

DRAFT
MINUTES of the STATED MEETING
Presbytery of Lake Michigan
March 9, 2024, 9:30 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church
Kalamazoo, Michigan

The Presbytery of Lake Michigan forms and partners with faith communities to challenge, encourage, equip, and hold one another accountable as Christ’s disciples.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE AND OPENING OF THE STATED MEETING

Rev. Gail Monsma (Paw Paw/Decatur), Moderator, called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. with the lighting of the Christ candle and opening prayer. A quorum was present.

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CLERKS

The following temporary clerks were appointed by consensus: Rev. Lorenzo Small (Battle Creek First), Rev. Lisa Schrott (Okemos), Elder Victor Prowent (Muskegon), and Elder Cindy Spiess (Jackson Westminster).

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

A motion prevailed to seat Rev. Dr. Jonathon Lee Walton, President (Princeton Theological Seminary), Rev. Dr. Charles B. Hardwick, Synod of the Covenant Executive (Miami Valley), and Dr. Matthew Aragon Bruce (Lake Michigan) as corresponding members.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

A motion prevailed to approve the docket as presented.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF FIRST-TIME RULING ELDERS AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS

Rev. Gail Monsma welcomed several first-time elder commissioners and Christian educators.

WELCOME TO GUESTS AND VISITORS

Rev. Gail Monsma welcomed several guests and visitors.

GREETINGS FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldryer (Kalamazoo First) welcomed members of the presbytery on behalf of the congregation and staff. Rev. Weeldryer thanked the staff and volunteers. He introduced the congregation as a “Sanctuary in the City” and described several church outreach programs, including Celebrate the Vision Wednesday Night Dinners. Rev. Weeldryer also described the upcoming opening and dedication of the new Pine Island Chapel.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A motion prevailed to approve the Consent Agenda including the following:

PRESBYTERY OF LAKE MICHIGAN
CONSENT AGENDA of the STATED MEETING
MARCH 9, 2024

1. **To excuse** these members and elder commissioners at their request and to add those who will continue to request an excused absence up to the actual meeting: Cal Bremer (Validated Ministry), Peggy Casteel-Huston (Validated Ministry), Janet Duggins (Portage Westminster) Karen Fitz La Barge (North Kent), David Habicht (CRE-Buchanan), Laurie Hartzel (Eastminster GR) Jessica Hauser-Brydon (Validated Ministry), Cathy Hoop (Holland), Mark Jennings (Richland), Annemarie Kidder (Pennfield), Kyle Nolan (Validated Ministry), Susan Reichenberg (Coldwater), Barb Schreur (Validated Ministry)
2. **To approve** the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, December 5, 2023, Online only.
3. **To file** the approved Minutes of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan Leadership Team on November 2, 2023, November 30, 2023, and January 4, 2024. Online only.
4. **To commission** Elder **Sheri Harris** to serve as moderator of the session of the First Presbyterian Church of Allegan, Michigan, in addition to the other duties to which she is commissioned.
5. **To commission** Elder **Sheri Harris** to serve as part-time temporary pastor effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025.
6. **To grant waiver** a one-year waiver (G-2.0404) to the following elders of the First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell, MI, for 2024: **Elder Lisa Boer, Elder Sharon Chambers, Elder Michelle Boer, and Elder Judy Wood**. Further, the Commission on Ministry directs the session to review and revise their bylaws concerning term limits and the size of the session. The waivers will not be granted for 2025.
7. **To receive** the reports of the Budget and Finance Committee/Trustees from November 14, 2024; November 21, 2024; December 12, 2024; and January 6, 2024.
8. **To grant** the status of Retired to the **Rev. Karen Kelley**, effective **May 31, 2024**.
9. **To grant** the status of Retired to the **Rev. Wendy Pratt**, effective **May 31, 2024**,
10. **To receive** the Report of the Stated Clerk as follows:

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence

March 9, 2024

1. **BALANCING OF THE PRESBYTERY ROLLS:** The policy of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan is to balance teaching elders and ruling elders for voting. For purposes of balancing, only those honorably retired members who are active in ministry within the presbytery are counted. In order to balance the number of teaching elders and ruling elders, the Presbytery will continue with the Roll of Balancing Ruling Elders in 2024, giving voice and vote to ruling elders who are on the presbytery staff, the Commission on Ministry, the Commission on the Preparation for Ministry, the Leadership Team, the Nominating & Representation Committee, the Budget & Finance Committee, the Permanent Judicial Commission and ruling elders who are GA Commissioners, past Moderators, Christian Educators and Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs).
2. **ASSIGNED RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS:** The assignment for 2024 is as follows: Grand Rapids Westminster and Grand Haven First with four (4) ruling elders; Grand Rapids Forest Hills, Holland First, Kalamazoo First, and Okemos with three (3) ruling elder commissioners; and Battle Creek First, Brooklyn, Holt, Lansing First, Niles and Spring Lake with two (2) ruling elder commissioners to have voice and vote at stated meetings of the presbytery. All other congregations have one (1) ruling elder commissioner.
3. **ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTING OF CONGREGATIONS:** The online statistical reporting system for the PC(USA) 2023 Session Annual Statistical Report became available on December 1, 2023. The Session Annual Statistical Report for each congregation was to be approved by the session prior to submission. The deadline for submission of the Session Annual Statistical Report was February 9, 2024. The associate clerk assisted several congregations with corrections and submission of statistical data prior to and after the February 9, 2024 deadline. All sixty (60) congregations of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan submitted their statistical information.
4. **PRESBYTERY OF LAKE MICHIGAN ANNUAL STATISTICAL AND YEAR-END REPORTS:** The results of the Annual Statistical and Year-End Reports for 2023 show that the membership of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan is 8,677, down 494 from 2023. It is important to note that ten (10) congregations received new members, thus increasing their membership during 2023. There are 60 congregations and 154 Active, At-Large, and Retired Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, with 50 serving congregations. Also serving congregations are one (1) minister with membership in another presbytery laboring within the bounds of the PLM, three (3) ministers from other denominations, and three (3) Commissioned Ruling Elders serving as pastors. All year-end reports of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan (Minister Summary, Church Summary, Miscellaneous, and MGB Cost) have now been completed and submitted.
5. **FOR CLERKS OF SESSION - REVIEW OF 2023 SESSION MINUTES:** Planning for the review of 2023 Session Minutes continues. Please find below the schedule for the review of 2023 minutes for each Cluster. Please know that if your

schedule does not allow you to attend the minute review in your own cluster, you may attend a minute review in another cluster. Clerks may also contact Annamarie Groenenboom, Associate Clerk, to make an appointment to bring the congregation's minutes and register books to the presbytery office for review.

The 2023 Minute Review Checklist is posted on the Presbytery website. Please contact Annamarie Groenenboom, Associate Clerk, with any questions you might have about the 2023 session minutes reviews.

Cluster 1 – June 1, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. – Cathy Smart/Annamarie Groenenboom
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 221 East Harris Street, Cadillac, MI
Big Rapids, Cadillac First, Hesperia, Lake City

Cluster 2 – May 11, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. – Lynn Ploeg/Annamarie Groenenboom
Location: Parkwood Presbyterian Church, 7998 28th Avenue, Jenison, MI
Grand Haven, Forest Hills, North Park, Westminster GR, Holland, Ionia,
Jenison Parkwood, Lyons-Muir, Muskegon, North Kent, Spring Lake

Cluster 3 – April 27, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. – Linda Freeze/Annamarie Groenenboom
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 13 South 4th Street, Niles, MI
Benton Harbor First, Fairplain, Buchanan, Cassopolis, Decatur,
Edwardsburg, Niles, Sturgis, Three Rivers

