

The Presbytery of Prospect Hill  
 Stated Meeting – March 12, 2016  
 First Presbyterian Church, Carroll, Iowa

The Presbytery of Prospect Hill met for a regularly called meeting on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at the First Presbyterian Church, Carroll, Iowa.

A quorum was present as shown by the following roll:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Occ Code</u>	<u>Teaching Elder</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Ruling Elder</u>	<u>Cluster</u>
Alta		Vacant	-	-	-	Mike Pedersen	4
Alton	105	Harlon DeJong	A				1
Armstrong	101	Suzanne Wobig	A				2
Auburn	106	Don Gibson	P			Steve Kent	5
Battle Creek	101	Kevin Freese	P			Stuart Kelley	5
Breda	106	Don Gibson	P			Charles Hundling	5
Bronson	101	Cyndy Ripperger	P			Wayne Scholtman	3
Carnarvon	117	Carl Lee, CRE	A				5
Carroll	101	Rikki Sorenson	P			Gordon Wade	5
Cherokee		Vacant				Margaret Woltman	4
Cleghorn	101	Peggy Hegeman	P				3
Denison		Vacant				Denise Philipp	5
Estherville	101	Vacant					2
George, Ebenzer	101	Dale Lint	P			Robert Van Briesen	1
George, Zoar	101	Dale Lint	P			Larry Hulstein	1
Glidden	101	Brian Camara	P				5
Hawarden	151	Erma Wolf	P				1
Ida Grove	117	Shari O'Bannon, CRE	A			Orlan Ehler	5
Lake City	101	Beth Harbaugh	E				5
Lake Park	101	Tim Harmon	P			Lesleigh Wiese	2
Lawton	101	Cyndy Ripperger	P			Beverly Logsdon	3
LeMars PLY		Vacant					3
LeMars PUCC	101	Jan Christensen	P			Mike Cunningham	3
Manilla	151	Vicki Fisher	A				5
Manning		Vacant				Bonnie Schmidt	5
Milford-Lakeshore Ctr	117	Beth Ehlers	P				2
Odebolt	117	Bill Crawford, CRE				Marne Barker	5
Paullina		Vacant				Marj Felton	1
Ringsted	101	Suzanne Wobig	A				2
Rockwell City	126	Mossman	A				4
Rolfe		Vacant					4
Sac City	101	Randy Russom	P			Ted Zimmerman	4

Sanborn	156	Gregg Johnson	A			1
Schaller	101	Sydnor, Michael	P			4
SC First	101	Tom Murray	P		Juliana Mayne/J Rarick	3
SC Faith United	101	David Koehler	P		Helen Lehnertz	3
SC Westlawn	107	Paul Speidel	A		Ron Thompson	3
SC Westminster		Vacant				3
SSC First	101	Stephen Niles	P		Dick Anderson	3
Spirit Lake	101	Clint Loveall	P			2
	103	Michael Gewecke	P			
Storm Lake	101	Chuck V-Hein	A			4
SL-SEA	117	Paul Maychen, CRE	A			4
Vail	101	Richard Francis	P		Fayleen Slechta	5
Wall Lake	117	Carl Lee, CRE	A			5
Westside	101	Richard Francis	P			5

### Other Ministers on the Roll of the Presbytery

**bold = present**

Beard, Clarence

Brinck, Peg

**Brown, Marshall**

**Dowell-Baum, M**

**Fells, Kenneth**

**Gibson, Donald**

Gray, Donna

**Hegeman, Peggy**

Johnson, Don

McKinley, John

Meissner, Ken

**Staff: Kay Lenhart**

*italics=excused*

Miller, Marvin

Moore, William

**Peters, Lorna**

Queen, Duane

Rozendaal, John

Saville, Stephen

**Shaffer, Richard**

**Sohl, Dennis**

Stepanek, Harold

Tollefson, Robert

**Ukena, B.J.**

Wentzel, Rex

### Officers of the Presbytery

2016 Moderator Brian Camara

Vice Moderator Lue Baker

Past Moderator Dennis Sohl

Stated Clerk Dennis Sohl

Treasurer Dick Drahota

Recording Clerk Richard Francis

### Elder Committee Members

Budget: Rebecca Brown

Camp:

COM: Lorna Peters, Marne Barker

CPM: Lue Baker

Nominating:

Bills & Overtures:

PW:

**Visitors: Eileen Sohl, Dave Graham, John Pea, Dave Freese, Cathie Bishop, Paul Campbell, Denise Philipp Patricia Carroll, Tami Trimble, Wayne Seaman, Shirley Seaman, Marcia Schumaker, Sara Sutter Steve Sutter, Bill & Lucille Geake**

**Corresponding Members: Ryan Dowell-Baum, Nathan Lamb**

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Moderator Dennis Sohl at 9:30 am.

