

Presbytery of Great Rivers

May 25, 2021

The Mission of the Presbytery:
*“We are called to share Christ’s love
by partnering in service,
uniting 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 Elder Diane Ludington at 9am central time zone. The purpose of the meeting was to worship. Moderator Elder Diane Ludington led the assembly in worship and the business of the Presbytery. Rev. Brandon Ouellette began the meeting with a Call to Worship. The opening prayer was based on the 2020 Visioning Statement. An offering was collected for the PCUSA Special Offering: Pentecost Offering.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NATIVE LANDS

- Stated Clerk, Rev. Elissa Bailey, gave the acknowledgement 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

- Welcome and instructions were given by Moderator Elder Diane Ludington as we were meeting on zoom.

QUORUM

- A quorum was declared by Moderator Elder Diane Ludington at the advisement of the Stated Clerk.

INTRODUCTIONS

- New Ruling Elder Commissioners were introduced.
- The following Corresponding members were seated:
 - **MSA** the following Corresponding members:
 - Elder Lisa Algood, Executive Presbyter of Cincinnati
 - Rev. Sara Dingman, Synod Exec. Of Synod of Lincoln Trails

APPROVAL OF DOCKET

- **MSA** the docket with the following correction: (Appendix L)
 - There would be a moderator's report

PARTNERING IN SERVICE

OPENING BUSINESS

- **MSA** entering all written reports into the permanent minutes.
- **MSA** the omnibus motion:
 - Leadership Team Report (Appendix A), Lead Presbyter for Transformation Report (Appendix B), Spiritual Gift Matching Exercise (Appendix C), Report of the CRE Coordinator (Appendix D).

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Elder Lisa Allgood is the Executive Presbyter in Cincinnati but has also been an immunologist in her life. She joined our Presbytery meeting and led us through a discussion of COVID-19 and how we might continue to be the church in the midst of this pandemic. She brought with her a wealth of knowledge of how COVID-19 actually works, is spread, and how to prevent the spreading of it. Lisa answered questions from the Assembly about how to help their local sessions and churches make the best decisions for their congregations.

UNITED IN WORSHIP

Rev. Ryan Landino, LPT, lead us in a time of worship. He spoke to the insecurities that many pastors and leaders are facing during the pandemic. Many are wondering if they have done enough for others, or even done enough care for themselves. He spoke about lower case trauma and how that is impacted us all. He talked about how in the end, God wins and triumphs over all. We took a "quiz" about how we have felt during the pandemic and the answer regardless of our score was that we are loved by God and God is with us.

RISKING IN MINISTRY

- Report from the Moderator
 - Elder Diane Ludington spoke to the highlights from the leadership team report including the continued disbursement of technology grants as well as the decision to remain online for Assemblies for 2021.
- Report from the Moderator's Financial and Staffing Task Force (Appendix E)
 - Rev. Blake Severson and Rev. Joyce Chamberlain spoke to the work the financial and staffing task force has been doing. They remain diligent in their work and are moving forward. They do their work with

the Presbytery's needs in mind and while the work has not be easy, there is a strong purpose in seeing hope for the future.

- Administration Team (Appendix F):
 - Chair, Elder Julio Garcia gave brief highlights over the treasurer report (Appendix G)
 - Personnel Chair, Rev. Ann Elyse Van Winkle presented the Stated Clerk Job Description. (Appendix H)
 - **MA** the presented job description with one amendment:
 - The Stated Clerk supports the PJC (Appendix I)
 - (replaces the statement “The Stated Clerk serves as Clerk of the PJC”
 - **MSA** to elect Rev. Elissa Bailey to a term of two years as the Stated Clerk of Great Rivers Presbytery.
- Committee on Ministry: (Appendix J)
 - Chair, Elder Kathie Whitson presented the following:
 - The COM welcomes new Teaching Elders into Great Rivers Presbytery:
 - Rev. Ryan Burris, serving as transitional at Normal Covenant Community
 - Rev. Chris Williams, member-at-large
 - Rev. Joel Jackle Hugh, serving within the bounds of the Presbytery.
 - **MA** term extension for Deacon Amy Massey of First, Galesburg for a 3rd term as Deacon.
 - **Motion** to the Assembly to examine Eric Vinsel, a Candidate for Ministry, for ordination to the ordered Ministry of Minister of Word and Sacrament. No second need. (Appendix K)
 - Eric was examined on the floor of the Presbytery.
 - **MSA** to arrest the examination.
 - **Motion** from COM to proceed with the ordination of Eric Vinsel by the Presbytery of Great Rivers at a date to be determined.
 - The Assembly entered into a time of discussion while Eric went to a breakout room.
 - **Motion approved**
 - Eric was brought back into the main zoom room where he was celebrated.
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report: (Appendix J)
 - The CPM report was given by Chair, Rev. Matt Wilcox.
 - **MA** Lorna Blackford to become an inquirer under care of the Presbytery of Great Rivers.

- Nominating Committee:
 - The Nominating Committee presented the following slate with no additional nominations from the floor:
 - COM:
 - Rev. Brandon Ouellette, term 1, Class of 2023
 - Visioning:
 - Rev. Katie Styr, term 1, Class of 2023
 - Rev. Sam Gibb, term 1, Class of 2023
 - Rev. Blake Severson to serve as Chair

RISKING IN MINISTRY

- Rev. Ryan Landino showed a video he had worked to make regarding the special offerings of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. This meeting's offering goes to the Pentecost offering.
- Announcements:
 - Prayers for Rev. Trajan McGill and Rev. Sarah McGill as they leave the Presbytery as well as others who are discerning where God is calling them.
 - Rejoice with Rev. Gerry Boutelle as he is celebrating his 50th year of ordained ministry.
 - Rev. Sara Dingman spoke of an upcoming coaching summit that will be available.
 - The Lewistown PC hosted a quilt show during their town's bicentennial.
 - There are many great camps to check out and experience this summer!
 - Rejoice with Rev. Dr. Teri Ott as she has been named the new editor for the Presbyterian Outlook.
- A time of prayer and thanksgiving was led by Moderator Elect, Rev. Chuck Goodman.
- New Business:
 - There was no new business.
- Adjournment:
 - Adjournment was declared and a closing prayer was offered by Moderator Elder Diane Ludington.
 - Our next Stated Meeting will be Tuesday, August 24, 2021 on zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Elissa Bailey

Stated Clerk

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

Who - The Leadership Team (LT) includes all the committee chairs, the Lead Presbyter for Transformation, Treasurer, Stated Clerk, and the moderators- immediate past, present, and elect. The current PGR Moderator moderates the team.

Why - This body gathers to discuss the threads of continuity in our presbytery work. We identify issues that need attention and strive to focus the efforts of the Presbytery of Great Rivers to best support the work of the church through your congregations.

How - The nuts and bolts of our work is to assign priority to subject matters before us and steward the use of assembly time (*your time*) by evaluating potential key-note speakers, and planning for worship, business, and educational components. We also set the dates and venues for Assemblies.

