

The Presbyterian Church in Canada The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod

Alberta, Canada

Regular Meeting November 25, 2025

Gathering in God's Name

Called to Order & Constitution

In Alberta via Zoom, the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod met in regular session on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at 7:02 pm.

Worship was led by Chandra Mannix. The Moderator, L. McKay, constituted the meeting with prayer at 7:11 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we live, work, and worship on the traditional territories of the Treaty 7 nations: the Blackfoot Confederacy, including the Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani, the Tsuut'ina, the Stoney Nakoda nations and the Metis nation of Alberta, Region 3. We give thanks for this land, entrusted to all by God, and commit ourselves to justice, reconciliation and stewardship of creation as we seek to walk humbly with Jesus, and all our neighbours in this land. This is holy ground.

Pro-tem Clerk

MOTION: Moved by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by G. Smith, that Dewald Delpont be named clerk pro-tem for the meeting.
CARRIED

Roll

Present with the Moderator Laurie McKay were the ministers of Word and Sacrament: Peter Baek, Bruce Clendening, Greg Smith, Daniel Surya, Chandra Mannix, Christopher Joiner, Heather Carlson, and Gergely Kása.

Also present were ruling elders: Sandra Cameron Evans, John Cormack (*alternate Knox, Bassano*), Iris Jung (*alternate Knox, Calgary*), Lynn Judd, Omot Ochudo, Karen Robbins, Mary Rozsa de Coquet, Eszter Savanya, Jack Shephard (*alternate Westminster, Calgary*), Helen Snortland, Gord Wytsma (*alternate Varsity Acres*).

Regrets

Regrets were received from Ministers of Word and Sacrament: Maren McLean Persaud, Christian Persaud, Jake Van Pernis, and ruling elders: Moira Brownlee, Heather Bryant, Cathy Gale, and Marj Havens.

Appendix

Ministers on the Appendix also present: Dewald Delpont, Tom Brownlee

Also present: Mary Jardine (*Mission Care Co-Convener*), Phil Gaiser (*treasurer*), and Caroline Hultgren (*Minute Secretary*)

Guests Daniel Edie (*alternate Centennial, Calgary*), Layne Kilbreath

Consent Agenda **Consent Agenda**

MOVED by L. Judd, seconded by S. Cameron Evans, that the following reports with recommendations be approved by Consent Agenda. **CARRIED**

Correspondence
Reports on Partnerships

Being the Body of Christ

October
Minutes

Adoption of Minutes – Clerk

MOVED by L. Judd, seconded by S. that the minutes of regular meeting held on October 21, 2025 be accepted.

AMENDMENT: **MOVED** by M. Rozsa de Coquet, seconded by B. Clendening that “a Presbytery orientation was held” be added under the Presbytery Care and Resource Committee report. **CARRIED**

MOTION AS AMENDED **CARRIED**

Consent Agenda
Correspondence

Correspondence – Clerk

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

Receive for Information

25-125	Donations PCC, PCC gifts by presbytery, distributed
25-126	C. Persaud, Coach to Lethbridge, distributed
25-127	L. McKay, Woven with Wonder, distributed
25-128	T. Hamilton, Statistical Report for the 2025 A&P, distributed

25-129	M. Rozsa de Coquet, Chair of Christian Thought upcoming lecture, distributed
25-130	K. Muir, October changes to the roll, distributed
25-131	C. Mannix, St. Giles Orchestra Performance November 9, distributed
25-132	R. Finley-Schidlowsky, Presbytery Questions for Presbyters, distributed
25-133	S. Cameron Evans, Announcements for St. Giles, distributed
25-134	L. Judd, Rainbow Team: Movie Night Announcement, distributed
25-136	K. Plater, 2026 Presbyterians Sharing Recommended Allocation (CM), distributed
25-138	R. Finley-Schidlowsky, Reminder about survey, distributed

Refer to Presbytery Care

25-135	Dolden Wallace Folick LLP, Registered Mail
--------	--

Refer to the Clerk

25-137	T. Gaskarth, St. Giles response to discernment letter
--------	---

Docket

The Clerk pro-tem presented the docket for the day:

It was agreed that the hours of meeting be 7:00 p.m. to the conclusion of business.

MOTION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by G. Smith that the docket be accepted. **CARRIED**

Discerning the Future of our Presbytery

Prayer L. McKay led us in Prayers for the work of the congregations within the Presbytery at the time the meeting constituted.

Motion to Receive **MOTION:** MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded G. Smith, that the reports be received and their recommendations considered. **CARRIED**

**Interim
Moderator
Reports**

Interim Moderator's Report for Centennial Church – Chandra Mannix

Centennial

The Health of the Congregation:

- Okello Aballa has continued to serve the Anyuak-speaking and English-speaking adherents and members of the congregation in his lay minister role with the Anyuak-speaking population, his student ministry role for all of Centennial, and his role as an active elder on session. He is a stabilizing, pastoral, and wise leadership presence at Centennial
- Requests for a catechism class are being considered by the session.
- Efforts are being made to encourage more fellowship time, education and joint worship between the Anyuak-speaking and English-speaking populations of the congregation to facilitate unity and understanding. The upcoming presbytery service of worship honouring the ministry of Okelo is a wonderful opportunity to have presbytery support Centennial in this time of discernment.
- There is room for improvement within the congregation regarding theological, financial, and polity education.
- Greater understanding of the health of Centennial's finances, the roles and responsibilities of the Board, and the theological foundations of decisions have been facilitated by the new Interim Chair of the Board of Managers. The new Interim Chair has demonstrated his ability to manage challenges, create consensus, and develop a plan for stabilization, education, and participation. His leadership has been most welcome and is thus far effective.

