

CALL TO THE 102nd STATED MEETING

The Synod of Lincoln Trails of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) convened its 102nd Stated Meeting at Westminster Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Illinois on Friday, April 1, 2016.

GATHERING THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

CALL TO ORDER

The Stated Meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M. Central Daylight Time (CDT) by the Synod Moderator, Ruling Elder Karen Hahn, with prayer. The Moderator welcomed all those in attendance.

In accordance with the Standing Rules of the Synod, a quorum for the Synod shall be eight commissioners, at least four of whom shall be ruling elders, and at least four of whom shall be teaching elders, representing at least three presbyteries. The roll was established by registration as follows:

Presbytery	Commissioner	Class	Status
Presbytery of Blackhawk	Ruling Elder Marian DeWall	2016	Present
	The Reverend Kim Hulen	2017	Present
	The Reverend John Walker	2018	Excused
	<i>Vacant – Ruling Elder</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
Presbytery of Chicago	The Reverend Rebecca McClintock	2016	Present
	Ruling Elder Brenda Taylor	2017	Present
	Ruling Elder David Myles	2018	Present
	The Reverend Laura Reason	2018	Present
Presbytery of Great Rivers	The Reverend Lonna Chang-Ren Lee	2016	Excused
	Ruling Elder Mike Fritz	2017	Excused
	The Reverend Maura C. McGrath Nagle	2017	Present
	Commissioned Ruling Elder Penny Frame	2018	Present
Presbytery of Midwest Hanmi	Ruling Elder Eun Kiung Hahm	2016	Excused
	The Reverend Jeremiah Yi	2017	Excused
	The Reverend Jong Hyeong Lee	2018	Present
	Ruling Elder Chibong (Bob) Song	2018	Excused
Presbytery of Ohio Valley	Ruling Elder Karen Hahn	2016	Present
	The Reverend John Erickson	2017	Excused
	Ruling Elder Jayne Williams	2017	Present
	The Reverend Alan Finnan	2018	Present
Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois	The Reverend Laurie Williams	2016	Present
	Ruling Elder Pauline Rowles	2017	Excused
	The Reverend Beau Brown	2018	Present
	Ruling Elder Loren Prest	2018	Present
Presbytery of Wabash Valley	Ruling Elder Ann Bingaman	2016	Present
	The Reverend Kevin Bowers	2017	Present
	Commissioned Ruling Elder Donna Enersen	2017	Excused
	<i>Vacant – Teaching Elder</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
Presbytery of Whitewater Valley	The Reverend Kevin Bausman	2016	Present
	Ruling Elder Lynne Tobin	2016	Present
	Ruling Elder Beth Bedwell	2017	Present
	The Reverend John Koppitch	2018	Present

Ex-Officio Ministry & Staff	Name	Status
Moderator, Permanent Judicial Commission	The Reverend Drew Nagle	Present
Moderator, Presbyterian Women	Ruling Elder Ruby Brown	Present
Transitional Synod Executive	The Reverend Sara Dingman	Present
Stated Clerk	Ruling Elder Blake Wood	Present
Executive Assistant	Judy Lucas	Present

Moderator Hahn asked the Stated Clerk, Ruling Elder Blake Wood, if a sufficient number of commissioners were present. Hearing the answer in the affirmative, the Moderator declared that a quorum was established.

Moderator Hahn asked if there were any corresponding members in attendance.

A motion to seat the following as corresponding members for the 102nd Stated Meeting was seconded and adopted:

Name	Ministry
The Reverend Molly Casteel	Assistant Stated Clerk, Office of the General Assembly
The Reverend Hannah Dreitcer	Westminster Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Illinois
The Reverend Dr. Angelo Hill	Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church of Joliet, Illinois
The Reverend Sam Young Kim	Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Midwest Hanmi
The Reverend Mihee Kim Kort	UKirk Ministries, Indiana University Bloomington
The Reverend Bill McLean	Presbyter for Congregational Care, Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois
Dr. Frank A. Thomas	Christian Theological Seminary
The Reverend Stephen McKinney Whitaker	Gap General Presbyter, Presbytery of Great Rivers
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Wilson	Presbytery of Chicago

SUMMARY OF THE ROLL

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Ex-officio Ministry & Staff</u>	<u>Corresponding Members: 8</u>
Present: 21	Present: 5	
Excused: 9	Excused: 0	<u>Total Attendance: 34</u>
Vacant: 2	Absent: 0	

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER

Moderator Hahn recognized the Reverend Hannah Dreitcer, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Reverend Dreitcer welcomed the Synod to Westminster and offered a brief history of the congregation, noting that the congregation was chartered in 1835 and construction of its current building was completed in 1908.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Moderator Hahn recognized the Stated Clerk, Ruling Elder Blake Wood.

