

Stated Meeting  
August 16-17, 2019

Calvin Crest Conference Center  
Fremont, Nebraska

## PRESBYTERY OF MISSOURI RIVER VALLEY

The Presbytery of Missouri River Valley held a joint Presbytery meeting with Homestead Presbytery and stated meeting and at Camp Calvin Crest of Fremont, Nebraska on August 16-17, 2019. The meeting was convened with prayer at 7:00 PM by Homestead Moderator, Rev. Jeff Warrick.

Patricia Shipley, PMRV Stated Clerk, affirmed a quorum. The roll is attached to these minutes. [Attachment 1]

There were no new Ministers of the Word and Sacrament or Ruling Elder Commissioners members to be introduced. Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, Co-Moderator of 223rd General Assembly, Resource Presbyter of Northern New England and Boston Presbyteries, member of Boston Presbytery was seated as a corresponding member and given voice. Rev. Steven Earl, Interim Executive Presbyter of Homestead Presbytery was introduced. Candidates for Ordination Martha Slocomb (Pastor, First-Neola) and Christine Dempsey (Associate Pastor, Presbyterian Church of the Cross) were introduced.

Rev. Cindy Kohlmann was the featured speaker for the joint Presbytery meeting with Homestead Presbytery.

During worship, the Presbytery heard a sermon from Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, received an offering of \$1225 for the handicap accessibility project at Camp Calvin Crest, and celebrated the Lord's Supper.

### **FOR THE RECORD**

**The Commission on Ministry** reported that it had taken the following actions on behalf of the Presbytery:

1. Approved Parish Associate agreement between Presbyterian Church of the Master and Rev. Cindy Harvey. Terms: The Minister commits to: Regular prayer for the people and staff of the Church; Worship with the Church; Provide pastoral care for the people of the Church, under the direction of the Pastor/Head of Staff, including visits in the hospital and visits in retirement communities and nursing facilities, especially the dwellings of those considered homebound; Be staff resource person for the Board of Deacons, including attendance at their monthly meetings and providing support for the Steering Committee and for those Deacons responsible for particular ministries; these two activities together are expected to amount to 16 2/3 hours service per month; Preach on the Lord's Day approximately four times a year and assist with the Lord's Supper at the Pastor's request. In this Covenant, the Church commits to: Regular prayer for the Minister; Provide a worshipping community for the Minister; Provide both supervision and appropriate leadership by the Pastor/Head of Staff and the Session; Pay a stipend of \$500 per month; Provide travel allowance at the IRS rate up to \$1,000 per year; Provide four weeks (28 days) paid vacation per year. This agreement may be terminated upon thirty days written notice by either party or by the Missouri River Valley Presbytery at their discretion. Its continuation is not dependent on the call of the Pastor/Head of Staff.
2. Approved the request from ELCA Synod that Carolyn Grice, candidate for ministry, be given permission to co-officiate communion at the ELCA Synod Assembly, May 29-31, 2019 in Kearney, NE.
3. Approved the terms of call between Martha Slocombe and First Presbyterian, Neola. Terms: Cash Salary \$33,000, Manse value, \$13,200; Housing and/or utility allowance \$1,200; Effective Salary \$47,400. Board of Pensions Full medical, pension, disability, and death benefit coverage-\$17,538. Travel expense at IRS Rate-\$2,000; Continuing Education reimbursement-\$1,500. Paid vacation leave of four weeks annually, which includes four Sundays. Paid continuing education leave of two weeks annually, which includes two Sundays (cumulative up to six weeks). Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Commissioned Lay Pastors who participate in a professional development event offered by the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation shall receive the time and registration const of one (1) event above and beyond the Minimum Terms for Professional Development. Those Teaching Elders, however, who elect not to participate in an OPSF event shall not receive additional time and funds. Moving expenses.
4. Approved the requirement of an audit of church finances prior to allowing the forming of a Pastor Nominating Committee.

