

Presbytery of Great Rivers
 February 26, 2022
 The Mission of the Presbytery:
“We are called to share Christ’s love
By partnering in service,
United 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 Rev. Chuck Goodman at 9:00am central time zone. The purpose of the meeting was to worship. Moderator Rev. Chuck Goodman led the assembly in worship and the business of the Presbytery. He began the meeting with an opening prayer followed by listening to a hymn sung by Commissioned Ruling Elder Kathie Whitson and pianist Elder Marilyn Simmons. An offering was collected for the One Great Hour of Sharing which is an offering of the PC(USA).

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NATIVE LANDS

Stated Clerk, Rev. Elissa Bailey, gave the acknowledgment 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 AND INSTRUCTIONS

A time of welcome and instructions were given by the moderator. As we were on zoom, it was vital to introduce the various components of how to locate items that might be needed as well as team members who would be available for assistance and their particular roles.

QUORUM

The Stated Clerk advised the Moderator-Electing a quorum was present and the Moderator-Elect declared the requirements for quorum had been met and the meeting continued.

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 st listing)	Bill Harfst
Alexis, Norwood	A	CLP Gary Pullen	N/A
Athens, Indian Point	E	CLP Sandi Woodard	N/A
Bartonville, Trinity		Mr. Steve Barch	N/A
Biggsville, United		CLP Kathie Whitson (1 st listing)	Marilyn Simmons
Bloomington, Saint Luke		Rev. Andrew Gifford	John Otto
Bloomington, Second	A	Rev. Trey Haddon	Morgan Marquardt

Bushnell, First	A	Rev. Mark Merrill	N/A
Canton, First		Rev. Edwin Brinklow	Terry Frame
Carlinville, Federated	A	Rev. William Mitchell	Nathan Rush
Carrollton, First	A	CLP Kirby Ballard (1 st listing)	N/A
Carthage, First	A	Rev. Joy Ridge Edeker	N/A
Chatham, Chatham		VACANT	N/A
Chenoa, First		VACANT	N/A
Clayton, First		VACANT	N/A
Clinton, Clinton		Rev. Paul Stroup	N/A
Coal Valley, First		Rev. Tim Snart	N/A
Danvers, First		Rev. Elissa Bailey	N/A
Delavan, First		VACANT	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 st listing)	N/A
Eureka, Eureka		CLP Bob Montgomery	N/A
Farmington, First		VACANT	N/A
Fountain Green, FGU	A	Mr. Mark Hanson	N/A
Galesburg, First		Rev. Kay Daniel	Debbie Strauch
Geneseo, First		Rev. Tim Doty	Steve Durian
Greenview, United		VACANT	N/A
Hamilton, Bethel		VACANT	N/A
Ipava, United	A	Rev. Charles Walden (1 st listing)	N/A
Jacksonville, First		Rev. Jonathan Warren	Dave Truesdell
Kirkwood, Westminster		CLP Pam Moore	N/A
Knoxville, First	A	Rev. Ken Shedenhelm	Rosene Candace
LeRoy, First		VACANT	Martha Dean
Lewistown, First		CLP Penny Frame	N/A
Lincoln, First		Rev. Adam Quine	N/A
Macomb, First		Rev. Rene Whitaker	N/A
Macomb, ST	A	Rev. Charles Walden (2 nd listing)	N/A
Mason City, United	A	Rev. Charlotte Poetschner	N/A
Media, Community		VACANT	N/A
Middletown, First		VACANT	N/A
Milan, First		Rev. Katie Styrt	Sue Westerfield
Monmouth, Faith		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		VACANT	N/A
Niota, Appanoose Faith	A	Mr. David Poland	N/A
Normal, First		Rev. Matt Wilcox	Douglas Schwalm
		Rev. Kathy Mitchell	
Normal, New Covenant	A	Rev. Brian Burris	N/A
Oneida, United		Rev. Linda Baldwin	Larry Lawson

Orion, Beulah		Rev. Tim Snart (2 nd listing)	Jon Cross
Pekin, First		VACANT	N/A
Peoria, First Fed		Rev. David Ezekiel	N/A
Peoria, United	A	Rev. Debra Avery	N/A
Peoria, Westminster		Rev. Denise Clark Jones	N/A
Perry, Perry	A	Rev. John Nelson	N/A
Petersburg, Central		VACANT	N/A
Pleasant Plains, Farmingdale		Rev. Lonna Chang-Ren Lee	N/A
Quincy, Ellington	A	Mr. Ron Cox	N/A
Reynolds, Hamlet Perryton		Rev. Harry Losey	N/A
Rio, Rio		Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle (2 nd listing)	N/A
Rock Island, Broadway		VACANT	N/A
Rock Island, Gloria Dei		Rev. Drew Nagle	N/A
Rock Island, Good Shepard		Rev. James Benson	N/A
Rock Island, South Park	A	Rev. Blake Severson	Sherrill Mixer
Rushville, First		VACANT	N/A
Seaton, Center		CLP Kathie Whitson (2 nd listing)	Marcia Duncan
Springfield, First		Rev. Susan Phillips	Tom Owen
Springfield, Hope		Rev. Chuck Goodman	LaCleta Hall
Springfield, Korean	A	Rev. Jaechul Kim	N/A
Springfield, Third	A	Rev. John Shear	N/A
Springfield, Westminster	A	Rev. Blythe Kieffer	N/A
	A	Rev. Christian Choi	
Stronghurst, Stronghurst	A	Mr. Phillip Cooper (2 nd listing)	N/A
Tallula, Rock Creek		Rev. Joanne Hinds	N/A
Viola, United	A	Rev. Matt Downey	N/A
Viriden, First		VACANT	N/A
Virginia, First		VACANT	N/A
Virginia, Sangamon		Rev. Timothy Bauler	N/A
Warsaw, First		CLP Diane Ludington	N/A
Washington, Washington	A	Mr. Tim Mitchell	Melody Wiseman
White Hall, First	A	CLP Kirby Ballard (2 nd listing)	N/A
Woodhull, United		Rev. Cheyanna Losey	Vicky Carlson
Woodson, Unity	A	Rev. Robert Kerr	N/A
Yates City, Faith		Rev. Marla Bauler (2 nd listing)	N/A

Total: Ministers of Word and Sacrament: 27 Ruling Elders: 30

Validated, At large, Honorably retired, other ministers present Total: 8

*Rev. Joyce Chamberlin, HR

*Rev. Jessica Hawkinson Dorow, VM

*Rev. Forrest Krummel, HR

*Rev. Cheryl Lunday, HR

*Rev. Laura Reason, HR

*Rev. Sue Krummel, HR

*Rev. Jennifer Sakata, M@L

*Rev. Sarah Tunall, M@L

Administration, Personnel, & Visioning Team Members, Committee Chairs Total: 2

*Elder Julio Garcia, Admin Chair

*Elder Mike Orr, Personnel Committee Member

Moderator/Moderator-Elect, or Prior Moderator Total: 0

Corresponding Members Total: 3

*Rev. John Rickard, Blackhawk Presbytery, Bridge EP

*Rev. Sara Dingman, Synod Exec

*Rev. Ken Green, BoP

Others Present – committee members with voice but no vote, Total: 2

*Elder Julie Bruninga, COM

*Elder Sue Sawers, CPM

Others Present – ruling elders, visitors, inquirers/candidates, no voice/vote Total: 5

*Rev. Paula Carmichael

*Susan Foster

*Elder Merle Fox

*Jenna Gound

*Dennis Tomkinson

Presbytery Staff Total: 0

Total Attendance: 77

INTRODUCTIONS

- New Teaching Elders
- New Ruling Elder Commissioners
- Corresponding Members
 - Rev. Sara Dingman, SOLT Exec
 - Rev. John Rickard, GAP Presbyter
 - Rev. Ken Green, BoP Representative
 - **MSA** to seat the corresponding members.

