



Presbytery of the Northern Plains

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March 3, 2016

To: Presbytery of the Northern Plains Commissioners

From: Michael Lochow, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains

CALL FOR THE APRIL PRESBYTERY MEETING

The one-hundred-fourteenth Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains will be held at the First Presbyterian of Oakes, North Dakota, on Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2, 2016. Registration will begin at 11:00 a.m. with the meeting convening at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting will open with worship, including the celebration of Holy Communion. A highlight of the meeting will be the visitation of a contingent from our ministry partners in Chogoria who will help us lead our opening worship service. They will be available during the meeting for conversation to share and allow us to get to know them, their ministries, and their country better. There will be a book drive at Presbytery to collect children's books for the children of Chogoria for our visitors to take home with them. You are asked to spread the word among your churches and remember to bring your books to the Presbytery meeting.

The educational portion of the meeting will focus on stewardship. It will cover the basics of stewardship, a discussion of the best stewardship practices, and how your stewardship efforts can work together with your budget.

The church members in Oakes are looking forward to hosting us so start making your plans to attend. As always, we ask that you bring your stories about Good News in your congregation and community to share with others.

Presbytery meeting materials will be posted and available on the Presbytery website at www.northernplainspresbytery.com by noon on Wednesday, March 15, 2016, for congregations/individuals to download. For congregations that do not have internet access, packets can be mailed out to them. If your congregation needs a packet, you must contact the Presbytery office by March 24, 2016, to ensure you receive the packet in time. Please review all Presbytery materials which will be posted on the Presbytery web page. It is important as a commissioner to Presbytery you come prepared and ready to participate. Following the presbytery meeting you should be prepared to report to your local session on the work of the Presbytery and how your church might participate more fully.

Child Care will be provided for preschool children of minister members or elder commissioners at no cost to the users. Attendees who need child care must contact the Presbytery office no later than March 24, 2016, if they wish to use this service.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Presbytery office at 701-772-0783 or toll free at 1-800-243-3532, or by email at pnpooffice@gmail.com.

**Proposed Agenda - 114th Stated Meeting
Friday, April 1, 2016
First Presbyterian Church of Oakes, North Dakota**

Revised

11:00 a.m. Registration

**1:00 p.m. Opening
Call to Order**

Worship, including Communion
Offering: Youth Connection Ministry Team
Soft cover books donated for Chogoria children

2:00 p.m. Roll Call, Determination of a Quorum, Enrollment of Corresponding Members, Introduction of New Members and Visitors, Greetings from Host Church, Introduction and Greetings from Chogoria Visitors

Consent Calendar (Reports, if any, to be approved)

The consent agenda items are judged to have broad consent and are routine. Any item may be removed from the consent calendar by a request from the floor by a Commissioner at the time the agenda is adopted. Items remaining in the agenda are voted on en masse with the action indicated.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Committee on Representation
GA Commissioners
Mediation and Conflict Resolution Ministry Team
1001 Worshiping Communities
Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery (pg 4-5)
Self Development of People
Synod Commissioners

**Approval of Consent Agenda
Adoption of Agenda**

2:20 p.m. Reports
Stated Clerk (pg 6, plus October 2015 Presbytery Minutes)
Treasurer (pg 7-22)
Council (pg 23-33)
Presbyterian Clearwater Forest (pg 34-39)

3:00 p.m. Good News

3:30 p.m. Break

4:00 p.m. Deadline for Introduction of New Business

Stewardship Workshops

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Committee on Ministry (pg 40-44)
Sessions Records (pg 45-46)
Committee on Nominations (pg 47)
Dickinson Administrative Commission

7:45 p.m. Recess

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**Proposed Agenda - 114th Stated Meeting
Saturday, April 2, 2016
First Presbyterian Church of Oakes, North Dakota**

9:00 a.m. **Opening**
Call to Order
Devotions

9:15 a.m. Stewardship Workshop

10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:45 a.m. **Reports**
University of Jamestown
Dream Grant Presentation to FPC Grand Forks

Ministry Teams

Bdecan Ministry Team (pg 48)
Chogoria Ministry Team
Youth Connection (pg 49-57)
Presbyterians for Earth Care Ministry Team – Overtures

- 2016 PCUSA Fossil Fuel Divestment (pg 60-63)
- Empowering the Presbyterian Mission Agency (pg 58-59)
- On Advocacy Against Factory Farming (pg 64-68)

Special Orders, Unfinished Business, New Business

Special Orders of Business (if any)
Unfinished Business (if any)
General Orders of New Business

12:00 p.m. **Adjournment**

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The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for Friday & Saturday, October 14 - 15, 2016, at the Presbyterian Church of Rolla/St. John, Rolla, North Dakota, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Presbyterian Women Report

Presbyterian Women of Presbytery will have their Spring Gathering on Sat, April 9th at United Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, starting with registration at 9:30. Our theme for the day is “Who Is Jesus?”. Worship with communion will be at 10 am with Rev. Bob Boyar, United Presbyterian Church- Jamestown leading us. Our offering will be divided between Safe Shelter, Jamestown and Youth Connection for their Triennium trip this summer. Rev. Sarah from Chogoria, Kenya and Ellen Boyar from Jamestown will be our speakers for the day. We will have a business meeting with installation of officers. I am asking people to consider bringing a yard of fleece for the youth at Bdecan Presbyterian Church for a summer project with Westminster Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, VA mission team. They will be making fleece blankets to give to foster children on the Spirit Lake Reservation. All women are invited to attend. Please rsvp no later than Presbytery to Donna Preston, 701-238-7414.

PW Synod Gathering will be held June 15-18, 2016 at Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center in Sioux Falls, SD. The theme for the gathering is “Lord Make Me An Instrument of Your Peace.” Susan Jackson-Dowd, PCUSA PW Executive Director, will be keynote speaker talking about “The Power of Presbyterian Women”. Rev. Dr. Carolyn Visser, currently volunteer Pastor to the Presbytery of SD, will be our worship leader. Women are asked to bring \$10 gift cards for Target or HyVee to be given to the Center of Hope in Sioux Falls. Hands on project will be a part of gathering where women are asked to bring fat quarters of 100% cotton to be cut up into blocks for groups to take back home to make into quilts to be given to local missions. Offering recipients are ECPAT-USA and another recipient within the Synod of Lakes and Prairies which will be announce at Gathering. There will be several breakout sessions. I will hopefully be doing one on the partnership between Bdecan Presbyterian Church and Presbytery of Northern Plains Bdecan Ministry Team as long as there are enough individuals who sign up. To get more info and registration form, please go to the following website site: http://lakesandprairies.org/files/245_registrationbooklet_3_.pdf. If you have trouble, search for Synod of Lakes and Prairies. When you get to their home page, click on Presbyterian Women of the Synod and you will see info on Gathering and there will be link to click on to get to registration booklet. Hope to see several women from our Presbytery at the Gathering.

Blessings,
Donna Preston, outgoing PWP Moderator



All Women Invited to
**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN'S
SPRING
GATHERING**

“WHO IS JESUS”

Saturday, April 9, 2016
United Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, ND

Registration at 9:30 am - \$15 payable at door
RSVP to Donna Preston, 701-238-7414 by April 1st

Worship at 10 am led by Rev. Bob Boyar
Speakers for the day: Rev. Sarah from Chogoria, Kenya and
Ellen Boyar, Jamestown
Business Meeting
Details of Synod Gathering in June

Please bring a yard of fleece to be donated to Bdecan Presbyterian
Church Youth Group

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

First Presbyterian Church, Oakes, ND

April 1-2, 2016

RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRING PRESBYTERY ACTION:

MINUTES. The minutes of the October 23, 2015, stated meeting were made available to all official attendees. On the basis of the responses received and my own review, I **recommend** that those minutes be approved as circulated.

REQUIRING NO ACTION BUT REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED:

PARITY/DIVERSITY OF TEACHING AND RULING ELDERS. Having determined the number of teaching elders who are members of the Presbytery (41) and the number of ruling elders (61) which the churches are entitled to send as commissioners to Presbytery's meetings, I **recommend** that Presbytery take no action to provide for the election of additional ruling elders, as there is no need for equalization.

ROSTER OF RECENTLY RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION (PJC). In accordance with the provisions of the **Rules of Discipline** (D-5.0206b), **the following roster of names of those members of the Permanent Judicial Commission whose terms have expired within the past six years are to be spread upon the minutes:**

Class of 2014 – Teaching Elder Paul Henschen and Ruling Elder Barb Ault

Class of 2012 – Ruling Elder Casey Chapman, Teaching Elder Mindy Meier & Ruling Elder Greg Otis

Class of 2010 – Teaching Elder Bob Edwards and Ruling Elder Fred MacGregor

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

CHURCH ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS. The statistical season is over for another year. I can report that fifty-five out of our fifty-nine churches filed statistical reports this year. Some were down to the last minute with telephone calls on the final day. The four churches that did not file any statistics were Glenila Presbyterian at Calvin, Cavalier Presbyterian, Baldwin Presbyterian Church of Pillsbury, and First Presbyterian of Steele. The program was working very well again this year and I was able to review the entries within a few minutes. This allowed me to contact you and ask questions about numbers that looked a little off or were missing. If you would like a copy of your church's report, go to the statistical entry page (you will need your User Name and Password) and on the first page you will see Church Report:

PDF

Click on this box and it will take you to a copy of your report.

NECROLOGY. The annual Necrology Report is found in the bulletin for the worship service at this meeting and will be appended to the minutes of this meeting.

Michael Lochow

Michael R. Lochow

Stated Clerk

Treasurer's Report

Year 2015 in Review

I would like to express thanks for your congregation and session's ongoing support of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains. We appreciate the financial contributions that have been made and seek to honor the trust bestowed in us by serving you in return.

Budget wise there was a projected \$50,309.00 deficit for the Fiscal Year 2015. However, the year-end budget shows a surplus of \$1,850.00. There was a net increase of \$17,085.00, which came mainly from Donor Restricted Giving to the Presbytery.

Further in this report you will find the 2015 Mission Giving Report. Please review it and make sure that our records match yours. If you have questions, contact either myself at 218-779-2006 or Laurie Elhard, Administrator of Communications and Finance, at the Presbytery Office 701-772-0783 or pnpooffice@gmail.com.

During the last quarter of 2015, the Budget and Finance Committee started to explore a new software accounting system for Presbytery. As of January 1, 2016, the Presbytery has starting using the new system, which is a work in progress. The 2016 financial information, period ending February 29, 2016, is from this new system. A big thanks to the Finance Committee; Sheri Stern, Ellen Misialek, Dan Wolpert, and Marilyn Ogden for their assistance in this project. A special thank you to Laurie Elhard for the extra effort and time she spent installing and setting up the software.

Per capita is an important part of the life-blood income that supports the budget of Presbytery of the Northern Plains. 2016 Per Capita as approved at the October Presbytery Meeting is:

General Assembly	\$ 7.12
Synod of Lakes & Prairies	\$ 5.25
Northern Plains Presbytery	<u>\$ 31.13</u>
Total 2016 Per Capita	\$ 43.50

The 2016 apportionment is based on a church's membership as of December 31, 2014, as reported in the 2014 General Assembly Statistics. We understand that for some congregations paying the Per Capita Apportionment in a lump sum is financially difficult. If you find your congregation is this position, we encourage you to set up a schedule of payments that will fit your congregation's unique financial situation by contacting the Presbytery office and speaking to Laurie Elhard, Administrator of Communications and Finance, at 701-772-0783 or pnpooffice@gmail.com.

Thank you

Walter H. Knipe

Treasurer for Presbytery of the Northern Plains

Statement of Financial Position - Presbytery of the Northern Plains

12/31/15

December, 2015 - All Funds

Page: 1

Sort = 1, Class Only

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	Balance as of 1/1/2015	Balance as of 12/31/2015	Year to Date Change
Assets:			
<i>Checking Acct</i>			
Cash Available (Alerus)	2,247.38	3,503.26	1,255.88
<i>Saving Acct</i>			
Donor Restricted Funds	87,115.08	103,635.42	16,520.34
Cash Reserve	155,000.00	150,000.00	(5,000.00)
Per Capita Reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00
Small Church Ministries	29,016.03	29,016.03	0.00
<i>Saving Acct</i>	271,131.11	282,651.45	11,520.34
<i>Investments</i>			
Clergy Renewal Fund	29,681.71	28,815.36	(866.35)
Congr. Development Fund	34,409.50	33,862.11	(547.39)
Presbytery Endowment Fund	61,037.05	59,353.35	(1,683.70)
Operating Reserves (Bremer CD)	152,959.82	160,279.43	7,319.61
New Church Development (CD)	69,979.61	70,066.76	87.15
<i>Investments</i>	348,067.69	352,377.01	4,309.32
<i>Other Assets</i>			
GF - First Presbyterian Loan	11,392.11	11,392.11	0.00
Furniture/Equip less Depr	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Other Assets</i>	11,392.11	11,392.11	0.00
Total Assets:	<u>632,838.29</u>	<u>649,923.83</u>	<u>17,085.54</u>
Liabilities:			
<i>Liabilities</i>			
Per Capita: Next Year	1,462.78	1,783.50	320.72
GA & Synod Per Capita Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payroll Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Liabilities</i>	1,462.78	1,783.50	320.72
Total Liabilities:	<u>1,462.78</u>	<u>1,783.50</u>	<u>320.72</u>
Net Assets:			
<i>Net Assets</i>			
Net Worth	296,459.81	287,803.05	(8,656.76)
Fund Balance	(59,586.19)	(59,586.19)	0.00
<i>Net Assets</i>	236,873.62	228,216.86	(8,656.76)
<i>Designated Gifts</i>			
Unrestricted	394,501.89	418,072.52	23,570.63
Current Period Changes	0.00	1,850.95	1,850.95
Total Net Assets:	<u>631,375.51</u>	<u>648,140.33</u>	<u>16,764.82</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets:	<u>632,838.29</u>	<u>649,923.83</u>	<u>17,085.54</u>

Sort = 6, Sub-Program Only

December, 2015 - All Funds

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	December Actual	December Budget	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Annual Budget	Year to Date Last Year
Income:						
<i>Mission Income</i>						
4100 Unified Mission for PNP	7,438.75	2,833.33	30,024.88	34,000.00	34,000.00	36,002.31
4110 Designated Mission to PNP	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
4220 Synod Support	1,875.00	1,875.00	22,500.00	22,500.00	22,500.00	24,999.96
<i>Mission Income</i>	9,313.75	4,708.33	52,524.88	56,500.00	56,500.00	61,022.27
<i>Administrative Income</i>						
4000 Total Per Capita: Current Year	17,492.75	13,229.00	165,052.80	158,748.00	158,748.00	173,519.76
4001 Less: GA Per Capita	0.00	(2,528.11)	(30,337.38)	(30,337.37)	(30,337.37)	(35,078.94)
4002 Less: Synod Per Capita	0.00	(1,859.43)	(22,310.20)	(22,313.20)	(22,313.20)	(24,985.00)
4010 Per Capita: Past Years	2,000.00	1,666.66	21,918.25	20,000.00	20,000.00	55,287.92
4300 Investment Income	1,716.23	208.33	4,914.09	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,501.69
4350 Resources Sales	0.00	83.33	880.21	1,000.00	1,000.00	763.90
4400 Miscellaneous Income	0.00	41.66	32,943.69	500.00	500.00	13,765.52
4310 Unr. Gain/Loss on Investment	0.00	0.00	516.27	0.00	0.00	5,222.54
<i>Administrative Income</i>	21,208.98	10,841.44	173,577.73	130,097.43	130,097.43	190,997.39
Total Income	<u>30,522.73</u>	<u>15,549.77</u>	<u>226,102.61</u>	<u>186,597.43</u>	<u>186,597.43</u>	<u>252,019.66</u>
Expense:						
<i>Personnel Expenses</i>						
5250 Min. of Pastoral Care: Salary	1,000.00	1,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	9,090.00
5255 Min. of Pastoral Care: Travel	0.00	125.00	188.83	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,204.72
5150 Admin for C&R: Salary	2,990.04	2,990.02	35,880.48	35,880.25	35,880.25	35,350.08
5160 Admin for C&R: Pens/Med	1,202.13	1,283.33	14,425.56	15,400.00	15,400.00	13,958.28
5170 Admin for C&R: Travel/C Ed	0.00	250.00	1,895.68	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,901.66
5100 Admin for C&F: Salary	3,466.12	3,466.10	41,593.44	41,593.26	41,593.26	40,978.08
5110 Admin for C&F: Pens/Med	1,314.26	1,338.33	15,771.12	16,060.00	16,060.00	14,521.08
5120 Admin for C&F: Travel/C.Ed.	0.00	400.00	2,327.69	4,800.00	4,800.00	1,224.16
5200 Stated Clerk: Salary	1,566.76	1,566.75	18,801.12	18,801.00	18,801.00	20,100.00
5210 Stated Clerk: Office Exp/Trave	799.62	400.00	4,492.76	4,800.00	4,800.00	3,198.07
5300 Workers Compensation	0.00	33.33	420.69	400.00	420.69	370.83
5400 FICA	606.02	567.68	7,272.13	6,812.22	6,812.22	7,120.58
<i>Personnel Expenses</i>	12,944.95	13,420.54	155,069.50	161,046.73	161,067.42	149,017.54
<i>Office Expense</i>						
6000 Office Supplies	136.25	183.33	2,033.56	2,200.00	2,200.00	1,926.02
6005 Postage Expense	319.40	208.33	2,411.05	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,005.02
6015 Telephone Expense	244.26	308.33	2,870.46	3,700.00	3,700.00	2,845.36
6027 Finance Software Support	0.00	33.33	305.00	400.00	400.00	390.39
6025 Equipment	1,010.90	125.00	1,330.90	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
6035 Books and Subscriptions	0.00	125.00	978.50	1,500.00	1,500.00	516.45
6040 Insurance	0.00	158.33	2,463.00	1,900.00	2,463.00	2,025.00
6070 Copier Lease	225.88	200.00	1,829.61	2,400.00	2,400.00	1,625.15
<i>Office Expense</i>	1,936.69	1,341.65	14,222.08	16,100.00	16,663.00	11,333.39
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>						
7160 Admin Commission: Other	0.00	41.66	47.69	500.00	500.00	155.07
7162 Minot: Admin Commission	0.00	250.00	16,882.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	13,028.27
7165 Ryder: PET	0.00	41.66	616.23	500.00	616.23	0.00
7166 Task Force	0.00	16.66	0.00	200.00	200.00	131.79
8115 Grants/New Ministries	0.00	416.66	2,050.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
8160 Moderator	0.00	100.00	297.91	1,200.00	1,200.00	522.31
8170 Board Reps.	0.00	12.50	0.00	150.00	150.00	50.00
8180 Presbytery Meetings	0.00	25.00	298.63	300.00	300.00	115.75
8181 Educational Events	0.00	291.66	1,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>	0.00	1,195.80	21,692.46	14,350.00	14,466.23	19,003.19

