

**The Presbytery of Prospect Hill
Stated Meeting of the Presbytery
Saturday, July 13, 2019
United Presbyterian Church, Denison, Iowa**

The Presbytery of Prospect Hill met for a regularly called meeting on Saturday, July 13, 2019, at United Presbyterian Church, Denison, Iowa.

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Moderator Bill Crawford at 9:32 a.m. The Presbytery was welcomed to United Presbyterian Church by Pastor Jennifer Olson. She led the Presbytery in singing “Gather Us In.”

A quorum was present as shown by the roll.

| Church | Teaching Elder/ CP | Occupation Code | Present/Absent/ Excused | Ruling Elder |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Alta, First | Denise Parrello | 151 | P | Mike Pedersen |
| Armstrong, First | Suzanne Wobig | 101 | P | |
| Auburn, United | Rikki Sorensen | 101 | P | Kathy Vonnahme |
| Battle Creek, First | Kevin Freese | 101 | E | |
| Breda, Wheatland | Vacant | | | Carol VonGlan |
| Bronson, Elliott Creek | Vacant | | | |
| Carnarvon, Emmanuel | Lue Baker | 107 | P | |
| Carroll, First | Rikki Sorensen | 101 | P | Michelle Scranton |
| Cherokee, Memorial | Eric Wright | 101 | P | Bruce Amundson |
| Cleghorn, First | Vacant | | | Cheryl Plagman |
| Denison, United | Jennifer Olson | 101 | P | Beth Argotsinger |
| Estherville, First | Dave Ullom | 101 | E | |
| George, Ebenezer | John Pea | 101 | P | |
| George, Zoar | John Pea | 101 | P | |
| Glidden, First | Vacant | | | Elaine Crawford |
| Hawarden, Associated | Erma Wolf | 151 | P | |
| Ida Grove, Westminster | Shari O’Bannon | 107 | E | Carolyn Jamieson |
| Lake City, Union | Randy Russom | 101 | P | Patricia Carroll |
| Lake Park, First | Vacant | | | |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----|---|------------------|
| Lawton, Community | Vacant | | | Lorna Peters |
| LeMars, Plymouth | Vacant | | | Ronald Wendt |
| LeMars, Presbyterian UCC | Jan Christensen | 101 | E | |
| Manilla, United | Vacant | | | |
| Manning, First | Vacant | | | Bonnie Schmidt |
| Odebolt, First | Bill Crawford | 107 | P | Marne Barker |
| Paullina, First | Vacant | | | Sharla Rupert |
| Ringsted, First | Suzanne Wobig | 101 | P | |
| Rockwell City, St. Paul's | Jim Mossman | 151 | A | |
| Sac City, First | Missy Brown (UMC) | 151 | P | Alice Zimmerman |
| Sanborn, First | Gregg Johnson | 151 | A | |
| Schaller, First | Michael Sydnor | 101 | E | |
| Sioux City, Faith United | David Koehler | 101 | P | Joel Gould |
| Sioux City, First | Tom Murray | 101 | E | |
| Sioux City, Westlawn | Paul Speidel | 107 | A | |
| Sioux City, Westminster | Erica MacCreagh | 101 | P | Mary Forbes |
| So. Sioux City, First | Vacant | | | |
| Spirit Lake, First | Clint Loveall | 101 | P | |
| Spirit Lake, First | Michael Gewecke | 103 | P | |
| Storm Lake, Lakeside | Vacant | | | |
| Vail, United | Bob Cook | 105 | A | Jean Ang |
| Wall Lake, Trinity | Lue Baker | 107 | P | Marsha Bornhorst |
| Westside, United | Bob Cook | 105 | A | |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Other Ministers on the Roll of Presbytery | | | | |
| Specialized Ministry and At-Large | | | | |
| Richard Francis, Stated Clerk | | | P | |
| Donna Gray, At-Large | | | P | |

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Beth Ehlers | | | P | |
| Rev. Dr. Cambria Kaltwasser | | | E | |
| Molly Dowell-Baum | | | E | |
| Honorably Retired | | | | |
| Rev. Marshall Brown | | | P | |
| Rev. Kenneth Meissner | | | P | |
| Presbytery Committee Members Present | | | | |
| Rebecca Brown | All-Iowa Task Force | | P | |
| Corresponding Members | | | P | |
| Rev. Ian McMullen | Temporary Supply General Presbyter | | P | |
| Visitors | | | | |
| Duane Mullen, Inquirer | Denison United | | P | |
| Kendall VonGlan, Applicant CRE | Denison United | | P | |
| Penny Kinney | Denison United | | P | |
| Bill Bruce | Denison United | | P | |
| Mary Ann Irwin | Denison United | | P | |
| Pat Chapman | Denison United | | P | |
| Marilynn Jepsen | Denison United | | P | |
| Michael Schmidt | Denison United | | P | |
| Ann Voggesser | Denison United | | P | |
| Sue Mohr | Denison United | | P | |
| Phyllis North Lewis | Denison United | | P | |
| Rose Mary Mason | Denison United | | P | |
| Deb Fitzgerald | Denison United | | P | |
| Elaine Chapmam | Denison United | | P | |
| Maggie Chapman | Denison United | | P | |

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--|---|--|
| Joyce Bohnker | Denison United | | P | |
| Gayle Chapman | Denison United | | P | |
| Barbara Kessel | Denison United | | P | |
| Norma Wendt | LeMars Plymouth | | P | |

First time commissioners were introduced.

