



Presbytery of Lake Michigan

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

September 12, 2026 Stated Meeting Packet

DOCKET of the STATED MEETING
Presbytery of Lake Michigan
September 12, 2026 9:30 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083

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 September 8, 2026, and was led by Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom.

9:30 a.m. LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE – Elder Ben Boerkoel

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. Calandra Nevenzel

Approval of the Consent Agenda

[ACTION]

10:00 a.m. WORSHIP – (See insert)

Sermon Text: Revelation 22:1-5

Sermon Title: Leaves of Healing

Today's offerings are designated for The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness

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

11:15 a.m. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS TO THE 227TH PCUSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Elder Ben Boerkoel, Elder Heather Myer, Rev. Steve Kaszar, and Rev. Kristin Stroble

BUSINESS PLENARY II

- 12:00 noon Commission on Ministry - Rev. Ben Rumbaugh (30 minutes)
- Request for Original Jurisdiction - AC for Lansing North Westminster **[ACTION]**
- 2027 Minimum Terms of Call **[ACTION]**
- Welcome New Pastor
- Report of the Commissioner to the Synod of the Covenant - Elder Andy Thorburn (5 minutes)
- Report of the Nominating Committee - Rev. Jay Ayers (5 minutes) **[ACTION]**
- Report of the Budget and Finance Committee – Elder Beth Dyer (20 minutes)
- First Reading of the Proposed Budget for 2027
- Leadership Team Report - Elder Beth Dyer (5 minutes)
- Recommendation for 2027 Per Capita **[ACTION]**
- Youth Strategies Committee - Rev. Kirk Miller & Mx. Taylor Brown (10 minutes)
- 1:30 p.m. ADJOURNMENT/EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLE – Elder Ben Boerkoel**
- 1:30 p.m. LUNCH**

The next Presbytery meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 17 , 2026 at
First Presbyterian Church
405 M-37
Hastings, MI 49058



Presbytery of Lake Michigan

Presbyterian Church [U.S.A.]

**September 12, 2026
We Gather to Worship**

Prelude

“Come, Now Is the Time to Worship” Doerksen, arr. Leonard

Call to Worship¹

Elder Heather Myer (East Lansing Eastminster)

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”
Our feet are standing within your gates.
Pray for the peace of this Presbytery.
May they prosper who love you.
Pray for the peace of every place.
May there be wholeness for all.
For the sake of all God’s people
I will say, “Peace be with you.”
**For the sake of the house of the Lord
I will seek your good.**

***Hymn**

“Shall We Gather at the River”
A hymn for the 227th General Assembly (2026)

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession²

Rev. Steve Kaszar (Concord First/Homer First)

As the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus, we were once “strangers to the covenant of promise.” But now, in Christ Jesus, all who were far off have been brought near. GTG 1 Christ is our peace. He has broken down the dividing wall. In him we find reconciliation and forgiveness. Mindful of this good news, let us offer our prayers of confession together to God.

O Lord our God, you call us to proclaim the gospel, but we remain silent, even in the presence of evil. You call us to be reconciled to you and one another, but we choose to live in separation. You call us to seek the good of all, but we fail to resist the powers of oppression.

Forgive us, O Lord. Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage and strength to be reconciled to others, those both far and near. Hear our prayer, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Silence.

¹ Adapted from Psalm 122

² From GA 227 Closing Worship “Sending with Healing in Our Hearts”

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

Hear the good news! In Christ, we are no longer strangers; we are now members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together. A new life has begun! Friends, believe the good news and give thanks. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

May the peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

We Hear the Word

Prayer for Illumination

#451 GTG "Open My Eyes that I May See" vs 1

Scripture Reading

Rev. Kristin Stroble (East Lansing, Eastminster)

Revelation 22:1-5

Message

Commissioners to the 227th General Assembly

"Leaves of Healing"

Elder Ben Boerkoel

Elder Heather Myer

Rev. Steve Kaszar

Rev. Kristin Stroble

We Respond to the Word

***Hymn #39 (GTG)**

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Receiving A Candidate Under Care

Candidate Joanna Townley (Okemos)

Rev. Mackenzie Jager (Muskegon First)

On behalf of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry, I introduce and receive Joanna Townley as a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan.

Do you believe yourself to be called by God to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament?

I do.

Do you promise in reliance upon the grace of God to maintain a Christian character and conduct, and to be diligent and faithful in making full preparation for this ministry?

I do.

Do you accept the proper supervision of the presbytery in matters that concern your preparation for this ministry?

I do.

Do you desire now to be received by this presbytery as a candidate for the ministry of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?

I do.

Charge

Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. These are the things you must insist on and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.³

Prayer

Let us pray: God of prophets and apostles, you have chosen leaders to train your people in the way of Jesus Christ. We thank you that in our day you are still claiming your people for special work within the church. As Joanna has dedicated their self to you, let us pledge ourselves to them so that, surrounded by affection and hope, they may grow in wisdom, mature in love, and become a faithful worker, approved by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn #582 (GTG)**

“Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

Offering

Elder Heather Myer

Today's offering is designated to support the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness, the public policy information and advocacy office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Its task is to advocate, and help the church to advocate, the social witness perspectives and policies of the General Assembly. Like the leaves of the trees for the healing of the nations, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offertory

“Jesus Paid It All” Grape/ Pachellbel, arr. Lopez

*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 Dedication⁴

Rev. Steve Kaszar

Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have planted us on holy ground. Like a tree planted by living waters, you cause us to grow and flourish, bearing good fruit through your Spirit. Use the offering of our lives to bring healing and wholeness in this place, and in every place; all in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Rev. Calandra Nevenzel (Richland First)

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.
It is truly right and our greatest joy ...
with the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to your glory:

⁴From the GA 227 Ecumenical Service, “Walking Together Toward Wholeness”

Sanctus

Myland

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord; God of power and might
Holy, holy, holy, Lord; God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!*

You are holy, ... Great is the mystery of faith.

Memorial Acclamation

Myland

*Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*
Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us ...
And now we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us ...

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy
kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we
forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Instructions: All are welcome to come forward starting from the back pew of the sanctuary, and receive bread from Pastor Cal, and juice from the deacon on your side of the sanctuary, so you can easily return to your seat. You may eat and drink as soon as you receive the elements.

Communion Music

"Continuous Communion Meditations" arr. Parker

Words of Institution

Prayer After Communion

*Hymn

"Leaves of the Tree"
A hymn for the 227th General Assembly (2026)

Charge and Benediction⁵

Rev. Kristin Stroble

Since we are surrounded
by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us run with perseverance
the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus,
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all the saints. **Amen**

Postlude

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” English Country Song/Granados, arr. Lopez

*Thank you to all those who participated in leading worship today.
Accompanist: Maureen Lovequist, Director of Instrumental Music*

⁵Heb. 12:1-2; Rev. 22:20-21; 2 Cor. 13

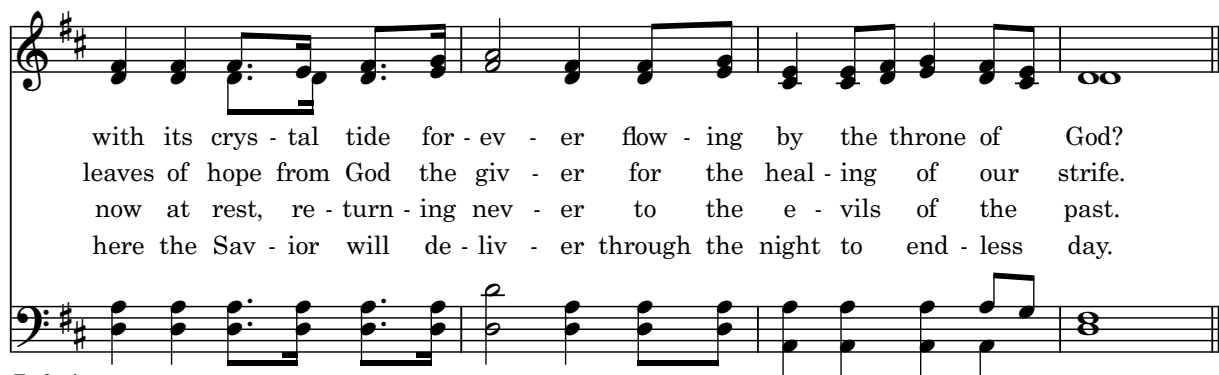
Shall We Gather at the River

Revelation 22:1–5

For the 227th General Assembly (2026) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 Root - ed deep be - side the riv - er, see the an - cient tree of life:
3 All the saints are at the riv - er, strug - gles o - ver - come at last:
4 Come, be - lov - ed, to the riv - er, where the Lord has made a way:

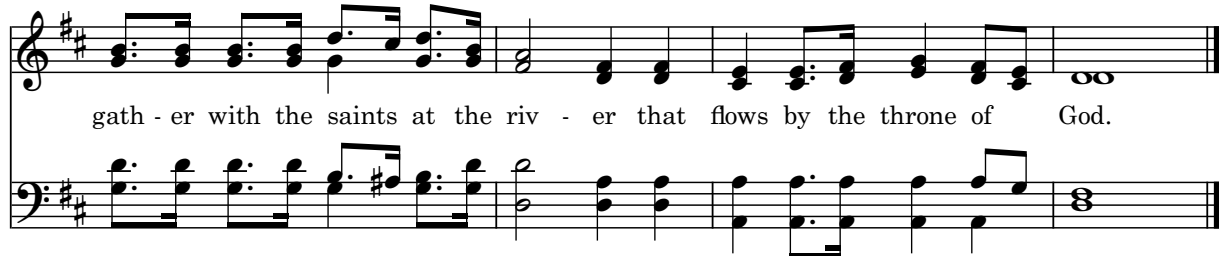


with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
leaves of hope from God the giv - er for the heal - ing of our strife.
now at rest, re - turn - ing nev - er to the e - vils of the past.
here the Sav - ior will de - liv - er through the night to end - less day.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Stanza 1: Robert Lowry, 1864; stanzas 2–4: David Gambrell, 2026
Music: Robert Lowry, 1864

HANSON PLACE (8.7.8.7 with refrain)

Leaves of the Tree

Revelation 22:1–5

For the 227th General Assembly (2026) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

1 Leaves of the tree for the heal - ing of na - tions—
2 Leaves of the tree for the heal - ing of na - tions—
3 Leaves of the tree for the heal - ing of na - tions—
4 We are the leaves for the heal - ing of na - tions—

off' - rings of peace mak - ing God's in - vi - ta - tion,
bud - ding and flow' - ring in love's trans - for - ma - tion,
God's tree of life yield - ing our new cre - a - tion,
we are the trees clap - ping our ju - bi - la - tion;

balm for our wounds and the palms of re - joic - ing;
whisp' - ring God's pres - ence and shout - ing God's glo - ry,
tree of the gar - den and life - giv - ing riv - er,
we are the branch - es, in Christ ev - er - grow - ing;

branch - es ex - ten - ded, their wel - come are voic - ing.
wit - ness through time to the truth of our sto - ry.
root - ed and ground - ed in love by the Giv - er.
we are God's peo - ple, with praise ov - er - flow - ing.

Text: Deborah A. Block, 2026

Music: *Paris Antiphoner*, 1681; harm. La Feillée's *Méthode du plain-chant*, 1808

O QUANTA QUALIA (11.11.11.11)

**Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Commission on Ministry
Administrative Commission
North Westminster Presbyterian Church
July 7, 2026**

The Eastern Region requests that the Commission on Ministry appoint an Administrative Commission of three to five people at their plenary meeting on July 15, 2026, for the following purpose:

Rationale: The primary goal of the administrative commission will be to inquire into and settle disorder reported by the interim pastor, members of session, and observed by members of the Commission on Ministry and staff of the presbytery (G-3.0109b (5)). The reported disorder relates to 1) financial instability that leaves in question the continued viability of the congregation past the end of 2026 without presbytery intervention involving the possible sale of the church property and identification of a location in which to worship 2) the inability of session to manage the congregation's ongoing relationship with Advent House and to successfully put in place a lease agreement; 3) the session's inability to manage and track repayment of past financial embezzlement; 4) financial records that are in such disarray that it is impossible to determine financial holdings of the congregation and to assure the security of bank accounts and financial records. Presbytery Staff and the Commission on Ministry (COM) has been working with the session for several months during which time the depth and breadth of the disorder has become evident.

The Presbytery cares deeply for its congregations and has the responsibility of making sure that congregations are healthy and in good order. COM members are concerned that leaving disorder unresolved will compromise the health of the congregation and its members. There is an urgency to address the reported and observed disorder so finances can be secured and congregational vitality stabilized. Our hope is that the support of an Administrative Commission will facilitate a swift and thorough resolution to these concerns about disorder.

Presbytery Authorities

G-3.0109b – Administrative Commissions are designated to consider and conclude matters not involving ecclesiastical judicial process, except that in the discharge of their assigned responsibility they may discover and report to the designating council matters that may require judicial action by the council.

- (5) by presbyteries visiting particular congregations over which they have immediate jurisdiction reported to be affected with disorder, and inquiring into and settling difficulties therein, except that no commission of presbytery shall be empowered to dissolve a pastoral relationship without the specific authorization by the designating body. (G-2.0901)

G-3.0303 Relations with Sessions

Presbytery, being composed of the ministers of the Word and Sacrament and commissioner elected by the session of congregations within its district, has a particular responsibility to

coordinate, guide, encourage, support, and resource the work of its congregations for the most effective witness to the broader community. In order to accomplish this responsibility, the presbytery has authority to:

- d. counsel with a session concerning reported difficulties within a congregation, including:
 - (1.) advising the session as to appropriate actions to be taken to resolve the reported difficulties,
 - (2.) offering to help as a mediator, and
 - (3.) acting to correct the difficulties if requested to do so by the session or if the session is unable or unwilling to do so, following the procedural safeguards of the Church Discipline;

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.

Purpose

Therefore, the Eastern Region recommends to the Commission on Ministry that an Administrative Commission of three to five members be appointed for the following purpose:

1. To work with the session, utilizing other entities within the presbytery and other outside resources that might be necessary, to locate, reconcile, categorize, or reconstruct financial records to determine the congregation's true financial standing.
2. To secure bank accounts and financial records.
3. To work with the session to determine if sale of the church property is the next step in the fulfillment of its mission and ministry and to identify a location for worship.
4. To work with the session to successfully create a lease agreement for use with Advent House.
5. To inquire and take appropriate steps to assure repayment of monies previously embezzled consistent with agreement signed by embezzler.
3. To support the interim pastor during the pastoral transition.
4. To support the congregation in clarifying their expectations of their next pastor and the most important skills to seek in a candidate.
5. To address other disorder that may be discovered while investigating reported and observed disorder.

Scope of Authorities

1. This Administrative Commission has the full authority of the Commission on Ministry to address the reported disorder, and will work with Presbytery staff, the Presbytery Trustees, and other Presbytery entities and consultants as necessary and determined by the AC.

2. The Administrative Commission, at the request of the Commission on Ministry, will conduct a thorough investigation giving the session and congregation a full opportunity to be heard.
3. The Commission on Ministry or Administrative Commission will recommend to the Presbytery of Lake Michigan at the stated meeting on September 8, 2026, that the Administrative Commission be granted original jurisdiction with full powers of the Session, in which case the Session of North Westminster will cease to act until such time as the Presbytery shall otherwise direct. (G-3.0303e).

PRESBYTERY OF LAKE MICHIGAN

2027 Minimum Terms of Call

Background

The Presbytery of Lake Michigan has historically set minimum compensation standards based on Total Effective Salary (Cash Salary + Housing Allowance/Manse + Deferred Compensation).

Two developments now prompt a reconsideration of this approach. First, beginning in 2025, the Board of Pensions significantly restructured how medical benefits are offered, changing the cost of dependent coverage so that it is not feasible for many congregations if we were to require it. Second, several peer presbyteries in the Synod of the Covenant have transitioned to a Total Compensation Package model, and our own policy has included an optional total compensation track since 2026.

For these reasons, the Commission on Ministry is proposing a full transition to a minimum Total Compensation Package model. We believe this approach increases transparency and clarity for sessions as they budget for pastoral leadership, and more accurately reflects what it costs to call and support a pastor in our presbytery. It also is beneficial to pastors, giving them more flexibility in how they choose to be compensated.

Values

In establishing minimum Total Compensation Package standards, the Presbytery of Lake Michigan affirms the following values and calls upon its member congregations to do the same:

- That pastors' compensation should keep pace with the cost of living in our region, so that they can afford to work and live among the communities they serve.
- That pastors are graduate-educated professionals called to a vocation of significant responsibility, and compensation should reflect that reality.
- That all pastors and their families should have access to quality health care.
- That pastors and congregations should be given maximum flexibility to negotiate compensation packages, so long as the above values are upheld in doing so.

2027 Minimum Total Compensation Package

All Ministers of Word and Sacrament working full-time (40 hours/week) in a congregation of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan shall have a Total Compensation Package no less than \$78,184, inclusive of:

- Cash salary
- Housing allowance or manse value

- The manse's value must be at least 30% of \$60,458¹.
- Participation in the Board of Pensions pension program
- Medical coverage for the pastor through the Board of Pensions Congregational Pastors Package.
 - If a pastor is already enrolled in the Transitional Pastors Package, then the church shall continue to provide that package or comparable coverage in 2027.
- SECA offset
- Professional Reimbursements
- Twelve weeks of paid family medical leave in keeping with G-2.0804 and the policies of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan (see Policy B-8).
- Four weeks of vacation, inclusive of four Sundays.
- Two weeks of continuing education leave, inclusive of two Sundays.

The compensation package for any pastor working at least 20 hours per week shall include:

- A Total Compensation Package that is prorated according to the number of hours worked (20 hours/week = 50%, 30 hours/week = 75%).
- Participation in the pension plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
- Four weeks of vacation, inclusive of four Sundays.
- Two weeks of continuing education leave, inclusive of two Sundays.
- Professional Reimbursements
- Twelve weeks of paid family medical leave in keeping with G-2.0804 and the policies of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan (see Policy B-8).

Commissioned Ruling Elders

Minimum compensation standards for Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) serving congregations of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan are 80% of the Total Compensation Package for Ministers of Word and Sacrament. For 2027, the minimum total cost to the congregation for a part-time CRE is \$31,273.60.

The compensation package for any CRE working at least 20 hours per week shall include:

- The Presbytery strongly recommends enrollment in the Board of Pensions Covenant Package, which includes pension accrual and other benefits.

¹ \$60,458 is determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumers' Price Index (CPI) for Midwest Urban, using the average CPI for the first 6 months of 2026.

