

Called Session Meeting  
 First Presbyterian Church  
 Davenport, Iowa  
 October 15, 2020

This Called Meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, Iowa was held on Thursday, October 15, 2020. We continue to meet remotely due to statewide recommendations of social distancing and limitations on gatherings related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moderator Rev. Dr. Pam Saturnia, FPC Muscatine, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. A quorum was present. Rev. Katie Styrts opened with prayer and a reading from Luke 1:1-4.

	Class of 2020		Class of 2021		Class of 2022
E	<b>Samantha Crow</b> <i>Worship &amp; Music, Stewardship</i>	P	<b>Paula Burnett</b> <i>Hospitality &amp; Welcoming</i>	P	<b>Heather Calvert</b> <i>Adult Christian Education</i>
P	<b>Barbara Ehrmann</b> <i>Adult Christian Education</i>	E	<b>Dan Ellard</b> <i>Finance</i>	E	<b>Matthew Hennes</b> <i>Stewardship</i>
P	<b>Michael Ferris</b> <i>Worship &amp; Music</i>	A	<b>Jeffrey Gomez</b> <i>Congregational Development &amp; Fellowship</i>	P	<b>Matt Kabel</b> <i>Buildings &amp; Grounds</i>
A	<b>Richard Koos</b> <i>Personnel</i>	P	<b>Pete Madden</b> <i>Buildings &amp; Grounds</i>	P	<b>Jeanne Sherwood</b> <i>Hospitality &amp; Welcoming</i>
P	<b>Pamela Paulsen</b> <i>Finance</i>	P	<b>Diane Roebuck</b> <i>Christian Ed. &amp; Fellowship for Youth</i>	P	<b>Tom Spitzfaden</b> <i>Finance</i>
A	<b>RuthAnn Tobey-Brown</b> <i>Personnel</i>	P	<b>Karla Ruiters</b> <i>Congregational Development Fellowship</i>	P	<b>Vicki Stegall</b> <i>Christian Ed. &amp; Fellowship for Youth</i>
P	<b>James Woods</b> <i>Hospitality &amp; Welcoming</i>	P	<b>Don Wood</b> <i>Worship &amp; Music</i>		
P	<b>Mark Jones</b> <i>Clerk of Session</i>	<i>P- present E-Excused A-Absent</i>			

Staff members:

P	<b>Rev. Pam Saturnia</b> <i>Moderator FPC Muscatine</i>	P	<b>Rev. Katie Styrts</b> <i>Associate Pastor</i>	P	<b>Matthew Bishop</b> <i>Director of Music</i>
P	<b>Rev. Pat Halverson</b> <i>Parish Associate</i>		<b>Kristine Olson</b> <i>Finance Manager</i>	E	<b>Darren Long</b> <i>Facilities &amp; Custodial Supervisor</i>

The published agenda for this meeting was to further discuss the questions posed to Session on September 21, 2020 by the Synod Administrative Review Committee (ARC) and the questions sent to Synod by the FPC Session in July 2019.

Moderator Saturnia first informed the Session that the ARC agreed to meet with Session again at the next regularly scheduled meeting, Monday, October 1, 2020.

Moderator Saturnia then led a discussion of the questions asked of the Session by the ARC. Below are the questions and a summary of the responses. Initial responses to these questions may be found in the September 21, 2020 Session minutes.

**Question #1:** Are the 9 questions forwarded to Synod by the FPC Session in 2019 still relevant? Those questions are copied here for completeness.

