

## Presbytery of Missouri River Valley

### DIGEST OF ACTIONS: 2020

Compiled by Stated Clerk Patricia Shipley from Presbytery minutes

*Date in parentheses cites minutes of meeting*

- I. **Teaching Elder Members Added to the Roll**
  - A. Stephen S. Niles transferred from Homestead Presbytery
- II. **Teaching Elder Members Removed from the Roll**
  - A. Transfer of Mary Newbern-Williams to East Virginia Presbytery
  - B. Transfer of Vicki Harden Evans to John Calvin Presbytery.
  - C. Stuart T. Baxter-deceased
  - D. Russell W. Palmer-deceased
  - E. James D. Hendrickson-deceased
- III. **Other Actions with Respect to Inquirers, Candidates, and Teaching Elder Members**
  - A. Approved Parish Associate Covenant between Rev. Cindy Harvey and Presbyterian Church of the Master for January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020. 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. The Church commits to: Regular prayer for the Minister; Provide a worshiping 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. (2/22)
  - B. Approved the 2020 Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Ed Steinmetz and First Presbyterian Church, Missouri Valley, IA for January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020. Terms: Lead Sunday Worship and Preach at \$206.42 including mileage per Sunday with one Sunday/month off; Moderate the monthly Session meeting as needed and Congregational meetings as needed at \$107.00/meeting; Provide Pastoral Care Visits (both home and hospital) at \$36/visit plus mileage at IRS rate; officiate at weddings as scheduled, \$107/rehearsal and \$212/wedding; officiate at funerals at \$212/funeral (church obligation is reduced by the amount paid by the family) Lead inter-generational event, one per month or as scheduled at \$130/activity and officer Leadership seminars as scheduled at \$130/event. Additional Services: Leadership development, officer training, membership training, confirmation (as needed), administrative requests. This agreement may be terminated upon thirty days written notice by either party or by the Missouri River Valley Presbytery at their discretion. (2/22)
  - C. Approved the 2020 Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger and Bethany Presbyterian/Council Bluffs for January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020. Terms: 19 hours per week. Cash Salary \$20,962, Housing \$11,000, Deferred Compensation \$7428; Effective Salary \$39,490. Mileage at IRS rate up to \$550; Continuing education \$1100. Paid vacation leave of four weeks annually (including Sundays). Paid continuing education leave of two weeks annually (including Sundays). 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 cost 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. (2/22)
  - D. Approved the 2020 Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Sara Tonje and Underwood Hills Presbyterian/Omaha for January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020. Terms: ¾ Time or 30 hrs./week. Cash Salary, \$15,000; Housing Allowance-\$22,880; Pension & Medical \$14,015. SECA \$4200. Total: \$56,115. Professional Expense \$750 and Continuing Education \$1000 with receipts. Four weeks' vacation earned at rate of one week per quarter and used or accumulated as agreed. (2/22)