- Professional Reimbursements
- Four weeks of vacation, inclusive of four Sundays.
- Two weeks of continuing education leave, inclusive of two Sundays.
- Twelve weeks of paid family medical leave in keeping with G-2.0804 and the policies of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan (see Policy B-8).
- Congregations are strongly encouraged to assess and address health care needs and options for CREs.

Professional Reimbursements

The following professional reimbursement minimums are as follows:

- Automobile expenses are to be vouchered and reimbursed at the current IRS rate.
- Professional development allowance of a minimum of \$800, which may be accumulated for up to three years.
- Book allowance to be vouchered up to at least \$300, or more if negotiated.
- Additional professional reimbursement allowance includes vouchered business costs such as subscriptions, professional memberships, supplies, and similar items, as negotiated.

Sabbatical

Congregations must follow Sabbatical Leave Guidelines (C-325), which recommends a sabbatical leave after seven (7) continuous years or more of service at a particular church.

Exceptions

If a congregation cannot meet these minimum standards, the session must annually submit a request to the Presbytery through the Commission on Ministry, outlining the justification for the exception and explaining why the position should not be reduced to part-time. The minister must agree with the request and indicate in writing a willingness to be compensated below the presbytery minimum. For example, consideration might be given to congregations that give extra weeks of vacation and may count those weeks as part of the Total Compensation Package at the rate of 1.9% of the Total Effective Salary.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATING and REPRESENTATION
September 12, 2026
STATED MEETING of the PRESBYTERY of LAKE MICHIGAN (PLM)

TO REPORT RESIGNATIONS:

- TE Lisa Schrott; Okemos, PLM Nominating and Representation Committee (Class of 2026)
- TE Steve Kaszar; Concord First/Homer First, PLM COM East Region (Class of 2027)
- RE Linda Hardenbergh; East Lansing, Eastminster, PLM Vice Moderator (Class of 2026)

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

- RE Laurie Tupper; Kalamazoo First, PLM Vice Moderator (Class of 2026)

REPRESENTATION

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) East and West Regions.

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 Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. (East Region) or 2:30 p.m. (West Region)

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:

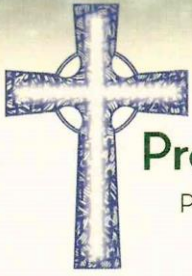
<https://lakemichiganpresbytery.org/churches/antiracism-resources/>

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 when she returns from sabbatical.*

NOMINATING AND REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Elder Willye Bryan 517-449-8279 entpeople@yahoo.com
- Rev. Dr. Ruth Lowry 616-915-8221 pastor.ruth.pcusa@gmail.org
- Rev. Dr. Jay Ayers 316-323-9107 jayers55@gmail.com
- Elder Linda Bieze 616-780-1217 linda.bieze@gmail.com
- Elder Brian Koon 517-285-4192 b.koon@comcast.net
- Rev. Dr. Fran Lane Lawrence 269-240-8155 flanelawrenceplm@gmail.com

*Please send all resources to office@lakemichiganpresbytery.org through October 20, 2026.



Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

2027 Proposed Budget
First Read Narrative
September 12, 2026

Presbytery of Lake Michigan First Read 2027 Proposed Budget

Narrative Overview of Proposed 2027 Budget

I. Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals

The 2027 Presbytery of Lake Michigan (PLM) Budget is designed to reflect the mission, vision, values, and goals of the institution.

The Presbytery of Lake Michigan (PLM) 2027 Budget reflects the Strategic Plan adopted by the Presbytery in 2018. The plan established the following goals:

1. PLM will work to strengthen relationships between
 - a. the Presbytery and its congregations
 - b. the Presbytery and its minister members
 - c. the Presbytery and Sessions
 - d. congregations
2. PLM will resource and support congregations for healthy and vital ministries.
3. PLM will develop and support healthy and dynamic leaders for congregations and validated ministries.
4. PLM will fulfill its other responsibilities mandated in G-3.03 in the Book of Order,

II. Ministry Context

Ministry has been, and is taking place within our Presbytery through congregations, campus ministries, local and regional partnerships, and through the work of the Presbytery. The shape and delivery mechanisms for many of the component parts of our ministry changed during the pandemic and they continue to change as we adapt to provide ministry in a post-pandemic environment that continues to evolve.

Technology plays an increasingly important role in ministry. Every level of ministry, from the local to the global, has increased its use of technology. But ministry is by, for, with, and to people. In budgeting for 2027, we face the challenge of attempting to discern what ministry will look like in 2027 and what resources (human and financial) will be available to facilitate ministry.

Effects of Board of Pensions (BoP) decisions related to coverages and costs for the benefit plans that cover many of our church's employees which began in January 2025 are becoming

increasingly apparent. During 2025 certain adjustments to the roll out were made by BoP, the net effect of these adjustments is not completely known at this time.

Some initiatives, like the Matthew 25 initiative, that were approved by the presbytery in the last few years may need reallocated resources.

The First Read of the Proposed Budget 2027 is our best attempt to consider all the factors that affect our ministry together.

III. Societal Context

- A. A politicized atmosphere in our society contributes to diminished trust. The potential of working together to meet challenges has been and continues to be threatened by apathy and/or acrimony. Ascription of bad motives to those with whom we disagree regarding political, social, or ecclesiastical issues exacerbates diminished trust and threatens the ability of the connectional church to provide ministry necessary in our world.
- B. American society continues to develop heightened awareness of how racism, privilege, injustice, structural oppression, and apathy are interrelated. This heightened awareness of the pervasiveness of racism within North American society and the injustices fueled and perpetuated by racism calls for a response by the Presbytery of Lake Michigan contextualized to our local or regional ministry setting.
- C. Societal anxiety is fed by uncertainty regarding the longer-term effects of COVID on human health and our society. We are uncertain regarding longer term impact of the changes that have become part of our daily lives.
- D. Angst caused by violence, and especially gun violence, shows itself in our cities, small towns, and rural areas.
- E. Debates regarding US citizenship and immigration initiatives have led to distress and uneasiness for many.
- F. Fear of war and terrorism has increased within the ministry context of the Presbytery.
- G. Economic uncertainty is fueled by stock market volatility, supply chain issues, fears of recession, and the potential for economic disruption brought on by international political unrest or upheaval.

IV. Our Presbytery Context

- A. The Presbytery enjoys stable executive leadership by the Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence, Executive Presbyter/ Stated Clerk.
- B. In person attendance for most of our congregations has declined significantly from pre-covid levels.

- C. Many of our congregations now report participation in virtual worship. For some this is a convenient way for shut-ins, for those whose health is compromised, or for those who are seasonal travelers to participate. For others who have moved away it affords the opportunity to worship with a congregation with whom they have historic ties.
- D. A few of our congregations are experiencing growth from members who have joined because of dissatisfaction with the stance and practices of their former less inclusive congregations/denominations.

E. Presbytery Revenues through June 30, 2026

1. Per Capita receipts were \$ 246,920
 - This is 70.56 % of the annual per capita expected.
 - Last year the percentage received at this time was 63.38%
 - As of June 30, 2026:
 - 31 congregations paid their annual per capita in full
 - 9 congregations paid 50-99% of their per capita
 - 6 congregations paid between 1% and 49%
 - 8 congregations had not paid anything YTD.
2. Shared Mission receipts were \$ 47,609 compared with \$54,430 last year at the same time. \$ 47,609 represents 36.41 % of the 2026 PLM Shared Mission budgeted amount.
3. Presbytery Operating expenses YTD through June 30, 2026, were \$ 393,326 compared with \$333.236 for a similar period in 2025.

F. Limitations of Human Resources

1. Our Presbytery continues to shrink:
 - a) Membership reported in 2020 was 10,283,
2021 was 9,845,
2022 was 9,119
2023 was 8,677
2024 was 8,249
2025 was 7,778
 - b) Annual losses range between 4.26% and 7.37% since 2020.
 - c) Membership reported for 2000 was 21,690 compared to 7,778 in 2025.
Stated differently, PLM's 2025 membership was 35.86% of what it was in 2000.
2. In the 2025 annual report cited above: 6 congregations reported a gain in membership with a total gain of 28 members (One of our larger congregations with over 300 members accounted for 18 of the 28 members), 8 congregations reported the same number of members in 2025 as they did in 2024, 40 congregations reported loss of membership.
3. The median age of most of our congregations is much older than it was in 2000. Recent PLM statistics show that 43.08% of our members are over 71 years old.

4. The human resources for ministry and service are dwindling in most of our congregations and certainly within our presbytery.
5. As a result of this dwindling pool of human resources, congregations and the presbytery are vying for service from a smaller pool of people.
6. The structure of the presbytery has been shrinking. But even with a smaller structure we often cannot fill the necessary positions in our structure with qualified and willing individuals. The Nominations & Representation Committee has repeatedly noted this problem in its communications with the Leadership Team and with the Presbytery at large.
7. Expenses for maintaining the organization do not contract at the same rate as the loss of members.
8. Budget & Finance and Leadership Teams believe that moving toward a more simplified structure assists in addressing the issues mentioned above but it does not solve the problem.

F. Effects on Revenue of the Continuing Decline in Participation

1. Congregational attendance (and sometimes support) may come from non-members.
 - a. A ten-year decline in average attendance from nearly 50% to 37% of membership was evident pre-pandemic.
 - b. As previously noted, most of our congregations' report that in person attendance is markedly less than attendance was pre-pandemic. In 2025 some congregations reported that non-members participated virtually in worship or small groups and contributed financially to the ministry. The longer-term effect of on-line/virtual worshippers on annual revenue is unknown currently.
2. Per Capita revenues are influenced by rate increases and the number of members:

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2025</u>
GA Budget	\$ 108,115	\$ 94,059
GA Per Capita	\$ 6.50	\$ 10.84
GA Actual Receipts	\$ 104,500	\$ 87,880
Synod Budget	\$ 54,057	\$ 29,502
Synod Per Capita	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.40
Synod Actual Receipts	\$ 52,251	\$ 27,590
Presbytery Budget	\$ 235,178	\$ 240,874
Presbytery Per Capita	\$ 14.50	\$ 27.76
Presbytery Receipts	\$ 233,115	\$ 223,475

3. Shared Mission financial experience can be summarized in this snapshot:

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2025</u>
GA Actual Receipts	\$ 161,005	\$ 202,724
Synod Actual Receipts	\$ 9,063	\$ 5,935
Presbytery Receipts	\$ 286,920	\$ 217,070

- G. Legitimate ministry needs and opportunities within the communities served by our congregations and worshipping communities far outstrip the Presbytery's ability to resource all those ministry opportunities. This reality has been discussed within Presbytery committees for

at least the last eight years. This reality was formally brought to the attention of the Presbytery in September and December of 2019 through the Narratives accompanying the 2020 Budget that warned of likely reduction in monies allocated to ministry partners in the future. The PLM budgets adopted for each year 2021 through 2026 could not support all the ministry requests that were submitted. And this reality is also true for the 2027 Budget.

H. The challenges faced by our Presbytery are common to many presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly. While accumulated resources may vary, all of them are facing the realities that current giving cannot sustain the breadth and scope of historical ministries and/or development of new ministries as may have been true in the past.

V. Sources of Revenue for Budget 2027

The anticipated sources of revenue for the 2027 Budget include:

- Presbytery Per Capita
- Presbytery Shared Mission
- Other income
- Grant monies from PCUSA affiliated entities
- Financial reserves held by Presbytery of Lake Michigan

Note: The amounts for Synod and the General Assembly Per Capita and Shared Mission are a “pass through” in the 2027 Budget. That is, they show up both as revenue and as expense in the budget.

The expectation of the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) is that each presbytery will pay the full OGA per capita for all its congregations regardless of whether individual congregations pay their full per capita amount. The practice of the PLM has been to send in the amount that it collects from the congregations. The projected revenue and projected expenses for these items are the same in the 2027 Budget.

The GA meeting in July 2026 approved a per capita of \$ 13.04 for 2027 and \$12.72 for 2028. This translates into a 15.8 % annual increase for 2027 and a 2.45 % annual decrease for 2028.

The Synod Trustees approved a Per Capita for 2026 in the amount of \$ 3.40. We have been informed that The Synod Per Capita will again be \$3.40 for 2027.

A. Presbytery Per Capita

The 2027 Budget, as recommended and attached, assumes a Presbytery Per Capita of \$29.56

This reflects an increase of \$ 1.80 This represents a PLM annual Per Capita increase of 6.48% The combined Per Capita would be \$46.00 compared to last year’s combined per capita of \$42.42, an increase of \$ 3.58 or an increase of 8.44%. However please note that the PLM did not increase from 2025 to 2026.

Please note that as membership decreases the per capita amount would need to increase by the same factor as the membership loss to provide the same number of dollars as in the previous year. Membership losses in the past year exceeded 5.63 %. Budget and Finance and the Leadership Team are recommending a budget that includes a slight increase in the amount taken from reserves recognizing that the PLM received monies from the closing of one of our congregations in 2025.

The Per Capita for the Presbytery was \$23.00 for the 2020 and 2021 Budgets. In 2022 it was \$24.50, and \$26.00 for 2023, and \$27.00 for 2024, and \$ 27.76 in 2025. Please note that it would require a Presbytery Per Capita of over \$ 60.00, if we did not use financial reserves or our “Other Income” to balance the budget.

B. Snapshots of Per Capita Increases

Per Capita	2024	2025	2026	% Change	2027	% change
GA	\$ 9.80	\$ 10.84	\$ 11.26	3.87 %	\$13.04	15.08%
Synod	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.40	\$ 3.40	-0- %	\$ 3.40	-0-%
Presbytery	\$27.00	\$ 27.76	\$ 27.76	-0- %	\$ 29.56	6.48%
Total	\$40.05	\$42.00	\$42.42	1.0 %	\$ 46.00	8.44%

Please note that the Per Capita amounts for the GA and the Synod of the Covenant are set by those respective bodies and are not subject to change by individual presbyteries.

C. Shared Mission

Shared Mission recommended for 2027 reflects the specific receipt experience during the last few years. The PLM has seen the following pattern in its annual Shared Mission receipts:

2020	\$142,870
2021	\$185,354
2022	\$140,305
2023	\$135,670
2024	\$119,664
2025	\$118,154

While many of our congregations contribute to Shared Mission, well over half of them do not inform us of their intent to do so. While we are grateful for their participation, it does make accurate projection difficult. For some congregations the level of participation depends on whether there is money available after all local needs are met.

Shared Mission is the tangible expression of the connectional nature of the relationship within the PCUSA, our Synod, and our Presbytery.

D. Other Income

- Joy Foundation denotes monies received from an endowment administered by the Presbytery of Detroit.
- Investment Income- The amount of Investment Income projected each year is based on a formula using a 12-quarter rolling average applied to the Presbytery’s unrestricted assets. The 2027 applicable factor is 4.5% of the Presbytery’s unrestricted assets, this is the same formula as used for each year from 2022 through the 2026 budgets. We are aware that some congregations and institutions use higher or lower factors. In a time of economic uncertainty this figure represents a factor that Budget and Finance can endorse.
- Synod of the Covenant -Higher Education
The Synod returns part of the money we send to it in the form of support for Higher Education. In 2022 the PLM received \$6,582. In 2023 the PLM received \$ 5,112.

This was the amount budgeted for 2025. However, in 2024 the PLM received \$ 8,527 (apparently a bit of catch-up). The amount recommended for the 2027 Budget is \$ 6,324.

- Land Sales – Youth *
- Land Sales – Congregation *
- Land Sales - Unrestricted *

* In the past this included allocation of specified monies received from some of the Presbytery's Greenwood Properties as delineated in the Presbytery's December 2018 decision. On December 06, 2022, the Presbytery approved a recommendation to change that decision. The First Read of the 2027 Budget reflects that decision.

E. Reserves for Balance

The PLM's unrestricted reserves as of June 30, 2026, were \$ 4,601,276. which includes \$ 3,842,617 of non-designated funds. Recently designated funds described below:

At its December 05, 2023, Stated Meeting, the PLM approved a recommendation to designate funds for the support of vulnerable congregations. The monies which come from the sale of property of dissolved congregations were designated in the following amounts: \$70,000 for Dissolutions, \$50,000 for Mergers/Unions/Joint Witness, \$150,000 for Creative Ministries for Vulnerable Congregations.

Funds designated for each area are to be replenished, if possible, from the sale of property of congregations that may be dissolved in the future.

The PLM's restricted funds as of June 30, 2026, were \$ 278,750.

For the past six years, the Presbytery has approved monies from the Financial Reserves to balance the budget, if necessary. In 2019 the amount was \$226,057; in 2020 it was \$155,787; in 2021 the amount was \$93,504, in 2022 it was \$ 166,010, in 2023 it was \$ 132,199, in 2024 the amount was \$ 172,055. In 2025 the amount was \$ 209,197. In none of those years did we take monies from Financial Reserves. A combination of factors contributed to this, including actual expenses which were lower than projected, income from grants that were not budgeted, appreciation of PLM investments, the PPP loan and forgiveness program, and the effect of the pandemic in limiting some programming.

In the current year, 2026, the amount budgeted from reserves is \$ 230,086; we wait to see if it is necessary to use some or all this money this year.

The amount budgeted from financial reserves in the 2027 budget is \$ 263,940.

Net Asset History

	PLM Net Assets as of 12/31
2015	\$ 1,077,408
2016	\$ 1,118,881
2017	\$ 1,144,643
2018	\$ 1,848,445
2019	\$ 2,213,997
2020	\$ 2,320,449
2021	\$ 2,520,812

2022	\$ 2,206,177
2023	\$ 3,588,141
2024	\$ 3,522,749
2025	\$ 4,362,067
2026 at 6/30	\$ 4,601,276

[Note: These are snapshots of value. Market volatility affects the value each day.]

The pattern of assets listed above remained relatively constant for the years 2019 through 2022 until the assets showed a large increase in 2023 and again in 2025. This increase was largely due to the receipts from the sale of properties associated with dissolved congregations. As noted above, the PLM made decisions in December 2023 regarding use of some of the monies derived from sale of properties.

The economic uncertainty noted under “III. “Societal Context” impacts the formation of the 2027 Budget. We believe there is a possibility that in 2026 the PLM will dip into its financial reserves.

We recognize the market value of our assets could increase, decline, or remain stagnant. The value of our assets on June 30, 2026, increased from January 01, 2026. The market performance of the PLM investments varied during this period. These and other factors were weighed by the Budget and Finance Committee in preparing the First Read 2027 Budget.

VI. The Role of the Presbytery

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is governed by councils. The councils are The Session, The Presbytery, The Synod, and the General Assembly.

