



Presbytery of Des Moines

REV. PHILIP W. BARRETT, GENERAL PRESBYTER & STATED CLERK
E-MAIL: PBYP1@QWEST.NET

January 9, 2008

CALL TO THE 471st STATED MEETING

The 471st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines will be held on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008, at the Ankeny Presbyterian Church, Ankeny, Iowa. Directions to the church are included in this packet.

Because of the way plans for the day fall together, registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. **Please do not arrive before 8:30.** 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 9:30 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 visitors only, so access to extra packets is limited.

As has happened in our previous meeting, some of our “usual” business will be handled in what is called a “consent agenda” process. This means we can handle – in one action – vote 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. These allow us to easily identify items to be handled in the *Consent Agenda*.

A recent addition to our “Orientation Time” is the Budget and Finance Committee will be holding a “Budget Conversation” for those interested in learning more or talking about our budget. Look for a room set aside for this purpose.

The minutes of the *November 13 Stated Meeting* were distributed to commissioners and members in December. Please remember to bring these to the meeting by going online to www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org, and downloading or printing them prior to January 19. 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 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 lasts until approximately 4:00 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

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journey 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 you might note as you look at the *Proposed Docket* is that, as usual, it is full. We have a variety of activities and actions – worship, reports, and welcoming of new members, for example. These will keep the time moving quickly and 4:00 p.m. 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 piece explaining this 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, and prayer concerns will be shared during worship.

Child Care: Child care will be provided. Please call Ankeny Presbyterian Church at 515-964-0264, to sign up for child care. Contact must be made by Noon on Wednesday, Jan. 16. Please provide a sack lunch for each child. Milk will be provided.

Accessibility: The church is all on one level. There are designated handicapped parking spaces in the parking lot. Registration will be in the main Fellowship Hall which is accessible from all entrances into the building.

A/V Equipment: The church has a computer, LCD projector and a large screen in the Fellowship Hall, two DVD/VCR players, smaller TV monitors and an overhead projector. Also, six individual hearing amplification systems are available in the sanctuary only. Another video projector and laptop computer can be available is requested prior to the meeting. **If you need A/V equipment of any kind, contact the Presbytery Office, 515-276-4991, to reserve equipment for your presentation.**

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 persons, please call the church to let them know. In case of bad weather, call the Presbytery Office at 515-276-4991. A message on the voice mail system will inform you of postponement or cancellation.

I look forward to being with all of you on Saturday, January 19.



