



Presbytery of Des Moines

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

October 30, 2013

TO: Commissioners to the 493rd Stated Meeting (August 17, 2013)
FROM: Philip W. Barrett, Stated Clerk
SUBJECT: Minutes

You will find the Minutes of the 493rd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines held on August 17, 2013 at the Heartland Presbyterian Church of Clive 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 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 three reflections on *The Table* during worship. We again spent a more informal time in conversing with committees and persons at tables rather than on the floor of the meeting. We heard about our ministry in El Salvador and enjoyed workshops presented by the Compañeros Team. We approved creation of the positions of Presbytery Pastors and approved a new structure for doing the work now done by the Congregational and Professional Care and Development Committees. We dealt with minimum salaries for pastors in 2014 and received reports on the official status of our pastors. We were excited as Laurie Berry and Ekram Kachu were taken under the care of the Presbytery as Candidates for Ministry. We commissioned Ruling Elder Linda Curtis-Stopler as Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Newton. You may remember some other things as well.

If you are attending the November 12, 2013 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 November, 2013 Presbytery Meeting will be posted on the Presbytery's Website at www.dmpresbytery.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 493rd Stated Meeting at the Heartland Presbyterian Church of Clive, Iowa, on August 17, 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	A
Ankeny	Jim Koopman	P	Sandy Wagener
Ankeny	Sue Tomlinson	P	-
Atlantic, First United	Holly Smith	P	Norm Templeman
Audubon, First	Roger Claxton	P	A
Bedford, United	Randy S. Allman	E	A
Brooklyn, First	John Reynolds, Jr.	P	Anna Hilpipre
Carlisle, Scotch Ridge	VACANT	-	Wayne McKee
Centerville, First	Suzanne Gorhau	P	Marilyn Vanderlinden
Chariton, First	VACANT	-	S. Kay Montgomery
Clive, Heartland	D. Mark Davis	P	Jude Conway
Clive, Heartland	Barbara Nish	A	-
Clive Heartland	Martie Larsen, CRE	P	-
Clive Heartland	Scott Valentine, CRE	A	-
Corning, First	Ken Rummer	P	Timmie Sink
Creston, First	Jim Woodworth	A	A
Creston, Platte Center	Dolores Doench	P	Steve L. White
Dallas Center, First	Adam Smith	P	Ben Kelly
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	A
Des Moines, Douglas Avenue	Rich Harbart	P	A
Des Moines, First	Ken Stuber	P	Midge Slater
Des Moines, Fort Des Moines	Greg Smith (HR)	E	A
Des Moines, Highland Park	VACANT	-	A
Des Moines, Park Avenue	Claude J. Jones (HR)	P	Jeanne Burnett
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	Scott Blacketer
Des Moines, Westminster	Dick Kiefer (HR)	E	Jack Cavanah
Des Moines, Westminster	Bill Ekhardt	A	-
Dexter, First	David Kincaide	P	Doris King
Diagonal, United	VACANT	-	A
Earlham, First	Robert Waldron, CRE	A	A
Gibson, First	Hans Cornelder	E	A
Gibson, White Oak	Hans Cornelder	E	A
Greenfield, First	David Kincaide	P	Pat Hogan
Grimes, First	Lynn Williams	P	A
Grinnell, First	Kirsten Klepfer	P	David Cranston

CHURCH	MINISTER	P/A/E	COMMISSIONER
Guthrie Center, First	Denis R. James, Sr.	P	Margaret Batschelet
Hartford, Community United	Nathan Lamb	P	Chuck Casson
Indianola, Trinity United	David Endriss	P	Chari Kruse
Johnston, St. Paul	VACANT	-	A
Knoxville, First	Josyph Andrews	P	A
Lenox, United	Tim Maxa	E	David Walter
Leon, First	VACANT	-	Frank Perez
LeRoy, First	Dale O'Connell (HR)	E	A
Lucas, First	Marcy Campbell	P	A
Malcom, First United	John Reynolds, Jr.	P	A
Monroe	Ann Johnson	P	A
Mount Ayr, United	Mike Maddy	A	A
New Sharon, First	VACANT	-	A
Newton, First	Linda Curtis-Stolper	P	George Wilkening
Newton, First	Sara Hopkins	A	-
Newton, United	Donald Freeman	P	Verle Summers
Oskaloosa, First	Dennis Morey	E	Darlene Shepherd
Ottumwa, East End	Jane Martinez	P	Arnold Staub
Ottumwa, First	David Klanderma	E	Alice Burgett
Ottumwa, Westminster	Jane Martinez	P	Liz Stufflebeem
Perry, First	Joan White	P	LaJune Magill
Sharpsburg	Tim Maxa	E	A
Sigourney, First	Kim Alten	E	A
West Des Moines, Covenant	Jan Scott	P	Weldon Michael
Windsor Heights, Windsor	Shamaine Chambers King	E	Barb Pomeroy
Winterset, First United	Jim Howland	P	Laura Silverthorn

OTHER MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY (MINISTERS)

Present: Philip Barrett, General Presbyter/Stated Clerk; Jay Basler (HR); John Beran (HR); David Braak; Robert Burnett (HR); Goanar Chol; Robert Cook (HR); Bruce Giese; Elizabeth Knott (HR); Aaron Koskamp (HR); Dawn Linder; Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy; Jeffrey Means; Linda O'Connell (HR); Michelle Parsons; Sarai Schnucker Rice; Elizabeth Sandy (HR); Patricia Summers (HR); Russell Tomlinson (HR); and Bob Zirkelbach.

Excused: Stephen Bowie; Tom Conrey (HR); Carl Cooper (HR); Jack DePond (HR); Donald Elly (HR); Ane Fitzgerald; Bill LeMosy (HR); Ray Martin (HR); John McElroy; Adam Nardini; Sara Speer Palmer (HR); Katherine Pater; Marvin Potter (HR); Kay E. Steddom (HR); Ron Van Heukelom (HR); Erasmo Vélez (HR); and Francis Younkin (HR).

Absent: Pete Brantner and Christopher (Kip) Harris.

LAY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Present: Vice-Moderator RE Nancy Lister-Settle (Dallas Center, First); and RE Mary Lou Briles (Des Moines, Park Avenue)

VISITORS

Sarah Chancellor (Allerton, United); Laurie Berry (Ankeny); Robert Finney (Clive, Heartland); Mitch Lacquemont (Carlisle, Scotch Ridge); Ekram Kachu (DM, Cottage Grove Avenue); Mary Lou Aspengren (DM, First); Maurice Dyer, Sue Kimball, and Sharon McCullough (Indianola, Trinity United); Cynthia Perez (Leon, First); Linda Anderson, Warren Erickson and Mickey Van Baale (Newton, First); Pat Osteen and Carolyn Staub (Ottumwa, East End); John Sprole (WDM, Covenant); Carolyn Conner (Heartland Presbytery); Douglas Bolsem; and Betty Dyer, Presbytery staff (Indianola, Trinity United).

MINISTERS (94 on roll)

ELDER COMMISSIONERS AND OTHERS

Present:	53	Present:	53
Excused:	30	Excused:	0
Absent:	11	Absent:	27

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 Call to this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda as printed and distributed with the Call to this meeting with one exception: Congregational Care and Development Committee Item A-A-22 was pulled since it has action related to it.

