

**Whitewater Valley Presbytery -- Stated Meeting -- February 26, 2011**

Northminster Presbyterian Church  
 1660 Kessler Blvd E Drive  
 Indianapolis, IN 46220  
 317-251-9489

**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.

**THE DOCKET AND WORSHIP SERVICE WILL BE PRINTED AND AVAILABLE AT THE MEETING.**

**Otherwise, 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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UNNUMBERED	Ordination Anniversaries	INFORMATION

## Whitewater Valley Presbytery

## PRESBYTERY DOCKET

Saturday, February 26, 2011

9:30 AM – Registration      10:00 AM – Call Meeting to Order

Northminster Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana

- 9:30 AM      Registration
- 9:55 AM      Gathering Music - This is the Day, This is the Day the Lord has Made – Unison
- 10:00 A.M.      A CALL TO GATHER & CALL TO ORDER      Moderator, Elder Judith Trabue  
MORNING LITANY
- MORNING HYMN - “How Great is Our God”
- A CONVENING PRAYER      Moderator, Elder Judith Trabue
- WORDS OF WELCOME      Rev. Teri Thomas  
Northminster Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis
- Establishing of Roll and Quorum  
**ACTION:** Docket approval  
Introduction of New Elder Commissioners & New Pastors  
Seating Corresponding Members  
Stated Clerk’s Report & Consent Agenda      Elder Greg Thomas  
**ACTION:** Approve Consent Agenda
- 10:10      Synergos Presentation      Rev. Mark Morningstar
- 10:25      General Assembly Commissioner Presentation
- 10:30-12:00      General Assembly Amendment Presentations  
“A Time to Listen and Discern”
- Form of Government  
Elder Cynthia Bolbach, General Assembly Moderator
- G-6.0106b Gifts and Requirements  
Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter, Plains & Peaks  
Advisory Committee on the Constitution
- Belhar Confession  
Charles A. Wiley, PC(USA) Office of Theology & Worship
- 12:15-1:00      LUNCH
- 1:00-1:05      GATHERING MUSIC
- 1:05-1:15      BIG TENT EVENT      Elder Jen Knebel

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1:15-1:20	PRESBYTERIAN INVESTMENT LOAN PROGRAM PRESENTATION	Jim Rissler, Vice President
1:20-1:25	EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT Announcements, Joys, Baptisms & Concerns	Rev. Alan Thames
1:25-1:45	Ordination Examination—Ms. Megan Remtema	Rev. Hal Thomas
1:45-1:55	Listening: Ms. Remtema's Story	
1:55-2:35	Worship and the Sacrament of Communion Sermon "Breaking Through"	Elder Cynthia Bolbach
2:35	Inquirer to Candidate Exam—Ms. Marina Vittorio	Rev. David Comstock
2:50	Hispanic Ministries Lead Team Report	Rev. Felipe Martinez
	Coordinating Council Report	Rev. Joseph Fields
	<b>Action:</b> Election of Presbytery Treasurer: Elder Eric Herzog Finance Committee Report	
	Committee on Ministry Report	Rev. Hal Thomas
3:05	Following the Word into the World Adjourn A Benediction Sung in Unison—"God, Be with You Till We Meet Again"	

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### A Word about our Offerings

Whitewater Valley Presbytery responds to the connectional nature of our denomination by collecting an offering for each of four Special Offerings designated by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peacemaking and the Christmas Joy Offering. Our Presbytery meeting schedule enables us to prepare for the arrival of these liturgical seasons with prayerful expectation and wonder. Thank you for your generosity of heart, mind and spirit.

**STATEMENT OF FAITH  
MEGAN REMTEMA**

I believe in one God, Mother-Father, Eternal Creator. Out of his infinite love God created the universe, everything in it and declared it to be good. Therefore, God is ultimately for the flourishing of all creation. In her infinite power God is continually persuading humankind to life-giving actions; actions that bring hope to the hopeless, peace to the violent and comfort to the lonely. I believe that this Eternal, Infinite Creator God is beyond the claim of any one religious tradition.

I confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary into a life that was both fully human and fully divine. As a human Jesus experienced the joys and pains of life on this earth. As wholly divine Christ's actions, words and choices reflect those that God most desires for our own lives on this earth. In the crucifixion Jesus willingly took on the deep suffering and sin of this world, died and was resurrected three days later. In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus we are all convicted of our shortcomings but we also find and know that God is ultimately for us.

Living as part of all creation I believe that the Holy Spirit dwells among us as part of the Trinity's ultimate presence in the world. This loving Spirit is life giving, challenging, mysterious and powerful. As it was in the burning bush, the dove and the Pentecost, the Spirit is with us always empowering us to live into the image in which God created us – constantly striving to become a community of mutual life and sustaining practices.

In the midst of our striving to live in mutual community, to discern the purpose that God intends for our lives, we, as human parts of creation, are bound by sin to falter, destroy and wreak havoc in God's good creation. It is only by the grace of God, which unites all the earth through Christ as one body that we are able to achieve flourishing lives.

The Church is a part of this world, one body in Christ, and is called by the Holy Triune God to act as a life-giving presence for all. Scripture, God's true revelation and the living story of people trying to live in right-relationship with God, is the Church's guide. Therefore, God, through the church, gives new life where there is none. Using Jesus' life and actions as a guide the church practices right-living with God and God's creation. The Holy Spirit inspires the church to be a place of worship and renewal wherever it lives.

The faithful worship of God is the ultimate joy of God's people. In the sacraments the Church finds mysterious, yet intensely tangible evidence of how to be in this world. In the act of Holy Communion the church bears witness to the real presence of Christ. Because of this real presence, partaking in the Eucharist is to be compelled to work against evil, sin and all that is degrading to life through the example of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I believe in one Baptism that binds us to God, washes away all sin and calls Christians into community and service of the Lord. In Baptism the church bears witness to God's everlasting love. In the baptismal sacrament we are simultaneously reminded of our sin and renewed by God's grace and we are compelled to live out our call as a mutual, life-giving community.

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## MARENA VITTORIO'S JOURNEY OF FAITH

My religious background has been rich and diverse. I did not enter the Presbyterian Church (USA) until six years ago, but the various faith communities in which I have participated have only enriched my understanding of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Had my dad lived, faith understandings in my home might have been more complex. My dad was Sicilian-Catholic. Before my father died, I was baptized as an infant in the Catholic tradition. At the time, my mother was an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), so I was also blessed in the Protestant tradition. My half-brothers and aunt remain faithful to Catholicism so I have learned to appreciate their ritual of worship.

Even with the strong presence of Catholicism in my life, I was raised in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I learned a lot from spending time with my mom in the church every week. I would often go with her to make hospital or homebound visits. I got very familiar with the smells, sounds, sights, and feelings associated with seeing people with illness and pain. These times were balanced when we would go to share in someone's joy. It is a rare privilege to share in the intimate extremes of a person's life.

Due to my love for cultural diversity, I have always enjoyed exploring various faith traditions. During high school I studied abroad in Japan and learned about Eastern religions visiting Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples. I began to see that most religions share in a love for community and ritual. When I went to undergrad, I enjoyed going to a variety of worship services but settled in an Episcopal church because I loved the liturgy and music. Surprisingly, when I went to Ireland to study, I became involved in the Anglican church where I coached the boys and girls choirs and played the organ which helped me learn the liturgy intimately. Ireland is the most religiously divided place I have ever lived. It gave me a great appreciation for the freedom of religious practice in the states. After returning from Ireland, I took the position as organist and choir director at the Disciples of Christ Church in my college town. I grew to love the people there and continue to rely on their support and friendship.

During my undergraduate, my mother and step-dad Dennis made a huge leap of faith to move closer to my Grandma in Indiana who needed their support during her final years of life. My mother immediately began looking for a church opening, but in a small community, it was difficult. We were all ecstatic when the local Disciples of Christ church requested a minister. Unfortunately, it was soon apparent that they would not hire a female pastor. This experience made me aware how different each congregationally-based Disciples of Christ Church is. The inability to get a position in the Disciples of Christ denomination led mom to discover a welcoming Presbyterian community and to transfer her ordination into the Presbyterian Church (USA). I spent time exploring the polity and confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA) before I made the decision to join the denomination a year into my mom's serving the local Presbyterian Church (USA).

