

**PRESBYTERY OF BLACKHAWK
STATED MEETING VIA ZOOM
February 8, 2022, at 6:30 pm**

The Presbytery of Blackhawk convened on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 6:30 pm in a Stated Meeting held via Zoom. This was a joint meeting of the Ecclesial body, the Presbytery of Blackhawk and the Corporate body, the Presbytery of Blackhawk, Inc.

WELCOME/OVERVIEW OF ZOOM MEETING PROCESS

Stated Clerk Rev. Eric Heinekamp welcomed participants to the meeting and provided instructions for speaking and voting using Zoom during the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

Moderator Rev. Dr. Richard “Skip” Shaffer, Oswego Presbyterian Church, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and opened with prayer.

The following first-time attending ruling elders were introduced: Larry Tombaugh, Streator, Park Presbyterian Church; Walt Cowen, Bolingbrook, First Presbyterian Church of DuPage; Angela Remer, Morrison, First Presbyterian Church; Judy Krueger, McHenry, Faith Presbyterian Church; Kimberly Mikesell, Oswego Presbyterian Church; Marie Wiersema, Caledonia, Willow Creek Presbyterian Church; Raymond Thuma, Woodstock, First Presbyterian Church; and Jonathan Brzuchowski, Piper City First Presbyterian.

The following first-time attending ministers were introduced: Rev. Thea Kornelius, Elgin, First Presbyterian Church and Rev. Dr. Jennifer Stroud, Joliet, First Presbyterian Church.

It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to seat Corresponding Members Rev. Sterrett Collins, Great Rivers Presbytery, serving Henry First Presbyterian Church as temporary supply; Rev. Dr. Jennifer Stroud, Tropical Florida Presbytery, serving Joliet First Presbyterian Church as interim pastor; and Rev. Dr. Ken Green, Chicago Presbytery, representing the Board of Pensions.

Moderator Shaffer declared that a quorum was present. Rev. Heinekamp presented the proposed docket for the meeting.

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Leader</u>
6:20	First opportunity to sign into meeting	
6:30	Welcome and overview of meeting	Eric Heinekamp
6:35	Call to order and opening prayer	Skip Shaffer
	Quorum/Minutes/Docket/Corresponding Members	
	Worship	
	Scripture and sermon	Roy Backus
	Communion – <i>Please gather your elements</i>	Jan Chandler
	Offering for Youth Retreats	Skip Shaffer
7:00	Visioning Task Force presentation	VTF
	Breakout group discussions	
	Report back from breakout groups	
8:00	Update from Board of Pensions	Ken Green

8:10	Council actions	Anita Stuart-Steva
	Report on Council actions	
8:20	Committees of Council	
	Assembly Planning	Skip Shaffer
	Finance and Property	Scott Vandermyde
	Mission	Alex Regets
	Personnel	Mike Selburg
8:50	Committees / Commission of Assembly	
	Commission on Ministry	Dave Terrinoni
	Committee on Preparation for Ministry	Dave Jones
	Nominating Committee	Doug Forsberg
9:20	Reports	
	TGP / SC Report	Eric Heinekamp
	Presbyterian Women	Jill Sunday
	Synod Report	
	Stronghold Update	
9:30	Corporation/Trustees	Skip Shaffer
	Treasurer report	Frank Finch
	Approval of property sale	Skip Shaffer
9:40	New and unfinished business	
9:45	Adjourn with prayer	Skip Shaffer

The docket was approved by **Unanimous Consent**.

The minutes of the November 9, 2021 Stated Meeting were approved by **Unanimous Consent**.

OPENING WORSHIP

Moderator Shaffer moved the assembly into a time of worship. Rev. Dr. Roy Backus, Morris, First Presbyterian Church, read from scripture 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5 and preached on “Why Preach.” The offering, taken via check to the presbytery office or through the website, goes to the Youth Triennium or future confirmation or senior high retreats. Rev. Jan Chandler, Gardner, Church of Hope, led the assembly in a service of communion.

