

Presbytery of Great Rivers February 26, 2022
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

Committee on Ministry has had three meetings since the last Assembly meeting in November 2021. We continue to meet by Zoom conference meetings.

The practice of worshipping at the start of meetings continues. Prayers are offered for transitional churches by name and those individuals who are in need of prayer continues as the standard end of all meetings.

COM Celebrates

To receive Minister of the Word and Sacrament as a member of Presbytery of Great Rivers

- Rev. Jim Mehuan from Presbytery of Southern New England, Honorably Retired
- Rev. William Mitchell, ordained American Baptist serving as interim at Carlinville - Federated (American Baptist)
- Rev. Sue Krummel from Chicago Presbytery, Honorably Retired

Rational: The presbytery is a community of congregations, ministers, and ministries who rely on each other for mutual support. We seek opportunities to celebrate when our body is enriched by new members and welcome them, and also honor those who have poured out their hearts in service to our community by their ministry. By welcoming them into the work of the Presbytery of Great Rivers, we bless and welcome their ministry in our Presbytery. This action is supported by our PGR Manual of Operations Article X Section 2.a-12

Motions for PGR February 26, 2022 Assembly:

1. Move to approve Updates to the Committee on Ministry Handbook as part of the PGR Manual of Operations. The revisions are to bring the Handbook up to current standards of operation. The revisions recommended are listed briefly here. *For a complete rational, please see Committee on Ministry Handbook Updates Rational 2022 document.*
 - The Handbook is now divided into 3 parts for better clarity and use.
 - Commissioned Ruling Elders to be allowed to serve their own congregation by 2/3 vote of the Presbytery.
 - Removal of exemptions that allow congregations to pay full time Commissioned Pastors less than the Minimum salary guidelines.
 - Updating and clarifying the process for the orderly transfer of clergy from other denominations.
 - Removal of the debt assistance section.
 - Update Pastoral Ethics Policy to allow accredited boundary training from outside the Presbytery for those who are unable to attend the November PGR Assembly when it is offered.

When/if these changes are approved, COM will work with the PGR office to update forms and the website with the new information.

Rationales:

Book of Order

- G-3.0106 paragraph 2 examples of policies and procedures that may be gathered into advisory handbooks.

- G-3.0106 paragraph 3 Each council shall develop a manual of administrative operations that will specify the form and guide the work of mission in that council.
 - G-3.0109 paragraphs 1 & 2 Councils may designate by their own rule such committees and commissions as they deem necessary and helpful for the accomplishment of the mission of the church... It shall make a full report to the council that created it, and its recommendations shall require action by that body.
2. Move to form an Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church of Bushnell for the purpose of facilitating discussion around a “Joint Congregational Witness” with Bushnell Methodist Church.

Rationales:

Book of Order

- G-3.0109 paragraph 3; part b. Administrative Commissions
 - G-5.05 Joint Congregational Witness
- Presbytery of Great Rivers Manual of Operations
- Article XI - Commissions; Section 2 Other commissions
3. Move to form an Administrative Commission for the Presbyterian congregations in Rock Island: Broadway PC; Gloria Dei PC; Good Shepherd PC; and South Park PC to assist in the discussion around and creation of one new congregation in Rock Island, IL from the four existing congregations.

Rationales:

Book of Order

- G-1.02 Organization of a Congregation
 - G-1.0201 Organizing Covenant
 - G-3.0109 paragraph 3; part b. Administrative Commissions
 - G-3.0303 b The Presbytery shall provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received
 - G-3.0303 f consider and act upon request from congregations for permission to take the actions regarding real property as described in G-4.0206
 - G-4.0206 Leasing Congregational Property
- Presbytery of Great Rivers Manual of Operations
- Article XI - Commissions; Section 2 Other commissions
4. Move to dismiss with thanks the Administrative Commission of Springfield-Knox PC. At this time the Committee on Ministry invites the Presbytery of Great Rivers to celebrate the life and ministry of Knox Presbyterian Church in a Litany of Closure.

As we gather for worship, let us acknowledge with solemn joy God’s gift of this congregation, remembering with gratitude all who have worshiped in their midst, the faith professed at their baptismal font, the gospel proclaimed from the pulpit to them, the assurance received at the Lord’s table. Let us also reaffirm our faith in our sojourning God as their building is now transferred to other uses. That which we have received from God let us now return to God with thanksgiving

One: Eternal God, whom the highest heaven cannot contain,

All: hear our prayer.

One: For the Church universal, of which this congregation has been a witness,

All: we praise you, O God.

One: For all the saints who, in times past and present, have formed a congregation of your people and have met together to offer their prayers and praise to you,

All: we praise you, O God.

One: For those who have been made your children by adoption and grace, who in this congregation were cleansed of sin, buried with Christ in the waters of baptism, and raised to new and eternal life,

All: we praise you, O God.

One: For your presence whenever your Word has been proclaimed and your sacramental gifts of bread and wine received,

All: we praise you, O God.

One: For your blessing upon each of your children, welcomed and nurtured among them,

All: we praise you, O God.

One: For all who came to ask your blessing in marriage, seeking to love with your love,

All: we praise you, O God

One: For faithful stewards who have lived for others, serving you by loving neighbors,

All: we praise you, O God.

One: For all who were gathered from this congregation, having lived this life in faith, who now live eternally with you,

All: we praise you, O God.

One: For the knowledge that your church and your ministry among us will continue today, tomorrow, and forever,

**All: we praise you, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Are there any here with us today from Knox Presbyterian Church?

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the authority of the Presbytery of Great Rivers, I declare the building in Springfield Illinois vacated by the congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church and the congregation dissolved. May the Peace and Love of Jesus Christ our Lord be with them all, now and forever, AMEN

This concludes the report for the Committee on Ministry for the February Assembly.

Respectfully submitted

Kathie Whitson, Elder/CLP COM Co-Chair