

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY REPORT

September 12, 2017

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY ACTION:

Extend the commission of CRE Claire Brenneka for Harvard until January 1st, 2018 to allow the congregation a little more time to call an interim pastor. Also extend her commission to Valley High Nursing Home for the same period.

Commission CRE Jack Berghorst to administer sacraments, perform weddings and funeral services, and moderate session at New Lenox Central and have voice and vote at presbytery.

Commission CRE Tanya Muzzarelli to serve sacraments and moderate session (20 hours per week) for Marengo effective September 16, 2017 to December 31, 2018.

Extend the commission of CRE Carrie Kapral to serve sacraments, perform weddings and funeral services and moderate at Elwood Community and have voice and vote at presbytery.

Commission CRE Barbara D'Souza to administer sacraments to Area 1 churches. The idea is to authorize her to serve as a substitute leader for the congregations in this region. The presbytery previously approved a similar situation for CRE Al Lisk. The C.O.M. is asking for approval of this specific commission without turning this into a precedent. Instead, we ask to reserve the authority for C.O.M. to discuss similar future situations on a case-by-case basis.

Receive Rev. William "Winn" Alley, interim pastor at Wilmington First, with dual standing in both the UCC and the PC(USA).

Dissolve the relationship between Rev. Ryan Pixton and Fox Valley effective August 15th. The terms of dissolution are:

- Continuation of salary, housing allowance, medical reimbursement, and pension and medical for six months at the effective date of resignation or on the first day of employment in a full-time position.
- Provide favorable recommendations.
- Pay for Rev. Pixton's second week of CREDO.
- Pay any final expenses related to the youth ministry cohort in progress.
- Pay up to \$1,600 for Rev. Pixton to participate in a vocational discernment program with LeaderWise.

Dissolve the relationship between Rev. Jennifer Olson and Au Sable Grove effective Sept. 3rd. Rev. Olson is accepting a call to a church in Denison, Iowa. Elder Frank Chandler moderated the congregational meeting on Sept. 3. The terms of dissolution are:

- Unused earned vacation will be paid.
- The manse will be vacated by September 15, 2017.
- Medical coverage continues through the end of September, 2017.

Transfer Rev. Frank Fisher, Member at Large, to Chicago Presbytery.

Approve the attached minimum terms of call.

Appoint Moderators

Rev. Paul Nelson to moderate the Session at McHenry Faith.

Rev. Bob Kopp to moderate the Session at Harvard.

Rev. Matt Robinson to moderate the Session at Au Sable Grove effective Sept. 3.

REPORTING ON ACTIONS TAKEN by COM:

Terms of Call:

CRE Tanya Muzzarelli to serve part-time (20 hours per week) at Marengo.

Salary	\$18,000
Stipend beyond 20 hours/week	\$15 per hour
Travel	\$15.00 per round trip from home 3 times per week @54 cents/
Vacation	Four Sundays per calendar year
Professional Expenses	\$600
Grand Total	\$19,863

Rev. William Torgeson Interim Pastor for McHenry.

Salary	\$38,663
Housing	\$22,000
Medical	Full coverage with Board of Pensions (the exact dollar amount is currently unknown since the Board of Pensions determines payments differently for non-Presbyterians and we have been unable as of yet to get a figure for this.)
Medical Reimbursement	\$2,500
Continuing Education	\$1,500
Books	\$300
Vacation	1 week per quarter
Grand Total	\$64,963 plus medical

CRE Jack Berghorst to serve at New Lenox effective September 12, 2017.

Salary	20 hours per week at \$30 per hour
Mileage and Tolls	at IRS rate

Geneva Fox Valley has been approved to form an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

Dismiss the Administrative Commission for the installation of Rev. Caleb Suydam at Park Church Streator.

Approve Administrative Commission for the installation of Rev. Joel Stevenor at Waltham on September 16 at 2:30 pm.

Teaching Elders:

Reverend Susan Presley, Mendota

Reverend Dr. Roy Backus, Morris

Reverend Matt Robinson, Joliet

Reverend Jack McConaghey, Honorably retired

Ruling Elders:

Jane Stevenor, Waltham

Amy Ploch, Waltham

Jeff Novota, Mt Zion

Kathy Kleckner, Waltham

Approve Administrative Commission for the installation of Rev. Daniel Robertson on October 15 at 3:00 pm. Commissioners to be named later.

Contract Extension

CRE Carrie Kapral serving Elwood Community

Salary \$33,500

Pension \$7,500 (tax-sheltered annuity or other plan)

Continuing Education \$1,500

SECA Allowance \$1,700

Professional Expenses \$3,800

Travel reimbursement at IRS rate

Continuing Education time 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays

Vacation 4 weeks, including 4 Sundays

Discretionary Days 4 days with prior notice when possible, including 2 Sundays

Grand Total \$48,000

Contract Extension Correction

Correction on the contract for Melinda Stephenson CRE, as pastor of La Prairie United Presbyterian Church: The Pension figure reported at the June Presbytery meeting was \$1,620. That number should have been \$1,992.

Miscellaneous

There are two important Board of Pensions deadlines to keep in mind:

- **October 13:** The deadline to submit final Employer Agreements for 2018 on Benefits Connect
- **October 30-November 17:** The enrollment period for 2018 benefits from the Board of Pensions is, 2017. Go to the "Selecting 2018 Benefits" section of the Board of Pensions website (pensions.org)

In response to a request for a statement assuring pastors and sessions who are concerned about being forced to participate in same-sex marriage ceremonies, the C.O.M. refers to an existing statement passed by Blackhawk Presbytery on November 11 2014:

Teaching Elders and Sessions conscience regarding performing or not performing same sex marriages as follows:

Acknowledging same sex nuptials are legal in Illinois and the PCUSA affords discretion to its teaching elders by the authoritative interpretation of the 221a General Assembly to preside or not preside at such rituals-ceremonies-rites and particular churches may host or not host such ordinances upon Session approval subject to the review of higher judicatories. Blackhawk Presbyteries will honor the consciences of teaching elders and particular churches within its bounds; noting its members are divided among those who embrace the authoritative interpretation as witness to progressive theology and those who reject it according to traditional Christianity. Presiding/participating teaching elders and hosting churches may exercise their consciences as permitted by the authoritative interpretation. No efforts to force teaching elders and session who decline to preside/participate/host will be encouraged, enabled, or condoned. Those who embrace and those who decline do not need to fear ministerial infringements or vocational reprisals in Blackhawk Presbytery.

The Presbytery Council has asked the C.O.M. to urge all sessions in Blackhawk Presbytery, while planning their budgets for 2018, to consider giving their pastors at least a cost of living increase of 2 percent.

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