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

# November 17, 2026
# Stated Meeting Packet

**DOCKET of the STATED MEETING**
**Presbytery of Lake Michigan**
**November 17, 2026 9:30 a.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church of Hastings**
**405 M-37**
**Hastings, MI 49058**

**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 November 12 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]** |
| Statement of Quorum | |
| Approval of the Docket | **[ACTION]** |
| Welcome | |
| First-Time Elders and Christian Educators | |
| Guests and Visitors | |
| Greetings from the Host Church - Rev. Nick Marlatt | |
| Approval of the Consent Agenda | **[ACTION]** |

**10:00 a.m. WORSHIP** – (See insert)

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka
Sermon Title: A Lesson from Eutychus
Scripture: Acts 20:7-12

Today's offerings are designated for PLM Inquirers and Candidates

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

**11:15 a.m. KEYNOTE - Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka** (30 minutes)
***Good news for presbyters: Predestined, Called, Justified, Glorified!***
*As we explore who we are called by God to be, the Apostle Paul offers four characteristics of followers of Jesus. We will explore each of these and the implications for how we lead Christ's body today.*

**11:45 a.m**. **BUSINESS PLENARY II**

Report of the Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk - Rev. Dr. Fran Lane (10 minutes)

Report of the N &R Committee - Rev. James Ayers (5 minutes) **[ACTION]**

Report of the Budget and Finance Committee – Elder Beth Dyer (20 minutes) **[ACTION]**
Proposed Budget for 2027

Report of the Synod of the Covenant - Rev. Chip Hardwick (5 minutes)

Report of the AC for Delta Presbyterian and FPC-Dimondale - Rev. Bill Pinches (20 minutes)
Request for Consolidation **[ACTION]**

Report of the Leadership Team - Rev. Troy Hauser-Brydon (5 minutes)
Terms of Call - Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence (EP/SC) **[ACTION]**
Nomination to Nominating and Representation Committee **[ACTION]**

Commission on Ministry - Rev. Ben Rumbaugh (15 minutes)
Welcoming New Pastors
Request for Administrative Commission for Westlake Battle Creek [**ACTION]**

Report of the AC for North Westminster Presbyterian Church - Rev. Nick Marlatt (20 minutes)
Request for Dissolution **[ACTION]**

Invitation "Welcoming the New Neighbor" Dialogue - Stephanie Nawyn (5 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 Tuesday, February 9, 2027**
**Via Zoom**

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

**Presbytery Meeting Worship**
**November 17, 2026**
**We Gather to Worship**

**Prelude**

***Call to Worship** **Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom**

Cry out with joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship God with gladness.

**Come into God's presence with singing!**

For the Lord is a gracious God,
Whose mercy is everlasting;

**whose faithfulness endures to all generations.**

Let us praise the Lord.

**Let us exalt God's name together!**

***Hymn # 267** **"All Things Bright and Beautiful"**

**Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession**[1] **Rev. Dr. Cal Bremer**

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

*Silence*

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

May the peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you!**

**We Hear the Word**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

***Hymn #322** **"Spirit of the Living God"**

**Scripture Reading** **Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka**

Acts 20:7-12

**Message** **Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka**

"A Lesson from Eutychus"

[1]Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Theology and Worship Ministry Unit. *Book of Common Worship*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1993.

**We Respond to the Word**

***Hymn #361 "How Firm a Foundation" vs. 1, 2**

**Prayer of the People and Celebration of the Saints** **Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence**
**Rev. Kristin Stroble**

**Installation of the Presbytery Moderator and Vice Moderator**
**Elder Benjamin Boerkoel (GR Westminster)**
**Elder Laurie Tupper (Kalamazoo First)**
**Rev. Michael Horlocker (Cadillac First)**

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

**There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.**

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.**

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

The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility. Today it is our joy to share the call of God to Elder Laurie Tupper as moderator and Rev. Michael Horlocker as vice moderator of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan.

Laurie and Michael, the grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways which serve Christ. God has called you to particular service. Show your purpose by answering these questions.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

**Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

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

**I will, with God's help.**

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

**I do.**

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

**I will, with God's help.**

Do you, members of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, confirm the call of God
to our siblings Laurie Tupper as moderator and Michael Horlocker as vice moderator in the service of Jesus Christ?

**We do.**

Will you support and encourage them in this ministry?

**We will.**

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

**Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called disciples and, by the Holy Spirit, made them one church to serve you. Let your Spirit rule your church, so that we may be joined in love and service to Jesus Christ, who, having gone before us, is coming to meet us in the promise of your kingdom. Amen.**

Laurie, you are installed to service as moderator and Michael, you are installed to service as vice-moderator in the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

**Receiving A Candidate Under Care** **Candidate Steve Zeoli (Ionia First)**

On behalf of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry, I introduce and receive Steve Zeoli 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.[2]

**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 Steve 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 of Thanksgiving #582 GTG Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me**

**Offering** **Elder Kirk Truesdell**

Today's offering is designated to support the Presbytery of Lake Michigan's Inquirers and Candidates.

[2] 1 Tim. 4:7b–12

**Offertory**

***Doxology**

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

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication** **Elder Kirk Truesdell**

**Gracious God, we give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all people. Give us such an awareness of your mercies that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days. Amen.**[3]

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper** **Rev. Nick Marlatt (Hastings First)**

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.
**It is right for us to give our thanks and praise.**

Thanks and praise to you, O God, creator and lover of the universe…. Remembering that we are not alone at this table, we join our voices with all the saints whom you have called, from all times and all places, who forever sing to the glory of your name, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our host and our guest at this table….Through his resurrection, you brought new creation,
embodying the promise of life everlasting.

**The Words of Institution**

On the night that He was arrested…And so, according to Christ's commandment:
**We remember His death, we proclaim His resurrection, we await His coming in glory.**

*The prayer continues…*

**The Communion of the People**

**Prayer after Communion**

***Hymn - #526 - For All the Saints**

[3]Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Theology and Worship Ministry Unit. *Book of Common Worship*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1993.

***Charge and Benediction** **Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka**

**Postlude**

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

Accompanist: Patti LaJoye, Music Leader

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

# A Celebration of Saints Who Joined the Church Triumphant
## October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026

### *First Presbyterian Church – Battle Creek*
Richard Black
Dale Dittmer

### *Pennfield Presbyterian Church – Battle Creek*
Jeanette Higgs
Ross Jarrard
Mike Monroe

### *Westlake Presbyterian Church – Battle Creek*
June E. Bloch
William Paul Porter

### *First Presbyterian Church – Benton Harbor*
Allene Smith

### *United Church – Big Rapids*
Allene Long
Sandra Morris

### *Brooklyn Presbyterian Church*
Lawrence Boyd
Wrayanne Smelser

### *First Presbyterian Church – Buchanan*
Thomas Tyler

### *First Presbyterian Church – Cadillac*
Cindy Eldridge
Sharon Hartsell
Judith Judy Smith

### *United Presbyterian Church – Cassopolis*
Elizabeth Clement
Gene Decker

### *First Presbyterian Church – Concord*
William McCourtie

### *Eastminster Presbyterian Church – East Lansing*
Connie Cullum
Cynthia Dibello

### *First Presbyterian Church – Grand Haven*
Jack Jansma
Gail Miner

### *Forest Hills Presbyterian - Grand Rapids*
Harry Jones

### *Westminster Presbyterian Church – Grand Rapids*
Stephen Baron
Robert Carlson
Betty Webber

### *First Presbyterian Church – Hastings*
Constance T. Semerad
Dr. Richard Clark
Dr. Lynn McConnell

### *First Presbyterian Church - Holland*
Elsie Bergstrom
William Evenson
W. Tedd Oyler

### *First Presbyterian Church – Holt*
Bill Brock
Wilma Akright

### *First Presbyterian Church – Ionia*
Evelyn Ransom
William Robinson

### *First Presbyterian Church – Jackson*
Zoe Wilcox

### *Parkwood Presbyterian Church - Jenison*
Andre (Andy) DeWilde

### *First Presbyterian Church - Jonesville*
Barbara Jean Stanfield
David Townsend Steel

### *First Presbyterian Church – Kalamazoo*
Sue Johnson
Louise McCallum
Norm McCallum
Ruther Moser
Eleanor Pinkham
David Rozelle
Leo Theilman

### *Delta Presbyterian Church – Lansing*

Pat Baker

### *First Presbyterian Church - Lansing*

Jean Dietrich
Joan Heil
Elaine Scovill
Roger Wilkinson

### *First Presbyterian Church – Marshall*

Julie Anne Bolen

### *First Presbyterian Church – Mason*

Jenny Bond
Gerald Woolston

### *First Presbyterian Church – Muskegon*

Gay (Tic) Adams
Teresa Christensen

### *First Presbyterian Church – Niles*

George Alfred Beaumont

### *The Presbyterian Church of Okemos*

Lon McCollum
Kathy Richardson

### *Pine Street Presbyterian Church - Paw Paw*

Eleanor Smith

### *Pine Street Presbyterian Church – Paw Paw*

Eleanor Smith

### *Westminster Presbyterian Church – Portage*

Bernard Rodee

### *First Presbyterian Church – Richland*

Dave Fisher
Byron Hodgson

### *North Kent Presbyterian Church – Rockford*

Cynthia Delmont

### *Spring Lake Presbyterian Church*

Roy A. Hierholzer

### *First Presbyterian Church – Sturgis*

Richard Wendt

### *First Presbyterian Church – Three Rivers/Centreville*

Robert Beals
El DeWitt
Albert Horsmon, Jr.
John Kruse
Thomas Nelson

### *Teaching Elders*

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey O'Neill
Rev. Allan Widerquist

# Report of the Committee on Nominating and Representation
# November 17, 2026
# Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan

**Action items**

**1. N&R nominates** Rev. Michael Horlocker for the role of Vice Moderator (class of 2027), succeeding to Moderator (2028).

