

HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY                      Brian Johnson, Moderator                      May 16, 2024  
Fairbury Presbyterian Church

*All times are approximate and are NOT orders of the day.*

9:30 a.m.    ORIENTATION.....Erica Nelson

10:00 a.m.    PRESBYTERY CONVENES  
                    Call to Order  
                    Opening Prayer  
                    Adoption of Docket  
                    Seating of Corresponding Members  
                    Welcome of first-time commissioners and pastors

10:05 a.m.    WELCOME FROM HOST CHURCH.....Dave Conde

10:10 a.m.    WORSHIP  
                    *The offering is designated to The Nebraska Rural Hotline.*

11:00 a.m.    TABLE TALK.....Steve Piper

11:45 a.m.    CELEBRATIONS

11:50 a.m.    NEBRASKA PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION.....Audrey Richert

11:55 a.m.    UPDATE FROM CAMP CALVIN CREST.....Craig Huffman

12:00 p.m.    LUNCH

#### OFFICERS AND STAFF REPORTS

1:00 p.m.    Presbytery Moderator.....Brian Johnson  
                    Steering the Ship Moderator.....Steve Piper  
                    Treasurer.....Ed McClymont  
                    Stated Clerk.....Erica Nelson  
                    Synod Commissioners.....Duane Westing and Maggie Horak

#### STANDING TEAM REPORTS

1:30 p.m.    Companions for the Journey.....Edward Yang  
                    Ministries for Extraordinary Times.....Chris Peters  
                    Presbyterian Women.....Teresa Bartlett  
                    Reconciliation and Trust.....Alan Brehm

#### CONTINUING BUSINESS

1:50 p.m.    ANNOUNCEMENTS

2:00 p.m.    CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT



**2310 H Street - Fairbury, NE 68352**  
**(402) 729-6129 - [info@fairburypresbyterian.com](mailto:info@fairburypresbyterian.com)**

April 22, 2024

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to First United Presbyterian Church, Fairbury NE! We are honored to host the May 2024 Homestead Presbytery Stated Meeting. Fairbury is a town of approximately 3900 and is the county seat of Jefferson County. Our town has a history that is closely connected to the railroad and the western division headquarters of the Rock Island Railroad was located here for nearly 80 years.

Late in the Autumn of 1873, 15 families visited with Rev. F.X. Miron to form a new church in the town of Fairbury, that had been established in 1869. On November 30, 1873, First United Presbyterian Church was founded, with 26 original members. The fledgling church shared a building with the Fairbury Baptist Church until 1878 before building a new church building, where they remained until 1915 when they moved to a new location at 6<sup>th</sup> and H Streets (presently the Foursquare Church). In 1999, our present location was dedicated, a new completely accessible building at 23<sup>rd</sup> and H Street.

Over the past 150 years, our church has been blessed in many ways. We are very active in the community, offering events such as our annual Harvest Festival, Chili Cookoff, Murder Mystery Dinner, Teacher Luncheon, Living Creche and more. For the past two years, our confirmation youth have been raising funds to donate reliable vehicles to local families in need. In March, they gave away their first car with at least one more planned for the Fall. Our Deacons work hard to provide care for the community and actively seek ways to shine the love of God on our neighbors. We believe that joining God in mission and showing love and kindness in our community is the first step in making disciples.

Worship is central to the life of our church. We gather on Sunday mornings at 10:30am to give praise, honor, and glory to Jesus. Scripture, music, and a message are key elements in our worship. Recently, we have added a monthly Compline worship service as well as "Engage". Engage is a group of young adults whose mission is to bring those younger generations back to the church. They do so with contemporary worship and events geared toward younger folks such as birthday celebrations and our recent Cinco De Mayo celebration.

Attendance at all of our worship services has been on the rise for some time. We might be a small town, but we aren't a sleepy little church! There is always so much going on here and we are excited to see where God will lead us next!

We are excited that you are here, and we hope you enjoy your time in our town. If you need anything, or have questions, please feel free to ask. Welcome to Fairbury!

