

The Presbytery of Southern Kansas convened at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, 2008, at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Wichita. Reverend Rob Erickson, Pastor of Covenant Church and Moderator Elect, opened the meeting with words of welcome and a prayer.

Quorum Present

Each person must sign the attendance register for official attendance. Stated Clerk Rebecca New declared a quorum present according to Article V.5.4 of the Ecclesiastical Bylaws, which requires that “one-fourth of the minister members and the elder commissioners present, provided that one-fourth of the churches was represented.” Minister members: 83; Elder commissioners, 83.

Vouchers are available (the Presbytery pays \$20 toward motel costs and 20 cents/mile for travel.)

Opening Business

Moderator Sue Nispel called the Presbytery to order. Additional handouts for the meeting are available at the registration tables. Anyone wishing to speak on the floor should state his or her name and church. All comments should be directed to the moderator. Any motions should be submitted in writing and Robert’s Rules of Order will be followed.

Roll of Ministers Present

James Anderson	James Ayers	John Barkett	Shirley Barnum
John Barnum	Allen Beach	Jane Brigden-Graham	Don Calderwood
H. Danny Daniel	Joyce Daniel	Robert Duncan	Thomas Edwards
Rob Erickson	Gail Fisher	Richard Gorham	Strother Gross
Gerald Hallberg	Anne Horton	Thomas (Skip) Johnson	Roberta Karchner
Christian Kettler	Timothy Kim	Keith Koch	Jeremiah Lange
Angela Madden	Steve Marsh	William McConnelee	Paul Mueller
Diane Monger	Elizabeth Morgan	William Mulford	Rebecca New
Patrick Notley	Kermit Oppriecht	Don Owens	Ben Ray
Dick Reynolds	Tom Robson	Charles Ross	Steve Saville
Jack Singer	Irving Simon	Jennifer Snook	Tim Soule
Seth Svaty	Don Waite		

Roll of Ministers Excused

Nick Adams	Keith Allison	Eugene Blake	George Boone
Marcy Campbell	David Clipson	Chris Davis	Wiert Eekhoff
John Enwright	Larre Eschliman	Monty Fey	Laura Frazey
James Grant	Ralph Hand	John Haspels	William Hastings
Robert Hazen	Doug Kelly	Margaret Lacy	Fred Lenk
William Long	Gordon Mackay	Bert McCormick	John Mikow
William Nelson	Catherine Northrup	William O’Connell	David Owens
Arlene Patrick	Jesse Patrick	Melissa Ramos	Thomas Rawlings
Loran Scott	Dennis Scheibmeir	Roland Slater	Dale Snyder
Alfred Spotts	Hal Staats	Judith Steele	Dawn Swartz
David Sweley	Steve Washburn	John Williams	Robert Wyman

Roll of Ministers Absent

Charles Ayers	Larry Cracraft	Richard Daeschner	Tom Oak
Anne Smith	Geoffrey Snook	Elizabeth Vogt-Woodin	

Elder Commissioners Present

Arkansas City, Sally Burr; **Belle Plaine**, Esther Heater; **Caldwell**, Anna Petrik; **Cambridge**, Ernie Hull; **Conway Springs**, Truman Shinn; **Derby**, Marilyn Armstrong; **Forest Park**, Philip V. Mathews; **Freeport**, Mary Dusenbury; **Garden City**, Michael E. Collins; **Great Bend**, Stuart Hutchison; **Halstead**, Martha Adair; **Hopewell**, Grace A. Gates; **Hutch**, Lisa Barker; **Kingman**, J. Wayne DeVries; **Neodesha**, Mina R. Olson; **Newton**, Mark Frazier; **Pratt**, Susan Schrepel; **Sterling**, Mona Ball; **Viola**, Howard Means; **Wellington**, Gloria A. Klime; **Wichita: Bethel**, Nancy Cook, **Brotherhood**, William Taylor; **Covenant**, Roberta Johnson, **Eastminster**, Jack Kirkham, Kenneth Juell, Suzanne Moody, Karen Crow, **First**, Dennis Black, Phil Michel, **Mt. Vernon**, Barbara A. Stone, **Southwest**, Howard W. Tice, **St. Luke**, Harold Culkin; **Zenith**, Carol McNickle.

Elder Commissioners Excused

Larned and Mayfield

Elder Commissioners Absent

Arlington, Ashland, Bucklin, Chase, Cherryvale, Coffeyville, Coldwater, Dodge City, El Dorado, Harper, Haysville, Holcomb, Independence, Jetmore, Kingsdown, Lakin, Larned, Leoti, Liberal, Lyons, Marion, Mayfield, Medicine Lodge, Northminster, Parks, Spearville, St. Luke, Syracuse, Tribune, Wichita: Calvary, Grace, Korean, Trinity, Westwood; Winfield, Yates Center.