**2. N&R nominates** the following to 3-year terms on the Commission on Ministry (class of 2029):

- Ruling Elder Michael Bryan (First Lansing); [second term]
- Rev. Dr. Clint Cozier (Three Rivers / Centerville); [first term]
- Ruling Elder Ann Green (Cassopolis United); [first term]
- Rev. Dr. David Weber (Brooklyn) [first term].

**3. N&R nominates** the following to 3-year terms on the Trustees / Budget & Finance (class of 2029):

- Ruling Elder Todd Olson (Grand Haven) [second term]
- Ruling Elder Ed Coke (Westminster Grand Rapids) [first term]

**4. N&R nominates** the following to a 1-year term on the Trustees / Budget & Finance (class of 2027):

- Rev. Christine Barnes (HR)

**5. N&R nominates** the following to a 3-year term on the Leadership Team (class of 2029):

- Rev. Nick Marlatt (Hastings) [second term]

**Information items**

1. Current members of the Nominating & Representation committee are as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| TE Rev. Dr. Jay Ayers (HR) | (316) 323-9107 | jayers55@gmail.com |
| RE Linda Bieze (Westminster GR) | (616) 780-1217 | linda.bieze@gmail.com |
| RE Willye Bryan (Lansing, First) | (517) 449-8279 | entpeople@yahoo.com |
| RE Brian Koon (Lansing, First) | (517) 285-4192 | b.koon@comcast.net |
| TE Rev. Dr. Ruth Lowry (MAL) | (616) 915-8221 | pastor.ruth.pcusa@gmail.com |

Staff – Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence (Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk)

2. We have many and various committee positions yet to be filled in the presbytery's ministry structure. There are openings on Commission on Ministry, Permanent Judicial Commission, Commission on Preparation for Ministry, Leadership Team, and others.

Please feel free to contact any of the members of N&R if you know of someone – including yourself – who might offer helpful leadership to the Presbytery in one of these areas.

3. A detailed description of the presbytery's ministries can be found in the PLM Directory, pages 44-59, with the purpose and activities of the various teams and their current rosters.

# Presbytery of Lake Michigan
# First Read 2027 Proposed Budget

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## 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:

| | **2011** | **2025** |
|---|---|---|
| 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:

| | **2011** | **2025** |
|---|---|---|
| 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.

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# 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 are 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.

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**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.**

## Narrative for 2027 Final Read Proposed Budget

The Budget and Finance Committee, in concurrence with the PLM Leadership Team, presented the First Read of the 2027 Budget and First Read Narrative at the September 12, 2026, Stated Meeting.

The designated email address: bnfmoderator@lakemichiganpresbytery.org was publicized as part of the Narrative for the First Read of the 2026 Budget. Everyone was requested to use this email and to put their comments or questions in written form and submit them for consideration by the Budget and Finance Committee. Three questions/ comments were received. They were:

1. Why are the materials so long?
   *The narratives and budgets are provided in the interest of transparency and to provide commissioners with background which influenced the Budget and Finance Committee's recommendations.*
2. Does PLM invest socially responsibly?
   *Presbytery of Lake Michigan assets invested with New Covenant Trust Company are managed according to a socially responsible investment strategy that complies with the social investment policies of the PC(USA).*

   *All assets invested through the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program conform to the social investment policies of the PC(USA).*
   *Additional information can be obtained by accessing the foundation or ILP website.*

3. Have we looked at other ways from per capita to fund operations?
   Yes, we have. The per capita income is projected at approximately $340,000 on a $ 789,000 +/- budget.

The interlude between the presentation of the First Read of the 2027 Budget and the creation of the Final Draft provided an opportunity to consider some additional information:

Presbytery approved, at September 12,2026 Stated Meeting, that the 2027 PLM per capita be established at $29.56. This represents a $1.80 increase from the PLM 2026 per capita of $27.76 (please note that the 2026 per capita was the same as the 2025 PLM per capita). {General Assembly per capita and Synod of the Covenant per capita are set by actions of those bodies}.

The announcement by the Social Security Administration regarding Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits increase for 2027 was scheduled for October 14,2026, one day following the Budget and Finance Committee meeting. The announcement on October 14, 2026, was for a 3.6 % increase.

Recommended Stated Meeting- November 17,2026

The Budget and Finance Committee affirmed the use of 3.0 % as the cost-of-living increase for staff salary purposes.  (c.f. pages 12,13 First Read Narrative)

The B&F committee affirmed the desirability of presenting the budget as detailed in the First Read. As a reminder, we observe that the 2027 budget includes over $260,000 from Reserves.  Since 2019 it has not been necessary to use money from the reserves. (c.f. page 7 of First Read Narrative)

The B&F Committee prepared a Final Draft of the 2027 Budget and this Final Narrative for consideration and endorsement by the Leadership Team which met on November 6, 2026.

**The Budget and Finance Committee recommends no changes to the First Read of the 2027 Budget.**

The 2027 budget reflects the reality that ours is a unified budget with multiple sources of income for our ministry together and it is a budget that can facilitate our ministry together.

Thank you for your support of our joint ministries, it affirms that we are a connectional denomination. Participation in Shared Mission giving, and robust commitment to per capita are vital to the ministries of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan bringing hope and light to our communities.

Recommended Stated Meeting- November 17,2026

## Presbytery of Lake Michigan
## 2027 Proposed Budget
## November 17, 2026

| SUPPORT AND REVENUE | Proposed Budget 2027 | Adopted Budget 2026 | Adopted Budget 2025 | Adopted Budget 2024 | Adopted 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 |
| *Commission on Ministry* | | | | | |
| 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** | |
| | | | | | | |
| Mediation Committee | $ 3,000 | $ 3,000 | $ 3,000 | $ 315 | *$ 1,000* | |
| | | | | | | |
| Response Committee | $ 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 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Preparation for Ministry Commission* | | | | | | |
| 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/Trienniu | $ 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** |

| | | For November 17, 2026 Stated Meeting | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **OPERATIONAL EXPENSES** | **Recommended 2027** | **Approved 2026** | **Nine months 2026** | **2025 Actual** | **2024 actual** | **2023 Actual** |
| Administrative Commissions | $ 10,000 | $ 15,000 | $ 26,206 | $ 24,682 | $ 1,003 | $ 205 |
| Building Maintenance/Lease | $ 18,000 | $ 15,500 | $ 11,950 | $ 14,902 | $ 14,656 | $ 14,227 |
| Building Utilities | $ 3,850 | $ 3,600 | $ 2,392 | $ 3,267 | $ 2,479 | $ 2,759 |
| Communications & Technology | $ 1,000 | $ 1,000 | $ 508 | $ 548 | $ 411 | $ - |
| Computer Support | $ 4,000 | $ 4,000 | $ 127 | $ 1,181 | $ 3,816 | $ 3,153 |
| Contract Service (payroll, recording clerk, other) | $ 6,300 | $ 4,500 | $ 6,945 | $ 6,008 | $ 3,331 | $ 2,364 |
| Cong Connection/Directory/ software links | $ 1,000 | $ 1,000 | $ - | $ - | $ 546 | $ 948 |
| Depreciation- Bldg & Equip | $ 2,250 | $ 2,250 | $ - | $ - | $ 1,747 | $ 2,517 |
| Equipment Acquisition | $ 5,000 | $ 2,000 | $ - | $ - | $ 668 | $ - |
| Equipment Repair and Maintenance | $ 500 | $ 500 | $ - | $ - | $ 70 | $ 605 |
| Fees and Service Charges | $ 500 | $ 500 | $ (223) | $ 65 | $ 494 | $ 563 |
| Governing Body Mtg Expense | $ 5,000 | $ 8,500 | $ 1,280 | $ 576 | $ 5,497 | $ 10,621 |
| Insurance -Comprehensive | $ 3,800 | $ 3,800 | $ - | $ 3,279 | $ 2,500 | $ 2,395 |
| Insurance- Workers Comp | $ 4,000 | $ 1,000 | $ 4,945 | $ 852 | $ 725 | $ 730 |
| Professional Expenses | $ 6,000 | $ 6,000 | $ 1,214 | $ 174 | $ 19,464 | $ - |
| Moderator/Vice Moderator Travel Expenses | $ 500 | $ 500 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Moderator Training Expenses | $ 1,000 | $ 1,000 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Postage | $ 1,250 | $ 800 | $ 1,008 | $ 940 | $ 731 | $ 857 |
| Printing | $ 650 | $ 650 | $ - | $ 262 | $ - | $ 556 |
| Supplies | $ 2,500 | $ 2,500 | $ 1,514 | $ 3,463 | $ 2,020 | $ 1,795 |
| Telephone/ General | $ 2,400 | $ 2,400 | $ - | $ 1,214 | $ 7,784 | $ 7,029 |
| Website and email constant contact expenses | $ 6,000 | $ 4,500 | $ 5,262 | $ 6,089 | $ 5,443 | $ 4,674 |
| Vouchered Expenses | $ 24,000 | $ 16,000 | $ 18,671 | $ 33,553 | $ 19,089 | $ 15,173 |
| Other Expense | $ 3,000 | $ 2,600 | $ 1,847 | $ 352 | $ - | $ 2,517 |
| | **$ 112,500** | **$ 100,100** | **$ 83,646** | **$ 101,407** | **$ 92,474** | **$ 73,688** |

Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Balance Sheet at 9/30/2026

| | |
|---|---|
| ASSETS: | |
| Cash | 63,647.44 |
| General Investments: | |
| Investments - New Covenant Trust Mgmt. Fund | 3,026,522.98 |
| Investments - John Knox Memorial Fund | 1,010,537.08 |
| Investments - Investment & Loan Program | 51,581.37 |
| | 4,088,641.43 |
| Other Investments: | |
| Investments - Presbyterian Foundation - Sp. Assistance | 53,019.58 |
| Endowment - Presbyterian Foundation - Niger | 77,757.22 |
| Endowment - Presbyterian Foundation - Nicaragua | 77,757.22 |
| Escrow Account - Westminster of Jackson | 326,598.55 |
| | 535,132.57 |
| Total Cash & Investments | 4,687,421.44 |
| Accounts Receivable Per Capita | 72,810.65 |
| Prepaid Expense / Retreats & Meetings | 1,281.90 |
| Total Fixed Assets - Original Cost less Depreciation | 3,912.67 |
| Total Assets: | 4,765,426.66 |
| LIABILITIES: | |
| Accounts Payable | 15,642.83 |
| Escrow Account - Westminster of Jackson | 326,598.55 |
| NET ASSETS: | 4,423,185.28 |
| TOTAL LIAB & NET ASSETS: | 4,765,426.66 |
| *Fund Balances: | |
| Unrestricted: | |
| Non-Designated: | |
| Operating Surpluses Prior Years: | 785,081.24 |
| Operating Surpluses YTD: | 159,369.12 |
| John Knox Memorial Fund | 589,574.95 |
| Church Dissolutions | 1,257,711.28 |
| Undesignated Funds | 674,815.31 |
| Presbytery Operating Cash Reserve | 200,000.00 |
| Total Non-Designated: | 3,666,551.90 |
| 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 | (4,540.57) |
| Total Designated: | 478,513.04 |
| Total Unrestricted: | 4,145,064.94 |
| Restricted: | |
| John Knox- Nicaragua | 64,876.58 |
| John Knox- Niger | 64,876.58 |
| Special Assistance Endowment Fund | 47,245.44 |
| Other Temporarily Restricted | 101,121.74 |
| Total Restricted: | 278,120.34 |
| Total Net Assets: | 4,423,185.28 |

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

| **PLM Operating Fund:** | | | | Annual Budget |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Support and Revenue | | 9/30/2026 | | 2026 |
| Per Capita | $ | 349,923 | $ | 349,923 |
| Presbytery Shared Mission | $ | 69,267 | $ | 130,750 |
| Investment and Other Income/Receipts | $ | 270,150 | $ | 157,821 |
| Current Year Uncollectible | $ | - | $ | (15,000) |
| Transfer In | $ | - | $ | 230,087 |
| **Total Support and Revenue:** | **$** | **689,339** | **$** | **853,581** |
| | | | | |
| **Expenses:** | | | | |
| *ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT TEAM* | $ | 63 | $ | 12,700 |
| | | | | |
| *BUDGET & FINANCE* | $ | 10,200 | $ | 9,000 |
| | | | | |
| *CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT TEAM:* | | | | |
| Administration | $ | - | $ | 500 |
| Commission on Ministry | $ | 3,014 | $ | 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 |
| | | | | |
| *DYNAMIC LEADERS TEAM:* | | | | |
| 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 | $ | 3,621 | $ | 6,500 |
| Preparation for Ministry Commission | $ | 2,430 | $ | 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 |
| | | | | |
| *LEADERSHIP TEAM* | $ | - | $ | 7,000 |
| | | | | |
| *MISSION & OUTREACH TEAM:* | | | | |
| Administration | $ | - | $ | 500 |
| Campus Ministries | $ | 60,000 | $ | 80,000 |
| | | | | |
| *NOMINATING/REPRESENTATION* | $ | - | $ | 300 |
| | | | | |
| *PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION* | $ | - | $ | 300 |
| | | | | |
| Officers and Staff | $ | 246,129 | $ | 399,500 |
| Office Operations | $ | 83,645 | $ | 100,100 |

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

| | | | Annual Budget |
|---|---|---|---|
| **PLM Operating Fund:** | | | |
| Other Expense | $ | - | $ - |
| Per Capita - General Assembly | $ | 74,467 | $ 92,884 |
| Per Capita - Synod of the Covenant | $ | 22,511 | $ **28,047** |
| **Total Expenses:** | **$** | **529,970** | **$ 853,581** |
| **Operating Revenue (Deficit) Over Expenses:** | **$** | **159,369** | **$ -** |
| | | | |
| **Other Assemblies' Shared Mission Receipts:** | | | |
| GA Shared and Other Missions | $ | 121,863 | $ 85,500 |
| Synod Shared Mission | $ | 2,527 | $ 2,250 |
| **Total Other Assemblies' Shared Mission Receipts:** | **$** | **124,390** | **$ 87,750** |
| | | | |
| **Other Assemblies' Shared Mission Disbursements:** | | | |
| GA Shared and Other Missions | $ | 121,863 | $ 85,500 |
| Synod Mission | $ | 2,527 | $ 2,250 |
| **Total Other Assemblies' Shared Mission Disbursements:** | **$** | **124,390** | **$ 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 | $ | 3,830 | $ - |
| Offerings - Presbytery Mtgs. | $ | 2,884 | $ - |
| Peacemaking Offering-Presbytery | $ | 933 | $ - |
| Planning Clndrs/BksOrder/Outlook | $ | 906 | $ - |
| Special Assistance Endowment Fund | $ | 1,306 | $ - |
| Grants | $ | 18,325 | $ - |
| Two Cents A Meal | $ | 1,246 | $ - |
| Youth Activities | $ | - | $ - |
| Various Other | $ | - | $ - |
| **Total Designated & Restricted Revenue:** | **$** | **31,619** | **$ -** |
| | | | |
| **Expenditures:** | | | |
| Candidates' Scholarships | $ | 1,950 | $ - |
| Church Dissolutions | $ | 46,344 | $ - |
| Congregational Vitality & Justice Grants | $ | 3,000 | $ - |
| Disaster Relief - John Knox Memorial Fund | $ | 10,000 | $ - |
| GA Grants - Other | $ | 18,325 | $ - |
| J. Knox Missionaries - Nicaragua & Niger | $ | 3,830 | $ - |
| Nicaragua & Ghana Partnerships | $ | - | $ - |
| Offerings - Presbytery Meetings | $ | - | $ - |
| Planning Clndrs/BksOrder/Outlook | $ | 2,189 | $ - |
| Special Assistance Endowment Fund | $ | 1,726 | $ - |
| **Total Designated & Restricted Expense:** | **$** | **87,363** | **$ -** |

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

| PLM Operating Fund: | | Annual Budget |
|---|---|---|
| Total All Revenue/Receipts: | $ 845,349 | $ 941,331 |
| Total All Expenditures/Disbursements: | $ 741,724 | $ 941,331 |
| Total Rev Over/Under Expenses: | $ 103,625 | $ - |

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

**Presbytery of Lake Michigan**

**Administrative Commission for Delta Presbyterian Church of Lansing, MI**

**and the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale, MI**

Background

On September 22, 2025, the session of the Delta Presbyterian Church of Lansing, Michigan passed a motion to approve that Rev. Ben Rumbaugh approach the Presbytery of Lake Michigan 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 session of the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale passed the same motion on September 21, 2025.

The East Region of the Commission on Ministry approved this request on September 25, 2025, utilizing the standing Administrative Commission for Merger, Union, and Dissolution. Elder Heather Myer (Eastminster East Lansing), Rev. Bill Pinches (Mason First), and Rev. Jeff O'Neill (HR) were appointed for the purpose of supporting the congregations as they discerned whether or not to consolidate. Rev. O'Neill resigned from the commission due to health and then sadly passed away. Elder Tom Schaberg (Okemos) was appointed on January 29, 2026.

The AC aided the congregations in a period of exploration and discernment, attending session meetings for each congregation and joint session meetings as well as leading town halls and roundtable discussions.

Tasks accomplished since the September 12, 2026 Stated PLM meeting:

- On September 20, 2026 the Delta Presbyterian, Lansing, MI held a congregational meeting moderated by Rev. Bill Pinches and passed the following motion: "To request the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, at its next regular or special meeting, to consolidate the Delta Presbyterian Church into the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale and to transfer all property, membership, and assets of the Delta Presbyterian Church to the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale." The vote was held by paper ballot and electronically with 34 voting (24 in favor, 10 opposed). The membership roll of Delta Presbyterian Church as of September 20, 2026, is 65 members.
- On September 20, 2026, the First Presbyterian of Dimondale, Dimondale, MI held a congregational meeting in a separate room, moderated by Rev. John Best

(HR) and unanimously passed the following motion: “To request the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, at its next regular or special meeting, to consolidate the Delta Presbyterian Church into the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale and to transfer all property, membership, and assets of the Delta Presbyterian Church to the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale.” There were 33 members who voted at the congregational meeting. The membership roll of the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale as of September 20, 2026, is 50 members.

