

PRESBYTERY OF MINNESOTA VALLEYS STATED MEETING

Saturday, March 1, 2025

First Presbyterian Church – Foley

Prior to the Presbytery meeting, a Commissioner Briefing was led by Ruling Elder Jerry Olson (St. James).

Presbytery Co-Moderator Teaching Elder (TE) Douglas Dent (Fergus Falls, Federated) called the stated meeting of the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys to order at 10:05 a.m. on Saturday, March 1, 2025 the First Presbyterian Church, Foley, MN.

Worship was led by Vice Moderator Ruling Elder (RE) Bill Stegemann (Luverne). TE Beverly Brock (Foley) preached on Matthew 6:25-34 she talked about striving first for God's Kingdom and not worrying about day to day things.

Co-Moderator Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) Sue Goebel, opened the meeting with prayer at 10:32 AM

Agenda, Welcome, Roll, Quorum

Stated Clerk TE Pamela Prouty (Windom) presented the agenda with the addition of prayers of the people to be after the Speak Out. Presbytery VOTED to approve the agenda.

Rev. Bevely Brock welcomed the Presbytery to the First Presbyterian Church of Foley.

A quorum was present as indicated in the roll below.

PRESBYTERY VOTED to seat the TE Sara Sutter a member of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa, Lakeshore Center Director as a corresponding member. First-time Commissioners and Guests were introduced.

2025 Presbytery Attendance	Mar 1	Sep 6	Dec 2
Candace Adams	X		
Aaron Alfred			
Karen Anderson-Dent			
Jon Armajani			
SanDawna Ashley			
Robert Bartlett			
Kathy Blair			
Levi Bollerud			
Steven Boots			
Elaine Boyd	X		
Beverly Brock	X		
Beth Buckwalter-Miller	X		
Jeffrey Bullock			
Chris Conlin			
Beverly Crute	X		
Andrew Davis	X		
Sue DeNio			
Douglas Dent	X		

Jerry Dirks			
Robert Drake			
Daniel Duggan			
Mark Ford	X		
Thomas Gard			
Eric Garner			
Cory Germain			
Edward Godshall			
Richard Harrison			
Michael Hartwell	X		
Rollin Haynes			
Sarah Hoogendoorn			
Allen Jergenson			
Dwight Johnson			
Brian Jones			
Randall Knuth	X		
Jeanne Kumbalek	X		
Raymond Larson			
David Lick	X		
John Lindholm			
Robert Maharry			
Lynne Matthews			
Laura Messer	X		
Ed Morgan			
Tony Oltmann			
Don Ottenhoff			
Pamela Prouty	X		
Scott Prouty			
Aaron Punt			
Wayne Purintun			
Herbert Rotunda			
Bonnie Sue Roys			
Michael Roys			
Patricia Schick			
Darin Seaman	X		
Galen Smith	X		
Paul Snyder	X		
Robert Springer			
Norma Spurgin			
Tim Sutton			
Penny Temple-Johnson			

Leanne Thompson	X		
Scott Thompson			
Elizabeth Tot			
Anne Veldhuisen			
Tom Voigt			
Steve Voris	X		
Barbara Whipple			
Anna Williamson	X		
William Yueill	X		
Commissioned Ruling Elders			
Jill Emery	X		
Sue Goebel	X		
Deb Klaassen			
Velda Maine			
Dennis Peterson			
Kathy Terpstra	X		
By Virtue of Office			
COL – Andy Davis	X		
COL – Louella Voigt			
CPL – Leanne Thompson	X		
COO – Patty Brandts	X		
COO – Brian Jones			
Representation – Andy Davis	X		
PW Moderator – Gloria Rust			
Co-Moderator – Douglas Dent	X		
Co-Moderator – Sue Goebel	X		
Vice Mod – Bill Stegemann	X		
Past Mod – Leanne Thompson	X		

