

Presbytery Coordinating Commission Minutes 30 April 2015

Presbytery of East Iowa ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Presbytery Office ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 30 April 2015

Present: Mary Atwood (Immediate Past Moderator), Karen Bartel (Treasurer), Rebecca Blair (Stated Clerk), Anita Burnett (CPM), Kevin Cullum (Camp Wyoming), Harry Hoyt (COM Associate), Ann Luedtka (COM), Sam Massey (COM), Richard Miller (Personnel), Melody Oltmann (CPM), Kyle Otterbein (Moderator), Al Polito (Nominating), Jim Rogers (Trustees), Pam Saturnia (Vice-Moderator)

Moderator Kyle Otterbein called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. with the lighting of the Christ Candle. Camp Wyoming Executive Director Kevin Cullum shared a devotional reflection based upon Psalm 139.

Moderator Otterbein called upon Stated Clerk Rebecca Blair, who affirmed that a quorum was present. **A motion to approve the minutes of the 26 March 2015 meeting was seconded and APPROVED uannimously.**

Moderator's Report

The Moderator began the meeting with an apology for his missing the installation of the Reverend Jon Evans to the Morning Sun church. The Moderator observed that he deeply regretted the embarrassment caused to the Presbytery through his forgetting this event and thus not being able to install the Reverend Mr. Evans.

The Moderator also announced that he had invited Teaching Elder Jim Bonewald to be an at-large member of the Presbytery Gathering Task Group and that the Reverend Mr. Bonewald had accepted. This group will be meeting soon.

Stated Clerk's Report

Stated Clerk Blair began her report with two announcements. First, the Reverend Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has accepted the Presbytery's invitation to join us at the September 2015 stated meeting. The Presbytery Gathering Task Group will need to expedite planning of this meeting in order to provide the Reverend Mr. Parsons with timely information. Secondly, the land line phone system in the Presbytery office has finally become inoperable and has been replaced with a mobile phone system. A base phone in the office will still carry the main office phone number and will direct callers to the cell phones of the officers or staff members needed by the callers. The Stated Clerk's phone number also has changed to 319-930-7470.

The Stated Clerk then called attention to two pieces of correspondence. The first is a letter from the Presbytery of Prospect Hill in response to an earlier letter from the Presbytery of North Central Iowa. The PCC received this letter by consensus.

The second piece of correspondence was received from Teaching Elder Scott Nesbitt. Ruling Elder Harry Hoyt noted that this letter contains a misperception concerning the process by which the CRE program was reconfigured. The aim of the process was to move the CRE program under the responsibility of an ordered group within the Presbytery. Teaching Elder Richard Miller also noted that the Personnel Committee did talk with John Hougen prior to the restructuring vote in October and that this group also encouraged him to apply for the Pastor to Pastors position. **A motion to refer response to this letter to the CRE Task Group through Harry Hoyt as COM Associate was seconded and APPROVED.**

Vice-Moderator's Report/Trustees

Vice-Moderator Saturnia reported that the Trustees have discussed a number of issues:

- With regard to the phone system change, the Trustees have offered a \$40 per month stipend to new staff who wish to be a part of the Presbytery phone plan
- Initial discussion has occurred concerning selling the current office property and moving the office elsewhere. The PCC urged the Trustees to form a task force to pursue this discussion further.
- Karen Bartel is still sorting out financial information, but will be reporting regularly to the PCC through the course of this process.
- Contracts have been made with service providers to mow the Knox and Middletown lawns. Further, insurance bills for the Middletown property are now coming to and being paid by the Presbytery.

Personnel Committee Report

Committee moderator Richard Miller thanked Karen Bartel for her interim service with the financial data. Personnel has met with her to arrange some kind of recompense. This position will not remain full-time in the future. The Personnel Committee has also heard the need for administrative support and will be responding to this need as soon as possible. The committee will also be writing a revised financial manager position soon. The committee, in consultation with Harry Hoyt and Rebecca Blair, have composed a Letter of Agreement to contract with Ruling Elder Lara Marsh as the Communications Consultant for the Presbytery. **A motion to receive and approve this Letter of Agreement was seconded and APPROVED.** Lastly, the committee will reconfigure the networking position. The Stated Clerk will provide the committee with the position description for the Networker at the Synod of the Northeast.

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. All of the First Community Trust accounts have been closed and the monies transferred to the University of Iowa Community Credit Union. The UICCU balances on the report reflect this transfer. Mission receipts have increased during this reporting period. **A motion to receive the report with gratitude 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) will visit further with the Echo Hill pastor and session on May 18th at 6:30 p.m. Ruling Elder Luedtka further noted that Phil Leipold, Mary Pugh, Kristin Hutson and Anita Burnett comprise the CRE Task Force. Moderator Luedtka has received one telephone call and one letter in response to the matter referred to COM at the March stated meeting. COM plans to have a dedicated time from 1-2:30 pm at the next stated meeting to discuss this matter.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report

Committee moderator Melody Oltmann reported that the results of the CPM survey of teaching elders achieved a 25-30% return rate, which is quite good for these kinds of surveys. These results will be shared with the Personnel Committee and the new Pastor to Pastors and then shared with the PCC at the May meeting.

Camp Wyoming Report

Kevin Cullum, Executive Director, reported that the Camp has experienced a 2-3% enrollment increase. The Camp is running a traveling day camp program in Wilton and Marion as a beta assay. Concerning the line of credit (\$22,000), the Camp has paid \$10,000 as of 10 April. Future plans include installing fiber optics throughout the Camp and a new phone system, all funded by the donation from the Monticello church. These monies may also fund other improvements in the plumbing system, new mattresses, and a newer minivan.

Nominating Committee Report

Al Polito, committee moderator, noted that the recommendation form and self-nomination form will be included on the new Presbytey 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.

Other Business

Farm Church

The question was raised as to how Farm Church or a similar program would fit with our vision and mission as a presbytery. How do we engage in conversation with the Farm Church representatives? **A motion that the Stated Clerk invite one of the founders of Farm Church to come engage in conversation with the PCC at a future meeting was seconded and APPROVED.**

Bergey-Ferguson Strategic Planning Offer

Stated Clerk Blair reviewed a summary of the offer. Pam Saturnia noted that the Trustees affirm that the Presbytery possesses the necessary financial resources to take part in this offer. **A motion to recommend to the Presbytery that we accept the invitation to enter into partnership as a peer member of this long-range strategic planning BETA group was seconded and APPROVED.** The PCC affirmed that Melody Oltmann, Sam Massey and Rebecca Blair will present this recommendation and put forward a description of this project at the June 9 stated meeting.

A motion to adjourn at 12:26 pm was seconded and APPROVED. The meeting closed with prayer offered by Moderator Otterbein.

The next meeting of the PCC is scheduled for Thursday, May 21 at 10:00 am in the Presbytery Office conference room. PLEASE NOTE: Committee reports for this meeting are due to the Stated Clerk no later than May 14.

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