- On September 21, 2026, Clerk of Session, Elder Jane Elsinga began recording names of members of Delta Presbyterian who wished to be removed from the rolls, transfer their membership elsewhere, have their membership held by PLM or wished their membership to transfer to FPC Dimondale upon the approval of the consolidation by PLM.
    - The Clerk and the AC communicated to the congregation through email, spoken announcements at worship, letter to the congregation the week of September 13, 2026, and emailed the week of September 6, 2026, and answering point of information questions at the congregational meeting about the ways in which members can transfer their membership. All responses have been asked to be received by November 17, 2026.
    - The Clerk will continue to collect names until consolidation takes place. The Session of Delta Presbyterian has voted at its September and October meetings to remove members from the rolls who have asked to do so. As of November 1, 8 have asked the Presbytery of Lake Michigan to hold their memberships, 5 have asked to be transferred to another congregation, 2 have been asked to be removed, 6 have received letters asking about their status as a member, resulting in 44, at present, whose memberships will be transferred to FPC Dimondale.
    - On Tuesday, December 1, the Delta Session will act on any remaining requests for membership withdrawals, transfers, or holds, and will finalize the list of Delta members whose memberships will be transferred to Dimondale.
- Members of the Delta Presbyterian Church of Delta, MI, who serve as the President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Corporation have indicated they will transfer their membership to the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale once real property and assets have been transferred to the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale, MI.
- The President and Secretary are current members of Session. An additional member of Session will remain on the rolls of Delta Presbyterian Church to

remain consistent with the bylaws. The bylaws specify the Session consists of a minimum of three members.

- The official date of consolidation is December 7, 2026. At that time, the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale will receive into membership those from Delta Presbyterian wishing to transfer. The new members of the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale will be welcomed into membership during worship on December 13, 2026.
- The Delta Presbyterian Church Session voted at their October meeting that the final worship service at Delta will be held on Sunday, November 29, 2026. Following worship, the two congregations will travel to First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale for fellowship and the Hanging of the Greens.

Next Steps in the Consolidation Process

- Initiating the formal process in the State of Michigan to transfer the deed of the Delta church property to the Dimondale congregation;
- Working with the Presbyterian Foundation to transfer Delta's New Covenant Funds to the Dimondale congregation, ideally without having to withdraw and re-invest them;
- Identifying any funds at Delta that have been designated or restricted for certain uses;
- Making necessary adjustments to Dimondale's operating budget to allow for the (presumably temporary) administration of two separate church facilities by the Dimondale Session;
- Adjusting Dimondale's committee and administrative structure to incorporate representation and leadership from the Delta corporation, and to tend to the needs of both church facilities;
- Conducting an inventory of all items in the Delta facility, and making determinations about what to do with them, giving particular attention to particularly sacred or sentimental items (communion table, baptismal font, etc.);
- Creating space within the Dimondale facility to incorporate items of historical and sentimental value to the Delta congregation; and
- Determining what to do with Delta's historical records.

Recommendations:

The Commission recommends that the Presbytery:

A. ***Thank God for 51 years of ministry at the Delta Presbyterian Church, Lansing, MI.***

**B.** ***Consolidate the Delta Presbyterian Church of Lansing, Michigan, into the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale, Michigan, and transfer all real property, assets, and membership (as desires have been expressed) of the Delta Presbyterian Church to the First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale as of December 7, 2026. Transfer of real property and assets is to be concluded no later than September 30, 2027.***

a. Legal Description of property:
DELTA UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
6100 W MICHIGAN AVE
LANSING, MI 48917-2416
Parcel #040-014-100-270-00 Account Number: 00003784

COM 999.1 FT W OF CENTER SEC.14, W 330 FT, N 1228 FT, E 330 FT, S 1228 FT TO BEG, EXCEPT S 40 FT, ALSO 66 FT R/W EXTENDING S FROM STONE RIDGE DR. SEC.14, T4N,R3W, DELTA TWP 1977

C. ***Dissolve the Delta Presbyterian Church of Lansing, Michigan, 6100 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48917, when the way be clear, but no later than September 30, 2027.***

The Administrative Commission heartily, strongly, and joyfully recommends that the Presbytery of Lake Michigan formally approve the consolidation, in accordance with the wishes of both congregations.

The Administrative Commission wishes to express deep appreciation for Rev. Kristin Stroble (Staff Support to the Commission on Ministry), Rev. Dr. Cal Bremer (Assistant to the Executive Presbyter), and Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence (Executive Presbyter / Stated Clerk), all of whom have provided invaluable assistance, counsel, wisdom, and guidance at various points along the way.

The Administrative Commission continues 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 during this time of transition. 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 continue their journey together, and also prayers for those members who have elected to find a new church home.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Bill Pinches, Pastor, Mason First Presbyterian Church (Moderator)
Heather Myer, Elder, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, East Lansing (Secretary)
Tom Schaberg, Elder, The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

**Presbytery of Lake Michigan**
**2027 Terms of Call**
**Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence, Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk**

**Organization: Presbytery of Lake Michigan Name:**

**Beverly Frances Lane-Lawrence**

**Effective Date: January 1, 2027**

**Position: Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk, Head of Staff**

**Indefinite Period: X** **Full Time:** X

**The Presbytery of Lake Michigan feels called by the Holy Spirit to extend a call and promise you support and encouragement in your ministry position. The presbytery promises and obliges itself to provide the following annual compensation as Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk, Head of Staff:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **I.** | **Total Effective Salary** | |
| | **A. Cash Salary** | $43,590 |
| | **8. Housing/Utilities/Furnishing Allowance** | $60,000 |
| | **C. Employing organization contributions to 403(b)** | $12,000 |
| | **D. Other allowances: N/A** | |
| | **E. Manse amount (if applicable)** | $ *N/A* |
| | **F. TOTAL ANNUAL EFFECTIVE SALARY Total of lines A-E** | $115,590 |
| | **Full Medical Coverage up to 30%** | |
| | **Medical/Prescription Reimbursement** | $20,000 |
| | **Board of Pensions Dues: Covenant Package (pension, death/disability, Temporary disability, employee assistance 10% of the effective salary)** | $11,559 |
| **II.** | **Vouchered/Reimbursable Expenses and Allowances** | |
| | **A. Travel - IRS rate prevailing at the time the expense is incurred.** | **Yes** |

2026 November

B. Professional development $4,500

C. Spiritual development/retreat $1,000

D. SECA offset 50%
*(50% or less - SECA offset greater than* 50% *MUST be included in calculating Effective Salary)*

E. Books/other professional expenses (minimum - $300) $1,000

F. Other voucher/reimbursable expenses and allowances:
(Identify and list amounts)

Cell Phone Reimbursed portion of family plan

III. Non-monetary terms of call:

A. Forty (40) days of paid vacation, including six (6) Sundays

B. Fourteen (14) days of Personal Spiritual Renewal, including two (2) Sundays, and is cumulative for 3 years

C. Twenty-one (21) days of professional development time, including four (4) Sundays, and is cumulative for 3 years.

D. Follow PLM Policy of Family and Medical Leave (B-08}

E. Follow PLM Guidelines of Sabbatical Leave (C-608)

F. Time to serve on GA, Synod committees, Presbytery boards or community organization boards.

*("In addition to these pastoral duties, they are responsible for sharing in the ministry of the church in councils higher than the session and in ecumenical relationships".)* G-2.0504 Pastoral Relationships, Book of Order

The Presbytery further promises and obliges itself to review the adequacy of this compensation on an annual basis

_____. Date: _____

Staff Person

_____ Date: _____

Leadership Team Representative

2026 November

**Presbytery of Lake Michigan Commission on Ministry**
**Request for the Appointment of an Administrative Commission for**
**Westlake Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, Michigan**
**November 17, 2026**

**Recommendation:** The Presbytery of Lake Michigan Commission on Ministry (COM) recommends that the Presbytery appoint an administrative commission of three to five members, of ruling elders and teaching elders in numbers as nearly equal as possible, to the Westlake Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, MI.

**Rationale:** The primary goals of the administrative commission will be to inquire into reports of disorder by members of the Commission on Ministry (G-3.0109b), to work with the session and congregation to correct that disorder, and to discern with the congregation its capacity to continue the church's mission and ministry.

**Background**
In June 2023, the COM learned that the session had not met for approximately two years, contrary to the requirements of the PCUSA Book of Order, which stipulates that the session meet quarterly (G-3.0203). During that time, ruling elders had also not been elected, also contrary to the Book of Order's requirement that the session govern the congregation and guide its witness (G-3.0201c). Recognizing the complexity of the situation, COM partnered with the congregation to restore governance by assisting in the election of elders, providing training for church officers, and helping to reestablish Presbyterian polity in decision-making.

On June 10, 2025, an Administration Commission was appointed at the request of the Westlake session to support the congregation in concluding its ministry. Due to increased giving and creative building use, the congregation attained a more stable financial position and requested that the administrative commission be dismissed. At the June 9, 2026, Stated Presbytery meeting the COM recommended that the AC be dismissed, but noted that it might be necessary to request the appointment of another if the COM and session could not successfully help the congregation return to order without the assistance of an AC.

The COM has made multiple attempts to address the leadership of a non-ordained leader from the Seventh-Day Adventist tradition, and the session has refused to comply with the presbytery's pulpit supply policy or pursue a pastor from within the PC(USA) or a Formula of Agreement denomination. The concern is not simply about non-compliance with a presbytery policy, but disregard for a Book of Order requirement found in G-3.0201a, which specifies that it is a session's responsibility to "provide that the Word of God be truly preached and heard." Part of that requirement includes ensuring that the message that is preached is consistent with Reformed theology. More recently, the COM has become concerned about financial activities such as

paying employees in cash, 1099s not being issued to independent contractors, a lack of oversight over finances, and a failure to complete an annual financial review as required by the Book of Order (G-3.0113). The COM is also concerned that the session makes decisions over emails without a moderator present and is purposely withholding information from the moderator appointed by the presbytery. This practice is also not in order with provisions of the Book of Order that specify the session shall not meet without the moderator (G-3.0201).

