Presbytery of Detroit
Minutes of Presbytery
August 26, 2014

The Presbytery of Detroit convened with prayer in a stated meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor on August 26, 2014 at 4:01 p.m. Harold Ellis moderated the meeting.

The Moderator declared the presence of a quorum.
The Moderator appointed Anna Cooke the Assistant to the Stated Clerk.
The Moderator welcomed new commissioners and teaching elders.
Upon motion of the Stated Clerk, Presbytery approved the docket as amended.
Upon motion of the Stated Clerk, Presbytery excused those who have requested to be excused.

Fairfax Fair welcomed Presbytery to Ann Arbor First.

Reports from Other Governing Bodies

COLA
Peter Smith reported for the Committee on Local Arrangements. He thanked the members of the Leadership Committee for their efforts and leadership, Presbytery, and the 1600 individuals who volunteered. Mr Timm thanked Mr Smith, and presented the commemorative plate given Presbytery by the Office of the General Assembly.

Synod Commissioners
Raphael Francis reported on the Synod meeting at Muskingum University on August 8 & 9.

WE LISTENED FOR THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT IN OUR COMMUNITY

Announcements
Presbytery heard announcements about:
Month of Mission Activities.
Regional NEXT Church Gathering.
Theological Education
Michigan Presbyterian Pilgrimage
Communications Work Group
Worship workshops for advent.
ELC MCM team re the shooting of Michael Brown.
Novi Outreach
Reported on the campus ministry here. Presbyterian Campus Ministry at the UofM Fundraising breakfast.
Planning and Visioning Team Working group to begin thinking and dreaming about the future of the Presbytery.

Reports
Presbytery heard a report on activities of the Hands-on Mission Workgroup; the Food bank; Health festivals. Grant writing workshops; Calvin east; food collected at the General Assembly.

Coordinating Cabinet
The Coordinating Cabinet reported the following for the information of Presbytery:
1. The Coordinating Cabinet is continuing its study of “Holy Currencies,” the book by Eric Law.

2. The Coordinating Cabinet heard a report on the Month of Mission, which will be October. Four mission workers from the General Assembly will be her for the period September 27-October 5, and will be available for preaching. The Month of Mission Breakfast will be October 4 at Redford St James.

3. The Coordinating Cabinet heard from the Communications Workgroup on the use of the website, and trainings for it. It also reported its plans for projecting information during the Presbytery meetings.

4. The Coordinating Cabinet heard a report from the Stated Clerk on the fate of our 2 overtures to the General Assembly: the Presbyterian Women overture on the control of ammunition was eventually approved by the General Assembly and incorporated into a resolution with other gun violence measures; the per capita overture was defeated. Mr Koster reported he is looking at another means to accomplish our purpose.

5. The Coordinating Cabinet heard a report by the Stated Clerk on his article “This is not a drill,” to be published in the Outlook. This will be heavily critical of the General Assembly vote to approve the authoritative interpretation to permit teaching elders to perform same-sex marriages. Mr Koster reported that the process was so alarming that it has motivated him to solicit support from sessions to file a remedial case against the Advisory Committee on the Constitution. Mr Koster reported he is doing neither in his capacity as Stated Clerk.

6. The Coordinating Cabinet approved a proposal that the Stated Clerk present a class Palestine from the Beginning: The Land of Palestine in the Course of History. The intention of the class is to provide a deep background in the history of Palestine, beginning with earliest references, so that people may a better understanding of what is happening there today. It was proposed to him as pastors discussed the divestment resolution by the General Assembly in June. The class will not discuss divestment per se until the very last class. The class was assigned to the Social Justice Team for sponsorship.

WE RESPONDED TO CHRIST’S CALL TO MISSION AND MINISTRY


Mr Timm celebrated ordination anniversaries: Thomas James (10), Jason Pittman (10), Sharon Mook (35), William Zambon (35), Allen Timm (40), Robert Agnew (45), Douglas Carter (50), Kevin Johnson (30), Breanne Ryan (5), and Paul Sutton (70). He noted that Carol Tate received her DMin from Austin Seminary. He thanked the office staff, and particularly Sandy Jensen for their assistance in hosting the General Assembly. He noted that the flooding caused damage to a number of churches, and asked for volunteers to assist in the cleanup. Hands-on Mission has been involved, and we have received a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance grant.

The Moderator offered a prayer for openness.

Committee Items for Action

Treasurer Timothy Ngare reported.

Mr Ngare presented his report. (The report is appended to the minutes.)

Committee on Nominations Stefanie Lewis reported for the Committee.

Upon nomination of the Committee, there being no nominations from the floor, Presbytery elected:

For the vacancy of the Class of 2015 on the Multicultural Ministries Team:
Rev. Lindsay Anderson, Pastor, Detroit--Cooperative Parish (ELCA)
For the vacancy in the Class of 2016 on the Presbytery Operations Team:
Rev. Peggy Casteel, Pastor, Mt. Clemens--First

**Vanderbeek Administrative Commission** Lawrence Gage reported for the AC
Lawrence Gage presented the report of the Commission. (The report is appended to the minutes.) Upon motion of the AC, Presbytery voted to accept the report.

**Trustees.** Tom Neal reported for the Trustees.

Upon motion of the Trustees, Presbytery voted to:
1. Grant the Trustees authority to approve the sale of a parcel of the Ann Arbor Northside Church property at the appraised value.
2. Approve offerings at this at the next 2 meetings to contribute toward the burial expenses of those in the Wayne County Morgue for whom there are no funds available.

The Trustees reported the following for the information of Presbytery:
1. The Trustees have voted to renew the PILP certificate of deposit in the amount of $200,000 for 12 months.
2. The Trustees voted to release the automobile insurance refund for a vehicle they have covered with their own insurance to the 2nd Mile Center.
3. The Trustees voted to release the insurance check for a stolen vehicle to the 2nd Mile Center.
4. The Trustees voted to approve the purchase of a scanner for the purpose of digitizing our records.
5. The Trustees have requested a budget that includes a new item for training and education for church treasurers.
6. The Trustees are working with the Howell Center to create a single entity LLC.
7. In response to a request from the Michigan Funeral Directors Association, the Trustees voted to approve $8000 from fund 200 to help bury the those held in the Wayne County morgue, in cooperation with the Archdiocese of Detroit and the Jewish Federation of Detroit.
8. The Trustees are preparing a figure for the funds available for payment of per capita to synod and the General Assembly, and providing it to the Planning and Visioning Team for consideration of the budget and budget expenditures.

**Stated Clerk.** Edward Koster reported.

Upon motion of the Stated Clerk, Presbytery voted to:
1. Approve the minutes of April 22, 2014, amended to show that no additional elders were added to Grosse Pointe Memorial or Plymouth First. (Amended: p.1 Paul Melrose should be identified as a member of the Detroit Conference of the United Methodist Church; p. 2 re video. Should read: “Presbytery viewed the video about the February 2014 trip to Thika Presbytery in Kenya.”)
2. Dismiss Investigating Committee 2014-01 with thanks.
3. Dismiss Investigating Committee 2012-02 with thanks.
4. Approve the review of session records as follow:
   - Ann Arbor Calvary: No Exceptions
   - Beverly Hills Northbrook: With exceptions
   - Ann Arbor First: No exceptions
   - Birmingham First: With exceptions
   - Ann Arbor Westminster: No exceptions
   - & correction
   - Berkley Greenfield: With Exceptions
   - (No register)
The Stated Clerk reported the following for the information of Presbytery:

1. **TRANSFERS COMPLETED**
   
   From the Presbytery of Detroit:
   
   Jeffrey Fox-Kline to Philadelphia

2. I have received a letter from G. Patrick Thompson renouncing the jurisdiction of the church. He has been stricken from the roll pursuant to G-2.0509. It was effective upon receipt, 8/7/14.

