

PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS
ONE HUNDRED and THIRTIETH STATED MEETING

April 20, 2024

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its stated meeting at the Unruh-Sheldon Centre on the campus of the University of Jamestown, North Dakota, on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

Moderator Ruling Elder (RE) Tom Brusegaard called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Rev. Bob Boyer led the presbytery in worship. Holy Communion was celebrated as part of the service. An offering was taken for the Unified Mission Fund.

Five minute refreshment recess.

The roll was taken by means of registration forms filled out by the attendees.

The following Ministers were present unless otherwise noted:

P – Present in person; Z – Present via Zoom; E – Excused; A – Absent;

HR – Ministers Honorably Retired, excused if absent;

LOB – Ministers laboring outside the bounds of the Presbytery, excused if absent. *(Numbers preceding Ministers 'names are ecclesiastical occupational designations.)*

Other abbreviations:

TE=Teaching Elder (Minister of the Word and Sacrament)

RE=Ruling Elder

CRE=Commissioned Ruling Elder (also known as Commissioned Lay Pastor, CLP)

M/S/C=Moved, seconded, and carried (of a motion)

Pastoral Leaders			
Designation	Minister	Ministry	Attendance
	Benz, Lorelee	CLP, Baker Downer	A
299	Billings, Dan	HR	E
101	Bigwood, Sarah	Fargo	P
299	Bishop, Catherine	HR	P
101	Boyar, Robert	Jamestown	P
797	Burger-Perry, Deborah	Member at Large	E
107	Campbell, Paul	CLP, Casselton	P
107	Chapman, Casey	CLP, Grandin-Hunter	A
299	Christman, David	HR	E
299	Cory, Daniel	HR	E
299	Danielson, Cheri	HR	E
299	Danielson, Marli	HR	E
101	Dill, Robin	Grafton, Minto	P
101	Drake, Robert	Moorhead	P

101	Dumont, Trudy	Devils Lake	Z
797	Emerson, Nancy	Member at Large	A
299	Graf, Gretchen	HR	E
299	Graham, Ron	HR	E
103	Holtey, Mary	Fargo	P
101	Homan, Spencer	Grand Forks	P
151	Kana-Mackey, Sue	Langdon	P
299	Kargard, Rick	HR	E
299	Kincaid, Jacob	HR	E
	Krumm, Barbara	CLP, Ellendale	A
101	Landwehr, Marjorie	Hallock	A
299	Mansell, Henry	HR	E
299	McCullough, Cheryl	HR	E
299	McDowell, Martha	HR	E
299	Monteith, Donna	HR	P
107	Norstog, Jamie	CLP, Gilby, Midway Parish	E
101	Ozaki, Michael	Crookston	A
101	Reikow, Deanna	Mandan	P
791	Rhoad, Johnny		
101	Sanders, Ruth	Crookston (UMC)	A
	Schnackenberg, Dave	CLP, Rolla-St John	Z
101	Simmons, Leanne	Bismarck	Z
	Sorenson, Raenelle	CLP, Arvilla	Z
701	Suk, David	GF Hope Korean	P
501	Sweet, Elaine	Minot (Zion Lutheran)	P
299	Swanson, Joan	HR	E
299	Watts, Gary	HR	E
151	Werth, John	Pembina County Parish	A
299	Wolpert, David	HR	E
299	Woodford, Don	HR	E

Congregation	Ruling Elder Commissioners	Attended In Person or Zoom
Angus, Angus-Tabor Presbyterian		
Arvilla, Arvilla Presbyterian	Brenda Beck	Z
Baker, Westminster Presbyterian		
Bismarck, First Presbyterian	Jim Skaret	P
Bismarck, Glencoe Sloan Memorial		
Bottineau, United Parish		
Buffalo, First Presbyterian		
Calvin, Glenila Presbyterian		
Casselton, Westminster Presb.	Lana Schultz	P
Cavalier, Cavalier Presbyterian		
Colgate, Colgate Presbyterian		

