

MINUTES OF Called Meeting of Presbytery Assembly

Hosted by Community Presbyterian Church, Rochester, IN

Tuesday, December 6, 2016, 9:30 am EST

Call for the Presbytery Assembly meeting was issued on November 25, 2016, by email to the roster of Presbytery of Wabash Valley (*Appendix A*). **Quorum** of more than ten ruling elders and ten teaching elders was present, along with the Moderator and the Stated Clerk (*Appendix B*).

Presbytery Assembly Moderator Sarah Sanderson-Doughty called those present to order at 9:35 am with sung **prayer**, "O Come, O Come, Immanuel." Assembly accepted the **docket** as outlined in the call for the meeting. Those present read the December Bible study passage from Romans 12:1-12, and discussed its message relating to principles of Presbyterian polity.

ACTIONS:

- After questions and discussion of difficulties within First Presbyterian Church, Plymouth, that led to a commission to work with that congregation, the Assembly approved the scope of authority given to the **Plymouth Team** named as an administrative commission (*Appendix C*).
- After questions and discussion of the difficulties that led to appointment of a commission to work with First Presbyterian Church, Pulaski, the Assembly approved the scope of authority given to the **Pulaski Team** and commissioned those appointed to carry out those responsibilities: Marcia Smith-Wood (TE, validated ministry); Roger Hartzler (CRE, Kouts); Steve Mullin (TE, Honorably Retired); Brian Lafoon (RE, Lake Village) and Lyle Ewing (TE, Monticello) (*Appendix D*).
- Assembly received report of Commission on Preparation for Ministry concerning the receipt of **Grace Hammer** as a candidate under care of Presbytery of Wabash Valley and its plan for her continued preparation for ordination, and COM's report on her approved scope of ministry as a candidate preaching and teaching at Flora Presbyterian Church. She will engage in six months of additional study and stand for examination for ordination at the May 2017 Presbytery Assembly.

Moderator Sarah Sanderson-Doughty presented David Smook with a framed print in gratitude for his witness and leadership as Presbytery Assembly Moderator for 2016. She adjourned the meeting with prayer at 10:20 am.

Respectfully,

Linda L. Long, Stated Clerk

Readers on behalf of Assembly:

Michael Lyle (Teaching Elder, Rossville)

Barbara Mayfield (Ruling Elder, Flora)

Called Presbytery Assembly for Tues. Dec. 6, 9:30 am EST

2 messages

Presbytery of Wabash Valley <presbyterywv@gmail.com>
Reply-To: vicki@ourpresbytery.org

Fri, Nov 25, 2016 at 5:33 PM



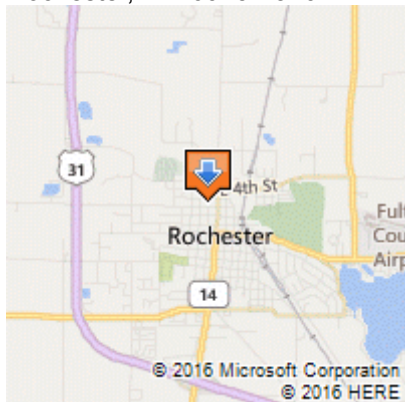
Called special Assembly for Tuesday, December 6, 2016, 9:30 am EST

When

Tuesday December 6, 2016 from
9:30 AM to 10:30 AM EST
[Add to Calendar](#)

Where

Community Presbyterian Church
530 Jefferson St
Rochester, IN 46975-1316



[Driving Directions](#)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Presbytery's leadership team (officers and Jennifer) are issuing a call for a brief meeting of the Assembly to act upon the following items of business:

- Complete business related to commissioning of ruling elders and members of the Plymouth Team;
- Respond to the actions of COM & CPM regarding a candidate;
- Respond to concerns related to the Pulaski congregation with a request to charge an Administrative Commission to work with it to discern its viability.

