

PRESBYTERY OF THE CASCADES
MINUTES OF STATED MEETING
January 29, 2026

A Stated Meeting of The Presbytery of the Cascades was held on January 29, 2026, on the Zoom Videoconference platform. The Reverend Margaret Mitsuyasu, 2025-2026 Moderator of the Presbytery, was in the chair and the Reverend Paul Belz-Templeman, Stated Clerk, was present recording the proceedings.

Article VI.C. of the Presbytery's Bylaws states that the quorum for a meeting of the Presbytery, whether stated or special, shall be no fewer than the number of Ruling Elders required to represent at least ten percent of the congregations of the Presbytery, and an equal number of teaching elders of the Presbytery. At the time of the meeting, the Presbytery was composed of 87 congregations. Thus, the quorum for this meeting was 9 Ruling Elders representing 9 congregations of the Presbytery and an equal number of minister members.

160 presbyters registered attendance at the meeting. Presbyters in attendance were **92** minister-members of the Presbytery, **53** Ruling Elder Commissioners from **37** of the congregations of this Presbytery, and **15** Elders enrolled as Commissioners by Virtue of Presbytery service. A listing of the Presbyters registering attendance is attached as **Appendix A**.

The meeting was convened by the Moderator at 6 pm.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Since the Moderator, Stated Clerk and Tech Team for the meeting were present at the Interchurch Center, Portland, Oregon, the moderator acknowledged that this meeting of the presbytery, while being held virtually, was hosted on the traditional homeland of the **Chinook, Cowlitz, Clackamas, Atfalati and Kalapuya** people, and offered our gratitude to the people, past and present, who have stewarded it through the generations. Participants were invited to add land acknowledgements for their own locations.

OPENING PRAYER

Moderator Mitsuyasu opened the meeting with prayer.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

The Reverends Jennifer Bales from the Presbytery of San Jose, Susan Keim, from the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest, Ron Werner, from Together Lab and the Synod of Oregon, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America were seated as corresponding members. Alyssa Walker Keller from Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition was recognized as she presented later in the meeting.

Without Objection the ministers were seated as corresponding members.

ELECTRONIC MEETING STANDING RULES

The following motion to amend the standing rules presented by the Stated Clerk was adopted by a vote of 135 in the affirmative and 4 in the negative:

13. To raise a point of order or an order of the day, unmute and interrupt as these motions are time sensitive.

To seek recognition to make any other motion or speak in debate, attendees will enter information into chat indicating their purpose in seeking recognition:

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- **Motion-** (followed by the text of the motion)
- **For-** to speak in favor of a motion
- **Against-** to speak against the motion
- **Inquiry-** to request information about the motion or about the parliamentary situation.

14. Attendees joining the meeting by traditional telephone can raise their hand to seek recognition and arrangements will be made for the writing of the motion **or learning the reason the attendee is seeking recognition.**

The Electronic Meeting Standing Rules as amended are attached in **Appendix B.**

CONSENT AGENDA

Without objection the following items were adopted on the consent agenda:

1.) NECROLOGY REPORT

Thank God for the lives and ministries of these officers and servants of the church:

MINISTER		DATE	
Bruce Cameron		October 18, 2025	
Susan Grewe		December 31, 2025	
ELDER	CHURCH	CITY	DATE
Alberta Peterson	First PC	Corvallis, OR	September 29, 2025
Louis Eugene Maxfield	Yachats Community	Yachats, OR	September 27, 2025
Ralph “Charlie” Meador	First	Roseburg, OR	July 26, 2025
Marcia Hendrick	First	Roseburg, OR	July 27, 2025
Robert “Bob” Jacobsen	First	Roseburg, OR	August 5, 2025
Lauren Young	First	Roseburg, OR	September 4, 2025
Janice Petersen	First	Roseburg, OR	October 15, 2025
Margaret Anderson	First	Corvallis, OR	November 14, 2025
William Flanary	John Knox	Keizer, OR	December 1, 2025
Rodney Gilbert	Lake Grove	Lake Oswego, OR	November 17, 2025
Jeanne Gaylord	Lake Grove	Lake Oswego, OR	January 4, 2026
Elizabeth (Betty) Groth	Community	Yachats, OR	December 26, 2025
Charles Staley	Orengo	Hillsboro, OR	November, 2025
Richard (Dick) Scott	Springwater	Estacada, OR	November 29, 2024

2.) REPORT OF RESIGNATION FROM SERVICE

Dennis Slattery, Board of Trustees January 9, 2026

Accept this resignation with appreciation for the service given.

3.) MODERATOR APPOINTMENTS

Berni Mueller, COM-NE, Class of 2028 October 10, 2025
 Bill Wheeler, COM-NE, Class of 2027 October 16, 2025

Accept these appointments by the moderator to the Commission on Ministry Northeast with

appreciation for service to come.

4.) REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS

The following Administrative Commissions have reported the accomplishment of the work of their Commissioning:

Char Mace at St. John's PC, Camas

The Administrative Commission appointed to install the Rev. Char Mace as a called and installed pastor at **St. John's PC, Camas, WA**, on November 23, 2025, has reported the accomplishment of its work as commissioned. The members of the Administrative Commission were:

TE/Vice Moderator, Kris Voss Rothmeier
TE, Phil King, COM Northeast
RE, Chris Eddy, East Woods PC, Vancouver
RE, Darryl Eddy, East Woods PC, Vancouver

John Carrick at First PC, Corvallis

The Administrative Commission appointed to install the Rev. John Carrick as a called and installed pastor at First PC, Corvallis, OR, on Sunday, January 11, 2026, has reported the accomplishment of its work as commissioned. The members of the Administrative Commission were:

RE/Vice Moderator, Anne Montgomery
TE, Heidi Bolt, First PC, Portland
TE, Beth Crawford, First PC, Corvallis
TE, Hillary Hughes, Director of Authentic Hope Counseling
TE, Robert Perdue, HR
TE, Don Taylor, HR
RE, Milt Plocher, First PC, Corvallis, Clerk of Session
RE, Michael Lamb, Salem First PC, Salem

Dismiss the above Administrative Commissions with gratitude for their work.

TOGETHER LAB

Ron Werner from Together Lab and Alyssa Walker Keller from the Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition presented on authoritarianism and how to defeat it as well as the activity of Immigration Customs Enforcement in Oregon. They invited presbyters to attend the all state Zoom call on February 12, 2026.