Ruling Elder Commissioners

Amboy – EXCUSE

Ashby – EXCUSE

Baxter – Budd McCulloch

Beaver Creek – EXCUSE

Blue Earth – EXCUSE

Brewster – EXCUSE

Browns Valley – EXCUSE

Cambria – EXCUSE

Canby – EXCUSE

Crosslake – EXCUSE

Dawson – Stan Menning

Doran – EXCUSE

Edgerton – EXCUSE

Ellsworth – EXCUSE

Fergus Falls – Connie Seltz

Foley – Bill Brauen

Fulda – EXCUSE

Holland – EXCUSE

Iona – EXCUSE

Kasota – EXCUSE

Lake Crystal – EXCUSE

Lismore – EXCUSE

Litchfield – Mark Kolle

Luverne – Gayle Stegemann

Madelia – EXCUSE

Maine – EXCUSE

Mankato – EXCUSE

Marshall – EXCUSE

Maynard – EXCUSE

Milroy – EXCUSE
Mountain Lake – EXCUSE
Osakis – Keven Withers
Pipestone – EXCUSE
Randall – Terry Coffin
Redwood Falls – Sonya Alexander
Renville – Joy Peterson
Round Lake – EXCUSE
Rushmore – EXCUSE
Russell – EXCUSE
Saint Cloud – Randy Hammond
Saint James – Jerry Olson
Saint Peter – Marge Johnson
Silver Lake – EXCUSE

Slayton – EXCUSE
Spicer Harrison – Lori Klose
Spicer Hope – Steve Barney
Willmar – Sheila Sjerven
Windom – EXCUSE
Winnebago – Cheryl Gorackowski
Worthington – Le Roy Ennenga

Visitors

Karen Lange, Presbytery staff
Sara Sutter – Lakeshore Center at Okoboji
Christi Hartwell – Randall
Christina Hebrink – Renville
Julie Olson – Saint James

Consent Agenda

The Stated Clerk presented the Consent Agenda as follows:

**CONSENT AGENDA FOR THE
PRESBYTERY OF MINNESOTA VALLEYS**

1. Approve the minutes from the Stated Meeting December 12, 2024
2. Receive the Stated Clerk's Report
3. Receive the Executive Presbyter's report (Attachment A)
4. Receive Administrative Commission report from Brooten (Attachment B)
5. Receive the Committee on Presbytery Life report (Attachment D)
6. Receive the Commission on Presbytery Leadership (Attachment C)
7. Receive the Commission on Presbytery Operations report (Attachment E)
8. Receive the Mod Squad (Presbytery Moderators) Commission Report (Attachment F)

Presbytery VOTED to approve the Consent Agenda

Stated Clerk's Report

Pamela Prouty talked about the Session Record Reviews which will be held this summer. She is planning a zoom meeting for all the clerks. Information about all of this will be emailed. The Stated Clerk presented the report as follows:

**Stated Clerk's Report
Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys
March 1, 2025**

1. The Permanent Judicial Commission roster of former members per D-5.0206b: Rev. Bob Bartlett (class of 2019), Ruling Elder Deb Hess, Ruling Elder Stan Menning, and Ruling Elder Judy Oldemeyer (Class of 2021).
2. I have reviewed the numbers of ruling elders and teaching elders for Presbytery membership. We have 50 ruling elder commissioners, six commissioned ruling elders, two ruling elders who chair a Presbytery commission and two ruling elders who serve as officers of the Presbytery (co-moderator and vice moderator) which is a total of 58 ruling elders who have voice and vote at a presbytery meeting. As of today, we have 66 Teaching Elders on our rolls; eight (all retired) of whom live outside our bounds which

totals 61 Teaching Elders who have voice and vote at a presbytery meeting. According to our Operating Procedures, Article 3, the numbers are acceptable.

3. The minister identification cards will be available after March 1, 2025. They will be mailed out to each Presbyterian minister member.
4. The General Assembly Statistical reports have been submitted.
5. The annual Middle Governing Body forms have been submitted to the General Assembly.
6. The official documents of the Presbytery: Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Operating Procedures are all current and available on the website or by contacting me.
7. What has the clerk been up to? She regularly attends the COL meetings, takes their minutes and COL Leadership weekly meetings. She meets regularly with the Mod Squad and the Leadership Team (Commission/committee chairs), and other Presbytery commissions and committees as requested. I meet weekly with Cohort Q. I answer many a question from Presbytery members, clerks of sessions and others. I keep up on all the official paperwork of the Presbytery. This year I'm teaching a class at United Seminary, St. Paul, MN, on Presbyterian Polity, Worship and History. And then I also served as the Synod Stated Clerk and pastor to the good folks of Windom.

