

The Presbyterian Church in Canada The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod

Alberta, Canada

Regular Meeting March 10, 2026

Gathering in God's Name

Called to Order & Constitution

In Alberta via Zoom, the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod met in regular session on Tuesday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m.

Worship was led by C. Mannix and S. Cameron Evans of St. Giles, Calgary. The Moderator, L. McKay constituted the meeting with prayer at 7:02 pm.

Land Acknowledgement

Balance is achieved when we respect and understand each other's ways. Being Treaty people requires this same desire to seek balance between different cultures, different words for God, and different ways of praying. Rev. John Snow Sr. speaks of the Stoney Nation's respect for each person's way of praying. No one is judged as better or worse. That is between God and the pray-er. Smudging – that is, burning sage, sweetgrass, tobacco, or cedar- is part of the First Nation's way of prayer. In the Scriptures and the church, incense serves the same purpose – uniting the person who seeks purification and sanctification before God. There is one God who hears our prayers and sets us in a right relationship. Together with our Treaty 7 neighbours, we seek a close relationship with the Divine and reconciliation with each other.

Roll

Present with the Moderator Laurie McKay were the ministers of Word and Sacrament: Bruce Clendening, Jake Van Pernis, Christian Persaud, Greg Smith, Daniel Surya, Chandra Mannix, Chris Joiner, Heather Carlson and Gergely Kása.

Also present were ruling elders: Heather Bryant, Sandra Cameron Evans, Cathy Gale, Deirdre Harris, Marj Havens (*Alternate for Knox, Bassano & Gem*), Iris Jung (*alternate for Knox, Calgary*), Omot Ochudo, Karen Robbins, Mary Rozsa de Coquet, and Eszter Savanya.

Regrets

Regrets were received from Ministers of Word and Sacrament: Peter Baek, Grant Gunnink, and Maren McLean Persaud. And ruling elders: Moira Brownlee, Lynn Judd and Helen Snortland.

Appendix

Ministers on the Appendix also present: Rod Ferguson

Also present: Terry Fach (*General Presbyter*), Phil Gaiser (*Treasurer*), Caroline Hultgren (*Presbytery Secretary*), and Mary Jardine (*Mission Care Co-Convener*).

Guests Layne Kilbreath

Consent Agenda **Consent Agenda**

MOVED by C. Persaud, seconded by M. Rozsa de Coquet, that the following reports with recommendations be approved by Consent Agenda. **CARRIED**

Adoption of the Minutes

Regular meeting: February 10, 2026

Correspondence

Being the Body of Christ

Consent Agenda Minutes **Adoption of Minutes – Clerk**

MOTION: that the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 10, 2026 be accepted. **CARRIED**

Correspondence **Correspondence – Clerk**

The Clerk presented the correspondence.

Receive for Information

26-014	E. Royal, PCM Discussion Guide for Distribution, distributed
26-015	K. Muir, Changes to the Roll for January 2026, distributed
26-016	C. Persaud, Internal Presbytery Contact List, distributed
26-017	L. Judd, Rainbow Team: PIE Day for Presbytery, distributed

26-018	L. McKay Presbytery Refugee Work - Zoom first meeting, distributed
26-019	R. Lockhart, 2026 St. Andrew's Hall Lenten Devotional Guide, distributed
26-020	D. Harris, Promotion - The Path of Two Rows Wampum, distributed
26-022	L. Kilbreath, Walk As We...kin'd - March 13-14, 2026, distributed
26-023	Donations PCC - PCC Gifts by Presbytery, distributed
26-024	Donations PCC - PCC Gifts by Presbytery, distributed
26-025	M. W. Daly, Calgary Roundtable on the Future of Religious Properties, distributed
26-026	J. Barrett, General Grant Report Template, distributed
26-027	L. Comeau, Pastoral Awareness for Lent - Supporting Families, distributed
26-028	M. Rozsa de Coquet, Chair of Christian Thought lecture March 13, distributed
26-029	C. Joiner, Richard Topping Professional Development Event, distributed

Refer to Congregational Care

26-021	Formal Request for the Involvement of Clergy Care
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Docket

The Clerk 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 C. Persaud, seconded by H. Bryant 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 C. Mannix, seconded S. Cameron Evans, 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:

- The session and the board of managers are functioning well relationally and spiritually, and have been increasingly tasked focused on the care of the congregation, the building and the finances in collaboration with the student minister
- There is an air of excitement and energy growing around calling a minister
- Large classes of children have been attending 'Communion classes', as many members prepare to allow their children to participate in communion
- The congregation is struggling to grow interest in choir participation
- There has been significant difficulty in getting adherents to attend membership classes and/or make a profession of faith to become members – the session, the student minister and the IM continue to wrestle with this challenge

IM Responsibilities:

- After receiving formal approval from Presbytery to proceed with the process of calling of a minister to Centennial, the session has named candidates for the search committee, and is anticipating a first meeting of the committee in late March to develop the Congregational Profile and initiate the process of recruiting candidates
- Pulpit Supply is in place until May, with the exception of Easter Sunday... any offers to serve and preach that day would be appreciated
- An elder on session is discerning if he is called to formal seminary education and ordination in the PCC. He has preached in the past as an elder, and will be doing so again in March
- Pastoral care has continued to be provided by the IM, the Student minister and the elders active on session. Pastoral care from the session elders to the congregation is continuing to increase

- Consultation regarding the student minister in his responsibilities has continued with the IM and the session noting the significant level of responsibilities upon him. He has continued to provide faithful care and shepherding of both morning and afternoon service congregants, and live into significant responsibilities of governance at Centennial. In an effort to support a more reasonable workload, and in consultation with his advisory committee at presbytery, he will continue to preach the afternoon service, but not the morning service, for March and perhaps April as well.