- E. Approved the 2020 Temporary Pastoral Relationship between CLP Marcia Cline and Trinity Presbyterian Church/Clarinda for January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020. Terms. Full time; \$38,958.72. Health Savings Plan \$4285.32; Travel Expense \$1500 at IRS rate. Continuing Education reimbursement \$1000. Books \$200. (2/22)
- F. Approved the Installation date and Commission for Rev. Leah Elrod at United Faith, Sidney. Installation date Sunday, February 16 at 3 p.m., United Faith Church in Sidney, IA. Commission members are as follows: Ruling Elders: Tracy Schroeder, United Faith/Sidney; Dennis Brown, PMRV Moderator; Pat Shipley, Stated Clerk and First/Villisca. Ministers of Word and Sacrament: Rev. Paul Masters, New Horizon/CB; Rev. Sally Carlson, Moderator, COM; Rev Rick Sleyster, Shenandoah. (2/22)
- G. Approved the 2020 Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Suzanne Gorhau and Carson/Oakland/Sharon—Riverside Parish for January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020. Terms: 30 hours/week. Cash Salary \$10,170; Housing Allowance \$30,000; Effective Salary \$40,170. Pension/disability/death-\$4820; Travel at IRS rate not to exceed \$2000. Continuing Education \$5000. Paid vacation leave of four weeks annually (including Sundays). Paid continuing education leave of two weeks annually (including Sundays). 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 cost 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. (2/22)
- H. Approved the 2020 Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Kirk Ryckman and Anderson Grove Presbyterian Church/Omaha for January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020. Terms: 19 hours/week; Cash Salary-\$24,000; Health Savings Account \$8400; Medical Reimbursement Account-\$2400; Continuing Education (per year accumulating to 3 years); Travel at IRS up to \$2000. 8-10 weeks/year with pastor lining up substitute preacher. (2/22)
- I. Appointed Dwight Williams, Pam Otto, Paul Masters, and Kay Moore as the Interview Committee for Commission on Ministry. (2/22)
- J. Approved the 2020 Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Mary Newbern-Williams and Westminster/Omaha for January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020. Terms: Twelve (12) hours/week; lead worship four Sundays/month; do pastoral calling on sick, shut-ins, and prospective members; perform other administrative duties as requested by the Session. Cash Salary, \$1,041.66/month; Housing \$1,041.67/month; Deferred Compensation \$250 to 403b/pay period. Travel at IRS rate to \$600/year. Continuing Education reimbursement \$1000/year. Paid vacation leave of four weeks annually (including Sundays). Paid Continuing education leave of two weeks annually including Sundays. 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 cost 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. (2/22)
- K. Celebration of Retirement—Rev. Deena Candler. Rev. Bill Bowers spoke on behalf of Rev. Candler to celebrate her participation and contribution to the West Hills Church and the Presbytery. (2/22)
- L. Approved Installation date and Commission for Rev. Any Hamer at West Hills Church. Installation date is March 8, 2:30 p.m. Installation Commission is PMRV Moderator Dennis Brown, Elder, First Presbyterian/Omaha; Rev. Deena Candler, HR; Kathy Padilla, Elder, West Hills Church; Rev. Marshall, Church of the Cross/Omaha; Rev. Martha Slocombe, First Presbyterian Church/Neola. (5/5)
- M. Approved the January 1-December 31, 2020 Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Al Zimmerman, CLP, and Florence Presbyterian/Omaha. Terms: 15 hours/week; Housing Allowance \$14,592; Travel at IRS rate up to \$750; Continuing Education \$365. Paid time off to attend two Great Plains Pilgrimages/year. Paid vacation of four weeks annually, paid continuing education leave of two weeks annually. (5/5)
- N. Approved the January 1-December 31, 2020 Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Tom Willadsen and Faith/LaVista. Terms: \$25,000 Salary; Housing--\$30,423; Effective Salary--\$55,423. Board of Pensions full medical, pension, disability, and death benefit coverage \$11,577. Travel \$1,800; Continuing Education reimbursement--\$1200. Paid vacation leave of four weeks annually (including Sundays). Paid continuing education leave of two weeks annually (including Sundays). (5/5)
- O. Approved the January 1-December 31, 2020 Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Gary Eller and Gethsemane Presbyterian/Council Bluffs. Terms: Part-time. Salary \$10,000; Housing Allowance \$33,000; Effective Salary \$33,000. Mileage paid at IRS rate (\$.575/mile). Paid vacation leave of four

