

## CALL TO THE 103<sup>rd</sup> STATED MEETING

The Synod of Lincoln Trails of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) convened its 103<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting at Second Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis, Indiana on Friday, October 21, 2016.

### GATHERING THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

#### CALL TO ORDER

The Stated Meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) by the Synod Moderator, Ruling Elder Beth Bedwell, 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:

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Status</b>
Presbytery of Blackhawk	Ruling Elder Marian DeWall	2016	Excused
	The Reverend Kim Hulen	2017	Excused
	Ruling Elder William Pittenger	2018	Present
	The Reverend John Walker	2018	Present
Presbytery of Chicago	The Reverend Rebecca McClintock	2016	Present
	Ruling Elder Brenda J. Taylor	2017	Present
	Ruling Elder David Myles	2018	Excused
	The Reverend Laura Reason	2018	Excused
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 Hahn	2016	Absent
	The Reverend Jeremiah Yi	2017	Excused
	Ruling Elder Bob Song	2018	Absent
	The Reverend Eun Sung Cho	2018	Present
Presbytery of Ohio Valley	Ruling Elder Karen Hahn	2016	Present
	The Reverend David Lee	2017	Present
	Ruling Elder Jayne Williams	2017	Present
	The Reverend Andrew Kort	2018	Excused
Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois	The Reverend Laurie Williams	2016	Present
	<i>Vacant – Ruling Elder</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
	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	Excused
	Commissioned Ruling Elder Donna Enersen	2017	Present
	The Reverend Paul Myhre	2018	Excused
Presbytery of Whitewater Valley	Ruling Elder Lynne Tobin	2016	Present
	The Reverend Kevin Bausman	2016	Present
	Ruling Elder Beth Bedwell	2017	Present
	The Reverend John Koppitch	2018	Present

<b>Ex-Officio Ministry &amp; Staff</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Status</b>
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 Bedwell 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 Bedwell asked if there were any corresponding members in attendance.

**A motion to seat the following as corresponding members for the 103<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting was seconded and adopted:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Ministry</b>
The Reverend Alan Finnan	General Presbyter, Presbytery of Great Rivers
The Reverend Eric Heinekamp	President, Synod of Lincoln Trails Board of Directors
The Reverend Jennifer Burns Lewis	Visioning Connecting Leader, Presbytery of Wabash Valley
The Reverend William McLean	Presbyter for Congregational Care, Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois

The following were guests of the Synod on October 21-22, 2016: Karen Archbold, musician, Second Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis, Indiana; the Reverend Oscar Clavel, Associate Pastor, Tabernacle Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis, Indiana; and DeAmon Harges, Roving Listener, Broadway United Methodist Church of Indianapolis, Indiana.

#### **SUMMARY OF THE ROLL**

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Ex-officio Ministry &amp; Staff</u>	<u>Corresponding Members:</u> 4
Present: 19	Present: 4	
Excused: 10	Excused: 0	<u>Guests:</u> 3
Absent: 2	Absent: 0	
Vacant: 1		<u>Total Attendance:</u> 30

#### **WELCOME TO SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Moderator Bedwell recognized the Reverend Dr. Lewis Galloway, Senior Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church. Dr. Galloway welcomed the Synod to Second and offered a brief history of the congregation.

#### **STATED CLERK'S REPORT**

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

The Stated Clerk announced that there was one change and one addition to the Proposed Docket. The change pertained to the report from the Standing Committee on Personnel, which would be moved from New Business to immediately after the Stated Clerk's Report in order to accommodate the travel schedule of Ruling Elder Gary Davis, who had been asked to provide the report. The addition to the Proposed Docket was the recommendation to approve the Synod's amount of per capita apportionment for 2017, which would be placed in New Business.

**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 103<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting was seconded and adopted.**

**A motion to approve the Minutes of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting convened on April 1-2, 2016 was seconded and adopted.**

In other business, the Stated Clerk reported that the annual Presbytery Minutes Review had been conducted on August 17, 2016 at the Indiana Interchurch Center in Indianapolis. This event was attended by the stated clerks of the Synod's eight presbyteries, in which they presented presbytery minutes from the year 2015 for inspection. Stated Clerk Wood recommend that the Synod approve the following report on the Presbytery Minutes Review—

<u>Presbytery</u>	<u>Action</u>
a. Presbytery of Blackhawk	Approve without exception
b. Presbytery of Chicago	Approve without exception
c. Presbytery of Great Rivers	Approve without exception
d. Presbytery of Midwest Hanmi	Approve without exception
e. Presbytery of Ohio Valley	Approve without exception
f. Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois	Approve without exception
g. Presbytery of Wabash Valley	Approve without exception
h. Presbytery of Whitewater Valley	Approve without exception

