



---

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)**

## **MINUTES**

### **STATED MEETING OF THE SYNOD**

**March 13, 2012**

**VOLUME XXXIX**

**Number 2**

**ATTEST: Muriel C. Brown, Acting Stated Clerk**

**Meeting as delegated Synod by  
Telephone Conference Call**

**Published by the Synod of Alaska-Northwest  
under the direction of Muriel C. Brown, Acting Stated Clerk**

**These minutes were approved by the Synod  
April 15, 2012**



# Synod of Alaska-Northwest

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Stated Meeting

Via Conference Telephone Call

March 13, 2012

## Opening Prayer

The Moderator, Teaching Elder Leisa Carrick, called this Stated Meeting of the Synod of Alaska-Northwest to order at 4:02 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time.

## Attendance Roll

Interim Stated Clerk Muriel C. Brown called the roll which was established as follows:

### COMMISSIONERS

Presbytery	Class	Name	Present	Absent
<b>Alaska</b>				
	13	Paul Wescott (RE)	x	
	14	Ron Horn (TE)		x
<b>Central Washington</b>				
	12	Jim Irwin (RE)	x	
	13	Bill Zeiger (TE)	x	
<b>Inland NW</b>				
	12	Gary Bowker (TE)	x	
	14	Kathy Sandusky (RE)		x
<b>North Puget Sound</b>				
	12	Eric Chavis (TE)	x	
	13	Sarah Beard (RE)	x	
<b>Olympia</b>				
	13	Ruth Moore (RE)		x
	13	Pam Haberlin (RE)(Alt.)	x	
	14	Patrick Wrisley (TE)		x
<b>Seattle</b>				
	12	Richard Erickson (TE)	x	
	14	Karen Cunningham (RE)	x	

**Yukon**

11	Tom Letts (TE)	x
12	Robert Graham (RE)	x

***Ex-Officio Members***

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Leisa Carrick (TE) Moderator	x	
Joyce Emery (TE) Presbyter to Synod	x	
Muriel C. Brown (TE) Interim Synod Stated Clerk	x	

**Synod Staff**

Sarah Peniston (RE), Synod Director of Communications		x
Martha Jean Hubbard, Synod Treasurer		x
Brandon Jelinek, Synod Director of Technical Ministry		x
Eunjoo Lee, Synod Project Assistant		x

**Seating of Corresponding Members**

The Synod enrolled the following as corresponding members and granted them the privileges of the floor:

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Dottie Villevik (RE) Moderator Presbyterian Women of the Synod	x	
G. David Lambertson (TE) Central Washington Presbytery Executive Presbyter	x	
Sheryl Kinder-Pyle (TE) Inland Northwest Transitional Executive Presbyter	x	
Corey Schlosser-Hall (RE) North Puget Sound Presbytery Executive	x	
Lynn Longfield (TE) Olympia Presbytery General Presbyter	x	
Scott Lumsden (TE) Seattle Presbytery Executive Presbyter	x	
Curtis Karns (TE) Yukon Presbytery Executive Presbyter		x
David Dobler (TE) Pastor to the Presbytery of Alaska	x	

Rob McClure (TE), Seattle Presbytery, Mission Development Certificate Loan Program		X
Dean Mielke MDC Executive Director		X
Jim Irwin (RE) Immediate Past Moderator of the Synod	X	
Steve Aeschbacher (RE) Synod Representative to the General Assembly Council		X
Clarence Antioquia (RE) Synod Representative to the General Assembly Council		X
Alan Villesvik (RE) Synod Nominating Committee Moderator	X	

### **Declaration of Quorum**

The Interim Stated Clerk Muriel C. Brown declared a quorum present in accordance with Book of Order G-3.0405 and the Synod of Alaska-Northwest's requirement for four ruling elders and four teaching elders representing at least three presbyteries to constitute a quorum.

### **Opening Prayer**

The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer.

