

**The Presbytery of Prospect Hill  
Stated Meeting of the Presbytery  
Saturday, April 21, 2018  
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Ida Grove, Iowa**

The Presbytery of Prospect Hill met for a regularly called meeting on Saturday, April 21, 2018, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Ida Grove, Iowa. The meeting had originally been scheduled for April 14 but was postponed due to weather.

The meeting was called to order by Lue Baker, Immediate Past Moderator, at 9:36 a.m. Lue presided in the absence of Moderator Donna Gray and Vice-Moderator Bill Crawford.

Shari O'Bannon, Commissioned Ruling Elder, Westminster Presbyterian Church, welcomed the Presbytery.

First-time Ruling Elders were introduced.

New pastors were introduced: Denise Parrello (Alta) and Jennifer Olson (Dension).

No Corresponding Members were present.

No new business was introduced.

A quorum was present as shown by the roll:

Church	Teaching Elder/ CP	Occupation Code	Present/Absent/ Excused	Ruling Elder
Alta	Denise Parrello	151	P	Mike Pedersen
Alton	Vacant			
Armstrong	Suzanne Wobig	101	P	
Auburn	Rikki Sorensen	101	P	Shelle Kent
Battle Creek	Kevin Freese	101	E	Tamera Rusch
Breda	Vacant			Carol von Glan
Bronson	Vacant			
Carnarvon	Lue Baker, CP			
Carroll	Rikki Sorensen	101	P	Michelle Scranton
Cherokee	Eric Wright	101	A	
Cleghorn	Vacant			Cheryl Plagman

Denison	Jennifer Olson	101	P	Elaine Chapman
Estherville	Dave Ullom	101	E	
George, Ebenezer	John Pea	101	A	
George, Zoar	John Pea	101	A	
Glidden	Brian Camara	101	P	
Hawarden	Erma Wolf	151	E	
Ida Grove	Shari O'Bannon	107	P	Orlen Ehler
Lake City	Vacant		P	
Lake Park	Tim Harmon	101	E	
Lawton	Vacant			Beverly Logsdon
LeMars, Plymouth	Vacant		E	Ronald J. Wendt
LeMars, Presbyterian UCC	Jan Christensen		P	Connie Marcotte
Manilla	Vicki Fisher	151	A	
Manning	Nancy Anderson	101	P	Renee Pfannkuch
Odebolt	Bill Crawford	107	E	Marne Barker
Paullina	Angel de la Cruz	101	A	
Ringsted	Suzanne Wobig	101	P	
Rockwell City	Jim Mossman	151	A	
Rolfe	Vacant			
Sac City	Vacant	101	A	Paul Huser
Sanborn	Gregg Johnson	151	A	
Schaller	Michael Sydnor	101	P	Julie Langnor
Sioux City, Faith	David Koehler	101	E	
Sioux City, First	Tom Murray	101	A	
Sioux City, Westlawn	Paul Speidel	107	A	Ron Thompson
Sioux City, Westminster	Erica MacCreaigh	101	P	Rosemary McKinley
So. Sioux City	Vacant			
Spirit Lake	Clint Loveall	101	P	
	Michael Gewecke	103	P	
Storm Lake	Vacant			

Vail	Bob Cook	105	P	Faylene Slechta
Wall Lake	Lue Baker, CP		P	
Westside	Vacant	105		

<b>Other Ministers on the Roll of Presbytery</b>				
<b>Honorably Retired</b>				
Clarence Beard				
Dale Lint				
Marvin Miller				
Peg Brinck				
William Moore				
Marshall Brown			P	
Duane Queen				
Richard Francis			P	
Donald Gibson				
Harold Stepanek				
Robert Tollefsen				
Don Johnson				
B.J. Ukena				
John McKinley			P	
Rex Wentzel				
Ken Fells			P	
Steven Saville				
<b>Members at Large</b>				
Mollie Dowell-Baum				
Peggy Hegeman				
Donna Gray				
Charles Valenti-Hein				
<b>Validated Ministries</b>				

