

**PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK  
STATED MEETING VIA ZOOM**

November 10, 2020 at 9:30am

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 in a Stated Meeting held via Zoom. This was a joint meeting of the Ecclesial body, the Presbytery of Blackhawk and the Corporate body, the Presbytery of Blackhawk, Inc.

**WELCOME/OVERVIEW OF ZOOM MEETING PROCESS**

Stated Clerk Rev. Eric Heinekamp welcomed participants to the meeting and provided instructions for speaking and voting using Zoom during the meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER**

Moderator Chuck Johnson read from Psalm 46 and offered an opening prayer. He called the meeting to order.

The assembly welcomed first-time attending minister member Rev. Lauren Patrus-Betzel, Caledonia Willow Creek Presbyterian Church, and newly ordained Rev. Art Blegen, Elmira/Kewanee Presbyterian Churches.

It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to seat Corresponding Members Rev. David Boumgarden, Chicago Presbytery, who is serving Bolingbrook DuPage First Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyer, Chicago Presbytery, who will be serving Winnebago First Presbyterian Church and Rev. Sara Dingman, Synod Executive.

Stated Clerk Rev. Eric Heinekamp declared that a quorum was present as indicated by the electronic sign in process.

Rev. Heinekamp presented the proposed docket for the meeting. It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to approve the following docket.

9:15	First opportunity to sign into meeting	
9:30	Welcome and overview of Zoom meeting	Eric Heinekamp
9:35	Call to Order and Opening Prayer	Chuck Johnson
	Worship	
	Scripture and sermon	Chuck Johnson
	Installation of Moderator	Chuck Johnson
	Offering for Blackhawk Pastors Emergency Fund	Chuck Johnson
10:15	Breakout groups: Matthew 25	
10:30	Council Actions	Bob Kopp
	Approval of 2021 Budget	
10:45	Committees of Council	
	Assembly Planning	Chuck Johnson
	Mission	Laurie Walker
	Personnel	Mike Selburg
	Stronghold	Terry Mohaupt
11:00	Committees/Commissions of Assembly	
	Commission on Ministry	Catherine Martin

	COVID-19 Policy Statement	
	Setting 2021 Minimum Terms of Call	
	Dissolution of University Park	
	Committee on Preparation for Ministry	Jan Chandler
	Examination of David Hegge	
	Nominating Committee	Doug Forsberg
	TPNC	Jim McCrea
11:20	Reports	
	TGP/SC Report	Eric Heinekamp
	Presbyterian Women	Karen Williams
	Synod Report	
11:25	Corporation/Trustees	Chuck Johnson
	Approval of request from Au Sable Grove	
	Treasurer Report	Frank Finch
11:30	New and unfinished business	
11:40	Adjourn with prayer	Chuck Johnson

A motion was made, seconded, and **Voted** to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2020 Stated Meeting as presented (call papers pp. 3-12).

Rev. Heinekamp read the following statement recognizing the indigenous people's land on which the assembly meets (call papers p. 16)

This morning as we gather as Blackhawk Presbytery, we acknowledge that “We have participated actively and passively throughout our history in discriminatory behavior directed against indigenous peoples. We have stood by while they were killed and their lands taken, while the story of their participation in the history of our country was distorted and suppressed.” (GA 222 Overture 11-17)

Our Presbytery is spread over much of Northern Illinois. This is what once was home to many native peoples and tribes. That includes the: Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), Peoria, Sauk and Meskwaki, Ho-Chunk (Winnebago), Myaamia, and the Očhéthi Šakówiŋ.

Even the name of our Presbytery – Blackhawk – bears witness to this truth. And so, we acknowledge this territory's significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived upon this land. We want to be honest about the ways our religious tradition has been used to colonize, to abuse, and to oppress people.

Today we again declare our respect for these children of God and our desire to honor them and the truth of their lives and their history, our shared history including the broken promises and other sins for which the dominant culture must repent.

We affirm our responsibility to those who are still here, sometimes unseen, and we look for opportunities for true reconciliation, which we acknowledge will involve further action by, and change for, those in the dominant culture. Among our transgressions are the harmful stereotypes created for our entertainment.

