



## Presbytery of Des Moines

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REV. PHILIP W. BARRETT, GENERAL PRESBYTER & STATED CLERK  
E-MAIL: [PB1@PRESBYTERYOFDESMOINES.ORG](mailto:PB1@PRESBYTERYOFDESMOINES.ORG)

December 19, 2011

**TO:** Commissioners to the 486<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting (November 8, 2011)  
**FROM:** Philip W. Barrett, Stated Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Minutes

You will find the Minutes of the 486<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines held on November 20, 2011, at the First Presbyterian Church of Oskaloosa following this letter. Most members are receiving the minutes by going online to download them from our Presbytery web site. Only those without Internet access receive printed copies.

Please read through these Minutes and 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. ([pb1@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pb1@presbyteryofdesmoines.org))

We elected officers, committee members, and commissioners; we approved an expense budget and per capita assessment for 2012; we viewed a video about the wall in Palestine; we honored the Outstanding Older Adults of our presbytery; we received Patti Spencer Burdette, an Inquirer from the Fort Des Moines Church in Des Moines as a Candidate; and we approved a process for the dissolution of the Clifton Heights Church of Des Moines.

If you are attending the January 21, 2012 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.

**REMEMBER** – The Call for the January 21, 2012 Presbytery Meeting will be posted on the Presbytery's Web site at [www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org](http://www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org) approximately 10 days prior to the meeting. Paper copies will only be sent to those who inform us that they do not have Internet access.

The Presbytery of Des Moines of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its 486<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting at the First Presbyterian Church in Oskaloosa, Iowa, on November 8, 2011. The meeting was convened at 9:30 a.m. with prayer offered by the Vice-Moderator, Ruling Elder Leland Smith.

### **FORMATION OF THE ROLL**

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

<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>P/A/E</b>	<b>COMMISSIONER</b>
Adair, First	Char Rief	A	A
Allerton, United	Ross Blount	P	Lorena Blount
Ankeny	Rick Carus	P	Sue Nelson
Atlantic, First United	Holly Smith	P	Gene Freese
Audubon, First	Jack DePond	P	Lila Jean Jensen
Bedford, United	Randy S. Allman	E	A
Brooklyn, First	John Reynolds, Jr.	P	A
Carlisle, Scotch Ridge	Doug Bolsem, CLP	P	A
Centerville, First	Suzanne Gorhau	P	Ahviri Meng
Chariton, First	Linda O'Connell	P	Ruth Smith
Clive, Heartland	D. Mark Davis	P	Carol Ferrell
Clive, Heartland	Barbara Nish	A	-
Clive Heartland	Martie Larsen, CLP	P	-
Clive Heartland	Scott Valentine, CLP	A	-
Corning, First	Ken Rummer	P	Dolores Parcher
Creston, First	D. Scott Vandenheuvel	P	Beverly Hargin
Dallas Center, First	Adam Smith	P	A
Deep River, United	Michelle Williamson	A	A
Des Moines, Central (2)	James Wallace	P	A
Des Moines, Central	-	-	A
Des Moines, Clifton Heights	Elizabeth Sandy	P	Sharon McCullough
Des Moines, Cottage Grove Avenue	David Madsen	P	Roberta Victor
Des Moines, Douglas Avenue	Rich Harbart	E	A
Des Moines, First	Ken Stuber	E	Jean Mullen
Des Moines, Fort Des Moines	Donald Elly	P	Linda Francisco
Des Moines, Highland Park	Dawn M. Linder	P	A
Des Moines, Park Avenue	Claude J. Jones	P	Jeanne Burnett
Des Moines, Union Park	Robert Cook (HR)	E	Joyce Rash
Des Moines, Westminster (3)	Scott Paczkowski	P	Ted Coppock
Des Moines, Westminster	Ken Arentson	E	Polk Davison
Des Moines, Westminster	Dick Kiefer (HR)	E	Faith Huitt
Des Moines, Westminster	Bill Ekhardt	A	-
Dexter, First	David Kincaide	P	Doris King
Diagonal, United	Bruce Giese	P	A
Earlham, First	Robert Waldron, CLP	P	A
Gibson, First	Hans Cornelder	P	Shelby Behrens
Gibson, White Oak	Hans Cornelder	P	A
Greenfield, First	David Kincaide	P	A
Grimes, First	Lynn Williams	P	Jo Rainer
Grinnell, First	Kirsten Klepfer	P	Montie Redenius

<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>P/A/E</b>	<b>COMMISSIONER</b>
Guthrie Center, First	Denis James, Sr.	A	A
Hartford, Community United	Nathan Lamb	P	Charles Casson
Indianola, Trinity United	David Endriss	P	Al Farris
Johnston, St. Paul	John Gilmore	P	A
Knoxville, First	Josyph Andrews	P	A
Lenox, United	Tim Maxa	P	A
Leon, First	VACANT	-	Mary Ellen Stanley
LeRoy, First	Dale O'Connell (HR)	P	Randy Coffey
Lucas, First	Linda O'Connell	P	A
Malcom, First United	John Reynolds, Jr.	P	Ron Manatt
Monroe	Ann Johnson	P	Howard Clark
Mount Ayr, United	Mike Maddy	A	A
New Sharon, First	VACANT	-	A
Newton, First	VACANT	-	A
Newton, United	Donald Freeman	P	A
Oskaloosa, First	Dennis Morey	P	Charles R. Argo
Ottumwa, East End	Charles McCracken	A	Carolyn Staub
Ottumwa, First	David Klanderman	P	Karie Martindale
Ottumwa, Westminster	Charles McCracken	A	Douglas K. Carl
Perry, First	Joan White	E	A
Platte Center	Bruce Giese	P	Marsha Mohr
Sharpsburg	Tim Maxa	P	A
Sigourney, First	VACANT	-	A
West Des Moines, Covenant	Jan Scott	P	Marlene Huettl
Windsor Heights, Windsor	Shamaine Chambers King	P	A
Winterset, First United	Jim Howland	P	Connie Kinser

### **OTHER MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY (MINISTERS)**

**Present:** Philip Barrett, General Presbyter/Stated Clerk; John Beran (HR); Robert Burnett (HR); Marcy Campbell; Goanar Chol; Tom Conrey (HR); Elizabeth Knott (HR); Bill LeMosy (HR); Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy; Gus Nelson (HR); Marvin Potter (HR); Sarai Schnucker Rice; Greg Smith (HR); and Sue Tomlinson.