Ken Meisner				
Cambria Kaltwasser			P	
<b>Presbytery Committee Members Present</b>				
Lue Baker, Immediate Past Moderator			P	
Richard Francis, Stated Clerk			P	
<b>Other Members of Presbytery</b>				
Beth Ehlers, CP, Lakeshore Center at Okoboji			P	
Lorna Peters, Lawton, Community, COM Chair			P	
Rebecca Brown, Denison, United, All-Iowa Task Force			P	
Brenda Wilson, Storm Lake, Lakeside, COM			P	
Carolyn Jamieson, Ida Grove, Westminster			P	
<b>Visitors</b>				
Duane Mullen			P	
Charles Hundling			P	
Norma Wendt			P	

The Presbytery moved to worship at 9:45 a.m. Dr. Cambria Kaltwasser preached and Shari O'Bannon celebrated Holy Communion, assisted by Elder Jeff Hudson. Participating in the service were Lue Baker and Jodie Hudson. An offering of \$344 was received for improvement projects at Lakeshore Center.

The Business Meeting was called to order with prayer by Moderator Lue Baker. It was moved, seconded, and carried (M/S/C) to approve the agenda.

M/S/C to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

1. Minutes of October 28, 2017 Presbytery Meeting
2. Budget and Finance Committee Report: no report
3. Moderator's Report: no report
4. Stated Clerk's Report
5. Synod Commissioners: no report

6. Presbyterian Women
7. Quad Presbyteries: presented by Brian Camara
8. Lakeshore Center: presented by Beth Ehlers
9. Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Cleghorn: presented by AC Moderator Marne Barker.

Stated Clerk's Report to the Stated Meeting held April 21, 2018 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Ida Grove, Iowa

Since the last Stated Meeting, October 28, 2017, I have

- Recorded the retirement of Rev. Dale Lint.
- Recorded the ordination and installation of the Rev. John Pea as pastor of Ebenezer Church, George. John is also serving Zoar Church, George.
- Enrolled Lue Baker as Commissioned Ruling Elder for Trinity Church, Wall Lake and Emmanuel Church, Carnarvon.
- Transferred the Rev. Jennifer Olson from Blackhawk Presbytery.
- Transferred the Rev. Cynthia Ripperger to Des Moines Presbytery.
- Transferred the Rev. Randy Russom to the Presbytery of North Central Iowa.
- Held two training sessions for Clerks of Session.
- Received a new Handbook for Clerks of Session and made copies available to Clerks in our Presbytery.
- Held two Session records reviews. Note that one had to be postponed and one canceled due to weather. In 2019 I plan to schedule the reviews later in the year. Either that or move to Maui.
- Attended three All-Iowa Presbytery meetings.
- Participated in video conferences with leaders from Prospect Hill and North Central Iowa.
- Participated in conference calls with Presbytery staff from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.
- Attended meetings of the Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
- Attended the meeting of the Moderator Team on February 21.

Report on the State of the Presbytery (per Stated Clerk Job Description):

The Presbytery of Prospect Hill is in transition. We have determined that we need a person in leadership who will do the work we once expected of an Executive Presbyter, but we have not yet defined how that person will function. Our work with North Central Iowa Presbytery and now Des Moines Presbytery is pointing us in one direction, but it remains to be seen if that is the direction we will pursue.

We also have continuing challenges in providing pastoral services to our congregations. This is mostly due to circumstances beyond our control, circumstances that I don't need to review here. The upside is that we have a solid group of Pastors and Commissioned Ruling Elders who serve our congregations wisely and well and provide leadership in the Presbytery, as well as hardworking Ruling Elders in all our churches who keep the lights on and the ministry going with or without pastoral leadership.

