



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

MINUTES

STATED MEETING OF THE SYNOD

JULY 10, 2012

VOLUME XXXIX

Number 5

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

August 1, 2012

Synod of Alaska-Northwest

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Stated Meeting

Via Conference Telephone Call

July 10, 2012

Call to Order

The Moderator, Teaching Elder Leisa Carrick, called this Stated Meeting of the Synod of Alaska-Northwest to order at 4:06 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time.

Attendance Roll

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

COMMISSIONERS

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

Yukon

11	Tom Letts (TE)		x
12	Janet Gill (RE)	x	

Ex-Officio Members

	Present	Absent
Leisa Carrick (TE) Moderator	x	
Joyce Emery (TE) Presbyter to Synod	x	
Muriel C. Brown (TE) Acting Synod Stated Clerk	x	

Synod Staff

Sarah Peniston (RE), Synod Director of Communications		x
Martha 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 privilege of the floor:

	Present	Absent
Dottie Villevik (RE) Moderator Presbyterian Women in the Synod	x	
G. David Lambertson (TE) Central Washington Presbytery Executive Presbyter		x
Sheryl Kinder-Pyle (TE) Inland Northwest 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			X
MDC Executive Director			
Jim Irwin (RE)			X
Immediate Past Moderator of the Synod			
Steve Aeschbacher (RE)			X
Synod Representative to the General Assembly Council			
Clarence Antioquia (RE)			X
Synod Representative to the General Assembly Council			
Alan Villevik (RE)		X	
Synod Nominating Committee Moderator			

Declaration of Quorum

Acting 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 and Devotions

The Moderator Leisa Carrick opened the meeting with prayer after a reading of Romans 14:7-8 and some reflections on her parents-in-law, long-time missionaries to Japan, who died during the past year and whose ashes will be mixed together according to Japanese custom in a communal urn with those of all church members.

Docket

The Synod **VOTED** to amend the proposed docket which was distributed with the call of the meeting by adding a report from the Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Synod at the beginning of the New Business items. The Synod **VOTED** to approve the amended docket as follows:

Docket
Tuesday, July 10, 2012
Synod Mid Council Meeting
4:00 p.m. Phone

1. *Call to Order*
2. *Roll Call – Establishment of Quorum*
3. *Opening Prayer & Devotions*
4. *Adoption of Docket*
5. *Report of the Stated Clerk/Moderator*
 2013 Budget Priorities – Requests from Ministry Areas

Old Business

6. *Nominating* *Alan Villesvik*
 a. Update Stated Clerk Search
 b. Elect new Synod Officers
7. *Grants Task Force Update* *Eric Chavis*
8. *Personnel Committee* *Jim Irwin*
 a. Update on summer check-in
9. *Synod Building Appraisal Report* *Joyce Emery*
10. *Updates* *Joyce Emery*
 Transitional Ministry Education
 New Church Assessment Portland
 Letter to President Beck Taylor
 PresbyTech at General Assembly and July 1 commencement of monthly billing

New Business

11. *Presbyterian Women in the Synod* *Dottie Villesvik*
12. *Presbyterian Companions on the Way in Mission –A Strategy for the Fall*
13. *Presbyterian Community. Brainstorming. A new giving tool to assist congregations, presbyteries and ministries from the Presbyterian Foundation*
14. *Brief update on actions of the 220th General Assembly*
15. *Affirm Synod Mid-Council meeting dates through end of 2012*
 September 11, 4:00 p.m. Conference Call
 October 18-20, come in on the evening of Wed. October 17, leave on the 20th
 Face-to-face
 November 13, 4:00 p.m. Conference Call
16. *Follow through after meetings. A new strategy in light of decreasing Synod staff.*
17. *Motion to close the meeting*
18. *Closing Prayer*

Future Date:

“Corrected” revisions of Corporate Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to match nFog.

Stated Clerk Muriel C. Brown reported receipt of correspondence from Ruling Elder Sharon Rayt, Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Yukon, that alternate synod commissioner Ruling Elder Janet Gill will be filling out the term (2012) of Ruling Elder Robert (Bob) Graham who is moving out of the state. The Presbytery of Yukon has also elected Teaching Elder Leisa Carrick to a new term as commissioner, to commence when her term as Moderator of Synod is over, replacing Teaching Elder Tom Letts who has been serving as commissioner during Rev. Carrick’s moderatorial year.

