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