PRESBYTERY OF LAKE HURON

Stated Meeting – March 7, 2017

The Presbytery of Lake Huron was called to order with prayer by the Moderator, Elder CJ Merriman, at 9:30 a.m., on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at First Presbyterian Church, Flint, Michigan.

The roll was taken, and the moderator announced that a quorum was present. [ATTACHMENT A]

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to adopt the docket as amended.

Welcome by the host pastor, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Novak was given.

Visitors, new clergy and elder commissioners were introduced.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to seat the following as Corresponding Members: The Rev. Douglas Portz (Pittsburgh), the Rev. Philomena Ofori-Nipaah (National Capital), the Rev. David Weber (Lake Michigan), the Rev. Martin Han (Mid Kentucky) and David Gambrell (Mid Kentucky).

A reminder was given to silence phones.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to approve the Consent Agenda which included:

- 1. Approved the minutes for the January 17, 2017 Special Meeting and the December 6, 2016 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.
- 2. Approved the following actions with regard to the review of Session minutes and Church Registers:
 - a. The minutes of the following churches be approved without exception: Birch Run-Taymouth
 - b. The church registers for the following churches be approved without exception: Birch Run-Taymouth
- 3. Granted the request of Harbor Beach-First for an exception to and waiver of the requirements of G-2.0404, to allow the re-election of elders who have served two consecutive terms.
- 4. Granted the request of Flint-Trinity United to pay their 2017 Per Capita in four installments, to be completed by December 31, 2017.

A short **BREAK** was taken prior to **WORSHIP**.

WORSHIP included a **CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**, sermon led by the Rev. Dr. Joseph Novak and an **OFFERING** to Presbytery of South Louisiana for relief from the New Orleans tornadoes, with preference for application to the housing facility for Project Homecoming volunteers which was destroyed.

A short **BREAK** was taken prior to the Equipping for Ministry time.

The **EQUIPPING FOR MINISTRY** time was led by David Gembrell, Associate for Worship in the Theology and Worship for the PC(USA). David led the presbytery in a time on how to use the Directory for Worship.

The **BOARD OF PENSIONS** report was given by our representative, the Rev. Doug Portz.

Adjourned for lunch at 12:30 pm following prayer by the Moderator.

Reconvened at 1:15 pm following prayer by the Vice Moderator.

The Rev. Karen Blatt gave a report on Camp Westminster and various hunger programs that congregations in the presbytery are engaged in during **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.**

The **COORDINATING TEAM** report was given by the Rev. Dr. Wally Mayton. The Rev. Dr. Rhonda Myers spoke regarding the Syrian Refugee Resolution prior to the vote. The Rev. Dr. Dan Saperstein and Elder CJ Merriman gave a presentation regarding the work of the Vision Task Force. Past Presbytery Moderators were presented wooden cross necklaces in gratitude for their service.

The Coordinating Team recommended and presbytery approved:

1. The resolution which addresses the indefinite suspension of all Syrian refugees from entry into the U.S. [ATTACHMENT B] A paper ballot was taken with 42 Yes votes, 4 No votes and 2 Abstained.

The Coordinating Team presents the following items for information:

- A Vision Task Force was appointed to implement Presbytery Plans for 2017. Vision Task Force members are: Teaching Elders Dan Saperstein, Desiree Lawson, Katja Gruening, and Ruling Elders Kathleen Rowe, Luz Ytterock and CJ Merriman.
- 3. Appointed Doug Abel as the Coordinating Team representative to the Fairgrove Response Team.

- Designated \$3,100 from DUA account 000-000-21030 Presbytery Disaster Relief as well as requested funding in the amount of \$5,000 from the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program in support of the 2017 Fresh Flint Festival.
- 5. Designated a grant of \$1,000 from DUA account 000-000-21494 Presbytery Peacemaking Offering to Rev. Cathy Chang to assist with travel costs in order that she might interpret her work combating human trafficking at the June 2017 meeting and elsewhere in the U.S.
- 6. Designated that the offering from the March presbytery meeting be forwarded to the Presbytery of South Louisiana for relief from the New Orleans tornadoes, with preference for application to the housing facility for Project Homecoming volunteers which was destroyed.

Note: Project Homecoming is the ongoing Presbyterian response to rebuild housing from Katrina. The building that was destroyed was owned by the Presbytery. The Rev. Ron Sutto is General Presbyter of PSL, and is a product of the Presbytery of Lake Huron.

