

1PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK
ASSEMBLY MEETING VIA ZOOM
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026
5:30pm – 8:30pm
DOCKET

This is a joint meeting of the Ecclesial body, the Presbytery of Blackhawk and the Corporate body, the Presbytery of Blackhawk, Inc.

| | <u>Item</u> | <u>Page</u> | <u>Leader</u> |
|------|---|-------------|----------------------|
| 5:15 | First opportunity to sign into meeting | | |
| 5:30 | Call to order and opening prayer | | Mike Engle |
| | Quorum/Minutes/Docket/Corresponding Members | 1 | |
| 5:45 | Worship | | |
| | Scripture and sermon | | Alan Willadsen |
| | Communion | | Jan Chandler |
| | Offering | | Mike Engle |
| 6:15 | Learning Opportunity | 16 | |
| | Who are we? | | Eric Heinekamp |
| 7:00 | Stated Clerk Action | 22 | |
| | Changes to Ecclesiastical Administration Manual | | Eric Heinekamp |
| 7:20 | Short break | | |
| 7:30 | Council | 42 | Lisa Lopez-Meyer |
| | Committees of Council | | |
| | Finance and Property | 43 | Scott Vandermyde |
| | Mission | 44 | Thea Kornelius |
| | Personnel | | Clinton Roberts |
| | Visioning | 46 | Lisa Lopez-Meyer |
| 8:00 | Committees / Commission of Assembly | | |
| | Commission on Ministry | 47 | Laurie Walker |
| | Committee on Preparation for Ministry | 57 | Lauren Patrus Betzel |
| | Nominating Committee | 58 | Jim McCrea |
| 8:15 | Reports | | |
| | General Presbyter/Stated Clerk | 59 | Eric Heinekamp |
| | Synod Report | | KJ Wester |
| | Stronghold Update | | Danny Pierce |
| 8:25 | Corporation/Trustees | | Mike Engle |
| | Treasurer report | 62 | Alan Willadsen |
| 8:30 | New and unfinished business | | |
| 8:30 | Adjourn with prayer | | Mike Engle |

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery Assembly will be May 19, 2026, as an in-person only meeting at Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center. There will not be a Zoom option. The meeting will be at 9:30 am.

**PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES
IN-PERSON MEETING AND VIA ZOOM
NOVEMBER 18, 2025**

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 9:35 A.M. in a Stated Meeting held in person at First Presbyterian Church of Dupage in Bolingbrook, 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 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.

WELCOME FROM THE HOST PASTOR

Rev. KJ Wester, the host church's pastor, welcomed the attendees.

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

Moderator Lisa Lopez-Meyer called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and opened with prayer.

The moderator introduced and seated the following corresponding members. Pastor Alan Willadsen serves as the Commissioned Pastor at First Presbyterian, Fairbury. He is a member of the Great Rivers Presbytery and Rev. Dr. Sara Dingham, the Synod Executive for the Synod of Lincoln Trails, was welcomed via Zoom. Sara is a minister member of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley.

First-time minister member, Rev. Nikelle Johnson, Dixon, First was recognized and welcomed.

First time commissioner, Karen Pillion, Utica, Waltham was welcomed.

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 | Gathering with coffee | |
| 9:10 | 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 | |
| | Nominating Committee Part 1 | Eric Corbin |
| 9:45 | Worship | |
| | Scripture and sermon | Lisa Lopez-Meyer |
| | Installation of New Moderator | Lisa Lopez-Meyer |
| | Commissioning of Presbytery Leaders | Mike Engle |
| | Communion and Offering | |
| 10:45 | Break | |

| | | |
|-------|---|----------------------|
| 11:00 | Learning Opportunity – Intentional Authentic Evangelism | |
| Noon | Lunch | |
| 1:00 | Council Actions | Ray Lantz |
| | LANA Report | |
| | Committees of Council | |
| | Personnel | Mike Selburg |
| | Finance and Property | Scott Vandermyde |
| | Mission | Thea Kornelius |
| | Visioning and Assembly Planning | Lisa Lopez-Meyer |
| 1:45 | Committees / Commission of Assembly | |
| | Commission on Ministry | Laurie Walker |
| | Committee on Preparation for Ministry | Lauren Patrus-Betzel |
| | Nominating Committee Part 2 | Eric Corbin |
| 2:00 | Reports | |
| | General Presbyter/Stated Clerk | Eric Heinekamp |
| | Presbyterian Women ? | |
| | Synod Report | KJ Wester? |
| | Stronghold Camp ? | |
| 2:15 | Corporation/Trustees | Lisa Lopez-Meyer |
| | Trustees | |
| | Treasurer report | Alan Willadsen |
| 2:25 | New and unfinished business | |
| 2:30 | Adjourn with prayer | Mike Engle |

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery Assembly will be Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 5:30pm. This evening meeting will be on the Zoom platform only.

The moderator moved that if there were no objections, the corresponding members be seated, the docket be approved, and the minutes of the September 18, 2025, Regular Assembly meeting be approved. The motion was **Approved by Unanimous Consent.**

NOMINATING

Moderator Rev. Eric Corbin **moved** to approve the following nominations in bold print. Coming from the committee, no second is needed, and it was **Voted** to accept the slate of candidates.

Presbytery Assembly Officers

2026 Moderator
Mike Engel- CP

Committee on Preparation for Ministry
2028- Rev. Nikelle Johnson- MWS
2028- Rev. Eric Corbin-MWS

2026 Vice Moderator
Rev. Lauren Patrus-Betzel- MWS

Permanent Judicial Commission
2031- Rev. Deb Roberts- MWS

2026 Moderator of Council
Lisa Lopez-Meyer- MWS

Presbytery Council

Synod Commissioner

2027- Jan Chandler- MWS

2027- Position Open- RE
 2028- Position Open- MWS
 2028- Position Open- RE

2028- Rev. John Walker- MWS

2028- Ray Lantz- RE

Nominating Committee

2028- Rev. Bo Mircea- MSW
2028- Phil Thompson- RE

Vision and Assembly Planning

2027- Position Open- MWS
 2027- Position Open- RE
2028- Rev. Lauren Patrus-Betzel- MWS
 2028- Position Open- RE

Mission Committee

2026- Position Open- RE
2028- Rev. Rothea Kornelius- MSW
 2028- Position Open- RE
 2026- Position Open- CM

Personnel Committee

2028- Rev. Clinton Roberts- MSW

Finance and Property Committee

2028- Position Open- MSW

Commission on Ministry

2026- Position Open- MSW
 2026- Position Open- RE
2028- Rev. Richard (Skip) Shaffer- MSW
2028- Rev. Katie Ricks- MSW
 2028- Position Open- MSW
 2028- Position Open- RE (3)

OPENING WORSHIP

Moderator Lopez-Meyer moved the assembly into a time of worship. The service opened with music led by Romellus Wilson. Rev. Clinton Roberts led the Call to Worship, Prayers of Confession, Declaration of Forgiveness, and the Passing of the Peace. Rev. Martha Langford read scripture from John 1: 35-50 and Matthew 28: 16-20. Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyer preached a sermon titled "Come and See."

INSTALLATION OF MODERATOR

Moderator Lisa Lopez-Meyer thanked those who were commissioned and served the Presbytery in the past year.

She installed Pastor Mike Engle, Elwood Community, as the Moderator of the Blackhawk Presbytery and presented him with the gavel, the two crosses, and the moderator stole. He assumed the moderator role and thanked Lisa for her service as the Moderator of the

Blackhawk Presbytery. He installed the Vice-Moderator, Moderators of the Commissions and Committees, and the Treasurer.

Alan Willadsen gave the prayer for the offering, and it was taken via cash, check to the presbytery office, or online through the website, and will be used to support the Shared Mission Giving.

Rev. KJ Wester led the assembly in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY- The Seven Marks of Vital Congregations

Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyers led the assembly in the study of Intentional Authentic Evangelism from “8 Habits of Evangelism.” The videos used today are on the 8Habits.org website. The habit of Radical Welcome was the focus today.

The assembly was dismissed for lunch.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

Moderator Mike Engle called Moderator of Council, Ray Lantz to give the Council actions. He invited Eric Heinekamp and then Laurie Walker to present motions to the assembly.

Eric Heinekamp personally **moved** that the Blackhawk Presbytery authorize allocating \$10,000 of additional funding to the Mission Committee to be used for food insecurity grants in the presbytery. The funds will come from the Blackhawk Foundation Account. The motion was seconded and **VOTED** to approve.

Laurie Walker, representing the Land and Name Acknowledgement (LANA) Team, shared the final four proposed names selected renaming the presbytery: Illinois Heartland Presbytery, Illinois Prairie Presbytery, Prairie Land Presbytery, and Stronghold Presbytery.

It was **moved** from the Council to disqualify the name “Stronghold Presbytery” from consideration. Coming from the council, no second is needed, and following a discussion it was **Voted** to approve not including the name “Stronghold Presbytery: in the choices for the final voting.

It was **moved** to postpone voting on the name change of the Blackhawk Presbytery today for additional deliberation by a new subgroup (consisting of three LANA team members and three additional people), with the task of generating three additional proposed names, along with the final three names still in consideration. The motion was seconded, and following discussion it was **Voted** to not approve the motion to postpone the vote on the name change.

The assembly proceeded with voting on the new name for the Blackhawk Presbytery from the following names: *Illinois Heartland Presbytery, Illinois Prairie Presbytery, and Prairie Lands Presbytery*. There were two rounds of voting. The first round of voting determined the top two vote getters: *Illinois Heartland Presbytery and Illinois Prairie Presbytery*. For the second round, assembly members voted from those top two choices, and the new name **APPROVED** by the assembly of voting members was *Illinois Prairie Presbytery*.

The next steps for the approved name change to *Illinois Prairie Presbytery* is to first submit the request to the Synod of Lincoln Trails for a vote by February 13, 2026. If approved, the motion then goes to the General Assembly Administrative Commission for Mid Councils for a vote on March 13, 2026. If approved, the General Assembly meets the last week of June, where the final vote for the name change will be acted on. Until these steps are acted on the name of the presbytery remains Blackhawk Presbytery.

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

MISSION

The Mission Committee did not have a written report. Committee moderator Rev. Thea Kornelius reminded the assembly to see Claire Brennecka or Laurie Walker if you are interested in being considered for the Kenya trip. There is \$1250 left in the general 2025 mission budget. \$10,000 more dollars will be allocated to help fund those churches who have food pantries or distribute meals to those in need. The form is on the website under resources.

VISIONING AND ASSEMBLY PLANNING

Committee moderator Lisa Lopez-Meyer highlighted several items from the committee's written report. The group is being split into two separate groups: one for visioning and another for assembly planning.

COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES OF ASSEMBLY

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Commission moderator Pastor Laurie Walker called attention to the committee's written report.

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY ACTION

The COM **moved** for the approval of the 2026 minimum terms of call for Ministers of Word and Sacrament, which includes a 2% increase. Coming from the committee, no second was needed; it was **VOTED** to approve.

The COM **moved** to approve the new minimum terms of call policy that was presented at the September 2025 presbytery meeting. Coming from the committee, no second was needed; it was **VOTED** to approve.

The COM **moved** to approve an Administrative Commission for the installation of Rev. Karen Katie Ricks, Sterling, First on November 23 at 2:30 pm. Coming from the committee, no second was needed; it was **VOTED** to approve.

Laurie Walker welcomed Rev. Nikelle Johnson, at her first presbytery meeting, and requested prayers for the churches in our presbytery that are in transition.

REPORTING ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY COM:

New Calls

1. **Approved** terms of call, if the way be clear, for Nikelle Johnson to serve Dixon, First as their next installed pastor, effective September, 2025. She is coming from Flint, Michigan and will be ordained in her home church before being installed at Dixon.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Effective Salary | \$ 58,000 |
| SECA | \$ 4,437 |
| Reimbursable Expenses | \$ 12,980 |
| Medical Coverage | \$ 9,280 |
| Pension, Death, & Disability | \$ 5,800 |
| Automobile Expense | \$ 1,500 |
| Business/Professional | \$ 1,500 |
| Continuing Education | \$ 1,500 |
| Medical Reimbursement | \$ 3,480 |
| Moving Expenses (in 2025) | \$ 5,000 |
| Study Leave time of 2 weeks, Vacation time of 4 weeks | |

New Commissions/Covenants*

*Note: Covenants with ordained pastors may now be for as long as 3 years just the same as for commissioned pastors.

2. **Approved** temporary pastor covenant between Dekalb, Westminster and Deb & Clinton Roberts (MWS couple) effective October 1, 2025 – January 15, 2026.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Part-time- | 15 hours/week |
| Cash Salary/ Total Effective Salary | \$ 3,000.00/month |
| Professional Expenses: | \$ 350.00 |

Renewal of Covenants and Contracts

3. **Approved** renewed covenant between Winnebago, Middle Creek and Phil Thompson (CP) effective December 1, 2025 – November 30, 2026.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Part-time- | 20 hours/week |
| Cash Salary/ Total Effective Salary | \$20,564.40/year |
| SECA Supplement | \$ 1, 573.17 |
| Health Care Reimbursement | \$ 1,233.86 |
| Automobile Expenses | \$ 2,400.00 |
| Professional Expenses | \$ 1,250.00 |
| Continuing Education | \$ 750.00 |

4. **Approved** renewed covenant between Princeton, First and Colleen Lawrence (CP) effective July 1, 2025 – January 15, 2026.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Part-time- | 20 hours/week |
| Cash Salary | \$10,000.00/year |
| Housing | \$12,000.00 |
| Effective Salary | \$22,000.00 |
| SECA Supplement | \$ 1,683.00 |
| Health Care Reimbursement | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Additional Compensation/Allowance | \$ 2,200.00 |

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Automobile Expenses | \$ 2,700.00 |
| Continuing Education | \$ 750.00 |
| Vacation: | 4 weeks (including 6 Sundays) |

Approved Moderators

5. **Approved** Marengo, First- Claire Brennecka (CP)
6. **Approved** Dixon, First- Eric Heinekamp (MWS)
7. **Approved** Utica-Waltham- Spencer Lawrence (MWS)
8. **Approved** Waterman- Eric Heinekamp (MWS)
9. **Approved** Dakota, Community- Phil Thompson (CP)
10. **Approved** Crystal Lake, Ridgefield- Barbara Bundick (MWS)

Ministry Discernment Profiles (MDPs)

11. **Approved** MDP for Dekalb, Westminster for a solo pastor
12. **Approved** MDP for Rochelle First for a transitional pastor
13. **Approved** MDP for Joliet, First for an associate pastor

Miscellaneous

14. **Approved** the sabbatical agreement between Ottawa, First Presbyterian and John Walker (MWS) effective April 13, 2025 to August. 9, 2026
15. **Approved** Nicole Melara serving outside our bounds (AK), in Yukon Presbytery, from 10/1/25 to 11/24/25

OTHER INFORMATION

- A big welcome to Nikelle Johnson (MWS) serving Dixon First. She started October 1st so this is her first presbytery meeting.
- Savanna, First -Voted to merge with Community Church and now forming a Merging Committee with equal representation elected by each congregation.
- The PCUSA 1001 Worshipping Communities is offering \$10k with matching grants available for any small group that wants to start something new outside of an existing church body. Please contact our New Communities Committee with ideas or for more information.
- A Presbytery Liaison is meant to be assigned to every church in the Presbytery. Their job is to build a supportive relationship with the church and serve as a go-to person for questions or assistance about church ministry. Please let Kathy Pearson or me know if you are interested in serving as a liaison. Elders are perfect for this special calling.

ELECTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONER

The Nominating Committee **moved** to elect the following people to serve as Commissioners to General Assembly June 2026 at the General Assembly: Ministers of Word and Sacrament- Rothea Kornelius, Elgin, First and Katie Ricks, Sterling, First; and Ruling Elders- Ray Lantz, Piper City, First and Jeannette Sheehan, Rockford, Third. Coming from the committee, no second was needed; it was **VOTED** to approve.

General Presbyter

Rev. Heinekamp presented his report (see attached).

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19, NIV)

The Synod of Lincoln Trails hosted 50 newly ordained pastors at Wellspring in Harmony, IN. The meetings focused on leadership, resilience in pastoral life, encouraging church sessions, and so much more. Four of our newer pastors attended and Eric facilitated classes on church and pastor finances.

The annual Midcouncil Leadership met in Louisville, KY. Work was started three years ago to merge the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency into a unified agency with the new organization structure beginning on November 17, 2025. There are four offices within the the unified agency. One is the new Office of Innovation which has been established to determine a new vision for our denomination to move forward.

STATED CLERK REPORT

It was **moved** that the following meeting dates be approved. (*Noting there will be no hybrid meetings.*) It was **VOTED** to approve.

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| February 10, 2026 | Evening by Zoom |
| May 19, 2026 | In Person at Stronghold |
| September 15, 2026 | Morning by Zoom |
| November 10, 2026 | In Person at location TBD |

It was **moved** that it be approved to celebrate the Lord’s Supper at each assembly meeting in 2026. It was seconded, and **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Eric noted that each congregation is required by The Book of Order to have their record books and minutes for the year reviewed. The following dates are available to complete the reviews. There are resources online to support completing these tasks.

- Saturday, November 29th - 10:00 am Saturday- First Presbyterian Church of Sterling
- December 6th - 10:00 am- Church of Hope Presbyterian Gardner Saturday
- December 6th - 2:00 pm Saturday- First Presbyterian Church of Galena
- December 13th - 10:00 am- Fox Valley Presbyterian Church, Geneva

Churches are encouraged to review their rolls and reach out to members that have not been active to engage them again. Statistical reports will be completed soon.

The presbytery has authorized three active administrative commissions to complete their designated work. The commission for First Presbyterian of Kankakee is finalizing the sale of the former church property and hopes to close the sale this year. The commission for First Presbyterian of Wenona has been unable to find a buyer for the property and is now looking for options to raze the former church building. The administrative commission for United Presbyterian Church of Somonauk is continuing to work with the congregation as they discern their future and the possible disposition of their church property.

It was **moved** to waive the limitations of terms of Wheatland Presbyterian Church in Plainfield for their Clerk of Session, Joel Craig. As clerk, Joel is finishing his 6th year of service as a ruling elder and would like to serve another 3-year term. Book of Order section G-2.0404 states a

presbytery may waive the 6-year term limit by majority vote. The motions was seconded and **VOTED** to approve.

