

# PRESBYTERY COORDINATING COMMISSION MINUTES

Presbytery of East Iowa 1 November 2018 Presbytery Office 10:00 a.m.

**PRESENT: Rebecca Blair (Stated Clerk), Gary Burnett (Nominating), Danie deBeer (Congregational Development and Vitality), Jennifer Jennings (MCC), Dan Jessop (Vice-Moderator), Tom Martin (Budget and Finance), Karen Minnis (Moderator), Kris Ward (Personnel), Mary Anne Welch (Leadership Development), Lori Wunder (Personnel)**

**STAFF PRESENT: Julia Andrews (Communications Manager), Karen Bartel (Finance Manager)**

Moderator Karen Minnis called the meeting to order at 10:10 am with prayer. The Moderator called upon Stated Clerk Dr. Rebecca Blair, who affirmed that a quorum was present. A **motion to approve the minutes of the 13 September 2018 meeting was seconded and APPROVED unanimously.**

The Moderator declared the body to be in executive session to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on 16 October 2018. **A motion to approve the minutes of the 16 October 2018 special meeting was seconded and APPROVED.**

Moderator Minnis declared the body to be out of executive session.

## **Moderator's Report**

Moderator Minnis provided an update on the Davenport, First situation. TE Pam Saturnia has been appointed by MCC as the session moderator. She has been joined by TE Jennifer Jennings (MCC moderator). RE Jim Claypool (Immediate Past Moderator/advocate for Richard Miller), and RE Rebecca Blair (Stated Clerk) in discussions with the session. A dissolution agreement is being completed for presentation at the November stated meeting.

## **Stated Clerk's Report**

Stated Clerk Blair presented the referred motion concerning the stated meeting dates for 2019. The PCC discussed alternative dates and issues involved in setting dates such as family activities on weekends, sports schedules, work schedules for ruling elders, and degree of commitment to the life of the Presbytery. Moderator Minnis noted that ruling elders form the stable framework of the Presbytery. It was also noted that there is a perception of the Presbytery as a kind of clergy union. After discussion, **a motion to revise the meeting schedule as follows and to direct the Stated Clerk to docket this motion for the November stated meeting and affirm churches to host these meetings was seconded and APPROVED:**

2019 PROPOSED STATED MEETINGS			
186 <sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting	Saturday, January 19	10 am-2 pm	Query sent

187 <sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting	Saturday, March 16	10 am-2 pm	Query sent
188 <sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting	Saturday, July 13	10 am-2 pm	All-Presbytery Picnic
189 <sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting	Saturday, September 21	10 am-2 pm	Query sent
190 <sup>st</sup> Stated Meeting	Thursday, November 21	1 pm-5 pm	Query sent

This revised motion eliminates the May meeting and moves the November meeting to a Thursday with an abbreviated timeframe. The Moderator will advise the body that a called meeting may be necessary in the space of time between March and July.

Stated Clerk Blair updated the PCC on the rollout of the Safe Gatherings program that will address background checks and boundary training for application in Inquirer/Candidate background checks, minister candidate background checks, church volunteer checks as required by Child Protection Policies, and boundary training for minister members. The cost of the special platform that must be built to tailor this program for our Presbytery's use is \$3300. Stated Clerk Blair asked the PCC to affirm moving forward with building this platform and operationalizing Safe Gatherings as of the January stated meeting. **A motion to affirm instituting the Safe Gatherings program as of the January stated meeting was seconded and APPROVED.**

Stated Clerk Blair then reviewed the necessary items to be docketed for the November meeting. She inquired about worship planning. **A motion that the host church plan worship for the stated meeting was seconded and APPROVED.** TE Danie deBeer affirmed that St. Andrew would be delighted to plan worship for the November meeting. The meeting theme of Thanksgiving will include statements of appreciation to those who have retired from service on Presbytery committees and those who have served the Presbytery this year in various ways.

Stated Clerk Blair noted that it is time for renewal of the AIM network, a Presbytery network that focuses upon accessibility and mental health issues, led by Marcia Murphy (IC, St. Andrew). The renewal application was distributed to PCC members. **A motion that the PCC recommends that the Presbytery renew the status of the AIM Network (an authorized PEIA network) for another 2-year period, effective 1 January 2019 through 31 December 2020 was seconded and APPROVED.**

The Presbytery must also approve ordination exam readers prior to December 31, 2018. The Midwest Region exam evaluation periods will run from February 4-8, 2019 and May 6-10, 2019. Stated Clerk Blair noted that she had issued this invitation on behalf of PCC at the September meeting, and RE Anita Burnett and TE Katie Styrt volunteered to serve as principal readers. Stated Clerk Blair volunteered to serve as an alternate reader if needed. **A motion that the PCC recommends that the Presbytery approve RE Anita Burnett, TE Katie Styrt, and RE Rebecca Blair (Alternate) as exam readers for the 2018-2019 ordination exam cycle in accord with the allocation formula set by the Presbyteries Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates was seconded and APPROVED.**

## **Trustees Report**

Trustee moderator Jan Kosowski was unable to make it to this meeting. In her absence, Stated Clerk Blair noted that Jan has taken the lead in the dissolution process of the Hazleton church. The last worship service will take place the first Sunday in December.

