

## Presbytery of Great Rivers

May 17, 2022

ZOOM

The Mission of the Presbytery:

*“We are called to share Christ’s love*

*By partnering in service,*

*United in worship,*

*And risking in ministry.”*

### SHARING CHRIST’S LOVE

The Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Great Rivers was called to order by Moderator Rev. Chuck Goodman at 4:00 pm central time zone over zoom. The purpose of the meeting was to worship. Moderator Rev. Chuck Goodman led the assembly in worship and the business of the Presbytery. He began the meeting with an opening prayer. An offering was collected for the Illinois Presbyterian Home located in Springfield, IL.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NATIVE LANDS

Stated Clerk, Rev. Elissa Bailey, gave the acknowledgment of the Native American Heritage for the lands of which our Presbytery currently resides. We acknowledge the Kiikaapoi, Peoria, Sauk, Meskwaki, Miami, and Oceti Sakowin.

### WELCOME AND INSTRUCTIONS

A time of welcome and instructions were given by the moderator. As we were on zoom, it was vital to introduce the various components of how to locate items that might be needed as well as team members who would be available for assistance and their particular roles.

### QUORUM

The Stated Clerk advised the Moderator-Elect a quorum was present and the Moderator-Elect declared the requirements for quorum had been met and the meeting continued.

### Quorum & Roll

The roll was established by registration. “A” = absent. “E” = excused

City & Church		TE or CE serving church	RE commissioner
Adair, West Prairie	A	Mr. Jeremey Westlake	N/A
Aledo, College Ave	A	Rev. Wayne Furr	Lance Slavish
Aledo, Sunbeam		Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle (1 <sup>st</sup> listing)	N/A
Alexis, Norwood	A	CLP Gary Pullen	N/A
Athens, Indian Point	A	CLP Sandi Woodard	N/A
Bartonville, Trinity	A	Mr. Steve Barch	N/A
Biggsville, United	A	CLP Kathie Whitson (1 <sup>st</sup> listing)	N/A
Bloomington, Saint Luke	E	Rev. Andrew Gifford	John Otto
Bloomington, Second		Rev. Trey Haddon	Ruth Gabor

Bushnell, First		Rev. Mark Merrill	Shelly Gant
Canton, First		Rev. Edwin Brinklow	N/A
Carlinville, Federated	A	Rev. William Mitchell	Terry Frame
Carrollton, First	A	CLP Kirby Ballard (1 <sup>st</sup> listing)	Nathan Rush
Carthage, First	A	Rev. Joy Ridge Edeker	N/A
Chatham, Chatham		VACANT	N/A
Chenoa, First		VACANT	N/A
Clayton, First		VACANT	N/A
Clinton, Clinton	E	Rev. Paul Stroup	N/A
Coal Valley, First		Rev. Tim Snart	N/A
Danvers, First		VACANT	N/A
Delavan, First		VACANT	Carrol Lewis
Divernon, First	A	Rev. Steve Smith	N/A
E. Moline, First	E	Rev. Rebecca Sherwood	Denise Maxwell
Edwards, Korean	A	Rev. Kyaekwang Kim	N/A
Elmwood, First	A	Rev. Marla Bauler (1 <sup>st</sup> listing)	N/A
Eureka, Eureka	A	CLP Bob Montgomery	N/A
Farmington, First		VACANT	N/A
Fountain Green, FGU	A	Mr. Mark Hanson	N/A
Galesburg, First		Rev. Kay Daniel	Susan Rinehart
Geneseo, First	A	Rev. Tim Doty	Steve Durian
Greenview, United		VACANT	N/A
Hamilton, Bethel		VACANT	N/A
Ipava, United		Rev. Charles Walden (1 <sup>st</sup> listing)	N/A
Jacksonville, First		Rev. Jonathan Warren	Dave Truesdell
Kirkwood, Westminster		CLP Pam Moore	Janet Shauman
Knoxville, First	A	Rev. Ken Shedenhelm	N/A
LeRoy, First		Rev. Bill McLean	Martha Dean
Lewistown, First		CLP Penny Frame	Rick Hoffman
Lincoln, First		Rev. Adam Quine	Catherine Maciariello
Macomb, First	A	Rev. Rene Whitaker	N/A
Macomb, ST		Rev. Charles Walden (2 <sup>nd</sup> listing)	N/A
Mason City, United	A	Rev. Charlotte Poetschner	N/A
Media, Community		VACANT	N/A
Middletown, First		VACANT	N/A
Milan, First		Rev. Katie Styrt	Patty Cook
Monmouth, Faith		Rev. Brandon Ouellette	N/A
Monmouth, Sugar Tree		VACANT	N/A
Morton, First	A	CLP Mike Claver	N/A
Mt. Sterling, Mt. S	A	Mr. Richard Young	N/A
New Windsor, United		VACANT	N/A
Niota, Appanoose Faith	A	Mr. David Poland	N/A
Normal, First		Rev. Matt Wilcox	Sabrina Smith
		Rev. Kathy Mitchell	
Normal, New Covenant	A	Rev. Brian Burris	N/A