In our presbytery there are 62 congregations, and each church is entitled to elect one ruling elder commissioner to attend presbytery meetings in 2026 as a voting member. There are 49 active minister members and these are separate from the ruling elder commissioners.

SYNOD REPORT

There was no written Synod report but KJ Wester reported for Sarah Dingman. 2026 Synod commissioners representing Blackhawk Presbytery are Ray Lance, John Walker, Derek Sherman, and KJ Wester. The Synod offers support to pastors, and support for presbyteries. They are waiting to hear if they received a grant.

STRONGHOLD REPORT

Executive director of Camp Stronghold and Retreat, Dr. Danny Pierce thanked the presbytery for their ongoing support. He reported that 120 people attended the Youth Fall Retreat at Stronghold Camp with 14 churches participating in worship and service work.

The last five years Stronghold has paid \$20,000 each year to the presbytery to pay off their debt, which will be completed this year. They have a new relationship with a development consultant to build fund raising. They have an individual who will match funds raised up to \$5000. They are looking ahead to a capital campaign to replace the roof on the castle in 2030. Ryan Anderson gave out flyers for the 2026 confirmation retreat.

CORPORATION AND TRUSTEES

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Alan Williardsen reported the presbytery is in good financial standing. The treasurer's report was received by **UNANIMOUS CONSENT**.

NEW AND UNFINISHED REPORT

A new location for the collection of World Service kits will be determined per the World Service organization.

ADJOURN WITH PRAYER

Moderator Mike Engle called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was **moved**, seconded, and **VOTED** to adjourn the meeting of the day. Pastor Mike Engle closed in prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 2:36 pm.

Rev. Eric Heinekamp
Dorene Tieche

Stated Clerk
Recording Clerk

BLACKHAWK PRESBYTERY**Roll Call: November 18, 2025 Presbytery Meeting (In Person and on Zoom)**

| | CHURCH | PASTOR(S) | PRESENT | ELDER COMMISSIONER | |
|----|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Aurora Second | | | 1 | |
| 2 | Bolingbrook, First of DuPage | Rev. KJ Norris | PRESENT | 1 | |
| 3 | Braidwood First | Pastor Dale Tolly, CP | ABSENT | 1 | |
| 4 | Caledonia, Willow Creek | Rev. Lauren Patrus-Betzel | PRESENT | 1 | |
| 5 | Coal City, New Hope | Rev. Janet Chandler | PRESENT | 1 | |
| 6 | Crystal Lake, Ridgefield | | | 1 | |
| 7 | Dakota, Community | | | 1 | |
| 8 | DeKalb, Westminster | Rev. Clinton Roberts | PRESENT | 1 | David Ballentine |
| 9 | Dixon, First | Rev. Nikelle Johnson | PRESENT | 1 | David Badger |
| 10 | Earlville, United | Pastor Laurie Walker, CP | PRESENT | 1 | |
| 11 | Elgin, First | Rev. Rothea Kornelius | PRESENT | 1 | |
| 12 | Elizabeth, Schapville Zion | Pastor Dorothy Morizzo, CP | PRESENT | 1 | |
| 13 | Elmira, United | | | 1 | |
| 14 | Elwood Community | Pastor Mike Engle, CP | PRESENT | 1 | Scott Wallace |
| 15 | Fairbury, First | Pastor Alan Willadsen, CP* | PRESENT | 1 | |
| 16 | Franklin Grove, First | Pastor Jack Briggs, CP | ABSENT | 1 | |
| 17 | Fulton | Rev. David Spaulding | PRESENT | 1 | |
| 18 | Fulton, Garden Plain | | | 1 | |
| 19 | Galena, First | Rev. James McCrea | PRESENT | 1 | Kathy Pearson |
| 20 | Gardner, Church of Hope | Rev. Janet Chandler | PRESENT | 1 | |
| 21 | Geneva, Fox Valley | Rev. Michelle Hwang | PRESENT | 1 | Linda Caine |
| 22 | Hanover, United | | | 1 | |
| 23 | Harvard, First | Pastor Claire Brennecka, CP | PRESENT | 1 | Helen Anderson |
| 24 | Henry, First | Rev. Canessa Lagan | PRESENT | 1 | Tammy Panier |
| 25 | Joliet, First | Rev. Bo Mircea | PRESENT | 1 | |
| 26 | Joliet, Westminster | Pastor Karen Williams, CP | ABSENT | 1 | Douglas Webb |
| 27 | Kewanee, First | | | 1 | Bill Scott |
| 28 | LaRose, Crow Meadow | | | 1 | |
| 29 | Manteno, Community | Pastor Paul Koch, CP | PRESENT | 1 | |
| 30 | Marengo, First | Rev. Karen Schlack | ABSENT | 1 | |
| 31 | McHenry, Faith | Rev. Rich Davis | ABSENT | 1 | |
| 32 | Mendota, First | Pastor Laurie Walker, CP | PRESENT | 1 | |
| 33 | Morris, First | Rev. James Friesen | ABSENT | 1 | |
| 34 | Morrison, First | Rev. Dr. Michael Selburg | PRESENT | 1 | |
| 35 | New Lenox, Central | Pastor Chrystal Abbott, CP | PRESENT | 1 | |
| 36 | Oswego | Rev. Dr. Richard Shaffer | PRESENT | 1 | |
| 37 | Ottawa, First | Rev. John Walker | PRESENT | 1 | Ron Koestler |
| 38 | Paw Paw, First | | | 1 | |
| 39 | Piper City, First | Pastor Ray Lantz, CP | PRESENT | 1 | Jason Angus |
| 40 | Plainfield, Wheatland United | Pastor Chuck Johnson, CP | ABSENT | 1 | |
| 41 | Pontiac, First | Pastor JD Buchenau, CP | ABSENT | 1 | |

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|---|---------------------|
| 42 | Princeton, First United | Pastor Colleen Lawrence, CP | PRESENT | 1 | Karl Schultz |
| 43 | Rochelle, First | | | 1 | John Haselton |
| 44 | Rockford, Second/First | Rev. Martha Langford | PRESENT | 1 | Terry Mohaupt |
| 45 | Rockford, Third | Rev. Stephen Bowie | PRESENT | 1 | Dan Chiodini |
| 46 | Rockford, Westminster | Pastor Gretchen Hammeke, CP | PRESENT | 1 | Jean Lisk |
| 47 | Romeoville, United | Pastor Sandra Cummins, CP | ABSENT | 1 | |
| 48 | Sandwich, Federated | | | 1 | |
| 49 | Savanna, First | Rev. Gary Panetta | PRESENT | 1 | |
| 50 | Shannon, Prairie Dell | | | 1 | |
| 51 | Somonauk, United | | | 1 | |
| 52 | St. Anne, First | | | 1 | |
| 53 | Sterling, First | Rev. Katie Ricks | PRESENT | 1 | Diana Day-Schreiner |
| 54 | Streator, Park United | Rev. Caleb Suydam | PRESENT | 1 | |
| 55 | Utica, Waltham | | | 1 | Karen Pillion |
| 56 | Waterman | | | 1 | |
| 57 | Watseka, First | | | 1 | |
| 58 | Wilmington, First | | | 1 | |
| 59 | Winnebago, First | Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyer | PRESENT | 1 | Sue Jansen |
| 60 | Winnebago, Middle Creek | Pastor Phil Thompson | ABSENT | 1 | |
| 61 | Woodstock, First | Rev. Eric Corbin | PRESENT | 1 | Raymond Thuma |
| 62 | Yorkville, Au Sable Grove | Rev. Jenny Hubbard | PRESENT | 1 | Francine Konow |

* Laboring within our bounds, non-voting

↑ eligible voting commissioners

OTHER TEACHING ELDERS ATTENDING:

Rev. David Jones

Rev. Randy Nicholas

Rev. Spencer Lawrence

Rev. Murray Hanson

Rev. Deborah Roberts

Rev. Barbara Bundick

Rev. David Smazik

PRESBYTERY STAFF:

Rev. Eric Heinekamp, General Presbyter, Stated Clerk

PRESENT

Jeannette Sheehan, Office Administrator

PRESENT

Dorene Tieche, Recording Secretary

PRESENT

Rev. Dr. David Spaulding, Associate Stated Clerk

PRESENT

Alan Willadsen, Treasurer

PRESENT

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Aletha Engel

Elwood Community - Mike Engel's wife

Danny Pierce

Stronghold

Ryan Anderson

Stronghold

Ruth Ann Scott

Kewanee First

Mary Beth Wise-Gratz

Caledonia Willow Creek

Ron Pearson

Galena First

Ed Voss

Church of Hope - Gardner

Derek Sherman

Rockford Westminster, Synod Rep

Mary Ellen Shine

Ridgefield, Crystal Lake

Loreen Stravers

Dekalb Westminster

Sara Dingman

SOLT Executive

TOTAL ATTENDING: 74

VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING: 59

Blackhawk Presbytery

Information for Ruling Elder Commissioners to Presbytery Meetings

Our Vision and Values

Grounded in the biblical image for human community, as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, we challenge and support congregations to be thriving faith communities by facilitating competent leadership and resourcing to energize ministry and mission.

As Christians, guided by the principles of love, trust, open communication, and genuine relationships, we value each other as sisters and brothers in faith in all our varied theological understandings. Therefore, we relish respectful discussions of differing opinions as a necessary part of discerning the will of God.

Who's Who

Here is who you will see running the presbytery meetings.

General Presbyter and Stated Clerk: Rev. Eric Heinekamp

Moderator: Pastor Mike Engle, Elwood Community

Vice-Moderator: Rev. Lauren Patrus-Betzel, Caledonia

Associate Stated Clerk and Parliamentarian: Rev. David Spaulding, HR

Office Administrator: Jeannette Sheehan

Recording Secretary: Dorene Tieche, Geneva Fox Valley

What to Expect

Presbytery meetings are governed by the PC(USA) *Book of Order*, the Blackhawk Presbytery Bylaws and Ecclesiastical Administrative Manual (both found on the Presbytery website) and *Roberts Rules of Order*. The Moderator or the Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery moderates the meeting. A recording secretary takes the minutes.

The docket and most meeting papers are posted on the presbytery website in advance of each meeting. You should have downloaded or been given these materials to review in advance and bring with you.

Normally there are four parts to a presbytery meeting

Opening: The moderator convenes the meeting with prayer, declares a quorum present, presents the day's docket (agenda) for approval, and requests approval of the minutes of the previous presbytery meeting. First time ruling elder commissioners and ministers of the Word and Sacrament are introduced. Ministers and ruling elders visiting from other presbyteries, the Synod, or the General Assembly (corresponding members) are seated. The host church welcomes the presbytery.

Worship: The worship service is usually planned and coordinated by the host church and often includes the sacrament of communion. This approach allows presbytery members to experience a variety of worship experiences that draw on the culture and talents of each host congregation.

Learning Opportunity: Every presbytery meeting includes a learning opportunity that helps the members of the presbytery live out its vision. Learning opportunities may be presentations, small group discussions, question & answer, or a combination.

Business Plenary: In this part of the meeting, commissions and committees present reports and request action through motions. Minister members and elder commissioners may also bring business to the floor during the business plenary. As an elder commissioner, you can make motions, second motions, and vote on motions. Normally, voting is by voice-vote. If the vote appears to be close, either the Moderator or a minister member or an elder commissioner can call for a show of hands. In some circumstances, ballots are used. In addition, there may be special reports, commissioning services, and retirement or other recognition ceremonies.

Your Responsibilities

- Ruling elders elected as commissioners participate and vote at presbytery meetings with the same authority as ministers of the Word and Sacrament. This 'parity' is one of the things that makes us Presbyterian.
- Report back to your Session and congregation information from the presbytery meeting
- Get to know ministers and elder commissioners from other churches and the staff of Blackhawk Presbytery.
- Learn more about the other governing bodies of the PC(USA); the Presbytery of Blackhawk, the Synod of Lincoln Trails and the PC(USA) General Assembly.

What to Take Back to Your Congregation

You'll want to share with your congregation:

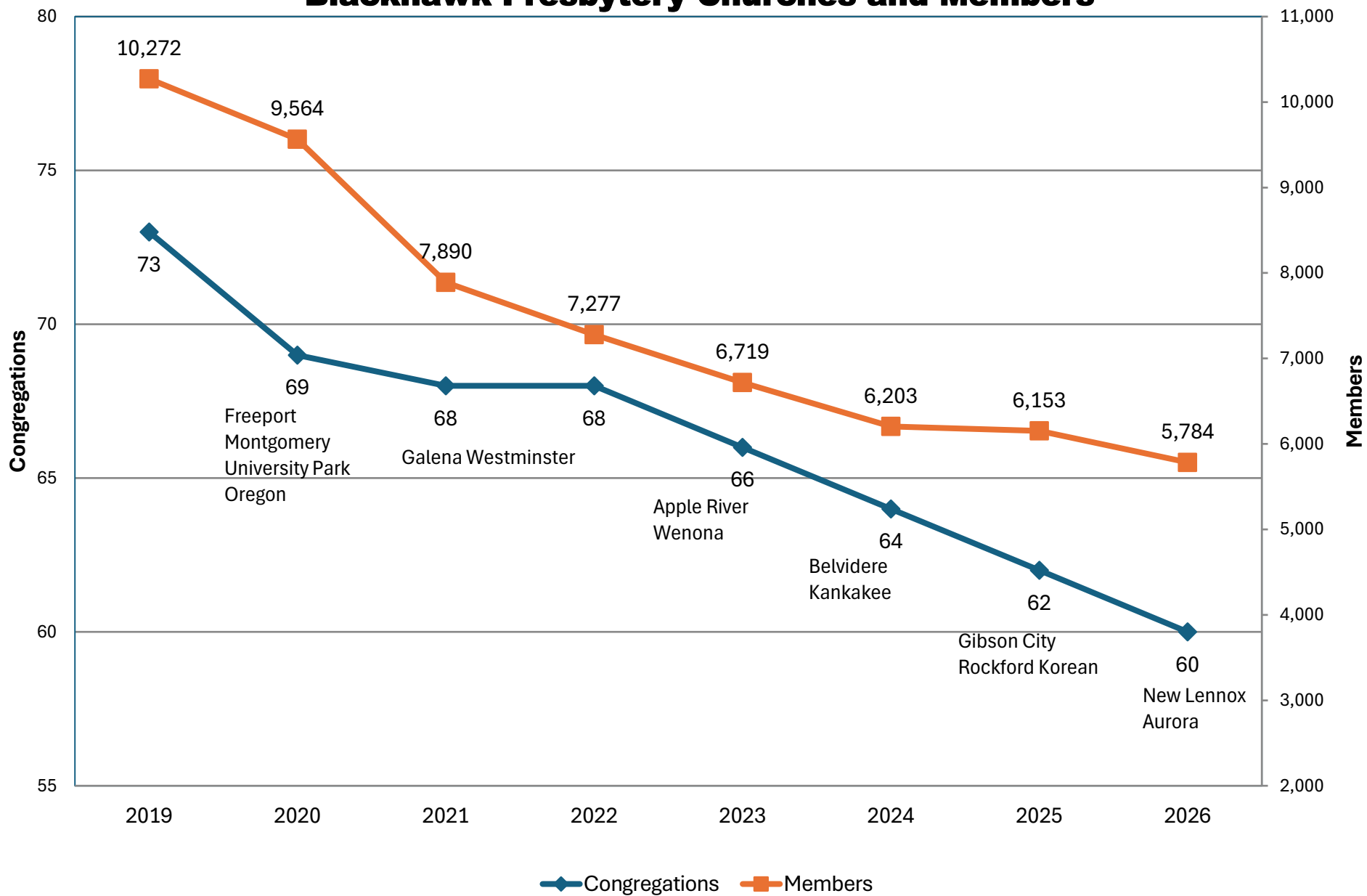
- Decisions made at the meeting
- Key points from the learning opportunity
- Information about programs, projects, and events of interest to your congregation
- Your own impressions of the meeting

Want More Information?

To get connected to the presbytery through the Blackhawk's *Connections* e-mail newsletter, indicate on the sign-in form provided. Or visit the website www.blackhawkpresbytery.org where you can subscribe and also find lots of information.

To learn more about the PC(USA), start by visiting the website www.pcusa.org.

