

PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS
ONE HUNDRED and THIRTY-SECOND STATED MEETING

April 5, 2025

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its stated meeting in the Reiland Fine Arts Building on the campus of the University of Jamestown (ND).

Moderator Ruling Elder (RE) Tom Brusegaard called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM and opened with prayer.

Corday Goddard led the Presbytery in worship. Holy Communion was celebrated as part of the service. An offering was taken for the benefit of Unified Mission.

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
299	Benz, Lorelee	HR	E
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	
107	Campbell, Paul	CLP, Casselton	P
107	Chapman, Casey	CLP, Grandin-Hunter	
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	
101	Dumont, Trudy	Devils Lake	Z
797	Emerson, Nancy	Member at Large	Z
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
107	Krumm, Barbara	CLP, Ellendale	
101	Landwehr, Marjorie	Hallock	
107	Legerski, Nancy	CLP, Bismarck	
299	Mansell, Henry	HR	E
299	McCullough, Cheryl	HR	E
299	McDowell, Martha	HR	E
299	Monteith, Donna	HR	P
101	Ozaki, Michael	Crookston	
101	Reikow, Deanna	Mandan	P
791	Rhoad, Johnny		
101	Sanders, Ruth	Crookston (UMC)	
107	Schnackenberg, Dave	CLP, Rolla-St John	Z
101	Simmons, Leanne	Bismarck	
107	Sorenson, Raenelle	CLP, Arvilla	Z
701	Suk, David	GF Hope Korean	
501	Sweet, Elaine	Minot (Zion Lutheran)	
299	Swanson, Joan	HR	E
299	Watts, Gary	HR	E
299	Wolpert, David	HR	E
299	Woodford, Don	HR	E

Congregation	Ruling Elder Commissioners	In Person or Zoom
Angus, Angus-Tabor Presbyterian		
Arvilla, Arvilla Presbyterian	Brenda Beck	Z
Baker, Westminster Presbyterian		
Bismarck, First Presbyterian	Jim Skaret	Z
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		
Crookston, First Presbyterian		
Devils Lake, Westminster Presb.	Katie Nettell	Z
Dilworth, Dilworth Presbyterian		
East Grand Forks, Mendenhall		
Edgeley, First Presbyterian		
Ellendale, Presbyterian		
Fairview, Community Presbyterian		
Fargo, First Presbyterian	Bruce Maylath Brian McClure Richard Laraway	P P P
Fordville, Community Presbyterian		
Forest River, Midway Parish		
Gilby, Gilby Presbyterian		
Grafton, Federated Church		
Grand Forks, First Presbyterian	Ben Shannon Thyra Knapp	P P
Grandin, Grandin Presbyterian	Donna Preston	Z
Hallock, First Presbyterian	Betty Younggren	Z
Hamilton, First Presbyterian		
Hannah, Hannah Presbyterian		
Hunter, First Presbyterian		
Inkster, Inkster Presbyterian		
Jamestown, United Presbyterian	Bill Weispfenning Tiffany Dauer	P P
LaMoure, First Presbyterian		
Langdon, Presbyterian Church		
Lisbon, First Presbyterian	Ross Cole	P
Mandan, First Presbyterian		
Minto, Knox Presbyterian	Ellen Misialek	P
Moorhead, First Presbyterian	Elizabeth Swee George O'Neill	P P
Oakes, First Presbyterian		
Park River, Federated Church		
Pillsbury, Baldwin Presbyterian		
Portal, First Presbyterian		
Red Lake Falls, First Presbyterian		
Rhame, Lyle Presbyterian		
Rolla-St John, Presbyterian Church		
Rugby, Emmanuel United Church		

Tower City, Tower City Presbyterian	Mary Cockerill	P
Towner, Towner Presbyterian		
Walhalla, Park Center-Walhalla		
Watford City, First Presbyterian		
Webster, Webster Chapel	Wayne Lindenberg	P
West Fargo, Community Presb.	Carrie Lauber	P
Westhope, First Presbyterian		

Others in Attendance	Position	In Person or Zoom
Tom Brusegaard	Moderator	P
Rusty Bender	Vice Moderator	P
Adam Montgomery	Stated Clerk	P
Ellen Misialek	Treasurer	P
Jennifer Kolodka	Visitor, Office Admin	P
Jamie Norstog	Chogoria Ministry Team	P
Corday Goddard	CLP (Fargo)	P

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

Approval of the Agenda – Bender/Campbell/Carried.

Seating of Correspondence – The University of Jamestown Campus Ministry Team will be heard upon arrival. No other correspondents were present.

Rev. Bob Boyar introduced first time attendees, Tiffany Dauer of United Presbyterian of Jamestown, Ben Shannon of Grand Forks First Presbyterian, and Thyra Knapp of Grand Forks First Presbyterian.

Consent Agenda – Campbell/Bigwood/Carried.

In the interest of time and efficiency, Item 9 – Lunch Recess was postponed and Moderator Brusegaard moved to Item 10.

2024 Annual Statistical Report - (Stated Clerk Adam Montgomery).
Bigwood/Bender/Approved.

Preparation for Ministry Report - (Rev. Spencer Homan) - Corday Goddard, Carrie Lauber and Rusty Bender were in attendance. Report submitted. Report Received.

Rev. Deanna Reikow requested the Connectional Care Pastor Report be returned after the lunch recess. The request was granted by Moderator Brusegaard.

Care for Congregations Report - (Rev. Sarah Bigwood). Report submitted.

Additional information from Rev. Bigwood included the potential merger of the Care for Pastoral Leaders and Care for Congregations pods. Community Presbyterian Church in West Fargo has called Rev. Jason Cunningham as a full-time pastor, effective May 15, 2025. Rev. Bigwood read aloud Rev. Cunningham's biographical introduction.

Approve the Call of Rev. Cunningham. Reikow/Holtey/Approved.

Administrative Commission to install Rev. Cunningham: Campbell, Lauber, Boyar, Holtey.

Per Capita debt forgiveness program.

Moorhead: Bigwood added a statement that Nancy Emerson, monthly pulpit supply and continues to celebrate Holy Communion.

Motion to accept the dissolution of Rev. Robert Drake from Moorhead Presbyterian Church (from committee). Approved.

Park River is updating their space using a large financial gift.

Moderator Brusegaard recessed the meeting with prayer for lunch at 11:15 AM (Expected call back is 12:30 PM).

The Stated Meeting was Called Back to Order by Vice Moderator Bender at 12:30 PM.

Connectional Care Pastor Report - (Rev. Deanna Reikow)

Rev. Reikow recognized Ellen Misialek for her work with a special Easter gift. Donna Preston was also recognized. Rev. Mary Holtey was recognized for her work, both in the church and the Presbytery. Adam Montgomery and Jenn Kolodka were recognized for their staff work. Elizabeth Swee was recognized for her representation with the Synod and the church at large.

Youth Triennium – Rev. Reikow shared the anxiety of youth. Crowd size is a factor for many people. Rev. Reikow highlighted the importance of small churches and those that are served by them.

Chogoria Team Report - (Jamie Norstog and Carrie Lauber). No written report.

Motion that today's worship offering, totaling \$463.00, be directed to Chogoria's Sponsorship Mission. Misialek/Bigwood/Carried.

Motion to Recess. Bigwood/McClure/Carried.

226th General Assembly Amendments

Omnibus motion to approve amendments. Bigwood/Emerson/Carried.

Amendments pulled out for discussion: Rev. Boyar 24-C, Wayne Lindenberg 24-A, Rev. Boyar 24-M

Accepted Omnibus motion, approved.

24- A F-1.0403

Wayne Lindenberg (Webster) spoke against the amendment.

Thyra Knapp (First Presbyterian Grand Forks) spoke in favor.

Bruce Mayleth (Fargo) asked for the original reading. Montgomery read it.

DO APPROVE

24-C G-2.0104b

Rev. Boyar spoke to his sole work and responsibility as Admissions and Departures Examiner. Boyar encouraged a NO vote.

Rev. Reikow spoke to the process of background checks and interviews in the hiring process. Reikow spoke to the diverse number of people who participate in the process.

CRE Paul Campbell shared he served as one of the commissioned representatives at the General Assembly. He shared how the “right of conscience” is already in the Book of Order and this addition is not necessary.

DO NOT APPROVE

24-M Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries

Rev. Boyar inquired as to who had worshiped at an Episcopal church and the differences. He does not support this amendment.

Rev. Nancy Emerson (online) noted how this agreement would benefit the small and rural area churches. She supports the amendment.

Ross Cole (Lisbon) shared his thoughts on small churches sharing is likely to be the future.

CRE Campbell spoke in support of the amendment and shared this came from his GA committee.

DO APPROVE

Sharing of Good News

George O'Neil, Self-Development of People Committee. Funded by *One Great Hour of Sharing*. O'Neil shared a story of encountering one of the sponsored farmers at the Fargo Farmers Market. A true success story.

Ellen Misialek shared The University of Jamestown Campus Ministry Team is alive and well. Misialek shared the group's appreciation for the financial gift made last year.

Rev. Boyar highlighted his first new member after joining was Tiffany Dauer, who is now at her first Presbytery meeting.

Lana Schultz shared Presbyterian Women will be in Langdon (see packet). Schultz reminded the body PW has money available for grants, up to \$2,000.00.

Rev. Reikow shared an update on Rev. Leanne Simmons.

There was NO Unfinished Business.

Move to Adjourn – Boyar/ Laraway/Carried.

