

**PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK
STATED MEETING VIA ZOOM
September 8, 2020 at 9:30am**

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened on Tuesday, September 8, 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 called the meeting to order and offered an opening prayer. A new song from PC(USA), “Jesus, Be With Us,” was played.

The assembly recognized ruling elder Susie Smith, a first-time attendee from Dixon First Presbyterian Church who was introduced by Rev. Dr. David Spaulding.

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

A motion was made, seconded, and **Voted** to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2020 Stated Meeting as presented.

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 and breakout rooms	
9:30	Welcome and overview of Zoom meeting	Eric Heinekamp
9:35	Call to Order and Opening Prayer	Chuck Johnson
	Installation of Transformational General Presbyter	Chuck Johnson
	Scripture and sermon	Eric Heinekamp
	Communion and offering	Eric Heinekamp
10:15	Breakout groups	
	Q1 : What is the greatest challenge facing your congregation?	
	Q2: What opportunities are presenting themselves to your congregation?	
10:30	Council actions	John Dillon
	Nomination to Nominating Committee	
	Dissolution of Montgomery, Genesis Community	
	Dissolution of Freeport, United Presbyterian Church	
	First read of 2021 budget	
	Setting of 2021 per capita	

10:45	Committees of Council Assembly Planning Mission Personnel Stronghold	Chuck Johnson Laurie Walker Anita Stuart-Steva Terry Mohaupt
11:00	Committees / Commission of Assembly Commission on Ministry Committee on Preparation for Ministry Nominating Committee Report from GA Commissioners	Catherine Martin Jan Chandler
11:20	Reports TGP / SC Report Synod Report	Eric Heinekamp
11:25	Corporation/Trustees Treasurer Report Approval of Gibson City property sale	Chuck Johnson Frank Finch
11:30	New and unfinished business	
11:40	Adjourn with prayer	Chuck Johnson

INSTALLATION OF TRANSFORMATIONAL GENERAL PRESBYTER/WORSHIP

Rev. Eric Heinekamp was installed as Blackhawk Presbytery’s Transformational General Presbyter. He led worship, preaching on Numbers 6:22-27, “the Lord Bless You and Keep You.” The sacrament of Holy Communion was offered with Rev. Heinekamp presiding. The offering taken via check to the presbytery office will go to a new Pastors Emergency Fund that is being established.

BREAKOUT GROUPS

Participants met in groups of 6-8 in virtual breakout rooms to discuss one of these questions: What is the greatest challenge facing your congregation? Or, What opportunities are presenting themselves to your congregation? Groups shared comments in Zoom Chat.

COUNCIL REPORT

Council Vice Moderator Rev. John Dillon presented the nomination of Rev. Matt Robinson to fill an unexpired term on the Nominating Committee. It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to approve the nomination.

Dissolution of Genesis Community Church, Montgomery

Moderator Chuck Johnson presented a recommendation from Council to dissolve Genesis Community Church of Montgomery. Nearly two years ago, the people of Genesis Community Congregation voted to disassociate themselves from the PC(USA). Because the congregation is not moving to another reformed denomination, Blackhawk Presbytery cannot grant a gracious separation. Instead the presbytery must dissolve the congregation as a member church of Blackhawk Presbytery and the PC(USA). The congregation does not own property; its worship space is rented. At the Council’s direction, Stated Clerk Rev. Eric Heinekamp has affirmed the congregation’s wishes to disassociate.

Discussion occurred regarding the recommendation coming from Council rather than from the Commission on Ministry, as it normally would. It was noted that attempts have been made by COM to be in relationship with this congregation for many years and have been consistently rejected. The Council felt that it was simply performing a housekeeping task. Concerns related to the appropriate process and roles for Council and commissions and committees going forward were heard and noted.

It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to dissolve Genesis Community Church, Montgomery, as a congregation of Blackhawk Presbytery and the PC(USA).

