

The Presbytery of Prospect Hill
 Stated Meeting – March 14, 2015
 United Presbyterian Church, Vail, Iowa

The Presbytery of Prospect Hill met for a regularly called meeting on Saturday, March 14, 2015. The meeting was called to order with prayer by Moderator Randy Russom at 10 am.

The Presbytery was welcomed Richard Francis, Pastor of the United Presbyterian Church of Vail.

A quorum was present as shown by the following roll:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Occ Code</u>	<u>Teaching Elder</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Ruling Elder</u>	<u>Cluster</u>
Alta		Vacant				Mike Pedersen	4
Alton	105	Harlon DeJong	A				1
Armstrong	101	Suzanne Wobig	P				2
Auburn	106	Don Gibson	E			Jim Dreeszen	5
Battle Creek	101	Kevin Freese	P			Stuart Kelley	5
Breda	106	Don Gibson	E			Charles Hundling	5
Bronson	101	Cyndy Ripperger	P			Wayne Scholtman	3
Carnarvon	117	Carl Lee, CRE	E				5
Carroll	101	Rikki Sorenson	P			Peter Sorenson	5
Cherokee	101	Ethan Saylor	P			Norm Kolb	4
Cleghorn	101	Peggy Hegeman	P			Marlene Perkins	3
Denison	101	Paul Seefeldt	P			Kyle Boheher	5
Estherville	101	C. Ensz/K. Ensz	P				2
George, Ebenzer	101	Vacant				Larry Petersen	1
George, Lyon	101	Paul Fischer	P			Harlan Boone	1
George, Zoar	101	Dale Lint	P			Larry Hulstein	1
Glidden	101	Brian Camara	P			Elaine Crawford	5
Hawarden	151	Dan Lozer	A				1
Ida Grove	117	Shari O'Bannon CRE	A			Orlan Ehler	5
Lake City	101	Beth Harbaugh	P			Virginia Sheffield	5
Lake Park	101	Tim Harmon	P			Marcia Schumacher	2
Lawton	101	Cyndy Ripperger	P			Beverly Logsdon	3
LeMars PLY		Vacant				Judy DeBoer	3
LeMars PUCC	101	Jan Christensen	P			Evelyn Kendall	3
Manilla	151	Vicki Fisher	A				5
Manning	101	Vacant				Russ Stribe	5
Milford-Lakeshore Ctr	117	Beth Ehlers	P			Harry Gabe	2
Odebolt	117	Bill Crawford	P				5
Paullina	101	John Duling	P			Jack Grosvenor	1
Pocahontas		Vacant					4
Ringsted	101	Suzanne Wobig	P				2
Rockwell City	126	Mossman/BJ Ukena	P				4

Rolfe		John Tompkins	A				4
Sac City	101	Randy Russom	P			Jan Cessford	4
Sanborn	156	Gregg Johnson	A				1
Schaller	101	Ken Fells	P				4
SC First	101	Tom Murray	P			Judy Vos	3
Ass't		Kathleen Whipple	P			John Mayne	
SC Morn	101	Dave Koehler	P			Dawn L	3
SC Third	107	Cathie Bishop	A			Harvey Stokes	3
SC Westlawn	107	Paul Speidel	A				3
SC Westminster	101	John Pehrson	P			Larry Horky	3
SSC First	101	Stephen Niles	P			Dick Anderson	3
Spirit Lake	101	Clint Loveall	A				2
	103	Michael Gewecke	P				
Storm Lake	101	Chuck V-Hein	A				4
SL-SEA	117	Paul Maychen, CRE	P				4
Vail	101	Richard Francis	P			Royce Noelck	5
Wall Lake	117	Carl Lee, CRE	E				5
Westside	101	Richard Francis	P			Dave Freese	5

Other Ministers on the Roll of the Presbytery

bold = present

italics=excused

Beard, Clarence	Miller, Marvin
Brinck, Peg	Moore, William
Brown, Marshall	Peters, Lorna
Dowell-Baum, M	Queen, Duane
Fells, Kenneth	Rozendaal, John
Gibson, Donald	<i>Saville, Stephen</i>
Gray, Donna	Shaffer, Richard
Hegeman, Peggy	Sohl, Dennis
Johnson, Don	Stepanek, Harold
McKinley, John	Tollefson, Robert
Meissner, Ken	Ukena, B.J.
	Wentzel, Rex