The Rev. Ian McMullen was seated as a Corresponding Member for the duration of his work as Temporary Supply General Presbyterian.

No new business was introduced.

It was Moved, Seconded, and Carried (M/S/C) to approve the Agenda.

M/S/C to approve the Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes of April 6, 2019 Stated Meeting and May 1, 2019 Called Meeting
2. Moderator's Report:

Presbytery of Prospect Hill
 For July Presbytery Meeting
 Since March 25 to June 30
 Prepared monthly "Moderator Musings" for the Presbyterian Connection
 Participated in a Zoom meeting of the All-Iowa Task Force on March 25
 Installed as Moderator of Prospect Hill Presbytery on April 6, and moderated the meeting at Memorial Presbyterian Church in Cherokee
 Participated in a Zoom meeting with the Presbytery Executive Committee on April 9
 Participated in a Zoom meeting with the General Presbyterian Task Force on April 9
 Meeting of the General Presbyterian Task Force at Fort Dodge on April 12
 Provided a recap of the April 6 Presbytery Meeting for the Presbyterian Connection
 Moderated the Installation of Rev. Randy Russom at the Lake City United Church on April 28
 Participated in Zoom meeting of the All-Iowa Task Force on May 1
 Moderated Called Presbytery Meeting at Storm Lake on May 1
 Grace and Peace,
 Bill Crawford, Moderator of Prospect Hill

3. Stated Clerk's Report:

The Presbytery of Prospect Hill Stated Clerk's Report to the Stated Meeting July 13, 2019 at United Presbyterian Church, Denison, Iowa

Since the last Stated Meeting, April 6, 2019, I have

- Attended the Synod Leadership Summit, April 23-25;
- Participated in the installation service for Rev. Randy Russom as Pastor of Lake City Union Church, April 28;
- Participated in a Zoom meeting of the Three Presbyteries Task Force;
- Attended the Specially Called meeting of the Presbytery May 1;
- Attended the Presbyter Forum April 3-4;
- Attended the Spring Meeting of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, May 5-7;
- Attended a Board of Pensions update in Jefferson, May 14;
- Participated in a Zoom meeting of the South Sudan Task Force;
- Participated in the annual meeting of the Stated Clerks of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, May 29-30.
- Met with Ian McMullen, Jeannie Stolee, Kristin Pike, and Karen Kaiser, May 29.
- Attended the meeting of the Moderator Team, May 29.
- Participated in a Zoom meeting with Presbytery leaders from Prospect Hill and North Central Iowa, June 3.
- Attended the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, June 25.
- Attended the Committee on Ministry, July 8.
- Attended the Tri-Presbytery Task Force meeting, July 9.
- Completed the Paperwork to transfer the Rev. Dr. Tim Harmon to the Presbytery of Lake Erie; the Rev. Dr. Angel de La Cruz to Pittsburgh Presbytery;2 and the Rev. Charles Valenti-Hein to the Presbytery of Winnebago. (Note: Because Angel will be serving a United Methodist Congregation, he will not be received by Pittsburgh Presbytery until September. We will list him as a Member at Large of Prospect Hill until that is completed.)

At the annual meeting of the Stated Clerks, the minutes of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill for 2018 were read and approved with minor exceptions.

The following Session records were read and approved on April 6, 2019:

- First Church, Estherville
- United Presbyterian, Vail
- United Church, Westside
- First Church, Paullina
- First Church, Carroll

State of the Presbytery Report:

The biggest item is the calling of our new Temporary Supply General Presbyter, the Rev. Ian McMullen. Ian is already bringing a lot of energy to the position, and we know he also brings a lot of experience and expertise. On a personal level, I've known Ian for several years, so working together with him has been easy. I also appreciate the pastoral concern he's showing for our pastors and congregations.

The committees of the Presbytery are working well. As usual, the Committee on Ministry (COM) has a lot on their plate, but some exciting things are happening in local congregations that the COM is helping to facilitate, which is a welcome change for them

from dealing with conflicts. One of the things we are discussing is changing the name of COM to the Commission on Ministry, since the Presbytery has already given COM the powers of a Commission in several areas. That will probably wait, though, until we are ready with the By-laws/Manual of Operations revision.

Speaking of the Manual of Operations, that is going to be one of my priorities over the next couple of months as we put together a task force and look at how we can update, revise, and simplify our operating procedures, always in keeping with the Book of Order and Roberts' Rules of Order.

