

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF LINCOLN TRAILS
January 23, 2010
Philo Presbyterian Church, Philo, 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 annual stated meeting for 2010 on January 23, 2010 at **Philo Presbyterian Church in Philo, Illinois**. Moderator Rev. Laura Reason called the meeting to order with prayer at 10:00 am. Stated Clerk Rev. S. Kim Leech 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:** Marian DeWall EBLK; Eddie Knox MCHI; Nicholas Shargo ECHI; Jennifer Burns Lewis MCHI; Jack Wilson ECHI; Maura C. McGrath Nagle MGRT; F. Gene Miller EGRT; Kew Sun Chai EMWH; Jan Wilkerson EOHV; Veltri Taylor MOHV; Laurie Williams MSEI; Millie Hankla ESEI; Laura A. Johnston MSEI; Marylynn Boatright EWBV; Laura Reason MWBV; John Paulson E/CLP WWV; Katherine Rieder MWWV; MaryMarg Karty EWWV; Cheryl Montgomery MWWV.
- Excused:** David Jones MBLK; Johanna Sommers EBLK; Richard Tindall MGRT; Mike Beaver EOHV; John Swick ESEI; Bruce Haapalainen MWBV.
- Ex-officio:** Jan Albert EWWV Committee on Representation Member; Harriet Wilkins EWWV Committee on Representation Member; Joy Haning EGRT 2009 Board of Directors President; John Braden ESEI Administrative Commission for Midwest Hanmi Presbytery Member.
- Absent:** Mitch Coggin MOHV; Calvin Hawkins EWBV.
- Staff:** David Crittenden, Marta Kramer, Bill Lawser, Kim Leech, Judy Lucas, Carol McDonald.

*

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

BLK: Blackhawk Presbytery

OHV: Ohio Valley Presbytery

CHI: Chicago Presbytery

SEI: Southeastern Illinois Presbytery

GRT: Great Rivers Presbytery

WBV: Wabash Valley Presbytery

MWH: Midwest Hanmi Presbytery

WWV: Whitewater Valley Presbytery

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Moderator Reason requested a motion to seat corresponding members: Elder Linda Knox, Pullman Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of Chicago; Elder Nate Rush, Great Rivers Presbytery, Director of Development of Blackburn College; Elder Joy Haning, Presbytery of Great Rivers; Elder John Braden, Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois. **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
Introductions
Seating of Corresponding Members
Approval of the Docket with the Sacrament of Communion
Approve Minutes of October 30, 2009 Meeting
Nominating Committee Report
10:15 Worship: Installation of Officers and the Lord's Supper
11:15 Introduction to the Work of the Synod of Lincoln Trails
NOON Lunch
1:00 PM Selection of Standing Committees
1:15 Standing Committees Meet
2:30 Standing Committees Report
Annual Meeting of the Corporation
Board of Director's Report
Stated Clerk's Report
Administrative Commission Report: Midwest Hanmi
3:45 What are we taking home?
Closing Prayers
Adjournment

Amendment of the Docket: Stated Clerk, Rev. Kim Leech moved the adoption of the proposed docket with the Report of the Administrative Commission to changed to 1:00 p.m. after lunch. **M/S**

ACTION: The Synod approved the docket as amended.

ECCLESIASTICAL BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 30, 2009 MINUTES

Moderator Reason called for approval of the October 30, 2010 Minutes. **M/S**

ACTION: The Synod approved the Minutes as distributed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT TO SYNOD

Katherine Rieder reported for the committee.

The Nominating Committee of the Synod of Lincoln Trails nominates the following individuals to the offices, commissions and committees indicated.

MODERATOR:

Eddie Knox, Minister, Presbytery of Chicago - Class of 2010

VICE-MODERATOR:

Katherine Rieder, Minister, Presbytery of Whitewater Valley - Class of 2010

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION:

Victoria Curtiss, Minister, Presbytery of Chicago - filling vacancy Class of 2011
Phyllis Mueller, Minister, Presbytery of Blackhawk - filling vacancy Class of 2011

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

William Frazier, Elder, Presbytery of Wabash Valley - Class of 2012

PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE:

Pauline Rowles, Elder, Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois - Class of 2012

ACTION: Moderator Reason requested nominations from the floor, and with none, the nominations were closed and the Synod approved the nominations as presented.