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. Kristi Van Nostran, a member of Cascades Presbytery, as a Corresponding Member for this meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF FIRST TIMERS AND GUESTS

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

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

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

APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING CLERK

Stated Clerk Phil Barrett announced that Ruling Elder Jean Scherr, a member of the Heartland Church, had been appointed as Recording Clerk for this meeting.

WELCOME BY HOST CHURCH

Teaching Elder Mark Davis, Pastor of the Heartland Church, welcomed the Presbytery to the new Sanctuary which was first utilized the first Sunday in Advent and provided information about other parts of the facilities.

WORSHIP

The Presbytery entered into a time of worship. Worship leaders were TE Betty Sandy (HR), TE Mark Davis (Clive, Heartland), and TE Linda O'Connell (HR). Three persons presented meditations on *The Table*. Using I Corinthians 11:17-22, Mark Davis reflected on *The Table of Division*. He noted that the table is often thought of as a positive place for gathering but that Paul tells about the table in Corinth being a mess – a place of division – and that those at the table were not truly participating in the body of Christ. Mark then shared the experience of being seated at a table in a canton in El Salvador that became a turning point in the relationship with the people in the canton. This experience is a reminder that the table can be a place where relationships can be transformed. RE Marcia McAdoo shared thoughts from Kathy Mahler, former Mission Co-Worker to El Salvador. These reflections on *The Table of Grace* came out of I Corinthians 10:17. Kathy shared her sadness at not being able to participate in Communion in Catholic churches because she wasn't a Catholic. When she shared this with the parish priest in the canton, he was indignant and offered her a place at the table. God's love was felt by Kathy in this event, as well as in the people in the canton. Using I Corinthians 11:23-26, RE Maurice Dyer reflected on *The Table of Abundance*. He shared about a food pantry distributing food from around the altar in an Episcopal church. God's abundance was shown in this process. It indicates that the Lord's Supper is open to everyone. TE Bob Cook, along with Teaching and Ruling Elders from the gathered Presbytery administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Music leaders were Larry and Linda Anderson.

COMPANEROS REPORT

TE Mark Davis, Moderator of Companeros, provided information about the Compañeros and its structure. He then shared that the Compañeros had wanted to share much of what they had been learning in the last year. He then introduced Kristi Van Nostran, denominational Mission Co-Worker in San Salvador, El Salvador. Kristi reflected on the events around the third post-resurrection appearance of Jesus. She noted that hunger was still the number one health problem in the world, and that Jesus' command to his disciples then and now is to feed his sheep. She shared about the Joining Hands program working to help people be fed. They start with building mutual relationships, working to find partners to help in feeding folks. She concluded noting three ways to help feed people: when eating, remember those who don't have enough and those who grew it; pray for ministries carried out through Joining Hands ministries; and put love in action through sharing with partners and contributing to Joining Hands and other hunger programs.

VISITS WITH COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS 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.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Stated Clerk Phil Barrett provided the following items of information:

- I-I-11 All reports have been filed with the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and the General Assembly as of this date. All correspondence received has been referred, assigned or answered.
- I-I-12 I have received the resignation of TE Lynn Williams from the Congregational Care and Development Committee, Class of 2013, and TE Pete Brantner from the Professional Care and Development Committee, Class of 2013. These have been referred to the Nominating Committee.

- I-I-13 I have received the AA/EOE Report from the Pastor Nominating Committee of the St. Paul Church in Johnston. This will be referred to the Congregational Care and Development Committee for their action and recommendation to the Presbytery.
- I-I-14 I have received the loan papers from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Corporation related to the loan to the Community United Presbyterian Church in Hartford. This loan was approved at our last meeting and the official language for that will be before the Presbytery today for action.

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

- I-R-5 That the session records of the St. Paul Presbyterian Church, Johnston, be approved with exceptions.

APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the Minutes of the May 21, 2013 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery as printed and distributed.

PROFESSIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Teaching Elder Jan Scott, Moderator of the Committee, presented the report.

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

- B-A-4 Granted permission to TE Claude Jones to serve as part-time Chaplain at Calvin Community in Des Moines.

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

- B-R-1 That the minimum salary for pastors for 2014 be approved as shown on the Minimum Salary Recommendations Report presented by the Committee. (This Report appears as *Appendix A* at the end of these Minutes.)
- B-R-2 That the *Annual Report of the Type of Work in Which Each Minister is Engaged* be approved with the following corrections:
- Add David Kincaide to the *Ministers Engaged in A Validated Ministry Within a Congregations of this Church* section
 - Add Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy be listed as serving as the pastor of the St. Paul's United Church of Christ; Jeff Means be listed as serving on the faculty of Des Moines University in Des Moines, IA; and that Peter Brantner be listed as serving as director of the Counseling Center in Lenox, IA in the *Members Engaged in A Validated Ministry In Service Beyond the Jurisdiction of this Church* section
 - Correct Kay E. Steddom to be listed in the *Members Who are Honorably Retired* section
 - Correct Sara Speer Palmer to be listed in the *Members Who are Honorably Retired* section

(This Report appears as *Appendix B* at the end of these Minutes.)

- B-R-3 That the *Salary Changes Report* be approved. (This Report appears as *Appendix C* at the end of these Minutes.)
- B-R-4 That the Rev. Hans Cornelder (Gibson, First and White Oak) be granted the status of Honorably Retired as of August 1, 2013.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

TE Kirsten Klepfer, a member of the Committee, presented the report.

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

- D-R-2 The Presbytery of Des Moines (a “Corporation”) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) having received and reviewed the loan application of the Community United Presbyterian Church, a member in good standing of this Presbytery, located at 315 N. Vine, Hartford, IA, approved the loan application and guarantees the repayment of principal and interest on the loan from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation “CLP”), in the amount of \$136,770.00. The officers of the Presbytery Corporation as listed on the attached Affidavit/Certificate of Incumbency marked Exhibit A are authorized to sign a Guaranty Agreement for this loan as agents of the Presbytery Corporation.

The Committee presented the following items of information to the Presbytery:

- D-I-1 The Committee received as a report of information from the Personnel Committee the following information on July 10, 2013: The Personnel Committee decided to move forward with a new communications position with \$6,000 the maximum expense for the rest of the year. Personnel Committee was thinking \$7,200 will be the annual figure for next year’s budget since they are offering \$15.00 per hour. There are no benefits being offered since it is a very part time position (1/4 time) and benefits are rarely offered on such positions. The position will be for Communication Coordinator. Phil Barrett received permission from the Clifton Heights Administrative Commission to use up to \$6,000.00 to fund the Communication Coordinator position for the rest of the year.
- D-I-2 We have received the auditor’s letter attesting to our financial status and processes. Following this report you will find the auditor’s letter. The full audit report is available upon request in the Presbytery Office.

All items listed in this report were completed via electronic communications by committee members.

(The Committee also presented the following reports: *2013 Income and Expenses, Consolidated Statement of Financial Position and Restricted Funds*. These reports appear as *Appendix D* at the end of these Minutes.)

