



Presbytery of Des Moines

REV. PHILIP W. BARRETT, GENERAL PRESBYTER & STATED CLERK
E-MAIL: PBY1@QWESTOFFICE.NET

August 7, 2008

CALL TO THE 473rd STATED MEETING

The 473rd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines will be held on Saturday, August 16, 2008, at the First Presbyterian Church of Gibson, Iowa and co-hosted by the White Oak Presbyterian Church. The business meeting and lunch will be held in the First Presbyterian Church. The time for lunch has been expanded so we can also visit the White Oak Presbyterian Church, a delightful church on the edge of a field. Directions to the churches are contained in a map included in this packet.

Because of the way plans for the day fall together, registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. **This is a change from our usual time.** Please do not arrive before 9 a.m. The people preparing the materials and process for registration, and those preparing the coffee and rolls, will not be ready until then. **The Presbytery will convene at 10:00 a.m.**

The *Proposed Docket* is enclosed, along with items for information and action. Commissioners should bring these to the meeting. Limited copies are available at the meeting for visitors only.

As has happened in our previous meetings, much of our “usual” business will be handled in what is called a “consent agenda” process. This means we can handle – in one action – votes to approve or adopt actions or recommendations that do not require debate or conversation. Only items included in this *Call Packet* will be included in the *Consent Agenda*. The proposed *Consent Agenda* appears following the *Proposed Docket* in this packet. You will notice that the reports contain a letter designation with parts of them having numbers for easy identification.

A recent addition to our *Orientation Time* is the Budget and Finance Committee’s offering a “Budget Orientation” for those interested in learning more or talking about our budget. Look for room signs.

The theme for our time together, centers around what’s been going on this summer. We will hear from our Commissioners and Youth Advisory Delegate to the General Assembly as well as from folks who attended Synod School and summer camps. We will also deal with some items from several of our committees. And again, we will get to tour the place where our brothers and sisters from the White Oak Presbyterian Church worship each week.

The *Minutes of the May 20 Stated Meeting* were distributed to commissioners and members last month. Please remember to bring these to the August 16 meeting. You may download them for printing by going online to www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org. Again, extra copies are at a minimum.

Meeting Format: Under our structure and style of operating in our Presbytery, meetings do not have business as the central focus and purpose for our gathering. Worship, dialogue and fellowship are primary reasons for meeting. There is still business – after all, we cannot be Presbyterians if we do not

2400 86TH STREET • SUITE 20 • URBANDALE, IOWA • 50322-4306

PHONE: 515-276-4991 • FAX: 515-276-7596

E-MAIL: PBYDESMOINES@QWESTOFFICE.NET

have business – but much of our meeting time is more conversational than parliamentary in nature. It will help our meetings to be carried on in this kind of spirit if members and commissioners come expecting such a spirit to be present.

As you look at the *Proposed Docket*, you will see that this meeting does not begin until 10:00 a.m. and lasts until approximately 3:30 p.m. Knowing that a majority of those attending will be traveling a long distance, the Council has worked very hard to plan a docket that will allow for adjournment at an early enough time to allow for the travels home. A full day's meeting is standard in our structure and design. We meet as a Presbytery only four times per year, so all of our meetings are “all day.” All of the items on the docket require Presbytery attention or fit in with what we have said we want to have happen at our meetings.

Another thing to note as you look at the *Proposed Docket* is that, as usual, it is full. We have a variety of activities and actions that keeps the time moving quickly and 3:30 will be on us before we know it. We encourage each commissioner and minister member to be present for the entire meeting. Avoidable late arrivals and early leavings are discourteous to those presenting reports and rob other people of the opportunity to share in work and ministry with those not present.

Participation Guidelines: For a variety of reasons, some members of our Presbytery have asked who may participate in discussions during a Presbytery meeting. *Guidelines for Participation in Presbytery Meetings*, is a helpful guide and is located at the end of this packet.

A reminder about how we handle “Joys and Concerns;” instead of mixing announcements with items for prayer, we now have an announcement time for publicity items after lunch. Prayer joys and concerns will be shared during worship time.

Child Care: Due to the lack of room at First Presbyterian Church, child care will not be provided.

A/V Equipment: The Presbytery has available for use a LCD projector and large screen. **If you need a laptop computer or A/V equipment of any kind, contact the Presbytery Office immediately to reserve the equipment for your presentation or table.**

We will continue the registration process of having **all** attendees sign in. **Remember:** Congregations are not excused from having an elder in attendance. If you plan to bring extra visitors, please call the church to let them know. In case of bad weather, call the Presbytery Office at 515-276-4991, for message info.

I look forward to being with all of you on Saturday, August 16.



