

The Presbytery of Prospect Hill
 Stated Meeting – May 13, 2014, 4:00 pm
 Lakeside Presbyterian Church – Storm Lake, Iowa

The Presbytery of Prospect Hill met for a regularly called meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at Lakeside Presbyterian Church in Storm Lake, Iowa. Moderator Randy Russom called the meeting to order with prayer at 4:00 p.m.

Rev. Chuck Valenti-Hein, pastor at Lakeside Church, welcomed the Presbytery.

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>4</u>	<u>Ruling Elder</u>	<u>Cluster</u>
Alta	101	Craig Lee	P	E				4
Alton	105	Harlon DeJong	A	E				1
Armstrong	101	Suzanne Wobig	A	P				2
Ashton	101	Dale Lint	P	P				1
Auburn	106	Don Gibson	P	P				5
Battle Creek	101	Kevin Freese	P	E				5
Boyden	105	Rollin Haynes	A	A				1
Breda	106	Don Gibson	P	P			Charles Hundling	5
Bronson	101	Cyndy Ripperger	P	P			Wayne Scholtman	3
Carnarvon	117	Carl Lee, CRE	E	P				5
Carroll	101	Rikki Sorenson	A	P				5
Cherokee	101	Ethan Sayler	E	P			Norm Kolb	4
Cleghorn	101	Peggy Hegeman	A	P			Marlene Perkins	3
Denison	101	Paul Seefeldt	P	E				5
Estherville	101	C. Ensz/K. Ensz	A	P				2
George, Ebenzer	101	Paul Soderquist	P	P			Gordon Siebring	1
George, Lyon	101	Paul Fischer	P	P			Harlan Boone	1
George, Zoar	101	Dale Lint	P	P			Darren Lint	1
Glidden	101	Brian Camara	P	P				5
Hawarden	151	Dan Lozer	A	P				1
Ida Grove	117	Shari O'Bannon CRE	A	P			Orlan Ehler	5
Lake City	101	Beth Harbaugh	E	P			Virginia Sheffield	5
Lake Park	101	Tim Harmon	E	P			Lesleigh Wiese	2
Lawton	101	Cyndy Ripperger	P	P			Bev Logsdon	3
LeMars PLY		Vacant					Ron Wendt	3
LeMars PUCC	101	Jan Christensen	E	P			Evelyn Kendall	3
Manilla	136/108	Loomis/Daiker	A	A				5
Manning	101	Marshall Brown	P	P			Lue Baker	5
Milford	117	Beth Ehlers	P	P				2
Odebolt	101	Vacant						5
Paullina	101	Vacant					Marj Feltman	1
Pocahontas		Vacant					Margaret Rude	4

Ringsted	101	Suzanne Wobig	A	P				2
Rockwell City	126	Mossman/BJ Ukena	A	A				4
Rolfe		Vacant						4
Sac City	101	Randy Russom	P	P			Ted Zimmerman	4
Sanborn	156	Gregg Johnson	A	A				1
Schaller	101	Ken Fells	P	P			Jerry Gosch	4
SC First	101	Harold Tougen	P	P				3
Ass't		Kathleen Whipple	P	P				
SC Morn	101	Dave Koehler	P				Gary Wood	3
SC Third	107	Cathie Bishop	P	A			Mark Pappadakis	3
SC Westlawn	107	Paul Speidel	A	A				3
SC Westminster	101	John Pehrson	P	P			Pam Pfautsch	3
SSC First	101	Stephen Niles	P	P			Dick Anderson	3
Spirit Lake	101	Clint Loveall	A	P				2
	103	Michael Gewecke	E	P				
Storm Lake	101	Chuck V-Hein	P	P			Nancy Alderton	4
SL-SEA	117	Paul Maychen, CRE	A	A				4
Vail	101	Richard Francis	P	P			Faylenne Slechton	5
Wall Lake	117	Carl Lee, CRE	E	P			William Dreesen	5
Westside	101	Richard Francis	P	P			Mary Dixon	5

