

Whitewater Valley Presbytery -- Stated Meeting -- December 6, 2006

First Presbyterian Church
 1400 W. Riverside Ave.
 Muncie, IN 47303
 765-289-4431

INDEX – FIRST POSTING

These postings are the equivalent of a First Class Mailing.

In response to feedback regarding on-line Presbytery papers, all action items are incorporated within the docket. However, all relevant documentation and complete reports are posted as reflected on the Index page.

**It is your choice which reports you print and bring to the meeting,
 Remember that you may simply want to read longer, non-action items on line.
 You have the ability to pick and choose which specific papers you want to print.
 Extra sets of papers are not normally available at the meeting.**

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Muncie First Presbyterian Church

Muncie First was created in 1828 with a membership of nine people. The city of Muncie was called Munseytown and had a population of 200 at the time.

In the following year after an evangelistic meeting, thirteen new members were received. Among them was a Mrs. Thomas Kirby. Her husband donated three lots for a building site for a church in honor of his wife. The three lots valued at \$300 were in the very heart of downtown Muncie.

The first building was a 16 X 16 ft. wooden structure. It wasn't long before the congregation outgrew this building and in 1857 a new brick structure was built. This was a building reputed to be one of the largest and finest in the city, with a bell tower and an organ and a growing congregation.

Within another 35 years, the congregation needed more space and a third building, this one of stone was built on site. The congregation remained at this site for 63 years. When the need for expansion of the building and parking space became a necessity, a committee was appointed to find a new location. The committee chose 12 acres at the edge of town, adjacent to the Ball State College.

Taking a radical turn from the architectural style of the past, a Georgian style building was built in 1955. Our red brick colonnaded building with its steeple and church bells soon became a landmark in the neighborhood and to the nearby college community.

A number of Pastors served the congregation and community. In 1942, a young Pastor from Canada was chosen to lead the church. Dr. Lewis Weber Gishler served as Pastor from 1942 until his retirement in 1972.

In 1962, thirty families from this church volunteered to help in the formation of St Andrew Presbyterian Church of Muncie.

In 1985, the congregation elected The Rev. Dr. Ronald Naylor to serve as Head of Staff. He has served this church honorably and well for the past 21 years. His leadership brought back the enthusiasm and growth that had lagged after Dr. Gishler retired. His dedication to mission has led the church to participate in many local, national, and international missions. His tireless efforts for evangelism have brought about many community involvements for the church with many ecumenical endeavors.

A unique part of Muncie First is the Korean Congregation, comprised of Korean and international students. The Rev. Dr. MyungKu Lee has led the congregation for the past 13 years.

Muncie First is a living, vibrant church. Activities for every age fill our schedule each week. Our sanctuary houses contemporary and traditional services. All in the community are invited to worship here.

Whitewater Valley Presbytery
PROPOSED DOCKET – STATED MEETING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2006

First Presbyterian Church, 1400 W. Riverside Ave., Muncie, IN 47303
 Phone: 765.289.4431

THESE ITEMS NEED YOUR ATTENTION

1. ONLINE PAPERS

All action items are incorporated within the docket. However, all relevant documentation and complete reports are posted as reflected on the Index page. ***It is your choice whether or not to print the reports and bring them to the meeting with you.***

2. MEALS Meals are **\$6.00 per person.**

3. ELECTRONIC PRESENTATIONS AT THE PRESBYTERY MEETING

Please note that the time prior to the Call to Order and during the lunch break is reserved for scrolling **announcements** and other previously approved presentations.

4. MAJOR ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- Final reading 2007-2008 Presbytery Budget
- Elect Moderator & Vice Moderator
- Elect Stated Clerk
- Honorable Retirements: Rev. Carol Farr
- Elder Sandra Martin, Commissioned Lay Pastor Examination, Boggstown-First

5. WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB HOME PAGE www.whitewatervalley.org

DOCKET

- 9:30 AM Registration
- 10:00 AM Opening Hymn
- 10:05 AM Call To Order – Moderator, Rev. Glen Bell
 Presbytery constituted with prayer
 Establishment of Roll by registration and establishment of quorum
 Introduction of new pastors by COM, Rev. Alan Thames
 Placing Calls in the hands of New Ministers
 Introduction of new Elder Commissioners
 Seating of Corresponding Members
 Moderator's Report on Installation/Ordinations
 Welcome by host Church & Church History **[FIRST POST PAGE 1]**
- Joys & Concerns of the Presbytery
 Remember in prayer: Rev. Peggy McDonald & Family
 Rev. Frank Bean
 Rev. Ron Naylor
 Elder Mary Payne
 Elder Sue Westbrook

APPROVAL OF DOCKET [FIRST POST PAGE 2-3]

[Requests to place additional items for discussion or action on the Presbytery docket must be submitted to the Stated Clerk prior to approval of the Docket on the day of Presbytery; a two-thirds vote of Presbytery, as determined by enrollment at the beginning of the meeting, is required to suspend this rule. All such items will be presented to the Presbytery for inclusion as 'New Business' at end of the docket. [9/93]

ACTION Presentation of CONSENT AGENDA MOTION (BY STATED CLERK)
Mr. Moderator, I MOVE that for all reports with more than one action recommendation, all recommendations we taken as a single vote unless specific items are pulled from the motion.

