

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL (CALLED) MEETING  
OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EAST IOWA**

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, November 8, 2012

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Special (Called) Meeting of the Presbytery of East Iowa was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by the Moderator, Teaching Elder John Hougen, with prayer offered by Teaching Elder Matthew Froeschle. The Reverend Mr. Hougen expressed thanks to Westminster Presbyterian Church for hosting this special (called) meeting of the Presbytery.

**QUORUM**

The Stated Clerk, Ruling Elder Dr. Rebecca Blair, declared a quorum to be present with the roll to be established from the registration forms.

**TEACHING ELDER MEMBERS—present at the November 8, 2012 special meeting:**

Mike Andrew	P	Daniel Hemken	N	Kenneth (Kip) Murphy	N
Noelle Andrew	N	Patricia Henderson	P	Scott Nesbitt	N
Mary Arnold	P	Randi Henderson	P	Thomas C. Oak	N
Susan Barnes	N	Elizabeth Hilkerbaumer	P	Nancy Oehler Love	P
Teresa Bartlett	N	Robert Hill, HR	N	Duane Olsen	N
Karen Beals	P	Pamela Hoogheem	N	Melody Oltmann	N
Mark Binder	N	Katie Hopper	N	Kyle Otterbein	P
Diane Bishop, HR	N	John Hougen	P	Kurt Pasko	N
George Bishop, HR	N	Beverly Hovenkamp	N	Lori Patton	N
Jim Bonewald	P	Sue Howes, HR	N	Matt Paul	P
Robert Bouton, HR	P	Kristin Hutson	P	Joseph Phipps	N
Gary Burnett, HR	P	Herb Isenberg, HR	N	Elizabeth Platt, HR	N
G. Maurice Campbell, HR	N	Wil Jackson, HR	N	Al Polito	P
David Castrodale, HR	N	William Jamison, HR	N	James Pollock, HR	N
Howard Chapman	P	Jennifer Jennings	P	Russell Proffitt, HR	N
Stan Collier	N	R. Dixon Jennings, HR	P	Mary Pugh	P
Fred Darbonne	N	David Jurgens, HR	N	Nancy Redman, HR	N
Doug Darnold	N	Thomas Kalshoven, HR	N	Gerald Rife, HR	N
Robert David	N	Robin Kash, HR	P	Carl Riggs, HR	N
Elizabeth Dickey	P	Lucille King, HR	P	Lisa Ross Thedens	P
Tim Dyck	P	Richard King, HR	N	Pam Saturnia	P
Robert Dykstra	N	Debra Kinney	P	Cindy Saul	N
Jack Edmisson	N	Sonda Kirsteatter	N	George Saunders, HR	N
John Elliott, HR	P	Wade Kirsteatter	N	Doug Schoonover	P
Barry Ensign-George	N	Kerin Lang	N	Julie Schuett	P
Jon Evans	N	Jim Langley	P	Linda Shatzer	P
Faye Fedlam	P	Goldie Laymon	N	Paul Skelley, HR	N

Jim Fedlam, HR	N	Willis Longer, HR	N	David Snyder	N
Matthew Froeschle	P	Michael Manaugh	N	Colette Soultz	P
James Fyfe, HR	N	Mark Martin, HR	P	Emory VanGerpen, HR	N
Emory Gillespie	P	Samuel Massey	P	Dick Wallarab, HR	N
Aimee Goldmeyer	P	Charles McCracken, HR	N	Bill Warhover	P
Mildred Grubbs, HR	N	Cheryl McCullough	N	Wilmer Wernecke, HR	N
Dottie Halverson	N	Jay Miller, HR	N	Bill Willis	N
Pat Halverson	N	Richard Miller	P	Troy Winder	P
Ken Harden, HR	N	Ted Miller	P	Jean Wollenberg	N
William Harnish, HR	P	Charles Mills, HR	N	Robert Wollenberg	P
Heather Hayes	P	Scott Minter	N	Lorene Wunder	P

**RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS—present at the November 8, 2012 special meeting:**

Ainsworth, Ainsworth Community	N
Ainsworth, Bethel	N
Argyle, Argyle PC	N
Atkins, Pleasant Hill	N
Bettendorf, Bettendorf PC	Allen Hale
Birmingham, First	N
Blairstown, First	N
Blue Grass, Blue Grass PC	N
Bonaparte, Bonaparte United	N
Brighton, Brighton United	N
Burlington, First	Ed Whitmore
Cascade, Community	Nancy Macomber
Cedar Rapids, Calvin Sinclair	N
Cedar Rapids, Christ Church	Ann Luedtka
Cedar Rapids, Echo Hill	Don Glass
Cedar Rapids, First	Dave Kutter, N
Cedar Rapids, Hus Memorial	N
Cedar Rapids, Knox	N
Cedar Rapids, Olivet	N
Cedar Rapids, Westminster	Karen Carver, Kathie Lane
Center Jct., First	N
Clinton, First United	N
Coggon, Zion	Judy Isaacson
Columbus Jct., Cotter	N
Columbus Jct., Salem Welsh	N
Columbus Jct., United	N
Crawfordsville, United	N

Davenport, First	Louise Hales, Mark Jones
Davenport, Newcomb	N
Davenport, New Hope	Karen Bartel
Ely, First	N
Fairfield, First	N
Farmington, Sharon	Mary Ellen Moore
Ft. Madison, Union	N
Hazleton, First	N
Independence, First	N
Iowa City, First	Lara Marsh, Judy Whitford
Iowa City, St. Andrew	Claibourne Dungy, Lora M. Dunham
Keokuk, United	N
Keota, United Church of Faith	N
LeClaire, First	N
LeClaire, Our Savior	N
Lone Tree, United	N
Lost Nation, Union	N
Manchester, First	N
Marengo, First	N
Marion, First	N
Mechanicsville, First	N
Mediapolis, First United	Jim Davis
Middletown, First	N
Miles, First	N
Monticello, First	N
Montrose, Montrose PC	N
Morning Sun, First United	N
Mt. Pleasant, First	Clint Rila
Mt. Vernon, First	Larry Petrick
Mt. Vernon, Linn Grove	Anne Kuntz
Muscatine, First	N
New London, New London PC	N
Newhall, Central	N
Onslow, First	N
Princeton, Princeton PC	N
Rowley, First	Bruce Rosene
Scotch Grove, Scotch Grove PC	N
Shellsburg, First Presbyterian Church	N
Springville, Springville PC	Brad Wilson
Stanwood, Stanwood Union	A
Vinton, Vinton Presbyterian Church	N
Wapello, First Presbyterian Church	N
Washington, United Presbyterian Church	N
West Liberty, First Church United	N
West Point, West Point Presbyterian Church	N

Williamsburg, First Presbyterian Church	N
Wilton, First Presbyterian Church	Jim Voss
Wilton, Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church	N
Winfield, First Presbyterian Church	N

**MODERATOR**

The Reverend John Hougen (listed above)

**VICE-MODERATOR**

The Reverend Dr. Mary Pugh (listed above)

**STATED CLERK**

Elder Dr. Rebecca Blair

**GENERAL PRESBYTER**

Elder Harry D. Olthoff

**ELDER MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT**

Ruth, Duritsa, Shirley Miller, Larry Moore

**COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS**

Phil Leipold

**VISITORS:**

Jackie Alff (Cedar Rapids, Westminster), Kerry Jennings (Wilton, First), Randy Kinney (Burlington, First), Theodore Kohler (Cedar Rapids, Westminster), Candidate Lori Robinson (Atkins, Pleasant Hill), Don Thomas (Cedar Rapids, Westminster), Pat Whitmore (Burlington, First)

**RECAP OF THE ROLL**

Teaching Elder Members (eligible to vote) 46  
 Ruling Elder Commissioners (eligible to vote) 23  
 Stated Clerk (Elder-eligible to vote) 1  
 General Presbyter (Elder-eligible to vote) 1  
 Other Elders (eligible to vote) 4  
**Total Eligible to Vote 75**  
 Visitors 8  
**TOTAL PRESENT 83**

**WELCOME**

The Moderator welcomed those in attendance to this called meeting of the Presbytery and provided a brief explanation of the business to be conducted at this meeting, noting that only the single item listed on the call for the meeting was in order. He further noted that two microphones were available for those wishing to speak to the motion and that those speaking should identify themselves by name and church

affiliation or member status. Hearing no objection, he further declared that each speaker be limited to two minutes.

The Moderator appointed Teaching Elder Kitch Shatzer, Ruling Elder Phil Leipold, and Ruling Elder Larry Petrick as tellers should the need for a vote by written ballot arise. He further stated that the meeting would proceed by the maker of the motion coming forward to put the motion on the floor and then speaking to it, followed by alternating speakers for and against the motion.