Other Ministers on the Roll of the Presbytery

bold = present

italics=excused

Armstrong, N	299	Meissner, Ken	641
Ayers, Jeffrey	797	Miller, Marvin	299
Beard, Clarence	299	Moore, William	299
Brinck, Peg	299	Peters, Lorna	107
Dowell-Baum	797	Queen, Duane	299
Fells, Kenneth	299	Rozendaal, John	299
Gibson, Donald	299	<i>Saville, Stephen</i>	797
Gray, Donna	797	Shaffer, Richard	644
Hegeman, Peggy	797	Stepanek, Harold	299
Johnson, Don	299	Tollefson, Robert	299
McKinley, John	299	Ukena, B.J.	299
<i>Mead, James</i>	644	Volkers, Mark	299
		Wentzel, Rex	299

Officers of the Presbytery

2014 Moderator	Randy Russom
Vice Moderator	Dennis Sohl
Past Moderator	Shari O'Bannon
Stated Clerk	John Pehrson
Treasurer	Dick Drahotka
Recording Clerk	Richard Francis
Elder Committee	
Members	
Budget:	Rebecca Brown
Camp:	Beth Ehlers
COM:	Lorna Peters
CPM:	
MCT:	Paul Campbell
MT:	Dennis Sohl
Nominating:	
PW:	Evelyn Kendall

Visitors: James Harmon, Nicole McClain, Eileen Sohl, James Craig, Jean Delaney

Corresponding Members: **Staff:** Kay Lenhart

No New Business was introduced.

It was Moved, Seconded, and Carried (M/S/C) to approve the Agenda as printed.

There were no First-time Commissioners to be introduced.

There were no Corresponding Members to be seated.

Members of the Presbytery shared Joys and Concerns. Moderator Russom led the Presbytery in prayer for the joys and concerns that were raised.

M/S/C to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2014 meeting of the Presbytery as printed.

Kennen Barber-Ensz presented the report of the Personnel Committee. She noted that the Committee conducted annual reviews with Kay Lenhart, John Pehrson and Paul Campbell. They recommend that John Pehrson and Paul Campbell's positions be renewed for three year terms.

Cyndy Ripperger presented the report of the Nominating Committee Report. She placed in nomination

- Marshall Brown as Teaching Elder Synod Commissioner, Class of 2016. No nominations from the floor appearing, M/S/C to elect him unanimously.
- John Pehrson to continue as Stated Clerk and Administrative Presbyter, three year term; and Paul Campbell to continue as Mission Coordinator, three year term. No nominations from the floor appearing, M/S/C to elect them unanimously.

Moderator Randy Russom called attention to his written report. He presented Ruling Elder (RE) Roger Witt, Rolfe; Teaching Elder (TE) B.J. Ukena, Honorably Retired; TE Kennen Barber- Ensz, Estherville; and a Ruling Elder to be named as the Administrative Commission for the closing of the United Presbyterian Church of Pocahontas. M/S/C to approve the named person and to authorize the Moderator to name the remaining RE.

Stated Clerk John Pehrson called attention to his written report.

- As required by the Book of Order, former members of the Permanent Judicial Commission who may be called upon, should a current member need to be recused include: Marshall Brown (TE), David Patton (RE), Duane Queen (TE), and Jane Rapp (RE).

John Pehrson presented the Moderator Team Report.

- The Moderator Team recommends that Third Presbyterian Church of Sioux City be given permission to sell its manse, with the proceeds from the sale being invested and used primarily for a pastor's housing allowance. M/S/C to approve the recommendation.
- He noted that the Little Rock Church, which was dismissed to another denomination, is refusing to make their records available in spite of repeated requests from the Administrative Commission. He sought the will of the Presbytery in dealing with the issue. Dale Lint offered to intercede with the congregation in an effort to break the impasse. This proposal was accepted by consent with the understanding that if his efforts fail other options will be explored.

Mission Coordinator Paul Campbell called attention to his written report.

Rebecca Brown presented the report of the Budget and Finance Committee. She reminded the Presbytery that all budget requests for 2015 should be submitted to the Presbytery by June 30. She called attention to the Treasurer's Report.