Executive Presbyter Report (Attachment A)

Executive Presbyter TE Beth Buckwalter Miller presented her report. She highlighted the upcoming meeting at the end of the month to be held in Worthington in regard to New Models for Ministry.

Occidente Presbytery Report

Recently a delegation travelled to Occidente Presbytery in Guatemala as a "final" tour. PMV voted previously to end our relationship with them. TE Mark Ford (Lakes Area & Crosslake), TE Elaine Boyd (retired) and TE Jeanne Kumbalek (Lake Crystal & Kasota) were all a part of this delegation. They were able to visit many of the sites where PMV had done work include installing water projects, fixing manses and quilting and other sewing projects. Also they participated in a presbytery meeting where Mark preached. Occidente Presbytery was presented with a communion set. Continued prayers are requested for the people and congregations of the Occidente Presbytery.

Commission on Leadership Report (Attachment C)

Andy Davis (TE, St. Peter) brought the 2025 Presbytery membership roll for action. He noted that we have received the Rev. Robert Drake on transfer from the Presbytery of Northern Plains; his statement of faith is included in the minutes. PRESBYTERY VOTED to approve the 2025 Presbytery membership roll.

Then David Lick (TE, St. James), a member of COL was called upon to talk about sabbatical grants. PRESBYTERY VOTED to create \$2,000.00 sabbatical grants for congregational use when their pastoral leader goes on a sabbatical. Congregations shall be current on their per capita and the pastoral leader must submit a report to COL at the completion of the sabbatical.

Administrative Commission – Holland, MN church (Attachment F)

David also talked about the formation of an Administrative Commission to guide the Holland church as they leave the denomination. The Mod Squad Commission approved this administrative commission.

Committee on Presbytery Life (Attachment D)

Chair Leanne Thompson (TE, Willmar) brought forth a nomination to the Committee on Representation. The names of Elaine Boyd (TE, retired) and Kathy Knips (RE, Lismore) were placed into nomination. The floor was opened for additional nominations. PRESBYTERY VOTED to cease nominations and elect them both for a term ending in 2027.

Committee on Representation

Andy Davis (TE, St. Peter) brought forth a nomination to the Committee on Presbytery Life, Daniel Tiffany from the Redwood Falls church. The floor was opened for additional nomination. PRESBYTERY VOTED to cease nominations and elect him for a term ending in 2027.

Clearwater Forest

Andy Davis (TE, St. Peter) and a Clearwater Forest Board member gave a report about Clearwater Forest. A pastor's retreat will be held Fall 2025. They are kicking off a capital campaign to build a new multi-purpose building. Camp attendance is increasing. They are celebrating 100 years of Eagle Lodge, one of the original buildings. This summer they will again have the Clearwater Fest in July. Pastoral Leaders are always welcome to stay in the hermitage for free.

Lakeshore Center

Sara Sutter, Lakeshore Director shared that the mortgage on the Lodge has been paid off. A Health Span retreat is coming up this Spring. They are looking at 2025 as a year of discernment. This past summer after all the flooding, there were fortunate to host Ameri Corps who were helping with the cleanup in Spencer, IA. Pastoral Leaders are always welcome to stay for free for a time of spiritual reflection.

General Assembly Amendments (Attachment G)

GA commissioners Sonya Alexander (RE, Redwood Falls) and David Lick (TE, St. James) presented the amendments to the Book of Order. They shared the rationale behind them and how the voting happened at the General Assembly. The amendments were presented as a Consent Agenda. Item 24-A was removed. The PRESBYTERY VOTED to approve amendments 24B-24M. Amendment 24-A was presented and discussed. PRESBYTERY VOTED to approve amendment 24-A.

