

# **PRESBYTERY COORDINATING COMMISSION MINUTES**

Presbytery of East Iowa ● 25 January 2018 ● Presbytery Office

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**PRESENT: Karen Bartel (Treasurer), Rebecca Blair (Stated Clerk), Jennifer Jennings (COM), Dan Jessop (Vice-Moderator, Trustees), Karen Minnis (Moderator), Melody Oltmann (CPM), Larry Petrick (COM)**

**STAFF: Harry Hoyt (COM Associate)**

Moderator Karen Minnis called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. with prayer. She offered a devotion from Psalm 100. The Moderator called upon Stated Clerk Dr. Rebecca Blair, who affirmed that a quorum was present. A **motion to approve the minutes of the 30 November 2017 meeting was seconded and APPROVED unanimously.**

## **Moderator's Report**

### **Discovering and Claiming Our Common Calling Discussion**

Moderator Minnis noted that the focus of this meeting should be to discuss takeaways from the January stated meeting and to get our bearings to move toward the implementation of the new plan as directed by the Presbytery. Initial discussion concerned the new structure's intention to shift Presbytery culture from vertical to horizontal orientation. The plan also is intended to facilitate a shift in focus from individual power/control to collective authority that is more consonant with Presbyterian polity. The plan's success will require pastor buy-in and broad understanding of the values and opportunities offered by the plan. This is an opportunity to focus more specifically on the roles of teaching and ruling elders within the Presbytery as well as our calling to ministry within the Presbytery boundaries rather than just the maintenance of internal management processes. In order to create, maintain, and grow covenant community, we must focus on immersive, reciprocal communications. It is crucial that we prioritize hiring a highly-competent communications person.

The issue of how to move forward with the transition from old committees to new teams was more specifically discussed. We will need to plan a sequential rollout of new teams. Some members of the PCC noted that they would find it helpful to have a chart comparing the old and new structures. Moderator Minnis appointed a task group composed of Jennifer Jennings, Melody Oltmann, Harry Hoyt, and Larry Petrick to prepare such a chart. The PCC also reiterated the essential necessity of ensuring consistent, constant communications, including the prioritization of a communications associate to facilitate sharing information as the implementation process occurs. The PCC also agreed that we need to plan to elect the Representation and Nominations Team first so that they can process the remaining nominations.

A second part of claiming the new identity and new way of being marked by the new structure concerns the directive from the Presbytery that the Moderator contact Lombard Mennonite Peace Center to investigate moving forward with a reconciliation process. Moderator Minnis

stated that she plans to ask Mary Pugh to help her with this directive since Mary has participated in many of the Lombard programs.

Moderator Minnis then asked the Stated Clerk to introduce and explain the funding opportunity offered by the Lilly Endowment. Lilly has just launched a national initiative, Thriving in Ministry, to provide funding of up to \$1 million for initiatives developed by church organizations that help pastors develop leadership skills and deeper peer relationships with other clergy who can serve as role models and mentors to guide them through leadership challenges in congregational ministry. Stated Clerk Blair observed that conversations are already occurring within the Presbytery about the Macedonian Ministries program, and that this program could be incorporated into a Lilly grant. She explained how the Macedonian Ministries approach works. The PCC then affirmed by consensus that the Presbytery should seek a Lilly grant, adopt the Macedonian Ministries approach as part of the funded initiative, and institute 4 cohorts, one for each Presbytery region to operate over the next 3-5 years. The PCC further directed the Stated Clerk to write a draft grant request and to work with Vice-Moderator Dan Jessop and Jennifer Jennings to perfect and send the request and draft a plan to implement the grant initiative.

**A motion to adjourn was APPROVED.** Vice-Moderator Minnis asked for those present to share joys and concerns. She adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m. by leading those present in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Blair, Ph.D.  
Stated Clerk

**NEXT PCC MEETING:**

Thursday, February 22, 2018  
10:00 AM  
Presbytery Office