IM Responsibilities:

- The active elders at Centennial form a cohesive, communicative, and hard-working leadership body. The court of session is productive. And all members are committed to the call process.
- Pulpit supply arrangements are ongoing, with the general rhythm of Rev. Chandra doing communion on the first Sunday of the month, the student minister (Okelo) preaching on the second Sunday, and ministers in the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod preaching on the remaining Sundays. Okelo is in attendance at most services in the morning regardless of who is preaching.

- Elder districts are in a state of flux at Centennial due to challenges with ascertaining an accurate record of adherents and members.
- An increase in the pastoral care workload on the IM and the student minister has come over the fall (see below).
- Regarding the call, the session and the Board of Managers members are working diligently to double check past, current and forecasted church finances. They are in the process of having joint meetings to determine the stipend and allowances to be provided, with formal financial recommendations to come from the Board to the session by December 31 of this year.

Additional Information

- In the last two months, after over 14 months of prior work and formal arrangements, the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon has opened a satellite congregation in Northeast Calgary with around 150-200 participants. The first official service was in October 2025. It is attracting some of the Cameroonian members and adherents of Centennial. There is a current state of unrest at Centennial due to this development. There is an increased need for pastoral care from the elders and ministers to alleviate anxiety, and to encourage living into love and faith that God is growing the Kingdom here in Calgary.
- Informal invitations from various elders to the new Presbyterian Church in Cameroon satellite congregation for their participants to join Centennial on communion Sundays while they await the appointment of a minister from Cameroon have been made.
- Reverend Che Napoleon, from the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod, will be preaching at the new congregation's service on November 16. He has been worshipping at Centennial for many years, but Presbytery has not made him a minister-in-association with Centennial.

Knox, Calgary

Interim Moderator's Report for Knox Church Calgary – Chris Joiner

The following are the Terms of Reference for the Interim Moderator with appropriate updates.

Interim leadership to guide the Session and congregation in moving expediently into an amalgamation with another congregation of the presbytery, ensuring appropriate stewardship of the congregation and assets.

1. Active guidance and facilitation/coordination and convening of the Transition Team (managing the operational and administrative needs of Knox budget, rentals, etc.), the Conversation Team (discussions with

potential congregations for amalgamation, the Session, and the Congregation.

a. Transition Team – There have not been any Transition Team meetings since my last report.

b. Session – The Session met three times (two in joint session with St. Giles) since my September report.

c. Congregation – I have communicated updates to the congregation regarding the amalgamation decisions and will call a meeting once there is an amalgamation plan to consider.

2. Work with Session and congregation to prepare a detailed plan for the future to bring to presbytery by the October regular meeting (October 21).

This task is complete and will be removed going forward.

3. Work with Session, presbytery and a potential amalgamation partner to continue next steps for the building (at present these steps involve supporting presbytery's due diligence around the future of the building, i.e., reviewing possibilities for development by the presbytery and/or facilitating the terms of an amalgamation plan where the building would be among assets to be considered. Any sale of the building would require presbytery's approval of a formal request).

See attached Amalgamation Plan Update.

4. Regular written communication to the congregation in conjunction with Session ensuring information is shared and questions and concerns are addressed.

See 1.d above.

5. Moderate Session and Congregational meetings.

See 1.c above.

6. Ensure that pastoral care and pulpit supply are in place (currently being managed by congregational volunteers) and address any potential conflicts of interest in pulpit supply.

The volunteers continue to provide these services.

7. Ensure that regular communication about the process is continuing with renters, building users and with churches that have expressed interest.

I have had two meetings with interested parties and maintained communication

with other users of the building. The Session noted some concerns with some of

the users in the last meeting and measures to communicate expectations were taken.

8. Report regularly to the presbytery

These reports will happen at each regular meeting of presbytery.

9. Encourage an awareness that presbytery is responsible for the general oversight and well-being of congregations and has the right, among other options, to “unite or disjoin congregations in pastoral charges, raise or reduce the status of charges as self-supporting...and to dissolve congregations...” (200.9).

This continues to be in front of all involved.

Conclusion

Knox continues to be grateful for the support and care of the presbytery in this process. We hope to have positive movement on the amalgamation plan in the coming weeks and to have that reflected in my report to the November meeting.

Committee Reports

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clergy Care

Clergy Care and Resource – *Chris Joiner & Daniel Surya (Co-Conveners) No Report*

Last Meeting: November 17, 2025

Next Meeting: January 26, 2026

Congregational Care

Congregational Care and Resource – *Jake Van Pernis (Convenor)*

Discussion:

1. Updates from the September 23 Presbytery Meeting

a. Keeping in prayer the congregations of Knox and St. Giles and praying for the Spirit’s guidance to be with the presbytery in providing support in this process.

b. Inviting the Spirit to be at work in the discernment of the presbytery’s Amalgamation Team because this team has a critical role in asking important and meaning-filled questions as a part of their work.

2. Review of Visitation Documents

a. Greg is beginning to review the visitation documents and notes that the documents prepared for the Visitation Teams to use with the Minister, Board, and Session contains very formal questions, and the document prepared for the Congregation is moving towards a conversational tone. Greg will bring recommendations to the committee at the November meeting.