**Purpose**

Therefore, the Commission on Ministry recommends to the Presbytery of Lake Michigan that an Administrative Commission of three to five members, of ruling elders and teaching elders in numbers as nearly equal as possible (G-3.0109), be appointed by the Moderator of the Presbytery, in consultation with the Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk, for the following purpose:

1. To ensure that the pastoral leadership of the congregation or ongoing pulpit supply is compliant with the PLM pulpit supply policy and approved by the COM.
2. To ensure that the session complies with Book of Order provision G-3.0201to "provide that the Word of God be truly preached and heard."
3. To inquire further into the financial practices of Westlake Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, MI, and to support the session in correcting disordered financial practices and to correct past errors in recording payments or issuing appropriate 1099's to employees or contractors.
4. To engage resources to complete a financial review or audit as determined appropriate by members of the AC.
5. To work with the session toward ordered ministry, providing education to elders and to the congregation in PCUSA polity and Reformed theology as appropriate.
6. To determine if the congregation has the capacity to engage in future mission and ministry.
7. 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 Presbytery of Lake Michigan, except where limited by provisions of the PC(USA) *Book of Order*, in addressing and correcting the disorder listed in items 1-6 under Purpose.
2. In working with the session to correct the reported disorder, if it is determined after a thorough investigation and a full opportunity to be heard has been accorded the Session, that the Session of the Westlake Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, 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 Westlake Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, MI will cease to act until such time as the Presbytery shall otherwise direct (G-3.0303e).

**Financial Responsibility**

1. The Westlake Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, MI will be responsible for fees incurred should the AC decide to engage consultants, attorneys, or persons skilled in finance to help address/and or 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-2.0901)

G-3.0303 Relations with Sessions

Presbytery, being composed of the ministers of the Word and Sacrament and commissioners 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 the authority to:

a. develop strategy for the mission of the church in its district;

b. control the location of new congregations and of congregations desiring to move, as well as to divide, dismiss, or dissolve congregations in consultation with their members;

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;

e. assume original jurisdiction in any situation in which it determines that a session cannot exercise its authority. After a thorough investigation, and after full opportunity to be heard has been accorded to the session, the presbytery may conclude that the session of a congregation is unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs, and may appoint an

administrative commission with the full power of session. This commission shall assume original jurisdiction of the existing session, if any, which shall cease to act until such time as the presbytery shall otherwise direct.

Report of the AC for NWPC to Presbytery of Lake Michigan

**History of North Westminster Presbyterian Church**
North Presbyterian Church was founded in 1893 and Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1916. Both were deeply involved in their wider communities. In 2010, North Presbyterian merged with Westminster Presbyterian Church, bringing together generations of Presbyterian ministry and witness in the Lansing community.

North Westminster Presbyterian Church has always valued being a church that reaches out and welcomes in. It was one of the first PCUSA churches in the area to openly welcome and affirm LGBTQIA+ people and to minister to those struggling with HIV/AIDS. Advent House Ministries, a separate non-profit, was started by Westminster Presbyterian Church and has shared its building for over 40 years. This ministry continues to address homelessness, food insecurity, and poverty in Lansing. For many years, North Westminster raised funds to send children from Advent House to Camp Greenwood, faithfully supported UKirk Campus Ministry at Michigan State University, and provided MSU students with music scholarships. They still run a personal needs closet in partnership with Christian Services and provide Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets each year to those in need.

As the Presbytery considers the dissolution of North Westminster, it does so in recognition of more than 160 years of faithful service to Christ and the community.

**Background Information**
In July 2025, Rev. Timothy Chon moved to a ¼ time position and the Commission on Ministry (COM) began assisting the congregation in searching for a new pastor. In that process the COM met with the transition task force appointed by the session and attended session meetings. The session participated in the Project Regeneration program of the Presbyterian Foundation to aid in discerning their future ministry and vitality. A call was extended to Rev. Laura Miller-Purrenhage to serve as a part-time interim pastor.

The Commission on Ministry approved the formation of an Administration Commission of three to five people at their plenary meeting on July 15, 2026. The purpose was to address financial instability that leaves in question the continued viability of the congregation, to manage the congregation's ongoing relationship with Advent House, and to determine financial holdings and to assure the security of bank accounts and financial records. Rev Nick Marlatt (Hastings First), Rev. Clint Cozier (Three Rivers/Centreville First), Elder Virginia Gibson (Mason First), and Elder Andrew Corner (Holt First) were appointed.

At the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan on September 12, 2026, the Administrative Commission was granted the authority to assume original jurisdiction, if needed.

**Steps the AC has taken since its appointment**
The Administrative Commission was appointed by the Presbytery to walk alongside North Westminster to address financial instability and to help the congregation discern its future. Throughout this process, the Commission did not dictate outcomes or make decisions about the congregation's future. Rather, it provided expertise, oversight, information, and support to help

the congregation engage in an informed discernment process. To that end, the AC has provided support through the following actions.

- Worked with church leaders to gather and review financial records, bank accounts, payroll information, loans, liabilities, invoices, insurance obligations, and operating expenses.
- Consulted legal and financial experts regarding tax matters, financial reporting, organizational responsibilities, and fiduciary obligations.
- Assumed original jurisdiction as a governance tool that allowed it to provide necessary oversight and support during a period of significant financial and organizational challenge.
- Helped ensure that church assets, records, finances, and legal obligations were managed responsibly.
- Evaluated the congregation's financial condition, leadership capacity, and long-term sustainability.
- Met with Advent House representatives and reviewed agreements, operational relationships, and property-related considerations.
- Supported ongoing church operations and administration while broader questions about the future were being considered.
- Organized and facilitated congregational meetings, town halls, and opportunities for dialogue.
- Shared information, answered questions, and provided analysis to support congregational discernment.
- Assisted the congregation in evaluating potential future paths, including continued operation, restructuring, partnerships, and dissolution.
- Attended Session meetings to meet Session members and hear their concerns.
- Regularly communicated to Lansing area Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations as well as other Lansing area churches to clarify misunderstandings regarding the AC's role in relation to Advent House. The AC consistently communicated that it was not closing Advent House as the AC has no authority to do so.
- Sent 90-day notices of termination of employment effective December 31, 2026, to the church musician and Interim pastor due to the congregation's inability to financially support these staff positions.

**How did NWPC and the AC get to this point of voting for dissolution**

The vote to dissolve was not the result of a single event or decision. It was the culmination of months of assessment, conversation, prayer, and discernment undertaken by the congregation with the initial guidance of the Presbyterian Foundation, and then the support of the Administrative Commission. Through this time the AC developed a clearer understanding of the church's financial position, including debts, liabilities, operating costs, and future financial obligations. The AC was originally requested because the Session of NWPC was experiencing acute financial stress beyond the capacity for leadership to address. As the AC began its work it discovered a challenging financial situation which included unconventional accounting practices which masked the truly dire nature of North Westminster Presbyterian Church's finances. Through its work, the AC found that since 2024, NWPC has operated with a

substantial budget deficit. That deficit was met by drawing down savings and by borrowing against endowment accounts. The annual reports show modest positive cash flow in both 2024 and 2025, but in both years the operating deficit was real, and it was closed only by funds from beyond congregational giving. In 2026, there are no reserves left to close the deficit, and the borrowing against the reserves still needed to be repaid. As the AC worked to determine what financial resources the congregation actually had it also worked to determine the energy of leaders, officers, volunteers, and members needed to sustain ministry and governance. The AC quickly determined that the leadership of NWPC was tired, overwhelmed and needed the AC to shoulder the burden it had been carrying which was slowly crushing the ability of the Session to function. Despite this extremely challenging situation, the Session of NWPC worked faithfully in a situation that would tax any congregation and they are to be commended for their labors. The AC was granted the authority to assume original jurisdiction by the Presbytery at its September 12, 2026, meeting. The AC, after prayerful consideration and affording full opportunity to all members and the session to be heard, exercised the authority to assume original jurisdiction on September 16, 2026.

After assuming original jurisdiction, the AC continued working to determine the capacity of the congregation to sustain its ministry and governance by holding congregational meetings and town halls to discuss the church's circumstances and possible future paths. As part of this process the AC and congregation considered a range of alternatives, including continued operation, restructuring, partnership opportunities, and dissolution. This included visiting neighboring Presbyterian congregations, including the Presbyterian Church of Okemos and Eastminster Presbyterian Church of East Lansing, MI, to explore what ongoing participation in Presbyterian ministry might look like beyond North Westminster. Additionally, this included conducting a pledge campaign. Leaders estimated approximately $100,000 in new commitments would be needed and the campaign only generated approximately $50,000 in pledges. Finally, the AC worked with the congregation to reflect on the church's mission, ministry, financial realities, leadership capacity, and sense of call while weighing the opportunities and challenges associated with each potential future. Throughout the process the congregation engaged in prayerful discernment about what course of action would be most faithful and responsible. The congregation concluded that the challenges facing North Westminster were not temporary and that the resources required to sustain ministry into the future were unlikely to materialize.

**Why does the NWPC want to close?**

The congregation's decision was not based on a single issue. Rather, it reflected a combination of factors that, taken together, led many members to conclude that dissolution was the most faithful and realistic path forward. These factors include the following:

- Ongoing financial challenges and concern about the church's ability to sustain ministry over the long term. (Through 10/31/26 expenses are $30,000 higher than income)
- Outstanding obligations and future expenses that would continue regardless of short-term cost reductions.
- Limited financial reserves relative to anticipated needs.
- Declining capacity to generate the level of financial support needed for continued operation.

- A shrinking pool of members available to serve in leadership, governance, and volunteer roles.
- Concerns about the congregation's ability to maintain both its ministries and its facilities over time.
- Recognition that significant new financial and leadership resources would be required to create a sustainable future.
- Results of the pledge campaign that suggested the level of support needed for long-term sustainability was unlikely to be achieved.
- A growing sense among many members that North Westminster had faithfully completed its ministry and that a different future for its members and resources should be considered.
- After months of reflection, discussion, prayer, and discernment, the congregation itself arrived at the conclusion that dissolution was the most faithful and realistic path forward and ultimately voted to dissolve North Westminster Presbyterian Church at a congregational meeting on November 8, 2026.