Respectfully submitted, Richard Francis, Stated Clerk

4. Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report, July 13, 2019

Moderator: Rev. Michael Gewecke

Certified Ready: Robert Brown

Members: Rev. Nancy Anderson

Elder John Mayne

Candidates: Shawn Harmon

Elder Gwen Detlefsen

Rev. Cambria Kaltwasser

Inquirers: Duane Mullen

Rev. Tom Murray

Elder Karen Roed

CRE: Kendall Von Glan

Elder Jan Cessford

Rev. David Ullom

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry met on June 25th, 2019 with 6 members in attendance

Upcoming meeting:

- September 17th, 2019

Items of Note:

- The CPM voted to enroll Duane Mullen as an Inquirer under care of our Presbytery.

- The CPM voted to enroll Kendall Von Glan as an applicant Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)

Michael Gewecke, Moderator of CPM, introduced Duane Mullen and Kendall Von Glan to the Presbytery and led the Presbytery in prayer for their preparation. Duane and Kendall were joined at the chancel by their pastor, Jennifer Olson.

Action Items for Presbytery: NA

5. Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women Report for July 13, 2019 Presbytery Meeting
Presbytery of Prospect Hill

Report of Gathering of the Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies

I recently (June 21-23) attended the Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Synod in Ames IA, along with five other women from the Prospect Hill Presbytery. There were approximately 120-130 women in attendance. Those attending from Prospect Hill were Audrey Scholten and Eva Mouw from LeMars, Natalie Wulfsen from Cherokee, Brenda Wilson from Storm Lake, Gladys Schmidt from Manning and myself from Sioux City Faith.

The theme of the Gathering was “Out of the Believer’s Heart Shall Flow Streams of Living Water” – John 7:38 The worship services, both morning and evening, focused upon the theme of water.

With 15 workshops available, we could attend up to four per day on various topics, from the Horizon Bible Study, to various Mission subjects, controversial issues, fun topics as chair yoga and how to take great photos on your phone.

There was a Hands-On Project for Days for Girls, a global movement that prepares and distributes sustainable menstrual health solutions to girls. One hundred sixty-one kits were completed with reusable menstrual pads and holders, panties and other hygiene products. These are sent to Sierra Leone, Africa.

We also brought ‘decorated’ pillowcases. These are used to transport personal items in, instead of using garbage bags. One hundred seventy-one pillowcases to be given to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and 65 to Puerto Rico.

We were also asked to bring a piece of jewelry or scarf that would be sold for \$5 with the proceeds to benefit the Native American Dakota Fund.

Gift cards (\$10) for either Target or Hy-Vee were brought. These were to benefit Wings of Refuge or Butterfly Freedom House, both organizations in the Des Moines area helping women who either have been trafficked or are resuming life after incarceration.

Fact: PW in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies has been the top contributor to the PW Mission Pledge/Annual Fund in 2018.

The offering at the Gathering was to be divided between Marion Medical Mission, an organization that builds wells in Africa at \$450 per well. Since 1990, 31,000 wells have been built. The second recipient was the Sudanese Tutoring Program at the First Arabic Presbyterian Church in Des Moines. Both these programs were addressed at the Gathering through workshops.

Now for the figures:

The Target/Hy-Vee cards totaled \$3,030. The Jewelry/Scarf sales: \$950 Offering: \$3,867 Centsability (\$.02 per meal): \$181.50

The Presbyterian Women are truly a generous group.

A new moderator for the Synod was installed: Sue Medsker-Nedderman from the Central Nebraska Presbytery in Nebraska.

Audrey Fenton
Vice Moderator/Treasurer
Prospect Hill Presbyterian Women

6. Lakeshore Center

Report to Prospect Hill
June 27, 2019
From Lakeshore Center at Okoboji
Happenings

- Registration for Summer Camp is still open. Numbers are up again this year.
- Giant Swing has been constructed and will be ready in July.
- The deck project is moving along. Construction is to begin this summer.
- Fall Fuel Up September 6-7
- Hobby Craft Retreat September 26-29
- Tom Long Friday, October 4
- Fall Work Day, October 12
- Fall Festival October 26
- Women's Retreat January 3-5
- Scrapbook Retreat January 10-12
- Snow Camp January 31 – Feb 2
- Quilt Retreat March 8 - 12
- Our loan balance is now just over \$266,000

ACTION ITEMS

- Think how your congregation can partner with Lakeshore.
- We need help transplanting some trees. If you know someone who could help, let Beth or Harry or Cassie or Don know. 712-337-3313
- Encourage congregation to attend events.
- Want a visit from Lakeshore for a Sunday or a Wednesday, contact us.
- Please hold our staff and all who will be coming to Lakeshore in your prayers.

IN OTHER NEWS

- We still have buildings that could be adopted by a church or groups of churches (Canteen, First Aid Cabin, Cottage, Dug Out).

7. Budget and Finance

The Statement of Financial Position appears as an appendix to these minutes.

8. Rebecca Brown reported on the All-Iowa Presbytery Gathering to be held November 1 and 2, 2019, at Heartland Presbyterian Church, Des Moines.