PRESBYTERY LEADERSHIP COMMISSION & TRANSITIONAL EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

Transitional Executive Presbyter Brian Craker noted that the Presbytery Leadership Commission is living into the structure that Presbytery adopted in the summer of 2025 with an executive board and an advisory board. He noted the two foci for the commission this year are the mission study and building trust.

Anne Montgomery from the Mission Study Team shared the way her session is working on filling out the session survey together.

Gail Black noted that the Building Trust Team has reached out to leaders in our presbytery and two other presbyteries. She noted that the team has been reading two books about trust: *The Speed of Trust* (Covey) and *The Thin Book of Trust* (Feltman). In the spirit of building and keeping trust the Presbytery Leadership Commission has adopted a covenant including language designed to nurture trust in relationships.

The report of the Transitional Executive Presbyter is attached as **Appendix C**.

The report of the Presbytery Leadership Commission is attached as **Appendix D**.

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

Zane Buxton, chair of the Personnel and Administration Committee noted that the committee, in consultation with the Board of Trustees and Presbytery Leadership Commission Executive Board, is pursuing changing the relationship with the Stated Clerk by increasing the time from 80% to full time and will bring more information to the April Stated Presbytery meeting.

ADVOCATE FOR CONGREGATIONS AND CLERGY

Advocate for Congregations and Clergy Clark Scalera commended congregations for their perseverance even during this season of transitions with 12 congregations in active pastoral searches and another 8 about to do so.

WARM SPRINGS COMMISSION REPORT

Administrative Commission Chair Beverly Crow noted that the manse renovation would be completed at the end of the week and thanked the Board of Trustees for their tireless work behind the scenes. She noted that the church elders will soon begin a mission study as they prepare to welcome a pastor and that the church building continues to be used as the food pantry for the reservation and now by a preschool language group during the week.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Dave Baca noted that the financial report was preliminary and only captured the first 3 quarters of 2025. He continues to work on clarifying the presentation of the categories for presbytery. He also noted that the presbytery is taking part in an experiment initiated by the General Assembly where instead of remitting per capita the presbytery will remit 11% of its operating revenue. It is estimated that this will save us over \$85,000 in 2026.

COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

After reading his Statement of Christian Experience and sustaining an examination by the presbytery, **Inquirer Matt Heisler was enrolled as a Candidate under care of the Presbytery of the Cascades** by unanimous consent.

After reading her Statement of Christian Experience and sustaining an examination by the presbytery, **Inquirer Laura Fuller was enrolled as a Candidate under care of the Presbytery of the Cascades** by a vote of 111 in the affirmative and none in the negative.

The report of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry is attached as **Appendix E**.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Moderator Mitsuyasu thanked the staff and the commissioners for making the meeting a success.

Stated Clerk Paul Belz-Templeman thanked the Moderator for her work planning and moderating the meeting.

Clark Scalera noted that Sarah Sanderson-Doughty, COM Conflict Team Lead for the CART team would soon be taking a position outside of the presbytery and offered thanks and well wishes to her.

ADJOURNED

The meeting was closed with prayer by Moderator Margaret Mitsuyasu at 8:41 pm.



Approved by Presbytery Leadership Commission
February 26, 2026- PBT

Paul Belz-Templeman
Stated Clerk

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Appendix A

ATTENDANCE

January 29, 2026 Online Stated Meeting

Presbytery of the Cascades

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Name	City, Church	Name	City, Church
Brown, Gene	Aloha, Reedville	Saxowsky, Denvy	Monmouth, Christ's Church
Lewis, Paul	Ashland, First	Keagle, Helen	Newport, First
Miller, Deborah	Ashland, First	Rack, Mary	Pacific City, Nestucca Valley
Ositis, Kim	Aurora PC	Woo, Nancy	Portland, Calvary
Widen, Judy	Beaverton, Southminster	Brown, Sharon	Portland, First
Miller, Donna	Central Point, First	Chang-Lowe, Cathy	Portland, First
Matthes, Steve	Corvallis, First	Jewel, Rebecca	Portland, Kenilworth
Montgomery, Anne	Cottage Grove, First	Hall, Cathy	Portland, Moreland
Seeger, Joanne	Eagle Creek PC	Taylor, Jill	Portland, Moreland
Cagney, Nanette	Eugene, Central	Hellman, Heather	Portland, Multnomah
Tesche, Jean	Eugene, Central	Lawrence-Moiso, Lea	Portland, Rose City Park
Nichols, Gail	Florence, Community	Reinhardt, Linda	Portland, Rose City Park
Dunford, Dave	Gresham, Covenant	Brainard, Kay	Portland, Savage Memorial
Harrison, Krista	Gresham, Covenant	Putnam, Jackie	Portland, Savage Memorial
Stubbs, Mary	Hillsboro, Orenco	Houchen, Amy	Portland, St. Andrew's
Macfarlane, Christine	Hillsboro, Tualatin Plains	Schlechter, Roberta	Portland, St. Andrew's
Bunday, Vallory	Keizer, John Knox	Mehlhoff, Pat	Roseburg, First
Emmett, Mary Jo	Keizer, John Knox	Lamb, Michael	Salem First
Crowell, Susie	Lake Oswego, Lake Grove	Foster, Lucy	Salem, Westminster
Hartman, Liz	Lake Oswego, Lake Grove	Kandra, Steve	Salem, Westminster
Buck, Scott	Lincoln City, CBTS	Fraser, Sharon	St. Helen's, Plymouth
Laddusaw, Sharon	McMinnville, First	Weston, Dianna	Tigard, Rise
Sherwood, Sandy	McMinnville, First	Ortiz, Lyn	Vancouver, First
Johnson, Dan	Medford, First	Pierce, Mary	Vancouver, First
Kelley, Diana	Medford, First	Presson, John	Vancouver, First
Hilkey, Becky	Mill City PC	Seaman, Sherri	Waldport, Community
Phillips, Janet	Mill City PC		

ATTENDING BY VIRTUE OF SERVICE

By Virtue of Service	Committee or Commission	By Virtue of Service	Committee or Commission
Vetter, Dan	Commission on Ministry	Black, Gail	Moderator Elect
Ziel, Sharon	Commission on Ministry	Birnie, Cam	Nominating
Lewis-Younger, Cynthia	Commission on Preparation for Ministry	Belt, Kate	Nominating
Ocampo, Desiree	Committee on Representation	Clements, Amy	Trustees
Envela, Ted	Committee on Representation	Thornton, Larry	Trustees

Appendix A Attendance (Cont.)

January 29, 2026 Online Stated Meeting

Presbytery of the Cascades

ATTENDING BY VIRTUE OF SERVICE (cont.)