A brief overview of the responsibilities of each presbytery is furnished in the Book of Order:

The presbytery is responsible for the government of the church throughout its district, and for assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness. As it leads and guides the witness of its congregations, the presbytery shall keep before it the marks of the Church (F-1.0302), the notes by which Presbyterian and Reformed communities have identified themselves through history (F-1.0303) and the six Great Ends of the Church (F-1.0304).

(Excerpt G-3.0301)

The presbytery has responsibility and power to:

- a. provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard.
- b. provide that the Sacraments be rightly administered and received.
- c. nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ.

The presbytery fulfills its mandated functions in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, the Commission on Ministry, Commission on Preparation for Ministry, Judicial Commission, Office of the Stated Clerk, Committee on Nominations and Representation, Trustees/Budget & Finance Committee, maintaining ecumenical relationships, and maintaining relationships with the Synod and the General Assembly.

The presbytery’s mandated tasks focus on assisting congregations in their efforts in fulfilling the mission of the church; presbyteries have the latitude to conduct their own programs as needed and

as resources are available. The Budget and Finance Committee and the Leadership Team have focused on resourcing the mandated tasks first and then resourcing other ministries as monies are available.

VII. Continuity and Change

When presenting the 2020 Budget, the Leadership Team and the Budget & Finance Committee outlined the following course of action:

The Leadership Team and the Budget & Finance Committee share a commitment to using wisely and prudently the monies entrusted to Presbytery. This involves investing the monies into ministry programs that will help fulfil the goals adopted by Presbytery.

It also means that their intent is that the Presbytery will use unrestricted asset reserves to supplement annual income in order to accomplish its ministry goals for at least the next four years while aiming to retain adequate unrestricted reserves for the years of 2024 and following.

This year's budget reflects that commitment and continued movement toward that announced goal.

Projected income and ministry expenses for 2027 assume a movement to a "new normal. Projections are an art form and not a science; the recommended 2027 Budget represents the best efforts of the artists on the Leadership Team and the Budget & Finance Committee.

Narrative Related to Various Areas of Budget

Please note that the budget was created following a review of all ministry areas using submitted Ministry Action Plans (MAPS).

Administration and Support Team

The budget totals in this area reflect:

- A. Customary expenses for most areas of administration.
- B. Policy and Procedures – continuation of for mandated training because of amendment to Book of Order
- C. Records Preservation costs increase due to anticipated activity.
- D. Increase in costs for conducting the mandated reviews of Session minutes. The importance of investing time and energy in these reviews to assist in alerting the Presbytery to difficulties in congregational practices has become evident in the last few years.
- E. The 2027 budgeted allocation for search is for possible support staff replacement(s) should that become necessary.

Budget & Finance Committee

The budget totals in this area reflect the anticipated costs for a Financial Review to be done in 2027 on the 2026 financials. The Presbytery has an audit performed every three years with Financial Reviews in the two other years. (An audit was last performed in 2026 on 2025 financials.)

Congregational Support Team

The 2027 Budget recommendation reflects:

- A. The Commission on Ministry budget reflects an increase of \$300 from the 2026 COM budget to provide Communion Server training.
- B. Vital Congregational Initiative is eliminated as a separate line item as VCI is subsumed as part of the Matthew 25 Initiative. (See comments on “H” below)
- C. The Mediation Committee’s budget remains the same as requested and approved for 2026.
- D. The Response Committee budget remains the same as the 2026 budget.
- E. No funding in the line item titled “Congregational and Worshipping Communities Support” reflects the decision of the Presbytery in December 2022 to alter previous practice.
- F. Kalamazoo North was reduced in 2023 per their request for 2023 to reflect a shift in how the “Togetherness Group” Coordinator is compensated. North did not submit a request for funding in 2024, 2025, 2026 or 2027.
- G. Korean Ministries – This ministry was moved structurally to “Mission and Outreach” to reflect the reality that this ministry is a combination of campus and congregational ministry.
- H. The line item titled “Congregational Initiative and New Worshipping Communities” was added in the 2025 budget to provide support for unique initiatives and NWC that may arise as congregations explore new opportunities in a changing ecclesiastical environment. The same amount is proposed for 2027.
- I. The PC(USA) Mission Agency now links Vital Congregations, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty under the Matthew 25 rubric. At the December 2021 Stated Meeting the Presbytery of Lake Michigan voted to become Matthew 25 Presbytery. The monies allocated for Matthew 25 help provide the necessary resources to the Presbytery, its congregations, and its ministry partners for these commitments to be implemented.
- J. The line item titled “Ministry Connections” was added to the 2025 Budget. This ministry would meet the expressed need to bring together leaders to think and speak together about the “new normal” for ministry; and would celebrate the great things happening in validated ministries and congregations with the goal of making connections between similar ministries. We believe this need is being met through weekly zoom connections facilitated by Presbytery staff.

Dynamic Leaders Team

The 2027 Budget recommendation reflects:

- A. The Team Administration budget remains the same as in previous years.
- B. Support for the Cohort groups remains at the same level as in previous years.
- C. The allocation of monies for Justice Ministries to assess involvement of local congregations in work of justice ministries and to link, train, and help them access resources for the work of justice remains at the same level as in 2022, 2024, 2025, and 2026 budgets.
- D. A partnership with LeaderWise provides training for ruling elders, pastors, and congregational leaders utilizing both in person and virtual learning modules. This reflects the vision articulated in Goal Number 3 for the PLM. And it reflects the expressed need for training and education within our congregations.

- E. Leadership Development utilizes an alternative source to provide training for ruling elders, pastors, and congregational leaders utilizing both in person and virtual learning modules. This reflects the vision articulated in Goal Number 3 for the PLM. And it reflects the expressed need for training and education within our congregations. The level of support remains at the same level as in the previous two years.
- F. There is a line for training congregational members who provide liturgical leadership. This is a response to a need that has been called to the Presbytery's attention. This initiative is done in consultation with the Commission on Ministry.
- G. Presbytery Worship budget was increased in 2023 to reflect the movement to in-person presbytery meetings which entail increased travel expenses for guest preachers and/or keynote speakers. The recommended amount for 2027 is consistent with projected needs.
- H. The Commission on the Preparation for Ministry (CPM) 2027 budget is configured to reflect the needs of CPM.
- I. Resource Center remains at the same level as budgeted for 2026.
- J. The "Scholarships for Continuing Education" budgeted amount remains the same as in the 2026 budget, reflecting anticipation that leaders will again be attending in person sessions and/or enrolling for virtual learning in 2027.
- K. Activities, Montreat/Plunge/Triennium. The recommended budget provides support for Montreat, urban plunge and other currently planned activities as requested by Youth Strategies
- L. Youth ministries and youth scholarships- The lack of monetary recommendation for 2027 reflects the decision of December 2022.

Leadership Team

The 2027 Budget recommendation for Leadership Team reflects anticipated needs in each area for 2027.

Mandated GA Training

The GA meeting earlier this year mandated training to take place in 2027. The training is focused on Anti-Racism, Anti-bias, and cultural training relative to LGBTQIA. Each area of training is mandatory for a wide range of functionaries within the Presbytery. Rather than attempting to attach dollar amounts to each specific area it seemed wisest to create a category in the Expense Budget identified as Mandated GA Training with a recommended expense for 2027 of \$ 25,000.

Mission & Outreach Team

The 2027 Budget recommendation reflects:

- A. The level of support for each Campus Ministry is reflective of our commitment to recognize the importance of these ministry efforts balanced with prudent use of financial resources consistent with the adopted goals of the Presbytery. It also reflects a decision to provide Presbytery financial support for each of them at the same level of financial support irrespective of location or history of support.
- B. The recommended amount for individual ministries was increased for the 2025 budget from the 2024 level. The recommended amount for 2026 reflected an increase of \$1,000 for each campus ministry, or about a 5.26 % increase. In 2027 the allocation is \$ 750. for a 3.75% increase.
- C. Korean Ministries – This line item was moved from Congregational Support to this location in 2024 because this ministry is a combination of campus ministry and

congregational ministry. The level of support was increased at that time to move them to parity with other campus ministries.

- D. “Presbyterian Disaster Assistance” is not budgeted for 2027 because the Presbytery has monies available for disaster assistance in a fund designated for that purpose which it received as part of the disposition of the John Knox properties.

Nomination & Representation Committee

This committee is critical to our functioning as a Presbytery. The recommendation reflects their expressed needs for 2027.

Permanent Judicial Commission

These monies are budgeted each year with the hope that this commission will not be pressed into use.

Personnel/ Staff Narrative

Budgets are established reflecting the positions expected to be filled at the time the budget is established. They do not represent contracts or monies to be paid to the individuals filling the positions. A termination of employment may lead to a shift in responsibilities or duties either increasing or decreasing an individual’s compensation. Staff responsibilities may be shifted to reflect competencies and changes in availability. As needs change, the staffing positions or competencies may change to reflect that reality. The recommendations for 2027 reflect the increasing dependance on technology and the services provided to our congregations to utilize technology. The recommendations also reflect the need for staff members to perform certain necessary functions as the number of qualified and available volunteers continues to decrease.

Salaries for Officers and Staff Salaries are presented as a single line item in the First Read 2027 Budget. The specific 2027 compensation rates for staff members will be set by those having supervisory responsibilities following a review of 2026 performance and delineation of expectations for 2027. This is consistent with the patterns established in many of our larger congregations and in many not-for-profit organizations.

Called Staff positions and compensation packages are approved by the Presbytery at the time the nominated leaders are presented for approval. The approved position descriptions indicate, “The supervision, review, and adequacy of compensation (of these positions) shall be reviewed by Leadership Team at least annually.” At the PLM’s Stated Meeting in December 2026 compensation recommendations will be presented to the body for the Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk, and the Treasurer.

The money for these salaries is included in the “Officers and Staff Salaries” line item along with monies for other staff positions.

The 2027 First Read Budget includes a \$ 11,885 increase for the Officers and Staff Salaries.

- The increase reflects a 3 % increase in this line item as compared to last year’s budget.
- Estimates for this year’s Social Security increase to be announced in October 2026 range between 3.4% and 4.7 %.
- Various business groups expect that in Michigan there will be a 3.0% increase in salaries and wages for 2027.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics released its June 2026 Consumer Price Index which showed its “all items index” rose by 3.5% over the previous 12 months.

The anticipated Staff configuration for 2027:

- Executive Presbyter/ Stated Clerk – Full-time called position with health and pension benefits.
- Bookkeeper – 12-16 hours per week.
- Associate Clerk – Fulltime position with benefits.
- Technology/Communication Support Manager – 20-24 hours per week.
- Treasurer – Salaried for 15 hours per week.
- Commission on Ministry Support – part time – 12 hours per week.
- Assistant to the Executive Presbyter – 80 hours per quarter plus additional hours as approved by Executive Presbyter at rate less than the minimum TOC rate for 2027. (Hours are primarily expended in staffing Administrative Commissions and/or dealing with Presbytery real estate matters. The future need for these hours is impossible to predict. The monies come predominately from the sale of PLM properties.)

The Budget & Finance Committee and Leadership Team recognize that the Presbytery of Lake Michigan is a service organization with many similarities to school systems in which salary costs represent a significant portion of the budget. It also looks at data from our congregations.

Each year the congregations within the presbytery return information to the Stated Clerk related to finance. This data is compiled for all the congregations of the Presbytery. Please note that the data referenced below was collected for fiscal 2021. The format for 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 reporting did not include personnel costs as a separate category, so we had to rely on historical data from 2021 which was:

	Total for PLM Congregations
Annual Expenses	\$ 11,333,304
Personnel Costs	\$ 6,739,973
Personnel as % of total	59.47 %

The Personnel Expenses in the 2027 Budget as proposed would constitute 52.15% of the PLM Budget.

Operations Narrative

The Operations Budget for 2027 increased by \$ 12,400 reflecting experience in 2025 and through June 30, 2026, as well as anticipated need for 2027.

Administrative Commissions

Tracking costs associated with various administrative commissions. These costs are distinct from those which are related to the sale of Presbytery property for dissolved congregations.

Building Maintenance/Lease

Budget reflects lease costs and anticipated maintenance costs.

Building Utilities

Projected based on usage and utility rate increases.

Communications & Technology

Reflect changes in needed technology.

Computer Support

Reflects experience of 2019-2025 and YTD 2026.

Contract Service (payroll, recording clerk, other)

Reflects known and anticipated costs.

Congregational Connection/Directory/Software links for this service

Reflects known and anticipated costs.

Depreciation -Building and equipment**Equipment Acquisition**

Reflects on-going needs to upgrade equipment and/or purchase new equipment.

Equipment Repair and Maintenance

Budgeted amount appears adequate based on history.

Fees and Service Charges

Budgeted amount based on history.

Insurance - Comprehensive

Reflects anticipated costs based on experience.

Insurance - Workers' Comp

Based on experience and anticipated participation.

GA Meeting and Retreat

Operational Expense involving General Assembly participation.

Governing Body Meeting Expense

Participation in Governing Body meetings when commissioners or staff members are delegated, requested, or instructed to attend.

Professional Expenses

These are predominately legal expenses incurred by the Presbytery. Proposed amount is reflective of 2019-2025 experiences, YTD 2026, and anticipated expenses for 2027.

Moderator/Vice Moderator Travel Expenses

Travel for Moderator/Vice Moderator in performance of official duties.

Moderator Training Expenses

Costs associated with education and training to serve in these functions.

Postage

Projected expense based on experience and anticipated need.

Supplies

Reflects experience.

Telephone/ General

Projected expense based on experience.

Website and email contact expense

Projected expense based on experience.

Vouchered Expenses

Projected expense based on experience and anticipated need.

Other Expense

Unclassified or miscellaneous expenses.

The 2027 Budget, as presented, is an investment in the Presbytery's collaboratively developed ministry priorities. It reflects the goals and priorities established by the Presbytery in 2018 and follows the trajectory of assumptions and commitments previously communicated to and approved by the Presbytery in the adoption of the previous annual budgets.

It reflects a best effort at faithful stewardship of the gifts and ministries that God has entrusted to the Presbytery of Lake Michigan.

Recommendation to September 12, 2026, Stated Meeting that:

The 2027 Per Capita for the Presbytery of Lake Michigan be set at \$ 29.56

During the Stated Meeting on September 12, 2026, the First Read Proposed 2027 Budget, and its Narrative will be presented to the body with limited time for questions and comments.

Those desiring to gain clarification or to comment on the Budget and the Narrative are invited to submit comments or questions via email sent to bnfmoderator@lakemichiganpresbytery.org. **Please direct all questions and comments to this address and not to another email address, phone, or text of any member of the Budget and Finance Committee or Presbytery staff.**

[illegible]

			Presbytery of Lake Michigan			
			2027 Proposed Budget			
			September 12, 2026			
	SUPPORT AND REVENUE	Proposed	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
		Budget 2027	Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Budget 2024	Budget 2023
	PER CAPITA					
	GA Per Capita	\$ 101,425	\$ 92,884	\$ 94,059	\$ 89,366	\$ 96,973
	Synod Per Capita	\$ 26,445	\$ 28,047	\$ 29,502	\$ 29,637	\$ 31,996
	Presbytery Per Capita	\$ 229,918	\$ 228,992	\$ 240,874	\$ 246,213	\$ 255,970
	Current Year Uncollectable	\$ (15,000)	\$ (15,000)	\$ (15,000)	\$ (15,000)	\$ (15,000)
	Per Capita Total	\$ 342,788	\$ 334,923	\$ 349,434	\$ 350,216	\$ 369,940
	SHARED MISSION					
	Presbytery Shared Mission	\$ 122,000	\$ 130,750	\$ 137,250	\$ 152,500	\$ 152,500
	G.A. Shared Mission	\$ 76,000	\$ 85,500	\$ 85,500	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000
	Synod Shared Mission	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
	Shared Mission Total	\$ 200,000	\$ 218,500	\$ 225,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
	OTHER INCOME					
	Joy Foundation-Detroit Presbytery	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
	Interest on Land Contract			\$ -	-	\$ -
	Investment Income	\$ 157,733	\$ 127,497	\$ 107,807	\$ 90,602	\$ 80,428
	Synod of Covenant for Higher Education	\$ 6,324	\$ 6,324	\$ 5,112	\$ 6,324	\$ 6,324
	GW Land Sales -Congregations			*	*	\$ 5,710
	GW Land Sales -Youth			*	*	\$ 6,472
	GW Land Sales- Unrestricted			*	*	\$ 3,370
	Monies from Project participants	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
	* per Stated Meeting 2022 12 6 decision					
	Other Income Total	\$ 188,057	\$ 157,821	\$ 136,919	\$ 120,926	\$ 126,304
	TOTAL ALL INCOME	\$ 730,845	\$ 711,244	\$ 711,353	\$ 721,142	\$ 746,244
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 994,785	\$ 941,330	\$ 920,550	\$ 893,197	\$ 878,443
	INCOME - EXPENSES	\$ (263,940)	\$ (230,086)	\$ (209,197)	\$ (172,055)	\$ (132,199)
	ANTICIPATED FROM RESERVES	\$ 263,940	\$ 230,086	\$ 209,197	\$ 172,055	\$ 132,199
	EXPENSES					
		Proposed	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
		2027	2026	2025	2024	2023
	ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT TEAM					
	Administration	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300
	Communications Committee				-	\$ -
	Overture & Amendment Review	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
	Policy & Proceedure Committee	\$ 10,100	\$ 10,100	\$ 10,100	\$ 15,100	\$ 100
	Records Preservation	\$ 400	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300
	Session Records Review - mileage	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 600
	Staff Search	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300
	Administration & Support Total	\$ 14,300	\$ 12,700	\$ 12,700	\$ 17,700	\$ 1,800

