

Presbytery of Milwaukee
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NOTICE: A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF MILWAUKEE
Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 4:30 PM at Delafield Presbyterian Church

TO: Ministers, Sessions, Certified Church Educators

Notice is hereby given that in conformity with the Book of Order (G-11.0201) a **SPECIAL MEETING IS HEREBY CALLED** for the purpose of transacting the following items of business:

A. To act on the request of Fort Atkinson, Shalom to form a Union Church with Fort Atkinson, Friedens United Church of Christ effective April 4, 2010. **Supporting document for the Plan of Union is online.**

B. Committee on Ministry items:

B1 – pending congregational approval (meeting 3/7/10) requests the presbytery to allow the Lake Geneva, Linn congregation to elect the Reverend Won Ho Kim as Designated Pastor. He has served as a temporary supply since November 1, 2009. (Book of Order G-14.0551) **Supporting document is online.**

B2 - COM may bring a request to form an Administrative Commission to assist a congregation that has decided to close. (Congregational meeting to take place March 7, 2010) **Document will be distributed at the meeting if congregation requests assistance.**

C. The Nominating Committee nominates:
Jennifer Plazek, Franklin, Faith as Youth Advisory Delegate to General Assembly
Joe Correa-Volkman as Alternate Youth Advisory Delegate to General Assembly
Kemper Huber (M) Mission Partnerships Class of 2010

D. Council may bring a request to use funds from the Presbytery Foundation regarding a proposal from a congregation. **Supporting documents will be online March 10 if Council approves proposal.**

E. Installation of the Reverend Bob Jensen as vice-moderator of the Presbytery.

The policy of the Presbytery is to excuse those who are absent from a Special Meeting.

Elder Mark Anderson, Moderator

At the request of:

The Reverend Roger Woehl
The Reverend Elizabeth 'Bonnie' Stafford

Elder Elayne Stover
Elder Cynthia Smith

Special Presbytery Meeting
March 16, 2010

Motion: The congregation of Fort Atkinson, Shalom (cong. mtg 2/28/10) request the Presbytery to form a Union Church with Fort Atkinson, Friedens United Church of Christ effective April 4, 2010.

PLAN OF UNION
Grace United Church, Fort Atkinson, WI

The following Plan of Union is adopted by the Friedens United Church of Christ and Shalom Presbyterian Church, both of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, effective as of April 4, 2010 provided each of the congregations has approved the plan by a two-thirds majority of those present at a regularly called congregational meeting with such notice and quorum as is required by the Constitution and Bylaws of each church, and after which the Presbytery of Milwaukee (PCUSA) and the Southwest Association of the Wisconsin Conference(UCC) (hereinafter referred to as the parent denominations) have given approval.

1. NAME

The union church shall be known as Grace United Church and shall be incorporated as such as required in the State of Wisconsin, USA.

2. MISSION

The mission and purpose of this union is to serve God; to provide spiritual growth for all members; to be an open, accepting and caring congregation. A sense of community shall permeate church activities and programs as we reach out to one another. To provide a larger presence in the community and to recognize the importance of growing as a congregation, we will focus on making others feel important. We will be welcoming and invite new people to participate in church activities. The congregation, upon recommendation of the Governing Board, may, from time to time, revise the church's mission statement without amending this Plan of Union.

3. SUBJECTION TO DENOMINATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS

Grace United Church shall be subject to the Constitutions of both of the parent denominations. Where the Constitutions of these denominations differ, the governing body of the union church shall determine which provision shall apply.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The initial membership of the union church shall consist of those who were active members of the uniting churches, plus those received by the governing body of the union church. The governing body of the union church shall each year report half of the total membership to each of the parent denominations. New members received after the date of the union will not alter this ratio for reporting.

5. OFFICERS

The officers of the church shall initially be President (one year), Vice President (one year), Clerk (one year), Treasurer (one year), Financial Secretary (one year) and Members of the Governing Board (1, 2 & 3 year terms) elected by the respective congregations upon nomination by the Joint Task Force on Merger as part of their adoption of this Plan of Union. The members of the Governing Board shall also be the trustees of the corporation.

The first Governing Board at the time of union shall include three persons elected by and from Shalom Presbyterian Church and six persons elected by and from Friedens United Church of Christ. Candidates for this first Governing Board will be nominated by the Joint Task Force on

Merger. Elections will occur at the meeting when the Plan of Union is adopted by each church. Members shall be elected to terms (1/3 for one year, 1/3 for two years and 1/3 for three years). Thereafter, members shall be nominated and elected by the union church as prescribed in the Plan of Union and Bylaws.