Blackhawk Presbytery Churches and Members



2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

2026

10,272

9,564

7,890

7,277

6,719

6,203

6,153

5,784

73

69

68

68

66

64

62

60

Freeport
Montgomery
University Park
Oregon

Galena Westminster

Apple River
Wenona

Belvidere
Kankakee

Gibson City
Rockford Korean

New Lennox
Aurora

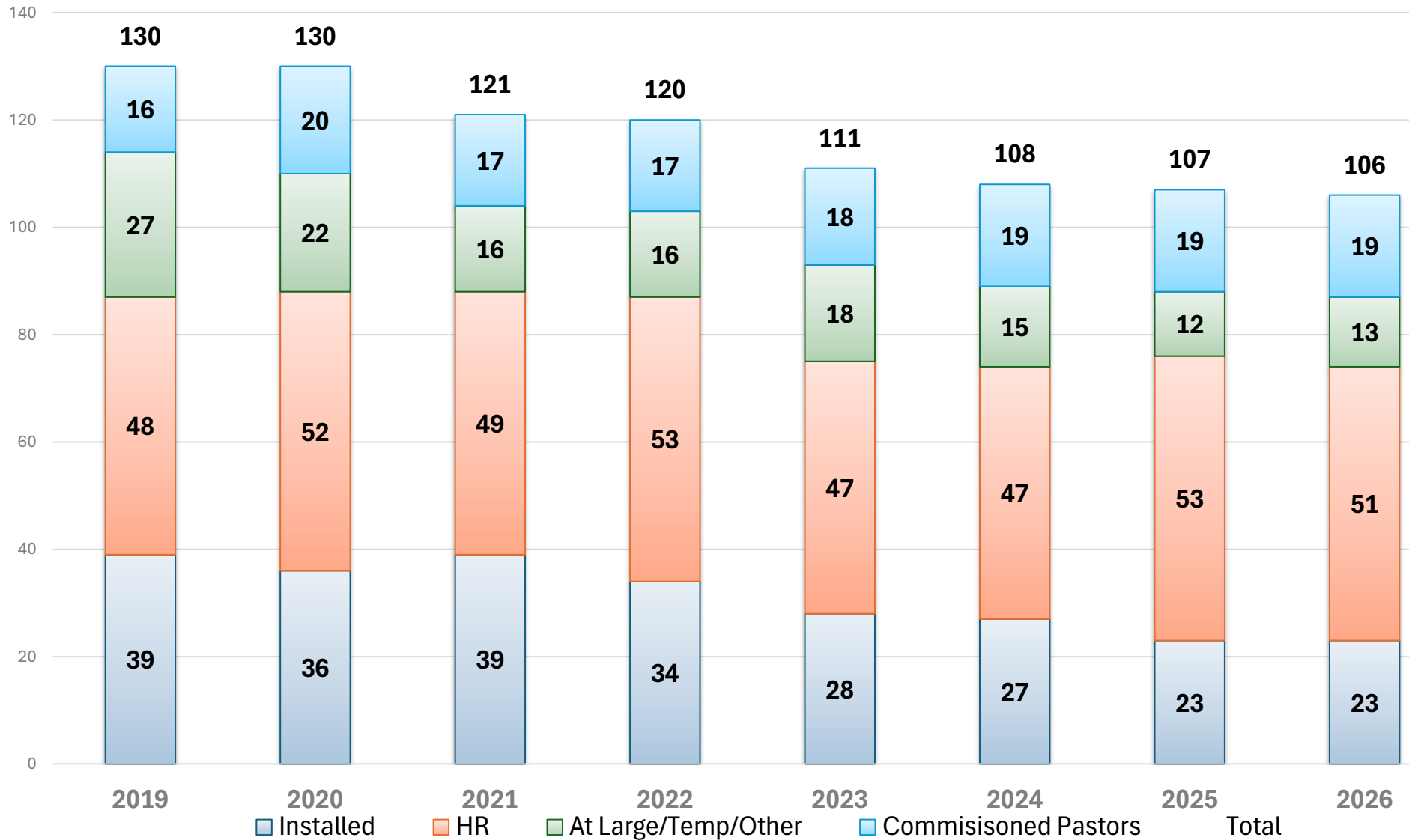
Congregations

Members

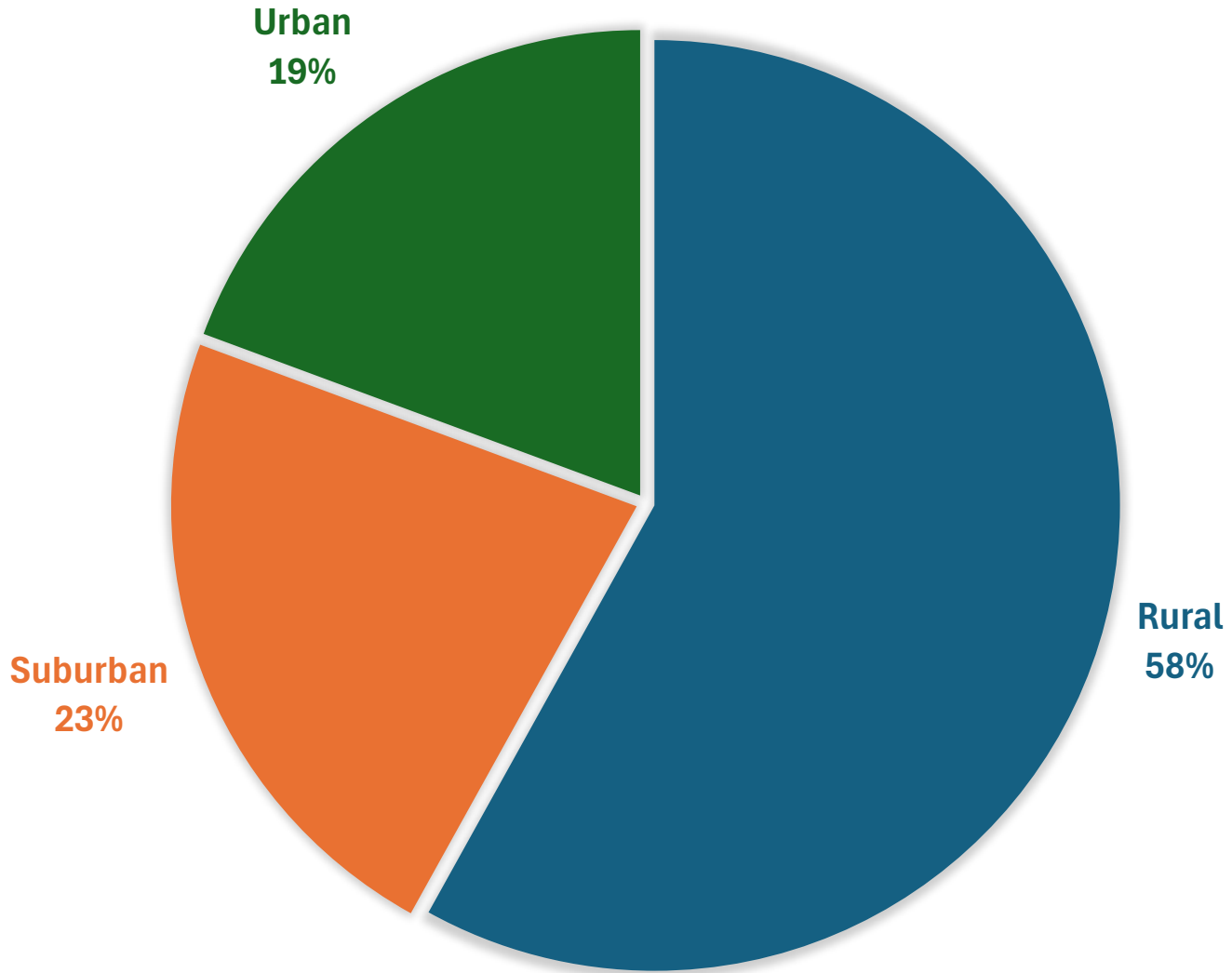
80
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11,000
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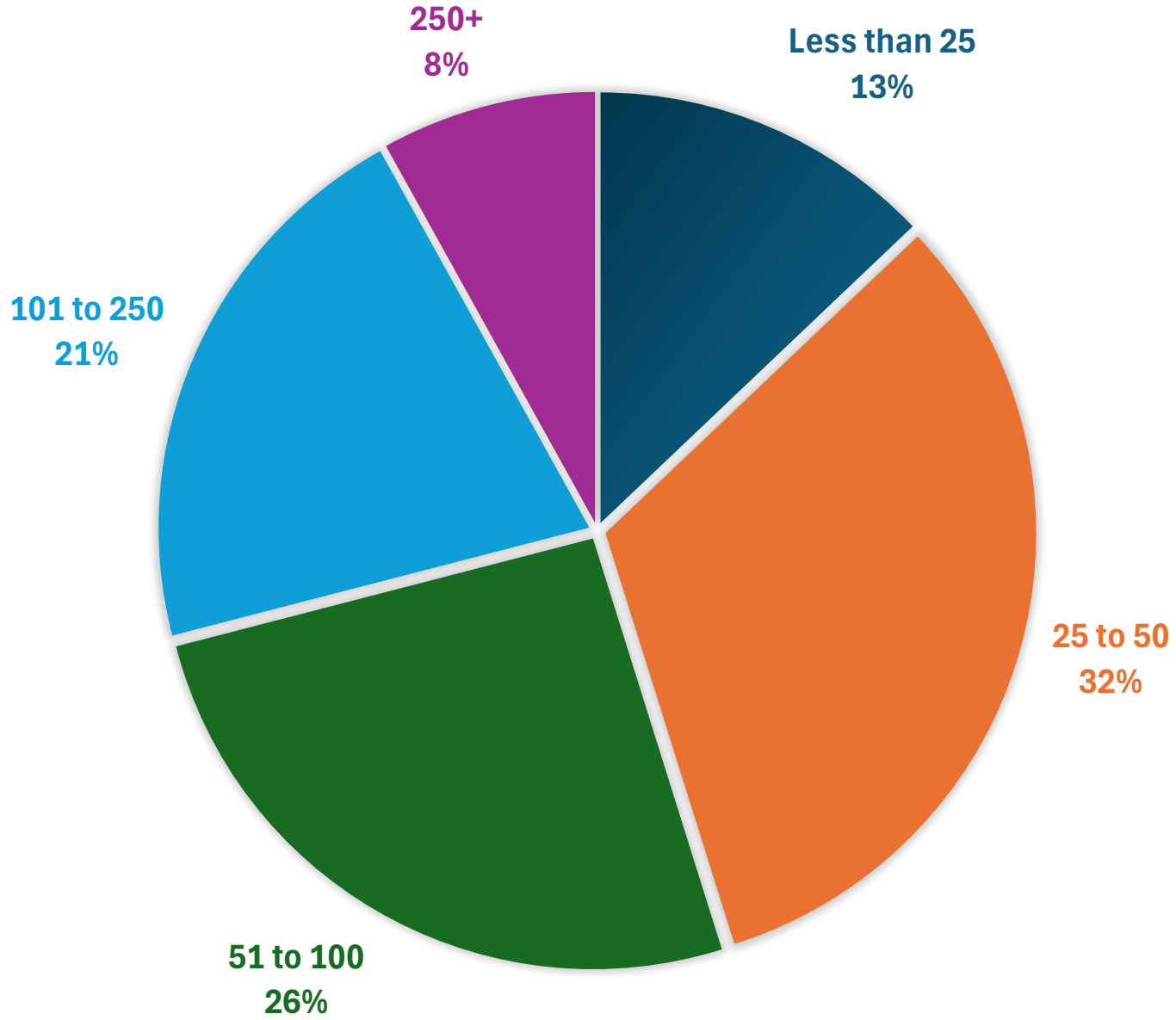
Blackhawk Presbytery Pastors



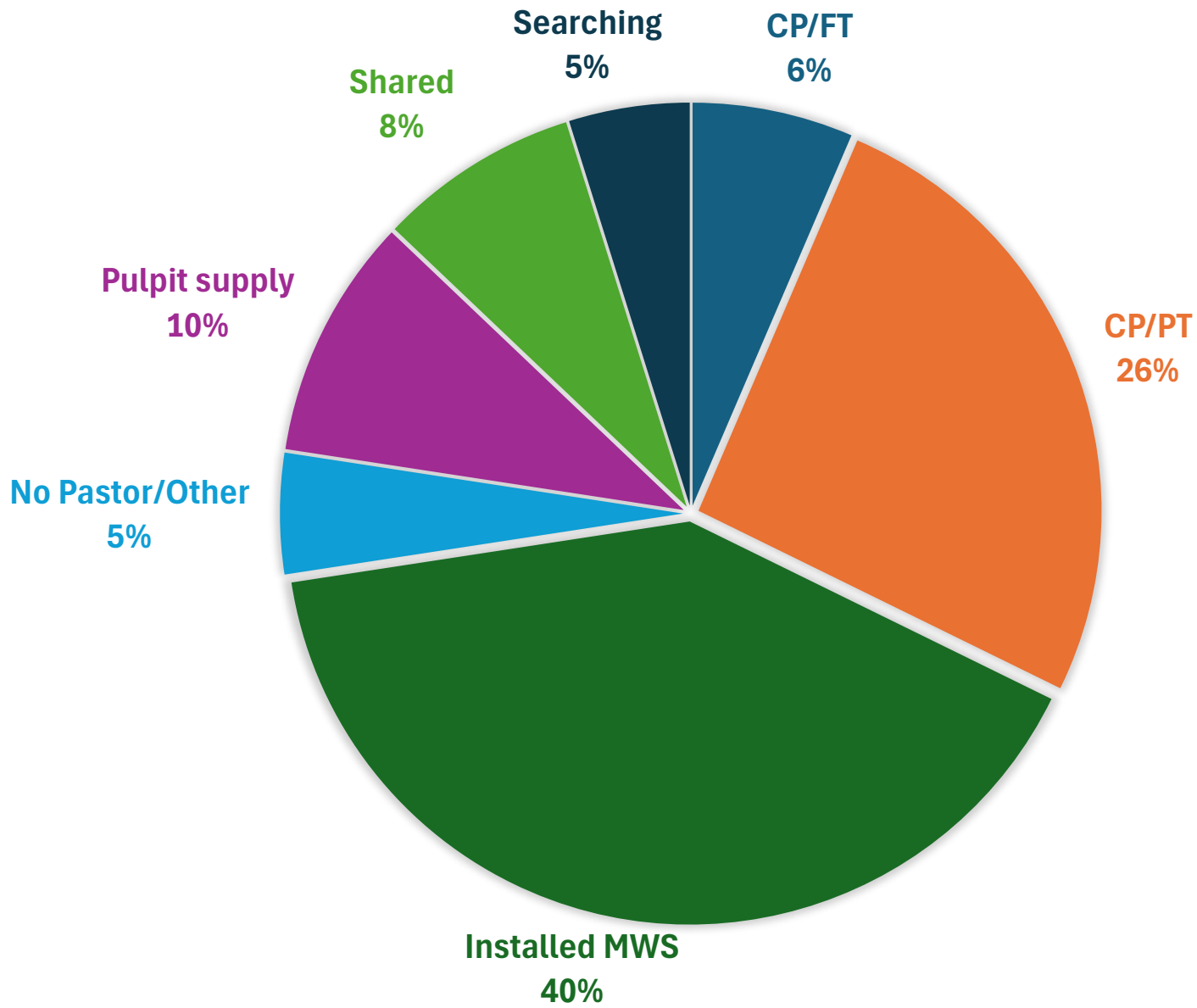
Blackhawk Congregation City Type



Blackhawk Congregation Size



Blackhawk Pastor Type





Learning Opportunity

Blackhawk Presbytery soon to be
Illinois Prairie Presbytery

What does it mean to be a Presbytery when we know we have been created in the image of GOD?

Who are our neighbors in and around the Presbytery?

What is GOD calling us to be and do in this time and place?

What is exciting to you about the ministry of the Presbytery?

Choose One Question



BLACKHAWK PRESBYTERY / ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PRESBYTERY
REVISIONS TO ECCLESIASTICAL ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL

February 2026

MOTION: To approve the Ecclesiastical Administrative Manual revised February 2, 2026

The following changes and clarifications are included in this revision:

1. Globally replaced the name Blackhawk Presbytery with Illinois Prairie Presbytery with the assumption the name change will be approved on March 13, 2026.
2. Modified boundaries of the presbytery for Ford County to only include Piper City (page 1)
3. Split Visioning and Assembly Planning Committee of Council into two separate committees: 1) Visioning and 2) Assembly Planning (pages 8, 11)
4. Reduced the size of the Mission Committee from 9 to 6 elected members (page 9)
5. Removed specifics of 6 subcommittees under Commission on Ministry (COM) and refers detail of how COM operates to the COM Manual (in development) (page 11)
6. Changed name of Committee on Preparation for Ministry to Commission on Preparation for Ministry since it is a commission of the Presbytery Assembly (page 12)
7. Added position of Associate Stated Clerk under officers and staff (pages 4, 15)
8. Clarified the composition of committees and commissions that may include at-large, ruling elder, or member of congregations. Committees are generally comprised of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and members of congregations. Commissions are generally comprised of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders (page 6 and throughout document)
9. Made changes to clarify wording, remove redundant language, or correct inconsistencies.
10. Eliminated the list of policies since every time new policy is approved, we would need to update the manual.

ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PRESBYTERY

(Formerly Blackhawk Presbytery)
Ecclesiastical Administrative Manual

Approved April 4, 2017

Effective June 13, 2017

Revised November 13, 2018

Revised June 4, 2019

Revised November 12, 2019

Revised November 9, 2021

Revised September 12, 2023

Revised September 17, 2024

DRAFT Revised February 2, 2026

All *Book of Order* references are to the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, Part II, known as the *Book of Order*. References are to the 2025-2027 *Book of Order*.

ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PRESBYTERY
Ecclesiastical Administrative Manual

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ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PRESBYTERY
Ecclesiastical Administrative Manual

ARTICLE I. THE PRESBYTERY

- A. **PURPOSE:** Illinois Prairie Presbytery is a mid-council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as defined in the Constitution of the denomination, Part II, the *Book of Order*. The Presbytery is the council serving as a corporate expression of the church within its district and is composed of all the congregations and ministers of the Word and Sacrament within that district. The Presbytery is responsible for the government of the church throughout its district and for assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness. (G-3.0301).
- B. **BOUNDARIES:** Illinois Prairie Presbytery consists of the churches and ministers in the Illinois counties of: Boone, Bureau, Carroll, DeKalb, Grundy, First Presbyterian Church of Kewanee in Henry County, Iroquois, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, LaSalle, Lee, Livingston, Marshall, McHenry, Ogle, Putnam, Stark, Stephenson, Whiteside, Will, and Winnebago, and also the First Presbyterian Church of Piper City in Ford County.
- C. **MEMBERS:** The members of the presbytery are the ministers of the Word and Sacrament currently recognized by the Presbytery and reported to the General Assembly.

ARTICLE II. PRESBYTERY VISION AND VALUES

- A. Grounded in the biblical image for human community, as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, we challenge and support congregations to be thriving faith communities by facilitating competent leadership and resourcing to energize ministry and mission.
- As Christians, guided by the principles of love, trust, open communication, and genuine relationships, we value each other as sisters and brothers in faith in all our varied theological understandings. Therefore, we relish respectful discussions of differing opinions as a necessary part of discerning the will of God. (Adopted November 2017)

ARTICLE III. AUTHORITY

- A. **ECCLESIASTICAL ORGANIZATION:** As a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Illinois Prairie Presbytery is subject to the provisions of the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
1. **ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL:** This manual provides the descriptions, policies, and processes of the ecclesiastical organization of the Presbytery.
 2. **TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL:** The policies of this administrative manual may be temporarily suspended at any stated meeting of the Presbytery Assembly by a two-thirds vote.
 3. **AMENDMENTS TO ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL:** This administrative manual may be amended by a majority vote at any stated meeting of the Presbytery Assembly, provided that notice of such intended meeting is provided.
 4. This manual shall be interpreted in accordance with the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and all applicable state and federal laws.

- B. CORPORATE ORGANIZATION: As required by the *Book of Order* (G-4.0101), Illinois Prairie Presbytery has formed a non-profit corporation, in the State of Illinois, called Illinois Prairie Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The description, rules, and processes of this legal entity are presented in a separate document titled Corporate Bylaws of Illinois Prairie Presbytery.