Oneida, United	E	Rev. Linda Baldwin	Larry Lawson
Orion, Beulah		Rev. Tim Snart (2 <sup>nd</sup> listing)	N/A
Pekin, First		VACANT	N/A
Peoria, First Fed		Rev. David Ezekiel	N/A
Peoria, United	A	Rev. Debra Avery	N/A
Peoria, Westminster		Rev. Denise Clark Jones	N/A
Perry, Perry	A	Rev. John Nelson	N/A
Petersburg, Central		VACANT	Steven Territo
Pleasant Plains, Farmingdale		VACANT	N/A
Quincy, Ellington	A	Mr. Ron Cox	N/A
Reynolds, Hamlet Perryton	E	Rev. Harry Losey	N/A
Rio, Rio		Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle (2 <sup>nd</sup> listing)	N/A
Rock Island, Broadway		VACANT	N/A
Rock Island, Gloria Dei		Rev. Drew Nagle	Fiona McGrath Nagle
Rock Island, Good Shepard		Rev. James Benson	N/A
Rock Island, South Park	A	Rev. Blake Severson	Sherrill Mixer
Rushville, First		VACANT	N/A
Seaton, Center	A	CLP Kathie Whitson (2 <sup>nd</sup> listing)	N/A
Springfield, First	A	Rev. Susan Phillips	Mike Orr
Springfield, Hope		Rev. Chuck Goodman	LaCleta Hall
Springfield, Korean		Rev. Jaechul Kim	N/A
Springfield, Third	A	Rev. John Shear	N/A
Springfield, Westminster	A	Rev. Blythe Kieffer	N/A
	A	Rev. Christian Choi	
Stronghurst, Stronghurst	A	Mr. Phillip Cooper (2 <sup>nd</sup> listing)	N/A
Tallula, Rock Creek		Rev. Joanne Hinds	N/A
Viola, United	A	Rev. Matt Downey	N/A
Virden, First		VACANT	N/A
Virginia, First		VACANT	N/A
Virginia, Sangamon	A	Rev. Timothy Bauler	N/A
Warsaw, First		CLP Diane Ludington	N/A
Washington, Washington	A	Mr. Tim Mitchell	Carol Voorhees
White Hall, First	A	CLP Kirby Ballard (2 <sup>nd</sup> listing)	N/A
Woodhull, United		Rev. Cheyanna Losey	N/A
Woodson, Unity	A	Rev. Robert Kerr	N/A
Yates City, Faith	A	Rev. Marla Bauler (2 <sup>nd</sup> listing)	N/A

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Total: Ministers of Word and Sacrament: 22 Ruling Elders: 27

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Validated, At large, Honorably retired, other ministers present Total: 11

\*Rev. Joyce Chamberlin, HR

\*Rev. Susan Baller-Shepard, VM

\*Rev. Jessica Hawkinson Dorow, VM

\*Rev. Andy Sonneborn, M@L

\*Rev. Cheryl Lunday, HR

\*Rev. Laura Reason, HR

\*Rev. Elissa Bailey, VM

\*Rev. Eric Vinsel, VM

\*Rev. Chris Williams, VM

\*Rev. Carolyn Weber, HR

\*Rev. Pam Laing, HR

Administration, Personnel, & Visioning Team Members, Committee Chairs Total: 1

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\*Elder Julio Garcia, Admin Chair

Moderator/Moderator-Elect, or Prior Moderator Total: 0

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Corresponding Members Total: 1

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\*Rev. John Rickard, Blackhawk Presbytery, Bridge EP

Others Present – committee members with voice but no vote, Total: 2

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\*Elder Julie Bruninga, COM

\*Elder Sue Sawers, CPM

Others Present – ruling elders, visitors, inquirers/candidates, no voice/vote Total: 5

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\*Elder Gary Davis

\*Lorna Blackford

\*Elder Merle Fox

\*Mackenzie Jager

\*Amy Rasing

Presbytery Staff Total: 2

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\*Sabrina McGrath

\*Lindsay Zubal

Total Attendance: 71

## INTRODUCTIONS

- New Teaching Elders
- New Ruling Elder Commissioners
- Corresponding Members
  - Rev. John Rickard, GAP Presbyter
    - **MSA** to seat the corresponding members.

## RISKING IN MINISTRY

### Current Business

- **MSA** the docket with no corrections or changes. (Appendix J)
- **MSA** to enter all written reports into the permanent minutes.
  - Stated Clerk Report (Appendix A), Treasurer Report (Appendix B), CLP/CRE Coordinator Report (Appendix C), Administration Team Report (Appendix D), Personnel Committee Report (Appendix E), Rock Island AC Report (Appendix F), Committee on Ministry Report (Appendix G), Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report (Appendix H), Nominating Committee Report (Appendix I).
- Stated Clerk Report: Reported by Stated Clerk Rev. Elissa Bailey
  - Add the following two Ministers of Word and Sacrament to the report as received members of the Presbytery of Great Rivers:
    - Rev. William McLean from the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois

- Rev. Pamela Laing from the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois.
      - Reminder to all pastors and clerks that if they have not completed the biannual session record review to please contact the Stated Clerk to set up a time to do so.
      - The Illinois Presbyterian Home's bylaws require any bylaw change to be approved by both the Presbytery of Great Rivers and the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois. The following bylaw change was being proposed: **MSA**
        - Section 3: Nomination and Qualification:
          - Commencing with the year 1972 and each year thereafter, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall nominate, prior to October 1, the necessary number of directors to fill the vacancies on the Board resulting from the expiration of directors' terms of office. The directors shall be members of the Great Rivers and Southeastern Illinois Presbyteries. Chairs of Special Committees, without voting privilege, are not required to be members of the Presbyterian Church. Not more than one-third of the directors from each presbytery shall be clergymen. As near as possible, the number of directors from the two presbyteries shall be equal. ~~No director shall serve more than two consecutive three year terms. A director may be re-elected after the lapse of one year.~~
- GAP GP Rev. John Rickard spoke brief greetings to the Assembly.
- Virtual Assistant Lindsay Zubal spoke brief greetings to the Assembly.
- The Administration Team Report was presented by Elder Julio Garcia
  - The following nominee was presented and **MSA** with no additional nominations made from the floor:
    - Nominating Committee Chair:
      - Rev. Andy Sonneborn
- The Nominating Committee report was presented by Chair Elder Julio Garcia
  - The following slate was presented in nomination. The following was **MSA** with no nominations made from the floor:
    - Personnel Committee:
      - Elder Nena Visser, Class of 2024, Term 1
    - Committee on Ministry:
      - Rev. Paul Stroup, Class of 2024, Term 1
      - Elder Randy Sigler, Class of 2024, Term 1
- COM Report presented by Chair Rev. James Benson
  - The Administrative Commission (AC) for Pleasant Plains-Farmingdale has elected its officers and begun its work. It has worked on familiarizing itself with the history of its objectives and contacted relevant parties. It is presently working on its charges to complete the dissolution, negotiate the severance package, and call a congregation meeting to approve it.
  - **MSA** the following update to the COM Manual:

- Section II, Part 4, Procedure for Calling a Pastor, D, 3, Steps in the Process:
  - With the assistance of the COM Ministry Partner, PNC develops procedures and criteria for evaluating PIFs.
    - ii. PNC develops *list of questions for either initial interview or as supplemental questions to be sent to candidates in whom they have a serious interest.*
    - iii. Interviewing potential pastors
    - a. *A PNC, after receiving, reviewing PIFs, and determining which candidates it wishes to interview, may make initial contact with a potential candidate to determine availability and interest. The PNC may describe its process and schedule an electronic first interview, but not conduct an interview at the initial contact. At this point, the Lead Presbyter shall be notified of the PNC's contact and conduct a Presbytery to Presbytery clearance reference check. It is the MP's responsibility to facilitate and ensure this requirement is met.*
- The Committee on Preparation for Ministry presented by Chair Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle
  - Motion to proceed with the examination of Inquirer Lorna Renee Blackford with respect to her Christian faith, forms of Christian service undertaken and motives for seeking the ministry. A time of questions was asked of Lorna and her faith. **MSA** to arrest the examination. Lorna was sent into a breakout room. **MSA** to sustain the examination. Lorna was brought back in from the breakout room and the Doxology was sung. Lorna was asked the constitutional questions and a charge and prayer was offered.
  - **MSA** to waive the six-month membership time requirement as required in G-2.0610 before an individual can seek to become an inquirer in the case of Mackenzie Jager, a member of the congregation of Clinton Presbyterian Church. Must be approved by a super majority vote.
  - **MSA** to enroll Mackenzie Jager, a member of Clinton Presbyterian Church, as an inquirer under care of the Presbytery of Great Rivers.
- Visioning Team Report presented by Rev. Jessica Hawkinson
  - The visioning grants continue to be in process. They are looking at the grants and asking how to use them to promote our visioning statement.
  - The visioning team is starting a RIP medical dept campaign of up to \$8,000 in matching funds. This will eliminate up to \$1.8 million in medical debt for residents in Illinois and surrounding areas.
- The Leadership Team Report presented by Rev. Chuck Goodman
  - The Presbytery is us. We tend to forget this. It is important for us all to remember that the majority of the presbytery committees are made up of volunteers and it is just as vital that these leaders tend to their needs and their other responsibilities. Due to this, the Leadership team recognized that it was not ready to move to an

in-person meeting with a zoom option at this time and plans to do so at the next meet.

### **UNITED IN WORSHIP**

- The assembly united in worship with CRE Diane Ludington preaching the word from James 3:1-12. There was an emphasis on the calling of those for this summer who will be called to various duties from church camps to Synod School, and of course, General Assembly.
- There were breakout rooms to discuss what individuals heard in the sermon and what they felt they needed to learn and take back to their churches. They were also asked where they thought God was leading them this summer.
- The General Assembly Commissioners was commissioned to this special call of going to General Assembly as they were asked the constitutional questions.
- The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

### **RISKING IN MINISTRY**

- Amy Rasing, the Director of Development at the Presbyterian Home in Springfield spoke about the great work they are doing. Our offering for this meeting went to the Presbyterian Home. A prayer was offered up by Amy.
- A Benediction and Closing Prayer was offered by Former Moderator CRE Diane Ludington and adjournment was declared at 7:00 pm.
- The next meeting will be on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The location is yet to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Stated Clerk, Rev. Elissa Bailey

## Appendix A

### **Stated Clerk's Report**

**May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

The following are reported to the Assembly:

The following MWSs have been received:

- NA

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

- NA

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

- NA

The following MWSs have been listed as Honorably Retired:

- Rev. Drew Nagle, 5/31/2022, from Rock Island, Gloria Dei

The following MWSs have been dismissed:

1. NA

The following MWSs have been removed from the rolls:

2. NA

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

3. Rev. George Cottay, JR. Died on March 17, 2022

The following administrative commissions were trained:

- The Administrative Commission appointed to assist the four Rock Island churches.
- The Administrative Commission appointed to assist First Presbyterian Church in Bushnell.
- The Administrative Commission appointed to assist the Farmingdale Pleasant Plains Church.

