

**Leadership Team Meeting
Minutes
Presbytery of Lake Michigan via Zoom
1511 Helen Avenue, Portage, MI 49002
August 6, 2026 12:30 p.m.**

Attendance Roll: Ben Boerkoel (RE-GR Westminster/PLM Moderator), Beth Dyer (RE-Kalamazoo First/B&F Moderator), Troy Hauser-Brydon (TE-Grand Haven First/LT Moderator), Nick Marlatt (TE-Hastings First/LT MAL), Jeanette Holton (RE-Benton Harbor First/AST)

Staff: Cal Bremer (Asst. to Exec), Kristin Stroble (COM Resource Staff),

Excused: Fran Lane-Lawrence (Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk), Lynette Sparks (TE-GR Westminster/M&O), Chris Dorn (TE-Ionia First/DST)

Call to Order, Opening Prayer, and Quorum: Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser-Brydon called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. Rev. Hauser-Brydon invited Rev. Nick Marlatt to open the meeting with devotions and prayer. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion prevailed to approve the agenda.

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 June 4, 2026 with corrections.
- B. **To receive** notification that Ruling Elder Linda Hardenbergh resigned as vice-moderator of the Presbytery, effective June 30, 2026.

Unfinished Business:

A. Updates - ACs

Rev. Dr. Cal Bremer provided a written report about the ACs for Allegan, Decatur/Paw Paw, Delta/Dimondale, and Northwestminster introducing the members of this AC and noting that they have been oriented.

Rev. Kristin Stroble reported that the AC was appointed by the Commission on Ministry utilizing the following provision from the Manual of Operations:

Presbytery of Lake Michigan Manual of Operation, Chapter 1-C Specific Procedures B. In 2007, the Presbytery of Lake Michigan delegated to the Committee on Ministry those time sensitive actions related to the processing of calls and temporary pulpit contracts, receiving and transferring members, and for appointing commissions to install and ordain *or to intervene with individual sessions or situations*. All delegated actions shall be fully reported to the presbytery at its next stated meeting. The Presbytery of Lake Michigan retained the authority to grant the status of Retired or Emeritus to its teaching elder members.

New Business:

A. 2027 Presbytery Host Churches:

A motion prevailed to approve the locations for 2027 stated Presbytery meetings as:

1. February 9, 2027 - Zoom
2. June 12, 2027 - Brooklyn Presbyterian
3. September 14, 2027 - Benton Harbor First
4. November 13, 2027 - Sturgis First

B. Proposed 2027 Budget and First Read of the Narrative Overview

Elder Beth Dyer provided an overview of the proposed 2027 budget. She reviewed the process that the Budget and Finance Committee will use to receive feedback as outlined in the First Read of the Narrative Overview. Elder Dyer and Rev. Cal Bremer addressed questions from members of the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team approved the proposed 2027 budget and accompanying narrative for recommendation to the Presbytery of Lake Michigan at its September 12, 2026 Stated Meeting.

C. Approval of PLM per capita for 2027

A motion prevailed for the Leadership Team to recommend that the Presbytery per capita for 2027 be set at \$29.56, which is a \$1.80 increase. (Note: the per capita remained the same in 2025 and 2026.) Total per capita, if approved, will be \$46 with the following apportionments: General Assembly (\$13.04), Synod (\$3.40), and the Presbytery (\$20.56), is \$46.

D. Feedback about Dr. Rodger Nishioka's time with the Presbytery in November.

The Leadership Team discussed the timing for Dr. Nishioka's presentation during the November stated Presbytery meeting. Members suggested a presentation in the afternoon of the stated Presbytery meeting or a separate gathering of people on the Monday before or Wednesday after the stated meeting. LT members will continue further discussion at the September meeting.

E. Request from the Youth Strategies Cohort for docket time in September.

A motion prevailed to grant the Youth Strategies Cohort 10 minutes on the docket at the September stated meeting.

F. Designate the offering for the Presbytery meeting

A motion prevailed to designate the offering of the September stated Presbytery meeting to the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness.

Discussion of the Business and Worship at Stated Meetings of the Presbytery: The following is the outline of the business to be included on the docket for the stated meeting on September 12, 2026.

A. Saturday, September 12, 2026 - Richland First

1. Nominating Committee Report - Election of Vice-Moderator (5 minutes)
2. Worship
 - a. Celebration of the Lord's Supper

- b. Offering - Office of Public Witness
 - c. Preacher - GA Commissioners
 - d. Installation of Vice-Moderator
- 2. Report of GA Commissioners - Elder Heather Myers, Elder Ben Boerkoel, Rev. Steve Kaszar, and Rev. Kristin Stroble (30 minutes)
- 3. Synod of the Covenant Report- Elder Andy Thorburn (5 minutes)
- 4. Leadership Team Report - Rev. Troy Hauser-Brydon (5 minutes)
 - a. 2027 per capita for PLM
- 5. Report of B&F - Elder Beth Dyer (20 minutes)
 - a. Presentation - First Read of the Proposed Budget for 2027
- 6. Nominating Committee Report -
- 7. Administrative Commission for Paw Paw/Decatur - Rev. Cathy Hoop (5 minutes)
- 8. COM - Rev. Ben Rumbaugh (20 minutes)
 - a. AC for Lansing North Westminster
 - b. Presentation of Minimum Terms of Call for 2027
 - c. Welcoming new pastors
- 9. Youth Strategies Cohort (10 minutes)

B. Tuesday, November 17, 2026 - Hastings

- 1. Worship
 - a. Celebration of the Lord's Supper
 - b. Celebration of Saints
 - c. Installation of 2027 Moderator/Vice Moderator
 - a. Offering - PLM Candidates and Inquirers
 - b. Preacher - Rodger Nishioka
- 2. Synod of the Covenant Report (10 minutes)
- 3. Report of B&F -
 - a. Second Reading of Proposed 2027 Budget
- 4. Report of EP - Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence (5 minutes)
- 5. Nominating Committee Report - (10 minutes)
- 6. COM - Rev. Ben Rumbaugh

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: A motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 p.m.
Rev. Hauser-Brydon closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting: September 3, 2026
Via Zoom

Devotion: Kristin Stroble