Cooperstown, First Presbyterian	Vicki Goplen	Z
Crookston, First Presbyterian		
Devils Lake, Westminster Presb.	Marvin Mead	Z
Dilworth, Dilworth Presbyterian		
East Grand Forks, Mendenhall Presb.		
Edgeley, First Presbyterian		
Ellendale, Presbyterian		
Fairview, Community Presbyterian		
Fargo, First Presbyterian	Sherri Stern Bruce Maylath Brian McClure Richard Laraway	Z P P P
Fordville, Community Presbyterian		
Forest River, Midway Parish		
Gilby, Gilby Presbyterian	Tom Brusegaard	P
Grafton, Federated Church	Gale Fisker (sp?)	P
Grand Forks, First Presbyterian	Evan Andrist	Z
Grandin, Grandin Presbyterian	Donna Preston	P
Hallock, First Presbyterian		
Hamilton, First Presbyterian		
Hannah, Hannah Presbyterian		
Hunter, First Presbyterian		
Inkster, Inkster Presbyterian		
Jamestown, United Presbyterian	Bill Weispfenning Sylvia Pringle	P P
LaMoure, First Presbyterian	Catherin Scherke(sp?)	P
Langdon, Presbyterian Church		
Lisbon, First Presbyterian		
Mandan, First Presbyterian		
Minto, Knox Presbyterian	Ellen Misialek	P
Moorhead, First Presbyterian	Erik Swee Elizabeth Swee George O'Neill	P P P
Oakes, First Presbyterian		
Park River, Federated Church		
Pillsbury, Baldwin Presbyterian		
Portal, First Presbyterian		
Red Lake Falls, First Presbyterian	Russ Steer	Z
Rhame, Lyle Presbyterian		
Rolla-St John, Presbyterian Church		
Rugby, Emmanuel United Church		
Tower City, Tower City Presbyterian		
Towner, Towner Presbyterian		
Walhalla, Park Center-Walhalla		
Watford City, First Presbyterian		

Webster, Webster Chapel	Wayne Lindeberg	
West Fargo, Community Presb.	Andrew Thostenson Lee Dobrihz	Z P
Westhope, First Presbyterian		
Wilton, First Presbyterian		

Others in Attendance	Position	Attended In Person or Zoom
Tom Brusegaard	Moderator	P
Sylvia Pringle	Vice Moderator	P
Adam Montgomery	Stated Clerk	P
Sherri Stern	Financial Task Force	Z
Jennifer Kolodka	Visitor, Office Admin	P
Dr. Polly Peterson	Visitor, President of UJ	P
Kirstie Dobson	Visitor, Director of Campus Ministry of UJ	P

In accordance with the stated bylaws, Article IV, B-4.0500, Acting Stated Clerk, Adam Montgomery, advised the moderator a quorum was established.

Without objection, elections of representatives for the 226th General Assembly and Wilton Dissolution discussion/approval were added to the agenda. Agenda was approved as amended.

Rev. Bigwood, seconded by Robin Hill, moved to elect Adam Montgomery as stated clerk for the term of three years. Motion passed.

Dr. Polly Peterson, President of the University of Jamestown, addressed the Presbytery. Dr. Peterson welcomed the body, provided a report of the state of the university, and shared the Presbyterian historical connection with the institution.

Approval of the October 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes – Rev. Deanna Reikow, seconded by CRE Paul Campbell, approved with no changes.

Consent agenda was broken out into individual reports:

Treasurer’s Report (Misialek) - Report received.

Stated Clerk – oral introduction, welcome, and gratitude for the opportunity to serve. Report Received.

Care for Congregation (Bigwood) - Report received.

Pastoral Leadership (Holtey) – Report received.

Mission (Preston) - Report received.

Continuing Preparation (Spencer) - Report received.

Leadership (Campbell) - no report.

Moderator Brusegaard recessed the meeting at 11:48 AM recess for lunch to be called back to order at 1 PM.

Rev. Boyer offered a prayer of grace.

Moderator Tom recalled the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

Call to Care (Reikow) - Rev. Reikow spoke about making physical spaces more accessible to children through a grant offered. Special recognition of those in service. Report received.

Self-Development of People (George O'Neill) - offers grants to people at the poverty level if they have an idea of how to improve their situation. No Roots Cooperative submitted a grant, who teach immigrant farmers how to utilize the local terrain. At the end of this training, farmers can rent to own land. Recertified for another three years. Written report received.

Presbyterian Women (Lana Schultz) - Report received.

