

Commission on Ministry Report to Presbytery

November 10, 2020

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY ACTION:

Approve an increase to the Presbytery Minimum Terms of Call as outlined in attached spreadsheet.

Approve the official dissolution of the Pilgrimage Protestant congregation of University Park. This congregation ceased to exist some time ago, but we have only recently been made aware. The building is owned by the Methodists – it was a federated congregation.

Recommission the following Commissioned Pastors:

- Pastor Claire Brenneka to serve full time at Harvard First effective 1/1/21-12/31/23 (contract details coming)
- Pastor Karen Williams to serve part time at Kankakee First effective 1/1/21-6/30/21
- Pastor Tanya Muzzarelli to Marengo First (contract details coming)
- Pastor Jack Briggs to Franklin Grove First (contract details coming)
- Pastor Dottie Morizzo to Schapville Zion (contract details coming)
- Pastor Del Keilman to Earlville United (contract details coming)

Approve the change in status of Rev. John Huff to Honorably Retired as of December 31, 2020. John, assisted by his wife Cathy, has served his congregation of Romeoville United since 1969 – 51 years!

Approve the COM Policy Statement:

A Policy Statement on Pastoral Services During the Covid-19 Pandemic

A long-standing article of faith in the Presbyterian Church (USA) is that “God alone is Lord of the conscience.” In keeping with that principle, if a pastor in Blackhawk Presbytery is asked to perform a service or attend an activity which they feel could potentially lead to his or her contracting Covid-19, they shall be given the right to either abstain from that service or to find a safer alternative means of performing that service. No Session or congregation may use such an incident as grounds for changing that pastor’s employment by the congregation in any way.

REPORTING ON ACTIONS TAKEN by COM:

Approved terms of call for Rev. Lauren Patrus-Betzel to serve as full-time Pastor to Caledonia Willow Creek Presbyterian, effective October 1, 2020.

Cash Salary	\$28,000
Fair Rental Value of Manse	\$ 8,700
Housing Allowance	\$ 1,000
Utilities Allowance	\$ 2,800
Effective Salary	\$40,500
SECA	\$ 2,884

Medical coverage	\$11,000
Pension benefit, D&D	\$ 4,860
TOTAL TERMS OF CALL	\$67,006
Medical reimbursement	\$ 2,262
Professional Expenses	\$ 4,000
Continuing Education	\$ 1,500
TOTAL REIMBURSABLE EXPENSE:	\$ 7,762

Paid vacation – 4 weeks, Continuing education – 2 weeks

Approved terms of call for Rev. Lisa López-Meyer to serve as full-time Pastor to Winnebago First Presbyterian, effective January 1, 2021.

Cash Salary	\$27,000
Housing	\$26,000
Effective Salary	\$53,000
SECA	\$ 4,055
Medical coverage	\$13,250
Pension benefit, D&D	\$ 6,360
TOTAL TERMS OF CALL	\$76,665
Medical reimbursement	\$ 3,180
Professional Expenses	\$ 3,900
Continuing Education	\$ 1,500
Moving Costs (up to)	\$ 5,000
TOTAL REIMBURSABLE EXPENSE:	\$13,580

Paid vacation – 4 weeks, Continuing education – 2 weeks

Approved terms of call for Molly K. Morris to serve as full-time Associate Pastor for Youth, Family and Community Outreach to DeKalb Westminster Presbyterian, pending congregational vote (Nov. 1), examination and ordination by her Presbytery of care, Shenandoah Presbytery. Effective date: January 4, 2021.

Cash Salary	\$30,000
Housing	\$15,000
Effective Salary	\$45,000
SECA	\$ 3,442.50
Medical coverage	\$12,150
Dental coverage	\$ 310.44
Pension benefit, D&D	\$ 4,500
TOTAL TERMS OF CALL	\$65,402.94
Medical reimbursement	\$ 2,700
Professional Expenses	\$ 3,900
Continuing Education	\$ 1,500
Moving Costs (up to)	\$ 5,000
TOTAL REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES:	\$13,100

Paid vacation – 4 weeks, Continuing education – 2 weeks

Approved the contract for Pastor Karen Williams, serving part time at Kankakee First, effective 1/1/21-6/30/21. Responsibilities include preaching 4-5 times/month, administration of sacraments, session moderation, pastoral care, weddings, funerals, installation/ordination of elders. Time expectation – 20 hours/week. Cash Salary \$1300 / month, 2 weeks' vacation, 1 week continuing education, Travel reimbursement @ .575/mile.

Recommend for first reading: "Policies and Procedures for Dissolution of Pastoral Relationships" (see attached document)

Recommend for first reading: "Covenant of Closure / Pastor Who Retires" and "Covenant of Closure / Pastor Who Resigns" (see attached documents)

FOR INFORMATION:

Two task forces have been created. The first will undertake a revision of the COM Manual and the second will create a Manual for Commissioned Pastors in the Presbytery.

The COM is embracing the use of a Vice-Moderator to assist the Moderator with responsibilities and ensure a smooth transition as Moderators rotate off the commission. Gratefully, Rev. Dave Terrinoni has agreed to assume this position. Welcome, Dave!

All churches in the Presbytery are assigned a COM Liaison – yours will be contacting you soon. Please direct your questions, concerns and pastoral needs to this representative. They are anxious to assist you.

Rev. Catherine Martin, Moderator, COM pastorcath@gmail.com, 269-720-4782

Rev. Dave Terrinoni, Vice Moderator, COM dmterrinoni@gmail.com, 334-354-5904