Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
Presbytery of Lake Michigan via Zoom
1511 Helen Avenue, Portage, MI 49002
September 3, 2026 12:30 p.m.

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

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

Excused: Fran Lane-Lawrence (Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk)

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. Kristin Stroble 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 item:

A. **To approve** the Leadership Team Meeting Minutes of August 6, 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 North Westminster. Rev. Nick Marlatt, chair of the North Westminster AC, noted that difficult decisions might need to be made for North Westminster and reminded the Leadership Team that all questions about North Westminster need to be directed to Rev. Bremer or Rev. Stroble.

B. The Leadership Team continued discussion around utilizing Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka's presence with us in November. There was consensus around providing a Monday evening option for Ruling Elders, Christian Educators, and Pastors at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids with a dinner. Rev. Stroble will move forward with exploring that option.

New Business:

A. Rev. Kristin Stroble let the leadership team know that a Small Church Ruling Elder Retreat has been scheduled for April 9-11, 2027 at Geneva Camp and more information will be coming soon.
B. Rev. Kristin Stroble informed the Leadership Team that a Church Cohort Group is being formed by Dr. Stephen Keizer from the Presbyterian Foundation to gather pastors and leaders on a regular basis for education around particular topics and support.

C. Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser-Brydon will not be able to attend the September presbytery meeting. Ruling Elder Beth Dyer agreed to give the Leadership Team report and present the motion for 2027 per capita.

Discussion of the Business and Worship at Stated Meetings of the Presbytery: Rev. Kristin Stroble provided an overview of the docket for the stated meeting on September 12, 2026. By consensus the Leadership Team agreed to remove the Allegan AC from the docket, since they will not be presenting a motion for sale of the building. Their report will be included in the consent agenda.

A. **Saturday, September 12, 2026 - Richland**
   1. Worship
      a. Celebration of the Lord's Supper
      b. Offering - The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness
      c. Preacher - GA Commissioners
      d. Joanna Townley received as candidate
   2. Report of GA Commissioners - Elder Heather Myers, Elder Ben Boerkoel, Rev. Steve Kaszar, and Rev. Kristin Stroble (45 minutes)
   3. Synod of the Covenant Commissioner - Andy Thorburn (5 minutes)
   4. Leadership Team Report and motion for 2027 per capita for PLM - Beth Dyer(5 minutes)
   5. Report of B&F - Elder Beth Dyer (20 minutes)
      a. Presentation - First Read of the Proposed Budget for 2027
   6. Nominating Committee Report - Jay Ayers (5 minutes)
   7. Youth Strategies Committee - (10 minutes)
   8. COM - Ben Rumbaugh (30 minutes)
      a. AC for North Westminster
      b. Minimum Terms of Call
      c. Welcoming new pastor

B. **Tuesday, November 17, 2026 - Hastings**
   1. Worship
      a. Celebration of the Lord's Supper
      b. Celebration of Saints
      c. Installation of Moderator/Vice Moderator
      a. Offering - PLM Candidates and Inquirers
      b. Preacher - Rodger Nishioka
   2. Synod of the Covenant Report - Chip Hardwick (5 minutes)
   3. Report of B&F -
      a. Vote on Proposed Budget
   4. Report of EP - Fran Lane-Lawrence (5 minutes)
   5. Nominating Committee Report - (10 minutes)
   6. COM - Ben Rumbaugh

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: A motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 p.m. Rev. Hauser-Brydon closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting: October 1, 2026
Via Zoom

Devotion: Jeannette Holton