Presbytery recessed for lunch with a prayer led by Vice-moderator Bill Stegemann (RE, Luverne). Presbytery reconvened at 12:45 with the hymn "In the Bulb There is a Flower."

Offering

Kevin Withers (RE, Osakis) presented the Minute for Mission on One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. \$605 total was collected in cash, checks and online donations for the OGHS offering. Kevin led the prayer of dedication. During the offertory, the 2024 Necrology report was presented as a slideshow.

Retirement service for the Rev Michael Hartwell (1991) and the Rev. Anna Williamson (1994)

Michael Hartwell (TE, Randall) and Anna Williamson (TE, Renville) were honored for their retirement. Darin Seaman (TE, St. Cloud) spoke on behalf of Michael and Leanne Thompson (TE, Willmar) spoke on behalf of Anna. Both were presented with gifts from the Presbytery. Co-moderator Sue Goebel led the ritual of retirement.

Speak Out and Announcements

A time of Speak Out and Announcements was shared.

Prayers of the People

Several prayer requests had been shared. The Presbytery joined in a time of prayer.

New Business

There was no new business.

Celebration of The Lord's Supper

The Presbytery sang the hymn "Let Us Tongues and Talents Employ. Michael Hartwell (TE, Randall) and Anna Williamson (TE, Renville) officiated at the Sacrament.

Benediction and Adjournment

Presbytery received the benediction and was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys will be Saturday, September 6, 2025 at First Presbyterian Church, Luverne.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela R. Prouty, Stated Clerk

Attachment A

Executive Presbyter Report

Church Visits: I have made in-person visits to our congregations in Holland, Renville, Litchfield, Windom, Willmar, Spicer, Randall, and Saint Cloud.

Zoom Visits: In addition to in person visits, I have had opportunity to meet with several pastors over zoom as we continue to explore the “consortium” idea for church partnerships.

Presbytery Training Day: I participated in the Saturday training day for our Presbytery Commissions. The morning was spent in a book study of “The Great Dechurching,” which led to helpful conversation. In the afternoon, the commissions/committees had their first meeting of the new year.

Commission/Committee Meetings: I meet with our various commissions and committees whenever they meet. In addition, I meet with our Stated Clerk and COL co-chairs weekly.

My attention has been focused in two ways in recent days:

1. Minnesota Council of Churches:

I am a board member of the Minnesota Council of Churches. The MCC is involved in refugee resettlement and their funding has been threatened in recent weeks. This has resulted in emergency correspondence and meetings with the Board. Here is a link to the Council’s website if you would like to learn more about how they work to resettle immigrants, all of whom are here legally: [About Refugees | Minnesota Council of Churches](#)

I am working actively not only with the MN Council of Churches but also with our Office of Immigration and with the National Immigration Project to discover ways churches can be of help right now. Watch the Valley Bridge for regular updates as they become available.

2. New Approaches to Ministry for Our Churches

I have been enjoying partnering with several pastors in our Presbytery who are actively exploring some new ways to be the church with fewer pastors and smaller congregations. We have met by zoom and been corresponding via email as we prepare to welcome anyone who is able to join us on March 30th from 2:00 – 4:00 to the new Westminster Church building in Worthington. Here you will learn about the consortium model of sharing ministry from Rev. Galen Smith, some innovative ideas using technology and training of church members from Rev. David Lick, and we may possibly have a guest pastor from our church in Maine to help us learn what can happen when several retired pastors team up to serve one church. (If they are not able to be present, I will teach this part.) We do not believe there is a “one size fits all” model for being the church any longer. Perhaps one of these ideas will be a good fit for you, or perhaps it will spark yet another idea! Strong, well-resourced churches are encouraged to attend along with those who may be struggling as we take a creative look at what we each have to offer and how we can work together for an effective ministry in our Presbytery.

**Brooten Administrative Commission Report
Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys
March 1, 2025**

We have not met.