Cluster 4 – April 6 2024, at 2:00 p.m. – Annamarie Groenenboom
Location: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1515 Helen Avenue, Portage, MI
Allegan, Gobles, Hastings, Kalamazoo First, Kalamazoo North, Paw Paw,
Plainwell, Portage Westminster, Richland, Schoolcraft

Cluster 5 – Time and Date TBD - Bruce Archer
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 313 East Maple, Mason, Michigan
Dimondale, East Lansing Eastminster, Peoples, Holt, Delta, Lansing First,
North Westminster, Mason, Okemos, Stockbridge, Unadilla

Cluster 6 – April 20, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. – Annamarie Groenenboom
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 300 East Chicago Street, Jonesville, MI
Battle Creek First, Pennfield, Westlake, Brooklyn, Coldwater, Concord,
Homer, Jackson First, Jackson Westminster, Jonesville, Marshall

6. **PRESBYTERY OF LAKE MICHIGAN PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION (PJC):** Members of the Permanent Judicial Commission whose terms have expired in the last six years are:

Class of 2018 -- Nancy Rafferty

Class of 2020 -- Linda Knieriemen, Alexander Lipsey, and Charlotte

Ellison Class of 2022 -- Cal Bosman, David Milbourn, and Doug
Nettleton

Officers of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan Permanent Judicial Commission are:

Moderator: George Hunsberger

Vice Moderator: William Buhl

Clerk: Janet Magennis Assistant

Clerk: James Justin

7. **BOUNDARY AND ETHICS TRAINING:** The PCUSA Constitution in the *Book of Order* mandates all councils (this includes sessions) adopt and implement sexual misconduct policies “which shall include requirements for training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct and child sexual abuse prevention . . . at least every 36 months.” (G-3.0106) To remain consistent with the PCUSA Constitution, the Presbytery of Lake Michigan now mandates sexual misconduct/ boundary training every 36 months for teaching elders, including honorably retired ministers, commissioned ruling elders, ruling elders, and Christian educators who are active in the ministry of the Presbytery. This is a change from the previous mandate, and most teaching elders in the Presbytery of Lake Michigan will need to attend Boundary and Ethics Training to be in compliance. Boundary and Ethics Training in 2024 will be provided to members of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan at no cost to participants by LeaderWise. The LeaderWise training that fulfills this requirement for sexual misconduct training only will be offered as provided below. This training is first-come, first-serve. Sessions are limited to 40 participants.

- Introduction to Boundaries, Tuesday, April 9, and Wednesday, April 10, 2024, from 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 - Registration: <https://leaderwiseconsulting.square.site/product/sotc-boundaries-lw/7>
 - Participants must be present for all 6 hours of training to receive credit.
- Introduction to Boundaries, Saturday, September 28, from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 - Registration: <https://leaderwiseconsulting.square.site/product/sotc-boundaries-lw/7>
 - Participants must be present for all 6 hours of training to receive credit.
- Introduction to Boundaries, Tuesday, October 15 and Wednesday, October 16, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
 - Registration: <https://leaderwiseconsulting.square.site/product/sotc-boundaries-lw/7>
 - Participants must be present for all 6 hours of training to receive credit.

- Introduction to Boundaries, Thursday, November 7, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 - Registration: <https://leaderwiseconsulting.square.site/product/sotc-boundaries-lw/7>
 - Participants must be present for all 6 hours of training to receive credit.

8. **FOR RULING ELDERS ONLY - BOUNDARY AND ETHICS TRAINING:** A provision of the *Book of Order* approved at the most recent PCUSA General Assembly mandates that RULING ELDERS serving on councils must attend boundary training at least every 36 months. (G-3.0106). The Presbytery of Lake Michigan mandates sexual misconduct/boundary training for teaching elders, including honorably retired/retired ministers, commissioned ruling elders, ruling elders, and Christian educators who are active in the ministry of the Presbytery. This means that all ruling elders serving on presbytery committees and all ruling elders who are currently active on session are required to attend boundary training.

