John Calvin Presbytery

Called General Council Meeting (by Zoom)

February 11, 2021

Minutes

Members present: Bill Agnew, Diane Cooke, Bob Dahlgren, Reina Daleske, Lou Ellen Hartley, Jim Holt, Chris Miller (Moderator), Joan Russell, Toni Spieth, Lorraine Whittington

Ex-officio present: Beth Kick, Stated Clerk; Malinda Spencer, Pastoral Presbyter;

Dennis Winzenried, Treasurer

***John Calvin Presbytery is a community of Christ-followers in the midst of a changing world. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called to inspire and equip congregations and leaders to be extravagant and hopeful ambassadors of the reign of God.***

(Guiding Statement from General Council, February 2020)

Moderator Chris Miller opened the stated meeting of the General Council in prayer at 10:03 a.m. on Thursday, February 11, 2021. Beth Kick noted that a quorum was present. The meeting was held by Zoom videoconference during the coronavirus pandemic.

Pastoral Presbyter Malinda Spencer read 2 Timothy 2:14-19 and led the devotions.

**Report of the Stated Clerk**

Beth Kick asked for corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, **the following minutes of the General Council were approved** by unanimous consent:

**October 1, 2020 Stated Meeting of General Council**

**October 15, 2020 Called Meeting of General Council**

**January 12, 2021 Called Meeting of General Council**

After discussion, the committee agreed to invite the Co-Moderators of General Assembly (the Rev. Gregory J. Bentley and Elder Elona Street-Stewart) to engage with us during our May 20, 2021 JCP meeting concerning the Matthew 25 initiative. If they Co-Moderators are amenable, we could combine worship and education time to hear more about the Matthew 25 initiative and the work of the broader Church.

Options for storage of the presbytery’s physical records were discussed, as well as the need for a physical mailing address for the presbytery.

General Council gave notice at the last stated meeting of Presbytery (October 24, 2020) that Council proposes a change to the Bylaws and Manual of Operations, recommending:

* That the Class of 2021 serve until the end of December 2021
* That, beginning in 2021, John Calvin Presbytery elect and install officers and committee members at its last stated meeting of the year, and
* That the new officers and committee members take office on January 1 of the following year.

Thus, terms of service will no longer be “from September 1 through August 31,” but “will be from January 1 through December 31.”

Beth Kick moved **that the suggested wording replace the current wording in the Bylaws (3.10 and 4.40) as highlighted below. Seconded and approved:**

**Bylaws -- Current wording**

**3.10** Moderator

The Moderator shall be elected for a term of one (1) year during the third stated meeting of Presbytery and shall ordinarily be installed at the fourth stated meeting of Presbytery. Terms of service will be from September 1 through August 31. As long as he or she is a member of Presbytery, the Moderator will serve until a successor is installed. If the Moderator is unable to moderate, the Moderator-elect will do so. Ordinarily, the Moderator will alternate between clergy and elder and between male and female so that all are equally represented.

The duties of the moderator shall be those provided for in the *Book of Order* G-3.0104.

**4.40** General Council Officers

(a) The Moderator of the General Council shall be the immediate past Moderator of Presbytery and shall assume this office upon installation of the next Moderator of Presbytery**.**

(b) The Moderator-elect of Presbytery shall serve as the Vice-Moderator of the General Council, and shall be Acting-Moderator in the event of the absence, the death, or the inability to serve of the Moderator of the General Council.

The Moderator-elect of Presbytery shall be elected for a term of one (1) year during the third stated meeting of Presbytery and shall ordinarily be installed at the third stated meeting of Presbytery. As long as he or she is a member of the Presbytery, the Moderator-elect will serve until a successor is installed. The Moderator-elect shall ordinarily succeed to the office of Moderator.

(c) The General Council may elect such other officers as it deems necessary. **4.50** General Council Responsibilities

**BYLAWS – PROPOSED WORDING:**

**3.10** Moderator

The Moderator shall ordinarily be elected for a term of one (1) year and installed during the last stated Presbytery meeting of the year. Terms of service will be from January 1 through December 31. As long as he or she is a member of Presbytery, the Moderator will serve until a successor is installed. If the Moderator is unable to moderate, the Moderator-elect will do so. Ordinarily, the Moderator will alternate between clergy and elder and between male and female so that all are equally represented.