With a closing prayer, the Regular Meeting of the Presbytery was adjourned at 2:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam R. 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

www.northernplainspresbytery.com

Moderator

Tom Brusegaard

701-215-0300

gilbyguy@gmail.com

Vice Moderator

Rusty Bender

701-840-2618

rbender@firstpresfargo.org

Stated Clerk

Adam Montgomery

701-361-4644

pnpstatedclerk@gmail.com

Treasurer

Ellen Misialek

701-520-3220

emisialek@outlook.com

Communications Coordinator

Jenn Kolodka

701-248-0227

pnpooffice@gmail.com

Connectional Care Pastor

Rev. Deanna Reikow

701-426-3857

drfpcmandan@hotmail.com

March 24, 2025

CALL TO STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY

The spring meeting of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains is called for

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025 at 10:00 AM at the

UNIVERSITY of JAMESTOWN, Reiland Fine Arts Building, Room #123

in JAMESTOWN, ND

Registration and fellowship hour will begin at 9:00 AM.

Worship Service will be led by Corday Goddard (CLP) at 10:00 AM.

Meeting Agenda will begin after Worship, approximately 10:45 AM.

This hybrid meeting will be available electronically, via Zoom, by using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7308595259?pwd=R1puRGwzc3NJU2tEYkNQK2RCK24zUT09&omn=86495264087>

Ministers of the Word & Sacrament and Ruling Elder Commissioners are asked to register your physical -OR- virtual attendance using this link:

<https://forms.gle/264EgCtX3yNEyiBE8>

The meeting agenda, Zoom link, previous meeting minutes, and reports will be available on the PNP website:

<https://www.northernplainspresbytery.com/presbytery-meeting>

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

Respectfully,

Adam R. Montgomery, J.D.

Stated Clerk

132nd Stated Meeting of
The Presbytery of the Northern Plains

April 5, 2025 - 10:00 AM

University of Jamestown, Jamestown, ND

1. Call to Order - Opening Prayer
2. Worship, including Necrology Report
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Seating of Corresponding Members
6. Approval of the October 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes
7. Correspondence - University of Jamestown, Campus Ministry Team, et al
8. Consent Agenda
 - a. Officer Reports
 - b. Stated Clerk's Report
 - c. Pod Reports
 - d. Committee Reports
 - e. Synod Commissioner's Reports
 - f. Partner Reports
9. Recess for lunch
10. 2024 Annual Statistical Report
11. Preparation for Ministry Report
12. Connectional Care Pastor Report
13. Care for Congregations Report
14. Chogoria Team Report
15. 226th General Assembly Amendments to the Constitution
16. Good News
17. Unfinished Business
18. Adjourn - Closing Prayer

PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS
ONE HUNDRED and THIRTY-FIRST STATED MEETING

October 12, 2024

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its stated meeting at the First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks, ND, on Saturday, October 12, 2024.

Moderator Ruling Elder (RE) Tom Brusegaard called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM and opened with prayer.

Rev. Dr. Spencer Homan led the Presbytery in worship. Holy Communion was celebrated as part of the service. An offering was taken for the benefit of Small Church Ministries.

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
299	Benz, Lorelee	Retired	E
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	
107	Campbell, Paul	CLP, Casselton	P
107	Chapman, Casey	CLP, Grandin-Hunter	P
299	Christman, David	HR	E
299	Cory, Darrel	HR	E
299	Danielson, Cheri	HR	E
299	Danielson, Marli	HR	E
101	Dill, Robin	Grafton, Minto	P
101	Drake, Robert	Moorhead	
101	Dumont, Trudy	Devils Lake	Z
797	Emerson, Nancy	Member at Large	P

299	Graf, Gretchen	HR	E
299	Graham, Ron	HR	E
103	Holtey, Mary	Fargo	Z
101	Homan, Spencer	Grand Forks	P
151	Kana-Mackey, Sue	Langdon	
299	Kargard, Rick	HR	E
299	Kincaid, Jacob	HR	E
107	Krumm, Barbara	CLP, Ellendale	
101	Landwehr, Marjorie	Hallock	Z
107	Legerski, Nancy	CLP, Bismarck	P
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	P
101	Ozaki, Michael	Crookston	P
101	Reikow, Deanna	Mandan	E
791	Rhoad, Johnny		
101	Sanders, Ruth	Crookston (UMC)	P
107	Schnackenberg, Dave	CLP, Rolla-St John	Z
101	Simmons, Leanne	Bismarck	Z
107	Sorenson, Raenelle	CLP, Arvilla	P
701	Suk, David	GF Hope Korean	P
501	Sveet, Elaine	Minot (Zion Lutheran)	
299	Swanson, Joan	HR	E
299	Watts, Gary	HR	E
151	Werth, John	Pembina County Parish	
299	Wolpert, Daniel	HR	E
299	Woodford, Don	HR	E

Congregation	Ruling Elder Commissioners	In Person or Zoom
Angus, Angus-Tabor Presbyterian		
Arvilla, Arvilla Presbyterian		
Baker, Westminster Presbyterian		
Bismarck, First Presbyterian	Becky Rosenkranz Jim Skaret	Z Z
Bismarck, Glencoe Sloan Memorial		
Bottineau, United Parish		
Buffalo, First Presbyterian		
Calvin, Glenila Presbyterian		
Casselton, Westminster Presb.	Lana Schultz	P
Cavalier, Cavalier Presbyterian	Zelda Hartje	P
Colgate, Colgate Presbyterian		
Cooperstown, First Presbyterian	Vickie Goplen	P
Crookston, First Presbyterian		

Devils Lake, Westminster Presb.	Marvin Mead	Z
Dilworth, Dilworth Presbyterian		
East Grand Forks, Mendenhall	Marilynn Ogden	P
Edgeley, First Presbyterian		
Ellendale, Presbyterian		
Fairview, Community Presbyterian		
Fargo, First Presbyterian	Elaine Rudd	Z
	Bruce Mayleth	P
	Brian McClure	P
	Rusty Bender	P
Fordville, Community Presbyterian		
Forest River, Midway Parish		
Gilby, Gilby Presbyterian		
Grafton, Federated Church	Gale Fisher	P
Grand Forks, First Presbyterian	Anne Bryson	P
	Kelly Faller	P
Grandin, Grandin Presbyterian	Donna Preston	P
Hallock, First Presbyterian		
Hamilton, First Presbyterian		
Hannah, Hannah Presbyterian		
Hunter, First Presbyterian		
Inkster, Inkster Presbyterian		
Jamestown, United Presbyterian	Jerome Zamgba	P
	Mary Reed	P
LaMoure, First Presbyterian		
Langdon, Presbyterian Church	Clinton Esckilsen	P
Lisbon, First Presbyterian		
Mandan, First Presbyterian	Steve Schroeder	Z
Minto, Knox Presbyterian	Ellen Misialek	P
Moorhead, First Presbyterian	Erik Swee	P
	Elizabeth Swee	P
	George O'Neill	Z
Oakes, First Presbyterian	Dorothea Rath	Z
Park River, Federated Church	Carmen Bell	Z
Pillsbury, Baldwin Presbyterian		
Portal, First Presbyterian		
Red Lake Falls, First Presbyterian		
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 Lindenberg	P
West Fargo, Community Presb.	Carrie Lauber	P
	Andrew Thostenson	Z

Westhope, First Presbyterian		
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Others in Attendance	Position	In Person or Zoom
Tom Brusegaard	Moderator	P
Sylvia Pringle	Vice Moderator	P
Adam Montgomery	Stated Clerk	P
Sherri Stern	Financial Task Force	P
Jennifer Kolodka	Visitor, Office Admin	P
Erin Anderson	Clearwater Forest Dir.	P
Kyle Nolan	Presbytery Foundation Rep	P
Joyce Eskilsen	Visitor (Langdon)	P
Hazel Merdink	Visitor (Mendenhall)	P
David Mbae	Visitor (Chogoria, Kenya)	P
Dorothy Kithenji	Visitor (Chogoria, Kenya)	P

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

The meeting agenda was amended to add a report by Erin Anderson of Clearwater Forest Camp. The amendment was approved without objection.

Donna Preston, Sarah Bigwood M/S/C: Consent Agenda accepted.

David Mbae and Dorothy Kithenji, Kyle Nolan, Erin Anderson, were received as corresponding members.

With amendments Nancy Emerson, Spencer Homan, Approved.

Call for Correspondence:

Rev. Kyle Nolan, Presbyterian Foundation (PowerPoint presentation).

Dorothy Kithenji and David Mbae, Chogoria Partnership Ministry (written correspondence – *see attached.*) CLP Jamie Norstog spoke about the partnership with Chogoria. Carrie Lauber spoke about her experience in Chogoria and working with Dorothy and David.

Erin Anderson, Executive Director of Clearwater Forest Camp.

Moderator Brusegaard recessed the meeting, with prayer, for lunch at 12:12 PM (1:15).

The Stated Meeting was Called Back to Order by Moderator Brusegaard at 1:17 PM.

There was No Unfinished Business.

Nancy Emerson, Sarah Bigwood M/S/C to accept the statistical report.

The Stated Clerk accepted the Reports of Examination of Session Minutes, pursuant to G-3.0108.

Approval of the FY2025 Annual Budget – Ellen Misialek (*see attached.*)

Treasurer Misialek noted cash flow on an annual basis is now a concern. \$20,000.00 was transferred from the endowment fund to cash flow expenses. It was noted that with the Steele Church now closed, those church funds remaining are now available to Presbytery.