In an effort to support both the Presbytery and its congregations to come into compliance with the change in the provision, the Presbytery of Lake Michigan has partnered with LeaderWise to provide two sessions of boundary training specifically designed for RULING ELDERS ONLY. This year, the cost of the training will be covered by the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. This means there will be no cost to RULING ELDER participants. Each session is limited to forty (40) participants on a first-come, first-serve basis.

- Introduction to Boundaries for Ruling Elders, Saturday, April 13, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 - Registration: <https://leaderwiseconsulting.square.site/product/plm-boundaries-lw/8>
 - Participants must be present for all 6 hours of training to receive credit.
- Introduction to Boundaries for Ruling Elders Only, Saturday, June 1, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 - Registration: <https://leaderwiseconsulting.square.site/product/plm-boundaries-lw/8>
 - Participants must be present for all 6 hours of training to receive credit.

9. **PROPERTY SALES:**

Eastminster Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, MI

On December 21, 2023, the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, a Michigan non-profit corporation, sold 1700 Woodward Avenue, SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506, to the Grand Rapids Matu Christian Church, a Michigan non-profit, for the sum of \$720,000. (Note: the net amount that will be received by the Presbytery will be reduced by approximately \$250,000 after the deduction of expenses for staff, preschool costs, building appraisal, legal costs, etc.)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Land situated in the City of Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan: Lots 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, and 192, Plymouth Heights Plat No. 1, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 34 of Plats, on Page 38, EXCEPT That part of Lots 191 and 192 beginning at the Southeast corner of Lot 192; thence North 87 degrees 42 minutes 11seconds West 122.84 feet along the South line of said Lot 192 to the Southwest corner of said Lot 192; thence North 00 degrees 15 minutes 20 seconds East 86.99 feet along the West line of said Lots 191 and 192; thence South 87degrees 42 minutes 11 seconds East 122.45 feet; thence South 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West 87.0 feet along The East line of said Lots 191 and 192 to place of beginning, Plymouth Heights Plat No. 1, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 34 of Plats, on Page 38. 41-18-04-332-013 Commonly known as: 1700 Woodward Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

Spring Lake Presbyterian Church.

On December 6, 2023, a portion of the property, described below, was sold by the Spring Lake Presbyterian Church, 760 Savidge Street, Spring Lake, MI, for the sum of \$520,000. The Trustees of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, per authority granted by the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, previously approved the sale.

DESCRIPTION

That part of the Southwest 1/ 4 of Section 14, Township 8 North, Range 16 West, described as:

Commencing at the South 1/4 corner of said Section 14; thence North 88°49'14" West 1320.28 feet along the South line of said Section to the West line of the East 1/2 of said Southwest 1/ 4; thence North 01·17'39" East 595.12 feet along said West line to THE PLACE OF BEGINNING OF THIS DESCRIPTION; thence South 01·17'39" West 70.00 feet; thence North 88°56'39" West 102.00 feet; thence North 01°17'39" East 250.00 feet; thence South 88°56'39" East 15.00 feet; thence North 01·17'39" East 150.00 feet to the South right-of-way line of East Savidge Street; thence South 88°56'39" East 241.45 feet along said right-of-way line; thence South 01·15'43" West 136.40 feet; thence South 36°53'18" West 45.16 feet; thence South 01·15'43" West 55.44 feet; thence North 88°44'17" West 34.59 feet; thence South 01°15'43" West 101.67 feet; thence North 88°56'37" West 93.74 feet to the place of beginning.

Contains 81,421 square feet (1.87 acres), more or less.

- 10. REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR PRESBYTERY MEETINGS:** The Stated Clerk asks that all requests for excused absences be made through the online system available on the presbytery website or by using this link: <https://forms.gle/R9kSbxeWktUjE2NU8>. *Requests for excused absences not requested through the online system may not be recorded correctly.*

11. **DATES FOR STATED MEETINGS IN 2024:** The dates for stated meetings of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan for 2024 are as follows:

- a. June 11, 2024 - *HOLT*
- b. September 14, 2024 – *PAW PAW*
- c. December 3, 2024 – *GRAND HAVEN*

Thank you to these congregations for generously hosting a meeting of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan.