We honor our Native siblings and seek to work for healing and justice that is truly “for all.”

## **WORSHIP/INSTALLATION OF BLACKHAWK PRESBYTERY MODERATOR**

Moderator Chuck Johnson moved the assembly into a time of worship. He preached on Romans 12:9-21. The offering, taken via check to the presbytery office or through the website, will go to the Blackhawk Presbytery Pastors' Emergency Fund.

Moderator Johnson led the commissioning of those continuing to serve Blackhawk Presbytery in the coming year and the installation of incoming Moderator Rev. Dr. Anita Stuart-Steva, pastor at Winnebago Middle Creek Presbyterian Church.

Newly installed Moderator Rev. Dr. Stuart-Steva installed and commissioned the incoming Vice-Moderator, Moderators of Commissions and Committees, and Treasurer.

Moderator Stuart-Steva led the assembly in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

## **BREAKOUT GROUPS**

Participants met in groups of 6-8 in virtual breakout rooms for discussion focused on Building Congregational Vitality, one of the three focus areas of the Matthew 25 initiative. Based on the "7 Marks of a Vital Congregation," groups considered: 1) How has your congregation been the hands, feet, heart and mouth of Jesus Christ for people who are suffering or marginalized in your community or surrounding areas? and 2) What is your congregation doing to build caring relationships with others, modeled on God's love for all people, which leads to genuine reconciliation and peace? Groups shared comments in Zoom Chat.

## **COUNCIL ACTION-APPROVAL OF 2021 BUDGET**

Rev. Eric Heinekamp presented the proposed 2021 budget (call papers pp.18-25) for approval. The budget shows total projected 2021 income of \$632,247 and expenses of \$647,157. He noted the budget assumes the presbytery and Stronghold have separated by year end 2020. The budget also assumes Blackhawk will pay 100% of the presbytery's per capita obligation to GA and Synod, regardless of what is paid by individual congregations. It was moved and **Voted** to approve the budget.

## **ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

No report.

## **MISSION COMMITTEE**

A written report was entered by the committee (call papers p. 26). Moderator Laurie Walker noted that Rev. Diane Jochum is moderating a new Matthew 25 Committee which is working to provide continued support and resources to Blackhawk Presbytery churches interested in or dedicated to the Matthew 25 initiative. Matthew 25 churches in Blackhawk Presbytery are: Elgin First, Elwood Community, Gardner Church of Hope, Gibson City First, Joliet Westminster, Kankakee First, Morrison First, Oswego, Ridgefield-Crystal Lake, and Sterling First.

Laurie Walker reminded attendees that mission grants are still available for 2020. The eligibility criteria for mission grants have been broadened to include those churches having trouble sustaining successful projects because of the impact of the coronavirus.

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Committee Moderator Rev. Mike Selburg presented the committee's report (call papers p.

27). The committee, in conjunction with Eric Heinekamp, has developed a staffing plan to accommodate the separation of the Presbytery and Stronghold Camp and Conference Center and the likelihood of reduced income. Employees were informed of this plan October 27th.

- Frank Finch has chosen to remain as Treasurer at the rate of \$30 for up to 8 hours per week, with leniency for extra hours during weeks the presbytery requires it, and recognition that some weeks will be less than 8 hours.
- Karen Krum, Bookkeeper, will have her salary raised to \$18.50 per hour, for up to 4 hours per week. Her position will expire at the end of March 2021.
- Loreen Stravers, Presbytery Staff Assistant, will undergo several changes. Loreen has not received a pension package, which she should have been offered several years ago. Thus, the presbytery will begin to pay into her pension plan through the Board of Pensions. Loreen has been an hourly employee. She will become a full-time salaried employee with a compensation equivalent to \$18.50 per hour. Loreen will take over the Bookkeeper duties as of April 1, 2021 and will work with Karen to transition the position over to her.

