



## Presbytery of Des Moines

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REV. PHILIP W. BARRETT, GENERAL PRESBYTER & STATED CLERK  
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May 23, 2014

### CALL TO A SPECIAL MEETING

A Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines has been called for Saturday, June 7, 2014. The meeting will be held at the Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Indianola, Iowa. Directions and a map are included with this Call.

This meeting has been requested by the Cottage Grove Administrative Commission. Using guidance from the 2009-2011 *Book of Order*, Section G-11.0201, the make-up of the Commission meets the criteria of members required for the calling of a special meeting – two Ruling Elders and two Teaching Elders, the two Ruling Elders being from different churches.

Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m., and the meeting will convene at 9:30 a.m. It is anticipated that the meeting will end by 12:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served during the Registration time. **There will not be a noon meal**, so those attending should make plans for lunch following the meeting.

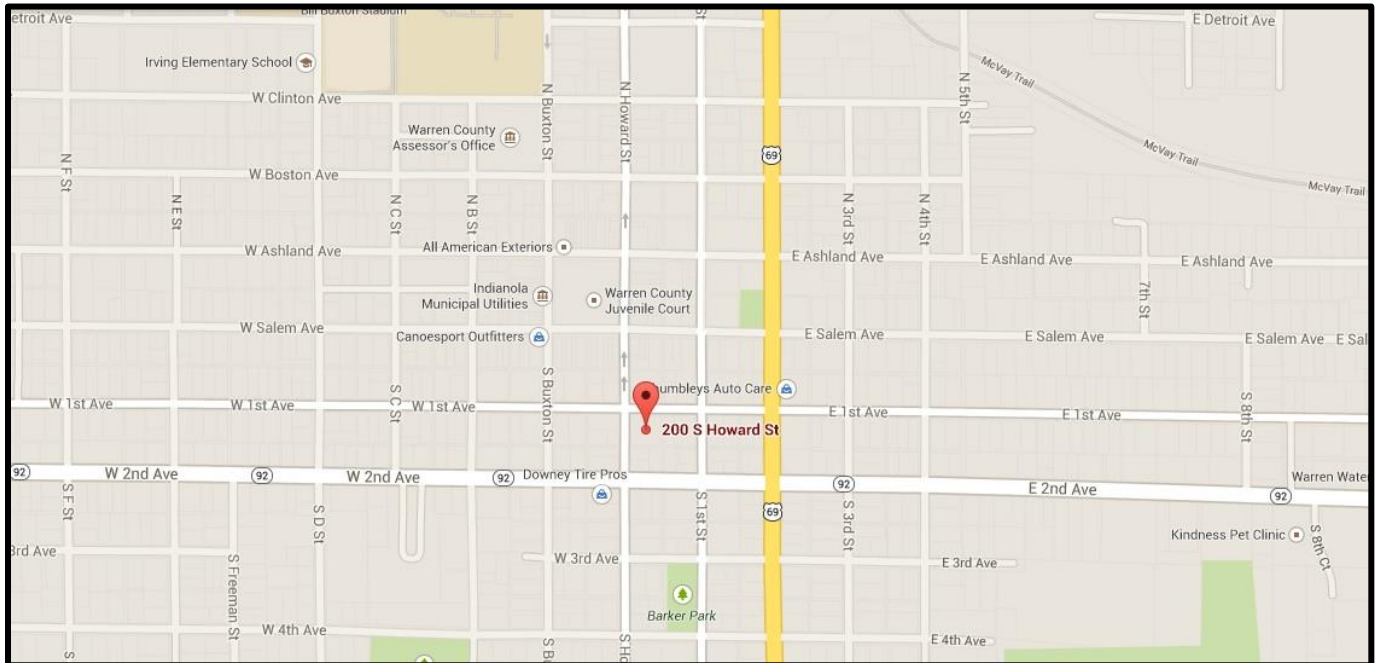
The purpose of the meeting is to hear the report from the Cottage Grove Administrative Commission and to act on recommendations from the report. This Report was distributed at the May 20, 2014 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery and is also included in this notice.

**No other business may be conducted at this meeting.**

If there are any questions about this meeting, please contact me at 515-276-4991 or [pbarrett@dmpresbytery.org](mailto:pbarrett@dmpresbytery.org).

