



Presbytery of Des Moines

REV. PHILIP W. BARRETT, GENERAL PRESBYTER & STATED CLERK
EMAIL: PBARRETT@DMPRESBYTERY.ORG

January 28, 2014

TO: Commissioners to the 494th Stated Meeting (November 12, 2013)
FROM: Philip W. Barrett, Stated Clerk
SUBJECT: Minutes

You will find the Minutes of the 494th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines held on November 12, 2013 at the First Presbyterian Church of Ottumwa following this letter. Members are receiving the minutes by going online to download them from the Presbytery web site.

Please read through these Minutes to both remind yourself of what occurred and to check them for accuracy. Please send any corrections directly to me, preferably in writing. This includes use of e-mail. (pbarrett@dmpresbytery.org)

We heard several special presentations. Transitional Synod Executive TE David Crittenden shared with us about *Cultivating a Culture of Generosity*. Our new Board of Pensions Regional Representative, TE Ed Thompson, talked about some of the changes in the Board's medical coverage and offerings. We also heard from representatives of the Lee Agency, the company that handles our presbytery insurance, about how we're doing and some other changes. During worship we heard a stimulating sermon entitled *Near and Now* offered by TE Bruce Whearty about being Christ's disciples. The Administrative Commission working with the Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church brought both a report and a recommendation about their plans for work to be done up through June 30, 2014. This included a significant financial investment by the Presbytery. Speaking of finances, preliminary budget figures for 2014 were proposed by the Budget and Finance Committee, and included approval of an increase in the Per Capita Assessment for 2014. We elected people to serve in various positions within the Presbytery. We recognized the honorable retirement of three of our pastors. You may remember some other things as well.

If you are attending the February 8, 2014 Presbytery Meeting as a commissioner, please remember to bring this Minutes packet with you. Extra copies are not provided for those who neglect to bring them. If you are not attending as a commissioner, please pass this packet on to the person who is.

Thanks to all of you for your participation and service.

The Presbytery of Des Moines of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its 494th Stated Meeting at the First Presbyterian Church of Ottumwa, Iowa, on November 12, 2013. The meeting was convened at 9:30 a.m. with prayer by Moderator Teaching Elder Jim Howland.

FORMATION OF THE ROLL

The following commissioners and members were registered for this meeting (Present, Absent, Excused):

CHURCH	MINISTER	P/A/E	COMMISSIONER
Adair, First	Char Rief	A	A
Allerton, United	Ross Blount	P	Linda Clark
Ankeny	Jim Koopman	P	Ray W. Peters
Ankeny	Sue Tomlinson	A	-
Atlantic, First United	Holly Smith	E	A
Audubon, First	Roger Claxton	P	Sue Barnes
Bedford, United	Randy S. Allman	E	A
Brooklyn, First	John Reynolds, Jr.	P	Janean Stuart
Carlisle, Scotch Ridge	VACANT	-	A
Centerville, First	Suzanne Gorhau	P	Jane Sheston
Chariton, First	VACANT	-	Ev Brightman
Clive, Heartland	D. Mark Davis	P	Jude Conway
Clive, Heartland	Barbara Nish	A	-
Clive Heartland	Martie Larsen, CRE	A	-
Corning, First	Ken Rummer	P	Ann Myers
Creston, First	Jim Woodworth	P	Frank Gale
Creston, Platte Center	Dolores Doench	P	Chuck Erickson
Dallas Center, First	Adam Smith	P	Cindy Carpenter
Deep River, United	Michelle Williamson	A	A
Des Moines, Central (2)	James Wallace	P	A
Des Moines, Central	-	-	A
Des Moines, Cottage Grove Avenue	David Madsen	P	Roberta Victor
Des Moines, Douglas Avenue	Rich Harbart	P	Harold Eklund
Des Moines, First	Ken Stuber	E	A
Des Moines, Fort Des Moines	Greg Smith (HR)	P	Linda Francisco
Des Moines, Highland Park	VACANT	-	Benjamin Davies
Des Moines, Park Avenue	Claude J. Jones (HR)	P	A
Des Moines, Union Park	John W. Gilmore	P	Joyce Rash
Des Moines, Westminster (3)	Scott Paczkowski	E	Ted Coppock
Des Moines, Westminster	Ken Arentson	E	Jan Davison
Des Moines, Westminster	Dick Kiefer (HR)	E	Polk Davison
Des Moines, Westminster	Bill Ekhardt	A	-
Dexter, First	David Kincaide	P	Doris King
Diagonal, United	VACANT	-	A
Earlham, First	Robert Waldron, CRE	P	A
Gibson, First	Hans Cornelder	P	A
Gibson, White Oak	Hans Cornelder	P	A
Greenfield, First	David Kincaide	P	A
Grimes, First	VACANT	-	Bill Sharp
Grinnell, First	Kirsten Klepfer	P	Tom Moore

CHURCH	MINISTER	P/A/E	COMMISSIONER
Guthrie Center, First	Denis R. James, Sr.	P	George Hemmen
Hartford, Community United	Nathan Lamb	P	Chuck Casson
Indianola, Trinity United	David Endriss	P	Deanne Herr
Johnston, St. Paul	Bill O'Connell	P	Jerry Foley
Knoxville, First	Josyph Andrews	A	A
Lenox, United	Tim Maxa	P	David Walter
Leon, First	VACANT	-	A
LeRoy, First	Dale O'Connell (HR)	P	A
Lucas, First	Marcy Campbell	P	A
Malcom, First United	John Reynolds, Jr.	P	A
Monroe	Ann Johnson	P	Howard Clark
Mount Ayr, United	Mike Maddy	A	A
New Sharon, First	VACANT	-	A
Newton, First	Linda Curtis-Stolper	E	Mickey Van Baale
Newton, First	Sara Hopkins	A	-
Newton, United	Donald Freeman	A	Verle Summers
Oskaloosa, First	Dennis Morey	P	Sharon Falck
Ottumwa, East End	Jane Martinez	P	Arnold Staub
Ottumwa, First	David Klanderman	P	Karie Martindale
Ottumwa, Westminster	Jane Martinez	P	A
Perry, First	Joan White	P	David Weiser
Sharpsburg	Tim Maxa	P	A
Sigourney, First	Kim Alten	P	Leroy James
West Des Moines, Covenant	Jan Scott	P	Hal Harris
Windsor Heights, Windsor	Shamaine Chambers King	P	Ron Grohe
Winterset, First United	Jim Howland	P	Donna Vaughan

OTHER MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY (MINISTERS)

Present: Philip Barrett, General Presbyter/Stated Clerk; Jay Basler (HR); John Beran (HR); Goanar Chol; Jack DePond (HR); Bruce Giese; Elizabeth Knott (HR); Aaron Koskamp (HR); Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy; Linda O'Connell (HR); Elizabeth Sandy (HR); Patricia Summers (HR); Lynn Williams, (HR) and Bob Zirkelbach.

