

PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA
Committee on Ministry Report
November 10, 2009

CONSENT AGENDA (Items 1-10)

1. Richard Davis: Validation of Ministry Outside the Jurisdiction

To **recommend** to Presbytery that, under the provisions of G-11.0411, it validate as a ministry in service beyond the jurisdiction of the church the position of full-time Area Developer of Young Life's International Ministry in central and eastern Europe at Lugano, Switzerland, for the Reverend Richard Davis, beginning October 1, 2009. Such service does comply, without exception, with the criteria enumerated in G-11.0403 for active membership in presbytery. It should be noted that the Form of Government requires that "such permission shall be subject to review and renewal annually."

2. Stadium Village Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN: Reappoint Stated Supply, Reverend Kathleen Macosko

To **recommend** to Presbytery that, with the concurrence of the session of Stadium Village Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN, the Reverend Kathleen Macosko be reappointed to a one-year term as half-time stated supply pastor, from September 1, 2009, to August 31, 2010, with the following changes in the terms of call:

Salary & Housing \$25,800

3. Presbyterian Church of the Master, Coon Rapids, MN and the Reverend David L. Bierschwale: Request for Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship and Transfer of Ecclesiastical Membership to the Presbytery of Kendall

a. To **recommend** to Presbytery that, upon the mutual request of the Reverend David L. Bierschwale and the congregation of Presbyterian Church of the Master, Coon Rapids, Minnesota, at its meeting on October 11, 2009, the full-time pastor relationship between the Reverend David L. Bierschwale and the Presbyterian Church of the Master, Coon Rapids, Minnesota, be dissolved as of November 1, 2009.

b. To **recommend** that the Reverend David L. Bierschwale be granted permission to labor outside the geographical bounds of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area and within the bounds of the Presbytery of Kendall, effective November 9, 2009, so that he may begin his duties as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Burley, Idaho,

AND

that the Reverend David L. Bierschwale be dismissed to the Presbytery of Kendall, upon receipt of their request.

4. Permission to Labor Outside Bounds: Tammy J. Rider

To **recommend** to Presbytery that, from October 1, 2009, to September 30, 2010, the Reverend Tammy J. Rider be granted permission to continue to labor outside the geographical bounds of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area and within the bounds of the Presbytery of John Knox as part-time Stated Supply of First Presbyterian Church,

Rushford, Minnesota. It is noted that, under the provisions of G-14.0401, “such permission and consent shall be reviewed and renewed annually.”

5. **William D. Eisenhower; Transfer of Ecclesiastical Membership to the Presbytery of Riverside**

To **recommend** to Presbytery that, based upon the request of the Reverend William D. Eisenhower and with the concurrence of the Presbytery of Riverside, the Reverend William D. Eisenhower be dismissed to the Presbytery of Riverside where he has accepted a call.

6. **North Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN: Renewal of Parish Associate Relationship with the Reverend Mary Leisman**

To **recommend** to Presbytery that, at the invitation of the session of North Presbyterian, Church, St. Paul, MN, the parish associate relationship between the Reverend Mary Leisman and North Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN, be continued for another year, without remuneration effective from November 21, 2009, to November 20, 2010.

7. **Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Golden Valley, MN: Renewal of Parish Associate Relationships with the Reverend James Cook and the Reverend Aron Wilterding**

a. To **recommend** to Presbytery, pending the approval of the Session at its meeting on September 28, 2009, that at the invitation of the session of Valley Community Presbyterian, Church, Golden Valley, MN, the parish associate relationship between the Reverend James Cook and Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Golden Valley, MN, be continued for another year, without remuneration effective November 11, 2009, to November 10, 2010.

b. To **recommend** to Presbytery, pending the approval of the Session at its meeting on September 28, 2009, that at the invitation of the session of Valley Community Presbyterian, Church, Golden Valley, MN, the parish associate relationship between the Reverend Aron Wilterding and Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Golden Valley, MN, be continued for another year, without remuneration effective November 11, 2009, to November 10, 2010.

8. **Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN: Approval of Parish Associate Relationship with the Reverend Grace Lee**

To **recommend** to Presbytery that the invitation of the session of Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN, to the Reverend Grace Lee to serve in a parish associate relationship, without remuneration, be approved for one year, effective November 11, 2009, to November 10, 2010.

9. **Christ Presbyterian Church, Edina, MN: Renewal of Parish Associate Relationships with the Reverend JoAnn Phenow and the Reverend Peggy Good**

a. To **recommend** to Presbytery that, at the invitation of the session of Christ Presbyterian, Church, Edina, MN, the parish associate relationship between the Reverend JoAnn Phenow and Christ Presbyterian Church, Edina, MN, be continued

for another year, with remuneration effective from October 23, 2009, to October 22, 2010.

- b. To **recommend** to Presbytery that, at the invitation of the session of Christ Presbyterian, Church, Edina, MN, the parish associate relationship between the Reverend Peggy Good and Christ Presbyterian Church, Edina, MN, be continued for another year, without remuneration effective from October 23, 2009, to October 22, 2010.

10. Moderator Appointed for Presbyterian Church of Le Sueur, Le Sueur, MN

To **recommend** that the Presbytery concur with the appointment of the Reverend Beverly Modlin as moderator of Presbyterian Church of Le Sueur, Le Sueur, MN, as of October 14, 2009, until an interim, temporary, or called pastor begins his/her service.

REGULAR AGENDA (Item 11)

11. First Presbyterian Church, Claremont, Minnesota: Terms of Call for the Reverend Robert Hamilton as Pastor

(See Appendix 1, page 8)

Subject to the successful completion of the background check:

- a. To **concur** with the judgment of the Pastor Nominating Committee of First Presbyterian Church, Claremont, Minnesota, that Reverend Robert Hamilton is suitable for the position of pastor.
- b. To **recommend** to Presbytery that it concur with the Committee on Ministry's examination (G-11.0402) of the Reverend Robert Hamilton "on his Christian faith and views in theology, the sacraments, and the government of this church."
- c. To note that the position was widely advertised:

153 PIF forms were received,
86 from women,
unknown from racial/ethnic persons;

38 persons were heard to preach
16 women
unknown racial ethnic persons
unknown persons with disabilities

38 phone interviews conducted,
5 with women;

3 persons were heard to preach; and 1 person was offered the position; 1 accepted.

- d. To **report** to Presbytery that the Pastor Nominating Committee of First Presbyterian Church, Claremont, MN, has implemented its search process in conformance with the provisions of Equal Employment Opportunity for ministers and has considered

candidates without regard to race, ethnic origin, gender, age, disability, or marital status.

- e. To **recommend** to Presbytery that, with the concurrence of the congregation action to be taken on November 1, 2009, the call of First Presbyterian Church, Claremont, MN, to the Reverend Robert Hamilton as full-time pastor be approved effective November 15, 2009, according to the following terms:

From 1/15/09 through 5/31/10: Pastor not living in the manse

Cash Salary	\$2,299 per month
Housing Allowance	\$ 800 per month
Utilities	\$ 300 per month
403(B)	\$ 100 per month
Total non-metro salary	\$3,499 per month

From 6/1/10 through 12/31/10: Pastor living in the manse

Cash salary	\$2,032 per month
Manse	\$1,050 per month
Utilities	\$ 317 per month
403(B)	\$ 100 per month
Total non-metro salary	\$3,499 per month

Pension & Health	full
Continuing Ed. Allowance	\$1,200 per year, cumulative over three years to \$3,600
Continuing Ed. Leave	Two weeks per year, cumulative over 3 years to 6 weeks
Vacation	One month
Automobile Allowance	IRS rate, vouchered up to \$ 2,400
Moving Expense	Full

AND

that the call be forwarded to the Presbytery of Transylvania, to be placed in the hands of the Reverend Robert Hamilton with the request that, if the way be clear, he be dismissed to the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area,

AND

that the Reverend Robert Hamilton be granted permission to labor within the bounds of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area as full-time pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Claremont, MN, until his credentials have been received

AND

that upon receipt of his credentials, the Reverend Robert Hamilton be enrolled as an active member of Presbytery,

AND

that the Reverend Robert Hamilton be appointed moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Claremont, MN, effective November 15, 2009.

- f. To **report** to Presbytery that the Reverend Joe Jones will complete his service as interim pastor and as moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Claremont, MN, effective November 14, 2009, and to note that the Reverend Joe Jones, a member in good standing of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was enrolled as a temporary member of presbytery during the time of his service as half-time interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Claremont, MN,
AND
to thank the moderator for his service to the Presbytery.

REPORTS (Items 12-16)

12. **The House of Hope Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN: Interim Associate Pastor for Congregational Ministries: Terms of Contract, Reverend Gale Robb**

To **report** to Presbytery that the Committee on Ministry has concurred in the invitation of the session of The House of Hope Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN, to the Reverend Gale Robb to serve as full-time interim associate pastor for congregational ministries, effective October 1, 2009, to September 30, 2010, according to the following terms:

Salary/Housing Allowance	\$60,000
Vacation	One month
Cont. Ed. Allowance	\$1,500 per year
Cont. Ed. Leave	Two weeks per year
Professional Expenses	Reimbursed to \$ 1,500
Auto Allowance	IRS rate, vouchered up to \$ 1,500
Pension	Full

13. **Community Presbyterian Church, Plainview, MN: Terms of Contract for 80%-time Interim Pastor, the Reverend LeRoy Haynes**

Subject to the successful completion of the background check:

- a. To **report** to Presbytery that the Committee on Ministry has concurred in the invitation of the session of Community Presbyterian Church, Plainview, MN, to the Reverend LeRoy Haynes to serve as 80%-time interim pastor, effective October 20, 2009, to October 19, 2010, according to the following terms:

Cash Salary	\$ 33,588
Auto Allowance	IRS rate, vouchered up to \$ 1,200
Cont. Ed. Allowance	\$960 per year
Cont. Ed. Leave	Two weeks per year
Vacation	One month
Pension	Full

- b. To **report** to Presbytery that the Reverend LeRoy Haynes has been appointed moderator of the session of Community Presbyterian Church, Plainview, MN, effective October 20, 2009.

- c. To **report** to Presbytery that the Reverend William Hoffman completed his service as moderator of the session of Community Presbyterian Church, Plainview, MN, effective October 19, 2009,

AND

to thank the moderator for his service to the Presbytery.

14. Triennial Session Visits Completed: First Presbyterian Church, Albert Lea, MN, and North Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN:

To **report** to Presbytery that session visits, as required by G-11.0502c, have been held with:

- First Presbyterian Church, Albert Lea, MN, on July 3, 2009.
- North Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN, on October 15, 2009.

15. The House of Hope Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN: Request Permission to Elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

To **report** to Presbytery that the Committee on Ministry has approved the request of the session of The House of Hope Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN, to elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee at a duly called meeting of the congregation on November 8, 2009.

16. Vacant Positions Report

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

Buffalo, MN, **Buffalo Presbyterian Church**, (Pastor)
Rochester, MN, **First Presbyterian Church**, (Pastor, Head of Staff)
St. Paul, MN, **Arlington Hills Presbyterian Church**, (Designated Pastor)
Wayzata, MN, **St. Luke Presbyterian Church**, (Associate Pastor)

Appendix 1

Replies to Questions for Membership in the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

The Reverend Robert W. Hamilton, Jr.

1. Please tell us briefly about yourself, including the date of your ordination and the name of the ordaining presbytery.

I grew up in North Carolina and Ohio. I graduated from Muskingum College for a B.A. in religion and philosophy, and from McCormick Theological Seminary for a M.Div. After graduating from seminary, I moved to Staunton, Virginia. I served as an elder at Third Presbyterian Church, and I worked at Barnes and Noble. After passing the ordination exams, I was ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament in Transylvania Presbytery on August 17, 2008. I served my first call at Highland Presbyterian Church in Canada, Kentucky for eight months.

2. How have your understandings grown since ordination with respect to your theology and practice of ministry?

I served at Highland Presbyterian Church for eight months. There, I realized sadly that the church can be the most uncomfortable to have a conversation about what we believe. After the vote regarding the ordination standards, I was asked how I voted. I responded with a candid statement of my vote and the rationale behind my vote. The executive of Transylvania and I tried to have a dialogue with the session about this issue, and they chose not to continue this dialogue. This led to the dissolution of pastoral relations. What I have learned is this: before you can begin to have a conversation about theology and ministry, you have to develop a safe space to have that conversation.

3. Tell us something about your spiritual journey—how you've grown in your relationship with Christ and your life in the Spirit—and how that relates to your call.

The challenge in ministry is to be vulnerable. In its vulnerability, you can begin the process of healing from your own wounds. Because of a shared burden or pain, it lessens the burden. In ministry, we share each other's burdens.

4. Please respond to the question below that most nearly fits your reason for seeking membership in the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.

a. How do you view your theological, spiritual and leadership compatibility with the congregation to which you are, or anticipate, being called to serve?

I do sense a call with this church, but I'm not exactly sure what it will entail. I do know that, however, one of the first tasks I will do is listen to the stories of faith from the congregation and develop vision and goals of where God is calling them to grow.

5. What, in your view, are some of the theological challenges facing the church/presbytery today, and how would you respond to those challenges?

During my senior year in college, I was asked this question from a representative of McCormick Theological Seminary. I was planning to talk about my pet interest, which was religion and

science, but instead I spoke out: "It's the same issue in the 21st century as it was in the 1st, 12th, 20th and the 23rd century, if we last that long. How can we make the Gospel real for the people? How do we take a very old story and make it come alive in our life and in others?"

6. How would you like to serve/be served by the presbytery?

The first question from the PNC was, "Rob, are you willing to be our advocate at the presbytery?" I responded that I made a very quick and valuable relationship both with the Exec and the liaison to COM in my previous call, and I expect to do the same here. I also said, "My experience had taught me that the major decisions get made in committees and their best advocates were themselves." My wife who is deaf has taught me the best way to advocate for another requires you to inspire them to be an advocate for themselves. My first role in this advocacy is finding the resources the presbytery has for church's needs and access these resources with them. So they can see how the presbytery does not use them for the presbytery's benefit, but how they can use the presbytery for the church's benefit.

7. Can you continue to affirm the Constitutional Questions asked of you at ordination (W-4.4003 a. – i.)?

Yes, with God's help.