12. **REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS:**

Eastminster Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, MI

Lake Michigan Presbytery
Administrative Commission for Eastminster GR
March 9, 2024

This report highlights significant developments since our previous report presented in December 2023. Those developments include:

The closing for the sale of the Eastminster Presbyterian Church Grand Rapids building was completed on December 21, 2023. The new owners are the Grand Rapids Matu Christian Church, who gratefully held their Christmas Eve worship service in their new home. The new congregation has been working hard to make the church their own, while Pastor Rev. Laurie Hartzell has been providing guidance and answers to their questions, as she continues in her part-time role as pastoral support for the remaining members of EPC and for staff of the Eastminster Preschool.

A beautiful worship service hosted by the Matu church was held at Eastminster Grand Rapids on January 21, 2024, with Rev. Laurie Hartzell providing the sermon alongside a translator. Many members of EPC were present at the service to welcome the new congregation, and several participated in a special prayer of blessing. A time of fellowship with the gracious hosts was offered following the service.

As stated previously, the Eastminster Preschool, which falls under the Eastminster Grand Rapids 501(c)3, will remain in the EPC building until the school year is completed in May 2024. The Preschool will be moving their location to Shawnee Park Church under a new name of East Village Preschool and will establish their own 501(c)3. Once the Preschool is no longer under Eastminster, the EPC corporation will be dissolved.

At a combined meeting on January 16, 2024, with the Administrative Commission, the Session, and the Eastminster Foundation Trust board members, decisions were made

regarding the distribution of the remaining funds in the trust, so that the accounts can be closed, and records gathered to submit to Presbytery archives.

Work is still active on collecting, verifying, organizing, and consolidating all the church's historical records, as well as the current records that must be retained for a number of years. This, too, will be finalized once the Preschool and part-time staff are no longer occupying a portion of the church building.

We cherish your continued prayers for the members of this Administrative Commission and the remaining members and staff of Eastminster Presbyterian Church, and prayers of praise that this space will be cherished by another Christian congregation.

Yours in Christ,

Elder Ed Coke, Moderator (Grand Rapids Westminster)
Elder Judith Burnside, Recording Clerk (Spring Lake)
Elder Cal Bosman (Grand Haven)
Rev. Nick Marlatt (Hastings)

First Presbyterian Church of White Pigeon, MI

Lake Michigan Presbytery
Administrative Commission for White Pigeon
March 9, 2024

The Presbytery of Lake Michigan adopted the following: To approve the recommendation of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan Commission on Ministry to appoint an administrative commission of three to five people to the First Presbyterian Church of White Pigeon, MI, at their request, for the following purpose:

The Commission on Ministry has been working to support the First Presbyterian Church of White Pigeon, MI, for several years as they discerned the future of their ministry. After prayerful discernment, the congregation believes God has called them to the end of their particular ministry as a congregation. While we grieve at what feels to be a loss, we celebrate with them their long history of faithful ministry in the community of White Pigeon and in the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. We invite members of the presbytery to hold them in deep prayer as each member discerns where God is calling them next. At the congregation's request, the Commission on Ministry respectfully requests that an administrative commission be appointed to support the congregation as they move to dissolution.

The recruitment process for members to serve on this commission experienced some delays and setbacks. In December 2023 Laurie Tupper, Christina Westbury, and Calvin Bremer were appointed to serve.

They conferred and have worked with the Rev. Brian Madison who served jointly the Cassopolis and White Pigeon congregations.

January 19, 2024, Laurie Tupper, Rev. Madison, and Cal Bremer met at the White Pigeon church with members of the Session (Christina Westbury had previous commitment which precluded her presence).