Excused: Robert Burnett (HR); Tom Conrey (HR); Robert Cook (HR); Carl Cooper (HR); Donald Elly (HR); Ane Fitzgerald; Bill LeMosy (HR); Ray Martin (HR); John McElroy; Adam Nardini; Sara Speer Palmer (HR); Michelle Parsons; Katherine Pater; Marvin Potter (HR); Sarai Schnucker Rice; Kay E. Steddom (HR); Russell Tomlinson (HR); Ron Van Heukelom (HR); Erasmo Vélez (HR); and Francis Younkin (HR).

Absent: David Braak; Pete Brantner; Christopher (Kip) Harris; Dawn Linder and Jeffrey Means.

LAY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Present: Vice-Moderator RE Nancy Lister-Settle and RE Jonathan Kimple (Dallas Center, First); RE Maurice Dyer (Indianola, Trinity United).

VISITORS

Sandy Wagener (Ankeny); Marilyn Vanderlinden (Centerville, First); Kathy Bassett (Clive, Heartland); Patti Spencer Burdette, Russ Francisco, Thomas Donald Moore and Rachel Smith, (DM, Fort Des

Moines); Joanne Page (DM, Union Park); Lois Williams (Grimes, First); Sharon McCullough (Indianola, Trinity United); Linda Anderson, (Newton, First); Stephanie Cornelder, Jo Rainer and Darlene Shepherd (Oskaloosa, First); Carolyn Staub (Ottumwa, East End); Jim Gerot (Ottumwa, First); John Sprole (WDM, Covenant); Sue Wilhite, Ramona Wink and Betty Dyer, Presbytery staff (Indianola, Trinity United).

<u>MINISTERS (94 on roll)</u>		<u>ELDER COMMISSIONERS AND OTHERS</u>	
Present:	52	Present:	61
Excused:	26	Excused:	0
Absent:	15	Absent:	23

QUORUM STATEMENT

A quorum was present and declared so by the Moderator.

ADOPTION OF DOCKET

The Presbytery VOTED to adopt the proposed docket as printed and distributed with the following change: Move Board of Pensions Report to follow the Generosity Presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Presbytery VOTED to adopt the Consent Agenda as printed and distributed with the Call to this meeting.

APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES

The Presbytery VOTED to grant excused absences to those requesting them.

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

The Presbytery VOTED to seat the Rev. David Crittenden, Interim Executive of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, a member of Ohio Valley Presbytery, the Rev. Ed Thompson, Regional Representative for the Board of Pensions, a member of Heartland Presbytery, and the Rev. Bruce Whearty, World Mission Church Support Associate for the Midwest in our denomination, a member of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery.

INTRODUCTION OF FIRST TIMERS AND GUESTS

Persons who were attending a presbytery meeting for the first time or guests were introduced.

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

Moderator TE Jim Howland announced that he had appointed TE Ken Rummer, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Corning as Parliamentarian for this meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING CLERK

Stated Clerk TE Phil Barrett announced that RE John McKeown, a member of First Church, Ottumwa as Recording Clerk for this meeting.

WELCOME BY HOST CHURCHES

TE David Klanderman, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church and TE Jane Martinez, Pastor of the East End and Westminster Churches, all of whom are sharing in the hosting of this meeting, brought greetings and welcomed the Presbytery and shared information about the congregations.

WORSHIP

The Presbytery entered into a time of worship. Worship leaders were RE Polk Davison and RE Ted Coppock (Des Moines, Westminster) and RE Sandy Wagener (Ankeny) and TE David Klanderman

(Ottumwa, First). TE Bruce Whearty, PCUSA World Mission Church Support Associate for the Midwest, was the preacher for the day. Preaching on the theme *Near and Now*, Bruce commented on the energy of Mark's Gospel in telling of the coming of Jesus. He reminded us that we are the hands and feet of God in the world. We work together to do what individual churches cannot do alone. We are called both as communities and as individuals. Bruce shared a story of being caught in a South Pacific hurricane. He went on to tell about how people in a village were protected during a hurricane in a church that was built with mission funds from the PCUSA. Lives were saved as we came along side each other in ministry. Ruth Seim from the First Church was musician for the day.

GENEROSITY PRESENTATION

TE David Crittenden, Transitional Synod Executive for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, offered a presentation on *Cultivating a Culture of Generosity*. Using information from the Lake Institute on Giving, David helped the Presbytery see how there is a seismic shift going in in religious giving. The focus now is on motivations of donors in terms of gratitude for what God has given rather than on giving based on a duty. He noted that healthy congregations are centered on God's grace.

BOARD OF PENSIONS REPORT

TE Ed Thompson, the new Regional Representative for the Board of Pensions, shared information regarding the Board's *Call to Health Maintenance* program, the change in prescription services, the CREDO program and pension income.

VISITS WITH COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

The Presbytery entered into a time of informal conversations with various Presbytery committees, commissions, task forces, related organizations, staff members and each other.

LUNCH

The Presbytery recessed for a delicious lunch prepared by the folks from our three Ottumwa Churches. TE David Klanderman offered grace for the meal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Presbytery reconvened with a time for announcements. Among these were: RE Roberta Victor telling about the Presbyterian Women's Cookbook put out by the Heartland Church and TE Phil Barrett informing the Presbytery about Racial Ethnic Scholarships granted by the Synod of Lakes and Prairies to persons in our presbytery.

OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES TASK FORCE

RE Darlene Shepherd, Moderator of the Task Force, and TE Marcy Campbell, a member of the Task Force, presented the report.

The focus of the report was the *Faithful Through the Years* presentations to persons who had been nominated by their congregations. Pictures of the recipients were shown on a video and presentations to the honorees were made to those able to attend.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

RE Ron Grohe, a member of the Committee, presented the report.

The Committee presented the following Recommendation to the Presbytery for adoption:

D-R-3 That the Proposed Income and Expense Reports for 2014 be approved.

