

# PRESBYTERY CONNECTION

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter of the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill  
September 5, 2019

The Presbytery Connection is a bi-weekly joint newsletter for the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill. If you would like to contribute to the Presbytery Connection, please contact Jeannie Stolee in the Presbytery office at 319-233-1747 or [northiowapresby@gmail.com](mailto:northiowapresby@gmail.com)

If you know of someone who would enjoy receiving this communication, please email or call Jeannie.

Please consider making copies of this newsletter for your Session and running several copies to make available to your congregation.

[www.presbynciowa.org](http://www.presbynciowa.org)

[www.prospecthillpresby.org](http://www.prospecthillpresby.org)

To see North Central Iowa's calendar of events, please click [here](#).

To see Prospect Hill's calendar of events, please click [here](#).

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## Prospect Hill Sets New Minimum Compensation Guidelines for Pulpit Supply

The new Prospect Hill presbytery minimums as of September 1<sup>st</sup> apply to Ministers of Word & Sacrament and CREs. These standards will be our minimum compensation regardless of denomination affiliation.

Pulpit Supply for 1 service: \$100 + mileage

Pulpit Supply for 2 services  
on the same day: \$150 + mileage

Moderating a Session  
meeting: \$100 + mileage

The IRS mileage rate for 2019 is \$0.58/mile

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In order to facilitate easy communication from both presbyteries, General Presbyter Rev. Ian McMullen has established separate email addresses for the business of each presbytery, as follows:

North Central Iowa communication may be directed to Rev. McMullen at:

[presbyter@presbynciowa.org](mailto:presbyter@presbynciowa.org) or 515-450-7534

Prospect Hill communication may be directed to Rev. McMullen at:

[presbyter@prospecthillpresby.org](mailto:presbyter@prospecthillpresby.org) or 515-450-7534

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## Prayers of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa

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|----------------------|---|
| Week of September 8  | Pray for Theological Institutions related to the PC(USA)  |
| Week of September 15 | First Presbyterian Church, Dows – Rev. Shawn Hill   |
| Week of September 22 | Greater Greene County Presbyterian Ministries – Rev. Mark Rabideau<br>(First Grand Junction, First Jefferson, First Paton) CRE Wendy Pittman          |
| Week of September 29 | First Presbyterian Church, Reinbeck – Rev. Dr. David Kivett, Moderator<br>First Presbyterian Church, Grundy Center – Rev. Dr. David Kivett, Moderator |

## Prayers of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill

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|----------------------|--|
| Week of September 8  | Pray for Theological Institutions related to the PC(USA)                     |
| Week of September 15 | Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Storm Lake – Rev. Ken Fells, Moderator         |
| Week of September 22 | First Presbyterian Church, South Sioux City – Rev. Dr. Tom Murray, Moderator |
| Week of September 29 | Community Presbyterian Church, Lawton – Rev. Dale Lint, Moderator            |

## Additional Prayer Concerns

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Please keep Nancy and Dick Profit of Ida Grove in your prayers. Nancy had surgery on August 28 to have a four-year-old artificial knee taken out, a spacer put in and will receive two months of intravenous antibiotics to fight a very rare type of staphylococcus infection. If it can be cured, a time to make sure it stays away and hopefully a new knee will be in her future. Nancy was a part of the Lay Academy in 1997 and later attended seminary. She served churches in Southwest Iowa and in Missouri.

Please keep the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa, Prospect Hill and Des Moines in your prayers as they continue to disseminate, discuss and pray about the Joint Presbytery Staffing Plan in preparation for voting on the Plan at their respective fall presbytery meetings.

Please continue to remember CRE Shari O'Bannon's son, Doug, in your prayers that his numbers will continue to look better as he continues to battle the liver disease.

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## Churches in Transition

Please pray for the following churches that are in transition:

### Presbytery of North Central Iowa

First Presbyterian Church, Algona/Irvington  
First Presbyterian Church, Grundy Center  
First Presbyterian Church, Kamrar  
First Presbyterian Church, Reinbeck

### Presbytery of Prospect Hill

Wheatland Presbyterian Church, Breda  
Elliott Creek Presbyterian Church, Bronson  
First Presbyterian Church, Glidden  
First Presbyterian Church, Lake Park  
Community Presbyterian Church, Lawton  
First Presbyterian Church, Manning  
First Presbyterian Church, Paullina  
Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Storm Lake  
Westlawn Presbyterian Church, Sioux City  
First Presbyterian Church, South Sioux City

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Poor Richard's Almanac  
by Richard Francis, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Prospect Hill



Cooking shows are big business on TV. In fact, there are two cable/dish channels devoted entirely to cooking and eating: the Food Channel and the Cooking Channel.

