



## Presbytery of Des Moines

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

Nov. 2, 2006

**TO:** Commissioners to the Special Meeting of the Presbytery (August 1, 2006), and  
Commissioners to the 465<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting (August 19, 2006)

**FROM:** Philip W. Barrett, Stated Clerk

**SUBJECT:** Minutes

You will find the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines held on August 1, 2006, and the Minutes of the 465<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines held on August 19, 2006, following this letter. Most members are receiving the Minutes by going online to download them from our presbytery Web site. Only those without Internet access receive printed copies. The Special Meeting was held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines, and the 465<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting was held at the Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines.

Please read through both sets of minutes to both remind yourself of what occurred and to check them for accuracy. Please send any corrections to me, preferably in writing. This includes use of e-mail.

The focus for the Special Meeting was to form two administrative commissions and to elect persons to serve on them. The main focus for the Stated Meeting was to hear reports from Commissioners to General Assembly and Synod School. We celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in worship. We continued in the new style (for us) of dealing with some business through the use of a Consent Agenda. We recognized and celebrated the ministry of the Rev. Bob Cook who has most recently served as our Designated Missionary in El Salvador, and we honored his request for retirement. These are just some of the highlights.

If you are attending the November 14 Stated Meeting as a Commissioner, please remember to bring this minutes packet with you. Extra copies are not provided for those who neglect to bring them. If you are not attending as a commissioner, please pass this packet on to the person who is.

Thanks to all of you for your participation and service.

**REMEMBER** – The Call and Consent Agenda for the November 14 Presbytery Meeting will be posted on the Presbytery's Web site at [www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org](http://www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org). Paper copies will only be sent to those who inform us that they do not have Internet access.

The Presbytery of Des Moines of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its 465<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting at the Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church of Des Moines, Iowa, on August 19, 2006. The meeting was convened at 9:30 a.m. with prayer by Moderator Lila Jean Jensen.

**FORMATION OF THE ROLL**

The following commissioners and members were registered for this meeting (**P**resent, **A**bsent, **E**xcuse):

<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>P/A/E</b>	<b>COMMISSIONER</b>
Adair, First	Char Rief	A	A
Allerton, United	Ross Blount	P	A
Ankeny	VACANT	A	Laurie Berry
Atlantic, First United	Don Seeger	P	Bettie Siggins
Audubon, First	Kay E. Steddom	P	Bernard E. Neary
Bedford, United	Randy S. Allman	A	A
Brooklyn, First	John Reynolds	P	L.J. Rickard
Carlisle, Scotch Ridge	Doug Bolsem	P	A
Centerville, First	Giles Card	E	Rose Heartley
Chariton, First	Denise Group	P	S. Kay Montgomery
Clive, Heartland	D. Mark Davis	P	Dave Hubler
Clive, Heartland	Barbara Nish	A	
Corning, First	Ken Rummer	P	Kevin Pottorff
Creston, First	Barry Anderson	P	Sharon A. Booth
Dallas Center, First	David Ewing	P	Jon Kimple
Deep River, United	Boyd Sparks	A	A
Des Moines, Central	James Wallace	P	Jean Hamilton
Des Moines, Clifton Heights	Eric Keller	P	A
Des Moines, Cottage Grove Avenue	David Madsen	P	Roberta Victor
Des Moines, Douglas Avenue	Claude Jones	E	Jim Kreitzinger
Des Moines, First	Ken Stuber	P	Jean Mullen
Des Moines, Fort Des Moines	Donald Elly	P	A
Des Moines, Highland Park	Kip Harris	A	Jim Deeds
Des Moines, Knox United	Bill LeMosy	P	Louise Newsom
Des Moines, Park Avenue	David Stipp-Bethune	P	Myrna Agan
Des Moines, Union Park	VACANT	A	Joyce Rash
Des Moines, Westminster (4)	Amy Miracle	P	Ted Coppock
Des Moines, Westminster (4)	Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy	P	A
Des Moines, Westminster (4)	Ken Arentson	P	A
Des Moines, Westminster (4)	Dick Kiefer	E	A
Dexter, First	David Kincaide	P	Vince Wells
Diagonal, United	John Beran	A	A
Earlham, First	Robert Waldron	P	A
Ewart	Aaron Koskamp	P	Donna Winburn
Gibson, First	Mike Conn	P	A
Gibson, White Oak	Mike Conn	P	A
Greenfield, First	David Kincaide	P	Lynn Heinbuch
Grimes, First	Lynn Williams	P	Jo Rainer

Grinnell, First	Kirsten Klepfer	P	Shane B. Cook
Guthrie Center, First	Melvin Roblee	A	Brenda Dinkla
Hartford, Community United	Richard Harbart	P	Larry Meyers
Indianola, Trinity United	David Endriss	P	Maurice A. Dyer
Johnston, St. Paul	John W. Gilmore	E	A
Knoxville, First	Kirk Erwin	P	A
Lenox, United	Tim Maxa	P	Linda Brown
Leon, First	Jack DePond	P	Robert L. Hale
LeRoy, First	VACANT	A	Amanda Wetterling
Lucas, First	Linda O'Connell	E	A
Malcom, First United	John Reynolds	P	Patricia Manatt
Monroe	Ann Rouse	P	Howard Clark
Montezuma, First United	George Salnave	P	Doug Hoksbergen
Mount Ayr, United	David Miller	A	A
New Sharon, First	VACANT	A	A
Newton, First (2)	Steven Mathison-Bowie	P	Cheryl J. Ritter
Newton, First (2)	Tiara Mathison-Bowie	P	A
Newton, United	Donald Freeman	P	Margaret Caldwell
Oskaloosa, First	Dennis Morey	P	Darlene Shepherd
Oskaloosa, First	Hans Cornelder	E	
Ottumwa, East End	Kate Stangl	P	A
Ottumwa, First	Sue Babovec	P	Charles Montgomery
Ottumwa, Westminster	Milton Forbes	A	A
Perry, First	Tom Conrey	E	Jim Mace
Pitzer, United	Donna Vaughan	A	A
Platte Center	VACANT	A	Ruby Stephens
Sharpsburg	Tim Maxa	P	A
Sigourney, First	VACANT	A	A
Tingley, United	VACANT	A	Mildred Boyd
West Des Moines, Covenant	VACANT	A	Julie Severt
Windsor Heights, Windsor	Terry Amann	P	Cindy Chamberlin
Winterset, First United	Jim Howland	P	A

### **OTHER MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY (MINISTERS)**

**Present:** Philip Barrett, General Presbyter/Stated Clerk; Pete Brantner; Robert Burnett (HR); Goanar Chol; Robert Cook.

**Excused:** John Beran (HR); Andy Bosman (HR); Tom Bower (HR); Harold Butz (HR); Carl Cooper (HR); Glen Dilley (HR); Howard Dukelow (HR); Ane Fitzgerald; David Fitzsimmons (HR); Harold Gilleney (HR); Beverly Leonard (HR); Ray Martin (HR); John McElroy; Jeffrey Means; Gayle Miller (HR); Dale O'Connell (HR); Daniel Ogata (HR); Sara Speer Palmer (HR); Marvin Potter (HR); Jane Tetsuka; Russell Tomlinson (HR); Erasmo Velez (HR); Hume Ward (HR); Francis Younkin (HR); John Zieman.

**Absent:** John Gallatine; Patricia Summers.

### **LAY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**Present:** Lila Jean Jensen, Moderator of Presbytery; Emily Seeger, PW Moderator.