Yours in Christ,

Dave Conde  
Ministry Coordinator



## **PRESBYTERY MODERATOR REPORT TO PRESBYTERY**

**Date of Meeting:** May 16, 2024

**Reported by:** Brian Johnson

### **SECTION A: Information background:**

1. Served on Administrative Commission (AC) to install Rev. Connie Stone as pastor at United PC, North Bend, NE. Installation was completed on 4/7/24.
2. Serving on AC to install Rev. Jon Sloan as pastor of First PC, Wahoo, NE, scheduled for 5/19/24.
3. Continuing to serve on the Steering the Ship team.



## STEERING THE SHIP REPORT TO PRESBYTERY

**Date of Meeting:** May 16, 2024

**Reported by:** Steve Piper

### **SECTION A: Information background:**

1. Upcoming presbytery meetings, all in person:
  - a. August 17 Calvin Crest, MRV will be meeting there at the same time
  - b. November 21 Norfolk
2. There have been no applications submitted for ruling elder alternate commissioner or teaching elder alternate commissioner for the next General Assembly which will be June 25 to July 4, 2024.
3. The administrative commission for closing churches expires in May. There are currently no churches anticipating closure so the commission will be allowed to expire. A new commission can be established when necessary. The team wishes to express their great thanks to the commission members – Darin Bentzinger, Suzanne Byler, Ellen Davis, Barb Kudera, Trev Peterson, Ron Wakeman, and Terri Wendel – for their important, difficult, and pastoral work.

### **SECTION B: Actions taken/Decisions made:**

1. The following work is underway:
  - a. Updates to the bylaws to reflect the new presbytery structure were reviewed. We are hopeful that a final draft will be ready for the first reading at the August 17 presbytery meeting.
  - b. Policy updates to reflect the *Book of Order* family medical leave requirement (G-2.0804) were reviewed. Some additional revision will be done and those changes will be reviewed at the next Steering the Ship team meeting in July.
  - c. The project to redesign the Homestead Presbytery web site is well underway. Erica shared mock-ups of the home page and a team page.
2. We recommend that in certain situations non-commissioner ruling elders be allowed to have voice on the floor of presbytery. **See the motion sheet.**
3. The team will do some work to revise Zoom meeting procedures to include a procedure for confidential voting.
4. The presbytery will have roughly \$40,000 to use for mission giving this year. We decided to co-opt a 3-to-5 person team to gather input from within the presbytery and to make recommendations for giving this year. This mission giving team will receive guidance from Steering the Ship team. **Those interested in serving on this mission**

**giving team should contact the Steering the Ship team moderator, Steve Piper. The Steering the Ship team will decide who among the volunteers will be on the co-opted team.**

5. We decided to adopt Jane Holtzclaw's suggestion for a community-building activity at the May 16 presbytery meeting. Jane will lead a session on mental health in ministry with emphasis on resilience / self-care. It will include a presentation on the topic followed by small group discussion time using questions provided by Jane followed by a session to share feedback from the small group discussions.
6. We decided that the offering taken at the May 16 presbytery meeting will go to the Nebraska Rural Response Hotline.

**SECTION C: Number of recommendations requiring Presbytery action:   1**



# STEERING THE SHIP TEAM

## MOTION SHEET

**Date of Meeting:** May 16, 2024

**Reported by:** Steve Piper

**Recommendation:** That non-commissioner ruling elders who have been elected (not co-opted) to serve on any presbytery team or on the Permanent Judicial Commission are allowed voice without vote on the floor of presbytery with the restriction that they may not introduce new business and their comments must be limited to the business being considered.

**Background:**

One of the topics that was discussed during the table talk activity at the February 17, 2024, presbytery meeting had to do with the idea of allowing non-commissioner ruling elders to speak while conducting business during presbytery meetings. The consensus seemed to be that it would be acceptable with certain restrictions.