**A motion to approve the Presbytery Minutes Review Report was seconded and adopted.**

#### **STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL REPORT**

Ruling Elder Gary Davis, a member of the committee, reported the following:

The committee had discussed with the Reverend Sara Dingman her accomplishments as Transitional Synod Executive since joining the Synod Office in October 2014. Much of her time has been devoted to assisting presbyteries as they undergo their own transitions in leadership, implementing staff changes within the Synod Office, and shepherding the Synod in its transition from a staff-driven leadership model to a system that relies more on input from ruling and teaching elders serving as commissioners and members of committees. The current contract between Reverend Dingman and the Synod provides that her term of office is three years, which would place the expiration date in 2017. The committee has recommended that the contract be extended into 2018. Reverend Dingman has agreed to this extension.

**A motion to extend the contract of employment between the Reverend Sara Dingman and the Synod by one additional year was approved.**

#### **TRANSITIONAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

The Transitional Synod Executive, the Reverend Sara Dingman, was recognized for her report.

Reverend Dingman presented "To the Edge," a podcast from the TED Radio Hour. The podcast featured an interview with renowned caver Bill Stone as he descended into deep caves in complete darkness for days on end. After the podcast, Reverend Dingman asked everyone to break into groups and discuss the following questions:

- What did you hear?
- Where is the Holy in this interview?
- What roles do unknowing, unseeing, exploration, and risk play in the life of our Church?

Reverend Dingman then asked each group to share a summary of their discussions.

The Synod recessed for a scheduled break, followed by standing committee meetings and dinner.

The Synod reconvened at 6:30 P.M. for a keynote presentation by DeAmon Harges.

### **KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

The keynote was presented by DeAmon Harges, the Roving Listener and staff member of Broadway United Methodist Church of Indianapolis. During his presentation, DeAmon emphasized that his role is to listen and discover the gifts, passions, and dreams of citizens in his community, and to find ways to utilize them in order to build community, economy, and mutual delight.

The bulk of DeAmon's work is based on the principles and practices of the Asset-Based Community Development Institute (ABCD) and the Learning Tree, which bring neighbors and institutions together to discover the power of being a good neighbor.

DeAmon explained that his work builds on what is already present and in place in a neighborhood, using undiscovered assets to connect and empower individuals, rather than working only from the community's needs and deficits. With the recent tension across the nation between various neighborhoods and police, DeAmon shared videos produced by the Learning Tree about "Open Bite Night," a neighborhood gathering in inner city Indianapolis. The event centered around food and fellowship within a neighborhood composed of people from various racial, ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Following his presentation, DeAmon asked everyone in attendance to break into groups of two, and share with each other what they are concerned about—and to do so by either facing each other as they speak, or to walk together while speaking.

The Synod recessed with prayer.

### **FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION**

After committee meetings held earlier in the morning, the Synod gathered on Saturday, October 22, 2016 at 10:15 A.M. EDT at Second Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis, Indiana for a follow-up discussion regarding the presentation made by DeAmon Harges the previous evening.

### **WORSHIP**

The Synod gathered for worship on at 11:00 A.M. EDT. The Preaching of the Word was offered by the Reverend Oscar Clavel, Associate Pastor of Tabernacle Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

The Synod reconvened.

The Synod was called to order by Moderator Bedwell at 12:30 P.M. following lunch and proceeded with committee reports and new business.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

The committee moderator, Ruling Elder Karen Hahn, reported the following:

#### **Items for Information**

1. New Pastor's Program - The New Pastor Support Program is open to any pastors in the Synod newly ordained to service within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Regardless of the setting for the call—be it congregational, chaplaincy, community service, or teaching, persons in their first three years of ordained service are invited to participate in the three-year program which includes six three-day retreats and other one-day small group regional gatherings.

The purpose of the program is to support newly ordained pastors as they grow in leadership capacity, to build community and friendships, and enjoy daily worship, prayer, and renewal. The three or four leaders of each three-year cohort are experienced pastors and church leaders from among the eight presbyteries in Illinois and Indiana, including a member of the Synod staff. Retreats are held at Presbyterian camps or conference centers in the Synod. Content offered at each retreat is developed in response to the particular needs and experiences of that cohort. New groups are started at least biennially.

