

April 20, 2024

Presbytery of Great Rivers



**STATED MEETING of the Presbytery of Great Rivers**  
COMPLETE DOCKET  
April 20, 2024

The Mission of the Presbytery:  
*"We are called to share Christ's love  
by partnering in service, uniting in worship, and risking in ministry"*

Please pre-register at <http://www.greatriverspby.org/assembly.html>

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

- 9:00 Donuts, coffee, juice in Fellowship Hall
- 9:30 Sign-in to Zoom/Meeting site opens
- 10:00 Call to Order with Prayer Moderator MWS F. Krummel
- 10:05 Acknowledging Native American Heritage of Gathering Sites MWS Elissa Bailey
- 10:10 Welcome from Host Church MWS Katie Styr
- 10:15 Welcome and Instructions from Moderator Moderator MWS F. Krummel
- 10:20 Adoption of the Docket

**UNITING IN WORSHIP**

- 10:25 Worship Service
- Call to Worship** Vice Moderator TE Carol Sleeth

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

***Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.***

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

***Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.***

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

***Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.***

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

**Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

#### Opening Prayer

**Holy God, by your Word and Spirit, come and transform your church to be a living sign of your love for the world—where the poor are filled with good things, the dividing walls are broken down, and the dead are raised to new life; through Jesus Christ we humbly pray. Amen.**

#### Opening Hymn

*Jesus Be with Us*  
(A hymn for Matthew 25 churches)

Gambrell

*Jesus, be with us. Help us each to follow the gospel and live as we pray.  
Send us your Spirit and show us your way. Jesus, be with us today.  
Where there is hunger and thirst in the land, scatter the systems of greed.  
Jesus, be with us; make use of our hands. Lift up your people in need.*

*Jesus, be with us. Help us each day to follow the gospel and live as we pray.  
Send us your Spirit and show us your way. Jesus, be with us today.  
Where there are valleys of bones, dry as dust, build up the body of Christ.  
Jesus, be with us, and help us to trust. Teach us a new way of life.*

#### Prayer of Confession

A voice crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord." Trusting in God's grace, join your voices in our Prayer of Confession.

***Creating God, your love moved over the waters of chaos and separated seed from dry land. And yet we cling tightly to rigid boundaries of our own making. You claim us in the waters of baptism and declare us dead to sin and alive in Christ. But too often we deny that call, conforming ourselves to the whims of culture. At Pentecost, you released your wild and transforming Spirit to flow through church and world. But we want to tame that wilderness, channeling your spirit through banks of ordered safety. Transform us, we pray, soften the unyielding edges of our hearts. Loosen our grip on "the way it has always been" and prepare us for "the joy of the way it still can be," through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen***

#### Assurance of Pardon

God's strength is sufficient for us. God's power is made perfect in our weakness. Believe the good news of the gospel revealed. In Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

**Scripture** Isaiah 43:16-21 (CEB)

**Sermon** *Changing the Conversation*

**Sacrament of Communion** MWS Katie Styrts and MWS Ann Schwartz

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**Here are our hearts, open to God's presence.**

Let us give thanks to the God who created us all.

**Our hearts sing your praises, Holy God.**

Almighty God, you created order out of chaos and set time in its path. . . . We praise you, joining our voices with believers in every time in place as we sing:

*Holy, Holy, Holy (#559 in Glory to God)*

Gracious God, over the ages you have invited us to share in your love for the world, but we let sin hold us back. . . . We praise you for this amazing gift. Great is the mystery of faith:

*Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen (#560 in Glory to God)*

Holy God, pour out your Holy Spirit on those gathered here . . . Give us the strength to care for your children in this world.

We ask these things in your son's name. . . . May we love like Christ loves us, with humble sacrifice. Amen.

*Amen (#561 in Glory to God)*

Words of Institution

Sharing the Meal

Hymn

*Jesus Be with Us*

**PARTNERING IN MISSION, RISKING IN MINISTRY**

11:00 Omnibus Motion

Enter Financial Reports (pages 5-9), Commissioned Pastor Coordinator Report (page 10), and all other written reports into the permanent minutes.

11:05 Administration Team (page 11)

MWS Jonathan Warren

11:20 Committee on Ministry (page 12-13)

MWS Laura Reason

11:25 Lead Presbyter

MWS Ann Schwartz

11:35 Moderator (page 14)

MWS F. Krummel

11:40 Living Out Matthew 25 in PGR

MWS Debra Avery

11:55 Meal Instructions & Lunch

MWS Katie Styr

12:40	Returning Prayer	Moderator MWS F. Krummel
12:45	Board of Pensions	MWS Ann Schwartz
1:00	Visioning Team (page 15)	MWS C. Roland
1:10	Personnel Committee (pages 16-18)	MWS Joyce Chamberlin
1:20	Nominating Committee (pages 19-20)	MWS Cheyanna Losey & RE Gary Terpstra
1:25	Governance Task Force (page 21)	Moderator MWS F. Krummel
1:30	Sharing Good News	
1:40	Announcements	
1:45	Closing Hymn	<i>I Sing a Song of the Saints of God (#730 Glory to God)</i>
1:50	Adjournment and Closing Prayer	

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Upcoming Assemblies:

- Saturday, August 24 – Second Presbyterian, Bloomington, in-person with Zoom option
- Saturday, November 9 – United Presbyterian, Peoria, in-person with Zoom option

**PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS - CASH BASIS**  
**CURRENT TO PRIOR YEAR COMPARATIVE**  
**AS OF March 31 2024**

