

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF LINCOLN TRAILS
April 23, 2010
First Presbyterian Church, Urbana, Illinois

The Mission of the Synod of Lincoln Trails (PCUSA) is to develop, nurture and support leaders in partnership with our presbyteries and congregations, and to coordinate Presbyterian mission strategy within the Synod.

Registration and fellowship began at 9:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Synod of Lincoln Trails held its second quarter stated meeting for 2010 on April 23rd at **First Presbyterian Church** in Urbana, Illinois. Moderator Rev. Eddie Knox called the meeting to order with prayer at 10:00 am. Moderator Knox welcomed all to the Synod meeting including visitors. He read a note to the Synod from Rev. David Jones, Blackhawk Presbytery commissioner regarding health concerns for his wife, Linda Jones. He also shared that Jack Wilson, elder commissioner from Chicago Presbytery became ill and returned home. Moderator Knox asked for a moment of silent prayer for Linda, Jack, and all those in need.

Moderator Knox called for a motion to elect Rev. Cindy Bean, Stated Clerk, Southeastern Illinois Presbytery as Stated Clerk Pro Tem. **M/S**

ACTION: Moderator Knox opened the floor for nominations. There were none. The Synod approved the motion.

Stated Clerk Pro Tem, Rev. Cindy Bean declared that a quorum of commissioners was present. A quorum consists of eight commissioners, at least four of whom are elders and at least four of whom are ministers, representing at least three of the presbyteries in the Synod.

The roll of commissioners* was established by registration, as follows:

Present: Christina Berry MBLK; Eddie Knox MCHI; Nicholas Shargo ECHI; Jennifer Burns Lewis MCHI; Maura C. McGrath Nagle MGRT; Gene Miller EGRT; Nathan Rush EGRT; Kew Sun Chai EMWH; Jan Wilkerson EOHV; Mitch Coggin MOHV; Mike Beaver EOHV; Millie Hankla ESEI; Laura Aull Johnston MSEI; Marylyn Boatright EWBV; Laura Reason MWBV; John Paulson E/CLP WWV; MaryMarg Karty EWWV; Cheryl Montgomery MWWW.

Excused: Marian DeWall EBLK; David W. Jones MBLK; Johanna Sommers EBLK; Jack Wilson ECHI; Richard D. Tindall MGRT; Veltri Taylor MOHV; Laurie Williams MSEI; John Swick ESEI; Calvin Hawkins EWBV; Bruce Haapalainen MWBV; Katherine Rieder MWWW.

Ex-officio: Cindy Shepherd, Moderator Committee on Representation MSEI; Jan Albert EWWV Committee on Representation Member; Harriet Wilkins, EWWV Committee on Representation Member; Julio Pena, ECHI Committee on Representation Member.

Staff: David Crittenden, Marta Kramer, Bill Lawser, Judy Lucas, Carol McDonald, Kristi Miller.

*

E: elder; M: minister; AL: at large; CLP: commissioned lay pastor

BLK: Blackhawk Presbytery

CHI: Chicago Presbytery

GRT: Great Rivers Presbytery

MWH: Midwest Hanmi Presbytery

OHV: Ohio Valley Presbytery

SEI: Southeastern Illinois Presbytery

WBV: Wabash Valley Presbytery

WWV: Whitewater Valley Presbytery

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Moderator Knox requested a motion to seat corresponding members: elder Linda Knox, Pullman Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of Chicago; elder John Braden, Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois and member of the Administrative Commission for Midwest Hanmi Presbytery; Rev. Sue Krummel, Executive Presbyterian/Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Great Rivers and Standing Committee on Personnel member; elder Pauline Rowles Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois and Standing Committee on Personnel member. **M/S**

ACTION: The Synod approved the seating of corresponding members.