RISKING IN MINISTRY

Current Business

- **MSA** the docket with no corrections or changes. (Appendix O)
- **MSA** to enter all written reports into the permanent minutes.
- **MSA** the Omnibus motion which included the following reports:
 - Stated Clerk Report (Appendix A), Treasurer Report (Appendix B), CLP/CRE (Appendix C), GAP Report, CPM Report (Appendix E), Visioning, Leadership Report, Committee on Accessibility, Representation and Equity (CARE).
- Stated Clerk Report: Reported by Stated Clerk Rev. Elissa Bailey
 - **MSA**: Dismiss with thanks, the Administrative Commission to dissolve Knox Presbyterian Church of Springfield, IL.

- **MSA** for the Session of Peoria, Westminster to receive a waiver for Elder Peggy Bragg to serve an additional term on Session in accordance with G-2.0404.
- **MSA** for the Session of Rock Island, Gloria Dei to receive a waiver for Elder Ken Flack to serve an additional term on Session in accordance with G-2.0404.
- **MSA** for the Session of Galesburg, First to receive a waiver for Elder Susan Reinhart to serve an additional term on Session in accordance with G-2.0404.
- PJC:
 - An allegation of misconduct was received by a session in our Presbytery. The session voted on January 18th, 2022 to ask the Presbytery to assume original jurisdiction.
 - On January 19th, 2022, at the Leadership Team Meeting, the Leadership Team voted to assume original jurisdiction according to the bylaws of the Presbytery of Great Rivers. This means the Presbytery will take over the disciplinary process of the allegation of misconduct.
 - Therefore, the allegation of misconduct has been received, procedures have been followed, and an investigative committee has been formed.
- Personnel Report presented by Chair Rev. Joyce Chamberlin
 - The Personnel Committee was delated to present Rev. John Rickard as the GAP Presbyter. Rev. John is a member of Blackhawk Presbytery where he retired after serving as the GP/SC.
- The Nominating Committee report was presented by Chair Elder Julio Garcia (Appendix I)
 - The following corrections were made to the nominations that were elected at the November 2021 meeting:
 - Mike Orr, Personnel, Class of 2024, Term 2
 - Craig Mousty, Admin, Class of 2024, Term 1
 - The following slate was presented in nomination. The following was **MSA** with no nominations made from the floor:
 - Rev. Jessica Hawkinson Dorow, Visioning Chair, Class of 2024, Term 1
 - CLP Diane Ludington, CARE, Class of 2024, Term 1
 - Rev. Susan Phillips, CARE, Class of 2024, Term 1
 - Rev. Brandon Ouellette, CARE, Class of 2023, Term 1
 - Rev. Lonna Lee, CARE, Class of 2023, Term 1
 - Elder Julio Garcia, CARE, Class of 2022, Term 1
 - Rev. Joyce Chamberlin, PJC, Class of 2023
- Bills & Overtures Report presented by Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle (Appendix J)
 - **MA** that the Presbytery of Great Rivers concur with the “Overture: On Establishing a Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination to Ordered ministry for Ruling Elders.” From the Presbytery of San Fernando.
- COM Report presented by Chair Elder Kathie Whitson (Appendix K)
 - Celebrations:
 - Receive into membership:
 - Rev. Jim Mahan from the Presbytery of Southern New England, Honorably Retired
 - Rev. William Mitchell, ordained American Baptist serving as interim at Carlinville – Federated (American Baptist)

- Rev. Susan Krummel from Chicago Presbytery, Honorably Retired
- **MA** the following updates to the Committee on Ministry Handbook as part of the PGR Manual of Operations. The revisions are to bring the Handbook up to current standards of operation. The revisions recommended are listed briefly here. *For a complete rationale, please see Committee on Ministry Handbook Updates Rationale 2022 document.*
 - The Handbook is now divided into 3 parts for better clarity and use.
 - Commissioned Ruling Elders to be allowed to serve their own congregation by 2/3 vote of the Presbytery.
 - Removal of exemptions that allow congregations to pay full time Commissioned Pastors less than the Minimum salary guidelines.
 - Updating and clarifying the process for the orderly transfer of clergy from other denominations.
 - Removal of the debt assistance section.
 - Update Pastoral Ethics Policy to allow accredited boundary training from outside the Presbytery for those who are unable to attend the November PGR Assembly when it is offered.
- **MA** to form an Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church of Bushnell for the purpose of facilitating discussion around a “Joint Congregational Witness” with Bushnell Methodist Church. (Appendix L)
 - In principle a “Joint Congregational Witness” between First Presbyterian Church of Bushnell and the Bushnell Methodist Church (G-5.05). The following key elements agree upon by the two congregations are
 1. To use both buildings and alternate worship site every three months.
 2. To have the present Methodist pastor become the pastor of the federate/union congregation.
 - Move to form an Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church of Bushnell
 1. To assist in finalizing a plan for a Joint Congregational Witness that conforms with (G-5.05).
 2. To exercise the Presbytery’s authority to approve “control the location of new congregations and of congregations desiring to move as well as to divide, dismiss, or dissolve the congregation in consultation with their members;” (G-3.0303b) and to approve a shared ministry agreement with another congregation.
 3. To have Presbytery authority in forming a union or federated congregation. (G-3.0109 b. 4)
 4. To report its work and all actions to the Presbytery for ratification.
 5. To have Presbytery authority in executing the plan.
 6. To assist the congregation in discerning its future if this plan for Joint Congregational Witness does not go through.
- **MA** to form an Administrative Commission for the Presbyterian congregations in Rock Island: Broadway PC; Gloria Dei PC; Good Shepherd PC; and South Park PC to assist in the discussion around and creation of

one new congregation in Rock Island, IL from the four existing congregations. (Appendix M)

1. To come together as one congregation
2. To have a focus on Worship, Discipleship and Mission
3. To come together looking to what can be and not just preserving the past
4. This new congregation to be a positive moving forward and not an attempt at mere survival.
5. To be good stewards and reduce the duplication and cost of property (plan to reduce to one building where now there are four.
6. To be good stewards of human resources

The plan to include the following agreed upon elements (already approved by the 4 churches):

- 1) Dissolution of the congregations.
- 2) Constituting a new congregation with new by-laws, new manual of operations, new financial structures and consider which non-pastoral staff will be carried forward. The expectation is that the pastor at Good Shepherd PC, the Rev. James Benson and the pastor at South Park PC, the Rev. Blake Severson would be the pastors of the new church.
- 3) The new congregation will be housed on the campus of what is currently known as Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church.
- 4) Use the principles of good stewardship to dispose of all unneeded physical properties owned by the congregations.
- 5) Request of the Presbytery of Great Rivers that all assets of the existing congregations be transferred to the new congregation.

Move to form an Administrative Commission for the Presbyterian congregations in Rock Island: Broadway PC; Gloria Dei PC; Good Shepherd PC; and South Park PC

1. To assist the Sessions, Leadership group and congregations in discerning its current and future ministry and mission.
2. To assist in finalizing a plan to present to all the congregations to become one congregation and to act on behalf of the Presbytery in approving and implementing the plan.
3. To organize one new congregation in Rock Island from the four existing congregations by dissolution and forming a new congregation by the process in G-1.02
4. To assist and approve "in securing pastoral leadership" G-1.02 including contracting with organizing pastors who could at a later date be elected by the congregation in called and installed role.
5. To exercise the Presbytery's authority to approve "control the location of new congregations and of congregations desiring to move as well as to divide, dismiss, or dissolve the congregation in consultation with their members;" (G-3.0303b) and to approve a shared ministry agreement with another congregation.
6. To have Presbytery authority with Administration Team "consider and act upon requests from congregations for permission to take the actions regarding real property as described in G-4.0206" (G-3.0303 f.)