Philip W. Barrett, Stated Clerk

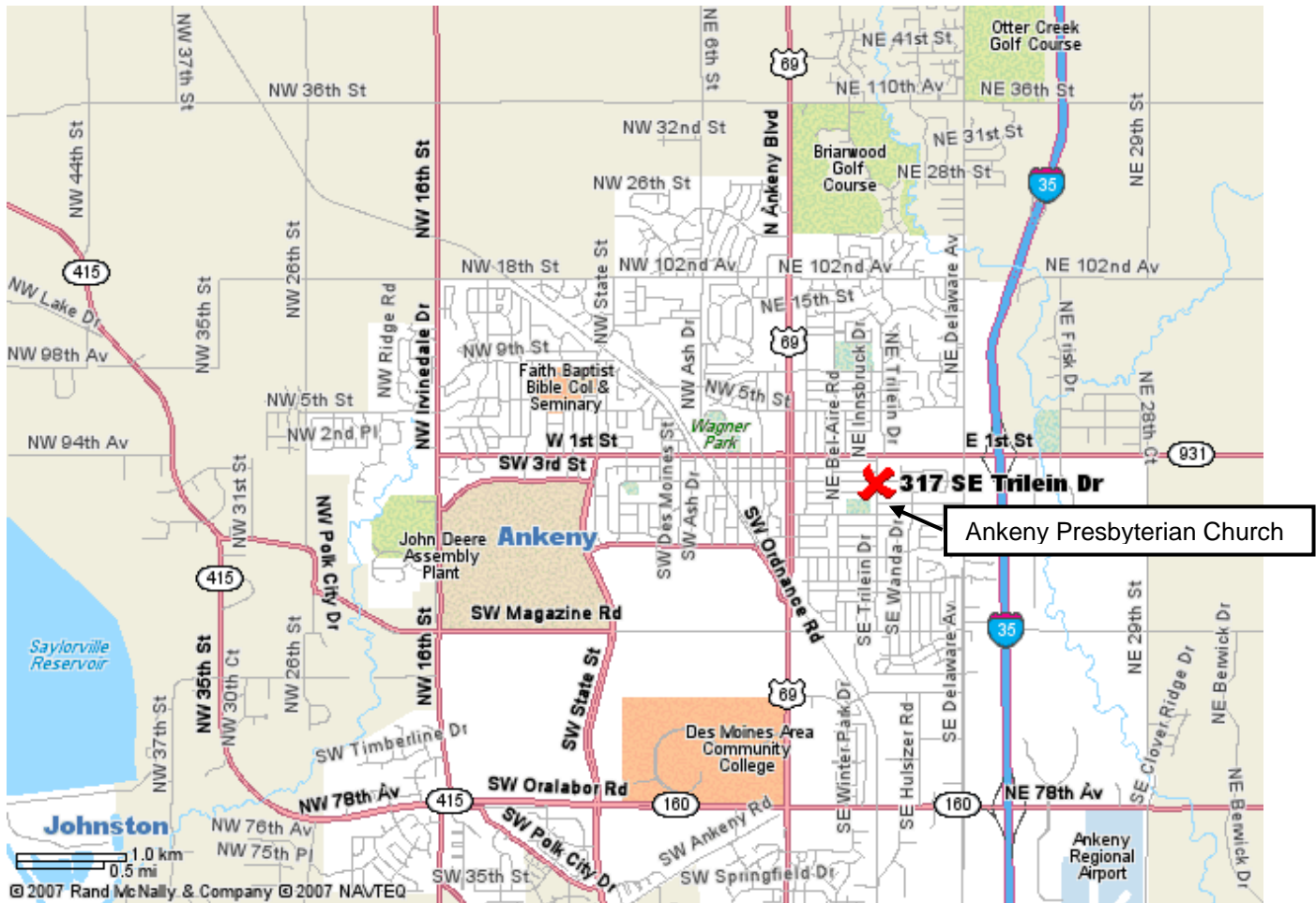
Enclosures

PROPOSED DOCKET

January 19, 2008

8:30 a.m.	Registration Begins Coffee and Fellowship	
9:00 a.m.	Orientation of “First Timers” Budget Orientation	Rev. Dave Endriss Elder Pat Aksamit
9:30	Convene Presbytery	Elder Ray Peters
9:45	T2 – Peace, Unity and Purity Task Force	Rev. Tiare Mathison-Bowie
10:20	I – Stated Clerk’s Report	Rev. Phil Barrett
10:35	K – Social Ministries Task Force	Elder Nancy Lister-Settle
10:45	History Tidbits	
11:00	D – Budget and Finance Committee	Elder Pat Aksamit
11:05	Worship	
12:05 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	Announcements	
1:10	A – Congregational Care and Development Committee	Rev. Ann Rouse
1:15	E1 – Bills and Overtures Task Group	Rev. Sue Babovec
2:15	E – Coordinating Council	Rev. Kate Stangl
2:20	T1 – CROSS Ministries Report	Elder Dr. Roberta Victor
2:35	F – Nominating Committee	Elder Dianne Van Gorp
2:40	C – Committee on Preparation for Ministry	Rev. David Stipp-Bethune
3:20	B – Professional Care and Development Committee	Elder Leland Smith
3:35	S – Stewardship and Mission Interpretation Committee	Rev. Dale O’Connell, HR
3:45	L – Camping/Youth Ministries Task Force	Elder Dennis Britson
3:50	Other Business	
4:00	Adjournment	

Map to Ankeny Presbyterian Church in Ankeny, Iowa:



Driving Directions: The Ankeny Presbyterian Church is located at 317 S.E. Trilein Dr. and is on the east side of the street.

- **From the North:** Take Interstate-35 south to Ankeny. Take Exit 92, go right onto E. 1st Street (IA-Hwy 931). Go west approximately two stop lights. Take S.E. Trilein south, go left approximately two blocks until you see the Ankeny Presbyterian Church on your left.
- **From the West/South:** Take Interstate-35 north to Ankeny. Take Exit 92, go left onto E. 1st Street (IA-Hwy 931). Go west approximately two stop lights. Take S.E. Trilein south, go left approximately two blocks until you see the Ankeny Presbyterian Church on your left.

Parking: The parking lot is available on the north, south and east sides of the church. There are also designated handicapped parking in the lot. However, spaces closest to the doors are reserved for those who may have difficulty walking. More parking is available on the grass in our back lot. If the parking lot is completely full, people may wish to park in the elementary school, which is to the north of us one block on S.E. Trilein.

Building Accessibility: The Ankeny Presbyterian Church is completely handicapped accessible except for the chancel area. from all entrances into the building. Registration will be in the main Fellowship Hall.

