



Presbytery of Des Moines

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

December 19, 2007

TO: Commissioners to the 470th Stated Meeting (November 13, 2007)
FROM: Philip W. Barrett, Stated Clerk
SUBJECT: Minutes

You will find the Minutes of the 470th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines held on November 13, 2007, at the First Presbyterian Church of Ottumwa, 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.

Please read through these 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.

We elected new officers and members of committees and other Presbytery entities, as well as Commissioners to the General Assembly and Synod. Elder Ray Peters, a member of the Ankeny Presbyterian Church, is our new moderator. We approved the 2008 budget for the Presbytery. We had a very meaningful 'laying-on-of-hands' for Sara Hopkins, an elder in the First Presbyterian Church in Newton, as she was Commissioned as a Lay Pastor. We had conversation about caring for pastors. The Rev. Ann Rouse (Monroe) guided us in a Bible study focused on "Crossing the River." We approved some new and continuing pastoral relationships. The meeting concluded with a special time of worship that included youth bell and choral choirs from the host church. These are just some of the highlights.

If you are attending the January 19 Presbytery 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 for the January 19 Presbytery Meeting will be posted on the Presbytery's Web site at www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org approximately 10 days prior to the meeting. 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 470th Stated Meeting at the First Presbyterian Church of Ottumwa, Iowa, on November 13, 2007. The meeting was convened at 9:30 a.m. with prayer by Moderator Kate Stangl.

FORMATION OF THE ROLL

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

CHURCH	MINISTER	P/A/E	COMMISSIONER
Adair, First	Char Rief	A	A
Allerton, United	Ross Blount	P	A
Ankeny	David Braak	P	Sue Nelson
Atlantic, First United	Don Seeger	P	A
Audubon, First	Kay E. Steddom	A	Paul Walther
Bedford, United	Randy S. Allman	P	Barbara Hannon
Brooklyn, First	John Reynolds	P	Janet L. Kornis
Carlisle, Scotch Ridge	Doug Bolsem, CLP	A	A
Centerville, First	VACANT	-	Marilyn Vanderlinden
Chariton, First	VACANT	-	Ruth Smith
Clive, Heartland	D. Mark Davis	P	Dave Hubler
Clive, Heartland	Barbara Nish	A	-
Corning, First	Ken Rummer	P	A
Creston, First	D. Scott Vandenheuvel	P	Pat Hall
Dallas Center, First	David Ewing	P	Nancy Lister-Settle
Deep River, United	Ben Wilson	A	A
Des Moines, Central	James Wallace	P	Steve Roberts
Des Moines, Clifton Heights	Eric Keller	P	Reginald J. Bell
Des Moines, Cottage Grove Avenue	David Madsen	P	Robertta Victor
Des Moines, Douglas Avenue	Jan Scott	P	Jim Kreitzinger
Des Moines, First	Ken Stuber	A	A
Des Moines, Fort Des Moines	Donald Elly	A	A
Des Moines, Highland Park	Robert Cook, HR	E	A
Des Moines, Knox United	Bill LeMosy	P	Louise Newsom
Des Moines, Park Avenue	David Stipp-Bethune	P	Mary Lou Briles
Des Moines, Union Park	Adam Nardini	P	Joyce Rash
Des Moines, Westminster (4)	Amy Miracle	P	Ted Coppock
Des Moines, Westminster	Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy	P	Polk Davison
Des Moines, Westminster	Ken Arentson	E	Archie Rohden
Des Moines, Westminster	Dick Kiefer, HR	E	A
Des Moines, Westminster	Bill Ekhardt	A	-
Dexter, First	David Kincaide	P	Richard Harris
Diagonal, United	John Beran, HR	E	A
Earlham, First	Robert Waldron, LP	A	A
Ewart	Aaron Koskamp, HR	P	Donna Winburn
Gibson, First	Mike Conn, CLP	P	A
Gibson, White Oak	Mike Conn, CLP	P	A
Greenfield, First	David Kincaide	P	Elizabeth Christie
Grimes, First	Lynn Williams	P	A
Grinnell, First	Kirsten Klepfer	E	A

CHURCH	MINISTER	P/A/E	COMMISSIONER
Guthrie Center, First	Calvin Hsu	P	Frank Mobley
Hartford, Community United	Nathan Lamb	P	Charles Casson
Indianola, Trinity United	David Endriss	P	Larry G. Lepper
Johnston, St. Paul	John W. Gilmore	P	A
Knoxville, First	VACANT	-	A
Lenox, United	Tim Maxa	P	David Walter
Leon, First	Jack DePond	P	Mary Ellen Stanley
LeRoy, First	Dale O'Connell	P	A
Lucas, First	Linda O'Connell	E	A
Malcom, First United	John Reynolds	P	A
Monroe	Ann Rouse	P	Howard Clark
Montezuma, First United	George Salnave	P	Helen Sheets
Mount Ayr, United	Mike Maddy	A	A
New Sharon, First	VACANT	-	A
Newton, First	Tiare Mathison-Bowie	P	Sara Hopkins
Newton, United	Donald Freeman	P	A
Oskaloosa, First	Dennis Morey	P	Darlene Shepherd
Oskaloosa, First	Hans Cornelder	A	-
Ottumwa, East End	Kate Stangl	P	Dorothy Carlo
Ottumwa, First	Sue Babovec	P	John McKeown
Ottumwa, Westminster	Milton Forbes	P	Douglas K. Carl
Perry, First	Joan White	P	Chad Hoffbeck
Perry, First	Tom Conrey	E	-
Pitzer, United	Donna Vaughan, CLP	P	A
Platte Center	VACANT	-	A
Sharpsburg	Tim Maxa	P	A
Sigourney, First	VACANT	-	Leroy James
Tingley, United	VACANT	-	Mildred Boyd
West Des Moines, Covenant	Dave Schneider	P	Russ Marshall
Windsor Heights, Windsor	Shamaine Chambers King	P	Richard Christie
Winterset, First United	Jim Howland	P	Connie Kinser

OTHER MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY (MINISTERS)

Present: Philip Barrett, General Presbyter/Stated Clerk; M. Denise Group; Gus Nelson (HR); Sara Speer Palmer (HR); Marvin Potter (HR); and Patricia Summers (HR).