Following corrections of some figures and line item titles, highlighting that the income figures include a \$3.00 increase in the Per Capita Assessment, and noting that the final numbers for these Reports will be presented at the February Stated Meeting of the Presbytery, the Presbytery VOTED to approve the Recommendation. (These Reports, along with current Income and Expense Reports to date, Consolidated Financial Position and Restricted Fund Report, appear as *Appendix A* at the end of these Minutes.)

INSURANCE REPORT

Angie Sink a representative from the Lee Agency, the agency that handles our Presbytery and umbrella policies, shared information about the changes that have occurred in our coverage and some new developments in that coverage.

COTTAGE GROVE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

TE Richard Harbart, Moderator of the Commission, along with the other members of the Commission, presented the Commission’s report and recommendations. (The full report and recommendations appear as *Appendix B* at the end of these Minutes.)

Members of the Commission offered comments and perceptions, highlighting the fact that the Commission has been meeting almost weekly since June and their request for an additional time of about six months is to give them more time to pursue and investigate options for the Cottage Grove congregation and its ministries. The Commission has developed criteria that must be met in order for the ministries to move forward. These are:

- Financial Stability
- Organizational viability
- Pastoral Vitality

In order for this transition time to be carried out, the Commission made the following recommendation for underwriting the Cottage Grove ministries through June 2014 with the following provisos:

0-3-R-1

- The pastor’s salary and pension be made current through December 31, 2013.
- Through the first six months of 2014, the pastoral position be half-time.
- The Commission meet with all the stakeholders in these ministries to brainstorm the many possibilities for sustainability, viability, and vitality that need to be present if these ministries are to continue.
- The Commission coordinate the best possibilities and act upon them.

Financial Expression of Provisos:

Pastoral Pay and Pension in arrears for 2013*	
9 paychecks @\$3,062.50	\$27, 562.50
1 Pension Payment	\$1,760.00
Total in Arrears	\$29,322.50
2013 – Shortfall for remainder of year	\$16,610.31
2014 – Shortfall ½ time pastor for 6 months	\$15,485.62
<i>Total Shortfall – funding needed from Presbytery</i>	\$61,418.43
<i>*Includes; Cash Salary, housing, FICA, auto mileage, annuity, continuing education</i>	

Following discussion, conversation and comments, the Presbytery VOTED to approve the recommendation.

PROFESSIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

TE Jan Scott, Moderator of the Commission, presented the report.

The Presbytery VOTED to adopt the following Recommendation from the Committee::

B-R-5 That TE Lynn Williams be granted the status of Honorably Retired as of September 30, 2013.

TE Jan Scott and TE Jim Wallace then presided over a Service of Recognition of Honorable Retirement of the following pastors, two of whom had previously been approved for recognition but who had not yet been recognized:

- Hans Cornelder
- Elizabeth (Betty) Sandy
- Lynn Williams

The service included comments from members of the Presbytery.

COMPASSION, PEACE AND JUSTICE TASK FORCE

RE Nancy Lister-Settle, Moderator of the Task Force, presented a written report. (This report appears as *Appendix C* at the end of these Minutes.)

Nancy also highlighted the situation of homelessness in Iowa.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

TE John Gilmore, Moderator of the Committee, presented the report.

The Committee placed the name of RE Nancy Lister-Settle in nomination for the position of Moderator of the Presbytery for 2014. After an opportunity for nominations from the floor, the Presbytery VOTED to close nominations and instruct the Clerk to cast an electing ballot.

The Committee placed the name of TE Shamaine Chambers King in nomination for the office of Vice Moderator of the Presbytery for 2014. After an opportunity for nominations from the floor, the Presbytery VOTED to close nominations and instruct the Clerk to cast an electing ballot.

F-R-3 The Committee placed the following persons in nomination for the positions listed:

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**Class of 2016**

- RE Mary Lou Briles (Des Moines, Park Avenue)
- RE Jude Conway (Clive, Heartland)
- TE Suzanne Gorhau (Centerville, First)

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**Moderator – 2014**

- RE Gary Modlin (Des Moines, Park Avenue)

Class of 2016

- TE Claude Jones (Des Moines, Park Avenue)
- RE Gary Modlin (Des Moines, Park Avenue)

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Moderator – 2014

TE Sue Tomlinson (Ankeny)

Class of 2016

RE Kathryn Roblee (Clive, Heartland)

CHURCH PROFESSIONAL TASK FORCE (5)

Members

RE Elizabeth Adams (Windsor Heights, Windsor)

RE Mary Lou Aspengren (Des Moines, First)

TE Theron Conrey (HR)

CONGREGATIONAL CHALLENGE TASK FORCE (7)

Members

RE Martie Larsen (Clive, Heartland)

RE Laura Lloyd (Clive, Heartland)

RE Joanne Page (Des Moines, Union Park)

TE Elizabeth (Betty) Sandy (HR)

RE John Sprole (West Des Moines, Covenant)

RE Mickey Van Baale (Newton, First)

CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH TASK FORCE (9)

Members

RE T. Polk Davison (Des Moines, Westminster)

TE Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy (At Large)

TE Dennis Morey (Oskaloosa, First)

TE Jan Scott (West Des Moines, Covenant)

RE Susan Stroope (Des Moines, Central)

TE Pat Summers (HR)

RE Joe Weinman (Indianola, Trinity United)

CONGREGATIONAL TRANSITION TASK FORCE (5)

Members

TE Robert Burnett (HR)

TE Bruce Giese (At-Large)

RE Jerry Foley (Johnston, St. Paul)

TE Tim Maxa (Lenox, United and Sharpsburg)

RE Joyce Rash (Des Moines, Union Park)

MODERATORS TASK FORCE

Moderator

TE David Endriss (Indianola, Trinity United)

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Moderator

VACANT

Class of 2016

RE Jann Freed (Des Moines, Central)

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

Moderator – 2014

RE Cindy Ray (Windsor Heights, Windsor)

Class of 2016

RE Ron Sterling (Knoxville, First)

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT RESPONSE TEAM

Moderator – 2014

TE Jeffrey Means (At Large)

Class of 2016

RE Carol Ferrell (Clive, Heartland)

TE Jeffrey Means (At Large)

STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

Moderator – 2014

VACANT

Class of 2016

RE Kathy Bassett (Clive, Heartland)

TE Greg Smith (HR)

RE Paul Walther (Audubon First)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS

Teaching Elders

Ann Johnson (Monroe)

VACANT

Alternate Teaching Elders

VACANT

VACANT

Ruling Elders

Ted Coppock (Des Moines Westminster)

Midge Slater (Des Moines, First)

Alternate Ruling Elders

VACANT

VACANT

Young Adult Advisory Delegate

VACANT

Alternate Young Adult Advisory Delegate

VACANT

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Stated Clerk TE Phil Barrett provided the following items of information to the Presbytery:

- I-I-15 All reports have been filed with the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and the General Assembly as of this date. All correspondence has been referred, assigned or answered.
- I-I-16 I have received three proposed overtures to the 2014 General Assembly. One of from the Association of Stated Clerks and pertains to possible actions regarding synods. The other two are from Ted Coppock regarding Marriage Equality. All these will be referred to the Bills and Overtures Task Group.

