

**PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA  
REGULAR STATED MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2011  
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AUSTIN, MINNESOTA**

**Our Vision:** *“We fearlessly follow the Holy Spirit into a Changing World.”*

**Our Guidelines:**

- *Worship God in Christ, and recognize each other’s humanity*
- *Consistently acknowledge, confess, lament and celebrate*
- *Nurture relationships and risk trust*

The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area met in regular stated meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2011, in the sanctuary of Westminster Presbyterian Church, 802 Fourth Street, SW, Austin, Minnesota. The meeting was preceded, at 3:00 p.m., by a session for orientation for Ruling and Teaching Elders attending for the first time, presented by Stated Clerk, Nancy Gritman. Registration and fellowship began at 3:30 p.m.

At 4:04 p.m., Moderator, The Rev. Cindy Ray called the meeting to order with prayer. The Rev. Andrew Lindahl led the presbyters in the Call to Worship, followed by two verses of the hymn, “Holy, Holy, Holy”.

The roll was formed by the stated clerk from the registration forms; a quorum was declared, there being three teaching elders, and three ruling elders from three different churches present. The minutes of the regular stated meeting of July 12, 2011, were approved as distributed. The docket was approved as amended.

**PRESBYTERY ROLL**

**TEACHING ELDERS**

	John W. Ackerman (HR)
	Larry Alderink (HR)
	Brenda K. Alexander
	Todd R. Allen
	Roger R. Anderson (HR)
X	Stephanie Anthony
	Bebe L. Baldwin (HR)
	James S. Barge (HR)
	Erwin C. Barron
	Frederick J. Beebe (HR)
	Joan B. Beebe (HR)
	Louise L. Bender
	Lindsay Louise Biddle
	Robert R. Boehlke (HR)
X	James B. Brasel (HR)
	John N. Bratt (HR)
	Robert Brightman (HR)
	Bruce Brooks
	David R. Bruneau (HR)
	Richard D. Buller
	John W. Butt (HR)
	John R. Buzza (HR)
	Kenneth B. Byerly (HR)

	April M. Davis Campbell
	Paul E. Capetz
	Edna Mae Carlson (HR)
	Julia A. Carlson
	J. Scott Cartwright
X	William R. Chadwick
X	Dwight Chamberlain (HR)
	Carl A. Christensen (HR)
	Julia O. Christensen
X	Walter Chuquimia
	Brent B. Coffin
	David D Colby
	Katherine Estes Collins
	James Cook (HR)
	Calvin L. Cooper (HR)
	Neil Craigan
	Donald E. Crannell (HR)
	Karin Craven
	John F. Crosby
	Anita M. Cummings (HR)
X	John H. G. Curtiss
	Robert T. Cuthill (HR)
	Jean Daugherty (HR)

	Richard A. Davis
X	William Davnie
	William Day
	Deborah S. DeMeester
	Robert W. Dickson (HR)
	Calvin W. Didier (HR)
	Kristen C. DiNardo
	Mary Carolyn Dorfman (HR)
	Richard G. Douse (HR)
	Denise Dunbar-Perkins
X	Gary L. Elg
	James G. Ellison (HR)
	Leah D. Elrod
	Bruce D. Ervin
	Thomas Ewald
	Roger D. Ezell (HR)
	C. Ray Fenton (HR)
	Rebecca Fletcher
	Lucy A. Forster-Smith
	Thomas W. Forster-Smith
	Herbert Frey
X	Meghan K. Gage-Finn
	Alika P. Galloway
	Jon W. Galloway
	Ralph E. Galloway
X	Julie GebbenGreen
X	Philip GebbenGreen
	Don Genereux
	John W. Goertz
	Jonathan B. Good
	Peggy B. Good
	Kimberly A. Goodman
	Conrad B. Goodwin (HR)
X	Daniel Graham (HR)
	Sandra S. Gray (HR)
	Jean E. Greenwood
	O. Carl Grosse
	Sheila C. Gustafson (HR)
X	Robert W. Hamilton
X	Donald A. Hanna
	Gary L. Hanson
	F. Nile Harper (HR)
	Robert F. Hart (HR)
X	Elizabeth Hart-Andersen
X	Timothy D. Hart-Andersen
	LeRoy Haynes (HR)
	Richard H. Headen (HR)
	Marion E. Hedberg (HR)
	Joshua D. Heikkila
	Timothy W. Held
	Elizabeth D. Heller (HR)
	Leta J. Herrington
	Wayne A. Herstad (HR)
	Larry L. Hickle (HR)
	Gary Hickok (HR)
	Bruce K. Hillyer
X	T. Ewen Holmes
	Kristine M. Holmgren (HR)
	David H. Hopper (HR)