The **PERSONNEL TEAM** report was given by the Rev. Dan Saperstein. An update on the search for a part-time Financial Secretary for the presbytery was given.

The **TRUSTEES** report was given by the Rev. Dr. Dan Saperstein.

The Trustees presented the following items for information:

- 1. Yeo & Yeo Computer Consulting was awarded the contract to install a new server at the Presbytery Office. Installation was completed in December, 2016.
- 2. Yeo & Yeo CPAs will conduct a financial review of the 2016 financial records for an expected amount of \$5,000. The review is anticipated to be completed by February, 2017.

The **EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER** report was given by the Rev. Dr. Dan Saperstein.

The Moderator resumed the chair.

The **STATED CLERK** report was given by the Rev. Ted McCulloch.

The Stated Clerk presented the following items for action. Vote tallies for each amendment are listed below:

- 1. Voted on the following amendments from the 222nd General Assembly:
 - a. Amending G-3.0106: Child and Youth Protection Policy Yes 43; No Zero
 - b. Amending G-3.0109: Parity in Committees Yes 43; No 2
 - c. Eight (8) Amendments on Ordered Ministry titles. (Note: 1-5 were voted on as a group, the voting tally is listed with item 1; 6 & 7 were voted on together, the voting tally is listed with item 6)
 - i. Amending F-3.0202 Yes 43; No 2
 - ii. Amending G-2.0102
 - iii. Amending G-2.0301
 - iv. Amending G-2.05 and G-2.0501
 - v. Amending G-2.0701
 - vi. Amending G-3.0307 Yes 4; No 39
 - vii. Amending Titles in Directory for Worship and Rules of Discipline
 - viii. Amending W-4.4001a Yes 21, No 20
 - d. Two Amendments on the Relationship to the PC(USA) of a Person Who Has Renounced Jurisdiction of the Church.
 - i. Amending G-2.0509 Yes 38, No 5
 - ii. Amending D-10.0401 Yes 47, No Zero

- e. Amending G-2.1101: Certified Service Requirements Yes 47, No Zero
- f. Amending G-1.0304: The Ministry of Members Yes 46, No Zero
- g. Amending W-2.4011a and b: Access to the Lord's Table. If the Revised Directory for Worship is approved by the presbyteries, this language will already be included. Yes 40, No 1
- h. Amending the Directory for Worship: Replacing with the Revised Directory for Worship. Yes 47, No Zero
- 2. Approved the motion as amended regarding Alma-Eastminster. [ATTACHMENT C]

The Stated Clerk reported the following items for information:

- 3. The Presbytery Meeting in September will be moved from September 19, 2017 to September 12, 2017 to accommodate the scheduling of a visit from one of the Co-Moderators of the General Assembly, Denise Anderson, who will also be part of Midland-Memorial's 150th anniversary celebration. In addition, that date allows her to visit other Michigan presbyteries.
- 4. The following invitations have been received to host presbytery stated meetings in 2018:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
March 6	OPEN	9:30 am
June 5	OPEN	9:30 am
September 18	Tawas-Tawas Area	9:30 am
December 4	Flint-Trinity United	9:30 am

Invitations are being accepted for the 2018 Presbytery meetings. We are especially looking for churches that have round tables that we can use for discussion and meeting time. If you have any questions, please call the Stated Clerk.

The **COMMISSION ON MINISTRY** report was given by Elder Janie Gugino. Introductions of new pastors were given. They are: the Rev. Alex Peterson (Lapeer-First). The Rev. Scott Kroener (Birch Run-Taymouth) and the Rev. Philomena Ofori-Nipaah.

The Commission on Ministry reported that it took the following actions on behalf of presbytery:

- Approved the Administrative Commission to Install the Rev. John "Scott" Kroener as Pastor of Birch Run-Taymouth on Sunday, February 26, 2017 at 3:00pm. Members include: Elders CJ Merriman, Moderator (Lapeer-First), Ed Savage (Birch Run-Taymouth) and Janie Gugino (Saginaw-First); The Revs. Linda Graham, Ted McCulloch, Teresa Peterson and the Rev. Dr. Dan Saperstein.
- 2. Approve as Moderator of Session until their installations for:
 - a. Scott Kroener at Birch Run-Taymouth
 - b. Alex Peterson at Lapeer-First
- 3. Added Jon Essex to the Pulpit Supply List
- 4. Approved the part-time CRE covenant renewal between Elders Henry and Mary Kubin and Alma-Eastminster for a period of one year, effective January 1, 2017. Terms are as follows:

Salary \$475/month Social Security/Medicare \$36.36 Continuing Education None listed Book Allowance None listed

Travel Reimbursement At current IRS Rate

Vacation Allowance 4 weeks per year including 4 Sundays

Study Leave None listed

A mentor was not listed on the contract. Previously the Rev. Joseph Novak had served as their mentor.