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December, 2015 - All Funds

Print Date: 1/19/16, 7:22:57 AM

	December Actual	December Budget	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Annual Budget	Year to Date Last Year
<i>Committee Expenses</i>						
7000 Committee on Ministry	1,038.82	833.33	6,984.17	10,000.00	10,000.00	8,989.84
7010 Committee on Prep for Ministry	0.00	241.66	1,111.57	2,900.00	2,900.00	186.00
7030 Council and Its Committees	82.28	208.33	1,963.12	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,846.16
7040 Budget & Finance Committee	61.22	16.66	85.35	200.00	200.00	82.61
7060 Committee on Representation	0.00	0.00	53.62	0.00	0.00	0.00
7100 Nominating Committee	0.00	58.33	402.17	700.00	700.00	679.46
7170 Personnel Committee	0.00	62.50	249.48	750.00	750.00	250.24
7120 Session Records Committee	0.00	12.50	40.34	150.00	150.00	0.00
7140 Permanent Judicial Committee	0.00	8.33	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
<i>Committee Expenses</i>	<u>1,182.32</u>	<u>1,441.64</u>	<u>10,889.82</u>	<u>17,300.00</u>	<u>17,300.00</u>	<u>13,034.31</u>
<i>Ministry Teams/Regional Expenses</i>						
7510 North East Ministry Region	0.00	20.83	112.80	250.00	250.00	(42.16)
7515 North West Ministry Region	0.00	20.83	59.23	250.00	250.00	249.08
7520 South Central Ministry Region	0.00	20.83	21.33	250.00	250.00	73.19
7525 South East Ministry Region	171.00	20.83	21.32	250.00	250.00	44.00
7530 South West Ministry Region	0.00	20.83	21.32	250.00	250.00	66.39
7041 Bdecan Ministry Team	592.18	216.66	2,321.38	2,600.00	2,600.00	1,078.00
7050 Chogoria Committee	0.00	291.66	3,144.42	3,500.00	3,500.00	8,500.00
7105 Presbyterians for Earth Care T	0.00	102.50	729.77	1,230.00	1,230.00	1,522.89
7130 Youth Connection Team	0.00	250.00	2,222.43	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,236.72
7185 1001 Worshipping Communities T	0.00	102.50	123.80	1,230.00	1,230.00	58.76
7188 Mediation & Conflict Res. Team	0.00	83.33	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
<i>Ministry Teams/Regional Expenses</i>	<u>763.18</u>	<u>1,150.80</u>	<u>8,777.80</u>	<u>13,810.00</u>	<u>13,810.00</u>	<u>12,786.87</u>
<i>Pledges</i>						
8200 Bdecan Food Pantry	888.83	800.00	9,600.00	9,600.00	9,600.00	9,000.00
8210 Clearwater Forest	0.00	333.33	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	5,000.00
8220 University of Jamestown	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
8230 MN Council of Churches	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8240 ND Conference of Churches	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Pledges</i>	<u>888.83</u>	<u>1,133.33</u>	<u>13,600.00</u>	<u>13,600.00</u>	<u>13,600.00</u>	<u>16,500.00</u>
Total Expense	<u><u>17,715.97</u></u>	<u><u>19,742.09</u></u>	<u><u>224,251.66</u></u>	<u><u>236,906.65</u></u>	<u><u>236,906.65</u></u>	<u><u>221,675.30</u></u>
Income - Expense	<u><u>12,806.76</u></u>	<u><u>(4,192.32)</u></u>	<u><u>1,850.95</u></u>	<u><u>(50,309.22)</u></u>	<u><u>(50,309.22)</u></u>	<u><u>30,344.36</u></u>

Sort - 1. Fund and Program

December, 2015 - All Funds

Print Date: 1/19/16, 7:23:05 AM

	Beginning 1/1/2015	December Receipts	December Expenses	Year to Date Receipts	Year to Date Expenses	Current Balance
General Fund						
Pass Through Funds						
9000 Christmas Joy Offering	0.00	5,609.00	5,609.00	17,378.34	17,378.34	0.00
9001 Hunger Offering	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00
9002 One Great Hour of Sharing	0.00	1,792.66	1,792.66	19,858.18	19,858.18	0.00
9003 Peacemaking Offering	0.00	2,219.21	2,219.21	4,445.92	4,445.92	0.00
9004 Pentecost Offering	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,212.15	2,212.15	0.00
9005 Witness Offering	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9006 Designated Mission to GA	0.00	3,645.84	3,645.84	4,581.08	4,581.08	0.00
9008 Unified Mission to GA	0.00	6,657.00	6,657.00	16,666.88	16,666.88	0.00
9012 Theological Mission to GA	0.00	775.00	775.00	2,006.25	2,006.25	0.00
9007 Designated Mission to Syno	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9009 Unified Mission to Synod	0.00	2,306.25	2,306.25	10,462.38	10,462.38	0.00
9015 Jamestown College from Ch	0.00	1,595.00	1,595.00	5,095.00	5,095.00	0.00
9018 Special Offerings	0.00	0.00	0.00	538.00	538.00	0.00
9017 Clearwater Forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	0.00
Pass Through Funds	0.00	24,599.96	24,599.96	83,694.18	83,694.18	0.00
Board Designated						
9041 Operating Reserve	152,959.82	5,385.41	0.00	7,319.61	0.00	160,279.43
9044 Oper Res - NCD	67,215.81	0.00	0.00	1,146.86	187.90	68,174.77
9016 Retreats - Fees collected	1,588.34	0.00	1,380.93	5,021.50	6,440.18	169.66
9025 Small Church Ministries Sup	29,016.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,016.03
Board Designated	250,780.00	5,385.41	1,380.93	13,487.97	6,628.08	257,639.89
Donor Restricted						
9019 Peacemaking - Presbytery	776.62	418.56	0.00	1,221.41	0.00	1,998.03
9023 Clergy Renewal Interest	972.26	0.00	0.00	339.84	0.00	1,312.10
9032 COM Pastoral Residency Pr	6,569.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,569.03
9028 Synod or GA Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,524.59	13,524.59	0.00
9035 Pentecost-Presbytery	329.12	0.00	0.00	221.22	0.00	550.34
9033 Youth Connection	3,541.04	288.00	0.00	2,509.00	0.32	6,049.72
9031 Seminary Scholarship CPM	3,822.39	0.00	0.00	477.23	0.00	4,299.62
9039 Self Development of People	1,106.74	0.00	33.32	0.00	33.32	1,073.42
9034 PNP Disaster Assistance	8,302.36	0.00	0.00	8,200.00	3,307.00	13,195.36
9036 Bdecan Ministry	49,575.44	5,628.97	4,080.72	55,607.30	53,267.96	51,914.78
9010 Schmid NCD Funds	613.78	0.00	0.00	77.94	0.00	691.72
9024 Stewardship Creation Enabl	732.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	732.26
9013 Chogoria Fund	8,356.73	1,845.00	628.00	7,268.00	3,222.69	12,402.04
9030 Chogoria Scholarship	857.31	200.00	0.00	5,661.69	5,232.00	1,287.00
9038 1001 Worshiping Communi	1,560.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,560.00
Donor Restricted	87,115.08	8,380.53	4,742.04	95,108.22	78,587.88	103,635.42
Permanently Restricted Principal						
9066 Clergy Renewal Endowment	18,279.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,279.08
9067 Presbytery Endowment Func	38,327.73	47.37	0.00	190.40	0.00	38,518.13
Permanently Restricted Pri	56,606.81	47.37	0.00	190.40	0.00	56,797.21
General Fund	394,501.89	38,413.27	30,722.93	192,480.77	168,910.14	418,072.52
Total for selected ded. accounts	<u>394,501.89</u>	<u>38,413.27</u>	<u>30,722.93</u>	<u>192,480.77</u>	<u>168,910.14</u>	<u>418,072.52</u>

PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS

2015 MISSION GIVING

PIN	CITY, CHURCH	Per Capita	Unified Giving			Christmas Joy	Peace- making	Oth. Den. Offerings	Univ. of Jamestown	Bdecan	Chogoria	Other Missions	Total
			GA	Synod	PNP								
3684	Angus, Angus-Tabor	\$1,817.34	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$600.00	\$68.00							\$2,885.34
3685	Argyle, Community	\$1,341.37	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$360.00	\$686.33							\$2,627.70
6197	Arvilla, Arvilla	\$1,125.02				\$77.30			\$100.00	\$200.00			\$1,502.32
10934	Baker, Westminster	\$2,336.58	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$600.00	\$413.00	\$1,082.00						\$4,831.58
6095	Bismarck, First	\$22,630.00				\$2,909.00	\$120.00	\$556.20	\$2,000.00				\$29,160.95
6099	Bismarck, Glencoe	\$1,384.64											\$1,384.64
6142	Bottineau, United Parish	\$2,466.39				\$25.00							\$2,491.39
6117	Buffalo, First	\$995.21	\$240.00	\$240.00	\$720.00				\$500.00				\$2,695.21
6200	Calvin, Glenila												
6118	Cassellton, Westminster	\$6,230.88		\$300.00	\$1,200.00	\$785.02	\$204.75					\$100.00	\$9,329.65
6201	Cavalier, Cavalier	\$2,408.97		\$500.00	\$750.00		\$25.00		\$100.00				\$4,343.97
6120	Colgate, Colgate	\$1,730.80				\$115.00	\$51.00	\$270.00		\$467.50		\$538.00	\$2,783.80
	- PW Colgate												\$467.50
6121	Cooperstown, First	\$1,254.83	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$300.00	\$141.00	\$105.00	\$331.00	\$500.00		\$100.00		\$2,931.83
3689	Crookston, First	\$3,116.78	\$1,125.00			\$665.00	\$489.00	\$618.75		\$1,107.50			\$7,429.53
6143	Devils Lake, Westminster	\$2,552.93	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$600.00	\$90.00	\$87.00	\$248.25		\$1,205.00		\$288.00	\$5,471.18
3860	Dilworth, Dilworth												
3690	East Grand Forks, Mendenhall	\$7,918.41	\$720.00	\$720.00	\$2,160.00	\$485.00	\$240.00			\$51.00			\$12,605.41
6179	Edgeley, First	\$259.62	\$112.50	\$112.50	\$525.00								\$1,009.62
6180	Ellendale, Pres./United Meth	\$1,860.61	\$364.88	\$364.88	\$1,094.63	\$55.00							\$3,740.00
6203	Emerado, Emerado	\$649.05				\$125.00							\$774.05
4351	Fairview, Community												
6124	Fargo, First	\$29,986.11	\$6,408.00	\$4,019.00	\$11,187.00	\$3,268.94	\$1,264.00	\$783.00		\$2,478.48	\$2,330.00		\$62,899.09
	- PW Fargo									\$100.00			\$100.00
6205	Fordville, First	\$519.24				\$90.00							\$609.24
6206	Forest River, Community	\$1,947.15											\$1,947.15
6207	Gilby, Gilby	\$2,639.47	\$240.00	\$240.00	\$720.00	\$289.40	\$470.34	\$500.00					\$5,099.21
6209	Grafton, Federated	\$1,322.88				\$237.50							\$1,560.38
	- PW Grafton									\$100.00			\$100.00
6210	Grand Forks, First	\$5,495.29				\$1,196.00	\$100.00	\$1,901.67				\$6,096.60	\$15,171.56
	Grand Forks, Hope Korean												
6127	Grandin, Grandin	\$2,596.71	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$600.00	\$156.45	\$130.00	\$250.00	\$150.00				\$4,433.16
	- PW Grandin									\$125.00	\$100.00		\$225.00
10351	Hallock, First	\$5,323.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$1,800.00	\$293.00	\$135.00	\$323.00					\$9,074.00
6211	Hamilton, First					\$50.00	\$37.50	\$30.00	\$100.00				\$217.50
6212	Hannah, Hannah												

PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS

2015 MISSION GIVING

PIN	CITY, CHURCH	Per Capita	Unified Giving			OGHS	Christmas Joy	Peace- making	Oth. Den. Offerings	Univ. of Jamestown	Bdecan	Chogoria	Other Missions	Total
			GA	Synod	PNP									
6130	Hunter, First	\$1,081.75	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$300.00									\$1,581.75
6213	Inkster, Inkster	\$649.05	\$333.00	\$111.00	\$111.00	\$184.00				\$100.00				\$1,488.05
6131	Jamestown, United - PW Jamestown	\$11,250.20				\$1,633.90	\$711.00			\$1,000.00	\$1,544.00			\$16,139.10
3088	LaMoure, First	\$1,947.15				\$250.00	\$625.00	\$236.25	\$195.00			\$156.00		\$3,253.40
6214	Langdon, Langdon	\$3,072.17				\$500.00	\$335.00	\$100.00	\$100.00					\$4,307.17
6187	Lisbon, First	\$822.13	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$600.00	\$120.00		\$52.50				\$555.00		\$2,549.63
6103	Mandan, First	\$2,132.91				\$915.00	\$665.00				\$95.00		\$1,072.12	\$4,880.03
6167	Minot, First						\$5,139.00							\$5,139.00
6217	Minto, Knox	\$1,168.29	\$159.00	\$159.00	\$477.00	\$500.00	\$426.00							\$2,889.29
3869	Moorhead, First	\$5,057.38					\$91.00							\$5,148.38
6219	Nekoma, Nekoma	\$865.40	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$240.00	\$90.00				\$100.00				\$1,455.40
6190	Oakes, First	\$822.13	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$900.00	\$120.00	\$125.00	\$95.00	\$121.00					\$2,783.13
6220	Park River, Federated	\$500.00				\$400.00								\$900.00
6134	Pillsbury, Baldwin													
6168	Portal, First													
	Presbytery Women of PNP				\$322.25									
3700	Red Lake Falls, First	\$1,903.88	\$480.00	\$480.00	\$1,440.00	\$226.73	\$360.00		\$78.75		\$1,914.00	\$175.00	\$1,625.00	\$4,036.25
6106	Rhame, Lyle	\$129.81					\$50.00		\$500.00		\$851.25			\$5,820.61
6149	Rolla, Rolla	\$3,021.35								\$345.00				\$679.81
6150	Rugby, Emmanuel United	\$475.97												\$3,366.35
6107	Steele, First	\$562.51											\$562.51	\$475.97
6136	Tower City, Tower City	\$562.52	\$56.00	\$56.00	\$168.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$42.25		\$100.00				\$562.51
6153	Towner, Towner	\$649.05			\$500.00	\$32.00	\$51.00		\$25.20					\$1,074.77
9573	Wahalla, Wahalla	\$2,206.77	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$900.00	\$185.00	\$178.00	\$162.00	\$103.11		\$180.00			\$1,257.25
6172	Watford City, First	\$989.46												\$4,514.88
6154	Webster, Webster Chapel	\$389.43	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$300.00	\$251.00	\$321.00	\$125.00	\$120.00		\$430.00			\$989.46
6125	West Fargo, Community	\$11,120.39				\$997.28							\$14,749.53	\$2,136.43
6155	Westhope, First													\$26,867.20
6111	Wilton, First	\$1,763.82	\$400.00	\$50.00	\$50.00								\$0.00	\$0.00
	Others				\$500.00				\$262.13		\$40,486.16	\$8,317.00	\$1,783.50	\$4,047.32
	TOTALS	\$165,052.80	\$13,338.38	\$10,052.38	\$30,024.88	\$18,665.85	\$14,663.34	\$4,609.06	\$6,994.06	\$5,095.00	\$51,334.89	\$11,733.00	\$27,123.75	\$358,687.39

Balance Sheet

Printed: 03/02/2016

For the period ending 02/29/2016

ASSETS	General Fund	Bdecan Ministry Donor Fund	Chogoria Ministry Donor	Donor Restricted	Other Funds	TOTAL
Checking Account	36,183.32	-5,593.77	8,130.00	10,175.75	61.69	48,956.99
Savings	82.83	51,914.78	13,139.04	19,224.52	197,823.11	282,184.28
Congregational Development					33,862.11	33,862.11
Operating Reserves (CD)					160,279.43	160,279.43
New Church Development (CD)					70,066.76	70,066.76
Presbytery Endowment					59,463.88	59,463.88
Clergy Renewal					28,815.36	28,815.36
GF - First Pres. Loan					11,392.11	11,392.11
TOTAL ASSETS	36,266.15	46,321.01	21,269.04	29,400.27	561,764.45	695,020.92

LIABILITIES	General Fund	Bdecan Ministry Donor Fund	Chogoria Ministry Donor	Donor Restricted	Other Funds	TOTAL
Per Capita (Next Year)	0.00					0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES						0.00

NET ASSETS	36,266.15	46,321.01	21,269.04	29,400.27	561,764.45	695,020.92
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Fund Overview Report

Printed: 03/02/2016

For the period ending on 02/29/2016

Fund	Balance
General Fund	36,266.15
Bdecan Ministry Donor Fund	46,321.01
Chogoria Ministry Donor Fund	21,269.04
Donor Restricted	29,400.27
Board Designated (Temp Restr.)	462,171.52
Permanently Restricted	88,200.82
Loans to Congregations	11,392.11
TOTAL:	695,020.92