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 – No meetings since my last report. There have been several email exchanges around emergent issues, which were quickly settled.
 - b. Session – The Session has met once since my last report.
 - c. Congregation – I preached at Knox on February 15 and held an informal time of discussion in the fellowship time following the meeting.
2. 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).

I met with the representative from Avison Young at the Knox property on February 11 so he could do a walk-through. Rev. Chandra Mannix also met with him at St. Giles on the same day. Avison Young is working on a report concerning both properties and we anticipate receiving it soon.

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

See 1.d above regarding an in-person gathering with the congregation. In addition to this, there was a written communication regarding the joint service with St. Giles.

4. Moderate Session and Congregational meetings.

See 1.c above.

5. 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. I review the plan each time it is submitted to check for any conflicts of interest to flag.

6. Ensure that regular communication about the process is continuing with renters, building users and with churches that have expressed interest. I have had ongoing conversations with interested parties and maintained communication with other users of the building. We have had additional interest expressed by other worshipping communities, and the response we consistently give is that we will take their interest into account once we have established a direction, based in part on property assessments being done by outside consultants.

7. Report regularly to the Presbytery

These reports happen at each regular meeting of presbytery.

8. 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.

Update on Amalgamation Process

The writing team for the amalgamation plan has been named and begun initial work.

We have included the persons named from the presbytery as a support team in all communications, and they sat in at our last joint meeting.

Our next meeting will happen after we have received and read through the report from Avison Young.

As I mentioned earlier, after worship at Knox on February 15, we held an informal time of discussion. There was good attendance and opportunity for those present to share their impressions of the joint worship with St. Giles, which had occurred on February 7. There was a quite positive response from those who attended. They felt warmly welcomed. Several Knox people were leaders in the service. There were a few questions around the amalgamation process, which I was able to address. I sensed a good spirit and broad support for these efforts. We discussed the possibility of St. Giles coming to Knox for a joint service soon, and there was excitement around that idea. We anticipate this process will move more quickly once we have the necessary assessments in hand. Thank you for the patience and prayers of the presbytery.

Committee Reports

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clergy Care

Clergy Care and Resource – *Chris Joiner & Daniel Surya (Co-Conveners)*

1. Oversight of Students: The team for the examination for ordination for Okelo Aballa has been formed, consisting of the Rev. Greg Smith, the Rev. Laurie McKay, the Rev. Daniel A. Surya, and Mary Lil. The examination will take place on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 1:00PM at Grace Presbyterian Church.

2. Representation on Presbytery Care: the Rev. Daniel A. Surya is the appointed representative from the Clergy Care Committee.

3. Minister in Association: the committee received a request from the Session of Grace Presbyterian Church that the Rev. Sabino Diok be approved as Minister in Association. Please refer to the accompanying document for full details.

MOTION: MOVED by D. Surya, seconded by B. Clendening, that the Rev. Sabino Diok be approved as Minister in Association at Grace Presbyterian Church. **CARRIED**

4. Pastoral Oversight: the Clergy Care Committee has appointed two representatives to collaborate with the Congregational Care Committee regarding the presbytery visitation plan. We have discussed a framework that will divide annual visitations into formal presbytery visitations arranged by Congregational Care, and informal pastoral visits with ministers conducted by Clergy Care.

5. Continuing Education: the continuing education event with Dr. Richard Topping will have taken place immediately prior to the commencement of this presbytery meeting. The committee will evaluate the gathering and discern learnings for future continuing education opportunities. Furthermore, the committee has prepared a survey for the ministers of the presbytery regarding future educational endeavors and encourages full participation. This feedback will be highly valuable in guiding our future planning.

6. Ministers' Well-being: the committee is actively exploring plans for a gathering of ministers and their families in late August. Invitations will be distributed in early spring.

**Framing
Document:
Minister in
Association**

Framing Document: Minister in Association – Rev. Sabino Diok
Grace Presbyterian Church, The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Purpose

This document outlines the responsibilities and mutual commitments involved in the Minister in Association relationship between Grace Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Sabino Diok. This partnership is rooted in Grace's desire to nurture intercultural ministry, deepen relationships with the South Sudanese Community, and expand and formalize Rev. Diok's ongoing contribution to the work and witness of the congregation. Grace further acknowledges with gratitude the faithful ministry Rev. Diok has offered over many years. His pastoral presence, preaching, and leadership have strengthened the spiritual life of the South Sudanese Community and enriched Grace's ministry as a whole. His commitment to building relationships, supporting worship, and fostering belonging has meaningfully shaped our shared life together in Christ.

Background

Rev. Sabino Diok is a Minister of Word and Sacraments in The Presbyterian Church in Canada and is listed on the Appendix to the Constituent Roll of the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod. He has served the church as an ordained minister for approximately 20 years and has faithfully supported the ministry of the South Sudanese Community at

Grace for the past 10 years. His long-standing dedication, pastoral wisdom, and deep-rooted relationships within the community continue to be a blessing to Grace Presbyterian Church.

**Responsibilities
of Rev. Sabino
Diok**

Responsibilities of Rev. Sabino Diok

Lead South Sudanese Community Worship

Provide spiritual leadership for the South Sudanese Community's afternoon worship services. Plan and lead worship in culturally resonant

ways that reflect the traditions and expressions of the South Sudanese Community. Coordinate with Grace's pastoral team to ensure alignment with the church's liturgical calendar and mission.

Provide Pastoral Care

Offer pastoral care to members of the South Sudanese Community as requested, including visitation, prayer, and spiritual counsel. Be a trusted presence for individuals and families navigating life transitions, challenges, and celebrations.