- 7. To report its work and all actions to the Presbytery for ratification.
- 8. To form a “provisional Session” from the four congregations to work side by side with in completing the tasks. (G-1.0201)
- 9. To assist the provisional Session in drafting by-laws and constitution for the new church.
 - Celebration of Knox Presbyterian Church in Springfield. Appendix D
 - Knox Presbyterian closed on December 31st, 2021. A litany of celebration was spoken in giving thanks for the generations of ministry that took place.
- The Personnel and Task Force Report was presented by Rev. Joyce Chamberlin (Appendix N).
 - The Task Force is moving forward and as it is coming around its final stretch, it is in need of the presbytery’s help in determining exactly where it will go next. There will be zoom meetings that everyone will be invited to attend in which their thoughts may be shared about the needs of the presbytery.
- Rev. Ken Green presented changes that are taking place at the Board of Pensions.
- There was no new business.

UNITED IN WORSHIP

- The assembly united in worship with a video sermon presentation from Rev. Chris Roseland from OGA, based on Matthew 25:34-40. The sermon was based off of the Matthew 25 passage and what it means for us all to be united in the same mission.
- There were breakout rooms to discuss the sermon presented.
- The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was administered.

RISKING IN MINISTRY

- A time of prayer was given for our offering. The offerings were given online to the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.
- A Benediction and Closing Prayer was offered by Moderator-Elect Rev. Katie Styr and adjournment was declared at 1:05pm.
- The next meeting will be on Zoom on May 17th, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Elissa Bailey
Stated Clerk

Appendix A

Stated Clerk's Report

February 26th, 2022

The following are reported to the Assembly:

The following MWSs have been received:

- Rev. Susan Krummel from Chicago Presbytery

The following have been ordained and listed as a member of the Presbytery:

- NA

The following have been temporarily transferred from other denominations while serving churches in the Presbytery of Great Rivers:

- Pastor Tim Mitchell, Disciples of Christ, Washington, Washington starting 1/2/2022
- Pastor William Mitchell, American Baptist Church in the USA, First Federated Baptist/Presbyterian Church of Carlinville starting 1/2/2022

The following MWSs have been listed as Honorably Retired:

- Rev. Susan Krummel

The following MWSs have been dismissed:

- Rev. Ryan Landino to Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery

The following MWSs have been removed from the rolls:

- NA

The following MWSs have been transferred to the church triumphant in their deaths:

- NA

*The following commissions need to be dismissed, having completed its work:

- To be motioned: to dismiss ,with thanks, the Administrative Commission to dissolve Knox Presbyterian Church of Springfield, IL.

*The following correspondence has been received and needs to be voted upon:

- To be motioned for the following elders in the following congregations to be granted a waiver to extend terms on Session in accordance with G-2.0404 in the Book of Order:
 - Galesburg, First:
 - Elder Susan Reinhart to be granted the waiver to finish current term which will extend past the six year limit.

- Peoria, Westminster:
 - Elder Peggy Bragg, third consecutive term on Session.
- Rock Island, Gloria Dei:
 - Elder Ken Flack, fifth consecutive term on Session.
 - Additional rationale: there are 20 members with an average attendance of 11.
- Background and Rationale: Term limits were introduced in order to broaden participation within the life of the church. G-2.0404 which states “Ruling elders and deacons shall be elected to serve terms of no more than three years on the session of board of deacons, and may be eligible for reelection according to congregational rule. However, no ruling elder or deacon shall be eligible to serve more than six consecutive years...” Often, congregations (especially smaller congregations) struggle to have people who haven’t recently served to fulfill important work of ordered ministry, and after plenty of opportunity was given for other new members to fill into these vital roles. This action would provide an exception to the Book of Order and enable them to have the necessary leadership on their sessions to continue to have someone in the position of doing the work of ministry. (*simple majority vote*)

*PJC:

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Appendix B

2021 Budget Narrative

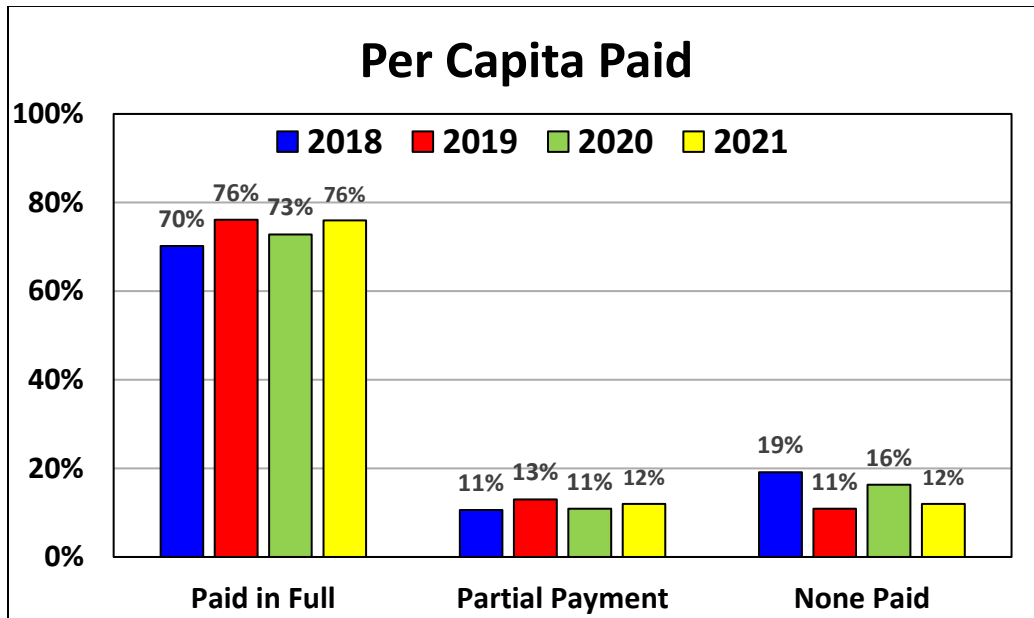
Balance Sheet

Before reviewing our 2021 end of year Income Statement, I call your attention to our Balance Sheet, which lists our assets and how they are dispersed into restricted and unrestricted funds. Our investments increased over \$85,000, almost 12%, in 2021. Please note that we did not sell any of our investments. So, while you will see an excess of income compared to expenses on the Income Statement, the checking account decreased by almost \$58,000, as shown on the Balance Sheet. We continually monitor the checking account balance to ensure ample cash to pay our expenses.

Income Statement

Income was up across the board.

- Per capita was comprised of payments for the prior year 2020 (\$7,729) and for 2021 (\$195,977). Notice that the amount for 2021 was almost exactly what we anticipated at the 85% level of members covered. Our per capita giving for 2021 compares to prior years as shown in the graph below.



- Mission giving also exceeded expectations.
- Investment (\$85,420) and dividend (\$1,536) income well exceeded our budget projections.

Budgeted Expenses were less than expected by just shy of \$38,000.

- Personnel and Office costs were close to what was budgeted.
- Admin costs were lower primarily due to lower “unpaid per capita” than expected. We had a carry over from 2018 that helped. Our assemblies were all Zoomed, which kept the cost of Assemblies below budget as well.
- While Program expenses were less than budgeted as a whole, COM costs were higher due to higher-than-expected use of Leaderwise to support a church in need. Leaderwise was budgeted to be \$4.5k and ended up at \$26k. We used \$12k from the Synod Transformation Grant (Building Congregational Vitality) and the remaining amount was posted against the Leaderwise line item in COM’s portion of the budget. New controls have been put in place to more closely monitor the use of Leaderwise going forward.

Net Income was a positive \$39.5k. However, when we subtract the gain in our investments, the impact on our checkbook was -\$45,919. That coupled with payouts for Leaderwise and payroll liabilities made the total decrease in our checkbook \$57,822.

Overall, 2021 was a good year financially, extending our “life” at least another year beyond our previous projection.