- b. Committee will work to provide clarification to Visitation Teams about having a conversational and relational tone, as well as what is needed regarding Recommendations.
3. Discussion of Event with Rev. Dr. Jefferey Crawford
 - a. Jake needs to connect with Maren about this potential event.
4. The revised Varsity Acres Visitation Report was reviewed and it is now being shared with the Presbytery (below).
5. Representation of Congregational Care within the presbytery:
 - a. Rev. Greg Smith will be the representative of Congregational Care on the Presbytery Care Team.
 - b. Cathy Gale will be the representative of Congregational Care on the Knox / St. Giles Amalgamation Team for the program year (Fall 2025 - Spring 2026).
6. Naming someone to serve on the Westminster Visitation Team
 - a. The committee recommends Sandy Churchill to serve on the Westminster Visitation Team.
 - b. If Sandy Churchill is unable to serve in this capacity the recommendation is that Chuks be asked to serve on the Westminster Visitation Team.
7. In discussion about a potential visit to Centennial and naming a team it was suggested that the list of new Presbyters be reviewed and some of these new Presbyters be asked to serve in this capacity.
8. Committee Membership:
 - a. Marj Havens has expressed the need to step back from committee work.
 - b. Jake will send a note of appreciation to Marj.
9. 2026 Budget Planning
 - a. The committee shared potential budget items for the Congregational Care Committee:
 - i. Elder Workshop with Rev. Dr. Jefferey Crawford
 - ii. Communications Group Meeting
 - iii. Treasurers Group Meeting
 - iv. Kids and Youth Leaders Meeting
 - v. Stewardship Sessions
 - vi. Visitations
 - Travel Expenses
 - Accommodations
 - Pulpit Supply

- Meals
- Food for meeting with Session, Minister(s), and Board

The committee will work with the Presbytery Treasurer to provide a framework for these Visitation expenses.

10. Future Meeting Dates of Congregational Care Committee

- a. November 4, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.
- b. December 2025 – (if needed)
- c. January 2026 – TBD
- d. February 3, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.
- e. March 3, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.
- f. April 2026 (if needed)
- g. May 5, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.

11. Other Business

The committee was reminded that on November 1 St. John's Medicine Hat will be hosting an Elder Workshop with the Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart.

12. The meeting was closed in prayer by Jake.

**Visitation
Report**

Visitation Report for Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church

Visitation Team: Rev. Jake Van Pernis, Mary Jardine, Sandra Cameron
Evans

This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church, highlighting key observations and recommendations for the Presbytery to support and enhance the church's mission and community engagement.

General Information

The Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church Visitation Team visited Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 23, 2025.

As a part of the visit, the Visitation Team attended worship. The visit coincided with VAPC's annual Celtic Service. We enjoyed fellowship following worship, and following fellowship Mary and Rev. Jake met with the Session, and Sandra met with Rev. Greg Smith.

During our visit to Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church, we were warmly welcomed and enjoyed worshipping with the people of Varsity.

Congregational Life and Worship

The congregation's vision - "One in Christ, Reaching Out to Many"- remains a guiding principle and is well known among long-standing members. It continues to shape planning and decision-making at all levels of church life.

During our visit to Varsity, we engaged with approximately twenty members of the congregation following worship during the fellowship time. In asking people to speak about life together at Varsity Acres, the responses were varied and covered many topics:

Many people cited friendliness, camaraderie, proximity, and meaningful sermons as reasons for their continued participation at Varsity Acres.

One person noted that there are more young people in worship, though quickly followed up this comment by sharing that more young people are desired.

Many shared how much they enjoy the music on Sundays, while a few said they would prefer familiar hymns occasionally.

One person shared concern about a lack of Bible Study and Adult Christian Education opportunities and shared some members would like to see some opportunities offered.

Congregants appreciate the welcoming atmosphere for newcomers and have positive comments about Rev. Greg and his sermons.

We also had two stations where people could respond to questions using notecards. The first station asked, "What is a big dream you have for VAPC?" There were two responses:

*To keep our congregation growing and to keep Rev. Greg.
Having the younger generation take part in the [worship] service.*

The second station asked, "What is one thing you like about VAPC?" There were also two responses:

*One thing I like about VAPC is our choir.
The variety of races and all this offers, Rev. Greg's sermons, and Pascal Kalumbi [Varsity's Director of Music] talent.*

Overall, the congregation appears content, very little negativity and no major issues. There is a sense of renewed excitement at Varsity Acres, particularly with the increase in families with young children, the expansion of pastoral care through the introduction of eight Deacons and the hiring of a new Pastoral Care Associate, the Rev. Pamela Scott.

The congregation has also celebrated paying off its building loan used for extensive renovations 15 years ago to better serve both ministry and community use.

Governance and Leadership

Positive feedback was received regarding the change in governance structure that has been agreed upon by the congregation. It is currently in its trial phase and is seen as a flexible and organic structure that supports inclusivity and responsiveness and that provides more opportunities for Varsity to play an expanded role in the community.

Excitement was also shared about a fresh focus on Indigenous relations and the introduction of Deacons to take on responsibilities of caring for the congregation.

Varsity, however, faces significant challenges in leadership succession. The Session is small, aging, and fatigued, with many Elders having served for many years. There also seems to be limited energy for long-term strategic planning and while Rev. Greg proposes goals that are reviewed by Session, they are often accepted with little engagement.

The congregation has undergone many changes, especially post COVID, but is unified in looking for direction forward. There is, seemingly, little interest in organizing large congregational activities, however there are intentional efforts to grow fellowship and engagement for all ages as well as long time members and new members and the congregation appreciates these efforts.

Greg has a meaningful relationship with the Session Elders and they appreciate his fantastic sermons and clear reports. At times, Greg is directive with the Session, yet the Elders are receptive to this direction.

Greg came to Varsity during COVID and took on the significant task of leading Varsity through a time of transition, especially in staffing. He has been heavily involved in recruiting and hiring staff and the team appears to be diverse and cohesive. The congregation and Session deeply appreciate the care being provided by the Rev. Pamela Scott and the talent and creativity of Pascal Kalumbi.

There is a mutual respect between Session and the Board / Finance Committee, and confidence in the financial stewardship and facility maintenance. There is the identified need for long-term financial planning including legacy giving as well as addressing significant changes in patterns of giving, and identifying other revenue sources.

