

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

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened on Tuesday, February 9, 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.

The assembly welcomed first-time minister members Rev. Lisa López-Meyer, Winnebago First Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Molly Morris, Dekalb Westminster Presbyterian Church,

It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to seat Corresponding Members Rev. David Boumgarden, Chicago Presbytery, serving Bolingbrook First of DuPage Presbyterian Church, Rev. Ken Green, Chicago Presbytery, Board of Pensions staff, and Rev. Dr. Barbara Wilson, African Methodist Episcopal Church, Matthew 25 speaker.

Moderator Stuart-Steva declared that a quorum was present.

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
	Worship	
	Scripture and sermon	Dottie Morizzo
	Communion	Dan Robertson
	Offering for One Great Hour of Sharing	Anita Stuart-Steva
10:00	Matthew 25 presentation on racism	Barbara Wilson
	Breakout group discussion	
10:45	Video greeting from PC(USA) Co-Moderator	Gregory Bentley
	Board of Pensions update	Ken Green
10:30	Council Actions	Chuck Johnson
	Report on Council actions	
10:45	Committees of Council	
	Assembly Planning	Anita Stuart-Steva
	Finance and Property	Eric Heinekamp
	Mission	Laurie Walker
	Personnel	Mike Selburg
	Stronghold	Terry Mohaupt
11:00	Committees/Commissions of Assembly	
	Commission on Ministry	Catherine Martin
	Committee on Preparation for Ministry	David Jones
	Nominating Committee	Doug Forsberg
	Dismissal of AC for Oregon First Presbyterian Church	Anita Stuart-Steva

11:20	Reports	
	TGP/SC Report	Eric Heinekamp
	Presbyterian Women	Jill Sunday
	Synod Report	
11:25	Corporation/Trustees	Anita Stuart-Steva
	Treasurer Report	Frank Finch
11:30	New and unfinished business	
11:40	Adjourn with prayer	Anita Stuart-Steva

The minutes of the November 10, 2020 Stated Meeting were approved by **Unanimous Consent**.

### **OPENING WORSHIP**

Moderator Stuart-Steva moved the assembly into a time of worship. Pastor Dottie Morizzo read from scripture Matthew 25:31-46 and preached on “Seeing as Jesus Sees.” The offering, taken via check to the presbytery office or through the website, goes to One Great Hour of Sharing. Rev. Dan Robertson led the assembly in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

### **MATTHEW 25 PRESENTATION**

Rev. Dr. Barbara Wilson, Director, Collaboration and Community Partnerships, Chicago Presbytery, focused her presentation, “Envisioning a New Way of Life Together,” on how we think about race and the equality of all people created in the image of God.

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

- What risks are we willing to take to build deeper relationships and understanding?
- As a community of hope, how do we need to be made new to face and disrupt racism?
- What dividing walls must we confront and tear down?
- How does racism weaken our witness as disciples of Christ?

Groups shared comments in Zoom Chat.

### **VIDEO GREETING FROM PC(USA) CO-MODERATOR**

Rev. Gregory Bentley, pastor of Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, AL, and co-moderator of PC(USA) greeted the assembly via video and commended Blackhawk Presbytery for its commitment to the Matthew 25 initiative.

### **BOARD OF PENSIONS UPDATE**

Rev. Ken Green, Board of Pensions staff member, gave an update on Board of Pensions. He called attention to the following:

- Billing of churches will be electronic only beginning March 1, 2021.
- A temporary disability benefit is now available to any church employee working more than 20 hours per week.
- The Board of Pensions has changed its pharmacy benefit manager. Congregations needing assistance setting up with Express Scripts may contact the Board.
- Congregations are reminded to update clergy terms of call through the Benefit Connect portal.

### **COUNCIL ACTIONS**

No report.

### **COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL**

#### **ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### **MISSION COMMITTEE**

Committee Moderator Pastor Laurie Walker presented the committee's report (call papers p. 16). The committee awarded a \$1,500 grant to Dekalb Westminster Presbyterian Church to prepare its mobile food pantry for wintertime COVID-safe outdoor distribution.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Committee Moderator Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg reported that the committee is beginning to revise the Personnel Manual, last updated in 2013. Loreen Stravers is learning the bookkeeper duties currently handled by Karen Krum. The transition will be complete March 31.

### **STRONGHOLD COMMITTEE**

Committee Moderator Terry Mohaupt presented the report. The Blackhawk Presbytery Council has approved the following actions related to the separation of Blackhawk Presbytery and Stronghold Camp and Conference Center:

- Presbytery of Blackhawk will pay SCI quarterly toward its annual pledge of \$50,000; i.e., \$12,500 quarterly.
- Presbytery of Blackhawk will pay its annual \$15,000 fee for use of SCI office space (commonly referred to as rent) monthly, i.e., \$1,250 monthly.

