



Presbytery of Lake Michigan

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

March 14, 2026
Stated Meeting Packet

**FINAL
DOCKET of the STATED MEETING
Presbytery of Lake Michigan
March 14, 2026 9:30 a.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church
162 Bridge Street
Dimondale, MI 48821**

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

8:30 a.m. Registration opens: Please sign the Roll of the Presbytery

Orientation for first-time Elder Commissioners and new pastors took place via Zoom on Monday, March 9, 2026, and was led by Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom.

9:30 a.m. LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE – Elder Ben Boerkoel (Westminster GR)

OPENING OF THE STATED MEETING

Call to Order and Opening Prayer
Declaration of Quorum

9:35 a.m. BUSINESS PLENARY I

Appointment of Temporary Clerks [ACTION]

Seating of Corresponding Members [ACTION]

Approval of the Docket [ACTION]

Welcome

First-Time Elders and Christian Educators

Guests and Visitors

Greetings from the Host Church - Rev. Ben Rumbaugh

Approval of the Consent Agenda [ACTION]

10:00 a.m. WORSHIP – (See insert)

Dr. Stephen Keizer, PC(USA) Foundation – Ministry Relations Officer

Sermon Texts: Judges 5:2-6, 12-13 & 1 Corinthians 9:22

Sermon Title: “Patient Leadership”

Today’s offerings are designated for Support for Immigration Ministries in Michigan

11:00 a.m. BREAK (15 minutes)

11:15 a.m. KEYNOTE - Dr. Stephen Keizer, PC(USA) Foundation – Ministry Relations Officer

BUSINESS PLENARY II

- 12:00 noon Nominating & Representation Committee – Lisa Schrott (5 minutes) [ACTION]
- AC for FPC - Allegan, MI - Rev. Dr. John Best (30 minutes) [ACTION]
- COM - Welcome New Pastors - Rev. Ben Rumbaugh (10 minutes)
- Justice Ministry Opportunity - Rev. Sarah Schmidt-Lee (5 minutes)
Invitation to Participate in Palm Sunday Path
- Report of the Executive Presbyter –Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence (5 minutes)
- Report of the Budget and Finance Committee – Elder Beth Dyer (10 minutes)
- PC(USA) Board of Pensions – Rev. Luke Choi (10 minutes)

1:15 p.m. ADJOURNMENT/EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLE – Elder Ben Boerkoel

1:30 p.m. LUNCH

**The next Presbytery meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026
at First Presbyterian Church of Muskegon, MI**



Presbytery of Lake Michigan

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

**March, 14, 2026
We Gather to Worship**

Prelude

***Call to Worship (based on Psalm 67)**

Elder Monte Shuck (Mason First)

May God be gracious to us; May God bless us.

We gather in worship, knowing God is here.

May God's face shine upon us.

May God call us into the joyful work of creating peace

Let us worship our God in praise.

***Hymn #386 (GTG)**

"Come Worship God"

Call to Confession and

Rev. Michelle Olson (VM)

The Grace of God overflows for us through Christ Jesus who came into the world to save sinners.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Holy and Merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

Silence

Assurance of God's Love and Sharing in Christ's Peace

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

We Hear the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Val Glasscock (Portage Westminster)

God, speak loudly through your text. May we hear your truth, especially when it challenges us. Be the loud voice of love that we need to hear. Amen

Scripture Readings

**Judges 5:2-6, 12-13
1 Corinthians 9:22**

Dr. Stephen Keizer, Presbyterian Foundation

Message

“Patient Leadership”

Dr. Stephen Keizer

We Respond to the Word

***Hymn #187 (GTG)**

“Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Offering

Rev. Dr. Jay Ayers (HR)

The offering today is designated to support Immigration Ministries in Michigan.

Offertory

***Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

Rev. Dr. Jay Ayers (HR)

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Commissioning of General Assembly Commissioners

Elder Linda Hardenbergh

Ruling Elder Commissioners:
Elder Heather Myer, East Lansing Eastminster
Elder Ben Boerkoel, GR Westminster

Teaching Elder Commissioners:
Rev. Kristin Stroble, East Lansing Eastminster
Rev. Steven Kaszar, Concord First/Homer First

Call to Discipleship

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

**The great ends of the church are
the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
the maintenance of divine worship;
the preservation of the truth;
the promotion of social righteousness;
and the exhibition of the Kin-dom of Heaven to the world.**

The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility. Heather, Ben, Kristin, and Steve, the grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ. God has called you to the particular service of being Commissioners to the 227th General Assembly. Show your purpose by answering these questions.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?

I do.

Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

I will, with God's help.

Do we, the members of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, accept Heather, Ben, Kristin, and Steve as Commissioners to the 227th PC(USA) General Assembly, chosen by God through the voice of the church, to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we promise to support and encourage them as they seek to fulfill their responsibilities in this ministry?

We do.

Commissioning Payer

Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us; and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling. We thank you for leading Heather, Ben, Kristin, and Steve to this time and place. Establish them in your truth, and guide them by your Holy Spirit, that in your service, they may grow in faith, hope, and love, and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever.

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called disciples and, by the Holy Spirit, made them one church to serve you. Be with members of the General Assembly. Help them to welcome new things you are doing in the world and to respect old things you keep and use.

In their deliberation, bring about what is best for us and for all people. As they meet, let your Holy Spirit guide so that the whole church may be joined in love and service to Jesus Christ, who, having gone before us, is coming to meet us in the promise of your kingdom. Amen.

Charge

Heather, Ben, Kristin, and Steve, you are commissioned to service as commissioners to the 227th PC(USA) General Assembly. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

Blessing

May the God of peace make you holy in every way, and keep your whole being, spirit, soul, and body, free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Commissioning Hymn # 749 (GTG) “Come! Live in the Light!” verse 1

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Rev. Ben Rumbaugh

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you,
 and also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
 We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord God.
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The prayer continues...

And so we proclaim the mystery of faith:
 Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

The prayer continues...

And we pray now together saying the prayer that Christ taught us to say, praying...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Prayer After Communion

***Hymn #203 (GTG)**

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

***Charge and Benediction (based on 1 Peter 4:10-11)**

Dr. Stephen Keizer

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each has received. To God be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Thank you to all those who participated in leading worship today.

Accompanist: Jim Hamilton

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATING and REPRESENTATION
MARCH 14, 2026
STATED MEETING of the PRESBYTERY of LAKE MICHIGAN (PLM)**

TO REPORT RESIGNATIONS:

- TE Rev. Dr. Rob Carlson, HR, COM-East, effective January 2025

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

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

TE Rev. Charlotte Ellison, HR, for 6 year term (Class of 2030)

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY EAST

RE Monte Shuck, Mason – First, for a 3 year term (Class of 2028)

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY WEST

RE Pam Zandt, Kalamazoo-First for a 3 year term (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 Wednesdays at 4pm via Zoom

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 Fran or a member of the committee.

Please note that the PLM website now has a page devoted to Immigration and Refugee Resources for Churches. It can be found at

<https://lakemichiganpresbytery.org/churches/immigration-and-refugee-resources/>

It joins the Anti-Racism Resources found at this link:

<https://lakemichiganpresbytery.org/churches/antiracism-resources/>

If you have resources that have been helpful in the work of anti-racism or immigration and refugee issues, please send those along to EP Rev. Dr. Fran Lane Lawrence .

NOMINATING AND REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--|
| ● Rev. Lisa Schrott | 318-286-3816 | pastorlisa@okemospres.org |
| ● Elder Willye Bryan | 517-449-8279 | entpeople@yahoo.com |
| ● Rev. Dr. Ruth Lowry | 616-915-8221 | pastor.ruth.pcusa@gmail.org |
| ● Rev. Dr. Fran Lane Lawrence | 269-240-8155 | flanelawrenceplm@gmail.com |
- 269-381-6337 ext. 802

**The Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Allegan, MI
Report to the Presbytery of Lake Michigan
March 14, 2026**

Recommendation:

After many meetings, conversations, and research – all surrounded by prayer and thoughtful discernment we, **the Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church of Allegan, Michigan, established by the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, recommend that the Presbytery of Lake Michigan dissolve the First Presbyterian Church of Allegan, Michigan, effective March 14, 2026.** The Book of Order (G-3.0303b) requires that this action be done in consultation with the church's members. The Administrative Commission has been in ongoing consultation with members of the congregation. We have discerned that the congregation no longer has the financial vitality or leadership capacity to sustain ongoing worship, mission, or ministry within Presbyterian order.

Rational:

The Administrative Commission in this recommendation seeks to honor and protect the stewardship of the Presbytery's time, energy, and the congregation's remaining resources. The congregation has a history of strained pastoral relations going back to the 1960's. Most pastorates have ended with a divided congregation. We are the third Administrative Commission appointed to the First Presbyterian Church of Allegan, Michigan since 2012. The most recent pastorate of Elder Sheri Harris, CRE, ended with pressure by the six or seven active members; several who are relatively new members and who have little understanding or inclination to abide by Presbyterian polity. COM liaisons and Presbytery Staff have provided Presbyterian orientation and support. Cooperation for requested information has been difficult, elaborated more fully below. A former Administrative Commission acted with the help of the Presbytery's attorney to release endowed funds restricted for upkeep of the building for church general operations. This allowed the call of Rev. Kathy Nealand and then Elder Sheri Harris to grow the congregation. During which time it was difficult to find members willing to serve on the session, and outreach efforts were items of conflict. The congregation has been struggling with a lack of financial vitality and a lack of leadership capacity since approximately 2012. The PLM has worked with the session and congregation off and on at their request during that time period, both directly through Administrative Commissions and through the Commission on Ministry. Presbytery and COM records indicate that the Presbytery has worked regularly and diligently to strengthen the capacity and vitality of the congregation.

Background:

In January 2025, all members of the session of the First Presbyterian Church of Allegan, MI, resigned. This was the second time in the span of as many years that the First Presbyterian Church of Allegan, MI was unable to maintain numbers sufficient to form a session. Upon the resignation of the members of session, the Commission on Ministry (COM), which had been working with the session for many months, recommended that the Presbytery of Lake Michigan (PLM) appoint an Administrative Commission (AC) for the purposes and scope that appear below.

Purpose:

Therefore, the Commission on Ministry recommends to the Presbytery of Lake Michigan that an Administrative Commission of three to five members be appointed by the Moderator of the Presbytery, in consultation with the Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk, for the following purpose:

1. To assume original jurisdiction of the session so that all PCUSA constitutional and State of Michigan corporate requirements are fulfilled.
2. To determine if the congregation has the capacity to engage in future mission and ministry or to recommend dissolution of the congregation.
3. If it is determined that the congregation has the capacity to engage in future mission and ministry, to assist the congregation in determining that engagement.

Scope of Authorities

1. This Administrative Commission has the full authority of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, except where limited by provisions of the PC(USA) Book of Order, as regards the correction of the reported disorder listed in items 1-3 under Purpose.
2. In the assumption of original jurisdiction, the Administrative Commission will act with the full power and authority of the session.
3. The First Presbyterian Church of Allegan, MI, will be responsible for all fees incurred should a consultant be required to help resolve any areas of disorder, and for all costs of dissolution and sale of the property in the event the congregation is dissolved.

The Work of the Administrative Commission

The Administrative Commission has been meeting most weeks since mid-October 2025, by Zoom, joined by Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence (Stated Clerk/Executive Presbyter), Rev. Dr. Cal Bremer (Assistant to the Executive Presbyter), and Rev. Kristin Stroble (COM Support Staff) (on occasion). Members of the AC met in person with the church's three employees, and corresponded with all congregational members listed on the membership rolls by the U.S. Postal Service on November 23, 2025. The purpose of the communication was to invite each member to meet in person with the AC to provide feedback. The AC met individually with four members who responded to the AC's invitation. The AC used the feedback in its discernment process relative to the congregation's vitality and energy for future worship, mission, and ministry.

Research of **Session Records** found that the last Session minutes to be included in the Session Minutes Book was 2022. The clerk of session for 2023-24 was in name only and knew little about the Session records. Rev. Sherri Harris took the Session minutes. Session minutes for 2023 and 2024 were later provided by Rev. Harris upon request. The Church registry had not been updated for three or four years. We found 11 members whose deaths had not been recorded. We identified 13 active members of which one has since died, four are homebound, two live elsewhere, one of whom financially gives two thirds of the church's reported contributions, one member is neurodivergent, and the remaining six are senior citizens.

