

## Presbytery Coordinating Commission Minutes 25 September 2014

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Presbytery of East Iowa ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Presbytery Office ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 25 September 2014

**Present:** Mary Atwood (Moderator), Karen Bartel (Nominating), Rebecca Blair (Stated Clerk), Kevin Cullum (Camp Wyoming), Harry Hoyt (COM Consultant), Deb Kinney (CPM), Ann Luedtka (COM), Sam Massey (COM), Richard Miller (Personnel), Nancy Oehler Love (Personnel), Karen Minnis (Trustees), Kyle Otterbein (Vice-Moderator and Trustees), Al Polito (Nominating), Clint Rila (ACOG)

**Excused:** Anita Burnett, Mary Pugh, Kris Ward, Bob Wollenberg  
**Guests:** Troy Winder and Beth Hilkerbaumer

Moderator Mary Atwood called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. with the lighting of the Christ Candle. Moderator Atwood invited Sam Massey to offer the opening devotion. The Reverend Dr. Massey observed that he is an advocate of servant-leadership, an orientation that seeks to empower and equip others to be and do their best in service of God and others and to be as free as possible from an agenda benefitting self. He offered a brief reflection upon this orientation and ended with a reading from Phillippians, Chapter 2 as a text modeling this orientation. He closed the devotion with prayer.

### Camp Wyoming Special Report

At 11:08 a.m., the PCC observed the order of the day, a meeting with Teaching Elder Troy Winder (current Camp Wyoming Board of Trustees President), Teaching Elder Beth Hilkerbaumer (incoming Camp Wyoming Board of Trustees President), and Kevin Cullum (Camp Wyoming Executive Director). The purpose of the meeting was to discover a strategic way forward concerning the relationship between the Presbytery and Camp Wyoming.

Troy Winder noted that the aim of the Camp is to continue to develop and expand relationships, an essential part of what the Camp experience is all about. The mission is relational ministry.

Kevin Cullum clarified the context in which this ministry occurs by noting that the Camp Wyoming Board of Trustees has primary responsibility for the programming while the Presbytery of East Iowa owns the facilities. He explained that these three representatives from Camp Wyoming had met earlier with the PEIA Trustees to discuss an opportunity to help the camp over the last challenge—its ever-present financial debt. The purpose is to discard the practice of paying yesterday's bills with today's money, a practice which has been in place during the entirety of the Camp's history.

Kevin noted that there has been a 22% increase in summer camps and rentals have doubled for the coming year. A new interactive website represents one example of an intentional strategy to market the Camp and make it user-accessible. He noted that Camp Wyoming continues to develop, unlike the four camps closing this year in Iowa. From 1998-2002, church camps have faced an increasingly difficult financial environment.

Beth Hilkerbaumer explained that, in PEIA, we have come to a Kairos moment in which, although John Knox chose to leave a few years ago, PEIA can choose to invest in the Camp. The facilities and programming will need continual updating to respond to parents' expectations in the current market. Funding such updates requires constant financial juggling. Kevin then shared an exercise meant to demonstrate that the Camp enterprise must primarily operate as a business rather than as "church." The goal is to move the distribution of funding source to a greater share of business revenue versus donations. The goal is to achieve an 80-20% ratio in three years. The Camp has calculated a cost of \$20 per person to fill a bed. This rate can be dependably used within a business plan to project future revenue and expenses. To this end, Kevin explained the current disposition of the Camp's balance sheet to show the three line items contained in the "ask" to the Presbytery. Camp Wyoming will be presenting this request at the 7 October stated meeting. The conversation ended at 11:37 a.m.

Moderator Atwood thanked Teaching Elders Troy Winder and Beth Hilkerbaumer for their thorough report that demonstrated their passion for Camp Wyoming and excused them from the meeting.

### **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 Synod Forum for presbytery leaders, noting first the need for us to develop a process by which our Synod commissioners can routinely report to the PCC on what is happening at the Synod level. The first issue concerned the action Synod took last year to discontinue the CPSS (Comprehensive Presbyterian Staff Support) allocation to presbyteries and to rename the former CPMS allocation (Comprehensive Presbyterian Mission Support) to Comprehensive Presbytery Support Commitment. The current allocation is \$22,500 per presbytery with a proposal to go forward to phase out this line over time due to the stepped-down allocation from General Assembly. The CPSC dollars are fungible, and represent spirited generosity in response to generosity received. They are allocated upon the principle of reciprocal trust. This diminution of funding will necessitate more detailed planning at the presbytery level to ensure that we meet funding priorities.