Dissolution of United Presbyterian Church, Freeport

Moderator Chuck Johnson and Rev. Eric Heinekamp recognized the dissolution of Freeport United Presbyterian Church. The church was brought to life in the early 1800s as two separate congregations, First Presbyterian Church founded in 1842 and Second Presbyterian Church formed in 1847. The two churches united in 2010 to form United Presbyterian Church. The work of the administrative commission appointed to assist the dissolution is complete. The congregation has held its closing service and the building has been sold to the Father's House, which is revitalizing the building to provide a new Christian witness in the community. Blackhawk Presbytery has received the records and rolls of the church. The church's assets have been distributed as follows: \$150,000 to Stronghold Camp & Conference Center, \$25,000 to the Presbytery of Blackhawk Mission, and \$7,000 to per capita. Ruling Elders Becky Aupperle and LeeAnn Weber were present.

It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to recognize the dissolution of United Presbyterian Church, Freeport.

The ministry of the congregation was celebrated with a closing liturgy and prayer.

2021 Budget First Read

Rev. Eric Heinekamp presented the proposed 2021 budget for Blackhawk Presbytery for first reading (call papers pp. 2-7). The budget assumes the presbytery and the camp will be separate entities by the end of 2020. He noted that the budget includes additional income and expense to record pass through items. Income is projected to decrease due to a loss of members related to per capita and uncollected per capita. Expenses are planned to decrease for payroll. There are additional expenses for rent to be paid to Stronghold and there will be no shared expenses between the entities. The budget will be voted on at the November assembly meeting.

2021 Per Capita

Rev. Eric Heinekamp presented three options for the 2021 per capita assessment (call papers p. 8): Option 1—no change; option 2—\$.03 increase (the increase in the General Assembly portion); option 3—\$1.53 (the \$.03 GA increase and \$1.50 increase in the Blackhawk Presbytery portion). The Council recommended that Blackhawk Presbytery adopt Option 2, the \$.03 increase.

It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to approve a \$.03 increase in the per capita assessment for 2021.

ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

No report.

MISSION COMMITTEE

A written report was entered by the committee (call papers p. 9). The Pastoral Leadership Options Exploration Team moderated by Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg, has completed its work. Mike added an introduction to the final compilation of models and shared the final product with the Presbytery Council. The Commission on Ministry now has this resource to share with churches seeking leadership options.

The Mission Committee discussed the recent high interest in the Matthew 25 initiative. Fifty people registered for the July 14th Matthew 25 Overview and 25 registered for the August 11th Choosing Steps to Dismantle Racism Where You Are. Notes from both events are available upon request. The third event is scheduled for 2 p.m. CST on Wednesday, Sept. 16. This online event, sponsored by the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PCUSA) will address eradicating systemic poverty, one of the three focuses of the Matthew 25 vision, along with building congregational vitality, and dismantling structural racism.

The Mission Committee created a Matthew 25 subcommittee to provide continued support and resources to Blackhawk churches interested in or dedicated to the Matthew 25 initiative. The first meeting of this new committee will be on September 15 at 7:00 pm.

The committee continues to encourage churches to share their mission success stories at a presbytery meeting.

The committee reminds all churches that local funding for Mission Grants and Peacemaking Grants is available for partial start-up funding for new initiatives. Applications are available on Blackhawk's website. Further grant Applications & resources may be obtained from the Mission Program Grants website at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/1001-2/mission-program-grants/>.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The committee's written report (call paper p. 10) states that the Personnel Committee met in August with Rev. Eric Heinekamp and discussed what his role as Transformational General Presbyter entails. The committee continues to look at options for Treasurer and Bookkeeper beginning in January, 2021 and is considering several options. It is likely that there will need to be an increase to the budget to cover the costs of these options. The committee expressed gratitude for the leadership of Rev. Nancy Dolan during her time with the Presbytery.

STRONGHOLD COMMITTEE

Committee Moderator Terry Mohaupt presented the report (call papers pp. 11-12). For the Separation Task Force, Stronghold Center, Inc., now has its own Employer Identification Number (EIN). New accounts are being created. The attorney for the separation resigned and a replacement has not yet been hired. Work on the IRS 1023 application for 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status nears completion. For the Stronghold Committee/Stronghold Center, Inc. Board of Directors, the committee is planning to work on Policy Manuals, including job descriptions and Standard Operating Procedures. A Personnel Manual was prepared by a previous intern. The committee is discussing how to handle recent donations, capital expenditures, and possible closure for a time during the winter.