	Robert K. Hudnut (HR)
	Dayton D. Hultgren (HR)
	Suzan K. Ireland
	R. Alan James (HR)
	Vaughn R. Jefferson, Jr.
	Bernard E. Johnson (HR)
	Daniel W. Johnson (HR)
X	Matthew Johnson
	Paul M. Johnson
	Timothy M. Johnson
X	Michael Ngeru Kamau
	Barbara Anne Keely
X	Karen Kennerly (HR)
	Deborah E. Kielsmeier
X	Jin S. Kim
	Joo Kim
	Judith A. Kim (HR)
	Stanley S. Kim
	Douglas W. King (HR)
	Kim Smith King
	Kenneth L. Kleidon (HR)
	C. Richard Knowles (HR)
	Stephen B. Knudson
	Robert A. Koenig (HR)
	Amy E. Kosari
X	Newell D. Krogmann (HR)
	Theresa Latini
	Grace Lee
X	Joann Lee
	John Lee
	Jong Hyeong Lee
	Mark Lee
	Mary J. Leisman (HR)
	David P. Lenz
	Harry J. Lichy, Jr. (HR)
X	David M. Liddle (HR)
	JoonHyuk Lim
X	Andrew M. Lindahl
	John T. Lindquist
	Deborah D. Lind-Schmitz
	Ethel Kay Livingston (HR)
X	William A. Livingston (HR)
	Eun-hyey Park Lok
	Robert G. Long (HR)
	Linda Loving (HR)
	Robert E. Lucas (HR)
	Richard A. Lundy (HR)
X	Charles (Rick) MacArthur
	John M. MacFarlane (HR)
X	Kathleen D. Macosko
X	David M. Maghakian
X	Harry H. Maghakian (HR)
	Max R. Maguire (HR)
	Robert C. Malcolm (HR)
	Julie A. Mall
	Elisabeth Jane Marlow
X	L. Edwin Martin (HR)
X	Paul E. Martin
X	Stanley Martin

	Susan J. Marvin
	Richard P. Massaro (HR)
	Margaret M. McCray
	Harry Kenneth McCullen
	Joan I. McKenzie
	Mary B. McMillan (HR)
	Mary McNamara
	Linda M. Mell (HR)
	Katherine S. Michael
	Donald S. Milloy (HR)
	W. Douglas Mitchell
	Beverly Modlin
X	Paul H. Moore
	Stephen M. Muhia
	David Mwihia
	Kook Jin Nam (HR)
	Charles H. Nelson (HR)
	Julie E. Neraas
	Dwight D. Netzer
	Margaret G. Newswanger
	Richard Newswanger
X	Michael E. Olmsted
	Anneleise Opitz (HR)
	Eugene H. Orr
	Kayton R. Palmer (HR)
	Ji Yong Park
	Sung Chul Park (HR)
X	Thomas J. Parlette
	Clint Patterson
	Donald D. Patterson
	JoAnn E. Phenow
	Richard P. Phenow
	Glenn E. Polzine (HR)
X	Douglas R. Potter (HR)
	Gwin Pratt
X	Elizabeth J. Raitt (HR)
X	Cynthia L. Ray
	Judith S. Ray (HR)
	Carol L. Reed
X	Kenneth J. Ribe
	Steven Rice
	Tammy J. Rider
	Roger J. Ring
	Judith C. Ritchie
	Gregory H. Ritter
	Gale W. Robb
	Teresa Roberts
	Stephen Robertson
	Theresa M. Roos
	Kara Root
	Daniel Rotach
	Jay P. Rowland
	H. Lyle Rozeboom (HR)
X	Chaz Ruark
X	Janet Ruark
	Jay C. Rusthoven (HR)
	James F. Sanders
	Paula Sanders
	Jack B. Schaffer (HR)

	Lyndon L. Schendel (HR)
	Jamie Lynn Schultz
	Dean J. Seal
	John B. Severson (HR)
	Carol Shaffer
	James D. Shannon (HR)
	Janet B. Shannon
	David S. Shields (HR)
	John H. Sinclair (HR)
	Gene R. Sipprell
	Matthew Skinner
	Kathryn C. Smith
	M. Joy Smith
X	Neal R. Solomonson
	Angella Pak Son
	Scott O. Stapleton
	David J. Stark
	Melvin J. Steinbron (HR)
	Darlene A. Stensby (HR)
	Gordon C. Stewart (HR)
X	H. David Stewart
	Merle E. Strohbehn (HR)
	Annika Lister Stroope
X	Charles A. Talcott
X	Helen Jo Taliaferro
	H. Allan Talley (HR)
	Jack M. Terry (HR)
X	Margaret J. Thomas (HR)
	Byron T. Thompson (HR)
	L. Douglas Throckmorton (HR)
	Gary Titusdahl
	George K. Tjaden (HR)
	Townsend-Anderson, Richard
	Paul C. Truran (HR)
	Paul B.K. Tshihamba
	Umo Udo
	David Van Dyke
	John P. Ward
	H. G. Wardlaw, Jr.
	Lisa A. P. Watson
	Thomas K. Watson
	Richard D. Weis
	John F. Westfall (HR)
	Susan E. Whiteman
	David L. Williamson (HR)
	Robert E. Willis (HR)
	Ronald D. Wilson
	Zachary O. Wilson
	Aron W. Wilterding (HR)
	Peter T. Wyckoff (HR)
	William C. Yeager (HR)
	Byung Chun Yoo (HR)
	James York
	J. William Young
	Medhat Yowkem
	<b>COMM. LAY PASTORS</b>
	Lowell Busman
	Simon Tot Dhol
	Mauro Souza

