

**PRESBYTERY OF MINNESOTA VALLEYS  
STATED MEETING  
OCTOBER 12, 2024  
FEDERATED CHURCH, FERGUS FALLS, MN**

Prior to the meeting Bev Brock (TE, Foley) led a commissioner briefing. Connie Seltz (RE, Fergus Falls) served as Chaplain of the Day.

The Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys met on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at the Federated Church, Fergus Falls at 10:00 a.m. The meeting started with worship. Presbytery Moderator Doug Dent preached on Luke 24:13-35 using the words take, bless, break, and give.

The Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Presbytery Moderator Doug Dent (TE, Fergus Falls) with prayer.

**Agenda, roll, quorum**

PRESBYTERY VOTED to approve the agenda as presented.

Doug Dent welcomed us on behalf of the Federated Church; the rest of the Mod Squad joined him.

A quorum was declared as seen below. PRESBYTERY VOTED to grant voice to Paige Kappes, Inquirer under care and Thijin Gatwech, South Sudanese Fellowship. The first-time commissioners and guests were introduced. The Presbytery Chaplain Connie Seltz (RE, Fergus Falls) was introduced.

<b>2024 Presbytery Attendance</b>	<b>Apr 13</b>	<b>Oct 12</b>	<b>Dec 12</b>
Candace Adams	X	X	
Aaron Alfred			
Karen Anderson-Dent		X	
Jon Armajani			
SanDawna Ashley			
Robert Bartlett	X		
Kathy Blair			
Levi Bollerud			
Steven Boots			
Elaine Boyd			
Beverly Brock	X	X	
Beth Buckwalter-Miller	X	X	
Jeffrey Bullock			
Chris Conlin			
Beverly Crute	X		

Andrew Davis	X	X	
Sue DeNio			
Douglas Dent	X	X	
Jerry Dirks			
Daniel Duggan			
Mark Ford	X	X	
Ernie Freund			
Tom Gard			
Eric Garner		X	
Cory Germain			
Edward Godshall			
Richard Harrison	X	X	
Michael Hartwell		X	
Rollin Haynes			
Sarah Hoogendoorn	X	X	
Allen Jergenson	X		
Dwight Johnson			
Brian Jones	X	X	
Randall Knuth	X		
Jeanne Kumbalek		X	
Raymond Larson			
David Lick		X	
John Lindholm			
Robert Maharry			
Lynne Matthews			
Laura Messer	X	X	
Ed Morgan		X	
Tony Oltmann			
Don Ottenhoff			
Pamela Prouty	X	X	
Scott Prouty	X	X	
Aaron Punt			
Wayne Purintun			
Herbert Rotunda	X	X	
Bonnie Sue Roys	X		
Michael Roys			
Patricia Schick			

Darin Seaman	X	X	
Galen Smith			
Paul Snyder	X	X	
Robert Springer			
Norma Spurgin			
Tim Sutton			
Penny Temple-Johnson			
Leanne Thompson	X	X	
Scott Thompson		X	
Elizabeth Tot		X	
Anne Veldhuisen		X	
Tom Voigt			
Steve Voris	X	X	
Barbara Whipple			
Anna Williamson	X	X	
William Yueill			
<b>Commissioned Ruling Elders</b>			
Jill Emery	X	X	
Sue Goebel	X	X	
Deb Klaassen			
Dennis Peterson			
Kathy Terpstra	X		
<b>By Virtue of Office</b>			
COL – Michael Hartwell		X	
COL – Louella Voigt	X	X	
CPL – Leanne Thompson	X	X	
COO – Patty Brandts		X	
COO – Le Roy Ennenga	X	X	
COO – Brian Jones	X	X	
CN – Galen Smith			
PW Moderator – Gloria Rust			
Moderator – Douglas Dent	X		
Vice Mod – Sue Goebel	X		
Past Mod – Leanne Thompson	X		

Ruling Elder Commissioners

Amboy – EXCUSE

Ashby – Donna Grover

Baxter – Budd McCulloch

Beaver Creek – EXCUSE

Blue Earth – EXCUSE

Brewster – EXCUSE  
Browns Valley – EXCUSE  
Cambria – Ronelva Dauer  
Canby – EXCUSE  
Crosslake – EXCUSE  
Dawson – Stan Menning  
Doran – EXCUSE  
Edgerton – EXCUSE  
Ellsworth – EXCUSE  
Fergus Falls – Connie Seltz  
Foley – EXCUSE  
Fulda – EXCUSE  
Holland – EXCUSE  
Iona – EXCUSE  
Kasota – EXCUSE  
Lake Crystal – EXCUSE  
Lismore – EXCUSE  
Litchfield – EXCUSE  
Luverne – Bill Stegemann  
Madelia – EXCUSE  
Maine – EXCUSE  
Mankato – John McKay  
Marshall – EXCUSE  
Maynard – EXCUSE  
Milroy – EXCUSE  
Mountain Lake – EXCUSE  
Osakis – Keven Withers

Pipestone – EXCUSE  
Randall – Christi Hartwell  
Redwood Falls – EXCUSE  
Renville – Joy Peterson  
Round Lake – EXCUSE  
Rushmore – EXCUSE  
Russell – EXCUSE  
Saint Cloud – EXCUSE  
Saint James – Patty Brandts  
Saint Peter – Marge Johnson  
Silver Lake – Barb Wawrzyniak  
Slayton – EXCUSE  
Spicer Harrison – Lori Klose  
Spicer Hope – EXCUSE  
Willmar – EXCUSE  
Windom – EXCUSE  
Winnebago – Jody Townsend  
Worthington – Le Roy Ennenga

#### Visitors

Karen Lange, Presbytery staff  
Bev Raske, Synod commissioner  
Gayle Stegemann  
Barb Dewey  
Thijin Gatwech  
Sudanese choir members  
Federated trio members

### **Consent Agenda**

The Consent Agenda was presented as follows

1. Approve the minutes from the Stated Meeting April 13, 2024 and the August 6, 2024 Special meeting minutes.
2. Receive the Stated Clerk's Report (Attachment A)
3. Receive the Executive Presbyter's report (Attachment B)
4. Receive Administrative Commission reports from Brooten and Jackson (Attachment C)
5. Receive the Commission on Presbytery Life report (Attachment D)
6. Receive the Commission on Presbytery Leadership #1 and #2 (Attachment E)
7. Receive the Commission on Presbytery Operations report (Attachment F)
8. Receive the Committee for Congregational Nurture report (Attachment G)

PRESBYTERY VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

### **Executive Presbyter Report (Attachment B)**

Beth shared that she had two things she talked about the need to fill up pastoral leaders within our churches. We have six stories from our presbytery where this has happened with students in seminary and/or the Academy. – Todd Ruble, Paige, Kevin, Thijin, Bailey, Jill. We have two worshipping communities – Compassionate Way and South Sudanese Fellowship and one more new one Nuer Network. God is working within our Presbytery. We are in a season of rebirth.

### **Stated Clerk Report (Attachment A)**

Pam talked about her experience at General Assembly and the unification of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of General Assembly. She then handed out certificates for commission/committee members who have completed their first or second terms.

She brought forth action to change the Operating Procedures in regard to the moderator team.

PRESBYTERY VOTED to postpone this decision until March 1, 2025 Presbytery meeting and to keep the current moderators, respectively.

### **Commission on Presbytery Life (Attachment D)**

Presbytery past moderator, Leanne Thompson (TE, Willmar) came forward with three actions.

PRESBYTERY VOTED to set the 2025 Presbytery meeting dates: March 1, 2025 in person, Foley, September 6, 2025 in person, Luverne, and December 2, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. On January 18, 2025 there will be a training event for all presbytery commission and committee member and officers in Willmar, the snow date for this event will be February 1, 2025.

PRESBYTERY VOTED to set the meal price at Presbytery meetings at \$15.00. We will look into a way to pay for these meals electronically.

PRESBYTERY VOTED to approve the seed grant application for Nuer Professionals Grant. Thijin Gatwech was invited forward to talk about what this new worshipping community will be doing.