Philip W. Barrett, Stated Clerk

Enclosures

PROPOSED DOCKET

August 16, 2008

9:00 a.m.	Registration Begins Coffee and Fellowship	
9:30	Orientation of “First Timers”	David Endriss
10:00	Convene Presbytery I – Report of the Stated Clerk	Ray Peters Phil Barrett
10:30	P1 – Report of Commissioners and Youth Advisory Delegate to General Assembly	David Endriss, Nancy Lister-Settle, Jan Scott, Paul Walther and YAD Chad Schwickerath
11:00	Worship	
12:00	Lunch and Visits to White Oak	
1:30 p.m.	Announcements	
1:40	A – Congregational Care and Development Committee Report	Julie Cloud
1:50	L – Camping/Youth Ministries Task Force Report	Dennis Britson
2:05	B – Professional Care and Development Committee Report	Leland Smith
2:10	K – Social Ministries Task Force Report	Nancy Lister-Settle
2:20	S – Stewardship and Mission Interpretation Committee Report	Dale O’Connell
2:35	J – Report of the General Presbyter	Phil Barrett
2:45	Q – Report from Synod School	
3:00	C – Committee on Preparation for Ministry	David Stipp-Bethune
3:05	D – Budget and Finance Committee	Marvin Potter
3:15	E – Coordinating Council Report	Kate Stangl
3:25	Other Business	
3:30	Adjourn Meeting	

Map to First and White Oak Presbyterian Churches in Gibson, Iowa:

Driving Directions: The First Presbyterian Church, where the meeting will be held, is located at 101 W. Grinnell Street, and is on the north side of the street. The White Oak Presbyterian Church is located at 12502 150th Ave., and is on the west side of the street.

- **From the South:** Take IA-Hwy. 92 east to IA-Hwy. 21. Go north on Hwy. 21 to County Road Hwy. G-13. Go west 2 miles on CR G-13 or 120th St. which turns into W. Grinnell St. in the town of Gibson. The First Presbyterian Church will be on the right (the north side of the street).
- **From the West:** Take Interstate-80 east to the BellePlaine/Whatcheer Exit 201. Take exit ramp around and go left onto IA-Hwy 21. Go south on Hwy. 21 approximately 14.7 miles to County Road Hwy. G-13 and take a right. Go west 2 miles on CR G-13 or 120th St. which turns into W. Grinnell St. in the town of Gibson. The First Presbyterian Church will be on the right (the north side of the street).

Parking: Parking is available in the lots of both churches and on the streets surrounding the churches.

Building Accessibility: The First Presbyterian Church is not fully handicap accessible. The narthex (where registration will be held) and church sanctuary (which is on the main level) is handicap-accessible. A special room off the sanctuary will be available for those not wishing to use the stairs to the basement hall for lunch. Also, some of the bathrooms have a step up into them.

CONSENT AGENDA

August 16, 2008

B Professional Care and Development Committee

- B-A-13 John Beran's Status
- B-A-14 Adam Nardini's Dissolution Terms
- B-A-15 Sue Babovec's Dissolution Terms

C Committee on Preparation for Ministry

- C-I-4 Completion of Annual Consultations
- C-I-5 Inquirers and Candidates Under Care
- C-I-6 Candidate Certified Ready to Receive Call
- C-I-7 Persons Participating in CLP Training
- C-I-8 Scott Valentine's Completion of CLP Training
- C-I-9 Responsibilities of the CPM
- C-I-10 Need for Ordination Exam Readers

D Budget and Finance Committee

- D-I-1 Receiving Mission Funds
- D-I-2 Past Per Capita Payments
- D-3 Income Statement
- D-4 Restricted Funds

E Coordinating Council

- E-A-11 Reviewed May Meeting
- E-A-12 Planned August 16 Presbytery Meeting
- E-A-13 Initial plans for November 11 Presbytery Meeting

I Stated Clerk's Report

- I-I-13 Reports Filed and Correspondence Handled
- I-I-14 Resignation of Elder Keith Garber from CCD
- I-I-15 Ewart Presbyterian Church Closing Request
- I-I-17 Joan White's Installation Report

**B – PROFESSIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT
(PCD) COMMITTEE REPORT
August 16, 2008**

Actions Taken On Behalf of the Presbytery by the Committee:

- B-A-13 Approved granting the Rev. John C. Beran the status of Missionary/Pastor Emeritus for the United Church of Diagonal.
- B-A-14 Approved the Terms of Dissolution for the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Adam Nardini and the Union Park Presbyterian Church of Des Moines.
- B-A-15 Approved the Terms of Dissolution for the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Susan Babovec and the First Presbyterian Church of Ottumwa.

Information for the Presbytery:

- B-I-1 Working with the Congregational Care and Development Committee, the pastor and congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas Center are being guided in a time of reflection and deliberation as the future of their ministry is considered.