Staff: Paul Campbell, Kay Lenhart

Visitors: Katie Shevel, Kim Fara, John Pea, Glenn Freese, Donna Freese

Corresponding Members:

Officers of the Presbytery

2015 Moderator	Dennis Sohl
Vice Moderator	Katie Whipple
Past Moderator	Randy Russom
Stated Clerk	John Pehrson
Treasurer	Dick Drahota
Recording Clerk	Richard Francis
Elder Committee Members	
Budget:	
Camp:	Henry
COM:	
CPM:	
MCT:	Paul Campbell
MT:	Dennis Sohl
Nominating:	
Bills & Overtures:	Carolyn Jamieson

Moved, Seconded, and Carried (M/S/C) to approve the Agenda as modified: thirty minutes for the Committee on Preparation (CPM) for ministry and a report from the Personnel Committee after the CPM report.

Outgoing Moderator Randy Russom led the Presbytery in a Service of Installation for Moderator Dennis Sohl. Randy presented Dennis with the symbols of his office: cross, stole, and gavel. After introducing himself to the Presbytery, Dennis led the Presbytery in prayer.

First-time Commissioners were introduced.

New Pastor John Duling, Interim Pastor at Paullina, was introduced.

No Corresponding Members were seated.

Members and visitors shared Joys and Concerns with the Presbytery.

A member of the Presbytery asked if child care could be offered at Presbytery meetings. The Moderator Team will take this up.

No New Business was introduced.

The Presbytery moved to worship at 10:30 a.m. Participants in the service were Rev. Michael Gewecke; Rev. Chad Ensz; Rev. Richard Francis; Commissioned Ruling Elder Dennis Sohl, Moderator of the Presbytery; Rev. Katie Whipple, Vice Moderator of the Presbytery; Rev. Kevin Freese; Rev. Cyndy Ripperger. Ruth Noelck of the United Presbyterian of Vail was the organist.

The Necrology Report for 2014 was presented by Moderator Dennis Sohl and Vice Moderator Katie Whipple as part of the service.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

The offering was designated to support the Omaha Seminary Foundation's Winter Pastor's School. \$1,200 was collected.

Following worship Cyndy Ripperger presented the report of the Nominating Committee:

In order to have equal representation of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders or Active church members the Prospect Hill Presbytery still needs:

- 2 Ruling Elders for the Committee on Ministry
- 1 Ruling Elders or active church member for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry
- 1 Ruling Elder or active church member for the Committee on Representation
- 1 Ruling Elder for the Permanent Judicial Commission ending in 2020
- 1 Ruling Elder for the Permanent Judicial Commission ending in 2016 (to finish a vacated term)
- 2 Ruling Elders or active church members for the Bills and Overtures Committee

The Nominating Committee asks all Pastors and leaders of the churches of Prospect Hill Presbytery to please send names and contact information for people from the congregations who may have gifts and time to participate on Committees in the Presbytery.

The Business Meeting began at 11:25 a.m.

M/S/C to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2014 meeting.

Officer and Staff Reports:

- Outgoing Moderator: Randy Russom called attention to his written report.
 - Stated Clerk: John Pehrson called attention to his written report which included the following 2014 Annual Statistical Information
 - Ministers ordained: None
 - Ministers received: 1, Tom Murray from Eastern OK
 - Ministers dismissed: 7, David Choate, Betty Weidert, Harold Tongen, and Jim Mead (to RCA). To inactive status: Jeffery Ayers and Adam Cox. Removed from the roll: Heather Shoup
 - Churches: Dissolved: Ashton. Dismissed to ECO: Boyden
 - Ministers honorably retired in 2014: Marshall Brown and Paul Soderquist.
 - PPH now has 46 churches and 46 Teaching Elders.
 - CREs serving churches with Presbytery vote: 3- Carl Lee, Shari O'Bannon, Paul Speidel, Paul Maychen, Cathie Bishop, Paul Campbell, Bill Crawford, and Dennis Sohl.
 - Ministers of other denominations with vote in Presbytery: 4, Harlan DeJong (RCA), Gregg Johnson, Dan Lozer (UCC), and Jim Mossman (ELCA).
- Teaching Elder-Ruling Elder Ratio**
- There are currently 46 churches on the roll. 3 churches (Estherville, Sioux City First, and Spirit Lake have 2 TEs making a possible 49 RE commissioners. There are 46 ministers (TE) and 8 CREs on the roll. 18 ministers are HR, 6 of the HR pastors are not able to be active in the Presbytery. This makes the actual potential for TEs at a Presbytery meeting to be 40, plus 8 CREs. Therefore, there is NO IMBALANCE between TEs and REs at Presbytery meetings.
 - Moderator Team Report – John Pehrson recommended the election of Teaching Elders (TE) Cyndy Ripperger and Dave Koehler to the Nominating Committee. They were elected unanimously.
 - Mission Coordinator – Paul Campbell called attention to his written report and noted two upcoming events: the Church Growth Summit to be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, April 13 and 14; and the Genocide Awareness Day to be held in Sioux City, Iowa on April 26.
 - Budget and Finance – Dave Koehler presented the report. On behalf of the Committee, Dave moved a change in the 2015 budget due to a miscalculation of benefits. The motion was approved.