	BUDGET & FINANCE					
	Administration	500	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	Financial Audit/Review	7500	\$ 8,500	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500	\$ 8,500
	Budget and Finance Total	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 9,500
	CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT TEAM					
	Administration	500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
	<i>Commission on Ministry</i>					
	Administration	500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
	Admin Commissions			\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	Background Screening	1000	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
	Child Care @ Stated Meetings	500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
	Clergy Counselling	5000	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,000
	COM Retreat/training	1000	\$ 1,000	\$ 500		
	Emergency Aid/ Ministers					\$ 2,000
	Sabbatical Assistance	2000	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
	Scholarships for Interim Training	1000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
	Validated Minister's Luncheon	500	\$ 500			
	Communion Server training	300				
	Mission Insite Software	6000	\$ 6,000			
	Advertising interim/small church pos.					
	sub-total COM	\$ 18,300	\$ 17,500	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,000	\$ 11,000
	<i>Mediation Committee</i>	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 315	\$ 1,000
	<i>Response Committee</i>	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
	Vital Congregations Initiative **					
	Admin/Misc/contact w National Office			**	**	\$ 2,000
	Cong Development- hosting			**	**	\$ 3,000
	Community & Congregational- Surveys			**	**	\$ 2,500
	Facilitator Training Conference			**	**	\$ 1,500
	Facilitator Travel & cohort meetings			**	**	\$ 3,000
	Materials and Resources- study guide			**	**	\$ 1,500
	National VCI Allocation			**	**	
	** Now part of Matthew 25 Initiative					
	sub-total VCI			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,500
	Congregation & Worshiping Comm Support			*	*	\$ 5,710
	* per Stated Meeting 2022 12 6 decision					
	Kalamazoo North				\$ -	
	Korean Ministry ***					\$ 14,200
	*** moved to Mission & Outreach					
	Cong Initiative and NWC	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000		
	Matthew 25 Initiatives	\$ 33,500	\$ 33,500	\$ 33,500	\$ 33,500	\$ 20,000
	Ministry Connections		\$ -	\$ 3,800		
	Congregational Support Total	\$ 60,480	\$ 59,600	\$ 58,400	\$ 46,415	\$ 66,010
	DYNAMIC LEADERS TEAM					
	Administration	750	750	750	750	\$ 750
	Cohort Groups					
	Encouragement Project	\$ 100	100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100

	Service to Retirees	\$ 300	300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 250
	sub-total Cohort	\$ 400	400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 350
	Justice Ministries	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
	LeaderWise partner- Synod of Covenant	\$ 9,200	\$ 9,200	\$ 8,200	\$ 6,500	
	Leadership Development	\$ 5,100	\$ 5,100	\$ 5,100	\$ 6,400	\$ 6,400
	Liturgy Development Workshops	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,000		
	Presbytery Worship Group	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500
	<i>Preparation for Ministry Commission</i>					
	Administration	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 600	\$ 1,500
	Candidates/Educator Counselling	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,500
	Candidates Ordination Exams	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	Candidates/Inquirers Retreat	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,000
	Candidate/Inquirer/Educator Travel	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 800	\$ 1,000
	Financial Assistance	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500
	sub-total CPM	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,100	\$ 11,500
	Resource Center	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200
	Scholarships for continuing Educ	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
	Youth Activities. Montreat/Plunge/Triennial	\$ 20,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 13,380	\$ 10,000
	Youth Ministry & Scholarships			*	*	\$ 6,472
	* per Stated Meeting 2022 12 6 decision					
	Dynamic Leaders Total	\$ 66,650	\$ 63,650	\$ 62,650	\$ 57,230	\$ 54,172
	LEADERSHIP TEAM					
	Administration	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
	Leadership Team Retreat	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
	Moderator's Conference	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	GA Meetings and Retreat	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	
	Presbytery Retreat	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000
	Leadership Team Total	\$ 6,500	\$ 7,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500
	Mandated GA Training	\$ 25,000				
	Anti-Racism, Anti-Bias, Intercultural					
	MISSION & OUTREACH TEAM					
	Administration	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
	UCCF-(GR) Campus Ministries	\$ 20,750	\$ 20,000	\$ 19,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
	Kazoo United Campus Ministries	\$ 20,750	\$ 20,000	\$ 19,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
	U-Kirk Ministries (Lansing)	\$ 20,750	\$ 20,000	\$ 19,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
	Korean Ministry	\$ 20,750	\$ 20,000	\$ 19,000	\$ 18,000	
	Ministry Sub-Total	\$ 83,500	\$ 80,500	\$ 76,500	\$ 72,500	\$ 54,500
	Pres. Disaster Assistance			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Mission and Outreach Total	\$ 83,500	\$ 80,500	\$ 76,500	\$ 72,500	\$ 54,500
	NOMINATING/REPRESENTATION	300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	300
	PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION	300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300
	Officers and Staff Salaries	\$ 411,385	\$ 399,500	394,540	\$ 383,049	\$ 371,892

	Operational Expenses	\$ 112,500	\$ 100,100	\$ 89,850	\$ 85,200	\$ 87,000
	See attachment for Detail					
	TOTAL PLM EXPENSES	\$ 788,915	\$ 732,650	\$ 709,240	\$ 676,694	\$ 651,974
	Per Capita - General Assembly	\$ 101,425	\$ 92,884	\$ 94,059	\$ 89,366	\$ 96,973
	Per Capita - Synod of the Covenant	\$ 26,445	\$ 28,047	\$ 29,502	\$ 29,637	\$ 31,996
	GA- Shared Mission	\$ 76,000	\$ 85,500	\$ 85,500	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000
	Synod - Shared Mission	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
	TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET	\$ 994,785	\$ 941,330	\$ 920,550	\$ 893,197	\$ 878,443

Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Balance Sheet at 6/30/2026

ASSETS:	
Cash	39,050.27
General Investments:	
Investments - New Covenant Trust Mgmt. Fund	3,212,642.47
Investments - John Knox Memorial Fund	1,023,504.12
Investments - Investment & Loan Program	51,371.37
	<u>4,287,517.96</u>
Other Investments:	
Investments - Presbyterian Foundation - Sp. Assistance	49,336.96
Endowment - Presbyterian Foundation - Niger	72,356.36
Endowment - Presbyterian Foundation - Nicaragua	72,356.36
Escrow Account - Westminster of Jackson	330,782.97
	<u>524,832.65</u>
Total Cash & Investments	4,851,400.88
Accounts Receivable Per Capita	103,002.63
Prepaid Expense / Retreats & Meetings	338.23
Total Fixed Assets - Original Cost less Depreciation	<u>3,912.67</u>
Total Assets:	4,958,654.41
LIABILITIES:	
Accounts Payable	26,595.18
Escrow Account - Westminster of Jackson	330,782.97
NET ASSETS:	<u>4,601,276.26</u>
TOTAL LIAB & NET ASSETS:	<u>4,958,654.41</u>
*Fund Balances:	
Unrestricted:	
Non-Designated:	
Operating Surpluses Prior Years:	785,081.24
Operating Surpluses YTD:	313,746.90
John Knox Memorial Fund	589,574.95
Church Dissolutions	1,279,398.32
Undesignated Funds	674,815.31
Presbytery Operating Cash Reserve	200,000.00
Total Non-Designated:	<u>3,842,616.72</u>
Designated:	
Congregational Vitality & Justice	68,448.63
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	36,732.00
Mental Health Ministry Grant	4,781.07
Misc. Designated	(3,144.39)
Total Designated:	<u>479,909.22</u>
Total Unrestricted:	4,322,525.94
Restricted:	
John Knox- Nicaragua	64,876.58
John Knox- Niger	64,876.58
Special Assistance Endowment Fund	46,808.40
Other Temporarily Restricted	102,188.76
Total Restricted:	<u>278,750.32</u>
Total Net Assets:	<u>4,601,276.26</u>

Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Summary of Operating, Designated and Restricted Funds
For the Year-To-Date Ended June 30, 2026

PLM Operating Fund:	Annual Budget	
Support and Revenue	6/30/2026	2026
Per Capita	\$ 349,923	\$ 349,923
Presbytery Shared Mission	\$ 47,609	\$ 130,750
Investment and Other Income/Receipts	\$ 309,542	\$ 157,821
Current Year Uncollectible	\$ -	\$ (15,000)
Transfer In	\$ -	\$ 230,087
Total Support and Revenue:	\$ 707,073	\$ 853,581
Expenses:		
<i>ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT TEAM</i>	\$ -	\$ 12,700
<i>BUDGET & FINANCE</i>	\$ 10,200	\$ 9,000
<i>CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT TEAM:</i>		
Administration	\$ -	\$ 500
Commission on Ministry	\$ 2,557	\$ 17,500
Cong Initiative and NWC	\$ 1,030	\$ 5,000
Mathew 25 Initiative	\$ 5,510	\$ 33,500
Mediation Committee	\$ 9,350	\$ 3,000
Ministry Connections	\$ -	\$ -
Response Committee	\$ -	\$ 100
<i>DYNAMIC LEADERS TEAM:</i>		
Administration	\$ -	\$ 750
Encouragement Project	\$ -	\$ 100
Justice Ministries Group	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Leadership Development	\$ -	\$ 5,100
LeaderWise Partnership-Synod	\$ -	\$ 9,200
Liturgy Development Workshops	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Presbytery Worship Team	\$ 2,610	\$ 6,500
Preparation for Ministry Commission	\$ 2,060	\$ 11,500
Resource Center	\$ -	\$ 4,200
Scholarships for Continuing Education	\$ -	\$ 3,000
Service to Retirees	\$ -	\$ 300
Youth Activities/Montreat/Plunge/etc.	\$ 8,000	\$ 17,000
<i>LEADERSHIP TEAM</i>	\$ -	\$ 7,000
<i>MISSION & OUTREACH TEAM:</i>		
Administration	\$ -	\$ 500
Campus Ministries	\$ 40,000	\$ 80,000
<i>NOMINATING/REPRESENTATION</i>	\$ -	\$ 300
<i>PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION</i>	\$ -	\$ 300
Officers and Staff	\$ 182,647	\$ 399,500
Office Operations	\$ 42,844	\$ 100,100

Summary of Operating, Designated and Restricted Funds
For the Year-To-Date Ended June 30, 2026

PLM Operating Fund:

	Annual Budget	
Other Expense	\$ -	\$ -
Per Capita - General Assembly	\$ 66,435	\$ 92,884
Per Capita - Synod of the Covenant	\$ 20,083	\$ 28,047
Total Expenses:	\$ 393,326	\$ 853,581
Operating Revenue (Deficit) Over Expenses:	\$ 313,747	\$ -

Other Assemblies' Shared Mission Receipts:

GA Shared and Other Missions	\$ 101,933	\$ 85,500
Synod Shared Mission	\$ 1,350	\$ 2,250
Total Other Assemblies' Shared Mission Receipts:	\$ 103,283	\$ 87,750

Other Assemblies' Shared Mission Disbursements:

GA Shared and Other Missions	\$ 101,933	\$ 85,500
Synod Mission	\$ 1,350	\$ 2,250
Total Other Assemblies' Shared Mission Disbursements:	\$ 103,283	\$ 87,750

Designated & Restricted Fund Activity:

Revenue		
Candidates Scholarship Offerings	\$ 457	\$ -
Church Dissolutions	\$ -	\$ -
Congregational Vitality & Justice	\$ -	\$ -
Disaster Relief - John Knox Memorial Fund	\$ 1,732	\$ -
J. Knox Missionaries - Nicaragua & Niger	\$ 2,548	\$ -
Offerings - Presbytery Mtgs.	\$ 2,095	\$ -
Peacemaking Offering-Presbytery	\$ 933	\$ -
Planning Clntrs/BksOrder/Outlook	\$ 113	\$ -
Special Assistance Endowment Fund	\$ 869	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -
Two Cents A Meal	\$ 1,152	\$ -
Youth Activities	\$ -	\$ -
Various Other	\$ -	\$ -
Total Designated & Restricted Revenue:	\$ 9,899	\$ -

Expenditures:

Candidates' Scholarships	\$ -	\$ -
Church Dissolutions	\$ 24,657	\$ -
Congregational Vitality & Justice Grants	\$ 3,000	\$ -
Disaster Relief - John Knox Memorial Fund	\$ 10,000	\$ -
GA Grants	\$ -	\$ -
J. Knox Missionaries - Nicaragua & Niger	\$ 2,548	\$ -
Nicaragua & Ghana Partnerships	\$ -	\$ -
Offerings - Presbytery Meetings	\$ -	\$ -
Planning Clntrs/BksOrder/Outlook	\$ -	\$ -
Special Assistance Endowment Fund	\$ 1,726	\$ -
Total Designated & Restricted Expense:	\$ 41,930	\$ -

**Summary of Operating, Designated and Restricted Funds
For the Year-To-Date Ended June 30, 2026**

PLM Operating Fund:			Annual Budget
Total All Revenue/Receipts:	\$	820,256	\$ 941,331
Total All Expenditures/Disbursements:	\$	538,540	\$ 941,331
Total Rev Over/Under Expenses:	\$	281,716	\$ -

*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.

Nov 6-8

Presbytery of Lake Michigan

Urban Plunge

\$50!

By October 5, then price
increases to \$65 per
participant.

Hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek! All
Presbytery of Lake Michigan Middle and High Schoolers are
invited for a weekend of fun, service, and worship!

Scan the QR code for
details and to register!



PRESBYTERY OF LAKE MICHIGAN
CONSENT AGENDA of the STATED MEETING
September 12, 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), Jessica Bratt Carle (VM), Elizabeth Hakken Candido (VM), Katherine Culpepper (VM), Janet Duggins (Retired), Jerry Duggins (Retired), Karen Fitz LaBarge (Rockford North Kent), Laurie Harzell (Retired), M. Jacob Kaufman (HR), Tom Kragt (Schoolcraft First), Fran Lane-Lawrence (VM), Ruth Lowry (MAL), Hailey Malcolm (MAL), Linda Male (HR), Michelle Olson (VM), Jim Pollard (GR Forest Hills), Jen Porter (GR Westminster), Kathleen Robertson King (MAL), Amy Ruhf-Brien (Big Rapids United), Scott Scheel (Edwardsburg), Barb Schreur (MAL), Paul Van Kempen (Holland First)
2. **To approve** the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, June 9, 2026, Online only.
3. **To file** the approved Minutes of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan Leadership Team on June 4, 2026 and August 6, 2026. Online only.
4. **To appoint** Rev. Ted McCulloch (Lake Huron Presbytery) as Stated Clerk Pro Tem for the September 12, 2026, Stated Presbytery meeting.
5. **To approve** the following recommendation of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan Commission on Ministry that Ruling Elder Carolyn Flore be authorized to administer communion at First Presbyterian Church of Lake City, MI, effective September 12, 2026 - May 31, 2027. Elder Flore attended the June 7, 2026, Communion Training.
6. **To accept and welcome** Rev. Judith McMillan (Arkansas Presbytery) as a member of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan effective September 12, 2026.
7. **To grant voice** to Mx. Taylor Brown (Battle Creek First) for the Youth Strategies Committee report.

8. **To receive** the Report of the Associate Clerk for today, as follows:

REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE CLERK
Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom
September 12, 2026

1. **REVIEW OF 2025 SESSION MINUTES:** The review of the 2025 session minutes has been completed. The 2025 Session Minutes for the following congregations were

approved without exception. Battle Creek First, Battle Creek Pennfield, Big Rapids United, Brooklyn, Cadillac First, Cassopolis United, Concord First, Decatur First, Dimondale First, Edwardsburg, East Lansing Eastminster, Grand Haven First, Grand Rapids Forest Hills, Grand Rapids North Park, Grand Rapids Westminster, Gregory Unadilla, Hastings First, Hesperia, Holt First, Ionia First, Jackson First, Jackson Westminster, Jenison Parkwood, Jonesville First, Kalamazoo First, Lake City First, Lansing First, Lyons/Muir Federated, Mason First, Marshall First, Muskegon First, Niles First, Okemos, Plainwell First, Portage Westminster, Richland First, Rockford North Kent, Schoolcraft First, Spring Lake, Stockbridge First, Sturgis First, and Three Rivers/Centerville First.

The 2025 Session Minute reviews for the following congregations were approved with exceptions: Benton Harbor First (by September 30, 2026, the session must complete a full financial review, adopt an Anti-Racism Policy, adopt an Anti-Harassment Policy, and complete a review of their insurance), Buchanan First (by October 31, 2026, the session must complete a full financial review, complete a review of insurance, and review the Sexual Misconduct, Child Protection, and Anti-Harassment Policies), Coldwater First (by October 31, 2026, the session must complete a review of the Sexual Misconduct, Child Protection, Anti-Harassment, and Anti-Racism Policies)

The 2025 Session Minute reviews for the following congregations were not approved: Battle Creek Westlake

The following congregations did not submit 2025 minutes for review: East Lansing Korean, Gobles Bethany, Holland First, Kalamazoo North, and Paw Paw First.

2. **SPRING 2027 RULING ELDER RETREAT:** On April 9-11, 2027, join Ruling Elders from around the Presbytery for a time of rest, reconnection, and learning at Camp Geneva. Designed especially for elders serving in small congregations, this retreat will offer space for worship, fellowship, and education. It will be led by Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence, Rev. Kristin Stroble, and Rev. Annamarie Groenenbom. More detailed information will be available at the November 17, 2026, Stated Presbytery meeting.
3. **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 Presbyter/Stated Clerk or Mx. Emily Franson, Communications and

Technology Manager, for information about how to complete the training.

Upcoming Dates:

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 thus 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 -*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.

6. **DATES FOR STATED MEETINGS IN 2027:** The dates for stated meetings of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan for 2027 are as follows:
 - a. Tuesday, February 9, 2027, 6 PM – *ZOOM*
 - b. Saturday, June 9, 2027, 9:30 AM – *BROOKLYN PRESBYTERIAN*
 - c. Tuesday, September 14, 2027, 9:30 AM -*BENTON HARBOR FIRST*
 - d. Saturday, November 13, 2027, 9:30 AM - *STURGIS FIRST*

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

7. **REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS:**

Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Churches of Decatur and Paw
Paw, MI
September 12, 2026

No report.

Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church of Allegan, MI
September 12, 2026

Since our last report at the March 14, 2026, meeting of Presbytery, the following tasks have been accomplished:

1. A survey of the properties was completed at the end of April. We successfully sought to divide into two plots.
2. Appraisals of the church building and the Manse were obtained. The appraisal completed on March 19, 2026, valued the church building located at 200 Cutler Street in Allegan, Michigan at \$170,000. The appraisal completed on March 19, 2026, valued the Manse located at 204 Cutler Street in Allegan, Michigan at \$235,000.
3. We invited Tribal Council Leaders of the Gun Lake Tribe to tour the church building and manse. We met with Tribe representatives on May 06, 2026, and discussed with them how they might utilize these facilities if they were to be transferred to them. Ideas included a Native Cultural Museum, storage space for Tribal artifacts, a Center for education on Tribal language, Tribal customs, addiction counseling, and community events. The manse might be used for temporary housing. Representatives of the Tribe toured again on September 01, 2026, with interest. After reporting to the Tribal Council, they communicated their wish to pause the processes as they obtain more information regarding the repairs that need to be made to the building, as well as more information regarding occupancy expenses, indicating that this process will likely take a few months. Meanwhile, we wait and invite Presbytery to pray for healing of historic wounds and that this hoped for transfer of property may come to fruition.
4. The Presbytery's attorney successfully sought via court judgment the release of the Bette C. Boerman endowed funds which were restricted for the maintenance of the First Presbyterian Church of Allegan's building.
The Honorable Jolene Clearwater ordered that the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, successor in interest to the First Presbyterian Church of Allegan, may utilize the funds devised to the First Presbyterian Church of Allegan by Bette C Boerman:

- To pay for the erection, improvement, and/or repairs of any building owned by and housing a constituent church of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, and
- To pay all attorney fees and costs incurred in petitioning the court for the aforesaid order and pursuing this *cy pres* proceeding to its conclusion.