Recommended for approval by Presbytery:

- B-R-5 That the following changes in pastoral compensation for 2008 be approved:

**2008 SALARY CHANGES
As of August 16, 2008**

*You will note that a complete **PCD Committee Report** is not included. The portion omitted is the chart listing **Changes in Terms of Pastoral Calls (2008 Salary Changes)**. At the request of some minister members for limited release of these figures, this section will only be sent to a minister member of the Presbytery or a commissioner. You may request an electronic version or hard copy by contacting the Presbytery Office at 515-276-4991.*

Professional Care and Development Committee (PCD) Report continued...



**5-Year History
Pastoral Compensation Minimums
Presbytery of Des Moines**



	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Effective Salary¹	\$33,500	\$34,200	\$35,200	\$36,400	\$38,000	\$39,000
Pension Dues²	28.5/29.5% of Effective Salary	30.5% of Effective Salary	31% of Effective Salary	31% of Effective Salary	31.5% of Effective Salary	31.5% of Effective Salary
Continuing Ed. Dollars³	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$1,000	\$1,000
Continuing Ed. Leave^{3,4}	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks
Auto Reimburse	Actual or IRS	Actual or IRS	Actual or IRS	Actual or IRS	Actual or IRS	Actual or IRS
Vacation³	4 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks

¹ Effective Salary includes cash salary; employee contributions to 403(b) plans, tax sheltered annuity plans; salary reduction contributions to flexible health spending accounts and cafeteria plans; housing, utilities, and furnishings allowances; employing organization contributions to 403(b) plans, tax sheltered annuity plans, equity allowances; bonuses, overtime pay, professional expense allowances that are not set up on an “accountable reimbursement” basis, gifts from employing organization, manse equity allowances; other allowances such as medical deductible, insurance premiums, and the portion of any SECA allowance that exceeds 50% of the SECA obligation; and an amount for the manse equal to 30% of all the above if the member lives in employer provided housing. See Board of Pensions publication, “Understanding Effective Salary.”

² The Board of Pensions plan includes health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, and survivor benefits, along with retirement pension benefits.

³ Continuing Education dollars and leave are not lost if not used by the end of the year but accumulate up to a maximum of three years’ worth. Example: If no continuing education was taken in 2006 and 2007, the dollars and time available for 2008 would be \$2,900 (900+1,000+1,000) and 6 weeks. To avoid budget surprises, any such carryover should be reported to the Session in advance.

⁴ Sundays are included in the weeks of continuing education and vacation, so a pastor planning continuing education could be away for 2 Sundays for that purpose, and a pastor taking vacation could be away 4 vacation Sundays.

C – COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM) REPORT August 16, 2008

The Committee presents the following item for information:

- C-I-4 The Committee on Preparation for Ministry reports that Annual Consultations have been completed for Candidates Cindy Ray (Leon, First) and Cyndy Ripperberger (Creston, First); and Inquirer Laurie Berry (Ankeny).
- C-I-5 Other inquirers and candidates under care are: Inquirer Pam Rhode (Oskaloosa, First) and Candidate Marie Springer (currently located out of state).
- C-I-6 Candidates “certified ready to receive a call” are Brian Diebold (Ottumwa, First).
- C-I-7 Currently Scott Valentine (Clive, Heartland) and Ann Polito (Hartford, Community United) have been participating in CLP Training.
- C-I-8 Scott Valentine has completed his academic training in the Center/Learn program, and the Presbytery is invited to participate in recognizing this accomplishment. Scott will undergo a final assessment with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, the results of which will be reported to CCD.
- C-I-9 The Committee on Preparation for Ministry is responsible for working with those wishing to explore and prepare for ministry as Ordained Ministers of the Word and Sacrament or Commissioned Lay Pastors, and their home congregations. We currently have a small number of inquirers, candidates, and CLPs in training. Congregations throughout the Presbytery are especially encouraged to consider who might make a good candidate for these forms of ministry. If you have someone you believe could be “called” to these forms of ministry, please contact the committee. Committee members and the moderator are also available to speak with Sessions about the preparation process.
- C-I-10 The Presbytery of Des Moines will elect ordination exam readers at our November meeting. As a reminder, you must complete an application for CPM in order to be considered. CPM will be responsible for evaluating those who apply, and will create a slate for election. Exam reading is done with the Chicago Reading Group the first week of March. It is five full days of work! Those elected need to be willing to commit to the time needed to prepare and then grade exams.

The Committee presents the following recommendation:

- C-R-4 That Presbytery enter into a service of worship recognizing Scott Valentine’s completion of the Center/Learn program.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. David Stipp-Bethune, Moderator

D – BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

August 16, 2008

The Committee presents the following recommendation for adoption:

- D-R-1 When First Presbyterian Church of New Sharon closes, \$1,085.00 will be requested from the proceeds to pay the past due amount of per capita, or whatever the amount is that is owed at that point in time.