Council Members Present but not mentioned above

Fran Calderwood, Ken Coryell, Mary Knecht, Jeanette Marks, Sue Nispel, Karen Raines, Bill Ward.

Staff Members Present

Rachel Furry - Bookkeeper
John Goss - Treasurer
Jan Lane – Administrative Assistant
Brian Wheeler – Director of Camping Ministries

Corresponding Members

Joan Erickson – Arkansas Presbytery
Richard Maxwell – Presbyterian Children’s Services
Walter Okler – Presbyterian Foundation
James Pitts III – Muskingum Valley Presbytery
Cindy Wissinger - Church Development Corporation

Commissioned Lay Pastors Present

Kay Hull, Craig Mead, Don Tapp

First Time Elders

Elders were introduced by their pastors.

Temporary Committee appointed for this meeting

Vouchers – Ken Coryell

Visitors

There were 16 visitors registered for the meeting.

Docket

A motion prevailed to adopt the docket as presented.

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

1:30 p.m.	Welcome & Opening Worship	
1:50 p.m.	Opening Business: Orientation; Seating of Corresponding Members; First-time Elders Introduced; Appointment of Temporary Committees; Approval of Docket.	Sue Nispel, Moderator
2:00 p.m.	General Presbyter Report	Don Owens
2:20 p.m.	Stated Clerk Report (A)	Rebecca New
2:25 p.m.	Council Reports (C) Budget and Finance Sub Committee on Nominations	Bill Ward
2:50 p.m.	Church Development Corporation	Cindy Wissinger
3:25 p.m.	BREAK	
4:00 p.m.	Committee on Ministry (H)	Karen Raines
4:30 p.m.	Church Order (L)	Steve Marsh
4:35 p.m.	Camping Committee (P)	Pete Kitch
4:40 p.m.	Nominations Committee (O)	Fran Calderwood
4:50 p.m.	Community Outreach (F)	Diane Monger
4:55 p.m.	Unfinished business; Report of Temporary Committee	
5:00 p.m.	Worship Service Celebration of the Lord's Supper and Including the Installation of Reverend Rob Erickson and Reverend Hal Staats as Moderator and Moderator Elect of Presbytery for 2008.	
6:00 p.m.	Adjourn: Reception for the Moderator and Moderator Elect	

General Presbyter

Don Owens commented on the new format for the 2008 Presbytery Directory. He reminded those in attendance that entry to the Presbytery Office would be difficult for a few months during street repair.

Don introduced Rich Maxwell of Presbyterian Children's Services. Mr. Maxwell announced that a luncheon & seminar addressing the services of Presbyterian Children's Services will be held at Covenant Presbyterian Church on April 29, 2008.

The Presbyter viewed a video, issued by the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., entitled *Our Theology and Worship*.

Stated Clerk

Changes in membership from November 13, 2007.

Received from other PCUSA Presbyteries

Anne B. Smith (Philadelphia)

In accordance with the *Book of Order*, G-11.0101b, the membership of this Presbytery as of December 31, 2007, is: Minister members 100; Elder commissioners 83. (Seventeen minister members are not active in the life of the Presbytery and their membership is not used in reaching equalization for 2008). As nearly as possible, the number of minister members and elder commissioners has been equalized; Minister members 83; Elder commissioners, 83.

Organized churches 66

Commissioned Lay Pastors 5 (G-14.0801c5)

Churches with more than 500 members (G-0101a) eligible for additional commissioners:

Eastminster 3

Grace 1

First, Wichita 1

Elder commissioners by virtue of office: Fran Calderwood, Ken Coryell, Pete Kitch, Mary Knecht, Jeanette Marks, Sue Nispel, Karen Raines.

A motion prevailed to approve the minutes of November 13, 2007, with a correction on page 52: Steve Saville Synod Commissioner 2010 MC.

Council

Council members, Sue Nispel, Steve Marsh and Bill Ward, constitute a Task Force charged with designing a process to be used by Presbytery concerning the Overture referred to Council. The Task Force will report in April, 2008.

Sub-Committee: Budget and Finance

Ken Coryell presented a review of the pledge cards sent to each church.

The Financial Review for 2005 and the full Annual Audit for 2006 have been completed with no exceptions noted. The review and full Annual Audit were conducted by the accounting firm of Kirkpatrick and Sprecker Co., LLP, and completed on December 19, 2007.

Moderator, Sue Nispel, reported that the Presbytery of Southern Kansas Youth Council would be offering a middle/high school retreat titled “Sleepless in Sterling” on March 14-16, 2008.

