

**PRESBYTERY OF MINNESOTA VALLEYS**  
**February 6, 2021**  
**Via Zoom**

**Attendance:**

<b>Teaching Elder Members</b>	<b>Feb 6</b>	<b>May 18</b>	<b>Aug 17</b>	<b>Nov 6</b>
Aaron Alfred	E			
Karen Anderson-Dent	E			
Jon Armajani	E			
Murphy Ashley	P			
SanDawna Ashley	P			
Robert Bartlett	P			
Kathy Blair	P			
Steven Boots	E			
Elaine Boyd	P			
Beverly Brock	E			
Hank Campbell	E			
Dawn Carder	E			
Mark Chamberlain	E			
David Choate	P			
Chris Conlin	E			
Beverly Crute	P			
Jason Cunningham	E			
Andrew Davis	P			
Sue DeNio	E			
Nancy DeVries	E			
Douglas Dent	E			
Jerry Dirks	E			
Daniel Duggan	P			
Merle Elrod	E			
Mark Ford	P			
Tom Gard	E			
Cory Germain	P			
Edward Godshall	E			
Michael Hartwell	P			
Rollin Haynes	P			
Lindsay Jacaruso	P			
Allen Jergenson	P			
Dwight Johnson	E			
Randall Knuth	P			
James Krapf	P			
Raymond Larson	E			
David Lick	P			
John Lindholm	E			
Robert Maharry	E			
Sharon "Lynne" Matthews	E			

Hugh Miller	E			
Ed Morgan	E			
Terry Morse	E			
Tony Oltmann	E			
Don Ottenhoff	E			
Abigail Ozanne	E			
Pamela Prouty	P			
Scott Prouty	P			
Wayne Purintun	E			
Charles Reid	E			
Herbert Rotunda	P			
Bonnie Sue Roys	E			
Michael Roys	E			
Patricia Schick	E			
Darin Seaman	P			
Galen Smith	P			
Paul Snyder	P			
Robert Springer	E			
Norma Spurgin	P			
Tim Sutton	E			
Penny Temple-Johnson	E			
Leanne Thompson	P			
Scott Thompson	P			
Elizabeth Tot	E			
Anne Veldhuisen	P			
Tom Voigt	P			
Barbara Whipple	E			
Anna Williamson	P			
Leslie Winters	E			
Eunice Woodberry	E			
William Yueill	E			
<b>Commissioned Ruling Elders</b>				
Linda Becken	E			
Sue Goebel	E			
David Hollis	P			
Deb Klaassen	P			
Gordon Pennertz	P			
<b>Candidates/Inquirers</b>				
<b>By Virtue of Office</b>				
Trans & Dev – Randy Knuth	P			
Trans & Dev – Kathy Terpstra	P			
COL – Beverly Brock	E			
COL – Deb Hess	P			
CPL – Andy Davis	P			
CPL – Galen Smith	P			

COO – Stan Menning	P			
COO – Le Roy Ennenga	P			
PW Moderator – Gloria Rust	E			
Moderator – David Lick	P			
Vice Moderator – Nancy Skoog	P			

Ruling Elder Commissioners

Amboy – Nancy Runge  
Ashby – Barb Dewey  
Baxter – Edith Alvarez  
Beaver Creek – E  
Blue Earth – Cindy Peterson  
Brewster – E  
Browns Valley – E  
Cambria – Verna Walters  
Canby – Karen Houtman  
Crosslake – Bonnie Miller  
Dawson – Stan Menning  
Doran – E  
Edgerton – E  
Ellsworth – Twyla Schilling  
Fergus Falls, Federated – E  
Foley – Catie Schmitz  
Fulda – E  
Holland – E  
Iona – E  
Jackson – E  
Kasota – E  
Lake Crystal – E  
Lismore – E  
Litchfield – E  
Luverne – E  
Madelia – E  
Maine – E  
Mankato – E  
Marshall – E  
Maynard – Nancy Pierskalla  
Milroy – E  
Mountain Lake – E

Osakis – Keven Withers  
Pipestone – Emily Speer  
Randall – Terry Coffin  
Redwood Falls – Deb Hess  
Renville – E  
Round Lake – Lori Morrison  
Rushmore Emmanuel – Joyce Jacobs  
Rushmore First – E  
Russell – E  
Saint Cloud – E  
Saint James – Jerry Olson  
Saint Peter – Marge Johnson  
Silver Lake – Dorothy Merrill  
Slayton – E  
Spicer Harrison – Dennis Peterson  
Spicer Hope – Jody Leason  
Willmar – Betty Knutson  
Windom – E  
Winnebago – Mike Butler  
Worthington – Le Roy Ennenga

