

The Presbytery of Southern Kansas convened with prayer at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 17, 2012, on the Sterling College Campus, Sterling, KS by Moderator, Ruling Elder, Mary Ellen Garver. The meeting opened with worship led by Teaching Elder, Seth Svaty. Candidate, Caitlin Hendrix, delivered the sermon message.

Quorum Present

Each person must sign the attendance register for official attendance. Vouchers are available (the Presbytery pays \$30 toward motel costs and 20 cents/mile for travel over 70 miles.)

Opening Business

Moderator, Mary Ellen Garver called the Presbytery meeting to order. Additional handouts for the meeting are available at the registration tables. Anyone wishing to speak on the floor should identify themselves. All comments should be directed to the Moderator. All motions must be submitted in writing and Robert's Rules of Order will be followed.

Roll of Teaching Elders Present

James Anderson	Charles Ayers	Jay Ayers
John Barkett	Amy Baumgartner	Jane Brigden Graham
Jan Brooks	Tom Church	Larry Cracraft
Amy Dame	Danny Daniel	Joyce Daniel
Anthony D'Olio	Laura Frazey	Sang Ouk Kang
Doug Kelly	Regina Maas	William McConnelee
Catherine Neelly Burton	William O'Connell	Don Owens
Arlene Patrick	Jesse Patrick	Ben Ray
David Reiter	H Dick Reynolds	Loran Scott
Dennis Scheibmeir	Jack Singer	Scott Solether
Seth Svaty	Don Waite	Stephen Wing

Roll of Teaching Elders Excused

Nick Adams	Keith Allison	Allen Beach
John Barnum	Shirley Barnum	Eugene Blake
George Boone	Don Calderwood	David Clipson
Richard Daeschner	Robert Duncan	John Enwright
Larre Eschliman	Gail Fisher	Dick Gorham
Skip Johnson	James Grant	Strother Gross
Gerald Hallberg	John Haspels	William Hasting
Christian Kettler	Keith Koch	Margaret Lacy
William Long	Gordon Mackay	Bert McCormick
Angela Madden	Diane Monger	Helen Rose Moore
Paul Mueller	Rebecca New	Tom Oak
David Owens	Denise Pass	Mary Carol Perrott
Melissa Ramos	Joseph Rychcik	Tom Robson
Charles Ross	Deb Schmidt	Steve Saville
Irving Simon	Roland Slater	Ann Smith
Dale Snyder	Alfred Spotts	Hal Staats
Judith Steele	Dawn Swarz	Steve Washburn
C Ernest Williams	John Williams	Jim Wooten
Robert Wyman		

Roll of Teaching Elders Absent

Jeremiah Lange	Geoffery Snook	Jennifer Snook
John Wilson		

Ruling Elder Commissioners Present

Cambridge, Ernie Hull; **Derby**, Nora Coryell, Ken Coryell; **El Dorado**, Arlan Stackley, Sharon W. Harrison; **Freeport**, Clyde W. Ghere; **Garden City**, Audrey Law, Justin Schoonover; **Great Bend**, Carol Woodmansee; **Hutchinson-New Covenant**, Gene Nolte, Ruth Oliver; **Jetmore**, Everett E Webb; **Kingman**, Jane Van Rheen; **Larned**, Linda Wyman; **Pratt**, Janet H. Luttrell, Richard Scott; **Sterling**, Ginger Reed, Larry Brownlee; **Viola**, James Billups; **Wellington**, Gloria Klima; **Wichita: Bethel**, Joan Schatz; **Covenant**, Jennifer Keim; **First**, David Grisham, Peggy Church, Julia Boone, Russell Davisson, William DeVore; **Grace**, James Remsberg, William Cooper, Amy Woolf, Judith Ney, Jean Mulford; **Mt. Vernon**, Corinne Kirkhart; **Trinity**, Dean Frankenbery, Arthur Smith, Wayne Orr; **Westwood**, Kim Ragan, Jim Lester, Bennett Sorensen; **Winfield**, Jackie Russell.

Ruling Elder Commissioners Absent

Anthony-Hopewell, Arkansas City, Arlington, Ashland, Bucklin, Caldwell, Chase, Cherryvale, Coffeyville, Conway Springs, Dodge City, Halstead, Harper, Haysville, Holcomb, Hutchinson, Independence, Lakin, Leoti, Kingsdown, Liberal, Lyons, Marion, Mayfield, McPherson, Medicine Lodge, Neodesha, Newton, Parks, Spearville, Syracuse, Tribune, Wichita: Brotherhood, Calvary, Korean, St Luke, Southwest; Yates Center, Zenith.