Moderator Sohl led the Presbytery in a service of installation for Moderator-elect Teaching Elder (TE) Brian Camara and Vice-Moderator Ruling Elder (RE) Lue Baker. Moderator Camara was presented with the symbols of his office.

First-time Commissioners were introduced.

Moved, seconded, and carried (M/S/C) to seat Nathan Lamb TE from the Presbytery of Des Moines as a corresponding member.

The Presbytery was welcomed by Rev. Rikki Sorensen, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church.

The Presbytery moved to worship at 9:38 a.m. Participants in the service were Tim Harman, Sara Sutter, Tom Murray, Lue Baker, Brian Camara, and Marshall Brown. The Necrology Report for 2015 was presented during worship.

Teaching Elders:

Rev. Dan Lozer died June 8, 2015

Ruling Elders:

Alta, First Presbyterian Church

No Elder Deaths

Alton, First Presbyterian Church

Dawn Eason died January 2, 2015

Steven Scholten died January 8, 2015

Willam Freriks died April 10, 2015

Virginia Templeton died June 4, 2015

Armstrong, First Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

Auburn, United Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

Battle Creek, First Presbyterian Church

Virginia L. Rickabaugh died May 30, 2015

Breda, Wheatland Presbyterian Church

No report

Bronson, Elliott Creek Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

Carnavon, Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

Carroll, First Presbyterian Church Bonnie Christiansen died September 12, 2015

Cherokee, Memorial Presbyterian Church

James L McDonald died August 4 2015

Cleghorn, First Presbyterian Church

No Report

Denison, United Presbyterian Church

Marcia Burma died July 8, 2015 Joan Osterlund Died July 31, 2015

Estherville, First Presbyterian Church

Norma Strobe died December 10, 2015

George, Ebenezer Presbyterian Church

David Visser died February 14, 2015

George, Zoar Presbyterian Church

Myrna Lamfer died March 16, 2015

Glidden, First Presbyterian Church

Mary Walkup died May 13, 2015

Delores Leonard died December 23, 2015

Hawarden, Associated Church

No Report

Ida Grove, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Delbert Rohlk died June 29, 2015

Lake City, Lake City Union Church  
Gerald Redenius died January 7, 2015  
Betty Lois Yunek died April 19, 2015  
LaVon McCarty died November 19, 2015  
Alice Ann Dial died December 31, 2015  
Lake Park, First Presbyterian Church  
Joanne Wunder died April 22, 2015  
Donald Hamann died December 20, 2015  
Lawton, Community Presbyterian Church  
No Elder deaths  
LeMars, Plymouth Presbyterian Church  
No Elder deaths  
Le Mars, Presbyterian United Church of Christ  
Eddie Martfeld died February 5, 2015  
Manilla, United Church of Manilla  
No Elder deaths  
Manning, First Presbyterian Church  
No Elder deaths  
Odebolt, First Presbyterian Church  
Eleanor Lindstrom died May 18 2015  
Paullina, First Presbyterian Church  
Marilyn Ewoldt died August 26, 2015  
Pocahontas, United Presbyterian Church  
No Report  
Ringsted, First Presbyterian Church  
No Elder deaths  
Rockwell City, First Presbyterian Church  
No report  
Rolfe, Shared Ministries of Rolfe  
No report  
Sac City, First Presbyterian Church  
Mary Rahn died February 26, 2015  
Catherine Ringgenberg died August 26, 2015  
Ardys Zolnosky died December 12, 2015  
Sanborn, First Presbyterian Church  
No Report  
Schaller, First Presbyterian Church  
Dwayne Rydberg died March 16, 2015  
Alice Turnquist died November 4, 2015  
Sioux City, First Presbyterian Church  
Mary Gardiner died February 23, 2015  
Sioux City, Morningside Presbyterian Church  
Stuart Oliver died January 24, 2015  
Allen Tasker died April 25, 2015  
Ron Anderson died November 25, 2015  
Sioux City, Third Presbyterian Church  
Mary Tucker died February 8, 2015  
Kaye Ranger-Lefler died May 23, 2015  
Louise Winfield died October 15, 2015

