

Presbytery of Milwaukee, September 11, 2018

**Presbytery of Milwaukee  
Stated Meeting  
Presbyterian Church (USA)**

The Presbytery of Milwaukee held its stated meeting at Kettle Moraine United Presbyterian Church in Hartland on **Tuesday, September 11, 2018.**

**ROLL:** The Roll was taken; a quorum was present as follows:

Teaching Elders of Presbytery: (**Present**, Absent, or Excused)

**Anderson, Dee M.**

**Anderson, Ted**

**Ater, Robert W.**

**Baumann, John K. HR**

Bell, Dianna, HR

Bell, Donald, HR

**Bergeson-Graham, Deb HR**

**Bernhardt, Joanne HR**

Beutler-Cruise, Claire

**Blanks, Nicole**

**Block, Deborah A.**

**Boyd, Christian**

**Buckingham-Taylor, Delisa**

**Carlin, Mary**

Cistrunk, Terrell H. HR

Clarke, Donald HR

**Coons, Martha HR**

Craven, Kathryn

**Craig, Julie**

Cross-Dukes, Volina HR

Davis, Christopher B.

**Davis, Christopher E.**

DeCamp, James A. HR

Denison, Charles

**Dow, Jean**

Erkel, Steven

**Ewing, David**

Farley, Nicole

Fisher, James C. HR

Fringer, Steven

**Galan, Cheryl**

**Gibbs, Ann**

**Glechauf, Jennifer**

Goetz, Thomas H.

Grimbol, Bill HR

Guyer, Jim HR

**Hagen, Karen**

Hammond Clark, Melanie HR

**Hansen, John**

Hedges-Goettl, Barbara

Hedges-Goettl, Len

**Hennesy, Terry**

**Henrichs, Michelle**

**Hittle, Erin**

**Holmes, Andrew**

Holmes-Jensen, Judith

Horner-Ibler, Barbara

Houts, Traci S.

**Houts, Willem P.**

Hudson, Paul F. HR

**Johnstone, William H. HR**

**Jones, Bruce**

Jones, Keith HR

Jordon, Barbara HR

Kamerling, Garrett HR

**Kramer, Jerry HR**

**Lee, Matthew**

Loveall, Lance

Loveall, Paige

Lowry, Andrew HR

Lucio, Antonio

Lucio, Iris Colon

**Marcano, Gabriel**

**McCalister, Alan S.**

**McCord, Elizabeth**

McCullough, Lisa

McDonough, Mark

McKeegan-Guinn, Susan HR

**Melara, Nicole**

Millar, JD

Millar, Victoria

**Neal, Catherine**

Nicolaisen, Fiona

**Patton, Beth**

Patton, Lori

Petterson, William HR

**Rand, James M.**

Schultz, Gary G. HR

Serovy, Mary

Sinclair, Lawrence A. HR

Stafford, Elizabeth HR

Stirrat, Ian A. HR

**Stoll, Susan**

**Swanson, Brett**

**Swanson, James H.**

Talley, Dee HR

Talley, L. Kelly HR

Tarvid, Kevin

Timberlake, Robert HR

Van Loon, Paul J. HR

Walker Cleveland, Adam

**Walker Cleveland, Sarah**

Wanner, Thomas HR

Weinberg, George HR

Wickersham, Carol

Williams, Tom

Woehl, Roger A. HR

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Churches represented by Ruling Elders <b>named</b> , not represented (NR), or <u>excused</u>		
Beaver Dam, Grace	NR	
Beloit, United Church of Beloit	NR	
Beloit, Sun Valley	<b>Michele Robbins</b>	
Big Bend, Vernon	NR	
Clinton, First	NR	
Delafield, Delafield	<b>Kathy Rosen</b>	
Dousman, First of Ottawa	NR	
Fort Atkinson, Grace United	<b>Alan Timm</b>	
Fox Lake, First	NR	
Franklin, Faith	<b>Judy Bell</b>	
Hartland, Kettle Moraine	<b>Laura Lee</b>	
Horicon, First	NR	
Janesville, First	<b>Eugene Gibbs</b>	
Janesville, Rock Prairie	<b>Jacqueline Davis</b>	
Kenosha, First	NR	
Lake Geneva, Linn	NR	
Menomonee Falls, Living Hope	NR	
Mequon, Crossroads	<b>Harvey Bootsma</b>	<b>Dewayna Cherrington</b>
Milwaukee, Calvary	NR	
Milwaukee, Christ	NR	
Milwaukee, Grace	<b>Linda Bolin</b>	
Milwaukee, Immanuel	<b>Scott Silet</b>	<b>Jeffery Stearns</b>
Milwaukee, Tippecanoe	<b>Larry Hartmann</b>	
Milwaukee, Good Shepherd Trinity	<b>Monica Gramling</b>	
Milwaukee, West Granville	<b>Noel Adams</b>	
Muskego, Heritage	<b>Brandy Bohman</b>	
New Berlin, Forest Park	NR	
Pewaukee, Faith Springs	<b>Jenny Johanson</b>	
Racine, Covenant	<b>Linda Webster</b>	
Racine, First	<b>Ben Neal</b>	
Racine, Second	NR	
Richfield, First	NR	
Shorewood, North Shore	NR	
Sussex, Lisbon	NR	
Wales, Jerusalem	NR	
Waukesha, Bethesda	NR	
Waukesha, First	<b>Jim Ziegler</b>	
Waukesha, Southminster	<b>Alice Lundstrom</b>	
Wauwatosa, Wauwatosa	<b>RoseMary Muller</b>	
West Allis, Apostle	NR	
West Allis, Greenfield Avenue	<u>Lori Johnson</u>	
Whitewater, North Lima	NR	