As I enter my second year as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill I can affirm that it is a privilege to serve in this role and a privilege to work with the pastors, CREs, committees and congregations of the Presbytery, and a special privilege to work with the Clerks of Session, whose importance can't be over-estimated.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Francis

The Session records of the following churches have been reviewed and approved with no or minor exceptions:

Alta
Armstrong
Auburn
Battle Creek
Carroll
Cherokee
Cleghorn
Elliott Creek, Bronson
George, Ebenezer
George, Zoar
Hawarden, Associated
Lakeside, Storm Lake
Lawton, Community
LeMars, First Plymouth
LeMars, Presbyterian United Church of Christ
Manilla
Ringstead
Schaller
Sioux City, Faith United
South Sioux City
Vail

Westlawn, Sioux City
Westminster, Sioux City
Westside
Wheatland, Breda

### Presbyterian Women in Prospect Hill Presbytery Coordinating Team Report

On Monday, April 16, 2018 the PWPPH Coordinating Team will meet at Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Storm Lake, to begin planning the 2018 Fall Gathering.

The Fall Gathering will be held at Memorial Presbyterian Church, Cherokee on Monday, September 24, 2018. We look forward to meeting and hearing from our guest speaker Susan Ingels from Fayette, Iowa. Susan, the 2017 Global Exchange participant representing the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, will speak on her experiences to Indonesia.

The PWPPH Search Committee is currently looking to fill openings which include the positions of Treasurer and Together in Service representatives. Inquiries about the positions may be directed to Audrey Scholten, PWPPH Moderator. Address: 25 6th Street NE, Le Mars, IA 51031. Home Phone: 546-7608, Cell, 540-5001 or e-mail: akscholten@yahoo.com.

The Presbyterian Women of Prospect Hill will offer (2) \$500.00 scholarships to attend the upcoming 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women August 2-4, 2018 in Louisville, KY. These scholarships will be available to help with registration, housing or travel expenses. We would like to invite and encourage all women in the presbytery to attend the Fall Gathering where ideas, interests, worship and fellowship are shared.

### Report of the Administrative Commission (AC) for the Presbyterian Church of Cleghorn

The AC dealing with the Presbyterian Church of Cleghorn has met with their Session and Moderator several times. The pulpit has been vacant since May 1. The congregation has enjoyed a variety of pulpit supply individuals and is now considering a very part-time interim. The congregation is small but consistent and loyal in attendance. Plans are for a number of Elders to take a communion training class but so far this has not been accomplished. Financially the congregation is stable with a small cushion of savings as they are not paying a pastor's salary, nearing the end of Board of Pension vacancy dues, and is receiving income from the manse rental. The physical facility is in reasonably good shape and up to date, having handicap accessibility to the sanctuary. The AC moderator attended their congregational meeting in January where many questions were answered along with options for their future. This is a congregation that is not ready to close its doors.

Marne Barker, AC Moderator

Rebecca Brown presented a report from the All-Iowa Task Force on a leadership proposal for the Presbyteries of Prospect Hill, North Central Iowa, and Des Moines, and on a project to train church leaders to do initial mental health assessments and advocate for mental health services in Iowa.

Joys and Concerns of the Presbytery were shared.

M/S/C to amend the agenda to begin action items at this point.

Lorna Peters presented the Committee on Ministry (COM) Report

Items for Presbytery Action:

- 1) COM asks that the pastoral relationship between Rev. Randy Russom and First Presbyterian Church (Sac City) be dissolved because he has received a new call in North Central Iowa Presbytery. Sac City First approved this dissolution at a congregational meeting held January 28, 2018. The Presbytery voted to approve.
- 2) COM asks that Teaching Elder Adam Cox, who has been on the inactive roll of minister members for the past four years, be removed from the membership roll under G-2.0508. COM has worked for the previous six years with Adam Cox to help him again meet the criteria for validated ministry but he has not complied. The Presbytery voted to approve.
- 3) COM Presents the 2018 Report on Pastoral Compensation for approval. The Presbytery Minimum (2018) for all called and installed pastorates is an effective salary of \$38,450 plus 4 weeks' Vacation (including Sundays) and 2 weeks Study Leave. CRE positions and vacant churches have been included for informational purposes. Clergy under other denominational guidelines (such as Evangelical Lutheran Church in American or United Methodist Church) are also noted and salary information presented, if any, is the Presbyterian congregation's portion of the compensation. (The report is included at the end of these minutes). The Presbytery voted to approve.

