Report of the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley
DIGEST OF ACTIONS 2025

I. FOR THE RECORD

A. The Presbytery's annual report to the General Assembly has been submitted. PMRV began 2025 with 41 churches and ended 2025 with 40, with the merger of Carson and Oakland/Sharon to create Riverside Parish. PMRV began 2025 with 73 minister members. Two deaths were reported during the year. One minister left for another denomination, and one minister was removed. Three ministers were dismissed to other presbyteries. Three were received from other presbyteries. Thus, PMRV ended 2025 with 69 minister members.

B. Minutes of the Presbytery since March 1998 are currently on hand at West Hills Presbyterian Church.

C. All earlier minute volumes have been deposited with the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, PA.

D. All records of church closings, churches moved to another denomination, PJC cases, history of the Synod of Nebraska, were deposited with the Presbyterian Historical Society at the time of the office sale in November 2025.

E. The Presbytery holds property insurance and liability insurance, as required by the Constitution (G-3.0112) for the copier at Hope, records at West Hills, and staff working virtually.

F. The Stated Clerk is required to report annually to Presbytery the names of former members of the Permanent Judicial Commission whose terms have expired within the last six years:
Class of 2024 – TE Nick Dougherty, TE Bob Keefer, RE Bob Sieck (Bethany)
Class of 2022 – TE Becky Balestri, TE Deena Candler, RE Rana Johnson (Church of the Cross)
Class of 2020 – TE Dwight Williams, RE Jason Bottlinger (Dundee Presbyterian)
RE Jim Campbell (New Horizon)

G. Review of PMRV 2024 Minutes by Synod of Lakes and Prairies was held May 8-9, 2025, The Minutes were found to be in order with minor exceptions.

H. The rolls and records review were reported at the August 16, 2025 meeting. Additional Churches turning in their records/rolls for review: Missouri Valley records were approved with exceptions relating to policies needed reviewed and implemented. Rolls were approved without exception. Mt. View sent minutes that had not been reviewed and no rolls – they were not approved.

I. Correspondence and Clerk activity:
   1. All correspondence has been answered and forwarded, as needed.
   2. Consulted with Committees, Commissions, Sessions, and Presbytery members as requested or as contacted.
   3. Contacts were made with Presbytery churches with active Pastor Nominating Committee's in place to connect them with a COM member for training.
   4. Consulted with Synod of Lakes and Prairies and Office of General Assembly as necessary.
   5. Updated Stated Clerk data requirements of OGA as per requests and authorization.
   6. Participated in COM Meetings January 28, 2025, February 25, 2025, April 22, 2025, June 24, 2025, August 26, 2025, September 23, 2025, October 28, 2025, November 25, 2025, there was no December meeting.
   7. Clerk Training was held on Tuesday March 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

8. Completed and submitted all 2025 OGA Mid Council Reports and Statistical reports required from the Presbytery.
9. Prepared Digest of 2025 Actions and materials related to the February 2026 Stated Meeting.
10. Attended monthly Administrative Team Meetings/Moderator Team Meetings
11. Attended monthly Leadership Team Meetings.
12. Prepared Leadership Team materials and minutes.
13. Prepared draft dockets for Presbytery meetings and met with Moderator/Docket planning group.
14. Participated in Association of Mid-Council Leaders and Association of stated clerks virtual gatherings.
15. Assisted clerks with annual statistical reports, and minutes reviews.
16. Monthly staff meetings with Nicole and Tina
17. Ongoing and updating of resources for clerks and presbytery members.
18. Attend pastor zooms when able
19. Vicki Hallberg (Bethany) served as Recording Clerk in 2025.

Calls, emails, face-to-face, zoom, texts, to connect with whoever needs me

5/3/25 Recommendation:

With respect to **redress of imbalance:**

1. Our standing rules direct the Stated Clerk to ascertain the parity of teaching elder and ruling elder members and commissioners and make recommendation to Presbytery to redress if the number of teaching elder (minister) members exceeds the number of ruling elders with right to vote.
2. Of the 71 teaching elders (MWS), 38 are retired and not in active service and 4 of those are residing out of the area. Consequently, **we can expect 37 teaching elders in attendance at Presbytery meetings.**
3. We automatically expect 41 ruling elders commissioned by their sessions. In addition, we have (1) ruling elder serving as an officer, (2) ruling elders serving as chairs of standing committees and one (1) ruling elder commissioned to particular service who also serves dual roles. Thus, by Bylaws III. B. 2 & 3 and D, **we can expect 45 ruling elders to participate in meetings of Presbytery.**
4. Standing Rules of the Presbytery state: "If the number of ruling elders equals or exceeds the number of teaching elders, there is no imbalance, and no action is needed.
   Therefore, there is no need for redress of imbalance in 2025.
   The Stated Clerk reports and recommends that the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley does not need to redress imbalance from July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026.