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<b>Elders voting by virtue of office:</b>	
Commissioned Ruling Elder	<b>Cathy Manthei</b>
Treasurer	<u>Jessie Read</u>
COM	<b>Kathy Dummer</b>
	<b>David Henderson</b>
	<u>JP Kastner</u>
	<u>Bill Leonard</u>
	<b>Bonnie Strigenz</b>
COR	David Hermann
CPM	Freda Johnson
	<b>Lois Pearson</b>
	<b>Tracey Pomeroy</b>
Council	<b>Jeannette Bell</b>
	<b>Sara Miles</b>
	<b>Steve Seeker</b>
	<b>Lee Tan</b>
Partnerships	Kathy Dettman
	<b>Larry Hartmann</b>
	<u>Lydia Spottswood</u>
PJC	Larry Nunley
Foundation	<b>Janet Ahrens</b>
Nominating	Sally Daugherty
	<b>Judy Jaggard</b>
	Eileen Pierce
	Patrice Vossekul
Staff – Presbytery Executive	<b>Rachel Yates</b>
Staff – No vote	<b>Chris Halverson</b>
Synod Commissioner	Angela Oglesby
Inquirers	
Candidates	<b>Katie Ebel</b>
Corresponding Members/Guests	

<b>ROLL SUMMARY – Voting Members</b>			
	Present	Absent	Excused
Teaching Elders – Voting	41	8	47
Ruling Elders – Voting	36	29	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>52</b>
Corresponding members	0		
Candidates	1		
Visitors	32		
Staff	1		
<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>111</b>		

## **WELCOME**

The Reverend Michelle Henrichs welcomed the presbytery at 4:00 pm and opened worship, which was held outside under a tent on the beautiful grounds of Kettle Moraine United Presbyterian Church.

## **WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION**

The theme of Stewardship of our Creation was woven into the worship service. The scripture was Genesis 1: 1-31. The offering of \$566.25 will go to The Environmental Ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Communion was led by the Rev. Matthew Lee.

## **EDUCATION HOUR**

Executive Rachel Yates invited Sara Miles to introduce Dr. Calvin B. DeWitt, Professor at UW-Madison, who spoke about Global Warming and our Responsibilities as Christians.

## **DINNER**

Vice Moderator Will Houts prayed outside under the tent before everyone gathered inside for the meal and business meeting.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

Moderator Lee Tan welcomed members and visitors to Kettle Moraine United Presbyterian Church. Matthew Lee, minister of the church opened the business meeting with prayer at 7:01 pm.

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW MINISTERS**

The Rev. Andy Holmes introduced and welcomed the following new ministers to the Presbytery of Milwaukee:

- Sarah Walker Cleaveland, Co-Pastor at Covenant Presbyterian in Racine
- Gabriel Marcano, Pastor of San Jose Fellowship

Each was invited to share something that excited them about their new ministry.

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS**

The following first time elder commissioners were welcomed: Jeffrey Stearns – Immanuel; Randy Bohman – Heritage; RoseMary Muller – Wauwatosa; Jenny Johanson – Faith Springs; Linda Webster – Covenant; Harvey Bootsma – Crossroads.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda as distributed seven days before the stated meeting was presented by the Stated Clerk. **The consent agenda was approved.**

## **PRESBYTERY EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Executive Rachel Yates invited two members of Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church to speak about how their congregation became Earth Care Congregations in the PC(USA). Elders RoseMary Muller and Bev Schwabe presented the process that was followed in order to be chosen as an Earth Care Congregation.

Rachel then invited Elder Marilyn Stone to speak about a new initiative to form a Disaster Preparedness

Task Force in the Presbytery of Milwaukee. The task force is seeking new members for their start sometime this fall.