COMPANEROS MINI-COURSES

The Presbytery attended a variety of mini courses offered by the Compañeros Committee.

LUNCH

The Presbytery recessed to enjoy a delicious lunch provided by the Heartland Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Presbytery reconvened with a time for announcements. Among these were: TE Marcy Campbell (Lucas, First) regarding offerings of assistance from the Transformation Team; RE Sandy Wagener (Ankeny) offering Presbytery Mission Table Tents provided by the Stewardship and Mission Interpretation Committee; RE Darlene Shepherd (Oskaloosa, First) encouraging nominations of persons for the *Faithful Through the Years* recognition; RE Sue Kimball regarding the Presbyterian Women Fall Connection on October 12; TE Jeff Means (At Large) offering information about a workshop on Moral Injury presented at Des Moines University and a workshop presented at the Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center on dealing with chronically ill persons; TE Dave Madsen (Des Moines, Cottage Grove Avenue) reminding the Presbytery of the CROSS Backpack Giveaway coming up and that the *Bizarre Foods* show featuring the Sudanese at Cottage Grove is available online; and TE Phil Barrett (GP) on the upcoming Ecumenical Renewal of Baptismal Vows and Interfaith Prayer Service to be held at the St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

TE Ann Johnson, Vice Moderator of the Council, presented the report.

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

- E-A-5 Elected TE Jim Howland as Council Moderator and TE Ann Johnson as Vice Moderator of the Council.
- E-A-6 Elected TE Don Elly as Co-Moderator of the Worship Task Group.
- E-A-7 Elected RE Mickey Van Baale (Newton, First) and RE John Sprole (West Des Moines, Covenant) to fill two vacancies on the New Sharon Administrative Commission. Mickey was also elected as Moderator of the Commission.

The Council presented the following item of information to the Presbytery:

- E-I-4 Presbytery meetings will have a special theme or presentation in the future. These will be coordinated by the moderators. If any person or group has a presentation in mind, the Presbytery Moderator or Vice Moderator should be contacted so that these can be coordinated in the Presbytery meeting schedule.

Ann then provided the history of the Council's work on the restructuring the work now done by the Congregational and Professional Care and Development Committees. She also shared the rationale for the recommendations that would be coming to the Presbytery.

The Council then presented two recommendations for the restructuring of the CCD/PCD work:

- E-R-4 That the Presbytery approve Creation of the Positions of Presbytery Pastors. (This recommendation appears as *Appendix E* at the end of these Minutes).

RE Maurice Dyer, a member of Council, presented the recommendation and the rationale for it. A time for questions and comments followed. The Presbytery then VOTED to adopt Recommendation E-R-4.

The names of TE Ann Johnson (Monroe) and Ken Rummer (Corning, First) were placed in nomination for the positions of Presbytery Pastors. No other nominations were received from the floor, so the Presbytery VOTED to close nominations and instructed the Stated Clerk to cast an electing ballot.

E-R-5 That the Presbytery approve the *Proposed Restructure of CCD & PCD*. (This recommendation appears as *Appendix F* at the end of these Minutes.)

Ann Johnson provided information about the process of coming to the recommendation:

- For the new structure and clarified reasons for the recommendation. A time of discussion and debate followed. During this time, the Presbytery VOTED to approve the following amendment to the proposal:
- That there be a fifth member of the Congregational Task Force Council who will serve as Moderator of the Task Force Council. This person will be nominated by the Presbytery Nominating Committee and will not be a member of any of the task forces.

Vice Moderator Nancy Lister-Settle assumed the Chair so that Moderator Jim Howland could provide clarification and answer further questions regarding the proposal. He then returned to the Chair.

The Presbytery then VOTED to adopt Recommendation E-R-5.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES TASK FORCE

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

Nancy presented the *Just Neighbors Award* and new traveling banner to *Art for El Salvador*, an organization run by Maria and Niah Howard, members of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas Center.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

TE Sue Tomlinson, Moderator of the Committee, presented the report.

Sue presented the following Recommendations to the Presbytery for adoption:

C-R-1 That Inquirer Laurie Berry be enrolled as a candidate under the care of the Presbytery of Des Moines.

Laurie then presented her Statement of Faith, followed by a time of questioning by the Presbytery. The Presbytery then VOTED to enroll Laurie as a Candidate. TE Elder Jim Koopman, Interim Pastor of the Ankeny Presbyterian Church, the congregation of which Laurie is a member, offered a prayer for Laurie's journey as a candidate.

C-R-2 That Inquirer Ekram Kachu be enrolled as a candidate under the care of the Presbytery of Des Moines.

Ekram then read her Statement of Faith, followed by a time of questions and comments by the Presbytery. The Presbytery then VOTED to enroll Ekram as a Candidate. TE David Madsen, Pastor of the Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, offered a prayer for Ekram's journey as a candidate.

(The Statements of Faith presented by Laurie and Ekram appear as *Appendix H* at the end of these Minutes.)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

Sarai reported the following actions taken by the Committee:

June 2013

A-A-15 Added Laurie Berry and Linda Curtis-Stolper to the *Pulpit Supply List*

A-A-16 Approved terms of call between TE William O'Connell and the St. Paul Presbyterian Church, Johnston as of August 19, 2013:

Salary	\$41,000.00
Housing and Utilities	18,200.00
SECA Relief	4,900.00
Continuing Education	1,500.00
Medical Expense	2,200.00
Mileage (IRS Rate) & Hospitality	2,000.00

July 2013

A-A-17 Approved Temporary Supply contract between Platte Center and TE Delores Doench as of July 1, 2013:

Salary	\$12,000.00
Mileage	\$.565 per mile or IRS rate

A-A-18 Approved Doug Bolsem, CRE for *Pulpit Supply List*

August 2013

A-A-19 Approved TE Dawn Linder and TE Jay Basler (HR) for *Pulpit Supply List*

A-A-20 Approved transfer of membership for TE Jay Basler (HR) from Chicago Presbytery

A-A-21 Approved transfer of membership for TE Bob Zirkelbach from Southeastern Illinois Presbytery

A-A-22 Approved Interim Pastor contract between CRE Linda Curtis-Stolper and First Presbyterian Church, Newton as of August 15, 2013:

Cash Salary	\$24,785.52
FICA	1,366.75
Automobile Allowance	4,125.00
Resource Materials	100.00

Other Items	200.00
Continuing Education	1,500.00
Vacation	Four Weeks
Study Leave	Two Weeks

The Presbytery then entered into a time of worship in the service commissioning Linda Curtis-Stolper for service as the Interim Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Newton.

GENERAL PRESBYTER REPORT

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

OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES TASK FORCE

RE Darlene Shepherd, Moderator of the Task Force, presented this report.

Coming up soon – *Faithful Through the Years* recognition at the November 12th Presbytery Meeting. This year we will be looking at the valuable time so many have given so willingly and faithfully. There will be no single winner. Each person will be recognized. The deadline for your nomination is September 30, 2013.

You may go to the Presbytery website at: <http://.presbyteryofdesmones.org/missions/older-adults.html> to print off all the information needed to nominate someone from your church.

TRANSFORMATION TEAM REPORT

TE Jim Howland presented this report.