This meeting began the process of receiving documents, keys to the building, facilitating transfer of utilities to the Presbytery, and the multitude of details involved in the dissolution of a congregation. The Session members formally resigned as have the other officers of the corporation. Files which had been in the possession of members of the congregation are being gathered at the church building and will be taken to the Presbytery office.

The AC has engaged Ron Lemmon/Patriot Realty of Grand Rapids to list the building for sale. Ron has been in contact with village officials regarding possible uses of the building and potential purchasers. The building is currently listed at \$ 199,900.

The AC is working with Sally Balzar, the former Clerk of Session, to address the needs and desires of former members as they seek new church homes. Some have already made their choices and others are exploring where they can best serve and grow.

The AC requests that you join us in giving thanks for the ministry of this congregation that served for generations. And we request your prayers as former members of White Pigeon now use their gifts and insights to benefit new communities of faith. And we ask for your prayers for the AC members as they shepherd the process of dissolution and sale of properties.

Respectfully,

Laurie Tupper
Christina Westbury
Calvin Bremer

First Presbyterian Church of Marshall, MI

Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for Marshall
March 9, 2024

The following members have been appointed to serve on the Administrative Commission: Brad Sparks (Westminster GR), Nancy Toth, and Annamarie Groenenboom (Validated Ministry). The AC was oriented to their work on February

20, 2024, and communicated to the First Presbyterian Church of Marshall, MI, to inform them of their appointment and to request information and materials.

This concludes the reports of the Administrative Commissions.

This concludes the Clerk's Report

8. **To receive** the following report from the Commission on Ministry:

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
STATED MEETING of the PRESBYTERY of LAKE
MICHIGAN
March 9, 2024**

Since the last Presbytery meeting, the COM Plenary has met once (February 27, 2024), and the Northern, Eastern, and Southwestern Regions have met as needed. The following report deals with actions that the Commission has recommended to the Presbytery, actions taken by the Commission and its Regions on behalf of the Presbytery, and other matters of a general nature.

REPORT ON ACTIONS REGARDING CALLS, INSTALLATIONS, AND RELATED MATTERS:

1. **A motion prevailed** to approve the minutes of the COM Plenary meeting of November 28, 2023.
2. **A motion prevailed** to approve the minutes of the COM Regions since the November 18, 2023, Plenary meeting.
3. Battle Creek Pennfield: **A motion prevailed** to approve the contract between Battle Creek, Pennfield, and **Rev. Annemarie Kidder** as part-time (30 hours) Interim Pastor effective February 1, 2024-January 31, 2025.

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Cash Salary | \$25,000 |
| Housing Allowance | \$13,136.55 |
| 403b | \$24,000 |
| Total Effective Salary | \$62,136.55 |
| Medical | \$ 3,560 |
| Professional Development | \$ 4,000 |
| Mileage Reimbursement | IRS Rate |
| Vacation | 1 week/quarter |
| Continuing Education | 1 week/6 months |

4. Buchanan: **A motion prevailed** to approve the contract between the First Presbyterian Church of Buchanan, MI, and Elder David Habicht, CRE, as part-time (26 hours) pastor effective January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024.

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Cash Salary | \$18,000 |
| Housing Allowance | \$18,000 |
| Total Effective Salary | \$36,000 |

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Professional Development | \$ 2,500 |
| Mileage Reimbursement | \$4,000 |
| Vacation | 8 weeks |
| Continuing Education | 2 weeks |

5. Brooklyn: **Rev. Karen Kelley** (Jackson Westminster) has been appointed to moderate the session. **Rev. Dean McGormley** (Maumee Valley Presbytery) was appointed to moderate the congregational meeting on January 28, 2024, at Rev. Karen Kelley’s invitation.
6. Gobles Bethany: **A motion prevailed** to authorize **Elder Kristy Payne** to administer communion through November 1, 2025.
7. Hesperia: **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Laurie Hartzell as the moderator until December 31, 2024.
8. Ionia: **A motion prevailed** to approve the contract between First Presbyterian Church of Ionia, MI, and **Rev. Dr. Christopher Dorn** (RCA) as part-time (20 hours) designated pastor **effective January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024**.