**VISITORS**

Mary Lou Aspengren (Des Moines, First); Ray W. Peters, (Ankeny); Betty Richardson, Dale Richardson (Des Moines, Clifton Heights); Kathy Mahler, Jennifer Hines (Clive, Heartland); John Sprole (West Des Moines, Covenant); Kristina Carlyle (Centerville, First); Daniela Navas, Noel Stephen Klurju, Easther William Daniel, Keer Lebliar, Ann McGowan, Sue Buehler, Kathleen Nelson (Des Moines, Cottage Grove); Doug Maben; Denise England (Audubon, First); David Miller (Montezuma, First United); Kathryn Roblee (Perry, First); Lisa Whitmarsh Peterson (Des Moines, Park Avenue); Rosalinda Erwin (Knoxville, First); Marilyn Ersham (Greenfield, First); Linda Anderson, Larry Anderson, Leland Smith (Newton, First); Rev. Pat Summers (Newton, United); Eldred Kingery, Calvin Community (Clive, Heartland); Mary Davenport (LeRoy, First); Nancy Bauman, Pat Hall, Nathan Williams (Creston, First); Sue Kimball, Kristi Hunter (Indianola, Trinity United); Mary Ellen Stanley (Leon, First); Dick Woods, Hal DeGood (Windsor Heights, Windsor); Sheryl Puderbaugh (Des Moines, Highland Park); Thomas Kono; L. Fisher (Heartland Presbytery, Kansas City, MO, Second Presbyterian); Bob Waldron (Earlham, First); Nancy Lister-Settle, Presbytery Staff (Dallas Center, First); Kim Coulter, Presbytery Staff (Des Moines, Westminster); Betty Dyer, Presbytery Staff (Indianola, Trinity United).

**MINISTERS (89 on roll)**

Present: 47  
Excused: 25  
Absent: 2

**ELDER COMMISSIONERS AND OTHERS**

Present: 87  
Excused: 0  
Absent: 26

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

Rev. Don Fisher (Heartland Presbytery, Kansas City, MO, Second Presbyterian)

**QUORUM**

A quorum was present and declared so by the Stated Clerk.

**ADOPTION OF DOCKET**

The Presbytery VOTED to adopt the Proposed Docket with the addition of a report from the Nominating Committee at a point where time permits.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda with one item (B-1) being removed for later discussion.

**APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES**

The Presbytery VOTED to grant excused absences to those requesting them.

**SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

The Presbytery VOTED to seat Rev. Ray Fancher (Presbytery of Northern Kansas), Bob Waldron (United Methodist Church), Rev. Don Fisher (Heartland Presbytery) and Rev. David Schneider (New Covenant Presbytery) as Corresponding Members of the Presbytery for this meeting.

**INTRODUCTION OF FIRST TIMERS AND GUESTS**

Persons who are attending a presbytery meeting for the first time or who were guests were introduced.

**APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Presbytery Moderator Lila Jean Jensen announced that she had appointed the Rev. Ken Rummer, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Corning, as Parliamentarian for this meeting.

**APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING CLERK**

Stated Clerk Phil Barrett reported that Elder Pam Rees, a member of the Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, had been appointed as Recording Clerk for this meeting.

**WELCOME BY HOST CHURCH**

The Rev. David Madsen, pastor of the Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, welcomed the Presbytery. He noted that the church was the most “colorful” congregation in the Presbytery. He also noted that all of the children in the church speak at least two languages. Dave then shared all the work that had been done to the facilities in preparation for this meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MAY STATED MEETING MINUTES**

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the Minutes of the 464<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting held May 16, 2006, as printed and distributed.

**REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK**

Stated Clerk Phil Barrett reported that all reports had been filed with the Synod of Lakes and Prairies or the General Assembly as of this date, and that all correspondence received on behalf of the Presbytery has been assigned, referred or answered.

The Stated Clerk reported that notification has been received from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies that Elder Ramona McKee (Des Moines, Westminster) has been elected to the Board of Directors of Calvin Community, Class of 2008.

He also reported that a properly executed request for a Special Meeting of the Presbytery was received from the Coordinating Council. That meeting was held on Tuesday, August 1 at 1:00 p.m. at the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Des Moines.

**A Commission to work with the Windsor Presbyterian Church was elected:**

Rev. Ross Blount (Allerton)  
Elder Wendell Harms (Des Moines, Central)  
Elder Jennifer Hines (Clive, Heartland)  
Elder Craig Johnstone (Malcom)  
Rev. Tiare Mathison-Bowie (Newton, First)  
Rev. Tim Maxa (Lenox, First and Sharpsburg)  
Elder John Sprole (West Des Moines, Covenant)

**A partial Commission to work with the Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church was elected:**

Rev. Mark Davis (Clive, Heartland)  
Elder Polk Davison (Des Moines, Westminster)  
Rev. Jack DePond (Leon, First)  
Elder Maurice Dyer (Indianola, Trinity)

Three more members need to be elected. Additional names will be proposed at the 465<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting on August 19.

The Presbytery VOTED to grant permission to the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at their fall workshops. Dates, places and celebrants would be as follows:

September 30	Dallas Center	Rev. Kay Steddom
October 14	Chariton	Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy
October 27	Des Moines, Westminster	Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

The Stated Clerk reported that the Annual Review of Session Records will be held on the following dates in the noted places:

September 14	United Presbyterian Church, Lenox
September 19	First United Presbyterian Church, Atlantic
September 21	First United Presbyterian Church, Montezuma
September 28	St. Paul Presbyterian Church, Johnston

The Clerk also noted that invitations to host a Presbytery Meeting in 2007 would be welcome. Covenant Presbyterian Church in West Des Moines has already extended an invitation for either the January or May meetings.

### **WORSHIP**

The Presbytery began a time of worship and music. Liturgist for this portion was Elder Mary Ellen Stanley (Leon, First). A musical offering was presented by members of the Sudanese Choir of Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church.

### **TRANSFORMATION TEAM REPORT**

The Rev. Jim Howland, coach of the team, presented the report. (A copy of this report appears as Appendix A at the end of these minutes.)

The major focus of the report was the upcoming Regional Transformation Conference happening in Des Moines, October 6-8, 2006, and encouraging people to plan to attend.

### **SOCIAL MINISTRIES TASK FORCE REPORT**

Elder Nancy Lister-Settle, Moderator of the Task Force, presented the report. (A copy of this report appears as Appendix B at the end of these minutes.)

Nancy highlighted the fact that Bill Fischer, a member of the Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive, has agreed to live and work with the Parish Team in El Salvador from October through May. He will be an interim "bridge" while the search for a new Mission Co-Worker continues following the retirement of the Rev. Robert Cook from that position.

The Task Force also recognized the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Des Moines as the "Just Neighbors" congregation for this meeting. Nancy listed the various ways in which the church meets the criteria for this recognition.

**PROFESSIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Rev. Ken Rummer, Moderator of the Committee, presented the report.

- R-1 The Presbytery VOTED to grant the request from the Rev. Robert Cook to be designated as “Honorably Retired” as of July 31, 2006. A service of worship and recognition was held, including comments and remembrances from a variety of colleagues and friends of Rev. Cook.
- A-2 The Presbytery VOTED to grant permission to the Rev. Giles Card (HR) to labor outside the bounds of this Presbytery in order to officiate at an outdoor wedding in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in September, 2006. This would occur within the bounds of the Presbytery of Santa Fe.

Ken informed the Presbytery that the focus for the Committee continues to be on biennial visits with pastors, encouraging pastors to utilize continuing education opportunities, promote the health of pastors, looking for ways to provide pastoral care to pastors and their families, and investigating unmet needs of pastors in our presbytery.

The Committee has information regarding a Clergy Colleague Group that would work with a facilitator. Part of the funding for such a group would come from the Board of Pensions.

Ken highlighted how the Congregational Care and Development Committee, the Professional Care and Development Committee, and the Presbytery Personnel Committee work together with congregations and pastors.

Ken informed the Presbytery that the dues for 2007 to pay for the Major Medical, Pensions, Death and Disability coverage for those covered under the Board of Pensions plan will increase one half percent to 31.5%.

**REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The Rev. Sue Babovec (Ottumwa, First), Minister Commissioner to General Assembly, and Elder Ray Peters (Ankeny), Elder Commissioner to General Assembly, presented a verbal and written report on their participation in the General Assembly Meeting held in June in Birmingham, Alabama. Also received was a written report from the Youth Advisory Delegate to the Assembly, Cassandra Decker (Corning, First). (A copy of these Reports appears as Appendix C at the end of these minutes.)