**The Request of the AC for North Westminster Presbyterian Church**
The Administrative Commission of North Westminster Presbyterian Church recommends that the Presbytery of Lake Michigan affirm and approve the unanimous decision of the congregational vote of North Westminster Presbyterian Church of Lansing, Michigan on November 8, 2026, to request that the presbytery dissolve the congregation of North Westminster Presbyterian Church of Lansing, Michigan, effective December 31, 2026.

Respectively Submitted,

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

**PRESBYTERY OF LAKE MICHIGAN**
**CONSENT AGENDA of the STATED MEETING**
**November 17, 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), Elizabeth Hakken Candido (VM), Katherine Culpepper (Retired), Karen Fitz LaBarge (Rockford North Kent), Laurie Hartzell (Retired), Mackenzie Jager (Muskegon First), Calandra Nevenzel (Richland First), Sarah Schmidt-Lee (VM), Barb Schreur (MAL), Lorenzo Small (Battle Creek First), John Won (East Lansing Korean)

2. **To approve** the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, September 12, 2026, Online only.

3. **To file** the approved Minutes of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan Leadership Team on September 3, 2026, and October 1, 2026. Online only.

4. **To receive** the Treasurer's Report for November 17, 2026. Online Only.

**5. To elect** Rev. Michael Horlocker (Cadillac First) as Vice Moderator of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan (class of 2027) succeeding to Moderator of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan (class of 2028).

**6. To receive** the report of the roster of PJC members whose terms expired in the past six years:
   Class of 2020: Rev. Linda Knieriemen, Elder Charlotte Smith, Rev. David Stubbs
   Class of 2022: Rev. Doug Nettleton, Rev. Dave Milbourn, Elder Cal Bosman
   Class of 2024: Elder Stuart Demming, Elder James Justin,

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

**REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK**
**Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence**
**November 17, 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, Benton Harbor Fairplain, Big Rapids United, Brooklyn, Buchanan First, Cadillac First, Cassopolis United, Concord First, Decatur First, Dimondale First, East Lansing Eastminster, Edwardsburg, Grand Haven First, Grand Rapids Forest Hills, Grand Rapids North Park, Grand Rapids Westminster, Gregory Unidilla, Hastings First, Hesperia, Holt First, Homer First, Ionia First, Jackson First, Jackson

Westminster, Jenison Parkwood, Jonesville First, Kalamazoo First, Lake City First, Lansing First, Lansing Delta, Lansing North Westminster, Lyons/Muir, Marshall First, Mason First, Muskegon First, Niles First, Okemos, Plainwell First, Portage Westminster, Richland First, Rockford North Kent, Schoolcraft First, Spring Lake, Sturgis First, and Three Rivers/Centerville First.

The 2025 Session Minute reviews for the following congregations were not approved: Battle Creek Westlake, Coldwater First, East Lansing Korean, Gobles Bethany, Holland First, Kalamazoo North, Paw Paw First

2. **FOR CLERKS OF SESSION - 2026 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS:** The PCUSA 2026 Annual Statistical Reporting System will be open for entry on January 2, 2027. The system can be accessed online in the Clerk's Portal on the tab marked Statistics using the user login and password you have been assigned. Clerks of Session are advised to begin collecting data for the report now so that when the system opens, information can be entered. A reminder that reports must be approved by session before the information is submitted. The deadline for the submission of statistical reports is February 13, 2027. If you have any questions about the statistical report, please contact Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom, Associate Clerk.

3. **FOR CLERKS OF SESSION - 2026 MINUTE REVIEW DATES**

Please find below the schedule for the review of 2026 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. There will also be limited time at the Clerk of Session Retreat on June 26, 2027, for minute reviews.

The 2026 Minute Review Checklist is posted on the Presbytery website. Please contact Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom, Associate Clerk, with any questions you might have about the 2026 session minutes reviews.

Cluster 1 – June 3, 2027 at 6:30 p.m. – Annamarie Groenenboom
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 221 East Harris Street, Cadillac, MI 49601
Big Rapids United, Cadillac First, Hesperia, Lake City First,

Cluster 2 – May 11, 2027, at 7:00 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, Muskegon First, Rockford North Kent, Spring Lake

Cluster 3 – April 27, 2027, at 7:00 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 – April 13, 2027, at 7:00 p.m. – Annamarie Groenenboom
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 405 North M-37 Highway, Hastings, MI 49058
Allegan First, Benton Harbor First, Gobles Bethany, Hastings First, Kalamazoo First, Kalamazoo North, Lyons-Muir Federated, Paw Paw First, Paw Paw Pinestreet, Plainwell First, Portage Westminster, Richland First, Schoolcraft First, Three Rivers/Centreville First

Cluster 5 –June 1, 2027, at 7:00 p.m. - Bruce Archer/Annamarie Groenenboom
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 313 East Maple, Mason, Michigan 48854
East Lansing Eastminster, East Lansing Peoples, Lansing Delta, Lansing First, Lansing North Westminster, Mason First, Okemos, Stockbridge First, Gregory Unadilla

Cluster 6 – May 25, 2027, at 7:00 p.m. – Nancy Corner/Annamarie Groenenboom
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 2021 N Aurelius Rd., Holt, MI 48842
Battle Creek First, Battle Creek Pennfield, Battle Creek Westlake, Brooklyn, Coldwater First, Concord First, Dimondale First, Holt First,Homer First, Jackson First, Jackson Westminster, Jonesville First, Marshall First

4. **2025 Presbytery of Lake Michigan Minute Review:** The 2025 minutes of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan were reviewed and approved without exception by the Synod of the Covenant on October 27, 2026.

5. **BOUNDARY AND ETHICS TRAINING:** The PCUSA Constitution in the *Book of Order* mandates all councils (this includes sessions) to adopt and implement sexual misconduct policies "which shall include requirements for training which includes the topics of sexual misconduct and child sexual abuse prevention . . . at least every 36 months." (G-3.0106) The Presbytery of Lake Michigan also mandates sexual misconduct/ boundary training every 36 months for teaching elders, including retired ministers, commissioned ruling elders, ruling elders, and Christian educators who are active in the ministry of the Presbytery. If members of your session have not yet completed Boundary Training, please contact Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom, Associate Clerk, or Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence, Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk, for information about how to complete the training.

   Upcoming 2026 Boundary Trainings:

   December 5 - 9:30 - 1:30 Saturday Morning

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

6. **REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR PRESBYTERY MEETINGS:**
The Stated Clerk asks that all requests for excused absences be made through the online system available on the Presbytery website or by using this link: https://lakemichiganpresbytery.breezechms.com/form/6ce58f. ***Requests for excused absences not requested through the online system may not be recorded correctly.***

7. **DATES FOR STATED MEETINGS IN 2026**: The dates for stated meetings of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan for 2026 are as follows:

   *a.* Saturday, March 14, 2026 – *DIMONDALE*
   *b.* Tuesday, June 9, 2026 – *MUSKEGON*
   *c.* Saturday, September 12, 2026 - *RICHLAND*
   *d.* Tuesday, November 10, 2026 - *HASTINGS*

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

8. **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 12, 2027, 9:30 AM – *BROOKLYN*
   *c.* Tuesday, September 14, 2027, 9:30 AM -*BENTON HARBOR FIRST*
   *d.* Saturday, November 13, 2027, 9:30 AM - *STURGIS*

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

9. **REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS**:

**First Presbyterian Church of Allegan, MI**
Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Allegan, MI
November 17, 2026

We remind commissioners that members of The Gun Lake Tribe viewed the property on May 09, 2026, and expressed interest in receiving the property. The Tribal Council viewed the property again on September 01, 2026. Subsequently, they informed the AC that they needed to pause the process to obtain more information on repairs required for the building, as well as more information on occupancy expenses. The AC last reported to the September 12, 2026, Stated Meeting. Since that time, the following has transpired: the Gun Lake Tribe Council elected three new members who need time to process information and be

brought up to speed. The Council suggested that it might be early in 2027 before they could obtain the information needed for their decision.

On October 28, 2026, the AC communicated the following to the Tribal Council:

> Today the Administrative Commission (AC) for Allegan First Presbyterian Church met and reviewed your communication dated Monday, October 26, 2026.
>
> Thank you for the sensitivity regarding the interests and concerns within the Presbytery as both buildings stand empty but require utilities and check-ins.
>
> Thanks for making time today for a phone call to answer a few questions and enlighten the AC regarding the Tribal Council's desire for a building inspector and for solicitation of bids to address the findings of the building inspector.
>
> Following the conversation with you, the AC continued its meeting and considered the complicating factors for all the parties involved.
>
> The AC's decisions can be summarized as follows:
>
> 1. We will work with you to provide access to the building for the building inspector that you hire.
>
> 2. We will work with you to provide access to the building for firms that will provide you with quotes to address the needs identified by the building inspector.
>
> 3. The AC believes that the information provided to the Tribal Council should facilitate an answer by March 30, 2027.
>
> 4. The AC has chosen not to list the building for sale currently as we await your decision by March 30, 2027.
>
> 5. The AC will communicate these decisions to the Presbytery at its quarterly meeting on November 17, 2026.
>
> Blessings to you as together we work on finding the best way forward.