VISIONING TASK FORCE

Visioning Task Force Moderator Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg, Morrison, First Presbyterian Church, introduced a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the task force’s work so far and introducing the concept of the “soul” of the Presbytery as the call, essence, spark, or spiritual energy given by God. Following the presentation, participants met in small groups in virtual breakout rooms to discuss the following question: When have you seen Blackhawk Presbytery at its best? Share your story about it. What divine spark was tied into this “moment?”

Following the breakout discussions, breakout moderators summarized each group’s discussion.

BOARD OF PENSIONS UPDATE

Rev. Dr. Ken Green, Board of Pensions representative, shared a theology of benefits used by the Board of Pensions. He called attention to the many facets of the Assistance Program, funded

through gifts and donations. Through the program, all active participants may have access to adoption, emergency, and transition to college assistance. Minister participants may have access to minister and educational debt relief and sabbatical assistance. Retired participants may have access to housing and income supplemental assistance and medical grants. He introduced a new healthcare navigator benefit and updated the Assembly on COVID benefits.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

Council Moderator Rev. Dr. Anita Stuart-Steva, Middle Creek Presbyterian Church, moved on behalf of Council that Pastor Kathy Linn, Apple River Presbyterian Church, be approved as a member of the Nominating Committee. The Presbytery Assembly **Voted** to approve the motion.

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Moderator Shaffer noted that the Committee continues to work on the planning for the April 2022 Assembly meeting.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

No report.

MISSION COMMITTEE

Committee Moderator Rev. Alex Regets, Manteno Community Presbyterian Church, presented the committee's report (attached). He introduced Rev. Steven Bowie, Rockford Third Presbyterian Church, who reported, via a prerecorded video, on the outcomes of two Mission Committee grants: \$1,000 for youth retreats and \$1,000 for Northwest Neighbors Community Center. Rev. Bowie also noted that he is the Youth Triennium registrar. Registration opening has been delayed to mid-March. Moderator Regets introduced Zach Schmidt, regional coordinator for Bread for the World, who gave a brief presentation about the Bread for the World mission.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Committee Moderator Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg, Morrison First Presbyterian Church, called attention to the committee's written report (attached).

COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES OF THE ASSEMBLY

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Commission Vice-Moderator Rev. David Terrinoni, La Rose Crow Meadow Presbyterian Church, presented the Commission report (attached).

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY ACTION:

COM moved that Blackhawk Presbytery approve the Commissioned Pastor (CP) Manual (attached). The Presbytery Assembly **Voted** to approve the motion.

COM moved that Blackhawk Presbytery adopt a policy for minimum terms of call (attached). The Presbytery Assembly **Voted** to approve the motion.

COM moved that Blackhawk Presbytery approve guidelines for how frequently congregations may supply their pulpits with an individual person. Pulpit supply is generally used to fill a pulpit

when a called, temporary supply, or commissioned pastor is on vacation, not able to be in worship on a Sunday, or when a pulpit becomes vacant. Pulpit supply is not meant to be a substitute for a covenant pastoral relationship. COM recommends guidelines that no individual person should provide pulpit supply to a particular congregation for more than 3 weeks in a row, without a covenant agreement. The Presbytery Assembly **Voted** to approve the motion.

REPORTING ON OTHER ACTIONS TAKEN by COM:

Extended the commission of Pastor Chuck Johnson to serve Plainfield Wheatland Presbyterian Church from January 1, 2022 – April 30, 2022. Commission includes leading worship, offering the sacraments, moderating session, and congregational meetings.

Extended the commission of Chrystal Abbott to serve as Commissioned Pastor to New Lenox Central Presbyterian Church effective January 10, 2022 – November 30, 2022. Commission includes leading worship, offering the sacraments, moderating session, and congregational meetings.