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5. Approved request allowing Carolyn Grice to serve communion on June 2, 2019 at New Life Presbyterian, Omaha, NE, if the need arise.
6. Approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Rev. Lori Robinson and Faith Presbyterian Church/LaVista effective June 2, 2019.
7. Approved the terms of severance for Rev. Lori Robinson as approved on June 2, 2019 by the congregation of Faith Presbyterian Church/LaVista, NE.
8. Approved Rev. Dwight Williams serve as Moderator of Faith Presbyterian Church, LaVista, NE.
9. Approved Rev. Sandra Wainwright Rossander serve as Moderator of United Faith Church, Sidney, IA if the way be clear.
10. Approved Rev. Paul Masters serve as Moderator of Trinity Church, Hamburg, IA.
11. Approved Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger as Moderator of Walnut Presbyterian Church.
12. Approved Sunday, September 15, 2019, 3:00 p.m. as the installation and ordination date for Martha Slocombe at First Presbyterian, Neola.
13. Approved Rev. Lori Robinson as a PMRV Member-at-Large.
14. Approved Christine Dempsey as a member of Presbytery should a call be issued and should she pass ordination examinations.
15. Approved Rev. Andy Hamer for membership in PMRV should a call be issued to him.
16. Approved associate pastor terms of call between Christine A. Dempsey and Presbyterian Church of the Cross with start date of August 1, 2019. Cash salary: \$50,000. Full Board of Pension Benefits calculated on effective salary or \$18,500. Education/Mileage reimbursement: \$2500 for professional development (including conferences, books), mileage at IRS rate; annual reimbursable allowance will roll-over unused amount at the end of each year; reimbursement will increase to \$3500 in 2020. Annual paid vacation-4 weeks including Sundays. Annual paid professional development time-2 weeks including Sundays. When a residence is purchased in Omaha, relocation costs reimbursed up to \$5,000 with expenditure receipts. Home Loan- \$20,000: The loan is interest free for the term of use in the Agreement; the Loan amount will be available at the closing of the purchase of the residence; The Loan requires entering into an Agreement with the Presbyterian Church of the Cross consistent with Agreements executed by other ordained pastors in the past. At the time of a future sale of the residence, the Loan will be repaid to the Church at the greater amount of either \$20,000 or, in the event of an increase sale value, at a ratio proportional to the Loan to original purchase price. (Example: If the Loan is \$20,000 and the original purchase price is \$240,000, the ratio would be 1/12. In the future, if the home appreciates to \$300,000, the repayment would amount to 1/12<sup>th</sup> of \$300,000 which equals \$25,000.
17. Approved Installation/Ordination of Christine Dempsey for Sunday, August 25, 2019, 10:00 a.m. at Presbyterian Church of the Cross.
18. Approved pastor terms of call between Rev. Andy Hamer and West Hills Church with start date TBD. Effective Salary \$80,000 reflecting a Cash Salary-\$67,600 and Housing Allowance-\$12,400. Full Board of Pensions of \$29,600. SECA Allowance \$6,120. BOP 403b Matching Contribution \$2,000. Continuing Education-\$4,000. Cell Phone-\$960. Mileage at IRS rate-\$1500. Ministry Expenses (books, contract work, etc.)-\$1,800. Moving expenses up to \$8500. Vacation-4 weeks, plus 5 Sundays. Continuing Education-2 weeks, plus 2 Sundays. Service to the Larger Church-1 week. Clergy Renewal-3 months after 7 years of service.

**The Stated Clerk reported:**

**I. For the Record**

- A. Minutes of Presbytery of Missouri River Valley were reviewed by Synod on May 29-30, 2019 and approved with two exceptions.
- B. As required by our Standing Rules, annual review of rolls and registers occurred June 8, 13, 15, 25, and July 11, 2019. Session minutes reviewed were January 1- December 2018. Registry of the

church must be reviewed biennially; not all churches required a registry review in 2019. Results of the review are listed below:

**1. Minutes approved:**

Avoca, United  
Bellevue, Anderson Grove  
Carson  
Clarinda, Trinity  
Council Bluffs, Westminster  
Elkhorn, Peace  
Fort Calhoun  
Oakland, Sharon  
Omaha, Church of the Master  
Omaha, Discovery  
Omaha, Dundee  
Omaha, Faithful Shepherd  
Omaha, Hope  
Omaha, New Life  
Omaha, Westminster  
Plattsmouth, First  
Red Oak  
Shenandoah, First  
Villisca, First

**2. Minutes approved with exceptions:**

Bellevue, First  
Carter Lake  
Clarinda, Westminster  
Council Bluffs, Bethany  
Council Bluffs, Gethsemane  
Council Bluffs, New Horizon  
Fort Calhoun  
Hamburg, United Trinity  
La Vista, Faith  
Missouri Valley  
Neola, First  
Omaha, First  
Omaha, Florence  
Omaha, Westminster  
Omaha, Mt. View  
Omaha, Underwood Hills  
Sidney, United Faith  
Walnut

**3. Registers approved:**

Bellevue, First  
Council Bluffs, New Horizon

**4. Registers approved with exceptions:**

Omaha, First

**5. The following minutes have not been reviewed in at least two years:**

College Springs  
Omaha, Korean  
Omaha, West Hills  
Red Oak, Center Ridge  
Shelby

- C. Leadership Team approved the following 2020 dates for Presbytery Stated Meetings: Saturday, February 22; Saturday, May 16; Friday-Saturday, August 14-15; Saturday, October 24.

- D. Leadership Team with assistance by an expanded group designated September 19, 2019, 5:00-7:00 p.m. to continue discerning PMRV priorities and programs for 2020 and 2021. The meeting will be held at the Presbytery Office.
- E. The regular Leadership Team meeting will be held on Thursday, October 3, 2019, 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Presbytery Office.
- F. The Commission on Preparation for Ministry currently has two candidates for ministry under care: Carolyn Grice, New Life Presbyterian and Michael Geiler, West Hills Church.

## II. Correspondence and Clerk activity

- A. All correspondence has been answered or forwarded, as needed.
- B. Consulted with Committees, Commissions, Sessions, and Presbytery members as requested or as contacted.
- C. Notified Stewardship of Resources Committee that as a result of General Assembly action, GA per capita has been set at \$8.95 for 2019 and 2020.
- D. Notified Church of the Master, Church of the Cross, Dundee Presbyterian Church, Hope Presbyterian, First Presbyterian/Omaha, and West Hills Church that they will return to one Elder Commissioner beginning July 1, 2019.
- E. Contacted and/or visited Presbytery churches with an active PNC in place or in the discernment process.
- F. Met with representatives of Homestead Presbytery on June 21, 2019 to plan the joint Presbytery meeting scheduled for August 16-17, 2019 and sent subsequent communications to planning committee.
- G. Met with representatives of Homestead Presbytery PMRV on June 18, 2019 for continuing conversations regarding future collaborations.
- H. Updated Stated Clerk data requirements of OGA as per requests and authorization.
- I. Contacted OGA resources for guidance and advice.
- J. Participated in “Conversations with Kris”, a webinar done by Kris Valerius, OGA.

## Reports

1. Conversations: Homestead and PMRV—PMRV Moderator, Gary Eller and Homestead Vice Moderator, Wendy Wait shared preliminary information regarding conversations
2. Nicaraguan Mission Trip participants, Laura Schonlau and Allison Schonlau shared their experiences and learning from the trip to Nicaragua. The value of prayer and being present was a powerful experience. The mission of presence was powerful and confirming.
3. PDA—Rev. Jon Sloan, representing PMRV, and Sue Babovec, representing Homestead, provided information regarding Disaster Assistance activities in the two Presbyteries. An explanation was given regarding grant proposals to access funds available through national PDA. “Seeds of Hope” has been formed to have resources available for immediate response to disasters.
4. Self-Development of People, PC(USA) Midwest Regional Representatives Phyllis Edward, Mandy Adams, Elizabeth Swee, and Clara Nunez did a presentation about the denomination’s SDOP program and ways to access the assistance for the poor, the oppressed and the disadvantaged. SDOP was established in 1970. A major portion of the resources are provided through “One Great Hour of Sharing”. Criteria for funding must: be presented, owned and controlled by the group of people who will benefit directly from it; address long-term correction of conditions that keep people bound by poverty and oppression. It is about human dignity, self-reliance and community growth. For stories and how to apply for a grant can be found at [www.pcusa.org/sdop](http://www.pcusa.org/sdop) . Grants are available at Synod and Presbytery levels. The group can apply at all three levels. The maximum grant is \$15,000 from the national level.
5. Greg Carlson, Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee, apprised PMRV about the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. Guest speaker will be Muna Nassar. A flyer was circulated with the dates of her availability to the Presbytery. She will be present September 20-24, 2019.