Any active member of the congregation may be nominated and elected to serve in any elective office. Upon expiration of the initial terms of these officers, all future officers will be elected by the process and subject to the duties and responsibilities described in the bylaws of the church.

6. PASTOR

The pastoral relations between the ministers of the uniting churches shall be dissolved automatically by the action of the congregations, presbytery and association in approving this Plan of Union.

The pastor may be a member of either of the parent denominations or of another denomination with the approval of both parent denominations. He/she shall be the moderator of the governing board and be responsible for its orderly conduct of the church's business. The pastor will have no governing authority independent of the governing board except as pertains to decisions about the nature and content of the prayers, hymns and sermons as part of services of worship. Other duties and responsibilities of the pastor are enumerated and described in church bylaws

If the first pastor called by the union church is the pastor of one of the uniting churches, he/she shall be considered a designated pastor with the following terms: At 6-month intervals during the first two years of service, the pastor and the governing board shall act to either continue the pastoral relationship through the next six months or to terminate the pastoral relationship. Such termination of the pastoral relationship will carry no formal or implied stigma on the record of either the pastor or the church. At the end of two years, upon recommendation of the governing board and with concurrence of the pastor and consultation with the parent denominations, the congregation may vote to issue a call to the pastor, who would then be formally installed by joint action of the Presbytery of Milwaukee (PCUSA) and the Southwest Association of the Wisconsin Conference (UCC). All subsequent pastors will be called following the procedures and requirements of the parent denominations (see Article 3).

7. REPRESENTATION IN DENOMINATIONAL BODIES

Grace United Church shall be represented in governing bodies of the parent denominations in a similar manner as other churches in those denominations. For purposes of congregational representation, representatives shall be selected from among current and previous members of the Governing Board.

8. PROPERTY

All property, both real estate and personal, owned or controlled by the uniting churches shall become the property of Grace United Church. All decisions related to the management, maintenance and/or disposal of such property shall be vested in the governing board subject to congregational ratification of decisions to encumber, improve (in excess of 3% of total annual budgeted expenses), or dispose of such property. Purchase of additional property shall be subject to the same requirements for ratification by the congregation.

9. BENEVOLENCES

Annually the governing body of the union church shall propose to the congregation a general mission or benevolence program which shall be divided among the officially approved causes of each parent denomination.

10. PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENTS

Per capita apportionments, assessments or dues assessed or apportioned by the parent denominations shall be paid to the governing bodies of the parent denominations on the basis of one half of the total active membership of the union church to each denomination.

11. GOVERNING PROCESS

The authority and responsibility for the orderly governance of Grace United Church shall be vested in the Governing Board acting in concert with the pastor who shall be its moderator. The Governing Board shall have all of the responsibilities of the local church governing body described by the parent denominations subject to provisions in article 3 of this Plan of Union. Additional responsibilities may be included in the Bylaws. The President of the congregation will moderate the Governing Board if invited by the pastor or if the church has no pastor. Any and all actions of the Governing Board shall be reviewed at least annually by the congregation gathered in accordance with the church's bylaws.

The congregation alone, acting in accordance with the church's bylaws, has the authority to elect its officers (including pastor) and to ratify in advance any and all recommendations of the Governing Board to purchase, sell or improve (in excess of 3% of total annual budgeted expenses) church property.

The Governing Board may establish committees and task forces as necessary to provide for the orderly governance of the church. However, two standing committees, a Nominating Committee and a Pastor Parish Relations Committee, shall permanently be part of the church governance structure.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Nominations for all constitutional offices shall be made by a nominating committee representative of active members of the church.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE: In order to provide for the orderly and effective relationship between the pastor and the congregation, the congregation shall annually elect a pastoral relations committee of active members of the congregation.

12. APPEALS OR COMPLAINTS

Appeals or complaints against the actions of the Governing Board of the union church shall be made to one higher governing body at the choice of the member(s) appealing and all subsequent appeals or complaints shall be in the governing bodies of the members' original choice, and decisions so finally made shall be binding on the governing body and the member.

