

The Presbyterian Church in Canada The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod

Alberta, Canada

Regular Meeting April 14, 2026

Gathering in God's Name

Called to Order & Constitution

In Alberta at Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod met in regular session on Tuesday, April 14, at 1:00 p.m.

Worship was led by Okelo Aballa as part of his student Certification for Ordination. The Moderator, L. McKay constituted the meeting with prayer at 1:31 pm.

Land Acknowledgement

The land acknowledgement was given at the beginning of Worship. There are 2 videos that Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church use, both are included here for reference:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3KeHCOKpDY&t=18s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7re1r0FY-4Y>

Roll

Present with the Moderator Laurie McKay were the ministers of Word and Sacrament: Peter Baek, Maren McLean Persaud, Jake Van Pernis, Christian Persaud, Greg Smith, Bartholomew Alexander, Christopher Joiner, Heather Carlson, and Gergely Kása.

Also present were ruling elders: Moira Brownlee, Heather Bryant, Sandra Cameron Evans, Cathy Gale, Deirdre Harris, Audrey Mann (*alternate for St. Andrews, Calgary*), Ochudo Omot, Tom Paasuke, Karen Robbins, Mary Rozsa de Coquet, and Helen Snortland.

Regrets

Regrets were received from Ministers of Word and Sacrament: Bruce Clendening, Daniel Surya, and Chandra Mannix. And ruling elder Eszter Savanya.

Appendix

Ministers on the Appendix also present: Tom Brownlee, and Jean Morris

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

Guests

Guests: Okelo Aballa, Willie Anderson, Layne Kilbreath, and Roman Sizer.

MOTION: MOVED by G. Smith, seconded by A. Mann that the guests be allowed to sit in on the meeting. **CARRIED**

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

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

Adoption of the Minutes

Regular meeting: March 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

26-030	B. Fraser, Help in Designing a Music Project at Brentwood, distributed
26-031	C. Wardle, Request from Taskforce on Ministers' Housing, distributed
26-032	I. Ross-McDonald, 'Safe Church', distributed
26-034	K. Muir, February changes to the roll, distributed
26-035	G. Smith, Special Event at VAPC, distributed
26-036	D. Bonar, Job Posting for a Newcomers Support Lead, distributed

26-038	D. Harris, Trinity Fund Grant - Application Forms and Final Report Template, distributed
26-039	Camp Kannawin, Registration is Open, distributed
26-040	Change Leadership Survey Followup, distributed
26-041	L. Judd, PIE day workshop at St. Andrew's, distributed
26-042	Donations PCC - PCC Gifts by Presbytery, distributed
26-043	H. Carlson, Treasurer's Workshop April 25, distributed
26-044	S. Edwards, Collective Youth, Young Adult & Youth Leader Event, distributed
26-045	L. McKay, Letter from the Moderator for Presbyterians, distributed
26-046	K. Muir, March changes to the roll - take 2, distributed

Refer to the Clerk

26-033	O. Aballa, Application for examination for ordination
26-037	M. Copeland, Presbytery Statistical Information

Docket

The Clerk presented the docket for the day:

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

MOTION: MOVED by A. Mann, seconded by B. Alexander 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. Gale, seconded B. Alexander that the reports be received and their recommendations considered. **CARRIED**

**Interim
Moderator
Reports****Interim Moderator's Report for Centennial Church – Chandra Mannix
(No Report)**

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 – We have met once since my last report to address financial concerns arising from needed HVAC repairs and to review financials in general.
 - b. Session – The Session has met twice since my last report.
 - c. Congregation – There haven't been any congregational meetings or communications since my last report.

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 representatives of the Presbytery Care Committee and the General Presbyter to discuss the membership, leadership, and general Terms of Reference for the Amalgamation Support Team.

I also received the summary report from Avison Young, reviewed it, and passed it on to the members of the St. Giles and Knox Sessions and the Amalgamation Support Team in preparation for an April 1 meeting. The April 1 meeting is noted in the Amalgamation Update below.

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

See 1.c above.

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.

We continue to have requests for conversations around sale of the property. We have responded to all inquiries that 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**

Update on Amalgamation Process

We received an initial summary report from Avison Young, as well as an explanatory spreadsheet. Joel Den Haan met with the joint sessions and the presbytery team to go through the documents and entertain questions.

The joint sessions and the Presbytery team discussed these reports and the draft amalgamation plan.

I was approached by the Presbytery Care Committee regarding the terms of reference and leadership of the Amalgamation Support Team. As a result of that conversation, pending the approval of the terms of reference by the presbytery, the Amalgamation Support Team will take the lead in convening the joint sessions and guiding this process to its conclusion. I welcome the opportunity to focus solely on my role as Interim Moderator of

Knox and will continue to participate in that capacity in the joint session meetings.

Committee Reports

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clergy Care

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

1. Minister-in-Association

The committee received a request from the Session of St. John's in Medicine Hat, via the Clerk of Session, containing relevant minute excerpts of motions and terms of reference for Rev. Dr. Bob Cruickshank and Rev. Dr. Nancy Cocks to serve as Ministers-in-Association. The documents are attached to our report.