Danny Pierce, Stronghold Executive Director, reported that Stronghold has been open since May 29th following new protocols under Phase IV of Restore Illinois. Necessary adjustments have been made in an attempt to offset lost revenue. Staffing has been reduced, volunteers/mission groups are helping to maintain the property and Stronghold has partnered with local restaurants to provide food service. To date, Stronghold has experienced over \$250,000 of lost revenue. The Old English Faire is cancelled for this year. Because of summer camp being closed, Workman's Compensation coverage was reduced, resulting in a \$7,000 credit. Donations received from several churches in response to the Stronghold Challenge issued by Dixon First Presbyterian Church have totaled \$27,790 so far. Stronghold has received a \$185,000 bequest for pavement and will receive \$150,000 from the dissolution of Freeport United Presbyterian Church. A mission work group from Morris First Presbyterian Church worked on the Leap of Faith cleanup, finishing roof repair at the cabins, leveling ground, and building new benches for the fire circle.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Commission Moderator Rev. Catherine Martin presented the Commission report (call papers pp. 13-15, which are entered in their entirety into these minutes).

The commission recommended to approve the administrative commission for the ordination of Pastor Art Blegen on October 18, 2020 at Kewanee First at 4:00 pm. He is serving the yoked congregations of Elmira and Kewanee.

Teaching Elders: Rev. David Terrinoni, La Rose Crow Meadow
Rev. Skip Shaffer, Oswego

Ruling Elders: Chuck Johnson, Moderator, Blackhawk Presbytery, Sandwich Federated
Betty Oliver, Elmira United
Terry Wolfe, Kewanee First

Ecumenical Representative: Rev. David M. Turner, (CPE Supervisor, Peoria OSH Hospitals) ELCA
Member

Corresponding Members: Rev. Rogers Randall, Calvary Pres, Wilson NC, Presbytery of New Hope
Rev. Timothy Slemmons, University of Dubuque, Presbytery of New
Brunswick

It was moved and **Voted** to approve the administrative commission.

The commission recommended to appoint Rev. Gary Panetta to serve as Moderator for Dakota Community. It was moved and **Voted** to approve the appointment.

The commission recommended to re-commission Pastor Jack Berghorst to serve as Commissioned Pastor to New Lenox Central for three years, beginning 9/1/20. Salary: 20 hours per week at \$30 per hour plus Mileage and Tolls at IRS rate.

The commission recommended to re-commission Pastor Laurel A. Walker to serve as part time Commissioned Pastor to Sandwich Federated, until December 31, 2020. Responsibilities include leading worship three Sundays per month, administering sacraments and moderating session. Contract terms: \$1200 / month. Mileage reimbursement at IRS rate, other ministry expenses reimbursed, and continuing education / book allowance at approx. \$150/month.

The commission recommended to re-commission Pastor Gretchen Hammeke to continue to serve as

Commissioned Pastor to Rockford Westminster, effective January 1, 2020. Terms were previously approved in June without commissioning service.

It was moved and **Voted** to approve the recommissioning of the three pastors.

Moderator Chuck Johnson led the recommissioning for Pastors Berghorst, Walker, and Hammeke.

REPORTING ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY COM:

Approved the contract between Elgin First Presbyterian Church and Temporary Pastor Rev. Jon Michael Phillips for up to 12 months beginning 7/1/20. Compensation package is for six months, through December 2020.

Cash Salary	\$15,300
Housing	\$10,200
Effective Salary	\$25,500
Medical coverage	\$ 6,375
Pension benefit	\$ 2,805
Dental Coverage	\$ 222
Death & Disability	\$ 255
Health reimbursement	\$ 1,530
SECA	\$ 1,951
Professional Expenses	\$ 1,000
Study Leave	\$ 500
TOTAL	\$40,138

Approved the contract between Wilmington First Presbyterian Church and Interim Stated Supply Pastors Rev. Steve and Rev. Hope Sibson, effective 8/1/20 through 7/31/21 or upon termination with 30 days' notice. Responsible for leading weekly and special worship services and some pastoral visitation. Terms: \$5,750 for worship and 5 session meetings (considered as housing) plus mileage at IRS rate. Additional meetings at \$50 each. 4 weeks' vacation, 2 weeks continuing education, additional grandchild time as needed.

