

HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY Brian Johnson, Moderator May 16, 2024
Fairbury Presbyterian Church

All times are approximate and are NOT orders of the day.

- 9:30 a.m. ORIENTATION.....Erica Nelson
- 10:00 a.m. PRESBYTERY CONVENES
 Call to Order
 Opening Prayer
 Adoption of Docket
 Seating of Corresponding Members
 Welcome of first-time commissioners and pastors
- 10:05 a.m. WELCOME FROM HOST CHURCH.....Dave Conde
- 10:10 a.m. TABLE TALK.....Jane Holtzclaw
 RULING ELDER COMMUNION TRAINING.....Edward Yang
- 11:45 a.m. CELEBRATIONS
- 11:50 a.m. NEBRASKA PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION.....Audrey Richert
 UPDATE FROM CAMP CALVIN CREST.....Craig Huffman
- 11:55 a.m. ELECTION OF TEACHING ELDER COMMISSIONER
- 12:00 p.m. LUNCH
- 1:00 p.m. WORSHIP
 The offering is designated to The Nebraska Rural Hotline.

OFFICERS AND STAFF REPORTS

- 1:50 p.m. Presbytery Moderator.....Brian Johnson
 Steering the Ship Moderator.....Steve Piper
 Treasurer.....Ed McClymont
 Stated Clerk.....Erica Nelson
 Synod Commissioners.....Duane Westing and Maggie Horak

STANDING TEAM REPORTS

- 2:20 p.m. Companions for the Journey.....Edward Yang
 Ministries for Extraordinary Times.....Chris Peters
 Presbyterian Women.....Teresa Bartlett
 Reconciliation and Trust.....Alan Brehm
 Leadership.....Steve Piper

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- 2:40 p.m. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 2:50 p.m. CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

Synod Of Lakes & Prairies
Synod Meeting
April 28-30, 2024

Homestead Presbytery,

So sorry I am unable to attend May 16 Stated Meeting in Fairbury....but I thought I'd pass along my report from the Synod Meeting.

The Lord provided as I was concerned about making the 5+ hr trip by myself. I ended up picking up the Des Moines Presbytery RE representative on the way. And bringing her home & the Central Nebraska Presbytery TE representative as far as Lincoln. So there was conversation and fellowship for those miles in the rain & wind!

KYLE NOLAN is Presbytery Foundation SLAP representative---wealth of information and a good team member in the group building Sunday evening. Excellent resource!

The educational program was HaHa Wak Padan about a Minnesota Presbyterian congregation that has moved ahead of 'Land Acknowledgement' to developing a relationship with local Indigenous peoples....fascinating story. If you/your congregation has someone interested---I can get that name for you.

Lots of conversation about the changes to Health Insurance through Board of Pensions. I'm sure Duane will bring you the Overture to future (not 2024) General Assembly. Prayers for this situation as our denomination struggles to find a path to future benefits packages for Teaching Elders.

Synod School 2024: there will be some 'live-streaming' but not many details provided.

Boundary Training: 2 videos that speak to this requirement are available on the SLAP website.

I sit on COMM (Communications) committee:

- September 26 will be another 'Face-to-Face' event for churches/PNCs to connect with potential candidates. The event last October had service failures as some PNCs could not connect via Zoom. Contact Deb DeMeester at the Synod office or I can provide information & help make the connection.
- Synod website platform support (with current vendor) was abruptly discontinued & Gretchen (Synod office) was able to connect with another platform support group & continues to work to get the website back into fully-functionality.
- SYNOD SUNDAY: COMM group will produce a short video for churches to use in September to help congregations understand the relationship from the congregation to the synod. The video plans to interview recipients of Synod support to share how/when/what resources are available to the congregations. Gretchen will also create a bulletin insert for Synod Sunday.

That's it for my report. Hope to be with you at the next Stated Meeting.