The Stated Clerk introduced Jeanne Strand, a court reporter transcriptionist who made a true and fair verbatim transcript of the meeting and the Reverend Lyle A. Klemen, the Parliamentary Research Chair for the National Association of Parliamentarians, a Professional Registered Parliamentarian since 1991, and an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who has served as the parliamentarian for the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA, a body equivalent to the General Assembly in the PCUSA. The Stated Clerk observed that the Reverend Mr. Klemen was joining her as assistant parliamentarian in an effort to ensure that the most complete and expert parliamentary advice possible would be provided to the governing body.

Moderator Hougen also introduced Ruling Elder Jay Wilkinson, Stated Clerk of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. A motion to seat Mr. Wilkinson as a corresponding member was seconded and APPROVED.

Ruling Elder Lara Marsh (Iowa City, First) placed the following motion on the floor for debate:

**Motion:** That an independent Administrative Commission be appointed by the mutual agreement of the Moderator and Stated Clerk, acting as the two constitutional officers of the Presbytery. The membership will consist of 8 to 12 members with equal representation of men and women, teaching elders and ruling elders, and representation from large and small churches, from each of the four regions of the presbytery and from different age groups.

The Commission shall report directly to the Presbytery (full governing body) and not to any staff member, committee, unit, commission, board or task force of the Presbytery or subset of any of these groups. The Commission may, however, consult with any of these entities.

The Commission shall have the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of East Iowa and the Stated Clerk of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies as ex-officio members.

The Commission is hereby directed to:

- Administer and manage the motion passed by the Presbytery in its meeting on 9 October 2012, and printed below for reference only, in order to accomplish its intent. Its intent shall be defined by the Commission. The Administrative Unit shall make available to the Commission all materials already completed and/or in progress that pertain to the elements of that motion. Any other person or group of the Presbytery that

has information that would be pertinent to these purposes shall make available such information to the Commission.

- Review the Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation and Operations Manual and draft recommendations for the Presbytery to consider to amend any or all of these documents to make them conform to nFOG, and beyond that, to draft recommendations for further changes in any or all of these documents that would make the operation of the presbytery more effective and efficient, and to draft and recommend any other changes that appear to be appropriate. To accomplish these purposes the Commission may draft and recommend amendments and restatement of any or all of these documents, or may draft and recommend replacement of any or all of these documents if amendments that would be proposed would be too extensive to make amending practical.
- The Commission shall have the authority to obtain any other information from and/or consult with any person or group within the presbytery or outside its bounds including other presbyteries, Synod of Lakes and Prairies and other synods, General Assembly, and other sources outside the denomination in its quest to accomplish the above purposes.

The Commission shall report progress at each stated meeting of the Presbytery until all of the above purposes have been completed and reported to the Presbytery. Final decisions concerning implementation of recommendations brought by the Commission shall rest solely with the Presbytery.

This ends the motion.

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Motion passed by the Presbytery in its meeting on 9 October 2012 and printed here for reference only:

*The Manual of Operation of the Presbytery of East Iowa (Section 05.02) states that the Administrative Unit has a primary function to "act on behalf of the Presbytery between meetings of the Presbytery and report such actions to the next meeting of the Presbytery."*

*With regard to the actions that the Administrative Unit has taken on items 3, 5, 6, 7, and 10 listed in the Administrative Unit report, taken within this context as stated in our Manual of Operation, I move that the actions on items 3, 5, 6, 7, and 10 be rescinded, and final authority for decision-making concerning these items, be returned to the presbytery as a whole and placed on the presbytery's docket for dialogue and decision-making at a future stated meeting, with the stated meeting at which these items are taken up chosen by the Moderator and Stated Clerk in consultation with the full membership of the Administrative Unit, and with the mandate that the Stated Clerk shall docket the items as action items, so that the presbytery as a whole has final decision-making authority regarding*

1. *any alternative method of operation for the Nominating Committee,*
2. *any policy of the Presbytery of East Iowa regarding the use of revenue derived from gambling profits,*
3. *any modification of personnel policy,*

4. *any evaluation and/or question of retention of any person elected as a constitutional officer (Moderator or Stated Clerk) of this body*
5. *any re-creation of new presbytery Bylaws and Manual of Operations in light of the adoption of nFOG.*

The motion made by Ruling Elder Marsh was seconded.

