



**Meeting Packet
for the 530th Stated
Meeting of the
Presbytery of Des Moines**



May 16, 2023

**Lenox United Presbyterian Church
Lenox, Iowa**

Moderator's Report	Nathan Williams
Nominating Committee	Marcy Campbell
Leadership Council	Ane Fitzgerald
Commission on Ministry Actions for Presbytery: Retirement Service for Rev. David Endriss Ordination Examination for Cindy Ray	Kristin Pike
Hymn, Scripture, and Sermon	
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	Tim Maxa
Executives' and Stated Clerk's Reports Pastor to the Presbyteries Administrative Executive & Stated Clerk	Ian McMullen Annika Lister Stroope
Budget & Finance Committee – p. xx March 2023/Q 1 Financial Reports	Nicole Wegele
Property Committee	Julie Will
Adjournment & Benediction	Nathan Williams

UPP Personnel Commission Report

Submitted by Jeff Stanley, Commission Moderator
April 30, 2023

1. The new financial reporting and accounting services contract supporting all three presbyteries and provided by Lakes and Prairies Synod seems to be progressing smoothly.
2. As of the end of February, UPP has \$252,080.56 in its checking account, with \$76,834 in allocated unpaid liabilities.
3. As of the end of February, UPP had received \$101,786 in support from the three Presbyteries and incurred \$84,832 in expenses with a net income of \$16,772.
4. We have completed a review of our personnel and financial procedures and policies in line with our bylaws and have updated both documents accordingly.
5. We have filled our part-time administrative position reporting to Jeannie Stolee. Mickey Van Baale from the Des Moines Presbytery started in the position on March 15 working ten hours a week, normally Tuesday through Thursday. She is working virtually from her current location and traveling to the Lakes office from time to time as needed. Early assessment of this new arrangement has been very positive.
6. As Mickey previously served on the Personnel Commission which created a conflict of interest, Mickey resigned from the Commission effective February 24. The Des Moines Presbytery Nominating Committee has been working to identify a new member to replace Mickey in short order. As a result, we have eight active members currently serving on this Commission.
7. The Personnel Commission and Executives plan to offer an on-line survey in May/June to seek input regarding the Shared Staffing model – what is going well, where we are falling short, and suggestions for improvement. Targeted audience would include all Presbytery leaders, pastors, and stated clerks. Listening sessions with each Presbytery Leadership Council will be held in the fall with survey results shared at that time with the Leadership Councils. A combined meeting with all Councils is being considered for later this year, details TBD.
8. The lease on the current Sharp copy machine, which was brought up to the Lakeshore office from the Des Moines office, expires in June. The Commission approved the outright purchase of a Canon copier for \$3,700 and the associated cassette feeding unit for \$375, with the funds taken out of the Search & Start account. In addition, an Image Care Agreement for service and warranty would also be funded from Search & Start. The cost paid monthly over a three-year period would be $\$35.87 \times 12 = \$430.44/\text{year} \times 3 \text{ years} = \$1,291.32$.

REPORT OF THE NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY COMMITTEE TO PRESBYTERY FOR MAY 2023

The New Worshiping Community Committee convened in April to meet with an individual who has a sense of calling to work in beginning a new worshiping community within the bounds of the Des Moines Presbytery. This meeting allowed time for us to both hear about the process by which the individual came to feel this calling and to discuss possible next steps. Further discernment and assessment will be pursued.

During the time since the last stated meeting of Presbytery, the committee has also:

- *Presented a progress report to Council
- *Continued demographic research
- *Made plans to begin “on-site” research in potential NWC locations
- *Prayed for guidance

The Committee continues to welcome input from members of the Presbytery. Please direct any questions or input to co-chairs Bill O’Connell and Eric Pasanchin.

Committee on Promotion of Social Righteousness Report

Declaration of Faith -

Members of the three presbyteries diligently worked on a theological declaration in response to social justice issues of concern. CPSR supported the resulting document which was presented at the February Presbytery meeting. *For Crying Out Loud: A Declaration of Faith* was meant to promote thoughtful discussion for our faith community. We encourage discussion and revisions to this document, as we have heard from comments since its presentation.