THE SYNOD RECESSED

Moderator Reason announced a brief recess the Synod for five minutes in preparation for worship.

THE SYNOD RECONVENED

Moderator Reason reconvened the Synod for worship and installation of officers.

**WORSHIP INCLUDING THE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
AND THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Rev. Eddie Knox, Rev. Laura Reason, and Rev. Katherine Rieder led the Synod in a service of worship, with Eddie Knox preaching the sermon, "How Profound is Our Connection", based on I Corinthians 12. Laura Reason presided in the installation of Eddie Knox as Moderator and Katherine Rieder as Vice - Moderator of the Synod. The celebration of the Lord's Supper was held, with Eddie Knox and Laura Reason as the celebrants.

**INTRODUCTION TO THE WORK OF
THE SYNOD OF LINCOLN TRAILS**

Moderator Knox asked Dave Crittenden and Carol McDonald to address the Synod by giving an introduction to the work of the Synod of Lincoln Trails. Elder Jan Wilkerson, moderator of the Standing Committee on Mission Coordination and Administration, and Nick Shargo, moderator of the Standing Committee on Leadership Development, described the work of their respective standing committees. After the introduction and explanation of the work of the Synod, the commissioners self-selected their committees of membership.

Standing Committee on Leadership Development

Mike Beaver	Marylynn Boatright
Mitch Coggin	Laura Aull Johnston
David Jones	Jennifer Burns Lewis
Gene Miller	Cheryl Montgomery
Maura McGrath Nagle	John Paulson
Laura Reason	Nicholas Shargo
Johanna Sommers	Jan Albert
Bill Lawser	Carol McDonald

Standing Committee on Mission Coordination and Administration

Kew Sun Chai	Marian DeWall
Millie Hankla	Calvin Hawkins
MaryMarg Karty	Eddie Knox

Katherine Rieder
John Swick
Richard Tindall
Laurie Williams
Marta Kramer
Dave Crittenden

Nathan Rush
Veltri Taylor
Jan Wilkerson
Jack Wilson
Harriet Wilkins

THE SYNOD RECESSED

Moderator Knox recessed the Synod for lunch at 11:45 a.m.

THE SYNOD RECONVENED

Moderator Knox reconvened the Synod at 12:30 p.m.

Because John Braden, member of the Midwest Hanmi administrative commission, and Joy Haning, the previous president of the Board of Directors, had not yet arrived, Moderator Knox called upon Kim Leech to present the Stated Clerk's Report.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. The administrative commission for Midwest Hanmi Presbytery has been beset by civil lawsuits filed by Donald Metzger. Metzger seeks payment of his fees while functioning as the attorney for Canaan Presbyterian Church in that presbytery. Of significant concern is that members of the commission were each sued by Mr. Metzger. The Synod, in consultation with the General Assembly's Office of Constitutional Services, has acted in a comprehensive manner to address the multitude of legal and insurance issues involved. For those needing additional information, please contact synod executive David Crittenden.
2. Disciplinary Case 08-04, Ronald M. Campbell, Appellant, v. Presbytery of Chicago has been appealed to the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission (GAPJC).
3. Remedial Case 08-02, James Friedewald, Appellant, v. Whitewater Valley Presbytery, on appeal to the GAPJC, has challenged the action of the GAPJC executive committee to dismiss that case. That challenge will be heard by the GAPJC.
4. Charles Fortney, member of the administrative commission for Midwest Hanmi Presbytery, has resigned.
5. Synod Permanent Judicial Commission member Judy Watt has resigned from the commission, effective January 1, 2010. Judy is now the moderator-elect of the Presbytery of Chicago.
6. Synod Permanent Judicial Commission member Byeta Hoover-Mulvany has resigned from the commission due to health reasons effective immediately.
7. The PJC with full slate of members will have its first meeting is February 5-6, 2010.

ITEM FOR ACTION:

1. Approve the proposed revision of the Guidelines for Reviewing Presbytery Minutes. The Synod's presbytery stated clerks have endorsed the changes. (Appendix A.) **M/S**

ACTION: The Synod approved the recommendation.

THE SYNOD RECESSED

The Synod recessed to meet in Standing Committees and to reconvene upon arrival of presenters John Braden and Joy Haning.