Leanne shared information about Youth Triennium, which is this summer July 28-31, 2025 in Louisville. Tyann Jones will be serving as the Registrar. We are looking for people to serve on the Dream Team; if you are interested in serving, please talk with Leanne. The Dream Team will communicate information, facilitate the registration process, organize the details including, lead an orientation. The Presbytery will provide the transportation.

### **Commission on Operations Report (Attachment F)**

Co-chair Patty Brandts came forward with one action.

PRESBYTERY VOTED to set per capita at \$29.66 for 2025 for a total of per capita for General Assembly, Synod and Presbytery at \$46.00.

### **Commission on Leadership (Attachment E)**

Darin Seaman, (TE, St. Cloud) chair of the Preparation for Ministry Task Force. We welcomed Paige Kappes as the newest Inquirer. She is a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Willmar. She is attending the United Seminary in the Twin Cities on a part time basis.

## **Report General Assembly (Attachment G)**

David Lick, (TE, St. James) shared information about General Assembly. They are especially grateful to the Presbytery for sending alternates. He talked a bit about his experiences at the General Assembly. General Assembly 2026 will be in Milwaukee. The Presbytery will take action on the General Assembly business at its first meeting in 2025.

## **Synod Report**

Bev Raske (RE, Renville) “Queen Margaret” and Scott Prouty (TE, Redwood Falls) “King Harold,” Synod Commissioners gave a report about the Synod. They shared information about the mission and ministry of the Synod. This past weekend was the Falls meeting of the Synod via Zoom.

## **Welcome of new pastoral leaders**

Presbytery Vice-Moderator Sue Goebel (CRE, Cambria) and Past Moderator Leanne Thompson invited new pastoral leaders Eric Garner (TE, Mankato) and Velda Maine (UMC licensed pastor, Pipestone). They each shared a bit about themselves. Then their hands were anointed for ministry and a prayer was led.

Sue Goebel led us in a lunch prayer. We recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

## **Mission Partner Reports**

### **Compassionate Way**

Candace Adams, (TE, Mission partner) shared what a week in the life is like for her as our mission partner with The Compassionate Way. She was serving in Assisted Living facilities, facilities for senior adults, jails, domestic violence facilities, recovery houses, homeless drop-in center, leading compassionate connection circles, discipleship, delivering quilts, personal hygiene products, blessing baskets

Candace then led the Presbytery in the prayers of the people. Elizabeth Tot (TE, South Sudanese Fellowship) led us in the Lord’s Prayer in her language, Nuer. The South Sudanese Fellowship choir sang.

Elizabeth Tot shared about her ministry with the South Sudanese community in St. Cloud.

Leanne Thompson and Sue Goebel prayed and anointed our mission partners.

### **Offertory**

Kevin Withers (RE, Osakis) shared about the Peace and Global Witness offering. A trio from the Federated Church sang, accompanied by Presbytery Moderator Doug Dent while the offering was received. Kevin led an offertory prayer. \$425.00 was received.

### **Speak Out and announcements**

A time of Speak out and announcements was held. LeRoy Ennenga (RE, Worthington) was honored for serving the presbytery on a sundry of committees for over 40 years.

Bev Brock is organizing mission trip to North Carolina, if interested please contact her.

The pastoral leader retreat in 2025 will be the week after Easter, Monday-Thursday April 21-24, 2025 at Clearwater Forest.

## **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Communion was led by Presbytery Past Moderator Leanne Thompson (TE, Willmar) and Connie Seltz (RE, Fergus Falls).

The Presbytery adjourned at 2:30 p.m. with prayer and a benediction.

The next Presbytery meeting will be December 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela R. Prouty

Stated Clerk

## **Attachment Ad**

### **Stated Clerk's Report to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys October 12, 2024**

1. The 2023 minutes of the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys have been approved without exception by the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.
2. Since the April Presbytery meeting, I have attended Commission on Leadership meetings, attended a Synod Clerk meeting, a Presbytery Leader meeting, Presbytery staff meeting, attended Presbytery planning meetings, attended General Assembly where I served as a parliamentarian manager, attended Synod School, attended the Presbytery pastor retreat, prepared for this meeting, and answered questions, reviewed documents and more.
3. The Operating Procedures attached have one change which the Commission on Operations is bringing as a recommendation. The change has to do with the Presbytery Moderator. The recommendation is to add one person to the Moderator Team, so a person is elected as vice moderator, then becomes co-moderator for two years, then will serve as the past moderator. This would be a four-year term. The position descriptions are attached too. This action will come to the floor under the Stated Clerk report.



Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys  
Operating Procedures

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PRESBYTERY OF MINNESOTA VALLEYS  
OPERATING PROCEDURES

Article I: Purpose

A. Mission Statement (5/6/2000)

We, the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys, seek to be faithful to Jesus Christ by demonstrating and proclaiming the new reality in Christ through partnership with and support of our member congregations to establish justice, peace, and love.

B. Code of Conduct

Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment, and the second is like it. “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and prophets. (Matthew 22:37-40)

1. To glorify Jesus Christ, head of the Church, the members of the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys (PMV) will be guided by their ordination vows (W-4.4003), work together to discharge our duties in good faith, and with diligence and care, and use energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church. (Article I, Appendix 1)
2. During the conduct of presbytery or committee business, all members maintain their right to be present, to speak and to vote as long as self or special interests are fully disclosed. If the member with the conflict chooses either to participate or abstain in voting, this decision shall be recorded and reported. (F-1.0403 and MN Statute 317A.255)

Article II: Officers

- A. The officers (G-3.01014) of the presbytery are the Presbytery Moderator team (vice- moderator, co-moderators, and immediate past moderator) and the Stated Clerk.
- B. The Presbytery Moderator team election will happen in this manner: the vice-moderator will be elected, then will become the co-moderator for two years, then will become the past moderator.*
- C. The officers of presbytery act as the officers of the Corporation.
- D. Position descriptions for these officers are in Article II, Appendix 1-4 (Bylaws, Article II; Articles of Incorporation, Article VI).

Article III: Voting Membership

- A. When the number of teaching elders (G-2.0503) is greater than the number of ruling elders (G-2.0301), the stated clerk may invite additional ruling elder commissioners from constituent churches. This number will be determined and reported before the second stated meeting. If adjustment is necessary, the stated clerk will seek advice from the Commission on Presbytery Life.
- B. Ruling elders who chair the following committees shall be enrolled as members of the presbytery for the term of office:
  - Commission on Presbytery Life
  - Commission on Presbytery Operations
  - Commission on Leadership

Committee on Congregational Nurture  
Committee on Representation  
Presbyterian Women  
Permanent Judicial Commission  
(Bylaws, Article III; Articles of Incorporation, Article V)

#### Article IV: Organization (Bylaws, Article IV)

- A. Stated meetings of the presbytery shall be at the minimum twice (G-3.0304) a year. The Commission on Presbytery Life shall set the dates for Presbytery meetings and report them at the Annual meeting (the last meeting of the year). The Sacrament of Holy communion shall be celebrated at least once a year (G-3.0301b)
- B. Location: All meetings shall be at facilities which are reasonably able to accommodate attendance, keeping in mind the needs of people of all abilities and activities of the presbytery meeting, including technological needs.
- C. Exceptions to the location and date of stated meetings may be made by the Commission on Presbytery Life to respectfully respond to special events or invitations.
- D. Quorum: A quorum of presbytery shall be any five teaching elders and five ruling elders present, provided that at least five constituent churches are represented by ruling elders
- E. Meeting notice: The notice of all stated and special meetings of presbytery shall be emailed to all enrolled members of presbytery and each congregation no later than ten days prior to the meeting. Each session moderator shall be responsible for informing the ruling elder commissioner(s).
- F. Hosting Presbytery Meetings (Article IV, Appendix 1)
- G. In order that all members can fully participate in a decent and orderly manner, the following process will be followed:
  - 1. When a session or continuing member of presbytery has an item of concern or new business for consideration, the item will be taken to the relevant committee or task force in writing. The stated clerk can be consulted for determining the relevant group. If the session or continuing member is not satisfied with the response, then a petition to the presbytery may be submitted through the stated clerk.
  - 2. New business at stated meetings of presbytery must be presented in writing to the presbytery moderator and stated clerk by noon of the meeting day.
  - 3. A presbytery packet of all meeting materials is posted to the presbytery website 10 days in advance of a stated meeting (Article IV, Appendix 2)

#### Article V: Commissions and Committees

Purpose: To fulfill the presbytery's mission and ministry, commissions and committees are formed; they shall be constitutionally mandated or formed as needed.