Excused: Robert Burnett (HR); Harold Butz (HR); Carl Cooper (HR); Glen Dilley (HR); Ane Fitzgerald; Harold Gilleney (HR); Ray Martin (HR); Jane Martinez; John McElroy; Russell Tomlinson (HR); Erasmo Vélez (HR); Hume Ward (HR); and Francis Younkin (HR).

Absent: Barry Anderson; Pete Brantner; John Gallentine; Christopher (Kip) Harris; Claude Jones; Jeffrey Means; and Kirk Erwin.

LAY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Present: Lila Jean Jensen, moderator of Coordinating Council; Ray Peters, vice-moderator of Presbytery; and Pat Aksamit, moderator of Budget and Finance Committee.

VISITORS

Mary Jean Paschen (Des Moines, Central); Paul Stanfield, (Des Moines, Knox United); Verle Summers, Leland Smith (Newton, First); Dianne Van Gorp, (Oskaloosa, First); Lori Funk, (Ottumwa, First); Barbara Koskamp, (Pella, IA); Nathan Williams (Creston) Kim Coulter, Presbytery Staff (Des Moines, Westminster); Betty Dyer, Presbytery Staff (Indianola, Trinity United).

MINISTERS (87 on roll)

Present: 47
Excused: 21
Absent: 18

ELDER COMMISSIONERS AND OTHERS

Present: 53
Excused: 0
Absent: 27

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Rev. Elizabeth Knott – Presbytery of Seattle

QUORUM

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

ADOPTION OF DOCKET

The Presbytery VOTED to adopt the proposed docket as printed and distributed.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the consent agenda and all the items on it.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

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

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

The Presbytery VOTED to seat the Rev. Elizabeth Knott, a member of the Presbytery of Seattle, as a corresponding member for this meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF FIRST TIMERS AND GUESTS

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

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

Moderator Kate Stangl reminded the Presbytery that the Rev. Ken Rummer, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Corning, was appointed as the parliamentarian for the remainder of 2007.

APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING CLERK

Stated Clerk Phil Barrett reported that Elder Becky Diebold, a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Ottumwa, had been appointed as recording clerk for this meeting.

WELCOME BY HOST CHURCH

The Rev. Sue Babovec, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Ottumwa, welcomed the Presbytery.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST STATED MEETING MINUTES

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the minutes of the 469th Stated Meeting held on August 18, 2007, as printed and distributed.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

I-I-15 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 all correspondence received on behalf of the Presbytery has been assigned, referred answered.

I-I-16 We still welcome invitations to host the following stated meetings of the Presbytery in 2008:

Tuesday, May 20
Saturday, August 16

The Saturday, January 19 Presbytery Meeting will be held at the Ankeny Presbyterian Church, and the Tuesday, November 11 Presbytery Meeting will be held at the St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Johnston.

I-I-17 The Community United Presbyterian Church of Hartford has notified the Presbytery that it has elected former pastor, the Rev. George Mason, as Pastor Emeritus.

I-I-18 The Moderator has appointed a five-member Investigating Committee to deal with the accusation of an offense against a member of the Presbytery. The committee is made up of one female clergy, one male clergy, one male elder and two female elders. This committee, along with the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery, were trained and oriented regarding their work on November 3 by the Rev. Mark Tammen, Director of Constitutional Services of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

I-I-19 Elder Ron Haag (Des Moines, Douglas Avenue) has resigned from the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery, Class of 2008, for health reasons. This vacancy has been referred to the Nominating Committee.

The following recommendations from the Stated Clerk were adopted by the Presbytery:

I-R-6 I have received reports from the commissions to ordain and/or install the Revs. David Braak (Ankeny), Nathan Lamb (Hartford, Community United) and D. Scott Vandenhuevel (Creston, First). I recommend that these commissions be dismissed with our thanks.

I-R-7 The Annual Review of Session Records was held on October 4, 16, 25 and 30. Our clerks of session continue to do a great job, whether they are new to the position or have been serving for some time. Each year, more session moderators attend the review sessions, both learning some things and adding important support to the work of the clerks.

I recommend that the session records of the following congregations be approved without exception:

Adair-First; Audubon-First; Brooklyn-First; Carlisle-Scotch Ridge; Creston-First; Clive-Heartland; Corning-First; Dallas Center-First; Des Moines-Central, -First, -Highland Park, -Knox United, -Park Avenue, -Union Park and -Westminster; Dexter-First; Ewart-First; Gibson-First; Greenfield-First; Grimes-First; Grinnell-First; Guthrie Center-First; Hartford-Community; Indianola-Trinity United; Johnston-St. Paul; Knoxville-First; Leon-First; Lucas-First; Montezuma-First; Oskaloosa-First; Ottumwa-East End; Perry-First; Sharpsburg; Tingley; White Oak; Winterset-First.

I-R-8 I recommend that the session records of the following congregations to be approved with exceptions;

Allerton-United; Ankeny; Atlantic-First; Bedford-United Christian; Centerville-First; Des Moines-Cottage Grove Avenue, -Douglas Avenue, -Fort Des Moines; Diagonal-United; Earlham-First; LeRoy-First; Malcom; Newton-United; Ottumwa-Westminster; Platte Center; West Des Moines-Covenant; Windsor Heights-Windsor.

