

Presbytery Meeting Report

Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

November 15, 2016 meeting

The national election which postponed the November meeting by one week of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area was not on the formal docket of the meeting, but not far from our minds as we tended to the people and work of the Presbytery on November 15, 2016.

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church in Saint Paul welcomed Presbytery into its grand sanctuary and storied history. Pastor and head of staff David Van Dyke gave a welcome and brief oral tour of the church's history and ministry, and numerous volunteers provided a gracious and warm welcome.

Affirming two more calls to ministry again highlighted the docket and work of Presbytery. The body heard a clear and compelling statement of faith from Dana Caraway (see the Presbytery Packet, page 30, http://www.presbyterytwincities.org/files/1637_11_15_16_presbytery_packet.pdf) and, after a time of questions and comment, voted to concur with the Committee on Ministry in approving her ordination as a teaching elder and validating her ministry as a chaplain at Prairie Care in Brooklyn Park. Dana's ordination is tentatively scheduled for late January 2017.

Presbytery also heard a creative and deeply meaningful statement of motivation from inquirer Ben Masters (see the Presbytery Packet, page 32) and, after questions and comments, voted to enroll Ben as a candidate for teaching elder. Sue Hensel, ruling elder at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church and Ben's liaison from that congregation, and Lisa Johnson, a member of the presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry, addressed the presbytery in support of Ben's call and gifts. Both Dana and Ben represent a continuing line of gifted persons called to ministry through the congregations and ministry of this Presbytery.

Presbytery approved both recommendations of its Administrative Commission (see the Presbytery Packet, page 34) elected in May to evaluate the future trajectory of the Chain of Lakes new church development. The

Commission, chaired by teaching elder Barbara Anne Keeley, proposed specific chartering requirements for Chain of Lakes, to be achieved by the end of 2017; and recommended the Presbytery continue to hold and make payments on land it purchased in Blaine as a site for the church, with requirements that Chain of Lakes submit funding and building plans for approval by the Board of Trustees by 2021. Another member of the Administrative Commission, teaching elder Rob Smith, pastors the last successful new church development in this Presbytery, Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church in Apple Valley.

Presbytery vice-moderator and teaching elder T.J. Parlette delivered the report of the Presbytery Leadership Team (see the Presbytery Packet, page 21) on behalf of PLT moderator, teaching elder Denise Dunbar-Perkins, who was unable to be present for the meeting. That report focused on the continuing efforts of PLT around the systems, structures, and staffing of the Presbytery going forward. The PLT reported that it will be bringing plans for broader Presbytery discussion in the coming months.

The Presbytery also approved the proposed 2017 Budget (see the Presbytery Packet, page 23) presented by PLT. That budget will see a modest increases in the per capita apportionment (of 88 cents overall, about half of which will go to the Presbytery and the other half to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and the General Assembly), bringing total per capita in 2017 to \$33.75. The raise in per capita for the Presbytery is the first since 2013. The most significant change in the budget is the addition of funds for a part-time Acting Committee on Ministry coordinator, with focused responsibilities on supporting congregations in pastoral transitions and supporting the work of COM with teaching elders throughout the Presbytery.

Presbytery approved two resolutions from its Board of Trustees (see the Presbytery Packet, page 36), connected with the Presbytery's role in supporting loan commitments by Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. Jim Rissler, chief executive officer of the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, was again present at Presbytery to present information about the resolutions and answer questions.

The Presbytery also heard an oral report unique from the written report provided in the packet from Transitional Executive Presbyter Jeff Japinga; you can find both reports in Jeff's Jottings in the EMerge newsletter. It also

received written reports that did not require action from the treasurer (the Presbytery is in a strong financial position currently); the Eden Prairie Administrative Commission; and the stated clerk. Those reports can all be found in the Presbytery Packet.

**** And put Saturday, March 11, on your calendars.** Presbytery Moderator and ruling elder Sue Rutford announced that PCUSA Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson will be with us for the meeting, which will be designed around workshops and other learning opportunities for ministry. The meeting, scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., will be open to all, and we hope for broad attendance. More information to follow, but hold the date.

The Presbytery is grateful for the warm hospitality of the House of Hope Presbyterian Church in hosting this meeting; for the moving liturgy which guided us in opening worship; and for the 150-plus ruling elder commissioners and teaching elders who attended this meeting to do our collective work.