ARTICLE IV. PRESBYTERY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

- A. PURPOSE: The Presbytery Assembly is the assembled body of ministers of the Word and Sacrament members and ruling elder commissioners representing member congregations and other ruling elder members elected or appointed to participate in the stated and special meetings of the Presbytery.
- B. ACTIVITIES: The Presbytery Assembly shall:
1. Decide the policies and the actions of the Presbytery.
 2. Discharge the Presbytery's responsibilities as listed in G-3.0301-G-3.0303.
 3. Elect the members of the Presbytery Council, the committees and commissions, officers of the Presbytery, and commissioners to the Synod of Lincoln Trails and the General Assembly.
 4. Maintain covenantal relations with sessions of member congregations, the Synod of Lincoln Trails, the General Assembly, and Stronghold Center, Inc..
- C. STATED MEETINGS: The Presbytery shall ordinarily hold 4 stated meetings each year. The dates of the meetings will be recommended by the Presbytery Council and approved by the Presbytery Assembly.
1. The first stated meeting of the year shall be the Annual Meeting of the Presbytery.
 2. The Presbytery Assembly may vote at any stated meeting for the purpose of rescheduling or canceling any future stated meeting.
- D. PLACE: The Stated Clerk, in coordination with the Assembly Planning Committee, shall determine locations of Presbytery Assembly meetings. Meetings may be held using an online platform.
- E. SPECIAL MEETINGS: Special (called) meetings of the Presbytery Assembly shall be called in accordance with the provisions of the *Book of Order* (G-3.0304).
- F. QUORUM: A quorum of the Presbytery Assembly shall be any three ministers of the Word and Sacrament members and three elder commissioners from three different congregations (G-3.0304).
- G. DOCKET: The docket of each meeting shall be prepared by the Stated Clerk in consultation with the Presbytery Council, Moderator, and the Assembly Planning Committee.
1. The docket shall be made available to meeting members five days prior to the meeting.
 2. An opportunity to amend the docket shall be provided at the beginning of the meeting, when the docket is offered for approval.

- H. MEETING GUIDELINES: The parliamentary authority for all matters shall be the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*, Newly Revised, except when it is in contradiction to this ecclesiastical manual.
- I. MEMBERS AUTHORIZED TO VOTE AT ASSEMBLY MEETINGS:
1. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament who are members of the Presbytery.
 2. Ruling elders elected as commissioners from congregations within the boundaries of the Presbytery.
 3. Commissioned pastors (commissioned ruling elders) commissioned to serve congregations or validated ministries of the Presbytery.
 4. Each ruling elder elected an officer of the Presbytery or elected moderator of a committee or commission while in their term of office.
 5. Ministers and elders in good standing in other governing bodies of this or any other Christian church who are present at any meeting may be invited to sit as corresponding members, with voice, but without vote.
 6. All minister members and currently commissioned pastors of the Presbytery are expected to attend all stated meetings. Each congregation within the Presbytery shall elect and send a ruling elder commissioner to each stated meeting.
 7. Proxy voting and absentee voting are not allowed in any entity of Illinois Prairie Presbytery.
- J. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES
1. The Presbytery Assembly may elect a Parliamentarian who will provide guidance on interpretation and application of Roberts Rules of Order.
 2. Responsibilities: The Parliamentarian's main function is to give advice on parliamentary procedure to the Moderator, Stated Clerk, Associate Stated Clerk, and members of the Presbytery Assembly.
 3. Term of Office: 1 year with privilege of reelection.
 4. Election: Nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Presbytery Assembly.
 5. Qualifications: Does not need to be a member of the Presbytery. If a member of the Presbytery Assembly, they will have voice and vote. If not a member of the Presbytery Assembly, they will be given voice but no vote.
 6. Vacancy: The Stated Clerk or Associate Stated Clerk will serve as parliamentarian at any time there is no elected Parliamentarian present.

ARTICLE V. PRESBYTERY OFFICERS

- A. OFFICERS:
1. The officers of the Illinois Prairie Presbytery ecclesiastical organization shall be the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Stated Clerk, Associate Stated Clerk, and Treasurer.
 2. All officers shall be accountable to the Presbytery Assembly, unless otherwise specified in these guidelines.

B. MODERATOR:

1. Responsibilities: The Moderator shall be the moderator of the Presbytery Assembly and a member of the Presbytery Council.
2. Term of Office: One year, without the privilege of reelection.
3. Election: The Moderator shall be elected by the Presbytery Assembly at the final stated meeting of the year.
4. Qualifications: Ruling elder or minister of the Word and Sacrament of the Presbytery.
5. Vacancy: A vacancy in the office of Moderator shall be filled by the Vice-Moderator for the remainder of the term.

C. VICE MODERATOR:

1. Responsibilities: The Vice-Moderator shall preside or act on behalf of the Moderator when the Moderator so requests and shall preside at meetings of the Presbytery when the Moderator is not present. The Vice-Moderator shall be a member of the Presbytery Council.
2. Term of Office: One year, without the privilege of reelection.
3. Election: The Vice-Moderator shall be elected by the Presbytery Assembly.
4. Qualifications: Ruling elder or minister of the Word and Sacrament of Illinois Prairie Presbytery.
5. Vacancy: If there is a vacancy in the office of Vice-Moderator, the Presbytery Assembly may elect a successor or may choose to leave the office unfilled for the remainder of the term. The Nominating Committee shall recommend the appropriate action.

D. STATED CLERK:

1. Responsibilities:
 - a. The Stated Clerk is responsible for the preservation of the Presbytery's minutes and records. These records shall include the rolls of the Presbytery's membership and ruling elders commissioned to a particular pastoral service.
 - b. The Stated Clerk shall have the duties specified in the *Book of Order* G-3.0104 and in this manual and may serve as Parliamentarian, in the absence of an elected parliamentarian, at Presbytery Assembly meetings.
2. Term of Office: The Presbytery Assembly will elect a Stated Clerk to a fixed term, not to exceed 5 years but eligible for reelection.
3. Election: The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery shall be elected by the Presbytery Assembly.
4. Qualifications: The Stated Clerk must be a ruling elder or a minister of the Word and Sacrament.
5. Vacancy: If there is a vacancy in the office of Stated Clerk, the Presbytery Council, in consultation with the General Presbyter, shall appoint an acting Stated Clerk who shall serve until the Presbytery elects a new Stated Clerk.

E. ASSOCIATE STATED CLERK:

1. Responsibilities:
 - a. The Associate Stated Clerk shall have duties similar to and directed by the Stated Clerk.
 - b. The Associate Stated Clerk may serve as Parliamentarian, in the absence of an elected Parliamentarian, at Presbytery Assembly meetings.
2. Term of Office: The Presbytery Assembly will elect an Associate Stated Clerk to a fixed term, not to exceed 5 years but eligible for reelection.
3. Election: The Associate Stated Clerk of the Presbytery shall be elected by the Presbytery Assembly.
4. Qualifications: The Associate Stated Clerk must be a ruling elder or minister of the Word and Sacrament.
5. Vacancy: If there is a vacancy in the office of Associate Stated Clerk, the Presbytery Council, in consultation with the General Presbyter, may appoint an acting Associate Stated Clerk who shall serve until the Presbytery elects a new Associate Stated Clerk.

F. TREASURER:

1. Responsibilities: The Treasurer has dual roles, to serve as Treasurer of the ecclesiastical body as well as the corporate entity. The Treasurer shall receive, record, and report all funds of the Presbytery and keep accurate accounts and records of the same.
2. Term of Office: The Presbytery Assembly will elect a Treasurer to a fixed term, not to exceed 5 years but eligible for reelection.
3. Accountability: To the Presbytery Assembly.
4. Qualifications: The Treasurer is generally a member of the staff of Illinois Prairie Presbytery.
5. Vacancy: If there is a vacancy in the office of Treasurer, the Presbytery Council, in consultation with the General Presbyter, shall appoint an acting Treasurer who shall serve until the Presbytery Assembly elects a new Treasurer.

G. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. The Board of Trustees are part of the legal corporate organization and not the ecclesiastical organization so are not included in this manual.
2. The responsibilities, election, and term of the corporation Trustees are spelled out in detail in the Illinois Prairie Presbytery Corporation By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

A. ELIGIBILITY:

1. All ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders are eligible for any of the elected offices and appointed responsibilities of the Presbytery.
2. Non-ordained church members may be elected to committees.

3. Moderators of committees and commissions shall be ministers of the Word and Sacrament, ruling elders, members of congregations and shall be members of a class of the particular committee or commission.
 4. Each committee shall be comprised of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and members of congregations in numbers as nearly equal as possible. Each commission shall be comprised of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders in numbers as nearly equal as possible.
- B. NOMINATIONS:
1. The Nominating Committee shall prepare and present to the Presbytery Assembly a list of nominations of eligible people for each vacant office, committee or commission, committee and commission moderators, as well as the nominations for Commissioners to the Synod of Lincoln Trails and the General Assembly.
 2. Nominations for the Nominating Committee, the Committee on Representation, the Stated Clerk, Associate Stated Clerk, Parliamentarian, and the Treasurer shall be made by the Presbytery Council.
 3. Full consideration shall be given to proportionate representation of gender and ethnic groups, using congregation membership and ordination percentages as guidelines. In the case of the Stated Clerk, Associate Stated Clerk, Parliamentarian, and Treasurer, nominations should be made in consultation with the Personnel Committee.
- C. TERMS AND PROCEDURES FOR ELECTIONS:
1. Time of Elections:
 - a. The annual election of officers of the Presbytery and committee and commission moderators and members shall be at the final stated Presbytery Assembly meeting of the year.
 - b. The election of Commissioners to the General Assembly and Synod of Lincoln Trails shall be done to meet the timing requirements of the General Assembly and the Synod.
 - c. Election to fill vacancies of committees and commissions may take place at any Presbytery Assembly meeting.
 2. Election Procedure:
 - a. The Nominating Committee, the Presbytery Council, and entities designated to nominate administrative commissions shall present to Presbytery Assembly a list of eligible candidates for vacant positions. One candidate will be presented for each position, except in the case of General Assembly commissioners where more than one candidate may be presented by ballot.
 - b. The Nominating Committee, the Presbytery Council, and entities designated to nominate administrative commissions may present candidates for election to vacant positions at any Stated Meeting, if the need arises.
 - c. Opportunity shall be offered for nominations from the floor.
 3. Term of Office:

- a. Commissioners: Commissioners from each member congregation are elected by the session of those congregations in accordance with G-3.0301.
- b. Committees and Commissions: The term of service shall normally be for three years, unless filling an unexpired term, with the privilege of re-election to a second term of three years. No member of a committee or commission may serve more than 6 consecutive years.
- c. Term: The term of elected positions will begin upon election and installation at the end of the final stated Assembly meeting of the year or at the end of subsequent assembly meetings if a position was not filled at the final stated Assembly meeting of the prior year.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY ASSEMBLY

DEFINITION: A commission is empowered to consider and conclude matters referred to it by the Presbytery Assembly. A committee shall study and recommend actions or carry out decisions already made by the Presbytery Assembly or the Presbytery Council.

A. PRESBYTERY COUNCIL:

1. Composition: The Presbytery Council shall consist of 16 voting members: the moderators of Commission on Ministry, Commission on Preparation for Ministry, Mission Committee, Nominating Committee, Personnel Committee, Finance and Property Committee, Visioning Committee; six at large members in three classes in numbers as nearly equal as possible of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders; and the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and Immediate Past Moderator of the Presbytery Assembly. The General Presbyter, Stated Clerk, Associate Stated Clerk, and Treasurer may serve ex-officio on the Presbytery Council.
2. Responsibilities:
 - a. Continually develop, evaluate, and recommend to the Presbytery Assembly the ongoing vision, priorities, and actions for Illinois Prairie Presbytery.
 - b. Facilitate coordination and information sharing among committees and commissions.
 - c. Holds accountable all committees reporting to Council.
 - d. Present an annual budget for the work of the Presbytery to the Presbytery Assembly for approval.
 - e. Monitor on a consistent basis Presbytery's financial status and compliance with the approved budget. Work with staff, committees and commissions to make necessary adjustments.
 - f. Participate in the development of Presbytery's revenues through various sources including stewardship interpretation and education.
 - g. Oversee the business practices Presbytery has in place and assign tasks to appropriate entities within the current structure.

- h. Participate in deliberations on legal and real estate matters and work with the Corporate Trustees.
 - i. Address issues that arise that do not fall within the responsibility of a particular committee or commission.
 - j. Receive from Personnel Committee and recommend the nomination of people for the officer positions of Stated Clerk, Associate Stated Clerk, and Treasurer.
 - k. Nominate the moderator and members of the Nominating Committee and the Committee on Representation.
 - l. Recommend to Presbytery Assembly the creation of Administration Commissions other than for installation and ordination which are established by the Commission on Ministry.
 - m. Approve operating processes and policies of the Presbytery.
3. Terms of Office:
- a. Moderator: Nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Presbytery Assembly for a one-year term as moderator of the Presbytery Council. The Moderator of Council will generally be the Immediate past Moderator of the Presbytery Assembly.
 - b. At large members: Elected in three classes of two members. Each class should have one ruling elder and one minister of the Word and Sacrament. At large members may serve a maximum of 6 years consecutively.
4. Accountability: The Presbytery Council is accountable to the Presbytery Assembly.
5. Vacancy:
- a. Moderator: In the absence of a Moderator of the Council, the Moderator of the Presbytery Assembly will moderate Council. In the vacancy of the Moderator of Council, the Moderator of the Presbytery Assembly will moderate Council meetings until a new Moderator of the Council is elected.
 - b. At large: Nominating Committee will nominate another person for the remainder of the term or the unfilled position may remain vacant until the end of the year.
6. COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL
- a. ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE
 - 1) Composition: The Assembly Planning Committee shall consist of the Presbytery Assembly Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Council Moderator and two at large members in two classes in numbers as nearly equal as possible of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and members of congregations. The Stated Clerk and Associate Stated Clerk may serve ex-officio.
 - 2) Responsibilities:

- (a) To recommend the dates and formats of each Presbytery Assembly meeting to the Presbytery Council
 - (b) To prepare the docket for Presbytery Assembly meetings and coordinate with host sites for the logistics of meetings.
 - (c) To plan learning and networking opportunities for the Presbytery Assembly.
 - 3) Accountability: The Assembly Planning Committee is accountable to the Presbytery Council.
- b. MISSION COMMITTEE:
 - 1) Composition: Six members in three classes of two people in numbers as nearly equal as possible of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and members of congregations.
 - 2) Responsibilities:
 - (a) To hold public, the missional vision of Illinois Prairie Presbytery.
 - (b) To manage the resources and support of the congregations of the Presbytery to be thriving faith communities.
 - (c) To manage a mission grant program for the Presbytery.
 - (d) Encouraging Presbyterians & Presbyterian congregations to work together and facilitate communication amongst these connections.
 - 3) Authority:
 - (a) To recruit, appoint and/or mobilize others to see that the Mission Committee's responsibilities are fulfilled.
 - (b) To spend budgeted funds to fulfill responsibilities.
 - (c) To sign off on grant applications that address the missional vision and commit funds as above.
 - 4) Accountability: The Mission Committee is accountable to the Presbytery Council
- c. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:
 - 1) Composition: Three members in three classes of one person in numbers as nearly equal as possible of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and members of congregations.
 - 2) Responsibilities:
 - (a) Design, document, oversee implementation of, and monitor compliance with a staffing and salary structure that supports the Presbytery's vision.
 - (b) Design, document, and monitor compliance with the Personnel Manual and procedures that maximize the ability of staff to support the Presbytery's vision.

- (c) Regularly maintain and update the Personnel Manual to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations and General Assembly requirements.
 - (d) Develop and maintain staff position descriptions.
 - (e) Regularly review employee compensation and benefits and make recommendations to Presbytery Council.
 - (f) Conduct regular performance review of Presbytery staff.
- 3) Accountability: The Personnel Committee is accountable to the Presbytery Council.
- d. FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE:
- 1) Composition: Three members in three classes in numbers as nearly equal as possible of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and members of congregations. The Treasurer may serve ex-officio.
 - 2) Responsibilities:
 - (a) Develop an annual operating budget of the Presbytery. The draft budget will be presented to the Presbytery Council for approval and recommendation for final approval of Presbytery Assembly.
 - (b) Recommend the annual per capita rate for congregations within the Presbytery. This rate will be presented to the Presbytery Council for approval and recommendation for final approval by the Presbytery Assembly.
 - (c) Monitor the Presbytery's financial status including banking relationships, loans, and other financial commitments.
 - (d) Coordinate an annual audit or financial review.
 - (e) Monitor compliance with the approved budget and work with staff, committees, and commissions to make necessary adjustments.
 - (f) Develop ways to interpret the Presbytery's financial situation through stewardship, communication, and education.
 - (g) Oversee the operating systems of the Presbytery office and provide support and guidance to staff.
 - (h) Work with the trustees and officers of Illinois Prairie Presbytery to receive, manage, and recommend sale of any real property.
 - 3) Accountability: The Finance and Property Committee is accountable to the Presbytery Council.
- e. VISIONING COMMITTEE
- 1) Composition: The Presbytery Assembly Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Council Moderator and three members in three

classes in numbers as nearly equal as possible of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and members of congregations. The Stated Clerk may serve ex officio.

- 2) Responsibilities:
 - (a) Coordinate visioning and planning for the future of Illinois Prairie Presbytery.
- 3) Accountability: The Visioning Committee is accountable to the Presbytery Council

B. COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM):

1. Composition: Eighteen members in three classes of six people, classes in numbers as nearly equal as possible of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders. The Moderator of the commission and Vice-Moderator of the commission are included in the total of eighteen members. COM has the authority to develop subcommittees of the commission as needed. Details on the specific roles, processes, practices, and organization of the COM are found in the COM manual. Moderators of the subcommittees shall be voting members of the Commission on Ministry.
2. Responsibilities:
 - a. Conduct annual review of adequacy of compensation of ministers and pastors. Recommend minimum terms of call for all pastoral leaders. Publish a report of compensation of each minister and pastor each year.
 - b. Maintain contact with each minister and session including visits and counsel, with extra care extended to churches without pastors.
 - c. Receive, dismiss or change the status of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and commissioned pastors and dissolve pastoral relations in accordance with the *Book of Order*.
 - d. Appoint a moderator of a session where when there is no pastor or the moderator is unavailable.
 - e. Approve covenants between temporary pastors and sessions.
 - f. Grant permission to labor within or outside the bounds of the Presbytery.
 - g. Appoint administrative commissions for the ordination and/or installation of a minister of the Word and Sacrament.
 - h. Authorize specific ruling elders in specific circumstances to administer the Lord's Supper in accordance with the *Book of Order*.
 - i. Commission Commissioned Pastors who are approved to serve in a particular context.
3. Authority: To exercise any of the powers given, if the Commission determines that the welfare of the church requires action before the next meeting of the Presbytery Assembly, provided that the Commission shall report any such action to the next stated meeting of the Presbytery Assembly.
4. Accountability: The Commission on Ministry is accountable to the Presbytery Assembly.

C. COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM):

1. Composition: Six members in three classes of two people in numbers as nearly equal as possible of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders.
2. Responsibilities:
 - a. Carry out responsibilities defined in the *Book of Order* G-2.06.
 - b. Bring to the Presbytery recommendations for action in the selection, reception, care, examination and ordination or transfer of its candidates.
 - c. Manage the Commissioned Pastor training program for the Presbytery.
3. Authority:
 - a. To dismiss candidates to other presbyteries whenever it determines that such action is justified, provided that the committee shall report any such action to the next stated meeting of the Presbytery Assembly.
4. Accountability: The Commission on Preparation for Ministry is accountable to the Presbytery Assembly.

D. NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

1. Composition: Six members in three classes of two people composed of a balanced geographically representation of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders. The Moderator of the committee is included in the total of six members. The Moderator of the Committee on Representation is an ex-officio member.
2. Responsibilities:
 - a. The Nominating Committee shall present to Presbytery Assembly nominations for the Vice-Moderator and Moderator of the Presbytery, the committee and commission Moderators and Vice-Moderators (if any), members of committees and commissions, the Parliamentarian, and Commissioners to General Assembly and Synod of Lincoln Trails.
 - b. All Commission and Committee Moderators and Vice Moderators must be either a minister of the Word and Sacrament or a ruling elder.
 - c. The Nominating Committee shall present to Presbytery Assembly nominations to fill all vacancies that occur during the year, except as otherwise specified in this manual.
3. Accountability: The Nominating Committee is accountable to the Presbytery Assembly.

E. COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION:

1. Composition: Six members elected in accordance with the *Book of Order* G-3.0103. These individuals shall be nominated by the Presbytery Council. The Moderator of the committee is included in the total of six members
2. Responsibilities: Carry out the responsibilities assigned to the Committee on Representation in the *Book of Order*. The Moderator of the Committee on Representation shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Nominating Committee.

3. Accountability: The Committee on Representation is accountable to the Presbytery Assembly.
- F. PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION:
1. Composition: Nine members in three classes of three people in numbers as nearly equal as possible of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders. The term for members is six years and members are elected in odd years. Members of this Commission are nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Presbytery Assembly.
 2. Responsibilities:
 - a. Carry out the responsibilities and practices defined in the *Book of Order*, Church Discipline.
 - b. For matters of Church Discipline, an Investigating Committee (IC) of three to five members shall be appointed by the following persons working together: the Moderator of the Presbytery Assembly, the Moderator of the Commission on Ministry, one Ruling Elder Member of the Presbytery Council, and the General Presbyter. The appointment shall be made in consultation with the Stated Clerk. The appointment shall be reported to the next meeting of the Presbytery Assembly
 3. Accountability: The Permanent Judicial Commission shall be accountable only to the Presbytery Assembly.
- G. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS:
1. The Presbytery Council shall nominate commissioners for new church development administrative commissions.
 2. The Commission on Ministry shall nominate commissioners for administrative commissions for congregations in difficulties and administrative commissions to participate in the ordination and/or installation of ministers of the Word and Sacrament in accordance with the *Book of Order*.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMISSIONERS TO THE GREATER CHURCH

- A. COMMISSIONERS AND YOUTH ADVISORY DELEGATES TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Illinois Prairie Presbytery shall commission ministers of the Word and Sacrament, ruling elders from different member congregations, and youth to each General Assembly meeting. Alternate commissioners may also be elected.
1. Election:
 - a. Nominations for election of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders as commissioners and alternate commissioners shall be presented to the Presbytery Assembly for election in time to meet the requirements of the upcoming General Assembly.
 - b. Members of the Presbytery Assembly shall have the right to nominate commissioners and alternate commissioners from the floor, and if done, the Presbytery Assembly shall elect commissioners by written ballot.
 2. Criteria for Nomination:
 - a. The nomination of candidates to serve as General Assembly Commissioners and Youth Advisory Delegates shall be conducted in

accordance with the Presbytery's "Policy for Determining Commissioners to General Assembly." The policy and applications are available on the Presbytery website.

3. Responsibilities
 - a. Commissioners shall attend General Assembly as voting members, shall report to the Presbytery Assembly and shall interpret the work of General Assembly to the congregations of the Presbytery.

B. COMMISSIONERS TO THE SYNOD OF LINCOLN TRAILS:

1. The Nominating Committee shall nominate commissioners to the Synod of Lincoln Trails in accordance with instructions from the Synod.
2. The Nominating Committee shall nominate one minister of the Word and Sacrament and one ruling elder to one-year terms as alternate commissioners to the Synod of Lincoln Trails. Alternate commissioners are eligible for reelection for additional terms.

ARTICLE IX. STRONGHOLD CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

- A. Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center is a ministry program in covenant with Illinois Prairie Presbytery. Matters related to this ministry shall be directed as follows. Stronghold Center, Inc. is a separate legal entity and holds title to the camp property. Direction of Stronghold programs, staffing, and budget are managed by the Board of Directors of Stronghold Center, Inc.

ARTICLE X. ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

- A. To administer the Presbytery, staff shall include a General Presbyter, Stated Clerk, Associate Stated Clerk, Treasurer, Office Administrator, and such other permanent, temporary, and contract staff as the Presbytery may employ.
- B. The process for determining compensation for permanent, temporary, and contract staff shall be a responsibility of the Personnel Committee and shall be defined in the Illinois Prairie Presbytery Personnel Manual.
- C. GENERAL PRESBYTER

1. Responsibilities: The General Presbyter, whose specific title may change from time to time, shall serve as chief administrator of the Presbytery. The General Presbyter shall supervise Presbytery operations, programs, and staff, and provide for staff services for the committees and entities of the Presbytery. The General Presbyter shall be an ex officio member without vote on all commissions and committees of the Presbytery.
2. Terms and Election: The General Presbyter shall be presented to the Presbytery for a call of either an indefinite period or a defined term by a special committee of Presbytery elected to search for a General Presbyter.
3. Accountability: The General Presbyter is accountable to the Presbytery through the Personnel Committee. The General Presbyter shall be evaluated annually by the Personnel Committee.
4. Vacancy: If there is a vacancy in the office of General Presbyter, the Personnel Committee shall propose a plan for covering the position responsibilities to the

Presbytery Council for its concurrence and recommendation to the Presbytery Assembly for its approval.

D. STATED CLERK:

1. Responsibilities: In addition to responsibilities defined in Article V, Section D, other duties may be assigned to the Stated Clerk by the General Presbyter in consultation with the Personnel Committee.
2. Terms and Election: See Article V, Section D and Article VI.
3. Accountability: For duties other than those defined in Article V, Section D, the Stated Clerk shall be accountable to the General Presbyter. The Stated Clerk shall be evaluated annually by the General Presbyter, in consultation with the Personnel Committee.
4. Vacancy: See Article V, Section D.

E. ASSOCIATE STATED CLERK:

1. Responsibilities: In addition to responsibilities defined in Article V, Section E, other duties may be assigned to the Associate Stated Clerk by the General Presbyter or the Stated Clerk in consultation with the Personnel Committee.
2. Terms and Election: See Article V, Section E and Article VI.
3. Accountability: For duties other than those defined in Article V, Section E, the Associate Stated Clerk shall be accountable to the General Presbyter. The Associate Stated Clerk shall be evaluated annually by the General Presbyter, in consultation with the Personnel Committee.
4. Vacancy: See Article V, Section E.

F. TREASURER:

1. Responsibilities: In addition to responsibilities defined in Article V, Section F, other duties may be assigned to the Treasurer by the General Presbyter in consultation with the Personnel Committee.
2. Terms and Election: See Article V, Section F and Article VI.
3. Accountability: For duties other than those defined in Article V, Section F, the Treasurer shall be accountable to the General Presbyter. The Treasurer shall be evaluated annually by the General Presbyter, in consultation with the Personnel Committee.
4. Vacancy: See Article V, Section F.

G. OTHER STAFF:

1. Responsibilities: If needed, the General Presbyter in consultation with the Personnel Committee may secure additional employees with the prior approval of Presbytery Council. A job description that details responsibilities and compensation will be created for each additional position.
2. Accountability: Additional staff are accountable to the General Presbyter. The General Presbyter may designate specific staff members to be supervisors of particular staff.

3. Vacancy: The General Presbyter in consultation with the Personnel Committee will present a plan for coverage of a position until a hiring process can be completed.

ARTICLE XI. GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES:

1. Quorum: The quorum for any committee, commission or the Presbytery Council shall be one-third of the voting members, unless otherwise decided by that committee or commission.
2. Enlisted members: Committees and commissions may enlist people in addition to their elected members. Enlisted members have voice but no vote and are not elected and not subject to the usual term limits of the committee or commission on which they serve.
3. Committees and commissions may meet in person, via telephone, or via online communication platforms. Minutes for each meeting should be recorded and approved.
4. Any action which is required to be taken, or which may be taken, at a meeting of the Presbytery Council, Trustees, Commission or Committee may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be approved by email by all the members of the body then in office. Such consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote.
5. The Presbytery Assembly, Council or individual standing commissions or committees may appoint an ad hoc committee, or task group for a specific purpose if deemed appropriate.
6. All committees, commissions, and task groups shall be accountable to the Presbytery Assembly.

B. POLICIES

1. The Stated Clerk shall prepare and keep current an Ecclesiastical Administrative Manual for Illinois Prairie Presbytery, which shall include all Presbytery policies and guidelines and all board and committee policies and guidelines. The Illinois Prairie Presbytery Ecclesiastical Administrative Manual shall be made broadly available.
2. Policies of the Presbytery may be found on the Presbytery website and be recorded in the Presbytery minutes.

ARTICLE XII. EFFECTIVE DATE

Approved by Blackhawk Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on September 14, 2004.

Revisions approved by Blackhawk Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on November 8, 2005.

Revisions approved by Blackhawk Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on November 13, 2007.

Revisions approved by Blackhawk Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on March 8, 2008.

Revisions approved by Blackhawk Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on July 8, 2008.

Revisions approved by Blackhawk Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on May 10, 2011.

Revisions approved by Blackhawk Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on April 9, 2013.

Revisions approved by Blackhawk Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on April 4, 2017.

Revisions approved by Blackhawk Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on November 13, 2018.

Revisions approved by Blackhawk Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on June 4, 2019.

Revisions approved by Blackhawk Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on November 12, 2019.

Revisions approved by Blackhawk Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on November 9, 2021.

Revisions approved by Blackhawk Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on September 12, 2023.

Revisions approved by Blackhawk Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on September 17, 2024.

Presbytery Council Report

February 10, 2026

Dear friends and colleagues,

Here are the highlights from the Council's work since our last Assembly Meeting:

- **Implemented time for strategic planning at the start of each meeting:** any member of Council can bring comments, observations or concerns about the life and work of our Presbytery. We will address them as a team.
- **Dismissed the LANA (Land and Name Acknowledgement) Task Force with gratitude for their work, pending the approval of the name change through official channels:** LANA members feel their work has been completed.
- **Moved to present the Presbytery by-laws with the name change for approval at the February 10th meeting.**
- **Moved to present the revised Ecclesiastical Administrative Manual for approval at the February 10th meeting:** Summary of Changes has been provided for easy review.
- **Moved to transfer \$10,000 from the Resurrection Fund to the Pastors' Support Grant Emergency Fund:** this is to address growing needs and requests for assistance in times of financial crisis.

With gratitude and hope,

Lisa Lopez-Meyer
Council Moderator 2026

Finance and Property

The Finance and Property Committee met on February 2, 2026.

Properties in play include:

- Kankakee – we hope to close the sale (~\$100,000) in February.
- Somanauk – an engineering report needs to be reviewed but we are having difficulty in engaging an independent engineer.
- New Lenox – property has been sold.

Financial topics include:

- Year-end reports should be available by the time of the Assembly meeting or shortly thereafter.
- For the new year and going forward, some legacy account references will be re-mapped to reflect current practices and uses.
- An audit cannot be completed until Stronghold revises their by-laws to reflect its independence from the Presbytery. The way their current by-laws read, the auditor interprets as the Presbytery controlling Stronghold and thus would treat the two entities as one for audit purposes (which is exactly not what we want).
- Our relationship with the bookkeeper is productive.
- Financially, the Presbytery is solid and we are not relying on investments to cover operating expenses. We draw from the portfolio regularly according to an established formula but we do not need to make extraordinary withdrawals to cover regular expenses.
- Thus, more money may be available soon for additional grants. Only a few churches apply for the various grants; all congregations are encouraged to consider help from the Presbytery for their various projects.

PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK

Mission Committee Report

February 10, 2026

The mission committee has met twice since our previous Presbytery Assembly.

At the end of 2025 we received an additional \$10,000 from Presbytery, specifically for the use towards food related ministries. We have received 6 applications and have given a total of \$6,500 away.

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| Mendota | 1,500.00 |
| Savanna | 1,000.00 |
| Gardner | 1,000.00 |
| Waltham | 1,000.00 |
| Park Street | 1,000.00 |
| Bolingbrook | 1,000.00 |

We have also given \$2,500 towards the Kenya Partnership - \$1250 out of the remaining mission funds and \$1250 from the Peacemaking funds.

At the end of 2025 we have given away all of our 2025 mission funds as budgeted and the additional \$6500 for toward food related ministries.

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Sterling First | Backpack Buddy program | 1,500.00 |
| Blackhawk Presbytery | Triennium 2025 | 1,250.00 |
| Ottawa | Farm Equipment | 1,500.00 |
| Harvard First | Baby Wipes and Feminine Products | 1,500.00 |
| Elgin First | Immigration Project | 2,000.00 |
| Westminster, DeKalb | | 1,000.00 |
| Kenya Partnership | | 1,250.00 |
| TOTAL | | 10,000.00 |

That brings us to a new year with \$10,000 to spend again. This far no grants have been approved, but we have received 2 applications that will be brought to the committee at our February meeting. If you have a ministry or mission that could benefit from a boost, please fill out the grant request form on the website.

Also, if you have a program that we are not aware of, please reach out to Thea or Jeannette, to make us aware of what you are doing. We would love for this to serve as an example and inspiration of what is possible, but also to connect you to another church already doing something you think you might want to get involved in.

The dates for an intergenerational mission trip for the Presbytery, together with Chicago Presbytery to South Dakota has been set for June 13-19. Mark your calendars if you are interested! We will provide more details as they become available.

If you have any ideas around a communal mission for the Presbytery, please feel free to reach out and share!

Matthew 25 Task Force

The Matthew 25 Task Force has finished the work that it has set out to do, and this Task Force has been dismantled. We are immensely grateful for all the time and effort that went into bringing the Matthew 25 project to this Presbytery, encouraging churches to become Matthew 25 churches, and educating us in all that entails and how to live into it. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE!

Opportunity to Visit Kenya!

Applications (download application [here](#)) are now being accepted for the Blackhawk-Imenti Partnership Trip on September 22 through October 5, 2026. While in Kenya, we will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the partnership between our presbytery and the three Imenti presbyteries. The purpose of our trip will be to strengthen and grow our partnership. We also hope to inspire more church to parish partnerships built on the relationships built between our travelers and our hosts. While we are in the country, we will work together on a Memorandum of Understanding that will chart our path into the future. Finally, we will make time to go on safari to marvel at God's beautiful creation!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Thea Kornelius

Visioning and Assembly Planning Committee Report

February 10, 2026

Dear friends and colleagues,

As we gather on Zoom for the first Presbytery meeting of the year, it's a great opportunity to reflect on the **essential questions of identity and calling**. For this reason our worship service tonight will highlight different aspects of our identity in Christ, and our learning opportunity will include both information about the features of our Presbytery and discussion time around the questions of who we are as a Presbytery and who God is calling us to be in this time and place. We look forward to energizing discussions in our small groups.

We are also excited to be working on a **“Big Conversations”** initiative for 2026, focused on gathering Presbytery leaders for learning and development around important issues for ministry in our time. We are planning to have “Big Conversations” happening both at designated times during assembly and at different times of the year, both in-person and electronically. A sneak peek of coming plans to be shared during the meeting!

In addition, our business at this gathering includes approval of changes to our ecclesiastical manual of administrations, including the separation of the VAP Committee into **2 separate groups: the Visioning Committee** (focused on looking forward and providing direction for the future of the Presbytery) and **Assembly Planning Committee** (focused on the logistics of Assembly Meetings according to our discerned priorities). We are hopeful this change will allow for greater progress on long-term work. You'll be hearing from these Committees separately in the future. Please let us know if you have interest in helping with either Visioning work or Assembly Planning, as Nominating is still looking for a couple more at-large members for both Committees and we'd love to have new voices.

Finally, don't forget to fill out your assembly evaluations! Keep your eyes open for an email after the assembly inviting you to share your thoughts.

With gratitude and hope,

Lisa Lopez-Meyer
VAP Moderator

Commission on Ministry Report to Presbytery

February 10, 2026

ITEM FOR PRESBYTERY ACTION:

MOTION 1:

Approve the revised Minimum Terms of Call Policy approved at the November 2025 Presbytery Assembly.

BACKGROUND:

COM presented a draft, revised policy for Minimum Terms of Call Policy at our September 2025 Presbytery Assembly meeting and asked that any comments be made to COM. Based on comments received and minor text edits, a revised policy was meant to be presented at the November Presbytery Assembly meeting. The text presented, however, was the same version submitted at the September meeting. The final revised policy dated September 22 is attached and should be approved.

MOTION 2:

Approve the revised Sabbatical Policy.

BACKGROUND:

The former Sabbatical Policy has fallen out of use because of its complexity and unrealistic timelines. It also did not allow for Commissioned Pastors qualifying for a sabbatical. The revised Sabbatical Policy is inclusive of Commissioned Pastors and is concise and informative.

MOTION 3:

Move to approve the following Administrative Commission (AC) for Central Presbyterian Church of New Lenox.

