

Presbytery of Eastern Oregon  
**DRAFT** Minutes of Spring Stated Meeting  
 April 17-18, 2009  
 Grace Presbyterian Church  
 Milton-Freewater, Oregon

The Presbytery of Eastern Oregon met in stated meeting on Friday, April 17, 2009, at Grace Presbyterian Church, Milton-Freewater, Oregon. A quorum was present. Enrollment vouchers showed the following members attending.

<b>Church</b>	<b>Minister</b>	<b>Commissioned Lay Pastor</b>	<b>Other Elder</b>
First, Baker City			Roxanna Swann
Pioneer, Burns	Jean Hurst		
Community, Dayville			
Pine Valley, Halfway			
Faith, Hermiston	Duane Brudevold		
First, LaGrande	Larry Loftus		Jo Carmichael Mary Helen Garoutte
Lostine	Steve Kliewer		Iva Lindsay Dale Lindsey
Grace, Milton-Freewater	Ginger Johnston		
Community, Monument			
Community, Mt. Vernon			Richard I. Patt, Sr.
First, Pendleton	Roger Harwerth		Jon Mittlestadt
Tutuilla, Pendleton		Jack Schut	
Community, Pilot Rock		Todd Bensel	
Hope, Stanfield	Jim Glover		
Community, Ukiah			
Community, Umatilla			Ronald Taft
Other Minister	Kate Bottorff Roger Fisk Dorothy Knudson Volus McEachern Linda Toth Steve Toth		
Other Elders			Carol Brudevold Marj Hoagland Vicki Horneck Peter Wells Mary Lou Welby
Others	Mark Frey		Talitha Phillips Kate Loftus

Moderator Pastor Todd Bensel called the the meeting to order with scripture and prayer at 2:00 PM, Friday, April 17, 2009.

Stated Clerk Elder Pete Wells recommended that the agenda proposed by the presbytery council be approved adding Presbyterian Women's Net Workers after the report on the Theological Education Fund; move the Committee on Ministry report to Saturday, delete the report of the nominating committee; remove the reference to the Snake River Mission Area, replace it with the "shared ministry of the presbyteries of Boise, Eastern Oregon and Kendall; and conclude the meeting at 11:00 AM Saturday. Rev. Jean Hurst moved to **adopt the agenda with the proposed changes**. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Rev. Jean Hurst brought greetings from the host church.

The presbytery met first time elder commissioners Ron Taft from Umatilla and Jon Mittlestadt from Pendleton First.

Ref. Linda Toth moved to **seat Rev. Mark Frey as a corresponding member**. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Rev. Dorothy moved to **approve the minutes of the February 21 presbytery meeting** adding Jon Mittlestadt as an elder present from Pendleton First, and guests Phyllis and Ron Ticher; Shawn Rogers; Bill Burke, and Jesse Jones as present. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Stated Clerk Wells presented correspondence, a letter from the Office of the General Assembly regarding per capita assessments.

Clerk Wells presented a summary of the 2008 statistics reported by the churches to the Clerk, including: Total membership of congregations: 1,097, 665 women and 432 men; and an average worship attendance of 606; Potential Giving Units: 629; Budgeted Income: \$1,040,132; Budget Expense: \$1,178,297; Expenditures: Local Program: \$1,005,530, Local Mission: \$26,158, Validated Mission: \$66,486, Theological Fund: \$5,530, Other Mission: \$15,317

The presbytery received the printed summary of the action of the presbytery council meeting of March 14.

Elder Dale Lindsey of the Lostine Presbyterian Church reported on the progress of the church remodel project. The synod normally requires, for approval of loan disbursements, that the contractor post a bond. The synod is likely to waive that requirement Reinforcing bar is being installed for the ramp with concrete likely to be poured soon.

Rev. Ginger Johnston reported for the Theological Education Fund. She thanked all the churches tat participated in the program in 2008. She expects to have a complete summary at the October meeting.