The Presbytery Transformation Team has developed four new workshops for congregations in the Presbytery. These workshop titles are:

- A Praying Congregation
- Leadership
- Visioning /Ministry Discerning
- Hospitality in the Kingdom of God

The workshops are available to any congregation in the Presbytery starting this fall. More information, including a workshop information sheet, is available at the Transformation Team display table at today's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Presbytery VOTED to adjourn. Moderator Jim Howland offered a closing prayer.

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines will be on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at the First Presbyterian Church in Ottumwa, Iowa.

Respectfully Submitted,
Philip W. Barrett, Stated Clerk

Jean Scherr, Recording Clerk

B – PROFESSIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

**Presbytery of Des Moines
5-Year History
Pastoral Compensation
Minimum Salary Recommendations Report**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Effective Salary¹	\$40,500	\$41,100	\$42,744	\$43,600	\$43,600
Pension Dues²	31.5% of Effective Salary	31.5% of Effective Salary	32.25% of Effective Salary	33% of Effective Salary	35% of Effective Salary
Continuing Ed. Dollars³	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Continuing Ed. Leave^{3,4}	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks
Auto Reimburse	Actual or IRS	Actual or IRS	Actual or IRS	Actual or IRS	Actual or IRS
Vacation³	4 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks

¹ Effective Salary includes cash salary; employee contributions to 403(b) plans, tax sheltered annuity plans; salary reduction contributions to flexible health spending accounts and cafeteria plans; housing, utilities, and furnishings allowances; employing organization contributions to 403(b) plans, tax sheltered annuity plans, equity allowances; bonuses, overtime pay, professional expense allowances that are not set up on an “accountable reimbursement” basis, gifts from employing organization, manse equity allowances; other allowances such as medical deductible, insurance premiums, and the portion of any SECA allowance that exceeds 50% of the SECA obligation; and an amount for the manse equal to 30% of all the above if the member lives in employer provided housing. See Board of Pensions publication, *Understanding Effective Salary*.

² The Board of Pensions plan includes health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, and survivor benefits, along with retirement pension benefits.

³ Continuing Education dollars and leave are not lost if not used by the end of the year but accumulate up to a maximum of three years’ worth. Example: If no continuing education was taken in 2012 and 2013, the dollars and time available for 2014 would be \$4,500 (1,500+1,500+1,500) and 6 weeks. To avoid budget surprises, any such carryover should be reported to the Session in advance.

⁴ Sundays are included in the weeks of continuing education and vacation, so a pastor planning continuing education could be away for 2 Sundays for that purpose, and a pastor taking vacation could be away 4 vacation Sundays.

B – PROFESSIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT continued...**Presbytery of Des Moines****ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TYPE OF WORK IN WHICH EACH MINISTER IS ENGAGED****August 17, 2013****MEMBERS ENGAGED IN A VALIDATED MINISTRY WITHIN CONGREGATIONS OF THIS CHURCH (G-2.0503):**

Randy Allman	Denis R. James	Scott Paczkowski
Kim Alten	Ann E. Johnson	Char Reif
Josyph Andrews	Claude J. Jones	John W. Reynolds, Jr.
Kenneth E. Arentson	Richard Kiefer	Kenneth Rummer
Ross Blount	Shamaine Chambers King	Janette S. Scott
Roger Claxton	David J. Klanderman	Adam Smith
Hans Cornelder	Kirsten Klepfer	Gregory Smith
D. Mark Davis	James Koopman	Holly Smith
Delores L. Doench	Nathan Lamb	Kenneth R. Stuber
William T. Ekhardt	Martie Larsen	Susan Tomlinson
David W. Endriss	Mike Maddy	Scott Valentine
Donald E. Freeman	David M. Madsen	Robert W. Waldron
John W. Gilmore	Jane Martinez	James L. Wallace
Suzanne L. Gorhau	Timothy S. Maxa	Joan White
Richard W. Harbart	Dennis E. Morey	Lynn M. Williams
James E. Howland	Barbara Nish	Michelle Williamson
Sara Hopkins	Dale O'Connell	James Woodworth

MEMBERS ENGAGED IN A VALIDATED MINISTRY IN OTHER SERVICE OF THIS CHURCH (G-2.0503a):

Philip W. Barrett (General Presbyter/Stated Clerk)
Katherine Pater (Mission Co-Worker to El Salvador)

MEMBERS IN A VALIDATED MINISTRY IN SERVICE BEYOND THE JURISDICTION OF THE CHURCH (G-2.0503a):

Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy, Interim Ministry, Madrid, Iowa
John W. McElroy, Pastor, Churchlands Christian Fellowship, Balcatta Western Australia

MEMBERS AT LARGE (G-2.0503b):

Stephen L. Bowie	Christopher P. Harris
David E. Braak	Dawn M. Linder
Marcy Campbell	Michelle Parsons

MEMBERS WHO ARE HONORABLY RETIRED (G-2.0503c):

John C. Beran	Jack DePond	Patricia Summers
Robert L. Burnett	Aaron Koskamp	Russell Tomlinson
Theron Conrey	William LeMosy	Ronald Van Heukelom
Robert C. Cook	Marvin D. Potter	Francis Younkin
Carl L. Cooper	Elizabeth (Betty) Sandy	

REPORTS NOT YET RECEIVED

Peter L. Brantner
Goanar Chol
Bruce Giese
Elizabeth Knott

Ray Martin
J. Jeffrey Means
Adam Nardini
Linda O'Connell

Sara Speer Palmer
Sarai Schnucker Rice
Kay E. Steddom
Erasmus Velez

B – PROFESSIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT continued...

**Presbytery of Des Moines
2013 SALARY CHANGES**

August 17, 2013

Report available upon request.

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**August 17, 2013****Presbytery of Des Moines****2013 Income Report
as of July 31, 2013**

	2013 Budget	2013 YTD
Income		
Carryover from 2012	\$32,182.40	\$32,182.40
Total Per Capita	\$259,600.00	\$212,043.83
Total Past Years Per Capita	\$5,000.00	\$404.51
Presbytery General Mission (pledged)	\$117,285.26	\$73,973.11
Synod Support Staff Salaries	\$40,000.00	\$23,333.31
Hunger Action Enabler Income	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Khadamat Sudaniya Grant Income	\$14,500.00	\$9,624.96
Montezuma funds-amt to balance budget	\$22,355.17	
Interest Income	\$150.00	\$167.85
Miscellaneous Income	\$500.00	\$51.26
Total Income	\$494,572.83	\$354,781.23
2013 Expenses		
	\$494,572.83	\$289,130.55
Surplus(Deficit)	\$0.00	\$65,650.68

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...**Presbytery of Des Moines****2013 Expense Report
as of July 31, 2013**