God bless,

Maggie Horak, Homestead Ruling Elder representative to Synod of Lakes & Prairies



STEERING THE SHIP TEAM

MOTION SHEET

Date of Meeting: May 16, 2024

Reported by: Steve Piper

Recommendation: That the Rev. Dr. Sue Coller be elected as the teaching elder commissioner to the 2024 General Assembly for Homestead Presbytery.

Background:

The previously elected teaching elder commissioner, the Rev. Dr. Alan Brehm, has had to withdraw because of health reasons.

The Rev. Dr. Sue Coller had previously been elected as the alternate for teaching elder commissioner but had to withdraw at that time and a new alternate was sought, without success. She is available at this time.



STATED CLERK REPORT TO PRESBYTERY

Reported by: Erica Nelson
May 16, 2024

SECTION A: Information background:

1. The minutes from the January Steering the Ship meeting and the February presbytery were approved at the April Steering the Ship meeting.
2. All End of Year reports for presbytery were submitted. Kris Valerius, who is the OGA staff over the Stated Clerk Portal/Statistics, is out for the foreseeable future. The folks trying to step in and do her job are struggling to keep up, so the minister cards were only just recently mailed to us.
3. The 2023 minutes and the roll book of the presbytery were reviewed at the synod level and passed.
4. Update on the disciplinary allegations filed reported in November 2023: charges have now been filed and forwarded to the PJC. The PJC is beginning the trial process.

SECTION B: Actions taken/Decisions made: [Votes by Committee not needing Presbytery action.]

SECTION C: Number of recommendations requiring Presbytery action: ___#___

[List each motion by title. Full motion and rationale is provided in the Motion Sheet]

- 1.

NECROLOGY REPORT 2023
HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY

Ministers of Word and Sacrament (Teaching Elders)

Robert W Jeambey

Ordained October 25th, 1965. Honorably Retired December 1st, 1993. Died October 27th, 2023 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Timothy K McClain

Ordained June 28th, 1978 by Prospect Hill Presbytery. Honorably Retired on September 15th, 1995. Died May 15th, 2023 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Served in churches in Beatrice, Hickman, Lincoln, Waverly, and Tecumseh.

Ruling Elders

| Church | Name | Date Ordained | Date of Death |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Beatrice | Dorothy Appleget | 2002 | 01/03/2023 |
| | Vance Dake | 08/28/1988 | 08/30/2023 |
| | Paul Hay | 01/05/1986 | 11/14/2023 |
| Hickman | Patty Bentzinger | 02/06/1994 | 01/15/2023 |
| Lincoln, Eastridge | Jack Steven | 02/03/1980 | 09/19/2023 |
| | Carol Budka | 12/04/2009 | 10/17/2023 |
| Lincoln, Fourth | Frances McIntosh | 01/08/1967 | 04/28/2023 |
| | Alfred 'Wilbur' Hanson | 01/07/1965 | 05/29/2023 |
| | Eugene Stake | 01/1979 | 06/18/2023 |
| | Patricia M. Aldridge | 01/1996 | 11/20/2023 |
| Lincoln, Good Shepherd | Kirk Goranson | 12/09/1979 | 02/24/2023 |
| Lincoln, Heritage | Ken Olsen | 01/13/1985 | 04/26/2023 |
| | Karen Minks | 01/09/1994 | 10/10/2023 |
| Lincoln, Westminster | George Hancock | 02/01/1983 | 08/13/2023 |
| | Jean Patoka | 02/01/1987 | 04/20/2023 |
| | Lee Sonderegger | 02/23/1992 | 02/07/2023 |
| Norfolk | Bob Noelle | 11/21/1982 | 05/07/2023 |
| | Brian Richter | 11/02/1982 | 05/26/2023 |

