

**PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK**  
**STATED MEETING VIA ZOOM**  
**April 13, 2021 at 9:30 am**

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 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 Rev. Dr. Anita Stuart-Steva called the meeting to order at 9:35 am and opened with prayer.

Moderator Stuart-Steva declared that a quorum was present.

It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to seat Corresponding Members Rev. David Boumgarden, Chicago Presbytery, serving Bolingbrook DuPage First Presbyterian Church; Rev. Dr. Sara Dingman, Synod of Lincoln Trails executive; Rev. Dr. Craig Howard, Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery, from the Presbyterian Foundation; Rev. Chris Roseland, PMA; and Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill, South Alabama Presbytery, Associate Director of Theology, Formation and Evangelism of the PC (USA).

Rev. Heinekamp presented the proposed docket for the meeting. The docket was approved by **Unanimous Consent**.

9:15	First opportunity to sign into meeting	
9:30	Welcome and overview of meeting	Eric Heinekamp
9:35	Call to order and opening prayer	Anita Stuart-Steva
	Quorum/Minutes/Docket/Corresponding Members	
	Worship	
	Scripture and sermon	Gary Panetta
	Communion	Molly Morris
	Pentecost Offering	Anita Stuart-Steva
10:00	Matthew 25 presentation on congregational vitality	Kathryn Threadgill
	Breakout group discussions	
10:45	Greeting from Presbyterian Foundation	Craig Howard
10:55	Council actions	Chuck Johnson
	Nominations to Nominating Committee	
	Policy for Use of Funds of Dissolved Congregations	
11:00	Committees of Council	
	Assembly Planning (Polls)	Anita Stuart-Steva
	Finance and Property	Eric Heinekamp
	Mission	Laurie Walker
	Personnel	Mike Selburg
	Stronghold	
	Recognition of Separation	Terry Mohaupt
	Visioning Task Force	Deb Swets
11:15	Committees / Commission of Assembly	
	Commission on Ministry	David Terrinoni
	Committee on Preparation for Ministry	David Jones

	Nominating Committee	Doug Forsberg
11:25	Reports	
	TGP / SC Report	Eric Heinekamp
	Presbyterian Women	Jill Sunday
	Synod Report	John Walker
11:35	Corporation/Trustees	Anita Stuart-Steva
	Treasurer report	Frank Finch
11:40	New and unfinished business	
11:45	Adjourn with prayer	Anita Stuart-Steva

The minutes of the February 9, 2021 Stated Meeting were approved by **Unanimous Consent**.

### **OPENING WORSHIP**

Moderator Stuart-Steva moved the assembly into a time of worship. Rev. Gary Panetta, Savanna First Presbyterian Church, read from scripture John 15:1-11 and preached on “Jesus is the true vine”. The offering, taken via check to the presbytery office or through the website, goes to the Pentecost Offering. Rev. Molly Morris, DeKalb Westminster Presbyterian Church, led the assembly in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

### **MATTHEW 25 PRESENTATION**

Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill, Associate for Vital Congregations, PC(USA), presented, via video, remarks on congregational vitality.

Following the presentation, participants met in small groups in virtual breakout rooms for discussion focused on Rev. Dr. Threadgill’s presentation. Participants were asked to discuss two questions:

1. You have been presented with the 7 suggested marks of a vital congregation. Which of these stood out to you as something your congregation does really well?
2. How is your church leadership empowering your congregation to focus on one of these marks that you need to improve to become a vital congregation for the future?

Groups shared comments in Zoom Chat.

### **GREETINGS FROM PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION**

Rev. Dr. Craig Howard, regional ministry relations officer for the Presbyterian Foundation, greeted the assembly and led a moment of silent prayer for the turmoil in Minneapolis. He provided information on the Foundation’s resources for congregations in the areas of stewardship and investment.

### **COUNCIL ACTIONS**

Council Moderator Chuck Johnson, Sandwich Federated Church, moved nomination of Rev. John Walker, Ottawa First Presbyterian Church, (MWS) and Rev. Spencer Lawrence, honorably retired, (MWS) to the Nominating Committee class of 2023 (first terms for both). It was moved and **Voted** to approve the nominations.

Council Moderator Johnson moved approval of a new policy, “Policy for Distribution of Proceeds from Dissolved Congregations and the Establishment of a “Resurrection Fund” (attached). It was moved and **Voted** to adopt the policy.