Leadership Team:

At each meeting during the year the agenda and consent agenda were approved, and reports accepted from committee/commissions/treasurer/stated clerk.

1/21/25

1. Approved communion for Leadership Team events for 2025
2. Approved December 12/17, 2024, minutes
3. Approved February 13, 2025 Presbytery Docket

4. Approved Code of Conduct: Cover Letter/Final Document

2/17/25

1. Screening of redlining documentary film "Divisible" April 8, 2025. It was recommended and approved that Mission Committee be a co-sponsor of this event.

3/18/25

1. 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.

2. Discussed the Amendments to the Constitution from the 226th GA placed before LT for recommending to Presbytery an affirmative or negative vote at the May 3, 2025 stated meeting: 24-H, 24-I, 24-J, 24-K, 24-L, 24-M – LT voted to recommend to Presbytery to affirm. SJOP, Worship and Spirituality, COM, CPM also recommend affirmative votes on the Amendments they were assigned: 24-A, 24-B, 24-C, 24-D, 24-E, 24-F, 24-G. The only vote that was not unanimous – was 24-C, which had a 6/3 vote to affirm by COM.
3. SOR requested that the Leadership Team create a Task Force to work on a plan of action to close the physical building of the Presbytery office - APPPROVED. Suggested: Moderator, SOR, Mission representative, staff-Nicole, Trudy Meyer.

4/15/25

1. Offering Recommendations were approved for 2025:
    a. May 3 – Crossroads Connection
    b. August 16 – Calvin Crest – brush mower
    c. November 6 – Bellevue Food Pantry
2. Approved the Presbytery docket for May 3, 2025
3. Approved the Task force for looking into possible sale of Presbytery Office.

- Mike Elliott (SOR), Rebecca Nichol (Mission), JD Georlett (At Large), Shari Dillehay (Personnel), Nicole Geiler (staff)
- Mike Elliott is willing to gather the group but doesn't want to commit to moderator. Nancy will give him everyone's information and the directives.

No May meeting

6/17/25

1. We revised and approved the Guide to Hosting Presbytery to be more accurate.

2. Approved the 2026 Presbytery template.
3. Approved a request from the Building Task Force to have a **special Presbytery meeting on July 15 at 6:00 p.m.** to discuss the desire to start the work of selling the Presbytery office.
4. Approved providing an opportunity for those who attended Triennium to spend the night Friday night and share their experience at Presbytery on the 16th. Presbytery will cover their stay and food. (Could be a Good News Grant – if not all churches choose to take advantage of Grant)

7/15/25

1. Approved Docket for PMRV meeting at Calvin Crest August 16, 2025
2. Received an update from task force regarding sale of Presbytery office (called meeting to follow at 5:30)
3. Matt Coplen will serve on Task Force for selling Presbytery office (replacing Rebecca Nichol from Mission)
4. Approved $3,500 for SOR Presbytery property clean up
5. In June we approved $6,000 left from $70,000 from Good News Grants to pay for Triennium attendees to stay overnight at Calvin Crest, paying for meals and rooms
6. And whatever $ are left after $3,500 for Presbytery property clean up; and Triennium attendees at Calvin Crest for August meeting; will go toward the mower needed at Calvin Crest.

8/19/25

1. Draft of Budget for 2026 was reviewed, SOR will continue to work on it
2. Presbytery Per capita is not going up! GA $11.26, Synod $5.50, PMRV $23.34
3. FELD asked for a decision to be made as to where funding will come from for the Retreat on the Friday prior to the August Presbytery meeting. This year FELD did not use their $ so it will come from there.
4. A recommendation was made and approved to take the idea of creating a .95 account for future retreats to the Building Task Force as they discern how to spend the money from the sale.

