

**The Presbytery of Prospect Hill
Stated Meeting of the Presbytery
Saturday, June 6, 2020
Via Videoconference**

The Presbytery of Prospect Hill met for a regularly called meeting on Saturday, June 6, 2020 via videoconference. The meeting was held this way rather than face to face because of the COVID-19 that is severely restricting face to face gatherings. That makes this the first remote meeting in the history of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill.

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Moderator Kevin Freese at 9:30 a.m. He acknowledged the work of several people who made the virtual meeting happen.

Stated Clerk Richard Francis gave an introduction to the Zoom online platform, which was used for the meeting.

A quorum was present, as established by online registration.

Church	Teaching Elder/ CP	Occupation Code	Present/Absent/ Excused	Ruling Elder
Alta, First	Rev. Denise Parrello	151	P	Mike Pedersen
Armstrong, First	Rev. Suzanne Wobig	101	A	
Auburn, United	Rev. Rikki Sorensen	101	P	Kathy Vonnahme
Battle Creek, First	Rev. Kevin Freese	101	P	Keely Goettsch
Breda, Wheatland	Vacant			
Bronson, Elliott Creek	Vacant			
Carnarvon, Emmanuel	CRE Lue Baker	107	P	
Carroll, First	Rev. Rikki Sorensen	101	P	Michelle Scranton
Cherokee, Memorial	Rev. Eric Wright	101	P	Matthew Royster
Cleghorn, First	Vacant			Cheryl Plagman
Denison, United	Rev. Jennifer Olson	101	P	Kendall VonGlan
Estherville, First	Rev. Dr. Dave Ullom	101	P	Kelly Claude
George, Ebenezer	Rev. John Pea	101	P	
George, Zoar	Rev. John Pea	101	P	Linda Winkel
Glidden, First	Rev. Anna Small	101	P	Elaine Crawford
Hawarden, Associated	Rev. Erma Wolf	151	A	

Ida Grove, Westminster	CRE Shari O'Bannon	107	P	Doug Masker
Lake City, Union	Rev. Randy Russom	101	P	
Lake Park, First	Vacant			
Lawton, Community	Vacant			Bev Logsdon
LeMars, Plymouth	Vacant			
LeMars, Presbyterian UCC	Rev. Jan Christensen	101	P	Jerry Scholten
Manilla, United	Rev. Joel Sutton	151	A	
Manning, First	Vacant			Gwen Detlefsen
Odebolt, First	CRE Bill Crawford	107	P	
Paullina, First	CRE Marj Feltman	107	P	Sharla Rupert
Ringsted, First	Rev. Suzanne Wobig	101	A	
Rockwell City, St. Paul's	Vacant			
Sac City, First	Rev. Missy Brown-UMC	151	P	Arnie Thomas
Sanborn, First	Rev. Gregg Johnson	151	A	
Schaller, First	Rev. Michael Sydnor	101	P	Jane Bisenius
Sioux City, Faith United	Rev. David Koehler	101	P	Linda Puttmann
Sioux City, First	Rev. Dr. Tom Murray	101	P	
Sioux City, Westlawn	Vacant			
Sioux City, Westminster	Rev. Erica MacCreaigh	101	P	Mary Forbes
So. Sioux City, First	Vacant			
Spirit Lake, First	Rev. Clint Loveall	101	A	
Spirit Lake, First	Rev. Michael Gewecke	103	A	
Storm Lake, Lakeside	Vacant			
Vail, United	Rev. Bob Cook	105	E	
Wall Lake, Trinity	CRE Lue Baker	107	P	
Westside, United	Rev. Bob Cook	105	E	