Ministerial Leadership

Rev. Greg is widely respected for his preaching, worship leadership, and vision. He has a positive relationship with many people in the congregation and is responsive to their pastoral care needs.

Greg sees a shift at VAPC towards spiritual discernment and is encouraged that the congregation is asking what God is doing rather than focusing on what the congregation has planned for itself. Greg sees positive signs of change in the congregation, including appreciating flexibility and responsiveness as key elements of organic congregational growth.

Greg acknowledges the changes Varsity has gone through and is going through are difficult for some people in the congregation and he is appreciative of people who have been supportive as these changes have unfolded.

Greg tends to handle many tasks on his own with a few other key leaders, and the Session would like to assist him further. Greg also acknowledges that he would like to be able to delegate more tasks and is seeking ways to do so. However, matching the resources and gifts of those available with new approaches and new tasks is sometimes challenging.

Greg has also taken on a variety of responsibilities at the Presbytery level which have taken time, skill, and energy, as well as ministry to other congregations and members of the Presbytery. Greg feels generally supported by the Presbytery in his role at VAPC.

Greg shared that his family is doing okay. He tries to spend time each day in reflection, but finding refreshment can be challenging. He aims to observe Sabbath weekly, though this is sometimes disrupted by his responsibilities at VAPC and Presbytery. When necessary, he adjusts his day off to ensure he gets the rest he needs.

Greg highlighted several joys in his ministry at Varsity including celebrations like Celtic Sunday, increased family participation, improved pastoral care with the Rev. Pamela Scott and the Deacons, and now having a well-established staff in place, as well as the willingness to try a new governance structure.

Regarding his stipend and allowances, Greg mentioned that the current process for such conversations is good, but that any such conversations have been initiated by him when necessary. He noted the high cost of living in Calgary and the recent decision not to provide cost of living adjustments for eligible staff or for himself.

Greg feels that the Session and congregation have clear expectations of him, with no major disparities.

Minister's Goals for the Coming Year

Greg's goals for the upcoming year are comprehensive and focused on both internal and external growth.

His goals for next year are:

1. Continued implementation of the trial governance plan, ensuring that the new model is fully integrated and effective.
2. Enhancing congregational engagement is a priority, with efforts to involve more members in church activities and leadership roles and in a less hierarchal and formal structure.
3. Strengthening community engagement, building stronger ties with local organizations and residents.
4. Having consistent communication ensuring that all members are informed and involved in church decisions and activities.
5. Establishing scalability that ensures activities match VAPC's evolving capacity, allowing the church to grow sustainably and manage resources effectively.

Greg continues his professional development as a mediator/arbitrator, psychotherapist, and relationship/family therapist. At this current time, he is not interested in working with a mentor or spiritual director. He prefers to seek out resources and supports independently and finds structured retreats less helpful in meeting his needs.

Spiritual Health

The spiritual health of the congregation is marked by a strong sense of fellowship and a desire for spiritual nourishment.

Growing faith is evident among Varsity's children and youth. However, adult spiritual formation is an area in need of attention, as mentioned previously in the report. Weekday opportunities for adult spiritual formation have been missing, leading some people to report feeling spiritually stagnant, including an Elder.

Greg's own spiritual health is difficult to assess by Session Elders due to his private nature, but there is concern that the demands of ministry and Presbytery may be draining.

Conclusion

The Visitation Team express gratitude and give thanks to God for the good and faithful work of Rev. Greg Smith and Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church. The Visitation Team also give thanks to God for the vitality and life of the congregation of Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church and for the faithfulness of its members, Elders, and Deacons.

Recommendations:

1. Presbytery commend Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church for implementing a new governance model that enhances inclusivity and community involvement. It is suggested to have Varsity Acres share learnings from this with the Presbytery.

MOTION: MOVED by K. Robbins, seconded S. Cameron Evans, that the recommendation be approved. **CARRIED**

2. Presbytery note the challenges of elder recruitment, the fatigue felt by many currently serving as Elders, and the lack of succession planning many congregations are experiencing and support the Congregational Care Committee in developing and promoting workshops focused on Elder Equipping, Committee Recruitment, and Succession Planning. These workshops will include mentorship opportunities (e.g., “Elder Buddies”) and encourage organic mentorship within congregations. The committee will also explore spiritual support initiatives for current elders.

MOTION: MOVED by K. Robbins, seconded S. Cameron Evans, that the recommendation be approved. **CARRIED**

Last Meeting: November 4, 2025

Next Meeting: January 6, 2026

Mission Care

Mission Care and Resource Committee – Deirdre Harris & Mary Jardine (Co-Conveners) *No Report*

MOTION: MOVED by C. Mannix, seconded by M. Rozsa de Coquet that the Presbytery create a pool of adjudicators for the Trinity Application. **CARRIED**

Reports on Partnerships

Reports on Partnerships:
Calgary Council of Churches: *Vacant*

Camp Kannawin Representative: *Vacant*

Chair of Christian Thought Advisory Council: *Mary Rozsa de Coquet (No report)*

Calgary Interfaith Council: *Mary Rozsa de Coquet (No report)*

Indigenous Gathering Place: *Cathy Gale*

Significant news from the last month is that the City of Calgary has initiated a process to refund IGPS approximately \$250,000, allowing the Society to move forward with new initiatives. This is a positive step in trust rebuilding in relationships with the City. IGPS will now proceed with Strategic Planning and exploring different land opportunities through work with Larkspur Projects. Other IGP news includes the plan to hire a temporary Executive Director position to focus on communication and fundraising. Plans are also being made for an early December Elders circle and community engagement event.

*Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Gale*

Ecumenical Campus Ministry, Lethbridge: *Karen Robbins (No report)*

Ecumenical Campus Ministry, Medicine Hat: *Joyce Engel (No report)*

Last Meeting:

Next Meeting:

Presbytery Care

Presbytery Care and Resource Committee – *Sandra Cameron Evans (Convener)*

1. Presbytery Secretary

Caroline Hultgren has been hired on a Contract for Services and we welcome her to our November meeting.

2. Determining Future Presbytery Priorities

There have been two meetings with the consultant, Finley + Assoc. developing a questionnaire to go to all presbyters for the purpose of gathering ideas on the future of presbytery. A Zoom meeting has been scheduled for December 2 to discuss the questionnaire findings.

3. Amalgamation Support Team

The Presbytery Care and Resource Committee is having challenges to populate this team.

4. Food and Travel Costs for Presbytery Meetings

MOTION: Moved by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by L. Judd, that starting in 2026, presbytery provide \$200 to congregations hosting regular meetings of presbytery to offset meal costs. **CARRIED**

If approved, this, as well as covering the cost of the driver gratuity for coach travel to presbytery meetings, will be added to the Presbytery Care and Resource Committee Documents folder on the presbytery website.

5. Budget

A request for a budget template was made at the September presbytery meeting. Something is being drafted; in future years it will be sent out to committees in August for their budget consideration process.

6. Correspondence from Dolden Wallace Folick

A letter received from the Dolden Wallace Folick law firm was referred to the Presbytery Care and Resource Committee to be addressed.

Transition Team

Transition Team – Heather Bryant

The Transition Team met and the conveners were able to update one another on key committee work, and planned presbytery meetings for the coming year, with an eye to optimizing timing and preventing overlap. The content of their work will be reported separately in each committee's report.

The committee continues the discussion on the sharing and storing of presbytery-wide documents. There is a tension between being an open court and making all records available to anyone on the internet, whether or not they have attended a court meeting or indeed have any connection to the Presbyterian church at all. Each committee is being asked to consider which records should be kept at a committee level, which should be discussed as background documents, and which should be shared as part of the minutes on the website.

We have met with some potential candidates for the General Presbyter position, and there are plans for an interview in the week prior to the presbytery meeting. Updates will be provided after the next Transition Team meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report – Phil Gaiser

Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod

Comparative Balance Sheet

ASSET

Current Assets	<i>As at 09/30/2025</i>	<i>As at 09/30/2024</i>
Chequing Bank Account	\$22,919.68	\$24,946.38
Investments- RBC Black Acct	\$10,422.25	\$10,105.00
Investments- RBC	\$389,744.16	\$376,050.70
Mawer Investments- Trinity	\$1,038,414.16	\$945,194.52
Accounts Receivable	\$56,889.58	\$37,253.51
Accounts Receivable GST	\$4.02	\$16.90
Knox Loan	\$28,000.00	\$46,000.00
Total Current Assets	\$1,546,393.85	\$1,439,567.01
TOTAL ASSET	\$1,546,393.85	\$1,439,567.01

LIABILITY

Current Liabilities	<i>As at 09/30/2025</i>	<i>As at 09/30/2024</i>
Accounts Payable	\$1,240.80	\$3,434.92
Accounts Payable Promotion	\$3,032.68	\$3,032.68
GST Paid on Purchases	\$-275.36	\$ -63.51
Prepaid Dues	\$143.39	\$810.37
Clerk's Conference	\$575.00	\$575.00
Youth Conferences	\$723.35	\$723.35
Youth Ministry	\$2000.00	\$2000.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$7,439.86	\$10,512.81
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITY	\$7,439.86	\$10,512.81

EQUITY

Owners Equity	<i>As at 09/30/2025</i>	<i>As at 09/30/2024</i>
Trinity Funds	\$748,790.81	\$748,790.81
Retained Earnings- Previous Year	\$694,513.57	\$561,468.02
Current Earnings	\$95,649.61	\$118,795.37
Total Owners Equity	\$1,538,953.99	\$1,429,054.20
TOTAL EQUITY	\$1,538,953.99	\$1,429,054.20
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$1,546,393.85	\$1,439,567.01

**Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
Comparative Income Statement****REVENUE**

Revenue	Actual 01/01/2025 to 09/30/2025	Actual 01/01/2024 to 09/30/2024
Dues	\$79,284.71	\$93,644.19
Fort MacLeod Funds	\$50,534.99	\$0.00
Other Revenue		
Investment Interest	\$19,800.28	\$17,499.98
Unrealized Gains	\$80,887.61	\$87,815.62
Total Other Revenue	\$100,687.89	\$105,315.60
TOTAL REVENUE	\$230,507.59	\$198,959.79

EXPENSE

Community	Actual 01/01/2025 to 09/30/2025	Actual 01/01/2024 to 09/30/2024
Community	\$0.00	\$350.00
COMMUNITY	\$0.00	\$350.00
Missions		
University of Lethbridge Grants	\$4,500.00	\$2,250.00
Medicine Hat College	\$1,000.00	\$750.00
Black Memorial Bursary	\$422.25	\$562.84
Indigenous Gathering	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Place		
New Ministries Initiatives	\$0.00	\$7,000.00
Trinity Grants	\$47,000.00	\$0.00
MISSIONS TOTAL	\$54,922.25	\$10,562.84
Youth		
Interchurch Activities	\$625.16	\$0.00
YOUTH TOTAL	\$625.16	\$0.00
Pastoral Effectiveness		
Workshops	\$12,169.32	\$11,134.53
Police Checks	\$0.00	\$110.95
PASTORAL EFFECTIVENESS TOTAL	\$12,169.32	\$11,245.48
Payroll Expenses		
Student Ministry	\$20,000.00	\$825.00
PAYROLL EXPENSE TOTAL	\$20,000.00	\$825.00