Approved the continuing full-time commission of Pastor Ray Lantz to serve Gibson City First Presbyterian Church from January 1, 2022 – November 30, 2024. Commission includes leading worship, offering the sacraments, moderating session and congregational meetings, pastoral calls, officiate weddings and funerals, administrative duties, and work with committees of the church.

Approved the request to transfer Rev. Cindy Carlisle, Member at Large, to Tres Rios Presbytery in Texas, effective December 1, 2021.

Approved the request to transfer Rev. Dr. Susan Presley to Missouri Union Presbytery in Missouri, when the way be clear.

Approved the Rev. Dr. John Rickard, honorably retired, to labor outside the bounds of Blackhawk Presbytery to serve as the Bridge Presbyter for the Presbytery of Great Rivers, beginning January 3, 2022 through June 2022, and may be renewed on a month-to-month basis.

Approved the formation of a PNC at Mendota First Presbyterian Church.

Authorized Rev. Spencer Lawrence to moderate a special session meeting and a special congregational meeting at Mendota First Presbyterian Church on January 9, 2022.

Authorized Rev. Karen Slack, honorably retired, to moderate the congregational meeting at Marengo First Presbyterian Church on February 13, 2022.

OTHER INFORMATION

As per Presbytery policy, “Boundary training is required for all people in pastoral ministry and shall be taken at the earliest opportunity when one first enters the Presbytery. Renewal of that training shall be required every three years.” Nearly all of the Blackhawk pastors have completed this training. A list of those not meeting this requirement will be provided at the next presbytery meeting.

COM is in the process of developing a revised process for guiding Pastor Nominating Committees.

Vice-Moderator Terrinoni recognized the service of Pastor Faith Herout as she completed her commission at Morris First Presbyterian Church at the end of January. Members of the congregation and Rev. Dr. Roy Backus spoke to her service.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry accepted Commissioned Pastor Faith Herout as an Inquirer. Aaron Shoppa has withdrawn from care as an Inquirer.

CPM voted to approve the Commissioned Pastor Manual and present it to the Presbytery Assembly for final approval in February.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Committee Moderator Rev. Doug Forsberg, Rochelle, First Presbyterian Church, moved to approve the following nominations:

Commission on Ministry—Rev. Randal Nicholas, Sandwich Federated Church (Area 3), MWS class of 2024, 1st term.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry—Rev. Jeff Borgerson, honorably retired, MWS class of 2024, 2nd term.

The Presbytery Assembly **Voted** to approve the motion.

TRANSFORMATIONAL GENERAL PRESBYTER/STATED CLERK REPORT

Transformational General Presbyter/Stated Clerk Rev. Eric Heinekamp presented his reports (attached).

He requested a motion that Blackhawk Presbytery grant an exception to the Book of Order section G-2.0404 to Bolingbrook, First Presbyterian Church of DuPage and La Rose Crow Meadow Presbyterian Church to allow one current ruling elder to remain on session for an extra year. It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to approve the motion.

He reported that 2021 minutes for 52 churches have been reviewed and reminded congregations that the deadline for completed Annual Statistical Reports is February 17. He called attention to the requirement that sessions must approve any health reimbursement arrangements annually.

He thanked Pat Wakeley for her service as Recording Clerk.

He read the annual necrology report of ruling and teaching elders in Blackhawk Presbytery and lifted them in prayer.

He noted that a new website is being developed for Blackhawk Presbytery. The directory will be password protected and it has been suggested that assembly meeting papers be protected as well. Meeting participants were polled for their opinions on password protection of assembly documents.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women in Presbytery Communications Editor Jill Sunday reported that in 2021 Blackhawk Presbytery contributed 978 School Kits, 372 Hygiene Kits, and 49 Clean-up Buckets to Church World Service, along with financial contributions of approximately \$3,356. She requested churches inform her of their goal for this year.

SYNOD REPORT

No report.