But wasn't always like that. One of the pioneers of TV cooking, one of the people who made Emeril Lagasse, Bobby Flay, Rachel Ray, et.al. possible was Julia Child.

Julia Child's biography is fascinating and is told pretty well in the movie *Julie & Julia*, but what I'm thinking of today is this photo that shows what was happening on the set of *The French Chef*, Julia Child's long-running TV series. What the audience sees when they watch the show is Julia behind the counter working her magic with *boeuf bourguignon* or some other exotic-for-the-1960s dish. What the audience doesn't see are the *five* other people on the floor behind her making sure that everything is ready for Julia to work her magic. And of course, that doesn't count the person running the camera, the person doing the sound, the floor director, etc. If it takes a village to raise a child, it surely takes a village to put on a TV show.



What visitors see when they come into church is the pastor working their magic behind the pulpit. What they don't see are all the other people in the church who make the church's ministry possible, who in fact do the church's ministry with the pastor's help and guidance. We have tried as Presbyterians to make this reality a part of our structure and practice, assigning different responsibilities to different people and making sure that no one person carries the whole load of ministry. We sometimes think that "ministry" is what the minister does, but our belief and practice make it clear that ministry is what the church does.

This is never clearer than when a church is without a pastor. We sometimes describe such a church as "vacant," which I find unhelpful. No church is ever "vacant" when the Holy Spirit is present! I learned a long time ago that ministers come and go—we are all "interims"—but the ministry of the church continues— "and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18) Thanks be to God!

Blessings,

## A Word From NCI Moderator



“Love is an I that looks for a You to form an Us”

Last Saturday there was a huge celebration in our neighborhood. It was the grand opening of the Place to Play Playground, an inclusive playground designed for children with special needs. Five years ago, two women, who both had children with and without disabilities, had the vision of a playground where all children could play together. They spearheaded a fund-raising drive and raised over \$1,000,000. Donations came from all over – businesses, individuals, foundations, and the city of Cedar Falls. Saturday morning at 10:00 the gates opened and 500 people of all abilities came to the new park. What a celebration! We live across the street from the park and I love hearing the joyful sounds of children playing. I encourage all of you to come and visit, whether you have children with or without special needs.

Sunday morning my church, Cedar Heights, had a combined worship service with Cedar Falls First. We met outdoors in the “green space” behind Cedar Heights. It was a beautiful Sunday morning. Worship was led by the three pastors and wonderful music was provided by Mark Lane with his guitar. We shared Communion, prayed, and sang together. I love worshipping outdoors – the presence of God is so evident in nature.



The Presbyterian churches in the Cedar Valley share ministries often. This year there will be a Grand Sweep Bible Study led by all the PC(USA) pastors. The churches come together to provide Sunday Suppers at First in Waterloo for people in need of food and/or companionship. These are just a couple of our shared ministries. We are so fortunate in the Cedar Valley to have several churches in close proximity. It is a benefit to all of us when we can share our time and talents.

North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill Presbyteries have come together to share time, talents, and finances. We now share office space and staff and our General Presbyter, Ian. We are in conversation with Des Moines Presbytery about sharing services and ministry with them in the future.

We are all called by God to be disciples. I think we do this best in community with others. “Love is an I that looks for a You to form an Us.”

With thanksgiving,

Judy Klepfer  
Moderator, NCI Presbytery



## North Central Iowa Session Records Reviews



Session Records Reviews have been scheduled for North Central Iowa. Please click [here](#) for the dates and locations. Please feel free to attend whichever of these meetings is most convenient for you either in terms of date or location or both.

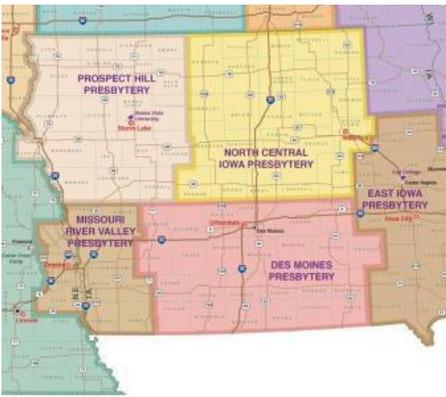
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*Per Capita -  
For Love of  
Christ's Church*

Rev. Ian McMullen, General Presbyter to the Presbyteries of Prospect Hill and North Central Iowa, explains the purpose and use of [Per Capita](#).

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The Presbyteries of North Central Iowa, Prospect Hill and Des Moines will be voting on a Joint Presbytery Staffing Plan at their respective fall Presbytery meetings. You may access that plan [here](#).

In addition, please click on [this link](#) to find videos that explain the proposal in more depth.