<b>Assets</b>	<b>March 2023</b>	<b>March 2024</b>	<b>Increase/ (Decrease)</b>	<b>December 2023</b>	<b>Increase/ (Decrease)</b>
Cash					
Checking and CDs	\$ 244,021	\$ 230,753	\$ (13,268)	\$ 220,571	\$ 10,182
Investments	726,487	827,830	101,343	790,250	\$ 37,580
Lease Deposit	-	-	-	-	-
Fixed Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 970,508</b>	<b>\$ 1,058,583</b>	<b>\$ 88,075</b>	<b>\$ 1,010,822</b>	<b>\$ 47,762</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>					
Liabilities					
Liabilities Payable	\$ -	\$ (490)	\$ (490)	\$ 669	\$ (1,159)
Pass Thru Liabilities	2,984	3,174	190	10,631	\$ (7,457)
Prepaid Mission & Per Capita	-	-	-	4,917	(4,917)
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 2,984</b>	<b>\$ 2,684</b>	<b>\$ (300)</b>	<b>\$ 16,218</b>	<b>\$ (13,533)</b>
Net Assets					
Unrestricted	\$ 835,904	\$ 934,291	\$ 98,387	\$ 872,996	\$ 61,295
Designated					
Presbytery Leaders Support	-	-	-	-	-
Presbyter Relocation/Presbyter Search	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-
<b>Total Designated</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (10,000)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Temporarily Restricted					
Preparation for Ministry	\$ 8,662	\$ 9,731	\$ 1,069	\$ 9,731	\$ -
Peacemaking	22,930	26,147	3,217	26,147	\$ -
Synod Pastor Support Grants	1,701	1,701	-	1,701	\$ -
Synod Transformation Grant	50,364	47,044	(3,320)	47,044	\$ -
Ministers Temporary Disability	3,110	3,110	-	3,110	\$ -
Hands & Feet Scholarships	107	107	-	107	\$ -
Pastor Compassion Funds	600	600	-	600	\$ -
CLP Coordinator	600	600	-	600	\$ -
Church Support for Family Leave	11,325	12,148	823	12,148	\$ -
Sherrard Pres Restricted Fund	22,222	19,372	(2,850)	19,372	\$ -
Stated Clerk (EB 23) Con Ed 3 yr cum	-	173	173	173	\$ -
Lead Presbyter (AS 23) Con Ed 3 yr cum	-	875	875	875	\$ -
<b>Total Temporarily Restricted</b>	<b>\$ 121,620</b>	<b>\$ 121,608</b>	<b>\$ (12)</b>	<b>\$ 121,608</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 967,524</b>	<b>\$ 1,055,899</b>	<b>\$ 88,375</b>	<b>\$ 994,604</b>	<b>\$ 61,295</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 970,508</b>	<b>\$ 1,058,583</b>	<b>\$ 88,075</b>	<b>\$ 1,010,822</b>	<b>\$ 47,762</b>

**PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS**  
**STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND REVENUES AND EXPENSES - CASH BASIS**  
**ACTUAL TO BUDGET COMPARATIVE**  
**YEAR TO DATE March 31, 2024**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>(Over)Under Budget</u>	<u>Percent of Budget Used</u>
<b>Support and Revenue</b>				
Budgeted				
Congregational Support				
Per Capita - current yr	\$ 60,091	\$ 170,255	\$ 110,164	35%
Per Capita - prior yr pd late	\$ 1,210	\$ -		
Mission	21,430	60,000	38,570	36%
Trust Clause Payments	-	600	600	0%
Total Congregational Support	<u>\$ 82,731</u>	<u>\$ 230,855</u>	<u>\$ 148,734</u>	<u>36%</u>
Investment Income	37,580	34,000	(3,580)	111%
Total Budgeted Receipts	<u>\$ 120,311</u>	<u>\$ 264,855</u>	<u>\$ 145,154</u>	<u>45%</u>
Transfer to/from Designated Funds	<u>(309)</u>			
Unbudgeted Receipts				
Preparation for Ministry Support	\$ -			
Presbytery Peacemaking Support	309			
Total Unbudgeted Receipts	<u>\$ 309</u>			
Total Support and Revenue	<u>\$ 120,311</u>			
<b>Expenses</b>				
Budgeted				
Salaries, Benefits, Training & Taxes				
General Presbyter	\$ 28,108	\$ 115,105	\$ 86,997	24%
Stated Clerk	7,942	36,017	28,075	22%
Bookkeeper	6,555	26,799	20,244	24%
PT Admin Asst (Virtual) & CW	6,390	19,320	12,930	33%
CLP Coordinator	3,080	10,811	7,732	28%
Workers Compensation Insurance	677	600	(77)	113%
Total Salaries and Related Expenses	<u>\$ 52,751</u>	<u>\$ 208,652</u>	<u>\$ 155,901</u>	<u>25%</u>
Presbytery Office				
Occupancy	\$ 1,071	\$ 4,348	\$ 3,277	25%
Office Operations and Supplies	4,204	15,848	11,644	27%
Total Presbytery Office Expenses	<u>\$ 5,275</u>	<u>\$ 20,196</u>	<u>\$ 14,921</u>	<u>26%</u>

**PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS**  
**STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND REVENUES AND EXPENSES - CASH BASIS**  
**ACTUAL TO BUDGET COMPARATIVE**  
**YEAR TO DATE March 31, 2024**