**Excused:** Stephen Bowie; David Braak; Harold Butz (HR); Carl Cooper (HR); Ane Fitzgerald; Christopher (Kip) Harris; Aaron Koskamp (HR); Ray Martin (HR); Jane Martinez; John McElroy; Jeffrey Means; Adam Nardini; Sara Speer Palmer (HR); Kay E. Steddom (HR); Patricia Summers (HR); Russell Tomlinson (HR); Erasmo Vélez (HR); and Francis Younkin (HR).

**Absent:** Pete Brantner; John Gallentine; Julie Sterling.

### **LAY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**Present:** Leadership Council Moderator Becky Diebold, Jon Kimple and Mary Lou Briles.

### **VISITORS**

Luree Straup, Norma Jean Bettis, Milo Bettis, Linda Clark and Ann Garber (Allerton, United); Sandy Wagener, Ray W. Peters, Al Wyckoff and Emily Wyckoff (Ankeny); Carole Freese (Atlantic, First

United); Paul Walther (Audubon, First); Jane Sheston (Centerville, First); Harriet George (Clive, Heartland); Sandy Newton, Bill Newton, Danny Sease, Stephanie Windust and Dale Richardson (Des Moines, Clifton Heights); Mary Lou Aspengren (Des Moines, First); Roger Burdette, Patti Spencer Burdette and Larry Armel (Des Moines, Fort Des Moines); Lisa Whitmarsh Peterson (Des Moines, Park Avenue); Joanne Page, Bob Mahaffey, Joanne Mahaffey and Joan Mahaffey (Des Moines, Union Park); Madonna Jack and Larry Jack (Hartford, Community United); Barbara Koskamp, Denise Core, Alan Core, Dawn Dixon, DeVerne Dixon and Sue Kimball (Indianola, Trinity United); Maurice Dyer (Indianola, Trinity United, Calvin Community); Cindy Ray (Leon, First); Kathryn Renoe, Jake Coffey and Mary Coffey (LeRoy, First); Darlene Shepherd, Joan Boer and Dianne Van Gorp (Oskaloosa, First); Pat Osteen and Arnold Staub (Ottumwa, East End); Doris Anderson (Ottumwa, First); Lola Timmins and Lois Van Ness (Ottumwa, Westminster); Pat Aksamit and Paul Stanfield (Presbytery Roll); Angie Sink and Diane Thiering, Lee Insurance Agency, Kim Coulter, Presbytery staff (Clive, Heartland) and Betty Dyer, Presbytery staff (Indianola, Trinity United).

### **MINISTERS (90 on roll)**

Present: 52  
Excused: 24  
Absent: 11

### **ELDER COMMISSIONERS AND OTHERS**

Present: 89  
Excused: 0  
Absent: 27

### **QUORUM STATEMENT**

A quorum was present and declared so by the Vice-Moderator.

### **ADOPTION OF DOCKET**

The Presbytery VOTED to adopt the Proposed Docket as included with the Call to this meeting.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda as printed and distributed in the Call to this meeting

### **APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES**

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

### **INTRODUCTION OF FIRST TIMERS AND GUESTS**

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

### **APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Presbytery Vice-Moderator Leland Smith announced that he had appointed the Rev. David Madsen, Pastor of Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines, as Parliamentarian for this meeting.

### **APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING CLERK**

Stated Clerk Rev. Phil Barrett reported that Ruling Elder Joan Boer, a member of the United Presbyterian Church, had been appointed as Recording Clerk for this meeting.

### **WELCOME BY HOST CHURCH**

Teaching Elder Dennis Morey, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Oskaloosa, welcomed the presbytery to the church.

**APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES**

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the Minutes of the August 20, 2011 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery as printed and distributed.

**REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK**

Stated Clerk Phil Barrett presented the following items of information:

- I-I-14 All reports have been filed with the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and the General Assembly as of this date, and all correspondence received on behalf of the Presbytery has been assigned, referred or answered.
- I-I-15 I have received the resignation of the Rev. Bruce Giese from the Professional Care and Development Committee, Class of 2012, and have referred this to the Nominating Committee.
- I-I-16 The following minister members of the Presbytery are laboring outside the bounds of the Presbytery:
- Ane K. Fitzgerald – Employee Assistance Therapist, Hutchison MN, and Clinical Supervisor, Catholic Diocese Charities, New Ulm, MN, Twin Cities Area Presbytery  
John W. McElroy – Churchlands Christian Fellowship, Balcatta, West Australia  
Jane Martinez – Nurse Educator and Supply Preacher, Albuquerque, NM, Presbytery of Santa Fe.
- I-I-17 As of November 1, 2011, all of the appropriate actions have taken place and all the necessary papers have been signed to dismiss the First United Presbyterian Church of Montezuma, Iowa, to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Professional Care and Development Committee has approved the transfer of the Pastor of that congregation, the Rev. George Salnave, to the Presbytery of Rivers and Lakes of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

The Stated Clerk presented the following recommendations for action by the Presbytery:

- I-R-8 I have received invitations from the Douglas Avenue Presbyterian Church of Des Moines to host the January 21, 2012 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery, and the First Presbyterian Church of Audubon to host the August 18, 2012 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery. I recommend that we accept these invitations.
- With these invitations, we still need host churches for the Tuesday, May 15, 2012 and Tuesday, November 13, 2012 Stated Meetings.
- I-R-9 **That the Session Records of the following churches be approved without exception:** Ankeny; Audubon, First; Centerville, First; Chariton, First; Clive, Heartland; Corning, First; Creston, First; Dallas Center, First; Des Moines: Clifton Heights, Douglas Avenue, Fort Des Moines, Highland Park, Park Avenue, Union Park and Westminster; Dexter, First; Earlham, First; Gibson, First; Greenfield, First; Grimes, First; Grinnell, First; Guthrie Center, First; Hartford, Community United; Indianola, Trinity United; Johnston, St. Paul; Knoxville, First; Leon, First; Newton, First and United; Ottumwa, East End and First; Perry, First; Sharpsburg; White Oak, Windsor Heights, Windsor; and Winterset, First United.

I-R-10 **That the Session Records of the following churches be approved with exception:** Adair, First; Atlantic, First United; Carlisle, Scotch Ridge; Des Moines: Central and Cottage Grove Avenue; Lenox, United; Lucas, First; Mt. Ayr, United; Ottumwa, Westminster; and Platte Center.

