



STATED MEETING of the Presbytery of Great Rivers
COMPLETE DOCKET
 February 20, 2024

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>

- 5:30 pm Sign-in to Zoom/Meeting site opens
- 6:00 pm Call to Order with Prayer Moderator MWS F. Krummel
- 6:05 pm Acknowledging Native American Heritage of Gathering Sites MWS Elissa Bailey
- 6:10 pm Instructions Moderator MWS F. Krummel
- 6:20 pm Adoption of the Docket

PARTNERING IN MISSION, RISKING IN MINISTRY

- 6:25 pm Omnibus Motion:
 - Enter Financial (pages 3-9), CRE/CLP Coordinator (page 10), and all other written reports into the permanent minutes
- 6:30 Stated Clerk (pages 12-15) MWS Elissa Bailey
- 6:35 Lead Presbyter MWS Ann Schwartz
- 6:45 Scripture *2 Kings 5:1-3, 9-14* *MWS Katie Styr*
Sermon
- 7:15 Committee on Ministry (pages 16-17) MWS Laura Reason
 - See COM report for motions
- 7:25 Administration Team (page 18) MWS Jonathan Warren
 - See Administration Team report for motions
- 7:30 Personnel Committee (page 19) MWS Joyce Chamberlain

- 7:35 Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) (page 20) MWS Maura McGrath Nagle
- 7:40 Bills and Overtures Committee (pages 21-26)
- See Bills and Overtures Team report for motions
- 7:45 Nominating Committee (page 27) MWS Cheyanna Losey & RE Gary Terpstra
- 7:50 Matthew 25 Sighting in PGR MWS Adam Quine
- 8:00 Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Upcoming Assemblies:

- Saturday, April 20th - In-person with a Zoom option at 1st Pres, Milan
- Saturday, August 24th - In-person with a Zoom option at 2nd Pres, Bloomington
- Saturday, November 9th - In-person with a Zoom option at United Presbyterian, Peoria

PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND REVENUES AND EXPENSES - CASH BASIS
ACTUAL TO BUDGET COMPARATIVE
YEAR TO DATE Dec 31, 2023

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>(Over)Under Budget</u>	<u>Percent of Budget Used</u>
Support and Revenue				
Budgeted				
Congregational Support				
Per Capita - current yr	\$ 178,235	\$ 176,308	\$ (1,927)	101%
Per Capita - prior yr pd late	5,522	-	(5,522)	
Mission	63,783	60,000	(3,783)	106%
Trust Clause Payments	11,853	12,216	363	97%
Total Congregational Support	<u>\$ 259,393</u>	<u>\$ 248,524</u>	<u>\$ (11,232)</u>	<u>104%</u>
Investment Income	\$ 99,752	\$ 31,500	\$ (68,252)	317%
Interest Income	2,210	-	(2,210)	
Total Budgeted Receipts	<u>\$ 361,355</u>	<u>\$ 280,024</u>	<u>\$ (81,694)</u>	<u>129%</u>
Transfer to/from Designated Funds	<u>(5,267)</u>			
Unbudgeted Receipts				
Preparation for Ministry Support	\$ 2,049			
Presbytery Peacemaking Support	3,217			
Total Unbudgeted Receipts	<u>\$ 5,267</u>			
Total Support and Revenue	<u>\$ 361,355</u>			
Expenses				
Budgeted				
Salaries, Benefits, Training & Taxes				
General Presbyter	\$ 62,509	\$ 119,085	\$ 56,576	52%
Stated Clerk	33,640	30,745	(2,895)	109%
Bookkeeper	25,124	25,500	376	99%
PT Admin Asst (Virtual) & CW	17,760	18,720	961	95%
CLP Coordinator	10,732	10,811	80	99%
Bridge Presbyter Salary	26,068	-	(26,068)	
Workers Compensation Insurance	551	900	349	61%
Total Salaries and Related Expenses	<u>\$ 176,384</u>	<u>\$ 205,761</u>	<u>\$ 29,377</u>	<u>86%</u>
Presbytery Office				
Occupancy	\$ 4,263	\$ 4,263	\$ -	100%
Office Operations and Supplies	15,561	14,525	(1,036)	107%
Total Presbytery Office Expenses	<u>\$ 19,824</u>	<u>\$ 18,788</u>	<u>\$ (1,036)</u>	<u>106%</u>

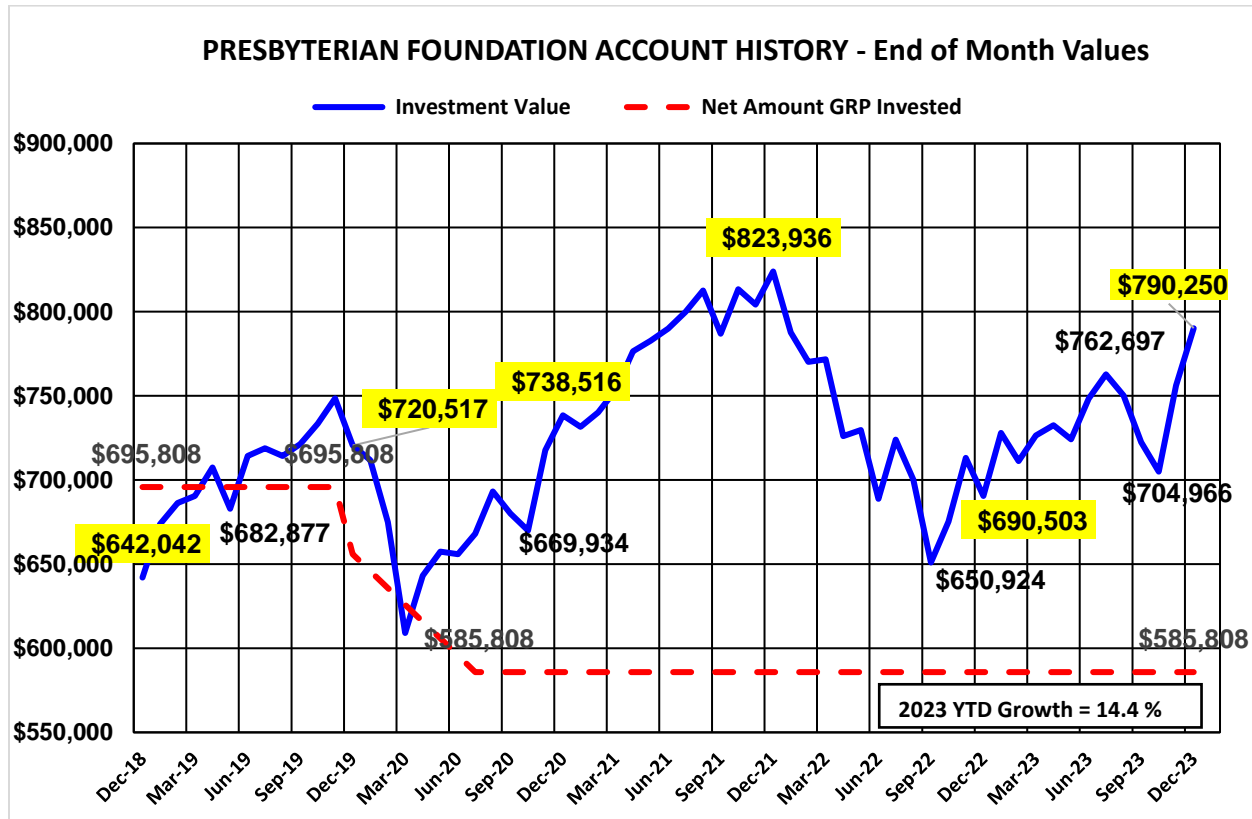
PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND REVENUES AND EXPENSES - CASH BASIS
ACTUAL TO BUDGET COMPARATIVE
YEAR TO DATE Dec 31, 2023