Looking ahead to 2022:

- Our office is quickly moving to a more virtual environment. This will reduce out rent by more than \$10,000 annually as well as our office assistance costs by more than \$40,000 annually.
- A new phone service will also eliminate the need for Comcast contract, saving almost \$4,000 annually.
- The use of Zoom by most committees and for those who won’t be attending Assemblies in person should also continue to reduce our overhead expenses.

Respectfully submitted
Bill Strawbridge

PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND REVENUES AND EXPENSES - CASH BASIS
ACTUAL TO BUDGET COMPARATIVE
YEAR TO DATE Dec 31, 2021

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>(Over)Under Budget</u>	<u>Percent of Budget Used</u>
Support and Revenue				
Budgeted				
Congregational Support				
Per Capita	\$ 203,706	\$ 195,784	\$ (7,922)	104%
Mission	70,501	65,000	(5,501)	108%
Trust Clause Payments	12,216	11,500	(716)	106%
Total Congregational Support	<u>\$ 286,423</u>	<u>\$ 272,284</u>	<u>\$ (13,423)</u>	<u>105%</u>
Investment Income	86,956	24,200	(62,756)	359%
Total Budgeted Receipts	<u>\$ 373,379</u>	<u>\$ 296,484</u>	<u>\$ (76,179)</u>	<u>126%</u>
Transfer to/from Designated Funds	<u>(4,716)</u>			
Unbudgeted Receipts				
Preparation for Ministry Support	\$ 997			
Presbytery Peacemaking Support	3,719			
Other Receipts - COID payroll tax allowance	297			
Total Unbudgeted Receipts	<u>\$ 5,014</u>			
Total Support and Revenue	<u>\$ 373,676</u>			
Expenses				
Budgeted				
Salaries, Benefits, Training & Taxes				
General Presbyter	\$ 118,172	\$ 121,229	\$ 3,057	97%
Stated Clerk	11,104	13,370	2,266	83%
Senior Administrative Assistant	60,648	61,923	1,275	98%
Bookkeeper	22,139	21,216	(923)	104%
PT Admin Asst (Virtual)	2,490	-	(2,490)	
CLP Coordinator	6,560	8,328	1,768	79%
Workers Compensation Insurance	846	800	(46)	106%
Total Salaries and Related Expenses	<u>\$ 221,959</u>	<u>\$ 226,866</u>	<u>\$ 4,907</u>	<u>98%</u>
Presbytery Office				
Occupancy	\$ 14,397	\$ 14,350	\$ (47)	100%
Office Operations and Supplies	20,227	18,850	(1,377)	107%
Total Presbytery Office Expenses	<u>\$ 34,624</u>	<u>\$ 33,200</u>	<u>\$ (1,424)</u>	<u>104%</u>

PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND REVENUES AND EXPENSES - CASH BASIS
ACTUAL TO BUDGET COMPARATIVE
YEAR TO DATE Dec 31, 2021

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>(Over)Under Budget</u>	<u>Percent of Budget Used</u>
Expenses (continued)				
Presbytery Administration				
Liability Insurance	3,071	3,300	229	93%
Audit Fee	7,350	7,350	-	100%
Moderator Training	-	1,250	\$ 1,250	0%
Assembly Meetings	200	2,000	\$ 1,800	10%
Per Capita Shortfall	16,754	21,000	4,246	80%
General Assembly Delegates	-	-	-	
Payroll Service	1,669	1,450	(219)	115%
Legal Fees	-	100	100	0%
PGR Training (Elder/Deacon, Ldrship)	-	750	750	0%
Total Presbytery Administration Expenses	<u>\$ 29,044</u>	<u>\$ 37,200</u>	<u>\$ 8,156</u>	<u>78%</u>
Meeting Expense - All Teams	<u>\$ 387</u>	<u>\$ 1,800</u>	<u>\$ 1,413</u>	<u>21%</u>
Program Expenses				
Committee on Ministry	\$ 16,908	\$ 11,700	\$ (5,208)	145%
Committee on Preparation for Ministry	-	500	500	0%
Visioning Grants	28,672	53,000	24,328	54%
Continuing Education Grants	1,000	5,000	4,000	20%
Presbytery Events	-	1,000	1,000	0%
Pastoral Care/Compassion Fund	-	1,000	1,000	0%
Illinois Conference of Churches	1,500	500	(1,000)	300%
Disaster Relief	-	-	-	-
Total Program Expenses	<u>\$ 48,080</u>	<u>\$ 72,700</u>	<u>\$ 24,620</u>	<u>66%</u>
Other Expenses				
Bank Fees & Expenses	81	200	119	40%
Depreciation Expense	-	-	-	
	<u>\$ 81</u>	<u>\$ 200</u>	<u>\$ 119</u>	<u>40%</u>
Total Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$ 334,175</u>	<u>\$ 371,966</u>	<u>\$ 37,671</u>	<u>90%</u>
Unbudgeted Expenses Funded by Restricted Funds				
Pastor Support Grants	-	-	-	
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 334,175</u>	<u>\$ 371,966</u>	<u>\$ 37,791</u>	
Excess of Support and Revenue Over Expenses	<u>\$ 39,501</u>	<u>\$ (75,482)</u>	<u>(114,983)</u>	

PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS
STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS - CASH BASIS
CURRENT TO PRIOR YEAR COMPARATIVE
AS OF December 31, 2021

Assets	December 2020	December 2021	Increase/ (Decrease)
Cash			
Checking and CDs	\$ 233,849	\$ 176,027	\$ (57,822)
Investments	738,516	823,936	85,420
Lease Deposit	-	-	-
Fixed Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	<u>2,480</u>	<u>2,480</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 974,845</u>	<u>\$ 1,002,442</u>	<u>\$ 27,597</u>
 Liabilities and Net Assets			
Liabilities			
Liabilities Payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Pass Thru Liabilities	9,828	9,441	(387)
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 9,828</u>	<u>\$ 9,441</u>	<u>\$ (387)</u>
Net Assets			
Unrestricted	<u>\$ 855,556</u>	<u>\$ 895,057</u>	<u>\$ 39,501</u>
Designated			
Presbytery Leaders Support	-	-	-
Presbyter Relocation	10,000	10,000	-
Total Designated	<u>\$ 10,000</u>	<u>\$ 10,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Temporarily Restricted			
Preparation for Ministry	\$ 10,132	\$ 9,129	\$ (1,003)
Peacemaking	16,066	19,786	3,719
Synod Pastor Support Grants	1,701	1,701	-
Synod Transformation Grant	67,146	52,912	(14,233)
Ministers Temporary Disability	3,110	3,110	-
Hands & Feet Scholarships	107	107	-
Pastor Compassion Funds	600	600	-
CLP Coordinator	600	600	-
Total Temporarily Restricted	<u>\$ 99,461</u>	<u>\$ 87,944</u>	<u>\$ (11,517)</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 965,017</u>	<u>\$ 993,001</u>	<u>\$ 27,984</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 974,845</u>	<u>\$ 1,002,442</u>	<u>\$ 27,597</u>

Appendix C
PGR CLP/CRE Coordinator Report to the Assembly
February 17, 2022

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

Since our last assembly meeting Sue Sawers and Dan Colvin have retired from serving commissions. I am in the process of updating/recreating records of the history of commissioned pastors in our presbytery. I am expecting to be able to add to our annual anniversary recognition our commissioned pastors. If you happen to have any old records about who, when, and where a commissioned pastor served, I would welcome copies.

The Personnel Committee approved my continuing in this role for another year, much to my delight. My goals for 2022 include, but are not limited to:

- Creating a video series to be shared with information about the role of commissioned pastors and how to become one.
- Creating an updated directory and history of commissioned pastors in our presbytery.
- Continuing discussions with other presbyteries about how to support and train our commissioned pastors. It is my hope we can find a way to partner in this work with at least the other presbyteries in our synod.
- Visit all of our commissioned pastors in-person, on-site.
- Host at least one continuing education event for our commissioned pastors.