The covenant between Stronghold Center, Inc. (SCI) and Presbytery of Blackhawk will be amended this year, in accordance with SCI Bylaws. Among the provisions being planned are these:

- SCI will commit to a payment schedule of \$20,000/year for 5 years to retire outstanding back payroll debt of \$100,000 owed to BHP, in the spirit of taking full responsibility for our new obligations as a stand-alone entity.
- Policy will be developed to cover what the monthly payment from Presbytery of Blackhawk for use of office space (commonly referred to as rent) will include, such as, for example, use of postage machine, copier, and Internet service, and use of additional

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

#### **COMMISSION ON MINISTRY**

Commission Moderator Rev. Catherine Martin presented the Commission report.

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

Commission Pastor Mike Engle to serve as full-time Commissioned Pastor to Elwood Community Church for 3 years, beginning February 1, 2021.

Cash Salary:	\$15,800
Housing Allowance:	\$15,800
Effective Salary:	\$31,600
SECA Supplement	\$ 2,417
Medical Coverage:	\$12,000 (reimbursable)
Continuing Education :	\$ 500 (reimbursable)
Medical reimbursement:	\$ 1,896 (reimbursable)
TOTAL CONTRACT TERMS :	\$50,813

No Board of Pensions medical, pension, disability, and death benefit coverage.

Paid vacation: 4 weeks, Continuing education: 2 weeks

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

Commission Pastor Chrystal Abbott to serve as part-time (note correction from written report) Commissioned Pastor to New Lenox Central Presbyterian Church effective January

11, 2021-January 10, 2022.

Cash Salary: \$33,600  
Auto expense: reimbursed at \$.56/mile  
TOTAL CONTRACT TERMS: \$33,600  
Paid vacation : 4 weeks, Continuing education: 2 weeks

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

Commission Pastor Chuck Johnson to serve as temporary Commissioned Pastor to Sandwich Federated Church as needed during Laurel Walker's absence or until such time as a permanent pastor is installed. Term: January 1- December 31, 2021. Responsibilities include leading worship as requested, administering sacraments and moderating session.

Salary: \$200 per Sunday preached  
\$75 per meeting (Session/ Congregational/ Presbytery)  
\$30 per hour for visiting and personal ministry  
No medical, pension, or vacation time  
Costs to be reimbursed : Auto at IRS mileage rate or pre-paid gas card, business meals, other related expenses.

Commission was approved by **Unanimous Consent**.

Recommission Pastor Laurel A. Walker to serve as part-time Commissioned Pastor to Sandwich Federated Church from January 1- December 31, 2021. Responsibilities include leading worship three Sundays per month, administering sacraments and moderating session.

Salary: \$1,200/month  
Mileage reimbursement at IRS rate  
Other ministry expenses reimbursed  
Continuing education/book allowance at approximately \$150/month

Commission was approved by **Unanimous Consent**.

Recommission Pastor Claire Brennecka to serve full-time at Harvard First Presbyterian Church, effective January 1, 2021-December 31, 2023. Responsibilities include leading worship, administering sacraments, moderating session, and providing care and comfort.

Cash Salary: \$17,600  
Housing Allowance: \$12,000  
Auto expense up to \$ 4,200 (reimbursable)  
Medical premiums: \$ 2,400 (reimbursable)  
TOTAL CONTRACT TERMS: \$36,200  
Paid vacation : 4 weeks, Continuing education: 2 weeks

Commission was approved by **Unanimous Consent**.

Moderator Stuart-Steva led in commissioning/recommissioning those approved above.

Appointment of Rev. Dr. Blake Richter to serve as Moderator of the session of Somonauk United Presbyterian Church was approved by **Unanimous Consent**.

It was moved and **Voted** to approve "Policies and Procedures for Dissolution of Pastoral Relationships" (call papers pp. 22-24)

It was moved and **Voted** to adopt "Covenant of Closure/Pastor Who Retires" and "Covenant of Closure/ Pastor Who Resigns" (call papers pp. 25-30)

It was moved and **Voted** to approve Rev. Eric Heinekamp to serve as Moderator of the session of Romeoville United Presbyterian Church.

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

Approved contract for Part-Time (25hrs) Temporary Pastor at Elgin First Presbyterian Church for the Rev. Jon Michael Phillips, effective January 1, 2021 thru March 31, 2021.