BACKGROUND:

The session of the Central Presbyterian Church of New Lenox on January 11, 2026 voted to dissolve the congregation April 26, 2026 or as soon as practical after that date. The current pastor and moderator, Chrystal Abbott, thus requests 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 Central Presbyterian Church of New Lenox to determine the dissolution of the congregation. A charge to this Administrative Commission is attached.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY COM:

New Calls

1. Approved covenant, if the way be clear, between Ridgefield-Crystal Lake and Maggie Goodwin (MSW) effective February 2, 2026

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Effective Salary | \$ 80,000.00 |
| SECA (7.65%) | \$ 6,120.00 |
| Reimbursable Expenses | \$ 17,900.00 |
| Medical Coverage | \$ 14,000.00 |
| Spouse Coverage | \$ 12,250.00 |
| Pension | \$ 6,800.00 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Death & Disability | \$ 800.00 |
| Temporary Disability | \$ 400.00 |
| Total Terms of Call | \$138,270.00 |
| Business/Professional Expenses | \$ 3,000.00 |
| Continuing Education | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Medical Reimbursement (6%) | \$ 4,800.00 |
| Moving Cost | \$ 8,600.00 |
| Total Reimbursable Expenses | \$ 17,900.00 |

2. Approved covenant, if the way be clear, between Utica, Waltham and Kathleen Luke (MSW) effective January 12, 2026

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Cash Salary | \$ 42,154.00 |
| Fair Rental Value of Manse | \$ 13,846.20 |
| Furnishing Allowance | \$ 4,000.00 |
| Effective Salary | \$ 60,000.20 |
| Utilities | \$ 3,141.00 |
| Equivalent Salary | \$ 63,141.20 |
| SECA | \$ 4,830.30 |
| Medical Coverage | \$ 10,500.04 |
| Pension | \$ 6,000.02 |
| Total Terms of Call | \$ 84,471.56 |
| Automobile Expense | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Business/Professional Expenses | \$ 3,000.00 |
| Medical Reimbursement | \$ 3,600.01 |
| Moving Cost | \$ TBD |
| Total Reimbursable Expenses | \$ 8,600.01 |

New Commissions/Covenants*

3. Approved covenant between Wilmington, First and Mike Engle (CP) effective November 30, 2025 – November 30, 2026.

Supply Pastor \$ 150.00/service

Renewal of Covenants and Contracts:

4. Approved renewed covenant between Rockford, Westminster, and Gretchen Hammeke (CP) effective January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Full-time- 40 hours/week | |
| Cash Salary/ Total Effective Salary | \$65,000.00/year |
| Housing | \$15,000.00 |
| Total Effective Salary | \$80,000.00 |
| Automobile Expenses | per WPC policy |
| Professional Expenses | \$ 2,500.00 |
| Continuing Education (2 weeks) | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Vacation: 4 weeks (including 4 Sundays) | |

5. Approved renewed covenant between Elwood, Community and Mike Engle (CP) effective December 1, 2025 – November 30, 2026.

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Cash Salary | \$23,000.00/year |
| Housing | \$17,000.00 |
| Total Effective Salary | \$40,000.00 |
| SECA Supplement | \$ 2,947.00 |
| Health Insurance | \$ 3,600.00 |
| Health Care Reimbursement | \$ 2,311.00 |
| Automobile Expenses | \$ 2,400.00 |
| Continuing Education | \$ 500.00 |

Vacation: 4 weeks (including 6 Sundays)

6. Approved renewed covenant between Plainfield, Wheatland, and Chuck Johnson (CP) effective December 1, 2025 – November 30, 2026.

Part-time- 15 hours/week

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Cash Salary | \$. 400.00/week |
| Total Effective Salary | \$ 20,800.00/year |

Vacation: 4 weeks (including 4 Sundays)

7. Approved renewed covenant between Joliet, Westminster, and Karen Williams (CP) effective January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026.

Part-time- 30 hours/week

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Cash Salary | \$16,836.04/year |
| Housing | \$16,559.92 |
| Total Effective Salary | \$33,395.96/year |
| SECA Supplement | \$ 3,006.00 |
| Health Care Reimbursement | \$ 1,900.00 |
| Automobile Expenses | \$ 1,200.00 |
| Professional Expenses | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Continuing Education (2 weeks) | \$ 1,200.00 |

Vacation: 3 weeks (including 3 Sundays)

8. Approved renewed covenant between Manteno, Community, and Paul Koch (CP) effective December 18, 2025 – May 17, 2026.

Part-time- 30 hours/week

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Cash Salary | \$ 220.00/week |
| Mileage (current IRS rate) | |
| Bible Studies, meetings, etc. | \$ 75.00/each |

Vacation: 2 weeks (including 2 Sundays)

9. Approved renewed covenant between Caledonia, Willow Creek, and Tanya Muzzarelli (CP) effective January 6, 2026 – February 2, 2027.

As needed in pastor's absence Pulpit Supply \$150

10. Approved renewed covenant between Joliet, Westminster, and Karen Williams (CP) effective January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026.

Part-time- 30 hours/week

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| Cash Salary | \$31,535.04/year |
|-------------|------------------|

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Medicare Supplement | \$ 3,418.48 |
| Total Effective Salary | \$33,395.96/year |
| Automobile Expenses | \$ 2,250.00 |
| Professional Expenses | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Continuing Education | \$ 1,500.00 |

Approved Moderators:

11. Mendota, First for congregational meeting January 25, - Eric Heinekamp (MWS)
12. Ridgefield Crystal Lake, for congregational meeting February 1 – Ruling elder and clerk, Jim Pracht.
13. Rochelle, First for congregational meeting February 1 – Ruling elder, Lydia Roberts.

Miscellaneous:

14. Earlville, United request approved for a waiver of term limits for Jennifer Miller, Lisa Karlson, and Al Matison to serve a third term as elder because of the lack of others willing to serve.
15. Earlville, United and Mendota, First request approved Elder, Dale Keilman to serve communion at Earlville, in the absence of Laurie Walker (CP).

OTHER INFORMATION

- Pastor Supply List is notably a very short list. COM and CPM are working to supplement this list.
- A big welcome to Ridgefield-Crystal Lake pastor, Maggie Goodwin (MSW).
- A big welcome back to Utica, Waltham pastor, Kathleen Luke (MSW).
- A reminder: The PCUSA 1001 Worshipping Communities is offering \$10k with matching grants available for any small group that wants to start something new outside of an existing church body. Please contact our New Communities Committee with ideas or for more information.
- **A Presbytery Liaison is meant to be assigned to every church in the Presbytery. Their job is to build a supportive relationship with the church and serve as a go-to person for questions or assistance about church ministry. Please let the new moderator of the Liaison Committee, Katie Ricks (MWS) or me know if you are interested in serving as a liaison. Elders are perfect for this special calling.**

Respectfully submitted,
 Laurie Walker (CP)
 Moderator, COM
laurelawalker@gmail.com,
 815-274-3444

BLACKHAWK PRESBYTERY MINIMUM COMPENSATION REQUIREMENTS

Overview

The relationship between pastor and congregation, whether involving a minister of the Word and Sacrament or a commissioned pastor, is a unique employment situation. Presbyterian calls occur between pastors and congregations who have discerned God's direction in creating a relationship of mutual ministry, and who have had that call validated and affirmed by the Presbytery. The presbytery is a representative council of the church and is comprised of ordained ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders from all our churches. The connectional nature of Presbyterian call, and its initiation by God, preclude a purely economic or marketplace approach to the topic of compensation for pastors.

Like other members of the Body of Christ, pastors are called to be servants of God. God calls pastors into service in a variety of settings each of which, when faithfully discerned, ought to be honored regardless of size or wealth of the congregation or specialized ministry. At the same time, faithful discernment of a call includes a practice of good stewardship of the resources of the whole of the denomination. As the Holy Scripture teaches, "Elders who lead well should be paid double, especially those who work with public speaking and teaching. ... *'Don't put a muzzle on an ox while it treads grain,'* and *'Workers deserve their pay.'*" (1 Timothy 5:17-18, Common English Bible.)

The minimum effective salary for ministers of the Word and Sacrament and commissioned pastors, based on a full time work week of 40 hours, is determined by the Commission on Ministry (COM) and is approved by the Presbytery Assembly each year. Effective salary is only part of the overall compensation requirement for pastors. These overall minimum requirements apply to both installed and contractually hired ministers of the Word and Sacrament and commissioned pastors, and include:

- effective salary, including housing allowance; as approved by the Presbytery;
- self-employment contributions (SECA);
- pension, death and disability coverage, as described below;
- medical coverage, as described below;
- vouchered allowances for
 - professional expense reimbursement, including mileage at the current IRS rate;
 - study leave; and
 - health reimbursement per Blackhawk's Health Reimbursement Arrangement policy; and
- where applicable, sabbatical leave;
- where applicable, family leave;
- a minimum of four weeks vacation and two weeks study leave; and
- state and federal holidays.

Comment: Pastoral salaries, like all salaries, are subject to taxation. Bonuses, for example, can be treated by the IRS as income and taxed accordingly. For that reason, bonuses are discouraged, housing allowances should comply with IRS expectations, and all other allowances shall be vouchered. Any questions about tax issues, including SECA (self-employment), should be referred to COM.

Medical Coverage

The Board of Pensions (BOP) is transitioning its medical coverage from providing full coverage for a pastor and their spouse and dependents (family coverage), to providing less-expensive coverage only for pastors, though family coverage will still be available at a fixed and higher price. The situation is in flux. Presbyteries across the country are experimenting with ways of adapting to the new and evolving BOP insurance coverage options. Blackhawk Presbytery is in close communication with other presbyteries, and will update its guidance as the transition process proceeds.

Prior to 2024, all pastors were covered under the old BOP system, which automatically included family coverage. Pastors whose current call began prior to 2024 must continue to receive full BOP family coverage from the BOP without any reduction in the pastor's effective salary. Pastors whose calls began after 2024 have other options. If an installed pastor does not have a spouse or dependents, or if the pastor's family has alternate coverage (as may be the case if the pastor's spouse is employed), then the congregation need only provide BOP coverage for the pastor. If the pastor and their family require family coverage, such coverage should be provided by the congregation. However, family coverage may be sought from outside the BOP, and coverage for pastors who are not installed is not required to be provided by the BOP. If a pastor who is not installed does not require medical coverage, COM can approve a call that does not include medical coverage.

Minimum Compensation Requirements

In the past, Blackhawk Presbytery has approved calls that do not meet Presbytery minimum. Blackhawk Presbytery shall no longer approve such calls. Not only does the Book of Order not allow exceptions to minimum terms of call (G-2.0804), calls that do not meet Presbytery minimums are unfair to pastors and to congregations that do meet minimum standards.

God does not call anyone to discipleship beyond his or her abilities and resources. Therefore, any congregation that cannot meet the Presbytery minimum as its pastoral leadership is currently structured, is presumably called to an alternate form of pastoral leadership. Discernment is surely needed. Therefore, any congregation that cannot meet Presbytery minimum may apply to the Presbytery for short-term assistance in meeting minimum terms of call. Such assistance shall only be granted on a short-term basis and on the condition that the congregation enters a period of discernment about how God is calling it to mission under its current circumstances.

SABBATICAL LEAVE POLICY

Illinois Prairie Presbytery

INTRODUCTION

Sabbath rest is built into the fabric of creation and is necessary for the well-being of community, for it reminds us of who we are and who God is. Jesus offered this invitation to his disciples: “Come and rest awhile” (Mark 6:31). Amid the constant demands of ministry, Jesus knew the need for Sabbath time. A sabbatical is a time to dig deeper into oneself and one’s relationship to God, away from the demands of long-term ministry. It is a time to be renewed, refreshed, and revitalized by the breath of God.

Sabbaticals not only benefit the pastor, but the congregation or other validated ministry as well, giving all involved an opportunity to try new things and develop untapped gifts. Sabbaticals are a useful tool for maintaining a healthy and thriving relationship between pastors and those they serve, preventing pastor burn-out, and fostering vital ministry.

ELIGIBILITY

Illinois Prairie Presbytery recommends that all ministers of the Word and Sacrament and all commissioned pastors be eligible for sabbatical every seven years. Sabbaticals should be in the terms of call for all installed ministers of the Word and Sacrament and in the contracts for temporary ministers and commissioned pastors. Sabbatical time should also be provided to all pastors currently serving by adding it retroactively to the date of hire or the beginning of the call.

PROCESS

While Illinois Prairie Presbytery strongly recommends sabbaticals for all persons in ministry, it recognizes that pastors who serve in non-Presbyterian settings, such as hospital chaplains, may have fewer options or a different process. The process below is thus limited to those pastors working under a Presbyterian council (i.e. a session or the presbytery) in Illinois Prairie Presbytery. The following schedule applies:

1. After six years of service to a particular ministry, or as agreed upon by the employing council, the pastor may have up to three months of sabbatical leave to be taken in the following year.
2. Vacation time may be attached to the sabbatical with the employing council’s permission.
3. No study leave will be granted during the year of sabbatical.

4. The pastor must commit to remain at their church or other validated ministry for at least one year of service beyond the date of return. Any pastor who does not return to their employment for at least one year shall be required to refund the entire salary (excluding benefits) received for the period of the sabbatical leave. The requirement for repayment may not be waived without the specific approval of the employing council.

PLANNING

Advance planning of the sabbatical leave is vital to success and should not be overlooked. After assessing eligibility, the pastor shall:

1. Submit an initial request for sabbatical to their council one year in advance of the leave for the council's approval.
2. Upon approval of the request, the council will appoint a Sabbatical Renewal Team (SRT) to work with the pastor on planning. The SRT shall consist of at least two elders and members at large of the congregation or other ministry.
3. The SRT will present a written plan to the council for its approval at least six months prior to the start of the sabbatical. The plan should include:
 - a description of the goals to be achieved and the expected end result,
 - a personal statement from the pastor as to why this sabbatical leave would be valuable to both the pastor and the ministry, and
 - a preliminary proposal for coverage of the pastor's services, including the financial cost to the council of providing coverage.
4. Upon approval by the council, the plan will be forwarded to the Commission on Ministry (COM) for its review and its assistance in insuring adequate coverage.
5. Once the plan is approved by the council and COM, the SRT shall inform the congregation or other ministry of the sabbatical leave and the plans for coverage.

FUNDING

During the sabbatical leave, the employing council will continue to pay the pastor's salary and benefits at the same level as those in effect prior to the leave. Each council will also contract for the necessary interim staff coverage during the period of sabbatical leave. COM can assist in this process.

Since the leave itself can be expensive, pastors are encouraged to apply for grants supporting sabbatical leave. Possible resources are available on the Presbytery website.

RE-ENTRY

Experience has shown that sharing the sabbatical experience enhances the experience for both the pastor and those they serve. Thus, at the completion of sabbatical leave, the pastor shall present an oral and written report to their council and congregation or ministry with the details of their leave as well as reflections on its value. This is a time when the ministry participants can also share how their service was changed during the sabbatical time.

CONCLUSION

A sabbatical for clergy renewal creates space in which God can work in new ways, for both the pastor and the church. Let the creative juices and imagination flow. Avoid prescriptions; grow in your own way. Set out with enthusiasm and expectation. Breathe deeply as you go. Let yourself wonder and be open to the surprises of God, and know that years from now you and those you serve will still be reaping the benefits and the blessings of the experience.

RESOURCES FOR SABBATICALS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE PRESBYTERY WEBSITE

Administrative Commission for Central Presbyterian Church of New Lennox

Charge to the Commission

Approved at the February 10, 2026 Presbytery Assembly Meeting

MOTION: COM moves that the Presbytery Assembly create an Administrative Commission to work with the Central Presbyterian Church of New Lennox to guide them through the process of dissolving their congregation, at their request.

The Session of the Central Presbyterian Church of New Lennox voted on January 11, 2026 to dissolve April 26, 2026 or as soon as practical after that date. To support this request, the Commission on Ministry is asking the Presbytery Assembly to establish an Administrative Commission to take all action needed to dissolve the congregation and handle the transfer of the property, including but not limited to, the following:

- assisting in and participating in a closing worship service,
- assisting with the dissolution of the pastor relationship
- taking possession of all records and minutes,
- holding the membership of the congregation and assisting in their transfer to another Christian congregation for a period up to one year,
- accounting for all assets, ensuring the financial matters of the congregation are closed in order
- closing bank and financial accounts
- assisting the session in dispensing all financial and other assets to entities desired by the congregation and
- when all matters are concluded, dissolving the corporation.
- 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 moderator of the presbytery in consultation with the Stated Clerk.

CPM Report February 2026

CPM met on January 22nd. We are delighted to welcome our new members.

We met with and approved two new candidates for Commissioned Pastor/Commissioned Ruling Elder:

- Peggy Imgrund
- Dale Keilman

We also have one candidate for Minister of the Word and Sacrament, Faith Herout.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Lauren Patrus-Betzel, Moderator, CPM

Nominating Report for Presbytery Meeting on February 10, 2026
(Nominees for election are in bold)

Parliamentarian

2026 – David Spaulding – MWS

Recording Clerk

2026 – Dorene Teiche - RE

Presbytery Council:

2027 – Position is Open – RE

2028 – Position is Open – MWS

2028 – Position is Open – RE

Mission Committee

2027 – Position is Open - CM

2028 – Position is Open – CM

Finance & Property Committee

2028 – Position Open – MWS

Vision Committee

2026 – Position is Open – MWS

2026 – Position is Open – RE

2026 – Position is Open – RE

Commission on Ministry

2026 – Position Open – MWS

2026 – Position Open – RE

2028 – Position Open – MWS (2)

2028 – Positions Open - RE (3)

Committee on Representation

2026 – Jim McCrea -MWS (Moderator)

2026 – Spencer Lawrence – MWS/RE

2027 – Clinton Roberts – MWS

2027 – Michelle Crebo – RE

2028 – Bo Mircea – MWS

2028 – Ray Lantz - RE

Permanent Judicial Commission

2031 – Ray Lantz - RE

Nominating Committee

2028 – Rev. Jim McCrea – MWS (Moderator)

General Presbyter Report to Presbytery

February 10, 2026

The presbytery assembly voted last November to change our name from Blackhawk Presbytery to Illinois Prairie Presbytery. That change is in process and will take some effort to modify our website, emails, and various documents. We will notify the bank and vendors and assume all will go smoothly. Some of our congregations may also need to make minor changes to their documents that reference the presbytery name but there is no hurry to make updates. Please contact our office if you have any questions.

I have mentioned in several forums that when God changes the names of people in scripture (think Abram to Abraham or Jacob to Isreal) it is not just to change a name. It is to give a new identity and a new mission. One of our key goals in 2026 is to get more clarity on who we are, who we serve, and what God is calling us to be and do as a presbytery. We look forward to your input as we do this important visioning work that we are continuing with the educational opportunity at today's meeting.