I-I-20 The following churches have not submitted their session records and have not made arrangements for their review:

Monroe; Mt. Ayr-Baptist Presbyterian; Ottumwa-First; and New Sharon-First (which has not submitted records for over six years).

CROSS MINISTRIES ACTIVITIES

Elder Roberta Victor, Ph.D., executive director of CROSS Ministries, highlighted three activities being provided by CROSS Ministries.

PROFESSIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Moderator, the Rev. Ken Rummer, and Committee member, Rev. Jim Wallace, presented a skit on encouraging pastors (or not). An article was then distributed regarding why pastors leave. Jim Wallace highlighted four focus items from the article – how well pastors are cared for, how conflict is managed in congregations, collegiality among pastors, and skills of pastors versus expectations of congregations. The Presbytery gathered in small groups to share ideas for caring for pastors then some of the thoughts from the groups were shared with the whole body. The Rev. Sara Speer Palmer, a member of the committee, shared unique issues facing female clergy.

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the following action of the committee:

B-A-13 Gave permission to the Rev. Claude Jones (at large) to labor outside the bounds of the Presbytery as the Director of Church Relations for the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. The committee determined this to be a validated ministry under the terms of the Presbytery's policy and Rev. Jones will be retained on the Active Member list of the Presbytery (G-11.0406).

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

B-R-10 That the Rev. Shamaine Chambers King (Windsor Heights, Windsor) be granted permission to labor outside the bounds of the presbytery to officiate at a wedding in Carmel, California, on October 10, 2007.

B-R-11 That the Rev. George Salnave (Montezuma, First) be granted permission to labor outside the bounds of the presbytery to officiate at a funeral in Marshalltown, IA, on October 26, 2007, for one of his church members.

B-R-12 That the Rev. Don Freeman (Newton, United) be granted permission to labor outside the bounds of the presbytery to officiate at a wedding in Dubuque, Iowa, on November 10, 2007.

- B-R-13 That the terms of call for the Rev. George Salnave (Montezuma, First) be approved without change for 2007.
- B-R-14 That the Rev. Pat Summers (at large) be granted the status of Honorably retired as of October 1, 2007.

A service of worship honoring Pat's retirement was then held.

Ken highlighted a survey the committee was asking folks to fill out as well as some items of information from our denomination's Board of Pensions.

STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

Committee Moderator the Rev. Dale O'Connell presented the report.

Dale highlighted the visit of Jonna Reeder to our Presbytery in October and her encouragement to get the funds raised to send Denise England to Egypt as a mission worker. Jonna also encouraged churches to recruit young adults to serve as volunteers in mission in other parts of the world.

Dale then highlighted upcoming offerings and events sponsored by the Committee, he informed the Presbytery that the 2008 focus for the Committee will be stewardship training. Committee member Rev. David Ewing provided a helpful presentation regarding the upcoming Christmas Joy Offering.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Moderator Elder Pat Aksamit presented the report.

The committee presents the following items as information:

- D-I-5 The Westminster Presbyterian Church of Ottumwa, Iowa, reported that a lift had been installed in the church building. Since no funds were borrowed for the project, only this report is necessary.
- D-I-6 Pat updated the Presbytery on the process of selling the former Clifton Heights property. A final action should be presented to the Presbytery in January.

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the following action of the committee:

- D-A-1 Granted permission to the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Ottumwa to sell its manse. The legal description of the property is as follows:

*128 Fairview Avenue, Ottumwa, Iowa
Lot 7, Block 3 & Lot 8, Block 3 of Fairview Addition, Ottumwa, Iowa*

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

- D-R-5 That the Presbytery approve the 2008 Proposed Budget. (This budget appears as **Appendix A** at the end of these minutes.)

The Committee also presented the Presbytery Financial Statement as of September 30, 2007 and the Restricted Funds Report. (These items appear as **Appendix B** at the end of these minutes.)

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Committee Moderator the Rev. David Ewing presented the report.

The Committee presented the following item for information:

- C-I-5 The Committee reports that it has completed all of the annual consultations with Inquirers, Candidates and Commissioned Lay Pastor students for this year. These individuals are:

CLP Barry, Laurie	CAN Ripperger, Cyndy
CAN Diebold, Brian	CAN Seeger-Troy, Beth
CLP Hopkins, Sara	CAN Springer, Maria
CAN Nardini, Adam	CLP Valentine, Scott
CLP Polito, Ann	CLP Waldron, Bob
CAN Ray, Cindy	CAN Williams, Nathan
CLP Rhode, Pam	

The Committee presented the following recommendations to the Presbytery:

- C-R-8 That the following individuals be elected as readers for the Standard Ordination Examinations of our denomination to be held in Chicago, March, 2008:

Elder Becky Diebold (Ottumwa, First) – Principal
 Rev. David Stipp-Bethune (Des Moines, Park Avenue) – Principal
 Elder Mary Lou Briles (Des Moines, Park Avenue) – Principal
 Rev. David Schneider (West Des Moines, Covenant) – Principal
 Rev. Don Elly (Des Moines, Fort Des Moines) – Alternate

The floor was opened for other nominations. There being none, the Presbytery VOTED to close nominations and instruct the Clerk to cast an electing ballot.

- C-R-9 Together with the Congregational Care and Development Committee, that Elder Sara Hopkins (Newton, First) be Commissioned as a Lay Pastor and be given full privileges of conducting the Sacraments, performing weddings, and under appropriate supervision, moderating session meetings.

Sara graduated from the Center-Learn program in June, 2007. The committee conducted a final interview with her on June 21, 2007. The committee heard her preach, reflected with her on her call to ministry, and examined her Statement of Faith. (This statement of faith appears as **Appendix C** at the end of these minutes.)

