

**PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES
IN-PERSON MEETING AND VIA ZOOM
NOVEMBER 19, 2024**

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 9:30 A.M. in a Stated Meeting held in person at First Presbyterian Church in Woodstock, IL and on the zoom platform. This was a joint meeting of the Ecclesiastical body, the Presbytery of Blackhawk, and the Corporate body, the Presbytery of Blackhawk, Inc.

WELCOME/OVERVIEW OF THE ZOOM MEETING PROCESS

Moderator Pastor Ray Lantz welcomed all participants. He gave an overview of how the meeting would be conducted and instructed attendees on speaking and voting on Zoom during the meeting.

WELCOME FROM THE HOST PASTOR

Rev. Eric Corbin, the host church's pastor, welcomed the attendees.

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

Moderator Ray Lantz called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and opened with prayer. He thanked honorably retired Rev. Barb Bundick for weaving the parament hanging on the pulpit.

First-time commissioner, Sue Fordyce and Dave Steinberg both from Joliet, First were welcomed.

The moderator introduced the following corresponding members: Rev. Dr. Cheyanna Losey serves as Transitional Pastor at First Presbyterian of Dixon and Pastor Alan Willadsen serves as the Commissioned Pastor at Fairbury. Both are members of the Great Rivers Presbytery. Visitors, including Sherri Finke from the Presbyterian Foundation, were introduced. (See the meeting roll)

Moderator Lantz declared that a quorum was present. All attendees are listed on the meeting roll call (attached). He presented the proposed docket for the meeting.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Leader</u>
9:00 Gathering with coffee	
9:10 First-time commissioner orientation	Eric Heinekamp
9:30 Call to order and opening prayer	Ray Lantz
Welcome and overview of meeting	
Quorum/Minutes/Docket/Corresponding Members	
Nominating Committee Report	Eric Corbin
9:45 Worship	
Scripture and sermon	Ray Lantz
Installation of New Moderator	Ray Lantz
Commissioning of Presbytery Leaders	Lisa Lopez-Meyer
Communion	
Offering	

10:45	Break	
11:00	Learning Opportunity – Empowering Servant Leadership	VAP
Noon	Lunch Break	
1:00	Stated Clerk Action	Eric Heinekamp
	Approval of GA Amendments	
	Council Actions	Laurie Walker
	Committees of Council	
	Personnel	Mike Selburg
	Finance and Property	Scott Vandermyde
	Motion to approve 2025 budget	
	Mission	Molly Morris
	Visioning and Assembly Planning	Nicole Melara
1:45	Committees / Commission of Assembly	
	Commission on Ministry	Mike Engle
	Committee on Preparation for Ministry	Art Blegen
2:00	Reports	
	Transformational General Presbyter	Eric Heinekamp
	Stated Clerk	Eric Heinekamp
	Presbyterian Women	Jill Sunday
	Synod Report	
	Stronghold Camp	
2:15	Corporation/Trustees	Ray Lantz
	Trustees	
	Treasurer report	Eric Heinekamp
2:25	New and unfinished business	
2:30	Adjourn with prayer	Lisa Lopez-Meyer

The moderator moved that if there were no objections, the corresponding members be seated, the docket be approved, and the minutes of the September 17, 2024, Regular Assembly meeting be approved. The motion was **Approved by Unanimous Consent.**

NOMINATING

Moderator Rev. Eric Corbin moved to approve the following nominations. It was seconded, and it was **Voted** to accept the slate of candidates.

Presbytery Council

2027 At Large Rep: Molly Fisherkeller - MWS 1st term

Visioning and Presbytery Assembly Planning Committee

2025 Moderator: Nicole Melara

2027:MWS: Nicole Melara-MWS 1st term

Mission Committee

2027: Mary Ellen Shine- CM 1st term

2027: Dave Ballantine- RE 1st term

2027: Stephen Bowie- MWS 1st term

COM

2025 COM Moderator: Laurie Walker

COM Reconciliation Committee

2027: Dale Tolly- RE 1st term

COM Pastor to Pastor Committee

2025: Barbara D'Souza- RE 1st term

COM Policies, Procedure Committee

2027: Gail Dancy- RE 1st term

COM Transitions Committee

2027: Rev. Roy Backus- MWS 2nd term

Nominating Committee (names placed in nomination by the Presbytery Council)

2027: Ray Lantz, RE, 1st term

2025: Jenny Hubbard, MSW, 1st term

2027: Clint Roberts, MWS, 1st term

OPENING WORSHIP

Moderator Ray Lantz moved the assembly into a time of worship. The service opened with music led by singers and musicians from Woodstock Presbyterian Church. Rev. Clint Roberts lead the liturgy. Pastor Ray Lantz, Piper City, First, read scripture from Ezekial 22:30, Psalm 106: 21-23, and Ephesians 6:10-14 and preached a sermon titled R.E.P.A.I.R.