- A. Terms of Office: Members of commissions and committees of presbytery shall be elected for a term of three years and shall not serve for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six years. Having served a total of six years, members shall be ineligible for reelection to that same committee for a period of at least one year. Replacement of members whose terms have not expired shall be for the remainder of that term. Chairs of commissions and committees are elected for one-year terms and are ordinarily eligible for reelection twice.

Commission and Committee member terms follow the calendar year. The officers (presbytery moderator and vice-moderator) will take office upon installation.

Exception to the above policy:

\* Permanent Judicial Commission (D-5.0102, D-5.0103, and D-5.0105): The term of each member of a Permanent Judicial Commission shall be six years. No person who has served on a Permanent Judicial Commission for a full term of six years shall be eligible for reelection until four years have elapsed after the expired six-year term.

- B. Commissions and committees may meet face to face, via video conferencing, conference phone call or other electronic means as long as there is a quorum present, the notice for the meeting includes an adequate description of how to participate in it and there is ample opportunity for deliberation. Each commission or committee has the opportunity to adopt further provisions.
- C. If a commission or committee is not chaired by co-chairs, then the commission or committee shall elect a vice-chair from among its members. The vice chair takes over in the absence or unavailability of the chair.
- D. Every commission and committee shall appoint a clerk who shall file minutes promptly with the presbytery office and shall promptly report action items to the presbytery through the stated clerk. The requirement for meeting documentation applies to every meeting method, e.g., email, conference call, internet meeting, or other approved meeting method.
- E. Annually, each commission and committee shall submit a list of planned expenditures to the Commission on Presbytery Operations.
- F. Commissions and committees may co-opt additional persons for a designated time and organize task forces, as necessary.
- G. Presbytery commissions and committees are:

- 1. Commission on Presbytery Life

Membership: The nine at large members of the Commission on Presbytery Life elected by the presbytery shall be active Ruling and teaching elders as defined in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Three members shall serve by virtue of office (the presbytery moderator, presbytery vice-moderator and the immediate past presbytery moderator) and the Presbytery Leader and the stated clerk shall serve as ex-officio members. The immediate past moderator will serve as chair.

Purpose: The Commission on Presbytery Life will:

- a. Plan engaging, informative and celebratory presbytery meetings, including the commissioner briefing and receiving the four church wide offerings.
- b. Provide ongoing oversight, review, and evaluation of Ministry Plan and Mission Design, proposing adjustments as appropriate
- c. Provide vision and strategy for the ongoing life of the presbytery
- d. Promote, encourage, and enable congregational participation in, and support of, Presbyterian mission, social justice concerns, and peacemaking initiatives, including but not limited to the presbytery's current mission connections:
  - i. Presbyterian Clearwater Forest
  - ii. Lakeshore Center at Okoboji
  - iii. New Worshipping Communities

- e. Develop presbytery-sponsored events – both regionally and presbytery-wide – to enrich the lives and enhance the ministries of our congregations
  - f. Nominate members to serve on the Committee on Representation
  - g. Develop and administer a communication plan for the presbytery to include the application of appropriate technology to the work of the presbytery
  - h. Encourage the formation of networks, task forces or other groups as necessary to implement the mission design.
  - i. Encourage and equip our congregations, individually, and as networks
  - j. Connect congregations with appropriate resources for their ministries
  - k. Challenge congregations in the development of new collaborative mission and ministry initiatives.
2. The Commission on Presbytery Operations
- Membership: The eight members of the Commission on Presbytery Operations elected by the presbytery shall be active Ruling and teaching elders as defined in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The presbytery moderator, the presbytery leader and the stated clerk shall serve as ex-officio members.
- Purpose: The Commission of Presbytery Operations will:
- a. Between the meetings of the presbytery, take actions on behalf of the presbytery to approve particular congregation’s property selling, encumbering, and/or leasing (G- 4.0206)
  - b. Provide oversight for the presbytery’s budgeted and designated finances, according to the presbytery’s Fiscal Accountability Policies (Manual of Operations: Article V, Appendix 1)
  - c. Provide oversight for the presbytery’s property (Manual of Operations: Article V, Appendix 1)
  - d. Act as Trustees of the presbytery in accordance with the presbytery’s Fiscal Accountability Policies (Manual of Operations: Article V, Appendices 1, 2 and 3)
  - e. Provide oversight of the presbytery staff and implement the presbytery’s approved personnel policies (Article V, Appendix 10, including G-3.0110):
    - 1) Hiring and dissolving relationships with presbytery employees and other contracted services.
    - 2) Conducting annual reviews of the presbytery leader and stated clerk
    - 3) As necessary hire additional temporary leadership staff to fulfill the presbytery’s mission.
  - f. Be responsible for maintaining communications with the Synod of Lake and Prairies and the General Assembly (G.3.0302: c, d, and e)
  - g. Appoint and dissolve administrative commissions (except for administrative commissions for ordination and/or installation of teaching elders) if need arises (G- 3.0109b)
  - h. Receive proposed changes to Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Operating Procedures and recommend action to presbytery.
  - i. Act on grant/scholarship requests from congregations seeking support:
    - i. for new, collaborative mission and ministry initiatives
    - ii. for well-articulated growth-oriented goals (Isaiah 43:19)

- iii. for upgrading technologies
- iv. for conferences, workshops, other learning opportunities

### 3. Commission on Leadership –

**Membership:** The fifteen members of the Commission on Presbytery Leadership elected by the presbytery shall be active Ruling and teaching elders as defined in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The presbytery moderator, the presbytery leader and the stated clerk shall serve as ex-officio members.

**Purpose:** The Commission on Leadership will:

- a. Provide support, resources, and care for our Pastoral Leaders (teaching elders and commissioned ruling elders) including the delegated presbytery authority to:
  - 1) Approve terms of calls (G-2.0504, G-2.08 and G-3.0109b3)
  - 2) Approve temporary pastoral relationships and contracts (G-2.0504b)
  - 3) Examine for presbytery membership and determine the category for membership (G-2.0503, G-2.0505, G-2.0506, G-2.0507, G2-0508)
  - 4) Appoint Administrative Commissions for installation and/or ordination (G- 3.0109 b2)
- b. Work with congregations and Pastoral Leaders in all areas of their relationships, including pastoral transitions including the delegated presbytery authority to:
  - 1) Dissolve pastoral leader's relationships (G-2.09)
  - 2) Appoint Session Moderators (G-1.504)
- c. Act on grant requests from individuals seeking support for conferences, workshops, other learning opportunities
- d. Work with inquirers and candidates on behalf of the presbytery as they move through the process of preparation for ministry as outlined in the Book of Order (G-2.06 and G-2.07) and the Advisory Handbook on Preparation for Ministry from the General Assembly
- e. Provide for the training, examination, and nurture of ruling elders seeking to be commissioned to pastoral service assuring that the training meets Book of Order guidelines (G-2.10)
- f. Work with congregations in exploring non-traditional staff models

### 4. Committee on Congregational Nurture

**Members:** The nine members of the Committee on Congregational Nurture elected by the presbytery shall be active church members and teaching elders as defined in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The presbytery moderator, the presbytery leader and the stated clerk shall serve as ex-officio members.

**Purpose:** The Committee on Congregational Nurture will:

- a. Develop relationships with and among the presbytery's congregations with a strong commitment to their overall health and well-being
- b. Conduct regular visits to each congregation
- c. Communicate the particular needs or concerns of the congregations to the appropriate presbytery entity.
- d. Recruit the members of and secure training for the Presbytery Mediation Team

### 5. Committee on Representation –

Membership: The six members of the Committee on Representation elected by the presbytery shall be active ruling and teaching elders as defined in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The presbytery moderator, the presbytery leader and the stated clerk shall serve as ex-officio members.

Purpose: The Committee on Representation will:

- a. Fulfill the constitutional responsibilities assigned to it in the Book of Order, G- 3.0103.
- b. Serve as the Nominating Committee of the presbytery, striving to fulfill presbytery's mandate of diversity and inclusivity.

6. Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) –

Membership: The seven members of the Permanent Judicial Commission Leadership elected by the presbytery are active ruling and teaching elders as defined in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Purpose: The Permanent Judicial Commission will:

- a. Fulfill the constitutional responsibilities assigned to it in the Book of Order, G- 3.0109a.

7. Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery (PWP)

Membership: All women within the presbytery who in any way choose to participate in, or be supportive of, Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery may be members of Presbyterian Women.

Purpose: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and to witness to the promise of God's kingdom.

Article VI: Presbytery Task Forces

Purpose: To accomplish specific tasks for the presbytery which are not currently being addressed by another presbytery committee.

- A. Requests for task forces may be submitted to the presbytery. The presbytery shall approve or deny requests.
- B. Membership is determined by passion and interest. Chairs shall be elected by the presbytery. The Committee on Representation shall present names for chairs of presbytery task forces in consultation with the task force.
- C. The task force shall submit a budget request to the Commission for Presbytery Operations for presbytery approval.
- D. Task forces are dissolved by the presbytery when the task is completed or when the interest has diminished.
- E. Presbytery task forces shall be listed in the Presbytery Operating

Procedures. Article VII. Amendments

Purpose: To make changes to the Operating Procedures or its Appendices:

- A. The Operating Procedures shall not contradict the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Constitution, the federal or state laws, the presbytery's Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws.
- B. For changes to the Operating Procedures: a presbytery committee or presbytery member shall send the suggested changes to the stated clerk who will refer them to the Commission on Presbytery Operations. The Commission on Presbytery Operations may recommend to presbytery the change for approval or suggest revisions or appoint a task force to study the issue.
- C. Proposed changes to the Operating Procedures shall be determined by a presbytery simple majority vote. If the proposed change has legal implications, the presbytery attorney shall be consulted, and the recommendation be reported.
- D. All proposed changes must be sent to members of presbytery and clerks of session no later than ten business days prior to the stated meeting.
- E. For changes to the appendices: a committee or commission is in charge of its own handbook or instructional manual and can make any changes it desires as long as these changes do not contradict the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Constitution, or Federal and/or Minnesota law; if in doubt, consult the stated clerk. Any proposed changes to any of the Policies within the appendices require presbytery approval. These policies include the Fiscal Policy, the Attorney Service Agreement, the Crisis Communication Plan, the Sabbatical Leave Policy, the Compensation Policy, Personnel Policies, the Inclusive Language Policy, the Chemical Dependency Policy, the Gambling Policy, the Sexual Misconduct Policy, Candidate/Inquirer Indebtedness and Records Maintenance Policy.
- F. The stated clerk is granted authority to make non-substantive changes to the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and the Operating Procedures, such as formatting, spelling, punctuation, and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Constitution or Minnesota Law references.
- G. A dated hard copy of all changes to the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and the Operating Procedures must be maintained forever in the presbytery office.

#### Article VIII. Records Management and

Maintenance Purpose: To preserve legal documents.

- A. Required Presbytery Records
  1. An official hard copy of presbytery minutes which after seven years will be sent to the Presbyterian Historical Society.
  2. All committee clerks are responsible to promptly file minutes at the presbytery office.
  3. Legal cases and loan agreements (satisfaction plus twenty years).
- B. Required Congregational Records, Storage and Maintenance
  1. When received, the presbytery shall store Bylaws, charter, incorporation records, annual reports, correspondence, newspaper articles, photographs, Church Information Form, and bulletins from special occasions.
  2. The current records will be kept in a fire-proof, locked file cabinet at the presbytery office. These records will not leave the presbytery office.
  3. Review of files will be limited to the presbytery leader, the stated clerk, the Commission on Leadership chair, the current teaching elder or commissioned ruling elder and the clerk of session.



4. Records of dissolved/closed/transferred churches will be kept at the presbytery office for two years, and then sent to the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for permanent storage.
- C. Required Teaching Elder and Commissioned Ruling Elder Records Storage and Maintenance
1. The following types of records shall be permanent for teaching elder/commissioned ruling elder: current Clergy Information Form, Ministry Information Form, actions taken by the Commission on Leadership, letters, legal cases, contracts, pastoral agreements, newspaper articles, photographs (when received).
  2. These records will be kept forever in a fire-proof locked cabinet in the presbytery office. These records will not leave the presbytery office.
  3. Review of files will be limited to the presbytery leader, the stated clerk, and the Commission on Leadership chair.
  4. The teaching elder or commissioned ruling elder has access to his or her own file under supervision of the presbytery leader, the stated clerk, or the Commission on Leadership chair.

Revised 2017, 2023

## **Appendix II, Article 1: Presbytery Co-Moderators' Job Description**

Two-year term

At the time of election, must be a Presbytery member (G-3.0104)

Responsibilities:

1. President of the Corporation. In this capacity, the moderator may attend any Presbytery commission, committee or task force meeting, with voice but not vote; and fulfill fiscal responsibilities.
2. Preside over the business meeting of Presbytery in an orderly and efficient manner in accordance with the most recent copy of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.
3. Act on behalf of the Presbytery for all Teaching Elder ordinations and installations.
4. Appoint all investigating committees, administrative commissions or other groups as needed in consultation with the Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk.
5. Convenes Presbytery Planning Team.
6. Provide pastoral care for office staff, including the executive presbyter and the stated clerk when needed.
7. Attend the General Assembly Moderator's Conference.
8. Responsible for including the vice moderator and the past moderator in the presbytery meeting business.
9. At-Large Member of the Commission on Presbytery Life

## **Appendix II, Article 3: Presbytery Vice-Moderator**

One-year term

Responsibilities:

s:

1. Preside over the business meeting of each called meeting of Presbytery in the co-moderators' absence or at the moderator's request.
2. Represent the Presbytery at meetings upon the request of the co-moderators.

3. Become moderator for the remainder of the term in the event the co-moderators' office would become vacant.
4. At-Large Member of the Commission on Presbytery Life and Presbytery Planning Team.

## **Appendix II, Article 4: Presbytery Past-Moderator**

### One-year term

#### Responsibilities:

s:

1. Preside over the business meeting of each called meeting of the Presbytery in the co-moderators or vice-moderator's absence or at the moderator's request.
2. Represent the Presbytery at meetings upon the request of the Presbytery Co-Moderators.
3. Become Presbytery Moderator for the remainder of the term in the event the co-moderators and vice-moderator's office would become vacant.
4. Serve as chair of the Presbytery Commission on Presbytery Life.
5. At-Large Member of the Commission on Presbytery Life and Presbytery Planning Team.

## **Executive Presbyter Report** **Beth Buckwalter-Miller**

### **October 2024 Presbytery Meeting**

It's hard to believe we have not been together in person since April! A lot has happened since then! Here are some highlights:

**Board of Pension Changes:** I traveled to Denver with Pastor David Lick to attend the Board of Pensions conference. Churches are actively navigating the changes to our dues structure now.

**Synod Meeting at Mt. Olivet:** This in-person meeting of Synod representatives gave us an opportunity to focus on the work we share together.

**Presbytery Leader Formation in Omaha:** This one-week conference provided training to EP's from across the country.

**Start of a New Worshipping Community:** I met with a representative from Budget & Finance, COL, Personnel and Presbytery Life as we explored the possibility of creating The South Sudanese Fellowship New Worshipping Community with Pastor Elizabeth Tot as the ministry leader. The Task Force concluded this was a strong initiative, the Presbytery voted to not only approve but also financially support the work, and our second New Worshipping Community was born.

**GA Preparation:** I participated in a variety of meetings to prepare for GA. A concussion and broken knee would end up disrupting my plans to attend, but I would follow the work of GA on zoom.

**Minnesota Council of Churches:** I participated in a special called meeting of the board for the Minnesota Council of Churches as we elected Elder Suzanne Kelly as the new CEO of the Council.

**Retreats:** I participated in a staff retreat at Lakeshore Center on Okoboji, and our Ministry Leader's Retreat at Clearwater Forest, appreciating both of our camps.