Approved the contract between Bolingbrook First Presbyterian Church of DuPage and Interim Supply Rev. David Boumgarden, effective 8/25/20 through 7/25/21, with possibility for renewal. Rev. Boumgarden will labor outside the bounds of Chicago Presbytery. Compensation is based on part-time employment, 25 hours/week.

Cash Salary	\$10,000
Housing	\$30,000
Effective Salary	\$40,000
SECA	\$ 3,060
Medical coverage	\$11,000
Pension benefit, D&D	\$ 4,800
Medical reimbursement	
Professional Expenses	\$ 3,000
Study Leave	\$ 1,000
TOTAL	\$62,860

Paid vacation — 4 weeks, Study leave — 2 weeks

Approved the contract between Woodstock First Presbyterian Church and Interim Pastor Rev. Cynthia Carlisle for one year beginning 9/1/20.

Cash Salary	\$32,550
Housing	\$25,200
Effective Salary	\$57,750
Medical coverage	\$14,438
Pension benefit, D&D	\$ 6,930
Health reimbursement	\$ 5,250
SECA	\$ 4,418
Professional Expenses	\$ 5,115
Study Leave	\$ 3,000
TOTAL	\$96,901

Paid vacation — 4 weeks, Study leave — 2 weeks with carry-over provisions

Approved the contract for Rev. David Jones to serve as temporary Interim Stated Supply Pastor to Caledonia Willow Creek Presbyterian Church effective September 1, 2020 — Feb. 28, 2021, unless terminated by either party with 30 days' notice. Terms are for weekly pulpit supply (every Sunday plus Christmas Eve) and monthly session moderation: \$125 + 11.50 (travel) per worship service, \$200 + \$11.50 (travel) per session meeting.

Approved the contract extension for Rev. David Terrinoni to serve as Temporary Pastor with LaRose Crow Meadow Presbyterian Church from October 1, 2020 — March 31, 2021. Contract is for approximately one day per week and includes leading worship two Sundays per month and moderating session. Compensation per contract term: \$10.00 cash, \$625 housing, travel, and ministry expenses reimbursed, 1-week vacation per quarter, 1-week continuing education per six months.

Following training provided by Rev. Gary Panetta, COM **granted permission** to Elder James Brown to administer the Sacrament of Holy Communion for his home congregation, Dakota Community Presbyterian Church, effective August 25, 2020.

Approved a request from Caledonia Willow Creek Presbyterian Church to allow Mike Engle to preside at the Lord's Table for Holy Communion, for a period of three months, beginning June 14, 2020.

The Board of Pensions has restructured the pension, medical, and disability dues structure. Go to pensions.org for specific information. In general, pension decreases from 11% to 8.5%, death & disability stays the same — 1%, new temporary disability — 0.5%, and medical increases from 25% to 27% (with a flat dollar minimum of \$11,000).

Minimum Terms of Call recommendations will be presented at the November assembly meeting.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

The committee's written report (call papers p. 16) noted that the committee met with Inquirer David Hegge to be updated on his progress after his first year in seminary. The committee asked David about his studies as well as his responses in his questions for reflection. David is doing well in his classes as well as in his work at Rockford Westminster Presbyterian Church as the youth director. The committee will be requesting to move David to candidate at the November meeting.

Mark Nielcen has decided to take a position at a different church in Rockford and will not pursue certification as ready to be commissioned as a Commissioned Pastor.

Due to COVID-19, The University of Dubuque declined to be a proctor site for the ordination exam that was to be administered in September. The candidate who was going to take the exam elected to delay until February when it will be offered again.

The committee recommends the following as ordination examination readers for 2021: Rev. Catherine Martin, Rev. Dr. Roy Backus, and Elder Karen Williams.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Rev. Eric Heinekamp presented the following slate of nominees for presbytery assembly officers, the presbytery council, commissions, and committees (call papers p. 17).