13. JUDICIAL CASES

The minister or ministers shall be subject to the discipline of the denominational governing body in which they are ordained, commissioned or licensed provided that when either shall begin an action it shall invite a committee from the other denomination to join the commissioner, prosecutor, or prosecuting committee in formulating and pressing the charges. When a minister is ordained, commissioned or licensed by a denominational body other than the parties to this Plan of Union, both denominations participating in this Plan of Union shall act in concert to determine the judicial process to be used. In the event of appeal the case shall be finally decided by the highest governing body to which the appeal is taken in the denomination which commenced the action, and that decision shall be equally binding on the governing bodies of jurisdiction.

14. DISSOLUTION

The church may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of two consecutive congregational meetings, held not less than one year and not more than two years apart, subject to the concurrence of the parent denominations. In case of dissolution occurring less than ten years after the merger, all property, both real and personal, shall be divided proportionately between

the governing bodies of the parent denominations based on the assets brought to the formation of the congregation. In the event of dissolution ten years or more after the merger, all property, both real and personal, shall be divided equally between the governing bodies of the parent denominations.

15. DISMISSAL

After consultation with the congregation, the Governing Board may petition that the church be dismissed to another denomination by cooperative action of the governing bodies of the parent denominations. All property, real or personal, of the congregation may be retained by the congregation or be divided between the congregation and denominational governing bodies by agreement among the parties involved subject to any restrictions on transfer of ownership that may exist in deeds or other provisions of the constitutions of the parent denominations.

16. PLAN OF UNION TO BECOME CONSTITUTION OF UNIION CHURCH

Upon adoption by at least 2/3 of those active members present and voting in each uniting congregation, and concurrence by the governing bodies of both parent denominations, this Plan of Union shall become the Constitution of Grace United Church. This Constitution may be amended only upon recommendation of the Governing Board, affirmative vote by 2/3 of the active membership of the congregation present and voting in accordance with its by-laws, and concurrence by the governing bodies of both parent denominations.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

Friedens United Church of Christ
Congregational Meeting held on February 28, 2010
Votes: 23 YES 1 NO

Shalom Presbyterian Church
Congregational Meeting held on February 28, 2010
Votes: 8 YES 0 NO

Approval by Milwaukee Presbytery
Date _____
ATTEST: _____

Approval by Southwest Association
Date _____
ATTEST: _____

Special Presbytery meeting - Committee on Ministry Report

March 16, 2010

Action Item: Pending congregational approval (mtg. 3/7/10) the Committee on Ministry (COM) moves the Reverend Won Ho Kim, current Temporary Supply pastor, becomes the Designated Pastor for Linn Presbyterian Church, Lake Geneva. (*Requires a two-thirds approval of the presbytery*) (Book of Order G-11.0201)

Book of Order Citation

G-14.0551 May Not Become Next Installed Pastor

A minister serving in a temporary pastoral relationship other than organizing pastor is not eligible to serve that church in the next permanent or designated pastoral relationship. A presbytery may choose to allow a temporary supply to become the next installed pastor by a two-thirds vote of the presbytery. (*Designated Pastor is an installed position*)

Background Information for COM's motion

July 2007 Installed pastor Jim Pollard left

Nov. 2007 Interim Jim Eckblad begins his ministry

April 2008 Report from Church Doctor Ministries (Mission Study) received by the session

Oct. 2008 Linn granted permission to elect a PNC

Jan. 2009 Date the PNC was elected

April-May 2009 Church Information Form goes on-line

Oct. 2009 A session search committee is formed to call bridge pastor while PNC finishes its work since Rev. Eckblad will complete his interim work at the end of Nov. COM provides names for a possible bridge pastor.

Nov. 2009 Jim Eckblad completes two years as interim.

Nov. 2009 Session calls the Rev. Won Ho Kim as the ½ time Bridge Pastor (Temporary Supply)

Jan. 2010 COM approached by Pastor Nominating Committee about changing Linn position to a Designated Pastor position and calling Rev. Won Ho Kim.

Statistical Information

142	Number of Personal Information Forms (PIF) reviewed by at least one member of the PNC
83	Number of PIFs reviewed by at least three members of the PNC
26	Number of PIFs reviewed by entire PNC
21	Number of phone interviews completed by PNC ranging from one-on-one calls to conference calls with all available PNC members
4	Number of face-to-face interviews
0	Number of times the position was formally offered. The PNC's moderator's recollection is that 3 or 4 candidates were quite appealing to the PNC and the position would have been offered had the candidates not withdrawn themselves prior to the point of an offer being tendered.