Serve as Liaison and Relationship Builder

Act as a bridge between Grace's broader congregation and the South Sudanese Community, fostering mutual understanding and connection. Encourage participation and engagement from South Sudanese members in the life of the church beyond worship.

Support Worship Integration

Share ideas with Grace's worship planning team on how the 10:30 a.m. worship service can incorporate elements that reflect and honor the South Sudanese Community's spiritual heritage. Suggest music, prayers, readings, or liturgical practices that promote a sense of belonging and representation.

Share in Worship Leadership

Preach and lead worship at Grace's 10:30 a.m. service, Evening Grace, or other services when invited, as well as share in leadership at the Lord's Table, contributing to the spiritual life of the whole congregation.

Support
Provided by
Grace
Presbyterian
Church

Support Provided by Grace Presbyterian Church

Worship Resources

Provide access to worship planning materials, liturgical resources, and technical support for services. Offer collaboration with Grace's worship team and musicians as needed.

Pastoral Care and Support

Extend care and collegial support from Grace's pastoral staff and Session. Include Rev. Diok in pastoral team gatherings and opportunities for shared discernment.

Gathering Space

Ensure dedicated space is available for South Sudanese Community worship and gatherings. Provide access to facilities for pastoral meetings, community events, and ministry activities.

Communication Support

Assist with communication and promotion of South Sudanese worship services and events through Grace's channels (bulletins, website, social media). Facilitate translation or interpretation support as needed.

Opportunities for Growth

Encourage and support Rev. Diok's ongoing development as a minister through participation in continuing education, denominational events, and intercultural ministry initiatives. Explore opportunities for shared learning and leadership development within Grace and the wider church.

Collaboration and Review

Rev. Diok will work in close collaboration with Grace's Minister, Session, and Worship Committee. Regular check-ins will be scheduled to reflect on progress, celebrate successes, and discern future directions. This relationship will be reviewed annually to ensure mutual flourishing and faithful ministry.

Affirmation

Grace Presbyterian Church affirms Rev. Sabino Diok's gifts for ministry and is grateful for his leadership, presence, and partnership in nurturing a vibrant, intercultural community of faith.

Report to
Calgary-Macleod
Presbytery
regarding Okelo
Aballa

Report to Calgary-Macleod Presbytery

From: Clergy Care Committee

Re: Oversight Student Committee Meeting – Mr. Okelo Aballa

Date: February 25, 2026

The Clergy Care Committee respectfully presents the following report arising from a meeting of the Oversight Student Committee held by Zoom on February 25, 2026, at 7:00PM, concerning Mr. Okelo Aballa and his request to proceed toward ordination.

Examination for Ordination

The Student Oversight Committee reviewed Mr. Aballa's progress and readiness and has encouraged him to request Presbytery to set an examination for ordination.

A formal letter of request from Mr. Aballa is included with this report for the information and consideration of presbytery.

Secondly, The Committee recommends that the following individuals serve as the Examination Team:

- The Rev. Greg Smith
- The Rev. Laurie McKay
- The Rev. Daniel A. Surya
- Mary Rozsa de Coquet

All relevant documentation pertaining to Mr. Aballa's preparation and candidacy will be provided to the Examination Team in due course to assist them in carrying out their responsibilities.

Finally, as a requirement of the examination for Ordination, the Student Oversight Committee seeks the approval of Presbytery for Mr. Aballa to lead worship and preach the sermon at the April meeting of Calgary-Macleod Presbytery, to be held in person at Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church.

MOTION: MOVED by D. Surya, seconded by M. Rozsa de Coquet, that Calgary-Macleod Presbytery approve:

1. Mr. Okelo Aballa's request to proceed to examination for ordination. **CARRIED**
2. The members of the Examination Team be as listed above. **CARRIED**
3. Mr. Okelo Aballa lead worship and preach at the April in-person meeting of presbytery at Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church. **CARRIED**

Okelo Aballa's
Letter of
Request

Okelo Aballa's Letter of Request

Dear Rev. Christian,

I am writing to you as the Clerk of the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod, expressing my intent to proceed to ordination in The Presbyterian Church in Canada and my intent to accept the Preamble on Ordination and the Subordinate Standards of The Presbyterian Church in Canada through appropriate responses to the ordination questions at the time of a call or appointment.

I have been under the care of the presbytery since 2021 as a Certified Candidate for ministry and have been attending regular meetings with the Oversight Committee. I am in the final stages of completing my Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree at the Vancouver School of Theology. I have received permission from the Rev. Rebecca Simpson, Director of Denominational Studies, to request the presbytery's approval to take the examination for certification for ordination.

The Oversight Committee is aware of my request and has discussed the necessary steps and potential timeline for the examination. I understand the requirements set by The Presbyterian Church in Canada and am currently working on completing the required materials.

Clerk of Presbytery
Christian Persaud

Thank you for considering this request at the March meeting of the presbytery. I am grateful for all of the support and guidance that the presbytery has provided me over the years.

*Yours in Christ,
Okelo Aballa*

Congregational
Care

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

The Congregational Care and Resource Committee provides the following update regarding the ongoing work of the named Support Team of Rev. Dr. Peter Coutts, Rev. Greg Smith, and Phil Gaiser regarding the shared ministry between St. Giles Presbyterian Church and Calgary Korean Presbyterian Church (CKPC).

The St. Giles Support Team has held three meetings with the Session of St. Giles Presbyterian Church: January 20, 2026, February 11, 2026, and February 17, 2026.

Background

The Session of Calgary Korean Presbyterian Church formally submitted a request to withdrawal from shared ministry with St. Giles Presbyterian Church to its presbytery – the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca – in December of 2025 – per the terms laid out in the May 2025 Terms of Reference agreed to by both congregations.

