

**Special Meeting
Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys
December 4, 2023 at 6:30 PM via Zoom**

This meeting was called per Presbytery rule (available in the Presbytery Bylaws) by the chairs of all the Presbytery Commissions and committees in order to approve the 2024 Presbytery Budget and nominate commission and committee members.

Call to Order

Moderator Doug Dent (TE-Fergus Falls) called the meeting to order with prayer at 6:31 PM. He led devotions in regard to “The Gift of the Nutcracker” by Matt Rawle in comparison with Advent.

Agenda, Quorum, Roll

The Agenda for this meeting was presented by Stated Clerk, Pamela Prouty (TE-Windom).
PRESBYTERY VOTED to approve the agenda.

The roll was established as follows with 45 commissioners present. A quorum was declared.

Teaching Elders:

Karen Anderson-Dent
Elaine Boyd
Beverly Brock
Beth Buckwalter-Miller
Jeffrey Bullock
Beverly Crute
Andy Davis
Douglas Dent
Daniel Duggan
Michael Hartwell
Al Jergenson
Brian Jones
Randall Knuth
Jeanne Kumbalek
David Lick
Laura Messer
Pamela Prouty
Scott Prouty
Aaron Punt
Galen Smith
Penny Temple-Johnson
Steven Voris

COO Patty Brandts
COO Le Roy Ennenga

Ruling Elder Commissioners

Baxter - Edith Alvarez
Cambria - Roni Dauer
Crosslake - Steve Anderson
Dawson - Stan Menning
Fergus Falls - Connie Seltz
Foley - Bill Brauen
Kasota - Dan Honetschlager
Litchfield - Mark Kolle
Luverne - Barb Antoine
Osakis - Keven Withers
Randall - Terry Coffin
Renville - Carol Beekman
Round Lake - Lori Morrison
Saint Cloud - Karen Ondracek
Saint James - Jerry Olson
Saint Peter - Marge Johnson
Spicer Harrison - Lori Klose
Spicer Hope - Kristene Foreman
Willmar - Betty Knutson
Windom - Mary Klosterbuer

Commissioned Ruling Elders

Sue Goebel
Dennis Peterson
Kathy Terpstra

Guests

Karen Lange
Susan Berg - Litchfield
Tim Beekman - Renville
Sandy Wersal - Spicer Hope

Chairpersons not listed elsewhere

COL Louella Voigt

No corresponding members and no one needing voice were in attendance.

Commission on Operations (Attachment A)

Co-Chair Patty Brandt (RE, St. James) presented the budget. PRESBYTERY VOTED to approve the budget.

Commission on Representation (Attachment B)

Elaine Boyd (TE-Retired) presented the Commission on Representation report as presented in the packet with the additions of Mark Ford (TE-Baxter/Brainerd) for COL Class of 2026, Ordination Exam Reader 2024 Louella Voight (RE-Luverne), and Julia Prouty, (Mankato) 2024 General Assembly Young Adult Advisory Delegate

The floor was opened for additional nominations. PRESBYTERY VOTED to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for slate presented in packet with the three additions.

Executive Presbyter Report (Attachment C)

Beth Buckwalter-Miller (TE) presented her report in the packet with the addition of comments in regard to Advent.

Stated Clerk Report

Stated Clerk, Pamela Prouty (TE, Windom) gave her report that stated clerks have been working on the GA Statistical Report forms.

Installation of Presbytery Vice-Moderator

Installation of Sue Goebel (RE-Cambria) was installed as Vice Moderator by Moderator Doug Dent.

Adjournment

The presbytery was adjourned with the benediction given by TE Doug Dent (Fergus Falls) at 7:02 PM

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of MN Valleys will be Saturday, April 12, 2024 at 10 AM at the Ebenezer .Presbyterian Church, Renville.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Knuth, Recording Clerk and
Pamela R. Prouty, Stated Clerk

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Attachment B

**Committee on Representation
Report to
Presbytery of MN Valleys
December 4, 2023**

Those in italics are being recommended for nomination.