CONSENT AGENDA

January 19, 2008

D Budget and Finance Committee

- D-1 Income Statement
- D-2 Restricted Funds

E Coordinating Council

- E-A-1 Reviewed November 13 meeting**
- E-A-2 Planned January 18 Meeting**
- E-A-3 Initial Plans for May 20 Meeting**
- E-A-4 2008 Council Meeting Dates**

I Stated Clerk's Report

- I-I-1 Reports Filed and Correspondence Handled**
- I-I-2 Eric Keller Resignation from Committee on Preparation for Ministry**
- I-I-3 Racial Ethnic Scholarships Granted by Synod**
- I-I-4 Presbytery of Northern Waters Request for Ordination Examination**
- I-I-5 Minister/Elder Balance for Meetings**
- I-I-6 Members Available for Quorum of Permanent Judicial Commission**

C – COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

January 19, 2008

The Committee presents the following item for information:

- C-I-1 The Committee reports the successful completion of the “preparation for ministry” process of several candidates and anticipates ordination and commissioning for several of these in 2008. We currently have fewer inquirers and candidates than we have had in several years. Therefore, we are encouraging pastors, elders, and congregations to consider who among our congregations might make for quality inquirers and candidates. If you have someone in your congregation you think would make for a quality minister or commissioned lay pastor, talk to them. Encourage them to consider ministry opportunities. And call on your CPM to help initiate the preparation process.

The Committee presents the following recommendations for action:

- C-R-1 That the Presbytery of Des Moines adopt Sections G-14.0300-314, and G-14.0400-406 of the 2007-2007 *Book of Order* as the process for preparation for ministry and ordination for the Presbytery of Des Moines.

Rationale:

The new 2007-2009 *Book of Order* makes changes to the ordination process by moving some items to an “Advisory Handbook” rather than keeping the entire preparation process together in the *Book of Order*. Many presbyteries are taking similar action until presbyteries adopt their own complete process. We are asking the Presbytery of Des Moines to “keep things the same” until we can discuss and adopt a new process that will work hand in hand with the new 2007-2009 *Book of Order* and Advisory Handbook.

- C-R-2 That the Presbytery act on the request of the Presbytery of Northern Waters and examine Candidate Nathan Williams for Ordination as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. David Stipp-Bethune, Moderator

Statement of Faith

Robert Waldron

As my life journey has progressed over the years, my faith has grown. I have come to an awareness of just how God has been working in my life. As one reflects on his or her life, he or she can recognize numerous examples of God's hands guiding all of us in our endeavors. It is clear to me that God Almighty created me and provided me with special gifts which have been and continue to be used for the Lord's purpose in this life.

I know my God as the Creator of heaven and earth. This God is great and sovereign over all things. In my faith, I understand this is God's world, made up of humans who are separated from God by the limits of their own selves and by their behavior, or sin.

I believe in the Holy Trinity, which traditional theological language has spoken of as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These three Persons are of one substance, power, and eternity. They are not three distinct, divine, rational beings, three subjects, or three separate selves. All members are fully and equally God. It is clear that there is only one divine reality, and it has three distinguishable and interrelated identities.

Over these many years I have come to know my Jesus, the Son of God, as the Great Mediator between God and Humankind. Jesus was crucified on the cross, was dead and buried, and resurrected. Jesus ascended into heaven and reigns eternally. I believe that Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead. While dwelling among us, Jesus lived and taught the way of love as a lifestyle. I know that through the sacrifice on the cross, I, as a believer, have been redeemed and saved because of God's love for me.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life, the source of all good thoughts, pure desires, and holy counsels of humankind. I personally find great comfort in knowing that the Holy Spirit is God's agent in creation. It is through this Spirit that God acts in this world. My awareness of the Holy Spirit helps me to listen and pay attention as I am guided through each day.

I believe in the authority of the Scriptures. These words offer us instruction by which we are to live in Christ. The prophets were moved to speak the Word of God through the Scriptures. We, as Christians, receive inspiration and teaching as presented in our Bible. God speaks to the world through these Scriptures.

I believe in the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. I was baptized as an infant, and my parents promised on that day to raise me in a Christian home. They carried out that promise. As an adult Christian, I thoroughly understand the significance of my one baptism which was an outward visible sign that I was to become a part of the Christian community. Recently, I saw my grandson baptized, and on that day I knew through my faith that he was accepted into the family of God and that his baptism as a child demonstrates God's love for those who are too young to respond. I recognize the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper as a sign and seal to the world that we are believers. As we partake of the Lord's Supper during worship at which time we have all gathered, we are to see it as a celebration of reconciliation with God, and as a remembrance of Christ's death and resurrection for our sins. This Sacrament is one of the many ways in which all Christians can join in community with God. The Lord's Supper provides those gathered in worship in community the opportunity to share the meal in Christ.