Philip W. Barrett  
Stated Clerk

## Map to Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Indianola, Iowa:



**Driving Directions:** Trinity United Presbyterian Church is located at 200 S. Howard St.

If you are coming into Indianola from:

- the **NORTH** – on Hwy 65/69 – travel to E. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave (one block before Hwy 92) and take a right. The parking lot for the church will be on your left in one block. That will be the back side of the church, or the parking lot entrance.
- the **SOUTH** – on Hwy 65/69 – travel to the junction of Hwy 92 and take a left. Go one block and take a right on S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. The parking lot will be on your left in ½ block. Take a left into the lot and the church will be straight ahead.
- the **EAST** – on Hwy 92 – travel to the junction of Hwy 65/69. Continue on one more block to S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. and take a right. The parking lot will be on your left in ½ block. Take a left into the lot and church will be straight ahead.
- the **WEST** – on Hwy 92 – travel to S. Howard St. (2 blocks before Hwy 65/69) and take a left. The church building will be on your right in ½ block. To reach the parking lot, continue to E. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. and take a right. The parking lot is directly behind the church building on your right.

**Parking:** There is a parking lot directly behind the building on the east side. There will also be plenty of street parking.

**Building Accessibility:** The building is completely accessible from the east side – on the side of the parking lot.

**Entrance:** You may enter the building from the west on Howard Street or from the east from the parking lot.

## **GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION IN PRESBYTERY MEETINGS**

Meetings of our Presbytery are always special because it is a time for the Presbytery family to gather for conversations, business and fellowship. Many different people come to a Presbytery meeting for many different reasons.

When our Presbytery meets, we welcome and encourage participation. There are times, however, that participation is limited. Those times are ordinarily when our Presbytery is conducting its formal business. Because our Presbyterian structure calls for elected Commissioners to determine direction and act on business, only those who are elected Commissioners or are members of our Presbytery are allowed to participate in discussions or voting. Visitors and guests become observers of the process at that time.

At other times in our meetings, each person present is invited to participate in dialogues, conversations, or other activities. Such times include worship, special thematic presentations and small group discussions.

If you are not sure when you may participate in what is happening in the meeting, please talk to the Moderator or Stated Clerk individually.

## PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES AT-A-GLANCE

TO DO THIS	YOU SAY THIS:	MAY YOU INTERRUPT SPEAKER?	MUST YOU BE SECONDED?	IS THE MOTION DEBATABLE?	IS THE MOTION AMENDABLE?	WHAT VOTE IS REQUIRED?
Adjourn the meeting	"I move that we adjourn."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Not amendable	Majority vote required
Recess the meeting	"I move that we recess until..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Amendable	Majority vote required
Complain about noise, room temp, etc.	"Point of privilege."	May interrupt speaker	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	No vote required <sup>3</sup>
Suspend further consideration of something	"I move we table it."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not Debatable	Not amendable	Majority vote required
End debate	"I move the previous question."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not Debatable	Not amendable	Two-thirds vote required
Postpone consideration of something	"I move we postpone this matter until..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Amendable	Majority vote required
Have something studied further	"I move we refer this matter to a committee."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Amendable	Majority vote required
Amend a motion	"I move that this motion be amended by..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Amendable	Majority vote required
Introduce business (a primary motion)	"I move that..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Amendable	Majority vote required
<sup>1</sup> The motions or points above are listed in established order or precedence. When any one of them is pending, you may not introduce another that is listed below it. But you may introduce another that is listed above it. <sup>2</sup> In this case, any resulting motion is debatable. <sup>3</sup> Chair decides						
Object to procedure or to a personal affront	"Point of order."	May interrupt speaker	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	No vote required, chair decides
Request information	"Point of information."	If urgent, may interrupt speaker	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	No vote required
Ask for a vote by actual count to verify a voice vote	"I call for a division."	May not interrupt speaker <sup>2</sup>	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	No vote required unless someone objects <sup>3</sup>
Object to considering some undiplomatic or improper matter	"I object to consideration of this question."	May interrupt speaker	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	Two-thirds vote required
Take up a matter previously tabled	"I move we take from the table..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Not amendable	Majority vote required
Reconsider something already disposed of	"I move we now (or later) reconsider our action relative to..."	May interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable if original motion is debatable	Not amendable	Majority vote required
Consider something out of its scheduled order	"I move we suspend the rules and consider..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Not amendable	Two-thirds vote required
Vote on a ruling by the chair	"I appeal the chair's decision."	May interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Not amendable	Majority vote required
<sup>1</sup> The motion, points, and proposals listed above have no established order of precedence. Any of them may be introduced at any time – except when the meeting is considering one of the top three matters listed in the above chart (motion to adjourn, motion to recess, point of privilege). <sup>2</sup> But division must be called for before another motion is stated. <sup>3</sup> Then majority vote is required.						

