

Presbytery Coordinating Commission Minutes

Presbytery of East Iowa • 30 March 2017 • Presbytery Office

Present: Karen Bartel (Treasurer), Rebecca Blair (Stated Clerk), Gary Burnett (Nominating), Jim Claypool (Moderator), Karen Minnis (Vice-Moderator, Trustees), Jennifer Jennings (COM), Melody Oltmann (CPM), Larry Petrick (COM), Kris Ward (Personnel), Lori Wunder (Personnel)

Staff: Kevin Cullum (Camp Wyoming), Harry Hoyt (COM Associate) and Sarah Hegar (Networking Associate)

Excused: Richard Miller (Trustees), Pam Saturnia (Immediate Past Moderator)

Moderator RE Jim Claypool called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. 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 26 January 2017 meeting was seconded and APPROVED unanimously.**

Moderator's Report

Moderator Claypool lifted up the Guiding Vision document for further discussion of how to move forward strategically to share this vision with the Presbytery at large. The discussion concerned a number of discrete elements including a social justice focus, small group experiences of various sorts, joint elder training groups, a rolling Presbytery pulpit supply cadre, pulpit swapping, and visits to churches. The guiding question for this discussion concerned how to meet people where they are with the understanding that we have a range of church cultures within the Presbytery.

Stated Clerk's Report

Stated Clerk Blair distributed a document containing the membership of the 2017 PCC and the 2017 PCC/Committee Report Cycle for proofing prior to its publication on the Presbytery website. She next distributed and discussed the Responsibilities of Standing Group Moderators document, noting that part of the intention in the process of transforming our Presbytery's culture is to empower standing groups (committees, commissions, and task forces) to take up responsibility for the areas of mission and ministry authorized by the Presbytery rather than deferring these responsibilities to staff.

She further related the discussion of standing group responsibilities to the items for which the Presbytery is responsible to record in its minutes, noting that the minutes belong to the entire Presbytery and thus it is a shared endeavor to make sure that we

each contribute appropriate information to the minutes. Lastly, the Stated Clerk reviewed the docket for the 176th Stated Meeting, explaining that Teaching Elder Sue Krummel has been invited to preach and offer an interactive educational presentation.

Report of the Trustees

Vice-Moderator Karen Minnis reported continuing concerns with St. Andrew PC. The Trustees met with TE Matt Paul and John Rothman (construction manager) on 2 February 2017 and at that time received assurance that a monthly report on all financial operations, including construction costs, stewardship and campaign receipts, and the church financial operations would be sent to the Trustees. The Trustees did not receive these reports for March in a timely way, but ultimately did receive them after a couple of requests were made. The Trustees hope that they will continue to receive these reports.

At the April stated meeting, the Trustees will be disbursing remaining mission funds (approximately \$38,000) from 2016 to those churches who have applied to receive \$1,000 awards each to fund food justice initiatives. The Trustees have also voted to disburse accumulated monies (\$22,021) from the Sinclair Fund to the Olivet Mission. The Presbytery voted in 2005 to direct monies from this fund to the Mission, but the funds had not been disbursed since at least 2008. The Trustees have assured the Mission of the direct, quarterly disbursement of these funds in the future.

The Trustees have received a request from Cedar Rapids, Olivet to encumber \$30,000 for immediate repairs to the bell tower, which has severe structural defects. This action item will go the Presbytery at large.

The Moderator has appointed the Pasrur Commission as approved at the February stated meeting. Membership of this commission is as follows:

Jane Cranston, Iowa City, First, moderator
Ellen Fisher, Cedar Rapids, First, clerk
Paul Heidger, Coralville, St. Andrew
Amy Nicholson, Coralville, St. Andrew
Lisa Ross Thedens, Rowley, First
Emory Gillespie, Monticello, First
Trey Hegar, Mt. Pleasant, First

Lastly, Vice-Moderator Minnis explained that for the past two or three years the Trustees have been engaged in discussion concerning the current Presbytery office space since we do not use all of it and our operations have become more and more virtual over time. The Trustees will be proposing a move to semi-virtual office space and an attendant move of the file cabinets containing hard copy records along with two desks and the copy machine to a church in the Presbytery with the subsequent sale of the current

condo office in Eastdale Plaza. Currently the Presbytery pays a maintenance fee of just over \$1200 per month to Eastdale management. The Trustees believe that we can better steward this money by moving to a church with committee and commission meetings also to be held in churches. One possibility is a space in the lower level of Iowa City, First which already houses a number of non-profit entities. The Trustees have formed a subcommittee to research this plan.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer Bartel reported that the attached statement is only for February. The report for the April stated meeting will include financial statements through March.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY REPORT

Larry Petrick, COM moderator, reported that COM is engaged in continuing discussion with churches and will gather for its annual retreat in mid-May. Harry Hoyt, COM Associate, also reported on a conversation in Lost Nation involving ELCA Synod leadership concerning the possibility of the Presbyterian church and two Lutheran churches in the community forming a joint congregational witness of some sort.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Kris Ward, committee moderator, observed that the committee is wrapping up work on the PEIA Personnel Handbook. The committee hopes to be able to share a draft with PCC in May. The committee is engaged in re-thinking the administrative assistant position since this position, as currently configured, is not meeting our needs.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY REPORT

Melody Oltmann, committee moderator, announced that the committee will present two individuals for enrollment as Inquirers at the April stated meeting. Candidate Tammy Schmidt has been ordained in a service at Echo Hill on behalf of the Presbytery of Transylvania in Kentucky where she has been called as a chaplain. There are a number of folks at various stages in the CCRE preparation process.

REPORT FROM CAMP WYOMING

Kevin Cullum, Executive Director, reported that the Camp is trending about the same as last year. At the April stated meeting, an action item will be presented concerning a requested by-laws change to include EREs in the list of those persons eligible to serve on the Camp board.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Committee moderator Gary Burnett noted that committee member Mary Atwood will be taking on an administrative role on behalf of the committee. The committee continues to work on nominations for presentation at the September and November stated meetings.

NETWORKING REPORT

Networking Associate Sarah Hegar shared a proposal concerning a PEIA mobile app. The PCC discussed the need for and use of such an app and deferred further discussion to a later meeting. TE Hegar also shared the brochure for the all-Iowa Gathering on June 2-3.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and APPROVED. Moderator Claypool declared the meeting adjourned and requested TE Gary Burnett to close the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Blair, Ph.D.
Stated Clerk