### **Docket**

The Synod **VOTED** to amend the proposed docket which was distributed with the call of the meeting by moving the Nominating Committee report up to the first item of New Business. The Synod **VOTED** to approve the amended docket as follows:

#### **Docket**

*Mid Council Meeting –Phone  
4:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, 2012*

*Call to Order*

*Roll Call – Establishment of a Quorum*

*Opening Prayer*

*Adoption of Docket*

*Correspondence*

*Stated Clerk's Letter of Resignation*

*Appointing a Clerk-ProTem, The Rev. Muriel Brown (HR-CW)*

*Devotions*

*Moderator's Report*

*Interfaith House – WSU Campus Letter  
Presbyteries with departing congregations protocol*

**New Business**

1. *Nominating Committee report* Alan Villesvik
2. *Report on the status of the “Reduced Function” Presbytery vote.*
3. *Summary of the Synod Mid Council Retreat, February 9 – 12, 2012*
4. *Review of the draft entitled “Implementation Plan”*
5. *Scheduling face-to-face and phone Synod meetings for 2012.*  
*Second Tuesdays:*  
*April 10, 2012 Phone*  
*May 8, 2012 Face to Face?*  
*June 12, 2012 Face to Face?*
6. *Grants Task Force Report* Eric Chavis
7. *Finance Committee Report* Sarah Beard
  - a. *Action Sheet*
  - b. *Lake Forest Park – Vision House Request (#7 on Action Sheet)*
8. *Personnel Committee report* Jim Irwin
  - a. *Personnel staff working plan – before “reduced function” proposal*
  - b. *Position Description Stated Clerk - Draft*

**Old Business**

9. *Higher Education Strategy – Intern, Trinity Anchorage Proposal*

*Motion to Close the Meeting*

*Closing Prayer*

**Resignation of Stated Clerk**

The Synod **VOTED** to accept the resignation of Teaching Elder Richard E. Melin as Stated Clerk of the Synod effective February 9, 2012. (Letter at **APPENDIX A**) Commissioners were encouraged to find ways to show their gratitude to Mr. Melin for his years of service to the Synod and to consider attending the farewell luncheon in his honor on April 17 at the Synod offices.

**Appointment of Interim Stated Clerk**

Moderator Leisa Carrick announced that she had appointed Teaching Elder Muriel C. Brown as Interim Stated Clerk.

**Devotions**

Moderator Leisa Carrick led the Synod in a brief devotional time using the first of Jesus' beatitudes (Matthew 5:3), “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,” and a poem titled “The Beatitudes” by Macrina Wiederkehr, O.S.B., a Benedictine Sister at St. Scholastica Center in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

## **Moderator's Report**

The Moderator called attention to a letter from Sue M. Durrant, President of the Common Ministry Council at WSU, expressing gratitude and appreciation for the support of Presbyterians over the years and sadness that funding and relationships may be ending soon.

The Moderator acknowledged the turmoil and uncertainties in our presbyteries as they experience change due to congregations thinking about leaving the PC(USA) and seeking to be dismissed to other Reformed bodies and wondered how Synod might be helpful to or come alongside the presbyteries as they work through these processes.

## **New Business**

Ruling Elder Alan Villevik, Moderator of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee is in the process of creating a slate of persons to serve on a Stated Clerk Nominating Committee and also working on finding five persons to serve on the Permanent Judicial Commission as replacements for those whose terms expire at the end of 2012. There was brief discussion (but no decision) regarding the occasional awkwardness of commissioners' terms being based on the calendar year and the Moderator's and Vice-Moderator's terms being from mid-year to mid-year. The synod **VOTED** to accept the report.

A report from the presbyteries regarding their votes on the "Reduced Function Synod" proposal yielded these results: Central Washington, Inland Northwest and North Puget Sound have each voted "yes;" Yukon has voted "no;" Olympia will be voting on Thursday, March 15; Seattle will vote on Tuesday, March 20; Alaska will not vote until after Easter.

Moderator Leisa Carrick had prepared a narrative summary of the Synod Commissioners Retreat held at Sound View Camp February 9-12, 2012. **APPENDIX B** She and other attendees spoke about their experiences at the retreat.