3. I have received a complaint against a member of the Presbytery. The Moderator and I have appointed the following members to IC 2014-01:
   
   Teaching Elder Fran Hayes
   
   Teaching Elder John Foster
   
   Ruling Elder Mary Ann Brantley

4. Investigating Committee 2012-02 has reported it will not file charges.

5. At the April meeting, Presbytery approved an overture to the General Assembly that would request that the General Assembly advocate for limitations on the sale of ammunition. The General Assembly received the overture but has not accepted it for action because the required concurrence has not been received by the deadline. It was submitted as a commissioner’s resolution, and approved by incorporation into a more comprehensive resolution on gun violence.
6. I report activities in which I am engaged. I do not do these things as Stated Clerk but as a private Presbyterian.

   I was very distressed when the General Assembly approved the authoritative interpretation of W-4.9000 (which states that marriage is a civil contract between a man and a woman) to allow pastors to conduct same-sex marriage. I am not opposed to allowing pastors to conduct same-sex marriages, but I believe the process by which that was approved seriously damages the church. I wrote a letter to the Outlook before the GA adjourned from that session.

   After the Assembly, I was approached by members of a church in the Presbytery asking what can be done about the AI. I advised that the only way would be by filing a remedial case against the Advisory Committee on the Constitution. When I reviewed the tapes of the GA session, I concluded that the process was so egregious a violation of our procedures that it needs to be corrected. I then decided to solicit a remedial case against the ACC, which I continue to do. I also wrote out my concerns as a way to persuade people and sessions to sign on. That writing eventually became an article “This is not a drill,” which will be published by the Presbyterian Outlook.

7. D-5.0206b requires that the Stated Clerk keep and report to Presbytery a roster of Permanent Judicial Commission members whose terms have expired within the last six years. That roster is:

   Class of 2011  Ruling Elder Francile Anderson
   Class of 2011  Teaching Elder Neeta Nichols
   Class of 2011  Ruling Elder Artheillia Thompson
   Class of 2009  Teaching Elder Robert Perdue
   Class of 2009  Ruling Elder James Tubbs
   Class of 2009  Ruling Elder Allan Kiste
   Class of 2007  Teaching Elder John Mishler

   I received the following Communication:
   From the Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Covenant stating that the 2013 minutes of the Presbytery were approved without exception.

Social Justice Team

   Upon motion of the Team, Presbytery voted to reaffirm Artheillia Thompson as the Hunger Action Coordinator of the Presbytery of Detroit for 2015.

Committee on Ministry: Neeta Nichols reported for the Committee.

   Upon motion of the Committee, Presbytery voted to:
   1. Rescind the commission of Cindy Rouse-Baird to the position of Director of Pastoral Care at Trinity Health Systems.
   2. Transfer Rev. Jason Huff from Presbytery of Detroit to the Midwest Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, per his request.
   3. Bestow the status of Honorably Retired to Rev. William Zambon, effective July 31, 2014. (Change of date.)
5. **Approve** the four-month Interim Pastor contract renewal between **Rev. Don Wright**, and **Erin, Roseville**, effective September 1, 2014, to December 1, 2014. Time: 18 hours/week. Terms: Salary $2,665.66; Social Security $220.82; Medical Reimbursement $6,000; Continuing Education $280; Professional Expenses $2,000. Vacation: Two weeks, Study Leave: One week. (Note: Terms are the same as previously approved.)

6. **Approve** the attached 2015 Minimum Terms of Call for Presbytery of Detroit with the inclusion of the following language:

   “Detroit Presbytery requires Employing Organizations to pay all dues for Mandated Plan Member Medical Insurance through the Board of Pensions and, where needed, for Dependent Medical Insurance through the Board of Pensions. We encourage Employing Organizations to verify appropriate, comparable insurance coverage for dependents who choose to opt out of Board of Pensions coverage.”

The Minimum Terms of Call as amended are appended to the Minutes.

The Committee reported actions taken under the authority granted it. It has:

1. **Approved** the Parish Associate contract between **Joanne Morgan** and **South Lyon**. Terms: part-time (20 hours/week), no compensation. Responsibilities include children and youth programs, in addition to worship and outreach. This is an ordainable call.

2. **Approved** the one-year **Parish Associate** contract between **Rev. Catharine McCloskey-Turner** and **Faith Community, Novi**, effective April 1, 2014. Terms: ¼ time (10 hours/week), Salary $10,200; Vacation four weeks; Study Leave two weeks.

3. **Approved** the one-year **Parish Associate** contract between **Rev. Barb McRae** and **Northside, Ann Arbor**, effective May 11, 2014. Terms: variable hours, as needed; Compensation $125/Sunday when leading worship.

4. **Approved** the one-year Temporary Supply contract renewal between **Rev. Karen Stunkel** and **Southminster, Taylor**, effective January 1, 2014. Terms: Full time; Salary $27,898; Housing $17,400; Social Security $2,252; Full Pension $17,685; Medical deductible $500; Study Leave $1,200; Reimbursed Travel $4,470; Business Expense $1,000; Annuity $2,978. Vacation: four weeks including four Sundays; Study Leave: two weeks; Family Sundays: two annually.

5. **Approved** the **Interim Pastor** contract renewal between **Rev. Don Wright** and **Erin, Roseville** effective March 1, 2014, through August 31, 2014. Time: 18 hours/week. Terms: Salary $2,665.66; Social Security $220.82; Medical Reimbursement $6,000; Continuing Ed $280; Professional Expenses $2,000. Vacation: two weeks; Study Leave: one week.

6. **Approved** the one-year Transitional Associate Pastor contract renewal between **First, Farmington** and **Rev. Jim Faile**, effective January 1, 2014. Terms: Full time; Salary $37,000; Housing $24,000; Additional Term Life Insurance $1,584; Social Security offset $4,788; Pension and Medical $21,905; Medical deductible $1,200; Travel and professional expenses (by voucher) $3,200; Study Leave $1,323. Vacation: one month including five Sundays; Study Leave: Two weeks. (June)

7. **Approved** the dissolution of the Transitional Associate Pastoral Relationship between **Rev. James Faile** and **First, Farmington Hills**. (July)

8. **Approved** the Interim Pastor contract between **Rev. James Faile** and **First, Farmington Hills**, effective July 1, 2014. Terms: 1 year; Full time; Salary $40,000; Housing $24,000; Social Security $4,896; Pension $7,870; Medical Deductible $1,700; Travel $3,400; Study Leave $1,466; Major Medical $15,084; Additional Term Life Insurance $1,584. Vacation: One month including four Sundays. Study Leave: Two weeks. (July)
9. **Approved** the one year Interim Pastor contract renewal between **First, Saline**, and **Rev. Jennifer Clark**, effective June 24, 2014. Terms: Full time; Salary $45,938; Housing $11,000; 403B Retirement Plan $6,000; Social Security offset $4,550; Pension and Medical $20,087; Medical deductible $1,650; Travel $1,500; Professional Expenses $1,750. Vacation: one month including four Sundays; Study leave: Two weeks. In addition, one additional week including one Sunday of unused vacation from 2013-2014 is rolled over into this contract period.


