



Presbytery of Des Moines

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

August 4, 2014

TO: Commissioners to the Special Presbytery Meeting (June 7, 2014)
FROM: Philip W. Barrett, Stated Clerk
SUBJECT: Minutes

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Presbytery, held June 7, 2014 at the Trinity United Presbyterian Church or Indianola, Iowa, are found following this letter. Most of you will receive them by downloading them from the Presbytery website (www.dmpresbytery.org).

Please read these carefully to remind yourselves of what occurred and to make sure they are accurate. Please send any corrections to me, preferably in writing. Sending an e-mail to me is the easiest way to do this. (pbarrett@dmpresbytery.org)

This was a meeting that had much conversation, prayer, thought and emotion as we considered what would happen in the Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church building and the congregation . After prayerful thought, consideration, conversation and listening, difficult decisions were made. You will be reminded of these as you read through the Minutes.

If you are going to be a Commissioner to the August 16, 2014 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery, please bring these with you. If not, please be sure that the person who will be attending from your congregation knows to go to the website to look at these Minutes since they will be submitted for approval at the August Meeting.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your participation in this important decision-making time.

REMEMBER – The Call for the August 16, 2014 Presbytery Meeting will be posted on the Presbytery's Website at www.dmpresbytery.org about 10 days prior to the meeting.

The Presbytery of Des Moines of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held a specially-called meeting at Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Indianola, Iowa, on Saturday, June 7, 2014. The meeting was convened at 9:00 a.m. with prayer by Moderator Ruling Elder Nancy Lister-Settle.

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	E	E
Allerton, United	Ross Blount	E	E
Ankeny	James Koopman	P	E
Ankeny	Sue Tomlinson	E	-
Atlantic, First United	Holly Smith	E	E
Audubon, First	Roger Claxton	P	Jay D. Mendenhall
Bedford, United	Randy S. Allman	E	E
Brooklyn, First	John Reynolds, Jr.	E	E
Carlisle, Scotch Ridge	Christopher (Kip) Harris	P	Mitch Lacquemont
Centerville, First	Suzanne Gorhau	P	E
Chariton, First	Sarah Keyser (SS)	P	A
Clive, Heartland	John Cole	E	Joyce Hoffman
Clive, Heartland	Barbara Nish	E	-
Corning, First	Ken Rummer	P	Gary Badgett
Creston, First	James Woodworth	P	E
Creston, Platte Center	Dolores Doench	P	Chuck Erickson
Dallas Center, First	Adam Smith	E	Ryan Coon
Deep River, United	Michelle Williamson	E	E
Des Moines, Central (2)	Judy Winkelpleck	P	Susan Smith
Des Moines, Central	-	-	Louise Gately
Des Moines, Cottage Grove Avenue	David Madsen	P	Pamela Rees
Des Moines, Douglas Avenue	Richard Harbart	P	Harold Eklund
Des Moines, First	Ken Stuber	P	Midge Slater
Des Moines, Fort Des Moines	Greg Smith (HR)	E	Linda Francisco
Des Moines, Highland Park	VACANT	-	E
Des Moines, Park Avenue	Claude J. Jones (HR)	E	E
Des Moines, Union Park	John W. Gilmore	P	Joyce Rash
Des Moines, Westminster (3)	Scott Paczkowski	P	Ted Coppock
Des Moines, Westminster	Ken Arentson	E	Jack Ratekin
Des Moines, Westminster	Dick Kiefer (HR)	E	Roxanne Neary
Des Moines, Westminster	Bill Ekhardt	E	-
Dexter, First	David Kincaide	P	E
Diagonal, United	Ed Shields	E	E
Earlham, First	Robert Waldron, CRE	E	E
Gibson, First	Hans Cornelder	E	E
Gibson, White Oak	Hans Cornelder	E	E
Greenfield, First	David Kincaide	P	E
Grimes, First	Jessica Wietzke	P	Cyndy Bolsenga
Grinnell, First	Kirsten Klepfer	P	Karen Phillips

CHURCH	MINISTER	P/A/E	COMMISSIONER
Guthrie Center, First	Denis R. James, Sr.	E	E
Hartford, Community United	Nathan Lamb	P	Charles Casson
Indianola, Trinity United	David Endriss	P	Jim Pooley
Johnston, St. Paul	Bill O'Connell	E	Lois Kiester
Knoxville, First	Ramona Wink	E	E
Lenox, United	Tim Maxa	P	David Walter
Leon, First	VACANT	-	E
LeRoy, First	Dale O'Connell (HR)	E	E
Lucas, First	Marcy Campbell	P	E
Malcom, First United	John Reynolds, Jr.	E	E
Monroe	Ann Johnson	P	E
Mount Ayr, United	Mike Maddy	E	E
New Sharon, First	VACANT	-	E
Newton, First	Meghan Davis	E	Gary Parsons
Newton, First	Sara Hopkins	E	-
Newton, United	Donald Freeman	E	E
Oskaloosa, First	VACANT	-	Sharon Falck
Ottumwa, East End	Jane Martinez	E	E
Ottumwa, First	David Klanderman	E	E
Ottumwa, Westminster	Jane Martinez	E	E
Perry, First	Joan White	E	E
Sharpsburg	Tim Maxa	P	E
Sigourney, First	Kim Alten	E	E
West Des Moines, Covenant	Jan Scott	P	Peri Van Tassel
Windsor Heights, Windsor	Shamaine Chambers King	P	Ron Grohe
Winterset, First United	Jim Howland	P	Lori Ryner