## **RULING ELDERS**

Albert Lea, First (4)  
Apple Valley, Spirit of Life (2)  
Austin, Westminster (4)  
Baldwin, First (2)  
Belle Plaine, First (2)  
Bloomington, Oak Grove (4)  
Brooklyn Center, Korean (3)  
Buffalo, Buffalo (2)  
Burnsville, Church /Apostles (2)  
Chaska, Shepherd of the Hill (2)  
Claremont, First (2)  
Columbia Hgts, Church of All Nations (2)  
Coon Rapids, Church/Master (2)  
Eden Prairie, Eden Prairie (2)  
Edina, Christ (13)  
Ellsworth, First (2)  
Farmington, First (2)  
Golden Valley, Valley Com (3)  
Hager City, Laurel (2)  
Hastings, First (2)  
Hayfield, First (2)  
Howard Lake, First (2)  
Hudson, First (2)  
Kasson, First (2)  
LeRoy, First (2)  
LeSueur, LeSueur (2)  
Long Lake, Calvin (2)  
Maple Plain, First (2)

### **Minneapolis:**

Aldrich Avenue (2)  
Andrew-Riverside (2)  
Bryn Mawr (2)  
Grace-Trinity (2)  
Knox (2)  
Kwanzaa Community (3)  
Lake Nokomis (2)  
Stadium Village (2)  
Westminster (9)  
Minnetonka, Faith (4)  
North St. Paul, North (2)  
Oronoco, Oronoco (2)  
Owatonna, Associated (2)  
Pine City, First (2)  
Plainview, Community (2)  
Plymouth, Plymouth (2)  
Red Wing, First (2)  
Richfield, Hope (5)  
Rochester, Community (2)  
Rochester, First (4)  
Rockford, United (2)  
Roseville, North Como (2)  
St. Croix Falls, First (2)  
St. Louis Park, Peace (2)

### **St. Paul:**

Arlington Hills (2)  
Central (2)  
Cherokee Park United (2)  
Dayton Avenue (2)  
Edgcumbe (3)  
Knox (2)  
Macalester Plymouth (4)  
Randolph Heights (2)  
The House of Hope (6)  
Shakopee, First (2)  
Shoreview, Church/Way (3)

Margaret Blue

Priscilla Pearson, Rod Myers, Jim Stanko

Florian Gutzmer  
Pam von Gohren

David Herum

Terry Goslinga

Grant Tiefenbruck  
Brittney Dahlen

Tom Aitchison, Maggie Wooley

Robert Sutherland, Marlys C. Sutherland

Suzanne Snyder

Norm Petrik, Sue Goodspeed  
Margaret Taylor  
Kitty Martin

Lance Sorenson  
Jerry Ganfield

Walter Christison, John Zabel  
Judy Maul  
Betty Beck

Elizabeth Remfert

Ann Olson, Manley Olson

Terry Kubista

Barbara Lutter

Brian Manwarren

Ward Sessing

South St. Paul, First (4)  
Stillwater, First (4)  
Wayzata, St. Luke (4)  
White Bear Lake, First (2)  
Woodbury, Trinity (2)

Rochelle LeTourneau  
Jeffrey Foels  
Rita Gehrenbeck, Janet Youel

#### **ELDER MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY**

Karen Gasche, Westminster, Minneapolis, MN  
Vincent Gin, First, Hudson, WI  
Nancy Grittmann, Stated Clerk, Buffalo Presbyterian, Buffalo, MN  
John Ivers, Church of the Way, Shoreview, MN  
Marian Michael, Valley, Golden Valley, MN  
Walter Rockenstein, Westminster, Minneapolis, MN

#### **ELDER OBSERVERS**

Ron Grittmann, Buffalo, Buffalo, MN

#### **CANDIDATES/INQUIRERS**

Kerri Allen, Dayton Ave., St. Paul, MN  
Megan Cochran, Westminster, Minneapolis, MN

#### **CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

None

#### **VISITORS/OBSERVERS**

Risa Anderson, Presbytery Staff  
Jae Cho, CAN, Columbia Heights, MN  
Tessa Dahlen, First, Hayfield, MN  
Tristin Dahlen, First, Hayfield, MN  
Jacob Dahlen, First, Hayfield, MN  
Delores Herum, First, Ellsworth, WI  
Stephen Keizer, Presbyterian Foundation  
Janet Lindahl, Westminster, Austin, MN  
Cheryl Martin, (Husband retired teaching elder)  
Janet Martin, Peace, St. Louis Park, MN  
Laura Newby, CAN, Columbia Heights, MN  
Martha Rockenstein, POINT  
Dennis Sanders, Presbytery Staff

Teaching elders and ruling elders attending for the first time were invited to be introduced.