Visitors

Karen Lange – Presbytery Staff  
Raj Nadella – Bible Study presenter  
Dianna Wright – GA staff  
Barb Wawrzyniak – Silver Lake  
Gary Coulter – Maynard  
Michael Coulter – Maynard  
Ross Stone – Fergus Falls  
Shirley Rose – Amboy

### **BIBLE STUDY AND OFFERING**

The day opened with prayer by moderator David Lick.

Executive SanDawna Ashley introduced Dr. Raj Nadella who lead a Matthew 25 Bible study entitled, "God at the Margins: The Roman Empire and Matthew's Theology of Kin(g)dom Community" .

Dr. Nadella challenged us to ask ourselves, "What is the cost we're willing to pay in order to live out our calling." He also reminded us that we meet the Divine at the margins of society.

Andy Davis encouraged everyone to participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. The 2020 Necrology Report was shared. Musical numbers of "How Great Thou Art" and "Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho" were performed by Paul Snyder, Leanne Thompson, Galen Smith, Michael Harwell, Thomas Hartwell, and Darin Seaman.

### **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL, QUORUM**

The Presbytery stated meeting was called to order with prayer at 11:10 by Moderator David Lick. Stated Clerk, Pam Prouty presented the agenda. PRESBYTERY VOTED to approve the agenda. A Quorum was declared. PRESBYTERY VOTED to seat Corresponding Member Dianna Wright Interim Director from the PCUSA office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations. First time Commissioners were introduced.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Clerk Prouty introduced the Consent Agenda with the addition of the COL Supplemental report and the Financial Reports as follows:

1. Approve the minutes from the November 14, 2020 Stated Meeting
2. Receive the Stated Clerk's Report (attachment #2)
3. Receive the Executive Presbyter's report
4. Receive Administrative Commission reports from Brooten and Crosslake
5. Receive the Commission on Presbytery Life report
6. Receive the Commission on Presbytery Leadership report
7. Receive the Commission on Congregational Transformation and Development report
8. Receive the Commission on Presbytery Operations report
9. Receive the Committee for Congregational Nurture report

PRESBYTERY VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

### **STATED CLERK'S REPORT**

The Stated Clerk reported that there are six churches that have not turned in their GA statistical report. Anyone needing help with it should contact her. The Clerk Review will be in the Fall.

### **EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT**

Executive SanDawna Ashley gave her report. This will be her last meeting with the Presbytery. She talked about what gains the Presbytery is making and is glad that this is a learning Presbytery. She thanked us for the privilege to have served here.

### **COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION**

Chair Kathy Blair introduced a motion to set aside the bylaws in order to allow Lou Perli to serve one additional year on Personnel and Commission on Operations. The personnel committee has some important work to do as our executive is leaving. PRESBYTERY VOTED to approve this.

The Committee placed into nomination Ruling Elder Lou Perli, Holland for a one-year term (2021) on the Commission on Operations and Teaching Elder Mark Ford to fulfill Murphy Ashley's unexpired term as Synod Commissioner (2021). Moderator Lick opened the floor for nomination. Hearing none a motion was made for nominations to cease. PRESBYTERY VOTED to elect Lou Perli and Mark Ford to the above positions.

Kathy Blair indicated there are still openings on a few committees and she encouraged everyone to think of people that would have the gifts to fill the positions.

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ECUMENICAL RELATIONS**

Pam Prouty introduced Dianna Wright, Interim director of the Ecumenical and Interreligious Office of General Assembly. Dianna Wright spoke about the work that they are doing and indicated Rev. Scott Prouty from Redwood Falls is a member of the committee. She is thankful for the support, work and financial support that comes through special offerings and per capita.

### **COMMITTEE ON OPERATIONS**

Co-chair Leroy Ennenga thanked SanDawna for all the work she has done with the Presbytery, The Personnel committee is interviewing candidates for a Gap executive interim position next week.