A motion to approve the Proposed Docket was seconded and adopted.

A motion to approve Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper during the 102nd Stated Meeting was seconded and adopted.

A motion to approve the Minutes of the 101st Stated Meeting convened on October 23-24, 2015 was seconded and adopted.

TRANSITIONAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Transitional Synod Executive, the Reverend Sara Dingman, entitled her report as "Saying Yes."

Reverend Dingman opened with this statement: "We talk often about the children of God." The presentation then focused on these topics:

1. Children have an enormous capacity to do great things.
"Capacity" means the ability to hold. Capacities in churches can refer to stewardship, nominations, mission, reorganization, trust, faithfulness, change, and others.
2. Churches, like children, need the right tools...and time to grow.
Looking at ourselves individually, we can express this:

I am a child of God. I know it. I live it. I love it.

We can say yes as a Synod. We can say yes to service. Reverend Dingman asked the Synod to talk among each other in small groups about some of our spiritual ancestors who said yes. Responses from groups were then shared, and ranged from apostles, disciples, and prophets to Christian martyrs recently murdered in Iraq and Syria.

Reverend Dingman closed by asking the Synod to continue to bear in mind how we can say yes to service in the Synod as it continues its time of transition.

FRIDAY DEVOTIONAL & PRAYER

The Synod was led in its time of devotional and prayer by Dr. Frank A. Thomas, currently serving as the Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Th. Miller Professor of Homiletics and Director of the Academy of Preaching and Celebration at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

Dr. Thomas facilitated discussion around the theme of "Inclining Ears, Binding Wounds."

The Synod recessed for dinner and reconvened for a panel discussion.

PANEL DISCUSSION: INCLINING EARS, BINDING WOUNDS

The Reverend Molly Casteel, Assistant Stated Clerk for Representation, Inclusiveness and Ruling Elder Training in the Office of the General Assembly, moderated a panel discussion along the theme of "Inclining Ears, Binding Wounds," which focused on identifying and addressing racism in the Church.

The following were members of the panel:

- The Reverend Beau Brown
- The Reverend Dr. Angelo Hill
- The Reverend Mihee Kim Kort
- Dr. Frank A. Thomas
- The Reverend Dr. Barbara Wilson.

It was as noted that the 102nd Stated Meeting was being convened in Springfield—the home of Abraham Lincoln. The panel noted that in President Lincoln's second inaugural address, he encouraged a divided nation to strive to finish the work they had begun, "to bind up the nation's wounds...to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves..."

The panel continued, describing that over 150 years later, the wounds of which Lincoln spoke are still in need of healing. Racial injustice has not vanished; it has been embedded in our structures and systems in ways that actively prevent the "lasting peace" which God desires.

Throughout the discussion, the moderator and panelists emphasized the importance of exploring how the Church can identify and address individual and systemic racism through listening and partnership.

The Synod recessed.

TOUR OF WESTMINSTER

On the morning of April 2, a tour of Westminster was facilitated by Dale Rogers, Director of Music and the Arts.

WORSHIP

The Synod gathered for worship on at 10:00 A.M. CDT at Westminster Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Illinois. The Preaching of the Word offered by Dr. Frank A. Thomas. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated and officiated by Dr. Thomas, the Reverend Laura Reason, and the Reverend Dr. Angelo Hill.

The Synod reconvened.

The Synod was called to order by Moderator Hahn at 11:00 A.M.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Moderator Hahn led the Synod in its installation of officers for the next year. The Synod installed Ruling Elder Beth Bedwell of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley as Moderator, and the Reverend Beau Brown of the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois as Vice Moderator.

Moderator Bedwell assumed the chair.

The Synod recessed for committee meetings and lunch.

The Synod reconvened.