The Presbytery of Western Han-Ca communicated its agreement with CKPC's request with the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod, in the form of an extract minute, from its meeting on December 9, 2025.

CKPC is working from the understanding that the shared ministry with St. Giles Presbyterian Church will conclude on February 28, 2026.

The Session of St. Giles Presbyterian Church unanimously passed a motion to terminate the shared ministry with CKPC at its meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

Per the Terms of Reference: Shared Ministry Between CKPC and St. Giles Presbyterian Church (May 2025) Section 4: Should one or both of the two congregations decide they no longer wish to continue the Shared Ministry during the initial term, the Shared Ministry Committee will consult the two presbyteries, the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod and the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca, regarding concerns about the Shared Ministry and seek approval and terms for termination. (Italics mine)

Due to decisions of the session of CKPC, the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca, and the session of St. Giles Presbyterian Church that the shared

ministry should be terminated the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod needs to consider this matter.

The Terms of Termination from the session of St. Giles

With the help of the Support Team the session of St. Giles Presbyterian Church has put forward four terms to assist with the end of the shared ministry.

Here are the four terms in outline:

- 1.) CKPC has offered to provide two months of financial support to St. Giles Presbyterian Church – January 2026 and February 2026. The session of St. Giles would like to discuss financial commitments with CKPC since the original terms had the agreement ending in November 2026 and St. Giles had planned on the financial support from CKPC in its budgeting process, and the majority of this financial support from CKPC was used to pay the stipend and benefits of the Rev. Chandra Mannix.
- 2.) St. Giles would like the two elders from CKPC to continue formally as a part of the St. Giles Session and will be asking CKPC if this is agreeable.
- 3.) Figuring out which audio / visual equipment will return to CKPC and which equipment will remain at St. Giles, some of which was donated to St. Giles by CKPC.
- 4.) Due to the unique nature of the multi-cultural shared ministry between St. Giles and CKPC a “best practices” review be conducted by the Shared Ministry Committee that can be prepared for the benefit of the wider church.

The Terms of Termination from the session of CKPC

The Support Team in consultation with the Rev. Tim Choi has outlined two terms expressed by the session of CKPC to assist with the end of the shared ministry with St. Giles Presbyterian Church.

The two terms are:

- 1.) A clean break of the shared ministry between CKPC and St. Giles Presbyterian Church ending the shared ministry completely.
- 2.) That CKPC provide two months of financial support to St. Giles Presbyterian Church for the months of January 2026 and February 2026, but that no further financial support from CKPC to St. Giles Presbyterian Church will be provided.

Supporting St. Giles Presbyterian Church: Next Steps

The majority of the funds St. Giles was receiving from CKPC as a part of this shared ministry was going to support the call of the Rev. Chandra

Mannix. The loss of the supporting funds from CKPC has created anxiety and uncertainty at St. Giles.

The Support Team, in consultation with members of the Presbytery's Congregational Care and Resource Committee, the Clerk of the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod, and the Moderator of the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod, recognize this uncertainty and anxiety and desire to be responsive.

Here are some ways the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod can be responsive and support St. Giles Presbyterian Church in this time of transition:

The Follow-Up Team (Rev. Jake Van Pernis, Rev. Maren McLean Persaud, and Heather Bryant) will continue to work with the session of St. Giles Presbyterian Church in regards to financial management.

The Support Team (Rev. Dr. Peter Coutts, Rev. Greg Smith, and Phil Gaiser) will continue to work with the session of St. Giles Presbyterian Church in regards to the termination of the shared ministry with CKPC.

The convener of the Congregational Care and Resource Committee will work closely with the Co-Convenors of the Clergy Care and Resource Committee to offer supports and resources to the congregation of St. Giles Presbyterian Church and to the Rev. Chandra Mannix in this time of transition.

Recommendation Stemming from the Report

The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod affirms the intention of the Session of St. Giles Presbyterian Church to terminate its shared ministry with Calgary Korean Presbyterian Church.

MOTION: MOVED by J. Van Pernis, seconded by H. Bryant that The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod affirms the intention of the Session of St. Giles Presbyterian Church to terminate its shared ministry with Calgary Korean Presbyterian Church. **CARRIED**

The Congregational Care and Resource Committee will support the congregation of St. Giles through the work of the Support Team and the Follow-up Team. The Congregational Care and Resource Committee is very appreciative of the thorough and caring work the Support Team is doing.

Mission Care

Mission Care and Resource – Mary Jardine & Deirdre Harris (Co-Convenors)

1. Trinity Fund for Mission and New Ministries ("Trinity Fund")

It has come to the committee's attention that, although the intent several years ago was to combine the two funds, there was never a formal recommendation to Presbytery to merge them. The committee wishes to make this motion now.

Attached to this report is the Final Report Template for Trinity Fund grants. This will be posted onto the Presbytery website.

John Chik has agreed to continue as Chair of the Adjudication Team for the next round of Trinity Fund grant applications.

Revised application forms will be forwarded soon to all Presbyters via the Clerk and will be posted on the website.

Reminder that next round of Trinity Fund Grant submissions will end on April 15, 2026.

2. Focus on Refugees

MCRC is exploring how mission-related people in Presbytery congregations can be brought together (in person or on Zoom) in the fall of this year to discuss and brainstorm solutions pertaining to issues related to supporting refugees once they arrive in Canada. An approach may be made to the PCC to invite a representative to attend and educate participants on refugee sponsorship. Support for refugees was identified as a priority by survey respondents in the fall of 2024.

3. Review of partnerships will occur when Presbytery Strategic Directions are determined. Two partnership reports are attached to this report.