The elements represent Christ's death and resurrection for us, and through the eating and drinking of them, we are professing our faith.

I very strongly believe that the church is the community of faith, elected by God in Jesus Christ. To me, the key word is "community", meaning that the church is a family of Christians who are connected through their faith in Jesus Christ. The "church" is more than a building. It is all encompassing, everywhere, because God is universal. My ministry with the homeless and with troubled people has no walls. The model for this is Jesus, God on earth, who "went among them." Jesus touched lives "out there." As I have done this work, I have always felt that the church is where people gather in God's name, whether the location is a beautiful building for worship or meeting human needs on the streets. God has no boundaries. One can witness God's work and activity everywhere.

As my faith journey continues, I realize that I am still a work in progress. God has given me just so many years on this earth, and it is clear that I am to live and work as I have been guided by the Word. I am very aware that the Holy Spirit is constantly working in and through me as I carry out the Lord's purpose for me. Most of all, I recognize that my work as servant is done in praise and thankfulness for our God's forgiveness and love to humankind which fell into sin. I am so blessed to have my God, a wonderful family, many friends, and the various opportunities afforded me by God Almighty.

Statement of Faith

Nathan Williams

I believe in God the Creator, the One who lovingly calls all things into being, who is known to us as the sacredness of all that is. No names, categories, or descriptions can adequately represent the full reality of God. God makes Godself known to all people, but from among all people, God chose the descendants of Abraham to be a particular demonstration of the wholeness God intends for all humanity. As with all of God's work in this fractured creation, this was at best a limited and partial demonstration, and yet a sign of God's hidden plan.

I trust in God the Christ, the holy Word of creation, the Gift of blessing. I trust in Christ's reconciling entry into the world in human flesh in the person Jesus, who most fully expressed God's will for humanity. Christ came into the world mysteriously and wonderfully, lived as the perfect union of humanity and divinity, and was utterly uncomprehended by all people. Abandoned by those who followed him and rejected by those who hated him, he was cast out by this world. In life and death, Jesus endured our rejection of all that is sacred in the world and ourselves. Dying as the Life of the world, Christ tore down the wall between life and death. Rising again, Christ has triumphed over all the powers of hatred and sin. Returning to the world, Christ will swallow up all division in God's perfect holiness.

I rely on God the Spirit, the presence of God within us and within all, who is nearer to us than our breath and yet difficult beyond words to find or describe. In this Spirit, we receive God the Creator and the Christ, and we seek God's unity beyond all the divisions we might see or hear. This Spirit blows through God's people in all times and places, the one Breath of all. The Spirit of Love compels me to speak and act for all of God's people, sharing the challenge and the peace of belonging to God's family. I receive this Spirit as it moves in the Church. The Church is truly present in every particular expression of God's beloved family, and yet is always and only complete when it embraces all God's people in every time and place. I place my hope in the Church, that it will one day truly become what it already reflects, the wholeness of God's restored people.

I search for God in the two great pillars of the Church: the collected Scriptures through which God continues to speak in love to God's people, and the Sacraments in which God's uniting and transforming will is revealed in human action. By reading the Scriptures in their own historical, cultural, and literary contexts, we encounter the holy story of God's activity with and for God's people. By understanding our own situation in the world, we find the God of Scripture continually revealed to us today. Through Baptism, God welcomes us as God's beloved children far more richly than we can imagine or deserve. The waters signify new birth and cleansing from sin, which are always present for us when we remember and claim the promises made to us in our Baptism. Through the Eucharist – Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper – Christ welcomes us at table as friends, and we are united in thanksgiving for God's abundant grace. Christ is present for us by the mundane gifts of bread and wine, and in us by the deeply transformative act of sharing these gifts freely with each other. In the Eucharist, Baptism, Scripture, and every word, act, or moment of prayer, the Spirit draws us into the presence of God. Although the acts appear to be merely human, by faith we know that "this is the Living God's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes."