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

2016 Budget as of 2/29/16

Category	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	MTD Actual	Monthly Budget	Annual Budget
INCOME CATEGORIES					
4010 Per Capita (2011-2015)	3306	1400	1286	700	8400
4000 Per Capita (Current Year)	47893	30863	23174	15432	185180
4001 Per Capita Payment (GA)	0	-5052	0	-2526	-30310
4002 Per Capita Payment (Synod)	0	-3725	0	-1862	-22349
4003 Per Capita Uncollected	0	-5833	0	-2917	-35000
4400 Miscellaneous Income	1	167	1	83	1000
9016 Fees Collected for Retreats/Events	170	0	0	0	0
4300 Investment Income	371	432	40	216	2591
4350 Resources Sales	38	170	20	85	1022
4220 Synod Support	3375	3375	1688	1688	20250
4310 Unrealized Gain/Loss on Investments	0	167	0	83	1000
4100 PNP Unified Mission	7600	6833	3005	3417	41000
Income Categories Total	62754	28797	29214	14399	172784
EXPENSE CATEGORIES					
Personnel Expense:					
5120 Admin of Communication and Finance BOP	2645	2581	1323	1290	15485
5100 Admin of Communication and Finance Salary	7071	7071	3535	3535	42425
5120 Admin of Communication and Finance: Travel	162	500	162	250	3000
5160 Admin of Connection and Records BOP	2419	2135	1209	1067	12809
5150 Admin of Connection and Records Salary	6100	6100	3050	3050	36598
5170 Admin of Connection and Records: Travel and	478	500	302	250	3000
5400 FICA	1218	1408	609	704	8449
5250 Minister of Pastoral Care Salary	2040	2040	1020	1020	12240
5255 Minister of Pastoral Care Travel	0	250	0	125	1500
5210 Stated Clerk Office and Travel	0	800	0	400	4800
5200 Stated Clerk Salary	3196	3196	1598	1598	19177
5300 Workers Compensation	0	54	0	27	325
Office Expenses:					
6035 Book and Subscriptions	0	250	0	125	1500
6070 Copier Lease	194	367	107	183	2200
6025 Equipment	801	250	213	125	1500
6027 Finance Software	210	67	130	33	400
6040 Insurance	0	367	0	183	2200
6005 Postage	9	417	9	208	2500
6000 Supplies	511	367	45	183	2200
6015 Telephone	620	617	232	308	3700

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

2016 Budget as of 2/29/16

Category	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	MTD Actual	Monthly Budget	Annual Budget
Administrative Expenses:					
7160 Administrative Commissions	0	0	0	0	0
8170 Board Reps.	0	17	0	8	100
8181 Educational Events	0	500	0	250	3000
8155 GA Alternates	0	667	0	333	4000
8115 Grants for Ministries (Council)	0	1000	0	500	6000
8160 Moderator	0	100	0	50	600
8180 Presbytery Meetings	0	33	0	17	200
Committee Expenses:					
7040 Budget and Finance Committee	0	17	0	8	100
7000 Committee on Ministry	79	1517	40	758	9100
7010 Committee on Preparations for Ministry	0	100	0	50	600
7060 Committee on Representation	0	4	0	2	25
7030 Council	0	400	0	200	2400
Council - Shared Crisis Grants	0	333	0	167	2000
7150 Financial Audit/Review	0	17	0	8	100
7100 Nominating Committee	0	83	0	42	500
7140 Permanent Judicial Committee	0	0	0	0	0
7170 Personnel Committee	0	83	0	42	500
7110 Self-Development of People (SDOP)	0	0	0	0	0
7120 Session Records Committee	0	8	0	4	50
Ministry Teams Expenses:					
7185 1001 Worshiping Communities Team Exp	0	17	0	8	100
7041 Bdecan Ministry Team Exps	0	375	0	188	2250
7050 Chogoria Partnership Ministry Team Exp	2039	1333	0	667	8000
7188 Mediation and Conflict Resolution Team Exp	0	17	0	8	100
7108 Presbyterians for Earth Care Team Exp	0	542	0	271	3250
7130 Youth Connection Ministry Team Epx	0	750	0	375	4500
Ministry Regions Expenses:					
7500 Matching Grants for Regions	0	333	0	167	2000
7510 North East Ministry Region	100	42	100	21	250
7515 North West Ministry Region	0	42	0	21	250
7520 South Central Ministry Region	0	42	0	21	250
7525 South East Ministry Region	0	42	0	21	250
7530 South West Ministry Region	0	42	0	21	250

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

2016 Budget as of 2/29/16

Category	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	MTD Actual	Monthly Budget	Annual Budget
PNP Pledges:					
8250 Bdecan Food Plantry	1863	2000	1159	1000	12000
8210 Presbyterian Clearwater Forest	0	833	0	417	5000
8220 University of Jamestown	0	833	0	417	5000
Expense Categories Total	31755	41459	14843	20726	248733

Total Income	62754	28797	29214	14399	172784
Total Expenses	31755	41459	14843	20726	248733
Total Income - Total Expenses	30999	-12662	14371	-6327	-75949

OUTSTANDING PER CAPITA

City, Church	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	Total
Baker, Westminster	\$ 173.08	\$ 903.42	\$ 984.40	\$ 1,062.50	\$ 975.20	\$ 4,098.60
Bismarck, First	\$ 0.21					\$ 0.21
Calvin, Glenila	\$ 1,557.72	\$ 1,634.76	\$ 1,626.40	\$ 1,615.00	\$ 1,653.60	\$ 8,087.48
Cavalier, Cavalier	\$ 1,832.49	\$ 4,215.96	\$ 4,279.80	\$ 4,207.05	\$ 4,324.20	\$ 18,859.50
Crookston, First	\$ 4,022.77	\$ 6,797.48	\$ 7,062.85	\$ 6,887.20	\$ 6,663.70	\$ 31,434.00
Dilworth, Dilworth	\$ 735.59	\$ 731.34	\$ 856.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 805.00	\$ 3,977.93
Fairview, Community	\$ 432.70	\$ 645.30	\$ 642.00			\$ 1,720.00
Grafton, Federated	\$ 364.65					\$ 364.65
Grand Forks, First			\$ 3,339.48	\$ 4,053.71	-	\$ 7,393.19
Hamilton, First	\$ 1,038.48	\$ 1,032.48	\$ 1,112.80	\$ 1,190.00	\$ 1,187.20	\$ 5,560.96
Hannah, Hannah	\$ 519.24	\$ 516.24	\$ 513.60	\$ 510.00	\$ 508.80	\$ 2,567.88
Jamestown, United		\$ 4,268.26				\$ 4,268.26
LaMoure, First	\$ 43.27	\$ 43.02				\$ 86.29
Mandan, First	\$ 5,352.80	\$ 4,119.53	\$ 4,444.60	\$ 5,100.90	\$ 10,556.30	\$ 29,574.13
Minot, First	\$ 11,293.47					\$ 11,293.47
Moorhead, First	\$ 3,423.54	\$ 4,552.36	\$ 4,314.30		-	\$ 12,290.20
Nekoma, Nekoma	\$ 389.43					\$ 389.43
Park River, Federated	\$ 2,745.25	\$ 2,597.44	\$ 2,081.60	\$ 2,060.00	\$ 2,552.80	\$ 12,037.09
Pillsbury, Baldwin	\$ 778.86	\$ 688.32	\$ 470.80	\$ 552.50	\$ 551.20	\$ 3,041.68
Portal, First	\$ 173.08	\$ 172.08	\$ 171.20	\$ 170.00	\$ 212.00	\$ 898.36
Rolla, Presbyterian	\$ 3,772.04					\$ 3,772.04
Watford City, First	\$ 5.75					\$ 5.75
Westhope, First	\$ 1,600.99		\$ 1,797.60			\$ 3,398.59
Wilton, First	\$ 10.25					\$ 10.25
Total	\$ 40,265.66	\$ 32,917.99	\$ 33,697.43	\$ 28,258.86	\$ 29,990.00	\$ 165,129.94

As of February 29, 2016

Grant Information

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains has the following grant opportunities available. It is the hope that these funds will allow the opportunity to assist you in completing a project or starting a new ministry. For additional information, please contact the Presbytery office at 701-772-0783 or email pnpooffice@gmail.com.

Peacemaking Grant

Balance: \$ 2,167.51

The Peacemaking Offering supports the peacemaking efforts of the church at every governing body level and provides an opportunity to witness to God's gift of peace in the world. Gifts given to the Peacemaking Offering through a congregation are divided in the following manner - twenty-five percent retained by congregations for support of their own peacemaking ministry; 25 percent used to support presbytery and synod peacemaking efforts; and 50 percent forwarded to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program of the General Assembly Council so that it can continue to provide assistance and resources for congregations and other bodies of the PC(USA).

The emphasis is broad: a congregation, elder or pastor can apply for funds for anything which 'makes for peace' (mission trips, racism training, new ecumenical work). An Application for Grants form should be used and sent to the Presbytery of the Northern Plains Council.

Clergy Renewal Grant

Balance: \$ 1,452.21

The Clergy Renewal Fund was created by the Bicentennial Campaign in the early 1990s. 90% of the interest from the endowment is returned to the Presbytery quarterly and lodged in the designated reserve account ("Clergy Renewal Interest") 10% of the interest is reinvested for growth of the principal. The Clergy Renewal is invested. The purpose of the fund, defined by the Presbytery in 1993, is:

- a) Retreats for clergy (this includes CRE's) and spouses
- b) clergy convocations
- c) clergy scholarships for continuing education and sabbaticals
- d) other emerging needs for clergy renewal

The Committee on Ministry has the responsibility for developing processes and applications for use of the funds, and for granting approval for requests made to the fund. The Committee on Ministry shall report to the Presbytery at least annually on the dispersal of funds. An Application for Grants form should be used and sent to the Presbytery of the Northern Plains Committee on Ministry.

Pentecost Grant

Balance: \$ 567.68

The Pentecost Offering enables the PC(USA) to encourage, develop and support its young people, as well as provide assistance to at-risk children. In addition, a large portion of this offering can be kept by individual congregations for use in their own communities.

The Pentecost Offering is traditionally received on the day of Pentecost. However, you can help sustain the important PC(USA) ministries and programs that are supported by the Pentecost Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year.

These are monies received from the Pentecost offering and retained by the Presbytery. An Application for Grants form should be used and sent to the Presbytery of the Northern Plains Council.

New Church Development Grant

Balance: \$ 70,066.76

These are funds retained by the Presbytery for New Church Development. A ‘new church development’ means reaching new population with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This fund represented monies received from the sale of the property in South Fargo, and designated by the Presbytery for New Church Development. This fund has been designated for the use to start a new worshipping community in Dickinson, ND.

No new grant application are being accepted at this time

Congregational Development Grant

Balance: \$ 33,862.11

The Congregational Development Fund was created by the Bicentennial Campaign in the early 1990s to bring seminary interns to plains churches. No funds are returned to the Presbytery automatically, but the Presbytery may request a portion of the funds annually.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry administers the fund, and needs approval of the Presbytery to request more than 5.5% annually. An Application for Grants form should be used and sent to the Presbytery of the Northern Plains Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

Small Church Ministries Support

Balance: \$ 29,016.03

These funds are to go toward to use of helping support small church ministries within the Presbytery of the Northern Plains. An Application for Grants form should be used and sent to the Presbytery of the Northern Plains Council.

New Ministry Support / Misc Grants

Balance: \$ 5,000.00

Typically, \$ 5,000 is set aside to fund grants to congregations to help facilitate new ministries ideas or to aid pastoral leaders within the Presbytery of the Northern Plains. The grant application process is open ended with no deadlines set, however once the funds are depleted, no more grants will be available until the funds are replenished.

In the past no funds were available for church renovation projects, however in January 2013, Council established guidelines regarding church improvement fund requests. It reads, “Presbytery Council encourages churches to apply for funds to help improve their buildings, if they have need for such funds. Application should be made through the ministry grant request process, using that application form. Churches should NOT apply for more than 50% of the total cost of the project. Projects that make churches more accessible will be given priority. Funds will be awarded as budget constraints allow.”

An Application for Grants form should be used and sent to the Presbytery of the Northern Plains Council.

Seminary Scholarship

Balance: \$ 4,417.65

Income from offerings taken at ordinations and installations (see P-6.01012c) as well as income from the Julia Euland Fund are deposited into the Seminary Scholarship Reserve Account, to be disbursed by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry for use for scholarships for seminarians from the Presbytery of the Northern Plains. No application needed as long as individuals are under the care of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains.

**PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS
APPLICATION FOR GRANTS**



1. To Be Completed by Requesting Entity

Name of Fund Requesting Grant From:	Grant amount requested: \$
	Total Program/Project Budget: \$
If application was made to other funds for <u>same program/project</u> , please list fund name:	

Applicant name and address (person, congregation or ministry team):

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Contact Person's Name: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

If applicant is a church (session), please provide the following information:

Church Membership	_____
Operating Budget	\$ _____
Prior Year Amounts Contributed to Presbytery, Synod and GA (Excluding Per Capita)	\$ _____

Proposed Use: Approved applications receive a one-time grant. Grants must be used within two years of distribution. If proposed use is for church building/repair, **STOP, currently no funds are available for church building repairs.**

- a) Short Description (briefly describe the program/project for which funding is requested):

**PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS
APPLICATION FOR GRANTS**



- b) Is this an ongoing program/project or a new initiative (please explain):
-
-
-
- c) Are funds being received from other sources to support this program/project? If so, what are the sources and how much?
-
-
-
- d) Background (more detailed description of program/project, and please indicate partnership with other person, congregation, ministry team or governing bodies):
-
-
-

Budget for Project/Program (Revenue Should Equal Expenses)

Revenue Item	Amount	Expense Item	Amount
Individual Contribution(s)		Planning	
Congregation		Promotional Materials and Advertising	
Presbytery (grant requested amount)		Leadership Honoraria	
Synod/GA		Leadership Travel/Housing/Meals	
Other: (Describe each item over 10% of budget)		Other: (Describe each item over 10% of budget)	
Tuition and Fees from Participants		Subsidies to Participants	
Total Project Revenue		Total Project Expense	

Clerk of Session

Church Name

Signature

Date

REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY COUNCIL COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

To Presbytery Meeting, First Presbyterian Church, Oakes, ND, April 1-2, 2016

From Council Meetings of November 19 and December 17 in 2015 and January 21 and February 18 in 2016.

Items Requiring Presbytery Action:

From meeting of September 17, 2015 and Presbytery Meeting of October 23, 2015:

1. **Motion:** The bylaws be amended to reflect that the Ministry Teams would be represented on Presbytery Council by two people with an alternate designated by the Ministry Teams and that the terms of these representatives would for one-year with an option to renew on a yearly basis. **Approved at October 23, 2015, Presbytery meeting.**

The following are the sections which need to be amended to put into effect the bylaw changes approved at the October 23, 2015, Presbytery meeting. The actual language requires additional Presbytery approval.

B-5.0200, MEMBERSHIP

B-5.0201, Voting Members

Voting Members shall be: Chair of Council, who shall be elected by Presbytery for a term of two years and shall be eligible to serve a second two-year term, but shall not serve more than four consecutive years; the immediate past Moderator of the Presbytery; the present Moderator of the Presbytery (who shall be vice-chairperson of the Council); the Vice-Moderator of Presbytery; the chairpersons of the Standing Committees of Presbytery (4): Committee on Representation, Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, and Nominating Committee; chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee of Council; chairperson of the Personnel Committee of Council; a representative designated by and from the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery and elected by Presbytery; the Presbytery's commissioners to Synod and General Assembly; ~~the representatives designated from each~~ the Ministry Teams as provided in B-6.0500. (February 5-6, 2010; March 9, 2013, October 2014, April 2016)

B-6.0500 MINISTRY TEAMS

To facilitate and enhance the work of the Presbytery, persons may gather themselves around an issue or area of ministry for which they have a passion and concern. Normally, such teams should consist of a minimum of three people from three different congregations in the presbytery and should apply to the Council for recognition. In doing so, the new team should offer a brief description of its purpose, its membership, and what, if anything, it is expecting from the Presbytery. Teams will abide by the policy for Committee and Team Chairs in establishing leadership. Once recognized, the ministry team shall submit a written report of its activities at least semi-annually to the Council and annually to the Presbytery. If a team is receiving funds from Presbytery, it must meet, either in person or electronically, at least twice annually. These meetings must have minutes which indicate a quorum was present and voted on the use of fund. ~~Each Ministry Team shall designate voting representation to Council with no person representing that Ministry Team to serve more than six consecutive years.~~ The Ministry Teams will be represented on Council by two people with voice and vote and an alternate designated by the Teams. The terms of these representatives shall be one year with an option to renew on an annual basis. The Council shall submit an annual report to Presbytery, indicating which ministry teams are actively complying with the above guidelines.

For Your Information:

From meeting of December 17, 2015:

- ✓ The Presbytery office is getting Church Track software.

From meeting of January 21, 2016:

- ✓ Laurie Elhard and her family are relocating to the Fargo area. Laurie will work part-time from home and part-time in the Grand Forks office. See minutes for details and Laurie's schedule.

From meeting of February 18, 2016:

- ✓ Child Care Policy was presented and reviewed by Council. Revisions to be presented to March Council meeting.
- ✓ The Dream Grant request of the First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks was approved in the amount of \$10,000.
- ✓ Council is searching for nominees to the Nominating Committee and the Council's Personnel sub-committee.
- ✓ General Assembly commissioners will receive a ten-issue subscription to The Presbyterian Outlook to assist them with their duties at General Assembly in Portland, Oregon.
- ✓ Schedule of 2016 Council meetings.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS

United Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, ND

November 19, 2015

The Meeting of the Council of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains was held Thursday, November 19, 2015, at United Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, North Dakota. The Chair was in route and the Secretary was present.

The meeting was called to order by Sylvia Pringle at 10:04 a.m. with devotions offered by Marli Danielson. There was a discussion about fringe people and speaking up for them. How to speak without being judgmental? Cory suggested a letter be sent to the governor of North Dakota. By consensus it was agreed that Presbytery Moderator Pringle would write the letter.

Voting members present (10) Darrel Cory (by telephone until 10:55), Marli Danielson, Marge Landwehr (by telephone), Hazel Merdink, Ellen Misialek, Donna Monteith, Donna Preston, Sylvia Pringle, Sharon Secor, and Cathy Scheibe.

Voting members not present (7) Scott Dobovsky, Marilynn Ogden, Deanna Reikow, Jim Skaret, Elaine Sweet, Elizabeth Sweet, and Diane Wray Williams.

Non-voting members present (1): Michael Lochow (Secretary).

Non-voting members not present (1): Walter Knipe (Treasurer).

Staff and Guests (2): Laurie Elhard (Staff, Administrator of Communication and Finance) and Mary Holtey (Committee Structure Task Force).

1. CONVENING MATTERS

Pringle declared a quorum present.