	Actual	Annual Budget	(Over)Under Budget	Percent of Budget Used
<b>Expenses (continued)</b>				
Presbytery Administration				
Liability Insurance	-	2,400	2,400	0%
Audit Fee	-	8,000	8,000	0%
Moderator Training	-	1,250	\$ 1,250	0%
Assembly Meetings (PGR)	(1)	2,500	\$ 2,501	0%
Per Capita Shortfall	-	21,300	21,300	0%
General Assembly Delegates	763	2,000	1,237	38%
Payroll Service	77	2,000	1,923	4%
Legal Fees	-	100	100	0%
PGR Training (Elder/Deacon, Ldrshp)	-	750	750	0%
Presbyter Search	-	-	-	
Presbytery Events	105	2,000	1,896	5%
Total Presbytery Administration Expenses	<u>\$ 944</u>	<u>\$ 42,300</u>	<u>\$ 41,356</u>	<u>2%</u>
Meeting Expense - All Teams	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,000</u>	<u>0%</u>
Program Expenses				
Committee on Ministry	\$ -	\$ 4,550	\$ 4,550	0%
Committee on Preparation for Ministry	205	250	45	82%
Visioning Grants	-	37,000	37,000	0%
Continuing Education Grants	-	1,500	1,500	0%
Pastoral Care/Compassion Fund	-	500	500	0%
Illinois Conference of Churches	-	500	500	0%
Misc - Mission	-	100	100	-
Total Program Expenses	<u>\$ 205</u>	<u>\$ 44,400</u>	<u>\$ 44,195</u>	<u>0%</u>
Other Expenses				
Bank Fees & Expenses	13	100	87	13%
Depreciation Expense	-	-	-	
Church Closing Expenses	336	-	(336)	
	<u>\$ 349</u>	<u>\$ 100</u>	<u>\$ (249)</u>	<u>349%</u>
Total Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$ 59,525</u>	<u>\$ 316,648</u>	<u>\$ 257,123</u>	<u>19%</u>
Unbudgeted Expenses Funded by Restricted Funds				
Pastor Support Grants	-	-	-	
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 59,525</u>	<u>\$ 316,648</u>	<u>\$ 257,123</u>	
Excess of Support and Revenue Over Expenses	<u>\$ 60,786</u>	<u>\$ (51,793)</u>	<u>(112,579)</u>	
Impact on Cash Flow	<u>\$ 23,206</u>			

## **Budget Narrative for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter March 2024 Financials**

### **Balance Sheet**

Our normal process is to compare the current month-end numbers to those of one year ago. I've added two more columns so we can compare the current month to our end of 2023 numbers.

Our total assets have increased over \$88,000 from last March and almost \$48,000 compared to December 31, 2023. The bulk of this increase is from the growth of our investments.

We have \$100,000 in CDs with Busey Bank. That leaves over \$130,000 in our checking account. We are in good financial shape with our checking and plan to re-invest the CDs once they mature.

On the Liabilities and Net Assets side, our unrestricted funds have increased over \$61,000 since year end and over \$98,000 from a year ago. Thus far in 2024, there has been no spending of our Temporarily Restricted monies. Spending of the Synod Transformation Grant money from one year ago was for anti-racism training, tech grants, seminary grants, and a deposit for an upcoming Stronghold event to be held in May 2024. The Balance Sheet remains strong.

### **Income Statement**

#### **Revenue**

At the end of the first quarter, our income and expenses should be about 25% of their budgeted levels. The Revenue for 2024 is well ahead of budget. Per capita and mission giving are over one-third (35% and 36% respectively). As mentioned above, our investments are doing well this year.

We have had 20 churches pay 100% of their per capita thus far in first quarter – almost 25% of all the churches in our presbytery. We are thankful for those churches as well as the many others who are fulfilling their faithfulness to Great Rivers.

Mission giving is also running ahead of budgeted income levels – both the pledged amounts as well as the special offerings.

#### **Expenses**

On the expense side of things, our staff salaries/benefits are right on plan, as are our office costs. All other expense major categories are well under what was budgeted. Overall, our total expenses are at 19%.

Our Revenue exceeds our expenses by \$60,786. Subtracting our investments from this amount gives a cash flow for first quarter of \$23,206.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Strawbridge, Treasurer



PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS  
 SHARED MISSION AND PER CAPITA SUPPORT BY CHURCH  
 YTD THROUGH Mar 28 2024