I-I-17 I receive communication from the Presbyterian investment and Loan Program (PILP) reporting that the First Presbyterian Church of Adair, IA has paid off its loan with PILP.

The Presbytery VOTED to adopt the following Recommendations from the Stated Clerk:

I-R-6 That the Session Records of the following churches be approved without exception:

Ankeny	Greenfield, First
Atlantic, First United	Grinnell, First
Audubon, First	Guthrie Center, First
Carlisle, Scotch Ridge	Johnston, St. Paul
Corning, First	Newton, First
Creston, Platte Center	Newton, United
Dallas Center, First	Oskaloosa, First
Des Moines, Fort Des Moines	Ottumwa, First
Des Moines, Union Park	West Des Moines, Covenant
Gibson, White Oak	

I-R-7 That the Session Records of the following churches be approved with exception:

Adair, First	Earlham, First
Bedford, United Christian	Gibson, First
Brooklyn, First	Grimes, First
Creston, First	Lenox, United
Des Moines, Central	Malcom, First United
Des Moines, Douglas Avenue	Perry, First

Phil noted that all of our clerks do an excellent job and are dedicated to their tasks. These exceptions are minor and easily corrected.

He also reported that there is one more review session next week and that the results from this session will be reported at the February Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

TE Ann Johnson, Vice Moderator of the Council presented a verbal report highlighting the following items:

- The Council is keeping in touch with the administrative commissions that are currently active in the Presbytery
- The Mission Co-Worker Compensation Task Force has made a report to the Council and is continuing its work.
- The Leadership Council will provide or recruit leaders to train the new task forces

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

TE Sarai Schnucker Rice, Moderator of the Committee, presented the report.

In September, the Committee took the following actions:

A-A-23 Approved a Yoking Agreement and a one-year shared interim contract between TE Jim Woodworth, the First Presbyterian Church of Creston, Iowa, and the UCC Congregational Church of Creston, The terms are as follows:

Cash Salary	\$43,600.00
All Insurances	5,244.00
Housing, including Utilities	Use of Parsonage, provided by UCC
Study Leave	1,500 and two weeks – no carry over
Professional Expenses	500.00
Social Security Offset (SECA)	3,864.00
Paid Time Off	20 working days per year including 4 Sundays (equals 4 weeks)
Church Van for church duties	Provided by FPC

A-A-24 Approved the Terms of Dissolution between the TE Lynn Williams and the First Presbyterian Church of Grimes:

- Salary and Housing Allowance to be paid through December 31, 2013
- Vacation pay equivalent to three weeks' salary
- No other benefits or compensation to be paid by the church
- Relationship to end October 1, 2013

In October, the Committee took the following actions:

A-A-25 Approved the addition of RE Ramona Wink to the *Pulpit Supply List*.

A-A-26 Approved a transfer of membership for the TE Nancy Gorsuch from Grace Presbytery to the Presbytery of Des Moines.

A-A-27 Approved an amendment to the Temporary Supply Contract between TE Marcy Campbell and the First Presbyterian Church of Lucas:

Compensation:

- \$140 plus mileage at the IRS Rate for each Sunday, with an additional \$60 to be paid for any Sunday that includes home and hospital visits
- \$30 plus mileage at the IRS Rate for Des Moines Hospital visits

A-A-28 Add TE Jessica Wietzke to the *Pulpit Supply List*.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Presbytery VOTED to elect TE Marcy Campbell (Lucas, First) as a Clergy Commissioner to the 2014 General Assembly.

It was noted that the General Presbyter and the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery had submitted written reports for this meeting. These reports appear as *Appendices D* and *E* respectively at the end of these Minutes.

Through great applause, the Presbytery VOTED to express its gratitude to the East End, First and Westminster Churches of Ottumwa for both their warm hospitality and for their witness to the unity of the Church.

Moderator TE Jim Howland presented the Moderatorial Gavel to incoming Moderator RE Nancy Lister-Settle. He also presented a gift to the Presbytery in the form of a Moderatorial Stole and placed it on the new Moderator.

ADJOURNMENT

The Presbytery VOTED to adjourn. Moderator RE Nancy Lister Settle offered the closing prayer.

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines will be on Saturday, February 8, 2014 at the Ankeny Presbyterian Church in Ankeny, Iowa.

Respectfully Submitted,
Philip W. Barrett, Stated Clerk

John McKeown, Recording Clerk

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**Presbytery of Des Moines****November 12, 2013****2014 Proposed Income Budget**

	2014 Proposed	2013 Budget	2013 YTD – 9/30/13
Income			
Carryover from 2013	\$2,640.61	\$32,182.40	\$32,182.40
Total Per Capita (@\$37.00)	\$265,000.00	\$259,600.00	\$230,762.43
Total Past Years Per Capita	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$404.51
Presbytery General Mission (Estimation)	\$100,000.00	\$117,285.26	\$91,991.85
Synod Support Staff Salaries	\$25,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$29,999.97
Hunger Action Enabler Income	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Khadamat Sudaniya Grant Income	\$10,000.00	\$14,500.00	\$12,374.96
Montezuma funds-amt to balance budget	\$79,774.38	\$22,355.17	
Interest Income	\$200.00	\$150.00	\$207.58
Miscellaneous Income	\$800.00	\$500.00	\$746.94
Total Income	\$488,414.99	\$494,572.83	\$401,670.64
2014 Expenses			
	\$488,414.99	\$494,572.83	\$348,907.09
Surplus(Deficit)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$52,763.55

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...**Presbytery of Des Moines****2014 Proposed Expense Budget**