Restorative Actions -

Restorative Actions is an initiative that helps mid-councils, congregations, individuals and agencies respond to systemic racism by reviewing wealth and opportunity that has been withheld from African American and Indigenous people and communities for generations. More information can be found at the website restorativeactions.org. An educational speaker will be invited to the May Presbytery meeting and there will also be a short time for small group discussions.

Mental Health Advocacy -

We continue to discuss the mental health crisis in our communities, state, country and how we can respond as a faith community. The lack of providers, especially in the rural areas of Iowa remains a concern. Awareness and advocacy for the mental health crisis are a continuous agenda item for this committee.

International Peacemaker -

We have applied to host a peacemaker through the International Peacemaker Program for the fall of 2023. Our request has been submitted for a visitor from the United Kingdom, Greece, El Salvador or South Sudan. When confirmed, we will be asking for assistance with housing, transportation, meals and locations/events for speaking around the Presbytery. This is always an insightful and rewarding program for involvement from all the churches.

Special Offerings/General Mission -

We encourage each church to prayerfully continue a General Mission pledge for 2023 and support the special offerings throughout the year. For those churches that have inquired, we are continuing the Harvest Offering to offer grants to rural areas, especially for women in agriculture.

TE Alex Thornburg (Clive, Heartland) alexthornburg@gmail.com

TE Kirsten Klepfer (Grinnell, First) buihikim.klepfer@gmail.com

RE Larry Anderson (Newton, First) wilsand95@yahoo.com

RE Margaret Blair, Moderator (Indianola, Trinity) mablair57@gmail.com

Our Sister Parish 2022: Who We Are

The Pastoral Team of Berlín

The Pastoral Team has served the people of Berlín for more than 30 years. They organize and educate community leaders, facilitate project requests, financially manage projects, fulfill basic requests for health, education, food, and clothing that come to them every day, and provide pastoral care to the people of Berlín.



Left to right: Luis Balmore Guardado, Blanca Lidia Cruz de Guardado, Cecilia del Rosario Coreas, Teresa Idalia Coreas, Ana Margarita Chicas, César Alejandro Coreas, Elmer Josué Coreas, Santos de Jesús Cruz

Our Sister Parish Board

The Board manages the Iowa side of the mission. They educate people in the Presbytery of Des Moines and others about the work of the mission, assist churches in organizing delegations, promote mission projects, fundraise, and help the churches of Iowa to work together to improve the lives of people in Berlín.

Officers for 2022:

- **Interim Liaison:** Kathy Bassett
- **Moderator:** Margaret Blair
- **Vice Moderator:** Mike Bassett
- **Secretary:** Alisha Lundberg
- **Co-Treasurers:** Sue Burns, Mark McAdoo
- **At Large:** Kathy Bassett

Don Justo Coffee Coordinators:

- Betty Dyer
- Maurice Dyer

Co-Worker Search Committee:

- Steve Gude
- Steve Hopkins
- Rev. Dave Kincaide

Churches: Sister Partnerships and Church Representatives on the Board

- **Ankeny, Ankeny Presbyterian Church:** Canton El Corozal; *Marcia McAdoo, Mark McAdoo*
- **Art for El Salvador:** Caserio Mediagua; *Maria Howard, Niah Howard*
- **Atlantic, First United Presbyterian Church:** El Rescate; *Bettie Siggins*
- **Carlisle, Scotch Ridge Presbyterian Church:** *Rev. Kip Harris*
- **Clive, Heartland Presbyterian Church:** Caserios Centro/Cerna, Canton El Tablón; *Kathy Bassett, LuAnn Smith*
- **Dallas Center, First Presbyterian Church:** Canton Virginia; *Jim Howard*
- **Des Moines, Central Presbyterian Church:** Pastoral House; *Mike Bassett*
- **Des Moines, Intentional Eucharistic Community (DMIEC):** *Steve Gude*
- **Des Moines, Westminster Presbyterian Church:** Canton San Francisco and Caserios Los Yánez, Los Jimenez, Las Cruces, Los Rosales, and El Cimarrón; *Alisha Lundberg*
- **Indianola, Trinity United Presbyterian Church:** Caserios Casa de Zinc and Casa de Zacate; *Margaret Blair, Betty Dyer, Maurice Dyer, Renee Little, Juli Coulthurst*
- **Presbytery of Des Moines, South Central Regional Partnership:** *Rev. Linda O'Connell, Rev. Dale O'Connell*
- **Presbytery of Des Moines, Southwest Regional Partnership:** Caserio Alejandria; *Gary Badgett, Rev. Tim Maxa*
- **Presbytery of Long Island, NY:** Cantón Santa Cruz; *John Hile*
- **West Des Moines, Covenant Presbyterian Church:** Canton San Isidro; *Deb Kellogg*

