

Presbytery of Great Rivers
Committee on Ministry Report
19 November 2022

Overview

The Committee on Ministry has had three meetings since the last Assembly meeting in August 2022. We continue to meet by Zoom and foresee this practice continuing.

The 3 subcommittees meet in the weeks leading to our main committee meeting and act on all the business to be submitted to our main meeting, generally on first Thursdays. Your increasing use of our email address of greatriverscom@gmail.com for inquiries and information is very helpful. Thank you. We make every effort to respond within 24 hours. You can always reach out directly to your Ministry Partner too. The updated Ministry Partner listing is in the COM part of the presbytery's website: greatriverspby.org (Forms, COM). The 2023 Terms of Call and Contract forms are on that same page. For the first time, the forms ask for the Clerk's and pastoral leader's contact information so we can easily ask questions of clarification and quickly return the signed forms to you. Because these forms allow for the input of every variation of what's reported, Section A can be mystifying to complete. Consulting the Board of Pensions resource [Understanding Effective Salary](#) (PLN-103 061422) is an excellent guide for the whole form and especially for Section A. If you would prefer to speak to a person while completing your form, send a request to greatriverscom@gmail.com asking for a call back. We are glad to help so have all the information needed to give approval.

Actions taken

The committee has approved all Terms of Call and Contracts submitted for approval by 8/4/22 for the 2022 Annual Assembly report. The Annual report was inadvertently not provided in August and is the end of this report. The committee has also approved all Terms of Call and Contracts submitted from 8/5/22 through 11/3/22. These will be reported in the August 2023 Annual Assembly report.

The following ruling elders previously trained to serve communion in their home congregations when there is no established pastoral leadership have been re-certified for three year terms:

Carthage FUPC: REs Maureen Crawford and Laura Mosena; terms of 7/1/22-6/30/25

Biggsville UPC: REs Cathy Good and Charlotte Shafer; terms of 11/1/22-10/31/25

Stronghurst UPC: RE Don Fry; term of 11/1/22-10/31/25

Sessions may request re-certification of their ruling elders by sending an email to greatriverscom@gmail.com or contacting their Ministry Partner. The COM basic Communion training and certification course will be offered in 2023.

The following section has deleted from the COM Handbook (rev. 2.26.22):

Section III, Part 2, F. COM Member Moderator (“super moderator”)

1. Committee on Ministry member who is assigned to moderate a church without a pastor in order to do the following: monitor who is preaching and serving communion; train the session; work with the nominating committee.
2. This member will be paid a stipend from the presbytery in the amount of \$100 per month. This amount would be paid in addition to the amount paid by the church for one session meeting and mileage.

COM has also:

Commissioned RE Sheila Sheer to serve a 45 day commission at East Moline First Welcomed Rev. Gay Behrensmeyer (DOC) as a Temporary Member serving at East Moline First through 12/31/2022

Affirmed the prior action of COM to certify RE Alan Willadsen ready to serve as a Commissioned Pastor

Granted permission to labor outside the bounds in short term ministries in the Presbytery of East Iowa to: Rev. Elissa Bailey and Rev. Dr. Forrest Krummel

Administrative Commission Report to COM

The Administrative Commission (AC) for Pleasant Plains-Farmingdale has completed all but one of their charges. The AC continues working on the remaining charge, which is to work with the Session in their interim pastor search process.

Motions for the November 19, 2022 Assembly

Motion: To recommend to the Assembly the approval of the call of Carlinville Federated Church (PCUSA/ABC) to Pastor William T. Mitchell (ABC) as pastor, effective 8/1/2022.

The motion requires a three-fourths approval by the Assembly.

