

Summary of Major Actions

Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

The Wilf Family Center,

University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital, Minneapolis, MN

Documents for this meeting are at <http://ptcaweb.org/>. Page numbers below from the posted packet.

Presbytery moderator Rocky Rockenstein called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and opened the meeting in prayer. The Presbytery gathered in the Wilf Family Center Auditorium at the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital (where our newly installed moderator serves as a chaplain). We were



warmly welcomed at the beginning of the meeting by the Rev. Michael Doane, chaplain, clinical pastoral education director, and system director for spiritual health services for the Fairview-University of Minnesota Health Services.

The meeting itself was shaped both by its designation as the Presbytery's annual meeting, marked especially by the election and installation of new Presbytery officers, and by the theme we have followed this year, "Nurturing thoughtful expressions of God's mission in the world..." With storytelling at the heart of the Christian faith, we invited congregations, as part of this meeting, to share a "God sighting": an example of God's expressions of mission in the world through our congregations.

The Stories We Told and Heard...

...were compelling, thoughtful, and invited all of us into the heart of our mission as Presbyterian congregations rooted in the communities we serve:

- **Buffalo Presbyterian Church, Buffalo, MN** (Mike Quady presenting) shared its story, in words and video, of how an intentional partnership with the local arts community has brought seniors into fellowship with each other, the church, and their own (often ignored or forgotten) creative gifts.
- **Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church, Chaska, MN** (Dean Seal, presenting) shared its story of the impact of its involvement in Families Moving Forward. Four times a year, for a week each time, the church welcomes families that are homeless to eat and sleep in the church. We heard about the family who found housing and stability through this program...and the deep need for affordable housing in our area.
- **Plymouth Presbyterian Church, Plymouth, MN** (Jeff Foels, presenting) shared its story of a new partnership with Bloom Early Learning, whose mission is to break the cycle of poverty through nurturing care and high-quality early learning programs. “Imagination and vision,” Jeff said, “turns the box of the church building into a way of living our mission, caring for the least of these, as we are all called to do.”
- **New Life Presbyterian Church, Roseville, MN** (Daley Tubbs, presenting) shared its story of challenging a city government ruling that sought to prevent it from offering temporary shelter to homeless persons—and in building partnerships with neighbors and other congregations, changed hearts, minds, and public policy, all in the name of mission.
- **Committee for Preparation of Ministry, PTCA** (Luke Roske-Metcalf, presenting) shared its story, and commitment, to the building of relationships as part of its (successful) strategy to do its assigned work by honoring the people with whom it was doing it, both on the committee and the candidates themselves.
- **Andrew Riverside Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN** (Kathy Smith, presenting) shared its story, in words and video, of how thinking beyond itself, and in partnership with neighborhood organizations (and other worshiping communities), can expand what we usually think can happen “at church.”
- **The Presbyterian Church of LeSueur, LeSueur, MN** (Sara Hein, presenting) shared its story of faithfulness in ministry through the

decades, and its faithfulness in discerning when its ministry was coming to an close.

- **First Presbyterian Church, Saint Croix Falls, WI** (David Maghakian, Kathy Lucken, Kurt Tebben, presenting) shared its story of creatively structuring and practicing ministry despite budget limitations, guided by this vision: “We go nowhere by accident. Wherever we go, God has sent us. Wherever we are, God has placed us there. God who lives within us has something to accomplish through us.”
- **Liberty Community Church, Minneapolis, MN** (Alika Galloway, presenting) shared its story of a ministry of healing and wholeness alongside those whom society had abused and largely forgotten: a ministry of pastoral care and public witness, both immediate and long-term, in the face of difficult circumstances and deep trauma.

These stories are being collected and will be published as a reminder of the ministries to which we have been called and the ways by which we can support and encourage each other in these ministries.

Practicing Healthy Governance: Election/Installation of New Officers: Reports from Officers and the BoT, PLT, and Nominations...