By Virtue of Service	Committee or Commission	By Virtue of Service	Committee or Commission
Sheelar, Eileen	Communications & Technology Team		
Eckerd, Carole	Vice Moderator		
Dobney, Mark	Commissioned Ruling Elder, Warrenton, Pioneer		
Keady, Karen	Commissioned Ruling Elder, Waltherville, McKenzie Valley		

MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Name	Name	Name	Name
Ackerman, Jennifer	Garvin, Robin	Loving, Linda	Rowley, Josh
Barrett, Robert	Golbeck, Amanda	Martin, Jennifer	Russell, Bill
Belz-Templeman, Paul	Graham, Susan	Martin, Todd	Sanderson-Doughty, Sarah
Berger, Patricia	Grewe, Chris	McDougall, Susan	Santamaria, Lindsey
Brown, Dwayne	Griffen, Robert	McIlraith, Mark	Scalera, Clark
Brown, Vicky	Guevara, Rachel	Miller, Joan	Schindler, Audrey
Buxton, Zane	Hale, Jenny	Mitchell, Steve	Sievert, Jeff
Campbell, Barbara	Hamilton-Sutherland, Kristen	Mitsuyasu, Margaret	Sponaugle, Laurie
Carrick, John	Hasenjaeger, John	Mixon-Weller, Paulette	Sponaugle, Leonard
Cayton, Tim	Hood, Ken	Moiso, Jim	Stein, Craig
Craker, Brian	Hovenkamp, Beverly	Moon, Sandra	Strader, Becky
Crane, Scott	Hubbard-Groves, Lindsey	Murphy, Chris	Strader, Rebecca
Crow, Beverly	Humphreys, Bill	Neel, Beth	Taylor, William
Dela Cruz, Chris	Humphreys, William	Neel, Gregg	Tindall, Susan
Delaney, Amy	Jewel, David	Newman, Laurie	Van Nostran, Bill
Dickson, Kelly	Keener, Kathy	O'Brien, Cynthia	Van Nostran, Bill
Dietrich, Stephen	Kent, Brad	Olson, Mark	Van Stelle, Sue
Dunham, Joshua	Kim, Jun	Olson, Wendy	Voss-Rothmeier, Kris
Dunn, Joanna	Kokjer, Dean	Pate, Katie	Wadsworth, Kelly
Edwards, Sharon	Koski, Steven	Peters, Danny	Wallace, John
Flach, Graig	Leavitt, Elizabeth	Poole, Jerry	Wilson, Michael
Frey, Mark	Lewis, Maggie	Rainey, Mark	Winslea, Elizabeth
Garber, Debbie	Linder, Dawn	Rice, Roger	Winslea, Timothy

GUESTS

Name			
Susan Keim	Corresponding Member	Ron Werner	Together Lab, Staff
Jennifer Bales	Corresponding Member	Alyssa Walker Keller	Together Lab, Staff
Laura Fuller	Commission on Ministry Candidate	Thomas Lundy	Cascades Presbytery, Staff
Matt Heisler	Commission on Ministry Candidate	Dave Baca	Presbytery Treasurer

ELECTRONIC MEETING STANDING RULES

Adopted July 2020, Revised January 2026

When the Presbytery meets electronically, these rules are used. Amendments require a two-thirds vote in the affirmative. Suspending an electronic standing rule for the meeting requires majority vote and then the applicable rule (if any) is found in the Presbytery bylaws or the most current edition of the parliamentary authority.

Standing Rules

Presbytery of the Cascades Electronic Stated Meeting

Electronic Meeting

1. An “Electronic Meeting” as used in these rules is a meeting at which all attendees are joined electronically/digitally. It is expected that each attendee will participate in the meeting individually on a computer or other electronic device, rather than one being shared by multiple attendees. Multiple attendees on a single device require approval of the stated clerk in advance and may limit attendee’s ability to fully participate. Joining by traditional telephone alone may also limit an attendee’s ability to fully participate.
2. The terms “attendee” and “participant” are used interchangeably to mean a “Voting Member” as defined in Article VI. Section D. of the Presbytery Bylaws. These rules are based on the premise that all those admitted to the virtual meeting are eligible to vote.
3. Each attendee is responsible for their connection to the Internet and the meeting room; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, an attendee’s individual connection prevented them from participating in the meeting, provided that at least a quorum remains connected and adequately able to participate.
4. The moderator may cause or direct the temporary disconnection or muting of an attendee’s connection if it is causing undue electronic interference with the meeting. The chair’s decision to do so, which is subject to an undebatable appeal that can be made by any participant, shall be recorded in the minutes.
5. These rules are for Electronic Meetings. They are in addition to rules for meetings found in the Bylaws and Standing Rules. If there is a conflict with the Standing Rules of the Presbytery previously adopted for in-person meetings, these rules for Electronic Meetings shall prevail for the duration of the meeting.

Registration to Participate

6. Participants should register for the meeting in advance of the starting time using the email link available in the background papers on the Presbytery website. Presbytery members and commissioners without access to the internet may telephone the stated clerk to register at 503-227-5486.
7. Electronic meetings of the Presbytery of the Cascades are open to observers. Observers may watch the meeting on the Presbytery YouTube channel but, since they do not have the right to speak or vote, will not be allowed to join the meeting by Zoom. Corresponding members and others who will speak may join the meeting and will be identified in a way that indicates that they do not have vote.

Joining the Meeting

8. Participants are encouraged to join the meeting on a desktop or laptop computer. The following are requirements for such computers:
 - a. High speed internet access.
 - b. Sound output device. While speakers are allowed, this will preferably be a headset, earbuds, or Bluetooth device that delivers the sound directly to the participant's ear rather than into an open room. This reduces the possibility of "echo."
 - c. A microphone. Make sure your computer has a microphone. If not you can join Zoom on the computer and use a telephone connection to provide microphone and speaker while the computer provides the picture and the ability to seek recognition and vote.
 - d. A webcam(optional).
9. If joining by computer is not possible, a tablet or smart phone may be used, using the free "Zoom"app, available from the device's app store. Regarding audio/visual devices, the same requirements and preferences exist as for computers. We believe that a computer will provide the best experience for participants.
10. Only if joining by one or the other of the above options is impossible, participants may dial into the meeting using either a traditional or cellular phone.
11. Background papers will include information on how to use the features of the electronic platform selected for the meeting, including instructions for standardized formatting of the participant's name, indicating a desire to speak during the meeting, and voting procedures. Information will be provided for computers, smart phones, and a traditional telephone.
12. While every effort will be made to provide stable access to the online meeting platform, each attendee is responsible for their audio and internet connections