### **STRONGHOLD COMMITTEE**

Committee Moderator Terry Mohaupt presented the report (call papers p. 28). Stronghold Camp and Conference Center will become a separate entity, Stronghold Center, Inc., on January 1, 2021. While Stronghold will have its own governing body, it will remain connected to Blackhawk Presbytery, not only in terms of historical, personal, spiritual, and religious connections, but also in various provisions within its Bylaws. Since Stronghold is a subsidiary of Blackhawk Presbytery, the Presbytery will approve a majority of Stronghold Board Directors and any actions that involve money beyond specified limits in expenditures, property, or loans; neither entity will be liable for the actions of the other; and, if Stronghold fails, the property will revert back to Blackhawk Presbytery. There is also a Covenant expressing the values and intentions that Stronghold and Blackhawk Presbytery will continue to share; it will be reviewed and updated regularly. A representative of Stronghold will continue to have a seat at the Presbytery Council table.

Terry Mohaupt moved that the presbytery assembly authorize the Trustees of The Presbytery of Blackhawk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to take any action needed to complete the separation of the presbytery and Stronghold Camp and Conference Center and to transfer the camp-related property to Stronghold Center, Inc. as outlined in the Covenant Agreement approved by both parties on November 14, 2017. It was seconded and **Voted** to approve.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Nominating Committee presented to nominations for approval:

- Mission Committee—Bev Mellskog, congregation member, Galena Westminster Presbyterian Church, class of 2022
- Permanent Judicial Commission—Gail Dancey, ruling elder, Sterling First Presbyterian Church, class of 2025.

There were no nominations from the floor. It was moved and **Voted** to approve these nominees.

## **TRANSFORMATIONAL PRESBYTER NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Rev. Jim McCrea reported that the committee has completed its work and moved its dismissal. It was moved and **Voted** to approve committee dismissal. The committee was thanked for its work to find a new Transformational General Presbyter.

## **COMMISSION ON MINISTRY**

Commission Moderator Rev. Catherine Martin presented the Commission report (call papers pp. 29-41, which are entered in their entirety into these minutes).

The commission recommended for first reading: "Policies and Procedures for Dissolution of Pastoral Relationships" (call papers pp. 33-35); "Covenant of Closure/ Pastor Who Retires" (call papers pp. 36-38) and "Covenant of Closure/ Pastor Who Resigns" (call papers pp. 39-41). It was moved and **Voted** to receive these for first reading.

The commission recommended approval of the official dissolution of the Pilgrimage Protestant congregation of University Park. This congregation ceased to exist some time ago, but we have only recently been made aware. The building is owned by the Methodists - it was a federated congregation. It was moved and **Voted** to approve. Moderator Rev. Dr. Stuart-Steva offered a prayer of dissolution.

The commission recommended to approve the change in status of Rev. John Huff to Honorably Retired as of December 31, 2020. John, assisted by his wife Cathy, has served his congregation of Romeoville United since 1969 - 51 years! Rev. Huff spoke of his years in Blackhawk Presbytery and its predecessor Ottawa Presbytery. It was moved and **Voted** to approve. Moderator Rev. Dr. Stuart-Steva affirmed his change of status and recognized his service with prayer.

The commission recommended the recommissioning of the following Commissioned Pastors:

- Pastor Karen Williams to serve part time at Kankakee First effective 1/1/21-6/30/21
- Pastor Dottie Morizzo to Schapville Zion (contract details coming)

Moderator Stuart-Steva led the commissioning service.

The commission recommended approval of the COM Policy Statement (call papers p. 29):

### **A Policy Statement on Pastoral Services During the Covid-19 Pandemic**

A long-standing article of faith in the Presbyterian Church (USA) is that "God alone is Lord of the conscience." In keeping with that principle, if a pastor in Blackhawk Presbytery is asked to perform a service or attend an activity which they feel could potentially lead to his or her contracting Covid-19, they shall be given the right to either abstain from that service or to find a safer alternative means of performing that service. No Session or congregation may use such an incident as grounds for changing that pastor's employment by the congregation in any way.

An amendment to the motion was offered to insert the words "or endangering the congregation" immediately after "Covid-19". It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to accept the amendment.

It was moved and **Voted** to approve the policy statement as amended.

