

Presbytery Coordinating Commission Minutes 20 August 2015

Presbytery of East Iowa ■ ■ ■ ■ Presbytery Office ■ ■ ■ ■ 20 August 2015

Present: Rebecca Blair (Stated Clerk), Harry Hoyt (COM Associate), Ann Luedtka (COM), Sam Massey (COM), Richard Miller (Personnel), Karen Minnis (Trustees), Melody Oltmann (CPM), Al Polito (Nominating), Pam Saturnia (Vice-Moderator)

Vice-Moderator Pam Saturnia moderated this meeting at the request of Moderator Kyle Otterbein. She called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m. with the lighting of the Christ Candle and prayer. Ruling Elder Ann Luedtka shared the devotional from James 1:5 concerning who is setting our priorities, followed by prayer. Vice-Moderator Saturnia called upon Stated Clerk Rebecca Blair, who affirmed that a quorum was present. **A motion to approve the minutes of the 25 June 2015 meeting was seconded and APPROVED unanimously.**

Stated Clerk's Report

Stated Clerk Rebecca Blair brought an item, initially raised by the Trustees, concerning the need to revise the Network Application Process to include a mechanism by which the Trustees may review networking requests for funding purposes. After general discussion, the PCC agreed by consensus to take this issue under advisement and to include the Networking Associate in the discussion of a revision after that person is on board. A group consisting of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Stated Clerk, Sam Massey, and Harry Hoyt will take responsibility for the revision process.

The Stated Clerk also shared a lengthy communication from Gordon Raynal, Foothills Presbytery concerning a group of overtures that are intended to be sent to the 222nd General Assembly in Portland this coming summer. A request was made that she send this packet to the PCC so that the group can discuss it further at future meetings.

Moderator's Report

Vice-Moderator Saturnia updated the PCC on the progress of the conversation with the Sand Bur consultants. She observed that both the Sand Bur consultants and the Presbytery officers expressed reservations about the feasibility and fit of this firm's addressing the issues presented. The PCC discussed the possibility of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator and Stated Clerk engaging Richard Blackburn from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in an advisory conversation concerning what services the Lombard Center offers that might address the conflictive issues that relate to future strategic planning. **A motion was seconded and APPROVED** that the following action item should be docketed for the September stated meeting of the Presbytery:

MOTION: The PCC recommends that the Presbytery of East Iowa authorize the Moderator, Vice-Moderator and Stated Clerk to engage in an exploratory conversation with Richard Blackburn, Executive Director of the

Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, for the purpose of determining if professional facilitation offered by the Center would be most effective in helping the Presbytery initiate the first stages of long-range strategic planning.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report

Committee moderator Melody Oltmann, COM moderator Ann Luedtka, and COM Associate Harry Hoyt jointly presented the finished CRE policy. They reviewed the new process statement and responded to questions. They requested that the PCC present the motion placing this revised process and accompanying documents before the Presbytery. **A motion was seconded and APPROVED** to place the following motion from PCC on the docket for the September stated meeting:

MOTION: The Presbytery Coordinating Commission, the Commission on Ministry and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry hereby recommend that the Presbytery approve the following "Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) Policy and Procedures," effective upon approval [with the entire policy and accompanying materials inserted here]

Commission on Ministry Report

Ruling Elder Ann Luedtka, commission moderator, reported that COM has engaged in continual discussion concerning the pastor succession motion referred back to the commission at the March stated meeting. COM has invited feedback on this proposed policy from the Presbytery at large, has received a small number of responses, and has taken those responses into account in its continuing reflection. COM will be bringing the original motion as presented in March to the September meeting with no changes in wording. Secondly, COM will be sharing information concerning the opportunity for churches to apply for financial support to help fund the required 1.5% increase in BOP insurance rates. The Synod has allocated \$6,666 to each presbytery for this purpose. Our COM has an application process in place that will be detailed at the stated meeting.

Personnel Committee Report

Committee moderator Richard Miller announced that the committee has conducted interviews for the Networking Associate position, and will be recommending the Reverend Sarah Feltman Hegar for affirmation to this position at the September stated meeting. In addition, the committee will be bringing recommendations concerning the financial management functions and the hiring of an administrative assistant.

Trustees Report

Vice-Moderator Pam Saturnia, moderator of the Trustees, reported that the Trustees are starting the budgeting process. Commission and committee moderators are requested to submit need-based budget requests to the Trustees. The Trustees will be recommending a reduction in the Presbytery portion of per capita at the upcoming stated meeting. The Trustees also will be putting in place a process for external financial review as required by denominational polity. Concerning vacant church

properties, the former Knox building has been listed for sale and the Trustees are in the process of applying for insurance on the vacant Middletown building. Lastly, the Trustees will be engaged in quarterly review of the Echo Hill financial situation.

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. More review and adjustment will be necessary. **A motion to receive the report was seconded and APPROVED.**

Nominating Committee Report

Al Polito, committee moderator, announced that the deadline for selection of General Assembly commissioners has been moved to December, an earlier date than has been the case in past years. The committee will be presenting nominations for G.A. Commissioners and YAAD at the September stated meeting. Nominations to fill vacancies in Presbytery commissions and committees will be made at the November stated meeting.

Other Business

Vice-Moderator Saturnia presented a proposal concerning the establishment of a Presbytery mission partnership with Mission Starfish Haiti. She noted that this proposal will need to be considered by the Trustees at the upcoming meeting prior to being presented for consideration by the Presbytery. **A motion was seconded and APPROVED that, if the way be clear, the PCC commends the Trustees proposing the establishment of the mission partnership at the September stated meeting.**

A motion to adjourn was seconded and APPROVED. Moderator Saturnia adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

THE NEXT PCC MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 24 AT 10 AM. Mary Atwood is responsible for devotions at the September meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruling Elder Dr. Rebecca Blair
Stated Clerk