M/S/C to receive the officer and staff reports.

Beth Ehlers presented the report from the Lakeshore Center Report. She introduced Harry Gabe, the Center's new Program Director. She also called attention to the Center's Annual Report, which was available on the literature table. She celebrated the fact that \$635,000 has already been raised toward the \$1.2 million capital campaign. The mortgage has been reduced from \$996,000 five years ago to \$520,000, and thanks to refinancing and a \$100,000 gift from North Central Presbytery, the monthly payment has been reduced.

Paul Campbell presented the report of the Mission Coordinating Team led the Presbytery in a discussion on moving Presbyteries into the future. Paul Campbell showed a trailer for a film produced by Group Publishing, "*When God Left the Building.*" The film, which will be shown in Sioux City at

some time in the near future, is about changes and challenges for the church in the United States, and about hopeful directions for the future. Paul reported on the new directions the Mission Coordinating Team is taking. They are looking at a Presbytery book study on either *Slow Church* or *Switch: How to do Change When Change is Hard*. Paul called attention to the Presbytery Evaluation Forms and asked the Presbytery to use the reverse of the form to answer three questions: 1. What are some of the strengths of Prospect Hill Presbytery? 2. What are some of the challenges facing our presbytery? 3. What might be some of the advantages (or disadvantages) of a larger geographic presbytery (for instance, state-wide)? The Presbytery has received a letter from North Central and Des Moines Presbyteries asking to begin a conversation regarding merging the work of the Iowa Presbyteries.

The Presbytery recessed for lunch at 12:10 pm. Richard Francis led the Presbytery in prayer.

The Presbytery reconvened at 1:12 pm with prayer by Candidate Katy Shevel.

Members of the Presbytery shared experiences of mission in the local churches.

B.J. Ukena gave a report on the Administrative Commissions for Pocahontas and Rockwell City.

Tim Harmon gave a report on the Administrative Commission for Rockwell City.

Tim Harmon presented the report of the Committee on Ministry (COM). He called attention to the written report of the COM:

- The Session at First Presbyterian Church of Paullina has contracted with Rev. John Duling as interim pastor beginning February 1, 2015. The following package was approved by Session and by the COM at the January 13 meeting of COM:
 - Cash Salary: \$32,760 Housing: \$10,500
 - Board of Pensions: \$ 15,971
 - Dental: \$1,600
 - 403b: \$2,000
 - Vouchered: Prof Exp: \$1,000 Cont Ed: \$500 Mileage: \$3,000
 - 4 wks vacation (one per quarter)
- Under G-2.1001, the COM reviewed and continued the commission for another year the ministry of CREs Shari O'Bannon (Westminster-Ida Grove) Carl Lee (Trinity-Wall Lake and Emmanuel—Carnarvon) and Cathy Bishop (Third-Sioux City). COM reminds all currently commissioned CREs and their mentors that they are required to report to and be reviewed by COM annually.
- Approved the congregational vote by First Presbyterian Church, South Sioux City to reduce the Terms of Call for their installed pastor to 2/3 time. The full terms of call will be available later.
- Items for action:
 - Under G-2.0902 , Rev. Ethan Sayler and the Congregation of Memorial Presbyterian Church, Cherokee request the dissolution of his pastoral relationship there effective April 30, 2015. Rev. Sayler has accepted a new call to Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, Lennox South Dakota (Presbyterian Church in America). The Congregation held a meeting on Feb 22, 2015 and voted to concur with the request, to have his last day of preaching be April 19th, 2015 and grant the remainder of the month as vacation days. The motion carried. The

COM would also like to ask the Presbytery to pray for the continued ministry of Memorial Presbyterian in their faithful witness to Christ as a part of our Presbytery.