One of the ways we gather information is by presbytery leaders meeting with congregations and pastors. I always look forward to gathering with congregations, sessions, PNCs, and other groups and ministers. I have already made eight in-person visits to congregations in 2026. Please let me know if your congregation would like a visit.

Finally, I cannot submit my report without paying tribute to Rev. Dr. Roy Backus. For those who have not heard, Roy passed away on January 24. Roy was a fantastic pastor who served several congregations in our presbytery (Morris, Waltham, Gibson City, Wilmington). He was active in the presbytery, a frequent visitor to our weekly Cares and Shares gatherings, and a good friend and mentor to many. You may also know Roy though his wonderful music ministry that blessed us at our September presbytery meeting. I encourage you to pray for his wife and six children. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. As Roy would say, grace and peace.

I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Rev. Eric Heinekamp

Stated Clerk Report to Presbytery

February 10, 2026

1. Presbytery Stated Meeting Dates 2026

Vision and Assembly Planning is recommending the following schedule of presbytery meetings for 2026.

- February 10, 2026 – Evening by Zoom
- May 19, 2026 – In Person at Stronghold
- September 15, 2026 – Morning by Zoom
- November 10, 2026 – In Person at location TBD

2. Status of presbytery name change

The name change for Blackhawk Presbytery is moving forward. Last September, the presbytery approved the idea of changing the presbytery name. In November, the presbytery voted to change the name of Blackhawk Presbytery to Illinois Prairie Presbytery, when the way be clear. On January 8 this year, the Synod of Lincoln Trails also approved the name change and made a request of the General Assembly Administrative Commission for Mid-Councils to give final approval. This commission is expected to approve the name change on March 13.

3. Session Minute Review

Thanks to Rev. David Spaulding and Rev. Jim McCrea, we have completed our annual review of session records. There are only a few congregations that were unable to attend one of our four review sessions. If your congregation did not participate, please contact me to set up a process to review your records.

4. Annual Statistical Reviews

Thank you to all who have already completed the annual statistical report. The final date to submit information online is February 20.

5. Administrative Commissions

The presbytery has authorized three active administrative commissions to complete their designated work. The commission for First Presbyterian of Kankakee is finalizing the sale of the former church property and hopes to close the sale this year. The commission for First Presbyterian of Wenona has been unable to find a buyer for the property and is now looking for options to raze the former church building. The administrative commission for United Presbyterian Church of Somonauk is continuing to work with the congregation as they discern their future and the possible disposition of their church property.

6. Necrology

The necrology list for 2025 is attached. May they all rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Blackhawk Presbytery Necrology Report
Ruling Elders Deceased in 2025**

Braidwood, First

Chuck Cunningham (No obit)
Martha Stahl, March 20

Elwood Community Church

Joy Gillahan, March 7
Jerry Panzer, March 15

Galena, First

John Ray, June 23

Joliet, First

Thomas Cawley, December 26
Klint DeGeus, February 11
Mary Lynn Keir, December 19
Sheila Lundeen, February 5

LaRose, Crow Meadow

Delbert Shirley, July 5

Mendota, First

Helen Joyce Burrignt, February 17

Morrison, First

Jane James, November 17

Pontiac, First

James "Bernie" Curtis, June 25

Rockford, Third

Gene Archer, April 21
Heather Genrich, September 24
Dick Lindsey, August 9

Rockford Westminster

Conrad Wallace Lantz, August 25
Joan Knight Slack, June 8
Sandra Jean Stierman, October 18

Winnebago, First

Gene Gambrel, August 25
Jill Sunday, September 20

Winnebago, Middle Creek

James Bridgeland, April 6
Lawrence Hall, December 2
Harriett Langley, February 23

Woodstock, First

Tom Schwarz, March 28

Yorkville, Au Sable Grove

Louis Christian, November 17
Louis Thurow, January 10

**Blackhawk Presbytery
Ministers of the Word and Sacrament
Deceased in 2025 – None**

Reported by 34 out of 62 Churches as of Feb.4, 2026

Churches with No Submittal:

*Bolingbrook, First of DuPage
Caledonia, Willow Creek
Coal City, New Hope
Crystal Lake, Ridgefield
Dakota
Dekalb
Dixon
Fairbury
Franklin Grove
Fulton Garden Plain
Harvard
Henry
Joliet Westminster
Kewanee
Morris
Ottawa
Paw Paw
Rochelle
Rockford 2nd/1st
Romeoville
Sandwich
Savanna
Shannon, Prairie Dell
Somonauk
Sterling First
Streator
Utica Waltham
Watseka*

THE PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK

Treasurer's Report & Summary Financial Reports

December 31, 2025

Operating Cash Position

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Current balances: | \$1,082,569 | Prior Year balances: | \$830,391 |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------|

SUMMARY:

- Blackhawk Presbytery is in a very healthy financial position.
- Total Presbytery cash accounts, which include checking and Blackhawk Foundation accounts, have increased \$252,178 compared to the same time last year. This increase is due largely to receipt of a gift related to dissolution of the Kankakee congregation.
- Total bank accounts, including investments of \$2,135,021 are up \$344,326 from last year.
- Total assets of \$2,134,158 are up \$319,326 from last year.

Income and Expense Activity

| 2025 | | 2024 | |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Operating Income: | \$729,751 | Operating Income: | \$583,558 |
| Operating Expense: | <u>\$556,963</u> | Operating Expense: | <u>\$502,654</u> |
| Net Operating (Loss): | \$172,788 | Net Operating Income: | \$80,904 |
| Investment Income: | \$170,313 | Investment Income: | \$162,183 |

SUMMARY:

- Presbytery net operating income is higher than last year, due to receipt of a gift related to dissolution of the Kankakee congregation. This does not include investment income or change in fair market value (FMV).

Income and Expense Compared to Budget

| 2025 Budget | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Operating Income: | \$532,346 |
| Operating Expense: | <u>\$640,416</u> |
| Net Income: | (\$108,070) |

SUMMARY:

- Operating expenses are below budget. The budget does not include investment income or loss.

Other Information

- All bills have been paid, employees paid, and receipts processed on time.
- Investments figures are reconciled as of December 31, 2025.

Blackhawk Presbytery

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2025

| | TOTAL | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| | AS OF DEC 31, 2025 | AS OF DEC 31, 2024 (PP) | CHANGE |
| ASSETS | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Bank Accounts | | | |
| 1010000 PRESBYTERY ACCOUNTS | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1010001 Operating & Reserve funds | | | |
| 1010011 PRESBYTERY GENERAL CHECKING | 484,411.02 | 295,862.59 | 188,548.43 |
| 1010060 Petty Cash - Presbytery | 125.00 | 125.00 | 0.00 |
| 1010079 Blackhawk Foundation (5339) | 598,032.53 | 534,403.13 | 63,629.40 |
| Total 1010001 Operating & Reserve funds | 1,082,568.55 | 830,390.72 | 252,177.83 |
| 1010002 Designated & Restricted funds | | | |
| 1010030 New Covenant Funds | | | |
| 1010037 Nolan Memorial Fund (Edward) | 20,344.87 | 20,344.87 | 0.00 |
| Total 1010030 New Covenant Funds | 20,344.87 | 20,344.87 | 0.00 |
| 1010075 New Covenant Trust Funds | | | |
| 1010076 Jean Small Fund (5341) | 121,221.84 | 106,339.88 | 14,881.96 |
| 1010077 C Schroeder Fund (OGHS) (5340) | 108,116.56 | 96,754.09 | 11,362.47 |
| 1010078 Imenti Presby-Kenya (5336) | 40,495.67 | 35,896.18 | 4,599.49 |
| 1010080 Education Debt Relief | 33,490.10 | 29,370.51 | 4,119.59 |
| 1010081 Mildred Kerr Housing | 218,435.98 | 191,899.27 | 26,536.71 |
| 1010082 Jean Palmer Housing | 270,577.79 | 237,440.41 | 33,137.38 |
| Total 1010075 New Covenant Trust Funds | 792,337.94 | 697,700.34 | 94,637.60 |
| Central Bank | | | |
| 1010012 Pastor Support Grant Emerg Fund | 3,080.70 | 5,569.32 | -2,488.62 |
| 1010014 Resurrection Fund | 200,022.12 | 200,023.02 | -0.90 |
| Total Central Bank | 203,102.82 | 205,592.34 | -2,489.52 |
| Total 1010002 Designated & Restricted funds | 1,015,785.63 | 923,637.55 | 92,148.08 |
| Total 1010000 PRESBYTERY ACCOUNTS | 2,098,354.18 | 1,754,028.27 | 344,325.91 |
| Total Bank Accounts | \$2,098,354.18 | \$1,754,028.27 | \$344,325.91 |
| Other Current Assets | | | |
| 1050001 Intercompany Payroll Receivable | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1050018 Stronghold Payroll AR 2018 | 0.00 | 1,562.40 | -1,562.40 |
| 1050019 Stronghold Payroll AR 2019 | -863.22 | 22,574.38 | -23,437.60 |
| Total 1050001 Intercompany Payroll Receivable | -863.22 | 24,136.78 | -25,000.00 |
| Total Other Current Assets | \$ -863.22 | \$24,136.78 | \$ -25,000.00 |
| Total Current Assets | \$2,097,490.96 | \$1,778,165.05 | \$319,325.91 |

Blackhawk Presbytery

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2025

| | TOTAL | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| | AS OF DEC 31, 2025 | AS OF DEC 31, 2024 (PP) | CHANGE |
| Other Assets | | | |
| 1080000 Other Assets | | | |
| 1080030 Long-term Donations Receivable | | | |
| Presbyterian Foundation | | | |
| 1080031 J.Davis/M. Small Endowment -709 | 36,667.07 | 36,667.07 | 0.00 |
| Total Presbyterian Foundation | 36,667.07 | 36,667.07 | 0.00 |
| Total 1080030 Long-term Donations Receivable | 36,667.07 | 36,667.07 | 0.00 |
| Total 1080000 Other Assets | 36,667.07 | 36,667.07 | 0.00 |
| Total Other Assets | \$36,667.07 | \$36,667.07 | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$2,134,158.03 | \$1,814,832.12 | \$319,325.91 |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | | | |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Accounts Payable | | | |
| 2010201 Accounts Payable | 0.00 | 2,850.00 | -2,850.00 |
| Total Accounts Payable | \$0.00 | \$2,850.00 | \$ -2,850.00 |
| Other Current Liabilities | | | |
| 2020240 Peacemaker Liability | 1,831.14 | 3,081.14 | -1,250.00 |
| 2020241 Coins for Kenya | 1,712.95 | 987.56 | 725.39 |
| 2020243 Imenti Partnerships | | | |
| 2020244 Imenti Student Scholarships | 4,386.89 | 1,594.00 | 2,792.89 |
| 2020246 Hosting Kenya Partners | 6,262.94 | 6,697.05 | -434.11 |
| 2020247 Synod Grant (Stillman closing) | 1,768.48 | 1,768.48 | 0.00 |
| 2020400 Payroll Liabilities | 1,220.10 | 400.00 | 820.10 |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | \$465.32 | \$21,391.23 | \$ -20,925.91 |
| Total Current Liabilities | \$465.32 | \$24,241.23 | \$ -23,775.91 |
| Total Liabilities | \$465.32 | \$24,241.23 | \$ -23,775.91 |
| Equity | | | |
| 3010000 Unrestricted/Undesignated Fun | 284,432.00 | 284,432.00 | 0.00 |
| 3020000 Unrestricted/Designated Funds | 329,535.80 | 329,535.80 | 0.00 |
| 3030000 Temporarily Restricted Funds | 655,906.49 | 655,906.49 | 0.00 |
| 3040000 Permanently Restricted Funds | 129,940.66 | 129,940.66 | 0.00 |
| Current Year RE | 390,775.94 | 147,689.27 | 243,086.67 |
| Net Revenue | 343,101.82 | 243,086.67 | 100,015.15 |
| Total Equity | \$2,133,692.71 | \$1,790,590.89 | \$343,101.82 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | \$2,134,158.03 | \$1,814,832.12 | \$319,325.91 |

Statement of Activity Comparison

Blackhawk Presbytery Online
January-December, 2025

| Distribution account | TOTAL | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| | Jan 1 - Dec 31 2025 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 2024 (PY) | \$ Change (PY) |
| Income | | | |
| 4011000 PER CAPITA INCOME | \$70,955.71 | | \$70,955.71 |
| 4011110 GA Per Capita | 38,194.40 | 53,479.33 | -15,284.93 |
| 4011120 Synod Per Capita | 18,662.91 | 25,982.56 | -7,319.65 |
| 4011130 Presbytery Per Capita | 129,771.80 | 180,363.55 | -50,591.75 |
| 4011500 Other Presbytery Income | | | |
| 4011270 Misc. Income | 263,725.73 | 78,543.79 | 185,181.94 |
| 4011230 Presbytery Programs | | 1,364.12 | -1,364.12 |
| Total for 4011500 Other Presbytery Income | \$263,725.73 | \$79,907.91 | \$183,817.82 |
| 4011150 Presbytery Meals | | 1,265.00 | -1,265.00 |
| Total for 4011000 PER CAPITA INCOME | \$521,310.55 | \$340,998.35 | \$180,312.20 |
| 4012000 MISSION INCOME | | | |
| 4012300 GA Missions | | | |
| 4012310 GA Shared Mission | 23,371.00 | 29,046.41 | -5,675.41 |
| 4012320 GA Directed Mission | 226.40 | 518.00 | -291.60 |
| 4012330 GA Special Offerings & Other | 50,635.38 | 71,122.57 | -20,487.19 |
| Total for 4012300 GA Missions | \$74,232.78 | \$100,686.98 | -\$26,454.20 |
| 4012340 Synod Shared Mission | 5,050.51 | 6,693.47 | -1,642.96 |
| 4012345 Presbytery Shared Mission | 74,094.87 | 102,752.12 | -28,657.25 |
| 4012350 Other Income | 375.00 | 2,153.00 | -1,778.00 |
| 4012355 Other Mission income | \$4,224.11 | \$1,227.50 | \$2,996.61 |
| 4012205 Presbytery meeting | 444.00 | 1,893.53 | -1,449.53 |

Statement of Activity Comparison

Blackhawk Presbytery Online
January-December, 2025

| Distribution account | TOTAL | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| | Jan 1 - Dec 31 2025 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 2024 (PY) | \$ Change (PY) |
| offerings | | | |
| 4012210 Peacemaking Income | 2,534.18 | 4,002.14 | -1,467.96 |
| 4012230 Book of Order/Yearbks of Prayer | 50.00 | 70.00 | -20.00 |
| 4012240 Kenya Partnership | 3,000.05 | | 3,000.05 |
| 4012260 Youth Triennium or Retreat Income | 33,872.63 | 10,545.00 | 23,327.63 |
| 4012270 Miscellaneous | 6,135.00 | 6,000.00 | 135.00 |
| 4012283 New Community Income | 900.00 | 2,000.00 | -1,100.00 |
| 4012285 Pastor Education Fund | 500.00 | | 500.00 |
| Total for 4012355 Other Mission income | \$51,659.97 | \$25,738.17 | \$25,921.80 |
| Total for 4012000 MISSION INCOME | \$205,413.13 | \$238,023.74 | -\$32,610.61 |
| 4014000 Payroll Reimbursement Income | | | |
| 4014121 Supp Death Member | 1,876.19 | 1,931.24 | -55.05 |
| 4014122 Supp Death Spouse | 733.93 | 1,229.00 | -495.07 |
| 4014123 GP Dental | 357.89 | 1,226.14 | -868.25 |
| 4014125 GP Vision | 59.73 | 148.90 | -89.17 |
| Total for 4014000 Payroll Reimbursement Income | \$3,027.74 | \$4,535.28 | -\$1,507.54 |
| 4090000 INVESTMENT INCOME | | | |
| 4090100 Interest | 4,450.13 | 2,613.51 | 1,836.62 |
| 4090200 Investment Income- Dividends | 32,112.05 | 15,681.40 | 16,430.65 |

Statement of Activity Comparison

Blackhawk Presbytery Online
January-December, 2025

| Distribution account | TOTAL | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| | Jan 1 - Dec 31 2025 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 2024 (PY) | \$ Change (PY) |
| 4090300 Investment Income- Change in FMV | 122,833.75 | 140,053.60 | -17,219.85 |
| 4090400 Realized (Gains)/Losses Investm | 22,795.04 | 14,599.16 | 8,195.88 |
| 4090700 Investment Income Fees | -11,877.93 | -10,764.52 | -1,113.41 |
| Total for 4090000 INVESTMENT INCOME | \$170,313.04 | \$162,183.15 | \$8,129.89 |
| Total for Income | \$900,064.46 | \$745,740.52 | \$154,323.94 |
| Cost of Goods Sold | | | |
| Gross Profit | \$900,064.46 | \$745,740.52 | \$154,323.94 |
| Expenses | | | |
| 5011000 PER CAPITA EXPENSES | | | |
| 5011051 GA/Synod | | | |
| 5011410 General Assembly per Capita | 72,834.00 | 71,316.00 | 1,518.00 |
| 5011420 Synod per Capita | 12,799.50 | 27,728.00 | -14,928.50 |
| Total for 5011051 GA/Synod | \$85,633.50 | \$99,044.00 | -\$13,410.50 |
| 5011100 Presbytery/Committee Expenses | | | |
| 5011001 Presbytery Meetings | \$4,416.51 | \$658.47 | \$3,758.04 |
| 5011002 Presbytery Meals | 500.00 | 3,310.00 | -2,810.00 |
| 5011004 Presbytery Programs | 172.45 | 1,007.66 | -835.21 |
| Total for 5011001 Presbytery Meetings | \$5,088.96 | \$4,976.13 | \$112.83 |
| 5011006 Commission on Ministry | 2,133.50 | 472.93 | 1,660.57 |

