



Presbytery of Lake Michigan Facebook Group

Who are we?

Our primary purpose is to give thanks and to celebrate the ministries and congregations of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. We want to discuss dynamics within the presbytery and its congregations and how they impact our lives, using a PC(USA) theological lens. Our group is open to anyone who is a member of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan and agrees to abide by the group guidelines. We are an inclusive group and strive to create a welcoming space for all ages, races, ethnicities, abilities/ disabilities, gender identities and orientations (LGBTQ+), and other human demographic/ socioeconomic factors. This group is managed and monitored by Presbytery of Lake Michigan staff members and adheres to the policies and procedures of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan.

Answer Security Questions

Only those who have answered the security questions will be admitted. This is to ensure the security of those who participate in this group, and to ensure that those in the group are members of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan either directly or indirectly. For example, members, attendees or regular visitors of a PLM congregation, or teaching elders (active, members at large or honorably retired) or a staff member at a congregation or the presbytery.

Connect & Engage

Connecting with other members of the Presbytery is essential to unity in the body of Christ.

Our vision is to connect members across congregations, validated ministries, members at large, retired pastors and others to:

- form friendships,
- stay informed about what's going on in the Presbytery,
- ask questions,
- connect resources, and
- share ideas, information, resources and joys/concerns.

Please ask questions or talk about topics that are Presbytery related.

Be kind & love your neighbors

All members are expected to treat each other with the utmost respect, civility, and kindness. We can disagree with each other, but for the sake of making this group a healthy and helpful group bad behavior will not be tolerated.

- Love your neighbors. This includes people who come from a wide array of Christian backgrounds and people of different races, ethnicities, gender identities, sexual

orientations, ages, theological paradigms, relationship statuses, abilities and political perspective than you.

- We do not promote hatred or "-isms" such as racism, ableism, sexism, homophobia, and others. This includes microaggressions or language that is "othering" towards minority or marginalized groups.
- Derogatory language, name-calling and accusatory language is not acceptable behavior.
- We also do not tone-police but rather listen to our neighbor.
- In order for the administrators to monitor this group and ensure guidelines are being followed, do not block any members of the admin team. Blocking an admin is not allowed and anyone who blocks a member of the admin team will be removed without notice.

No Hate Speech or Bullying

Bullying of any kind isn't allowed, and degrading comments about things like race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender or identity will not be tolerated. No name-calling or ad-hominem attacks. Threats of any kind will not be tolerated.

Important notes

- **PLM Policies and Procedures:** As in other interactions within the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, comments, actions and behaviors in the PLM Facebook Group are guided by Scripture, the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church, USA and Presbytery of Lake Michigan policies and procedures. If there are questions about particular policies or procedures, please contact one of the group admins.
- **What to Post:** We want to be a community in dialogue with one another, not a billboard. Resources that would be helpful to share any time are liturgical resources, book recommendations, upcoming conferences, etc., that people can use in their own congregations/ ministry contexts. If you post a link, please explain why you think it will be helpful for this particular group. (In every meeting there is always that one person who is not self-aware enough to know they have spoken too often without really contributing anything productive so no one listens to them any more - Don't be that person!)
- **Direct Communication:** This FB group is not regularly monitored by individuals other than the group administrators. If you have comments or questions about specific issues or topics that are best addressed directly by the presbytery leaders/stated clerk, presbytery moderator or vice-moderator, LT moderator, moderators of commissions, committees, or staff, please call or email them directly.
- **Fundraising:** To foster a safe community environment, fundraising and/or any other posts soliciting financial contributions must receive prior approval. Requests to solicit financial contributions or posts containing information related to fundraising activities must be sent to admins and accompanied by a brief description of the organization's goals and beliefs. Posts soliciting funds or advertising fundraising activities that are made without prior approval will be deleted. If there are questions about particular policies or procedures, please contact one of the admins.
- **Comments:** If you create a post that has received comments in response, please do not turn off commenting. Commenters spend valuable time, energy, and thought in their responses and great conversations are what makes this group a wonderful place. If you

are feeling overwhelmed with responses, please discontinue notifications instead or message admins for other options.

- **Self-Promotion:** Self-promotion, spam and irrelevant links aren't allowed. Please post sermon videos, church blog posts and YouTube site links in the appropriate section. Promotion of outside groups or non-church-related advertising is not permitted.
- **Please report posts and comments** you believe violate the guidelines of this group. Admins may not see the post in question immediately. (We are all working and have families and needs for times of rest). The admins reserve the right to issue a warning to the participant(s) involved, to ask a participant to rephrase their comment, or halt commenting on a thread that is going in a destructive direction. Repeat offenders may be removed from the group at the admins' discretion. Posts or comments promoting racism, sexism, ageism, ableism, homophobia, nationalism, etc. or that appear to bait, antagonize, or provoke an argument will be removed.
- **Repeated Violations:** Those who repeatedly or severely violate guidelines may be removed without notice or warning at admin discretion.
- **Removal of Posts or Participants:** The decision to remove posts or participants is at the sole discretion of the Facebook Group administrators. Decisions of the PLM FB Group admins are final.