11. **Approved** the one-year Parish Associate contract renewal between **Rev. Dr. Louis J. Prues** and **Jefferson Avenue, Detroit**, effective February 1, 2014. Terms: 10 hours/week; Compensation: $10,500; Vacation: Twelve Sundays.

12. **Granted permission**, for **Rev. Paul Stunkel** to labor outside the bounds of the Presbytery of Detroit for the purpose of baptizing his granddaughter, Colet Stunkel, in Mooresville, NC, at the invitation of Trinity Presbytery in Winston-Salem, NC, on Saturday, July 19, 2014.

13. Pending the congregation’s vote on August 10, 2014, **Concurred** with the request from **University, Rochester**, to dissolve the Associate Pastor relationship with **Rev. Marianne Grano**, effective August 17, 2014.

14. **Approved** the one year Parish Associate contract renewal between **Rev. Elizabeth Rice** and **First, Royal Oak**, effective January 1, 2014. Time: 10 hours/week. Terms: Salary $8,234.46; Social Security $617.58; Mileage reimbursed at church rate, commensurate with IRS.

15. If the way be clear (meaning CPM approval and successful interview with COM Transitional Leadership on August 26, 2014), **concurred** with request from **Mt. Clemens** to issue a twelve month call to **Dan Heaton** to serve as **Assistant Pastor**, effective August 1, 2014. Time: ¼ time. Terms: Salary $18,000, Travel (car) $1,000; Study Leave $500. Vacation: one week including one Sunday. Study Leave: one week. (Note: Both vacation and study leave are pro-rated to ¼ time.) This is an ordainable call.

The Committee reported the following for the information of Presbytery. It has:

1. **Approved** the position description for a part-time Parish Associate for Young Family Ministries at **South Lyon**. This will be an ordainable call. Terms: part-time (20 hours/week), no compensation. Responsibilities include children and youth programs, in addition to worship and outreach.

2. **Approved** the position description for an Assistant Pastor at **Mt. Clemens** to work with Grades 6-12 in the area of Christian Education. Terms: ¼ Time (10 hours/week); Salary $12,500; Study Leave $500; Mileage reimbursement up to $1000. Vacation four weeks; Study Leave two weeks.

3. Following the recommendation of the Administrative Commission for the Erin Presbyterian Church, **COM directed Rev. G. Patrick Thompson**, at this time, not to serve in any position of ordered ministry including positions of pulpit supply, temporary pastoral appointments, and any other positions for which being a teaching elder is a qualification.

4. Asked the Board of Pensions to waive the 403b application fee for **Rev. Raphael Francis**.

5. **Hope Presbyterian Church** has resolved the Board of Pensions claim against them. Board of Pensions accepted COM’s request to waive the 403b application fee for **Rev. Raphael Francis**.
6. Approved the Saline Ministry Information Form.

7. Appointed Rev. Dr. Keith Provost to moderate the session at Lincoln Park following Rev. Bill Zambon’s retirement.

8. Approved the Ministry Information Form for Cherry Hill, Dearborn, pending their consideration of reviewing their competencies.

9. Added Rev. Nancy Carle and Rev. Dr. Sue Ellis Melrose to the Pulpit Supply List.

10. Appointed Rev. Dr. Bill Davis to moderate the Session at Ft. Gratiot, effective September 1, 2014.

11. Asked Executive Presbyter Rev. Dr. Al Timm to request an exception from the Board of Pensions for one of our pastors to collect pension benefits while remaining in a current Interim Pastor position.

   Additionally:

   12. An amended motion to raise the Minimum Cash Compensation (Salary, Housing Allowance, and Deferred Compensation) to $43,000 failed.

13. Following Presbytery’s action on the 2015 Minimum Terms of Call at the August meeting, Credentials and Consultations will send a letter to each church’s Session/Clerk outlining the changes and rationale used to make the decision.

WE SHARED GOD’S BOUNTY

Presbytery recessed for dinner at 5:54 p.m.

Presbytery reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

WE PROCLAIMED THE GOOD NEWS

Presbytery worshipped God. Stephen Murray, President of the Evangelical Theological Seminary preached.

Reports From Other Governing Bodies (continued)

General Assembly Commissioners Report

The commissioners to the 221st General Assembly presented their reports to the Presbytery.

Committee Items for Action (Continued)

Committee on Preparation for Ministry. Matthew Means reported for the Committee.

The Committee presented Dan Heaton, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Detroit who has met the requirements for ordination in the Presbytery of Detroit and has received a call to a ¼ position as assistant pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Clemens that has been approved as a valid position for ordination by the Committee on Ministry. Mr Heaton apprised us of his faith journey. He was then examined by the Presbytery as to his faith and knowledge and preparedness for ordained ministry. Upon motion of Mr Clark, his examination was arrested, and Presbytery voted to approve his ordination to the ordered ministry of teaching elder.
The Committee presented Joanne Morgan, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Detroit who has met the requirements for ordination in the Presbytery of Detroit and has received a call to the position of Parish Associate at First Presbyterian Church, South Lyon for a period of one year at \( \frac{1}{4} \) time. This position has been approved as a valid position for ordination by the Committee on Ministry. She was then examined by the Presbytery as to her faith and knowledge and preparedness for ordained ministry. Upon motion, her examination was arrested, and Presbytery voted to approve her ordination to the ordered ministry of teaching elder.

The Committee reported the following for the information of Presbytery:

Consultation reports:

For Teaching Elder:
1. CPM met with the following Candidate, sustained her annual consultation, and granted her Final Assessment – giving her permission to form and circulate her Personal Information Form (PIF) and seek a call.
   
   **Heidi Church**  
   May 6, 2014  
   First Pres., Ypsilanti

2. CPM met with the following Candidates and voted to sustain their annual consultations and continue with them in the candidacy phase.
   
   **T.C. Anderson**  
   June 3, 2014  
   Geneva, Canton

   **Christina Jensen**  
   August 5, 2014  
   Greenfield, Berkley

3. CPM met with the following Inquirer and voted to sustain his annual consultation and continue with him in the inquiry phase. CPM voted *not* to recommend moving him to the candidacy phase *until the completion and evaluation of his CPE (summer of 2014) and meet with him once again at 3:00 pm on August 26, 2014* (before the meeting of the Presbytery of Detroit).
   
   **Brad Rito**  
   June 3, 2014  
   Grosse Ile, Grosse Ile

4. CPM met with the following Inquirers and voted to sustain their annual consultations and continue with them in the inquiry phase.
   
   **Christine Sackett**  
   May 6, 2014  
   Garden City, Garden City

   **Eileen Jewell**  
   June 3, 2014  
   Jefferson Avenue, Detroit

5. CPM met with the following individuals and voted to enroll them as Inquirers under the care of the Presbytery of Detroit.
   