Presbytery Assembly Officers

2021 Moderator—Anita Stuart-Steva
2021 Vice-Moderator—Skip Shaffer
2021 Moderator of Council—Chuck Johnson
2021 Treasurer—Frank Finch
2021 Recording Clerk—Pat Wakeley
2021 Parliamentarian—David Spaulding

Presbytery Council

2023 MWS—John Dillon
2023 RE — Merry Issichopoulos

Presbytery Assembly Planning Committee

2023 RE—Laurie Walker

Personnel Committee

Mike Selburg —2021 Moderator
2021 MWS—Mark Hughey
2023CM—Alan Whale

Finance and Property Committee

2021 MWS—John Huff
2022 CM—Toni Krull
2023 CM —Scott Vandermyde

Commission on Ministry

Catherine Martin—2021 Moderator
Dave Terrinoni—2021 Vice Moderator
2021 MWS—Angela McClane
2022 RE—Debbie Stevens
2023 MWS—Skip Shaffer
2023 MWS—Blake Richter
2023 MWS—Michael Hafele
2023 MWS—Christina Berry
2023 RE—Mike Engle
2023 RE—Greg Kruse

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

David Jones—2021 Moderator
2021 MWS—Mark Morrison
2023 MWS—Art Blegen
2023 MWS—Jenny Hubbard
2023 RE—Faith Herout

Permanent Judicial Commission

2023 MWS—Matt Robinson

Synod Commissioners

2023 MWS—Dan Robertson
2021 RE Alternate—Derek Sherman

There were no nominations from the floor.

It was moved and **Voted** to approve the slate as presented.

GA COMMISSIONERS REPORT

GA Commissioners Pastor Laurie Walker and Rev. Dave Terrinoni shared highlights from the 224th General Assembly, the first “virtual” assembly. Rev. Stephanie Anthony, who serves as co-moderator of the Committee of the Office of the General Assembly, described her committee’s work.

TRANSFORMATIONAL GENERAL PRESBYTER REPORT

Newly installed Transformational General Presbyter Rev. Eric Heinekamp entered a written narrative sharing his observations from his first 30 days in office and plans for the next 60 days. He noted that he is sharing his activity list monthly with the Personnel Committee (call papers p. 18).

STATED CLERK REPORT

Stated Clerk Rev. Eric Heinekamp recommended that the final 2020 presbytery meeting scheduled for November 10 be held via Zoom. It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to meet via Zoom.

Plans for 2021 stated meetings will be finalized at the November 2020 meeting. Tentative dates are: February 9, April 13, June 8, September 14, November 9.

There will not be session minute reading and review this year. Minute review will resume in 2021.

Employer Agreements are due to the Board of Pensions by October 9. There are several important changes to the benefits program.

It is not too early to begin thinking about the annual statistical report. Please consider how you might report average worship attendance and any changes to membership (call papers p. 19)

SYNOD REPORT

No report.

CORPORATION TRUSTEES

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

TREASURER REPORT

Treasurer Frank Finch provided written financial reports for the Presbytery of Blackhawk and Stronghold through July 31, 2020. It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to receive the report of the treasurer (call papers pp. 20-38).

TRUSTEES REPORT

Stated Clerk Rev. Eric Heinekamp presented a request from Gibson City First Presbyterian Church session to sell a 154-acre farm property owned by the church. The sale price is \$9,500/acre or \$1,463,000. It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to approve the sale of property.

Moderator Chuck Johnson closed the meeting of the corporate body and resumed the assembly meeting.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg, Morrison Presbyterian Church, gave thanks for the faithfulness and work of ruling elder Alan Manchester on behalf of the congregation, Blackhawk Presbytery, and Stronghold. Alan died last week from cancer. He and his family were lifted in prayer.

ADJOURN WITH PRAYER

Moderator Chuck Johnson called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made, seconded, and **Voted** to adjourn the meeting of the day. Moderator Chuck Johnson closed the meeting with prayer at 12:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery Assembly will be November 10, 2020 via Zoom. Registration is at 9:00 am and the meeting is at 9:30 am.