Moderator Leisa Carrick called attention to the need for the Finance Committee to receive 2013 budget requests (by July 23, 2012, or as soon thereafter as possible) from those leaders who serve entities within the Synod that expend Synod budget funds. Commissioners were given assignments to contact persons within their presbytery in accordance with the list contained in **APPENDIX A.**

Old Business

Ruling Elder Alan Villevik, Moderator of the Nominating Committee, reported that five applications have been received for the Stated Clerk position. The Committee is reviewing those now and is on track to bring a nomination to the September 11, 2012 Mid Council meeting.

The Synod **VOTED** to make the terms for the Moderator and Vice-Moderator (about to be elected) from July 10 to December 31, 2012.

The Nominating Committee made nominations as follows:

for Moderator -- Teaching Elder Eric Chavis

for Vice-Moderator -- Teaching Elder Leisa Carrick

There being no nominations from the floor, the Synod **VOTED** to close nominations and proceeded to **VOTE** for the slate as presented.

The Stated Clerk led the Synod in a service of installation of the new Moderator and Vice-Moderator.

Teaching Elder Eric Chavis, Moderator of the Grants Task Force, reported on actions taken by the Task Force at their June 13, 2012 meeting. The following grant requests were approved:

- a request from Andrew Sonneland, Executive Director of Camp Spalding for \$500 to help purchase a new LCD projector, pending approval by the Presbytery of Inland Northwest, to be funded from the Janette Hansen Memorial Fund
- a request from Wellspring Ministry in Seattle for \$2500 to be funded from the Morris Evangelism Fund
- a request from the Christian Student Empowerment program for up to \$5000 to be funded from the Historical Commitments fund.
- a request from Iglesia Cristo Vive (Yakima) for children and adult evangelism in the amount of \$3400 from the Morris Evangelism Fund, pending approval of the Presbytery of Central Washington.

The following grant requests were denied:

- a request from Duke Morrow because the Task Force has a policy of not giving grants to individuals
- a request from The Inn because the staff person would need on-going support and there appeared to be no plan for that continuing support
- a request from the Opportunity Presbyterian Church because no budget was presented and the project is being headed by an interim pastor
- a request from Iglesia Cristo Vive (Yakima) for a Development of Youth in Worship project was denied pending receipt of more information regarding how hourly wages are broken down; how the budget impacts the program; how long the program will last

In the absence of Ruling Elder Jim Irwin, Moderator of the Personnel Committee, Presbyter to Synod Joyce Emery reported that Jim had spent a day at the Synod office in

June talking individually with staff persons and that these conversations were received appreciatively by the staff.

Joyce Emery, Presbyter to Synod, called attention to the Appraisal Report (in the meeting portfolio) that had been prepared regarding the synod building by Lamb Hanson Lamb Appraisal Associates, which values the building at \$180,000. It was suggested that a task force be named to prepare options/scenarios on what to do with the building, keeping in mind the agreements made with Seattle Presbytery on whose property the building sits. Commissioners were asked to get names of suggested persons from the local area to serve on this task force to Moderator Eric Chavis by August 15 so that the task force can begin working this fall.

The Presbyter to Synod called attention to her printed report (see **APPENDIX B**) regarding a summer Synod Ministry Update covering the Transitional Ministry Education training event, New Church Planter Assessment Team event, a letter sent to Whitworth University President Beck Taylor upholding the ongoing covenant between the Synod and Whitworth, the PresbyTech booth in the Exhibit Hall at General Assembly, and persons from our Synod who were elected to positions on General Assembly entities.

New Business

Ruling Elder Dottie Villevik, Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Synod, reported on the upcoming PW Churchwide Gathering to be held July 18-22, 2012 in Orlando, FL with approximately 45-50 women from our Synod planning to attend. The usual Spring Gathering of PW in the Synod will be held during a long lunch break at the Churchwide Gathering. Guests at the luncheon will be the Rev. Mary Lien from Vietnam and the Rev. Dr. Sirit Pusurinkham from Thailand. Next year's Spring Gathering will be held April 24-27 at Camp Berachah (near Auburn) with North Puget Sound PWP serving as hosts.

The Moderator, Teaching Elder Eric Chavis, called attention to a letter in the materials for this meeting from the Church of the Indian Fellowship requesting emergency funding, along with a letter of support from the Presbytery of Olympia. This item is for information only at this time.