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>(Over)Under Budget</u>	<u>Percent of Budget Used</u>
Expenses (continued)				
Presbytery Administration				
Liability Insurance	\$ 2,253	\$ 2,800	\$ 547	80%
Moderator Training	946	1,250	304	76%
Assembly Meetings (PGR)	2,598	1,200	(1,398)	216%
Per Capita Shortfall	22,639	18,650	(3,989)	121%
Payroll Service/ Payroll Processing fees	1,433	1,900	467	75%
Legal Fees	-	100	100	0%
PGR Training (Elder/Deacon, Ldrshp)	76	750	674	10%
Presbytery Events	1,181	500	(681)	236%
General Assembly Delagates (2024)	314	-	(314)	
Total Presbytery Administration Expenses	<u>\$ 31,440</u>	<u>\$ 27,150</u>	<u>\$ (4,290)</u>	<u>116%</u>
Meeting Expense - All Teams	<u>\$ 155</u>	<u>\$ 1,250</u>	<u>\$ 1,095</u>	<u>12%</u>
Program Expenses				
Committee on Ministry	\$ 3,246	\$ 7,750	\$ 4,504	42%
Committee on Preparation for Ministry	314	250	(64)	126%
Visioning Grants	40,000	40,000	-	100%
Continuing Education Grants	-	2,500	2,500	0%
Pastoral Care/Compassion Fund	-	750	750	0%
Illinois Conference of Churches	500	500	-	100%
Disaster Relief	-	-	-	-
Total Program Expenses	<u>\$ 44,060</u>	<u>\$ 51,750</u>	<u>\$ 7,690</u>	<u>85%</u>
Other Expenses				
Bank Fees & Expenses	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100	0%
Depreciation Expense	-	-	-	
Church Closing Expenses	43	-	(43)	
	<u>\$ 43</u>	<u>\$ 100</u>	<u>\$ 57</u>	<u>43%</u>
Total Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$ 271,907</u>	<u>\$ 304,799</u>	<u>\$ 32,892</u>	<u>89%</u>
Unbudgeted Expenses Funded by Restricted Funds				
Pastor Support Grants	-	-		
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>		
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 271,907</u>	<u>\$ 304,799</u>	<u>\$ 32,892</u>	
Excess of Support and Revenue Over Expenses	<u>\$ 89,448</u>	<u>\$ (24,775)</u>	<u>\$ (114,223)</u>	
Impact on cash flow (subtracts our investment income)	<u>\$ (10,304)</u>	<u>\$ (56,275)</u>	<u>\$ (45,972)</u>	

December 2023 Budget Narrative

Balance Sheet

The balance sheet is in good health, increasing more than \$90,000 from a year ago. It was pushed higher by the late year increase in our investments that went up almost \$100,000 from 2022.



While not yet back to the 2021-year-end high of \$823,936, it finished strong with a 14.4% annual increase. We have \$100,000 worth of CDs, and our checking account remains strong with more than \$120,000 on hand.

Our unrestricted funds increased significantly, again due to our investment surge. The Presbyterian Relocation money financed the Lead Presbyterian search of just under \$8000; the remaining amount was moved to the unrestricted funds from where the money originated.

We continue to whittle away at the Synod Transformation grant money. We have a new line item from Sherrard Presbyterian Church when it closed. The money is to be used for grants to PGR congregations for Children and Youth Outreach Ministries. Visioning did make one grant towards these funds in 2023. The money will be administered by the Visioning Team with the following criteria:

- a. That the ministry has primarily an outreach to non-churched children and youth
- b. That the ministry has a component of Bible study and faith sharing

Note the Church Support for Family Leave that was established at the beginning of this year saw its first request for funds approved in 2023.

Also, please note the addition of two restricted funds to house the unused 2023 Continuing Education money for Ann and Elissa, which is available for up to 3 years from its first issuance.

Income Statement

Our income exceeded our budgeted expected income in all areas except our trust clause payments. Again, our investments inflated our income to a very high level (I subtract off that investment income at the bottom of the statement to determine the true impact on cash flow.) Churches generously gave their per capita and exceeded expectations on mission giving.

Overall expenses were well within budget except for per capita shortfall (from 2022) and the cost of assembly meetings. However, this being the first full year of holding meetings at our churches, some leeway is to be expected. Face to face Assemblies just "felt good" again.

Our income exceeded our expenses by almost \$90,000, due in large part to our investments. When those investments are subtracted from our net gain, our cash flow is negative by slightly over \$10,000, which is much better than the \$56,000 short fall that was projected in our budget.

All in all, it was a strong financial year for Great Rivers.