9/16/25

1. Approved per capita $40.80
2. Approved financial review guidelines from SOR

10/21/25

1. Approved the 11/6/25 Presbytery docket
2. Approved the PMRV Vision for 2026
3. Approved FELD Church officer training

11/18/25

1. Personnel recommended staff: Tina, Nicole and Nancy each be given $1,000 bonus for all the work done to get the Presbytery office closed. SOR will figure out where money is to come from. Approved.

No December meeting

COM 1/28

Com Action Items January 28, 2025

1. Approved minutes of the November 26, 2024 meeting
2. Affirmed Electronic Vote(s)

a. E-vote to approve Rev. Karen Moritz into PMRV membership (11-0)

b. E-vote to approve First Presbyterian Church Omaha Mission Discernment Form (12-0)

1. Remove Ernie Gutha from PMRV (deceased 1/18/25)

2. Approve TPR of Paul Williams and Anderson Grove for 2025; Part time; cash salary $6,000; Housing $19,200; mission fund for reimbursable expenses related to mission work per year (accumulating to 3 years); Professional Development $1,342 (per year accumulating to 3 years); travel at IRS recommended rate (.67 per mile); professional development leave – 2 weeks per year; vacation 6 weeks per year – to be taken in increments of 4 consecutive weeks or less. Vacation requests for more than 4 consecutive weeks will be considered by session or case by case basis; mission/work travel – 4 weeks leave without pay; terminated by either party with 60 day written notice.
3. Approve TPR of Suzanne Gorhau's and Cason & Oakland/Sharon Presbyterian Church's for 2025; 30 hours; 3 Sunday's a month; Housing $42,400; deferred comp $3,600; TES $46,000; pension, disability, death $4,600; IRS $.655 - $1,000; CE $5,000; 4 weeks vacation, 2 weeks study leave including Sundays.
4. Approve TPR (Interim) of Mike Harvey and New Horizon Presbyterian Church for 2025; Full time; $48,000 IRS rate - $804; Prof Ex $400; 4 weeks vacation; 2 weeks study leave.
5. Approve TPR of Nancy Ross-Hullinger and Bethany Presbyterian Church for 2025; part time 19 hours; cs $29,244; Fidelity 13,200; IRS $500; CE $1,200; four weeks vacation; 2 weeks study leave.
6. Approve Transitional Pastor TPR of Laura Rasmussen and Shenandoah Presbyterian Church; Full time January 5-May 4, 2025 (min 35 hours a week); CS $4,000 a month; housing rental (TBD); BoP coverage for Medical and Pension; $40 cell phone coverage; 2 weeks paid leave; mileage reimbursement for SPC related events; $200 allowance for coffee, meals, etc, with congregants to use at Laura's discretion; $150 allowance for supplies for the office, Always With Us, etc… to use at Laura's discretion
7. Approve Temporary Supply TPR of Jim Crapson and College Springs Presbyterian Church; Part time 19 hours; CS $33,432; Manse All $3000, Housing (Utilities) $6,000; 4 weeks vacation;
8. Approved TPR of Carolyn Grice and New Life Presbyterian Church for 2025
   19 Hours a week; Cash Salary $1,200; Housing $26,740; Deferred Comp: $8,382.15;
   Total Effective Salary $36,322.15; IRS Mileage $1,200; CE $700; 4 weeks vacation; 2 weeks study leave;
9. Approved TPR of Linda Reffert and First Presbyterian Church Bellevue for 2025
   $20,748 ($21,235) ES; IRS Mileage; Prof development $531; 4 weeks vacation; 2 weeks study leave.
10. Approve Gary Ellers's Quarterly reports – October, November, December 2024. (attached)
11. Approve Interim Quarterly report – Linda Reffert, FPC Bellevue (attached)
12. Approve Interim quarterly report – Mike Harvey, NH (attached)
13. Approve 2025 Communion: Great Plains Pilgrimage, Calvin Crest, Omaha Presbytery Seminary Foundation, Creighton University
14. Linda Reffert volunteered to be the new Interview Team Coordinator (replacing Pam Otto)

Additional Action Items

15. We are looking for ways to move Susan Smith (lay pastor at Carter Lake, serving there for the past 10 years) into a temporary supply position by taking classes, engaging with a mentor, etc. (no Worship & Sacrament classes completed yet). More to come!
16. Reviewed Care Teams and their Leaders
17. Moderator needed at Missouri River Valley
18. Moderator needed at Underwood Presbyterian Church (May 2025)

19. 5. A one-hour special COM meeting for PNC overview training is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th, 2025 at 4pm via ZOOM

