

Presbytery of Great Rivers
ASSEMBLY MINUTES
June 2, 2020

STATED MEETING

The Presbytery of Great Rivers met in Stated Meeting June 2, 2020 on Zoom at 10 am. The meeting was called to order, opened with prayer and song by Moderator Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle. The purpose of the meeting was for worship. Moderator Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle led the meeting in worship and the transaction of business. An offering was collected by participants going online to donate to the PC(USA) Special Offering: Pentecost Offering.

Moderator Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle led the meeting with an acknowledgement of the Indigenous Peoples' heritage of our home gathering sites.

Moderator Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle opened the meeting with prayer at 10:20 am.

QUORUM & ROLL.

The roll was established by registration.

Elder Lance Slavish	Aledo-College Ave RE Commissioner
Elder Jean Harfst	Aledo-Sunbeam RE Commissioner
Rev. Steve Barch	Bartonville-Trinity
Marilyn Simmons	Biggsville RE Commissioner
CLP Kathie Whitson	Biggsville-United
Elder Tom Young	Bloomington-Second RE Commissioner
Rev. Andy Gifford	Bloomington-St Luke
Elder John Otto	Bloomington-St Luke RE Commissioner
Elder John Hawkins	Buffalo Hart RE Commissioner
Rev. Sarah McGill	Buffalo Hart-Buffalo Hart
Rev. Mark Merrill	Bushnell-First
Elder Terry Frame	Canton RE Commissioner
Rev. Sterrett Collins	Canton-First
Elder Nate Rush	Carlinville RE Commissioner
CLP Susan Sawers	Carlinville-Federated
Rev. Joy Ridge	Carthage-First
Elder Marcia Wahls	Chenoa RE Commissioner
Rev. Kay Daniel	Clayton-Federated
Elder Leland Wright	Clinton RE Commissioner
Rev. Paul Stroup	Clinton-Clinton
Rev. Jean Sparks	Delevan-First
Elder Carrol Lewis	Delevan RE Commissioner
Elder Denise Maxwell	East Moline RE Commissioner
Rev. Becky Sherwood	East Moline-First
Rev. Marla Bauler	Elmwood-First & Yates City-Faith
Elder Norma Foley	Eureka RE Commissioner
CLP Bob Montgomery	Eureka-Eureka
Elder Jodi Phillips	Farmington RE Commissioner
Rev. Andy Sonneborn	Farmington-First
Elder Susan Rinehart	Galesburg RE Commissioner
Susan Schafer	Geneseo RE Commissioner
Rev. Tim Doty	Geneseo-First

Elder Dean Bidney	Ipava RE Commissioner
Elder David Truesdell	Jacksonville RE Commissioner
Rev. Jonathan Warren	Jacksonville-First
Elder Janet Shauman	Kirkwood RE Commissioner
CLP Pam Moore	Kirkwood-Westminster
Elder Candance Rosen	Knoxville RE Commissioner
Elder Candice Rosene	Knoxville-First
Rev. Annie McMillan	Leroy-First
Elder Rick Hoffman	Lewistown RE Commissioner
CLP Penny Frame	Lewistown-First
Rev. Erin Marth	Macomb-First
Elder Courtney Blankenship	Macomb-First RE Commissioner
Elder John Salazar	Macomb-First RE Commissioner
Rev. Charlotte Poetschner	Mason City-United
Elder Julio Garcia	Milan RE Commissioner
Rev. Dale Dykstra	Milan-First
Rev. Brandon Ouellette	Monmouth-Faith United
CLP Mike Claver	Morton-First
Rev. Mark Bedford	New Windsor-New Windsor
Rev Matt Wilcox	Normal-First
Elder Marilea White	Normal-First RE Commissioner
Rev. Susan Ryder	Normal-New Covenant
Rev. Robert Ryder	Normal-New Covenant
Elder Larry Lawson	Oneida RE Commissioner
Rev Forrest Krummel	Peoria-First Federated
Rev. Debra	Peoria-United
Debbie Hansen	Peoria-United RE Commissioner
Rev. Denise Clark Jones	Peoria-Westminster
Elder Steve Territo	Petersburg RE Commissioner
CLP Stephanie McCullough	Petersburg-Central
Elder Sara Ross	Pleasant Plains RE Commissioner
Rev. Lonna Lee	Pleasant Plains-Farmingdale
Rev. Harry Losey	Reynolds-Hamlet Perryton
Rev. Drew Nagle	Rock Island-Gloria Dei
Elder Debbie Hays	Rock Island-Gloria Dei RE Commissioner
Elder James Bertelsen	Rock Island-Good Shepherd RE Commissioner
Elder Marcia Duncan	Seaton-Center RE Commissioner
Rev. Susan Phillips	Springfield-First
Rev. Chuck Goodman	Springfield-Hope
Rev. Paula Carmichael	Springfield-Knox
Rev. Blythe Kieffer	Springfield-Westminster
Rev. Trajan McGill	Springfield-Westminster
Rev. Christian Choi	Springfield-Westminster
Elder Kathy Germeraad	Springfield-Westminster RE Commissioner
Elder Jim Kincaid	Springfield-Westminster RE Commissioner
Elder Carolyn Swanson	Springfield-Westminster RE Commissioner
Elder Alan Wallace	Springfield-Westminster RE Commissioner
Elder Don Fry	Stronghurst RE Commissioner
Rev. Joanne Hinds	Tallula-Rock Creek

Elder Melody Wiseman	Washington RE Commissioner
Rev. Dr. Linda Philabaun	Washington-Washington
Elder Vicky Carlson	Woodhull RE Commissioner
Rev. Cheyanna Losey	Woodhull-United
Elder Mary Watts	Yates City RE Commissioner
Elder Bill Harfst	Committee Member-Admin
CLP Diane Ludington	Co-Moderator
Ken Green	Corresponding Member-BOP
Rev. Cindy Kohlmann	Corresponding Member-New England Presbytery
Carolyn Garcia	Guest
Elder Bill Strawbridge	Guest
Elder Debbie Dornaus	Guest
Elder Julie Bruninga	Guest
Elder Merle Fox	Guest
Elder Samuel La Mere	Guest
Galen Westerfield	Guest
Virginia Brown	Guest
Rev. Almut Spalding	Honorably Retired
Rev. Carolyn Weber	Honorably Retired
Rev. Cheryl Lunday	Honorably Retired
Rev. Joyce Chamberlin	Honorably Retired
Rev. Kathy Mitchell	Honorably Retired
Rev. Kathy Stoner Lasala	Honorably Retired
Rev. Laura Reason	Honorably Retired
Rev Jennifer Sakata	Member at Large
Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle	Moderator
Elder Gary Davis	Past Moderator
Elder Gary Terpstra	Past Moderator
Elder Mike Orr	Past Moderator
Rev. Beth Hamilton	Validated Ministry
Rev. Jessica Hawkinson	Validated Ministry
Rev. Teri Ott	Validated Ministry
Fiona McGrath Nagle	YAAD

The Moderator led the opening prayer before welcoming the Assembly.