What and When - This team met on May 11 at which time we planned for the May 25 docket. We decided:

- to move all remaining 2021 Assemblies to Zoom format. Offering regional cohorts will be considered for meetings in August and November in light of current COVID conditions at those times.
- to rescind the online-only requirement for presbytery meetings, each team may determine the best format for their meetings.
- to continue offering Tech fund grants begun in 2020 to help churches meet the unexpected expenses of online gatherings, e.g. zoom accounts, small AV components, etc. up to \$500 per congregation total. Applications will be evaluated by Leadership Team as receipts are submitted through PGR office. Send receipts for consideration to Patti or Ryan.
- to investigate outsourcing technical tasks for Assembly gatherings so that members can more fully attend to meeting content.
- to invite Dr. Diana Wright as keynote speaker for August Assembly.
- to include ethics training at November Assembly.
- to challenge ourselves to connect each PGR decision to a component of the 2020 Visioning Statement.

In addition to these functional decisions, we would like to congratulate our own Rev. Dr. Terri Ott on her appointment as editor of Presbyterian Outlook!

Leadership Team meetings are set for noon on August 12 and November 3. Assembly dates are confirmed for Tuesday, August 24 and Saturday, November 13.

LEAD PRESBYTER REPORT

This month marks 14 months of navigating this pandemic with you. The primary thrust of my work has been coming alongside those volunteers and staff who make our regional ministry functional, in a role that is supporting, advisory, coaching, questioning, and innovative where new approaches need to be raised. When I'm not addressing systems as a whole, I am coming alongside individuals in their own journeys of ministry. As I've said elsewhere, one of my biggest surprises in this work has been moving from the assumption that our presbytery is so dysfunctional that we need entirely new structures (we may still need some new structures!) to the realization that there are actually things we do really well; the question has turned to *effectiveness*, *efficiency*, and *focus*, and recognizing where our structures are serving us well and where they don't service us as strongly as they once did. Much of my work has been challenging committees to more fully embrace their charge and function.

While much of my work is process-, administrative-, and communication-oriented, here are some notable target areas worth lifting up:

2020 Vision Statement: I had told the presbytery at my past report that every areas of our life together was going to be challenged to review our work through the lens of the 2020 Vision Statement, an articulation of seven aspirations of where the collective voice of our presbytery is leading us to go. Where are we spending our effort and energy? Does it align with our aspirations? How can we do more of what the voice of the presbytery is leading us to do, and less of what we shouldn't? Every committee now has had the chance to grapple with that challenge. In leading those discussions, there emerged surprises and growing areas: things like, "we really can do better in connecting" and "wow, we are more on target with what the presbytery is asking of us than we thought." This 2020 Vision Statement will continue to guide us as we move forward in our transformation work, with hopes we can cut what we can and bolster what we must so we can be more effective in our shared mission in this particular time and place, namely, a mid- and post-pandemic world.

Nominating Committee: So much of the functioning of our church support apparatus is reliant on diverse volunteer representation in all areas of our presbytery. It shapes our responsiveness, and our connectiveness, major themes in our 2020 Vision Statement. The Nominating Committee has taken a two-pronged approach of 1) connecting gifted presbyters to suitable roles within the presbytery which brings nominees to the floor, and 2) cultivating more of a culture of engaged spiritual discipleship in our presbytery. This is what led to the video testimony you can find on our webpage to more meaningfully communicate the value of our work, and also a new Spiritual Gifts Matching Exercise for sessions to do and discuss together, which will be shared at this assembly.

Committee on Ministry: The care effectiveness of the COM depends on its ministry partners, the assigned volunteers we have for every congregation in our presbytery (not having a full complement on COM affects this goal). In order to live into the emphasis on relationship in our 2020 Vision Statement, all COM ministry partners have been challenged to much more regularly engage their congregations, and not just for challenges, but also for celebrations, check-ins, solidarity, and prayer. To this end, we are considering conversation about having a ministry partner for Validated Ministers, as well as continuing with our Companion Program pairings for new pastors coming into the presbytery. Furthermore, because of the large number of transitions we are currently experiencing after over a year of pandemic ministry, we worked together to create a "Top 20 Frequently Asked Questions" document for a Transitional Pastor search, which should more readily assist congregations upon learning their pastor is accepting another call.

Personnel Committee: One area of transformation necessary in our presbytery has been the creation of a more structured, clear, and consistent review process for our presbytery staff (we currently have five staff, a full time Lead Presbyter, full time Executive Administrative Assistant, a part-time Stated Clerk, and three support staff positions: the aforementioned Executive Administrative Assistant, a Bookkeeper, and an Interim CLP Coordinator (We outsource our payroll to CAVU Human Capital Management, formerly Sharp Payroll)). Our assessment process has involved broader analysis of all the areas where our staff interact in the form of "360 Degree reviews" that seek feedback from others based on job descriptions. That work is then reviewed as a Personnel Committee, and then a smaller group communicates with each staff person

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worthwhile appreciations, areas of intention, or any action plans, also shared as a written report. The reviews will continue to be conducted on a twice a year basis, so we can check in on areas of intention and action plans to see if further assistance is required. We hope this can build more effective performances for all of our staff. I should also add that we did hire a new Interim CLP Coordinator, Rev. Cheyanna Losey, whose position is designed to assist not only the commissioned pastors of our presbytery but also assist us in shaping what this position should look like longer term.

Getting out “on the road”: This pandemic has continued to make it challenging to engage congregations in their own spaces, albeit I am proud to report that the operations of the presbytery themselves have been minimally impacted, namely because of the access available to us by electronic means. I have been able to engage several congregations in the form of emerging situation response, and being able to work from home has actually added several hours to my work day since the majority of my work is engaging partners by phone, email, and Zoom, which can be just as effectively performed at home as at a central office. However, for the first time in a year, I did enjoy going out of the road to be a part of the Ground Breaking Blessing of the expanding grounds of the Illinois Presbyterian Home and bringing greetings on behalf of Great Rivers Presbytery. I have other preaching opportunities lined up this summer as I continue to treat each situation case by case. While I am fully vaccinated, my physicians and CDC guidelines still warn me to be cautious due to being at risk to COVID-19 and immunocompromised, as are several of you.

Personal: As a personal celebration, I was recently honored to receive the 2020 & 2021 Service Award by the Alumni Association Executive Council of Princeton Theological Seminary, which awarded me the distinction of being one of the main speakers at this year’s online reunion, for which approximately 650 people were registered. My talk was on “Me and White Supremacy: Camera Angles, Questions, and Personal Awakenings” where I was able to speak into my ongoing work with the national church battling racism and white supremacy, for which I am often invited to partner with Great Rivers’ congregations, other presbyteries, and national entities of the PCUSA as a conversation partner, drawing on my experience as a member of the PCUSA Special Committee on Racism Truth and Reconciliation. This presentation also permitted me to showcase my Sixty Second Sermon video ministry, which spotlighted many of your gifts as well. Sharing this work is important to live into both our theology as a connectional church (for which we are similarly the recipients of others’ gifts, ie: Lisa Allgood) but also living into our aspirations from the 2020 Vision Statement that we recognize our gifts and use them in ways in which they make impact.

This remains a challenging time. At this point I am trying to make sure that any transformations I am a part of can outlast my tenure as your Lead Presbyter as we all come to grips with the financial limitations of our current model while also building up structures that are sustainable to take us into our next stage of life together, not dependent on any one leader. As always, I am honored to serve you in this time. I affirm that GOD IS ALIVE amongst us, and the value of our work has never been clearer in our lifetimes. While this work is bigger than any one of us, but I continue to believe in the good people of this presbytery to persevere, and to proclaim the goodness of God through it.