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

1. COM at the November meeting approved the Terms of Call for Rev. Cynthia Ripperger to be pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Creston, Iowa as follows: effective Start date: January 1, 2018  
Cash Salary: \$28,715 Housing Allowance: \$10, 785 Utilities Allowance: \$7,500  
Effective Salary: \$47,000 ½ SECA  
Full BOP benefits Mileage: IRS rate Profess Exp: \$500  
Cont Ed Exp: \$1,500 Moving Expenses: up to \$3,000  
4 weeks vacation 2 wks study leave 7th year of service gets 3 mo sabbatical  
COM also voted to transfer her membership to Des Moines Presbytery upon their request.



2. COM at the February meeting approved the Terms of Call for Rev. Randy Russom to be pastor at First Presbyterian church (Grundy Center, Iowa) and First Presbyterian church (Reinbeck, Iowa) as follows: effective Start date: March 1, 2018  
Cash Salary: \$33,200 Housing Allowance: \$23,025 Effective Salary: \$56,225  
Full BOP benefits and Dental Mileage: IRS rate to \$3,500 vouchered Profess Exp: \$500  
Cont Ed Exp: \$1,000 Medical co-pay allowance \$1,300  
4 wks vacation 2 wks study leave  
COM also voted to transfer his membership to North Central Iowa Presbytery upon their request.

3. Appointed Rev. Dale Lint as moderator at Lawton and Bronson Churches as of January 1, 2018.

4. Appointed Rev. Brian Camara as moderator at Union, Lake City as of March 1, 2018

5. Appointed Rev. Michael Sydnor as moderator at First, Sac City as of March 1, 2018

6. Under W-3.0410 and G-3.0301b of the Book of Order, having been trained by Rev. Dale Lint on January 23, 2018 the following ruling elders from Elliott Creek Presbyterian Church in Bronson are authorized by COM to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Table in that congregation for 2018: Mary Thompson, Rita Gerking, and Courtney Lahrs.

7. Under W-3.0410 and G-3.0301b of the Book of Order, having been trained by Rev. Dale Lint on January 23, 2018 the following ruling elders from Community Presbyterian Church in Lawton are authorized by COM to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Table in that congregation for 2018: Darwin Brink, Joe Gathright, Kris Stalcup-Koch, and Beverly Logsdon

8. Under W-3.0410 and G-3.0301b of the Book of Order, having been trained by Rev. Randy Russom on February 20, 2018, the following ruling elders from First Presbyterian Church in Sac City are authorized by COM to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Table in that congregation for 2018: Sammie Jo Bruce, Alice Zimmerman, Kim Sorensen, Terry Striegel, Arnold Thomas

9. Approved mission studies for Union (Lake City) and Lakeside (Storm Lake) and approved their electing Pastor Nominating Committees.

10. Approved Lakeside's (Storm Lake) Ministry Information Form and approved their circulating it to the Church Leadership Connection site in their pastoral search.

11. COM is updating our portion of the Presbytery's Manual of Operations. We have approved a new form for sessions to report on CRE progress yearly, updated our ordination/installation policy, and updated the current manual to the new Book of Order. Other projects dealing with boundaries training, compensation, pastoral search process,

child protection and sexual misconduct policies, and other operational parts of the COM are under review.

