

**Presbytery of Great Rivers**

February 13, 2021

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

**SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE**

The Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Great Rivers was called to order by Moderator Elder Diane Ludington at 9am central time zone. The purpose of the meeting was to worship. Moderator Elder Diane Ludington led the assembly in worship and the business of the Presbytery. Elder Elect Rev. Chuck Goodman began the meeting with a call to worship with the assistance of Fiona Nagle. An offering was collected for the PCUSA Special Offering: Peace and Global Witness Offering.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NATIVE LANDS**

- Stated Clerk, Rev. Elissa Bailey, gave the acknowledgement of the Native American Heritage for the lands of which our Presbytery currently resides. We acknowledge the Kiikaapoi, Peoria, Sauk, Meskwaki, Miami, and Oceti Sakowin.

**WELCOME**

- Welcome and instructions were given by Moderator Elder Diane Ludington as we were meeting on zoom. Additional information and practice was given on how to participate in our voting procedures.

**QUORUM**

- A quorum was declared by Moderator Elder Diane Ludington at the advisement of the Stated Clerk.

**Quorum & Roll**

The roll was established by registration. "A" = absent. "E" = excused

City & Church		TE or CE serving church	RE commissioner
Adair, West Prairie	A	Mr. Jeremy Westlake	N/A
Aledo, College Ave	A	Rev. Wayne Furr	Lance Slavish
Aledo, Sunbeam		Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle (1 <sup>st</sup> listing)	Jean Harfst
Alexis, Norwood		CLP Gary Pullen	N/A
Athens, Indian Point	A	CLP Sandi Woodard	N/A

February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Presbytery of Great Rivers

Bartonville, Trinity	A	Rev. Steve Barch	N/A
Biggsville, United		CLP Kathie Whitson (1 <sup>st</sup> listing)	Marilyn Simmons
Bloomington, Saint Luke	A	Rev. Andrew Gifford	John Otto
Bloomington, Second		Rev. Trey Haddon	
Bushnell, First		Rev. Mark Merrill	N/A
Canton, First		Rev. Edwin Brinklow	Terry Frame
Carlinville, Federated		VACANT	N/A
Carrollton, First	A	CLP Kirby Ballard (1 <sup>st</sup> listing)	N/A
Carthage, First	A	Rev. Joy Ridge	N/A
Chatham, Chatham		VACANT	N/A
Chenoa, First		VACANT	N/A
Clayton, First		Rev. Kay Daniel	N/A
Clinton, Clinton		Rev. Paul Stroup	Leland Wright
Coal Valley, First	A	Rev. Tim Snart	N/A
Danvers, First		Rev. Elissa Bailey	
Delavan, First		Rev. Jean Sparks	Carrol Lewis
Divernon, First	A	Rev. Steve Smith	N/A
E. Moline, First		Rev. Rebecca Sherwood	Denise Maxwell
Edwards, Korean	A	Rev. Kyaekwang Kim	N/A
Elmwood, First		Rev. Marla Bauler (1 <sup>st</sup> listing)	N/A
Eureka, Eureka		CLP Bob Montgomery	N/A
Farmington, First		Rev. Andy Sonneborn	Michelle Lane
Fountain Green, FGU	A	Mr. Mark Hanson	N/A
Galesburg, First		Rev. Ann Elyse Van Winkle	Susan Rinehart
Geneseo, First		Rev. Tim Doty	Steve Durian
Greenview, United		VACANT	N/A
Hamilton, Bethel		VACANT	N/A
Ipava, United	A	(1 <sup>st</sup> listing) N/A	
Jacksonville, First		Rev. Jonathan Warren	Dave Truesdall
Kirkwood, Westminster	A	CLP Pam Moore	Due Nelson
Knoxville, First	A	Rev. Ken Shedenhelm	Candace Rosene
LeRoy, First		Rev. Annie McMillan	Martha Dean
Lewistown, First		CLP Penny Frame	Richard Hoffman
Lincoln, First	A	Rev. Adam Quine	James Alexander
Macomb, First		Rev. Erin Marth	Barbara Gossett
Macomb, ST	A	(2 <sup>nd</sup> listing) N/A	
Mason City, United	A	Rev. Charlotte Poetschner	N/A
Media, Community		VACANT	N/A
Middletown, First		VACANT	N/A
Milan, First	A	Rev. Katie Styrt	Carolyn Garcia
Monmouth, Faith	A	Rev. Brandon Ouellette	N/A
Monmouth, Sugar Tree		VACANT	N/A
Morton, First	A	CLP Mike Claver	N/A
Mt. Sterling, Mt. S	A	Mr. Richard Young	N/A
New Windsor, United		Rev. Mark Bedford	N/A

Niota, Appanoose Faith	A	Mr. David Poland	N/A
Normal, First	A	Rev. Matt Wilcox	N/A
		Rev. Kathy Mitchell	
Normal, New Covenant	A	-+ N/A	
Oneida, United	A	Rev. Linda Baldwin	Larry Lawson
Orion, Beulah	A	Rev. Tim Snart (2 <sup>nd</sup> listing)	N/A
Pekin, First	A	Rev. Sam Gibb	N/A
Peoria, First Fed		N/A	
Peoria, United		Rev. Debra Avery	N/A
Peoria, Westminster	A	Rev. Denise Clark Jones	Carolyn Swanson
Perry, Perry	A	Mr. John Nelson	N/A
Petersburg, Central		VACANT	N/A
Pleasant Plains, Farmingdale		Rev. Lonna Chang-Ren Lee	Wendy Volker
Quincy, Ellington	A	Mr. Ron Cox	N/A
Reynolds, Hamlet Perryton		Rev. Harry Losey	N/A
Rio, Rio		Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle (2 <sup>nd</sup> listing)	N/A
Rock Island, Broadway		VACANT	Vikki Blair
Rock Island, Gloria Dei		Rev. Drew Nagle	Fiona McGrath Nagle
Rock Island, Good Shepard		Rev. James Benson	Sam LaMere
Rock Island, South Park		Rev. Blake Severson	
Rushville, First		VACANT	N/A
Seaton, Center		CLP Kathie Whitson (2 <sup>nd</sup> listing)	
Springfield, First	A	Rev. Susan Phillips	
Springfield, Hope		Rev. Chuck Goodman	LeCleta Hall
Springfield, Korean	A	Rev. Jaechul Kim	N/A
Springfield, Third		Rev. N/A	
Springfield, Westminster	A	Rev. Blythe Kieffer	Mary Ray
		Rev. Christian Choi	Tom Owen
		Rev. Trajan McGill	
Stronghurst, Stronghurst	A	Mr. Phillip Cooper (2 <sup>nd</sup> listing)	Don Fry
Tallula, Rock Creek		Rev. Joanne Hinds	N/A
Viola, United	A	Rev. Matt Downey	
Virden, First		VACANT	N/A
Virginia, First		VACANT	N/A
Virginia, Sangamon		Rev. Timothy Bauler	Ellen Marr
Warsaw, First		CLP Diane Ludington	N/A
Washington, Washington		Rev. Linda Philabaun	Susan Cox
White Hall, First	A	CLP Kirby Ballard (2 <sup>nd</sup> listing)	N/A
Woodhull, United		Rev. Cheyanna Losey	Teresa Ehlers
Woodson, Unity	A	Rev. Robert Kerr	N/A
Yates City, Faith		Rev. Marla Bauler (2 <sup>nd</sup> listing)	Mary Watts

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Total: Ministers of Word and Sacrament: 35    Ruling Elders: 33

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Validated, At large, Honorably retired, other ministers present

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Total: 10

\*Rev. Cheryl Lunday, HR

\*Rev. Laura Reason

\*Rev. Sterrett Collins, VM

\*Rev. Teri Ott, VM

\*Rev. Dick Johnson, HR  
 \*Rev. Ryan Landino, VM  
 \*Rev. Susan Ryder, HR

\*Rev. Beth Hamilton, VM  
 \*Rev. Carolyn Weber, HR  
 \*Rev. Kathy Stoner-Lasala, HR

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Administration & Visioning Team Members, Committee Chairs	Total: 0
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Moderator/Moderator-Elect, or Prior Moderator	Total: 0
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Corresponding Members	Total: 3
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\*Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, PCUSA Office of Public Witness  
 \*Rev. Ken Green, Chicago Presbytery      \*Deacon Bryce Wiebe, OGA

Others Present – committee members with voice but no vote,	Total: 1
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\*Elder Julie Bruninga, COM

Others Present – ruling elders, visitors, inquirers/candidates, no voice/vote	Total: 0
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Presbytery Staff	Total: 0
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Total Attendance: 82

## INTRODUCTIONS

- There were no new Ministers of Word and Sacrament introduced for this Assembly.
- New Ruling Elder Commissioners were introduced.
- The following Corresponding members were seated:
  - **MSA** the following Corresponding members:
    - Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, PCUSA Office of Public Witness
    - Rev. Ken Green, Board of Pensions.
    - Deacon Bryce Wiebe, PCUSA OGA

## APPROVAL OF DOCKET

- **MSA** the docket as written with no corrections. (Appendix R)

## PARTNERING IN SERVICE

## OPENING BUSINESS

- **MSA** entering all written reports into the permanent minutes.