Sioux City, Westlawn Presbyterian Church  
No report

Sioux City, Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Wayne Ducommun died January 22, 2015  
Gwen Cresap died February 3, 2015

South Sioux City, First Presbyterian Church  
Linda Acuff died March 22, 2015  
Helen Gatewood died April 26, 2015

Spirit Lake, First Presbyterian Church  
Lorene Gustafson died March 9, 2015  
Lammert Funk died March 14, 2015  
Lois Roghair died September 14, 2015

Storm Lake, Lakeside Presbyterian Church  
Wayne Forbes died January 22, 2015  
Edith Mudge died February 17, 2015  
L. H. Wagener died February 19, 2015  
Doris Inman died April 10, 2015  
Norman Bonnema died April 17, 2015

Vail, United Presbyterian Church  
Dick Blair died January 23, 2015

Wall Lake, Trinity Presbyterian Church  
No Elder deaths

Westside, United Church of Westside  
No report

An offering of \$466 was taken for the Family Crisis Center of Western Iowa.

The members of the Presbytery shared joys and concerns. Moderator Brian Camara led the Presbytery in prayer for the joys and concerns.

Brian then introduced three breakout sessions: one with the Committee on Ministry and Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs), one with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) and the Candidates under care, and one a Moderator's forum to discuss issues facing the Presbytery.

The Presbytery reconvened at 11:36. M/S/C to approve the agenda.

Beth Ehlers presented the report of the Lakeshore Center at Okoboji. She called attention to the written report. \$716,000 has been raised in the \$1.2 million capital campaign. Adrian McMullen will be heading up the next phase of the campaign. \$447,000 remains on the loan taken to complete the lodge. Plans are under way for the summer programming and staff is being hired.

M/S/C to seat Rev. Ryan Dowell Baum, United Church of Christ pastor from Sioux City, as a Corresponding Member.

TE Molly Dowell Baum asked to share information with the Presbytery during the new business section.

Stated Clerk Dennis Sohl presented information regarding changes at Buena Vista University. BVU will no longer offer a religion major, which prompts the school administration to request changes in the

Dr. R Norris Miller Fund (the text of the proposal is on the Presbytery web page). The University is also planning to eliminate the office of Chaplain and institute a Spiritual Life Director who would not necessarily be a Presbyterian Teaching Elder. Discussion was suspended by Order of the Day.

M/S/C to adjourn for lunch at 11:55 am. Rikki Sorensen led the Presbytery in prayer for the meal. She also introduced a mission program that First Presbyterian Church Carroll is involved in: an annual Easter Egg Hunt. The Presbytery was invited to spend some time helping to fill the eggs. Tami Trimble of the Family Crisis Center made a presentation to the Presbytery on the work of FCC.

The business meeting of the Presbytery resumed at 2:00 pm. M/S/C to approve the Consent Agenda.

M/S/C to delay action on the Dr. R Norris Miller Fund proposal until the Presbytery can gather more information. A friendly amendment was introduced to contact BVU with our preliminary concerns. The Clerk noted that he had received several questions about the proposal, and requested that any other questions be forwarded to him.

### **Nominating Committee:**

Cyndy Ripperger called attention to the written report of the Nominating Committee. The Committee nominated Nancy Alderton to the Moderator Committee. There were no nominations from the floor. M/S/C to accept the report of the Nominating Committee.

### **Committee on Ministry:**

Tim Harman called attention to the report of the Committee on Ministry (COM). He noted that Westminster Church, Sioux City, should have been included in Churches in Transition.