Andy Lindahl, host pastor, welcomed the presbyters to Westminster Church, sharing some of the history of the church. A third verse of the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy" was sung.

The Rev. Elizabeth Raitt shared a proclamation of her faith which she has experienced serving on the Nominating Committee. A unison prayer followed, and the peace of Christ was passed among the presbyters.

#### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**Executive Presbyter, Chaz Ruark:**

Chaz offered a word of acknowledgement of The Rev. Robert Chalmers and The Rev. Myra Carroll-Pezzella who have passed away recently. Chaz thanked pastors who came to the services.

Chaz asked for continued prayers for members who have experienced recent accidents or illnesses: Stephen Knudsen, John Lindquist.

The recent trip to Ghana, shared with the members of Presbyterian Church of The Way, Shoreview, MN, was wonderful, will be writing an article on website. Janet & Chaz are expecting first grandchild in December.

Chaz brought up the Fellowship of Presbyterians meeting that was held on August 26. He has written a blog for the website. Interested persons are referred to Fellowship-Pres. Website. He understands it as an issue of conscience. He and council want to work with those churches who are struggling with a decision of whether or not to maintain relations with the denomination. Chaz urges all to remain as one as we are all stronger if we are together in our diversity.

**Moderator, Cindy Ray:**

The worship for the next three Presbytery meetings will emphasize our 3 guidelines. Worship committee will be planning the worship for the next 3 meetings. Cindy shared a story that has shaped her ministry which centered on her experiences in Romania.

**Treasurer, Ed Martin:**

Ed reminded presbyters that the ancient title was ancient per capita serving to provide for the necessities of the temple.

Two thirds of the way through the year and the Presbytery's financial position is generally running on track. Several more congregations have made some payment on their Per-Capita apportionment. **Thank you!**

However, this still puts our receipts just slightly below expected amounts: 62% of budget, or \$455.3K. There are still nine (9) congregations who have paid nothing. Even more, a number of churches have paid some but have yet to pay the full amount due. I want to encourage elders and pastors to check with their treasurers to see if there is some problem, and to encourage payment. The Per-Capita is what the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly have to operate. Presbyteries are required to submit the total amount due to Synod and GA even though the individual churches contribute nothing. Likewise a shortfall in our anticipated income affects the operational ability of our Presbytery itself.

*(I will have the current list of congregations and where they are in pay-up with me if you wish to check.)*

General Mission giving is behind anticipated receipts Year-to-date, or 56.5%. These are pledged funds by the churches themselves. Hopefully, and traditionally, many congregations will catch up in this category by the end of the year. These are the funds the Presbytery uses to do its mission work within our area. Again, elders and pastors are asked to monitor this in your churches to be sure pledged dollars are submitted.

The saving fact, however, is that expenses are in a positive position because a number of committees are not utilizing all their budgets, 61% of budget, giving the Presbytery a surplus of \$2,800.

The budget task force is meeting currently, and all committees have been asked for their requests for next year's budget. If that figure has not been submitted please do so immediately so the task force can finalize their work and Presbytery Council can recommend a budget to the whole Presbytery in November.

Steve Keiser, representing The Presbyterian Foundation, gave a short presentation, sharing information around a September 27 forum at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Bloomington for financial officers of congregations. There is no cost, dinner will be provided. An email notification will be sent to all churches.

### **Report of Council: Vince Gin**

Council had a retreat in August and Vince shared the discussions from the retreat: (1) Reflections on The Fellowship of Presbyterians meeting in August, in Minneapolis; (2) Council's response; Plans are to publish this response on the website, and to direct the executive presbyter to speak with as many pastors as possible who might have concerns and questions around this issue.

Council **VOTED** to encourage the committee searching for land for the Chain of Lakes New Church Development to continue their search, after learning that the bank had refused the offer made on a particular piece of land of which they wanted to buy only a parcel. The bank wants a higher price and to sell the entire parcel as one.

Council chair Vince Gin then presented for first reading the following bylaws amendment:

ARTICLE V, MEETINGS, paragraph 2

Special meetings may be called ~~in accordance with the Book of Order, Form of Government G—11.0201~~ *by the moderator, at the request, or with the concurrence, of two teaching elders and two ruling elders, the ruling elders being of different churches. Should the moderator be unable to act, the stated clerk shall, under the same conditions, issue the call. If both moderator and stated clerk are unable to act, any three teaching elders and three ruling elders, the ruling elders being of different churches, may call a special meeting. The synod may direct the presbytery to convene a special meeting for the transaction of designated business. Notice of a special meeting shall be sent not less than ten days in advance to each teaching elder and to the session of every church. The notice shall set out the purpose of the meeting, and no other business than that listed in the notice shall be transacted.*

Council presents the following motion on behalf of the Stated Clerk and office staff:

*“The Stated Clerk and the office staff are authorized to make conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Presbytery in connection with the new Form of Government.” (The above motion would require a majority vote.)*

Presbytery **VOTED** to approve.

