

Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

Stated Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 2026
4:00 pm – 8:00 p.m.

Buffalo Presbyterian Church
507 Calder Avenue NE
Buffalo, MN 55313

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” (Acts 2:4)

*This meeting is a **hybrid** meeting. The Presbytery will gather at Buffalo Presbyterian Church in Buffalo, Minnesota; Presbyters may attend the meeting either in person or over Zoom.*

This meeting begins promptly at 4 pm. The registration table will be open at 3:30 pm. This meeting will include worship, beginning at approximately 4:45 pm

This meeting also includes a meal, a taco bar, provided by Buffalo Presbyterian Church. Vegetarian, gluten-free, and dairy-free options will be available.

During the meeting, we will welcome **Reverend Josh Erickson**, and he will give a keynote presentation. Reverend Josh Erickson (he/him) has served as Senior Pastor of Park Ridge Presbyterian Church (Park Ridge, Illinois) since 2015. Josh currently serves as Moderator of the Board of the PC(USA) Church Growth Network (PCGN). He helped lead the effort that transformed PCGN from a small online conversation into a growing learning community connecting more than 900 leaders across the denomination who are committed to congregational vitality, sustainable growth, and mission impact. Josh is passionate about helping PC(USA) leaders discover practical pathways toward congregational vitality and faithful growth.

To be inclusive of all people: **please do not bring any peanut or tree nut products to this meeting.** This includes: almonds, cashews, walnuts, pistachios, hazelnuts. Please be mindful of products such as creamers in coffee, lotion, etc.

DOCKET

The Presbytery Prepares for the Stated Meeting

3:30 p.m. Registration Table opens.

Please sign your name at the registration table and make a nametag for yourself. Please include the following: TE or RE, Name, Affiliation (Church, Organization, or Agency). Pronoun stickers are also provided.

3:30 p.m. Zoom opens – no formal activities until 4:00 p.m.

Please rename yourself to include the following: RE or TE, Name, Affiliation Church, Organization or Agency, and Pronouns.

As you log in, please make sure that your audio is working. Please familiarize yourself with the Zoom Community Norms document.

The Presbytery Gathers for Business

4:00 p.m. Call to Order and Opening Prayer TE Paul Moore, Moderator

4:00 p.m. Word of Welcome TE Paul Moore, Moderator

Welcome and Instructions to in-person Presbyters to fully participate in today's meeting.

Welcome Zoom Participants Zoom chat host

Welcome and instructions to Zoom Presbyters to fully participate in today's meeting.

Welcome by the Host Church TE Brain Entz, Buffalo

Land Acknowledgement

4:10 p.m. Opening Business TE Paul Moore, Moderator

Forming the Roll

Declaration of a Quorum

Introduction of new Ministry Members

Introduction of First-Time Commissioners

Seating of Corresponding Members

Recognition of Visitors

Approval of the Docket

*including the OMNIBUS/Consent Agenda, and the 2026-02-07
Stated Meeting Minutes.*

4:25 p.m. Report: Committee on the Preparation for Ministry
RE Sally Narr, co-chair

4:35 p.m. Report: Acting Co-Executive Presbyters TE Anna Kendig Flores
TE Zach Wilson

The Presbytery breaks for Worship, Enrichment, Food, and Fellowship

4:45 p.m. Worship

5:15 p.m. Keynote Speaker: TE Josh Erickson, Moderator, Presbyterian Church
Growth Network

5:45 p.m. Dinner – *provided by Buffalo Presbyterian Church*

The Presbytery reconvenes for business

6:30 p.m. Community Time

6:35 p.m. Ministry Partner: Clearwater Forest

6:45 p.m. Report: Commission on Ministry TE Chris Chatelaine-Samsen
*Including a recommendation to authorize the House of Hope, Saint Paul, to call
and install a transitional pastor into a pastor position.*

7:05 p.m. Ministry Partner: Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program
Linda Sharp, Church Relations

7:15 p.m. Report: Nominating and Developing Leaders RE Jean Emmons

7:25 p.m. Report: Presbytery Leadership Team RE Elsa Kendig
Including the recommendation to approve an Anti-Racism policy

7:40 p.m. Report: Anti-Racism Task Force TE Kendra Grams
TE Brian Entz

7:45 p.m.