Elder Ted Coppock (Des Moines, Westminster) reported on his experience as the Overture Advocate from our Presbytery and explained the process followed by the Assembly in responding to the Overture from our Presbytery.

General Presbyter Phil Barrett read a letter from a Minister Commissioner to the Assembly who was very impressed with Cassandra Decker (Corning First), Youth Advisory Delegate to General Assembly.

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Rev. Ann Rouse, Moderator of the committee, presented the report.

Ann reported that the committee celebrates that it is able to give six Initiative Grants to the following congregations:

- Chariton, First \$1,000
- Cottage Grove Avenue, Des Moines \$2,500
- Clifton Heights, Des Moines \$1,500
- Trinity United, Indianola \$2,000
- Monroe \$1,500
- Newton, United \$1,500

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the following actions of the Committee:

- A-1 A contract has been approved between the Covenant Presbyterian Church, West Des Moines, and the Rev. David Schneider for Interim Pastor Services, effective July 23, 2006, with the following terms:

Cash Salary	\$30,000 per year
Housing Allowance	24,000 per year
Social Security Offset	4,131
Full Pension/Major Medical/Death and Disability Dues	
Auto Allowance	1,800
Profession and Study Allowance	2,500
Reimbursement of expenses for moving van and packing of up to \$5,000	
Paid vacation of one week each quarter, which is to be taken within the contract year	

- A-2 A contract has been approved between the Ankeny Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Raymond Justin Fancher for Interim Pastor Services effective September 1, 2006, for a period of six months with the following terms:

Cash Salary	\$37,500 per year
Housing Allowance	16,000 per year
Social Security Offset	4,093
Full Pension/Major Medical/Death and Disability Dues	
Continuing Education	1,500 per year
Study Leave	Two weeks per year
Professional Expenses	1,200 per year
Auto Allowance	1,800 per year

- A-3 The committee granted permission to the following commissioned lay pastors to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper:

Paul Stanfield (Des Moines, Knox) at First Presbyterian Church, Des Moines, the first weekend in September

Pam Nagel (Des Moines, Westminster) at the Tingley United and Platte Center churches on the first weekend in August

A-4 The committee approved the following Church Information Forms:

First Presbyterian Church, Guthrie Center  
First Presbyterian Church, Creston

A-5 Along with the Professional Care and Development Committee, the Committee approved the request from the Rev. Christopher P. Harris to dissolve the pastoral relationship between himself and the Highland Park Presbyterian Church of Des Moines for personal and health reasons, effective August 27, 2006, with the following terms:

Salary – 3½ months at \$3,250 per month. The Highland Park Presbyterian Church will pay two months and 1½ months will be paid by the Presbytery beginning September 30, 2006.

Rev. Harris will move out of the manse no later than October 27, 2006

Rev. Harris' pension and major medical dues will be paid for three months beginning September 30, 2006

These terms end if Rev. Harris begins another call before December 1, 2006

The congregation of the Highland Park Church concurs with this request.

The Committee has appointed the Rev. Jim Howland (Winterset, First) to serve as Moderator of the Session beginning August 28, 2006.

The Presbytery VOTED to adopt the following recommendations from the Committee:

R-1 That the Presbytery request the Presbytery of New Covenant to transfer the membership of the Rev. David Schneider to the Presbytery of Des Moines.

R-2 That the Presbytery of Des Moines recognize the ordination of the Rev. Raymond Fancher and receive him into the membership of this Presbytery.

Rev. Fancher is a minister member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). While doing work as an Interim Pastor in the Presbytery of Northern Kansas, he decided to apply for membership as a Minister of the Word and sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He has worked with the Presbytery of Northern Kansas on the constitutional process for changing denominational membership, and has completed all the steps required by the *Book of Order*. He could not be received as a member of that Presbytery because his service as an interim pastor had ended and he did not have a call to a validated ministry position. He now has such a call in this Presbytery.

Rev. Fancher shared his experience and process leading to this decision. His Statement of Faith appears as Appendix D at the end of these minutes.

**LUNCH**

The Presbytery recessed for a delicious lunch provided by the folks from the Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church. The Rev. David Madsen returned thanks for the meal.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Presbytery reconvened with a time for announcements. Included in this time was the introduction of the Rev. David Schneider, the new Interim Pastor at the Covenant Presbyterian Church in West Des Moines, Darlene Shepherd telling about ministry with older adult ministries at the First Presbyterian Church in Oskaloosa, Denise England introducing herself and telling about her hopes to get enough funding for her to serve in Egypt, and Presbytery Moderator Lila Jean Jensen telling of her opportunity to represent the Presbytery at an ecumenical event involving our Full Communion partners.

**COORDINATING COUNCIL**

The Rev. Tim Maxa, Moderator of the Coordinating Council, presented the report.

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the following actions of the Council:

- A-1 Reviewed the May 16, 2006, 464<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.
- A-2 Recommended the formation of two administrative commissions:
  - A. To work along side the Session of the Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church of Des Moines as it seeks to meet the recommendations of the Task Force appointed by the Presbytery regarding financial and operational issues, and that, if at any time the Administrative Commission believes that the Session is derelict in its responsibilities to meet the recommendations or deal with any related matters, the Commission shall be empowered to act in place of the Session. The Commission shall remain in place until the Presbytery determines that the congregation is on stable financial and operational footing, at which time it shall make a final report and any recommendations to a Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.
  - B. To work with the Session and congregation of the Windsor Presbyterian Church in Windsor Heights as the congregation considers and acts upon the recommendation from the Session to withdraw from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Commission shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Presbytery in all matters until decisions regarding the recommendation are communicated to the Presbytery. At that point, the decision and any recommendations from the Commission shall be presented to either a special or stated meeting of the Presbytery.
- A-3 Requested that a Special Meeting of the Presbytery be called on Tuesday, August 1, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. to appoint the two administrative commissions and elect persons to serve on the commissions. The meeting would be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Des Moines.
- A-4 Planned the August 19, 2006, 465<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting with reports from General Assembly Commissioners and other summer events as a main set of presentations.
- A-5 Began renewed discussion of implications from the Presbytery Mission Review carried out in 2004.

A-6 Made initial plans for the November 14, 2006, 466<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting with focus on nominations and budget presentations.

The Presbytery VOTED to adopt the following recommendations from the Council:

R-1 That the offering received during worship is designated to C.R.O.S.S. Ministries.

R-2 That the Covenant with Hunger Action Enabler Nancy Lister-Settle be renewed for 2007.

The Council placed the following names in nomination to fill out the Administrative Commission working with the Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church:

Elder Midge Slater (Des Moines, First)

Elder Sandy Wagener (Ankeny)

Rev. Sue Babovec (Ottumwa, First)

After an opportunity for nominations from the floor was offered, the Presbytery VOTED to close nominations and instruct the Clerk to cast an electing ballot.

Rev. David Stipp-Bethune offered a prayer for the two Commissions and the congregations with which they will be working.

### **CALVIN COMMUNITY**

Eldred Kingery, Executive Director of Calvin Community, recognized those who had served as members of the Calvin Community Board or in other ways at Calvin, shared a brief overview of the persons living at Calvin and recent physical updates to the facility.

Maurice Dyer, Director of Development at Calvin talked about the different ways funds are made available to help residents with living expenses and how these funds are raised.

General Presbyter Phil Barrett shared how Calvin Community provides a meeting place and meals monthly for the Coordinating Council.

### **WORSHIP CONTINUES**

Scripture lessons were read in the Nuer and English languages. The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy (Des Moines, Westminster) was the preacher for the day. Her sermon, “How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord” focused on the split in the Roman church between Gentile and Jewish Christians, how there had been hostility between these two groups for years and how the sides were unwilling to welcome each other, and Paul’s words of guidance to these groups. Following the sermon, the Presbytery offered an Affirmation of Faith.

