

Committee on Ministry Report to the 4.20.2024 Assembly

The Committee on Ministry (COM) has met twice since the 2.20.24 Assembly.

Several members of the Presbytery attended the COM/CPM retreat sponsored by the Synod of Lincoln Trails March 10-13 in Indianapolis. Eleven attended from PGR, with Kay Daniel, Drew Nagle and Laura Reason attending from COM. The retreat included plenaries, worship, workshops, as well as networking and fellowship times. It is a very enriching experience and a wonderful gift from the Synod to support and train leaders in our presbyteries.

COM has hosted two Shared Ministry Gatherings on 2.25 and 4.14 and has more scheduled: 6.2 at First Macomb, 6.23 at First Jacksonville, 7.14 at First Danvers and 8.11 at Chatham. These are events where we imagine together the creative partnerships for shared ministry that are possible in the Presbytery of Great Rivers.

Our Board of Pensions regional representative, Rev. Dr. Ken Green, attended our in person COM meeting in Peoria on 4/11 and gave us an overview of the updated BOP plans going into effect 1/1/2025. We spent the majority of our meeting receiving this information, processing and discussing it. The BOP is planning to contact all persons in PGR currently enrolled in the plan over the next months and will work specifically with congregations and their pastors on a one on one basis to help them understand all their options. This is the first change to the basic coverages in the Plan since the reunion in 1983. For an overview of the new plan, visit seasonofrebuilding.pensions.org

Actions taken since the 2.20.24 Assembly

The committee has approved

all Terms of Call and Contracts submitted by 4.11.2024

Appointed TE Mark Merrill as Moderator and Officiant at Adair, West Prairie, effective 3/22/24

Added RE Pam Moore to the pulpit supply list as of 4/11/24

Approved the AC to install Rev. William (Bill) McLean as Pastor at LeRoy 4/28 at 3:00 PM

We have welcomed to the presbytery

TE Wade Meranda from the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois

We have dismissed from the presbytery

TE Hwa Sung Ryu to the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois

TE Daniel Ott to the Presbytery of Shenandoah

We have trained and certified the following ruling elders to serve communion in worship within their own congregations under G-30301b and W03.0410

Congregation	Elder	Term
Woodhull United	Keith Clement	3/1/2024-2/28/2027
	Sally Goff	3/1/2024-2/28/2027
Athens Indian Point	Shellie Bricker	3/1/2024-2/28/2027
	Wade Meteer	3/1/2024-2/28/2027
	Peggy Ostermeier	3/1/2024-2/28/2027
New Windsor PC	Russ Robb	4/10/2024-4/10/2027
	Nolan Robb	4/10/2024-4/10/2027
	Peggy Scranton	4/20/2024-4/10/2027

We have the following action item for the Assembly.

Motion: 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)

Rationale: The Committee on Ministry can have 24 members, the chair and 23 others. In 2024, the Committee on Ministry has 14 members. The quorum is a majority of the respective members (8) (see PGR Bylaws, Article X, Section 2, d). In 2022, 2023 and 2024, COM has done almost all of its work at the sub committee level and sends to the full committee recommendations for final approval. Members have the opportunity to review all action items before the meeting, and the portion of the meeting devoted to approvals lasts 30 minutes or less. Due to the full schedules of our committee members, it is at times difficult to achieve the required quorum at the start of a main meeting. We are asking that the quorum be lowered this year so we can achieve a quorum more readily.

Reported by TE Laura Reason, Moderator, Committee on Ministry