The value of this fund on July 31, 2026, was \$196,772.44. Please note the value fluctuates with the market.

5. The Presbytery will also be the recipient of the following:
A checking account which had \$3,365.03 on August 31, 2026.
There are also three stocks with an approximate value of \$24,000, with market fluctuation.

These monies will come to the Presbytery and will help offset the expenses incurred with the up-keep and maintenance of this building.

6. There are several items that are available: 60 Glory to God Hymnals, a large collection of liturgical banners, a fairly new snow blower and lawn mower. Contact Rev. John Best with your interest in any of these items.

Please pray for us as the AC continues its work.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. John Best (HR)
Rev. Sheth LaRue (Benton Harbor First)
Elder Jud Ross (GR Forest Hills)

**Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for North Westminster Presbyterian Church of Lansing,
MI
September 12, 2026**

The Administrative Commission (AC) for North Westminster Presbyterian Church of Lansing, Michigan was appointed on July 15, 2026, by the Commission on Ministry.

The AC, consisting of Rev. Nick Marlatt (Hastings First), Rev. Dr. Clint Cozier (Three Rivers/Centreville First), Ruling Elder Andrew Corner (Holt First), and Ruling Elder Virginia Gibson (Mason First), met for orientation on July 30, 2026. Rev. Marlatt will serve as Moderator and Ruling Elder Corner will serve as recording secretary.

The AC met with the session of North Westminster Presbyterian on August 19, 2026.

Respectfully submitted:

The AC for North Westminster Presbyterian Church of Lansing, Michigan

Rev. Nick Marlatt, Rev. Clint Cozier, Elder Andrew Corner, Elder Virginia Gibson

**Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for Delta Presbyterian Church of Lansing, MI
and the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale
September 12, 2026**

Background:

In June 2023, Rev. Ben Rumbaugh became the Designated Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale, following the retirement of Rev. Scott Crane. In June 2024, Rev. Rumbaugh also became the Designated Pastor of Delta Presbyterian Church in Lansing, following the retirement of Rev. Wendy Pratt. The two congregations are the only PC(USA) churches in Eaton County, and are located approximately 6.5 miles away from each other (11 minutes by car) on Lansing's west side. Elder Heather Myer (Eastminster Presbyterian Church, East Lansing) has been serving as the Commission on Ministry's liaison to the Dimondale congregation since 2023, and as its liaison to the Delta congregation since 2024.

In June 2024, the two congregations entered a cooperative ministry covenant with each other. The congregations agreed to share one full-time Pastor, with the Delta congregation providing 55% of the necessary funds, and the Dimondale congregation providing the remaining 45%. Originally, the congregations continued to worship separately most of the time, but over time, as relationships were formed and as the members of both congregations enjoyed the increased amount of energy in worship and the ability to have a combined choir, they began worshipping together regularly. Generally speaking, they have been alternating worship between the two buildings on a monthly basis. Additionally, the Sessions agreed to hold joint Session meetings four times a year, and to look for other ways to work together. Over time, some committees began incorporating members from both congregations. The cooperative ministry covenant was renewed in the summer of 2025.

In September 2025, the Sessions of both congregations passed the following motion: "to approve Reverend Ben Rumbaugh to approach the Presbytery about forming an Administrative Commission to explore Delta Presbyterian Church joining spiritually and physically with First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale. This would mean that Delta Presbyterian Church would consolidate with the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale."

The Presbytery's Commission on Ministry approved this request. The Presbytery moderator appointed Elder Heather Myer (Eastminster Presbyterian Church, East Lansing), Rev. Jeff O'Neill (Honorably Retired), and Rev. Bill Pinches (First Presbyterian Church, Mason) as members of that Commission. Rev. O'Neill was the Administrative Commission's Moderator, and Elder Myer was its Secretary. Unfortunately, Rev. Jeff O'Neill passed away in February 2026. The Presbytery moderator then appointed Elder Tom Schaberg (The Presbyterian Church of Okemos) to serve on the Administrative Commission, and Rev. Pinches became the new Moderator.

Since its inception, members of the Administrative Commission have attended separate Session meetings for each congregation, and joint Session meetings for both congregations. Members of the Administrative Commission have also been attending worship periodically, been present for periodic round table discussions following worship, have made themselves available to members of both congregations, and have been responding to many questions from congregation members by email.

In February 2026, the Sessions of the two congregations created four task forces to 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 included a representative from Session and at least one additional member from each congregation. The Administrative Commission offered to assist the task forces as needed, and one member of the Administrative Commission was present at most meetings of the Property task force.

In March 2026, the two congregations both voted unanimously to extend Rev. Rumbaugh's contract as Designated Pastor for a third year.

At the present time, Delta Presbyterian Church has 65 members, and the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale has 51 members.

Significant events since our last report:

The findings of the four task forces were presented to both congregations at a Town Hall meeting on May 31, 2026. The reports of the Finance, Administration, and Community Connections task forces were very straightforward. The work of the Property task force was much more complicated. Some Lansing Delta members have expressed concern about the possible loss of their building. Some Lansing Delta members, who are accustomed to a fully accessible sanctuary, have also expressed concern about the reality that the sanctuary

in the Dimondale church is on the second floor and only accessible by an elevator or stairs. Concern was also expressed about the potential challenges of evacuating the Dimondale sanctuary in the event of an emergency. The Property task force consulted with the Fire Department Chief of Windsor Township and two professional architects. The Fire Chief did not have concerns about emergency egress from the Dimondale sanctuary. The architects helped the members of the task force contemplate possible changes that could realistically be made to the building. The report that the Property task force presented to the two congregations included a recommendation that worship services could be conducted on the ground floor of the Dimondale church, in what is called the Great Room (a fellowship hall). That recommendation excited some Lansing Delta members and alleviated some of their concerns, but it was not as well received by some members of the Dimondale congregation who would prefer to continue worshiping in their historic sanctuary. The recommendation remains under consideration and will be further discussed by the Session, should the congregations vote to consolidate. Without question, these property-related matters have been the most challenging stumbling blocks the congregations have encountered as they have contemplated consolidating and may be a factor in how some members of the congregations will vote.

Additionally, in response to concerns raised by numerous members of both congregations about the extended duration of this deliberation process, the Sessions decided to shorten the timeline. A Town Hall meeting that was originally scheduled for September has been scrapped, and the consolidation vote that was originally scheduled for October has been advanced to September 20, 2026.

On July 19, 2026, Rev. Rumbaugh announced to the Sessions of both congregations that he had accepted a call that morning to become the Designated Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Lansing. The Session members expressed considerable grief at this announcement, and concern about the timing, as Rev. Rumbaugh's final day with the two congregations would be just six weeks before the consolidation vote. However, Rev. Rumbaugh's departure allows the two congregations to make a decision about consolidation independent of any pastoral influence or any concern about how long their pastor might stay with the congregations, no matter which way the vote goes. Rev. Rumbaugh's departure truly allows the congregations to discern God's will for their future based solely on the relationships between the two churches. The two congregations held a reception for Rev. Rumbaugh on his last Sunday, August 9, 2026.

The Presbytery's Commission on Ministry has appointed Rev. Pinches as Moderator of both Sessions, until suitable long-term pastoral leadership can be found for the two congregations. The Sessions continue to meet both separately and together as they conduct normal church business, take necessary steps following Rev. Rumbaugh's departure (e.g, arrange pulpit supply), and prepare for the consolidation vote on September 20, 2026. No

plans or decisions about future pastoral leadership will be made until after the vote on September 20, 2026.

Next steps:

On September 20, 2026, the Delta and Dimondale congregations will hold congregational meetings, separately but in the same building and at the same time with two different moderators, to vote on the motion to consolidate. The bylaws of both congregations allow for electronic participation and voting. Proxy votes will not be allowed. At the present time, we anticipate the specific wording of the motion that each congregation will be voting on will be as follows:

To request the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, at its next regular or special meeting, to consolidate the Delta Presbyterian Church of Lansing, MI, into the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale, MI, and to transfer all property, membership, and assets of the Delta Presbyterian Church of Lansing, MI, to the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale, MI.

If the vote to consolidate is approved by both congregations, then the Presbytery will be asked to vote on that request at the November 17, 2026, stated meeting. In the meantime, both Sessions would continue meeting both separately and together to begin planning further steps in the consolidation process. Any Lansing Delta members who do not wish for their membership to be transferred to Dimondale First would have the opportunity to “opt out” by submitting a request to the Lansing Delta Session prior to November 17, 2026, to either withdraw their membership or transfer their membership to another congregation. Following the Presbytery meeting on November 17, 2026, financial and legal aspects of the consolidation process could formally begin. We anticipate it would take several months to transfer all of Lansing Delta’s property and assets to Dimondale First. The consolidated Session would have a series of decisions to make regarding property, worship, committee structure, and more. The Administration Commission would continue to work with the consolidated congregation until all necessary steps in the consolidation process have been finalized. If a decision is made to sell the Lansing Delta property, the Administrative Commission would recommend to the Presbytery that all proceeds from the sale of the property, less required fees, become the property of the consolidated congregation.

If the vote to consolidate is not approved by either or both congregations, then the consolidation process will end. The Sessions would need to decide if they wish to continue their current partnership (combined worship, etc.), and if they wish to seek pastoral leadership together or separately. The work of the Administrative Commission would likely conclude prior to the end of 2026. Rev. Pinches would continue to moderate the Sessions of both congregations until suitable long-term pastoral leadership can be found. Elder

Heather Myer would continue to serve as the liaison between the two Sessions and the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry. So both Sessions would continue to receive guidance and support, even after the dissolution of the Administrative Commission.

We wish to commend the Sessions of both congregations for their excellent leadership through this very challenging process. We also wish to express our sincere appreciation for numerous other members of both congregations who are stepping up to take on additional or expanded volunteer roles following the departure of Rev. Rumbaugh. We are blessed to be working with very responsible, respectful, and helpful leaders in both congregations.

We would invite the Presbytery's continued prayers for both congregations, their leaders, and their members as they make very significant decisions regarding their future.

Respectfully Submitted by

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

Rev. Bill Pinches

Ruling Elder Heather Myer

Ruling Elder Tom Schaberg

This concludes the reports of the Administrative Commissions.

This concludes the Clerk's Report.

9. To receive the following report from the Commission on Ministry:

**REPORT of the COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
STATED MEETING of the PRESBYTERY of LAKE MICHIGAN
September 12, 2026**

Since the last Presbytery meeting, the COM Plenary has met twice (July 15, 2026, and August 11, 2026) for 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 meetings on May 12, 2026 and July 15, 2026.
2. **A motion prevailed** to approve the minutes of the East and West Regions since the May 12, 2026, Plenary meeting.
3. **A motion prevailed** to approve the August 11, 2026, Regional Action Report.
4. **A motion prevailed** to recommend to the Presbytery of Lake Michigan the 2027 Minimum Terms of Call.
5. **A motion prevailed** to approve the recommendation of the COM East Region to appoint an Administrative Commission of three to five people for North Westminster Presbyterian Church of Lansing, Michigan.
6. **A motion prevailed** to grant Dr. Stephen Keizer (Presbyterian Foundation) voice and vote at all COM Meetings since being elected, as a non-ordained Ruling Elder, at the March 14, 2026, Presbytery Stated meeting.
7. Brooklyn Presbyterian: Rev. Kristin Stroble spoke with a member of the PNC about next steps if they want to move forward with the candidate. Rev. Karen Kelley and Rev. Ben Rumbaugh completed a fit interview with the candidate on June 18, 2026. A background check and EP check has been completed.
8. Buchanan First: Rev. Cathy Hoop met with the PNC on May 18, 2026, to provide orientation to the search process and answer questions. **A motion prevailed** to approve the MDP. On July 28, 2026, Dr. Stephen Keizer and Rev. Cathy Hoop met with a potential candidate for a fit interview. A background check and EP check were completed.
9. Cassopolis United: **A motion prevailed** to approve the covenant agreement between United Presbyterian Church of Cassopolis, MI, and Rev. Brian Madison as part time (20 hours) stated supply pastor effective September 1, 2026 - August 31, 2027.

Cash Salary	\$14,276
Housing Allowance	\$14,900
Total Effective Salary	\$29,276
Board of Pensions	\$2,918

Professional Expenses	\$100
Professional Development	\$800
Mileage	\$100
Book Allowance	\$100
Vacation	44 days including 6 Sundays
Professional Development	14 days including 2 Sundays

10. Dimondale First: **A motion prevailed** to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Rev. Ben Rumbaugh and First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale, MI, effective August 9, 2026. **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Bill Pinches

(Mason First) as moderator of First Presbyterian of Dimondale, MI, and Delta Presbyterian of Lansing, MI. Rev. Ben Rumbaugh abstained from discussion and vote.

11. Grand Rapids North Park: Rev. Kristin Stroble sent a communication to request to meet with the Session on August 6, 2026.
12. Gobles Bethany: Rev. Kathleen Robertson-King (MAL) has stepped down as moderator of the session. **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Amber Nettleton (MAL) as moderator of Gobles Bethany effective May 28, 2026.
13. Gregory Unadilla: Elder Linda Hay and Elder Christine Berry attended the communion training on June 7, 2026.
14. Jackson Westminster: The Session has requested \$1,000 from escrow to purchase items that will help create a more welcoming space for members and visitors. **A motion prevailed** to approve the request for \$1,000 from escrow. **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Steve Kaszar (Concord First/Homer First) to moderate the session meeting on July 8, 2026, of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Jackson, MI. **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Ben Rumbaugh as moderator of the session effective July 23, 2026.
15. Lake City First: **A motion prevailed** to approve the MDP for an Interim Pastor.
16. Lansing Delta: **A motion prevailed** to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Rev. Ben Rumbaugh and Delta Presbyterian Church of Lansing, MI, effective August 9, 2026. **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Bill Pinches (Mason First) as moderator of First Presbyterian of Dimondale, MI, and Delta Presbyterian of Lansing, MI. Rev. Ben Rumbaugh abstained from discussion and vote.
17. Lansing First: **A motion prevailed** to approve Rev. Kristin Stroble as moderator effective May 28, 2026. **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Charlie Herrick (HR) as moderator for the congregational meeting on July 19, 2026, at First Presbyterian Church of Lansing, MI. Rev. Ben Rumbaugh abstained from the vote. **A motion prevailed** to approve the pastoral relationship between First Presbyterian Church of Lansing and Rev. Ben Rumbaugh as full time designated pastor for a two year term from September 8, 2026 through September 7, 2028 with the following terms of call.

Cash Salary:	\$52,500
Housing:	\$23,000
Contributions to 403b:	\$7,000
Medical Reimbursement:	\$1,000
Total Effective Salary:	\$83,500

Benefit Plan	\$22,962.50
Professional Development	\$1,500
Professional Reimbursement:	\$1000
Mileage - IRS rate prevailing at the time expense is incurred	
30 days Vacation including 4 Sunday	
14 days Professional Development, including 2 Sundays	
Follow PLM Policy of Family and Medical Leave	

18. Lansing North Westminster: An Administrative Commission consisting of Rev. Nick Marlatt (Hastings First), Rev. Dr. Clint Cozier (Three Rivers/Centreville First), Ruling Elder Andrew Corner (Holt First), and Ruling Elder Virginia Gibson (Mason First) have begun their work. Rev. Kristin Stroble provided orientation on July 30, 2026.

19. Paw Paw Pine Street: **A motion prevailed** to approve the covenant agreement between Pine Street Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, MI, and Rev. Gail Monsma as part time (28 hours) interim pastor effective August 1, 2026 - July 31, 2027.

Cash Salary	\$45,438
Housing Allowance	\$10,000
Total Effective Salary	\$55,438
Board of Pensions	\$6,653
SECA Allowance	\$4,241

Professional Expenses	\$800
Professional Development	\$1,200
Mileage	\$1,500
Phone Reimbursement	\$600
Vacation	4 weeks
Professional Development	2 weeks
Spiritual Retreat	1 week

20. Portage Westminster: **A motion prevailed** to approve Rev. Mary Austin (VM) as moderator effective July 23, 2026. Rev. Jerry and Janet Duggins signed covenants of closure. Rev. Doug Brouwer and Elder Pam Zandt completed a fit interview with a potential candidate on July 23, 2026. A background check and EP check were completed and were clear. **A motion prevailed** to approve the covenant agreement between Westminster Presbyterian Church of Portage, MI, and Rev. Judy McMillan as full time Interim Pastor effective October 5, 2026 - October 4, 2027. A background check, executive check, and fit interview were completed.

Cash Salary	\$40,000
Housing Allowance	\$40,000
Total Effective Salary	\$80,000
Board of Pensions	\$22,400
Dental Plan	\$310.44

Eye Plan	\$53.64
SECA Allowance	\$6,120
Professional Development	\$800
Mileage	IRS Rate
Book Allowance	\$400
Vacation	30 days including 4 Sundays
Professional Development	2 weeks including 2 Sundays

21. Richland First: Rev. Kristin Stroble and Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence led officer training on June 6, 2026. Rev. Kristin Stroble met with the nominating committee on July 31, 2026, to provide guidance for nominating a PNC. **A motion prevailed** to approve the mission study with additional context about membership numbers and what growth means to the congregation. **A motion prevailed** to allow the congregation to form a PNC. **A motion prevailed** to approve the covenant agreement between First Presbyterian Church of Richland, MI, and Rev. Calandra Nevenzel as full time Interim Pastor with the addition of two weeks time for professional development time effective July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027.

Cash Salary	\$54,860
Housing Allowance	\$24,000
Total Effective Salary	\$78,860
Pension (15.5% UCC Plan)	\$11,829
Mileage	IRS Rate
Professional Development	\$800
Book Allowance	\$300
Vacation	30 days including 4 Sundays
Professional Development	14 days including 2 Sundays
Follow PLM Family and Medical Leave Policy	

22. Three Rivers/Centreville First: **A motion prevailed** to approve the Mission Study of Three Rivers/Centreville First.

This concludes the report of the Commission on Ministry.

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

**REPORT of the COMMISSION ON PREPARATION for MINISTRY
STATED MEETING of the PRESBYTERY of LAKE MICHIGAN
September 12, 2026**

The Commission met three times since the last Stated Meeting of the Presbytery. The Commission had regular stated meetings on June 16, 2026, July 28, 2026, and August 25, 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. **A motion prevailed** to approve the minutes of the Commission on the Preparation for Ministry from May 26, 2026, June 16, 2026, and July 28, 2026.