Rev. Duane Brudevold reported for the Board of Trustees. The trustees visited the Lostine remodel project. Rev. Brudevold encourages churches to use the Board whenever engaging in real property transactions, including construction and allowing others to use the church facilities. The Board will be reviewing church corporate status.

Elder Marj Hoagland reported for the Eastern Oregon Presbyterian Women on the Net Worker cards. Last year the program paid \$200,000 for nets. Elder Hoagland has \$10 Mother's Day cards for sale.

There was no budget report.

Rev. Jean Hurst reported of the mission priorities task force consisting of herself, Rev. Linda Toth, Rev. Steve Toth, and Rev. Roger Fisk. The task force recommends mission funding for 2010: The Hermiston redevelopment project will be complete in 2009; The Eastern Oregon University campus ministry program is still pending; Ukiah Community Presbyterian Church for the food pantry, \$5,100; Mission and Committee committee, \$6,500; Presbytery executive office expense, \$2,000; Shared Ministry programs, including the resource center and Western National Leadership Training total of \$14,922; Ring Praise ministry, \$2,500. The total of these is approximately \$31,000. The committee does not recommend contributing to the College of Idaho campus ministry in 2010. The committee recommends that the programs be funded as recommended; that the committee seek out an application from the Eastern Oregon University campus ministry program; and set aside \$20,000 for church redevelopment programs.

Rev. Johnston moved that **\$20,000 from 2009 unallocated funds be set aside for church redevelopment as may be recommended by the mission and program committee.** The motion was seconded and adopted.

Rev. Hurst, for the committee moved that **the task force continue through 2009 to define "church redevelopment projects"** The motion was adopted.

Rev. Hurst, for the committee recommended that the 2010 mission allocations: **Ukiah Community Presbyterian Church for the food pantry, \$5,100; Mission and Committee committee, \$6,500; General presbyter office expense, \$2,000; Shared Ministry programs, including the resource center and Western National Leadership Training total of \$14,922; Ring Praise ministry, \$2,500 be approved.** The motion was adopted.

Rev. Fisk and Rev. Linda Toth reported from the shared ministry task force of the Boise, Eastern Oregon, and Kendall presbyteries. In addition to the ministries described above, the presbyteries of Boise and Kendall are supporting Camp Sawtooth.

Elder Mary Lou Welby gave a progress report from the task force charged with preparing a draft presbytery mission statement. The task force hopes to have a draft report for the presbytery at the October presbytery meeting.

Following a break, the task force of Rev. Johnston, Rev. Harwerth, Rev. Glover, and Elder Dale Wilkinson led a discussion about the proposed new Form of Government being proposed to the 2008 PC(USA) General Assembly. The discussion included the relation between the proposed new Form of Government and the elements of the kingdom of God, the role of congregations, and where the mission of God may be found in presbyteries.

Following prayer by Rev. Brudevold, the presbytery recessed the meeting at 5:10 in favor of dinner.

The meeting reconvened at 6:30 PM in with prayer and applause for dinner.

Elder Vicki Horneck reported for the program committee. She and Rev. Fisk promoted the Cascades Summer Conference to be held July 16-19. The committee is working toward a summer program for youth, likely to be held in early summer with a target audience of middle and high school students. The committee is seeking a person to coordinate three presbytery participation in the 2010 Youth Triennium event.

Elder Marj Hoagland reported for the Eastern Oregon Presbyterian Women. The PC(USA) church-wide gathering will be held in Louisville this summer, July 11 to 15. Eastern Oregon Presbyterian Women will be next week at the Tutuilla Presbyterian Church. Elder Hoagland asked for contributions of gift cards to Home Depot, Lowes, and similar stores for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Rev. L. Toth reported on the shared ministry program of the three presbyteries. The shared ministry committee will be interviewing to hire a resource center and shared ministry director. She also reported that the Wee Kirk Conference will be held in May in Boise.