Activities/Actions Taken since the Last Presbytery Meeting on behalf of the Presbytery  
(Informational)

1. An Administrative Commission is in place to help the process of merging Morningside Presbyterian and Third Presbyterian into Faith United Presbyterian Church (Sioux City). The COM asks the Presbytery to pray for this and the newly formed congregation of Faith United.
2. COM continues to revise and consider the policies and procedures under G-2.10 for Commissioned Ruling Elders, Teaching Elder mentors, and those Ruling Elders Eligible to be commissioned. This is an ongoing process in cooperation with CPM. Gathering of CREs/Eligible RE and TE mentors as part of this presbytery meeting is one step in that process.
3. The Congregation of First—Schaller has called Rev. Michael Sydnor as pastor beginning February 1, 2016. The following package was approved by the congregation and by the COM. Michael was **also approved by the COM for membership as a minister-member in Prospect Hill Presbytery** pending transfer from New Covenant Presbytery at the January 12 meeting of COM:

- Cash Salary: \$28,210
- Housing: \$12,090
- Utilities Allowance: \$ 3,510
- Board of Pensions: \$ 15,971
- Moving Expenses: \$ 5,000

- Other:
  - Continuing Education: \$800 vouchered
  - Mileage: IRS rate vouchered to \$2,400
- 4 wks vacation 2 wks continuing education

We welcome Michael and pray with gladness with the Congregation at First- Schaller.

4. The Congregation of Memorial—Cherokee has called the Rev. Eric Wright as pastor beginning April 24, 2016. The following package was approved by the congregation and by the COM. **Michael was also approved by the COM for membership as a minister-member in Prospect Hill Presbytery pending transfer from Lackawana Presbytery at the February 16 meeting of COM:**

- Cash Salary: \$40,000
- Professional Expenses: \$500 vouchered
- Housing Allowance: \$20,000
- Board of Pensions: \$ 15,971
- Moving Expenses: full cost
- Other:
  - Continuing Education: \$500 vouchered
  - Mileage: IRS rate vouchered to \$3000
- 4 wks vacation with one week cumulative carryover 2 wks study leave

We welcome Eric and pray with gladness with the Congregation at Memorial-Cherokee.

5. COM has approved the Terms of Call for candidate Cathie Bishop for a call to Community Presbyterian Church of West Fargo, ND in the Presbytery of Northern Plains and has received notice that their COM has also approved the Terms of Call and is requesting that Prospect Hill ordain her for them:

- Effective Salary \$45,000
- Continuing Education \$500
- Mileage at IRS rate
- 4 wks vacation
- 2 wks study leave
- Full Board of Pensions
- Moving Expenses \$5000

6. Under W-3.3616e3 and G-3.0301b, having been trained By Rev. Randy Russom on November 19, 2015, the following ruling elders from United--Denison have been authorized to preside at the Lord's Table in that congregation for the 2016 year: Bill Bruce, Joyce Bohnker, Kyle Bohnker, Robin Adams, Denise Philipp.

7. Under W-3.3616e3 and G-3.0301b, having been trained By Rev. Tim Harmon on January 30, 2016, the following ruling elders from Westminster-Sioux City have been authorized to preside at the Lord's Table in that congregation for the 2016 year: Susan Logsdon, Cindy Backer, Russell Clifford, and Marilyn Clifford..

8. Under G-2.1001, the COM reviewed and continued the commission for another year the ministry of CREs Shari O'Bannon (Westminster-Ida Grove) and Carl Lee (Trinity-Wall Lake and Emmanuel—Carnarvon). COM reminds all currently commissioned CREs and their mentors that they are required

to report to and be reviewed by COM annually.

9. Under G-2.0503 the COM reviewed and approved the validated ministry of Rev. Richard Shaffer, Associate Dean at University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and a minister- member of this presbytery.

10. Under G-2.1001 and W-3.3616e, COM authorized CRE Lue Baker to preside at the Sacrament of the Lord's Table for Ash Wednesday at First-Manning.

11. Conducted exit interviews with Rev. John Pehrson and the session at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

12. Appointed the Rev. Stephen Niles as moderator of session at Westminster Presbyterian Church—Sioux City.

13. Appointed Rev. Tom Murray as moderator of session at First Presbyterian—Paullina.

14. Appointed CRE Lorna Peters as moderator of session during the Sabbatical Leave of Rev. Jan Christiansen (May-July, 2016) at PUCC-LeMars.