2. **A motion prevailed** to grant Joanna Townley (Okemos) an exception allowing her to proceed to candidacy without having attempted the Bible Content Exam (Note: she is registered to take the BCE this fall).

4. **A motion prevailed** to approve Joanna Townley for candidacy effective August 25, 2026.

This concludes the report of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry

This concludes the Consent Agenda

DRAFT
MINUTES of the STATED MEETING
Presbytery of Lake Michigan
June 9, 2026 9:30 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church
2577 Wickham Drive
Muskegon, MI 49441

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

Elder Ben Boerkoel (GR Westminster), Moderator, called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. with the lighting of the Christ candle and opening prayer. A quorum was present.

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CLERKS

A motion prevailed to appoint Elder Jill Brown (Dimondale First), Elder Michael (Andy) Sanford (Richland First), Rev. Amy Ruhf-Brien (Big Rapids United), and Rev. Bill Pinches (Mason First) as temporary clerks.

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

A motion prevailed to seat Rev. Ruth-Aimeé Belonni-Rosario (Synod of the Covenant), Dr. Matthew Aragon Bruce (Synod of the Covenant), Mx. Linda Sharp (Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program), and Elder Jennifer Blackwell (Jackson First, Youth Strategies Committee) as corresponding members.

APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

A motion prevailed to approve the docket as presented.

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

Elder Ben Boerkoel welcomed first-time elder commissioners and Christian educators.

WELCOME TO GUESTS AND VISITORS

Elder Ben Boerkoel welcomed guests and visitors.

GREETINGS FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MUSKEGON, MI

Rev. Mackenzie Jager offered greetings and thanksgiving on behalf of the First Presbyterian Church of Muskegon, MI, giving thanks for the ministries of their church since 1946. She described the congregation's love and appreciation of art and highlighted their beautiful stained glass. She also described several of the creative uses of the building.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A motion prevailed to approve the Consent Agenda with the following items:

PRESBYTERY OF LAKE MICHIGAN CONSENT AGENDA of the STATED MEETING

June 9, 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: Kristine Aragon Bruce (Grand Haven First), Jessica Bratt Carle (VM), Peggy Casteel-Huston (VM), Katherine Culpepper (VM), Jessica Hauser-Brydon (MAL), Sarah Juist (Jenison Parkwood), Karen Kelley (Retired), Kathleen Robertson King (MAL), Brian Madison, Nick Marlatt (Hastings First), Kirk Miller (Holt First), Linda Rubingh (VM), Sarah Schmidt-Lee (VM First Congregational, Kalamazoo), Lorenzo Small (Battle Creek First, Lisa Schrott (Okemos), Lynette Sparks (GR Westminster)
- 2. To approve** the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, March 14, 2026, Online only.
- 3. To file** the approved Minutes of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan Leadership Team on March 5, 2026, and May 7, 2026. Online only.
- 4. To approve** the following recommendation of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan Commission on Ministry that Rev. Janet Duggins (Portage Westminster) be granted the status of Retired effective June 30, 2026, and to celebrate her ministry at the June 9, 2026, stated meeting.
- 5. To approve** the following recommendation of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan Commission on Ministry that Rev. Jerry Duggins (Portage Westminster) be granted the status of Retired effective June 30, 2026, and to celebrate his ministry at the June 9, 2026, stated meeting.
- 6. To approve** the following recommendation of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan Commission on Ministry that Rev. Gail Monsma be granted the status of Retired effective July 31, 2026.
- 7. To grant** voice to Elder Jennifer Blackwell (Jackson First) during the Youth Strategies Report.
- 8. To approve** the following recommendation of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan Commission on Ministry that Ruling Elder David Habicht (Buchanan First) be commissioned to serve communion once per month at the First Presbyterian Church of

Marshall, MI, effective March 26, 2026.

9. **To ratify** the action taken by the Board of Trustees on April 14, 2026, to approve a Presbytery Investment and Loan Program loan to the First Presbyterian Church of Holt in the amount of \$450,000 to be repaid over 5 years to be used for the boiler replacement and installation of solar array at the church property located at 2021 N. Aurelius Road, Holt, Michigan.
10. **To receive** the 2025 Audit completed by Siegfried Crandall PC. The Presbytery received a clean opinion. Online only. (Attachment 1)
11. **To receive** the 2026 Terms of Call Report. Online only. (Attachment 2)
12. **To receive** the Report of the Stated Clerk for today, as follows:

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence

June 9, 2026

1. **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

2. **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 Presbyter/Stated Clerk or Mx. Emily Franson, Communications and Technology Manager, for information about how to complete the training.

Upcoming Dates:

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 thus satisfy the requirements of the Book of Order in G-3.0106.

3. **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.*
4. **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.

5. REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS:

Presbytery of Lake Michigan Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Marshall, MI Final Report and Request for Dissolution of Administrative Commission June 9, 2026

In December 2023, the Presbytery of Lake Michigan approved the appointment of an Administrative Commission (AC) for First Presbyterian Church, Marshall, MI. The Commission on Ministry's recommendation established the AC with the following stated purpose:

The Administrative Commission of three to five members, appointed by the Moderator of the Presbytery in consultation with the Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk, was charged with the following:

- Seeking a thorough understanding of reported disorder through individual and small group conversations with members of the congregation and session.
- Working with the session toward ordered ministry by providing education in PCUSA polity and Reformed theology as appropriate.
- Supporting the session in providing for worship and pastoral care throughout the pastoral transition.
- Supporting the congregation in clarifying their expectations and the skills most important to seek in their next pastor.
- Addressing any additional disorder discovered during the course of the AC's work.

Because the AC's work touched many of these areas simultaneously, the following summary is organized thematically to demonstrate how each goal was addressed. On this basis, the AC respectfully requests dissolution, with continued follow-up by the Commission on Ministry Liaison.

Commission Membership and Support

- The AC was originally composed of Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom (Associate Clerk, PLM), Brad Sparks (Grand Rapids Westminster), and Nancy Toth (Jackson First). Over the course of the commission's work, Rev. Amber Nettleton (MAL) succeeded Rev. Groenenboom, and Rev. Sarah Schmidt-Lee (VM Kalamazoo First Congregational) later

succeeded Rev. Nettleton. Presbytery support and consultation was generously provided by Rev. Dr. Calvin Bremer, Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence, and Rev. Kristin Stroble.

- The AC received orientation and training from Presbytery staff at the outset of its work.
- AC members attended all Session and congregational meetings—both in person and via Zoom—and met as a commission nearly every week over the past two and a half years to provide consistent support and clear communication.

Initial Assessment and Listening

- The AC conducted a thorough review of Marshall First’s governing documents, including by-laws, policies and procedures, session and committee meeting minutes spanning several years, reports from a prior Administrative Commission, and exit interviews from two former pastors.
- From March through July 2024, the AC conducted interviews with two former pastors, the stated supply pastor, COM liaisons, current and former session members, a former long-time Clerk of Session, and various members and former members of the congregation. Open listening sessions were also offered to any congregants, friends, or former members who wished to attend. A consistent set of questions was used to ensure comparability while allowing space for open conversation.
- The AC provided the session and congregation with a clear, balanced report of the strengths identified through these interviews alongside the concerns surfaced through document review and conversation.

Pastoral Care and Congregational Healing

- The AC offered a worship service of healing to help the congregation process the grief and loss associated with the conclusion of a recent pastorate.
- The AC facilitated an agreement with a Commissioned Ruling Elder to preach once a month and administer communion, ensuring the congregation continued to receive regular worship leadership and the sacraments throughout the transition.
- Session members were encouraged to attend the Small Church Summit event offered by PLM, providing an opportunity for broader connection and encouragement.
- The AC provided information on the Pastoral Transition Cohort meetings and encouraged participation to support session members through the transition process.

Education, Polity, and Governance

- The AC led a retreat focused on ordered ministry and the connectional and confessional nature of the PCUSA, including training in PCUSA polity and procedure and Robert’s Rules of Order.
- Copies of the Book of Order were provided to all session members.
- Rather than simply refreshing an outdated Mission Study, the AC provided the training and hands-on assistance needed to guide the congregation through a comprehensive rewrite—a process that took nearly a year and resulted in a document that genuinely reflects their identity and calling.

- The AC reviewed the congregation's by-laws and proposed revisions that were subsequently approved at a Congregational Meeting.
- The AC ensured that all currently required policies were in place, and assisted the session in correcting deficiencies identified during the PLM Annual Minute Review, providing specific language to bring their records into compliance.
- Volunteer support was coordinated to help the congregation complete the Presbytery-required financial review.

Pastoral Transition and Polity Oversight

- After careful discernment, the AC chose not to renew the contract of the Stated Supply Pastor, and arranged for Rev. Steven Kaszar (Concord First/Homer First) to moderate session meetings beginning in October 2025.
- Following the resignation of three session members and the election of a newly constituted session, the working relationship between the congregation, session, and AC improved meaningfully. Notably, one of the members who had resigned later returned to the session and has been a constructive presence in that body.

Current Health and Readiness for the Future

- The AC assisted the session in completing their Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP). The MDP has since been approved and uploaded to Church Leadership Connection, and the congregation is actively searching for a half-time interim pastor.
- Presbyterian Foundation resources were shared to assess congregational finances and discern future pathways, and Dr. Stephen Keizer from the Foundation has begun collaborating directly with the congregation.
- The Nominating Committee has been restored, and a slate of elders with staggered class terms was elected at a Congregational Meeting—a sign of healthy, forward-looking governance.
- Session members are actively reaching out to the AC with questions, elders are appropriately seeking session approval before acting, and the session temporarily adopted a bi-weekly meeting schedule to work through a backlog of previously neglected business.
- The Session is demonstrating capable and appropriate leadership: scheduling pulpit supply and communion, supporting Deacons in communion visits, preparing agendas, improving staff communication, resuming annual staff reviews, reviewing the budget, clarifying spending limits, and updating policies as needed.

The AC is grateful for the privilege of accompanying First Presbyterian Church, Marshall through this season. We have witnessed real growth: the congregation and session are increasingly operating in compliance with PCUSA polity and PLM requirements; communication among the session, the congregation, and the Presbytery has improved considerably; and the church is being well-served by its current moderator. With the continued support of the Commission on Ministry Liaison, we are confident that this congregation is well-positioned for the next chapter of its life and ministry.

For these reasons, the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Marshall, MI requests that it be dismissed effective June 10, 2026. We are deeply grateful for the dedication of all of the AC members who have faithfully served this commission over two and a half years, and for the congregation and session of First Presbyterian Church, Marshall, who have demonstrated courage and perseverance through a challenging season of transition. Please join us in giving thanks to God for the work accomplished here, and in praying for God's continued blessing on this congregation as they discern the path forward.

Respectfully Submitted

by the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Marshall, MI

Rev. Sarah Schmidt-Lee (VM, Kalamazoo First Congregational)

Brad Sparks (Grand Rapids Westminster)

Nancy Toth (Jackson First)

**Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Allegan, MI
June 9, 2026**

No update. The Committee continues to work on matters related to property.

**Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Richland, MI
Report to Presbytery of Actions and Request for Dismissal
June 9, 2026**

At its September 14, 2024, Stated Meeting the Presbytery of Lake Michigan approved a recommendation from the Commission on Ministry (COM) to form an Administrative Commission (AC) to work with leadership of the First Presbyterian Church of Richland to correct issues of dysfunction. The directive of the Presbytery was as follows:

- 1) To inquire further into the financial practices of FPC-Richland and to support the session in correcting disordered practices, including:
 - a. Appropriate signatories on church accounts
 - b. Monies donated to the pastor over and above amounts specified in terms of call to ensure appropriate reporting to the Internal Revenue Service.
 - c. Support the new treasurer by providing training as to best financial practices.
- 2) To inquire into the composition of the session to ensure that it is representative of the congregation as required by the Book of Order and support the session in correcting disorder if any exists.
- 3) To inquire into Mx. O'Sullivan's participation in the life of the congregation and decision-making processes and to ensure the session and congregation understand what are appropriate interactions and participation.

- 4) Inquire into disabilities described by Rev. Jennings in his letter, and his request for accommodations to determine if he can perform the core functions of a pastoral call.
- 5) To report to the presbytery other areas of disorder that may be discovered as the administration commission inquires into the areas of disorder listed in items 1-4, and to work with the session to correct additional areas of disorder if discovered.

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 1-5 under Purpose.
2. In working with the session to correct the reported disorder, if it is determined that the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Richland, MI, is unable or unwilling to correct disorder that exists in a timely manner or to manage wisely its affairs, the Administrative Commission of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan has the authority to assume original jurisdiction with full powers of the Session, in which case the Session of the FPC Richland will cease to act until such time as the Presbytery shall otherwise direct. (G-3.0303e).
3. The First Presbyterian Church of Richland, MI will be responsible for fees incurred should a consultant be required to help resolve any areas of disorder. Presbytery Authorities Granted by the PCUSA Constitution in the Book of Order G-3.0109b– Administrative Commissions are designated to consider and conclude matters not involving ecclesiastical judicial process, except that in the discharge of their assigned responsibility they may discover and report to the designating council matters that may require judicial action by the council. (5) by presbyteries visiting particular congregations over which they have immediate jurisdiction reported to be affected with disorder, and inquiring into and settling difficulties therein, except that no commission of presbytery shall be empowered to dissolve a pastoral relationship without the specific authorization by the designating body. (G-3.0901)

The AC was created with Elder Stuart Deming Esq. acting as Moderator and Reverends David Milbourn and Daniel Anderson (both retired) as members. The Rev. Dr. Calvin Bremer, Assistant to the Executive Presbyter has served as the AC liaison to presbytery leadership and regularly attended our meetings as well as the meetings of the Richland Session.

Beginning on October 14, 2024, the AC met regularly, typically weekly, with officers of the presbytery seeking to understand the issues creating dysfunction within the Richland congregation. Then, the AC met with the Richland Session. During its work the AC received concerns from past and active members of the Richland Congregation which helped define issues for correction.

With AC input and encouragement, the Richland Session:

1. Addressed concerns regarding financial practices
2. Took steps to ensure that the composition of the Session is representative of the congregation.

3. Took steps to ensure that Mx. O’Sullivan no longer participates in inappropriate decision making in the life of First Presbyterian Richland.
4. Noted that Rev. Mark Jennings retired just prior to the work of the AC.

The AC notes that the AC working in concert with the Commission on Ministry, approved the Rev. Calandra Nevenzel, a UCC pastor, to serve this congregation as Interim Pastor. She began part-time in the spring of 2025 and has been working full-time since July 2025. We are grateful for her service.

The AC has found our sisters and brothers on the Richland Session to be genuinely open to hearing and discussing our concerns. Together, with guidance from the Commission on Ministry and the Executive Presbyterian/Stated Clerk and the Assistant to Executive Presbyterian we worked to develop strategies to correct challenges faced by the congregation, the most complex and latest to be addressed is regarding perceived conflicts of interests among leadership within the church.

A document entitled, “First Presbyterian Church of Richland Conflict of Interest Policy” was developed and approved by the Richland Session at its meeting of May 13, 2026. (See Attached)

This policy will continue to provide guidance for Richland’s leadership moving forward. It addresses what we believe to be one of the underlying problems communicated to the AC and with its approval by the Richland Session we believe the work of this commission is substantially concluded.

Therefore, we request that the Presbytery of Lake Michigan accept this final report and approve the dismissal of the Administrative Commission effective June 10, 2026.

Respectfully,

Ruling Elder Stuart Deming, Esq. Moderator
Teaching Elder, Reverend David Milbourn
Teaching Elder, Reverend Daniel Anderson

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF RICHLAND

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Effective May 13, 2026*

ARTICLE I PURPOSE

Avoidance of conflicts of interest, whether real or apparent, is indispensable to the health and welfare of the First Presbyterian Church (“Church”) of Richland.

ARTICLE II DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, a conflict of interest shall be deemed to exist any time one’s

loyalty to the Church, its interests, and/or its mission is compromised or could be compromised by one's personal interests. For purposes of this policy:

A. Relatives. "Relatives" shall be broadly interpreted as including spouses or domestic partners, parents, children, siblings, cousins, nieces and nephews, grandparents or grandchildren, and similarly situated in-laws and/or any person residing in the same household.

B. Governing Committees or Commissions. "Governing Committees or Commissions" shall include but not be limited to the Session, the nominating committee, a pastoral search committee, finance committee, or any form of decision-making body of a similar nature that may make critical decisions in terms of the governance of the Church or as otherwise required by the Book of Order.[†]

C. Recusal. "Recusal" shall require the person with the conflict of interest being absent from the meeting during discussion and deliberation and abstaining from voting. Such recusal shall be recorded where minutes are taken.

ARTICLE III GENERAL PROHIBITIONS

No pastor, officer, elder, trustee, deacon, member, staff, or volunteer of the Church shall use his or her position, or the knowledge gained from it, in any way that may be averse to the interests of the Church or its mission.

^{*} As of May 13, 2026, individuals currently serving on governing committees in whatever capacity will be able to complete their current term.

[†] A commission is a committee authorized by the Session to undertake specified action on its behalf.

A. Relatives. Only one relative shall serve on a Governing Committee or Commission at the same time. If necessary, a vacant position shall remain unfilled until such time as a qualified member of the congregation who is not a relative is identified and approved.

B. Employment. No one shall participate in decisions involving the employment of a relative. In such situations, prompt disclosure, recusal and abstention shall be required.

C. Accepting Gifts of Services or Things of Value. Other than acceptance of minor courtesies, acceptance of any gifts or favors from anyone seeking to do business with the Church shall be prohibited.

D. Doing Business with the Church. Prompt disclosure and recusal is required whenever decisions are made involving anyone subject to this policy who is also financially involved with vendors, contractors, or others doing business with the Church.

E. Seeking Financial Support. Prompt disclosure and recusal shall be required from

decisions when anyone subject to this policy is seeking financial support for themselves or for a relative.

ARTICLE IV ADDRESSING CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

Inherent in a church with a smaller congregation is the greater likelihood of conflicts of interest that are not easily overcome. Special efforts are therefore essential to promptly disclose conflicts and take necessary measures.

A. Acknowledgment. The Clerk of Session shall have primary responsibility for ensuring that all new Session members sign a statement affirming that they have read and understand this policy, they agree to abide by it; and they will promptly disclose any potential conflicts. In addition, the Clerk of Session shall ensure that the Session annually reviews this policy and that an acknowledgment of the review is reflected in the minutes of the Session.

B. Prompt Disclosure and Recusal. Prompt disclosure and recusal shall be required for any decisions that may be perceived to be a conflict of interest.

C. Monitoring and Enforcement. The Session shall have primary responsibility for monitoring and ensuring consistent and ongoing enforcement of this policy.

