

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

August 2016



Last month, I had the honor of representing our Presbytery at the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Around 400 commissioners, 200 young adult advisory delegates, 200 Presbytery stated clerks, and hundreds more observers all gathered for eight days of worship and committee meetings in Portland, Oregon

When I arrived at the airport in Portland, I was greeted by a person in a black vest with PC(USA) pins on it. He directed me to a nearby table where they had my bus pass, hotel assignment, and directions to the convention center. The train took me straight to the convention center and my hotel was only three blocks away. At the hotel, I met my roommate for the week, a lay pastor from Ohio named Tim. Tim also was serving as the Moderator of his Presbytery, so we found ourselves with a lot to talk about.

General Assembly officially began the next morning. The Convention Center was filled with booths and representatives from different mission agencies. Some wanted to convince us to vote a certain way on issues before the assembly, but others just wanted to tell us about the work they were doing. To me, it felt like going to Comic-con, just with Presbyterians instead comic book fans.

All the delegates and commissioners sat together in Plenary Session (when everyone was together in the same room), with all the other attendees in the back. It was here that I met Robert Lyons, our Young Adult Delegate from Denison, and got to reconnect with Elaine Doorenbos, the Ruling Elder Commissioner from Le Mars. We got lucky and were seated in row C – the third row from the front. Des Moines Presbytery was right behind us and Eastern Iowa Presbytery was somewhere near row Z.

Our time together began with a worship service. The churches of Western Oregon put together a huge joint choir and handbells ensemble. There were even a couple of bagpipers. We worshiped together every day that we had Plenary Session and held Bible Studies before each of our committee meetings. At the first Plenary Session, we elected co-Moderators for the General Assembly, and later in the week we elected a new Stated Clerk of the PC (USA).

I was assigned to Committee 09 – Environmental and Immigration Issues. Despite the name of the committee, we spent also no time talking about immigration issues. Our time was dominated by questions of environmental stewardship. There were two big controversial overtures that were presented to our committee. The first wanted the Presbyterian Church to divest from all “Fossil Fuel Companies” and the second asked the Presbyterian Mission Agency to “advocate for alternatives to factory farming.” I helped set them straight on both.

The “factory farming” overture was rewritten to ask the Presbyterian Mission Agency to “responsibly advocate for the humane treatment of animals on farms,” while also seeking to affirm the work of everyone who works in the food industry. I still voted against the overture, but my rewrites helped to transform an unkind motion into something broadly supportive of farmers. On the “fossil fuel” overture, I worked very hard to find a reasonable compromise but people were more ideologically divided on that issue. The divestment motion passed our committee, yet was soundly defeated in Plenary Session. A few people attributed the defeat of the overture to an impassioned plea for responsibly from a young pastor serving a church in Iowa. I cannot confirm these reports.

All in all, I had an amazing time at General Assembly and was extremely grateful to our church and to the Presbytery for giving me this wonderful opportunity to serve our denomination.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

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Meet the Congregation

The spotlight on this month's candidate is Pastor Brian Camara. Pastor Brian is our leader. In business terms, he is both the Chief Executive Officer and the Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

But let's start back in Glendale, California in 1983. Ed and Debbie Camara already had a daughter Jennine and in that year a boy was born into this family. They named him Brian. A few years later the family was complete when David Camara arrived on the scene. Jennine is now married to Steve Hinkle. Jennine is an energy trader, as she buys and sells energy. Steve works in the construction business. Younger brother, David is a computer programmer.

The Camara family attended a Presbyterian Church in Glendale. The church consisted of 2,000 members and according to Brian had a very strong youth program. Pastor Brian attended Village Christian School, which is a private school. Estimated attendance at this school was 600 students in high school and 1,400 students in K-8th grade. While in school, Pastor Brian participated in football, soccer and track. In football he was a lineman, small and mighty, and in track Pastor Brian was a pole vaulter. During his high school days he worked as a server at a restaurant. At this restaurant he met a very diverse clientele. Also during his high school day he took a strong interest in the study of history and this area of study stayed with him throughout life. During his school years he was very involved in church and youth activities and at sixteen years of age he decided he wanted to follow Christ and make pastoring his life's work.

Once he graduated from high school in 2001, he was off to college at the University of California in San Diego. Besides the basic courses he concentrated his studies on history and religion. Pastor Brian finished his college career in 2005 and moved to Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California to achieve his Master of Divinity degree in 2009. During this period, Pastor Brian served as interim at three different churches and served a six month internship at a hospital. Brian also makes note of failing his ordination examinations seven different times – a high number for any pastor. It's likely that Brian made a habit of providing his own creative answers to questions, but not the answers that the graders wanted. But all worked out and he came into the world of pastoring in

2010. In 2010 there were 10 pastors applying for every open position in California and Brian was without experience. He opened his mind to serving any church throughout the United States. He interviewed for three churches in California, one in Virginia, one in New York, and one in the heartland, Glidden, Iowa. Pastor Brian has been First Presbyterian leader since November 8, 2010 and for this we are grateful.

Pastor Brian's hobbies include reading, listening to lectures on tape and walking. He likes to read science fiction, history, biblical, and some fantasy novels.

Pastor Brian's parents had a big influence on his life as they lived their life according to their beliefs. Brian's dad always said, "A fool and his money are soon parted". This quote has stuck with Pastor Brian throughout his life.

Pastor Brian has had the unique experience of traveling to England and China and in October he will travel, along with his family, to Hawaii. A further great experience was attending the General Assembly meeting in June of the Presbyterian Church.