4. Next meeting: Emergent Meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2:00 p.m. Purpose is to review and discuss the proposal to the New Ministries Initiative Fund.

Trinity Fund
Grant Final
Report

Trinity Fund Grant - Final Report

Original Project Title	
Congregation	
Amount of Grant	
Grant Start Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	
Grant End Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Final Report Author	
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*Format Instructions: The final report should use a 10-12 point font, no smaller than 1" margins and single-line spacing. Use the heading below. Applications should be emailed back in either **DOCX** or **ODT**.*

Public Summary (one page max.)

- Provide a brief summary of the final form of your project and how it aligned with the TOR for the Trinity Grant for Mission and New Ministries
- Provide a brief summary/highlights of your project outcomes (include pictures/figures if you want. *Pictures and figures are not part of the page limit.*)
- Note: This is a public summary and can/will be shared widely

Additional Reflections

- Provide responses to reviewer comments from the grant adjudication as needed
- Are there any other lessons or learnings you want to share that would be of value or interest to the presbyter, particularly regarding future missional projects?
- If the final form of the project was different from the original proposal, explain this pivot.

Financial Summary

- Provide a list of how the funds were spent.

Reports on Partnerships

Reports on Partnerships:

Chair of Christian Thought Advisory Council: Mary Rozsa de Coquet

At the November 2023 meeting, presbytery was informed that U of C Dean of Arts, Aoife MacNamara, had determined she would close entrance applications to undergraduate programs within the Faculty of Classics and Religion. Although she has since stepped down as Dean, she announced this past week that the Faculty would close this spring. Religious Studies will be housed in the Philosophy Department.

Funded by an endowment and supported by a community ecumenical council, the Chair of Christian Thought will be retained. Two years ago, the idea of closing some of the language programs had been proposed but to date, only the Department of Religious Studies has been singled out. *(Update: the Spanish & Japanese programs have also been discontinued)* In a news release, the University suggested the closure is due to the pressure on the budget with a reduction in international students, cap on

tuition and flat provincial funding. There are ten faculty within the Classics and Religious Studies Department, one of the smallest departments and consequently, perhaps, the most vulnerable to amalgamation. But, also one that places the least financial burden on the institution. The Chair of Christian Thought has an upcoming meeting to understand the implications of the closure and formulate a response to the faith communities they represent.

Until the end of term, it will be business as usual for the Chair of Christian Thought. A poster was circulated to presbyters early February announcing an upcoming public lecture March 13, "Transnational Salvations Across Korea and Haiti: Yeoulmok and the Confluence of Religions". The final lecture for the year, "Mysticism and Creativity", will be held April 11. The Chair was involved with the Interfaith Council Harmony week and has held "faith pub crawls" amongst other student activities this year.

Calgary Interfaith Council: Vacant

Indigenous Gathering Place: Cathy Gale

Ecumenical Campus Ministry, Lethbridge: Karen Robbins

Ecumenical Campus Ministry, Medicine Hat: Joyce Engel

New Semester off to a Great Start

The list of worthy causes that churches and individuals are asked to support is nearly endless. So why support campus ministry?

There were seven of us in the chaplain's room. One was a mom with three young children. She has just completed her chemo treatment. After taking a semester off, she is finishing up her studies. The second student was there with her 16-month-old son. She was reflecting on how many naps she had taken on the couch during her pregnancy. The third student is a father and has three young children as well. He is a regular visitor and has expressed his gratitude on countless occasions for the food, prayers and other supports he has received from the chaplaincy. These three students are international. The fifth person was a young lady who doesn't have family in Medicine Hat. She spends a lot of time in the "Oasis." (Officially Interfaith Centre) It is a safe and welcoming place. The final student was a Canadian who has experienced a lot in his life. It is home base for him while on Campus. The conversation turned to the fact that this was the final year for the three parents. Two are Christian, one is not. I prayed for health, strength and finances to allow them to finish their programs and graduate as well as blessings for the other two students.

And then it happened...,

Well, let me back up a moment...a few minutes before we prayed four young international students had been in the room. One was all smiles and laughter. What a change...last year and last semester she shed many tears in the room. Struggling academically and overwhelmed...lacking a job, homesick and without friends, she was near the breaking point. Though not a Christian, she was profoundly thankful for the many times I prayed with her in the past. And now, with her friends, which she made through the chaplaincy, she was speaking of her job, and she was happy and laughing.

And then it happened...

After we prayed, the father of three, who was present when the other four young students were there, said "Chaplain, you are the father of many nations." Yes, said one of the mothers... you are Abraham."

I am not boasting. I am humbled to the point of tears that God would permit me to be His instrument to show His love and care for all these students! I share this story with you because it only happens because you have chosen to support campus ministry. (Well, I guess I am boasting, but my boast is only in those who support this ministry and allow these amazing things to happen.)

After this discussion I left for a walk with 4 students on the Sunrise Rotary Trail which circles the campus. During the walk one of the students, who first met Jesus at the September Campus Ministry Retreat, expressed his desire to be baptized. I will attend baptism class with him.

The day ended with our weekly Bible Study and we were blessed to have two students attend who have no background in church, along with several of our regular attendees.

We continue to be blessed with about 40 visits per day to the Oasis. We are blessed to serve a hundred or more meals a week and offer hundreds of loaves of bread and countless donuts, cinnamon buns and other baked goods. Other grocery items and vegetables are frequently available as well. Deep conversations and countless prayers continue to be had each week.

With so many good causes to support, I thank you for including the Medicine Hat Ecumenical Campus Ministry in your thoughts, prayers and finances!

Amalgamation Team for Knox and St. Giles

The Committee is arranging for a Convener as identified in the approved Terms of Reference.

