

Committee and Commission Reports For Stated Meeting, February 13, 2025

Administrative Team/Moderator Team – submitted by Rev. Sarah Dickinson

Headlines

1. We are committed to being “radically helpful” to congregations.
2. As a part of that we have a *Child Protection Task Force* component in our Dec, Jan and February meetings. Shelli Dart (FELD) and Nicole Geiler (PMRV Office and Communications Coordinator) have been joining AT & MT meetings. Through this we recommend the use of a *Code of Conduct* in all churches. We are sharing an example Code with the whole presbytery. We think this is an easy first step in compliance and excellence in care for vulnerable people. Did you get a copy of this yet? Do you have any questions?
3. We have been developing the annual Leadership Training and Retreat for January 21. (and it has occurred. About 20 leaders representing PMRV’s broad structure attended.) Please let us know what would be helpful to your congregation. For example, some churches have lost insurance. Do you need help or can you share wisdom? We are all on the same team.

Admin Team (AT): Nancy Ross-Hullinger, Gregg Miller, Sarah Dickinson/notetaker

Moderator Team (MT): Marcia Cline, Matt Copen, Ricky Holbert

Calvin Crest – submitted by Rev. Craig Huffman, Director

The Calvin Crest Board of Directors met on January 10-11, 2025 for their annual overnight retreat. Board elections and committee assignments were completed along with the routine work of the board. In addition, the Board nominated a new board member to replace Frank Gaines who passed away unexpectedly in November.

Discussions about strategy, policies and steps to enhance the programmatic offerings of Calvin Crest were beneficial.

Commission on Ministry – submitted by David Friedli, Moderator

- Dismissed one (1) PMRV member to another presbytery, removed one (1) member upon passing
- Added two (2) members to PMRV after background check and interview
- Validated seven (7) ministries within PMRV
- Assisting four(4) churches currently in the search/call process for Teaching Elder or Associate Pastor
- Participated in the Administrative Commission to close one member church
- Approved eight (8) Temporary Pastoral Relationships with congregations
- Approved Communion for five (5) related ministries within PMRV
- Monitored and assisted three (3) Interim Pastors and four (4) CRE serving in the Presbytery
- Received reports from five (5) Care Teams regarding personal contact with member congregations and pastors
- Hosted PMRV Open House for pastors, spouses and staff December 4, 2024
- Thanked seven (7) members for their service on COM and welcomed four (4) new members. (The Commission is still 5 members short of full membership.)

Commission on Preparation for Ministry – submitted by Rev. Brian Long, chair

During the last three months, the biggest change has been in the CPM personnel. Al Zimmerman handed the chair to Brian Long. Diane Greenfield, who had been the clerk, passed away.

As of this report, there are supposed to be three elders and three ministers of Word and sacrament on the committee. However, there are three ministers. There is one elder, but due to health issues, is, for the moment unavailable.

The Chair, Brian Long, has met independently with an inquirer, Regina Jeanpierre-Bryant, to discuss preparations for taking the ordination exams.

The next meeting of the CPM is scheduled for 2/6/25 at 4:30 p.m. The three ministers have committed to the meeting at this time.

Faith Education Leadership Development (FELD) – submitted by Rev. Suzanne Gorhau

Members: Suzanne Gorhau, Rudy Wang, Ricky Holbert, Jim Gaines, Lynda Shafer, Aaron White

Current projects:

- Pastors/Educators' Retreat before the August Presbytery Meeting
- Church Officer/Leader Training for February 2026
- Promoting scholarships for Camp Calvin Crest and Synod School so more people in the presbytery will take advantage of them
- New Commission Training for each presbytery meeting
- Sorting through resources at the Presbytery Office
- A spiritual formation group led by interim pastor Rev. Laura Rasmussen

Mission and Evangelism – submitted by Rev. Matt Coplen, chair

Committee Members: Matt Coplen, Sarah James, Carolyn Grice, Rebecca Nichole, James Reiff

Komarek Trust Grants

The committee received 7 grant requests from Presbytery of Missouri River Valley. We approved all 7 requests and were able to grant each congregation \$2,542.87 for each proposed project. The following churches will be receiving Komarek Trust grants:

- Faith Presbyterian Church, LaVista
- Faithful Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Omaha
- Gethsemane Presbyterian Church, Council Bluffs
- Hope Presbyterian Church, Omaha
- Mount View Presbyterian Church, Omaha
- New Life Presbyterian Church, Omaha
- West Hills Church, Omaha

Komarek Trust Scholarships

Regina Jeanpierre-Bryant was awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$2,595.00 for her continued studies at Dubuque Theological Seminary.

Jessica Schoepner was awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$3,405 for her continued studies at Fuller Theological Seminary.