The following congregations have completed and passed their Session Record Review:

Aledo, College Ave	Aledo, Sunbeam
Alexis, Norwood	Athens, Indian Point
Bloomington, Second	Bloomington, St. Luke
Bushnell, First United	Canton, First



Carlinville, Fed  
Chenoa, Chenoa  
Coal Valley, First  
Elmwood, First  
Farmington, First  
Ipava, Ipava  
Kirkwood, Westminster  
Lincoln, First  
Mason City, First  
Morton, First  
Normal, First  
Orion, Beulah  
Peoria, Westminster  
Quincy, Ellington Memorial  
Rio, Rio  
Rock Island, Good Shepherd  
Springfield, First  
Springfield, Westminster  
Viola, First  
Washington, Washington  
Yates City, Faith United

Carthage, First  
Clinton, First  
Delevan, First  
Eureka, Eureka  
Galesburg, First  
Jacksonville, First  
LeRoy, First  
Macomb, First  
Monmouth, Faith United  
New Windsor, New Windsor  
Oneida, United  
Pekin, First  
Pleasant Plains, Farmingdale  
Reynold, Hamlet Perryton  
Rock Island, Gloria Dei  
Seaton, Center  
Springfield, Hope  
Stronghurst, Stronghurst  
Virginia, Sangamon Valley  
Woodhull, United

## **2022 First Quarter Budget Narrative**

### **Balance Sheet**

Our Balance Sheet lists our assets and how they are dispersed into restricted and unrestricted funds. We normally list the one-year difference on our balance sheet, but I thought we should include what has happened since we closed the books in December 2021. While our checking account has increased because we haven't had many large expenses thus far in '21, our investments have decreased over \$52,000 from the year end 2021. We continually monitor the checking account balance to ensure ample cash to pay our expenses, especially when the markets are down.

### **Income Statement**

**Income** (first quarter = 25% of year)

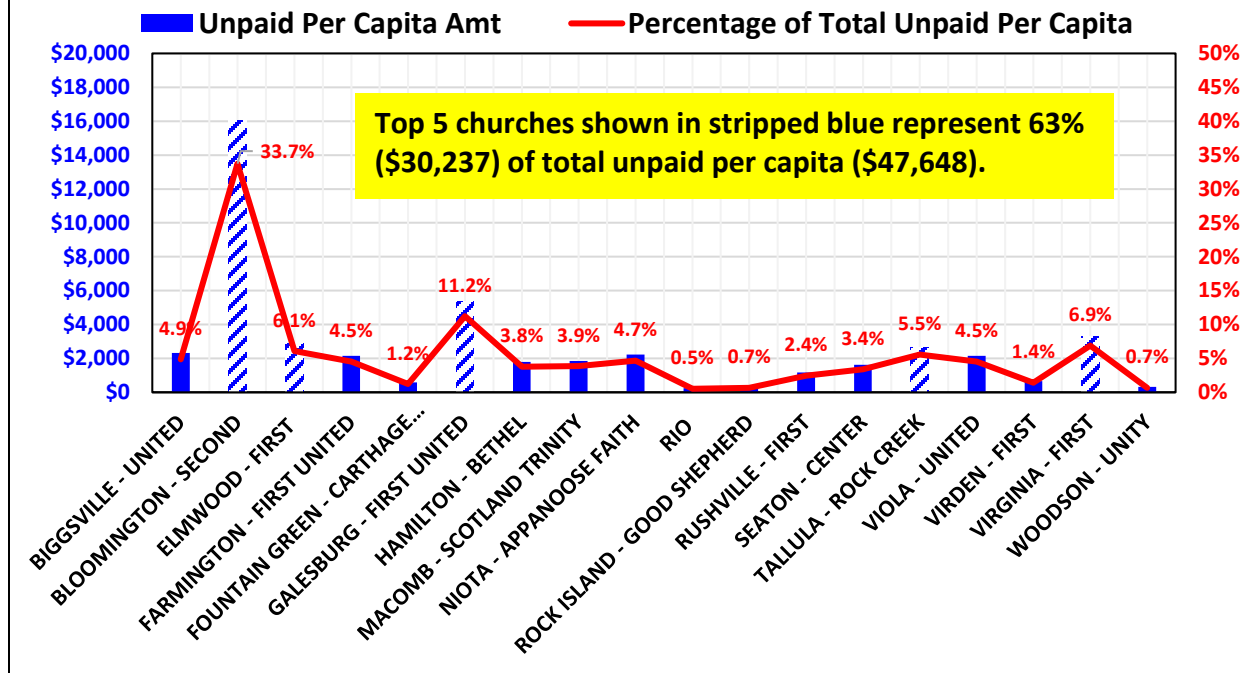
Our primary source of cash flow throughout the year is per capita, mission giving, and the trust clause payments. Our per capita remains at \$35.25 per member for 2022. With a presbytery membership of 9,714 our total per capita income should be \$342,418. Of this total, \$37,010 and \$87,232 is sent on to Synod and GA respectively, leaving \$218,176 for the presbytery.