### **SYNOD SCHOOL REPORT**

The Rev. Mark Davis (Clive, Heartland), a member of the Synod School Committee, presented a report on the Synod School held at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa in July. Pictures were shared (taken by Presbytery Director of Communications, Kim Coulter) and he commented on the highlights of that week.

**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

The Rev. David Ewing, Moderator of the Committee, presented the report.

The committee presented the following items for information:

- I-1 The committee has enrolled Laurie Berry as an inquirer as of February 27, 2006. Laurie is a member of the Ankeny Presbyterian Church where she and her family attend. She did her undergraduate work at Central Michigan University and at Grand Valley State College. Laurie has been involved in Christian education, spiritual life, and worship activities at Ankeny and past churches in Michigan. Laurie plans to attend the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa.
- I-2 The committee is currently meeting with all those under this Presbytery's care – inquirers, candidates, and commissioned lay pastor students – for our annual consultations. We anticipate completing consultations in late August or early September. Currently, there are 12 individuals under the care of the Presbytery of Des Moines.
- I-3 The committee is in conversation with several other individuals who are interested in pursuing ministry as ministers or Word and Sacrament in our denomination. We enjoy opportunities to talk to folks who may be interested in ministry, and to church sessions as they partner with the committee in sponsoring inquirers, candidates, and commissioned lay pastor students.
- I-4 Pamphlets are now available describing the seminary level education that will be available in Des Moines. This is a cooperative effort involving several denominations in conjunction with the Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana. This coming year, three courses will be offered: Introduction to the New Testament (Fall 2006), Introduction to the Old Testament (Spring 2007), and Introduction to Theology (Summer 2007).
- R-1 Nathan Williams, an inquirer from the First Presbyterian Church in Creston, was presented for examination to become a candidate under the care of this Presbytery. Nathan shared his faith journey to this point and was asked questions from the floor. The Presbytery then VOTED to suspend the examination and sustain the examination, making Nathan a candidate under the care of this Presbytery. Nathan responded affirmatively to the Constitutional Questions. A Charge was given to Nathan by Rev. David Ewing. Rev. Eric Keller offered a prayer and Nathan was welcomed to the candidacy process.

**REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER**

General Presbyter Phil Barrett presented a written report that appears as Appendix E at the end of these minutes. He presented verbal comments about being fools for Christ, and highlighted receiving a recognition of the Presbytery for being #7 in per member giving to the mission of our denomination and how every dollar given to the Presbytery goes to mission.

**WORSHIP CONTINUES**

Rev. David Madsen and Elder Roberta Victor presided over the reception of an offering. After a hymn, Rev. Madsen officiated over the administration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, as well as a time of prayer following the Sacrament.

**SUDANESE COMMISSION**

The Revs. Steve Mathison-Bowie and Goanar Chol shared their hopes in peace in parts of Sudan and new needs for support and work in the country. Rev. Chol shared the joy he has in his work and plans to visit Sudan September through October. Expenses for the trip are being provided by the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley and our presbytery, as well as several congregations in our presbytery.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Rev. Jack DePond, Moderator of the Committee, presented the report.

Jack reported on how the shortfall in mission receipts is impacting the work of the Presbytery.

The Presbytery VOTED to grant permission to the Covenant Presbyterian Church of West Des Moines to sell a parcel of its property for \$55,000 to their neighbor to the north. The legal description of the property is as follows:

The North 200 feet of Lot 12, COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES PLAT NO. 3,  
an Official plat of the City of West Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa.

The Financial Report for the Presbytery and a listing of Restricted Funds appear as Appendix F at the end of these minutes.

**CAMPING/YOUTH MINISTRIES TASK FORCE REPORT**

The Rev. Steve Mathison-Bowie, Moderator of the Task Force, and Lisa Whitmarsh Peterson, a member of the task force, presented the report. They highlighted the summer camp program, the upcoming Fall Senior High Retreat in November and the Youth Triennium to be held during the summer of 2007. Lisa will be the Registrar for this event.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Rev. David Kincaide, Moderator of the Committee, presented the report.

The Committee placed the following names in nomination for the positions listed:

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Class of 2008 – Elder Howard Clark (Monroe)

**PROFESSIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Class of 2006 – Rev. James Wallace (Des Moines, Central)

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Class of 2006 – Rev. Marvin Potter (Honorably Retired)

Moderator for 2006 – Rev. Jack DePond (Leon, First)

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The Presbytery VOTED to express its gratitude to the members and friends of the Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church for their gracious and unique hospitality to the Presbytery in hosting the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION**

The Presbytery VOTED to adjourn. Moderator Lila Jean Jensen offered the closing prayer and benediction.

The next 466<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2006, at the Highland Park Presbyterian Church of Des Moines.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Reese  
Recording Clerk

Philip W. Barrett  
Stated Clerk

## APPENDIX A

**TRANSFORMATION TEAM REPORT****August 19, 2006**

As the midway point in the year is close at hand, it seemed important to update the members and friends of presbytery on the activities of the Presbytery Transformation Team. Many of you will recall that at the November Presbytery Meeting in 2005, the Presbytery voted to create a presbytery-wide transformation team. Since that time, many activities have taken place, including recruitment and formation of the team and working cooperatively with Missouri River Valley Presbytery on a regional transformation conference, scheduled for October 6-8, 2006.

The members of the team are:

- Rev Jim Howland – First United Presbyterian Church, Winterset (Coach)
- Rev Sue Babovec – First Presbyterian Church, Ottumwa
- Rev Phil Barrett – General Presbyter
- Jenny Braundmeier – First Presbyterian Church, Oskaloosa
- Rev David Endriss – Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Indianola
- Rev Eric Keller – Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- Larry Milroy – Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- Ann Polito – Community United Presbyterian Church, Hartford

Our tasks right now include building team unity, reviewing and discussing the principles of transformation and how those principles apply to various church settings. In addition to working on the upcoming Regional Transformation Conference, the team has been studying a book together. The team meets on a monthly basis to discuss the concepts in the book and to explore opportunities to have a positive impact on transformation within our presbytery.

Future goals of the team are:

- To resource congregations that are seeking to encourage the transformation process in their local settings.
- To educate individuals and groups about the dynamics and the philosophy of transformation.
- To work with groups within the presbytery on how to intentionally bring about transformation at a presbytery and denominational level.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss more about the team, feel free to contact me either at 515-462-3261 or [pastor@i-rule.net](mailto:pastor@i-rule.net) or contact one of the team members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Howland, Transformation Team Coach

## APPENDIX B

## SOCIAL MINISTRIES TASK FORCE REPORT

August 19, 2006

**Rural Partnership Offering** envelopes are available at the Presbytery Office. Call Betty Dyer (515-276-4991) with the amount you need. Master copies of the offering materials were distributed at the May 19 Meeting of Presbytery.

**Broken Bread**, the Social Ministries quarterly newsletter, will continue to be distributed in hard copy form to congregations. Individual subscribers must contact the Presbytery Office in order to remain on the mailing list; call (515-276-4991), e-mail ([pbycommunication@owest.net](mailto:pbycommunication@owest.net)), or write (2400 86<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 20, Urbandale, IA 50322-4306).

**Just Neighbors** – First Presbyterian Church of Newton has been displaying the Just Neighbors banner presented to them at the May Meeting. The banner will be passed to a new congregation today, recognizing the social justice ministries being carried out in Des Moines Presbytery. The Social Ministries Task Force will honor a different congregation at each Meeting of Presbytery, so contact Moderator Nancy Lister-Settle (515-992-3639; [NeithertheCat@aol.com](mailto:NeithertheCat@aol.com); P.O. Box 333, Dallas Center, IA 50063) with suggestions for future presentations.