	2013 Budget	2013 YTD
Governance Expense		
Committee Preparation Ministry	\$2,100.00	\$0.00
Stewardship & Mission Interpretation Committee	\$2,200.00	\$0.00
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	\$94,817.56
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	\$209.64
Insurance	\$6,000.00	(\$203.42)
Legal fees	\$500.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$9,300.00	\$46.22
Extension of Ministries		
Social Ministries Task Force	\$5,000.00	\$3,715.60
Hunger Action Enabler Travel & Con Ed	\$1,500.00	\$519.88
Broken Bread	\$300.00	\$0.00
Khadamat Sudaniya Committee Expense	\$50.00	\$52.47
Khadamat Sudaniya Grant Expense	\$14,500.00	\$9,166.63
Cross Ministries	\$60,000.00	\$35,000.00
Older Adult Ministries Task Force	\$1,000.00	\$469.65
Camping	\$4,500.00	\$2,160.96
Youth	\$8,300.00	\$4,020.77
Resources	\$500.00	\$351.63
Women's Advocacy Task Force	\$50.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$95,700.00	\$55,457.59
Support of Local Ministries		
Congregational Care & Development Committee	\$1,000.00	\$75.20
Professional Care & Development Committee	\$3,300.00	\$924.00
Regional Partnerships		
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	\$0.00	\$0.00
DM Two Rivers	\$5,500.00	\$177.18
Leadership Council	\$450.00	\$542.61
Worship Task Group	\$75.00	\$0.00
Bills & Overtures	\$50.00	\$0.00
Emergency Contingency	\$500.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$15,875.00	\$6,718.99

Office Expense		
Condo dues	\$2,520.00	\$1,775.00
Rent-copier lease	\$4,725.00	\$3,110.33
Office supplies	\$4,725.00	\$3,315.44
Postage	\$3,150.00	\$1,225.48
Telephone & Internet	\$4,200.00	\$1,650.60
Utilities	\$2,100.00	\$1,191.33
Janitorial Services	\$3,780.00	\$1,833.02
New Equipment	\$3,000.00	\$869.25
Equipment Maintenance/Tech Services	\$2,500.00	\$968.85
Books & Subscriptions	\$250.00	\$59.00
Office Travel	\$1,000.00	\$93.10
Audit	\$7,000.00	\$6,878.84
Church & Staff Appreciation	\$200.00	(\$56.35)
Subtotal	\$39,150.00	\$7,817.07

Personnel		
General Presbyter Salary	\$75,433.00	\$37,716.60
General Presbyter Benefits	\$24,892.89	\$12,446.46
General Presbyter Prof Expense	\$600.00	\$90.00
General Presbyter Con Ed	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
General Presbyter Travel	\$10,000.00	\$4,452.51
Office Manager Salary	\$39,254.00	\$18,500.04
Office Manager Benefits	\$13,110.42	\$6,420.00
Office Manager Con Ed	\$750.00	\$0.00
Office Manager FICA	\$3,003.00	\$1,366.34
Hunger Action Enabler Salary	\$7,500.00	\$3,750.00
Hunger Action Enabler Benefits	\$7,488.00	\$3,130.00
Hunger Action Enabler FICA	\$574.00	\$286.87
Sudanese Ministry RP Salary	\$23,533.00	\$11,766.60
Sudanese Ministry RP Benefits	\$11,223.96	\$5,611.98
Sudanese Ministry RP Con Ed	\$1,500.00	\$1,774.45
Sudanese Ministry RP Expenses	\$3,000.00	\$1,470.45
Part-time Officer Worker	\$10,500.00	\$366.00
Office Worker FICA	\$803.00	\$28.00
Subtotal	\$234,665.27	\$109,176.30

Total Expenses	\$494,572.83	\$289,130.55
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D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...**Presbytery of Des Moines****Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
as of July 31, 2013**

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Assets		Current Liabilities		
	Cash in Bank	\$162,143.27	2342.02 Presbytery Designated	\$1,177.80
1112.01	Savings Account	\$2,847.59	2343.02 Other Disaster	(\$730.00)
1114.08	Colfax Fund MM	\$1,899.35	2411.01 Pastor Emergency Fund	\$2,847.53
1115.06	Clifton MM	\$78,281.05	2512.03 Special In & Out	(\$120.00)
1116.01	Montezuma CD Acct	\$78,640.01	2525.02 Sudanese Ministry Resources	\$2,566.73
1117.02	Walther Fund	\$21,894.58	2530.02 Sudanese Undesignated-Khad Sud	\$7,839.76
1122.01	McCahon Fund	\$41,981.92	2535.02 Sudanese Water Project	\$1,594.11
1122.02	Knox Knolls Fund	\$311,383.94	2540.02 Sudanese Designated	\$3,240.00
1123.01	Albia Fund	\$18,475.51	2700.03 Hunger-Cents-Ability	\$514.95
1126.02	Life Inc Char Int-Restricted	\$850.00	2701.03 Peacemaking Task Force	\$919.35
1132.05	Swan Fund	\$25,225.40	2702.03 Rural Partnership Offering	\$1,534.98
1133.07	Pastors Seminar Fund	\$16,280.57	2703.03 Joining Hands Task Force	\$2,419.05
1134.08	Colfax Fund	\$22,923.87	2705.03 El Salvador Water Filter Project	\$6,256.50
1211.01	Accounts Receivable	(\$80.28)	2706.03 El Salvador Undesignated Funds	\$10,767.82
1212.02	KK Contract Receivable	(\$1,562.28)	2707.03 El Salvador Designated Funds	\$3,075.00
1212.06	Knox Contract Principal	\$770,432.48	2708.03 Compañeros	\$197.10
			2709.03 Coffee	\$5,976.94
			2712.03 El Salvador Scholarship Fund	\$1,200.00
			2713.03 Two Rivers SynSchool Scholarship	\$550.00
			2714.03 Two Rivers Meals-Heartland	\$633.25
	Total Current Assets	\$1,551,616.98	Total Current Liabilities	\$52,460.87
Property and Equipment			Long-Term Liabilities	
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	Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$0.00
			Total Liabilities	\$0.00
Other Assets		\$0.00	Net Assets	
			3910.01 Net Assets	\$85,988.65
			3910.02 Net Assets-Program Fund	\$491,991.24
			3910.03 Net Assets - In & Out Fund	\$5,350.70
			3910.05 Net Assets - Swan Fund	\$20,139.12
			3910.06 Net Assets - Commissions	\$809,596.50
			3910.07 Fund Balance - Endowment Fund	\$15,475.89
			3910.08 Net Assets-Colfax Fund	\$24,881.28
			Surplus/(Deficit)	\$126,006.37
	Total Other Assets	\$0.00	Total Net Assets	\$1,579,429.75
	Total Assets	\$1,631,890.62	Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,631,890.62

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...**Presbytery of Des Moines****Restricted Funds
as of July 31, 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.	\$41,981.92
Swan Fund	Interest earnings to be used for seminary students' assistance.	\$25,225.40
Albia/Pitzer Fund	To be used for the assistance of small churches in the Presbytery.	\$18,475.51
Knox Knolls-Camping Fund	3/4 of interest to be used for camping program. 1/4 of interest to be used for Presbytery causes.	\$310,088.29
Walther Fund	To be used for scholarship aid for physically or mentally-challenged youth and/or children in need.	\$21,894.58
Colfax Fund	To be used for church development with interest to be placed in Colfax Fund Money Market.	\$22,923.87
Total of Funds		\$440,589.57

First American Bank

Pastor Emergency Fund	To be used for short-term loans for pastors.	\$2,847.59
Colfax Fund Money Market	To be used for church development.	\$1,899.35
Clifton Heights Money Market		\$78,281.05
Montezuma CD		\$78,640.01
Total of Accounts		\$161,668.70

E – LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT

Creation of the Positions of Presbytery Pastors Report from the Leadership Council July 26, 2013

The Leadership Council was charged with visioning for the ways in which Des Moines Presbytery would carry out its ministry as the Presbytery looks into its future.