- weeks annually (including Sunday); Paid continuing education leave of two weeks annually (including Sundays). (5/5)
- P. Approved the January 1-December 31, 2020 Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Bob Sieck, CLP, and Avoca Presbyterian Church. Terms: 19 hours/week. Cash Salary--\$8560, Housing \$10,000, Travel reimbursement up to \$2560. Continuing Education reimbursement \$1000. Paid vacation leave of four weeks annually (including Sunday); Paid continuing education leave of two weeks annually (including Sundays). (5/5)
- Q. Approved the Terms of Call for Designated Relationship between Rev. Bill Switzer and Walnut Presbyterian Church. Terms: Full-time. Cash Salary \$25,000; Housing and Utility allowance \$30,423; Effective Salary \$55,423. Full medical pension, disability, and death benefit coverage \$11,577. Travel \$1800. Continuing Education reimbursement \$1,200. Paid vacation leave of four weeks annually (including Sundays. Paid continuing education leave of two weeks annually (including Sundays). Moving expenses (if a move is required.) (5/5)
- R. Approved the dismissal with thanks of the Installation Commission for Rev. Leah Elrod, United Faith Church, Sidney. (5/5)
- S. Approved Rev. Becki Balestri and Rev. Tom Album for addition to the PMRV Pulpit Supply list. (5/5)
- T. Approved the dismissal with thanks of the Installation Commission for Rev. Andy Hamer, West Hills Church. (5/5)
- U. Approved revisions to COM Manual, Glossary of Commonly Used Terms and Pastor/Specialized Ministry Positions. (5/5)
- V. Approved designation of Rev. David Matsumura as Honorably Retired effective June 1, 2020. (5/5)
- W. Approved the designation of Rev. Vicki Evans as Honorably Retired effective July 1, 2020 pending the approval of the congregation. (5/5)
- X. Approved Rev. Paul Masters to work with Rev. Bill Switzer as a mentor. (5/5)
- Y. Approved dismissal of Rev. Mary Newbern-Williams to Eastern Virginia Presbytery effective May 26, 2020. (8/15)
- Z. Reported the death of Rev. James Hendrickson on May 17, 2020 to Office of General Assembly. (8/15)
- AA. Approved Rev. Richard Meyer as Moderator and Bridge Pastor of Hope Presbyterian Church beginning June 1, 2020 until an Interim is available. (8/15)
- BB. Approved Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Hope Presbyterian/Omaha and Rev. Richard Meyer as Bridge Pastor beginning June 1, 2020-July 31, 2020. Terms: 19 hour/week to do pastoral calling on sick, shut-ins, and prospective members, plan and moderate session and congregational meetings, and conduct staff meetings. Cash Salary: \$2500/month. Mileage reimbursement at IRS rate. (8/15)
- CC. Approved Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Hope Presbyterian/Omaha and Rev. Jeri-Lynne Bouterse beginning August 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020 as Interim Pastor. Terms: full-time. Cash Salary \$38,000; housing \$30,000; Effective Salary \$68,000. Full Medical, pension, disability, and death benefit coverage, \$25,160. Travel at IRS rate. Continuing Education reimbursement \$1,500/year (\$625 for 2020). Professional and auto \$3,100/year (\$1291.65 for 2020). Paid vacation leave of four weeks annually (including Sunday); 2 weeks for 2020. Paid Continuing Education leave of two weeks annually (including Sundays). (8/15)
- DD. Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Commissioned Lay Pastors who participate in a professional development event offered by the OPSF shall receive the time and registration cost 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 tie and funds. Moving Expenses (if a move is required) (8/15)
- EE. Approved the dismissal of Rev. Vicki Evans to John Calvin Presbytery. (8/15)
- FF. Approved Rev. Jeri-Lynne Bouterse for membership in PMRV should she choose to move her membership to PMRV. (8/15)
- GG. Approved the 2020 Pastor Compensation Report. (8/15)
- HH. 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. (8/15)
- II. The Commission on Preparation for Ministry designated the following individuals to serve as Ordination Examination Readers: Rev. Robert Keefer and Elder Maryellen Towey-Schulz; Rev. Christine Dempsey, alternate. (8/15)
- JJ. Approved Temporary Pastoral Relationship between West Hills Church and Carolyn Grice beginning September 8, 2020-December 31, 2021. Terms: 30 hours/week. Cash Salary: \$35,568; Effective salary

\$35,568. Board of Pensions: Full pension, disability and death benefit coverage; Continuing Education \$889. Travel at IRS rate. Paid vacation prorated to 75% or 15 days; Continuing education leave for two weeks annually including Sundays. (10/24)

KK. Approved Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Westminster/Omaha and Rev. Portia Iverson.

