

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY REPORT

For August 17, 2024, Presbytery of Missouri River Valley Stated Meeting

The Commission took the following actions on behalf of the Presbytery at meetings held on April 30, May 28, June 25, 2024:

- A-1.** Approved Robert Keefer as Moderator of Florence Presbyterian Church Session.
- A-2.** Name/approve Moderator for New Horizons Presbyterian Church Session.
- A-3.** Name/approve Moderator for Missouri Valley Session.
- A-4.** Approved exit interview team of Elder David Friedli, Elder Bonnie Brown, Elder Vicki Hallberg, and Rev. Gary Eller for the retiring Reverend Rick Sleyster.
- A-5.** Accepted and approved Reverend Gary Eller Interim reports from First Presbyterian/Omaha.
- A-6.** Approved TE Sally Carlson Moderator of New Horizon Presbyterian Session CB
- A-7.** Approved TE Sally Carlson Moderator of Missouri Valley Presbyterian Session
- A-8.** Approved Kathy Padilla's commission to West Hills – will put her commissioning on the docket for August 17, 2024 Presbytery meeting.
- A-9.** Approved removal of Linda Reffert from pulpit supply list (temporary) while she recovers from a broken hand.
- A-10.** Approved examination for ordination of Joshua Gary to serve as Associate Pastor at Presbyterian Church of the Cross.
- A-11.** Approved Transitional Pastor Reports of Reverend Gary Eller – Omaha, First Presbyterian Church.
- A-12.** Approved release of Rev. Paul Masters to North Central Iowa Presbytery.
- A-13.** Approved Rev. Jay Cline as Moderator of the Shenandoah and Essex Presbyterian Churches.
- A-14.** Approved the process for training and authorizing Ruling Elders to officiate the Lord's Supper. Presbytery of Missouri River Valley (approved by COM 6/25/24)
G-3.0301 b. *provide that the sacraments be rightly administered...*
"Authorizing and training specific ruling elders to administer or preside at the Lord's Supper when it deems it necessary to meet the needs for the administration of the Sacrament."
W-3.0410 *Responsibility for the Lord's Supper*
"It is appropriate that a presbytery authorize and train ruling elders to administer the Lord's Supper in the event of the absence of pastors."

Ruling Elders – Training and Authorization for commissioning to serve the Lord's Supper

- 1) Endorsement by Session
- 2) Two year training through the Academy and completion of **all** classes
- 3) Once done with training and certificate received:
 - examined as to personal faith,
 - motives for commissioning
 - preparation of a worship service with communion for critique by COM
 - certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months. Presbytery approves what meets the criteria for these two requirements.
- 4) The commission will be for a specific term (not to exceed 3 years) can be renewed

- 5) Commission will be reviewed annually by COM
- 6) RE would report directly to COM Moderator on a monthly basis – report to include where Lord’s Supper was served during that month.
- 7) A Minister of Word and Sacrament will be assigned as mentor and supervisor
- 8) Commissioned by Presbytery for Presbytery service.

A-15. Approved Temporary Pastoral Relationship between Underwood Hills Presbyterian Church and Rev. Scott Christianson for April 1-December 31, 2024. Terms: 14 hours/week; lead worship 3 Sundays/month; provide pastoral care; plan and moderate the session and congregational meetings; perform other administrative duties as requested by the session; teach 1 intergenerational class per month. Cash salary--\$0; Housing and utility allowance \$16,595 (for nine months); Effective Salary \$16,595. Professional reimbursement expenses: \$200 for books, supplies, miscellaneous. Paid vacation of one week in 2024 (including Sunday).

A-16. Approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship of Rev. Michael Elliott and First Presbyterian Church, Bellevue, Nebraska. Last Sunday 9/1/24, using unused vacation and study leave for retirement date of 9/30/2024.

1) *A meeting of the congregation is called for June 23 immediately following worship. At this meeting, the congregation will act on Pastor Mike’s request to dissolve the pastoral relationship with First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue effective September 30th, 2024.*

2) *Pastor Mike’s last Sunday to preach will be September 1. He will be on vacation through the end of September but will be available for funerals and pastoral emergencies. His formal retirement date will be September 30, 2024*

3) *Session voted to engage Linda Reffert, and she accepted, to serve as pulpit supply between Pastor Mike’s retirement until an interim pastor is hired.*

A-17. Approved the dissolution and retirement of Rev. Rick Sleyster and First Presbyterian Church Shenandoah and Essex Presbyterian. Retirement on 5/31/24.