

Statement on the Commission on Ministry Associate Position

As part of our ongoing restructuring, the Presbytery of East Iowa no longer has the Commission on Ministry Associate Position.

Background

For nearly a year, the Presbytery of East Iowa has been moving toward a new model of mission and ministry, also known as “restructuring.” The document *Discovering and Claiming Our Common Calling* was approved by the body at the 180th Stated Meeting held at Iowa City First on January 13, 2018 with the understanding that we would work toward implementation of the new structure by July 1, 2018.

One of the fundamental changes in this new structure is the move from a Commission on Ministry (COM) to the Ministerial Relations Teams, which includes Ministers and Congregations Commission (MCC), Church Development and Vitality Team (CDV) and the Leadership Development Team. Many of the functions remain the same but the intent in all the committees is to move from being a staff-driven, top-down organization to a more horizontal organization governed by elected groups of presbyters.

To this end, when the Commission on Ministry ended its work and the Ministers and Congregations Commission began in August 2018, the Commission on Ministry Associate Position also ceased to exist. Harry Hoyt’s tenure as COM Associate ended on September 30, 2018.

Going Forward

Many of you may be wondering, “Now what?” The functions of the COM Associate is now being done by multiple people:

- Background checks of candidates– Stated Clerk [Rebecca Blair](#)
- Provide references to other judicatories upon request- Stated Clerk [Rebecca Blair](#)
- Church Leadership Connection liaison for matching pastors and congregations – Teaching Elder [John Hougen](#), member of MCC
- Conflict Resolution – Teaching Elder [Danie deBeer](#), moderator of Congregational Development and Vitality Team
- Questions about Interims, calling a new pastor, etc. – Teaching Elder [Jennifer Jennings](#), moderator of MCC

Giving Thanks

Harry Hoyt served as the Commission on Ministry Associate for the Presbytery of East Iowa beginning in 2003. In that time, he worked with every congregation in both good and difficult times. We are grateful for his leadership and abilities. He was the right person at the right time for this presbytery.

As an expression of our thanks, we invite congregations and individuals to make a financial gift in honor of Harry's service. The presbytery is contributing an initial gift of \$1000. Additional gifts may be sent to the Presbytery of East Iowa, attn: Karen Bartel, 1285 3rd Ave. SE #2, Cedar Rapids, IA 53403. Include "Harry Hoyt" in the memo line.

The Personnel Committee
Tom Suchomel, RE Cedar Rapids Olivet
Kris Ward, RE Davenport Newcomb
Bill Warhover, TE At Large
Lori Wunder, TE Mount Vernon Iowa