The Moderator offered instructions for this first Zoom assembly meeting.

- Practice polls – raised hand if you are sharing a device. *9 if you are on the phone. This is to allow the people to me moved to breakout rooms to vote and be counted.
- No people on the phone. Milan has several people on one device. *Cheryl Lunday later joined by phone.*
- Co-hosts decided to vote via Group Me so that only Milan needs to be in the breakout room.
- Practice Poll one – “no” carried it.
- Practice Poll two – “yes” carried it.

Introduction of new Ruling Elder Commissioners. New Ruling Elder Commissioners introduced included:

- John Salazar, First Pres, Macomb.
- Courtney Blakenship, First Pres, Macomb
- Debbie Dornaus, First Federated Peoria
- Sara Ross, Farmingdale Pres, Springfield

MSA to seat corresponding members Rev. Dale Dykstra from Blackhawk Presbytery, interim at First Presbyterian Church, Milan, GA Co-Moderator Cindy Kohlmann.

MSA to approve the docket with corrections:

- Removal of Committee on Preparation report and Nauvoo Administrative Commission report.
- Add Bills and Overtures report
- We will move Co-Moderator Cindy Kohlmann up in the agenda for the sake of time if needed.

CURRENT BUSINESS

- **MSA** that all written reports be entered into the permanent minutes.
- Greetings on behalf of the 223rd General Assembly of the PC(USA) Co-Moderator Cindy Kohlmann

COMMISSIONING SERVICE

Commissioning Service for the Presbytery of Great Rivers' General Assembly Commissioners. The following persons were commissioned to the 224th General Assembly:

- Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle
- Rev. Chuck Goodman
- Elder Diane Ludington
- Elder Penny Frame

MSA to accept the reports Lead Presbyter for Transformation Report; Administration Team Report (financial and treasurer reports); Visioning Team Report, Bills & Overtures Report.

OMNIBUS MOTION

MSA to accept the reports of the Lead Presbytery for Transformation; Administration Team Report (including financial and treasurer reports); Visioning Team Report, Bills and Overtures Report.

STATED CLERK REPORT

Presented by Rev. Cheyanna Losey, Secretary Pro Tem

- An allegation of misconduct has been received and an Investigative Committee was formed, trained, and began their work.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented by Elder Gary Terpstra

MSA – no additional nominations were offered from the floor.

- Elder David Monninger to be elected to the Administration Team, class of 2022, first term, to start immediately.
- Rev. Laura Reason to be elected to the Committee on Ministry, class of 2022, first term, to start immediately.
- Elder G. Ronald Kesinger to be elected to the Administration Team, for the class of 2022, first term, to start immediately.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

Presented by Elder Kathie Whitson

- **MA** to wave G-2.0404 for the extension of Jo Branson's term, Elder at Ipava Presbyterian Church.
- **MA** to wave G-2.0404 for the extension of Leonard Armstrong's term, Elder at Sunbeam Presbyterian Church.
- **MA** to form the Administrative Commission for Greenview United Presbyterian Church with the following commission:
 1. To assist the Session in discerning its current and future ministry and mission.
 2. To "counsel with the session concerning reported difficulties within the congregation", (G-3.0303d)
 3. "Advising the session as to appropriate actions to be taken to resolve the reported

- difficulties,” (G3.0303d)
4. “Offering to help as a mediator, and” (G-3.0303d)
 5. “Acting to correct the difficulties if requested to do so by the session or if the session is unable or unwilling to do so, following the procedural safeguards of the rules of discipline.” (G-3.0303d)
 6. To meet with the congregation as needed to discern matters of disorder and to discern future ministry and mission.
 7. If requested or if the commission “determines that the session is unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs, the commission is given authority to assume original jurisdiction of session as provided in the Book of Order and following all proper procedures.” (G-3.0303e)
 8. To exercise the Presbytery’s authority to approve “congregations desiring to move as well as to divide, dismiss, or dissolve the congregation in consultation with their members;” (G-3.0303b) and to approve a shared ministry agreement with another congregation.
 9. To report its work and all actions to the Presbytery for ratification and whenever possible to take items seven and eight to the Presbytery for action.
- **MSA** Rev. Mark Merrill be added as a member of the Administrative Commission for Nauvoo-First:
 - **MSA** the following to be approved as members of the Administrative Commission for Greenview Presbyterian Church (still need one more member):
 - Rev. Christian Choi
 - Rev. Susan Phillips
 - Rev. Andy Sonneborn
 - Elder Sandra Woodard

The Moderator Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle closed the meeting with a blessing and prayer. The assembly adjourned at 12:47 pm and was declared adjourned.

The next Presbytery Assembly meeting will be Saturday, August 29th, 2020 currently scheduled at First Presbyterian Church of Normal, Illinois.

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ADMINISTRATION TEAM REPORT

Administration Team Report

1. On 5/12/2020 the Administration Team approved the recommended motion submitted by the Administrative Commission for the Presbyterian Church in Nauvoo, IL as stated below. Julio Garcia

The session of the Nauvoo Church is anxious to get moving forward so the hope of the Commission is that the Administration Team vote can be concluded by noon on Thursday, May 14, 2020.

To approve the sale of the physical assets including the building and real estate of the First Presbyterian Church of Nauvoo, IL by auction at the request of the Session and the Congregation. The Session will contract with a licensed auctioneer for a sale to be held in July or early August 2020 pending the availability of auctioneer.

