

Presbytery of Missouri River Valley

DIGEST OF ACTIONS: 2021

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. Carolyn Grice—Ordained and installed
- B. Michael Patrick Geiler—Ordained and installed
- C. Emad Tawadrous from Synod of the Nile
- D. Sarah Elizabeth James from Mission Presbytery
- E. Janice Louise Desterhaft from Sierra Blanca Presbytery

II. Teaching Elder Members Removed from the Roll

- A. Transfer of Samuel Sunwook Park to Northeast New Jersey Presbytery
- B. Transfer of Sara McCulloch Tonje to Homestead Presbytery
- C. Bonnie J. Wilkins to Southeast Illinois Presbytery
- D. Jay Won Yu to Covenant Presbytery
- E. Lyle E. Franzen-Deceased

III. Other Actions with Respect to Inquirers, Candidates, and Teaching Elder Members

- A. Authorized Carolyn Grice to perform Lord's Supper at West Hills until Ordination and Installation can be held. Carolyn has been ordained and installed as a Ruling Elder previously. (2/25)
- B. Approved Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Jeri-Lynne Bouterse and Hope Presbyterian Church from January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021. Terms: Full-time. Cash Salary--\$38,000; Housing and/or utility allowance--\$30,000; Effective Salary \$68,000. Full medical, pension, disability and death benefit coverage, \$26,680. Travel at IRS rate up to \$1,500. Continuing Education reimbursement--\$1,500. Continuing Education leave of two weeks annually (including Sundays). (2/25)
- C. Approved Ordination and Installation of Carolyn Grice on January 10, 2021 at 2 p.m. to be held virtually and in-person at West Hills Church pending Presbytery approval following examination. (2/25)
- D. Approved Ordination and Installation Commission of Carolyn Grice comprised of Rev. Suzanne Gorhau, Rev. Dwight Williams, Rev. Andy Hamer, Elder Pat Tooles-Dyer (New Life Presbyterian Church/Omaha), Elder Pat Shipley (First Presbyterian Church, Villisca), and Elder Gary Anders (West Hills Church). Additional participants in the Ordination and Installation will be Rev. Cindy Harvey, Rev. Bill Osick, Rev. Gary Elder. Approved the participation of Bishop Brian Mass (ELCA Synod) and Juliet Focken (ELCA). (2/25)
- E. Approved the Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Dwight Williams and New Life Presbyterian from January 1, 2021-December 2021. Terms: 20 hours/week; annual salary \$480; annual housing Allowance \$24,480. Pension, Death and Disability, and Major Medical through the Board of Pensions. Reimbursed—Travel at IRS rate up to \$700; Professional Development up to \$612. Four weeks of vacation and two weeks of professional development leave. (2/25)
- F. Approved Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Gary Eller and Gethsemane Presbyterian Church/CB from January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021. Terms: 10-15 hours/week. Cash Salary--\$10,000; Housing and/or utility allowance--\$23,000; Effective Salary \$33,000. Travel at IRS rate (\$.56/mi) by reimbursement. Paid vacation leave of four weeks annually (including Sundays); Paid continuing education leave of two weeks annually (including Sundays). The relationship may be terminated upon thirty (30) days written notice by either party or by the Missouri River Valley Presbytery at their discretion. (2/25)
- G. Approved Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Tom Willadsen and Faith Presbyterian Church/LaVista from January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021. Terms: Full-time. Cash Salary--\$45,000; Housing and/or utility allowance--\$15,000; Effective Salary \$60,000. Full medical, pension, disability and death benefit coverage, \$22,692; SECA offset \$4,590 Total obligation \$87,282. Travel at IRS rate up to \$2,000. Continuing Education reimbursement--\$1,300/year. Paid vacation leave of four weeks (20 days) annually (including Sundays, no roll over); Paid

Continuing Education leave of two weeks (10 days) annually (not including Sundays, no roll over, with Session Approval). Personal Time off (sick/PTO) up to three (3) personal days (24 hours) off in addition to the previously defined vacation. These days are effective the 1st of January every year and unused hours will expire the 31st of December. If an employee is hired mid-year, the amount of PTO will be prorated. At least 5 working days' notice should be allowed when making a request. National Holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day. Normally when a National Holiday falls on a Saturday, it is observed on the previous Friday. When it falls on a Sunday, it is observed on the following Monday. Additional Holidays will be observed each year as listed: The Monday after Easter Sunday as a paid holiday; the Friday after Thanksgiving as a paid holiday. Should the pastor receive compensation for any of his publications, Faith Presbyterian Church will not expect remission of any portion of this compensation. This agreement may be terminated upon thirty (30) days written notice by either party or by the Missouri River Valley Presbytery at their discretion. (2/25)