5. Approved the part-time CRE covenant renewal between Elder Kathy Grimes and Elkton-Chandler for a period of one year, effective January 1, 2017. Terms are as follows:

Salary \$341.87/month

Social Security/Medicare \$47.19 Medical Coverage \$275/month

Housing Arrangement Use of Kinde manse including utilities;

electric, heat and garbage

Continuing Education \$325/year

Book Allowance \$0

Telephone Phone provided

Travel Reimbursement \$800/year at current IRS Rate

Vacation Allowance 28 days per year including 4 Sundays Study Leave 14 days per year including 2 Sundays

The Rev. Linda Graham will serve as her mentor.

6. Approved changing the status of the Rev. Michael Loenshal to Honorably Retired effective March 1, 2017.

- 7. Approved changing the status of the Rev. Ken Hetzel to Honorably Retired effective August 31, 2017. (Last day in the pulpit will be 8/27)
- 8. Appointed the Rev. Matt Schramm as the Commission on Ministry's Board of Pensions Representative.
- 9. Approved the CRE covenant renewals for Elders Chris Wolf and Mark Garavaglia. Details are as follows:

Part-time CRE covenant renewal between Elder Chris Wolf and Marlette-First and Marlette-Second for a period of one year, effective January 1, 2017. Terms are as follows:

Salary \$900/week Social Security/Medicare As required Continuing Education \$2,100/year

Travel Reimbursement At current IRS Rate

Vacation Allowance 4 weeks per year including 4 Sundays Study Leave 2 weeks per year including 2 Sundays

The Rev. Dr. Rhonda Myers will serve as her mentor.

Part-time Commissioned Ruling Elder covenant renewal between Elder Mark Garavaglia and Deckerville-First for a period of one year effective January 5, 2017. Terms are as follows:

Salary \$200/week
Housing Manse/Utilities
Telephone Calls Reimbursable
Continuing Education Reimbursable
Book Allowance \$400/year

Travel At current IRS Rate

Reimbursement

Vacation Allowance 4 weeks per year including 4 Sundays Study Leave 2 weeks per year including 2 Sundays

The Rev. Katja Gruening will be asked to serve as his mentor.

The **COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY** report was given by the Rev. Dr. Rhonda Myers. An update on current Inquirers and Candidates was presented.

Attendees were encouraged to complete their feedback forms prior to leaving.

The meeting adjourned following prayer by the Moderator at 3:15 pm.

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Lake Huron will be held Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at Alma College, Alma, Michigan, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ted McCulloch Stated Clerk

<u>ATTACHMENT A – Attendance</u>

	Present	Excused	<u>Absent</u>		Present	Excused	<u>Absent</u>
NAME OF MINISTER				NAME OF MINISTER			
Abel, Doug	1			Moody, Chris			1
Ahn, Daniel (HR)		1		Musgrave, John (HR)		1	
Anderson, Kenneth (HR)		1		Myers, David	1		
Baird, George (HR)		1		Myers, Rhonda	1		
Becker, John (HR)		1		Neumann, James	1	_	
Blackburn, David (HR)				Neuville, Donald (HR)		1	
Blatt, Karen (HR)	1			Novak, Joseph	1		
Borycz, Edward	1			Offrink, James (HR)	1		
Brackbill, Thomas	1			Ofori-Nipaah, Philomena	1		
Brooks, Alexander (HR)		1		Pak, Shimon			1
Browne, Jim		1		Park, Dong Won (HR)		1	
Browne, Roger (HR)		1		Parker, Kenneth	1		
Carnes, Lindsey		1		Peterson, Alex	1		
Carnes, Robbie		1		Peterson, Theresa	1		
Chambers, Janice (HR)		1		Rasmussen-Baker, Jill		1	
Chang, Catherine		1		Russell, Peter (HR)		1	
Clark, Bert (HR)		1		Saperstein, Dan	1		
Cundiff, Thomas (HR)		1		Schacher, Tom		1	
Cunningham, Bruce (HR)		1		Schramm, Matthew	1		
Der-Garabedian, Lucy		1		Shoemaker, Rodney		1	
Emrich, Robert (HR)	1			Shugert, Stephen (HR)		1	
Eshelman, David (HR)		1		Snyder, Noel	1		
Evans-Justin, Mary Anne	(HR)	1		Stilwell, Elizabeth		1	
Gates, Fred (HR)		1		Stratton, Brian		1	
Gates, Sharlyn	1			Swihart, Dale (HR)		1	
Gillette, George (HR)	1			Taylor, Robert (HR)		1	
Graham, Linda		1		Walser, Joseph (HR)		1	
Grant, Glenn	1			Weenink, Jeffrey			1
Grimes, Ronald (HR)		1		Ytterock, Paul	1		
Gruening, Katja	1			Zaki, Raafat	1		
Hetzel, Kenneth	1			Total Present	29		
Hunter, Rhashell		1		Total Excused	40		
Kroener, John Scott	1			Total Absent	5		
Lakey, Robert (HR)	1				Ü		
Lawson, Desiree	1						
Lawther, Richard (HR)	'	1					
Leas, Robert (HR)		1					
		1					
Lee, Hoon Koo		ı	4				
Lee, Joungnam		4	1				
Loenshal, Michael		1	,				
Marquardt, Charles			1				
Mayton, Wally	1						
McCulloch, Ted	1						
McMellen, Larry (HR)		1					
Miller, Andrew		1					