PIN	CHURCH	MISSION			PER CAPITA			Thank You	
		2024	2024	PAYMENTS (OVER) UNDER PLEDGE	2024	2024	BALANCE REMAINING		
		PLEGGED	PAID		DUE	PAID		% paid	
1912	ADAIR - WEST PRAIRIE			-	521.50		521.50	0%	
1873	ALEDO - COLLEGE AVENUE			-	3,352.50		3,352.50	0%	
9753	ALEDO - SUNBEAM	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	372.50	372.50	-	100%	2/29/2024
1876	ALEXIS - NORWOOD			-	1,937.00		1,937.00	0%	
1951	ATHENS - INDIAN POINT	600.00	600.00	-	1,117.50	1,117.50	-	100%	3/28/2024
1872	BARTONVILLE - TRINITY		2,000.00	(2,000.00)	1,341.00		1,341.00	0%	
4333	BIGGSVILLE - UNITED			-	2,346.75	275.66	2,071.09	12%	
1502	BLOOMINGTON - SECOND			-	24,398.75	16,753.00	7,645.75	69%	
10326	BLOOMINGTON - ST LUKE UNION			-	3,762.25		3,762.25	0%	
1917	BUSHNELL - FIRST			-	2,123.25		2,123.25	0%	
1838	CANTON - FIRST			-	3,464.25		3,464.25	0%	
1446	CARLINVILLE - FEDERATED	550.00	550.00	-	1,639.00	1,639.00	-	100%	1/31/2024
1448	CARROLLTON - FIRST			-	1,601.75	1,601.75	-	100%	2/29/2024
1918	CARTHAGE - FIRST			-	2,831.00	2,831.00	-	100%	3/28/2024
1955	CHATHAM			-	4,134.75		4,134.75	0%	
1507	CHENOA - FIRST		2,500.00	(2,500.00)	670.50	670.50	-	100%	3/28/2024
1919	CLAYTON - FEDERATED			-	260.75	260.75	-	100%	1/31/2024
1508	CLINTON	2,500.00	2,500.00	-	3,538.75	1,769.37	1,769.38	50%	
1881	COAL VALLEY - FIRST			-	6,258.00	6,258.00	-	100%	1/31/2024
1510	DANVERS - FIRST			-	5,475.75		5,475.75	0%	
1839	DELAVAN - FIRST		550.00	(550.00)	931.25	232.77	698.48	25%	
1960	DIVERNON - FIRST			-	1,564.50	1,564.50	-	100%	1/31/2024
1884	EAST MOLINE - FIRST		750.00	(750.00)	4,283.75	2,142.00	2,141.75	50%	
10906	EDWARDS - KOREAN			-	1,043.00		1,043.00	0%	
1841	ELMWOOD - FIRST			-	2,793.75	2,791.25	2.50	100%	3/28/2024
1842	EUREKA			-	633.25	633.25	-	100%	1/31/2024
1843	FARMINGTON - FIRST UNITED	600.00	150.00	450.00	3,389.75	557.75	2,832.00	16%	
1922	FOUNTAIN GREEN - CARTHAGE UNITED			-	2,272.25		2,272.25	0%	
1844	GALESBURG - FIRST			-	7,859.75	596.00	7,263.75	8%	
1888	GENESEO - FIRST			-	3,091.75		3,091.75	0%	
4616	GREENVIEW - UNITED			-	1,266.50	1,266.50	-	100%	1/31/2024
1923	HAMILTON - BETHEL			-	1,899.75		1,899.75	0%	
1850	IPAVA - UNITED			-	1,750.75		1,750.75	0%	
1965	JACKSONVILLE - FIRST	16,000.00	4,000.02	11,999.98	12,516.00	3,129.00	9,387.00	25%	
1925	KIRKWOOD - WESTMINSTER		1,200.00	(1,200.00)	1,601.75		1,601.75	0%	
1851	KNOXVILLE - FIRST	1,275.00		1,275.00	1,974.25		1,974.25	0%	
1522	LEROY - FIRST			-	5,252.25		5,252.25	0%	
1853	LEWISTOWN - FIRST			-	2,272.25		2,272.25	0%	
4960	LINCOLN - FIRST		2,000.00	(2,000.00)	4,321.00		4,321.00	0%	
1927	MACOMB - FIRST	6,000.00	1,000.00	5,000.00	8,679.25	1,446.56	7,232.69	17%	
11382	MACOMB - SCOTLAND TRINITY			-	2,011.50	280.00	1,731.50	14%	
1971	MASON CITY - UNITED	500.00	500.00	-	1,564.50	1,564.50	-	100%	2/29/2024
228	MEDIA - U P COMMUNITY			-	335.25	335.25	-	100%	1/31/2024
1972	MIDDLETOWN - FIRST			-	521.50		521.50	0%	
1892	MILAN - FIRST			-	4,023.00		4,023.00	0%	
1486	MONMOUTH - FAITH UNITED			-	7,748.00		7,748.00	0%	
1088	MONMOUTH - SUGAR TREE GROVE			-	1,192.00	298.00	894.00	25%	
9572	MORTON - FIRST			-	782.25	782.25	-	100%	1/31/2024
10635	MT STERLING - P C OF CHRIST		1,015.00	(1,015.00)	1,043.00		1,043.00	0%	
1897	NEW WINDSOR - UNITED		660.00	(660.00)	4,283.75	4,284.00	(0.25)	100%	2/29/2024
3436	NIOTA - APPANOOSE FAITH			-	2,346.75		2,346.75	0%	
1525	NORMAL - FIRST	27,000.00	6,751.00	20,249.00	15,980.25	7,990.12	7,990.13	50%	
11527	NORMAL - NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY			-	819.50		819.50	0%	
1855	ONEIDA-FIRST			-	707.75	707.75	-	100%	1/31/2024
9563	ORION - BEULAH			-	2,011.50		2,011.50	0%	
1856	PEKIN - FIRST			-	1,713.50		1,713.50	0%	
1858	PEORIA - FIRST FEDERATED			-	10,728.00		10,728.00	0%	
12072	PEORIA - UNITED			-	11,361.25		11,361.25	0%	
1863	PEORIA - WESTMINSTER			-	4,283.75		4,283.75	0%	
1935	PERRY			-	447.00		447.00	0%	
1980	PETERSBURG - CENTRAL	6,500.00	2,000.00	4,500.00	3,017.25	754.50	2,262.75	25%	
1962	PLEASANT PLAINS - FARMINGDALE			-	3,054.50		3,054.50	0%	
1939	QUINCY - ELLINGTON MEMORIAL	3,000.00		3,000.00	2,831.00		2,831.00	0%	
11433	REYNOLDS - HAMLET PERRYTON			-	1,825.25	1,825.25	-	100%	1/31/2024
1866	RIO		108.75	(108.75)	3,464.25		3,464.25	0%	
15225	ROCK ISLAND - GRACE			-	9,275.25	9,275.25	-	100%	3/28/2024
1940	RUSHVILLE - FIRST			-	1,229.25		1,229.25	0%	
1903	SEATON - CENTER			-	1,378.25		1,378.25	0%	
1982	SPRINGFIELD - FIRST	3,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	9,834.00	3,278.00	6,556.00	33%	
5119	SPRINGFIELD - HOPE	3,300.00		3,300.00	4,619.00		4,619.00	0%	
10705	SPRINGFIELD - KOREAN UNITED			-	1,229.25	1,229.25	-	100%	3/28/2024
1983	SPRINGFIELD - THIRD		475.00	(475.00)	5,848.25	1,462.07	4,386.18	25%	
1988	SPRINGFIELD - WESTMINSTER	17,000.00	4,247.00	12,753.00	37,808.75	10,312.75	27,496.00	27%	
4917	STRONGHURST			-	521.50		521.50	0%	
1991	TALLULA - ROCK CREEK			-	2,756.50		2,756.50	0%	
9752	VIOLA - UNITED		3,736.50	(3,736.50)	1,899.75		1,899.75	0%	
1488	VIRDEN - FIRST			-	707.75		707.75	0%	
1993	VIRGINIA - FIRST			-	2,086.00		2,086.00	0%	
1994	VIRGINIA - SANGAMON VALLEY			-	1,601.75		1,601.75	0%	
1942	WARSAW - FIRST			-	3,166.25		3,166.25	0%	
1867	WASHINGTON			-	2,533.00		2,533.00	0%	
1490	WHITE HALL - FIRST			-	1,005.75		1,005.75	0%	
9657	WOODHULL - UNITED			-	4,693.50	1,000.00	3,693.50	21%	
1995	WOODSON - UNITY			-	335.25		335.25	0%	
9199	YATES CITY - FAITH UNITED	800.00		800.00	1,303.75		1,303.75	0%	
100252	PGR			-	745.00		745.00	0%	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>89,625.00</b>	<b>39,293.27</b>	<b>50,331.73</b>	<b>323,218.25</b>	<b>93,287.55</b>	<b>229,930.70</b>		

**PGR Commissioned Ruling Elder Coordinator Report to the Assembly  
April 20, 2024**

The purpose of this report is to give the Assembly a summary of the work I have conducted so far as the Commissioned Pastor Coordinator.

Since our last assembly meeting, the group of CREs continue to check in with each other as needed. We also continue to meet monthly via Zoom. We have also had conversations with those who are interested in learning more about ministry formation training.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the ministry formation training, please contact me. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) has scholarships available.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

In Christ's Service.

Rev. Dr. Cheyanna L. Losey

[cheyannalosey@gmail.com](mailto:cheyannalosey@gmail.com)

309-299-4790

# Administration Team Report

April 2024

**MSA** to recommend the following to the Assembly for approval:

- **To approve the sale of the manse of First Presbyterian Church of Coal Valley.**

At their March 10, 2024 Congregational Meeting, First Presbyterian Church of Coal Valley approved the sale of their church manse located at 1703 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Coal Valley be sold to Rev. Tim and Lori Snart in as is condition with a sale price of \$125,000.00.

- **To change our Shared Mission Giving apportionment for Presbytery from 52.5% to 75% and GA (Presbyterian Mission Agency) from 42.5% to 20%. The apportionment change would go into effect immediately.**

We saw the following shared mission giving comparison list of all the presbyteries in our synod. We reviewed all policies and manuals and the only place the percentages are listed are on our remittance form. Since our Synod has a large pool of investments/assets to draw from, we decided to keep it the same and only change the mission giving percentages of Presbytery and General Assembly (Presbyterian Mission Agency). Since we are only 1/3 of the year in, we recommend the Presbytery to make the change for the entire calendar year. This will not effect churches that specify the percentage of mission funds/pledge. If this passes, we will contact all churches and provide updated forms.

2023 Shared Mission Giving for Synod of Lincoln Trails Presbyteries			
Blackhawk	Presbytery 75%	Synod 5%	GA 20%
Chicago	Presbytery 70%	Synod 10%	GA 20%
Great Rivers	Presbytery 52.5%	Synod 5%	GA 42.5%
Ohio Valley	Presbytery 60%	Synod 10%	GA 30%
SE Illinois	Presbytery 75	Synod 5%	GA 20%
Wabash Valley	Presbytery 85%	Synod 5%	GA 10%
Whitewater Valley	Presbytery 75%	Synod 5%	GA 20%

## For information:

Minutes Approved - We approved the PGR Assembly Minutes: November 18, 2023; February 20, 2024.

Property - Since selling/purchasing/leasing property needs to be handled in a timely matter Admin does not need to wait for a Presbytery Assembly meeting to help your church. Please complete the appropriate form [www.greatriverspby.org/admin-forms](http://www.greatriverspby.org/admin-forms) and/or contact Admin Team Chair (see contact below).

Per Capita - We are very excited for the many churches who continue to give faithfully. Additionally, we are thrilled that several churches have made big strides in completing their per capita giving so far this year! We will be including Per Capita FAQs in our first quarter statements (please share with your session).

Recommended Book - Join Admin Team in reading Mark Elsdon's new book, *Gone for Good: Negotiating the Coming Wave of Church Property Transitions* (recommended by Lead Presbyter Ann Schwartz).

Board of Pensions - We will be working with Leadership Team in finding ways to help pastors and churches with the newly announced 2025 benefits plans [www.seasonofrebuilding.pensions.org/](http://www.seasonofrebuilding.pensions.org/)

Rev. Jonathan Warren, Admin Chair

First Presbyterian Church, 870 W. College, Jacksonville, IL 62650

217-245-4189 (work), 217-418-3206 (cell), [jwarren@firstpresjax.org](mailto:jwarren@firstpresjax.org)

## **Committee on Ministry Report to the 4.20.2024 Assembly**

The Committee on Ministry (COM) has met twice since the 2.20.24 Assembly.

Several members of the Presbytery attended the COM/CPM retreat sponsored by the Synod of Lincoln Trails March 10-13 in Indianapolis. Eleven attended from PGR, with Kay Daniel, Drew Nagle and Laura Reason attending from COM. The retreat included plenaries, worship, workshops, as well as networking and fellowship times. It is a very enriching experience and a wonderful gift from the Synod to support and train leaders in our presbyteries.