- H. Approved Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Sara Tonje and Underwood Presbyterian Church/Omaha from January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021. Terms: $\frac{3}{4}$ time. Cash Salary--\$15,392; Housing and/or utility allowance--\$22,880. Paid monthly. Full medical, pension, disability and death benefit coverage, \$15,762; SECA \$4,333. Vacation time of four (4) weeks is to earned at a rate of one week per quarter and used or accumulated as agreed upon with the UHPC Personnel and Worship Committee. Professional expenses up to \$750 and Continuing Education expenses up to \$1000 will be reimbursed with receipts or documentation through an accountable reimbursement plan. Study Leave of up to two weeks including financial assistance consistent with Presbytery standards, is allowed. There will be no compensation for unused study leave. Travel at IRS rate up to \$1,500. Continuing Education reimbursement--\$1,500. Continuing Education leave of two weeks annually (including Sundays). If the called Pastor arrives or if the Session terminated the relationship with the Interim Pastor before the agreement period ends, the contracted compensation will continue for an additional two months beyond termination, or until the end of the agreement period, whichever is less. If the Interim Pastor terminates the contract before the Agreement period ends, compensation does not extend beyond the termination date. (2/25)
- I. Approved Temporary Pastoral Relationship between CLP Marcia Cline and Trinity Presbyterian Church/Clarinda from January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021. Terms: Full-time. Cash Salary--\$41,127.88; Other \$4524.03; Effective Salary \$45,651.51. Travel at IRS rate up to \$1,500. Continuing Education reimbursement--\$1,000; Books \$200. Continuing Education leave of two weeks annually (including Sundays). Paid vacation leave of four weeks annually (including Sundays). Paid continuing education leave of two weeks annually (including Sundays). (2/25)
- J. Approved Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Kirk Ryckman and Anderson Grove Presbyterian Church from January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021. Terms: 19 hours/week. Cash Salary--\$21,600; Retirement Savings Account \$10,800; Medical Reimbursement Account \$2,400. Travel at IRS rate up to \$2,000. Continuing Education reimbursement--\$1,000. Eight (8) to ten (10) weeks off per year with pastor lining up substitute preacher. (2/25)
- K. Approved Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Paul Williams and First Presbyterian Church/Missouri Valley from January 24, 2021-December 31, 2021. Terms: Part-time; number of hours not specified at this time. Cash Salary--(compensation per pastoral service offered per COM Minimum Compensation List for 2021). Lead Sunday worship and preach at \$200 (including mileage) per Sunday; Pastoral Care Visits (mainly hospital as called on at \$36.00/visit plus mileage; Weddings (as scheduled/called on) at these rates: rehearsal at \$108; wedding \$213 plus mileage (church obligation reduced by the amount paid by the family) Funerals at \$213 plus mileage (church obligation reduced by the amount paid by the family); Additional services not specified or negotiated at this time as needed. This agreement may be terminated upon thirty (30) days written notice by either party or by the Missouri River Valley Presbytery at their discretion. (2/25)
- L. Approved the Covenant between Presbyterian Church of the Master and Rev. Cynthia Harvey renews the relationship of Parish Associate effective January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021. In this Covenant, 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 Past/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 the 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 \$7,000 per year; provide travel allowance at the IRS rate up to \$1,000/year; provide professional expense allowance up to \$1,000/year; provide four weeks (28 days) paid vacation per year. This agreement may be terminated upon thirty (30) 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. (2/25)