1. The Rev. **Anna Kendig**, chaplain at the University of Minnesota Masonic Children’s Hospital, was elected and installed as moderator of the Presbytery for 2019-2020. In her address to Presbytery, she raised up themes of transformation and interconnection, and how together, we might think and act beyond the pain and challenge of change and transformation. **Jean Emmons**, ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, MN, was elected and installed as vice-

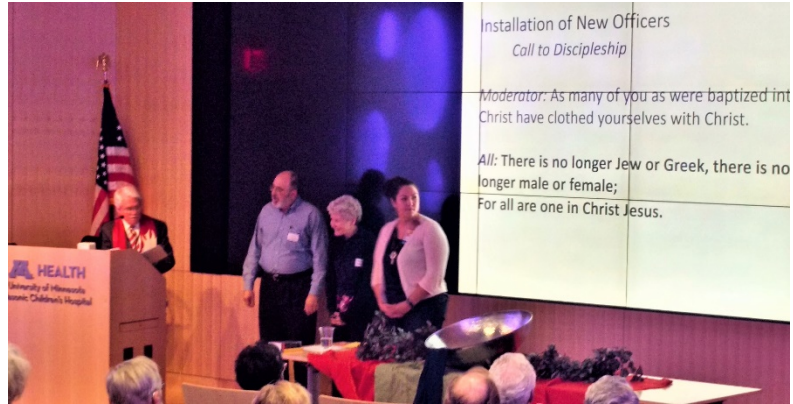


moderator. The Rev. **Steve Robertson** was re-elected and installed as treasurer of the Presbytery.

2. In his final address to Presbytery, outgoing moderator Walter “Rocky” Rockenstein II summarized

findings from the **Presbytery Leadership Team’s intentional meetings with sessions of PTCA congregations** (report, pages 10-13). His oral report offered impressions and some initial next steps.

3. In his final report to Presbytery, outgoing **Presbytery Leadership Team** chair the Rev. T.J. Parlette updated the Presbytery on the continuing efforts of the PLT to re-shape its structure and work (report, p. 13). He also announced the PLT’s commitment to an Institutional Assessment of the Presbytery for Inclusivity and Equity, to be initiated this fall with the support of the Office of Diversity and Reconciliation in the Presbyterian Mission Agency.
4. The Rev. **Brian Entz**, PTCA **commissioner to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies**, reported on the recently-held meeting of the Synod. The Synod’s own summary can be found [here](#).
5. The Rev. Steve Robertson offered a **Treasurer’s report**, showing strong per capita payments (with clear thanks given to our congregations), and income and expenses well within anticipated ranges after four months. That report, which was a handout at the meeting in order to be up-to-date, can be found [on the PTCA webpage](#).
6. The **Board of Trustees** reported the election of Leigh Niebuhr, principal and senior portfolio manager at Compass Capital in Minneapolis, MN, as the investment manager for the Presbytery. (report, page 17-18)
7. In addition to the election of officers, we also **elected new committee members** proposed by the **Nominating Committee** (p. 21) and were encouraged to complete their new Spiritual Gifts form.



8. Written reports were received from **Executive Presbyter** the Rev. Jeffrey Japinga (pages 14-16), Barbara Lutter, **stated clerk** (pages 24-26), and the **Personnel Committee** (pages 9-10).

Supporting Congregations...

1. The Committee on Congregational Vitality provided one-paragraph impact summaries of the ministries carried out with the nearly \$100,000 in **2018 Congregational Development** grants (pages 18-19). The Committee also said that 2019 grants will be announced in mid-June.

Equipping Leaders...

1. Self-Development of People 2018 grant recipient Ms. Ladan Yosef of Defend Glendale and Public Housing Coalition, spoke to Presbytery about the commitment of that organization to protect and promote public housing, especially in the City of Minneapolis. SDOP chair the Rev. H. David Stewart announced that just over \$10,000 will be available for the 2019 SDOP grant and invited members of Presbytery to contact him with nominees or for more information.
2. The Rev. Theresa Roberts was recognized as she move to the status of honorably retired. (report, page 20-21)
3. A written-report was received from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (pages 6-9).

Worship...

Worship included the commissioning of 23 high-school young people who will attend this Summer's [Presbyterian Youth Triennium](#), sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Amy Berge, music leader at Aldrich Church, a PTCA congregation in south Minneapolis, provided music leadership.

**UPCOMING STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING:
Tuesday, September 10, 2019 from 2:00 – 6:00pm
at Associated Church of Owatonna,
800 Havana Road, Owatonna, MN**

More details will be available over the summer.