COM has hosted two Shared Ministry Gatherings on 2.25 and 4.14 and has more scheduled: 6.2 at First Macomb, 6.23 at First Jacksonville, 7.14 at First Danvers and 8.11 at Chatham. These are events where we imagine together the creative partnerships for shared ministry that are possible in the Presbytery of Great Rivers.

Our Board of Pensions regional representative, Rev. Dr. Ken Green, attended our in person COM meeting in Peoria on 4/11 and gave us an overview of the updated BOP plans going into effect 1/1/2025. We spent the majority of our meeting receiving this information, processing and discussing it. The BOP is planning to contact all persons in PGR currently enrolled in the plan over the next months and will work specifically with congregations and their pastors on a one on one basis to help them understand all their options. This is the first change to the basic coverages in the Plan since the reunion in 1983. For an overview of the new plan, visit [seasonofrebuilding.pensions.org](https://seasonofrebuilding.pensions.org)

Actions taken since the 2.20.24 Assembly

*The committee has approved*

all Terms of Call and Contracts submitted by 4.11.2024

Appointed TE Mark Merrill as Moderator and Officiant at Adair, West Prairie, effective 3/22/24

Added RE Pam Moore to the pulpit supply list as of 4/11/24

Approved the AC to install Rev. William (Bill) McLean as Pastor at LeRoy 4/28 at 3:00 PM

*We have welcomed to the presbytery*

TE Wade Meranda from the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois

*We have dismissed from the presbytery*

TE Hwa Sung Ryu to the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois

TE Daniel Ott to the Presbytery of Shenandoah

*We have trained and certified the following ruling elders to serve communion in worship within their own congregations under G-30301b and W03.0410*

Congregation	Elder	Term
Woodhull United	Keith Clement	3/1/2024-2/28/2027
	Sally Goff	3/1/2024-2/28/2027
Athens Indian Point	Shellie Bricker	3/1/2024-2/28/2027
	Wade Meteer	3/1/2024-2/28/2027
	Peggy Ostermeier	3/1/2024-2/28/2027
New Windsor PC	Russ Robb	4/10/2024-4/10/2027
	Nolan Robb	4/10/2024-4/10/2027
	Peggy Scranton	4/20/2024-4/10/2027

*We have the following action item for the Assembly.*

**Motion:** to request the Presbytery Assembly to change the Presbytery Bylaws to set the quorum for all COM meetings in 2024 at one third plus 1 with respective members (14 members, quorum is 6)

Rationale: The Committee on Ministry can have 24 members, the chair and 23 others. In 2024, the Committee on Ministry has 14 members. The quorum is a majority of the respective members (8) (see PGR Bylaws, Article X, Section 2, d). In 2022, 2023 and 2024, COM has done almost all of its work at the sub committee level and sends to the full committee recommendations for final approval. Members have the opportunity to review all action items before the meeting, and the portion of the meeting devoted to approvals lasts 30 minutes or less. Due to the full schedules of our committee members, it is at times difficult to achieve the required quorum at the start of a main meeting. We are asking that the quorum be lowered this year so we can achieve a quorum more readily.

Reported by TE Laura Reason, Moderator, Committee on Ministry

**Moderator's Report  
April 20, 2024**

- 1) **Motion:** In response to the request of the Clerk of the Session of the **United Church of Oneida**, the Presbytery of Great Rivers authorizes the Moderator to appoint an Administrative Commission to meet with the Session as it considers the future of the congregation. The Commission has the authority to take original jurisdiction of the Session if the Administrative Commission deems it to be necessary. The Commission also has the authority to act on behalf of the Presbytery to close the church and to conclude any legal, civil, financial, and ecclesiastical business arising from the closing.
  
- 2) **Motion:** In response to the request of the Session of the **Fountain Green United Presbyterian Church of Carthage**, the Presbytery of Great Rivers elects the following Administrative Commission: the Rev. Dr. Laura Reason (moderator), the Rev. Edwin Brinklow, Ruling Elder Pam Moore, Ruling Elder Anne Martin, and Ruling Elder Diane Ludington. The Administrative Commission will negotiate terms of dissolution with the Session in accordance with the PGR Gracious Separation policy and is empowered to act on behalf of the Presbytery to dissolve the church and conclude any legal, civil, and/or financial business arising.

## Visioning Team Report April 20, 2024

Through our first two visioning team meetings we discussed how our role has contracted over time to a committee that evaluates and awards grants. While this is an important part of our ministry in the presbytery, our mandate is much broader. To draw from our bylaws “The Visioning Team leads and equips the Presbytery to live into its vision and mission” Further, “The Visioning Team encourages and facilitates mission within the Presbytery and individual churches through grants, challenges, partnerships , training and other support” (Article IX). We hope, as the year unfolds to spread our wings a bit through imagination, caffeination (for me at least) and good old fashion brainstorming. We began this journey by sharing our pie-in-the-sky dreams for presbytery.

In the April 8th meeting, we approved a grant for Covenant Conversations a workshop held in conjunction with East Iowa Presbytery for churches who wish to expand their welcome to LGBTQIA+ individuals. This is brought to us by Covenant Network of Presbyterians. It will be held next Saturday, the 27th of April, First Presbyterian Church, Davenport 8am to 5pm

We encourage everyone to explore how the visioning team can help you realize your church’s own vision! The email for all correspondence, including grant applications should go to [PGRVisioning@greatriverspby.org](mailto:PGRVisioning@greatriverspby.org)

## **Personnel Report**

### **April 20, 2024**

Personnel Committee brings three items to Presbytery.