OTHER MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY (MINISTERS)

Present: Philip Barrett, General Presbyter/Stated Clerk; Robert Burnett (HR); Goanar Chol; Jack DePond (HR); Donald Elly (HR); Elizabeth Knott (HR); Aaron Koskamp (HR); Dawn Linder; Jeffrey Means; Linda O'Connell (HR); Sara Speer Palmer (HR); Michelle Parsons; Sarai Schnucker Rice; Elizabeth Sandy (HR); Jim Wallace and Bob Zirkelbach.

Excused: Jay Basler (HR); John Beran (HR); David Braak; Pete Brantner; Tom Conrey (HR); Robert Cook (HR); Carl Cooper (HR); Ane Fitzgerald; Bruce Giese; Nancy Gorsuch (HR); Calvin Hsu (HR); Bill LeMosy (HR); Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy; Ray Martin (HR); John McElroy; Katherine Pater; Marvin Potter (HR); Kay E. Steddom (HR); Patricia Summers (HR); Russell Tomlinson (HR); Ron Van Heukelom (HR); Erasmo Vélez (HR); Lynn Williams (HR); and Francis Younkin (HR).

LAY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Present: Mary Lou Briles (DM, Park Avenue); Maurice Dyer (Indianola, Trinity United); Nancy Lister-Settle (Dallas Center, First) and Roberta Victor (DM, Cottage Grove Avenue).

VISITORS

Sharon Baker, Robert Finney and Kathryn Roblee (Clive, Heartland); Virginia Hancock, Elizabeth Smith and Val Smith (DM, Central); Margaret Ajawin, James Anaal, Florence Buhr, Phyllis Clay, Jam Duany, Ekram Kachu, Magdy Kachu, Lucia Macor, John McKenzie, T.J. McKenzie, Sally McKenzie,

Pat Stohlmann and Robert Dut Talang (DM, Cottage Grove Avenue); Mary Lou Aspengren (DM, First); Gary Modlin (DM, Park Avenue); Joanne Page and Will Page (DM, Union Park); Polk Davison, Dennis G. Moore and Ralph Schilling (DM, Westminster); Marta Miller (Grinnell, First); Marilyn Casson (Hartford, Community United); Barbara Koskamp (Indianola, Trinity United); John Eft (WDM, Covenant); Betty Dyer, Presbytery staff (Indianola, Trinity United); Amanda Duncan, Valerie Miller-Coleman, and D.J. Newton.

<u>MINISTERS (90 on roll)</u>		<u>ELDER COMMISSIONERS AND OTHERS</u>	
Present:	40	Present:	65
Excused:	54	Excused:	33
Absent:	0	Absent:	0

ADOPTION OF DOCKET

The Presbytery VOTED to adopt the Proposed Docket as printed and distributed with the Call to this meeting.

QUORUM STATEMENT

A quorum was present and declared so by the Moderator.

APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES

The Presbytery VOTED to grant excused absences to those requesting them as well as to all those unable to attend this meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

Moderator RE Nancy Lister-Settle announced that she had appointed TE Ken Rummer, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Corning, as Parliamentarian for this meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Many in attendance were not present as members or commissioners. In order to allow for participation by all interested parties, the Presbytery VOTED to grant privilege of the floor to the several persons requesting this privilege.

READING AND EXPLANATION OF THE CALL TO THIS MEETING

Stated Clerk TE Phil Barrett read the Call to this meeting and explained the reason for this meeting being called.

REPORT FROM THE COTTAGE GROVE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

TE Rich Harbart, Moderator of the Commission, presented the report which was distributed with the Call to this meeting. (This Report appears as *Appendix A* at the end of these Minutes.) He provided the history of what led to the formation of the Commission – the need for a new approach and ministry built on the foundation provided by the Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church. Through its year-long work, the Commission has discerned that God is calling the Presbytery to this new mission, and that it will be a demanding task, one much like the task facing the early Christian Church at Pentecost.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

The Presbytery broke into smaller discussion groups to share information, concerns and thoughts.

FORMAL CONSIDERATION OF COMMISSION REPORT

Following a brief recess, the Presbytery entered into formal deliberation regarding the proposals contained in the Commission's Report.

The Presbytery VOTED to amend the Report by replacing items 1 (Continue the Mission) and 4 (Continue a Worshiping Community) with the following:

- The Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church be dissolved.

The Presbytery then VOTED to approve the Commission's reports and its recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

Following the singing of a hymn, the Presbytery VOTED to adjourn.

Moderator Nancy Lister-Settle offered the closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Philip W. Barrett, Stated Clerk

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*.¹ 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 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

¹ Presbytery of Des Moines Mission Statement

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

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