The Presbytery VOTED to adopt this recommendation. A Service of Commissioning was then held by the Presbytery which included a laying-on-of-hands.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Moderator the Rev. Ann Rouse presented the report.

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

- A-A-17 Approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Kirk Erwin and the First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, Iowa, as of September 30, 2007.
- A-A-18 Appointed the Rev. Linda O’Connell (Lucas, First) as Moderator of the session and congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, Iowa, as of October 1, 2007.
- A-A-19 Appointed the Rev. David Endriss (Indianola, Trinity) as Moderator of the session and congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, Chariton, Iowa.
- A-A-20 Approved the contract between the Rev. Dale O’Connell (HR) and First Presbyterian Church of LeRoy, Iowa (the United Trinity Parish of LeRoy and Humeston), for him to serve as Temporary Supply Pastor, effective October 1, 2007. The compensation includes:

Cash Salary	\$35,000
Travel Expenses (at IRS Rate)	4,000
Continuing Education (Reimbursable)	1,000
Vacation	4 Weeks
Continuing Education (cumulative up to six weeks)	2 Weeks
Full Pension, Major Medical, Death and Disability Dues	

- A-A-21 Approved the 2008 contract between the Rev. William LeMosy and the Knox United Presbyterian Church of Des Moines, Iowa, for him to serve as Temporary Supply Pastor as follows:

Cash Salary	\$12,937
Housing	12,937
Continuing Education Allowance	1,000
Other Reimbursable	1,000
Vacation (accrued at 1 week per quarter)	5 Weeks
Study Leave (accrued at 1 week per six months)	2 Weeks
Full Pension, Major Medical, Death and Disability Dues	

A-A-22 Approved the 2008 contract between the First Presbyterian Church of Audubon, Iowa, and the Rev. Kay E. Steddom, for her to serve as Stated Supply Pastor as follows:

Cash Salary	\$32,970
Social Security Offset	1,750
Health Savings Account	5,000
Housing (Utilities)	5,000
Housing (Appurtenances)	1,000
Travel (Reimbursement)	2,600
Professional Expenses	250
Continuing Education Allowance	1,000
Vacation	4 Weeks
Study Leave	2 Weeks
Full Pension, Major Medical, Death and Disability Dues	

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

A-R-2 That the contract between the First Presbyterian Church of Newton, Iowa, and Elder Sara Hopkins for her to serve as Commissioned Lay Pastor be approved as follows:

Cash Salary	\$25,000 per year
This contract is for 25 hours per week.	
A breakdown of the compensation package will be provided.	

COORDINATING COUNCIL

Council Moderator Elder Lila Jean Jensen presented the report.

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the following actions taken by the council;

- E-A-17 Reviewed the August 18, 2007, 469th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.
- E-A-18 Planned the November 13, 2007, 470th Stated Meeting to include a time of Bible Study, election of officers and worship including the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
- E-A-19 Made initial plans for the January 19, 2008, 471st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery to include a beginning of a year of celebrating 165 years of ministry by the Presbytery.
- E-A-20 Received a communication from the Congregational Care and Development Committee indicating concern for the Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church and its ministry with the Sudanese, and wondering about the current structure of the Congregational Care and Development (CCD) and Professional Care and Development (PCD) Committees dividing the work of a single Committee on Ministry (COM). The Council will have a brief comment about this to share with the Presbytery and will discuss it more in depth in a future meeting.
- E-A-21 Received the Proposed 2008 Budget for the Presbytery from the Budget and Finance Committee, discussed its implications for carrying out the mission work of the Presbytery, thanked the Budget and Finance Committee for its work and encouraged that committee to present the budget as proposed.

E-A-22 Granted Paz Craftaid permission to sell wood and needle work made by Palestinians at the November 470th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery. The proceeds go to Palestinian Christian managed organizations.

Upon a motion from the floor, the Presbytery VOTED to grant permission for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to be served at the Presbytery Youth Event to be held at the Community United Presbyterian Church in Hartford, Iowa, on November 16-17.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Committee Moderator Elder Dianne Van Gorp presented the report.

The Committee presented the following recommendation to the Presbytery:

F-A-1 That the following persons be elected to the positions noted:

PRESBYTERY MODERATOR

Elder Ray Peters (Ankeny)

PRESBYTERY VICE MODERATOR

Rev. David Endriss (Indianola, Trinity)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Moderator

Rev. Ann Rouse (Monroe)

Class of 2009

Rev. David Ewing (Dallas Center, First)

Rev. Dennis Morey (Oskaloosa, First)

Class of 2010

Elder Jim Kreitzinger (Des Moines, Douglas Avenue)

Rev. Tim Maxa (Lenox, United; and Sharpsburg)

Elder Joyce Rash (Des Moines, Union Park)

Rev. Jan Scott (Des Moines, Douglas Avenue)

Rev. Lynn Williams (Grimes, First)

1 Vacancy

PROFESSIONAL CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Moderator

Elder Leland Smith (Newton, First)

Class of 2010

Rev. Pete Brantner (at large)

Rev. William LeMosy (Des Moines, Knox United)

Elder Amy McGriff (Oskaloosa, First)

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Moderator

Rev. David Stipp-Bethune (Des Moines, Park Avenue)

Class of 2010

Elder Gloria Hoffman (Des Moines, Westminster)

Rev. Davie Kindaide (Greenfield, First; and Dexter, First)

Rev. Patricia Jo Summers, HR

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Moderator

Elder Pat Aksamit (Des Moines, Knox United)

Class of 2010

Elder Jennifer Hines (Clive, Heartland)