Worship: The church averages six at worship, occasionally with pulpit supply worship leaders. At other times they tune into the streamed services of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids, MI, and a church in Nashville, TN, they know about and like. Their long-tenured organist resigned midyear 2025 with so few attending. A guitarist from the Folk Festival leads music when they have a worship leader.

Mission/Building Use: The church is used for a variety of community services. A Folk Musical Group has held concerts in the sanctuary for years, but due to funding has been less active recently. "Friends on Wednesday," a lifelong learning program utilizes the fellowship hall weekly for educational gatherings. In January 2026, the church hosted a warming center while a permanent

location was being prepared. A man experiencing homelessness is living in the manse without Administrative Commission approval.

Finances: 2025 Income: \$47,786, of which, \$34,115 were contributions. 2025 Expenses: \$136,585 of which \$67,387 was for steeple, roof, and manse repair, \$34,120 in payroll. Bank and Investment Balance December 31, 2025: \$207,737. Liabilities: \$6,353. Total Equity and Liability as of December 31, 2025: \$201,384.

Administration: One of the purposes for which the PLM appointed the AC was to assume original jurisdiction since no session exists. The PC(USA) *Book of Order* provides in G-4.0102, “*The ruling elders on the session of a congregation, who are eligible under the civil law, shall be the trustees of the corporation . . .*” The AC, acting as the session, sought to put in order State of Michigan corporate requirements to name the AC as the current officers/trustees. But in spite of multiple requests for the login username and password to the Michigan State Licensing and Regulatory Affairs website, this information has not been provided as of the date this report was written. The AC needs that information to address legal matters related to the corporation. The AC also requested keys to the church and manse, bank account information, usernames, and passwords for various online accounts. The church secretary, who is also a member, contacted members of the congregation and responded with an email of outrage with church members’ names attached. Some information has subsequently been shared, but access to office computers and keys to the manse have yet to be shared. The AC is working to gain access to bank accounts and the login to the MI Licensing and Regulatory Affairs website.

Conversations with the Congregation: The AC met with the congregation following worship on February 1, 2026, to discuss the AC’s findings and decision to recommend to the Presbytery to dissolve the congregation. The meeting was attended by seven members and eight friends of the church, most new within the last 2-3 weeks. The news was received with immediate pushback and a plea for one more chance with Presbytery help. We discussed next steps and what will happen with the church’s real estate and finances. After 45 minutes of discussion the conversation concluded with an appeal to reconsider.

After the February 1, 2026, meeting, the AC met and again resolved to recommend to the Presbytery that the First Presbyterian Church of Allegan, MI be dissolved. Rev. Dr. John Best and Elder Jud Ross met with the congregation on February 10, 2026, to affirm the AC’s decision. Questions were asked about the church real estate and finances. The AC continues to move toward our plan to hold a final regular worship service on March 8, 2026, and a celebratory service later in the spring.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. John Best (HR)

Rev. Sheth LaRue (Benton Harbor First)

Elder Jud Ross (GR Forest Hills)

Presbytery of Lake Michigan Grants for Congregational Support Grant Descriptions

Dissolutions/Discernment Grant

The Presbytery incurs unexpected costs that are not budgeted for, as ACs and staff work to dissolve congregations. Costs incurred are from attorney's fees, inspections, deferred maintenance, and repairs of the property in order to sell, realtor fees, costs related to staff time and travel, disposition of endowment funds, appropriate records storage, etc. This grant enables the presbytery to manage costs beyond the budget.

This grant is also available to congregations discerning whether God is calling them to sunset their ministries to assess deferred maintenance needs, financial viability, and members' vitality to engage in ministry.

The grant application must be submitted by the Administrative Commission, which is working to dissolve the congregation, in consultation with the Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk. The grant may also be requested by the COM Moderator in consultation with the COM Coordinator and Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk.

All expenditures shall be managed through the presbytery finance office by submitting check request/reimbursement forms.

PLM Mergers/Unions/Joint Witness

There are times when congregations in conversation with the Commission on Ministry may discern God's call to merge or form a union with one or more congregations - coming under the umbrella of one of the congregations that exist, forming a whole new congregation, or joining in ministry while at the same time keeping separate identities. There are times when this process may require:

- consultation with outside organizations/individuals
- The congregation/session may require a coach
- property assessments, etc.

This fund will help to cover some of those unexpected costs. Depending on the specific congregation's circumstances, COM may contact the EP/SC to determine the level of support, if any, that the presbytery can provide for the associated costs. The amount of support for a particular congregation/congregations will normally be \$5000, except in extraordinary circumstances. Any amount over \$5000 must be recommended by the EP/SC and approved by both the Commission on Ministry and the Leadership Team.

PLM Creative Ministries for Vulnerable Congregations

Congregations and sessions often hear God calling them to new, creative, and innovative ministries or joint ministries, but lack the support needed to follow through. Since these processes are so unique and contextual, it is impossible to have a standard set of guidelines that walk sessions/congregations through step by step. Some processes are complex and involve mission

studies, community demographic analyses, financial assessments, coaching and consulting, space renovations, and similar support services.

- Funds from this grant are not ordinarily available to support the salary or benefits of an installed or temporary pastor EXCEPT for a limited time for a new pastoral leader in a new ministry or to provide pastoral support during merger/dissolution until closure.
- With the support of the Commission on Ministry (region or plenary), the Executive Presbyter can approve grants of up to \$5000.
- Grant applications over \$5000 will be reviewed and approved by a grant team comprised of the facilitators of Congregational Support, Dynamic Leaders, Mission and Outreach, and Executive Presbyter/SC.
- Grant Applications must be approved by the Commission on Ministry prior to submission.
- This grant cannot be used to pay for the services of revitalization consultants.
- This grant cannot be used to pay for the general services of a coach for the pastor or congregation but could be used to pay for a coach walking through a particular process toward a creative or innovative ministry.

For more information, contact the Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk.

Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Balance Sheet at 12/31/2025
Before Audit

	ASSETS:	
Cash		20,764.51
	General Investments:	
Investments - New Covenant Trust Mgmt. Fund		3,122,886.00
Investments - John Knox Memorial Fund		949,697.00
Investments - Investment & Loan Program		<u>50,495.16</u>
		4,123,078.16
	Other Investments:	
Investments - Presbyterian Foundation - Sp. Assistance		50,193.55
Endowment - Presbyterian Foundation - Niger		73,612.62
Endowment - Presbyterian Foundation - Nicaragua		73,612.62
Escrow Account - Westminster of Jackson		<u>307,851.00</u>
		505,269.79
	Total Cash & Investments	4,649,112.46
Accounts Receivable Per Capita		40,958.83
Prepaid Expense		418.93
Fixed Assets - Original Cost less Depreciation		<u>5,511.14</u>
	Total Assets:	<u>4,696,001.36</u>
	LIABILITIES:	
Accounts Payable		26,083.35
Escrow Account - Westminster of Jackson		307,851.00
	NET ASSETS:	<u>4,362,067.01</u>
	TOTAL LIAB & NET ASSETS:	<u><u>4,696,001.36</u></u>
*Fund Balances:		
Unrestricted:		
Non-Designated:		
Operating Surpluses Prior Years:		484,605.99
Operating Surpluses YTD:		341,543.33
John Knox Memorial Fund		589,574.95
Church Dissolutions		1,308,684.87
Undesignated Funds		674,815.31
Presbtery Operating Cash Reserve		<u>200,000.00</u>
Total Non-Designated:		3,599,224.45
Designated:		
Congregational Vitality & Justice		71,448.63
Triennium Reserve Fund		110,091.91
Designated Church Dissolution Grants:		
Creative Ministries Grants		150,000.00
Church Dissolutions Grants		70,000.00
Mergers/Unions/Joint Witness Grants		43,000.00
John Knox Disaster Relief		45,000.00
Mental Health Ministry Grant		5,200.00
Misc. Designated		<u>(3,257.61)</u>
Total Designated:		<u>491,482.93</u>
Total Unrestricted:		4,090,707.38
Restricted:		
John Knox- Nicaragua		64,876.58
John Knox- Niger		64,876.58
Special Assistance Endowment Fund		47,665.17
Other Temporarily Restricted		<u>93,941.30</u>
Total Restricted:		271,359.63
Total Net Assets:		<u><u>4,362,067.01</u></u>

Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Summary of Operating, Designated and Restricted Funds
For the Year-To-Date Ended December 31, 2025
Before Audit

PLM Operating Fund:			Annual Budget
Support and Revenue		12/31/2025	2025
Per Capita	\$	364,434	\$ 364,434
Presbytery Shared Mission	\$	118,154	\$ 137,250
Investment and Other Income/Receipts	\$	529,523	\$ 136,919
Current Year Uncollectible	\$	-	\$ (15,000)
Transfer In	\$	-	\$ 209,198
Total Support and Revenue:	\$	1,012,111	\$ 832,801
Expenses:			
<i>ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT TEAM</i>	\$	1,321	\$ 12,700
 <i>BUDGET & FINANCE</i>	 \$	 6,700	 \$ 7,500
 <i>CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT TEAM:</i>			
Administration	\$	-	\$ 500
Commission on Ministry	\$	4,222	\$ 12,500
Cong Initiative and NWC	\$	-	\$ 5,000
Mathew 25 Initiative	\$	-	\$ 33,500
Mediation Committee	\$	-	\$ 3,000
Ministry Connections	\$	-	\$ 3,800
Response Committee	\$	-	\$ 100
 <i>DYNAMIC LEADERS TEAM:</i>			
Administration	\$	-	\$ 750
Encouragement Project	\$	-	\$ 100
Justice Ministries Group	\$	-	\$ 5,000
Leadership Development	\$	200	\$ 5,100
LeaderWise Partnership-Synod	\$	668	\$ 8,200
Liturgy Development Workshops	\$	-	\$ 3,000
Presbytery Worship Team	\$	3,914	\$ 6,500
Preparation for Ministry Commission	\$	2,219	\$ 11,500
Resource Center	\$	1,291	\$ 4,200
Scholarships for Continuing Education	\$	-	\$ 3,000
Service to Retirees	\$	-	\$ 300
Youth Activities/Montreat/Plunge/etc.	\$	8,557	\$ 15,000
 <i>LEADERSHIP TEAM</i>	 \$	 -	 \$ 6,500
 <i>MISSION & OUTREACH TEAM:</i>			
Administration	\$	-	\$ 500
Campus Ministries	\$	76,000	\$ 76,000
 <i>NOMINATING/REPRESENTATION</i>	 \$	 -	 \$ 300
 <i>PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION</i>	 \$	 -	 \$ 300
 Officers and Staff	 \$	 348,599	 \$ 394,540
Office Operations	\$	101,407	\$ 89,850

**Summary of Operating, Designated and Restricted Funds
For the Year-To-Date Ended December 31, 2025
Before Audit**

PLM Operating Fund:	Annual Budget	
Total All Expenditures/Disbursements:	\$ 954,212	\$ 920,551
Total Rev Over/Under Expenses:	\$ 855,318	\$ -

*Presbytery financial statements are based on modified fund accounting. Per capita revenues are accrued and uncollectible amounts are netted against the accrued per capita revenue.

PRESBYTERY OF LAKE MICHIGAN
CONSENT AGENDA of the STATED MEETING
March 14, 2026

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: Mary Austin (VM), Joanna Bailey (VM), Elizabeth Hakken Candido (VM), Cal Bremer (VM), Timothy Chon (VM), Katherine Culpepper (MAL), Janet Duggins (Portage Westminster), Karen Fitz LaBarge (Rockford North Kent), Laurie Hartzel (Retired), Kirk Miller (Holt First), Philomena Ofori-Nipaah (GR North Park), Jim Pollard (GR Forest Hills), Kathleen Robertson King (MAL), Barb Schruer (MAL), David Stubbs (VM), Paul Van Kempen (Holland First)
2. **To approve** the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, December 02, 2025, Online only.
3. **To file** the approved Minutes of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan Leadership Team on December 4, 2025, and February 5, 2026. Online only.
4. **To grant** Rev. David Edwin Braak (VM, Faith Hospice) the status of Retired effective March 14, 2026.
5. **To approve** the recommendation of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan Trustees as follows:

Background:

June 10, 2025, a motion prevailed to receive a “Plan for Union and Merger” from the Sessions of First Presbyterian of Decatur MI and First Presbyterian of Paw Paw. The plan outlined specific actions to be taken by the congregations as well as assumptions regarding the buildings of each congregation. The merged congregation would use the Paw Paw building. The Decatur building, which is much older and evidenced deferred maintenance, was to be sold.