Co-chair Stan Menning asked prayers for the Administrative Commission appointed to dissolve the Jackson church. He also informed the group that the Presbytery came in under budget for the year. The year was finished in a good financial position and all the churches participated in paying per capita. He also indicated there are vacancies on the committee if there is anyone interested. The first round of PPP loan was forgiven. There was a question about the Presbytery applying for the second round but the advice from Synod financial office is that we would not qualify this time.

### **COMMISSION ON LEADERSHIP**

Co-chair Deb Hess directed the presbytery to their report to see all the work they have been doing. She also requested that pastors to please turn in their annual reports.

### **COMMISSION ON PRESBYTERY LIFE**

Co-chair Galen Smith reported that the Commission is continuing to work on the website.

### **COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL NURTURE**

No report

### **COMMISSION ON TRANSFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Nothing beyond written report.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

### **SPEAK OUT**

Anne Veldhuisen said that Christ United Presbyterian Church in Marshal is the oldest church in Marshall at 148 years.

Kathy Terpstra encouraged churches to take advantage of the PCUSA mission co-workers who are willing to do services via Zoom also have videos of their work. Lists will be in Valley Bridge.

### **A TIME OF HELLOS AND GOODBYES**

#### **New Pastor to the Presbytery**

Rev. David Choate introduced himself. He is an interim pastor at Ellsworth and Rushmore, First and Emmanuel. With his wife Brenda and two cats they are getting moved in. He thanked SanDawna for the conversation he had with her when he was considering the call.

**Recognition of the retirement of CRE David Hollis**

Rollin Haynes gave a glowing tribute to David and spoke of his love and dedication to the church and his wonderful preaching and teaching abilities. The ritual of retirement was conducted by Moderator David Lick.

**Recognition of the retirement of Rev. Murphy Ashley**

Elder Barb Wawrzynaik talked about his service not only the Faith Church in Silver Lake but also to the greater church. The ritual of retirement was conducted by Moderator David Lick.

**Goodbye to Rev. Dr. SanDawna Ashley**

Many spoke on behalf of SanDawna and her ministry in our presbytery. She was thanked for her service and leadership. SanDawna was given a gift of Minnesota items as a memory as she goes on to her next call.

SanDawna told the group that she would remember them fondly and appreciates being called. She is proud of the opportunity to be the executive and to meet all the brothers and sisters in Christ. She indicated it has been her privilege to serve.

**PRAYERS AND COMMUNION**

Vice Moderator, Nancy Skoog led the Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer. Pastor Elaine Boyd officiated at the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

**ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION**

The meeting was adjourned with a Benediction from Moderator Lick at 1:00 p.m.

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys will be Tuesday, May 18, 2021 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela R. Prouty  
Stated Clerk

**Dr. Raj Nadella bio**

Raj Nadella is the Samuel A. Cartledge Associate Professor of New Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary. His research and teaching interests include postcolonial biblical interpretation, migration and New Testament perspectives on economic justice and their ethical implications for the Church and society. He is the author of *Dialogue Not Dogma: Many Voices in the Gospel of Luke* (T&T Clark, 2011) and an area editor for *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Biblical Studies*. He is the co-author of *Postcolonialism and the Bible* and co-editor of *Christianity and the Law of Migration*, both forthcoming in 2021. He has written for publications such as the *Huffington Post*, *Christian Century*, and *Working Preacher*.

Nadella is actively involved in the academy and the Church on issues such as race, economic justice, and immigration. He serves on the National Council of Churches USA's Faith and Order Commission and chairs the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)'s Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession (CUREMP).

Stated Clerk's Report  
to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys

February 6, 2021

1. The Permanent Judicial Commission roster of Former members per D-5.0206b: Ruling Elder Bea Ourada and Ruling Elder Maebelle Behrends (class of 2015), Rev. John Lindholm (class of 2017), Rev. Bob Bartlett and Rev. Jason Cunningham (class of 2019).
2. I have reviewed the numbers of ruling elders and teaching elders for Presbytery membership. We have 52 ruling elder commissioners, 4 commissioned ruling elders, five ruling elders who chair a Presbytery commission and a ruling elder Vice Moderator which is a total of 62 ruling elders who have voice and vote at a presbytery meeting. As of today, we have 72 Teaching Elders on our rolls; ten of whom live outside our bounds which totals 62 Teaching Elders who have voice and vote at a presbytery meeting. According to our Operating Procedures, Article 3, the numbers are acceptable.
3. The minister identification cards will be available after February 20, 2021. They will be mailed out to each Presbyterian minister member.
4. Since our last meeting I have attended COL meetings, Presbytery Planning meetings, Personnel Committee meetings, and I led a training via zoom for Ruling Elders. I've started teaching a Presbyterian Polity, History and Worship class at United Seminary in St. Paul, MN via zoom. I attended the Presbytery Leader training.

