



STATED MEETING of the Presbytery of Great Rivers
COMPLETE DOCKET
August 26th, 2023

The Mission of the Presbytery:
*“We are called to share Christ’s love
 by partnering in service, uniting in worship, and risking in ministry”*

Please pre-register at <http://www.greatriverspby.org/assembly.html>

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

9:30 Sign-in to Zoom/Meeting site opens

10:00 Call to Order with Prayer

Moderator MWS Katie Styr

10:05 Acknowledging Native American Heritage of Gathering Sites

MWS Elissa Bailey

10:10 Welcome and Instructions

Moderator MWS Katie Styr

- Establish the Roll and Seat Corresponding Members
- Establishment of quorum
- Introduction and seating of new Teaching Elder commissioners
- Introduction of new Ruling Elder Commissioners
- Introduction of Corresponding Members

10:15 Adoption of the Docket

PARTNERING IN MISSION, RISKING IN MINISTRY

10:20 Omnibus Motion:

- Enter these written reports into the permanent minutes: Admin,CLP/CRE Coordinator, Bushnell AC Final Report, Visioning,Stated Clerk,Lead Presbyter, Nominating, 2023 COM Contracts, COM, LPNC, August 2023 Budget Narrative, Treasurer Income Statement, Treasurer Balance Sheet

10:25 Lead Presbyter

MWS Ann Schwartz

10:30 Committee On Ministry

MWS Laura Reason

Motions (Please see COM report for rationales and background information)

1. To recommend to the Presbytery that Rev. Lori Kyle (UU) be granted voice at Assemblies for the time she is pastor at Bloomington NCC.
2. To request the Presbytery modify the requirements for the Rev. Dr. Scott Carnes in previous action (November, 2022) to be received as a member of the PC(USA) and to be installed as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Galesburg
 - By replacing the Theology Standard Ordination exam with an oral theology exam by a team of 4 members of the Presbytery.
 - By crediting his vast Biblical knowledge from his years in ministry in place of an acceptable result on the Bible Content exam. (This motion was approved July 6, 2023 by COM.)
3. To recommend to the Assembly approval of the following actions with Rev. Bryan Burris, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
 - Examine, arrest and sustain the examination of the pastor (see his Statement of Faith after this COM report)
 - Enroll him as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA). Upon enrollment, Rev. Burris shall furnish to the Presbytery evidence of having surrendered membership in any and all other Christian churches with which he has previously been associated. (G-0205.b)
4. Recommend to the Assembly an increase of 3% in the minimum salaries for 2024.

UNITING IN WORSHIP

11:00am Gathering Music

Call to Worship

One: Welcome to worship! Let us gather together in this community, formed and sustained by God's strong and never-ending love.

All: We gather as long-time members and newcomers, friends and colleagues, to celebrate God's call.

One: Welcome to worship all who are working to build God's new thing. We join our hearts in praise of the one who already sees what is possible.

All: We gather in faith, trusting that the Spirit will inspire us and sustain our work as we break bread and hear God's word of hope and forgiveness proclaimed.

Worship in Song #455, v. 1, 5, 6 All Creatures of Our God and King D. Witkowski, arr.

*All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam, Thou silver moon with softer gleam, Alleluia!*

*And everyone of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part. O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and cast on God your care! Alleluia!*

*All creatures, your Creator bless, and worship God in humbleness. O sing ye! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One! Alleluia!*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

All: Merciful God, we confess that we often wander from your way of truth and life. You call us to share all that we have, but we continue to worry and store up treasures for ourselves. You challenge us to work together for the common good, yet as we pursue our ways of doing church. You call us to set the captives free and seek justice for the oppressed, but we live in fear and hide ourselves from one another. Forgive us, God of grace. Set us free from all that holds us captive so that we may serve you with gladness.

(In the silence, please take a moment to offer your own confession to God.)

One: In the name of Christ we pray. **All: Amen.**

Assurance of Grace

One: God abides in you! God is breathing, living, forgiving, restoring you in this moment, and in the days to come. This is the good news for all of us!

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Alleluia!

Response

Glory to God

Vasile

*Glory to God whose goodness shines on me
And to the Son whose grace has pardoned me
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

Affirmation of the Ministry of the Rev. Ann Schwartz as Lead Presbytery in the Presbytery of Great Rivers

Sentences of Scripture

One: As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ,

All: There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all are one in Christ Jesus.

One: Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,

All: One Lord, one faith, one baptism, on God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Call to Discipleship

One: We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

All: The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

One: The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. It is a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility. Rev. Ann Schwartz has been called to serve the Presbytery of Great Rivers as

Lead Presbyter. As we begin our ministry together, we invite her to affirm her baptismal vows and her commitment to taking up the responsibilities of her new position.

Questions for Ann

Questions for the Assembly

One: Do you, the members of the Presbytery of Great Rivers, confirm the call of God to Ann as Lead Presbyter in the service of Jesus Christ? If so, respond: We do

Will you support and encourage her in this ministry? If so, respond: We will.

Prayer

Blessing and Charge

Scripture

Isaiah 51:1-6; Romans 12:1-8

Sermon

“The Body of Christ”

Rev. Ann Schwartz

Song

Jesus, Be with Us (A hymn for Matthew 25 churches)

Gambrell

Jesus, be with us. Help us each day to follow the gospel and live as we pray.

Send us your Spirit and show us your way. Jesus, be with us today.

Where there is hunger and thirst in the land, scatter the systems of greed.

Jesus, be with us; make use of our hands. Lift up your people in need.

Jesus, be with us. Help us each day to follow the gospel and live as we pray.

Send us your Spirit and show us your way. Jesus, be with us today.

Where there are valleys of bones, dry as dust, build up the body of Christ.

Jesus, be with us, and help us to trust. Teach us a new way of life.

Invitation to the Offering

Communion helps us connect to and give thanks for the ultimate offering - God's love with us and for us. As you prepare to receive the bread and the cup, consider how you can make your life an offering in response to God's love. Today's monetary offering will benefit Kemmerer Village.

Donate in person or online at: <https://www.kemmerervillage.org/donate>

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

One: The pattern of God's mercy is clear enough:

All: God gives, and we receive.

One: The abundance of God's grace is more than we can ask or imagine,

All: God gives, and we receive.

One: Life and breath, deliverance and healing, renewal and hope are ready for us.

All: God gives, and we receive.

One: At this table, the presence of God in Christ is made real in our lives.

All: God gives, and we receive.

One: This is the table where God intends for all of us to be well fed. No exceptions, no restrictions, no barriers. This is the table where every wall is broken down. This is the table where we celebrate the abundance of the whole creation. This is the way Christ comes to

renew his people. So come, all you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, a richer life, a fairer world.

All: Christ has come. Christ will come again and again to feed us in the wilderness.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Sharing the Feast

All are welcome to receive communion.

When you are ready, come forward to receive a piece of gluten free bread and a cup of juice. If you wish, you may carry the elements back to your seats or you may take communion as you are served. Children are welcome to commune with their parents' permission.

Prayer of Gratitude

Sending Song

Sing, Sing Out

*Sing, sing out! Sing a new song. Sing oh people as one voice!
Sing, Sing out! Sing a new song. Sing of God. Each heart rejoice!
Sing! Hallelujah! Hallelujah, as one voice! Sing! Hallelujah! Hallelujah, all rejoice!
Sing, sing out! Sing a new song. Sing oh people for rebirth!
Sing, sing out! Sing a new song. Sing of God in all the earth!
Sing! Hallelujah! Hallelujah, for rebirth! Sing! Hallelujah! Hallelujah, all the earth!*

12:00 Meal Instructions & Lunch

MWS Debra Avery

SHARING IN CHRIST'S LOVE

1:00 Financial Report

RE Bill Strawbridge

Motion: Approve the 2024 budget as presented with a \$1.05 increase in GRP per capita for a total per capita of \$37.25.

1:30 Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)

MWS Maura McGrath Nagle

1:35 Nominating

MWS Cheyanna Losey & RE Gary Terpstra

1:45 Motion to dismiss the Administrative Commission of First Presbyterian Church in Bushnell, with our thanks.

1:50 New Business

1:55 Sharing Good News

2:00 Announcements

2:05 Adjournment and Closing Prayer

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- The next Assembly is 10am-2pm on November 11th, 2023 at Faith United PC, Monmouth