ADOPTION OF DOCKET

PROPOSED DOCKET

- 9:00 AM Registration
Welcome – Fellowship - Refreshments
- 10:00 Call to Order with Prayer
Establishing Quorum
Election of Stated Clerk Pro-Tem: Rev. Cindy Bean, Southeastern Illinois Presbytery
Introductions
Seating of Corresponding Members
Approval of the Docket with the Sacrament of Communion
Approve Minutes of January 23, 2010 Meeting
- 10:15 Worship – Jennifer Burns Lewis
- 11:00 Learning Time: Our Partnership with the General Assembly
Issues before the 219th General Assembly, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- NOON Lunch**
- 1:00 PM Administrative Commission Report: Midwest Hanmi – John Braden
- 1:15 Standing Committees Meet
- 2:45 Stated Clerk's Report
Committee on Representation Report – Harriet Wilkins
Standing Committee on Personnel Report
Standing Committee on Leadership Development Report
Standing Committee on Mission Coordination and Administration Report
- 3:45 What are we taking home?
Closing Prayers
Adjournment

ACTION: The Synod approved the docket as distributed.

ECCLESIASTICAL BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 23, 2010 MINUTES

Moderator Knox called for approval of the January 23, 2010 Minutes. **M/S**

ACTION: The Synod approved the Minutes as distributed.

WORSHIP INCLUDING THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis, Presbytery of Chicago and pastor of Western Springs (Illinois) Presbyterian, led the Synod in worship with help from moderator Knox and elder Jan Wilkerson who accompanied on the piano. She preached the sermon "Ye Servants of God" based on Revelations 7:9-17. Rev. Lewis and Moderator Knox presided at the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

**LEARNING TIME: OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ISSUES BEFORE
THE 219TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

Moderator Knox asked Rev. Carol McDonald, co-executive to tell the Synod the themes of the remaining scheduled Synod meetings for 2010.

Rev. Sue Krummel, executive presbyter/stated clerk of Great Rivers Presbytery; and Rev. Cheryl Montgomery commissioner member of Whitewater Valley Presbytery led the Synod during Learning Time.

Overtures to the 219th General Assembly

Sue Krummel, executive presbyter from Great Rivers, led discussion concerning

- Overture 70 - *On Amending W-4.4006 to Include Questions to the Presbytery* (Item 16-04)
- Overture 71 - *On Amending the Manual of the General Assembly Mission Council to Require Certain GAMC Staff to Actively Participate in the Work/Worship of a Congregation* (Item 09-05)
- Overture 72 - *On Amending Standing Rule K.1.b. Regarding Special Committees* (Item 03-09)

Cheryl Montgomery, minister commissioner from Whitewater Valley, led discussion regarding

- Overture 4 - *On Amending G-12.0100 and D-5.0101 Regarding Synod Function* (Item 04-01)
- Overture 5 - *On Amending the Book of Order by Deleting Chapter 12 to Eliminate the Middle Governing Body of the Synod* (Item 04-02)
- Overture 36 - *On Amending G-12.0000 Regarding Creation of a "New Synod"* (Item 04-03)
- Overture 58 - *On Creating a Special Committee to Explore the Roles and Relationships of Synods and Presbyteries to Each Other, to the Agencies, and to Congregations* (Item 04-05)

To read the text of any of these overtures, visit www.pc-biz.org and search for the overture's item number.

Moderator Knox asked Rev. David Crittenden, co-executive, to address the Synod regarding the conversations of the Synod Executive Forum (all Synod Executives from the 16 Synods who gather three times a year for discussion). The Synod Executives believe that within the decade there will only be one middle governing body.

THE SYNOD RECESSED

Moderator Knox recessed the Synod for lunch at Noon with prayer led by elder Nicholas Shargo.

THE SYNOD RECONVENED

Moderator Knox reconvened the Synod at 12:45 pm.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORT:
MIDWEST HANMI PRESBYTERY**

Elder John Braden, Southeastern Illinois Presbytery, and member of the commission, reported.

INFORMATION

- The Administrative Commission is grateful to have been reinforced with new members.
- Elder Braden reviewed the Ecclesiastical process in which they have been engaged. For several months, the Administrative Commission pursued a plan for reunification of the factions within Canaan Presbyterian Church. This effort failed. The Administrative Commission is now

pursuing a division of the Canaan community into two distinct entities. They hope to have an agreement that all parties can sign by June 2010.