Committee Reports Requiring Action

1. Committee on Ministry (COM)

FOR INFORMATION:

On Sunday, May 26, 2019, a Congregational Meeting was held at First Presbyterian Church, Lake Park, Iowa, and a quorum was present, and a unanimous vote was cast in approval of dissolving the pastoral relationship between Rev. Dr. Tim Harmon, and the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Lake Park, Iowa, as Rev. Dr. Harmon has accepted a call to be the Installed Pastor at Second Presbyterian Church, Oil City, PA.; the Committee on Ministry unanimously approved Rev. Dr. Tim Harmon's membership be moved to the Presbytery of Lake Erie, effective June 1, 2019.

The Terms of Call for Rev. Dr. Harmon are: Cash Salary: \$39,402; Housing Allowance: \$15,000; Effective Salary: \$54,402.

On Sunday, July 28, 2019, a Congregational Meeting will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Paullina, Iowa, for the purpose of dissolving the pastoral relationship between Rev. Dr. Angel de la Cruz, and the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Paullina, Iowa, as Rev. Dr. de la Cruz has accepted a call to be the Installed Pastor at Warren UMC, Pittsburg, PA., his last Sunday in the pulpit at Paullina, First was June 30; the Committee on Ministry unanimously approved Rev. Dr. de la Cruz's membership be moved to the Pittsburg Presbytery, effective on August 1, 2019. Pending Presbytery approval, the congregation will also approve the selling of the manse.

The Terms of Call for Rev. Dr. de la Cruz are: Cash Salary: \$62,000; Housing Allowance (manse) \$10,000; Effective Salary: \$72,000.

The COM has undertaken exit interviews with Rev. Tim Harmon and the session of Lake Park, First; the Rev. Angel de la Cruz and the Session of Paullina, First; Rev. Ken Meissner, Chaplain, Buena Vista University, retiring; the Rev. Nancy Anderson and the session of Manning, First.

The COM has approved the Rev. Rikki Sorenson, Carroll, First, to Moderate the Session of Manning, First during their transition time; the Rev. Dave Ullom, Esterville, First, to Moderate the Session of Lake Park, First during their transition time; The Rev. Erica, MacCreaigh, Sioux City, Westminster, to Moderate the Session of Paullina, First in their transition time.

The following members of COM attended The Leadership Summit of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, April 23-25, in Buffalo Center, MN: Rev. Erica MacCreaigh; Rev. David Koehler-Moderator; Rev. Michael Sydnor.

Please keep the following churches that are in transition in prayer: Breda, Wheatland PC; Bronson, Elliott Creek PC; Glidden, First PC; Lake Park, First PC; Lawton, Community PC; Manning, First PC; Paullina, First PC; S. Sioux City, NE, First PC; Storm Lake, Lakeside PC

ACTION ITEM(S):

The Committee on Ministry asks the Presbytery of Prospect Hill grant the status of Honorably Retired to the Rev. Ken Meissner, effective July 31, 2019. The Presbytery voted to approve the recommendation.

The Committee on Ministry moves that First Presbyterian Church, Paullina, be allowed to sell their manse. The Presbytery approved the recommendation.

2. Moderator Team: proposed changes to the Manual of Operations.
 - i. On calling a special meeting of the Presbytery.
 1. Current language:

The Moderator shall call a Special Meeting at the request of two ministers and two elders, the elders being of different churches. The Special Meeting shall be called in accordance with the provisions in the form Government G-11.0201.
 2. Current language from the Book of Order, G-3.0304

The presbytery shall hold stated meetings at least twice each year, shall meet at the direction of synod, and may call special meetings in accordance with its own rules.
 3. Proposed language:

The Moderator may call a Special Meeting when one is deemed necessary to transact business that needs to be completed before the next Stated Meeting. The Moderator shall call such a meeting when requested by a Committee of the Presbytery or at the request of two ministers and two elders, the elders being of different churches. If the Moderator is unable to act, the Vice-Moderator will call the meeting. Notice of a special meeting shall be sent not less than 10 days in advance to each minister and to the Session of every church. The notice shall set out the purpose of the meeting, and no business other than that listed in the notice shall be transacted.

The Presbytery voted to approve the changes.