Background and Rationale leading to recommendation:

This congregation just celebrated the 75th anniversary of their federation. In these decades, they have called pastors from both the PCUSA and ABC (American Baptist Churches, USA). The last installed ABC pastor left in February 2020. There was a PCUSA interim until July 2021 who for personal reasons did not renew the interim contract. An ABC pastor led them through an exhaustive self-study process in 2020-2021. This process began before the interim pastor was on site and continued well into her service time. The outcome of the self-study was a serious commitment by the congregation to implement the revitalization strategies they had developed, while also looking for a new part-time installed pastor. PCUSA polity has been used for this pastoral search. The PNC was formed in July 2021 and, at the same time, the Board began looking for a new

part time interim, welcoming applications for the position from ABC and PCUSA pastors. A few applications were received in the fall of 2021 from ABC pastors and interviews conducted. The only viable PCUSA application for interim was received in CLC on 9/1/2022. On 12/7/21, COM approved an ABC, USA interim contract for 19 hours/week for ABC Pastor William T. Mitchell, commencing 1/1/2022. Pastor Mitchell became a Temporary Member of the Presbytery of Great Rivers soon thereafter, following instruction and examination on PCUSA polity. The church and pastor finding the relationship to their satisfaction, the PNC asked for permission to consider extending a call to Pastor William T. Mitchell. On 4/7/2022, COM approved the PNC extending a call to Pastor William T. Mitchell, the way being clear. The church held a congregational meeting on 8/25/22 and approved the call to a part time installed pastorate, effective 8/1/2022, to Pastor William T. Mitchell, ABC and dismissed the PNC with thanks. On 9/8/2022, COM approved the congregation's call, pending its approval by the Assembly on 11/19/2022.

Book of Order references for advancing pastors within the same congregation

G-2.0504 Pastoral Relationships

a. Temporary Pastoral Relationships

Temporary pastoral relationships are approved by the presbytery and do not carry a formal call or installation. When a congregation does not have a pastor, or while the pastor is unable to perform her or his duties, the session, with the approval of presbytery, may obtain the services of a minister of the Word and Sacrament, candidate, or ruling elder in a temporary pastoral relationship. No formal call shall be issued and no formal installation shall take place. Titles and terms of service for temporary relationships shall be determined by the presbytery. A person serving in a temporary pastoral relationship is invited for a specified period not to exceed twelve months in length, which is renewable with the approval of the presbytery. ***A minister of the Word and Sacrament employed in a temporary pastoral relationship is ordinarily not eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor (emphasis added).***

b. Exceptions

A presbytery may determine that its mission strategy permits a minister of the Word and Sacrament currently called as an Associate Pastor to be eligible to serve as the next installed pastor or co-pastor, or a minister of the Word and Sacrament employed in a temporary pastoral relationship to be eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor. Presbyteries that permit this eligibility shall establish such relationships only by a three-fourths vote of the members of presbytery present and voting (emphasis added).

Further considerations requiring referral to the Assembly

The Bylaws of the Presbytery of Great Rivers start, in Article X, Section 2, Committee on Ministry, "in routine, non-controversial cases, when it is able to achieve a consensus, the Committee on Ministry, in its role as a designated commission, shall have the

authority....12. to approve calls and dissolutions when the congregation and pastor agree” (*emphasis added*)

COM does not have the authority to approve this particular call because it is not routine but exceptional. PGR bylaws and G-2.0204b require referral for a decision and moving an interim to an installed position within the same congregation is done **only by a three-fourths vote of the members of presbytery present and voting.** (*emphasis added*)

In a PCUSA/ABC federated congregation the minister in service, whether PCUSA or ABC, is directly under the jurisdiction of their own denomination. The PCUSA also grants the ABC pastor Temporary Membership in the presbytery throughout the time of service, giving the minister voice and vote at the Assembly as well as the authority to moderate and officiate the sacraments. Further, this just completed search process **could** have resulted in the extension of a call to the installed position to **any other** ABC pastor than this interim or a PCUSA pastor. Such a result would have been “routine (and) non-controversial”. The question is how to advance a pastor within the same congregation and the answer is: only with a three-fourths Assembly approval