- Elder Braden reported that the Synod of Lincoln Trails as a group and several members of the Administrative Commission as individuals have been named in civil litigation for unpaid legal bills. Dave Crittenden assured the body that everything that can be done to protect the Synod of Lincoln Trails and the Administrative Commission members is being done.

Dave Crittenden spoke to the Synod monies spent to date concerning the Midwest Hanmi Presbytery. Expenses for the Administrative Commission total \$12,511.38 and legal services paid for civil cases involving Midwest Hanmi Presbytery from January of 2009 to the present total \$48,381.40.

Moderator Knox thanked John and the Administrative Commission for their service to the Synod and offered a prayer for the Administrative Commission and members of Midwest Hanmi Presbytery.

THE SYNOD RECESSED

Moderator Knox recessed the Synod to Standing Committee meetings.

THE SYNOD RECONVENED

Moderator Knox reconvened the Synod at 2:35 pm.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. Disciplinary Case 08-04, Ronald M. Campbell, Appellant, v. Presbytery of Chicago, which was appealed to the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission, was withdrawn by Rev. Campbell. This ends the matter.
2. The Rev. Laura Cheifetz, a member of the Synod's Administrative Commission (SAC) to the Midwest Hanmi Presbytery has resigned effective April 1, 2010.
3. Pursuant to the action of the Synod of January 31, 2009, the following persons were appointed to the Midwest Hanmi SAC to fill vacancies: Rev. Richard Poethig, Chicago Presbytery; Rev. Karen Brugler, Blackhawk Presbytery; elder Gary Davis, Great Rivers Presbytery.
4. The civil suit filed against the Synod by Donald Metzger regarding the Midwest Hanmi legal fees continues to be litigated. Currently there is an impasse. The Synod's counsel, appointed by Church Mutual, has been very active and effective. There has and continues to be significant involvement and support provided by General Assembly and the Rev. Mark Tammen, Director, Office of Constitutional Services of the General Assembly. There is considerable belief and hope that this case will be brought to closure soon, with the Synod prevailing in the decision.
5. The Synod's Permanent Judicial Commission met on April 16-17, 2010 for its annual meeting and training for all of the members.

Moderator Knox asked for a motion to receive the Stated Clerk's Report. **M/S**

ACTION: The Synod voted to receive the report.

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION REPORT

Elder Harriet Wilkins, committee member reported.

Harriet discussed the function of Committee on Representations (CORs). The committee is working with presbytery CORs to help them identify minority ethnic members who could be cultivated for leadership positions in the presbytery or synod.

Julio Pena and Jan Albert, synod COR members, distributed a questionnaire for the Synod to take five (5) minutes to answer:

- ◆ How many churches are there in your presbytery?
- ◆ How many of these churches report members from more than one of the ethnic groups identified by the General Assembly?
- ◆ In how many of the churches are most of the members from an ethnic group that is NOT the majority in most churches in your presbytery?

Answers to these questions are found in the following report distributed to the body after the pop quiz.

ETHNIC MAKE-UP OF CHURCHES IN THE SYNOD OF LINCOLN TRAILS

Information from five (5) of the eight (8) presbyteries were available at the time of this meeting.

PRESBYTERIES	Chicago	Great Rivers	Ohio Valley	Wabash Valley	Whitewater Valley
Number of churches:	102	111	81	87	66
Number of churches with members from more than one ethnic group based on General Assembly categories:	78	38	26	27	29
Number of churches with a majority of members from an ethnic group that is not the majority in most congregations in the presbytery:	16	2	0	1	1
Number of churches that didn't report:	9	20	9	15	11

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Rev. Laura Reason, standing committee member reported.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The office move has gone very well. The new configuration is beneficial to both synod and the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley. Dave Crittenden described it as "unique synergy". There has been a lot of cooperation and support with the office staff. This is going to be helpful as we look to the future of the Synod.

Carol shared copies of contracts with Independent Contractors – Kim Leech as Stated Clerk, Marta Kramer as Communications Specialist, Heartwood LLC for the services of Bill Lawser as Leadership Development Specialist and Julie Shannon as Youth Ministry Coordinator.