The property was listed on September 05, 2025, for \$199,900 by Patriot Realty. It generated an offer for \$80,000. There were eight other viewings in the first weeks with no viable offers. Some wished for seller financing, others are concerned with possible leaks or issues with mold. In the weeks that followed, the price was dropped multiple times. With each price drop there would be a flurry of interest/viewings. But the consistent feedback was that viewers decided that the maintenance issues and perceived costs for repair were greater than they wished to face.

In the end, the Trustees were faced with a choice between an offer of \$80,000, but with several conditions, or the cash offer for \$76,000 with no conditions.

The Presbytery Trustees recommend:

1) That the Presbytery of Lake Michigan approve the sale of the properties described below to Fred Reeder for Seventy-Six Thousand dollars (\$76,000), if the way be clear, of land situated in Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as follows:

688 20-4-14 * Lot 4 Block B Original Plat of Decatur + 667 20-4-14

*Lot 3 also W 1/2 of Lot 2 Block B Original Plat of Decatur

Tax codes 80-43-040-254-00 & 80-43-040-255-00

If provided above, any address and tax parcel number are solely for informational purposes, without warranty as to accuracy or completeness. If inconsistent in any way with the legal description above, the legal description shall control.

2) That the Presbytery of Lake Michigan authorizes the Stated Clerk, the Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence; the Treasurer, Kirk Truesdell; or the President of the Corporation, Beth Dyer, jointly or individually, to execute all documents necessary to implement this decision.

3) That the Presbytery of Lake Michigan join with the First Presbyterian Church of Decatur and give thanks for the way in which God has provided a timely buyer for this property.

6. **To receive** the Report of the Stated Clerk for today, as follows:

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK
Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence
March 14, 2026

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/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 2026, 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 2026 is as follows: Grand Rapids Westminster and Grand Haven First with four (4) ruling elders commissioners; Grand Rapids Forest Hills, Holland First, Kalamazoo First, and Okemos with three (3) ruling elder commissioners; and Battle Creek First, Brooklyn, Holt First, Lansing First, Niles First, and Spring Lake First 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) 2025 Session Annual Statistical Report became available on January 1, 2026. 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 13, 2026. The Associate Clerk helped several congregations with corrections and submission of statistical data prior to and after the February 13, 2026, deadline. All fifty-six (56) congregations of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan submitted their statistical information.

4. **FOR CLERKS OF SESSION - REVIEW OF 2025 SESSION MINUTES:** Planning for the review of 2025 Session Minutes continues. Please find below the schedule for the review of 2025 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 Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom, Associate Clerk, to make an appointment to bring the congregation's minutes and register books to the Presbytery office for review.

The 2025 Minute Review Checklist is posted on the Presbytery website. Please contact Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom, Associate Clerk, with any questions you might have about the 2025 session minutes reviews.

Cluster 1 – June 9, 2026 at 1 p.m. – Vic Prowant/Annamarie Groenenboom
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 2577 Wickham Drive, Muskegon, MI 49441
Big Rapids United, Cadillac First, Hesperia, Lake City First, Muskegon First

Cluster 2 – May 16, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. – Lynne Ploeg/Annamarie Groenenboom
Location: Parkwood Presbyterian Church, 7998 28th Avenue, Jenison, MI 49428
Grand Haven First, GR Forest Hills, GR North Park, GR Westminster, Holland First, Ionia First, Jenison Parkwood, Rockford North Kent, Spring Lake

Cluster 3 – April 11, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. – Linda Freeze/Annamarie Groenenboom
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 13 South 4th Street, Niles, MI 49120
Buchanan First, Cassopolis United, Decatur First, Edwardsburg, Niles First, Sturgis First

Cluster 4 – June 13, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. – Annamarie Groenenboom
Location: Presbytery Office, 1511 Helen Avenue, Portage, MI 49002
Allegan First, Benton Harbor First, Gobles Bethany, Hastings First, Kalamazoo First, Kalamazoo North, Lyons-Muir Federated, Paw Paw First, Plainwell First, Portage Westminster, Richland First, Schoolcraft First, Three Rivers/Centreville First

Cluster 5 – April 18, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. - Bruce Archer/Annamarie Groenenboom
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 313 East Maple, Mason, Michigan 48854
East Lansing Eastminster, East Lansing Peoples, Holt First, Lansing Delta, Lansing

First, Lansing North Westminster, Mason First, Okemos, Stockbridge First, Gregory Unadilla

Cluster 6 – May 30, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. – Russell Jacobson/Annamarie Groenenboom
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 743 W Michigan Ave, Jackson, MI 49201
Battle Creek First, Battle Creek Pennfield, Battle Creek Westlake, Brooklyn,
Coldwater First, Concord First, Dimondale First, Homer First, Jackson First, Jackson
Westminster, Jonesville First, Marshall First

5. **BOUNDARY AND ETHICS TRAINING:** The PC(USA) Constitution in the *Book of Order* mandates that 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) The Presbytery of Lake Michigan also mandates sexual misconduct/boundary training every 36 months for teaching elders, including retired ministers, commissioned ruling elders, ruling elders, and Christian educators who are active in the ministry of the Presbytery. If members of your session have not yet completed Boundary Training, please contact Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence, Executive Presbyterian/Stated Clerk or Mx. Emily Franson, Communications and Technology Manager, for information about how to complete the training.

Upcoming Dates:

March 21, 2026 - 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
April 13, 2026 - 4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
May 17, 2026 - 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
June 5, 2026 - 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
October 21, 2026 - 4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
November 2, 2026 - 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
December 5, 2026 - 9:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

The Boundary Trainings are all via Zoom and led by Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence. They are for both Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders and include the topic of sexual misconduct and child sexual abuse prevention training so satisfy the requirements of the Book of Order in G-3.0106.

6. **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://lakemichiganpresbytery.breezechms.com/form/6ce58f>. *Requests for excused absences not requested through the online system may not be recorded correctly.*
7. **DATES FOR STATED MEETINGS IN 2026:** The dates for stated meetings of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan for 2026 are as follows:
 - a. Saturday, March 14, 2026 – *DIMONDALE FIRST*
 - b. Tuesday, June 9, 2026 – *MUSKEGON FIRST*

- c. Saturday, September 12, 2026 -*RICHLAND FIRST*
- d. Tuesday, November 17, 2026 - *HASTINGS FIRST*

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

8. REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS FOR ORDINATION/ INSTALLATION:

An Administrative Commission appointed by the Presbytery of Lake Michigan met at 2:51 p.m. on January 18, 2026, at First Presbyterian Church of Sturgis, MI, to ordain and install the Rev. Craig Kunkle as Solo Pastor for an Indefinite period. With a quorum being present, the meeting was called to order with prayer by the moderator, Elder Ben Boerkoel (GR Westminster). Present were Teaching Elders Rev. Brenda Deily (Retired), Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom (VM), and Rev. Dr. David Weber (Brooklyn), and Ruling Elders Pattie Bender (Three Rivers/Centreville First) and Eileen Best (Portage Westminster). Seated as Corresponding Members were Rev. John Best (HR), Deacon Norman Hollabaugh (Baptist General Association of Virginia), Rev. Roderik P. Frohman (HR, Genesee Valley Presbytery), Rev. Abraham D. Allende (Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA), Rev. Dr. Kris Veldheer (Episcopal Diocese of Michigan), and Rev. Susan Babb (Michigan Conference, UMC). Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom was appointed to serve as Clerk of the Commission. The Commission proceeded to the service. The meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m. with the benediction by the newly ordained and installed Rev. Craig Kunkle at the close of the service.

9. REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS:

**Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Decatur, MI
and First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, MI
March 14, 2026**

The Administrative Commission (AC) met via Zoom on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

Members present: Elder Shannon Allen (Decatur First), Rev. Scott Scheel (Edwardsburg), Rev. Cathy Hoop (Holland First)

PLM Staff members present: Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence (Stated Clerk/Executive Presbyter), Rev. Dr. Cal Bremer (Assistant to the Executive Presbyter)

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence.

Actions:

1. The AC concurred with the PLM Trustees regarding the sale of the FPC Decatur property.
2. A unanimous motion prevailed to approve the by-laws for Pine Street Presbyterian Church (online only).
3. A unanimous motion prevailed to approve the Addendum to the Plan of Merger, adopted May 2025.

Rev. Lane-Lawrence reviewed the next steps of the process.

Recommendation to Presbytery:

The Administrative Commission for Paw Paw First/Decatur First recommends the following:

That the Presbytery of Lake Michigan

1. Approve the Addendum to the Plan of Merger (online only)
2. Amendment of the date of dissolution for each congregation from March 15, 2026, to September 30, 2026, to provide flexibility in the process as needed. The change in the specific merger step is as follows:

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, MI needs to call a congregational meeting to approve the dissolution of the congregation “when the way be clear,” but not later than September 30, 2026.

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Decatur, MI needs to call a congregational meeting to approve the dissolution of the congregation “when the way be clear,” but not later than September 30, 2026.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Rev. Scott Scheel at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

The Administrative Commission of Paw Paw First and Decatur First

Rev. Cathy Hoop (Holland First)

Rev. Scott Scheel (Edwardsburg)

Elder Shannon Allen (Decatur First)

Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for Delta Presbyterian Church of Lansing, MI
and First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale, MI
March 14, 2026

The Administrative Commission (AC) for Delta Presbyterian Church of Lansing, MI, and the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale, MI, has been working with both Sessions and congregations as they contemplate a possible consolidation of the two congregations, which are the only two PC(USA) churches in Eaton County. Both congregations are currently worshipping together, and rotating their worship services between the two church buildings on an approximately monthly basis. Members of the AC have been in attendance at separate Session meetings for each congregation, and at joint Session meetings for both congregations. A member of the AC also gave a brief presentation in worship about the purpose of the AC and emphasized that the AC's role is not to determine the futures of the congregations, but rather to help both congregations in a process that will hopefully discern the best possible outcome for all parties.

In January, Rev. Jeff O'Neill (HR) resigned from the AC due to personal reasons. Ruling Elder Tom Schaberg (Okemos) was appointed to the AC.

The AC conducted a Town Hall meeting on Sunday, February 8, 2026, engaging members of both congregations and allowing every member an opportunity to ask questions, make comments, or raise concerns. These were recorded. On Sunday, February 15, 2026, at a joint Session meeting, the AC and the Sessions processed the feedback, created four task forces, and developed a timeline for the process of discernment.

The task forces will address, hypothetically, if the two congregations were to consolidate, what would need to happen regarding (1) church finances, (2) church administration (including review of the Bylaws, policies, and organizational structures of both congregations), (3) property (including accessibility, technology, and possible sale of one building), and (4) community connections (including building usage by outside groups and the possible impact that a consolidation might have on the surrounding communities). Each task force will include a representative from both Sessions and at least one additional member from each congregation.

The task forces will have approximately three months to conduct their work. Their findings will be presented to both congregations at the end of May 2026. Members of the congregations will have an opportunity to prayerfully consider the matter over the summer. A Town Hall meeting for both congregations will be held in September 2026 for further discussion. Congregational meetings are planned for October 2026 to vote on the possible consolidation.

We would invite your prayers for these congregations and their leaders as they wrestle with difficult questions and consider significant changes to their important and life-giving ministries.

Respectfully Submitted by

The AC for Delta Presbyterian Church of Lansing, MI, and the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale, MI

Rev. Bill Pinches (Mason First)
Ruling Elder Heather Myer (East Lansing Eastminster)
Ruling Elder Tom Schaberg (Okemos)

Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Marshall, MI
March 14, 2026

The Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Marshall, MI, has observed and celebrated significant strides toward health and order by the session of Marshall First. A Nominating Committee was restored this fall, and a slate of elders with staggered class terms was elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 25, 2026. The session has been demonstrating appropriate leadership in scheduling pulpit supply and communion, providing opportunities for communion visits with the Deacons, and preparing session agendas. They are moving forward with plans for better communication with staff, resuming annual staff reviews, examining the budget, and clarifying spending limits above which the session must approve spending. Policies have been reviewed and updated or created as needed. The Ministry Discernment Profile for Marshall First has been approved by the session and COM and the Session is actively searching for a part-time interim pastor.