Ruling Elder Marsh noted that the motion provided a solid mechanism for the presbytery to review its governing documents, especially in light of nFOG. She observed that motions to defer or refer the motion might be forthcoming, but that these motions would be counterproductive.

Teaching Elder Dr. Mary Pugh raised a point of order noting that no other motion had been made, and the speaker was speaking to actions that had not occurred. Moderator Hougen ruled that the speaker could speak to the motion in any way that she wanted. He invited Ruling Elder Marsh to continue.

Ruling Elder Marsh concluded her remarks by stating that the governing body was perfectly capable of making this decision, that the motion on the floor did not actually take a stance on the workings of our current organizational structure, but rather mandated that the current organizational structure and the governing documents be reviewed, and that, at the most basic level, Presbyterians are governed by representative democracy as teaching and ruling elders make decisions as the presbytery.

The Moderator then queried Stated Clerk Blair about the advisability of allowing the other three persons who requested the called meeting to speak to the motion. The Stated Clerk advised that if it was the Moderator's will, it would be in order for a speaker against the motion to be recognized next and the remaining three speakers in favor of the motion to be recognized alternately.

The Moderator recognized Ruling Elder Ruth Duritsa (Independence, First), current moderator of the Administrative Unit, who related some thoughts against the motion put together by the Administrative Unit. She stated that, while disappointed in the process of this motion, the Administrative Unit sees this motion as one among many methods to move forward. She asserted that the Bylaws were put in place by the body to enable the presbytery to better equip the churches to do God's call as His disciples, that change needs to be approached with clarity and open communication, and that the items listed in the October 9 motion were viewed by the Administrative Unit as being in the beginning stages and would have been action items for discussion and voting when completed by the Unit. She further noted that caring for what happens to each church and its body of members is at the fulcrum of business as a presbytery and that the question of what is best for the churches and members must be asked by those in the governing body making decisions. She concluded by urging the governing body to consider the motion carefully and to seek a full understanding of what it entails, reminding the body that the General Assembly advises respectful listening with the

understanding that no one group or individual is beyond error as we seek to be faithful to Jesus Christ in our work together.

The Moderator recognized Ruling Elder Dr. Clint Rila (Mt. Pleasant, First) who spoke in favor of the motion by observing that, having been an ordained elder for nearly 50 years, he had participated in many seemingly interminable discussions of both trivial and substantive concerns. While many of these issues certainly could have been dealt with by smaller committees, he affirmed that it is the responsibility of the larger body to take care of these decisions, even though it might be easier to defer that responsibility to another group. He further explained that there is a tension between efficiency and responsibility in the Presbyterian system of governance, and that, while he had fully intended to vote against the October 9 motion, he found himself not only voting in favor of it, but also initiating the request for this called meeting to consider the appointment of an Administrative Commission that will broadly explore the concerns raised in the October 9 motion and report directly to the governing body whose responsibility it is to make decisions.

The Moderator recognized Teaching Elder Jennifer Jennings (Wilton, First) who raised the question of what issues are underneath the discussion of the motion and the reason for the called meeting.

Moderator Hougen replied that because we are Presbyterian we come together to talk about issues of common concern, and that in this instance persons hold strong feelings about diverse perspectives on the issues before us.

Moderator Hougen then recognized Teaching Elder Lisa Ross Thedens (Member-at-Large) to speak against the motion. The Reverend Ms. Ross Thedens noted that she does not hold strong feelings on the issue, but questioned why the appointment of an administrative commission would address the concern about more involvement in important decisions, considering that the Administrative Unit is an elected body.

Moderator Hougen recognized Teaching Elder Bob Wollenberg (Washington, United) who spoke in favor of the motion by noting that all present had certainly sat through long session meetings and that we trust our committees to do the work they have been empowered to do without unyielding oversight by the session. Yet, while he is thankful for streamlined presbytery meetings and the empowering of committees to accomplish specific tasks, he has also discovered that some of the most powerful moments are those when we come together as a governing body to wrestle with the most pressing and difficult problems because it is in these experiences that we learning how to be the body of Christ, to listen, love, and respect each other, and to discern the will of Christ. He observed that the administrative commission would help us to discern which discussions are best accomplished by committees and subcommittees and which are important for the whole body to wrestle with and discern together.



Teaching Elder Karen Downey Beals (Springville) asked the moderator for a count of commissioners. The Stated Clerk reported that the actual number of bodies in the room numbered 75, and if everybody who is eligible to vote in the presbytery were present, that number would be 161. The Reverend Ms. Beals thanked the Stated Clerk and noted that 75 is almost the same number present and voting at the October 9 meeting, and that there should be more persons present to vote on something as important as constitutional authority.