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6. Rev. Mary Newbern-Williams, Executive Presbyter reported highlights of the Matthew 25 movement and encouraged churches about the importance of it within the denomination. September 10, 2019, PDA will be holding a workshop within the Presbytery. August 27, 2019, Ken Green, Board of Pensions will be holding an informational session at New Horizon Presbyterian, Council Bluffs from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Homestead will be hosting the same workshop on August 28; contact Steven Earl for additional information. The Leadership Team will be encouraged to read “Neighborhood Church.”

## Decisions

The Presbytery took the following actions:

1. Candidates for ordination were examined by Presbytery:
  - a. Martha Slocomb-First, Neola; under care of White Water Valley Presbytery
  - b. Christine Dempsey-Associate Pastor, Presbyterian Church of the Cross; under care of Homestead Presbytery.
2. Approved Martha Slocomb for ordination as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament.
3. Approved Christine Dempsey for ordination as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament.
4. Approved Nominations Committee Moderator, Rev. Sally Carlson placed in Nomination the following names:
  - Delegates for General Assembly-Commissioner-Minister of Word and Sacrament- Rev. Jenny Blake; Alternate- Rev. Richard Meyer;
  - GA Elder Commissioner-Patrick Ackermann, Faithful Shepherd; Alternate-Dennis Brown, First/Omaha;
  - Young Adult Advisory Delegate: Commissioner-Justus Jeanpierre-New Life Presbyterian Church; Alternate-Avery Haskell, First Presbyterian, Essex;
  - Stewardship of Resources—Gregg Miller.
5. Received the report of Rev. Gregg Miller, Stewardship of Resources, regarding financial considerations for the 2020 budgetary process. [See attachments: ] Items shared were:
  - Transfers from various funds was explained.
  - In 2019 per capita should be \$172,000. As of this date \$13,200 will not be paid. Concerns related to the payment of per capita and the impact on the budget were discussed.
  - Membership numbers will be less 300 members for 2020 per capita. SOR is going to recommend getting expenses in line. SOR will recommend no increase of per capita which would reflect total of \$39.65 in 2020.
  - Projections reflect a revenue short-fall of \$100,000 vs projected expenditures. SOR is recommending that no reserve funds be used to supplement the budget. SOR is recommending a 25% cut in expenditures for 2020. \$680,000 in reserve funds available.
  - Reserve funds must reflect a total of six (6) months of expenditures.
6. Elder Pat Tooles, Moderator of PMRV Leadership Team informed the Presbytery that Leadership Team is meeting on September 19, 2019 to review and consider information related to budget and future direction of the Presbytery.
7. Motion to change Presbytery meetings to include two on weekdays. Motion carried.

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery is October 24, 2019 5:00 p.m. at Riverside Parish, Oakland/Sharon Church.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Vice Moderator, Elder Dennis Brown, at 2:47 PM.