This process has been a wide-ranging conversation, yet one of the central areas of focus has been on how to vision about a way to carry out the work of Congregational Care and Development Committee (CCD) and Professional Care and Development Committee (PCD). In light of the new Form of Government with its less structured approach to this work, there are significantly less absolutes in putting together the way a Presbytery operates in regard to these committee areas. It should be acknowledged that the process of visioning has taken longer than anyone on the Leadership Council would have anticipated.

A small task group of four persons of the Leadership Council began the process of visioning nearly two and half years ago. The task group collectively listened to the members of CCD and PCD about the current structure of these committees with reflection on its successes and its shortcomings. It should be acknowledged that persons on the task group as well as the currently elected committees have expressed a return to a model of one committee such as the Committee on Ministry in operation under the former Form of Government.

With the new Form of Government and with the current realities of the Presbyterian Church (USA) this model of a Committee on Ministry is not the suggestion of the Leadership Council.

The task group has discussed its work and progress at nearly every Leadership Council meeting in the last two and half years. The task group reviewed different proposals from across the denomination about ways to carry out the work. The task group has used its collective experience on these committees in Des Moines Presbytery and in other presbyteries. Three of the four group members had served as Moderator for one of the current Presbytery committees and the fourth person had served numerous terms on the committees. In addition, two members of the task group have served on similar committees in other presbyteries.

The task group divided the work into the *functions* of these committees using Des Moines Presbytery's current Manual of Operation, past experiences, and current loopholes in models in operation.

The task group also believed it was essential to develop a process by which Teaching Elders and their family members would receive care and compassion that would be at its core confidential. This is to say that such care would remain confidential from anyone in the official structure of the Presbytery – not the General Presbyter (or whatever this position will be called in the future) or the structures that will replace CCD and PCD would have access to the conversations with Teaching Elders and families in a newly launched form of ministry. The task group sought to create a *safe place* for these persons to receive front-line ministry. This ministry would be a way for the targeted persons to learn of other services offered through the Board of Pensions as well as local resources.

The task group had concluded recently to follow a model discovered from Greater Atlanta Presbytery with a group developed for the purpose of offering confidential care for Teaching Elders and their family

members. The task group reflected on this model for a few months with the Leadership Council and concluded this model would be too cumbersome. The task group brought the possibility of the model to PCD. Members of the current PCD believed that there is a great need for this sort of ministry and urged the Leadership Council to get on with it.

From all of this thought, conversation, research, and prayer, the Leadership Council presents the experimental model of selecting two Presbytery Pastors for an initial nine month run. These persons will be:

- Members of the Presbytery who will work without compensation to provide compassionate care to the target audience of Teaching Elders and their family members.
- Will be reimbursed for mileage and additional expenses such as meals with people in the targeted audience.
- Will be knowledgeable about services offered through the Presbyterian Board of Pensions
- Will refer persons with more in-depth needs to appropriate resources
- Will break confidence *only if* there is an expressed threat of doing harm to self or others.

In careful reflection, the Leadership Council seeks Presbytery Pastors who are:

- Persons who can have a track record of holding confidences as well as significant experience in parish ministry.
- Will include one man and a one woman.
- Will be selected by the Leadership Council and affirmed by the Presbytery.

Please note this model is an *experiment*. The *field testing* of the model will allow the Leadership Council to review its effectiveness with input from the Presbytery Pastors. The input from the Presbytery Pastors *will not* include stories of confidential information gathered, but an overview of their work.

At the conclusion of the nine month run, the Leadership Council will present its finding and with likelihood of creating positions of Presbytery Pastors.

Current scholarship about living out the work of the church in 21st century indicates that oftentimes *experiments* have to be tried to figure out what will be feasible in the current set of realities in the church. It is likely this model will continue to be tweaked as the Leadership Council continues to lead the Presbytery in visioning about its future.

E – LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT continued...**Proposed Restructure of Duties of CCD & PCD
July 19, 2013****Congregational Health Task Force**

- Conduct biennial visits with congregations
- Contact churches every month for update and determine how each church is doing
- Refer specific needs and concerns to the appropriate task force or other Presbytery groups
- Administer, coordinate and evaluate special funds requests for mission projects for the Presbytery
- Meet with the Teaching Elder or Commissioned Ruling Elder at least once a year or upon request

This task force will have a membership of no fewer than nine. It will elect its own moderator who will serve on the Task Force Council.

Congregational Transition Task Force

- Approve terms of dissolution between Teaching Elders and congregations
- Work with Sessions as they determine next steps when Teaching Elder transitions
- Work with Session/PNC in creating appropriate CIF and/or job description
- Work with Session/PNC in creating terms of call
- Assist Session/PNC in interview process
 - Oversee equal opportunity employment action
 - Interview candidates
- Debrief search committees
- Hold exit interviews with persons leaving positions

This task force will have a membership of no fewer than five. It will elect its own moderator who will serve on the Task Force Council.

Congregational Challenge Task Force

- Deal with difficulties within congregations as they arise
- Mediate conflict between Sessions, Congregations, and Teaching Elders
- Make requests to the Presbytery Leadership Council for Administrative Commissions when warranted
- Counsel with Sessions and Congregations regarding inappropriate conduct
- Counsel with Teaching Elders regarding inappropriate conduct
- Make referrals to the Presbytery Pastors
- Make recommendations in regards to dissolution of relationships

This task force will have a membership of no fewer than seven. It will elect its own moderator who will serve on the Task Force Council.

Church Professional Task Force

- Approve individuals seeking to be on the Pulpit Supply List for the presbytery
- Approve individuals seeking to transfer membership to the presbytery but not accepting a call
- Identify and organize continuing education opportunities for church professionals

- Make recommendations to the Presbytery in regards to annual compensation for Teaching Elders and Certified Christian Educators including minimum standards
- Conduct annual compensation package surveys for other church professionals to be shared with the presbytery and personnel committees
- Review and approve validated ministries, members-at-large, and Certified Christian Educators

This task force will have a membership of no fewer than five. It will elect its own moderator who will serve on the Task Force Council.

Congregational Task Force Council

- Coordinate efforts between the following Task Forces:
 - Congregational Health Task Force
 - Congregational Transition Task Force
 - Congregational Challenge Task Force
 - Church Professional Task Force
- Facilitate communication and information-sharing among the Task Forces
- Ensure duties of each task force are completed in a timely manner
- Communicate with the Presbytery regularly on the activities of the Task Forces

This council's membership will consist of the moderators from each of the Task Forces. This council will meet monthly and whenever situations warrant. This council may request the presence of any presbytery staff or officer for advisory assistance. It will elect its own moderator.

K – SOCIAL MINISTRIES TASK FORCE REPORT

August 17, 2013

JUST NEIGHBORS

SMTF is pleased to present the Just Neighbors Award and brand new traveling banner to Art for El Salvador (www.facebook.com/ArtForElSalvador). Maria and Niah Howard are members of First Presbyterian Church of Dallas Center. We are now accepting nominations for the November award; nomination forms are available at our display table, at the Presbytery Office, and online.