Since the recent pastoral search for an installed pastor was conducted under PCUSA polity, COM further needed to consider the rule for federated and union congregations. In a federated church, the stricter denominational polity is always applied when process questions arise. Therefore, had there been a PCUSA interim pastor in service in this particular congregation and then called as the installed pastor, a three-fourths approval of the Assembly would have been required. Hence, therefore the stricter denominational polity of the PCUSA then is applied in Carlinville to the ABC pastor and a three-fourths approval is needed to allow **this** ABC interim pastor to become the installed pastor in **this particular situation.**

Motion: to recommend to the Assembly approval of the following actions ad seriatim for Galesburg First Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Dr. Scott Carnes, a United Methodist Church (UMC) Pastor (or Teaching Elder equivalent) effective 12/1/2022:

- **Examine**, arrest and sustain examination of the pastor (see Statement of Statement at the end of the COM report)
- **approve the call** issued by the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Galesburg, IL on 10/30/2022, **as a call pending completion of the Qualification plan**
- **approve** Rev. Carnes as the **Temporary Supply** and as a **Temporary Member** of the Presbytery of Great Rivers at FPC Galesburg effective 12/1/2022, **reserving the authority to moderate the Session until the successful completion of the Qualification Plan and Rev. Carnes’ installation** as the Pastor of FPC Galesburg
- **approve the Qualification Plan** as follows:

The Committee on Ministry (COM), in consultation with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM), and the Associate Director of Ministry

Leadership Development, Mid Council Ministries of the Office of the General Assembly of the PC(USA), has met with the Rev. Dr. Scott E. Carnes and finds his credentials to become a PCUSA minister satisfactory with exceptions. The exceptions are in the area of the five Presbyterian ordination exams. The recommendations for meeting the exceptions are:

1. Successful completion of the standard Ordination exams in Bible Content, Polity, Theology and Worship and Sacraments.
2. Successful completion of the Biblical Exegesis exam by the alternate means of submitting a ten to fifteen page exegetical paper that includes the development of a sermon based on the study of the text; said paper to be evaluated by two readers appointed by CPM.

Rationale for the request for alternate means:

Rev. Carnes requested a waiver for taking the Biblical Exegesis standard ordination exam primarily due to the timing of the start date of 12/1/22. He is taking the four standard ordination exams in January of 2023. The Biblical Exegesis exam follows shortly after at a proscribed time. A minister transferring to the PCUSA is allowed to begin service after Assembly approval, as a Temporary Supply and a Temporary Member. The pastor then completes the Qualification Plan as soon as possible. Were it possible to waive the examination completely, that would be the recommendation. CPM and COM are satisfied with Rev. Carnes' capacity to prepare and preach sermons. Between CPM and COM he has been examined three times. Rev. Carnes has completed two courses each in Hebrew and Greek, as well as courses in the Old and New Testaments. He has preached regularly since his ordination in 2012 and earned a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching in 2020. **The requirement for testing cannot be set aside. It can be waived by providing an alternate means. This requires a three-fourths Assembly approval.** The reason the PCUSA requires the taking of the Presbyterian standard ordination exams for "those coming from outside the Reformed tradition is not because of questions about the theological competence or governance and worship practices of churches beyond the Reformed tradition. Rather, it is to assess whether the person also has the knowledge of the Reformed tradition and an ability to practice ministry within this particular expression of Christian faith." (Dr. Timothy B. Cargal, Mid Council Ministries of the Office of the General Assembly)

- **Fulfill the requirement that upon enrollment**, the minister shall furnish the presbytery with evidence of having surrendered membership in any and all other Christian churches with which the minister has previously been associated.

The motion requires a three quarters approval by the Assembly on all the actions.

Background information, Projected timeline and Book of Order References

According to the COM Handbook (2-26-22), Section II, Part 4, E, E, iv:

The minister will not be installed as pastor of the congregation until the requirements have been met. The minister may begin serving the congregation under a contract and received as a Temporary Member of the Presbytery. Once the requirements are met the minister by Presbytery action will be installed as pastor and a member of the PC(USA).

