

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	Sveet, 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



Presbytery of the Northern Plains

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

5555 South Washington Street ~ Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201

Ph: (701) 248-0227 email: pnpooffice@gmail.com

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March 25, 2024

Moderator

Tom Brusegaard

701-215-0300

gilbyguy@gmail.com

Vice Moderator

Sylvia Pringle

701-320-0190

mamachips1@gmail.com

Stated Clerk

Adam Montgomery

701-361-4644

pnpstatedclerk@gmail.com

Treasurer

Ellen Misialek

701-520-3220

emisialek@invisimax.com

Communications Coordinator

Jenn Kolodka

701-248-0227

pnpooffice@gmail.com

Connectional Care Pastor

Rev. Deanna Reikow

701-426-3857

drfpcmandan@hotmail.com

CALL TO STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024 - 10 A.M.

The spring meeting of the presbytery is called for **SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024 at 10:00 AM** on the campus of the **UNIVERSITY OF JAMESTOWN**, Unruh-Sheldon Centre, 706 College Lane, Jamestown, ND. Registration and fellowship hour will begin at 9:00 AM.

This hybrid meeting will be available electronically, via Zoom, by using this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7308595259?pwd=R1puRGwzc3NlU2tEYkNQK2RCK24zUT09&omn=89935272758>

Orientation for new commissioners will be held at 9:30 AM.

Individual lunch will be available at the university's dining center.

Ministers of the Word & Sacrament and Ruling Elder Commissioners are asked to register your physical OR virtual attendance using this link:
<https://forms.gle/S2rJSAgFF12ARFqu9>

Meeting agenda and reports will be available on the PNP website on April 6.

Please contact Jenn Kolodka for registration matters and Adam Montgomery for meeting business.

Respectfully,

Adam R. Montgomery
Acting Stated Clerk

130th Stated Meeting of
The Presbytery of the Northern Plains

April 20, 2024 - 10:00 AM

Unruh-Sheldon Centre, University of Jamestown

1. Call to Order - Opening Prayer
2. Worship
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Election of the Stated Clerk
6. Introduction of First-time Ministers and Commissioners
7. Seating of Corresponding Members
8. Approval of the October 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes
9. Consent Agenda
 - a. Officer Reports
 - b. Stated Clerk's Report
 - c. Pod Reports
 - d. Committee Reports
 - e. Synod Commissioner's Reports
 - f. Partner Reports
10. Unfinished Business
11. Annual Statistical Report
12. Amendments to the Constitution/Proposed Overtures
13. Good News
14. Nominating Committee
15. Adjourn - Closing Prayer

PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS
ONE HUNDRED and TWENTY-NINTH STATED MEETING
October 13, 2023

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its stated meeting at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Casselton, North Dakota, on Friday, October 13, 2023.

Moderator Ruling Elder (RE) Tom Brusegaard called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Commissioned Ruling Elder Casey Chapmen led the Presbytery in worship. Holy Communion was celebrated as part of the service. An offering of \$286 was taken for a purpose to be determined by the Leadership Pod.

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	
	Benz, Lorelee	CLP, Baker Downer	
299	Billings, Dan	HR	E
101	Bigwood, Sarah	Fargo First	P
299	Bishop, Catherine	HR	E
101	Boyar, Robert	Jamestown United	P
797	Burger-Perry, Deborah	Member at Large	A
107	Chapman, Casey	CLP Grandin/Hunter	P
299	Christman, David	HR	E
299	Cory, Daniel	HR	E
299	Danielson, Cheri	HR	E
299	Danielson, Marli	HR	E
101	Dill, Robin	Grafton Federated & Minto Knox	P
101	Drake, Robert	Moorhead First	P
101	Dumont, Trudy	Devils Lake Westminster & Webster Chapel	A
797	Emerson, Nancy	Member at Large	P

299	Graf, Gretchen	HR	E
299	Graham, Ron	HR	E
103	Holtey, Mary	Fargo First	E
101	Homan, Spencer	Grand Forks First	P
151	Kana-Mackey, Sue	Langdon	A
299	Kargard, Rick	HR	E
299	Kincaid, Jacob	HR	E
	Krumm, Barbara	CLP, Ellendale	
101	Landwehr, Marjorie	Hallock First	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, Midway Parish	P
101	Ozaki, Michael	Crookston First	A
101	Reikow, Deanna	Mandan First	E
791	Rhoad, Johnny		A
101	Sanders, Ruth		A
	Schnackenberg, Dave	CLP, Rolla & St John	Z
101	Simmons, Leanne	Bismarck First	A
	Sorenson, Raenelle	CLP, Arvilla	
701	Suk, David	Grand Forks Hope Korean	A
501	Sveet, Elaine	Minot Zion Lutheran	A
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

Congregations

Congregation	Ruling Elder Commissioners	Attended via Zoom
Angus, Angus-Tabor Presbyterian	-	
Argyle, Community Presbyterian	-	
Arvilla, Arvilla Presbyterian	-	
Baker, Westminster Presbyterian	-	
Bismarck, First Presbyterian	Rusty J. Bender	
	-	
	-	
Bismarck, Glencoe Sloan Memorial	-	
Bottineau, United Parish	-	
Buffalo, First Presbyterian	-	
Calvin, Glenila Presbyterian	-	

Casselton, Westminster	Lana Schultz	
Cavalier, Cavalier Presbyterian	Zelda Hartje	X
Colgate, Colgate Presbyterian	-	
Cooperstown, First Presbyterian	-	
Crookston, First Presbyterian	-	
Devils Lake, Westminster Presbyterian	-	
Dilworth, Dilworth Presbyterian	-	
East Grand Forks, Mendenhall Presbyterian	-	
	-	
Edgeley, First Presbyterian	-	
Ellendale, Presbyterian United Methodist	-	
Fairview, Community Presbyterian	-	
Fargo, First Presbyterian	Deb Dawson	
	Elaine Rudd	
	Bruce Maylath	
Fordville, Community Presbyterian	-	
Forest River, Community Presbyterian	-	
Gilby, Gilby Presbyterian	-	
Grafton, Federated Church	-	
Grand Forks, First Presbyterian	-	
	-	
Grandin, Grandin Presbyterian	Donna Preston	
Hallock, First Presbyterian	-	
	-	
Hamilton, First Presbyterian	-	
Hannah, Hannah Presbyterian	-	
Hunter, First Presbyterian	-	
Inkster, Inkster Presbyterian	-	
Jamestown, United Presbyterian	-	
	-	
LaMoure, First Presbyterian	-	
Langdon, Presbyterian Church of Langdon	Clinton A. Ericksen	
Lisbon, First Presbyterian	-	
Mandan, First Presbyterian	Stephan A Schroeder	X
	-	
Minto, Knox Presbyterian	Ellen Misialek	
Moorhead, First Presbyterian	Erik Swee	
	George O'Neill	
	Elizabeth Swee	
Oakes, First Presbyterian	-	
Park River, Federated Church	-	
Pillsbury, Baldwin Presbyterian	-	
Portal, First Presbyterian	-	

Red Lake Falls, First Presbyterian	-	
Rhame, Lyle Presbyterian	-	
Rolla, Presbyterian Church of Rolla/St. John	-	
	-	
Rugby, Emmanuel United Church	-	
Tower City, Tower City Presbyterian	Mary Cockerill	
Towner, Towner Presbyterian	-	
Walhalla, Park Center-Walhalla	-	
Watford City, First Presbyterian	-	
Webster, Webster Chapel	Wayne Lindenberg	X
West Fargo, Community Presbyterian	Kevin Galt	
	-	
Westhope, First Presbyterian	-	
Wilton, First Presbyterian	-	

Others Attending

Attendee	Position	Attended via Zoom
Tom Brusegaard	Moderator	
Sylvia Pringle	Vice Moderator	
Richard Francis	Temporary Stated Clerk	
Sherri A Stern	Financial Task Leader	
Kathy Francis	Visitor	
Joyce M Ericksen	Visitor	
Jennifer Kolodka	Visitor, Communications Coord.	X

The Clerk advised that a quorum was present, and the Moderator declared a quorum present. A quorum as stated in the Bylaws, Article IV, B-4.0500 is as follows: *a quorum of the Presbytery shall be any three teaching elder members and the ruling elder members present, provided that at least three churches are represented by elders.*

First-time Commissioners and Ministers were introduced.

REQUIRING NO ACTION BUT REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED:

INSURANCE.

In compliance with the Book of Order (G-3.0112) requirement that "Each council shall obtain property and liability insurance coverage to protect its facilities, programs, staff, and elected and appointed officers" and the Synod of the Lakes and Prairies requirement that the extent of such insurance coverage be noted annually in the Presbytery minutes, the Presbytery of the Northern Plains spread upon its minutes that it currently has in force and effect the following insurance coverage:

General liability

Each Occurrence Limit \$ 1,000,000
General Aggregate Limit \$ 2,000,000

Sexual Misconduct or Molestation Aggregate Limit \$ 600,000
Products-completed Operations Aggregate Limit \$ 2,000,000
Personal and Advertising Injury Limit \$ 1,000,000
Damage to Rental Property \$ 100,000
Medical expense limit (anyone person) \$ 5,000
Employers' liability endorsement \$500,000/500,000/500,000
Payroll \$ 50,000
Employee Theft \$ 100,000
Forgery or Alteration \$ 10,000
Religious Institutions Wrongful Acts \$ 1,000,000/1,000,000
Business Auto Coverage \$ 1,000,000

The insurance is carried through Vaaler Ins. Inc. at an annual cost of \$1,618.00.
The current policy renews annually and covers the period from October 31, 2022, through October 31, 2023.

FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: Reports are Attached.

Officer Reports
Stated Clerk's Report
Pod Reports
Committee Reports
Synod Commissioner Report
Partner Reports
Minutes of the April 22, 2023 meeting

M/S/C to approve the Consent Agenda.

GOOD NEWS. Several members of the Presbytery shared good news from local congregations. Prayers were requested for Rev. Deanna Reikow, whose grandfather passed away. George O'Neill presented the report of the Self Development of People Committee, attached.

Robert Drake called the Presbytery's attention to the report of the Stated Clerk Search Committee, attached.

Robert Drake presented the report of the Nominating Committee. M/S/C to approve the Nominating Committee report and to elect the following:

--RE Sylvia Pringle, Vice Moderator, Class of 2024.
--RE Mary Barrett, Personnel Committee, Class of 2026
--CLP Casey Chapman, Clearwater Forest Board, Class of 2026

Donna Monteith presented the request for sale of the Buffalo church manse for an asking price of \$185,000. M/S/C to approve the sale. Documentation of the details of the sale are attached.

The Presbytery recessed for lunch at 11:24 a.m. The Moderator led the Presbytery in prayer for the meal.

The Presbytery reconvened at 12:32 p.m.

Ellen Misialek presented the Treasurer's Report, attached, and the proposed Presbytery budget for 2024, attached. Ellen called on Sherri Stern to summarize the Presbytery investment funds. Sherri noted that money was withdrawn from the reserve funds in 2022 to balance the mission budget. Ellen report that because of some unexpected income in 2023 such a withdrawal will not be necessary this year. M/S/C to receive the Treasurer's Report.

M/S/C to approve the budget, which includes Per Capita of \$37.40 for the Presbytery for 2024. Per Capita for General Assembly will be \$9.80 and for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies will be \$5.50, for a total of \$50.00.

Sharon Secor and Kayla Bones presented a report on the Youth Connection/Chogoria Partners trip to Chogoria, Kenya.

Elizabeth Swee was nominated as Ruling Elder Alternate Delegate to the 2024 General Assembly. The Moderator called for other nominations from the floor. No nominations were made. M/S/C to

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Review of Financial Records as required - Attached.

Financial Task Force/Investments - report attached.

Personnel Committee - report attached

Mission Pod - report attached

Bdecan Ministry Team - report attached

Presbyterian Women Grant Application

University of Jamestown - report attached

Clearwater Forest Camp and Retreat Center - report attached:

There was no Unfinished Business

No further business appearing, the Moderator closed the meeting with prayer at 1:45 p.m.

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains will be held

Saturday, April 24, 2024 at the United Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, North Dakota.

**Presbytery of the Northern Plains
Financial Task Force / Investments**

March 31, 2024

**New Covenant Trust Company
Presbyterian Foundation**

Total Fund Balance

March 31, 2024 **\$1,425,396.52**

3/31/2024

-PNP Endowed Acct XXX0527 \$893,829.43

-PNP Support Acct XXX0551 \$531,567.09

December 31, 2023 **\$1,351,399.40**

12/31/2023

-PNP Endowed Acct XXX0527 \$847,427.76

-PNP Support Fund Acct XXX0551 \$503,971.64

December 31, 2022 **\$1,214,983.74**

12/31/22

-PNP Endowed Acct XXX0527 \$ 770,312.29

-PNP Support Fund Acct XXX0551 \$ 444,671.45

Questions regarding this report or further documentation of the information provided may be requested from Sherri Stern.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Stern

PNP Financial Task Force Moderator

John.sherri.stern@gmail.com

701-429-3522

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

Presbytery of the No. Plains	Per Capita 2021	Per Capita 2022	Per Capita 2023	Per Capita 2024		
Approved Budget & Actual YTD 2024	3343x\$48=	3253x\$48=	GA \$9.85; SLP \$5.50;	GA \$9.80; SLP \$5.50;		
Prior Years Financial Date	\$160,464	\$156,144	PNP \$34.65; Total \$50	PNP \$34.70;Total \$50		
PNP Mtg-4/20/2024			3146x\$50=\$157,300	3028x\$50=\$151,400		
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual thru	Budget	Actual
	2021	2022	2023	12/31/2023	2024	3/31/2024
CASH FLOW - GENERAL FUND						
Loan Repayment		500		1000		
Per Capita (Prior Years)	110	1224	500	18113	1000	
Per Capita (Current Year)	135821	125761	157300	132058	151400	36439
Uncollectible Per Capita			-20000		-25000	
New Covenant Investment Inc.			40000			
Investment Income	371	885	300	3265	2000	922
Mission Support/Pres. Endowment					41625	
Miscellaneous Income	618	3	100	680	100	1500
Synod Support	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	2500
PNP Unified Mission	34228	33819	24000	29474	24000	5133
Steele Church Closing				19809	8385	2795
Reimbursable Donations	95	0				
Total Fiscal Cash Flow-In	181243	172192	212200	214399	213510	49289
Transfers from Foundation						
Total Income and Transfers	181243	172192	212200	214399	213510	49289
DISBURSEMENTS						
Per Capita Payment to GA	30020	29212	30988	30988	29674	9674
Per Capita Payment to Synod	18387	17892	17303	17303	16654	6654
Total Per Capita Payments	48407	47104	48291	48291	46328	16328
Personnel Expense						
PNP Leader-Salary & Housing	58333					
PNP Leader-BOP & Benefits	23742					
PNP Leader-Continuing Ed	1600					
PNP Leader-SECA	4463					
PNP Leader-Travel & Prof. Ex.	1904					
Connectional Care Pastor-Salary			28000	18667	28840	7210
Connectional Care Pastor-BOP**			9528	9528	14292	3573
Connectional Care Pastor-Travel			5000	2228	5000	109
Connectional Care Pastor-Prof. Ex.			5000	1379	5000	600
Connectional Care-Intern Program					500	
Director of Communications-Salary			25000	25000	25750	6438
Director of Communications-Travel			5000		250	
Director of Communications-Prof.Ex.			5000	611	500	
Personnel Expense-FICA	2662	2012	6750	3051	3142	1111
Stated Clerk-Salary	20400	11900	20400	23800	20400	4250
Stated Clerk-Office Ex & Travel	764	29	1000	1156	1000	
Bookkeeper-Salary	14400	14400	14880	14880	15326	3831
Workers Compensation	250	250	250	250	250	
Total Personnel Expense	128518	28591	125808	100550	120250	27122

Office Expense

Books & Subscriptions	0		50			
Equipment	0		1500	1262	1500	
Finance Software	270	270	270	270	270	389
Insurance	1619	1618	1650	1618	1650	
Postage	385	87	500	141	300	
Supplies & Miscellaneous	776	949	2000	1058	1000	311
Telephone & Zoom	933	1242	1000	416	600	51
Total Office Expense	3983	4166	6970	4765	5320	751

Administrative Expenses

Communications Coordinator	18000	20400	0		0	
Committee on Representation	0		100		100	
Nominating Committee	0		50		50	
Administrative Commissions	0		100		100	
Mediation&Conflict Res.-Team	0		100	284	100	
Educational Events	0	621	1000		1000	
Search Committee Expense	0		1000		1000	
GA Alternates	0		0		4000	
Moderator	163	278	500	290	500	
Presbytery Meetings	0	200	500	150	500	100
Total Administrative Expenses	18163	21499	3350	724	7350	100

Pod Expense & Pledges

Cont. Prep. For Ministry Pod	1323		1500		1500	
Care for Congregations Pod	0		500		500	
Care for Pastoral Leaders Pod	500		500		500	
Leadership Pod	1856	1550	1000	733	1000	
Mission Pod	0		100		100	
Board Reps	0		100		100	
Subtotal Pod Expense	3679	1550	3700	733	3700	0

Undesignated Mission					1500	
Bdecan Food Pantry Pledge	5000	0	0	0	12000	2013
Chogoria Ministry Team	5000	5000	10000	10000	10000	330
Clearwater Forest Pledge	5875	5500	5000	5000	10000	
Univ. of Jamestown Pledge	5875	5500	5000	5000	8000	
Youth Conn. Ministry Team	490	10000	10000	10000	2000	
Subtotal Pledges	22240	26000	30000	30000	43500	2343

Total Disbursements	<u>224990</u>	<u>128910</u>	<u>218119</u>	<u>185063</u>	<u>226448</u>	<u>46644</u>
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Net Position before Reserves	-43747	43282	-5919	29336	-12938	2645
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Transfers to/from Reserves	<u>43747</u>	<u>-43282</u>			<u>14000</u>	
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Net Position after Reserves	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			<u>1062</u>	
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Disbursed from other funds in 2021 Grants \$10,027

Disbursed from other funds in 2022 Grants \$3850

Disbursed from other funds in 2023 Grants \$13,249

2024 Grants:

March 2024: Small Church Ministries Grant, Jamestown UPC, \$2000, Wall-mounted Camera

PNP Budget Report 2024

April 20, 2024 PNP Mtg.

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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 Sweet

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 Weispfenning
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

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. Alexis 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/>

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

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.