Patricia Shipley, Stated Clerk

Marilyn Puett, Recording Clerk

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Attachment 1

<u>The Roll</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Tom Albaum, HR		X
Becky Balestri	X	
William Beatty, HR		X
John Besançon, HR		X
Jennifer Blake		X
William Bowers, HR		X
Charles Bulger, HR		X
Kenneth Bunnell, HR		X
MaryAnn Calta		X
Deena Candler		X
Greg Carlson, HR	X	
Sally Carlson, HR	X	
Jay Cline	X	
J. Keith Cook, HR		X
Matt Coplen	X	
*James Crapson		X
William Denny, HR		X
Sarah Dickinson	X	
Nickolas Dougherty	X	
Neal Earley, HR	X	
Gary Eller	X	
Mike Elliott		X
Vicki Evans	X	
Jody Filipi, HR		X
Roy Fox, HR		X
Lyle Franzen, HR		X
J.D. Georlett		X
James Goodenberger		X
Suzanne Gorhau	X	
Dan Graham, HR	X	
Ernest Gutha,HR		X
Mary Hansen, HR		X
Cindy Harvey	X	
Mike Harvey. HR		X
Jim Hendrickson, HR		X
Brad Hertzler		X
Rob Hubler, HR		X
Portia Iverson, HR		X
Johnstone, Matthew	X	
Robert Keefer	X	
Ronald Kinsey, HR		X
Lowell Knauss, HR		X
Rudolph Kosits		X
Chet Mason, HR		X
Paul Masters	X	
David Matsumura	X	
McConnell, Bill		X
Lyle Meester, HR		X
Richard Meyer, HR		X
Gregg Miller	X	
Mary Newbern-Williams	X	

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Jon Noble, HR		X
William Osick, HR		X
Russell Palmer, HR		X
Sunjin Park		X
Sunwook Park		X
David Paul		X
Caryn Pedersen		X
Stephen Pike, HR		X
Lori Robinson		X
Nancy Ross-Hullinger	X	
Kirk Ryckman, HR		X
Marvyn Schultz, HR		X
Rick Sleyster		X
Jon Sloan	X	
Dean Sparr, HR		X
Ed Steinmetz, HR		X
*Bill Switzer		X
Emad Tawadrous	X	
Sara Tonje		X
Sandra Wainwright		X
Bonnie Wilkins		X
Dwight Williams	X	
Mark Witmer, HR		X
Jay Won Yu, HR		X
Marshall Zieman	X	

\* Temporary Member

HR – Honorably Retired [Excused if Absent]

**Ruling Elder Commissioners**

Anderson Grove		X
Avoca		X
Bethany	X	
Carson		X
Carter Lake		X
Center Ridge		X
Church of the Cross	X	
Church of the Master	X	
College Springs		X
Discovery	X	
Dundee	X	
Essex		X
Faith	X	
Faithful Shepherd		X
First, Bellevue		X
First, Omaha	X	
Florence		X
Fort Calhoun		X
Gethsemane		X
Hope	X	
Korean		X
Missouri Valley		X
Mount View	X	
Murray	X	

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Neola		X
New Horizon		X
New Life	X	
Oakland-Sharon	X	
Peace		X
Plattsmouth	X	
Red Oak		X
Shelby		X
Shenandoah		X
Sidney		X
Sudanese Fellowship		X
Trinity, Clarinda		X
Underwood Hills	X	
United Trinity, Hamburg		X
Villisca		X
Walnut		X
West Hills		X
Westminster, Clarinda	X	
Westminster, C.B.	X	
Westminster, Omaha		X

**Ruling Elder Members of Leadership Team**

Dennis Brown	X	
Jeff Dickinson	X	
Dave Emry	X	
Sandie Hanna		X
Deborah Kippley	X	
Pat Shipley	X	
Pat Tooles	X	

**Commissioned Ruling Elders:**

Marcia Cline	X	
David Krueger		X
Michael Kuach	X	
Robert Sieck		X
Al Zimmerman	X	

**Visitors:**

Cindy Kohlman (Co-Moderator 223<sup>rd</sup> GA), Kathleen Keefer (Presbyterian Women), Joyce Faltis-Serenil (Discovery), Deb Stanton (Discovery), Martha Slocombe (Neola), Judith Graham (Church of the Master), Christine Dempsey (Church of the Cross), Judy Earley (Dundee), Arline Oliver (First, Omaha), Kim Hansen (Dundee) Phyllis Edwards (SDOP), Clara Nunez (SDOP), Mandy Adams Henderson (SDOP), Elizabeth Swee (SDOP)

Number of ministers present: 24  
 Number of elder commissioners present: 25  
 Total number of persons eligible to vote: 49