CORPORATION AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Corporation President Rev. Dr. Skip Shaffer suspended the assembly meeting and called to order the meeting of the corporate body.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Frank Finch reported that the review of 2020 financials is complete. There will be a full audit of 2021 financials. He presented the 2021 year-end Treasurer’s Report. (attached). The report was received by **Unanimous Consent**.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board President Shaffer requested a motion to approve the sale of 5 acres of farmland held by the congregation of La Rose Crow Meadow Presbyterian Church for approximately \$3,000 per acre. It was moved, seconded, and **Voted** to approve the motion.

Corporation President Shaffer closed the meeting of the corporate body and resumed the assembly meeting.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no new or unfinished business.

ADJOURN WITH PRAYER

Moderator Shaffer called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made, seconded, and **Voted** to adjourn the meeting of the day. Moderator Shaffer closed the meeting with prayer at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Eric Heinekamp, Stated Clerk

Patricia J. Wakeley, Recording Clerk

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery Assembly will be April 5, 2022. This meeting will likely be a hybrid meeting (with some participants in person and some on the Zoom platform) at a place to be determined. The meeting is at 9:30 am.

BLACKHAWK PRESBYTERY

Roll Call: February 8, 2022 Presbytery Meeting (Zoom Video Conference)

	CHURCH	PASTOR(S)	PRESENT	ELDER COMMISSIONER
1	Apple River	Pastor Kathy Linn, CP	ABSENT	1
2	Aurora Second			1
3	Belvidere, First	Rev. Dr. Bob Kopp	EXCUSED	1
4	Bolingbrook, First of DuPage	Rev. KJ Norris	PRESENT	1 Walter Cowan
5	Braidwood First	Pastor Dale Tolly, CP	PRESENT	1
6	Caledonia, Willow Creek	Rev. Lauren Patrus-Betzel	PRESENT	1 Marie Wiersema
7	Coal City, New Hope	Rev. Mark Hughey	PRESENT	1
8	Crystal Lake, Ridgefield	Rev. John Dillon	ABSENT	1 Mary Ellen Shine
9	Dakota, Community			1
10	DeKalb, Westminster	Rev. Dr. Blake Richter	PRESENT	1
		Rev. Molly Morris	ABSENT	
11	Dixon, First	Rev. Dr. David Spaulding	PRESENT	1
12	Earlville, United	Pastor Del Keilman, CP	ABSENT	1
13	Elgin, First	Rev. Rothea Kornelius	PRESENT	1 Deborah Walters
14	Elizabeth, Schapville Zion	Pastor Dorothy Morizzo, CP	PRESENT	1
15	Elmira, United	Pastor Art Blegen	PRESENT	1
16	Elwood Community	Pastor Mike Engle, CP	PRESENT	1 Scott Wallace
17	Fairbury, First	Rev. Daniel Robertson	PRESENT	1
18	Franklin Grove, First	Pastor Jack Briggs, CP	ABSENT	1
19	Fulton	Rev. Catherine Martin	ABSENT	1
20	Fulton, Garden Plain			1
21	Galena, First	Rev. James McCrea	PRESENT	1 Katherine Pearson
23	Gardner, Church of Hope	Rev. Janet Chandler	PRESENT	1
24	Geneva, Fox Valley	Rev. Stephanie Anthony	PRESENT	1 Lisa Hall
		Rev. Michelle Hwang	EXCUSED	2
25	Gibson City, First	Pastor Ray Lantz, CP	PRESENT	1
26	Hanover, United	Pastor Jeanne Ohms, CP	PRESENT	1
27	Harvard, First	Pastor Claire Brennecke, CP	PRESENT	1
28	Henry, First	Rev. Sterrett Collins *	PRESENT	1 James Panier
29	Joliet, First	Rev. Dr. Jennifer Stroud	PRESENT	1
		Rev. Bo Mircea	PRESENT	2
		Pastor Carrie Kapral	ABSENT	
30	Joliet, Westminster	Rev. Matt Robinson	PRESENT	1
31	Kankakee, First			1
32	Kewanee, First	Pastor Art Blegen	PRESENT	1
33	LaRose, Crow Meadow	Rev. David Terrinoni	PRESENT	1 Robert Newman
34	Manteno, Community	Rev. Alex Regets	PRESENT	1
35	Marengo, First			1
36	McHenry, Faith	Rev. Rich Davis	EXCUSED	1 Judy Krueger
37	Mendota, First			1
38	Morris, First	Rev. Dr. Roy Backus	PRESENT	1
39	Morrison, First	Rev. Dr. Michael Selburg	PRESENT	1 Angela Reamer