D. Nominating Committee: Only one relative shall serve on the Session at any one time. A relative shall not be nominated if it would result in more than one relative serving on the Session at the same time. If necessary, a position on the Session shall remain vacant until someone who is not a relative is identified and elected by the congregation. The nominating committee shall not cease its work until the vacant position is filled.

E. Sanctions. Failure to comply with this policy may result in the violation being noted in minutes of the Session that the person has been notified of the conflict and counseled to rectify the situation or, if not possible, avoid the conflict in the future. For Ruling Elders, this may involve removal from Session in accordance with the Book of Order Church Discipline.

Presbytery of Lake Michigan Administrative Commission for Delta Presbyterian Church of Lansing, MI and the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale June 9, 2026

The Administrative Commission (AC) for Delta Presbyterian Church (Lansing) and the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale 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. During the month of May the congregations have been worshiping separately to remind everybody what it felt like before the two congregations began worshiping together. Combined worship will resume in June 2026.

Members of the AC have been in attendance at separate Session meetings for each congregation, and at joint Session meetings for both congregations. Members of the AC have also been attending worship periodically, have made themselves available to members of both congregations, and have been responding to questions from congregation members by email.

The Sessions of the two congregations created four task forces that are addressing, 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 includes a representative from Session and at least one additional member from each congregation. The AC has offered to assist the task forces as needed, and one member of the AC has been present at most meetings of the property task force.

The findings of these task forces will be presented to both congregations at the end of May. 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 for further discussion. Congregational meetings are planned for October to vote on the possible consolidation.

We continue to 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 (Lansing) and the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale

Rev. Bill Pinches

Ruling Elder Heather Myer

Ruling Elder Tom Schaberg

This concludes the reports of the Administrative Commissions.

This concludes the Clerk's Report.

13. To receive the following report from the Commission on Ministry:

**REPORT of the COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
STATED MEETING of the PRESBYTERY of LAKE MICHIGAN
June 9, 2026**

Since the last Presbytery meeting, the COM Plenary has met once (May 12, 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 February 2, 2026.
- 2. A motion prevailed** to approve the minutes of the East and West Regions since the November 18, 2026, Plenary meeting.
- 3. A motion prevailed** to approve the May 12, 2026, Regional Action Report.
- 4. A motion prevailed** to recommend to the Presbytery of Lake Michigan to grant Rev. Janet Duggins (Portage Westminster) the status of Retired, effective June 30, 2026, and to celebrate her ministry at the June 9, 2026, stated meeting.
- 5. A motion prevailed** to recommend to the Presbytery of Lake Michigan to grant Rev. Jerry Duggins (Portage Westminster) the status of Retired, effective June 30, 2026, and to celebrate his ministry at the June 9, 2026, stated meeting.
- 6. A motion prevailed** to recommend to the Presbytery of Lake Michigan to commission Ruling Elder David Habicht (Buchanan First) to serve communion once per month at First Presbyterian Church of Marshall, MI, effective March 26, 2026.
- 7. A motion prevailed** to accept Rev. Viktoria Berlik as a Member at Large of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan from Genesee Valley Presbytery effective April 23, 2026.
- 8. A motion prevailed** to approve Mx. Susan Fennema (candidate under care of the RCA) and Rev. Chad Andrew Herring (Heartland Presbytery) be added to the pulpit supply list.
- 9. A motion prevailed** to approve the current pulpit supply list.

10. **A motion prevailed** to approve the 2026 Terms of Call and Covenant Report with any necessary updates or corrections.
11. Battle Creek Westlake: **A motion prevailed** to recommend to the Presbytery that the Administrative Commission be dissolved and to have COM focus on the specified points of disorder.
12. Buchanan: **A motion prevailed** to approve the self-study. **A motion prevailed** to allow the formation of a PNC.
13. Coldwater First: **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Steve Kaszar as moderator of their session effective February 26, 2026. **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom to moderate the First Presbyterian Church of Coldwater, MI's Annual Congregational Meeting following the worship service on May 17, 2026.
14. Decatur First/Paw Paw First: **A motion prevailed** to write a letter of support to the Board of Pensions on behalf of Rev. Gail Monsma which would allow her to begin drawing monies from her Pension fund.
15. Grand Rapids North Park: **A motion prevailed** to request that Presbytery dissolve the pastoral relationship between North Park Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, MI, and Rev. Dr. Philomena Oforri-Nipaah effective March 8, 2026. Rev. Kristin Stroble and Rev. Jim Pollard completed an exit interview with the session on April 8, 2026. The Session requested to work with the Mediation Committee. Rev. Amber Nettleton, Rev. Stroble, and Rev. Ben Rumbaugh completed an exit interview with Rev. Oforri-Nipaah.
16. Kalamazoo First: **A motion prevailed** to approve the Interim Pastor MDP. Exit interviews with Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer and the session were completed on February 25, 2026, by Rev. Cathy Hoop and Rev. Ben Rumbaugh. The Covenant of Closure was reviewed and signed.
17. Gregory Unadilla: **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Dr. David Weber (Brooklyn) as moderator effective April 23, 2026.
18. Ionia First: **A motion prevailed** to approve the Covenant agreement between Rev. Dr. Chris Dorn and Ionia First as part-time (20 hour) pastor effective January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026, pending the designation of a housing allowance.

Effective Salary:	\$54,102
BOP Pension:	\$5,951
Death & Disability:	\$541
BOP Medical:	\$11,370.84
Mileage:	\$1,500
Professional Development:	\$1,100
Professional Expenses:	\$300
Thirty (30) days vacation including four (4) Sundays	

Two (2) weeks professional development, including two (2) Sundays
Follow PLM Family and Medical Leave policy

19. Jackson Westminster: **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Ben Rumbaugh as moderator of the May 13, 2026, session meeting of Jackson Westminster. **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. John Best (HR) as moderator for Jackson Westminster's Annual Congregational meeting on June 21, 2026.
20. Jonesville First: **A motion prevailed** to approve their MDP for a full time Interim Pastor.
21. Kalamazoo First: **A motion prevailed** to approve the MDP for an Interim Pastor.
22. Lake City First: **A motion prevailed** to approve the MDP for an Interim Pastor.
23. Lansing Delta: **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Bill Pinches as the moderator of Lansing Delta's congregational meeting on March 22, 2026. Rev. Ben Rumbaugh abstained from that vote. **A motion prevailed** to approve the extension of the pastoral relationship between First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale and Delta Presbyterian Church and Rev. Ben Rumbaugh as full time designated pastor through June 1, 2027, with the following terms of call. Rev. Rumbaugh abstained from the vote.

Cash Salary:	\$56,173
Housing:	\$20,000
Pension Benefit:	\$7,617
Medical Coverage	\$13,330
Medical Reimbursement:	\$3,200
Professional Development	\$800
Professional Reimbursement:	\$500
Mileage:	\$200
30 days Vacation including 4 Sunday	
14 days Professional Development, including 2 Sundays	

24. Lansing First: **A motion prevailed** to approve the position description for a designated pastor.
25. Lansing North Westminster: **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Laura Miller-Purrenhage as moderator of session effective March 18, 2026. **A motion prevailed** to approve the covenant agreement between North Westminster Presbyterian Church of Lansing, MI, and Rev. Laura Miller-Purrenhage as part-time (20 hours) Interim Pastor effective April 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027.

Cash Salary:	\$9,968
Housing Allowance:	\$23,208
Total Effective Salary:	\$33,176
Pension Benefits:	\$4,645
Life and Disability Insurance:	\$498

SECA Allowance:	\$2,538
Mileage:	\$1,000
Professional Development:	\$1,000
Books & Professional Expenses	\$1,000
Medical Expenses:	\$2,500
Laptop with camera and mouse	
Four (4) weeks of paid vacation including four (4) Sundays	
Two (2) weeks of Continuing Education/Professional Development including (2) Sundays, and is cumulative for three (3) years.	
Six (6) sick days	
Follow PLM Policy of Family and Medical Leave	

26. Okemos: **A motion prevailed** to approve the Pastoral Relationship between the Presbyterian Church of Okemos and Rev. Aaron Punt as full time Associate Pastor installed for an indefinite period effective July 15, 2026, should the way be clear. A housing allowance must be designated in the terms of call as well as an amount for reimbursed moving expenses.

Cash Salary:	\$31,000
Housing Allowance:	\$42,000
Total Effective Salary:	\$73,000
SECA Allowance:	\$5,585
Pension:	\$7,300
Medical (member + family)	\$34,975
Dental & Vision (member + family):	\$1,343
Continuing Education:	\$1,850
Ministry Expenses:	\$1,000
Mileage:	\$1,000
Moving Expenses	
Cell Phone	\$600
30 days of paid vacation to include 4 Sundays	
14 days of professional development to include 2 Sundays	
7 days of service to the greater church including 1 Sunday	
Follow PCO and PLM Family Leave Policy	
Sabbatical: 3 months after 7 years	

The COM recommends coaching and will help contribute to the cost for reliable, certified clergy coaching, acceptable by presbytery terms.

27. Paw Paw First/Decatur First: **A motion prevailed** to write a letter of support to the Board of Pensions on behalf of Rev. Gail Monsma to allow her to access a portion of her pension monies.

28. Plainwell First: **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Pat Weatherwax (HR) as moderator for the July meeting of the session if she is willing and able.
29. Portage Westminster: **A motion prevailed** to approve the MDP with the note that they should work on their references by adding a reference who is not a pastor.

This concludes the report of the Commission on Ministry.

14. To receive the following report from the Commission on Preparation for Ministry:

**REPORT of the COMMISSION ON PREPARATION for MINISTRY
STATED MEETING of the PRESBYTERY of LAKE MICHIGAN
June 9, 2026**

The Commission met three times since the last Stated Meeting of the Presbytery. The Commission had regular stated meetings on March 24, 2026, and April 28, 2026, and May 26, 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. **A motion prevailed** to approve the agenda and the February 24, 2026 minutes.
2. **A motion prevailed** to approve Mx. Joanna (previously J) Townley to take three ordination exams this spring.
3. **A motion prevailed** to accept Elder Steve Zeoli's forms 1b and 4.
4. **A motion prevailed** to approve the agenda and the minutes of March 24, 2026
5. **A motion prevailed** to approve the agenda and the minutes of April 28, 2026
6. CPM provided Mx. Joanna Townley with \$1,500 from the budget to help offset the cost of her summer Greek course.
7. CPM has started the practice of assigning two liaisons to each candidate/inquirer which has helped both the liaisons and the candidates/inquirers feel more supported and equipped.

This concludes the report of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry

This concludes the Consent Agenda

WORSHIP

Dr. Matt Aragon Bruce, along with several members of the Presbytery led the service of worship. Members of the Presbytery read Luke 15:1-32. Dr. Aragon Bruce preached a sermon entitled: "The Compassionate Father and the Two Lost Sons." During the sermon, Dr. Aragon Bruce opened with prayer. He described the historical and societal context of the parables and

expressed the importance of understanding scripture within its original context. He highlighted the pattern of loss followed by celebration within the parables. Dr. Aragon Bruce expressed that the main point of the parables is to witness God's radical love. He also described how the task of the church is to promote true reconciliation in a world that is often polarized and cheapens reconciliation and grace. The offering was designated to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and \$1,075.27 was received. The Presbytery celebrated the Lord's Supper with the Rev. Mackenzie Jager presiding at the table.

The Presbytery recessed for a 17-minute break at 10:50 a.m. The meeting was reconvened at 11:07 a.m.

KEYNOTE

Dr. Matt Aragon Bruce, Director of the SOC Cultivating the Gift of Preaching Initiative, made the keynote presentation. He offered a review of PC(USA) structure and introduced the work of the Synod of the Covenant. He focused his presentation on the Cultivating the Gift of Preaching Initiative which is funded by a Lily endowment. Several individuals from the Presbytery have completed the program and Elder Tina Ronders (Brooklyn) and Mx. Orlando Totobesola (Buchanan First) offered recorded reflections on the impact of the program. The program is an 18 month commitment and includes two preaching camps at Alma College. Some of the topics covered in the program include reading Scripture, clearly communicating points and themes in a sermon, the role of imagination in preaching, different forms of sermons, and exegesis of congregations. The leaders of the program are considering adding a cohort for teaching elders who are early in their careers. Dr. Aragon Bruce is recruiting people for next year's group and encouraged commissioners to spread the word and pray that God continues to work through the program.

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon presented the following slate of nominations to the Nominating and Representation Committee:

Elder Linda Bieze (Westminster GR), Class of 2027

Rev. Jay Ayers (HR), Class of 2028

Elder Brian Koon (Lansing First), Class of 2028

After a time of discussion, **a motion prevailed** to elect the presented slate of nominees.

REPORT OF THE SYNOD OF THE COVENANT

Rev. Ruth-Aimée Belonni Rosario, SOC Associate Executive for Racial Justice, offered greetings on behalf of the Synod and Rev. Dr. Chip Hardwick (SOC Executive). She described several upcoming education and seminar opportunities including Christian Nationalism seminars, a speaking series on the Intersection of Art, Race, and Gender, Preaching Workshops, and a Lectionary Discussion Group, and Boundary training led by Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence. She encouraged the Presbytery to attend the Covenant Gathering and Synod Presbyterian Women

Annual Gathering. She described how the construct of race impacts everyone and all people participate in it.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Celebration of Retirement

Rev. Dr. John Best (HR) spoke on behalf of Revs. Janet and Jerry Duggins who retired after co-pastering Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portage, MI, for 26 years. Rev. Best highlighted their pastoral care, preaching, art ministry, ministry of hospitality, and work with racial equity. Rev. Best also expressed gratitude for their work on Presbytery committees and commissions. Rev. Ben Rumbaugh (Dimondale First/Lansing Delta) offered a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing for Revs. Janet and Jerry Duggins.

Recognition of Pastors New to the Presbytery

Rev. Rumbaugh recognized and introduced Rev. Laura Miller-Purenhage who serves as the Interim pastor for North Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lansing, MI, and Rev. Dr. Viktoria Berlik who is a Member at Large. Rev. Rumbaugh offered a prayer of blessing over their ministries.

Request for Dissolution of Administrative Commission for Battle Creek Westlake

Rev. Rumbaugh provided background information regarding the current situation at Battle Creek Westlake. The Administrative Commission for Battle Creek Westlake was initially appointed by the Presbytery on June 10, 2025, at the request of the session. The primary goal of the AC was to support the congregation in concluding its ministry and mission with care and integrity, and provide guidance and resolution to any issues of disorder it encounters. Due to increased giving and creative building use, the congregation is in a more stable financial position and requested the Administrative Commission be dismissed. The AC has not begun its work. Rev. Rumbaugh offered information about continued areas of disorder within the congregation. The COM will work with the congregation regarding the disorder but another AC may need to be appointed in the future. After a time of discussion, **a motion prevailed** to dismiss the Administrative Commission for Westlake Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, MI.

MissionInsite

Rev. Rumbaugh offered information about the MissionInsite tool and encouraged congregations to utilize it. MissionInsite will provide training and webinars in the upcoming months.

REFLECTIONS ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF RICHLAND, MICHIGAN

Rev. Dan Anderson (Retired) thanked the members of the AC, the congregation, the session, and Rev. Calandra Nevenzel (Richland First) for the work they completed over the past 20 months. The members of the Presbytery celebrated the completion of the work of the AC and First Presbyterian Church of Richland, MI.

BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT

Elder Beth Dyer (Kalamazoo First) described the budget creation process and encouraged all those who are completing Ministry Action Plans to submit them by June 19, 2026. Elder Dyer reported that the Presbytery audit for 2025 has been completed and was given a clean opinion. Holt First has also completed a successful capital campaign and now has a Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program loan to fund work on a new boiler and installation of solar panels.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES OF DECATUR AND PAW PAW, MICHIGAN

Rev. Cathy Hoop celebrated the newly formed Pine Street Presbyterian Church. She recognized the work of Rev. Gail Monsma (Paw Paw First/Decatur First), the Pine Street Transition Team, and the Administrative Commission. Rev. Hoop offered details of plans moving forward including calling a congregational meeting to elect a new Nominating Committee. After a time of discussion, **a motion prevailed** to dissolve the corporations of the First Presbyterian Church of Decatur, MI and the First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, MI, when the way be clear, but no later than December 31, 2026. **A motion prevailed** with gratitude and appreciation to dismiss the Administrative Commission for the Merging of the First Presbyterian Churches of Decatur and Paw Paw, MI, when the way be clear, but not later than December 31, 2026. Members of the Presbytery had a time of celebration and Rev. Hoop offered a prayer of blessing over the new congregation.

REPORT OF THE YOUTH STRATEGIES COMMITTEE

Elder Jennifer Blackwell (Jackson First) presented the report on behalf of the Youth Strategies Committee. She described recent Middle and High School Retreats and encouraged members of the Presbytery to pray for youth attending the Montreat Youth Conference this summer. She highlighted several upcoming events including an Urban Plunge in the Fall. Mx. Riley Blackwell (Jackson First) offered her reflections on attending youth events within the Presbytery. Rev. Craig Kunkle (Sturgis First) invited youth from the Presbytery to attend a kayaking trip in July 2026.

PRESBYTERIAN INVESTMENT AND LOAN PROGRAM (PILP) UPDATE

Mx. Linda Sharp (PILP Relationship Manager) extended greetings from PILP and offered information about the resources available through PILP. She highlighted the different types of loans that are available to congregations. She encouraged members of the Presbytery to contact her with questions or needs.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m. Elder Ben Boerkoel closed the meeting with prayer and the extinguishing of the Christ Candle.

**The next Presbytery meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2026 at
First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083**

Attachment 1

SiegfriedCrandallPC
Certified Public Accountants & Advisors

5220 Lovers Lane Ste 130
Portage, MI 49002
www.siegfriedcrandall.com

Telephone 269-381-4970
Fax 269-349-1344

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Trustees
Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Portage, Michigan

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2025, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan as of December 31, 2025, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Presbytery of Lake Michigan, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Presbytery's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Presbytery's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Presbytery's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Prior Period Financial Statements

The 2024 financial statements were reviewed by us, and our report thereon, dated March 27, 2025, stated we were not aware of any material modifications that should be made to those financial statements for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. However, a review is substantially less in scope than an audit and does not provide a basis for the expression of an opinion on the financial statements.

Sigfried Crandall P.C.