The agenda, as amended, was approved without objection.

Danielson moved to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2015, meeting, as corrected. The motion carried.

CV 2015 – 39

OFFICERS/STAFF

Moderator. Moderator Pringle presented an oral report which included a report on the Bismarck church and Colgate's need for a moderator.

Stated Clerk. Lochow provided an oral report. He spoke about Clearwater Forest and the coming retreat, the Board of Pensions, the potential confusion between the annual questionnaire and annual statistics, and Dakota Presbytery.

Treasurer. Misialek presented the financial statements for the period ending October 31, 2015, which were received and included the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Activities, and Dedicated Accounts. She reported an actual increase in the cost of insurance. Monteith moved to increase the budget number in line item 6040 from \$1900 to \$2463. The motion **carried**.

CV 2015 – 40

Administrator of Communication and Finance. Elhard provided an oral report on the activities of herself and Alissa Anderson. She reported that they attended the Healthy Boundaries Training. She observed that the materials were outdated and that Lochow has agreed to assist in reviewing and updating the materials. She noted that her laptop is “on its last legs”. Monteith moved to authorize the purchase of a new laptop for a price up to \$1000 and the amount be charged to line item 6025 Equipment. The motion was **approved**. **CV 2015 – 41**

BUSINESS

Proposed Overture from Kiskiminetas Presbytery. Lochow reported he had received a letter from Kiskiminetas Presbytery asking Northern Plains Presbytery to confer with their overture to the 22d General Assembly regarding marriage as defined in Scripture and the Confessions. He reviewed the process for concurring with an overture. The deadline is the same as for submission of an overture which is February 19, 2016. For Presbytery to act would require a special meeting. Monteith moved to not consider concurrence since the Presbytery will not meet before the deadline for submission of a concurrence. The motion **carried**. **CV 2015 – 42**

Darrel Cory joined the meeting in person at 10:55 a.m.

Accounting Software Selection. Misialek reported on software selection for the Presbytery office. After discussion, Misialek moved that the Budget and Finance Committee be allowed to review the software options and bring a recommendation to Council. The motion was **approved**. **CV 2015 – 43**

Council took a brief break at 10:59 a.m. and reconvened at 11:08 a.m.

Committee Structure Task Force Update. Holtey and Secor presented the report of the Committee Structure Task Force. Council categorized tasks currently performed by the Presbytery under various areas and then added ideas about what the Presbytery might do in the future.

Council took its lunch break at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened at 12:55 p.m.

Five Peacemaking Affirmations (Follow Up). Council discussed the next step. Danielson suggested that a small group look further at the Five Peacemaking Affirmations. It was agreed that Danielson and Misialek would be part of this group. Lochow will write a letter to the Office of General Assembly about where the Presbytery is at with regard to the Five Peacemaking Affirmations.

Presbytery Meeting Educational Events Updates.

- Spring: Stewardship. Lochow reported the group of himself, Reikow, and Sweet have not met.
- Spring Offering. Youth Connection Team.
- Fall: Mission Co-Worker.
- Fall Offering. Ministry Teams need to meet to make recommendation.

Child Protection Policy. No report but see Dobovsky's email.

Task Force Update. Watford City no report.

Larger Parish. Monteith reported on the possibility of West Fargo being a hub serving Casselton, Grandin/Hunter, and Tower City/Buffalo.

Ecumenical & Interreligious Work Group Update. No report.

Announcements.

- ✓ Preston updated Council on activities at Bdecan church
- ✓ Lochow reported on Bush Foundation grants in the area as pointed out to him by Elona Street Stewart, Synod Executive
- ✓ Danielson recommended giving to local Salvation Army to keep funds in the area
- ✓ Elhard reported two Dream Grant applications have been received

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. with prayer offered by Pringle.

Michael Lochow

Michael Lochow
Secretary

The next meeting of the Council will be a conference call on Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Motions

-
- CV 2015 – 40 Adjust insurance budget line item
 - CV 2015 – 41 Laptop purchase up to \$1000
 - CV 2015 – 42 Kiskiminetas Presbytery concurrence request
 - CV 2015 – 43 Budget & Finance software recommendation

Items for Council Members

-
1. Pringle write governor
 2. Budget & Finance software review
 3. Misialek and small group look further at Five Peacemaking Affirmations
 4. Ministry Teams recommendation for fall Presbytery offering

Items for Staff

-
1. Office purchase computer
 2. Lochow letter to OGA, re: Five Peacemaking Affirmations
 3. Lochow, Reikow, and Sveet meet about spring education: Stewardship

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS
Conference Call – December 17, 2015

A conference call meeting of the Council of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains was held on Thursday, December 17, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. The chair and the secretary were present.

The meeting was called to order by Darrel Cory at 10:07 a.m. Danielson offered the opening prayer.

Voting members present (12): Darrel Cory, Marli Danielson, Scott Dobovsky, Marge Landwehr, Hazel Merdink, Donna Monteith, Marilyn Ogden, Sylvia Pringle, Deanna Reikow, Jim Skaret, Elaine Sveet, and Elizabeth Swee.

Voting members not present (5): Ellen Misialek, Donna Preston, Sharon Secor, Cathy Scheibe, and Diane Wray Williams.

Non-voting members present (2): Walter Knipe (Treasurer) and Michael Lochow (Secretary).

Non-voting members not present (0): None

Staff and Guests (2): Alissa Anderson (Staff, Administrator for Connections and Records) and Laurie Elhard (Staff, Administrator of Communication and Finance).

Cory declared a quorum present.

The agenda as presented in the call for the meeting was used for the order of the meeting and was approved without objection.

1. Minutes of November 2015, Council Meeting. Monteith moved that the minutes of the November 19, 2015, meeting be approved, as corrected (page 2, BUSINESS, paragraph 1, line 3, change '22d' to '222d'). The motion **passed**.
CV 2015 – 44
2. Stated Clerk's Report. Lochow provided a written report which was received and summarized his attendance at the Presbyterian Clearwater Forest Retreat, the Cavalier Presbyterian Church 125th anniversary, and the Minnesota Council of Churches.
3. Review of November Financial Statements. Knipe presented the financial statements for the period ending November 30, 2015, which were received and reviewed by Knipe. The statements included the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Activities, Dedicated Accounts, and Outstanding Per Capita. Following his report of three line items which had overspent their budget, Danielson moved to adjust the following line items: 5300 Workers Compensation increase from \$400 to \$420.69; 6040 Insurance increase from \$1900 to \$2463; and 7165 Ryder: PET increase from \$500 to \$616.23. The motion **carried**.

CV 2015 – 45

4. Purchase of Office Laptop. In an email received on December 8, 2015, the following was reported to Council.

In addition, yesterday Alissa's laptop hard drive died. No information was retrievable and cost of the repair is several hundred dollars. After speaking with Donna (Personnel Chair) and Darrel (Council Chair), we are requesting a straw poll for approval to purchase a new laptop not to exceed \$1000. Please reply to all in favor or opposed of this purchase. If approved, then at next week's conference call it will be ratified.

The straw poll was taken and the request to purchase a new laptop not to exceed \$1000 was approved by email vote. Monteith moved to ratify the motion approved by email regarding the purchase of the laptop. The motion was **approved**. **CV 2015 - 46**

5. Budget and Finance Report.

- a. Software. Elhard presented a report on new software for the office. Budget & Finance recommended adoption of Church Track software for the office. The motion was **approved**. **CV 2015 – 47**
- b. Budget & Finance recommended that Pat O'Donnell's name be removed from list of check signers on the Presbytery's checking account. The motion **carried**. **CV 2015 – 48**

6. Overtures – Lochow. Lochow presented a review of the overtures from the Presbyteries of Central Nebraska, Foothills, and Great Rivers all of which requested the concurrence of Northern Plains to the respective overtures. Monteith moved to not consider concurrence since the Presbytery will not meet before the deadline for submission of a concurrence. The motion **carried**. **CV 2015 – 49**

The meeting was adjourned with prayer offered by Monteith at 10:23 a.m.

Michael Lochow

Michael Lochow
Secretary

The next meeting of the Council is:
January 21, 2016, at 10:00 by Conference Call

Motions

CV 2015 – 44 November 19, 2015, minutes
CV 2015 – 45 Adjustment of line items in 2015 budget
CV 2015 – 46 Ratification of email vote regarding purchase of laptop
CV 2015 – 47 Adoption of Church Track software
CV 2015 – 48 Removal of O'Donnell name as check signer
CV 2015 – 49 Not to consider concurrence with three overtures

Items for Council Members

None

Items for Staff

1. Adjust budget line items
2. Acquisition of Church Track software
3. Remove O'Donnell name as check signer

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS
Conference Call – January 21, 2016

A conference call meeting of the Council of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains was held on Thursday, January 21, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. The chair and the secretary were present.

The meeting was called to order by Darrel Cory at 10:02 a.m. Danielson offered the opening prayer.

Voting members present (13): Darrel Cory, Marli Danielson, Marge Landwehr, Hazel Merdink, Ellen Misialek, Donna Monteith, Donna Preston, Sylvia Pringle, Cathy Scheibe, Sharon Secor, Jim Skaret, Elaine Sveet, and Elizabeth Swee.

Voting members not present (2): Scott Dobovsky and Diane Wray Williams.

Non-voting members present (2): Walter Knipe (Treasurer) and Michael Lochow (Secretary).

Non-voting members not present (0): None

Staff and Guests (2): Alissa Anderson (Staff, Administrator for Connections and Records) and Laurie Elhard (Staff, Administrator of Communication and Finance).

Cory declared a quorum present.

The agenda as presented in the call for the meeting was used for the order of the meeting and was approved without objection.

1. Minutes of December 17, 2015, Council Meeting. Swee moved that the minutes of the December 17, 2015, meeting be approved as presented. The motion **passed**. **CV 2016 – 01**
2. Treasurer's Report. Knipe presented the financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2015, which were received and reviewed by Knipe. The statements included the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Activities, Dedicated Accounts, and Outstanding Per Capita. He reported that they are in the process of moving from the old accounting system to the new. The transfer should be finished close to the end of the month. Per Capital collection is up a little. Monteith reported that the last payment from West Fargo should be paid soon.
3. Personnel Report. Monteith reported that Elhard and her family will be relocating to Fargo, ND. Personnel had previously reported that Elhard would work part-time from home and part-time in the Grand Forks office. The Personnel Committee proposed the following work plan:
Every five (5) days Elhard will spend four (4) days at home and one (1) in the office or at a meeting. During the four (4) days Elhard is at home, the Presbytery telephone will be transferred on two of those days to her home. The plan will be reviewed in three-to-six months.

The motion from the Personnel Committee was **approved**.

CV 2016 – 02

Sveet offered office space in the Moorhead church if that would help. Elhard noted that access to a copier would be helpful.

4. Spring Presbytery Meeting. Lochow and Sveet reported they have had no conversation yet about the meeting and that they need to meet.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer offered by Sveet at 10:14 a.m.

Michael Lochow

Michael Lochow
Secretary

The meetings of the Council in 2016:

February 18, 2016, at 10:00 > Face-to-Face in Fargo
March 17, 2016, at 10:00 > Conference Call
April 21, 2016, at 10:00 > Conference Call
May 19, 2016, at 10:00 > Face-to-Face in Grand Forks
June 16, 2016, at 10:00 > Conference Call
July 21, 2016, at 10:00 > Conference Call
August 18, 2016, at 10:00 > Face-to-Face in Jamestown
September 15, 2016, at 10:00 > Conference Call
October 20, 2016, at 10:00 > Conference Call
November 17, 2016, at 10:00 > Face-to-Face in Fargo
December 15, 2016, at 10:00 > Conference Call

Motions

CV 2016 – 01 Minutes of December 2015 meeting
CV 2016 – 02 Elhard work plan

Items for Council Members

1. Sveet meet with Lochow, re: Spring Presbytery meeting

Items for Staff

Lochow meet with Sveet, re: Spring Presbytery meeting

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS
Conference Call – February 18, 2016

A conference call meeting of the Council of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains was held on Thursday, February 18, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. The chair and the secretary were present.

The meeting was called to order by Darrel Cory at 10:07 a.m. Danielson offered the opening devotions and prayer.

Voting members present (13): Darrel Cory, Marli Danielson, Scott Dobovsky, Marge Landwehr, Hazel Merdink, Ellen Misialek, Donna Monteith, Sylvia Pringle, Cathy Scheibe, Sharon Secor, Jim Skaret, Elaine Sveet, and Elizabeth Swee.

Voting members not present (2): Donna Preston and Diane Wray Williams.

Non-voting members present (2): Walter Knipe (Treasurer) and Michael Lochow (Secretary).

Non-voting members not present (0): None

Staff and Guests (2): Alissa Anderson (Staff, Administrator for Connections and Records) and Laurie Elhard (Staff, Administrator of Communication and Finance).

Cory declared a quorum present.

The agenda as presented in the call for the meeting was used for the order of the meeting and was approved without objection.

1. Minutes of January 21, 2016, Council Meeting. Monteith moved that the minutes of the January 21, 2016, meeting be approved as presented. The motion **passed**. **CV 2016 – 03**
2. Treasurer's Report. Knipe presented the financial statements for the period ending January 31, 2016, which were received and reviewed by Knipe. The statements were in a new format and included the Balance Sheet, Fund Overview Report, 2016 Budget, Income Statement, and Outstanding Per Capita. Misialek had some questions which she will discuss with Elhard at a later date.
3. Child Care Policy. Dobovsky reported. The Policy was discussed and it was agreed that some changes would be made and it would be presented to the March Council meeting.
4. Presbytery Meeting Agenda. A draft agenda was presented by Lochow. A number of items on the agenda were discussed, in particular the involvement of the anticipated visitors from Chogoria. Merdink indicated the Nominating Committee would need some time on the agenda. The offering will go to the youth, particularly for Triennium. The agenda will be sent out in early March.
5. Grants.
 - a. Argyle Grant Request. The Community Presbyterian Church of Argyle submitted a grant request for \$3000 to supplement their 2016 budget shortfall. Secor moved to approve the grant request which received a second. Following discussion, Secor moved to postpone further

action on the grant request from the Community Presbyterian Church of Argyle until the March meeting of the Council. The motion **was approved.** **CV 2016 – 04**

- b. Dream Grant. Elhard reported that the Grand Forks church's Dream Grant request had been approved in the amount of \$10,000. The moderator will present the check at the April Presbytery meeting.
5. Nominations to Nominating Committee and Council Sub-Committee. The Nominating Committee has two vacancies, both in the class of 2018. The current makeup of the Nominating Committee is six females and one male. There is one vacancy on the Council's Personnel sub-committee. Danielson will seek nominees for these vacancies.
6. The Presbyterian Outlook for GA Commissioners. Elhard reminded Council that each General Assembly (GA) year a ten-issue subscription is offered by The Presbyterian Outlook magazine to GA Commissioners at \$9.95 each. Swee moved to approve the subscription to The Presbyterian Outlook magazine for the GA Commissioners. The motion **passed.**

CV 2016 - 05

The meeting was adjourned with prayer offered by Danielson at 10:54 a.m.

Michael Lochow

Michael Lochow
Secretary

The meetings of the Council in 2016:

March 17, 2016, at 10:00 > Conference Call
April 21, 2016, at 10:00 > Conference Call
May 19, 2016, at 10:00 > Face-to-Face in Fargo
June 16, 2016, at 10:00 > Conference Call
July 21, 2016, at 10:00 > Conference Call
August 18, 2016, at 10:00 > Face-to-Face in Grand Forks
September 15, 2016, at 10:00 > Conference Call
October 20, 2016, at 10:00 > Conference Call
November 17, 2016, at 10:00 > Face-to-Face in Jamestown
December 15, 2016, at 10:00 > Conference Call

Motions

CV 2016 – 03 Minutes of January 21, 2016 meeting
CV 2016 – 04 Argyle grant request postponed to March meeting
CV 2016 – 05 Subscription to Outlook magazine

Items for Council Members

1. None

Items for Staff

1. Subscription to Outlook magazine for GA Commissioners



Clearwater Forest is the shared camp and retreat ministry of the Presbyteries of the Twin Cities Area, Minnesota Valleys, Northern Waters, Northern Plains and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.

2016 RETREAT SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars for our upcoming retreats and special events!

Registration for spring / summer programs is going on NOW!

Clearwater Forest Work Weekend
May 13-15
Work day: Sat, May 14th

Family Camp
June 10-12

Friends and Family Day (Annual Bike Ride)
June 11

First day of Camp
June 19

Summer Chrysalis
Aug 12-14

Middle School Retreat
Sept 30– Oct 2

Senior High Retreat
Nov 11-13

Clearwater Forest Update—March 2016



Campfires, high ropes, s'mores, movie making, worship, hiking, swimming, boating and giant games on the playfield are only part of what Clearwater Forest is all about. Living, breathing and thriving wrapped in a Christ filled community is truly a life-changing experience. With all of this it is easy to see why over six decades of campers have chosen to be a part of Clearwater Forest's mission and families continue to make Clearwater Forest part of their summer plans.

Register at www.clearwaterforest.org or give the office a call at 218-678-2325.

Registration for Clearwater Forest summer programs 2016 is NOW OPEN!

Go to www.clearwaterforest.org today to check out the 2016 line up and register online! The theme this summer is "Fearless Faith: Courage in Community" where campers will experience firsthand the wonderful things God continues to create new every day.

Clearwater Forest offers programs for anyone grades 3rd through recent graduates, and with all of the fantastic options available this summer there is sure to be something for everyone!