Correspondence from Dolden Wallace Folick

Gowling has filed a statement of defence on the presbytery's behalf.

Chisholm Fund Report from Knox, Bassano

The Presbytery Care and Resource Committee was copied on Knox, Bassano's report for the Chisholm Fund.

The email also offered this thanks:

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who supported this project. This fund was essential for our progress, and we are deeply thankful for the opportunity it provided. In particular, I would like to extend a special thanks to the Chisholm Fund for their generous support and for making this possible. Thank you once again for your invaluable contribution."

Application from St. Andrew's, Calgary for a Conference Grant

MOTION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by C. Mannix that presbytery approve the application of St. Andrew's Church, Calgary for a Conference Grant. **CARRIED**

Application from St. Andrew's, Calgary for a Chisholm Grant

MOTION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by D. Surya that presbytery approve the application of St. Andrew's Church, Calgary to the Chisholm Fund. **CARRIED**

Application from St. Andrew's, Calgary (Walk As We) for a New and Renewing Ministries Grant

MOTION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by J. Van Pernis, that presbytery approve the application of St. Andrew's Church, Calgary (Walk As We) for a New and Renewing Ministries Grant. **CARRIED**

Transition Team

Transition Team – Heather Bryant

The Transition Team was formed in 2023, following the retirement of our past General Presbyter. It built on the work of the Culture Committee, which had proposed our current committee structure of four standing committees. By 2023, the four standing committees of presbytery (Clergy Care and Resource, Congregational Care and Resource, Mission Care and Resource, and Presbytery Care and Resource) had all started to meet and carry out their respective areas of work.

However, as the committees took up their respective roles, we needed to ensure that the work of each group did not overlap or conflict with that of other committees, that emergent issues are appropriately dealt with, and that gaps were not created. In the past, the general presbyter has filled the role of connecting the committee work and doing some of the organizational work of the various committees. In the absence of a general presbyter, an ad hoc Transition Committee, consisting of the four convenors and the moderator, would allow some of this connecting work to be done. This committee also oversaw the posting of committee-specific information to the resource folders on the website.

This committee, convened by the Moderator (and later, the past moderator) consists of the convenors of the four standing committees, reports directly to the presbytery. In addition to the connection role described above, this team was also responsible for the recruitment of the general presbyter. After a lengthy and exhaustive search, we are delighted to report that the Rev. Terry Fach took up the role of the general presbyter on February 1.

It was envisioned in the terms of reference that this committee would be in place until shortly after the new general presbyter was in place. After consultation with Rev. Fach, we agreed that this committee's work was done and it could be dissolved.

MOTION: MOVED by H. Bryant, seconded by S. Cameron Evans that the ad hoc Transition Committee, having completed its work, be dissolved with thanks. **CARRIED**

Treasurer's
Report

Treasurer's Report – *Phil Gaiser*

Presbytery of Calgary-MacLeod

Comparative Balance Sheet

ASSETS	As at 12/31/2025	As at 12/31/2024
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Chequing Bank Account	19,426.52	25,110.14
Investments - RBC Black Acct	10,087.50	10,105.00

Investments - RBC	393,372.70	376,882.02
Trinity fund - Mawer	1,038,082.81	950,905.66
Accounts Receivable	44,683.88	47,463.44
Accounts Receivable GST	388.33	71.59
Knox Loan	37,607.63	41,500.00
Total Current Assets	1,543,649.37	1,452,037.85
TOTAL ASSET	1,543,649.37	1,452,037.85

LIABILITY	As at 12/31/2025	As at 12/31/2024
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Accounts Payable	46,178.41	1,592.10
Accounts Payable Promotion	3,032.68	3,032.68
Prepaid Dues	50.41	810.34
Clerk's Conference	575.00	575.00
Youth Conferences	723.35	723.35
Youth Ministry	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Current Liabilities	52,559.85	8,733.47
TOTAL LIABILITY	52,559.85	8,733.47

EQUITY	As at 12/31/2025	As at 12/31/2024
<u>Owners Equity</u>		
Trinity Funds	748,790.81	748,790.81
Retained Earnings - Previous Year	694,513.57	561,468.02

Current Earnings	47,785.14	133,045.55
Total Owners Equity	1,491,089.52	1,443,304.38
TOTAL EQUITY	1,491,089.52	1,443,304.38
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	1,543,649.37	1,452,037.85

Comparative Income Statement

REVENUE	Actual 01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025	<u>Actual 01/01/2024</u> <u>to 12/31/2024</u>
<u>Revenue</u>		
Dues	105,846.44	124,858.92
Fort MacLeod Funds	50,534.99	0.00
Revenue	156,381.43	124,858.92
<u>Other Revenue</u>		
Investment Interest	58,335.64	38,419.70
Unrealized Gains	45,314.69	73,438.36
Total Other Revenue	103,650.33	111,858.06
TOTAL REVENUE	260,031.76	236,716.98

EXPENSE	Actual 01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025	<u>Actual 01/01/2024</u> <u>to 12/31/2024</u>
<u>Community</u>		
Community	0.00	350.00
Community	0.00	350.00
<u>Missions</u>		

University of Lethbridge Grants	6,000.00	3,000.00
Medicine Hat College	2,000.00	1,500.00
Black Memorial Bursary	2,000.00	1,000.00
New Ministries Initiatives	0.00	7,000.00
Chair of Christian Thought	1,000.00	1,000.00
Synod Dues	422.25	562.84
Trinity Grants	87,000.00	0.00
Missions Total	127,641.25	45,923.84
<u>Pastoral Effectiveness</u>		
Workshops	12,173.59	13,198.64
Police Checks	0.00	110.95
Clergy Gathering	625.16	0.00
Pastoral Effectiveness Total	12,798.75	13,309.59
<u>Payroll Expenses</u>		
Student Ministry	24,000.00	825.00
Total Payroll Expense	24,000.00	825.00
<u>General & Administrative Expenses</u>		