2. On April 7, 2020 a special Admin Team Meeting was called to deal with the following issues:
 - Westminster Springfield submitted a PILP loan request for \$1,166,700. This loan would be used for building and lot upgrades.
 - Discussed the assets of the Presbytery and the assets of the church available if the church were to default on the loan.
 - Discussed the possibility of the church choosing to delay the loan because of COVID-19.
 - **MSA** to cosign the PILP loan as a guarantor.
 - Bill Strawbridge will communicate with the representative of the church the decision of the Admin team.
 - It was discussed that Ryan and Bill S. would work together to form an ask for larger churches in the Presbytery to assist smaller churches with grant and loan writing as many larger churches have resources beyond the smaller churches.
 - Discussed the CARES act and Small Business Loans. Julio and Bill S. were on the Synod call yesterday that talked about these in depth.
 - There is no collateral or co-signing needed. Therefore, advice from the OGA and Synod states that Presbyteries do not need to approve the individual loans. The Book of Order states the Presbyteries are responsible for encumbered loans and these do not fall under that category.
 - Bill spoke to the fact that in applying for these loans, the church does not need to demonstrate repayment ability.
 - The purpose of these loans is to keep people employed and it is being treated like a grant.
 - **MSA** for Bill Strawbridge to send out packets to the churches about how they could apply if they chose to do so.
 - Bill and Ryan will work together to come up with a “30,000-foot view” of what the program is for to help pastors and churches.

3. On April 8, 2020 the Admin. Team sent out the following Guidance:

Administration Team Guidance on Federal Aid for Churches
from the Presbytery of Great Rivers

*We are called to share Christ's love by partnering in service,
uniting in worship and risking in ministry.*

April 8, 2020

Friends,

We pray you and yours are well.

As many of us witnessed during the 2008/2009 economic crisis, providing the best data and forecasts we can in assisting leadership with the discernment of "next steps", both in the short and long terms, is crucial.

We are grateful that there are many options for assistance in response to the current COVID-19 crisis that include but are not limited to those offered by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Board of Pensions, the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program (PILP), and also the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program loans with limited resources being offered to roughly 30.2 million businesses, many of which have been closed for weeks.

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is designed to keep small businesses, including qualifying non-profit organizations, afloat during mandated Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") related closures.

This new loan program will make potentially forgivable loans available to qualifying small businesses. Most non-profit organizations, that generally have less than 500 employees, are eligible to apply. In evaluating eligibility for such loans, lenders are to consider: (1) whether the borrower was operational on February 15, 2020, and (2) whether the borrower was paying salaries and payroll taxes for employees and independent contractors at that time.

PPP loans can be forgiven to the extent that the loan proceeds have been used for the following costs incurred and payments made during the eight-week period after the loan is made: payroll costs; mortgage interest (but not prepayments or principal payments) and rent payments on mortgages and leases in existence before February 15, 2020; certain utilities, including electricity, gas, water, transportation, and phone and Internet access for service that began before February 15, 2020. (see attachment entitled: Summary of CARES Act Provisions for more information). These loans must be applied for through your lending institution or bank.

How then do congregational leaders face this daunting task of sifting through these options while providing pertinent information through which discernment can be made?

The presbytery is encouraging congregations to consider doing a cash flow analysis as a first step before making decisions about how to move forward on requests for payment assistance or funding of the mission and ministry of the congregation. If, after doing this cash flow analysis, you find that your church should be able to withstand then next several months, then please consider whether you should apply for a loan. Since there is a finite amount of money available, we hope those that need it most will have access to it.

To assist you with forecasting cash-flow, attached please find a spreadsheet that can be used to estimate monthly and year-end cash balances available to support your ongoing ministries for planning purposes. During these unprecedented times, there hasn't been an overabundance of hard data available to serve as a basis for discernment. Although the attached spreadsheet includes worksheets for 12-months and an annual statement for 2020, I've used this spreadsheet to develop multiple forecasts - focusing on receipt estimates to include a range from 1) a possible severe decrease, 2) a less severe percentage decrease, and 3) to no impact on giving for the months of April, May and June 2020, with gifts and receipts for the months following June slowly beginning to normalize. Likewise, scenarios regarding expenditures can be made to provide a full range of options.

The objective is to provide estimated information and data for your leadership and possibly to share with your partners at the presbytery as we help you evaluate available resources and other potential sources of assistance.

Please note that the fields highlighted in "yellow" on the spreadsheet require your input of the data for your church family. Other fields should calculate automatically.

If you feel you should apply for a PPP loan, please contact your bank or lending institution to begin the process. We've included several attachments including a Q&A for faith-based orgs and an application form. The information about this loan program is changing daily and your bank or lending institution should provide the most up to date info.

If we can be of further assistance and/or you have questions about completing the form, please don't hesitate to call or email.

Peace,

Julio Garcia, Admin Chair julieman6@yahoo.com
Bill Strawbridge, Treasurer bnc.sbridge@gmail.com

4. April 14, 2020, I recommended the following to Beulah Presbyterian Church.(Sale of their manse)
 1. I informed them that the first step was to gain approval from their session as to how they wanted to proceed.
 2. I also suggested that they might want to review the churches by laws because as in most of these cases issues of capital expenses or income might be an issue and it might require congressional approval. C-
 3. I informed them that once the congregation made a decision a formal request would have to be sent to GRP describing in detail as to their intentions. That upon receiving the request unless GRP had an issue with the action it would give the church the approval to proceed, but before finalizing any transaction it would have to gain final approval from GRP. I assured them that now that the GRP Admin team has been given final approval on real estate issues the response from a GRP would be very timely. I also told them that I had a concern because of the fact that the land and house were donated was there a legal deed produced, naming the church as sole owners. I strongly suggest that the church proceed to procure a league deed and to make sure that GRP was named in the deed as an interest party in any future transactions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report

While we live in uncertain times, churches continue their mission through payments of per capita, missions, special offerings, and reaching out to their congregants in many different ways. I am very grateful for the churches of the Presbytery of Great Rivers who have been faithful in their financial support of our Presbytery, Synod and Office of General Assembly. I am also thankful for Sabrina, our bookkeeper, who, while tending to her children and their school work, has been able to carve out enough time to bring our finances up to date and for Patti, who ensures your checks are properly accounted for and deposited.

In reviewing the results from the end of April, you will notice a large amount of money in our checking and CD account. Our CDs total \$150,000 and the checking account houses the remaining roughly \$150,000. This is because you have been faithfully paying your per capita and mission money. During April, we closed the office except for the few checks that I wrote to support the Zoom initiative. The money we normally send on to Synod and GA had stockpiled in our checking account. May will see about \$50,000 passed on to those entities as well as our rent to FFC, which was graciously postponed. Our investments have taken a hit just like many others' accounts, but we are monitoring our cash flow to ensure enough money is available to carry out the work of the Presbytery. God bless you all; stay safe.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Strawbridge, Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET

**PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND REVENUES AND EXPENSES - CASH BASIS
ACTUAL TO BUDGET COMPARATIVE
YEAR TO DATE April 30, 2020**