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## **PROPOSED DOCKET**

**June 7, 2014**

**Special Meeting**

9:00 a.m.	Registration Begins Fellowship and Refreshments	
9:30	Call to Order and Opening Prayer	Nancy Lister-Settle
9:35	Opening Processes Quorum Statement Adoption of Docket Reading and Explanation of Call	Nancy Lister-Settle  Phil Barrett
9:40	Report from Cottage Grove Administrative Commission	Rich Harbart
12:30 p.m.	Adjournment and Benediction	

## **O-3 – COTTAGE GROVE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORT**

**June 7, 2014**

### **FINAL REPORT**

#### **PHILOSOPHY, VALUES AND BELIEFS**

Our mission is defined first and properly by our given name: an Administrative Commission. Our hope from the very beginning is that we honor God, the deep history of the Des Moines Presbytery and the ministry of the members and all associated with Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church (CGAPC).

- To honor that history we desire to affirm and continue the presence of God's love in this world and in this time and place.
- To commit to the future, we wish to build for the next generation of mission and ministry.

Therefore, we have come to embrace the following:

- I. We are a gathered people whose first and final purpose is to give glory to God and serve the Human Family.
- II. We reconfirm we are a missional and connectional Presbytery as evidenced by:
  - The Mission of the Church as expressed in the Book of Order (F-1.01-F-3.04)
  - Fifty-seven congregations engaged in ministry
  - Historical acts of mission and ministry over the years in many places
- III. As a Commission, we cannot emphasize strongly enough the deep appreciation and gratitude we have for the Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian congregation and the heroic commitment of all who have long labored. Today we honor Rev. Dr. David Madsen and Dr. Roberta Victor along with Rev. Dr. Bob Cook and Sharon Baker, as well as other current and past ministers, staff and members who have contributed to the amazing ministries of Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church.
- IV. We believe this local church has given birth to significant and imperative ministries, and those ministries, embedded in Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, are a unique and critical mission field of the Presbytery.
  - The gathered community of worship and mission (originating and Sudanese)
  - CROSS Ministries
  - El Salvador ministry
  - Other acts of love and support for the poor, marginalized and underserved that happen as a matter of course in the daily activity of this congregation and our shared Christian presence.
- V. We acknowledge and celebrate the commitment that has brought General Assembly agencies, the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, Presbytery of Des Moines and many of its congregations and individual members, ecumenical partners, non-profit organizations, and philanthropists together to labor in common interest.

## **OUR RECOMMENDATION FOR THE WAY FORWARD**

The Administrative Commission for Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church recommends reshaping and reforming the structure so the ministries and mission can continue in this building.

We envision the church building becoming **Cottage Grove Presbyterian Mission Center** that may be home for:

- Worshiping communities,
- CROSS Ministries,
- Church offices,
- Offices for Presbytery of Des Moines,
- Ecumenical and community agency administrative offices,
- Social and health service agencies,
- Other agencies with like agendas.

## **TO ACT ON THAT RECOMMENDATION AND ACHIEVE THAT VISION:**

### **1. Continue the Mission**

**We invite** the Presbytery of Des Moines to engage formally as intentional partners in support of the work God is doing at Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church. *The church participates in God's mission to the world through its ministry and worship.* [BOO, W-7.1001]

In this way the Presbytery can more purposefully join Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church as it continues to be a vehicle of grace to the world – in this case a neighborhood in need of hospitality, healing, and hope - a place claimed and loved as home by not only the Sudanese but other newcomers to the Des Moines area, as well as the faithful remnant.

### **2. The Building**

**We recommend** that the building located at 24th and Cottage Grove in Des Moines be repurposed as a mission center for the Presbytery of Des Moines and be transitioned to become the Cottage Grove Presbyterian Mission Center. **We recommend** that the Presbytery of Des Moines assume control of the building. The Presbytery of Des Moines will create and subsequently partner with a Covenant Council (see #3 below) to plan, fundraise and rehabilitate the building to make it a safe, clean, and reliable structure. *The property of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), of its councils and entities, and of its congregations, is a tool for the accomplishment of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world.* [BOO, G-4.0201]

The commission recognizes that there is nothing currently being done at Cottage Grove that could not be done elsewhere. However, the building which currently houses the Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church has many attractive features, including location within walking distance for many Sudanese and CROSS clients, historical significance, and recognized as a place of hospitality for refugees locally, nationally, and internationally and as the “home” for many Sudanese who have lost their original homes through war and strife.