**Church Visits:** The South Sudanese Fellowship in St. Cloud, Silver Lake, St. James, Renville, Randall, Rushmore, Ellsworth, Blue Earth, Winnebago, Spicer, and Willmar would be places I would visit.

**Meetings:** Either via zoom or in person and including one meeting that was a gathering of our new pastors, I have continued to be involved in the meetings of our Presbytery. I also continue to meet weekly with our COL co-chairs and our Stated Clerk.

**And on a personal note...** I have purchased a home in Spicer and feel very excited about owning a little piece of Minnesota! I moved in on October 1st.

## Attachment D

### Presbytery Life Commission Report to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys October 12, 2024

*The vision of the Presbytery Life Commission is to encourage and enhance  
our common life as the Body of Christ.*

Per our mandate, Presbytery Life plans and coordinates upcoming presbytery meetings, interprets, and invites participation in the denomination's special offerings, and reflects upon the vision, mission, and structure of the presbytery.

In addition, we have been investing in building relationships with Specialized Ministries/Mission Partners and prayerfully discerning how to support them in the important work they do. These partners include:

- ❖ Elizabeth Tot – South Sudanese fellowship (St. Cloud)
- ❖ Thijin Gatwech – providing mental health & community development to South Sudanese community (St. Cloud)
- ❖ Candace Adams – The Compassionate Way: Church on Wheels (Brainerd)

We are deeply appreciative of these individuals and their particular gifts serving in specialized ministries and desire to support them. The commission is actively seeking the best way to utilize available resources to support these ministries.

As we continue the larger task of discerning how to live into the covenant relationships we hold with one another and make space for new and inventive ministries, we try not to lose sight of the very important tasks that are the responsibility of our commission.

To that end, we bring to you the following motions:

1. Motion to approve that Thijin Gatwech apply for a seed grant through 1001 new worshipping communities for the Nuer Professional Network. Thijin was encouraged to apply for the grant by a mentor from the Presbyterian Mission Agency. There is no financial obligation for the presbytery, but he does need our permission to apply for the grant.
2. Motion to increase meal charge for 2025 from \$10/meal to \$15/meal to reflect the increasing food costs for churches to provide meals for presbytery meetings.
3. Motion to approve dates for 2025 presbytery meetings:
  - January 18, 2025 - Presbytery Training Event, Willmar (Feb 1 Snow Date)
  - March 1, 2025 - In Person, Foley
  - September 6, 2025 - In Person, Luverne
  - December 2, 2025 - Zoom, 6:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Leanne Thompson  
Presbytery Life Chair & Past Moderator

**Office of Mission Program Grants**

Presbyterian Mission Agency, Presbyterian Church (USA) 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202-1396

[Office of Mission Program Grants](#), (888) 728-7228, Ext. 5099

[Chris.Romine@pcusa.org](mailto:Chris.Romine@pcusa.org)

**NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES SEED GRANT APPLICATION**

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer. (Acts 2:42, NIV)

[Click here](#) to subscribe to the New Church New Way Leaders Edition’ from 1001 New Worshiping Communities.

Date Prepared 09/12/2024

**New Worshiping Community / New Church Development (NWC/NCD) Name:**

NPN A New Way of Service to the Community of God

Does your NWC have a Church Change Form (CCF) or PIN # on File? Will be done in October (Please note that all NWCs must have either a CCF or PIN to receive grant funds)

Date Worshiping Community Began: 2022

Date of Investment Grant

Approval: Name of Worshiping Community Leader: Thijin Gatwech

NWC Address/City/State/Zip: 1702 9th Ave SE, Saint Cloud MN 56304

NWC E-mail Address: thijingatnyatot@gmail.com

NWC Cell # 716-491-2698

NWC Web Site Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of NWC’s Coach Princeton Abaraoha

(Please note that NWCs must have a coach prior to receiving an Investment or Growth Grant) Coach E-mail Address: pabaraoha@gmail.com Cell #214-251-9830

[PC\(USA\) Partner Congregation](#) First Presbyterian St. Cloud Phone 320-251-8277

(Click link above for Partner Congregation Guidelines)

Address/City/State/Zip 340 5<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Saint Cloud MN 56301 PIN # \_\_\_\_\_

3893 Contact Person Rev. Darin Seaman E-mail Address: pastordarin@fpcstcloud.org

Contact Person’s Cell Phone: (320) 428-1589 Position Pastor

**Presbytery Responsible for & in which the NWC is Located** Minnesota Valleys Phone 530-513-

0592 Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Beth Buckwalter-Miller E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**All new congregations begin as new worshiping communities but not all new worshiping communities will become congregations. Therefore, new church developments and new worshiping communities are both able to utilize this application.**

Being the church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century requires faithful creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurial leadership to reach new generations and populations. This grant is designed to encourage the birth of NWCs through congregations and presbyteries rather than to fund the expansion or support of existing congregations or programs.

In all cases, applicants for a Seed Grant will have spent time in prayer, discernment, and fact-finding regarding your call to address spiritual and/or physical needs in your communities and the resources necessary for your outreach. If the Holy Spirit is prompting your team to plant seeds, a Seed Grant may help with initial steps toward that vision.

The resource [Starting New Worshiping Communities](#) can assist in discerning whether to apply for additional grants following the Seed Grant.

**GRANT FUNDING AMOUNTS:** NWCs/NCDs may apply for a one-time Seed Grant of up to \$10,000. Matching funds are not required. Please see the definition of a NWC at the end of this document.

This application is available from the [Office of Mission Program Grants](#) website and allows the writer to add typing space as needed.

Please answer the following questions.

1. Describe your discernment process.

NPN is a new worshiping community dedicated to forming disciples of Jesus Christ while empowering the South Sudanese communities. As a Spirit-led gathering, we meet Christ through our shared commitment to entrepreneurship, professional growth, and cultural identity, allowing God's mission to shape our lives and efforts. Through worship and sacrament, we are called to join in the transformation of our communities by equipping individuals with practical skills and fostering economic independence.

NPN is a community that practices mutual care, supporting one another through collaboration, accountability, and the development of sustainable leadership. As we advance cultural awareness and address social challenges, we create spaces for individuals to encounter Christ's love and serve one another. Our commitment to economic growth and holistic development mirrors our calling to build a thriving, resilient community centered on faith and discipleship.

Empowered by the Spirit, NPN envisions a future where our people are connected, both spiritually and practically, leading lives of purpose in service to God and each other. Through our work, we participate in God's mission for the transformation of the of our communities.

2. How does this ministry fit, or intend to fit, each part of the definition of an NWC? Share some of your plans for how you intend to address each point in the definition of an NWC.

#### Seeking to Make and Form New Disciples of Jesus Christ

We aim to bring the South Sudanese communities to Jesus through discipleship, offering gatherings where generations can safely share their struggles and worship together. By providing mentorship and coaching, we help individuals grow in their faith while navigating life in a new country. Our events and conferences promote the importance of sustainable community and collective work as God's children. Through combining faith with practical life skills, we foster holistic community growth. Taking on Varied Forms of Church for Our Changing Culture NPN embraces the cultural shifts of the 21st century by offering flexible gatherings, both in person and virtually, to address the unique needs of our dispersed community. We create spaces that celebrate our cultural identity through business and careers development, music, and language, improvement, and art, while integrating Christ's message. By doing so, we allow people to engage with the church in ways that resonate with their heritage. Most importantly, we address family and community challenges in the diaspora using the teachings of Christ to guide us in discerning right from wrong.

#### Worshiping: Gathered by the Spirit to Meet Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament

NPN will continue to prioritize gathering as a form of worship, where the Word and Sacraments are central. We gather as a community to partake in deeply engaging with community spiritual guidance, reinforcing the spiritual nourishment of our members. Our concrete plan includes regular gathering and monthly social gathering support. We intend to train leaders who can carry out works we do in our community, youth mentorship, leadership development, teachable workshop support, spirited entrepreneurship making for each of our families. Sent by the Spirit to Join God's Mission for the Transformation of the World

Our ministry is focused on transformation—spiritually, economically, and socially. We plan to launch programs that combine entrepreneurship with faith-based community development, allowing members to engage in God's mission by uplifting their families and communities. This includes job training, small business support, innovations and initiatives addressing social justice issues, such as education and healthcare access.