Secondly, she shared a summary of the August 2014 conversation among synod executives in response to the action of the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly that the number of synods be reduced from 16 to 10-12. The Synod Executive Forum takes seriously this mandate from the General Assembly and will seek to fulfill it faithfully, most immediately by engaging in an inclusive conversation with presbytery leaders at the October 2014 Fall Polity Conference. The most important conversation to be had will occur between each synod and the respective presbyteries that comprise it. Each synod will be responsible for its own recommendations based upon its conversations with its own presbyteries, to be coordinated by the synods, if possible, through process yet to be determine, into single report to the General Assembly by January 2016.

She also shared the “fusion” process currently underway involving all of the presbyteries in Wisconsin. The Quad Presbytery Conversation among Homestead, Central Nebraska, Missouri River Valleys and Prospect Hill presbyteries concerns planning collective mission and education events. Des Moines and North Central presbyteries also have been in quiet conversation, a conversation that could include East Iowa at some future point.

There have been no reviews of synod staff this year in preparation for David Crittenden’s retirement in December 2014, followed by the retirements of Jay Wilkinson and Diana Barber in December 2015. The Synod Personnel Committee has suggested that the Associate EP positions should be discontinued. Financial functions are like to be contracted with a private company, and the Stated Clerk role elected as a distinct office position. Elona Street-Stewart will be elected as Synod Executive at the early October meeting.

Stated Clerk Blair ended her report by explaining that Dave Crittenden, Synod Transitional Exec had invited her to share the two-year transitional process that our presbytery has undertaken. The other presbytery leaders at the forum asked for copies of her report, observing that this process represented a progressive movement to recover Presbyterian principles and practice.

### **Personnel Committee Report**

Richard Miller presented the financials associated with the proposed officer and staff positions. He explained that the committee is prepared to answer questions at the upcoming stated meeting and that the committee is anticipating a variety of queries. The Personnel Committee is also starting a draft of personnel policies and procedures which the committee intends to be operational by 1 January 2015.

### **Moderator’s Report**

Moderator Atwood called attention to the reports from the two special task forces to included in the stated meeting packet. With regard to planning for the October stated meeting, a video for Camp Wyoming will be presented, Power Points will need to be projected for Trustees, Personnel and ACOG, and the UP Home will be placing favors at each table.

### **Committee on Ministry Report**

Ann Luedtka, committee moderator, reported on the following issues/actions taken by COM:

- The policy question persists concerning the ability of an Associate Pastor to engage in candidacy for the Pastor position in the church he or she has been serving. COM has prepared a motion to address any discussion or motion that might arise at the October 7 stated meeting. This motion calls for COM study with recommendation to be presented to the Presbytery in early 2015.
- COM is also in the process of correcting the discrepancies in language between the Compensation Manual and CRE contract/commission language.

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

Committee moderator Deb Kinney reported that committee is putting the finishing touches on a survey concerning how CPM can engage in care for and equipping of pastors in the Presbytery. CPM is still looking for ordination exam readers for next year.

### **Trustees Report**

Kyle Otterbein, Vice-Moderator, presented the Unified Mission sheet and the sheet noting the four-year history and trend line of Presbytery finances. He explained that the Trustees will present a motion to contract with an accounting firm that has experience with non-profits so that our reviews can be more targeted and informed by best practice.

### **ACOG Report**

Clint Rila, commission co-moderator, noted that the commission is prepared for the October 7 stated meeting and will plan to meet one more time this calendar year to review its work.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Al Polito, committee moderator, noted that the committee continues to look for folks to fill vacancies. The stated meeting report will present for election those position that have received nominees, and he will review the vacancies yet to be filled. He also presented drafts of a recommendation form and self-nomination form to be included on the new Presbytery website.

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, October 20 at 10:00 a.m. in the Presbytery Office Conference Room.**

Respectfully submitted,

Ruling Elder Dr. Rebecca Blair  
Stated Clerk