- Omnibus Motion:
  - The Omnibus Motion was **MSA** with the following items: The Leadership Team Report (Appendix A), Visioning Team Report (Appendix B), Lead Presbyter for Transformation Report (Appendix C), Report of the Administrative Commission for Greenview Presbyterian Church (Appendix D).
  - **MSA** the omnibus motion with the removal of the Stated Clerk's report.
- Stated Clerk Report: (Appendix E)
  - Stated Clerk, Rev. Elissa Bailey, reported an investigative committee completed its work and no charges were filed. The investigative committee was thanked for their time and work.
- Administration Team: (Appendix F, G, H, I, J, )
  - Chair, Elder Julio Garcia was unable to participate in the meeting. Therefore, Stated Clerk, Rev. Elissa Bailey presented the motion coming from the Administration Team.
    - **MA** the following distribution of the Ebersolt Fund:
      - Indian Point United Presbyterian Church, Athens, \$2,327.73
      - United Presbyterian Church, Greenview, \$2,327.73
      - Central Presbyterian Church, Petersburg, \$2,327.73
      - Rock Creek Presbyterian Church, Tallula, \$2,327.73
    - **MA** the following to the Nominating Committee, class of 2023, term 1.
      - Elder Judy Helms, United Presbyterian Church, Peoria.
        - There were no additional nominations from the floor.
    - The Financials are included in the appendices.
- Committee on Ministry: (Appendix M)
  - Chair, Elder Kathie Whitson presented the following:
    - The COM celebrated with the Reverends Robert and Susan Ryder, designating them as honorably retired. Their last call was to the New Covenant Community Church of Normal.
    - The COM welcomes Rev. Katie Styrt as a new member of the Presbytery of Great Rivers. She will be serving First, Milan.
    - **MA** the formation of the Administrative Commission for Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church of Williamsville, IL (Appendix N)
      - Powers and limitations of the AC:
        - To assist the Session in discerning its current and future ministry and mission in relationship to the PCUSA.

- To meet with the congregation as needed to discern future ministry and mission.
- If it is determined that future ministry and mission is best served by separating from the PCUSA, to work with the session in creating a plan for separation.
- To exercise the Presbytery's authority to approve "congregations desiring to move as well as to divide, dismiss, or dissolve the congregation in consultation with their members;" (G-3.0303b).
- To pastorally care for those, if any, who desire to remain in the denomination.
- In considering whether the commission acting as the Presbytery will transfer a congregation to another Reformed denomination or will dissolve the congregation and reach an agreement with the new independent congregation or a new congregation of another denomination, the presbytery will examine each proposed option as it presents itself.
- To negotiate practical considerations for the action. (property, capital funds, any future bequests or beneficiary designations, considerations of payments to the denomination, preservation of church records for the denomination and the congregation including depositing the originals or an approved digitalized copy of all records as a PCUSA congregation and any predecessor denomination (the cost of this will be included in the agreement with the congregation), new name for the congregation reflecting the change of denominational relationship, etc.); in fulfilling this task, the AC will document its consideration of value and include it in the recommended plan of separation.
- To report its work and all actions to the Presbytery for ratification.
- The Presbytery Moderator will nominate members on this AC to be elected by the Presbytery (PLEASE NOTE: this bullet point was changed under new business)

- **MA** the following request on behalf of the following churches for term limit extensions in accordance with G-2.0404 in the Book of Order:
  - Delavan, First: Elders Jeff Johnson and Roger Wright.
  - Elmwood, First: Elders Emily Roberts and Brett Stevens.
  - Ipava, Ipava: Elder Derek Porter and Deacons Cindi Portere, Marci Woods, Jenny Winder, and Audrey Branson.
  - Rock Island, Gloria Dei: Elder Marlo Greer
  - Stronghurst, Stronghurst: Elders Don Fry and Michael Rodeffer.
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report:
  - The CPM report was given by Chair, Rev. Matt Wilcox.
    - There are no motions. However, Rev. Matt Wilcox spoke to those under care so that the Assembly is aware of who is under care.
- Nominating Committee: (Appendix P):
  - The Nominating Committee report was given by Chair, Rev. Dick Johnson.
    - The following nomination was presented:
      - Rev. Dr. Laura Reason, Synod Commissioner, class of 2023, term 2.
      - **MA** with no additional nominations from the floor.
- Visioning Team: (Appendix B)
  - Chair, Rev. Erin Marth began the Visioning Team report by inviting Rev. Blake Severson of South Park Presbyterian Church to share a video of the work the church is doing to help feed the community. The original funds were from a grant received by the visioning team.
  - **MA** receiving the 2020 Vision Statement.
  - Time was allowed for small groups to discuss the 2020 vision statement and how they might implement this in their local congregations.
    - Lead Presbyter for Transformation, Rev. Ryan Landino led the discussion.
      - How is the vision statement used on the local level?
        - Connecting despite pandemic
        - Pastors need to work to get together virtually with each other and get to know who is serving next door.
        - Discussion to add the last sentence of support: we aspire to listen without judgment

- We felt like connect was a key piece – all the rest hangs off our ability to connect with each other as well as our community.
- How to work on seeking justice in communities that are not very diverse.
- Connect was a word we were using a lot before March 2020. It is now even more of a key word/action/aspiration for us during the pandemic.
- Lots of need for justice in small, rural, culturally homogenous communities.
- We need to seek to embody these propositions in our presence with any group and tell that group that a particular issue is included in the Presbytery's visioning statement.
- Board of Pensions (Appendix Q)
  - Rev. Ken Green presented good news from the BoP
    - Starting February, all BoP bills will be electronic and there will be no paper mail anymore, thus saving money and the environment.
    - Ken did also apologize for the issues caused by the BoP changing back to Express Scripts.
    - Additional documents were presented that can be found on the Presbytery's website.

## UNITING IN WORSHIP

- Special Guests Rev. Jimmie Hawkins and Deacon Bryce Wiebe presented a time of conversation.
  - The PCUSA and Advocacy: The ministries of the Offices of PCUSA Office of Special Offerings.
  - Deacon Bryce Wiebe spoke about the various ways the PCUSA uses the four special offerings that are taken up from around the country. He thanked the Presbytery and the congregations for their participation and showed the video that had been produced by Rev. Ryan Landino.
  - Rev. Jimmie Hawkins is the director of the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness.
  - Rev. Jimmie Hawkins spoke about relationship building and the ways the PCUSA is called to move forward. Rev. Hawkins spoke about the necessity of those in leadership being important models of standing up for what is important and for what is right. We are called to lead the denomination going forward in fighting for justice for all.



## **RISKING IN MINISTRY**

- Elder Gary Pullen spoke to today's offering of the Peace and Global Witness Offering that is a PCUSA special offering.
- Announcements:
  - January 17<sup>th</sup>, PGR commissioned Elder Kathie Whitson to Center Presbyterian in Seaton, IL.
  - February 28<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Matt Wilcox will be installed as the Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian in Normal, IL.
  - March 7<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Edwin Brinklow will be installed as the pastor of First Presbyterian in Canton, IL.
  - March 21<sup>st</sup>, Rev. Katie Styrt will be installed as the pastor of First Presbyterian in Milan, IL.
  - March 7<sup>th</sup>, PGR will commission Elder Sue Sawers to First Presbyterian in Carlinville, IL.
- A time of prayer and thanksgiving was led by Moderator Elect, Rev. Chuck Goodman.
- New Business:
  - **MSA** to reconsider the powers and limitations of the Administrative Commission for Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church of Williamsville, IL.
  - **MSA** to replace the last bullet point with the following:
    - The Presbytery give power to the Moderator to appoint members to the Administrative Commission at the appropriate time.
- Adjournment:
  - MSA to adjourn with a charge and blessing from Moderator Elect Rev. Chuck Goodman: "More love than you can possibly keep to yourself"
  - Closing prayer by Moderator Elder Diane Ludington.
  - Our next Stated Meeting will be Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> on zoom.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Leadership Team (LT) includes all the committee chairs, the Lead Presbyter for Transformation, Treasurer, Stated Clerk, and the moderators- immediate past, present, and elect. The current PGR Moderator moderates the team.

This body gathers before each assembly to share the various goings on in their respective areas. We discuss the threads of continuity in our work, the areas that need attention, and combine to focus the efforts of this assembly to best support the work of the church through PGR congregations. At least that is what we strive to do.