The AC appointed a moderator for the Annual Congregational Meeting who was prevented by inclement weather from attending. The session took action together to reach out to their appointed Session Moderator, Rev. Steve Kaszar (Concord First/Homer First), who was available and willing to moderate. While this was not strictly in order, the AC agreed that the session acted in good faith and took appropriate action in a difficult situation.

The AC members have been especially encouraged to observe the session take leadership for problem-solving, vision-casting, mission discernment, and conflict resolution. At this stage, the AC is focused on helping the Marshall Session maintain ordered functions until they have found the interim pastoral leadership they need.

Official Actions that have been taken by the AC:

- The AC met on 12/18/25, 01/07/26, 01/14/26, 01/28/26, 02/04/26, and 02/18/26
- 12/15/2025: Elder Nancy Toth and Rev. Sarah Schmidt-Lee attended the Marshall, First Session meeting.
- 12/18/2026: The AC appointed Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence (Stated Clerk/Executive Presbyter) to serve as moderator of the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 25, 2026.
- 01/12/2026: Rev. Kristin Stroble (COM Support Staff) and Rev. Sarah Schmidt-Lee

attended the Marshall Session meeting in person and Elder Nancy Toth attended by zoom. They shared Presbyterian Foundation Resources for assessing church finances and discerning future pathways. Rev. Stroble and Rev. Schmidt-Lee also met with Elder Jeff Karns who resigned in the summer of 2025, but expressed willingness to accept a nomination to serve on session again in 2026. In this meeting, they confirmed that this nomination would be in order and would be consistent with the AC's goals.

- 02/18/2026: Trustee Brad Sparks and Rev. Sarah Schmidt-Lee attended the Marshall Session meeting in person; Elder Nancy Toth attended by zoom. Minutes from the Annual Congregational Meeting were reviewed to ensure that in the absence of the appointed moderator, the meeting was moderated appropriately and business was conducted in order.

Please join us in praying for God's blessing on this congregation and Session as they search for their interim pastor.

Respectfully Submitted by

The AC for First Presbyterian Church of Marshall, MI

Rev. Sarah Schmidt-Lee (Validated Ministry, First Congregational Church UCC Kalamazoo)

Elder Nancy Toth (Jackson First)

Trustee Brad Sparks (GR Westminster)

First Presbyterian Church of Richland, MI
Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Richland, MI
March 14, 2026

The Administrative Commission continues its work. Since the last Stated Meeting on December 02, 2025, the AC representatives met with the Richland Session on December 10, 2025, January 14, 2026, and February 11, 2026, either in person or by Zoom.

The Richland AC normally meets weekly by Zoom to discuss progress, identify issues to address, and identify resources to provide to the Richland Session and other congregational leaders. Rev. Dr. Calvin Bremer (Assistant to Executive Presbyter) and Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence (Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk), Rev Kristin Stroble (COM Staff Support) often attend our weekly Zoom meetings. Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Calandra Nevenzel, meets once a month with the AC by Zoom.

Interim Pastor, Rev. Nevenzel and the Session spend profitable time each month discussing the book *“Creating a Healthier Church”* by Ronald W. Richardson. This study and discussion have provided many helpful insights.

The AC reminds the Richland Session and congregation that time spent with an Interim Pastor is for working through difficult issues and understanding their church dynamics and history. The AC's work is vital in preparing the Richland Church for the eventual forming of a PNC, preparing a Mission Study, and the calling of a new installed Pastor.

The AC works closely with the Commission on Ministry (COM). Rev. Stroble was present at the January 14, 2026, Session meeting to outline process and likely timelines in the search for a new pastor.

At the January 2026 Congregational Meeting, Elder Andy Sanford, Elder Jerrod Heck, and Elder Nicki Valentine were elected as elders.

The Richland Session continues to make additional progress in reviewing, updating, and clarifying their church policies and procedures as they relate to committees, staff, and finances. They are also working on developing conflict of interest/nepotism policies and encouraging maximal participation by members of the congregation. The Richland AC is prepared to work with the Session in crafting a policy that takes into consideration the realities of a smaller congregation.

The AC members are grateful for the cooperative spirit that characterizes the relationship between the AC and the Richland Session and congregation. We request your continuing prayers for all involved.

Respectfully,
Elder Stuart Deming (Kalamazoo First)
Rev. David Milbourn (HR)
Rev. Dan Anderson (HR)

This concludes the reports of the Administrative Commissions.

This concludes the Clerk's Report

7. **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 14, 2026**

Since the last Presbytery meeting, the COM Plenary has met once (February 3, 2026) for training and a meeting, and the East and West 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 18, 2025.
2. **A motion prevailed** to approve the February 2, 2026, Regional Action Report.
3. **A motion prevailed** to recommend to the Presbytery of Lake Michigan to grant Rev. David Braak (VM, Faith Hospice) the status of Retired, effective March 14, 2026.
4. **A motion prevailed** to add Rev. Pat Weatherwax (HR) to the Pulpit Supply List.
5. **A motion prevailed** to add Elder Jose Soto (Portage Westminster) to the Pulpit Supply List.
6. Battle Creek, Pennfield: **A motion prevailed** to approve the Covenant Agreement between Pennfield Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, MI, and Rev. Bert Nelson as Part-Time (20 hours) Interim Pastor effective January 1, 2026- January 1, 2027.

Cash Salary	\$44,000
Vacation	1 week per quarter
Continuing Education	1 week every six months
Full cost of Interim Training	
<i>Professional Expenses are included in the cash salary</i>	

7. Brooklyn: **A motion prevailed** to approve their Mission Discernment Profile.
8. Buchanan: **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Jan Van Leer (HR) as the moderator of Session effective November 19, 2025.
9. Coldwater First: Rev. Susan Reichenberg accepted a new call and her last worship service was on February 18, 2026. **A motion prevailed** to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Rev. Susan Reichenberg and First Presbyterian Church of Coldwater effective February 18, 2026.
10. **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Steve Kaszar as moderator for the session meeting on February 19, 2026. Elder Mike Bryan will also attend the session meeting.
11. Decatur First/Paw Paw First: **A motion prevailed** to approve the covenant agreement between First.
12. Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, MI, First Presbyterian Church of Decatur, MI, and Rev. Gail Monsma as full-time Interim Pastor effective January 1, 2026-December 31, 2026, with several revisions.

Cash Salary	\$49,193
Housing Allowance	\$30,000
Total Effective Salary	\$79,193

BOP	\$20,590
SECA	\$6,058
Professional Expenses	\$800
Professional Development	\$1,200
Phone Reimbursement	\$600
Mileage	\$1,500
Vacation	4 weeks ,including 4 Sundays
Professional Development	2 weeks, including 2 Sundays
Spiritual Renewal	1 week , including 1 Sunday

13. Grand Rapids North Park: **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Ruth Lowry (MAL) as moderator during Rev. Philomena Ofori-Nipaah’s absence, effective December 1, 2025.

14. Kalamazoo First: Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldryer accepted another call. His final Sunday was March 1, 2026. **A motion prevailed** to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldryer and First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo, MI, effective April 12, 2026. **A motion prevailed** to approve the covenant agreement between First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo, MI, and Rev. Chrissy Westbury as full-time Associate Pastor (Temporary Stated Supply) effective January 1, 2026-December 31, 2026. Rev. Amber Nettleton and Elder Pam Zandt absented themselves from the discussion and abstained from the vote.

Cash Salary	\$55,400
Housing Allowance	\$20,000
Total Effective Salary	\$75,400
Professional Expenses	\$2,500
Professional Development	\$2,500
Mileage	\$2,000
Vacation	4 weeks ,including 4 Sundays
Professional Development	2 weeks, including 2 Sundays

15. Kalamazoo North: **A motion prevailed** to approve the Covenant Agreement between North Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo, MI, and Elder Charles Moerdyk as part time (9-12 hours) Commissioned Ruling Elder effective January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2028. **A motion prevailed** to extend Elder Charles Moerdyk’s commission to serve North Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo, MI, effective January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2028.

Salary:	\$5,100
Housing Allowance:	\$5,100
Expenses:	\$500 (including mileage at IRS rate)
Books/Continuing Education:	\$500
Two (2) weeks of continuing education	
Four (4) weeks of vacation	

16. Lansing First: Rev. Barbara Edema’s final Sunday was January 11, 2026. **A motion prevailed** to approve the MDP pending changing the position from “permanent pastor” to “installed pastor.” Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence (Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk) and Rev. Kristin Stroble (COM Support Staff) will lead Officer Training on February 21, 2026.
17. Lansing North Westminster: Exit Interviews and the Covenant of Closure between North Westminster and Rev. Timothy Chon (VM) have been completed. Rev. Chon’s last Sunday was January 4, 2026. The Session will begin Project Regeneration with the Presbyterian Foundation in January 2026. Rev. Kristin Stroble provided officer training on January 10, 2026. **A motion prevailed** to ratify the action taken on the Covenant Agreement between North Westminster Presbyterian Church of Lansing, MI, and Rev. Laura Miller-Purrenhage as part-time (20 hours) Bridge Pastor effective January 1, 2026 - March 31, 2026.

Cash Salary:	\$2,942
Housing:	\$5,802
Pension Benefits:	\$1,161.25
Life & Disability Insurance:	\$124.50
SECA Allowance:	\$634.50
Mileage:	\$250
Professional Development:	\$250
Books/Prof. Expenses:	\$250
Medical Reimbursements:	\$625

One (1) week of paid vacation including one (1) Sunday
 One (1) week of Continuing Education including one (1) Sunday
 Follow PLM Policy of Family and Medical Leave
 Two (2) sick days

A motion prevailed to appoint Rev. Laura Miller-Purrenhage as moderator of their Annual meeting on February 1, 2026.

18. Marshall First: **A motion prevailed** to approve Mx. Shane Morgan to preach at Marshall First during the month of December 2025. **A motion prevailed** to approve Marshall First’s Ministry Discernment Profile for an interim pastor
19. Schoolcraft: The congregation’s MDP is now active on the CLC. **A motion prevailed** to approve the Covenant Agreement between First Presbyterian Church of Schoolcraft, MI, and Rev. Tom Kragt as Part-time (25 hours) Interim (Stated Supply) Pastor effective February 2, 2026 - July 31, 2026.

Salary:	\$15,273
Free Use of Manse and Payment of Actual Utilities	
Contributions to Retirement Account:	\$175/month

Mileage reimbursed at IRS rate
 Continuing Education: \$800
 Book Allowance: \$300
 Two (2) weeks of vacation, including two (2) Sundays
 One (1) week of professional development
 Follow PLM Family Leave Policy

20. Spring Lake: The church secretary, Mx. Ruth Sorenson, contacted the COM to inform them they had an individual attending the church who forged checks and signatures totalling \$8,000. They are working with the bank and the police to resolve the matter. They do not know how that individual got their bank information. The COM suggested that the church review their security and policies to make sure their financial information is secure. **A motion prevailed** to approve the Covenant Agreement between Spring Lake Presbyterian Church and Rev. Dan Griswold (RCA) as full-time Interim Pastor effective February 1, 2026 - January 26, 2027.

Salary: \$62,200
 Housing \$25,000
 Total Effective Salary \$75,400
 Pension \$9,600
 Medical Benefits \$26,260

SECA \$6,700
 Mileage \$1,000
 Professional Expenses \$2,500
 Professional Development \$2,100
 Vacation 4 weeks ,including 4 Sundays
 Professional Development 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays
 Follow PLM Family Leave Policy

A motion prevailed to approve Rev. Doug Brower as moderator of the congregation's session on December 15, 2025. **A motion prevailed** to approve Rev. Dale Swihart (HR Lake Huron Presbytery) to moderate the congregational meeting on December 21, 2025, and the annual meeting on February 2, 2026.