1 Vacancy

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Moderator

Rev. Robert Burnett, HR

Class of 2010

Elder Ted Coppock (Des Moines, Westminster)

STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

Moderator

Rev. Dale O'Connell, HR (LeRoy, First) (the United Trinity Parish of LeRoy/Humeston)

Class of 2008

Elder Ann McGowan (Des Moines, Cottage Grove Avenue)

Class of 2010

Rev. Erasmo Velez, HR

Elder Sandy Wagener (Ankeny)

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT RESPONSE TEAM

Moderator

Elder Glenna Grohe (Windsor Heights, Windsor)

Class of 2009

Rev. Ken Arentson (Des Moines, Westminster)

Class of 2010

Elder David Boyd (Des Moines, Central)

Elder Roberta Victor (Des Moines, Cottage Grove Avenue)

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

Moderator

Rev. David Madsen (Des Moines, Cottage Grove Avenue)

Class of 2010

Elder Joann Mahaffey (Des Moines, Union Park)

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION**Class of 2012**

Rev. Ken Rummer (Corning, First)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS**Clergy Commissioners**

Rev. David Endriss (Indianola, Trinity)

Rev. Ann Rouse (Monroe)

Alternate Clergy Commissioner

Rev. Lynn Williams (Grimes, First)

Elder Commissioners

Nancy Lister-Settle (Dallas Center, First)

Paul Walther (Audubon, First)

Alternate Elder Commissioner

Vacant

Youth Advisory Delegate

Chad Schiwckerath (Ankeny)

Alternate Youth Advisory Delegate

Naomi Maxa (Lenox, United)

SYNOD COMMISSIONERS**Clergy Commissioner**

Rev. Kate Stangl (Ottumwa, East End)

Youth Advisory Delegate

Vacant

LUNCH

The Presbytery recessed for a delicious lunch provided by the members of the Ottumwa First Presbyterian Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Presbytery reconvened with a time for announcements. Among these were: Elder Larry Lepper (Indianola, Trinity United) expressing gratitude to the Presbytery of its action approving the congregation's loan application for building a new addition; Rev. Nathan Lamb (Hartford, Community United) celebrating the football team from Carlisle High School going to the state tournament; Elder Donna Vaughan, CLP (Pitzer) announcing the Christmas Bazaar to be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Winterset.

BIBLE STUDY

The Rev. Ann Rouse led the Presbytery in a time of Bible Study focused on becoming a missional church. The idea was explored of changing from a church wandering in the wilderness to one crossing the Jordan River, and the resources available for such a change. We were reminded that God is always present. The study concluded with a musical piece that involved some creative movement. Some presbyters were more creative than others.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

General Presbyter Phil Barrett presented a written report. (This report appears as **Appendix D** at the end of these minutes.) He also shared comments reminding us that the world does not revolve around us and encouraging us to remember who is to be first in our lives.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES TASK FORCE

Task Force Moderator Elder Nancy Lister-Settle presented a written report. (This report appears as **Appendix E** at the end of these minutes.)

On behalf of the task force, Nancy presented the *Just Neighbors* banner to the Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church of Des Moines for their work in helping address hunger through the development of a community garden.

CLIFTON HEIGHTS ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

The Rev. Mark Davis, moderator of the commission, presented a verbal report sharing the purpose and work of the commission and its accomplishments to date.

OTHER BUSINESS

Elder Darlene Shepherd (Oskaloosa, First) made a brief presentation reminding the Presbytery of the importance of nursing homes and older adult care facilities.

The Presbytery VOTED to express its gratitude to the pastor, members and staff of the Ottumwa First Presbyterian Church for its gracious hospitality and great work in hosting the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION

The Presbytery VOTED to adjourn with the benediction at the conclusion of worship.

WORSHIP

The Presbytery joined in a time of celebrative worship. The worship included the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and the passing of the moderatorial gavel from outgoing moderator, the Rev. Kate Stangl, to the newly elected moderator, Elder Ray Peters. Worship leaders included the Rev. Aaron Koskamp (HR), the Rev. Dennis Morey (Oskaloosa, First), Elder Mary Ellen Stanley (Leon, First), the Rev. Phil Barrett (General Presbyter), the Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy (Des Moines, Westminster), and the Rev. Sue Babovec (Ottumwa, First). The preacher for the day was the Rev. David Stipp-Bethune (Des Moines, Park Avenue). His sermon focused on "The Prophetic Question" about where God is. Musical leadership was provided by the *ReBELLion* and *PraiSing* groups made up of young people from the Ottumwa First Presbyterian Church, and Gail Masinda, director of music at the Ottumwa First Presbyterian Church.

The next Presbytery Stated Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 19, 2008, at the Ankeny Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elder Becky Diebold, Recording Clerk
Philip W. Barrett, Stated Clerk

