

## Presbytery Coordinating Commission Minutes 23 October 2014

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Presbytery of East Iowa ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Presbytery Office ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 23 October 2014

**Present:** Mary Atwood (Moderator), Rebecca Blair (Stated Clerk), Anita Burnett (CPM), Kevin Cullum (Camp Wyoming), Harry Hoyt (COM Consultant), Deb Kinney (CPM), Sam Massey (COM), Richard Miller (Personnel), Karen Minnis (Trustees), Nancy Oehler Love (Personnel), Karen Minnis (Trustees), Kyle Otterbein (Vice-Moderator and Trustees), Kristy Parker (Nominating), Al Polito (Nominating), Mary Pugh (Immediate Past Moderator), Bob Wollenberg (ACOG)

**Excused:** Karen Bartel, Ann Luedtka, Clint Rila, Kris Ward

Moderator Mary Atwood called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. with the lighting of the Christ Candle. Moderator Atwood invited Deb Kinney to offer the opening devotion. The Reverend Ms. Kinney observed that as she had been reviewing and reflecting upon the Book of Confessions, the words of the *Brief Statement of Faith I* resonated especially deeply, and she shared them as the devotion, noting their enduring meaning for us as the Body of Christ in this current time and place. She closed the devotion with prayer.

### **Stated Clerk's Report**

Moderator Atwood called upon Stated Clerk Rebecca Blair to present the Stated Clerk's Report. Stated Clerk Blair announced that a quorum was present. **A motion to approve the minutes of the 25 September 2014 meeting was seconded and APPROVED unannimously.**

The Stated Clerk reminded committee moderators that they are responsible for timely submission of reports for stated meetings, for contacting Pam and Sarah to include meetings and events on the Presbytery calendars, and of their need to include all relevant stakeholder perspectives in inclusive decision-making processes.

She reviewed the recent Polity Conference in Louisville at which she offered one of three featured innovative workshops. Her workshop was entitled "A Match Made in Heaven? Volunteers as Servant Leaders within Covenant Community." This workshop was quite well-received with several presbyteries requesting materials, resources, and consultation. The PCC discussed how this workshop might be used within PEIA, observing that our Presbytery is working through a major cultural shift, and a workshop on servant leadership and discipleship might well be helpful to this transition. The PCC suggested that the Stated Clerk share the ideas in this workshop with both the Nominating Committee and Networking as a possible means by which churches can see the shifts and nuances in Presbytery culture and the Nominating Committee can help folks to better discern their own callings to service as well as those of others.

### **Moderator's Report**

Moderator Atwood announced that the Presbytery Meetings Special Task Force met on 22 October to fill in some church hosts for Presbytery meetings. This group will meet again on 12 November to put together a final report to the PCC and the Presbytery. The Healing and Reconciliation Task Force continues to meet. Their focus is on determining dimensions of a healing and reconciliation process.

She next invited the PCC to review the 165<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting, held at United Presbyterian Church in Washington, Iowa. The discussion focused upon the deeply meaningful workshop service, complete with goose and bagpipes. The PCC agreed that a pre-Presbytery workshop on overtures will be a necessity at the March 2015 stated meeting. Given the increased volume of discussion in response to docketed items, the PCC also agreed that it would need to recalibrate its expectations of how much time to allot to each item on the dockets for 2015 meetings.

### **Camp Wyoming Report**

Executive Director Kevin Cullum expressed deep appreciation on behalf of the Camp for the generous support of the Presbytery in response to the proposals at the 165<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting. He further noted that the Camp will provide a finance report at each November stated meeting as one part of the process to include the financial statements of Camp Wyoming in the financial reports and accounting of the Presbytery.

### **Committee on Ministry Report**

Harry Hoyt, COM Associate, reported on the following issues/actions taken by COM:

- COM plans to review the language from Chapter 14 of the *2005-2007 Book of Order* that has been used as the language for COM operations within the Presbytery from 2007 onward. The intention is to propose language to be incorporated in the next revision of the *PEIA Bylaws and Manual of Operation* which will take place during the first six months of 2015.
- Given the focus upon a more inclusive governance model within the Presbytery, COM plans to institute a liaison model as a high impact, high energy means to proactively serve the churches within the Presbytery. The intention is to reframe the perception of COM's role from an adversarial one to a relational one. This model will require continual follow-through communication with liaisons, who will be working within the four regions of the Presbytery, perhaps with regional liaison moderators. It will take time to build the deep relationships intended with this model since the aim is for the liaison to become a part of the church community that he or she serves. This servant-leadership approach invests Presbytery human and financial assets to engage the mission, ministry and conflict in churches.
- Church persistence is also a current issue on COM's radar. Within the Presbytery we are following the national trend of churches dissolving, yoking, or finding creative ways to shift the ministry from the building into the realm of God in the world.