Wednesday, November 04,2026, the Tribal Council inspector and contractors met at the Allegan properties to begin this phase of the process.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruling Elder Jud Ross (Grand Rapids, Forest Hills)
Rev. John Best (HR)
Rev. Sheth LaRue (Benton Harbor First)

*This concludes the reports of the Administrative Commissions.*

***This concludes the Clerk's Report***

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

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY STATED MEETING**
**of the PRESBYTERY of LAKE MICHIGAN**

Since the last Presbytery meeting, the COM Plenary has met once (November 10, 2026), and the Eastern and Western Regions have met as needed. The following report deals with actions that the Commission has recommended to the Presbytery, actions taken by the Commission and its Regions on behalf of the Presbytery, and other matters of a general nature.

**REPORT ON ACTIONS REGARDING CALLS, INSTALLATIONS, AND RELATED MATTERS:**

1. **A motion prevailed** to approve the minutes of the COM Plenary meeting of August 11, 2026.
2. **A motion prevailed** to approve the minutes of the COM Regions since the August 11, 2026, Plenary meeting.
3. **A motion prevailed** to approve Rev. Janice Jasperse (Retired) be added to the pulpit supply list.
4. **A motion prevailed** to add Elder David Habicht (Buchanan First) to the pulpit supply list.
5. **A motion prevailed** to dismiss Rev. Dr. Philomena Ofori-Nipaah to the Presbytery of Hudson River effective September 1, 2026.
6. **A motion prevailed** to add the following language to the Pulpit Supply Policy: While completion of the Synod of the Covenant Cultivating the Gifts of Preaching Initiative is helpful in the development of preaching skills necessary for ruling elders to occasionally preach in their home congregation or to supply occasionally in another local congregation, it is not considered adequate credentialing for inclusion on the Presbytery of Lake Michigan Pulpit Supply List.
7. Battle Creek Westlake: **A motion prevailed** to recommend to the Presbytery to appoint an administrative commission of three to five members, of ruling elders and teaching elders in numbers as nearly equal as possible, to the Westlake Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, MI. The recommendation for the purpose and scope will be included on the docket for the stated meeting of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan on November 17, 2026.
8. Brooklyn: **A motion prevailed** to approve the covenant agreement between

Brooklyn Presbyterian Church and Rev. Dr. David Weber as Interim Pastor effective September 1, 2026 - September 1, 2027.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cash Salary | $43,852 |
| Housing Allowance | $23,613 |
| Total Effective Salary | $67,465 |
| SECA Offset | $5,588 |
| Board of Pensions | $18,552.87 |
| Professional Development | $1,000 |
| Professional Expenses | $1,000 |
| Books | $500 |
| Travel | IRS Rate |
| Vacation | 1 week per quarter |
| Study Leave | 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays |

9. Coldwater First: **A motion prevailed** to accept the self-study as information only.

10. Jonesville First: **A motion prevailed** to ratify the action taken by email on August 22, 2026, to approve the covenant agreement between First Presbyterian Church of Jonesville, Michigan, and Rev. Charlotte Ellison as part-time (19 hours) interim pastor effective September 1, 2026 - August 31, 2027.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cash Salary | $0 |
| Housing Allowance | $29,176 |
| Mileage | IRS Rate |
| Professional Development | $800 |
| Books | $300 |
| Vacation | 30 days, including 4 Sundays |
| Professional Development | 14 days, including 2 Sundays |

11. Hesperia: **A motion prevailed** to approve the covenant agreement between Hesperia Presbyterian Church and Rev. Dr. Scott Paul-Bonham as part-time temporary stated supply pastor effective January 1, 2027 - December 31, 2027.

| | |
|---|---|
| $225/Sunday service | |
| $25/hour for Pastoral Care Services | |
| $75/meeting moderated | |
| Mileage | IRS Rate |

12. Kalamazoo First: **A motion prevailed** to approve the covenant agreement between First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo, MI, and Rev. Joshua Bode as full-time Interim pastor effective November 1, 2026 - October 31, 2027.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cash Salary | $85,000 |
| Housing Allowance | $25,000 |
| SECA | $8,415 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Benefits | $32,958 |
| Professional Expenses | $3,100 |
| Professional Development | $2,500 |
| Mileage | $2,000 |
| Professional Development | 14 days, including 2 Sundays |
| Vacation | 30 days, including 4 Sundays |
| Spiritual Renewal | 1 week, including 1 Sunday |

13. Marshall First: **A motion prevailed** to approve the Covenant Agreement between the First Presbyterian Church of Marshall, Michigan, and Rev. David Sieplinga (RCA) as part-time (17 hours) temporary stated supply pastor effective November 1, 2026 - October 31, 2027.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cash Salary | $25,000 |
| Housing Allowance | $10,000 |
| Total Effective Salary | $35,000 |
| Transportation benefit | $1,200 |
| Professional Expenses | $200 |
| Professional Development | $600 |
| Vacation | 4 weeks, including 4 Sundays |
| Professional Development | 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays |

**A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. David Sieplinga as moderator effective November 10, 2026.

14. Okemos: **A motion prevailed** to approve the adjusted terms of call between Okemos Presbyterian Church and Associate Pastor Rev. Aaron Punt effective September 20, 2026.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cash Salary | $31,00 |
| Housing Allowance | $42,000 |
| Total Effective Salary | $73,000 |
| | |
| Retirement | $8,987 |
| Health Insurance | $27,708 |
| Death and Long Term Disability | $1,889 |
| Short Term Disability | $ 785 |
| Dental + Vision | $1,790 |
| Continuing Education | $1,850 |
| Ministry Expenses | $1,000 |
| Mileage | $1,000 |
| Cell Phone | $600 |
| | |
| Vacation | 30 days, including 4 Sundays |
| Professional Development | 14 days, including 2 Sundays |

| | |
|---|---|
| Service to the greater church | 7 days, including 1 Sunday |

Rev. Aaron Punt's Installation Service is scheduled for November 22, 2026, at 2:00 pm at the Presbyterian Church of Okemos. **A motion prevailed** to approve the following Installation Commission: Elder Laurin Gierman (Okemos), Rev. Lisa Schrott (Okemos), Rev. Ben Rumbaugh (Lansing First), Rev. Kristin Stroble (East Lansing Eastminster), Elder Ben Boerkoel (Grand Rapids Westminster), and Elder Monte Shuck (Mason First).

15. Paw Paw Pine Street: **A motion prevailed** to approve the formation of a Pastor Nominating Committee at Pine Street Presbyterian Church, Paw Paw, MI. **A motion prevailed** to approve the revised covenant agreement between Pine Street Presbyterian Church and Rev. Gail Monsma as part-time (30 hours) interim pastor, effective September 9, 2026 - July 31, 2027.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cash Salary | $49,389 |
| Housing Allowance | $10,000 |
| SECA | $4,543 |
| Benefits | $7,127 |
| Professional Expenses | $800 |
| Professional Development | $1,200 |
| Mileage Estimate | $1,500 |
| Phone Reimbursement | $600 |
| Professional Development | 2 Weeks, including 2 Sundays |
| Vacation | 4 Weeks, including 4 Sundays |
| Spiritual Renewal | 1 Week, including 1 Sunday |

16. Schoolcraft First: **A motion prevailed** to approve the covenant agreement between First Presbyterian Church of Schoolcraft, MI, and Rev. Tom Kragt as part-time (25 hours) temporary stated supply pastor effective August 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cash Salary | $13,440.24 |
| Housing | Free use of manse |
| Retirement Contributions | $875 |
| Mileage | IRS Rate |
| Professional Development | $800 |
| Book Allowance | $300 |
| Vacation | 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays |
| Professional Development | 7 days, including 1 Sunday |

17. Spring Lake: **A motion prevailed** to approve the self-study.
18. Stockbridge First: **A motion prevailed** to not approve Mx. Christian Powell to fill the pulpit once per month. **A motion prevailed** to appoint Rev. Scott Scheel (Edwardsburg) to serve as moderator effective November 11, 2026.

19. Three Rivers/Centreville First: **A motion prevailed** to approve the formation of a Pastor Nominating Committee at First Presbyterian Church of Three Rivers/Centreville, MI.

***This concludes the report of the Commission on Ministry.***

**PRESBYTERY OF LAKE MICHIGAN**
**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**
**November 17, 2026**

The Commission met two times since the last Stated Meeting of the Presbytery. The Commission had monthly meetings on September 22 and October 27, 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 the meetings on August 25 and September 22, 2026.

2. **A motion prevailed,** to move Elder Steve Zeoli (Ionia First) to candidacy and to receive him at the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery on November 17, 2026.

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

***This concludes the Consent Agenda.***

**DRAFT**
**MINUTES of the STATED MEETING**
**Presbytery of Lake Michigan**
**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.**

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE AND OPENING OF THE STATED MEETING

Elder Ben Boerkoel (GR Westminster), moderator, called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. with the lighting of the Christ candle and opening prayer. A quorum was present (Attachment A).

## APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CLERKS

**A motion prevailed** to appoint Elder Martha Gammill (Schoolcraft First), Elder Monte Shuck (Mason First), Rev. Karen Kelley (Retired), and Rev. Michael Horlocker (Cadillac First) as temporary clerks.

## SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

**A motion prevailed** to seat Rev. Chip Hardwick (Synod of the Covenant), Rev. Mary Groty (Presbytery of Mackinac), and Rev. Ted McCulloch (Presbytery of Lake Huron) 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 RICHLAND, MI

Rev. Calandra Nevenzel offered greetings and thanksgiving on behalf of the First Presbyterian Church of Richland, MI, giving thanks for the ministries of the church. She described the memorial garden and introduced the church's confirmands who were present to observe the meeting.

**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**
**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 grant voice** to Mx. Taylor Brown (Battle Creek First) for the Youth Strategies Committee report.