It is anticipated that by March 2023, COM will have received the reports on successful completion of all requirements. The installation will then occur and Rev. Dr. Scott E. Carnes becomes the called, installed Pastor and Moderator of FPC Galesburg IL

G-2.0505 *Transfer of Ministers of Other Denominations*

- a. When a minister of another Christian church is called to a work properly under the jurisdiction of a presbytery, the presbytery, after the constitutional conditions have been met, shall recognize the minister's previous ordination to ministry. Such ministers shall furnish credentials and evidence of good standing acceptable to the presbytery, and shall submit satisfactory evidence of possessing the qualifications of character and scholarship required of candidates of this church. (G-2.0607 and G-2.0610)
- b. Upon enrollment, the minister shall furnish the presbytery with evidence of having surrendered membership in any and all other Christian churches with which the minister has previously been associated.

G-2.0607 *Final Assessment and Negotiation for Service*

A candidate may not enter into negotiation for his or her service as a minister of the Word and Sacrament without approval of the presbytery of care. The presbytery shall record when it has certified a candidate ready for examination by a presbytery for ordination, pending a call. Evidence of readiness to begin ordered ministry as a minister of the Word and Sacrament shall include:

- a. a candidate's wisdom and maturity of faith, leadership skills, compassionate spirit, honest repute, and sound judgment;
- b. a transcript showing graduation, with satisfactory grades, at a regionally accredited college or university;
- c. a transcript from a theological institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools acceptable to the presbytery, showing a course of study including Hebrew and Greek, exegesis of the Old and New Testaments using Hebrew and Greek, satisfactory grades in all areas of study, and graduation or proximity to graduation; and
- d. examination materials, together with evaluations that declare those materials satisfactory in the areas covered by any standard ordination examination approved by the General Assembly. Such examinations shall be prepared and administered by a body created by the presbyteries.

G-2.0610 Accommodations to Particular Circumstances

When a presbytery concludes there are good and sufficient reasons for accommodations to the particular circumstances of an individual seeking ordination, it may, by a three-fourths vote, waive any of the requirements for ordination in G-2.06, except for those of G-2.0607d. If a presbytery judges that there are good and sufficient reasons why a candidate should not be required to satisfy the requirements of G-2.0607d, it shall approve by three-fourths vote some alternate means by which to ascertain the readiness of the candidate for ministry in the areas covered by the standard ordination examinations. A full account of the reasons for any waiver or alternate means to ascertain readiness shall be included in the minutes of the presbytery and communicated to the presbytery to which an inquirer or candidate may be transferred.

Rev. Dr. Laura Reason
Moderator of COM

Statement of Faith
By Rev. Scott Carnes

I believe God created all things. God created a world and set in motion a beautiful, sustaining, and complex natural order. We have failed to be good stewards of creation and our fallen nature has harmed the natural world.

I believe all people are created in the image of God and imprinted with God's love and goodness. Though we often fail to live up to God's intentions for us, God continues to show us love and continuously calls us back to obedience. We are called to confess our failings, to claim our faith through word and action, and to re-create alongside of our God.

I believe in Jesus Christ who redeems. The incarnation makes tangible God's great love through which God became one with the fullness of humanity. It was this messy, ambivalent, passionate and contradictory love that brought Christ among us that we could grow, through faith, in new ways. Christ came to this world that we might understand God's love more fully, experience unfailing forgiveness, love God more deeply, and love the people who surround us more completely.

I believe our redemption is rooted in God's on-going restoration of humanity. This is not a prize to be won through our own actions. However, when we experience God's redemptive grace, we are drawn to act. God's redemption restores the equilibrium between nations, peoples, cultures. Grace reveals commonality between enemies, and calls us to restorative justice.

I believe in the Holy Spirit which sustains us, is ever-present in our lives, and in the world around us. God is not an otherworldly entity that only shows up at certain moments. Holy Scripture points us toward a God that can be experienced by all living things at all times. The Holy Spirit draws us, constantly, to a renewed covenant.