Proposed Budget: two parts for approval.

Per capita has not changed, PNP leadership has elected to decrease their share to maintain per capita at \$50 for 2025. Treasurer Misialek noted approximately 100 congregants are lost every year for the last four years. The situation of decreasing membership is of financial concern. Treasurer Misialek is hopeful we will collect per capita in the amount of \$120,000.00 for the year.

Presbytery staff – Misialek presented a 4% salary increase for presbytery staff.

Nancy Emerson proposed the finance committee review a standard, annual 5% disbursement to fund the budget. Sherri Stern spoke to the notion there is a similar provision available and continued review will be considered.

David Mbae (Chogoria) thanked the Presbytery for our financial support.

Per capita rate for 2025 was M/S/C by Rusty Bender, Donna Preston.

Approval of the FY 2025 Budget was M/S/C Merilynn Ogden, Nancy Emerson.

The Presbytery collected \$525.00 in offering for Small Church Ministries during today's service.

Inkster Church – Care for Congregation Pod withdrew item with no objection.

Report from the 226th General Assembly (GA) - Rev. Dr. Spencer Homan and CRE Paul Campbell

Six main items for our Presbytery: Gun Safety, Rejecting Christian Zionism, Divestment from Fossil Fuels, Special Offerings (four to three/year), Non-binding Board of Pensions Resolution, Both Parts of "Olympia Overture" Passed.

Presbyterian Outlook is available to read highlights of GA work.

Overtures will be voted on within the Presbytery at the next stated meeting.

Next GA will be a hybrid meeting and hosted in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Care for Congregations Report – Rev. Sarah Bigwood

There have been significant changes with the Board of Pensions. There are changes that could possibly affect individual church budgets and pastors are having to pay more into the pension. Rev. Bigwood encourages anyone with questions to contact her.

Creative things are happening to keep pastors in the area. Any ideas needed or can be shared, please share with the committee.

If churches are looking for funding, remember to apply for grant funds.

Rev. Bigwood spoke to the two budgets, the annual and the endowment. She highlighted the forethought that went into the endowment investment that has grown and can now serve our

churches in this Presbytery. The committee continues to look for new ways to use these funds to serve the churches of our Presbytery.

Continuing Preparation for Ministry Report – Rev. Dr. Spencer Homan

Dr. Homan wished to highlight Donna Preston, Corday Goddard, Carrie Lauber as three candidates working to become commissioned lay pastors. Two additional candidates will begin Spring 2025.

Nominating Committee – RE Rusty Bender

Bender replaced Robert Drake in July and joined Leadership Pod in August. He provided a list of candidate nominations (*see attached*).

Bender reviewed the vacancies (page 4 of attachment).

Donna Preston, Donna Monteith M/S/C to name Rusty Bender as transitional Vice Moderator.

Donna Monteith, Spencer Homan M/S/C to name Elizabeth Swee to the Nominating Committee.

Good News

Donna Preston thanked everyone for the B'decan donations.

Nancy Emerson highlighted Erin Anderson's successes with Clearwater Forest.

Darrel (Jamestown) honored to be Christian Education Coordinator and continuing to see an increase in children attending. He also discussed a school in Liberia and its mission to prevent armed African conflict.

Rusty Bender, as Nominations chair, highlighted Sylvia Pringle's vice moderator role and thanked her for her service.

Rev. Jamie Norstog thanked the presbytery for the grant which funds his church's backpack program. Forest River's first attempt at doing Sunday School again in many years. The church brought in 24 students. Grew Youth Group to 30 children.

Rev. Bob Boyar thanked the Presbytery for the grant which purchased his church's live streaming camera. He also asked for prayers for his church's "Lily Grant." \$385k ask!

Rusty Bender, Director of Church Life at First Presbyterian Church – Fargo. Shared gratitude for a grant used for the Peace Summit, which included Youth events at Baker-Downer.

Jenn Kolodka, Communications Coordinator shared the next Stated Presbytery Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 5, 2025.

CRE Paul Campbell – Presbyterian Disaster Mission opportunity, noting the current hurricanes and asked if anyone would like to put together a work team to follow federal assistance. A great mission project.

Rev. Robin Dill, Bigwood M/S/C to adjourn the regular stated meeting of the Presbytery. Moderator Brusegaard closed the meeting with prayer. The Presbytery stands adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam R. Montgomery
Stated Clerk

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

December 31, 2024

Financial Task Force / Investments

New Covenant Trust Company
Presbyterian Foundation

Total Fund Balance

December 31, 2024

\$1,497,193.47

12/31/2024

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| - PNP Endowed Acct XXX0527 | \$952,224.70 |
| - PNP Support Acct XXX0551 | \$544,968.77 |

December 31, 2023

\$1,351,399.40

12/31/2023

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| - PNP Endowed Acct XXX0527 | \$847,427.76 |
| - PNP Support Acct XXX0551 | \$503,971.64 |

Note: Disbursement from Support Account of \$20,000 mid-year to cover cash flow deficit.

Earnings 2024: \$145,793.83 = 9.2%

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

Amended Updated Amount as of March 3, 2025

PNP Investment Account Balances

\$1,518,402.01

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| - Endowment Acct xxx0527 | \$965,476.85 |
| - Support Acct xxx0551 | \$552,925.16 |

Treasurer's Report

The included pages of information show the historical data for the Presbytery's general fund cash flow for 2023, the budget and actual income and expense for 2024, the budget projection for 2025, and the actual income and expense for the period of January 1-March 18, 2025. The 2024 financial information is preliminary. The Fall 2025 Presbytery meeting information will contain the final 2024 report after the financial review has been completed. The Leadership Pod amended the budget for 2025 to include the correct projection of the Board of Pensions dues amount for the Connectional Care Pastor.

In 2024, all staff was in place for the full year: Adam Montgomery, Stated Clerk; Jennifer Kolodka, Communications Coordinator; Rev. Deanna Peterson Reikow, Connectional Care Pastor; and Ellen Misialek, Bookkeeper.

Thank you for the 2024 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, \$9,842.25; Clearwater Forest, \$400; GA Unified Mission, \$5,236.61; One Great Hour of Sharing, \$16,582.91; GA Peace and Global Witness, \$3,418.62; Synod Peace and Global Witness, \$366.95; Pentecost Offering, \$3,648; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, \$1,724; Synod Unified Mission, \$5,797.75; Theological Mission Support, \$1050.08; and University of Jamestown, \$2,700; the grand total is \$50,767.27. These ministries received \$12,232.57 less in 2024 than in 2023.

In 2024, 38 congregations paid their full per capita apportionment, 2 congregations made partial payments, and 16 congregations did not contribute. The total received was \$126,600—\$5,458 less than in 2023. The Presbytery of the Northern Plains remitted its full per capita apportionment to the General Assembly, \$29,674, and to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, \$16,654. During the period of January 1-March 18, 2025, 19 congregations made full payments of their per capita and 6 congregations made partial payments. Thank you for that faithful and prompt response!

Please visit the Presbytery's website www.northernplainspresbytery.com, click on the Financial Programs tab, to see Grant information and access the application forms. Grants are available for Clergy Renewal, Congregational Development, New Church Development, Peace and Global Witness, Seminary Scholarships, and Small Church Ministries. Church officers will also find remittance forms and other helpful documents on the Presbytery's website.

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
Approved & Amended Budget 2025
Prior Years' Financial Info
PNP Meeting April 5, 2025

Per Capita
2023
3146x\$50=
\$157,300

Per Capita 2024
GA \$9.80; SLP \$5.50;
PNP \$34.70; Total \$50
3028x\$50=\$151,400

Per Capita 2025
GA \$10.84; SLP \$5.50;
PNP \$33.66; Total \$50
2898x\$50=\$144,900

CASH FLOW - GENERAL FUND

	Actual 2023	Budget 2024	Actual thru 12/31/2024	Budget 2025	Actual thru 3/18/2025
Loan Repayment	1000		1500		1000
Per Capita (Prior Years)	18113	1000	4700	3000	
Per Capita (Current Year)	132058	151400	126600	144900	33427
Uncollectible Per Capita		-25000		-25000	
Investment Income	3265	2000	3428	3000	295
Endowment Earnings		41625	20000	50000	
Miscellaneous Income	680	100	1500	400	
Synod Support	10000	10000	10000	10000	1667
PNP Unified Mission	29474	24000	28096	25000	8113
Steele Church Closing	19809	8385	8978	0	
Total Fiscal Cash Flow-In	214399	213510	204802	211300	44502

DISBURSEMENTS

Per Capita Payment to GA	30988	29674	29674	31414	11414
Per Capita Payment to Synod	17303	16654	16654	15939	5939
Total Per Capita Payments	48291	46328	46328	47353	17353

Personnel Expense

Connectional Care Pastor-Salary	18667	28840	28840	30000	5000
Connectional Care Pastor-BOP *	9528	14292	14292	13477	3369
Connectional Care Pastor-Travel	2228	5000	5576	5000	
Connectional Care Pastor-Prof. Ex.	1379	5000	600	2000	
Connectional Care-Intern Program		500		500	
Director of Communications-Salary	25000	25750	25750	26784	4464
Director of Communications-Travel		250		250	
Director of Communications-Prof.Ex.	611	500	411	500	
Personnel Expense-FICA	3051	3142	4443	4900	816
Stated Clerk-Salary	23800	20400	17000	21216	3536
Stated Clerk-Office Ex & Travel	1156	1000		1000	
Bookkeeper-Salary	14880	15326	15326	15960	2660
Workers Compensation	250	250	250	250	
Total Personnel Expense	100550	120250	112488	121837	19845