Statement of Activity Comparison

Blackhawk Presbytery Online
January-December, 2025

| Distribution account | TOTAL | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| | Jan 1 - Dec 31 2025 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 2024 (PY) | \$ Change (PY) |
| 5011007 Moderator's Expense | 876.06 | 1,165.33 | -289.27 |
| 5011015 Trustees | | | |
| 5011016 Closed church expenses | 37,562.08 | 1,889.84 | 35,672.24 |
| Total for 5011015 Trustees | \$37,562.08 | \$1,889.84 | \$35,672.24 |
| 5011030 CPM Committee | -109.00 | 1,631.00 | -1,740.00 |
| 5011035 Permanent Judicial Committee | 150.00 | 18,120.72 | -17,970.72 |
| 5011045 Presbytery Council | 478.90 | | 478.90 |
| 5011025 Mission Committee | | 175.00 | -175.00 |
| 5011042 Visioning and Assembly Planning | | 227.68 | -227.68 |
| Total for 5011100 Presbytery/Committee Expenses | \$46,180.50 | \$28,658.63 | \$17,521.87 |
| 5011200 Office Expenses | | \$65.89 | -\$65.89 |
| 5011101 Licenses Fees & Service Charges | 3,967.85 | 3,775.22 | 192.63 |
| 5011220 Miscellaneous | 2,068.83 | 761.67 | 1,307.16 |
| 5011225 Supplies & Postage & Printing | 2,542.01 | 1,477.89 | 1,064.12 |
| 5011230 Telephone | 1,192.20 | 1,134.16 | 58.04 |
| 5011235 Internet Access | 472.35 | 624.00 | -151.65 |
| 5011260 Hospitality & Memorials | 242.38 | 209.12 | 33.26 |
| 5011280 Pres rent (incl gas, elec& ins) | 9,999.96 | 9,999.96 | 0.00 |
| 5011290 Work at Home Expenses | 1,599.50 | 527.91 | 1,071.59 |
| Total for 5011200 Office | \$22,085.08 | \$18,575.82 | \$3,509.26 |

Statement of Activity Comparison

Blackhawk Presbytery Online
January-December, 2025

| Distribution account | TOTAL | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| | Jan 1 - Dec 31 2025 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 2024 (PY) | \$ Change (PY) |
| Expenses | | | |
| 5011503 Shared Costs | | | |
| 5011500 Presbytery Insurance/Audit | | | |
| 5011270 Presbytery Insurance | 6,567.00 | 3,419.00 | 3,148.00 |
| Total for 5011500 Presbytery Insurance/Audit | \$6,567.00 | \$3,419.00 | \$3,148.00 |
| Total for 5011503 Shared Costs | \$6,567.00 | \$3,419.00 | \$3,148.00 |
| Total for 5011000 PER CAPITA EXPENSES | \$160,466.08 | \$149,697.45 | \$10,768.63 |
| 5012000 MISSION EXPENSE | | | |
| 5012001 GA Missions | | | |
| 5012004 GA Shared Mission | 22,622.42 | 24,324.25 | -1,701.83 |
| 5012330 GA Special Offerings & Other | 50,693.93 | 57,457.63 | -6,763.70 |
| 5012320 GA Directed Mission | | 433.00 | -433.00 |
| Total for 5012001 GA Missions | \$73,316.35 | \$82,214.88 | -\$8,898.53 |
| 5012100 Mission Strategies & Resources | | | |
| 5012140 Mission Support | | | |
| 5012145 Mission Grants | 16,500.00 | 10,630.00 | 5,870.00 |
| 5012150 Youth Triennium or Retreat Expense | 50,964.03 | 10,026.00 | 40,938.03 |
| 5012141 Kenya Partnership | | 500.00 | -500.00 |
| Total for 5012140 Mission Support | \$67,464.03 | \$21,156.00 | \$46,308.03 |
| Total for 5012100 Mission Strategies & Resources | \$67,464.03 | \$21,156.00 | \$46,308.03 |

Statement of Activity Comparison

Blackhawk Presbytery Online
January-December, 2025

| Distribution account | TOTAL | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| | Jan 1 - Dec 31 2025 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 2024 (PY) | \$ Change (PY) |
| 5012200 Other Support | | | |
| 5012198 Pastor Support Grant | 2,500.00 | | 2,500.00 |
| 5012210 Stronghold Program Support | 35,000.00 | 35,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Total for 5012200 Other Support | \$37,500.00 | \$35,000.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| 5012205 Other Mission Expense | | \$30.00 | -\$30.00 |
| 5012500 Other | | | |
| 5012350 Extra/Other Missions | | 352.02 | -352.02 |
| Total for 5012500 Other | | \$352.02 | -\$352.02 |
| Total for 5012205 Other Mission Expense | | \$382.02 | -\$382.02 |
| Total for 5012000 MISSION EXPENSE | \$178,280.38 | \$138,752.90 | \$39,527.48 |
| 5090000 PAYROLL EXPENSE | | | |
| 5090110 General Presbyter/Stated Clerk | | | |
| 5090111 Salary & Housing | -\$8,086.78 | \$0.00 | -\$8,086.78 |
| 5090108 GP Salary | 61,982.85 | 54,812.94 | 7,169.91 |
| 5090109 Exempt Housing | 43,076.88 | 39,999.96 | 3,076.92 |
| Total for 5090111 Salary & Housing | \$96,972.95 | \$94,812.90 | \$2,160.05 |
| 5090112 SECA | 8,037.41 | 7,252.96 | 784.45 |
| 5090113 Pension & Medical | | | |
| 5090114 GP Pension | 8,059.08 | 8,059.08 | 0.00 |
| 5090115 GP Death/Disability Insurance | 948.12 | 948.12 | 0.00 |
| 5090116 GP Medical | 28,073.88 | 27,495.72 | 578.16 |

Statement of Activity Comparison

Blackhawk Presbytery Online
January-December, 2025

| Distribution account | TOTAL | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | Jan 1 - Dec 31 2025 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 2024 (PY) | \$ Change (PY) |
| 5090121 Supp Death Member | 2,409.72 | 1,683.00 | 726.72 |
| 5090122 Supp Death Spouse | 963.96 | 1,071.00 | -107.04 |
| 5090123 GP Dental | 633.48 | 633.48 | 0.00 |
| 5090124 GP Temporary Disability | 474.12 | 474.12 | 0.00 |
| 5090125 GP Vison | 92.28 | 92.28 | 0.00 |
| Total for 5090113 Pension & Medical | \$41,654.64 | \$40,456.80 | \$1,197.84 |
| 5090118 GP PROFESSIONAL EXP. | 3,699.76 | 3,369.56 | 330.20 |
| 5090119 GP Continuing Education | 1,974.00 | 950.09 | 1,023.91 |
| Total for 5090110 General Presbyter/Stated Clerk | \$152,338.76 | \$146,842.31 | \$5,496.45 |
| 5090200 Staff Payroll | | | |
| 5090120 Recording Clerk | 600.00 | 600.00 | 0.00 |
| 5090131 Treasurer | 1,511.21 | | 1,511.21 |
| 5090151 Associate Stated Clerk | 2,994.84 | | 2,994.84 |
| 5090201 Office Administrator Salary | 47,889.77 | 44,935.02 | 2,954.75 |
| 5090202 Emp Ben-Health/Dental Insur | 45.38 | -453.80 | 499.18 |
| 5090203 FICA Expense | 3,942.79 | 3,437.53 | 505.26 |
| 5090204 Emp Ben-Death/Disability Insur | 115.23 | 466.68 | -351.45 |
| 5090205 Medical Coverage | 2,923.19 | 10,957.08 | -8,033.89 |
| 5090206 Pension | 954.87 | 3,819.48 | -2,864.61 |
| 5090207 Temporary Disability Member | 113.79 | 449.40 | -335.61 |

Statement of Activity Comparison

Blackhawk Presbytery Online
January-December, 2025

| Distribution account | TOTAL | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| | Jan 1 - Dec 31 2025 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 2024 (PY) | \$ Change (PY) |
| 5090220 Staff Expenses | \$1,237.25 | | \$1,237.25 |
| 5090161 Presbytery Staff Medical Reimb | 374.81 | 3,149.80 | -2,774.99 |
| 5090163 Office Staff Vision and Dental | 3.89 | | 3.89 |
| Total for 5090220 Staff Expenses | \$1,615.95 | \$3,149.80 | -\$1,533.85 |
| Total for 5090200 Staff Payroll | \$62,707.02 | \$67,361.19 | -\$4,654.17 |
| 5090300 Other Payroll Expenses | | | |
| 5090140 Contract Bookkeeping | 3,170.40 | | 3,170.40 |
| Total for 5090300 Other Payroll Expenses | \$3,170.40 | | \$3,170.40 |
| Total for 5090000 PAYROLL EXPENSE | \$218,216.18 | \$214,203.50 | \$4,012.68 |
| Total for Expenses | \$556,962.64 | \$502,653.85 | \$54,308.79 |
| Net Operating Income | \$343,101.82 | \$243,086.67 | \$100,015.15 |
| Other Income | | | |
| Other Expenses | | | |
| Net Other Income | | | |
| Net Income | \$343,101.82 | \$243,086.67 | \$100,015.15 |

2025_12.31 Presbytery Per Capita Received

| Congregation | 2024 | | | 2025 | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| | Assessment | 2024 Paid | % Paid | Assessment | 2025 Paid | % Paid |
| Aurora, Second | \$86.00 | \$0.00 | 0.00% | \$88.00 | \$0.00 | 0.00% |
| Bolingbrook, First of DuPage | \$3,483.00 | \$0.00 | 0.00% | \$4,092.00 | \$1,620.00 | 39.59% |
| Braidwood, First | \$1,720.00 | \$1,720.00 | 100.00% | \$1,716.00 | \$1,716.00 | 100.00% |
| Caledonia, Willow Creek | \$5,203.00 | \$1,224.00 | 23.52% | \$4,972.00 | \$1,233.00 | 24.80% |
| Coal City, New Hope | \$4,472.00 | \$731.00 | 16.35% | \$4,532.00 | \$570.00 | 12.58% |
| Crystal Lake, Ridgefield | \$7,783.00 | \$7,783.08 | 100.00% | \$7,656.00 | \$7,656.00 | 100.00% |
| Dakota, Community | \$2,150.00 | \$2,150.00 | 100.00% | \$2,156.00 | \$2,156.00 | 100.00% |
| DeKalb, Westminster | \$9,718.00 | \$9,718.08 | 100.00% | \$9,724.00 | \$9,724.00 | 100.00% |
| Dixon, First | \$4,988.00 | \$4,300.00 | 86.21% | \$4,400.00 | \$4,400.00 | 100.00% |
| Earlville, United | \$3,139.00 | \$2,269.50 | 72.30% | \$3,080.00 | \$3,080.00 | 100.00% |
| Elgin, First | \$4,257.00 | \$4,215.00 | 99.01% | \$4,136.00 | \$3,872.00 | 93.62% |
| Elmira, United | \$1,763.00 | \$0.00 | 0.00% | \$1,804.00 | \$1,804.00 | 100.00% |
| Elwood, Community | \$2,967.00 | \$351.00 | 11.83% | \$2,992.00 | \$410.00 | 13.70% |
| Fairbury, First | \$4,816.00 | \$4,816.00 | 100.00% | \$4,664.00 | \$4,664.00 | 100.00% |
| Franklin Grove, First | \$1,763.00 | \$0.00 | 0.00% | \$1,584.00 | \$1,584.00 | 100.00% |
| Fulton | \$4,386.00 | \$4,386.00 | 100.00% | \$2,860.00 | \$2,860.00 | 100.00% |
| Galena, First | \$2,795.00 | \$2,795.00 | 100.00% | \$2,684.00 | \$2,684.00 | 100.00% |
| Garden Plain, Fulton | \$1,247.00 | \$1,247.00 | 100.00% | \$1,188.00 | \$1,188.00 | 100.00% |
| Gardner, Church of Hope | \$3,225.00 | \$2,225.00 | 68.99% | \$3,080.00 | \$3,080.00 | 100.00% |
| Geneva, Fox Valley | \$17,415.00 | \$1,451.25 | 8.33% | \$16,104.00 | \$16,104.00 | 100.00% |
| Hanover, United | \$1,548.00 | \$1,548.00 | 100.00% | \$1,320.00 | \$0.00 | 0.00% |
| Harvard, First | \$6,665.00 | \$6,665.00 | 100.00% | \$6,864.00 | \$6,864.00 | 100.00% |
| Henry, First | \$2,924.00 | \$3,166.00 | 108.28% | \$2,860.00 | \$2,860.00 | 100.00% |
| Joliet, First | \$22,704.00 | \$22,704.00 | 100.00% | \$22,968.00 | \$22,968.00 | 100.00% |
| Joliet, Westminster | \$3,956.00 | \$3,296.70 | 83.33% | \$4,004.00 | \$4,008.00 | 100.10% |
| Kewanee, First | \$2,924.00 | \$2,924.00 | 100.00% | \$2,596.00 | \$2,596.00 | 100.00% |
| La Rose, Crow Meadow | \$602.00 | \$616.00 | 102.33% | \$616.00 | \$630.00 | 102.27% |
| Manteno, First | \$3,612.00 | \$3,612.00 | 100.00% | \$2,816.00 | \$2,816.00 | 100.00% |
| Marengo, First | \$1,806.00 | \$989.00 | 54.76% | \$1,496.00 | \$440.00 | 29.41% |
| McHenry, Faith | \$3,999.00 | \$3,999.00 | 100.00% | \$4,532.00 | \$4,532.00 | 100.00% |
| Mendota, First | \$3,311.00 | \$3,311.00 | 100.00% | \$3,256.00 | \$3,256.00 | 100.00% |
| Morris, First | \$9,503.00 | \$9,503.00 | 100.00% | \$9,548.00 | \$9,548.04 | 100.00% |
| Morrison, First | \$1,849.00 | \$1,849.00 | 100.00% | \$1,936.00 | \$1,936.00 | 100.00% |
| New Lenox, Central | \$817.00 | \$817.00 | 100.00% | \$748.00 | \$748.00 | 100.00% |
| Oswego Pres | \$17,114.00 | \$8,737.00 | 51.05% | \$17,688.00 | \$17,688.00 | 100.00% |
| Ottawa, First | \$5,332.00 | \$5,332.00 | 100.00% | \$5,016.00 | \$5,016.00 | 100.00% |
| Paw Paw, First | \$645.00 | \$0.00 | 0.00% | \$572.00 | \$900.00 | 157.34% |
| Piper City, First | \$2,709.00 | \$2,709.00 | 100.00% | \$1,540.00 | \$1,540.00 | 100.00% |
| Plainfield, Wheatland | \$1,677.00 | \$1,677.00 | 100.00% | \$1,716.00 | \$1,716.00 | 100.00% |
| Pontiac, First | \$2,795.00 | \$2,795.00 | 100.00% | \$2,728.00 | \$2,728.00 | 100.00% |
| Princeton, First | \$1,892.00 | \$1,892.00 | 100.00% | \$1,848.00 | \$1,848.00 | 100.00% |
| Rochelle, First | \$12,169.00 | \$387.00 | 3.18% | \$12,716.00 | \$3,219.00 | 25.31% |
| Rockford, Second/First | \$4,515.00 | \$4,515.00 | 100.00% | \$4,444.00 | \$4,653.00 | 104.70% |
| Rockford, Third | \$7,310.00 | \$7,310.00 | 100.00% | \$6,028.00 | \$6,028.00 | 100.00% |
| Rockford, Westminster | \$31,175.00 | \$31,175.00 | 100.00% | \$23,364.00 | \$23,364.00 | 100.00% |

2025_12.31 Presbytery Per Capita Received

| Congregation | 2024 | | | 2025 | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | Assessment | 2024 Paid | % Paid | Assessment | 2025 Paid | % Paid |
| Romeoville, United | \$1,032.00 | \$1,032.00 | 100.00% | \$1,056.00 | \$1,056.00 | 100.00% |
| Sandwich, Federated | \$2,236.00 | \$2,400.00 | 107.33% | \$2,156.00 | \$2,400.00 | 111.32% |
| Savanna, First | \$3,741.00 | \$93.00 | 2.49% | \$2,640.00 | \$1,209.00 | 45.80% |
| Schapville Zion, Elizabeth | \$1,763.00 | \$1,763.00 | 100.00% | \$1,584.00 | \$1,584.00 | 100.00% |
| Shannon, Prairie Dell | \$1,978.00 | \$815.00 | 41.20% | \$1,980.00 | \$705.00 | 35.61% |
| Somonauk, United | \$559.00 | \$559.00 | 100.00% | \$572.00 | \$572.00 | 100.00% |
| St Anne, First | \$2,580.00 | \$2,580.00 | 100.00% | \$2,596.00 | \$2,596.00 | 100.00% |
| Sterling, First | \$5,934.00 | \$5,934.00 | 100.00% | \$6,072.00 | \$6,072.00 | 100.00% |
| Streator, Park United | \$5,977.00 | \$3,868.00 | 64.71% | \$5,148.00 | \$2,386.00 | 46.35% |
| Utica, Waltham | \$5,719.00 | \$5,719.00 | 100.00% | \$6,248.00 | \$6,248.00 | 100.00% |
| Waterman | \$1,720.00 | \$588.00 | 34.19% | \$1,760.00 | \$441.00 | 25.06% |
| Watseka, First | \$946.00 | \$0.00 | 0.00% | \$968.00 | \$968.00 | 100.00% |
| Wilmington, First | \$1,376.00 | \$1,377.00 | 100.07% | \$1,188.00 | \$1,188.00 | 100.00% |
| Winnebago, First | \$6,192.00 | \$2,140.00 | 34.56% | \$6,864.00 | \$2,078.80 | 30.29% |
| Winnebago, Middle Creek | \$4,171.00 | \$4,171.00 | 100.00% | \$3,740.00 | \$3,740.00 | 100.00% |
| Woodstock, First | \$6,665.00 | \$6,622.00 | 99.35% | \$6,468.00 | \$7,380.00 | 114.10% |
| Yorkville, Au Sable Grove | \$5,203.00 | \$5,203.00 | 100.00% | \$3,828.00 | \$5,324.00 | 139.08% |
| Actual Year to Date | \$302,677.00 | \$229,021.61 | 75.67% | \$283,800.00 | \$249,618.84 | 87.96% |
| Year to Date Uncollected | | \$73,655.39 | | | \$34,181.16 | |
| GA & SOLT (passthrough) | \$98,442.67 | \$61,281.57 | 62.25% | \$92,303.11 | \$61,281.57 | 66.39% |
| GA & SOLT Uncollected | | \$37,161.10 | | | \$31,021.54 | |
| Presbytery Portion | \$204,234.33 | \$139,220.94 | 68.17% | \$191,496.89 | \$139,220.94 | 72.70% |
| Presbytery Uncollected | | \$65,013.39 | | | \$52,275.95 | |