- Rev. Ethan Saylor has requested to be transferred to the Presbytery of the Siouxlans, Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). In response to a question from the floor, Stated Clerk John Pehrson noted that while the PCUSA is not in correspondence with the PCA, a transfer of membership is possible. The COM recommends transferring him as a minister member in good standing effective April 30, 2015. The motion carried. Tim invited Ethan forward, together with the Elder Commissioner from Memorial Church, and led the Presbytery in prayer for Ethan and for Rev. James Mead, who is being transferred to the Reformed Church in America. Ethan requested a moment of personal privilege to thank the Presbytery for their support during his time in Cherokee.

Michael Gewecke presented the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM). He introduced Candidate Katie Shevel. Having fulfilled all the other requirements set out by the committee, the CPM presents Katy Shevel for examination and approval by the Presbytery to be considered certified ready to receive a call for ordination as a teaching elder in the PC(USA) pending the completion of one approved unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). Katy's Statement of Faith was included in the CPM written report. Katy introduced herself and was examined on the floor of Presbytery. M/S/C to sustain the examination. Katy was excused from the room so the Presbytery could discuss the motion to approve Katy as ready to receive a call with the conditions noted above. The motion carried. The Moderator led a service of recognition for Katy. Michael Gewecke led the Presbytery in prayer. At the close of the CPM report, Michael thanked former CPM Moderator Jan Christiansen for her work in developing the processes used by the Committee.

Paul Seefeldt presented the report of the Personnel Committee. The Committee recommends that the Presbytery undertake a thorough revision of the job description of the Mission Coordinator and a revision of the job description of the Mission Coordinating Team.

Carolyn Jamieson presented the report of the Bills and Overtures Committee with their recommendations for Presbytery action on the Amendments to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Presbytery discussed the Amendments in order:

1. 14-1 Confession of Belhar: On Amending the *Book of Confessions* (Item 13-01)
2. 14-A Renunciation of Jurisdiction: On Amending G-2.0509 (Item 06-05)
3. 14-B.1 Final Assessment: On Amending G-2.0607 (Item 06-12, Recommendation 11)
4. 14-B.2 Accommodations: On Amending G-2.0610 (Item 06-12, Recommendation 12)
5. 14-C Child Protection Policy: On Amending G-3.0106 (Item 08-14)
6. 14-D Minimum Composition of a Presbytery: On Amending G-3.0301 (Item 06-06)
7. 14-E Interreligious Stance: On Amending G-5.0102 (07-02, Recommendation 2)
8. 14-F Marriage: On Amending W-4.9000 (Item 10-02)

The vote was taken by ballot. TE Chad Enz and RE Larry Williams were the tellers for the vote.

While the tally took place, a general discussion was held on providing childcare during Presbytery meetings.

The vote on the Amendments was as follows:

1. 14-1 Yes, 29 No 29. The motion failed.
2. 14-A Yes, 18 No 38 Abstention. The motion failed.

3. 14-B.1 Yes, 51 No 6. The motion passed.
4. 14-B.2 Yes, 53 No 4. The motion passed.
5. 14-C Yes, 55 No 1. Abstention 1. The motion passed.
6. 14-D Yes, 52 No 2. Abstentions 3. The motion passed.
7. 14-E Yes, 47 No 7 . Abstentions 3. The motion passed.
8. 14-F Yes, 33 No 24 . Abstention 1. The motion passed.

TE Ethan Saylor registered a dissent on 14-E and 14-F. TE Tom Murray registered a dissent on 14-F.
RE John Mayne registered a dissent on 14-F. RE Judy Vos registered a dissent on 14-F.

No further business appearing, the Presbytery adjourned with prayer by the Moderator at 3:16 p.m.
The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill will be held at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, at the First Presbyterian Church, Estherville, Iowa.