21. Sturgis First: Permission from the Presbytery of Genesee Valley for Rev. Viktoria Berlik to labor outside the bounds was granted. **A motion prevailed** to allow Rev. Viktoria Berlik to labor within the bounds of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan to serve communion at Sturgis on December 24, 2025. Rev. Craig Kunkle was ordained and installed on January 18, 2026. **A motion prevailed** to approve the Administrative Commission to ordain and install Mx. Kunkle at First Presbyterian Church of Sturgis, MI, on January 18, 2026, at 3pm.

Rev. Brenda Deily (HR)
 Elder Pattie Bender (Three Rivers/Centreville First)
 Rev. Dr. David Weber (Brooklyn)

Elder Eileen Best (Portage Westminster)
Elder Ben Boerkoel (GR Westminster)
Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom (VM)

This concludes the report of the Commission on Ministry.

**PRESBYTERY OF LAKE MICHIGAN
REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY
March 14, 2026**

The Commission met two times since the last Stated Meeting of the Presbytery. We had regular stated meetings on December 16, 2025, January 27, 2026, and February 24, 2026. 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. On December 16, 2025, a **motion prevailed** to approve the minutes of the Commission on the Preparation for Ministry from October and November of 2025.
2. On January 27, 2026, a **motion prevailed** to approve the minutes of the Commission on the Preparation for Ministry from December of 2025.
3. On February 24, 2026, a **motion prevailed** to approve the minutes of the Commission on the Preparation for Ministry from January of 2026.
4. On February 24, 2026, a **motion prevailed** to enthusiastically recommend to COM Elder Jose Soto (Portage Westminster) to serve as a Commissioned Ruling Elder pending completion of his Midwest Vocational Assessment and 6 months of membership at Westminster Portage.
5. On February 24, 2026, a **motion prevailed** to approve the CPM Commission Description with suggested revisions.

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

This concludes the Consent Agenda

DRAFT
MINUTES of the STATED MEETING
PRESBYTERY of LAKE MICHIGAN
December 2, 2025 at 9:30 A.M.
Parkwood Presbyterian Church
7998 28th Ave
Jenison, MI 49428

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. Dr. Troy Hauser-Brydon (Grand Haven First), Moderator, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. with the lighting of the Christ candle and opening prayer. A quorum was present.

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CLERK

A motion prevailed to appoint Elder Linda Hardenbergh (East Lansing Eastminster), Elder Randy Abraham (Grand Haven First), Rev. Dr. Jessica Bratt Carle (VM), and Rev. Nick Marlatt (Hastings First) as temporary clerks.

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

A motion prevailed to seat Rev. Viktoria Berlik (Genesee Valley Presbytery) as a corresponding member.

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. Troy Hauser-Brydon welcomed first-time elder commissioners and Christian educators.

WELCOME TO GUESTS AND VISITORS

Rev. Troy Hauser-Brydon welcomed guests and visitors.

GREETINGS FROM PARKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF JENISON, MI

Rev. Sarah Juist (Jenison Parkwood) offered greetings on behalf of the host church. She described several church missions and encouraged members to visit their mission room.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

PRESBYTERY OF LAKE MICHIGAN CONSENT AGENDA of the STATED MEETING December 2, 2025

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: Joanna Bailey (VM), Elizabeth Hakken Candido (VM), Katherine Culpepper (MAL), Christopher Dorn (Ionia First), Karen Fitz LaBarge (Rockford North Kent), Steve Kaszar (Homer First/Concord First), Jacob Kaufman (HR), Karen Kelley (Retired), Hailey Malcolm (VM), Philomena Ofori-Nipaah (GR Northpark), Michelle Olson (VM), Kathleen Robertson King (MAL), Barb Schreur (MAL), David Stubbs (VM), John Won (East Lansing New Life Korean).
2. **To approve** the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, September 13, 2025, Online only.
3. **To file** the approved Minutes of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan Leadership Team on September 4, 2025, and October 2, 2025. Online only.
4. **To elect** Elder Linda Hardenbergh (East Lansing Eastminster) as Vice Moderator of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan for 2026.
5. **To commission** Elder Linda Hay and Elder Christine Berry to administer communion at Unadilla Presbyterian Church of Gregory, MI, effective through December 1, 2025 - November 30, 2026, with the requirement that they renew their training in 2026.
6. **To commission** Elder Kristy Payne to administer communion at Bethany Presbyterian Church of Gobles, MI, effective through October 31, 2025 - November 1, 2026, with the requirement that she renew her training in 2026.
7. **To commission** Elder Jodie Vanderstow to administer communion at First Presbyterian Church of Lake City, MI, effective through November 29, 2025 - November 30, 2026.
8. **To grant** the Session of Westlake Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, MI, an exemption from G-2.0404 (Terms of Service) to allow Elder Sara Paulson to serve one additional year (Class of 2026) on Session.
9. **To transfer** the membership of Marilyn (Marnie) K. Semeyn and Edwin J. Semeyn

from Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids, MI, to Fifth Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, MI.

10. **To receive** the Report of the Stated Clerk for today, as follows:

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK
Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence
December 2, 2025

1. **REVIEW OF 2024 SESSION MINUTES:** The review of the 2024 session minutes has been completed. The 2024 Session Minutes for the following congregations were approved without exception. Battle Creek First, Battle Creek Pennfield, Benton Harbor Fairplain, Big Rapids United, Brooklyn, Buchanan First, Cadillac First, Cassopolis United, Coldwater First, Concord First, Decatur First, Dimondale First, East Lansing Eastminster, Edwardsburg, Gobles Bethany, Grand Haven First, Grand Rapids Forest Hills, Grand Rapids North Park, Grand Rapids Westminster, Gregory Unidilla, Hastings First, Hesperia, Holland First, Holt First, Homer First, Ionia First, Jackson First, Jackson Westminster, Jenison Parkwood, Jonesville First, Kalamazoo First, Lake City First, Lansing First, Lansing Delta, Lansing North Westminster, Lyons/Muir, Marshall First, Mason First, Muskegon First, Niles First, Okemos, Plainwell First, Portage Westminster, Richland First, Rockford North Kent, Schoolcraft First, Spring Lake, Sturgis First, and Three Rivers/Centerville First.

The 2024 Session Minute reviews for the following congregations were not approved: Allegan First, Battle Creek Westlake, Benton Harbor First, East Lansing Korean, Kalamazoo North, and Stockbridge.

2. **FOR CLERKS OF SESSION - 2025 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS:** The PCUSA 2025 Annual Statistical Reporting System will be open for entry on January 2, 2026. The system can be accessed online in the Clerk's Portal on the tab marked Statistics using the user login and password you have been assigned. Clerks of Session are advised to begin collecting data for the report now so that when the system opens, information can be entered. A reminder that reports must be approved by session before the information is submitted. The deadline for the submission of statistical reports is February 13, 2026. If you have any questions about the statistical report, please contact Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom, Associate Clerk.
3. **BOUNDARY AND ETHICS TRAINING:** The PCUSA Constitution in the *Book of Order* mandates all councils (this includes sessions) to adopt and implement sexual misconduct policies "which shall include requirements for training which includes the topics of sexual misconduct and child sexual abuse prevention . . . at least every 36 months." (G-3.0106) The Presbytery of Lake Michigan also

mandates sexual misconduct/ boundary training every 36 months for teaching elders, including retired ministers, commissioned ruling elders, ruling elders, and Christian educators who are active in the ministry of the Presbytery. If members of your session have not yet completed Boundary Training, please contact Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom, Associate Clerk, or Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence, Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk, for information about how to complete the training.

Upcoming 2026 Boundary Trainings:

January 20 - 12:30 - 4:30	Tuesday	Afternoon
February 4 - 9:30 - 1:30	Wednesday	Morning
March 21 - 10:00 - 2:00	Saturday	Morning
April 13 - 4:00 - 8:00	Monday	Evening
May 17 - 1:00 - 5:00	Sunday	Afternoon
June 5 - 10:00 - 2:00	Friday	Morning
October 21 4:00 - 8:00	Wednesday	Evening
November 2 - 10:00 - 2:00	Monday	Morning
December 5 - 9:30 - 1:30	Saturday	Morning

The Boundary Trainings are all via Zoom and led by Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence. They are for both Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders and include the topics of sexual misconduct and child sexual abuse prevention training so satisfy the requirements of the Book of Order in G-3.0106.

4. **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://lakemichiganpresbytery.breezechms.com/form/6ce58f>. ***Requests for excused absences not requested through the online system may not be recorded correctly.***

5. **DATES FOR STATED MEETINGS IN 2026:** The dates for stated meetings of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan for 2026 are as follows:
 - a. Saturday, March 14, 2026 – *DIMONDALE FIRST*
 - b. Tuesday, June 9, 2026 – *MUSKEGON FIRST*

- c. Saturday, September 12, 2026 - TBD
- d. Tuesday, November 10, 2026 - TBD

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

6. REPORTS OF INSTALLATION COMMISSIONS:

An Administrative Commission appointed by the Presbytery of Lake Michigan met at 2:45 p.m. on November 16, 2025, at the United Church of Big Rapids, MI, to install the Rev. Amy Ruhf-Brien as Solo Pastor for an Indefinite period. With a quorum being present, the meeting was called to order with prayer by the moderator, Rev. Troy Hauser-Brydon (Grand Haven First). Present were Teaching Elder Rev. Michael Horlocker (Cadillac First) and Ruling Elders Susan Grand (United) and Amy Geren (Grand Haven First). Seated as a Corresponding Member were Rev. John Riedel (UCC, Grand West Association) and Rev. Devon Herrell (UCC, Chaplain at Large). Rev. Michael Horlocker was appointed to serve as Clerk of the Commission. The Commission proceeded to the service. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. with the benediction by the newly installed Rev. Ruhf-Brien at the close of the service.

7. REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS:

First Presbyterian Churches of Allegan, MI
Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Allegan, MI
December 2, 2025

No report.

First Presbyterian Churches of Decatur and Paw Paw, MI

Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Churches of Decatur and Paw
Paw, MI
December 2, 2025

The Paw Paw/Decatur A.C. continues to meet regularly with the transition team from Paw Paw and Decatur. We continue to advise them as needed. They are making good progress and continue to meet expectations and milestones in a timely manner. Elder Julie Chapman informed us that she will need to step away from her duties on the commission, and we thanked her profusely for her work and the support that she has given to the congregations.

Respectfully Submitted by

The AC for First Presbyterian Churches of Decatur and Paw Paw, MI
Rev. Scott Scheel (Edwardsburg)
Rev. Timothy Chon (VM)
Rev. Cathy Hoop (Holland First)
Elder Julie Chapman (Battle Creek First)

Delta Presbyterian Churches of Lansing, MI

Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for Delta Presbyterian Church of Lansing, MI
December 2, 2025

The Administrative Commission (AC) was requested by motions passed by the sessions of both First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale and Delta Presbyterian Church “to approach Presbytery [PLM] about forming an Administrative Commission to explore Delta Presbyterian Church joining spiritually and physically with First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale. This means that Delta Presbyterian Church will consolidate with First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale.”

Those appointed to serve are Rev. Jeffrey O’Neill (HR), Ruling Elder Heather Myer (East Lansing Eastminster), and Rev. Bill Pinches (Mason). The AC met for orientation on October 27, 2025. Rev. Jeffrey O’Neill will serve as Moderator, and Elder Heather Myer will serve as recording clerk.

The AC has met with Rev. Ben Rumbaugh, designated pastor of Delta Presbyterian Church and designated pastor at First Presbyterian-Dimondale, for discussion. The AC has also requested pertinent documents from each church.

Respectfully Submitted by
The AC for Delta Presbyterian Church
Rev. Jeffrey O’Neill (HR)
Rev. Bill Pinches (Mason First)
Ruling Elder Heather Myer (East Lansing Eastminster)

First Presbyterian Church of Marshall, MI

Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Marshall, MI
December 2, 2025

This was a season of turnover for the Administrative Commission and for Marshall, First. The Administrative Commission received the Rev. Sarah

Schmidt-Lee (Validated Ministry, First Congregational Church, Kalamazoo) as a new AC member. They also accepted the resignation of Rev. Amber Nettleton (MAL), and thanked her for her years of faithful service on the AC. As reported in September, The Rev. Charlotte Ellison's (HR) contract with Marshall First was not renewed, and the COM, with AC support, arranged for the Rev. Steve Kaszar (Concord/Homer) to serve as Session Moderator. Finally, three new elders were elected to the Session at Marshall, First. The AC is creating and updating a contact list with all current AC members, relevant PLM staff, and Marshall Session members.