Rules for the Conduct of Business in an Electronic Meeting

13. To raise a point of order or an order of the day, unmute and interrupt as these motions are time sensitive. To seek recognition to make any other motion or speak in debate, attendees will enter information into chat indicating their purpose in seeking recognition:
 - Motion- (followed by the text of the motion)
 - For- to speak in favor of a motion
 - Against- to speak against the motion
 - Inquiry- to request information about the motion or about the parliamentary situation
14. Attendees joining the meeting by traditional telephone can raise their hand to seek recognition and arrangements will be made for the writing of the motion or learning the reason the attendee is seeking recognition
15. For motions not approved by unanimous consent, the Zoom Poll feature will be the normal method of voting. Those joining the meeting by telephone without computer can vote "yes" by entering *9. "No" votes from those who join by telephone will not be called for unless such "no" votes may affect the result of the vote. In that case, those voting by phone will be asked to use the raise hand *9 function to vote yes or no as directed by the moderator.

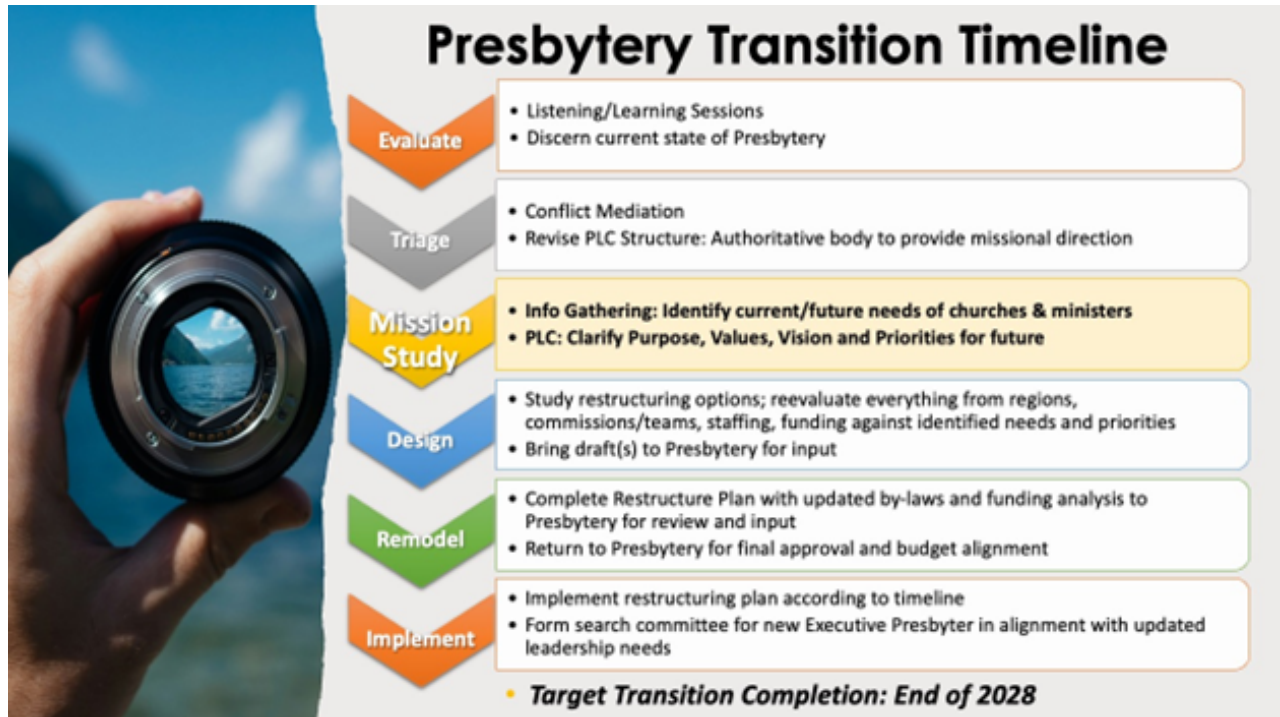
16. The moderator, if in doubt of a vote, may order a roll call vote or the use of the "yes" and "no" buttons as needed to determine the prevailing side on any question.

17. The examination of each person seeking candidacy status in the Commission for Preparation for Ministry process is limited to 15 minutes. Questions for the examinee must be submitted in the chat function.

18. Items of business in the consent agenda shall be considered in gross (all together in one motion) without debate. Any voting member can remove any item or items from the consent agenda by unmuting and requesting that the item be removed or by putting the request in the chat function. Removed items will be taken up during the appropriate committee report or during unfinished business as ordered by the moderator.

Transitional Executive Presbyter Report to Presbytery January 2026

Presbytery Transition and Mission Study Surveys



The Presbytery is currently in the third stage of our leadership transition timeline, which is our Mission Study stage. As a part of this very important step, the PLC has begun gathering information from the Sessions of our congregations, our various Minister Members (active, validated, at-large and HR), and specific commissions/teams of our Presbytery. The purpose of this information gathering will be to help identify current and future needs of our churches and ministers, as well as clarify our purpose, values, vision and priorities as a Presbytery for the future.

Earlier this month, surveys went out to our congregations and minister members. We have asked that our Sessions carve out some time in an upcoming meeting to discuss and respond to the survey questions for their congregation, with a deadline for submission by March 27th. The second batch of surveys went out to all of our minister members and CREs (active, at-large, validated and HR) asking for their input on important matters of ministry and relationship with the Presbytery, with a survey submission deadline of Feb. 18th (Ash Wednesday).

Just like when doing a Mission Study in a local congregation, participation is key to gathering solid information and making informed determinations. So, we have asked that to all who are sent a survey to please prioritize the time this Winter to study and complete their surveys. The closer we get to 100% participation from our churches and minister members, the better job our PLC can do in prayerful discerning God’s calling for our future as the Connectional Church and as a Presbytery.

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APPENDIX C Cont.

My goal, as your Transitional Executive Presbyter, is to continue to help our presbytery look ahead to the next 5-10 years and align our form and function to match the needs of our churches. This will allow us to more fully live into our core DNA and mission of cultivating Spirit-led collaborative ministries that embody God's love in Jesus Christ. We cannot reach that goal of truly being the connectional church unless we receive input from all those that we serve as a Presbytery. I greatly appreciate your trust in the work ahead, your participation in this first round of input, and look forward to more honest conversations together as we continue this work through our Mission Study phase.

Blessings,

Brian Craker

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY LEADERSHIP COMMISSION

FOR INFORMATION

Actions Taken on Behalf of Presbytery

Approve Minutes

October 2025 Presbytery Minutes

The Minutes of the October 24-25 Stated Presbytery Meeting were approved.

Upon Recommendation from Personnel & Administration

Contract Renewal for Brian Craker

Upon recommendation from the Personnel and Administration Committee, renewed contract with Transitional Executive Presbyter Brian Craker for 2026. 11/2025

Revision of Advocate for Congregations and Clergy Position Description

Upon recommendation from Personnel and Administration Committee, removed dated language and clarified the work in the [Advocate for Congregations and Clergy Position Description](#). 11/2025

Upon Recommendation from Communication & Technology Team

Technology Grant, Creswell, First

Upon recommendation from Communication and Technology Team, approved \$4,000 Technology grant towards modernizing technology for livestreaming in support of worship and other gatherings. 10/2025

Technology Grant Extension, Vancouver, Eastwoods

Upon Recommendation from Communication and Technology Team, approved extension until November 2026 to use the grant funds awarded in November 2024 towards technology project. 10/2025

Technology Grant, Prineville

Upon recommendation from Communication and Technology Team, approved \$2,340 Technology grant towards a website for Prineville Presbyterian Church. 11/2025

Membership & Role of the Presbytery Leadership Commission - Executive Board

The Presbytery Leadership Commission Executive Board has the following members:

Chris Murphy, Chair, (TE, Newberg, First)	Margaret Mitsuyasu, Moderator (TE, Vancouver, First)
Carole Eckerd, Vice Mod., South (RE, Roseburg, First)	Kris Voss-Rothmeier, Vice Mod., Northeast (TE-VM)
Amy Delaney, Vice Mod., Northwest (TE- at large)	Anne Montgomery Vice Mod., Central (RE, Cottage Grove, First)
Gail Black, Moderator Elect (RE, Portland, Rose City Park)	Dave Baca, Treasurer (Portland, First)
Aric Clark, At large member of commission (TE-at large)	Audrey Schindler, at large member of commission (TE-HR)
Eileen Sheelar, at large member of commission (RE, Keizer, John Knox)	

The Presbytery Leadership Commission (PLC) functions as a coordinating body for the mission of presbytery, advising the presbytery on budgeting, arranging meetings of presbytery. It has responsibility for strategic planning and management, for personnel matters on the recommendation of the Personnel and Administration Committee, and for acting for the presbytery between meetings of the presbytery on recommendations of the Board of Trustees or as directed by the presbytery.

COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM) REPORT

FOR ACTION:

Matthew Heisler, Inquirer

On November 19th, 2025, the CPM met with Inquirer Matthew Heisler and conducted an annual review. Additionally, after discussing his growth objectives and his progress articulating and demonstrating the Outcomes of Inquiry, the CPM voted to approve the following motion:

Motion: The CPM recommends and requests that the Presbytery of the Cascades, after hearing and interviewing him on his Statement of Christian Experience, enroll Matt Heisler as a Candidate under care of the presbytery.

Laura Fuller, Inquirer

On December 10th, 2025, the CPM met with Inquirer Laura Fuller and conducted an annual review. Additionally, after discussing her growth objectives and her progress articulating and demonstrating the Outcomes of Inquiry, the CPM voted to approve the following motion:

Motion: The CPM recommends and requests that the Presbytery of the Cascades, after hearing and interviewing her on her Statement of Christian Experience, enroll Laura Fuller as a Candidate under care of the presbytery.

FOR INFORMATION:

Charlie Sponsel, Inquirer

On December 10, 2025, the CPM met with Inquirer Charlie Sponsel and conducted an annual review. Growth objectives were reviewed and renewed with Charlie, and Charlie was granted permission to begin taking the ordination exams.

Explanation of Process

The *Book of Order* outlines a process for individuals seeking to become a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) which requires a minimum of two years and contains eighteen separate steps. It involves the individual, the session of the individual's home congregation, the presbytery's Commission on Preparation for Ministry [CPM], the presbytery of call and the presbytery of care. Specific details can be found in the *Book of Order* G-2.06.

Applicant Process: The individual must be a member of a congregation for at least six months. The individual informs the session of their desire to pursue ordained ministry. The session notifies the CPM who then meets with the session for orientation on the inquirer/candidacy process. The session meets with the individual and makes a recommendation to CPM. This recommendation, along with the individual's application, references, and a psychological assessment is shared with the CPM who then interviews the individual and makes a recommendation to presbytery to enroll the person as an inquirer.

Inquiry Process: Currently there are 3 people in Cascades Presbytery enrolled as Inquirers. This phase of the process is a time for exploration of the vocation of ministry and the sense of one's call to ordained ministry. Each person is assigned a liaison from the session of the home congregation and from the CPM. Once enrolled as an inquirer, an annual consultation is held for as long as the individual remains in the candidacy process with goals set in five key areas: education for ministry, spiritual formation, interpersonal relations, personal growth and professional development.

Candidacy Process: After a minimum of one year, the inquirer can request to be moved to the candidacy phase of the process. The individual again officially meets with the session of the home congregation which makes its recommendation to CPM. CPM also meets with the candidate, reviews the progress made in the inquiry process, and receives the individual's one page Statement of Christian Experience. CPM then makes its recommendation to presbytery to enroll the individual as a candidate. Currently there are 3 individuals in Cascades Presbytery who are enrolled as candidates. This phase lasts a minimum of one year. During this time, the individual is given permission to take the five ordination examinations required by our denomination.

Certified Candidacy Process: Once the individual has passed those examinations, has taken a field experience and clinical pastoral education credit and is close to graduation from a Presbyterian seminary [or granted an exemption from the CPM on a case-by-case basis], the candidate appears before the CPM to be examined as certified ready to receive a call. This final assessment of the individual reviews all pertinent information from the entire candidacy process. The individual is also required to produce an exegetical paper and preach before the commission a sermon based on that text as well as defend a one-page Statement of Faith. CPM then is granted the power by operating procedures of Cascades Presbytery to approve a person certified ready to receive a call. Currently, none of the 3 candidates under care of Cascades Presbytery are certified ready to receive a call. When a candidate becomes certified, they are given permission to circulate a Personal Discernment Profile [PDP] and pursue a call to which they can be ordained.

Once a call has been extended to a validated ministry, the individual must appear before the presbytery to be examined on their Statement of Faith. This is the final step in the "trials for ordination" and is ordinarily conducted by the presbytery in which the call has been issued. Once examined and approved for ordination, the presbytery of call then ordinarily sets the time and place for the candidate's service of ordination.

Anytime during the process, an individual may request to be removed from the covenant relationship. Anyone wishing to pursue ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament or who has questions concerning the inquirer/candidacy process is encouraged to contact Stephen Dietrich, Moderator of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry [541-231-4729] or Clark Scalera, staff resource to the Commission [541-606-5699].

Statement of Christian Experience

Laura Fuller

1/6/26

My Christian faith has been a journey of encountering God's nearness, sovereignty, and relational love.

I was raised in a Christian household, where the stories and central figures of the Bible were familiar to me from an early age. My belief took root young, and by the age of nine I had embraced faith, been baptized, and felt a sense of belonging within the church. As I grew older, however, my focus shifted inward. From my mid-teens into young adulthood, I intentionally stepped away, choosing independence and self-direction over a deeper spiritual life. As I neared 20, I began to experience moments of quiet but persistent mental nudging - an unmistakable sense of God trying to get my attention, of being beckoned. God was faithful, even when I could not be. I took tentative steps forward, even while still resisting the changes I sensed were being asked of me. I knew God was calling me to be obedient - something that made me balk. When I realized I would soon be responsible for the upbringing of another human, my internal focus shifted. There was more at stake than my own faith; becoming a mother was a turning point.

I continued to take steps toward and with God, sometimes small, sometimes large, sometimes at an ambling pace, others at a sprint. At times I tripped and stopped to rest. But God is faithful. He continued to show me the way. The path he revealed was not always the one I had expected and he often asks me to trust his directions even though I cannot see much more than a few feet ahead. He has taught me about "patient endurance", a refrain that angered me at first and now, having lived into it for two plus decades, has become an anthem. God has a plan and path for me, and with patient endurance (sometimes more patiently than others), I seek to let God direct my way. Part of this journey was transitioning from being a middle school teacher, something that very much felt like a calling and a gift as a single mother, to turning my focus toward seminary and moving toward a life of full-time ministry.

My time in seminary was a season of significant expansion of my heart and mind - a kind of spiritual renaissance - as though my understanding of faith, God, and spiritual life had been confined to a small space and was suddenly opened wide. I began to grasp a sense of the vastness of God - the "bigness" of God, I like to say - and to see the many ways I could know and encounter Him. I learned that productivity does not define my spiritual life, and that "wasting time with God" in prayer, reflection, and contemplation has inherent value. Through both ordinary and extraordinary experiences, God has repeatedly shown faithfulness - in answered prayers, unexpected guidance, the presence of friends and mentors, and the ways everyday life bears glimpses of God's care. I have been learning to watch and listen for God in the rhythms of daily life - to notice the small ways God calls, comforts, and shapes me. This reshaped my sense of discipleship and deepened my joy in exploring spiritual practices, from Visio Divina to creative engagement with Scripture - which I have enjoyed sharing with those I serve.

My ministry has grown naturally out of these experiences through teaching, preaching, small group leadership, staff support, and pastoral care. I find deep fulfillment in walking alongside people of all ages as faith develops over time, and in witnessing the ways relationships and community

APPENDIX E Cont.

nurture growth. My years of teaching and working with families have shaped my attentiveness to the wide range of human experience, and I am committed to ministry that honors diversity, curiosity, and different ways of learning and belonging. Hospitality, inclusion, and compassion remain central to how I approach leadership and service. My time at Lake Grove Presbyterian Church has been formative, offering experiences that continue to shape me into a more thoughtful and grounded leader.

I seek ordained ministry because of a persistent sense that this is the work I am meant to do. It reflects both the gifts I have been given and the joy I experience in teaching, guiding, and accompanying others through life's questions and transitions. I understand this vocation as a response - shaped in community and expressed through service - and as an ongoing process of growth and learning. This work allows me to engage the realities of being human through a lens of faith - guiding others toward Jesus and helping them recognize the fingerprints of God in their own lives and the transformation that brings. I am committed to ongoing learning and formation - trusting the Spirit to shape me - and to participate fully in God's work in the world alongside the people God places around me, while remaining attentive to the daily ways God shows faithfulness, calls, and equips us for life and ministry.

Statement of Christian Experience Matt Heisler

I grew up in a Christian home and have had a faith in Jesus from a young age. I have an early memory when I was 4 or 5 years old of getting in trouble and being put in timeout. As my mom walked away, I cried "I want Jesus!" with tears in my eyes. Jesus was a refuge for me then and still is my refuge today.

I experienced a strong and diverse religious education, attending Catholic school from 1st to 5th grades, then being a part of more Pentecostal Evangelical churches through my teenage years and early 20's. My adult faith, starting in college, has been characterized by lots of wrestling with God and with questions of faith, while also serving God and others through group home care for at-risk adolescents, special education with elementary students, youth ministry, and other congregational ministries.

Some of my faith questions arose from difficult family experiences like my father's grandiose narcissism, my parents' divorce, and the almost constant conflict at home. Sometimes angrily, I asked God, where were you in the midst of all this? I found solace in my college years particularly in the writings of the Scottish poet and pastor George MacDonald. One of his literary devices was the concept of an invisible thread that his fantasy characters, like those found in *The Princess and the Goblin*, would grab hold of and follow to freedom out of difficult situations. This became a life metaphor for me and a way of thinking about my faith in God - a fragile and sometimes hard to find thing that was always worth looking for and would lead me out of the difficult, dangerous, or dark places I found myself in.

Other questions arose from difficult church experiences. When I began attending seminary and interned at an evangelical church plant, my friends came to me with stories of being assaulted and abused by the church's lead and associate pastors. I myself had experienced dynamics of controlling and manipulative behaviors from the pastors. Furthermore, there were no real channels for accountability as the church board was mainly a group of the pastor's personal friends and people he supervised.

This sent me into a true crisis of faith, as I questioned if I wanted to give my time and service to an institution that resembled control and fear, and misrepresented the God of love I had come to put my trust in. But, I was halfway through an MDiv and told God, "this feels dead at this point, so if I'm still to serve in ministry, you'll need to resurrect it somehow."

I followed "the invisible thread" and transferred to Princeton Seminary in 2019 to finish my degree. While there, I joined a spiritual direction group with a retired PCUSA pastor. This focused time of prayer and connection ended up being tremendously healing and clarifying. Soon after, I joined the PCUSA denomination (initially for its strong polity that holds leadership accountable) and interned at an old Presbyterian church in Pennington, NJ. I graduated in May 2021 with my MDiv and some restored faith in the institution of church. Finding safe places to serve and worship has been instrumental for that. I now frequently describe my faith as God holding onto me more than I've held onto God.

In light of all of these experiences, I have continued to humbly step forward in the ordination process, by God's grace hoping to be the type of faithful presence for others that I've

experienced in the Christian community. I long for a day when the church is widely known in our culture as a healing balm that joyfully invites others into the type of Shalom community we hear Jesus describe as the Kingdom of God.

While I continuously discern what my next calling might be within the church, my life's work so far has always revolved around young people and finding new ways to communicate the Gospel to a culture largely estranged from it. I have felt particularly called to some form of healing ministry and have discerned pursuing additional training and education in counseling psychology. For the time being, I feel called to continue through my ordination steps and to do ministry through my current role as a domestic engineer (my term for stay at home dad) with my partner Grace and our two little ones, 2-year old Sophie and 5-year old Amelia. Becoming a parent has meant for me growing in a deeper understanding of God's love and patience for me and the high calling of modeling that love and patience to my kids. It's a tall order, so pray for me.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

FOR ACTION

A.) AMEND [ELECTRONIC MEETING STANDING RULES](#) SECTIONS 13 AND 14

13. The raise hand feature on computers will be used for seeking recognition. The hosts are responsible for lowering hands after the participant's issue has been addressed. If you raise your hand and then reconsider your request to be recognized, you may lower your hand. If you have an "interrupting motion" (a point of order, a request for preference in recognition, etc.), raise your hand. **To raise a point of order or an order of the day, unmute and interrupt as these motions are time sensitive. To seek recognition to make any other motion or speak in debate, attendees will enter information into chat indicating their purpose in seeking recognition:**

- **Motion-** (followed by the text of the motion)
- **For-** to speak in favor of a motion
- **Against-** to speak against the motion
- **Inquiry-** to request information about the motion or about the parliamentary situation

14. If you have a motion to make it should be first entered into the participant "chat," after which you should seek recognition. When called upon, you should note that the motion is in the chat, and move it. Attendees joining the meeting by traditional telephone can raise their hand to seek recognition and arrangements will be made for the writing of the motion **or learning the reason the attendee is seeking recognition.**

B.) **ACTION:** ADOPT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS THE CONSENT AGENDA

1.) **Action:** Adopt the docket and authorize the moderator to make changes as necessary.

2.) **NECROLOGY REPORT [Consent Agenda]**

The following are the names, as reported to the Stated Clerk, of deceased presbyters since the October, 2025, meeting of Presbytery.

MINISTER		DATE	
Bruce Cameron		October 18, 2025	
Susan Grewe		December 31, 2025	
ELDER	CHURCH	CITY	DATE
Alberta Peterson	First PC	Corvallis, OR	September 29, 2025
Louis Eugene Maxfield	Yachats Community PC	Yachats, OR	September 27, 2025
Ralph "Charlie" Meador	First PC	Roseburg, OR	July 26, 2025
Marcia Hendrick	First PC	Roseburg, OR	July 27, 2025
Robert "Bob" Jacobsen	First PC	Roseburg, OR	August 5, 2025
Lauren Young	First PC	Roseburg, OR	September 4, 2025
Janice Petersen	First PC	Roseburg, OR	October 15, 2025
Margaret Anderson	First PC	Corvallis, OR	November 14, 2025
William Flanary	John Knox PC	Keizer, OR	December 1, 2025
Rodney Gilbert	Lake Grove PC	Lake Oswego, OR	November 17, 2025
Jeanne Gaylord	Lake Grove PC	Lake Oswego, OR	January 4, 2026
Elizabeth (Betty) Groth	Community PC	Yachats, OR	December 26, 2025
Charles Staley	Orenco PC	Hillsboro, OR	November, 2025
Richard (Dick) Scott	Springwater PC	Estacada, OR	November 29, 2024

Action: Thank God for the lives and ministries of these officers and servants of the church.

APPENDIX F Cont.

3.) REPORT OF RESIGNATION FROM SERVICE [Consent Agenda]

Dennis Slattery, Board of Trustees

January 9, 2026

Action: Accept this resignation with appreciation for the service given.

4.) MODERATOR APPOINTMENTS [Consent Agenda]

Berni Mueller, COM-NE, Class of 2028

October 10, 2025

Bill Wheeler, COM-NE, Class of 2027

October 16, 2025

Action: Accept these appointments with appreciation for service to come.

5.) REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS [Consent Agenda]

The following Administrative Commission has reported the accomplishment of the work of their Commissioning:

Char Mace at St. John's PC, Camas

The Administrative Commission appointed to install the Rev. Char Mace as a called and installed pastor at Camas, St. John's PC, Camas, WA, on November 23, 2025, has reported the accomplishment of its work as commissioned. The members of the Administrative Commission were:

TE/Vice Moderator, Kris Voss Rothmeier

TE Phil King, HR

RE Chris Eddy, East Woods PC

RE Darryl Eddy, East Woods PC

John Carrick at First PC, Corvallis

The Administrative Commission appointed to install the Rev. John Carrick as a called and installed pastor at First PC, Corvallis, OR, on Sunday, January 11, 2026, has reported the accomplishment of its work as commissioned. The members of the Administrative Commission were:

RE/Vice Moderator, Anne Montgomery

TE Heidi Bolt, First PC of Portland

TE Beth Crawford, First, Corvallis

TE Hillary Hughes, Director of Authentic Hope Counseling

TE Robert Perdue, HR

TE Don Taylor, HR

TE (United Methodist) Rob Kirby, Executive Director & Campus Pastor at WestM

RE Milt Plocher, First PC, Corvallis, Clerk of Session

RE Michael Lamb, Salem First PC, Salem

Action: Dismiss the Administrative Commissions with gratitude for their work.

FOR INFORMATION

1.) Reports of Administrative Commissions without Action Items

Administrative Commission for Portland, Hope Korean

The Administrative Commission for Hope Korean Presbyterian Church began its work on February 20, 2025.

There being no church session, the Administrative Commission has original jurisdiction (the power of session) from the presbytery. The Commission notes the following actions taken since the report at the October 2025 Presbytery meeting:

(cont. next page)

APPENDIX F Cont.

Administrative Commission for Portland, Hope Korean cont.

- The Administrative Commission is working with the Commission on Ministry to explore a more formal temporary pastoral relationship with the Reverend Paul Bahn who is currently providing weekly pulpit supply during this time of transition.
- The congregation's finances are gradually stabilizing. The congregation is current on loan payments to the presbytery and has no debt aside from mortgage payments to the presbytery towards the purchase of the right to use the property.

Administrative Commission for Portland, Mt. Scott Park

The Administrative Commission for Mt. Scott Park Presbyterian Church continues its work administering the real property of the Mt. Scott Park Presbyterian Church Corporation. The commission continues to weigh offers to purchase the building.

The following Administrative Commissions continue their work:

2.) Report on Investigating Committees

1. The Investigating Committee (2025-01) formed March 18, 2025, to investigate allegations against a ruling elder after the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery agreed to accept jurisdiction is continuing its work.
2. An Investigating Committee (2025-03) formed September 3, 2025, to investigate allegations against two Minister members is continuing its work.

3.) UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE PRESBYTERY

DATE	FORMAT	REGION	Site
April 24-25, 2026	In-Person	Northeast	First PC, Vancouver
June 18, 2026	Online	N/A	N/A
October 23-24, 2026	In-Person	South	First, North Bend

4.) MINISTER ID CARDS

Ministers who would like a minister ID card should notify the stated clerk by February 13, 2026, as the General Assembly prints those requested and mails them to the presbytery later that month.

5.) SYNOD REVIEW OF PRESBYTERY MINUTES

The minutes of stated and special meetings of the Presbytery from November, 2024 through June, 2025 were submitted to the Synod for review on September 2, 2025. The clerk anticipated that the results of the review would be available and reported at this January 2026 meeting. The clerk now hopes and prays that the results of the review will be available for report at the April 2026 stated meeting.

6.) SESSION RECORD REVIEWS

“Each council shall review annually or biennially, based on the body’s meeting frequency, the proceedings and actions of...lower councils within its jurisdiction” G-3.0108. Sessions are under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery and the Presbytery fulfills the review requirement by inviting clerks to exchange and review each other’s minutes under the guidance of the stated clerk. The following table indicates which sessions have completed the review and which sessions still need to finish the review.

APPENDIX F Cont.

Session Record Reviews 2025

(as of December 31, 2025)

M = denotes Minutes were presented

A = Financial Audit was completed

Central Region		
Albany, United	M	
Aurora	M	A
Bend, First	M	
Corvallis, First	M	A
Corvallis, Korean		
Cottage Grove, First	M	A
Creswell, First	M	
Dallas, First	M	
Eugene, Central	M	
Eugene, Peace	M	
Eugene, Westminster	M	
Florence, Siuslaw	M	A
Keizer, John Knox	M	A
Lebanon, First	M	A
Lincoln City, Chapel by the Sea	M	A
McMinnville, First	M	A
Mill City, First	M	
Monmouth, Christ's Church	M	
Newport, First		
Pacific City, Nestucca Valley	M	A
Prineville	M	
Redmond, Community	M	A
Salem, First	M	
Salem, Westminster	M	
Waldport Community	M	
Walterville, McKenzie Valley	M	
Woodburn, First		
Yachats, Community	M	
Northeast Region		
Camas, St. Johns	M	
Eagle Creek PC	M	A
Estacada, Springwater	M	
Fairview, Smith Memorial	M	
Gresham, Covenant	M	A
Milwaukie PC	M	A
Milwaukie, Oak Hills	M	A
Portland, Calvary	M	
Portland, Grace	M	
Portland, Kenilworth	M	
Portland, Moreland	M	
Portland, Mt. Scott Park	M	
Portland, Mt. Tabor		
Portland, Piedmont	M	
Portland, Rose City Park	M	A
Portland, Savage Memorial		
Portland, Westminster	M	A

Trout Lake, First	M	
Vancouver, Cascades		
Vancouver, Columbia	M	
Vancouver, East Woods	M	A
Vancouver, First	M	
Vancouver, Korean		
Warm Springs		
Northwest Region		
Aloha, Reedville	M	A
Astoria, First	M	A
Beaverton, Southminster	M	A
Clatskanie PC	M	
Hillsboro PC	M	A
Hillsboro, Orenco	M	
Hillsboro, Tualatin Plains	M	
Lake Oswego, Lake Grove	M	
Newberg, First	M	
Portland, Bethany		
Portland, First	M	
Portland, Hope Korean		
Portland, Multnomah	M	A
Portland, Oregon Yedam		
Portland, St. Andrews	M	A
Portland, Valley	M	A
St. Helens, Plymouth	M	A
Tigard, Rise Church	M	A
Tualatin PC		
Warrenton, Pioneer PC		
West Linn, Emmanuel	M	A
South Region		
Ashland, First	M	
Bandon, First	M	
Brookings	M	A
Central Point, First		
Gold Beach, First		
Grants Pass, Bethany	M	A
Lakeside, Community		
Malin, Basin Community		
Medford, First	M	A
Myrtle Creek, Tri City United		
Myrtle Point, First	M	A
North Bend, First	M	A
Phoenix, First		
Reedsport, United	M	
Roseburg, First	M	

M = Minutes

A = Financia

APPENDIX G

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

FOR INFORMATION:

Since the previous report to the Presbytery, the Board of Trustees has taken several actions in support of congregational care, fiduciary responsibility, and property stewardship.

In early December, the Board approved a Public Sewer Easement agreement with the City of St. Helens for Plymouth Presbyterian Church and authorized the appropriate congregational representative to execute all necessary documents related to the project and receipt of funds.

Later in December, the Board approved a Vitality Grant to Calvary Presbyterian Church to reimburse travel costs associated with participation in the Building for Hope program. This action will help support congregational engagement in revitalization efforts.

The Board also addressed Mission Support Congregation funding for Warm Springs Presbyterian Church. After discussion, the Board approved the current reimbursement request and authorized the rollover of remaining Mission Support funds into the next fiscal year to support anticipated pastoral search and transition expenses.

In addition, the Board considered a request from Basin Community Presbyterian Church regarding the sale of its Tulelake property. The Property Management Committee assisted the congregation as it prepares to sell the property to a local nonprofit partner currently leasing the space.

Dennis Slattery resigned from the Board earlier this month and so it is with grateful hearts that we thank him for his work. We will now ask the nominating committee to find a candidate to fill this vacancy.

The Board remains grateful for the ongoing work of congregations, committees, and staff, and continues to seek faithful stewardship of the resources entrusted to the Presbytery.

Rev. Mark Olson
POTC Trustees Chair