THE SYNOD RECONVENED

The Synod reconvened for the Report of the Administrative Commission for Midwest Hanmi Presbytery.

SYNOD OF LINCOLN TRAILS ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR THE MIDWEST HANMI PRESBYTERY REPORT

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

INFORMATION

1. MEETINGS FROM AUGUST 2009:

August 22
October 3 (conference call)
November 21
December 21 (conference call)
January 9

2. NOTABLE EVENTS

a. An attorney representing Canaan Presbyterian Church in a civil suite initiated by the former Presbytery AC sued the Synod AC and 5 of its members individually for tortuous interference in his relationship to CPC resulting in non payment of fees. (We understand the civil suit against individuals serving on a synod AC to be unprecedented in the PC(USA).)

b. Elder Charles Fortney resigned from the Synod AC in November, in part because of the suit.

c. The Synod AC notified the Synod in November that it would not meet again until assured of appropriate insurance coverage and services of a legal advisor. IN December, the Synod confirmed officer and director insurance coverage and related legal representation through Church Mutual Insurance, and it provided the services of Rev. Mark Tammen, Esq., Director of the Office of Constitutional Services, Office of the General Assembly, as legal advisor.

d. An attempt at a mediated reconciliation between CPC parties was begun in early Fall and has failed.

e. An effort to arrange dual use of CPC facilities for New Years Eve services stirred additional legal threats, but ultimately, an arrangement was cobbled together.

f. A task group of the Synod AC is developing a proposal for graceful division of CPC.

g. Initial steps in an audit of CPC have been taken, revealing some surprising disbursements. A full-fledged forensic audit is anticipated but will be expensive.

3. OTHER OBSERVATIONS

a. The health of the broader Presbytery is fair and its financial status has improved slightly. There is a desire to use some of the funds to further education in the Presbytery about PC(USA) polity. It is clear that the needs of the Presbytery have been overshadowed by the absorbing controversies surrounding CPC.

b. The general mood of the Synod AC is good, but there is frustration with the ongoing drama of CPC. The AC seeks to resolve that issue and develop recommendations for the future of the Presbytery. It very much would like to complete its work in a matter of weeks, not many months.

THE SYNOD RECESSED

The Synod back into Standing Committees.

THE SYNOD RECONVENED

Moderator Knox reconvened the Synod at 2:25 p.m.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Moderator Knox announced his committee appointments as follows:

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Bruce Haapalainen, Moderator - Minister Presbytery of Wabash Valley

Laura Reason – Minister, Presbytery of Wabash Valley

John Swick – Elder. Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois

Mike Beaver – Elder, Presbytery of Ohio Valley

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marylynn Boatright, President – Elder, Presbytery of Wabash Valley

Jennifer Burns Lewis – Minister, Presbytery of Chicago

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MISSION COORDINATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Elder Jan Wilkerson, Moderator of the Standing Committee reported.

INFORMATION:

Rev. Laurie Williams was approved as Vice-Moderator of the Standing Committee.

A Subcommittee on Leadership Development Fund has been established to write policy and oversee distribution of funds from the sale of the Bloomington, Indiana property: Elder Jack Wilson, will chair the subcommittee; Rev. Laura A. Johnston will be the representative from the Leadership Development Standing Committee; Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis will be Board of Directors representative; and Elder Jan Wilkerson will hold one of the At-Large positions of the subcommittee.

Rev. Veltri Taylor will continue as moderator of the Congregational Development Subcommittee with Elder MaryMarg Karty and Harriet Wilkins as new members of the subcommittee from the Standing Committee.

The April 2010 Synod Meeting theme will be "Rejoicing Our Togetherness With General Assembly" with focus on the Overtures to General Assembly supporting the dissolution of synods, with a member of General Assembly Council as our plenary speaker.

The July 2010 Synod Meeting theme will be "Rejoicing Our Togetherness With Our Presbyteries". Dave Crittenden will invite each Presbytery Executive to the July meeting.

Marta Kramer, Communications Contract staff, will be updating the Web site. A Communications Subcommittee has been formed and Dave Crittenden and Elder Nathan Rush from Great Rivers will serve.

If there are any questions regarding the budget papers found in the registration packets commissioners should bring any concerns to the April synod meeting - the numbers will change from the end of year report. (Appendix B and Appendix C)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Elder Nick Shargo reported for the committee.