- ii. On establishing a joint Personnel Committee with the Presbytery of North Central Iowa.
 1. Current language:
 1. Purpose: The Personnel Committee's purpose is to provide oversight of the persons employed by the Presbytery.
 2. Responsibilities: The Personnel Committee shall:
 1. Consult with and review the work of all employed personnel working in Presbytery.
 2. Be the liaison for communication between the Council and the paid staff.
 3. Provide for the review of the work of staff in consultation with the Synod of Lakes and Prairies wherever appropriate.
 4. Implement Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity as possible
 3. Membership: Committee members shall be elected by the Council for three-year terms which shall be in three classes not to exceed two terms, with a balance between clergy and lay, wherever possible. Each Committee shall be composed of six members nominated by the Committee on Nominations, and elected by Council, one of whom shall be chairperson. The chairperson shall be a member of Council. Nominations shall strive to seek members with experience in personnel matters.
 2. Proposed language:
 1. Purpose: The Personnel Committee's purpose is to provide oversight of the persons employed by the Presbytery and/or by the Presbytery of North Central Iowa.
 2. Responsibilities: The Personnel Committee shall:
 1. Consult with and review the work of all employed personnel working in the Presbyteries of Prospect Hill and North Central Iowa
 2. Be the liaison for communication between the Moderator Team of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill, the Council of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa, and the paid staff of the two presbyteries.
 3. Provide for the review of the work of staff in consultation with the Synod of Lakes and Prairies wherever appropriate. The Committee shall review staff annually and conduct a comprehensive review of each staff person every three years.
 4. Have authority to terminate, with cause, paid staff who are not officers of the Presbytery.
 3. Membership:
 1. The Committee shall consist of three members nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the presbytery for three-year terms which shall be in three classes not to exceed two terms, with a balance between Ministers and church members, wherever possible. The members of the Committee shall also represent the Presbytery of Prospect Hill (PPH) on the joint Personnel Committee with the Presbytery of North Central Iowa (NCI).
 2. The Joint Personnel Committee will elect its own Moderator and Vice-Moderator. When the Moderator is from PPH, the Vice-Moderator shall

be from NCI; when the Moderator is from NCI, the Vice-Moderator shall be from PPH.

3. The Moderator or Vice-Moderator shall be a member of the Moderator Team.

The Presbytery voted to approve the changes.

Temporary Supply General Presbyter Rev. Ian McMullen reviewed the financial reports.

Ian presented his report and answered questions from the floor. His report is included at the end of these minutes.

The Presbytery moved to worship at 10:25 am. Participating in the service were Rev. Ian McMullen, Rev. Jennifer Olson, Elder Mary Ann Irwin, and Ann Voggesser, organist. Holy Communion was celebrated. Moderator Bill Crawford let the Presbytery in a Service of Retirement for the Rev. Ken Meissner. An offering of \$611.00 was received for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Rev. McMullen's sermon notes are also included at the end of these minutes.

The Presbytery adjourned for lunch at 11:40 am with prayer by Rev. Ian McMullen.

The Presbytery reconvened at 12:31 pm and entered into a Roundtable Discussion of the Joint Staffing Proposal first presented at the April 6, 2019 meeting. The discussion was led by Rebecca Brown, Rev. Ian McMullen, and Rev. Randy Russom. The Joint Staffing Proposal will be presented to the Presbytery for a vote at the October 26, 2019, stated meeting.

No further business appearing, M/S/C to adjourn at 1:45 pm.

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery will be October 26, 2019, at the Lakeshore Center at Okoboji, Milford, Iowa.



**Presbytery of Prospect Hill
Statement of Financial Position
As of June 30, 2019**

ASSETS

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| UCB checking | | 267,820.95 |
| UCB savings | | 74,967.83 |
| New Covenant Funds - General | | 287,414.33 |
| Presbyterian Investment & Loan - CDs | | 55,000.00 |
| New Covenant Funds - Endowment | | 184,547.12 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | <u><u>869,750.23</u></u> |

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

TOTAL LIABILITIES -

Equity

| | | |
|---|------------|---------------------------------|
| Permanently restricted funds | | 18,287.16 |
| Temporarily restricted funds | | 28,186.55 |
| Undesignated funds | | |
| Beginning of year | 745,844.88 | |
| Current year net support or (net expense) | 34,593.33 | |
| New Covenant - General - unrealized gains | 20,300.10 | |
| New Covenant - Endowment - unrealized gains | 22,538.21 | |
| Net undesignated funds | | <u>823,276.52</u> |
| TOTAL EQUITY | | <u><u>869,750.23</u></u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | | <u><u>869,750.23</u></u> |



Presbytery of Prospect Hill
Statement of Activities
Actual/Budget/Comparative
January through June 30, 2019

| | Jan - Jun 30 2019 ACTUAL | % of budget | Jan - Dec 2019 BUDGET | Jan - Jun 30 2018 ACTUAL |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Support | | | | |
| Presbytery support | | | | |
| Presbytery per capita | 44,491.14 | 42% | 105,240.00 | 63,877.70 |
| Presbytery shared mission | 16,698.34 | 90% | 18,500.00 | 17,963.72 |
| Synod of the Lakes and Prairies | 7,791.00 | 53% | 14,762.00 | 11,083.50 |
| Total Presbytery support | 68,980.48 | 50% | 138,502.00 | 92,924.92 |
| Other support | | | | |
| Donations | 406.11 | 27% | 1,500.00 | 11,681.83 |
| Offering for mental health issues | 520.70 | | - | - |
| CPM scholarship | 251.00 | | - | - |
| Interest income - UCB | 457.30 | 91% | 500.00 | 307.42 |
| Dividend income - New Covenant | - | | - | 1,529.32 |
| Total support - other | 1,635.11 | 82% | 2,000.00 | 13,518.57 |
| Total Support | 70,615.59 | 50% | 140,502.00 | 106,443.49 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Presbytery operations | | | | |
| PPH monument maintenance | 16.00 | 8% | 200.00 | 16.04 |
| GA staff expense | - | 0% | 1,250.00 | - |
| GA orientation | - | 0% | 250.00 | 38.85 |
| Presbytery meetings | - | 0% | 500.00 | 103.55 |
| Moderator expense | - | 0% | 700.00 | - |
| COM admin | 537.06 | 107% | 500.00 | 7.00 |
| COM background checks | - | 0% | 500.00 | - |
| COM training | - | 0% | 1,000.00 | - |
| COM meeting expense | 176.09 | 59% | 300.00 | - |
| CPM admin | 1,000.00 | 40% | 2,500.00 | - |
| Treasurer expense | - | 0% | 500.00 | - |
| Audit fees | - | 0% | 5,500.00 | - |
| Computer maintenance | - | 0% | 1,000.00 | 875.03 |
| Insurance | 960.00 | 38% | 2,500.00 | 1,012.50 |
| Insurance - work comp | 240.00 | 24% | 1,000.00 | 441.00 |
| Shared office - Lakeshore | 1,200.00 | 48% | 2,500.00 | 1,400.00 |
| Books, subscriptions, dues | 183.08 | | | - |
| Postage | 61.00 | 31% | 200.00 | 158.15 |