I have also completed Level 1 Coaching Training through Luther Seminary, which allows me to serve as a clergy coach. This training has been helpful as I continue to support our commissioned pastors serving congregations, and as pulpit supply. If you are interested in learning more, please contact me.

On the whole, this decision by the presbytery leadership to create the CLP/CRE Coordinator position has given our commissioned pastors the opportunity to be supported and encouraged in their service to the church. I would encourage our leadership, and the assembly, to consider how we can expand this idea of offering support to our Ministers of Word in Sacrament serving in validated ministries and congregations.

If you have any interest in learning about the CLP/CRE training please contact me. We have a limited number of people on our list, and it would be helpful to increase that number.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

In Christ's Service.
Rev. Dr. Cheyanna L. Losey
cheyannalosey@gmail.com
309-299-4790

Appendix E

Presbytery of Great Rivers Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report 02/26/2022

At our January 12, 2022 meeting we re-elected Rev. Rebecca Sherwood as vice chair of the committee. We began our meeting by reflecting on the call of Jeremiah found in chapter 1, verses 4 to 12 of the book of Jeremiah.

This meeting was mainly an orientation to our anticipated work for the coming year. We currently have one Inquirer and one Candidate enrolled under care of the Presbytery of Great Rivers. We are anticipating that Inquirer, Lorna Blackford, will request to be moved to Candidate status at the May Assembly. Candidate, Samuel La Mere, will complete his seminary degree work this summer. We are also working with an individual desiring to enter into the process of ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA).

Appendix I

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING NOMINIES TO THE APPROPRIATE
PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS (PGR) POSITIONS**

Corrections of Terms for the following nominees that were approved in the

Nov. 2021 Assembly

Mike Orr Term (2) 2024 Personnel

Craig Mousty Term (1) 2024 Admin

VISIONING TEAM MODERATOR

Jessica Hawkinson (Lux Institute Director) Term (1) 2024

(NEW) COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY, REPRESENTATION, AND EQUITY (CARE)

Diane Ludington Term (1) 2024

Susan Phillips Term (1) 2024

Brandon Ouellette Term (1) 2023

Lonna Lee Term (1) 2023

Julio Garcia Term (1) 2022

Permanent Judicial Commission

Ret. Rev. Joyce Chamberlin Term (1) 2023

Appendix J

Presbytery of Great Rivers Bills and Overtures Committee Report 02/26/2022

The Bills and Overtures committee met on February 9th to review an overture presented to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Great Rivers, for concurrence by the assembly. Per G-3.0302d states that overtures to the general assembly require the concurrence of at least one other presbytery in order to be proposed to the General Assembly.

Motion from the Bills and Overtures Committee:

The Bills and Overtures Committee moves that the Presbytery of Great Rivers concur with the “Overture: On Establishing a Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination to Ordered Ministry for Ruling Elders.”

Here is the complete overture:

Overture: On Establishing a Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination to Ordered Ministry for Ruling Elders

Originated from San Fernando Presbytery to be considered by the 225th General Assembly

Recommendation:

The Presbytery of San Fernando overtures the 225th General Assembly (2022) to establish a task force to explore the theology and practice of ordination to ordered ministry for ruling elders in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and recommend any needed changes to the 226th General Assembly (2024). This task force will reflect the breadth of the PC(USA) and include representatives from those who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color), immigrant congregations, New Worshiping Communities, and middle governing body leadership. The task force will work with denominational staff, including the 1001 New Worshiping Communities leadership.

Rationale:

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) [PC(USA)] has experienced ongoing numerical decline and demographic aging. At the same time, there are leaders of dynamic immigrant fellowships and New Worshiping Communities (NWCs), including diverse NWCs that are prevented by our structure from taking an active role in the life and governance of the PC(USA).

At the end of 2020, there were 26,000 people nationwide participating in 529 NWCs. In our chartered churches, 1 member for every 10 comes from a background without church - or faith-based experiences, while 1 or 2 participants out of every 3 in the NWCs

come from the same background. In 2020, 15 percent of NWCs conducted adult baptisms compared to 5 percent in established congregations.

However, our emerging leaders and participants are prevented by our present structure from taking an active role in the life and governance of the PC(USA).

Currently a leader serving a NWC may not be designated as a commissioned ruling elder (CRE) by the Committee on Ministry (or equivalent) unless they are first ordained as an elder in the PC(USA) and serve on the session of a local church. This is because the NWC is not chartered and does not have a session to which the leader can be ordained. The NWC leader is excluded by our interpretation of polity from possibly qualifying to be a CRE with voice and vote at presbytery unless they step back into the traditional model and serve a traditional church. This “catch” excludes gifted, entrepreneurial leaders from taking a role in our governance to the detriment of the PC(USA).

The path for leaders of NWCs involves our immigrant leaders too, and we need clarity around their leadership as well.

Rev. Dr. James Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, writes: “Our global mission work is shifting as countless numbers of immigrants are coming to the United States seeking freedom and opportunities. It is only a matter of time before our government leaders will be forced to pass a bill seeking a new pathway to citizenship in the United States of America. Just as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) sent missionaries William H. Sheppard and Samuel N. Lapsley to the Congo, we must be willing to embrace and welcome persons who seek freedom in the United States as an act of love. Therefore we must prepare this mission field to receive immigrants seeking refuge and peace.”

These are identified issues. As the task force listens to and responds to the concerns of presbyteries across the country, other concerns can be identified and addressed in the report and action solutions presented to the 226th General Assembly (2024).

Other insights from church leaders and teachers:

“Ministry is changing. We cannot use a 20th century model of leadership as we live and lean into new and creative ministries of the 21st century. As so much of our growth and energy is coming from our New Worshiping Communities, we have to find new ways of discussing what ordained leadership looks like in the 21st century. We must not succumb to a dynamic where we are serving our polity instead of our polity serving us. This involves looking at new creative ways to empower and affirm our bi-vocational leaders, our immigrant community leaders, and our New Worshiping Community leaders. They need to have access to serve and vote as leaders in the Presbytery, where they can be supported as we can all learn and grow from their insights and wisdom.”

-Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett, executive director, Presbyterian Mission Agency, PC(USA)

“As the PC(USA) reaches more broadly into the neighborhoods around us to call new disciples and form new communities of worship and witness, we need – and God is providing – new kinds of leaders who bring gifts and skills ‘for such a time as this.’ We are called to respond to and receive these gifts of God with new openness and flexibility in our equipping and credentialing of these leaders.”

-Rev. Nikki Collins, coordinator, 1001 Worshiping Communities, PCUSA

“At the time of the American Revolution, Presbyterians and Congregationalists were the two largest Protestant denominations in the new nation. The religious landscape changes dramatically in the 19th century. While Presbyterians adhered to the standard of an educated clergy, Methodists and Baptists won the West with their much greater flexibility about who could be messengers of the gospel. By the time new pastors were trained, we were always many years and hundreds of miles behind the frontier. In the 21st century, with attendance at Christian worship in decline, the question must be asked once more: Will Presbyterians be flexible enough to change with a changing situation. Who will we send?”

-Dr. Ronald C. White, presidential biographer, who has taught American church history at Princeton, San Francisco, and Fuller Theological Seminaries

Motion from the Bills and Overtures Committee:

Upon concurrence by the Presbytery of Great Rivers, the Bills and Overtures Committee also recommends that the following note be included in our notice of concurrence to the General Assembly:

NOTE: We would suggest that this task force also seek to identify other situations where individuals are prevented by our present structure from taking an active role in the life and governance of the PC(USA). For example: In the Presbytery of Great Rivers we have encountered this with those serving in rural settings.

Appendix K

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

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

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

COM Celebrates

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

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

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

Motions for PGR February 26, 2022 Assembly:

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

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

Rationales:

Book of Order

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

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

Rationales:

Book of Order

- G-3.0109 paragraph 3; part b. Administrative Commissions
 - G-5.05 Joint Congregational Witness
- Presbytery of Great Rivers Manual of Operations
- Article XI - Commissions; Section 2 Other commissions

3. Move to form an Administrative Commission for the Presbyterian congregations in Rock Island: Broadway PC; Gloria Dei PC; Good Shepherd PC; and South Park PC to assist in the discussion around and creation of one new congregation in Rock Island, IL from the four existing congregations.