INFORMATION:

The New Pastor Support Program is active and in progress. Group 18 will end its three-year program in April and Group 20 paired up with Group 19 for a retreat in April.

MALT Interim Ministry Education dates for 2010 are May 3-7 and November 1-5. Brochures were included in the registration packet.

Middle School Retreat is March 12-13 at Knox Presbyterian Church, Naperville, Illinois. Brochures included in registration packet.

The 2010 Presbyterian Church (USA) Youth Triennium is scheduled for July 20-24 at Purdue University. \$500 will be given to each presbytery to use towards scholarships, etc.

The 2010-11 CLP Program has been scheduled with 11 persons enrolled. All classes will be held at Eastland Suites Hotel & Conference Center in Urbana, Illinois. A series of workshops will be offered in 2010 for those who have finished the CLP training.

Laura A. Johnston will serve as representative on the Leadership Development Fund Subcommittee for the distribution of monies received from the sale of our Bloomington, Indiana, property.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Synod approve the sacrament of the Lord's Supper for the following events:

- CLP Class - January 31, 2010
- CLP Class - March 7, 2010
- Kaleidoscope National Stewardship Event - March 15-17, 2010
- New Pastors 17 Reunion - April 19-21, 2010
- New Pastors 18 - April 21, 2010
- New Pastors 20 - April 26-28, 2010
- MALT Interim Pastor Training - May 3-7, 2010
- CLP Class - May 9, 2010
- CLP Class - July 18, 2010
- CLP Class - September 26, 2010
- MALT Interim Pastor Training - November 1-5, 2010
- Interim Executive Training - November 5-9, 2010
- CLP Class - November 7, 2010

ACTION: The Synod approved the recommendation.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

Joy Haning, President of the Board of Directors reported.

ACTION: Moderator Knox asked for a motion to adjourn the Synod and convene the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. **Upon motion, second, the motion passed.**

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Directors presented the following nominations for officers of the Corporation:

Marylynn Boatright, President
Jim Mann, Vice President
Dave Crittenden, Secretary/Treasurer

ACTION: Moderator Knox requested nominations from the floor, and with none the Synod approved the nominations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT TO SYNOD

Joy Haning reported for the Board and began with prayer.

The Board of Directors of the Synod of Lincoln Trails met for a regularly scheduled Board Meeting on January 22, 2010 at First Presbyterian Church, Urbana, Illinois. The following information and action items from that meeting are presented to this Synod meeting:

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. The Board reviewed the General Ledger financial reports. Because the Synod meeting is a week earlier than originally planned these financial reports are subject to revision after the Board of Directors and the Synod meetings. We close the previous year's books on January 15 in order to include as much expense and income as possible. The following adjustments before the audit will change a few numbers:

- There will be adjustments to the Yandes Trust (fund 89) statement. We don't have the year end investment statements yet.
- There will be major adjustments to the Capital Improvement Program (fund 90) statement after Jim Rissler finishes his work and can get us statements.
- Some interest from Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program is estimated and there will be minor adjustments here.

Our operating fund shows expenses over income of \$23,292 for 2009. Budgeted income was \$111,844 less than projected with most of the short fall in mission receipts. Budgeted expense was \$72,487 less than projected leaving budgeted expense over income of \$15,382. Legal expense and the costs of the Administrative Commission for Midwest Hanmi show approximately \$32,800 of non-budgeted expenses.

2. The Board approved \$6,000 for the Synod office move in October 2009. Whitewater Valley Presbytery set aside \$10,000 for their move to the joint office. Both governing bodies agreed to pool the two amounts and to combine the expenses. The costs of the move exceeded the \$16,000 by \$3,820 because of unanticipated construction and carpeting expense. The two governing bodies have agreed to share the overage equally. We do not anticipate any further move related expenses but may realize some income from the sale of furniture and other sources.

The Board of Directors voted to approve up to \$2,000 for moving expenses beyond the \$6,000 approved at the October 2009 meeting.

3. Lisa Longo, Regional Development Officer and Paul Stropkay, Chief Investment Officer from the Presbyterian Foundation gave an overview of the services they provide and the origins and activities of New Covenant Funds. They also reported on the Synod's investments through the Presbyterian Foundation: the Investment Fund and the Leadership Fund for the Synod and the General Fund and the Pursell Trust Fund for the United Presbyterian Foundation (the Synod's foundation). The performance of both their Growth Fund and the Income Fund for the last decade were reviewed and explained.