The nuts and bolts of our work is to assign priority to subject matters before us, plan use of assembly time (*your* time), evaluate potential key-note and developmental/educational components to include in our meeting time. We also set the dates and venues for Assemblies.

This team met last on February 3 at which we received committee reports, discussed the visioning statement as will be presented. We also affirmed the need for Advocacy-speak; that we, as the church, are called to constructively and faithfully address pressing issues of our time through biblical witness. To that end, we have asked the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins from the Office of Public Witness to address the PGR.

We also set the 2021 the team meetings for noon on May 11, August 12, and November 3. Assembly dates are confirmed for Tuesday, May 25, Tuesday, August 24, and Saturday, November 13.

## VISIONING TEAM REPORT

The Visioning Team would like to bring two items before the Assembly:

1. The Rev. Blake Severson will share a short video at the assembly meeting about South Park Presbyterian's Community Christmas Box giveaway
2. The Visioning Team requests that the Assembly vote to receive the 2020 Vision Statement.
  - 2020 Vision Statement  
The 2020 Vision Statement represents the fruits of our ongoing transformational conversations around the presbytery. The text itself is based on the February 2020 Visioning Conversations we had at our last face-to-face assembly, but more specifically from the three online September townhalls where members of the presbytery named together what kind of presbytery we wanted to be. The Great Rivers Presbytery Visioning Team has listened closely to what was lifted up, and from your contributions we drafted a copy of the 2020 Vision Statement that was mailed out to all of the congregations of the presbytery and shared in the newsletter starting mid November of 2020. The resulting feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly supportive, with some great questions about where we go from here and a few suggested changes. After discussion among the Visioning Team, two specific changes were made to the 2020 Vision Statement draft:
    - In the "Seek Justice" section:
      - Add the word "accept" to "we aspire to accept and bless" the range of identities in our midst."
      - Put the word "Kin-dom" in quotes

*The 2020 Vision Statement is included at the end of this report.*

Other Informational Items:

- Two members of this team have needed to resign due to extenuating circumstances: Elder Stephanie McCullough and Elder Christine Westerlund. The Visioning Team is grateful for their service!
- **Bucks for Blessing**
  - \$1,000 - South Park Presbyterian: Community Christmas Food Boxes
- **Mission Initiative Fund**
  - \$5,000 - FPC Jacksonville: to develop their church's social media ministry
  - \$1,872 - FPC Normal: has shifted their focus at Sheridan Elementary School to support the ever-changing needs of families with economic struggles
- **Sabbatical Grant**
  - \$2,000 for Dr. Jaechul Kim to experience how much ministry has changed in Korea over the past 25 years, to prepare for retirement, and to connect with colleague pastors among his seminary class whom he has not met with for a long time.
- **The Lux Institute** requested support two years ago in the amount of \$50,000 over 5 years. For the last two years, the practice has become waiting until the end of the year to give unused Visioning Team funds to the Lux Institute. After significant discernment, the Visioning Team came to the conclusion that this program is important to our presbytery and needs to be prioritized, therefore it was decided to guarantee \$10,000 each year for the Lux Institute for the next three years. In response to a request for statistics of Great Rivers participants in the Lux Institute, Rev. Jessica Hawkinson provided the following:
  - High school student participants from Great Rivers Presbytery: 11 out of 54 students total, with an additional 11 from our Synod (Lincoln Trails)

- Monmouth College student staff/mentors/counselors: 13, two of whom were also part of our Presbyterian Scholars program
- Institute Pastors/Worship Leaders: 3 of 4 pastors (Chuck Goodman, Brandon Ouellette, Erin Marth).
- In addition, two PGR churches, Sugar Tree Grove Presbyterian and Faith United Presbyterian in Monmouth have been involved in a variety of ways over the years, including offering session approval for communion during the Institute, hosting Lux events, etc.
- (Please note that these numbers are for the four past program years, and don't include this coming Summer 2021 participants.)

## 2020 Vision Statement

*We are followers of Christ. We are a community of congregations and ministries bound together by God's love. We are humans who journey through blessing and brokenness, striving to be faithful, in need of connection and community, grace and repair, guidance and support, affirmation and encouragement, solidarity and celebration. We have faith that we have each been gifted and charged to a specific work of ministry in our particular time and place, the kind of work that changes lives. We are a people who accept that the ministry landscape is changing, and that we need each other, and we affirm that God is with us and at work in our midst. We are a body that tries to live faithfully together through covenants rooted in our love for one another and a polity that seeks to foster accountability to our promises to each other, a polity we have the collective power to change as needed.*

Our aspirations:

**TRANSFORM** We aspire to change, to grieve and to let go, to ask new questions, to challenge old assumptions, to seek joy, and to build different structures that more closely align with our mission. We aspire to make space for new partners, to assist each other with how we may fit into new realities where we may be unsure. We want to move into a new future together.

**CONNECT** We aspire to be together, connected and connecting, to each other and God. We aspire to keep relationship first and to encourage collaborative ministry. We desire the presbytery to meet us where we are. We want to contribute where we can make a difference.

**SUPPORT** We aspire to support one another personally, professionally, and holistically, to build each other up, to bear one another's burdens, to create space for mutuality, solidarity, and support. We aspire to listen.

**SPIRITUALLY ENGAGE** We aspire to be spiritually overflowing and worshipfully engaged. We want to be inspired and to share that inspiration. We want to glorify God above all and recognize the divine in our midst, manifest in the multitude of gifts around us, filling every space in our presbytery. We aspire to have intentional moments of prayer for each other.

**SEEK JUSTICE** We aspire to accept and bless the range of identities in our midst, to embrace the leadership of peoples long silenced, so we may challenge each other and be enriched by the unique perspectives of others. We aspire to repair, reorient, rearrange, or reject what we must in order to build the "Kin-dom" of God on earth as it is in heaven.

**RESOURCE** We aspire to be resourced and resourcing, to teach and to learn, as we respond to the unique challenges of today. We want spaces to reflect on our effectiveness and sharpen our discipleship, attentive to our heads, our hearts, and our bodies. We want to be strengthened, trained, and equipped for 21st century ministry in our local contexts.

**FOCUS** We aspire to rally around a unifying missional focus by uniting around our Matthew 25 identity, centering the needs of the people as if we were serving Jesus himself. We want to be a meaningful presence in our communities and honor Christ's Great Commission.

## LEAD PRESBYTER FOR TRANSFORMATION REPORT

It will be approximately one year since our last face to face presbytery assembly. We shook hands, broke bread together, and laughed and shared proximity together. We talked about “survival” of churches and debated whether we even could be a community without our buildings. None of us could have expected how much would have changed. And with it, new wisdom, appreciations, perspective, and yes, woundedness.

As we turn the corner into 2021, we are still facing a future that is unknown. Previously I have shared a metaphor that we need to go “off road” as a presbytery, lighter, more agile, more adaptive and more responsive to the ministry needs of our contemporary context. This means asking more questions than seeking right answers, being able to readily articulate the “why” of our processes, and celebrate the lifegiving impacts of our life together. This new landscape was described as a foggy horizon, not being able to see far ahead at all. What we didn’t expect as we moved steadily forward was how, starting in mid-March of 2020, there was a steep incline of a hill that launched us forward where we rolled quickly ahead, not knowing when the downward spiral will stop. Even now, many of our heads are still spinning. This is real. Even as we begin to see even ground ahead of us as coronavirus numbers decline and more and more of us are vaccinated, we are still on dangerous ground. And so our transformation work together has been both responding to the challenges not just of the ongoing pandemic. but the compounding anxiety and angst that our isolation and disruptions are causing us, all while seeking a way forward into new life ahead.

Yet, even in the midst of this crisis, our transformation work has continued. **As might be expected, the core of that transformation work is happening in the committees**, where the hands-on work of the presbytery has been delegated. There has been substantial work in understanding our impact in the context of the greater whole. One surprise for me, as someone who is usually very forward looking, has been how much work has been looking BACK to reestablish the core purposes of our committees. During the townhalls of 2017 that I co-led as your Presbytery Moderator-Elect with Moderator Susan Sawers, one observation I remember was that the transformation work that under Transitional Executive Rev. Felipe Martinez still needed time to bake. I am surprised how much of my work has been picking up where he left off in 2015. As such I have witnessed a remarkable spirit of rejuvenation in many of our committees, notably around the work of calling us back to the core purpose of the committees as they were restructured in 2014 (and the Committee on Ministry’s restructuring in 2018), with transformation particularly noticeable in Visioning, COM, Nominating, and Personnel. And I’m reminded of the teachings of the Practice of Adaptive Leadership, page 15: *“Successful adaptive changes build on the past, rather than jettison it...successful adaptations are thus both conservative and progressive.”* These efforts are making us more focused, more efficient, and more responsive to the needs of our congregations. I am noticing too that fewer and fewer people are relying on me to “direct traffic” of people asking where to go for a given item of business—this signals for me that we are working more smoothly together as a whole. Becoming less leader-dependent is part of being responsive and agile as an organization, and reflects the collaborative “starfish model” instead of the hierarchical “spider model” introduced by Ori Brafman in 2006.