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

January 19, 2008

Income Statement

January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007

	Current Month	Current Year-to-Date	Annual Budget	% of Budget	Prior Year-to-Date
Income					
Total Per Capita	\$16,362.65	\$262,171.28	\$283,311.00	92.54	\$244,167.00
Presbytery General Mission	\$38,352.09	\$122,663.85	\$142,499.00	86.08	\$152,307.00
Synod Support Staff Salaries	\$3,333.33	\$39,999.96	\$40,000.00	100.00	\$40,000.00
Hunger Action Enabler Income	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	100.00	\$2,990.00
Interest Income	\$65.31	\$1,774.86	\$1,000.00	177.49	\$1,241.00
Investment Income	(\$2811.69)	\$28,332.91	\$0.00	0.00	\$44,079.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$22.00	\$7,133.40	\$0.00	0.00	\$76,536.00
Total Revenues	\$58,323.69	\$458,076.26	\$469,810.00	99.63	\$561,320.00
Expenses					
Governance Expense					
Committee Preparation Ministry	\$403.47	\$1,628.40	\$1,600.00	101.78	\$1,499.00
Stewardship & Mission	\$0.00	\$113.84	\$800.00	14.23	\$0.00
Budget & Finance	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Nominating Committee	\$0.00	\$167.64	\$100.00	167.64	\$45.00
Personnel	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$150.00	46.67	\$146.00
GA Per Capita	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	0.00	\$0.00
Synod Per Capita	\$0.00	\$60,754.47	\$60,752.00	100.00	\$59,599.00
Subtotal	\$403.47	\$111,112.35	\$111,790.00	99.39	\$109,760.00
Administrative Expense					
Moderator's Expense/Task Groups	\$71.00	\$165.02	\$350.00	47.15	\$685.00
Administrative Commissions	\$0.00	\$219.00	\$250.00	87.60	\$179.00
Presbytery Meetings	\$0.00	\$75.17	\$200.00	37.59	\$164.00
General Presbyter to General Assembly	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$1,339.00
Commissioner Orientation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	0.00	\$80.00
Stated Clerk's Expense	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	100.00	\$30.00
Communication	\$0.00	\$487.46	\$400.00	121.87	\$349.00
Insurance	\$0.00	\$6,290.00	\$4,200.00	149.76	\$5,155.00
Legal Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$71.00	\$7,286.65	\$7,050.00	103.36	\$7,981.00

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 Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$3,000.00
Transformation Team**	\$295.00	\$7,711.67	\$8,000.00	96.40	\$0.00
Social Ministries	\$0.00	\$245.04	\$2,000.00	12.25	\$2,916.00
El Salvador Mission Assoc-Benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,400.00	0.00	\$5,642.00
Hunger Action Enabler & Broken Bread	\$524.60	\$1,531.92	\$5,600.00	27.36	\$0.00
CROSS	\$0.00	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	100.00	\$55,000.00
Camping	\$3,826.03	\$4,068.69	\$5,000.00	81.37	\$2,556.00
Youth	\$506.85	\$6,206.56	\$6,000.00	103.44	\$239.00
Resources	(\$188.55)	\$1,121.48	\$300.00	373.83	\$339.00
Women's Advocacy Task Force	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	0.00	\$303.00
Subtotal	\$4,668.93	\$68,173.69	\$82,400.00	77.58	\$13,452.00
Support of Local Ministries					
Congregational Care & Development	\$598.38	\$2,659.36	\$5,000.00	53.19	\$2,965.00
Incentive Grants	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$10,000.00
Conflict Management Resourcing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	0.00	\$0.00
Resourcing Workshops	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	0.00	\$0.00
Professional Care & Development	\$1,002.13	\$2,519.61	\$3,300.00	76.35	\$2,093.00
<u>Regional Partnerships</u>					
Southeast	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	100.00	\$185.00
East	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00
DM West/Northwest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$150.00
Southwest	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	100.00	\$4,850.00
West	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	100.00	\$500.00
South Central	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	0.00	\$0.00
DM Two Rivers	\$204.17	\$2,360.73	\$3,000.00	78.69	\$2,273.00
Coordinating Council	\$0.00	\$188.75	\$300.00	62.92	\$314.00
Worship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	0.00	\$0.00
Bills & Overtures	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	0.00	\$0.00
Contingency	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0.00	\$495.00
Presbytery Office	\$2,261.21	\$30,970.99	\$32,076.00	96.56	\$33,428.00
Presbytery Staff	\$33,418.87	\$210,725.36	\$196,222.00	107.39	\$214,085.00
Subtotal	\$37,784.76	\$256,724.80	\$251,073.00	102.25	\$271,338.00
Total Expenses	\$42,928.16	\$443,297.49	\$452,313.00	98.00	\$459,074.00
Net Income	\$15,395.53	\$24,778.77	\$17,497.00	70.61	\$102,246.00

****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 December 31, 2007**

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. \$44,975.22

Swan Fund

Interest earnings used for seminary student's assistance. \$23,321.40

Albia Sale

To be used for the assistance of small churches in the Presbytery. \$32,225.50

Camping Fund – Knox Knolls

$\frac{3}{4}$ of interest earnings used for the camping program. \$369,099.41
 $\frac{1}{4}$ of interest earnings used for Presbytery causes.

