

HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY COUNCIL MINUTES

April 20, 2013

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, NE

Homestead Presbytery Council met at the Heritage Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, NE, on Saturday, April 20, 2013.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Teaching Elder Neal Allen, Moderator, Nominating Committee P
Ruling Elder Pat Brownawell, at large member P
Teaching Elder Ellen Davis, Moderator, Committee on Ministry P
Ruling Elder Robin Hadfield, Presbytery Moderator P
Ruling Elder Shirley Hamernik, at large member P
Teaching Elder Jim McNeal, Council Moderator P
Teaching Elder Raymond Meester, Stated Clerk P
Ruling Elder Cheryl Rennick, Treasurer, Moderator, Program and Grants P
Teaching Elder Richard Wyatt, Executive Presbyter P
Ruling Elder Vicki Fleming, at large member P
Teaching Elder Kara James, moderator, Committee on Preparation for Ministry P
Ruling Elder Nancy Leavitt, Moderator, Personnel P

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Teaching Elder Kathy Keener-Han, Moderator, Business and Finance

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ruling Elder Joan Berglund, Women of Homestead Presbytery

Opening Devotion and prayer was led by Teaching Elder Jim McNeal

The group shared joys and concerns.

A quorum was declared.

The agenda was approved with some changes.

STAFF REPORTS:

Teaching Elder Raymond Meester, Stated Clerk reported that:

- PJC training was held on March 2, 2013 with the members of the PJC's of Central Nebraska and Missouri River Valley
- The election of Duane Westing to PJC on August 11, 2011, was improper and so I am ruling his election as invalid. His election placed too many people onto the PJC and created an imbalance between ruling elders and teaching elders.
- The minutes of Homestead Presbytery for 2012 (February 18, 2012, May 17, 2012, August 17-18, 2012, November 15, 2012, December 22, 2012 (Pages 4189-4302) were reviewed on April 8 and 9, 213, and were approved with the following exceptions:
 1. There was no report full financial review (2nd year).
 2. There was no record of Presbytery property & liability insurance coverage (2nd year).
 3. There was no record of alternate PJC members (terms expired last six years).

4. There was no record of the legal description of real property in cases of sale or lease.
- The membership numbers of two churches within the presbytery have dropped creating a reduction in the number of commissioners they can elect to Presbytery. First Church, Lincoln, can now send one commissioner, and Eastridge, Lincoln, can now send two commissioners.
- An addition to the Stated Clerk's report is to record that the annual statistical report to General Assembly for 2012 has been submitted.

Teaching Elder Richard Wyatt, reported on his work and current activities.

- Moderator appointed an ad hoc committee to nominate people that the Council will forward to the presbytery for election to the Nominating Committee: Jim McNeal, Robin Hadfield, and Ellen Davis.
- Synod Funding. Funding for 2014 from the Synod for executive presbytery support will be reduced from \$40,000 to \$35,000. There is no information yet concerning the revitalization grant.
- Council was updated on churches in pastoral transitions and concerns about some of the Teaching Elder and their family members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Ministry: Ellen Davis reported. Palmyra-Hopewell Parish is working towards dissolution of the parish. There were updates about churches going through pastoral transitions. The pastoral compensation report was reviewed.

Business and Finance: Cheryl Rennick reported. The Committee is researching insurance policies for the presbytery and a master plan for churches of the presbytery. They are also working on a policy for on-line sales and contributions. Also the committee is considering some kind of inexpensive church management database that could be used by the churches of the presbytery, especially the smaller ones. The March financials were reviewed. The Committee is working toward a unified budget, instead of keeping mission and operating separate. It was noted that the presbytery by-laws stipulate that the presbytery have a unified budget

Nominating; Neal Allen reported. It was noted that the Business and Finance Committee needs more members, especially someone with expertise in property management and insurance review.

Personnel: Nancy Leavitt reported. Are working on their budget figures.

Preparation for Ministry. Kara James reported. Reported on Nick's progress as a candidate.

Programs and Grants. Cheryl Rennick reported. They have given 5 grants so far this year. About \$4,200 remains for this year.

A draft of the Manual of Operations was presented. Robin Hadfield volunteered to edit the draft for formatting, grammar, etc. and Raymond Meester will review Book of Order citations.

Because of a conflict of schedule for Jon Ashley, Fremont is requesting that Presbytery meeting be one week earlier, or convene later in the afternoon. It was decided not to make the change.

May, 2013 offering will be for PDA

It was decided that the February 2014 stated meeting of Homestead Presbytery will be hosted by southern Heights Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, NE.

Motion to adjourn.

Ellen Davis closed the meeting with prayer.