A motion prevailed to allow communion to be served during the retreat.

A motion prevailed to establish an Administrative Commission to dissolve the Calvary Presbyterian church upon the vote of the Calvary congregation on May 9th, 2008. Commission members are Elders: Bill Ward, Moderator; Nora Coryell, Bill Hendrix and Reverends Robert Wyman and Cathy Northrup. This Commission will begin consultations with the Calvary Church immediately to give them guidance/support in this process.

Presentation on Estate Planning: Cindy Wissinger, Church Development Corporation

Announcements from the Floor:

Charles Ross encouraged the audience to read the *Voice of the Martyrs* (annual edition) as a reference for those Christians persecuted throughout the world.

Nora Coryell invited the church ladies (and men) to the Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering, Saturday, April 12, 2008, at the First Presbyterian Church, Wichita. The guest speaker will be Charlotte Johnstone.

Seth Svaty reminded the audience that “Sleepless in Sterling” will be March 14-16, 2008 and registration is due by March 3, 2008. The theme for the retreat is “GODISNOWHERE”.

Seth announced that he is leading a mission team of college students to Kenya. Financial support for his team and others would be greatly appreciated so please see Seth for donation opportunities.

Rob Erickson thanked the churches for contributions to Interfaith Ministries sponsored trip to Israel and Jordan. This Sunday, February 17, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church there will be a meal and presentation concerning this trip. Reservations are requested.

Irving Simon reminded the gathering that March 7, 2008, has been designated as World Day of Prayer. The Newton Medical Center, Newton, and the Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, Wichita will celebrate this event. This year’s service was written by the women of Gahanna.

Ben Ray announced that the Presbyterian Men’s 3 Person Scramble Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, April 19, 2008 at the Hesston Golf Park. This event will raise funds for Presbyterian Men’s Fellowship of the Presbytery of Southern Kansas. Questions should be directed to Paul Wissink.

The Presbytery took a break.

Committee on Ministry

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery:

- 1) Approved the Church Information Form of Forest Park Presbyterian Church in Hutchinson, KS
- 2) Completed Triennial Visits with Grace Presbyterian Church, Wichita; Westwood Presbyterian Church, Wichita; Trinity Presbyterian Church, Wichita; and Jetmore Presbyterian Church
- 3) Appointed Bill McConnelee to moderate the Session at Spearville
- 4) Appointed Jack Singer to moderate the Session at Jetmore
- 5) Conducted an Exit Interview with Reverend Larry Cracraft
- 6) Approved the Church Information Form of Dodge City Presbyterian Church
- 7) Appointed Warren Wilbur to moderate the Session at Neodesha
- 8) Appointed Don Owens to moderate the Session at Great Bend
- 9) Approved the Church Information Form for Associate Pastor for First Presbyterian Church of Hutchinson
- 10) Approved the Church Information Form for an Interim Associate Pastor for First Presbyterian Church of Wichita
- 11) Approved a grant of \$1428 on behalf of a member of PSK for the purpose of continuing health care coverage during a period of transition. This was taken from COM Emergency Fund.
- 12) Directed the General Presbyter to request a vacancy dues waiver for Jetmore Presbyterian Church, Federated Community Church in Spearville and First Presbyterian Church in Coffeyville
- 13) Approved a request from First Presbyterian Church of Great Bend to establish a PNC for the purpose of selecting a designated pastor

Actions Recommended to Presbytery:

A motion prevailed:

- To concur with the Reverend Gail Fisher and Jetmore Presbyterian Church and Federated Community Church to dissolve the pastoral relationship, effective November 25, 2007.
- To concur with the Reverend Harold Staats and First Presbyterian Church of Great Bend to dissolve the pastoral relationship effective February 5, 2008.
- To approve the Terms of Call for Reverend Gail Fisher as Pastor for the First Presbyterian Church in Wellington.
- To recommend that the Reverend James Pitts III be received as a member of Presbytery of Southern Kansas upon his transfer from Muskingum Valley Presbytery so he may serve as the interim pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Garden City.

James Pitts III from Muskingum Valley Presbytery was introduced. He presented his statement of faith and answered questions from the Book of Order.

A motion prevailed to suspend examination of James Pitts III.

A motion prevailed to receive James Pitts III from Muskingum Valley Presbytery into the Presbytery of Southern Kansas to serve as an active member in a validated ministry in accordance with G-11.0411.

A motion prevailed to temporarily suspend Article XIII.1 of the Administrative Manual

A motion prevailed to concur with the Reverend Marcy Campbell and First Presbyterian Church of Neodesha to dissolve the pastoral relationship effective February 29, 2008 and dismiss her to the Presbytery of DesMoines.