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Cash Salary | \$27,622.50 |
| Housing Allowance | \$18,592.00 |
| Total Effective Salary | \$46,215.50 |
| Board of Pensions | \$20,642.32 |

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Professional Development | \$ 800 |
| Mileage Reimbursement | \$1,200 |
| Books | \$300 |
| Vacation | 30 Days, including 4 Sundays |
| Continuing Education | 14 Days, including 2 Sundays |

9. Kalamazoo First:
A motion prevailed to approve the contract between the First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo, MI, and **Rev. Christina Westbury** as part-time (20 hours) stated supply pastor **effective January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024**.

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|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cash Salary | \$36,597.60 |
| Professional Expenses | \$1,000 |
| Professional Development | \$ 1,000 |
| Mileage Reimbursement | \$1,000 |
| Vacation | 4 weeks, including 4 Sundays |
| Continuing Education | 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays |

A motion prevailed to approve the contract between the First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo, MI, and **Rev. Amber Nettleton** as part-time (12 hours) stated supply pastor **effective January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024**.

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cash Salary | \$19,375.20 |
| Professional Expenses | \$1,000 |
| Professional Development | \$ 1,000 |
| Mileage Reimbursement | \$1,000 |
| Vacation | 4 weeks, including 4 Sundays |
| Continuing Education | 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays |

A motion prevailed to approve the contract between the First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo, MI, and **Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom** as part-time (12 hours) stated supply pastor **effective January 2, 2024 - December 31, 2024.**

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|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cash Salary | \$18,720 |
| Professional Expenses | \$1,000 |
| Professional Development | \$ 1,000 |
| Mileage Reimbursement | \$1,000 |
| Vacation | 4 weeks, including 4 Sundays |
| Continuing Education | 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays |

10. Schoolcraft: **A motion prevailed** to appoint **Rev. Mark Pawlowski** (HR) as moderator of the session.

11. Sturgis: **A motion prevailed** to approve the contract between the First Presbyterian Church of Sturgis, MI and **Rev. David Weber** as interim pastor, **effective January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024.**

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|------------------------|------------|
| Cash Salary | \$36,075 |
| Housing Allowance | \$19,425 |
| Total Effective Salary | \$55,500 |
| Board of Pensions | \$21,645 |
| SECA Reimbursement | \$4,245.75 |

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|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Professional Expenses | \$500 |
| Professional Development | \$ 8,00 |
| Mileage Reimbursement | Reimbursed at IRS rate |
| Vacation | 1 week per quarter |
| Continuing Education | 1 week per six months |

9. Presbytery of Lake Michigan: A motion prevailed to approve the terms of call between the Presbytery of Lake Michigan and **Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom** as the part-time (30 hours) Associate Clerk effective December 15, 2023-December 31, 2023.

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Cash Salary | \$0 |
| Housing Allowance | \$40,000 |
| Total Effective Salary | \$40,000 |
| Board of Pensions | \$15,600 |
| Professional Development | \$ 1,000 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Books/Professional Expenses | \$ 300 |
| Mileage Reimbursement | Reimbursed at IRS rate |
| Vacation | 30 days, including 4 Sundays |
| Continuing Education | 14 days, including 2 Sundays |

This concludes the report of the Committee on Ministry.

10. **To receive** the following report from the Commission the Preparation for Ministry:

**PRESBYTERY OF LAKE MICHIGAN
REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY
March 09, 2024**

The Commission met twice since the last Stated Meeting of the Presbytery – regular stated meetings on January 23, 2024, and February 27, 2024. The Commission did not meet in December 2023. The following report deals with actions that the Commission has recommended to the Presbytery, actions taken by the Commission on behalf of the Presbytery, and other matters of a general nature.

1. **A motion prevailed** to approve the minutes of the Commission on the Preparation for Ministry of January 23, 2024.
2. On January 23, 2024, **a motion prevailed** to certify Candidate Nathaniel Fry ready for a call.