LL. Approved 2021 Minimum Compensation. (10/24)

MM. Approved Rev. Jeri-Lynne Bouterse as a temporary member of PMRV. (10/24)

NN. Approved Carolyn Grice ready for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. (12/3)

#### IV. Actions with Respect to Congregations

- A. Approved Rev. Dwight Williams as Moderator of Westminster/Omaha. (2/22)
- B. Approved Hope Presbyterian Ministry Information Form for circulation as they seek a full-time Interim Pastor. Interim to begin approximately June 1, 2020. (2/22)
- C. Approved dissolution of the Pastoral Relationship between Rev. David Matsumura and Hope Presbyterian Church, Omaha, pending the vote of the congregation. (5/5)
- D. Approved designation of Rev. Marshall Zieman as Moderator of Hope Presbyterian until that time when an Interim is in place. (5/5)
- E. Approved dissolution of the Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Vicki Evans and Mt. View Presbyterian and Westminster Presbyterian/Council Bluffs effective July 1, 2020 pending the approval of the congregation.
- F. Annual Session Minutes/Registry Review are scheduled for Thursday May 21, 2020; all meetings will be via Zoom. Clerks of Session will have the option to attend at 10 a.m., 2:00 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. on that date. Clerks will be sent review materials for completion prior to the meeting and log-in information for the meeting. When materials are returned to the Stated Clerk, an email will be sent acknowledging receipt of the completed documents to be kept with Session minutes and registry to commemorate completion of the review in 2020 in lieu of stamping the Minutes and/or Registry of the individual church. (5/5)
- G. Presbytery of Missouri River Valley is conducting weekly Zoom meetings for Pastors and Commissioned Pastors currently serving a church. (5/5)
- H. Approved Rev. Ken Bunnell as Moderator of Mount View, Omaha, NE. beginning June 1, 2020. (8/15)
- I. Approved Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger as Moderator of Westminster, Council Bluffs beginning June 1, 2020. (8/15)
- J. Approved Underwood Hills MIF for posting on Church Leadership Connection.
- K. Approved the sale of a triangular (325' by 50' by 348.48') section of property by Underwood Hills to M&G Anderson Property Management, LLC, dba Montessori Children's Room.  
 Legal Description: Lot 1, Bellair Addition Replat 5, being a replat part of lot 41 Bellair Addition and all of lot 1, Bellair addition replat No. 3, as surveyed, platted and recorded in the city of Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.  
 Terms: M&G Anderson Property Management, LLC agrees to pay \$11,250/Eleven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars for the property and pay all costs associated with the survey and property transfer. (12/3)
- L. Approved authorization of Gethsemane Presbyterian Church to seek a loan in the amount of \$58,000 with Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program for renovation/repair of the exterior of the sanctuary, window and front pillars. (12/3)

#### V. Policy Decisions

- A. Approved PMRV **commitment to become a Matthew 25 mid council. We pledge to encourage our congregations to become Matthew 25 churches and embrace these areas of focus: *Building congregational vitality; Dismantling structural racism; Eradicating systemic poverty.*** (10/24)
- B. Adopted a budget for 2021 (10/24)
- C. Affirmed the Vision 2021 document submitted to Presbytery. (10/24)

#### VI. Other

- A. The Presbytery's annual report to the General Assembly has been submitted. PMRV began and ended the year with 43 churches. PMRV began 2019 with 77 minister members; One died during the year. Three ministers were dismissed to other presbyteries. Two ministers were ordained. Five ministers were received from other presbyteries. Thus, PMRV ends 2019 with 80 minister members. (2/22)
- B. The Presbytery holds property insurance and liability insurance, as required by the Constitution (G-3.0112). (2/22)