	2014 Proposed	2013 Budget	2013 YTD – 9/30/13
Governance Expense			
Committee Preparation Ministry	\$1,000.00	\$2,100.00	\$450.00
Stewardship & Mission Interpretation Committee	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	\$170.37
Permanent Judicial Commission	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Committee of Representation	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Budget & Finance Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Nominating Committee	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$0.00
Personnel Committee	\$100.00	\$75.00	\$0.00
Sexual Misconduct Response Team	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
General Assembly Per Capita	\$54,082.08	\$54,877.56	\$54,877.56
Synod Per Capita	\$38,520.00	\$39,940.00	\$39,940.00
Subtotal	\$96,592.08	\$99,882.56	\$95,437.93
Administrative Expense			
Moderator Expense/Task Groups	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$0.00
Administrative Commissions	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$40.00
Presbytery Meetings	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
Commissioner Orientation	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Stated Clerk Expense	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Communication (combined with Telephone & Internet line)		\$1,800.00	\$229.59
Insurance	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	(\$203.42)
Legal fees	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$7,750.00	\$9,300.00	\$66.17
Extension of Ministries			
Social Ministries Task Force	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$4,177.04
Hunger Action Enabler Travel & Con Ed	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$519.88
Broken Bread & Postage	\$500.00	\$300.00	\$119.19
Khadamat Sudaniya Committee Expense	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$52.47
Khadamat Sudaniya Grant Expense	\$10,000.00	\$14,500.00	\$11,916.63
Cross Ministries	\$50,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$45,000.00
Older Adult Ministries Task Force	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$719.65
Camping	\$3,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$6,107.74
Youth	\$1,500.00	\$8,300.00	(\$771.99)
Resources	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$1,420.83
Women's Advocacy Task Force	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$73,600.00	\$95,700.00	\$69,261.44
Support of Local Ministries			
Congregational Care & Development Committee		\$1,000.00	\$422.02
Professional Care & Development Committee		\$3,300.00	\$1,340.82
New Task Force	\$5,000.00		
Regional Partnerships			
Southeast	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
East	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
DM West/NW	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Southwest	\$6,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00

	2014 Proposed	2013 Budget	2013 YTD – 9/30/13
West	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
South Central	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
DM Two Rivers	\$5,050.00	\$5,500.00	\$479.56
Leadership Council	\$700.00	\$450.00	\$575.61
Worship Task Group	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$0.00
Bills & Overtures	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Emergency Contingency	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$17,350.00	\$15,875.00	\$7,818.01

Office Expense			
Condo dues	\$2,700.00	\$2,520.00	\$2,225.00
Rent-copier lease	\$4,725.00	\$4,725.00	\$3,738.07
Office supplies	\$4,725.00	\$4,725.00	\$4,133.56
Postage	\$3,150.00	\$3,150.00	\$1,845.30
Telephone & Internet	\$6,000.00	\$4,200.00	\$2,159.11
Utilities	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$1,456.42
Janitorial Services	\$3,780.00	\$3,780.00	\$2,467.24
New Equipment	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,869.25
Equipment Maintenance/Tech Services	\$3,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,291.80
Books & Subscriptions	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$59.00
Office Travel	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$555.27
Audit	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$6,878.84
Church & Staff Appreciation	\$200.00	\$200.00	(\$56.35)
Subtotal		\$39,150.00	\$28,622.51

Personnel			
General Presbyter Salary	\$75,433.00	\$75,433.00	\$50,288.80
General Presbyter Benefits	\$26,401.55	\$24,892.89	\$16,595.28
General Presbyter Prof Expense	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$90.00
General Presbyter Con Ed	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$525.00
General Presbyter Travel	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$6,071.04
Office Manager Salary	\$39,254.00	\$39,254.00	\$26,169.44
Office Manager Benefits	\$13,738.90	\$13,110.42	\$8,560.00
Office Manager Con Ed	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$75.00
Office Manager FICA	\$3,003.00	\$3,003.00	\$1,936.76
Hunger Action Enabler Salary	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$5,000.00
Hunger Action Enabler Benefits	\$7,488.00	\$7,488.00	\$4,378.00
Hunger Action Enabler FICA	\$574.00	\$574.00	\$382.50
Sudanese Ministry RP Salary	\$23,533.00	\$23,533.00	\$15,688.80
Sudanese Ministry RP Benefits	\$12,483.96	\$11,223.96	\$7,482.64
Sudanese Ministry RP Con Ed	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,774.45
Sudanese Ministry RP Expenses	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,982.52
Mission Co-Worker Benefits	\$15,260.00		
Communications Coordinator Salary	\$7,800.00		
Communications Coordinator FICA	\$597.00		
Part-time Officer Worker	\$1,000.00	\$10,500.00	\$651.00
Office Worker FICA	\$76.50	\$803.00	\$49.80
Subtotal	\$251,492.91	\$234,665.27	\$147,701.03

Total Expenses	\$488,414.99	\$494,572.83	\$348,907.09
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D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...**Presbytery of Des Moines****2013 Income Report
as of September 30, 2013**

	2013 Budget	2013 YTD
Income		
Carryover from 2012	\$32,182.40	\$32,182.40
Total Per Capita	\$259,600.00	\$230,762.43
Total Past Years Per Capita	\$5,000.00	\$404.51
Presbytery General Mission (pledged)	\$117,285.26	\$91,991.85
Synod Support Staff Salaries	\$40,000.00	\$29,999.97
Hunger Action Enabler Income	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Khadamat Sudaniya Grant Income	\$14,500.00	\$12,374.96
Montezuma funds-amt to balance budget	\$22,355.17	
Interest Income	\$150.00	\$207.58
Miscellaneous Income	\$500.00	\$746.94
Total Income	\$494,572.83	\$401,670.64
2013 Expenses		
	\$494,572.83	\$348,907.09
Surplus(Deficit)	\$0.00	\$52,763.55

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...**Presbytery of Des Moines****2013 Expense Report
as of September 30, 2013**