Walther Fund

To be used for scholarship aid for physically or mentally challenged youth and/or children in need. \$21,783.44

Colfax Fund

To be used for Church Development with interest to be placed in Colfax Fund Money Market. \$54,814.59

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

Short-term loans for pastors. \$878.05

Colfax Fund Money Market

To be used for church development. \$6,967.42

E – REPORT OF THE COORDINATING COUNCIL

January 19, 2008

The Coordinating Council of the Presbytery of Des Moines met on Thursday, December 13, 2008, at Knox Presbyterian Church in Des Moines.

The Council took the following actions:

- E-A-1 Reviewed the November 13, 2007, Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.
- E-A-2 Planned the January 18, 2008, Stated Meeting of the Presbytery to include a time of discernment and the beginning of the celebration of our Presbytery's 165 years of history.
- E-A-3 Made initial plans for the May 20, 2008, Stated Meeting of the Presbytery to include a focus on older adult ministries and displays from care centers and retirement communities.
- E-A-4 Set its meeting dates for 2008 as follows (all are Thursdays):

- April 10
- July 17
- October 9
- December 18

- E-A-5 Placed the following names in nomination for the positions noted:

PEACE, UNITY AND PURITY TASK FORCE
MODERATOR, 2008

Rev. Tiare Mathison-Bowie (Newton, First)

SOCIAL MINISTRIES TASK FORCE
MODERATOR, 2008

Elder Nancy Lister-Settle (Dallas Center, First)

PRESBYTERY NOMINATING COMMITTEE
CLASS OF 2010

Elder Lila Jean Jensen (Audubon, First)

Other persons are being contacted about serving in various capacities. Their nominations will be brought to the floor on January 19.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kate Stangl, Moderator

E1 – REPORT OF THE BILLS AND OVERTURES TASK GROUP

January 19, 2008

Through the appropriate process, the Presbytery has received a Proposed Overture to be sent to the 218th General Assembly (2008) of our denomination. The Proposed Overture, along with supporting rationale and a history of how the denomination got to the point where it currently stands, are attached to this report.

The Bills and Overture Task Group met via conference call on Friday, January 4, 2008, to consider the issues raised by the Proposed Overture and possible responses and recommendations.

In addition to the Rationale submitted along with the Proposed Overture, the Task Group developed a few thoughts pro and con related to the Proposed Overture. They are:

PRO

- This is a justice issue that needs to be addressed
- For those who are affected by the stance of the denomination, the time is always right to address the issue

CON

- Passage of the Proposed Overture at this time would interrupt the ongoing work of the Peace, Unity and Purity Task Force of our Presbytery
- This Proposed Overture brings nothing new in looking at the issue
- Adoption of the Overture from the Presbytery of Hudson River would go against what many believe to be biblical standards

After open, honest and thoughtful discussion and recognizing the broad diversity of the group, the Task Group decided that it would not make a recommendation for action. Therefore, in order for the Presbytery to consider the Proposed Overture, a motion will need to be made from the floor.

The Task Group will respond to any motion with a motion to table action on the Proposed Amendment. The reasons for doing so are:

- ◀ This is a respectful, reasonable response to both the Proposed Overture and the work of the Peace, Unity and Purity Task Force of the Presbytery of Des Moines.
- ◀ This action is not a “No” – it is a “Not Yet.” As a presbytery and a denomination we need time to get into the practice of discernment on this and many other issues.
- ◀ The Overture from the Presbytery of Hudson River is going to the General Assembly with or without the action of the Presbytery of Des Moines.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Bills and Overtures Task Group – Rev. Sue Babovec, Rev. David Endriss, Elder Nancy Lister-Settle, Elder Ray Peters, Elder Paul Walther

Proposed Overture to the 218th General Assembly (2008)

On Issuing An Authoritative Interpretation Clarifying Standards for Ordination, and Deleting G-6.0106b

The Presbytery of Des Moines respectfully overtures the 218th General Assembly (2008) to do the following in concurrence with the overture for the same from the Presbytery of Hudson River:

1. Provide the following authoritative interpretation: Interpretative statements concerning ordained service of homosexual church members by the 190th General Assembly (1978) of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America and the 119th general Assembly (1979) of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, and all subsequent affirmations thereof, have no further force or effect.
2. Direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-6.0106b be stricken? (Example Below)

“b” Those who are called to office in the church are to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historic confessional standards of the church. Among those standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman (W-4.9001), or chastity in singleness. Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders, or ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

Rationale

Definitive guidance and Authoritative Interpretations prior to G-6.0106b by the General Assemblies and Permanent Judicial Commissions of the PC (USA), the UPCUSA, and PCUS stated that “self affirming, practicing homosexual persons” were not fit for service in ordained positions within the church. These statements had the effect of amending our constitutional standards for ordination without the ratification of the presbyteries. These statements also have contributed to conflict and confusion in the church, and undermined respect for the *Constitution*.