Other Ministers on the Roll of Presbytery				
Specialized Ministry and At-Large				
Rev. Ian McMullen	Temporary Supply General Presbyter	301	P	
Rev. Richard Francis	Stated Clerk	303	P	
Rev. Dr. Cambria Kaltwasser	Northwestern College	644	P	
Rev. Donna Gray	At-Large	797	E	
Molly Dowell-Baum	At-Large	797	A	
Corresponding Member				
Rev. Cindy Kohlmann	Co-Moderator of General Assembly		P	
Honorably Retired				
Rev. Ken Fells		299	P	
Rev. Marshall Brown		299	P	
Presbytery Committee Members Present				
Nancy Janssen	Vice Moderator		P	
Gwen Detlefsen	RE Commissioner to GA		P	
Karen Kaiser	Treasurer		P	
Cassie Gabe	Lakeshore Center at Okoboji		P	
Visitors				
Mason Goodenow	Battle Creek First		P	
Rebecca Brown	Denison United		P	
Duane Mullen	Denison United		P	

It was moved, seconded, and carried (M/S/C) to authorize meeting via video conference, and that this decision be ratified at the next face-to-face meeting of the presbytery.

First time commissioners were asked to introduce themselves.

Rev. Anna Small, pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Glidden, introduced herself as a new minister member of the presbytery.

The Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, Co-Moderator of the General Assembly, was seated as a Corresponding Member. The Rev. Ms. Kohlmann brought greetings on behalf herself and her Co-Moderator.

No new business was introduced.

Presbytery Treasurer Karen Kaiser was given privilege of the floor.

M/S/C to approve the Agenda as posted on the presbytery web page.

The presbytery moved to worship at 9:51 a.m. Participating in the service: Rev. Kevin Freese, Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) Bill Crawford, Elder Nancy Janssen, Rev. Ricarda Sorensen, Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, Rev. Jennifer Olson, Rev. Anna Small. An installation service was held as part of worship for Moderator Kevin Freese, Vice-Moderator Nancy Janssen, and General Assembly Commissioners Teaching Elder Kevin Freese and Ruling Elder Gwen Detlefsen. An offering was taken for the South Sudan Nursing Scholarship program. Participants were asked to send a check for this offering to the presbytery office or to use the PayPal link provided. The total amount of the offering will be reported at the next meeting of the presbytery.

Following worship, the Moderator introduced the Consent Agenda. Commissioners were asked to request individual reports to be removed from the Consent Agenda using the chat feature of Zoom

Moderator's Report

I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we gather for this Presbytery meeting via Zoom, we continue in the midst of pandemic and vastly changing times. Disruptions and changes still abound in our personal lives and living, our communities, churches, Presbytery and throughout the larger church. Meetings continue to occur via Zoom, teleconference and other electronic means. Our weekly Presbytery support zoom meetings on Tuesday afternoon, have served as a valuable sounding box to expressing needs, frustrations, concerns and joys. Even more so there has been a bountiful sharing of helpful resources and ideas. Most importantly it has brought our Presbytery together through support and prayer. If you have not been a part of this ongoing online group, I encourage you to avail yourself today.

Presbytery grants to local churches for mission, technology and payroll support are still being accepted. A variety of grants have already been approved. If your congregation has not considered this opportunity, I would encourage your participation today. The process is not complicated and it's a great way of cooperating together in ministry, mission and work of the church.

Many thanks to our Presbytery staff, led by General Presbyter Ian McMillan, along with Stated Clerk Richard Francis, Office Administrator Jeannie Stolee and Treasurer Karen

Kaiser. Each has done a tremendous job of communication and organization, providing ongoing support and encouragement through their individual responsibilities and combined joint efforts.

Special thanks and kudos to each of our pastors, sessions, clerks, worship committees, musicians and many others in each of our churches for the variety of ways they have stepped up to provide online worship services, devotion, and community resources.

In these changing and uncertain times, we thank God for the gift of faith – trusting in the One who never changes, the One who is never absent, the One who will never ever forsake us. Trusting in Jesus Christ, the work, mission, ministry and life of the church will continue in new and exciting ways.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Kevin Freese, Moderator

General Presbyter's Report

Stated Clerk's Report

The Presbytery of Prospect Hill
Stated Clerk's Report to the Stated Meeting held June 6, 2020 via videoconference

October 26, 2019

Since the October 26, 2019 meeting, I have completed the following actions:

1. Dismissed the Rev. Molly Dowell Baum to Albany Presbytery at her request and with the approval of Committee on Ministry, December 16, 2019
2. Enrolled Shawn Harmon as a member of presbytery upon his ordination February 2, 2020

The report of the Administrative Commission for Shawn Harmon is attached, and the Commission has been dissolved with thanks.