- The action of the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly concerning divestment from Caterpillar, Motorola Solution and Hewlett Packard has become an issue of concern in at least two churches. COM has responded by advising these churches to consult with our Stated Clerk and G.A. Commissioners for further accurate information.
- Harry Hoyt will be moderating upcoming congregational meetings in two churches as Matthew Froeschle leaves his call at Princeton and Scott Nesbitt leaves his call at Clinton.
- The new website that will be going live soon contains contract forms, COM manuals, and directories to facilitate the COM processes that occur within the Presbytery.

Richard Miller noted that the Personnel Committee has received expressions of concern over the future of the CRE program and its leadership. He requested that COM figure out how to move forward with the CRE program without losing the programmatic impact.

### **Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report**

Committee moderator Deb Kinney noted that Teaching Elder Melody Oltmann will serve as the new CPM moderator beginning in January 2015. She also reported that committee is putting the finishing touches on a survey to be mailed to all Teaching Elders within the Presbytery concerning how CPM can engage in care for and equipping of pastors in the Presbytery.

### **Trustees Report**

Kyle Otterbein, Vice-Moderator, reported on the following issues:

- The Trustees are preparing a draft of a financial policies and procedures document with the intention of presenting it for first reading at an end of the year called meeting.
- The Trustees are also working with commercial realtor Don Fish on the sale of the remain land parcels surrounding the former Davenport, St. Andrew church building as an extension of the sale of this building to the Mt. Moriah church. A recommendation to the Presbytery will be prepared for an end of the year called meeting.
- The Trustees have had conversation with Larry Petrick, moderator of the COM Subcommittee on Closing Churches, concerning the last steps in closing and maintaining the former Knox church property. He noted that the Trustees had charged Trustee Julie Schuett with contacting the pastors in Cedar Rapids to begin conversation on possible uses for the building. The PCC discussion indicated that this issue is one for the entire Presbytery to reflect upon, not just the CR community. The consensus was that this opportunity should be including in a strategic consideration process, led by the PCC, upon significant strategy issues within the Presbytery.
- The Trustees raised a question concerning whether the Middletown church building should be re-keyed. The Stated Clerk noted that the Administrative Commission is

now working with the Presbytery's attorney to retrieve financial records, and that she would share this information with him to obtain legal advice about this question.

- Lastly, the Trustees hope to have a draft budget prepared for presentation at an end of the year called meeting. The Reverend Mr. Otterbein alerted commission and committee moderators that he would be sending to each of them a budget request document with a deadline of 13 November for receipt of their budget requests..0

### **Personnel Committee Report**

Richard Miller announced that the Personnel Committee had completed all conversations with current officers and staff concerning the newly-approved positions. All have accepted the positions offered to them. Salaries for these positions will be determined by November 1 and will be retroactive to October 7. The committee has run an ad for the Pastor to Pastors position with a December 1 deadline. Committee member Nancy Oehler-Love is coordinating this search. The committee will also work with officers and staff on a goal setting and review process in the next few weeks.

Personnel Committee will adopted a more recurring meeting schedule, meeting the first Tuesday of each month. The next project is the preparation of a draft Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual to be presented first to staff prior to presentation to the Presbytery for approval.

### **ACOG Report**

Bob Wollenberg, commission co-moderator, noted with some sense of expectation that the ACOG meeting on 30 October would be the last and will be a reflective and celebratory event. In looking at the authority and responsibility given to the commission, he observed, ACOG could continue to see to fruition the next revision of the Bylaws and Manual of Operation, but the commission is tired and desires to hand off this and other commission strategic responsibilities to the PCC.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Al Polito, committee moderator, noted that the recommendation form and self-nomination form will be included on the new Presbytery website and will be included in *Out and About*.

Moderator Atwood indicated that the next two PCC meetings would fall on holidays. By consensus, the PCC agreed to meet on November 20 and December 18 if the way be clear.

**The next PCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 20 at 10:00 a.m. in the Presbytery Office Conference Room.**

Respectfully submitted,

Ruling Elder Dr. Rebecca Blair  
Stated Clerk