Respectfully submitted,
Stan Menning

**Committee on Representation (COR) Report
Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys
March 1, 2025**

COR is nominating Daniel Tiffany, Redwood Falls, to the
Committee on Presbytery Life for a three-year term ending in 2027.

**Commission on Leadership Report
Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys
March 1, 2025**

Actions taken at the January 18, 2025 meeting

1. COL VOTED to approve the co-chair action of approving Ruling Elder Jerry Trupka from Maine Presbyterian, Underwood who has been trained to serve communion from January 1, 2025-December 31, 2025.
2. COL VOTED set our 2025 meeting dates as follows: February 6, March 6, April 3 (in person-10-2), May 1, June 5, July 3 (if needed), August 7, September 4, October 2 (in person-10-2), November 6, December 4 - zoom unless noted.
2. COL VOTED **to recommend** the Membership Roll to the Presbytery.
3. COL VOTED to approve the waiver request from the First Presbyterian Church, Beaver Creek for Ruling Elder Rick Tatge to serve an additional three-year term as elder, 2027.
4. COL VOTED pending a positive background check and entrance interview to transfer the Rev. Robert Drake from the Presbytery of Northern Plains to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys. He will be placed on the member at large roll.
5. COL VOTED to dissolve the relationship between the Randall Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Michael Hartwell effective February 28, 2025, his last day in the pulpit will be February 23, 2025 as he is retiring. Michael will be placed on the retired pastor roll
6. COL VOTED to move the Rev. Anna Williamson to the retired roll effective December 31, 2024. The presbytery has requested from the Board of Pensions a waiver to rule #801 Post retirement Service so that she could continue half-time (20 hours/week) for one more year.

Actions taken at the February 6, 2025

1. COL VOTED to approve the co-chair actions:
 - a. Appointed the Rev. Robert Maharry to moderate Amboy congregational meeting on January 26, 2025
 - b. Appointed the Rev. Bev Brock to be moderator at Randall beginning March 1, 2025
2. COL VOTED to grant permission to the Ruling Elders Shirley Rose, Jill Hendricksen, Leslie Bair, Cindy Boesch and Sandy Belgard, from Amboy, to serve communion, having been trained by Cory Germain from February 6, 2025- February 5, 2026.
3. COL VOTED to **recommend to the Presbytery** if the way be clear (Commission on Operations needs to approve too.) to create \$2000.00 sabbatical grants for congregational use when their pastoral leader goes on a sabbatical. Congregations shall be current on their per capita and the pastoral leader must submit a report to COL at the completion of the sabbatical.

MEMBERSHIP ROLLS OF MINNESOTA VALLEYS PRESBYTERY (G-3.0306)

January 1, 2025

Categories of membership G-20503

Italics means transition.

INSTALLED TEACHING ELDERS/ MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT (MSW) – G-2.0504A

Beverly Brock – Foley (start date July 9, 2019)
Andrew Davis – St. Peter
Douglas Dent – Fergus Falls, Federated
Mark Ford – Baxter
Eric Garner – Mankato (start date June 16, 2024)
Michael Hartwell-Randall (start date July 2018)
Brian Jones-Spicer, Hope (start date August 2, 2021)
Jeanne Kumbalek – Kasota/Lake Crystal (start date November 15, 2021)
Randy Knuth – Emmanuel First, Rushmore and Zion, Ellsworth (start date June 1, 2022)
David Lick-St. James (start date March 2018)
Laura Messer – Silver Lake (start date September 26, 2021)
Scott Prouty – Redwood Falls
Herbert Rotunda (UCC) – Dawson
Darin Seaman – St. Cloud
Galen Smith – Brewster, Round Lake, Worthington (start date of 3 parish – January 1, 2024)
Paul Snyder – Ashby/Dalton (ELCA) – start date April 26, 2020
Penny Jo Temple-Johnson – Cambria
Leanne Thompson – Willmar
Scott Thompson – Willmar
Anne Veldhuisen – Marshall
Tom Voigt – Edgerton/Lismore (start date June 26, 2022)
Steve Voris – Luverne (start date April 13, 2024)