I have also attended or participated in

- A retreat for Clerks of Session and Church Secretaries at the Lakeshore Center, October 28, 2019
- The All-Iowa Presbytery Gathering in Des Moines, November 1-2, 2019
- Commission on Ministry, seven meetings, some via videoconference
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry, two meetings, one via videoconference
- Moderator Team, five meetings
- The Tri-Presbytery Meeting in Ames, November 15, 2019
- Ordination Service for Shawn Harmon, First Presbyterian Church of Lake Park, February 2, 2020
- South Sudan Task Force

- Weekly videoconference updates with the Presbyteries of Prospect Hill and North Central Iowa beginning March 17, 2020, as face-to-face gatherings began to be limited by the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
- Weekly videoconference updates with the Association of Mid-Council Leaders
- General Assembly orientation via videoconference, March 30, 2020
- Synod of Lakes and Prairies conference via videoconference, April 3, 2020
- Videoconference, “Call Process During COVID-19” sponsored by the General Assembly, April 21, 2020
- Mid-Council leaders videoconference to discuss possibilities for a “virtual” General Assembly, April 24, 2020
- Synod of Lakes and Prairies via videoconference, May 4, 2020.

The State of the Presbytery

The difficulty of writing about the state of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill is disciplining myself not to use the word “unprecedented.” The Presbyterian Church in its various iterations has survived several outbreaks of disease that have forced us to change our approach to corporate life and worship, and some of those outbreaks—the 1918-1919 “Spanish Influenza,” for example—qualified as pandemics. But we have no experience in our own lifetimes with “sheltering in place” and “virtual worship” and the learning curve is steep. As someone remarked early on, “Overnight 10,000 Presbyterian pastors became televangelists.” The churches of our Presbytery, and their pastors, are doing some remarkably creative things. When it comes to making something out of nothing, the TV character McGyver has nothing on us.

We are being forced as a presbytery to live out the truth of what we have said all along that we believed: that the Church is the Body of Christ spread out across time and space, and that whatever institutions and buildings we have erected to facilitate the Six Great Ends of the Church¹ are not ends in themselves but means to an end. The Church is the Church whether it is gathered or scattered, and though the Presbytery of Prospect Hill is for the most part scattered, it is still an outpost of the Kingdom of God in northwest Iowa and northeast Nebraska. As one of our pastors, the Rev Missy Brown, put it,

- Our Faith is always evolving/developing/strengthening
- Hope does not close.
- The love of Jesus has not been quarantined and never will be.

¹ The great ends of the Church are:

- the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
- the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
- the maintenance of divine worship;
- the preservation of the truth;
- the promotion of social righteousness; and
- the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. - F-1.0304

That doesn't mean it hasn't been tough. We are all grieving what has been and fearing what might be coming. Pastors are working more, rather than less. Fortunately we have a strong leadership team in the presbytery and financial resources not only to meet the budget needs of the presbytery but also to support the mission and ministry of our local churches.

So we are hopeful. As Ian McMullen rightly reminds us, "hope is not a strategy." But hope is the basis of our strategy—not a vague hope that things will get better, that we will "get through this," but hope in Jesus Christ who loved us and gave himself for us, and who sends the Spirit into our uncertain life to renew, strengthen, and empower us, for Jesus' sake.

Administrative Commission Report Form

Presbytery of Prospect Hill

The Administrative Commission met at 3:30 am/pm on 2/02/2020 (date), at the

First Presbyterian Church in LAKE PARK, IA for the (circle one)

Commissioning
Ordination Ordination and Installation Installation of

Shawn Harmon

Kevin J. Freese, Moderator of the Commission, called the meeting to order and led in prayer.