Of particular mention is the work within the **Personnel** Committee, which officially is a subcommittee of the Administration Team but has been functioning independently for many years. This team is responsible for employee evaluations, yet we do not have much of a formal process for how to do that in our manual of operations. So we have been developing a new evaluation process that we is grounded in our job descriptions, and incorporates more regular conversation about how we all function together as a whole. I laud the work of the Personnel Team for their progress on normalizing a new process, and we are likely going to be reviewing some structural questions about whether Personnel should remain as a subcommittee of Admin or should be explicitly an independent committee.

The **Visioning** Committee is another area that has seen incredible transformation. While originally cast to be a vision-casting body, it was quickly mired entirely by the important but technical tasks of approving grants. We have worked through being able to separate both the technical work and the adaptive so we can be most free to do *both*, and the Visioning Team has absolutely lived into that challenge. The 2020 Vision Statement that is being shared at this Saturday’s meeting is an expression of that transformation—particularly in how it is entirely shaped by words and feedback from the presbytery, drawing on both pre-

and mid-pandemic expressions of identity and hopes for the future. The reason we are calling it the *2020 Vision Statement* is because we want to contextualize that the raw wisdom and authenticity expressed in it comes particularly out of the lessons of 2020 that we have survived together, and also affirms, like “20-20 vision” language of an eye doctor, we have achieved a kind of sharper clarity on what we value most, and how badly we need each other. This document, found in the Visioning Team report, is the very visioning work that the Visioning Team was entrusted by the presbytery to do, and they could not have done it without your feedback and engagement. And for that we thank you.

So where do we go now? We cannot move forward without a clear idea of who we are and what we are striving for. The **2020 Vision Statement** is a platform that we hope can ground us together in our shared aspirations and give us focus for directing our energies. One of the most consistent pieces of feedback we’ve heard about the statement was the challenge of “it sounds great! But will we use it?” In Visioning, we talked about the metaphor of a car: is this a nice shiny show car we like to exhibit but ultimately will just sit in the garage? Or will we actually *use it* to get to where we need to go? Friends, challenge accepted.

This is a document that is intended to be used. Already, I have already seen people organically apply it. I have received word that, even while in the feedback stage, at least one session already naturally decided to use it as an assessment tool of their own ministry. Even at our Leadership Team when we were discussing what to emphasize at our assembly, we circled back to this document to guide us on where we should be focusing our energy. Moving forward we commit to creating a discussion guide with Scriptural references to aid sessions and pastors in their conversations about the focus of our own ministries. In 2021, every committee of the presbytery will be requested to study this document from the Visioning Team to consider how well we are matching our aspirations with our energies. Might it be that we are spending 70% of our energy on 30% of our aspirations? What might that say about the use of our financial resources? How might that assist our transformation efforts? We hope that every congregation and arm of the presbytery could use this document as a way to analyze the impact of our mission.

By now, it is our hope that everyone has at least had a chance to hear about our 2020 Vision Statement. This assembly, the Visioning Team and I will share a little about their work with a brief overview of how we can use it, and then we will have breakout rooms that will ask us to look at part of the 2020 Vision Statement with the question of where are we seeing our aspirations being met in our local ministries, and where are we seeing our aspirations being met as we unite our efforts as a presbytery. In the spirit of the phrase, *we cultivate what we celebrate*, we hope we can experience a taste of what it is like to reflect upon our work through the lens of our aspirations, and to practice using this statement as a focus text for our mission.

I am honored to serve you in this time. Again, I affirm that GOD IS ALIVE amongst us, and the value of our work has never been clearer in our lifetimes. I don’t know what the months ahead are going to look like. This will be an even newer kind of Lenten season that we have never witnessed before. But I believe in the good people of this presbytery to persevere, and to proclaim the goodness of God through it.

In this together,  
Ryan

Rev. Ryan J. Landino, Lead Presbyter for Transformation of Great Rivers Presbytery  
Cell: 309-251-9958, [rlandino@greatriverspbpy.org](mailto:rlandino@greatriverspbpy.org)

### **GREENVIEW ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION**

We have been actively working together to help address the systemic issues that have been going on with Greenview. Since our last report, we have met with several members of the congregation, as well as some former members of the congregation, to listen to their stories and to work with them on how we can work together. In late October, we held a listening meeting with members of the Greenview Congregation. Several questions were addressed as well as several of the underlying issues were named. We have since provided the Session with a list of resources for them as they discern the next steps as a congregation. We have also utilized LeaderWise as a resource for our Commission. We appreciate their expertise in shepherding our commission as we do our work. We will continue to work with the Greenview Session and congregation in the hopes that we can develop and implement a healthy plan of action.

We have taken no official actions as a Commission that need to be reported to the Presbytery at this time.

Respectfully Submitted by the Greenview A.C.

Rev. Andrew Sonneborn (Chair)  
Rev. Susan Phillips  
CLP Sandi Woodard  
Rev. Christian Choi (Secretary)



## **STATED CLERK'S REPORT**

Recommended action to the floor of Presbytery:

THAT THE STATED CLERK'S REPORT BE ENTERED INTO THE MINUTES AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN BE ADOPTED.

### **1. MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED, DISMISSED, HONORABLY RETIRED, REMOVED, OR DECEASED**

THAT the following minister(s) be received:

- Rev. Katie Styrt be received from East Iowa Presbytery

THAT the following minister(s) be listed as Honorably Retired:

- Rev Robert Ryder, effective 1/31/2021
- Rev Susan Ryder, effective 1/31/2021

THAT the following minister(s) be Dismissed:

N/A

THAT the following minister(s) be Removed from Rolls:

N/A

Deceased:

### **2. PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

- An investigative committee completed its work and no charges were filed.

### **3 CORRESPONDENCE**

- Request from First Presbyterian Church in Elmwood for term limit extensions for First-Elmwood session members, Emily Roberts and Brett Stevens.
- Request term limit waivers for Stronghurst Presbyterian session members, Donald Fry and Michael Rodeffer.
- Request from Ipava (Barb Golden, Clerk) for permission to extend the terms of serving of our elders and deacons. Will need names prior to vote.
- The Session and the congregation of Gloria Dei Presbyterian Church respectfully request a waiver on terms of service as found in G-2.0404 of the Book of Order. We are a congregation of 20 members with a Session of five members and average worship attendance of 11. We are requesting permission to have Marlo Greer serve a fifth consecutive term of three years as a member of the Session.
- Request term limit waiver for Rock Island-Gloria Dei session member, Marlo Greer.
- Request term limit waiver for Delavan-First session members Jeff Johnson and Roger Wright
- Request term limit waiver for Ipava session member Derek Porter and deacons Cindi Portere, Marci Woods, Jenny Winder and Audrey Branson

## ADMINISTRATION TEAM REPORT

### Real Estate Issues

- Rushville – permission to sell real estate. More information to come.

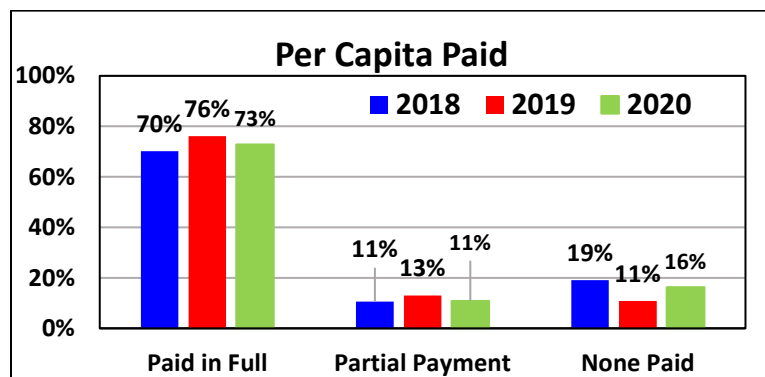
### Treasurer's Report

- Overall, we are not as low as we had originally projected. We did make gains in our investments but that is not reflected in the checking account as those gains remain in the investments and are not cashed out.

2020 Budget Narrative for February 13, 2021, Assembly Meeting

### Receipts

Actual Income for 2020 was about \$51,000 over the budgeted income, primarily due to the returns of almost \$87,000 we received on our investment account with the New Covenant Funds (12% growth). Our combined per capita and mission income was down about \$7,000 from what was budgeted. Per Capita giving was similar to the last two years as shown in the graph.



### Expenses

Expenses were dramatically affected by the Covid virus. All committee meetings were virtual, GA was virtual, and Assembly meetings went virtual after February. Mileage, travel expenses, and personnel expenses associated with travel were reduced because of this.

Office expenses were on par with what was budgeted. We paid off our construction loan to First Federated and began to see the benefits of moving to our new offices.