10:25 Interim Executive Presbyter Annual Report **[FIRST POST PAGE 4-5]**

10:30 Coordinating Council Report

(The Coordinating Council has all the powers provided by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and may act as a Commission of the Presbytery between Presbytery meetings. They have general oversight of the programmatic and mission work of the Presbytery and recommend the Presbytery budget. They nominate the Nominating Committee for election by the Presbytery, assure an orderly review of Session records and establish teams, networks, task forces, partnerships and committees.)

Personnel – Jim Riley

- Elect Stated Clerk
- Update on Finance Position Search and Introduce new Finance Manager
- Words of Appreciation for Staff

Finance – Bill Howell

- Second Reading of 2006-2008 Budget **[Second Post]**
- 3rd Quarter – Review & Receive Summary Finance Reports **[Second Post]**

Administrative Commission Report – Indianapolis Washington Street **[Second Post]**
Celebrate Indianapolis-Washington St. Ministry

Report of Council Actions **[Second Post]**

11:00 Retirement – Rev. Carol Farr (Rev. David Comstock to speak)

11:10 Synod Commissioner Report – Rev. Ruth Moore

11:15 Nominating Committee Report – Elder Joan Lee **[FIRST POST PAGE 6-7]**

11:25 Committee on Ministry – Rev. Alan Thames

Commissioned Lay Pastor Interview – Sandra Martin, Boggstown-First **[Statement of Faith, 2nd Post]**
Terms of Call Report **[Second Post]**
Commission Actions **[Second Post]**

11:45 LUNCH – \$6.00 per person

EXTENDED LUNCH FOR DISCUSSION OF CONVERSATION CLUSTER GROUP RESPONSES
Table Prayers for Healing and Wholeness

1:30 Worship – Installation of Moderator and Lord's Supper - Christmas Joy Offering

2:00 Committee on Preparation for Ministry

2:10 Stated Clerk's Report **[FIRST POST PAGE 8]**

2:15 OTHER BUSINESS:

2:30 ADJOURNMENT

THE NEXT STATED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY WILL BE SATURDAY, March 3, 2007
Fort Wayne-Calvary Third

ANNUAL REFLECTIONS OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

Rev. Robert C. Anderson
December 6, 2006

To say that this year has been one of change is probably an understatement. "Upheaval" may be more descriptive. Presbytery staffing, finances, and the General Assembly Report of the Task Force on Peace Unity and Purity shook our Whitewater Valley. Scripture gives us hope, "Though the waters roar and tumble, God will be our strong rock." (Psalm 46)

Saying goodbye to beloved leaders took an emotional toll. As we bid farewell to Keith Geckeler and Amy Williams Fowler, we were also saying a final goodbye to Jill Hudson. Her leadership with the staff put Whitewater Valley Presbytery on the Presbyterian "map." We said goodbye to "the way things are" and now we wait for God to show us the new that will be. I thank you for the trust you give me, a "stranger," in this time of rumbling transition.

This year began with financial issues and a large deficit looming over us. In January we revitalized our Finance Committee as an aggressive partner to create a platform for financial stability. Affordable staffing recommendations were implemented. Monthly financial reports were instituted and simpler formats are being used. For the last half of 2006, the Finance Committee has, as a group, served as Treasurer and Budget Committee. They have selflessly given of their time and expertise and deserve a very big "thank you." God provided a refuge in the storm through their gifts.

Our Presbytery staff plowed through some rough waters adapting to staff change and responding to unfamiliar demands and questions. All of us have taken on more responsibility and you will notice each one sharing and acting in leadership roles that are more visible. Kristy Quinn, Ruth Ann MacPherson, Craig Shaw, Ken Hall and Felipe Martinez have been patient learners with me as we paddled our office "raft" through "white water." The office is now running more smoothly and we are feeling more confident in our ability to help our congregations in a timely and effective manner. The staff you have created is a gift of God's grace in the roiling waters of 21st Century ministry.