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

#### **CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM: John Ivers**

The proposal for property purchase for the Chain of Lakes NCD has been turned down by the sellers. The proposal was for a portion of a partially developed parcel and the seller has declined to sub divide the parcel and in addition has raised the price substantially. The property task force is continuing the search and will investigate suitable property in the same general price range.

**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY: Bill Davnie**

**Annual Consultations:**

The committee held annual consultations as specified in the Form of Government (G-14.0421) *Book of Order 2009-2011*, with the following inquirers, who have filed their annual written reports with the Presbytery as required by the Presbytery's manual. The committee **VOTED** to continue them on the rolls.

NAME	STATUS	CHURCH NAME, CITY & STATE
Melanie Kim	Inquirer	Plymouth, Plymouth, MN
Robert Lundberg	Candidate	Christ, Edina, MN
Tara Parrish	Inquirer	Kwanzaa, Minneapolis, MN

**Transfer of Candidacy**

The Committee voted to approve the transfer of Dana Caraway, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos, to the care of Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. Ms. Caraway will transfer her local church membership to a congregation within the bounds of PTCA.

**Remove from Rolls: Sheila Smith**

The committee **VOTED** to remove the name of Sheila Smith, Candidate, Stillwater Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, MN, from the Roll of Candidates, at her own written request.

**Remove from Rolls: Michael Gyura**

The committee **VOTED** to remove the name of Michael Gyura, First Church Rochester, MN, from the Roll of Candidates, at his own written request.

***RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESBYTERY***

**Enroll as a Candidate: Megan Cochran**

**Megan Cochran**, who is on the roll of Inquirers of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, having satisfactorily demonstrated adequate promise for ministry by presenting the statements specified in the Presbytery's policy, met with the session of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN, and with the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry, is presented to the Presbytery to be examined "with respect to her Christian faith, forms of Christian service undertaken and motives for seeking the ministry," and to be received as a candidate for the ministry of the Word and Sacrament. (See Attachment B)

The committee **recommends** that **Megan Cochran** be enrolled as a candidate for the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament and that the moderator ask her the questions specified in the Presbytery's policy.

Presbytery **VOTED** to enroll Megan Cochran, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN, as a Candidate for ministry as Teaching Elder.

**Approve for Ordination: Kerri Allen**

**Kerri Allen**, a candidate, certified ready to receive a call, has met all requirements for ordination and is currently serving at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Illinois through their Lilly Endowment Residency Program.

The Committee **recommends** that, pending examination by the Presbytery of Chicago on Sept. 20, Kerri Allen be ordained to the ministry of teaching elder. If the way be clear, such ordination shall take place on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2011 at Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, St. Paul. The Commission shall consist of:

Rev. David Stewart, Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Linda Loving, member at large

Ruling Elder, Karen Finney, Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church  
Ruling Elder, Janet Engeswick of Central Presbyterian Church  
Ruling Elder, Vince Thomas, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Pending a request and notice of a satisfactory examination from the Presbytery of Chicago, Presbytery **VOTED** to approve Candidate Kerri Allen, to be ordained to the ministry of Teaching Elder, at Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church on Saturday, October 8, 2011. Kerri presented her statement of faith (Attachment A). Presbytery elected the following administrative commission for the service of ordination:

The Rev. David Stewart, Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church  
The Rev. Linda Loving, member at large  
Ruling Elder Karen Finney, Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church  
Ruling Elder Janet Engeswick, Central Presbyterian Church  
Ruling Elder Vince Thomas, Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Substitution motion: we examine as prepared for ordination, seconded. The question, Will this become the main motion, was defeated.

The original motion then remained the main motion. Presbytery **VOTED** to ordain Kerri and elect the administrative commission as named above.

#### Attachment A

Kerri Allen  
Statement of Faith

I believe in one, triune God: Creator, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe that God is the creator of all things, which God called good. In spite of being part of God's good creation, humans chose a path of sin, moving away from the God who initiates relationship, and towards destruction of self and others. Through God's grace God calls us back into loving relationship, and Christians are called to respond to this grace with praise and humility, giving all glory and honor to God. We are called to respond with faithful care for all of God's creation – human and otherwise.

I believe that Jesus is the Son of God, both fully human and fully divine. As the embodiment of both, Jesus reconciles the world, showing humanity a new way of life – life on earth and eternally. I believe that Jesus was crucified, dead, buried, and rose again; this gives me faith, hope, and love for this life and for life eternal. I believe that the Holy Spirit is God's presence everywhere in our world, dwelling amongst all of God's creation.