The Moderator recognized Teaching Elder Faye Fedlam (Columbus Jct., United) to speak in favor of the motion. The Reverend Ms. Fedlam stated that she signed on to call this special meeting because she was concerned after the last presbytery meeting. She noted that, having been a teaching elder for 38 years, she has seen governing bodies work through much reorganization, and that as Presbyterians we stand in the Reformed tradition of reformed and always reforming. We simply need to look at ourselves from time to time to see how we are organized.

Teaching Elder Bill Warhover (Member-at-Large) spoke against the motion by first owning his feelings of feeling somehow disrespected by the way the issue has emerged and by noting his view that there is distrust within the Presbytery. He stated that he was speaking against the motion because he would like the heart of the problem to be addressed without spending time addressing peripheral issues. He favored addressing other options to get to the heart of the reform that he hears voices speaking that the Presbytery needs.

Teaching Elder Richard Miller (Davenport, First) requested permission to read into the record a letter sent by Ruling Elder Harry Hoyt from Davenport, First. A motion to allow the Reverend Mr. Miller to read the letter into the record was seconded and APPROVED.

The letter from Teaching Elder Harry Hoyt reads as follows:

*I am sorry I am unable to be with you for all of the dialogue that I expect to take place concerning the motion brought as the purpose of the meeting. I am out of town on family matters that take priority. I would like to make a few comments, however.*

*I understand that some people may have taken the motion passed during the report of the Administrative Unit on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October presbytery meeting personally and were hurt by it. On the contrary, I did not see this as an indictment of the actions of any person or group. I understood it to be clearly directing the decision making on the five items specifically called out in the motion to the presbytery itself. In a broader sense, I interpreted the motion to be questioning the structure that dictates what decisions must be made by the presbytery and what decisions should be delegated. The motion called into question the power of the Administrative Unit to act on behalf of the Presbytery between presbytery meetings without limit and the requirement that all amendments to the Bylaws and the Operations Manual may be brought to the floor of the Presbytery only with the recommendation of the Administrative Unit and as part of their report.*

*The vote showed that just over half of those voting, and, by extension, the Presbytery, were uncomfortable with the amount of decision-making power that has been given to the Administrative Unit by the Bylaws and Manual of Operations. My sense is that this*

*discomfort has been present and growing for some time, and the 9 October meeting motion was a catalyst to bring it to the surface. When half of the population is either questioning or is in disagreement with the structure of governance, it is an unhealthy environment and should be addressed expeditiously. It should not be allowed to continue without a positive and decisive response.*

*Calling this special meeting recognizes the need to deal with these concerns in a timely manner rather than assuming they are unimportant and can easily wait until the February meeting of Presbytery. The motion before you responds in two ways: It provides for an independent administrative commission to review the three documents that govern the processes, governance, and organization of this presbytery and to make specific recommendations to Presbytery on what decisions should be made by the body as a whole and which should be delegated to committees. The motion does not presuppose what decisions should be made where. This is a particularly propitious time to be doing this analysis because of the opportunity for increased flexibility and self-direction provided by nFOG. This point can't be overemphasized. This is the time to take a fresh look at how we want to organize ourselves to move into the future.*

*Two, it provides a mechanism for managing the intent of the October 9 motion through the same administrative commission. As the 9 October motion stands now, it sends the five issues specified in the motion to the Presbytery as a whole without providing a framework for discussion and decision making. The administrative commission could frame each of the five issues and make recommendations for action to the body.*

*I think the motion responds to the concerns raised, or implied, by the nearly equal vote in the October 9 meeting and provides a way forward. It should not be seen as threatening, but rather seen as a needed review of who we are and how we want to govern ourselves in the future.*

*I urge the motion be approved and that the administrative commission provided by it be established expeditiously so work can begin in a timely manner.*

Moderator Hougen recognized Teaching Elder Mark Martin, HR, who made a motion to postpone consideration of the main motion (a motion to postpone definitely) until the stated meeting on 2 February 2013. The motion received a second and the Reverend Mr. Martin spoke to it by expressing appreciation to Harry Hoyt for drafting the motion while noting that he and Harry Hoyt took part in the systemic revisions to Presbytery systems ten years ago. Although noting that he was in favor of debate and re-examination of Presbytery systems and structures, Mr. Martin expressed his concern about the speed with which this process had unfolded. He noted his belief that the whole presbytery has an obligation to decide who and how—who is going to look at the future, and how they are going to look at it. He concluded by noting that the delay until February would allow for more thought and internal conversation within the Presbytery.

