

**PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA**

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2022—3:00PM**

**STATED MEETING AGENDA**

- 2:30pm Zoom Meeting opens (no formal activities)
- 3:00pm Gathering for Worship
- 3:10pm Stated Meeting Convenes *Vice Moderator John Zwier*
- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Forming the Roll
- Declaration of Quorum
- Approval of the Docket
- 3:15pm Welcome
- Introduction of New Minister Members
- Introduction of First Time Commissioners
- Seating of Corresponding Members
- INTRODUCTION OF TRANSITIONAL EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, REV. ELIZABETH SHANNON
- 3:30pm Prior Meeting Minutes and Omnibus Motion/Consent Agenda
- 3:35pm Verbal Reports:
- 2022 General Assembly Commissioners Report:**
- RE John Zwier, RE Jean Emmons, TE Risley Prakasim, TE Brenda Alexander*
- Anti Racism Task Force and Spiritual Pilgrimage:**
- TE Anna Kendig and TE Kendra Grams*
- Nominating & Developing Leaders: Report and Vote**
- RE Tom Ruter, Chair*
- Presbytery Leadership Team: Report and Vote**
- RE Jean Emmons, Chair*
- Board of Trustees: Report and Vote**
- TE Barbara Anne Keely*

**Mission, Scholarships & Grants:**

*RE Walter Rockenstein*

**Pastoral Support Team:**

*TE David Comstock and TE Matthias Peterson-Brandt*

**Commission on Ministry: Examinations for Ordination**

*RE Sue Goodspeed*

Examination: Heather Grantham

Examination for Ordination: MJ Voytek

4:40 pm

Adjourn with Prayer

**OMNIBUS MOTION / CONSENT AGENDA**

**September 13, 2022**

**I. Commission on Ministry**

**A. Reports from the May 23, 2022 meeting**

**1. Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis MN and Rev. Margaret Fox.** The Commission approved a full-time call effective August 1, 2022 with the following terms:

Salary	\$83,500 (includes housing)
Housing	
Automobile Allowance IRS Rate	Vouchered, no limit
Continuing Education Allowance	\$1,500
Continuing Education Leave	2 weeks
Vacation	4 weeks
Pension	Yes
Social Security Offset	No
Professional Expenses	\$1,200
Medical/Dental Supplement	Yes, dental paid by church
Optional Retirement Contribution	No
Sabbatical	Yes
Moving Expenses	\$10,000
Effective Date	August 1, 2022

2. **Approved** the validated ministry for TE Dave Comstock as Interim Pastor for Centennial United Methodist Church, Roseville and St. Paul effective July 1, 2022.
3. **Approved** stated supply contract between Jan Wiersma and Community Rochester.
4. **Approved** the validated ministry for MJ Voytek of Chaplain, Department of Correction, MC Shakopee.
5. **Approved** the validated ministry for TE Dan Yeazel as Supply Pastor for Hurunui combined churches in New Zealand effective August 14, 2022.

B. Reports from the June 27, 2022 meeting (A quorum was not present so these actions were ratified at the July 25, 2022 meeting)

1. **Recommend** MJ Voytek stand for ordination at the next stated presbytery meeting.
2. **Recommend** Heather Grantham stand for ordination at the next stated presbytery meeting.
3. **Recommended** Administrative Commission for TE Bart Roush to be installed as Senior Pastor at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Bloomington on July 17 at 9: 30 a.m.  
 John Zwier – ruling elder, vice-moderator  
 Paul St. Martin – Ruling Elder (Oak Grove)  
 Denise Dunbar Perkins – Teaching Elder, honorably retired  
 David Stewart – teaching elder, honorably retired  
 Barbara Anne Kelly – teaching elder, honorably retired  
 Chris Diller – ruling elder (Oak Grove)  
 Erica Schemper – teacher elder, at large

4. **House of Hope, St. Paul and Rev. Scott Kenefake.** The Commission approved a full-time call as Transitional Pastor effective August 1, 2022 with the following terms:

Salary	\$120,000 (includes housing)
Housing	
Automobile Allowance IRS Rate	
Continuing Education Allowance	\$4,500
Continuing Education Leave	2 weeks
Vacation	4 weeks
Pension	Yes
Social Security Offset	Yes
Professional Expenses	\$1,000
Medical/Dental Supplement	Yes
Optional Retirement Contribution	Yes, \$12,000 per year
Sabbatical	No
Moving Expenses	Yes
Effective Date	August 1, 2022

**5. Associated Church, Owatonna, MN and Rev. Elizabeth Terrill.** The Commission approved a full-time call as Transitional Pastor effective June 20, 2022 with the following terms:

Salary	\$57,820
Housing	\$24,000
Automobile Allowance IRS Rate	\$500
Continuing Education Allowance	\$1,200
Continuing Education Leave	2 weeks
Vacation	4 weeks
Pension	Through UCC
Social Security Offset	Yes
Professional Expenses	\$500
Medical/Dental Supplement	Yes
Optional Retirement Contribution	No
Sabbatical	No
Moving Expenses	Yes, up to \$8,000
Effective Date	June 20, 2022

**6. Recommended** transfer Rev. Dr. Karin Craven to Glacier Presbytery as a member-at-large effective June 27, 2022.

**7. Recommended** transfer Rev. Judy Landt to Chicago Presbytery at her request as Honorably Retired effective June 27, 2022.

**8. Approved** Rev. Heather Grantham's application for Validated Ministry.

C. Reports from the July 25, 2022 meeting

**1. Macalester Plymouth United Church, St. Paul MN and Rev. Cynthia Riffin.** The Commission approved a full-time call as Associate Pastor effective October 1, 2022 with the following terms:

Salary	\$80,000 (housing included)
Housing	
Automobile Allowance IRS Rate	\$1,000
Continuing Education Allowance	\$1,200
Continuing Education Leave	2 weeks
Vacation	4 weeks
Pension	Yes - UCC
Social Security Offset	Yes
Professional Expenses	\$1,000
Medical/Dental Supplement	
Optional Retirement Contribution	
Sabbatical	Yes
Moving Expenses	
Effective Date	October 1, 2022

## II. Committee on Preparation for Ministry

### A. The Committee reports:

1. Katrina Bergman, Candidate from St. Luke, is Certified Ready to Receive a Call.
2. MJ Voytek, Candidate from Andrew-Riverside, is Certified Ready to Receive a Call.
3. Heather Grantham, Candidate from Edgecumbe, is Certified Ready to Receive a Call.

### B. The Committee announces: (informational only items)

1. That we are looking for new members, especially Ruling Elders. You do not need any special knowledge or experience to be on the CPM, just an interest in supporting the development of new Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Commissioned Ruling Elders. We have a great group of people, and we'd love for you to join us. Plus, we have treats at every meeting. Please contact Becca Fletcher (moderator) at [becf22@gmail.com](mailto:becf22@gmail.com) if you have any
2. We are also looking for one Ruling Elder who is interested in reading Ordination Exams. Our reading period is the first week of February, so interested persons will need to be available during that week. Thorough training is provided. Please contact Becca Fletcher at [becf22@gmail.com](mailto:becf22@gmail.com) if you are interested or have any questions.

### Committee Members include:

- |                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Becca Fletcher, moderator | 5. Eily Marlow     |
| 2. Bob Lundberg              | 6. Alexandra Jacob |
| 3. Dave Comstock             | 7. John Gay        |
| 4. Sally Narr                |                    |

The next Committee meeting date/time is October 10 at 6:30 pm; the committee will meet at this location Westminster Presbyterian, Minneapolis, with a hybrid Zoom option.

Contact information for the chair is: Becca Fletcher, [becf22@gmail.com](mailto:becf22@gmail.com), 651-341-4185

## ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE (ARTF)

*The PTCA Anti-Racism Task Force (ARTF) has been in place since 2016 at the request of the Presbytery Leadership Team (PLT) to:*

- resource congregations and leaders for anti-racist growth and action*
  - support the ongoing systemic transformation of the PTCA into an anti-racist institution*
  - engage, alongside presbytery officers and leadership, in gospel-centered prophetic witness*
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### Anti-Racism Task Force Update

ARTF is taking a “sabbatical year” from the Anti-Racism Spiritual Pilgrimage, which was offered in 2020-21 and 2021-22, to focus on other ways to extend their creativity and impact.

Currently, ARTF is reviewing the data and feedback from the calls to each congregation (made by PLT and ARTF leaders in the spring/summer of this year) asking how the PTCA can support anti-racism efforts within our congregations. ARTF is using this feedback to guide their ongoing visioning and planning.

Look for more information soon about ARTF’s next steps to resource and support congregations in seeking radical justice.

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### Institutional Race and Equity Self-Assessment (IREA) Update:

The presbytery’s Institutional Race and Equity Self-Assessment (IREA), authorized by PLT in 2019 and launched in early 2020), continues. The self-assessment team continues to meet multiple times each month (in large and small groups) with individual work between meetings. While a great deal of work has been completed, final data gathering, data cross referencing/ analysis, and report writing remain. Here are a few updates on final data gathering efforts:

- 1. Race and Equity Survey:** We extend our gratitude to the hundreds of people who completed the race and equity survey for the PTCA in May and June. The self-assessment team is currently analyzing responses with the expert help of their Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing and Training data analysis partners.
- 2. Focus Groups:** The self-assessment team has identified that several focus groups would help clarify data and enrich voices of communities with smaller *numerical* representation in the PTCA - namely congregants under age 45 and people of color. An open focus group will also be held in the coming weeks to offer the chance to any and all interested in participating.

We invite you to share this information with those who represent these particular groups in your own congregations and communities. Dates for the focus groups will be:

**1. Focus groups for people of color:**

- Saturday Sept 24th, *in-person* Liberty Presbyterian Church, 9:45 am (light refreshments provided). 3700 Bryant Ave N, Minneapolis 55412.
- Tuesday Sept 27th at 6pm, on *Zoom*

**2. For young adults:**

- Saturday Oct 1st, 10 am, on *Zoom*

**ALL are welcome:**

- Tuesday Oct 4th, 6pm, on *Zoom*

**3. For youth:**

TBD (please contact Anna if you have youth/youth groups ages 14-18 who would be interested in this outdoor or indoor/masked event.)

To pass along this info to people of color and young adults so they can sign up, click [HERE](#)

**3. Final report timeline:** Even meeting several times a month and doing independent work, the self-assessment team is planning for the report to be ready in 2023. While this has taken longer than the initial timeline (the pre-COVID estimate), the self-assessment team has remained faithful and clear about their dedication to this important self-awareness work in our churches and common presbytery work. The goal is to make recommendations that will allow the presbytery to take action with clarity and faithfulness, and to provide resources for congregational and PTCA committee engagement with the rich content of the self-study report (e.g. videos, discussion questions, short Bible studies, etc.).

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**Upcoming anti-racism opportunities**

The ARTF is always happy to share resources and opportunities for future learning, and here are three opportunities with varying levels of virtual/in-person accessibility:

- **In-person conference/retreat “Fraught and Flummoxed” Mon evening Oct 10th - Wed Oct 13th:** Part of Montreat’s ongoing conference series (Disgrace, 2016, Colnspire, 2019), this retreat is being designed by the PTCA’s partners in the institutional self-assessment, Jessica Vazquez Torres and Rev. Shawna Bowman. This retreat’s unique design, featuring powerful keynote speakers in the morning, and afternoons spent doing art, breadmaking, walking in nature and more, allows for evenings of deeper and more embodied reflections on content around racism and justice that can often be seen as “fraught” or causing confusion and stuckness. How do we get “unstuck” together? More info [HERE](#).

- **VIRTUAL conference “Overcoming Racism” - Friday and Saturday November 12th-13th:** annual conference presented by the Facilitating Racial Equity Collaborative at Metro State University. Several of our presbytery’s teaching elders have attended in the past and found the content to be very valua-

ble. Cost to register in the past has been \$65 for a single day or \$125 for both days. The site for 2022 is still under construction but watch this page [HERE](#) for registration and further info about speakers.

- **FREE on-demand webinar/book talk - Whiteness in Plain View:** author Chad Montrie digs deep into Minnesota's history around race and racism, especially around housing discrimination in both small and rural areas and urba/suburban neighborhoods. A highly recommended book for our congregations and leaders, Montrie gave a brief overview in his talk at East Side Freedom Library in May of this year. Watch it [HERE](#).

*With our gratitude for all those congregations and individuals supporting this critical work!*

Report submitted by:

TE Kendra Grams, ARTF moderator

TE Anna Kendig Flores, PTCA anti-racism coordinator



## **NOMINATING & DEVELOPING LEADERS**

The Committee recommends:

### **Board of Trustees**

May 2024 = 2 Years – Eric Caugh, RE, Westminster, Minneapolis

May 2024 = 2 Years – Leigh Neibuhr, RE, Westminster, Minneapolis

May 2025 = 3 Years - Tom Radio, RE, House of Hope, St. Paul

May 2025 = 3 Years - Richard Buller, TE, Valley Community, Golden Valley

May 2025 = 3 Years - Rebecca Tollefson, TE, Honorably Retired

### **Personnel**

May 2025 = 2 Years – Jack Sjöholm, RE, House of Hope, St. Paul

### **Committee on Ministry**

May 2023 = 1 Year – Cader Howard, TE, First Presbyterian, Stillwater

The Committee **announces:** (informational only items)

NDL has an interested person identified for the vacated Stated Clerk position. Please pray as we work with the Personnel committee on this nomination.

Committee Members include:

1. Thomas Ruter, Chair
2. Karyn Arazi
3. Jeff Foels
4. David Shinn
5. Vacant
6. Vacant
7. Vacant
8. Vacant, Stated Clerk, Staff

The next Committee meeting date/time is September 26 at 5:10PM. The committee normally meets via Zoom on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Contact information for the chair is: Thomas J. Ruter, [Thomas\\_J\\_Ruter@yahoo.com](mailto:Thomas_J_Ruter@yahoo.com)  
(651)336-8215.

## PRESBYTERY LEADERSHIP TEAM

### 1. The committee **REPORTS**:

- A. PLT is pleased to introduce our new Transitional Executive Presbyter the Rev. Elizabeth “Libby” Shannon to the Presbytery of the Twin Cities. She began work on August 22nd and will be relocating to the Twin Cities Area no later than the beginning of October. Once again a committee of loyal volunteers worked diligently to find the best person for the job. We have dismissed them with many thanks.
- B. PLT has also said goodbye to the Rev. Greg Bolt who was serving as moderator. We wish him the best as he begins his new call in Oregon.
- C. The budget task force is in action and moving forward with recommendations given the actions from the 225th General Assembly.
- D. We continue to be encouraged by the work of the Nominating and Developing Leaders Committee. They are striving to fill seats on the presbytery’s committees and commissions with the people who are called to do the work necessary. They are also working to fill the officers’ slate. The members of the committee would appreciate prayers and recommendations from the Presbytery.

### 2. The committee **RECOMMENDS**:

- A. That the Per Capita Apportionment rate for 2023 be set at \$37.50 as follows:

PTCA per capita \$22.15 (an increase of \$0.13)

Synod per capita \$5.50 (no change)

PC(USA) per capita \$9.85 (an increase of \$0.87)

- B. That presbytery grant authority to PLT to approve the Presbytery’s final 2023 line-item budget.

Please feel free to contact me with any comments. I will listen.

Jean Emmons

Presbytery Leadership Team Chair

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees **recommends** that the Presbytery approves a Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) one-year line-of-credit for \$50,000 to Chain of Lakes Presbyterian church. PILP has approved this, recognizing it as a short-term, cash flow issue, primarily due to inflation (building costs).

Committee Members include: Barbara Anne Keely, Chair; Scott Barraclough; Richard Butler; Eric Caugh; Steve Lewis; Sally Mortenson; Leigh Niebuhr; Bob Shepard; John Zwier  
Staff: Libby Shannon, Transitional E.P.; Steve Robertson, Treasurer;, Stated Clerk (vacant)

The next Board of Trustees meeting is October 18, at 4:00 p.m. BOT usually meets on the third Tuesday of the month. The October meeting will be hybrid, meeting in person for the first time since early 2020, and including Zoom for those unable to attend in person. Location to be determined.

BOT Chair: Barbara Anne Keely [bakeely@msn.com](mailto:bakeely@msn.com) 763-360-4417

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## MISSION, SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Mission, Scholarship, and Grants Committee continues to put the Presbytery's grant and scholarship resources to work by getting them out of the bank and into ministry and mission. Through August 31, 2022, the following amounts have been awarded by the Committee, the Presbytery Leadership Team, or the Presbytery in each of the Committee's four ministry areas:

Congregational Support	\$ 137,490
Leadership Development	15,000
Mission & Community Outreach	43,300
Strategic Ministries	<u>0</u>
	\$ 195,790

At the end of this Report, we list all the grants and scholarships awarded through August 31, 2022 and briefly describe each award's purpose.

### 1. 2022 Congregational Development Grants Awarded

We announce with pleasure that 2022 Congregational Development Grants have been awarded to the following congregations:

Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church – \$19,950

Church of All Nations – \$20,000

Peace Presbyterian Church – \$16,320

First Presbyterian Church of Red Wing – \$20,000

First Presbyterian Church of Shakopee – \$7,420

Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church – \$16,800.

Summaries of the grant purposes may be found in the list of 2022 grants and scholarships awarded to date at the end of this Report.

## **2. Reporting On Outcomes And Learnings**

Since the MSG Committee's report in February, we have been developing a reporting system for recipients of the Presbytery's grants and scholarships. We hope to receive information about the expected and actual outcomes of using the grants and scholarships and to learn what worked and did not work as they were used. The MSG Committee will then share this information with the Presbytery and other grant and scholarship applicants.

## **3. Other Grants And Scholarships Available Right Now**

Many other grants and scholarships are available for applications right now. These include Ministry Imaginations Grants for congregations and Leadership Development grants and scholarships for individuals and groups seeking to improve their leadership skills. Please visit the Presbytery's website under the Mission, Scholarship, and Grants pages for more information and apply now.

## **4. Grants And Scholarships Awarded Through August 31, 2022: Please see the attached insertion.**

<b>GRANT TYPE AND RECIPIENT</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Congregational Support</b>		
<b><i>Congregational Dev. Grants</i></b>		
Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church	Upgrades to communication equipment, kitchen, and youth room to support ministry in the church's new building	\$ 19,950
Church of All Nations	Kitchen upgrades to support two small business started by church involving its youth	20,000
Peace Presbyterian Church	Funding the 3B: <i>Body, Brain, &amp; Belief</i> program to outreach to seniors in the congregation and the community	16,320
First Presbyterian Church of Red Wing	Upgrade live streaming equipment to increase outreach and train church members to lead in its use	20,000
First Presbyterian Church of Shakopee	Fund Community Connections Concerts to be held in conjunction with distribution of produce to the community from the church's community gardens	7,420
Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church	Music lessons for youth the church's African immigrant families	16,800
<i>CDG Subtotal</i>		<i>\$ 100,490</i>
<b><i>Ministry Imagination Grants</i></b>		
United Presbyterian Church of Rockford	Create Christian mural or seasonal wooden panels for the west side of the church using local, young artist	\$ 2,000
<i>MIG Subtotal</i>		<i>\$ 2,000</i>
<b><i>Presbytery Direct Grants</i></b>		
Kenyan Christian Fellowship Grant	Support Kenyan Christian Fellowship worshiping community	15,000
Liberty Community Church	Support Liberty Community Church's ministry	20,000
<i>PD Subtotal</i>		<i>\$ 35,000</i>
<b>Congregational Support Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 137,490</b>

<b>GRANT TYPE AND RECIPIENT</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Leadership Development</b>		
<b><i>Leadership Development Grants</i></b>		
Rev. Carol Hornbeck and Rev. Julie Nieraas	Guided retreats for pastors addressing vocational challenges, spiritual reinvigoration, and self-care	\$10,000
NEXT Church	Partial sponsor of NEXT Church program videos that will be available to Presbytery members	5,000
<i>LDG Subtotal</i>		<b>\$ 15,000</b>
<b><i>Livingston Equipping Leaders Scholarships</i></b>		
None awarded to date		\$ 0
<i>LELS Subtotal</i>		<b>\$ 0</b>
<b><i>Theological Education Scholarships</i></b>		
None awarded to date		\$ 0
<i>TES Subtotal</i>		<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Leadership Development Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 15,000</b>
<b>Mission And Community Outreach</b>		
<b><i>Mission Outreach Grants</i></b>		
Not available yet		\$ 0
<i>MOG Subtotal</i>		<b>\$ 0</b>
<b><i>Mission Partner Grants</i></b>		
Clearwater Forest	Support Clearwater Forest's work	\$ 21,750
Greater Mpls. Community Connections (formerly Mpls. Council of Churches)	Support GMCC's work	1,000
Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul	Supports IA's work	1,000
Joint Religious Legislative Coalition	Support JRLC's advocacy work	1,000
Metro Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing	Support MICAF's work	1,000
Ministry Lab	Support ML's work	7,000
Minnesota Council of Churches	Support MCC's work	11,000
Presbyterian Health, Education, and Welfare Association	Support PHEWA's work	550
<i>MG Subtotal</i>		<b>\$ 43,300</b>

<b>GRANT TYPE AND RECIPIENT</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b><i>Peace &amp; Global Witness Offering Grants</i></b>		
None awarded to date		\$ 0
<i>PGWOG Subtotal</i>		\$ 0
<b><i>Self-Development of People Grants</i></b>		
None awarded to date		\$ 0
<i>SDOPG Subtotal</i>		\$ 0
<b>Mission and Community Outreach Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 43,300</b>
<b>Strategic Ministries</b>		
None awarded to date		\$ 0
<b>Strategic Ministries Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Grants &amp; Scholarships Total</b>		<b>\$ 195,790</b>

Respectfully submitted,

Walter H. Rockenstein II, Chair  
On behalf of the Committee

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The following is a brief review of the income and expenses for seven months ending July 31, 2022. (For a detailed look, or more information please contact the Treasurer.)

<u>Source</u>	<u>Actual YTD 2022</u>	<u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Per Capita	\$303,755	\$448,868	68%
Unified Mission	\$ 72,622	\$140,000	52%
Other Income	\$ 13,807	\$ 16,100	86%
<u>Transfers from Reserves</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$188,424</u>	<u>0%</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$390,184</b>	<b>\$793,392</b>	<b>49%</b>
Program Expenses	\$189,058	\$370,693	51%
<u>Personnel/Staff Expenses</u>	<u>\$171,762</u>	<u>\$422,699</u>	<u>41%</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$360,820</b>	<b>\$793,353</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 29,364</b>	<b>\$ 39</b>	

Per Capita income from congregations includes \$6,648 of prior-year per capita paid by congregations catching up on outstanding obligations. Our congregations continue to fulfill their Per Capita obligations: 18 have paid their per capita in full and 25 are making payments, including on a monthly or quarterly basis. However, an alarming 11 congregations have made no payments yet this year. This includes several congregations that usually make payments.

Unified Mission Giving income is at 51% of budgeted income. This is tracking very good for this point early in the year. Most often it is received in the last quarter of the calendar year.

Our total expenses are well within or below budget. This is especially true considering the number of expenses that are paid early in the year and the number of salary adjustments and bonuses paid already this year. Of course, with the arrival of our new Transitional Executive Presbyterian our employee compensation expense will increase at year-end. However, that will be partially offset by the impending departure of our COM Coordinator and the months we continue to go without compensation to a Stated Clerk.

While we ended this point in the year with a net income over expenses (profit) of \$29,364, this is not expected to be an indication of our year-end position. With increased salary and compensation expenses and considering other moving parts to our budget in these next few months, we are currently hoping for a break-even year-end. That means that our Per Capita and Unified Mission Giving Income from our congregations would cover our annual expenses and we would not need to dip into the Presbytery-approved grant from the Strategic Ministry Grant Fund. (That amount is budgeted at \$123,650!)



At the end of July, the Presbytery had just over \$8 million in total net assets including net cash in the bank of \$532,057, and investments in a money market account, certificates of deposit, and managed stock and bond portfolios of \$6,344,672.15. This is a very liquid position for our presbytery and puts us on sound financial footing for current and future ministry needs.

Our stock and bond investment accounts experienced the same dramatic decline in value during the first quarter as all funds and we have continued to weather the ups and downs of the market over these last several months. However, as of July month-end, we had regained some of our overall loss in those funds as shown below.

	<u>Value at 12/31/21</u>	<u>Value at 7/31/22</u>
Presbytery Reserve Fund	\$344,393	\$325,130
Congregational Development Fund (Bucket #1)	\$2,900,749	\$2,545,653
Strategic Ministry Fund (Bucket #2)	\$3,997,150	\$3,970,087

The available balance in our Strategic Ministry Fund (Bucket #2) is more than sufficient to fully fund our existing grant commitments and projected related expenses which total \$2,937,430.

Because of our connectional polity, the Presbytery directly and indirectly guarantees all the loans of our member congregations. Our current contingent liabilities total \$24,060,851 with a total of loans due to Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) of \$22,905,948 and to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies of \$1,154,903. However, when the one outstanding loan to PILP of \$16,814,694 for Westminster/Minneapolis is subtracted, our total contingent liabilities are \$7,246,157. That includes almost \$4 million from 5 loans originated within the last two years.

## Grantham Faith Statement

I believe in a Sovereign, Triune God, present in three persons, each unique, yet coming from the same substance. As God is in relationship with Godself, in three distinct persons, God is also in relationship with us. To believe in a Triune God is to believe in a God, who by God's very nature, is in relationship.

I believe in the Parent God who nurtures and loves all of creation. This God created, creates, and is still creating, and thus is in relationship with all. He is active in the world and looks upon the creation as Her own child, watching and interacting as each creature grows, moves, and becomes their unique selves. This God is truly a mother and a father. Yet, this God is more.

God came to us in the form of Jesus, Emmanuel. God made Godself human to love us more completely. In order to know us, God took on our finitude. Jesus walked where we walk, ate what we eat, drank what we drink, and felt what we feel, relishing this human form. His birth, in a lowly manger, subverted the dominant paradigm of the time. And his life, communing with the "other," shows us how to live our lives. Because of humanity's inability to understand what Jesus preached, he was murdered, violently. Yet Jesus was raised from the dead, showing us that death is not final. It is in this act of dying that we realize just how powerless we are in our humanity. We fail and fall short of all that we are commanded to do as God's children. We are weak and even good intentions end up not fulfilling God's Shalom on this Earth. Yet, in the resurrection of Christ Jesus we see the hope of just how big God is and how God's grace covers all, forgiving everywhere we fall short. Yet, God is still more than this.

The Holy Spirit is here, active in our daily lives, in ways we sometimes do not understand. This Spirit lifts us up and empowers us to become the children of God we were created to be. This Spirit is revealed to us in the Hebrew Bible as *Ruach*, the breath of God. This breath is not always a gentle wind. The Spirit comforts us, protects us, uplifts us; and this breath challenges us, pushes us, and sometimes shatters us. Yet both are always present to reveal a new way a living – one in line with this Triune God.

I believe that the three persons of the Trinity are expressed throughout the Bible. Scripture is the unique and authoritative book that documents God's activity and relationship with the world. Scripture is dynamic and alive. Through Scripture, the written word of God, and Jesus, the living Word of God we are given new insight for our world today. God has chosen Scripture to be one way the Divine is revealed to humanity.

I believe that we respond to God through two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. In our Baptism, God claims us. God invites us to be a family not dependent on blood or proximity, but a family who shares the belief in the Triune God revealed in the scriptures. Baptism illustrates the covenant between humanity and our Creator as well as our covenant with our fellow creatures. When we celebrate in the Lord's Supper, we are remembering who we are and whose we are. We remember the saving grace of Jesus Christ and pray for the coming of God's Realm (*Basileia, Kingdom, Community*) that he preached about as recorded in the scripture. The church is the body who celebrates with this relational God and humbles itself before this God. We dance with God when we come to break bread with one another, re-remembering the body of Christ. The grace of God allows us to be ourselves and shine. We see God's light in each other. We become completely human only when we recognize this light, and live genuinely and intentionally in communion with each other, all of creation, and the Triune God.

1. Statement of Faith

1 Praise God from whom all blessings flow...  
2  
3 In the beginning, God  
4 The Source of all that is  
5 The Deep Mystery  
6 For whom we always thirst.  
7  
8 The People walked in God's wake,  
9 Freed again and again from bondage and misery,  
10 Writing of God's work amongst them,  
11 And God's guidance to move on from despair,  
12 In a Book that still challenges us today  
13 To rethink and reassess  
14 To return to God's way.  
15  
16 God spoke a Word  
17 And the world poured forth  
18 And the Word walked in the world,  
19 God among us, bringing healing  
20 To our sin-sick souls.  
21  
22 The shadow of death looms in the world,  
23 The tool of Empire and the seed of sin,  
24 Staining all the works of human hands,  
25 And yet its power broken,  
26 God walking into the heart of its power  
27 And out of the Tomb with healing in hand.  
28  
29 The Spirit of that healing rises among us,  
30 God, who cannot be bound,  
31 Rising in Community, Body of the Word,  
32 Baptized becoming the Sacred springing forth  
33 Into communities of healing fed by Bread and Cup.  
34  
35 Speak, Body, for the world yet needs healing.