PMRV Stated Clerk, Commission, and Committee Reports

For Stated Meeting, February 12, 2026, via Zoom

From the Stated Clerk – submitted by Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger

See *Stated Clerk Report* and *2025 Digest of Actions* in posted presbytery materials

From Leadership Team – submitted by Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger

The Presbytery's Moderator Team met with the Leadership Team and other committee chairs on January 20th for training and orientation for the new year. Part of the training was our 2026 vision, phrase, and curriculum.

We invite the whole presbytery across 2026 to…

- **Proclaim the Good News Life** (theme)
- **Be Radically Helpful** (BOO G-3.0101)
- And each quarter consider a word of strength: **CALLING, CONNECTION, CREATIVITY, COURAGE**

Calvin Crest Camp, Conference and Retreat Center – submitted by Craig Huffman, Executive Director

Happy New Year! As Calvin Crest begins a new year, our 68th as an important strand in the spiritual fabric of this area, we are blessed to welcome Calvin Friedli, our new Maintenance Director, to the team. Calvin, not named for his current employer, has been called to serve in this role and step into the shoes of Bob Pokorny who will retire in late April after 26 years of service and ministry.

As the Board of Directors meets every other month, we are seeking to expand and develop the ways that we impact the call of others. Through summer camp, we see that God calls children, youth and young adults into a life of service and faith development. Through hosting retreats, we see individuals live into their calls in significant ways. And the summer staff and year-round staff continue to serve and develop their calls as well.

In 2025, Calvin Crest received two significant estate gifts from individuals who understood the impact of camp ministry on the Christian Education landscape. Those gifts, wisely stewarded, will provide resources for this ministry to continue. We are grateful for those two individuals, and the many individuals, churches, organizations and foundations that support Calvin Crest in significant ways throughout the year.

Commission of Care (COC) – submitted by David Friedli, Moderator

David Friedli, Co-Moderator df68409@gmail.com
Brian Long, Co-Moderator falcorre@aol.com

A merging of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry and the Commission on Ministry has created the COC, the Commission **of** Care.

Not the Commission **ON care**, because that would mean we know a lot about it but someone else does it. In contrast, we are the Commission **OF care** because **WE** do it. Serving Inquirer to CRE, to Teaching Elder, to Ruling Elder, to Session, to Congregation, COC's mission is "to support ministry in the Presbytery."

Please let us know how we can support your ministry.

Business of interest

1. The Commission approved the request from the Murray Presbyterian Church and Reverend William McConnell to dissolve the pastoral relationship effective February 28, 2026, and recognize the retirement of Reverend McConnell.
2. The Commission has continued to support established Pastor Nominating Committees in these churches:
    - Dundee Presbyterian Church Associate Pastor
    - Ft. Calhoun Presbyterian Church
    - Shenandoah/Essex Presbyterian Churches
3. Temporary Pastoral Relationship and Pastor Compensation forms for 2026 are being received and approved. Session clerks are urged to submit them as soon as possible.
4. Approved three instances of PMRV members to labor outside the bounds of the Presbytery for the purpose of administering the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
5. Approved moderators for church Sessions.
6. Approved Keith Allen and Brian Long as Exam readers.
7. Directed the COC Interview Team to proceed with any necessary interviews.
8. The Care Team format has been restructured to include the work of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry.
9. We welcomed new members to COC at an in-person meeting in January.
10. CPM and COM manuals are being combined and revised to reflect the work of the Commission of Care.
11. Thank you to those who attended the COM Christmas luncheon. We are open to suggestions of how this can reach even more pastors and staff.
12. The Commission recommends listening to this podcast from NPR's On Point program. It addresses the effects of church closings on the congregation and surrounding community. https://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2025/12/22/whats-lost-when-churches-close

Faith Education Leadership Development (FELD) – submitted by Rev. Aaron White, chair

Members: Ricky Holbert, Jim Gaines, Nicole Reibe, Lynda Shafer, Darlene Trotter, & Aaron White

- FELD welcomes new committee members Nicole Reibe and Darlene Trotter!
- FELD also expresses its gratitude to Rev. Suzanne Gorhau, who has just completed her term of service as our chair!
- The "Good News Life" Church Leader Training event is scheduled for Saturday, February 28 (March 7 snow date), from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at New Horizon Presbyterian Church in Council Bluffs. For more information, including all of the topics being covered and to register, please visit https://www.pmrv.org/ninja-forms/655369/ .
- The theme for the August, 2026 Ministry Leaders Retreat is "Being Church in Today's World." The retreat will be led by Susan Stabile.
- FELD is thankful for Rev. Suzanne Gorhau, who is providing New Commissioner Training for the February 2026 presbytery meeting.
- FELD continues to review Faith Education and Leadership Development Scholarship Applications, as they are received, and to grant requests, when appropriate and when funds are available to do so. To apply, please visit https://www.pmrv.org/ninja-forms/45dgts/ .