**El Salvador Mission** – Rev. Robert Cook has retired as Mission Co-worker in El Salvador and Companeros has chosen to place an interim co-worker in Berlin until a full-time co-worker is hired. Bill Fischer, a member of Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive, has agreed to live and work with the Pastoral Team from October through May to assist with delegations and communications. The new email address to contact our mission partners in El Salvador is [oursisterparish@yahoo.com](mailto:oursisterparish@yahoo.com). The most current information about our mission partnership can always be found at [www.oursisterparish.org](http://www.oursisterparish.org).

**Joining Hands** is the new name for the PC(USA) mission initiative through which Des Moines Presbytery is partnered with the Together for Family Development network in Egypt. Two members of the network will be visiting the presbytery in September 4-14: Rev. Emil Zaki, Moderator of the Synod of the Nile, and Rafik Nagy, who represents the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services. Check the website at [www.desmoineswithegypt.org](http://www.desmoineswithegypt.org) for more information about their time in Iowa. Plans are also underway for a trip to Egypt for Joining Hands partners and others who might be interested, from the last weekend in October into the first of November. Contact Nancy Lister-Settle for more information.

The Presbytery's Joining Hands coordinating team is sponsoring a third Advocacy Training Workshop on Saturday, September 9, from 10 a.m. to Noon at Central Presbyterian Church, 3829 Grand Avenue, Des Moines. Presenters will be Margaret Vernon, former social ministries specialist for Des Moines Presbytery who now works in the Des Moines office of Iowa's Senator Tom Harkin, and a representative from Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, who assist with grass roots organizing and have been recipients of several Rural Partnership Offering grants. You will have the opportunity learn about advocacy through local organizing, and how advocacy efforts are seen from a public official's perspective. The workshops are relevant to both of our international partnerships, and to the Social Ministries focus on "Just Neighbors." All are welcome!

## APPENDIX C

**217<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS REPORT****August 19, 2006**

Thank You, Des Moines Presbytery for electing us as Commissioners to the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. We found it to be an experience that gave us a much greater appreciation of our Church and how we fit into the overall plan. This was a historic event in the life of our national church with many issues before the group. We have a greater appreciation of the process and workings of the church and pray that this report will help you to do likewise.

We also want to remind you of something you may well know – our General Presbyter is awesome! He kept us encouraged and on track – with surprise appearances, jelly beans, M&M's, juice, fruit and even toys from the movie "Cars." True, he did "slip out" the last night (read that "morning") when it got super-late – but, by unanimous vote, the Des Moines delegation said "they would have left, too, if they could have done so!" Thank you, Phil!

**\*\*\*So – just who were we at this the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly?** Our program booklet showed:

- 534 Commissioners
- 164 youth advisory delegates
- 25 theological student advisory delegates
- 12 ecumenical advisory and
- 8 missionary advisory delegates registered.

These commissioners/delegates were assigned to 14 different committees for review of and action on all material coming to the assembly – determining which items would ultimately be considered by the entire assembly.

**\*\*\*The election of Moderator found four candidates seeking this office:** Deborah Block, pastor from Milwaukee, WI; Kerry Carson, pastor from Conrad, IA; Tim Halverson, pastor from Cape Coral, FL; and Joan Gray, pastor from Atlanta, GA. The process of nominations, questions, and discussion led to the first ballot, which turned out to be the most balanced overall vote for Moderator in GA history. There were 34 votes separating the four candidates after the first ballot. The second ballot saw some erosion of votes from Carson and Halverson to Block and Gray. On the third ballot, Joan Gray swept ahead in the field capturing over 60% of the vote, thus sealing her election as Moderator.

Moderator Gray said that she did not have all the answers, but had a passionate faith in a God who through us is able to do more than we could ever imagine. One of her "buzzword" comments was, "We need to put on our listening ears." She continued that "we cannot go wrong if we listen – to God and to each other." Her choice for Vice-Moderator was Elder Robert Wilson, from Huntsville, AL, who indicated he would advocate the "PUSH" technique – Pray Until Sometime Happens.

**\*\*\*Moderator Gray began each business session by sharing a "Desert Story"** – explaining that these short writings often gave her guidance for the day. One reads (or hears) the story; reflects on it; and as time progresses, the inner meaning becomes clear. She began Monday morning this way...

“The little village was fascinated by the monks who lived up the mountain. The bell in the high steeple could often be heard and occasionally one caught a glimpse of the monks scurrying from building to building. But no one really knew what the monks did. Then, one day a monk came down the mountain to the village. Cautiously, the villagers approached the monk and gently asked, “Sir, what is it you do on the mountain?” The monk paused, as if in deep thought. Then he said (before turning and going back up the mountain) “We get up, we fall down, we get up, we fall down, and we get up again.”

Joan concluded – may this be a lesson for us in the church as we move forward with a God who makes a way where there seems to be no way.

**\*\*\*Some little “stuff” – that may be just as important as the “big “stuff.**

- If you scramble the letters of the word Presbyterian, you find “best in prayer.”
- In what many have called a ‘Historic’ meeting of the three General Assemblies, the PC(USA), the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America held concurrent assemblies in Birmingham. This was a celebration of 300 years of American Presbyterianism and the common heritage they share. Among the noted ministries were: the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel, Coalition for Appalachian Ministries, and the *Book of Common Worship*. Together we learned more about the faith heritage of each other; we shared worship, bible study, educational experiences, and exhibits; and we discerned further opportunities for cooperative ministry. The fellowship that came out of this experience may help to serve as a catalyst for continued shared ministry, education and mission. The downside of meeting together was that several evenings of time for meetings and/or reading of reports prior to discussion and voting was lost.
- The ordination of women in the PC(USA) –100 years as deacon; 75 years as elder; and 50 years as clergy was observed and celebrated.
- In a move which had the entire GA sitting on the edge of their chairs, Colorado businessman, Stanley Anderson presented a plan called “Loaves and Fishes Church Growth Fund” that will make available grants totaling \$150 million for the purpose of church expansion, ethnic church development, and church transformation. Presbyteries can apply for the grants and will have to match a portion of it, meaning Presbyterian mission causes and Presbyterian seminaries will also benefit from the money. These funds will be distributed through grants of \$250,000 to \$1 million to groups applying for them – beginning in 2007, with all monies–distributed by 2012. It must also be noted, however, that an announcement later (first through the national media and then the Office of GA) reported prior to adjournment that Mr. Anderson is currently involved in extensive bankruptcy proceedings and questions are being raised about the reality of this vision happening. Mr. Anderson said “funds are currently off–shore and will be available in November of this year.” The OGA said that they received the offer from Mr. Anderson in good faith and expect the funds to be forthcoming. Since GA, there has been no mention of the venture in any news releases that we have been able to review.
- A new hymnal (both digital and hard copy) was approved for the denomination. This process takes at least 8 years. But will be a replacement option for the current 20-year-old hymnal.
- All congregations are invited to renew, through Word and Sacrament, our life together in Jesus Christ by engaging in practices that deepen baptismal life and discipleship by setting the baptismal font in view of all; filling the font with water on each Lord’s Day; setting out the cup and plate each Lord’s Day; having appropriate parts of worship led from the font or table and increasing the number of times Communion is celebrated annually in each congregation. A pastoral letter should be forthcoming shortly to all congregations urging this to happen. There is also an excellent study available for churches (which was approved by the 217<sup>th</sup> GA) called “Invitation to Christ”. More information about it can be found on the PC(USA) website.

- Overtures calling for the Ordination of qualified Christian Education Directors (creating a 4<sup>th</sup> ordained office in the PC(USA)) were referred to the Office of Theology and Worship – where there is an ongoing study paper being created on the practice and understanding of ordination.
- The Assembly, in probably its strongest statement on abortion in years, affirmed the lives of viable unborn babies. If a baby can live outside of the womb, that baby's life needs to be preserved and cared for and not aborted. By a vote of 381 to 117, the PC(USA) moved its abortion policy in a moderately pro-life direction. Previously we had been the only mainline American denomination not opposed to partial birth abortion.
- The Assembly approved a Task Force (funded with per capita dollars) to continue work and further revision of the FOG (form of government) in the *Book of Order*. This report is to be available to presbyteries by September, 2007. In the coming year, all Presbyteries will be voting on a rewritten Chapter 14 of the *Book of Order*. This is almost identical to the proposal of 2001, which was defeated 29/144.
- Faith distinctions between Christians, Muslims and Jews were maintained.
- LES – the electronic, paperless system of distributing reports worked reasonably well and should be a great system for the 2008 General Assembly!