   **Anna Cooke**  
   May 6, 2014  
   First Pres., Ann Arbor

   **Marijo Hockley**  
   May 6, 2014  
   First Pres., Warren

   **Charles Sadler II**  
   August 5, 2014  
   St. Thomas, Shelby Twp.

6. After spending a summer in CPE and in spiritual discernment, CPM has received a request from the following Inquirer, asking to be withdrawn from the inquiry process and removed from the rolls. CPM has honored the request of this individual.
   
   **Steve Ogdie**  
   August 5, 2014  
   Allen Park, Allen Park

Other information.
1. Ordination Exam readers have been identified from the Presbytery of Detroit. They are as follows:

   Teaching Elders: Keith Geiselman, Tom Hartley, and Matthew Means
   Ruling Elders: Marcia Ball, Mary Gholz, and Elaine Roseborough

   An Alternate Teaching Elder (1) and Ruling Elder (1) are needed from the Presbytery of Detroit. To volunteer your services, please contact the CPM co-chairs, Rev. Matthew Means or Sandra Nicholls.
Erin Administrative Commission

Jim Monnett presented the report of the Erin Church Administrative Commission. (The report is appended to the minutes.) There is additional material in the church file. Upon motion of the AC, Presbytery voted to dismiss the Administrative Commission.

After Prayers of the people, Presbytery adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

The next meeting of Presbytery will be Saturday, October 25, 2014 at 9:00 at Milford Presbyterian Church.

ATTEST:

Edward H Koster

EDWARD KOSTER, Stated Clerk

APPENDICES: Report of the Treasurer
2015 Minimum Terms of Call
Report of the Vanderbeek Administrative Commission
Report of the Erin Church Administrative Commission

ATTACHMENT ONE: THE ROLL

ROLL OF PRESBYTERY FOR August 26, 2014

CHURCHES: Of 80 churches, 44 were represented and 36 were not.
COMMISSIONERS: Of 151 eligible commissioners, 63 enrolled, and 88 did not.
OTHER RULING ELDERS (Officers, Members of Council): Of 11 total, 7 were present, of whom 0 counted as commissioners, leaving 7 as the unduplicated count: 1 excused, and 3 absent.
TEACHING ELDERS: Of the 138 non-retired teaching elders on the combined rolls of active members and members-at-large, 60 were present, 28 were excused, and 50 were absent.
Of the 86 retired teaching elders on the rolls, 18 were present and 68 were excused.
COMMISSIONED LAY PASTORS AND CERTIFIED EDUCATORS: Of the 2 Commissioned Law Pastor on the rolls, 1 was present, 1 excused, 1 absent
Of the 1 Certified Educators on the rolls, 1 was present.
SUMMARY

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

63 Elder Commissioners
+ 7 Other Ruling Elders
+ 60 Non-retired teaching elders
+ 18 Retired teaching elders
= 148 Voting members present.

OTHERS PRESENT

= 1 Commissioned lay pastors.
= 1 Certified educators.
= 1 Non-voting attendees
= 1 Corresponding members

Attendance

Churches and Ruling Elder Commissioners

ALLEN PARK, Allen Park
1 BOB MORTON
2
3

ANN ARBOR, Calvary
1 NOT REPRESENTED

ANN ARBOR, First
1 RUTH BARNARD
2 BEN VAN TUYL
3 HENRY JOHNSON
4 SUE LEONG
5

ANN ARBOR, Northside
1 NOT REPRESENTED

ANN ARBOR, Westminster
1 KATHERINE SIMPSON
2 NED SIMPSON
3 DAVE WRIGHT

AUBURN HILLS, Auburn Hills
1 NOT REPRESENTED

BELLEVILLE, Belleville
1 CONNIE ETTER
2
3

BIRMINGHAM, First
1 SANDRA NICHOLLS
2 CHARLOTTE FISCHER
3

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Kirk/Hills
1 SAM CLARK
2
3
4
5

BRIGHTON, First
1 JAN BYRON
2 AMY PRESTON
3

CANTON, Geneva
1 MICHAEL GAUBATZ

CLARKSTON, Sashabaw
1
2

DEARBORN, Cherry Hill
1 MARY BOUDREAU
2

DEARBORN, First
1 NOT REPRESENTED
2
3

DEARBORN, Littlefield
1 PHIL GIBBS

DEARBORN HGTs, St. Andrew’s
1 BRIAN PUSHIE

DETROIT, Broadstreet
1 NOT REPRESENTED
2

DETROIT, Calvary
1 ADRIENNE ADAMS
2 PAMELS JOHNSON

DETROIT, Calvin East
1 NOT REPRESENTED
2

DETROIT, First
1 NOT REPRESENTED
2

DETROIT, Fort Street
1 NOT REPRESENTED

DETROIT, Gratiot Avenue
1 MARYANN BRANTLEY
2

DETROIT, Hope
1 JACQUELYN HINES
2 STEFANIE LEWIS

DETROIT, Jefferson Avenue
1 VICKY COLWELL
2 KATHIE JOHNSON

DETROIT, St. John’s
1 NOT REPRESENTED
2

DETROIT, Trinity Community
1 NATHALIE BROTHERS
2 FRANCES BEEMAN

DETROIT, Trumbull Avenue
1 MARTHA SINGLEY
2

DETROIT, Westminster
1 NOT REPRESENTED
2
3

FARMINGTON, First
1 TOM NEAL
2 SHARON CRESSMAN
3

FERNDALe, Drayton Avenue
1 JOHN ANDERSEN

FORT GRATIOT, Lakeshore
1 NOT REPRESENTED

GARDEN CITY, Garden City
1 GAIL MAIN

GROSSE ILE, Grosse Ile
1 HELEN MORRISON
2 RON CASE
3

GROSSE POINTE, Memorial
1 NOT REPRESENTED
2
3

GROSSE PTE WOODS, Woods
1 NOT REPRESENTED
2

HIGHLAND PARK, Park United
1 NOT REPRESENTED
2

HOWELL, First
1 NOT REPRESENTED
2

LINCOLN PARK, Lincoln Park
1 NOT REPRESENTED

LIVONIA, Rosedale Gardens
1 JAMES DAVIS
2 DYCHE ANDERSON

LIVONIA, St. Paul’s
1 AUGUS KORNOWICZ

LIVONIA, St. Timothy’s
1 KARLANE BELAIRE

MILAN, Peoples
1 DORIS CAMPBELL

MILFORD, Milford
1 NOT REPRESENTED
2
3

MT. CLEMENS, First
1 TOM DAVIES
2 LORETTA FREEMAN-MARLO
3

NORTHVILLE, First
1 BARBARA HOWELL
2 DIANE LAHFF
3

NOVI, Faith Community
1 NOT REPRESENTED
2

ORCHARD LAKE, Community

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<td>E AUSTIN, MARY</td>
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<td>P BAHR-JONES, MARY</td>
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<td>A BIERSDORF, JOHN</td>
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<td>P CLARK, STEVEN</td>
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THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT

TREASURER’S REPORT UPDATE - June 2014

A. Review of 2nd Quarter 2014 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures – Not meeting target items 1,3 & 7 (material items)

