

## CALL TO THE 105<sup>th</sup> STATED MEETING

The Synod of Lincoln Trails of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) convened its 105<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Chicago Heights, Illinois on Friday, October 20, 2017.

## 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, the Reverend Beau Brown, 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 ministers of the Word and Sacrament, 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	The Reverend Kim Hulen	2017	Present
	The Reverend John Walker	2018	Present
	Ruling Elder William Pittenger	2018	Present
	<i>Vacant – Ruling Elder</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
Presbytery of Chicago	Ruling Elder Brenda Taylor	2017	Present
	The Reverend Dr. Laura Reason	2018	Present
	Ruling Elder David Myles	2018	Present
	The Reverend Jana Blazek	2019	Present
Presbytery of Great Rivers	The Reverend Maura C. McGrath Nagle	2017	Present
	Ruling Elder Alexis Maloof	2017	Excused
	Ruling Elder Penny Frame, CP	2018	Present
	The Reverend Lonna Chang-Ren Lee	2019	Present
Midwest Korean American Presbytery	The Reverend Jeremiah Yi	2017	Present
	Ruling Elder Jung-Eun Kim	2018	Absent
	The Reverend Eun Sung Cho	2018	Present
	Ruling Elder Marc Choi	2019	Present
Presbytery of Ohio Valley	The Reverend David Lee	2017	Present
	Ruling Elder Jayne Williams	2017	Present
	The Reverend Andrew Kort	2018	Present
	Ruling Elder Cheryl Moles	2019	Present
Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois	Ruling Elder Pauline Rowles	2017	Absent
	The Reverend Christopher Williams	2018	Present
	Ruling Elder Loren Prest	2018	Present
	The Reverend Ann Schwartz	2019	Present
Presbytery of Wabash Valley	The Reverend Kevin Bowers	2017	Excused
	Ruling Elder Donna Enersen, CP	2017	Excused
	The Reverend Anna Parkinson	2018	Present
	Ruling Elder Jeffrey Brown, CP	2019	Excused
Presbytery of Whitewater Valley	Ruling Elder Beth Bedwell	2017	Present
	The Reverend John Koppitch	2018	Present
	Ruling Elder Lynne Tobin	2019	Present
	The Reverend Richard Smith	2019	Excused

<b>Ex-Officio Ministry or Staff</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Status</b>
President, Board of Directors	The Reverend Eric Heinekamp	Present
Moderator, Permanent Judicial Commission	The Reverend Drew Nagle	Present
Synod Executive	The Reverend Sara Dingman	Present
Stated Clerk	Ruling Elder Blake Wood	Present
Executive Assistant	Judy Johnson	Present

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

**A motion to seat the following as corresponding members for the 105<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting was seconded and adopted:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Ministry</b>
The Reverend Gregory Boettner	Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Chicago Heights, Illinois
The Reverend Sam Young Kim	Executive Presbyter, Midwest Korean American Presbytery
The Reverend William McLean	Presbyter for Congregational Care, Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois
The Reverend Rocky Supinger	Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry, Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, Illinois

Guests included the following:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Ministry</b>
The Reverend Nicole Hardin	Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Ruth Smith	First Presbyterian Church of Chicago Heights, Illinois
The Reverend Laurie Williams	Co-Pastor, The Presbyterian Church of Paris, Illinois
The Reverend Rodger Williams	Co-Pastor, The Presbyterian Church of Paris, Illinois
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Wilson	Director of Collaboration & Community Partnerships, Presbytery of Chicago

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

<b>Category</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
Commissioners	24	5	2	1
Ex-Officio Ministry & Staff	5	0	0	0
Corresponding Members	4	0	0	0
Guests	5	0	0	0
Total Attendance	38	5	2	1

#### **WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Moderator Brown recognized the Reverend Gregory Boettner, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church. Reverend Boettner welcomed the Synod and offered a brief history of the congregation.

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

Moderator Brown recognized the Stated Clerk, Ruling Elder Blake Wood. The Stated Clerk presented the following:

**Items for Action**

**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 105<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting was seconded and adopted.**

**A motion to approve the Minutes of the following meetings was seconded and adopted:**

- 1. the 104<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting convened on March 24-25, 2017**
- 2. a Special Meeting convened on June 14, 2017**
- 3. a Special Meeting convened on July 26, 2017**
- 4. a Special Meeting convened on August 25, 2017.**

The Stated Clerk reported that the annual Presbytery Minutes Review was conducted on May 22, 2017 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.**