After my undergraduate, I moved to Atlanta, GA to complete my Masters in Sacred Music at Emory University. Emory is affiliated with Candler Seminary where I grew in my knowledge of the Methodist faith tradition. The seminary had two large services a week in which I was involved in planning groups to prepare worship. Every service was geared toward a specific faith tradition, so we utilized and discovered numerous resources from many denominations. Occasionally we planned interfaith services. While in Atlanta, I found two positions as an associate organist/ choral director, both in Episcopal churches. As I gained more opportunities for exploring my faith, my concept of ministry became more expansive until I desired to go to seminary.

Since being at seminary, I have finally had the opportunity to worship in Presbyterian churches. My first year of seminary, I enjoyed attending many Presbyterian congregations in Louisville to experience their differences and similarities. This year, I am a student intern in a Presbyterian Church and have discovered how much passion I have for becoming and growing into a parish minister that serves by empowering others through education, liturgy, scripture, pastoral care, and music.

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COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY  
Final Examination of Candidates for Ministry

**Purpose for Questioning Candidates for Ordination**

The examination of a candidate should be for the purpose of assessing the knowledge and information he/she possesses, to stimulate the candidate's thinking, and to determine the candidate's level of maturity in preparation for the ministry. It is a time to verify his/her understanding of the foundational truths of our faith, the identification and understanding of the importance or relevance of the three written components supporting our faith (*Bible, Book of Confessions, and Book of Order*). It is also an opportunity to reinforce the candidate's self concept by allowing and encouraging him/her to fully participate in, and contribute to the ongoing discussion of our faith. This means that the questions used need to be adapted to fit the purpose.

Given the time constraints, and in the realization that this is the last of the candidate's formal preparatory steps, while all forms of questions are probably legitimate, it would seem to me that it would be most appropriate to limit questions to those which allow the candidate to demonstrate the ability to draw upon and apply the knowledge and understanding of the tenets of the Presbyterian faith acquired by his/her training, study, and life experiences -- that the "rightness" or "wrongness" of answers can be determined through the logic, rationale and insight demonstrated in the candidate's responses.

We need to consider the quality of the questions we ask. Take time to read/study the candidate's Statement of Faith -- carefully formulating questions clearly stated and avoiding ambiguity (What about the resurrection? Yeah, what about it??) Questions also need to be singular in subject.

Avoid questions that are so complicated and detailed that they only serve to confuse the candidate when he/she attempts to identify what type of thinking operation the question calls for. Then there are the 'Gotcha' questions -- tricky or divisive. It is also a time to avoid questions that are too clinical, too intellectually detailed, deep philosophical/theological in nature. And above all, avoid speculative questions with little or no religious relevance.

**Examples of Types of Questions to Consider**

**Yes/No type** are not very productive unless they also expect words of affirmation, denial/rejection, elaboration on choice of response: ("Do you believe the Holy Spirit resides within all men?" "Is abortion wrong?")

**Construction type** which requires information (scenario) from which the respondent is to construct an answer: (Young couple (strangers) want to have baby baptized. Mother was baptized and attended church up to age ten. Father has no religious background. What would be an appropriate response/course of action?)

**Convergent type** which stimulates explanation, association, discrimination, formulation, and illustration.

**Factual Recall type** depends on the level of thinking required.

(NOT "Who was John Calvin?" BUT "What is the impact of John Calvin's life on the reformed church?")

**Open type**: Often gives opportunities for a wide range of responses that are considered acceptable. ("If you wanted to establish an alternative form of worship, what elements would you include in it?")

**Closed type**: Using acquired information and/or knowledge. ("What must a man do to receive God's forgiveness?")

**Divergent type**: Allowing the candidate to generate his/her own steps, processes, procedures.

("How can a man modify his heart in order to...make it a suitable home for the Holy Spirit ...to allow him to express love for God -- his wife?")