The duties of the moderator shall be those provided for in the *Book of Order* G-3.0104.

**4.40** General Council Officers

“(b) … The Moderator-elect of Presbytery shall ordinarily be elected and installed for a term of one (1) year during the last stated Presbytery meeting of the year….”

Beth Kick moved **that “last stated Presbytery meeting of the year” replace “third stated meeting of Presbytery” and that the other suggested wording replace the current wording in the Manual of Operations (3.10, 4.04, 4.61, 4.62a, and 4.63) as highlighted below.** Seconded and approved:

Current wording -- Manual of Operations:

4.04  Members of standing committees will ordinarily be elected at the third meeting of presbytery and be installed at the third stated meeting. Terms of service will be from September 1 to August 31. When vacancies occur, the Committee on Representation will be informed by the Moderator of the appropriate committee. The Committee on Representation will present a nominee to fill the vacancy at the next stated meeting of Presbytery. Committee members elected to fill unexpired terms will take office immediately upon election.

**MANUAL OF OPERATIONS—PROPOSED WORDING**

3.10 General Council…Nominate members of the Committee on Representation at the last stated Presbytery meeting of the year

4.04  Members of standing committees will ordinarily be elected and installed at the last stated Presbytery meeting of the year. Terms of service will be from January 1 to December 31. When vacancies occur, the Committee on Representation will be informed by the Moderator of the appropriate committee. The Committee on Representation will present a nominee to fill the vacancy at the next stated meeting of Presbytery. Committee members elected to fill unexpired terms will take office immediately upon election.

4.61 “This committee [Committee on Representation] will nominate to the Presbytery, the following at the last stated Presbytery meeting of the year or when vacancies occur: (a.) Moderator of Presbytery, (b.) Moderator-elect of Presbytery…”

4.62a. “…Commissioners to the General Assembly and their alternates will be nominated and elected at the last stated Presbytery meeting of the year…”

4.63 …”the Committee on Representation shall bring to the presbytery at the last stated Presbytery meeting of the year the names of commissioners to the Synod.”

Logistics for the February 27 Presbytery meeting were planned. Beth Kick presented the proposed docket:

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| Document  8:30 a.m. | **Zoom meeting open—Practice/Informal Fellowship**  *PowerPoint scrolls with churches that paid per capita and shared mission for 2020* |  |
| 9:00 a.m. | **Call to Order** | Moderator, Elder Toni Spieth |
| 9:02 a.m. | **Opening Prayer & Greeting from Host Church**  **Mission & Ministry of Trinity, Springfield** | The Reverend Chris Miller |
| 9:12 a.m. | **Orientation to Videoconference Meeting**  Take attendance (raise hand function) | Stated Clerk Beth Kick |
| 9:17 a.m. | **Introduction of Elder Commissioners and Ministers New to the Presbytery** | Moderator, Elder Toni Spieth |
| 9:23 a.m. | **Report of Stated Clerk**   * **Declaration of a quorum** * **Approval of docket** * **Seating of corresponding members** * **Adoption of consent agenda** | Elder Beth Kick |
| 9:28 a.m. | **Report of Committee on Ministry, Part 1.**  Examine Dale Hill to serve as CRE to StocktonPresbyterian Church and approve his terms of call. | Elder Reina Daleske or the Reverend Diane Cooke |
| 9:45 a.m. | **Preparation for Worship** *(includes prelude and time to get bread and juice)* | Moderator, Elder Toni Spieth |
| 9:48 a.m. | **Service of Morning Worship / Education Time**  Commission Dale Hill  Read Necrology-Scroll the names/PowerPoint  Speak about Rev. Dr. Tom Cavicchia and Elder Harriett Mercer (JCP admin. asst. for 20 years) | The Reverend Dr. M. Craig Barnes, preaching |
| 10:55 a.m. | **Break** -- *PowerPoint scrolls with churches that paid per capita and shared mission for 2020* |  |
| 11:05 a.m. | **Report of Pastoral Presbyter** | Elder Malinda Spencer |
| 11:15 a.m. | **Report of Committee on Ministry, part 2** | Elder Reina Daleske |
| 11:25 a.m. | **Report on Transitional Project** | Elder Reina Daleske |
| 11:35 a.m. | **Report of Administrative Ministries Committee** | The Reverend Bob Dahlgren; Treasurer Dennis Winzenried |
| 11:45 a.m. | **Report of the Treasurer** | The Reverend Dennis Winzenried |
| 11:55 a.m. | **Report of COVID-19 Administrative Commission written** | Elder Martha Bledsoe |
| 12:05 p.m. | **Report of General Council** | The Reverend Chris Miller |
|  | **Report of Committee on Representation:** *Watch for more information about becoming a Commissioner to the 2022 General Assembly.* | Elder Lorraine Whittington |
|  | **Report of Mission and Nurture Committee:** *Mark your calendars for Equipping the Saints October 23, 2021. David Gambrell from the office of theology and worship will join us to speak on daily prayer.* | The Reverend Lou Hartley and Elder William Agnew |
| 12:15 p.m. | **Report of Presbyterian Women** | Elder Joan Russell |
| 12:20 p.m. | **Resolution of Thanks and Closing Prayer** |  |
|  | **We Go Out as a Worshipping Community** |  |