7. **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 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 12, 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 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 worshiping 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.***

8. **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. A background check, executive check, and fit interview were completed. **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 and to receive her into membership of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan effective October 5, 2026.

| | |
|---|---|
| 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 for professional developmenteffective 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.*

**9. 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***

**WORSHIP**

The Presbytery's commissioners to the 227th General Assembly, along with members of the Presbytery, led the service of worship. Rev. Kristin Stroble (East Lansing Eastminster) read Revelation 22:-5. Rev. Stroble, Elder Heather Myer (East Lansing Eastminster), Rev. Steve Kaszar (Homer First/Concord First), and Elder Ben Boerkoel preached a sermon entitled: "Leaves of Healing." During the sermon, the General Assembly commissioners described the vision of a tree where there are no divisions or barriers. They shared "leaves of healing" and glimpses of the vision that they experienced at the General Assembly. Some leaves included healing through leadership of the moderators of committees and the assembly, the Walk to End Gun Violence, recognition that Israel's actions towards Paliestinians is genocide, and the adoption of an amendment to the Book of Order regarding Christian Nationalism. The offering was designated to support the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness, and $600 was received. The Presbytery celebrated the Lord's Supper with the Rev. Calandra Nevenzel and Rev. Patricia Weatherwax (HR) presiding at the table.

The Presbytery recessed for a 15-minute break at 10:51 a.m. The meeting was reconvened at 11:06 a.m.

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS TO THE 227TH PCUSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The Presbytery of Lake Michigan Commissioners to the 227th General Assembly, Rev. Kristin Stroble, Rev. Steve Kaszar, Elder Heather Myer, and Elder Ben Boerkoel, presented a report to the Presbytery regarding the work of the General Assembly. Rev. Stroble offered an update on the status of Mission Coworkers and reported several divestments from fossil fuel companies. Rev. Kaszar discussed the newly approved study on families. Elder Myer explained the General Assembly budget process and the importance of per capita. Elder Boerkoel reported that anti racism and bias training will be required for CPMs, and the General Assembly will amend language in ecclesiastical documents to use gender neutral language. He also announced that the 228th General Assembly will be held in Puerto Rico. A time for questions was offered.

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY**

**Request for Original Jurisdiction of North Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lansing, Michigan**

Rev. Ben Rumbaugh offered background information regarding the circumstances at North Westminster Presbyterian Church of Lansing, MI. An Administrative Commission was approved by the Commission on Ministry on July 7, 2026, and began its work. Rev. Rumbaugh requested that original jurisdiction be given to the AC. After a time of discussion, **a motion prevailed** to grant original jurisdiction of North Westminster Presbyterian Church of Lansing, MI, to the Administrative Commission effective September 12, 2026.

**Presbytery of Lake Michigan**
**Commission on Ministry - East Region**
**Recommendation for 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.
4. To inquire and take appropriate steps to assure repayment of monies previously embezzled consistent with agreement signed by embezzler.
5. To support the interim pastor during the pastoral transition.
6. To support the congregation in clarifying their expectations of their next pastor and the most important skills to seek in a candidate.
7. 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).

**2027 Minimum Terms of Call**

Rev. Rumbaugh presented the 2027 Minimum Terms of Call. He explained several changes to the structure of the minimum terms of call, including moving from a Total Effective Salary Structure to a Total Compensation Structure. After a time of questions and discussion, **a motion prevailed** to approve the 2027 Minimum Terms of Call. Rev. Rumbaugh encouraged members of the Presbytery to contact him or members of COM with questions or concerns.

**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 $60,458[1].
- 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

[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.

- 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.
- 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.

**Welcoming of New Pastors**

Rev. Rumbaugh recognized and introduced Rev. Aaron Punt (Okemos Presbyterian). Rev. Punt serves as the new Associate Pastor of Okemos Presbyterian Church. Rev. Punt's installation service will take place in the coming months.

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER TO THE SYNOD OF THE COVENANT**

Elder Andy Thorburn (Paw Paw Pinestreet), Commissioner to the Synod of the Covenant, offered a report. He encouraged members of the Presbytery to visit the Synod's website. He introduced Rev. Chip Hardwick, Synod of the Covenant Executive, and Rev. Christine Barnes (Retired), Commissioner to the Synod of the Covenant. He reviewed several upcoming learning opportunities offered by the Synod of the Covenant, including Boundary Training.

**NOMINATING AND REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Rev. James Ayers (HR) presented a report on behalf of the Nominating and Representation Committee. He reported the following 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)

Rev. Ayers presented the following nominee for election:

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

There were no nominations from the floor. After a time of discernment, **a motion prevailed** to elect the nominee as presented. Elder Laurie Tupper was not present at the meeting and was unable to be installed as PLM Vice Moderator. **A motion prevailed** to allow the Leadership Team to install Elder Laurie Tupper at the Leadership Team meeting on October 1, 2026.

**REPORT OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (Attachment D)**

Elder Beth Dyer (Kalamazoo First) presented the first reading of the Proposed 2027 Budget. Members were instructed to send feedback and questions to the Moderator of the Budget and Finance Committee via email. The Proposed 2027 Budget will be presented for approval at the stated meeting on November 17, 2026. Members of the Presbytery were encouraged to review the 2027 Budget Narrative and the 2027 Budget.

**REPORT OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Elder Beth Dyer offered a report on behalf of the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team recommended that the 2027 Presbytery Per Capita be set at $29.56. After a time of discussion, **a motion prevailed** that the Presbytery of Lake Michigan per capita for 2027 be set at $29.56.

The total Per Capita for 2027 will be $46 (GA: $13.04, Synod of the Covenant: $3.40, and Presbytery: $29.56).

**REPORT OF THE YOUTH STRATEGIES COMMITTEE**

Rev. Kirk Miller (Holt First) and Mx. Taylor Brown (Battle Creek First) presented the report on behalf of the Youth Strategies Committee. They encouraged congregations to participate in upcoming Presbytery-wide youth programs, including the upcoming Urban Plunge. They offered thanksgiving for the success of past youth events, including the Montreat Youth Conference.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m. Elder Ben Boerkoel closed the meeting with prayer and the extinguishing of the Christ Candle.

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

**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

**Leadership Team Meeting Minutes**
**Presbytery of Lake Michigan via Zoom**
**1511 Helen Avenue, Portage, MI 49002**
**October 1, 2026 12:30 p.m.**

**Attendance Roll:** Ben Boerkoel (RE-Westminster GR/PLM Moderator), Laurie Tupper (RE-Kalamazoo, First/PLM Vice-Moderator), 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:** Kristin Stroble (COM Resource Staff)

**Excused:** Fran Lane-Lawrence (Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk), Cal Bremer (Asst. to Exec)

**Absent:** Chris Dorn (TE-Ionia/DST)

**Call to Order, Opening Prayer, and Quorum:** Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser-Brydon called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. Rev. Hauser-Brydon invited Elder Jeanette Holton 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 September 3, 2026.

**Unfinished Business:**

A. Updates - ACs - Kristin Stroble
Rev. Kristin Stroble provided an update about the work of the Administrative Commissions for Allegan, Decatur/Paw-Paw, Delta/Dimondale, and North Westminster.

B. The Leadership Team received the evaluations from the September 12, 2026 Stated Meeting of the presbytery.

C. The presbytery will be hosting Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka for an event on Monday, November 16, 2026 at Westminster, Grand Rapids. The gathering will start at 5:30pm, with dinner and presentation at 6pm. Rev. Stroble will be working with him on the theme and after that is finalized, the presbytery office will work on publicity.

**New Business:**

A. **Installation of Vice-Moderator**
Elder Laurie Tupper (Kalamazoo, First) was installed as Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan for 2026.
B. **Docket request from Stephanie Nawyn**

Rev. Lynette Sparks, as Mission & Outreach Coordinator, brought a docket request from Stephanie Nawyn, member of the Presbyterian Church of Okemos, to speak on the grant she received from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance called "Welcoming the New Neighbor Dialogue (WTNN)." WTNN is a six-week curriculum for Christian congregations to engage in peer or clergy facilitated dialogue about refugees and immigrants. **A motion prevailed** to grant Stephanie Nawyn five minutes on the docket.

C. **Cybersecurity Overview**
Elder Beth Dyer presented a Presbytery of Lake Michigan Cybersecurity Overview document that Emily Franson and Kirk Truesdall put together. Discussion ensued about who oversees cybersecurity for the presbytery, who reviews the cybersecurity, does the presbytery consult with a cybersecurity/tech professional and does the presbytery have any sort of cybersecurity insurance policy. It was suggested that the Leadership Team annually review the presbytery's cybersecurity. Rev. Kristin Stroble suggested that further conversation on this topic should wait until Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence's return from sabbatical.

D. **Christians Engaged in Civic Engagement**
Rev. Kristin Stroble informed the Leadership Team that on behalf of the presbytery she is working with a small group of ecumenical Michigan faith leaders from the United Methodist Church, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and United Church of Christ to encourage voting and to provide education leading up to the elections. A webinar for faith leaders is planned with the Secretary of State's Office for October 12, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. and a press conference is being planned for October 27, 2026.

**Discussion of the Business and Worship at Stated Meetings of the Presbytery:**
The following is the preliminary outline of the business to be included on the docket for the Stated Meeting on November 17, 2026 was discussed.

A. **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 (10 minutes)
5. Nominating Committee Report - (5 minutes)
6. COM - Ben Rumbaugh
    a. Welcoming New Pastors
    b. Request for AC
7. Delta/Dimondale AC Report
8. Leadership Team Report
    a. Terms of Call for Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence

**Adjournment and Closing Prayer:**
**A motion prevailed to** adjourn the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Rev. Troy Hauser-Brydon closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next meeting:** November 5, 2026
Via Zoom

**Devotion**: Beth Dyer