B. Forecast for current year....Open...to follow up with trustees

C. Balance Sheet for POD, Draft of Quarterly report....open..draft needs review

D. Current Reserves and loan liabilities, lines of Credit....open

E. Report on Per capita giving / non-giving Item 7....thru June 30 collected $200K as opposed to $323K perennial problem

F. 2013 Audit process, & status...Completed draft under review. Need to set up meeting with Audit Committee and Auditor

Submitted By: Timothy Ngare 8/5/2014
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref #</th>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th>Apr 1 - Jun 30 Actual</th>
<th>Jan 1 - Jun 30 YTD Actual</th>
<th>Total Annual Budget</th>
<th>Annual Budget Variance</th>
<th>Percent of Total Budget Remaining</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Shared Mission</td>
<td>75,352</td>
<td>124,175</td>
<td>365,000</td>
<td>(240,025)</td>
<td>(65.98)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Offerings and Donations</td>
<td>70,002</td>
<td>127,207</td>
<td>226,000</td>
<td>(96,793)</td>
<td>(42.71)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>POD ECO</td>
<td>18,421</td>
<td>27,465</td>
<td>135,000</td>
<td>(107,505)</td>
<td>(79.63)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>GA &amp; Synod</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>3,610</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>(41,390)</td>
<td>(91.98)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Directed Mission</td>
<td>4,675</td>
<td>10,100</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>(19,900)</td>
<td>(66.33)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>General Mission &amp; Designated Projects</td>
<td>45,931</td>
<td>88,055</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>(11,945)</td>
<td>(11.94)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Apportionment - Per Capita Income</td>
<td>120,187</td>
<td>200,093</td>
<td>646,650</td>
<td>(446,557)</td>
<td>(69.06)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Endowment &amp; Interest Income</td>
<td>199,131</td>
<td>379,538</td>
<td>658,250</td>
<td>(278,312)</td>
<td>(42.28)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Grant Income</td>
<td>3,654</td>
<td>63,549</td>
<td>47,300</td>
<td>36,249</td>
<td>76.64%</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>2,235</td>
<td>3,106</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,106</td>
<td>55.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>TOTAL REVENUES</td>
<td>540,438</td>
<td>1,047,328</td>
<td>2,255,200</td>
<td>(1,207,872)</td>
<td>(53.50)%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURES</th>
<th>Apr 1 - Jun 30 Actual</th>
<th>Jan 1 - Jun 30 YTD Actual</th>
<th>Total Annual Budget</th>
<th>Annual Budget Variance</th>
<th>Percent of Total Budget Remaining</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Shared Mission</td>
<td>24,083</td>
<td>38,126</td>
<td>93,075</td>
<td>54,949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Offerings and Donations</td>
<td>66,603</td>
<td>123,292</td>
<td>226,000</td>
<td>102,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>POD ECO</td>
<td>14,743</td>
<td>21,779</td>
<td>135,000</td>
<td>113,221</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>GA &amp; Synod ECO</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>3,610</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>16,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Directed Mission</td>
<td>3,775</td>
<td>8,175</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>16,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>General &amp; Other Mission Expense</td>
<td>51,509</td>
<td>228,606</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>(128,696)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Apportionment Per Capita Expense</td>
<td>43,871</td>
<td>77,175</td>
<td>273,973</td>
<td>195,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Endowment Distributions &amp; Bank Fees</td>
<td>181,184</td>
<td>317,321</td>
<td>384,847</td>
<td>67,534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Professional Expense</td>
<td>8,750</td>
<td>8,750</td>
<td>14,750</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Machinery &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>5,708</td>
<td>12,694</td>
<td>24,046</td>
<td>11,352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Rent &amp; Security</td>
<td>9,971</td>
<td>19,941</td>
<td>40,346</td>
<td>20,405</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Insurance &amp; Umbrella Liability</td>
<td>5,792</td>
<td>10,068</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>5,932</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Office &amp; Other Expense</td>
<td>7,298</td>
<td>14,846</td>
<td>30,980</td>
<td>24,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Grant Expense</td>
<td>3,153</td>
<td>19,331</td>
<td>60,300</td>
<td>40,969</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Ministry Teams (Committee) Expenses</td>
<td>100,552</td>
<td>165,287</td>
<td>391,103</td>
<td>225,816</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>111,925</td>
<td>212,319</td>
<td>411,780</td>
<td>199,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>640,567</td>
<td>1,281,321</td>
<td>2,255,200</td>
<td>973,888</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                      |                      |                          |                     |                       |                                 |
| 30 | Total Income Before Net Realized/Unrealized Gain Or Loss | 100,129 | 233,885 |
| 31 | Net Unrealized/Realized Endowment Gain or Loss           | 462,409 | 546,460 |
| 32 | Total Income After Net Realized/Unrealized Gain or Loss | 362,277 | 312,277 |
2015 MINIMUM TERMS FOR FULL-TIME CLERGY

The Committee On Ministry-Presbytery of Detroit

The POD effective salary for 2015 is a minimum 2.5% increase over 2014.
BOP requires that Medical dues be based on effective salary but not less than $44,000.
Social Security, Pensions and Death/Disability are based on effective salary.

I. Effective Salary * (POD Minimum)
   a. Cash Salary, Housing Allowance & Deferred Compensation
   b. Self-Employment Contribution Act Reimbursement
      (Any portion over 7.65% of Effective Salary)

   TOTAL EFFECTIVE SALARY *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>$41,043</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
<td>$41,013</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spouse</td>
<td></td>
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<td>$42,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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II. Benefits
   a. 2014 BOP Med 23% based on $42,000 minimum
   b. 2014 BOP Pensions 12% of Effective Salary *
   c. BOP Medical 23% minimum $44,000
   d. BOP Pensions 11% Effective Salary
   e. BOP Death/Disability 1% effective
   f. BOP Dependent Medical 1.5% minimum $44,000
   g. Social Security Reimbursement
      (7.65% of Effective Salary *)

   TOTAL BENEFITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$17,800</td>
<td>$18,373</td>
<td>$17,880</td>
<td>$19,033</td>
</tr>
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</table>

III. Reimbursed Expenses
   a. Med. Deductible
   b. Study Allowance Reimbursed
   c. Professional Expenses (Voucher & Reimbursed)
      Auto Reimbursement at IRS allowable rate
      (currently 56.5 cents/mile), Business Expenses
      (books, dues, tapes, etc.)

   TOTAL REIMBURSED EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$2,920</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$3,340</td>
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GRAND TOTAL MINIMUM TERMS OF CALL

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<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$61,723</td>
<td>$63,293</td>
<td>$62,213</td>
<td>$64,373</td>
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Other Requirements
   a. Attend Transition in Ministry Workshop
   b. All new and existing full-time calls are required to meet the minimum. Less than full time calls are prorated.
   c. Four weeks vacation (including 4 Sundays); and two weeks study leave (including 2 Sundays) are required.
   d. Study Allowance and Leave may be accumulated up to 6 weeks, upon Session action.
   e. All installed positions require participation in the Board of Pensions.
   f. BOP Median Salary for 2015 is $55,400.

* POD minimum effective salary. Manse value is considered 30% of this total by the Board of Pensions. Cash housing allowance is flexible, but must reflect actual expenses of operating the home.

Detroit Presbytery requires Employing Organizations to pay all dues for Mandated Plan Member Medical Insurance through the Board of Pensions and where needed, for Dependent Medical Insurance through the Board of Pensions. We encourage Employing Organizations to verify appropriate, comparable insurance coverage for dependents who choose to opt out of BOP coverage.