1. Please take note of the revised manual of operations for Personnel. This was presented for a first reading in November of 2023. Immediately after that, the state of Illinois passed a law mandating paid time off. While our policy more than met these requirements, we needed to change some of our language to be in accord with that law. Today we present that manual again for a first reading. Please note that changes are marked in red with those things that directly relate to the new paid time off law are noted in blue. We invite our members to review these changes. We will vote on it in August.

2. Our Lead Presbyter is requesting that we increase her housing allowance from \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually. This will increase her housing allowance in the same amount that it decreases her salary. It does NOT change our expenses or budget. It is merely a bookkeeping issue that is required by the IRS.

3. At the request of our Lead Presbyter, Personnel has revised and updated her job description to bring it into accord with the work she is currently doing. We offer it for our member's enlightenment!



## Role and Tasks of the Lead Presbyter Great Rivers Presbytery

### Position Purpose

Great Rivers Lead Presbyter's role is to provide visionary leadership, practical support, and connectional, team-building assistance **and administrative leadership** to the Presbytery and its members. In collaboration with the Stated Clerk and the Leadership Team, this person will facilitate the transition to a new Presbytery structure, **help to implement that structure and continue to assess it for the continued viability of our Presbytery.** Tools for this transformation will be the report of the Finance & Staffing Task Force report, 2020 Mission Statement, ~~and~~ our Matthew 25 initiative, and **the ongoing needs and challenges of the Presbytery.**

### ~~Primary Tasks~~ **Essential Team and Mission Building Tasks**

- Lead the presbytery in refining, implementing, **and assessing** a new structure that will awaken, enliven, and enhance our worshipping communities, ~~building upon the work of the Finance & Staffing Task Force Report, 2020 Mission Statement, and the Matthew 25 initiative.~~
- Participate in the life of the churches of the presbytery, through a regular schedule of visitation, worship participation, and faith-filled leadership.
- **Establish and maintain strong relationships with congregations by working with and through the sessions and pastoral leaders and other defined leaders, challenging them as needed and encouraging an understanding and practice of connectional and shared purpose.**
- **Provide resources, guidance, encouragement and correction (when needed) for congregational ministry and mission.**
- **Connect churches to Presbytery Committees, other congregations and PC(USA) Councils as appropriate to enable the mission of the church.**
- **Encourage imaginative, flexible and creative approaches to the ministry, mission and work of Presbytery at all levels.**
- Work with Leadership Team to assist congregations and members to connect and support one another in our common ministry goals and fellowship needs.
- Provide pastoral support and coaching to our minister members, **offering check-ins, fellowship opportunities, spiritual support and prayers.**
- Provide ongoing assessment of the ministry and mission of PGR, developing and facilitating plans to address challenges, cultivate accountability, and build upon our strengths.
- Encourage and foster new forms of ministry and new visions of worship and service in alignment with the intent of our 2020 Mission Statement.
- **Encourage and expand communication regarding activities, functions and priorities of the Presbytery and of our congregations through the Presbytery newsletter, Assembly reports, and person to person contacts.**
- **Engage with congregations in transition, ie preach soon after pastor leaves, assist in search for interim pastor, educate and train Sessions and PNCs about the search process.**
- Coach and encourage the development and training of lay leadership and encourage participation in the work of Presbytery by all of our churches.
- **Actively participate in Synod and GA initiatives, trainings, and networking for mid-council leaders (Presbyterian Leadership Formation, Association of Mid-Council Leaders, Synod Collegium), as well as Biennial General Assembly, bringing resources back to our ministries.**

### ~~Secondary Tasks~~ **Administrative and Committee Tasks**

- ~~• Be a staff resource to Presbytery committees—in particular working closely with the Leadership Team, Committee on Ministry, and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.~~
- Oversee critical tasks such as background checks.
- Serve as head of staff for Presbytery Personnel **coordinating activity and communications with and among them**
- **Serve as ex officio on all committees, supporting and offering advice, helping to clarify their responsibilities, and enabling them to engage with our congregations to better fulfill the mission of PGR**
- **Support and advise with regarding the financial and administrative activities of PGR**
- **Update, revise and monitor website content and Presbytery directory**
- **Write articles for the twice-monthly PGR newsletter, proofread the document and monitor content and appearance**
- **Ensure that boundary training is scheduled and coordinate with Stated Clerk to ensure that attendance is tracked and training is completed each year.**
- **Work with Leadership and other committees to equip current leadership and raise up new leaders, and help to secure training as needed**
- **Monitor policies and manuals to keep them up to date, and participate in policy writing as new policies are mandated by General Assembly.**
- **Speak for the Presbytery on issues which call for public comment.**
- **Relate to local seminaries, Presbyterian Colleges, the Synod of Lincoln Trails, and the General Assembly to discover and share resources for our shared mission.**

The Lead Presbyter will report to the Personnel Team of Great Rivers Presbytery

## PGR Nominating Committee Report, April 20, 2024

The full Nominating Committee (NC) met via Zoom on these dates since our last assembly meeting: March 15, 2024. The committee and co-chairs also communicated regularly via email, phone, and text as we completed the work before us.

Thank you to all the congregations for sending the Eligible Elder form. We have received forms from sixteen congregations. This will help us in our work in 2024.

In 2023, we organized the congregations of the presbytery into contact lists for the purpose of helping to increase communication. We have updated our records; you can see that included in our report.

Our next meeting will be held April 22, 2024 at 10 AM. At this meeting we are hopeful to have a discussion with the committee chairs about what is needed by each committee before we begin our calls for 2024.

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to serve. If you are interested in serving on a committee of the presbytery, please let us know.