The Committee presents the following items for information:

- D-I-1 Much discussion took place regarding general mission funds and the method in which the presbytery office receives those funds at the present time. We are looking into possibly receiving all funds at the office and dispersing them ourselves.
- D-I-2 Much discussion also took place regarding past due per capita funds and how to handle each individual situation. Letters will be sent to some churches.

We have received a request to have the yearly per capita figures set before the November presbytery meeting each year in order to help churches plan their following year's budgets. In response to that request, and after gathering of figures, a tentative figure was reached and the Committee took the following action:

- D-A-2 Based on projections, a tentative figure of \$28-\$29, which is an approximate 5% increase, will be the per capita amount for 2009.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat Aksamit, Moderator

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...**Income Statement****January 1, 2008 – June 30, 2008**

	Current Month	Current Year-to-Date	Annual Budget	% of Budget	Prior Year-to-Date
Income					
Total Per Capita	\$5,632.25	\$189,455.09	\$265,221.00	71.43	\$201,614.00
Presbytery General Mission	\$0.00	(\$30,038.41)	\$146,615.00	(20.49)	(\$54,102.00)
Synod Support Staff Salaries	\$0.00	\$16,666.65	\$40,000.00	41.67	\$20,000.00
Hunger Action Enabler Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	0.00	\$3,000.00
Interest Income	\$32.61	\$382.25	\$2,000.00	19.11	\$781.00
Investment Income	(\$1,539.22)	(\$44,647.34)	\$35,000.00	(127.56)	\$5,038.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00	\$2,849.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$6,192.00
Total Revenues	(\$4,125.64)	\$194,744.06	\$491,836.00	39.60	\$290,727.00
Expenses					
Governance Expense					
Committee Preparation Ministry	\$0.00	\$296.82	\$2,000.00	14.84	\$641.00
Stewardship & Mission Interpretation	\$50.00	\$2,958.44	\$1,900.00	155.71	\$0.00
Permanent Judicial Commission	\$0.00	\$28.46	\$1,000.00	2.85	\$0.00
Budget & Finance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	0.00	\$63.00
Nominating	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	0.00	\$0.00
Personnel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	0.00	\$0.00
Sexual Misconduct Response Team	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	0.00	\$0.00
GA Per Capita	\$0.00	\$56,875.17	\$56,875.00	100.00	\$60,754.00
Synod Per Capita	\$0.00	\$46,069.87	\$46,070.00	100.00	\$48,373.00
Subtotal	\$50.00	\$106,228.76	\$108,220.00	98.16	\$109,831.00
Administrative Expense					
Moderator's Expense/Task Groups	\$0.00	\$139.00	\$300.00	46.33	\$89.00
Administrative Commissions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	0.00	\$19.00
Presbytery Meetings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	0.00	\$0.00
General Presbyter to General Assembly	\$0.00	\$317.39	\$2,000.00	15.87	\$0.00
Commissioner Orientation	\$0.00	\$48.00	\$100.00	48.00	\$0.00
Stated Clerk's Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	0.00	\$50.00
Communication	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$1,590.00	3.14	\$438.00
Insurance	\$0.00	(\$278.00)	\$5,300.00	(5.25)	\$0.00
Legal Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$276.39	\$11,290.00	2.45	\$596.00

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...

	Current Month	Current Year-to-Date	Annual Budget	% of Budget	Prior Year-to-Date
Extension of Ministries					
Transformation Team**	\$0.00	\$1,558.22	\$8,000.00	19.89	\$1,630.00
Social Ministries Task Force	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	0.00	\$245.00
El Salvador Mission Assoc-Benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,400.00	0.00	\$0.00
Hunger Action Enabler & Broken Bread	\$0.00	\$844.93	\$5,500.00	15.36	\$747.00
CROSS Ministries	\$5,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$60,000.00	58.33	\$32,083.00
Older Adult Ministries	\$0.00	\$1,182.85	\$1,050.00	112.65	\$0.00
Camping	(\$7,820.00)	(\$9,145.00)	\$5,000.00	(182.90)	(\$12,973.00)
Youth Ministries	\$375.00	\$653.04	\$1,000.00	65.30	\$5,675.00
Resources	(199.30)	(\$429.43)	\$300.00	(143.14)	\$149.00
Women's Advocacy Task Force	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	(\$2,644.30)	\$28,106.30	\$83,350.00	33.72	\$25,926.00
Support of Local Ministries					
Congregational Care & Development	\$98.75	\$1,382.71	\$2,500.00	55.31	\$1,081.00
Resourcing Workshops	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	0.00	\$0.00
Professional Care & Development	\$0.00	\$570.83	\$3,750.00	15.22	\$1,448.00
<u>Regional Partnerships</u>					
Southeast	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0.00	\$0.00
East	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00
DM West/Northwest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Southwest	\$3,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	100.00	\$3,000.00
West	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	50.00	\$0.00
South Central	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	0.00	\$0.00
DM Two Rivers	\$170.34	\$565.79	\$3,750.00	15.09	\$539.00
Coordinating Council	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	0.00	\$45.00
Worship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	0.00	\$0.00
Bills & Overtures	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	0.00	\$0.00
Contingency	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0.00	\$0.00
Presbytery Office	\$3,328.32	\$19,773.25	\$41,610.00	47.52	\$19,464.00
Presbytery Staff	\$18,010.09	\$92,958.31	\$213,745.00	43.49	\$87,856.00
Subtotal	\$25,107.50	\$120,750.89	\$273,855.00	44.09	\$113,433.00
Total Expenses	\$22,513.20	\$255,362.34	\$476,715.00	53.57	\$249,786.00
Net Income	(\$18,387.56)	(\$60,618.28)	\$15,121.00	(400.89)	\$40,941.00