APPROVED by Committee on Ministry: August 7, 2014
APPROVED by Presbytery of Detroit: August 26, 2014
THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT
REPORT AND DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
IN THE MATTER OF RONALD VANDERBEEK

I. Background

In October 2011, the Rev. Ronald Vanderbeek ("Vanderbeek") appeared before the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery of Detroit ("PPJC") and pled guilty to: 1) engaging in a sexual relationship with a person whose mental capacity may have been insufficient to give consent; and 2) engaging in a sexual relationship that misused his office. See Minutes of Presbytery of Detroit of October 25, 2011, PPJC Decision 2011-02 ("PPJC Decision"). Before pleading guilty, Vanderbeek was reminded of the presumption of innocence in his favor, his right to a full trial, his right to counsel, his right to remain silent, and the fact that a plea may impair any appeal. Id. The PPJC accepted Vanderbeek’s plea and entered an order that in relevant part stated that Vanderbeek was:

...temporarily excluded from ordered ministry for a period of (2) years, and subject to the following additional terms: 1) Approval for reapplication to ordered ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall be subject to the decision of the Committee on Ministry and following the recommendation of a counselor approved by the Committee on Ministry and who shall render a full report to the Committee on Ministry regarding your fitness for ministry...

Id. (emphasis added).

In September 2013, Vanderbeek applied for reinstatement to ordered ministry with the Committee on Ministry ("the COM"). By letter dated October 16, 2013, the COM informed Vanderbeek that his application had "...been discussed at length during the COM meetings for the last two months", but it was the decision of the COM that his application be denied.

On October 26, 2013, Vanderbeek appealed the decision of the COM on his application for reinstatement to the Presbytery.

On January 28, 2014, the Presbytery created this Administrative Commission ("AC") for the purpose of hearing Vanderbeek’s appeal from the decision of the COM, and it granted to the AC the following responsibilities and authorities:

1) It shall review the case decided by the Permanent Judicial Commission.

2) It shall review the behavior of Ronald Vanderbeek while under suspension.

3) It shall inquirie of the Committee on Ministry the reasons it declined to restore Mr. Vanderbeek.

4) It shall grant Mr. Vanderbeek all rights of fundamental fairness afforded in administrative hearings. These rights shall include at least:

a) Informing Mr. Vanderbeek of all the issues that he must address.

b) Giving Mr. Vanderbeek time and opportunity to respond to the issues.
5) Determining on behalf of the Presbytery of Detroit whether he shall be restored to the ordered ministry of teaching elder, and if not to be restored at this time, to set criteria and procedures for his restoration within one year. This shall include the body that shall supervise his compliance, and the consequences of his failure to satisfactorily complete the requirements. One of the consequences of his failure after one year to satisfy the requirements as reported by the supervising body may be that he will be declared to have renounced the jurisdiction of this church pursuant to G-2.0509.

6) Reporting its decision to Presbytery at the next meeting.

In furtherance of its responsibilities, the AC held two informal organizational meetings to review the decision of the PJC, certain email correspondence, and notes relevant to Vanderbeek's suspension. A formal hearing held July 19, 2014 followed the two informal meetings. By letter dated May 7, 2014, the AC informed Vanderbeek and the COM that they were invited to attend the July 19th hearing and address the following issues:

1) The factual and legal reasons that form the basis for Rev. Vanderbeek's application to be reinstated to ordered ministry dated October 26, 2013;

2) The factual and legal reasons Rev. Vanderbeek contends the Committee on Ministry erred when it refused to restate him to active ministry;

3) The factual and legal reasons the Committee on Ministry declined to reinstate Rev. Vanderbeek.

4) Whether Rev. Vanderbeek has fully complied with the Decision and Order dated October 10, 2011, in Presbytery of Detroit v. Rev. Ronald Vanderbeek, PPJC 2011-02, including, but not limited to, the question of whether Rev. Vanderbeek obtained the recommendation of a counselor approved by the Committee on Ministry;

5) The relevance, if any, of the subsequent and related lawsuit in the civil courts, including, but not limited to, the fact that the case was dismissed without prejudice and could be refilled on or before October 26, 2014.

6) The impact any reinstatement of Rev. Vanderbeek could have on the members of Garden City Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of Detroit, and/or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.);

7) The responsibilities and authorities of this Commission;

8) Such other issues that Rev. Vanderbeek and/or the Committee on Ministry consider relevant to this matter, including any issues or disputes concerning procedure and the fundamental fairness of the Committee’s decision or this hearing;

9) If Rev. Vanderbeek is not be to reinstated, the appropriate criteria for the reinstatement of Rev. Vanderbeek; and

Vanderbeek and representatives of the COM attended the July 19th hearing and were given the opportunity to object to any facet of that hearing and/or the responsibilities and authorities of the AC. Neither party raised any objection. Vanderbeek and his representatives, and the representatives of the COM, were then each given 30 minutes to speak. This was followed by time for questions by the AC, and an opportunity for closing statements. A representative of the Garden City congregation was also questioned by the AC in closed session concerning the possible effect that the reinstatement of Vanderbeek could have on life and health of that congregation.

II. Decision of the Administrative Commission

Our Book of Order is clear that “[t]he council that imposed the censure shall approve the restoration when the time of exclusion has expired or when the council is fully satisfied that the supervised rehabilitation pronounced has been completed”. See D-12.0104h (emphasis added). The COM was not fully satisfied with Vanderbeek’s rehabilitation and so it denied his application for reinstatement. The AC is also not fully satisfied with Vanderbeek’s rehabilitation. Therefore, the decision of the COM to deny the application of Vanderbeek for reinstatement is SUSTAINED. However, Vanderbeek shall be automatically reinstated subject to the completion of the following criteria and procedures.

A. Rationale and Conclusions

Vanderbeek was excluded from ordered ministry for a period of (2) years and subject to other conditions, but during the hearing he admitted that he did not comply with the terms of that exclusion. The Book of Order is clear that “[d]uring the period of temporary exclusion from ordered ministry, the person found guilty shall refrain from the exercise of any function of ordered ministry.” See D-12.0104d. Vanderbeek conceded at the July 19th hearing that preaching of the Word was a function of ordered ministry. He also conceded that he preached a number of sermons in a church of another denomination. And, for this reason alone the COM was on solid ground in not accepting Vanderbeek’s application for reinstatement at the time it was submitted. Other factors, such as questions concerning the adequacy of Vanderbeek’s counseling, his engagement with the COM, and his reliance on his own (often incorrect) assumptions concerning his status, also lend considerable support our decision.

Having found that Vanderbeek should not be reinstated at this time, the AC is required to set criteria and procedures for his restoration. The criteria must identify the body that shall supervise his compliance, and the consequences of his failure to satisfactorily complete the requirements. To that end, the AC ORDERS the following:

1) It is the decision of the AC that the body that will supervise Vanderbeek’s compliance shall be the COM.
2) The AC sets the following criteria for Vanderbeck's reinstatement:

2A) Vanderbeck shall provide to the COM a written statement of remorse for his conduct that is acceptable to the COM and that demonstrates recognition by Vanderbeck of the significant pain and injury his actions inflicted on the Garden City congregation. The COM shall insure that the statement is distributed to the Garden City congregation and other parties that the COM thinks appropriate.

