

**MINUTES OF Stated Meeting of Presbytery Assembly**

Hosted by First Presbyterian Church, Elkhart, IN

Tuesday, November 15, 2016, 10 am EST

**Moderator David Smook** (TE, Honorably Retired) called the Assembly to order with the greeting, "This is the day that the Lord has made!" and prayer at 10 a.m. Liturgy and song led by praise band was integrated throughout the day with the work of the meeting. Ruling and teaching elders and guests attending for the first time were introduced, and corresponding members were seated. Docket and consent agenda were approved without dissent:

- A.1 Docket
- A.3 Minutes and roll of September 2016 Assembly
- A.4 Report of Presbytery Council as Commission
- A.5 Report of Commission on Ministry (COM)
- A.6 Report of Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)
- A.7 Report of Crown Point Team as a commission
- A.8 Report of Stated Clerk
- A.9 Report of Terms of Call for 2016
- A.10 Report of Balance of Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders

Quorum was present (Appendix A.11). Assembly considered Amendment 16-D.1 (On amending G-2.0509) and 16-D.2 (On amending D-10.0401) proposed by the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly and introduced by GA Commissioner Sarah Sanderson-Doughty was disapproved by voice vote after debate. Guest candidate for ordination Grace Hammer was approved to have voice after point of order was raised by Assembly members.

Assembly turned to discussion of the presbytery-wide November study of 1 Corinthians 14:36-40 and Foundations for Presbyterian Polity F-3.0105 on mutual forbearance, noting the need to hold space for one another, to remain in community even as we see the world in differing ways – church, community or politics; "we never have enough clarity to not need God;" finding the balance between being prophetic and retaining humility. Moderator David Smook continued this theme as he preached the Word, "Building Up the Saints." David recalled the year of Assemblies that moved through healing, reconciliation, mission outreach and need for holding space for one another, closing with challenge to keep looking for the common good, to find new ideas, new possibilities to answer "What is God calling us to do and be in this time and place?" "We are responsible for who we are as a church, as presbytery...Be involved, forbear one another in giving time and energy... together as presbytery in this time and place."

After song, outgoing Council Moderator Jill Kitowski invited newly elected presbytery officers forward to the baptismal font and installed:

Presbytery Assembly Moderator Sarah Sanderson-Doughty (TE, First, Elkhart)  
Vice Moderator Richard Ryan (CRE, Elston)  
Council Moderator David Smook (TE, HR)

Jill affirmed their calling, asked the constitutional questions, charged them for the coming year as officers, and closed with prayer of blessings. The stoles of leadership were passed onto installed moderators. Assembly gave a standing ovation of thanks to Jill Kitowski for her years of leadership and collaboration.

Outgoing Synod commissioner Ann Bingaman and newly elected Synod commissioner Donna Enersen reported to the Assembly the work of the Synod including its change in relationship with Peabody Retirement Community, Inc., extension of Synod Transitional Executive Sara Dingman's contract, renewal of Synod's program for newly ordained pastors, and the leadership development committee's conversations about race, most recently reading the discussing Waking Up White by Debby Irving and presentation by an Indianapolis group carrying out new ideas for rejuvenating neighborhoods by building on their community assets instead of focusing on deficits. Members of First, Elkhart also spoke of the value of community reading and conversation about Waking Up White and a deeper understanding of the concept of white privilege and its inevitable impact.

After lunch, Moderator Sarah Sanderson-Doughty recognized the many volunteers of First, Elkhart who hosted the Assembly, and announced the appointment of commissioners charged to consult with First, Plymouth congregation as the Plymouth Team: Steve Quinlan (TE, Peru), David Lawrence (TE, West Lebanon), Michael Shurn (RE, Pulaski), Rebecca Kuiken (TE, Elkhart), and John Briggs (RE, Rochester).

Assembly also renewed commissions for three ruling elders of congregations with ministry limited to administering the Sacraments in those small congregations not otherwise able to locate a teaching elder for worship. Those commissioned were Jill Kitowski (La Porte), Carrie Munson (Deer Creek) and David Abbott (Westminster, South Bend) (Appendix C.3)

Nominating Committee recognized its nominees for leadership, and after no nominations from the floor, each was elected to a specific term of service:

- Steve Quinlan (TE, Peru), Vice Moderator of COM for 2017
- Aaron Ban (TE, Chesterton), Committee on Representation, Term of 2017
- Jeff Brown (CRE, Faith, Kokomo), Synod Commissioner, Term of 2019
- Jim Perkins (RE, Rossville), Personnel Ministry Team, Term of 2018
- Spencer Bower (RE, Bethany, Lafayette), Personnel Ministry Team, Term of 2018
- David Lawrence (TE, West Lebanon), Moderator of NMDT for 2017
- Kathy Michael (RE, Pleasant Hill, Frankfort), Stewardship Ministry Team, Term of 2017

Jan Sandos (RE, Rossville) was nominated by Council and elected as Nominating Committee Moderator for 2017.