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

APPENDIX A

Presbytery of Des Moines 2008 Proposed Budget

	2007 Budget	2008 Request
	\$16.60 / 10,493	\$16.52 / 9,823
INCOME		
Total Per Capita	\$264,542.20	\$265,221.00
Presbytery General Mission	\$142,499.00	\$146,614.94
Synod Support Staff Salaries	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
Hunger Action Enabler Income	\$2,990.00	\$3,000.00
Interest Income	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
Investment Income	\$18,150.00	\$35,000.00
Bad Debt Estimate	(\$5,000.00)	(\$8,000.00)
Total Income	\$464,181.20	\$483,835.94
EXPENSE		
GOVERNANCE		
Miscellaneous Expense	-	\$1,000.00
Committee Preparation for Ministry	\$1,600.00	\$2,000.00
Stewardship & Mission Committee	\$800.00	\$1,900.00
Permanent Judicial Committee	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Committee On Representation	\$0.00	\$0.00
Budget & Finance Committee	\$100.00	\$100.00
Nominating Committee	\$150.00	\$150.00
Personnel Committee	\$75.00	\$75.00
Sexual Misconduct Team	\$0.00	\$50.00
GA Per Capita	\$60,754.47	\$56,875.17
Synod Per Capita	\$48,372.73	\$46,069.87
Subtotal	\$111,852.20	\$109,220.04
ADMINISTRATIVE		
Moderator/Task Forces	\$350.00	\$300.00
Administrative Commissions	\$250.00	\$250.00
Presbytery Meetings	\$200.00	\$200.00
GP/Stated Clerk to General Assembly	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Commissioner Orientation	\$100.00	\$100.00
Stated Clerk Expense	\$50.00	\$50.00
Communication	\$400.00	\$1,590.00
Insurance	\$4,200.00	\$5,300.00
Attorney	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Subtotal	\$7,050.00	\$11,290.00

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...

	2007 Budget	2008 Request
EXTENSION OF MINISTRIES		
<i>Transformation Team*</i>	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Social Ministries	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Mission Co-Worker Pension & Insurance	\$8,400.00	\$8,400.00
Hunger Action Enabler & Broken Bread	\$5,600.00	\$5,500.00
CROSS Ministries	\$55,000.00	\$60,000.00
Older Adult Ministries	-	\$1,050.00
Camping	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Youth	\$6,000.00	\$1,000.00
Resources	\$300.00	\$300.00
Advocacy for Women	\$100.00	\$100.00
Subtotal	\$82,400.00	\$83,350.00
SUPPORT OF LOCAL MINISTRIES		
Congregational Care & Development	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00
Resourcing Workshops	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Professional Care & Development	\$3,300.00	\$3,750.00
Southeast Regional Partnership	\$300.00	\$500.00
East Regional Partnership	\$0.00	\$0.00
DM West/Northwest Regional Partnership	\$0.00	\$0.00
Southwest Regional Partnership	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
West Regional Partnership	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
South Central Regional Partnership	\$200.00	\$200.00
DM Two Rivers Regional Partnership	\$3,000.00	\$3,750.00
Coordinating Council	\$300.00	\$150.00
Worship Task Group	\$100.00	\$100.00
Bills & Overtures	\$75.00	\$50.00
Emergency Contingency	\$500.00	\$500.00
Presbytery Office	\$40,046.00	\$41,610.00
Staff Salaries/Benefits	\$198,279.00	\$213,745.00
Subtotal	\$259,100.00	\$273,855.00
TOTAL OF ALL EXPENSE	\$460,402.20	\$477,715.04
BUDGET SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$3,779.00	\$6,120.90

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

APPENDIX B

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...

**Presbytery of Des Moines
Income Statement**

For the Six Months Ending September 30, 2007

	Current Month	Current Year-to-Date	Annual Budget	% of Budget	Prior Year-to-Date
Income					
Total Per Capita	\$12,667.15	\$230,560.68	\$283,311.00	81.38	\$211,443.00
Presbytery General Mission	\$0.00	\$66,369.18	\$142,499.00	46.58	\$84,466.00
Synod Support Staff Salaries	\$3,333.33	\$29,999.97	\$40,000.00	75.00	\$30,000.00
Hunger Action Enabler Income	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	100.00	\$2,990.00
Interest Income	\$142.72	\$1,461.10	\$1,000.00	146.11	\$981.00
Investment Income	\$6,824.81	\$31,244.60	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$779.00	\$7,995.40	\$0.00	0.00	\$75,069.00
Total Revenues	\$23,747.01	\$370,630.93	\$469,810.00	78.89	\$404,949.00
Expenses					
Governance Expense					
Committee Preparation Ministry	\$453.59	\$1,161.76	\$1,600.00	72.61	\$898.00
Stewardship & Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	0.00	\$0.00
Budget & Finance	\$0.00	\$167.64	\$100.00	167.64	\$0.00
Nominating Committee	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$150.00	46.67	\$59.00
Personnel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	0.00	\$0.00
GA Per Capita	\$0.00	\$60,754.47	\$60,752.00	100.00	\$59,599.00
Synod Per Capita	\$0.00	\$48,373.00	\$48,313.00	100.12	\$48,471.00
Subtotal	\$523.59	\$110,526.87	\$111,790.00	98.87	\$109,027.00
Administrative Expense					
Moderator's Expense/Task Groups	\$0.00	\$61.02	\$350.00	17.43	\$291.00
Administrative Commissions	\$0.00	\$19.00	\$250.00	7.60	\$113.00
Presbytery Meetings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	0.00	\$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	\$40.00	\$487.46	\$400.00	121.87	\$299.00
Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,200.00	0.00	\$50.00
Legal Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$40.00	\$617.48	\$7,050.00	8.76	\$2,366.00