A motion prevailed that Calvary, Harper and Cherryvale churches wave rotation of officers for one year.

A motion prevailed to establish the following Commission to Install Gail Fisher as Designated Pastor to First Presbyterian Church Wellington on February 17, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. with the members: Ministers, Don Owens, Hal Staats; Elders, Sue Nispel, Moderator, Brotherhood; Linda Wyman, Larned; Mary Ellen Garver, Wellington; and Carter Moser, Wellington.

A motion prevailed to approve a loan of \$5,579.90 to assist a member of Presbytery of Southern Kansas with moving expenses. A contract will be signed with repayment terms agreed upon. Funds will be taken from Congregational Emergency Loan Fund.

Committee on Church Order

The Amendment to the Second Reading of Article 8.2.3-Board of Trustees **prevailed**. The Board of Trustees shall consist of five (5) members, nominated by the Presbytery of Southern Kansas Nominating Committee and elected by the Presbytery of Southern Kansas, in three rotating classes: one class to consist of (1) member who will be the present Moderator of Presbytery Council and (2) classes consisting of two (2) members. The General Presbyter, Treasurer and Budget and Finance Sub-committee Moderator shall serve as advisory members with voice but no vote. The Moderator of the Board will usually be the Moderator of Presbytery Council.

A motion prevailed to approve the second readings of the Endowment Policy, Board of Trustees and Administrative Assistant.

Camping Committee

Jeremiah Lange and Brian Wheeler reported that progress on framing the camp cabins was slowed due to bad weather. The framing for two cabins was put out to bid. The bid was for \$9,000. A donation was received that covered this bid.

Presbyterian Church events have taken place at Westminster Woods five (5) of the last six (6) weekends

This summer seminary students will lead campers in discussion of the theme the Armor of God.

A Westminster Woods Chapel Fundraising Committee will be co-chaired by Mel Darrow.

Nominating Committee

The Moderator declared the following positions as vacant:

Carol King – Congregational Ministries Committee

Chris Davis – Congregational Ministries Committee

Marcy Campbell – Synod Commissioner

Marcy Campbell – Presbytery Camping Committee

A motion prevailed to temporarily suspend Article 10 of the Manual of Operations in order to elect alternate commissioners to General Assembly.

The names of Ministers, James Anderson and Jane Brigden-Graham were placed in nomination. There were no nominations from the floor.

A motion prevailed to elect James Anderson and Jane Brigden-Graham as Alternates to General Assembly.

The names of Elders, Mary Jarvis and Barbara White were placed in nomination.

There were no nominations from the floor.

A motion prevailed to elect Mary Jarvis and Barbara White as Alternates to General Assembly.

The committee presents the following slate of nominees for election.

There were no nominations from the floor.

A motion prevailed to elect the following:

Congregational Ministries
MC 2010 1: Dennis Scheibmeir

Permanent Judicial Commission
2009 Clergy: Laura Frazey

Stewardship and Mission Interpretation Committee
FC 2010 1: Elizabeth Morgan

Committee on Representation
F 2010 Minority1: June Hicks

Board of Trustees
2008 Sue Nispel, Moderator
2009 Steve English
2009 Bill Ward
2010 Allen Beach
2010 Kim Parker

Committee on Ministry
ME 2010 1: Bill Ward
ME 2010 1: Richard Scott

Committee on Church Order
FE 2010 1: Joan Bailey

Community Outreach

Diane Monger presented a list, entitled “Churches Adopting the Commitment to Peacemaking”. This report, issued by the General Assembly Council’s Committee on Peace and Justice, contains the names of churches within the Presbytery of Southern Kansas that have affirmed that peacemaking is a central declaration of the gospel and an integral part of the individual church’s mission. The date of that declaration is also listed on the report.

Diane shared a letter from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program Staff inviting congregations to create a peacemaking banner. These banners will be displayed during the 218th General Assembly in San Jose, California where the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commitment to Peacemaking will be celebrated. The letter detailed the specifics for the design of the banner. Interested churches should contact Diane Monger.

Unfinished Business

A motion prevailed to accept the invitation from Sterling College to host the Presbytery on April 8, 2008.

Temporary Committee Report

A motion prevailed to pay vouchers as presented.

Next Presbytery Meeting: April 8, 2008 Sterling College
Next Council Meeting: March 11, 2008 Presbytery Office

Worship and Installation of Moderator

A service of worship that included the celebration of the Lord's Supper was held. Rob Erickson was installed as Moderator. Presbytery **adjourned** at the conclusion of the worship service.

Rebecca New
Stated Clerk

Jan Lane
Journal Clerk