**\*\*\*The assembly, by an overwhelmingly favorable vote (483–28), set as policy, guidelines for financial investments of the PC(USA), as they pertain to Israel, Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank.** It says that investments will be invested in only peaceful pursuits. The Assembly also affirmed that actions by Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) will be the vehicle for achieving this goal. Gretchen Graf, chair of the Peacemaking Committee said, “This statement reflects our historic commitment to the people of the Middle East in all their struggles toward peace” and indicates that the intention is to use divestment only as a last resort to re-enforce the church's stance. The 217<sup>th</sup> GA addressed the hurt and pain by the controversial action of the 216<sup>th</sup> GA and noted “we are grieved by this pain and accept responsibility for the flaws in our process and ask for a new season of understanding and dialogue.” Although this action did not overturn the action of the 216<sup>th</sup> GA, the new language clarifies the engagement process, which has not led to any recommendations for divestment and could only do so if approved by the 218<sup>th</sup> GA. This decision does not single out Israel but instead mentions the several areas of concern in the Middle East conflict, which is a far more balanced and even-handed approach as it calls for investment in only peaceful pursuits, which is a more specific and positive proposal for a morally responsible investment strategy.

**\*\*\*Newspaper reports (at least here in the Midwest) would suggest that the most important topic at GA was the Trinity Report.** You'll have to decide that for yourself, but it is appropriate to recall that just as Mark Twain said his death was “being greatly exaggerated” – so, too, the Trinity Report. Did the 217<sup>th</sup> GA replace the language of “Father, Son and Holy Spirit”? No – the report states, “The language of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, rooted in scripture and creed, remains an indispensable anchor for our efforts to speak faithfully of God.” The report does offer a variety of groups of three words that could (might) be used to explain the Trinitarian nature of God – if doing so would help someone more fully understand the mystery and majesty of our God – made known to us as three persons. The paper suggests that such words are scriptural – I'll leave it up to you to decide the validity of that statement. The assembly was asked to approve this paper, however, an amendment from the floor changed approve to “receive.” This amendment passed, meaning it does not carry any official status in the PC(USA). (As an aside, even if it would have been “approved” the report would have been commended to congregations for study, but would not have carried the weight of the confessions and statements of faith found in the PC(USA) Constitution. It would have had only the endorsement of the 217<sup>th</sup> GA.) A second amendment added words to the section on baptism that support only the use of the words Father, Son

and Holy Spirit in baptism. Specifically, the amendment added the phrase, “with the exception of the baptismal formula itself so the whole sentence now reads “With the exception of the baptismal formula itself, we are also free to supplement this language with additional Trinitarian images to reflect the expansive grace, love and communion of the one God.”

**\*\*\*The final report of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church (TTF), was approved – but not without much conversation, amending, minority reports, and discussion.** The report was expected to be the most controversial item at this assembly – and true to form, it was. The process was not as much about winning or losing as it was about possibly finding a way to “fix” a very serious problem that is slowly causing the church to fracture itself into many, many pieces. Will the report succeed in “saving” the church? We’re not sure. We commend the study to you for your review and study, conversation and discernment.

The first four recommendations of the Peace, Unity and Purity (PUP) Report passed overwhelmingly and represent some of the strongest writing on the sovereignty and power of God; the fact that salvation is through Jesus Christ only; and a suggested process of discernment that can assist in hearing other perspectives on controversial issues. Our response to these four recommendations should become a major portion of all churches’ future confirmation curriculum.

The last three recommendations also passed – after amendment efforts and minority reports (all of which failed) by a vote of 298–221 (57% to 43%). What Recommendations 5, 6, and 7 mean specifically remains to be seen.

An Authoritative Interpretation of G–6.0108 was passed, granting each ordaining and installing body permission to declare constitutional mandates non–essential in cases where a “scruple” is declared by a candidate if such “scruples” are deemed non-essential by the ordaining body. We are told that this approval does not change the constitution – and it doesn’t – technically.

Although Recommendation #5 is not strictly a method of dealing with human sexuality issues, it should be noted that G-6.0106b remains in place (by a vote of 405-92) – which requires fidelity in marriage and chastity in singleness. This essential biblical teaching is one that candidates for ordination in our church must abide by, according to the *Book of Order* (a part of our constitution.) However, the way our standards are applied may have changed.

Again, exactly how remains to be seen. Every person being ordained promises to uphold the essentials of Reformed faith and polity as spelled out in our constitution. But what those essential are is now left up to local governing bodies (sessions and presbyteries) to determine for themselves. We may find ourselves in a situation where a Session or Presbytery ordains someone in what we perceive to be a violation of our biblically rooted constitutional standards, because they did not see them as essential. Clearly our connectedness may well change in coming months and/or years – on matters of more than ordination standards. No longer do all presbyteries “for sure” operate with the same rules, regulations, and standards.

Presbyteries did not have opportunity to speak on this issue before it “became the law of the land” which is also a “new way” of doing church business. There is a sense of there was “an end run around the Presbyteries.”

Still others are suggesting that an amendment offered (and passed) on the floor of the assembly in essence rejects Recommendation #5 as proposed by the PUP Task Force and replaces it with the

opposite process. The PUP Report said judicial review was possible (of ordinations) but only in a limited way. The question to be asked is “did the ordaining/installing body conduct its examination reasonably, responsibly, prayerfully, and deliberately in deciding to ordain a candidate for church office?” In other words, only the process could be reviewed – not the decision to ordain. The approved amendment says that a decision (in reference to a scruple being non-essential) is subject to review, and should be judged on whether it is in compliance with the Constitution. Many say this means a Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) can be asked to judge whether the ordination decision is in compliance with the Constitution. If a PJC sticks to the plain meaning of the text of the Constitution, it would have no choice but to rule that a decision to ordain someone not observing G-6.1 06b – or any other portion of the *Book of Order* – was not in compliance with the constitution. For all parts of the Constitution are as much in force as they were before GA met in Birmingham, for the Constitution has not been changed. (No GA has the authority to change the constitution – that can happen only if GA sends a proposal to the Presbyteries to amend the *Book of Order* and that is approved.)

So – did anything change? We don’t know. We don’t think you can know for sure yet. Time – and situations – will tell.

**\*\*\*Moderator Gray began our last morning together with this desert story –**

“Two monks were walking across the valley. As they came to a river, they noticed a woman standing there, looking very distressed. After asking her of her plight and learning of her need to get across the river, one monk picked her up, carried her across the water, set her down and proceeded on the journey. Two miles later the second monk spoke. “You know, ‘we have rules about speaking to females. Likewise, we have rules about touching women. Yet you did both of those things at the river.” “That’s true,” replied the first monk “But I also put her down two miles ago. You are still carrying her.”

In a world that sometimes overlooks the youth, we found ourselves very impressed with the youth delegates to General Assembly. Their exuberance, innocence and enthusiastic questioning was refreshing – even when a vote had passed, they were still gleaning an understanding and more information regarding the issue. Our Youth Advisory Delegate, Cassy Decker of Corning, had a precise handle on many items, asked great questions and participated in the actions of the advisory group. We did enjoy her enthusiasm and are glad she was part of the Des Moines delegation.

Please note these phone numbers and addresses to reach us.

Elder Ray Peters  
405 N.W. Irvinedale Drive  
Ankeny, IA 50023  
515-964-0376 or [Lrpconsulting@msn.com](mailto:Lrpconsulting@msn.com)

Rev. Sue Babovec  
1705 West Street  
Ottumwa, IA 52501  
515-490-3982 or [susanbab@lisco.com](mailto:susanbab@lisco.com)

If you would like more information and/or program and discussion time regarding the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, please contact us for possible calendar dates and arranging a time to visit your congregation or a group within your congregation.