ATTACHMENT A – Attendance (Continued)

-	Present	Absent	Elder Commissioner(s) Present
NAME OF CHURCH			
Alma-Eastminster		1	
Alma-First		1	
Bay City-First	1		Rex Thatchell
Bay City-Westminster	1		Pam Binder
Beaverton	·	1	
Birch Run	1	•	Lil Ostrom
Breckenridge	·	1	
Caro		1	
Cass City-First		1	
Cass City-Fraser		1	
Croswell		1	
Davison		1	
Deckerville		1	
Elkton-Chandler		1	
Fairgrove		1	
Fenton-First	2	'	Nancy Parkin, Janet K. Stork
Fenton-Tyrone	_	1	Nancy Farkin, bance N. Oton
Flint-First	3	1	Bryant Crane, Mary Delaney, Linda Smith
Flint-Trinity United	0	1	Bryant Grane, Mary Belancy, Emaa Grinti
Flint-Unity	1	•	Shirley Hale
Flushing	1		Karen Howe
Grand Blanc-Kirkridge	'	1	Raidiffiowe
Harbor Beach	1	'	William Rayment
Holly	1		Charlee Litten
Houghton Lake		1	Chance Ellion
Ithaca-First	1	•	Vickie Thum
Ithaca-Lafayette		1	Violito Titalii
Kinde-First	1	•	Bonnie Rapson
Lapeer	1		Justine Speer
Linden	1		Bruce Walker
Marlette-First	·	1	2. 300 T. S.I.T.O.
Marlette-Second		1	
Midland-Chapel Lane	1	•	Dan Veresh
Midland-Memorial	2		Tom Ryden, William Lauderbach
Mt. Pleasant		1	,,
Rosebush		1	
Saginaw-Countryside Trinity	v 1		Mary Ann Parker
Saginaw-First	1		Janie Gugino
Saginaw-Korean		1	3
Saginaw-Second	1		Doug Byron
Saginaw-Warren Avenue		1	
Sandusky	1		Patricia Kreiner
Swartz Creek	1		Gail Smith
Tawas	1		Laurie Jacot
Twining		1	
Ubly		1	
Vassar	1		Steve Franko
Yale		1	
Total Present	26		
Total Represented	22		
Total Not Represented	26		

ATTACHMENT A – Attendance (Continued)

ELDER MEMBERS	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	Excused
Mark Battell (Coordinating Team)			1
Andrea Drapp (Trustee)			1
Adam Engel (Coordinating Team)			1
Doug Gorringe (Coordinating			
Team)			1
Janie Gugino (COM Moderator) ***			
Linda Langrill (Coordinating Team)	1		
Georgia McCall (PW Moderator)	1		
CJ Merriman (Moderator)	1		
Cliff Miles (Trustee)			1
Tom Miles (Coordinating Team)			1
Delphine Moore (Coordinating			
Team)			1
Mary Ann Parker (Nominating			
Team) ***			
Roger Scovill (Treasurer)			1
Roger Terrill (Coordinating Team)	1		
Total Elder Members	4	0	8
*** Signed in as Elder Commissioner	r. did not count he	re	