I believe that both humans and institutions are sinful. I believe that sin draws us from our relationship with God and from what God intended for us, and as such, living as sinners is choosing a lie over truth. In spite of this, God continues to come towards us, offering a new way of life on earth and life eternal. An active and dynamic God calls us to respond by being active in the world, seeking to feed the hungry, heal the sick, and provide practical and spiritual nourishment in our communities. I believe in God's power to transform individuals and powers and principalities, leading both to repentance and redemption.

I believe in two sacraments as instituted by Christ: baptism and the Lord's Supper. The sacraments are outward signs of God's grace and promises, presenting to us the living Christ, and sealing us in union with Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. The power rests with God, and not in the water, bread, or wine, yet these sacraments provide tangible depictions of what God has done and is doing for us.

The sacrament of baptism is a sign and seal of God's faithful promise. Baptism initiates entrance into the covenant community of the church, focused not just on the individual baptized, but also on the whole of the community. It is testimony of God's grace and of covenant with God and covenant with one another.

The Lord's Supper likewise testifies to God's grace. It is done in celebration of Christ's last meal with his disciples and spiritually nourishes believers by the power of the Holy Spirit. As believers partake in the bread and wine, the living Christ is spiritually present, feeding us and uniting us with him, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I believe that salvation comes by faith alone in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, through the grace of God. I believe that God initiates relationship and that salvation is God's work alone.

I believe that the Bible is the Word of God and central to our life and faith. Scripture reveals a myriad of ways in which God reveals divine will to humans. It is instructive for understanding God's ways in our world. In this, I believe that Christians must rely on the Holy Spirit for interpretation of Scripture in our contemporary context.

I believe in one catholic church, all those who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The church is gathered as the Body of Christ and unified by the Holy Spirit; Christ is present in Spirit and Word. As head of the church, Christ calls the church into being, giving it faith, life and authority for mission. The mission of the church is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the world. Likewise Christ calls the church to provide sanctuary, nurture and form disciples to carry out the mission of the church in the world.

## Attachment B

Megan Cochran  
Statement of Motivation

### **God's Guiding Hands**

From baptism I was called by name as an instrument of God into a life of service, action, and discipleship through redemptive grace. One way I live out this discipleship is by being present with others in times of need, which is a value I have always nurtured. Sophomore year of college, I felt a push to apply for a summer internship with Hospice. Initially, I assumed this experience would open my eyes to a new career path. I never could have anticipated it leading me to rediscovering my faith in Christianity.

Throughout my internship, I volunteered with a man dying of colon cancer. As time went on and the patient's condition worsened, I stayed with the patient for his last two nights. I was not present when his time came, but I still felt like I was a part of it. Those two nights that I spent with him were incredible; caring for someone in his or her last few days of life was an experience that was impossible to explain to anyone who had not done it. It was a full experience. It was personal, sad, hopeful, scary and so inexplicably truthful. Life seemed to slow down.

Everything that happened within this relationship was meaningful. When I was alone with this man, putting warm cloths on his head, holding his hand and talking with him I realized that the only way I knew how to communicate with him was as a Christian through prayer. At that moment, I knew there was no place in the world where I could better use my gifts than right there in that moment, and these gifts were given to me by God. Something bigger had to have been working in my life to lead me to this. I felt it and believed. Although my faith as a Christian was revived, I was still lost. I was nervous because I knew this call to faith was something I could not ignore anymore. I knew caring for people in need was where I was called as a vocation and I knew it was as a Christian; however, instead of pursuing Christianity right away, I put it off. Then, once again, God blessed me in a way that could not be ignored. I was offered another incredible opportunity through the Lilly Foundation. Yet again, it was up to me to hold up my end of my struggling relationship with my faith. This time, I took it head on with an open heart and an open mind. I became a part of a faith community. I was lovingly welcomed into Westminster Presbyterian Church.

After my internship I became a member of Westminster and was offered an opportunity I could not refuse. I lived in Cameroon, Africa for 7 months working as the psychosocial activities coordinator for people living with HIV/AIDS. My experiences in Cameroon were life changing. I was forced to learn how to articulate my faith and teach my understanding of the Christian tradition in relation to the suffering of others.

Being a part of the Cameroonian culture was freeing, challenging and comforting all at the same time. That experience forced me in the most wonderful way possible to embrace my spirituality as a Christian and to begin to articulate my beliefs as a Presbyterian. I was even asked to join the rotation of staff members who delivered sermons every morning at the health center.

This experience threw me into a new world and a new culture where I had no expectations or understanding of what I would gain or give to those around me and it was my faith, openness, love and the grace of God which helped me to have almost as big of an impact on the people and experiences I encountered there, as they did on me. This was the first time I truly lived out my call to ministry. I was able to use my beliefs and understanding of my own faith tradition to teach others. Although this experience was one of the most life changing events in my life and where I truly began to explore this call to ministry, my role was minimal. I definitely did more learning than teaching. I sat and listened when woman after woman came to our office looking for comfort and support. I tried to use the tenants of our faith to help these women find strength in themselves and in community.

