

Winnebago Presbytery

Bearing Witness to Jesus Christ, Strengthening & Connecting Congregations

2023 Brought A Great Deal of Change to the Presbytery

Merry Christmas and happy New Year from the Winnebago Presbytery staff. Thank you for all the ways that we work together to be faithful!

If the first half of 2023 had us focusing on learning about and voting on 33 amendments brought forward by the 2022 General Assembly, **the second half of this year was a time to implement the many changes.**

Winnebago Presbytery held 5 meetings in 2023 to enable the discussion, voting, and implementation of the amendments. The meetings were held successfully by 4 hybrid (in-person and by Zoom) events 1 Zoom meeting. The meetings in January, March, and May focused on learning about and voting on the amendments. The September and November meetings addressed how to implement the changes to the Book of Order. These changes included:

- The Presbytery, from different angles including the Personnel Committee and Commission on Ministry, implemented the new Paid Family Medical Leave provision of the *Book of Order* through approval of new minimum terms of call for 2024 and an approved revision of the presbytery's Personnel Policies;

- A harassment policy was drafted, discussed, and approved;
- Still to come – antiracism policy.

The new Church Leadership Connection (CLC) that helps match churches looking for pastors with new leaders was launched. All active Pastor Nominating Committees were quickly up and active on the new system.

Congratulations to First Presbyterian Church of Fond du Lac for successfully navigating the new system and electing a new pastor!

Conversations with Milwaukee and John Knox Presbyteries began at our invitation. Two specific actions are being drafted or explored:

- With John Knox's Presbytery Administrator set to retire in February, plans have been developed (though not yet approved) for Winnebago and John Knox to share one staff person to provide administrative support to both presbyteries;
- A three-week devotional available for January.

After a few attempts, email and

phone issues, we were finally able to launch a brand new website going into 2024. It is our hope that the new website will enhance continued communication, foster new community engagement, and provide resources in a more user-friendly design.

We've also revamped our digital newsletter *News & Notes* for 2024 to further reflect all of the changes we've embraced this year. You can add yourself to our email list and stay up-to-date with Winnebago Presbytery news, our Ecumenical Partners, and the denomination by contacting WBP Administrative Assistant, Miranda Halsey, (see reverse for contact details).

We invite you to explore the website and subscribe to *News & Notes* at winnebagopresbytery.org. We look forward to this new chapter in our digital journey together!

We are Presbyterians.

Winnebago Presbytery is 1 of 166 Presbyteries in the Presbyterian Church USA.

We are composed of 28 congregations all over Northeastern Wisconsin, with 4000+ members.



Bearing Witness to Jesus Christ, strengthening and connecting congregations

NEEDING INFORMATION?

HERE IS WHO TO CONTACT.

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GENERAL INFORMATION, FINANCE

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POLITY QUESTIONS

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COMMISSION ON MINISTRY POLICIES, PASTORAL TRANSITIONS, BOARD OF PENSIONS, GENERAL INFORMATION

DAVE COLBY

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Special Thanks to Our 2023 Leadership

OFFICERS

SUE BUCK, Moderator

BOB BOSWELL, Stated Clerk

CRAIG ALWIN, Treasurer

KIMBREL JOHNSON, Immediate Past Moderator & Leadership Commission Chair

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP COMMISSION

LAURIE McCULLOCH, Moderator, Commission on Ministry, Memorial PC Appleton

STEVE BORK, Moderator, Personnel Committee, FPC Neenah

MIKE MEAD, Moderator, Finance Commission, FPC Athelstone

BRENDA BREITNER, Presbyterian Women Representative, Frame Memorial PC Stevens Point

SYNOD OF LAKES & PRAIRIES COMMISSIONERS

AL SMITH, FPC Green Bay

STAFF

DAVE COLBY, Transitional General Presbyter

BOB BOSWELL, Stated Clerk

LESLIE GUNTER, Commission on Ministry

MIRANDA HALSEY, Administrative Assistant

In keeping with the theme of change in 2023, with the assistance of a grant from the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation, Winnebago Presbytery was able to host author and theologian, Dr. Andrew Root. His insight on ministry in a secular age provided valuable information to all in attendance. We are looking forward to keeping the conversation going for our digital event with Andy on January 23, 2024.



Comings & Goings

Welcome

- Rev. Ashley Abraham Hood, newly installed pastor at Frame Memorial Church in Stevens Point
- Chaplain Andy Sonneborn
- Retired pastor Sheryle Lyman

Farewell & Thanks

- Leslie Gunter, who retired as our COM Coordinator at the end of September
- Bill Kamke, who is retiring as Pastor for Wequiock Presbyterian Church on December 31, 2023

New Leaders

New Leaders elected by presbytery will begin service in January:

- Matt Sauer, Moderator, FPC Manitowoc
- Katie Estes, Commission on Ministry Chair, FPC Green Bay
- Steve Bork, Vice-Moderator, FPC Neenah
- Jim Gates, Finance Commission Chair, Covenant Community PC Schofield
- Sue Buck, Immediate Past Moderator, Leadership Commission Chair, Frame Memorial PC Stevens Point
- Laurie Brubaker Davis, Personnel Committee Chair, FPC Marshfield

Currently Open Pastoral Searches

Three congregations have Pastor Nominating Committees, engaged in seeking pastoral leadership for their congregations. They are:

- First Presbyterian Church, Winneconne & First Presbyterian Church, Weyauwega - A joint search for a full-time, shared pastor
- First Presbyterian Church, Abbotsford