Moderator of the Presbytery (with a seat on the Commission on Presbytery Life)

2024 Doug Dent TE Fergus Falls

Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery (with a seat on the Commission on Presbytery Life)

2024 *Sue Goebel RE Cambria*

Past Moderator of the Presbytery (acts as chair for Commission on Presbytery Life)

2024 Leanne Thompson TE Willmar

Ordination Exam Readers

2024 *David Lick TE St. James*

2024 RE - OPEN

Commission on Presbytery Life

Past Presbytery Moderator Leanne Thompson TE Willmar Chair

Presbytery Moderator Doug Dent TE Willmar

Presbytery Vice Moderator Sue Goebel RE Cambria

2026 *Randy Knuth (2) TE Ellsworth/Rushmore*

2026 *Bev Brock (1) TE Foley*

2026 *Kevin Withers (1) RE Osakis*

2026 *Elizabeth Tot (1) TE St. Cloud*

2025 Scott Thompson (1) TE Willmar

2025 Jerry Olson (1) RE St. James

2025 Bonnie Roys (1) TE Retired

2024 Steve Anderson (1) RE Crosslake

2024 Jeanne Kumbalek (1) TE Kasota/Lake Crystal

Commission on Presbytery Operations

Operations is split into two sub-groups: Personnel and Budget and Finance (B&F)

2026 *Bea Hayen (2) RE Brainerd (Personnel)*

2026 *Patty Brandts (2) RE (Co-Chair) St. James (B&F)*

2026 *John Williamson (2) RE Spicer Hope (B&F)*

2025 Sherry Myers RE Willmar (Personnel)
2025 Brian Jones, TE Spicer (Personnel, vice-chair)
2025 Keith Lohse (3) RE Windom (B&F)

2024 LeRoy Ennenga (3)(Co-Chair) RE Worthington (Personnel)
2024 Penny Temple-Johnson (1) TE Cambria (Personnel)
2024 Laura Messer (1) TE Silver Lake (B&F)

Committee on Congregational Nurture

2026 Tony Oltmann, (1) TE, validated ministry roll, Crosslake

2026 OPEN

2026 Barb Wawrzyniak (1) RE, Silver Lake

2025 Rollin Haynes, (1) TE, Slayton (retired)
2025 Michael Roys (2) TE Retired (Winnebago)
2025 Kathy Knips (1) RE Lismore

2024 Darlene Scherbing (1) RE St. Cloud
2024 Sally Erdahl (1) RE St. Peter
2024 Galen Smith (1) Chair, TE Worthington

Commission on Leadership

2026 Michael Hartwell (2) TE Randall (Co-Chair)

2026 Anna Williamson (2) TE Renville

2026 Cory Germain (2) TE Fairmont

2026 OPEN

2026 Mark Ford, (1) TE, Baxter/Crosslake

2025 Marge Johnson (1) RE St. Peter
2025 Sonya Alexander (1) RE Redwood Falls
2025 Dennis Peterson (1) RE Harrison/Spicer
2025 Dan Honetschlager (1) RE Kasota
2025 Andrew Davis (1) TE St. Peter

2024 David Lick (1) TE St. James
2024 Scott Prouty (2) TE Redwood Falls
2024 Darin Seaman (1) TE St. Cloud
2024 Anne Veldhuisen (1) TE Marshall/Russell
2024 Louella Voigt (1) RE Luverne (Co-chair)

Permanent Judicial Commission

(These are all six year terms which are not renewable)

2028 Mike Butler RE Winnebago
2028 Deb Hess RE Redwood Falls

2027 Candace Adams TE Little Falls
2027 Karen Anderson TE Fergus Falls
2027 Elaine Boyd TE Retired, Willmar

2025 John Henke RE Saint Peter
2025 Norb Smith RE Mankato

Clearwater Board

2026 Jill Boeyink (1) Willmar
2024 Lenae Wordes (1) RE Renville

Lakeshore Center Board

2026 Tom Voigt (1) TE, Edgerton/Lismore

Synod Commissioners

2024 Scott Prouty (1) TE Redwood Falls
2026 Bev Raske (1) RE Renville

General Assembly Commissioners

Teaching Elder/Minister Commissioner

2024 David Lick, TE, St. James
Alternate Laura Messer, TE, Silver Lake

Ruling Elder Commissioner

2024 Sonya Alexander, RE Redwood Falls
Alternate OPEN

2024 Youth Adult Advisory Delegate: *Julia Prouty, Mankato*

Most terms are for three years and renewable for another term.

