The Presbyterian Church in Canada
The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod

Alberta, Canada

Regular Meeting November 5, 2024

Gathering in God's Name

Called to Order & Constitution

At Calgary, Alberta, and within Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod met in regular session on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Worship was led by the Rev. G. Smith. The Moderator, Dr. Heather Bryant, constituted the meeting with prayer at 1:29 p.m.

MOVED by S. Cameron Evans seconded by C. Gale that the Rev. Mark Tremblay be clerk pro tem for this meeting. **CARRIED**

Treaty 7

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge that we live, work, worship, and play on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Iyarhe Nakoda Nations, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta District 6, and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

Roll

Present with the Moderator Heather Bryant were the ministers of Word and Sacrament: Grant Gunnink, Maren McLean Persaud, Jake Van Pernis, Greg Smith, Bartholomew Alexander, and Christopher Joiner.

Also present were ruling elders: Sandra Cameron Evans, Cathy Gale, Pat Kövér, Tom Paasuke, Karen Robbins, and Mary Rozsa de Coquet.

Regrets

Regrets were received from Ministers of Word and Sacrament: Peter Baek, Bruce Clendening, Laurie McKay, Christian Persaud, and Daniel Surya, and ruling elders: John Chik, Marj Havens, Helen Snortland and Teddy Pickett *(alternate Knox, Bassano).*

Appendix

Ministers on the Appendix also present: Rod Ferguson and Mark Tremblay.

Also present: Phil Gaiser (Treasurer) and Judie Coleman (Minute Secretary).

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Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

MOVED by P. Kövér, seconded by C. Gale, that the following reports with recommendations be approved by Consent Agenda. **CARRIED**

- **Adoption of the Minutes**

  Regular meeting: October 1, 2024

- **Correspondence**
- **Reports on Partnerships**

Being the Body of Christ

Consent Agenda
Minutes
Oct 1, 2024

Adoption of Minutes – *Clerk*

Recommendation: that the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 1, 2024 be accepted. **CARRIED**

Consent Agenda
Correspondence

Correspondence – *Clerk*

The Clerk presented the correspondence.

Recommendation: that the correspondence be dealt with as indicated below. **CARRIED**

Receive for Information

24-141	M. Rozsa de Coquet, Chair of Christian Thought, distributed
24-142	G. Smith, Moderator Speaking at VAPC, distributed
24-143	P. Kover, Caregiver Seminar, distributed
24-144	K. Muir, September Changes to the Roll, distributed
24-147	E. Phillips, ECM Lethbridge newsletter, distributed
24-148	M. Repchuck, Committee on History, distributed
24-149	T. Hamilton, Nominations for GAO, distributed
24-150	T. Hamilton, GA web documents corrected, distributed
24-152	M. McLean Persaud, Leading with Care resource, distributed
24-153	L. McKay, Indigenous Networking, distributed
24-155	G. Smith, Noon concert @ VAPC, distributed
24-156	M. Rozsa de Coquet, Calgary Interfaith Council events, distributed
24-157	R. De Vries, Lay Leadership Formation, distributed
24-158	S. Kuefler, Crossing the River talk at Westminster, distributed
24-159	H. Currie, 2024 Synod Minutes, distributed

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Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

Refer to the Clerk

24-138	L. Maki, Pension & Benefits
24-140	S. Philips, Grace fire drill completed
24-145	B. Kasper, Knox Bassano fire drill completed
24-146	P. Kover, Calvin fire drill completed
24-151	Presbytery of Montreal, Rev. S. Afoakwah deposed
24-154	J. Ferguson, St. John's fire drill completed
24-160	M. Pettem, Reasons to stay

Refer to Presbytery Care and Resource

24-139	J. Van Pernis, Stewardship for out of town meetings
24-161	D. Dorcas, Receipts for GA Moderator's Expenses

Docket

The Clerk presented the docket for the day:

It was agreed that the hours of meeting be 1:00 p.m. to the conclusion of business.

Motion: MOVED by M. McLean Persaud seconded by C. Gale that the docket be accepted. **CARRIED**

Discerning the Future of our Presbytery

Prayer

The Moderator led us in Prayers for the work of the congregations within the Presbytery.

Motion to Receive

Motion to Receive: MOVED by J. Van Pernis, seconded G. Gunnink, that the reports be received and their recommendations considered. **CARRIED**

Interim Moderators' Reports

INTERIM MODERATORS' REPORTS

Calvin

Interim Moderator's Report for Calvin Church – *Bruce Clendening*
Life of the Congregation:

The work of the Interim Moderator at Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church has been continuing through the fall. This has included meeting with the Session, attending worship, and arranging pulpit supply. Combined studies and devotionals for the Session continue. The Session holds meetings monthly. The latest one took place at the church on

October 23rd. It was reported that the finances of the congregation are in good order.

Pulpit supply has been arranged through to the end of November. On a rotation basis, members of the Session and congregation continue to assist by welcoming people into the worship service and leading significant portions of them in Hungarian.

The financial health of the congregation remains stable. Many repairs have been completed in the Manse and church, and the manse is almost ready for occupancy, except for a few small hardware items.

All documents have been submitted by the Rev. Kasa by June 6th. The congregation is still waiting to hear from IRCC. (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) about his application. The congregation has retained an immigration lawyer who has been helpful in the past. We await further information from Immigration, beyond the assurance that the application is in process.

Knox, Calgary

Interim Moderator's Report for Knox Church Calgary – *Greg Smith* (Transitional Leadership) No report at this time.

St. John's

Interim Moderator's Report for St. John's – *Peter Baek*

The Well-Being of Session

The Session continues to meet monthly. Due to the recent health issues of Judith, our clerk of the session, we have decided that Bill Cocks will take over as acting clerk until the end of December, when her sick leave ends. Each of the session members discussed and concluded that the work of the clerk is too much for one individual, and that we should split this job between multiple members.

The Well-Being of the Congregation

The attendance and financial health of the congregation is stable.
Since last summer, there have been a series of funerals, most of which were held for highly respected members of the church, and these have all been shocks to the congregation, but I am grateful for the proper pastoral care provided by Rev. Bob and Rev. Nancy.
Pulpit supply is mainly provided by Rev. Bob, Rev. Nancy, and local minsters who are available, and pastoral care is mainly provided by Rev. Nancy, with Rev. Bob providing support as needed.

The Work of the Search Committee

St. John's Search Committee has received expressions of interest and applications from three people regarding the ministry position at St. John's. Two of the people who have expressed interest have been informed of the

steps that need to be taken and are in the process of going through these steps with the Committee on Education and Reception.
The Search has been reviewing materials the three applicants have shared. The St. John's Search Committee continues to pray for guidance and discernment from the Holy Spirit as the process of seeking a minister for St. John's continues.

Committee Reports

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Congregational Care

CONGREGATIONAL CARE and RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Maren McLean Persaud (Convener)

Committee Meetings Held:
September 22nd
October 24th

Next Meeting:
November 21st

Congregational Visitations

Congregational Visitations:

- The Congregational Care and Clergy Care Committees were given power to issue on final changes to the conversation guides for visitations. Attached to this report are the final guides for information.

- The Congregational Care Committee has completed the formation of the visitation teams as well as the break-down of responsibilities for each team and the list is attached to this report. At the bottom of this report is a recommendation to approve this new visitation teams list.

- As it is a presbytery responsibility for visitations, it is assumed all presbyters will participate in conducting them. Individuals with time conflicts can discuss them with the convener of CCRC.

Pulpit Supply

Pulpit Supply Support for Congregations outside of Calgary

At its January 2024 meeting, the presbytery approved the following motion "that the presbytery develop a pulpit supply plan for the congregations outside of Calgary that allows presbytery to pay for travel costs within the presbytery to non-Calgary congregations."