The committee read and discussed the summaries of activities provided by both Co-Executives and by both Executive Assistants.

Overtures going to the 219th General Assembly regarding the future of synods were shared and discussed.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Financial Information was shared. Dave walked the committee through the current budget and the projected financial crunch that we will face in 2011 and 2012. We then discussed future executive staffing scenarios. The sooner we come up with a new scenario the easier it will be to start planning the transition. There was mutual agreement that the committee hates that we are having these discussions as we deeply respect and feel very blessed by the work of Carol and Dave but we realize that being proactive is necessary for the future of the church.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE SYNOD

The Standing Committee on Personnel recommends:

- That by June 2011, a plan will be in place to move – by January 1, 2012 - to one Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Executive – in addition to the services of independent contractors.
- In moving toward this transition, the Personnel Committee will assess all current contractual agreements and bring all necessary recommendations to the Synod at the October 2010, meeting of the Synod.

At this time, the committee feels there is no need to discuss the reduction of support staff -- the positions of Executive Assistant (2).

Moderator Knox asked for David and Carol to come forward and explain to the Synod why they brought this recommendation to the Standing Committee.

Moderator Knox asked for the synod staff, including contract staff to leave the room for discussion from the body. After discussion the staff returned to the meeting.

ACTION: The Synod approved the recommendation.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Friday, April 23 2010 – during the Synod meeting

Thursday, May 20, 2010 at First Presbyterian Church in Normal, IL. John Rickard and Bob Reynolds from the Executive Collegium will join the committee for this meeting as the committee continues to plan for transition in executive staff.

Moderator Knox led the Synod in prayer asking for strength as the Synod, as well as, the denomination as they move forward.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Elder Nick Shargo reported for the committee.

- New Pastor Group #21 will be launched in the fall of 2010.
- Interim pastor training will be held in May and November with executive training to follow the November session.
- The third session of the CLP continuing education series will be held August 27-28.
- The 2011 Mid-High Retreat will be held in Crawfordsville, IN.
- May and July CLP training classes will focus on the Bible.
- The standing committee awarded the following:
 - \$2,000 for Covenant Gathering
 - \$2,000 for scholarship assistance for the CLP conference at Montreat in October
 - \$500 for a Spanish language CLP program
 - \$500 for Multi-Cultural Conference

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MISSION COORDINATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Elder Jan Wilkerson, Moderator of the Standing Committee reported.

- The subcommittee for the Leadership Development Fund recommends that the Leadership Development Fund be administered by the Standing Committee on Leadership Development using the priorities of their Standing Committee for new or emerging initiatives or the enhancement of existing initiatives and that the Leadership Development Fund subcommittee be dissolved.

ACTION: The Synod approved the recommendation

- The Standing Committee approved up to \$3000 in scholarships (20 scholarships for \$150) to attend the Presbyterian Communicators Network regional conferences to be held in October.
- Nate Rush reported for the subcommittee on Communications, asking for recommendations for additional members to serve on the subcommittee who have experience with news writing, design and marketing skills.
- Nate reported on a meeting he hosted regarding Blackburn College and its covenant with the Synod and Great Rivers Presbytery and local PCUSA congregation.

WHAT ARE WE TAKING HOME?

- Better knowledge of how overtures are taken to General Assembly.
- A greater appreciation of our Synod Executives and staff.
- Our thanks to Cindy Bean for being here and assisting us.
- Carol liked the phrasing Jennifer Burns Lewis used during her sermon – “We live in the middle time and don’t always know where we are going”.

Moderator Knox asked for motion to adjourn. **M/S**

ACTION: The Synod voted to adjourn.

CLOSING PRAYERS AND ADJOURNMENT

Moderator Knox adjourned the meeting with prayer led by Dave Crittenden at 3:25 p.m. Friday, April 23, 2010. The next meeting of the Synod will be Saturday, July 24, 2010 at Philo Presbyterian Church in Philo, Illinois.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Cindy Bean, Stated Clerk Pro Tem

Attachments: Appendix A – Statement of Financial Position
Appendix B – Detailed Statement of Activities January through March 31, 2010