

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATING and REPRESENTATION**  
**JUNE 9, 2026**  
**STATED MEETING of the PRESBYTERY of LAKE MICHIGAN (PLM)**

**TO REPORT RESIGNATIONS:**

- TE Seth Weeldreyer; Kalamazoo – First, PLM Permanent Judicial Commission (Class of 2028)

**TO REPORT NOMINATIONS TO THE NAMED POSITIONS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, or TEAMS**  
**None**

**REPRESENTATION**

One of the responsibilities for the Nominating and Representation (N & R) Committee is to “Determine achievable representation within the Presbytery and serve as an advocate for the representation of all races, ethnicities, genders, ages, and sexual identities, and abilities.” As part our commitment to meeting this responsibility, we analyzed the statistical reports submitted by churches for the 2025 calendar year with respect to church size and racial/ethnic background. Based upon these self-reported data, the following is a demographic snapshot of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan as February 23, 2026

- Number of Churches = 52 submitted statistical reports
- Number of Members = 7359
- Church Size (# of members)
  - Over 1000: 1 church (2%)
  - Over 300: 3 churches (6%; note 35% of presbytery members come from the 4 largest churches)
  - Between 200 – 299: 7 churches (13%)
  - 100- 200: 9 churches (17%)
  - 50 – 100: 16 churches (31%)
  - Under 50: 16 churches (31%)
- Racial Make-up
  - White = 95.4%
  - Black, African-American = 1.6%
  - Asian = 1%
  - Hispanic = 0.8%
  - Multi-racial = 0.6 %
  - Middle Eastern, North African = 0.5%
  - Native populations = 0.1%

The N & R Committee is dedicated to increasing representation from people of color and underrepresented ethnic groups on Presbytery committees/commissions. The goal of a greater degree of representation by underserved populations is important so their perspectives may be included across the breadth of the PLM work. In addition, N & R seeks to distribute nominations across churches in the Presbytery such that decision making is not clustered within a few churches. We recognize that this may lead smaller churches to feel like they are carrying a larger load than the larger churches.

### **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

### **RESOURCES**

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