**** Funds taken from Colfax Money Market.
Transformation Team Expenses are not added in to totals.**

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...**Presbytery of Des Moines
Restricted Funds**

as of June 30, 2008

New Covenant Funds**McCahon Fund**

Annual income can be used for grants for small churches (under 150) for one-time needs. Unused income to be reinvested each year in the trust.

\$41,539.65

Swan Fund

Interest earnings used for seminary student's assistance.

\$19,116.65

Albia Sale

To be used for the assistance of small churches in the Presbytery.

\$29,606.49

Camping Fund – Knox Knolls $\frac{3}{4}$ of interest earnings used for the camping program. $\frac{1}{4}$ of interest earnings used for Presbytery causes.

\$337,210.87

Walther Fund

To be used for scholarship aid for physically or mentally challenged youth and/or children in need.

\$19,790.42

Colfax Fund

To be used for Church Development with interest to be placed in Colfax Fund Money Market.

\$49,747.12

First American Bank – Urbandale**Pastor Emergency Fund Savings**

Short-term loans for pastors.

\$124.46

Colfax Fund Money Market

To be used for church development.

\$6,158.61

E – COORDINATING COUNCIL REPORT

August 16, 2008

The Coordinating Council of the Presbytery of Des Moines met on Thursday, July 17, 2008, at Calvin Community in Des Moines.

The Council took the following actions:

- E-A-11 Reviewed the Minutes of the May 20, 2008 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery
- E-A-12 Planned the August 18, 2008 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery to focus on reports and information from various summer activities: General Assembly, camps and Synod School, as well as a celebration of completion of training of a Commissioned Lay Pastor training process, and opportunities to visit the White Oak Presbyterian Church.
- E-A-13 Made initial plans for the November 11, 2008, Stated meeting of the Presbytery to be the celebration of our presbytery's 165 years of ministry. Included in this time would be recognition of ordination dates and a combined choir. An invitation has been sent to the Moderator of the General Assembly to attend this meeting since he will be in the area or any other meeting that would fit into his schedule.

The council presents the following recommendations for adoption:

- E-R-2 That the offering received during worship at the August 16 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Relief.
- E-R-3 That the Presbytery approve formation of an Older Adult Ministries Task Force. A specific description of its work will be developed and presented at the November 11 Stated Meeting.
- E-R-4 That Elder Darlene Shepherd (Oskaloosa, First) be elected as Moderator of the Older Adult Ministries Task Force.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Kate Stangl, Moderator



Remember, Rejoice, Renew!

A celebration is being planned for the 165th Anniversary of the Presbytery of Des Moines at the November Presbytery Meeting.

The Presbytery's Coordinating Council has approved this special event to take place during the **November 11, 2008 Presbytery Meeting** at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 6426 Merle Hay Rd., Johnston, Iowa.

**We need your help to make this a meaningful experience!
Please send the following information:**

- 1. Church History.** A one-page synopsis of the church ministry during the past 165 years is needed. This does not need to be strictly historical, but could be an antidote about the church or something the congregation is well known for. All submissions need to be sent to the Presbytery Office, 2400 86th St., Ste. #20, Urbandale, Iowa, 50322 or e-mail pbycommunication@qwestoffice.net, **by October 10.**
- 2. Presbytery-wide Choir participant list.** Plans are beginning for the anniversary celebration worship service at the November meeting. If you have members of your church choir who would be interested in participating on Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2008, in Johnston with this special choir, **contact Coordinator Emily Seeger** at seeger@q.com or 712-243-4519. Be sure to send the list of names and their contact information so a practice can be schedule or music can be sent.



I – REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

August 16, 2008

- I-I-13 All reports have been filed with the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and the General Assembly as of this date. Also, all correspondence received on behalf of the Presbytery has been assigned, referred or answered.
- I-I-14 Elder Keith Garber (Allerton, United) has resigned from the Congregational Care and Development Committee, Class of 2010, due to health reasons. This has been referred to the Nominating Committee.
- I-I-15 Official notice has been received from the Ewart Presbyterian Church requesting that the congregation be dissolved and the church closed. This matter has been referred to the Congregational Care and Development Committee. The Presbytery will need to elect an administrative commission to deal with this matter.
- I-I-16 It is not too early to extend an invitation to the Presbytery to hold one of its stated meetings in your church during 2009. The dates are:

Saturday, January 17
Tuesday, May 19
Saturday, August 15
Tuesday, November 10

Please discuss this with your session. Feel free to contact me if there are questions about these arrangements. We welcome opportunities to visit our member congregations.

- I-I-17 The Rev. Joan White, a minister member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been installed as the Pastor of the First Presbyterian and First Presbyterian Churches of Perry, IA. Presbytery Moderator Ray Peters represented the Presbytery in this installation.

I present the following recommendation for adoption:

- I-R-8 A report has been received from the Moderator of the Commission to Install the Rev. Jan Scott as pastor of the Covenant Presbyterian Church in West Des Moines. I recommend that this Commission be dismissed with thanks.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip W. Barrett, Stated Clerk

**P1 – A SYNOPSIS OF 11 KEY ACTIONS TAKEN BY
THE 218TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2008)
(from business that was brought before it)**

ISSUE	ACTION TAKEN	VOTE
1. Election of Moderator and Vice Moderator	Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow was elected on 2 nd ballot. There were three other candidates. Rev. Byron Wade was confirmed as vice-moderator.	390 for or 55%
2. Election of new Stated Clerk	The Rev. Gradye Parsons was elected from three other candidates. He was the nominee from the Assembly's Stated Clerk Nomination Committee.	405 for or 57%
3. Revised Form of Government	Was referred back through the Office of the General Assembly for a two-year study by presbyteries and churches.	624 Yes 88 No 5 Abstain
4. <i>Heidelberg Catechism</i>	Approved beginning the process of amending the translation to restore the original text.	436 Yes 280 No 11 Abstain
5. Belhar Confession	To begin the process to include in the Book of Confessions.	536 Yes 154 No 12 Abstain
6. Ordination Standards	Voted to send to presbyteries for vote to delete G-6.0106b. Also to provide a new authoritative interpretation.	380 Yes 325 No 3 Abstain
7. Definition of Marriage	Voted to disapprove an overture that would change the definition of marriage from being a "man and a woman" to "two people".	540 Yes 161 No 3 Abstain
8. Palestinian/Israeli Issues	Voted to condemn all violence and support the "Amman Call".	504 Yes 171 No 7 Abstain
9. Christian/Muslim Dialogue	Approved a statement calling for tolerance and peaceful relations. Commended to the church a new study for Christian, Jewish & Muslim dialogue, recognizing both our common and different understandings of God.	547 Yes 149 No 7 Abstain
10. Human Development and Sexuality resource for adolescents.	Approved the development of resources	509 Yes 188 No 5 Abstain
11. Social Creed	Voted to approved this statement and commend it to the church for study.	552 Yes 110 No 7 Abstain

A NARRATIVE REPORT ON ELEVEN KEY ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE 218TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2008)