COM Action Items 2/25
Approved minutes 1/28/25
Approved Marcia Cline TPR with Clarinda Presbyterian Church: Full Time; Cash Salary $45,093.84; Full BOP, Total Effective Salary $45,093.84; IRS Mileage $1,000; CE $1,000 + $200 book; 4 weeks vacation including Sundays; 2 weeks study leave.
Approved PMRV Separation Agreement
Electronic vote – Approved Dundee APNC

COM – no meeting March

COM Action Items 4/22/25
Approved minutes 2/25/25
Approved Nancy Ross-Hullinger TPR with Gethsemane Presbyterian Church; part time 12-15 hours per week, 4-5, Total Effective Salary - $34,320; 4 weeks vacation, 2 weeks study leave.
Approved transfer of Lori Robinson to Southern Kansas Presbytery
Approve transfer of Deena Candler to ECO
Approved Interim Pastor Quarterly Reports
*Gary Eller, First Presbyterian Church Omaha (attached)
*Linda Reffert, First Presbyterian Church Bellevue
Approved membership of Rev. Judye Pistole into Presbytery of Missouri River Valley from New Covenant Presbytery
Approved to revise Terms of Call and TPR forms to include ***"unless negotiated otherwise in accordance with the provisions of the BOP Church Leaders Package."***
Approved revisions/corrections to the PMRV Commission on Ministry Policy Manual (attached)
*Affirmed Electronic Vote(s)
Reverend Brianne Christiansen, March 3, 2025 to First Presbyterian Church of Omaha
August, 2025.

COM Action Items 5/27/25
Approved minutes 4/25/25
Affirmed and Approved electronic votes (5/16/25 & 5/20/25) for Rev. Rachelle McCalla and New Horizon Presbyterian Church CB
Approved Interim Quarterly Reports – Mike Harvey (NH), Linda Reffert (FPC Bellevue), Gary Eller (FPC Omaha)
Approved Rev. Gary Eller Exit Report (FPC-Omaha)
Approved Rev. Gary Eller to labor outside the bounds of PMRV to serve FPC Bristol, TN Holston Presbytery.
Dismissed Rev. Gary Eller from COM with gratitude
Approved Rev. Richard Meyer to moderate the session meeting of FPC Omaha on Thursday, June 12, 2025.

COM Action Items 6/24/25
Approved minutes 5/27/25
Approved CRE Report by Al Zimmerman
Approved Reverend Richard Meyer to moderate any additional Session meetings of First Presbyterian Church Omaha until August 1, 2025
Discussed & approved moving forward with a temporary pastoral relationship form for Rev. Laura Rasmussen and her relationship with Shenandoah/Essex Presbyterian Church (hybrid format via internet)
Approved Jay Cline to Moderate Shenandoah/Essex Presbyterian Church during the absence of Laura Rasmussen.

COM Action Items 8/26/25
Approved Minutes 6/24/25.
Approved Reverend Jon Noble as Moderator of Ft. Calhoun Presbyterian Church
Dismissed Tricia Dillon Thomas to Presbytery of Southern New England
Dismissed Gregg Miller to Glacier Presbytery
Approved and appointed Matt Coplen as new mentor for Linda Reffert, CRE (Mike Elliott leaving Presbytery
Approved Rachelle McCalla Pastoral Call to New Horizon Presbyterian Church, Council Bluffs, IA: $35,500 Cash Salary, $35,500 Housing, Effective Salary $71,000; Board of Pensions $18.460; Continuing Education $1,775; moving one time expense $5,000; $6,000 difference from family to single BoP split 50/50 between cash and housing paid monthly; four weeks vacation; 2 weeks study leave;
Approved Bill Switzer Temp Supply Contract with Walnut 2025; Cash Salary $57,531; Deferred compensation $14,400; additional benefits: $4,299; travel/mileage $1,800
Discussed/resolved the request by Rev. Robert Ludrick to be member of PMRV. Not reinstated by Grace Presbytery, matter is resolved/ended. PMRV cannot accept into membership. Will not approve addition to Pulpit Supply.
Approved Laura Rasmussen to serve communion at FELD retreat
Discussed Pulpit Supply list: Verified list. Linda Reffert, Scott Christensen, Bob Seik, Judye Pistole on the list.
Approved Installation Commissions:
Rev. Brianne Christiansen:
October 5, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m. @ First Presbyterian Church – Omaha
TE Matt Coplen (Moderator); TE Martha Slocombe – FPC Bellevue; Becky Balestri – Faith Presbyterian Church – La Vista; RE Jennie Wiehe – Underwood Hills; RE Amy Rodie – FPC Omaha; Rev. Scott Christiansen – Retired RCA.
Rev. Martha Slocombe
October 26, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m. @ First Presbyterian Church – Bellevue
TE Matt Coplen (Moderator); TE Brianne Christiansen – FPC Omaha; TE Nick Doughterty – Faithful Shepherd - Omaha; RE Tom Blazek – FPC Bellevue; RE Lauren Ruhe – Faithful Shepherd - Omaha
Rev. Dr. Rachelle McCalla
November 16, 2025 @ 2:00 p.m. @ New Horizon Presbyterian Church – Council Bluffs
TE Matt Coplen (Moderator); TE Becky Balestri – Faith Presbyterian Church;
TE Rev. Mike Harvey - Retired; RE James McCalla – Trinity Presbyterian Church – Clarinda; RE Teena Kern – New Horizon Presbyterian Church – Council Bluffs; Rev. Barbara Todd – Dakota Presbytery