| | Jan - Jun 30 2019 ACTUAL | % of budget | Jan - Dec 2019 BUDGET | Jan - Jun 30 2018 ACTUAL |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Supplies | 367.01 | 24% | 1,500.00 | 459.55 |
| Office expense | - | | - | 48.15 |
| Telephone, internet, conference calls | 146.33 | 15% | 1,000.00 | 365.38 |
| Printing & copying | - | 0% | 100.00 | - |
| Permanent Judicial Commission | - | 0% | 50.00 | - |
| Special Judicial Committee | - | 0% | 50.00 | - |
| Unbudgeted expense | 391.08 | 39% | 1,000.00 | 12.50 |
| Total Presbytery operations | 5,277.65 | 21% | 24,600.00 | 4,937.70 |
| Mission and Ministry | | | | |
| Youth Triennium | 3,254.00 | 191% | 1,700.00 | - |
| Camp Support from Presbytery & Churches | 16,823.21 | 76% | 22,000.00 | 18,401.55 |
| The Academy | - | 0% | 2,500.00 | - |
| Buena Vista Chaplain | - | 0% | 250.00 | 125.00 |
| Total Mission and Ministry | 20,077.21 | 76% | 26,450.00 | 18,526.55 |
| Personnel | | | | |
| General Presbyter | | | | |
| GP search committee | 3,001.95 | 41% | 7,250.00 | - |
| Salary | 1,133.34 | 7% | 17,000.00 | - |
| BOP dues | - | 0% | 6,290.00 | - |
| SECA offset | 86.67 | 7% | 1,300.00 | - |
| Professional expense | 346.72 | 10% | 3,500.00 | - |
| Continuing education | - | 0% | 500.00 | - |
| Transition expense | - | 0% | 8,160.00 | - |
| Total General Presbyter | 4,568.68 | 10% | 44,000.00 | - |
| Stated Clerk | | | | |
| Salary - SC | 4,166.74 | 42% | 10,000.00 | 4,166.72 |
| Prof exp & travel - SC | 701.84 | 23% | 3,000.00 | 709.82 |
| Total Stated Clerk | 4,868.58 | 37% | 13,000.00 | 4,876.54 |
| Administrative Assistant | | | | |
| Salary - AA | 8,333.46 | 42% | 20,000.00 | 7,626.67 |
| FICA - AA | 637.50 | 43% | 1,500.00 | 467.07 |
| BOP dues - AA | 2,817.03 | 56% | 5,000.00 | 2,520.14 |
| Travel - AA | 76.56 | 1% | 5,500.00 | - |
| Total Administrative Assistant | 11,864.55 | 37% | 32,000.00 | 10,613.88 |
| Accountant | | | | |
| Salary - accountant | 3,000.00 | 45% | 6,700.00 | 1,250.00 |
| Total Accountant | 3,000.00 | 45% | 6,700.00 | 1,250.00 |
| Total Personnel | 24,301.81 | 25% | 95,700.00 | 16,740.42 |
| Total Expenses | 49,656.67 | 34% | 146,750.00 | 40,204.67 |
| Net Support or (net expense) before pass-thrus | 20,958.92 | | (6,248.00) | 66,238.82 |
| Pass-thru Items | | | | |

