

**PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK
MINUTES OF ASSEMBLY MEETING VIA ZOOM
February 11, 2025**

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in a Stated Meeting held via Zoom. This was a joint meeting of the Ecclesial body, the Presbytery of Blackhawk, and the Corporate body, the Presbytery of Blackhawk, Inc.

WELCOME/OVERVIEW OF THE ZOOM MEETING PROCESS

Moderator Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyer welcomed all participants. She gave an overview of how the meeting would be conducted and instructed attendees on speaking and voting on Zoom during the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

Moderator Lisa Lopez-Meyer opened with prayer and read the Blackhawk Presbytery Mission Statement. She called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

First-time ruling elders included Kathy Bauer, Princeton First and Mark Cordes, Dekalb, Westminster. Several first time guests were also welcomed (See the meeting roll).

The following corresponding members were introduced: Rev. Tony Larson, minister/member of New Harmony Presbytery, and Rev. Cece Armstrong, minister/member of Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery; together, they are serving as Co-moderators of the PC(USA); and Rev. Charles Berthoud, pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church of Madison, Wisconsin, member of John Knox Presbytery.

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

<u>Item</u>	<u>Leader</u>
5:15 First opportunity to sign into the meeting	
5:30 Call to Order and Opening Prayer	Lisa Lopez-Meyer
Welcome and Overview of Meeting	
Quorum/Minutes/Docket/Corresponding Members	
5:45 Worship	
Scripture and Sermon	PC(USA) Co-Moderators: Rev. CeCe Armstrong and Rev. Tony Larson
Communion	Dottie Morizzo
Offering CP educational fund	Lisa Lopez-Meyer
6:15 Learning Opportunity: Lifelong Discipleship Formation	Rev. Charlie Berthoud
7:15 Stated Clerk Action: Approval of Book of Order Amendments	Eric Heinekamp
7:30 Council	Ray Lantz
Committees of Council	
Finance and Property	Scott Vandermyde
Mission	Thea Kornelius
Personnel	Mike Selburg
Vision and Assembly Planning	Nicole Melara
LANA Task Force	Laurie Walker
7:45 Committees/Commission of Assembly	

	Commission on Ministry	Laurie Walker
	Committee on Preparation for Ministry	Lauren Patrus Betzel
	Nominating Committee	Eric Corbin
8:00	Reports	
	General Presbyter/Stated Clerk	Eric Heinekamp
	Presbyterian Women	Jill Sunday
	Synod Report	
	Stronghold Update	Danny Pierce
8:15	Corporation/Trustees	Lisa Lopez-Meyers
	Treasurer Report	Eric Heinekamp
8:20	New and Unfinished Business	
8:30	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 meeting on September 17, 2024 be approved. The motion was **Approved by Unanimous Consent**.

OPENING WORSHIP

Moderator Lisa Lopez-Meyer moved the assembly into a time of worship. Pastor Mike Engle, Elwood Community, led the liturgy. Rev. Larson read scripture from Luke 14:35-43. Revs. Larson and Armstrong preached a sermon on how to align with God for a lifelong formation as disciples. Pastor Dottie Morizzo, Elizabeth, Schapville Zion led the assembly in the sacrament of Holy Communion. The offering was taken via check to the presbytery office or on the website and will go to financial assistance for continuing education to support Commissioned Pastors. Rev. Armstrong and Rev. Larson closed the worship service with a blessing.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Rev. Steve Bowie, Rockford, Third, shared a video showing how family worship is done at Third. He introduced the guest speaker, Rev. Charlie Berthoud, Madison, WI, Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Berthoud's presentation highlighted a list of 10 things his church is doing to promote Lifelong Discipleship Formation. In small groups, the assembly reflected on what was working at their churches and what new things they might try from the list.

A video featuring the 2025 Confirmation Retreat at Camp Stronghold was shown, sharing the youths' spiritual experiences.

STATED CLERK ACTION

The 226th General Assembly (2024) approved twelve amendments to the Book of Order and the Episcopal agreement, which are now recommended to the presbyteries for their vote. At the November assembly meeting, the assembly voted on five amendments. Approving four of them. Rev. Eric Heinekamp, General Presbyter and Stated Clerk, reviewed the approval processes and the seven remaining amendments and the Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries (see below).

An omnibus motion was made to approve the seven remaining amendments (G-1.0104, G-2.0610, G-3.0106, G-3.0302d, G-3.0501, D-7.0501, and D-7.0902b) and the Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries. It was seconded and **VOTED** to approve the omnibus motion.

24-B-G1.0104 THE CONGREGATION

G-1.0104 OTHER FORMS OF CORPORATE WITNESS (WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES, etc.) (POL-03)

Shall G-1.0104 be added to Congregations in the Form of Government as follows?
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in *italics*.)

*G-1.0104 Other Forms of Corporate Witness (Worshipping Communities, etc.)
In circumstances where the formation of a traditional ecclesiastically and legally organized congregation is not desired or deemed appropriate, and a worshipping community has been formally recognized by a presbytery according to its own definition, presbyteries and congregations may work together with such a group to provide supervision and support. Such recognized groups shall be under the mutually agreed upon oversight of a minister of the Word and Sacrament approved by the presbytery, shall include at least one ruling elder in their chosen leadership, and shall function under the financial, legal, and disciplinary sponsorship of an ecclesial council (either a session or a presbytery). The sponsoring council shall, in consultation with the worshipping community, authorize any celebrations of the sacraments within the group in accordance with the Directory for Worship. Membership records for group participants desiring to be formally enrolled as baptized, active, or affiliate members in the PC(USA) shall be maintained by the sponsoring council. Such groups shall not hold property, and may not undertake any financial, legal, or contractual obligations, apart from their sponsoring council. They shall adhere to the sponsoring council's required policies on sexual misconduct, harassment, child and youth protection, and antiracism. Presbyteries shall determine appropriate means of representation and participation of such groups in and through the sponsoring councils (session and/or presbytery).*

24-F—G-2.0610 PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

G-2.0610 ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES (ORD-05)

Shall G-2.0610 in the Form of Government be amended as follows?
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in *italics*.)

When a presbytery concludes there are good and sufficient reasons for accommodations to the particular circumstances of an individual seeking ordination, it may, by a three-fourths vote, waive any of the requirements for ordination in G-2.06, except for those of G-2.0607d. If a presbytery judges that there are good and sufficient reasons why a candidate should not be required to satisfy the requirements of G-2.0607d, it shall approve by three-fourths vote some alternate means by which to ascertain the readiness of the candidate for ministry in the areas covered by the standard ordination examinations. ~~A full account of the reasons for a~~ *The existence of any waiver or alternate means to ascertain readiness, with confidential details omitted,* shall be included in the minutes of the presbytery and communicated to the presbytery to which an inquirer or candidate may be transferred.

24-H—G-3.0106 GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF COUNCILS

G-3.0106 ADMINISTRATION OF MISSION (POL-11)

Shall the fourth paragraph of G-3.0106 be amended as follows: (Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in *italics*.)

All councils shall adopt and implement the following policies: a sexual misconduct policy, a harassment policy, a child, ~~and~~ youth, and *adults with vulnerabilities* protection policy, and an antiracism policy. Each council's policy shall include requirements for boundary training which

includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training for its members at least every thirty-six months.

24-I—G-3.0302d THE PRESBYTERY

G-3.0302d RELATIONSHIPS WITH SYNOD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GAP-05)

Shall G-3.0302 in the Form of Government be amended as follows?

(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in *italics*.)

G-3.0302 Relations with Synod and General Assembly

d. proposing to synod such measures as may be of common concern to the mission of the church, ~~and/or~~ proposing to General Assembly overtures ~~that have received a concurrence from at least one other presbytery, and/or concurring with proposed overtures, and~~

24-J—G-3.0501 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY G-3.0501

COMPOSITION AND RESPONSIBILITY (GAP-04)

Shall G-3.0501 Composition and Responsibilities be amended as follows:

(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in *italics*.)

The General Assembly is the council of the whole church, and it is representative of the unity of the synods, presbyteries, sessions, and congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It shall consist of equal numbers of ruling elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament elected by the presbyteries and reflective of the diversity within their bounds (F1.0403 and G-3.0103), to serve as commissioners according to the following proportions:

~~8,000~~ 6,000 members or less: 1 ruling elder and 1 minister of the Word and Sacrament
~~8,001-16,000~~ 6,001-12,000: 2 ruling elders and 2 ministers of the Word and Sacrament
~~16,001-24,000~~ 12,001-19,000: 3 ruling elders and 3 ministers of the Word and Sacrament
~~24,001-32,000~~ 19,001 or more: 4 ruling elders and 4 ministers of the Word and Sacrament
~~32,001-40,000: 5 ruling elders and 5 ministers of the Word and Sacrament~~
~~40,001-48,000: 6 ruling elders and 6 ministers of the Word and Sacrament~~
~~48,001 or more: 7 ruling elders and 7 ministers of the Word and Sacrament~~

24-K—D-7.0501 INVESTIGATION

D-7.0501 REFERRAL TO INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE (POL-02)

Shall D-7.0501 Referral to Investigating Committee be amended as follows:

(Added text is in *italics*.)

When a clerk of session or the stated clerk of a presbytery receives an allegation, without undertaking further inquiry, that clerk shall then report to the council only that an offense has been alleged without naming the *person* accused or the nature of the alleged offense and shall refer the statement of allegation promptly to an investigating committee, which *shall* conduct an inquiry as defined below. *Pursuant to G-4.0302, the clerk shall report to civil legal authorities any knowledge of harm, or risk of harm, related to the physical abuse, neglect, and/or sexual molestation or abuse of a minor or adult lacking mental capacity.*

The clerk of session or stated clerk shall also inform the accuser of the disciplinary process and their rights and responsibilities in the process.

24-L—D-7.0902b ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

D-7.0902b ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE (POL-04)

Shall D-7.0902B Administrative Leave be amended as follows: (Added text is in

italics.)

Regardless of the employment status of the minister of the Word and Sacrament, the members designated in accordance with D-3.0102, shall determine as quickly as possible, after receiving the written allegations and providing the accused an opportunity to be heard, whether the risk to a congregation and/or to other potential victims of abuse requires *paid* administrative leave or other restrictions upon the minister's service when considered in light of the nature and probable truth of the allegations. Such *paid* administrative leave or restrictions will continue until either the matter is resolved in one of the ways prescribed in the disciplinary process or until the leave or restrictions are altered or removed by members of the commission. *The cost shall be borne by the employing entity whenever possible or be shared by the presbytery as necessary.*

24-M Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries

THE WAY FORWARD

In our current agreement, our two churches agreed "that authorized ministers of our churches may, subject to the regulations of the churches and within the limits of their competence, carry out the tasks of their own office in congregations of the other churches when requested and approved by the diocesan bishop and local presbytery." Furthermore, a conditional was established on this point of agreement that "because we do not yet have reconciliation and full interchangeability of ordained ministries, all authorization for these special opportunities must conform to the *Book of Common Worship and the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, and the *Book of Common Prayer and the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church*."

Our current agreement also calls the two denominations to "encourage diocesan bishops and presbyteries to provide a regular occasion for planning, discussing, resourcing for missional, educational and liturgical life together. In addition, to explore possibilities for new church development and redevelopment together," as well as provide a process to support and implement the above recommendations (guidelines).

Our two churches have agreed to be in dialogue for the specific purpose of considering the question of the mutual recognition of ordained ministries, as a step towards the unity that is Christ's will for his Church. Our current agreement enabled The Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in June of 2017 to formally and publicly participate in the 35 Churches Uniting in Christ recognition of ordered ministry. This public proclamation underscores and casts away possible barriers of our current agreement to move forward in missional partnership.

On the basis of converging but not yet wholly compatible understandings of the ordained ministry, and sufficient agreement in faith and ministry, together with a marked growing together of our two churches over recent decades, this group proposes that our churches deepen our current relationship. (See complete text in document below.)

For full text including rationale and recommendations, see:

<https://www.pcusa.org/resource/proposed-amendments-constitution>

Or visit our page: <https://blackhawkpresbytery.org/general-assembly/>

COUNCIL ACTIONS

The Blackhawk Presbytery Personnel Committee moved that the Presbytery Assembly approve two new staff for Blackhawk Presbytery: Alan Willadsen as Treasurer and David Spaulding as

Associate Stated Clerk at the compensation outlined in the Personnel Committee report. Coming from the Council, no second was needed, and the motion was **VOTED** to be approved.

Treasurer

Specifications

Title: Treasurer

Compensation: Hourly Rate in 2025: \$20

Driving Mileage & Meal Reimbursement: \$750

Member of: Properties & Finance Committee, and will be present at Council meetings, Assembly Meetings, and any other as assigned by the General Presbyter.

Employment Category: Part-Time (Paid or volunteer)

Pay Classification: Exempt

Position Classification: Elected by the Presbytery

Reports To: The Presbytery for duties defined in Article V, Section E of the Blackhawk Presbytery Ecclesiastical Administration Manual.
The General Presbyter for other assigned duties.

Takes Direction From: The Presbytery; Transformational General Presbyter

Receives Guidance From: Presbytery Council

Position Description

Position Purpose: An officer of the Presbytery with the responsibility to oversee the finances of Blackhawk Presbytery. Nearly all of the work of the treasurer can be done remotely.

Position Responsibilities:

- Work with bookkeeper to ensure receipts and payments are recorded correctly.
- Prepare and interpret financial reports for Council, assembly, committees, and staff.
- Serve as the Treasurer of the Corporation.
- Serve ex-officio on the Presbytery Council and attend monthly meetings (currently on Zoom)
- Attend Presbytery Assembly, four meetings per year, to present financial reports.
- Attend monthly Finance and Property Committee meetings (on Zoom)
- Act as a signer on all bank accounts and investment accounts.
- Provide oversight/review of investments according to the investment policy
- Provide input to the annual budget process.
- Arrange for an annual financial review or audit.
- Regularly review reconciliations of all bank and investment accounts.
- Make a periodic review of the payroll functions and reports.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Elder of a congregation that is a member of Blackhawk Presbytery or a Minister of the Word and Sacrament on the rolls of Blackhawk Presbytery.
- Background in accounting and financial management. Experience in QuickBooks preferred.
- Understanding of Presbyterian Church (USA) organizational structure.

Term of Office: One year with the privilege of re-election

Call/Election: The Treasurer is nominated by Presbytery Council and elected by Assembly annually.

Associate Stated Clerk

Specifications

Title: Associate Stated Clerk

Hourly Rate in 2025: \$30

Driving Mileage & Meal Reimbursement: \$1,500

Employment Category: Part-time (5-10 hours/week)

Pay Classification: Exempt

Type: Called Salary Position

Position Classification: Elected by the Presbytery

Accountability: The Associate Stated Clerk is elected by the Presbytery Assembly and is accountable to the Presbytery. The Associate Stated Clerk takes direction from the Stated Clerk.

Position Description

Position Purpose: The Associate Stated Clerk supports the work of the Stated Clerk and fulfills the role of the Stated Clerk in his/her absence or direction.

Position Responsibilities:

1. Help prepare the docket, script, and collect and distribute meeting materials prior to each Presbytery meeting.
2. Assist in creating and maintaining the minutes of the Presbytery Assembly along with the Recording Clerk.
3. Serve as Parliamentarian at Presbytery Assembly meetings in the absence of the Parliamentarian and Stated Clerk
4. Help in maintaining rolls of membership and presbytery assembly attendance, maintain any required registers, preserve records carefully, and furnish extracts from records when required by another council of the church. (G-3.0104)
5. Help prepare and keep current an Administrative Manual which shall include all Presbytery policies and guidelines and all commission and committee policies and guidelines.
6. Assist in the preparation of annual reports to the General Assembly, deliver the Presbytery's annual statistical report to the Presbytery, and provide other reports and verifications to the General Assembly and its entities.
7. Determine the number of assembly voting commissioners for each congregation in order to balance the number of Ruling Elders and Ministers of the Word and Sacrament.
8. When needed, report to the Presbytery any matters brought to the attention of the Stated Clerk's office by the Synod and the General Assembly. This includes presentation, training, and reporting on actions taken by the General Assembly such as amendments to the Book of Order.
9. Keep a roll of all Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Commissioned Pastors, commissions and committees and their members, Presbytery officers, staff, and candidates under the care of the Presbytery.
10. Prepare and present to the Presbytery a necrology report of Ruling Elders who have died the previous year.
11. Provide support and be an ex-officio member, without vote, on select committees and commissions of the Presbytery, attending as necessary.
12. Provide Book of Order, parliamentary procedure, and polity guidance to sessions, congregations, ministers, and others
13. Provide opportunities to train for new Clerks of Session, Ruling Elders, and Deacons.
14. Lead the annual review of records of individual congregations and report results.
15. Preserve and transmit to the Presbyterian Historical Society records from dismissed and closed churches, retain Presbytery documents, and maintain the history of the Presbytery and its churches.
16. Serve as the Assistant Secretary and officer of Presbytery and of the corporation "The Presbytery of Blackhawk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)".
17. Make reports at meetings of Presbytery, as needed.
18. Provide official correspondence of Presbytery, as needed.

19. Participate in other aspects of Blackhawk Presbytery work as requested by the general presbyter, council, or presbytery assembly.

20. Serve as assistant secretary of the Presbytery Council.

Position Qualifications:

A Minister of Word and Sacrament member of Blackhawk Presbytery or Ruling Elder of a member congregation of Blackhawk Presbytery who is knowledgeable of Presbyterian polity and parliamentary procedures.

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

Moderator Scott Vandermyde said the Finance and Property Committee had no written report. He shared that the new staff restructuring is complete, and the positions are almost filled. An upcoming budget update will be shared to reflect the changes.

MISSION

Moderator Rev. Thea Kornelius reported that all the grant funding for 2024 has been awarded. For 2025, one grant of \$1500 was awarded to Sterling, First for Buddy Bags which provides weekend food bags for kids who are food insecure.

PERSONNEL

Moderator Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg welcomed to the Blackhawk Presbytery staff Rev. David Spaulding as the part-time Associate Stated Clerk and Alan Willadsen, CP as the part-time treasurer. The contract for General Presbyter and Stated Clerk Rev. Eric Heinekamp, which ends in July, has been extended by two additional years (ending July 31, 2027). Loreen Stravers, the Presbytery Office Administrator is retiring March 31 and plans are underway for interviews to find a replacement by March 1. The new hire will train with Loreen for the month of March. Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg recognized Loreen for her outstanding service to the presbytery and will send out information about a party to celebrate her well-deserved retirement.

VISIONING AND ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Moderator Rev. Nicole Melara said the Vision and Assembly Planning Committee had no written report. All committees are encouraged to read the Blackhawk Presbytery's Vision and Value Statement at meetings. On February 18th, there will be an orientation for moderators and council at Camp Stronghold. This will become an annual event in the fall.

LAND AND NAME ACKNOWLEDGMENT TASK FORCE (LANA)

Moderator Laurie Walker shared that LANA has connected with April Holder, a member of the Sac and Fox Nation, who is a direct descendant of Black Hawk. She has worked with multiple foundations advocating for native rights. The Vision and Assembly Planning is working with LANA to schedule her to present "Allyship into Action," a presentation on ways people can turn allyship into action.

COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES OF ASSEMBLY

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Moderator Laurie Engle called attention to the committee's written report.

The committee **approved** the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois's assignment of Steve Anderson from Paxton to serve as the moderator for Gibson City, First.

BACKGROUND: Blackhawk Presbytery has previously approved for Gibson City, First to move to the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois because of its geographical proximity. Until that the move is formalized by all councils, we must provide constitutional approval. So, The Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois's assignment was only as the way is clear and Blackhawk Assembly is being asked to clear the way.

REPORTING ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY COM:

New Commission:

1. COM **Voted** to commission Jeanne Ohms (previously commissioned pastor to Hanover) to ministry at prison/correctional facilities. The nature of the ministry may also include administration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This commission is extended for three years (1/23/25–1/23/28), to be reviewed annually, although she is not receiving any monetary compensation.

Dissolution of call:

2. **Approved** the dissolution of the call between Geneva, Fox Valley, and Rev. Stephanie Anthony, effective February 15, 2025. Stephanie has served the congregation since 2016 and has accepted a call from First Presbyterian Church of Allentown, PA. Laurie gave thanks for Stephanie's contributions to Fox Valley Presbyterian Church, the presbytery, and the greater church.

Renewal of Covenants and contracts:

3. **Approved** the renewal of the Temporary Supply Covenant between Pastor Karen Schlack and Marengo First, effective 12/1/2024 to 12/31/2025.

Cash Salary:	\$85/ service
	\$75/ sermon manuscript
	\$75/ moderation
Housing:	\$100/ week

4. **Approved** the renewal of the Commissioned Pastor Covenant between Pastor Tanya Muzzarelli and Caledonia Willow Creek, effective 12/1/2024 to 11/30/2025. The position is part-time with hours mutually agreed upon.

Cash Salary: \$150/service

5. **Approved** the renewal of the Commissioned Pastor Covenant between Pastor Alan Willadsen and Fairbury First, effective 12/1/2024 to 11/30/2025. The position is part-time, 30 hours/week.

Cash Salary:	\$2,502.78/ month
SECA Supplement:	\$191.46/ month
BOP Medical:	HDHP + dental and vision
HSA:	\$400/month through 6/2025
Professional Expense:	\$2,500
Continuing education:	\$1,500
Mileage reimbursement:	as submitted

6. **Approved** the renewal of the Commissioned Pastor Covenant between Pastor Chuck Johnson and Plainfield Wheatland, effective 12/1/2024 to 11/30/2025. The position is part-time, 15 hours/week.

Cash Salary: \$375/ week

7. **Approved** the renewal of the Commissioned Pastor Covenant between Pastor Ray Lantz and Piper City First, Effective 12/1/2024 to 11/30/2025. The position is full-time, 40 hours/week.

Cash Salary: \$4200/ month
Housing allowance manse provided
SECA offset: \$3,856
Furnishing Allowance: \$2,000
Professional Expense: \$2,500
Continuing education: \$2,000
Study Leave time of 2 weeks (2 Sundays), Vacation time of 4 weeks (4 Sundays), 5 sick days

8. **Approved** the renewal of the Commissioned Pastor Covenant between Pastor JD Buchenau and Pontiac First, effective 12/1/2024 to 11/30/2027. The position is part-time, 15 hours/week.

Cash Salary: \$2,250/ month
SECA Supplement: \$6,195.50
Professional Expense: \$500.00
Continuing education: \$1,500
Mileage reimbursement as submitted
Study Leave time of 2 weeks (2 Sundays), Vacation time of 4 weeks (4 Sundays)

9. **Approved** the renewal of the Commissioned Pastor Covenant between Pastor Paul Koch and Manteno Community, effective 11/20/2024 to 11/30/2025. The position is part time.

Cash Salary: \$200/ week
Extra Duties: \$75
Mileage reimbursement as submitted

10. **Approved** the renewal of the Commissioned Pastor Covenant between Pastor Gretchen Hammeke and Rockford Westminster, effective 1/1/25-12/31/2025.

Cash Salary: \$5,000/ month
Housing: \$1,250 / month
Professional Expense: \$2,500
Continuing education: \$1500
Study Leave time of 2 weeks (2 Sundays), Vacation time of 4 weeks (4 Sundays)

Approved Moderators:

11. **Approved** assignment of Rev. Gary Panetta as moderator to Fulton Pres, effective immediately.

12. **Approved** assignment of Dottie Morizzo (CP) as moderator to Hanover, United, effective immediately.

Miscellaneous:

13. **Approved** Laurie Walker (CP) to serve Holy Communion at United Presbyterian Somonauk on an "as needed" basis through October, 2025.

14. **Approved** the request from DeKalb, Westminster, following their November 24, 2024 congregational vote, to change their staffing structure from co-pastor to solo pastor.

15. **Approved** the Administrative Commission for the installation of Rev. Bo Mircea as head pastor to Joliet First. He has chosen March 2 at 3 pm for his installation service. AC members are:

-Moderator: Rev. Lisa Lopez Meyer, Minister Of Word And Sacrament, Presbytery Moderator
-Rev. Nicholas Knebl, Minister Of Word And Sacrament (RCA)- Parole/Probation Manager, Michigan Department of Corrections
-Rev. Craig Herr, Minister Of Word And Sacrament- Retired
-Carrie Kapral, Commissioned Pastor (former)
-Jim Blaser, Elder- Elwood Community Church
-Dale Evans, Elder- Westminster Presbyterian Joliet
-Mary Gajack, Elder- 1st Pres Joliet

Transfers: None

OTHER INFORMATION

- COM agreed to re-apportion its 18 elected members to committees based on each committee's workload and geographical challenges. It was agreed that having an active Liaison relationship is essential to enabling our support, connection and unity as a presbytery.
COM-Policies & Procedures: Will go from 3 to 2 elected members
COM-Transitions: Will go from 3 to 5 elected members
COM-Pastor to Pastor: Will go from 4 to 2 elected members
COM-Liaisons: Will go from 5 to 6 elected members
COM New Communities: Will stay 1 elected member
COM-Reconciliation: Will stay at 2 elected members
- COM has requested Eric Heinekamp to conduct a Church Leadership Connection (CLC) training on Zoom for all interested COM members and Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) members. CLC is our denominational matching service and it has undergone significant changes and recent revisions.
- COM has requested Eric Heinekamp to conduct a training for ruling elders (in the absence of a pastor) to serve communion. This is in response to Wilmington and other churches without full-time pastors who have expressed difficulty in finding a pastor to serve communion.
- COM Policy Committee will be working on a policy for administration of newly available scholarship money for certified/commissioned pastors.
- Changes in the medical dues structure from the Board of Pensions will continue to be an important topic in 2025 as the transition moves closer to full implementation of sustainable and higher, premium rates. Plus, new pastors entering the presbytery as of Jan. 1, 2025 are not eligible for the "gentler" Transitional Plan (with 4% increase in premiums in the first year). Coverage of spouses and children will be an annual consideration.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Committee moderator Rev. Lauren Patrus-Betzel reported that there are two inquirers on the Minister of Word and Sacrament ordination track and one candidate for Commissioning as a Pastor.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Rev. Eric Corbin referred to the written report and there are openings still available. A motion was made to accept the following nominations.

Presbytery Council

2026 At Large Rep: Jenny Hubbard, MWS

Mission Committee

2025: Diana Day-Schreiner, CM

COM

2027: David Spaulding, MWS

2027: Bob Newman, RE

Coming from the committee, no second is needed, and the motion was **VOTED** to be approved.

REPORTS

GENERAL PRESBYTER REPORT/STATED CLERK

Rev. Eric Heinekamp presented his General Presbyter report (attached).

He announced Loreen Stravers is retiring, and he thanked her for 12 years of service as the Presbytery Office Administrator. A celebration is being planned for the week of March 24 at Camp Stronghold.

The restructuring of the staff for the presbytery is completed. A part-time bookkeeper was hired last November. A part-time treasurer and a part-time Associate Stated Clerk have been approved. Rev. Heinekamp's title will change from Transformation General Presbyter to General Presbyter, and with additional staff he will be able to spend more working directly with congregations and pastors.

Rev. Eric Heinekamp presented the Stated Clerk report (attached).

The meetings for the remaining year will be on May 13th/hybrid, Elgin First Presbyterian; September 9/in person at Camp Stronghold; and November 9/hybrid at Bolingbrook First Presbyterian of DuPage.

The session minute reviews are completed. Contact the Stated Clerk if you would still like to have your documents reviewed and approved. Statistical reports to the presbytery and the PC(USA) are due on February 15, 2025.

In November, the Blackhawk Presbytery approved dismissing Gibson City, First, and Rockford, Korean, to join new presbyteries. Further actions are underway to complete these requests.

The necrology report was read to recognize the ruling elders who passed away in 2024.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Jill Sunday reported that [Church World Services](#) has revised the contents of all their kits. The Synod of Lincoln Trails is hosting a 2025 Lenten Series, "Women of Courage," on March 11, 18, March 25, and April 1.

SYNOD REPORT

There was no written report from the Synod. Eric Heinekamp reported there will be a Synod Assembly meeting on February 25.

STRONGHOLD REPORT

Executive director Danny Pierce reported there is good participation in youth programs. They have summer job opportunities, and summer camp registration is open. They are exploring identifying Conservation Easements on the property. This is the fourth year the camp has been financially separated from the presbytery and has paid \$80,000 in back payroll over the last four years. The payment in 2025 will complete the repayment agreement.

CORPORATION/TRUSTEES

Rev. Heinekamp reported the approval of the sale of the manse by Watseka First. The church building in Kankakee, First has been appraised for sale; and Somonauk, United is exploring disbanding.

The 2025 Corporate Officers are Lisa Lopez-Meyer, President; Alan Willadsen, Treasurer; Eric Heinekamp, Assistant Treasurer and Secretary; and David Spaulding, Assistant Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Rev. Eric Heinekamp reported the presbytery ended 2024 with an operating income of \$530,277 and \$501,388 in operating expenses. For 2024, 73% of per capita due was collected. Eleven churches paid zero, and 41 of our 64 congregations paid 100% of their per capita. The 2024 shared mission giving was \$135,000. The Treasurer's Report was received.

Moderator Lopez-Meyers called to adjourn the meeting of the day. She closed the meeting with prayer at 8:30 pm.

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery Assembly will be May 13, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., and it will be a hybrid meeting, with the location being determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Eric Heinekamp
Recording Clerk

Dorene A. Tieche
Stated Clerk