Administration expenses were down due to an overpayment in per capita from 2018 (which reduced 2020's unpaid amount dramatically) and the virtual meetings that took place.

Program expenses were reduced by the virtual meetings of COM, little use of continuing ed grants, and no Presbytery events.

Total Actual business expenses were down almost \$65,000 from what was budgeted.

### Impact on Cash Flow

Although the bottom line shows a surplus of \$36,383, the impact on the checking account was (\$50,616) because we do not sell our investments to claim the income shown as gains. During the year, \$70,000 was transferred from our investments to our checking account to make up this shortfall.

- Ebersolt Fund to be distributed.  
Indian Point United Presbyterian Church, Athens \$2,327.73  
United Presbyterian Church, Greenview \$2,327.73

Central Presbyterian Church, Petersburg \$2,327.73

Rock Creek Presbyterian Church, Tallula \$2,327.73

- Hadican Fargo Lee Memorial Fund – Scholarships  
\$517.40 currently available.  
Avery Foster has applied for the scholarship.
- Nauvoo Gift to Presbytery  
\$600 to Pastor Compassion Fund
  - COM in consultation with the Lead Presbytery for Transformation will administer this fund.  
\$600 CLP Coordinator Fund
  - COM will administer this fund.
- Oikocredit International Fund – This is a new account of \$1,000 to help fund Presbyterian Women in our Presbytery.
- Cooksville (Former Presbyterian Church) received funds from the Presbyterian Foundation. Bill will be following up with the Presbyterian Foundation. We put this aside until Bill can find out more information.

We ask the following to serve on the Nominating Committee: Judy Helms – United Peoria

## **ADMINISTRATION TEAM**

### **Motions for Approval**

#### **Ebersolt Fund**

(In the 1970's a member of Rock Creek Presbyterian Church named Peter Ebersolt died and bequeathed a sum of money that is held by the Presbyterian Foundation. The income from this fund is to be used for "such religious or charitable purposes in Menard County, Illinois, as the officers of the Presbytery shall see fit. On June 10, 2003, the Trustees voted to have two representatives from each congregation in Menard County meet to make a recommendation on how the Ebersolt funds are to be spent each year. Your Administration team has voted in the affirmative to recommend approval by the Assembly so disbursements can be made in the following manner.)

Motion to distribute the Ebersolt Fund in the following manner.

- Indian Point United Presbyterian Church, Athens \$2,327.73
- United Presbyterian Church, Greenvew \$2,327.73
- Central Presbyterian Church, Petersburg \$2,327.73
- Rock Creek Presbyterian Church, Tallula \$2,327.73

#### **Nominee for the Nomination Committee**

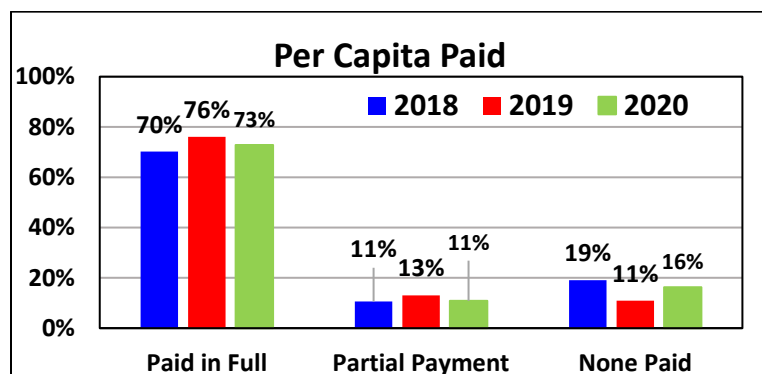
- Motion to approve Judy Helms – United Peoria to be a member of the Presbytery Nomination Committee.

## FINANCIALS

### 2020 Budget Narrative for February 13, 2021, Assembly Meeting

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Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Strawbridge

# **FINANCIALS**

## 2020 Mission and Per Capita Payments

### **PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS SHARED MISSION AND PER CAPITA SUPPORT BY CHURCH**

#### 2020 Mission & Per Capita Payments

<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>MISSION 2020</b>			<b>PER CAPITA 2020</b>		
	<b>PLEDGED</b>	<b>PAID</b>	<b>PAYMENTS (OVER) UNDER PLEDGE</b>	<b>DUE</b>	<b>PAID</b>	<b>BALANCE REMAINING</b>
Adair - West Prairie			-	718.62	718.62	-
Aledo - College Avenue			-	3,798.42	2,848.83	949.59
Aledo - Sunbeam		800	(800.00)	787.06	787.06	-
Alexis - Norwood		1,500.00	(1,500.00)	2,121.64	2,121.64	-
Athens - Indian Point		600.00	(600.00)	1,163.48	1,163.48	-
Bartonville - Trinity		2,000.00	(2,000.00)	1,574.12	1,574.12	-
Biggsville - United			-	2,361.18		2,361.18
Bloomington - Second	-		-	28,094.62	27,341.80	752.82
Bloomington - St Luke	-		-	4,003.74	4,003.74	-
Buffalo - Buffalo Hart	2,000.00	4,000.00	(2,000.00)	2,703.38	2,703.38	-
Bushnell - First			-	2,498.06	2,498.06	-
Canton - First		-	-	3,764.20	3,764.20	-
Carlinville - Federated			-	1,642.56	1,642.56	-
Carrollton - First			-	1,300.36	1,300.36	-
Carthage - First			-	2,737.60	2,737.60	-
Chatham			-	6,262.26		6,262.26
Chenoa - First	250.00	250.00	-	1,060.82	1,060.82	-
Clayton - Federated			-	239.54	239.54	-
Clinton	2,500.00	2,500.00	-	3,661.54	3,661.54	-
Coal Valley - First		50.00	(50.00)	5,612.08	5,612.08	-
Cooksville - Union			-	410.64		410.64
Danvers - First		400.00	(400.00)	5,372.54	5,372.54	-
Delavan - First		2,000.00	(2,000.00)	1,916.32	2,016.00	(99.68)
Divernon - First			-	1,437.24		1,437.24
East Moline - First		1,500.00	(1,500.00)	4,517.04	4,529.23	(12.19)
Edwards - Korean			-	1,711.00	1,727.25	(16.25)
Elmwood - First			-	3,627.32		3,627.32
Eureka			-	992.38	992.38	-
Farmington - First United		1,200.00	(1,200.00)	3,798.42	1,505.60	2,292.82
Carthage-Fountain Greend			-	2,258.52	1,667.82	590.70
Galesburg - First United			-	9,170.96	2,463.84	6,707.12
Geneseo - First	3,760.00	3,760.00	-	3,148.24	3,149.00	(0.76)
Green Valley - First			-	1,300.36		1,300.36
Greenview - United			-	1,676.78	1,676.78	-
Hamilton - Bethel			-	1,745.22		1,745.22
Ipava - United			-	1,574.12	1,574.12	-

Presbytery of Great Rivers  
February 13, 2021

Jacksonville - First		16,000.08	(16,000.08)	14,269.74	12,484.08	1,785.66
Kirkwood - Westminster			-	1,711.00	1,762.50	(51.50)
Knoxville - First	-	1,275.00	(1,275.00)	1,813.66	1,813.66	-
Leroy - First			-	6,399.14	6,399.14	-
Lewistown - First			-	2,053.20	2,053.20	-
Lincoln - First		3,000.00	(3,000.00)	5,064.56	5,064.56	-
Macomb - First	6,000.00	7,675.23	(1,675.23)	9,273.62	9,270.84	2.78
Macomb - Scotland Trinity			-	2,155.86	500.00	1,655.86
Mason City - United	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	2,634.94	2,634.94	-
Media - U PCommunity	-		-	410.64	410.64	-
Middletown - First			-	513.30	513.30	-
Milan - First	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	4,996.12	4,996.12	-
Monmouth - Faith United			-	8,075.92	8,075.92	-
Monmouth - Sugar Tree Grove		200.00	(200.00)	958.16	958.16	-
Morton - First			-	787.06	787.06	-
Mt Sterling - P C Of Christ			-	1,163.48	1,163.48	-
Nauvoo - First			-	581.74		581.74
New Windsor - United		3,227.00	(3,227.00)	5,372.54	4,003.74	1,368.80
Niota - Appanoose Faith			-	2,155.86		2,155.86
Normal - First	25,000.00	25,000.00	-	16,528.26	16,528.29	(0.03)
Normal - New Covenant		400.00	(400.00)	718.62	719.00	(0.38)
Oneida-First			-	650.18	650.18	-
Orion - Beulah		500.00	(500.00)	1,984.76	1,984.76	-
Pekin - First			-	2,874.48	2,874.46	0.02
Peoria - First Federated			-	11,361.04	11,361.04	-
Peoria - United		3,500.00	(3,500.00)	16,699.36	12,153.25	4,546.11
Peoria - Westminster	6,760.00	7,560.00	(800.00)	4,688.14	2,344.00	2,344.14
Perry			-	410.64	410.64	-
Petersburg - Central	4,500.00	3,960.00	540.00	3,285.12	3,285.12	-
Pleasant Plains - Farmingdale		2,000.01	(2,000.01)	3,079.80	3,858.30	(778.50)
Quincy - Ellington Memorial		4,000.00	(4,000.00)	3,114.02	3,114.02	-
Reynolds - Hamlet Perryton			-	2,190.08	2,190.08	-
Rio			-	3,216.68	1,814.20	1,402.48
Rock Island - Broadway			-	1,882.10	1,883.00	(0.90)
Rock Island - Gloria Dei			-	752.84	752.84	-
Rock Island - Good Shepherd		3,065.00	(3,065.00)	6,433.36	6,433.36	-
Rock Island - South Park			-	5,783.18	5,783.18	-
Rushville - First			-	1,129.26		1,129.26
Seaton - Center			-	2,053.20	692.00	1,361.20
Sherrard - Community *Closed			-	1,095.04	-	1,095.04
Springfield - First			-	9,376.28	9,376.28	-
Springfield - Hope	3,300.00	3,300.00	-	3,661.54	445.36	3,216.18
Springfield - Knox			-	1,129.26	1,129.26	-
Springfield - Korean United			-	718.62	718.62	-
Springfield - Third	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	6,433.36	6,433.36	-
Springfield - Westminster	17,000.00	17,000.00	-	36,067.88	36,067.88	-

Presbytery of Great Rivers  
February 13, 2021

Stronghurst			-	581.74	581.74	-
Tallula - Rock Creek			-	2,600.72		2,600.72
Viola - United			-	2,155.86	2,155.86	-
Virden - First			-	752.84		752.84
Virginia - First			-	3,079.80		3,079.80
Virginia - Sangamon Valley			-	1,471.46	1,471.46	-
Warsaw - First	2,500.00	6.22	2,493.78	2,977.14	2,977.14	-
Washington			-	4,243.28	4,243.28	-
White Hall - First			-	992.38	992.38	-
Woodhull - United	4,000.00		4,000.00	4,585.48	4,585.48	-
Woodson - Unity			-	307.98		307.98
Yates City - Faith United	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	1,916.32	1,916.32	-
	<b>81,570.00</b>	<b>126,228.54</b>	<b>(44,658.54)</b>	<b>364,135.02</b>	<b>307,271.47</b>	<b>56,863.55</b>



**FINANCIALS**  
**BALANCE SHEET – DECEMBER 2020****PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS - CASH BASIS**  
**CURRENT TO PRIOR YEAR COMPARATIVE**  
**AS OF December 31, 2020**

	December 2019	December 2020	Increase/ (Decrease)
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash			
Checking and CDs	\$ 211,935	\$ 233,853	\$ 21,918
Investments	720,517	738,516	17,999
Lease Deposit	-	-	-
Fixed Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	5,045	2,480	(2,565)
Total Assets	\$ 937,497	\$ 974,849	\$ 37,352
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>			
Liabilities			
Liabilities Payable	\$-	\$-	\$-
Pass Thru Liabilities	9,553	9,828	275
Prepaid Mission & Per Capita	445	-	(445)
Total Liabilities	\$ 9,999	\$ 9,828	\$(170)
Net Assets			
Unrestricted	\$ 816,002	\$ 855,559	\$ 39,557
			-
Designated			-
Presbytery Leaders Support	8,876	-	(8,876)
Presbyter Relocation	10,000	10,000	-
Total Designated	\$18,876	\$10,000	\$(8,876)
Temporarily Restricted			
Preparation for Ministry	\$ 9,495	\$10,132	\$637
Peacemaking	13,441	16,066	2,626
Synod Pastor Support Grants	4,253	1,701	(2,552)
Synod Transformation Grant	62,214	67,146	4,931
Ministers Temporary Disability	3,110	3,110	-
Hands & Feet Scholarships	107	107	-
Pastor Compassion Funds	-	600	600

Presbytery of Great Rivers  
February 13, 2021

CLP Coordinator	-	600	600
Total Temporarily Restricted	\$92,620	\$99,461	\$ 6,842
Total Net Assets	\$ 927,498	\$ 965,020	\$ 37,523
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 937,497	\$ 974,849	\$ 37,352

**FINANCIALS**  
**INCOME STATEMENT – DECEMBER 2020**

**PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS**  
**STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND REVENUES AND EXPENSES - CASH BASIS**  
**ACTUAL TO BUDGET COMPARATIVE**  
**YEAR TO DATE December 31, 2020**

	Actual	Annual Budget	(Over)Under Budget	Percent of Budget Used
<b>Support and Revenue</b>				
Budgeted				
Congregational Support				
Per Capita	\$195,918	\$192,390	\$ (3,528)	102%
Mission	65,385	75,850	10,465	86%
Trust Clause Payments	12,216	12,200	(16)	100%
Total Congregational Support	<u>\$273,519</u>	<u>\$280,440</u>	<u>\$6,921</u>	<u>98%</u>
Investment Income	90,597	32,600	(57,997)	278%
Total Budgeted Receipts	<u>\$364,117</u>	<u>\$313,040</u>	<u>\$ (51,077)</u>	<u>116%</u>
Transfer to/from Designated Funds	<u>(236)</u>			
Unbudgeted Receipts				
Preparation for Ministry Support	\$ 637			
Presbytery Peacemaking Support	2,626			
Total Unbudgeted Receipts	<u>\$3,263</u>			
Total Support and Revenue	<u>\$367,144</u>			
<b>Expenses</b>				
Budgeted				
Salaries, Benefits, Training & Taxes				
General Presbyter	\$108,163	\$119,155	\$10,992	91%
Stated Clerk	9,308	16,150	6,842	58%
Senior Administrative Assistant	61,359	63,072	1,713	97%
Bookkeeper	19,651	20,800	1,149	94%
CLP Coordinator	-	8,180	8,180	0%
Workers Compensation Insurance	845	700	(145)	121%
Total Salaries and Related Expenses	<u>\$199,326</u>	<u>\$228,057</u>	<u>\$28,731</u>	<u>87%</u>

**Presbytery Office**

Occupancy	\$17,329	\$18,446	\$1,117	94%
Office Operations and Supplies	19,038	17,850	(1,188)	107%
Total Presbytery Office Expenses	\$36,367	\$36,296	\$ (71)	100%

**Presbytery Administration**

Liability Insurance	3,107	3,100	(7)	100%
Audit Fee	7,150	7,350	200	97%
Moderator Training	-	1,250	\$1,250	0%
Assembly Meetings	752	2,200	\$1,448	34%
Per Capita Shortfall	7,432	21,386	13,954	35%
General Assembly Delegates	-	4,000	4,000	0%
Payroll Service	1,645	1,450	(195)	113%
Legal Fees	-	100	100	0%

Total Presbytery Administration Expenses	\$20,086	\$40,836	\$20,750	49%
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Meeting Expense - All Teams	\$ 361	\$3,300	\$2,939	11%
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**Program Expenses**

Committee on Ministry	\$4,814	\$13,700	\$8,886	35%
Committee on Preparation for Ministry	-	500	500	0%
Visioning Grants	59,000	59,000	-	100%
Continuing Education Grants	500	5,000	4,500	10%
Presbytery Events	-	1,000	1,000	0%
Pastoral Care/Compassion Fund	850	1,000	150	85%
Illinois Conference of Churches	-	500	500	0%
Disaster Relief	50	-	(50)	-

Total Program Expenses	\$65,214	\$80,700	\$15,486	81%
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**Other Expenses**

Bank Fees & Expenses	83	200	117	42%
Depreciation Expense	6,297	3,000	(3,297)	210%
	\$6,380	\$3,200	\$ (3,180)	199%

Total Budgeted Expenses	\$327,734	\$392,389	\$64,655	84%
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**Unbudgeted Expenses Funded by Restricted Funds**

Pastor Support Grants	2,552	-		
Transitional Training	475	-		

Presbytery of Great Rivers  
February 13, 2021

	<hr/>		
	\$3,027	\$ -	
	<hr/>		
Total Expenses	\$330,761	\$392,389	\$61,628
	<hr/>		
Excess of Support and Revenue Over Expenses	\$36,383	\$ (79,349)	(115,732)
	<hr/>		

## COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

Committee on Ministry has had three meetings since the last Assembly meeting in November 2020. 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

- The Reverends Robert and Susan Ryder, designating them as honorably retired from New Covenant Community Church, Normal, IL. (PGR Manual of Operations Article X Section 2.a-10)
- Welcoming Rev. Katie Styrt as a new member of the Presbytery of Great Rivers. (PGR Manual of Operations Article X Section 2.a-12)

### Motions for GRP Assembly:

1. Recommend to Presbytery to form an Administrative Commission for Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church of Williamsville, IL pursuant to G-3.0109b(5) & G-3.0303d of the Book of Order
2. Request on behalf of these churches for term limit extensions pursuant to G-2.0404 of the Book of Order for the following:
  - Delavan-First session members Jeff Johnson and Roger Wright
  - Elmwood-First- session members, Emily Roberts and Brett Stevens
  - Ipava-Ipava session member Derek Porter and deacons Cindi Portere, Marci Woods, Jenny Winder and Audrey Branson
  - Rock Island-Gloria Dei - session member Marlo Greer
  - Stronghurst-Stronghurst session members, Donald Fry and Michael Rodeffer.