**Minutes Not Submitted for Review:** Bedford, United Christian; Brooklyn, First; Deep River, United; Diagonal, United; Malcom, First United; Monroe, Montezuma, First United; New Sharon, First; Sigourney, First.

Our Clerks do a really good job. Compare the two lists. The exceptions are generally minor ones and easily corrected.

### **WORSHIP**

The Presbytery entered into a time of worship. Worship leaders were the Revs. Holly Smith (Atlantic, First United) and D. Mark Davis (Clive, Heartland), Ruling Elders Ted Coppock and Polk Davison (Des Moines, Westminster), Cindy Ray (Leon, First). The Rev. Dawn Linder (Des Moines, Highland Park) was the preacher for the day and administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Dawn's sermon was based on Genesis 32:24-28, Jacob wrestling with God. She focused on wrestling as asking questions of faith, and that there is redemption in the wrestling and what results from it. Musician for the day was Ruling Elder Becky Diebold (Ottumwa, First).

### **GREETINGS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

Peggy Sell brought greetings and information about the work of the seminary. She mentioned a new Doctor of Ministry program, programs offered for those not seeking ordination as pastors, online courses for Commissioned Ruling Elders, and workshops offered.

### **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ruling Elder Pat Aksamit, Moderator of the Committee, presented the report.

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

- D-R-2 That the Presbytery continue its insurance coverage with GuideOne Insurance through the Lee Agency, and that all churches currently participating in the Master Policy with GuideOne continue participation. Other congregations are encouraged to consider becoming part of the Master Policy.
- D-R-3 That the Presbytery receive the Proposed Expense Budget for 2012. This budget is based on requests from some presbytery entities and, where no request has been received, estimates based on past budgets or activities. (The Proposed Expense Budget, as well as the September Income and Expense Reports, Restricted Fund Report, and Consolidated Statement of Financial Position appear as Appendix A at the end of these Minutes.)
- D-R-4 That the Per Capita Assessment for 2012 be set at \$34.00 per member. This is an increase of \$2.00 from 2011 (GA-\$6.63, Synod-\$5.00, Presbytery-\$22.37).

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ruling Elder Ray Peters, Moderator of the Committee, presented the report.

The Committee presented the following recommendation for action by the Presbytery:

F-1 That the following persons be elected for the offices or positions noted:

(RE=Ruling Elder; TE=Teaching Elder)

**PRESBYTERY MODERATOR**

RE Leland Smith (Newton, First)

**PRESBYTERY VICE MODERATOR**

TE VACANT

**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MODERATOR**

TE David Endriss (Indianola, Trinity United)

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE****MODERATOR – 2012**

TE Sarai Schnucker Rice (At-Large)

**CLASS OF 2012**

TE Robert Burnett (HR)

**CLASS OF 2014**

TE Sarai Schnucker Rice (At-Large)

RE Joanne Page (Des Moines, Union Park)

RE Jerry Foley (Johnston, St. Paul)

VACANT

VACANT

VACANT

VACANT

**PROFESSIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE****MODERATOR – 2012**

TE Jim Wallace (Des Moines, Central)

**CLASS OF 2012**

RE Polk Davison (Des Moines, Westminster)

**CLASS OF 2014**

Re Mary Lou Aspengren (Des Moines, First)

VACANT

VACANT

**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY****MODERATOR – 2012**

TE Shamaine Chambers King (Windsor Heights, Windsor)

**CLASS OF 2014**

TE Ann Johnson (Monroe)

RE Joan Mahaffey (Des Moines, Union Park)

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**MODERATOR – 2012**

VACANT

**CLASS OF 2014**

RE Peggy Sanders (Des Moines, Park Avenue)

VACANT

VACANT

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**MODERATOR – 2012**

TE Jack DePond (Audubon, First)

**CLASS OF 2014**

RE Midge Slater (Des Moines, First)

**STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE**

**MODERATOR – 2012**

RE Sandy Wagener (Ankeny)

**CLASS OF 2014**

TE Claude Jones (Des Moines, Park Avenue)

VACANT

**COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION**

**MODERATOR – 2012**

TE Dawn Linder (Des Moines, Highland Park)

**CLASS OF 2014**

RE Cindy Ray (Leon, First)

**SEXUAL MISCONDUCT RESPONSE TEAM**

**MODERATOR – 2012**

RE Roberta Victor (Des Moines, Cottage Grove Avenue)

**CLASS OF 2014**

VACANT

**YOUTH ADVISORY DELEGATE TO SYNOD**

**CLASS OF 2012**

Esther Chol (Windsor Heights, Windsor)

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS**

**Teaching Elders**



Shamaine Chambers King (Windsor Heights, Windsor)

VACANT

**Ruling Elders**

Leland Smith (Newton, First)

VACANT

**Alternate Teaching Elders**

Suzanne Gorhau (Centerville, First)

VACANT

**Alternate Ruling Elders**

Midge Slater (Des Moines, First)

VACANT

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATE**

VACANT

Following a time of discussion and opportunity for additional nominations, the Presbytery VOTED to elect these persons to the positions noted.

**PRESENTATION FROM LEE INSURANCE AGENCY**

Angie Sink and Diane Thiering, representatives of the Lee Agency, the agency through which the presbytery's insurance policies are held, presented a report to the Presbytery. They reported that the number of claims coming in from churches has gone down. There will be an average increase of 3-4% in premiums for 2012. A number of churches have had an insurance audit and those with needs for correction or repair have been given lists of these items.

**SOCIAL MINISTRIES TASK FORCE**

TE Liz Knott, a member of the Task Force, presented the report.

Liz presented information about the *Kairos Document*, which addresses the work being done to bring peace to the Middle East and end the Israeli occupation of Palestine. She then offered a power point presentation on the wall in Palestine, as well as recent actions taken and recommendations for further action.

(The Task Force also presented a written report. This report appears as Appendix B at the end of the Minutes.)

**OLDER ADULT MINISTRY TASK FORCE REPORT**

Ruling Elders Darlene Shepherd, Moderator of the Task Force, Sue Kimball and Martie Larsen presented the report.