*Amended by Leadership Pod

Office Expense

Equipment	1262	1500		1500	
Finance Software	270	270	389	400	389
Insurance	1618	1650	1630	1650	
Postage	141	300	282	300	
Supplies & Miscellaneous	1058	1000	1396	1500	257
Telephone & Zoom & Website	416	600	812	300	53
Total Office Expense	4765	5320	4509	5650	699

Administrative Expenses

Committee on Representation		100		100	
Nominating Committee		50		100	
Administrative Commissions		100		100	
Mediation&Conflict Res.-Team	284	100		300	

Board Representatives		100		100	
Educational Events		1000		1000	
Search Committee Expense		1000		1000	
GA Alternates	0	4000		0	
Synod of Lakes & Prairies Academy				2500	2500
Moderator	290	500		500	
Presbytery Meetings	150	500	150	500	
Total Administrative Expenses	<u>724</u>	<u>7450</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>6200</u>	<u>2500</u>

Pod Expense & Pledges

Cont. Prep. For Ministry Pod		1500	61	4500	
Care for Congregations Pod		500	289	500	164
Care for Pastoral Leaders Pod		500	500	500	
Leadership Pod	733	1000	50	1000	
Mission Pod		100	100	100	
Subtotal Pod Expense	<u>733</u>	<u>3600</u>	<u>1000</u>	<u>6600</u>	<u>164</u>

Undesignated Mission		1500	1500		
Bdecan Food Pantry Pledge	0	12000	10109	7500	1243
Chogoria Ministry Team	10000	10000	10000	10000	2412
Clearwater Forest Pledge	5000	10000	10000	10000	
Univ. of Jamestown Pledge	5000	8000	8000	7500	
Youth Conn. Ministry Team	10000	2000	2000	10000	
Subtotal Pledges	<u>30000</u>	<u>43500</u>	<u>41609</u>	<u>45000</u>	<u>3655</u>

Total Disbursements	<u>185063</u>	<u>226448</u>	<u>206084</u>	<u>232640</u>	<u>44216</u>
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Net Position before Reserves	29336	-12938	-1282	-21340	286
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Transfers to/from Reserves	<u>0</u>	<u>14000</u>	<u>15000</u>	<u>16000</u>	
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Net Position after Reserves	<u>29336</u>	<u>1062</u>	<u>13718</u>	<u>-5340</u>	<u>286</u>
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2020 Grants \$7000, 2021 Grants \$10027, 2022 Grants \$3850, 2023 Grants \$13249

Disbursed from other funds in 2024:

March 2024: Small Church Ministries Grant, Jamestown UPC, \$2,000, wall-mounted camera

May 2024: Peacemaking Grant, Mandan PC, \$2,500, Blessing Bags

June 2024: Small Church Ministries Grant, Forest River Community Ch, \$2,500, Back Packs for Kids

August 2024: Peacemaking Grant, Fargo 1st Presbyterian, \$2,000, Peacemaking Summit

November 2024: Congregational Development Grant, Bismarck 1st Presbyterian, \$2,000, Recording and Streaming System

December 2024: Congregational Development Grant, Moorhead 1st Presbyterian, \$750, Security System

December 2024: Congregational Development Grant, Baker Downer Presbyterian, \$800, Sound System Speakers

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

PNP Meeting, April 5, 2025 Jamestown

OFFICERS, STAFF, POD LEADERS, TASK LEADERS, POD MEMBERS, & TASK TEAMS

Spring 2025

OFFICERS & STAFF

Moderator	Tom Brusegaard	2025	
Vice Moderator	Rusty Bender	2025	
Stated Clerk	Adam Montgomery	2026	Staff
Connectional Care Pastor	Rev. Deanna Reikow	2025	Staff
Treasurer/Bookkeeper	Ellen Misialek	2027	Staff
Communications Coordinator	Jenn Kolodka	2026	Staff

SYNOD & NATIONAL LEVEL POSITIONS

GA Teaching Elder 2026	vacant		
GA Teaching Elder Alternate 2026	Rev. Deanna Reikow	2026	F-TE Mandan
GA Ruling Elder 2026	vacant		
GA Ruling Elder Alternate 2026	vacant		
GA YAAD	vacant		
Synod Teaching Elder	Rev. Mary Holtey	2026	
Synod Ruling Elder	Elizabeth Swee	2025	
Synod YAAD	vacant		

LEADERSHIP POD

Pod Leader	Paul Campbell	Annual	
PNP Moderator/Vice Pod Leader	Tom Brusegaard	2025	
PNP Vice Moderator	Rusty Bender	2025	
Stated Clerk (non-voting)	Adam Montgomery	2026	Staff
Connectional Care Pastor	Rev. Deanna Reikow	2025	Staff
Treasurer/Bookkeeper	Ellen Misialek	2027	Staff

Care for Congregations Pod Leader	Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood	Annual
Care for Pastoral Leaders Pod Leader	vacant	Annual
Mission Pod Leader	Donna Preston	Annual
Preparation for Ministry Pod Leader	Rev. Dr. Spencer Homan	Annual
Committee on Representation	Rev. Mary Holtey	2025
Financial Task Force Leader	Sherri Stern	Annual
Nomination Task Force Leader	Rusty Bender	Annual
Personnel Task Force Leader	vacant	Annual
Communications Coordinator	Jenn Kolodka (non-voting)	2026 Staff

CARE FOR CONGREGATIONS POD

Pod Leader	Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood
Pod Member	Rev. Cathie Bishop
Pod Member	Rev. Deanna Reikow
Pod Member	Rusty Bender
Pod Member	Dan Billings
Pod Member	Ellen Misialek

CARE FOR PASTORAL LEADERS POD

Interim Pod Leader	Rev. Bob Boyar
Admissions/Departures	Rev. Bob Boyar
Conflict Mediator	Deb Burger-Peery
Installations/Ordinations	
Ecumenical Relations	Rev. Elaine Sweet

MISSION POD

Pod Leader	Donna Preston
Bdecan Ministry Task Leader	Chandra Mendieta
Chogoria Ministry Team	Kayla Bones
Chogoria Ministry Team	Carrie Lauber
Chogoria Ministry Team	Jamie Norstog

Clearwater Forest Board Rep	Casey Chapman	2026
Clearwater Forest Board Rep	Rachel Schmidt	2027
Presbyterian Women Task Leader	Lana Schultz	
SDOP Task Leader	George O'Neill	2025
University of Jamestown Task Leader	Bill Weispfenning	
Youth Connection Task Leader	vacant	

PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY POD

Pod Leader Rev. Dr. Spencer Homan
Pod Member Rev. Marge Landwer
Pod Member Tom Cummings
Pod Member Jamie Norstog
Pod Member Erik Swee

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

Task Leader	Rev. Mary Holtey	2025	F-TE	Fargo
Task Team	Lana Schultz	2026	F-RE	Casselton
Task Team	vacant	2027		

FINANCIAL TASK FORCE

Task Leader	Sherri Stern	F-RE	Fargo
Task Team	Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood	F-TE	Fargo
Task Team	vacant	M-TE	
Task Team	Ross Mushik	M-RE	Mandan
Task Team	Marilynn Ogden	F-RE	East GF
Task Team	Scot Swanholm	M-RE	Fargo

NOMINATING TASK FORCE

Task Leader	Rusty Bender	M-RE	Fargo
Task Team	Elizabeth Swee	F-RE	Moorhead
Task Team	vacant		

Task Team vacant

Task Team vacant

Task Team vacant

Task Team vacant

PERSONNEL TASK FORCE

Task Leader vacant

Task Team Mary Barrett

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE TASK FORCE

Task Leader George O'Neill 2025

Task Team Jihan Brifki 2024

Task Team JoAnn Zutz 2024

Task Team Paul Zondo 2024

Task Team Ann Roberts 2025

Task Team Rev. Robert Drake 2025

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Commissioner	Jim Skaret	2026	M-RE	Bismarck
Commissioner	Rev. Donna Monteith	2026	F-TE	West Fargo
Commissioner	Toby Christensen	2028	M-RE	Fargo
Commissioner	Rev. Deanna Reikow	2028	F-TE	Mandan
Commissioner	Lana Schultz	2030	F-RE	Casselton
Commissioner	Josie Hornbacher	2030	F-RE	Glencoe
Commissioner	Rev. Robin Dill	2030	M-TE	Grafton

VACANCIES

- 1 GA/Synod YAAD (aged 17-23)
- 1 Personnel Task Force Leader

1 Youth Connection Task Leader	
1 Task Team Member Committee on Representation	2027
Additional Task Team Members Nominating & Personnel	

Update on the Self Development Of People (SDOP) Mission Spring 2025 Presbytery Meeting

Our “Hatching-Out” project funded last year is going well. The project was a \$5,000 grant to the New Roots Farm Incubator Cooperative, located in Fenton, Minnesota, which provides training in farming techniques to immigrant and other disadvantaged farmers. After graduating from the incubator (a process called “Hatching-Out”), farmers can lease or buy a plot of land on which to farm. The land, also in Fenton, is owned by a non-profit called PRAIRIE (Prairie Rose Agricultural Institute for Research, Innovation, & Education). Our grant provides graduate farmers with funds to help cover the costs involved in starting a farm.

Thus far, two farmers have started their own farms with SDOP funds. Another graduate farmer expects to begin his farm this spring. There are other farmers in the training program who, upon graduation, are expected to access those SDOP funds in the future. We anticipate our grant to be able to help at least six graduates from the cooperative to begin their own farms. (In case you are wondering, Fenton is in southwest Minnesota. The home office of PRAIRIE is in Moorhead.)

As a reminder, the mission of SDOP is to provide grants to low income or marginalized groups to improve their self-sufficiency. The funds come from donations to the annual One Great Hour of Sharing collected during Lent in all Presbyterian Churches.

George O'Neill

Chair, Self-Development of People for the Presbytery of the Northern Plains

Bdecan Presbyterian Church
PO Box 141
Tokio, ND, 58379
(701) 230-1560

Dearest Supporters and Partners in Ministry,

I am writing to express our heartfelt gratitude for your incredible generosity and support of Bdecan Presbyterian Church and its ministries. Whether you have donated your time, financial resources, physical items, or talents, your contribution has made an immeasurable impact on our ability to serve those in need!

Through your kindness, our food pantry, clothing pantry, and children's ministry continue to thrive, providing nourishment, warmth, and hope to families in our community. Your gifts, whether in the form of donations, volunteering, or organizing events, are a living testimony of God's love at work. We are truly blessed by your willingness to partner with us in this important mission.

As Scripture tells us in 2 Corinthians 9:7, *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* Your cheerful generosity has been a beacon of hope for many, and it has inspired us all to give and serve more selflessly.

Thank you for being a part of this ministry. Your support, whether through donations of items, financial gifts, or countless hours of service, plays a crucial role in allowing us to fulfill the calling God has placed on our church. Together, we are meeting needs, lifting spirits, and sharing the love of Christ with our neighbors.

We pray that God continues to bless you abundantly, as you have blessed others. Your faithfulness is truly making a lasting difference in our community.

With deepest appreciation and blessings,

Chandra Mendieta
Bdecan Presbyterian Church
(701) 230-1560
bdecanpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

Bdecan Presbyterian Church Statistics 2024

❖ Food & Clothing Pantries

<u>Month</u>	<u>Families Served</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Seniors</u>
January	81	178	197	40
February	105	192	212	25
March	97	181	224	38
April	66	105	131	9
May	99	184	244	21
June	101	179	201	22
July	35	64	101	11
August	114	233	231	33
September	110	189	186	32
October	(Emergencies Only)	*Closed	Due to	Illness*
November	56	111	105	20
December	102	213	231	53

- ❖ **Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway** – 244 Children received backpacks with school supplies
- ❖ **Winterwear & Blanket Giveaway** – 177 Children received a full outdoor winter outfit

Clearwater Forest – April 2025 Presbytery Meeting

Clearwater Forest Bible Camp has a full year of camps and retreats for everyone. The year started out with Snow Camp in January for youth grades 3 -12, followed by Women's Chrysalis and Couple's retreat in February. Then April 11-13 will be the Seeds of Service for campers grade 6th-12th as well as adults and family members; which is yearly service retreat for people to give back to Clearwater plus learn about how Clearwater is working to become a GREEN CAMP. Late April will be a first time campus ministry retreat weekend for college age students 18-25 which will consist of forest therapy, campfire coziness, and time in nature.

Then the end of May starts the children and youth camps with Summer Day camp and Day Camp Leadership – Loon Program followed by many summer camps throughout the summer.

Clearwater will go out throughout the region to do VBS to Go at various sites. This is the former Camp in a Van. Programming Committee and camp staff thought the name needed to be changed to highlight what the program really was. There is also Grands and Family Camp for grandparents and families to come to camp.

Clearwater will be taking youth grades 8th through 12th to Triennium in Louisville, KY end of July with a stop in Chicago to do a mission project.

Women's Chrysalis Retreat will be held.

Then come fall, there will be a Ministry Leadership Retreat in September for ministers and leaders of churches. Dr. Andy Root and Dr. Matt Skinner from Luther Seminary will be speakers for the retreat.

October brings a Fall for All retreat Oct 15-19 for families, grands, and youth of all ages. Followed by a men's retreat the last weekend of Oct.

If you have never been to Clearwater Forest, this is the year for you to attend as there is something throughout the year for everyone.

Check out their website at www.clearwaterforest.org with information for all these camps and retreats. There are also videos to check out on the webpage as well as a lot of information including how you can donate to the camp.

Submitted by: Donna Preston, Programming Board member from PNP

Presbyterian Women – Spring 2025 Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering is April 12th at Langdon Presbyterian Church starting at 10 am. Registration is due to Donna Preston by April 5th, email preston@gra.midco.net or call 701-238-7414. See poster for more info on Presbytery's website.

2025 Synod PW Gathering will be held June 12-15 in Watertown, SD. Registration is due to Maggie Horak by May 12, 2025. More information is available on Presbytery's website under PW – Synod Newsletter. It is a very rewarding and educational weekend. There will also be a Pre-Gathering Mini-Mission Trip to Lake Traverse Reservation on June 12th. There is also information on this trip in the Synod Newsletter too.

Submitted by Donna Preston, Moderator PWP



PW SPRING GATHERING

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANGDON

423 8TH AVE, LANGDON

REGISTRATION 10:00AM

WORSHIP 10:30 AM

\$15 REGISTRATION

Offering and proceeds from silent auction items will be given to

CLEARWATER FOREST BIBLE CAMP

Please consider bringing a silent auction item or basket to be bid on

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF NORTHERN PLAINS PRESBYTERY 2024 TOGETHER IN SERVICE REPORT

Fulfilling its purpose, Presbyterian Women (PW) are nurturers in faith, supporters in mission, workers for justice and peace, builders that strengthen the PC(USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom. To that end, every local PW donates financially and in-kind to organizations and local benefits, offers a Bible Study with fellowship, and serves the local food pantries, homeless shelters, hospitals, fire and police departments, schools, Bdecan ministry, and nursing homes.

Presbyterian Women have donated backpacks to schools and quilts to veterans, nursing homes, daycare centers, and local benefits. They have **raised funds** for ND/MN Honor Flight, **hosted** community cookouts, **collected** pill bottles for the Orphan Grain Train, **invited** women of all faiths to share sweet treats on Halloween and Christmas, and **delivered** holiday gift/treat bags to those unable to attend in person. PWs have **reached out**: internationally with support of a young girl in the Philippines, over the airwaves on a Sunday broadcast, and directly by handing out blessing bags to the homeless. Below are some of the organizations **supported** by Presbyterian Women in 2024:

Heritage Village
So. Point Elementary School playground
Community Violence and Intervention Center
Developmental Achievement Center
Polk County Social Services
Options Resource Center
Life Skills & Transition Center
Brave Center
Youthworks
Life Skills & Transition Center
Salvation Army

AID, Inc.
Community of Care
Wycliffe Bible translator
ChildFund International
Golden Drive Homeless Kids
YWCA
Samaritan's Purse
Feed My Starving Children
Rape & Abuse Center
Downtown Engagement Center
Toys for Tots

All women members of a PC(USA) church are part of Presbyterian Women of Northern Plains Presbytery. This is your invitation to ask your pastor, inquire of another Presbyterian Woman, or check your church calendar to find out when and where the next PW get together is scheduled. All are welcomed as the Sister in Christ they are.

The next Presbyterian Women of Northern Plains Presbytery Spring Gathering is on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at the Presbyterian Church in Langdon, ND. Registration starts at 10:00 a.m. The fee of \$15.00 includes a morning snack and lunch.

The PW Synod Gathering is June 12-15, 2025 at Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Watertown, SD. The full registration fee of \$150 will be reimbursed to you by PW of Northern Plains Presbytery. The registration form is at www.lakesandprairies.org – Engaging Leaders –Presbyterian Women. Scroll down to Synod newsletter.

Many PWs in the Congregation (PWC) have different forms of leadership, a moderator, a facilitator, a different convener for each meeting or bible study. Please give us the information for the Leadership of your PW group.

Please send completed form to:
 PWP Vice Moderator: Lana Schultz
 Address: PO Box 891, Casselton, ND 58012
 Email: lanaj0@casselton.net
 Forms are due: **January 31, 2025**
 Keep a copy for your records

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE CONGREGATION ANNUAL REPORT FORM

Please complete the form with members of your circles/coordinating team.

Moderator/Facilitator/Convener:	Term ends:	
Mailing address:	City:	Zip:
Best Phone:	Email address:	
Co-Moderator/Vice Moderator (circle one)		
Name:	Term ends:	
Mailing address:	City:	Zip:
Best Phone:	Email:	
Treasurer:	Term ends:	
Mailing address:	City:	
Best Phone:	Email address:	
Secretary/Clerk:	Term ends:	
Mailing address:	City:	
Best Phone:	Email address:	
If there is no one in your PWC who has an email address, can we use your church email address? Yes No		
Church email:		
Number of women in your congregation:		
Do you have an active, formally organized PWC? Yes No	Number of women who attend PWC meetings:	
How many times did your PWC Directors/Coordinating team meet last year?	Number of active circles/groups	
	Number attending:	
DO YOU:		
Use/Recite the PW Purpose: Yes No	At every meeting/event?: Yes No	
Use Horizon study books: Yes No	If no, list other study books used:	
Use the Mission Yearbook of Prayer & Study?: Yes No		

This annual report form takes the place of 3 reports submitted in the past-- your annual report, your officers' list and the Together in Service report. You now only need to submit this 1 annual report form to your PWP Moderator. It will allow the PWP to give accurate information to Churchwide.

The completed form is due on: **January 31, 2025.**

PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS

Please list the **LOCAL MISSION PARTNERSHIPS** your PWC has been involved with during the past year. These may include: food pantries, homeless shelters, schools, prison ministries, non-profits providing services to those in need, Bdecan Ministry, Northlands Rescue, Chogoria, Youth Connection or projects adopted by the PW in the Presbytery (PWP):

Has your **PW** participated in any of the following **PW Partnership/Fundraising** efforts: (Please circle all that apply and add any others)

Honorary Life Membership	Birthday Offering	Mission Pledge	Thank Offering
	USA Mission Experience		

Has your **PW** participated in any of the following **PC (USA) Partnership/Fundraising** efforts: (Please circle all that apply and add any others)

Hunger Program	One Great Hour of Sharing	PC(USA) Missionaries	Presbyterian Peacemaking Programs
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance			
Gift of the Heart Kits	How many:		
School kits,	How many:		
Clean-up buckets	How many:		
Monetary Donations	\$		

Has your **PW** participated in **Ecumenical Mission Partnerships**: (Please circle all that apply and add any others)

Fellowship of the Least Coin	Habitat for Humanity	Africa: Little Dresses	How many:
Bread for the World	Reusable Sanitary Products	Little Britches	How Many:
World Community Day	Church World Service	T-shirt diapers	How Many:
Church Women United	Orange Day	Heifer Project International	Centsibility
Thursday – Black Day	World Day of Prayer	May Friendship Day	
Number of women who attended the Churchwide Gathering:			
Number of women who attended the last Synod Gathering:		Has anyone ever participated in the US Mission Experience: Yes No	

Has your **PWC** had programs focusing on any of the following **Justice and Peace** issues during the past year: (Please circle all that apply and add any others)

Human Trafficking	Food Justice	Water Issues	Worker's Rights
Prison Reform	Children's Advocacy	Immigration	Race relations
Children's Literacy			

PRESBYTERY OF NORTHERN PLAINS

Please list any other PWC sponsored [events, service activities or fundraisers](#) you have participated in during the past year: (These would include: salad luncheons, sewing days, book clubs, church clean up days, etc)

To help us get to know you better we would like to know more personal stories about your women's groups. Please choose one of the following options and share:

1. Tell us about one favorite mission activity. Why do you support this partnership effort? What makes it special? What relationships have grown out of it? How those served experience the love of Christ through this partnership? Photos always welcome and greatly appreciated!

2. Describe one good thing that has happened with your PW group in the past year.

Presbyterian Women—Northern Plains Presbytery
Mission Grant Application due December 1, 2025

Deadline for Application: December 1, 2025 / Maximum Request per Application: \$2,000.00
Return this application to PWP Mission Coordinator Lana Schultz by mail at PO Box 891,
Casselton, ND 58012 or by email lanaj0@casselton.net. Any questions should be directed to
Lana Schultz at 701-238-4538.

As part of the Presbyterian Women Purpose “we commit ourselves to support the mission of
the church worldwide.” Any church group and/or ministry team affiliated with the Northern
Plains Presbytery is eligible to apply for a mission grant (max. \$2,000). Funds will be distributed
at the discretion of Presbyterian Women of Northern Plains Presbytery. Project must be
underway within 12 months of receiving the grant. **A project budget is required.**

Group Name and Contact Person _____
Contact Person’s Address and Email _____

Total cost of mission project _____
Amount of funds requested _____
Purpose of the mission project _____

Describe how these funds will be used to achieve the purpose of the mission project

How many people will be served and describe the population served by this mission project

List other sources applied for or received to achieve your mission project goal

Would you be willing to present a report (written or oral) on your project to local Presbyterian
women groups and to Presbyterian Women of the Northern Plains Presbytery Spring
Gathering? _____

“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance
so you may share abundantly in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

Continuing Preparation for Ministry Pod (CPM) Roster

3/4/2025

Name <i>Liaison</i>	Status <i>Date</i>	Church City	Education Status	Psych	Fld Ed	CPE	* Ords	Notes	NEXT mtg
Ministers of Word and Sacrament in Process									
Rusty Bender	Enroll as Inquirer	First Pres Fargo Fargo, ND	Enrolled	No	No	No	None	Interested in Starting the MoWS Process	Mar 7th
Commissioned Lay Pastors (CLPs) in Process									
Douglas Chimanga <i>Spencer Homan</i>	Learner Sept. 6th, 2019	United Jamestown, ND	UDTS Online	No	NA	NA	NA		None at this time.
Corday Goddard <i>Erik Swee</i>	Learner Sept. 14th, 2024	First Pres Fargo Fargo, ND	Dubuque Seminary	Yes	NA	NA	NA	CLP 1a, 1b, [Ref 1, 2, 3]	Sept 6th
Scott Halstead	Learner March 1st, 2025	First Pres GF Grand Forks, ND	The Academy	No	NA	NA	NA	CLP 1a, 1b, CLP 2, [Ref 1]	Mar 7th
Carrie Lauber <i>Tom Cummings</i>	Learner Sept. 14th, 2024	Community Pres West Fargo, ND	Austin Theol. Seminary	No	NA	NA	NA	CLP 1a, 1b, CLP 2, [Ref 1, 2, 3]	Sept 6th
Donna Preston <i>Marge Landwehr</i>	Learner Sept. 14th, 2024	Grandin Pres Grandin, ND	The Academy	No	NA	NA	NA	CLP 1a, 1b, CLP 2, [Ref 1]	Sept 6th
Temporary Members (Polity and Theology Training)									
None at this time:									
Certified Ready to Receive Call									
None at this time.									

* Key	BC = Bible Content	P = Polity
P=Pass	X = Exegesis	T = Theology
F=Fail	W = Worship and Sacraments	Passed = Passed All Exams!
	No = Has Not Completed	None = No Ord Exams Attempted
	NA = Not Applicable	? = Needs to be Determined

2025	
Mar 1st	Sept 6th

2026	
Mar 7th	Sept 6th

POD: Spencer Homan [TE] (Leader), Marge Landwehr [TE], Tom Cummings [RE], Erik Swee [RE], Jamie Norstog [CLP]

**Continuing Preparation for Ministry Pod
Northern Plains Presbytery
March 1, 2025**

Present: Rev. Dr. Spencer S. Homan [TE], Rev. Marge Landwehr [TE], Jamie Norstog [CLP], and Tom Cummings [RE].

Absent: Erik Swee [RE]

The committee met for its regularly scheduled meeting Saturday, March 1, 2025 at First Presbyterian Church Grand Forks at 10:00 am. The Rev. Dr. Homan opened the meeting in prayer.

- The Pod met with prospective Commissioned Lay Pastor Scott Halstead. Scott is a Ruling Elder in good standing and meets the 6 month requirement. Scott has completed CLP Form 1a, Form 1b, and Form 2. Scott is enrolled in the Synod's Academy and has begun their course work. The Pod **moved, seconded, and approved** to receive Scott as a "Learner" in the CLP process. Scott is invited to join us again on March 7, 2026, for their next meeting with us. Scott's liaison Rev. Dr. Homan closed in prayer.

TASKS FOR SCOTT TO COMPLETE:

- Scott was instructed that the next step is to participate in the Psych Evaluation process through the North Central Career Development Center.
 - Scott was instructed to continue in their schoolwork at the Synod Academy.
 - Scott was instructed to continue working in the life and work of ministry.
-
- The Pod reviewed the CPM Roster and heard updates about all those under our care.

LEADERSHIP POD: Several candidates commented that they feel it would be beneficial to have a meeting of ALL CLP's so that they can form a cohort to support and uplift one another.

The meeting was closed with prayer by The Rev. Dr. Spencer Homan.

The next meeting of CPM is scheduled for September 6, 2025 at First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks at 9:00 am

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Dr. Spencer S. Homan, Leader of CPM Pod

Action Items for Presbytery:

- None at this time.

Care for Congregations Report

Spring 2025

Care for Congregations

- The Presbytery of the Northern Plains has introduced two initiatives to support congregations in financial sustainability: the **Board of Pensions Assistance Program** and the **Per Capita Forgiveness Program**. These efforts address rising costs for pastors' benefits and lingering financial burdens from the pandemic, ensuring churches can continue their mission with confidence.

With pension costs increasing in 2025, the Presbytery's phased assistance program offers immediate relief and gradual adjustments to help congregations adapt. A **need-based scholarship program** will launch in 2028 to provide continued support.

The **Per Capita Forgiveness Program** allows churches burdened by past due payments to regain financial stability. Debt incurred before 2021 will be forgiven, and recent balances reduced by 70%, encouraging full participation in Presbytery life.

These initiatives reflect the Presbytery's commitment to faithful stewardship and pastoral support. Churches facing pension cost increases or outstanding per capita balances are encouraged to apply. For more details, visit the Presbytery website or contact pnpooffice@gmail.com.

- The C4C POD has initiated discussions regarding the **Congregational Care Pastor position**, which was established as a two-year temporary role to assess the needs of PNP churches and focus on rebuilding relationships with our congregations post-COVID. This temporary position is set to conclude in January 2026. As part of these discussions, we are exploring the potential for creating an Executive Presbyter position. A recommendation is expected to be presented by mid-2025.
- The C4C POD is exploring a **zero-interest loan program** to assist churches with essential projects and unexpected expenses, focusing on congregations with clear plans for long-term vitality in their communities. Funded through endowed resources, this potential program would be available to churches current on their per capita payments.
- Members of the Care for Congregations POD and Care for Pastors POD support the idea of a **POD merger**. We often have duties that overlap and require a great

deal of communication. With the resignation of Mary Holtey as chair for the Care for Pastors POD in February, this feels like the right timing for a merger. We plan to address this merger at the Fall Presbytery meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to Sarah Bigwood (C4C chair), Bob Boyar (C4Pastors committee member), or Rusty Bender (Nominating chair).

- **Presbytery Minimums**

In 2025, we will encourage pastors and church leaders to submit their Terms of Call, allowing us to assess the current landscape and provide targeted education on congregational responsibilities towards pastors. Our ultimate goal is to ensure fair and equitable compensation for all pastors by the end of 2027.

Churches may submit Pastor's Terms of Call information using the following online form. <https://forms.gle/CTDduoPkMJXmqzh4A>

- The Presbytery has received a tax statement for a property they were unaware of in Pembina County. Working to determine the next steps regarding ownership and liability.
- Our bid for a **Lilly Grant** for the Presbytery of the Northern Plains was unsuccessful.

Angus (Tabor Presbyterian)

Russ Steer reported that they have a full-time pastor, James Crandall, CLP, through the Methodist Church. They host weekly services and on special occasions as well. Pastor Crandall moderates session meetings.

Argyle (Community Presbyterian)

The Argyle church was featured in the most recent Presbytery Newsletter. They just celebrated their 140th anniversary. The church is in good financial health with a small but growing membership. Argyle repainted the outside of their church and will receive a second coat this summer.

Arvilla (Arvilla Presbyterian)

The Arvilla Presbyterian Church, in partnership with Larimore United Methodist Church, had a meaningful Advent and Christmas season filled with mission and community activities:

- Collected groceries for a local Food Pantry. Christmas Eve offering went to the Larimore Food Pantry. Delivered over 60 shoebox Christmas gifts to children at Spirit Lake. Assembled and distributed cookie tins to shut-ins, individuals living alone, and residents at the local Good Samaritan nursing home. Supported Heifer International with a noisy offering. Held a Christmas Extravaganza on December 15, featuring carols, readings, skits, a potluck, and fellowship. Shared skits and readings with residents at the Good Samaritan nursing home.

The Arvilla and Larimore congregations worship together weekly, alternating between the two churches.

Bdecan

Has six youth participating in Triennium.

Bismarck

FPC Bismarck received a Congregational Development Grant for \$2,000 to help with costs related to a professional recording and streaming system they recently installed in their sanctuary.

Bismarck, Mandan, and Glencoe

These congregations are in the initial stages of developing a shared Outreach Associate Pastor position to serve all three churches.

Casselton (Westminster Presbyterian)

In February, the Casselton church invited Rev. Deanna Reikow to provide training on strategies for more effective outreach and improved communication with both their congregation and the wider community.

Cooperstown (First Presbyterian)

First Presbyterian Church of Cooperstown hosted a Christmas program for Assisted Living residents, sharing plants and goodies. The congregation values its SAM preaching services and continues to pray for joys and concerns during worship. They held their Annual Meeting on January 26, 2025, following worship. At the meeting they committed financial support to Red Willow Bible Camp, Cooperstown Bible Camp, Churches United for the Homeless, Moorhead, Abused Persons Outreach Center for Giving Hearts Day, with \$5,000 designated for Dakota Regional Medical Center. Looking ahead, a February 15 meeting at Red Willow Bible Camp will explore the possibility of Ottawa and Sundahl Lutheran Churches joining Tri-County Ministry.

Crookston (First Presbyterian)

Crookston has a working relationship with the Lutheran Church in town and appreciates their Presbytery connections.

Devils Lake

Received advice on adjusting bylaws to manage the number of elders and deacons more flexibly, addressing challenges in leadership recruitment.

Dilworth (Presbyterian Church of Dilworth)

On February 16, Rev. Dan Billings visited the Dilworth Presbyterian Church. He waited in the parking lot from 9:30-10:30am and no one showed up. He assumes church was canceled due to extremely cold weather. Fargo Parish Associates The Revs. Cathie Bishop and Dan Billings, have agreed to take turns visiting the church in Dilworth.

East Grand Forks (Mendenhall)

In February, Mendenhall Presbyterian Church was mentioned in the Grand Forks Herald for their contribution to the East Grand Forks Childcare Fund. Session Clerk, Mary Barrett, was quoted as saying, “(Child care) is a thankless job, but it can also be a very rewarding job because they are taking care of our most precious commodity, which is our kids...So when this (donation request) came with our water and light bill we decided we

need to give back because child care is costly and it is time-consuming to get your license.” The article highlights the need in Northwest Minnesota for childcare. <https://www.grandforksherald.com/news/local/east-grand-forks-childcare-fund-committee-hopes-to-reach-grantable-funding-levels-in-2025>

Fairview (Community Presbyterian)

A live streaming service for Pastor Tim's worship was announced via Facebook.

Fargo

FPC Fargo was awarded \$175,000 grant from the National Sacred Places Grant. It will be used to repair or replace the limestone steps at their 2nd Ave. entry, clean and restore the façade which was damaged by a water leak, add exterior and interior lighting to the front of the church for safety and aesthetic purposes, and replace the sanctuary chillers which are at end-of-life. A capital campaign began in March 2025 to raise \$410,000 will address current maintenance issues and \$2,600,000 will fund an endowment that will support building maintenance and repairs. FPC-Fargo has 8 youth participating in Triennium this coming summer.

Fordville (First Presbyterian)

Deanna visited but found no one present (church meets occasionally, only four members). Park River church is connected.

Forest River (Community Presbyterian), Gilby (Gilby Presbyterian)

Pastor Jamie Norstog, CLP has resigned his position at the Midway Parish effective February 23rd. Deanna Reikow met with Jamie for an exit interview. Deanna will serve as Moderator for the Midway parish.

Grand Forks (First Presbyterian)

Granted \$3,965 in assistance through the new BOP Assistance Program for 2025. Has three youth and 2 adults participating in Triennium.

Grandin

Has 2 youth and 1 adult participating in Triennium.

Hamilton (First Presbyterian)

Hamilton Presbyterian Church voted unanimously to close, with the only discussion being the exact closing date. The final worship service was held at 9 a.m. on February 23, 2025, with the church officially closing on March 1, 2025. The session plans to meet in February to facilitate the transfer of members to the churches of their choice. Interested buyers are working with church elders and Presbytery Treasurer, Sherri Stern. The church expects to be nearly out of funds by the time of its official closure on March 1, 2025. John Werth remains with the Bathgate church, which has been in a parish arrangement with Hamilton since the 1960s.

Dan Billings represented the Presbytery at the closing service for Hamilton on February 23, 2025. The Hamilton Church is gifting some of their paraments to the Minto Church. Their eight confessional banners represent The Nicene Creed through The Confession of 1967 and were made by Thelma Collins and Rhoda Enerson to celebrate the Hamilton

Presbyterian Church's 100th Anniversary in 1982. The Presbytery of the Northern Plains give thanks for the many years of faithful service and witness that Hamilton Presbyterian Church has offered to God and the wider community.

Hallock (First Presbyterian)

Rev. Marge Landwehr announced she's retiring in August 2025. Discussions about her transition are ongoing. Hallock Presbyterian has finalized an agreement to sell two parcels of land to local buyers, as previously approved by the Presbytery. Erik Younggren has retained legal counsel and, in accordance with legal requirements, is providing the church with five weeks (Sundays) of notice. A vote on the matter took place at the church's annual meeting in January.

Inkster

The Inkster congregation voted to dissolve. They have received permission to exercise a quitclaim deed on their property. A quitclaim deed is a document in which a grantor (the church) disclaims all interest in a parcel of real property and then conveys that interest to a grantee (the city/town). Typically, money is not exchanged in a Quitclaim Deed.

Langdon (Presbyterian Church)

Deanna met with Sue Kana-Mackey honoring her with a gift. Pastor Sue is planning to move towards retirement in two years and has let them know that. The Church is doing well financially but low attendance in the winter because most fly south for the winter. They are looking to ways to get their name out in the community more. They are responding well to Sue's challenges for the future. Their per capita is up to date and she is always at Presbytery with an elder.

Mandan

See Bismark/Mandan for more information. The Mandan church has nine people participating in Triennium this summer.

Moorhead (First Presbyterian)

Rev. Robert Drake left his position at the end of the year. The Session dissolved the relationship in December. Outstanding obligations to Rev. Drake's pension were settled in the first quarter of 2025. Sarah Bigwood is serving as Moderator. The Session members are engaging in critical Adaptive Conversations during this transition. The FPC-Fargo lay preachers have been providing pulpit supply. Jamie Norstog has agreed to provide long-term pulpit supply this spring and summer. FPC-Moorhead has 3 youth participating in Triennium this coming summer.

Park River (Federated Church)

Park River church is growing and at the end of 2024 had a significant budget surplus. This church is engaged in various mission activities and enthusiastic about joining the Presbytery's Spring Youth Retreat.

Portal (First Presbyterian)

The Care for Congregations POD has made concerted effort over the past two years to

make contact with this church to no avail. It is our understanding that the yoked congregations are currently operating without a pastor.

Walhalla (Park Center Presbyterian)

Pastor Martha preaches once a month. Presently, Tom Brussegard has been preaching there twice a month. Martha won't be there March or April during Lent and Easter.

West Fargo

Community Presbyterian Church of West Fargo has extended a call to a candidate, who has accepted the terms. The candidate will preach at CPC on March 30, followed by a congregational meeting. We anticipate being able to share the candidate's name with the Presbytery at the April meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Sarah Bigwood

POD Members: Rusty Bender, Sarah Bigwood (chair), Dan Billings, Cathie Bishop, Bob Boyar, and Deanna Reikow. Advisors: Ellen Misialek (bookkeeper) & Sherri Stern (treasurer).

Board of Pensions Assistance Program

In January 2025, a new Board of Pensions plan will take effect, impacting churches across our Presbytery. Recognizing the financial strain this may place on our congregations, we propose a structured assistance program to help churches manage the increases in pension costs. This proposal outlines a phased support strategy and the introduction of need-based scholarships starting in 2028.

Objectives

1. **Provide Immediate Financial Relief:** Alleviate the immediate financial burden of increased pension costs for churches in our Presbytery.
2. **Gradual Reduction of Support:** Phase out financial support over a three-year period to encourage financial planning and adjustment.
3. **Establish Long-Term Assistance:** Implement a need-based scholarship program to support churches with ongoing financial challenges.

Details of the Assistance Program

Year 2025: Initial Support

- **Objective:** Identify churches whose costs will increase as a result of the changes. Provide substantial relief to churches facing increases in pension costs.
- **Action:** The Presbytery will cover 75% of the increase in pension costs for each church.

Year 2026: Continued Support

- **Objective:** Encourage churches to adapt to the new pension costs while still providing significant support.
- **Action:** The Presbytery will cover 50% of the increase in pension costs between 2025-2026 for each church identified at the time the BOP changes took effect.

Year 2027: Gradual Reduction

- **Objective:** Gradually reduce support to help churches transition to bearing the full cost.
- **Action:** The Presbytery will cover 25% of the increase in pension costs between 2026-2027 for each church identified at the time the BOP changes took effect.

Year 2028 and Beyond: Need-Based Scholarships

- **Objective:** Provide targeted assistance to churches in genuine need of financial support.
- **Action:** Establish a need-based scholarship program. Churches will need to apply annually for assistance, demonstrating their financial need and the impact of pension cost increases on their budget.

Application Process

Churches will be required to submit an application to the Care for Congregations POD detailing their financial situation, the impact of the pension cost increase, and the steps they are taking to manage their budget. See attached application.

Evaluation Process

The Care for Congregations POD will review applications and award grants. The committee will report back to Leadership POD and Presbytery any grants issued.

Budget and Funding

Presbytery will set aside \$30,000 of investment funds to cover the potential cost of this program.

Implementation Timeline

- Preparation Phase (2024): Communicate the upcoming changes and support plan to all churches in the Presbytery. Establish the application process and committee for need-based scholarships.
- Implementation Phase (2025-2027): Provide financial assistance according to the outlined plan.
- Evaluation Phase (2027): Assess the effectiveness of the support program and make necessary adjustments before transitioning to the need-based scholarship program.
- Long-Term Phase (2028 and Beyond): Launch the need-based scholarship program and continue to support churches as needed.

Conclusion

This phased assistance program demonstrates our commitment to supporting the financial health of our churches during the transition to the new Board of Pensions plan. By providing immediate relief and establishing a long-term support mechanism, we aim to help our churches navigate this change with confidence and stability.

We request the Leadership POD to approve this proposal and allocate the necessary resources to ensure its successful implementation.

APPLICATION FOR BOARD OF PENSION COST ASSISTANCE

Church Information

Church Name:

Address:

Contact Person:

Contact Person's Title:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Financial Information

Current Annual Budget:

Current Pension Costs:

Expected Increase from previous year in Pension Costs (for the year applying):

Brief (5 sentences or less) explanation of Financial Need.

Brief description of steps your church is taking to manage an increasing budget and costs.

Expected Assistance

- In 2025, 75% of increase from previous year (2024).
- In 2026, 50% of increase from previous year (2025).
- In 2027, 25% of increase from previous year (2026).

Declaration

We declare that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete to the best of our knowledge. We understand that the assistance provided by the Presbytery is contingent on the availability of funds and the review process conducted by the designated committee.

Signature of Contact Person:

Date:

Submission

Please submit this application and all supporting documents to:

Presbytery Office
5555 S Washington St A
Grand Forks, ND 58201
pnpooffice@gmail.com
701-248-0227

Per Capita Forgiveness Program

Introduction

The Per Capita Forgiveness Program is designed to assist churches within our Presbytery that have fallen behind on their per capita payments. This program, effective through 2027, aims to restore these churches to good standing by collecting a manageable portion of their delinquent balances. Churches in good standing have access to grants and other programs within the Presbytery and Synod.

Program Details

Proposal: Bring churches back into good standing with the Presbytery. Forgive all per capita debts incurred before 2021. Collect 30% of delinquent per capita balances owed by churches since January 2021.

Deadline: Applications for the Per Capita Forgiveness Program must be submitted by December 31, 2027.

Rationale

1. **Financial Stability:** The Presbytery is financially sound, allowing us to extend care and grace through this renewal process.
2. **Shared Responsibility:** Delinquent churches should bear some responsibility in renewing their connection with the Presbytery.
3. **Fairness:** While we can easily forgive any debt owed to the Presbytery, it is fair for delinquent churches to pay the portion of the per capita that the Presbytery paid on their behalf to the Synod of Lakes & Prairies and to the General Assembly, which typically amounts to about 30% of the total fee collected.

Example

If a church is delinquent by \$20,000.00, we would seek to collect 30% or \$6,000.00. This reimburses the Presbytery for the portion previously paid on the church's behalf, while the church receives a significant reduction in what is owed, allowing them to come back into good standing.

Application Process

Churches seeking to participate in the Per Capita Forgiveness Program must complete the following application:

Per Capita Forgiveness Program Application

Church Information

Church Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Contact Person:

Contact Person's Title:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Financial Information

1. **Current Delinquent Per Capita Balance:** <Provided by PNP bookkeeper, Ellen Misialek emisialek@invisimax.com>
2. **Amount of Per Capita Paid by Presbytery on Behalf of the Church:** (30% of Delinquent Balance)
3. **Amount to be Forgiven:** (Subtract item 2 from item 1)

Repayment Plan

Churches may pay the delinquent balance in increments over several years. Briefly describe your plan for repaying the delinquent balance. Please include a timeline for repayment.

Supporting Documentation

Please provide the following. Briefly describe your plans to connect with Presbytery. Plans should include participation in our annual review of congregational minutes and paying per capita going forward. Some examples of other ways to connect may include: submitting annual statistics to the Presbytery Stated Clerk, participating in the denominational offerings or unified mission, participation in Presbyterian Women, and attendance at Presbytery meetings, at least once a year.

Declaration

We declare that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete to the best of our knowledge. We understand that the forgiveness provided by the Presbytery is contingent on the review process conducted by the Care for Congregation POD, with final approval by the Presbytery Leadership POD.

Signature of Contact Person:

Date:

Submission

Please submit this application and all supporting documents to:

Presbytery Office

5555 S Washington St A

Grand Forks, ND 58201

pnpooffice@gmail.com

701-248-0227

Additional Options for Support

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains offers grants for churches that are up to date on their per capita payments. We also provide support in educating your congregation about financial responsibilities and investment opportunities. For more information about these resources, please visit the presbytery website or reach out to Rev. Deanna Reikow, Care for Congregations Pastor, at drfpcmandan@hotmail.com, or Rev. Sarah Bigwood, Care for Congregations POD Leader, at sbigwood@firstpresfargo.org.

BOOK OF ORDER AMENDMENTS RECOMMENDED BY
THE 226TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AND PRESENTED TO PRESBYTERIES FOR THEIR
AFFIRMATIVE OR NEGATIVE VOTE

AMENDMENT NUMBER	BOO SECTION TO BE AMENDED	SUMMARY
24-A	F-1.0403	The categories <i>gender identity, sexual orientation</i> , be included as protected classes in the Unity in Diversity section of Foundations of Presbyterian Polity
24-B*	G-1.0104	Adds guidelines for other forms of corporate witness (New Worshiping Communities, Immigrant Fellowships etc.) within an adaptable framework rooted in Reformed polity.
24-C	G-2.0104b	Adds Historic Principles of Church Order (F-3.01) and principles of participation and representation (F-1.0403) to required areas for examination for ordination.
24-D	G-2.0504b	Lengthens maximum terms of service for temporary pastoral relationships from twelve months to 36 months
24-E	G-2.0504b	Prohibits non-disclosure agreements at the end of a temporary pastoral relationship
24-F	G-2.0601	Confidential details about a candidate for ministry should be omitted in communicating to the presbytery the need for the approval of alternate means to determine readiness for ministry in areas usually covered by ordination exams
24-G	G-0901	Prohibits non-disclosure agreements when an installed pastoral relationship is dissolved
24-H	G-3-0106	Adds <i>and adults with vulnerabilities</i> to the required child and youth protection policy
24-I	G-3.0302d	Eliminates the need for a concurrence from another presbytery to have business brought before GA (concurrences are still allowed but not required)
24-J	G-3.0501	Revises the formula for determining the number of commissioners presbyteries are to send to GA
24-K	D-7.0501	Makes explicit that, when an allegation of offense is made to a clerk of session or stated clerk, the mandates to report to civil authorities in G-4.0302 must be followed
24-L	D-7.0902b	Mandates that administrative leave be paid