In March 2024 our committee made a recommendation that was missing key information about how often this support could be accessed. We have formed an updated policy for approval.

Recommendations

Recommendations:

1. **MOVED** by M. McLean Persaud, seconded by J. Van Pernis that the visitation teams for the upcoming Visitation Season be approved by the Congregational Care and Resource Committee. **CARRIED**

2. **MOVED** by M. McLean Persaud, seconded by J. Van Pernis that the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod will pay for the mileage/travel costs of an individual providing pulpit supply to any congregation outside of Calgary *for up to 5 weeks annually,* and that it is the responsibility of a congregation to direct the individual providing pulpit supply to submit their mileage/travel expenses to the Presbytery, via the Presbytery clerk. **CARRIED**

Proposed Revised Visitation

Proposed Revised Visitation Teams (2024-2025)

**In an effort to have balanced visitation teams of three, with all team members being part of presbytery at large, we have included alternate elders. If approved by Presbytery, Congregational Care will contact alternate elders directly.*

**Acknowledging that the congregations of Knox, Calgary and Valleyview are both walking through processes that are fulsome and connected to the work of the Presbytery already, the committee didn't think that it was an appropriate time for a separate visitation team to also be involved.*

Calvin Hungarian
Jean Morris, Toomas Paasuke, Audrey Cole

Centennial
Greg Smith, Christian Persaud, Okechukwu Chukwu

Grace
Lynn Judd, Bartholomew Alexander, Cathy Gale

Knox Bassano/Gem
Bruce Clendening, Helen Snortland, Rod Ferguson

St. Andrew's Calgary
Maren McLean Persaud, Jin Woo Kim, Sandi Churchill

St. Andrew's Lethbridge
Chandra Mannix, Sharon (Teddy) Pickett, Brenda Kasper

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Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

St. Giles
Peter Baek, Mary Rozsa de Coquet, Okelo Aballa

St. Paul's Banff
Laurie McKay, Pat Köver, Jack Shephard

St. John's Medicine Hat
Daniel Surya , Karen Robbins, Heather Bryant

Varsity Acres
Jake Van Pernis, Sandra Cameron Evans, Mary Jardine

Westminster

Chris Joiner, Grant Gunnink, John Chik

Visitation Team Responsibilities

Visitation Team Responsibilities:

- Responsible for Scheduling Date of Visit and Conversations with: Congregation, Minister, Session, board or finance committee if necessary. Preferably on a Sunday. *Not all team members need to be present at worship, but should be present for conversations after.* (Preferably, visit can take place before the end of February)

- Responsible for sending conversation guides to Clerk of Session in case anyone wants to submit something in writing (not required) (minimum 2 weeks before visit).

- Meet prior to visitation to review documents provided by Congregational Care Committee to choose which questions from the conversation guide will be most helpful.

- Visitation Teams will write a report on the visitation. The report will be sent to Minister and Clerk of Session for input/feedback prior to being sent to the Congregational Care Committee. (Preferably reports will be sent to Congregational Care Committee no later than the end of March)

Congregation/ Session Responsibilities

Congregation/Session Responsibilities:

- Provide Visitation Team with most recent Annual Report.

- Communicate date of Visitation to members. They are invited to be present on the Sunday of the visit to share things in person with Visitation team.

- Communicate that members can submit a written response if they would prefer and provide guides electronically and in hardcopy, when needed, to Session Members, Board/Finance Committee Members, Congregation Members.

Congregational Care Committee

Congregational Care Committee:

- Will send prior visitation report(s), a report writing guide and any pertinent information to the teams preparing for the visitation.

- Will send initial communication to all congregations about what they will expect to receive/hear from their visitation team.

Visitation Conversation Guide & Guidelines

The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
Visitation Conversation Guide
Introduction

The Presbytery annually sends a visitation team of three presbyters in the autumn to meet with the congregation and their leadership to update goals from the previous year, celebrate achievements, and note hopes for the future. The same team will visit for two or three consecutive years to provide some continuity. Prior to the visit, a notice will be sent to the congregation informing them which Presbyters will be coming and inviting them to send any celebrations or concerns with the ministry work at their church.

Ideally, the three team members will attend a worship service and chat with congregants, and then meet with the Session. If there are congregational leaders apart from those on Session who are responsible for the management of finances, facilities, personnel, and communication, two members of the visitation team will meet with them following the Session meeting, while the member from Clergy Care (if possible) and the General Presbyter (If someone is in that role) would meet separately with the minister(s).

It is the responsibility of the visitation team to communicate with the Clerk of Session to organize a Sunday before the end of February when the visitation will occur. All visitation reports must be returned to the Convener of Congregational Care before the end of March. The visitation team will receive a package of

information containing any feedback from the congregation, the notes from most recent visitation as well as the most recent annual report. Congregations will be invited to submit written forms for the visitation team if they are not able to express their thoughts in person.

Equipped with that information, the discussion guides are intended to help you have a free-flowing conversation with Congregants, the Session, the Board (or equivalent), and the Minister(s). Not every question needs to be asked, and doesn't need to be addressed in the final report. Teams are invited to choose which questions they think will best create discussion.

The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
Visitation Conversation Guideline
The Congregation

1. What excites and inspires you most about the life of the congregation? Do you have a big dream for the congregation's ministry?
2. How do you participate in the life of the church?
3. Follow-up: Do you have any comments about the worship services, pastoral care or Christian education opportunities provided for the congregation, or the ways in which you engage with the surrounding community?
4. Is there anything else you would like to share with the presbytery visitation team as we move forward?

The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
Visitation Conversation Guideline
The Session

1. What is the stated mission and vision of the congregation?
    - How does it inform the work of the session?
    - Of the congregation?
    - Of the minister?

2. Looking back, what has the congregation accomplished in the past year that has helped fulfil the mission that should be celebrated?

3. What are the three big dreams or strategies that Session has for the upcoming 3 – 5 years? How do you engage the congregation in developing these possibilities?

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Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

4. What could the presbytery do to encourage and support the future vision and mission of your congregation?

5. Describe the Session's relationship with the Minister:
   - Can you give us examples?
   - How would you describe the minister's relationship with the congregation?
   - How would you describe the minister's relationship with the staff?
   - What excites you the most?
   - What concerns you the most?

6. Describe Session's relationship with the Board/Finance and Facilities Committee(s)

7. Describe the congregations' relationship with staff members.

8. How would you describe the spiritual health:
   - Of the session?
   - Of the congregation?
   - Of the minister?

9. Many congregations are challenged to attract new Elders &/or committee volunteers. Is that the case with your congregation and, if so, how are you addressing it? Do you have any suggestions for the ongoing leadership development of the minister? The elders?

10. Is there anything else you would like to share with the presbytery as we move forward?

The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
Visitation Conversation Guideline
The Board of Managers (Or Equivalent)

1. Looking back, describe your accomplishments from last year. Will you continue to build on these initiatives, or have you identified new priorities?

2. Do you have any concerns about the congregation's finances? Are you able to sustain ministry with the current congregational givings and other annual income? Are you dependent on endowment funds?
   - *Follow-up on concerns if needed: how are you dealing with them?*

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Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

3. Looking back, describe your accomplishments from last year. Will you continue to build on these initiatives, or have you identified new priorities?

    - *Follow-up if needed: What are the major needs of the facilities over the next 3-5 years? Describe your plan to address the needs and the progress you are making.*

4. Please describe the processes for
    - Oversight of staff.
    - Communication with the congregation and the community.

