

PMRV Committee Reports For Stated Meeting, May 3, 2025

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

To: PMRV for the 5/3/25 PMRV Stated meeting

From: Admin Team (AT) – Nancy Ross-Hullinger, Gregg Miller, Sarah Dickinson/notetaker
Moderator Team (MT): Marcia Cline, Matt Coplen, Ricky Holbert

1. We are committed to being “radically helpful” to congregations. (2025 focus statement)
2. As a part of being “radically helpful” we continue to have a **Child Protection Task Force** component in our meetings. Shelli Dart (FELD) and Nicole Geiler (PMRV Office and Communications Coordinator) have been joining AT & MT meetings. A **Code of Conduct** has now been approved by the Leadership Team and shared with the presbytery. We believe Code of Conduct is an important first step for each Session and congregation to consider, adapt and approve for their context. Has your Session discussed this yet? Does your congregation know about this simple step that shares basic information and invites sober compliance? Please see any one of us if you have any questions about implementation.
3. We followed up on Leadership Team’s request: Recommend Task Force for potential building sale of the Presbytery building. Leadership Team approved the outline of duties and task force members at its April meeting. See elsewhere for the approved Task Force document (probably in Leadership Team materials).
4. We do all we can to listen carefully and set up thoughtful meetings and discernment.

Task Force: Potential Sale of the PMRV Building (Approved 4-16-25 LT)

FINAL proposal from MT/AT – based on the request of Leadership Team (March 2025 meeting)

Background: The PMRV Building is being used less and less across the years. Staff can work remotely and prefer to do so.

- People of the presbytery use the office less. It is an underutilized asset that we steward.
- And in stewardship of it – we need to take care of it so that it does not deteriorate.
- Based on input from the staff, personnel committee and SOR, SOR made an initial proposal to the Leadership Team. (3/2025) Leadership Team identified some potential Task Force members and process points and handed over to the Moderator and Admin joint Team to flesh out some more. A proposal follows.

Potential Opportunity: Consider selling the property.

- Considerations: Is there any benefit to not selling it? If it were up for sale, what are options? Future proofing.

If it is determined that a sale is in line with the mission of PMRV, here are some things to work through:

- Staff
 - What do they need for virtual officing
 - Technology, tools, support (phone line is already on Zoom)
- Stuff
 - Where can the needed physical items be stored
- Administration
 - What is the new PMRV address
- Real Estate
 - Getting expertise; who are our neighbors; fruitful as well as ethical options
- PMRV needs
 - Communicate with PMRV so people understand what and why

- Instead of meeting at the office, what are options
- Mission
 - Being thoughtful about the sale and funds and how they might be used – in line with PMRV values
- Logistics of a sale
 - Real estate, legal and polity/policy
- Other
 - This is a multi-faceted change. Be ready to add extra things that need working through and enlisting help.

Mechanics of decision making

- Leadership Team appoints Task Force, representing different important angles for completing the task well.
- Task Force phase 1: Finalize whether or not this would be a wise move. Then begin to explore the facets of the move (as outlined above).
- In addition: Work in collaboration with the Leadership Team especially at key decision points
 - Leadership Team will vote on a plan and recommend to Presbytery

Staffing the Task Force

- Lead committee: SOR (in collaboration with Leadership Team)
- SOR particular representative: Mike Elliott
- PMRV Staff member: Nicole Geiler
- Personnel- Shari Dillehay
- Mission – Rebecca Nichol
- AT large - JD Georlett

Time frame

- Begin process as soon as feasible

Leadership Team (LT) – submitted by Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger (PMRV Stated Clerk)

Leadership Team living the Good News Life: February 18, 2025, March 18, 2025, April 15, 2025

- Each meeting has a time for Listening to God and one another; affirming how God is using us; spending time focusing on the covenant, being the Body of Christ and practicing our commitments, anything new, and we close with how we have are living out the covenant.
- Gold Star reports are provided from each committee/commission for each meeting for review so we can ask questions and highlight items that need brought up or shared with the Presbytery.
- We take time to review Presbytery meetings – what was good, what needs improved, what are ideas for the next meeting.
- We take time to review what good things have happened in the Presbytery between our monthly meetings. These can be individual church good things, Presbytery wide good things, good things happening in Leadership Team members lives.

Here are some of the things we talked about over the last 4 months!:

- Approved SOR Grants: Woohoo!
 - Budget for 2024 was underspent by \$60,000 and collected \$12,000 more than budgeted for an end of year \$70,000 surplus! SOR proposed and LT approved that we offer this money for the use of our congregations to support their day-to-day operations.
 - Proposed and approved that LT set aside \$70,000 to be disbursed as \$2,000 grants to our congregations to use as they desire. A simple grant request form will be used for any church desiring these funds only indicate how the funds will be used.