In this together,

Ryan
Rev. Ryan J. Landino, Lead Presbyter for Transformation of Great Rivers Presbytery
Cell: 309-251-9958, rlandino@greatriverspby.org

Appendix C

“Where might you have the gifts to serve?”

On a scale of 0-3, rank where you feel you are strong and gifted

1. Ability to activate networks for different kinds of resourcing and partnerships..... _____
2. Ability to analyze and make important decisions, even on short notice by email if necessary... _____
3. Ability to handle sensitive information and maintain confidentiality..... _____
4. Ability to help people discern their sense of call to serve beyond their local context..... _____
5. Able to manage anxiety of people in transition..... _____
6. Able to recognize and affirm the spiritual gifts of others..... _____
7. Actively excited about the spiritual journeys of others..... _____
8. Appreciation for standards in ministry and a willingness to maintain them..... _____
9. Appreciation for stewardship and willingness to ask questions..... _____
10. Appreciation for the impact of our work as a presbytery..... _____
11. Attentive to the day to day functioning of an organization..... _____
12. Cares about our congregations' financial wellness and being good stewards of our assets..... _____
13. Cares for how people contribute to the organization..... _____
14. Compassion for people and their unique situations..... _____
15. Confidence/comfort/natural gifts in approaching others..... _____
16. Desire to encourage and build up our congregations..... _____
17. Detail-oriented in guiding others to new beginnings..... _____
18. Energized around connecting with people's personal stories..... _____
19. Enjoys connecting one on one with people..... _____
20. Enjoys getting people on board to move together..... _____
21. Enjoys organizational dynamics..... _____
22. Excited about exploring and entering the unknown..... _____
23. Good personable skills, and being an open presence so people can share..... _____
24. Has loose grip on the past with eyes set on the future..... _____
25. Heart for advocating for people as they work to reach their goals..... _____
26. Interest in meeting challenges and troubleshooting to reach shared goals..... _____
27. Is curious about new possibilities..... _____
28. Likes to help people meet their aspirations and goals..... _____
29. Open to challenges of innovation..... _____
30. Passionate for resourcing the local church..... _____
31. Pastoral ability to hear all sides of complex situations..... _____
32. Sees the big picture from looking at the pieces/"seeing the forest through the trees"..... _____
33. Skilled at listening for discernment over listening to respond..... _____
34. Takes responsibility in leadership decisions..... _____
35. Wants to see people succeed and do their best..... _____
36. Willingness to learn about ministries of the presbytery..... _____

Add up your scores for: 2 ___ 9 ___ 12 ___ 21 ___ 32 ___ 34 = ___ *You might be interesting in serving on ADMIN!*

Add up your scores for: 5 ___ 14 ___ 16 ___ 17 ___ 31 ___ 33 = ___ *You might be interesting in serving COM!*

Add up your scores for: 20 ___ 22 ___ 24 ___ 27 ___ 29 ___ 30 = ___ *You might be interesting in serving Visioning!*

Add up your scores for: 4 ___ 6 ___ 10 ___ 15 ___ 19 ___ 36 = ___ *You might be interesting in serving Nominating!*

Add up your scores for: 1 ___ 7 ___ 8 ___ 18 ___ 20 ___ 25 = ___ *You might be interesting in serving CPM!*

Add up your scores for: 3 ___ 11 ___ 13 ___ 23 ___ 28 ___ 35 = ___ *You might be interesting in serving Personnel!*

Please see back of this sheet for descriptions of the different committees!

Rank Your Highest Scores!

_____ **What is Administration Team?** The Administration Team manages the finances and personnel of the Presbytery to assure achievement of the goals; they are responsible for budget and finance, trustee, audit and personnel functions, preparing, coordinating and integrating the budget of the Presbytery. Current chair: *Elder Julio Garcia*, juliem6@yahoo.com

_____ **What is the COM (Committee on Ministry)?** The Committee on Ministry is responsible for responding for enhancing and strengthening pastor/congregation relations; enhancing and strengthening skills for the professional ministry, including overseeing the commissioned lay pastor program with training for lay pastors and their oversight, approving the commissioning of lay pastors to specific ministries, responsibilities, terms and conditions, to approve the creation, abolition, or continuing of calls between pastors and congregations, serving as the examination committee to determine theological fit of candidate before the candidate preaches a candidating sermon. They also come along side congregations in a resourcing and partnering role for their emerging need such as major transitions, conflict, or security pastoral care. Current chair: *Elder Kathie Whitson*, kathiewhitson.16.3@aol.com

_____ **What is the Visioning Team?** The Visioning Team leads and equips the presbytery to live into its vision and mission. They are responsible for casting the vision of the Presbytery, communicating the vision and work of the presbytery, and helping the presbytery live and act within, and according, to the vision. The Visioning Team encourages and facilitates mission within the Presbytery and individual churches through grants, challenges, partnerships, trainings, and other support. The Visioning Team equips and facilitates churches to identify their own vision and mission. The Visioning Team identifies key areas of needed growth, education, and focus for presbytery assemblies and other special presbytery events. This may require the Visioning Team to plan and carry out special events or gatherings which will help PGR churches work toward the our vision. In conjunction with the Administration Team and Leadership Team, this also includes a regular review of the functional relationship between the presbytery's structure and its mission, and a review of the functional relationship between the presbytery's structure and its mission. Current chair: *Rev. Blake Severson*, blakea.severson@gmail.com

_____ **What is Nominating Committee?** The Nominating Committee presents nominees for commissioners and youth advisory delegates to the General Assembly and the Synod Assembly to the Presbytery Assembly and develop and maintain a resource file of people qualified and able to serve in the several offices and task forces within the Presbytery structure. Current chair: *Rev. Dick Johnson*, rjohnson46@frontier.com

_____ **What is the CPM? (Committee on Preparation for Ministry)?** The Committee on Preparation is responsible for responding to the goals and objectives and related matters which deal with enhancing and strengthening skills for entering into the professional ministry. This includes those entering into the Committee Lay Pastor/Commissioned Ruling Elder program. Current chair: *Rev. Matt Wilcox*, mwilcox@firstpresnormal.org

_____ **What is Personnel?** Personnel Team is currently subcommittee of Admin responsible for: annual review and evaluation of the work and financial compensation of all staff members and the financial compensation of the Stated Clerk, the maintenance of the current staffing rationale for the Presbytery and current position descriptions for staff positions authorized by the Presbytery Assembly, the review of personnel policies to insure compliance with General Assembly and Synod directions; and in conjunction with the Leadership Team and Visioning Team, regular review of the functional relationship between the Presbytery's structure and its mission. Current Chair: *Rev. Ann Elyse Van Winkle*, pastorae@fpcgalesburg.com

Interested in going deeper?

If you are interested in serving in any capacity, or learn more about what it might entail (or what else is available!), please contact the chair of the committee you are interested in or the chair of the Nominating Committee, Rev. Dick Johnson, rjohnson46@frontier.com!

PGR CLP/CRE COORDINATOR REPORT

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.

I began this position on March 8, 2021. I began with a list of forty-three individuals listed as trained Commissioned Ruling Elders/Commissioned Lay Pastors. I have attempted to contact all of them to determine their status (retired/commissioned/pulpit supply), update their contact information, and learn about their needs and hopes for the type of support needed within our presbytery structure.

I have set up a six – eight week rotation of checking in with each person. I am sending a monthly email to share updates with the group. I am also hosting a monthly Zoom fellowship time. Along with that work I am keeping in contact with the Lead Presbyter for Transformation, COM Chair, and CPM Chair.

One of the requirements of this position is to help the Personnel Committee (PC) determine an accurate job description throughout the year. To meet this goal, I have been keeping detailed notes regarding the job description with the intention to submit them quarterly to the PC.

One of the biggest initial challenges has been determining accurate contact information for each person on the list. The following is the information I have determined.

- Since the time Kathy Mitchell was our CLP Coordinator, Murray Pople, Keith Quin, and Karin Spaulding have gone home to the Lord. (3 people)
- Moved out of the state: Karen Miller, Sue Shike, and Stephen Miller. (3 people)
- Our *retired CLPs* are Mark Anderson, Ann Kelson, Frances King, Ron Leonard, Gene Miller, Stephen Miller, Jerry Parsons, and Phyllis Steer. (8 people)
- Our *currently serving a commission CLPs* are Kirby Ballard, Ruth Chin, Mike Claver, Dan Colvin, Jan Costello, Penny Frame, Diane Ludington, Bob Montgomery, Pam Moore, Gary Pullen, Sue Sawers, Jeremy Westlake, Kathie Whitson, Sandi Woodard, and Richard Young. (15 people)
- Our *currently on the pulpit supply list/not retired/not serving commission CLPs* are David Eyler, Stephanie McCullough, Sherrill Mixer, Sheila Sheer, and Alan Willadsen. (5 people)
- Those without current contact information: Phillip Cooper, Ron Cox, and Mark Hanson. (3 people)
- Those I am awaiting to hear from: LuAnn Atkins, Charles Huston, Suzanne Reynolds, and Robert Wagner. (4 people)
- Timothy McGee is currently serving as chaplain at Illinois College, he is discerning his next steps in the process of ordination as a Teaching Elder or commissioning as Commissioned Ruling Elder. (1 person)

If you have any contact information you can share with me for those individuals listed as missing information, I would greatly appreciate your assistance. I have enjoyed these weeks of work and look forward to this year of partnership with our CLP/CREs.

In Christ's Service.
Rev. Dr. Cheyanna L. Losey

STAFFING TASKFORCE REPORT

In August of 2020, as it was becoming exceedingly clear that our finances would not sustain our current model of Presbytery functioning, our Moderator, Maura McGrath Nagle, appointed this taskforce to develop a staffing model that would serve the needs of our congregations and faith community. She appointed the following individuals: Julio Garcia, Joyce Chamberlin and Bill Strawbridge who were the Finance Subcommittee of Administration team, Mike Orr, representing Personnel, Blake Severson, representing Vision Committee and Laura Reason, representing Committee on Ministry. Ryan Landino, Lead Presbyter for Transformation, and Elissa Bailey, Stated Clerk, were to be support staff for the group. Eventually Joyce Chamberlin and Blake Severson became our Co-chairs.

Since that time, our Task Force has met monthly to try to feel our way through the questions at hand. While the impetus for our creation was the Presbytery's dwindling finances, the group determined that we would put priority on finding a model that would better serve our needs while also being sustainable in the long run. In other words, we would make sure that our finances met our primary needs instead of making the financial question the sole driver of our work.

At first we needed to wait for the Vision Committee to develop the vision and aspirations for who we, as a presbytery, seek to be. That required some town hall meetings across the Presbytery and then time for that vision to be created and considered by our congregations and members. But we were not passively waiting! Instead we began to brainstorm and developed 20 different models for how a Presbytery might function. We also had team members list the 3 things that each of us felt were most essential in our life as a Presbytery.

Once the Vision Statement was completed and reviewed by our churches, we needed to study it! That moved us to compare the models we had created to the aspirational statement and ask which aspects of our models dealt with critical administrative details and which supported and encouraged congregational ministry in general. This allowed us to consider the strengths and vulnerabilities of different models.

Most recently we worked to consider our current functioning and ask how our budget, job descriptions and bylaws matched the 7 vision aspirations in the Vision statement. Currently we have a plan to look more closely at our committee structures by engaging committee chairs and members to give us a deeper insight into the effectiveness of our current committees. In general we are asking the questions of all parts of Presbytery: What is essential? What can be cut? What might be outsourced or delegated to volunteers?

While we have not completed our assignment, we believe that we are sifting through the fog to discover a path that God has placed before us. We feel confident God will help our Presbytery create new life, new ministry and new hope in Jesus Christ.

Submitted by Joyce Chamberlin and Blake Severson, Taskforce Chairs.

ADMINISTRATION TEAM REPORT

Real Estate Issues:

The following churches have been approved to proceed to sale properly.

GRP Property Update:

a. **First Pres Springfield:**

All the proper documentation was provided to GRP and we communicated the directly with the Title Company that approval had been given. Bottom line closing took place on time.

b. **Mason City:**

GRP was notified in early April that they have a sales contract for their Manse. All the proper documentation was provided to GRP and approval was given to Mason City to proceed with final sale.

c. **Yates, Bushnell, Broadway and College**

All Churches have submitted the proper documentation :

1. GRP Property Sale Form
2. Minutes of session and/or congregational meetings approving the planned sale concerning their Manse.

Approval has been provided to all churches to proceed with the planned sale. We also strongly recommended that their session assign a liaison for direct communication with GRP.

1. This process is important. Not only is it a Book of Order process but it is a way to move forward with preventing another 3rd party from coming in.
2. We need to continue to communicate why we must be involved and what the process looks like.
3. We need to have members of the Admin team trained so that it isn't just Julio who works through the whole process with the church.
4. Possibly of a single document for clerks to know where to find anything they might need.
5. Need to make sure we are not missing connections.

Treasurer's Report will be provided in Bill Strawbridge written report to assembly.

It was discussed that 10:00 would be a better start time for our Team meetings for the remainder of the year. Our next meeting will then begin at 10:00 on July 6.

Meeting was closed with prayer by Joyce Chamberlin at 1:20.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance Sheet

While the Balance Sheet shows a significant gain, note that this is compared to April of 2020 when the markets were down due to Covid. Actual gains for 2021 thus far are about 5% as can be seen on the chart of our investments over time. The red dashed line shows our invested amount. Notice that we took out \$40,000 at the end of 2019 and then \$70,000 during first 7 months of 2021. That was to ensure we had adequate money in our checking account. We also cashed in \$75,000 of CDs in November of 2020.

Income Statement

While our income is ahead of our projection, some of the per capita giving is from churches who were still paying their 2020 per capita.

Budgeted expenses are slightly below our estimate which is normal for this time of year. Visioning usually gives out more grants in the second half of the year. Our per capita shortfall amount will be less than the \$21,000 budgeted due to a credit we had from 2018.

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 April 30, 2021**

| Assets | April 2020 | April 2021 | Increase/ (Decrease) |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Cash | | | |
| Checking and CDs | \$ 301,908 | \$ 237,336 | \$ (64,572) |
| Investments | 643,221 | 776,519 | 133,298 |
| Fixed Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation | - | 2,480 | 2,480 |
| Total Assets | \$ 945,130 | \$ 1,016,335 | \$ 71,205 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Liabilities Payable | \$ 518 | \$ 111 | \$ (407) |
| Pass Thru Liabilities | 46,890 | 4,738 | (42,152) |
| Total Liabilities | \$ 47,408 | \$ 4,849 | \$ (42,559) |
| Net Assets | | | |
| Unrestricted | \$ 787,475 | \$ 902,025 | \$ 114,549 |
| Designated | | | |
| Presbytery Leaders Support | 8,876 | - | (8,876) |
| Presbyter Relocation | 10,000 | 10,000 | - |
| Total Designated | \$ 18,876 | \$ 10,000 | \$ (8,876) |
| Temporarily Restricted | | | |
| Preparation for Ministry | \$ 9,495 | \$ 10,132 | \$ 637 |
| Peacemaking | 13,441 | 16,066 | 2,626 |
| Synod Pastor Support Grants | 4,253 | 1,701 | (2,552) |
| Synod Transformation Grant | 60,965 | 67,146 | 6,181 |
| Ministers Temporary Disability | 3,110 | 3,110 | 0 |
| Pastor Compassion Funds | - | 600 | 600 |
| CLP Coordinator | - | 600 | 600 |
| Hands & Feet Scholarships | 107 | 107 | - |
| Total Temporarily Restricted | \$ 91,370 | \$ 99,461 | \$ 8,092 |
| Total Net Assets | \$ 897,722 | \$ 1,011,486 | \$ 113,764 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$ 945,130 | \$ 1,016,335 | \$ 71,205 |

PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND REVENUES AND EXPENSES - CASH BASIS
ACTUAL TO BUDGET COMPARATIVE
YEAR TO DATE April 30, 2021

| | Actual | Annual Budget | (Over)Under Budget | Percent of Budget Used |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Support and Revenue | | | | |
| Budgeted | | | | |
| Congregational Support | | | | |
| Per Capita | \$ 82,398 | \$ 195,784 | \$ 113,386 | 42% |
| Mission | 27,121 | 65,000 | 37,879 | 42% |
| Trust Clause Payments | <u>2,564</u> | <u>11,500</u> | <u>8,936</u> | <u>22%</u> |
| Total Congregational Support | <u>\$ 112,083</u> | <u>\$ 272,284</u> | <u>\$ 151,265</u> | <u>41%</u> |
| Investment Income | <u>38,003</u> | <u>24,200</u> | <u>(13,803)</u> | <u>157%</u> |
| Total Budgeted Receipts | <u>\$ 150,086</u> | <u>\$ 296,484</u> | <u>\$ 137,462</u> | <u>51%</u> |
| Transfer to/from Designated Funds | <u>(398)</u> | | | |
| Unbudgeted Receipts | | | | |
| Preparation for Ministry Support | \$ - | | | |
| Presbytery Peacemaking Support | 398 | | | |
| Other Receipts | <u>-</u> | - | | |
| Total Unbudgeted Receipts | <u>\$ 398</u> | | | |
| Total Support and Revenue | <u>\$ 150,086</u> | | | |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Budgeted | | | | |
| Salaries, Benefits, Training & Taxes | | | | |
| General Presbyter | \$ 35,968 | \$ 121,229 | \$ 85,261 | 30% |
| Stated Clerk | 2,152 | 13,370 | 11,218 | 16% |
| Senior Administrative Assistant | 20,229 | 61,923 | 41,694 | 33% |
| Bookkeeper | 7,371 | 21,216 | 13,845 | 35% |
| CLP Coordinator | 1,177 | 8,328 | 7,151 | 14% |
| Workers Compensation Insurance | <u>845</u> | <u>800</u> | <u>(45)</u> | <u>106%</u> |
| Total Salaries and Related Expenses | <u>\$ 67,742</u> | <u>\$ 226,866</u> | <u>\$ 159,124</u> | <u>30%</u> |

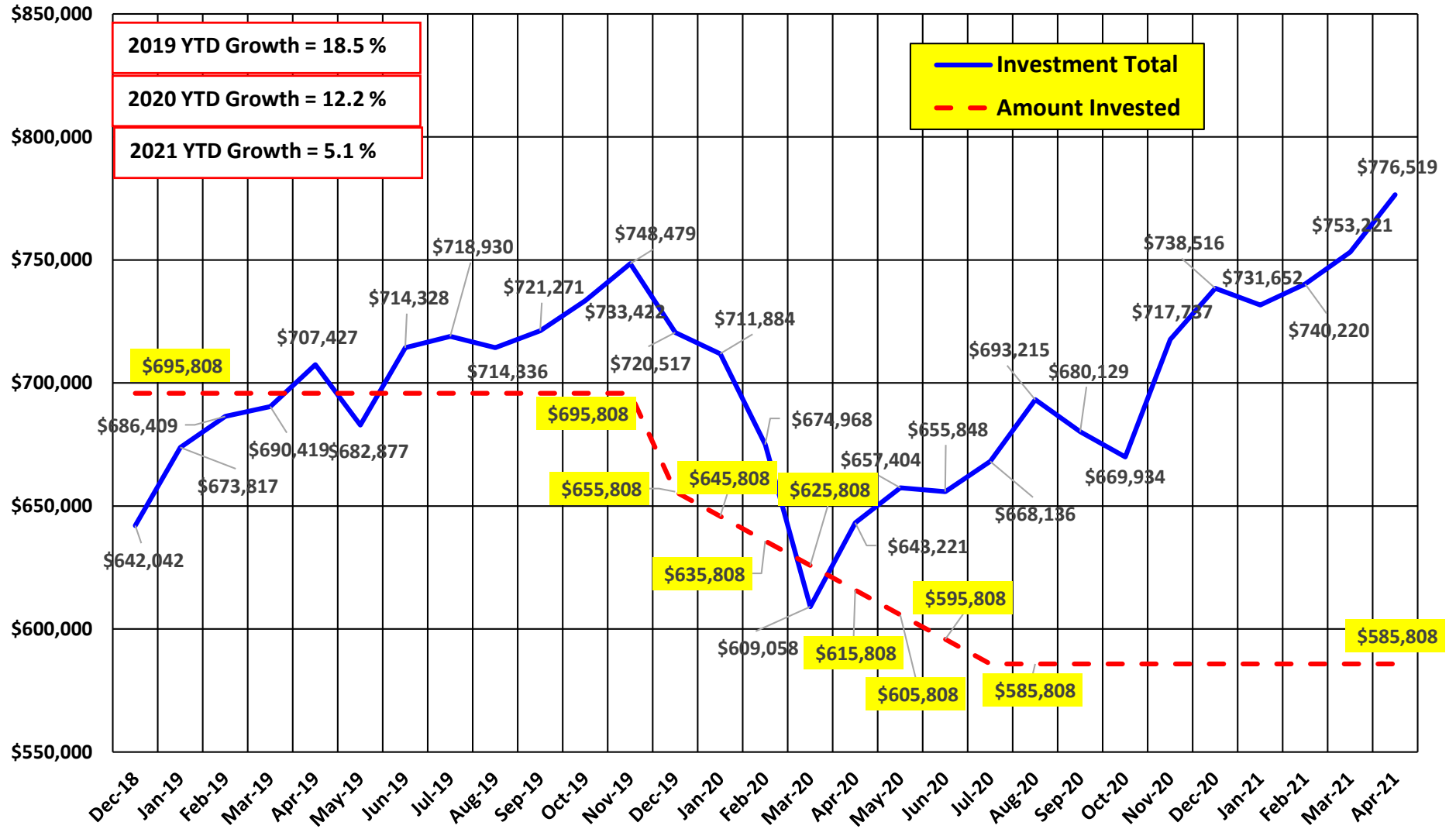
Presbytery of Great Rivers
 May 25, 2021