	2013 Budget	2013 YTD
Governance Expense		
Committee Preparation Ministry	\$2,100.00	\$450.00
Stewardship & Mission Interpretation Committee	\$2,200.00	\$170.37
Permanent Judicial Commission	\$500.00	\$0.00
Committee of Representation	\$50.00	\$0.00
Budget & Finance Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00
Nominating Committee	\$90.00	\$0.00
Personnel Committee	\$75.00	\$0.00
Sexual Misconduct Response Team	\$50.00	\$0.00
General Assembly Per Capita	\$54,877.56	\$54,877.56
Synod Per Capita	\$39,940.00	\$39,940.00
Subtotal	\$99,882.56	\$95,437.93
Administrative Expense		
Moderator Expense/Task Groups	\$150.00	\$0.00
Administrative Commissions	\$500.00	\$40.00
Presbytery Meetings	\$300.00	\$0.00
Commissioner Orientation	\$0.00	\$0.00
Stated Clerk Expense	\$50.00	\$0.00
Communication	\$1,800.00	\$229.59
Insurance	\$6,000.00	(\$203.42)
Legal fees	\$500.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$9,300.00	\$66.17
Extension of Ministries		
Social Ministries Task Force	\$5,000.00	\$4,177.04
Hunger Action Enabler Travel & Con Ed	\$1,500.00	\$519.88
Broken Bread	\$300.00	\$119.19
Khadamat Sudaniya Committee Expense	\$50.00	\$52.47
Khadamat Sudaniya Grant Expense	\$14,500.00	\$11,916.63
Cross Ministries	\$60,000.00	\$45,000.00
Older Adult Ministries Task Force	\$1,000.00	\$719.65
Camping	\$4,500.00	\$6,107.74
Youth	\$8,300.00	(\$771.99)
Resources	\$500.00	\$1,420.83
Women's Advocacy Task Force	\$50.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$95,700.00	\$69,261.44
Support of Local Ministries		
Congregational Care & Development Committee	\$1,000.00	\$422.02
Professional Care & Development Committee	\$3,300.00	\$1,340.82
Regional Partnerships		
Southeast	\$0.00	\$0.00
East	\$0.00	\$0.00
DM West/NW	\$0.00	\$0.00

	2013 Budget	2013 YTD
Southwest	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
West	\$0.00	\$0.00
South Central	\$0.00	\$0.00
DM Two Rivers	\$5,500.00	\$479.56
Leadership Council	\$450.00	\$575.61
Worship Task Group	\$75.00	\$0.00
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Office Travel	\$1,000.00	\$555.27
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Sudanese Ministry RP Expenses/Travel	\$3,000.00	\$1,982.52
Part-time Officer Worker	\$10,500.00	\$651.00
Office Worker FICA	\$803.00	\$49.80
Subtotal	\$234,665.27	\$147,701.03

Total Expenses	\$494,572.83	\$348,907.09
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D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...**Presbytery of Des Moines****Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
as of September 30, 2013**

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current Assets		Current Liabilities	
1112.01	Cash in Bank	2301.02	GA – General Mission
	\$151,161.75	2302.02	GA – Designated Mission
1114.08	Savings Account	2303.02	GA – Disaster
	\$2,847.83	2304.02	GA – OGHS
1115.06	Colfax Fund MM	2305.02	GA – Peacemaking
	\$1,899.43	2306.02	GA – Christmas Joy
1116.01	Clifton MM	2307.02	GA – Pentecost
	\$78,294.21	2308.02	GA – Theological Fund
1117.02	Montezuma CD Acct	2321.02	Synod – General Mission
	\$78,640.01	2325.02	Synod – Peacemaking
1118.02	Walther Fund	2342.02	Presbytery Designated
	\$21,894.58	2343.02	Other Disaster
1122.01	McCahon Fund	2411.01	Pastor Emergency Fund
	\$41,981.92	2512.03	Special In & Out
1122.02	Knox Knolls Fund	2525.02	Sudanese Ministry Resources
	\$311,383.94	2530.02	Sudanese Undesig-Khad Sud
1123.01	Albia Fund	2535.02	Sudanese Water Project
	\$18,475.51	2540.02	Sudanese Designated
1126.02	Life Inc Char Int-Restricted	2700.03	Hunger Cents-Ability
	\$850.00	2701.03	Peacemaking Task Force
1132.05	Swan Fund	2702.03	Rural Partnership Offering
	\$25,225.40	2703.02	Joining Hands Task Force
1133.07	Pastors Seminar Fund	2705.03	El Sal-Water Filter Project
	\$16,280.57	2706.03	El Sal-Undesignated Funds
1134.08	Colfax Fund	2707.03	El Sal-Designated Funds
	\$22,923.87	2708.03	Companeros
1211.01	Accounts Receivable	2709.03	Coffee
	(\$80.28)	2712.03	El Sal-Scholarship Fund
1212.02	KK Contract Receivable	2713.03	Two Riv Synod School Scholarship
	(\$2,297.93)		
1212.06	Knox Contract Principal		
	\$769,700.56		
		Total Current Liabilities	\$74,967.44
Total Current Assets	\$1,545,181.37	Long-Term Liabilities	
		Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$0.00
Property and Equipment		Total Liabilities	\$74,967.44
1511.01	Office Equipment		
	\$28,140.60		
1512.01	Accumulated Depreciation		
	(\$45,366.96)		
1611.01	Real Estate - Presby Office		
	\$97,500.00		
Total Property & Equipment	\$80,273.64		
		Net Assets	
Other Assets	\$0.00	3910.01	Net Assets
		3910.02	Net Assets-Program Fund
Total Other Assets	\$0.00	3910.03	Net Assets - In & Out Fund
		3910.05	Net Assets - Swan Fund
Total Assets	\$1,625,455.01	3910.06	Net Assets - Commissions
		3910.07	Fund Balance - Endowment Fund
		3910.08	Net Assets-Colfax Fund
			Surplus/(Deficit)
			\$85,988.65
			\$491,991.24
			\$5,350.70
			\$20,139.12
			\$809,596.50
			\$15,475.89
			\$24,881.28
			\$97,064.19
		Total Net Assets	\$1,550,487.57
		Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,625,455.01

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...**Presbytery of Des Moines****Restricted Funds
as of September 30, 2013****New Covenant Funds**

McCahon Fund	Annual Income to be used for grants for small churches (under 150) for one-time needs. Unused income to be reinvested each year in the trust.	\$44,060.77
Swan Fund	Interest earnings to be used for seminary students' assistance.	\$26,474.55
Albia/Pitzer Fund	To be used for the assistance of small churches in the Presbytery.	\$19,390.34
Knox Knolls-Camping Fund	3/4 of interest to be used for camping program. 1/4 of interest to be used for Presbytery causes.	\$325,443.20
Walther Fund	To be used for scholarship aid for physically or mentally-challenged youth and/or children in need.	\$22,978.76
Colfax Fund	To be used for church development with interest to be placed in Colfax Fund Money Market.	\$24,010.12
Total of Funds		\$462,357.74