40	New Lenox, Central	Pastor Chrystal Abbott, CP	PRESENT	1
41	Oswego	Rev. Dr. Richard Shaffer	PRESENT	1
42	Ottawa, First	Rev. John Walker	ABSENT	1 Mike Farrell
43	Paw Paw, First			1
44	Piper City, First			1 Jonathan Brzuchowski
45	Plainfield, Wheatland United			1
46	Pontiac, First	Pastor JD Buchenau	PRESENT	1
47	Princeton, First United	Rev. Angela McClane	PRESENT	1
48	Rochelle, First	Rev. Doug Forsberg	PRESENT	1 Bob Book
49	Rockford, Second/First	Rev. Rebecca White Newgren	PRESENT	1 Terry Mohaupt
50	Rockford, Korean	Rev. Andrew Kim	ABSENT	1
51	Rockford, Third	Rev. Stephen Bowie	EXCUSED	1 Dan Chiodini
52	Rockford, Westminster	Rev. Michael Hafele	EXCUSED	1 Jean Lisk
		Pastor Gretchen Hammeke, CP	PRESENT	
		Pastor Barb D'Souza, CP	ABSENT	
53	Romeoville, United			1
54	Sandwich, Federated	Rev. Randal Nicholas	PRESENT	1
55	Savanna, First	Rev. Gary Panetta	EXCUSED	1
56	Shannon, Prairie Dell			1
57	Somonauk, United			1
58	St. Anne, First			1
59	Sterling, First	Rev. Dr. Christina Berry	PRESENT	1 Diana Day-Schreiner
60	Streator, Park United	Rev. Caleb Suydam	PRESENT	1 Larry Tombaugh
61	Utica, Waltham	Rev. Joel Stevenor	ABSENT	1
62	Waterman			1
63	Watseka, First			1
64	Wenona, United			1
65	Wilmington, First	Rev. Hope Sibson	ABSENT	1
		Rev. Steve Sibson	ABSENT	
66	Winnebago, First	Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyer	PRESENT	1 Jill Sunday
67	Winnebago, Middle Creek	Rev. Dr. Anita Stuart-Steva	PRESENT	1
68	Woodstock, First	Rev. Eric Corban	PRESENT	1 Ray Thuma
69	Yorkville, Au Sable Grove	Rev. Jenny Hubbard	ABSENT	1

* Laboring within our bounds

↑ eligible voting
commissioners

OTHER TEACHING ELDERS ATTENDING:

Rev. David Jones
Rev. Dr. Craig Herr

Rev. Diane Jochum
Rev. Dr. Murray Hanson

Rev. Leon Aalberts

PRESBYTERY STAFF:

Rev. Eric Heinekamp
Loreen Stravers
Pat Wakeley, recording secretary
Frank Finch

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:

Rev. Ken Green - Board of Pensions/Presbytery of Chicago

Rev. Sterrett Collins - Great Rivers Presbytery

REPRESENTATIVES:

Laurie Walker, Presbytery Vice-Moderator

Zach Schmidt, Bread for the World

Scott Vandermyde, Moderator Property and Finance Committee

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Michael Rugh

Christine Young

Phil Rarick

Francine Konow

Helen Eikstadt

Charles Lueth

Barry Flint

Faith Herout

Dave Perry

Chris Perry

Kimberley Mikesell

Susan Hedglin

Gerald Larson

TOTAL ATTENDING: 81