- C. Received the 2018 Independent Accountant's Review Report completed by Schwarz & Associates LLC. (2/22)
- D. Leadership Team adopted Leadership Covenant for Administrative Groups as a focus in 2020. (2/22)
- E. Authorized the CARES Act loan application for Calvin Crest. (4/8)
- F. Authorized the CARES Act loan application of any PMRV congregation which has or will submitted application for CARES Act monies, if required by their Articles of Incorporation. (4/8)
- G. Directed PMRV Leadership Team and Stewardship of Resources Committee to explore the creation of an emergency assistance fund; establish assistance level/amount; recommend qualifications for assistance and application process. Funding shall be drawn from appropriate PMRV undesignated reserves and/or donations for distribution to congregations/fellowships within the boundaries of Presbytery of Missouri River Valley. A preliminary report will be provided at the May 5, 2020 Zoom Presbytery meeting. (4/8)
- H. All sessions of the Presbytery submitted their annual statistical reports to the General Assembly with the exception of Carter Lake, Center Ridge, College Springs, and Korean Presbyterian Church; First/Shenandoah and Walnut completed only membership information. The Presbytery's churches list 6212 active members, down from 6556 on December 31, 2018. Reporting churches indicated membership gains of 405 and membership loss of 749 for a net loss of 344. Of that loss, some is due to death and deletion of membership for various reasons. The following churches reported membership gains: First Essex, Fort Calhoun; United Trinity, Hamburg, Neola; Church of the Cross/Omaha; Discovery/Omaha; First/Omaha; New Life/Omaha. (5/5)
- I. Approved recommendation for redress of imbalance: that Presbytery ask the following sessions to commission two ruling elders to represent them at meetings of the Presbytery from July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019: Church of the Cross, Omaha; Dundee, Omaha; West Hills, Omaha. (5/5)
- J. Elected to Rev. Richard Meyer to fill a vacancy Personnel Committee. (5/5)
- K. Approved Presbytery use of up to \$100,000 from the following long-term reserve 95 accounts: 2095.07 Revolving Loan Fund, 2095.48 Small Church Mini Grant, 2095.532 Disaster Relief Local NE & IA, and 2095.59 Woodbine, to help the churches of the Presbytery who are in need due to loss of income as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Churches will receive an application form, via email, this week and SOR will determine a maximum amount of assistance to be made available per congregation. Deadline for grants to be considered is May 27, 2020. Grants will be distributed in June.
- L. Annual Session Minutes/Registry Review are scheduled on the following dates, times and locations: 1. Saturday, June 8, 1:00 p.m., First Presbyterian, Shenandoah; 2. Thursday, June 13, 6 p.m., Underwood Hills Presbyterian, Omaha; 3. Saturday, June 15, 10 a.m., Hope Presbyterian Church, Omaha; 4. Tuesday, June 25, 2 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian, Council Bluffs. (5/7)
- M. 2019 Minutes of Presbytery of Missouri River Valley were not reviewed by Synod of Lakes and Prairies due to COVID-19. Synod will review 2019 and 2020 Minutes in spring 2021. (8/15)
- N. Leadership Team approved recommendation that all Presbytery Committee meetings be held electronically for the remainder of the 2020. (8/15)
- O. Approved on-line giving availability on the PMRV website. (8/15)
- P. Voted to cancel the face-to-face meeting Joint Presbytery Meeting with Homestead Presbytery scheduled for August 14-15, 2020 at Calvin Crest Conference Center. (8/15)
- Q. Voted to cancel a joint-online meeting with Homestead in August 2020. (8/15)
- R. Approved a Zoom August 2020 Presbytery meeting. (8/15)
- S. Approved conducting the October 22, 2020 Presbytery Meeting via Zoom, 5:30 p.m. (8/15)
- T. Leadership Team approved the following 2021 dates for Presbytery Stated Meetings: Thursday, February 25; Saturday, May 1; Friday-Saturday, August 13-14; Thursday, Nov. 4. The February and November meetings will be via Zoom at approximately 5 p.m.; the May and August meetings will be in-person if the way be clear. (8/15)
- U. Approved conducting the Thursday, October 22, 2020 Presbytery Meeting via Zoom, 5:30 p.m. (8/15)
- V. Approved a request that the Presbytery Center will no longer receive used books. (10/24)
- W. Approved the request for endorsement of grant proposal for women clergy retreat through OPSF. Retreat would be at Calvin Crest; 3-4 days. Open to women clergy 2021. (10/24)
- X. Discussed and approved the Vision 2021 proposal for distribution and affirmation by Presbytery
- Y. Elections to office and committees in the Presbytery were made at October 22, 2020 meeting.