

COUNCIL OF HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY MINUTES
April 21, 2016

The regular meeting of the Council of Homestead Presbytery was held on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at 9: 30 A.M. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, the moderator being in the chair and the stated clerk present. Teaching elder Raymond Meester led the Morning Prayer.

Members present: (E = excused; P = present; A = absent)

Teaching elders

A-Jon Ashley
P-Ellen Davis
P-Carl Eskridge
P-Steven Piper
P-Melodie Jones Pointon
P-Raymond Meester, stated clerk
P-Katie Barrett Todd
P-Richard Wyatt, executive presbyter.

Ruling elders

P-Dave Barnhouse
P-Maggie Horak
P-Steve Pointon
P-Cheryl Rennick, treasurer

Members (non-ordained)

E-Kylie Peterson

A quorum was declared present.

The agenda was approved as amended.

The minutes of the January 11, 2016 Council Meeting and of the February 20, 2016 stated meeting of Homestead Presbytery were approved with corrections.

The stated clerk, teaching elder Raymond Meester reported.

Teaching elder Richard Wyatt, Executive Presbyter, reported. He gave an update on staffing, particularly the presbytery secretary, who is currently still in her probationary period. Concerns were expressed about the presbytery database and online directory. Ruling elder Kris Peterson, ruling elder Cheryl Rennick, and teaching elder Katie Todd volunteered to explore various databases for the presbytery. He reported on future changes with the Board of Pensions.

Moderator of Homestead Presbytery, teaching elder Ellen Davis reported on her activities.

The following committees reported:

Business and Finance Committee still has no moderator. The first quarter financials were available. Presbytery is working with the GuideOne insurance on some questions and concerns, about child abuse prevention policies, particularly for small churches.

Committee on Ministry, teaching elder Steve Piper gave an update on pastoral transitions.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry, teaching elder Melodie Jones Pointon updated the council on the continuing work of the committee. There are concerns about training for commissioned ruling elders.

Council **approved** a change in the request of Southern Heights for a \$150,000 line of credit for paving a new parking lot. This was approved at the February, 2016 meeting of Homestead Presbytery. However, Southern Heights prefers to obtain a loan of \$103,000, rather than a line of credit. Council approved recommending this change to the Presbytery at its May 2016 meeting.

There was no report from the **Nominating Committee**.

Personnel Committee, teaching elder Carl Eskridge gave a report. The committee plans to meet soon with reviews and salaries, but is having a difficult time getting a meeting scheduled.

Programs and Grants, teaching elder Katie Todd reported. The committee will have applications available at the next presbytery meeting. She reminded the council about the need for reviews and applications for 2016 if they want funding next year.

Presbyterian Women, ruling elder Maggie Horak updated the Council on the ministry of Presbyterian Women and shared information about the spring gatherings.

New Worshipping Community (Council Committee): The Council Committee that was appointed to work on a presbytery committee has met but the Presbytery Committee itself has not yet been formed. Concern was voiced about why it has taken so long to get the Presbytery Committee formed. Council **approved** that the council instruct the Nominating Committee to present the nominees for the Presbytery committee at the August, 2016 presbytery meeting, that this new Presbytery committee meet as soon as possible following the election, and that this committee have a report for the November 2016 council meeting.

Council **approved** that the council instruct the Nominating Committee have at the May 2016 presbytery meeting a listing of the current vacancies and upcoming 2017 vacancies for all the committees of the presbytery.

Council **approved** that, until the standing committee on New Worshipping Committees, is functioning, any funding requests for existing or proposed new New Worshipping Communities be sent to Business and Finance for their recommendation to Programs and Grants, and Program and Grants will make the final approval.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

Council granted the following time allotments for the docket for the May 19, 2016 stated meeting of Homestead Presbytery:

Business and Finance Committee: No time

Committee on Ministry: 60 minutes
Committee on Preparation for Ministry: No time.
Nominating Committee: 5 minutes
Personnel Committee: None
Programs and Grants: 5 minutes
Presbyterian Women 10 minutes:
Treasurer: 5 minutes
Council: 5 minutes
Commissioning; up to 10 minutes in worship.

Council **approved** that the offering received at the May 19, 2016 meeting of Homestead Presbytery be designated for PDA for the victims of the earthquakes in Ecuador and Japan. It was requested that there be a “mission interpretation” of the PDA ministry during the worship at presbytery meeting.

Katie Todd requests 10-15 minutes for the commissioning of Triennium participants and GA commissioners, and the Scotland-Ireland trip, which will be a part of the worship service.

Clergy Family M&M announced they will be in charge of child care for the August 2016 presbytery meeting and there were no objections from the council.

There was a concern raised about the Presbytery’s Pentecost Offering and that it is confusing because the GA also has a Pentecost Offering. The two offerings have identical names and are received at the same time. Council will make a decision after this year’s Pentecost Offering.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 P.M., with ruling elder Cheryl Rennick closing with a devotional reading and prayer.