General & Administrative Expenses		
Website	\$750.00	\$604.92
Presbytery Retreat	\$5,768.27	\$12,497.19
Promotion	\$324.00	\$0.00
Synod Dues	\$21,914.25	\$23,895.75
General Assembly Meals	\$175.00	\$0.00
Clerk- Secreterial	\$1,266.25	\$0.00
Clerk- Honourarium	\$7,499.97	\$8,332.19
Travel	\$8,917.54	\$9,984.49
Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,691.56
Bank Charges	\$97.04	\$55.02
Office Supplies	\$257.90	\$7.48
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$171.03	\$0.00
Photocopy Expense	\$0.00	\$112.50
TOTAL GENERAL & ADMIN EXPENSES	\$47,141.25	\$57,181.10
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$134,857.98	\$80,164.42
NET INCOME	\$95,649.61	\$118,795.37

FUNDS

Trinity Fund

Mawer investments 1,038,414

owed to general fund -47,000

Trinity Fund 991,414

New Ministries 248,434

Gladys Black 10,000

Riverside 39,632

Fort Macleod 50,535

General 206,379

Total 1,546,394

MOTION: Moved by C. Mannix, seconded by G. Smith, that the financial statement up to September 2025 be approved. **CARRIED**

PRESBYTERY BUDGET

Where does the money go?

Membership in Synod (14%) – Synod supports Camp Kanniwin as well as meets on a regular basis.

Travel (5%) – The cost of gathering together Presbyters, as well as supporting the Churches outside Calgary by funding travel for pulpit supply.

Other administration (11%) – Cost of Clerk, secretary, treasurer, webmaster, insurance, and retreat.

Student ministry (7%) - support for our student minister

Trinity Grants (23%) – Special projects in and out of our Presbytery

Other donations and missions – 14%

Consultant and planning 9%

Where does the money come from?

Investment interest (42%) – We have \$1.4 million in invested assets. Investments with the Royal Bank are interest bearing Guaranteed Investment Certificates, while investments with Mawer are half bonds and half stocks. Expecting an average return of 5%.

Synod funds (3%) – We are expecting \$5,000 from Synod in 2026

Dues (55%) – Determined based on the number to hit the desired surplus or deficit. Here the deficit is determined to be around \$50,000, which is the amount of the Trinity grants. The allocation to each congregation is determined by the size of the congregational base, a number published in the blue book. The allocation is not to be above 5% of the total congregational base, and for 2026 will be 2.43%.

Budget

BUDGET**Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
Budget - 2026**

	2026 Budget	Actual 2025	2025 Budget	2024 Budget
Revenue				
Dues	90,103	79,285	105,046	124,859
Investment Interest	70,000	100,688	19,000	16,000
Synod funds	5,000			
Fort Macleod		50,535		
Total Revenue	165,103	230,508	124,046	140,859
Expenses				
Missions				
University of Lethbridge Grants	6,000	4,500	6,000	3,000
Chair of Christian Thought	1,000		1,000	1,500
Medicine Hat College	2,000	1,000	2,000	2,000
Black Memorial bursary	500	422	0	2,000
Indigenous Gathering Place	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,000
Clergy care	6,500	2,264	6,500	1,000
Congregational care	5,500		5,500	4,500
Mission Care	6,000	5,174	6,000	6,000
Calgary Interfaith Council	250		250	
Trinity Grants	50,000	47,000		
Consultants	19,000	5,355		
Youth				
Youth Fall Retreat	0		0	0
Pastoral Effectiveness				
Human Resource Consultation	0		0	4,000
Workshops	600		600	600
Psychological testing	600		600	600
Chaplaincy				
General Presbyter	35,000		35,000	35,000
Student Ministry	15,000	20,000	0	12,000
Pension Contribution	0		0	6,000

General and Administrative Expenses

Website	1,500	750	1,500	1,500
Meeting meals	800			
Presbytery Retreat	6,000	5,768	11,000	6,000
Synod Dues	30,717	21,914	29,219	31,861
General Assembly Meals	1,400	175	1,400	1,400
Clerk - Secretarial	1,000	1,267	1,000	1,000
Clerk - Honorarium	10,000	7,500	10,000	10,000
Deputy clerk	0		0	1,200
Treasurer	600	0	600	600
Travel	11,000	8,918	7,000	4,000
Insurance	1,800		1,800	1,400
Bank Charges	50	97	50	50
Office Supplies	300	258	300	300
Contingencies & Reserve	0	495	0	5,000
Total Expense	215,117	134,857	129,319	143,511
Surplus (Deficit)	(50,014)	95,651	(5,273)	(2,652)

Presbytery Dues
Allocation- 2026

Congregation	Percentage	2.43%	3.50%	Change	per month	per month	Change
					2026	2025	
	2024 base	2026	2025		2026	2025	
St.Paul's, Banff	135,355	3,289	2,496	793	274.09	208.03	66.06
Knox, Bassano	117,460	2,854	3,697	-843	237.86	308.12	-70.27
Gem	21,133	514	266	247	42.79	22.18	20.61
Calvin Hungarian	84,325	2,049	3,266	-1,217	170.76	272.16	-101.40
Centennial	148,509	3,609	3,249	360	300.73	270.71	30.02
Grace	1,398,940	33,994	36,053	-2,059	2,832.85	3,004.40	-171.55
Knox, Calgary	104,374	2,536	5,230	-2,694	211.36	435.87	-224.52
St. Andrews, Calgary	391,858	9,522	11,603	-2,081	793.51	966.89	-173.38
St. Giles	229,248	5,571	4,484	1,086	464.23	373.71	90.52
Valleyview	219,865	5,343	6,164	-822	445.23	513.69	-68.46
Varsity Acres	263,309	6,398	8,117	-1,719	533.20	676.45	-143.25
Westminster	213,157	5,180	7,210	-2,030	431.64	600.84	-169.20
St. Andrews, Lethbridge	200,050	4,861	6,099	-1,238	405.10	508.27	-103.17
St. John's, Medicine Hat	180,349	4,382	7,110	-2,727	365.21	592.47	-227.27
Total	3,707,932	90,103	105,046	-14,943	7,509	8,754	-1,245

MOTION: Moved by B. Clendening, seconded by G. Smith, that the budget be approved. **CARRIED**

Request for
Consultation

Request for 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.