| | Jan - Jun 30 2019 ACTUAL | % of budget | Jan - Dec 2019 BUDGET | Jan - Jun 30 2018 ACTUAL |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| GA per capita received | 14,072.85 | | 44,034.00 | 19,922.13 |
| GA per capita remitted | (12,263.42) | | (44,034.00) | (19,323.27) |
| GA unified mission received | 6,005.93 | | 21,284.00 | 4,528.16 |
| GA unified mission remitted | (5,069.06) | | (22,000.00) | (6,063.49) |
| GA special offerings received | 36,760.68 | | 3,200.00 | 41,424.27 |
| GA special offerings remitted | (33,668.08) | | (4,000.00) | (43,048.32) |
| Theological educ fund received | 2,375.00 | | 3,000.00 | 2,250.00 |
| Theological educ fund remitted | (1,687.50) | | (2,500.00) | (2,062.50) |
| Synod per capita received | 8,598.05 | | 26,568.00 | 14,387.32 |
| Synod per capita remitted | (7,510.90) | | (26,568.00) | (13,107.96) |
| Synod unified mission received | 6,026.16 | | 9,500.00 | 7,144.77 |
| Synod unified mission remitted | (5,167.32) | | (9,500.00) | (6,799.29) |
| Presbytery directed mission | 5,162.02 | | 7,000.00 | 6,039.02 |
| Net Pass-thru Items | 13,634.41 | | 5,984.00 | 5,290.84 |
| Net support or (net expense) | 34,593.33 | | (264.00) | 71,529.66 |

Report to the Presbytery of Prospect Hill

Rev. Ian McMullen

Temporary Supply General Presbyter

Meetings attended

Called presbytery meeting May 1st in Storm Lake, Moderator Team meeting (1)
Staff Meetings (3), Budget & Finance (2), Cluster gatherings (2), Lakeshore Center Board Meetings (1 + 3Zoom), Committee on Ministry (2), pastor candidate interviews (2), EP reference checks (8), Session meetings (4) Zoom or conference calls (5)

Led worship @ Lakeshore Center

Attended worship @ Manning, Lake Park, Spirit Lake, Auburn, Carroll, Zoar

- 3 Overnight stays
- 15 Meals shared (including 3 DQ Peanut Buster Parfaits!)
- 24 TEs and CREs contacted in person
- 5,020 Miles driven

Responsibilities beyond the presbytery:

All-Iowa Presbytery Conversations (2), Recruit candidates at seminaries, Synod Lakes and Prairies Stated Meeting, Synod Lakes and Prairies EP forum (1+2 Zoom)

Planned activities/actions between now and next Presbytery meeting:

Between now and the next presbytery meeting, I expect to be in contact with the rest of the presbytery members, Teaching *and* Commissioned Ruling Elders.

Upcoming events and projects:

Retool the Manual of Operations / Bylaws to bring them current and align them with partnering presbyteries.

This fall, we will host several learning opportunities:

- Jihyun Oh from the PC(USA) Center in Louisville will visit our Committee on Ministry
- Stewardship workshop with Minner Servoy from the Presbyterian Foundation.
- PNC workshops (via Zoom) to answer questions in their search process.
- Town Hall meetings regarding All-Iowa Shared Staffing Plan (some by Zoom)

Wish List:

Adding a Mission committee and a Ministry Health & Vitality committee to presbytery structure.
Form church leader cohorts (TEs and CREs) for support/prayer/fellowship
Schedule Ruling Elder learning events to support them in their ministry and work on Session

One of my goals is to become incarnate with church leadership, supporting them as they lead Christ's church in excellent ways. To that end, if you would like me to visit your church, attend your church's celebration, or just need to talk, please contact me directly:

Rev. Ian McMullen - General Presbyter
presbyter@prospecthillpresby.org
(515) 450-7534 (call or text)

Sermon Notes of Rev. Ian McMullen
July 13, 2019 Presbytery Meeting, Presbytery of Prospect Hill

I have the joyous and unique opportunity today to preach to the preachers. I do not take that lightly. “If I Had Only One Sermon To Preach” was a sermon famously given by G.K. CHESTERTON wherein he preached against pride.ⁱ That was his focus. Don’t be prideful. As I visit churches around our presbytery, I am reinforced in the belief that if I have one sermon to preach, rather than preaching against something, we Christians (and most people, especially non-Christians) need to be for something. I see all around us that we need hope. Today I will preach hope.

Evangelist Tony Cooke once described the North American church as a “sleeping giant.”ⁱⁱ This description implies that we may look impressive and pompous, but there is little real, genuine spiritual life present. The only sound coming from this pompous organization is a very comfortable snoring sound.

It needs a lot of prodding to get such a giant moving and to make any significant difference in the world, but it can be done. But what can be done about a dead body. Can life again enter into it? In other words, can a dead church be revived?

We notice that Ezekiel says about these bones that they are “very dry.” (verse 2b)ⁱⁱⁱ The death of the house of Israel was not just a recent occurrence, but this death took *time*. These bones had been out in the blistering sun for a long time and all the marrow and life had evaporated from them. This is a picture of utter hopelessness.

This is how the people of Israel felt about themselves – hopeless. The question becomes pressing: Is there any hope for them? For Israel? For the church today? For us? Is any kind of revival or resurrection possible? **The answer is “Yes!” but not from our doing, but from God’s doing.**

Although everything looks hopeless from a mere human perspective, God is not yet finished with his people. God begins by posing a question to Ezekiel as the prophet overlooks this valley full of dry bones. The question is, “[Human], can these bones live?” (Ezekiel 37:3)

I’m imagining Ezekiel giving God the side-eye and thinking, “Is this a trick question?”