In light of the General Assembly not taking affirmative action on the Mid-Council Commission's report with regard to synods but rather asking Mid Councils to continue to seek to work together in new ways, the Docket Team proposed that the Synod seek to offer to the presbyteries within our bounds the opportunity to tell their individual stories of hopes and challenges that are guiding them into the future. Creation of a planning team made up of presbytery leaders to plan an event or series of events where presbytery stories of needs and possible solutions was suggested. The Synod **VOTED** to receive this idea as information and postpone action until after Seattle Presbytery votes on the "Reduced Function" proposal on September 18.

Moderator Eric Chavis encouraged commissioners to explore the possibilities offered by a new giving and networking tool developed by the Presbyterian Foundation. It is called Presbyterian Community and is a channel to connect, communicate and raise funds. Many young people today don't carry cash and this tool offers a way for donating online.

Presbyter to Synod Joyce Emery gave a brief update on actions of the 220th General Assembly. The Assembly had no energy for doing away with synods, but encouraged the reading of the Mid-Council Commission's narrative report where many creative ideas are to be found. The Assembly declined to approve non-geographic presbytery boundaries. The Assembly declined to change the definition of marriage in the Directory for Worship, but approved a 2-year study in congregations and presbyteries regarding marriage. The Theology, Worship and Education unit will be providing study materials and suggestions.

The Synod **VOTED** to affirm the following Synod Mid-Council meeting dates for the remainder of 2012:

- September 11, 4:00 p.m. Conference Call
- October 18-20, Face-to-Face meeting (place to be determined—come in on evening of Wednesday, October 17 and leave on the 20th)
- November 13, 4:00 p.m. Conference Call

It was suggested that the Docket Team meet a few days after each meeting (preferably after the minutes are distributed) for evaluation of the meeting and to identify items that need follow-through and who is responsible for doing what.

The Synod **VOTED** to adjourn at 6:16 p.m. PDT and Ruling Elder Janet Gill offered the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Muriel C. Brown
Acting Stated Clerk

APPENDIX A

ASSIGNMENTS FOR SOLICITING 2012 BUDGET REQUESTS



Synod of Alaska Northwest – 2013 Budget Priorities

Please be in touch with the leaders who serve entities within the Synod who expend budget funds to have their 2013 desired budget requests to Sarah Beard, sarah@npspresbyterians.net, by July 23, 2012 or as soon thereafter as possible. Your assignments are indented under your names. Decide who will contact whom.

Rev. Ron Horn

Elder Paul Wescott
No assignments

Elder Jim Irwin

Rev. Bill Zeiger

Jim Irwin, Personnel Committee
Jim Deal, Wee Kirk Program
Joyce Emery, PresbyTech Team
joyce.emery@synodnw.org

jirwin@atnet.net
pastorjim@eastmontpc.org

CLP Kathy Sandusky

Rev. Gary Bowker

Corbett Wheeler, Native American Consulting Committee
corbettwheeler1942@yahoo.com

Paul Rodkey, Cooperating Ministries in Higher Education
prodkey@centurytel.net

Sheryl Kinder-Pyle, EP Training Program
Sheryl@presbyinw.org

Rev. Eric Chavis

Elder Sarah Beard

Alan Villevik, Nominating Committee
advillevik@hotmail.com

Eric Chavis, Grants Task Force

enc@fdn.pcusa.org

Note: Cost for phone meetings.

Duncan Ferguson, Higher Education Strategy
duncanferguson@whidbey.com

Corey Schlosser-Hall, Report on Three Year commitment "On the Verge"
corey@nspresbyterians.net
Corey Schlosser-Hall, Western Area Office New Church Development

Elder Ruth Moore

Elaine Swigart, Transitional Ministry Education
ejswigart@comcast.net
Susie Zych, CPM/COM Training

Susie@olypres.org

Elder Karen Cunningham

Rev. Dick Erickson

Lawrence Low, Self-Development of People Lawrence.low@med.va.gov

Note: SDOP should need no budget funds but they have \$4,957.68 sitting in equity account #2200-14 that continues to just sit. Do they still need those funds or shall they be reallocated?