Beth Ehlers presented the report from the Lakeshore Center. She urged the church of the Presbytery to get registrations in for summer camp. She also called attention to three special events coming up during the rest of the year.

John Pehrson presented the report from the Board of Pensions Annual Consultation.

Dale Lint presented the report of the Boyden United Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission. He presented the Commission's recommendations:

1. That the Presbytery of Prospect Hill transfer the congregation of the United Presbyterian Church Boyden, Iowa to the Presbytery of the West in the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO), under the following terms:

- a. The congregation agrees to donate \$5,000 to the Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji by June 1, 2014, with the intent of continued mission support to the camp.
- b. The congregation agrees to pay by June 1, 2014 (if not already paid) per capita based on its membership of 108 as of January 1, 2013. (108 @ \$19.82 = \$2140.56).
- c. The congregation agrees to pay by June 1, 2014, per capita based on its membership of 98 as of January 1, 2014. (98 @ \$19.82 = \$1942.36).
- d. The congregation agrees to deliver its Session records to the Presbyterian Historical Society by June 1, 2014 and they (the United Presbyterian church of Boyden, Iowa) be responsible for all cost of shipping.
- e. The congregation agrees to pay any and all costs associated with the administrative commission's activities.

2. That the Presbytery of Prospect Hill, upon approval of the motion to transfer the congregation, dissolve the administrative commission for the United Presbyterian Church, Boyden, Iowa.

The Commission offered the following supporting information:

Rationale:

1. Following the receipt of a letter from the session of the United Presbyterian Church Boyden, Iowa, an Administrative Commission was appointed to review the situation and report back to Presbytery.
2. Those appointed to the Administrative Commission were: Teaching elders Rev. Dale Lint, Rev. Paul Soderquist. Ruling Elders Bev Siebring and Marv Sturing.
3. The Commission met and elected as moderator Rev. Dale Lint and as recording secretary Rev. Paul Soderquist. Following the election, the group was lead by Administrative Presbyter/ Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. John Pehrson in a time of orientation as to the task at hand.
4. The Administrative commission met with the Session members of the United Presbyterian Church of Boyden, Iowa to review their concerns and reasoning for seeking a transfer. The Session affirmed the content of the letter which had been sent to Presbytery indicating the following issues:
 - a. the PC (USA)'s views on scripture, Salvation, and the Lordship of Christ.
 - b. The PC (USA)'s views on marriage and ordination
 - c. The PC (USA)'s views of the acceptance of social change.
5. After the third meeting with the session it was decided to hold open listening sessions, inviting congregational members to come and voice their opinion on the matter. Listening sessions were held on Sunday afternoon February 23 and Wednesday evening February 26, 2014. There was no response from congregation members at either session.
6. Following the listening session the commission met with the session to call a special congregational meeting for the purpose of voting either to remain with the PC (USA) or transfer

to the ECO. The date set for the meeting was Sunday March 23, 2014. 7. Following morning worship commission moderator Rev. Dale Lint called the meeting to order. Tellers were appointed and ballots handed out. The vote was yes or no to transfer to the ECO

Following the vote the ballots were collected with the following results:

59 voted yes

3 voted no

As the result of the vote, Moderator Lint, declared the vote as carried to transfer to the ECO.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

8. Following the vote the Commission met with the Session to work out the terms of transfer as follows:

- a. The congregation agrees to donate \$5,000 to the Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji by June 1, 2014, with the intent of continued mission support to the camp.
- b. The congregation agrees to pay by June 1, 2014 (if not already paid) per capita based on its membership of 108 as of January 1, 2013. (108 @ \$19.82 = \$2140.56).
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- e. The congregation agrees to pay any and all costs associated with the administrative commission's activities.