- M. Approved the Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger and Bethany Presbyterian Church/Council Bluffs from January 1-December 31, 2021. Terms: 19 hours/week; Cash Salary \$20,962; Housing \$11,000; Deferred Compensation \$7428; Travel at IRS rate up to \$550; Continuing education \$1,100; Carryover of 2 weeks' vacation, one week study leave and \$505.15 continuing education from 2020. (5/1)
- N. Approved the Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. James Crapson and College Springs Presbyterian from January 1, 2021-December 2021. Terms: 19 hours/week; annual salary \$32,460; Manse value--\$6,000. Reimbursed—Travel at IRS rate; Professional Development up to \$624. Four weeks of vacation and two weeks of professional development leave. (5/1)
- O. **3.** Approved Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Al Zimmerman, CLP and Florence Presbyterian Church from January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021. Terms: Part-time-15 hours/week. Cash Salary--\$0; Housing and/or utility allowance--\$14,688; Effective Salary \$14,688. Travel at IRS rate up to \$750. Continuing Education reimbursement--\$367. Continuing Education leave of two weeks annually (including Sundays). Paid time off to attend two Great Plains Pilgrimages per year. (5/1)
- P. Approved dismissal with thanks the Ordination and Installation Commission for Rev. Carolyn Grice. (5/1)
- Q. Approved Tom Albaum to serve as Moderator of Carter Lake Presbyterian commencing immediately if the way be clear. (5/1)
- R. Approved Rev. Emad Tawadrous to be received as PC(USA) pastor from another denomination. (5/1)
- S. Approved addition of Rev. Dave Matsumura to the PMRV Pulpit Supply list. (5/1)
- T. Affirmed Rev. Sarah James as member PMRV. (5/1)
- U. Approved the removal of Geoffrey Brown from PMRV roles if the way be clear. (5/1)
- V. Approved the Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Doug Roberts and Hope Presbyterian Church as a Bridge Pastor from May 1, 2021-October 31, 2021. Terms: 20 hours/week. Cash Salary will be \$2,750/month. Paid vacation: 1 week/quarter and 1 Sunday every 2 months. The responsibilities will include Lead worship and preach, and provide the Lord's Supper; pastoral calling on sick, shut-ins, and prospective members, plan and moderate session and congregational meetings (if named moderator by Presbytery); work with boards and committees to assist them in carrying out their assigned tasks. (5/1)
- W. Dismiss with thanks Rev. Jeri-Lynne Bouterse from temporary membership in the Presbytery. (5/1)
- X. Approved Rev. Dr. Paul Williams as moderator of Session at First Presbyterian/Missouri Valley. (5/1)
- Y. Authorized financial partnership with Board of Pensions for an Emergency Grant application and with the request that Stewardship of Resources identify the source of the financial support. (5/1)
- Z. Approved Rev. Neal Early to serve as Moderator of Carter Lake Presbyterian commencing immediately. (8/14)
- AA. Approved the dissolution of the call between Rev. Bonnie Wilkins and Peace Presbyterian Church effective May 31, 2021. (8/14)

- BB. Approved Rev. Richard Meyer to serve as Moderator of Peace Presbyterian Church effective June 1, 2021. (8/14)
- CC. Approved Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Dr. Gary Eller and Peace Presbyterian Church, Elkhorn, Nebraska beginning August 1, 2021-December 31, 2021. Terms: part-time position consisting of 19 hours/week. Cash salary--\$4,000; Housing \$12,666.65. Travel at \$.56/mile; Preach 4 Sundays/month; do pastoral calling, officiate at weddings and funerals as requested; moderate Session and congregational meetings; work with boards and committees to assist in carrying out their duties; train newly elected in ordered ministry, perform other administrative duties as requested by the Session; teach and/or provide resources for Confirmation Class. Paid vacation leave of four weeks annually (including Sundays). Paid continuing education leave of two weeks annually (including Sundays). (8/14)
- DD. Approved Michael Geiler for membership in Presbytery of Missouri River Valley if called to an installed position in the Presbytery. (8/14)
- EE. Approved the annual pastoral compensation report for transmission to Presbytery. (8/14)
- FF. Dismissed Rev. Bonnie Wilkins to Southeastern Illinois Presbytery. (8/14)
- GG. The CPM received Jennifer Bruce, a member of PCOC, as an inquirer under care of the Presbytery. (8/14)
- HH. Approved Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Ed Steinmetz and Gethsemane Presbyterian Church, Council Bluffs, Iowa beginning September 1, 2021-December 31, 2021. Terms: part-time position consisting of 12-15 hours/week. Cash salary--\$2,800; Housing \$7,200; Effective Salary \$10,000. Travel at \$.56/mile; Preach 4 Sundays/month; do pastoral calling, officiate at weddings and funerals as requested; moderate Session and congregational meetings; work with boards and committees to assist in carrying out their duties; train newly elected in ordered ministry, perform other administrative duties as requested by the Session; teach and/or provide resources for Confirmation Class. Paid vacation leave of four weeks annually (including Sundays). Paid continuing education leave of two weeks annually (including Sundays). (11/4)
- II. Approved Pastoral Call between Michael Geiler and Hope Presbyterian Church, Omaha, Nebraska beginning August 23, 2021. Terms: Full-time pastor. Cash Salary \$57,000; Housing and/or utility allowance \$8,000; Effective Salary \$65,000. Full medical, pension, disability and death benefits coverage (\$24,050); family dental (\$1400); Supplemental life Insurance, individual and spouse (\$300). Cell phone allowance, \$900. Travel expense at \$.56/mile up to \$1,500/year; Continuing Education reimbursement \$1,500/year, Professional Expenses \$500/year. 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 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. (11/4)
- JJ. Approved the Administrative Commission for Ordination/Installation of Michael Geiler: Rev. Suzanne Gorhau, Rev. Andy Hamer, Rev. Marshall Zieman, Elder Beth Anderson, West Hills Church, and Elder Brian Claus, Hope Presbyterian Church. (11/4)
- KK. Approved Ordination/Installation to be held at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, September 26, 2021, Hope Presbyterian Church, Omaha. (11/4)
- LL. Approved Pastor/CLP Minimum Compensation for 2022. (11/4)
- MM. Approved Michael Geiler for membership in Presbytery Missouri River Valley if called to an installed position in the Presbytery. (11/4)
- NN. Approved Rev. David Matsumura as Moderator of Mt. View Presbyterian Church/Omaha. (11/4)
- OO. Approved dismissal of Rev. Samuel Sunwook Park to Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey. (11/4)
- PP. Approved Rev. Janice Desterhaft for membership in PMRV should the way be clear and issued a call within the Presbytery. (11/4)
- QQ. Approved dissemination of Pastor installation anniversaries commemorating years ending in zero and five would be twice monthly email notification. (11/4)

- RR. Approved Rev. Greg Carlson as Moderator of Underwood Hills Presbyterian, Omaha, congregational meeting on October 10, 2021 and until the new minister is in place. (11/4)
- SS. Approved dismissal of Rev. Sara Tonje to Homestead Presbytery pending her request. (11/4)
- TT. Appointed Rev. Gary Eller as a mentor for Rev. Michael Geiler. (11/4)
- UU. Approved Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Paul Williams and Anderson Grove Presbyterian Church. Terms: Part-time: 15 hours/week. Cash Salary designated as Housing Allowance; \$34,800. Professional Development Allowance (per year accumulating to 3 years) \$1,242. Travel at IRS recommended rate (\$.56/mile) \$2000. Professional Development Leave 2 weeks per year. Vacation: 6 weeks per year to be taken in increments of 4 consecutive weeks or less. Vacation requests for more than 4 consecutive weeks will be considered by session on a case-by-case basis. The agreement may be terminated by either party upon 60 days written notice. This agreement may be extended in one-to-12-month periods, upon written notice to, and approval of the Presbytery. It is understood that the pastor will participate in any training/discussions sponsored and/or requested by the Presbytery and will participate in an exit interview conducted by Presbytery. (11/4)
- VV. Approved the Terms of Call between Rev. Janice Desterhaft and Underwood Hills Presbyterian Church commencing on or about November 21, 2021 pending receipt of the Call Form. Terms: Full-time. Effective Salary \$50,000. Full Board of Pensions. \$750 Professional Expenses. \$1000 Continuing Education (backup with receipts). 2 weeks study leave, 4 weeks' vacation leave. Moving expenses from Carlsbad, New Mexico to Omaha. (11/4)
- WW. Approved the dismissal of Rev. Jay Won Yu to New Covenant Presbytery. (11/4)
- XX. Approved the retirement and dissolution of call of Rev. Robert Keefer from Church of the Master effective May 31, 2022 contingent upon the approval of the congregation. (11/4)
- YY. Authorized Rev. Paul Masters as moderator for the Session of Missouri Valley Presbyterian Church. (11/4)
- ZZ. The Commission on Preparation for Ministry designated PMRV will submit the following names as ordination exam readers for 2022: Elder Sam Rennick, Church of the Cross and Rev. Deena Candler (HR).

IV. Actions with Respect to Congregations

- A. Approved the request of Center Ridge Presbyterian Church that Session members be allowed to serve an additional term. (2-25)
- B. Approved the election of a Pastor Nominating Committee at Hope Presbyterian Church, Omaha. (2/25)
- C. Approved the request of Westminster/Omaha to not rotate Session members for the next two (2) years. (2/25)
- D. Affirmed the posting of the Hope Presbyterian Church MIF. (5/1)
- E. Approved election of a PNC at Faith Presbyterian Church/LaVista. (5/1)
- F. Approved the request of Peace Presbyterian, Elkhorn regarding the sale of approximately 1000 square feet of Lot 1, Peace Ridge, A subdivision in Douglas County, NE Described as follows: Beginning at the Northeast Corner of said Lot 1: Thence S79°10'07" W (assumed bearing) 13.04 Feet on the North Line of said lot1; thence S07°22'53"E 152.22 Feet to the East line of said Lot1; Thence N-02°31'08"W 153.56 Feet on the East line of said lot 1 to the point of beginning. Containing 991 Square Feet more or less. Buyer: ADC Homes. Purchase price: \$8000. Reason for the sale: parcel of land needed by developer to get approval from the City to build eight town homes on the property east of Peace Presbyterian Church. The units will be owner occupied units in the upper \$400,000 range. (8/14)
- G. Approved the sale of the Westminster Presbyterian Church/Council Bluffs Manse located at 3101 5th Ave., Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501; Parcel #754434 156 007, Omaha Addition lots 1 and 2 and E1/Lt 3 BIK 9. Sale price--\$161,000. One half of the funds to be used for capital improvements and ½ for operating expenses. (8/14)
- H. Approved Faith Presbyterian Church, LaVista, Nebraska MIF for posting on Clergy Leadership Connection. (11/4)
- I. Authorized Presbyterian Church of the Master Session to create an interim pastor search Mission Information Form. (11/4)

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 2022 (11/44)

C. Approved the following Recommendation from Leadership Team for 2022 and modification of the terms of office for Moderator and Vice Moderator of the Presbytery:

Leadership Team

- **Composition**

- Current Composition: MT, AT, Chairs or reps from: COM (Commission on Ministry), FELD (Faith, Education and Leadership Development), M&E (Mission & Evangelism), Personnel, SJP (Social Justice and Peacemaking), SOR (Stewardship of Resources), Treasurer

- **Composition Suggested Change:**

- Subtract treasurer from Leadership Team,
- Add rep from CPM (Committee on Preparation for Ministry)
- Composition other notes: Note composition of MT & AT and adjust balance of LT as needed

- **Appoint Administrative Team**

Criteria

- 4-person team, includes SC
- past or present committee chairs/leaders
- represent different sectors of presbytery
- high commitment level to Presbytery's mission
- available for regular meetings

Terms

- 3 years, up to two terms
- stagger the terms

2022 Recommendation re: Admin Team

- Current team stays in place
- Use 2022 to formalize process going forward including selection & rotation

Moderator Team (MT)

- Composed of: Moderator of Presbytery, Vice Moderator & Leadership Team Chair
- Work together as a moderator team in leading & planning
- Work in conjunction with other administrative leaders
- MT are back up for each other's roles
- Presbytery docket planning

Moderator

- Moderates the presbytery & its meetings
- Represents at ordinations, installations

Vice Moderator

- Covenant coordinator
- Chaplain to LT

Leadership Team chair

- Moderates & coordinates LT meetings
- Moderator back up

Recommend to presbytery the 2022 MT "freezes" for a year

- Keep these 3 officers in place for an extra year beginning with the January 2022 group who would serve in those roles in 2022 and 2023 before continuing their rotation.

Rationale: To help develop this new role, responsibility, and concept.

VI. Other

- A. The Presbytery's annual report to the General Assembly has been submitted. PMRV began and ended the 2020 with 43 churches. PMRV began 2020 with 80 minister members; Three deaths were reported during the year. Two ministers were dismissed to other presbyteries. One minister was received from another presbytery. Thus, PMRV ended 2020 with 76 minister members. (2/25)
- B. The Presbytery holds property insurance and liability insurance, as required by the Constitution (G-3.0112). (2/25)
- C. The Stated Clerk reports that Presbytery of Missouri River Valley does not need to redress imbalance from July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022. (5/1)
- D. Presbytery of Missouri River Valley concurred with Overture OVT-047 for the 225th General Assembly of PC(USA). (11/4)
- E. Received the 2019 Independent Accountant's Review Report completed by Schwarz & Associates LLC. (11/4)
- F. Elections to officers and committees in the Presbytery were made at November 4, 2021 meeting. (11/4)