TEMPORARY TEACHING ELDERS/MSW: STATED SUPPLY G-2.0504B

Levi Bollerud, (ELCA) Canby (September 1, 2023)
Beverly Crute – Maynard
Mark Ford - Crosslake
Bob Kersten (UMC) – Maine Underwood (January 1, 2022)
Pamela Prouty – Windom (December 1, 2020)
Aaron Punt (RCA) – Slayton (January 1, 2022)
Penny Jo Temple-Johnson – Madelia
Anne Veldhuisen – Russell
Anna Williamson (retired) - Renville

RETIRED TEACHING ELDERS/MSW (G-2.0503c)

Bob Bartlett, Round Lake, MN (July 30, 2022)
Kathy Blair, Winnebago, MN (October 22, 2021)

TEACHING ELDERS/MSW: VALIDATED MINISTRIES – G-2.0503A

Candace Adams, Missionary Leader, Church on Wheels, Baxter/Brainerd Area, MN
Karen Anderson – Christian Educator, Fergus Falls Federated
Jon Armajani – Assistant Professor of Theology, College of St. Benedict, and St. John's University
SanDawna Ashley- Synod Executive, Synod of the Northeast
Beth Buckwalter-Miller – Executive Presbyter (June 1, 2022)
Jeff Bullock – University of Dubuque, IA President, Dubuque, IA
Beverly Crute – Hospital Chaplain, Centra Care Willmar, MN
Daniel Duggan (retired) – Chaplain, St. Cloud VA
Cory Germain – First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fairmont, MN
Sarah Hoogendoorn – Chaplain, St. Cloud VA
Pamela Prouty – Presbytery Stated Clerk and Synod of Lakes and Prairies Stated Clerk
Elizabeth Tot – pastor to Sudanese Fellowship and Parish Associate, St. Cloud G-2.0504b

TEACHING ELDERS/MSW: MEMBERS AT LARGE (G-2.0503b)

Aaron Alfred, Waunakee, WI
Robert Drake, Staples, MN
Edward Godshall – Laurel, MD
Tony Oltmann- Crosslake, MN
Barbara Whipple, Laurel, DE

RULING ELDERS COMMISSIONED TO A PARTICULAR SERVICE: (G-2.1001)

Sue Goebel – Cambria; (August 9, 2016) and at large (October 8, 2022)
Jill Emery – Winnebago (April 13, 2024)
Deb Klaassen – Iona
Dennis Peterson – At large (October 8, 2022)
Kathy Terpstra – at large (June 2, 2022)
Velda Maine – Methodist Lay pastor serving Pipestone (start date 7/1/24)

Steve Boots, Madison Lake, MN (January 1, 2013)
Elaine Boyd, Willmar, MN (September 30, 2021)
Chris Conlin, St. Peter, MN (September 1, 2017)
Daniel Duggan, St. Cloud, MN (June 18, 2019)
Sue DeNio, Duluth, MN (December 4, 2015)
Jerry Dirks, Sauk Rapids, MN
Ernie Freund, Alexandria, MN (transferred April 7, 2024)
Tom Gard, Fergus Falls, MN (May 4, 2015)
Richard Harrison, Luverne, MN (transferred March 7, 2024)
Michael Hartwell-Little Falls (February 28, 2025)
Rollin Haynes, Slayton, MN (September 1, 2014)
Allen Jergenson, Foley, MN (June 30, 2017)
Dwight Johnson, Nisswa, MN
Ray Larson, Breezy Point, MN
John Lindholm, Fergus Falls, MN (September 1, 2018)
Robert Maharry, St. Peter, MN
Lynne Matthews, Edgerton, MN (January 1, 2023) (Pastor Emeritus-Holland, G-2.0504b)
C. Edward Morgan, Fergus Falls, MN (Pastor Emeritus – Federated, Fergus Falls, G-2.0504b)
Don Ottenhoff, St. Joseph, MN (September 21, 2021)
Wayne Purinton, Morrow, OH
Bonnie Roys, Winnebago, MN (January 1, 2020)
Michael Roys, Winnebago, MN (January 1, 2020)
Patricia Schick, ??????
Robert Springer, Hanska, MN
Norma Spurgin, Princeton, MN (August 6, 2013)
Timothy Sutton, Albuquerque, NM (October 31, 2015)
Anna Williamson – Renville (December 31, 2025)
William Yueill, Zimmerman, MN

Inquirers Under Care

Bailey DeVetter, Mankato
Paige Kappes, Willmar

DELETIONS FROM THE ROLL – 2025

STATEMENT of FAITH for REV. ROBERT DRAKE

I believe.