The Task Force presented thirteen nominees from congregations in the Presbytery for the Outstanding Older Adult Award. The nominees were:

- ❖ Luree Baker Straup (Allerton, United)
- ❖ Barbara Boatwright (Des Moines, First)

- ❖ Mary Lou Briles (Des Moines, Park Avenue)
- ❖ DeVerne Dixon (Indianola, Trinity United)
- ❖ Gene Freese (Atlantic, First United)
- ❖ Harriet George (Clive, Heartland)
- ❖ Madonna Jack (Hartford, Community United)
- ❖ Bob Mahaffey (Des Moines, Union Park)
- ❖ Kathryn Renoe (LeRoy, First)
- ❖ Lola Timmins (Ottumwa, Westminster)
- ❖ Dianne Van Gorp (Oskaloosa, First)
- ❖ Al & Emily Wykoff (Ankeny)

Following introduction and information of the nominees, it was announced that Luree Baker Straup had been chosen Outstanding Older Adult in our Presbytery for 2011.

### **LUNCH**

The Presbytery recessed for a delicious lunch provided by members of the Oskaloosa Church.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Presbytery reconvened with a time for announcements. Among these were: Ross Blount (Allerton, United) – presenting information regarding the Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers; Dave Madsen (Des Moines, Cottage Grove Avenue) – regarding the availability of an Advent video he had produced; D. Mark Davis (Clive, Heartland) – reminding folks his new book was available for purchase during this meeting, and presenting information regarding a clergy spouse support group; Gus Nelson (HR) – sharing about a presentation Scott Paczkowski (Des Moines, Westminster) would be making on use of the lectionary; Becky Diebold (Ottumwa, First) – telling about an upcoming organ concert to be presented at the church); Betty Dyer (Presbytery Office Manager) – presenting information regarding the General Mission Pledge Forms from congregations.

### **COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

TE Ann Johnson, Moderator of the Committee, presented the report.

The Committee presented the following recommendation to the Presbytery for action:

- C-R-2      That Patti Spencer Burdette, an Inquirer from the Fort Des Moines Presbyterian Church of Des Moines, be enrolled as a Candidate under the care of this Presbytery.

Patti presented her Statement of Faith to the Presbytery. (This Statement appears as Appendix C at the end of these Minutes.) Following a time for questions, the Presbytery VOTED to arrest the examination. TE Don Elly, Pastor of the Fort Des Moines congregation, offered a prayer for Patti on her ordination journey. The Presbytery then VOTED to enroll Patti as a Candidate under the care of this Presbytery.

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the following actions taken by the Committee:

A-A-23 Approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Tiare Mathison and the First Presbyterian Church of Newton, IA, effective October 3, 2011, with the following terms:

- One time gift of \$10,000 to Rev. Mathison
- Cash Salary equivalent to one week vacation not taken, less the premium paid by the church for dental insurance. Total \$718.00.

A-A-24 Approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Bruce Giese and the United Faith Parish (the United Church of Diagonal and the Platte Center Presbyterian Church), effective December 31, 2011, with the following terms:

- The pastor will continue on medical leave through December 31, 2011.
- For the period November 1 through December 31, 2011, the Parish will pay the pastor a total of \$1,730 in salary plus \$562.50 for medical/Social Security, divided into nine weekly payments and paid on the Fridays from November 4 through December 30.

The Rev. Giese addressed the Presbytery and told of his disability and plans for retirement.

A-A-25 Approved the request of the Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church, Des Moines, to dissolve the congregation and to work with the Presbytery and an administrative commission to complete this process within the next few months.

A-A-26 Approved the following persons to serve on the Administrative Commission to dissolve the Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church:

Ruling Elder Jerry Foley (Johnston, St. Paul)  
Teaching Elder Jan Scott (West Des Moines, Covenant)  
Ruling Elder Maurice Dyer (Indianola, Trinity United)

The specific powers granted to the Commission are:

1. Deal with the issues of closing the church
2. Manage the church property until any decisions are made regarding use or disposal
3. Deal with the relationship between the congregation and the day care center operating in the building
4. Work with the terms of call of the Rev. Betty Sandy, the Designated Pastor of the church.

A-A-27 Approved the request of the Rev. Don Elly and the Fort Des Moines Presbyterian Church of Des Moines to dissolve the pastoral relationship effective December 31, 2011, and appointed

the Rev. Lynn Williams (Grimes, First) to serve as Moderator of the Session and congregation of the Fort Des Moines Presbyterian Church as of January 1, 2012.

Elder Sue Francisco reported that the congregation had voted to approve this dissolution.

### **PROFESSIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The report was presented in writing by RE David Best, Moderator of the Committee;

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the following actions taken by the Committee:

B-A-1 Approved the Terms of Dissolution of the Pastoral Relationship between the Rev. Tiare Mathison and the First Presbyterian Church, Newton, Ia effective October 3, 2011.

These terms are listed in the Report of the Congregational Care and Development Committee.

B-A-2 Granted permission to the Rev. Don Elly (Des Moines, Fort Des Moines) to labor outside the bounds of the Presbytery in order to officiate at a wedding in Le Claire, Ia, in the Presbytery of East Iowa.

B-A-3 Granted permission to the Rev. Nathan Lamb (Hartford, Community United) to labor outside the bounds of the Presbytery in order to officiate at a wedding in Cherokee, Ia, in the Presbytery of Prospect Hill.

B-A-4 Approved the Terms of Dissolution of the Pastoral Relationship between the Rev. Bruce Giese and the United Faith Parish (the United Church of Diagonal and the Platte Center Presbyterian Church), effective December 31, 2011. These terms are listed in the Report of the Congregational Care and Development Committee.

B-A-5 Approved the transfer of the Rev. George Salnave from the Presbytery of Des Moines to the Rivers and Lakes Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

### **GENERAL PRESBYTER REPORT**

General Presbyter Phil Barrett presented a written report. (This Report appears as Appendix D at the end of these Minutes.)

Phil shared about learnings from reading *Strategic Leadership for A Change* written by Ken McFayden. Most interesting was a focus on grief and loss when change occurs. He also reported on attending the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Platte Center Church.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

RE Sharon McCullough, a member of the Session of the Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church in Des Moines, shared information regarding the process that brought them to the point of closing the church.

It was noted that the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery had presented a written report. (This Report appears as Appendix E at the end of these Minutes.)

The Presbytery VOTED to express great thanks to the members and staff of the Oskaloosa Church for their warm hospitality on this day.

**ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION**

The Presbytery VOTED to adjourn. Moderator Leland Smith offered the closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Philip W. Barrett,  
Stated Clerk

Joan Boer,  
Recording Clerk

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at the Douglas Avenue Presbyterian Church of Des Moines, Ia.