HOW YOU, TOO, CAN BE AN AWESOME OSP SUPPORTER

Donate: Send donations to Our Sister Parish, PO Box 71632, Clive IA 50325. Unless otherwise designated, donations will go to the General Fund, which supports the overall mission needs and pays the Co-Worker. To specify a designation, include that information with your donation. You can make a one-time donation on-line here: <http://oursisterparish.org/donate.htm>.

Get involved: The Our Sister Parish Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Contact info@oursisterparish.org to confirm location and time. You can also use this email to request a monthly donation form to set up recurring payments of any amount.

Buy/serve Don Justo Coffee with Dignity® coffee: Call 515-988-1766, Email donjustocoffee@gmail.com or visit oursisterparish.org/buy-coffee to order or find out where you can go to purchase in person.

Learn More: Visit and like the Our Sister Parish page on Facebook, the Our Sister Parish website at oursisterparish.org.

Visit Berlín: Come with us on a delegation--or schedule a delegation from your whole church! All are welcome. Visit the Our Sister Parish website and click on the "Delegations" tab (<http://oursisterparish.org/delegations.htm>).

Become a Sustaining Donor: Contact osp@oursisterparish.org to set up automatic, recurring donations from your credit card or checking account.

Lakeshore Center at Okoboji Update— May 2023



We are enjoying a beautiful, productive spring at Lakeshore Center. With gratitude to churches, individuals, and many volunteers Lakeshore is much closer to being ready for summer,

Recent highlights include:

- The Mariners in Mission Group: 19 volunteers from across the country spent a week at Lakeshore doing things like remodeling, painting, and organizing.
- Spring Clean up: Volunteers helped with painting, plumbing, and deep cleaning.
- Summer staff recruiting continues. We still have a few counselor openings and are in need of lifeguards and kitchen staff. If you know potential staffers 18 or older who would be a good fit, let us know. We have a partnership with Buena Vista University that includes a tuition grant for residential or online students.
- Summer Camp Registration: We are coming up on 100 registered for Summer Camp and hoping for more. Registration is open online and we have camps for all ages from preschool through adult family camps. More info is on our website (www.ilovelakeshore.org) and we can email out fliers and our poster (program@ilovelakeshore.org)
- Lakeshore staff will be on the road this summer— we're sending summer staff to Spirit Lake and Fort Dodge for VBS programs. We're also sending staff to Synod School to help with Middle School programming and to be part of that week.

Upcoming News:

- We will have a weekly worship service at Lakeshore Sunday mornings at 10 am from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.
- We will unveil a fall and winter retreats schedule at the Iowa Presbytery gathering.
- A few churches have reached out about having a church-wide retreat at Lakeshore. If your congregation is interested in something like that, let us know and we'll take a look at the calendar and float some possibilities.

As always, we are grateful for your support. Please pray as we head into a new season that God would bless us with a safe and fruitful summer. If you have ideas or need a getaway of your own, I'm always glad to talk.

Blessings! Rev. Sara Sutter, Director
director@ilovelakeshore.org 712-337-3313

PRESBYTERY OF DES MOINES
MINUTES OF THE 529th STATED MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2023

The 529th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines was called to order with prayer by Moderator the Rev. Nathan Williams on February 11, 2023, at 9:31 a.m. The meeting was held at First United Presbyterian Church, Winterset, Iowa, and via videoconferencing using the Zoom platform.