Pastor Schut reported from the recent meeting of the Synod the Pacific. He is serving on the Synod personnel and representation committees.

Rev. L.Toth reported on here work as general presbyter. The Presbytery of Eastern Oregon will have a description in the 2010 Mission Yearbook, but not in the Mission Yearbook for Children. She is grateful for the wok of the presbytery task forces on the Book of Order Amendments and on the new Form of Government.

The presbytery recessed at 7:10 PM for worship led by Pastor Bensel including celebration of the Lord's Supper.

The presbytery meeting reconvened at 9:15 AM, Saturday, April 18 with a reading from Psalms and prayer by Pastor Bensel.

Rev. Mark Frey, from the Board of Pensions, reported on the financial status of the funds and the impact on active and retired members.

After a discussion about the history of the appointments to be readers of ordination, Rev. Toth moved that **Rev. Harwerth be appointed reader of ordination exams**. The motion was seconded and approved. She suggest a practice of a three year term and that the normal progression would be that the alternate succeed to be principal reader at the end of the principal reader's term, with further consideration at the October meeting.

There was discussion of the process for notifying nominated persons of their election to office. Rev. Dorothy Knudson, a member of the nominating committee, stated that the nominating committee will notify those elected to positions.

Moderator Bensel reminded all task forces and committees to prepare minutes of their meetings and submit copies of those minutes to the Stated Clerk for retention and distribution.

Rev. Steve Toth, for the Committee on Ministry reported that the review of 2009 terms of call is not complete and will be reported at the October meeting.

Rev. S. Toth, for the Committee on ministry reported on the annual review of commissioned lay pastors:

- The committee moves that **the commission of Pastor Jack Schut to the Tutuilla Church be extended for an additional year contingent on a written request from the church session**. The motion was adopted.
- The committee moves that **the commission of Pastor Skip Inscore to the Mt. Vernon Church be extended for an additional year contingent on a written request from the church session**. The motion was adopted.

There was no report of triennial visitations with church sessions and ministers. The committee preparation for ministry had no report.

The committee reported that the LaGrande church continues to seek candidates. Rev. S. Toth, for the committee on ministry, moved that **the appointment of Rev. Larry Loftus as stated supply to the First Presbyterian Church of LaGrande be extended an additional six months or until the permanent position is filled on the same terms and conditions**. The motion was adopted.

Rev. Knudson stated an interest partnerships in ministry between churches of the presbytery and mission in other parts of the world. Rev. Knudson will investigate what partnership entails and how to initiate partnerships. She asked those with special interests in the subject to contact her.

Rev. Steve Kliewer of Lostine that the Lostine Church made the conscious decision to support an intern and to define the ways that the church would use that intern. The presbytery may want to assist churches in hosting interns with program structure and financial assistance

Talitha Phillips, a seminary intern at Lostine Presbyterian Church, reported on her work at the church. Her work includes nurture, outreach, and worship. She works along side the minister and church members involved in local mission.

Rev. Volus McKenna encouraged someone to take responsibility for coordinating the peacemaking ministry in the fall.

Stated Clerk Wells asked for help making sure the directory is complete and accurate, with calendar orders this spring, and for program suggestions for the October presbytery meeting. He asked that printed material for the October meeting be in his hands by October 1.

The following churches invited presbytery meetings, subject to confirmation by sessions:

Mt. Vernon for February, 2010

Pilot Rock for April, 2010

Burns for October, 2010

Without objection, these invitations were accepted subject to confirmation by the respective sessions.

Rev. Linda Toth thanked all for patience and assistance in the transition away from the Snake River Mission Area and asked for comments and an evaluation of how the presbyter is functioning.

On motion by Rev. Hurst, seconded and adopted, **the meeting adjourned** at 11:00 AM, Saturday, April 18.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter H. Wells  
Stated Clerk

Approved by presbytery, October \_\_, 2009

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