After my experiences with Hospice, Westminster Presbyterian Church, and the hospital in Cameroon I would not be honest with myself if I did not allow religious belief to be an integrated part of my life and vocation. This is what pulls me into exploring ministry further. I am not only being honest with myself about my call, but more importantly, I am honoring that call and all the divergent paths that brought me to it. I want to counsel the whole being, spirituality and all. This is why I have decided to pursue ministry as a vocation. I feel called to walk the faith journey with others, being a shepherd, to nurture, support and guide others in their lives of faith. I am pursuing ministry to continue following my call by the grace of God.

The fourth verse of the hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy" was sung.

Ruling Elder John Ivers presented his proclamation of faith experience serving on New Church Development.

Associate Pastor, Michael Olmsted gave instructions for dinner and offered the meal blessing.

Presbytery **RECESSED FOR DINNER** at 6:00 p.m.

Presbytery **RECONVENED** at 6:53 with music by the praise band of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Vice Moderator Barbara Lutter assumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

The Rev. Andrew Lindahl presented his proclamation of faith experience serving on Permanent Judicial Commission.

Andy Lindahl led prayers of the people, and the singing of "Here I Am, Lord".

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES (continued)**

#### **MISSION AND WITNESS: Walter Chuquimia and Martha Rockenstein**

Walter Chuquimia, representing Mission and Witness committee presented information on the October GA Mission visit of Dave Thomas and his wife Brenda.

Martha Rockenstein, Educator Group; Presbyterians Organized in Nurture and Training (POINT) invited interested presbyters to call her about fall curriculum issues.

#### **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY: Bill Livingston**

##### ***CONSENT AGENDA (Items 1 - 4)***

1. **First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake, MN: Renewal of Parish Associate Relationship with the Reverend Rebecca Fletcher**

To **recommend** to Presbytery that, at the invitation of the session of First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake, MN, the parish associate relationship between the Reverend Rebecca Fletcher and First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake, MN, be continued for another year, without remuneration effective from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012.

2. **Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship: The Reverend Gary Titusdahl and Presbyterian Church of Oronoco, Oronoco, MN: and Removal of Gary Titusdahl from Temporary Membership in the Presbytery**

To **recommend** to Presbytery that, based upon the request of the Reverend Gary Titusdahl and with the concurrence of Presbyterian Church of Oronoco, Oronoco, MN, at a congregational meeting on July 17, 2011, the pastoral relationship between the Reverend Gary Titusdahl and Presbyterian Church of Oronoco, Oronoco, MN, has been dissolved effective July 31, 2011,

AND

that the Reverend Gary Titusdahl, a member of the United Church of Christ, be removed as a temporary member of the Presbytery.

3. **First United Presbyterian Church, Farmington, MN: Reappoint Half-time Stated Supply: Reverend Terry Roos**

To **recommend** to Presbytery that, with the concurrence of the session of First United Presbyterian Church, Farmington, MN, the Reverend Theresa Roos be reappointed to a one-year term as half-time stated supply pastor, from September 1, 2011, to August 31, 2012, with the following terms of contract:

Salary and Housing	\$23,710
Auto Allowance – IRS amount vouchered up to	\$ 500
Continuing Ed Allowance	\$ 600
Other Prof. Expenses	\$ 500
Cont. Ed. Leave	Two weeks per year
Vacation	Five weeks includes 5 Sundays
Pension	Full

**4. Request to be Designated Honorably Retired: Reverend Paul E. Martin**

To **recommend** to Presbytery that the request of the Reverend Paul E. Martin to be designated "Honorably Retired" be granted as of September 1, 2011.

Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the Consent Agenda, including the following item: Recommended to the presbytery that the Rev. John Lindquist be designated as Honorably Retired. Rev. Lindquist could not be present due to illness.

**REGULAR AGENDA (Item 5)**

**5. 2012 Minimum Salary for Pastors**

To **recommend** to Presbytery that there be no adjustment for 2012 to the current required minimum salaries for pastors of \$47,416 (Metro) and \$42,447 (Non-metro). The Committee on Ministry recommends, that where possible, a congregation should consider that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 3.43% from 2010 to 2011. We encourage all to work to balance the budget needs of the congregation and the cost of living needs of the pastor(s).

AND

That the Committee on Ministry will send a communication to all sessions that shares with them the statistics detailed in the e-mail received from Jay Wilkinson, Treasurer of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, dated July 20, 2011

Presbytery **VOTED** to retain the current minimum salary for pastors.

**REPORTS (Items 6 - 10)**

**6. Andrew Riverside Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN: Change in Terms for the Rev. Harry Maghakian**

To **report** to Presbytery that, the session of Andrew Riverside Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN, reports a change in terms for Continuing Education to \$2,000 for the Reverend Harry Maghakian, who is serving as half-time stated supply pastor from March 1, 2011 to February 29, 2012.