**Evaluative type**: To explain a situation, propose a possible outcome (may lead to justifying a position)

("Why would you say that a terminal illness/disease did not come from God?" "What are some of your reasons for calling drug abuse a sin?")

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**Final thoughts:** Keep in mind when questioning a candidate it is appropriate to:

- Ask the candidate to expand on responses if he/she provides short or fragmentary answers.
- Ask the candidate to repeat and amplify if the response needs clarification.
- Ask the candidate to theologically justify a previous response. (“Upon what basis did you form this conclusion?”)
- Be willing to wait for thinking to take place. Allow the candidate to take the amount of time required for him/her to respond to the best of his/her ability.
- Avoid repeating the question unless the candidate requests it.

## List of Possible Reformed Theology Questions for Candidates

1. What is your understanding of mission?
2. What is your understanding of the authority of scripture?
3. What is your understanding of grace?
4. What is your understanding of judgment?
5. What is your understanding of what it means to be “Reformed always reforming?”
6. Share three ways reformed tradition views atonement and share which one you prefer.
7. What do you value about John Calvin?
8. What do you value most in the reformed tradition?
9. What does your understanding of \_\_\_\_\_ have to do with your day to day care for the people of God?
10. What does baptism signify and share your understanding of the sacrament?
11. What would you include in a Eucharistic Prayer?
12. If God is sovereign, why does evil take place in the world?
13. What do Presbyterians mean when they say God is sovereign?
14. What do you believe about predestination/election?
15. Are human beings inherently good or inherently bad? Explain.
16. Why do Presbyterians engage in social ministry?
17. What does it mean that human beings are stewards of God’s creation?
18. What is your definition of the Church?
19. How does reformed theology deal with non-Christian religions?
20. If the chief end of God’s people is to glorify and enjoy God forever, how do we do that?
21. What’s the difference between the ordinations of elders, deacons, and ministers of Word and Sacrament?
22. How is Christ present in the Lord’s Supper and share your understanding of the sacrament?
23. Why is the Trinity monotheistic?
24. Why do Presbyterians value the Old Testament even though Jesus is not mentioned in it?
25. What is your understanding of the virgin birth?



# Whitewater Valley Presbytery Ordination Anniversaries March-May

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of Ordination</b>	<b>Years Ordained</b>
LINDQUIST, Howard	4/13/1942	69
CLARK, Robert B.	4/6/1943	68
VAN, Byung Sub	5/1/1951	60
STEWART, Bob	5/16/1951	60
BOYLE, George	5/30/1951	60
BOWDEN, Raymond	4/24/1952	59
DATE, Henry	5/5/1953	58
BURHORN, John	5/10/1953	58
JACKSON, George	5/7/1954	57
RIDENOUR, W.W.	5/15/1955	56
NEAL, Harrison	4/24/1956	55
STONE, Paul	5/1/1958	53
STENNER, Richard	5/25/1958	53
MASTERS, Jack	5/29/1958	53
CLEMENSON, William	5/27/1960	51
MITCHELL, Ralph	5/7/1961	50
BOEBINGER, Donald	5/20/1962	49
WHITAKER, Arthur	5/31/1964	47
COOK, Judith	5/20/1973	38
KOPPITCH, John	5/21/1978	33
AMON, Robert	4/28/1985	26
GALE, Eric	4/24/1988	23
WAGER, Melodie	4/30/1989	22
LEE, Myung Ku	3/26/1992	19
PECH, Leonel	3/10/1995	16
AN, Youngsoo	4/21/1998	13
PHILABAUN, Linda	5/3/1998	13
WAUZZINSKI, Robert	4/18/1999	12
SCHLESINGER-DEVLIN, Justi	4/1/2001	10

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of Ordination</b>	<b>Years Ordained</b>
<b>CLINE, Jay</b>	<b>3/17/2002</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>GRIFFIN, Betty</b>	<b>3/13/2005</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>RIEDER, Katherine</b>	<b>4/15/2007</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>DENNIS, Caroline</b>	<b>3/22/2009</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>THORN, Terri</b>	<b>4/18/2010</b>	<b>1</b>