Clerk's Report

Clerk's report – Christian Persaud

Equalizing Elder 2025-26

There are currently 14 ministers on the constituent roll, and 13 elders, which presents the need for an equalizing elder to maintain a 50/50 balance of teaching and ruling elders. A letter was sent to the Session of Westminster to consider commissioning an equalizing elder, based on a rotation list identified below:

Westminster; Calvin; St. Andrew's, Lethbridge; St. Paul's; Bassano/Gem; St. Giles; Valleyview; Grace; Knox, Calgary; St. Andrew's, Calgary; Varsity Acres; St. John's; Centennial

Calgary-Macleod Commissioners to General Assembly 2026

MOTION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by: G. Smith that Laurie McKay; Bartholomew Alexander; Chandra Mannix be approved as commissioners. **CARRIED**

MOTION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by: G. Smith that Bassano/Gem; Knox, Calgary; Grace be approved to send a commissioner. **CARRIED**

MOTION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by: G. Smith that Chris Joiner and St. John's be approved as a backup commissioners in the event that the clergy and congregations named above are unable to go. **CARRIED**

Congregational Records Check

MOTION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by: G. Smith that the congregational records of St. Andrew's, Lethbridge be attested as neatly and correctly kept. **CARRIED**

Leading with Care – Fire Drill Procedures

Due in November: St. Giles

Overdue from October: St. Andrew's, Calgary; St. Andrew's, Lethbridge; St. John's

Also overdue:

Knox, Calgary

St. Paul's

Centennial

Other Business**Other Business****Voluntary
Withdrawal
Committee****Voluntary Withdrawal Committee**

Work has been completed on developing the Information Package to be sent out to the professing members of Valleyview Community Church. This entailed several meetings and consultations with the Principal Clerk

of Assembly (Rev. Victor Kim), Deputy Clerk of Assembly/Moderator (Rev. Jeffrey Murray), Chief Financial Officer of the PCC (Kirk Campbell), Chair of the Treasury Board (Elizabeth Speers), Treasurer of Valleyview Community Church Valleyview (Phil Gaiser), Minister of Valleyview Community Church (Rev. Grant Gunnink) and the Voluntary Withdrawal Committee (Rev. Laurie McKay – IM, Rev. Dr. Jean Morris, and Rev. Bruce Clendening).

The Information Package will be distributed to the 29 members in early November. A date for the first vote will be set for early December – at least 30 days after the members have received the Information Package. A complete copy of the Information Package is also sent to the Clerk of Presbytery.

A Positive Vote is determined based on:

A) 80 percent of professing members in attendance at a congregational meeting and

B) 67 percent of all members on the professing members roll of the congregation, as recorded at the time written notification was made to presbytery for voluntary withdrawal.

Because a decision to withdraw is, in effect, a decision to dispose of property, only members are included in the percentage calculations. (Book of Forms 155)

At the time of written notification (May 31, 2024), Valleyview Community Church had 29 members recorded. 1 member has died, and another has been removed due to mental capacity and physical health. A positive vote requires 80% of professing members in attendance on the day of the vote. Additionally, 67% of members (18 members) must vote in favour of withdrawing from the Presbyterian Church in Canada. If there is no positive vote, the process stops.

The following are the financial implications for withdrawing from the PCC.

The audited statement is based on December 31, 2024 financial information. 2 appraisals of the property value were acquired, and the average is \$2,750,000.

General Fund less restricted funds and chattels	\$104,530
Property value	+\$2,750,000
	<u>= \$2,854,530</u>

Divided 50/50 between PCC and Valleyview Community Church =
\$1,427,265

Of this portion, ½ (\$713,632) would be returned to the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod when the presbytery has a plan for the funds. The Presbytery will need to consider this in future planning.

The name of the new fellowship has now been registered as Spring Valley Community Church Calgary Reformed, as part of the Reformation Canada Network denomination. This denomination began in October 2022 (for more information, see their website: <https://reformationcanada.ca/>). They have now applied for a CRA number and are creating a financial plan to realize their vision, should both votes be positive.

The mission of the new fellowship, Spring Valley Community Church Reformed, will be reliant on the Holy Spirit to shift their attractional model to an outward, engaged, prayerful mission to be the “Light of the world”.

The proposed timeline for the procedure includes obtaining a CRA number (estimated time for this is 6 -8 months), results of a first vote in early December, followed by a second vote not less than 6 months later (early summer). In the event of 2 positive votes, Valleyview Community Church will be known as a Departing Fellowship until the Date of Dissolution (the date when the title and funds are exchanged).

The congregation has been updated regularly from the pulpit throughout this process after the session, prayer group, and members had discerned the necessity to leave the Presbyterian Church in Canada based on Remits B and C. It was also communicated in written form, entitled “Withdrawal FAQs” (attached for the clerk’s reference). The Presbytery will be updated with the results of the first vote at the January meeting.

**Knox & St. Giles
Amalgamation**

Knox and St. Giles Amalgamation Update

The Amalgamation Team, made up of the elders of both St. Giles and Knox, have met twice. During those meetings some important decisions were made concerning the shape of the amalgamation plan (concerning proposed clergy leadership, Session structure, and committee structure and terms of reference) and some pathways for greater discernment were explored.