## Community: Practicing Mutual Care and Accountability

NPN is built on the principle of community mutual support, with a focus on discipling accountable members. We plan to establish support groups and counseling programs that help members navigate personal challenges while staying connected in faith. Our youth programs, family counseling, and business mentorship initiatives encourage responsibility toward one another. As the community grows, we will set up structures to ensure leadership accountability and sustainable governance.

## Developing Sustainability in Leadership and Finances

We recognize the need for sustainable leadership and financial practices. Our plan includes leadership development programs to train new leaders within the community who can carry forward the mission of NPN. Additionally, we will focus on creating self-sustaining business ventures and leveraging community-owned enterprises to generate income that supports the ministry. We intend to offer financial literacy workshops and encourage stewardship within the community, ensuring both individual and organizational growth

### 3. How are you supported by and accountable to your partner congregation, your presbytery, and/or synod?

We intend to continue to serve as an extension of the presbytery and the congregation of First Presbyterian Church St. Cloud as our host church. We are grateful for the collaboration and partnership we have shared over the years since our inception.

We plan to be accountable to both First Presbyterian Church St. Cloud and the Presbytery.

### 4. How will you know if your plan is working and how you will adapt if you are not?

We know that our plan is working because the number of individuals we are serving are growing each month exponentially. We began this work with about 10 individuals and as of date we are reaching out to over 100 individuals a month.

The need in our community and the refugee community is immense. We see our work growing rather than decreasing.

### 5. How do you intend to use the Seed Grant money?

We plan to use most of the grant to supplement the leader's (Thijin Gatwech) salary. Thijin has used his meager income to support this ministry since 2022. This grant will serve as a lifeline for him and the work of this ministry.

**Note:** Please include links to your online social media presence, if available.



Please list below any funding that the NWC/NCD is providing and funding that is expected from presbytery and/or synod, if any. Please list under "Seed Grant," the amount that you are requesting the Presbyterian Mission Agency to disburse in support of the NWC. Finally, if another entity is providing resources, please list the amount under "Other" and describe in the "Comments" space below.

<u>New Worshiping Community</u>	<u>Presbytery</u>	<u>Synod</u>	<u>Seed Grant</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
_____	_____	_____	<u>\$10,000</u>	_____	_____

Comments:

---

This proposal was reviewed and approved by the appropriate mission strategy body of the partner congregation and presbytery. Those giving oversight or providing assistance should date and sign below. Synod review and approval of this proposal is required if the synod is providing funding.

The Office of Mission Program Grants makes grants in support of ministries that are related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). If a supported ministry separates from the denomination, the full amount of the grant may become due and payable.

**After obtaining appropriate partner congregation and presbytery approval and signature, e-mail as a single attachment the completed proposal to [Chris.Romine@pcusa.org](mailto:Chris.Romine@pcusa.org) at the Mission Program Grants office. Disbursements for approved proposals will be made once leadership has started.**

Note: If anyone signing below is a current member of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board, please inform the Office of Mission Program Grants staff.

9/16/24

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Partner Congregation Designee (If Applicable)

Before submitting this proposal for consideration, complete and submit it to the Office of the General Assembly Church Change Form (CCF) on behalf of the NWC/NCD to be supported. For information about this process, please contact Kris Valerius by e-mail at [kris.valerius@pcusa.org](mailto:kris.valerius@pcusa.org).

9/16/24

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Presbytery Executive, Stated Clerk or Designee

9/16/24

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Synod Executive or Designee (If Applicable)

**Attachment C**

**Administrative Commission Reports to the  
Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys  
October 12, 2024**

**Jackson**

We are waiting on the lawyer to finish up the official paperwork. Once this is done, the AC will request dissolution.

Galen Smith, Chair

**Brooten**

This Administrative Commission has not met; the work which needs to be completed is at the disposition of the church cemetery. We have researched many options to no avail. And we have talked with an attorney about options.

Stan Menning, Chair

## Attachment E

### Commission on Leadership Report to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys October 12, 2024

#### Actions taken at the May 2, 2024, meeting

1. COL VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda:
  - A. Actions of the Co-chairs
    - i. Permission for CRE Jill Emery to officiate communion at First Presbyterian Church of Foley on April 7.
    - ii. Authorize Ruling Elder Gordy Pennertz to administer the Lord's Supper at Harrison Community Presbyterian Church as needed from May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025
    - iii. Authorize Ruling Elder Hollis Davenport to administer the Lord's Supper at the Federated Church of Fergus Falls on January 7, 2024, while Pastor Dent is on vacation. Hollis has been trained and has previously officiated the communion service at the church.
    - iv. Appointed Andy Davis to be a "Colleague in Ministry" for Eric Garner. (We are moving away from the word mentor for new pastors in the Presbytery.)
  - B. By an email vote conducted April 23-24, 2024 the Administrative Commission for the installation of the Rev. Steve Voris at the First Presbyterian Church of Luverne on Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Members include: Teaching Elder Rev. Doug Dent, Fergus Falls (Presbytery Moderator), Teaching Elder Rev. Randy Knuth, First Presbyterian Church of Ellsworth and First Presbyterian Church of Rushmore, Teaching Elder Rev. Richard Harrison, retired, Ruling Elder Gayle Stegman, First Presbyterian Church of Luverne, Ruling Elder Randy Jacobs, First Presbyterian Church of Rushmore, Ruling Elder Cliff Lynn, First Presbyterian Church of Ellsworth, Teaching Elder Rev. Dr. Val Putman, Presbytery of South Dakota (Corresponding member), Teaching Elder, Karen Anderson, Director of Christian Education, Fergus Falls, Ruling Elder, Kathy Knips, Lismore, MN.
2. COL VOTED to approve the call of the First Presbyterian Church, Mankato to the Rev. Eric Garner with a start date of June 16, 2024. A fitness and suitability interview has been conducted. The EE/AEO guidelines were followed. Eric's membership will be transferred from the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks. He will become the moderator on the start date. The terms of call are as follows:

Cash Salary	\$31,000
Housing	\$50,000
Total Salary	\$81,000

Other Reimbursable expenses

Travel Allowance	\$750.00 at IRS rate
Professional allowance	\$500.00
Continuing Education allowance (cumulative to 3 years)	\$1250.00
Moving costs	TBD

Full medical, pension, and disability and death with the Board of Pensions  
12-week paid Family Leave (G-2.0804)  
Vacation of six weeks annually  
Continuing Education 2 weeks annually, cumulative to three years

### **Actions taken at the June 6, 2024 meeting**

COL VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda.

Co-chair actions –

- a. Authorize Ruling Elder Gloria VandeBrake (who has had training) permission to administer the Lord's Supper at FPC, Foley on June 2, 2024.
- b. Authorize Ruling Elder Keven Withers (who has had training) for one year June 6, 2024 – June 7, 2025, to officiate at communion during worship at FPC, Osakis and at the Galeon Nursing home when it's an extension of the Sunday worship service (W-3.0414).
- c. Dismiss the Rev. Andy Davis as moderator of FPC, Mankato on June 16, 2024.

### **Actions**

1. COL VOTED pending the completion of the background check and the suitability and fitness interview to approve the shared ministry agreement between Pipestone PCUSA and the Peace United Methodist church, Pipestone and United Methodist Licensed Local Pastor Velda Maine. The start date is July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. First Presbyterian will send a monthly check to Peace for its portion of the pastoral expenses (expenses for travel, professional expenses and continuing education are shared 50-50) plus pastor's compensation of \$36,349.84 and the housing allowance of \$10,000. The total salary is \$46,349.84 per year. FPC will pay \$3,862.50 per month plus expenses. Pastor Velda will be the moderator of the FPC, Pipestone upon her completion of a polity course; she will be taking an online polity class through the Association of Christian Educators (APCE). A mentor has been assigned.
2. COL VOTED (attached) to approve the 2024 Compensation report including a compensation waiver for Iona and Maynard.  
Active members annual reports not received: Aaron Punt and Herb Rotunda  
  
Validated Ministers and at-large members annual reports not received: Aaron Alfred, Daniel Duggan, Cory Germain, Ed Godshall, Elizabeth Tot, Barbara Whipple  
  
Retired ministers' annual reports not received: Bob Bartlett, Kathy Blair, Jerry Dirks, Tom Gard, Ray Larson, John Lindholm, Bob Maharry, Don Ottenhoff, Wayne Purintun, Patricia Schick, Bobo Springer, Norma Spurgin, Tim Sutton

### **Actions taken at the August 1, 2024, meeting**

1. COL VOTED to approve the actions of the co-moderators:
  - a. Appoint CRE Kathy Terpstra as mentor for Velda Maine, First Presbyterian Church, Pipestone, MN.
  - b. Dismiss TE Andy Davis as moderator at the First Presbyterian Church, Mankato, MN.
  - c. Appoint TE Andy Davis as the colleague in ministry for TE Eric Garner at Mankato.