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

Respectfully submitted

Kathie Whitson, Elder/CLP COM Chair

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**  
**Motions for Approval**

**MOVE TO FORM AN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR BUFFALO HART PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:**

1. To assist the Session in discerning its current and future ministry and mission in relationship to the PCUSA
2. To meet with the congregation as needed to discern future ministry and mission.
3. If it is determined that future ministry and mission is best served by separating from the PCUSA, to work with the session in creating a plan for separation.
4. To exercise the Presbytery's authority to approve "congregations desiring to move as well as to divide, dismiss, or dissolve the congregation in consultation with their members;" (G-3.0303b)
5. To pastorally care for those, if any, who desire to remain in the denomination;
6. In considering whether the Commission acting as the Presbytery will transfer a congregation to another Reformed Denomination or will dissolve the congregation and reach an agreement with the new independent congregation or a new congregation of another denomination the presbytery will examine each proposed option as it presents itself.
7. To negotiate practical considerations for the action. (property, capital funds, any future bequests or beneficiary designations, consideration of payments to the denomination, preservation of church records for the denomination and the congregation including depositing the originals or an approved digitalized copy of all records as a PCUSA congregation and any predecessor denomination (the cost of this will be included in the agreement with the congregation), new name for the congregation reflecting the change of denominational relationship, etc.); in fulfilling this task the Administrative Commission will document its consideration of value and include it in the recommended plan of separation.
8. To report its work and all actions to the Presbytery for ratification.

The Presbytery Moderator will nominate members on this Administrative Commission to be elected by the Presbytery.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

1. At the Annual Meeting of the congregation (January 31, 2021) a motion was made to separate from the PCUSA. Though ruled out of order and not voted on, there was sense that the congregation and session was in agreement with the intent.
2. Immediately following the meeting, the session met to vote and act to explore leaving the PCUSA and how to do it.
3. The COM hearing about the events of January 31 considered in light of previous interactions that it would be responsive for the Presbytery to form an Administrative Commission to facilitate and expedite the separation of the Buffalo Hart congregation from the PCUSA if the session and congregation desire to pursue separating.
4. This decision was made after hearing from the current COM ministry partner who expressed the belief that all other options were exhausted and that a path needs to be made clear to dissolve.
5. Those options have included the work of two COM ministry partners, the Lead Presbyter for Transformation, the Stated Clerk, a Presbytery member consultant for guiding the congregation's Mission Study, and a long-term pulpit supply who moderated the session with membership in PGR.
6. There has been a history of estrangement between the Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery of Great Rivers.
- 7.) The congregation was served by a pastor who was a member of the Church of the Brethren for over twenty- five years.
8. A significant portion of the congregation membership consists of members from a former neighboring United Methodist Church that closed.

## **APPENDIX CONSIDERATIONS FOR CONSIDERING VALUE**

The Administrative Commission in fulfilling its task: "To negotiate practical considerations for the action. (property, capital funds, any future bequests or beneficiary designations, consideration of payments to the denomination in the future; etc.);" will document its consideration of value and include it in the plan of separation. The first principle in the determination of value is that each congregation/situation has unique circumstances and must be evaluated. There is no standard formula for determining value. In considering value the following will be examined:

- A. Value on the open market
  - 1. Condition and design of the building
  - 2. Value of property in its particular community
  - 3. Potential market
- B. Value to those who desire to leave the denomination
  - 1. To walk away from it
  - 2. To purchase other property
  - 3. To keep the property
- C. Value to Neighboring PCUSA congregations
  - 1. Would other PCUSA congregations be able to use the property for expansion of ministry and mission?
- D. Value to members of the congregation who do not desire to leave the PCUSA
  - 1. Are there enough people and financial resources to maintain and use the property for effective ministry?
  - 2. Is the community able to support the ministry of two "Presbyterian" congregations?
- E. Value to the Presbytery/PCUSA
  - 1. Could it be used for a new church development?
  - 2. Are the liabilities of owning it greater than its value?
  - 3. Value of lost support for per capita and mission?
- F. Value in historical perspective
  - 1. Was the congregation the result of a denominationally planned and supported new church development?
  - 2. Does the congregation predate denominational membership and support?
  - 3. Is the congregation the result of merger or transfer from another denomination?
  - 4. Is the congregation the result of a decision to affiliate with the Presbyterian Church later in its life?
- G. Value to God (God's mission)
  - 1. Would litigation create a negative image to the world of who we are in Christ?
  - 2. Would litigation cause more financial loss than any value from holding unto the property?
  - 3. Would an empty building serve God?



## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

**For Action: That the Rev. Laura Reason be elected to a three-year term as Synod Commissioner.**

Explanation: Laura consented to being nominated as synod commissioner in October 2020, however her nomination was overlooked and left out of the report in November. It is rather critical we elected Rev. Reason to this position since she is to serve as Moderator of the Synod of Lincoln Trails this year.

### Committee's 2021 Goals

Your Nominating Committee's primary responsibility is to provide each committee a full complement of committee members, however, this has become increasingly difficult and challenging. In 2020 we gave significant time to trying to understand why and determine ways to accomplish this. As exciting as it is to think outside the box, we face the same responsibilities and challenges of providing nominees for election. Therefore, we have two goals for 2021: (1) secure nominees, and (2) begin to change the culture of the presbytery. To accomplish this, we will work to:

- Build a theology and attitude of service that expands the traditional understanding of Call.
- Develop the ways and means of communicating this theology and attitude of service to our congregations.
- Build off of the current video presentations additional means of inviting elders of all congregations to think of their call in new ways.
- Review and consider how the Manual of Operations needs to be adjusted to reflect a new understanding of service.
- Start immediately to identify potential nominees to speak with about their call to ministry that includes service beyond their congregation, seeking their permission to be nominated for service in the presbytery and beyond.



I hope all are healthy and well. I wish we could be together in person, but as the coronavirus pandemic prevents that from happening, I write to share these key updates from the Board of Pensions. If you have questions, my colleagues in Philadelphia and I are happy to assist.

Blessings,

**Ken Green**

Church Consultant

M: 215-587-7384

kgreen@pensions.org

**Member/Employer Services**

800-773-7752

Mon-Fri 8:30-7:00pm EST

### Boardlink

Starting with the March invoice, the Board will no longer mail invoices via the US Postal Service. **Beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> all invoices will be delivered electronically via BoardLink** (our online billing process). Have your employer representative, or the person responsible for paying bills at your church, go to [www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org) and look for **BoardLink** on the landing page. Click the link and find instructions for registering.

Why the change? a) timeliness of delivery; b) safety of church and Board employees; c) environmental stewardship; d) security of transactions. The February invoice will be the last one to be mailed. He or she may have seen physical and electronic communication about this change and completed the signup.

<http://www.pensions.org/what-we-offer/employer-guidance/board-link>

### Minister's Choice

The Board of Pensions continues to provide employers with more choices, and to serve more ministers with benefits that support wholeness. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament who are NOT in installed pastoral positions and have access to healthcare from other sources can be enrolled in this new package which includes all the income security available in *Pastor's Participation* (Pension, Death and Disability, Temporary Disability, and access to the Retirement Savings Plan) without the cost of healthcare coverage.

Minister's Choice also includes access to the Board's Education and Assistance programs (like *CREDO* and *THRIVE*) at just 10% of Effective Salary (employer-paid). Call me to find out if this package could be a good fit for your pastor and congregation.

### ESI – Express Scripts

Express Scripts is the new administrator for the **prescription drug program** for those with medical coverage through the Board of Pensions, effective January 1, 2021. We know transitions can be frustrating and it takes extra effort to set up your account with a new provider. We are here as your advocate to help work things out. Call us.

### Temporary Disability

This new benefit from the Board became available January 1, 2021. It's included in the Pastor's Participation and Minister's Choice packages, and available to other employees working 20+ hours, at their employer's discretion (either employer or employee paid).

### Benefits Connect information

Don't forget to update church and employee information!!