Synod Commission Report (Elizabeth Swede) - Meeting is forthcoming. Meetings are out of sync. Follow up with the communications coordinator to promote these future meetings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Wilton Presbyterian Church – “With regret,” *Move to dismiss First Pres Wilton from PNP to Evangelical Covenant Order (ECO)*. Leadership received the dismissal request last fall and gracious separation was granted. The expedited process to accomplish this objective was made easier with no objections or obstacles on the part of either party. The Church made the unanimous decision to exit. \$1500 was collected (\$500/person) who voted against the withdrawal. This is to help facilitate a new start for anyone looking to form a revised presbyterian congregation. This money will be held for these purposes for five years. Approved unanimously.

2026 General Assembly Commissioners (Misialek) - Asked Rev. Robert Drake (Nominations) his ideas about naming someone. Leadership believed it should be done with advanced notice to provide for planning. No formal actions were taken.

Nominating (Drake) - no new information. Anyone interested, please refer.

GOOD NEWS

Moderator Brusegaard stated how he is satisfied with the direction PNP is going. There is a renewed sense of belonging and progress. Tom recognized Adam and Ellen.

Donna Preston – Grandin and Hunter are looking at growth with baptisms and new members. Buffalo had two baptisms on Easter Sunday.

Moderator Brusegaard closed the regular meeting with prayer. The moderator adjourned the regular meeting, without objection, at 1:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Montgomery, Stated Clerk

Treasurer's Report

The included pages of information show the historical data for the Presbytery's general fund for 2021 and 2022, the budget and actual income and expense for 2023, the budget projection for 2024, and the actual income and expense for the period of January 1-March 31, 2024. The 2023 financial information is preliminary—the financial review has not been completed. That report will be included in the financial information at the Fall Presbytery meeting. Unbudgeted receipts of Prior Years' Per Capita and proceeds from the sale of the Steele Church building accounted for much of the surplus in 2023.

2023 saw important staff changes for the Presbytery. Rev. Richard Francis served as the Temporary Stated Clerk throughout 2023 and continued for a month in an advisory capacity to Adam Montgomery who was hired as the Stated Clerk in January 2024. Jennifer Kolodka began her work as the Communications Coordinator in January 2023. Rev. Deanna Peterson Reikow was hired as the Connectional Care Pastor for the Presbytery and began her work in May 2023. Some planned expenditures, including the Connectional Care Pastor's salary and travel expenses, were below the budget projection due to the timing of her hire.

Thank you for the 2023 donations from congregations that were passed on to the PC(USA), the Presbyterian Foundation, the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, or other recipients as follows: Christmas Joy Offering, \$10,439.16; Clearwater Forest, \$400; GA Unified Mission, \$9,080.33; One Great Hour of Sharing, \$19,224.59; GA Peace and Global Witness, \$3,950.69; Synod Peace and Global Witness, \$370.28; Pentecost Offering, \$3,885.66; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, \$3,013.81; Synod Unified Mission, \$8,405.25; Theological Mission Support, \$1280.08; and University of Jamestown, \$2,950; the grand total is \$62,999.84—\$11,858.04 less than was received in 2022. Donations were also received for the Bdecan Ministry of \$45,934.12 and the Chogoria Ministry of \$60,628.75.

In 2023, 39 congregations paid their full per capita apportionment, 2 congregations made partial payments, and 15 congregations did not contribute. The total received was \$132,058—\$6297 more than in 2022. The Presbytery of the Northern Plains remitted its full per capita apportionment to the General Assembly, \$30,988, and to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, \$17303. During the period of January 1-March 31, 2024, 25 congregations made full or partial payments of their per capita. Thank you for that faithful and prompt response!

Please visit the Presbytery's website www.northernplainspresbytery.com, click on Grants and Special Offerings, to see information and application forms for the grants that are available for Clergy Renewal, Congregational Development, New Church Development, Peace and Global Witness, Seminary Scholarships, and Small Church Ministries.

If there is anything I can do to answer financial questions or be of help in any way, please contact me. My email is emisialek@outlook.com (new) and my phone number is 701-520-3220.