Website	1,500.00	1,539.92
Presbytery Retreat	5,768.27	12,497.19
Promotion	324.00	0.00
Legal	3,565.50	0.00
General Assembly Meals	175.00	0.00
Clerk - Secretarial	1,647.50	1,323.00
Clerk - Honorarium	10,199.96	11,027.18
Treasurer	600.00	600.00
Travel	13,897.77	13,900.66
GST Non Recoverable	454.28	54.70
Insurance	0.00	1,691.56
Bank Charges	113.54	73.72
Office Supplies	275.87	7.48
Miscellaneous Expenses	171.03	220.19
Consulting Expense	8,867.50	0.00
Photocopy Expense	31.50	112.50
Zoom	214.90	214.90
Total General & Admin. Expenses	47,806.62	43,263.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	212,246.62	103,671.43
NET INCOME	47,785.14	133,045.55

Presbytery Fund Balances

	New Ministries	Black	Riverside	General	Trinity	Fort Macleod
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Closing Balance - Dec 31, 2023	240,323.88	10,105.00	37,287.31	212,908.63		852,506.90
Interest	9,044.15	380.28	1,403.24	8,012.43	98,398.76	
Expense s/returns	-7,000.00	-562.84		-85,289.14		
Closing Balance - Dec 31, 2024	242,368.03	10,105.00	38,690.55	248,659.16	950,905.66	
Additions						50,534.99
Interest	7,975.57	404.75	1,273.18	8,182.59	87,177.15	0.00
Expense s		-422.25		-115,956.87	-87,000.00	-8,867.50
Closing Balance -Dec 31, 2025	250,343.60	10,087.50	39,963.74	250,504.23	951,082.81	41,667.49

MOTION: MOVED by C. Mannix, seconded by S. Cameron Evans that the financials be adopted as presented. **CARRIED**

Request for Consultation

Request for a consultation – Maren McLean Persaud, Christian Persaud or Tom Paasuke

A request for consultation was made on February 10, and the individual making the request wanted to discuss some matters with the moderator and the clerk. The moderator and clerk met with this individual by Zoom on February 12 to discuss a number of issues, which were then referred to teams and committees of the presbytery for next steps. They will continue

to discern and address next steps, but no follow up is required by presbytery at this time.

Clerk's Report**Clerk's report** – *Christian Persaud*General Assembly 2026

February 28 is the deadline to submit names and contact information for Commissioners to the General Assembly.

Ministers – Bartholomew Alexander, Chandra Mannix, Laurie McKay have confirmed

Elders – Grace confirmed Shirley Philips

Knox, Bassano & Gem and Knox, Calgary have not yet named commissioners

(St. John's, Medicine Hat listed as backup)

Congregational Records Check

Still have not received any checklists recently. Please review this at your next Session meeting and follow up.

Fire Drills

Overdue

- St. Paul's, Banff
- Gem
- Knox, Calgary

Remits Team

MOTION: MOVED by K. Robbins, seconded by C. Persaud that presbytery approve the remit. **CARRIED**

The matter of approving Ruling Elders has been brought to General Assembly a number of times in the past two decades. The overture was first presented to GA in 2005, referred to clerks of assembly, who responded in 2006. Their conclusion was that it went against the polity of the time.

Subsequent overtures were sent to GA in 2007, 2012, and 2023 – each one being defeated. The circumstances and context for The Presbyterian Church in Canada have changed over the past decade and there is a greater desire to equip and engage trained lay leaders.

The 2025 remit seems to be moving in the right direction, and we are supportive of this Remit.

LEGISLATION – 2025

REMIT

The 2025 Remit is sent down to presbyteries under the Barrier Act. A report on this remit is to be sent by each presbytery to the Clerks of Assembly in terms of Book of Forms 257–257.2 and 297.3.

Remit A, 2025 re Book of Forms 213.4.1 re the Commissioning of Interim Moderator Assistants

That new Book of Forms 213.4.1 read as follows and be remitted to presbyteries under the Barrier Act. (Clerks of Assembly Recommendation CLK-001, A & P 2025, p. 133, 30):

213.4.1 Where a presbytery discerns that there is no minister of Word and Sacraments available to carry out the full typical range of responsibilities of an interim moderator for a pastoral charge, it may commission a ruling elder or a member of the Order of Diaconal Ministries to assist with this work on the following terms:

- a) The candidate shall be interviewed by the presbytery to ascertain their personal and spiritual qualifications to serve as an interim moderator assistant.
- b) The candidate shall be trained in relevant polity, the facilitation of session and congregational meetings, basic pastoral care and reporting to presbytery through an interim moderator.
- c) Those commissioned as interim moderator assistants shall serve a specific pastoral charge for a period not exceeding two years. The commission is renewable following a presbytery review.
- d) The interim moderator assistant shall be accountable to the presbytery through an interim moderator for the duration of the commission.
- e) The interim moderator assistant may be compensated according to the standing orders of the commissioning presbytery.
- f) Whenever a pastoral charge is deemed by the presbytery ready to begin a search process to call a minister, an interim moderator will facilitate that process while the interim moderator assistant may continue their duties, at the discretion of the presbytery.