- d. By email vote (June 14, 2024) COL appointed the Administrative Commission for the Installation of the Rev. Eric Garner to the First Presbyterian Church, Mankato, MN on June 30, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. The members included Presbytery Moderator TE Doug Dent, TE Andy Davis, St. Peter, corresponding member Rev. Jacqueline Vanderpol, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Boulder, CO, and Ruling Elders: Marge Johnson, St. Peter, Nora Henry, Mankato, Deb Hess, Redwood Falls.
  - e. Bev Brock has completed her boundary training.
2. COL VOTED to dissolve the Administrative Commission appointed to install the Rev. Eric Garner on June 30, 2024. The minutes are filed.
  3. COL VOTED to approve the terms of call for Velda Maine at the First Presbyterian Church, Pipestone. The background checks have all been completed positively. She will be the moderator upon completion of the polity course.
  4. COL VOTED to extend the shared ministry agreement between Brewster, Round Lake, and Worthington to December 31, 2024.
  5. COL VOTED to recommend the 2025 Compensation Policy to the Presbytery. This was approved at the special August Presbytery meeting.
  6. COL VOTED to add the following to the Compensation Policy:  
If the Board of Pensions Medical Plan is not currently covering children and/or spouse, the 2025 Board of Pensions dues will be 16% of pastor's Effective Salary for 2025. (This is known as the Congregational Pastors Package.) If children and/or spouse are currently covered by the Board of Pensions Medical Plan, the Commission on Leadership highly recommends that the church use the Transitional Plan for 2025, the 2025 Board of Pensions dues will be 33% of the pastor's Effective Salary for 2025.

The exception: If the pastor's spouse and/or children can be covered by an alternative employee medical plan that has no additional cost to the family, and the coverage is equivalent to the Board of Pension's plan. the church may choose the Congregational Pastor's Package. (16% of the pastor's Effective Salary for 2025)

COL recommends that any pastoral leader, such as Commissioned Ruling Elder, who works a minimum of 20 hours a week be offered one of the above plans.

### **Actions taken at the September 5, 2024, meeting**

1. COL VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda:
  - a. Approve Ruling Elder Kathy Knips of officiate at the Sacrament of Holy Communion on September 8 at Emmanuel First United Presbyterian Church, Rushmore and Zion Presbyterian Church, Ellsworth. Kathy has been trained.
  - b. Appoint Teaching Elder Jeanne Kumbalek as moderator of First Presbyterian Church, Amboy, MN.
2. COL VOTED to approve the Administrative Commission for the Presbytery Covenant Service for Commissioned Ruling Elder Jill Emery at the First Presbyterian Church, Winnebago, MN on October 6, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Members of the Commission include Presbytery Moderator Teaching Elder Doug Dent, Federated Church, Fergus Falls, Teaching Elder Bev Brock, First Presbyterian, Foley, Teaching Elder Michael Hartwell, Randall, and Ruling Elder Presbytery Vice Moderator Sue Goebel, Ruling Elder Bill Brauen, Foley, Cheryl Gorackowski, Winnebago.

### **Commission on Leadership Report #2 to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys October 12, 2024**

#### **Actions taken at the October 3, 2024 meeting**

1. COL VOTED to approve the Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Tom Voigt to the First Presbyterian Church, Edgerton and First Presbyterian Church, Lismore on Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. The members include Presbytery Past Moderator Teaching Elder Leanne Thompson, Willmar, Teaching Elder Lynne Matthews, retired, Teaching Elder Randy Knuth, Ellsworth and Rushmore, Teaching Elder Galen Smith, Worthington, Brewster and Round Lake, Ruling Elder Kathy Knips, Lismore and Ruling Elder Debbie Johnson, Edgerton.
2. COL VOTED to add Paige Kappes to roll of Inquirers.
3. COL VOTED to discontinue the Circuit Rider position.
4. COL VOTED to recommend to the Commission on Operations the 2025 Committee budget.

2023-2024 MINISTER/COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER COMPENSATION REPORT

Church & Minister	Position	Church Size (2023)	Total Compensation	SECA Allowance	Meets Minimum Salary	Meets Minimum Cont. Ed	Meets Minimum Vacation	Year of Ordination/Commission
AMBOY VACANT	VACANT	100	---	---	---	---	---	---
ASHBY Paul Snyder	Minister	95	\$72,234	✓	✓	✓	✓	2012
BAXTER Mark Ford	Minister	39	\$71,223	✓	✓	✓	✓	1999
BEAVER CREEK Pulpit Supply	Pulpit Supply	62	---	---	---	---	---	---
BLUE EARTH Pulpit Supply	Pulpit Supply	29	---	---	---	---	---	---
BREWSTER VACANT	VACANT	29	----	---	---	---	---	---
BROWNS VALLEY VACANT	VACANT	41	---	---	---	---	---	---
CAMBRIA and MADELIA Penny Temple-Johnson (60% Cambria, 40% Madelia)	Minister	100	\$55,859 M	✓	✓	✓	✓	2001
CANBY (10 hrs/week) Levi Bollerud	Minister	58	\$18,000					2012
CROSSLAKE Mark Ford	Minister	46	See Baxter	✓	✓	✓	✓	1999
DAWSON Herb Rotunda (UCC)	Minister	46	M					2002
DORAN Pulpit Supply	Pulpit Supply	17	---	---	---	---	---	---
EDGERTON (& LISMORE) Tom Voigt	Minister	109	\$63,042.85 M	✓	✓	✓	✓	2016
ELLSWORTH, RUSHMORE Randy Knuth	Minister	105	\$50,891 M	✓	No	✓	✓	1983
FERGUS FALLS FEDERATED Doug Dent	Minister	256	\$126,299	✓	✓	✓	✓	2001
FOLEY Beverly Brock	Minister	141	\$54,400 M		✓	X	✓	2000
FULDA VACANT	Minister	100	----	---	---	---	---	---
HOLLAND VACANT	Minister	80	----	---	---	---	---	---
IONA (27 hrs/week) Deb Klaassen	Commissioned Ruling Elder	46	\$38,400		waiver	✓	✓	2007
KASOTA Jeanne Kumbalek	Minister	99	See Lake Crystal	✓	✓	✓	✓	1989



Church & Minister	Position	Church Size (2023)	Total Compensation	SECA Allowance	Meets Minimum Salary	Meets Minimum Cont. Ed	Meets Minimum Vacation	Year of Ordination/Commission
LAKE CRYSTAL Jeanne Kumbalek	Minister	165	\$97,218	✓	✓	✓	✓	1989
LISMORE Tom Voigt	Minister	40	See Edgerton	---	---	---	---	---
LITCHFIELD	VACANT	46	----	---	---	---	---	---
LUVERNE Steve Voris	Minister	290	\$69,700		✓	✓	✓	1987
MADELIA (40%) Penny Temple-Johnson	Stated Supply	104	See Cambria	---	---	---	---	2001
MANKATO VACANT	Minister	268	----	---	---	---	---	---
MARSHALL/RUSSELL (50/50) (20 hrs/wk) Anne Veldhuisen	Minister	65	\$38,842	✓	✓	✓	✓	2010
MAYNARD Bev Crute (10 hrs/wk)	Stated Supply	11	\$5,400	waiver		✓	✓	1985
MILROY Pulpit Supply	Pulpit Supply	11	---	---	---	---	---	---
MOUNTAIN LAKE Pulpit Supply	Pulpit Supply	31	---	---	---	---	---	---
OSAKIS Pulpit Supply	Pulpit Supply	21	---	---	---	---	---	---
PIPESTONE	VACANT	171	---	---	---	---	---	---
RANDALL (26 hrs/wk) Michael Hartwell	Minister	73	\$44,755		✓	✓	✓	1991
REDWOOD FALLS Scott Prouty	Minister	130	\$71,164.86 M	✓	✓	✓	✓	1995
RENVILLE Anna Williamson	Minister	80	\$57,527 M		✓	✓	✓	1994
ROUND LAKE VACANT	VACANT	70	----	---	---	---	---	---
RUSHMORE Randy Knuth	Minister	56	See Ellsworth	---	---	---	---	1983
RUSSELL (pays 50%) Anne Veldhuisen	Minister	62	See Marshall	---	---	---	---	---
SAINT CLOUD Darin Seaman	Minister	336	\$84,878	✓	✓	✓	✓	2002
SAINT JAMES David Lick	Minister	183	\$72,233	✓	✓	✓	✓	2013
SAINT PETER Andrew Davis	Minister	166	\$67,584		□	□	□	2005
SILVER LAKE Laura Messer	Minister	69	\$67,177	✓	✓	✓	✓	2021