Even if the AC assumed that the sexual conduct that resulted in the PPJC decision was normal, and the actions of two healthy adults, that assumption would be completely irrelevant. Our denomination, and indeed our Presbytery, has drawn a very bright line on the issue of sexual contact (even dating) involving a Pastor and a member of that Pastor's congregation. Indeed, it's not just a bright line, it's a bright line with flashing lights and a flag. It is not enough for Vanderbeck to apologize to the PPJC, the COM or even the AC for "having to meet" or for having to go to "all this trouble". The remorse that needs to be acknowledged and understood by Vanderbeck is that the conduct to which he plead guilty is simply not tolerated by this Presbytery or this denomination. Yes, 20 year ago this matter would probably have been handled differently. But this is not 20 years ago. One reason conduct such as we have in this case is not tolerated is because it always results a real rift and substantive hurt in the affected congregation. Once created, such congregational rifts can take decades to heal even under the best of circumstances. Vanderbeck must acknowledge that fact, and also convince the COM (via his written statement) that he understands the harm he has caused to others through his actions.

THE FAILURE OF VANDERBECK TO ISSUE THE REQUIRED STATEMENT WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE DATE OF THIS REPORT SHALL BE DEEMED A RENUNCIATION BY HIM OF THE JURISDICTION OF THIS CHURCH PURSUANT TO G-2.0509.

2B) Vanderbeck shall continue to refrain from the exercise of any function of ordered ministry until such time as he is reinstated. As interpreted by the AC, the term "ordered ministry" includes the administration of the Sacraments, the preaching of the Word, and serving the governing bodies of the church. Vanderbeck also may not take part in the meetings of Presbytery (except on issues that directly concern him personally), vote, hold office, or serve on any Presbytery committees. As interpreted by the AC, the term "ordered ministry" does not include teaching Sunday school, participation in prayer groups, or playing the organ or other instruments in worship. This restriction extends not only to the churches of our denomination, but also to ALL churches of any denomination. THE FAILURE OF VANDERBECK TO ABIDE BY THESE RESTRICTIONS FOR ANY REASON PRIOR TO BEING REINSTATE SHALL BE DEEMED A RENUNCIATION OF THE JURISDICTION OF THIS CHURCH PURSUANT TO G-2.0509.
2C) Vanderbeek and the COM shall jointly develop a plan to ensure that Vanderbeek does not repeat his offenses. In developing this plan, the COM may not use the development process as a means to an end to prevent the reinstatement of Vanderbeek. The censure imposed in this matter was one of temporary exclusion. The AC concludes that Vanderbeek has met the requirement of the PPJC to provide a counselor report concerning his fitness for ministry. Therefore, the plan should focus on behavioral goals and other steps to be taken by Vanderbeek to ensure that his reinstatement does not result in a repeat offense and that the COM is otherwise fully satisfied in this fitness. Further, while that plan must be a joint work of Vanderbeek and the COM, the responsibility for ensuring that it is developed, and that it meets with the COM’s approval, is entirely on Vanderbeek—he must be the driver of the discussion (but the COM may not respond by dragging it’s collective feet). IF A PLAN IS NOT DEVELOPED, AND APPROVED, BY THE COM WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THIS REPORT THAT FAILURE SHALL BE DEEMED A RENUNCIATION BY VANDERBEEK OF THE JURISDICTION OF THIS CHURCH PURSUANT TO G-2.0509.

Finally, the AC reminds both Vanderbeek and the COM that the details of any plan should be clearly spelled out. A significant problem that arose in this matter was that both Vanderbeek and the COM made numerous assumptions about what a certain term meant, or whether certain facts were or were not correct. Any plan must be devoid of such assumptions. The AC shall appoint an arbiter in this matter for the purpose of deciding whether, in the case of dispute, the propose plan, or a particular provision of that plan is, or is not, clear or fair. The arbiter’s compensation, if any, is to be paid by the COM. The AC retains jurisdiction of this matter for the purpose of hearing further disputes. However, the parties are on notice that an arbiter’s decisions will only be overruled on a showing of clear error—an exceptionally very high standard of review.

ATTEST:

/Rev. Dr. Carol A. Tate/ Chairperson

/Ruling Elder Lawrence Gage/

/Ruling Elder Mark Schneider/

Dated: August 13, 2014
SUMMARY REPORT*

The Administrative Commission
Erin Presbyterian Church, Roseville, Michigan
Presented to the Presbytery of Detroit
August 26, 2014

Elected by the Presbytery of Detroit, April 27, 2013

Commission Members:

Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett, Chair, First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor

Ruling Elder Diane Agnew, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, Grosse Pointe Farms

Rev. Dr. Roxie Davis, Honorably Retired, Port Huron

Ruling Elder Dr. Lawrence Gage, First Presbyterian Church, Farmington

Ruling Elder Kari Gorman, Northbrook Presbyterian Church, Beverly Hills

*The complete report of the Erin Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission with documentation of its twelve month activities has been lodged with the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Detroit
Summary Report
The Erin Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission
August 26, 2014

The Committee on Ministry having inquired into the work of Erin Presbyterian Church upon being invited into the church by the Session, found problems regarding finances, specific ministries, significant loss of membership, inability to function fully within the parameters of the Book of Order, and disaffection with the Pastor. It therefore recommended to the Presbytery the formation of an Administrative Commission.

On April 27, 2013, pursuant with G-3.0108 and G-3.0109 of the Book of Order, the Presbytery approved its formation for the purpose of conducting an administrative review of the Erin Presbyterian Church’s:
- Ministry and mission;
- Its financial affairs; and
- Addressing difficulties and discord within the congregation, the session, and with its pastor.

In this regard the Administrative Commission was accorded the following authority:
- To call congregational meetings for appropriate purposes as it finds necessary;
- To assume any or all powers and authorities of session under G-3.02 it deems necessary.

Proceedings of the
Erin Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission

The commission assumed its responsibilities on May 23, 2013 with an orientation to its task conducted by Elder Dixie Elam, Committee on Ministry (COM) Chairperson and Rev. Edward Koster, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery. It soon determined that the difficulties described in a 2009 Healthy Congregations Work Group evaluation regarding the congregation-pastoral relations, finances, membership reduction, and impediments to lay leadership had deteriorated significantly. Although recommended in the report, the AC found no evidence that COM provided follow-up or assistance to the congregation to address these concerns.

1. Congregation-Pastoral Relations.

The perception that leadership in the church was Pastor-centered had persisted along with an absence of pastoral availability to the congregation both physically and emotionally. This seemed further strained by the pastor’s reduction to part-time status in 2010 due to church financial deficits.

A central concern was also the initiation of a program called “Erin’s Feeding the Need” (FTN) that was invited to the church by the Pastor in January 2012. It operated for six months without Session approval. The program created significantly increased utility costs, produced modification of facilities, paid no rental fees, and had no insurance to protect the church from liability. In addition, the Pastor had opened a bank account for FTN using the church’s tax identification number without the knowledge or permission of the Session. Tension also existed because members of the congregation expressed concern about the unsupervised/unregulated use of the property by some of the clients as well as some suspected levels of substance abuse by them. Many on the Session and in the congregation were conflicted over FTN because they felt called to serve the hungry. However, the ill-will created by the actions of the FTN leadership and the Pastor proved insurmountable to enable the program to continue.
Commission Actions: Congregation-Pastoral Relations

- On May 28, 2013 the commission initiated steps to facilitate the request of the Pastor to resign and dissolve the pastoral relationship with Erin Presbyterian Church.

