

PRESBYTERY OF TSHWANE

The minutes of Tshwane Presbytery Executive Meeting on Thu 20 Sep 2007
Emmanuel Presby, Pretoria

1. Constitution

Because she was not feeling very well the Moderator had asked Theo Groeneveld to act in her stead although she was present. Margie Thompson acted as the Presbytery Clerk. The Acting Moderator welcomed all present and opened the meeting with a reading from Romans 8:18-32 and committed the meeting to God in prayer.

2. Present and Apologies

- Present

Glynis Goyns (Saints/Resting Moderator), Theo Groeneveld (Emmanuel/Acting Moderator), Eddie Stopforth (Treasurer), Graham Duncan (Tukkies), Chris Moore (Highveld), Margie Thompson (Saints/Acting Clerk), Ewald Moerman(StJohns), Violet Mashao (Mamelodi East), Sello Mamabolo(Soshanguve), Patrick Nyauza(JonasLediga), Susan Hodgson (Emmanuel/Associate).

- Apologies: Gary Sinclair (St Andrews Witbank)

3. Call to Ewald Moerman to Paarl Congregation, Western Cape.

3.1. Call documents received from the Western Cape

Theo Groeneveld explained that this call was being considered at the Executive with the express permission of the Presbytery which had recognised the exceptional circumstances. The call documents were presented, the call being signed by 86.1% of the congregation. The ExComm were given time to discuss the emoluments, the process and the various aspects of the call.

Chris Moore led the council in prayer and then the matter was put to the vote.

P_3.1.1. Presbytery approves the call from the Paarl Congregation to Rev Ewald Moerman noting that his last service at St John's will be in the middle of December 2007.

This was proposed, seconded and received with no votes against and no abstentions.

The Acting Moderator suggested that the call document be handed to Ewald at the next full presbytery meeting. He also thanked Ewald for his contribution over the years and wished him and his family all the best. He then committed the family and St Johns to the Lord in prayer.

Three concerns were expressed and movers were adamant that these were not concerns about this vacancy and call, but about vacancies and calls *in general* and these are recorded here to note and for inclusion in the "Vacancies for Dummies" Document.

1. It is not ideal to handle vacancies and calls at ExComm – this is the work of the Presbytery and exceptions to this principle in no way form a precedent.
2. Many congregations are trying to fill vacancies with, what is at times, "indecent haste." Congregations are urged to see vacancies as a time for growth.

41 3. We should be very careful about considering calls an “accomplished fact” when
42 the process involving the Presbyteries is not yet complete. Congregations should
43 not advertise vacancies until the legal steps of our polity are complete.

44 **4. Khayakulu Project and Pedal Project**

45 *4.1. Some proposals to lead us toward action*

46 Theo circulated some notes from the Rocky Valley Consistory and explained that he had
47 put together some draft proposals which were an attempt to begin to action our plans for
48 2008.

49 **P_4.1.1.** Presbytery actively pursue the appointment of Probationers Jun Hu and Vuyo
50 Mbaru to Ruighoek and Khayakulu respectively and asks the convener of the
51 Ministry Committee to negotiate with the Congregations, Students, Interim
52 Moderators of these congregations and the General Assembly Ministry
53 Committee to make these placements happen with as much buy-in and enthusiasm
54 as possible.

55 *It was Proposed, Seconded and Agreed.*

56 **P_4.1.2.** Presbytery appeals for assistance from a knowledgeable volunteer to assist in
57 the purchase of a vehicle and the drawing up of paperwork and procedures for the
58 Khayakulu infrastructure project.

59 *It was Proposed, Seconded and Agreed.*

60 **P_4.1.3.** Presbytery appeals for assistance from a knowledgeable volunteer to assist
61 getting the Septic Tank and Bathroom upgrade done at Khayakulu.

62 *It was Proposed, Seconded and Agreed.*

63 **P_4.1.4.** Presbytery appeals for assistance of an enthusiastic volunteer to serve as the
64 Project Champion for the Khayakulu Infrastructure Project.

65 *It was Proposed, Seconded and Agreed.*

66 **P_4.1.5.** Presbytery sets aside the following finances:

67 From Pedal Project: Khayakulu R24,000 and Ruighoek R24,000.

68 (Noting that Presbytery has already approved R80,000 from Presbytery Funds
69 (Project 2008) for Khayakulu Infrastructure.)

70 *It was Proposed, Seconded and Agreed.*

71 **P_4.1.6.** Presbytery urges Mamelodi and Thumedi Makgahlela to speed up their
72 vacancy processes and offers each congregation R24,000 for the first year of
73 ministry to establish the work.

74 *It was Proposed, Seconded and Agreed.*

75 **P_4.1.7.** Presbytery urges St Peters to consider calling a minister and to use their
76 financial resources to make this happen.

77 *It was Proposed, Seconded and Agreed.*

78 **P_4.1.8.** Presbytery establishes a quarterly meeting of Interim Moderators with the
79 Moderator, Clerk and Convener of the Ministry Committee to report progress,
80 share ideas and exchange resources. The Clerk to convene.

81 *It was Proposed, Seconded and Agreed.*

82 **P_4.1.9.** Presbytery establishes a roster for Vacant Congregations to provide detailed
83 reports twice per year (although they may report more frequently than that.)

84 *It was Proposed, Seconded and Agreed.*
85 **P_4.1.10.** Presbytery considers our Missionaries in the 2008 budget.
86 *It was Proposed, Seconded and Agreed.*

87 **5. Any other Business**

88 *5.1. Confusion over Pulpit Supply Fees for Interim Moderators*
89 Some concern was expressed about Interim Moderators and whether they should receive
90 pulpit supply. The General Consensus was that Interim Moderators are NOT entitled to
91 Pulpit Supply Fees. They are allowed to be reimbursed for Travel at Presbytery rates.

92 *5.2. Widows Conference.*
93 Theo reported about the Widows conference hosted by the Assembly's Aids committee.
94 He explained that after he had consulted with a number of Presbyters and the convener of
95 the Assembly Committee, he, in the absence of the Moderator (who was overseas),
96 decided that he would ask the JSR convener to find 5 widows and that Presbytery would
97 sponsor their transport.
98 In the end it turned out that four widows attended and Presbytery paid R800 for transport
99 and R200 for phone-calls by the JSR convener.

100 **P_5.2.1.** Presbytery condones the action of the Clerk and approves the expenditure of
101 R1000 for the HIV/Aids Widows Conference.
102 *It was Proposed, Seconded and Agreed.*
103

104 **6. Closure**

105 The Moderator closed the proceedings in prayer.

106 Confirmation of the Minutes
107

108 Confirmed this day _____ of _____ 2007
109
110

111 _____
112 Clerk

Moderator