

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATING and REPRESENTATION  
DECEMBER 2, 2025  
STATED MEETING of the PRESBYTERY of LAKE MICHIGAN (PLM)**

**TO REPORT RESIGNATIONS:**

- Rev. Laurie Hartzell (HR) from COM, West Region, Class of 2026
- RE Ben Boerkoel (GR Westminster), Nominating & Representation Committee, Class of 2027

**TO REPORT NOMINATIONS TO THE NAMED POSITIONS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, or TEAMS**

**OFFICER APPROVED VIA CONSENT AGENDA**

**Vice Moderator Presbytery of Lake Michigan 2026**

RE Linda Hardenbergh (East Lansing Eastminster)

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY TEACHING ELDER COMMISSIONERS**

Rev. Steve Kaszar (Concord/Homer First), Class of 2027

Rev. Kristin Stroble (East Lansing Eastminster), Class of 2027

Alternate TE – Rev. David Schell (Jackson First), Class of 2027

**SYNOD OF THE COVENANT COMMISSIONER**

Rev. Christine Barnes (Retired) Class of 2028

**BUDGET AND FINANCE**

RE Beth Dyer (Kalamazoo First), Class of 2028

Rev. Kyle Nolan (VM), Class of 2028

**COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

RE Bari Johnson (Grand Haven First), Class of 2028

Rev. Brian Madison (Cassopolis United), Class of 2028

**COMMISSION ON MINISTRY EAST**

Rev. Karen Kelly (Retired), Class of 2026

RE Heather Myer (East Lansing Eastminster), Class of 2028

**Nominating Urgent Need: Commission on Ministry (COM) West Region.**

Are you a Ruling Elder with a willingness to serve the connectional church? Are you a Teaching Elder who knows a Ruling Elder with a willingness to serve the connectional church? The Nominating & Representation Committee is seeking applicants to serve on COM for the Western region of the Presbytery. Below is more information on the position. The majority of the meetings will be via Zoom, with occasional in person meetings. If you are interested or know a good candidate, please contact one of the members of the Nominating & Representation Committee (contact information at end of the report).

**Focus:** To develop and maintain mechanisms and processes to serve as pastor counselor to teaching elders, ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service, and certified Christian

educators of the presbytery; to facilitate the relations between the presbytery and its congregations, teaching elders, ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service, and certified Christian educators; and to settle difficulties on behalf of the presbytery where possible and expedient.

**Gifts Needed:** Able to understand various policies and procedures established by the COM and the congregations within the presbytery.

**Meetings:** 4th Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom

\* Note at the September Presbytery Meeting, Elder Ben Boerkoel, (GR Westminster) and Elder Heather Myer, (East Lansing Eastminster) were elected as General Assembly Commissioners, class of 2027. The practice of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan is to seek gender balance for GA commissioners. For all positions, the Nominating and Representation Committee and strive for a balance of Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders, as well as to balance representation by race, geographic distribution, and church size.

## **REPRESENTATION**

The Nominating & Representation Committee, with additional work by the Rev. Dr. Fran Lane Lawrence, Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk, has been discussing ways to support churches who are responding to pressures related to immigrant rights, refugee resettlement, LGBTQ+ support, anti-racism initiatives and economic stresses. If you or your church needs support in these areas, please reach out to Rev. Lane-Lawrence or a member of the committee.

Please note that the PLM website has a page devoted to Anti-Racism Resources. It is under the "Churches" tab and can be directly accessed through this link:

<https://lakemichiganpresbytery.org/churches/antiracism-resources/> If you have resources that have been helpful in the work of anti-racism, please send those along to Rev. Lane-Lawrence. And stay tuned for resource pages for other topics.

## **NOMINATING AND REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| • Rev. Lisa Schrott           | 318-286-3816                          | <a href="mailto:pastorlisa@okemospres.org">pastorlisa@okemospres.org</a>     |
| • Elder Willye Bryan          | 517-449-8279                          | <a href="mailto:entpeople@yahoo.com">entpeople@yahoo.com</a>                 |
| • Rev. Dr. Ruth Lowry         | 616-915-8221                          | <a href="mailto:pastor.ruth.pcusa@gmail.org">pastor.ruth.pcusa@gmail.org</a> |
| • Rev. Dr. Fran Lane Lawrence | 269-240-8155<br>269-381-6337 ext. 802 | <a href="mailto:flanelawrenceplm@gmail.com">flanelawrenceplm@gmail.com</a>   |