

Presbytery Coordinating Commission Minutes

21 May 2015

Presbytery of East Iowa ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Presbytery Office ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 21 May 2015

Present: Karen Bartel (Treasurer), Rebecca Blair (Stated Clerk), Anita Burnett (CPM), Harry Hoyt (COM Associate), Ann Luedtka (COM), Sam Massey (COM), Karen Minnis (Trustees), Nancy Oehler Love (Personnel), Melody Oltmann (CPM), Kyle Otterbein (Moderator), Al Polito (Nominating), Pam Saturnia (Trustees)

Moderator Kyle Otterbein called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. with the lighting of the Christ Candle and prayer. Teaching Elder Al Polito shared the devotional reflection. Moderator Otterbein called upon Stated Clerk Rebecca Blair, who affirmed that a quorum was present. **A motion to approve the minutes of the 30 April 2015 meeting was seconded and APPROVED unanimously.**

Moderator's Report

The Moderator introduced for further discussion the issue of how to address the long-range strategic planning process. He noted that he has appointed a Presbytery Gathering Planning Team with membership as follows: Kyle Otterbein (Moderator), Pam Saturnia (Vice-Moderator), Rebecca Blair (Stated Clerk), Teaching Elder Jim Bonewald, Ruling Elder Deb Goslin, Ruling Elder Curt Mayo, and Ruling Elder/ CRE Marian Hart. This group will plan the remainder of the stated meetings for this year.

Discussion then broadened to the Bergey/Ferguson proposal. Stated Clerk Blair noted that she had received further communication from them indicating that some presbyteries were uncomfortable committing to the 18-month plan. They are now planning a one-time, two-day learning intensive event. Participants would send in advance a case study, and would have the opportunity to follow up by phone with Phil Bergey and Laurie Ferguson after the event. They will contact the presbytery in late June with more details. The general consensus of the PCC is that the Presbytery would benefit from a longer term intensive, systematic process. **A motion to remove the motion concerning the Bergey /Ferguson opportunity from the June 9 stated meeting docket was seconded and APPROVED.** Ann Luedtka volunteered to check out other alternatives.

Trustees Report

Vice-Moderator Pam Saturnia, moderator of the Trustees, reported that the Trustees met on May 19, 2015 and addressed four items of business:

1. The Trustees will present a recommendation at the June 9 stated meeting that the remainder of the Brazil mission monies (approximately \$54, 000) be transmitted to the Presce Project directed by Manoel Andrade.

2. The Trustees will present a recommendation at the June 9 stated meeting that the former Knox church building be offered for sale with Roger Flink acting as the real estate agent.
3. The Trustees are in the process of collecting specific financial details concerning the situation of the Echo Hill church. They will meet with the Finance Committee of the church in the near future.
4. The Trustees are forming an internal task force to research the disposition of the PEIA office property.

Personnel Committee Report

Committee member Nancy Oehler-Love indicated that the Personnel Committee will present a recommendation at the June 9 stated meeting to approve the revised Network Associate position description as well as a motion to affirm the Reverend Warren Jensen as the Pastor to Pastors in accord with the Formula of Agreement provisions.

Teaching Elder Oehler-Love introduced the Reverend Mr. Jensen who, in turn, introduced himself by speaking about his passions and the values that inform his work in pastoral counseling. He observed that boundaries for this position remain to be created, but it is his hope that these may be created collaboratively by the stakeholders involved. His understanding of this role is that it involves a team effort, and his prime interest lies in listening to where pastors are in their ministries. His conversations and interactions with pastors will remain strictly confidential in order to build and maintain trusting relationships.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Karen Bartel reviewed the financial report of account balances, noting that she continues to update accounts with the aim of bringing great clarity and transparency to the report. **A motion to receive the report was seconded and APPROVED.**

Commission on Ministry Report

Ruling Elder Ann Luedtka, commission moderator, noted that COM is working with the staff and session of the Echo Hill church on financial and personnel issues. Pam Saturnia (representing Trustees) and Harry Hoyt (representing COM) have visited further with the Echo Hill pastor and session on May 18th at 6:30 p.m. The focus of those leading this church should be on serving and leading the congregation rather than on the building and mortgage issues. She noted that COM also met with the Staff Relations committee in order to develop and institute best personnel practices. The church will need to rework the guiding documents such as the Bylaws and Manual of Operations, and they will also need to finish the visioning and planning process. Ruling Elder Luedtka further noted that Phil Leipold, Mary Pugh, Kristin Hutson and Anita

Burnett comprise the CRE Task Force. This task force will provide a verbal report at the stated meeting. COM will introduce motions to celebrate the ministry and mark the retirement of CRE Phil Leipold. Lastly, COM will present a recommendation to approve the revised Validated Ministry policy. Prior to the call to order of the stated meeting, COM plans to have a dedicated time from 1-2:30 pm to discuss the issue of pastor succession at the stated meeting.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report

Committee moderator Melody Oltmann reported that at the June 9 stated meeting, the committee will be presenting a recommendation to certify Candidate Tammy Schmidt to circulate her PIF.

Nominating Committee Report

Al Polito, committee moderator, noted that the recommendation form and self-nomination form will be included on the new Presbytery website and will be included in *Out and About*. Further, he noted that the committee will be generating and distributing descriptions of the skill sets needed for service on the various committees, commissions and task forces in order to assist those interested in nominating themselves or others to serve.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and APPROVED. Moderator Otterbein adjourned the meeting with prayer at 11:45 a.m.

Devotions this year will be supplied by the following persons:

March—Karen Bartel

April—Kevin Cullum

May—Al Polito

June—Karen Minnis

July—Mary Atwood

August—Ann Luedtka

Respectfully submitted,

Ruling Elder Dr. Rebecca Blair
Stated Clerk