Signed in as Elder Commissioner, did not count here

COMMISIONED RULING ELDERS	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	Excused
Mark Garavaglia			1
Kathy Grimes			1
Shaun Hardimon			1
Henry Kubin			1
Mary Kubin			1
Linda Living-Hawley			1
Liz Long			1
Sam McKim			1
Charles Moerdyk			1
Peggy Ronk			1
Kathleen Rowe	1		
Chris Wolf	1		
CRE Attending	2		
CRE Not Attending	0		
CRE Excused	10		

CATEGORY	Present	Absent	Excused
Members of Presbytery	29	5	40
Corresponding Members	5		
Commissioned Ruling Elders	2	0	10
Church Commissioners	26	26	
Elder Members	4	0	8
Visitors (Including LHP Staff)	13		
Total People in Attendance	79		
Churches represented	22		
Churches not represented		26	

<u>ATTACHMENT B – Resolution on Suspension of Syrian Refugee Resettlement</u>

Resolution on Suspension of Syrian Refugee Resettlement - Revised at the March 7, 2017 Stated Meeting of Presbytery

Whereas the President of the United States, by Executive Order on March 6, 2017 has suspended persons from Syria, including previously vetted refugees, from entry into the United States, which further harms those who are victims of terrorism, genocide, religious and gender-based persecution, and civil war; and

Whereas God commands us in scripture to welcome the stranger and give safe haven to the refugee, as found in Exodus 22:21, Leviticus 19:33-34, Deuteronomy 10:18-19, Matthew 25:31-46 and elsewhere; and

Whereas the people of Israel were aliens in the lands of Egypt and Babylon; and

Whereas Jesus himself, with his family, began life as a refugee; and

Whereas the Presbytery of Lake Huron has given support to the resettlement of refugees in our bounds through the Tri-cities Refugee Welcome Initiative;

Be it therefore resolved that the Presbytery of Lake Huron, of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), meeting on this 7th day of March 2017:

- bears witness to the biblical faith that commands us to treat strangers and aliens with justice and compassion;
- reaffirms its commitment to extending compassion and hospitality to refugees;
- opposes any policy that discriminates against refugees by nationality, color, or religion as contrary to our faith and our national values;
- and urges the President to resume and expediate the resettlement of Syrian refugees, and to restore the values of compassion and hospitality essential to our identity and integrity as a nation.

<u>ATTACHMENT C – Alma-Eastminster Motion</u>

Whereas the Presbytery has received communication that the congregation of Eastminster Presbyterian Church of Alma, Michigan has closed its doors and will no longer conduct worship services; and

Whereas the Presbytery has the constitutional right and responsibility to oversee the dissolution of congregations within its jurisdiction (G-3.0301a); and

Whereas the Session and Congregation of Eastminster Presbyterian Church have served Jesus Christ in and through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) faithfully; and

Whereas the Session and Congregation of Eastminster Presbyterian Church are in need of immediate assistance and guidance in resolving legal issues related to the potential dissolution of the church and disposition of its property and records;

Therefore, the Presbytery of Lake Huron meeting in plenary assembly March 7, 2017 does hereby authorize the Moderator of the Presbytery to appoint an Administrative Commission of not fewer than four persons and not more than seven persons with the following charge and authorization:

- To inquire with the Co-pastors (CREs), Session, and Congregation of Eastminster Presbyterian Church regarding their decision to close;
- To advise the Co-pastors (CREs), Session, and Congregation of Eastminster Presbyterian Church regarding the process and timeline by which the Presbytery will work with them to facilitate the dissolution of the church;
- To work with the Co-pastors (CREs) and session of Eastminster Presbyterian Church to secure the building and other assets of the church pending a plan for their transfer and/or distribution;
- Upon request of the session to assume original jurisdiction of the Session to oversee the orderly closure of the church and disposition of its assets, and the transfer of members to other churches of their choosing;
- To assist in the planning and conduct of an appropriate service of closure recognizing the faithful ministry of the church;
- To act in concert with the Board of Trustees on behalf of the Presbytery of Lake Huron to effect
 the legal closure of the church and to recommend to the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery
 concerning the disposition of its assets, consulting with the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery
 as may be helpful and necessary; and
- To assist in providing for the spiritual care of the members of Eastminster Presbyterian Church during a reasonable period of transition;
- To recommend to the Commission on Ministry any terms that may be advisable regarding the termination of the pastoral contracts between the congregation and the Co-pastors (CREs); and
- To resolve any and all matters regarding the closure of Eastminster Presbyterian Church on behalf of the Presbytery as may be needed, except as noted above.