Moderator Hougen opened the floor to further debate on the motion to postpone definitely. The Moderator recognized Teaching Elder Dr. Mary Pugh to speak against the motion to postpone definitely. The Reverend Dr. Pugh observed that the body cannot do this work as a committee of the whole. She noted that those present had invested time and effort to come to the meeting to act on the main motion, and that the body should act on this motion. She urged persons desiring to serve on the administrative commission to identify themselves to the Moderator and Stated Clerk, should the motion be approved.

Seeing no further speakers rising to speak to the motion to postpone definitely, Moderator Hougen moved to the vote on the motion. In response to a request from the floor, Moderator Hougen ruled that the vote be taken by written ballot, calling the appointed tellers forward to distribute the ballots. As the ballots were being distributed, Moderator Hougen re-emphasized that a vote in favor of the motion to postpone definitely would mean that further discussion and action on the main motion would occur at the stated meeting on February 2, 2013. A vote against the motion to postpone definitely would mean that debate would continue in the current meeting. The moderator then called a recess from 7:46 until 7:55 p.m. so that the tellers could tally the votes. The Moderator reconvened the meeting at 7:55 p.m. to announce the vote tally. The vote tally was 23 yes, 50 no and 1 abstention; the motion to postpone definitely was NOT APPROVED.

As debate resumed, Teaching Elder Mark Martin moved to close debate. The motion was seconded. Stated Clerk Blair advised the body that a two-thirds vote was necessary to close debate. The moderator asked those in favor of the motion to raise their hands. He announced that 25 people voted in favor of ending debate and ruled that the motion was NOT APPROVED.

Moderator Hougen recognized Teaching Elder Richard Miller (Davenport, First) to speak in favor of the main motion. The Reverend Mr. Miller asserted that the group was perfectly capable of forming an administrative commission to accomplish the purposes stated in the motion. He further asserted that this kind of process was very Presbyterian and observed that he had served in five different presbyteries of varying sizes, and he has not felt very Presbyterian in this presbytery. He concluded by stating that the motion should not be seen as threatening by anyone or any group because it is so Presbyterian and represents a better way to prepare recommendations for the Presbytery, a way not burdened by the biases inherent in any of our committees and a way that goes back to our historic principles of church government.

Moderator Hougen recognized Ruling Elder Anne Kuntz (Mt. Vernon, Linn Grove) to speak against the motion. She asserted her view that the Presbyterian Church is a republic, not a democracy and if the Administrative Unit has been elected to take care of problems, then if there are problems they have that should be directed to different committees, it would be up to the Administrative Unit to do so.

Moderator Hougen recognized Teaching Elder Bob Bouton, HR. The Reverend Mr. Bouton spoke in favor of the main motion by asserting that the motion is important to the Presbytery. Noting that he has been in the Presbytery of East Iowa for 40 years, he affirmed that there are good people working and good things happening in the Presbytery. Having participated in the work of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies since 1978, he stated that a commission is nothing to be afraid of since the Synod has used a number of commission and task groups with specific assignments to accomplish tasks

carefully and swiftly. He offered his view that the commission would benefit the presbytery and strengthen it moving forward.

The Moderator recognized Teaching Elder Dr. Julie Schuett (Ely, First) to speak against the motion. The Reverend Dr. Schuett noted that she would have to leave for family reasons, but stated that she would vote against the motion were she able to stay. She affirmed that the most important thing those in the Presbytery can do is to pray, be careful and be respectful, generous and compassionate. She noted that after the meeting everyone would still be the Presbytery and, harsh feelings and emotions aside, we must build each other up. Lastly, she stated that, as a newly-elected member of the Administrative Unit, starting her term in January, she would do her best to come without predetermined biases and serve in a careful manner.

Moderator Hougen recognized Ruling Elder Kerry Jennings (Wilton, First). Mr. Jennings spoke in favor of the motion by asserting that passing the motion would be slightly more helpful than not passing it. He shared his view that the Presbytery has clear evidence that there are many topics and emotions that need to be discussed publicly.