He thanked those who were commissioned and served the Presbytery in the past year. He installed Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyer, Winnebago First, as the Moderator of the Blackhawk Presbytery and presented her with the gavel, the two crosses, and the moderator stole. She assumed the moderator role and thanked Ray for his service as the Moderator of the Blackhawk Presbytery. She installed the Vice-Moderator and Moderators of the Commissions and Committees. Rev. Eric Corbin led the assembly in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

The offering was taken via cash, check to the presbytery office, or on the website, and will be used to begin a new educational fund to support educational opportunities for Commissioned Ruling Elders.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY- Empowering Servant Leadership 16

May 2024 through November 2025, The Seven Marks of Vital Congregations will be shared through learning opportunities at presbytery meetings. On November 19, Rev. Thea Kornelius, Elgin, First, and Rev. Dr. Stephen Bowie, Rockford, Third, led "Empowering Servant Leadership."

Following grace, there was a break for lunch prepared and served by volunteers from Woodstock, First.

After lunch, a video was presented which featured the mission programs at Mendota: First: their Micro pantry and Breakfast Saturday. Lauren Rodgers, a Ministry Engagement Advisor at PC (USA), shared how they are a resource for supporting local churches.

STATED CLERK ACTIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY AMENDMENTS

Rev. Eric Heinekamp, Transformational General Presbyterian and Stated Clerk reviewed the process of amendments and the approval process. The amendments to the Book of Order and the Episcopal agreement were approved by the 226th General Assembly (2024) and are now recommended to the presbyteries for their vote. Five amendments were considered at this meeting, with the remainder voted on in February.

Omnibus Motion One

An omnibus motion was made to approve the five proposed amendments: 24-A, 24-C, 24-D, 24-E, and 24-G, and there was a second. A request was made to remove 24-A and 24-C, to be considered separately.

24-A—F-1.0403 OPENESS TO THE GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT F-1.0403 UNITY IN DIVERSITY (POL-01 1)

The unity of believers in Christ is reflected in the rich diversity of the Church's membership. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God unites persons through baptism regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, geography, or theological Conviction. There is therefore no place in the life of the Church for discrimination against any person. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall guarantee full participation and representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons or groups within its membership. No member shall be denied participation or representation for any reason other than those stated in this Constitution.

24-C—G-2.0104b ORDERED MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH G-2.0104b GIFTS AND QUALIFICATIONS (POL-01 2)

b. Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (F-1.02). The council responsible for ordination and/or installation (G-2.0402; G-2.0607; G-3.0306) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of ordered ministry. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the

candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.0404), the Historic Principles of Church Order (F-3.01), and in the principles of participation and representation found in F-1.0403. Councils shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.

24-D—G-2.0504b PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS

G-2.0504b TEMPORARY PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS (POL-05)

Titles and terms of service for temporary relationships shall be determined by the presbytery. A person serving in a temporary pastoral relationship is invited for a specified period not to exceed thirty-six months in length, which is renewable with the approval of the presbytery.

24-E—G-2.0504b PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS

G-2.0504b TEMPORARY PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS (POL-08 2)

Temporary pastoral relationships are approved by the presbytery and do not carry a formal call or installation. When a congregation does not have a pastor, or while the pastor is unable to perform her or his duties, the session, with the approval of presbytery, may obtain the services of a minister of the Word and Sacrament, candidate, or ruling elder in a temporary pastoral relationship. No formal call shall be issued and no formal installation shall take place. Titles and terms of service for temporary relationships shall be determined by the presbytery. A person serving in a temporary pastoral relationship is invited for a specified period not to exceed twelve months in length, which is renewable with the approval of the presbytery. A minister of the Word and Sacrament employed in a temporary pastoral relationship is ordinarily not eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor. When the temporary pastoral relationship ends, no non-disclosure agreement shall be allowable.

A non-disclosure agreement, also known as a confidentiality agreement, is an agreement that outlines confidential material, knowledge, or information that is to remain confidential. Such an agreement binds the party or parties who have signed it and prevents them from discussing any information included in the contract with anyone not authorized by the agreement.

24-G—2.0901 DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS

G-2.0901 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (POL-08 1)

An installed pastoral relationship may be dissolved only by the presbytery. Whether the minister of the Word and Sacrament, the congregation, or the presbytery initiates proceedings for dissolution of the relationship, there shall always be a meeting of the congregation to consider the matter and to consent, or decline to consent, to dissolution. No non-disclosure agreement shall be allowable. A non-disclosure agreement, also known as a confidentiality agreement, is an agreement that outlines confidential material, knowledge, or information that is to remain confidential. Such an agreement binds the party or parties who have signed it and prevents them from discussing any information included in the contract with anyone not authorized by the agreement.