1. The following members of the Commission were present:

Ministers of Word and Sacrament

Ruling Elders

Michael Gewecke (Spirit Lake) Bruce Hasara (Lake Park)

David Wilom (Estherville) Kaven Byers (Spirit Lake)

Kevin Freese (Battle Creek)

2. The following were absent:

none

3. The following were seated as corresponding members:

Name

Denominational Jurisdiction

Rev. Dr. Tim Harmon

Presbytery LAKE ERIE

4. Other actions taken by the Commission prior to the service:

reviewed order of worship

Revised 11/17

Synod Commissioners - no report

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women of Prospect Hill Coordinating Team

Due to the coronavirus which has disrupted lives worldwide, the Presbyterian Women of Prospect Hill Coordinating Team (CT) Officers have not been able to meet to plan for the annual PW Fall Gathering. With the prospect of the virus returning in the fall, we thought it best NOT to have the Gathering this September. The health and safety of our women, as well as their families and communities, is a primary concern.

A letter will be sent to the PW Moderators of the Congregations to be shared with the women in their church.

Contents of the letter will include:

- **CHURCHWIDE GATHERING** The Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held in St. Louis on August 5-8, 2021. Scholarship monies to assist anyone who wishes to attend will be available. For more information go to presbyterianwomen.org/gathering.
- **SYNOD GATHERING** The next date to save is June 16-19, 2022 when the Synod Gathering will be held in Sioux City at the Hilton Garden Inn on the River. Again scholarship monies to help anyone that may want to attend will be available.
- **MATTHEW 25 PROGRAM** The Matthew 25 Program of the Presbyterian Church is an international humanitarian aid and disaster relief organization helping more than 20 million people each year. A way we can help is to save empty medical bottles (labels removed) to be sent overseas for help in distributing medicines. For more information check m25m.org. (An easy way to remove labels is to freeze the bottles.)
- **HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP** The Honorary Life Membership (HLM) program was established in the Presbyterian Church to honor faithful service to the women's organization and to the church. With this recognition, the honoree will receive a certificate and either a 10K gold pin (\$250) or a silver pin (\$95). To nominate a person, contact Audrey Fenton, Presbyterian PW Treasurer. Funds derived from the Honorary Life Memberships support the PW Leadership Development Grant Program.
- **NEW COORDINATING TEAM MEMBERS** Encourage PW's to think about joining the Coordinating Team Board. If they know of someone who would like to serve contact Search Committee/Cluster Leaders, Gladys Schmidt or Rose Herman.
Rose Herman Gladys Schmidt 104 NW 8th St. 29789 Birch Ave Pocahontas, IA 50574
Manning, IA 51455 712-358-1226 712-653-3728 roseherman54@gmail.com
gladysschmidt40@gmail.com
Audrey Scholten PWPPH Moderator

Commission on Ministry (COM)

COM REPORT

PRESBYTERY OF PROSPECT HILL PRESBYTERY MEETING

June 6, 2020- Zoom Meeting

Since the last meeting of Prospect Hill Presbytery, the Commission on Ministry has taken the following actions:

- Updated the liaison list for the congregations (list attached) and conducted visits with the following congregations: Auburn, United; Breda, Wheatland; Bronson, Elliott Creek; Carroll, First; Lake City, Union; Lake Park, First; Lawton, Community; LeMars, Plymouth; Sioux City, Westminster; S. Sioux City, First; Vail, First; Westside, United.
- Approved and provided communion training for: Sioux City, Westlawn
- Approved transfer of membership for Rev. Molly Dowell-Baum to Presbytery of Albany, Rev. Dr. Charles Valenti-Hein to Winnebago Presbytery, Rev. Dr. Angel de la Cruz, to Pittsburgh Presbytery.
- Approved Shawn Harmon for Ordination to Validated Ministry in the Mission Field and approved the Terms of Call for Rev. Shawn Harmon and The Antioch Partners as follows: Cash Salary- \$18,300; Housing Allowance- \$17,400; Total Effective Salary- \$35,700; 4 weeks paid annual leave, 2 weeks paid continuing education. Rev. Harmon was ordained to the position with The Antioch Partners on Sunday, February 2, 2020, at Lake Park, First.
- Interviewed and then approved the Terms of Call for the Rev. Anna Small and Glidden, First as follows: Cash Salary- \$25,000; Housing Allowance- \$20,000; Total Effective Salary- \$45,000; 4 weeks paid annual leave, 2 weeks paid continuing education. Rev. Small began service to Glidden, First on February 23, 2020; installation is pending.
- Approved Rev. John Pea, George, Ebenezer and Zoar, as Moderator for Paullina, First.
- Approved Rev. Erica MacCreaigh, Sioux City, Westminster, as Moderator of Sioux City, Westlawn.
- Approved Vicki Steffes, UMC, for Pulpit Supply at Manning, beginning in November 2019.
- Approved Travis Remme to Pulpit Supply for Lawton, Community, and Bronson, Elliott Creek.
- Approved the Temporary Pastoral Sharing Contract between the Rev. Missy Brown, UMC, Sac City, First, and Sac City, UMC. Total compensation under the agreement is \$39,284, split evenly between Sac City, First, and Sac City, UMC. The COM also approved Rev. Brown to Moderate the Session of Sac City, First, upon completion of Presbyterian Polity class of some kind. Rev. Michael Sydnor, Schaller, First, will continue as Moderator until then.
- COM approved the CRE Annual Reports for Bill Crawford, Odebolt, First, and Shari O'Bannon, Ida Grove, Westminster, and approved both for another year of service.
- Approved the New Covenant of Ministry for Commissioned Ruling Elder between CRE Lue Baker and Wall Lake, Trinity and Carnarvon, Emmanuel congregations.
- Approved Mission Studies for: Paullina, First; Ida Grove, Westminster and Odebolt, First (yoked), and MIF for Ida Grove, Westminster and Odebolt, First (yoked)
- Approved the addition of rev. Roslyn de Koster, RCA, to Pulpit Supply List.
- Approved motion to grant COM Moderator authority to appoint Session Moderator in the case of a pastor's sudden death or incapacitation.

No action items.

Budget and Finance Committee

Budget and Finance Committee Report

June 6, 2020

Given the wild and unprecedented times, I am pleased to report a certain calm related to Prospect Hill Presbytery's finances. Income and expenses have been recorded on a fairly consistent basis. Our investments are down 5.27%, maybe down over 10% recently, but show stability.

The moderator team announced a grant program funded by the Presbytery. The amount of \$100,000 has been set aside to help fund mission and technology programs requested by congregations as a result of continued needs during the coronavirus pandemic. So far, 13 local churches have received grants from the Presbytery for 3 mission projects and 13 technology projects, totaling over \$31,000. The form was designed to be simple and easily available. Details can be found at the Presbytery office.

Prayerfully submitted by

Mason Goodenow

712-369-1332

All-Iowa Gathering November 1-2, 2019 - no report

Presbytery Leader Search Committee Update

June 2, 2020 Update

Tri-Presbyteries Search Committee
from Ken Rummer, Committee Moderator

Your search committee continues on the trail of a new leadership team for our three presbyteries.

We can report that we have reached a marker on the path.

June 1 was the deadline for submission of answers to our supplemental questions by those who expressed interest in one or more of the three executive positions we are seeking to fill.

Now those resumes and PIFs, along with the answers to supplemental questions, come to our committee for reading and evaluation.

The Committee plans to meet by ZOOM on June 23 to discuss our individual assessments and to decide together which candidates to move forward into the reference-checking phase of the process.

We ask for your continued prayers for our committee, for the candidates, and for God's guidance as we continue on this path

M/S/C to approve the Consent Agenda and receive the reports.

