

**Presbytery of North Central Iowa  
Council Minutes  
April 16, 2026**

Members Present: Donna Carhill, Nancy Beenken, John Pea, Julie Erkel Hagee, Chad Abbas, Bryan Kunz, Walt Reemtmsa, Chris Helton, Kip Murphy, Brad Braley

Guests Present: Adrian McMullen, Jonny Craig

Staff Present: Annika Lister Stroope, Amgad Beblawi, Ian McMullen, Jeannie Stolee

Donna opened the meeting with prayer at 2:02 p.m.

M/S/C to approve the agenda.

M/S/C to approve minutes of the February 12, 2026, meeting.

**Financial Matters – Chad Abbas**

Chad reviewed the February 2026 financial statements.

**New Business**

Property Values Statement – Kip Murphy

Attended the property workshop in Minneapolis. At this point just talking about what it is we see this group can do and how it can help congregations think about what to do with their property.

Tri-Presbyteries Discernment

Listening Sessions

Listening sessions are pretty much over, with one left in Prospect Hill. Almost all have had summaries written about them and those have been compiled into summaries by presbytery. At the next Council meeting will have to address what that means, conclusions drawn and recommendations to be made.

Communications Team

The communications team plans to produce a video by current council moderators similar to the one produced by former council moderators.

Mission Values Team

The team doesn't want to just come up with a mission statement but want it to actually mean something for the presbyteries. They will continue the discussion at their next meeting in a month.

### Administration Team

The team has had two zoom meetings. The first included Jim Koon, Synod of Lakes and Prairies Director of Financial Services. The second included Rachel Yates, who was the executive and stated clerk of the former Presbytery of Boise, which has merged with Kendall Presbytery and is now Snake River Presbytery. Members of the Administration Team who are focused on finances will meet at Fort Dodge First this coming Monday for a workday on financial matters. Other team members are going to take the documents Rachel shared in terms of how things are documented for a merger process.

### Request from Ackley East Friesland and Albion First Administrative Commission

Ackley East Friesland voted to dissolve their congregation. Albion First is going to vote to dissolve their congregation this coming Sunday. The Administrative Commission will handle both of these dissolutions. M/S/C to appoint Bruce Baillie, Kent Madison and Beth Ehlers as members of the Administrative Commission. The Administrative Commission will also include Presbytery Treasurer Chad Abbas and the Clerk of Session from each church.

## **Reports**

### Presbytery Moderator – Donna Carhill

Facilitated one of the listening sessions at Fort Dodge. Attended the meeting of the COMs of the three presbyteries.

### Nominating Committee – Nancy Beenken

Will probably not meet until July. Was involved in two listening sessions. Attended the meeting of the COMs of the three presbyteries.

### COM/CPM – Walt Reemtsma/John Pea

COM had a meeting after the joint meeting of the COMs of the three presbyteries. Walt is looking forward to attending the leadership workshop for COM next week.

M/S/C for a called presbytery meeting via zoom on June 2, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. for the specific purpose of approving the terms of call for Cedar Falls Cedar Heights Community moving Johnny Janssen from associate pastor to solo pastor, and for an update on the Administrative Commission for Ackley East Friesland and Albion First.

CPM has three seminary students and three CRE inquirers.

### Personnel Commission – Kip Murphy

Ian will be planning a sabbatical. Kip and Bryan had an opportunity to co-lead a listening session. Annika added that she would like to affirm the fact that part of the proposal to the presbyteries in terms of entering into the discernment period was the recognition that some things would need to be reduced to take on the addition of the discernment process duties.

### Ministry and Mission – Bryan Kunz

Gave out eight grants to six churches. The committee is meeting with the equivalent committees of the other two presbyteries.

### Lakeshore Center at Okoboji – Adrian McMullen

Sara and Steve are on their way to Conrad for Kerry Carson's visitation. Kerry was serving on Lakeshore's board so will need to be replaced. Lakeshore Center staff is fully staffed for the summer. This will be the second summer Lakeshore Center is planning to offer day camp. Numbers are slow but May is usually the big registration month. Info is going out to all of the churches in the next couple of weeks with the entire summer schedule. The lodge continues to be well utilized and busy.

### Executives

#### Ian McMullen

- The meeting of the three COMs had a total of 33 people and was a very generative time.
- Will be officiating at Kerry Carson's funeral.
- Facilitating the last listening session at Cherokee on Saturday and then will moderate the meeting at Albion First on Sunday.
- Will be in Minnesota most of next week at the Synod of Lakes and Prairies Summit and then the Synod stated meeting. After that is a forum for executive presbyters.
- Looking forward to a sabbatical sometime this year.

#### Annika Lister Stroope

- Excited for the commissioners going to General Assembly.
- Will also participate in the Synod activities of which Ian already gave a rundown.
- Has a graduating senior this year.

#### Amgad Beblawi

- From the meeting of the three COMs it became very clear there is a lot more in common than differences. North Central Iowa has more CREs and more people on CPM than either Des Moines or Prospect Hill.
- The Des Moines COM and Council have been discussing when is the right time for the presbytery to intervene with churches.
- Will also be at the Synod meeting later this month.

### **Announcements**

A letter from the three Council moderators will be sent to all session moderators, clerks of session and retired teaching elders informing them of an update zoom meeting on May 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., and reminding them of the August 29<sup>th</sup> Iowa Presbyterian Gathering.

### Report on Woven Conference – Jonny Craig

Jonny Craig, pastor at Waterloo Westminster, reported that the Woven Conference held at Waterloo Westminster last year was a beautiful time at the intersection of church leadership

and what people attending church are going through. M/S/C that \$5,000 be taken from the New Church (Vesely) Council Dedicated Account to be given to Waterloo Westminster for the Woven Conference.

M/S/C to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m. with prayer by Brad.