You'll note we only budgeted \$185,452 or 85% of what we should receive (\$218,176). That has been the amount we have received from churches over the past 4-5 years. That difference represents \$32,726 in lost income to GRP. In addition, GRP pays the full amount owed to Synod and GA. When churches don't pay their full amount, that difference of \$18,637 results in an unpaid per capita expense to GRP. **The total impact on lost income and extra expense is \$51,363 of lost cash flow, each year!**

### **2022:**

- While per capita is ahead of plan at 34% in the first quarter, 29% represents 2022 per capita giving and 5% represents 2021 completed per capita giving. (See graph below for the breakdown of unpaid per capita for 2021.)
- Mission giving is just below plan at 23%. However, our churches have given generously to the Presbytery Disaster Relief organization – more than \$85,000. Thank you for your generosity.
- As mentioned above, our investments are down from year end 2021 by more than \$52,000. While this does not represent a loss to our checkbook (unless we sell our securities), it does reflect negative impact on our assets.

## 2021 Unpaid Per Capita



### Expenses

- Personnel costs are below plan because when we put the budget together, we assumed Ryan would be full time again in 2022. However, we have a contract with John for much less than Ryan's package.
- Office costs are close to what was budgeted. Those costs will decrease after April 1 because of the new lease we signed with FFC reducing our monthly rent from over \$1100 to \$350.

As can be seen there are very few other costs under Administration and Program expenses. We expect those cost to increase with the awarding of grants from Visioning and with invoices from Synod and GA for unpaid 2021 per capita.

While the bottom line shows us at a negative \$19,397 for revenue compared to expenses, if we adjust for the negative *investment income*, our actual cash flow is +\$37,739. That is why the checking account shows an increase compared to December 31, 2021, on the Balance Sheet.

Respectfully submitted  
Bill Strawbridge

**PGR CLP/CRE Coordinator Report to the Assembly  
April 28, 2022**

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

Lent was a season, much like Advent, when my support was mostly prayer and not adding more meetings to the calendar. We enjoyed some lively monthly fellowship times, increased the sharing of personal prayer requests, and shared resources. We also began planning for our first in-person gathering which will take place this summer. As the school year winds down and we all find ourselves with a bit of empty space on the calendar I will be visiting our commissioned pastors in-person. I also plan to visit our trained-not-yet-serving-a-commission-ruling elders.

This calendar year I have been added to the Leadership Team and the weekly presbytery staff meetings. These meetings provide me the chance to offer support to our presbytery and gather information to answer the questions of our commissioned pastors.

I continue to be in conversation with my counterparts in other presbyteries for the purpose of learning if there are resources or information we can share. This has been an enlightening and joyful experience.

My big administrative project for this coming quarter is working to identify inconsistencies between the documentation I was given, the COM handbook, and the CPM handbook.

I attempted to keep track of all my hours for the first contract year. The contract allows for 120-180 hours/year. The total hours I worked from March 8, 2021 through March 7, 2022 were 128 hours, 59 minutes. Though vacation and continuing education time are not a part of my Coordinator contract, I did not work during my time off from United Church of Woodhull. I also did not meet a single commissioned pastor in-person, which means there was no travel time or expenses for the year. This will change for this contract year. I hope this offers a glimpse of the work the presbytery is paying me to complete.

If you have any interest in learning about the CLP/CRE training please contact me. We have a limited number of people on our list, and it would be helpful to increase that number.

I continue to offer my suggestion that we find a way to offer organized pastoral care to all our pastors, commissioned, at-large, validated ministers, retired, designated, and installed. The continued collegiality I witness between our commissioned pastors is a wonderful example of how we can strengthen our congregations, our leaders, this presbytery, and the whole church.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

In Christ's Service.

Rev. Dr. Cheyanna L. Losey

[cheyannalosey@gmail.com](mailto:cheyannalosey@gmail.com)

309-299-4790

## Appendix D

### Administrative Committee Assembly Report

There were e-votes taken:

- 1- Approval: Andy Sonneborn nominated for chair of the Nominating Committee 2025
- 2- Approval: Final approval for Morton to close on sale.

A special meeting was held to approve Elissa Bailey Salary rate increase which was recommended by Personnel, please refer to the Personnel committee's report concerning this issue.

While presenting the normal Treasurer's report Bill spoke extensively on how the GRP budget is prepared by way of the Finance Sub-Committee and monitored by the staff and the Admin Committee.

