

## **A Recap of the Blackhawk Presbytery February 11 Assembly Meeting**

A Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Blackhawk was held on February 11, in the evening on zoom with Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyer moderating and 78 people in attendance. The assembly welcomed our [PCUSA Co-moderators](#), Rev. Tony Larson and Rev. CeCe Armstrong who brought their message of discipleship during the worship service. Communion was celebrated.

Special guest, Rev. Charlie Berthoud from Covenant Presbyterian in Madison presented a lively view of ideas, based on his experience, for forming lifelong disciples in our congregations. He has generously shared his [slide show](#), and we also offer a video segment of his presentation (<https://youtu.be/3SDAmugMFUI>). Attendees gathered in break out groups to share reflections on forming disciples.

Lifelong Discipleship Formation as a mark of church vitality was also highlighted in two brief videos – one showing the special Family Worship services at Rockford Third and a second recapping the unique faith-building that happens for both youth and adult leaders at the Stronghold Confirmation Retreat ([see video here](#)).

The assembly elected Pastor Alan Willadsen to serve as Treasurer for the presbytery and Rev. Dr. David Spaulding to serve as Associate Stated Clerk, a new position. They offered thanks to Loreen Stravers, Office Administrator for the last 12 years, who is retiring at the end of March. A search for her successor is underway, hoping they will be in place by March first.

The final seven amendments to the PCUSA Constitution plus the Episcopal Agreement were approved by the assembly. The COM reported that Pastor Jeanne Ohms has been commissioned to serve in an exciting new jail/prison ministry she has developed in NW Illinois. Among other business, COM recognized the dissolution of the call to Rev. Stephanie Anthony by Geneva Fox Valley, offering a blessing to her new call in Lehigh Presbytery. The Nominating Committee presented candidates for open positions and all were approved.

The Stated Clerk noted that the Kankakee First church building, (congregation dissolved in December of 2024) has been appraised and is for sale. The Somonauk United congregation is moving down a similar path. Steps are ongoing to transfer Gibson City First to SE Illinois Presbytery, and the Rockford Korean congregation to Midwest Korean Presbytery, both actions that were approved by the assembly in November. The Stated Clerk also recognized and prayed for Ruling Elders who died in 2024.

Outgoing Treasurer Rev. Eric Heinekamp reported the presbytery ended 2024 with an operating income greater than expenses. For 2024, 73% of the per capita due was collected with 41 of our 64 congregations paying 100% of their per capita. Eleven churches paid nothing. The Presbytery pays our GA and Synod per capita assessments in full. The 2024 shared mission giving of \$135,000 was gratefully received.