Things changed in Pastor Brian's life when he met a young lady by the name of Abby Stoner. Abby grew up in Newton, Iowa and now resides in Des Moines. She works for Truckers Insurance Corporation. Abby is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in English Literature and continued her studies at Iowa State University in creative writing and poetry. Pastor Brian and Abby have a shared interest in reading and often times read the same books to discuss at a later time. Something like a private book club! Presently they are reading books concerning mythology. The church is happy and supportive of this young couple and welcome Abby to the church whenever she can attend.

Upon reflection of the past six years, Pastor Brian said it was a life changing event to come to Glidden. He gave up everything to move here. He gave up his family's closeness, his friends, his church family, he gave up his comfort zone, his security – and yet he chose to relocate. Once in Glidden he claims he gained a special church family who has been supportive. As to the future, Pastor Brian would like to see the church work together to take a larger role in serving our community. He nonetheless recognizes the role of individuals in serving the community and appreciate those efforts.

Presently, Pastor Brian is involved in achieving his Doctorate of Ministry degree. Due to his full employment this degree will not be achieved until 2018-2019.

We closed out our discussion with thoughts on how to grow, improve, serve and be beneficial in our role of being a follower of our Lord.

Member Speaks

Glidden Presbyterian Church provides our children with an extended Christian family. It serves as another place/opportunity to learn, love and grow as a Christian and a person in general.

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

I would like to Thank my church family for their continued support. I always felt your support in school and my sporting activities and in my every day life. I also appreciate the gift set and will put it to good use at ISU. Thank you also for the many gatherings that have been held at our church, those will always be among my favorite memories. I appreciated the cake reception to congratulate Anna and myself , it was very kind. Thank you for everything and

God Bless. Oliver Conner

Storm Window Replacement

For many years Plexiglas has covered the seven windows on the east side of the church building. This Plexiglas was to protect the stained glass window from storm damage and to act as a weather barrier to save on heat during the winter months. This Plexiglas has served its purpose, but over the years it has turned green and now blocks the street view of the stained glass windows.

The session has approved the removal of the Plexiglas on these windows and approved the installation of new aluminum framed storm windows. Architectural Glassworks of Lincoln, Nebraska has been contracted to paint the wood frames and install storm windows. The windows will cost just less than \$1000.00 per window.

As previously announced in church, we are asking members to adopt a window, a portion of a window, or to make a donation to the window project. So far, this generous congregation has had six families adopt a window (all but one of the tall windows on the east side of the church). If any one wishes to adopt a window or portion of a window, merely mark your check or donation so Mark Conner can get it in the correct location. This addition will enhance the appearance of the church building and we send our thanks to those who have organized and contributed to this project.

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

13th-Toni Sinclair
20th-Joyce Conner
21st-Allison Thelin
22nd-Linda McCellan
24th-Carolyn Conner
25th-Erik Lamp
25th-Jane Burdine
26th-Marge Middaugh
28th-Ed and Jen Flemmig Anniversary
31st-Mike and Linda McCellan Anniversary



Bible Banter

Palm Sunday

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for.

"People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father told him.

"Wouldn't you know it," Johnny fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up."

An Engineer

An engineer dies and reports to the Pearly Gates. Saint Peter checks his dossier and not seeing his name there, accidentally sends him to Hell. It doesn't take long before the engineer becomes rather dissatisfied with the level of comfort in Hell.

He soon begins to design and build improvements. Shortly thereafter, Hell has air conditioning, flush toilets and escalators. Needless to say, the engineer is a pretty popular guy.

One day, God calls Satan and says: "So, how are things in Hell?"

Satan replies: "Hey, things are going great. We've got air conditioning, flush toilets, and escalators. And there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next."

"What!" God exclaims: "You've got an engineer? That's a mistake - he should never have been sent to Hell. Send him to me."

"Not a chance," Satan replies: "I like having an engineer on the staff, and I'm keeping him!"

God insists: "Send him back or I'll sue."

Satan laughs uproariously and answers: "Yeah, right. And where are you going to get a lawyer?"

Kudos Korner:

- *To the United Methodist Church for hosting the Presbyterian congregation while Pastor Brian was gone on June 19 and June 26th.*
- *To Ty, Lindsey, Treynor and Braylee Cose for hosting Presbyterian Church and picnic activities on July 31st.*
- *To the Peace Lutheran Church for hosting vacation bible school for area youth.*
- *To families and members who have adopted a window or portion of a window in an effort to make the church building look better.*
- *To all of the youth of this area as they participated in the county fair at Coon Rapids. A special recognition goes out to Whitney Reever for the many honors she won at the fair, especially showing the Grand Champion heifer.*

Announcements

-Presbyterian Women meet on Wednesday, August 10th, at 11:30am at Las Margaritas

-Session meets on Wednesday, August 17th, at 5:30pm

-Meals From the Heartland's Annual Hunger Fight is on August 31st

We will meet at the church at 8:00am and carpool to Des Moines together

Food packing begins at HyVee Hall at 10:30am and ends at 12:30pm

Stewardship

In July and August, our church will **Feed The People**

In July and August, we will support two different food-related ministries: the Community of Concern Food Pantry in Carroll and Meals From the Heartland. We know that at the last food drive you gave six cans of green beans and a box of cereal to the Community of Concern – but financial gifts are often far more helpful to a functioning food pantry than canned goods. The food pantry is able to purchase the food they most need at a greatly reduced cost with a financial donation and you'll help pay for the costs related to running a food pantry (like electricity). Our local food pantry has enough green beans. They need some dough, and we can help them out.

On August 31st, we will join with Meals From the Heartland and participate in their Annual Hunger Fight at HyVee Hall in Des Moines.