I wish to thank the Committee Chairs for their help and Sabrina for her diligence in keeping our books.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Strawbridge, Treasurer

PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS
STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS - CASH BASIS
CURRENT TO PRIOR YEAR COMPARATIVE
AS OF December 31, 2023

Assets	December 2022	December 2023	Increase/ (Decrease)
Cash			
Checking and CDs	\$ 227,270	\$ 220,571	\$ (6,698)
Investments	690,503	790,250	99,747
Fixed Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	-	-	-
Total Assets	<u>\$ 917,773</u>	<u>\$ 1,010,822</u>	<u>\$ 93,049</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Liabilities			
Liabilities Payable	\$ -	\$ 669	\$ 669
Pass Thru Liabilities	9,612	10,631	1,019
Prepaid Mission & Per Capita	17,270	4,917	(12,353)
2024 PC			
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 26,883</u>	<u>\$ 16,218</u>	<u>\$ (10,665)</u>
Net Assets			
Unrestricted	<u>\$ 781,492</u>	<u>\$ 872,996</u>	<u>\$ 91,504</u>
Designated			
Presbyter Relocation	10,000	-	(10,000)
Total Designated	<u>\$ 10,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (10,000)</u>
Temporarily Restricted			
Preparation for Ministry	\$ 8,662	\$ 9,731	\$ 1,069
Peacemaking	22,930	26,147	3,217
Synod Pastor Support Grants	1,701	1,701	-
Synod Transformation Grant	50,364	47,044	(3,320)
Ministers Temporary Disability	3,110	3,110	-
Hands & Feet Scholarships	107	107	-
Pastor Compassion Funds	600	600	-
CLP Coordinator	600	600	-
Church Support for Family Leave	11,325	12,148	823
Sherrard Pres Restricted Funds	-	19,372	19,372
Stated Clerk (EB 23) Con Ed 3 yr culm	-	173	173
Lead Presbyter (AS 23) Con Ed 3 yr culm	-	875	875
Total Temporarily Restricted	<u>\$ 99,398</u>	<u>\$ 121,608</u>	<u>\$ 22,210</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 890,891</u>	<u>\$ 994,604</u>	<u>\$ 103,714</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 917,773</u>	<u>\$ 1,010,822</u>	<u>\$ 93,049</u>

PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS
 SHARED MISSION AND PER CAPITA SUPPORT BY CHURCH
 YTD THROUGH 12/31/23

PIN	CHURCH	MISSION			PER CAPITA			Percentage Paid
		2023	2023	PAYMENTS (OVER) UNDER PLEDGE	2023	BALANCE REMAINING	Percentage Paid	
		PLEGDED	PAID		DUE	PAID	BALANCE REMAINING	Percentage Paid
1912	ADAIR - WEST PRAIRIE			-	507.50	507.5	-	100%
1873	ALEDO - COLLEGE AVENUE			-	3,480.00	3,480.00	-	100%
9753	ALEDO - SUNBEAM	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	398.75	398.75	-	100%
1876	ALEXIS - NORWOOD		1,500.00	(1,500.00)	1,885.00	1,885.00	-	100%
1951	ATHENS - INDIAN POINT		600.00	(600.00)	1,087.50	1,087.50	-	100%
1872	BARTONVILLE - TRINITY		2,000.00	(2,000.00)	1,268.75	1,268.75	-	100%
4333	BIGGSVILLE - UNITED			-	2,283.75		2,283.75	0%
1502	BLOOMINGTON - SECOND			-	24,867.50	4,953.75	19,913.75	20%
10326	BLOOMINGTON - ST LUKE UNION			-	3,842.50	3,842.50	-	100%
1917	BUSHNELL - FIRST			-	2,066.25	2,066.25	-	100%
1838	CANTON - FIRST			-	3,262.50	3,262.50	-	100%
1446	CARLINVILLE - FEDERATED	500.00	500.00	-	1,595.00	1,595.00	-	100%
1448	CARROLLTON - FIRST			-	1,558.75	1,558.75	-	100%
1918	CARTHAGE - FIRST			-	2,718.75	2,718.75	-	100%
1955	CHATHAM			-	4,023.75	4,023.75	-	100%
1507	CHENOA - FIRST	2,500.00	2,500.00	-	652.50	652.50	-	100%
1919	CLAYTON - FEDERATED			-	290.00	290.00	-	100%
1508	CLINTON	2,500.00	2,500.00	-	4,241.25	4,241.25	-	100%
1881	COAL VALLEY - FIRST		50.00	(50.00)	6,090.00	6,090.00	-	100%
1510	DANVERS - FIRST		400.00	(400.00)	5,328.75	2,660.00	2,668.75	50%
1839	DELAVAN - FIRST		2,000.00	(2,000.00)	1,631.25	1,692.00	(60.75)	104%
1960	DIVERNON - FIRST			-	1,522.50	1,522.50	-	100%
1884	EAST MOLINE - FIRST	1,500.00	1,500.00	-	4,313.75	4,313.75	-	100%
10906	EDWARDS - KOREAN			-	1,015.00	1,015.00	-	100%
1841	ELMWOOD - FIRST			-	2,827.50	36.25	2,791.25	1%
1842	EUREKA			-	797.50	797.50	-	100%
1843	FARMINGTON - FIRST UNITED	600.00	600.00	-	3,516.25	3,516.25	-	100%
1922	FOUNTAIN GREEN - CARTHAGE UNITED			-	2,211.25		2,211.25	0%
1844	GALESBURG - FIRST			-	7,721.25	7,721.25	-	100%
1888	GENESEO - FIRST		4,700.00	(4,700.00)	3,081.25	3,081.24	0.01	100%
4616	GREENVIEW - UNITED			-	1,232.50	1,232.50	-	100%
1923	HAMILTON - BETHEL			-	1,848.75		1,848.75	0%
1850	IPAVA - UNITED			-	1,667.50	1,667.50	-	100%
1965	JACKSONVILLE - FIRST	16,000.00	16,000.08	(0.08)	12,361.25	12,361.20	0.05	100%
1925	KIRKWOOD - WESTMINSTER			-	1,558.75	1,558.75	-	100%
1851	KNOXVILLE - FIRST	1,275.00	1,275.00	-	1,921.25	1,921.25	-	100%
1522	LEROY - FIRST			-	5,183.75	5,183.75	-	100%
1853	LEWISTOWN - FIRST			-	2,211.25		2,211.25	0%
4960	LINCOLN - FIRST		2,000.00	(2,000.00)	4,386.25	4,386.25	-	100%
1927	MACOMB - FIRST		6,000.00	(6,000.00)	9,135.00	9,140.20	(5.20)	100%
11382	MACOMB - SCOTLAND TRINITY		700.00	(700.00)	2,030.00	1,050.00	980.00	52%
1971	MASON CITY - UNITED	500.00	500.00	-	2,138.75	2,138.75	-	100%
228	MEDIA - U P COMMUNITY			-	326.25	326.25	-	100%
1972	MIDDLETOWN - FIRST		507.50	(507.50)	507.50		507.50	0%
1892	MILAN - FIRST			-	4,640.00	4,640.00	-	100%
1486	MONMOUTH - FAITH UNITED			-	7,793.75	7,793.75	-	100%
1088	MONMOUTH - SUGAR TREE GROVE			-	1,087.50	1,087.50	-	100%
9572	MORTON - FIRST			-	725.00	725.00	-	100%
10635	MT STERLING - P C OF CHRIST			-	1,015.00	1,015.00	-	100%
1897	NEW WINDSOR - UNITED		2,393.28	(2,393.28)	4,495.00	4,495.00	-	100%
3436	NIOTA - APPANOOSE FAITH			-	2,283.75		2,283.75	0%
1525	NORMAL - FIRST	25,000.00	25,000.04	(0.04)	15,515.00	15,515.01	(0.01)	100%

PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS
 SHARED MISSION AND PER CAPITA SUPPORT BY CHURCH
 YTD THROUGH 12/31/23

PIN	CHURCH	MISSION			PER CAPITA			Percentage Paid
		PLEGDED	PAID	PAYMENTS (OVER) UNDER PLEDGE	DUE	PAID	BALANCE REMAINING	
11527	NORMAL - NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY			-	652.50	652.50	-	100%
1855	ONEIDA-FIRST			-	688.75		688.75	0%
9563	ORION - BEULAH		50.00	(50.00)	2,066.25	2,066.25	-	100%
1856	PEKIN - FIRST			-	2,030.00	2,030.00	-	100%
1858	PEORIA - FIRST FEDERATED			-	11,926.25	11,926.25	-	100%
12072	PEORIA - UNITED			-	12,361.25	12,361.25	-	100%
1863	PEORIA - WESTMINSTER			-	4,350.00	4,350.00	-	100%
1935	PERRY			-	435.00		435.00	0%
1980	PETERSBURG - CENTRAL		6,000.00	(6,000.00)	3,516.25	3,516.25	-	100%
1962	PLEASANT PLAINS - FARMINGDALE		2,000.00	(2,000.00)	3,226.25	3,226.25	-	100%
1939	QUINCY - ELLINGTON MEMORIAL		3,700.00	(3,700.00)	2,791.25	2,791.25	-	100%
11433	REYNOLDS - HAMLET PERRYTON			-	1,776.25	1,776.25	-	100%
1866	RIO			-	3,480.00	2,725.25	754.75	78%
1900	ROCK ISLAND - BROADWAY **PAID**			-	1,341.25	1,327.56	13.69	99%
4899	ROCK ISLAND - GLORIA DEI ** PAID**			-	797.50	789.36	8.14	99%
11547	ROCK ISLAND - GOOD SHEPHERD ** PAID**			-	6,126.25	6,126.25	-	100%
1902	ROCK ISLAND - SOUTH PARK ** PAID**			-	6,126.25	6,063.72	62.53	99%
15225	ROCK ISLAND - GRACE			-	-	36.25	(36.25)	#DIV/0!
1940	RUSHVILLE - FIRST			-	1,196.25	1,196.25	-	100%
1903	SEATON - CENTER			-	1,885.00	500.00	1,385.00	27%
1982	SPRINGFIELD - FIRST		3,000.00	(3,000.00)	9,968.75	9,968.75	-	100%
5119	SPRINGFIELD - HOPE	3,300.00	3,300.00	-	4,458.75	4,458.75	-	100%
10705	SPRINGFIELD - KOREAN UNITED			-	1,196.25	833.75	362.50	70%
1983	SPRINGFIELD - THIRD	1,000.00	750.00	250.00	6,633.75	6,633.75	-	100%
1988	SPRINGFIELD - WESTMINSTER	17,000.00	17,000.00	-	36,938.75	36,938.75	-	100%
4917	STRONGHURST			-	543.75	543.75	-	100%
1991	TALLULA - ROCK CREEK			-	2,646.25		2,646.25	0%
9752	VIOLA - UNITED		3,320.00	(3,320.00)	1,993.75	1,993.75	-	100%
1488	VIRDEN - FIRST			-	688.75		688.75	0%
1993	VIRGINIA - FIRST			-	2,030.00		2,030.00	0%
1994	VIRGINIA - SANGAMON VALLEY			-	1,486.25	1,486.25	-	100%
1942	WARSAW - FIRST	3,081.25	14.50	3,066.75	3,081.25	3,081.25	-	100%
1867	WASHINGTON			-	2,863.75	2,863.75	-	100%
1490	WHITE HALL - FIRST			-	1,015.00	1,015.00	-	100%
9657	WOODHULL - UNITED	4,000.00	4,000.00	-	4,676.25	4,676.25	-	100%
1995	WOODSON - UNITY			-	326.25		326.25	0%
9199	YATES CITY - FAITH UNITED	800.00	800.00	-	1,377.50	1,377.50	-	100%
Totals		80,556.25	118,160.40	(37,604.15)	332,847.50	285,848.04	46,999.46	

**PGR Commissioned Ruling Elder Coordinator Report to the Assembly
February 20, 2024**

The purpose of this report is to give the Assembly a summary of the work I have conducted so far as the Commissioned Pastor Coordinator.

Since our last assembly meeting, CRE Pam Moore has retired. Sandi retired from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Kirkwood. Thank you for celebrating her years of service and keeping her and the congregation in your prayers as they live into this transition.

RE Alan Willadson was commissioned to service in Blackhawk Presbytery on November 14, 2023. Alan is serving his first commission with First Presbyterian Church of Fairbury.

We continue to meet monthly via Zoom.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the ministry formation training, please contact me. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) has scholarships available.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

In Christ's Service.

Rev. Dr. Cheyanna L. Losey

cheyannalosey@gmail.com

309-299-4790

Roving Reporter to Recount Records of Relief Rendered!

(OK, that was your alliteration for the day!--- Read on to see what it means for your congregation.)