**Homestead Presbytery**  
Statement of Financial Position

	<u>03/31/24</u>	<u>12/31/23</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Union Bank & Trust - Checking	110,315	100,893
Union Bank & Trust - Savings	<u>387,330</u>	<u>382,561</u>
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$497,645	\$483,454
Investments		
New Covenant Mutual Fund	\$367,876	\$348,625
Fixed Assets		
Equipment	\$5,157	\$5,157
Accumulated Depreciation - Equipment	<u>-\$5,157</u>	<u>-\$5,157</u>
Total Fixed Assets	\$0	\$0
Total Assets	\$865,521	\$832,079
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>		
Accounts Payable		
Payroll due Synod	\$5,720	\$1,704
Mission Receipts due Others		
Peacemaking	\$0	\$391
Synod Mission	\$187	\$1,832
GA Mission	\$187	\$1,887
One Great Hour	\$0	\$876
Pentecost	\$0	\$18
Theological Educational Fdn	\$183	\$92
Christmas Joy	\$21	\$1,233
GA designated	\$40	\$1,000
Calvin Crest	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
	\$618	\$7,329
Special Purpose Accounts		
CPM Scholarship	\$807	\$807
Permanent Judicial	\$6,850	\$6,850
Youth Triennium	\$25,870	\$25,870
Peacemaking	\$7,570	\$7,014
Local Disaster	<u>\$11,297</u>	<u>\$11,297</u>
	<u>\$52,394</u>	<u>\$51,838</u>
Total Accounts Payable	\$58,732	\$60,871
Fund Balance (detail below)	\$806,789	\$771,208
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$865,521	\$832,079

# Fund Balance Breakdown

	<u>03/31/24</u>	<u>12/31/23</u>
Church Vitalization	\$20,000	\$20,000
Closed Properties	\$324,340	\$324,340
Congregational Development	\$20,000	\$20,000
Ministry Support of Churches (Admin & Finance)	*budget*	\$10,000
Personal Financial Assistance (COM)	*budget*	\$9,194
Hispanic Latino AC	\$40,790	\$40,790
Prior Years' Unallocated Earnings	\$365,436	\$242,021
Current Years' Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$36,223</u>	<u>\$104,863</u>
Total Fund Balance	\$806,789	\$771,208



**Homestead Presbytery**

## Statement of Financial Activities

For the Period Ended March 31, 2024

	Actual <u>03/31/24</u>	Budget <u>2024</u>	Actual <u>2023</u>
Operating Receipts			
Per Capita	62,061	150,000	209,849
Unified Mission	8,598	60,000	67,157
Peacemaking	556	1,000	2,167
Synod Grant	2,500	10,000	10,000
Interest Income	4,768	13,000	17,213
Other Income	5,385	0	217
Unrealized Gain(Loss) Investments	<u>19,252</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>50,065</u>
Total Operating Receipts	103,120	234,000	356,668
Personnel Expense			
EP - Salary	0	0	13,333
EP - Housing Allowance	0	0	10,000
EP - Continuing Educ	0	0	140
EP - Expense & Travel	0	0	2,099
EP - Medical & Pension	0	0	9,812
EP - 403(b) Retirement	0	0	800
EP - SECA	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,785</u>
Total EP	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>37,969</u>
SC - Salary	5,035	20,140	19,000
SC - SocSec & Medicare	385	1,541	1,454
SC - Continuing Educ	0	2,000	495
SC - Expense & Travel	<u>0</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>467</u>
Total SC	<u>5,420</u>	<u>25,181</u>	<u>21,416</u>
AA - Salary	8,745	34,980	34,375
AA - SocSec & Medicare	608	2,432	0
AA - Medical	2,377	9,525	0
AA - Continuing Educ/Mileage	<u>729</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>4,429</u>
Total AA	<u>12,459</u>	<u>51,437</u>	<u>38,804</u>
Total	17,879	76,618	98,189
Per Capita Expense			
Per Capita - GA	11,593	46,374	48,462
Per Capita - Synod	<u>6,506</u>	<u>26,026</u>	<u>27,060</u>
Total	18,099	72,400	75,522