Moderator Hougen recognized Ruling Elder Bruce Rosene (Rowley, First), who asked a question concerning his impression that when the Administrative Unit makes a decision the Presbytery cannot change it later.

The Moderator responded that it was his understanding that the governing body always has the right to rescind an action taken by the Committee on Ministry or the Administrative Unit or decisions made on behalf of the Presbytery by other entities. He further noted that the motion approved at the October 9 stated meeting did exactly that.

Mr. Rosene responded that he wished to make the motion to go ahead and vote. Moderator Hougen asked the body if it was their will to call the question. Receiving little indication that the body was ready to call the question, Moderator Hougen then recognized Teaching Elder Matt Paul (Iowa City, St. Andrew).

The Reverend Mr. Paul raised a question about the main motion, noting that the second bullet refers to the Bylaws and Manual of Operations as does the fifth point from the motion passed at the October 9 stated meeting. Further noting that there were four other numbered items in the motion passed on October 9, he queried if the main motion was meant to address all five of the issues contained in the approved motion from October 9.

The Stated Clerk responded that the first bullet point in the main motion does speak to all five items contained in the approved motion from the October 9 meeting by giving the administrative commission authority to administer and manage the full motion. She further noted that there is a difference in intent between the two bulleted items

identified by the Reverend Mr. Paul. In the text of the October 9 motion, the paragraph preceding the five numbered items indicates the intention to give the full governing body final decision-making authority regarding these five items. The second bullet point in the current main motion has a different intent. Conversely, the intent of this bullet point is to call for a review of the documents.

The Reverend Mr. Paul then spoke against the main motion by expressing his discomfort with the Moderator and Stated Clerk as constitutional officers being charged with appointing the Administrative Commission since point four in the approved motion from October 9 concerns the evaluation or retention of persons elected as constitutional officers.

Moderator Hougen recognized Teaching Elder Dr. Mary Pugh (Blue Grass). The Reverend Dr. Pugh spoke in favor of the motion, first noting that previous speakers had referred to the motion approved at the October 9 stated meeting as a motion rather than as a decision. She stated that as the Presbytery moves forward on the basis of that decision, the body should move to vote on the current main motion.

Moderator Hougen recognized Ruling Elder Ruth Duritsa (Independence, First) to speak against the motion. Ms. Duritsa asserted that all of the five items listed under information items in the Administrative Unit report to the October 9 stated meeting, and pulled for inclusion in the approved motion offered by the Reverend Dr. Sam Massey at the stated meeting, were items that eventually would have come to the body for vote. She stated that as business comes to the Administrative Unit, the Unit studies it, takes recommendations, and then it comes to the Presbytery floor for discussion and vote.

Ruling Elder Bruce Rosene moved to call the question. The motion was seconded, and Moderator Hougen reminded the body that a two-thirds vote was necessary to call the question. He asked for a show of hands and ruled that the vote exceeded the necessary two-thirds number and that the motion was APPROVED.

Moderator Hougen stated that, without objection, the vote on the main motion would be taken by written ballot. Hearing no objection, he invited the tellers to come forward to distribute the ballots. While the ballots were being distributed, Moderator Hougen instructed the body that a Yes vote was a vote in favor of the main motion as printed in the call for the meeting, and a No vote was a vote against the main motion as printed in the call for the meeting. He further clarified that visitors and Ruling Elders not elected as commissioners or in the specified categories of Presbytery service that allow them to be eligible to vote do not have the right to vote.

The Moderator again called a recess from 8:13 p.m. to 8:21 p.m. while the votes were tallied. Moderator Hougen reconvened the meeting. Before announcing the vote tally, Moderator Hougen again thanked those at Cedar Rapids, Westminster who provided hospitality and A.J. Plummer for running the sound system. The Moderator then

announced that the vote on the main motion was 44 in favor, 28 opposed and 1 abstention. He declared the motion to be APPROVED.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and APPROVED. Moderator Hougen closed the meeting with prayer at 8:23 p.m.

## NOTICE OF A CALLED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EAST IOWA

Thursday, November 8, 2012

7:00 p.m. Westminster

Presbyterian Church Cedar

Rapids, IA 52403

In accordance with G-11.0201 of the 2009-2011 *Book of Order*, Teaching Elder Faye Fedlam (Columbus Junction, United), Teaching Elder Bob Wollenberg (Washington, United), Ruling Elder Lara Marsh (Iowa City, First) and Ruling Elder Clint Rila (Mt. Pleasant, First) have requested that a Special Meeting of the Presbytery of East Iowa be called on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids, IA for the purpose of considering the following motion:

**Motion:** That an independent Administrative Commission be appointed by the mutual agreement of the Moderator and Stated Clerk, acting as the two constitutional officers of the Presbytery. The membership will consist of 8 to 12 members with equal representation of men and women, teaching elders and ruling elders, and representation from large and small churches, from each of the four regions of the presbytery and from different age groups.