### **COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL** **ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Assembly Moderator Stuart-Steva led participants through 4 polls seeking input on future assembly meetings:

1. At this point in time, how is your congregation worshipping? (34 congregations responding)
  - Meeting for worship in person only (9%)
  - Offering church online only with no in-person worship (18%)
  - Offering a pre-recorded worship service and meeting in person (29%)
  - Offering a live-streamed worship service with a worshipping audience present (38%)
  - Offering a fully hybrid service where those in the sanctuary can see and hear those in their homes (6%)
  
2. Regarding future Presbytery assembly meetings, what is your first preference?
  - Only meet in person (6%)
  - Only meet on Zoom (13%)
  - Meet in person 1 time each year, 4 times on Zoom (15%)
  - Meet in person 2 times each year, 3 on Zoom (37%)
  - Offer fully hybrid meetings where those gathering in person can see and hear those online (this may restrict host locations and be somewhat clumsy at first) (29%)
  
3. Regarding future Presbytery assembly meetings, what is your second choice?
  - Only meet in person (6%)
  - Only meet on Zoom (6%)
  - Meet in person 1 time each year, 4 times on Zoom (42%)
  - Meet in person 2 times each year, 3 on Zoom (27%)
  - Offer fully hybrid meetings where those gathering in person can see and hear those online (this may restrict host locations and be somewhat clumsy at first) (19%)
  
4. If we meet in person for the September Assembly at DeKalb Westminster Presbyterian Church (possibly without a group meal), with the capability of also joining online, would you attend in person or online?
  - I would definitely try to attend in person (36%)
  - I would attend online (26%)
  - Unsure, it would depend on pandemic circumstances at the time (38%)

### **FINANCE AND PROPERTY**

No report.

### **MISSION COMMITTEE**

Committee Moderator Laurie Walker presented the committee's report (attached). The committee recognized the addition of Woodstock First Presbyterian Church and Rockford Third Presbyterian Church as Matthew 25 churches.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Committee Moderator Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg presented the committee's report (attached). Loreen Stravers has assumed the Bookkeeper responsibilities. Committee moderator Selburg recognized Karen Krum for her years of service to Blackhawk Presbytery and Stronghold. He reported that a revised Personnel Manual has been presented to Council and returned to the committee for revisions.

### **STRONGHOLD COMMITTEE**

Committee Moderator Terry Mohaupt presented the report (attached). Pastor Ray Lantz, Gibson City First Presbyterian Church, has been elected Chair of the Stronghold Center, Inc. Board of Directors and will represent Stronghold as liaison to the Presbytery Council and Assembly.

### **VISIONING TASK FORCE**

Rev. Deb Swets, Plainfield Wheatland United Presbyterian Church, reported that a Proposal for a "Visioning Task Force" (attached) was approved by Council on February 23, 2021. Rev. Swets

and Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg are co-moderators. The task force expects to develop a preliminary report to Council in twelve months and to present a final report at the September 2022 assembly meeting. Updates will be provided at each assembly meeting.

Presbytery Vice-Moderator Rev. Dr. Skip Shaffer, Oswego Presbyterian Church, assumed the role of Moderator of the Assembly meeting.

## **COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES OF THE ASSEMBLY**

### **COMMISSION ON MINISTRY**

Commission Vice Moderator Rev. David Terrinoni presented the Commission report (attached).

### **ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY ACTION:**

Approve the dissolution of the relationship between Rev. Dr. Craig Herr and Joliet First Presbyterian Church and grant him the status of Honorably Retired as of May 1, 2021. Craig and his wife, Leslie have served this congregation since 1989 - 32 years! It was moved and **Voted** to approve this dissolution and change of status. Don Caisley spoke on behalf of the congregation to honor Rev. Dr. Herr's service.

Grant Honorably Retired status to Rev. Karen Gerhard Conner as of April 30, 2021. It was moved and **Voted** to grant this change of status.

Recommission Pastor Tanya Muzzarelli to serve as part-time (20 hours/week) Commissioned Pastor to Marengo First Presbyterian Church from Sept. 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021.

#### **COM approved terms:**

Cash Salary:	\$18,000
Professional expense:	\$ 600 (reimbursable-not to exceed)
Additional hours beyond contract paid at \$15.75/hour, mileage beyond contract terms paid at \$0.58/mile	
Paid vacation: Seven Sundays and three weeks' weekdays per contract	

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

Recommission Pastor Del Keilman to serve as full-time Commissioned Pastor to Earlville United Presbyterian Church effective Jan. 1, 2021- Dec. 31, 2021.

#### **COM approved terms:**

Cash Salary:	\$36,699.96
Medical:	\$16,970.64
Pension, Death, Disability:	\$ 3,579.48
Reimbursables:	\$ 6,192.72
TOTAL CONTRACT TERMS:	\$63,442.80

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

Recommission Pastor Jack Briggs to serve as part time (50%) Commissioned Pastor to Franklin Grove First Presbyterian Church effective Jan. 1, 2021- Dec. 31, 2021. His ministry is shared with First Congregational-UCC, Lee Center.

#### **COM approved terms:**

Cash Salary:	\$ 8,000
Housing Allowance:	\$ 4,613
SECA:	\$ 965
Medical insurance:	\$ 4,380 (reimbursable)
Continuing education:	\$ 100 (reimbursable)
Mileage:	\$ 175 (reimbursable)

TOTAL CONTRACT TERMS: \$18,632.82

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

The commissioning/recommissioning for those approved above was deferred to a later assembly meeting.

