written communication skills.
4. Punctual in attending all scheduled Presbytery meetings.

COMPENSATION:

\$100/meeting, plus travel and meal expenses

Nominating Committee Report

March 5, 2018

New people added to committees include:

Committee on Preparation

Julia Thomsen – Class of 2019

Business and Budget Committee

Shoshana Patocka – Class of 2020

Allen Phillips – Class of 2020

Nominating Committee

David Neinkamp – Class of 2020

Ovt 014

On Engagement with the Issue of Climate Change—From the Presbytery of New Covenant.

The Presbytery of New Covenant overtures the 223rd General Assembly (2018) of the PC(USA) to:

- 1. Express its profound concern about the detrimental effects of climate change on all God’s creation, including those living in poverty, the elderly and children, and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases.**
- 2. Proclaim that we recognize the Gospel’s call to shift to a just, compassionate and sustainable energy plan.**
- 3. Acknowledge that this compels us to implement strategies and actions that engage climate change and offer the realistic prospect of changing our destructive behaviors that contribute to the issue.**
- 4. Call upon congregations and councils of the church to develop ways for those who disagree on climate change to be in dialogue with one another, seeking together to find and represent the will of Christ; affirm the need for dialogue and discernment, not only within and among our congregations, but also all parties outside our denomination, seeking faithful individual and collective responses to address climate change, trusting that we share a common belief in the need to respond.**
- 5. Affirm that we have a duty to assure that our response to climate change does not endanger the economic progress and improvements in living conditions that have been made among all of God’s people, most notably the impoverished, but instead enables that progress to continue.**
- 6. Affirm that is both possible and practical to effect meaningful change; urge individuals, congregations, councils of the church, and institutions (including the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation, Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Mission Agency, Office of General Assembly, camps, conference centers, colleges, and theological seminaries) to initiate, continue, and build upon steps to reduce our carbon footprint and to continue adoption of lower-carbon and zero-carbon technologies and lifestyles.**
- 7. Commend the Committee on Mission Responsibility through Investment (“MRTI”) for its long history of corporate engagement on climate change issues.**
- 8. Instruct MRTI to continue that engagement, applying the long-standing PC(USA) principles related to corporate engagement and consideration of divestment.**
- 9. Acknowledge that our response must not be limited to corporate engagement, and that engagement also requires us to develop, advocate, and implement faithful responses that alter harmful individual, institutional, and corporate behaviors that contribute to climate change.**
- 10. Affirm the steps already taken by the Presbyterian Foundation, Board of Pensions, and Presbyterian Investment and Loan Corporation to leverage investments to help care for God’s creation and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change by urging these groups to establish and enhance programs to target climate change solutions, such as the “Restoring Creation Loan” program, which allows congregations to renovate their buildings using energy-efficient products to conserve energy, lower costs, and reduce carbon emissions.**
- 11. Commend congregations that have committed to the “earth care pledge” and encourage all congregations to consider joining the Earthcare Congregation Network of the PC(USA).**
- 12. Advocate for the reduction of greenhouse gases through the use of alternative, cleaner energy sources, such as natural gas, nuclear, wind, solar, and industrial-scale power storage, even if only as a bridge to the long-term future.**
- 13. Direct the Advisory Committee for Social Witness Policy, in collaboration with Congregational Ministries Publishing, The Thoughtful Christian, and other organizations with parallel goals, to develop a policy paper and educational materials to assist congregations and councils of the church to understand the impact of climate change and in taking individual and collective action to slow climate change, including: shareholder activism; investments in renewable energy; advocacy at local, state, federal, and international levels for policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (including policies to price greenhouse gas emissions);**

and local efforts to reduce carbon footprint, consistent with the 2006 call for denominational carbon neutrality, and the 2008 “Power to Change” recommendations.

14. Direct the Stated Clerk of the PC (USA) to inform the denomination and the larger public of the passage and implementation of this overture.

Rationale

Our denomination has long recognized our obligation to be faithful stewards of God’s creation (including General Assembly actions in 1981, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2006, and 2008). We have acknowledged the realities of climate change and its effect on the “least of these,” and the need to take action by reducing energy consumption and reliance on fossil fuels. Now is the time to move from symbolism to education and behavioral changes.

We must also adopt in our individual, congregational, and denominational lives meaningful approaches that address climate change. As Christians, we have the privilege, responsibility and obligation to speak with moral authority on issues of great importance. Climate change is such an issue.

This overture exhorts us to unite all Presbyterians to engage climate change with responsible, meaningful, and lasting actions that will make a difference in the future of God’s creation. Through the actions called for in this overture, the PC (USA) will demonstrate the depth of our theological understanding of the stewardship of God’s creation and community by promoting faithful actions that unite us in addressing the issues of climate change.

Biblical and Theological Rationale

Ecology and justice are implicit in the story of creation itself: “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it” (Gen. 2:15). This Scripture affirms four values that characterize “a new faithfulness” reflecting God’s love for the world: sustainability, participation, sufficiency, and solidarity. These values also highlight the inherent tensions. We cannot address only the good of the creation without also considering the good of the community. We cannot address only the good of the community without considering the good of creation. Global climate change, regardless of its cause, threatens both the community and the earth over which we are stewards. Our call is to address these threats responsibly, with meaningful effect, while promoting economic justice.

A Proposed Response

From our perspective, the consistent, rational, and equitable global pricing of emissions would enlist market forces to drive changes in consumption necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and also provide the economic incentive necessary to promote investment in low-carbon or zero-carbon infrastructure and technologies. Affordable energy would continue to be available to drive responsible economic development, while global emissions driven by consumption would decline. We thus address our dual responsibility to promote the well-being of the disadvantaged and the protection of the earth.

We also recognize that this pricing system must originate with the secular authorities, not PC(USA). This Overture therefore also highlights many actions that we as individuals, congregations, and institutions can take on our own authority, and that some among us are already taking. We urge broader adoption of these actions.

Summary

We Presbyterians approach creation with the twin perspectives of responsible use and sustainable care. An ethic of stewardship therefore must consider creation both as a good in itself and as a resource for economic justice. The responsibility of holding wealth is directed toward an ethic of engagement that seeks to use wealth to transform injustice and immorality rather than shunning such engagement. Action to bring about that outcome is a faithful response to the urgent climate change issues that are before us.