- SOR recommended and LT approved that the grants be used for help with BOP dues, issues with the physical plant and maintenance of the church, sound system issues, purchase of music or curricula and any other direct concrete need that the congregation may have.
- SOR recommended and LT approved that these funds NOT be used for the support of mission activities that the congregation nor be directly given to mission partners. SOR recommended and LT approved that the funds be inwardly focused on congregational support and not outwardly focused mission.
- Once ample time has been given for all churches to respond, any additional funds will be made available for further distribution until no funds remain.
- Beginning in January, the Committees, Commissions and Leadership Team reviewed the Amendments to the Constitution put before us by the 226th GA for affirmative or negative votes. The Leadership Team will place the Amendments before the commissioners at the May 3, 2025 meeting and recommend affirming all Amendments to the Constitution.
- A task force was recommended to be formed to look into the future of the Presbytery office space, it was approved, and the members of the Task Force have been chosen and are ready to begin their work.
- 9 New Members were brought in at New Life
- Ft. Calhoun brought in 4 new members and a teenager was baptized
- Regina Jeanpierre-Bryant was moved from Inquirer to Candidate
- David Pinkston will be the speaker for the Friday before and at the Presbytery meeting in August
- Offering recommendations were approved for 2025:
 - May 3 – Crossroads Connection
 - August 16 – Calvin Crest – brush mower
 - November 6 – Bellevue Food Pantry
- National Day of Prayer May 1, 11:00 at Faith
- *Divisible* discussion via Zoom on Wed. 4/30.
- Prayers for PCUSA – Interim Unified Agency – as they work to make changes to the Mission and Ministry of the denomination and accomplishing what the 226th GA mandated them to do. We also talked about how to share this information and how would we get it to the most people – the information is not very broad yet, but more information is coming out on a monthly basis.

Calvin Crest – see 2024 Annual Report (posted separately)

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:

- David Pinkston, a spiritual director from Fremont, Nebraska with a focus on clergy care, will be the leader of the Pastors/Educators Retreat before the August Presbytery Meeting.
- We're continuing to plan a Church Leaders Training for February 2026.
- Approving scholarships for Camp Calvin Crest and Synod School.
- Continuing to declutter resources at the Presbytery Office.
- Providing New Commission Training for each presbytery meeting.

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

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

Presbytery Offering Recommendations

In consultation with the Worship Committee of the Presbytery, Craig Huffman of Calvin Crest, and the Mission Committee of First, Bellevue, we make the following recommendations for the offerings to be received at the three remaining stated meetings of the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley for 2025:

- May 3rd ~ Crossroads Connection – worship committee brought this to our attention in connection to the worship focus for that day – “release for the captive”
- August 16th ~ a brush mower for Calvin Crest Camp and Conference Center; this will allow them to keep their biking trails kept up along with the parts of the camp they do not normally mow; Craig estimates a cost of \$2500.00
- November 6th ~ Bellevue Food Pantry – the food pantry regularly served 1,700 people a month and is in the process of moving to a different building in order to expand their services to include fresh, refrigerated and frozen foods along with their current services

***Divisible* follow-up Conversation**

On Wednesday, April 30th, the Mission Committee will be hosting a follow up conversation concerning the movie/documentary “Divisible” which was shown at the Omaha Music Conservatory on Tuesday, April 8th. It will be a zoom gathering and will be an opportunity for those who saw the documentary to reflect and share on what they saw and heard. It was an important event and we want to give the Presbytery an opportunity to reflect together on that event.

We will be working with Nicole Geiler to get a zoom link and information out to the Presbytery. Please share this information with anyone you think would be interested.

Komarek Funds

It does sound like Komarek funds have been sent. If your church was to be a recipient and you have not received a check, please get in touch with me.

Nominating Committee – submitted by Rev. Sarah Dickinson

The Leadership Team is actively assisting the Nominating Committee in a year of understanding and rebuilding.

Each month the Leadership Team has had active conversations about the needs of our presbytery, the work of committees and how all are called to serve as part of the Body of Christ.

Some of the developmental focus areas have been:

- Making the Commission on Ministry an initial focus for support, encouraging each committee to maintain accurate records of committee membership (including class and term of service), having more robust conversations about who can serve and praying through the list of pastors.
- As we prayed through the list of pastors we pondered the ordination vows pastors take.
- Here is a citation from the *Book of Order*.
 - **W-4.0404 Constitutional Questions | W-4.0404i**
 - (3.) (For minister of the Word and Sacrament) Will you be a faithful minister of the Word and Sacrament, proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament, teaching faith and caring for people?
 - ***Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in the councils of the church;*** and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?
 - Actually it’s similar wording for Ruling Elders
 - (1.) (For ruling elder) Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? ***Will you share in***

government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Let's all be prayerful about our service in councils of the church (this means presbytery for example). We give thanks for and invite your service at the Presbytery level. This is a distinguishing feature of being Presbyterian. We invite everyone's thoughts and help in this matter. How can we be "radically helpful" in fulfilling our ordination vows together?

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

No report

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.
- Will be releasing a "Guide for Annual Financial Reviews for Congregations" within the next few months
- At the May meeting of Presbytery, we will be launching "Good News Life Grants." These grants are for the purpose of helping with the operating costs of churches within our Presbytery. More information will be forthcoming at the May Presbytery meeting.

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

The committee is monitoring deportation actions and the impact PCUSA sanctuary churches.

The Palestinian Justice Network is part of Social Justice and Peacemaking. This group is now meeting on the first Monday of each month at various locations. The updated information is listed on the presbytery webpage.

The committee chair continues to provide links to articles that impact the work of the committee on the national and regional levels. This information is provided to the presbytery leadership team when appropriate.

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

Since the February Presbytery meeting, this Committee has:

1. Reviewed previous services of worship to make continuous improvements.
2. Partnered with the Presbytery's Committee on Peacemaking and Social Justice to sponsor a presbytery time of worship on National Day of Prayer (May 1).
3. Reviewed the Committee's description in the Presbytery's Manual of Operations and made suggestions for correction.
4. Planned worship for the May 3 Presbytery meeting.
5. Reviewed Theology on Tap to see if improvements are needed.