

COMMITTEE REPORTS TO LAKE HURON PRESBYTERY
March 13, 2021

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

The Presbytery Council presents the following items for action:

1. Recommends to Presbytery that congregations be granted a one-year extension in which to nominate and elect officers to their sessions, if needed.
2. Approve the Bylaw changes as presented from a first reading at the December 3, 2020 meeting. If approved, the changes take effect at the end of today's meeting. [ATTACHMENT A]

The Presbytery Council presents the following items for information:

1. Elected Philomena Ofori-Nipaah as Moderator of the Presbytery Council for 2021. Glenn Grant was elected Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery Council for 2021.
2. The following were appointed to their respective committees:

Budget & Finance	Adam Engel, (Moderator), Robert Emrich, Timm High, and Roger Scovill (ex-officio)
Personnel	Andrew Miller (Moderator), Charlee Litten (co-opted), Linda Kennan, and Mary Ann Parker
Planning/Visioning/Equipping	Linda Langrill (Moderator), Glenn Grant, Karen Blatt, Lindsey Carnes, and Kathleen Rowe (co-opted)
Policies, Bills & Overtures	Philomena Ofori-Nipaah (Moderator), Delphine Moore, Heather Bailey, and Matthew Schramm
3. A video introducing the Presbytery of Lake Huron was created by Dan Saperstein for the Synod of the Covenant and shared at a recent Synod Commissioner training event. It is available for viewing on the Presbytery's Facebook page.
4. 100% of per capita was received, and over 100% of the mission budget was subscribed.
5. Approved a request from the Mission Coordination Committee to make a special mission donation of \$5,000 to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Due to COVID-19 and the current economic crisis, strains have been put on the Food Bank. These funds will help ease that burden. Funds from account #000-110-52002 (Non-Budgeted Expenditures) will be used to cover costs.

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6. Approved moving the March Presbytery meeting date from Saturday, March 6, 2021 to Saturday, March 13, 2021. The NEXTChurch conference meets over the weekend of March 5-7, 2021. Moving the date will allow persons in our Presbytery including some Presbytery staff to participate.
7. Approved moving the June Presbytery meeting date from Tuesday, June 1, 2021 to Tuesday, June 8, 2021 to allow Presbytery staff extra preparation time and improve meeting attendance. June 1 follows immediately upon the Memorial Day holiday.
8. Approved co-opting Charlee Litten, Elder, Grand Blanc-Kirkridge, to the Personnel Team, Class of 2021, if the way be clear.
9. Designated the March Presbytery Meeting offering be given to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.
10. On February 8, 2021, the State of Michigan issued new directives for COVID-19 guidelines, relaxing restrictions on some activities. In response, on February 17, 2021, the Council issued new advice. Highlights include:

“It has been encouraging in the last few weeks to see the number of cases and deaths dropping, especially as our most vulnerable citizens are beginning to receive effective vaccines. We are now below the rates we saw in early November when we issued our advice.

“Although we have seen significant improvement, we are far from being out of the woods....New strains of the coronavirus that are present in our state are up to 900% more infectious and 20% more virulent than the original. This means that the viral load and exposure time to contract COVID are significantly reduced, while the risk of hospitalization and death have increased. And, while the two approved vaccines are highly effective in preventing serious effects of the virus, the rate at which it is being distributed means that most people will not receive the vaccine until late summer or early fall. Dr. Lisa Allgood, an immunology researcher and executive of Cincinnati Presbytery, has provided a recent update on COVID research, vaccines, effects, and protocols, which can be found at <https://www.ncpresbytery.org/covid-19-resources/>.

“The risk is still high, and the Presbytery cannot advocate returning to in person worship except in the most limited and careful circumstances. Sessions and congregations were urged not return to in person worship until their county has seen seven consecutive days of green (“low”) or yellow (“moderate”) risk using a multi-factor assessment such as www.covidactnow.org. And be prepared to suspend all in person gatherings should the level rise to “high” or “critical” levels for three or more days in a week.

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Color	Meaning	Guidance
Green (low)	On track to contain COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safe to conduct in-person activities with safety protocols
Yellow (moderate)	Slow disease growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limit in-person activities to essential functions only.• If yellow is sustained for more than seven consecutive days, consider suspending all indoor, in-person activities.
Orange (high)	At risk of outbreak	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If orange is present for three days in any week, suspend all indoor in-person activities until you have had seven consecutive days of yellow or green, and consider suspending all outdoor in-person activities.• If there is sustained orange for seven consecutive days, suspend all in-person activities (both indoor and outdoor) until you have seven consecutive days of yellow or green.
Red (critical)	Active or imminent outbreak	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suspend all in-person activities (both indoor and outdoor) until you have had seven consecutive days of yellow or green.

“If Sessions do decide to return to in person worship, they were urged to strictly observe all necessary public health precautions including screening, masking, distancing, disinfection, and tracking. And if you are in a vulnerable population or believe you might be sick or have been exposed to the virus, PLEASE STAY HOME.”

MISSION COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The Committee presents the following for information:

1. Elected the Rev. Karen Blatt as Moderator for 2021.
2. Approved a grant of \$2500 to the Beaverton Church for help with emergency repairs.

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COMMISSION ON MINISTRY AND MINISTRY PREPARATION

The Commission on Ministry and Ministry Preparation reports the following item for action:

1. The Commission presents Kim Strunz to be examined for ordination. Ms. Strunz has provided a statement of faith [ATTACHMENT B] and will share an introduction and be examined on her statement of faith, her faith journey, and her call to ministry.
2. Authorize the Moderator of Presbytery to appoint an Administrative Commission of 3-5 members to work with the Midland Chapel Lane congregation in discerning their future.

The Commission on Ministry and Ministry Preparation reports that it took the following actions on behalf of presbytery:

3. Elected Linda Kennan as COM Moderator and Paul Ytterock as COM Vice Moderator for 2021.
4. Approved the full-time pastoral call between the Rev. Jamie Milton and Bay City-Westminster effective February 15, 2021 and to permit him to Labor Within the Bounds of the presbytery until his membership is transferred. Terms are as follows:

Salary	\$46,891
Housing Allowance	\$25,000
BOP	Amount as Required
Dental	\$1,609
Study Leave Allowance	\$1,500 (May be carried over up to 3 year to max of \$4,500)
Professional Expenses	\$1,000
Travel Reimbursement	At current IRS Rate up to \$1,000
Moving Reimbursement	Full up to \$15,000
Vacation Time	4 weeks including 4 Sundays
Study Leave	2 weeks including 2 Sundays
Paternity Leave	2 weeks including 2 Sundays
Bereavement Leave	1 week including 1 Sunday

The commission commended the church in fulfilling the provisions of the presbytery's Affirmative Action Equal Employment Opportunity Program for the Calling of Pastors, meeting the requirements of the church-wide plan for EEOC.

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5. Approved the part-time CRE contract renewal between Elder Liz Long and Ithaca-Lafayette effective January 1, 2021 for a period of one year. Terms are as follows:

Salary	\$160/week
Social Security/Medicare	N/A
Continuing Education	N/A
Travel Reimbursement	At current IRS Rate
Vacation Allowance	4 weeks including 4 Sundays
Study Leave	2 weeks including 2 Sundays

The Rev. Matt Schramm will continue to serve as her mentor.

6. Approved the CRE Covenant renewal between Elder Shaun Hardimon and Swartz Creek-Mundy for a period of one year effective August 1, 2020. Terms of call are as follows:

Salary – Preaching	\$150/preaching session
Salary – Moderating Session	\$40/session meeting
Travel Reimbursement	At current IRS Rate

The Rev. Robbie Carnes will continue to serve as his mentor.

TRUSTEES

Trustees present the following items for action:

1. Recommend to Presbytery that the proposed amendment to the Presbytery of Lake Huron Corporate Bylaw CR 6.1-6.3 – Officers be given a first reading at the March Presbytery meeting with a second reading and vote at the June meeting or a special meeting held for that purpose. If adopted, the amended corporate bylaw would be effective at the close of that meeting. [ATTACHMENT C].
2. Recommend to Presbytery approval for the First Presbyterian Church of Flint, 746 So. Saginaw St, Flint, to issue an easement on their property to facilitate electrical utility service. [ATTACHMENT D].

The Trustees present the following items for information:

1. The 2021 interest rate for all loans was set at 2.43% using the formula in our loan policy.
2. Bob Emrich was re-elected as President, Andrea Drapp was re-elected as Vice President, and Roger Scovill was re-elected as Treasurer. Ted McCulloch was re-elected as secretary with the Treasurer's consent.

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3. The following were re-elected to the Investment Committee for 2021: Robert Emrich (moderator), Andrea Drapp, Bill Lauderbach, Harold Moldenhauer, and Roger Scovill.
4. The investment policy remains unchanged.
5. Approved by e-vote transferring \$150,000 from the Presbytery's portfolio into a New Covenant short-term liquidity account in partnership with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program. This will still generate 0.8% return but will have one-day liquidity and will protect two years of future budget support from market fluctuations. The risk of doing this would be based upon PILP's solvency in meeting its obligations. This is currently a low risk, as PILP has adequate capital reserve percentages to meet unanticipated changes in church loan payback rates.

STATED CLERK

The Stated Clerk reports the following items for action:

1. Approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020 Presbytery meeting.
2. Approve the following requests for an exception to G-2.0404 regarding term limits for Session and Deacons: Marlette First; Midland Chapel Lane; East Tawas Tawas Area. If there were other requests for exceptions this year that are not reported here, please note that by the action of the Presbytery during the earlier report of the Council, all exceptions are granted for 2021.
3. Approve the following actions with regard to the review of Session minutes and Church Registers:
 - a. The minutes of the following churches be approved without exception: Bay City Westminster, Birch Run-Taymouth, Breckinridge Emerson, Davison St. Andrews, Elkton Chandler, Fenton First, Flint First, Kinde First, Lapeer First, Marlette Second, Midland Chapel Lane, Swartz Creek Mundy, Yale First.
 - b. The minutes of the following churches be approved with exception: Alma First
 - c. Reminder that church registers were not reviewed this year.

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The Stated Clerk reports the following items for information:

4. Received the resignation of the Rev. Timm High from the Presbytery Council. Nominating Team has been notified.
5. Schedule of Presbytery Meetings:

June 8, 2021	Zoom – Ithaca-First “virtual host”
September 14, 2021	Mt. Pleasant-First
December 7, 2021	Saginaw-Michigan Nanum

If you are interested in hosting one of those Presbytery meetings, please **e-mail** the Stated Clerk’s office – tmcculloch@presbylh.org. All meetings start at 9:30 AM. Meeting host churches should be handicap accessible. Please note **the dates** for our 2021 meetings. Some dates are adjusted from their traditional schedule.

6. Presenting the Reading of the Necrology Report for 2020. The ending of the reading and prayer will adjourn our meeting. [ATTACHMENT E]

END OF COMMITTEE REPORTS