

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	Sveet, 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		
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
	Brenda Beck	Z
Dilworth, Dilworth Presbyterian		
East Grand Forks, Mendenhall		
Edgeley, First Presbyterian		
Ellendale, Presbyterian		
Fairview, Community Presbyterian		
Fargo, First Presbyterian	Bruce Maylath	P
	Brian McClure	P
	Richard Laraway	P
Fordville, Community Presbyterian		
Forest River, Midway Parish		
Gilby, Gilby Presbyterian		
Grafton, Federated Church		
Grand Forks, First Presbyterian	Ben Shannon	P
	Thyra Knapp	P
Grandin, Grandin Presbyterian	Donna Preson	Z
Hallock, First Presbyterian	Betty Younggren	Z
Hamilton, First Presbyterian		
Hannah, Hannah Presbyterian		
Hunter, First Presbyterian		
Inkster, Inkster Presbyterian		
Jamestown, United Presbyterian	Bill Weispfenning	P
	Tiffany Dauer	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	P
	George O'Neill	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 Boyer 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, Boyer, 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