2016 Summer Programs at Clearwater Forest

Discovery Camps... 3rd-6th Grades

First Timers Camp	June 26 - 29
Discovery Camp 1	June 19 - 25
Discovery Camp 2	June 26 - July 2
Discovery Camp 3	July 10 - 16
Discovery Camp 4	July 17 - 23
Discovery Camp 5	July 24 - 30
Discovery Camp 6	July 31 - Aug 6

Junior High Camps... 7th-9th Grades

Jr High Camp 1	June 19 - 25
Jr High Camp 2	June 26 - July 2
Jr High Camp 3	July 10 - 16
Pedal Paddle Climb Camp	July 10 - 16
Sailing Camp	July 10 - 16
Jr High Camp 4	July 17 - 23
Jr High Camp 5	July 24 - 30
Jr High Camp 6	July 31 - Aug 6

Family Programs... All Ages

Family Camp	June 10 - 12
Grands Camp 1	June 19 - 22
Grands Camp 2	June 26 - 29
Grands Camp 3	July 10 - 13
Grands Camp 4	July 17 - 23

Senior High Camps... 10th-12th Grades

Counselor In Training	June 19 - July 2
Sr High 1 week Camp	June 19 - 25
Sailing Camp	July 10 - 16
Sr High 2 Week Camp	July 10 - 23
Sr High Beach Camp	July 17 - 23
Sr High Endless Camp	July 31 - Aug 6

Contact info:

Presbyterian Clearwater
Forest
16595 Crooked Lake Road
Deerwood, MN 56444
office@clearwaterforest.org
218-678-2325
www.clearwaterforest.org

NOW HIRING

Clearwater Forest is looking for just a few more staff to round out an amazing staff! Do you know someone who loves campers, being at THE best camp, and wants to have an amazing life-changing summer experience?

NEEDED: 3 counselors, 2 Asst. Cook, 1 Dishwasher, Volunteer Chaplains in Residence, Volunteer Counselors, and Prayer Partners.

Apply today at www.clearwaterforest.org.

GRANDS is a fantastic relationship camp!

Clearwater Forest Grand's Camp is one of our incredible programs for grandkids and grandparents to spend three nights, and four days in a fantastic setting earning about each other, our amazing environment, and others! We have FOUR great weeks of programming! We do all the programming, YOU make the memories!

Be sure to sign up as these programs will fill!

www.clearwaterforest.org



Work Group Opportunities

We have great opportunities for service at Clearwater Forest! Each year, we have a great group of volunteers who come each spring and fall to prepare for the next season!

Our Annual Spring Work Day will be on May 10-12. Come camp out for the weekend or just for the day and enjoy our facility and help us prepare for camp.

- 1,000 White Spruce seedlings will be planted on May 11! Plan to bring your youth group, scout troop or family to help reforest the area along the road and by the new worship circle.
- Summer program areas will be prepped for many incredible summer faith-building experiences—cabins cleaned, bikes prepared, trails updated, and more!

We are also looking for a few woodworkers who can help us create a new swing bench study area, as well as a hammock hangout space. You can build the benches at your home/church/shop, then come install them at Clearwater Forest! This would also make a great Eagle Scout Project.



We also have opportunities for your group to come for a work weekend or work week! There are always things that we can use volunteers to build or work on projects.

For more information, please contact Rich@clearwaterforest.org.

2015 Facility Reservations/Update

We are going to be busy with incredible retreats and events this year. Clearwater hosts a variety of events from church family and youth events, church leadership retreats, family reunions and more!

There are still a few prime weekends available! (Mid-week events are available most months outside summer programming.)



TWO OF THE BEST KEPT SECRETS AT CLEARWATER

Grouse Circle and Loon Point are our two fantastic campgrounds. Grouse has 15 camp sites – five electric, and two pull-through. Loon Point has 13 sites with great sunset or sunrise views. Each site has its own picnic table and fire pit. Both have a centrally located fire pit perfect for large group gatherings.

The Hermitage and Woodchuck cabins offer great solo or couple retreat spaces. Both are FREE for clergy for their retreat use!

RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY!

Eagle Lodge:

April 8-10
August 26-28
Sept 29-Oct 2
Oct 7-9
Nov 4-6

Leaning Tree Lodge:

April 8-10
May 6-8
September 2-4
October 14-16, 21-23

Osprey * **NEW MATTRESSES!**

April 8-10, 15-17, 22-24
May 6-8, 20-22,
September 2-4
October 14-16, 21-23
Nov 4-6

We have several weekends also available in November/December.

Call Clearwater Forest today to reserve your next retreat!

Friends & Family Day and Family Camp

Plan to attend our annual Friends and Family Day on June 11, 2016! Clearwater Forest will be ready to share all the amazing activities, site tours, and more! Meet the camp staff, participate in their commissioning during an afternoon worship, and simply get away from your hectic world and enjoy our space!

Family Camp will take place June 10-12 and will feature Brennan Blue, Associate Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis as the retreat leader. Spend time with your family, participate in great activities, and learn more about each other!

Register for Family Camp at www.clearwaterforest.org today!

Supporting OUR ministry

Our ministry simply can't do what it does without support from individuals, congregations and our Presbyterian ministry partners. There are many ways you can help Clearwater Forest!

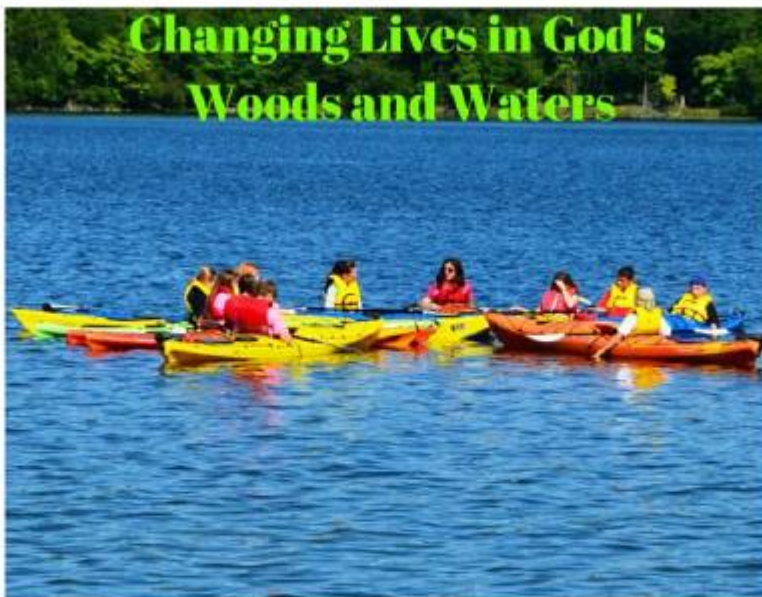
1. **PRAY!** Pray for our staff, the summer programs, our retreat guests, our ministry partners, and the Clearwater Forest Board of Directors.
2. **Volunteer**—Spend a day or more at Clearwater Forest! We need volunteers throughout the spring/summer/fall to help with the program and facility management. We will be planting over 1,000 white spruce and a variety of shrubs this spring!
3. Give to our [annual fund](#). It takes a lot of resources to manage the 1,016 acres of property, the 40 plus buildings, hire the summer staff, and to pay the utilities!
4. Give to our [scholarship fund](#). We were blessed with generous gifts last year that allowed us to give over \$11,000 in scholarship funds. We simply do not turn away campers for financial reasons!
5. [Sponsor a summer staff counselor kit](#). Create a direct link between yourself and a staff member who is spending their summer changing lives – both the campers and themselves.

Our ministry relies on faithful people who recognize the vital ministry that Clearwater Forest plays in our campers, summer staff, and retreat groups lives. We invite you to partner with us in some fashion as we truly allow people the opportunity to grow in God's woods and waters.

Thank you in advance for your support of our programs!

Presbyterian Clearwater Forest

2015 Annual Report



www.clearwaterforest.org

Presbyterian Clearwater Forest, Inc. supports the mission of the PC(USA) in partnership with the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys, Presbytery of Northern Plains, Presbytery of Northern Waters, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, and Synod of Lakes and Prairies that share in its ownership.

Clearwater Forest's ministry continues to change lives!

We have been blessed with another fantastic year of life-changing experiences and opportunities for community, leadership, and personal growth. Thank you to all churches, donors, and retreat guests for being part of this vital ministry.

SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Our summer staff continue to be true servant leaders. We had an incredible group of young adults who gave it their all, contributed to the community, and shared their faith with the campers who attended last year. We saw a 10% increase in our campers! This year we gave Quest groups the opportunity to plan and lead worship. It was incredible to see how Clearwater shapes the camper's faith life as we witnessed first hand their faith stories. Additionally, we saw an increase in our Camp in a Van program, which partnered with 17 congregations and Synod.



RETREAT PROGRAMMING

In addition to our Clearwater Forest retreat programs and partnerships (Chrysalis Women's Retreats and Creative Arts), we served over 100 retreat and guest groups this year. The Hermitage Spiritual Retreat Space is also seeing increased use with 15 clergy participating this past year.

Family Reunions



It is amazing to visit with family reunions who have been using Clearwater Forest for their annual gathering. Several of our families have spent part of each year for the past 30 years. Many of the reunions consist of three or four generations, however we had at least six reunions that included FIVE generations! Memories and renewed relationships happen here!

Grouse Circle/Loon Point Campgrounds

Our two popular campgrounds have been used more as well! We have incredible campsites available throughout the spring/summer and fall for quick get-a-ways, family gatherings and church camp retreats.



FACILITY / PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

We received over \$250,000 through generous grants from the Presbytery of Twin Cities Area, individuals and several congregations for designated gifts for facility and program enhancements. With

By the Numbers

Number of Campers Served (on site)	451
10% increase with 24 on-site programs	
Number of Campers in Camp in a Van (17 sites in 2015)	520
Number of Intergenerational Campers (Grands & Family Camp)	167
Total campers	1,138
Number of Retreats	109
(Six Clearwater Retreats, 30 church groups, 21 family reunions, 30 outside groups, 12 Hermitage / Spirituality Retreats)	
Total Number of Retreat Guests	3,635
Including friends and family who attended worship/ opening/closing of camp and Friends and Family Day, we served well over 5,000 people!	
Volunteer Work Groups	
Number of week-long work groups	6
Number of work group members	154
Volunteer work hours (estimate)	3,200
Estimated value of volunteer work	\$80,000

these funds, we were able to renovate Leaning Tree with new windows, Tyvek moisture barrier, repair water damage, install new siding; purchase new equipment; electrify the summer cabins; build a new maintenance building; purchase new mattresses for Osprey Cabin and four of the nine summer cabins; replace our pontoon boat and tractor; upgrade our website; improve our recreation equipment; and begin working on the next phase of Clearwater Forest's future with board development work. We were blessed with an amazing gift of volunteer labor through six-week long work groups in addition to our usual cadre of volunteers. We were able to see significant improvements to the facilities and completed much needed deferred maintenance projects.



"Clearwater has impacted my life in so many ways over the eight years it has been a part of my life. I came to camp in 6th grade as a very shy, unconfident girl but Clearwater and the people here have shaped me into the confident, outgoing person I am today! I've always looked up to the counselors and I hope I can make a difference to kids the way I was impacted here. I've grown a lot in my relationship with God each and every summer I return and I can't wait to see how God uses me at Clearwater in the future!" -2015 Graduate

Clearwater Forest is a ministry of Christ called to provide faith-building Christian programming, nurture active Christian community, and be a faithful steward of God's creation.

THANK YOU DONORS!

Clearwater Forest was incredibly blessed with the support of over 380 individuals, congregations and our ministry partners. Over \$361,000 was received in both undesignated and designated gifts.

These partners allowed our ministry to make life-changing experiences possible!

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21

Guiding Lights - \$25,000 and up Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area



Spirit Club \$5,000-\$24,000

Jeremy Nyquist
Oak Grove Presbyterian Church,
Bloomington, MN
Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys
Presbytery of Northern Waters
Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Director's Circle \$1,000-\$4,999

Gary and Helen Bergren
Larry and Dianna Braem
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church,
Minneapolis, MN
Anonymous
Crosslake Presbyterian, Crosslake, MN
Pat and Dar Daily
Chase Davies
Cathy Donovan
First Presbyterian Church, Amboy, MN
First Presbyterian Church, Brainerd, MN
First Presbyterian Church, Madelia, MN
First Presbyterian Church, South St. Paul
House of Hope Presbyterian Church, St.
Paul, MN
Lindell Charitable Trust
Mike Lochow
Tom and Alice McCabe
Memorial - Doris Betcher
Marian and Roger Michael
Dave and Suann Nichols
Wendy Nove
Christy and Tim Olson
Presbytery of Northern Plains
Susan Ritchie
Valley Community Presbyterian Church,

Golden Valley, MN
Wahkon Presbyterian Church, Wahkon, MN
Florence Wertz
Westminster Presbyterian, Minneapolis, MN

Camp Fire \$500-\$999

Diana Barber
Steve and Betty Boots
Daniel and Ann Bros
Milissa Carter
Larry and Lisa Cumpston
Lloyd and Cathy Dahlberg
Cheri and Marli Danielson
Sara and Jock Donaldson
First Presbyterian Church, Maple Plain, MN
Gary and Beth Hanson
Ann Keen
Jenny Konkel
Ray and Judy Larson
Peter Mann and Mary Tyler
Nancy Markey
Mark and Ardis Nelson
Jim and Kim Post
Rich and Caroline Swartwood

\$250-\$499 - Counselors

Walter and Susan Baker
Jim and Bev Carroll
Jim and Nancy Carter
Eric Caugh
Bill Chadwick
Ernest and Beth Cutting
Alan Dewey
First Presbyterian Church Women,
Winnebago, MN
First Presbyterian Church, Osakis
Audrey Gabe
Mary Gabe
Karen Gasche
William and Donna Halverstadt
Nancy and Darwin Hauser
George Jukish
Jon and Kristine Kirschhoffer
Dr Richard and Madrienne Larson
Manitowish Community Church-PW,
Manitowish, WI
Memorial - Phil Brown
Gary and Kirstin Perkins
Mark and Ivy Pillers
Todd and Roberta Pointer
Anonymous
Elizabeth Sherfy
Sheila and Arlen Sjerven
Patricia Sorenson
Donetta Wickstrom

Campers \$0-\$249

Jean Abels
Keith and Jennifer Ahonen
Jean and Robert Albrecht
Greg and Rebecca Anderson
Duane and Doris Aslyn
Nancy and Gordon Augustson

Cathy Aykens
Loee Baker Jr.
Cherie Bandal
Doug Bauer
Gordon and Dorothy Beattie
Kenneth and Christine Beckel
Bob and Jan Behnken
Edgar and Virginia Bender
Cheryl Biller
Robert Blankers
Frank Bliss
Ron and Betty Bole
Ann Brearley
Edward and Janet Bressler
Kathy Buhaug
Ruth and Peter Buller
Genette Carleton
Arlene Casey
Ron Cavanaugh
Marshall Cederstrand
Andrew Church
Thomas and Cynthia Clark
David and Laura Colby
Community Pres Church of Lac du
Flambeau, WI
Carl Conney
Roger and Sally Coomes
Judy Cooper
Bob and Sandy Crum
Gerry Dalquist
Andrew Davis
Mac and Leslie Davis
Candace Deal
Gail Dekker
Deborah DeMeester
Margie and Manfred Deutsch
Frederick Dietrich
Kathy Dobovsky
Lynn Douma
Frederick and Corrine Drill
Bettie Egeberg
Joan Engstrom
Jeanne Eustis
Camille Falconer
Walter and Cecy Faster
Bill and Cathy Figgins
First Presbyterian Church, Big Fork, MN



THANK YOU!

Campers \$0-\$249 (Continued)

Richard and Sharon Fields
First Presbyterian Church, Eau Clair, WI
Alice Fisher
Mark Ford
Harold and Jonelle Foreman
Sue Fox
Paula Fox
Carol Frechette
Dale and Luella Gannarelli
Susan Garofano
Judith Gentry
Robert and Karen Gerdes
Kathy Gilbert
Gregory and Mary Glavan
Grandin Presbyterian, Grandin, ND
Kevin Gust
Phyllis Hahn
Kenneth Hanson
Patricia Hasse
Patricia Hatlestad
Bonnie Haulton
William and Beverly Heise
Juanita and Larry Heitschmidt
Robert and Joyce Hickman
Don and Phyllis Hoyer
Alan and Mary Hogg
Morgan Holland
Hope Presbyterian Church, Spicer, MN
Jan Horak
Jane and LeRoy Horn
Paula Huey Fox
Paul Ice
Allen Jergenson
Marjory Johns
Dennis Johnson
Sharon Johnson
Stanley Johnson
Rosalie Johnson
Greg and Linda Johnson
Ed and Ruth Jones
Thomas Junkert
Kari Jutila
Greg and Denise Kalevik
Shirley Kidd
Claire King
Mark Kipp
Jack Kley
Anne and Larry Klueh
John Knutson
Judy and Ted Kocher
Annette Kuck
John Ladd
Richard Larson
Jan Leaf
Karolyn Lee
Margaret Leitingner
Jim and Janet Lichtenberger
William Liike
Carol Long
Robert and Mary Jo Lucas
William and Katherine Mackenzie
David and Patsy Madsen
Dianne Marshall

Rich and Pam Masson
Jannette Mathison
Judy Maul
Vern and Marilyn Maxa
David and Sherla Mayer
Terry and LaRae McGillivray
J Gary McIntyre
Daniel and Carolyn McQueen
Margaret McVay Mitchell
Mike and Carolyn Meier
Mary Meisenheimer
Barbara Metz
Stan and Susanne Meyer
Rich and Charline Miller
Jody Milton
Donna Monteith
Michael Morrissey
Patty Nail
Craig Nelson
Leoanrd Nelson
Connie Nelson
Margie Nelson
Terrence and Constance Nesbitt
Al and Lila Netten
Garfield Nordin
Manley Olson
Archie and Deanna Olson
Don and Judy Olson
Tim and Julie O'Neill
Dave and Barb Palmer
Zoe Ann Palmer
Larry Pearson
Ann Pellman
Debbie Petersen
Coral and Maxine Phelps
Wayne Phelps
Gary and Kathy Phillips
Jim and Mitzi Pickard
Inez Pond
Mark Pridgeon
Charles and Lucy Quaintance
Dave and Anne Radke
Elizabeth Raitt
William Reber
Louise Reidenbach
Richard Render
Paul and Barb Rigstad
Carol Rock
Walter and Jodell Rockenstein
Betsy Rock-Zutz
Mary Rom
Dorothy Rossow
Jo Ellen Saylor
Shauna and Darin Seaman
Jan Snell
Jim and Joan Stanko
Betty Starkey
Peter Strand
Elona Street-Stewart
George and Nadine Sugden
Chris Sullivan
Harriet Swartz
Pat Thomas
Dale Thompson

Robert and Ann Traeder
Charlotte Tripet
Laura Twedell
Pat Twedell
Frank and Paula Uvodich
Patricia Van Pilsum
Kevin and Anne Veldhuisien
Dean and Barbara Verdoes
Gordon Vine
Adrienne Walts
Bill and Nancy Welch
Monica Westerlund
Westminster Presbyterian Church,
Cassleton, ND
Dale and Cynthia Williams
Pam Williams
Anna Williamson
Elaine Wilson
Judith Wood
Jean Worrell
Ted and Amy Youel
Alan and Marilyn Youel

Grants

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian,
Minneapolis, MN
First Presbyterian Church, Madelia, MN
Lindell Trust
Oak Grove Presbyterian Church,
Bloomington, MN
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area
Synod of Lakes and Prairies
Valley Community Presbyterian
Church, Golden Valley, MN

Memorials

Doris Betcher
Phil Brown
Jane Lick

*Every effort has been made to ensure accurate reporting of our ministry partners. Please let us know if there are any revisions to make.