Real Estate Issues:

The Rock Island consolidation of four churches is well on its way:

- 1- Broadway
- 2- Good Shepherd
- 3- Gloria Del
- 4- South Park

Morton has sold but will continue as a congregation in the existing church building

2022 Meeting Dates:

July 12, 2022 @10 am  
September 27, 2022 @10 am

## Appendix E

### **Personnel Team Report Great Rivers Presbytery May 17, 2022**

One of the hallmarks of Presbyterian theology is the connectional nature of our polity. We are all a part of the work of Jesus Christ, connected in our faith, and in support of our siblings across PCUSA. Here at Great Rivers we are now living this in a significant way! Beginning in May we are sharing an important resource with our neighboring Presbytery across the river in East Iowa. We are sharing our Stated Clerk!

Rev. Elissa Bailey has been serving us in this capacity since 2012 and has helped us in numerous ways to meet our goals and seek our way in the midst of change. When East Iowa Presbytery needed a clerk, they contacted Elissa to see if she would assist them for 15 hours per week. After some discussion and exploration, they then came to us to see if we could work out an arrangement. It would require our two Presbyteries to provide Board of Pensions benefits to Elissa and her family. What we came to realize is that to share General Assembly and Continuing Education expenses with East Iowa would allow us to provide our share of this benefit in a way that kept our costs relatively steady. It also allows Elissa to do this thing she loves and to serve another group of Christ's servant churches.

The Personnel Committee is proud to announce this sharing arrangement. We are so proud of Elissa and know that she will be a wonderful gift to East Iowa-- as she has been to us! In addition, we believe this sharing will help us to learn and grow, as well. Elissa will continue to gain new skills and insights as Stated Clerk. We will learn from her experiences in East Iowa, just as they will gain similar benefits as Elissa brings our best practices to them. Congratulations Rev. Elissa Bailey!

By Joyce Chamberlin, Chair of Personnel







## Appendix G

Presbytery of Great Rivers  
Committee on Ministry Report  
17 May 2022

Committee on Ministry (COM) has had three meetings since the last Assembly meeting in February 2022. We continue to meet by Zoom and foresee this practice continuing.

We continue to worship together and to lift up the ministry of our congregations and minister members in prayer. Please let us know how we can be praying for you and your ministry.

### **Actions Taken**

The committee has approved numerous Terms of Call and Contracts across the Presbytery. As these are approved, we are trying to return them in a timely manner. If your congregation has not returned an approved terms of call or contract for a pastor/CRE yet this year, please do so. A list of approved calls and contracts will be in the August report.

We have approved and are working on organizing a Presbytery-wide training for Ruling Elders in congregations who lack pastoral leadership who would like to serve communion for their congregation. It has been a while since this has happened, and we want to make this broadly available. Please watch for dates to be announced or contact your ministry partner to indicate interest.

Several changes were approved to the pulpit supply list, both removing and adding to the list. We welcome the Rev. Pam Laing to the list and commend her to you.

We have a transitions that have been approved:

Welcome to...

- Rev. Pam Laing from Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois
- Rev. William McClean from Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois

### **Administrative Commission Report**

The Administrative Commission (AC) for Pleasant Plains-Farmingdale has elected its officers and begun its work. It has worked on familiarizing itself with the history of its objectives and contacted relevant parties. It is presently working on its charges to complete the dissolution, negotiate the severance package, and call a congregation meeting to approve it.

### **Motions**

On behalf of the COM, I move to approve the following update to the COM Manual: Section II, Part 4, Procedure for Calling a Pastor, D, 3, Steps in the Process:

- i. With the assistance of the COM Ministry Partner, PNC develops procedures and criteria for evaluating PIFs.
- ii. PNC develops **list of questions for either initial interview or as supplemental questions to be sent to candidates in whom they have a serious interest.**
- iii. Interviewing potential pastors
  - a. **A PNC, after receiving, reviewing PIFs, and determining which candidates it wishes to interview, may make initial contact with a potential candidate to determine availability and interest. The PNC may describe its process and schedule an electronic first interview, but not conduct an interview at the initial contact. At this point, the Lead Presbyter shall be notified of the PNC's contact and conduct a Presbytery to Presbytery clearance reference check. It is the MP's responsibility to facilitate and ensure this requirement is met.**

Rationale: The COM recognizes that the initial stages of receiving Pastor Information Forms (PIFs) requires ascertaining a basic level of interest and compatibility that does not necessarily entail a great deal of emotional commitment from either a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) or potential candidates and is not found in the PIFs themselves. As such, it is appropriate for PNCs to inquire via e-mail as to a potential candidate's availability and generate initial "boilerplate" questions that can be submitted to such candidates and returned to the PNC without needing to overburden the General/Executive/Lead Presbyter with a great number of requests for background checks.

The language in this change delineates that the Presbyter's involvement comes only once a face-to-face contact is desired. The net result of this change will be more ability for a PNC to sort available and compatible candidates, a reduction in the Presbyter's workload, and no loss to safety in the process.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. James A. Benson  
Chair, COM

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report**

May 17, 2022

**Lorna R. Blackford**

Upon examination by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, the committee finds that Lorna Renee Blackford has satisfactorily achieved the goals of the Inquirer phase of preparation and is now ready to be moved to Candidacy.

**MOTION:** The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moves to proceed with the examination of Inquirer Lorna Renee Blackford with respect to her Christian faith, forms of Christian service undertaken and motives for seeking the ministry.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends that Inquirer Lorna Renee Blackford be received as a candidate for the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament upon the successful completion of an examination by the assembly.