Church & Minister	Position	Church Size (2023)	Total Compensation	SECA Allowance	Meets Minimum Salary	Meets Minimum Cont. Ed	Meets Minimum Vacation	Year of Ordination/Commission
SLAYTON (50% time, share w/1 <sup>st</sup> Reformed) Aaron Punt	Minister	65						2012
SPICER, HARRISON VACANT	VACANT	52	---	---	---	---	---	---
SPICER, HOPE Brian Jones	Minister	156	\$85,949.74	✓	✓	✓	✓	2000
UNDERWOOD, Maine Robert Kersten (15 hrs/wk)	Stated Supply	40						???
WILLMAR Scott & Leanne Thompson	Co-Ministers	207	\$78,138	✓	✓	✓	✓	2006
WINDOM Pamela Prouty (20 hrs/wk)	Minister	93	\$41,117	✓	✓	✓	✓	1995
WINNEBAGO VACANT	VACANT	138	---	---	---	---	---	---
WORTHINGTON Galen Smith	Minister	141	\$84,095	✓	✓	✓	✓	1989

Commission on Leadership is clarifying compensation. Churches without data shown are either vacant or did not submit a report

Compensation does not include other benefits such as pension, continuing education, and professional expenses.

Continuing education greater than \$750 minimum is considered compensation (tax-free benefit).

Vacation in excess of minimum is considered in lieu of compensation at 1/52 of cash salary per week allowed.

Total Salary: Salary, housing or manse allowance, employer contribution to 403b, SECA allowance, and other allowances (e.g.: dental, medical deductible – other than Board of Pensions required coverage)

The letter “M” in the Total Compensation column indicates a manse is part of the compensation.

## **Attachment F**

### **Personnel Committee Report to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys October 12, 2024**

The Personnel Committee conducted annual reviews of the Presbytery staff: Beth Buckwalter-Miller, Pamela Prouty, and Karen Lange on September 12, 2024. All the reviews were good. The Personnel Committee is recommending a 5% increase in salary for 2025 for each of our staff. We are grateful for our staff.

We will hold a Christmas luncheon for the staff on December 3, 2024.

### **Commission on Presbytery Operations - Budget and Finance Task Force Report to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys October 12, 2024**

We met via Zoom on April 25, May 23, June 27, August 22, and September 26.

#### **Financial Review:**

- Financial position is strong with investments continuing to perform favorably, although about 23% less than last YTD.
- Expenses are in line with amounts budgeted, after adjusting for unfilled Youth Coordinator and Circuit Pastor positions as well as COL grants unspent through August.
- Annual remittances from churches for special offerings and greater causes through August was over \$58,000 with \$25,027 for One Great Hour of Sharing and \$11,126 for the 2022 Christmas Joy Offering.

#### **Approved scholarship/grant requests for the following:**

First St. Cloud Camp \$ 600.00  
Hope Spicer Camp \$ 525.00  
First Fulda Camp \$ 375.00  
First Mankato Synod School \$ 700.00  
First Foley Camp \$ 225.00  
First Canby Camp \$ 300.00  
First Willmar Camp \$ 300.00  
Federated Fergus Falls Camp \$ 225.00  
First Windom Technology \$ 554.95  
First Redwood Falls Camp \$ 375.00  
First Pipestone Missions \$ 2,500.00

Commission on Operations reviewed a proposal from Hope Presbyterian Church in Spicer to sell excess land. We determined that the criteria set forth in the Church Sale Policy were met and approved of the following terms:

- Sale Price – \$10,500

- Legal Description – All that portion of a vacated township road formerly County Road No. 144, lying in Block 1, Hillview Park, according to the plat thereof, which is described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of Lot 12, Block 1, Hillview Park; thence along an extension southeastward of the southwest Lot line of said Lot 12, a distance of 33 feet to a broken line as shown on the Plat of Hillview Park, said point being the point of beginning of the tract herein described; thence along said broken line in a northeasterly direction and reversing to a southeasterly direction to a point which is the intersection of said broken line with an extension southwestward of the southeast lot line of Lot 10, Block 1, Hillview Park; thence northeastward to the southwest corner of said Lot 10; thence southeasterly along the southwest lot lines of Lots 9 and 8, Block 1, Hillview Park to the Northwesterly corner of Lot 7, Block 1, Hillview Park; thence southwesterly along a line drawn from the Northwesterly corner of said Lot 7 to the center point of the loop on said vacated road, which center point is shown on the plat of Hillview Park as a point from which extend two 33 foot radii, a distance of 33 feet to the broken line as shown on the Plat of Hillview Park; thence southerly along said broken line as shown on the Plat of Hillview Park to its intersection with a line drawn from the Southwest corner of said Lot 7 to the center point of the loop on said vacated road, which center point is shown on the plat of Hillview Park as a point from which extend two 33 foot radii; thence southeasterly along last said line, to the Southwest corner of said Lot 7; thence southwesterly along the Northwest line of Lot 5, Block 1, Hillview Park to the Northeast corner of Lot 4, Block 1, Hillview Park; thence on a straight line back to the point of beginning.

Commission on Operations recommends endorsing a \$10,000 seed grant from the 1001 New Worshipping Community program for the Nuer Professionals Network started by Thijin Gatwech.

Preliminary 2025 Per Capita:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
PMV	\$29.66	\$29.70
Synod	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.50
GA	<u>\$10.84</u>	<u>\$ 9.80</u>
TOTAL	\$46.00	\$45.00

## **Attachment G**

### **General Assembly Report to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys October 12, 2024**

Hello! My name is Julia Prouty. I currently live in Logan, Utah while I am attending graduate school at Utah State University. I'm a member at First Presbyterian Church, Mankato.

I served as a young adult advisory delegate (YAAD) at the 226th General Assembly in Salt Lake City. I was part of the Race, Sexuality and Gender Justice Committee (RSG). Some of the business my committee covered was recognizing March 31st as Transgender Day of Visibility in all future printings and distributions of the Presbyterian Planning Calendar. A second piece of business covered was the reimagining of the Hispanic Latino/a/e/x ministry in the PC(USA) by working to help promote theological education, address the response of reparations, and encouraging a renewed commitment for mid council to offer support.

It was inspiring to be around Presbyterians of all ages and see the larger church at work. I enjoyed my time as a YAAD, being part of the RSG committee, as well as serving along with Sonya and David. The stated clerk and her husband along with the amazing alternative commissioners (shout out Laura and Lou) provided us with great treats throughout plenary ;) Thank you all for your support!

#### **Committee on Congregational Nurture Report to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys October 12, 2024**

The Committee members continue to reach out to the congregations. We reassigned some committee liaison responsibilities to reach as many of the congregations as possible.

On behalf of the committee, Barb Wawrzyniak is attempting to connect with retired pastors who reside in the presbytery.

The ministry leaders retreat was Sept. 15-18 at Clearwater Forest Camp and Retreat Center. We had 13 pastors and other ministry leaders present. Rev. Steve Tyykila led us as we explored individual character traits in role playing games and how they appear in scripture.