16595 Crooked Lake Rd
Deerwood, MN 56444
218-678-2325
www.clearwaterforest.org



Committee on Ministry

Report to April Presbytery 2016

Recommend to Presbytery:

Ministers Transferring in and Terms of Call:

1. To report to presbytery that the Pastor Nominating Committee of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks, North Dakota, has received and considered the presbytery's council on the merits, suitability, and availability of those considered for the call and has considered candidates without regard to race, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, geography, or theological conviction.

AND

To recommend to the presbytery, that if the way be clear by congregational action on (November 22, 2015), the call of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks, North Dakota, to the Reverend Spencer S. Homan as full-time pastor be approved effective, January 1, 2016, according to the following terms:

Effective salary

Cash Salary \$ 30,000

Fair rental value of manse \$ _____

\$ 2,000

Housing Allowance \$ 35,000

\$ 4,973

Utilities Allowance \$ _____

Deferred Compensation \$ _____

Total \$ 65,000

Reimbursable expenses (by voucher)

Automobile expense \$ 2,000 (.54/mile)

Business/professional expenses

SECA Supplement (up to 50%)

Continuing Education \$ 1,500

Other allowances \$ 4,500

Moving Costs (up to) \$ 5,000

Full medical, pension, disability, and death benefit coverage under the Board of Pensions

Paid Vacation 4 weeks

Paid Continuing Education/Renewal Leave 2 weeks

**Gone six Sunday's maximum leave / year.*

AND

That the call be forwarded to the Presbytery of Blackhawk to be placed in the hands of the Reverend Spencer S. Homan with the request that if the way be clear, he be dismissed to the Presbytery of the Northern Plains,

AND

That the Reverend Spencer S. Homan be granted permission to labor within the bounds of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains as full time pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Fork, North Dakota, until his credentials have been received,

AND

That, upon receipt of his credentials, the Reverend Spencer S. Homan be enrolled as an active member of presbytery,

AND

That the Reverend Spencer S. Homan be appointed moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Grand Fork, North Dakota, effective January 1, 2016. Approved.

2. To recommend to presbytery that, based upon the request of the Reverend Trudy Dumont and with the concurrence of the Presbyterian Church of Rolla/St. John, the full-time

pastoral relationship between the Reverend Trudy Dumont and the Presbyterian Church of Rolla / St. John, ND, be dissolved as of November 22, 2015,

AND

The approval of the severance agreement between the Presbyterian Church of Rolla/St. John and the Reverend Trudy Dumont. Approved.

3. Motion to recommend to presbytery to approve the adjustment in the terms of call for the Rev. Elaine Sweet with the First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead, MN, which are:

Salary/Housing	\$52,723.63 (change of -\$4,000)
Pension/Medical	\$20,716.30 (changed with salary)
Professional Expenses	\$1,250 (same)
Automobile Expense	\$1,3000 (same)
Continuing Education	\$750 (was \$1,500)
Vacation	7 weeks (was 5 weeks)
Continuing Education	3 weeks (same)

Approved.

4. To report to presbytery, in compliance with the Form of Government (G-3.0306), the Committee on Ministry has examined and sustained Ms. Bishop, “on her Christian faith and views in theology, the sacraments, and the government of this church.”

AND

To report to presbytery that the Pastor Nominating Committee of Community Presbyterian Church of West Fargo, ND, has implemented its search process in conformance with provisions of Equal Employment Opportunity for ministers and has considered candidate without regard to race, ethnic origin, gender, age, disability or marital status.

AND

To recommend to presbytery that, if the way be clear by congregational action on February 28, 2016, the call of Community Presbyterian Church, West Fargo, ND, to Ms. Catherine Bishop as full-time pastor be approved, effective March 27, 2016, according to the following terms:

Effective Salary	\$45,000
Reimbursable expenses by voucher	
Automobile expenses	\$.54 per mile
Continuing Education	\$500
Moving Cost (not to exceed)	\$5,000
Board of Pensions	
Vacation (paid)	4 weeks (1 week can be carried over)
Continuing Education	2 weeks (1 week can be carried over)

AND

To recommend to presbytery that the call be forwarded to the Presbytery of Prospect Hills to be placed in the hand of Ms. Catherine Bishop with the request that the Presbytery of Prospect Hills proceed to the implementation of procedures for ordaining a candidate.

AND

To recommend to presbytery that, if the way be clear, upon ordination of the Rev. Catherine Bishop, the Presbytery of Prospect Hills dismiss her to the Presbytery of the Northern Plains.

AND

That the Rev. Catherine Bishop be enrolled as an active member of presbytery,

AND

That the Rev. Catherine Bishop be appointed moderator of Community Presbyterian Church, West Fargo, ND, effective March 27, 2016

5. Motion to approve the terms of call between the Grafton/Minto churches and to receive the Rev. Dill as a member of the Northern Plains Presbytery, pending receipt of a written report of where his loyalty lies with the PC(USA). Committee on Ministry, also authorizes CRE Kevin Kaufmann and Rev. Paul Lang to review the written report submitted by Rev. Dill and to approve or disapprove the report on the behalf of the committee.

AND

To recommend to the presbytery, that if the way be clear by congregational action on (March 13, 2016), the call of Federated Church of Grafton and Knox Presbyterian Church of Minto, North Dakota, to the Reverend Robin P. Dill as part-time pastor be approved effective, June 1, 2016, according to the following terms:

Effective salary

Cash Salary \$ 21,000

Fair rental value of manse \$ 7,560

Housing Allowance \$

Utilities Allowance \$ 4,200

Other allowances \$

Total \$ 32,760

Reimbursable expenses (by voucher)

Automobile expense \$ (.54/mile)

Business/professional expenses \$

SECA Supplement (up to 50%) \$ 2,500

Continuing Education \$ 500

Other allowances \$

Full medical, pension, disability, and death benefit coverage under the Board of Pensions and dental insurance if desired

\$14,495

Paid Vacation

4 weeks

Paid Continuing Education/Renewal Leave

2 weeks

AND

That the call be forwarded to the Presbytery of Federated Church of Grafton and Knox Presbyterian Church of Minto, North Dakota, to be placed in the hands of the Reverend Robin P. Dill with the request that if the way be clear, he be dismissed to the Presbytery of the Northern Plains,

AND

That the Reverend Robin P. Dill be granted permission to labor within the bounds of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains as full time pastor of Federated Church of Grafton and Knox Presbyterian Church of Minto, North Dakota, until his credentials have been received,

AND

That, upon receipt of his credentials, the Reverend Robin P. Dill be enrolled as an active member of presbytery,

AND

That the Reverend Robin P. Dill be appointed moderator of the session of Federated Church of Grafton and Knox Presbyterian Church of Minto, North Dakota, effective June 1, 2016. Approved.

Report to Presbytery:

Moderator Appointments:

- Rick Raum be appointed moderator of the session at First Presbyterian Church of Colgate and Baldwin Presbyterian Church of Pillsbury and that Johnny Rhoad be appointed moderator of the session at First Presbyterian Church of Steele.
- To report to the presbytery that Rev. Donna Monteith will complete her service as interim moderator of the session of Community Presbyterian Church, West Fargo, ND, effective March 27, 2016.
- Motion to approve candidate Catherine Bishop to moderate the April session meeting and serve communion in April at the Community Presbyterian Church, West Fargo, ND. With the understanding that she will be ordained by Prospect Hill Presbytery in mid-April but starting her position at Community Presbyterian Church of West Fargo in mid-March. Approved.

Membership Transfer Out

- To transfer the Rev. Brenna Nickel's membership to member at large, and that her membership then be transferred to the United Church of Canada, when the way be clear. Approved.
- To report to Presbytery of the Northern Plains that the membership of the Reverend Keri Shelton be transferred to the Western Colorado Presbytery. Approved.

Membership Status Changes

- Motion to recommend to presbytery that the Reverend Trudy Dumont be transferred to the members-at-large roll of presbytery. Approved.

Commissioned Ruling Elders Evaluations

Motion to report to presbytery the approval of the Commissioned Ruling Elder evaluation for:

Nancy Legerski	Serving 3 Nursing Homes
Don Casmey	Serving Argyle
Bill Weispfenning	Serving LaMoure and Edgeley
Kevin Kaufmann	Serving East Grand Forks

Approved.

Validated and At Large Membership

- Motion to report to presbytery the approval of the following validated and at-large memberships as of 03/01/2016.

Trudy Dumont,	Member-at-large
Nancy Emerson,	Member-at-large
Cheryl McCullough	Member-at-large

Approved.
- Motion to report to presbytery under the provisions of G-2.0503a, it validate as a ministry in service beyond the jurisdiction of the church the position of full-time of Director of Planned Giving and Major Gifts at the University of Jamestown, ND, for the Rev. Rick Raum. Such a service does comply, without exception, with the criteria enumerated in G-2.0503 for active membership in presbytery. It should be noted that the Form of Government requires that "such permission shall be subject to review and renewal annually." Approved

Pastoral Agreements

- Motion to report the Temporary Pastoral Agreement between the First Presbyterian Church of Minot and the Reverend Robyn Eddy, effective November 15, 2015. Approved.

- Motion to approve to approve the extended contract between The Rev. Robyn Eddy and the First Presbyterian Church of Minot until May 15, 2015.
- Motion to approve to approve the interim pastoral contract between First Presbyterian Church and Trinity Lutheran Church both of Crookston, MN with The Rev. Darrel Cory.
- Motion to approve to the renewed contract between Mendenhall Presbyterian Church and Commission Ruling Elder Kevin Kaufmann for 2016, with the updated IRS rates and title corrections on contract.

Temporary Membership

1. Motion to report to Presbytery the approval for another year of temporary membership for the following:
 - i. Sue Kana-Mackey Serving Langdon
 - ii. Judy Banwart Serving Nekoma
 - iii. Steven Olson Serving Oakes
 - iv. John Werth Serving Cavalier and Hamilton

Approved.

Pulpit Supply

- Motion to accept the interview with Reuben Schnaidt for the pulpit supply list and to place him on the list. Approved.
- Motion to add Rick Raum to the pulpit supply list. Approved.

Financial Grants

- Motion to approve that the Committee on Ministry will pay up to \$500 for travel (gas), hotel, and food for the Rev. Trudy Dumont to attend North Central. Approved.
- Motion to approve the payment of the 82.5% of the 1.5% dues for those congregations that applied. Approved.

Serve Communion

- Motion to approve to allow Ruling Elder Sylvia Pringle to serve communion at the Presbyterian Church of Rolla/St. John on December 6, 2015. Approved

SESSION RECORDS REVIEW SUMMARY FOR 2015

Summary:

Approved with no exceptions:	10 churches
Approved with exceptions:	25 churches
Register/rolls reviewed:	27 churches
Did not submit minutes for review:	23 churches
Total records reviewed:	35 churches

Details:

Angus	Minutes approved with 9 exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
Argyle	Minutes approved without exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
Arvilla	Minutes approved with 2 exceptions
Baker/Downer	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Bismarck	Minutes approved with 4 exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
Bismarck-Glencoe	Minutes approved with 5 exceptions Register/Roll approved with 3 exceptions
Bottineau	Minutes approved with 2 exceptions Register/Roll approved with 2 exceptions
Buffalo	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Casselton	Minutes approved without exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
Cavalier	Minutes approved 7 exceptions. Register/Roll approved with 1 exception
Colgate	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Cooperstown	Minutes approved with 3 exceptions Register/Roll approved with 3 exceptions
Crookston	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Devils Lake	Minutes approved without exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
Dilworth	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
East Grand Forks	Minutes approved with 2 exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
Edgeley	Minutes approved with 7 exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
Ellendale	Minutes approved with 3 exceptions
Emerado	Minutes approved without exceptions
Fairview	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Fargo	Minutes approved with 4 exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
Fordville	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Forest River	Minutes approved with 8 exceptions
Gilby	Minutes approved with 5 exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
Grafton	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Grand Forks	Minutes approved with 2 exceptions
Grandin	Minutes approved with 1 exception Register/Roll approved without exceptions

Hallock	Minutes approved without exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
Hamilton	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Hannah	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Hunter	Minutes approved without exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
Inkster	Minutes approved with 4 exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
Jamestown	Minutes approved without exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
LaMoure	Minutes approved without exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
Langdon	Minutes approved with 8 exceptions Register/Roll approved with 2 exceptions
Lisbon	Minutes approved with 3 exceptions Register/Roll approved with 1 exception
Mandan	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Minot	Minutes approved with 5 exceptions
Minto	Minutes approved with 2 exceptions
Moorhead	Minutes approved with 3 exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
Nekoma	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Oakes	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Park River	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Pillsbury	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Portal	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Red Lake Falls	Minutes approved with 4 exceptions
Rhame	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Rolla/St. John	Minutes approved with 2 exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
Rugby	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Steele	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Tower City	Minutes approved without exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
Towner	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Walhalla	Minutes approved with 6 exceptions Register/Roll approved with 1 exception
Watford City	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Webster	Minutes approved with 2 exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
West Fargo	Minutes approved without exceptions Register/Roll approved without exceptions
Westhope	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW
Wilton	MINUTES NOT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW

Nominating Committee Report

April 2016

The Nominating Committee brings forward the following slate of nominations to Presbytery:

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

2018 – Teaching Elder

Spencer Homan (First, Grand Forks)

Synod Commissioner

YAAD – 2016

This position would start May 1, 2016 and end April 31, 2017

Our Presbytery of the Northern Plains Nominating Committee has a request of you. Please share the following list of opportunities for elders to serve at the Presbytery level:

- Moderator of Presbytery – Class of 2018
- Vice-Moderator of Presbytery – Class of 2018
- Council Chair – Class of 2018
- Committee On Ministry (COM) - Class of 2019
- Committee for Preparation of Ministry (CPM) - Class of 2019
- Committee on Representation (COR) - Class of 2019
- Permanent Judicial Commission - Class of 2022
- Self-Development of People (SDOP) - Class of 2019
- Session Records Committee - Class of 2019
- Clearwater Forest Representative - Class of 2019
- Synod Delegate YAD (start in May 2016)
 - Someone who is between the ages for 17 and 23.

Questions or to self-referral or submit someone else for consideration to one of an above position, please contact either Hazel Merdink, Nominating Committee Chair, at 701-773-1832 or email hmerdink@midco.net, or Laurie Elhard, Administrator of Communications and Finance, at 701-772-0873 or email pnpooffice@gmail.com

Bdecan Ministry Team

I would like to thank everyone for all the support you have given to Bdecan Presbyterian Church over the last 6 years since we formed our Ministry Team. You are making a difference in a big way on the Spirit Lake Reservation. Joe's Wednesday night program has grown, the Food Pantry and Clothes closet is well utilized and is keep stocked by the generosity of the Presbytery and the many people throughout the Presbytery. All the special programs from backpack and school supplies giveaway, winter wear giveaway, Christmas gift giveaway, and all the parties throughout the year are made possible by you. These have been well attended and enjoyed by all. If it wasn't for the special give aways, many of the children would not have the needed school items and winter wear.

Last summer the session of the Bdecan Presbyterian Church and Ministry Team spent time brainstorming and dreaming of the things we would like to see happen at the Bdecan Church. Our dreams were as simple as a basketball court to an addition to the church so there would be a Christian Ed. wing, The children's programs are outgrowing the space available.

God has provided us with so many connections and we continue to connect with more churches and individuals who want to partner with us to provide ministry and mission.

If your church would like to hear more about all that is happening at Bdecan, Joe Obermeyer and/or myself are available to come and share with you.



Pentecost Special Offering

Many churches have given their local Pentecost offering to the Bdecan Ministry Team in the past. We are so thankful for those churches that have decided to do so. This offering helps to support the children and youth programs, the Bdecan Food Pantry, the Youth and Outreach Coordinator position, and so much more.

As you decide in the next weeks how to use your local Pentecost offering this year, would you consider using it to sustain the ministry that is happening at Bdecan Presbyterian Church? The support that has been given has grown the program at Bdecan in unbelievable ways. Your gift now can make sure that this ministry is sustained long into the future, and the amazing things happening now keep happening for years to come.

Youth Connection Report

April 2016

Motion: To approve the Children and Youth Protection Policy and become in effect on May 1, 2016.

Triennium

- Sharing a bus with Minnesota Valleys
- We will have 4 adult advisors (1 male and 3 female)
- We had a successful Pre-Event in February in Jamestown and it a great time!

Spring Retreat

- April 8-10, 2016 at Crystal Springs Camp
 - Theme: Blessed are the Peacemakers
 - Joined by our Chogoria guests
 - Still time to register!

Pin for Triennium for sale (\$5)

- Proceeds go towards Triennium expenses



Presbytery of the Northern Plains CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY

The Youth Connection Team committee recommends that churches develop guidelines for care and supervision of children and youth involved in the programs sponsored by their church. We recognize that different church and programs have various needs that should be taken into consideration when establishing guidelines. The following are suggested areas for consideration.

I. Adult-child/youth ratio

Appropriate adult-child/youth ratio should be observed always, with two adults present at all times:

To Maintain the ratios of one adult to four kids for Infants and one to eight for pre-school and older; additional adults to the first two will be required as follows:

- Infant/Crib Room – Ratio should be one adult for every additional four children
- Preschool & older (including middle school and senior high youth activities)
 - One adult for every additional eight children.

When possible, especially with older elementary youth and teenagers, a male and female adult should be present. There are state guidelines with respect to adult/child ration that can be consulted.

II. Check-In/Check-Out System

Age appropriate check-in/check-out systems should be established, e.g., a sign-in sheet for infants/toddlers indicating what time the child was dropped off, when they are to be picked up, and who will be picking up the child.

Elementary age youth and older will need to sign-in and out of an event. With high school youth who drive, it should be understood, with parental approval, who may ride with whom, to and from activities.

III. A Touching and Toileting Policy

Nursery and Toddlers

- *Hugging, holding, back rubbing and patting are all acceptable and important ways of communication love and care for a child.
- *Genital areas should never be touched except during diaper changing or toileting as is appropriate.
- *Children should not be tossed in the air, swung by their arms or legs, or tickled.
- *Children have the right to refuse touch, except for safety or cleansing.
- *Touching should be something the child wants and should be done respectfully.

Ages Four, Five, and Kindergartners

- *Children should only be touched from the shoulders up. Touching the genital or buttock areas is never appropriate. Hugging is appropriate only in supporting a child's need but never if a child declines the desire for such comfort.
- *A teacher or helper should avoid being alone in a room with a child or a group of children.
- *An adult must accompany children to the lavatory. The adult should wait outside until the children are finished. The door to the lavatories may be propped open so that the adult can hear and see what is going on without actually being inside. An adult should never be alone in a lavatory stall with a child.
- *If a child requests help with buttoning or zipping after toileting, the adult should comply in the presence of another adult.
- *When possible an adult of the same gender should assist the child.

1st Grade and Older

- *Children should only be touched from the shoulders up. Touching the genital or buttock area is never appropriate. Hugging is appropriate only when requested by the child.
- *A teacher should avoid being alone in a room or a lavatory with one child.

IV. Discipline

Churches rely on volunteers to implement programs. One of the challenges is to communicate and establish positive behavior. Establishing a behavior covenant that all children/youth and adults agree to is important. E.g., *Children and staff will covenant together to show respect in three special areas.

- 1.) We will be respectful of God by:
 - Discovering who God is and what God has done for us.
 - Loving and serving God.
 - Paying attention as we worship and learn about God.
 - Doing our best not to disturb others in their worship of God.
- 2.) We will be respectful of the church building by:
 - Being careful not to run, push, or damage property.
 - Staying out of locked or closed areas of the building.
 - Remembering that the church belongs to Christ, not to us.
- 3.) We will be respectful of all God's people by:
 - Learning to love and accept ourselves and others as Christ loves and accepts us.
 - Never hit, kick, hurt or make fun of others.
 - Obedying those who are teaching and leading us.
 - Showing care and compassion to others, remembering that each of us is "child of God" and should be treated as such.

There should also be an established set of consequences for those who are unable to live up to the covenant such as:

A child will be given a warning in a manner that should not cause embarrassment. If the child's behavior repeatedly falls short of the expectations of this covenant, they will be excused from the class or activity, at first for a short "time out". If the child is not able to control his/her behavior after the time out, the child may be sent for a time out with one of the staff members, away from the class or activity. If the child is habitually disruptive, parents will be consulted and a conference will be scheduled so that no misunderstanding will occur. The parent may be asked to accompany the child to the program for a given period of time, or the child may be excused from the program. It goes without saying; the door will always be open for the child's return when he/she is willing to live by the terms of the covenant.

V. Youth Trips

A "Covenant of Understanding" should be developed and signed by both the youth and parents. Things included in the Covenant should be expected behavior such as:

- *No smoking, drinking of alcoholic beverages, or use of illegal drugs.
- *Appropriate public displays of affection should be observed; sexual activities not appropriate by definition are that which go beyond propriety.
- *When the activity is overnight and there are separate sleeping areas for each gender, the space should be respected by the opposite gender. If ratio cannot be met, the door must stay open.
- *An understanding of the consequences of not living according to the Covenant – such as being sent home at the expense of the parents.

Adult sponsors should remember that they are responsible for the youth and should act accordingly. It is important to relate and participate with the youth in activities but the adults should not encourage activities or behavior that would lead to the breaking of the Covenant. At the heart of youth ministry is relationships.

The relationships between the adults and youth are very important; however adults, need to be sure that they are not alone with a youth in a private area. If there is a reason for the adult to have a one-on-one conversation with a youth, it should be held in a public place.

When the youth activity includes the youth being transported in private cars, adult advisors should be the only drivers. Youth should never be allowed to be put in a position of liability.

VI. Reporting of Incidents

A system for reporting incidents should be established. Volunteers are trusted to make decisions to deal with situations at the time they occur. In order to protect and support the volunteers and children/youth, church incidents involving confidentiality need to be clear in terms of to whom and how an incident is reported. Incidents should be reported to the Pastor or lead person of the church or facility (camp, recreation center, etc.) if incident occurred in their building. Then the youth leader that the youth belongs too (who will contract the pastor) a, and may contact the local authorizes and the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery.

**Church
Address
City, State Zip**

RELEASE AUTHORIZATION

Participant _____ Date of birth _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip
Code _____

Participant or guardian _____

Telephone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

If the parent/guardian is not available, in case of an emergency contact: _____ Phone

Relationship to participant _____ Work _____

Our family Physician: Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____

HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

Company name _____ Policy No. _____ (copy of insurance card
front & back)

Date of last DTaP/Tdap shot _____

Please note any medical problems or special needs _____

Are you taking any medications? If yes, list _____

Time/dose _____ (Bring original container)

List allergies: Hay fever _____ Insect bites _____ Bee stings _____ Other _____

Allergies to drugs: please list _____

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

AUTHORIZATION TO CONSENT TO TREATMENT OF MINOR (Must be filled in and signed by parent or guardian)(I, (WE), the undersigned, parents of _____, and/or do hereby authorize (CHURCH NAME, CITY & STATE) and/or adult leaders, as agent(s) for the undersigned to consent to any x-ray examination, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnoses or treatment and hospital care which is deemed advisable by, and is to be rendered under the general or special supervision of any physician and surgeon licensed under the provisions of the Medicine Practice Act on the medical staff of a licensed hospital, whether such diagnosis or treatment is rendered at the time of examination at the treatment scene, in the office of said physician, or at said hospital. It is understood that this authorization is given in advance of any specific diagnosis, treatment or hospital care being required by is given to provide authority and power on the part of our aforesaid agent(s) to give specific consent to any and all such diagnosis, treatment or hospital care which the aforementioned physician in the exercise of his/her best judgement may deem advisable.

LIABILITY

In consideration of the opportunity to participate in the _____ on _____, and the recognition of the possible dangers voluntarily subjected to; we hereby knowingly, freely and voluntarily waive any right or cause of action, of any kind whatsoever, arising as a result of such a participation from which any liability which may or could accrue to (CHURCH NAME, CITY & STATE), and the individuals there of.

PHOTO RELEASE

I authorize and trust (CHURCH NAME) to safely publicize pictures of my child through electronic media, print, broadcast, or any other means of communication. Please note we do not tag anyone on social media.

DATE _____

(Parent or legal guardian signature)

DATE _____

(Participants signature)

[CHURCH NAME] social media accounts must adhere to the following policies and procedures:

Social networking through the use of Internet-based and electronic social media tools, such as: Facebook, Twitter, blogging and other online social media vehicles are part of everyday life. Using social media for yourself is different than using it on behalf of [CHURCH NAME], so it is important to be prudent: everything that is posted online, regardless of privacy settings, etc., is permanent, pervasive and public. This document is intended to provide [CHURCH NAME] staff with guidelines to eliminate any confusion concerning the use of social media.

[CHURCH NAME] employees are free to publish or comment via social media in accordance with this policy. Social media information dissemination will be the responsibility of [CHURCH NAME] staff as determined by [INSERT TITLE/COMMITTEE NAME]. Current staff with posting capabilities are: [list staff who have posting privileges].

Best practices to use social media successfully:

1. **Be responsive.** Set up notifications to be informed when someone posts to your page, and be prepared to respond quickly—within the hour if possible and certainly the same day—even during evenings or weekends. Get someone to cover for you if you expect to be unavailable. If you don't know the answer, it is better to say, "We will find out and get back to you" than to not answer at all.
2. **When controversial actions, events, or decisions are anticipated.** Discuss with leadership what strategy and steps will be followed when someone posts or tweets about the issue in a critical way. Have church leadership decide who will respond to comments and when approval may be required.
3. **Dealing with negative comments.** While obvious spam posts can be deleted, comments should be allowed on blogs, Facebook pages, and other places. Do not automatically delete negative posts. Instead, respond kindly with accurate information. If the person wants to engage in a lengthy battle or appears to be promoting an agenda, just stop answering.
4. **Be responsible.** The fast pace and transparency of social media means we will get things wrong sometimes. That is okay if you handle it gracefully; starting with acknowledging your error. If you make a mistake, admit it. Be upfront and be quick with your correction. What you write is ultimately your responsibility. Participation in social media on behalf of [CHURCH NAME] is not a right but a ministry, so please treat it seriously and with respect.
5. **Questions.** If the poster has specific questions about programs or policies, direct them to an email address for the person who can answer those questions, or to the private message function on your organization's Facebook page. Also, notify the person who you have identified as a point person for questions that this person will be contacting them and ask them to respond as quickly as they can to avoid any further public postings. Criticisms or questions are best answered in private, and every care should be taken to avoid a protracted comment battle.
6. **Page moderation.** On Facebook, in the administration portal, block users from posting comments with obscenities. You will find it under Settings and then Page Moderations.
7. **Display guidelines for comments on your page.** A good guideline for Facebook, YouTube and other social menu venues is to post something similar to this disclaimer in the bio or "about us" section:

- a. We welcome your thoughts in this space. We ask that you are respectful in what you post and in your comments about other members of the community here. If you'd like to know more about us, visit our web site at [WEBSITE HERE].
8. **Use proper hashtags.** Never use a hashtag without first being sure you know the origins and proper use. Search online through www.hashtagify.me or other means to see if and how it's already being used on social media.
9. **Post context for links.** If you want to share a news story on Twitter, Facebook, etc., add a sentence or two that tells what the story is about, so the potential reader will know what they're going to visit when they click on the link. Avoid lengthy posts. For example, a good length for a Facebook post is 2-3 sentences.
10. **Avoid acronyms.** They are difficult for readers to figure out.
11. **Do not use first-person language on a page you manage.** Use "we" to refer to a group of people or the church by name, but do not use "I." There is no entity represented by a single person.
12. **Update your status regularly and strategically.** Social media channels should be updated frequently. You can use a free timing tool like hootsuite.com to schedule posts in advance to various social media channels for days you won't be working. If you use a scheduling tool, be aware of events in the larger world. If a major national news events has just occurred, posting about something completely unrelated is usually seen as a blunder.
13. **Use analytics to plan.** Based on your social media goals, track and measure people reached and/or impressions and engagement rate. These numbers will help gauge success and improve what types of content to post in the future.

Best practices for using social media to promote events:

1. Do not create separate social media pages or accounts just for the event itself.
2. Pre-event planning:
 - a. Meet with the social media manager and/or church leadership 6 months prior to the event and again one month before the event starts to discuss goals and messaging.
 - b. Develop a web page early with information about the event. This is the place to refer people from Twitter, Facebook, etc.
 - c. Choose a hashtag for the event that is short and unique, and use it on all posts in all social media. Hashtags make social media searchable. Search online through hashtagify.me to be sure your hashtag is not being used by anyone else. Adding a year to your hashtag is one way to help make it specific. Avoid generic hashtags (#presbyterian, #church) in favor of tags like #BigTent14, #GA221, #PYT13, etc.
 - d. Be responsive. As the event gets closer, be ready with answers that people ask about the event.
 - e. Plan social media posts around early-bird dates, registration deadlines, and start dates and times.
 - f. Tag other churches or organizations that are involved with your event (when possible), so they can share your content and help you spread the word.

3. During the event:
 - a. Don't "over-post" on Facebook. Group photos in albums, so you don't flood the Facebook feed for people who may not be interested.
 - b. Post as soon as possible after a session ends. Very current content keeps followers engaged. Be sure to proofread carefully.
 - c. Use the names of people in photos as much as you can. Taking a photo of the badge of a person at a conference separate from their portrait is a good trick that helps you keep track of those involved. You may need their name later.
 - d. We will not tag photos, however, you may tag yourself in photos that are posted on social networks.
 - e. Live-tweet events, but not excessively. Pick up a few key points from each session and hashtag them with the event hashtag.
4. After the event:
 - a. Continue to post a few items for a short time to wrap up any loose ends.

Recommendations for personal social media usage. As [CHURCH NAME] staff, you are likely viewed by friends, family, and other followers as a representative of [CHURCH NAME].

- Be transparent and honest about your identity, and you may want to say something like, "The views I express are not necessarily those of the [CHURCH NAME]."
- Be accurate. Before posting, take a moment to Google a news story to be sure you have facts correct. Rely on mainstream, reputable news sources.
- Be respectful. Long, drawn-out arguments on social media consume energy and cause emotions to flame. It is easy to become angry and post insults. This damages your reputation and the reputation of the [CHURCH NAME], and is best avoided.
- Maintain confidentiality. Do not post confidential or inside information about the community members of [CHURCH NAME] or staff. In general, don't post anything about your work that you would not present at a conference.
- Posting events, photos, videos. You may post about official [CHURCH NAME] events on your personal page, but the best practice for page administrators is to post on the organization's page first. You may share to your own personal page or create an entirely new post, but you should tag your organization's page when doing so. This will encourage more people to like and interact with your page.
- Be aware of liability. You can be held legally liable for what you post on your personal site and on the sites of others. Individual bloggers have been held liable for commentary deemed to be copyrighted, defamatory, libelous or obscene (as defined by the courts).
- Protect your identity. Don't provide personal information (home address, telephone number, or email address). It is a good practice to create a separate, non-work email address that is used only with your social media site.

[CHURCH NAME] Social Media policy and terms are subject to change at the discretion of [INSERT HERE].

Empowering the Presbyterian Mission Agency Offices to Speak To Injustices Related to Fossil Fuel Extraction, Transport and Storage

Recommendation

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains overtures the 222nd General Assembly (2016) to:

Empower The Office of Public Witness (OPW) in Washington, D.C., and the Presbyterian Ministry to the United Nations to witness against environmental degradation and to affirm public policy that supports good stewardship of natural resources. With firm biblical foundation and the policies of twenty General Assemblies to build upon, they may give voice to threats to air and water quality; threats from fracking; threats from crude oil transport and storage; and indeed all modes of fossil fuel extraction; threats from methane that results from industrial processes. This empowers both offices to speak for the church to uphold the integrity of creation and speak against injustices.

Rationale

Our charge is clear:

Hosea declared in times of no faithfulness, "...the land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing." (Hosea 4:1,3)

Jesus heard the lawyer reply, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself" and told him "...do this, and you will live." (Luke 10: 27-28)

Calvin lifted up the "lively image of his (God's) wisdom, power, and goodness in the creation of the world, and in order of nature, encourages us to praise him for the manifestation he has made of himself as a father to us in this frail and perishable life." (Calvin on Psalm 104)

The 202nd General Assembly advanced social policies to preserve the environment including global warming, water quality, protecting wildlife and wildlands, solid waste and hazardous waste management, and sustainable agriculture. Why? "So that all may know justice." (Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice, 1990)

The 218th General Assembly advanced social policies to preserve God's creation in the face of global warming and the need to improve our nation's energy policy. "We stand with "the least of these"...and advocate for the poor and oppressed...who are often the victims of environmental injustice..." (Power to Change: U.S. Energy Policy and Global Warming, 2008)

The 221st General Assembly affirmed the Precautionary Principle as a method of "preventing irreversible ecological impacts" to the planet. The principle represents "a part of the basis for responsible moral, and scientifically-informed human flourishing, affirming the sacred in societal and creation care, and protecting the earth for future generations." (Overture 15-02, 2014)

The obstacle is real:

In the last decade, the decision to shift from historic annual Assemblies to biennial Assemblies was grounded in the logic of cost savings; greater time for governing bodies, agencies, and committees to act upon Assembly decisions; and, expanded space for discerning God's will within the life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) A consequence of the shift, however, has been a reduced opportunity to respond swiftly through General Assembly actions to the accelerating pace of world and national events. The shift has placed even greater weight on the reasoned and well deliberated policy positions of prior Assemblies. Yet, if an event or development presents itself unexpectedly, it may not have been addressed within previous policy guidance. This is true for environmental issues that are emerging as climate changes unfold. For Example, the COP 21 talks in Paris offers faith leaders an opportunity to join their voices on issues that affect those most impacted by those environmental changes. The PCUSA voice needs to be an immediate part of that. To wait for policy to come to the 223 General Assembly is to be left out of the very call Jesus gives to love our neighbors. To wait until 2018 to address critical fossil fuel extraction that drives climate change may mean irreversible damage for our planet and God's people.

The foundation is firm:

We are called by God to uphold the integrity of creation. Across the years, General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have repeatedly called for the protection of the environment. "Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice (1990)," "Power to Change: U.S. Energy Policy and Global Warming (2008), and the 2014 General Assembly affirmation of the Precautionary Principle are contemporary, landmark positions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

With the firm foundation of biblical charge and the established environmental policies of General Assemblies, leaders of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are called to faithfully address rising threats to air and water quality that may emerge from industrial processes including but not limited to fracking; crude oil shipment, storage, and export.

We are called as witnesses. With this empowerment, The Office of Public Witness and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations can communicate with the President of the United States and Executive Departments; members of Congress and their staffs; state and local officials; and, corporate leaders when a new and arising threat to creation is presented.

2016 PCUSA Fossil Fuel Divestment Overture Recommendation

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains overtures the 222nd General Assembly (2016) to:

- 1. Express its profound concern about the destructive effects of climate change on all God's creation, including a disproportionate impact on those living in poverty and in the least developed countries; the elderly and children; and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases. The 222nd General Assembly (2016) thus recognizes the moral mandate for humanity to shift to a sustainable energy regime in a way that is both just and compassionate. This mandate compels us to action as a denomination to divest from the fossil fuel industry even as we reduce our use of fossil fuels and shrink our carbon footprint.**
- 2. Call upon the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation to:**
 - a. Immediately stop any new direct investment in fossil fuel companies**
 - b. Work to ensure that within three years, none of the Board's or the Foundation's directly held or commingled assets includes holdings of either equities or corporate bonds in the fossil fuel companies identified in the Carbon Underground 200 list¹ by:**
 - i. Working with current and prospective asset managers to develop and implement institutional fossil free investment options**
 - ii. Establishing within one year fossil free investment options for fund participants
 - iii. Actively seeking out and investing in renewable and energy efficiency related securities**
 - iv. Notwithstanding the above provisions, retaining or acquiring minimal sufficient investment in fossil fuel companies to participate in shareholder engagement activities
 - v. Notwithstanding the above provisions, taking no action inconsistent with fiduciary duty or principles of sound investment, including the real and substantial risk of stranded carbon assets
 - c. Incorporate into public financial reports regular updates detailing progress made towards these ends**
- 3. Call upon the Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) to inform affected fossil fuel companies and the larger public of the passage and implementation of this resolution**
- 4. Call upon, and provide instructional materials to assist all levels of the denomination (presbyteries, congregations, and individual members) in taking action to slow climate change, including: divestment of fossil fuel holdings; shareholder activism; investments in renewable energy; advocacy at local, state, and federal levels for policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and local efforts to reduce carbon footprint consistent with the 2006 call² for denominational carbon neutrality, and the 2008 "Power to Change" recommendations.³**

¹ <http://fossilfreeindexes.com/the-carbon-underground-2014/> or current equivalent (accessed 06-17-2015)

² <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/guide-going-carbon-neutral/> (accessed 06-17-2015)

³ http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/acswp/pdf/energyreport.pdf (accessed 06-17-2015)

2016 PCUSA Fossil Fuel Divestment Overture Rationale⁴

In 1981, our church made clear through the document “The Power to Speak Truth to Power” the importance of transitioning away from a fossil fuel-based economy.

In 2008, our church made clear through the document “The Power to Change” that the catastrophic effects of climate change make this transition essential to the preservation of human life and God’s good creation.

Our church has voiced support for legislation encouraging a fossil-free economy, but has no power to enact it. Our church has voiced support for taxes on carbon emissions, but has no power to levy them. Our church has asked us and our institutions to cut carbon emissions, and we have, but that is not enough to shift the course of the economy or the climate.

Our church also invests hundreds of millions of dollars in fossil fuel companies.

We, as Christians, have the privilege, responsibility and obligation to speak with moral authority on issues of great importance. This is such an issue.

As we work to mitigate the climate crisis, we must shed the burden of our investments in climate destruction. This act will speak more loudly and more clearly than any prophetic declaration.

This overture asks us to sever our financial ties to the fossil fuel industry as a means of social witness in the world. When we join the worldwide divestment movement, our voice will amplify the voices of others as we collectively say that it is wrong to profit by harming creation.

Biblical and Theological Rationale

This action is rooted in the foundational theological and biblical principles of our Presbyterian identity. In Genesis 1 and 2, God gave humanity our vocation as stewards of creation. In Matthew 25: 31-46 Jesus calls on us to care for our fellow human beings, including “the least of these.”

Human caused climate change is destroying creation and creating a reality in which more and more people are hungry, thirsty, homeless and devastated by diseases, wars and civil unrest. This destruction and the suffering it creates are directly at odds with our vocation as stewards and with what Jesus commanded.

Climate Change Rationale

Most world governments – and the PCUSA – agree that we must hold global warming below a 2°C increase. To do so, we must stay within a carbon budget that was estimated in 2011 to be 565 gigatonnes (GT) of CO₂ equivalent. By the 222nd General Assembly, we will have less than 400 GT – around 10 years – left in our carbon budget. Meanwhile, fossil fuel companies have nearly 3,000 GT of CO₂ equivalent, or seven times our remaining budget, buried in fossil fuel reserves they intend to produce, and they spend hundreds of billions of dollars a year looking for more.

⁴ A fully footnoted version of this rationale is available at <http://www.fossilfreepcusa.org/resources/overture2016>

Denominational Rationale

Our denomination has long recognized a moral obligation to be faithful stewards of God's creation. We have acknowledged the realities of climate change and its impacts on the "least of these," and the need to take action. Previous General Assemblies (1981, 1990, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2006, 2008) have passed overtures, resolutions and reports warning us of the dangers of climate change and calling on us to reduce our energy consumption and transition away from fossil fuels. Divestment is the logical next step in accomplishing these ends.

Divestment Rationale

Divestment has a long history in our denomination as part of a strategy for pursuing mission objectives of the church in the world through socially responsible management of the church's assets.

The 196th General Assembly approved the report "Divestment Strategies: Principles and Criteria," noting that we can use our investments as a powerful tool to bring about social change. Divestment is contemplated only after persistent shareholder efforts to persuade a company to change have failed.

For more than two decades, our church's Committee on Mission Responsibility through Investment has engaged in shareholder action with fossil fuel companies. This approach can continue to provide a seat at the table to engage with the industry, but it has had no impact in addressing climate change.

The divestment principles and criteria also recognize the importance of working with the ecumenical community and acting in solidarity with other Christian bodies. To date, Episcopalians, Unitarians, Lutherans, Anglicans, Quakers, Methodists, the United Church of Christ, some Presbyterian congregations and the Churches of England and Scotland have committed to divestment.

Divestment also protects our financial interests. In the carbon-constrained world we are entering, the value of fossil fuel companies will decline. The International Energy Agency projects that carbon cuts great enough to stay below the 2°C threshold could leave nearly \$300 billion in fossil fuel investments stranded by 2035.

Jobs

Divestment is a prophetic witness that challenges the country to shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy and energy efficiency as quickly as possible. Job loss in the fossil fuel industry is a serious concern, especially to our brothers and sisters in states where the industry is prevalent. We as church can advocate for sustainable jobs and worker retraining. We as church can reinvest in sustainable industries. We as church must be sympathetic and caring about job losses in a single industry, but must also consider the greater good generated for wage earners, families and all of creation by moving away from fossil fuels. In the end, job losses will be more than offset by job creation in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

More Than Symbolism

When people act singly, their impacts may be more symbolic than effective, but when many act in unison, they can bring about massive social and economic changes. Consider the powerful social changes that divestment brought about with Apartheid, tobacco and Darfur.

Some say it is hypocritical to divest from fossil fuels while remaining dependent on them. It is equally hypocritical to gamble on the continued profitability of the fossil fuel industry while urging individuals to use less fossil fuel. Divestment and conservation go hand in hand, and both will work together to make renewable energy and energy efficiency more widely and economically available.

Summary

As Christians, we have the privilege and obligation to speak with moral authority on issues of great importance. The power and clarity of our prophetic voice must not be undermined by the hypocrisy of our investments in fossil fuel companies that amount to nearly two hundred million dollars.

Divestment declares that we are refusing to stay neutral in the fight against climate disruption. We stand united with our brothers and sisters around the world in refusing henceforth to make money from an industry that is harming all of God's creation.

"Can we hear the grave warnings in reports like this one [Power to Change] from Christians who have carefully studied these matters? And then can we act as stewards of God's earth, witnessing to Christ in the re-direction of our lives toward a more sustainable future? I pray that we can, and that our church's good work can help in this great change."

- Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, April 2009

For more information and footnotes to the overture go to: <http://www.fossilfreepcusa.org/resources/overture-2016/>

Scroll down and click on "Overture with Footnotes." There is also a curriculum that was developed for further study. Click on "Curriculum" at the top of the page.

On advocacy against factory farming

Seeking justice for our neighbor, and in service to God's creation, The Presbytery of the Northern Plains respectfully overtures the 222st General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to:

- 1. Direct the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness to advocate wherever possible in favor of alternatives to CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) or IFAPS (Industrial Food Animal Production Sites), commonly known as factory farms, and to advocate against measures that support industrialized animal farming.**
- 2. Direct the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness to advocate in support of farm and processing plant workers, "fence line" communities surrounding factory farms, racial ethnic farmers, and family farmers and ranchers.**
- 3. Reaffirm the 1990 proclamation "Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice" which asserts that humanity and nature are so inextricably bound that the suffering of one affects the other. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a history of affirming that protection of the environment is an essential part of the Christian faith.**
- 4. Encourage all levels of the denomination (presbyteries, congregations, and individual members) to purchase only meat that carries the minimal certification of "Certified Humane Raised & Handled."**

Rationale

A. THE CONFESSION OF 1967: RECONCILIATION IN SOCIETY

"In each time and place, there are particular problems and crises through which God calls the church to act. The church, guided by the Spirit, humbled by its own complicity and instructed by all attainable knowledge, seeks to discern the will of God and learn how to obey in these concrete situations (Confession of 1967, 9.43)."

These current particular challenges:

- a safe and sustainable food supply in the United States,
- environmental degradation from our current ways of industrialized farming,
- risks to humans from what is fed to food animals, and
- global hunger from an imbalance in what we in the United States take from the earth and what we give back point us toward changes that are necessary in our food production. One of those necessary changes is to end factory farming of animals and the farming monoculture of corn and soy, which is done in large part to support factory farming of food animals.

B. We can talk about the web of creation that binds us to all living things and to the earth through lifting up common biblical themes from our Judeo-Christian tradition. And in so doing, we can speak of sin, as Barbara Brown Taylor has, as "wrecked relationships" within that web. During the past half-century, as industrialized farming of food animals has developed, we have broken relationships with the earth, with other living things, with other human beings, and with food itself as a gift from God. (Taylor, *Speaking of Sin*, cited in "Just Eating?", p. 43)

Ps 145:15-16: The eyes of all look to you,
 and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand,
 satisfying the desire of every living thing.

Genesis 9:16-17: “When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Matthew 22:37-40: [Jesus] said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Romans 8:21-22: ...that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now...

“What role can the church play in shaping the future? We are called to participate in and influence this agricultural revolution by breathing fresh life into the values of sustainability, stewardship, compassion, and community.” The issues are so complex, however, that the directive of this overture is very broad. But as Kieve Nachman, PhD, of Johns Hopkins University has observed, we can identify certain populations that pay the price for the inexpensive animal protein in our food markets. Those vulnerable populations bear the brunt of many risks that are hard to measure because large corporations generally own impenetrable vertically integrated “farms”. Vertical integration means that one entity owns the animals, controls the inputs (food, chemicals, antibiotics, hormones), and owns the processing plants. Therefore that entity controls access to the market as well. These CAFO/IFAPS combinations are becoming legally impenetrable due to what are known as “Ag-Gag” laws. These laws make it a crime for undercover investigators or whistle-blowers to expose illegal activity on the grounds of one of these corporate properties. (In other words, it becomes illegal to expose illegal activity, and in some cases, not just a misdemeanor.)

So, once we have identified the vulnerable populations, it will then be important to consider what areas of concern might offer potential for impacting the people, the land, and the humane treatment of the food animals. (“We Are What We Eat,” PCUSA Report, 2002, pp. 13, 17; Nachman lectures, Johns Hopkins “Introduction to U.S. Food Systems”)

First, are the workers in U.S. IFAPS. It may come as a shock to us that they are not under the oversight of OSHA. (Nachman; PCUSA, 15) There is, in this industry, a high rate of injury among workers. But the lack of OSHA regulations is particularly disturbing because their work involves many chemicals in both the feed for and waste from the animals, in the air of both CAFOs and slaughterhouses, and in fertilizers that crop workers are in contact with. Perhaps the most concerning and best documented chemical is inorganic arsenic. Often there is no personal protective equipment available nor any decontamination facility for use after a shift. In addition to this lack of oversight, many workers are immigrants, both documented and undocumented, which adds another layer of vulnerability --- language, insurance, legality, education, and economics.

The Church has an additional concern over that of the secular world. Government agencies should indeed be concerned with physical safety, economic and racial ethnic concerns, and so forth. But for those who work in the violent and desensitizing atmosphere of the slaughterhouse or in the mind-numbing and soul-stealing CAFO environment where the expectation is solely to produce animals as commodities in as low-cost manner as possible, the Church needs to minister to the emotional and spiritual wounding of the workers. We

have nurtured them to be compassionate; and as a society, we have surrounded them with media images of heroes and rescuers. And then we have abandoned them.

Isaiah 1:15: When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

"People must have renounced, it seems to me, all natural intelligence to dare to advance that animals are but animated machines.... It appears to me, besides, that [such people] can never have observed with attention the character of animals, not to have distinguished among them the different voices of need, of suffering, of joy, of pain, of love, of anger, and of all their affections. It would be very strange that they should express so well what they could not feel." ~Voltaire

The second population is the “Fence Line” and surrounding communities, mostly concentrated in the Southeast United States, mostly rural, and generally in depressed economic areas. Negative consequences of living in proximity to an IFAPS or CAFO fall into three general areas:

1. Respiratory and mental health issues. (asthma, allergies, depression, etc.)
2. Odors (compromised quality of life)
3. Economic effects (property damage and diminished property values) (Nachman)

We who are committed to those living in poverty, to those without access to power and privilege, to those living in oppressive circumstances, need to take note of this population whose lives are disrupted, and whose land and water are polluted by vast quantities of animal waste, containing chemicals, antibiotics, viruses, bacteria, heavy metals, and hormonal substances.

The water sources for about 43% of the U.S. have had pathogen contamination associated with manure. Twenty-nine states have identified other pollution problems from CAFOs. Groundwater constitutes 40% of public water supplies, but a full 97% of rural water supplies! (<http://www.pewenvironment.org/news-room/datavisualizations/infographic-cleaning-up-cafo-permit-rules-85899431053>, and Nachman) Although focusing only on poultry, the Pew Charitable Trust describes it best, in a summary of their 2011 report, “Big Chicken: Pollution and Industrial Poultry Production in America.” The report compiles and analyzes 50 years of federal and state government data to describe a business that has been remade by industrialization:

“The broiler industry has changed drastically over the last 50 years and now produces more than 8 billion birds—an increase of more than 1400%—despite the loss of 98% of broiler operations. The typical broiler chicken comes from a facility that produces more than 605,000 birds a year. The majority of these massive operations—millions of chickens and the billions of pounds of waste they produce—are concentrated in a handful of states that comprise the American Broiler Belt.” (<http://www.pewenvironment.org/news-room/video-library/the-rise-of-industrial-scale-chickenproduction-85899362476>)

“The shift from the traditional diversified family farm to a more industrialized system of raising animals has contributed to the transformation of food production and rural communities in the United States. Family farms have been replaced by an industry that dictates how the animals will be raised but leaves farmers liable for waste disposal and the financial burdens associated with housing thousands of hogs or tens of thousands of chickens. Marketing power is concentrated in the hands of a small number of large, vertically integrated companies that own, process and sell the animal products and bear none of the responsibility for environmental degradation.

“Across the country, water and air pollution from industrial livestock operations have compromised the health of communities and the surrounding environment. Huge volumes of manure are commonly stored in

open lagoons and applied to nearby land without treatment to control excess nutrients, pathogens and other contaminants.

“The largest industrial operations also use the most restrictive confinement methods, such as battery cages for laying hens and gestation crates for sows. These confinement types are not only among the least humane of farming practices but also contribute to the need for nontherapeutic application of antibiotics and the looming health crisis of antibiotic resistance.” (<http://www.pewenvironment.org/campaigns/reforming-industrial-animalagriculture/id/8589940398>)

The third population is African American and other racial ethnic farmers. These “farmers and ranchers have suffered economic losses for a longer time than their white counterparts. . . . and if present land loss continues, there will be virtually no African American farmers by the end of the first decade of this century.” Native American farmers have a similar situation, which may be more devastating, since farming is one of the primary occupations both on and off reservation lands. Asian Americans have a mixed story: Japanese Americans lost their farm ownership during World War II detentions, but Southeast Asian immigrants have found a niche in meat processing plants. Most interesting, however, is the Hispanic population, which has the largest number of new farmers. And yet, “the concerns of the lack of younger, beginning farmers may be shared by all groups.” (“We Are What We Eat,” 11) Small farms, it seems, are doomed unless something changes and changes soon.

C. Control of farm decisions are no longer predominantly in the hands of traditional farmers. Decisions are made in board rooms, far from the smell of manure, the feel of soil, the warmth of a cow’s breath. What kinds of issues might the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness seek to influence in order to benefit these three vulnerable populations? This list is not in any particular order, and it is wide-ranging – but it is certainly not exhaustive:

Worker Protection Advocacy

EPA policies

Immigration Reform

OSHA Farm Policy

So-called “AG-GAG” legislation (making reports of criminal activity within IFAPS a criminal act)

International Trade Agreements

Clean Water and Clean Air Acts

There are Presbyterians everywhere – in board rooms, in sessions, in presbyteries, and in voting booths in communities across this nation. It is our responsibility to listen to what comes from our eyes and ears in Washington, and to stand by our brothers and sisters who are part of these vulnerable populations --- because we, too, are a vulnerable population. We are consumers of the products of the industrialized farms.

D. RESOURCES / SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

Inhabiting Eden: Christians, The Bible, and The Ecological Crisis, Patricia K. Tull, (Westminster John Knox Press, 2013)

“Livestock’s Long Shadow: Environmental Issues and Options”, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a0701e/a0701e00.HTM>

“Factory Farming in America”, series of 6 very accessible articles by Traci Hobson sponsored by the Ian Somerhalder Foundation (begin here: <http://www.isfoundation.com/campaign/factory-farming-america-introduction>)

Good Food: Grounded Practical Theology, Jennifer R. Ayers (Baylor University Press, 2013)

“Just Eating? Practicing Our Faith at the Table”
Presbyterian Distribution Service
Advocate Health Care, Church World Service, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program/PCUSA

“We Are What We Eat” – Report approved by the 214th General Assembly
Published by the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy and the Rural Ministry Office, PCUSA

“The Hands That Feed Us,” a report from the Food Chain Workers Alliance, funded in part by the PCUSA Hunger Program. It documents the situation of workers, mostly in their own words, in factory farms and along the food chain.

The Pew Charitable Trust -- <http://www.pewenvironment.org/campaigns/reforming-industrial-animal-agriculture>

“Introduction to U.S. Food Systems” – An annual 4-hour course, <https://www.coursera.org/course/foodsys> through the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future: <http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-a-livablefuture/education/onlinecourseware/>

“Green House Gas Emissions from Animal Agriculture,”
<http://www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/farm/hsus-fact-sheet-greenhouse-gas-emissions-from-animalagriculture.pdf>

“Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice”,
<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/information-and-advocacy-links/>

Humanely Raised Farm Animal Certification,
<https://www.asPCA.org/fight-cruelty/farm-animal-cruelty/welfare-conscious-choices/>