**Background:**

Lorna Renee Blackford was received as an Inquirer at the May 25, 2021 Presbytery Assembly and is a student at Dubuque Theological Seminary, projected to graduate in 2024.

Pertinent references from the Manual of Operations CPM handbook on moving from Inquiry to Candidacy:

II B 1. Admission to Candidacy an Inquirer becomes a Candidate by action of presbytery. At that time the Candidate formally agrees to accept the presbytery's supervision in her or his preparation for the office of Minister of Word and Sacraments. The process of the candidacy phase can be as follows:

- a. An Inquirer shall apply to the presbytery through the session of his or her church and the presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry to become a Candidate for the office of Minister of Word and Sacraments.
- b. The session shall confer with the Inquirer, review the evidence of the inquiry phase, and make recommendations to the presbytery through the Stated Clerk with respect to the Inquirer's application. The Stated Clerk shall communicate this information to the CPM moderator.
- c. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry shall confer with the Inquirer and review the evidence which indicates whether the Inquirer is ready to proceed to candidacy
- d. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry shall make a definite recommendation to the presbytery with respect to whether the Inquirer should be received as a Candidate. Presbytery shall act on every committee recommendation regarding application for candidacy.
- e The presbytery shall receive the report and recommendation of its committee and shall examine the Inquirer in person with respect to his or her Christian faith, forms of Christian service undertaken, and motives for seeking the ministry.
- f. If the examination is approved, the presbytery shall receive the Inquirer as a Candidate after the following manner. The moderator shall propose the following questions to the inquirer:
  - (1) Do you believe yourself to be called by God to the office of Minister of Word and Sacraments?
  - (2) Do you promise in reliance upon the grace of God to maintain a Christian character and conduct, and to be diligent and faithful in making full preparation for this ministry?
  - (3) Do you accept the proper supervision of the presbytery in matters that concern your preparation for this ministry?
  - (4) Do you desire now to be received by this presbytery as a Candidate for the office of Minister of Word and Sacraments in the PCUSA?
- g. If these questions are answered in the affirmative, a brief charge shall be given, the Candidate's name shall be recorded on the presbytery's roll of Candidates, and the proceedings shall close with prayer.

### **Mackenzie M. Jager**

Mackenzie Marie Jager, a member of the congregation has approached the session of the Clinton Presbyterian Church, Clinton, Illinois about becoming a Minister of the Word and Sacraments and has agreed with the session and with the presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry to explore the implications of this request. Understanding the time requirement for membership, the Committee on Preparation brings before the Presbytery on behalf of Mackenzie Marie Jager and the session of the Clinton Presbyterian Church a request for waiver of the membership time requirement as provided for in G-2.0610.

**MOTION:** The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moves that the time requirement that an applicant shall be a member of the sponsoring congregation to be enrolled as inquirer be waived for Mackenzie Marie Jager.

### **Background and Rationale:**

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry is asking that the time requirement for membership in a sponsoring congregation be waived so that we may move that she be enrolled as an Inquirer under care of the presbytery today.

#### Presbytery of Great Rivers Bylaws, ARTICLE X- COMMITTEES

##### Section 3 Committee on Preparation for Ministry

a. Responsibilities. The Committee on Preparation for shall be responsible for responding to the goals and objectives and related matters which deal with enhancing and strengthening skills for the professional ministry and the performances of all duties required by the PCUSA Constitution (G3.0307).

#### Committee on Preparation for Ministry Handbook, version 2.1 p. 3

The presbytery, through the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM), provides pastoral care, guidance, support and evaluation of Inquirers and Candidates.

#### Relevant Book of Order references:

##### G-2.0601 Nature and Purpose of Preparation

It is important that those who are to be ordained as ministers of the Word and Sacrament receive full preparation for their task under the direction of the presbytery. For this purpose, a presbytery shall enter into covenant relationship with those preparing to become ministers of the Word and Sacrament and with their sessions and congregations. This relationship shall be divided into the two phases of inquiry and candidacy.

##### *G-2.0602 Time Requirements*

To be enrolled as an inquirer, the applicant shall be a member of the sponsoring congregation, shall have been active in the work and worship of that congregation for at least six months, and shall have received the endorsement of the session of the sponsoring congregation. The inquiry and candidacy phases shall continue for a period of no less than two years, including at least one year as a candidate.

##### G-2.0610 Accommodations to Particular Circumstances

When a presbytery concludes there are good and sufficient reasons for accommodations to the particular circumstances of an individual seeking ordination, it may, by a three-fourths vote, waive any of the requirements for ordination in G-2.06, except for those of G-2.0607d. If a presbytery judges that there are good and sufficient reasons why a candidate should not be required to satisfy the requirements of G-2.0607d, it shall approve by three-fourths vote some alternate means by which to ascertain the readiness of the candidate for ministry in the areas covered by the standard ordination examinations. A full account of the reasons for any waiver or alternate means to ascertain readiness shall be included in the minutes of the presbytery and communicated to the presbytery to which an inquirer or candidate may be transferred.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION on Mackenzie M. Jager:

- was a candidate for ordination in the Christian Reformed Church

- graduated from Western Theological Seminary with an M. Div
- has taken a full year of Greek and Hebrew
- desires to be ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA)
- became a member of Clinton Presbyterian Church-Clinton on March 20, 2022

**MOTION:** The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moves that Mackenzie Marie Jager be enrolled as an Inquirer under care of the Presbytery of Great Rivers.