12. Pray for our active Administrative Commissions at First (Cleghorn) and First (Alton)

13. Wheatland (Breda), Lakeside (Storm Lake), Elliott Creek (Bronson), Community (Lawton), Union (Lake City), First (Sac City), First (Cleghorn), and First (South Sioux City) are congregations in transition between pastors. The COM asks for prayers for these congregations.

Richard Francis presented the report of the Moderator Team.

The Moderator Team moved the following:

1. The formation of a Task Force to develop a job description for a part-time Presbytery leader. The task force to report to the Presbytery at the July 14, 2018 meeting. Members of the Task Force will be Ruling Elders Lorna Peters, Rebecca Brown and Bill Crawford and Teaching Elders David Koehler and Dave Ullom. Stated Clerk Richard Francis will staff the Task Force. The motion carried
2. Money received from the Arcadia Presbyterian Church be donated to the Lakeshore Center for their deck project on the Lakeshore Lodge. The total amount is \$10,991.05. The motion carried.

Background: The Arcadia Church closed more than 10 years ago, but apparently this money was overlooked. An alert person spotted the church name in the Great Iowa Treasure Hunt and notified the Presbytery Office. Jeannie Stolee tracked it down and provided the information to the State Treasurer's Office that enabled the Presbytery to claim the money.

3. The election of Ruling Elders Michelle Scranton and Kim Fara to the Nominating Committee. No nominations from the floor being received, the motion carried.
4. Approve the request of the First Presbyterian Church of Alta to sell their manse. Legal description: Lot two (2), in block twenty-four (24), of the fourth addition to the city of Alta, Buena Vista County, Iowa, subject to easements and restrictions of record. The property has been appraised at between \$109,000 and \$119,000. The proceeds from the sale of the manse will be invested for future needs of the church and potential need for support of their pastoral ministry.

Clint Loveall presented the report of the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Alton.

Details of AC Settlement with Alton

1. Copies of the membership records and session minutes of Alton Presbyterian. Copies would be done at the church's expense and the congregation would retain the originals.

The copies would then be submitted to the PCUSA historical archive by Prospect Hill and would, therefore, be accessible to the congregation should they ever be needed.

2. An assessment of the value of the church building(s) and property to be completed by a qualified real estate agent or assessor. The church is free to choose the individual or agency that will complete this work and is responsible for the scheduling, cost and communication of this assessment.

3. The church will be asked to make a payment in the amount of \$3,663.00 to the Presbytery of Prospect Hill. This amount is equal to three years of current per capita (\$33) multiplied by the current number of members (37).

4. The church will also be asked to make a \$3,000.00 contribution to Lakeshore Center at Okoboji (Presbyterian Camp).

As requested by an Administrative Commission of Prospect Hill Presbytery, the Presbyterian Church of Alton, IA has fulfilled the following requirements as conditions of their request to be released to the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians (ECO).

1. Provide copies of Session Minutes, Church records, and Membership Rolls to be archived by the PCUSA.

2. Issue a check to the Presbytery of Prospect Hill in the amount of \$3,663.00. This represents 3 years of per capita at \$33/member x 37 members. As Alton had not per capita recently they were asked for an amount covering multiple years.

3. Issue a check in the amount of \$3,000.00 to the Lakeshore Center.

4. Provide an informal appraisal of the building and property of the church completed by someone with working knowledge of the area market. This was provided by Ed Grotenhuis as follows.

a. Land valued at \$4,780.00.

b. Structure has an assessed value of \$183,210.00.

c. Research reveals similar properties in NW Iowa have ranged in sales values from \$16,500.00 to \$45,000.00.

d. Estimated non-certified, market of the subject property is \$30,000.00.

Having completed the requests of the Administrative Commission, we therefore request that the Presbytery release Alton Presbyterian to the ECO. We wish them well in their new denominational home and bless them on their continued ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Clint Loveall,  
Chair – Alton AC

M/S/C to approve the report and release the congregation to the ECO. M/S/C to dismiss the Administrative Commission with thanks.