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	(\$25,890.00)
Transformation Team*	\$309.50	\$2,008.05	\$8,000.00	25.10	\$0.00
Social Ministries	\$0.00	\$245.04	\$2,000.00	12.25	\$1,422.00
El Salvador Mission Assoc-Benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,400.00	0.00	\$5,642.00
Hunger Action Enabler & Broken Bread	\$0.00	\$746.60	\$5,600.00	13.33	\$0.00
CROSS	\$4,583.33	\$45,833.30	\$55,000.00	83.33	\$45,833.00
Camping	\$340.75	\$242.66	\$5,000.00	4.85	(\$14,276.00)
Youth	\$0.00	\$5,706.91	\$6,000.00	95.12	(\$308.00)
Resources	\$1,379.50	\$1,435.78	\$300.00	478.59	\$1,029.00
Women's Advocacy Task Force	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$6,303.58	\$54,210.29	\$82,400.00	65.79	\$13,452.00
Support of Local Ministries					
Congregational Care & Development	\$612.46	\$1,853.23	\$5,000.00	37.06	\$2,261.00
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 & Develop	\$200.61	\$1,495.84	\$3,300.00	45.33	\$1,733.00
Regional Partnerships					
Southeast	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	0.00	\$0.00
East	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00
DM West/Northwest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$150.00
Southwest	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	100.00	\$4,850.00
West	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	0.00	\$500.00
South Central	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	0.00	\$0.00
DM Two Rivers	(\$79.71)	\$1,769.40	\$3,000.00	58.98	\$1,489.00
Coordinating Council	\$0.00	\$45.00	\$300.00	15.00	\$236.00
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	\$0.00
Presbytery Office	\$2,636.56	\$25,082.96	\$32,076.00	78.20	\$26,771.00
Presbytery Staff	\$35,229.33	\$158,617.13	\$196,222.00	80.84	\$144,176.00
Subtotal	\$38,599.25	\$193,863.56	\$251,073.00	77.21	\$192,166.00
Total Expenses	\$45,466.42	\$359,218.20	\$452,313.00	78.41	\$317,011.00
Net Income	(\$21,719.41)	\$11,412.73	\$17,497.00	65.23	\$87,938.00

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

11/11/2007; 12:47 p.m.

D – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT continued...**Presbytery of Des Moines
Restricted Funds****As of September 30, 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.	\$44,459.55
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Swan Fund

Interest earnings used for seminary student's assistance.	\$21,830.08
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Albia Sale

To be used for the assistance of small churches in the Presbytery.	\$31,855.99
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Camping Fund – Knox Knolls

$\frac{3}{4}$ of interest earnings used for the camping program.	\$369,387.82
$\frac{1}{4}$ 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.	\$22,039.32
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Colfax Fund

To be used for Church Development with interest to be placed in Colfax Fund Money Market.	\$55,458.39
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FIRST AMERICAN BANK – URBANDALE**Pastor Emergency Fund Savings**

Short-term loans for pastors.	\$876.84
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Colfax Fund Money Market

To be used for church development.	\$12,723.54
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APPENDIX C

**Statement of Faith
Sara Hopkins****November 2007**

I believe that God creates all things out of love and put us on earth to enjoy God's creation. Due to our sinful nature, we strayed from the true self that God intended us each to be and were disobedient. God created, we responded with disobedience. Due to our disobedience to God, our God given gifts have been impaired. We still have free will, but now we are rendered powerless to resist sin. The consequence of this disobedience to God is: 1) we lack the capacity to discern God fully, and 2) we lack the ability to save ourselves due to our inability to resist sin. True knowledge of God and salvation must come from outside of the human situation since we are incapable of achieving it on our own.

Because God loves, God helped us reclaim that true self that God created us to be. God sent God the Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, to model to us how to live. Jesus Christ is the mediator between humans and God. It is through Jesus, the Holy Spirit and faith that we find our way back to God. Jesus was both divine and human, being tempted as we are; he showed us the way to live and the way to God. I believe Jesus lived, was crucified, died and was resurrected. Through his resurrection, he proclaimed power over death and showed he was the way to eternal life with God the Creator.

Because God loves, God sent God the Spirit, the Holy Spirit, to help us each move along the journey of discovering and living into the true self God intended us to be. God the spirit is God active in this world, in us and in all creation. The spirit is the giver and renewer of life.

God created by the Word of God. God continues to make the Word known through Jesus Christ, Holy Scripture and the sacraments. Jesus Christ was the living Word of God—incarnate. Jesus was the embodiment of the Word. Christ loved God and neighbor and did what God requires of us. God inspired the written Word of God—the writing of Scripture. The Holy Spirit helps us to read and interpret Scripture. The sacraments are God's Word made visible and show God's saving action in the world. The sacrament of baptism is a sign and seal of our joining with Jesus Christ in which the spirit confirms God's promise to be in covenant with us. Baptism also cleanses us from sin, giving us new life. God offers the bread and wine in love. In eating the bread and drinking the cup offered by God, we remember the promises made by God. I believe in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine. This is a sustaining meal that knits God into my being.

God did not put us here alone, but to be together in community. The community of believers forms the Body of Christ and together does God's work in the world. Each member of the body has a particular purpose. God has given us everything we need and given us each particular gifts to use in caring for the creation. God did all of this out of love and we respond with gratitude.

J – REPORT OF THE GENERAL PESBYTER**APPENDIX D****November 13, 2007**

We are part of a denomination that attempts to walk a carefully balanced path between honoring the voice of individuals and the voice of the body. We basically operate on a “will of the majority” basis, and at the same time have both a practice and process for individuals to express differences with the majority. At times, the will of a minority wins favor with the majority and changes the direction or action of the body. I believe this is one of our strengths and one we need to cultivate even more. This is not to say that we do it perfectly, or even well at times. We’re humans, we’re sinners, so we fall short. However, we must keep trying to make this and other strengths more useful and helpful.

Voices of other groups or individuals also impact our lives. Right now we are inundated with political voices, commercial voices, media voices, entertainment voices. We also hear relationship voices, intimate voices, job voices, educational voices, individual voices. Which voices do we listen and when? There are so many! We all feel this way at times, and in either frustration or fatigue, we revert to listening to our own voice, making it the authoritative one. Then what happens? We run into problems when my thought, my position, my experience become the ultimate truth for life. A person who thinks or believes differently from me is wrong, and I, only I, am right.