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|------------|
| | Dorothy Richmond | 01/08/1989 | 08/06/2023 |
| | Raymond Hansen | 01/10/1982 | 08/29/2023 |
| | Norma Rosado Rohlf | 12/21/2003 | 12/04/2023 |
| North Bend | Elaine Walla | 01/1980 | 02/21/2023 |
| Pawnee City | Laura Turnbull | 12/15/1991 | 02/17/2023 |
| | John Wissler | 01/04/2014 | 03/10/2023 |
| Tekamah | Ila Davis | 05/16/2004 | 09/20/2023 |
| Wahoo, First | Norma Barry | 03/22/1998 | 07/03/2023 |
| | Shirley Van Mitre | 02/26/1984 | 10/16/2023 |
| Wayne | JoAnn Proett | 01/08/1995 | 03/22/2023 |
| | Philip Griess | 02/21/1971 | 12/14/2023 |
| York | Linda Dickerson | 01/08/1984 | 10/18/2023 |
| | Lorna Cleland | 01/03/1982 | 11/21/2023 |
| | Nancy Walford | 01/13/2013 | 12/21/2023 |



STATED CLERK

MOTION SHEET

Date of Meeting: May 16, 2024

Reported by: Erica Nelson

Recommendation: That David Thompson be allowed to serve as moderator for the upcoming Permanent Judicial Commission trial, despite no longer serving on the PJC.

Background:

A disciplinary case within the presbytery is going to trial now that charges have been filed. Our current moderators of the Permanent Judicial Commission, Lana Likens and Steve Pointon, cannot serve on this trial due to being part of a special sub-committee that determined if administrative leave was necessary in this case. David Thompson is the previous moderator of the PJC and is willing to serve as moderator for the duration of this trial.



Companions for the Journey

REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY

Date of Meeting: May. 16, 2024

Reported by: Edward Yang and Thomas Dummermuth, Co-Chairs

SECTION A: Information background:

- On February 12, 2024, Rev. Rob Garton was interviewed by members of Companions for the Journey team. A motion for Rev. Garton to have temporary membership (as an ELCA ordained pastor) to Homestead Presbytery and fit for Tekamah Presbyterian Church was approved. Rev. Garton began his service as designated pastor on April 1, 2024.
- Companions for the Journey team met via Zoom on March 10, 2024. Responsibilities for the following roles were delegated: Preparation, Transitions, Liaisons, Critical Needs, Oversight and Training. Reports were shared on churches in transition and with critical needs.
- Family of Rev. Robert Burdett requested financial assistance. Companions for the Journey approved payment from the Personal Financial Assistance Fund to pay for cremation cost (\$1,029) on March 26, 2024.
- On April 9, 2024, Clerk of Session for FPC York submitted their PNC's Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) to Companions for the Journey for review and approval. After email voting, FPC York Clerk of Session and PNC Chair were informed of MDP approval on April 12, 2024.
- Co-moderator Edward Yang attended Synod of Lakes and Prairies: Leadership Summit at Buffalo, MN on April 16-18, 2024.
- Co-moderator Thomas Dummermuth attended Board of Pensions: A Season of Rebuilding at Denver, CO on April 23-24, 2024.
- Companions: Liaison Team met with co-moderators (on April 30, 2024 via Zoom) to discuss strategies for reaching out to churches and pastors.
- For the purpose of record keeping, the following are ruling elders who have been trained and authorized to preside at the Lord's Supper: Niobrara-Verdel Presbyterian Church elders (Nancy Janak, Mark Simpson and Mona Weatherwax) were trained by Rev. Stephen Earl and authorized by COM as reported in February 2022 presbytery packet.

Dave Conde of FPC Fairbury was trained by Rev. Jim McNeal and authorized by Companions for the Journey on October 25, 2023.

SECTION B: Actions taken/Decisions made:

- 1. Rev. Rob Garton (ELCA pastor) was approved for temporary membership to Homestead Presbytery and fit for Tekamah Presbyterian Church as their designated pastor.**
- 2. Financial assistance for the family of Rev. Robert Burdett was approved from the Personal Financial Assistance Fund.**
- 3. MDP for FPC York was approved.**

SECTION C: Number of recommendations requiring Presbytery action: 0



OUTCOMES OF LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETINGS REPORT TO PRESBYTERY

Date of Meeting: May 16, 2024

Reported by: Steve Piper

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Team members: Carol Eskridge, Joyce Douglas, Brian Johnson, Charity Potter, Erica Nelson, Ed McClymont, Thomas Dummermuth, Edward Yang, Steve Piper