In the midst of all of these changes, there has been a notable and positive shift in the quality of communications and relationships between the AC and the Session. Collaboration is happening and momentum is building. The AC has been providing the Marshall Session with a brief monthly AC update that can be shared in church publications, and asked the Session to contribute their own summaries of Session meetings, and to post Session minutes in a place where members can access them. Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence (Executive Presbyterian/Stated Clerk) and Rev. Kristin Stroble (COM Staff Support) led a Session training for Marshall Session members on October 19, 2025, and members of the session attended the Small Church event. Rev. Lane-Lawrence also met with an elder on October 30, 2025, to begin revising the Marshall bylaws.

Members of the Marshall Session are reaching out to the AC with questions, elders are seeking Session approval for new business, and existing policies are being unearthed, reviewed, and revised as necessary. The Session has decided to meet every other week to work through a backlog of session work that has been neglected.

Official Actions that have been taken by the AC:

- The AC met on 9/25/25, 10/02/25, 10/09/25, 10/16/25, 10/23/25, 10/30/25, 11/6/25, and 11/20/25
- September 25, 2025: In response to an inquiry from another retired pastor who was approached by the Marshall Session about moderating session, the AC voted to affirm the existing arrangement with the Rev. Steve Kaszar
- October 13, 2025: Elder Nancy Toth and Rev. Cal Bremer attended the Marshall, First Session meeting. At this meeting, they shared the AC recommendation that current Session members be asked to remain on Session through the duration of 2026, while bylaws are updated, a nominations committee is formed, and a three-year rotation schedule is established.
- October 27, 2025: Elder Nancy Toth and Rev. Sarah Schmidt-Lee attended the Marshall Session meeting and shared an evolving document of work

priorities to help the Session focus its energy in this season of extra meetings.

- November 16, 2025: Elder Nancy Toth and Rev. Cal Bremer attended the Marshall Session meeting.
- December 1, 2025: Rev. Sarah Schmidt-Lee and Trustee Brad Sparks attended the Marshall Session Meeting.

Please join us in praying for God's blessing on this congregation and Session as they discern God's will for their future ministry.

Respectfully Submitted by
The AC for Marshall First Presbyterian Church
Sarah Schmidt-Lee (Validated Ministry)
Nancy Toth (Jackson First)
Brad Sparks (Grand Rapids Westminster)

First Presbyterian Church of Richland, MI

Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Richland, MI
December 2, 2025

The Richland Administrative Commission continues its work. Since the last Stated Meeting on September 13, 2025, the AC representatives met with the Richland Session on September 10, 2025, on October 8, 2025, and on November 12, 2025, either in person or by Zoom. In addition, some members have also met with the pastor and the clerk between meetings.

The Richland AC typically meets weekly by Zoom to discuss progress, issues to address, and guidance to provide to the Richland Session and other congregational leaders. Rev. Dr. Calvin Bremer (Assistant to Executive Presbyter) and Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence (Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk), Rev Kristin Stroble (COM Staff Support) often attend our weekly Zoom meetings. Interim Pastor at Richland Presbyterian Church, Rev. Cal Nevenzel, meets once a month with the AC by Zoom.

The Richland Session has taken action to reduce the number of paid church staff to balance the financial resources of the current congregation. Some staff have taken on additional duties and/or have some responsibilities shared with other paid or volunteer Staff.

Interim Pastor Rev. Nevenzel recently introduced to the Session a written report form for suggested use by all Session committees in which monthly reports of

items for information and recommended actions/motions for Session discussion and decisions would be presented. The Richland Session has historically presented reports verbally but not in writing. This suggested change should help their meetings be more efficient and end in a timely manner.

We counsel and guide the Richland Session and congregation on the importance of the time spent with an Interim Pastor is for working through difficult issues and understanding their church dynamics and history. The AC continues to work closely with COM as it works with the Richland Church in the necessary steps toward the calling of a newly installed Pastor.

The Richland Session continues to make additional progress in reviewing, updating, and clarifying their church policies and procedures as they relate to committees, staff, and finances. The Nominating Committee is preparing a slate of elders to be presented and voted upon at their Annual Congregational Meeting in January 2026.

The AC members are grateful for the cooperative spirit that characterizes the relationship between the AC and the Richland Session and congregation. We request your continuing prayers for all involved.

Respectfully,
Elder Stuart Deming (Kalamazoo First)
Rev. David Milbourn (HR)
Rev. Dan Anderson (HR)

This concludes the reports of the Administrative Commissions.

This concludes the Clerk's Report

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

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY STATED MEETING
of the PRESBYTERY of LAKE MICHIGAN
December 2, 2025**

Since the last Presbytery meeting, the COM Plenary has met once (November 18, 2025), and the Eastern and Western 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 August 26, 2025.

2. **A motion prevailed** to approve the minutes of the COM Regions since the May 27, 2025, Plenary meeting.
3. **A motion prevailed** to recommend to the Presbytery that it grant the Session of Westlake Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, MI, an exemption from G-2.0404 (Terms of Service) for Elder Sara Paulson to serve an additional year of service (Class of 2026).
4. **A motion prevailed** to recommend to the Presbytery that Elder Linda Hay and Elder Christine Berry be commissioned to administer communion at Unadilla Presbyterian Church of Gregory, MI, effective through November 30, 2026, with the requirement that she renew her training in 2026.
5. **A motion prevailed** to recommend to the Presbytery that Elder Kristy Payne be commissioned to administer communion at Bethany Presbyterian Church of Gobles, MI, effective through November 1, 2026, with the requirement that she renew her training in 2026.
6. **A motion prevailed** to recommend to the Presbytery that Elder Jodie Vanderstow be commissioned to administer communion at Unadilla Presbyterian Church effective through November 30, 2026, pending a meeting with Rev. Amber Nettleton (MAL) and Rev. Michael Horlocker (Cadillac First) on November 19, 2025.
7. **A motion prevailed** to add Rev. Ruth Lowry (MAL) to the pulpit supply list.
8. Battle Creek Pennfield: **A motion prevailed** to approve the Mission Discernment Profile for a part-time interim pastor.
9. Big Rapids United: **A motion prevailed** to approve the commission for Rev. Amy Ruhf-Brien's installation: Rev. Troy Hauser-Brydon (Grand Haven First), Rev. Mike Horlocker (Cadillac First), and RE Susan Grant (Big Rapids United), and a RE from Cadillac First. The elder's name will be reported in the minutes.
10. Brooklyn: **A motion prevailed to** approve the Covenant Agreement between Brooklyn Presbyterian Church and Rev. David Weber as full-time Interim Pastor, effective September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026.

Cash Salary	\$43,852
Housing Allowance	\$23,613
Total Effective Salary	\$67,465
SECA Allowance	\$5,588
Pension, Medical Benefits, Dental, and Vision	Full
Vacation	1 week per quarter
Study Leave	2 weeks (including 2 Sundays)

Continuing Education	\$1,000
Professional Expenses	\$1,000
Books and other supplies	\$500

Reimbursement of Travel Expenses, including mileage at the current IRS rate, parking, and tolls

11. Cassopolis United: **A motion prevailed** to approve the Covenant Agreement between the United Church of Cassopolis, MI, and Rev. Brian Madison as part-time (20 hours) Stated Supply pastor, effective September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026.

Cash Salary	\$13,470
Housing	\$14,900
Total Effective	\$28,370

Board of Pensions	\$2,837
Professional Expenses	\$100
Professional Development	\$800
Mileage	\$100
Book Allowance	\$300

Vacation	44 days, including 6 Sundays
Professional Development	14 days, including 2 Sundays

12. Decatur First/Paw Paw First: **A motion prevailed** to approve the Covenant Agreement between the First Presbyterian Churches of Decatur and Paw Paw, MI, and Rev. Gail Monsma as full-time Interim Pastor, effective January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025.

Cash Salary	\$47,036
Housing	\$30,000
Total Effective	\$77,036

Board of Pensions	\$20,029
Dental/Vision	\$400
SECA	\$5,893
Professional Expenses	\$800
Professional Development	\$1,200
Mileage	\$2,250
Phone Reimbursement	\$600

Vacation	4 weeks, including 4 Sundays
Professional Development	2 weeks, including 2 Sundays
Spiritual Renewal	1 week, including 1 Sunday

13. Grand Rapids North Park: **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Doug

Brouwer as Moderator, effective October 5 - December 1, 2025, during Rev. Ofori-Nipaah's leave.

14. Hesperia First: **A motion prevailed** to approve the pastoral agreement between the Rev. Dr. Scott Paul Bonham, Rev. Laurie Hartzell, and First Presbyterian Church of Hesperia for the period of January 1, 2026, to December 21, 2026. The church will pay the pastors \$200 per Sunday, the Presbytery of Lake Michigan suggested pulpit supply rate for 2026, and mileage reimbursement at the approved IRS rate. Rev. Paul Bonham will receive \$25 per hour for pastoral care services rendered. Rev. Laurie Hartzell will moderate the session and will be paid \$50 for each session and/or congregational meeting moderated.
15. Holt: **A motion prevailed** to approve Rev. Catharine McCloskey-Turner's covenant as Parish Associate with First Presbyterian Church of Holt from September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026.
16. Jackson First: **A motion prevailed** to approve \$1,200 from the Commission on Ministry budget to cover the cost of six months of coaching for Rev. David Schell with Rev. Trace Haythorn.
17. Lake City First: **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Michael Horlocker (Cadillac First) as moderator effective September 29, 2025.
18. Lansing First: **A motion prevailed** to approve the covenant agreement between First Presbyterian Church of Lansing and Rev. Barbara Edema (RCA) as full-time stated supply pastor effective September 28, 2025, to January 10, 2026. Elder Mike Bryan abstained from the vote.

Effective Salary:	\$16,125
SECA Offset:	\$1,234
Professional Expenses:	\$250
Travel:	IRS Rate
Vacation:	1 week

19. Lansing North Westminster: **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Jeff O'Neill (HR) to moderate the December 7, 2025, congregational meeting.
20. Schoolcraft First: **A motion prevailed** to approve the Mission Discernment Profile for a part-time installed pastor. **A motion prevailed** to approve the covenant agreement between First Presbyterian Church of Schoolcraft, MI, and Rev. Tom Kragt as part-time (25 hours) temporary supply pastor effective October 1, 2025, through January 4, 2026.

Cash Salary	\$7,121.13
-------------	------------

Free Use of Manse with Utilities	
Retirement Contribution	\$525
Total Effective Salary	\$7,646.13

Travel	IRS Rate
Books/Professional Expenses	\$150
Professional Development	\$400
Vacation	1 week, including 1 Sunday
Study Leave	3.5 days

21. Spring Lake: **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev Kristine Aragon Bruce (Grand Haven First) as the moderator of the congregational meeting on October 12, 2025, as the moderator of Session until an interim is called, and to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Rev. Dan Anderson and Spring Lake Presbyterian Church effective October 12, 2025. A **motion** prevailed to approve the Interim Pastor proposal and salary level.
22. Sturgis First: **A motion prevailed** to approve the terms of call between the First Presbyterian Church of Sturgis, MI, and Mr. Craig Kunkle, if the way be clear, as full-time installed solo pastor for an indefinite period, effective November 30, 2025.

Cash Salary:	\$39,500
Housing Allowance:	\$30,000
Dental Allowance:	\$500
Total Effective Salary:	\$70,000

Benefits Plan Dues:	\$18,200
Travel:	IRS rates
Professional Development:	\$1,600
SECA offset:	\$5,355
Professional Expenses	\$2,600
Moving	Full Cost

Thirty (30) days of paid vacation, including 4 Sundays
 Fourteen (14) days of professional development, including 2 Sundays
 Follow the PLM Policy of Family and Medical Leave
 Follow PLM guidelines on Sabbatical Leave

This concludes the report of the Commission on Ministry.