I believe in the incarnational reality of Christianity. That, like Jesus, we experience God profoundly when we share our lives together. We are baptized into one Christ and called to communion with God, and worship together. Christians drink in heavy doses of incarnational, intertwined experience.

So when, as a pastor, I would I teach a new member class, I felt it was important to convey that sense of spiritual connectedness. So we talked about profound spiritual times in their lives. I asked the new members to think about a time when they felt God had abandoned them or when they felt very distant from God. I then asked them to share those painful thoughts with the people in their groups.

Then I asked them to talk about a time they saw God at work in their lives or the lives of people around them and share those with the people in their group. Never would you see such tears and genuine connection as you would in those conversations. Hand holding, hugs, tears of deep

relief as they brought those memories to the surface. Dry bones receiving the breath of life they needed to become whole again.

I'm asking you now: Do you remember that time when you felt far away from God? And that time you were amazed that God had done the unexplainable? Remember that?

So, Ezekiel, what do you say, "Can these bones live?"

God says to Ezekiel, just repeat what I tell you to say, no more and no less. **Don't judge the bones, don't name or categorize the bones. Don't put them in social categories or form opinions about them. Walk among the bones. Walk among the bones and prophesy!** Just act in obedience to the voice of the Lord. That's still the task of we, the preachers of today. Speak the word of God! Preaching is not just telling interesting and captivating stories, although at times stories have their proper place. Preaching is not lecturing on some dogmatic truth. Preaching is speaking the word of the Lord, echoing what God says!

And that's what Ezekiel did, plain and simple. In verse 7 we read, "So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise..." As a result of Ezekiel's preaching, something happens. There is movement in these lifeless bones. All as a result of faithful repeating the words of God.

God did the humanly unthinkable.

What's the result of this strange passage in Ezekiel 37?

First of all, Israel, by God's mercy, underwent a slow but life-giving revival some years after Ezekiel spoke these prophetic words to the exiles in Babylon. First under the leadership of Zerubbabel and later under Ezra and still later under Nehemiah, the exiles were allowed to return to Judah. They rebuilt the temple and later under Nehemiah's direction they rebuilt Jerusalem's city walls. But the temple looked different. The church didn't look like it did in the old days. The walls of the city didn't follow the old city limits. But God was glorified in a new way by a new generation.

Worship was restored and the Mosaic laws were once again read, and followed. It was a resurrection indeed. There was again feasting and joy.

When the foundation of the new temple was laid, so Ezra 3 reports, "the priests in their vestments and with their trumpets and the Levites with cymbals, took their places to praise the Lord. With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: 'He is good; his love to Israel endures forever.' And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the new foundation of the house of the Lord was laid." (Ezra 3:10-11) Hope was restored, God had done the humanly impossible.

During my interview for this position as Temporary Supply General Presbyterian, I was asked about dismissing congregations to other denominations and what to do about dying congregations. I was asked if I could still speak hope to those faithful Christians whose ministry life had run its course. My answer to the search committee and I hope your answer to the tired bones of your congregations is, "Yes!" we are, after all, as we sing at Easter, a resurrection people. The breath of life that God breathes into us is life giving and God is just waiting for us to call out to the bones. The church won't look like it did before, but with God in the mix, there is hope for tomorrow.

I asked you earlier to think of that time when you felt far away from God, when you thought God may have abandoned you, when your life was a pile of dusty bones. Congratulations, you have

survived that valley. That gives you reason to hope – to know that God is faithful and brings us through those dry, dusty, lonely times. It may not have been as dramatic as flesh and skin forming around bones right before your eyes, but as you look back, it is amazing how God does that isn't it?

And if you are in that valley right now, I am repeating God's hope call to new life. I don't know what your new normal will be, but I bring you a message of hope that God is near and bring the breath of life.

Now think about that time when God was amazing and why that gives you hope for tomorrow and promise to tell that story to someone else. Prophecy to that person whose life has been left for dead and tell them of the power of God. Those bones that are *so dry* and *so thirsty* for what God has to offer. Tell people about the life-giving breath of God.

But understand that God calls us to walk among the bones. The ministry of presence is vital and takes time on our part. Be open to God bringing you into and among a valley full of bones – because, that's where the bones are, that's where the Word of the Lord is needed.

Understand this, though: You are not in charge of assembling the bones or putting flesh on them, or breathing life into them. That's God's job. What is your job? To prophecy to the bones. Prophecy hope – tell the stories of God's life changing, life giving breath that brings bones to life.

Prophecy to the bones - these bones that are *so very dry* - thirsty for that which gives them life. Walk among the bones. Walk among the bones and prophecy! Speak the word of God to them that they may rattle, gather, and come together, so that they – so that we – may be whole again.

ⁱ <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/religion-and-philosophy/philosophy/if-i-had-only-one-sermon-to-preach.html>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.tonycooke.org/articles-by-tony-cooke/sleeping-giant/>

ⁱⁱⁱ All scripture is quoted from the New International Version of the Holy Bible