Presbytery's special meeting of the Assembly is set for Tuesday, December 6, 2016, at 9:30 am EST, prior to the Council meeting, at Community Presbyterian Church in Rochester. Specific documents for Assembly consideration will be sent to members immediately following the COM meeting on December 1.

In Christ,

Linda L. Long <linda.l.long@gmail.com>

Last Name	First Name	TE or RE	Congregation or Ministry
Babovec	Sue	T	Peabody Retirement Community
Ban	Aaron	T	St. John's, Chesterton
Bower	Spencer	R	Bethany, Lafayette
Carlson	Sandy	R	First, Michigan City
Dreibelbis	Vicki	R	Community, Rochester
Enersen	Donna	R	Pleasant Hill, Frankfort
Everett	John	T	Honorably Retired
Griffin	Alan	T	First, Goshen
Hartzler	Roger	R	First, Kouts
Hubbard	Jim	R	First, Valparaiso
Johnson	Les	T	At-large
Kleymann	Ruby	T	First, Pulaski
Kneifel	Rich	R	First, Kouts
Lawrence	David	T	Trinity, West Lebanon
Lewis	Jennifer	T	Staff- Visioning & Connecting
Limbach	Marilou	R	Bethany, Lafayette
Long	Linda	R	RE on Council
Lyle	Michael	T	Rossville
McBryde	Theda	T	Bethlehem, Logansport
Mendenhall	Karen	R	Pulaski Presbyterian
Michael	Kathy	R	Pleasant Hill, Frankfort
Moran	Catherine	T	At-large
Mullin	Steve	T	Honorably Retired
Munson	Carrie	R	RE on Council
Munson	Mike	R	Deer Creek
Neely	Don	T	Honorably Retired
Reef	Patricia	R	Bethlehem, Logansport
Rutland	Maria	T	Hudson, Salem
Ryan	Rick	R	Elston
Sanderson-Doughty	Sarah	T	First, Elkhart
Smook	David	T	Honorably Retired
Teeple	Andrew	R	St. John's, Chesterton

Called Assembly Meeting December 6, 2016, 9:30 am EST
Meeting at Community Presbyterian Church, Rochester, IN

ACTION ITEM: (Stated Clerk) moves that the Assembly approve a Pulaski Team with the authority of a commission to work with Pulaski Presbyterian Church at its request pursuant to G-3.0109 as follows:

- (RE or TE) *(to be announced at Assembly and in God Calls)*
- (TE)
- (RE)
- (TE)
- (RE)

Quorum for this team shall be three members; all decisions shall be in consultation with the whole Team. Three consecutive absences (excused or unexcused) of any member authorize the team moderator to request appointment of an additional member in order to meet the quorum requirement. Team is authorized to meet for decision-making in no more than half of its meetings electronically. Because discernment of ministry is a communal, spiritual decision, any team member or the session may require a face- to-face meeting by simple request. This team shall consult with the Visioning & Connecting Leader, Stated Clerk, the Presbytery's Financial Consultant, the Presbytery's legal counsel, COM, property committee and others on an as-needed basis to request additional information, resources or collaboration to assure that its work is consistent with the mission and priorities of the Presbytery. The Stated Clerk and Visioning Leader will provide initial formal training.

This commission (Pulaski Team) is charged with responsibility and authority to:

- Name a moderator, clerk and a member responsible for frequent, regular communication about the Team and its work with the congregation. Clerk's minutes will be provided to Stated Clerk after each meeting.
- Consult with the session and congregation concerning its finances and ministry in its community, conduct an administrative review, and assess whether to revitalize its mission through ministry transformation, merger, federation, transfer, or other ministry partnerships in keeping with the PC(USA) Constitution. The Team is charged to provide pastoral care for the members and is authorized to dissolve this congregation in furtherance of Presbyterian ministry. Its review shall include its records of minutes and rolls, annual congregational reports for the past three years, an appraisal of the property arranged through Council's property committee, and all financial records and accounts related to the congregation and corporation of Pulaski Presbyterian Church to include general fund, investments, foundations, memorial fund, PW, mission work, property, etc.
- If the decision of the team in consultation with the Session is to revitalize or reconfigure the Presbyterian ministry in this region, the team will work with the church members to support this work with the resources of the presbytery, the Synod of Lincoln Trails, and the Presbyterian Mission Agency, seeking grants, training, leadership, and any other available resources.
- If the decision of the team in consultation with the Session and congregation is to dissolve the congregation, then the administrative commission will proceed, not necessarily in the order as listed, to:

- a. Arrange for the pastoral care and transfer of members, and plan a final worship service that includes the other congregations of the presbytery to give thanks to God for the ministry of the congregation and celebration of its history.
- b. Receive all Session Records (including but not limited to session minutes, the rolls of the congregation, Article of Incorporation, Bylaws, and other legal documents, financial records, corporate seal and all others) and deposit with the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, who will then forward to Department of History.
- c. Provide a list of members with contact information for those whose names remain on the roll at the time the Team brings its recommendation for dissolution of the congregation to the presbytery assembly. Membership is held by the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery for one year if not transferred prior to dissolution of the congregation.
- d. Recommend to Council the disposition of all property for the furtherance of the mission and ministry of Christ through the Presbyterian Church (USA), relying upon the gifts of the Holy Spirit and their energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. Pursuant to G-4.02, all property of the Pulaski Presbyterian Church is held in trust of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This Pulaski Team is authorized to take possession of all real and personal property, financial records, inventories of equipment, and arrange for transfer of title to the Presbytery of all accounts and real property known to be in the possession of Pulaski Presbyterian Church; successor interests in estates and insurance coverage shall be protected.
- e. Assert claim of the presbytery to any property of the Pulaski Presbyterian Church not known at this time or property which may come to Pulaski Presbyterian Church as the beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.
- f. Secure the building and make recommendations concerning sale, purchase, or encumbrance of church property to Presbytery Council, which is charged under Presbytery Bylaws with authority concerning real and personal property in keeping with the PC(USA) Constitution after consultation with the session regarding requests concerning the disposition of equipment, memorials and other property held by this congregation that are consistent with the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its mission established by the presbytery for the most effective witness to the broader community.
- g. With the concurrence of Presbytery Council, the Team may proceed with sale or transfer of property and handle other legal matters arising from the dissolution of the congregation, hiring such expertise as it requires after consultation with the Visioning Connecting Leader.
- h. The Team may from this date approve the disposition of fixtures and mission grants or to arrange for retention and storage for future use at the direction of the presbytery, while retaining a minimum fund of \$20,000 for related expenses, ongoing insurance, utilities, legal fees and maintenance of the property pursuant to dissolution of the congregation.
- i. Assume original jurisdiction and full power of the Session for purposes of closing the congregation after providing the Session full opportunity to be heard. If this action is taken by the Team without consent of the Session, the congregation's elected and installed Session may immediately send notice to

the Stated Clerk who will consult with moderator to call a special meeting of the presbytery to consider its objections.

- j. Recommend to the Presbytery Assembly that it dissolve the congregation that includes a report describing the process and actions the Commission has taken.
- This Commission has the responsibility to keep a full record of its proceedings and report to the Presbytery at each stated meeting of the Assembly and Presbytery Council by sending a written report to the Stated Clerk for distribution.
 - At such time as its work is completed, this Team will request Presbytery Assembly to discharge it and upon dissolution of this Administrative Commission, it shall return all paper and electronic documents to the possession of the Presbytery and remove or delete them from all personal files, both paper and electronic.

In all matters brought before the Commission, the provisions and requirements of the *Book of Order* shall be followed. The Commission will convene immediately for training by Stated Clerk and Visioning Connecting Leader, and proceed with its work and remain in effect until such time as the Commission attests to Presbytery that its work is completed as charged.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda L. Long, Stated Clerk
Presbytery of Wabash Valley

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Linda L. Long, Stated Clerk
Presbytery of Wabash Valley