Presbytery Leadership knows that your congregation is doing amazing things! We know that you are making a difference in your communities and in our world! We know that the love of Christ and the blessings of our God are being felt through the ministries that you offer!

We know all of this, and we want to celebrate what you are doing. We want to help connect congregations who might like to learn from one another's experience. We want to encourage new projects that can offer healing and hope in our world. It's what we have committed to as a part of our Matthew 25 pledge.

With all of this in mind, we invite you to tell our Roving Reporter your story. Joyce Chamberlin has volunteered to be the ghost writer for your narrative. To begin the process you are invited to email her, and set a time for a telephone conversation. Perhaps you already have something written for your newsletter--send it to her, and she will ask some questions, write the article and then submit it back to you for your approval before it is published in our "Good News" bimonthly newsletter. We hope you will submit a photo, as well, to show us a bit of the excitement. Let's learn about all the wonderful things that are being done in our midst. Let our Roving Reporter tell your story to the glory of God.

You can reach Joyce at jkchamberlin1@gmail.com. She is looking forward to hearing from you.

Stated Clerk's Report

February 20, 2024

The following are reported to the Assembly:

Disciplinary Reports:

- An allegation of misconduct has been received against a minister member of the presbytery. An investigative committee has been formed, trained, and begun their work.

The following MWSs have been received:

- N/A

The following have been ordained and listed as a member of the Presbytery:

- N/A

The following administrative commissions to ordain/install have been formed, completed their work, and dismissed:

- AC to Install Rev. Edward Wegele, Pastor, First Fed, Peoria: 10/15/23
 - Rev. Katie Styr Elder Celia Johnson
 - Rev. Steve Barch Elder Claire Gannon McQuerry
 - Rev. John Napoli Elder Ralph Schoen
 - Rev. Ann Schwartz Rev. Carole Hoke
 - Rev. Kathy Lawes Rev. Teresa Higus
- AC to Install Rev. Peter Galbraith, Pastor, Grace, Rock Island: 10/29/23
 - Rev. Katie Styr Elder Mike Wendland
 - Rev. Joyce Chamberlin Elder Sheila Sheer
 - Rev. Drew Nagle Corr. Member: Rev. Chris Lee
- AC to Install Rev. Scott Carnes, Pastor, First, Galesburg: 10/1/23
 - Rev. Katie Styr Elder Debbie Strauch
 - Rev. Drew Nagle Elder Sheila Sheer
 - Rev. Brandon Ouellette
 - Corresponding: Rev. Carrie Carnes & Rev. Deborah Epley

The following have transferred their ordination to the PC(USA):

- Rev. Dr. John Huxtable, Chaplain at Monmouth College, formerly Disciples of Christ.

The following have been temporarily transferred from other denominations while serving churches in the Presbytery of Great Rivers:

- N/A

The following MWSs have been listed as Honorably Retired:

- N/A

The following MWSs have been dismissed:

- Rev. Andrew Sonneborn to Winnebago Presbytery
- Rev. Sarah Illiff McGill to Chicago Presbytery
- Rev. Trajan McGill to Chicago Presbytery

The following have been removed from the rolls:

- David Barton

The following MWSs have been transferred to the church triumphant in their deaths:

- N/A

The following Sessions request a waiver to extend the terms for an elder:

- Chenoa, First: Elder Nancy Murphy: to serve an additional term
- Aledo, Sunbeam: Elder Leonard Armstrong: to serve an additional term
- Aledo, Sunbeam: Elder Jean Harfst: to serve an additional term
- Athens, Indian Point: Elder Shellie Bricker to serve an additional term
- Athens, Indian Point: Elder Wade Meteer to serve an additional term
- Peoria, Westminster: Elder John Jackson to serve an additional term
- Peoria, Westminster: Elder Peggy Bragg to serve an additional term
- Delevan, First: Elder Jeff Johnson to serve an additional term
- Delevan, First: Elder Roger Wright to serve an additional term
- Seaton, Center: Elder Judith Redlinger to serve an additional term

The following congregations have completed and passed the 2023 Session Record Review thus far:

- Adair, West Prairie
- Aledo, College Ave
- Aledo, Sunbeam
- Athens, Indian Point
- Biggsville, Biggsville
- Bloomington, St. Luke Union
- Bloomington, Second
- Bushnell, First
- Canton, First
- Carlinville, Federated
- Carthage, Fountain Green
- Clinton, Clinton
- Coal Valley, First

- Danvers, First
- Delevan, First
- East Moline, First
- Elmwood, First United
- Eureka, Eureka
- Farmington, First
- Galesburg, First
- Geneseo, First
- Ipava, Ipava
- Jacksonville, First
- Kirkwood, Westminster
- Knoxville, First
- Le Roy, First
- Lewistown, First
- Lincoln, First
- Macomb, First
- Macomb, Scotland Trinity
- Milan, First
- Monmouth, Faith United
- Monmouth, Sugar Tree Grove
- New Windsor, New Windsor
- Normal, First
- Orion, Beulah
- Peoria, United
- Peoria, Westminster
- Quincy, Ellington
- Reynolds, Hamlet Perryton
- Rio, Rio
- Rock Island, Grace
- Seaton, Center
- Springfield, Hope
- Springfield, Westminster
- Viola, First
- Virginia, Sangamon Valley
- Washington, Washington
- Woodhull, United
- Yates City, Faith United

Respectfully submitted,

TE Elissa Bailey, Stated Clerk

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

Administration Team Report

February 2024

MSA to recommend to the Assembly for approval the following:

- **To approve the proposed distribution of 2024 Ebersoft Funds.**

Total Ebersolt funds available for distribution is \$9,534.88. Proposed Distribution of Ebersolt Funds in 2024 is \$2,83.72 to: Indian Point United, Athens; United, Greenview; Central, Petersburg; Rock Creek, Tallula.

Background: In 2003, the Presbytery approved the following proposal for disbursements to be made: *The Administration team of Presbytery of Great Rivers agreed to divide the money equally between the Sessions of the four churches. The Sessions will distribute their portion of the fund between the local food pantries, Menard Caring, the youth groups and the Rock Creek Spiritual Center, following the desire of the giver for "ministry in Menard County."*

- **To approve additional funds for Presbytery Leader Formation.**

Our Lead Presbyter is part of a three-year program and our Presbytery is responsible for covering the costs (\$2000 estimate). We did not know when making the 2024 budget.