Council Members present but not mentioned above

Mary Ellen Garver, Mary Knecht, Sue Nispel, Douglas Hutchison
Board of Trustees, Ken Coryell

Staff Members Present

Brian Wheeler – Director of Camping Ministries
Rachel Furry – Bookkeeper
Jan Lane – Administrative Assistant

Corresponding Members Present

Landon Whitsitt, Executive & Stated Clerk, Synod of Mid America

Commissioned Ruling Elders Present

Kay Hull, Barney Korbelik

Candidate and Inquirers

Caitlin Hendrix

Visitors

19 were present

First Time Elders

Elders were introduced by their pastors.

Temporary Committee

Vouchers and Tellers – Ken Coryell, Ernie Hull

Docket

A motion prevailed to approve the docket as presented.

Proposed Docket		
Presbytery of Southern Kansas		
November 17, 2012 at 9 a.m. at Sterling College		
9:00 a.m.	Opening Worship	
10:00 a.m.	Opening Business: Orientation, Seating of Corresponding Members, Introduction of First Time Elders, & Appointment of Temporary Committees.	
10:05 a.m.	Committee on Ministry	Scott Solether
10:35 a.m.	Budget and Finance	Doug Hutchison
10:50 a.m.	Morning Break	
11:10 a.m.	Video from PDA	Ernie Hull
11:15 a.m.	Trustees Report	Ben Ray
11:25 a.m.	Council Report	Ben Ray
11:40 a.m.	Stated Clerk	Jan Brooks
11:55 a.m.	Camping	Don Owens
12 Noon	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	Nominating (installation of Moderator Elect)	John Barkett
1:20 p.m.	Preparation for Ministry	Amy Dame
1:50 p.m.	Mission Partnership	Mary Knecht
2:50 p.m.	Congregational Ministries	Sue Nispel
2:55 p.m.	Temporary Administrator	Jay Ayers
3:15 p.m.	Report of Temporary Committee	
	Other business	
3:20 p.m.	Adjournment	

Committee on Ministry – Scott Solether

Items for information:

- A. Approval was given to three chaplain members of Presbytery to serve Holy Communion- Rev. John Barkett, Rev. Hal Staats, Rev. Dennis Scheibmeir.
- B. 2013 Minimum Terms of Call will be presented at a later date.
- C. Report from the First Presbyterian Church, Hutchinson administrative commission
 John Barkett reported that interviews had been conducted with the pastor. Congregational interviews will begin in January 2013. COM will assist in the screening process for the position of long term interim pastor. COM has worked with the First Presbyterian Church's Nominating Committee. A full report will be presented at the Presbytery Meeting in February 2013.
- D. Permission to labor outside the bounds of Presbytery was granted to: Rev. Jan Brooks to officiate a wedding in Topeka, KS and Rev. Regina Maas to work in New Covenant Presbytery.
- E. Rev. Tom Oak was dismissed to the Presbytery of Eastern Iowa (Newcomb, PC/Davenport, IA); Rev. Dale Snyder was dismissed to Lake Michigan Presbytery; Rev. Helen Rose Moore was dismissed to John Calvin Presbytery (when the way be clear); Rev. Elizabeth Morgan was dismissed to Northern Waters Presbytery (when the way be clear) and Rev. David McKechnie was dismissed to New Covenant Presbytery.
- F. PSK Moderator, Mary Ellen Garver, presided over the Installation Service of Rev. Sang Ouk Kang (Korean Presbyterian Church) on October 14, 2012 and the Installation Service of Rev. Angela Madden (First Presbyterian Church, Winfield) on October 21, 2012.

Items for Action:

A motion prevailed that the following list of Ruling Elders who have duly completed the class are approved to serve Holy Communion at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Wichita:

Danielle Roberts	Angie Venter	Rita Wright
Marie Logan	Phil Arnold	Art Smith

A motion prevailed that the following list of Ruling Elders who have duly completed the class are approved to serve Holy Communion at First Presbyterian Church, Freeport:

Ernie Schmidt	Freida Schmidt	Clyde Ghere
Gary Pullilam	Stan Pulliam	Terry Fisher
Sheila Adams	Jerry Dusenbury	Mary Dusenbury
Lee Adams		

Committee on Ministry reviewed the process followed by the Pastor Nominating Committee, Grace Presbyterian Church, Wichita. (see Appendix A)

Associate Pastor Catherine Neelly Burton explained her Call to the position of Designated Pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church, Wichita. (see Appendix B)

Catherine Neelly Burton reviewed her Statement of Faith and answered questions from the floor.

A motion (**requiring a three fourths vote by the presbytery**) to approve the Call of Grace Presbyterian Church, Wichita to Catherine Neelly-Burton as Designated Pastor, Head of Staff for a period of three years was presented and a paper ballot processed ensued.

The report of Committee on Ministry was suspended waiting the counting of ballots.