First American Bank

Pastor Emergency Fund	To be used for short-term loans for pastors.	\$2,847.91
Colfax Fund Money Market	To be used for church development.	\$1,899.51
Clifton Heights Money Market		\$78,294.13
Montezuma CD		\$78,697.88
Total of Accounts		\$161,739.43

APPENDIX B**O-3 – COTTAGE GROVE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION****November 12, 2013****BEGINNINGS:**

The Commission to support the work of Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church effectively began with the May 2013 Presbytery meeting when six of us were voted to begin our work. We are as follows:

TE Shamaine Chambers King (Windsor Heights, Windsor)

RE Joanne Page (Des Moines, Union Park)

TE Elizabeth Knott (HR)

RE Ronald Grohe (Windsor Heights, Windsor)

RE Harold Eklund (Des Moines, Douglas Avenue)

TE Richard Harbart (Des Moines, Douglas Avenue)

In June we had our first meeting. We met with Rev. Phil Barrett who outlined our responsibilities and authority. Each member took turns describing their role and connection with CGPC. It was determined that each knew a portion of the ministry, but none knew all of it. Our first task, therefore, was to talk with those from the church family of CGPC and those in the larger community who give their time, talents and resources to support this important ministry. We knew the list would be exhaustive, so we committed to meet weekly so the task could be completed with some swiftness. Between June and September, we have interviewed over 35 different individuals and groups either by committee or personal contact.

WE FOUND THESE THINGS:

There is an *EXTRAORDINARY* commitment to the ministry by Rev. David Madsen and CROSS Director Roberta Victor. Extraordinary commitment is seen as well by many in the Presbytery community and extended family of churches in the Des Moines area.

Over the years of ministry the organizational and financial infrastructure supporting the ministry, as well as the physical structure itself, has declined to an exceedingly low level. Due to the ending of grants and the inability of the congregation to financially underwrite the mission, CGPC will effectively be unfunded by the end of this fiscal year.

WE HAVE COME TO BELIEVE:

Despite the dire financial circumstances, CROSS ministries and the SUDANESE ministries are robust and should be given an opportunity to continue. We believe these ministries most directly reflect the theological and social intent of Jesus as he lived and taught. We also believe they speak to and meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our society.

Cross is committed to continue, even in reduced capacities, while it is unlikely that the Sudanese ministries will be able to continue without organizational and financial intervention by the larger religious and not-for-profit community.

OUR PROPOSAL:

The Commission feels we have entered the process too late to effect a solution for on-going ministries that can be implemented by the close of this fiscal year.

However, if we could be given six months to develop a plan, we might be able to create a way forward for these ministries that fit the Commission's (and we suspect others') criteria of FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY, ORGANIZATIONAL VIABILITY and PASTORAL VITALITY.

In order to give us the time to create a way forward, we will together, as the Presbytery, need to underwrite the ministries through June 2014 with the following provisos:

- The pastor's salary and be made current through December 31, 2013.
- Through the first six months of 2014, the pastoral position be half-time.
- The Commission meet with all the stakeholders in these ministries to brainstorm the many possibilities for sustainability, viability, and vitality that need to be present if these ministries are to continue.
- The Commission coordinate the best possibilities and act upon them.

FINANCIAL EXPRESSION:

Pastoral Pay and Pension in Arrears for 2013:*		
9 paychecks @ \$3,062.50	\$27,562.50	
1 pension payment	\$1,760.00	
Total in Arrears		\$29,322.50
2013 - Shortfall for remainder of year		\$16,610.31
2014 - Shortfall 1/2 time pastor for 6 months		<u>\$15,485.62</u>
<i>Total Shortfall</i> = funding needed from Presbytery		\$61,418.43

**includes: cash salary, housing, FICA, auto mileage, annuity, continuing education*

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Harbart, moderator

K – SOCIAL MINISTRIES TASK FORCE REPORT

November 12, 2013

JOIN US!

The Social Ministries Task Force meets on the first Saturday of every month at the Presbytery Office in Urbandale. We welcome anyone with an interest in peace and justice and a desire to help promote social ministries in the Presbytery of Des Moines.

NEW NAME! The Social Ministries Task Force made a request to Council to change its name to Compassion, Peace and Justice Task Force. The name better reflects the various areas of ministry for which the members provide leadership, and it corresponds to the Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The change was approved by Council and is now the official title of this task force.

In the words of Sara Lisherness, Director of Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry for PC(USA), “The Presbyterian Church has been a visible witness in transforming society to reflect God’s intention for a just, peaceful and compassionate world. As we live into the future of a rapidly changing world may we honor our history and continue to claim the prophet’s call to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.”

Look for the new CPJ logo on communications from the task force:



NEW WAYS TO CONNECT WITH CPJ MINISTRIES! Task force members are looking for individuals who would be interested in helping with various projects, programs and information sharing—with a targeted focus and for a limited time. These individuals would work with a CPJ Task Force member to accomplish particular goals—for example, task force member Susan Stroope (Des Moines, Central), who serves as the environmental concerns point person for CPJ, is working with Iowa Interfaith Power and Light to plan a *Food, Faith and the Environment* event for young adults. Interested in helping with this? We will hook you up!

The task force is eager to include people from all of the presbytery’s congregations in this ministry and is hoping those receiving this report will help CPJ make connections. Watch the presbytery newsletter and webpage for upcoming opportunities.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Lister-Settle, moderator

APPENDIX D**J – GENERAL PRESBYTER REPORT****November 12, 2013**

All of our congregations are confronted with, frustrated and confused by attempts to figure and carry out the ministry to which they believe God has called them to do. In other words, their mission. No matter the size of the community in which our congregations are located, there are so many needs to meet and directions to follow that we are easily overwhelmed into minimal or total inaction.

In an article published in an *Alban Conversation* piece, Peter Steinke addresses our situation as he writes about *Where to Touch the Elephant*. He says:

“The well-known story of the elephant and the blind men has several versions. One version goes like this: A group of blind men touch an elephant to learn what it is like. Each one, though, touches a different part of the animal, and, based on that part, infer a larger truth about what the elephant must be like. In one account, the elephant is like a wicker basket to the one who touched the ear, a pot to the blind man who touched the head, and a brush to the one who touched the tip of the tail. When they compare their experiences, they discover their disagreement. Each one has his own view of reality, depending upon where he touched the elephant. Someone once said that truth is like an elephant surrounded by blind men..

