



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

MINUTES

STATED MEETING OF THE SYNOD

September 11, 2012

VOLUME XXXIX

Number 6

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

September 28, 2012

Synod of Alaska-Northwest

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Stated Meeting

Via Conference Telephone Call

September 11, 2012

Call to Order

The Moderator, Teaching Elder Eric Chavis, called this Stated Meeting of the Synod of Alaska-Northwest to order at 4:02 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	Karen Claassen (TE)	x	
	14	Kathy Sandusky (RE)	x	
North Puget Sound				
	12	(vacant) (TE)		x
	13	Sarah Beard (RE)	x	
Olympia				
	13	Ruth Moore (RE)	x	
	14	(vacant) (TE)		x
Seattle				
	12	Richard Erickson (TE)	x	
	14	Karen Cunningham (RE)	x	

Yukon

14	Leisa Carrick (TE)	x
12	Janet Gill (RE)	x

Ex-Officio Members

	Present	Absent
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Eric Chavis (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			
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 Eric Chavis opened the meeting with prayer after reading Galatians 6:9 (“let us not become weary in well-doing. . .let us not give up”) and some brief reflections on the experience of reducing function in another synod and the tendency to elevate structure above people.

Docket

The Synod **VOTED** to amend the proposed docket which was distributed with the call of the meeting by adding two items following the Finance Committee report:

- The request of the Church of the Indian Fellowship in Tacoma (Olympia Presbytery) for emergency funding from the Synod
- A request for Synod funding for the Call to Table issued jointly by Yukon and Olympia Presbyteries

The Synod **VOTED** to approve the amended docket as follows:

Docket
Tuesday, September 11, 2012
Synod Mid Council Meeting
4:00 p.m. Phone

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. <i>Call to Order</i> | <i>Moderator Chavis</i> |
| 2. <i>Roll Call – Establishment of Quorum</i> | <i>Stated Clerk Brown</i> |
| 3. <i>Opening Prayer & Devotions</i> | <i>Moderator Chavis</i> |
| 4. <i>General Discussion</i> | |
| 5. <i>Adoption of Docket</i> | |
| 6. <i>Stated Clerk’s Report</i> | <i>Stated Clerk Brown</i> |

Old Business

- 7. *Nominating of a Synod Stated Clerk* Alan Villesvik
- 8. *Revised October face-to-face Synod meeting dates*

New Business

- 9. *Finance Committee* Sarah Beard
- 10. *Church of the Indian Fellowship request*
- 11. *Yukon/Olympia Call to Table*
- 12. *Nominating conversation—strategy for new leadership* Moderator Chavis
- 13. *Motion to close meeting*
- 14. *Closing Prayer*

Acting Stated Clerk Muriel C. Brown reported receipt of correspondence dated July 10, 2012 from Ruling Elder Mary Charlotte McCall (Yukon Presbytery) resigning from the Synod’s Permanent Judicial Commission (of which she has been Moderator) because of her election by the General Assembly to the GA Permanent Judicial Committee. The Stated Clerk announced that the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission has convened and elected Ruling Elder Ken Rice (Central Washington) as their new Moderator.

Old Business

Ruling Elder Alan Villesvik, Moderator of the Synod Nominating Committee, reported on their search process for a new Stated Clerk and shared information about their nominee, Teaching Elder Dean Strong. After an opportunity to ask questions of the nominee and further discussion, the Synod **VOTED** to elect the Rev. Dean Strong as Synod Stated Clerk on a one-quarter time basis for a five-year term and with compensation of \$21,849 and Board of Pensions benefits as required. By consensus the Synod agreed for Presbyter to Synod Joyce Emery, Personnel Committee Moderator Jim Irwin, Synod Moderator Eric Chavis, and Nominating Committee Moderator Alan Villesvik to negotiate with Mr. Strong on a starting date.

The Synod **VOTED** to modify the previously approved dates for an October face-to-face meeting and meet beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 23 until 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 25. The meeting will be held at Camp Spalding, north of Spokane. Bedding and meals will be provided. Commissioners who will need to fly were encouraged to make plane reservations soon while ticket prices are cheaper. Transportation from the Spokane airport to Camp Spalding will be coordinated.

New Business

Ruling Elder Sarah Beard, Moderator of the Finance Committee, reported for the Committee and the Synod **VOTED** to approve their recommendation that \$35,911.00 from General Assembly Osbourne funds be combined with the \$59,103.59 in the (now-obsolete) Emergency Grants fund (2400-50) and be designated as available for mission

and divided equally among the 7 presbyteries to be used for mission purposes chosen by the presbyteries (\$13,573.51 per presbytery).

The Synod considered the request of the Church of the Indian Fellowship for emergency funding in the amount of \$22,445 to help them continue paying the salary of their full-time pastor. Olympia Presbytery's General Presbyter Lynn Longfield indicated that their Strategic Board has already approved giving the amount they will receive because of the action just taken by the Synod (their \$13,573.51) to the Church of the Indian Fellowship. The Synod **VOTED** to ask the Finance Committee to look into what Synod funds may still be available to help with the remainder (approximately \$8900) of the church's request and to bring a recommendation to the October Mid-Council meeting.

Representatives from Yukon and Olympia Presbyteries presented their jointly issued "Call to Table," the purpose of which is for a discussion on how God would have us "re-form" our common ministry within the Synod of Alaska Northwest to best serve God's mission in the presbyteries. Among the issues they are concerned about are these:

- Ways of assuring that adequate executive staffing remains available to all presbyteries
- Models for the possible sharing of staff (financial, missional, administrative, Executive, other)
- Best practices for discerning and responding to the changes we are facing in ways that would further Christ's ministry.

The Synod **VOTED** to authorize expenditures up to \$15,000 for the "Call to Table" as outlined by Yukon and Olympia Presbyteries with details of date and place to be worked out by executive staff.

Moderator Chavis spoke briefly about his concern that the Mid Council begin thinking about strategies that might result in new and younger leaders participating in the life and work of the Synod.

The Synod **VOTED** to adjourn at 6:18 p.m. PDT and the Moderator offered the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Muriel C. Brown
Acting Stated Clerk

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