RE=Ruling Elder

TE-Teaching Elder

Attachment C

**Executive Presbyter Report
December 2023
Rev. Beth Buckwalter-Miller**

Since our last Presbytery meeting, I have continued to stay very busy with the meaningful work of our Presbytery!

October 22nd: In the morning, I had the joy of preaching at Spicer-Hope church and enjoying time with this terrific congregation.

October 22nd: In the afternoon I had the joy of celebrating the installation of Rev. Laura Messer at Faith Presbyterian in Silver Lake. I had the fun of preaching the installation sermon and celebrating Laura's unique call to ministry – a call that began in her childhood when the adults in her church not only loved and cared for her, but also saw and affirmed her gifts for ministry. How many pastors today are serving because someone in their childhood church saw what God was up to in their life and gave them opportunity to develop their gifts!

VACATION: Woo-hoo – Got to meet my newest grandchild: Little Josephine Abigail Kelly. She is a joy and delight, and rocking a newborn is medicine for the soul. Little “Joey” has a hearing impairment and is being fitted with hearing aids that she will need her entire life.

November 5th: I attended the “Light of the World” service led by Carol Meier. This is the same service we shared at our last Presbytery meeting, and a wonderful way to pray for the peace of the world together with other churches in our community. If you want to bring that service to your community, you can order it from Carol. She wrote all the hymns herself. It is an inspiring and beautiful service. (carolmeiermusic.com)

November 7th: The retired pastors in our Presbytery were invited to the Presbytery office for lunch and a good visit. It is always inspiring to spend time with these good folk. They reflected on the days of smaller Presbyteries and “clusters” in this Presbytery that helped churches feel more connected. Good food for thought as we think about building meaningful relationships in the future.

November 10th and 11th: The Synod gave me a ticket to the Anti-Racism conference that was held in Minneapolis. I attended both mornings via zoom and learned a great deal. A variety of interesting speakers and meaningful discussion helped me learn more about this topic.

November 11th: I met Rev. Galen and Cindy Smith in Worthington for dinner. We were enjoying a fun visit, when the man seated at the booth right behind us turned around. He had recognized my voice. It was Kyle Wendland with his wife, from Round Lake Church! Kyle is an elder in the Round Lake Church and had just preached his first sermon. He told us about it: It happened very unexpectedly when the scheduled pulpit supply pastor had to cancel at the last minute. Focusing on the beatitudes Kyle reminded his congregation that while the world often rewards people for their accomplishments and status, Jesus affirmed the least: the poor, the meek, the mourning. Jesus flipped what matters on its head and gave dignity and honor to those we might think of as the least. What a great sermon! Kyle is thinking about taking some classes through the Academy and exploring the possibility of becoming a Commissioned Ruling Elder. I hope he does!

November 12th: I had the joy of preaching in both Ellsworth and Rushmore. Here I also listened as Rev. Randy Knuth described the vibrancy of the Karen congregation that recently purchased First Church in

Rushmore and enjoyed my time with both congregations. I also saw Randy's kind heart for his people, his compassionate presence in their midst.

November 18th: I traveled to Luverne for the Christmas Traditions retreat. It was a great day – with cookie baking, crafts, and a delicious meal, and excellent teaching by Rev. Dr. Steve Voris as he helped us reflect on Christmas when our traditions must change. What a pertinent topic as we go into the holiday season! Strong, practical advice helped to reduce stress, anxiety, and dismay when traditions change. In addition, Rev. Dr. Voris mentioned Retreat Days as a meaningful way to bring a “cluster” of churches in a geographical area together for a day of fun and education. He will be helping us think more about that in days to come. Leading retreats together is a passion for Steve and Becky Voris.