FORMATION OF THE ROLL

The following commissioners and members were registered for this meeting (**P**resent, **A**bsent, **E**xcused):

CHURCH	MINISTER	P/A/E	COMMISSIONER
Adair, First	Bob Zirkelbach	P	A
Allerton, United	Melanie Halferty	P	A
Ankeny	Eric Pasanchin	P	Mary Kleis
Ankeny (PA)	Sue Tomlinson	P	A
Atlantic, First United	Rachelle McCalla	P	Gaylord Schelling
Audubon, First	Philip Beisswenger	P	A
Bedford, United	Vacant	----	A
Brooklyn, First	Vacant	----	Marilyn Miller
Carlisle, Scotch Ridge	Christopher (Kip) Harris	P	A
Centerville, First	R.D. Blount	A	A
Chariton, First	Vacant	----	Ellen Keyser
Clive, Heartland	P. Alex Thornburg	A	A
Clive, Heartland (PA)	Robert Houser	A	----
Corning, First	Jessica Paulsen	E	Jackie Butcher
Creston, First	Cynthia Ripperger	P	A
Creston, Platte Center	Dolores Doench	P	Chuck Erickson
Dallas Center, First	Nicole Wegele	P	Carolyn Rogers
Deep River, United	Michelle Williamson	A	A
Des Moines, Central (2)	Wallace Bubar	A	David Boyd
Des Moines, Central		----	----
Des Moines, Douglas Avenue	Patricia Summers	P	A
Des Moines, Douglas Avenue	Val Smith	A	----
Des Moines, First Arabic	Ekram Kachu	A	A
Des Moines, Fort Des Moines	Vacant	----	A
Des Moines, Union Park	Doug Basler	A	A
Des Moines, Westminster (3)	Scott Paczkowski	E	Roxanne Neary
Des Moines, Westminster	William Ekhardt	A	----
Des Moines, Westminster (PA)	Jan Scott	A	----
Dexter, First	Robert Waldron	P	A
Diagonal, United	Ed Wegele	P	A
Earlham, First	Robert Waldron	P	Frank Smith
Gibson, First	Bob Elgin	A	A
Grimes, First	Carl Lee	A	A

CHURCH	MINISTER	P/A/E	COMMISSIONER
Grinnell, First	Kirsten Klepfer	P	Charlaine Ewan
Guthrie Center, First	Jolene James	P	A
Hartford, Community United	Kristin Pike	P	Ann Polito
Indianola, Trinity United	David Endriss	P	Barb Yearous
Johnston, St. Paul	William O'Connell	P	Eldon Young
Knoxville, First	Ann Johnson	P	A
Lenox, United	Tim Maxa	P	Vera Bradley
LeRoy, First (United Trinity Parish)	Donna Murphy-Ceradsky	A	A
Lucas, First	Vacant	-----	A
Malcom, First United	Vacant	-----	A
Monroe	Ann Johnson	P	A
Mount Ayr, United Baptist	Ed Wegele	P	A
Newton, First	Meghan Davis-Brass	P	Mickey Van Baale
Newton, First (PA)	Linda Curtis-Stolper	P	-----
Newton, United	Donald Freeman	P	A
Oskaloosa, First	Amy McGriff	P	A
Ottumwa, First	William Hornback	A	A
Ottumwa, Westminster	Vacant	-----	A
Perry, First	Lynne Hanna	P	Brian M. Parker
Sharpsburg	Tim Maxa	P	Kiley Sherwood-Pollard
Sigourney, First	Vacant	-----	A
West Des Moines, Covenant	Nathan Williams	P	Pam Rees
West Des Moines, Covenant (PA)	Marcy Campbell	A	-----
Windsor Heights, Windsor	Shamaine Chambers King	P	Dwight Tomes
Winterset, First United	Vacant	-----	Pam Deichmann

OTHER PRESBYTERY MEMBERS	STATUS	P/A/E
Ken Rummer	HR	E
Jack DePond	HR	P
Elizabeth "Betty" Sandy	HR	E
Sarai Schnucker Rice	HR	P
Kim Alten	HR	E
Jay Basler	HR	E
John Beran	HR	E
Peter Brantner	HR	E
Theron (Tom) Conrey	HR	E
Carl Cooper	HR	E
Hans Cornelder	HR	E
Don Elly	HR	P
Barbara Gaddis	HR	E
Bruce Giese	HR	E
Nancy Gorsuch	HR	E
P. Calvin Hsu	HR	E
Claude Jones	HR	E
David Klanderman	HR	E
Elizabeth Knott	HR	E
Aaron Koskamp	HR	E