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Presbytery Office | | | | |
| Occupancy | \$ 4,706 | \$ 14,350 | \$ 9,644 | 33% |
| Office Operations and Supplies | 8,451 | 18,850 | 10,399 | 45% |
| Total Presbytery Office Expenses | \$ 13,157 | \$ 33,200 | \$ 20,043 | 40% |
| Presbytery Administration | | | | |
| Liability Insurance | - | 3,300 | 3,300 | 0% |
| Audit Fee | - | 7,350 | 7,350 | 0% |
| Moderator Training | - | 1,250 | \$ 1,250 | 0% |
| Assembly Meetings | - | 2,000 | \$ 2,000 | 0% |
| Per Capita Shortfall | 7,639 | 21,000 | 13,361 | 36% |
| Payroll Service | 529 | 1,450 | 921 | 36% |
| Legal Fees | - | 100 | 100 | 0% |
| PGR Training (Elder/Deacon, Ldrshp) | - | 750 | 750 | 0% |
| Total Presbytery Administration Expenses | \$ 8,168 | \$ 37,200 | \$ 29,032 | 22% |
| Meeting Expense - All Teams | \$ - | \$ 1,800 | \$ 1,800 | 0% |
| Program Expenses | | | | |
| Committee on Ministry | \$ 50 | \$ 11,700 | \$ 11,650 | 0% |
| Committee on Preparation for Ministry | | 500 | 500 | 0% |
| Visioning Grants | 14,372 | 53,000 | 38,628 | 27% |
| Peacemaking Grants | | | | |
| Continuing Education Grants | 500 | 5,000 | 4,500 | 10% |
| Presbytery Events | - | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0% |
| Pastoral Care/Compassion Fund | - | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0% |
| Illinois Conference of Churches | | 500 | 500 | 0% |
| Springfield 5th Disposition Donation | | | | |
| Interfaith Working Group | * | - | - | - |
| Transitional Training | * | - | - | - |
| Disaster Relief | - | - | - | - |
| Total Program Expenses | \$ 14,922 | \$ 72,700 | \$ 57,778 | 21% |
| Other Expenses | | | | |
| Bank Fees & Expenses | 26 | 200 | 174 | 13% |
| Depreciation Expense | - | - | - | |
| | \$ 26 | \$ 200 | \$ 174 | 13% |
| Total Budgeted Expenses | \$ 104,014 | \$ 371,966 | \$ 267,778 | 28% |

Presbytery of Great Rivers
May 25, 2021

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Unbudgeted Expenses Funded by Restricted Funds | | | |
| Pastor Support Grants | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | |
| | <u>\$ -</u> | <u>\$ -</u> | |
| Total Expenses | <u>\$ 104,014</u> | <u>\$ 371,966</u> | <u>\$ 267,952</u> |
| Excess of Support and Revenue Over Expenses | <u>\$ 46,072</u> | <u>\$ (75,482)</u> | <u>(121,554)</u> |

PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION ACCOUNT HISTORY - End of Month Values



PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Personnel Committee of Great Rivers Presbytery has met monthly. We have updated our staff review process with a 360° model, and all staff reviews have been completed.

In addition, with the help of Lead Presbyter Ryan Landino, we worked to hire the new CLP coordinator, the Rev. Dr. Cheyanna Losey, who began her work in March 2021.

Action items for the assembly:

The committee moves to adopt an updated job description for the Stated Clerk. (Job description in separate PDF)

***Rationale: the previous job description was out of date, and the committee worked to create a job description that better reflected the work of our stated clerk and aligned with the Presbytery's 2020 vision.

The committee moves to present the Rev. Elissa Bailey as the candidate for a 2 year term as stated clerk of the Presbytery of Great Rivers.

***Rationale: through the review process, the committee has recognized Elissa's hard work and growth in the role, and we believe that she will continue to excel in this position.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Ann Elyse Van Winkle
Personnel Committee chair

Stated Clerk Position Description

I. Overview

The Stated Clerk is an elected constitutional officer of the Presbytery and shall perform all such duties as are prescribed in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Standing Rules of Presbytery, and as may be required by acts of higher governing bodies, or as may be assigned by the Presbytery; including, but not limited to those duties pertaining to documents and records, communication to other governing bodies, and facilitating meetings of Presbytery Assembly.

The Stated Clerk “shall record the transactions of the council, keep its rolls of membership and attendance, maintain any required registers, preserve its records, and furnish extracts from them when required by another council of the church.” (Book of Order G-3.0104)

II. Term

The Stated Clerk shall be elected by the Presbytery for a designated term of two years, unless otherwise modified by action of the assembly.

III. Relationships

The Stated Clerk will:

1. Be accountable to the Presbytery of Great Rivers through the Personnel Committee and the Presbytery Leader.
2. Work as a member of Presbytery staff, reporting to and meeting regularly with Presbytery Leader.
3. Instruct administrative commissions of Presbytery in duties and responsibilities. Consult with administrative commissions as requested.
4. Serve as ex-officio member of all entities of the Presbytery.
5. Serve as ex-officio member and secretary of the corporation.
6. Fulfill all the following responsibilities in cooperation with the Presbytery staff.

IV. Responsibilities

The Stated Clerk will:

1. Attend Presbytery committee meetings when requested by the chair.
2. Support and interpret the church's Constitution and the Manual of Operations and policies of the Presbytery.
3. Ensure that members of Presbytery are notified of meetings in keeping with stipulations of the Book of Order and Manual of Operations.
4. Participate with the Leadership Team and Presbytery Leader in organizing and managing the meetings of the Presbytery, including the docket.
5. Act as parliamentary authority of Presbytery.
6. Publish minutes and policies of the Presbytery.
7. Preserve the archive of minutes and records and furnish extracts when required.
8. Make a report at Assembly meetings and report at such other times as the Presbytery may direct.
9. Prepare and forward to the General Assembly, or Synod, the statistical reports required by them.

10. Be responsible for all paperwork which falls under the purview of the Stated Clerk, as required by the Synod and General Assembly.
11. Keep rolls of churches, ministers, candidates for ministry, elders, and certified Christian educators.
12. Conduct the official ecclesiastical correspondence of the Presbytery.
13. Coordinate the constitutional process in judicial and disciplinary cases and serve as Clerk in trials before Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC).
14. Conduct the process of biennial session minutes review.
15. Provide support and training to Clerks of Sessions.
16. Attend biennial General Assembly meetings and church-wide Stated Clerks meetings.
17. Report to the Presbytery all actions of the General Assembly that shall require action by the Presbytery.
18. Keep rolls of commissioners to the General Assembly and Synod.