	Actual <u>03/31/24</u>	Budget <u>2024</u>	Actual <u>2023</u>
Mission Expense			
Calvin Crest	20,000	20,000	40,000
Youth Triennium	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,000</u>
Total	20,000	20,000	43,000
Companions for the Journey			
Commission on Ministry	2,681	7,500	808
Pastoral Retreats	520	14,000	0
Personal Financial Assistance	0	*10,000*	0
Preparation for Ministry	<u>390</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>1,286</u>
Total	3,591	25,000	2,094
Ministries for Extraordinary Times			
Disaster Response	0	1,000	0
Program & Grants Pool	0	7,500	1,183
Church Vitality Committee	<u>0</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>41</u>
Total	0	11,000	1,224
Congregational Network	0	0	0
Reconciliation & Trust	0	0	0
Permanent Judicial Committee	0	500	15
Steering the Ship			
Synod - Accounting Services	1,500	6,000	6,000
Finance & Administration	3,546	3,500	2,976
Ministry Support of Churches	0	*10,000*	0
Presbytery Meetings	270	2,200	1,320
Office Equipment & Supplies	53	1,500	4,005
Communication	1,523	4,500	15,613
Telephone	400	2,400	1,587
Postage	36	300	68
Administrative Fees	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>192</u>
Total	7,328	20,400	31,761
Total Expense	<u>66,897</u>	<u>225,918</u>	<u>251,805</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	36,223	8,082	104,863
Breakdown by Type			
Net Deficit - Operations	16,971		54,798
Net Deficit - Investments	<u>19,252</u>		<u>50,065</u>
Net Deficit	36,223		104,863



## STATED CLERK REPORT TO PRESBYTERY

**Reported by: Erica Nelson**  
**May 16, 2024**

### **SECTION A: Information background:**

1. The minutes from the January Steering the Ship meeting and the February presbytery were approved at the April Steering the Ship meeting.
2. All End of Year reports for presbytery were submitted. Kris Valerius, who is the OGA staff over the Stated Clerk Portal/Statistics, is out for the foreseeable future. The folks trying to step in and do her job are struggling to keep up, so the minister cards were only just recently mailed to us.
3. The Stated Clerks of the Synod will get together to review 2023 minutes early May. I will be able to report if our minutes passed in person at the meeting.

### **SECTION B: Actions taken/Decisions made:** [Votes by Committee not needing Presbytery action.]

### **SECTION C: Number of recommendations requiring Presbytery action:** \_\_\_\_#\_\_\_\_

[List each motion by title. Full motion and rationale is provided in the Motion Sheet]

1.



## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN REPORT TO PRESBYTERY**

**Date of Meeting:** May 16, 2024

**Reported by:** Teresa Barlett

The Presbyterian Women of Homestead Presbytery met Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at the Presbyterian Church in Fremont for their Spring Gathering. It was a good day of fellowship, information and looking to the future. About 25 women from across the Presbytery were present. Terri Sherman, Maggie Horak and Rev. Teresa Bartlett led worship. The installation of new officers, Mission Chair, Janice Stege and Moderator, Rev. Teresa Bartlett was led by former Lakes and Prairies Synod Moderator Sue Mesker of Hastings. The speaker for the day was Kathleen Keefer, outgoing Vice Moderator of Presbyterian Women. Kathleen gave an informative presentation on her experience with the 2023 USA Mission Experience to the southwest border region of Arizona.

The special project for the day was baby layette items for newborns. This was to support the Synod of Lakes and Prairies project for new mothers and babies on the Pineridge Reservation. The response to the request for layette items was outstanding and Homestead will have several boxes and bags of items to contribute to the Synod Project.

The Coordinating Team and Fremont PW cooperated for a light lunch of sandwiches and salads. For this meeting, no registration fee was charged for the lunch and a free will offering taken. The offering for the day was divided between the CT to cover the lunch and the Synod Native American Scholarship.