I believe in God, most definitely. But the rest, and everything in between, well that's a little more complicated. It has been made more complicated (and exciting) as a direct result of ministering to God's people.

I believe in God as the Creator of everything we see and feel around us. I believe She made the entire universe from scratch, from nothing but an idea of what could be. And then He made it all happen, went out on a limb, and created all the elements we could possibly need to love and explore Her universe. As a model for our family and societal relationships, God did not create alone. She created in Trinitarian relationship with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God. I believe Jesus as human is a great model for us as we navigate our complicated earthly life. I also believe Jesus as God set himself aside and selflessly gave himself up to death so that we might live a life free of worry about our own eternal existence.

I believe that part of God's design is that we are unable to perceive everything that is around us. I believe this is the form the Holy Spirit takes—unseen but felt, unheard but sensed. The Spirit is beyond color, beyond gender, beyond imagination. And I believe this is by design. The Spirit moves and intercedes in ways and methods unique from God and Jesus, and yet remains one and the same with both.

I believe the Bible is true, but not factual (something I teach in Pre-Confirmation class), always right, but also seemingly contradictory. I believe men (and a few women) and ancient societies were so awed by their experience with God's omnipotent power that they wrote stories, poetry, historical accountings, gospels, and letters so that they could inspire future generations and also so that they could look back and remember what happened.

Finally, I believe, more firmly than before I started full-time ministry, that heaven is a real place. We may not know exactly where it is, or exactly what it looks like, or exactly who is there, or exactly how we enter, but heaven is there because God is there. Heaven is there because Jesus died for us. Heaven is there because the Holy Spirit shows us the way.

**Committee on Presbytery Life Report
Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys
March 1, 2025**

*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 promotes, encourages, and enables congregational participation in, and support of, Presbyterian mission, social justice concerns, and peacemaking initiatives. And encourages, equips, connects, and challenges congregations in the development of new collaborative mission and ministry initiatives.

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 also continue to support our presbytery's current mission connections with:

- Presbyterian Clearwater Forest
- Lakeshore Center at Okoboji

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 motion to elect to the Committee on Representation:

- Elaine Boyd, TE, honorably retired
- Kathy Knips, RE, Lismore

Respectfully Submitted,
Leanne Thompson
Presbytery Life Chair & Past Moderator

Attachment E

Commission on Presbytery Operations - Budget and Finance Task Force Report to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys March 1, 2025

We met via Zoom on December 19, 2024, and in person January 18, 2025, during the Commission/Committee Training in Willmar.

Financial Review:

- We collected over 97% of our Per Capita amounts for 2024.
- Annual remittances from churches for special offerings and greater causes for 2024 was over \$80,000 with \$26,795 for One Great Hour of Sharing, \$11,607 for the 2023 Christmas Joy Offering and \$22,135 for GA/Synod for Mission. This is in addition to just over \$79,000 given to the Presbytery for Mission Support.

Approved scholarship/grant requests for the following:

First	Fulda	Technology	\$	432.49
First	Mankato	Technology	\$	383.50

Approved a request from COL to use funds from designated account #2310 Congregation Transformation & Development to fund sabbatical grants to congregations.

Attachment F

Mod-Squad Commission (Presbytery Moderators) Report Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys March 1, 2025

The Mod Squad is made up of the Presbytery Co-Moderators Rev. Doug Dent and Elder Sue Goebel, the Presbytery Vice Moderator Elder Bill Stegeman and Past Moderator Rev. Leanne Thompson. Presbytery staff Executive Presbyter Rev. Beth Buckwalter-Miller and Stated Clerk Rev. Pamela Prouty also attend these meetings.