I believe Scripture is foundational to individual faith and the collective faith of ordered religious life. The life, love, and faith experiences contained in the Bible still gives us the most direct understanding of God for our time and place. It leads us in our faith and action as followers of Christ. The sacraments make tangible the love and grace of God. In baptism we die to sin and are reborn, in the Spirit. We are reborn into Christ's Universal Church, and join with other people of faith to act through God's love as a community. We also experience God's love each time we come to the Lord's Table. No matter our understanding, our doubts, our failures or successes, God fills us with grace through this holy and mysterious sign. The crumbs and stains left after the Eucharistic meal reminds us of God's messy love for us.

I believe the universal Church, God's hands and feet in the world, can express God's love on earth, when in good order. It works to restore and remake the world by helping all aspects of creation to experience God more closely. The church binds us together and works to restore balance between all created things.

I believe the Triune God is one of creation, redemption, and sustaining love. I believe the church, at its best, is at work revealing that love. I believe humans are born and re-born to the work of growing with God and acting together through God's love.

City	Church	Pastor	TOC/Contr	% Time	Effective Salary
Aledo	College Ave.	TE - Furr, Wayne Cumb Pres	Contract	50	\$ 25,501.00
Aledo	Sunbeam	TE - McGrath Nagle, Maura	Contract	25	\$ 13,160.00
Athens	Indian Point	CLP-Woodward,Sandi	Contract	40	\$ 15,685.00
Bartonville	Trinity	TE - Stephen Barch UCC	Contract	50	\$ 26,767.00
Biggsville	United	CLP - Whitson, Kathleen	Contract	FT	\$ 37,739.88
Bloomington	Second	TE - Haddon, Treighton	TOC	FT	\$ 85,000.00
Bloomington	St. Luke Union	TE - Gifford, Dr. Andrew	TOC	FT	\$ 89,327.00
Bushnell	First	TE - Mark Merrill	Contract	weekly	
Canton	First	TE - Brinklow, Edwin	TOC	FT	\$ 54,075.00
Carlinville	Federated	TM - Mitchell, William ABC	Contract	50	\$ 29,900.00
Carthage	First United	TE - Ridge-Edeker, Joy	TOC	FT	\$ 50,063.00
Carthage	Fountain Green	Hanson, Mark	Contract	PT	\$ 15,132.00
Clinton	Clinton	TE - Stroup, Paul	TOC	FT	\$ 72,122.00
Coal Valley	First	TE - Snart, Tim	TOC	70	\$ 54,635.00
Danvers	First	TE Cathy Allen	Contract	50	\$ 29,000.00
East Moline	First	TE - Sherwood, Rebecca	TOC	FT	\$ 59,497.62
Elmwood	First	TE - Bauler, Marla	TOC	FT	\$ 52,812.00
Eureka	Eureka	CLP - Montgomery, Robert	Contract	60	\$ 22,536.00
Galesburg	First	TE - Daniel, Kay	Contract	FT	\$ 54,000.00
Geneseo	First	TE - Doty, Tim	Contract	FT	\$ 60,000.00
Ipava	Ipava United	TE - Walden, Charles	TOC	30	\$ 14,850.00
Jacksonville	First	TE - Warren, Jonathan	TOC	FT	\$ 78,059.86
Kirkwood	Westminster	CLP - Moore, Pamela	Contract	33	\$ 16,560.00
LeRoy	First United	TE - McLean, William (Bill)	Contract	FT	\$ 50,063.00
Lewiston	First	CLP - Penny Frame	Contract	50	\$ 24,407.78
Lincoln	First	TE - Quine, Adam	TOC	FT	\$ 83,430.00
Macomb	First	TE - Whitaker, A. Rene'	Contract	FT	\$ 51,063.24
Macomb	Scotland Trinity	TE - Walden, Charles	TOC	70	\$ 34,650.00
Mason City	United	TE - Poetschner, Charlotte	Contract	15	\$ 9,450.00
Milan	First	TE - Styrt, Katie	TOC	FT	\$ 51,834.00
Monmouth	Faith United	TE - Ouellette, Brandon	TOC	FT	\$ 50,063.00
Morton	First	CLP - Claver, Michael	Contract	50	\$ 30,144.00
Mt Sterling	Pres Ch of Christ	TE - Young, Richard	TOC	25	\$ 12,000.00
New Windsor	New Windsor	TE - Ryu, Hwa Sung	Contract	FT	\$ 50,180.00
Normal	First	TE - Mitchell, Kathryn (Kathy)	Contract	PT	hourly as need
Normal	First	TE - Wilcox, Matt	TOC	FT	\$ 79,528.00
Normal	New Covenant	TM - Burris, Bryan DOC	Contract	FT	\$ 55,900.00
Peoria	First Federated	TE - David Ezekiel	Contract	FT	\$ 127,263.07
Peoria	Westminster	TE - Clark-Jones, Denise	TOC	FT	\$ 79,722.00
Pleasant Plains	Farmingdale	TE - Lee, Lonna Chang-Ren	TOC	62.5	\$ 36,155.00
Reynolds	Hamlet Perryton	TE - Losey, Harold	Contract	47.5	\$ 30,000.00
Rio	Rio	TE - McGrathNagle, Maura	Contract	50	\$ 25,031.50
Rock Island	Gloria Dei	TE - Nagle, Drew	TOC	50	\$ 28,740.50
Rock Island	Good Sheperd	TE - Benson, James	TOC	FT	\$ 53,743.00
Rock Island	South Park	TE - Severson	TOC	FT	\$ 60,240.50
Springfield	First	TE - Phillips, Susan	OC	FT	\$ 128,497.42