We believe that the presence of G-6.0106b within the *Book of Order* creates a hostile and divisive environment in our church contrary to God’s reconciling love and the spirit of our Reformed Faith and increasing numbers of accusations and judicial cases have caused the church to spend invaluable financial and human resources defending this policy. These resources have taken away from the primary mission of the church.

The effects of compliance with G-6.0106b are counter to the sentiment of G-5.0103 that “Each member must seek the grace of openness in extending the fellowship of Christ to all persons. Failure to do this constitutes a rejection of Christ himself and causes a scandal of the gospel.”

The church is “called to be a sign in ad for the world of the new reality which God had made available to people in Jesus Christ”, 1) Sin is forgiven, 2) Reconciliation is accomplished, 3) The dividing walls of hostility are torn down (*Book of Order* **G-3.0200**). This leads to an affirmation of diversity and the welcoming inclusion of all people (*Book of Order* **G-3.0401, G-4.0203, G-4.0401-.0403, G-5.0202, G-9.0104, Book of Confessions 9.06-.07, 9.10, 9.19-.20, 9.22, 9.29, 9.31-.33, and 9.44.**)

The Sacrament of Baptism is contradicted by current denominational policies. We have established a barrier that separates some of those created by God from their unity with God. “Baptism is a sign and symbol of inclusion in God’s grace and covenant” (W-2.3.002) and “barriers of race, gender, status, and age are to be transcended. Barriers of nationality, history, and practice are to be overcome” (W-2.3005). When we are willing to baptize all believers, then is it not incumbent upon us to ordain all believers who are “Called by God” into service? The greatest commandment is love of God and the second like it: “You shall love your neighbor and yourself” (**Matthew 22, esp. 22:39**). This is the expectation and yet our denomination policies certainly do not communicate a message of “inclusion in God’s grace and covenant” and love.

Those excluded are faithful fellow Presbyterians. Currently over 1,000 pastor positions are vacant in the PC(USA). Many of these could and would be filled as a result of changes contained in this Overture to the 218th General Assembly. Additional benefit may come in retaining and obtaining new members to replace those who have left the church in the recent past, over 15,000 since 2004.

We encourage the General Assembly to “Error of the side of Love” and continue this faith journey to give persons “Called by God” the opportunity to serve our church and to add to the glorification of God’s grace.

To the continuing struggle on these issues, the Church is called to be open to Gods continuing reformation “according to the Word of God and the call of the spirit” (*Book of Order* G-2.0200; see also G-3.0401, G-4.0303, G-10.0102, and G-18.0101; *Book of Confessions* 9.03 and 9.29).

Submitted by,
Elder Ted Coppock

HISTORY... HOW WE GOT TO WHERE WE ARE

- 1976** – Two presbyteries overture the United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (UPCUSA) General Assembly for “definitive guidance” whether persons who openly acknowledge a homosexual orientation and practice may be ordained.
- 1978** – General Assembly (GA) issues a “Policy statement and Recommendations” that homosexual practice is inconsistent with requirements for ordination, while urging the church to continue to study and dialogue. “That unrepentant homosexual practice does not accord with the requirements for ordination set forth in Form of Government, Chapter VII, and Section 3” (meant to “inform”, not make new law).
- 1979** – The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (PCUSA) General Assembly (GA) approves a report “Homosexuality and the Church”, with conclusion similar to UPCUSA. Must repent homosexual practice to be ordained.
- 1985** – After reunion, PCUSA GA Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) rules (10-5) that the 78/79 statements are binding on governing bodies.
- 1988** – G-13.0103 is added to *Book of Order* clarifying power of GA and the GA/PJC to issue “authoritative interpretations” that establish constitutional standards without ratification by the presbyteries.
- 1993** – GA/PJC issues statements that 78/79 statements are binding.
- 1996-1997** – G-6.0106b is proposed by the 208th GA and added to *Book of Order* by vote of majority of presbyteries.
- G-60106a** “To those called to exercise special functions in the church—deacons, elders, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament – God gives suitable gifts and abilities, natural and acquired, those who undertake particular ministries should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world. They must have the approval of God's people and the concurring judgment of a governing body of the church.”
- G-6.0106b** “Those who are called to office in the church are to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historic confessional standards of the church. Among those standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity with the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman (W-4.9001), or chastity in singleness. Persons refusing to repent of any self acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders, or ministers of the Work and Sacrament.” (Original language stated “covenant of marriage between one man and one woman.” It was changed to allow for divorce and remarriage) Note: Single heterosexuals must have “chastity in singleness” also.