PRESBYTERY OF LAKE MICHIGAN

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY
December 2, 2025

The Commission met four times since the last Stated Meeting of the Presbytery–Regular stated meetings on September 23, 2025, October 28, 2025, and November 18, 2025, and a special meeting with Sheri Harris on August 4, 2025, to celebrate her call to Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rome, GA.

On July 22, 2025, we spent time celebrating the life of Elder Leslie Gilreath, faithful secretary for the CPM. On November 18, 2025, we met with Mx. Craig Kunkle, candidate called to Sturgis First to get to know him and help prepare him for his examination at the Presbytery meeting on December 2, 2025 .

The following report deals with the 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 May 27, 2025, July 22, 2025, August 26, 2025, September 23, 2025.

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

This concludes the Consent Agenda.

WORSHIP

Rev. Lynette Sparks (GR Westminster), along with several members of the Presbytery staff, led the service of worship. Rev. Sparks read Luke 1:46-55 and preached a sermon entitled “Theology Matters”. During the sermon, Rev. Sparks discussed how the Song of Mary mirrors the song of Hannah from 1 Samuel 2. She highlighted how the song is a daring protest against the empire, challenging Rome's political power. She defined Christian Nationalism and described how Christian Nationalism refuses to trust God in the world and is highly correlated with the ideals and power of the empire. Rev. Sparks discussed how the Declaration of Barmen and the Belhar Confession provide powerful and prophetic words for our time, as well as giving solid grounding for our theology. She encouraged members of the Presbytery to remember that we must seek to lift up the flourishing of the least of these, witness against those in power, participate in public life, advocate for just policy, and trust in Mary’s song and sing it with her. Elder Benjamin Boerkoel (GR Westminster) and Elder Linda Hardenbergh (East Lansing Eastminster) were installed as Moderator and Vice Moderator of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan for 2026. The offering was designated for the PLM Inquirers and Candidates, and \$1,037.21 was received. The Presbytery celebrated and

remembered Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders who have joined the Church Triumphant in the past year. The Presbytery celebrated the Lord's Supper with the Rev. Sarah Juist (Jenison Parkwood) presiding at the table.

The Presbytery recessed for a 15-minute break at 11:01 a.m. The meeting was reconvened at 11:16 a.m.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT

Rev. Lynette Sparks introduced an overture to the 227th General Assembly Amendment submitted by the Presbytery of San Jose entitled. "Repudiating Christian Nationalism and Affirming Our Faith Commitments." After a time of discussion, **a motion prevailed** to concur with the overture, "Repudiating Christian Nationalism and Affirming Our Faith Commitments."

BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT

Elder Beth Dyer (Kalamazoo First) gave a report on behalf of the Trustees. Elder Dyer reported that the Trustees approved a Parking Easement Agreement between Spring Lake Presbyterian Church and Samaritas Affordable Living Spring Lake Limited Dividend Housing Association Limited Partnership, effective November 7, 2025, to November 6, 2040.

Elder Dyer introduced the members of the Budget and Finance Committee and thanked them for their work. Elder Dyer provided information about the approved 2026 per capita and several expected expenditures for 2026. After a time of discussion, **a motion prevailed** to approve the proposed 2026 budget and 2026 budget narrative.

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

Rev. Lynette Sparks (GR Westminster) presented the terms of call for Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence. After a time of discussion, **a motion prevailed** to approve the terms of call between the Presbytery of Lake Michigan and Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence as full-time Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk, effective January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026.

Cash Salary	\$40,223
Housing	\$60,000
Employing Organization Contributions to 403(b)	\$12,000
Total Effective Salary	\$112,233
Medical Coverage and Medical, Prescription	\$20,000

Reimbursement	
Board of Pensions Dues	\$11,234
Travel	IRS Rate
Professional Development	\$4,500
Spiritual Development/Retreat	\$1,000
SECA Offset	50%
Books/Professional Expenses	\$1,000
Cell Phone	Reimbursed portion of family plan
Vacation	40 days, including 6 Sundays
Personal Spiritual Renewal	14 days, including 2 Sundays (cumulative for 3 years)
Professional Development	21 days, including 4 Sundays (cumulative up to 3 years)
PLM Policy for Family and Medical Leave	
PLM Policy for Sabbatical Leave	
Time to serve on GA, Synod committees, and Presbytery boards or community organization boards	

ANTI-RACISM POLICY ADOPTION

According to G-3.0106 (Administration of Mission), all councils shall implement an Anti-Racism Policy. Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence presented a draft of an Anti-Racism Policy. After a time of questions, **a motion prevailed** to adopt the presented Anti-Racism Policy.

**Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Anti-Racism Policy
Approved on December 2, 2025**

Preamble

This policy is a statement of who we are and what we stand for. We believe in the sacred worth of all people and the value of diverse experiences and identities in the body of Christ. We seek to dismantle racism and white supremacy in all forms—personal, institutional, and systemic because we are called by Jesus to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. This is not only about what we reject, but about the beloved community we are actively building.

Theological Grounding

As a council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Presbytery of Lake Michigan affirms that all people are created in the image of God and are beloved members of God’s family. We affirm the unity of the body of Christ across race, ethnicity, gender, culture, age,

ability, and geography, and we root this work in Scripture: “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” — Galatians 3:28

“God does not show favoritism.” — Acts 10:34

We draw from F-1.0403 of our Constitution: “The unity of believers in Christ is reflected in the rich diversity of the Church’s membership. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God unites persons through baptism regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, geography, or theological conviction. There is therefore no place in the life of the Church for discrimination. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall guarantee full participation and representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons or groups within its membership. No member shall be denied participation or representation for any reason other than those stated in this Constitution.”

Acknowledgment and Lament

The Presbytery of Lake Michigan acknowledges:

- The legacy of colonization, enslavement, and systemic racism that undergirds the institutions of this nation, the church, including the Presbytery of Lake Michigan.
- The ways we, as a body, have been complicit through silence, inaction, or participation in unjust systems.
- That white supremacy, structural racism, and implicit bias remain embedded in our ecclesial, social, and institutional life.
- That we stand on the unceded ancestral lands of Indigenous peoples, including the Potawatomi, Ojibwe, Miami, and others who were displaced by colonial expansion and whose history has been marginalized.
- We lament the ongoing suffering and generational trauma caused by these systems, and we commit to a posture of humility and repentance as we seek justice.

Commitments to Action

In order to live into our baptismal calling and resist systems of injustice, the Presbytery of Lake Michigan commits to:

Formation and Education

- Providing regular antiracism and cultural humility training for presbytery staff, council members, and committee leaders.
- Incorporating diverse theological voices, especially BIPOC scholars, in our

educational resources, liturgy, and programming.

- Promoting the use of Matthew 25 and Facing Racism resources throughout the presbytery.

Representation and Power-Sharing

- Ensuring diversity in leadership and nominations by partnering with the Presbytery's Committee on Nominating and Representation.
- Reviewing our structures and practices to eliminate barriers to participation for underrepresented voices.

Community Partnership and Public Witness

- Collaborating with mid councils and congregations engaged in antiracism ministry.
- Publicly naming and opposing racial injustice, including voter suppression, police brutality, economic disparity, and environmental racism.
- Lifting up the voices and leadership of those most impacted by injustice in our advocacy and witness.

Financial Stewardship and Reparative Action

- Committing to reparative financial practices, including support for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)-led ministries.
- Expanding vendor and partnership relationships to include businesses owned by historically marginalized people.
- Exploring participation in initiatives like Restorative Actions that address wealth disparities rooted in systemic racism.

Accountability and Implementation

- This policy will guide the work of all Presbytery committees and initiatives.
- An annual review of progress will be conducted by the Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk and the Committee on Nominating and Representation, with the findings reported to the Presbytery.
- Complaints of racism or racial discrimination within the Presbytery's jurisdiction will be addressed promptly, transparently, with discretion and openness, and in keeping with our polity and values of justice and equity.

Closing Affirmation

We confess that the road to justice is long and requires persistence, courage, and grace. We embrace the call to build an intercultural church where all gifts are welcomed, all people are valued, and the love of Christ compels us to act boldly for justice. "Let justice

roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” — Amos 5:24

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY REPORT

Rev. Ben Rumbaugh (Lansing Delta/Dimondale First) reported on behalf of the Commission on Ministry (COM). Rev. Rumbaugh invited Rev. Michael Horlocker (Cadillac First) and Elder Carolyn Flore (Lake City First) to recognize the ministry and retirement of Rev. Jan Jasperse (Retired). Rev. Rumbaugh prayed a blessing over Rev. Jasperse’s ministry with First Presbyterian Church of Lake City, MI, and her retirement.

Rev. Rumbaugh welcomed and recognized Rev. Clint Cozier (Interim Pastor of Three Rivers/Centreville First) and Rev. Catharine McCloskey-Turner (Honorably Retired). He offered a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing over their ministries.

Rev. Rumbaugh presented Mx. Craig Kunkle (Genesee Valley Presbytery) for examination for ordination to the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament. Members of the Presbytery examined the candidate on theology and call to ministry. **A motion prevailed** to arrest the examination. The candidate and his spouse, Rev. Viktoria Berlik (Genesee Valley Presbytery), were excused. After a time of discussion, **a motion prevailed** to approve Mx. Craig Kunkle for ordination to the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament to serve as solo pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Sturgis, MI, and that an Administrative Commission for Ordination be appointed. Members of the Presbytery sang the Doxology as Mx. Kunkle and Rev. Berlik returned to the meeting. Rev. Rumbaugh offered a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing over Mx. Kunkle’s ordination and ministry.

YOUTH STRATEGIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Kirk Miller (Holt) offered a report on behalf of the Youth Strategies Committee. He extended thanks for the Presbytery’s support of Youth Ministry. He reflected on the successful youth events of the past year like attending Triennium. He encouraged youth to register for upcoming Winter Retreats.

NOMINATING AND REPRESENTATION REPORT

Rev Lisa Schrott (Okemos) presented the report on behalf of the Nominating and Representation Committee. She reported the following resignations:

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

Rev. Schrott recognized and presented the following slate of nominees for election to the respective positions and classes:

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

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY WEST

Rev. James Pollard (Forest Hills), Class of 2028

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rev. Christopher Dorn (Ionia First), Class of 2028

Rev. Troy Hauser-Brydon, moderator, 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.

Rev. Schrott encouraged the Presbytery to visit the Anti-Racism resources page on the Presbytery's website.

ADJOURNMENT

Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence presented Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon with a gift and offered thanks for his service as Moderator. The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m. Rev. Hauser-Brydon closed the meeting with prayer and the extinguishing of the Christ Candle.

The next Presbytery meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2026

**at First Presbyterian Church
48823 162 Bridge St
Dimondale, MI 48821**

**Leadership Team Meeting
Minutes
Presbytery of Lake Michigan via Zoom
1511 Helen Avenue, Portage, MI 49002
February 5, 2026 12:30 p.m.**

Present: Ben Boerkoel (RE-Westminster GR/PLM Moderator), Beth Dyer (RE-Kalamazoo First/B&F Moderator), Linda Hardenbergh (RE-Eastminster EL/PLM Vice-Moderator), Troy Hauser-Brydon (TE-Grand Haven/LT Moderator), Nick Marlatt (TE-Hastings/LT MAL),

Staff: Fran Lane-Lawrence (Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk), Cal Bremer (Asst. to Exec), Kristin Stroble (COM Resource Staff)

Excused: Lisa Schrott (TE-/N&R Moderator), Chris Dorn (TE-Ionia/DST), Jeanette Holton (RE-Benton Harbor First/AST), Lynette Sparks (TE-Westminster GR/M&O)

Call to Order:

Rev. Troy Hauser-Brydon called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present.

Adoption of the Agenda:

The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

A motion prevailed to approve the consent agenda, including the following items:

- A. **To approve** the Leadership Team Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2025
- B. **To affirm** the Celebration of the Lord's Supper at each presbytery meeting per the Presbytery bylaws
- C. **To designate** offerings received to support immigrant ministries in Michigan.
- D. **To receive** a reminder that the Leadership Team needs to nominate individuals to the Nominating and Representation Committee.