Attachment #3

Report from the Administrative Commission for Brooten to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys February 6, 2021

The Brooten AC met and is looking for the assistance from a local attorney to assist us in transferring the cemetery to either the county or the local township.

Submitted by Ruling Elder Stan Menning, chair

Crosslake Administrative Commission Report

To the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys

February 6, 2021

We continue to meet monthly to assist and attend Session gatherings. Crosslake Church is currently in the process of utilizing pulpit supply to meet their worship needs and, like many churches, trying to navigate the challenges associated with COVID-19. Their Strategy Team is working hard to discern, along with the Session, what steps lead them into their future and praying what God might be doing in their community. The Rev. Michael Hartwell currently serves as the Moderator of the Session.

As a commission, we have gone through our own transition. Ross Stone and Edith Alvarez stepped aside and were replaced by Terry Coffin and the Rev. LeAnne Thompson. Thanks to everyone who supports the commission and this congregation.

Submitted by Darin Seaman, AC Chair

Commission on Presbytery Life Report

To the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys

February 6, 2021

**The Commission on Presbytery Life** has established these goals for 2021. We seek and welcome your input and collaboration.

**1. Executive Presbyter Position**

\* Assist in the evaluation of our current staff model by studying alternatives and making a recommendation.

\* Assist in the development of a new EP position description, should we stay with this model.

We concur that a gap EP should be hired during this time of transition.

**2. Building**

\* Assist in the evaluation of the possible sale of the building by examining alternative locations, etc., and making a recommendation to the presbytery at a later date.

**3. New Church Development**

\* Develop a plan for possible new church developments or worshipping communities.

Presently, we are investigating the possibilities of creating virtual worshipping and spiritually connected communities that would be hosted by our camps. Other visions are also welcome; please let us know.

**4. South Sudan/Ethiopia Network**

\*Strengthen our relationship with the SSEN.

**5. Occidente Partnership**

\*Continue our relationship with the Occidente presbytery of Guatemala.

**6. Website**

\*Continue to develop and launch our new presbytery website.

**7. Leadership Development**

\*Create opportunities to develop leadership in fulfillment of our two-year grant.

Commission on Leadership Report  
To the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys

February 6, 2021

Actions taken at the December 6, 2020 meeting:

1. COL VOTED to approve the following Consent Agenda:  
Co-chair actions

- a. Appoint Anna Williamson as liaison for Canby, effective January 1, 2021
- b. Appoint Tom Voigt as moderator at Pipestone, effective January 1, 2021
- c. Appoint Jason Cunningham as moderator at Beaver Creek, effective January 1, 2021

Reports received:

- d. Receive the Revs. Marcia and Galen Sylvester's exit interviews from the Harrison Community Church, Spicer, MN.
  - e. Receive the Harrison Community Church, Spicer, MN session exit interview.
  - f. Receive Rev. Daniel Duggan's resume and statement of faith. Bev B and Deb will be conducting the Fitness and Suitability interview.
  - g. Receive Iona, First's moderator report.
  - h. in Canby, MN.
  - i. Receive the 6-month check in report with Rev. Paul Snyder and the First Presbyterian Church, Ashby MN/Dalton congregations
2. COL VOTED to approve the Transitional Pastor agreement between Zion Presbyterian Church, Ellsworth, MN, Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Rushmore and First Presbyterian Church, Rushmore, and Rev. David A. Choate effective Feb. 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022. We will request his transfer him membership from Presbytery of Whitewater Valley and appoint him moderator during his tenure. A background check was conducted. The terms are as follows:

Salary	\$38,769.00
Housing Allowance	\$5,000.00
Dental allowance	\$891.24
Social Security allowance	\$4651.00
<u>Other reimbursable allowances</u>	
Continuing Education	\$750.00
Medical Reimbursement	\$3,000.00
Travel allowance at IRS rate	\$3,000.00
Moving expenses	\$3,500.00

Four weeks of vacation including four Sundays, two weeks Sunday including two Sundays, Manse and utilities provided, more travel allowance is available if needed with Session approval.