Presbytery Meetings

A new task of the Mission & Evangelism Committee is to make recommendations for the offerings received at Presbytery meetings. Since three of our meetings are going to be in person in 2025, we will be working with Faith Presbyterian Church, Camp Calvin Crest and First Presbyterian of Bellevue concerning the offerings received at those respective locations.

For the February 13th Presbytery meeting, Leadership Team approved a recommendation to direct the offering to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and their work with those impacted by the fires in Los Angeles and surrounding areas.

Nominating Committee – submitted by Rev. Sarah Dickinson (updated 2/12/2025)

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I place these names into nomination

- Mission: Matt Coplen TE [FPC Plattsouth], (Class of 2027, Term 2)
- Worship: Kris Oertell RE [PCM], (Class of 2027, Term 2)
- PJC:
 - JD Georlett TE [Dundee Pres] (Class of 2027, Term 1)
 - Jayne Molacek RE [Hope Pres] (Class of 2027, Term 1)
 - Al Zimmerman CRE [Faith La Vista] (Class of 2027, Term 1)
- CPM: Doug Bogenhagen RE [Faith La Vista] (Class of 2027, Term 1)

Personnel Committee – submitted by Rev. Richard Meyer and Elder Pam Otto, co-chairs

Kathy Moore's second term as chair on Personnel concluded in January. She was so good at her job that it will take two people to replace her! She passed along the chair baton to Richard Meyer and Pam Otto who will serve as co-chairs this year.

Our presbytery has three wonderful part-time employees whom we cherish ... Nicole Geiler our office and communications coordinator, Tina Claus our accounting specialist, and Nancy Ross-Hullinger our stated clerk. While Nancy Ross-Hullinger became our duly voted upon stated clerk this past fall, August 14, 2024 marked Tina's five year anniversary with us and Nicole Geiler will celebrate her fifth year with us on June 1 of this year.

Over this past year our staff has identified several efficiency and cost-containment measures and will continue to do so in the future. We have also begun exploring their remote work options as well as reducing or eliminating reliance on a physical office building.

Those serving on the Personnel Committee this year include Richard Meyer, (Retired Clergy), Pam Otto (Elder, PCOC), Cindy Harvey, (Clergy - Church of the Master), Shari Dillehay (Elder, Bethany), and Sarah Dickinson (Clergy, Discovery), serving as Administrative Team Liaison.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

No Report

Self-Development of People – Rev. Carolyn Grice, chair

No Report

Stewardship of Resources (SOR) – submitted by Rev. Michael Elliott, chair

Since the last meeting of Presbytery, this Committee has:

- Monitored sale of property matters for our churches.
- Monitored monthly financial reports of the Presbytery.
- Discussed ways that SOR can help our congregations with performing yearly financial reviews, helping with BOP dues and serving as a resource for churches and pastors regarding financial matters. Please contact us if you have questions. We are glad to help in any way that we can!!!!
- Looking back at 2024:
 - We were able to produce a budget for 2025 that required only \$700 dollars from Presbytery reserves. Due to careful spending in all areas of the budget, it is possible

to absorb a \$1.04 increase in General Assembly's portion of per capita AND still hold per capita for 2025 at the 2024 rate of \$40.80 per member.

- 2024 ended roughly \$70,000 in the black. This was only possible by careful planning and stewardship on the part of every Presbytery committee and commission as well as strong performance from our investments.
- Approximately 94% of per capita was received from our congregations.

Social Justice and Peacemaking – submitted by Rev. Carolyn Grice, chair

Since the last presbytery meeting...

Tamika Mease, Executive Director of the North Omaha Community Partnership (a nonprofit organization that focuses on crime prevention and providing resources to families in crisis), provided information on the Crisis Fund that is used to assist families who may have lost a loved one to homicide or some other form of violence or tragedy. They relocate families when their homes have been shot by gunfire, or someone may have been killed in the home. They provide emergency shelter, food and clothing. They help with funeral preparations. They provide mental and behavioral health assistance for families to deal with the trauma they have experienced.

The committee reviewed Overture 24A and has recommended that PMRV concur.

Worship and Spirituality Committee – submitted by Rev. Becky Balestri (chair) and Rev. Robert Keefer (clerk)

Since the last meeting of Presbytery, this Committee has:

- Continued monthly Theology on Tap gatherings for church leaders and members to discuss topics in theology
- Planned worship for the February Presbytery meeting and discussed the theme for 2025
- Planned and executed a time of worship and fellowship for church leaders January 23
- Planned a preaching seminar for February 20
- Prepared our recommendation to the Presbytery with respect to proposed amendment to the Constitution 24-B.