It was moved, seconded, and **VOTED** to approve omnibus motion one without 24-A and 24-C.

It was moved, seconded, and **VOTED** to approve 24-A, following discussion, with 38 in favor and 17 no votes.

It was moved, seconded, and **VOTED** to not approve 24-C, following discussion, 26 in favor and 30 no votes.

Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyers closed these actions with prayer.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

The Council did not have a written report and no action items.

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

Treasurer Rev. Eric Heinekamp moved to approve the 2025 budget as presented. Coming from the committee, no second is needed, and it was unanimously **Voted** approved.

MISSION

The Mission Committee did not have a written report. Committee moderator Rev. Molly Fisherkeller reminded the assembly that grant money is still available for 2024 mission work.

PERSONNEL

There was a written report. Moderator Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg had no additions.

VISIONING AND ASSEMBLY PLANNING

Committee moderator Rev. Nicole Melara presented a question from the committee, "If you could not attend an in-person presbytery meeting, and a live stream option was available, would you watch the meeting?" Following discussion, it was determined there was little interest in the option.

COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES OF ASSEMBLY

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Commission moderator Pastor Mike Engle called attention to the committee's written report.

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY ACTION

The COM recommended the approval of the request from Joliet First to revise their call to Rev. Bogdan Mircea, moving him from Associate Pastor to Pastor, effective Nov. 19, 2024. The Presbytery Assembly **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

The COM recommended, if the way be clear, the transfer of the Rockford Korean Presbyterian Church from the Presbytery of Blackhawk to Midwest Korean Presbytery, a non-geographic presbytery in the Synod of Lincoln Trails, effective date TBA. The Presbytery Assembly **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

At their session's request, the COM recommended, if the way be clear, the transfer of First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City from the Presbytery of Blackhawk to the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois, a sister presbytery in the Synod of Lincoln Trails, Effective date TBA. To be effective, this needs the approval of the congregation and both Presbyteries. The Presbytery Assembly **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

REPORTING ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY COM:

New Calls:

1. **Approved** the new terms of call between Joliet First and Rev. Bogdan Mircea, to serve as Installed Pastor, effective Nov. 19, 2024, and pending Presbytery Assembly approval.

Cash Salary: \$73,000

Housing allowance: \$12,000

Medical, pension, disability: \$22,100

Health co-insurance: \$5,100

Dental and Vision: \$592

Study Leave: \$1,500 (reimbursable)

Professional expenses: \$4,500 (reimbursable)

Study Leave time of 2 weeks, Vacation time of 4 weeks

The COM further authorized the formation of an Administrative Commission for the Installation of Rev. Mircea, if the way be clear.

New Covenants and Contracts:

2. **Approved** the Temporary Supply Covenant between Pastor Hansung Yoo and Rockford Korean Presbyterian Church, effective 10/20/24–10/19/27. Pastor Yoo was ordained in the Presbyterian Church of Korea, Yeongdeungpo Presbytery on April 27, 2021, and is a member of the Korean American Presbyterian Church (KAPC). The position is part-time, 20 hours/week.

Cash Salary: \$2,000 per month

Auto Expense: \$300

Continuing education: \$200

3. Effective September 29, Sandwich Federated Church (PCUSA and American Baptist for over 100 years) has hired a local Nazarene pastor, Pastor Matthew Jones, who will

be serving their church as a part-time temporary supply pastor while he also serves the Nazarene Church in Sandwich. The church rotates minister choice between Presbyterian and American Baptist– it is the Baptist’s ‘turn’ to find a pastor, and once chosen, to oversee them.

While there is no formal relationship between the Nazarenes and PC(USA), the COM **affirmed** their choice of pastor and as moderator of the session. Pastor Jones is welcomed to our Blackhawk fellowship and encouraged to attend assembly meetings but will be seated as a non-voting affiliate.

Renewal of Covenants and contracts:

4. **Approved** the renewal of the covenant between Commissioned Pastor Colleen Lawrence and First Presbyterian Princeton, effective 7/1/24-6/30/2025. The position is part-time, 20 hours/week.

Cash Salary:	\$833 / month
Housing allowance:	\$1,000 / month
SECA offset:	\$1,683
IRA contribution:	\$2,200
Tax reimbursement:	\$1,683
Professional Expense:	\$3,240
Mileage at IRS rate	
Continuing education:	\$750
Health reimbursement:	\$5,500

Study Leave time of 2 weeks (2 Sundays), Vacation time of 4 weeks (4 Sundays)

5. **Approved** the renewal of the Temporary Supply Covenant between Rev. Dave Terrinoni and La Rose, Crow Meadow Presbyterian, effective 10/1/2024-3/31/2025. Terms are unchanged.