Rational for the Terms of transfer:

In the process of resolution the commission pursued the following areas of concern:

1. The ongoing care of all members and attendees of the United Presbyterian Church, Boyden, IA.
2. The actions of previous similar situations
 1. Upon review the commission concluded that the ECO, while newly formed, is currently capable of providing continued care for the membership in polity, doctrine, and continued pastoral care.
 2. In reference to the determination of appropriate terms of dismissal the commission requested the following information:
 - a. An analysis of the values of the property of the United Presbyterian Church of Boyden, Iowa
 - b. A financial summary report
 - 1). In reference to the assessed value of the church properties, Kevin T. Klaassen of Sibley Realty was employed to provide market values and summaries of the properties.
 - a). The assessed value of the church and surrounding property \$404,130.00 understanding the nature of the property Mr. Klaassen estimated the actual market value somewhere between \$0 and \$50,000 with a most likely sale price of \$0
 - b). The assessed value of the Manse located at 1001 Webb St in Boyden, Iowa is between \$125,000 and \$165,000 most likely selling around \$140,000.
 - 2). The current liquid assets of the church are as follows:
 - a). Sum of all funds = \$69,858.47
 - b). Memorial bequest = \$49,918.86
 - c). Total = \$119,777.33
 - 3). Liabilities: There was some question in reference to a loan that was made to the Church in the late 1800's. The question as to whether the loan was repaid or not is clouded due to the fact that the early church records were lost in a fire.

Upon request, the General Assembly Office of the PC (USA) has indicated that the loan would now be uncollectable and has rendered it as paid in full. At this time there are no other cases of church indebtedness.

Conclusion:

As the result of meetings, votes and accounting sessions the administrative commission recommends that the Presbytery of Prospect Hill approve the motion put forth by the commission and the terms as previously agreed to by the commission and the session of the United Presbyterian Church, Boyden, Iowa.

While there is a sadness brought about by this transfer the commission seeks that God's hand of direction and guidance go with this congregation

M/S/C to transfer the property to the congregation when the terms of the agreement points a-e above are accomplished.

Following discussion, the Presbytery voted to accept the recommendations of the Administrative Commission.

Dale led the Presbytery in prayer.

Members of the Administrative Commission were: Teaching Elders Rev. Dale Lint, Rev. Paul Soderquist. Ruling Elders Bev Siebring and Marv Sturing.

The Presbytery moved into worship at 5:05 pm. Preaching was Commissioned Ruling Elder Dennis Sohl, Vice Moderator of the Presbytery. Other participants in the service were Marshall Brown, Richard Francis, Randy Russom, Paul Soderquist, Cyndy Ripperger and Barbara Wells. The offering was designated for the Lakeshore Center. \$564 was collected. Moderator Russom and Vice Moderator Sohl presented the Necrology Report for 2013 as part of the service:

Teaching ELDERS:

Rev. Neal A. Armstrong died April 21, 2013

Rev. Gerald C. Johnson died July 23, 2012

Ruling ELDERS:

Alta, First Presbyterian Church

Jerry Meyer died January 9, 2013

Margaret Mortensen died September 15, 2013

Alton, First Presbyterian Church

No Report

Armstrong, First Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

Ashton, First Presbyterian Church

Lawrence Rensink died June 30, 2013

Auburn, United Presbyterian Church

No Report

Battle Creek, First Presbyterian Church

LaVern Van Houten died August 9, 2013

Boyden, United Presbyterian Church

Kenneth Meyn died December 23, 2013

Breda, Wheatland Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

Bronson, Elliott Creek Presbyterian Church

Dallas Duane Lahrs died October 12, 2013

Carnavon, Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

Carroll, First Presbyterian Church

Paul Marvin Sr. died July 7, 2013

Cherokee, Memorial Presbyterian Church

William "Bill" Bennet died September 22, 2013

Cleghorn, First Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

Denison, United Presbyterian Church

Scott Chapman died July 15, 2013

Estherville, First Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

George, Ebenezer Presbyterian Church

Dorothy Meyerhoff died July 9, 2013

George, Lyon County First Presbyterian Church

No Report

George, Zoar Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

Glidden, First Presbyterian Church

Charlotte DeVries died May 12, 2013

Hawarden, Associated Church

No Report

Ida Grove, Westminster Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

Lake City, Lake City Union Church

No Report

Lake Park, First Presbyterian Church

Elizabeth Ann Krebs Rehder died June 25, 2013

Charles "Skeeter" Lawrence died July 9, 2013

Lawton, Community Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

LeMars, Plymouth Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

Le Mars, Presbyterian United Church of Christ

No Report

Manilla, United Church of Manilla

No Report

Manning, First Presbyterian Church

Lois Hill died January 22, 2013

Sam Wiese died April 6, 2013

Odebolt, First Presbyterian Church

Lucille Flink died May 30, 2013

Paullina, First Presbyterian Church

Clifford Hellman died March 9, 2013

Marvin Halstrom died October 15, 2013

Pocahontas, United Presbyterian Church

No Report

Ringsted, First Presbyterian Church

Harland Kramer died December 27, 2013

Rockwell City, First Presbyterian Church

Gary R. Johnson died March 2, 2013

Rolfe, Shared Ministries of Rolfe

No Elder deaths

Sac City, First Presbyterian Church

Beulah Morrison died March 20, 2013

Gerald Gerken died June 5, 2013

Sanborn, First Presbyterian Church

No Report

Schaller, First Presbyterian Church

Dolly Watson died January 25, 2013

Sharon Currie died October 18, 2013

Sioux City, First Presbyterian Church

Charles A. Peterson died March 24, 2013

Rodney A. Livings died December 11, 2013

Sioux City, Morningside Presbyterian Church

Alan Hansen died January 10, 2013

Charles Irwin died June 20, 2013

Charles Grieve died July 7, 2013

Roberta Severeide died September 18, 2013

Sioux City, Third Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

Sioux City, Westlawn Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

Sioux City, Westminister Presbyterian Church

Wayne Peterson died August 31, 2013

Kenneth Beals died November 13, 2013

Marlyne Linkvis died December 27, 2013

South Sioux City, First Presbyterian Church

Ronald D. Rapp died May 5, 2013

J.P. (Phil) Slavens died November 16, 2013

Marian Horan died December 28, 2013

Spirit Lake, First Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

Storm Lake, Lakeside Presbyterian Church

Mary Siefer died June 16, 2013

Vail, United Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

Wall Lake, Trinity Presbyterian Church

No Elder deaths

Westside, United Church of Westside

No Elder deaths

Tim Harmon presented the report of the Committee on Ministry (COM).

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

1. COM voted to concur with Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys to allow Rev. Rollin Hayes to labor outside the bounds and recommend to ECO that they also allow him to continue his ministry at Boyden (United) through August, 2014, if Presbytery votes to dismiss the

congregation.

2. COM heard ministry reports from Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE) Carl Lee (Carnavon, Emmanuel and Wall Lake, Trinity), Cathie Bishop (Sioux City, Third) and Paul Spiedel (Sioux City, Westlawn) and affirmed their commissions for 2014. Approval was also given for a new contracts between CRE Lee and Wall Lake-Carnavon and for CRE Bishop and Sioux City Third.

3. COM heard ministry reports for Minister Members At Large. Rev Donna Gray and Rev. Molly Dowell-Baum were both validated in their ministries and continue as members at large.

4. COM voted to approve Ministry Information Forms (MIF) for Schaller (First) and Sioux City (First) in their search for a pastor. Odebolt (First) , George (Ebenezer), Schaller (First) and Sioux City (First) now have active MIF's on the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection. Paullina (First) is working with a congregational ministry assessment. Alta (First) is working with Pastor Craig Lee in medical leave. Please pray for all our congregations in transition.

5. Heard a report from Rev. BJ Ukena as moderator of Pocahontas (United) of a congregational vote to request closure. The action was referred to Moderator's Team for an appointment of Administrative Commission.

6. Heard an update on Board of Pensions (BOP) issues. COM **strongly recommends** that all members in the BOP medical plan understand the Call to Health Initiative and participate. Sessions and Treasurers are also encouraged to utilize BOP resources on effective salary, pensions/medical dues, and budgeting. Rev. Ken Fells is our Presbytery Liaison to BOP. Rev. John Pehrson attended the annual consultation in May and also has many resources.