March 5, 2024

1. **Suggestions for mission giving.** The following suggestions will be forwarded for consideration by the Steering the Ship team:
 - a. Support for specific Sudanese mission activities and/or conferences, give consideration to a budget line item in the next budget.
 - b. Something with presbytery-wide interest.
 - c. Fund for technology upgrades and improving internet accessibility for congregations that need it (probably mostly rural churches).
 - d. Support for Nebraska Rural Response Hotline
 - e. Provide additional support to Calvin Crest.
 - f. Get input from the presbytery – ask in the Homesteader
 - g. Save to fund facilitating presbyter.
2. **Suggestions for a community-building activity for the May presbytery meeting.** The following suggestions will be forwarded for consideration by the Steering the Ship team:
 - a. Jane Holtzclaw had earlier made a suggestion to Steve about doing a presentation about mental health issues in ministry. One approach would be to have her give a presentation followed by a table talk activity using questions suggested by Jane. Feedback from the table talk would be shared when people came back together following the table talk.
 - b. A table talk activity on the subject of political divisions within congregations.
3. **Upcoming installations of new pastors at Wahoo First and North Bend United.** Edward will get with Brian to make plans for these events.

March 19, 2024

1. **Pastoral Leadership Revitalization (PLR) program offered by the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation.** We received electronic correspondence

from Tricia Dillon Thomas about this program. Charity gave a brief presentation about it at the November 2023 presbytery meeting. She volunteered to continue serving as the presbytery liaison. This will be passed to Steering the Ship with the recommendation to participate in the program.

2. **Initial discussion on revising guidance for the number of commissioners each congregation may have at presbytery meetings.** Erica received an inquiry on this subject. The current presbytery guidance calls for 1 commissioner for congregations with memberships of 200 or less, 2 for memberships of 201 to 299, and 3 for memberships of 300 or more. The team members were asked to give some thought to this topic and we will revisit it in an April meeting.
3. **For information – OPSF offers a proclamation class.** Charity mentioned that this may be a class that those who are not pastors and are interested in preaching might find useful.
4. **Nebraska Ecumenical Partners.** Charity continues to represent our presbytery in cross-denominational conversations in Nebraska. Nothing really to report at this point. She mentioned that the individual providing leadership for these discussions, the Rev. Christopher B. Morton, had just recently suddenly passed away.

April 23, 2024

1. **Federated Church youth ministry is planning a summer mission trip.** Edward was interested in including other churches and we had a discussion about how to contact other churches. Charity was not present at the meeting but through an earlier e-mail offered to give help to Edward. She used to run a group called “Homestead Youth on Mission” which was a consortium of small churches that planned and took a mission trip each summer.
2. **Edward shared some of what he learned at the Synod Leadership Summit held the previous week.** Among other things, he got information about the new benefits plan.
3. **The Companions for the Journey team has been discussing communion training for ruling elders.** One challenge has been finding records for elders who have been authorized to officiate communion. We discussed perhaps providing training at a future presbytery meeting.

May 7, 2024

1. **Comments on the outline for the presbytery meeting community building activity re: mental health in ministry.** The outline was drafted by Jane Holtzclaw. Jane’s presentation will be 45 minutes followed by 30 minutes of small group discussion using her suggested discussion questions followed by 30 minutes for debriefing the discussion.
2. **Proposal from Companions from the Journey to provide training for elders to preside over communion during the May presbytery meeting.** It was agreed that this training would take place at the same time as the community building activity. Sheryl will coordinate with the Fairbury church to get a classroom or conference room to use for the training.
3. **Proposal for a potential staffing pattern for Homestead Presbytery.** Carl and Joyce met with Jane Holtzclaw to discuss Jane’s suggestion for a position that would serve as a liaison presbyter, linking congregation and pastors to the presbytery. After some discussion, the team agreed that it made sense to refer the proposal to Steering the Ship to be considered as part of a broader discussion about the future of some kind of presbyter position in Homestead Presbytery.