Presbytery considered two more proposed amendments from 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly.

- Voters approved by division of the house (after voice vote) Amendment 16-B to amend G-3.0109 to reword "parity in committees" to be congregational members and teaching elders "in numbers as nearly equal as possible."
- Moderator Sarah Sanderson-Doughty turned over the gavel to Vice Moderator Rick Ryan and spoke against approval of Amendment 16-C Sections 1-8, recommending replacing term "teaching elder" and returning to "minister of Word and Sacrament." After debate, motion to approve amendment was defeated by show of hands.
- Report of Assembly to the Office of General Assembly is found in Appendix E.

CPM Moderator Chuck Compton introduced Grace Hammer as candidate for ordination to a call approved by COM with Flora Presbyterian Church (Appendix C.5). After preaching her sermon and being examined in depth on her Statement of Faith and in the areas of theology, church governance and worship and sacraments, the motion to approve her ordination was considered through debate and defeated in a vote of 23 yes, 26 no. Assembly approved a subsequent motion to refer her to the Commission on Preparation for Ministry for further preparation and training (and requiring her transfer of care as candidate from Presbytery of Eastern Tennessee), and in partnership with Commission on Ministry to limit her scope of temporary ministry with the Flora congregation. Through discussion, the Assembly tasked CPM and COM with establishing a plan of study and benchmarks for her to meet prior to further examination for ordination.

Outgoing moderator of Stewardship Ministry Team Alan Griffin (TE, Goshen) reviewed Council's approved budget for fiscal year 2016-17, noting Council's addition of \$45,000 from Transformation Funds to balance the budget during this transitional time (Appendix D.1); *per capita* for 2017 is \$39.76 per active member. Budget reflects reduction of past operating deficit by \$95,190 after reduction in staff and office space. Contributions from all churches of their full *per capita* allocation with current reported membership would balance the presbytery budget. He provided financial report of income and expenses for July and August 2016 (Appendix D.2). He noted that a narrative budget would be emailed to congregations along with an updated *per capita* brochure the following week.

To close the meeting, the Assembly shared the Lord's Supper at the table, sang songs and offered prayers of thanksgiving and petitions. To thank him for his service, David Smook was gifted with a print visualizing being connected on a journey, with the destination not yet clear during this time of change. Assembly was adjourned at 3 pm EST with Moderator's prayer charging the community to hold space for one another.

***Next Stated Assembly: Saturday, February 25, 2017, at First Presbyterian Church, 3401 N. Valparaiso St., Valparaiso, IN, with simultaneous LiveStreaming and Go-to-Meeting options at three other locations: First Presbyterian Church, Peru; First Presbyterian Church, Elkhart; and Bethany Presbyterian Church, Lafayette. Registration opens at 8 am CST in Valpo/9 am EST in the other locations. There will be brief business meeting and plenty of opportunity to hear the Word and equip congregations through a workshop provided by Rev. Richard Blackburn of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center on Healthy Pastor-Congregation Relations.***

Respectfully submitted,

Linda L. Long, Stated Clerk

Readers on behalf of Assembly:

Michael Lyle (Teaching Elder, Rossville)

Barbara Mayfield (Ruling Elder, Flora)