- A congregational meeting moderated by the commission June 10, 2013 resulted in unanimous approval by written ballot of the pastoral dissolution and severance agreement.

- The commission facilitated arrangements for the Session to consider candidates and on August 15 the Rev. Don Wright was selected to be the Temporary Supply Pastor effective September 2013.

- Following investigation of the FTN program and consultation with the Session and the Rev. Don Wright, the AC assumed original jurisdiction of the building, voting to remove FTN from the church by September 22, 2014.

- A congregational meeting was held after worship on August 25 to inform the congregation of recent commission activities concerning:
  - Termination of the FTN program
  - Importance of the pastoral leadership of Rev. Don Wright
  - Plans to assist the Session with 2013 programs and activities
  - Provide resources for detailed analysis of church finances
  - Plan listening sessions with the congregation

2. Church Financial Situation

An assessment of the financial status of Erin Presbyterian Church began May 30, 2013 and it was immediately apparent that there were problems with record-keeping and accountability. Rental arrangements existed with outside groups with sketchy evidence of formal contracts and payments. The prior year’s session minutes indicated a consistent pattern of monthly deficits and reduction of the church’s diminishing reserves to offset reduced income. The annual report for 2012-2013 indicated a deficit of $29,275. The fall 2013 stewardship effort produced 32 pledges totaling $47,096 with a proposed budget for 2014 of $94,376. By December 2014 the church’s total remaining reserves are projected to be $3,317.81.

Commission Actions: Church Finances

- Dissolution of FTN and its resultant drain on church resources was completed.

- Consultation with a Certified Public Accountant occurred to assess inadequacies in the church’s financial documentation.

- An ongoing dialogue with the Personnel and Finance Committee was initiated to address improvements in the financial reporting process.

- Sample rental contracts were provided to the Session to facilitate proper rental use guidelines, fees, and insurance guidelines.
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- Recommendations were made to include regular reporting of the financial crisis in the worship bulletin and other church publications to raise awareness of the congregation.
- The consideration of adjustments in personnel costs were proposed to reduce monthly expenses.
- The imperative of a stewardship campaign was emphasized that stressed the immediacy of the church’s financial crisis.
- A presence by commission members was initiated at Session meetings, fundraising efforts, and worship to demonstrate commitment to assist and support the church.
- Discussion of alternatives were suggested to the Session should projected deficits finally exhaust the church’s ability to continue operating.
- Information meetings were held with the congregation to dispel rumors that the Presbytery intended to close Erin Presbyterian Church and sell its property or that the Presbytery would provide financial resources to alleviate the financial crisis.

3. Ministry and Mission of the Church

The appointment of Rev. Don Wright in September 2013 as the part-time Temporary Supply Pastor produced an immediate revitalization of the spiritual life at Erin Presbyterian Church. Attendance at worship began to increase and his leadership as Moderator of the Session in the ensuing months resulted in increasing the Session from five to its full complement of nine Elders and the Board of Deacons from two members to eight.

The lay leadership, previously limited by the absence of pastoral support, began to demonstrate active involvement in the life of the church as membership has declined. A forty percent membership loss in the prior five years had resulted in a membership of 104 active members in December 2013 which included the addition of eight new members.

**Commission Actions: Ministry and Mission of the Church**

- Members of the commission made an effort to attend as many Session meetings and events in the life of the church as possible.
- Frequent dialogue was maintained with the Pastor, the chairs of committees, and at every opportunity with members of the congregation.
- The commission requested and received copies of all written communication distributed by the church Administrative Secretary and all Session documents.
- A listening session with the congregation was held following worship October 21, 2013
  - A written survey was distributed to collect demographic information and responses to why each participated in the life of the church, what the strengths of the congregation were, what concerns they had about the church, and three wishes for its future
Breakout sessions were then conducted to discuss the last three survey items

- A summary of the result was shared with the Session and Temporary Supply Pastor

- The commission emphasized to the Session that the congregation still seems to struggle with the reality of what the future holds, that it has a diminishing and aging membership, that the area demographic is not conducive to church growth, and that the financial burden appears insurmountable.

In the past year the Administrative Commission has had the privilege of sharing the concerns and hopes of the Erin Presbyterian Church family. It is clear that from the dedication of its current pastoral and resurgent lay leadership and the spirituality of the congregation that it is indeed the Body of Christ. It is also however a community of faith that struggles to accept the reality of the dire circumstances that now confront it after its more than one hundred and fifty years of dedication to doing God’s work.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Session should immediately consider having a retreat, preferably off-site, to identify various options should maintaining the church property no longer be possible. The Committee on Ministry should be requested to provide a facilitator to assist in these deliberations.

2. Consultation by the Session with a representative of the Presbytery Trustees and/or the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery should occur to understand the legalities involved in the disposition of church assets should it become necessary.

3. The Session should begin discussions with the congregation to share the available options if there continues to be depletion of the church’s financial resources if they wish to continue as a vibrant congregation.

4. It is imperative that the congregation be assisted to understand that all church property in the Presbytery of Detroit is held in trust by the Presbytery and its disposition requires Presbytery permission. In addition, the Presbytery has no resources available to alleviate the church’s financial challenges.

5. In preparation for the conclusion of the contract of the Temporary Supply Pastor at the end of December 2014, the Session needs to determine what resources might exist to support present or future Temporary Supply Pastors, Commissioned Ruling Elders, or other forms of pastoral leadership.

6. The congregation must be assisted to understand that its spiritual life as the Body of Christ is not dependent upon its building and property and to explore the options to continue to be a church family in another setting.

7. The Committee on Ministry and the Presbytery Trustees should provide continuing oversight and mentoring of the Erin church during the next twelve months (August 2014 to August 2015).

8. The Session needs to continue to give hope to the congregation to be a vibrant faith community, whether it be in its present location or in some other location or ministry form.

9. That the administrative commission for Erin Church be discharged.
On June 2, 2014, the Erin Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission (AC) recommended to the Committee on Ministry that Rev. G. Patrick Thompson not be allowed the privilege of serving in any positions of ordered ministry. This included positions of pulpit supply, eligibility for assignment to temporary pastoral appointments, or any other positions as a teaching elder. The Administrative Commission made this recommendation because we saw and heard credible evidence that gave us reasonable cause to believe that during his tenure Rev. Thompson engaged in conduct that was severely damaging to individuals and the congregational life of Erin Presbyterian Church.

This recommendation and its reasons were also sent to Rev. Patrick Thompson. The Committee On Ministry (COM) told Rev. Thompson that they concurred with the recommendation of the Erin AC. Rev. Thompson would not be allowed the privilege of serving in any position of ordered ministry in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. The Stated Clerk and representatives of the COM met with Rev. Thompson and told him of his rights and his options.

The Erin Administrative Commission also sent a full set of allegations to the office of the Stated Clerk; whereby the Stated Clerk proceeded to appoint an investigating committee.

On August 7, 2014 the Stated Clerk received a letter from Rev. Thompson renouncing the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. On that day Rev. Thompson was removed from the rolls of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. effective immediately.