William LeMosy	HR	E
Barbara Nish	HR	E
Dale O'Connell	HR	E
Linda O'Connell	HR	E
Craig Palmer	HR	E
Sara Speer Palmer	HR	E
Marvin Potter	HR	E
Nancy Profit	HR	E
John Reynolds Jr.	HR	E
Greg Smith	HR	E
Ken Stuber	HR	E
Barbara Tooker Todd	HR	E
Roger Todd	HR	E
Ronald VanHeukelom	HR	E
Erasmus Velez	HR	E
Lynn Williams	HR	E
Francis Younkin	HR	E
Sue Tomlinson	HR	E
Judy Winkelpleck	HR	P
Ane K. Fitzgerald	Director, Harmony River Living Center, Hutchinson, MN	P
Jane Martinez	At-Large	P
Maricarmen Campos Castro	At-Large	P
J. Mark Howland	At-Large	A
Michelle Leaverton	At-Large	A
Dawn Linder	At-Large	A
James Koopman	At-Large	A
Za Thawng Lian	Mizo Church of Des Moines	A

VISITORS – CHURCH	NAME
Brooklyn First	Lisa Whitmarsh Peterson
Carroll First	Kathy Francis
Des Moines Central	Joanne Page
Dallas Center First	Nancy Lister-Settle
West Des Moines Covenant	Ann McGowan
Windsor Heights Windsor	Cindy Ray
Newton First	Larry Anderson
Newton First	Linda Anderson
Indianola Trinity United	Margaret Blair
Village, Prairie Village, KS	Sarah Keyser
Indianola Trinity United	Maurice Dyer
Indianola Trinity United	Betty Dyer
Des Moines Union Park	Kathy Smith
Ankeny	Sandy Wagener

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS	
CHURCH	NAME
HR	Richard Francis
Presbytery of North Central Iowa	Sara Sutter
Presbytery of North Central Iowa	Christine Kaplunas

LAY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL	
COMMITTEE	NAME
COM Vice Moderator	Polk Davison
Leadership Council	Nate Boulton
Living Legacy	Carlyn Crowe

PRESBYTERY STAFF	
Administrative Executive & Stated Clerk	Annika Lister Stroope
Mission Executive	Amgad Beblawi
Pastor to the Presbyteries	Ian McMullen
Office Manager	Jeannie Stolee

MINISTERS (91 on roll)		ELDER COMMISSIONERS and OTHERS			
Present	35	Present	45	Total Present	80
Excused	36	Excused	0	Total Excused	36
Absent	20	Absent	30	Total Absent	50

TE=Teaching Elder (Minister of the Word and Sacrament)

RE=Ruling Elder

CRE=Commissioned Ruling Elder

HR=Honorably Retired

M/S/C=Moved, seconded, and carried

The Moderator acknowledged the Native American homeland on which the church is located, the B́axoje Ḿaya (Iowa) and the Očhéthi Šakówiŋ.

RE Kevin de Regnier welcomed the Presbytery to First United Presbyterian Church.

Administrative Executive and Stated Clerk TE Annika Lister Stroope gave an introduction to the hybrid meeting (in-person and online) format.

TE Sue Tomlinson, RE Carolyn Rogers, TE Kirsten Klepfer, TE Don Elly, RE Ann McGowan, and TE David Endriss led the Presbytery in worship. TE Kirsten Klepfer preached, basing her sermon on Matthew 5:21-27. TE David Endriss officiated at Holy Communion, with REs Mike Dickerson, Ruth Reed, Don Stanley, and Kay Stanley of the Winterset Church serving. RE David Boyd led the Presbytery in an installation service for Moderator Nathan Williams. Connie Banks was organist for the service, Brian Dickerson provided ASL interpretation, and Kevin de Regnier and Mike Dickerson provided audio-visual support. An offering was taken to benefit CRISP (Community Resources in Service to People), a Winterset-based non-profit with programs benefiting children and families.

Administrative Executive and Stated Clerk Annika Lister-Stroope declared a quorum to be present.

First time commissioners and guests were introduced.

M/S/C to approve excused absences.

TE Richard Francis, a member of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill, Recording Clerk; TE Sara Sutter, member of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa and Executive Director of Lakeshore Center at Okoboji; and TE Christine Kaplunas, member of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa were seated as Corresponding Members

The Docket was approved by consent.