Bill Agnew moved **to approve docket as amended**. Seconded and approved

**Report of the Pastoral Presbyter**

Moderator Miller plans to call a meeting in April to discuss communication issues.

Pastoral Presbyter Malinda Spencer gave an update on the Transitional Project. Two churches have agreed to participate. Elder Greg Emery will speak during the presbytery meeting.

Diane Cooke moved **that we apply to participate in the Vital Congregations initiative.** Seconded and approved.Lou Hartley and Bill Agnew will prepare a draft application, which Chris Miller will review. The application is due March 5.

Lou Hartley moved **that, when someone who is not a member of John Calvin Presbytery preaches for worship at a presbytery meeting, we use funds in the presbytery meeting line item to make a donation to the institution which employs the preacher, in the value of the current pulpit supply amount, as well as sending a pound of candy directly to them.**

Seconded and unanimously approved

Malinda Spencer presented information about a Stewardship event and a “Comfort My People” mental health event being planned by executive presbyters in the Synod, each event with a potential $1,000 price tag for each participating presbytery. Council requested more information about our potential obligations and benefits by early April so as to make an informed decision at Council’s next stated meeting.

Chris Miller offered to help congregations plan a mental health first aid event post-pandemic.

**Reports of the Committees**

Administrative Ministries

**1. Motion for Presbytery: That the financial, per capita, shared mission and investment reports for Year-end 2020 and the financial, per capita and shared mission reports as of January 31, 2021 be filed for review.**

* Bob Dahlgren reported that staff reviews are going on.
* AMC gave permission for First, Neosho, to list their manse for sale.
* AMC had to change an incorrect deed for a property sale in 2004, at no cost to us.

Treasurer’s Report

* Concerns about income and expenses in January (might be normal).
* Investments did well with an 11% return last year.
* We have been using the investments to give COVID grants and it has not diminished our investments.
* We are in good financial shape.

Committee on Ministry (will meet 2/18) – Reina Daleske

Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Diane Cooke CPM has become CRE also. Appreciate Dale Hill’s work in our presbytery.

Transitional Project—Reina Daleske

Committee on Representation – Lorraine Whittington will begin to work on calling GA commissioners

COVID-19 Administrative Commission– Dennis Winzenried –See written report.

Toni Spieth moved **that the COVID-19 Administrative Commission continue the grant program for 9 more months, beginning in March, or until the funds run out with the same people serving on the commission . Seconded and unanimously approved**

Mission and Nurture – Lou Ellen Hartley

* + David Gambrell will join us on Sat., Oct. 23 for Equipping the Saints
  + Hoping to be able to host an International Peacemaker this fall
  + Celeste Dahlgren is setting up a Lenten series beginning the last Wednesday in February on Zoom, 7 p.m., and is looking for pastors and Ruling elders to lead discussions.

Presbyterian Women – Joan Russell

We have not had meetings in person, but have been in contact with Synod and church-wide activities via zoom and the newsletter. We are hoping to gather in person September 18 in Joplin.

Prayer requests were shared before Moderator Chris closed the meeting in prayer at 11:52 a.m.

Next stated Council meeting: 10 a.m., Thursday, April 29 by Zoom

Included in your packet for today’s Council meeting:

Crocker’s report (Transformational grant)

Council Minutes: 10/1/20, 10/15/20, 1/12/21

Submitted by Beth Kick