V. Evaluation and Review

The performance of the Stated Clerk will be evaluated annually by the Personnel Committee in accordance with the personnel policies of the Presbytery.

VI. Qualifications

1. Teaching or ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA)
2. Knowledge of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
3. Proficiency in Presbyterian polity
4. Working knowledge of parliamentary procedure
5. Strong communication skills, including technological communication
6. Strong ability to maintain interpersonal relationships
7. Strong planning, organizational, and time management skills
8. Demonstrated leadership ability
9. Knowledge in the field of records management
10. Available for travel

Appendix J

Presbytery of Great Rivers
May 25, 2021

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

Committee on Ministry has had three meetings since the last Assembly meeting in February 2021. We continue to meet by Zoom conference meetings.

The practice of worshipping at the start of meetings continues. Prayers are offered for transitional churches by name and those individuals who are in need of prayer continues as the standard end of all meetings.

COM Celebrates

With the following Ministers, welcoming them as new members to the Presbytery of Great Rivers: (PGR Manual of Operations Article X Section 2.a-12)

- Rev. Bryan Burris serving New Covenant Presbyterian, Normal IL
- Rev Christopher Williams, member-at-large
- Rev. Joel Jackle Hugh

With the following pastors installed and commissioned since February 2021

- Rev. Debra Avery, Peoria-United
- Rev, Edwin Brinklow, Canton-First
- Rev. Katie Styr, Milan-First
- Rev. Matt Wilcox, Normal-First
- CLP Sue Sawers, Carlinville-Federated

COM declares its intent for

- Ethical Boundaries Training for all Ministers of the Word & Sacrament and Ruling Elders is scheduled for the November 13, 2021 Presbytery Assembly.

Motions for GRP Assembly:

1. Request on behalf of these churches for term limit extensions pursuant to G-2.0404 of the Book of Order for the following:
 - Galesburg-First for deacon Amy Massey for a third term
2. Recommend to Presbytery to examine Chicago Presbytery candidate Eric Vinsel for ordination. This is upheld by the following Book of Order references: G-2.0103, G-2.0104a and G-2.0104b.

This concludes the report for the Committee on Ministry for the May Assembly.

Respectfully submitted

Kathie Whitson, Elder/CLP COM Chair

COM Rationales

COM Celebrates

- with the following Ministers, welcoming them as new members to the Presbytery of Great Rivers: (PGR Manual of Operations Article X Section 2.a-12)
 - Rev. Bryan Burris serving New Covenant Presbyterian, Normal IL
 - Rev Christopher Williams, member-at-large
 - Rev. Joel Jackle Hugh

- with the following pastors installed and commissioned since February 2021
 - Rev. Debra Avery, Peoria-United
 - Rev, Edwin Brinklow, Canton-First
 - Rev. Katie Styr, Milan-First
 - Rev. Matt Wilcox, Normal-First
 - CLP Sue Sawers, Carlinville-Federated
 -

Background and Rationale for attention: The presbytery is a community of congregations, ministers, and ministries who rely on each other for mutual support. We seek opportunities to celebrate when our body is enriched by new members and welcome them, and also honor those who have poured out their hearts in service to our community by their ministry. By welcoming the Rev. Bryan Burris, Rev Christopher Williams and Rev. Joel Jackle Hugh as a new members of the Presbytery of Great Rivers, we bless and welcome their ministry in our Presbytery. This action is supported by our PGR Manual of Operations Article X Section 2.a-12. Likewise, we celebrate with our newly installed and commissioned colleagues as they begin new courageous ministries with their congregations. This action is supported by our PGR Manual of Operations Article X Section 2.a-6.

COM declares its intent for

- Ethical Boundaries Training for all Ministers of the Word & Sacrament and Ruling Elders is scheduled for the November 13, 2021 Presbytery Assembly.

Motions for GRP Assembly:

1. Request on behalf of these churches for term limit extensions pursuant to G-2.0404 of the Book of Order for the following:
 - Galesburg-First for deacon Amy Massey for a third term

Background and Rationale: Term limits were introduced in order to broaden participation within the life of the church. G-2.0404 which states “Ruling elders and deacons shall be elected to serve terms of no more than three years on the session of board of deacons, and may be eligible for reelection according to congregational rule. However, no ruling elder or deacon shall be eligible to serve more than six consecutive years...” Often, smaller congregations struggle to have people who haven’t recently served to fulfill important work of ordered ministry. This action would provide an exception to the Book of Order and enable them to have the necessary leadership on their sessions to continue to have someone in the position of doing the work of ministry. These requests are only made after plenty of opportunity has been given for other new members to fill into these vital roles. (*simple majority vote*)

2. Recommend to Presbytery to examine Chicago Presbytery candidate Eric Vinsel for ordination. This is upheld by the following Book of Order references: G-2.0103, G-2.0104a and G-2.0104b.

Background and Rationale: It is the happy, joyous privilege of the Presbytery to recognize the external call in the life of an individual responding to the Holy Spirit’s internal call on their life. As part of our due diligence and honoring our Constitutional responsibility, when a candidate is approved and ready to receive a call to ministry, that the commissioners will examine the candidate for their fitness to be ordained. Upon conclusion of the exam, the commissioners will then deliberate and vote by simple majority to approve or not approve the candidate for ordination.

1. G-2.0103 Call to Ordered Ministry The call to ordered ministry in the Church is the act of the triune God. This call is evidenced by the movement of the Holy Spirit in the individual conscience, the approval of a community of God's people, and the concurring judgment of a council of the Church.
2. G-2.0104a - Gifts and Qualifications a. To those called to exercise special functions in the church—deacons, ruling elders, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament—God gives suitable gifts for their various duties. In addition to possessing the necessary gifts and abilities, those who undertake particular ministries should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world. They must have the approval of God's people and the concurring judgment of a council of the church.
3. G-2.0104b - 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). Councils shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.**

Eric Vinsel
Statement of Personal Faith

1 For acceptance to be real, there must be the possibility of rejection, just as with love,
2 there comes the possibility of hate. Tragically, humankind has not loved God or one another
3 fully, and, as a result, we have shattered the trust that once existed and hurt others in their
4 vulnerability. The more we are hurt by others, the less capable we are to love fully. Our own
5 wounds blind us. In the process we put up artificial walls that we think will prevent us from being
6 hurt further, but, in actuality, they only prevent others from having the opportunity to know us.
7 The loneliness that can occur, even in groups, when we know that no one truly knows us, can
8 be overwhelming. This isolation and disconnection from one another and, most importantly,
9 from God, is sin.

10 Yet God, in God's sovereignty, decided to reach out to us in our isolation and both
11 revealed God's self to us, and, at the same time, showed us who we really are. God is holy, and
12 because of God's holiness, God was willing to come to earth and form redemptive relationships
13 with all of creation in order to bring about the restoration of us all. When Jesus, the only
14 begotten Son of God, became incarnate, the fullness of God's kingdom was inaugurated. In a
15 single moment the reality of who God always was and always will be became fully
16 communicated, not in words on a page or in abstract truth claims, but in The Word become
17 flesh—in the person of Jesus. Suddenly, the words of the Old Testament were experienced
18 through the day-to-day life of a living, breathing human being. The person of Jesus was
19 humanity and the Divine in perfect union for the first time. Jesus by his very nature
20 demonstrated love even in the midst of rejection, embodied hope in the midst of hatred, and
21 prevailed in the precise moment of greatest disconnection from the rest of humanity—his death.
22 God showed that the possibility of full redemption and connection with God is not over even in
23 the moments of greatest disconnection, and that God by God's very nature is missional, seeking
24 to bring about the Kingdom of God and the restoration of all of humanity.