Volunteer architects, building contractors, and preservationists have determined the building is structurally sound, though in need of many repairs. Through the generosity of Presbyterians and others, the boiler and roof have been replaced and repaired in recent years. We encourage the

Presbytery to pursue National Register of Historic Places status for the building, already determined to be eligible by the state Historic Preservation Office. This recognition could lead to grants for building improvement projects.

### 3. The Covenant Council

**We recommend** that a Covenant Council for the Cottage Grove Presbyterian Mission Center be appointed under the auspices of the Presbytery. The Covenant Council will create the functional apparatus that brings the new mission center and its operations into existence. They will design and develop the shape and direction of that mission and ultimately lead it to become financially self-sustaining. Realizing that fundraising is an immediate need, the Covenant Council should quickly take responsibility for fundraising. The Covenant Council will report to Presbytery.

It may draw upon as many and varied leadership resources as needed to do its work. It should be made up of representatives from Presbytery, the session, CROSS, ecumenical partners, building tenants, community leaders, and other stakeholders.

### 4. Continue a Worshipping Community

This worshipping community has existed for one hundred and twenty four years (construction for the current building began 100 years ago) and **we recommend** that a worshipping community continue in that place. The Cottage Grove tradition has been to welcome and embrace all who walk through its doors. Currently, three language groups worship within the building: English, Mabaan and Arabic. **We recommend** that the session be reformed to include lay leadership that reflects the fullness of that diversity: ethnicity, gender, age, etc.

Our plan includes relieving the congregation of the financial responsibility of the building (see #2) and the current pastoral leadership (see #7) so they can move into the future that God has planned for them.

### 5. Presbytery Offices

**Key to our recommendation** is that the Presbytery of Des Moines move its offices into the building to underscore its commitment to *partner with congregations and clergy to minister in a changing world*.<sup>1</sup> As a powerful symbol of the Presbytery's commitment to mission, it would lead to greater awareness of a need for rural and urban congregations to work together in a variety of mission fields.

The move would be financially sound, and provide a home for the Presbytery's offices. Personnel, equipment, and supplies could be shared, resulting in more savings. The site is centrally located and easily accessible via Martin Luther King, Jr., Parkway and I-235.

### 6. CROSS Ministries

**We recommend** that CROSS (Christians Reaching Out, Seeking to Serve) Ministries become a ministry of the Presbytery of Des Moines. The Commission believes that the services CROSS offers are vital and should be continued. It would do so most efficiently under its current director, Dr. Roberta J. Victor. The Commission envisions CROSS Ministries as under the care of Des Moines Presbytery, but independently operated under its own Board so as to avail itself of funding from within the Presbyterian Church as well as from without. To accomplish this goal, the federal and state 501(c)3 non-profit status of CROSS will need to be moved legally from

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<sup>1</sup> Presbytery of Des Moines Mission Statement



Cottage Grove to the Presbytery. This must be done in a timely fashion so that current grants CROSS is receiving are not endangered. CROSS Ministries, as a social outreach program committee of the Cottage Grove Session, has been serving the homeless and near homeless since 1975.

CROSS has been supported by the Presbytery of Des Moines, the faith community, social service organizations, fundraisers, grants and caring individuals. It is one of only a very few non-profit organizations in Des Moines that perform such emergency functions. It is a ministry that was originally created to meet the emergency survival needs of those being served.

In 2010 Cottage Grove Church, through CROSS Ministries and the Des Moines Area Religious Council, added the services of an emergency food pantry, open on a weekday afternoon and Saturday mornings, to serve the needs of people who were unable to avail themselves of such services during workday hours. Since 1989 CROSS has sponsored a Back to School Backpack Giveaway serving up to 1500 children each fall.

## **7. Pastoral Leadership**

### **Rev. David Madsen**

Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery, and Rev. Madsen have given the Sudanese their lives back by accepting them and helping them as refugees. It is now time for them to take charge of their own future.

Rev. David Madsen is a wonderful ambassador for the Sudanese and the love and respect that he has for them is mutual and obvious. The Commission celebrates and respects Rev. Madsen's work and ministry.