15. Approved requests from the session at First-Estherville and from CRE Beth Ehlers and CRE Paul Campbell to administer the Lord's Table on two separate occasions. COM reminds all sessions and CREs that **each instance** of administering sacraments by a CRE outside of a congregation to which they are already commissioned, **even if on the Pulpit Supply list, requires the approval of COM.**

16. Lorna Peters attended the Synod of Lakes and Prairies training for COM/CPM the last week of January.

17. First (Paullina), First (Odebolt), First (Manning), United (Denison), United (Rolfe), First (Estherville) and First (Alta) are congregations in transition between pastors. The COM asks for prayers for these congregations. [Inadvertently omitted from the initial report: Westminster (Sioux City)].

18. Approved Synod Grants for the following congregations to assist in the transition to a new dues structure for medical dues. The congregations had to meet certain requirements including having paid their Synod per capita, having the pastor complete the Call to Health, and having a pastor with eligible coverage (family) who was below BOP minimum salary calculations. This is the second and final year of the grant: First—Lake Park, First—Spirit Lake, First—Battle Creek.

The COM presented as an action item: First (Lake Park) is asking presbytery approval for a New Creation Loan from Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program for the replacement of 40+ year old furnaces and air conditioners. The Congregation has raised \$34,000 as of 2/14/16 and the cost of the project is \$62,000. Continued fund raising, reduced fuel costs, rebates, and budgeted payments are planned to pay the loan. The Stated Clerk noted that this does not obligate the Presbytery if the church defaults. M/S/C to approved the loan application.

### **Committee on Preparation for Ministry:**

Michael Gewecke introduced **John Pea**. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) is



recommending that John be moved from Inquirer to Candidate status. John made a brief presentation and was examined by the Presbytery on his sense of call. M/S/C to cease the examination. John was escorted from the room during the ensuing discussion. M/S/C to close debate. M/S/C to approve the request to move John to Candidacy status. John returned to the room and Brian led the Presbytery in brief service of commissioning for John's continued preparation.

Michael introduced **Sara Sutter**. The CPM is recommending that Sara be approved for ordination as a Teaching Elder pending a call. Her Statement of Faith was available on the Presbytery web page and at the meeting. Sara was examined on her faith and preparation for ministry. M/S/C to cease the examination. Sara was escorted from the room during the ensuing discussion. M/S/C to approve the request to approve Sara ready for ordination. Tom Murray led the Presbytery in prayer for Sara.

Michael introduced **Cathie Bishop**. Cathie has received and accepted a call for ministry to Community Presbyterian Church of West Fargo, North Dakota, within the Presbytery of Northern Plains and desires to be ordained within the Presbytery of Prospect Hill. That Presbytery has ceded its responsibility for examination for ordination to Prospect Hill. Cathie was examined on a variety of subjects. M/S/C to cease the examination. Cathie was escorted from the room during the ensuing discussion. M/S/C to approve the request to ordain Cathie as a Teaching Elder. Michael led the Presbytery in prayer for Cathie.

Brian Camara introduced a motion from the Moderator Team intended to clarify the work of the Team. The text of the motion follows.

The council of the Presbytery exists to oversee the time-sensitive administrative work of the Presbytery, to plan efficient and mission-driven Presbytery meetings, and to support the Moderator of the Presbytery as they seek to lead the body in the way of Christ.

In order to fulfill this purpose, the council has the following responsibilities and correlating powers.

1. To plan and order Stated Presbytery Meetings, with the guidance of committee chairs and responding to appropriate feedback from the Presbytery.
2. To administratively act on behalf of the Presbytery to address governing matters that are time-sensitive and not required for vote by the general body.
3. To act on behalf of the Presbytery in response to specific requests that come from committee chairs of the Presbytery relating to business germane to the responsibilities entrusted to that committee.
4. "Other normal administrative work that does not require the attention of the body."

An amendment was introduced to strike the Clause 4 of the statement. "Other normal administrative work that does not require the attention of the body." The amendment passed. The main motion passed.

Prayers were requested for Bill Irwin from the Dension congregation. Bill is in the hospital in Sioux City following a stroke.

Molly Dowell Baum shared information about a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission co-worker who will be itinerating in the area May 1-11. Full information will be shared Presbytery wide.

The Presbytery discussed the revised format of the Presbytery meeting.

M/S/C to adjourn at 3:00 p.m. Moderator Camara closing the meeting with prayer.

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill will be held at Memorial Presbyterian Church, Cherokee, Iowa, July 9, 2016.