Orientation:

Members reviewed the Leadership Team Committee Description to ensure their actions and discussion are aligned with their assigned duties.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Updates on Administrative Commissions
The Leadership Team received updates on the work and progress of Administrative Commissions within the Presbytery.
- B. Discernment toward remote office
The Leadership Team heard a report of initial items of importance that would need to be addressed in considering whether or not the Presbytery should shift to remote offices

for staff. The next step toward discernment will be to appoint three or four members of the Leadership Team to research options, and make recommendations including a timeline.

- C. Consultant to refocus Leadership Team on mission, vision, and goals.
Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence is in discussion with several consultants to recommend.
- D. Spiritual Director for Staff During the Sabbatical
PLM staff members are in discussion about who to recommend to serve this role.

New Business:

- A. Preparation and organizing in the event of an ICE surge in Michigan. - Fran
A motion prevailed to request the Stated Clerk send a pastoral letter to congregations and members of the presbytery regarding our commitment as a Sanctuary and Accompaniment Presbyter; and to endorse the work of the Presbytery staff in providing resources to protect the immigrants in our churches and communities.
- B. The following meeting schedule for the Leadership Team in 2026 was confirmed:
February 5, March 5, April 2 (Maundy Thursday), May 7, June 4, No meeting in July, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5. A meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 3, 2026, if it is needed.
- C. Report of EP/SC - Fran
- D. December Meeting Debrief
The comments received on the meeting survey were overwhelmingly positive.

Discussion of the Business and Worship at Stated Meetings of the Presbytery: Fran Lane-Lawrence

The following

- A. **Saturday, March 14, 2026 - Dimondale**
 - 1. Worship
 - a. Celebration of the Lord's Supper
 - b. Offering - Support of immigrant ministries in Michigan.
 - c. Preacher - Steve Keizer, PCUSA Foundation
 - 2. Keynote - Steve Keizer (30 minutes)
 - 3. Synod of the Covenant Report (10 minutes)
 - 4. Report of B&F - Beth Dyer (10 minutes)
 - 5. Report of EP - Fran Lane-Lawrence (10 minutes)
 - a. Creative Ministries/Vulnerable Congregation Grant
 - b. Dissolution Discernment Grant
 - c. Mergers/Unions/Joint Ministry Grant
 - 5. Nominating Committee Report - Lisa Schrott (10 minutes)
 - 6. COM - Ben Rumbaugh (10 minutes)
 - 7. Luke Choi , PCUSA Board of Pensions (10 minutes)
- B. **Tuesday, June 9, 2026 - Muskegon**

1. Worship
 - a. Celebration of the Lord's Supper
 - b. Offering -
 - c. Preacher -
2. Synod of the Covenant Report (10 minutes)
3. Report of B&F
4. Report of EP - Fran Lane-Lawrence (5 minutes)
5. Nominating Committee Report -
6. COM - Ben Rumbaugh

C. Saturday, September 12, 2026 -

1. Worship
 - a. Celebration of the Lord's Supper
 - b. Offering -
 - c. Preacher -
2. Synod of the Covenant Report (10 minutes)
3. Report of B&F
 - a. First Read of the Proposed Budget for 2027
4. Report of EP - Fran Lane-Lawrence (5 minutes)
5. Nominating Committee Report -
6. COM - Ben Rumbaugh

D. Tuesday, November 17, 2026 - Hastings - maybe?

1. Worship
 - d. Celebration of the Lord's Supper
 - e. Celebration of Saints
 - f. Installation of Moderator/Vice Moderator
 - g. Offering - PLM Candidates and Inquirers
 - h. Preacher - Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka
2. Keynote - Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka
3. Synod of the Covenant Report (10 minutes)
4. Report of B&F -
 - a. Vote on Proposed Budget
5. Report of EP - Fran Lane-Lawrence (5 minutes)
6. Nominating Committee Report - (10 minutes)
7. COM - Ben Rumbaugh

Adjournment and Closing Prayer:

Rev. Troy Hauser Brydon adjourned the meeting at 1:34 p.m. and closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting: March 5, 2026
Via Zoom

Devotion: Lynette Sparks

**Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
Presbytery of Lake Michigan via Zoom
1511 Helen Avenue, Portage, MI 49002
December 4, 2025 12:30 p.m.**

Attendance Roll: Ben Boerkoel (RE-Westminster GR/Vice-Moderator), Beth Dyer (RE-Kalamazoo First/B&F Moderator), Troy Hauser-Brydon (TE-Grand Haven/PLM Moderator), Jeanette Holton (RE-Benton Harbor First/AST), Nick Marlatt (TE-Hastings/LT MAL), Gail Monsma (TE-Paw Paw/PLM Moderator), Lisa Schrott (TE-/N&R Moderator), Lynette Sparks (TE-Westminster GR/M&O)

Staff: Fran Lane-Lawrence (Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk), Cal Bremer (Asst. to Exec), Kristin Stroble (COM Resource Staff)

Absent: Chris Dorn (TE-Ionia/DST)

Call to Order: Gail Monsma

Call to Order, Opening Prayer and Quorum:

Rev. Gail Monsma called the meeting to order and invited Elder Beth Dyer to begin the meeting in prayer. A quorum was present.

Adoption of the Agenda: Gail Monsma

A motion prevailed to approve the agenda.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Gail Monsma

A motion prevailed to approve the consent agenda, including the following item:

- A. **To approve** the Leadership Team Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2025, with slight editorial corrections.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Rev. Troy Hauser-Brydon reminded members to sign up to lead Devotions in 2026.

New Business:

- A. **A motion prevailed** to approve Housing Allowance for Rev. Cal Bremer for 2026 in the amount of \$18,000 and for Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom in the amount of \$48,000.
- B. **A motion prevailed** to approve the Memo of Understanding for the following Presbytery Staff for 2026: Annamarie Groenenboom, Kristin Stroble, Cal Bremer, Emily Franson, Kirk Truesdell, and Kevin Meijer.
- C. A motion prevailed to approve a one-time roll-over of three weeks of vacation from 2025 to 2026 for the Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer:

A motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting at 12:47 p.m. Rev. Troy Hauser-Brydon, Moderator-elect, closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting: January 8, 2026
Orientation in Person at the Presbytery Office
Lunch is Provided

ADDENDUM TO THE PLAN OF MERGER ADOPTED
MAY 20, 2025

The First Presbyterian Church of Decatur, Michigan (“Decatur”) with **The First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan** (“Paw Paw”), merging into the **Pine Street Presbyterian Church**, an ecclesiastical non-profit corporation organized for religious purposes, as the surviving corporation.

1. Membership. Including the description, number, classification, and voting rights of each constituent corporation.

Paw Paw: The Membership of Paw Paw includes Baptized Members, Active Members, Affiliate Members, and other participants. The members eligible to vote at any meeting and hold office in the Church shall be those persons listed on the Active Membership Roll of the Church (the “Congregation”) and who are physically present at the meeting. Paw Paw has eighty-five (85) members as of the approval date of this Merger.

Decatur: The membership of Decatur includes Baptized Members, Active Members, Affiliate Members, and other participants. All active members, (The “Congregation”) defined by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), who are physically or electronically present at a meeting of the congregation are entitled to vote. Decatur has fifty-nine (59) members as of the approval date of this Merger.

Pine Street Presbyterian Church: The “congregations” of Paw Paw and Decatur shall together comprise the starting membership of Pine Street Presbyterian Church retaining the same classification, description, and voting rights, totaling in number the sum of Paw Paw’s transferring members and Decatur’s transferring members. Those members indicating in writing to their respective session that they wish to have their membership transferred will have their membership transferred. The membership of those not wishing to transfer, as indicated in writing to their respective session, will either be terminated by their request or shall be held in trust by Lake Michigan Presbytery. The membership roll classifications of Pine Street Presbyterian Church will be the same as Decatur and Paw Paw, with the exception that the term “Congregation” shall indicate the Active Members.

2. Board. Including the description, number, classification, and voting rights of each constituent corporation’s board.

Paw Paw: The Officers of the Paw Paw Corporation are the President, Vice-President, Secretary (Clerk of Session), and the Treasurer. The Session nominates these officers annually and they are elected at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, except for the Treasurer, who is elected by the Session. Only persons listed on the Active Membership Roll of the Church are eligible to serve as elected Officers.

Decatur: The Session is comprised of the Pastor and no fewer than five and no more than seven elders as nominated by committee and elected by the congregation. The Session annually elects the Treasurer and the Clerk, who also serves as the Secretary at annual or special meetings. All Session members may vote, with the exception of the Pastor.

Pine Street Presbyterian Church: The Session is comprised of the Pastor, who serves as Moderator, and no fewer than seven and no more than nine elders, as nominated by committee and elected by the congregation. The initial elders shall be elected as follows: three (3) shall be elected to a term of one year, three (3) to a term of 2 years, and three (3) to a term of 3 years. Thereafter, the position of elder shall be filled yearly as needed, upon the expiration of the term.

The officers of the Corporation, who are elected yearly, are the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The President and Vice President are elected from the active elders serving on session. The Treasurer and the Clerk, who also serves as the Secretary of the Corporation must be ordained ruling elders but are not required to serve as active ruling elders. All session members may vote.

3. Terms and Conditions. Including the manner and basis of converting the membership from the dissolving corporations into the surviving corporation, and other provisions as deemed necessary.

Upon final approval of this Plan of Merger by the Presbytery of Lake Michigan in the Synod of The Covenant of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and upon the endorsement of a Certificate of Merger by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Corporations, Securities & Commercial Licensing Bureau Corporations Division, membership in Paw Paw or Decatur, for those members choosing to join Pine Street Presbyterian Church, shall with approval by the sessions of Paw Paw or Decatur be transferred to membership in **Pine Street Presbyterian Church**, without requiring certificates of transfer from members. For those members not wishing to transfer, their membership will either be terminated (by their request) or shall be held in trust by Lake Michigan Presbytery.

The building and property at 120 Pine St., Paw Paw MI 49079, belonging to Paw Paw, shall be transferred into the name of **Pine Street Presbyterian Church**, to be held in trust according to the constitution of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. (G-2.0203), functioning as the new and sole location of **Pine Street Presbyterian Church**. The building and property at 119 E. Delaware St., Decatur Michigan, shall be transferred to Lake Michigan Presbytery. These real estate transactions are contingent upon the written approval, as signed below, of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, pursuant to The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Book of Order G-4.0206.

The Articles of Incorporation of **Pine Street Presbyterian Church** are not amended as a result of this Merger.

[Signatures and Authorized Approvals on the following pages]

APPROVED:

First Presbyterian Church of Decatur, Michigan

DATE: _____

Signed: _____

Print name: _____

Authority: _____

The First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

DATE: _____

Signed: _____

Print name: _____

Authority: _____

Pine Street Presbyterian Church

DATE: _____

Signed: _____

Print name: David Vliek

Authority: Original Incorporator

Presbytery of Lake Michigan

DATE: _____

Signed: _____

Print name: _____

Authority: _____

Presbytery of Lake Michigan Administrative Commission

DATE: _____

Signed: _____

Print name: _____

Authority: _____

***First Presbyterian Churches of
Decatur and Paw Paw, Michigan***
Special Congregational Meeting
February 22, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m., by Interim Pastor Gail Monsma, Moderator and opened with prayer.

There was a quorum present. (14 members present for Decatur, 22 members present for Paw Paw) plus guests.

The purpose of this meeting is three-fold:

1. To approve the By-laws of Pine Street Presbyterian Church
2. To approve the Addendum to the Plan of Merger.
3. To approve the dissolution of both churches no later than July 15, 2026.

Motion prevailed to approve the By-laws as submitted.

Vote: Decatur 14-0 Paw Paw 22-0

Motion prevailed to approve the Addendum to the Plan of Merger.

Vote: Decatur 14-0 Paw Paw 22-0

Motion prevailed to dissolve First Presbyterian Church of Decatur no later than July 15, 2026. Vote 14-0

Motion prevailed to dissolve First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw no later than July 15, 2026. Vote 22-0

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 am with prayer.

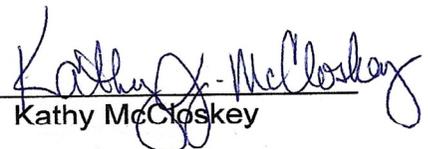
Signed by:
Moderator

Clerk of Session Decatur

Clerk of Session Paw Paw


Rev. Gail E. Monsma


Karen Makay


Kathy McCloskey