Increasing numbers of gifted members of Presbytery are now helping in new ways. Our Finance Committee is a prime example of the ministry of gifted members with Bill Howell as chair. The Board of Directors (Trustees) is being reorganized as a "hands-on" leadership board by Board President, Rev. Linda Philabaun. The Committee on Ministry and Committee on Preparation are both models of excellence and both are exploring ways to help us become a Presbytery of healthy practices that create healthy pastors and healthy congregations. This "gift-led" theme will increase as our Networks and Mission Support teams continue to their refreshed vision begun last spring. God formed a nation of faith and promise during a wilderness journey and I believe God is doing the same for us (though I hope it doesn't take 40 years).

Thanks to God's grace, our mission projects surge forward. Along with other leadership roles, I have begun to staff our Congregational Development needs. Our Transforming Church program continues and plans are forming to expand and improve the program in 2007. Rev. Laura Sherwood of Decatur volunteers her time to assist me in this ministry. You will hear news of our renewed program soon.

Our growing Hispanic ministry is an example of how our mission design can turn congregational vision into expanding ministry in the community. Commissioned Lay Pastor, Fabio Soccaraz oversees local projects that meet very real needs—spiritual, educational, and dental. Rev. Leonel Pech coordinates worshipping fellowships in the Fort Wayne area that will one day become a congregation. That model will next be applied to the Indianapolis west side with the help of John Knox Presbyterian Church.

The Westminster Neighborhood Ministry gained focus, growth, and stability under the good interim leadership of Rev. Jim Friedewald. The new Executive Director, Steve Crane, is in place and already building on this foundation.

Pyoca Camp, Conference and Retreat Center, under the guidance of Rich Swartwood, is one of the few Presbytery camping programs that continue to work well. Pyoca is expanding, upgrading facilities and will be inviting us to an exciting capital campaign to preserve the future ministry, especially the earthen dam that holds the lake!

The Presbytery continues to support the Congo Helping Hands ministry whose Director, Woody Collins, is a member of Faith Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis. Their helping hands have installed water pumps and provided much needed medical supplies.

The Report on Peace, Unity, and Purity (PUP) presented to the General Assembly last summer has generated much conversation in our denomination and presbytery. The implications for how we develop church officers, prepare candidates for ministry and apply ordination standards are challenging. Whitewater Valley has a reputation for innovation and paving the way for others and the PUP report provides a leadership opportunity for us. There are no easy answers, but at the end of the day it will be the faithful leadership of our pastors who help us find our way so that others can follow the path through difficult terrain. We may pass through the deep, swirling waters, but God will not let us be overwhelmed.

Transition is the inner process of adapting to external change and we are at work. Our transition process has been able to incorporate the surprises of staff shifts, denominational trends, and financial challenges. Our circumstances push us to call on our *history* and discover strengths we've used before that we can use today. We are challenged to examine and refresh our *identity* as God's people. We have also been challenged by *leadership shifts* that radically change our webs of relationships, communication, and the way things are done here. These are three important dynamics that move us through the transition process.

Our life as a presbytery will look different in the future and we've already begun to see how the leadership will arise from our own members who offer their gifts. Priorities that are already in motion for 2007:

- *to flesh out our future and move toward an executive leadership search process;*
- *ignite our mission design through our networks and mission delivery teams;*
- *traditional denominational "loyalty" is not our strength today; we must find new stewardship approaches to support mission and our connectional life;*
- *innovative ways of building community, allowing theological and polity dialogue to create bridges across the gaps of differences and concerns;*
- *creation of new mission initiatives using our current model of permission giving, networks of churches, and entrepreneurial vision.*

I offer three "visions" for the coming year. Let's make 2007 **a year of personal and congregational spiritual renewal**. Let's **practice our faith with fervor and intentionality**. Let's **focus on our mission to the world**, sharing the Gospel with all our neighbors in word and deed and in so doing teach, baptize and make disciples everywhere we go.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Robert C. Anderson, D. Min.
Interim Executive Presbyter

The Nominating Committee of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley**1. Nominates for Moderator and Vice Moderator of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley for 2006:**Moderator

(E) Betty-Alice Almeida, First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne

Vice Moderator

(CLP) Donna Madewell, First Presbyterian Church, Anderson

2. Nominates to serve the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley:**COORDINATING COUNCIL**Class of 2010

(M) Robert Madsen, First Presbyterian Church, Bluffton

(E) John Current, Grace Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne

BOARD OF DIRECTORSClass of 2009

(E) Robert Everitt, Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis

Class of 2010

(M) Thelma Sue King, Honorably Retired

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRYClass of 2007 (New member)

(M) Barbara Sloop, Zionsville Presbyterian Church

Class of 2008 (New member)

(E) Al Moore, Kingston Presbyterian Church, Greensburg

Class of 2009 (For re-election)

(E) William Johnson, First Presbyterian Church, Boggstown

(M) John Koppitch, Fairview Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis

(E) Nancy Kriplen, Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis

Class of 2009 (New Members)