**Items for Information**

1. General Assembly Committee on Representation Report – the Office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has asked that each synod submit their annual Committee on Representation report. This report lists the demographic information about the Synod's commissioners, committees, and staff. This report will be submitted by October 30, 2017.
2. Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) Overview – On April 22, 2017 a PJC Overview was convened at the Indiana Interchurch Center in Indianapolis. This overview was offered for members of the Synod PJC and presbytery PJCs and was facilitated by Laurie Griffith, Manager of Judicial Process and Social Witness in the OGA. Topics covered include the Rules of Discipline within the *Book of Order* and the role of PJCs in the disciplinary process.
3. Remedial Appeal 2017-01 – Since the 104<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting, a Notice of Appeal was filed with the Synod, and a remedial appeal was subsequently accepted by the Synod PJC regarding a case that originated from the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley. Pursuant to the Rules of Discipline in the *Book of Order*, the List of Record, Record on Appeal, Appellant Brief, and Appellee Brief have been filed. A hearing before the PJC on the remedial appeal will be scheduled.

**SYNOD EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

Moderator Brown recognized the Synod Executive, the Reverend Sara Dingman, and congratulated her on assuming this new role on October 12, 2017 after serving as Transitional Executive since October 2014.

Allocations to Presbyteries: Reverend Dingman announced that during the course of her visits to presbyteries, she had been presenting presbyteries with oversized checks, signifying the allocation of \$10,000 to each presbytery. To further illustrate this, the Presbytery of Midwest Hanmi was invited to come forward and be presented with a check from the Synod of Lincoln Trails. Those receiving the check on behalf of the Presbytery were the following: Reverend Jeremiah Yi, the Reverend Eun Sung Cho, Ruling Elder Mar Choi, and Executive Presbyter Sam Young Kim.

Visioning: Reverend Dingman facilitated a conversation on the future of the Synod's structure, discussing the role of the newly created Synod Council, and offered diagrams on governance.

Diagram one showed a hierarchical structure, with decision-making made from the top down.

Diagram two showed a web structure in which one point of the web connected to one or more other points.

Diagram three showed a structure which combined components from the first two diagrams, with "connectors" and hubs displayed to facilitate communication and policy-making.

Reverend Dingman asked commissioners to form small groups for interpretation of the diagrams and discussion. Each group then offered perspectives, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of each diagram. A consensus emerged from the larger discussion that the third diagram offered a system in which the Synod could flourish with implementing the new Synod Council.

The Synod recessed for committee meetings.

The Synod reconvened at 5:45 P.M.

### **REMEMBRANCE OF THE REVEREND PEGGY MCDONALD**

Moderator Brown and the Synod Vice Moderator, the Reverend Kim Hulen, facilitated a remembrance of the late Reverend Peggy McDonald, honoring her service to the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley and the Synod.

The Synod recessed for dinner.

The Synod reconvened at 6:45 P.M.

### **KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

The keynote presentation for the 105<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting was presented by Nicole Hardin, a core organizer for Black Lives Matter Louisville and associate minister at Douglass Boulevard Christian Church of Louisville, Kentucky.

#### MAIN POINTS

There is so much rhetoric being shared and spewed during these times of violence and discord. People gather to assert that black lives matter. Others respond that all lives matter.

The best contemporary explanation of why insisting black lives matter came from someone who wrote that just because she held a sign that said, "Save the Rainforest," didn't imply that the rest of God's creation was not important to her. She was simply concerned about the vulnerability of this segment of God's creation that was particularly at risk and in need of attention and protection.

It's from this explanation that those of us from the Abrahamic Tradition—Jewish, Islamic and Christian faiths—can find their voice in this conversation. The scriptures upon which we so dearly rely for guidance

and inspiration share a story with a unique but certainly verifiable theme—God’s preferential option for the poor. This specific articulation became most popular in the latter part of the last century as it was adopted as part of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. However, it has its roots in the early biblical stories. Most pronounced in the liberation of enslaved Jews from the oppression of the Egyptian Pharaoh.

God’s preferential option for the poor doesn’t infer that God doesn’t love or care for all of humanity; only that God stands with those who are the most vulnerable; those who have been mistreated; those who have been ostracized and marginalized. Certainly, the teachings and ministry of Jesus cannot be understood without seeing his deep commitment to the well-being of those least fortunate and most vulnerable.

Proclaiming that “Black Lives Matter,” doesn’t present an “either-or” conundrum. It purposefully expresses a “both-and” proposition. It seeks attention and protection for people who have had a history of suffering in this country that dates back 400 years. In a culture that has an embedded white privilege, the assertion that “Black Lives Matter,” lifts up the importance and the need to attend to those who are most vulnerable.