Cash Salary	\$4,781
Housing	\$3,188
Effective Salary	\$7,969
SECA	\$ 604
Pension, Death, Disability	\$ 797
Medical	\$2,152
Professional Expense	\$ 609
Study Leave	\$ 234
HRA	\$ 478
TOTAL	\$12,843

Effective Salary is based upon 2020 figure of \$51,000. 2021 effective salary is prorated to 5/8 of this figure.

Approved the contract for Pastor Dottie Morizzo, serving full-time (35 hours/week) at Elizabeth, Schapville Zion Presbyterian Church, effective November 2020-November 2023. Responsibilities include leading worship 4-5 times per month, administering sacraments, moderating session, and other pastoral duties.

Cash Salary:	\$25,500
SECA Supplement:	\$ 2,000
Medical Coverage:	\$ 2,595
Mileage reimbursed at \$.575/mile (\$2,200/year)	
Continuing Education:	\$ 1,200
Medical reimburse:	\$ 1,000
TOTAL CONTRACT TERMS:	\$33,495

4 weeks' vacation, 2 weeks continuing education (including Sundays)

Approved the 3-month extension of the contract for Pastor JD Buchenau to serve as Temporary Commissioned Pastor to Pontiac First Presbyterian Church, effective January 1-March 31, 2021. Contract terms: \$300/worship service, plus basic visitation ministry and office hours at \$25/hour. Mileage reimbursement at IRS rate.

**FOR INFORMATION:**

Jack Berghorst, Commissioned Pastor to New Lenox Central Presbyterian Church, retired effective December 31, 2020 and his commission has therefore ended.

Upon the retirement of Rev. John Huff, United Presbyterian Church of Romeoville has requested the elimination of their position of pastor.

**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

Committee Moderator Rev. David Jones presented the committee's report. The committee has enrolled Aaron Shoppa, Sterling First Presbyterian Church, as an inquirer and received Sandra Cummins, Romeoville United Presbyterian Church, as a Commissioned Pastor in training.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Committee Moderator Rev. Doug Forsberg presented the following nominations for approval:

Mission Committee (all congregation members)

Kate Hartman, 2<sup>nd</sup> term, class of 2023

Gene Archer, 2<sup>nd</sup> term, class of 2023

Tanya Muzzarelli, 1<sup>st</sup> term, class of 2023

Scott Vandermyde, 1<sup>st</sup> term, class of 2023

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Rev. Joel Stevenor, 1<sup>st</sup> term, class of 2022, MWS

Assembly Council

Bill Newkirk, Winnebago First Presbyterian Church, 1<sup>st</sup> term, class of 2022 (filling a vacancy), RE

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

### **DISMISSAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR OREGON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Moderator Stuart-Steva reported that the work of the administrative commission for Oregon First Presbyterian Church is complete. The congregation held its final worship service and has been dissolved by presbytery. The property has been sold. It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to dismiss the administrative commission with thanks.

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

Transformational General Presbyter/Stated Clerk Rev. Eric Heinekamp entered a written report (see attached). He noted that he will be speaking with Council about appointing a Visioning Task Force for the presbytery.

He called attention to 2021 presbytery meeting dates. He reminded congregations that annual statistical reports must be entered online by February 18. He and Loreen Stravers are available to assist with the process.

He presented the annual Necrology Report of Ruling Elders and Ministers of Word and Sacrament who joined the Church Triumphant in 2020 (call papers p. 34) and lifted them in prayer.

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Jill Sunday reported on congregations that have so far accepted the Church World Service kit challenge and encouraged other churches to join the challenge.

### **SYNOD REPORT**

No report.

### **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**

Corporation President Stuart-Steva presented the Board of Trustees report (see attached). She called attention to the sale of the Oregon First Presbyterian Church property on December 31, 2020 and completion of the paperwork necessary to facilitate the separation of the presbytery and Stronghold Camp and Conference Center.

She noted that the Board of Trustees elected the following as officers of the corporation: Rev. Dr. Anita-Steva, president; Rev. Eric Heinekamp, secretary, and Frank Finch, treasurer.

It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to receive the Trustees' report.

### **TREASURER REPORT**

A written financial report was submitted for the Presbytery of Blackhawk, January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020 (see 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. Diane Jochum inquired whether future presbytery meetings might be a combination of in-person and Zoom. Rev. Heinekamp responded that the Assembly Planning Committee is addressing this issue and hybrid meetings are a likely possibility.

Rev. Steve Bowie reported that he and Jon Hall are preparing a virtual Confirmation Retreat for March 13-14. Details will be available soon.

### **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 11:36 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery Assembly will be April 13, 2021 via the Zoom platform. The meeting is at 9:30 am.