Brian Camara presented the Bills & Overtures Task Force Report

Bills and Overtures Task Force Report  
(Presbytery of Prospect Hill)

The Bills and Overtures task force has reviewed three proposed overtures to the General Assembly, which have been sent to the Presbytery of Prospect Hill for concurrence. [Note: Full texts of all three overtures were provided to the Presbytery prior to the meeting.] Overtures to the General Assembly are typically approved by a sponsoring Presbytery and one or more concurring Presbyteries before being placed on the docket. A vote in favor of the following amendments is a recommendation that these items be considered at the 223rd General Assembly.

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**Overture 007:** The Presbytery of Mission overtures the 223rd General Assembly to implement a \$250,000 grant to be used by presbyteries, congregations, and seminaries to educate entities in the PC (USA) regarding serious mental illness issues. The overture reaffirms and seeks to update the 2008 report, Comfort My People: A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness, to ensure that its recommendations are being faithfully implemented, specifically regarding the action items that are foundational to developing long term policies and a plan of action within the PC (USA).

The task force agrees that Presbyterian churches are in need of guidance on mental health issues, especially in the State of Iowa, and would like to see the 223rd General Assembly consider the merits of this overture. **We recommend that the Presbytery of Prospect Hill concur with the overture from the Presbytery of Mission.**

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**Overture 014:** The Presbytery of New Covenant overtures the 223rd General Assembly to express its concern about the detrimental effects of climate change and to call upon congregations who disagree with each other on the proper response to climate change to be in dialogue with each other.

While the task force is concerned about human damage to God's creation, we do not feel that this overture requires that the PC (USA) take any specific or meaningful action in response to the threat of climate change. **We recommend that the Presbytery of Prospect Hill NOT concur with the overture from the Presbytery of New Covenant.**

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**Overture 57:** The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area overtures the 223rd General Assembly to invite congregations to advocate for political change on the subject of climate change, with specific recommendations to learn about the concept of a "carbon fee and dividend."

The task force recognizes that overtures to call on the church to engage in political action are appropriate (and sometimes necessary) because Jesus Christ is Lord over all human life, even over national politics. However, this particular overture falls short

because it does not require the PC (USA) to take any specific or meaningful action in response to climate change. **We recommend that the Presbytery of Prospect Hill NOT concur with the overture from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.**

Submitted,  
Brian Camara

Following discussion, the Presbytery voted to concur with Overture 007, to not concur with Overture 014, and to not concur with Overture 57. The Stated Clerk will report concurrence to the General Assembly.

Michael Gewecke presented the Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report.

- Michael introduced Inquirer Shawn Harmon and recommended that Shawn be examined for approval as a Candidate. The examination took place via video conferencing. Following the examination, it was M/S/C to sustain the examination. Shawn was excused and Michael moved, on behalf of the CPM, to approve Shawn's request to move from Inquirer to Candidate. The motion carried and Shawn was welcomed with applause. Michael led the Presbytery in prayer for Shawn and his continuing preparation.

Shawn is finishing his second year at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary and looking forward to studying with the World Council of Churches' Global Ecumenical Theological Institute in Tanzania at the World Mission and Evangelism Conference this summer.

- Michael also reported that CRE Applicant Beverly Logsdon has finished her education through the Lay Academy and continues to be under care of the committee and Presbytery to be eligible for commissioning as a ruling elder.

Shari O'Bannon gave directions for lunch and led the presbytery in prayer for the meal. The Presbytery adjourned for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

The Presbytery reconvened following lunch at 1p.m.

Breakout sessions were led by

- Brian Camara on Centering Prayer
- Marshall Brown on Copyright Issues for Churches
- Richard Francis on the Third Third of Life: Preparing for Your Future

The Presbytery thanked Lue Baker for her service as Moderator.

No further business appearing, the Presbytery adjourned at 2:04 p.m. with prayer by Lue Baker.

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery will be July 14, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at Faith United Presbyterian Church, Sioux City.