5. Describe your relationship with Session. Are they supportive of your work?

6. How could Presbytery be helpful to you in these operational responsibilities?

7. Do you have anything else you would like to say to the presbytery as we move forward?

The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
Visitation Conversation Guideline
The Minister(s)

**In the case of a team ministry, questions may be split between an individual conversation with each minister (Well-being ,Professional Development, Presbytery) and a conversation with the team together (Responsive Oversight).*

Well-Being

1. How is your family? Are there celebrations or concerns you would like to share with us?

2. Describe a recent time you spent in reflection and refreshment.

3. How are you feeling about the ministry in this congregation? What are some of your joys and frustrations in ministry over the last 12-18 months?

    - *Follow-up if there are more frustrations than joys: How could the Clergy Care*

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Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

Committee help you with some of your frustrations?

4. How is the ministry being supported (or not) by:
   - The Session?
   - Other church leaders?
   - The congregation?
   - The staff?

   Can you give an example?
   - *Follow-up: if some staff or members are being critical or unhelpful, have you talked with the Session about this?*

5. Do you think the Session and the congregation are on the same page?
6. In the past year have you had a conversation about your stipend and allowances with Session (or session committee) or Board?

Responsive Oversight

1. Do you have a clear sense of the expectations of the Session and the congregation has of you? Is this documented?
   - *Follow-up If it's not documented: How do you know?*
   - Do you feel like the Session and the congregation agree on their expectations?
   - Do you think the congregation knows what the Session's expectations are?

2. Do you have an annual work plan that is helping achieve the strategic goals of your Session/the mission of the congregation?
   - What progress have you made?
   - What challenges have prevented progress?

Follow-up if there are no strategic goals or clear mission: What can this committee do to help you and the congregation formulate goals?

Follow-up if there are no strategic goals or clear mission but the minister has an annual plan anyway: How have you decided what to focus on?

3. What are your goals for this upcoming year? What are you hoping to accomplish?

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Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

Encourage Faithfulness/Professional Development

1. Have you been able to find study leave resources that address your personal ministry goals?
2. Would you be interested in pursuing work with a mentor, a coach, and/or a spiritual director?
3. Would you be interested in a directed spiritual retreat with a small group of other ministers?

Presbytery

1. Do you feel supported by your presbytery colleagues? Can you provide examples?

2. Are there ways in which your gifts could be better used in the work of presbytery?

Presbytery Care

PRESBYTERY CARE and RESOURCE COMMITTEE – *Sandra Cameron Evans (Convener)*

Standing Committees of Presbytery 2024/25
The following are the final committee members:

Clergy	Congregational	Mission	Presbytery
Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet (Convener)	Maren McLean Persaud (Convener)	Transition Team (Convener)	Sandra Cameron Evans (Convener)
Chris Joiner	Heather Bryant	Chandra Mannix	Heather Bryant
Bruce Clendening	Karen Robbins	Deirdre Harris	Peter Baek
Tom Paasuke	Jake Van Pernis	Mary Jardine	Laurie McKay
Daniel Surya	Cathy Gale	Helen Snortland	Tom Paasuke (Clergy Liaison)
Rod Ferguson	Greg Smith	John Chik	Jake Van Pernis (Cong Liaison)
Lynn Judd	Marj Haven	Okelo Aballa	Chandra Mannix (Mission Liaison)
Pat Kover	Jin Woo Kim	Bartholomew Alexander	Christian Persaud (Clerk)
Sherry Shephard			Phil Gaiser (Treasurer)
Harle Burnett			

Deputy Clerk/Presbytery Secretary

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Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

Deputy Clerk/Presbytery Secretary

With the announcement that Judie Coleman will be retiring as Presbytery Secretary at the end of the 2024/25 presbytery year, the committee began discussions on reviewing the roles of Deputy Clerk and Presbytery Secretary. One of the suggestions from the group discussions at the October Presbytery meeting was to create a position of Administrative Secretary that would take on duties that had been identified as part of the Deputy Clerk and General Presbyter roles as well.
Discussions will continue.

Investment of Funds

Investment of Presbytery Funds
The following is the draft of a policy for investment of presbytery funds.

Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod Investment Policy

Introduction
The Presbytery currently has a substantial amount of funds surplus to current needs; it is currently self-funding and appears to be so for the foreseeable future.

Investment thinking
Investment of funds typically considers two current factors, when do you feel you will need the funds and how much risk are you willing to bear to produce potentially higher but riskier returns.

As of June 2024, the Presbytery has sufficient funds to cover five years at traditional spending levels, excluding any funding from member dues. This means that it may be many (more than ten) years before it will need to access these funds.

As to how much risk to bear is a more difficult answer. We note that the original source of funds were donations made by congregants in Riverside, Medicine Hat and Trinity, Calgary. Donations were solicited and given for “the life and work of the Church”, a mission and purpose that we should continue to honor.

Current Investments
We currently have two investment accounts, one with RBC Dominion Securities, and one with Mawer Investment Management. The RBC account is managed by the treasurer and consists of one equity (purchased or donated at least 25 years ago), and a series of Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GIC’s), with a maturity of one year or less. The RBC investment account is connected to the RBC chequing account, so funds in the investment account are quickly accessed.

The investment at Mawer consists of funds from Trinity. It is actively invested by Mawer and consists of units of their bond fund and units of

seven of their equity funds. Access to these funds is limited to the end of the quarter.

Proposed Investment Policy
The investment fund / bank account should have three months of budget available in cash or cash equivalents (such as a money market fund) available to cover any immediate expenses and / or shortfall in dues received.

Beyond this level, half the capital should be kept in interest bearing investments, preferably short-term duration of two years or less. Risk levels should be kept low, to minimize any loss of capital.

We aim for a 6% or above rate of annual return.

The remaining half of the capital can be invested in financial equities, with the following restrictions:

1) It should be a fund of equities, rather than a few individual ones.
2) The majority of equities should be in North America
3) They should pay a dividend, and have a yield that exceeds the management expense.
4) We follow the guidelines for investments of the Presbyterian Church.

The Presbytery Care and Resource Committee will provide oversight

Retreat Learnings

Retreat Learnings (Commitment)
Discussion continues on how the committee can foster fuller participation from presbyters without it involving anything punitive. Ideas, including work with the Clergy Care and Resource Committee and the Congregational Care and Resource Committee, were raised.

Wanting to ensure that presbyters are fully aware of presbytery meeting dates, it was confirmed that the Notice of Meetings can be sent out as soon as possible, including the date to submit regrets. It is important that presbyters advise the Clerk of their regrets by the stated date. Please mark your calendars with the dates of the regular meetings. They are also on the presbytery website.

Date of Meeting	Time	Date for Reports	Date of Regrets
January 14	7PM by Zoom	January 2	January 9
February 4	7PM by Zoom	January 23	January 30
March 4	7PM by Zoom	February 20	February 27
April 1	1PM in Person (lunch at 12PM)	March 20	March 27

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Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

May 6	1PM in Person (lunch at 12PM)	April 24	May 1
June 10	7PM by Zoom	May 29	June 5

Knox

Knox Presbyterian Church, Calgary

With the Resignation of the Rev. Clay Kuhn as co-Interim Moderator, the committee wanted to recognize his contributions to the congregation and extend the presbytery's appreciation.

RECOMMENDATION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by T. Paasuke that presbytery give thanks to the Rev. Clay Kuhn for his service as Co-Interim Moderator to Knox Presbyterian Church, Calgary. **CARRIED**

Transportation

Transportation for Meetings Outside of Calgary

There had been a suggestion to rent a van for Calgary presbyters to drive to meetings outside Calgary. This would be a savings for the presbytery and the committee is investigating the idea.

Budget

The committee agreed that moneys remaining from the $500 provided by presbytery for the General Assembly Moderator Workshop lunch be used to cover the cost of the Moderator's hotel when Laurie was unable to host her.

The committee requested that the Treasurer include funds in the 2025 budget for a Retreat ($11,000) and for hiring a General Presbyter.

Roll

With permission, P. Kövér left the court.

Mission Care

MISSION CARE and RESOURCE COMMITTEE– Vacant *(Convener)*
Report submitted by Heather Bryant (Transition Team Convener)

In September, the Mission Care and Resource committee provided a report that synthesized the data from the 2022 Mission Survey Analysis. Six congregations provided data for that survey. It was requested at the presbytery meeting that the survey be repeated so that those congregations that didn't participate would have another chance to provide information. The MCRC has reviewed the survey and revised it so that it builds on the synthesis of the previous results. The 2024 survey is attached, and the MCRC would like to send it out to all congregations**. Presbyters are asked to provide contact names and emails of those in their congregations who would be best placed to fill out the questionnaire** (please send contact info to outreach@wpchurch.net).

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Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

It is anticipated that the survey will go out via Survey Monkey to allow for electronic responses. The MCRC intends to follow up with representative elders of congregations who do not respond by the deadline so that we are able to ensure that all who want to respond can do so.

At the time of the last MCRC meeting, there were plans to meet with Shelley Uytterhagen of the Carthy Foundation to get advice on developing the granting program from the Trinity Fund. As the advice is most needed to deal with larger grants, and to consider how/if multiyear grants should be handled, **we remind presbyters that churches can send in smaller requests (up to $5000) for innovative missional/ministry projects to the MCRC for consideration** while this development occurs.

Several people attended a meeting with Laurie McKay and Cathy Gale to discuss possible connections across congregations on reconciliation. Chandra Mannix of the MCRC will continue to connect; the committee would be prepared to help support meetings involving representatives of different churches across the presbytery. We are also working towards developing a workshop in the spring with Ray Aldred and Christian Conroy on how to build community with indigenous partners.

The committee plans to meet in December to discuss responses to the questionnaire and to identify another area of interest that may benefit from a presbytery-wide meeting in the new year. This would be an informal meeting intended to build connections and to allow people to share what is going on in their own congregations, and to be inspired by ideas they hear from others.

Recommendation: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans seconded by J. Van Pernis that presbytery approve the circulation of the Mission Care Resource Committee Questionnaire in November, with results to be reported back to MCRC in December and summarized to presbytery in January. **CARRIED**

Mission & Outreach Questionnaire

Presbytery Mission & Outreach Questionnaire

Survey from the Mission Care and Resource Committee to compile a basic database of outreach, missional and community work that is taking place among the churches in the Calgary-Macleod Presbytery.

Contact Information

1. Name of Congregation: _____
2. Contact Name: _____

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Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

3. Email Address: | |

Outreach, Missional and Community Work

Please tell us about the outreach, missional and community work that your congregation is engaged in or is supporting. Please consider work in the below areas.

1. Truth & Reconciliation
2. Food Security & Basic Needs
3. Homelessness & Affordable Housing
4. Immigration and Refugee Sponsorship
5. Mental Health & Addiction
6. Other outreach, missional and community work
7. Tell us about other ways you see God at work in your congregations and/or communities.

Presbytery Support

Please consider ways in which the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod can support you in your work.

1. Would you like to get together with people from other churches so that we can learn from each other and get new ideas. If yes, which of the following areas would be of most interest? Please check all that apply.

    - ☐ Truth & Reconciliation
    - ☐ Food Security & Basic Needs
    - ☐ Homelessness & Affordable Housing
    - ☐ Immigration and Refugee Sponsorship
    - ☐ Mental Health & Addiction
    - ☐ Other outreach, missional and community work

2. Are you interested in a seminar or workshop in any of the following areas? Please check all that apply.

    - ☐ Truth & Reconciliation
    - ☐ Food Security & Basic Needs
    - ☐ Homelessness & Affordable Housing
    - ☐ Immigration and Refugee Sponsorship
    - ☐ Mental Health & Addiction

- ☐ Other outreach, missional and community work

3. Are there other ways that the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod can support you?

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Presbytery Mission and Outreach Questionnaire. Please submit your response to outreach@wpchurch.net by November 22, 2024.

Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT – *Phil Gaiser*

Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
Comparative Balance Sheet

	As at 09/30/2024	As at 09/30/2023
ASSET		
Current Assets		
Chequing Bank Account	20,957.46	9,743.64
Investments - RBC Black Acct	10,105.00	10,493.16
Investments - RBC	376,050.70	361,925.32
South of Fish Creek Fund	945,194.52	791,072.46
Accounts Receivable	41,242.43	32,655.50
Accounts Receivable GST	16.90	0.00
Knox Loan	46,000.00	42,000.00
Total Current Assets	1,439,567.01	1,247,890.08
TOTAL ASSET	1,439,567.01	1,247,890.08
LIABILITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	3,434.92	1,617.04
Accounts Payable Promotion	3,032.68	3,032.68
Pension Payable	0.00	773.89
Insurance Payable	0.00	166.24
GST Paid on Purchases	-63.51	-23.05
Prepaid Dues	810.37	1,654.50
Clerk's Conference	575.00	575.00

Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

Youth Conferences	723.35	723.35
Youth Ministry	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Current Liabilities	10,512.81	10,519.65
TOTAL LIABILITY	10,512.81	10,519.65
EQUITY		
Owners Equity		
Trinity Funds	748,790.81	743,963.81
Retained Earnings - Previous Year	561,468.02	432,138.43
Current Earnings	118,795.37	61,268.19
Total Owners Equity	1,429,054.20	1,237,370.43
TOTAL EQUITY	1,429,054.20	1,237,370.43
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	1,439,567.01	1,247,890.08

Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
Comparative Income Statement

	Actual 01/01/2024 to 09/30/2024	Actual 01/01/2023 to 09/30/2023
REVENUE		
Revenue		
Dues	93,644.19	93,807.09
Grants	0.00	8,000.00
Individual donations	0.00	320.00
Revenue	93,644.19	102,127.09
Other Revenue		
Investment Interest	17,499.98	9,170.24
Unrealized Gains	87,815.62	11,899.88
Total Other Revenue	105,315.60	21,070.12

Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

TOTAL REVENUE	198,959.79	123,197.21
EXPENSE		
Community		
Community	350.00	250.00
Community	350.00	250.00
Missions		
University of Lethbridge Grants	2,250.00	2,250.00
Medicine Hat College	750.00	750.00
Black Memorial Bursary	562.84	0.00
PWS&D	0.00	320.00
New Ministries Initiatives	7,000.00	0.00
Cyclical	0.00	-14,960.03
Missions Total	10,562.84	-11,640.03
Pastoral Effectiveness		
Workshops	11,134.53	19,736.00
Police Checks	110.95	825.00
Pastoral Effectiveness Total	11,245.48	20,561.00
Payroll Expenses		
Student Ministry	825.00	12,800.00
PCC Medical & Dental Ins	0.00	1,229.50
Total Payroll Expense	825.00	14,029.50
General & Administrative Expenses		
Website	604.92	600.00
Presbytery Retreat	12,497.19	0.00
Promotion	0.00	300.00
Synod Dues	23,895.75	22,900.50
General Assembly Meals	0.00	1,238.00
Clerk - Honorarium	8,332.19	7,799.99
Travel	9,984.49	1,963.20
Insurance	1,691.56	3,639.51
Bank Charges	55.02	98.81
Office Supplies	7.48	188.54
Photocopy Expense	112.50	0.00
Total General & Admin. Expenses	57,181.10	38,728.55
TOTAL EXPENSE	80,164.42	61,929.02
NET INCOME	118,795.37	61,268.19

Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

New Ministry Initiatives
$4,200 to Bassano
$2,800 to Calvin

Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
Budget - 2025

Account Name	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2023 Budget
Revenue			
Dues	105,046	124,859	125,071
Investment Interest	19,000	16,000	6,500
New Ministries Fund			
Total Revenue	124,046	140,859	131,571
Expenses			
Missions			
University of Lethbridge Grants	6,000	3,000	3,000
Medicine Hat College	2,000	2,000	1,500
New Initiatives	0	2,000	2,000
Indigenous Gathering Place	2,000	1,000	
Clergy Care	6,500	1,000	
Congregational Care	5,500	4,500	
Mission Care	6,000	6,000	
Calgary Interfaith Council	250		
Youth			
Youth Fall Retreat	0	0	0
Pastoral Effectiveness			
Continuing Ed Allowance	0	0	0
Human Resource Consultation	0	4,000	6,000
Workshops	600	600	600
Psychological testing	600	600	600
Chaplaincy			
General Presbyter	35,000	35,000	35,000
Student Ministry	0	12,000	0
Cyclical Director	0	0	0
Cyclical Membership	0	0	0
Authorized expenses	0	0	0
Pension Contribution	0	6,000	6,000

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Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

General and Administrative Expenses			
Chair of Christian Thought	1,000	1,500	1,500
Website	1,500	1,500	1,500
Presbytery Retreat	11,000	6,000	6,000
Synod Dues	29,219	31,861	30,534
General Assembly Meals	1,400	1,400	0
Clerk - Secretarial	1,000	1,000	1,000
Clerk - Honorarium	10,000	10,000	5,500
Deputy clerk	0	1,200	1,200
Treasurer	600	600	600
Travel	7,000	4,000	2,000
Insurance	1,800	1,400	1,400
Bank Charges	50	50	50
Office Supplies	300	300	300
Contingencies & Reserve	0	5,000	25,000
Total Expense	129,319	143,511	131,284
Net Income	(5,273)	(2,652)	287

Requests
Clergy Care
$2,800 - Speaker event
$4,000 - Continuing Education mentoring / top up
$200 - miscellaneous

Mission Care
$5000 for honorarium, travel and hospitality for presenter - Indigenous peoples
$1000 for reconciliation / food insecurity

Ecumenical Campus Ministry - Lethbridge
$6000 for annual grant

Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod

Presbytery Dues Allocation-2025

Congregation	2024 base	2.99% 2025	3.50% 2024	Change	per month 2025	per month 2024	Change
St. Paul's, Banff	83,491	2,496	1,898	599	208.03	158.13	49.90
Knox, Bassano	123,661	3,697	4,041	(343)	308.12	336.73	(28.61)
Gem	8,902	266	570	(304)	22.18	47.54	(25.36)
Calvin Hungarian	109,227	3,266	3,785	(519)	272.16	315.40	(43.24)

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Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

Centennial	108,646	3,249	139	3109	270.71	11.60	259.11
Grace	1,205,781	36,053	47,867	(11815)	3,004.40	3,988.95	(984.55)
Knox, Calgary	174,933	5,230	5,717	(487)	435.87	476.42	(40.55)
St. Andrews, Calgary	388,049	11,603	15,860	(4257)	966.89	1,321.64	(354.75)
St. Giles	149,983	4,484	5,869	(1384)	373.71	489.08	(115.37)
Valleyview	206,162	6,164	7,216	(1051)	513.69	601.31	(87.62)
Varsity Acres	271,485	8,117	11,277	(3160)	676.45	939.79	(263.34)
Westminster	241,139	7,210	5,696	1514	600.84	474.64	126.20
St. Andrews, Lethbridge	203,989	6,099	6,613	(514)	508.27	551.09	(42.81)
St. John's, Medicine Hat	237,782	7,110	8,311	(1201)	592.47	692.59	(100.12)
Total	3,513,230	105,046	124,859	(19813)	8,754	10,405	(1,651)

Financial

Budget Revisions

The $11,000 for a retreat was mentioned earlier in the docket, so should have been included in the budget, as would be the $250 line item for Calgary Council of Churches. The new ministries fund (now Trinity) does take money out of its own fund based on future motions, so it can be removed.

Ecumenical Campus Ministry Lethbridge

In 2025, Ecumenical Campus Ministry Lethbridge will be celebrating 30 years of campus ministry, which includes both the University of Lethbridge (U of L) and Lethbridge Polytechnic (LP) (formerly Lethbridge College and previous known as Lethbridge Community College). It is a blessing to have The Rev. Canon Erin Phillips as Chaplain of ECM since its inception in January 1995. As ECM's only employee, Chaplain Erin's commitment to the well-being of students in this uncertain time of a student's life, on and off campus, does not go unnoticed by both institution's administration down to the struggling students.

This campus ministry is continually expanding its footprint at both U of L and LP. The Chaplain and the volunteer Board are constantly evolving ways to support all students, faculty and staff. All those involved with ECM are committed to its longevity at the University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge Polytechnic campuses.

As donations from congregations and individuals decrease and inflation increases, ECM has needed to find other ways to make up this financial shortfall. After many years of receiving an annual grant of $3000 from the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod, for which ECM is grateful, the Board of

Ecumenical Campus Ministry Lethbridge humbly brings forward the following recommendation.

MOVED by K. Robbins, seconded by C. Joiner that the grant to Ecumenical Campus Ministry Lethbridge be increased to $6000 in the 2025 budget. **CARRIED**

MOVED by G. Gunnink, seconded by C. Gale that $2000 be allocated to the Indigenous Gathering Place in the budget for 2025. **CARRIED**

MOVED by J. Van Pernis, seconded by T. Paasuke, that the budget as amended be approved for 2025. **CARRIED**

MOVED by C. Gale seconded by G. Gunnink, that the financial statements as at September 30, 2024, be received. **CARRIED**

Request a Consultation

Request a Consultation – *Maren McLean Persaud, Christian Persaud or Tom Paasuke*
The request is for the purpose of seeking information, clarification, or general advice on how to proceed with a matter that concerns the presbyter.

Actions of the Moderator

MODERATOR AND TRANSITION TEAM

There was good discussion on the respective work of the standing committees, with attention to possible gaps and overlaps. It was noted that the Mission Care Resource Committee (MCRC), in searching for someone to implement a granting system from the Trinity Fund, has also had discussions about the actual investment strategy of the fund; the investment strategy is the responsibility of the Presbytery Care and Resource Committee (PCRC), so they will need to be consulted on any work in this area.

There was also discussion of upcoming dates for possible presbytery-wide connection meetings, with the goal of making sure that they didn't compete with one another for the time of the same people. MCRC is planning to have at least one informal meeting intended to connect congregational members working in similar areas, probably in late winter or early spring. The topic for this event will be determined from the responses to the questionnaires that MCRC is planning to circulate. They are also working towards a meeting in the late spring on how to build relationships with indigenous partners; see the MCRC report for more details. Clergy Care and Resource Committee is connecting with the Congregational Care Committee to plan an event on elder recruitment and training, possibly in January.

There has been some interest in the GP position, but at present, there is not a candidate that is actively pursuing the role. The role has been reposted on the PCC website, and Heather will send a note to all clerks of session again asking for suggestions of names. The new job description is appended to this report; they have not yet been put into the standing orders, and this should occur as soon as possible. Presbytery approved the new job description in June, and its purpose is to emphasize the coordination aspects of the role.

The Transition Team discussed the results of the small group reports from the October presbytery meeting (also appended to this report). They noted some interest in need for an administrative assistant for the presbyter; this is discussed in the Presbytery Care Report. There was also mention of the overture re: ministers on the appendix moving to the constituent role when carrying out significant work on behalf of the presbytery. Heather Bryant, Laurie McKay, and Jean Morris have met on this and are working on a draft together, with the intention of bringing this through PCRC to the presbytery in January.

It has been two years since we surveyed the presbytery, and the Transition Team has been preparing a draft questionnaire. Our intention is to circulate this in January, so as not to compete with the circulation of the MCRC questionnaire in November. The questionnaire will come to presbytery in January for approval, and takes into account feedback from the small groups.

Appendix 1: GP Job Description

Appendix 1: General Presbyter Job Description

Purpose:
The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod meets regularly as a community of faith to provide leadership that supports each congregation and clergy in their ministry through insightful governance, responsive oversight, and shared resources for congregations. The role of General Presbyter is to assist with actualizing the support and shared resources across the presbytery.

The General Presbyter will be a key connector between clergy, congregations, and the presbytery, operating with delegated authority within the bounds of the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod to facilitate the care and good order of congregations and clergy.

Responsibilities:

1. Resource to Congregational Care and Resource Committee:
a) Serve as a resource for Congregational Visitations and ensure that visitation teams are well-prepared prior to their visits

b) Monitor that the recommendations to congregations from the visitations are being addressed in a timely manner

2. Resource to Clergy Care and Resource Committee:
a) Serve as a resource for Clergy Responsive Oversight
b) Serve as resource for Exit Interview teams
c) Provide pastoral care on behalf of the presbytery

3. Respond to Emergent Situations:
a) Provide first response and assess emergent, critical situations for congregations and/or clergy
b) In consultation with the Conveners of the Clergy Care and Resource and Congregational Care and Resource Committees, help evaluate additional responses
c) Participate in the presbytery's response in consultation with the appropriate committee of presbytery

4. Participation in presbytery:
a) Work with all committees to foster ongoing information networks and partnerships.
b) Promote and facilitate dialogue, friendships and stronger relationships within the presbytery
c) The GP shall attend meetings of the presbytery
d) The GP will serve as staff resource to Clergy Care and Resource and Congregational Care and Resource committees
e) The GP is an ex-officio member of all standing committees of the presbytery, and attends those meetings as required
f) If the GP is an ordained minister, the GP may, on some occasions, be asked to serve as an interim moderator for a congregation until a more long-term interim moderator is found. The GP will not serve as an Interim Minister of a congregation, nor as Moderator or Clerk of the Court.

<u>Accountability and Review</u>:

The GP is appointed by presbytery and is accountable to presbytery through the conveners of the Clergy Care and Resource Committee and the Congregational Care and Resource Committee, who will provide direction and oversight for the GP.

The GP will collaborate with the conveners of the Clergy Care and Resource Committee and the Congregational Care and Resource Committee to develop an annual work plan that will include specific objectives and timelines that they will mutually be responsible for ensuring is fulfilled.

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Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

The conveners of the Clergy Care and Resource Committee and the Congregational Care and Resource Committee will meet with the GP on a regular basis throughout the year to review progress on the work plan. Annually, they will meet formally to discuss attainment of goals, necessary revisions of the position description, and a workplan for the coming year.

The work of the GP and the maintenance of the confidentiality of such work will be governed by the Book of Forms.

Qualifications:

- University degree related to the functions of the position; a combination of education and experience will be considered.
- Strong working knowledge of the polity and ethos of the PCC.
- The person may be clergy, ruling elder or layperson, having a strong faith and sense of pastoral care.
- Excellent interpersonal, communication, facilitation, negotiation, and conflict resolution skills.
- Strong analytical, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Working knowledge of PCC policies and requirements and Alberta employment law.
- Ability to be self-motivated and work within the broad community of presbytery.

This is a part-time role.

Appendix 2: Responses to Small Groups

Appendix 2: Responses to Presbytery Small Groups – October, 2024

The transition team of the presbytery is inviting you to discuss the following questions in small groups. The team will report back at the next presbytery meeting. We are looking for input that will help us bring our 4 C's: Connection, Communication, Capacity-building, and Commitment – to life.

1. Do you feel connected with others in the presbytery? What connections have been helpful to do your own presbytery work?

Starting to
Call on the phone
Not as comfortable approaching a minister
Ability to share joy and sadness
Getting to know people individually
Comfort to ask questions; how about making all comfortable to ask questions; get to know each other. Takes time. Comm work is an opportunity.

Report to congregations re: work of presbytery

_____
Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

Yes, personally and at a congregational level. Greater intentionality on that. Helpful?? IM team – helps with understanding how presbytery works.

Through working together (personal relationship). Mentorship in polity/presbytery is helpful.
Yes- more connectional.
Broken out of Zoom only format which is helpful.

2. What would help the presbytery build capacity to do its work?

Full time general presbyter
Consultant on policy/procedures (HR)
Extend invitations to leaders in congregations
Communications coordinator
Online shared drive
Format of in-person and online

Find a GP, admin assistant
Zoom meetings, evening meetings
Ministers on appendix – voting power and participation
Enlist expert help and resources

Consistent attendance/ participation and engage
People have commitment to do work
Overture
Motivation based on their passion to identify a role in committee
Orientation

(No recorded response from one group)

3. If we were to put together a two-page annual report, what would you include?

Celebration for filled vacancies
Beginning of work to share across congregations (resources, initiatives, contacts)
Work on reconciliation and awareness of what it means (self and events)
Restructuring of presbytery to get work done
Where grants are available

Signs for hope, good news
Vacancies filled
Presbytery gatherings, celebrations, retreat, workshops
Building relationships, incl buddy system
Financial summary

Hope-filled stories like Heather's intro to Pat Dutcher-Walls of presbytery
4 C's of the retreat
Vision and Mission
Synopsis from each committee
Pictures
Connectional stories – Presbytery
-- Synod

Clergy Care

CLERGY CARE and RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Mary Rozsa de Coquet (Convener)

Here are reminders for our Clergy:

1. The next zoom lectionary drop-in is Wednesday, November 6 at 9:30am.The zoom link is: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87167896056?pwd=o5dYtBYz6gSUx7Q6sgoHAcmZkmNWh3.1

2. Some of our ministers have received web cards wishing them happy birthday and happy ordination anniversary. If you would like to receive a greeting on your special days, please send your dates to Mary Lil.

3. Robbie Burns is January 25 and is an occasion to gather clergy for a fun social evening. Clergy Care would like to hear how you may wish to celebrate: scotch-tasting, haggis-nibbling, poetic readings, a kilt fashion show, a discussion of Calvin's impact on the church. Please send your ideas. A doodle poll for the gathering date will be circulated.

4. Only one minister has requested study leave in 2024: please submit your plans asap.

The committee will be following up with ministers new to Presbytery six months (or so) after accepting your congregations' call.

Clerk's Report

CLERK'S REPORT – *Christian Persaud*

Congregational Records Check
A message has gone out to the Clerk of Session at each congregation. Please ensure this is discussed at your November meetings. Congregations have been asked to send back their checklists and comments before the end of the year.

General Assembly Commissioners
Clergy – Bruce Clendening, Daniel Surya, and Christian Persaud have been identified as commissioners after Jin Woo Kim, Peter Baek, and Maren McLean Persaud were unable to attend or declined. The rotation list was presented and approved in June 2024.
Congregations – Westminster (Heather Bryant), St. Andrew's, Calgary (Lynn Judd), and Sandra Cameron Evans (St. Giles)

Recommendation 1: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans seconded by K. Robbins that Bruce Clendening, Daniel Surya, and Christian Persaud be approved as the presbytery's clergy commissioners. **CARRIED**

Recommendation 2: MOVED by J. Van Pernis seconded by C. Gale that Heather Bryant, Lynn Judd, and Sandra Cameron Evans be approved as the presbytery's elder commissioners. **CARRIED**

Congregational Fire Drills
Congregations are expected to hold fire drills annually, and inform the clerk when completed. The following congregation(s) are overdue to complete a fire drill:

- St. Giles (Sept)
- Valleyview (Sept)

The following congregations are due to complete one in the near future:

- Knox, Calgary – November 2024
- Gem – January 2025
- St. Paul's – February 2025

The following congregation shared that they have recently completed their fire drill:

- St. John's, Medicine Hat; St. Andrew's, Lethbridge; St. Andrew's, Calgary

Clerk of Session
Please update the clerk when there is a change or temporary replacement for the Clerk of Session at a congregation to ensure effective communication between presbytery and congregations.

Police Records Check
All checks have been completed for clergy – thank-you for your cooperation.

Remits and Study Papers Team
The clerk has reached out to individuals about serving on the Remits and Study Papers Team. Karen Robbins and Laurie McKay have agreed to serve. The clerk will also serve on this team, consisting of three people in total.

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Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

Deadlines
Nominations for GA Moderator 2025 is November 29, 2024
Memorials and Petitions are due April 1, 2025
Referred Overtures are due February 1, 2025
Unreferred Overtures are due April 1, 2025

Roll

M. Rozsa de Coquet entered the court.

Partnerships

Reports of Partnerships
Calgary Council of Churches: *Vacant*

Camp Kannawin Representative: *Vacant*

Chair of Christian Thought

Chair of Christian Thought Advisory Council: *Mary Rozsa de Coquet*

The Faculty of Arts is undergoing significant changes in the next two months. Relevant to our Presbytery, the Department of Religion (which houses the Chair of Christian Thought) will no longer be able to accept undergraduate students wishing to major in religion. Minors and Masters' applications will still be considered. Perhaps more concerning is the lack of a clear rationale and consultation with students. The Chair of Christian Thought came into being at the request of the multi-denominal faith community who both requested such a position and raised monies to endow it. The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod contributes to the position annually.

Currently, clarity is being sought and next steps discerned. We may well be asked, or choose, to send a letter in support of the viability of the Department and therefore the Chair. In the meantime, various steps are being taken to underscore the value of the Department. Updates will be provided as more information is known.

Calgary Interfaith Council: *Mary Rozsa de Coquet – No report*

Indigenous Gathering Place

Indigenous Gathering Place: *Cathy Gale*

Follow up report on Oct 9 meeting re: Indigenous Gathering Place Society support

My September report asked presbyters if there might be other ways the presbytery might like to support the IGP goals beyond the budgeted donation and letter from the Moderator. Following the meeting, the Rev. Laurie McKay and I agreed to connect to discuss this further; an invitation was extended to other interested folk across the presbytery from the Clerk at our request. A small group met on Oct 9, to discuss possibilities around expanding support for the Indigenous Gathering Place Society and

reconciliation work within the presbytery. Laurie and I were joined by the Rev. Chandra Mannix, Lynn Judd (Rep Elder, St Andrew's) and Bill Judd (Elder, St Andrew's).

Conversation was general, and began with discussions around the wonderful new connections that were beginning as a result of the successful Indigenous Friendship Day organized by St. Andrew's with the Aboriginal Friendship Centre (AFC). Discussing the IGP project, we acknowledged the challenges they have in creating a unified sense of spiritual place given the diversity of Indigenous communities in the Treaty 7 area (as expressed in IGP goals).

We discussed what we as Presbyterian congregations can offer to these communities; such things as affordable meeting space and food support had been expressed by the AFC to St Andrew's. We also have voices that can amplify their needs, to help them be achieved. Learning about possibilities to further support for the IGP is more awkward, since the relationship is less established and communications are fewer and tend to be one directional.

It was agreed that any of these further supports must begin with listening, and learning, particularly from Indigenous teachers and Elders. Opportunities for learning sessions, online courses and book studies open to any across the presbytery were also discussed, and seen as valuable ways to begin, and keep, moving forward as partners in reconciliation.

We left without any further commitment to formally continue these discussions, but we understood that there are likely to be more opportunities to listen and learn that may come from a few congregations. Small steps in the right direction.

ECM Lethbridge

Ecumenical Campus Ministry, Lethbridge: *Karen Robbins*

The Ecumenical Campus Ministry at the University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge Polytechnic is now officially known as Ecumenical Campus Ministry Lethbridge. Its September 2024 Newsletter has been circulated to the inboxes of the presbyters. Hopefully, you have had a chance to read it. Wonderful things continue to happen at both campuses. I would like to highlight a few of them.

- This academic year began with a Blessing of the University of Lethbridge Campus involving Elder Francis First Charger, Chaplain Rev. Canon Erin Philips and U of L president Dr. Digvir Jayas.
- A new event in March, which was really well received, was a Spring Fest at the U of L. Gardening can be a very relaxing. Students planted pots of microgreens (basil and arugula) to take back to their

place of residence. After the success at the University, the event will be extended to Lethbridge Polytechnic.
- Students are very appreciative of the Kerber Friendship Program, which connects “away from home” students with local families. Two offshoots the Kerber program is *Smiles & Snacks*, a friendly smile goes a long way and offering goodies to students; and the *Seasonal Cookie Decorating,* another relaxing event for students. Students are encouraged by the support of the volunteers from the community.
- ECM Lethbridge will continue to provide festive dinners to student who will be alone at Christmas.

Looking ahead - In only a few months, ECM Lethbridge will begin its 30th year of campus ministry at the University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge Polytechnic. We are extremely fortunate for the long tenure of Chaplain Erin Phillips. She is very dedicated and committed to the well-being of all students, staff and faculty at both post-secondary institutions.

Ecumenical Campus Ministry Lethbridge continues to be thankful for the financial support and the enthusiasm of the many volunteers. The ECM Lethbridge Board continues to plan for the future.

ECM Medicine Hat

Ecumenical Campus Ministry, Medicine Hat: *Dick Bide, Helen Snortland*

Report by George Koopmans, Ecumenical Campus Minister – Medicine Hat College

October 2024 Medicine Hat Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry Retreat: Our Third Annual Campus Ministry retreat was held on September 20-22 at Whispering Pines Camp in The Cypress Hills. We left the campus at 5PM and arrived at the camp shortly before 6PM. After an “introductions” activity we enjoyed dinner (Fried Tacos and Enchiladas) followed by icebreakers and because it was raining, we did some indoor “campfire” activities. Saturday began with optional Worship and Bible Based Teaching followed by a day of activities including rock wall climbing and archery. After lunch (Curry Butter Chicken and Naan Bread) we kept busy with paintball and hiking. A talent show and campfire followed dinner (Bahama BBQ.) Sunday morning began with Worship and Bible Based Teaching, followed by Brunch and Goodbyes. After cleanup we leave at noon and arrive back at campus at 1PM.

The retreat was attended by 18 students with half the students being Christian and the other half of other or no religion. The attendees came from 10 countries. Seven of the students were international exchange students (here for one or two semesters), eight were international students, and three were Canadian. The retreat always sets an amazing tone for the

year, with the students who attend telling so many of their friends that they missed a wonderful time. Already several people have said they are coming next year! New friendships were forged, and the international students were given an amazing picture of life in Canada! (Pictures and video of the retreat have been posted on our Instagram Account: mh_campusministry)

Regular Programming: This year we are offering six and a half weekly events.

1. Huddles: We meet at noon on Mondays for lunch, an activity, and then break into small groups for discussions. The discussions are on various topics and the aim is to help students build connections and support each other. A dozen to 15 students usually attend.
2. Community Cooking: Twice a month on Tuesday evenings we gather in the College Residence and cook and eat a meal together. The same happens once a month on our Brooks Campus. Students cook the meal, which features the cuisine of a different country each time. Cross cultural experiences and new connections flow from each of these events. Our first event featured Bison Stew and came complete with some wonderful Indigenous teaching! The second event featured Japanese food which was prepared by a group of exchange students! We ordinarily have about 15 people at each event.
3. Java with George (Chaplain's Coffee): Every Wednesday we host coffee and snacks from 10:00-11:45AM in the Interfaith Room. About half of the students simply take a coffee and snack and rush off to class while the other half will stay for conversations that are spontaneous. A volunteer, who worked as a teacher's aide in a high school, comes every week for Chaplain's Coffee, does an amazing job in engaging students in conversation. Many of the discussions and interactions also lead to prayer.
4. Free Soup Lunch: following Java with George we serve a free soup lunch to approximately 60 students. The Soup is prepared by the cafeteria and is served in a public area. Many students have expressed that this is "the best part of college!"
5. Bible Study/Praise and Worship: Once a week we meet for praise and worship, Bible study and prayer followed by a time of fellowship. Approximately a dozen students attend each week. (Not always the same students.) We continue to search for the "perfect" time which is elusive due to various class schedules and, work, sports and other individual commitments. However, each week turns out to be an amazing time of fellowship.
6. Talk-O Friday: Tacos are the cafeteria's "Friday Special." Talk-O Friday is a word play off of Taco Friday. I set up a "Let's Talk" sign

and eat my lunch in the cafeteria and pretty much invariably one or more students stop by to eat lunch with me, and we talk!

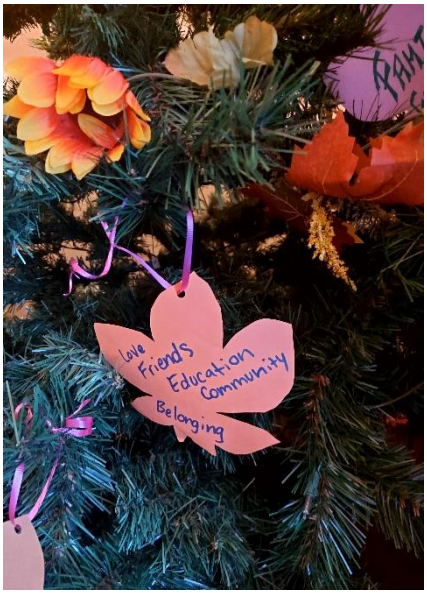
6.5 We also meet for prayer at noon on Tuesdays as we just pray for God's favour and blessing upon the Campus Ministry. It doesn't work out every week but is so good when it does work.

In addition to these weekly events, I also participate in and promote YXH Young Adults. (YXH is Medicine Hat's Airport Code.) YXH Young Adults brings young adults from across Medicine Hat together for a night of Praise and Worship, Food and Fellowship, at various venues. We have 4 events scheduled for the upcoming year. Two are scheduled for the college and two are scheduled for churches. These events are well attended by students from MHC as well as other young adults.

Plans are also in the works to organize a Campus Ministry Graduation Service, probably at a local church. This will include a pastoral address, a valedictory speech from a Christian Student Leader, and a time of worship followed by a reception afterward.

Fund Raising: We are excited to announce our annual benefit concert featuring the amazingly gifted soloist, Trevis De Silva. It is scheduled to be held in the college theater on Sunday, December 15th at 5PM. The first time we held the concert we raised close to $1800.00. We are hoping to triple that amount this year. As visits to the Interfaith Centre continue to increase, the cost of providing Coffee, Tea, and Hot Chocolate as well as snacks increases, as do the other food costs for the meals for huddles and other events. Speaking of which, we also welcome the offer to bring lunch for our huddles!

Spiritual Care: Approximately half of my time is spent simply being available to students. Anywhere from 25 to 50 student visits per day are made to the Interfaith Centre. Many of these visits end with a prayer and those who are not Christians often welcome prayer as well as they deal with the stresses and pressures of post-secondary education.



As I conclude the October Chaplain's report, I look up at the Christmas Tree still standing in the corner of the room. The Christmas decorations have long been removed, being replaced with Valentine, Easter, Canada Day, Red Dresses and now Thanksgiving decorations. I will give the last word to the student who made this card and hung it on

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Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay

the Thanksgiving Tree. It sums up what the chaplaincy is all about! Thank You for making this all possible!

Adoption of Reports

MOVED by M. Rozsa de Coquet seconded by J. Van Pernis that the reports be adopted as amended. **CARRIED**

Other Business

Other Business

News and wider awareness

- Karen Robbins: St. Andrew's Lethbridge
  - GIFTS (**G**rowing **i**n **F**aith **T**ogether), previously referred to as Sunday school, began in September 2024. The program is for babies to age 12. The teachers work in pairs and use the items from our past VBS curriculums.
  - A Blue Christmas Service is being planned.
- Sandra Cameron Evans: St. Giles
  - The inaugural concert of the St. Giles Orchestra was held Wednesday, October 30 with a good crowd enjoying amazing music. A sponsor has already been arranged for the second concert.
  - Monthly Jazz Vespers continue under the name of the Northwest Jazz Ensemble.
  - St. Giles happily hired a new Music Leader who starts the week of November 4th.
- Cathy Gale: Varsity Acres
  - On Friday Nov 15 VAPC will once again be hosting Music @ Noon. The flute 7 violin duo of Jiajia Li and Laura Reid, known collectively as "Who Cares?" are both classically trained musicians and seasoned performers that enjoy pushing musical boundaries into pop music, improvisation and experimentation. All are welcome. Read more here.
- Judie Coleman: St. Andrew's Calgary
  - Harry Eisenhauer passed away on October 20 at the age of 104. He served as treasurer for Presbytery for 20 years until he was 90.
  - St. Andrew's Calgary will be offering *Surviving the Holidays* on December 7 at 10:00. Our next GriefShare session starts April 2025.
- Tom Paasuke: St. Paul's Banff
  - This year St. Paul's will be hosting the combined Advent Service for the 5 churches in Banff.
  - There is a large number of Pilipinos in Banff. As the Rev. Alexander speaks Spanish, St. Paul's will conduct a Spanish language Christmas Service for them.
- Bartholomew Alexander: Bartholomew expressed concerns for the growing Antisemitism in Canada, the church's use of the derogatory

term 'settlers' to refer to Jews in the Holy Land, and the letter to the Prime Minister, sent on behalf of the PCC, singling out Israel for sanctions.

- Jake Van Pernis: Grace
  - Grace is looking forward to hosting a concert entitled *Remembrance & Peace* on Sunday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m. featuring Grace's Choir and special guest musicians.
  - Grace is also looking forward to hosting a community concert entitled *All is Calm, All is Bright* featuring several choirs from around Calgary during the season of Advent, featuring Advent music and the harmony of many different voices. The concert will be held on Sunday, December 15 starting at 4:00 p.m. A free will offering will be taken during the concert and the proceeds will be given to Alpha House.
- Heather Bryant: Westminster will be hosting an Old-Fashioned Carol Singalong on December 6. It's intended to be a time for everyone to be able to sing along to the old carols, and for kids to begin to get more familiar with them. Everyone is welcome to join us at 6:30 pm.

Prayers of Intercession

C. Joiner led us in Prayers for the world and our role in it.

Going Out in God's Name

Time & Place

The next regular meeting of the Presbytery will be Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom with Calvin Hungarian being the Worship Leader.

Adjourn to Serve Benediction

MOVED by B. Alexander that the Court be adjourned.
The Court was dismissed with the pronouncing of the Benediction at 2:54 p.m. by G. Smith.

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Moderator
Dr. H. Bryant

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Clerk pro tem
Rev. M. Tremblay

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Clerk pro tem
Mark Tremblay