(E) Mike Whitfield, First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville

(M) Lyle Ewing, First Presbyterian Church of Grant County, Jonesboro

(M) Laura Sherwood, First Presbyterian Church, Decatur

(M) Ralph Mitchell, Honorably Retired

(E) Sally Earl, Center Grove Presbyterian Church, Greenwood

(E) Bill Werling, Grace Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRYClass of 2008 (New members)

(M)

Class of 2009 (For re-election)

(E) Charles Hill, Calvary Third Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne

(M) Barbara Kenley, Grace Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne

(E) Carrie Jo Miller, First Presbyterian Church, Muncie

Class of 2009 (New member)

(M) David Comstock, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Marion

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT RESPONSE TEAM

Class of 2008 (New member)

(E) Kay Holland, First-Meridian Heights Presbyterian, Indianapolis

Class of 2009 (For re-election)

(M) David Chaddock, Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis

(M) David Good, Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church, Richmond

Class of 2009 (New member)

(E) Minnie Chinn, Northminster Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis

PYOCA ADVISORY BOARD

Class of 2008

(M)

Class of 2009 (For re-election)

(E) Susan Alvarez, First-Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis

Class of 2009 (New members)

(M) Eric Gale, First Presbyterian Church, Noblesville

(E) Lisa Longo, Northminster Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Class of 2012

(E) Bill Roberts, Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis

(M) Dena Vittorio, First Presbyterian Church, Rushville

(E) Clara Rice, First Presbyterian Church, Muncie

COMMISSIONERS TO THE SYNOD OF LINCOLN TRAILS

Class of 2008

(E) Mary Margaret Karty, Kingston Presbyterian Church, Greensburg

Moderator and Vice Moderator—2007**Moderator: Betty-Alice Almeida**

I grew up in Albion, New York, went to college in Buffalo, New York, and went to Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York where I met my husband Edgar in the Young Adult Fellowship. We've been married for almost 39 years. We have three children Kimberley, Tyler and Martha, four grandchildren, Martha, Catalina, John Paul and Nicholas Tyler. I've worked as a receptionist/insurance claims person for Dr. Robert H Larmore, an ophthalmologist, for over ten years.

I have been very involved in the life of the church all my life. I was an Elder on session for six years, Deacon for six years, Stephen Ministry leader for ten years, on the Foundation Board for six years, Congregational Life committee for twenty-two years, Stewardship Committee, Vision Committee, Evangelism Committee three years, Membership Committee three years, two Search Committees, Commissioner to Presbytery for ten years, Commissioner to General Assembly, and a couple of Presbytery committees.

Vice Moderator: Donna Madewell

Donna has served in many capacities within First Presbyterian Church in Anderson, Indiana. She has been moderator of Deacons, has served on Worship and Music Committee, and is an ordained Elder. She attends most committee meetings in an advisory capacity. Donna has been employed by First Pres as Pastoral Assistant since December 2003. She is Director of Christian Education in the church and works closely with Sunday school teachers, small groups, and in particular the Youth Group. She has been a chaperon on mission trips with our youth and has also chaperoned at Montreat. Last year she coordinated the churchwide mission trip to Ft. Peck Indian Reservation in Poplar, Montana. She participates in the Hand Bell Choir and assists with the youth bell choir. Donna serves in the pulpit in Rev. Kimmer's absence. She has provided the message at the local homeless shelter for men and women. Donna has been volunteering with Campus Life at a local elementary school and assists with the weekly Tutoring Program located at the church.

Donna completed Commissioned Lay Pastor training class offered through the Presbytery and Synod on November 12, 2005. In the course of this two-year program, she has studied reformed theology, church history, Old and New Testament, sacraments, polity and administration, Christian education, pastoral care, and worship preparation. She serves as Session Moderator in Rev. Kimmer's absence. Donna is an elected Elder Commissioner to the General Assembly for Whitewater Valley Presbytery and attended the meetings in Birmingham, AL this past June. Her commission is for 2 years as she serves on the Bills and Overtures Committee.

Donna has two children: Chance (22) and Tanner (11). She also has one granddaughter, Aeris, age 5 months.

SESSION RECORDS REVIEW COMMITTEE
November, 2006

The committee reviewed and approved the session minutes of the following churches at its gathering on Saturday, November 11, 2006:

Brookville, Mount Carmel

Approved without exception.

Comment: because of the inconsistent reporting of and approval of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the session is encouraged to approve all occasions for this sacrament by approving the dates for a calendar year at its first meeting in a new year.

Fort Wayne, Calvary Third

Approved without exception

Fort Wayne, First

Approved without exception

Comment: Whereas the session approved all baptisms properly, and provided the necessary information about weddings and deaths of members, that data was not printed in the session minutes.