25 By Jesus' very nature, God communicated God's perfect relationship with self as the
26 Trinity. The very nature of the Trinity also embodies perfect relationship between humans and
27 God in the person of Jesus—fully human, fully divine. Through the life and ministry of Jesus,
28 God showed God's desire and willingness to enter the painful process of redemptive
29 relationship with others, even others who have rejected and misunderstood God.

30 We as the church, likewise, by our very identity in Christ, and in response to who God is,
31 also seek to bring about restoration. We, likewise, now participate in this restorative work by
32 seeking the movement of the Holy Spirit and participating in the work that God has already
33 started. The claims of Jesus are not to be merely declared, for such declarations divorced from
34 the relationships and restoration they proclaim would be meaningless. Instead, these claims
35 demand a life fully lived. Through the process, we not only bring healing to others in the name of
36 Jesus but are ourselves brought to full restoration through intentional relationship with God, self,
37 others, and creation.

38 The sacraments flow out of God's restorative work. Baptism is rooted in the act and
39 promises of God, not our own faith. In the moment of baptism God, through the Holy Spirit gives
40 the person an identity in Jesus Christ and outwardly signifies a hidden reality. In the same way,
41 the communion table provides the perfect experienced metaphor where we gather around the
42 table in restored relationship with one another and with God. We meet Jesus at the table
43 through the Holy Spirit in a mystical way and partake of the bread and wine, which are the
44 outward expression of the inner union with Christ. At the table, all are equal before God, and the
45 bread is shared with all who are hungry.

46 Scripture has pointed us to the reality of Jesus, who is the Word of God. And now we
47 have both the witness of the Word as experienced in scripture and through our present
48 experience of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Confident in who God is, knowing what God has
49 done, and guided by the Holy Spirit, we have an awesome and powerful calling to participate in
50 God's restorative work as the Church in the world.

Presbytery of Great Rivers
May 25, 2021

CPM REPORT

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moves that Lorna Blackford become an Inquirer under the care of the presbytery and be received as such. Lorna has been endorsed by the session of Monmouth, Faith United Presbyterian Church.

Presbytery of Great Rivers
COMPLETE DOCKET
May 25, 2021

The Mission of the Presbytery:
*“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 [here](#).
*You will receive a confirmation email after registration.
Please register by Monday, May 24th.*

SHARING CHRIST’S LOVE

Accessing Zoom (8:30-9:00 am)

CALL TO ORDER

CLP Diane Ludington, Moderator

CALL TO WORSHIPFUL WORK

MWS Brandon Ouellette

based on Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of God’s glory.

Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Worship the Lord in holy splendor.

Worship the God of resurrection and miracle,

Of healing and hope,

the God of glory, splendor, and strength.

May our worshipful work give God glory and praise. May Christ be honored as we work and serve. May the Holy Spirit accompany us through our agenda, to honor the Living, Triune God. Glory to God forever. Amen!

MUSIC VIDEO

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

Breathe on me, breath of God; fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure,
Until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
Until this earthly part of me, glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
But live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

OPENING PRAYER Based on the 2020 Vision Statement MWS Lonna C. Lee

Acknowledgement of the Native American Heritage of Our Gathering Sites

MWS Elissa Bailey

Welcome and Instructions

Establish the Roll and Seat Corresponding Members

- Establishment of quorum
- Introduction and seating of new Teaching Elder commissioners
 - Introduction of new Ruling Elder Commissioners
 - Introduction and Seating of Corresponding Members

Approval of the Docket

PARTNERING IN SERVICE

Motion to Enter All Written Reports into The Permanent Minutes

Stated Clerk Report

Omnibus Motion

The Omnibus Motion includes receiving the following written reports:
*Leadership Team Report, Stated Clerk's Report, Visioning Team Report,
Lead Presbyter for Transformation Report, Report of the Administrative
Commission for the Greenview Presbyterian Church*

Keynote Speaker: Lisa Allgood

"VIRUSES, VACCINES, AND VARIANTS; OH MY!"

FIVE MINUTE BREAK

UNITING IN WORSHIP

PRAYER

MWS Joanne Hinds

SCRIPTURE and HOMILY

MWS Ryan Landino

HYMN FOR REFLECTION "As the Wind Song "

GTG #292

The beautiful tune was written in Singapore by Swee Hong Lim. The name of the tune, 'WAIRUA TAPU' means "Holy Spirit" in Maori. The lyrics were written by New Zealander Shirley Erena Murray.

1. As the wind song through the trees, as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
As the heart made strangely warm, as the voice within the storm,

so it is with the Spirit of God.

Never seen, ever known where this wind has blown
bringing life, bringing power to the world,

As the dancing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep desire,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

2. As the rainbow after rain, as the hope that's born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God,

As the green in the spring, as a kite on a string,
so it is with the Spirit of God

making worlds that are new, making peace come true,
Bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,

As the rising of the yeast, as the wine at the feast,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

RISKING IN MINISTRY

Actions from the Committees - **Please see “**Motions Guide**” posted in the **presbytery papers** for the explicit motions with background and rationale.*

[PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR ASSEMBLY PAPERS ON PGR WEBSITE](#)

Report from the Moderator

Report from the Moderator Staffing Task Force

Actions from the Committees:

- Administration Team, chair Julio Garcia
- Committee On Ministry (COM), chair Kathie Whitson
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM), chair Matt Wilcox
- Nominating, chair Dick Johnson
- Visioning, chair Blake Severson
- Report of the Resourcing Task Force; Blake Severson and Joyce Chamberlain

INVITATION TO OFFERING

CLP Diane Ludington, Moderator

The focus of today's offering is the Pentecost Offering, a PC(USA) Special Offering. Please follow this link (<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/pentecost/>) to make an online donation. Under “Comments /Instruction /Name of Local Congregation” type in “Presbytery of Great Rivers Assembly May 25, 2021”

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR THE DAY and THE LORD'S PRAYER MWS Chuck Goodman,
Moderator-elect* Adapted from 'Saturday Prayer' by
Rev. Dr. Kathy Burgess, RevGalBlogPals.org, 2021

New Business Not a time for announcements, this is a time for formal motions to be brought before the assembly.

CHARGE and BLESSING CLP Diane Ludington,
Moderator

ADJOURNMENT –

The next Presbytery of Great Rivers Assembly will be Tuesday, August 24.
The remainder of our 2021 Assemblies will be conducted on Zoom.
(see Leadership Team Report for more)

Liturgists

Call to Worshipful Work - MWS Brandon Ouellete
Opening Prayer – MWS Lonna C. Lee
Prayer (before Scripture Reading & Homily) – MWS Joanne Hinds
Invitation to Offering – CLP Diane Ludington, Moderator
Prayer for the Day & the Lord's Prayer – MWS Chuck Goodman
Charge & Benediction – CLP Diane Ludington, Moderator
Musician – Virginia Hosking, Director of Music, Hope PC, Springfield