<b>CITY, CONGREGATION</b>	<b>PASTOR</b>			<b>Pastor Attended</b>	<b>RE &amp; ELDER COMMISSIONER</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Albion	Flora	Martha	RE 107	1		
Albion	Harkey	Beverly	RE 107	1		
Angola	Smith	Thomas E.	TE 101			
Auburn	<i>vacant</i>					
Avilla-Hopewell	<i>vacant</i>					
Brookston	<i>vacant</i>					
Burrows	<i>vacant</i>					
Chesterton	Ban	Aaron	TE 151	1	Andrew Teeple	
Columbia City-Troy	<i>vacant</i>					
Crawfordsville, Bethel Shannondale	Burks	Jody	RE 107			
Crawfordsville, Milligan	McVay	Jene	RE 107			
Crawfordsville, Wabash Ave.	Van Nuys	John	TE 101			
Crown Point, First	<i>vacant</i>					
Cutler	<i>vacant</i>					
Dayton	Schlesinger- Devlin	Justin	TE 101			
Deer Creek	Roselle	Harry	TE 101			
Delphi	<i>vacant</i>					
Dyer / Merrillville	Anderson	Paul	TE 108			
Earl Park	<i>vacant</i>					
Elkhart	Kuiken	Rebecca	TE 101	1		
Elkhart	Sanderson-Doughty	Sarah	TE 101	1	Mary Rasp	
Flora	<i>vacant</i>				Barb Mayfield	Joe Mayfield
						Grace Hammer
Fowler	<i>vacant</i>					
Frankfort, Pleasant Hill	Enersen	Donna	RE 107	1	Kathy Michael	
Garrett	<i>vacant</i>					
Geetingsville	<i>Montgomery, student*</i>	<i>Michael</i>	<i>648</i>			
Geetingsville	<i>Montgomery*</i>	<i>Tamika</i>	<i>158</i>			
Goshen	Griffin	Alan	TE 101	1	David Pepple	
Hammond	Pennanen*	Michael	RE and 158	1	Gary Mills	
Hebron	<i>vacant</i>					
Highland	Skaggs	Linda	TE 108, 299		Linda Mann	
Hobart	Carter	Jeff	TE 101			
Howe, Lima	Hughes	David	RE 107	1		
Hudson-Salem Center	Rutland	Maria	TE 108		Van Milleman	Jan Milleman
Huntington	<i>vacant</i>					
Kendallville	<i>vacant</i>					
Kentland	Meyer*	Wayne	158			
Kokomo, Faith	Brown	Jeff	RE 107		Linda Gillem	
Kouts	Hartzler	Roger	RE 107	1	Rich Kneifel	
Lafayette, Bethany	Bowers	Kevin	TE 101	1	Spencer Bower	
Lafayette, Central	Comstock	David	TE 105	1	Terry Phillips	
Lafayette, Central	Kenley	Barbara	TE 105	1		
Lafayette, Elston	Ryan	Rick	RE 107	1	Mark Wright	
LaGrange	Weaver*	Kenneth	158			

Lake Station	<i>vacant</i>		RE 107			
Lake Village	<i>vacant</i>					
LaPorte	Wicks	Sally	TE 101		Nancy Brinklow	
Lebanon	Thorn	Terri	TE 101			
Ligonier	Lersch	John	TE 101			
Logansport, Bethlehem	McBryde	Theda	TE 101	1	Pat Reef	
Lowell-Lake Prairie	<i>vacant</i>					
Merrillville/Dyer	<i>Anderson</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>TE 108</i>			
Michigan City	Kilbourne	Ericka Lyn	TE 101			
Mishawaka	Winckler	Travis	TE 151		Alan Camren	
Monticello	Ewing	Lyle	TE 105	1		
Munster	Worthington	Quincy	TE 101			
Ogden Dunes	Sewdin	Lloyd	TE 101			
Oxford	<i>Rutledge*</i>		<i>student</i>			
Peru	Quinlan	Stephen	TE 101	1		
Pierceton	<i>vacant</i>				Andrew Ott	
Plymouth	<i>vacant</i>					
Portage	Reyna	Tim	RE 107			
Pulaski	<i>vacant</i>					
Rensselaer	Cover	Jeff	TE 101	1	Kathy O'Neall	
Rochester	Kleymann	William	TE 101		Joseph Veger	
Rockfield	<i>vacant</i>					
Rossville	Lyle	Michael	TE 101	1		
Royal Center	<i>vacant</i>					
Schererville	<i>vacant</i>					
Schneider	<i>vacant</i>					
South Bend, First	Bishop	Sarah	TE 103	excused		
South Bend, First	Kelso	Adelia (Dedie)	TE 101			
South Bend, Memorial	<i>vacant</i>					
South Bend, Sunnyside	Arner	Susan	TE 103	1	Richard Fair	Taylor Hall
South Bend, Sunnyside	Miller	James B.	TE 101			
South Bend, Sunnyside	Wirt	Barbara	RE 107			
South Bend, Westminster	<i>vacant</i>				David Abbott	
Union Mills	<i>vacant</i>					
Valparaiso	Mueller	Mark	TE 101	excused	Monica Conrad	
	Mueller	Toby	TE 108	1	Fred Grosick	
Wabash	Cornell	Jonathan	TE 101			
Walkerton	<i>vacant</i>					
West Lafayette, Korean	Kim	Richard	TE 101			
West Lebanon, Trinity	Lawrence	David	TE 101	1		
Williamsport- Marshfield	<i>vacant</i>					
Winamac	Kleymann	Ruby	TE 108	1		
Winfield, Christ	<i>Reyna</i>	<i>Tim</i>	RE 107			
Wolcott	McFee	Anella	RE 107			
<i>Teaching Elders, other</i>	Arner	Neil	TE 644			
	Babovec	Sue	TE 701			