6. **Approved** the renewal of the Commissioned Pastor Covenant between CP Phil Thompson and Winnebago Middle Creek, effective 12/1/24-11/30/2025. The position is part-time, 20 hours/week.

Cash Salary:	\$1,605.10 / month
SECA offset:	\$1,473.48
Board of Pensions retirement:	\$1,155.67
Professional Expense:	\$1,250
Mileage at IRS rate	\$2,400
Continuing education:	\$750

Study Leave time of 2 weeks (2 Sundays), Vacation time of 4 weeks (4 Sundays)

7. **Approved** the renewal of the Interim Contract between Rev. Nicole Melara and Ridgefield-Crystal Lake, effective 11/1/2024-10/31/2025

Total Effective Salary:	\$102,000 / year (Housing portion TBD)
SECA Supplement:	\$ 7,803
Medical insurance:	\$33,930
BOP Pastor Participation:	\$10,200
Professional expense	\$3,000
Continuing ed. expense	\$1,500
Health reimbursement:	\$4,200

Vacation: 4 weeks including 4 Sundays. Continuing education: 1 week every 6 mos., Family leave: 1 week per year, Service to denomination: 2 Sundays per year.

Miscellaneous:

8. **Received** the renewed covenant between CP Dale Tolly and Braidwood First, effective 1/1/24-12/31/24. Terms of the contract were previously reported.
9. **Approved** CP Mike Engle to serve Holy Communion at First Presbyterian Wilmington on an “as needed” basis through October 2025.

Transfers:

10. **Approved** the request to transfer membership of Rev. Dr. Jay Kim to Miami Valley Presbytery, pending their request, effective Dec. 31, 2024.

Administrative Commission to Kankakee:

Authorized by the assembly in September, an Administrative Commission has formed and is working with the session of Kankakee First to dissolve the congregation and transfer the property to the Presbytery for sale. The final worship service for that congregation is November 17. The congregation remains active until December 31, 2024 or until dissolved by the administrative commission

AC Members: Ray Lantz, RE and Moderator, Jan Chandler and Dave Terrinoni, Ministers, Paul Koch (CP-Manteno) and Terry Ledesma (RE-Coal City)–Ruling Elders. Paul Koch was approved to moderate their congregational meeting to dissolve the congregation and to dissolve the relationship between Kankakee First and Rev. Dr. Jay Kim.

OTHER INFORMATION

Boundary Training– 16 pastors still need training in 2024 to be compliant. Additional options may be coming from neighboring Presbyteries.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Committee moderator Rev. Art Blegen reported that there is only one person under consideration for ministry.

REPORTS

TRANSFORMATIONAL GENERAL PRESBYTER REPORT

Rev. Eric Heinekamp highlighted information from his written report.

STATED CLERK REPORT

Rev. Heinekamp presented his report (see attached). He moved that it be approved to celebrate the Lord’s Supper at each assembly meeting in 2025. It was seconded, and **VOTED** to approve the motion.

He reminded the assembly there is one more Session Minute Reading meeting at Rockford Westminster on Nov. 30 at 10 am. The PC(USA) Annual Statistical report and additional reports will be sent to Clerks of Session in early December.

For 2025 assembly meetings, each church are allotted one commissioner which is determined by the number of members, except Geneva, Fox Valley will have two.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Jill Sunday thanked all who support the Church World Service Kits. She shared that volunteers are needed for secretary and treasurer of the PWP.

SYNOD REPORT

There was no written report from Synod.

STRONGHOLD REPORT

Executive director Danny Pierce thanked the presbytery for their ongoing support. He reported three national programs continue to use Stronghold for events. The 2024 Renaissance Fair was a success with 3000 people attending. A group called "Guitars Not Guns" are coming to Stronghold for the first time.

Ryan Anderson reported that 90 people attended the Youth Fall Retreat. This summer will be the 62nd year for Youth Summer Camp. He reminded the assembly that the Confirmation Retreat will be held on Feb. 7-9.

CORPORATION AND TRUSTEES

There is no written Trustee report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A bookkeeping service has been hired, and a person will soon fill the treasurer position. Expenses are down, and only 2% of the interest from investments is used to fund the budget. The treasurer's report was received by **Unanimous Consent**. 14% of churches have paid 100% of their per capita and 18% have paid zero.

NEW AND UNFINISHED REPORT

Rev. Bogdan Mircea, Joliet, First thanked the presbytery for their support.

Moderator Lopez-Meyer called for a motion to adjourned the meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and **VOTED** to adjourn the meeting of the day..

Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyer closed in prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Rev. Eric Heinekamp
Stated Clerk

Dorene Tieche
Recording Clerk

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery Assembly will be Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 5:30 pm. This evening meeting will be on the Zoom platform only.