**REPORTING ON OTHER ACTIONS TAKEN by COM:**

**Appointed** Rev. Dr. David Spaulding to serve as Moderator of the session of Paw Paw First Presbyterian Church.

**Appointed** Rev. Angie McClane to serve as Moderator of the session of Henry First United Presbyterian Church.

**Approved** Terms of Call for an installed position between Rev. Randal Nicholas (member at large - Blackhawk Presbytery) and Sandwich Federated Church effective June 1, 2021.

Cash Salary	\$43,000
Manse value:	\$16,000
Effective Salary:	\$59,000
Utilities:	\$ 4,800
SECA:	\$ 4,881
Pension, Death, Disability:	\$ 5,900
Medical coverage:	\$15,930
Auto Expense:	\$ 3,000 (up to-reimbursable)
Professional Expense:	\$ 2,400 (reimbursable)
Medical reimbursement:	\$ 3,540 (reimbursable)
TOTAL TERMS OF CALL:	\$99,451

Paid vacation: 4 weeks. Continuing education: 2 weeks.

**Approved** the contract for Rev. Richard Jumper (member Disciples of Christ), to serve as full time temporary pastor at Henry First United, effective 2/2/21-1/31/22. Responsibilities include leading worship, administering sacraments, and other pastoral duties. (*Note: effective April 30, 2021, Rev. Jumper has terminated this contract, per agreed terms.*)

Cash Salary:	\$49,000
SECA Supplement:	\$ 3,748.50
Medical Coverage:	\$ 5,000
Professional expenses:	\$ 3,900
Continuing Education:	\$ 1,500
Moving expenses:	\$ 2,500 (half of expenses, not to exceed)
TOTAL CONTRACT TERMS:	\$63,148

4 weeks vacation, 2 weeks continuing education, mileage reimbursement.

**Granted permission** for Rev. Dr. Dale Dykstra, Honorably Retired member, to labor outside the bounds in a temporary capacity for East Iowa Presbytery, starting 3/21/21.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

COM received the annual Terms of Call Summary Report (attached).

As per Presbytery policy, "Boundary training is required for all people in pastoral ministry and shall be taken at the earliest opportunity when one first enters the Presbytery. Renewal of that training shall be required every three years." Most of Blackhawk pastors will need to complete

such training in the next few months. The Presbytery of Chicago will be offering 2 boundary trainings in 2021. Both trainings will be via Zoom, will last 90 minutes, and will require pre-registration. Registration is now open for both.

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

Committee Moderator Rev. David Jones presented the committee's report (attached). The committee has accepted Paul Koch, Manteno Community Presbyterian Church and Phillip Thompson, Rockford Westminster Presbyterian Church as Commissioned Pastors in training. The roster of those under the care of the committee was reviewed. In training to be Ministers of the Word and Sacrament: David Hegge (candidate), Katherine Linn (inquirer), Andrew Newgren (candidate), and Aaron Shoppa (inquirer). In training to be Commissioned Pastors: Sandra Cummins, Paul Koch, and Phillip Thompson.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

No report.

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

Transformational General Presbyter/Stated Clerk Rev. Eric Heinekamp entered a written report (attached).

Rev. Heinekamp invited congregations to take part in a discussion of the book "The Post-Quarantine Church: Six Urgent Challenges and Opportunities That Will Determine the Future of Your Congregation" by Thom Rainer. Discussion will take place via Zoom in April and May.

He noted that in 2020, the total number of congregations in Blackhawk Presbytery dropped from 73 to 69. Total congregational membership dropped from 9,022 in 2019 to 8,387 in 2020. Dissolved congregations accounted for 253 of the 635 member decrease.

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

No report.

### **SYNOD REPORT**

TGP/SC Heinekamp noted that a written report will be available soon. He reported that Synod Executive Rev. Sara Dingman has completed her doctoral studies and that Blackhawk Presbytery's Rev. John Walker has been elected Moderator of the Synod of Lincoln Trails.

### **CORPORATION TRUSTEES**

Corporation President Rev. Dr. Anita-Stuart-Steva suspended the assembly meeting and called to order the meeting of the corporate body.

### **TRUSTEES REPORT**

No report.

### **TREASURER REPORT**

A written financial report was submitted for the Presbytery of Blackhawk, January 1, 2021-March 31, 2021 (attached). It was moved, seconded, and Voted to receive the report of the treasurer.

Corporation President Stuart-Steva closed the meeting of the corporate body and resumed the assembly meeting.

### **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Rev. Steve Bowie, Rockford Third Presbyterian Church, applauded Rev. Dr. Sara Dingman for completing her doctoral program.

Rev. Cindy Carlisle lifted up Woodstock First Presbyterian Church for becoming certified as an Earth Care congregation. The initiative was led by youth in the confirmation class.

Rev. Dave Terrinoni, La Rose, Crow Meadow Presbyterian Church, reported that, although the overture to develop liturgies and prayers for veterans, particularly those reintegrating following service was not voted on at the General Assembly, the Council for Presbyterian Chaplains is working to develop liturgies.

**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. Moderator Stuart-Steva closed the meeting with prayer at 11:51 am.

Respectfully submitted,

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

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery Assembly will be June 8, 2021 via the Zoom platform. The meeting is at 9:30 am.