4. Jim Rissler from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program reported the progress of transferring the Synod's Capital Improvement Program. As of the end of 2009 all of the Participation Certificates have been redeemed. There are three loans left totaling about \$188,000. The following churches still have outstanding loans: DesPlaines, IL - \$72,000; Park Ridge, IL - \$100,000; Walkerton, IN - \$16,000.

The Board approved offering incentive to those certificate holders that would be asked to redeem their certificates early. There were 56 forced redemptions and only one complaint. The cost of the incentive payments was \$12,369. It is hoped that the three loans will be transferred and the program closed in the first quarter of this year.

5. Dave shared the work that Ginger Merkel has done regarding our investments. The Board reviewed the Restricted Gift Summaries she prepared and made note of concerns, questions and actions that need to be taken by the Board regarding these funds and our Gift Acceptance Policy.

6. Dave reported on the Synod office move to share office space with Whitewater Valley Presbytery. The physical move went well for both governing bodies and the staff feels there is a synergy already evident after six weeks.

7. The Board reviewed a written report submitted by Bill Schaeffle regarding the Cora J. Pope Home. The Board would like to look into strengthening the Home's relationship with Illinois Presbyterian Home in Springfield, Illinois as the report suggested since Blackhawk Presbytery is not interested in replacing the Synod as trustee. The Board would also like to explore going to court to renounce our trusteeship and letting the court name a trustee. Dave will look into the legal ramifications of both of these actions.

The Board voted to ask Bill Schaeffle to continue to be our representative to the Cora J. Pope Home and to be a part of our conversations regarding this matter.

8. The Synod was named in a civil suit filed by Donald A Metzger for legal fees incurred by Canaan Presbyterian Church of Glenview, Illinois. Ian Wilbur was retained as counsel for this suit in equal partnership with the Presbyterian Church (USA) which was also named in the suit. Mr. Metzger also named individuals on the Synod's Administrative Commission for Midwest Hanmi Presbytery and counsel was obtained through the Synod's insurance company for the defense of these individuals.

9. The Board set the following dates for their regular meetings: May 21, 2010 and October 28, 2010.

10. Dave gave an update on progress with transferring the ownership of University Church in West Lafayette, Indiana. Wabash Valley Presbytery has formed a task force to make recommendations regarding their future involvement with the campus ministry that is currently occupying the University Church building. Currently the board of the campus ministry would like to be a campus ministry that has a church service and a worshiping congregation rather than a congregation that is or has a campus ministry. If the current direction is followed we will be asked to deed the property to Wabash Valley Presbytery. During the discussion it was suggested that our Board pay the legal fees for this transfer. This decision will be made if and when the request is made for the transfer.

11. Dave shared with the Board that Synod minutes are currently required to show that insurance coverage was reviewed annually. The Board will attach a document showing proof of insurance and coverage limits to their minutes each year that is not a policy renewal year.

12. The Board of Directors met as the Board of Directors for the United Presbyterian Foundation of the Synod of Lincoln Trails to take the following action required by the Legal Risk Management Services of the General Assembly Mission Council to make a ruling on the Pursell Trust.

The Board of the United Presbyterian Foundation of the Synod of Lincoln Trails requests that the Pursell Trust be included in the Group Ruling for 501 (c.) 3 status of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

With the report of the Board of Directors completed the meeting of the corporation was adjourned.

THE SYNOD RECONVENED

Moderator Knox reconvened the Synod.

WHAT ARE WE TAKING HOME?

Appreciation of the hospitality of Philo PC.
Prayers for Canaan Church and Midwest Hanmi Presbytery.
Lots of information to take back to our Presbyteries.

CLOSING PRAYERS AND ADJOURNMENT

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

Moderator Knox adjourned the meeting with prayer at 3:17 p.m. Saturday, January 23, 2010. The next meeting of the Synod will be Friday, April 23, 2010 at the First Presbyterian Church in Urbana, Illinois.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. S. Kim Leech, Stated Clerk

Attachments:

- Appendix A - Guidelines for Reviewing Presbytery Minutes
- Appendix B - Detailed Statement of Activities January 1 - December 31, 2009
- Appendix C - Statement of Financial Position - All Funds