March 11, 2026

Attachment 2

Comprehensive Project Portfolio Overview - Q3 2024												
Project ID	Project Name	Phase	Key Dates			Financials			Performance			Overall Status
			Start Date	End Date	Current Date	Budget (USD)	Actual Cost (USD)	Variance (USD)	Progress (%)	Quality Score	Client Satisfaction	
P001 - New Product Launch	Project Alpha: New Product X	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$1,200,000	\$1,150,000	\$50,000	10%	4.5	9.0	On Track
	Project Alpha: New Product X	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$2,500,000	\$2,400,000	\$100,000	25%	4.7	9.2	On Track
	Project Alpha: New Product X	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$8,000,000	\$7,800,000	\$200,000	60%	4.8	9.3	On Track
	Project Alpha: New Product X	Monitoring & Controlling	2024-10-16	2024-11-15	2024-10-25	\$1,500,000	\$1,450,000	\$50,000	80%	4.9	9.4	On Track
	Project Alpha: New Product X	Closing	2024-11-16	2024-11-30	2024-11-25	\$300,000	\$280,000	\$20,000	95%	5.0	9.5	Completed
P002 - System Upgrade	Project Beta: Legacy System Upgrade	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$800,000	\$820,000	-\$20,000	5%	4.2	8.5	Minor Delay
	Project Beta: Legacy System Upgrade	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$1,500,000	\$1,550,000	-\$50,000	15%	4.3	8.6	Minor Delay
	Project Beta: Legacy System Upgrade	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$5,000,000	\$5,200,000	-\$200,000	40%	4.4	8.7	Minor Delay
	Project Beta: Legacy System Upgrade	Monitoring & Controlling	2024-10-16	2024-11-15	2024-10-25	\$2,000,000	\$2,100,000	-\$100,000	70%	4.5	8.8	Minor Delay
	Project Beta: Legacy System Upgrade	Closing	2024-11-16	2024-11-30	2024-11-25	\$400,000	\$420,000	-\$20,000	90%	4.6	8.9	Minor Delay
P003 - Marketing Campaign	Project Gamma: Q3 Marketing Campaign	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$500,000	\$480,000	\$20,000	12%	4.6	9.1	On Track
	Project Gamma: Q3 Marketing Campaign	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$900,000	\$880,000	\$20,000	30%	4.7	9.2	On Track
	Project Gamma: Q3 Marketing Campaign	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$3,000,000	\$2,900,000	\$100,000	75%	4.8	9.3	On Track
	Project Gamma: Q3 Marketing Campaign	Monitoring & Controlling	2024-10-16	2024-11-15	2024-10-25	\$700,000	\$680,000	\$20,000	90%	4.9	9.4	On Track
	Project Gamma: Q3 Marketing Campaign	Closing	2024-11-16	2024-11-30	2024-11-25	\$100,000	\$90,000	\$10,000	98%	5.0	9.5	Completed
P004 - IT Infrastructure Upgrade	Project Delta: Server Room Upgrade	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$1,000,000	\$1,050,000	-\$50,000	8%	4.1	8.4	Minor Delay
	Project Delta: Server Room Upgrade	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$1,800,000	\$1,850,000	-\$50,000	18%	4.2	8.5	Minor Delay
	Project Delta: Server Room Upgrade	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$6,000,000	\$6,200,000	-\$200,000	50%	4.3	8.6	Minor Delay
	Project Delta: Server Room Upgrade	Monitoring & Controlling	2024-10-16	2024-11-15	2024-10-25	\$2,500,000	\$2,600,000	-\$100,000	85%	4.4	8.7	Minor Delay
	Project Delta: Server Room Upgrade	Closing	2024-11-16	2024-11-30	2024-11-25	\$500,000	\$520,000	-\$20,000	92%	4.5	8.8	Minor Delay
P005 - HR Process Improvement	Project Epsilon: Recruitment Process Revamp	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$300,000	\$290,000	\$10,000	15%	4.7	9.2	On Track
	Project Epsilon: Recruitment Process Revamp	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$500,000	\$480,000	\$20,000	35%	4.8	9.3	On Track
	Project Epsilon: Recruitment Process Revamp	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$2,000,000	\$1,900,000	\$100,000	80%	4.9	9.4	On Track
	Project Epsilon: Recruitment Process Revamp	Monitoring & Controlling	2024-10-16	2024-11-15	2024-10-25	\$400,000	\$380,000	\$20,000	95%	5.0	9.5	On Track
	Project Epsilon: Recruitment Process Revamp	Closing	2024-11-16	2024-11-30	2024-11-25	\$100,000	\$90,000	\$10,000	98%	5.0	9.5	Completed
P006 - Customer Service Initiative	Project Zeta: New Chatbot Implementation	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$700,000	\$720,000	-\$20,000	10%	4.3	8.7	Minor Delay
	Project Zeta: New Chatbot Implementation	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$1,200,000	\$1,250,000	-\$50,000	20%	4.4	8.8	Minor Delay
	Project Zeta: New Chatbot Implementation	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$4,000,000	\$4,100,000	-\$100,000	55%	4.5	8.9	Minor Delay
	Project Zeta: New Chatbot Implementation	Monitoring & Controlling	2024-10-16	2024-11-15	2024-10-25	\$1,500,000	\$1,550,000	-\$50,000	88%	4.6	9.0	Minor Delay
	Project Zeta: New Chatbot Implementation	Closing	2024-11-16	2024-11-30	2024-11-25	\$300,000	\$320,000	-\$20,000	93%	4.7	9.1	Minor Delay
P007 - Compliance Audit	Project Eta: GDPR Audit Preparation	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$400,000	\$380,000	\$20,000	18%	4.8	9.3	On Track
	Project Eta: GDPR Audit Preparation	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$600,000	\$580,000	\$20,000	40%	4.9	9.4	On Track
	Project Eta: GDPR Audit Preparation	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$2,500,000	\$2,400,000	\$100,000	70%	5.0	9.5	On Track
	Project Eta: GDPR Audit Preparation	Monitoring & Controlling	2024-10-16	2024-11-15	2024-10-25	\$800,000	\$780,000	\$20,000	90%	5.0	9.5	On Track
	Project Eta: GDPR Audit Preparation	Closing	2024-11-16	2024-11-30	2024-11-25	\$200,000	\$180,000	\$20,000	98%	5.0	9.5	Completed
P008 - Research & Development	Project Theta: New Material Research	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$1,500,000	\$1,550,000	-\$50,000	12%	4.2	8.6	Minor Delay
	Project Theta: New Material Research	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$2,800,000	\$2,850,000	-\$50,000	22%	4.3	8.7	Minor Delay
	Project Theta: New Material Research	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$9,000,000	\$9,200,000	-\$200,000	65%	4.4	8.8	Minor Delay
	Project Theta: New Material Research	Monitoring & Controlling	2024-10-16	2024-11-15	2024-10-25	\$3,500,000	\$3,600,000	-\$100,000	82%	4.5	8.9	Minor Delay
	Project Theta: New Material Research	Closing	2024-11-16	2024-11-30	2024-11-25	\$700,000	\$720,000	-\$20,000	90%	4.6	9.0	Minor Delay
P009 - Sustainability Initiative	Project Iota: Carbon Footprint Reduction	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$600,000	\$580,000	\$20,000	10%	4.6	9.1	On Track
	Project Iota: Carbon Footprint Reduction	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$1,000,000	\$980,000	\$20,000	25%	4.7	9.2	On Track
	Project Iota: Carbon Footprint Reduction	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$4,000,000	\$3,900,000	\$100,000	60%	4.8	9.3	On Track
	Project Iota: Carbon Footprint Reduction	Monitoring & Controlling	2024-10-16	2024-11-15	2024-10-25	\$1,500,000	\$1,450,000	\$50,000	85%	4.9	9.4	On Track
	Project Iota: Carbon Footprint Reduction	Closing	2024-11-16	2024-11-30	2024-11-25	\$300,000	\$280,000	\$20,000	95%	5.0	9.5	On Track
P010 - Digital Transformation	Project Kappa: CRM System Migration	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$1,800,000	\$1,850,000	-\$50,000	15%	4.3	8.7	Minor Delay
	Project Kappa: CRM System Migration	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$3,200,000	\$3,250,000	-\$50,000	30%	4.4	8.8	Minor Delay
	Project Kappa: CRM System Migration	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$10,000,000	\$10,200,000	-\$200,000	70%	4.5	8.9	Minor Delay
	Project Kappa: CRM System Migration	Monitoring & Controlling	2024-10-16	2024-11-15	2024-10-25	\$4,000,000	\$4,100,000	-\$100,000	88%	4.6	9.0	Minor Delay
	Project Kappa: CRM System Migration	Closing	2024-11-16	2024-11-30	2024-11-25	\$800,000	\$820,000	-\$20,000	92%	4.7	9.1	Minor Delay
P011 - Talent Development	Project Lambda: Leadership Training Program	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$350,000	\$340,000	\$10,000	20%	4.8	9.3	On Track
	Project Lambda: Leadership Training Program	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$600,000	\$580,000	\$20,000	45%	4.9	9.4	On Track
	Project Lambda: Leadership Training Program	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$2,500,000	\$2,400,000	\$100,000	75%	5.0	9.5	On Track
	Project Lambda: Leadership Training Program	Monitoring & Controlling	2024-10-16	2024-11-15	2024-10-25	\$800,000	\$780,000	\$20,000	90%	5.0	9.5	On Track
	Project Lambda: Leadership Training Program	Closing	2024-11-16	2024-11-30	2024-11-25	\$150,000	\$140,000	\$10,000	98%	5.0	9.5	Completed
P012 - Innovation Pipeline	Project Mu: AI Research Project	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$2,000,000	\$2,050,000	-\$50,000	10%	4.1	8.5	Minor Delay
	Project Mu: AI Research Project	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$3,800,000	\$3,850,000	-\$50,000	20%	4.2	8.6	Minor Delay
	Project Mu: AI Research Project	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$12,000,000	\$12,200,000	-\$200,000	50%	4.3	8.7	Minor Delay
	Project Mu: AI Research Project	Monitoring & Controlling	2024-10-16	2024-11-15	2024-10-25	\$5,000,000	\$5,100,000	-\$100,000	75%	4.4	8.8	Minor Delay
	Project Mu: AI Research Project	Closing	2024-11-16	2024-11-30	2024-11-25	\$1,200,000	\$1,250,000	-\$50,000	85%	4.5	8.9	Minor Delay
P013 - Global Expansion	Project Nu: New Market Entry - Asia	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$1,500,000	\$1,550,000	-\$50,000	12%	4.2	8.6	Minor Delay
	Project Nu: New Market Entry - Asia	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$2,800,000	\$2,850,000	-\$50,000	22%	4.3	8.7	Minor Delay
	Project Nu: New Market Entry - Asia	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$9,000,000	\$9,200,000	-\$200,000	65%	4.4	8.8	Minor Delay
	Project Nu: New Market Entry - Asia	Monitoring & Controlling	2024-10-16	2024-11-15	2024-10-25	\$3,500,000	\$3,600,000	-\$100,000	82%	4.5	8.9	Minor Delay
	Project Nu: New Market Entry - Asia	Closing	2024-11-16	2024-11-30	2024-11-25	\$700,000	\$720,000	-\$20,000	90%	4.6	9.0	Minor Delay
P014 - Supply Chain Optimization	Project Xi: Logistics Network Redesign	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$1,200,000	\$1,250,000	-\$50,000	15%	4.3	8.7	Minor Delay
	Project Xi: Logistics Network Redesign	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$2,200,000	\$2,250,000	-\$50,000	30%	4.4	8.8	Minor Delay
	Project Xi: Logistics Network Redesign	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$7,000,000	\$7,100,000	-\$100,000	60%	4.5	8.9	Minor Delay
	Project Xi: Logistics Network Redesign	Monitoring & Controlling	2024-10-16	2024-11-15	2024-10-25	\$2,500,000	\$2,550,000	-\$50,000	80%	4.6	9.0	Minor Delay
	Project Xi: Logistics Network Redesign	Closing	2024-11-16	2024-11-30	2024-11-25	\$500,000	\$520,000	-\$20,000	93%	4.7	9.1	Minor Delay
P015 - Customer Retention	Project Omicron: Loyalty Program Launch	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$400,000	\$380,000	\$20,000	18%	4.7	9.2	On Track
	Project Omicron: Loyalty Program Launch	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$700,000	\$680,000	\$20,000	40%	4.8	9.3	On Track
	Project Omicron: Loyalty Program Launch	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$3,000,000	\$2,900,000	\$100,000	70%	4.9	9.4	On Track
	Project Omicron: Loyalty Program Launch	Monitoring & Controlling	2024-10-16	2024-11-15	2024-10-25	\$900,000	\$880,000	\$20,000	88%	5.0	9.5	On Track
	Project Omicron: Loyalty Program Launch	Closing	2024-11-16	2024-11-30	2024-11-25	\$200,000	\$180,000	\$20,000	98%	5.0	9.5	Completed
P016 - Data Analytics Platform	Project Pi: Big Data Platform Development	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$1,800,000	\$1,850,000	-\$50,000	10%	4.1	8.5	Minor Delay
	Project Pi: Big Data Platform Development	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$3,500,000	\$3,550,000	-\$50,000	20%	4.2	8.6	Minor Delay
	Project Pi: Big Data Platform Development	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$11,000,000	\$11,200,000	-\$200,000	55%	4.3	8.7	Minor Delay
	Project Pi: Big Data Platform Development	Monitoring & Controlling	2024-10-16	2024-11-15	2024-10-25	\$4,500,000	\$4,600,000	-\$100,000	78%	4.4	8.8	Minor Delay
	Project Pi: Big Data Platform Development	Closing	2024-11-16	2024-11-30	2024-11-25	\$900,000	\$920,000	-\$20,000	88%	4.5	8.9	Minor Delay
P017 - Employee Wellness Program	Project Rho: Mental Health Support Initiative	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$300,000	\$290,000	\$10,000	25%	4.8	9.3	On Track
	Project Rho: Mental Health Support Initiative	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$500,000	\$480,000	\$20,000	50%	4.9	9.4	On Track
	Project Rho: Mental Health Support Initiative	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$2,000,000	\$1,900,000	\$100,000	75%	5.0	9.5	On Track
	Project Rho: Mental Health Support Initiative	Monitoring & Controlling	2024-10-16	2024-11-15	2024-10-25	\$700,000	\$680,000	\$20,000	90%	5.0	9.5	On Track
	Project Rho: Mental Health Support Initiative	Closing	2024-11-16	2024-11-30	2024-11-25	\$100,000	\$90,000	\$10,000	98%	5.0	9.5	Completed
P018 - Environmental Impact	Project Sigma: Green Building Certification	Initiation	2024-07-01	2024-07-15	2024-07-10	\$600,000	\$580,000	\$20,000	15%	4.6	9.1	On Track
	Project Sigma: Green Building Certification	Planning	2024-07-16	2024-08-15	2024-07-25	\$1,000,000	\$980,000	\$20,000	35%	4.7	9.2	On Track
	Project Sigma: Green Building Certification	Execution	2024-08-16	2024-10-15	2024-08-25	\$4,000,000	\$3,900,000					

**Leadership Team Meeting
Minutes
Presbytery of Lake Michigan via Zoom
1511 Helen Avenue, Portage, MI 49002
June 4, 2026 12:30 p.m.**

Present: Ben Boerkoel (RE-Westminster GR/PLM Moderator), Chris Dorn (TE-Ionia/DST), Beth Dyer (RE-Kalamazoo First/B&F Moderator), Linda Hardenbergh (RE-Eastminster EL/PLM Vice-Moderator), Troy Hauser-Brydon (TE-Grand Haven/LT Moderator), Jeanette Holton (RE-Benton Harbor First/AST), Nick Marlatt (TE-Hastings/LT MAL), Lisa Schrott (TE-/N&R Moderator), Lynette Sparks (TE-Westminster GR/M&O)

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

Call to Order, Opening Prayer, and Quorum: Rev. Troy Hauser-Brydon called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Rev. Hauser-Brydon invited Elder Ben Boerkoel to open the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present.

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

Approval of the Minutes: A motion prevailed to approve the Leadership Team Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2026.

Unfinished Business:

A. Nominations for Nominating Committee

A motion prevailed to affirm the email vote to nominate Elder Brian Koon (Lansing First), Class of 2028, to the Nominating Committee.

B. Updates - ACs - Cal Bremer

The following Administrative Commissions (AC) have completed the tasks for which they were appointed and are providing their final reports to the Presbytery. They will ask to be dismissed: AC for Marshall, MI, Richland, MI, and Westlake, MI.

The ACs for Allegan, Decatur/Paw Paw, and Delta/Dimondale continue their work.

New Business:

A. Coordination of staff duties and responsibilities during sabbatical.

Rev. Cal Bremer, Asst to EP, and Rev. Kristin Stroble, COM Support Staff, will be covering the duties of the Executive Presbytery during the sabbatical of Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence. Rev. Bremer will take lead in resourcing the Finance Committee/Trustees. Rev. Kristin Stroble will take the lead in resourcing the Commission on Ministry. Rev. Bremer and Rev. Stroble will share head of staff duties. If consultation with the Presbytery attorney

becomes necessary for any issue Rev. Bremer or Rev. Stroble will be able to approve the interactions. Both will continue to provide support to Administrative Commissions.

Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom will be the staff support person for the Nominating Committee.

Rev. Ted McColloch, stated clerk for the Presbytery of Lake Huron, will be available for consultation and will serve as the stated clerk pro tem for the stated meeting in September or any specially called presbytery meetings.

A motion prevailed to compensate these individuals for time spent on work above and beyond their own position descriptions.

Discussion of the Business and Worship at Stated Meetings of the Presbytery:

A. Tuesday, June 9, 2026 - Muskegon

1. Worship
 - a. Celebration of the Lord's Supper
 - b. Offering - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
 - c. Preacher - Matt Aragon Bruce
2. Leadership Team Nominations for Nominating Committee (5 Minutes)[**ACTION**]
3. COM Celebration of Retirement - Ben Rumbaugh (10 Minutes)
4. Report of EP - Fran Lane-Lawrence (5 minutes)
5. Report of B&F - Beth Dyer (10 Minutes)
 - MAPS and reiterate the deadline
 - Direct people to the Audit
6. Decatur - Paw Paw Merger AC - Cathy Hoop (10 minutes)
7. Richland AC - Stuart Deming (10 Minutes)
8. Keynote - Matt Aragon Bruce (30 minutes)
9. Synod Report Ruth-Aimée Belonni-Rosario, Assoc for Racial Justice (10 minutes)
10. Linda Sharp-Jayaweera, PILP Relationship Manager (10 minutes)
11. Youth Strategies Committee - Jen Blackwell (10 minutes)

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: Rev. Troy Hauser-Brydon adjourned at 1:12 p.m. and closed the meeting with prayer.

No Meeting in July
Next meeting: August 6, 2026
Via Zoom

Devotion: Nick Marlatt

**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