The Commission shall report directly to the Presbytery (full governing body) and not to any staff member, committee, unit, commission, board or task force of the Presbytery or subset of any of these groups. The Commission may, however, consult with any of these entities.

The Commission shall have the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of East Iowa and the Stated Clerk of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies as ex-officio members. The Commission is hereby directed to:

- Administer and manage the motion passed by the Presbytery in its meeting on 9 October 2012, and printed below for reference only, in order to accomplish its intent. Its intent shall be defined by the Commission. The Administrative Unit shall make available to the Commission all materials already completed and/or in progress that pertain to the elements of that motion. Any other person or group of the Presbytery that has information that would be pertinent to these purposes

shall make available such information to the Commission.

- Review the Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation and Operations Manual and draft recommendations for the Presbytery to consider to amend any or all of these documents to make them conform to nFOG, and beyond that, to draft recommendation for further changes in any or all of these documents that would make the operation of the presbytery more effective and efficient, and to draft and recommend any other changes that appear to be appropriate. To accomplish these purposes the Commission may draft and recommend amendments and restatement of any or all of these documents, or may draft and recommend replacement of any or all of these documents if amendments that would be proposed would be too extensive to make amending practical.
- The Commission shall have the authority to obtain any other information from and/or consult with any person or group within the presbytery or outside its bounds including other presbyteries, Synod of Lakes and Prairies and other synods, General Assembly, and other sources outside the denomination in its quest to accomplish the above purposes.

The Commission shall report progress at each stated meeting of the Presbytery until all of the above purposes have been completed and reported to the Presbytery. Final decisions concerning implementation of recommendations brought by the Commission shall rest solely with the Presbytery.

This ends the motion.

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Motion passed by the Presbytery in its meeting on 9 October 2012 and printed here for reference only:

*The Manual of Operation of the Presbytery of East Iowa (Section 05.02) states that the Administrative Unit has a primary function to "act on behalf of the Presbytery between meetings of the Presbytery and report such actions to the next meeting of the Presbytery."*

*With regard to the actions that the Administrative Unit has taken on items 3, 5, 6, 7, and 10 listed in the Administrative Unit report, taken within this context as stated in our Manual of Operation, I move that the actions on items 3, 5, 6, 7, and 10 be rescinded, and final authority for decision-making concerning these items, be returned to the presbytery as a whole and placed on the presbytery's docket for dialogue and decision-making at a future stated meeting, with the stated meeting at which these items are taken up chosen by the Moderator and Stated Clerk in consultation with the full membership of the Administrative Unit, and with the mandate that the Stated Clerk shall docket the items as action items, so that the presbytery as a whole has final decision-making authority regarding*

1. *any alternative method of operation for the Nominating Committee,*
2. *any policy of the Presbytery of East Iowa regarding the use of revenue derived from gambling profits,*
3. *any modification of personnel policy,*

- 4. any evaluation and/or question of retention of any person elected as a constitutional officer (Moderator or Stated Clerk) of this body
- 5. any re-creation of new presbytery Bylaws and Manual of Operations in light of the adoption of nFOG.

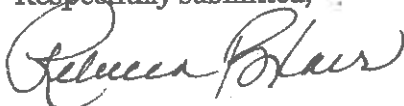
Since this is a Special (Called) Meeting of the Presbytery, no business other than the motion stated above may come before the Presbytery at this time. No requests for excused absences are necessary for a called meeting.

The call of this meeting is issued by the Reverend John Hougen, Moderator, and Elder DR. Rebecca Blair, Stated Clerk as indicated below.

The Reverend John Hougen  
Moderator


Elder Dr. Rebecca Blair  
Stated Clerk

Respectfully submitted,



Elder Dr. Rebecca Blair  
Stated Clerk

*Minutes approved  
2-2-2013*

Page \_\_\_ Presbytery of Easton  
 Minutes approved with out exception(s) by  
 the Synod of Lakes and  
 Florida on April 30, 2013  
  
[Signature]  
 Synod Stated Clerk