On January 9, 2025, on recommendation of the Commission on Leadership, they took the following action to form an Administrative Commission to work with the First Presbyterian Church, Holland, MN, who are considering leaving the denomination.

Resolution for the Appointment of an Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church, Holland, MN by the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys

WHEREAS as the Shorter Catechism states in the first question: “the chief end of man (sic) is to glorify God” and in the Gospel according to Matthew 5:16 we are reminded: “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven,” (NRSV) and,

WHEREAS the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys received a letter from the Holland Session declaring their desire to leave the PCUSA denomination and transfer to another reformed denomination and,

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

WHEREAS the following persons have each indicated their willingness to serve if so, appointed to an administrative commission:

The Rev. David Lick, Chair (St. James)

The Rev. Anne Veldhuisen, Clerk (Marshall/Russell)

The Rev. Steve Voris (Luverne)

Ruling Elder Sonya Alexander (Redwood Falls)

Ruling Elder Joel Minett (Holland)

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

1. To work in partnership with the Session when possible
2. Shall determine and negotiate appropriate distribution of all property and assets of the congregation with recommendation to the Presbytery.
3. Shall access all church records including but not limited to: membership rolls, minutes of the Session and all boards and committees, financial records, membership directories, newsletters, and materials distributed for congregational information. The originals of all church records shall be returned to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys through the Stated Clerk which will then be deposited at the Presbyterian Historical Society.
4. Has the authority to call a congregational meeting.
5. Shall obtain current and accurate membership lists from the church(es).

6. Has the authority to engage appropriate legal counsel with the approval of the Stated Clerk.
7. Will provide for worship and for the continuing pastoral care of all members of the congregation(s), in the manner of Christ.
8. Will receive and act on requests from members to be transferred or deleted from the rolls.
9. To appoint a Commission member to be clerk of the Commission who will record all minutes, submit them to the Stated Clerk, and when the commission has completed its work will submit all records to the Stated Clerk.

Upon recommendation of the Administrative Commission, the Presbytery may dismiss the First Presbyterian Church, Holland, MN, to another reformed denomination.

The Commission will report on their progress at each meeting of the Presbytery until their work is concluded, and the Commission is dismissed.

General Assembly Amendments
SUMMARY
(Full text is available with meeting papers)

AMENDMENT NUMBER	BOOK OF ORDER SECTION TO BE AMENDED	SUMMARY
24-A	F-1.0403	The categories <i>gender identity, sexual orientation</i> , be included as protected classes in the Unity in Diversity section of Foundations of Presbyterian Polity
24-B*	G-1.0104	Adds guidelines for other forms of corporate witness (New Worshiping Communities, Immigrant Fellowships etc.) within an adaptable framework rooted in Reformed polity.
24-C	G-2.0104b	Adds principles of participation and representation in F-1.0403 to required areas for examination for ordination.
24-D	G-2.0504b	Lengthens maximum terms of service for temporary pastoral relationships from twelve months to 36 months
24-E	G-2.0504b	Prohibits non-disclosure agreements at the end of a temporary pastoral relationship
24-F	G-2.0601	Confidential details about a candidate for ministry should be omitted in communicating to the presbytery the need for the approval of alternate means to determine readiness for ministry in areas usually covered by ordination exams
24-G	G-0901	Prohibits non-disclosure agreements when an installed pastoral relationship is dissolved
24-H	G-3-0106	Adds <i>and adults with vulnerabilities</i> to the required child and youth protection policy
24-I	G-3.0302d	Eliminates the need for a concurrence from another presbytery to have business brought before GA (concurrences are still allowed but not required)
24-J	G-3.0501	Revises the formula for determining the number of commissioners presbyteries are to send to GA
24-K	D-7.0501	Makes explicit that, when an allegation of offense is made to a clerk of session or stated clerk, the mandates to report to civil authorities in G-4.0302 must be followed
24-L	D-7.0902b	Mandates that administrative leave be paid
24-M		Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries