

**PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES
IN-PERSON and VIA ZOOM
May 13, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.**

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. in a Stated Meeting held in person and 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 and thanked Elgin, First Presbyterian Church, for hosting the meeting. She gave an overview of how the meeting would be conducted and instructed attendees on speaking and voting on Zoom during the meeting.

VISION AND VALUES STATEMENT

Moderator Lisa Lopez-Meyer recited the Blackhawk Presbytery's Vision and Values Statement (adopted November 2017).

WELCOME FROM HOST PASTOR

The pastor of Elgin, First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Thea Kornelius, welcomed the attendees.

OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Lisa Lopez-Meyer opened with prayer and called the meeting to order at 9:52 am.

The first-time minister members were introduced: Rev. Martha Langford, Second Congregational and Rockford, First.

The following first-time commissioned ruling elders were welcomed: Helen Anderson, Harvard, First; David Badger, Dixon, First; Sara Jensen, Winnebago, First.

The moderator introduced the following corresponding members: Rev. Dr. Cheyanna Losey, serving as the Transitional Pastor for Dixon, First, and a member of the Great Rivers Presbytery, and Pastor Alan Willadsen, a commissioned pastor serving as pastor of Fairbury, First, and also as the presbytery treasurer.

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>
9:00 First opportunity to sign into meeting on Zoom	
9:15 First time commissioner orientation	Eric Heinekamp
9:30 Call to order and opening prayer	Lisa Lopez-Meyer
Welcome and overview of meeting	
Quorum/Minutes/Docket/Corresponding Members	
9:45 Worship	
Music	First Presbyterian
Scripture and sermon	Cheyanna Losey
Communion and offering	Thea Kornelius
10:30 Presentation on Allyship Into Action	April Holder
Questions and discussion	
11:30 Matthew 25 Star word activity	Mary Ellen Shine

Noon	Lunch and break	
12:45	Recognition of Gibson City and Rockford Korean Council	Lisa Lopez-Meyer Ray Lantz
1:00	Committees of Council	
	Finance and Property	Scott Vandermyde
	Mission	Thea Kornelius
	Personnel	Mike Selburg
	Visioning and Assembly Planning	Nicole Melara
1:30	Committees / Commission of Assembly	
	Commission on Ministry	Laurie Walker
	Committee on Preparation for Ministry	Lauren Patrus-Betzel
	Nominating Committee	Eric Corbin
2:00	Reports	
	General Presbyter/ Stated Clerk Report	Eric Heinekamp
	Presbyterian Women	Jill Sunday
	Synod Report	KJ Norris
	Stronghold Camp	Danny Pierce
2:15	Corporation/Trustees	Lisa Lopez-Meyer
	Treasurer report	Alan Willadsen
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 meeting on February 11, 2025 Presbytery Assembly meeting be approved. The motion was **Approved by Unanimous Consent**.

OPENING WORSHIP

Moderator Lisa Lopez-Meyer moved the assembly into a time of worship. Rev. Thea Kornelius opened worship and read scripture from Romans 12: 9-21. Rev. Dr. Cheyanna Losey preached a sermon. She shared work she has done at Dixon, First encouraging the congregation to deepen their connections and relationships by sharing “their stories.” She then shared her own moving story of accepting Jesus. Rev. Thea Kornelius 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 support youth attending the 2025 Youth Triennium.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Ms. April Holder, great-granddaughter of Black Hawk, artist, and advocate for allyship, was introduced by Moderator of the Vision and Assembly Planning Committee Rev. Nicole Melara, Crystal Lake, Ridgefield. Ms. Holder’s presentation was titled “Allyship into Action.”

LAND AND NAME ACKNOWLEDGMENT TASK FORCE (LANA)

Leader Laurie Walker recounted the work done by the task force and the culmination of the work. The committee learned the significance of what a name means in the Sac culture and the hurt that can be caused by the appropriation of a name. LANA recommended to the assembly to declare a time of discernment for the consideration of a new name for our presbytery, and suggested that discussions continue over the summer, culminating with an action item at the September 9, 2025, presbytery meeting at Stronghold. April Holder was invited to attend the September in-person meeting.

MATTHEW 25 EXERCISE

Following the theme of caring relationships, Mary Ellen Shine, Ridgefield, Crystal Lake, and member of the Matthew 25 group, led the assembly in a Star Word exercise. She invited people to gather with their Star Word partners to introduce themselves and think about how they could build connections throughout the year.

The assembly was dismissed for lunch.

RECOGNITION

At the November 2024 presbytery assembly meeting, the following two transfers were approved. The First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City is transferring to the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois (PSEI). The Rockford Korean Church of Rockford is transferring to the Midwest Korean American Presbytery (MKAP). Both transfers have received approval by their receiving presbyteries, by the Synod of Lincoln Trails, and by the Permanent General Assembly Administrative Commission on Mid-Councils.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

There was no written report from the council.

The Presbytery Council **moved** to approve a two-year extension to the covenant and contract between Blackhawk Presbytery and Rev. Heinekamp for a term beginning August 1, 2025, and concluding July 31, 2027 (see attachment). The Presbytery Assembly **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** to approve the motion.

The Presbytery of Blackhawk General Presbyter and Stated Clerk Contract and Covenant with the Rev. Eric Heinekamp

The Presbytery of Blackhawk contracts and covenants with the Rev. Eric Heinekamp to serve as General Presbyter and Stated Clerk for a term beginning August 1, 2025 and concluding July 31, 2027. Rev. Heinekamp will serve as head of staff and this position is designated a full-time, exempt position.

Accountability:

The General Presbyter is accountable to the Presbytery through the Personnel Committee. The Stated Clerk is accountable to the Presbytery.

Position Purpose for General Presbyter:

1. To provide spiritual leadership for the Presbytery.
2. To provide churches with a personal connection to the Presbytery.
3. To provide pastors needed support.
4. To provide staff support for the Commissions and Committees.

Position Responsibilities for the General Presbyter:

Visioning

1. Promote and nurture the Presbytery's vitality and vision of its life and mission.
2. Assist churches in discovering their unique ministry in their local context.
3. Assist pastors in discerning creative possibilities to minister in their call.

Pastoring

1. Provide pastoral care, visitation and counseling for pastors and sessions especially in times of crisis.
2. Pray for the congregations, pastors, and other church professionals and elected Leadership of the Presbytery.
3. Attend to his/her own spiritual life, professional development, and Sabbath rest.

Connections

1. Affirm, encourage, and support the ministry of congregations, sessions, pastors, and other church professionals by:
 - a. Providing counsel, advice, and wisdom.
 - b. Encouraging and supporting networks of pastoral relationships to provide study, prayer and opportunities for sharing.
 - c. Seeking opportunities to enjoy fellowship with others.
 - d. Encourage and promote communication within the Presbytery and between the Presbytery staff, commissions, committees and other councils.
 - e. Promote the implementation of the church's commitment to inclusiveness, diversity and unity.
 - f. Work collegially with the Stated Clerk (if other than self) and the Associate Stated Clerk of the Presbytery.
 - g. Coordinate with the broader ministries of the PC(USA) such as Presbyterian Disaster Assistance when a disaster occurs in the Presbytery.
 - h. Provide for representation of the Presbytery in ecumenical relations.

Resourcing

1. Provide for orientation and support of pastors new to the Presbytery.
2. Provide for Interim/transitional pastors support and integration into the Presbytery.
3. Work with COM regarding congregations in pastoral transition, providing names of qualified potential Interim/transitional pastors.
4. Work with COM, as requested, in interventions in congregations.
5. Provide staff support for Presbytery Council, Commissions, and Committees.
6. Provide liaison support to the Permanent Judicial Commission.
7. Interpret the decisions, policies, and mission of the Presbytery to congregations, councils, and the general public.
8. Work within the structures of the Presbytery to interpret the mission and programs of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to the Presbytery.
9. Function as head of staff and coordinate the work of Presbytery staff to promote and nurture the Presbytery's vision of its life and mission in coordination with the Personnel Committee.

Position Purpose for the Stated Clerk:

1. To fulfill the functions of Stated Clerk as set forth in the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and other specific responsibilities as assigned by the Presbytery of Blackhawk.
2. The Stated Clerk will per G-9.0203a
 - a. record the transactions of the [presbytery],

- b. keep its rolls of membership and attendance,
 - c. preserve its records carefully, and
 - d. furnish extracts from them when required by another governing body of the church.
 - i. Such extractions, verified by the clerk, shall be evidence in any governing body of the church.
3. The Stated Clerk is an officer of the Presbytery elected by the Presbytery.

Position Responsibilities for Stated Clerk:

1. Record the transactions of the council, keep its rolls of membership and attendance, maintain any required registers, preserve its records carefully, and furnish extracts from them when required by another council of the church. (G-3.0104)
2. Forward to the Presbytery, through the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, any recommendations from sessions to enroll members as inquirers.
3. Read to the Presbytery the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission in a trial and enter the full decision upon the minutes of the Presbytery.
4. Preserve the record of cases decided by the Permanent Judicial Commission for at least two years.
5. Determine in consultation with the Presbytery Moderator the location of stated meetings.
6. Prepare the docket for stated meetings in consultation with the Presbytery Assembly Planning Committee.
7. Make the docket available to Presbytery members ten days prior to each stated meeting.
8. Serve as Parliamentarian at all Presbytery (added: Assembly) meetings (added: in the absence of the Parliamentarian.)
9. Serve as the registered agent of the corporation "The Presbytery of Blackhawk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)."
10. Prepare and keep current an Administrative Manual for the Presbytery, which shall include all Presbytery policies and guidelines and all commission and committee policies and guidelines.
11. Coordinate the Network and Partnership Center at each Presbytery Assembly meeting by accepting requests for exhibit space from authorized entities, referring requests from non-eligible entities to the Council, and transmitting space and table needs to the host church.
12. Receive and transmit to the Presbytery Assembly Planning Committee requests to take responsibility for worship at a particular Presbytery Assembly meeting and coordinate with the host church.
13. Keep an accurate roll of Ministers of Word and Sacrament/Teaching Elders at all meetings of the Presbytery.
14. Keep a permanent record of all proceedings and actions.
15. Prepare and forward to the Synod and the General Assembly all necessary reportings.
16. Report to the Presbytery matters brought to the attention of the Stated Clerk's office

- by the Synod and the General Assembly.
17. Keep a current list of all commissions and committees and their members.
 18. Keep a roll of all active Ruling Elders of member churches.
 19. Keep a roll of all Ministers of Word and Sacrament/Teaching Elders.
 20. Prepare and present, at the February stated presbytery assembly meeting, a necrology report of Ruling Elders who have died the previous year.
 21. Make available by the February stated meeting to the sessions and ministers a directory of the ministers and Clerks of Sessions of the congregations of the Presbytery as well as lists of the membership of commissions and committees, Presbytery officers, staff, and candidates under the care of the Presbytery.
 22. Provide for the training for new Clerks of Session.
 23. Oversee the annual review of records of individual congregations and report results to the Presbytery.
 24. Accept requests from groups to serve communion during worship in special gatherings such as conferences, retreats, and camps within the bounds of the Presbytery. Forward these requests to the Council for approval.
 25. Convene a sexual harassment response team if required.
 26. Appoint the recording clerk for Presbytery Assembly meetings on an annual basis.
 27. Provide staff support to the Nominating Committee and Commission on Ministry.
 28. Respond to inquiries from ministers and congregations regarding polity issues.
 29. Other:
 - a. Serve as secretary of the Presbytery Council.
 - b. Direct the work of the Associate Stated Clerk
 - c. Participate in other aspects of Blackhawk Presbytery work as requested by the general presbyter.

Annual Compensation, Vacation, and Study Leave

Effective Salary (to be annually reviewed):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| ● Cash Salary (12-month equivalent) | \$57,657 |
| ● Housing Allowance | \$40,000 |
| ● Total annual effective salary | \$97,657 |

SECA offset (7.65% of effective salary)	\$7,471
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Full Membership in the Board of Pension Covenant Plan

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| ● Medical for General Presbyter and spouse Pension | \$28,074 |
| ● Pension (8.5% of effective salary) | \$8,301 |
| ● Death and Disability (1.0% of effective salary) | \$977 |
| ● Temporary Disability (.5% of effective salary) | \$488 |
| ● Total Board of Pensions Dues | \$37,840 |

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|----------------|--|
| ● Vacation: | Four weeks |
| ● Study Leave: | Two Weeks (may be accumulated up to three years) |

Annual Reimbursable Expenses (by voucher)

- | | |
|--|----------|
| Professional Expenses: | \$10,000 |
| ● Continuing Education: may be accumulated up to three years | \$1,500 |

- Coaching \$1,500
- Total Annual Budgeted Amount \$155,968

Termination of Agreement:

This covenant will end in 2 years unless it is renewed. Either the General Presbyter and Stated Clerk or the Presbytery may terminate this agreement with 90 days' notice. In either case, the effective salary and Board of Pensions coverage shall continue during the 90-day notification period and shall continue for a period of 90 days after the end of the notification period.

A full overview of this position, benefits, and process for review are described in the Blackhawk Presbytery Personnel Manual

Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg, Moderator of Personnel Committee Date: _____

Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyer, Moderator of Blackhawk Presbytery Date: _____

Rev. Eric Heinekamp Date: _____

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

The Finance and Property Committee had no written report. Moderator Scott Vandermyde reported that the committee is grateful to have a new treasurer.

MISSION

Attention was called to the committee's written report, and Moderator Thea Kornelius reminded the assembly that grant money to support mission projects is still available.

PERSONNEL

Attention was called to the committee's written report. Moderator Mike Selberg thanked Eric Heinekamp for his five years as the Transformation General Presbytery and Stated Clerk and for continuing on as the General Presbyter and Stated Clerk. He thanked, in addition, the other new staff members, David Spaulding, the Associate Stated Clerk; Alan Willadsen, Treasurer; and Jeannette Sheehan, Office Administrator.

COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES OF ASSEMBLY

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

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

1. The COM **moved** that the Presbytery of Blackhawk approve and implement a revised Family Leave Policy that provides for 12 weeks of paid family medical leave. Coming from the committee, no second was needed; it was **VOTED** to approve the policy.

FAMILY LEAVE POLICY for Blackhawk Presbytery

I. Theological Grounding

God created us to be in relationship with one another, to care for one another, and to participate in families. We are required to honor our father and mother, and to care for our children and kin. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) therefore requires that provision be made when a person employed by the church needs to be absent from work in order to care for both self and family.

Section G-2.0804 of the Book of Order states that all terms of call “shall include provision for a minimum of twelve weeks paid family medical leave and participation in the benefits plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including both pension and medical coverage.”

It is anticipated that individual churches and employers will respond to the need for family leave responsibly and generously. It is equally anticipated that qualifying individuals will use this policy only when needed and will not abuse the generosity of the church.

II. Individuals Covered by this Policy

Section G-2.0804, as implemented in Blackhawk Presbytery, applies to the following teaching elder members of the Presbytery and commissioned ruling elders:

- Teaching elders and commissioned ruling elders installed as pastors, co-pastors, and associate pastors, whether for an indefinite period or for a designated term in a congregational setting meeting Board of Pensions' minimum requirements for participation;
- Teaching elders and commissioned ruling elders serving in temporary pastoral relationships (such as transitional, interim pastors, interim associate pastors, and stated supplies) in a congregational setting meeting Board of Pensions minimum requirements for participation; and
- All full-time staff, called or hired, serving a council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in a position meeting Board of Pensions' minimum requirements for participation.

III. Guidelines

The 223rd General Assembly (2022) defined family leave as “including but not limited to the following:

- Leave to accommodate the birth, foster placement, or adoption of a child;
- Leave to provide care to an ill or disabled family member;
- Leave to heal following a loss or tragic event.” (2022, PC-Biz HSB 06)

To that end, the Presbytery of Blackhawk provides:

A. Family Leave

When a qualifying individual needs to take extended leave due to his or her own self-care needs or the needs of a family member, the Session or employing council shall be consulted as soon as possible. Situations that may fall under this heading include, but are not limited to, extended hospitalization or rehabilitation, the need to place a family member in longterm care, and the need to take care of family matters in the event of death, including self-care for bereavement or other trauma. Family leave shall be up to twelve weeks in length, during which time the qualifying individual shall receive full effective salary and full pension and medical dues. If additional leave is required, the qualifying individual shall negotiate for such leave with the

Session or employing council with the concurrence of the Commission on Ministry. A qualifying individual may lengthen the period of family leave at his or her discretion by using accrued vacation.

B. Parental Leave

When a qualifying individual will become a parent through the birth, fostering or adoption of a child, the Session or employing council shall be consulted as soon as possible. Parental leave should ordinarily begin when the qualifying individual can no longer perform his or her duties or when the child is placed or will soon be placed in the qualifying individual's hands. Parental leave may be up to twelve weeks in length, during which the qualifying individual shall receive full effective salary and full pension and medical dues. A qualifying individual may lengthen the period of parental leave at his or her discretion by using accrued vacation.

C. Additional Considerations

These guidelines should be considered in negotiating appropriate family leave:

1. As standard Board of Pensions benefits include coverage for disability, qualifying individuals who may be experiencing some form of disability shall contact the Board of Pensions and the Commission on Ministry for direction.
2. When it is medically necessary for the individual or a family member, qualifying individuals may take family leave intermittently, taking leave in separate blocks of time for a single qualifying reason, or serve on a reduced leave schedule during the duration of the qualifying reason.
3. Study leave shall not be used in lieu of family leave.
4. "Re-entry" may be scheduled on a full-time or part-time basis as agreed upon by the qualifying individual and session or employing council, with medical approval as needed.
5. If a qualifying individual initiates dissolution within one year following family leave, any unused vacation time shall be credited against the leave.
6. Should a qualifying individual or a qualifying individual's spouse experience a miscarriage or still birth, he or she shall be given the parental leave he or she would have received had the pregnancy been carried to term with no complications.
7. The time periods listed are intended to be an annual benefit, not to be accrued.

D. Session or Employing Council Responsibilities during the Qualifying Individual's Leave

The Session or employing council is responsible for the ongoing work during the qualifying individual's leave. The Session or employing council should be ready to arrange and pay for pulpit supply, coverage for hospital and emergency visitation and whatever teaching, programming and other responsibilities for which the qualifying individual was responsible. Session moderators are appointed by the Presbytery, with payment from the church.

IV. Cost Considerations

Costs likely to be incurred during these leaves are for filling the pulpit and moderating the session. Costs for pastoral care and administrative work are likely to be small. Suggestions for filling the costs are:

1. An escrow account established at the time of call.
2. An annual "set-aside" amount following initial call until an adequate balance is reached.
3. Monthly "set-aside" amount following initial call until an adequate balance is reached.
4. Non-reimbursed worship leadership from lay leaders within the congregation.

Continuation of the Commission on Ministry Report

2. It was **moved** to approve forming an Administrative Commission (AC) for the purpose of working with the 7 remaining members of the United Presbyterian Church of Somonauk to determine the congregation's future and the possible transfer of the title of the church to Blackhawk Presbytery as per the attached Committee on Ministry Proposal for an Administrative Commission for the United Presbyterian Church of Somonauk. The motion was seconded, and it was **VOTED** to approve forming the commission.

COM request for Administrative Commission for United Presbyterian Church of Somonauk May 13, 2025

The congregation of the United Presbyterian Church of Somonauk is at a crossroads for its future. The congregation of 7 is struggling financially and looking for direction and options for their future. On May 4, 2025, the congregation voted to request that the Presbytery form an Administrative Commission to work with the congregation. To support this request, the Commission on Ministry is asking the Presbytery Assembly to establish an Administrative Commission to take all action needed to work with the session and congregation of the United Presbyterian Church of Somonauk to determine the congregation's future and the possible transfer of the title of the church property to Blackhawk Presbytery.

The work of the Administrative Commission will include the following:

- Assisting in the assessment of the church and property,
- Assisting in the assessment of possible options for selling the property
- Validating the ecclesiastical and corporate bylaws of the church and electing officers
- If it is deemed necessary, transfer the property of the church to the Presbytery.
 - This would include hiring an attorney to facilitate a quit claim deed transfer.
 - The Presbytery would manage the property until it is sold
 - The Administrative Commission would facilitate the sale of the property
 - The Administrative Commission would request approval of any possible property sale to the Trustees of Blackhawk Presbytery
- Working with the session to determine the long-term viability of the congregation.
- If it is deemed necessary by the session and Administrative Commission, work to dissolve the congregation.
- If the congregation is to be dissolved, the Administrative Commission will:
 - Assist in and participate in a closing worship service,
 - Take possession of all records and minutes,
 - Hold the membership of the congregation and assisting in their transfer to another Christian congregation for a period up to one year,
 - Account for all assets, ensuring the financial matters of the congregation are closed in order,
 - Assist the session in dispensing other assets to entities desired by the congregation,
 - when all matters are concluded, dissolving the corporation.
- Reporting the progress of the Administrative Commission at each Presbytery meeting until the Commission has completed their work.
- Upon a final report to the Presbytery Assembly request to be dissolved as a commission.

The Administrative Commission will consist of 5 people, balanced between Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elders. Members will be appointed by the moderator of the presbytery in consultation with the Stated Clerk.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY COM

New Calls

1. **Approved** terms of call, if the way be clear, for Martha Langford (MWS) to serve Rockford 2nd/1st as their next installed pastor, effective April 1, 2025. She is coming from Texas but used to serve in the Chicago Presbytery.

Cash Salary:	\$ 37,400
Housing Allowance:	\$ 33,000
Effective Salary:	\$ 70,400
SECA	\$ 5,386
Deferred Compensation:	\$ 4,800
Medical, pension, disability:	\$ 18,304
Professional expenses:	\$ 4,000 (reimbursable)
Study Leave time of 2 weeks, Vacation time of 4 weeks	

2. **Approved** terms of call, if the way be clear, for Katie Ricks (MWS) to serve Sterling First as their next installed pastor, effective September 1, 2025.

Cash Salary:	\$ 49,000
Housing Allowance:	\$ 20,000
Effective Salary:	\$ 69,000
SECA:	\$ 5,279
Dental:	\$ 1,225
Medical, pension, disability:	\$ 26,899
Medical Reimbursement:	\$ 4,140
Dental and Vision	\$ 1,225
Study Leave:	\$ 1,500 (reimbursable)
Professional expenses:	\$ 3,000 (reimbursable)
Study Leave time of 2 weeks, Vacation time of 5 weeks	
Moving Costs:	\$8,000 (reimbursable)

New Commissions/Covenants

3. **Approved** updating Laurie Walker's past commission to Mendota First to the newly yoked covenant with Mendota First and Earlville United effective 3/3/25 – 3/3/26.

Cash Salary:	\$ 200 per Sunday, \$75 per Session meeting
Mileage:	\$.70 per mile (current IRS rate)

4. **Approved** the new covenant between Geneva, Fox Valley, and temporary supply Pastor Clinton Roberts (MWS) effective 6/21/25 to 9/27/25.

Cash Salary:	\$ 15,000 for contract term/ 15 hrs./wk.
SECA Supplement:	\$ 1,148
Business Expense:	\$ 500

Dissolution of Call

5. **Approved** David Terrinoni's dissolution of call on May 1, 2025, from Crow Meadow Church in LaRose and David's official retirement on July 1, 2025.

6. **Approved** dissolving of the pastoral relationship between First Presbyterian Church of Kewanee and Elmira United Presbyterian Church and Art Blegen, effective April 21, 2025. Art

and Annabell Blegen have accepted a joint call from Le Claire First Presbyterian, LeClaire, Iowa.

Renewal of Covenants and Contracts:

7. **Approved** the renewed covenant between Karen Williams and Joliet Westminster, effective 1/1/25 –12/31/25.

Cash Salary:	\$ 25,092
Housing:	\$ 11,700
Effective Salary:	\$ 36,792
SECA:	\$ 2,815
Healthcare Reimb:	\$ 2,207
Car Allowance:	\$ 1,500
Prof. Expense:	\$ 2,388
Continuing Ed:	\$ 1,433

8. **Approved** the renewed covenant between David Terrinoni and LaRose Crow Meadow, effective for one month only, April 1-30, 2025.

Cash Salary:	\$500
Housing:	\$145
Prof. Expense:	as needed

9. **Approved** the renewed covenant between Jack Berghorst and Waterman effective 3/1/25 to 2/28/26.

Cash Salary:	\$ 30/hour, 10 hours per week
Automobile:	\$.67/mile
Vacation:	1 Sunday/month

10. **Approved** the renewed covenant between Mike Engel and Elwood Community from 05/01/25 –11/30/2025.

Cash Salary:	\$1,916.66/month
Housing:	\$1,416.67/month
Effective Salary:	\$ 40,000
SECA:	\$ 2,947
Health Ins:	\$ 3,600
Health Reimb:	\$ 2,311
Auto Exp:	\$200/month
Continuing Ed:	\$500
Vacation:	2 weeks

Approved Moderators

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

12. **Approved** David Spaulding (MSW) to moderate the February 16, 2025, congregational meeting at Fulton.

13. **Approved** David Spaulding (MSW) to serve as the moderator and transitions representative for Utica, Waltham.

14. **Approved** Laurie Walker (CP) to serve as moderator for Paw Paw.

15. **Approved** Eric Heinekamp (MSW) to serve as moderator for Rochelle First.

16. **Approved** Canessa Lagan to serve as the moderator and transitions representative for Kewanee First and Elmira United.

Ministry Discernment Profiles (MDPs)

17. **Approved** MDP for Crystal Lake, Crystal Lake – Ridgefield.
18. **Approved** MDP for Mendota, First, and Earlville, United.
19. **Approved** MDP for Utica, Waltham.

Miscellaneous

20. **Approved** Shannon Prairie Dell's request for exception to the length of terms clause for Elders and Deacons, as they do not have people to fill expiring terms.
21. **Approved** the request from Crow Meadow Church in La Rose to the length of terms clause for Elders Delbert Shirley and Norma North, as they were reelected to another term as active elders.
22. **Supported** a request from Rebecca White Newgren for \$1,200 to attend the Discerning Missional Leadership Conference in San Diego in June, a requirement of 1001 Worshipping Communities when applying for grant funding. Her request will go to the COM New Communities Committee and to the Presbytery Council for funding approval from the Resurrection Fund.

Transfers

None

OTHER INFORMATION

- Joel Stevenor (MSW) is retiring from Utica-Waltham effective June 1, 2025.
- Doug Forsberg (MSW) at Rochelle First has accepted a call from Media Presbyterian Church, Media, Pennsylvania, effective June 1, 2025.
- Delmer C. "Pastor Del" Keilman, 81, of Earlville, passed away at home surrounded by his loving family on April 1, 2025. Pastor Del served as a commissioned pastor at Earlville United for 23 years.
- David Jones is stepping down as a COM liaison for Area 2. We are in deep gratitude for his many years of faithful service in our presbytery.
- Liaisons are still needed for Areas 2, 8, and 9.
- Dale Tolley will take over as Liaison Area 12 (Watseka & St. Anne)
- Revised the Covenant for Temporary Supply Pastors form- available on the presbytery website.
- Church Exit Interviews were completed with Kewanee First and Elmira United and Geneva Fox Valley.
- The pastor's Exit Interview was completed with Art Blegen.
- Statistical updates on congregations and pastors were reviewed.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

The CPM provided a written report, and CPM Moderator Lauren Patrus-Betzel had no additional comments.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

There was no written report.

Moderator Eric Corbin made a **motion** to accept the following people to serve on the Commission on Preparation for Ministry.

Rev. Molly Morris (now Molly Fisherkeller), MWS pastor at Westminster Presbyterian in DeKalb, class of 2027, first term

Ruling Elder Debi Trotter, Ruling Elder at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City, class of 2027, first term.

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

REPORTS

GENERAL PRESBYTER REPORT

Eric Heinekamp reminded the assembly of the importance of the building connections and encouraged folks to participate in the many invitations to do that such as the weekly Cares and Shares Zoom gatherings for pastors, the open invitation for a meal or coffee with an individual pastor, and the monthly Coffee in Your Corner events for anyone. Also, he is available to fill the pulpit for pastors on vacation or congregations without a regular pastor. No one needs to feel isolated or disconnected, as this work is for us to do together.

The Six for Six Awards were given out to 17 of the 62 congregations in the Blackhawk Presbytery. This award is given to those congregations who pay their assessed per capita in full, make and fulfill a mission pledge to Blackhawk Presbytery, promote and receive the four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA): One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peace and Global Witness Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering.

STATED CLERK REPORT

Eric Heinekamp reported that 12 of the proposed amendments to the Book of Order have been voted on by 117 of the 166 presbyteries. All the amendments have received enough votes to pass with the exception of Amendment 24-C. Blackhawk Presbytery approved all the amendments except 24-C.

As mentioned previously, the transfers of Gibson City to the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois and Rockford Korean to the Midwest Korean American Presbytery were made official on April 25, 2025.

Online training has taken place for approximately 20 ruling elders to administer the Lord's supper in the absence of a Minister of Word and Sacrament or a Commissioned Pastor. The next step is for those who have been trained to be interviewed by representatives of the COM. An in-person training will follow.

2025 minister identification cards have been sent out.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Jill Sunday brought attention to the written report online. She reported that she is continuing to work on collecting Church World Service Kits or financial donations. There was a show of hands for which churches are planning to participate. The Synod of Lincoln Trails Gathering will be on July 11-12, 2025, at Danville First Presbyterian Church. Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter is the guest speaker and the author of this year's Horizons Bible Study, "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ."

SYNOD REPORT

There was no written report. Synod Commissioner, Rev. KJ Norris, shared four highlights from the Synod of Lincoln Trails conference on Imagination. First, it is important in our churches to: take time to breathe and literally take the time to stand during meetings, recognize neurodivergent thinkers, and connect with artists to revitalize spaces. Second, the synod continues to offer \$1500 grants. Third, insurance has been an issue for many churches due to trust and decline in membership and liability, aging building structures, and insurance companies are being downgraded. The Synod is looking to work on this issue to help churches.

Fourth, the midwestcallfinder.org is a good place to post positions for churches hiring, and it promotes coming to serve a church located in the Midwest region of the USA.

STRONGHOLD REPORT

Executive director of Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center, Danny Pierce, reported that they continue to offer retreats for pastors with only a cleaning fee charge. There is an open seat on the board. They are raising money to restore the labyrinth. This summer will be the 62nd Summer Camp. Ryan Anderson, program director, reported there are openings for a lifeguard and arts and crafts director. Pastors are needed June 2-9 to train and teach the camp counselors on the Biblical stories they will be sharing with campers.

TRIENNIAL REPORT

Rev. Steve Bowie, Rockford, Third, reported the next Triennial is called "As If We Were Dreaming" and will be held July 28-31 in Louisville, Kentucky. Youth in grades 9-age 25 can still register. There is an opportunity for a full scholarship from Morris Presbyterian Church.

CORPORATION/TRUSTEES

There was no written report. Eric Heinekamp gave an update that the administrative commission with Wenona Presbyterian Church will resume. The building that was the First Presbyterian Church of Kannakee has been appraised and is possibly being sold.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Allan Williadsen gave an update on the budget, and the treasurer's report was received by **Unanimous Consent**.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

An Amazon gift card was given out to a person whose name was drawn from all those who returned an evaluation for the last presbytery meeting.

Moderator Lopez-Meyers called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the day. A motion was made, seconded, and **VOTED** to adjourn the meeting of the day. She closed the meeting with prayer at 2:05 pm.

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery Assembly will be Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 9:30 am at Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center, Oregon, IL. This meeting will be in person only.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Eric Heinekamp
Recording Clerk

Dorene A. Tieche
Stated Clerk