CROSSING THE DESERT OF HOPE AND FEAR SEMINAR

BorderLinks, Tucson, AZ, September 24-29, 2013

Nine delegation members are preparing for the BorderLinks experience. Make plans now to hear from them after their return! Contact Rev. Liz Knott (elizabethknott84@gmail.com) for more information.

SERMON CONTEST

Congratulations to Rev. Marcy Campbell whose sermon was selected by the judges as the winner of the “Welcoming the Stranger” sermon contest!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- 2013 CROP Walks – find out when your local Walk is scheduled!
- Latino Heritage Festival, Des Moines – look for the Compañeros’ El Salvador booth
- Peacemaking Offering – suggested date: Sunday, October 6th, World Communion Sunday
- Compañeros 2013 Fundraiser – the evening of October 12th; contact Betty at the Presbytery Office or any Compañeros member for tickets
- Rural Partnership Offering – designate a Sunday for your congregation to receive the 2013 RPO; materials are available online at the Presbytery of Des Moines.
- Hope for the Hungry – November 16, 2013, 8:30 to 3:00, at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Des Moines; contact Hunger Action Enabler Nancy Lister-Settle for information and how to register (neitherthecat@gmail.com).

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.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Lister-Settle, moderator

C – COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY REPORT**Statement of Faith
Laurie Elizabeth Berry**

I believe in the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. I believe that the triune God is the creator of all things and scripture tells us that God looked upon creation and found it to be good. God created human beings, both male and female, in God's own image, but the man and woman disobeyed God and as a result sin became a part of human life on earth. God freed the people of Israel from the captivity of Egypt and made a covenant with them to be their God. Throughout the history of God's people God remains faithful, even when God's people are not faithful.

In Christ, who is God in the flesh, God so loved the world that he made a new covenant, and with Jesus Christ's resurrection forever conquered the claim of sin on the people of God. In life Christ gave us a vision of the glory of God and taught us to love God and to love one another. In Christ's suffering and death on the cross the power of sin and death were conquered. Christ came as a servant leader and with his life Christ teaches each one of us to be a servant of God and one another.

Just as the Holy Spirit inspired and sustained God's prophets in the Old Testament, so too it inspires and sustains us. The Spirit gives us the power to live for others and to proclaim the word of God to the world. The Spirit makes it possible for us to work together as the body of Christ. The Spirit sustains us, encourages us, inspires us and unifies us to serve God.

In Baptism we are claimed by God and sealed by the Holy Spirit as God's own children and we share in Christ's redemptive work of salvation. We are buried with Christ in his death and raised in his resurrection, a new creation in the Holy Spirit, joining in God's covenant to give us new life, to protect us from evil and to nurture us in love. In embracing the covenant we chose to turn our backs on evil, renounce sin and to serve as Christ's faithful disciple, confessing faith in Christ and in the church. In Baptism we are joined with one another, as scripture states "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all are one in Christ Jesus." (Gal. 3: 28). In Baptism we are bound together to love and serve God with joy until the day that God makes all things new.

Christ invites us to the Communion table and at that table we remember and give thanks and praise to God for all that God has done and all God is. We join with the faithful from all generations, past, present and future to glorify God for the gift of Jesus Christ. We remember Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection that released us from the slavery of sin and death and made us new creations in the Holy Spirit, We are united in Christ through that same spirit and acknowledge our need for God's grace and offer our lives in gratitude to be living sacrifices, proclaiming Jesus Christ to the world. We are nourished and sustained by the bread and the wine, symbolic of the body and blood of Christ, and are renewed by the elements to do God's work through the power of the Holy Spirit. In Communion we recall the last supper that Jesus shared with the disciples and together we anticipate the heavenly banquet that waits for us when Christ comes again and all things are made new.

I believe that the church is the body of Christ, and Christ is the head of the church. The church includes those who have gone before: the Old Testament men and women who were children of God's covenant, the apostles, our spiritual forefathers- and-mothers, and those who now gather together throughout the world to worship and serve God. The church is also those saints who are not yet born but who will

become disciples of the living Lord. All together we gather to worship God, to serve under the headship of Christ and to serve as Christ's faithful disciples and to share God's love with the world.

Statement of Faith Ekram Kachu

I believe in one God, who is Creator of all. He has revealed Himself in three different Persons, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And His attributes, He is one in being, essence, full of glory, eternal, infinite, sovereign, omniscient, everywhere, all-powerful, unchanging. Also God is holy, just, righteous, loving, gracious, merciful, and good.

I believe in the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is God incarnate, God in human form, the spoken image of the Father, who became human in order that He might reveal who God is and provide the means of salvation for humankind. I believe that Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary. He is truly fully God and truly fully human. I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for all people as a replacement sacrifice and He rose from the dead. He ascended to heaven in His glorified body and is now seated at the right hand of God as our High Priest.

I believe in the divinity and character of the Holy Spirit. He regenerates sinners and indwells believers. He is the agent by whom Christ baptizes all believers into His body. He is the great teacher who illumines believers' hearts and minds as they study the word of God. I believe that the Holy Spirit is the seal by which the Father guarantees the salvation of believers unto the day of redemption.

I understand that salvation is a gift of God. By the grace of God through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Christ died in our place and bore our sins in His own body. I believe salvation is received by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

I believe that the church, the body of Christ, is the visible church of Christ. Who is responsible for the wellbeing of fellow believers, peace and welfare of the others? I believe that the sacrament of Baptism with water is a mark by which a Christian believer begins a new life in Christ. I believe in the baptism of infants and adults. I also believe in the Lord's Supper as we unite with Christ's death and shed blood. The church is specially made to the growth of the kingdom of God that comes through witnessing the good news of Christ. I understand the Bible, comprised of the Old and New Testaments, and it is the reliable word of God, and it is God-breathed.

I believe that God created the angels to be His servants and messengers, that humankind is uniquely made in the image and likeness of God, that all humankind are sinful because of Adam's fall, that all human being choose to sin, and are totally unable to remedy this fallen state.

I believe in the return of Christ to the earth with His saints to establish His promised kingdom. I believe in the bodily resurrection all human beings, the saints, to everlasting joy and bliss.

Therefore, I believe that through the Love of God, Christ died for me and "once for all" while we were still sinner. I believe that the Holy Spirit helps and guides Christian believers so that they could understand the truth and mystery of the Bible and sanctifies them in their faith journey. As he loves the world and sent his only son, (1) God wants human beings to reconcile to him as well as to one another. I believe that the commandments of God are meant for good relationship between God and believers and

believers with their neighbors. Jesus condensed these commandments in to LOVE – “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with your entire mind. And love your neighbor as you love yourself.” (2) This love has to be extended to all nations in the rest of the World. The promise of salvation involves a responsibility of reaching to others. I believe in the “priesthood of all believers” was each individual member is call to ministry by God through the support of the Church and the Holy Spirit. This call includes all different ways of reaching out to our neighbors. Christ is alive in our hearts and in the scriptures. He charges us to continue his ministry as he promised us saying, “I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (3)

- (1) John 3:16
- (2) Luke 10:27
- (3) Matthew 28:20 (NIV)

J – GENERAL PRESBYTER REPORT

August 17, 2013

We live in a fearful culture. All we have to do is look at everything from gun sales to political debates to economic issues to teaching children about “stranger danger” to church issues. We wonder what’s going on and, more importantly, what’s going to happen to us. As I visit with folks from our presbytery congregations, no matter the size but especially those with smaller memberships, the wonder and fear about the future of congregations is very real and mostly the prime continuing conversation.