The Consent Agenda was approved by consent.

- Personnel Commission (see Appendix)
- Camping and Youth Ministries (see Appendix)
- New Worshiping Communities (see Appendix)

The minutes of the November 12, 2022, Stated Meeting were approved with one correction: the report of the Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian of Greenfield was presented by TE Sarai Rice.

TE Nathan Williams gave the Moderator's Report.

TE Kirsten Klepfer and TE Christine Kaplunas presented the report of the Committee on the Promotion of Social Righteousness Declaration of Faith (see Appendix).

Members of the Leadership Council led the Presbytery in Holy Conversation on issues raised by the Declaration of Faith. The report of the Leadership Council is attached (see Appendix).

The Presbytery recessed for lunch at 11:43 a.m. The Moderator led the Presbytery in a prayer of thanksgiving for the meal.

The Presbytery reconvened at 12:34 p.m.

The Moderator asked the members of the Presbytery to share the names of those in need of prayer.

RE Dwight Tomes presented the report of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM). On behalf of the Commission, he made the following motion: "Mr. Moderator, having successfully completed the requirements of candidacy set forth by the Presbytery of Des Moines and the PC(USA), we ask that Ellen Keyser Endelman be examined by the presbytery to become certified for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament, pending a call." Ellen's Statement of Faith is attached (see Appendix). After examination by the Presbytery, Ellen was escorted from the room and the Presbytery discussed the motion. The motion passed, and Ellen was escorted back into the room to a standing ovation from the Presbytery. Dwight led the Presbytery in prayer for Ellen.

It was moved and seconded to direct the CPM to investigate whether the accommodations for Candidates with disabilities are sufficient, and to discern how best to communicate the Presbytery's concerns to the denomination. Following discussion, the motion passed.

TE Kristin Pike presented the report of the Commission on Ministry (see Appendix). Included in the report are the Terms of Call for all Ministers of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbytery.

Staff Reports

- Pastor to the Presbyteries TE Ian McMullen reported on his work. He began by lifting up the work of Commissioned Ruling Elders and encouraged the members of the Presbytery to help identify potential CREs in the congregations of the Presbytery. He encouraged the members of the Presbytery to call him when there are problems, either personal issues or congregational issues.
- Mission Executive RE Amgad Beblawi reported on his work. He shared a story written by William Barclay on the mission of the Church, and called the Presbytery's attention to the phrase in the Book of Order that describes the Church's life and mission as "a joyful participation in Christ's ongoing life and work." (F-1.0201) Amgad also encouraged the members of the Presbytery to participate in efforts to provide relief to the victims of the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey.
- Administrative Executive and Stated Clerk Annika Lister Stroope reported on her work. She called the Presbytery's attention to the upcoming joint meeting with North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill Presbyteries to consider and vote on changes to the Book of Order approved by the 2022 General Assembly. She reminded the Presbytery that this is the year for staff evaluations, and an evaluation of the three-presbytery sharing agreement.

TE Sara Sutter, Executive Director of Lakeshore Center at Okoboji, reported on changes at the Center. Staff shortages prevented the Center from offering a summer camping program in 2022, but they are planning a full program in 2023, and she urged the members of the Presbytery to help find summer staff. Sara also spoke about the accommodations available at the Center for personal retreats, group retreats, etc., and about the scheduled adult programming.

The Moderator led the Presbytery in prayer.

RE Carlin Crowe presented the report of the Living Legacy Committee. They are looking at how their funds are being invested in the communities and will be reporting this back to the Presbytery. They are also encouraging churches to apply for grants.

TE Nicole Wegele gave the report of the Committee on Budget and Finance (see Appendix). Also attached in the Appendix are the December 2022 financial report and the Year-End Financial Report for 2022. She noted that the Synod of Lakes and Prairies has begun handling accounting services for the Presbytery, as they do for several other presbyteries.

Administrative Executive and Stated Clerk TE Annika Lister Stroope presented the report of the Property Committee. She reported that the Des Moines Park Avenue building has been sold. RE Polk Davison presented the final report of the Administrative Commission for Park Avenue Church:

Report from the Administrative Commission for Park Avenue Presbyterian Church to the Presbytery of Des Moines

I wish to report that the Administrative Commission for Park Avenue Presbyterian Church has completed its assignment. The members elected to the Administrative Commission are RE Carol Ferrell, TE Randy Lubbers, and RE Polk Davison.