Budget and Finance – Douglas Hutchison

A motion prevailed that the PSK financial statements as of September 30, 2012, be received and filed for audit. (see Appendix C, D)

A motion prevailed to set 2013 Per Capita at \$27. General Assembly per capita has been set at \$6.98 and the Synod's per capita will remain near the 2012 amount of \$2.72. The Presbytery's share would be approximately \$17.30.

The proposed 2013 budget was presented. A motion was presented to adopt the 2013 budget as presented. An amendment to the budget was proposed to increase the line item labeled Friends of WMW Receipts from \$22,780 to \$37,780 and reduce the line item labeled Eastminster Settlement from \$45,000 to \$30,000.

Discussion ensued.

A motion prevailed to grant Lori Mulford permission to speak on the floor of presbytery.

A motion prevailed to table the motion and any further discussion on the 2013 budget until after lunch.

The Presbytery broke for lunch.

The report from the **Committee on Ministry** resumed.

A motion prevailed to approve the Call of Grace Presbyterian Church, Wichita to Catherine Neelly-Burton as Designated Pastor, Head of Staff for a period of three years by a vote of 73 “yes” to one “no.”

A motion prevailed to approve the Terms of Call for Catherine Neelly-Burton as follows:

Salary	\$35,000
Housing Allowance	\$20,600
Pension/Medical (32.25% of Effective Salary)	\$17,930
Mileage Allowance (at current IRS rate)	\$1,500
Continuing Education	\$2,700
Professional Expenses	\$2,000
SICA Contribution	\$4,170
Total:	\$83,900

A motion prevailed to approve the Installation Commission for Catherine Neelly Burton on Sunday, January 6, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church.

A motion prevailed to seat as Corresponding Members for this Installation Commission Rev. Loretta Ross, Presbytery of Northern Kansas and Rev. Dick Neelly, Cherokee Presbytery.

Ruling Elders: Mary Ellen Garver, Moderator, Mark Borst and Jill Bajaj

Teaching Elders: Loran Scott, Skip Johnson, Jan Brooks

Corresponding Members: Loretta Ross, Presbytery of Northern Kansas and Dick Neelly, Cherokee Presbytery

A motion prevailed to approve the above referenced Corresponding Members participate in Catherine Neelly-Burton’s Installation Service.

A motion prevailed to approve \$2,500 dollars be taken from the small church emergency fund and a matching grant of \$2,500 be sought from the Board of Pensions to cover the medical expenses of a Teaching Elder member of Presbytery.

Committee on Ministry recognized the 40 years of ministerial service provided by Doug Kelly upon his being granted the title of Honorably Retired as of November 30, 2012.

Presbytery of Southern Kansas Disaster Response Team – Ernie Hull

Ernie Hull reviewed the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the need for “Clean Up Buckets” for those persons recently devastated by Hurricane Sandy. The PSK Disaster Response Team issued a challenge of gathering 200 “Clean Up Buckets.” Churches are challenged to prepare and bring their “Clean Up Buckets” to the Presbytery meeting, February 16, 2013, at the First Presbyterian Church, El Dorado.

Board of Trustees Report – Ben Ray**Information Items:**

Belle Plaine Trust: There are 80 acres of farm land that are leased to Paul Lange. The Presbytery has received four \$1,600 checks for a total of \$6,400 from Paul since the closing of Belle Plaine church. Payments are made in April and August. These funds are held in escrow until the title issue has been resolved. The issue of ownership is now being handled by Eric Engstrom and Bill Tretbar of the Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch law firm. Mr. Tretba

met with the Judge McQuin of Sumner County to confirm the filing process to modify the trust. Notifications will be sent out prior to the hearing on December 31, 2012.

Coldwater Sale: The Session records and original charter documents have been sent to the Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, PA. The one box of Sunday school attendance and miscellaneous records were given to Skip Herd, Coldwater Museum Director. The Coldwater financial records that were transferred to the Presbytery were burned.

At the congregation meeting on 10/21/2012, moderated by the Rev. Charles Ayers, the Lakin Congregation voted unanimously to sell the manse for the assessed valuation of \$105,000. Appraised value was established by Dikeman Appraisal of Syracuse, Kansas on August 13, 2012. The congregation voted to place the funds received from the sale in an investment account to be used at some future time for replacement of the manse or as a housing allowance.

A motion prevailed to allow the First Presbyterian Church, Lakin, to sell the church manse. The manse legal description is "East 80' of Lot 7 and Lot 8, Block 21 of Other City Plats in the city of Lakin, Kearny county, Kansas also known as 406 West Washington Avenue."

A motion prevailed to allow the First Presbyterian Church, Hutchinson, to sell a house owned by the church. Awaiting the house legal description.