Proposal for Presbytery Grant for St. Giles/Knox Amalgamation Team

In a meeting with Joel Den Haan, the team explored the due diligence required to make informed decisions about the appropriate stewardship of the assets of the amalgamated church. The team determined that the following steps are necessary or anticipated:

- Consultation with Avison Young, or a comparable firm, for capital planning analysis, considering real estate and regulatory influences and a broad economic analysis
- Comprehensive engineering assessment of both properties by an engineering firm
- Formal appraisals of both properties

We anticipate the total cost of these will be between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

I want to share, on behalf of the amalgamation team, the reason we are asking for a grant, as opposed to a loan.

In summary, a grant for the amalgamation assessments represents a faithful expression of partnership and trust, a strategic use of presbytery resources, and a commitment to discerning the best future for these congregations and their communities. It is a small investment in comparison to the potential stewardship of significant assets, and a meaningful witness to the presbytery's role in encouraging new life in our shared ministry.

I will outline, briefly, each of these.

A grant is a sign of partnership and hope.

Knox and St. Giles have a shared vision for new life as an amalgamated church. Supporting them through a grant expresses the presbytery's confidence that God continues to work creatively in these congregations and communities.

A grant sends a clear message of encouragement: that the presbytery stands alongside these congregations as a partner with a stake in this discernment, not simply as a financial backer/lender. It creates the freedom and trust needed for open, courageous decision-making.

A grant creates the ideal environment to unlock future potential.

While both congregations are currently financially constrained, they are asset strong. Their ability to access and steward these assets wisely depends on completing the assessments that will inform future property and ministry decisions.

A grant allows this important groundwork to move forward without encumbering the congregations further. The investment is modest relative to the potential long-term outcomes, which will help ensure that any eventual property transitions or redevelopments are guided by sound information and shared vision.

A grant is a strategic, low-risk investment.

From a presbytery perspective, this is a measured, strategic investment. The assessments will provide clarity that benefits not only the congregations but also the presbytery's long-term stewardship. If amalgamation succeeds, the presbytery will have helped give rise to a stronger, more sustainable congregation. If the process leads instead to other outcomes, the presbytery will still have received valuable insight for future planning. In either case, the funds are well-spent in service of the presbytery's mission.

A grant unlocks discernment and visioning without added encumbrance. A loan structure can work well for projects that have a clear revenue plan or capital improvement focus. In this case, however, the goal is discernment and visioning—a time when leaders need space to explore possibilities without immediate financial pressure.

Providing these funds as a grant helps ensure that the process remains thoughtful, prayerful, and collaborative, rather than constrained by short-term financial obligations.

Thank you to the presbytery for considering this request. We look forward, regardless of the decision, to our work of discernment in crafting a plan.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Chris Joiner*

Roll

Christian Persaud joined the court.

MOTION: MOVED by Chris Joiner, seconded by Chandra Mannix that the presbytery issue a grant to the amalgamation team for Knox and St. Giles, not to exceed \$30,000, to conduct the necessary assessments for the team to create the amalgamation plan. **CARRIED**

MOTION: MOVED by C. Joiner, seconded by C. Mannix, recommend that the presbytery treasurer administrate the grant as needed per invoice. **CARRIED**

Adoption of Reports

MOVED by C. Mannix, seconded by B. Clendening, that the reports as a whole be adopted. **CARRIED**

Enthusiasms & Concerns**Enthusiasms and Concerns**

S. Cameron Evans shared that St. Giles hosted a successful Italian Dinner with many friends from Knox, Calgary in attendance.

M. Jardine shared that Grace completed their strategic planning with Dale Woods.

M. Rozsa de Coquet: looking ahead to Christmas music, the massed choir evening at Grace December 14 is completely sold out with some 800 expected to attend

C. Mannix shared that the St. Giles Orchestra had a very successful fall concert, selling out and receiving accolades for their all-ages movie themed event.

Also, St. Giles has participated in the listening committee's process organized with Calgary-Macleod, Western Han-Ca, and the Intercultural Ministry at the PCC, and due to errors of process, is now unexpectedly proceeding with a new process for the dissolution of the Shared Ministry with CKPC. More information will be shared with the members of the Presbytery before the January gathering.

B. Clendening expressed concern for the 27 people currently living on the Bethany Calgary Unit.

Bethany will be welcoming Michael Hope, soloist, on December 18 at 10:30 am for a Christmas Event.

H. Carlson shared about the Memorial hymn sing and concert at the end of October. St. John's will be having a midnight madness fellowship for Christmas. 20 elders and leaders from St. John's met with Ross Lockhart for a leadership meeting.

K. Robbins shared about St. Andrew's, Lethbridge 140th Anniversary celebration, which took place in mid-October. 95 people enjoyed the Saturday evening catered dinner with a guest speaker from the University of Lethbridge talking about how AI is shaping the way in which we serve our community. Thank you to Moderator Laurie McKay for attending.

L. McKay expressed concern and asked for prayer for Christians in Nigeria and in the Middle East (Israel/Palestine).

**Prayers of
Intercession**

L. Judd led us in Prayers for the world and our role in it.

Going Out in God's Name

Time & Place

An Emergent meeting will be held on Sunday, November 30 at 4:30pm at Centennial to celebrate the ministry of Okelo Aballa.

The next regular business meeting of the Presbytery will be Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 7pm by Zoom with Westminster as the worship leader. Reports due January 1 by noon.

Adjourn to Serve **MOVED** by C. Persaud that the Court be adjourned.

Benediction The Court was dismissed with the benediction at 8:57 p.m.

Moderator
Rev. L. McKay

Clerk of Presbytery pro-tem
Rev. D. Delpport