Joan Merritt, Seattle University, School of Theology and Ministry
joanmerritt@comcast.net

Chuck Jenner, Theological Education Fund

charlesjenner@hotmail.com

Jackie O'Ryan, Faith Advocacy Network

Jackie@fanwa.org

Scott Lumsden, Multicultural Staff Person – Status on Three-year commitment

Scott.lumsden@seattlepresbytery.org

Rev. Leisa Carrick

Elder Janet Gill

Mary Charlotte McCall, Permanent Judicial Commission mc422@earthlink.net

Note: Training and Meeting costs

Curt Karns, Rural Remote

exec@pbyukon.org

Note: Is there any reason to keep allocating anything for this venture?

Sandy Faison, Directors for Disaster Preparedness sandy.faison@usa.net

APPENDIX B

SYNOD MINISTRY UPDATE FOR SUMMER 2012



Summer 2012 – Synod Ministry Update
Joyce M. Emery

1. Leadership Development

- a. The Synod has been training interim pastors for the last 20 plus years. To save money and to forge a closer relationship with our covenant partner Whitworth University and the Presbytery of Inland Northwest, we moved the event from the Archbishop Alex Burnett Palisades Retreat Center to the campus of Whitworth University on June 4-8, 2012. We had 15 participants and four faculty members and one spousal guest. The Transitional Ministry Education (TME) education event went very well. Our new Faculty Team Leader the Rev. Elaine Swigart flourished in this new role. Elaine is preparing a proposal to schedule TME at Whitworth in June of 2013.

We train interim pastors at this event. We also have enhanced the curriculum to contain elements that teach skills for leading transition in congregations. These are excellent skills for pastors who are in place who would like to lead adaptive change. The goal is congregational transformation. We are finding more people attending because they want to retool. We also have commissioned ruling elders attending – and we have also been blessed with some ministerial candidates that are certified and ready to receive a call. We really believe that we are onto something with this education program.

- b. New Church Assessment Portland

As Presbyter to Synod my job description includes a directive to work directly with presbyteries as invited on various initiatives that they would identify. North Puget Sound is attempting to create a new type of pipeline for preparing new leaders for the church in the 21st Century. To that end Corey Schlosser Hall and myself have been trained to be a part of the New Church Planter Assessment Team, General Assembly, PCUSA. I participated in the most recent assessment in Portland, Oregon on June 24-27. We had eleven participants, eight of which were couples. One participant from within the bounds of our Synod received a positive endorsement. The couple from within the bounds of our Synod also received a positive endorsement with some reservations that were outlined with the couple.

Last year two of those who were assessed have since begun new church plants. The creative endeavors, including the funding patterns are very exciting. The Synod is supporting through the mission budget (\$20,000) the Western Office of New Church Development of the PCUSA. The Rev. Craig Williams is available to any of our presbyteries and congregations to assist in new initiatives or church plants.

2. Letter to President Beck Taylor

A letter has been sent to President Beck Taylor on behalf of you the Synod elected leadership upholding the ongoing covenant with the Synod, and the willingness of Whitworth to work with our children, congregations and presbyteries in new ways. We also thanked him for our recent TME event at Whitworth. We acknowledged a task force that has been constituted by the Board of Trustees for the purpose of thinking about the future of denominational connections and in fact the whole state of the church. We offered any of our executives or Synod leadership to be of support in the conversation.

3. Presbyterian Technology Ministry Booth at General Assembly.

We hosted a booth at General Assembly that enjoyed a flow of positive conversations with recent seminary graduates, pastors and presbytery leaders. Our team made lots of contacts. It was a very positive experience.

Our booth neighbor Michael Gyura, also a website developer, became a wonderful conversation partner and has now asked if we would consider some type of creative partnership. This supports the idea that our business consultant proposed – a Presbyterian Management Network/Board/Company. The Company uses WordPress and targets high end users who want to spend \$20,000 plus for a new site. It is a closed source system (we are open sourced) and they do all text/picture input for their customers. This company is made up from graduates of Princeton Seminary who got their start doing the website for the Princeton Institute of Youth Ministry.

Our ministry plan was well understood and seemed to excite many. We are Presbyterians helping Presbyterians to reach their communities for Christ. We hold the site so that when the webmaster leaves we can resource the next webmaster so that not all is lost.

4. General Assembly Elections

Congratulations to those from our Synod who have agreed to serve and been elected to serve at the General Assembly level:

General Assembly Nominating Committee:

Bertram G. Johnson

General Assembly Committee on Representation:

Tom Kirkpatrick

General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission:

Mary Charlotte McCall

Presbyterian Disaster Assistant Committee

Stephanie Fritts