When we hear or proclaim that “Black Lives Matter,” we are standing on the shoulders of our biblical ancestors who were constantly called to support and care for and love and assist those who were suffering at the hands of systems gone awry. We cannot rest until none are more vulnerable and at risk than others. That’s why “Black Lives Matter” matters.

The Synod recessed at 8:45 P.M.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Synod was reconvened on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 8:45 A.M. CDT by Moderator Brown, with prayer. Moderator Brown announced the order of business items on the Docket.

The Synod recessed for committee meetings.

The Synod reconvened at 9:45 A.M.

### **FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION ON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

Nicole Hardin facilitated further discussion on the topics presented the previous evening. A “Racism Scale” was distributed, and the audience was asked to peruse the scale’s designations: Denial, Justification, Defensive, Indifference, Subconscious Racism, Overt Racism, and Terrorism.

Commissioners discussed the importance of exploring how the Church can identify and address individual and systemic racism through listening and partnership.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS & NEW BUSINESS**

The Vice Moderator, the Reverend Kim Hulen, assumed the chair.

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

The committee moderator, the Reverend Beau Brown, presented the following items:

##### **Item for Information**

The committee approved four grants each in the amount of \$1,500.00. Among these was an ongoing project for ruling elder training. This program will include a website with resources for congregations.

##### **Item for Action**

Youth Ministry Coaching Program Cohort

Reverend Brown reported that the Reverend Rocky Supinger, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry at Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, Illinois made a presentation to the committee. Vice Moderator Hulen recognized Reverend Supinger to address the Synod. Following his remarks, the floor was open for discussion.

**A motion to undertake the following was adopted:**

- **Create the Youth Ministry Coaching Program Cohort;**
- **Establish a line item in the 2018 Synod Budget for the Youth Ministry Coaching Program Cohort in the amount of \$15,000.00.**

Moderator Brown assumed the chair.

**2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT**

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

Meetings - The Board of Directors met five times in 2017: January 20, February 8, May 2, August 2 and October 4.

Estelle Peabody Memorial Home - The Estelle Peabody Memorial Home has been a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Indiana for the purpose of providing housing, health care, and other related services in a continuing care retirement community that consists of 57 independent-living units, 118 assisted living units, and a 192-bed health care center, of which 48 beds are dedicated to memory care.

While in a covenant relationship with the Home since 1930, the Synod does not exercise operational control of the Home, which is overseen by its own Board of Trustees. In 2000, Peabody's management and Board of Directors began looking at available options to renovate and update Peabody Retirement Community. However, the renovated campus did not perform in line with the feasibility study projections, and encountered financial difficulty. Given the ongoing financial difficulties of the Home and its continued efforts to transform itself into a modern facility, the Synod has ended the covenant relationship and no longer sits on the Home's Board of Trustees, thereby removing any possible obligations the Synod could have encountered with the Home, financial or otherwise.

Investments – The Board of Directors finalized changes to the Synod's investment policy and changed our allocation of funds to support loans with the Presbyterian Investment Loan Program, including the transfer of \$500,000.00 to Vanguard Funds.

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES STATEMENT  
For  
SYNOD OF LINCOLN TRAILS

Investments of the Synod shall be managed giving consideration to liquidity, security, income and cost.

Liquidity – Cash balances in checking account should be between 25% and 50% of the yearly Budget.

Security – Investments should primarily be in U.S. large and mid-capitalization companies with minimum of 20% in a combination of short- bonds, PILP investments and U.S. government backed securities.

Income – Provide income and growth with a balanced exposure to risk through investments in a blend of stocks, bonds and U.S. backed securities.

Costs – Costs should be minimized by investing in shares of large diversified Funds with no, or minimum, fees such as the Vanguard STAR Fund, Columbia Balance Fund and Oakmark Equity and Income Fund.

With this new Investment Policy, the Board has taken action to direct that current investments in the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) be reduced over the next three months to no less than \$500,000.00, with the resulting funds invested per the Synod's Investment Policy.

Investment Draw – A process was developed to calculate a 4% draw of investments to be allocated to the Synod Budget.

Audit – The Synod received a favorable financial audit for the year ending 2016.

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

The committee moderator, Ruling Elder Beth Bedwell, reported the following:

#### **Items for Action**

- a. Name Change for the Presbytery of Midwest Hanmi

Earlier in 2017, the Presbytery of Midwest Hanmi changed its name to "Midwest Korean American Presbytery" to better reflect its constituency and mission.