Again thank you for your time to review this report, your encouragement, and your prayers.

Let us all commit to a season of prayer for the PC(USA) and seek our direction from an awesome and almighty God who makes a way when there seemed to be no way.

## YOUTH ADVISORY DELEGATE (YAD) REPORT

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

It is now mid–August and has been two months since I represented the Des Moines Presbytery at the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. I have had people thank me for what I brought to the assembly, but would now like to thank you for the amazing experience you have provided me.

During one of the worship services, I was listening to our past moderator Rick Ufford–Chase speak and realized that I am Presbyterian. I had never really known what it meant to “be Presbyterian” but I found myself knowing, not just thinking/knowing that I am Presbyterian. I write this because it is pertinent that you allow other young adults to come to this conclusion.

Getting ready to leave for college, I was beginning to feel confused about God and how He fit into my life. I was scared for the future and that I would make choices that would eventually wear me down. My relationship with God felt stale, and General Assembly rejuvenated me.

It was the hope behind a denomination that I knew only through my small town church. It was power. It was comfort. It was a strong, unbreakable force of faith. General Assembly was the best thing that ever happened to me. It was also one of the most conflicted places I have ever been.

There was fighting, mistrust, and the constant reminder through speeches about the fighting and mistrust. I had no idea it was going to be so controversial. I cried, and prayed; listened to views I’d never even considered and did my best to submit to God’s will. Although I did not agree with many things passed (or rejected), I have the faith that God will lead us into peace if we are obedient and put our trust in him.

Our new moderator, Joan Gray, is excellent for her leadership position. I will be honest; she was not my first choice for moderator. I felt the need for a Moderator with a “plan.” However, I met Joan later that week outside of a frequently–visited coffee shop. When my companions and I shyly requested a picture with her, it was just like taking a picture with a friend. “Why of course! What are you girls drinking? It smells amazing!” Although my mom teases me for talking coffee with our new moderator (“Coffee? Shouldn’t you have been discussing God or the *Book of Order* or something?”), it made me realize how down to earth Joan is. I have great faith in her abilities to listen to people, for she is real, and very capable of connecting with her Christian family on a personal level.

By the end of General Assembly, the YADs were using our new found knowledge of polity. “I would like to make an amendment that involves all of us staying together in a Presbyterian Utopian society.” We youth were supported and encouraged at all times by the commissioners. Rev. Sue Babovec and Ray Peters were there for me when I was confused, when I was conflicted, and when I just needed – someone to tell me how much better Iowa’s weather is than Alabama’s. We loved our commissioners, and we loved each other. I’m still suffering through “YAD Withdrawal.”

Our denomination has so much hope. I found that even those I was opposite with on every issue, I loved just as much as those who agreed with me. With a strong leader like Joan Gray and faithful, loving Christians like those I met at the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Jesus Christ’s truth will live on.

Your loving sister in Christ,  
Cassandra Decker

## APPENDIX D

## MY FAITH STATEMENT

Raymond J. Fancher

You, O God, are <b>Creator</b> the beginning, the ever-present reality, and the culmination of both our daily lives as well as our ultimate existence.	<b>GOD, CREATOR</b>
You are <b>before all things</b> , present in all things, <b>yet not confined to any.</b> You are in the beating of my own heart, and my longing for wholeness. You are glimpsed in the beauty of the world, and in the power of creation itself beyond my comprehension.	<b>CREATION</b>
I often break your heart when I act as though I no longer love nor need You. I become estranged from You and others You have created when: I make the good in myself synonymous with your will; I fail to recognize the stranger as brother or sister; I crush the life spirit from those I know through deeds or words; I smother the diversity and life-giving nature of your creation to satisfy my individual wants and desires, and, therefore, rob unborn generations of their legacy; I seek to limit the design of your wisdom, the abundance of your love, and the <b>magnitude of your grace for all the world.</b>	<b>SIN</b>
<b>You create and re-create</b> worlds, nations, and people. So I acknowledge with gratitude your creation of me—again and again— in my <b>birth and my baptism</b> , from my doubt to my confession, in the womb of <b>my beginning</b> , and <b>even my grave</b> —leading to a new future.	<b>GRACE BAPTISM</b>
I am challenged to see and acknowledge your Presence in places and people I sometimes believe You have abandoned.	<b>RESURRECTION</b>
I am most aware of <b>your Presence</b> in places and people through whom I am nourished: <b>The gathering of your people</b> in hope; <b>The proclamation of your Word</b> as good news; When new life is discovered in the <b>breaking of bread</b> ; When <b>forgiveness is both offered and received.</b>	<b>CHURCH WORSHIP SACRAMENTS</b>
In the gift of your son, <b>my Lord, Jesus</b> , I receive <b>forgiveness of sin.</b> He is the fulfillment of your heart's desire, <b>the conclusion</b> of our own creation. In him death died, <b>and eternal life</b> is given.	<b>JESUS AS LORD FORGIVENESS</b>
By <b>your Spirit</b> set loose into the world You continue to <b>proclaim good news to the poor</b> , <b>to heal the broken-hearted</b> , <b>to give freedom to those imprisoned</b> , <b>to open the eyes of the blind</b> , and <b>to set at liberty those who are oppressed.</b>	<b>HOLY SPIRIT MISSION</b>

## APPENDIX E

## GENERAL PRESBYTER REPORT

August 19, 2006

A common concern for churches and governing bodies is how some ways of the world have crept into our churches. I am sure we each could make a list of these and we would be surprised at how much agreement there would be between us.

One that I think has become exceedingly strong in recent times is egotistical selfishness. The egotistical part shows up in where the focus is when decisions are made. We now regularly hear such things as “This is what I/we want,” “This is what I/we think,” “This is what I/we think ought to happen.” All the focus is on an individual or group. There is no concept of considering other possibilities, of reflecting with others on potential results, of even considering that the person or group might not have full or broader information.

This goes against a critical part of being a part of the Presbyterian/Reformed tradition. Whether a decision is made by an individual (candidacy, ordination, accepting/leaving a call) or a committee (taking actions, making recommendations) or a congregation (forming, calling a pastor, purchasing property), we always turn to another group to check out the wisdom of our actions. This is one of the many ways we are connected – that critical part of our tradition I lift up for you. We connect because we know and respect others and the wisdom they have.

Also missing from this self focus is discerning what someone else – God – might add to the discussion or decision. Listening to God takes time, and when we are more concerned about quick decisions or decisive actions, we tend to go more with what we thin or want without spending prayerful time in scriptural study and prayer – listening prayer – to listen for God’s guidance. We refuse to consider that God might have something to say. Again, it’s about me/us, not about God.

And where is the selfishness in this? Well, when we are more concerned about what we think or want, we become less generous with our selves, our time, our money. “I don’t have time,” “I don’t want to do that,” or “Ask someone else,” are examples of responses here. We all have choices to make, many of them difficult. We choose to do certain things or act in certain ways, and again, we usually don’t take the time to check it out with God or anyone else. It’s what I/we want.

Where do we get this? It’s easier to see where we don’t get it. The culture in which we live fills us with examples and gives us guidance. In sports we see extremely well paid athletes more worried about their contracts and how they compare to others, and who have more of a commitment to the highest bidder than to other folks on the team. In business, we see very well-paid executives receiving golden parachutes as a company goes down the tubes and workers lose pensions and investments. In religion we see success in terms of numbers, so we worship mega churches, missing how the main message in many of these churches is about getting better things for ourselves than in getting better things for others.

While we’d like to believe otherwise, this egotistical selfishness is alive and well in our churches, no matter how well meaning and faithful many folks are. As we head into the fall season, my prayer is that, as the seasons change, so will our desire to focus on what God wants and how we can increase our efforts to help others and be with others. I believe we can – with God’s help and guidance.