Richard Francis presented the Moderator Team report. The Moderator Team made the following motions:

- To authorize the Budget and Finance Committee to set Per Capita for 2021 and report that figure to the churches. The motion passed.

- To authorize the Budget and Finance Committee to set Unified Mission giving percentages for 2021 and report that figure to the churches. The motion passed.
- To elect Rev. Jan Christensen and Rev. Kevin Freese to the Nominating Committee for the class of 2023 (second terms for each). The motion passed.

General Presbyter Ian McMullen called the presbytery's attention to the Congregational Grant Report. He highlighted some of the equipment upgrades churches have made with their grant money.

Rev. Dr. Cambria Kaltwasser presented the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report

June 6, 2020

Moderators: Rev. Dr. Cambria Kaltwasser

Rev. Dr. David Ullom

Members: Elder Gwen Deflefsen

Elder John Mayne

Rev. Dr. Tom Murray

Elder Karen Roed

Certified Ready:

Candidates:

Inquirers: Duane Mullen

CRE: Kendall Von Glan

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry met on June 1, 2020 with 5 members and two ex-officio members in attendance.

Upcoming Meeting:

- September 14th, 2020

Action Items for Presbytery

- The CPM recommends that the Presbytery examine Duane Mullen in order to be moved from Inquiry to Candidacy in his ongoing process of discernment and training for ministry.

Other Activity of the Committee

- Inquirer Travis Remme has discerned a call to pursue ordination with the United Methodist Church. He has been removed from the roll of Inquirers.

The Committee recommended that Duane Mullen, an Inquirer under care of the presbytery, be granted Candidate status. She introduced Duane, who presented his statement of faith and answered questions about his faith journey and sense of call. Following the question and answer period, Duane was excused from the meeting. Following discussion, the Committee moved that the examination be sustained and that Duane be enrolled as a Candidate under care. The motion passed. Duane was returned to the meeting. Cambria led the presbytery in prayer for Duane and his continuing preparation.

Rev. Jan Christensen presented the report of the Nominating Committee. On behalf of the Committee, she placed the following names in nomination:

Bills & Overtures Task Force (GA commissioners & alternates)

Class of 2022

1. Kevin Freese
2. Gwen Detlefsen
3. Jennifer Olson
4. Lauri Struve

Committee on Ministry

Class of 2022

1. Open

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Class of 2020

1. Mary Ann Irwin

Class of 2022

1. Jennifer Olson

Lakeshore Center Ministry Board

Class of 2022

1. Christine Feltman

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2026

1. Michelle Scranton

Personnel Committee (these nominees come from the tri-presbytery search committee, requiring them to be on the personnel committee of their presbytery)

Class of 2021

1. Rebecca Brown

Class of 2022

1. Kendall Von Glan

Class of 2023

1. Randy Russom

The Moderator Team having determined that motions from the floor would be technologically difficult to process in a virtual meeting, the presbytery was informed prior to the meeting that only nominations from the floor that would be allowed would be those submitted ahead of time. No such nominations having been made, the presbytery voted to elect those nominated.

General Presbytery Ian McMullen made announcements.

Cassie Gabe made a presentation on behalf of Lakeshore Center at Okoboji. She noted with that the pandemic has forced the Center to cancel summer programming for 2020, although they are still open, with restrictions in place, for summer rentals. They are exploring the possibility of a small intentional community of college students gathering for leadership development. People and churches who have already paid a deposit can request a refund or choose to re-designate that money as a tax-deductible donation. She called the presbytery's attention to the explanatory letter found on the Lakeshore Center web site. Work projects are available for small groups. Some churches have chosen to donate money they had set aside for camp scholarships.

Ian McMullen noted the retirement of Rev. Dr. Tom Murray from First Presbyterian Church, Sioux City. Tom acknowledged the congratulations of the presbytery.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Kevin Freese at 11:20 a.m.

Richard Francis, Stated Clerk

The next stated meeting of the presbytery is scheduled for Saturday, October 31, at Lakeshore Center at Okoboji.