The Reverend Peggy McDonald coordinates the program and has discussed its history with the committee. The program was developed to address the needs of new pastors since many were leaving the ministry after about seven years. Most participants have been those who serve churches as solo pastors or as associate pastors. Chaplains, while eligible, often have more difficulty finding support from employers to be able to attend. In general, it costs about \$200 per person per retreat to run the program. Funding for the program has decreased in recent years, reflecting the fact that the number of groups actively meeting is dropping to one group this year, and that the budget accurately reflects that change. There is a need for the volunteers who help run the retreats to have some time for group-building to strengthen their leadership needs. The committee expressed gratitude for the important work being done. The committee has noted some areas for future growth for the program:

- How can we form some type of follow-up care or connection?
- What is the possibility for reunion groups?
- How can the committee help in creating some new connections?
- What is the potential for additional funding?

2. Ruling Elder Training - The committee has identified five priorities for ruling elder training:

- Polity
- Theology
- Biblical Study
- Leadership Skills
- Ministry to the Broader Congregation.

The committee will distribute a questionnaire to congregations, which will include these questions:

- a. What time of year do you provide elder training?
- b. What are you currently doing or using for elder training?
- c. What challenges do you face in training elders?
- d. What would be helpful to you and your elders in a training tool?

3. Mission Initiative Grants – the committee has approved the following:

Hanover Community Preschool - \$600; the committee is willing to add an additional \$900 to total \$,1500 if the church feels like they could use those funds.

St. Luke Union Church of Bloomington, Illinois - \$,1500 to fund the Young Children in Worship Program.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT**

The President of the Board of Directors, the Reverend Eric Heinekamp, reported the following:

### **Items for Information**

1. 2017 Synod Budget – As the Board reviewed the proposed budget earlier in the fall, it was noted that the Office of the General Assembly sent a form to presbyteries this year, asking presbyteries to report the amount that they intend to pay in per capita apportionment, versus the amount officially apportioned. The Board recommended that the proposed budget be submitted to the Standing Committee on Mission Coordination and Administration for its review.
2. Synod 2015 Financial Review - the Synod Office acted on the Board's approval of Comer, Nowling, & Associates to provide audit and review services. The review was completed and the Synod Office worked with the firm to resolve questions regarding how a few items are appropriately listed and/or reported within the Synod's finances. President Heinekamp and Ruling Elder Don Craft consulted with CapinCrouse, LLP—the accounting firm used previously by the Synod—to discuss the current format in which the items are listed/reported, and how to reconcile these items with the method used by Comer, Nowling, & Associates. The Board of Directors then approved a motion to receive the 2015 Financial Review prepared by Comer, Nowling, & Associates.
3. Cora J. Pope Home - The Home was a residential facility for women in Ottawa, Illinois. The Synod became the trustee for the home in the mid-1940s and operated it successfully and profitably until the early 2000s. Changed in the retirement home industry in recent decades forced the home to cease operations in 2013. The court which has jurisdiction over the trust has granted the Synod permission to sell the property to create an endowment that will be used to help clients remain in their own homes. The Home's board has hired a realtor to sell the property. Bids have been offered for purchase, but none have been accepted yet.
4. Estelle Peabody Memorial Home – The Synod is trustee for this retirement home located in North Manchester, Indiana. In 2002, the Synod and the Home officially agreed that the Home is solely responsible for all financial and contractual obligations that it makes. Currently, the Synod is moving toward a gracious separation with the Home. An attorney is engaged in determining the steps that the Synod will need to take in removing itself as a trustee if/when the home is sold.
5. Presbytery of Chicago Lawsuits – The Presbytery has recently become a party in lawsuits related to sexual misconduct by a teaching elder serving within the bounds of the Presbytery. These lawsuits are related to earlier cases involving the same teaching elder. For those earlier cases, the Presbytery had liquidated many of its assets to pay settlement costs. A question has now arisen as to whether the Synod of Lincoln Trails can also be held liable in these lawsuits. The Board of Directors adopted a motion in June 2016 to retain legal counsel in order to analyze this issue on behalf of the Synod. This process is ongoing.

#### **STANDING COMMITTEE ON MISSION COORDINATION & ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

The committee moderator, the Reverend Laurie Williams, presented these items:

##### **Items for Action**

1. **A motion to establish the Synod's Per Capita assessment rate at \$3.81 for the year 2017 was adopted.**
2. **A motion to approve the proposed 2017 Synod Budget was adopted.**
3. **A motion to provide financial assistance to presbyteries of the Synod in the following manner was adopted:**
  - a. **Using a 12-quarter rolling average, analyze income derived from the Synod's investments in unrestricted funds;**