This concludes the report of the Committee on the Preparation for Ministry.

This concludes the Consent Agenda.

WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton, along with several members of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, led worship. The sermon, entitled: “What’s on the Menu?” was based on Luke 14:15-24. Rev. Walton challenged the idea that the mainline church is in decline. He described how congregations must embrace Micah 6:8 from the margins instead of from places of power. Rev. Walton encouraged congregations to consider how to set a table for a world that hungers for something different than a “winner takes all” society. An offering of \$1,865.00, designated for the PC(USA) Theological Education Fund, was received. The Presbytery celebrated the Lord’s Supper with the Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldryer and Rev. Amber Nettleton (Kalamazoo First) presiding at the table.

The presbytery recessed for an 18-minute break at 11:02 a.m. The meeting was reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

NOMINATING & REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Elder Fred Welch (Portage Westminster) presented the report from the Nominating and Representation Committee. Elder Welch recognized and presented the following slate of nominees for consideration:

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Ruling Elder, Lola Coke, Westminster Grand Rapids, Class of 2026
- Ruling Elder, Todd Olson, Grand Haven, Class of 2026

Rev. Gail Monsma opened the floor for nominations and there were none. **A motion prevailed** to close nominations from the floor. **A motion prevailed** to elect the slate of nominees as presented.

REPORT OF THE SYNOD OF THE COVENANT

Dr. Matt Aragon Bruce (Lake Michigan) discussed the new Synod of the Covenant preaching initiative, “Cultivating the Gift of Preaching”. He encouraged potential mentors and potential ruling elders to discuss being a part of the program.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Rev. Kristin Stroble (Eastminster East Lansing) recognized Rev. Wendy Pratt (Lansing Delta) on her retirement. Rev. Karen Kelley (Jackson Westminster) offered words of celebration and thanksgiving for Rev. Pratt’s ministry. Rev. Pratt reflected on her years of ministry and retirement. Rev. Stroble offered a prayer of celebration and blessing.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence (VAL) offered thanks and appreciation to all congregations for completing their Annual Statistical Reports. She reported that many of the congregations in the Presbytery are experiencing growth and have deep connections with one another and their communities. Rev. Lane-Lawrence encouraged congregations to participate in the mission fair at the June 2024 Stated Presbytery meeting. She also discussed the importance and need for Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders to complete boundary training this year. Rev. Chrissy Westbury (VAL/Kalamazoo First) described the importance of Ruling Elders in the life of the church. She encouraged Ruling Elders to attend workshops led by the Presbytery for Ruling Elders throughout the year.

REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE WITH OVERTURE TO PC(USA) GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Elder Eileen Best (Portage Westminster) presented a request for concurrence with the overture: “On Development of Educational Resources for Faith Formation for Congregational Use and to Meet the Needs of the Small Church.” The overture has been endorsed by the Leadership Team. Elder Best offered some history and background for the overture and discussed the need for spiritual formation and curriculum for small churches. After a time of discussion, **a motion prevailed** to concur with the

overture: On Development of Educational Resources for Faith Formation for Congregational Use and to Meet the Needs of the Small Church.”

REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE WITH OVERTURE TO PC(USA) GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Rev. Lisa Schrott (Okemos) presented a request for concurrence with the overture: “An Overture Calling for Action so that Children May Live Free from Gun Violence.” The overture has been endorsed by the Leadership Team. After a time of discussion, **a motion prevailed** to concur with the overture: “An Overture Calling for Action so that Children May Live Free from Gun Violence.” Rev. Lisa Schrott will serve as an overture advocate.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting at 12:09 p.m. Rev. Gail Monsma closed the meeting with prayer and the extinguishing of the Christ Candle.

**The next Presbytery meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, 2024
at First Presbyterian Church
2021 N. Aurelius Road
Holt, Michigan 48842
517-694-8151**