Council Report – Ben Ray

A motion prevailed that the Presbytery of Southern Kansas legal fees amassed as a result of the 2012 settlement process with Eastminster Church be paid from the funds to be received January 2013 from Eastminster Church.

The Council reports that the General Presbytery and Stated Clerk Search Committees are reviewing applications received.

Stated Clerk Report – Jan Brooks

A motion prevailed to accept the August 14, 2012, Presbytery minutes.

Presbytery meeting dates for 2013 have been established as follows:

Saturday, Feb 16, 2013 First Presbyterian Church, El Dorado

Tuesday, May 14, 2013 TBA

Saturday, August 17, 2013 First Presbyterian Church, Newton

Tuesday, November 12, 2013 TBA

Changes in Membership were reported.

John Williams – removed from the role because of death on 9-5-12.

Annual Statistical Reporting was reviewed.

Clerks of Session can go online beginning December 7 to fill out the statistical reports. All churches have until February 10, 2013 to enter all relevant data. There will be a link on the Presbytery's website for you to enter your data. All information must be entered online; paper reports are no longer being accepted.

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/departments/communication-development-and-technology/stats/>

An important change in Newly Revised Robert's Rules of Order, 11th Edition was reviewed. The By-laws of a group may allow electronic meetings, so long as the group: "... provides, at a minimum, conditions of opportunity for simultaneous aural communication among all participating members equivalent to those of meetings held in one room or area." Pg. 97

In other words – chat or email meetings are no longer valid meetings of any council, group, committee, task force, or administrative commission because: the ability to hear and be heard must be a part of the meeting in which actions are taken.

Review of the Fall Polity Conference and Association of Stated Clerks Annual Meeting was presented.

The conferences were very informative and I welcomed the opportunity to attend. It was good to make connections with other church leaders who are facing the same issues we are in this time of transition in the denomination and in our Presbyteries.

- Recommended Reading for all churches or clergy groups: "Christianity after Religion," by Diana Butler Bass. Creating a spirit of innovation.
- Recommended reading for Presbyteries: "Pursuing God's Will Together: A Discernment Process for Leadership Groups," by Ruth Haley Barton
 - Becoming a Presbytery or leadership group of prayer.

We are called in Christ to seek unity in the midst of our differences. God and our reconciliation is our starting point for conversations together. We must seek to give differing convictions respect and dignity, while moving from the adversarial system we are using now. Let us hold one another accountable in ecclesiastical differences. This calls for self-control and love, being quick to listen, slow to speak and slow.

Presented for First Reading:

Voting on nFOG amendments will be at the February 2013 meeting.

- **Proposed Amendments to the PCUSA Constitution:**
Book of Confession – Heidelberg Confession

For a side by side comparison of current language with proposed language
<http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/oga/pdf/heidelberg-compare-2012.pdf>

For your information: An omission was made in the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution-Part 1 of 2, Heidelberg Catechism, page 31. Before question 88, the heading, "LORD'S DAY 33" is to be inserted.

Book of Order

http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/oga/pdf/amendments_220_part2.pdf

- **Proposed Amendment to the by-laws of the Presbytery in regards to Quorum:**
4.5 Quorum: The roll shall be taken at each meeting of the Presbytery by the Stated Clerk immediately following the opening prayer. **A The quorum of a Stated or Called (Special) Meeting of the Presbytery shall be ~~one-fourth~~ ten percent of the ~~minister members~~ eligible teaching elders and the ruling elder members and commissioners present, provided that at least ~~one-fourth~~ three teaching elders are present and three**

~~different~~ of the churches are represented by **duly elected ruling elder commissioners**. A ~~quorum of a Special Meeting of the Presbytery shall be any ten minister members and the elder members and commissioners present, provided that at least seven churches are represented by elders.~~ **G-3.0304**

Rationale: This brings our by-laws in accordance with Kansas Corporate Law, Robert's Rules of Order, and the Book of Order in regards to the minimum numbers required for a legally constituted meeting, while setting quorum at a number that is more flexible for the Presbytery. This also updates language to meet current Book of Order language.

Background: At the bi-annual review of Presbytery minutes by the Synod of Mid-America, we received an exception to the quorum rule in regards to the July 2011 Special Called meeting of Presbytery, actions taken at that meeting could be challenged because a quorum was not present.

Camping Committee – Don Owens

Brian Wheeler, Director of Camping Ministries, presented a video of Westminster Woods Camp.

When funds were raised for the Chapel at Westminster Woods the goal was to raise an additional \$100,000 to endow future maintenance. That fund now exceeds \$97,000.

A motion prevailed that The Westminster Woods Chapel Maintenance Fund be identified as a **restricted** fund by the Presbytery for its intended use.

Nominating Committee – John Barkett

The Nominating Committee presents the name of Teaching Elder, Seth Svaty, as Presbytery of Southern Kansas, Moderator Elect.

Moderator called for nominations from the floor.

A motion prevailed to elect Teaching Elder, Seth Svaty, as Presbytery of Southern Kansas, Moderator Elect.

The Nominating Committee presents the following names as nominees for the Committee on Ministry:

Scott Solether: Moderator for 2013

Robin Bissey: Ruling Elder from Grace Presbyterian Church for class of 2013

Bill Hendrix: Ruling Elder on the Presbytery Rolls for class of 2015

Howard Means: Ruling Elder from Viola for Class of 2015

Hunt Parker: Ruling Elder from Grace Presbyterian Church for class of 2015

Robert Wyman: Teaching Elder - Honorably Retired for class of 2015

Moderator called for nominations from the floor.

A motion prevailed to elect the above referenced nominees to the Committee on Ministry.

The Nominating Committee presents the following names as nominees for the Camping Committee:

Don Owens: Moderator for 2013

Jeff Eriksen: Ruling Elder from First Presbyterian - Hutchinson for class of 2015

Jeremiah Lange: Teaching Elder from First Presbyterian - Marian for class of 2015

Ron Cheyney: Ruling Elder from FPC Newton for class of 2015

Dana Bartel: Ruling Elder from FPC Derby for class of 2015

Moderator called for nominations from the floor.

A motion prevailed to elect the above referenced nominees to the Camping Committee.

The Nominating Committee presents the following names as nominees for the Church Order Committee:

Angela Madden: Teaching Elder from FPC Winfield - Moderator and for Class of 2015

Richard Ney: Ruling Elder from Grace for Class of 2015

Barbara Stone: Ruling Elder from Mount Vernon for Class of 2015

Moderator called for nominations from the floor.

A motion prevailed to elect the above referenced nominees to the Church Order Committee.

The Nominating Committee presents the following names as nominees for the Committee on Representation:

Carolyn Plavcan for class of 2015

Hyuck M. Kwon for class of 2015

Moderator called for nominations from the floor.

A motion prevailed to elect the above referenced nominees for the Committee on Representation.

The Nominating Committee presents the following names as nominees for the Mission Partnership and Support Committee:

Moderator for 2013: Mary Knecht

Bill O'Connell: Teaching Elder from FPC El Dorado for Class of 2015

Terry Whitesell: Ruling Elder from FPC Wichita for Class of 2015

Moderator called for nominations from the floor.

A motion prevailed to elect the above referenced nominees for the Mission Partnership and Support Committee.

The Nominating Committee presents the following names as nominees for the Congregational Ministries Committee:

Sue Nispel - Moderator for 2013

Cheryl Runyan: Ruling Elder for Class of 2015

Tony D'Olio: Teaching Elder from Halstead for 2015

Moderator called for nominations from the floor.

A motion prevailed to elect the above referenced nominees for the Congregational Ministries Committee.

The Nominating Committee presents the following name as a nominee for the Preparation for Ministry Committee:

Danny Daniel- Teaching Elder from Ark City for 2015 and Moderator

Moderator called for nominations from the floor.

A motion prevailed to elect the above referenced nominee for the Preparation for Ministry Committee.

The Nominating Committee called for nominations from the floor for Synod of Mid-America Representatives. Ruling Elder, Judy Ney (Grace Presbyterian Church) and Teaching Elder, Steve Wing (Pratt Presbyterian Church) were nominated.

A motion prevailed to elect Judy Ney and Steve Wing as Synod of Mid-America Representatives.

Presbytery Moderator, Mary Ellen Garver, installed Teaching Elder, Seth Svaty, as 2012 PSK Moderator Elect.

A motion prevailed to consider the tabled motion (That the 2013 PSK budget be adopted as presented) on the floor and to resume the discussion on the 2013 Presbytery budget.

A substitute motion was presented: 1) With concern for the \$45,000 budget shortfall for 2013 that PSK reconsider and resent the 2013 per capita to \$29.00 for one year as we transition into a challenging future and 2) With concern for the camp, that PSK augment support of Friends of Westminster Woods, through social media, invitation to congregations and other means and thus provide significantly stronger financial support for the camp going forward.

The substitute motion prevailed.

Committee on the Preparation for Ministry – Amy Dame

Candidate Caitlin Hendrix was presented for examination.

Amy Dame moderated the ordination questions. Caitlin reviewed her Statement of Faith and answered questions from the commissioners.

A motion prevailed that the examination be arrested.

A motion prevailed to approve Caitlin Hendrix for ordination.

Caitlin will be serving as a Chaplain Resident at Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, TX.

Committee on Ministry has approved Caitlin serving outside the bounds of the presbytery.

A motion prevailed to approve the Ordination and Installation Commission for Caitlin Hendrix on Friday, December 28, 5:00 p.m. at The Chapel in the Woods, Westminster Woods Camp.

A motion prevailed to seat as a Corresponding Member for this Installation Commission, Rev. Matt Calvert, Grace Presbytery.

Teaching Elders: Ben Ray, Moderator, James Ayers, Amy Dame,

Ruling Elders: Joan Schatz, Bill Hendrix

Corresponding Member: Matt Calvert

Mission Partnership and Support – Mary Knecht

The PSK Mexico Mission trip has been scheduled for May 24-31, 2013. Applications and brochures for this trip will be available at the February 16, 2013, meeting of Presbytery.

The committee is working to bring a young adult from Mexico to work at Westminster Woods Camp.

A sample of Café Justo coffee is available today for purchase. This might entice a congregation to become involved in the Mexico coffee partnership program.

Please review two handouts: Support PC(USA) World Mission through the purchase of this year's Christmas cards and mark the date for the Stewardship Kaleidoscope which is being held March 11-13, 2013 in St. Louis, MO.

Amy Dame presented a review and a video of the recent trip to Haiti through Foundations for Peace. For two years the building has been completed while the communities waited on assistance in the water installation within that building. Hurricane Sandy prevented access to the building, but some members are returning to Haiti on November 18, 2012 to complete the water installation project.

Bill O'Connell and Laura Frazey spoke on behalf of a new PSK Task Force as part of new church development. The Task Force will be working to establish a new Hispanic congregation within PSK.

Dennis Dutton, Sterling College Director of Admission spoke to a campus program which is directed to pastors and youth pastors in seeking their help in referring students to Sterling College. He referred to Jenny Lane, Director of Sterling College Ministry Teams. The focus of the Ministry Teams is for students to go out to churches, youth groups and Christian schools and to assist, lead worship, and lead youth groups.

A video of Sterling College students on mission trips to various locations in the world was shown. The offering from the Presbytery meeting today was \$524.50 and that money will be sent to Sterling College to assist with these student mission trips.

Ben Ray challenged PSK churches to have their mission work crews come to Sterling College to help with refurbishing the campus and the dormitories.

Landon Whitsitt, Executive and Stated Clerk, Synod of Mid-America spoke to the restructuring of the Synod and the move to further empower the Synod Commissioners.

Congregational Ministries Committee – Sue Nispel

In 2013 the Congregational Ministries Committee will be working within PSK through the four designated PSK regional areas. Congregational Ministries will offer leadership training for both Teaching and Ruling Elders regarding the new form of government. The committee will also be offering ideas for Christian Education to the PSK churches.

Administrator's Report – Jay Ayers

Jay discussed the 175th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Board of Missions by highlighting the history of the Board of Missions.

Chris Eshelman, Chaplain, Wichita State University Campus Ministries, spoke to the future plans of campus ministries.

Report of Temporary Committee

Offering today was \$524.50 which will be given to the Sterling College Mission Trip Fund.

A motion prevailed to pay the vouchers.

A motion prevailed to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned with prayer.

Jan Brooks
Stated Clerk Pro Tem

Jan Lane
Journal Clerk

Appendix A

Dear Members of the PSK COM,

It is with great joy that we are writing to inform you we are unanimously recommending Catherine Neelly Burton for the position of Designated Senior Pastor at Grace Presbyterian Church.

When our DPNC met for the first time on April 3, 2012, we committed ourselves to searching for that man or woman who could best lead Grace Presbyterian Church in the years ahead. We trusted that God would faithfully guide us through this search process and reveal to us His choice for our next leader. Scott Solether, Amy Baumgartner, and Jay Ayers attended this initial meeting and outlined the Designated Pastor search process and answered our numerous questions. During the intervening months, we also sought the guidance and appreciated the support of Bill Ward and Skip Johnson, our other COM liaisons.

Our DPNC went into this process fully committed to a fair and open search. We were keenly aware of the strong hesitation many Presbyteries have toward calling an Associate Pastor to a Senior Pastor position. Having been through three years of turbulence, we certainly weren't eager to instigate additional conflict and controversy. However, we also knew that one of the distinctions in searching for a *Designated* Senior Pastor was that an Associate Pastor could apply for the position in accordance with the Book of Order. Therefore, our approach right from the start was to include Catherine's PIF with the others, but to give it no special treatment. We had several discussions during our meetings on the importance of objectivity and fair evaluation.

Our Search Process

We began the search process by reviewing the two most recent congregational studies (1/2008, 4/2011). The top qualities and skills that our congregation wanted to see in a Senior Pastor included the ability to:

- Create a welcoming, open, and friendly environment that readily engages congregants' participation;
- Preach inspiring sermons;
- Challenge congregants to grow and take next steps;
- Provide sound doctrine rooted in biblical accuracy;
- Model and reinforce how to grow spiritually;
- Cast a vision for the church that captures your heart;
- Minister to the sick, dying, and bereaved; and
- Identify and encourage the use of congregants' gifts and talents.

In addition to this input from our congregation, the DPNC developed a list of key qualities that we believed were critical for an effective ministry by a Designated Senior Pastor at GPC. We were looking for a pastor who could:

- Provide pastoral care from cradle to grave;
- Foster a sense of intergenerational community within the congregation (greet members by name; care about them individually; engage members in conversation; ask about their families and situations; make members feel loved);
- Demonstrate strong organizational skills;
- Provide stability (a "non-anxious presence");

- Demonstrate a sincere, mature faith (life aligns with preaching);
- Understand and preach a Presbyterian understanding of the faith;
 - Effectively plan and lead worship; and
 - Have well-developed “people skills” (ability to analyze group dynamics and adjust as needed; flexible; ability to handle conflict and strong opinions).

All of these criteria served as the standard by which each candidate was evaluated.

After screening nearly 50 PIFs, Skip Johnson, on behalf of the COM liaison committee, initially forwarded six to the DPNC. Over the next couple of weeks, he forwarded nine more that he believed were qualified candidates. From these 15 PIFs, our DPNC selected four candidates for an initial screening interview. (Since the DPNC already knew Catherine’s background, we did not feel a screening interview was needed.) Following these initial interviews, we chose two candidates and Catherine for the next round of interviews. We had the opportunity to Skype with the two candidates and interviewed Catherine in person. After these three lengthy interviews, our team took a week to pray for discernment. When we came together the next week, each DPNC member had the opportunity to share his/her thoughts. As we went around the table, each one of us had come to the conclusion that Catherine was the person that God had chosen for the position. The decision was unanimous.

The Call

Catherine brings the following gifts, skills, and experience to the position of Designated Senior Pastor at GPC.

1. A strong faith in Jesus Christ
2. Strong leadership skills; the ability to inspire followers
3. A vision for how our congregation can move forward
4. A passion for outreach and mission
5. The ability to speak the truth in love
6. A quiet strength when facing conflict
7. The art of building community within our congregation
8. Skillful pastoral care for the sick, hospitalized, and bereaved
9. Commitment
10. Maturity
11. A biblical and confessional grounding
12. Excellent organizational and communication skills
13. A love for people
14. Ability to lead both a traditional and contemporary worship service
15. Sense of humor
16. Creativity; a willingness to try new things
17. A calm presence

These are but a few of the specific qualities that set Catherine apart from the other applicants and brought our team to the decision that she is uniquely equipped to lead GPC.

Reflections on the Journey and God’s Faithfulness

No one could have anticipated the three-year journey that GPC was preparing to embark upon in late 2009 when Keith Koch resigned. Following several months of transitional pulpit supply, we were blessed to have Interim Senior Pastor Jerry Hilton shepherd and lead our congregation from May 2010

through May 2011. Interim Senior Pastor Jim Wooten served our congregation from July 2011 through January 2012, a period that was quite difficult in the life of our congregation. In January 2012, after nearly two years of work, the PNC announced that they had called a candidate and introduced our congregation to Dr. Stephen Murray. The relief was almost palpable as we anticipated that the transitional season was nearing an end. However, in a sudden and unexpected turn of events, Dr. Murray declined the call and decided to stay with his present congregation.

During this difficult period in the life of our church, Catherine has been a steady presence and skillful leader. As an Associate Pastor, she faithfully served in a supportive role under two Interim Pastors and demonstrated a resolute calmness in the midst of our transitional conflict and healing. When we found ourselves without a Senior Pastor this past January, she effectively stepped into the role to keep our congregation spiritually focused on Jesus Christ and organizationally moving forward. Her humility and steadfastness in every situation has served our congregation well.

As we look toward the future of Grace Presbyterian Church, we do so with gratitude and hope. We are grateful for God's faithfulness in guiding our team during this search process. We are grateful for our Presbyterian brothers and sisters who have come along side us to assist us in this process. And we are so grateful that God has equipped a leader, Catherine Neelly Burton, with the gifts needed to shepherd our congregation during the years ahead. We look forward with expectant hope for our church and its ministry as we strive to faithfully serve God.

Respectfully,

Grace Presbyterian Church DPNC

Maggie McIntire, Chair

Jill Bajaj

Jack Braswell

Ron Brown

Francie Ekengren

Hunt Parker

Strom Sloan

Appendix B

Letter to the COM

September 9, 2012

Dear COM,

On Tuesday members of the Grace Presbyterian Church Designated Pastor Committee (DPNC) and I will sit down and talk with you. The DPNC extended a call to me to become the Designated Pastor. I have accepted their call and look forward to meeting with you.