“Picking up on this story, Edwin Friedman states, ‘I touch the elephant wherever the elephant appears.’ [1] His remark is based on the idea that the enormity of the elephant precludes anyone comprehending the whole. One can only observe what there is in front of him or her. In life, Friedman is suggesting, prodigious complexity can be understood only from the perspective of what is at hand. The elephant is too monstrous to handle in its entirety.

“Let’s probe the elephant touch dilemma as it affects the life of today’s church: If we think of the elephant as representing the congregation’s mission, do all touches have the same value? Is there a place we all must touch? Finally, can we touch the mission in different places, disagree, and still work together?

“Applying the elephant-touch rule to life, one cannot deal with everything; therefore, one must work with what is at hand or known. The same rule applies to the church. Touch whatever aspect of mission is within reach. No congregation has to cover every part of the elephant. Even a congregation that has created and sustained a deep sense of mission has to work within a limited scope. Leaders and members need to humbly recognize they are not God’s only agent of renewal in the neighborhood. Every congregation in town is on the contributors’ list. Alongside churches are other donors. Resources are not evenly distributed among congregations; some congregations have more ‘outputs’ than others. If a congregation thinks its outputs are secondary or paltry compared to others, it needs to remember the widow’s mite. Her contribution affirms that proportion can be as important as total amount. Besides, the immense, widespread human needs that summon our attention and gifts can overwhelm us. A small church may find that their personal and financial offerings are inconsequential. Some people may conclude that the part of

mission they have touched is the responsibility of another institution. A congregation may limit itself to its own kind. Worse yet, people may indicate that mission is none of their concern: There is no elephant in the room.

“Yet all congregations need to touch *tikkun olan*, a Jewish concept that means ‘to mend the world.’ It epitomizes God’s work. Theologian and poet Howard Thurman set the mending motif to a memorable frame, with the birth of Jesus as background:

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
 When the star in the sky is gone,
 When the kings and princes are home,
 When the shepherds are back with their flock,
 The work of Christmas begins,
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among brothers,
 To make music in the heart. [2]

“N.T. Wright elaborates: ‘What you do in the present – by painting, preaching singing, sewing, praying, teaching building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbor as yourself – *will last into God’s future.*’ [3] Whatever we do to mend the world has lasting value. Everyone contributes. God blesses each and every gift.”

1. Edwin Friedman (lecture, postgraduate seminar on family emotional process, Bethesda, Maryland, 1993)
2. Howard Thurman, “The Work of Christmas,” in *The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations* Richmond, IN: Friends United Press, 1985), 23
3. N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope* (New York: HarperOne, 2008), 193

May you enjoy touching your part of the elephant.

Here’s some of what I’ve been up to since we met in August:

- Preached at the Ankeny and Grimes, First Churches
- Met with the Session at Des Moines, Westminster
- Attended Bill O’Connell’s 1st Sunday at Johnston, St. Paul
- Participated in two conference calls with the Mid-Council Committee of the General Assembly
- Met with the Cottage Grove Administrative Commission and provided an orientation for the Easter Lake Administrative Commission
- Met with several pastors
- Participated in the Ecumenical Prayer Service for Peace in Syria at the St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines

- Attended the Synod Executive Presbyter Forum in Sioux Falls, SD
- Attended the Synod Assembly in Farmington, MN. I serve as Staff Resource to the Personnel Committee
- Met with the Executive Director and Foundation Moderator at Calvin Community
- Attended the meetings of the Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk Associations and the Office of the General Fall Polity Conference in Detroit
- Met with the Pastor Nominating Committee at Grimes, First
- Attended the memorial service for Don Hampton at Indianola, Trinity United
- Participated in the Installation of Bill O'Connell as Pastor of the Johnston, St. Paul

As always, I am glad to share more about any of these activities with you.

Thank you for being who you are and for the opportunity to serve our Lord with you.

Yours in Christ,
Philip W. Barrett

APPENDIX E**R – PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN of the PRESBYTERY (PWP) REPORT****November 12, 2013**

We can be pleased that our women are fully engaged in the life of the church and our communities and world. They are faithful servant *extraordinaires* and are pressing on to finish the race!

Eleven women from our presbytery attended the Synod Gathering in June at Buena Vista. All had positive experiences; taking with them new mission ideas and enthusiasm about PW that were, no doubt, contagious when they got home. They left behind new-found friends and we heard reports from two of our scholarship winners at our Fall Connection this past weekend. They encouraged others by saying this is a worthwhile event.

On July 20th, we tried something new, by holding a Mini-Connection in the morning at Indianola, Trinity United. Rev. Sara Palmer (HR) led a valuable overview of the new Horizon's Bible study for thirty women from the presbytery. Discussion around the tables about teaching tips set the tone for a solid Bible study this year.

On the same afternoon, the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery – Coordinating Team (PWP-CT) met to plan the Fall Connection on October 12th. It was held at United Presbyterian Church in Newton. The theme was *Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace*. Thirty-one women attended. Clergywoman Rev. Betty Sandy (HR) gave a morning devotion on hospitality to strangers (Native Americans, in this case). A PW watch was presented to Past Moderator Rev. Linda O'Connell (HR), for her years of service. We viewed the DVD, *Dakota 38*, and followed it with a time of discussion, led by Mary Lou Briles (Des Moines, Park Avenue) and Rev. Linda O'Connell (HR). It was announced that Denise England (Audubon, First) was chosen to be the Synod of Lakes and Prairies delegate to the PW 2014 Global Exchange to the Caribbean and the circles are encouraged to provide financial support for her trip. In the afternoon, Bev Stobie from Missouri shared a power point presentation of her US Mission Experience in the Appalachia in June. We closed with a time of reflection on what we were "taking home with us today" or "how we could be an instrument of peace." Each was given a white feather of peace as a memoir of the day. \$540 was collected for the Dakota Presbytery PW and \$576.58 was collected for the Thank Offering.

The Fall Grapevine was issued with news about the Synod Gathering and other PWP "need to know" items.

Moderator Sue Kimball has been present at recent presbytery meetings to discuss PW with those in attendance. Good conversation and awareness has arisen from this opportunity. Also, she attended the Presbyterian Women Synod of Lakes and Prairies - Coordinating Team (PWS-CT) meeting in West Salem, WI on October 17-19. She is the leadership development coordinator, as well as our presbytery representative. The team is working on greater communication and finished the week by creating a Facebook account for the PWS, with a leadership component that Sue will administer.

A PWP-CT meeting is scheduled in January to begin planning for the Spring Connection.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Kimball, moderator