For information:

Minutes Approved - We approved the PGR Assembly Minutes: August 26, 2023; November 11, 2023.

Property: As the new chair of Admin, I want to remind you that the Presbytery is both a resource and required to help you in **property changes, sales, leases, purchases, etc.** We are a connectional church and have people with experience, similar issues/concerns, etc. Since selling/purchasing/leasing property need to be handled in a timely matter Admin does not need to wait for a Presbytery Assembly meeting to help your church. Please follow these instructions:

- 1- Complete the appropriate form found on the PGR website, under Forms, Admin Forms (www.greatriverspby.org/admin-forms).
- 2- The church will mail/email the appropriate form to the chair of the Administration Team. If the church has any questions as what form to use, please contact the Administration Team Chair, Jonathan Warren; 217-245-4189 (work), 217-418-3206 (cell); jwarren@firstpresjax.org
- 3- Within 5 days of receiving the form, the Admin Chair will contact the church and will assign an Admin team member to advise/assist them through the transaction.
- 4- The assigned team member will make first contact within 2 days of assignment.
- 5- The team member will communicate to the Admin Team and Chair as actions are taken.

2024 Scheduled Admin Meetings: April 6, July 31, October 26.

Rev. Jonathan Warren, Admin Chair

First Presbyterian Church, 870 W. College, Jacksonville, IL 62650

217-245-4189 (work), 217-418-3206 (cell), jwarren@firstpresjax.org

Great Rivers Personnel Report Presbytery Assembly, Feb. 20, 2024

At our last assembly Personnel Committee submitted a revision of the Personnel Manual for consideration. Since that time we have become aware of a new Illinois law that mandates Paid Time Off for all employees. While we are in compliance with the amount of time demanded, the manner of tracking and regulating that time is still unclear. Since the regulations for the new law are still being hammered out and will likely mandate some edits to keep us in compliance, we respectfully request that the vote to approve our manual be postponed until our next meeting when we will hopefully have more information about the needed changes.

In the meantime, if anyone has questions about proposed changes, Joyce Chamberlin, chair of Personnel will be happy to answer your concerns. She can be reached at jkchamberlin1@gmail.com.

On other matters, the committee is working to update and refine the job description for our Lead Presbyter and we have also begun the process of our annual reviews for staff.

Thank you,

Joyce Chamberlin, Chair of Personnel.

Presbytery of Great Rivers
Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report
February 20, 2024

Committee Actions:

- A scholarship was approved via an e-vote that was ratified at our January 17, 2024 meeting for Julio Garcia in the amount of \$1,000.00. This scholarship is to be used towards the needs of the Ministry Formation Program expenses he began in January 2024.
- The committee met in-person on Wednesday, January 17th in Galesburg, Illinois to conduct the interview for readiness to receive a call with candidate Lorna R. Blackford. She submitted prior to this meeting CPM Form 3, including her Statement of Faith, and a list of references; and her preliminary Personal Discernment Profile (PDP). Also submitted were transcripts for her undergraduate and other degree programs as well as a current transcript from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. The Committee also reviewed her Ordination exam responses and the responses her references gave in preparation for this interview. A sermon was successfully given followed by an interview to ascertain readiness to receive a call. A vote was taken and the Committee approved Lorna as ready to receive a call. During the interview suggestions were given for her Personal Discernment Profile (PDP) which Lorna took under advisement and then resubmitted her PDP for the committee's approval. Her PDP was approved by the committee via e-vote and is now live in the Church Leadership Connection (CLC).
- The remaining dates for regularly scheduled Committee on Preparation for Ministry meetings in 2024 are:
 - Wednesday, April 17th
 - Wednesday, June 19th
 - Wednesday, August 7th
 - Wednesday, October 16th

All meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. and conducted via Zoom unless otherwise arranged.

Committee Celebrations:

- ✚ The Committee calls on the Assembly Commissioners to celebrate with us this milestone in Lorna Blackford's journey to ordination. Please put a note of celebration in the assembly chat and we will collect them and compile them into a remembrance for Lorna!

Bills and Overtures Committee Minutes
January 30, 2024

Present: Katie Styr, Tim Haworth, Diane Ludington, Chuck Goodman

Meeting opened with prayer at 2:06.

The group discussed two overtures:

1. On Amending the Book of Order to Include Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Among the Categories Against Which This Church Does Not Discriminate
The group discussed the potential impacts, benefits, and complications of the motion.
MSA to send this overture to presbytery assembly for concurrence. Tim Haworth will present the motion to the assembly. The group is grateful to have his expertise from serving on the PC(USA)'s LGBTQIA+ Equity Advocacy Committee.
2. On Amending D-7.0501 Regarding Minors and Vulnerable Adults
The group discussed the potential risks and benefits of the motion, as well as situations in which it could come into play. **MSA to send this overture to presbytery assembly for concurrence.** Katie Styr will present the motion to the assembly, with the understanding that Elissa Bailey may need to answer specific questions surrounding the disciplinary process.

The group then agreed that we would need 20 minutes for our presentation to the assembly on February 20th. Tim will introduce the committee and then present motion 1, Katie will present motion 2, we will all be available to answer questions. The full text of each motion is available at <https://www.pc-biz.org/>. Katie will send the text to Frosty.

Meeting ended in prayer at 3:43pm.

[OVT-001] On Amending the Book of Order to Include Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Among the Categories Against Which This Church Does Not Discriminate

Source: Presbytery

Committee: Unassigned

Event: 226th General Assembly (2024)

Sponsor: Olympia Presbytery

Type: General Assembly Full Consideration

Recommendation

On Amending the Book of Order to Include Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Among the Categories Against Which This Church Does Not Discriminate

The Presbytery of Olympia overtures the 226th General Assembly (2024) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendments to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

(Text to be added is *[underlined, in brackets and italics]*.)

1. Shall F-1.0403 be amended as follows:

“The unity of believers in Christ is reflected in the rich diversity of the Church’s membership. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God unites persons through baptism, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, *[gender identity, sexual orientation,]* disability, geography, or theological conviction. There is therefore no place in the life of the Church for discrimination against any person. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall guarantee full participation and representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons or groups within its membership. No member shall be denied participation or representation for any reason other than those stated in this Constitution.”