7. COM reminds all teaching elders of their obligation to attend presbytery meetings and engage in ministry on more than the congregational level as the vow/constitutional question they consented to follow asked them to be ACTIVE in government and discipline, serving on the councils of the church (W-4.4003i3, G-2.0502). COM has noticed that some of our non-retired teaching elders do not regularly attend presbytery.

8. COM also reminds sessions that they have a similar responsibility to elect and hear the reports of commissioners to presbytery and that the recommendation is for yearly office as commissioner (G-3.0202a). Failure to be a participant of presbytery on the part of a congregation weakens the witness we have together in Christ and threatens the unity and connection that are essential to a Presbyterian form of government (F-3.02). It also deprives the congregation of voice and vote in matters of the wider church.

Action Item: The COM moves approval of Presbytery for the review of ministerial compensation. The motion carried.

Jan Christensen presented the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM). She gave an update on the Inquirers and Candidates under care of the Presbytery.

Moderator Russom called Tim Harmon forward to lead the Presbytery in prayer for TE Craig Lee, currently on medical leave from the congregation at Alta.

The Presbytery adjourned for dinner at 6:10 p.m. Chuck Valenti-Hein led the Presbytery in a prayer of thanksgiving for the meal.

The Presbytery reconvened at 7:00 p.m. with prayer by Chad Ensz.

Evelyn Kendall presented the report of Presbyterian Women.

TE Marshall Brown and RE Lorna Peters, Synod Commissioners, presented the report of the Synod Meeting.

Richard Francis made an additional appeal for volunteers for several open positions in the Presbytery.

John Pehrson presented the following Overture to Presbytery from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Sioux City:

OVERTURE TO THE PRESBYTERY OF PROSPECT HILL

In order to maintain Call Neutrality, as well as to ensure that churches provide for medical coverage not only for pastors but also for dependents, **the session of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Sioux City Iowa moves** that the Presbytery of Prospect Hill adopt a resolution that all employing organizations participating in the Board of Pensions Healthcare plan be required to pay all necessary dues to guarantee continued coverage, effective beginning in 2015.

The Committee on Ministry shall have the authority to grant exceptions to this requirement, such as when a spouse is required to participate in another employing organization's plan.

We further move that the Presbytery of Prospect Hill work with the Synod of Lakes and Prairies in securing funds and developing ways to provide some financial assistance for congregations who find the increase in Medical Dues to be a hardship on the mission of the church.

Rationale:

Board of Pensions Dues Synod wide Policy and Fund for Medical Dues Assistance

In light of the recent changes to the medical dues structure that will take effect January 1, 2015 requiring that only plan members be covered by employing organizations the Synod of Lakes and Prairies supports a strategic regional plan that considers the long-term consequences of reduced coverage for some members of the Board of Pensions and mitigates those consequences while working to attract and retain strong leadership to the upper Midwest and preserve call neutrality in the region allowing for easier movement among the Synod's presbyteries.

To that end the Synod of Lakes and Prairies requests that every presbytery within its bounds take action before January 1, 2015 requiring employing organizations to pay the full healthcare and pension dues for minister members and all their dependents giving their Committee On Ministry the authority to grant exceptions in extenuating circumstances. Presbyteries adopting this policy will be eligible for funds from the Synod's Fund for Medical Dues Assistance Fund for Medical Dues Assistance

Block grants will be made in equal amounts to each of the presbyteries taking the action outlined above to help them assist those most vulnerable in the system i.e. young families.

The fund will offer assistance for two years (2015-2016). The fund is meant to be a bridge to a more sustainable solution. It provides us time to live into Affordable Health Care and any shifts in Mid Council structure.

The Synod will provide \$200,000 to this fund:

Unused Bicentennial Funds = \$100,000

Synod Budget 2015 =\$50,000

Synod Budget 2016 =\$50,000

The motion carried.

No further business appearing, the Presbytery adjourned at 7:12 pm with prayer by Katie Whipple.

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill will begin at 9:30 am on Saturday, September 13 at the Lakeshore Center (Formerly Presbyterian Camp on Lake Okoboji), Milford, Iowa. Educational Events will begin on Thursday, September 12 and continue through Saturday.