Since we were last together, here are some of the places I have been:

- Preached for the Baccalaureate Service at Atlantic High School
- Met with several pastors
- Met with the United Trinity Parish in Humeston
- Preached at the Ankeny Presbyterian Church
- Attended the General Assembly in Birmingham, AL
- As part of our vacation in England and Scotland (our son's graduation present), worshiped at several historic sites (Westminster Abbey, Coventry Cathedral, St. Giles, St. Paul's, St. Andrews)
- Attended worship and a congregational meeting at the Windsor Presbyterian Church
- Met with Iowa Executive/General Presbyter Colleagues

I will be praying for each of you as you enter into the fall phase of ministry and program, and would welcome any questions or comments about this report.

Thank you for the many gifts of ministry you bring to our presbytery.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Phil Barrett

## APPENDIX F

**BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT**

August 19, 2006

**Presbytery of Des Moines  
Income Statement  
For the Six Months Ending June 30, 2006**

	<u>Curr Mo</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Ann Bgt</u>	<u>%Bgt</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<b>Income</b>					
Total Per Capita	\$ 10,795.86	\$ 195,330.27	\$ 262,325.00	\$ 74.46	\$ 70,138.00
Presbytery General Mission	\$ 20,431.48	\$ 51,488.97	\$ 142,000.00	\$ 36.26	\$ 61,924.00
Synod Support Staff Salaries	\$ 6,666.66	\$ 19,999.98	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 20,000.00
H.A.E. Income	-	\$ 2,990.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 74.75	\$ 2,990.00
Interest Income	\$ 75.21	\$ 605.51	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 60.55	\$ (5,225.00)
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 480.01	\$ 287.29	-	-	\$ 669.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 38,449.22</b>	<b>\$ 270,702.02</b>	<b>\$ 449,325.00</b>	<b>\$ 60.25</b>	<b>\$150,496.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b><u>Governance Expense</u></b>					
Miscellaneous Expenses	-	\$ 0.31	-	-	-
Committee Preparation Ministry	-	\$ 71.25	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3.56	\$ 1,039.00
Committee on Representation	-	-	\$ 100.00	-	-
Budget & Finance	-	-	\$ 100.00	-	-
Nominating Committee	-	\$ 28.50	\$ 150.00	\$ 19.00	-
Personnel	-	-	\$ 100.00	-	\$ 46.00
Sexual Misconduct Response Tm	-	-	\$ 400.00	-	-
GA Per Capita	-	\$ 59,599.00	\$ 59,599.00	\$ 100.00	-
Synod Per Capita	-	\$ 48,471.00	\$ 48,471.00	\$ 100.00	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 108,170.06</b>	<b>\$ 110,920.00</b>	<b>\$ 97.52</b>	<b>\$ 1,085.00</b>
<b><u>Administrative Expense</u></b>					
Moderator's Expense/Task Gps	-	\$ 220.90	\$ 350.00	\$ 63.11	\$ 266.00
Administrative Commissions	-	-	\$ 250.00	-	-
Presbytery Meetings	\$ 164.30	\$ 164.30	\$ 100.00	\$ 164.30	\$ 24.00
GP to General Assembly	-	\$ 311.20	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 15.56	-
Commissioner Orientation	\$ (71.38)	\$ 79.62	\$ 100.00	\$ 79.62	-
Stated Clerk's Expense	-	\$ 30.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00	-
Communication	-	\$ 27.60	\$ 500.00	\$ 5.52	\$ 448.00
Insurance	-	-	\$ 4,200.00	-	\$ 13.00
Legal fees	-	-	\$ 1,000.00	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 92.92</b>	<b>\$ 833.62</b>	<b>\$ 8,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 9.75</b>	<b>\$ 751.00</b>

(June 30, 2006 Income Statement continued...)

**Extension of Ministries**

New Church Development TF	-	-	\$ 500.00	-	-
NCD Loan Interest	-	-	\$ 700.00	-	\$ 252.00
Transformation Conference	\$ (2,400.00)	\$ (3,734.38)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (373.44)	-
Social Ministries TF	\$ 625.00	\$ 1,310.54	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 13.11	\$ 8,724.00
CROSS	\$ 4,583.33	\$ 32,083.31	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 58.33	\$ 32,083.00
Special Events TF	-	-	-	-	\$ 303.00
Camping	\$ (8,195.75)	\$ (9,508.35)	\$ 4,000.00	\$ (237.71)	\$ (5,353.00)
Youth	\$ 165.00	\$ (308.12)	\$ 500.00	\$ (61.62)	\$ 431.00
Resources	\$ 992.25	\$ (55.11)	\$ 300.00	\$ (18.37)	\$ (526.00)
Women's Advocacy TF	-	-	\$ 300.00	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ (4,230.17)</b>	<b>\$ 19,787.89</b>	<b>\$ 72,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 27.37</b>	<b>\$ 35,914.00</b>

**Support of Local Ministries**

Congregational Care & Devel	\$ 248.57	\$ 1,866.79	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 37.34	\$ 7,964.00
Incentive Grants	-	-	\$ 10,000.00	-	-
Cottage Grove	-	-	-	-	\$ 1,000.00
Chariton First Presbyterian	-	-	-	-	\$ 5,000.00
Conflict Management Resourcing	-	-	\$ 2,000.00	-	-
Resourcing Workshops	-	-	\$ 3,000.00	-	-
Professional Care & Develop	\$ 47.25	\$ 564.36	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 22.57	\$ 752.00
EMI	-	-	-	-	\$ 6,000.00
Regional Partners					
Southeast	-	-	\$ 500.00	-	-
East	-	-	\$ 1,500.00	-	-
DM West/NW	-	-	\$ 500.00	-	-
Southwest	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 2,500.00
West	-	\$ 500.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 16.67	\$ 860.00
South Central	-	-	\$ 300.00	-	\$ 108.00
DM Two Rivers	-	\$ 405.51	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 11.59	\$ 734.00
Coordinating Council	-	\$ 235.78	\$ 300.00	\$ 78.59	\$ 205.00
Worship	-	-	\$ 100.00	-	-
Bills & Overtures	-	-	\$ 75.00	-	-
Contingency	-	-	\$ 1,000.00	-	-
Pby Office	\$ 2,980.40	\$ 21,826.34	\$ 27,826.00	\$ 78.44	\$ 14,234.00
Pby Staff	\$ 15,306.52	\$ 82,929.52	\$ 196,222.00	\$ 42.26	\$ 63,196.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 19,882.74</b>	<b>\$111,328.30</b>	<b>\$ 261,323.00</b>	<b>\$ 42.60</b>	<b>\$102,553.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 15,745.49</b>	<b>\$240,119.87</b>	<b>\$ 453,093.00</b>	<b>\$ 53.00</b>	<b>\$140,303.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 22,703.73</b>	<b>\$ 30,582.15</b>	<b>\$ (3,768.00)</b>	<b>\$ (811.63)</b>	<b>\$ 10,193.00</b>

**Presbytery of Des Moines  
Restricted Funds  
June 30, 2006**

**NEW COVENANT FUNDS**

<p><b>McCahon Fund</b> 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.</p>		\$ 42,196.90
<p><b>Swan Fund</b> Interest earnings used for seminary students' assistance.</p>		\$ 20,632.56
<p><b>Albia Sale</b> Restricted until 2006 for congregational development in the Albia area. After 2006 can be used for the assistance of small churches in the Presbytery.</p>		\$ 28,126.71
<p><b>Camping Fund – Knox Knolls</b> <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> of interest earnings used for the camping program. <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> of interest earnings used for Presbytery causes.</p>		\$ 322,831.41
<p><b>Walther/Anderson Fund</b> Scholarship aid for underprivileged and handicapped campers.</p>		\$ 19,012.82

**FIRST AMERICAN BANK – URBANDALE**

<p><b>Pastor Emergency Fund Savings</b> Short-term loans for pastors.</p>		\$ 1,523.74
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