I came to Grace as the Associate Pastor in August of 2010. I knew that I was coming into an unusual situation, anyone who heard about it knew it was unusual, but none of us knew what it would be like. I came to work with an interim and a congregation that was in transition. The hope was that with the former minister gone for ten months it was just a matter of a little time before everything smoothed out and started moving forward.

In this transitional time my role was ever changing. I worked hard to find my place as the associate, yet because of the transition I never got into many of the roles I thought I would do and ended up doing things I didn't expect.

As we transitioned from one interim to another the congregation began to recognize that perhaps everything wasn't fine, and we began to see a drop in attendance, giving, and membership. During the second interim my roles continued to shift. As we prepared to call a pastor/head of staff I knew that in many ways I would be starting over in trying to learn what it meant to be an associate pastor here, and I was ready for the challenge.

When Stephen Murray made the decision not to come here I had to make a decision. I told the rest of the staff that we all had a choice to make. The church needed leadership, and if any of us couldn't step up and do our jobs well and with confidence and joy, we needed to leave. I didn't know what was ahead for the church, but I knew it was time to lead, and I made a decision to do so. Thinking it would only be for a few weeks, the session in December of 2011 had named me the acting head of staff. We had no idea that the role would go on for nine months.

At the start of my acting head of staff role the congregation was in crisis mode and my role was to continue to provide stability and care. I did that, and once things calmed down a bit, I realized that there were a lot of things this congregation could do, and I felt called to lead. As we neared summer the tone of the church relaxed, the mood lifted, and by the middle of the summer we added 15 new members.

I don't know what's ahead for Grace. I want to think that the hard times are in the past, but given quiet rumblings in the congregation that I'm aware of, I'm not sure that's the case. I think there is a lot of wisdom in the three year designated pastorate. I certainly want to think that it's the start of a period of growth and excitement for what Jesus is doing in this place, but I'm not positive that we won't have more hard times. This designated time will be a safe and calm time for the water to level and hopefully for new life to spring forth again.

I feel called to this congregation at this time, and I look forward to sharing more with you on Tuesday.

In Christ,

Catherine Neelly Burton

Appendix C

Presbytery of Southern Kansas
Statement of Activities
Fiscal Year 2012, Period 9 (09/01/2012 to 09/30/2012)

	Current Period	Year to Date	2012 Budget	% of Budget
Budgeted Income:				
Per Capita	11,533	148,350	255,606	58%
Shared Missions	16,432	177,870	280,000	64%
Interest & Dividends -- Investments	1,831	5,308	5,000	106%
Other Income	4,565	4,673	2,000	234%
Camping Reserves	15,000	15,000	22,780	66%
Camp	35,310	181,873	184,500	99%
Total Budgeted Income	84,672	533,074	749,886	71%
Budgeted Expenses:				
Presbytery Office Expense	1,868	17,279	29,000	60%
Presbytery FICA/Med	663	6,623	8,861	75%
Committee on Preparation for Ministry	-	554	3,000	18%
Committee on Ministry	73	2,119	5,000	42%
Committee on Mission Partnership & Support	-	11,625	25,000	47%
Congregational Ministries Committee	68	8,755	11,800	74%
Other Expenses	414	770	2,000	38%
Camp Committee	-	161	300	54%
Camp Support Staff	997	79,182	79,230	100%
Camp Programming	892	45,253	44,500	102%
Camp Operations	8,606	74,377	83,250	89%
Council Legal Expenses	105	10,307	-	
Council Meeting Expenses	-	453	3,000	15%
Budget & Finance Sub-Committee	-	-	200	0%
Personnel Sub-Committee	-	-	50	0%
Council Nominating	-	-	50	0%

Appendix D

Presbytery of Southern Kansas

Balance Sheet

Fiscal Year 2012, Period 9 (09/01/2012 to 09/30/2012)

Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	266,161.19
Resources for Resale	2,008.51
Accounts Receivable	3,779.90
Short Term Investments	50,815.29
Long Term Investments	550,442.80
Property & Equipment, less depreciation	52,005.42
Vehicle, less depreciation	22,049.35
Bldgs, Improvements & Land, less depreciation	<u>428,652.11</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>1,375,914.57</u></u>

Liabilities & Fund Balances

GA & Synod Payable	11,682.54
Miscellaneous Liabilities	4,678.45
General Fund	302,701.71
Presbytery Property & Equipment Fund	7,540.03
Westminster Wood Property & Equip. Fund	263,035.97
Temporarily Restricted Funds	<u>786,275.87</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Balances	<u><u>1,375,914.57</u></u>