The Synod Native American Scholarship was recently established by the PW Synod Native American Concerns Committee (NACC) to support Native students attending

Native colleges. The first scholarship was \$500.00 and was awarded to Sonni Redday, a second semester freshman at Sisseton Wahpeton College in Sisseton, SD. The committee hopes to be able to award a spring and fall scholarship to deserving students. To support the scholarship donations can be sent to Terri Sherman, PWS Treasurer, 12244 N. 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68517. Checks should be made out to: PWSLAP; note on memo line: "Native College Scholarship Fund."

The afternoon closed with reports from chairpersons regarding Peace and Social Justice activities, literature, mission, the new Horizons Bible Study for 2024-2025 and birthday offerings. The Homestead PW Newsletter, The Circuit, contains valuable information regarding PW in the Presbytery including officers and Synod events and upcoming programs. If you don't already receive the Circuit contact Cheryl Scott (cherlynscoott@aol.com )to be added to the Circuit mailing list.

Information about the upcoming Churchwide gathering in St. Louis August 8-11, 2024, was also shared. Scholarship funds are available for those who would like to attend the Church wide gathering. Make your gathering reservation and then send Homestead PW Treasurer Maggie Horak confirmation of registration. Scholarship funds will be distributed following the gathering and based on the number of applicants for scholarship funds. New this year women can participate via online for \$150.00.

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies Co-ordinating team will meet on April 12-14<sup>th</sup> in Sioux City Iowa. Homestead Presbytery is well represented on the Synod Co-ordinating Team including, Teri Sherman as Treasurer, Maggie Horak as Vice moderator, Teresa Bartlett the Homestead Representative to the Synod and Christie Abraham as the Facebook/Social media Co-Ordinator.

**Officers for 2024-2025 Presbyterian Women in  
Homestead Presbytery**

**Moderator - Rev. Teresa Bartlett**

Tbartlett98@gmail.com

319-795-2911

First Presbyterian Church

216 W. 3rd Street, Wayne, NE 68787

**Vice Moderator - Rev. Jane Holtzclaw**

Pastorjane728@gmail.com

269-277-4850

7421 Kentwell Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516

**Secretary - Nancy Sloan**

nancy.e.sloan@gmail.com

402-480-2308

3001 Eldorado Drive, Lincoln, NE 68516

**Treasurer -Maggie Horak**

mmhlin@outlook.com

402-429-0523

5601 Barrington Park Drive, Lincoln, NE 68516

**Communications Coordinator/Circuit Editor-Cheryl  
Scott**

cherlynscoott@aol.com

402-792-2511

P.O. Box 28, Hickman, NE 68372

**Coordinator Social Justice & Peace -Christy Abraham**

Christylou71@gmail.com

402-742-5025

2300 S. 23rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68502

**Coordinator of Celebration Giving & Mission Opportunities - Janice Stege**

jjsteg@yahoo.com

402-570-2192

6144 Maple View Drive, Lincoln, NE 68512

**Coordinator of Literature & Resources - Vena Alesio**

Venabeth4nu@gmail.com

402-432-3909

7901 Amelia Drive, Lincoln, NE 68516

**Search Committee (North and South) - Terri Sherman**

terrisherman99@gmail.com

402-441-2823

12244 No. 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68517

**Cluster Leader (North & South) Joan Berglund**

joanlberglund@gmail.com

402-440-5478

545 S. 28th Street, Lincoln, NE 68510

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE SYNOD OFFERING**

### **LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies PW Co-ordinating Team is looking for women who support PW's purpose and want to engage as Jesus' hands and feet to the world. If you have skills of organization, technology, love reaching out through mission and enjoy the company of others and working together, there is a place for you on the CT. Any woman who is active in her local congregation whether or not there is an active PW in the church can participate in the mission of Presbyterian Women. PW's connectional structure allows women to participate as deeply or broadly in the organization as desired.