Rationales:

Book of Order

- G-1.02 Organization of a Congregation
 - G-1.0201 Organizing Covenant
 - G-3.0109 paragraph 3; part b. Administrative Commissions
 - G-3.0303 b The Presbytery shall provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received
 - G-3.0303 f consider and act upon request from congregations for permission to take the actions regarding real property as described in G-4.0206
 - G-4.0206 Leasing Congregational Property
- Presbytery of Great Rivers Manual of Operations
- Article XI - Commissions; Section 2 Other commissions

4. Move to dismiss with thanks the Administrative Commission of Springfield-Knox PC. At this time the Committee on Ministry invites the Presbytery of Great Rivers to celebrate the life and ministry of Knox Presbyterian Church in a Litany of Closure.

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

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

All: hear our prayer.

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

All: we praise you, O God.

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

All: we praise you, O God.

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

All: we praise you, O God.

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

All: we praise you, O God.

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

All: we praise you, O God.

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

All: we praise you, O God

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

All: we praise you, O God.

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

All: we praise you, O God.

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted

Kathie Whitson, Elder/CLP COM Co-Chair

Committee on Ministry Handbook Updates Rational

Last year, it became clear to the COM that our Handbook, while comprehensive, was out of date with current practices in some areas. This began a year-long intensive review of the Handbook by the Training and Resources Subcommittee, which went through the entire Handbook, page-by-page. This was done with the help of the now former Lead Presbyter for Transformation. There are several changes being recommended to Presbytery for approval. This rational will not address all these changes. Rather, it will address the more significant changes to the Handbook that are being proposed. Several of the changes to the Handbook update the language of the Handbook to the current language being used within the COM, PGR, and PCUSA. There are several additions to the Handbook that represent changes to the operations of COM that have been over the last several years but have not been reflected in the Handbook. This rational will not address all these changes. Rather, it will address the more significant changes to the Handbook that are being proposed. What follows are those changes we feel that Presbytery should be made aware of before voting on these changes.

- Item #1: The Handbook is now divided into three parts: Definitions, Procedures, and Forms. Procedures are further divided into mandates and best practices. Best Practices are easily identifiable by the Bolded letters in red followed by a text box. Best Practices are commended for your use but are not required. For instance, you do not have to ask the questions listed in the Best Practice box for the exit interview. You might find multiple questions for an exit interview listed in the Handbook. You can even develop your own exit interview questions as desired and appropriate. The exit interview questions listed in the Best Practices box represent the hard work and wisdom of our COM predecessors. It is worth noting that, while it is not required that you ask the specific questions listed in the Best Practices box for the exit interview, an exit interview is still required. What is not labeled as Best Practices should be treated as a mandate as indicated by the language: shall, should, may, etc.
- Item #2: It is recommended that Commissioned Ruling Elders, hereafter referred to as Commissioned Pastors or CP's, be allowed to serve their home congregation with the approval of 2/3rds of the Presbytery at a Presbytery meeting. We are recommending this change to be more flexible and responsive to our smaller and more rural congregations within our Presbytery. We also do not have a large number of CP's to choose from within our Presbytery. Allowing a member of a congregation to complete the CP program and then serve their home congregation would allow us to be more responsive to congregations that desire a CP. Having the 2/3rd's approval by Presbytery recognizes that this should not be the norm going forward and must be done with all due diligence and forethought.
- Item #3: It is recommended that we remove the exemption that allows congregations with CP's to pay their CP less than the Minimum Terms of Call with approval. This same exemption is not present for Ministers of Word and Sacrament. The Book of Order speaks of parity between MWS and CP's. Further, we believe that this defeats the purpose of setting a Minimum Terms of Call if any congregation can simply obtain an exemption. Then, what is the point of having a minimum? Finally, and most importantly, a congregation should pay their staff fairly for the work that they are

doing. If a congregation cannot afford a pastor at full-time, then that pastor should not be expected to work full time.

- Item #4: The Transitions Subcommittee of COM updated and clarified the process for the orderly transfer of clergy from other denominations. This procedure is outlined in greater detail in the Handbook and is in-line with the Book of Order.
- Item #5: A point of clarification: we removed the debt assistance section from the Handbook. This does not mean that those funds are not available. However, we felt that this section did not belong in the COM handbook as the Board of Pensions is constantly updating their debt assistance programs and they will have the more up-to-date information.
- Item #6: We updated the Pastoral Ethics policy to allow ministers and CP's to attend boundary training provided by an accredited agency or denomination on a yearly basis. This is to be more flexible and all more people the opportunity to complete this requirement if they cannot attend the November meeting of Presbytery.
- Item #7: It is important to note that Illinois statutes name clergy as mandate reporters for known or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect. This is a requirement for Commissioned Pastors, Elders, and Deacons as well, even if you are not currently in active service. This is reflected in the handbook.

Finally, once these changes have been approved, the COM Subcommittee on Training and Resources will work with the PGR office staff to update the forms and website so that all this information will be clearly marked and consistent.

Appendix L

Presbytery of Great Rivers
Assembly Meeting, 2-26-22

Move to approve in principle a “Joint Congregational Witness” between First Presbyterian Church of Bushnell and the Bushnell Methodist Church (G-5.05). The following key elements agree upon by the two congregations are

1. To use both buildings and alternate worship site every three months.
2. To have the present Methodist pastor become the pastor of the federate/union congregation.

Move to form an Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church of Bushnell

1. To assist in finalizing a plan for a Joint Congregational Witness that confirms with (G-5.05).
2. To exercise the Presbytery’s authority to approve “control the location of new congregations and of congregations desiring to move as well as to divide, dismiss, or dissolve the congregation in consultation with their members;” (G-3.0303b) and to approve a shared ministry agreement with another congregation.
3. To have Presbytery authority in forming a union or federated congregation. (G-3.0109 b. 4)
4. To report its work and all actions to the Presbytery for ratification.
5. To have Presbytery authority in executing the plan.
6. To assist the congregation in discerning its future if this plan for Joint Congregational Witness does not go through.

. The Presbytery Moderator nominates to serve on this Administrative Commission:

Background Information:

1. Conversations with the Methodist congregation began in November, 2021.
2. Both Methodist and Presbyterian congregations’ leadership has approved the movement to a “Joint Congregational Witness”
3. The Methodist District Superintendent has approved the Joint Witness.
4. The pastor at the Methodist Church is willing to be pastor for the Joint Witness and both leadership groups have approved having him serve the Joint Congregation.
5. The congregation of First Presbyterian has approved the movement to a Joint witness with the Methodist.
6. The Methodist Congregation votes the third week of February.
7. Complicating working out an agreement is the likely split in the Methodist denomination.
8. An administrative commission can move more quickly than the Presbytery in establishing a union/federated congregation.

Appendix M

Presbytery of Great Rivers

Assembly Meeting, 2-26-22

Motions from the Congregations of Broadway PC; Gloria Dei PC; Good Shepherd PC; and South Park PC

Move to approve in principle a vision for the future for the four Presbyterian congregations in Rock Island: Broadway PC; Gloria Dei PC; Good Shepherd PC; and South Park PC.