Ellen Misialek, PNP Treasurer

Necrology Report, 2024 Spring Presbytery Meeting

Church Name	Name	Position	Date of Installation	Date of Death
West Fargo	Delores Horn	Ruling Elder	01-25-1981	06-02-2023
West Fargo	Louise Johnson	Ruling Elder	01-21-1977	01-29-2023
Casselton	Norma Warrey	Ruling Elder	02-01-1976	01-12-2023
Casselton	Janice McLean	Deacon	02-09-1997	03-07-2023
Casselton	Cleone Runck	Ruling Elder	02-01-1976	12-28-2023
Jamestown	Erna Schwind	Deacon	01-05-1992	06-07-2023
Jamestown	Robert K. Muhs	Ruling Elder	01-22-1984	07-24-2023
Jamestown	Rae Ann Paulson	Ruling Elder	02-10-2013	08-31-2023
Bismarck	Bernard Schue	Deacon	2008	01-07-2023
Bismarck	Arley Gallup	Deacon	1995, 2002	01-10-2023
Bismarck	Nils Pearson	Deacon Ruling Elder	1997 01-16-2000	01-11-2023
Bismarck	Lu Dunn	Ruling Elder	01-30-1977	03-09-2023
Bismarck	Betty Aide	Deacon	2008	03-11-2023
Bismarck	Delores Dullum	Deacon	1986	03-15-2023
Bismarck	John Sakariassen	Ruling Elder	01-23-2011	03-26-2023
Bismarck	Stanley Halling	Ruling Elder	02-01-1976	05-10-2023
Bismarck	Sigrid Bucklin	Ruling Elder	01-30-1977	08-03-2023
LaMoure	Roger Feiken	Ruling Elder	2000	02-19-2023
Hallock	Michael Mattson	Deacon	12-28-2008	03-16-2023
Tower City	Jeanne Rice	Ruling Elder	02-10-2002	03-01-2024
Devils Lake	Dr. R. Donald McBane	Trustee	12-08-1963	06-19-2023
Fargo	Jack Evert	Ruling Elder	1960	04-28-2023
Fargo	Helen Hansen	Ruling Elder	05-08-1988	06-24-2023

Care for Congregations Report

April 2024 Presbytery Meeting

Care for Congregations Update

- Jenn Kolodka and Sarah Bigwood are working hard to improve the information we have for each church. We are missing a lot of information regarding moderators. Sarah has clustered our congregations for the purpose of finding folks in each cluster to serve on the Care for Congregations POD.
- In October 2023, Tom Brusegaard, Spencer Holman and Sarah Bigwood crafted an Expedited Gracious Separation Process.
- We have recruited three additional members to sit on the committee. Rusty Bender (Capitol cluster), Deanna Reikow (Congregational Care Pastor), Cathie Bishop (Fargo-Moorhead cluster). We are looking for additional members, especially from the Northeast, North Central, and Central. The Care for Congregations POD goal for 2024 is to build up relationships with Portal, Pillsbury, Dilworth, Calvin, Hannah, Park River, and Watford City.
- In April 2024, Sarah Bigwood and Deanna Reikow will travel to Denver to attend a conference regarding changes being made to pastor benefits through the Board of Pensions. The conference is called: A Season of Rebuilding - A New Benefits Plan for a Changing Church.
- Sarah Bigwood has forged relationships with the UCC and ELCA mid-council reps for our region.

Baker-Downer

In December 2023, Lorelee Benz retired as their pastor after 19 years of faithful service. They held a celebration for Lorelee and representatives from the Presbytery attended. Moving forward, the church considered several options, contract with another CLP, partner with the UCC Church in Barnesville or pursue a consolidation with FPC Fargo. They are currently pursuing the latter and are now presenting the option to their congregation through informational meetings in the month of April. Sarah Bigwood can no longer represent the Presbytery of the Northern Plains without a conflict of interest. Rev. Dr. Spencer Homan has agreed to step in to help with the process as the PNP representative. Elder Carrie Lauber (Leopold, West Fargo) has been preaching at Baker Downer since January. Lay preachers from Fargo will be preaching there this spring.

Bottineau

They love their pastor. Everything seems to be going well they continue to do some really neat fellowship and ministry activities. They have sponsored a family from Ukraine.

Cavalier

The congregation has decided to keep going for now but is considering their options to close either their building or dissolve their congregation.

Colgate

Colgate continues to be very active in the local community, giving support to many local charities. They found younger people to fill the roles of deacon, elder and treasurer. They received a grant to help them do VBS this summer. Their VBS attracts many from surrounding communities, as well as grandkids of the congregation from many states and communities. They are financially able to support local charities who can accomplish what they are unable to do with their small numbers and increasing age.

Cooperstown

Sarah preached in Cooperstown on January 28. The assisted living place where they worship was buzzing with the activity of the many children who came to see the baptism. After worship Sarah moderated their annual meeting. They are joyful and seemed relieved to be out from under the weight of affording a church building. They will now be able to focus on mission.

Devils Lake

For the past few years they made the decision to pay for a pastor although it depleted their reserves. There are signs of growth, but they are now to the point where they are unable to pay full-time for Pastor Trudy. Rev. Trudy Dumont is aware of the situation and has been leading them in conversations. Care for Pastors POD has offered support to Pastor Trudy. With the blessing of Presbytery, Pastor Trudy has pursued an opportunity to work with the NALC (Lutheran) church in the area and is in the final stages of negotiation.

Forest River

Their furnace is being replaced by the daycare center they helped found a few years ago. The daycare has funds from gaming and offered to pay for the new backup furnace. God is good.

Glencoe

Stephan Shroeder is moderator of the Glencoe session. Steve is trained and approved to celebrate communion at the Mandan church and the Glencoe church. Steve has also been given permission to install elders every year. Confirmation is handled by Rev. Deanna Reikow, along with ordination and a rare baptism. They've contracted with Nancy Legerski, CLP to perform the tasks Steve is unauthorized to do when Deanna is unavailable.

Grand Forks

A building campaign is underway to replace new roof on a section of their building. Their fundraising campaign began with each member of Session pledging \$10,000.

Inkster

In January 2024, The Inkster Administrative Commission (AC) asked Presbytery for approval to raze their building and clean up the lot before they sell the church. Upon approval they contacted The Forest River Colony to take the building down in the spring. Most of the stuff has been taken out. The stained-glass windows are being removed. One is going to a family. One is going to Forest River. Pastor Jamie Norstog's next task is to call the foundation to get the funds transferred to the Midway Parish.

Jamestown

Deanna visited Jamestown to lead their elder training. A grant was approved to help pay for a new streaming camera.

Mandan

Mandan has an exciting spring coming up with an event in March featuring their Irish Stew and homemade breads, a Pancake Breakfast Palm Sunday when the children are singing, a movie night in April, and a new "Spring Fling Flea Market" for crafters, bakers and canners. They started a youth group last fall and our children in action (CIA) continues to meet on Wed. The confirmation class meets then as well. Two Students from the Glencoe Church are attending. Presbyterian Women have grown by leaps and bounds. Their mission focus continues to be Blessing Bags for those in crisis or homeless. Mandan's investments hit the million-dollar mark last month! Most building projects have been completed. Lay preachers from our congregation and Bismarck keep filling the pulpit in Glencoe.

Mendenhall

Mendenhall continues to be a small but mighty active church of service to the community. They average 35 people in Sunday worship, with a membership of 85, but are constantly busy in-service projects. In September they held a community wide meal & musical fundraiser for Sole Hope that raised over \$4,000. In January they held another meal & musical fundraiser event for the Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN and raised \$3,000. They are planning to launch and host a new community wide free supper for those in need in EGF once a quarter, the first meal will be served on April 18. They are partnering with the local EGF food shelf to spread the word. They are hoping to connect with other churches and businesses in EGF so that this can be a monthly free meal for the community.

Moorhead

A congregational meeting was held on October 15, 2023 for the purpose of granting their Session the authority to act on their behalf to sell the building. The vote to approve the motion carried by a strong majority. The paperwork to sell the building has been signed and

the building went on the market in January. The Session, with support from the congregation, continued to look for alternatives to selling the building and met with a contingent of Fargo to discuss the possibilities of a merger.

Oakes

They are interested in resources for playing sermons during worship. Any creative ideas to support this congregation are welcome. Can they livestream other churches at the same time?

Portal

This is the church connected with the United Church of Canada. It seems like a grouping of 3-4 churches that rotate services. It looks like they haven't had a full-time minister since June 30, 2022. There is no clear contact information other than a phone number for the office. It looks like all services are at 10:30am at St. Paul's United Church in Estevan, Saskatchewan. Anyone with information about this church is encouraged to contact Sarah Bigwood or Rusty Bender.

Red Lake

Timothy Denney has moved from the area. The primary preaching is done by Rev. Trey Everett.

Rhame

*“We’re pretty far away from other Presbyterian churches.
But the church I thought was dying has found new life,”
writes Jason Waskiewicz, church treasurer.*

Membership is in the process of changing. They lost two of their last three members, but added four and are expanding. Their pastor is Terry Bagley. They have services every Sunday at 9:00 AM, weather permitting. There is no youth leader, there is no phone. The church doesn't even have running water! They are working on rescuing the building and have done a lot of foundation work, put on a new roof, added a new heating system because of what the new roof did to ventilation. The next step is new siding. Future steps are to gut the dining room and kitchen and remove mouse-damaged insulation and drywall and rebuild it in a more usable form, repair and repaint the sanctuary. A wish-list item is to build a more modern bathroom instead of the current outhouses. They are considering using the bricks from the demolished chimneys as a fire pit or some other feature that could be used by the larger community. They have had a lot of generous donations that have funded this work.

Rolla-St. John

Deanna visited with the administrative person from St John. A member of the congregation, David, preaches. They have Bible study and Sunday School. Attendance has increased and some young people are coming to church. We have a very active young people's group who meet on Wednesday evenings. We have a confirmation class of 10 students. We have Sunday school in both churches. And now we are getting ready for VBS."

Tower City and Buffalo

Tower City and Buffalo continue as they have for many years. They have a regular rotation of pastors, so it's almost like having a pastor. Buffalo recognizes that they can't stay open forever, so they are chipping away at tasks that need to be done so that they aren't faced with everything when the time comes. The manse has been sold, and they are in the process of gradually clearing out broken items from the church, and fixing what needs to be repaired. Tower City is doing needed maintenance on the church building as workers are available. Both are financially able to support local charities who can accomplish what they are unable to do with their small numbers and increasing age.

Watford City

Rusty Bender has reached out to Dara Langerud. We are hoping to hear back soon. Anyone with information about this church is encouraged to contact Rusty Bender.

West Fargo

The Session has decided to move forward with the Designated Pastor option. They've established a PNC which began meeting in January, 2024. They've completed a context study and they are nearly finished writing their Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP). They hope to post an opening in April 2024.

Wilton

Wilton has successfully submitted the documents necessary to begin the Expedited Gracious Separation Process. The Leadership POD elected five people to serve within on the ICT, DT, and SNT. Letters for the canvassing scheme went out on Dec. 28 and the participation rate was 100%. A vote to leave the PC(USA) took place on Sunday, February 18th. Sarah Bigwood attended in-person to moderate and handle the technology. A roll call vote was taken to ensure everyone present had their vote properly recorded. The congregation voted to leave the Presbyterian Church (USA). The next step is a vote of Presbytery. Casey Chapman agreed to handle the change of title and letter of dismissal from the PC(USA).

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Sarah M Bigwood
Rev. Sarah Bigwood

A NOTE FROM THE CARE FOR PASTORAL LEADERS POD

The denomination requires pastoral leaders to have boundary training every three years. As of the last General Assembly, our ruling elders on sessions are now required to have boundary training as well. We've been told that in 2025 a video from Synod or GA will become available for us to use for both sessions and pastoral leaders. We encourage pastoral leaders serving PCUSA churches to receive this training with their session. For at-large minister members, as well as validated ministers (and retired ministers members if still serving a church), contact Mary Holtey, for individual boundary training opportunities, mholtey@firstpresfargo.org, 701.219.9810.

Blessings in your ministries,

Mary Holtey

Mission Pod Report by Donna Preston

I would like to first of all thank the Presbytery and many of the members for reaching out after the death of my husband, Ken. A huge thank you to many who attended his Celebration of Life on March 30th. It just shows how connectional the Presbyterian Church truly is.

I continue to support the Ministry Teams and Partnerships that the Presbytery has by meeting with some of the teams, as well as helping to fund raise for their programs and missions. I also serve in many capacities as well. I just joined the programming committee for Clearwater Forest which is primarily to get communications out to our Presbytery and churches about the programs they have available as well as letting them know how they can serve us. Clearwater Forest will once again host Camp in a Van this summer. They may have 1 or 2 days yet to fill so if your church is interested please contact Erin Anderson at Clearwater Forest. All contact info is on their website at [Home Page - Clearwater Forest Camp & Retreat Center](#).

Recently the Presbytery Office received some promotional info from Ethos Hospice and asked us to share with you. I felt since I had just utilized Hospice of the Red River, it was appropriate to share with people of the Presbytery about programs throughout the Presbytery and offered to include in my report. Many of the Hospices offer not only end of life care but offer palliative care and comfort care early on in a person's diagnosis. There is a lot of misconceptions that Hospice is only for end of life. I would strongly encourage people to consider one of the many options for Pain Management (comfort care) early on as it can be so helpful. Below are listed some of the Hospice services throughout our Presbytery as well as their websites:

Ethos Hospice - <https://www.ethoscare.org>

Hospice of Red River Valley - [Patients & Caregivers - Hospice of the Red River Valley \(hrrv.org\)](#)

Sanford Hospice - [Sanford Fargo Hospice in Fargo, ND \(sanfordhealth.org\)](#)

St. Alexis - [St. Alexius Health Home Care and Hospice in Bismarck, ND - Reviews, Complaints, Pricing, & Photos | SeniorAdvice.com](#)

CHI Health - [Hospice Care | CHI Health at Home](#)

Jamestown Medical Center -

<https://hospice.io/care/jamestown-regional-medical-center-hospice-jamestown-nd/>

COMMITTEE MEMBERS, POD LEADERS, TASK LEADERS, TASK MEMBERS, & STAFF
(Spring meeting 2024)

Officers and Staff

Moderator	Tom Brusegaard (class of 2024)
Vice Moderator	Sylvia Pringle (class of 2024)
Connectional Care Pastor	Rev. Deanna Riekow (staff)
Treasurer/Bookkeeper	Ellen Misialek (staff)
Stated Clerk	Adam Montgomery (staff)
Communications Coordinator	Jenn Kolodka (staff)

Leadership Pod

Pod Chair	Paul Campbell
Moderator of Presbytery	Tom Brusegaard (class of 2024)
Vice Moderator of Presbytery	Sylvia Pringle (class of 2024)
Connection Care Pastor	Rev. Deanna Riekow
Treasurer/Bookkeeper	Ellen Misialek
Financial Task Force Leader	Sheri Stern
Personnel Committee Leader	Jamie Norstog
Stated Clerk	Adam Montgomery
Communications Coordinator	Jenn Kolodka (non-voting)
Board of Pensions Task Leader	vacant
Records Task Leader	vacant
Chair Care of Congregations Pod	Rev. Sarah Bigwood
Chair Care of Pastoral Leaders Pod	Rev. Mary Holtey
Chair Mission Pod	Donna Preston
Chair CPM Pod	Rev. Spencer Homan
Nominating Committee Leader	Rev. Robert Drake

Care for Congregations Pod

Pod Chair	Rev. Sarah Bigwood
Pod Member	Rev. Deanna Reikow
Pod Member	Rusty Bender
Pod Member	Ellen Misialek
Pod Member	Rev. Cathie Bishop

Care for Pastoral Leaders Pod

Pod Leader	Rev. Mary Holtey
Admission/Departure Task Leader	Rev. Bob Boyar
Conflict Mediator Task Leader	Deb Burger-Peery
Install./Ordinat. Task Leader	Sylvia Pringle
Ecumenical Relations Task Leader	Rev. Elaine Sveet

Continuing Preparation for Ministry Pod

Pod Leader	Rev. Spencer Homan
Pod member	Rev. Marge Landwer
Pod member	Erik Swee
Pod member	Tom Cummings
Pod member	Dixon Moorhead

Personnel Committee

Committee Moderator	Jamie Norstog
Committee member	Mary Barrett

Mission Pod

Chair of Pod	Donna Preston
Chogoria	Jamie Norstog
Chogoria	Kayla Bones
Chogoria	Carrie Leopold
Bdecan Ministry Task Leader	Chandra Mendieta
Youth Connection Task Leader	Kayla Bones
Clearwater Forest Task Leader	Maggie Sambo
Clearwater Forest Task Leader	Casey Chapman
Self-Development of People	George O'Neill
Presbyterian Women Task Leader	Paula Christensen
Univ. Jamestown Task Leader	Bill Weispenning
Earth Care Task Leader	Cathy Scheibe

Nominating Committee

Committee Chair	Rev. Robert Drake
Committee Member	vacant
Committee Member	vacant
Committee Member	vacant

Committee on Representation

Committee Chair	Rev. Mary Holtey (term expired)
Committee Member	Lana Schultz (term expired)
Committee Member	vacant

Clearwater Forest Board

Board Representative	Maggie Sambo (class of 2024)
Board Representative	Casey Chapman (class of 2027)

Self-Development of People

Chair	George O'Neill (class of 2025)
Member	Jihan Brifki (class of 2024)
Member	Paul Zondo (class of 2024)
Member	JoAnn Zutz (class of 2024)
Member	Ann Roberts (class of 2025)
Member	Robert Drake (class of 2025)

Permanent Judicial Commission (6-year terms)

Member	Sheri Orser (class of 2024)
Member	Karen MacDonald (class of 2024)
Member	Gracia Fulwiler (class of 2024)
Member	Robin Dill (class of 2027)
Member	Fred MacGregor (expired 2022)
Member	vacant

Synod and National Level Positions

GA Teaching Elder 2024	Rev. Spencer Homan
GA Ruling Elder 2024	Jamie Norstog
GA and Synod YAAD	vacant
GA Teaching Elder 2024 Sub.	Rev. Robert Drake
GA Ruling Elder 2024 Sub.	Elizabeth Swee
Synod Teaching Elder	Vacant
Synod Ruling Elder	Elizabeth Swee (class of 2025)
YAAD Synod Representative	vacant

Self-Development of People

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

Spring Presbytery Meeting

April 2024

Our Presbytery's Self-Development of People (SDOP) committee provided a grant in our region for the first time since 2016. The recipients were farmers graduating from the New Roots Farm Incubator Cooperative which provides training in farming techniques to immigrant and other disadvantaged farmers. After graduating from the incubator, farmers have the option to lease or buy a plot of land from the non-profit PRAIRIE (Prairie Rose Agricultural Institute for Research, Innovation, & Education), located in Felton, Minnesota. The SDOP funds will be used by graduating farmers to cover the cost of leasing a plot of land and other needs in order to begin farming. The total fund was \$5,000, which will support at least six farmers who recently graduated from the training program.

The other good news is that we have been recertified by National SDOP for another three years. One of the criteria for recertification is having at least half the committee attend a Zoom training session provided by National SDOP. Four of our seven members were able to attend the training together. We thank the First Presbyterian Church of Fargo for providing space and equipment for the meeting, and especially their hospitality.

We continue to attend local meetings involving social justice-related events to explain our mission and make our presence known in the community. For example, I will be speaking at the ND Human Rights Summit on April 13, 2024, and educating folks about the SDOP mission and the criteria for securing a grant. A reminder: SDOP grants do not go to organizations helping others. The funds go to, and are controlled by, the people applying for the grant themselves.

Submitted by: George O'Neill

2024 SPRING GATHERING
Presbyterian Women of Northern Plains Presbytery
at the Community Center in Arvilla, North Dakota



WHEN: Saturday, April 27, 2024
REGISTRATION: 10:00 a.m. COST: \$15.00

SPEAKER: Louella Voigt from Luverne, Minnesota, a member of the USA Mission Experience to the Arizona-Mexico border, will share her perspective on immigration issues.

RSVP by April 22, 2024 to: Lana Schultz by phone 701-238-4538 or at lanaj0@casselton.net

Items to bring for the clothing closet mission at Bdecan Presbyterian Church are: Household items, such as bedding and kitchen items, are in great need. If you are cleaning out your closets or downsizing, the clothing closet is always in need of t-shirts, sweatshirts, jeans, shorts, outerwear, shoes, and all types of children's clothes.

\$10.00 Gift Cards from Lowe's, Walmart, Target and Amazon will be collected for Churchwide's mission to Bethel House for developmentally disabled adults and Presbyterian Children's Homes for programs for vulnerable children and strengthening families and communities.

CPMT April 2024 Report

The Chogoria Partnership Ministry Team has three new co-chairs: Kayla Bones, Carrie Lauber, and Jamie Norstog. We thank Sharon Secor for her many years of leading the CPMT. Sharon will still be involved in the committee but will no longer be chair.

We are in the process of transitioning leadership and all that entails. Scholarship money has been dispersed for the 2024 school year.

We have invited our partners to come in October. They will be here for the presbytery meeting if their visas are approved. The group of 9 has their visa interview appointments on April 23. Please pray for a good outcome.

Submitted by: Jamie Norstog