	Becker	Nancy	TE 299, 109, PA	1	
	Bernauer	Susan Guyer Birch	TE 299		
	Blunk	Hank	TE 299		
	Braden	Marge Mason	TE 797	1	
	Braden	Steve	TE 299	1	
	Burris	Kenneth A.	TE 299		
	Campbell	James	TE 299		
	Campbell	E. Allen	TE 299		
	Compton	Charles	TE 299	1	
	Compton	Howard	TE 299		
	Cornell	Amy	TE 791, PA		
	Coulter	Scott	TE 299		
	Craig	Richard	TE 299		
	Davis	Walter K.	TE 299		
	Dandurand	Marvin	TE 701		
	Deardoff	Jeff	TE 299		
	DeMaris	Richard E.	TE 644		
	Detamore	David L.	TE 299	1	
	Dunkelberger	Michael	TE 299		
	Emrich	William O.	TE 299		
	Everett	John	TE 299	1	Kay Everett
	Ewing	Ken	TE 299		
	Fassett	Leroy	TE 299		
	Fry	D. Bruce	TE 797		
	Gasser	Ellis K.	TE 299		
	Gibbs	David	TE 797		
	Gilbert	John D.	TE 299		
	Gilbert	Sally	TE 299		
	Gourdine	Rudolph	TE 299		
	Gready	Frank	TE 299		
	Green	Ronald D.	TE 299		
	Haworth	William	TE 791		
	Herron	David	TE 299		
	Hess	John E.	TE 299		
	Johnson	Lester J.	TE 797		
	Kessler	Stanley	TE 299, 109	1	
	Kilmer	Mark	TE 791, 644		
	Kuhs	Patricia	TE 299		
	Landon	Michael	TE 797		
	Leach	Robert	TE 797		
	Lewis	Jennifer	TE 302	1	
	Lewis	H. Daniel	TE 791	excused	
	Lindberg	Catherine	TE 565		
	Marzouk	Safwat	TE 644		
	McBride	Terry	TE 501	1	
	McDonald	Carol	TE 299		
	Mildenberg	AJ	TE 797		

	Moran	Catherine	TE 797	1		
	Morrison	Mark	TE 299			
	Mullin	Steven	TE 299			
	Myers	Diane Karay	TE 299			
	Myhre	Paul	TE 643			
	Nead	Donald	TE 299			
	Neely	Don	TE 299			
	Parkinson	Anna	TE 797	1		
	Penney Bade	Laura	TE 797, PA			
	Rhodes	Wayne	TE 299, 109			
	Ritchie	John	TE 797			
	Roberts	Will	TE 797			
	Robertson	Stuart	TE 299 644			
	Rogers	Richard	TE 299, 109			
	Rupe	Lucy	TE 299			
	Sandos	Louis	TE 299	1		
	Seidler Gibbs	Gretchen	TE 797			
	Smith	David	TE 299			
	Smith	Phillip	TE 299			
	Smith	Ralph G	TE 299			
	Smith-Wood	Marcia L.	TE 791	1		
	Smook	David	TE 299	1		
	Stults	C. Richard	TE 299			
	Tobin	Bobbi	TE 299			
	Truman	H. Jordan	TE 797			
	Volkers	Jack	TE 299			
	Whitfield	Ben	TE 299			
	Williams	H. Ann Smith	TE 299	1		
	Williams	Christina Starce	TE 797			
	Wilson	Stanley	TE 299			
	Wimberly	W. William II	TE 299			
	Wood	David	TE 797	1		
	Young-Brust	Jessica	TE 797			
<b>VOTING RULNG ELDERS</b>						
SYNOD COMMISSIONER	Bingaman	Ann	RE	1		
SYNOD COMMISSIONER	<i>Enersen</i>	<i>Donna</i>	<i>CRE</i>			
222nd GA	Munson	Mike	RE			
COUNCIL, 222nd GA	Carlson	Sandy	RE			
COUNCIL	Limbach	Marilou	RE	1		
COUNCIL	Long	Linda	RE	1		
COUNCIL	Munson	Carrie	RE	1		
COUNCIL	Sandos	Jan	RE	1		
COUNCIL MODERATOR	Kitowski	Jill	RE	1		
<b>NON-VOTING</b>						
<b>CORRESPONDING</b>						
Financial Consultant, WWV	Herzog	Eric				1
SOLT Transitional Exec	Dingman	Sara				