1. To come together as one congregation
2. To have a focus on Worship, Discipleship and Mission
3. To come together looking to what can be and not just preserving the past
4. This new congregation to be a positive moving forward and not an attempt at mere survival.
5. To be good stewards and reduce the duplication and cost of property (plan to reduce to one building where now there are four.
6. To be good stewards of human resources

The plan to include the following agreed upon elements (already approved by the 4 churches):

- 1) Dissolution of the congregations.
- 2) Constituting a new congregation with new by-laws, new manual of operations, new financial structures and consider which non-pastoral staff will be carried forward. The expectation is that the pastor at Good Shepherd PC, the Rev. James Benson and the pastor at South Park PC, the Rev. Blake Severson would be the pastors of the new church.
- 3) The new congregation will be housed on the campus of what is currently known as Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church.
- 4) Use the principles of good stewardship to dispose of all unneeded physical properties owned by the congregations.
- 5) Request of the Presbytery of Great Rivers that all assets of the existing congregations be transferred to the new congregation.

Move to form an Administrative Commission for the Presbyterian congregations in Rock Island: Broadway PC; Gloria Dei PC; Good Shepherd PC; and South Park PC

1. To assist the Sessions, Leadership group and congregations in discerning its current and future ministry and mission.
2. To assist in finalizing a plan to present to all the congregations to become one congregation and to act on behalf of the Presbytery in approving and implementing the plan.
3. To organize one new congregation in Rock Island from the four existing congregations by dissolution and forming a new congregation by the process in G-1.02
4. To assist and approve "in securing pastoral leadership" G-1.02 including contracting with organizing pastors who could at a later date be elected by the congregation in called and installed role.
5. To exercise the Presbytery's authority to approve "control the location of new congregations and of congregations desiring to move as well as to divide, dismiss, or dissolve the congregation in consultation with their members;" (G-3.0303b) and to approve a shared ministry agreement with another congregation.
6. To have Presbytery authority with Administration Team "consider and act upon requests from congregations for permission to take the actions regarding real property as described in G-4.0206" (G-3.0303 f.)
7. To report its work and all actions to the Presbytery for ratification.
8. To form a "provisional Session" from the four congregations to work side by side with in completing the tasks. (G-1.0201)

9. To assist the provisional Session in drafting by-laws and constitution for the new church.

The Presbytery Moderator nominates to serve on this Administrative Commission:

Background Information:

1. Representatives of the four congregations have been meeting and working on a vision to move forward together in ministry and mission since January 2020.
2. The four congregations invited and reached out to the Presbyterian Foundation and their Project Regeneration program, which operate in conjunction with the office of the General Assembly, to help shepherd the congregations through this discernment process
3. “There is incredible, Spirit driven, energy behind the vision of a merged body focused on Worship, Discipleship, and mission, in tandem with an absolute minimum focus on administration and physical plan.
4. With a target date of June 5, 2022 (Pentecost Sunday) to constitute the new congregation, an Administrative Commission it is necessary to have a Commission working alongside the sessions/congregations with Presbytery authority to complete the work.
5. In January, 2022, all four congregations in Meeting of their Congregation approved the plan and the elements as listed above and to request that Presbytery elect an Administrative Commission.
6. PGR Administration Team has already approved all liquid and real assets of the four congregations would go forward to new congregation.

Appendix D

Administrative Commission Report

Knox Presbyterian Church

On May 23, 2021 the Session of Knox Presbyterian Church – Springfield voted to call a congregational meeting on August 1, 2021 for the purpose of proposing the dissolution of the Knox Presbyterian Church effective December 31, 2021.

On August 1, 2021 the congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church voted to dissolve the congregation effective December 31, 2021.

The final worship service at Knox was held on December 26, 2021. The bulletin is attached as part of this report.

Permanent records have been transmitted to the Historical Society.

The General Assembly has been notified.

Worship space was rented; not owned. The inventory of contents has been distributed/donated to other organizations or to members. The pulpit and communion table are preserved at Springfield First.

Residual funds are being donated to Contact Ministries, Ronald McDonald House, Kumler Food and Medicine Pantry, Third Presbyterian Church, St. Jude's Children's Home, Shriner's Hospital for Children, Make A wish Foundation (IL chapter), Illinois Presbyterian Home, Knox Women's Mission Group (they will be moving to Hope Presbyterian Church, Springfield) Dance Creations Dance Studio.

Contact information for the Presbyterian congregations in and around Springfield was provided to the membership.

Special thanks are due Pastor Paula Carmichael, Clerk Jackie Stites and Clerk Rich Eggleston who provided solid leadership in the work of the Commission and the Session.

Respectfully submitted

Michaael Orr (chair), Marcia Jungmeyer, Merle Fox, the Reverend Christian Choi and The Reverend Marla Bauler.

Appendix N

Staffing and Finance Task Force Report 2-26-22

We have begun our adventure in off-road travel! We've found a pathway that will take us much further into our new reality!

In 2019 Ryan Landino, our Lead Presbyter for Transformation, presented us with a metaphor of coming to the end of the highway and needing to maneuver our vehicle into a very different environment. We would need, we determined, to find new ways to be Presbytery, to connect together in order to serve our churches and communities.

The Finance and Staffing Task Force is pleased to tell you that we have now left the highway! Have you noticed that we are moving relatively easily on this newly discovered path? There might be a few bumps, but we're doing it! Give yourselves a pat on the back! This new roadway has been accessed by measures that contain our annual expenses by over \$100,000 from that time in 2019. We have found that virtual committee meetings, a virtual assistant and no physical office can work! We've hired a highly effective Bridge Presbyter to help steady our vehicle. We've created an exciting new Vision Statement which is our map to this new destination we seek. It's all good!

Now we need your help in steering our vehicle on this upcoming stretch. If we assume a Lead Presbyter or other leadership will solve our problems, we're taking on the attitude of so many congregations who want their pastor to do the heavy lifting of ministry. It simply can't work that way! We, as committees and members, need to maintain our grip on the steering wheel. We can't relax in the back and hope someone else will steer this vehicle to our desired destination. If we do so, we will find ourselves stuck in the mud or crashed into a tree. We need you!

As the taskforce, we hope to bring the locus of Presbytery to a more grassroots level, but to have any hope of success, we invite you, our committees and members to help develop the way forward. Below you will

find several suggested actionable practices about how we can BE THE PRESBYTERY in a way that begins to live into the aspirations of our 2020 Vision Statement. It is a recipe, not only for creating the base upon which the road we seek will be built, but we pray it can be the Spirit leading us to health and vitality. We invite you to study this list; pray it; discuss it and find ways to make it a part of our joint adventure into a joyful new reality.

Scripture that guides us

The New Life in Christ

Romans 12:1-2 NRSV

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

What is needed is deep, adaptive change. This will not happen overnight. However, we can begin by implementing the following practices in 2022. As our practices are followed, our ministries will grow. Some of these steps are technical changes. Many of these are designed to happen simultaneously. These technical changes will create space for the needed adaptive change to occur. Here is what we recommend.

Ten Action Items to strengthen our Presbytery

- 1. Tell the stories – Communicate the mission & ministry of PGR**
 - ❖ Establish a regular publication schedule for the Good News. Ask committees and task forces to write articles or updates after each of their meetings. Recruit a volunteer to collect this content and submit in prepared format to be added to the Good News by our Virtual Assistant.
 - ❖ Include links and connections to the larger church (see Presbytery of Wabash Valley’s e-letter for an example of how this could be done).
 - ❖ Feature a mission story at each Presbytery assembly related to our Matthew 25 initiative.

(Meets the 2020 Vision Statement aspirations of connecting, supporting, spiritually engaging and focusing the presbytery on our Matthew 25 identity.)

2. Develop an annual presbytery wide engagement with our Matthew 25 identity

- ❖ Examples: Go as a Presbytery and Serve, PDA teams, RIP Medical Debt, CWS kits, food bank support.

(Meets the 2020 Vision Statement aspirations of seeking justice and focusing around Matthew 25 identity)

3. Develop a culture of accountability.

- ❖ Ask all committees and task forces and Sessions to choose three aspirations from the 2020 Vision Statement for their primary focus for the year. Each time these groups meet, include in the agenda an assessment at the meeting's end as to how the business conducted/discussed during the meeting has aligned with the three focus aspirations and record these ponderings/learnings in the minutes. **See 2020 Vision Statement attached at the bottom of this report.**
- ❖ Follow up on the meeting assessment by creating at least one SMART goal to follow before the next meeting that will move that entity towards their focus aspirations. The SMART goal will be based on what's just been learned. (SMART goals are Specific, Measurable, Action Oriented, Realistic and Time bound)
- ❖ After two months of practice, develop further accountability steps for the committee or group.