The Synod was called to order by Moderator Bedwell at 1:00 P.M.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The committee moderator, Ruling Elder Karen Hahn, presented the committee's report:

Items for Information

1. New Pastor Groups will meet on the following dates—
 - April 4-6, 2016: Group 23
 - April 25-27, 2016: Group 24
 - May 9-11, 2016: Group 25
 - August 11-12, 2016: Group 24
 - September 19-21, 2016: Group 25
 - Peggy McDonald, Mission Connector for the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley, will be invited to speak at the committee's October meeting in Indianapolis about the benefits of the New Pastor Program.
2. Synod of Mid-America/Synod of Lincoln Trails (MALT) Transitional Ministry Training—
 - May 2-6, 2016: Interim Pastor Training

- October 28-31, 2016: Transitional Executive Training
 - October 31-November 4, 2016: Interim Pastor Training.
3. Development of Ruling Elder Training – the committee has reached a consensus that it envisions a program in which the Synod would train teaching elders and commissioned ruling elders. In turn, the teaching elders and commissioned ruling elders would train ruling elders within their congregations. It was determined that it would be wise to consult with presbyteries about what they are already doing to assist with ruling elder training. The committee will invite Zeta Lamberson to assist in developing a scope and sequence for a three-year progressive curriculum.
 4. Mission Initiative Grants – The committee approved the following grant applications:
 - \$1,500 to First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, Illinois to extend its food education program
 - \$1,500 to RISE UP, an organization that provides mentors and meals for refugee youth
 - \$1,500 to Peace for Peoria—a program to encourage interfaith dialogue and partnership.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON MISSION COORDINATION & ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Ruling Elder Jayne Williams, at the request of the committee moderator, the Reverend Laurie Williams, offered the following report:

Items for Information

1. The committee considered allocating funds to promote mission projects within the Synod's presbyteries and throughout the denomination.
2. The committee discussed possible goals for reaching missional partners in congregations and how to better allocate mission funds.
3. The committee set a goal of improving its outreach to presbyteries in the area of empowering congregations undertaking mission projects. The conversation emphasized reaching out to presbyteries to partner with them in evangelical mission. Committee members envisioned 1) initiating conversations about the current state of mission, 2) asking what is the vision/future for mission in their presbyteries, and what role can the Synod play?

It was agreed that each committee member will contact the executive/general presbyter of the presbyteries to initiate a discussion about the current state of mission within the presbytery. Committee members formed teams to undertake the task:

Committee Members

The Reverend John Koppitch
Ruling Elder Jayne Williams

The Reverend Jong Lee
Ruling Elder Ruby Brown

Commissioned Ruling Elder Penny Frame
The Reverend Laurie Williams

The Reverend Kevin Bowers
The Reverend Ruby Kleymann

Presbyteries

Ohio Valley, Whitewater Valley

Chicago, Midwest Hanmi

Great Rivers, Southeastern Illinois

Blackhawk, Wabash Valley

Items for Synod Action

1. Per Capita for 2017: The Synod Leadership Team recommended that the Standing Committee on Mission Coordination & Administration be authorized to set the Synod's portion of the Per Capita assessment rate for 2017. The committee discussed the recommendation and submitted it to the Synod.

A motion to authorize the Standing Committee on Mission Coordination and Administration be authorized to set the Synod's portion of the Per Capita assessment rate for 2017 was adopted.

2. Stated Meetings for 2017: Given the schedule conflicts that arose in 2015, the committee discussed how best to determine the dates and locations of the Synod's 104th and 105th stated meetings. In order to expedite the process, the committee recommended that the Synod Leadership Team make recommendations on the dates, times, and locations for each meeting.

A motion to authorize the Synod Leadership Team to make recommendations on the dates, times, and locations for the 104th and 105th stated meetings was adopted.

PREVIEW OF THE 222ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

The Stated Clerk and the Transitional Synod Executive presented a preview of the 222nd General Assembly, which would be convening in Portland, Oregon on June 18-25, 2016.

- The theme for the General Assembly is "The Hope In Our Calling," based on Ephesians 1:18
- There will be commissioners and delegates from 171 presbyteries
- Business of the General Assembly will include the election of a new Moderator, new Stated Clerk, voting on various overtures, as well as receiving reports from the denomination's agencies. This will be the first opportunity in the history of the denomination to elect Co-Moderators. It was noted that the Reverend Jan Edmiston, Associate Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Chicago, is standing for election as Co-Moderator.
- Worship, Bible study, continuing education, and fellowship will also be prominent during the week.
- The Committee on Local Arrangements (COLA) has organized mission tours and other activities.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was seconded and adopted. Moderator Bedwell closed the 102nd Stated Meeting with prayer and the Synod adjourned at 2:00 P.M. CDT.

The 103rd Stated Meeting will be convened on October 21-22, 2016 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Wood
Stated Clerk