	Actual	Annual Budget	(Over)Under Budget	Percent of Budget Used
<i>Support and Revenue</i>				
Budgeted				
Congregational Support				
Per Capita	\$ 69,425	\$ 192,390	\$ 122,965	36%
Mission	24,225	75,850	51,625	32%
Trust Clause Payments	2,564	12,200	9,636	21%
Total Congregational Support	\$ 96,214	\$ 280,440	\$ 174,590	34%
Investment Income	(37,229)	32,600	69,829	-114%
Total Budgeted Receipts	\$ 58,985	\$ 313,040	\$ 244,419	19%
Transfer to/from Designated Funds	(156)			
Unbudgeted Receipts				
Preparation for Ministry Support	\$ 140			
Presbytery Peacemaking Support	519			
Other Receipts - COID payroll tax allowance	713			
Total Unbudgeted Receipts	\$ 1,372			
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 60,201			
 <i>Expenses</i>				
Budgeted				
Salaries, Benefits, Training & Taxes				
General Presbyter	\$ 38,058	\$ 119,155	\$ 81,097	32%
Stated Clerk	3,682	16,150	12,468	23%
Senior Administrative Assistant	20,418	63,072	42,654	32%
Bookkeeper	5,934	20,800	14,866	29%
CLP Coordinator	-	8,180	8,180	0%
Workers Compensation Insurance	782	700	(82)	112%
Total Salaries and Related Expenses	\$ 68,874	\$ 228,057	\$ 159,183	30%
Presbytery Office				
Occupancy	\$ 6,846	\$ 18,446	\$ 11,600	37%
Office Operations and Supplies	4,614	17,850	13,236	26%
Total Presbytery Office Expenses	\$ 11,460	\$ 36,296	\$ 24,836	32%

INCOME STATEMENT

**PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND REVENUES AND EXPENSES - CASH BASIS
ACTUAL TO BUDGET COMPARATIVE
YEAR TO DATE April 30, 2020**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>(Over)Under Budget</u>	<u>Percent of Budget Used</u>
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Budgeted				
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Occupancy	\$ 6,846	\$ 18,446	\$ 11,600	37%
Office Operations and Supplies	4,614	17,850	13,236	26%
Total Presbytery Office Expenses	<u>\$ 11,460</u>	<u>\$ 36,296</u>	<u>\$ 24,836</u>	<u>32%</u>

PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND REVENUES AND EXPENSES - CASH BASIS
ACTUAL TO BUDGET COMPARATIVE
YEAR TO DATE April 30, 2020

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>(Over)Under Budget</u>	<u>Percent of Budget Used</u>
Presbytery Administration				
Liability Insurance	-	3,100	3,100	0%
Audit Fee	-	7,350	7,350	0%
Moderator Training	-	1,250	\$ 1,250	0%
Assembly Meetings	752	2,200	\$ 1,448	34%
Per Capita Shortfall	-	21,386	21,386	0%
General Assembly Delegates	-	4,000	4,000	0%
Payroll Service	458	1,450	992	32%
Legal Fees	-	100	100	0%
Total Presbytery Administration Expenses	<u>\$ 1,210</u>	<u>\$ 40,836</u>	<u>\$ 39,626</u>	<u>3%</u>
 Meeting Expense - All Teams	 <u>\$ 97</u>	 <u>\$ 3,300</u>	 <u>\$ 3,203</u>	 <u>3%</u>
 Program Expenses				
Committee on Ministry	\$ 302	\$ 13,700	\$ 13,398	2%
Committee on Preparation for Ministry	-	500	500	0%
Visioning Grants	1,000	59,000	58,000	2%
Continuing Education Grants	500	5,000	4,500	10%
Presbytery Events	-	1,000	1,000	0%
Pastoral Care/Compassion Fund	500	1,000	500	50%
Illinois Conference of Churches	-	500	500	0%
Disaster Relief	50	-	(50)	-
Total Program Expenses	<u>\$ 2,352</u>	<u>\$ 80,700</u>	<u>\$ 78,348</u>	<u>3%</u>
 Other Expenses				
Bank Fees & Expenses	16	200	184	8%
Depreciation Expense	-	3,000	3,000	0%
	<u>\$ 16</u>	<u>\$ 3,200</u>	<u>\$ 3,184</u>	<u>1%</u>
 Total Budgeted Expenses	 <u>\$ 84,010</u>	 <u>\$ 392,389</u>	 <u>\$ 305,195</u>	 <u>21%</u>
 Unbudgeted Expenses Funded by Restricted Funds				
Pastor Support Grants	503	-	-	
	<u>\$ 503</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	
 Total Expenses	 <u>\$ 84,513</u>	 <u>\$ 392,389</u>	 <u>\$ 307,876</u>	
 Excess of Support and Revenue Over Expenses	 <u>\$ (24,312)</u>	 <u>\$ (79,349)</u>	 <u>(55,037)</u>	

BILLS AND OVERTURES COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee on Bills and Overtures

The Committee on Bills and Overtures met on Wednesday April 22 to consider an overture. The outcome was a decision not to bring the overture to the assembly for concurrence.

COM REPORT

Committee on Ministry has had three meetings since the last Assembly meeting in February 2020. We have made the transition to Zoom conference meetings during shelter in place.

Despite the new format, we have continued our practice of worshipping at the start of our meetings. This has become even more significant to us during these days of social distancing to help us feel connected to one another. The habit of praying for our transitional churches by name and those individuals who are in need of prayer has become the standard end of all our meetings.

February meeting highlights:

- Reviewed transitional churches statuses
- Approved contracts and terms of call
- M/S/A to dissolve the cooperative agreement with Seaton-Center and Aledo-College Ave churches.

Motion for GRP from February meeting

- Ipava Presbyterian, Ipava request GRP approve their petition to allow elder Jo Branson to be approved to serve another term on the session as elder.
- Sunbeam Presbyterian, Aledo request GRP approve their petition to allow elder Leonard Armstrong to serve another term as elder.
- M/S/P to recommend to PGR approval of waiving G.-2.0404.

March 24 prayer meeting highlights:

In light of the pandemic creating a need to shelter in place and the emotional and daily disturbance this created for all of us, the decision was made to postpone the COM regular meeting for a week. The March 24 meeting then became a time for all of us to join together for the following reasons:

- 1 to help people become comfortable with the Zoom conference format,
- 2 a safe place to share concerns, fears and to grieve and
- 3 to lift each other up in prayer.

March 31 meeting highlights:

- Approved several terms of call and contracts
- Reviewed transitional church statuses
- heard from the members who attended the Synod of Lincoln Trails COM/CPM conference held March 9 - 11 about their experience and insights
- Motion for GRP from March 31st meeting - There were no motions coming out of this meeting.

April meeting highlights

- Approved several terms of call and contracts
- Reviewed transitional church statuses
- discussed clarifying language of churches in transition; what does it mean to be a Level 1, 2 or 3 church
- brought ideas ahead of time and then brainstormed more for helping GRP churches with conducting Zoom meetings. The results of that discussion are available in the assembly papers.
- discussed what calling a pastor looks like during these unprecedented times.
- gave some thought to how congregational meetings, elder/deacon ordinations, pastoral installations and Minister of Word and Sacrament ordinations could be held.

Motion for GRP from March 31 meeting - There were no motions coming out of this meeting.

Report on referral back to COM RE Hyaekwong Kim There was nothing new to report as of the April 28, 2020 meeting.

This concludes the report for the Committee on Ministry for the June Assembly

Respectfully submitted

Kathie Whitson, Elder/CLP COM Chair

LEAD PRESBYTER REPORT

Report of your Lead Presbyter for Transformation, 5/31/20

Three of the last four months since my last report have been co-shepherding our community of churches through ministry during the worst global pandemic since 1918, and the first in post-Christendom ministry. Because most of my energy went towards responding to the pandemic, that will be the primary focus of this report (*as a shout-out to the excellent, in-person ministry safely done from 2/8 - 3/14, those images are included here as well*).

Since the beginning of the pandemic, I understood my role as one of resourcing, connecting, and encouraging our church leadership as challenges changed week to week, being particularly attentive to the congregations experiencing emergencies on top of the crisis of the pandemic. To that end, safely from home, I employed electronic means of weekly newsletter, phone, and Zoom to connect with church leaders up and down the presbytery, including the offering of six weekly check-ins by Zoom from mid-March to late April. For different instances of facilitating care and mission, I have directly interfaced with the leadership of the Synod of Lincoln Trails, the Board of Pensions, Office of General Assembly, Office of Preparation for Ministry, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. On top of the use of discretionary relief funds, I was also able to advocate to the PDA for an emergency grant for United Korean Presbyterian Church in Springfield, a church still reeling from a vehicle accident through their sanctuary in December, so they can feed their vulnerable Korean speaking population through the pandemic (the Admin Team was gracious enough to cover the rest of what the PDA grant did not supply). I have also assisted no fewer than six congregations through pastoral searches, two of which have or are in the process of finalizing calls in spite of the pandemic.

Here is a timeline of how events unfolded in our presbytery:

2/28: earliest resources shared by presbytery newsletter about preparing for outbreak of disease.

3/11: a global pandemic declared by World Health Organization.

3/12: after consulting with local health departments, a video-blog was shared on Facebook about best health practices for worship.

3/13: in consultation between the Stated Clerk and Lead Presbyter, presbytery offices were closed to visitors and all presbytery committee gatherings were required to gather online only; also, first communication on the “state of the presbytery” and recommendations with resources sent out by email

3/14: first case of the coronavirus confirmed in the bounds of our presbytery, first in Tazewell County east of Peoria, then later in Sangamon County; a Sixty Second Sermon style video distributed demonstrating CDC recommendations; approximately half of the congregations of Great Rivers Presbytery suspend worship for Sunday the 15th. Presbytery staff commits to working from home.

3/15: began to collate a running list of alternate worship sites for online worship from across our presbytery, shared to Facebook and newsletter.

3/19: Visioning Team issues statement encouraging innovative ministry.

3/20: governor declares first shelter-in-place order; to our knowledge, all of our congregations complied by suspending in-person gatherings

4/8: in coordination with Admin Team and Treasurer, communication distributed offering guidance on the C.A.R.E.S. Act as it pertains to federal relief for churches. At least three churches successfully secure federal aid.

4/9: an Easter address by Lead Presbyter sent out by newsletter.

4/20: a second “state of the presbytery” communication sent out from the Stated Clerk and Lead Presbytery updating the presbytery to our response to the pandemic, with new resources preparing for May alternate ministry.

5/5: another Sixty Second Sermon video distributed by Lead Presbyter demonstrating considerations of resuming worship during a pandemic.

5/7: a list of “Top Ten Reasons Why Your Pastor Needs a Break” and distributed by Lead Presbyter in newsletter and again as a blog post.

5/19: a statement on COVID-19 was issued by the Leadership Team with important considerations on pandemic ministry, celebrating that because of precautions so far, there have been no reported cases of the virus within our congregations, urging following CDC, governor, and local health department guidelines, and also to consider needs of pastors and staff.

5/29: governor declares entering into Phase Three: gathering size still limited to 10—a handful of churches begin making plans to resume with in-person worship with safety measures, at least two drive-in worship services, many more remain virtual through June; presbytery office staff is permitted to return to office, with masks if two or more in same room and maintaining six feet of distance at all times, with all in-person committee work remaining suspended and facilitated electronically with the office's help.

Fortunately, the presbytery operation itself has continued relatively unhindered; approximately a dozen committee meetings have had their necessary business by Zoom so our ministry could continue. Because we have been practicing online gatherings for two years now, a large number of presbyters have obtained experience with Zoom capability. Being accustomed to myself working both in and out of the office on weekly basis further enabled us to remain responsive to the needs of the presbytery while locked down. I should share that because my Lyme Disease symptoms can restrict my breathing, I am among our vulnerable population and thus will continue working safely from home as much as I can through the summer. Also, I have been blessedly held accountable by the good people of this presbytery to be sure that I am practicing my own advice for self-care and rest, so I will be taking vacation time for two weeks after the conclusion of this Tuesday's virtual assembly. We have a strong, wise, resilient, and resourceful presbytery! It has indeed been an amazing blessing to be called to this time and place to do responsible ministry with you.

Rev. Ryan J. Landino, Lead Presbyter for Transformation of Great Rivers
Presbytery | Cell: 309-251-9958, rlandino@greatriverspby.org

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Leadership Team met on Thursday, April 30, 2020 with the following actions taken and motions recommended:

Expanded Teleconferencing Grants

On April 30, 2020, the Leadership Team expanded the Zoom grant to include the following:

For the purpose of establishing connections in the life of your ministry, we will extend grants to any teleworking needs, including technology software, hardware, or other telework or virtual meeting platforms up to \$200.00. Please follow the process below for reimbursement. We kindly ask that you assess your finances to discern your level of need so we can make our resources available to as many as possible!

From April 1, 2020: the Leadership Team approved grants for churches for a one-year subscription to ZOOM for teleconferencing. You may be reimbursed monthly for as long you need it up to a year or be reimbursed for a single year.

Reimbursement Process:

1. For those purchasing a 1-year subscription:

- a. Pay the cost of the subscription
- b. Print off the invoice that shows it has been paid
- c. Black out any credit card number that might have been used and scan the invoice.
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Bill Strawbridge, Treasurer at: bnc.sbridge@gmail.com

***include a mailing address for where the check should be sent.**

- e. A check will be written to the individual or church as indicated.
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- 2. For those purchasing it by the month**, checks will be issued quarterly following the same process as above. Retain monthly invoices, scan three of them at a time, and email them per the above instructions.

Questions: call Bill Strawbridge at 309 258-4015

Information on 2020 Presbytery Assemblies:

- These offerings will be taken up at 2020 Assemblies indicated:
 - June 2nd, 2020: Pentecost Offering
 - August 29th, 2020: Peace and Global Witness Offering
 - November 14th, 2020: Christmas Joy Offering
- The following keynote speakers have been confirmed for 2020 Assemblies:
 - August 29th, 2020 – Molly Casteel – Committee on Representation
- The following Preachers have been confirmed for 2020 Assemblies:
 - June 2nd, 2020 – Rev. Ryan Landino, Lead Presbyter for Transformation
 - August 29th, 2020 – Rev. Matthew Wilcox, host Pastor
- Communion will be celebrated at the November 14th, 2020 assembly

Motion recommended for action:

- That the following name be approved as an additional member of the Administrative Commission for Nauvoo-First Rev. Mark Merrill

Background: the formation of this Administrative Commission was approved at the November 2019 Assembly with the accompanying duties and responsibilities. At the February 2020 Assembly the following were approved as members of the Administrative Commission for Nauvoo-First: Rev. Joy Ridge, Elder Tom Bertucci, and Elder Don Fry.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee met on March 18, April 8, and May 13, 2020, and took two nominating actions via email.

The following actions were taken that require action by the assembly:

MSA to recommend that RE David Monninger be elected to the Administration Team effective immediately, for the class of 2022.

MSA to recommend that Rev. Laura Reason be elected to the Committee on Ministry effective immediately, for the class of 2022.

MSA to recommend that RE G. Ronald Kesinger be elected to the Administration Team effective immediately, for the class of 2022.

The following is reported but does not require action by the assembly:

The meetings were otherwise predominantly devoted to conversations concerning substantive revision of the nominating process; related actions will come to the assembly as appropriate at a later date.

STATED CLERK REPORT

1. **Members to be received, dismissed, Honorably Retired, REMOVED, or deceased**

THAT the following minister(s) be received:
None

THAT the following minister(s) be listed as Honorably Retired:
None

THAT the following minister(s) be Dismissed:
None

THAT the following minister(s) be Removed from Rolls:
None

Deceased:
None

2. **CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS**

That the following commissions be dismissed, having completed its work:

- Approve dissolution between Rev. Ann Elyse Van Winkle and Aledo-College Avenue Presbyterian Church
- Approve dissolution between Rev. Ann Elyse Van Winkle and Seaton-Center Presbyterian Church
- Dismiss with thanks the commission to oversee the Commissioning of Elder Dan Colvin as Commissioned Lay Pastor of the Ipava United Presbyterian Church in Ipava and the Scotland Trinity Presbyterian Church in Macomb on January 26, 2020 at 3:30 pm.
- Approve dissolution of the commission to oversee the installation for Rev. Treighton Haddon as pastor of Second Presbyterian Church on February 23, 2020 at 3:00 pm

3. **PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

- An allegation of misconduct was received. An Investigative Committee was formed, trained, and began their work.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Request from Ipava Church in Ipava for waiver/exempt from term limits for elders to allow ruling elder Jo Branson to be allowed to serve on session an additional three-year term beyond the customary 2 three-year terms.
- Request from Aledo-Sunbeam for waiver/exempt from term limits for elders to allow ruling elder Leonard Armstrong on session for another term.

2019 Presbytery Statistical Report

Presbytery Great Rivers
Address 3601 N Sheridan Rd, Peoria, IL 61604
Phone 309-683-6890 **Fax** 309-683-6893
Email office@greatriverspby.org
Web Site www.greatriverspby.org



Membership			
Prior Active Members	10641	Adjusted membership	10640
Gains		Losses	
Certificate	60	Certificate	77
Youth Professions	59	Deaths	211
Professions & Reaffirmations	107	Deleted for any Other Reason	273
Total Gains	226	Total Losses	561
Total Ending Active Members	10305		
Baptisms			
Presented by Others	63	Average Weekly Worship Attendance	3598
At Confirmation	16	Female Members	6023
All Other	14	Friends of the Congregation	867
		Ruling Elders on Session	516
		Do you have Deacons? Yes / No	43 / 26
Age Distribution of Active Members		People with Disabilities	
25 & Under	1027	Hearing impairment	417
26 - 40	1375	Sight impairment	148
41 - 55	1216	Mobility impairment	453
56 - 70	1917	Other impairment	239
Over 70	3348		
Total Age Distribution	8883		
Christian Education			
Birth - 3	139	Grade 7	106
Age 4	70	Grade 8	62
Kindergarten	78	Grade 9	73
Grade 1	77	Grade 10	40
Grade 2	77	Grade 11	61
Grade 3	89	Grade 12	80
Grade 4	86	Young Adults	118
Grade 5	101	Over 25	1648
Grade 6	83	Teachers/Officers	457
		Total Christian Education	3445
Racial Ethnic			
Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	94	Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	7
Black/African American/African	127	White	8256
Middle Eastern/North African	2	Multiracial	23
Hispanic/Latino-a	24		
		Total Racial Ethnic	8533
Financial Data			
Annual Income	14,675,041	Mission Expenses	1,574,377
Annual Expenses	13,935,584	Personnel Expenses	6,811,248
		Facilities Expenses	2,871,190

VISIONING TEAM REPORT

A Statement for our Presbytery

We are in an unprecedented time. The challenges of the Coronavirus are impacting all aspects of our community life. As Christians and as leaders within our presbytery, we need to use our God-given "energy, intelligence, imagination, and love" to re-envision how to be the Church in this rapidly changing context. So, what does that look like for your church and our presbytery?

- How can we be responsive to the developing needs of our local communities and our world?
- How might God be using these challenging times to teach and refine us as followers of Christ?

Your Presbytery of Great Rivers Visioning Team sees you, recognizes the work you're putting into *servicing* your churches and communities, and wants to *support* you along the way.

Also, a note about Visioning Grants: If your community has received a grant through the Visioning Team, we want to encourage you to keep our new context in mind. We recognize that some of our churches' plans for in-person ministry initiatives just might not be possible at this moment. If you need to adapt your plans for your grant, in order to be safe and care for your community in this new situation, please know that you have the support of the Visioning Team.

If you have any questions please contact Jonathan Warren at jwarren@firstpresjax.org or Carol Sleeth at cisleeth@comcast.net

Shared Mission Grants

- There are several shared mission grants available for your church to apply to this year (see second page of report). **Share the mission grants description with your church staff, session, deacons, etc.**
- Two-thirds of visioning budget will continue to go toward current grants, and one-third of our budget will go toward experimental, outside-the-box grants. Please be creative and send us grant proposals for experimental, outside-the-box grants.

Shared Mission Grants Awarded The following applications were reviewed and approved:

- **MIFA Grants**
 - \$5,000 – Mercer County Backpack Program, College Avenue, Aledo.
 - \$5,000 – Reading Rocks, Central Avenue, Petersburg.
 - \$3,300 – Rock Island Urban Farm Internship, Broadway, Rock Island (66% - 2nd year).

Presbytery e-Newsletter

We encourage all staff, active elders, clerks and church members in the Presbytery to sign up for the e-Newsletter and follow the Presbytery of Great Rivers [Facebook](#) page. Please include the following sentence in your bulletin announcements:

God is doing great things in Presbyterian churches all around us. Sign-up for the Presbytery of Great Rivers e-Newsletter at www.greatriverspby.org/newsletter

AVAILABLE SHARED MISSION GRANTS

The Presbytery of Great Rivers Visioning Team is excited about how God is working in congregations across the Presbytery. There are several shared mission grants available for your church to apply to this year. Please help by sharing this with your church staff, session, deacons, etc.

Worship Initiative Grant

(Uniting in Worship) The Visioning Team wants to encourage churches to take worship to the community and find ways to worship outside their buildings. To that end, a \$500 grant is offered to churches that develop a plan to take worship outside the church.

Mission Initiative Grant

The new Mission Initiative Funding Application (**MIFA**) is for projects and programs that represent a mission initiative for a church and may be granted for \$5,000 for the 1st year. The project may be funded for a lesser amount for two additional years as explained in the guidelines.

Bucks for Blessings Grant

(Partnering in Mission) A Bucks for Blessings is available for up to \$1,000 for each PGR member church who partners with another congregation to do something that is a blessing for their community. The partner church does not need to be a PGR member. If the partner is PGR, and the project budget warrants, then the PGR partner may also apply for a grant, too.

Church Consulting Grant

(Risking in Ministry) The Visioning Team wants to encourage churches to engage the services of church consultants that will help congregations identify and live into their mission, vision, and values and/or identify a transformation process. To that end, a grant of up to \$2,500 is offered to churches who employ an approved church consultant.

Sabbatical Grant

The Presbytery of Great Rivers' Visioning Team has approved a new Sabbatical Grant program aimed at helping pastors and churches with the cost of a sabbatical. The PGR Sabbatical Grant is available to PGR pastors currently serving a church who are planning a Session approved sabbatical. Pastors may request up to \$2000 to help with sabbatical related expenses, and up to \$500 to help the church with expenses related to the pastor's absence during the sabbatical.

For grant applications: www.greatriverspby.org/mission

Please send grant applications 2 weeks prior to 2020 Visioning Team meetings, which are currently scheduled: March 19, May 12, August 11, and October 20.

We want to help you through the grant process.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Presbytery office (309) 683-6980,

or Visioning Team Vice-Chair, Carol Sleeth cisleeth@comcast.net or (309) 692-2595.

Jonathan Warren, Chair jwarren@firstpresja.org

Carol Sleeth, Vice-Chair cisleeth@comcast.net

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

Move to form an Administrative Commission for Greenview Presbyterian Church:

1. To assist the Session in discerning its current and future ministry and mission.
2. To “counsel with the session concerning reported difficulties within the congregation”, (G-3.0303d)
3. “Advising the session as to appropriate actions to be taken to resolve the reported difficulties,” (G-3.0303d)
4. “Offering to help as a mediator, and” (G-3.0303d)
5. “Acting to correct the difficulties if requested to do so by the session or if the session is unable or unwilling to do so, following the procedural safeguards of the rules of discipline.” (G-3.0303d)
6. To meet with the congregation as needed to discern matters of disorder and to discern future ministry and mission.
7. If requested or if the commission “determines that the session is unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs, the commission is given authority to assume original jurisdiction of session as provided in the Book of Order and following all proper procedures.” (G-3.0303e)
8. To exercise the Presbytery’s authority to approve “congregations desiring to move as well as to divide, dismiss, or dissolve the congregation in consultation with their members;” (G-3.0303b) and to approve a shared ministry agreement with another congregation.
9. To report its work and all actions to the Presbytery for ratification and whenever possible to take items seven and eight to the Presbytery for action.

The Presbytery Moderator nominates the following to serve on this Administrative Commission:

(Or The Presbytery Moderator will nominate persons to serve on this Administrative Commission for Presbytery appointment.)

Background Information:

1. Conflict in the congregation has been ongoing for years.
2. The Presbytery through its COM appointed two ministry partners to be session moderators. They and other Presbytery leadership have worked with the session and have not been able to resolve the discord
3. 2018 saw the acrimonious departure of last contracted pastor
4. In March 2020 the two co-clerks of session quit
5. The church secretary quit in March 2020
6. The Treasurer quit in April 2020
7. At various times individuals have exerted themselves and exercised authority without due process
8. The session currently has just four members. The congregation’s bylaws require 5-8 members.
9. There is no regular pastor either contract or installed. The pulpit supply has been an elder and member of the congregation, who announced his final Sunday as May 31, 2020.
10. There is an overture from another congregation for possible shared ministry.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY SUPPLEMENTAL

Committee on Ministry has had four meetings since the last Assembly meeting in February 2020. We have made the transition to Zoom conference meetings during shelter in place.

Despite the new format, we have continued our practice of worshipping at the start of our meetings. This has become even more significant to us during these days of social distancing to help us feel connected to one another. The habit of praying for our transitional churches by name and those individuals who are in need of prayer has become the standard end of all our meetings.

February meeting highlights

- Reviewed transitional churches statuses
- Approved contracts and terms of call
- M/S/A to dissolve the cooperative agreement with Seaton-Center and Aledo-College Ave churches.

Motion for GRP from February meeting

- Ipava Presbyterian, Ipava request GRP approve their petition to allow elder Jo Branson to be approved to serve another term on the session as elder.
- Sunbeam Presbyterian, Aledo request GRP approve their petition to allow elder Leonard Armstrong to serve another term as elder.
- M/S/P to recommend to PGR approval of waiving G.-2.0404.

March 24 prayer meeting highlights -

In light of the pandemic creating a need to shelter in place and the emotional and daily disturbance this created for all of us, the decision was made to postpone the COM regular meeting for a week. The March 24 meeting then became a time for all of us to join together for the following reasons -

- 1) to help people become comfortable with the Zoom conference format,
- 2) a safe place to share concerns, fears and to grieve and
- 3) to lift each other up in prayer.

March 31 meeting highlights

- Approved several terms of call and contracts
- Reviewed transitional church statuses
- heard from the members who attended the Synod of Lincoln Trails COM/CPM conference held March 9 -11 about their experience and insights

Motion for GRP from March 31 meeting - There were no motions coming out of this meeting.

April meeting highlights

- Approved several terms of call and contracts
- Reviewed transitional church statuses
- discussed clarifying language of churches in transition; what does it mean to be a Level 1, 2 or 3 church
- brought ideas ahead of time and then brainstormed more for helping GRP churches with conducting Zoom meetings. (resulting in recommendations found in supplemental papers)
- discussed what calling a pastor looks like during these unprecedented times.
- gave some thought to how congregational meetings, elder/deacon ordinations, pastoral installations and Minister of Word and Sacrament ordinations could be held.

Motion for GRP from April 28 meeting - There were no motions coming out of this meeting.

Report on referral back to COM RE Hyaekwong Kim There was nothing new to report as of the April 28, 2020 meeting.

May meeting highlights

- Received a request from the Greenview United Presbyterian Church for assistance with their ministry and committed to direct action in partnering with them to discern their current and future ministry and mission.
- Welcomed Ken Green from the Board of Pensions, to share updates from the BOP that are relevant to supporting our pastors and churches through this pandemic.
- Approved a new weekly, six month "companion" program for incoming pastors, which would pair them with a selected companion from within the presbytery to be available for on-boarding and settling into our presbytery context. (found in supplemental papers)
- Explored available resources for assisting churches uniquely affected by the pandemic crisis, particularly through group therapy options for uniquely affected churches.
- Approved a number of contracts to ensure fair and equitable pastoral arrangements between pastors and congregations.
- Approved updated language for ministry partner transitional church levels (found in supplemental papers)

Motions for GRP from April 28 meeting -

- Move to form an Administrative for Greenview United Presbyterian Church:

This concludes the report for the Committee on Ministry for the June Assembly
Respectfully submitted

Kathie Whitson, Elder/CLP COM Chair

COM CLERGY COMPANION

Background

When a Pastor is called to serve a congregation in a new Presbytery, there is a time of great transition. Not only does the pastor have to move to and acclimate to a new community and church culture, they also are part of a new Presbytery. In order to help facilitate this time of transition for the newly called Pastor, the Presbytery will provide the Pastor with a companion who will walk with the Pastor in their new role. Ideally, this companion would be familiar, not only with how the Presbytery functions, but would also be familiar with the community and faith community to which the Pastor has been called. The role of the companion is different from the role of COM Ministry Partner. The role of the COM Ministry Partner is to provide a connection between the pastor and the faith community with the COM. The role of the companion is to serve as a connection with Presbytery while also facilitating a smooth transition into ministry in their new call.

Selection of Companions:

Companions will be identified by a group made up of COM members and Presbytery leadership based on proven effectiveness in the role and their willingness to make the relationship one of the priorities of their ministry during the assigned time. Companions will be recruited to represent the wide variety of racial ethnic composition, gender identity, faith community size, and staff position description.

Ideal Characteristics of a Companion

- Calm presence
- Able to see and celebrate the gifts and strengths of the new leader
- Proactive and reliable
- Understands the breadth of the church and the work of the presbytery
- Well differentiated
- Enjoys their ministry
- Demonstrates collegiality
- Well versed in Presbytery of Great Rivers structure and resources
- Knows their assembly-wide colleagues

Companion Duties

The Companion agrees to initiate monthly contact with their Pastor colleague for the first 6 months of their new call. They will pray regularly for their ministry colleague daily. They will be available by phone or email or in-person meetings before the next stated Presbytery meeting to ensure that their colleague is able to register and has received Presbytery documents.

Topics for Discussion Might Include:

- Building relationships with the Presbytery
- Discussing the structure and working dynamics of PGR
- Providing an introduction with their Companion at their first attended meeting of PGR
- Discussing pertinent dynamics and history of the congregation, with particular emphasis on the congregation's relationship with Presbytery.

Evaluation and Feedback

The Companionship will end after ??? An evaluation form measuring the effectiveness and help of the relationship will be sent to the COM leadership team responsible for assigning companions.

COM Levels of Pastoral Engagement

COM Categories for Frequency of Ministry Partner Contact

(Fluidity in movement either by actions from the congregation or response of the ministry partner)

- Level 1 Immediate Transition - Monthly Contact
 - a) When a pastor leaves
 - b) Actively seeking a pastor (may have an interim)
 - c) Significant conflict
 - d) Actively moving toward shared ministry or dissolution

- Level 2 Open-Ended Transition - Quarterly Contact
 - a) Without a pastor but not actively seeking
 - b) Less than full time pastor who is not Presbyterian

- Level 3 Stable Transition - Semi-annual Contact
 - a) Called and installed pastor
 - b) Long term stable contract pastor

Adopted by COM at its May 19, 2020 Meeting

LEADERSHIP TEAM SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

The Leadership Team met on Thursday, April 30, 2020 with the following actions taken and motions recommended:

Expanded Teleconferencing Grants

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 - June 2nd, 2020 – Rev. Ryan Landino, Lead Presbyter for Transformation
 - August 29th, 2020 – Rev. Matthew Wilcox, host Pastor
- Communion will be celebrated at the November 14, 2020 assembly

Motion recommended for action:

- That the following name(s) be approved as an additional member of the Administrative Commission for Nauvoo-First: Rev. Mark Merrill.

Background: the formation of this Administrative Commission was approved at the November 2019 Assembly with the accompanying duties and responsibilities. At the February 2020 Assembly the following were approved as members of the Administrative Commission for Nauvoo-First: Elder Tom Bertucci, Elder Don Fry, and Rev. Joy Ridge.

Motion recommended for action:

- That the following names be approved members of the Administrative Commission for Greenview:
Rev. Christian Choi; Rev. Andy Sonneborn; Rev. Susan Phillips, Elder Sandra Woodard
*See Committee on Ministry Papers for motion to form the Administrative Commission