November 19th: I worshipped in Pipestone. I took a little time before church to go out to the Pipestone monument and sit beside the beautiful waterfall there. It is a place that is soothing and centering. The worship service was meaningful, and I had an opportunity to reflect with the congregation at their coffee hour that followed on the changing dynamics of the church. I borrowed from Rev. Dr. Paul Snyder's material as we talked about the fact that prior to WWII very few churches had their own pastor. The baby boom necessitated that model, and the baby boom is over. Baby boomer pastors are retiring, and churches are smaller again, so we are going back to shared ministry, the model from the early church up until WWII. Our big churches with their own personal pastors were just a blip in the history of the life of the church. House churches, sharing pastors is far more the norm.

November 21st: I am writing this report on November 20th and am looking forward to attending the Litchfield session and their moderator, Rev. Scott Thompson, tomorrow evening.

THANKSGIVING: With plans to visit my sister three hours north of Willmar, near Hackensack, I have much to be thankful for as I count the blessings in my life. The good people of Minnesota Valleys Presbytery are at the top of that list!

PRESBYTERY OF MINNESOTA VALLEYS

Proposed 2024 Budget

| COMMISSION OR MINISTRY | Account Number | Account Name | 2023 Budget | 2024 Budget | \$ Change 2024-2023 |
|--|-----------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| COMMISSION ON PRESBYTERY LIFE | | | | | |
| | 5010 | CPL Expenses and Mileage | \$1,200 | \$1,200 | 0 |
| Meetings and Moderator | 5110 | Presbytery Meeting Expense | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | 0 |
| | 5120 | Presbytery Moderator | \$2,500 | \$2,500 | 0 |
| | 5130 | Recording Clerk | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | 0 |
| Ministries of the Presbytery | 5260 | Youth Triennium | \$3,500 | \$3,500 | 0 |
| Mission Connections | 5310 | South Sudan/Ethiopia TF | \$1,800 | \$1,800 | 0 |
| | 5320 | Occidente- TF Meetings and Travel | \$250 | \$250 | 0 |
| | 5340 | Occidente- Projects/Scholarships | \$4,000 | \$4,000 | 0 |
| | 5370 | Presbyterian Clearwater Forest | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | 0 |
| | 5375 | Lakeshore Center on Okoboji | \$4,500 | \$4,500 | 0 |
| | 5376 | Minnesota Council of Churches | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | 0 |
| | 5380 | Transfer to Peace Fund | \$0 | \$0 | 0 |
| | 5424 | Pastors Retreat (Moved to Congregational Nurture) | \$6,250 | \$0 | (6,250) |
| | TOTAL | COMMISSION ON PRESBYTERY LIFE | \$33,000 | \$26,750 | (6,250) |
| COMMISSION ON PRESBYTERY OPERATIONS | | | | | |
| | 5510 | COO Meeting Expenses and Mileage | \$900 | \$900 | 0 |
| | 5520 | COO Administrative Commissions | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | 0 |
| | 5530 | COO Legal Expenses | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | 0 |
| Per Capita Apportionments | 5600 | General Assembly Per Capita | \$51,039 | \$50,176 | (863) |
| | 5610 | Synod Per Capita | \$29,211 | \$28,160 | (1,051) |
| Financial Services | 5710 | Financial Services-SLAP | \$5,360 | \$5,360 | 0 |
| | 5720 | Business Resources Consultant | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | 0 |
| Presbytery Office | 5815 | Building and Grounds Maintenance | \$14,604 | \$15,078 | 474 |
| | 5825 | Telephone and Telecommunications | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | 0 |
| | 5830 | Internet Service | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | 0 |
| | 5835 | Postage | \$500 | \$500 | 0 |
| | 5840 | Office Supplies | \$2,000 | \$2,000 | 0 |
| | 5845 | Photocopier Supplies and Maintenance | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | 0 |
| | 5850 | Equipment Maintenance | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | 0 |
| | 5855 | Tech Support Fees | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | 0 |
| | 5865 | Care Fund | \$200 | \$200 | 0 |
| | 5870 | Campus Ministry Center | \$150 | \$150 | 0 |
| Transforming Events | 7520 | Camp Scholarships | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | 0 |
| | 7530 | Synod School Scholarships | \$1,600 | \$1,600 | 0 |
| | 7550 | Leadership Development-The Academy | \$2,500 | \$2,500 | 0 |
| | 8540 | Technology Grants | \$4,000 | \$4,000 | 0 |
| | TOTAL | COMMISSION ON PRESBYTERY OPERATIONS | \$130,563 | \$129,124 | (1,439) |
| STAFF SERVICES AND SUPPORT | | | | | |
| Executive Presbyter | 6010 | EP-Salary, Housing(\$40k) and SECA offset | \$92,923 | \$97,569 | 4,646 |
| | 6020 | EP-Pension/Medical Benefits | \$33,665 | \$35,348 | 1,683 |
| | 6030 | EP-Continuing Education | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | 0 |
| | 6040 | EP-Expense Account | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | 0 |
| | 6050 | EP-GA Expense Account | \$0 | \$0 | 0 |
| | 6060 | EP-Mid Council Leaders Gathering | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | 0 |
| | | TOTAL COST FOR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER | \$139,588 | \$145,917 | 6,329 |