In Christ's Service,  
The Nominating Committee  
Co-Chair RE Gary Terpstra [g.terpstra@comcast.net](mailto:g.terpstra@comcast.net)  
Co-Chair TE Cheyanna Losey [cheyannalosey@gmail.com](mailto:cheyannalosey@gmail.com)  
RE Gary Davis  
RE Julio Garcia  
RE Diane Ludington

The Nominating Committee conducted an email vote on April 16, 2024, per a request from the Illinois Presbyterian Home. The Executive Committee of the Board of the Illinois Presbyterian Home presented to PGR the name of Blake Roderick, a member of Third Presbyterian Church of Springfield, to serve on the board of IPH, representing PGR. As per IPH bylaws, PGR must then take action to elect him to serve in that capacity.

### **Motion:**

**The Nominating Committee proposes that Blake Roderick be nominated to the class of 2026 of the Board of Directors for the Illinois Presbyterian Home.**

<p><b>Gary Davis – 17</b> 217-737-3359 gwdavis44@comcast.net</p>	<p><b>Julio Garcia – 17</b> 309-235-3999 julieman6@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b>Cheyanna Losey – 17</b> 309-299-4790 cheyannalosey@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Diane Ludington – 16</b> 319-795-8118 jod.diane@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Gary Terpstra – 17</b> 217-415-2090 g.terpstra@comcast.net</p>
<p><b>Bloomington, Second</b> Bloomington, St Luke Chenoa, First Clinton, Clinton Pres <b>Danvers, First</b> Greenview, United <b>LeRoy, First United</b> <b>Lincoln, First</b> Mason City, United Middletown, First <b>Normal, First</b> Normal, New Covenant <b>Peoria, First Federated</b> <b>Peoria, United</b> <b>Peoria, Westminster</b> Petersburg, Central <b>Washington, Washington</b></p>	<p>Aledo, College Avenue <b>Aledo, Sunbeam</b> Alexis, Norwood Bushnell, First Coal Valley, First East Moline, First Geneseo, First <b>Milan, First</b> New Windsor, NW Pres Oneida, United Orion, Beulah Reynolds, Hamlet-Perryton <b>Rio, Rio Presbyterian</b> <b>Rock Island, Grace</b> Viola, United <b>Woodhull, United</b> <b>Yates City, Faith United</b></p>	<p>Bartonville, Trinity <b>Canton, First</b> Delavan, First Edwards, Korean <b>Elmwood, First</b> <b>Eureka, Eureka Pres</b> Farmington, First <b>Galesburg, First</b> Ipava, Ipava Presbyterian Kirkwood, Westminster Knoxville, First United <b>Lewistown, First</b> <b>Monmouth, Faith United</b> Monmouth, Sugar Tree Morton, First Pekin, First Seaton, Center</p>	<p>Adair, West Prairie Biggsville, United <b>Carthage, First</b> Carthage, Fountain Green Clayton, First Federated Hamilton, Bethel <b>Macomb, First</b> Macomb, Scotland Trinity Media, Community Mt. Sterling, Mt. Sterling Niota, Appanoose Faith Perry, Perry Presbyterian Quincy, Ellington Memorial Rushville, First Stronghurst, Stronghurst <b>Warsaw, First</b></p>	<p>Athens, Indian Point Carrollton, First <b>Chatham, Chatham</b> Divernon, First <b>Jacksonville, First</b> Pleasant Plains, Farmingdale Springfield, First <b>Springfield, Hope</b> Springfield, Korean United Springfield, Third <b>Springfield, Westminster</b> Tallula, Rock Creek Virden, First Virginia, First Virginia, Sangamon Valley White Hall, First Woodson, Unity</p>

**Bold congregation names** = have at least one person serving on a presbytery committee.

\*\*If you see a mistake, please let Gary Terpstra or Cheyanna Losey know so we can update our records. Thank you.\*\*

**This list provides information for each congregation as to which Nominating Committee member to contact when you have a recommendation, questions, or would like help filling out your “eligible ruling elder” list. We are looking forward to strengthening our connections with each other.**

## **Governance Task Force Recommendation**

April 2024

Purpose of task force: to align our presbytery's governance (committee structure and commissioner balance) with its mission

Priorities (approved by the Leadership Team):

- Designate 2024 as the Year of Building Relationships in the Presbytery of Great Rivers. Every assembly and committee/task force meeting will include elements to foster this goal.
- Make space to tell/hear the stories of the mission and ministry within PGR and the impact it is having. Provide opportunities for people to talk to one another.
- Improve the tools we have for connecting so they are accessible, useful, and meaningful (PGR website, directory, social media posts, leadership succession plan for times of transition, etc.)
- Learn and grow together: a Presbytery-wide book study, workshops and other learning opportunities at assemblies and between assemblies.
- Establish a schedule for interviewing committee moderators, committee members, and PGR staff to hear reflections on their work and their needs for faithfully doing their work.
- Establish a series of in-person round table discussions around the presbytery in the spring, summer, and fall of 2024 by Task Force members and others in leadership to which congregational leaders and members are invited to respond.
- Compile the information we gather in the fall of 2024 into a forward-looking plan to present to the Leadership Team.
- The structure will come as we build relationships, make connections, learn/worship/grow together.

You're invited to an Antiracism Training Retreat at Stronghold Retreat Center from 4pm May 31st to 1pm June 1st!

As we seek to create a culture of justice, Presbytery of Great Rivers is partnering with Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training to learn how to identify and dismantle the systemic racism that afflicts us, our church, and the larger culture. Join us in building the beloved community God calls us to be. This workshop utilizes large and small group conversation and individual reflection, as well as applied practice of frameworks introduced to provide participants with both knowledge and experience. There will also be time for meals together, worship, and fellowship.

Cost: Thanks to a substantial contribution from Great Rivers Presbytery, this workshop will be \$90 per person, with a discounted rate of \$60 and supporter rate of \$120.

Register Here: <https://forms.gle/WDRcrAqi8KTJtsqL8>