

Committee on Ministry report to the 2.20.2024 Assembly

The Committee on Ministry (COM) has met three times since the 11.11.23 Assembly. We have established this Thursday meeting schedule for 2024: 1.11, 2.1, 3.7, 4.11 (in person at Peoria UPC), 5.2, 6.6, 7.11, 8.1, 9.5 (in person), 10.2, 10.31 and 12.5. Any business to be considered at these meetings should be received by 8 AM on the Wednesday 8 days prior to the main meeting, at greatriverscom@gmail.com.

The Board of Pensions is expected to adopt major changes in March for the 2025 BOP coverage plans. Our regional BOP representative, Rev. Dr. Ken Green, will be presenting on those changes at 10:00 AM at the 4.11 COM meeting in Peoria. Churches are encouraged to send their local BOP liaison to that meeting to hear the presentation and ask questions. Please watch for registration for the event in the Good News.

Our leadership for this year is the same: TE Laura Reason, Moderator, TE John Napoli, Vice Moderator, TE Kay Daniel, Ministry Services, TE Drew Nagle, Transitions, and TE Edwin Brinklow as Recording Secretary. Lead Presbyter Ann Schwartz and SC Elissa Bailey are ex officio members.

On 1.11, we voted to suspend the current COM structure in the COM Handbook for 2024 and use a revised COM structure instead. This adds an Initial Transitions Response Team, (when pastoral leadership first changes), led by LP Ann Schwartz; splits off from Ministry Services a Pastoral Care Team (Mary Watts and Laura Reason) to celebrate special days with our congregations, re-establishes the church prayer list and provides oversight of pastoral leaders not in parish settings; re-establishes a mediation/reconciliation team; maintains Transitions (Marla Bauler and Drew Nagle, Team Leaders) and Ministry Services (Kay Daniel) and suspends Training and Resources.

We are pleased to share with PGR that the first of several regional gatherings for imagining creative partnerships for shared ministry will be held in the northern/northwestern region of the presbytery on February 25th. Watch for an invitation to your congregation to come to a gathering in your region. Questions about this initiative can be directed to LP Ann Schwartz or TE Drew Nagle.

Actions taken since the 11.11.23 Assembly

The committee has approved

all Terms of Call and Contracts submitted by 2.2.24,
mission studies, financial reports, MDPs, and resourced the work of PNCs and appointed TE John Huxtable as Moderator of Kirkwood Westminster effective 2.1.24.

Transitions

We welcome: TE Bryan Burris to his first position in the PC(USA) as the Stated Supply at Danvers First effective 1.15.2024

We have dismissed to other presbyteries:

TE Andrew Sonneborn to the Presbytery of Winnebago

TE Sarah Iliff McGill to the Presbytery of Chicago

TE Trajan McGill to the Presbytery of Chicago

We have received the certificate of dismissal:

from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), for Rev. Dr. John Huxtable, thus completing his transfer to the PC(USA)

We have trained and certified the following ruling elders to serve communion in worship within their own congregations under G-3.0301b and W-3.0410.

Congregation	Elder	Term
Delavan First	Jeff Johnson	12/18/21-12/17/24
	Carrol Lewis	12/18/21-12/17/24
	Nancy Hopkins	12/18/21-12/17/24
Carthage First	Maureen Crawford	7/1/22-6/30/25
	Laura Mosena	7/1/22-6/30/25
East Moline First	Paul Noakes	12/1/23-11/30/26
	Ella Layer	12/1/23-11/30/26

The trainings for Delavan and Carthage First were not previously reported

We have the following motion as a first reading for the Assembly (to be voted on on 4.20.24):

to request the Presbytery Assembly to change the Presbytery Bylaws to set the quorum for all COM meetings in 2024 at one third plus 1 with respective members (14 members, quorum is 6)

Action item for the Assembly:

COM recommends to the February Assembly to move Rev. Karol F. Schilling from Temporary Supply to Called and Installed Associate Pastor at Normal First.

Rationale for change:

When Karol and Christopher Schilling were in negotiations to share an AP position at Normal First, it seemed prudent to hire her as a Temporary Supply rather than her becoming the called, installed Associate Pastor. It was believed this would provide the best health care coverage to the Schillings. COM concurred with the request. The Session and Pastor have asked to have that earlier decision reversed, and to now call and install Karol Schilling as originally planned and enroll her in the BOP Traditional plan for installed pastors. The original search process was full and open. The recommendation is to concur with the request of the Session and Pastor to make this change and allow the congregation to now elect TE K.F. Schilling to her position under the provisions of G-2.0504c. The election was held 2.4.2024, pending approval by the Assembly.

The motion requires a three fourths approval by the Assembly