- **Pastors** and all **employees** in a Board plan – check your contact, benefit and beneficiary information through your Benefits Connect portal.
- **Church Employer Representatives** (treasurers/administrators/personnel chairs): Check that the right people and their contact information are up to date in the church account. Update Terms of Call and other employees' salary or other changes, through the church's Benefits Connect portal.

# Changes to benefit offerings for 2021

The Board of Pensions has announced changes to the Benefits Plan that extend support to more ministers and add benefits that promote financial protection for all church workers effective January 1, 2021. Employers can choose benefits for 2021 beginning July 20.

## Minister's Choice benefits package added

To address the Board of Pensions' concern that too many ministers are not enrolled in the Benefits Plan, the 2021 plan offers two benefits packages for PC(USA) ministers: the existing Pastor's Participation and the new Minister's Choice.

Enrollment in Pastor's Participation, a comprehensive benefits package with medical coverage and pension participation, is required for installed pastors and may be offered to any minister with a minimum 20-hour workweek. Dues, paid in full by the employer, will remain at 37 percent of effective salary for 2021, with no reduction to existing benefits and the addition of the new Temporary Disability Plan.

Benefits Packages		
	Pastor's Participation	Minister's Choice
Medical Plan	● PPO (includes EAP)	EAP only
Death and Disability Plan	●	●
Temporary Disability Plan	●	●
Defined Benefit Pension Plan	●	●

● Included in package

Minister's Choice, available for non-installed ministers working at least 20 hours a week, includes pension, death and disability, temporary disability, and the Employee Assistance Plan. The cost is 10 percent of effective salary, also fully employer paid.

Minister's Choice also opens the door for eligibility to assistance and education programs that have been available only through Pastor's Participation, such as CREDO and Minister Educational Debt Assistance.

## New Financial Protection Programs

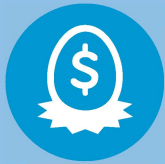
For 2021, the Board of Pensions has added financial protection options, including the Temporary Disability Plan, Long-Term Disability Plan, and an expanded term life benefit.

The Temporary Disability Plan provides a partial weekly income for up to 90 days of disability, with a 14-day waiting period before benefits payments begin. Employers pay the full cost for ministers enrolled in Pastor's Participation and Minister's Choice. Employers may offer it outside of those benefits packages, with the employer or the member paying the full cost.

The Long-Term Disability Plan offers financial protection for employees with a disability that surpasses 90 days, providing a partial monthly income throughout their disability. Employers may offer the plan to employees who are not enrolled in the Death and Disability Plan (which includes a long-term disability benefit) and are working at least 20 hours per week. Employers pay the full cost of coverage.

The Term Life Plan offers the same low-cost coverage available in the 2020 Benefits Plan. But in addition to a fixed amount of coverage (from \$5,000 to \$50,000), it includes a new feature — an income-based benefit amount, equal to one times a member's effective salary, capped at \$50,000. Under either option, employers pay the full cost of coverage.

The Board of Pensions' goal is for every minister and church worker to have access to quality benefits in support of well-being. The 2021 Benefits Plan advances on that goal while also enabling more ministers to access assistance and education programs designed to help them devote their best gifts to ministry.



## Retirement Programs

- Defined Benefit Pension Plan
- Retirement Savings Plan



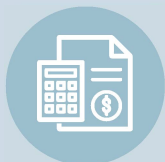
## Financial Protection Programs

- Death and Disability Plan
- Term Life Plan
- Temporary Disability Plan
- Long-Term Disability Plan



## Health Programs

- Medical Plan, with PPO, EPO, and HDHP options
- Employee Assistance Plan
- Vision Eyewear Plan
- Dental Plan



## Tax-Advantaged Accounts

- Dependent care flexible spending account
- Healthcare flexible spending account
- Health savings account

Presbytery of Great Rivers  
February 13, 2021

**Presbytery of Great Rivers**  
**COMPLETE DOCKET**  
February 13, 2021

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

*To access the meeting, you must pre-register by following the link below (see full instructions for virtual meeting etiquette under papers for this meeting on the presbytery website.*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZYuf-yrpzgiHdQLiMODyCbmyDJXYCuBg52L>

**SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE**

Registration (9:30-10:00 am)

CALL TO ORDER

[SIXTY SECOND SERMON](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=452-N\\_HEHMo&t=5s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=452-N_HEHMo&t=5s)

CALL TO WORSHIPFUL WORK

Isaiah 40:21, 31

Have we not known? Have we not heard?

**Has it not been told to us since the beginning?**

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;

**they shall mount up with wings like eagles;**

they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

**May our worshipful work give the Lord glory and praise. May Christ be honored as we work and serve. May the Holy Spirit accompany us through our agenda, to honor the Living God.**

MUSIC VIDEO

["How Firm a Foundation"](#)

Sovereign Grace Music

OPENING PRAYER

A Blessing for a Meeting on Zoom

CLP Diane Ludington

In the place where eye contact is impossible  
The silent lexicon of non-verbal cues extinct  
May this not be the crowd without the wisdom  
Despite our isolation, our social distance

May we give thanks for this awkward digital blessing  
May we be admitted, May we not be muted  
May our distorted sound and scrambled words  
Finally align, May they catch up with our pixelated vision

May travelling this unfamiliar landscape  
Neither lose us, nor completely exhaust us  
And may our bandwidth always find room  
For patience, gentleness and the peace  
That bypasses misunderstanding.

May every meeting open and close with a poem,  
A joke or a steady moment of silence  
Some brief transfiguration in time, to remind us  
Of who we were before all this,  
And who we may be again

May our agenda always be kindness,  
The waving hand, our ecstasis [transcendent] benediction

And may there never be any other business,  
Forever and ever. Amen.

*Martin Wroe*

Acknowledgement of the Native American Heritage of Our Gathering Sites

MWS Elissa Bailey

Welcome and Instructions

Establish the Roll and Corresponding Members

- Establishment of quorum
- Introduction and seating of new Teaching Elder commissioners
- Introduction of new Ruling Elder Commissioners
- Introduction of Corresponding Members

Approval of the Docket

### **PARTNERING IN SERVICE**

Motion to Enter All Written Reports into The Permanent Minutes

Stated Clerk

Omnibus Motion

That the following reports be received: *Leadership Team Report, Stated Clerk's Report, Visioning Team Report, Lead Presbyter for Transformation Report, Report of the Administrative Commission for the Greenview Presbyterian Church*

Actions from the Committees - *Committee motions and highlights. Reports are in the Assembly tab on the website.*

- Administration Team\*
- Committee on Ministry (COM)\*
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)
- Nominating Committee\*
- Visioning Team

*\*Please see "Motions Guide" posted in the presbytery papers for the explicit motions with background and rationale. (<http://www.greatriverspby.org/february-13-meeting.html>)*

"From Aspiration to Action" Report of the Lead Presbyter for Transformation

MWS Ryan Landino

*Breakout sessions*

Sharing Good News

- Ken Green Board of Pensions
  - click here for documents:  
[http://www.greatriverspby.org/uploads/2/4/5/6/24561669/2021\\_presbytery\\_document\\_-\\_kengreen.pdf](http://www.greatriverspby.org/uploads/2/4/5/6/24561669/2021_presbytery_document_-_kengreen.pdf)

### **FIVE MINUTE BREAK**

### **UNITING IN WORSHIP**

PRAYER

Speak to us, O Lord our God, and let the fire of your Spirit burn brightly in our hearts. Open our minds to receive the wisdom you have for us. Fill us with hope as we yearn for your justice. May we

learn the ways of your kin-dom led by the light of your glory shining from your Living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

KEYNOTE

"The PC(USA) and Advocacy: The ministries of the Offices of Public Witness and the United Nations"  
Special Guest Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, in conversation with Bryce Wiebe of the PC(USA) Office of Special Offerings

**RISKING IN MINISTRY**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*The focus of today's offering is the Peace and Global Witness Offering, a PC(USA) Special Offering. Please follow <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/peace-global-witness/> to make an online donation. Under "Comments /Instruction /Name of Local Congregation" type in "Presbytery of Great Rivers Assembly August 29, 2020."*

DOXOLOGY

(Text: Neil Weatherhogg, Tune: Old Hundredth)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here blow; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Announcements

PRAYER FOR THE DAY and THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Adapted from the Reformed Church of Berne, Switzerland, 1955*

Most holy and loving God:

We offer our prayers for those we love,  
for all the sad and lonely,  
for the victims of the evil forces of the world and of human disorder,  
for our own people and for all people who seek the city of mutual love,  
for our church and for all churches that call upon your name,  
for those who seek you, for those who ignore you,  
for those who shun you, but for whom you wait,

Father, on the doorstep of your house;  
all our prayers, O God, we unite in the prayer that Christ gave us,  
praying with confidence as children of God:

Our Father, who is in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Continuation of Business if needed

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Not a time for announcements, this is a time for formal motions to be brought before the assembly.*

CHARGE and BLESSING

ADJOURNMENT