Rachel thanked Adam Walker Cleaveland for providing the large design coloring sheets that were located throughout the church highlighting our caring for creation theme.

#### **ASSOCIATE FOR MINISTRY VITALITY REPORT**

The Rev. Ann Gibbs distributed cards for five honorably retired pastors on the anniversary of their ordination: Garrett Kamerling and Jim Fisher- 60 years; Paul Van Loon – 55 years; and Paul Hudson and Gary Schultz – 50 years. She spoke about a Small Church Vitality program that will be coming soon. Ann then invited Susan Stoll forward to thank her for her great work as Pastor to Pastors since 2016. Susi is resigning due to some ongoing health issues. Ann provided her with a gift and Susi received a standing ovation.

#### **COUNCIL REPORT**

Jim Rand, Moderator of Council, presented the first reading of the 2019 budget, which challenges all congregations to make a general mission pledge and pay their Per Capita in full. Lee Tan presented the proposed vision statement for presbytery:

*Through authentic relationships,  
risk taking for the gospel, and  
collaborative leadership,  
the Presbytery of Milwaukee supports congregations and leaders to serve as Christ directs.*

The vision statement will be voted on in November.

#### **GREAT COMMISSION TASK FORCE REPORT**

Alan McCalister spoke on behalf of the task force and asked for creative people to volunteer to be on the task force. They are starting a contest to find a new, more dynamic name. A link to enter names is found on the presbytery website, and the congregation that submits the winning name, chosen by the Presbytery at the November meeting will receive a hosted coffee hour.

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS' REFLECTIONS**

Jim Rand and Noel Adams, our GA Commissioners in 2018, shared their experience with slides and narrative.

#### **COMMISSION ON MINISTRY - EXAMINATION FOR ORDINATION OF WORD AND SACRAMENT**

COM Moderator Andy Holmes invited Candidate Kathryn Ebel forward to be examined for Ordination of Word and Sacrament. After several questions were asked of Kathryn regarding her Christian faith, her call to ministry, and her experiences as a ministry intern, a motion was made to arrest the examination. The motion was seconded and passed. Kathryn was escorted from the meeting room. **Motion: COM moved that Kathryn Ebel be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament.** The Presbytery voted to approve Kathryn Ebel for ordination as a Minister and member of this presbytery. **The motion passed.** Kathryn was welcomed back into the meeting with applause. The Rev. Jamie Swanson invited family and friends forward and prayed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Vice Moderator assumed the podium. Council presented the following motion:

**MOTION: The Council moves that the Presbytery of Milwaukee allow Forest Park Presbyterian Church in New Berlin to encumber their property up to \$100,000 for the purpose of renovation of the manse, if the way is made clear.** After discussion, the motion passed by show of hands.

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There was a motion to adjourn with prayer and the motion was seconded and passed.  
Moderator Lee Tan closed with prayer at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian Boyd, Stated Clerk

These minutes were approved on November 27, 2018.

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Presbytery of Milwaukee

**CONSENT AGENDA**

September 11, 2018

The following items appear to be matters that require no debate. Therefore, they are listed together and will be voted upon together as one motion. However, any presbyter may request that any item of business be removed from the Consent Agenda for individual consideration. The Consent Agenda includes the written reports of presbytery committees and commissions. The moderator's contact information is included with each agenda item. Presbyters are encouraged to contact the moderator prior to the meeting with questions.

**The Stated Clerk moves:**

- **That the agenda for the September 11, 2018 meeting of the Presbytery be adopted.**
- **That the [Minutes](#) of the May 22, 2018 Stated meeting of the Presbytery be approved.**
- **That the following written reports be received:**
  - Commission on
  - Ministry Report – p. 3
  - Council Report - pp. 4-5
  - Foundation Report - pp. 6-9
  - Leadership Development Task
  - Force Report – p. 10 Stated Clerk
  - Report p. 11

**Action Item:**

**Motion:**

The Commission on Ministry moves to amend the 2018 Minimum Terms of Call to include the vacation, continuing education, and sick leave policies which were inadvertently omitted.

Minimum Vacation: 31 days including 4 Sundays

Minimum Continuing Education: 14 days including 2 Sundays

The full Continuing Education and Sick Leave policy can be found online on the presbytery website.

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**Commission on Ministry Report**

Presbytery of Milwaukee  
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**Actions Taken as a Commission**

1. Approved Katie Ebel as Stated Supply Pastor of Faith Springs Presbyterian Church in Pewaukee. Also approved Katie Ebel to celebrate the sacraments and moderate session until her ordination to Minister of Word and Sacrament this fall (should the way be clear).
2. Approved Rev. Tom Williams as Stated Supply Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Waukesha.
3. Approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between First Presbyterian Church, Racine, and the Rev. Gillian Weighton.
4. Approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between First Presbyterian Church, Racine, and the Rev. Steve Fringer.
5. Released the membership of the Rev. Gillian Weighton to the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia.
6. Noted the end of the Stated Supply pastoral contract between Ottawa Presbyterian Church and Rev. Keith Jones.
7. Approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Dr. Chris Spotts and Crossroads Presbyterian Church, Mequon.
8. Released the membership of Rev. Dr. Chris Spotts to the Presbytery of Denver.
9. Received Rev.s Sarah and Adam Walker Cleaveland as a member of the Presbytery of Milwaukee.

**Actions Required by Presbytery**

COM amended the 2018 Terms of Call. The minimum terms with respect to vacation and continuing education had been unintentionally omitted. The terms reflect the same policies as 2017. Motion is found in the consent agenda.

Michelle Henrichs [mahenrichs@gmail.com](mailto:mahenrichs@gmail.com) Andy holmes  
[revandrewholmes@gmail.com](mailto:revandrewholmes@gmail.com) Co-Moderators, Commission on Ministry

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**Council Report to the Presbytery of Milwaukee**  
September 11, 2018  
The Rev. James M. Rand, Moderator  
[revrand@tosapres.com](mailto:revrand@tosapres.com)

Core Values & Vision Statement:

**Through authentic relationships, risk-taking for the gospel, and collaborative leadership, the Presbytery of Milwaukee supports congregations and leaders to serve as Christ directs.**

*(See last section, below)*

Finances

Council has been reviewing 2018 spending and the financial health of the Presbytery for 2019 and beyond. A task force is being created to recommend a path to long-term financial viability, including the following possibilities:

- A. Approve a deficit budget (knowing that committees sometimes underspend)
- B. Balance the budget with larger-than-sustainable amounts from the Presbytery Foundation (to appear to balance the budget but actually hiding a long-term problem)
- C. Cut spending by limiting staff, salaries, &/or programs
- D. Find ways to inspire congregations to better support the Presbytery with per capita and mission giving.

Until 2017, Synod was processing our finances, but with staff turnover and other issues, they have not yet closed the books for last year. For this reason, it seems impractical and unhelpful for us to do an audit of 2017 books.

**2019 PER CAPITA is recommended to be \$38.00/active member.**

Youth

The Rev. Fiona Nicolaisen has graciously offered (and approved) to be the Presbytery's registrar for the 2019 Triennium.

General Assembly Overtures

Several overtures have mission and financial implications for the Presbytery:

- a) Mission Priorities: to focus on gun violence, opioid addiction and anti-racism training.
- b) Unity & Communications: provide translation for meetings & publications (e.g., Spanish, Korean and American Sign Language).

Changes to Bylaws and Manual of Operations

- A. The new **Core Values & Vision Statement** needs to replace the current language.
- B. Current bylaws are unclear about the Stated Clerk having vote as well as voice on Council.
- C. Other updates need to be made to align with current practice and understanding.

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**Presbytery of Milwaukee  
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PRESBYTERY OF MILWAUKEE FOUNDATION, INC.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JUNE 30, 2018

Unrestricted and Designated Assets

Morgan Stanley

Money Market Fund	\$ 52,657.09		
Stocks and Bond	<u>2,301,627.13</u>	\$ 2,354,284.22	

Other Investments

PCFUSA Bethany Memorial	\$ 13,263.78		
Wisconsin Council of Churches Community Fund	10,000.00		
Loan-Presbytery-Common Ground	150,000.00		
Loans to Churches	<u>49,229.33</u>	<u>224,493.11</u>	\$ 2,578,777.33

Restricted Assets

PCFUSA-Missionary of the Presbytery of the Welsh	\$ 13,645.28		
Ruby Emond Educational Fund		11,121.00	
Walz Memorial Fund		<u>4,153.71</u>	<u>28,919.99</u>
Total Assets. . . . .			\$ 2,607,697.32,

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PRESBYTERY OF MILWAUKEE FOUNDATION INC.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018

Public Support and Revenue

Contributions	\$	0.00
Investment Income		
Interest and		14,418.34
Dividends		
Gain on Sale of Investments		10,123.20
Unrealized Depreciation of Assets		<u>(50,443.02)</u>

Total Support and Revenue . . . . . \$ ( 25,901.48)

Expense

Investment Expense	\$	10,271.78	
Presbytery Support		0.00	
Transfer to Presbytery		<u>324.25</u>	<u>10,586.03</u>

Change in Net Assets . . . . . \$ (36,487.51)

Fund Balance – January 1, 2018 2,644,184.83

Fund Balance- June 30, 2018 . . . . . \$ 2,607,697.32

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PRESBYTERY OF MILWAUKEE FOUNDATION, INC

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30 2018

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Change in Net Assets	\$ (36,487.51)	
Loss on Sale of Investments	(10,123.20)	
Unrealized Depreciation of Investments	\$ <u>(50,443.02)</u> .	\$ 3,832.31

Cash Flows from Investing Activities

Purchase of Investments	\$ (3,523,220.19)	<u>          </u>
Sale of Investments	<u>1,165,723.95</u>	<u>\$(2,357,496.24)</u>

Cash Flows from Financing Activities

Loans to Churches	\$ 0.00	
Loan Repayments	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Decrease in Cash. ....		\$ (2,353,663.93)

Cash Balance - January 1, 2018 2,406,321.02

-

Cash Balance –June 30, 2018. .... \$ 52,657.09

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PRESBYTERY OF MILWAUKEE FOUNDATION, INC

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

JUNE 30, 2018

Note 3: Other Assets

The Foundation has received from the former Northminster Presbyterian Church three grave sites at Wisconsin Memorial Park. The approximate value of the sites are \$ 3,000.00 and are not included the financial statements.

Note 4: Related Party Transaction:

The Foundation has loans to the following churches;

Presbytery –Loans not Transferred	\$ 6,047.29
Presbytery of Milwaukee-CG	150,000.00
Southminster Presbyterian Church	43,517.34

Note 5: Other Investments:

The Mission Partnership Committee recommended the investment of Peacemaking funds in The Wisconsin Council of Churches Community Funds. The Foundation is holding \$10,000.00 and will transfer investment income to the peacemaking designated account.

Bethany Church has received a bequest from a former member and the Presbytery is holding the balance of those funds in the amount of \$139,340.12. The foundation received \$50,000.00 from the bequest to be used for Hispanic outreach.

The Foundation has invested designated funds for Margaret Towner Scholarship in the amount of \$10,200.67

The PCUSA Foundation is holding assets for Bethany Memorial which receives income for the Presbytery. They also hold assets for Missionary of the Welsh and the churches in our Presbytery receive that income .PCUSA also holds the Walz Memorial which income is used for peace making in the Presbytery. The Foundation also holds the Ruby Emond Educational fund, which will distribute income for a neighborhood in the Presbytery

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**Leadership Development Task Force**

**September 14, 2018**

**REPORT:**

We continue to extend continuing education grants. **Grants up to \$500 are available for continuing education one-time events** for church leaders of all types and can be received once every twenty-four months. If you have not yet requested a grant for your upcoming continuing education event, please do so!

Twice a year we offer Officer Training workshops for new elders and deacons (or people who have been at a while and looking to brush up). Our spring training is offered in a central location in the presbytery (at Southminster in Waukesha this past spring). Last fall we offered training in a location in the northwest and northeast corners of the presbytery. This fall we will be offering training in the southwest at Linn Presbyterian in Lake Geneva (Saturday, September 8; 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM) and in the southeast at Covenant Presbyterian in Racine (Saturday, September 29; 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM).

We are privileged to serving this presbytery by **growing leaders, with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.**

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Farley

Leadership Development Task Force

[revnfarley@comcast.net](mailto:revnfarley@comcast.net)

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**Stated Clerk Report  
Presbytery of Milwaukee  
September 11, 2018**

The Stated Clerk reports that the 2018 Book of Proposed Amendments is now available at <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/ga223-proposed-amendments-book-order/>. Presbyteries have until June 23, 2019 to send their votes on these proposed amendments to the Office of the General Assembly.

Christian Boyd  
Stated Clerk  
[statedclerk@pbymilwaukee.org](mailto:statedclerk@pbymilwaukee.org)

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### **Disaster Preparedness and Response Task Force Presbytery of Milwaukee September 11, 2018**

One never expects a disaster to occur in our neighborhood or community. Yet our presbytery offices and congregations in the Presbytery of Milwaukee are situated in areas that could sustain damages as a result of tornadoes, floods, fires, storms, lightning, hazardous material spills, explosions, and environmental contamination. In recent years, we have seen churches in this country experience technological failures and acts of terror.

It is an important part of our responsibility for the leadership of God's people and stewardship of God's resources to be prepared for emergencies and disasters. Also, we as a Presbytery are a community that cares for one another and for those in need. A period of chaos always follows a disaster, whether natural or human caused. Being prepared helps mitigate much of that chaos.

Consider:

- Tornadoes are touching down in several locations in the presbytery and our EP is out-of-town. What is the presbytery's disaster plan?
- Gunshots are fired from the parking lot next to the church. What is the disaster plan for office staff, committee meetings, and the youth group meeting in the church?
- A fire destroys your church. Are back-up membership, financial and historical records stored in another location? Is insurance information and important contact information accessible? Do you know where you will worship the following Sunday?
- An emergency occurs in your church. Do organizations meeting in your church know the location of fire extinguishers, first aid kits, the address of the church and church emergency contact numbers?

To assist the presbytery, congregations and families with developing disaster preparation plans, Council has approved the formation of a *Disaster Preparedness and Response Task Force*.

Responsibilities of the *Disaster Preparedness and Response Task Force* would include:

- Create a disaster preparedness plan considering the unique characteristics of our presbytery
- Determine reliable communication paths within the presbytery related to disaster preparedness/response
- Establish relationships with local and national disaster assistance organizations (Red Cross, VOAD – Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, FEMA, etc.)
- Develop an educational process and training for congregations/families about disaster preparedness and response
- Provide a model disaster preparedness plan for congregations
- Create a list of disaster response resources tailored to our presbytery

The task force is currently being formed. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving on this task force, please contact Marilyn Stone at [mmstone52@att.net](mailto:mmstone52@att.net) or 262-763-0918.

Marilyn Stone  
PDA National Response Team Member  
PDA/PW Disaster Preparedness Trainer

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### **223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly Overture Summary**

#### **Pertaining to Congregational Care for Creation**

The complete overture texts can be found at [www.pc-biz.org](http://www.pc-biz.org), by overture number shown below.

#### 08-03 (climate change)

- Express its profound concern about the detrimental effects of climate change on all God's creation, including those living in poverty, the elderly and children, and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases.
- Proclaim that we recognize the Gospel's call to shift to a just, compassionate, and sustainable energy plan.
- Acknowledge that this compels us to implement strategies and actions that engage climate change and offer the realistic prospect of changing our destructive behaviors that contribute to the issue.
- Call upon congregations to develop ways for those who disagree on climate change to be in dialogue with one another, seeking together to find and represent the will of Christ; affirm the need for dialogue and discernment, not only within and among our congregations, but also all parties outside our denomination, seeking faithful individual and collective responses to address climate change, trusting that we share a common belief in the need to respond.
- Affirm that we have a duty to assure that our response to climate change does not endanger the economic progress and improvements in living conditions that have been made among all of God's people, most notably the impoverished, but instead enables that progress to continue.
- Affirm that is both possible and practical to effect meaningful change; urge individuals [and] congregations ... to initiate, continue, and build upon steps to reduce our carbon footprint and to continue adoption of lower-carbon and zero-carbon technologies and lifestyles.
- Commend congregations that have committed to the "earth care pledge" and encourage all congregations to consider joining the Earthcare Congregation Network of the PC(USA).
- Advocate for the reduction of greenhouse gases through the use of alternative, cleaner energy sources, such as wind, solar, and industrial-scale power storage, even if only as a bridge to the long-term future.

#### 08-06 (climate change)

- Call upon the whole church to raise a prophetic voice regarding the urgency of healing the climate of the earth, our home and God's gift for the future of all life, human and nonhuman.
- Call upon the whole church to engage prayerfully with the following priorities as we seek to initiate a new moral era:
  - a. Let our clergy accept the mantle of moral leadership. Now is the time for clergy to speak from their pulpits about the moral obligation of our generation to protect God's creation. Let the world know that we who follow Jesus will not back away from God's call to protect our common home. When the powers that be deny or obscure the truth, we followers of Jesus will proclaim the truth to protect our common home.

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b. Let all of us incarnate the changes for which we long. Now is the time for congregations and for every person of faith to set a moral example through our own words and actions. As individuals and as communities, let us commit to making decisions of integrity in our energy choices, even as we commit to hold all our religious, political, corporate, and global leaders accountable to do the same.

c. Let us proclaim truth in the public square. We are now living in a John 18:37 moment, in which we must hold to the truth we understand from the Bible and from the sacred book of nature, recognizing that when truth is compromised, only power prevails.

- Let our communities of faith be bold and courageous as we address one of the greatest moral challenges that the world has ever faced.
- Let us do all we can to change America's understanding of the story that our generation is writing. Let us begin a new story—a story that is not dependent on increased greenhouse gas emissions or on wealth for the few and misery for the many.

This overture was inspired and based on the resolution, “The Earth Is the Lord’s—Not Ours to Wreck, Imperatives for a New Moral Era” passed by the United Church of Christ National Synod on July 3, 2017. Now is the time to encourage deeper ecumenical cooperation to lift up our collective moral voice.

Accepting that it is up to us, whether in the streets, at our State Houses, in the halls of power, with our phones, emails, technology, and social media by committing our time, financial resources, and prayers—let us pour ourselves out to bend the moral arc of justice, with joy in our hearts, beauty in our sights, and hope for the children.

### 08-09 (carbon fee & dividend)

- Invite all our congregations to advocate for creation care by encouraging members and friends to regularly engage in respectful conversations with their federal elected officials to advocate for climate action. Congregations’ acts of engagement can include:
  - a. approaching all conversations with the intent to build bridges of trust and respect;
  - b. organizing ongoing calling, writing, and requesting visits with their elected officials, requesting climate action now;
  - c. encouraging and supporting youth to independently engage with their representatives;
  - d. educating their members and surrounding communities about climate impacts and solutions.
- Encourage congregations to learn about and consider including in their conversations the concepts of “Carbon Fee and Dividend,” a just and effective approach to carbon pricing:
  - a. An annually rising fee per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> is collected at the wellhead, mine, and border—the fee drives businesses to avoid cost, selecting and innovating for lower-carbon energy, products, and food.
  - b. A monthly dividend paid to all families comes from returning all of the fee, strengthening families and keeping three-fifths of the country even or a little ahead. The buying power of the fee leads to more local, mainstreet jobs.
  - c. Border tariffs protect our industry and compel other countries to follow our lead.
- Invite congregations to share their climate advocacy resources, successes, and encouragement.

### 08-11 (styrofoam)

2. Direct the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency, through its Office of Environmental Ministries, to communicate with the more than 9,000 congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) urging them to reduce to the maximum extent feasible use of products made of polystyrene foam.

## APPENDIX

Presbytery of Milwaukee, September 11, 2018

Presbytery of Milwaukee  
September 11, 2018

### **[Great Commission] Task Force Report**

The [Great Commission] Task Force met several times this year to consider its purpose and tasks. It developed and Council approved the following purpose statement and tasks. We are also in the process of changing our name (note the brackets), and we invite you to submit a better, appropriate name for the work to be done by this task force. You will find the survey link on the home page of the Presbytery website: [www.pbymilwaukee.org](http://www.pbymilwaukee.org).

#### Purpose Statement

We know that traditional congregational worship is not the only way for people to connect with God. Because the Presbytery of Milwaukee values authentic relationships, risk-taking for the sake of the gospel, and collaborative leadership, we encourage innovative forms of Christian community to deepen our love of God and love for our neighbor. These alternative Christian communities offer opportunities for people to explore the Christian faith and draw closer to Christ through worship, study, service, or healing outside of traditional church venues and programs, while still affirming our Reformed Christian theology. The [Great Commission] Task Force supports and encourages these communities through grants, training, and promotion.

The tasks for the [Great Commission] Task Force are to:

- Encourage church members and congregations of our presbytery to identify possible alternative Christian communities (ACC) that reach people who are not part of existing congregations;
- Promote ACCs within our presbytery;
- Help to identify informational resources for ACCs;
- Receive and evaluate funding requests for ACCs based on specified criteria;
- Offer or suggest training events for ACC leaders;
- Inform qualifying ACCs of additional opportunities under the denomination's 1001 New Worshipping Communities program;
- Support and oversee ACCs through regular communication to determine how the community can best be supported and how the ministry is progressing toward any benchmarks that have been set.

## APPENDIX

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### *Statement of Faith*

*Katie Ebel*

I believe in the Triune God. In an eternal, mutual dance, the three persons of the Godhead – called in our inadequate and inelegant language “Father,” “Son,” and “Holy Spirit” – create, redeem, and sustain all that is. By a process that we can neither fully comprehend nor describe, God authored all that was, is, and will be and has actively engaged with that creation throughout history. Scripture is the unique and authoritative witness to God’s ongoing work in the world. Its writing being inspired by the Holy Spirit, this witness is true. Yet, it has been recorded in limited human language and is marked by the historical, linguistic, cultural, and social contexts in which the texts were produced.

Human beings are part of that miraculous creation and bear responsibility towards one another and all of creation. We have been adopted by the grace of God as beloved children of God. It is through this loving grace that each of us lives in relationship to God. Yet, I also believe that sin exists in the world, and that sin distances us from God and one another. Thus, we all constantly stand in need of God’s grace for we cannot find our way to God by ourselves.

Yet, God, acting out of love, has never abandoned us. Instead, God seeks reconciliation of the world to Godself. I believe that in the person of Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, God became incarnate, dwelt among us, taught, healed, and ministered to humanity. Arrested and crucified, Christ suffered death on the cross but overcame death through resurrection. While I cannot begin to understand how this happened, I stand in awe before this mystery that tells me that the natural physical constraints of this world are not the ultimate limits of existence.

I also believe in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. Since the beginning of time, the Spirit has moved upon the earth, acting in conjunction with the Father and Son. It is the Spirit who gave to the disciples an understanding of Christ’s teachings, preparing them for ministry in the world. The Spirit still does this today, not only calling us to be part of the church, but also illuminating the Word and guiding our formation in Christ.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we are called into holy community and unified in Christ who is head of the church. In imperfect reflection of the *koinonia* of the Trinity, Christians are called to interconnected lives, joining together in worshiping God through praise and service. In community with all who have been so called in the past, present, and future we gather to hear the Word and celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. In these signs of God’s call upon and ongoing work in our lives, water, bread, and wine remain fully material elements. Nonetheless, Christ is truly present in the sacraments through the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus, renewed and fed, members of the church are then sent out to participate in God’s renewing work in the world.

## APPENDIX

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### Meet **Katie Ebel!**

Katherine Ebel (Katie) is a Wisconsin native who grew up in Madison. In High School she spent a year as a YFU exchange student in Germany, then went on to major in German at Cornell University. She received a German Academic Exchange Scholarship from Cornell, studying her Junior year in Hamburg and another year in Heidelberg. From Cornell she went on to an MA in German Literature at the University of Wisconsin then received a Fulbright Scholarship to the Netherlands. Presbyterian Ministers of Word and Sacrament are required to study (and pass!) scholarship skills in Biblical Hebrew and Greek; Katie is also fluent in German and Dutch.

Prior to becoming an Inquirer in the PC(USA), Katie worked as a German Lecturer at Carroll University for four years. She also worked at Plank Road Publishing for ten years where she was hired on as a Marketing Assistant and eventually became Managing Editor. She has skills in page layout, design, management, and problem solving in addition to knowing the Great Ends of the Church and Presbyterian Polity. She's even played in the orchestral!

Katie has been married to Jim Ziegler for twenty years and they have two dogs, Gracie and Bella. She enjoys knitting, reading, and running in the woods with her dogs. She and Jim spend their vacations traveling, often on bicycle tours.

On June 4, 2014, Katie, a member of First Presbyterian Church, Waukesha applied and was accepted as an Inquirer in the Presbytery of Milwaukee. She graduated from Dubuque Seminary February 1, 2018 with a Master of Divinity. She was a seminary intern for a year at Southminster Presbyterian in Waukesha then became their Pastoral Intern for Christian Formation. On February 6, 2018 following an interview and examination which Katie rocked, CPM declared her Certified, Ready to Receive a Call. Katie applied for and was accepted to the Stated Supply position at Faith Springs PC(USA) in Pewaukee where she has been serving since July. Awaiting her examination by the Presbytery, Katie has been loving her ministry at Faith Springs, particularly pastoral care which gives her the opportunity to really get to know her congregation and leading worship which requires diving deep into a Biblical text.

On September 11, 2018 the Presbytery of Milwaukee has the opportunity to examine and approve Katie's call to Minister of the Word and Sacrament and affirm her desire to be ordained to her ministry at Faith Springs.

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# The Commission on Preparation for Ministry

## Report to Presbytery

September 11, 2018

The following persons are currently under care of the CPM:

- Mary McClung in the CRE/CP program. She has completed 3 classes at UDS. Mary is a member of Crossroads church.
- Kathy Rosen in the CRE/CP program. She has completed 4 classes at UDS. Kathy is a member of the Delafield church.
- Katie Ebel in the Minister of Word and Sacrament program. Katie is a member of the First, Waukesha congregation and is Certified Ready to Receive a Call.
- Molly Hall in the Minister of the Word and Sacrament program. She is a member of the First, Racine congregation and is Certified Ready to Receive a call. She currently resides in West Virginia.
- Mark Fraley in the Minister of the Word and Sacrament program. Mark is a member of the 'Tosa congregation and was enrolled as an Inquirer by the Commission at its August meeting. He has begun classwork at McCormick this month.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Terry Hennesy, Moderator of CPM

Members of Milwaukee Presbytery's CPM:

John Hansen, Grace Church, Milwaukee  
Terry Hennesy, Linn Church, Lake Geneva  
Freda Johnson, Christ Church, Milwaukee  
Elizabeth McCord, Chaplain, Carroll University  
Lori Patton, Bethesda Church, Waukesha  
Lois Pearson, West Granville Church, Milwaukee  
Tracey Pomeroy, Forest Park Church, New Berlin  
Jamie Swanson, Rock Prairie Church, Janesville  
Brandon Ward, Faith Church, Franklin