2. Shall G-2.0104b be amended as follows:

“b. Standards for ordained service reflect the church’s desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (F-1.02). The council responsible for ordination and/or installation (G-2.0402; G-2.0607; G-3.0306) shall examine each candidate’s calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of ordered ministry. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate’s ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.0404) *[and in the principles of participation, representation, and non- discrimination found in F-1.0403]*. Councils shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.”

Rationale

Rationale

Twice in 2022 Olympia Presbytery held ordination votes on the floor of presbytery involving ordinands with

opinions that did not fully embrace the equal and affirmed status of LGBTQIA+ persons in the church. Those conversations were difficult because the *Book of Order* does not include gender identity or sexual orientation in its list of protected classes. These experiences reveal the need for denominational clarity concerning the church's ministry to LGBTQIA+ individuals as full participants in all aspects of life in the church.

While affirming the freedom of councils of the church to make ordination decisions as guided by the Holy Spirit, we acknowledge that the Church has been called upon historically to be ever more faithful to the most inclusive and affirming statements of Scripture and promptings of the Holy Spirit. The Church continues to find and confirm that the limits of each council of the church in their "local option" are conditioned by affirmations found in the *Book of Order*: sex, race, or any other prejudicial category, now to include gender identity and sexual orientation.

We feel that the Spirit is working in the churches concerning this matter. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the following resolution:

- 1. Celebrating the expansive embrace of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the breadth of our mission to serve a world in need, the 223rd General Assembly (2018) affirms the gifts of LGBTQIA+ people for ministry and celebrates their service in the church and in the world.*
- 2. The assembly celebrates that over the years, LGBTQIA+ people have faithfully, lovingly, and courageously served in every kind of service to which Christian disciples are called— notwithstanding the church's efforts to exclude them from particular types of service.*
- 3. The assembly laments the ways that the policies and actions of the PC(USA) have caused gifted, faithful, LGBTQIA+ Christians to leave the Presbyterian church so that they could find a more welcoming place to serve, as they have been gifted and called by the Spirit.*
- 4. At the same time, the assembly gives thanks for the LGBTQIA+ pioneers of the faith who have persisted in relationship with the Presbyterian church, at great personal cost and sacrifice, together with the whole of the LGBTQIA+ community, moving the church toward a more generous, loving, and just understanding of God's grace.*
- 5. The assembly also gives thanks for those who continue to seek deeper understanding, and more authentic welcome, even amid discomfort or uncertainty about how best to show hospitality, in the spirit of continuing Reformation.*
- 6. Today, openly LGBTQIA+ people are leading churches, preaching the gospel, serving those in need, and otherwise using their gifts for ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).*
- 7. With an eye toward the future, the assembly affirms God's presence and call in the lives of all God's people and commits to seeking justice, equality, and inclusion for all in church and society.*
- 8. The assembly calls on the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, the Presbyterian Mission Agency (through its Office of Public Witness), and all who represent the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to actively work for the protection of human and civil rights, both in the United States and around the world, especially the rights of marginalized and oppressed groups, including people facing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.*
- 9. The assembly calls upon mission co-workers and ecumenical representatives to advocate for justice and equality for all God's people in ways appropriate to their cultural and ecclesiastical context.*
- 10. The assembly encourages all congregations and councils of the PCUSA continually to seek to expand their welcome so that all might know the Good News of Jesus Christ and encourages all other communions to do the same.*

We follow this encouragement by urging that gender identity and sexual orientation be established as protected classes against which we must not discriminate. As the PC(USA) continues to celebrate the gifts of our

LGBTQIA+ siblings, we must amend our *Book of Order* to prevent discrimination against those same siblings.

We further feel that justice will be served and the children of God will be supported by this amendment. Studies show that LGBTQIA+ youth who have religious parents that share negative views on being LGBTQIA+ have higher rates of suicide attempts.[1] We believe that the Church is being called to affirm and support this at-risk population as children, youth, and adults.

We pray that the PC(USA) will fully affirm our LGBTQIA+ siblings by adding language that protects these historically oppressed people.

[1] The Trevor Project: (<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/LGBTQ-Youth-and-Religion-Research-Brief-April-2020.pdf>)

Concurrence

New Castle Presbytery

San Jose Presbytery

Mission Presbytery

Even as the General Assembly called on the church to lament the ways in which PC(USA) policies have caused prior harm to LGBTQIA+ people, categories of sexual orientation and gender identity nonetheless remain omitted from the list of protected classes against which the church will not tolerate discrimination.

Even as the General Assembly called on the church Stated Clerk and other representatives of the PC(USA) to work for the general protection of the rights of LGBTQIA+ people, the Spirit has called the church into a moment in which such discrimination has taken on increasingly vivid form in our laws and in our society. Therefore it is incumbent upon the PC(USA) in this moment to bear cohesive, unified witness to the fully inclusive nature of God's creation. As the activity of any one council represents the activity of the whole church, it is incumbent upon the whole to make a determinative standard for full inclusion in the elemental language of its constitutional foundations.

While we affirm and value the freedom of local councils to examine candidates for ordination, we also recognize that such freedom exists within historical limits and that the so-called "local option" should not be construed to allow for discriminatory practice in one corner of the church which necessarily infringes on the inclusive witness of the whole church.

Furthermore, while we affirm and value the full inclusion of diverse theological convictions, we also recognize that sexual orientation and gender identity are matters of core identity, akin to other identity categories already present in F-1.0403 and that people of diverse theological convictions may nonetheless affirm their commitment to nondiscriminatory practice.

Finally, we pray with thanksgiving for the work of the Spirit in this time and place and for the possibility that by our hands, the Spirit might transform us into a church where all are truly welcome and valued.

[OVT-002] On Amending D-7.0501 Regarding Minors and Vulnerable Adults**Source:** Presbytery**Committee:** Unassigned**Event:** 226th General Assembly (2024)**Sponsor:** Genesee Valley Presbytery**Type:** General Assembly Full Consideration

Recommendation

On Amending D-7.0501 Regarding Minors and Vulnerable Adults

The Presbytery of Genesee Valley overtures the 226th General Assembly (2024) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to:

Direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the *Book of Order* to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall D-7.0501 in the *Book of Order* be amended as follows:

(Text to be added is [in brackets and italics]. Text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~.)