Opportunities to serve include Synod Moderator, Synod Secretary, Synod Historian and a representative for Area One Search Committee (Northern Plains, South Dakota, Central Nebraska, Dakota and Minnesota Valley Presbyteries) all but the Search Committee positions will begin in June of 2025. The search position is open immediately. See the PW Essentials Guide at [PWR23120-PW-Essentials.pdf](https://www.pw23120.org/PWR23120-PW-Essentials.pdf) ([presbyterianwomen.org](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org)) (See pages 14-17) for the job description for each position. The slate of officers will be presented at the April 2025 board meeting. The new officers will be installed at the Synod Gathering June 12-15<sup>th</sup> in Waterdown, S.D. for a three-term.

The Search Committee is currently comprised of Hope Dougherty,( Area Two, [hdougherty2018@gmail.com](mailto:hdougherty2018@gmail.com)) and Teresa Bartlett, (Area Three-[tbartlett98@gmail.com](mailto:tbartlett98@gmail.com)). The Search Committee welcomes self- referrals of interested women or if you know of women in your church or Presbytery who would be a great fit for one of these positions, please share their name with the Search Committee. The Search Committee asks each woman to pray about these opportunities and consider being a part of the Lakes and Prairies Co-ordinating Team and their work like this April's baby layette project for Pine Ridge Reservation which you can read about elsewhere in the Sower.

Presbyterian Women are busy, from local concerns to national engagement, Presbyterian Women, guided by the Holy Spirit, are at work, guided the PW purpose of strengthening the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnessing to the promise of God's kingdom, join with other women from around the Synod in this work.

### **Synod of Lakes and Prairies PW Search Committee**

Hope Dougherty

Teresa Bartlett

[Hdougherty2018@gmail.com](mailto:Hdougherty2018@gmail.com)

[teresabartlett98@gmail.com](mailto:teresabartlett98@gmail.com)





## RECONCILIATION AND TRUST TEAM REPORT TO PRESBYTERY

**Date of Meeting:** April 16, 2024

**Reported by:** Alan Brehm

### **SECTION A: Information background:**

1. The Reconciliation and Trust team had our initial meeting on Feb 1, 2024 to discuss our task. We began with the list of symptoms in the Bridgebuilder report as a place to start. Some are still dealing with trust issues while others are ready “move on.” Perception about the Presbytery remains a problem among the churches, and calls attention to the need to improve communication. The team decided to invite Cindy Halvorson to meet with us to offer any direction.
2. The Team met with Cindy Halvorson of Leaderwise via Zoom on Mar 7, 2024. She began by asking us some questions to help us think about our role. She also asked us for our thoughts on the purpose of Presbytery and what strengths we have. Then she gave us some feedback based on our discussion. She encouraged us to continue to follow our calling to try to connect with all the churches in a positive way, whether or not they respond. How we relate to them is our choice; how they respond is their choice. She encouraged us to reset the “narrative” about Homestead Presbytery by sharing the new energy we are seeing. She also recommended that we put the role of rebuilding trust in the context of a relationship between two people.
3. The Team met briefly to agree on our recommendations for Steering the Ship on Apr 4, 2024. The recommendations are listed below in section B.

### **SECTION B: Actions taken/Decisions made:** [Votes by Committee not needing Presbytery action.]

1. The HP Reconciliation and Trust committee recommends that we continue the round table discussions at Presbytery meetings.
2. In order to improve communication, the Team recommends that we encourage commissioners (especially ruling elders, but also pastors) to present a Moment for Mission at least once a year, and perhaps after every meeting. The team also recommends that talking points be provided to facilitate this.
3. The Team recommends that a four-color bulletin/newsletter insert be compiled after each Presbytery meeting with highlights. Perhaps this could be sent to the entire email list.
4. The Team is considering contracting with Cindy Halvorson to lead a training retreat on rebuilding trust via Zoom.
5. These recommendations are offered to Steering the Ship for their consideration.

### **SECTION C: Number of recommendations requiring Presbytery action:** \_\_\_\_#\_\_\_\_

None at this time.