(Meets the 2020 Vision Statement aspirations of transforming, connecting and focusing)

4. Expand presbytery wide educational/fellowship opportunities

- ❖ Host occasional presbytery wide educational and fellowship opportunities such as seasonal Bible studies (Advent, Lent, etc.); Lunch and Learn opportunities; Book studies, etc. with

the presbytery providing Zoom support and recruiting leaders for these events.

(Meets the 2020 Vision Statement aspirations of connecting, spiritually engaging, seeking justice, resourcing)

5. Develop job descriptions for volunteer positions

- ❖ Committees and task forces develop job descriptions with expectations for committee members and send these to Nominating.
- ❖ Nominating committee to initiate conversations now with every pastor and commissioned lay pastor in congregational settings about potential volunteers known to them in their congregations suited to the varieties of service needed to fill the committee positions in the presbytery.
- ❖ Nominating committee to work year round to build up files of potential volunteers. Fill positions as they occur so that committee rosters are full and they can fulfill their responsibilities.
- ❖ Match volunteers to responsibilities based on their spiritual gifts and their ability to effectively serve on that committee.
- ❖ Keep committee rosters by class and use awareness of rotation as a tool to continually nurture leadership within committees (this allows for continuous development and nurturing of new leadership).

(Meets the 2020 Vision Statement aspirations of seeking justice, resourcing and spiritually engaging the presbytery).

6. Broaden the leadership pool across the presbytery

- ❖ Set and meet the goal of adding at least 25% new membership annually on each committee.
- ❖ Each committee to determine how many people are truly needed to do their work and what skills members need in order to participate.

- ❖ Consciously broaden the leadership pool by lessening the current practice of moving a small cadre of folks from leadership role to leadership role within the presbytery.
- ❖ Shift from automatically renewing terms for committee members to provide opportunities to expand our leadership pool and to allow more voices.
- ❖ Ask Committee chair to provide annual input to Nominating Committee. Does member fulfill committee assignments and responsibilities? Attend meetings?
Comment area to note exceptional attributes.

(Meets the 2020 Vision Statement aspirations of transforming, connecting, supporting and spiritually engaging)

7. Volunteer appreciation day

- ❖ Provide recognition annually for service with a luncheon and certificate and thanks, which acknowledges the volunteer efforts that sustain and give life to the presbytery.
- ❖ Send notes of thanks to Sessions for sharing their human resources (their members and pastors) with the presbytery.

(Meets the 2020 Vision Statement aspirations of connecting, supporting, resourcing)

8. Develop a presbytery database that is readily and directly accessible for use by volunteers, congregations and staff

- ❖ We presently have no easy access to this information, which slows down fulfilling our responsibilities as we wait for the information from another person.

(Meets the 2020 Vision Statement aspirations of connecting, supporting and resourcing)

9. Improve organization of Presbytery Assemblies

- ❖ Create a presbytery packet that cross references the agenda to the papers provided; include page numbers in agenda as to where materials are located in packet.
- ❖ Each person presenting refers Assembly to this information and allows a moment for it to be located.

- ❖ Do not conduct business by expecting people to absorb new information through screen sharing, other than if it comes up under other business.
- ❖ Put times on the docket (allow for the order of the day).

(Meets the 2020 Vision Statement aspirations of transforming, spiritually engaging, focusing, resourcing)

10. Continue the development of the use of technology, social media, etc. by the presbytery and within the presbytery

(Meets the 2020 Vision Statement aspirations of connecting, resourcing, supporting)

The Task Force invites you to share and discuss these ideas in your congregation and Presbytery committees and groups.

Will you also consider sharing 60 minutes of your time to further discuss these practices with a group of your peers and the Task Force? Please post “TF Talk” in the chat now or submit your name and email address to Joyce Chamberlin by emailing jkchamberlin1@gmail.com. Times for these discussions will be determined according to availability of those who are interested. Your thoughts about next steps are the ticket to our future!

Questions? Contact a Task Force Member.

Joyce Chamberlin – jkchamberlin1@gmail.com

Bill Strawbridge – bnc.sbridge@gmail.com

Julio Garcia – julieman6@yahoo.com

Laura Reason— revlaura1911@hotmail.com

Mike Orr – mikeorr1@comcast.net

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 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.



STATED MEETING of the Presbytery of Great Rivers
COMPLETE DOCKET
 February 26th, 2022

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/meeting/register/tZYuf-yrpzgiHdQLiMODyCbmyDJXYCuBg52L>

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

8:30 Sign-in to Zoom

9:00 Call to Order with Prayer Moderator, MWS Chuck Goodman

UNITING IN WORSHIP

9:05 Music "Morning Has Broken" Kathie Whitson, Marilyn Simmons

Acknowledging Native American Heritage of Gathering Sites MWS Elissa Bailey

Welcome and Instructions Moderator, Chuck Goodman

- Establish the Roll and Seat Corresponding Members
- Establishment of quorum
- Introduction and seating of first-time Teaching Elder commissioners
- Introduction of first-time Ruling Elder Commissioners
- Introduction of Corresponding Members

PARTNERING IN MISSION

9:20 Adoption of the Docket

Omnibus Motion

Motion to Enter All Written Reports into The Permanent Minutes:

Stated Clerk, Treasurer, CLP/CRE Coordinator, GAP Presbyter

Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Visioning, Leadership, Committee on Accessibility, Representation and Equity (CARE)

RISKING IN MINISTRY

9:30 Stated Clerk’s Report (15) MWS Elissa Bailey

9:45 Committee Reports - *Reports are in the Assembly tab on the website.*

Personnel (5) MWS Joyce Chamberlin, HR

Introduction of GAP Presbyter MWS John Rickard

Administration (5) RE Julio Garcia

Nominating (5) RE Julio Garcia

Bills and Overtures (15) MWS Maura McGrath Nagle

Committee On Ministry (COM) (20) CRE Kathie Whitson

Litany of Dissolution - Springfield, Knox Presbyterian Church

MWS Paula Carmichael and Stated Clerk Elissa M. Bailey

Prayer

10:35 Personnel & Finance Task Force (15) MWS Joyce Chamberlin, HR

10:50 NEW BUSINESS - *This is not a time for announcements, but for introducing other business not previously docketed before the assembly.*

10:55 TEN MINUTE BIO-BREAK (gather communion elements)

11:15 Mid-Council Connection (15) MWS Dr. Ken Green, Board of Pensions

UNITING IN WORSHIP

11:15 Prayer of Invocation MWS Rene’ Whitaker

Affirmation of Faith Rev. Maura McGrath Nagle, Fiona McGrath Nagle
Excerpted from “A Brief Statement of Faith”

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image to live as one community.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

With believers in every time and place,

we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

11:20	Scripture Sermon	Matthew 25:34-40	MWS Chris Roseland MWS Chris Roseland
11:45	Breakout Room Discussion (15)		MWS Katie Styr
12:00	Moment in Ministry (5)		MWS Matt Wilcox
12:05	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper		MWS Sterrett Collins
SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE			
12:20	Call for the Offering "One Great Hour of Sharing"	MWS Dr. Denise Clark-Jones	
	Prayer of Dedication		MWS Rene' Whitaker
	Musical Response "Jesus Be with Us" video		
12:30	Sharing Good News <i>Please raise your hand to unmute and briefly share your ministry's good news!</i>		
12:45	Announcements		
1:00	Closing Prayer and Adjournment		MWS Katie Styr, Moderator-elect

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- Commissioners: please turn in evaluation forms
 - The next Assembly is May 17th, 2022 at First PC Normal