I wish to share with you what we have accomplished. The Commission was charged with the following:

- Distribute, repurpose or dispose of contents of church building per best practices of real estate.
- Retain and organize congregation archives per recommendations of the Presbyterian Historical Society.
- Cooperate with the Presbytery Property Committee regarding building usage, rental agreements and/or a sale process.
- Ascertain the financial status and outstanding financial obligations of the Session.
- Secure the Session records.

On July 6, 2022, the Session agreed to call a Congregational Meeting for July 10, 2022. The meeting was called for the purpose of informing the congregation of their present financial situation. Two recommendations were presented:

1. To vote to close the church.
2. To request the Presbytery of Des Moines appoint an Administrative Commission to work with the Session to guide the congregation through the process leading to the closure of the church.

With a quorum present, both motions passed.

On November 12, 2022, I made a report to the Presbytery of Des Moines that the closing worship service for Park Avenue would take place on Sunday, November 20, at 9:30 a.m. I further reported that the church abstract will be properly updated, all church records had been gathered, church finances were being put in order, and Gary Owens from the Property Committee was working to put the property up for sale. At that time, I asked for your prayers for the congregation, Session and staff of Park Avenue.

As of today, the Park Avenue paper files, archives and handbells are in the church fireproof closet.

Recent years' financial records have been transported to the Lakeshore office, thanks to Ian and Annika, and are in the presbytery storage files there. The W-2s for employees are being processed by accountant Matt Corwin, and a buyer for the handbells is being pursued. Miscellaneous church possessions have been distributed to members and other interested parties.

About half of the active members have either found a new church or are actively visiting. The remainder are planning to start visiting with warmer weather or are still overwhelmed and have no plans. But everyone is moving forward, some faster than others. Lakeshore Center at Okoboji would be delighted to receive the handbells.

I particularly wish to thank Pastor John Gilmore and Session members Lou Aldini, Mary Lou Briles, Joyce Hendrix, Gary Modlin, and Hazel Neil (who also served as office secretary) for their tireless work, dedication and love for the church.

Again, thank you to the Commission members and presbytery staff for their valuable contributions to this process. This concludes my report.

By consent, the Presbytery dismissed the Administrative Commission with thanks. The Moderator led the Presbytery in a prayer of thanksgiving for the life and ministry of the Park Avenue church, and for the ministry of the Administrative Commission.

No other business appearing, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Nathan Williams at 2:07 p.m.

The next called meeting will be via Zoom on April 27, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

The following written reports were also received and are included as Appendices:

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Presbytery Report – May 4, 2023

The Commission on Ministry continue to meet monthly as a group with liaisons also in contact with their churches. Biennial visits are being held with churches and liaisons are being trained in the specifics of their role on COM.

- Rev. Meghan Davis-Brass requested a change in her terms of call at Newton First. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the amended terms.
- Windsor Presbyterian Church has approved Cindy Ray to serve as a part-time Parish Associate. Cindy would provide leadership in worship, spiritual formation, member care, and pulpit supply for other churches. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve Cindy in this position. Cindy will be examined at the Presbytery meeting for ordination.
- CLP Carl Lee was appointed as Moderator in Grimes once his membership was transferred to a congregation in Des Moines Presbytery
- Several elders have come forward to investigate training to become CLPs in our presbytery. These names have been sent to CPM.
- Rev. Bob Zirklebach has announced his retirement in Adair for the end of 2023.
- Rev. Dave Endriss is retiring from Trinity, Indianola, and his reception will be on Sunday, May 21 from 1:00-3:00 pm
- We concurred with the contract for Ane Fitzgerald to serve outside the bounds of presbytery
- Several churches are in the process of interviewing candidates for positions
- We have a number of churches coming open in the next month and we are always looking for interims, bridge pastors, and stated supply pastors.
- We discussed the changes to the Book of Order and are in the process of training liaisons on the changes and working on changes to our information for them.
- COM will have an in-person training meeting in June, August & October

Rev. Kristin Pike, Moderator

Actions for Presbytery:

Retirement service for Rev. Dave Endriss

Ordination Examination for Cindy Ray