3. COL VOTED to add the following to the COL Manual in section 8 regarding a Commissioned Pastor Presbytery at large position:

Commissioned Pastor at large to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys

This CRE would be available to fill the pulpit for particular congregations at the invitation of the Session, be available to officiate at the Sacrament of Baptism and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at the invitation of the Session and serve as moderator of Session and Congregational meetings at the invitation of the Session moderator or the Commission on Leadership. The term of service would be for three years and it is renewable. This CRE would need a mentor assigned and would be accountable to the Commission on Leadership through the mentor.

4. COL VOTED to dissolve the relationship between the Rev. Nathan Lamb and the First Presbyterian Church, Pipestone effective December 31, 2020 and to transfer his membership to the Presbytery of East Iowa.

#### Actions taken at the January 9, 2021 COL meeting

1. COL VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:  
Co-chair action to appoint Anne Veldhuisen moderator for Canby.  
Receive Reports:
  - a. Receive the quarterly interim report of Rev. Hank Campbell at First Presbyterian Church, Lake Crystal, MN.
  - b. Receive the annual moderator report of Rev. Hank Campbell at First Presbyterian Church, Kasota, MN.
  - c. Receive the exit interviews from Rev. Nathan Lamb and the Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Pipestone, MN.
  - d. Receive the resignation notice of Rev. Nathan Lamb from the First Presbyterian Church, Pipestone MN, effective Dec. 31, 2020.
  - e. Receive the Session exit interview from First Presbyterian Church, Rushmore MN
  - f. Receive the Session exit interview from Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Rushmore MN
2. COL VOTED to approve the request from the Rev. Murphy Ashley's for retirement effective April 1, 2021 and move him to the Honorably Retired list.

The Commission on Leadership will be meeting on Thursday, February 4 where they will be taking action to recommend the 2021 Presbytery Membership Roll to the Presbytery; this action will come to the floor of Presbytery. The Membership Roll which is included with the Presbytery packet is considered a draft until the Presbytery acts.

Supplemental Commission on Leadership (COL) Report

To the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys

February 6, 2021

## Actions taken at the Thursday 4, 2021

1. COL VOTED to Approve the Consent Agenda as follows:
  - a. Co-chair action.
    - i. Approve First Presbyterian Church, Winnebago to form a Pastor Nominating Committee.
    - ii. Approve Ruling Elder Karen Houtman (who has been trained) to serve Holy Communion, at First Presbyterian Church, Canby for the remainder of 2021.
    - iii. Approve Ruling Elders Carol Chmielewski and Richard Lawrence (who both have been trained) to serve Holy Communion, at Faith Presbyterian Church, Silver Lake MN until January 31, 2022.
  - b. Receive Reports
    - i. Receive Commissioned Pastor David Hollis' exit interview from the First Presbyterian Church, in Slayton, MN.
    - ii. Receive Rev. Murphy Ashley's Final annual report, Interim report and letter of resignation that was given to Faith Presbyterian Church, Silver Lake MN. His last day in Silver Lake worship service will be February 17, 2021 and his last day in ministry there will be March 24, 2021.
2. COL Voted to approve the Session's request to extend the term limit waiver request for Stan Menning and Val Sather as elders class of 2023 at First Presbyterian Church, in Dawson, MN. This request would extend their terms for two years.
3. COL VOTED to recommend to the Presbytery the 2021 membership roll.
4. COL VOTED to approve the revised "Types Of Pastoral Service In The Presbytery Of Minnesota Valleys policy for the COL Manual.

Attachment #6

Commission on Congregational Transformation and Development Report to the

Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys

February 6, 2021

The Commission met on January 9th via Zoom. The group spent time brainstorming ways to give assistance to churches that are currently without pastoral leadership. For 2021, there are still funds available for the "Transformation Going Beyond Change" budget. A survey will be developed and sent to churches to see what the areas of interest are for future trainings. The goal is to have four additional trainings this year.

