

The Council of Homestead Presbytery, meeting at Calvin Crest Camp, Conference, and Retreat Center, Fremont, Nebraska was called to order on Monday, January 12, 2015, 1:00 P.M. Teaching Elder Ellen Davis, opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

Council members present were:

Teaching Elder Cathy Allen, Committee on Ministry  
Ruling Elder Dave Barnhouse, at large member  
Teaching Elder Ellen Davis, council moderator  
Ruling Elder Cheryl Rennick, treasurer  
Ruling Elder Roger Shoemaker, presbytery moderator  
Teaching Elder Raymond Meester, stated clerk  
Teaching Elder Melodie Jones Pointon, Committee on Preparation for Ministry  
Teaching Elder Duane Westing, Personnel  
Teaching Elder Richard Wyatt, executive presbyter

Council members excused were:

Teaching Elder Richard Tiggelaar, Business & Finance

Council members absent:

Teaching Elder Neal Allen, Nominating Committee  
Ruling Elder Joie Taylor, Presbyterian Women

Members of Council “celebrated” the various events and happenings within the presbytery.

A quorum was declared.

The amended agenda was adopted.

Minutes of the October 2014 Council meeting were approved.

Minutes of the November 2014 Presbytery meeting were approved.

The stated clerk teaching elder Raymond Meester shared correspondence that had been received. In response to a request from Volunteers Organizations Assisting in Disasters (VOAD), Council approved presbytery being a paid member of VOAD for \$30.00.

The executive presbytery teaching elder Richard Wyatt reported. He would like to start a worship at presbytery meetings M&M; an M&M for educational workshops within the presbytery; and an M&M to help churches in encouraging members to remember their churches in their wills.

Moderator of presbytery, ruling elder Roger Shoemaker, reported that he attended the moderator’s conference in Louisville, Kentucky, has done some pulpit supply, and is open to supplying pulpits.

Business and Finance had no report.

Teaching elder Cathy Allen reported for the Committee on Ministry. There was a discussion concerning the examination of incoming teaching elders as a way of introducing them to the presbytery, the yoking of First Church, Lyons, with a local ELCA church; and a merger of the Verdel and Niobrara churches, this merged congregation will yoke with a nearby ELCA congregation.

Teaching elder Melodie Jones Pointon reported for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. There was no report from the Nominating Committee.

Ruling elder Dave Barnhouse, teaching elder Cathy Allen, and teaching elder Duane Westing were appointed to nominate persons for the Presbytery Nominating Committee on behalf of the Council.

Council elected teaching elder Jon Ashley as moderator of Nominating Committee.

Teaching elder Duane Westing reported for the Personnel Committee.

Ruling elder Cheryl Rennick reported for Programs and Grants.

Old Business included a discussion about meal charges for children at presbytery meetings. Council approved that all children 5 and under not be charged for meals, and presbytery will pay the meal costs for these children. Presbytery's payment for child meals will be charged to the presbytery meeting line item under the council. The offering for the February 21, 2015 presbytery meeting will go to Presby-Build. The expense for J. Herbert Nelson coming to the presbytery meeting will come from the presbytery's portion of the Peace Making Offering. Half of expense will be paid by Heritage Presbyterian Church.

Representatives from Homestead Presbytery will be attending a "video conferencing" meeting of John Knox Presbytery to be held on August 18. They will travel on August 17.

After discussion about the process that will be recommended to the presbytery for the voting of the General Assembly amendments, the council voted to recommend that:

- Each speaker will have two minutes to speak, with the stated clerk timing the speakers. A yellow card will be displayed when one minutes has passed; a red card when two minutes have passed.
- Speakers will alternate between those for and those against the amendments.
- The debate on the marriage amendment will be limited to 40 minutes, and will be scheduled from 11:20 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
- The debate on the Belhar Confession will be limited to 30 minutes, and will be scheduled from 12:00 to 12:30 P.M. Lunch will be served at 12:30 P.M.
- Paper ballots will be used for the marriage amendment and the Belhar Confession. Ballots will be different colors for the different amendments and will have the amendment reference preprinted on the ballot.
- Paper ballots will be available for the other amendments as called for by commissioners. Again, different colors will be used for each paper ballot vote.
- Ruling elder Dave Barnhouse and two volunteers from Heritage Church will count the paper ballots.
- Voting commissioners will sit in a section separate from guests during debate and voting.
- Fifteen minutes will be scheduled for the remaining amendments.

It was also decided that because of the time constraints due to the time required for voting for the amendments, there will not be an educational hour at the February 21, 2015 stated meeting.

The agenda for the first part of the meeting will be as follows:

1. Opening items: 10:00 A.M.
2. Worship: 10:20 A.M.

3. Marriage amendment: 11:20 A.M.
4. Belhar amendment: 12:00 P.M.
5. Lunch: 12:30

Joys and Concerns were shared.

Council adjourned with prayer by teaching elder Melodie Jones Pointon at 3:50 p.m.