If you would like to ask a specific question about the proposed Joint Presbytery Staffing Plan, please plan to attend one of the following events:

- 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 20, at First Presbyterian Church, 1111 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Fort Dodge, with Rev. Sara Hill
- 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 20, at First Presbyterian Church, 100 Church Street, Conrad, with Rev. Kerry Carson

Or join us on-line at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 20, from the comfort of your own home to ask a question. You can join this on-line discussion by clicking [this Zoom link](#).

If you have any questions before your presbytery takes a vote on this exciting plan, please ask them!



The 2019-2020 Presbyterian Planning Calendar is now available to order! To order, you may call Presbyterian Distribution Service at 800-533-4371, send a fax to 502-569-8030, or go to [pcusastore.com](http://pcusastore.com). The cost is \$14.95 each; \$12.50 each for 10-49; \$8.50 each for 50 or more; plus shipping. Ask for ISBN 978-0-9858964-4-7.

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**Attention Church Administrative Assistants,  
Treasurers and Clerks of Session of the Presbyteries  
of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill!**

- Do you need a short getaway?
- Would you like to meet other church personnel?
- Would you like to learn about the Presbytery Office and how we can help each other?
- Are you feeling overwhelmed?
- Would you just like a short retreat at beautiful Lake Okoboji?

If you answered yes to at least one of these questions, please join the Presbytery Office for a one-night retreat! Please click [here](#) for more information and find a registration form [here](#).

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North Central Iowa Mission and Ministry Mission Partnership Grant Applications are due in the Presbytery office by September 19, 2019. You may access the Application [here](#).

Also, Grant Project Report Forms for mission grants received in 2019 are due in the Presbytery office by December 15, 2019. That report form may be found [here](#). Please remember that if your church received a mission grant in 2019 and plans to make another application in 2019 for grants received in 2020, a Grant Project Report Form MUST be received for your 2019 application to be considered.

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## Update from Presbyterian Peacemaking Program on International Peacemaker from Russia



Late word has been received that Rev. Artis Petersons, a Mission Co-Worker laboring in Russia/Latvia who was hoping to visit Iowa in September, has been unable to arrange for a visa and will not be serving as an International Peacemaker this fall. We regret that Rev. Petersons will not be able to travel to be with us.

However, a very well qualified substitute has been identified. With the help of Ellen Smith, our Mission Co-Worker in the region, and of course with God's help, we are delighted to tell you about Anastasiia Rozykova, whom we are delighted to welcome to the program. Anastasiia belongs to the same church denomination as Rev. Petersons, has a visa to travel to the U.S. and is available to participate in the entire program. You may read more about Anastasiia [here](#).

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## Project 52

Deadlines have been extended and there is still time to get in on the Dominican Republic Mission Trip being led by Lynn and Deanna Arends of Ackley! Please click [here](#) for more information on the trip and how to contact Lynn and Deanna.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

**Peace & Global Witness Special Offering  
September 1 – October 6**

The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together as active peacemakers, and provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do this work well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict and nurturing reconciliation, and stand in support of our global sisters and brothers, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere.

By giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we work to share Christ's peace with one another, beyond our doors, beyond our community and across boundaries.

**25% of this Offering** stays with your congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in your own community.

**25% of this Offering** will go to your mid-council, joining with other congregations in your area to support peacemaking work in your region.

**50% of this Offering** supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians around the globe.

Please give generously.

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Do you have an AED in your church building? The Iowa Heart Foundation recommends that Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) be placed wherever people gather. AEDs have become so advanced that almost anyone can use them safely. Click [here](#) for more information.

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If you feel as if you're at the end of your rope or the recent floods or low crop prices have left you feeling hopeless, please click [here](#) to find a group or network who may be able to help.

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Save the Date for the Iowa Presbyterians Gathering on November 1 and 2, 2019! Please click [here](#) for save the date information. More information will be coming soon!

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Iowa Religious Media Services will be closing its doors and clients and denominations will have an opportunity to purchase resources at approximately 50% of the cost of the resource. Please click [here](#) for more information.

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The Board of Pensions is hosting a retirement planning seminar at University of Dubuque Theological Seminary on Wednesday and Thursday, October 2-3, 2019. Please see more information [here](#).

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Lakeshore Center has several exciting events planned for this fall! Click on the event name to find out more.

- [Fall Fuel Up](#) for grades 5 through 10: September 6-7
- [Hobby Retreat](#): September 26-29
- [A Day with Tom Long](#): October 4
- [Fall Work Day](#) (think of it as a mission trip close to home!): October 12
- [Fall Fest](#): October 16

Click [here](#) to be directed to Lakeshore Center's website

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## Academy



Deepening faith and  
encountering Christ in a  
new way

Please click [here](#) for information on The Academy.