Commission Vice-Moderator Rev. Dave Terrinoni introduced proposed Presbytery Minimum Terms of Call for 2021 (call papers p. 32). In arriving at the proposed increase, the Commission studied minimum terms of call in surrounding presbyteries and identified Great Rivers Presbytery as the most demographically like Blackhawk. The 2020 minimum terms of call in Blackhawk is \$38,502. In Great Rivers, it is \$44,691. The commission considered the following issues: the current economic conditions related to COVID 19, fair compensation, competition for talent, the ability to attract younger ministers, and the future of Blackhawk Presbytery as a thriving, growing community of congregations.

The commission recommended approval of an increase to the Presbytery Minimum Terms of Call for Ministers of Word and Sacrament to \$39,502 as outlined on p. 32 of the call papers. It was moved and **Voted** to approve.

The commission recommended that over the course of the following three years, beginning with 2022, do incremental increases in the minimum terms of call equal those of Great Rivers Presbytery for ministers serving under four years of experience. It was moved and **Voted** to approve.

The commission pledged to present minimum terms of call for approval in a timelier manner going forward.

**REPORTING ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY COM**

Approved terms of call for Rev. Lauren Patrus-Betzel to serve as full-time Pastor to Caledonia Willow Creek Presbyterian Church, effective October 1, 2020.

Cash Salary	\$28,000
Fair Rental Value of Manse	\$ 8,700
Housing Allowance	\$ 1,000
Utilities Allowance	\$ 2,800
Effective Salary	\$40,500
SECA	\$ <b>2,884</b>
Medical coverage	\$11,000
Pension benefit, D&D	\$ 4,860
<b>TOTAL TERMS OF CALL</b>	<b>\$67,006</b>
Medical reimbursement	\$ 2,262
Professional Expenses	\$ 4,000
Continuing Education	\$ 1,500
<b>TOTAL REIMBURSABLE</b>	<b>\$ 7,762</b>
<b>EXPENSE:</b>	

Paid vacation - 4 weeks, Continuing education - 2 weeks

Approved terms of call for Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyer to serve as full-time Pastor to Winnebago First Presbyterian Church, effective January 1, 2021.

Cash Salary	\$27,000
Housing	\$26,000
Effective Salary	\$53,000

SECA	\$ 4,055
Medical coverage	\$13,250
Pension benefit, D&D	\$ 6,360
<b>TOTAL TERMS OF CALL</b>	<b>\$76,665</b>
Medical reimbursement	\$ 3,180
Professional Expenses	\$ 3,900
Continuing Education	\$ 1,500
Moving Costs (up to)	\$ 5,000
<b>TOTAL REIMBURSABLE</b>	<b>\$13,580</b>
<b>EXPENSE:</b>	

Paid vacation - 4 weeks, Continuing education - 2 weeks

Approved terms of call for Molly K. Morris to serve as full-time Associate Pastor for Youth, Family and Community Outreach to DeKalb Westminster Presbyterian Church, pending congregational vote (Nov. 1), examination and ordination by her Presbytery of care, Shenandoah Presbytery. Effective date: January 4, 2021.

Cash Salary	\$30,000
Housing	\$15,000
Effective Salary	\$45,000
SECA	\$ 3,442.50
Medical coverage	\$12,150
Dental coverage	\$310.44
Pension benefit, D&D	\$ 4,500
<b>TOTAL TERMS OF CALL</b>	<b>\$65,402.94</b>
Medical reimbursement	\$ 2,700
Professional Expenses	\$ 3,900
Continuing Education	\$ 1,500
Moving Costs (up to)	\$ 5,000
<b>TOTAL REIMBURSABLE</b>	<b>\$13,100</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	

Paid vacation - 4 weeks, Continuing education - 2 weeks

Approved the contract for Pastor Karen Williams, serving part time at Kankakee First Presbyterian Church, effective 1/1/ 21-6/30/21. Responsibilities include preaching 4-5 times/ month, administration of sacraments, session moderation, pastoral care, weddings, funerals, installation/ordination of elders. Time expectation - 20 hours/ week. Cash Salary \$1300 / month, 2 weeks' vacation, 1-week continuing education, Travel reimbursement at .575/ mile.

### **FOR INFORMATION**

Two task forces have been created. The first will undertake a revision of the COM Manual and the second will create a Manual for Commissioned Pastors in the Presbytery. The task force for Commissioned Pastors' Manual is seeking two ruling elder not currently on COM to serve.