Technical item: Changes to the constitution require positive vote of majority of presbyteries.
Authoritative Interpretations by GA/PJC do not require vote of presbyteries.

The Presbytery of Des Moines historically has sent overtures to delete G-6.0106b and removal of “authoritative interpretations” prior to ‘b’ in 2003, 2004 and 2006.

I – REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

January 19, 2008

- I-I-1 All reports have been filed with the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and the General Assembly as of this date, and all correspondence received on behalf of the Presbytery has been assigned, referred or answered.
- I-I-2 The Rev. Eric Keller (Des Moines, Clifton Heights) has resigned from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Class of 2008. This resignation has been referred to the Nominating Committee.
- I-I-3 The Synod of Lakes and Prairies has notified the Presbytery that Racial Ethnic Scholarships have been awarded to three persons in the Presbytery.
- I-I-4 The Presbytery of Northern Waters has requested that our Presbytery conduct The Trials of Ordination for Nathan Williams on its behalf. Nathan is a Candidate under the care of this Presbytery. This request has been referred to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
- I-I-5 As required by Section G-11.0101b of the *Book of Order*, I have ascertained the number of resident ministers who are members of the Presbytery and the number of elders which churches are entitled to send to a Presbytery Meeting or who are members of the Presbytery by virtue of their office or elected position. I also followed the criteria set out in Section G-11.0421b of the *Book of Order* which allows presbyteries to elect additional elders to keep a proper balance between elders and ministers when Honorably Retired ministers are active in a presbytery. Some of the honorably retired minister members of this Presbytery do not live within the bounds of the Presbytery, and of those who do, some are not active in the Presbytery. A count of ministers and elders shows that there are 74 resident or active retired minister members and 84 elders eligible to attend presbytery meets as commissioners or members. Therefore, it will not be necessary to assign particular churches to provide extra elders to correct any imbalance for 2008.
- I-I-6 In accordance with Section D-5.0206b of the Rules of Discipline in the *Book of Order*, the following former members of the Permanent Judicial Commission constitute the roll of those available to serve on the Commission if necessary to constitute a quorum:
- Class of 2006** – Rev. Harold Butz (Honorably Retired)
Rev. Claude Jones (Member-at-Large)
 - Class of 2004** – Rev. Sara Speer Palmer (Honorably Retired)
Rev. Lynn Williams (Grimes, First)
 - Class of 2002** – Elder Richard Shaffer (Des Moines, Westminster)

I-I-7 The Presbytery has the following insurance coverage for 2008 through a Master Policy with the GuideOne Insurance Company:

Property Each Church and the Presbytery Office are covered by a specific amount

General Liability	\$3,000,000	General Limit
	1,000,000	Each Occurrence
	1,000,000	Personal Liability
	1,000,000	Legal Liability
Medical	5,000	
Sexual Misconduct Liability	250,000	Each Occurrence
Employee Benefits Liability	1,000,000	Each Claim
	1,000,000	Each Aggregate
Directors', Officers' and Trustees' Liability	1,000,000	Each Occurrence
Employment Practices Liability	500,000	
Crime		
Employee/Officers Dishonesty	10,000	
Forgery	10,000	
Theft	5,000	
Ministers Personal Business Property	5,000	
Shared Umbrella Policy	5,000,000	
Workers Compensation		
Bodily Injury	100,000	Each Accident
Bodily Injury by Disease	100,000	Each Employee
Presbytery Office		
Building Limit	121,000	
Personal Property	60,000	

I present the following recommendations for adoption:

I-R-1 That the following churches be granted permission to pay their 2008 Per Capita Assessment in monthly, quarterly or other regular installments:

- Des Moines, Knox
- Greenfield, First
- Grimes, First
- Winterset, First

I-R-2 That the Session Records for the following congregations be approved with Exceptions:

- Des Moines, Clifton Heights
- Newton, First

Respectfully Submitted,
 Rev. Philip W. Barrett, Stated Clerk

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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