Commission on Presbytery Operations Report  
To the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys  
February 6, 2021

Actions from December 17, 2020 meeting

1. The Commission on Operations appointed two new members to the Administrative Commission which is working with the Crosslake church since two members resigned; the members who resigned were Ruling Elder Edith Alvarez and Ruling Elder Ross Stone. The two new members include Ruling Elder Terry Coffin from the Randall Presbyterian church and Teaching Elder Leanne Thompson. The new chair is Teaching Elder Darin Seaman. Other members of this AC include Ruling Elder Nancy Skoog from the Randall church and Teaching Elder Murphy Ashley. We acknowledge that two RE from the same congregation isn't ideal or constitutional; the rationale is about geography.
2. In 2020 we received a Paycheck Protection Plan Loan for \$41,240. We have received word that the loan has been forgiven.
3. In response to the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson request to close their church an Administrative Commission has been formed; the charge is attached. The members include:

Rev. Galen Smith; Teaching Elder, Worthington. Chair  
Rev. Cory Germain; Teaching Elder, Fairmont  
Mary Jo Lutz; Ruling Elder, Jackson  
Deb Hess; Ruling Elder, Redwood Falls  
Stan Menning; Ruling Elder, Dawson

Resolution for the appointment of an Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, MN by the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys:

Whereas the Presbytery appointed a task force to work with the Jackson Session on its future mission and ministry and,

Whereas they concluded through a survey of congregants and the pastoral leader that dissolving the congregation was in their best interest and

Whereas a congregational meeting has been to take action on congregational dissolution

WHEREAS under such circumstances the Book of Order at G-3.0109b authorizes the Presbytery to appoint an administrative commission for the First Presbyterian Church, Jackson and,

Whereas the following people have agreed to serve on this Administrative Commission: Teaching Elder Cory Germain, Ruling Elder Stan Menning, Ruling Elder Deb Hess, and Teaching Elder Galen Smith and one elder to be appointed from the Jackson church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Administrative Commission shall be empowered to consider and conclude all matters referred to it by this Presbytery, including specifically the following charge:

1. To obtain all Session records, member roll books, other entities records (i.e., Presbyterian Women and others) and other official documents and send them to the Presbytery Stated Clerk in their original form.
3. To assist the Session in closing out the affairs of the church including the transfer of members. Those members who have not transferred their membership elsewhere will be transferred to the Presbytery of MN Valleys. The Presbytery authorizes the Stated Clerk to dismiss members whose names are still on the roll after three years of the actual date of closure
4. To take possession of all real and personal property (G-4.0203), and financial records and arrange for transfer of title to the Presbytery of all accounts and real property known to be in the possession of the First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, MN. It is suggested that an inventory of property and equipment be conducted
5. To consult with the Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Jackson regarding requests the congregation may have relating to the disposition of equipment and memorials and other property of the First Presbyterian Church, Jackson
6. To recommend to the Presbytery the disposition of property or to arrange for its retention and storage for future use at direction of the Presbytery.
7. To assert claim of the Presbytery to any property of the First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, MN not known at this time, which may come to the First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, MN as the beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.
8. To determine if there is an interest a Presbyterian mission and ministry in the Jackson area

9. To appoint someone to be clerk of the Commission who will record all minutes, submit them to the Stated Clerk and when the commission has completed its work will submit all records to the Stated Clerk.
10. To regularly report and submit its record to the Presbytery and officers (G-3.0109).
11. To conduct and fulfill such additional responsibilities that may be assigned to it as a commission by the Presbytery.

Presbytery Operations approved this administrative commission on December 17, 2020 and it was reported to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys on February 6, 2021.

Personnel Committee Report  
To the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys  
February 6, 2021

The Personnel Committee has approved and begun to advertise for the following position:

THE PRESBYTERY OF MINNESOTA VALLEYS

POSITION DESCRIPTION

GAP EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

The Gap Executive Presbyter will serve as the presbytery leader and head of staff for the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys during the search process for the permanent Executive Presbyter. The Gap Executive Presbyter will work with the leadership of the presbytery, holding the presbytery's vision before the collective body, and providing the coordination, nurture, and encouragement necessary to promote the ministry and mission of the presbytery through its officers, committees, congregations, and members.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

The Gap Executive Presbyter shall be:

1. Employed by the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys in consultation with the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.
2. Accountable to the Presbytery through its Commission on Presbytery Operations, which will conduct periodic evaluations, in conjunction with the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, of the Gap Executive Presbyter's progress in fulfilling the expectations of the position.
3. An active participant in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies' Presbyter Forum and the Minnesota Council of Churches' Board of Directors, representing the interests and welfare of the presbytery within those bodies, and interpreting the work of those bodies to the presbytery.
4. In support of joint witness congregations.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- A sense of being called to serve Christ's church in the capacity of a presbytery leader
- A passion for the presbytery and its member congregations
- An ability to see "the big picture" and to think both within and outside the box, as appropriate, in order to enable the presbytery to discern God's call and purpose for the future and direction of the

presbytery

- A passion for building relationships and networks between pastors and congregations, and with the presbytery
- A listening ear and a pastor's heart for the concerns and needs of the congregations
- Open to the guidance of the Spirit
- Strong communication, relational, delegating, and collaborative skills

#### RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GAP EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER:

- Chief administrative officer providing oversight of the presbytery's daily operations, approval of expenses as defined by the presbytery budget and ensuring the integrity of fiscal data as well as modeling transparency and accountability.
- Making connections that strengthen the presbytery's mission, by:
  - Building relationships with congregations and their leaders
  - Providing counsel and guidance to pastors and congregations
  - Providing presbytery-to-presbytery reference checks
  - Supporting churches in transition by critically reviewing and matching PIF's and CIF's in a confidential, non-biased manner.
  - Seek, manage, and maintain special funding and grants. Specifically continuing the work on the following:
    - Transformation Going Beyond Change Grant
    - Small Church Residency Program
- Empowering ministry, by:
  - Providing staff support for and resourcing of the ministries of the presbytery's commissions and committees, specifically:
    - The Commission on Presbytery Life
    - The Commission on Presbytery Operations
      - Particularly in the development of the annual budget
      - Particularly in matters related to the work of the staff
    - The Commission on Leadership
    - The Commission on Congregational Transformation and Development
    - The Committee on Congregational Nurture
  - Encouraging an acceptance and valuation of people with diverse talents and ideas, and cultivating a shared sense of commitment and purpose within the Presbytery
  - Providing conflict intervention as needed working with pastors and congregations
  - Supervising, supporting, and working with the staff and officers of the presbytery as they support the work of presbytery.
- Enabling communication, by:
  - Supporting the development of presbytery and congregational communication structures, using available forms of in-person and electronic communication and technology to enhance the dissemination of information and the conducting of presbytery's work.

**TYPE OF POSITION:** This is a half-time, exempt position appointed by the Commission on Presbytery Operations for a one-year term or until permanent Executive Presbyter position is filled, reviewed at 6-month intervals or at intervals deemed appropriate.

Committee on Congregational Nurture Report

To the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys

February 6, 2021

Items discussed at the January 9, 2021 meeting.

1. We discussed the purposes of the committee:
  - Develop relationships with and among the presbytery's congregations with a strong commitment to their overall health and well-being.
  - Conduct regular visits to each congregation
  - Communicate the particular needs or concerns of the congregations to the appropriate presbytery entity
  - Recruit the members of and secure training for the Presbytery Response Team
  - Create networks to support, encourage, resource, and strengthen the ministries of our congregations and leaders
  - Share mission stories of congregations and individuals across the presbytery
  - Build and maintain healthy relationships with one another, the Synod, the General Assembly and the wider faith community
  - Support, resource, and guide one another and our pastoral leaders in times of difficulties.
2. The church assignments were made:
  - North Region:
    - Ashby, Browns Valley, Doran, Fergus Falls, Maine (**Terry Coffin**)
    - Baxter, Crosslake, Foley, Osakis, Randall, Saint Cloud (**Bill Yuiell**)
    - Maynard, Silver Lake, Spicer (Harrison) Spicer (Hope), Willmar (**Gordy Pennertz**)
  - South Region:
    - Brewster-Round Lake, Worthington, Fulda, *Jackson* (**Audrey Knuth**)
    - Cambria, Madelia, Mountain Lake, Saint James, Windom, Winnebago (**Al Jergenson**)
    - Amboy, Blue Earth, Lake Crystal-Kasota, Mankato, Saint Peter (**Michael Roys**)
  - West Region:
    - Beaver Creek, Edgerton, Lismore, Luverne, Rushmore First, Rushmore Emmanuel, Ellsworth(**Gloria Vande Brake**)
    - Holland, Iona, Pipestone, Litchfield, Russell, Slayton (**Barb Little**)
    - Canby, Dawson, Marshall, Milroy, Redwood Falls, Renville (**Herb Rotunda**)
3. We set dates for Zoom meetings for 2021:
  - April 21, 10:30 AM
  - July 21, 10:30 AM
  - October 20, 10:30 AMWe will also plan to meet at Presbytery meetings when available.