Mission and Evangelism – Rev. Matt Coplen, chair

No report

Nicaragua Partnership – submitted by Rev. Robert Keefer

Our partners in La Concepción, Nicaragua have distributed the uniforms and packets for the 2026 school year! This picture shows the recipients wearing their uniforms and displaying their backpacks. In January 2027 we intend to have a delegation from our Presbytery present to be part of the distribution. Your support of the Nicaragua partnership can help with the preparation of packets or travel expenses for our delegation or both! For more information, contact Bob Keefer (keefer.robert@gmail.com) or Josh Widman (josh.widman@gmail.com).

Nominating Committee – submitted by RE Al Zimmerman

The Nominating Committee met several times in the 4th quarter and filled almost all of the vacant positions on commissions and committees.

Personnel Committee – Rev. Richard Meyer, chair

No report

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

No report

Stewardship of Resources (SOR) – submitted by Rev. Jay Cline, secretary

SOR met on November 19, 2025.

1. The committee received the Treasurer's Report
    a. October Income was $36,337
    b. October Expenses were $17,837
    c. Net year-to-date loss was $2,667
2. The committee renewed two CDs at the best current rate.
3. The committee approved the Leadership Team request that $3,000 from the sale of the Presbytery building be used for staff bonuses.
4. The sale of the Presbytery building closed on November 12. The Presbytery received $280,475.25. $275,000 of the sale will be distributed based on a recommendation from the Mission Committee. The Stated Clerk requested a $50 monthly stipend for Hope and West Hills for the use of their space.
5. Insurance is being refigured according to current needs.
6. PMRV Stewardship Letter will be composed by Jay Cline, SOR Chair.
7. The committee seeks to have the 2023 and 2024 Presbytery financials reviewed by a special committee in early 2026.

SOR met on January 28, 2026.

1. The committee received the Treasurer's Report.
    a. December Income was $50,869.
    b. December Expenses were $23,700.
    c. Net year-to-date Income was $301,435.
2. The 2026 officers are
    a. TE Becky Balestri, Chair
    b. TE Jay Cline, Secretary

3. The committee received new members: Becky Balestri (Teaching Elder, Faith) and Cheri Witmuss (Co-opted, Clarinda Trinity)
4. The building has been removed from the insurance.
5. The committee appointed a special committee to review the Presbytery's financials for 2023, 2024, and 2025. Members of the special committee are
    a. Cheri Witmus, Financial Secretary, Clarinda Trinity
    b. Sue Rehwaldt Hays, Financial Secretary, Clarinda Westminster
    c. Joelene Carper, Ruling Elder, Clarinda Westminster

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

Our guest speaker was Joy Netter from the Community Health Alliance. She explained the work of the organization and focused on suicide prevention.

It provides services for the following:

- ❖ Crisis services
- ❖ Mental health and substance use
- ❖ Youth and young adults
- ❖ Rehabilitation, employment, and community support
- ❖ Primary care
- ❖ Peer and Family Supports
- ❖ Care Coordination
- ❖ Re-Entry services
- ❖ Housing
- ❖ Social Security orientation
- ❖ Dental services are pending

Joy shared the work done in each of the areas and then discussed suicide prevention. She provided a powerful testimony of her personal experience, having attempted it three times, the latest being in 1998. Her focus is working with youth.

The two main takeaways are first, be cognizant of feelings because they direct our behavior; and second, have a trusted relationship with at least one reliable adult.

Kevin provided an update on the Palestine Mission Network.

Worship and Spirituality Committee – submitted by Rev. Mike Geiler, chair

The PMRV Worship & Spirituality Committee has focused on two worship planning projects:

- Midday Prayer Service on February 4, 2026
- PMRV stated meeting on February 12, 2026

We continue to host *Theology on Tap* on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30am at the Brazen Head Irish Pub. We also have been asked to produce a survey for A/V and tech team volunteers in our presbytery to assess what tools and processes our churches use for livestreaming worship services. We would create the survey, distribute it to PMRV churches, compile the results and facilitate a gathering to go over the data and connect these volunteers with each other for community and mutual support.

Our committee has also been asked to review a worship resource called *Firebird Spirit*. This resource produces worship aids for congregations who may find themselves without a musician, worship leader or preacher for a given Sunday. Videos, liturgy, sermons, music and bulletins are curated and can be purchased as a kit for a congregation to use so they don't feel like they are scrambling to put something together for their people.

We continue to count it an honor to be part of PMRV, provide meaningful worship gatherings and be helpful in furthering the ministry of Christ in our community and in the world.