## **Budget and Finance Report**

Ruling Elder Tom Martin, committee moderator, presented the 2019 proposed budget for discussion. In the course of consideration, several amendments were made to the budget draft as follows:

- "Income" on page 1 was changed to "Anticipated Receipts"
- In Line 6060, COM was changed to MCC
- Lines 4001, 4002, and 4042 will be labelled as pass-throughs
- Personnel requested the addition of \$2,000 for search expenses
- The calculation for Stated Clerk and staff salaries for BOP benefits should be at 37%
- Line 6702 should be changed to read Mission and Congregational Support with proposed salary and benefits figures included as placeholders for a possible position search. These figures are 6702 · Payroll - Mission & Congregational Support

6706 · Salary - Mission & Congregation Support	55000
6711 · Benefits -Mission & Congregation Support	20400
6716 · FICA - Mission & Congregation Support	4300
6721 · Continuing Ed - Mission & Congregation Support	1000
6726 · Travel - Mission & Congregation Support	4000

Team moderator Martin noted that the per capita recommendation for 2019 is as follows: Presbytery--\$23.65, Synod--\$5.40, General Assembly--\$8.95 for a total of \$38.00.

**A motion to recommend the 2019 budget and per capita proposal as amended to the Presbytery at the November stated meeting was seconded and APPROVED.**

## **Ministers and Congregations Commission Report**

Commission moderator TE Jennifer Jennings presented a number of action items that will be docketed for the November stated meeting.

- **The MCC recommends that, when the way be clear, the Presbytery transfer the membership of the Reverend Elizabeth Dickey to the Presbytery of Chicago so that she may take up new ministerial service as Chaplain at the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab (formerly the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago), which focuses on treating patients who need extreme physical and occupational therapy. We give thanks for her ministry in our midst.**
- **The MCC recommends the following compensation adjustments for 2019: Each of the eight ranges of the Pastor Compensation**

**Structure and the eight ranges of the Compensation Structure for Commissioned Ruling be increased by 1.5% effective January 1, 2019, and pastors, commissioned ruling elders and temporary pastors receive a cost-of- living-adjustment (COLA) increase of no less than 1.5% effective January 1, 2019.**

- **The MCC recommends that the Presbytery approve the terms of dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Reverend Jon Evans and First Presbyterian Church in Wapello.**

Commission moderator Jennings noted that the situation in the Wapello church will require further attention as a justice issue emerged during the course of the administrative commission's tenure working with the session.

### **Congregational Development and Vitality Team Report**

Team moderator Danie deBeer announced that the team has had one meeting and is working on sharing ministerial relations responsibilities with MCC and LD.

### **Personnel Team Report**

Team moderator TE Lori Wunder noted that the team has published a Statement on the Commission on Ministry Associate Position that has been posted on the website.

She invited discussion on an appropriate way to mark the end of the COM Associate position at the November stated meeting. After brief discussion, the PCC decided to invite the Presbytery to contribute to a gift fund and to place \$1000 in the fund as seed money. **A motion to recognize the contributions of Harry Hoyt as COM Associate through the establishment of a gift fund to which individuals within the Presbytery can contribute through November 30 with the Presbytery contributing an initial \$1000 as seed money was seconded and APPROVED.**

Team moderator Wunder noted that the team is still working on a potential Mission and Congregational Relationships position, a Presbytery contact reference sheet, and the final draft of the Employee Handbook.

### **Leadership Development Team Report**

Team moderator TE Mary Anne Welch announced that Mika Rangel (Wilton, First) is interested in pursuing enrollment as an Inquirer. The team is also planning an educational event at a stated meeting to get a better feel for the perceived leadership needs for revitalization of churches. The team will also be pursuing the conversation with Mary Kay DuChene at Leaderwise.

## **Committee on Representation and Nomination Report**

TE Gary Burnett, committee moderator, noted that COR-N examined the question of how the Presbytery officers could be perceived in clearer, more definite and bounded leadership roles. The moderatorial role is the position authorized by the body and responsible to the body to use “the authority necessary for preserving order and for conducting efficiently the business of the body” (G-3.0104). He or she is understood to be acting primus inter pares or “first among equals.”

The committee looked at the new co-moderatorial leadership model (two people sharing the moderator role across two years) used across two General Assembly cycles and brought this information to the PCC for further strategic discussion of the role of the moderator to situate it appropriately to the role of the stated clerk, the chief ecclesiastical officer. The moderator and stated clerk are the two constitutionally mandated leadership roles.

After much discussion, the PCC decided to conduct an experiment to shift the definition of moderator in this election cycle to a co-moderatorial model, so that all of our officer definitions accord with the General Assembly model. **A motion that the Presbytery elect co-moderators for a two-year term of service (January 2019 through December 2020) with the understanding that they will determine how the moderatorial duties will be apportioned and met during this time period, was seconded and APPROVED.**

In future moderatorial nominations, the Presbytery will continue to alternate the nomination to service of men and women, ruling and teaching elders as is the case in our current system. Vice-Moderator Dan Jessop will discuss this possibility with the Vice-Moderator nominee for 2019. Appropriate adjustment will be made in the COR-N report which will appear in the Table Docket.

## **Adjournment**

**A motion to adjourn was seconded and APPROVED.** Vice-Moderator Dan Jessop offered the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Blair, Ph.D.  
Stated Clerk

### **NEXT PCC MEETING:**

Thursday, February 28, 2019  
10:00 am  
Eastdale Conference Room