The COM is embracing the use of a Vice-Moderator to assist the Moderator with responsibilities and ensure a smooth transition as Moderators rotate off the commission. Gratefully, Rev. Dave Terrinoni has agreed to assume this position.

All churches in the Presbytery are assigned a COM Liaison - yours will be contacting you soon. Please direct questions, concerns and pastoral needs to this representative. They are anxious to assist you.

### **COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

The committee presented a written report (call papers pp. 42-43). Committee Moderator Rev. Jan Chandler reported that the committee recommends that David Hegge be examined on the floor of presbytery and moved from Inquirer to Candidate status. David shared his Statement of Faith (call papers p. 43) and examined. It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to arrest the exam. David Hegge was placed in a breakout room on Zoom. It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to move him to Candidate status. David was returned to the meeting and was welcomed with prayer.

The committee reported that Rev. Jeff Borgerson will proctor the Bible Content Exam on February 5, 2021 at Stronghold.

The committee has removed Theresa Green and Frank Shepherd from Inquiry status.

### **TRANSFORMATIONAL GENERAL PRESBYTER/STATED CLERK REPORT**

Transformational General Presbyter/Stated Clerk Rev. Eric Heinekamp entered a written report (call papers pp. 44-46).

It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to set Stated meeting dates for 2021 and to approve service of the Lord's Supper at each of these meetings, if desired by the assembly planning committee. 2021 meeting dates are:

February 9, 2021	via Zoom
April 13, 2021	most likely via Zoom
June 8, 2021	possibly at Stronghold
September 14, 2021	TBD
November 9, 2021	TBD

A balance of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elder Commissioners to Presbytery for 2021 (as required by Book of Order G-3.0301) has been completed (call papers p. 45).

Rev. Heinekamp recognized the service of those rotating off commission and committees.

### **SYNOD REPORT**

Synod Executive Rev. Sara Dingman commended the assembly leadership and reflected on her observations of Blackhawk Presbytery's generative work.

### **CORPORATION TRUSTEES**

Corporation President Chuck Johnson suspended the assembly meeting and called to order the meeting of the corporate body.

### **TRUSTEES REPORT**

Corporation President Johnson presented a request from Yorkville Au Sable Grove Presbyterian Church session to approve the sale of 137 acres of farmland. It was moved, seconded, and **Voted**

to authorize the Trustees to take any action necessary to complete approval and sale of land, working with Au Sable Grove Presbyterian Church.

### **TREASURER REPORT**

Treasurer Frank Finch provided written financial reports for the Presbytery of Blackhawk and Stronghold through September 30, 2020. It was moved, seconded, and Voted to receive the report of the treasurer (call papers pp. 47-62).

Corporation President Johnson closed the meeting of the corporate body and resumed the assembly meeting.

### **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Honorably Retired pastor Rev. Karen Schlack shared information about her new book, *Mentoring with Morgan*, a memoir of her 15-year mentoring relationship with Rev. F. Morgan Roberts, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

The Commission on Ministry and the COVID-19 Team have developed an online Advent devotional that will be available on the Blackhawk Presbytery website and YouTube channel.

Rev. Stephanie Anthony, Geneva Fox Valley Presbyterian Church, invited the assembly to view its 10:15 am worship service, November 15, 2020. PC(USA) Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II will be guest preaching via Zoom.

Karen Williams reported that Presbyterian Women in Blackhawk Presbytery held a virtual Fall Gathering and elected officers for the coming year: Moderator-Betsy Kinder, Vice-Moderator-Karen Williams, and Member-At-Large- Susan Barlow. The CWS Kits Challenge collected 745 school kits, 429 hygiene kits, and 55 clean-up buckets. She thanked the churches participating in the challenge.

### **ADJOURN WITH PRAYER**

Moderator Stuart-Steva called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made, seconded, and Voted to adjourn the meeting of the day. Rev. Dr. Stuart-Steva closed the meeting with prayer at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Eric Heinekamp, Stated Clerk  
Patricia J. Wakeley, Recording Clerk

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery Assembly will be February 9, 2021 via Zoom. Registration is at 9:15 am and the meeting is at 9:30 am.