“When a clerk of session or the stated clerk of a presbytery receives an allegation, without undertaking further inquiry, that clerk shall then report to the council only that an offense has been alleged without naming the [person] accused or the nature of the alleged offense[. *In a case in which the person identified as having been harmed is a minor or an adult who lacks mental capacity, the clerk shall disclose to the council the nature of the alleged offense and the name of the person accused.*] and [The council shall] refer the statement of allegation promptly to an investigating committee, which shall conduct an inquiry as defined below.”

The full text of D-7.0501, if the proposed amendment is approved, will read:

“When a clerk of session or the stated clerk of a presbytery receives an allegation, without undertaking further inquiry, that clerk shall then report to the council only that an offense has been alleged without naming the person accused or the nature of the alleged offense. In a case in which the person identified as having been harmed is a minor or an adult who lacks mental capacity, the clerk shall disclose to the council the nature of the alleged offense and the name of the person accused. The council shall refer the statement of allegation promptly to an investigating committee, which shall conduct an inquiry as defined below.”

Rationale

Rationale

1. The context for D-7.0501 is the procedure by which submission of a formal accusation of a disciplinary offense prompts the council of a church or presbytery to form an investigating committee and commence the disciplinary process of the *Book of Order*.
2. In a case which alleges that the person harmed was a minor or an adult who lacks mental capacity, D-7.0501 presently requires the clerk to withhold this critically relevant demographic information. The possible negative consequences are serious. Withholding relevant information is an omission which prevents the council from exercising its ability to act, e.g., temporarily suspending a volunteer leader of a youth group, warning parents whose children may be at risk, informing legal authorities of potential statutory violations, or simply seeking consultation. If the case has possible civil or criminal law implications, failure to initiate

reasonable risk management actions at this stage may expose the council to legal liability.[1]

3. By knowing the nature of the alleged offense and the name of the person accused, a council would be able to exercise its power of discernment and appoint members to an investigating committee who do not have personal ties to people involved in the case or who are able to bring specialized knowledge, expertise, or skills to a sensitive matter. Without knowledge of the relevant information, the council has an incomplete baseline from which to decide whether its investigating committee appointees are well-qualified or will face conflicts of interest.

4. A two-part moral and polity framework in the *Book of Order* supports this overture. The first part originates in G-4.03, the dedicated confidentiality section. G-4.0301 unequivocally declares: "Confidentiality should not be an excuse to hold secret the knowledge or risk of harm, especially when related to the physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse of a minor or an adult who lacks mental capacity." We regard preserving confidentiality as secondary and prioritize protecting vulnerable people.

Disclosing relevant information as our primary moral obligation follows in G-4.0302, the Mandatory Reporting provision. Here is the explicit mandate to take positive action to protect vulnerable people by disclosing information to authorities. It reiterates the primary moral value which prioritizes protecting people at risk. G-4.0302 makes clear the substantive basis for disclosing: "...knowledge of harm, or the risk of harm, related to the physical abuse, neglect, and/or sexual molestation or abuse of a minor or an adult who lacks mental capacity..." Knowledge is essential to being able to act preventively.

The second part of the moral and polity framework is our obligation which is implicit in Chapter 7 of the *Book of Order* Disciplinary Process. D-7.0201a. and D-7.1501b. both address accountability in circumstances when a person "knew, or reasonably should have known of the reasonable risk of sexual abuse of another... [and] failed to take reasonable steps to minimize the risk." The moral commitment in Chapter 7 is that we are responsible for recognizing a risk and that once we know, we are obligated to act to reduce the possibility of harm.

5. The unconditional language of D-7.0501 contradicts the letter and spirit of both G-4.0301 and G-4.0302, provisions which affirm that preserving confidentiality is not an absolute when withholding the truth enables the commission of abuse, neglect, or harm. By prohibiting disclosure, D-7.0501 devalues protecting vulnerable people and perpetuates their risk for sake of a secondary priority. Our Church's compelling interest to safeguard people engaged in our mission and ministry justifies overriding D-7.0501's imposition of concealment. This overture ensures that our moral responsibility and positive duty embodied in existing provisions of G-4 and D-7 are honored and upheld by the procedure of D-7.0501.

6. Since the 1990s when the offense of "sexual abuse of another person" was added to the disciplinary section of the *Book of Order*, experience throughout the PC(USA) teaches us that it is very difficult to maintain the high degree of confidentiality required by D-7.0501. It's not realistic to think that confidential information about the alleged harm of a child or a person without mental capacity will be long-contained in a congregation. Anecdotal evidence teaches us that it is more realistic to expect that a council's ignorance of available but concealed facts regarding a risk to vulnerable people will be experienced as leaders' failure to fulfill their core responsibilities and a betrayal of trust.[2]

7. This overture utilizes the phrase, "adult who lacks mental capacity." This is a consistent application of the wording used in both G-4.0301 regarding confidentiality and in G-4.0302 regarding mandatory reporting.

[1] In Ezekiel 33:6, the community's sentinel is held accountable for failing to sound the trumpet and warn the people of imminent danger.

[2] In Ezekiel 34:10, the shepherds are held accountable for the well-being of God's sheep.

PGR Nominating Committee Report, February 20, 2024

The full Nominating Committee (NC) met via Zoom on these dates since our last assembly meeting: January 12, 2024. The committee and co-chairs also communicated regularly via email, phone, and text as we completed the work before us.

Marti Tarter was nominated on October 27 but inadvertently omitted from the NC report to the November 11, 2023 assembly. Also, after election on November 11, we learned that Ann Lamkey is not an elder so is not eligible to serve on a presbytery committee.

We **move** that Marti Tarter be elected to the Committee on Ministry (COM) for a three-year term, ending December 2026.

We **move** that Ralph Schoen be elected to the Personnel Committee for a one-year term, ending December 2024.

Thank you to all the congregations for sending the Eligible Elder form. We have received forms from fourteen congregations. This will help us in our work in 2024.

Kemmerer Village is seeking more board members. If you are interested contact the Nominating Committee.

Our next meeting will be held March 15, 2024 at 10 AM.

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to serve.

In Christ's Service,
The Nominating Committee
Co-Chair RE Gary Terpstra g.terpstra@comcast.net
Co-Chair TE Cheyanna Losey cheyannalosey@gmail.com
RE Gary Davis
RE Julio Garcia
RE Diane Ludington

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or Cheyanna Losey
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