Rev. Sam Atiemo, PC(USA) Associate for African Emerging Ministries, visited with the Commission and the congregation. After his five-day visit, he observed that "The Sudanese at Cottage Grove started out as a mission, but they are evolving as a ministry." In order for this worshipping community to survive and thrive, Rev. Atiemo believes the Sudanese need to have a period of transition (it could take a while) where they determine their own needs, formulate their own plan and then eventually call leadership of their choosing. He stressed that, on the outset of this effort, the Sudanese worshipping community will absolutely need outside financial and logistical support, but they need to develop their own program themselves and then they will be able to operate independently.

Along with property upkeep and maintenance as well as other day-to-day expenses, the congregation no longer has the resources to fund pastoral leadership in the manner in which it has been provided. We recommend changing pastoral leadership to reflect the congregation's actual ability to fund such a position. We regretfully recommend the pastoral relationship between Rev. Dr. David Madsen and Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church be dissolved when the Presbytery funding of his salary package ceases on June 30, 2014.

[The amount of money authorized for the allocation to Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church by the Presbytery of Des Moines to enable it to continue operations through June 30, 2014 was \$61,418. To date, as of May 15, 2014, the amount expended totals \$46,103. A detailed accounting of the total expended by Presbytery will be provided shortly after June 30, 2014.]

### **Rev. Goanar Chol**

The Rev. Goanar Chol is an employee of the Presbytery of Des Moines. Considering the recommendations and changes suggested in this report, we recommend that the Presbytery Personnel Committee reassess his position. In order for the next generation of leadership among the Sudanese to develop and for them to determine their own leadership needs, we recommend that Rev. Chol's gifts be used in other ways than in serving with the Sudanese at Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church.

We have observed that the interpretive arena seems to be a particular passion and skill for Rev. Chol. He especially excels at conveying the suffering of his people after many years of war and conflict in South Sudan. He has proved instrumental in mediating among the differing tribes in his country, and has been recognized internationally for these efforts. He has raised funds for vital projects, such as water purification, in South Sudan. His strength is in the national and international domain and is recognized for his work at the Synod and General Assembly level. Therefore, we recommend that our Presbytery continue to encourage Rev. Chol to pursue this passion and vocation and assist him to further focus and participate where his gifts will be best utilized.

## **8. Ecumenical Partners**

**We recommend** that we continue the involvement of ecumenical partners and interested stakeholders from the private sector.

- Additional partners could include churches that have historically provided financial and volunteer resources to Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, as well as the Muslim and Jewish communities with connections to Cottage Grove and the Sudanese.
- The interested stakeholders include the parties that currently or may potentially utilize the Cottage Grove building. They include the Sudanese worshippers, the present congregation, Presbytery (building landlord), African Council, CROSS Ministries, Drake Neighborhood Association, Drake University, and social service agencies. These are entities that will likely see the value in a Cottage Grove Presbyterian Mission Center.
- There will be opportunities to enlist the support of other faith communities outside the Presbyterian Church that have a relationship with the Sudanese. Although the majority of Sudanese who live in Des Moines worship and congregate at Cottage Grove Church, a small portion of them worship in other churches throughout the Des Moines area. Sudanese are attending worship services in eight metro Des Moines area churches and one mosque. The other churches are Catholic, Episcopalian, and Lutheran and, like the Presbyterians, reflect their missionary presence in Sudan since the early 1900s. From previous research we know these churches recognize and affirm the valuable role Cottage Grove has played as "home" to the Sudanese.

The following requests will be made of each entity:

1. An affirmation of the vision of Cottage Grove Presbyterian Mission Center as an ecumenical center for the community, as detailed in this report.
2. A commitment to participate as a stakeholder in the formation, development, and management of the center.
3. A commitment to provide resources determined appropriate by the particular stakeholder.
4. A commitment to provide a representative to serve on the Covenant Council.

## **9. Transition**

**We recommend** that Presbytery immediately form the Covenant Council and it be given the responsibility and authority of administering the transition.

*In conclusion, the Commission would like to dearly thank all of the many people of the Des Moines Presbytery and the Larger Church who gave freely and lovingly of their time, wisdom and knowledge to assist us in our work, who care for the life and mission of Christ's Church and have created the supportive environment out of which this report is given. We are certain that due to the enormity of our task, there may be things we have missed, so...*

**Please help us with your thoughts.**

*We invite you to send them via email: [cgpccom@gmail.com](mailto:cgpccom@gmail.com)*

**Members of the Commission:**

Harold Eklund  
Ronald Grohe  
Virginia Hancock  
Richard Harbart  
Shamaine Chambers King  
Elizabeth Knott  
Joanne Page

**Associate Members:**

Louise Gately  
Jack Ratekin

Respectfully Submitted,  
Richard Harbart, moderator