**A motion to change the name of the Presbytery of Midwest Hanmi to Midwest Korean American Presbytery was adopted.**

- b. Concurrence with Overture to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The Presbytery of Central Nebraska has requested the Synod's concurrence in an overture to restore the Administrative Professionals Association (APA) to *the Book of Order*. Membership of the APA includes secretaries, administrative assistants, bookkeepers, and support staff in church-related settings. The mission of the APA is to offer the opportunity for professional development and personal growth for those called by God to serve as support staff of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

**A motion to concur with an overture to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) entitled "Administrative Professionals Association" and submitted by the Presbytery of Central Nebraska was adopted.**

- c. 2018 Synod Per Capita Apportionment

In recent years, the Synod has maintained its annual portion of per capita at \$3.81. This has proven sufficient, and it is anticipated that maintaining this level of commitment will meet the Synod's budgetary needs for 2018.

**A motion to designate the Synod's per capita apportionment for 2018 at \$3.81 was adopted.**

- d. 2018 Synod Budget

**A motion to amend the proposed 2018 Synod Budget with the following was adopted:**

- on page 2, under "Standing Committee on Leadership Development," insert a new line item for "Youth Ministry Coaching Program Cohort" in the amount of \$15,000.00
- on page 3, line item 146, adjust the Board of Pensions and SECA amount by adding \$8,427.00, bringing the total to \$49,186.20
- on page 3, line item 147, adjust the Board of Pensions and SECA amount by adding \$5,072.00, bringing the total to \$22,512.00.

Following approval of the amendment, Moderator Brown announced that the amount in "Total Expenses" on page 4, line item 183 was now \$636,508.20.

**A motion to approve the proposed 2018 Synod Budget as amended was adopted.**

- e. Dates for the 106<sup>th</sup> and 107<sup>th</sup> Stated Meetings

**A motion to schedule the 106<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting for April 20-21, 2018 and the 107<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting for October 19-20, 2018 was adopted.**

**4. STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL REPORT**

The committee moderator, Ruling Elder David Myles, reported:

- a Special Synod Meeting was convened on July 26, 2017 to discuss the committee's recommendation to elect the Reverend Sara Dingman as the new Synod Executive.
- a Special Meeting was convened on August 25, 2017 to take action on the committee's recommendation to elect Reverend Dingman as Synod Executive. The motion was passed unanimously.
- the committee was pleased to work with Reverend Dingman as Transitional Synod Executive and is looking forward to continuing its work with her in the new role.

**5. COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION REPORT**

Stated Clerk Blake Wood was recognized to offer the committee report.

Nominees were presented for various positions within the Synod. Moderator Brown asked if there were further nominations from the floor. Hearing none, nominations were declared closed.

**A motion to elect the following individuals was adopted:****Synod Moderator**

**The Reverend Kim Hulen, Presbytery of Blackhawk**

**Synod Council**

**Ruling Elder Eunkyuu Im, Midwest Korean American Presbytery (Class of 2019)**

**The Reverend David Thornton, Presbytery of Chicago (Class of 2019)**

**Board of Directors**

**Ruling Elder Joyce Perry, Presbytery of Chicago (Class of 2020)**



**Committee on Representation****Ruling Elder Roger Wilson, Presbytery of Chicago (Class of 2020)****Permanent Judicial Commission****Ruling Elder Mike Welf, Presbytery of Chicago (Class of 2021).****A motion to undertake the following was adopted:**

- **convene a special meeting prior to the 106<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Synod, for the purpose of electing individuals to Synod offices and entities;**
- **authorize the Synod Office to schedule the date and time for the special meeting.**

The Synod recessed for lunch.

The Synod reconvened at 12:45 P.M. for worship.

**WORSHIP**

The Synod gathered for worship at 12:45 P.M. CDT at First Presbyterian Church of Chicago Heights, Illinois. The Proclamation of the Word was offered by the Reverend Nicole Hardin. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated, with the Reverend Beau Brown and the Reverend Kim Hulen officiating.

A Service of Installation was conducted to install the Reverend Sara Dingman as Synod Executive. The Synod Moderator, the Reverend Beau Brown, offered sentences of Scripture and the Call to Discipleship. He then asked the constitutional questions from the *Book of Order* to Reverend Dingman, and led the Synod in the Installation Prayer. A charge to Reverend Dingman was delivered by the Reverend Dr. Laura Reason, with the Reverend Dr. Barbara Wilson delivering a charge to the Synod.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion to adjourn was seconded and adopted.** Moderator Brown closed the 105<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting with prayer and the Synod adjourned at 2:00 P.M. CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Wood  
Stated Clerk