September Meeting quorum not present.
These items were approved by E-votes 10/1/25:
Approved 2026 Minimum Effective Salary
Approved Martha Slocombe Pastoral Call to First Presbyterian Church, Bellevue NE: Cash Salary $50,000; housing allowance $25,000 – Effective Salary $75,000; BoP $19.500; Professional Expense $1,000; Mileage $1,400; Continuing Education $1,200; cell phone $800, no moving expenses; 4 weeks vacation; 2 weeks study leave.
Approved Ft. Calhoun discernment
Approved Al Zimmerman's CRE Report

COM Action Items 10/28/25
No minutes from September 23rd, 2025 due to lack of quorum
Affirmed Electronic Vote(s):
○ Approved Minimum Effective Salary Guidelines
○ Approved Rev. Martha Slocombe/First Presbyterian Bellevue terms of call
○ Approved Pam Otto and Judi Crick to lead Ft. Calhoun discernment
○ Approved Al Zimmerman CRE quarterly report
Approved *revised* Minimum Effective Salary Guidelines
Accepted Kathleen Keefer's resignation from COM, with much gratitude
for her service and work
Accepted Linda Reffert, CRE Pulpit Supply report. She has filled the pulpit at Murray, Gethsemane, and Minden IA UCC.
Accepted Bob Sieck CRE report. Bob has been moderating the Session at First Presbyterian Church, Neola.

COM Action Items 11/25/25
Approved minutes 10/28/25
Affirmed Electronic Vote ○ Approved (via E-vote on November 11th, 2025) Reverend Sally Carlson to labor outside the bounds of PMRV to administer the sacrament of baptism and to moderate a congregational meeting at Clarkson New Zion Presbyterian Church on November 16, 2025 (Homestead Presbytery).
Approved Reverend Mike Harvey to labor outside the bounds of PMRV. Will continue moderating Avoca as long as they agree.
Approval of Validated Ministries

- Shelli Latham (OPSF)
- Sarah James (hospital chaplain at Children's)
- Robert Rose (military chaplain)
- Nicole Riebe (Creighton professor)

Discussed possible interim for Ft. Calhoun ○ 19 hours or less ○ Temporary pastor relationship ○ Pastor and the Session have not met - no details yet ○ Expect an E-vote in early December

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

CPM Action Items 3/20/25

- Brian Long and Doug Bogenhagen will be Spring 2025 ordination exam readers.

- Nick Doughtery was elected as clerk to the CPM

CPM Action Items 4/11/25

- Approved moving Regina Jeanpierre-Bryant from *Inquirer* to *Candidate* and to allow her to schedule her ordination exams when ready.

CPM Action Items meeting 11/15/25

- Annual consultations with Jessica. She is about 60% done with her Master's degree. She continues to take one course at a time through Fuller theological seminary. Leaderwise evaluation is next step.
- Annual consultation with David. David indicated that he believes he is done with The Academy. This will require a follow up by the CPM chair for verification. David was told the next steps he needs to complete including a sermon and exegesis work for the CPM, a statement of call, Leaderwise, and boundaries training before a final assessment can be made.
- Proposed merger of the CPM and COM was discussed.

Stated Clerk, Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger