Minnesota Valleys Presbytery (MVP)
Faith & Agriculture Mission
Volunteer Action Team Participation Guide
May 1, 2026

Overview: In the book of Genesis, we read two creation narratives. In the first narrative there is the recurring refrain: “And God saw it was good”. “And God saw everything he made, and behold, “it was very good” (Gen. 2:31). The second creation narrative God **entrusted** the whole of creation to humanity - Genesis 2:15 states, “The Lord took man and put him in the garden of Eden to **till it and keep it”**.

The MVP faith & agriculture mission will celebrate the sacred act of stewardship of soil and water to honor God. It will offer principles and practices for healing the land, agriculture, and rural communities. While reminding congregations that God has entrusted Creation to humanity, the ministry will amplify a balance of stewardship theology, science, and economics.

Purpose: The purpose of the MVP faith & agriculture mission is *to educate, engage and empower multiple generations of Christians* to become a community of faithful stewards committed to caring for God’s creation of soil, water, plants, animals, and their known and unknown neighbors.

Team Membership: 6-8 members including farmers, students, church leaders, creation care advocates, and agriculture influencers.

Team Tenure: Two years renewable. *Tenure will begin on June 15, 2026.*

Team Expectations:

- To identify the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the Presbytery's faith & agriculture mission.
- To recommend events and activities to be included in a two-year plan of action (POA).
- To meet monthly by Zoom until the POA is submitted to the Presbytery. Following the submission of the POA Zoom meetings will be held at least quarterly.
- To schedule a Presbytery faith & agriculture farm tour during the summer of 2026.
- **To promote the first Faith & Agriculture Thrive Summit on the Buena Vista University campus scheduled for Saturday, February 13, 2027.**

Possible Faith & Agriculture Mission Actions to Consider for the POA:

- To Provide a possible harvest liturgy for Sunday, October 11, 2026.
- To create an adult SS faith & agriculture 4 week study to be field tested the fall of 2026 with possible release the winter/spring of 2027.
- To provide a faith & agriculture liturgy for Sunday, March 14, 2027, the first day of national agriculture week.
- To develop and release a VBS pilot faith & agriculture curriculum for 2027.
- To submit Letters to the editor and opinion page submissions to regional newspapers advocating for faithful stewardship of soils and water.
- To provide appropriate faith & agriculture articles, webinars and/or podcasts as requested.

Team Benefits:

- Mileage and meals will be provided for approved in-person meetings.
- The opportunity to influence the faith & agriculture mission of the MVP.