Our country, our culture, and yes, even our church is caught up in this in significant ways today. Individual desires and demands become the basis for what our church is supposed to be and do. Unfortunately this is not a new phenomenon. In the Gospel of John, the description of what happens after Jesus feeds the 5,000 is interesting. The Jewish leaders had been arguing about the meaning of every word of the Law, and now they pursue Jesus around a lake, peppering him with questions. The problem is they weren’t looking to learn something new. They wanted him to agree with their opinions, and nothing less would satisfy them. Jesus gives a response to their questions, and, as usual, it is not what they want to hear. It is confusing as he talks about eating flesh and drinking blood. It really wouldn’t have mattered how carefully he chose his words. To hear and understand a spiritual truth requires a spiritual heart. These folks were too full of what they thought was truth to allow their spirits to be fed. Today people hear sermons, presentations and other voices in their faith lives but their hearts and minds are already closed. To agree with their views is certainly of God, to disagree is heretical or apostate. I suspect God is pretty sad about those who hear only their own voice.

Unfortunately leaders of our Presbytery and I regularly are confronted with voices stating that their voice or process is the only way. It is hard to work with these folks because it feels like a waste of breath. We all have a variety of gifts and experiences that impact what we say and do. When added to a conversation or a situation, these are helpful, important, and even critical. When these attempt to control or demand in a situation, it is very hard for God’s voice to be injected. We don’t stop our work, and we try to allow for time to discern what God is doing here and what God wants in the situation. Sometimes this works. Other times the voice of impatience and demand for immediate action blocks out God, and yet, as only God can do, we are constantly surprised by God’s ability to overcome these barriers – in time.

As we work together to serve God, to help show the love of God in this time and place, whose voice are we listening to? How we answer will make all the difference in how well we are able to do God’s will.

Speaking of listening to God's voice, the time since our last meeting has been an exciting one as we have ordained, installed and put in place at least eight pastors. Our Moderator, commissions and Congregational Care and Development Committee have been hard at work during this busy time – but it's the kind of busy we enjoy. I hope you all share the joy these congregations, pastors, and the presbytery have as these outstanding folks have come to be with us.

I have been part of many of these, along with many other things, since we last were together. Here's some of what I've been up to:

- ◀ Attended the Presbytery Night at the Iowa Cubs game
- ◀ Participated in the installations of the Revs. Calvin Hsu (Guthrie Center, First), Nathan Lamb (Hartford, Community United) and Scott Vandenheuvel (Creston, First)
- ◀ Attended a Synod Personnel Committee consultation with the Synod of Lakes and Prairies staff (I am a resource to this committee, and Rev. Kate Stangl is moderator.)
- ◀ Attended the Synod Forum for Executive General Presbyters in Barnesville, MN
- ◀ Attended the 125th Anniversary Celebration of First Presbyterian Church in Grimes
- ◀ Participated in a synod conference call related to support of campus ministries
- ◀ Attended the Middle Governing Body/General Assembly Council Consultation and Association of Executive Presbyters Meeting in Louisville, KY
- ◀ Attended and helped lead a gathering of pastors from the four Iowa presbyteries in Clear Lake, IA
- ◀ Attended the Synod Assembly in Farmington, MN
- ◀ Preached at the LeRoy/Humeston Parish and First Presbyterian Church, Centerville, IA
- ◀ Attended the denomination's Fall Polity Conference in Mobile, AL
- ◀ Participated in a conference call of the planning team for the Synod's COM/CPM Training Event to be held in January
- ◀ Met with the Retired Pastors group, some presbytery leaders and some pastors.

If you want to know more about any of these, please touch base with me.

I look forward to our continued work together as we seek to listen to God's voice.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Philip W. Barrett, General Presbyter

K – SOCIAL MINISTRIES TASK FORCE REPORT APPENDIX E

November 13, 2007

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

Just Neighbors – The *Just Neighbors* traveling banner has been displayed at Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church and CROSS Ministries since the August Meeting of Presbytery, celebrating the advocacy they do on behalf of poor and hungry people. SURVEY UPDATE: The Hunger Action Survey results are available in the current issue of *Broken Bread* – extra copies are available today or at the Presbytery Office.

El Salvador Mission – Kathy Mahler of Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive, is serving as Interim Mission Co-worker in Berlín, El Salvador for the next several months. Many of you know Kathy as the “coffee lady” because she also works as our Don Justo coffee coordinator here in the presbytery. She is still managing coffee sales, but orders are being distributed through the Presbytery Office while she is in El Salvador.

Joining Hands – Individuals and congregations had the opportunity to meet Bassem Serofim and Mona Antar from Egypt when they visited the Presbytery in September. Stories and photos from their time in Iowa can be viewed at www.desmoineswithegypt.org. Our partner network anticipates the passage of significant legislation that will improve the lives of people with disabilities in their country—thanks to the efforts of the Joining Hands network organizations over the past year. Visit www.tfdnetwork.org. We will be working together on a fair trade program in the months to come – www.partnersforjusttrade.org.

Peacemaking – Is yours a *Commitment to Peacemaking* congregation? How are you using your portion of the Peacemaking Offering? SMTF has designated some of the Presbytery’s portion for scholarships to the **Peacemaking Conference**, “Sowing Mustard Seeds: Working for God’s Justice—Confronting Poverty” at Chapman University (Orange, California) **July 15-19, 2008**. We are also working on ways we can help the Sudanese ministry at Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines. And the Task Force makes an annual contribution to the Bishop Dingman Peace Award celebration.

The Social Ministries Task Force (SMTF) welcomes any and all who are interested in social justice, international missions, peacemaking, rural concerns, hunger action, criminal justice, environmental issues, immigration, advocacy, etc., etc, etc! For meeting dates contact Moderator Nancy Lister-Settle at neitherthecat@aol.com or 515-992-3639.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Lister-Settle, Hunger Action Enabler and
Moderator of the Social Ministries Task Force