General
Presbyter's
Report

General Presbyter's Report – *Terry Fach*

1. I started my role as GP on February 1, 2026. I appreciate the warm welcome and encouragement from the Calgary-Macleod Presbytery. In the past month I have:

- a. attended monthly meetings of all presbytery committees

- b. met with all the conveners of the standing committees to learn more about current committee priorities, ongoing initiatives, and challenges
- c. met informally with 12 members of presbytery, including 9 ministers (in- person and over Zoom)

2. I have a tentative GP Work Plan for March – August 2026. It's a work in progress, reflecting my first attempt to identify responsibilities (mine) and needs (presbytery's). I will produce a more detailed work plan for September once I get a better grasp of my role, and as I receive more input from conveners. The current plan (below) is broken down as follows: (1) responsibilities of GP, adapted from the job description; (2) activities based on the job description, as follows:

- a. Responsibility: Resource and Support Congregational Care and Resource Committee
 - i. Participate in teams for congregational visitations—9 in 2026—in consultation with Conveners
 - ii. Participate in upcoming joint meeting of Cong. Care and Clergy Care committee reps to plan visitations
 - iii. Follow up on recommendations made in past visitations (Westminster)
- b. Responsibility: Resource and Support Clergy Care and Resource Committee
 - i. Meet with each minister for support and discussion re: presbytery resources (including GP availability and support)
 - ii. Meet with retired ministers for support and discussion
- c. Responsibility: Facilitate Friendships and Relationships of Mutual Trust and Respect Within the Presbytery
 - i. Attend worship and/or one event at each congregation by September 2026
 - ii. Assist Presbytery Care and Resource Committee to plan Presbytery Retreat
 - iii. Study Finley and Associates Survey results and identify GP implications suggested under heading "Infrastructure and Coordination"—coordinate and foster ministries; coordinate and support ministries across presbytery; serve both congregations and broader ministry networks; consider how to access leadership development funding
- d. Responsibility: Work with all Committees to Foster Ongoing Information Networks and Partnerships
 - i. Attend all meetings of the presbytery
 - ii. Attend all meetings of all standing committees of presbytery

iii. Meet with Heather and Christian to form policy on public posting of presbytery documents, e.g. Presbytery minutes (March 2026)

iv. Assist in the MCRC review of partnerships: what does a “partnership” mean, and what are presbytery criteria for entering into one?

e. Responsibility: Respond to Emergent Situations

3. Your comments or questions on any of the above are welcome. I also value and welcome your direction in these early days in my role as General Presbyter.

4. Availability: I am reachable by text at 403-923-3975. My email address is: GP@calgarymacleod.ca I teach at Ambrose University on Tuesday and Thursday mornings until mid-April, but am generally available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Other Business

Other Business

Voluntary Withdrawal Committee (no report)

Amalgamation of Knox and St. Giles (no report)

Adoption of Reports

MOTION: MOVED by B. Clendening, seconded by J. Van Pernis that the reports as a whole be adopted. **CARRIED**

Enthusiasms and Concerns

Enthusiasms and Concerns

S. Cameron Evans shared that St. Giles is hosting a joyful St. Patrick’s Day Supper on Saturday, March 14! It will be a delicious evening of traditional Irish food, and warm fellowship.

G. Smith shared that VAPC hosted a memorial gathering for the Iranian community on Saturday, March 7. It was a very moving event, bringing people together in remembrance and solidarity. Several elected officials were in attendance, including several MLAs, as well as the Leader of the Opposition.

G. Smith also shared that VAPC is also hosting a practicum student, Roman, who is nearing the end of his studies at Alberta Bible College. The congregation has been blessed by his involvement in a number of areas of congregational life, in fulfillment of his practicum learning goals.

J. Van Pernis shared that this weekend (March 13-15), Walk As We will be hosting events at St. Andrew’s and Grace Presbyterian. These gatherings

will be a time for conversation, a concert, and the sharing of stories as we come together in community. And of course, there will be bannock burgers to enjoy!

C. Mannix shared that she is grateful for the movement of the Holy Spirit at St. Giles and Centennial. At St. Giles, Isaiah has discerned a call to attend seminary, and at Centennial, Daniel is prayerfully discerning whether God is calling him to this path as well.

L. Kilbreath thanked Christian, and the Presbytery for their support. He also invited everyone to [Walk As We... kin'd](#) this weekend, and shared that WAW hired a part-time (contract) co-director, Willie Anderson who is doing well.

L. McKay shared that St. Andrew's will be hosting Patricia Dutcher-Walls during PIE Weekend for a special session exploring themes of inclusion in the Bible.

L, McKay also shared concerns regarding some referendums put forward by Premier Danielle Smith that seem very targeted to refugees and immigrants. Laurie feels that it is a distraction and they are casting immigrants as scapegoats.

Motion for
writing letter
regarding
referendum
questions 1-5

MOTION: MOVED by J. Van Pernis, and seconded by C. Gale, that the Moderator be given power to write a letter on behalf of the Moderator of the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod in regards to referendums regarding immigration questions 1-5.

AMENDMENT: MOVED by C. Mannix, and seconded by M. Rozsa de Coquet, that the Moderator brings a completed letter responding to the actions of the provincial government for approval of the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod. **DEFEATED.**

The original motion was **CARRIED**

C. Gale shared concerns about the separatist referendum sidestepping the fact that Alberta is situated on Treaty land 6, 7, and 8.

Prayers of
Intercession

M. Jardine led us in Prayers for the world and our role in it.

Going Out in God's Name

Time & Place

The next regular business meeting of the Presbytery will be Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 1 pm hosted by Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church. Lunch will be provided at 12 pm. Reports due April 2, 2026 by noon.

**Adjourn to Serve
Benediction**

MOTION: MOVED by J. Van Pernis that the Court be adjourned.

CARRIED

The Court was dismissed with the benediction at 8:56 p.m.

Moderator
Rev. L. McKay

Clerk of Presbytery
Rev. C. Persaud