PRESBYTERY OF MINNESOTA VALLEYS

Proposed 2024 Budget

| COMMISSION OR MINISTRY | Account Number | Account Name | 2023 Budget | 2024 Budget | \$ Change 2024-2023 |
|--|-----------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Admin Assistant | 6210 | Admin Assistant-Salary | \$50,400 | \$52,920 | 2,520 |
| | 6220 | Admin Assistant-Pension, Death and Disability | \$5,040 | \$5,292 | 252 |
| | 6221 | Admin Assistant-Major Medical | \$27,050 | \$28,944 | 1,894 |
| | 6230 | Admin Assistant-Cont Ed | \$500 | \$500 | 0 |
| | 6235 | Admin Assistant-Social Security | \$3,856 | \$4,048 | 193 |
| | | TOTAL COST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASST | \$86,846 | \$91,704 | 4,859 |
| Youth Coordinator | 6310 | Youth Coordinator-Salary | \$25,100 | \$25,100 | 0 |
| | 6335 | Youth Coordinator-Social Security | \$1,920 | \$1,920 | 0 |
| | 6451 | Youth Coordinator-Expense Acct | \$2,000 | \$2,000 | 0 |
| | 6452 | Youth Coordinator-Program Expenses | \$2,000 | \$2,000 | 0 |
| | | TOTAL COST FOR YOUTH COORDINATOR | \$31,020 | \$31,020 | 0 |
| Circuit Pastor | 6410 | Circuit Pastor-Salary | \$21,600 | \$21,600 | 0 |
| | 6420 | Circuit Pastor-Cont Ed | \$750 | \$750 | 0 |
| | 6430 | Circuit Pastor-Social Security | \$1,652 | \$1,652 | 0 |
| | 6440 | Circuit Pastor-Expense Acct | \$2,000 | \$2,000 | 0 |
| | | TOTAL COST FOR CIRCUIT PASTOR | \$26,002 | \$26,002 | 0 |
| | TOTAL | STAFF SERVICES AND SUPPORT | \$283,456 | \$294,644 | 11,188 |
| ECCLESIASTICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT | | | | | |
| Stated Clerk | 7010 | Stated Clerk-Salary | \$22,312 | \$23,428 | 1,116 |
| | 7012 | Stated Clerk-403(b) Annuity | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | 0 |
| | 7030 | Stated Clerk-Continuing Education | \$500 | \$500 | 0 |
| | 7035 | Stated Clerk-Social Security | \$1,707 | \$1,792 | 85 |
| | 7040 | Stated Clerk-Expense Account | \$2,000 | \$2,000 | 0 |
| | 7050 | Stated Clerk-GA Expense Account | \$0 | \$0 | 0 |
| | 7060 | S. C.-Mid Council Leaders Gathering | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | 0 |
| | | TOTAL COST FOR STATED CLERK | \$33,019 | \$34,220 | 1,201 |
| GA Alternate Commissioners | 7110 | GA Alternate Commissioners | \$0 | \$0 | 0 |
| Ecclesiastical Services | 7210 | Bills & Overt Cmte Exp & Mileage | \$500 | \$500 | 0 |
| | 7220 | Session Records | \$500 | \$500 | 0 |
| | TOTAL | ECCLESIASTICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT | \$34,019 | \$35,220 | 1,201 |
| COMMISSION ON LEADERSHIP | | | | | |
| | 5421 | 3-Year Grants to Pastors | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | 0 |
| | 7310 | COL Commission Meetings and Mileage | \$6,500 | \$6,500 | 0 |
| | 7320 | COL Conferences/Grants/Scholarships | \$4,000 | \$4,000 | 0 |
| | 7330 | COL Annual Consultations: Candidate/Inquirer | \$500 | \$500 | 0 |
| | 7340 | COL Leadership Summit | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | 0 |
| | 7450 | Coaching for pastors and church staff | \$15,000 | \$15,000 | 0 |
| | TOTAL | COMMISSION ON LEADERSHIP | \$37,000 | \$37,000 | 0 |
| COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL NURTURE | | | | | |
| | 7410 | CCN Meetings, Mileage, and Visitation | \$500 | \$500 | 0 |
| | 5424 | Pastors Retreat (Moved from Presbytery Life) | \$0 | \$6,250 | 6,250 |
| | TOTAL | COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL NURTURE | \$500 | \$6,750 | 6,250 |
| PRESBYTERY RESPONSE TEAM | | | | | |
| | 7610 | PRT Mtg Expenses & Mileage | \$0 | \$0 | 0 |
| | 7620 | CTD Camp Scholarships | \$0 | \$0 | 0 |
| | TOTAL | PRESBYTERY RESPONSE TEAM | \$0 | \$0 | 0 |