Report: Stated Clerk/Attendance

TE John Curtiss

Closing Prayer

TE Paul Moore

OMNIBUS MOTION/CONSENT AGENDA

I. 2026-02-07 Minutes

II. **Commission on Ministry**

A. The Commission on Ministry reports:

1. from the February 2, 2026, COM meeting:

- a. **Concurring** in the invitation of the Session of House of Hope, Saint Paul, to TE James Cochrane to serve as fulltime Transitional Associate Pastor, effective 2026-01-02, according to the following terms:

Cash/Housing Salary:	\$82,000	<i>No manse</i>
Vacation:	4 weeks, including 4 Sundays	
Cont. Education Allow:	\$1800	
Cont. Ed. Leave:	2 weeks/year, cumulative over 3 years	
Soc. Sec. Offset:	Yes – 7.65%	
Retirement (403b) Cont:	Yes, TBD	
Auto. Allowance:	\$1500 (at 2026 IRS rate of .70 per mile, vouchered)	
Professional Exp:	\$1500	
Pension:	Full	
Medical/Dental Supplement:	No	
Family Medical Leave:	Yes, (PTCA policy of up to 12 wks per calendar year)	
Moving Expense:	No	

- b. **Approving** the membership application for TE Mary Carlin and **enrolling** them as a Member-at-Large of the PTCA. Carlin is transferring from the Presbytery of Milwaukee.

2. From the March 2, 2026, COM meeting:

- a. **Approving** the request of TE Karen Larson to be granted the status of Minister serving in a Validated Ministry. Larson is serving at Delano United Church of Christ.
- b. **Approving** the membership transfer of TE Mick Burns, Retired, into membership of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area from National Capital Presbytery as a Member-At-Large.

3. From the March 23, 2026, COM meeting:
 - a. **Appointing** TE Heidi Vardemann, Retired, as Moderator of the Session of St. Luke, Minnetonka for the duration of the contract as Temporary Pastor.
 - b. **Dismissing** TE Daniel Yeazel, Member at Large, to the John Knox Presbytery.
 - c. **Dismissing** TE Alison Bucklin, Retired, to First Presbyterian Church (ECO), Branson, Missouri.
 - d. **Approving** the request of TE Cindy Ray, serving in a Validated Ministry, to be granted the status of Retired, effective May 1, 2026.
 - e. **Appointing** the Administrative Commission for the Installation of Pastor Kyle Sandison, Reformed Church of America as Pastor, Valley Community, Golden Valley.

TE Paul Moore, Chain of Lakes, Blaine, as moderator and chair

RE Shelia Sheldon, Valley Community, Golden Valley

RE Jan Fedora, Valley Community, Golden Valley

RE Craig Gottschalk, Valley Community, Golden Valley

TE Zach Wilson, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

- f. **Noting** that the installation of Pastor Kyle Sandison will take place on Sunday, April 26, 2026, at 9:30 am during worship at Valley Community, Golden Valley.
- g. **Approving** the Terms of Contract between TE Heidi Vardemann, Retired and St Luke, Minnetonka to serve as Temporary Pastor.

4. From the April 16, 2026 Called COM Meeting:
 - a. **Approving** the call between Pastor Paul Banchasawan and Community, Plainview and Community, Rochester to serve as pastor of both churches, pending the approval of both Community, Plainview and Community, Rochester congregations at a called congregational meeting on April 19, 2026.
 - b. **Appointing** TE Zach Wilson as Moderator of the called congregational meeting at Community, Plainview, on Sunday, April 19, 2026.

B. The Commission on Ministry announces:

1. The Commission on Ministry *normally* meets on the fourth Monday of each month. The next meeting of the COM will be on Monday, May 25, 2026, at 1:00 pm over zoom.

2. Members of the Commission on Ministry are:

- TE Sarah Brouwer
- TE Chris Chatelaine-Samsen, chair (chriscs@centralforgood.org)
- TE Jim Cochrane
- TE Gregg Dana
- RE Rochelle LeTourneau
- TE Cindy Ray
- RE Sue Rutford

III. **Board of Trustees**

A. The Board of Trustees **reports:**

1. From the April 21, 2026, meeting:

- a. **Approving** the lease agreement between the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area and the Homestead Community Church to use the property of First, Hastings, effective March 1, 2026

Stated Clerk's Note: The Lease agreement is available upon request.

B. The Board of Trustees **announces:**

- 1. The Board of Trustees normally meets on the third Tuesday of even months (February, April, June, August, October, and December) over Zoom.
- 2. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on Tuesday, June 16

Board of Trustees members are:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| RE Scott Barraclough | RE Sally Mortenson |
| RE Richard Bauer | TE Cader Howard |
| TE Richard Buller, chair | RE Tom Radio |
| RE Steve Lewis | TE Margaret Fox |
| RE Rick Martens | RE John Zwier |

IV. **Presbytery Leadership Team**

A. The Presbytery Leadership Team **recommends:**

1. From the February 2, 2026, meeting:

- a. **Releasing** \$100,000 of the Jubilee grant money to our communities for direct emergency support;
- b. **Authorizing** the Anti-Racism Task Force (ARTF) and the Race and Equity Report Implementation Team (RERIT) to jointly consider where, specifically, the funds might be released to. (*Stated Clerk's Note – This*

Jubilee grant money was set aside as part of the Race and Equity Report when the recommendations in that report were approved by the Presbytery in May 2023.)

B. The Presbytery Leadership Team reports:

1. From the February 2, 2026, meeting:

- a. Approving** the “Proposal* for Ongoing Work regarding the Departure of Church of All Nations, Columbia Heights.”

*Proposal available upon request.

- b. Dismissing** the Gracious Separation Negotiating Team (TE Denise Dunbar Perkins and RE Sue Goodspeed) with the profound gratitude of the Presbytery, pending the collection of all documents by the Stated Clerk.

- c. Authorizing** the payment of \$7650 to the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) for the outstanding mortgage grant balances for Edgumbe, ST Paul and Cherokee Park, St Paul.

MEMO* of explanation available upon request.

2. From the March 2, 2026 meeting:

- a. Approving** the Emergency Grant request from Valley Community, Golden Valley at \$8,000 and **approving** the Emergency Grant request from First, Shakopee at \$7500.

HERE ENDS THE CONSENT AGENDA

Commission on Ministry

The Commission on Ministry **recommends:**

From the March 2, 2026, COM meeting: **Authorizing** the congregation of House of Hope, Saint Paul, to extend a call to the current Transitional Associate Pastor.

Stated Clerk’s Note: This exception is permitted by the Book of Order (G-2.0504c) and requires a “three-fourths vote of the members of the Presbytery present and voting. (G-2.0504c)”

Presbytery Leadership Team

The Presbytery Leadership Team **recommends: Approving** the Anti-Racism policy, as drafted by the Anti-Racism Task Force and the Race and Equity Report Implementation Team.

Nominating and Developing Leaders

The Committee **recommends:**

*** Pastoral Positions Team**

November 2028 = 3 years - Steve Tyykila, TE, Owatonna

Committee Members include:

- Jeff Foels
- Luna GebbenGreen
- David Shinn
- Jean Emmons (chair)
- Anna Kendig (staff liaison)

The committee meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 4:30 on Zoom.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

The Committee of Preparation for Ministry **reports:** From the February 9, March 9, and April 13 meetings:

Reports that the CPM committee is actively engaged in the following work regarding Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) guidelines for enrollees, churches, and those accompanying CRE's.

A. Rebuilding the CRE manual of policies and procedures which include the following and more:

1. Determine the minimum class requirements before commissioning with a finite deadline for education completion should a person be commissioned before CRE classes are complete. (BoO G-2.1002)
2. Interpret supervision guidelines of (BoO G-2.4)
3. Explain the process for churches and enrollees: their roles, how to create a job description, what presbytery entities to engage with when designing a CRE role, how to discern the need, the education process of CRE's
4. Explain the role of CPM as well as COM and how they work together and separately with CRE's

B. Creating forms and documents that reflect the information CPM needs and requires, to complete records for CPM, the Presbytery and the national office.

C. Continuation of guiding inquirers and candidates for Teaching Elder and Commissioned Ruling Elder.

Teaching Elder Track: CPM welcomed

New Inquirer: Alexander Boltz from Westminster Church

Respectfully submitted, Sally R. Narr Co-Moderator of CPM

Co-Executive Presbyter Report

Every week in our PTCA staff meetings, we pray for two of our congregations and any known pastoral care requests from our leaders, and then have a short devotional led by a member of staff. Sometimes it's a poem, a verse of scripture, or a brief activity. Recently, each member of staff got to pick a spiritual practice or capacity from a group of 12 that resonated with them in this season. From practices of imagination, community, and rest, to practices of *enoughness*, these reminded us that as we move forward, *part of what will sustain us is what we choose to focus on*. Where we perceive God at work will depend on whether we have trained our vision to seek signs of the Spirit as we move.

With that in mind, we continue to note the aftereffects of Operation Metro Surge in how we move together as a presbytery – both the challenging and the hopeful. We are all still tired, but we see how we are also learning new capacities for cooperation and care as we go along. Many of us marched, delivered, patrolled, and more. Every part of this work mattered, as did

understanding yet again the power in our congregational spaces to organize, and the power in our role as clergy and Christians, to witness each and all powerful outcomes.

As we move into the late Spring and summer, we (Anna and Zach) are focusing on a few key priorities:

Connections & Community - Parish clergy regional gatherings and validated, retired and at-large regional gatherings as well as brief subsidized Spring and Fall retreats for those seeking a chance to get in some rest or independent continuing ed time, as well as community.

Boundaries Training (including Child Safety and Harassment) dates for the fall for Ruling and Teaching Elders. For those unable to attend the dates organized for the PTCA, contact Stated Clerk John Curtiss for other options, and Anna Kendig Flores for more info on these events.

For Teaching Elders: Friday Sept 25th 9:30 - 3:00

For Ruling Elders and other Officers: TBD, Fall

Aligning values, structure and tasks - Work continues in the Budget Visioning Team, and COM and CPM will be gathering for visioning retreats over the late spring and summer. This will be one of the first times since the restructuring of 2019/2020 that COM will be able to take a step back to evaluate the impacts of the shifts, and assess what feels most realistic, grounded, and meaningful in terms of structure and goals for 2026.

We will also be taking the planned next steps (after some understandable slower starts due to the attention needed to address Operation Metro Surge) with the aspects of conversation around Church of All Nations' departure that could not be fully addressed in January. Learn more [HERE](#).

Finally, we are both aware that several factors out of anyone's direct control have made taking the next steps in the EP Search difficult, given where the PTCA is at this time in terms of self-assessment, bandwidth/energy, and more. We are actively working with Personnel toward putting things in place that will help smooth the way and make it possible for the EP Search Team to take up its task again after a hiatus this past fall of 2025.

We'll be keeping our senses alert for where the Spirit is at work among us, even as the tasks and opportunities of these next few months take shape. We look forward to how we will keep growing together.

Submitted by TE Anna Kendig Flores and TE Zach Wilson

Antiracism Task Force (ARTF)

The Antiracism Task Force (ARTF) announces the following updates on our efforts to build a just future together:

Our team has worked collaboratively over the last 6-months to recommend a Presbytery of the Twin Cities Antiracism policy for approval. The Presbytery Leadership Team is bringing this to presbytery for approval. In the coming months, we also look forward to sharing resources for congregations to adopt their antiracism policies (as now required in the *Book of Order*).

We continue process observation for meetings of the presbytery in collaboration with the Committee on Representation and Ethics (CORE) as we seek to hold ourselves accountable to equitable and just practices and engagement in our stated meetings. We are also collaborating with GA CORE to support process observation and commitments to equity at the General Assembly level, providing opportunity for members of our presbytery to learn more about this important work at the upcoming General Assembly, as we seek to expand these processes and capacities in our life together.

Recruitment is being finalized for the Former CAN Participant Response and Engagement Team to make specific recommendations about what sort of pragmatic or spiritual support might be made available to interested former CAN participants. A team set to work with Crossroads Antiracism about pragmatic learnings regarding the PTCA as a system will begin in late summer or early fall. More info about these two follow-up teams shared in the Feb 2026 stated meeting can be found [HERE](#).

Following the Presbytery Leadership Team's approval of the release of up to \$100,000 as jubilee funds in response to the needs created by Operation Metro Surge aggressive immigrant enforcement activities in our region, we worked with the Race and Equity Report Implementation Team (RERIT) to release \$25,000 as emergency rent assistance funds to affected neighbors, with \$5,000 going to each of the following:

1. Open Your Heart Rent Relief Fund (providing support to neighbors throughout Minnesota)
2. Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners (providing support to neighbors in Plymouth and surrounding communities)
3. Wright County Immigrant Aid (providing support to neighbors in Wright and Sherburne Counties)
4. PRISM (providing support to neighbors in the NW Twin Cities metro area)

5. First Presbyterian Church-Hudson, WI Emergency Rent Assistance Fund established at First Presbyterian Church-Hudson, WI (providing support to neighbors in Western Wisconsin)

In Christ,

Kendra Grams, Teaching Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Hudson, WI

Brian Entz, Teaching Elder, Buffalo Presbyterian Church, Buffalo, MN

Antiracism Task Force Co-Chairs

Stated Clerk Report

The Stated Clerk *reports*:

The first part of each year is the time for reporting annual statistics. I have submitted the following to the General Assembly, as required by *G-3.0302a and G-3.0302e*:

1. Reporting the election of the following as commissioners to General Assembly

TE Rizley Prakasim, Community Garden, Falcon Heights

TE Anne Nelson, Presbyterian Church of the Apostle, Burnsville

RE Rochelle LeTourneau, First, South Saint Paul

RE Karen Finney, Oak Grove, Bloomington

YAAD Alex Boltz, Westminster, Minneapolis

2. The 2025 Church Summary Report
3. The 2025 Minister Summary Report
4. The 2025 Mid Council (Twin Cities Area) Report

I am also happy to report that I was able to work with many Clerks of Session in getting their Annual Statistics reported to the General Assembly. ***This year, 48 of our 51 congregations reported their 2025 statistics (nearly 95% - way to go Clerks of Session!).*** Maybe next year we can report 100%.

Noteworthy of the 2025 Statistical Reporting:

- Although 12 churches reported an increase in membership, the total number of church membership within the PTCA declined by 361. Our 2026 membership total is 10,604; 2025 membership total was 11,254.
- 29 (out of 51) churches reported a membership total of less than 100 – marking the first time that a majority of churches within the PTCA have fewer than 100 members.

I continue to work with Clerks of Session to have past Session Minutes read, reviewed, and approved. As of this report, 26 church session minutes have been reviewed and approved. There are still 25 churches that need to complete this. Please let me know (statedclerk@ptcaweb.org) if you'd like to have your minutes reviewed.

And also, I am working with the Commission on Ministry to complete the annual review of all Terms of Call/Contracts (G-2.0804), to review that type of work of all teaching elders engaged in validated ministries (G-2.0503a), and to review the Member at Large roll (G-2.0503b).

With gratitude –

John H.G. Curtiss

Stated Clerk

statedclerk@ptcaweb.org

Moderator Theme for 2026

Forever Young

In this time it's easy to get discouraged about church and our congregation. Our congregation might be declining, we might see ourselves growing older or not growing in diversity. We might be having a conflict or see people who are energized or united by a common vision.

Life in our congregation does not have to be this way!

For 2026 our focus will be growing young. No matter what our age we want to experience spiritual energy in our congregation and an excitement that youth can bring. Even if we are growing older we can capture the energy of our youth.

Forever young is an attitude of

- Curiosity
- Willingness to embrace change

- Risk taking
- Focusing on ministries of 30's and under

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10

ATTACHMENTS:

PTCA Antiracism Policy
Feb 2026 Meeting Minutes

Tips & Rules of Order for Virtual/Hybrid Meetings Using ZOOM

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. You need a computer or mobile device (tablet or smartphone) that has an internet connection, a speaker, a microphone, and (optional) a webcam.
2. Make sure you have installed the ZOOM app well before the meeting and tested your ability to connect. Get familiar with the controls. Find the app here: <https://zoom.us/download>

WHEN YOU CONNECT TO THE MEETING:

1. You will at first be in the “waiting room” until the Zoom host adds you to the meeting. This should only take a few seconds. Important Note: If you are using a computer, laptop or tablet, you may not see the Zoom control panel unless you “mouse” over to the bottom of the screen.



Your Zoom control toolbar will look something like this.

2. Please click “mute” so your voice and background noises cannot be heard by others.
3. Please click “start video” so we can see your face!
4. Click the Participants button to see who has joined the meeting and to gain access to the “raise hand” function when needed.
5. Please use the Rename function to show us who you are:

Click “Participants”

Hover over your name on the list with the mouse

Click the ellipses (...)

Click Rename; then enter your new name in the pop-up box: Name, TE or RE, your Church.

If you are a guest (not a voting member) please fill in your Name, and your Agency and Position if appropriate.

6. Please check the Chat for any additional information.

HELPFUL TIPS: If you have difficulty hearing during Zoom meetings, obtain **headphones** for your device. This helps limit outside noise interference. Also, look for the Closed Captioning on your

Zoom bar. This should be enabled in your app settings before you join the meeting. Note that the accuracy of Closed Captions is dependent on the internet speed at the speaker's end: whether you are listening to the Moderator of the meeting, or listening to someone else on Zoom speaking, their internet speed (and audio quality) controls how well the audio translates to written words. ALSO: Follow along in your Presbytery Packet.

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION: RULES OF ORDER

1. Each voting participant must connect to the virtual congregational meeting separately. For best results, connect using the Zoom app on a computer or mobile device (smartphone or tablet.) If online participation via Zoom is not possible, members may connect via telephone (as a "dial-in.") Either way, the rule is: one participant, one connection.
2. A quorum will be determined by the standing rules, which indicate that attendees are counted upon registration for the meeting AND connecting to the Zoom meeting.
3. Both online and phone participants will use the "raise hand" feature to be recognized by the Moderator before speaking (and in some cases, to indicate a vote):
 - **Please wait to speak until you are recognized, and stay "Muted" until it is your turn to speak. Please "Mute" yourself again once you are done speaking.**
 - Please turn your Video on (if it is not on) before you speak.
 - The Host will "lower your hand" for you when you are done.
4. When multiple people are seeking recognition, the Moderator will recognize one speaker at a time with the assistance of a Host. If you are not recognized, send a Chat message to the Host and we will try to help.
5. Normally, Motions are determined ahead of time and voting is done through the Polling feature on Zoom. When there is a Motion, a Poll will pop up on your screen and you will have 60 seconds to register your anonymous vote. After all in-person and online voting has been tabulated the results will be announced.

If you need to make a Motion, you should enter it in writing in the Chat and then seek recognition by raising your hand (using the Zoom feature). When called upon, tell us your motion is in the Chat and make that Motion. The votes on a motion of this type will be done via "Raise Hand," and will be observed by the Moderator and the Zoom Host. The count will be double-checked and the Moderator will announce the results.

Rules of Order apply in all cases.