Synod commissioners discussed a draft Implementation Plan 2012 for a "reduced function" Synod. (This draft grew out of small group work done at the retreat.) **APPENDIX C** The draft was before the Mid Council meeting to help with understanding what all is before the Synod if the "reduced function" synod proposal is affirmed by the requisite number of presbyteries. The discussion raised questions about the size and make-up of an implementation team, how this plan fits with the implementation team mentioned in the "reduced function" proposal, whether staff should be involved in decision making, the need for careful hand-off of relationships that the Synod has developed over the years. Dick Erickson and Jim Irwin agreed to work with Joyce Emery on developing before the April 10 Mid Council meeting an overview (for commissioners and presbytery councils) of the mission and ministry and covenant partnerships of the Synod. The Finance Committee will bring a report on assets.

Current plans for the next several Mid Council meetings are as follows:

April 10, 2012 – Phone

May 8, 2012 – Phone

June 12, 2012 –Face to Face (tentatively)

Teaching Elder Eric Chavis, Moderator of the Grants Task Force, announced that the Y.E.S. Project in Yukon has been funded in the amount of \$8000. He also indicated that the Grants brochure for summer 2012 has been adapted to include information about Peacemaking Grants in order to alert everyone that these are available.

Ruling Elder Sarah Beard, Moderator of the Finance Committee, presented the 2010 financial audit report prepared by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, a certified public accounting firm, in which they state, “In our opinion, the financial statements. . .present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Corporation of Synod of Alaska-Northwest Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as of December 31, 2010, and the results of its operations, and its cash flow for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.” Ms. Beard indicated that one item of note was included in an otherwise clean audit. This item concerned need to book the value of a promissory note (loan) involved with the sale of Covenant House at UW. The value had not been entered on the books in 2010 because the note is unsecured and hence repayment was not certain. The value was, however, entered in January of 2011 when the 1<sup>st</sup> repayment installment was received. New accounts will be added to the balance sheet to clearly identify the promissory note and installment payments received. The Synod **VOTED** to approve the audit. **APPENDIX D**

The Synod **VOTED** to approve the 2011 year-end financial reports. **APPENDIX E**

The Synod **VOTED** to approve a revised unified budget for 2012, with total operating expenses of \$811,671. The revised budget shows additional accounts to include previously uncertain cost estimates for Payroll Taxes (IRS-941 and WA L&I) and Medical & Retirement benefits for additional staff increments. **APPENDIX F**

The Synod **VOTED** to move \$2,817.64 in account 2200-24 (Higher Ed–Shalom) to account 2300-30 and to retire account 2200-24. These funds are in some way associated with the sale of the Shalom House in Bellingham.

The Synod **VOTED** to add the \$29,335.80 in account 2400-10 (Reserve—Synod Meetings/Travel) to Un-restricted Reserve account 2400-40 and retire account 2400-10. These funds were for Synod meetings in Alaska in the previous way of meeting.

The Synod **VOTED** to approve a Grants Task Force referral of a request from Lake Forest Park Presbyterian Church in the amount of \$50,000 for the Vision House Jacob’s Well facility (for homeless women and children) under construction in Shoreline, WA. These funds will be paid from Un-restricted Reserve account 2400-40.



Ruling Elder Jim Irwin, Moderator of the Synod Personnel Committee, requested that commissioners email comments or questions regarding the draft Stated Clerk position description (included in this meeting's portfolio) so that they can be discussed at the next Personnel Committee meeting.

### **Old Business**

The matter of the letter dated October, 18, 2011, from the Session of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Anchorage, AK expressing interest in a grant that provides funding for an intern for Young Adult & College Ministry was listed on the agenda for this meeting as an item of Old Business. However, there was confusion as to where we are with regard to this item. Therefore no action was taken.

### **Adjournment**

The Synod **VOTED** to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time and the Vice-Moderator Eric Chavis gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Muriel C. Brown, Interim Stated Clerk