**APPENDIX A****D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT****Presbytery of Des Moines****2012 Proposed Expense Budget**

	2011 Budget	2012 Proposed
<b>Governance Expense</b>		
Committee Preparation Ministry	\$2,100.00	\$1,800.00
Stewardship & Mission Interpretation Committee	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00
Permanent Judicial Commission	\$500.00	\$500.00
Committee of Representation	\$0.00	\$0.00
Budget & Finance Committee	\$0.00	\$100.00
Nominating Committee	\$90.00	\$100.00
Personnel Committee	\$75.00	\$100.00
Sexual Misconduct Response Team	\$50.00	\$50.00
General Assembly Per Capita	\$56,329.00	\$55,552.77
Synod Per Capita	\$42,463.40	\$41,895.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$103,707.40</b>	<b>\$102,197.77</b>
<b>Administrative Expense</b>		
Moderator Expense/Task Groups	\$150.00	\$150.00
Administrative Commissions/Investigative Commissions	\$200.00	\$500.00
Presbytery Meetings	\$400.00	\$300.00
Commissioner Orientation		\$100.00
Stated Clerk Expense	\$50.00	\$50.00
Insurance	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
Legal fees	\$500.00	\$500.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$6,800.00</b>	<b>\$7,100.00</b>
<b>Extension of Ministries</b>		
Social Ministries Task Force	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
<del>El Salvador Mission Co-worker Benefits</del>	\$8,500.00	\$0.00
Hunger Action Enabler Travel & Con Ed	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
Broken Bread	\$500.00	\$360.00
Khadamat Sudaniya Committee Expense	\$50.00	\$50.00
Khadamat Sudaniya Grant Expense	\$33,000.00	\$30,000.00
Cross Ministries	\$56,700.00	\$56,700.00
Older Adult Ministries Task Force	\$800.00	\$1,000.00
Camping	\$2,500.00	\$4,500.00
Youth	\$1,000.00	\$800.00
Resources	\$500.00	\$500.00
Women's Advocacy Task Force	\$50.00	\$50.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$107,100.00</b>	<b>\$100,460.00</b>

**D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...**

<b>Support of Local Ministries</b>	<b>2011 Budget</b>	<b>2012 Proposed</b>
Congregational Care & Development Committee	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Professional Care & Development Committee	\$3,000.00	\$3,300.00
<u>Regional Partnerships</u>		
Southeast	\$0.00	\$0.00
East	\$0.00	\$0.00
DM West/NW	\$0.00	\$0.00
Southwest	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
West	\$0.00	\$0.00
South Central	\$200.00	\$0.00
DM Two Rivers	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Leadership Council	\$200.00	\$450.00
Worship Task Group	\$75.00	\$75.00
Bills & Overtures	\$50.00	\$50.00
Emergency Contingency	\$500.00	\$500.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$14,525.00</b>	<b>\$14,875.00</b>
<b>Office Expense</b>		
Condo dues	\$2,405.00	\$2,400.00
Copier Expense	\$4,400.00	\$4,500.00
Office supplies	\$4,000.00	\$4,500.00
Postage	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Telephone & Internet	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Utilities	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00
Janitorial Services	\$3,000.00	\$3,600.00
New Equipment	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Equipment Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Books & Subscriptions	\$250.00	\$250.00
Office Travel	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Audit	\$6,800.00	\$7,000.00
Continuing Ed-Support Staff	\$100.00	\$100.00
Church & Staff Appreciation	\$100.00	\$200.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$34,055.00</b>	<b>\$36,050.00</b>
<b>Personnel</b>		
General Presbyter Salary	\$69,316.00	\$71,395.00
General Presbyter Benefits	\$21,817.00	\$23,025.00
General Presbyter Prof Expense	\$600.00	\$600.00
General Presbyter Con Ed	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
General Presbyter Travel	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Office Manager Salary	\$33,448.00	\$34,451.00
Office Manager Benefits	\$10,522.00	\$11,469.00
Office Manager FICA	\$2,558.00	\$2,636.00
Communications Director Salary	\$29,056.00	\$29,928.00
Communications Director Benefits		\$3,591.00
Communications Director FICA	\$2,223.00	\$2,289.00
Communications Director Con Ed	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Hunger Action Enabler Salary	\$5,500.00	\$6,500.00
Hunger Action Enabler FICA	\$400.00	\$497.00
Sudanese Ministry RP Salary	\$22,056.00	\$22,718.00
Sudanese Ministry RP Benefits	\$6,892.00	\$10,777.00
Sudanese Ministry RP Con Ed	\$750.00	\$750.00
Sudanese Ministry RP Expenses	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$221,138.00</b>	<b>\$236,626.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$487,325.40</b>	<b>\$497,308.77</b>

**D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...****Presbytery of Des Moines****Income Report  
as of September 30, 2011**

	2011 Budget	Year-to-Date
<b>Income</b>		
Escrow Fund	\$6,722.96	\$6,722.96
Total Per Capita	\$255,000.00	\$226,275.21
Total Past Years Per Capita	\$22,307.55	\$5,913.54
Presbytery General Mission	\$133,868.89	\$85,626.09
Synod Support Staff Salaries	\$40,000.00	\$29,999.97
Hunger Action Enabler Income	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Khadamat Sudaniya Grant Income	\$33,000.00	\$20,999.97
Interest Income	\$150.00	\$128.43
Miscellaneous Income	\$150.00	\$57.94
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$493,199.40</b>	<b>\$377,724.11</b>
<b>2011 Proposed Expenses</b>		
	<b>\$493,199.40</b>	<b>\$343,571.62</b>
<b>Surplus(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$34,152.49</b>



**D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...****Presbytery of Des Moines****Expense Report  
as of September 30, 2011**

<b>Governance Expense</b>	<b>2011 Budget</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b>
Committee Preparation Ministry	\$2,100.00	\$605.00
Stewardship & Mission Interpretation Committee	\$2,100.00	\$1,252.38
Permanent Judicial Commission	\$500.00	\$0.00
Committee on Representation	\$0.00	\$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	\$56,329.00	\$56,329.00
Synod Per Capita	\$42,463.40	\$42,463.40
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$103,707.40</b>	<b>\$100,649.78</b>
<b>Administrative Expense</b>		
Moderator Expense/Task Groups	\$150.00	\$665.42
Administrative Commissions	\$200.00	\$0.00
Presbytery Meetings	\$400.00	\$0.00
Commissioner Orientation	\$0.00	\$0.00
Stated Clerk Expense	\$50.00	\$0.00
Communication	\$1,500.00	\$985.70
Insurance	\$5,500.00	(\$1,027.50)
Legal fees	\$500.00	\$0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$8,300.00</b>	<b>\$623.62</b>
<b>Extension of Ministries</b>		
Social Ministries Task Force	\$2,500.00	\$1,127.37
El Salvador Mission Co-worker Benefits	\$8,500.00	\$5,814.00
Hunger Action Enabler Travel	\$1,000.00	\$999.23
Broken Bread	\$500.00	\$178.15
Khadamat Sudaniya Committee Expense	\$50.00	\$0.00
Khadamat Sudaniya Grant Expense	\$33,000.00	\$18,666.64
Cross Ministries	\$56,700.00	\$42,525.00
Older Adult Ministries Task Force	\$800.00	\$469.60
Camping	\$2,500.00	(\$13,274.70)
Youth	\$1,000.00	\$30.00
Resources	\$500.00	\$841.59
Women's Advocacy Task Force	\$50.00	\$0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$107,100.00</b>	<b>\$57,376.88</b>

**D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...**

<b>Support of Local Ministries</b>	<b>2011 Budget</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b>
Congregational Care & Development Committee	\$1,000.00	\$595.28
Professional Care & Development Committee	\$3,000.00	\$903.02
Regional Partnerships		
Southeast	\$0.00	\$0.00
East	\$0.00	\$0.00
DM West/NW	\$0.00	\$0.00
Southwest	\$5,000.00	\$3,500.00
West	\$0.00	\$0.00
South Central	\$200.00	\$0.00
DM Two Rivers	\$4,500.00	\$1,859.94
Coordinating Council	\$200.00	\$597.01
Worship Task Group	\$75.00	\$0.00
Bills & Overtures	\$50.00	\$0.00
Emergency Contingency	\$500.00	\$0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$14,525.00</b>	<b>\$7,455.25</b>
<b>Office Expense</b>		
Condo dues	\$2,405.00	\$1,800.00
Rent-copier lease	\$4,400.00	\$1,974.47
Office supplies	\$4,000.00	\$3,994.22
Postage	\$3,000.00	\$2,115.02
Telephone & Internet	\$4,000.00	\$3,486.26
Utilities	\$1,500.00	\$1,098.15
Janitorial Services	\$3,000.00	\$2,498.87
New Equipment	\$2,000.00	\$1,888.95
Equipment Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$800.00
Books & Subscriptions	\$250.00	\$172.00
Office Travel	\$1,000.00	\$218.46
Audit	\$6,800.00	\$6,986.17
Continuing Ed-Support Staff	\$100.00	\$75.00
Church & Staff Appreciation	\$100.00	\$0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$34,055.00</b>	<b>\$27,107.57</b>
<b>Personnel</b>		
General Presbyter Salary	\$69,316.00	\$47,878.72
General Presbyter Benefits	\$21,817.00	\$15,081.76
General Presbyter Prof Expense	\$600.00	\$64.42
General Presbyter Con Ed	\$1,500.00	\$832.50
General Presbyter Travel	\$10,000.00	\$4,438.77
Office Manager Salary	\$33,448.00	\$23,096.80
Office Manager Benefits	\$10,522.00	\$7,275.44
Office Manager FICA	\$2,558.00	\$1,706.98
Communications Director Salary	\$29,056.00	\$20,052.00
Communications Director FICA	\$2,223.00	\$1,533.96
Hunger Action Enabler Salary	\$5,500.00	\$3,666.72
Hunger Action Enabler FICA	\$400.00	\$280.53
Sudanese Ministry RP Salary	\$22,056.00	\$14,903.36
Sudanese Ministry RP Benefits	\$6,892.00	\$6,258.48
Sudanese Ministry RP Con Ed	\$750.00	\$0.00
Sudanese Ministry RP Expenses	\$3,000.00	\$3,288.08
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$219,638.00</b>	<b>\$150,358.52</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$487,325.40</b>	<b>\$343,571.62</b>

**D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...****Presbytery of Des Moines****Restricted Funds  
as of September 30, 2011****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.	\$35,877.30
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**Swan Fund**

Interest earnings used for seminary student's assistance.	\$20,484.88
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**Albia Sale**

To be used for the assistance of small churches in the Presbytery.	\$9,155.11
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**Knox Knolls – Camping Fund**

$\frac{3}{4}$ of interest earnings used for the camping program.	\$178,759.47
$\frac{1}{4}$ of interest earnings used for Presbytery causes.	

**Walther Fund**

To be used for scholarship aid for physically or mentally-challenged youth and/or children in need.	\$18,499.72
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**Colfax Fund**

To be used for church development with interest to be placed in Colfax Fund Money Market.	\$20,191.41
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**First American Bank – Urbandale****Pastor Emergency Fund Savings**

Short-term loans for pastors.	\$1,345.83
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**Colfax Fund Money Market**

To be used for church development	\$1,528.98
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**D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...****Presbytery of Des Moines****Consolidated Statement of Financial Position  
as of September 30, 2011****ASSETS****Current Assets**

	Cash in Bank	\$134,160.95	
1112.01	Savings Account	\$1,345.77	
1114.08	Colfax MM	\$1,528.98	
1117.02	Walther Fund	\$18,499.72	
1122.01	McCahon Fund	\$35,877.30	
1122.02	Knox Knolls Fund	\$178,759.47	
1123.01	Albia Fund	\$9,155.11	
1126.02	Life Inc Char Int-Restricted	\$897.00	
1132.05	Swan Fund	\$20,484.88	
1133.07	Pastors Seminar Fund	\$15,584.72	
1134.08	Colfax Fund	\$20,191.41	
	<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>\$436,485.31</b>

**Property and Equipment**

1511.01	Office Equipment	\$29,248.41	
1512.01	Accumulated Depreciation	(\$36,587.63)	
1611.01	Real Estate - Presby Office	\$97,500.00	
1611.02	Real Estate - Land	\$293,875.96	
1621.02	Land Improvements-Road	\$26,567.50	
1622.02	Accumulated Depreciation	(\$21,420.13)	
	<b>Total Property &amp; Equipment</b>		<b>\$389,184.11</b>

**Other Assets**

	<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<b>\$0.00</b>
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	<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$825,669.42</u>
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**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS****Current Liabilities**

2301.02	GA – General Mission	\$20,883.90
2302.02	GA – Designated Mission	\$790.00
2303.02	GA – Disaster	\$2,484.66
2304.02	GA – OGHS	\$2,239.41
2305.02	GA – Peacemaking	\$33.33
2306.02	GA – Christmas Joy	\$415.00
2307.02	GA – Pentecost	\$1,742.42
2308.02	GA – Theological Fund	\$641.62
2321.02	Synod – General Mission	\$9,302.85
2325.02	Synod – Peacemaking	\$3.33
2342.02	Presbytery Designated	\$6,869.30
2411.01	Pastor Emergency Fund	\$1,345.77
2525.02	Sudanese Ministry Resources	\$3,561.71
2530.02	Sudanese Undesignated-Khad Sud	\$4,949.76
2535.02	Sudanese Water Project	\$1,302.50
2540.02	Sudanese Designated	\$2,000.00
2700.03	Hunger Cents-ability	\$450.35
2701.03	Peacemaking	\$88.88
2702.03	Rural Partnership Offering	\$2,052.18
2703.03	Joining Hands	\$3,797.75
2705.03	El Sal-Water Filter Project	\$14,256.50
2706.03	El Sal-Undesignated Funds	\$37,539.71
2707.03	El Sal-Designated Funds	\$691.10
2708.03	Companeros	\$250.41
2709.03	Coffee	(\$2,549.14)
2712.03	El Salvador Scholarship Fund	\$1,000.00
2717.02	Two Riv SynSchool Scholarship	\$550.00
2717.02	Escrow Fund	\$6,722.96
	<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$123,416.26</b>

**Long-Term Liabilities**

2211.01	Real Estate Note - Synod	<u>0.00</u>
	<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>0.00</b>

	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$123,416.26</b>
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**Net Assets**

3910.01	Net Assets - Operating Fund	(\$163,489.85)
3910.02	Net Assets-Program Fund	\$778,068.95
3910.03	Net Assets - In & Out Fund	\$5,350.70
3910.05	Net Assets – Swan Fund	\$18,861.77
3910.07	Fund Balance - Endowment Fund	\$15,584.72
3910.08	Net Assets - Colfax Fund	\$24,915.68
	Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>\$22,961.19</u>

	<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$702,253.16</b>
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	<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<u><b>\$825,669.42</b></u>
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## K – SOCIAL MINISTRIES TASK FORCE REPORT

November 8, 2011

### JOINING HANDS-EGYPT

Nancy Lister-Settle (Dallas Center, First) and David Best (Atlantic, First United) traveled to Egypt in October and met with Joining Hands partners there. The trip itinerary was adjusted at the last minute due to a violent clash in Cairo between demonstrators and military just two days before their scheduled arrival. They were able to visit five partner organizations in Cairo and Alexandria, but had to cancel meetings with several in Upper Egypt. With parliamentary elections coming up in late November, Joining Hands partners are working at the grassroots level on civil society education—helping those who have never had a voice in Egypt’s political process to be participants and to think for themselves. Both Nancy and David noted that this was the first time in our ten-year partnership when people spoke openly about the government, Egyptian politics, and the issues that are important to them as citizens. Both are eager to talk with you about this historic time in Egypt and their visit with members of our Joining Hands partner network: contact Nancy ([neitherthecat@gmail.com](mailto:neitherthecat@gmail.com); 515-992-3639) or David ([danetown2000@hotmail.com](mailto:danetown2000@hotmail.com), 712-249-4991) to make arrangements to meet with youth groups, women’s groups, Bible study groups, mission committees, or community organizations.

### OUR SISTER PARISH-EL SALVADOR

Would you like to know first-hand about the Presbytery’s El Salvador partnership? It has been several years since a first-timers’ delegation has traveled to Berlín to meet the Pastoral Team and learn about the work of church partners with villagers in the surrounding *cantones*, and Compañeros would like to introduce even more Presbyterians to this mission of the Presbytery. Funds are available for financial assistance for first-time visitors—contact Compañeros Moderator Rev. Mark Davis (Clive, Heartland) or delegation scheduler, Nancy Lister-Settle (Dallas Center, First) for more information. Delegations from local congregations continue to meet with their partner *cantones* at a rate of 1-2 per month. Those visiting this fall include Covenant Presbyterian Church, West Des Moines and First Presbyterian Church, Dallas Center.

### SOCIAL MINISTRIES GOALS FOR 2012

The Social Ministries Task Force is in the process of setting goals for the coming year. We are charged to assist congregations with their own ministries of social justice, so we want to hear from you! How can we help?

Social Ministries Task Force members are: Rev. Liz Knott (Des Moines, Westminster), Midge Slater (Des Moines, First), Susan Stroope (Des Moines, Central), Sue Burns and Ted Coppock (Des Moines, Westminster), Margaret Blair and Joan Overton (Indianola, Trinity United). Regular meetings are on the first Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. at the Presbytery Office. Membership is open to anyone with an enthusiasm for ministries of peace, compassion and justice.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy Lister-Settle (Dallas Center, First), Moderator

**APPENDIX C****Statement of Faith****Patti Spencer Burdette**

I believe God created all of heaven and earth including humanity who God calls to be the children of God, male and female, made in God's image, connected to God by God's love, separated from God by sin and evil, to love, honor, glorify, worship and obey God, to be in covenant with God and mutually delighting in each other.

I believe God reveals God's self to God's children as the one true God, first person of the Trinity, three equal and interdependent persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, always existing as the same one in three, Creator, Redeemer and Sustaining Advocate, revealing God's nature and attributes of grace, trustworthiness, loyalty, guidance, patience, mercy and love, providence and works, salvation, listening to and answering prayer, staying active in the lives of God's children.

I believe Jesus Christ is God's only Son, second person of the Trinity, equal to God in substance and power, fully human and fully God, role model for all believers, born of a virgin woman overshadowed by God's Spirit, becoming flesh, living as a man, willingly submitting to the glory and will of the Father, shedding blood to cleanse away human sin, Savior of the World, dying on a cross, rising again in victory over death on the third day, God with us, eyes, ears, heart, mind and soul allowing the Creator to experience Creation, first heir to God accepting all who do His Father's will as brothers and sisters,.

I believe the Holy Spirit is the third equal person of the Trinity who is Advocate and Wisdom, present, active and powerful in Creation, present at the baptism of Lord Jesus, sharing in God's testimony to God's Son, comforting teacher, counselor and advisor, who continued Her mission among the children of God at Pentecost, who continues Her mission today in response to every faithful request for companionship, empowering and assistance, giver of fruits and gifts for the encouragement of the community overall, who empowers believers to do all manners of amazing things in the name of the God of Jesus Christ.

I believe the Holy Bible is the Word of God, revealing God and God's attributes to God's children, God's love and mercy even in the face of human disobedience, God's desire for relationship, covenant, communication with God's children, God's forgiveness, bestowing personal authority and freedom so all humanity may approach God for every worldly and spiritual need, inspired by God, written by humanity, infallible.

I believe salvation comes from God through the life, death and new life of Jesus Christ, beginning with hearing the Word of God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, experiencing the work of the Holy Spirit, confidently believing in God's many promises.

I believe the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion are God's gifts to God's children, blendings of the visible and the invisible, mergers of the common place and the supernatural, meetings of the children of God and the heavenly host, rituals of confession and living witnesses, a recipe of Word, faith and water, a recipe of bread, wine, and remembrance, two divine confections resulting in God's Church.

**APPENDIX D****J – REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER****November 8, 2011**

Significant media coverage continues to be given to a rather fascinating movement nowadays. Unlike the Tea Party, this movement is growing worldwide. Of course, I'm talking about the "Occupy" movement. Although it doesn't seem to have a national or international "organization" in place, or any official leaders, it continues to grow and demand attention.

Stan Ott, Director of the Vital Churches Institute, has shared an interesting and thought-provoking twist in reflecting on this movement. In his "Building One Another" newsletter in October, Stan writes:

"The Occupy movement has captured the attention of many cities around the world with its focus on economic injustice and its method of literally occupying a place in order to make a point.

"The verb 'to occupy' means to engage the attention and energies, to take up a place or reside as an owner or tenant (Merriam-Webster).

"Our Lord has always occupied our world having taken up residence among us with an eye to engaging our attention and energies for our restoration, redemption and renewal.

"I heard a voice thunder from the Throne: Look! Look! God has moved into the neighborhood, making his home with men and women! They're his people, he's their God. He'll wipe away every tear from their eyes.' Revelation 21:3a (The Message)

"Our Lord occupies our neighborhoods and offers to those who live there the love, compassion, and justice of our Lord. We as god's people are called to do the very same thing.

"We may simply withdraw into our homes with no significant interaction with the immediate people who live and work around us in our neighborhoods or we may 'see ourselves as sent to occupy the neighborhood,' and be our Lord's agents of grace to those around us.

"As the Father has sent me, I send you.' – Jesus (John 20:20b NRSV)"

After reading this, I got to wondering: what would happen if we all allowed Christ to occupy our minds and bodies in a new way? What would happen if the churches in our Presbytery were all to be occupied by fired up, passionate and caring members who are committed to bringing good news to the captive and oppressed; who regularly study God's Word and pray together? What would happen if these churches occupied their communities and cities with acts of kindness, restoration, love and joy? South central Iowa would be quite a place, a place where I'd love to live. Wouldn't you?

Along with the "regular" activities and meetings, I've been involved in the following activities since we were together in August:

- Participated in the Installation of Holly Smith as Pastor of the First United Presbyterian Church in Atlantic
- Met with several ruling and teaching elders
- Hosted a meeting of ecumenical leaders
- Attended the Synod Executive/General Presbyter Forum in Waterloo, IA
- Led worship at First Church in Creston
- Along with Tom Conrey and Esther Chol, attended a Synod Assembly in Farmington, MN

- Participated in the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Platte Center Church
- Preached at First Church in Newton
- Attended the Fall Polity Conference and Annual Meeting of the Association of Executive Presbyters in Pittsburgh, PA
- Met with my presbyter colleagues in Iowa
- Met with the representatives from the First Church in Montezuma to finalize and sign the official papers for transfer of that congregation to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

I welcome opportunities to share more about these or any other things in which I'm involved.

I also welcome all the opportunities that come our way to share in ministry together.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Phil Barrett



**APPENDIX E****R – PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE DES MOINES PRESBYTERY REPORT****November 8, 2011**

The Presbyterian Women of Des Moines Presbytery met for our Fall Connection on October 8, 2011 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines. The theme for the day was “The Language of Love.” Sixty-six women from churches throughout the Presbytery participated in the event.

Rev. Julie Sterling, PW Clergy Representative, led the opening worship. The keynote speakers for the morning were the Rev. Linda O’Connell (Lucas, First/Chariton, First) and Mary Lou Briles (Des Moines, Park Ave.) who reported on their trip to Dakota Presbytery August 10-13 to attend the Dakota Mission Conference at Good Will Presbyterian Church in Agency, South Dakota.

Morning “Loving Out Loud” Break-out Sessions were:

English as Second Language—Melanie Curlee

Working with individuals with Special Needs—Susan Perkins

Multi-cultural Christian Education—Ann McGowan

Working with the Blind—Rebecca Swainey

Challenges to inclusion: Roma (Gypsies), the Samaritans of Europe —Liz and Don Searles

A lovely lunch was prepared and served by the Westminster Presbyterian Women.

Following lunch the women had a chance to go to a second break-out session. We then gathered together in the sanctuary for the afternoon plenary session led by the Rev. Sara Palmer on the *Horizon’s Bible Study: Confessing the Beatitudes*.

We ended the day with closing worship and communion led by the Rev. Julie Sterling.

The next planning meeting of the Coordinating Team of the Presbyterian Women of Des Moines Presbytery will be Jan. 21, 2012 (alternate date, Jan. 28) at Windsor Presbyterian Church from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Spring Connection has been scheduled for April 14, 2012. Speakers to ask will be Alicia Lundberg who volunteers as an English teacher in Berlin, El Salvador and the Rev. Marcy Campbell regarding the older adult ministry conference she plans to attend. Marcy received a \$200 scholarship for this conference from PW of Des Moines Presbytery.

The Search Committee is looking for volunteers to serve on the coordinating team. If you know a woman in your congregation who would like to serve on the PW Coordinating team please give her name to Nancy Lister-Settle at 515-992-3639 or [neitherthecat@gmail.com](mailto:neitherthecat@gmail.com).

We invite all women of the Presbytery to attend our Spring and Fall Connections, even if your church does not have a Presbyterian Women's Organization. Men are also welcome to attend and we especially encourage pastors to attend to discover the power of PW in their local community, our Presbytery and our world.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Linda O’Connell, Moderator