Springfield	Hope	TE - Goodman, Chuck	TOC	FT \$ 67,774.00
Springfield	Third	TE - Shear, Dr. John R.	TOC	FT \$ 70,000.00
Springfield	Westminster	TE - Choi, Christian	TOC	FT \$ 70,410.00
Springfield	Westminster	TE - Kieffer, Dr. Blythe	TOC	FT \$ 109,400.00
Tallula	Rock Creek	TE - Hinds, Joanne	Contract	48 \$ 37,000.00
Virginia	Sangamon Valley	TE - Bauler, Dr Timothy	Contract	25 \$ 16,800.00
Washington	Washington	TE - Napoli, John Joseph	TOC	FT \$ 57,000.00
Woodhull	United	TE - Losey, Cheyanna	TOC	FT \$ 51,735.00
Yates City	Faith United	TE - Bauler, Marla	Contract	15 \$ 17,450.00

Churches without current TOCs/Contracts on file with COM/Presbytery of Great Rivers

Adair	West Prairie	Jeremy Westlake, Brethren
Alexis	Norwood	Pullen, Gary
Biggsville -	United	open
Bushnell	First	MIF on file - inactive PNC
Carrollton	First	Kirby Ballard
Chatham	Chatham	open
Clayton	Federated	open
Delavan	First	open
Divernon	First	Steve Smith, UMC
Edwards	Korean	TE - Kim, Hyaekwang (Dan)
Farmington	First	open
Greenview	United	open
Hamilton	Bethel	Pastor John Furniss
Knoxville	First	TE - Shedenhelm, Kenn
Media	Community	open
Middletown	Middletown	open
Monmouth	Sugar Tree Grove	open
Niota	Appanoose Faith	TE - Poland, David
Oneida	United	TE - Baldwin, Linda
Orion	Beulah	TE - Snart, Tim
Pekin	First	pulpit supply
Peoria	United	TE - Avery, Debra
Perry	Perry	open
Petersburg	Central	open
Pleasant Plains	Farmingdale	open
Quincy	Ellington	Ron Cox
Rock Island	Broadway	open
Rushville	First	open
Seaton	Center	open
Springfield	Korean	TE - Kim, Jaechul
Stronghurst	Stronghurst	open
Viola	Viola	TE - Downey, Matthew
Virden	First	open
Virginia	First	open
Warsaw	First	CLP Diane Ludington
White Hall	White Hall	Ballard, Kirby
Woodson	Unity	Kerr, Robert