A little while back while in a devotional time, I came across these words from Amy Avery Hampton:

“There’s much we can be afraid of these days: the economy, our jobs, terrorism, devastating illness, even death. Perhaps we worry constantly about these. More likely, we worry about what affects us on a regular basis: our children, our marriages, our futures. We can live in a constant state of “crisis.” Our fear of being liked or wanted by others can increase our anxiety, even making us compromise ourselves to reach some favorable outcome.

“To live from a posture of fear becomes exhausting and lonely. It zaps our energy and robs us of the abundant life that Jesus came to give. May the amazement of the resurrection remind us that we no longer have to live lives of slavery to our fears.”

Some of our fears are “reasonable,” but some are at least based on incomplete, if not erroneous, information. One of these at least incomplete fears was lifted up to me when reading an article written by Steve Willis, an author published by the Alban Institute. Following this report is a copy of his article, *Being the Church Today*. In it, he lifts up some realities that we Presbyterians need to remember, grasp and come to understand. For me, his thoughts can help us live in our current reality and strive to serve Christ in hopeful spirits rather than bemoaning a current situation based on incomplete or incorrect memories of our past. I hope you find some thought-provoking insight from this article.

I have had a variety of places to go and things to do beyond the “regular” routine of my work. Some of these are:

- Participated in the annual retreat with ecumenical leaders in Iowa
- Met with several pastors
- Met with the Knox Administrative Commission
- Attended a meeting of the Leadership Team for our Tri-Synod conversations on sharing resources
- Attended the farewell reception for Eldred Kingery as Executive Director of Calvin Community
- Attended the 165th Anniversary Celebration at First Church, Des Moines
- Attended the 125th Anniversary Celebration of the East End Church in Ottumwa
- Attended worship at the Ankeny Church

- Preached a Trinity Church In Indianola and First Church, Atlantic
- Met with the Personnel Committee at First Church in Grimes
- Participated in a webinar on “Developing Emergency Plans and Operations for Houses of Worship
- Met with ecumenical leaders in the Des Moines area

If you'd like to learn more about any of these, please let me know.

I continue to be grateful to God for all of you and your areas of ministry. May these be filled with hope based on confidence in God's presence with us.

Yours in Christ,
Philip W. Barrett

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Being the Church Today

by Steve Willis

The numerical height of mainline Protestantism in the United States occurred in the year 1965¹. That was the year that the largest percentages of American people affiliated with and attended church. More Americans were going to church than at any other time in U.S. history. Where I live in the South, this "highpoint" is usually considered to have occurred several years later. The highpoint was the late 1960s, not 1776, when our nation was being born through a bloody rebellion against England, nor was it 1861, when our nation began the brutal internal struggle of the Civil War and saw the beginning of the end of slavery. Nineteen sixty-five was the year *The Sound of Music* premiered in New York City, the year that 3,500 U.S. Marines arrived in South Vietnam, the year that President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Social Security Act, establishing Medicare and Medicaid. Nineteen sixty-five was the year that CBS first aired *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. In other words, it wasn't that long ago. In the living memory of many church people are the days when we were most popular in our nation's history.

We tend to get nostalgic when thinking back on the church's role in American society. We have let our frustration with our fairly new status as the peripheral mainline of Protestantism today create a festering illusion in our minds. The change in our social location from being at the center of culture to moving toward the periphery has clouded our vision. We dream that once upon a time all our churches were big, bustling centers of activity, filled with children, distinguished by selfless service to the community, and immersed in happy, loving relationships between people.

Yet consider the reality of what churches actually looked like in this era. Less than a decade after the apex of American church growth, the Presbyterian Church in the United States (the former denomination of Presbyterians in the southern states) published the work of a task force reporting on the small church. By 1974 when this report was published, the southern Presbyterian Church was near its numerical

¹ Anthony G. Pappas, *Vital Ministry in the Small-Membership Church: Healthy Esteem* (Nashville; Discipleship Resources, 2002), 10.

height. The church was booming. So our nostalgic memories should be chastened by the reminder that in 1974, 73 percent of these churches had a membership of fewer than 250 members. And 44 percent of these churches had a membership of under 100 members!² So the truth is that even during the "glory days" the majority of our churches were small.

As mainline Protestants, we are still working through our fixation with numerical decline. We used to be the popular kid in class, but now-not so much. One response to this changing circumstance has been the creation of an unrealistic mental picture: once we were a great and glorious church, but now we are doomed to the dustbin of history. This fanciful delusion keeps us from seeing the ministry right in front of us. This Camelot-like dream diverts us from both the joys and the challenges of being the church today. We have romanticized our triumphs. We have confused our former popularity and status in the culture with being the church of Jesus Christ. We pine for the glories of our misremembered past.

So today, as we evaluate the church through relentless, overbearing market analysis, we mistakenly use dominant culture tools to understand our present situation. We have less power, less money, and fewer numbers. So we think we must be dying, because life can only be measured by numbers and money. Right? Ironically, the proof of our decline is not lessening power, money, and influence but rather our commercialized, dominant-culture idolization of the market. We see our situation through the same spectacles that the dominant, secular American culture views the world. The problem is not that we are getting smaller and more peripheral. The problem is a lethargic faith imagination and a graceless covenant love.

Small churches, especially small rural and neighborhood urban churches, have an advantage in this changing context. They are less likely to be stuck in the unrealistic, pining daydream about past power and prestige. These churches did not feast on the popularity boom of the fifties and sixties. Here, one will not see reminders of the glory days; no sanctuary that will seat five hundred; no pictures of hallowed ministers from yesteryear: no monuments to influence and position.

Small, peripheral-church folk may bemoan the waning influence of Christianity on American culture. But this is a different kind of lament. And after the last decade's shameless greed and endless military campaigns, they have good reason to bemoan the loss of Christian influence. The small-church lament is not about being left behind. It was always behind, always out of step, and always at the margin. The small-church lament is that things are not as they should be. And that lament has a long, important tradition in the life of covenant people. Angry protestations about declining membership rolls and budgets do not offer a prophetic word to the church. But paying closer attention to people and places and speaking out about who people are and what they are created for carry the potential for genuine transformation.

Healthy, vital, peripheral churches continue to tell and, more importantly, show people that they belong to God. In many different contexts, through many different styles of worship, with many different theological perspectives, the small church embodies the truth that human beings belong to God.

This article is adapted and excerpted from *Imagining the Small Church; Celebrating a Simpler Path* by Steve Willis, copyright © 2013 by the Alban Institute. All rights reserved.

² Task Force on Ministry to the Small Church to the 113th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, *Strengthening the Small Church for Its Mission* (The Presbyterian Church in the United States, 1974)