1. Was Davenport's CG&P committee structure out of order?
2. After October 2017, were protocols and policies followed concerning the use of the Track III Assessment by Midwest Ministry Development for Richard Miller?
3. Given all the options available to Presbytery, did the recommendations given by MCC during a special Session meeting on Oct. 1 represent a truly measured response — both as written and as so forcefully delivered?
4. When did the Presbytery become aware that there was a conflict of interest for Harry Hoyt to serve as both COM associate and on the CG&P at his home church when addressing concerns with his own pastors? Is there a procedure to address similar conflicts in the future?
5. What was the process that COM/MCC followed from the time they were informed by Richard of a concern until Oct 1, 2018? Was that process in order and consistent with Presbytery policies? Were all parties allowed due process before decisions were made?
6. Why did Presbytery allow Jim Claypool to undertake so many roles: advocate for Richard Miller, presbytery legal counsel, negotiator and author of the settlement agreements for both sides, partial author of the Presbytery's response to the Synod, and an assigned member of the Administrative Commission, over a letter of protest from members of the Session?
7. When and how explicitly was CG&P told by Presbytery representatives that their proposed process was out of order?
8. Should the Presbytery (whether MCC or PCC) have contacted the Session much earlier than Oct. 1 to inform the Session about Presbytery's concerns about CG&P? And, if so, why didn't Presbytery officials contact the Session?
9. Was pertinent, appropriate information improperly withheld and/or was misinformation given to Session during the settlement negotiation process?

**Responses to Question #1:**

- Yes.
  - We have not received answers to any of these questions.
  - Other questions may follow from the answers to these questions.
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**Question #2: What are Session's expectations for the work of the ARC?**

**Responses to Question #2:**

- Answers so we know whether things were done right or not?
- Answer as many of the 9 questions as possible.
- Why was the (over)reaction and actions of PEIA what it was?
- Was our process as bad as Presbytery said it was and deserving the response from PEIA.
- We want to know the story; break the silence. Hear from different sides of the issues.

- Help with understanding the line between finding facts and assigning blame? How much can we be told so we understand the story and still not get into blaming? Can the ARC help us communicate this to the congregation? Will everyone see this line in the same place? Some in the congregation may want to assign blame.
  - Who gets to talk during reconciliation and share their perspective?
  - Help with understanding what reconciliation looks like.
  - Help us move forward.
  - Moving with some urgency.
  - Define our destination with reconciliation.
  - Professional help with reconciliation seems necessary. Can ARC help that?
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**Question #3:** What stands in the way of reconciliation?

**Responses to Question #3:**

- What is reconciliation? What are the goals?
  - The ship has not left the dock. (Nothing has happened)
  - Silence has led to people creating their own story.
  - If we cannot be told everything, do we need to set the level of reconciliation differently?
  - Are we willing to forgive?
  - Many perspectives and parties involved.
  - The pandemic has prevented face-to-face discussions; winter weather will reduce meeting options.
  - Time that has passed; some people still acutely interested; others less so; personnel turn-over at FPC and PEIA.
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**Question #4:** What has been done in the way of reconciliation?

**Responses to Question #4:**

- Extremely little
  - Individual people within the congregation have made peace with the issues, other members of the congregation and committees.
  - Some have chosen to let it go and move on.
  - Relationship between PEIA has not changed or maybe even hardened; related to secrecy. Continued presence of PEIA personnel at Session meeting has been difficult. Some past comments by PEIA were seen as harsh and insulting. We don't understand the PEIA response in October 2018 and have been in disarray since. Have not felt PEIA was straight forward enough in talking with FPC. Even if PEIA actions were "by the book" it didn't feel good.
  - No conversations are known between FPC and Rev. Miller.
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**Question #5:** Would you like to meet together again?

**Responses to Question #5:** Affirmed our previous answer of definitely yes.

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**Additional comments:**

- A meeting/interview between the ARC and 2018-2019 Session members no longer on Session might be helpful for the ARC and ex-Session members.
- We very much want the process to move forward with a sense of urgency. We feel like nothing has happened in now almost 2 years.
- If we don't know what we did wrong, we can't make the right changes.
- Meeting between Session and PEIA would not likely be fruitful at the moment. Trust is low. It may be helpful to hear their perspective but we need perspective of others, also. Maybe after hearing more of the story, a meeting might be helpful.
- It has been 2 years since this issue broke. We have been on the sidelines since.

**Moderator Saturnia** asked and received a verbal consensus that she may share tonight's responses with the ARC ahead of our meeting together on October 19, 2020.

**ADJOURNMENT** – On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM with prayer by Rev. Pat Halverson.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Davenport, Iowa will be held on October 19, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

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Moderator,  
The Rev. Dr. Pamela Saturnia

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Clerk of Session  
Mark Jones