1. **Election of Moderator and Vice Moderator** On Saturday evening the commissioners were able to question four different individuals who were running as moderator of General Assembly (GA). Each candidate had to answer such diverse questions as: “What does it mean to be a missional church?” “What is the gospel?” “What would you say to small rural churches who are slowly shrinking?” At the end of the questioning period, the candidates were dismissed and the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, a 39-year-old pastor from San Francisco was elected. For the rest of the week his humor, wisdom, and leadership helped to guide the GA through its business. He in turn appointed the Rev. Byron Wade from North Carolina who was confirmed by the GA as Vice-moderator. Together these two young men provided just the right touch of *energy, intelligence, imagination and love* to the proceedings (a line from our ordination vows).
2. **Election of new Stated Clerk** After serving faithfully for 12 years, the Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick is stepping down from his role as the Stated Clerk of the PCUSA. Among other responsibilities he continues to hold the title as president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches along with being a visiting professor at Louisville Seminary. On Friday morning, the commissioners heard from four individuals who were running for the vacant office of Stated Clerk. After a time of questioning the candidates were excused while the commissioners voted. Grayde Parsons, who was the recommendation of the Stated Clerk Nomination Committee, was elected on the first ballot. Grayde has been serving as the Associate Stated Clerk.
3. **Revised Form of Government** Action of the 217th General Assembly (2006) stipulated a revision to the form of government and charged a task force to draft a revised form of government (FOG) and submit it to the next assembly. Having received the FOG report, the 218th General Assembly (2008) voted to refer the document to the Office of the General Assembly “for a period of consultation and study with churches and presbyteries.” The GA action addressed concerns raised in overtures and GA testimonies that presbyteries did not have enough time to review the overall document. A new Form of Government revision is to be submitted to the GA no later than Oct. 15, 2009 for distribution to the church-at-large no later than Jan. 15, 2010 for study. The new revision is to be considered by the 219th General Assembly (2010) in Minneapolis.
4. **Heidelberg Catechism** The 218th General Assembly (2008) voted to initiate the process of amending the *Heidelberg Catechism* to restore the English translation of the German text. A 1962 translation inserted the words “homosexual perversion” into question 87. No other Reformed faith church uses the 1962 translation with its inserted words. Amending a confession requires: 1) approval of the proposed amendment by the general assembly and its recommendation to the presbyteries; 2) approval of two-thirds of the presbyteries; and 3) approval of the next general assembly.
5. **Belhar Confession** The 218th General Assembly (2008) voted to initiate the process by which the Belhar Confession would be included in the *Book of Confessions*. The 216th General Assembly (2004) had commended the confession to the church for reflection, study and response. The Office of Theology and Worship prepared materials for church-wide study and the 216th GA (2004) directed the Office of the GA, the General Assembly Council and the Office of Theology and Worship to prepare a summary and report to the 218th GA (2008). Adding a confession to the *Book of Confession* requires a more exacting amendment process than changes to governance, worship or discipline. (See explanation in the *Heidelberg Catechism* on the three-step process of amending a confession.) For the full text of the Belhar Confession and the study guide, go to www.pcusa.org.

The Belhar Confession comes from the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa and addresses racism.

6. **Ordination Standards** The Committee on Church Orders recommended approval of a proposed amendment to the *Book of Order* that would eliminate the current G-6.0106b (the commonly called “fidelity and chastity” ordination standard), and the Assembly agreed, voting to send this replacement G-6.0106b to the presbyteries: *“Those who are called to ordained service in the church, by their assent to the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003), pledge themselves to live lives obedient to Jesus Christ the Head of the Church, striving to follow where he leads through the witness of the Scriptures and to understand the Scriptures through the instruction of the Confessions. In so doing, they declare their fidelity to the standards of the Church. Each governing body charged with examination for ordination and/or installation (G-14.02040 and G-14.0450) establishes the candidate’s sincere efforts to adhere to these standards.”* The General Assembly also voted to adopt a supplementary authoritative interpretation of the PC(USA) constitution that applies the historical practice of “scrupling” to all ordination standards of the denomination.
7. **Definition of Marriage** The Church Polity Committee recommended disapproval of an overture to change the definition of marriage in W-4.9000 of the *Directory for Worship* to “two people” rather than “a man and a woman,” and the General Assembly voted with the committee. A substitute motion that called for consultation and study of the definition of marriage was also defeated. The definition of marriage in the *Directory for Worship* will remain the same.
8. **Palestinian and Israeli Issues** The Committee on Peacemaking and International Issues had nine different proposals that dealt with the current crisis between Israel and the Palestinians. Some were approved, others not, still others were amended by both the committee and then later by the General Assembly during its plenary gathering. The most significant action was endorsing the “Amman Call” which decries the violence by all parties. The complete text for the call can be found at: www.oikoumene.org/index.php?id=3748.
9. **Christian/Muslim Dialogue** The Committee on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations presented a proposal, that when amended stated: *“though we hold differing understandings of how God has been revealed to humankind, the PC(USA) affirms our belief in one God, the God of Abraham, whom Jews and Muslims also worship; and that, as children of this loving God, we share the commandments of love for God and neighbor, the requirement to care for the poor; and acknowledge Abraham as an expression of our common commitment to one God.”* Therefore we should, *“build on this understanding by calling for further dialogue among Jews, Christians, and Muslims...”*
10. **Adolescent Human Development and Sexuality Resource** It seemed to be a general consensus that the youth of the Presbyterian Church USA would benefit from some sort of resource discussing human development, sex, abstinence, contraceptive methods, and sexuality. Similar issues that were heatedly debated in committee again resurfaced on the Floor. The resource will be expensive to produce, and currently there are not funds to develop and print such a resource. The biggest issue concerned what ‘side’ the resource would take on matters that are more controversial. While several proposed amendments attempted to specify the overture, in the end, the original amendment passed.
11. **A Social Creed for the 21st Century** While not all commissioners may have agreed with each one of the matters in the Social Creed, the creed presents *“a vision of a society that shares more and consumes less, seeks compassion over suspicion and equality over domination, and finds security in joined hands rather than massed arms.”* While it was suggested by a commissioner to send the 2008

Social Creed to the Presbyteries for study before the 2010 General Assembly, the Social Creed was approved by a 5-1 margin.

Committee Assignments:

- Jan Scott – **Committee 16: Worship and Spiritual Renewal.** Considers matters related to: How the General Assembly does its business in a way that reflects its common faith in Jesus Christ and how the church can seek a spiritual renewal through its congregations and presbyteries.
- David Endriss – **Committee 15: Presbyterian Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Foundation and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.** Considers matters related to: Report of Board of Pensions; business related to the church's pension, annuity, and medical plans; other forms of such programs, including government or private retirement programs; business related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation and Presbyterian Publishing Corporation
- Nancy Lister-Settle – **Committee 14: Committee on Permanent General Assembly Committees.** The committee's task was to review the Cooperative Committee on Ordination Examination; the Advisory Committee on Racial Ethnic Concerns; and the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Council. Each committee had submitted a self review, and we had the opportunity to hear from and question committee members. We evaluated each as to their faithfulness to their mandate and reported the same to the Assembly.
- Paul Walther – **Committee 13: Theological Issues and Institutions.** Considers matters related to: Amendments to *The Book of Confessions*, the *Directory for Worship* and Chapter II of the *Form of Government* with Advisory Committee on the Constitution advice; authority and interpretation of Scripture; theological institutions; celebration of Lord's Supper requests.
- Chad Schwickerath – **Committee 12: Church Growth and Christian Education.** Considers matters related to: Items concerning evangelism, outreach, and church growth as they relate to congregations and governing bodies of the church; higher education; matters relating to Christian Educators; church transfers, PILP.

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION IN PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

Meetings of our Presbytery are always special because it is a time for the Presbytery family to gather for conversations, business and fellowship. Many different people come to a Presbytery meeting for many different reasons.

When our Presbytery meets, we welcome and encourage participation. There are times, however, that participation is limited. Those times are ordinarily when our Presbytery is conducting its formal business. Because our Presbyterian structure calls for elected Commissioners to determine direction and act on business, only those who are elected Commissioners or are members of our Presbytery are allowed to participate in discussions or voting. Visitors and guests become observers of the process at that time.

At other times in our meetings, each person present is invited to participate in dialogues, conversations, or other activities. Such times include worship, special thematic presentations and small group discussions.

If you are not sure when you may participate in what is happening in the meeting, please talk to the Moderator or Stated Clerk individually.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES AT-A-GLANCE

TO DO THIS	YOU SAY THIS:	MAY YOU INTERRUPT SPEAKER?	MUST YOU BE SECONDED?	IS THE MOTION DEBATABLE?	IS THE MOTION AMENDABLE?	WHAT VOTE IS REQUIRED?
Adjourn the meeting	"I move that we adjourn."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Not amendable	Majority vote required
Recess the meeting	"I move that we recess until..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Amendable	Majority vote required
Complain about noise, room temp, etc.	"Point of privilege."	May interrupt speaker	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	No vote required ³
Suspend further consideration of something	"I move we table it."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not Debatable	Not amendable	Majority vote required
End debate	"I move the previous question."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not Debatable	Not amendable	Two-thirds vote required
Postpone consideration of something	"I move we postpone this matter until..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Amendable	Majority vote required
Have something studied further	"I move we refer this matter to a committee."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Amendable	Majority vote required
Amend a motion	"I move that this motion be amended by..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Amendable	Majority vote required
Introduce business (a primary motion)	"I move that..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Amendable	Majority vote required
¹ The motions or points above are listed in established order or precedence. When any one of them is pending, you may not introduce another that is listed below it. But you may introduce another that is listed above it. ² In this case, any resulting motion is debatable. ³ Chair decides						
Object to procedure or to a personal affront	"Point of order."	May interrupt speaker	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	No vote required, chair decides
Request information	"Point of information."	If urgent, may interrupt speaker	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	No vote required
Ask for a vote by actual count to verify a voice vote	"I call for a division."	May not interrupt speaker ²	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	No vote required unless someone objects ³
Object to considering some undiplomatic or improper matter	"I object to consideration of this question."	May interrupt speaker	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	Two-thirds vote required
Take up a matter previously tabled	"I move we take from the table..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Not amendable	Majority vote required
Reconsider something already disposed of	"I move we now (or later) reconsider our action relative to..."	May interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable if original motion is debatable	Not amendable	Majority vote required
Consider something out of its scheduled order	"I move we suspend the rules and consider..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Not amendable	Two-thirds vote required
Vote on a ruling by the chair	"I appeal the chair's decision."	May interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Not amendable	Majority vote required
¹ The motion, points, and proposals listed above have no established order of precedence. Any of them may be introduced at any time – except when the meeting is considering one of the top three matters listed in the above chart (motion to adjourn, motion to recess, point of privilege). ² But division must be called for before another motion is stated. ³ Then majority vote is required.						

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