Background and rationale:

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Handbook, version 2.1 p. 3

“The preparation for ministry process is one of **continuing development**. By providing a supportive community in which the Inquirer or Candidate assumes increasing responsibility for decisions made throughout the process, it introduces him or her to skills for self-development, goal-setting and self-evaluation. The individual is encouraged to develop these skills into conscious, disciplined planning for personal and professional growth which should continue throughout his or her ministry.”

Appendix I

**MOTION FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING  
NOMINEES TO THE APPROPRIATE PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS (PGR) POSITIONS**

**Personnel Committee :**

**Nena Visser, New Windsor 2024**

**COM:**

**Rev. Paul Stroup, Clinton, 2024**

**Randy Sigler, Leroy First, 2024**

**MOTION FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE  
FOLLOWING NOMINEE TO THE APPROPRIATE PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS  
POSITION**

**(PGR)**

**Nominating Committee Chair**

**Andrew Sonneborn, 2024**



**STATED MEETING**  
**Presbytery of Great Rivers**  
 COMPLETE DOCKET  
 May 17th, 2022

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

*To access the meeting, you must pre-register by following the link below (see full instructions for virtual meeting etiquette under papers for this meeting on the presbytery website.)*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYuf-yrpzgiHdQLiMODyCbmyDJXYCuBg52L>

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME**

3:30 Sign-in to Zoom

4:00 Call to Order with Prayer MWS Chuck Goodman, Moderator

Acknowledging Native American Heritage of Gathering Sites MWS Elissa Bailey

Welcome and Instructions Moderator, Chuck Goodman

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

**PARTNERING IN MISSION**

4:10 Adoption of the Docket

Omnibus Motion

**Motion** to Enter All Written Reports into The Permanent Minutes:

Stated Clerk, Treasurer, CLP/CRE Coordinator, GAP Presbyter, Visioning, Committee on Accessibility, Representation and Equity (CARE)

**RISKING IN MINISTRY**

4:15 Stated Clerk’s Report

MWS Elissa Bailey

4:25 Gap/Bridge Presbyter

MWS John Rickard

4:30 Administrative Assistant

PGR Staff, Lindsay Zubal

4:35 **CURRENT BUSINESS** (*Reports are in the Assembly tab on the website.*)

- I. [Administration](#) RE Julio Garcia
  - Nomination for Nominating Committee Chair – MWS Andy Sonneborn
- II. [Nominating](#) RE Julio Garcia
  - Personnel Committee – RE Nena Visser, New Windsor (2025)
  - Committee on Ministry - MWS Paul Stroup – Clinton (2025)  
RE Randy Sigler, Leroy First (2023)
- III. [Committee On Ministry \(COM\)](#) MWS James Benson
  - COM Manual Update
- IV. [Committee on Preparation for Ministry](#) MWS Maura McGrath Nagle
  - Lorna R. Blackford: Examination to be moved from Inquirer to Candidate
  - Mackenzie M. Jager:
    - 1) Request for a waiver of the congregational membership time requirement (req.  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote); If approved, **then**
    - 2) Enroll Mackenzie M. Jager as an Inquirer.
- V. Visioning MWS Jessica Hawkinson

5:45 **NEW BUSINESS** - *This is not a time for announcements, but for introducing other business not previously docketed before the assembly.*

5:50 **TEN MINUTE BIO-BREAK**

*Use this time also to gather the Lord's Supper communion elements.*

## UNITING IN WORSHIP

6:05 Call to Worship - Matt Wilcox

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Come and listen to the words of life and love.



**We proclaim our faith in the one who brings life.**

We are here to worship the God of life and wisdom.

**God will send us out to serve.**

Music – “They’ll Know We Are Christians” by Camp Stronghold

6:10 Scripture James 3:1-12 Diane Ludington

Sermon “Who Will Teach?” CRE Diane Ludington, Prev. Moderator

6:30 Breakout Room Discussion (20) MWS Katie Styr

- 1. What is something important our churches need to learn?
- 2. How does your congregation proclaim the gospel in an average week?
- 3. Where is God sending you this summer?

6:50 Moment in Ministry (5) Video Summer Camps, General Assembly, Synod School

6:55 Commissioning Service MWS Cheyanna Losey

7:05 Call to Offering Amy Rasing, Dir. of Development  
IL Presby Home Communities

Giving link - <https://www.iphcommunities.org/donate>

7:15 Prayer of Dedication

**SHARING CHRIST’S LOVE**

7:20 Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper MWS Tim Snart

7:35 Sharing Good News  
*Please raise your virtual hand to be recognized, then unmute and briefly share your ministry’s good news!*

7:45 Announcements

7:55 Benediction CRE Diane Ludington

Musical Response “Benediction Song” from Camp Stronghold

8:00 Adjournment MWS Katie Styr, Moderator-elect

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- Commissioners: please turn in evaluation forms
  - The next Assembly is August 30th, 2022 at Hope PC, Springfield