**7. Macalester Plymouth United Church, St. Paul, MN: Interim Pastor: Terms of Contract for Reverend Gale Robb**

a. To **report** to Presbytery that the Committee on Ministry has concurred in the invitation of the session of Macalester Plymouth United Church, St. Paul, MN, to the Reverend Gale Robb to serve as full-time interim pastor effective September 11, 2011 to September 10, 2012, according to the following terms of contract:

Salary/Housing Allowance	\$72,000
Soc. Sec. Offset	\$ 5,500
Vacation	One month
Cont. Ed. Allowance	\$ 1,700 per year
Cont. Ed. Leave	Two weeks per year

Professional Expenses	Reimbursed to \$ 2,000
Travel Allowance	Reimbursed to \$ 1,500
Pension	Full

- b. To **report** to Presbytery that the Reverend Gale Robb has been appointed moderator of the session of Macalester Plymouth United Church, St. Paul, MN, effective September 11, 2011.

**8. Report of Background Checks Completed: James Brasel and Sung-Joo Park**

To **report** that the background checks have been successfully completed for James Brasel and Sung-Joo Park.

**9. Session Visitations Completed: Plymouth Presbyterian Church, Plymouth, MN, and Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN**

To **report** to Presbytery that session visitations have been held with:

- Plymouth Presbyterian Church, Plymouth, MN, on June 13, 2011
- Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN, on July 7, 2011

**10. Vacant Positions Report**

The Committee on Ministry **reports** to Presbytery that the following positions are vacant and receiving dossiers for positions listed:

Apple Valley, MN, **Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church**, (Designated Pastor, 2/3 time)  
Coon Rapids, MN, **Presbyterian Church of the Master**, (Pastor, Full-time)  
Le Sueur, MN, **The Presbyterian Church of Le Sueur**, (Pastor, Half-time)  
Minneapolis, MN, **Knox Presbyterian Church**, (Pastor, Full-time)

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Elizabeth Raitt**

- 1. We place in nomination the persons whose names are in bold print below:**

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

5/12-1 **David Stewart**, teaching elder, St. Paul, Dayton Avenue

There being no nominations from the floor, the Presbytery **VOTED** to elect The Rev. David Stewart to a one-year term on Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

There being a nomination from the floor, Presbytery **VOTED** to elect Ruling Elder Ward Sessing to a term to Committee on Ministry ending in May 2013.

- 2. We move the adoption of the attached**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS  
TO THE SYNOD OF LAKES AND PRAIRIES**

Recognizing the benefit of continuity of service on higher Councils, the following change has been made in the initial paragraph from the document presented at the July presbytery meeting. This will allow the Nominating Committee, without conducting an open search, to re-nominate a Commissioner or YAAD who has faithfully completed a term and is willing to continue. This has been the past practice in this presbytery.

The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area elects 2 ruling elder commissioners, 2 teaching elder commissioners, and a YAAD (young adult advisory delegate ages 17-23 during the duration of service) to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. **Persons elected according to these guidelines as R**ruling elder and teaching elder commissioners **serve are elected to** three year terms **and may be re-nominated for a total of no more than six years;** and the YAAD **is elected for** a one year term **and may be re-nominated for a total of no more than three years.** Service begins at the annual meeting of the Synod. Elections to fill any vacancies occur in the March meeting of the presbytery in the year of a vacancy.

**N.B. Copies of the full revised document are on line, but will not be included in individual packets since the original was included in July.**

Presbytery **VOTED** to adopt the proposed guidelines for the selection of commissioners to Synod of Lakes and Prairies, as circulated in July. They are currently online.

**3. A Reminder:**

Applications are now being received for Teaching Elder and Ruling Elder Commissioners and YAAD for the 2012 General Assembly, meeting June 30-July 7 in Pittsburgh, PA. Forms are available on the PTCA web site, or in hard copy from the office. The **deadline** for submitting applications is **November 1, 2011.**

**ADVOCATES FOR INTEGRITY IN MINISTRY:**

AIM will present a Level I Boundaries Training on Saturday October 22 at North Presbyterian Church.

AIM presented a template for use by sessions when writing their policy for action in the case of sexual misconduct in their churches.

The Presbytery attendance was reported as follows:

Category	Present	Not Present	Total
Teaching Elders	47	231	277
Commissioned Ruling Elders	0	3	3
Elder Ruling Commissioners Elected by Sessions	36	148	184
Elder Members of Presbytery	6	4	10
Elder Observers	1	--	--
Candidates and Inquirers	2	31	33
Corresponding Members	0	--	--
Visitors	13	--	--
Total	105	--	--
Churches	35	33	68

Child Care Reimbursement	\$	0
Mileage Expense:	\$	95.20
Unsold Meals Expense:	<u>\$</u>	<u>245.00</u>
		\$340.20

The Stated Meeting adjourned with prayer by Cindy Ray at 7:51 pm.

The next meeting of The Presbytery of The Twin Cities Area will be Tuesday, November 8, 2011, 4:00 p.m., at Presbytery Homes, Boutwells Landing, Stillwater, MN.

Nancy Gritman, Stated Clerk

Approved