PRESBYTERY OF MINNESOTA VALLEYS

Proposed 2024 Budget

| COMMISSION OR MINISTRY | Account Number | Account Name | 2023 Budget | 2024 Budget | \$ Change 2024-2023 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION | | | | | |
| | 7710 | Committee Meetings and Mileage | \$500 | \$200 | (300) |
| | TOTAL | COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION | \$500 | \$200 | (300) |
| PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION | | | | | |
| | 7910 | Commission Meetings and Mileage | \$500 | \$500 | 0 |
| | TOTAL | PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION | \$500 | \$500 | 0 |
| | TOTAL | EXPENSES | \$519,538 | \$530,187 | 10,649 |

PRESBYTERY OF MINNESOTA VALLEYS

Proposed 2024 Budget

| INCOME BUDGET | Account Number | Account Name | Projected 2023 Income | Projected 2024 Income | \$ Change 2024-2023 |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | | |
| | 4000 | Congregational Mission Support | \$80,000 | \$80,000 | 0 |
| | 4004 | Presbytery Peacemaking Offering | \$0 | \$0 | 0 |
| | 4110 | Per Capita | \$233,684 | \$230,400 | (3,284) |
| | New | Circuit Pastor Pulpit Supply Reimbursed | \$6,000 | \$6,000 | 0 |
| | New | Circuit Pastor Moderating Reimbursed | \$2,000 | \$2,000 | 0 |
| | 4200 | Synod Support: Salary/Benefit | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | 0 |
| | 4410 | Transfer of Assets | \$172,854 | \$186,787 | 13,933 |
| | 4420 | Other Income | \$15,000 | \$15,000 | 0 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | | \$519,538 | \$530,187 | 10,649 |