MOTION: MOVED by G. Smith, seconded by C. Joiner, that the request for Rev. Dr. Cruickshank and Rev. Dr. Cocks to serve as Ministers-in-Association under the attached terms of reference for St. John's Presbyterian, be approved. **CARRIED**

2. Responsive Oversight

Clergy Care has named two people to work with Congregational Care on the visitation plan. We have discussed a plan that will divide visitations each year into more formal visits planned by Congregational Care, and more informal clergy stand-alone visits conducted by Clergy Care.

3. Professional Development

Profession Development March Event. We received positive reviews from the Richard Topping presentation in March. Following an evaluative discussion in committee, we ask for five minutes of time as part of our report to engage the presbytery around this event and the possibility of future events.

Study Leave Requests.

We received a study leave request from Rev. Heather Carlson, which is attached to our report.

MOTION: MOVED by J. Van Pernis, seconded by C. Joiner that the study leave request from Rev. Carlson for the Guder Pastoral Retreat be approved. **CARRIED**

We received a study leave request from Rev. Daniel Surya, which is attached to our report.

MOTION: MOVED by C. Joiner, seconded by J. Van Pernis that the study leave request from Rev. Surya for the Guder Pastoral Retreat be approved.
CARRIED

4. Clergy Well-being

The committee is planning a clergy and family picnic in a Calgary area park for early-mid August. Invitations to this event will go out in the next two weeks.

Terms of
Reference for
Rev. Dr. Robert
Cruickshank as
Minister in
Association

Terms of Reference for Rev. Dr. Robert Cruickshank as Minister in
Association at St. John's Presbyterian Church, Medicine Hat, AB
December 2025

A Minister in Association Terms of Reference with Rev. Dr. Robert Cruickshank, St. John's Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat, and the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod Presbytery was approved November 5, 2012. A copy of this agreement is not on file with St. John's, Dr. Cruickshank or the Presbytery, therefore the following is proposed:

1. The Rev. Dr. Bob Cruickshank's name continues on the roll of St. John's Presbyterian Church.
2. Dr. Cruickshank will continue to be part of an elder's district within St. John's for pastoral care and on-going communication.
3. Dr. Cruickshank will be recognised within St. John's as having all the duties and privileges of regular professing members.
4. At the discretion of the Rev. Carlson, Dr. Cruickshank will be invited to offer pulpit supply and worship leadership at St John's, at the supply rate set by the General Assembly; Dr. Cruickshank is free to accept or decline as his schedule allows.
5. In consultation with Rev. Carlson, Dr. Cruickshank will be welcome to participate in regular pastoral care for members and/or adherents. This may also include leadership at small group gatherings, such as Men's Breakfasts.
6. Dr. Cruickshank will refer funeral requests from St. John's members and adherents to the Rev. Carlson. The Rev. Dr. Cruickshank will be welcome to register any community funerals he conducts in Medicine Hat in the Register at St John's according to the policies of St. John's Session.
7. Other roles as may be negotiated with the Rev. Carlson and approved by Session.

8. The Session agrees that if a matter arises which might eventually result in discipline, it will immediately refer the matter to the presbytery and not initiate action itself.

9. The Moderator of St John's Session will consult with Dr. Cruickshank once annually and report to Session (and Presbytery if need be) about the terms of this agreement and ways in which they can be fulfilled in mutually agreeable ways.

Terms of
Reference for
The Rev. Dr.
Nancy Cocks as
Minister in
Association

Terms of Reference for The Rev. Dr. Nancy Cocks as Minister in
Association at St. John's Presbyterian Church, Medicine Hat, AB

Update December 2025

Existing Terms (2023)

1. Nancy Cocks' name be added to the roll of St John's Presbyterian Church
2. Nancy will continue to part of an elder's district within St John's for pastoral care and on-going communication
3. Nancy will be recognised within St John's as having all the duties and privileges of regular professing members.
4. Nancy will be welcome to register any funerals she conducts in Medicine Hat in the Register at St John's, in consultation with the Moderator of Session and according to the policies of St John's Session.
5. The Moderator of St John's Session will consult with Nancy once annually and report to Session (and Presbytery if need be) about the terms of this agreement and ways in which they can be fulfilled in mutually agreeable ways

Updates (2025)

1. At the discretion of Rev. Carlson, Dr. Cocks will be invited to offer pulpit supply and worship leadership at St. John's on a regular basis, at the supply rate set by the General Assembly; Dr. Cocks is free to accept or decline as her schedule allows.
2. Dr. Cocks will refer funeral requests from St. John's members and adherents to The Rev. Carlson.
3. Dr. Cocks will participate in the congregational life at St. John's according to her gifts and interests,
 - a. At the request of The Rev. Carlson, offering a children's story as support to guest ministers.

- b. Subject to the Session's direction and desire, preparing a history of St. John's from 1983-2033 to celebrate the 150th anniversary.
- c. In consultation with Rev. Carlson, offer leadership for 1-2 for study group(s) (e.g. Bible, theology, book) annually.
- d. On behalf of St. John's, continue serving on the MHART team.
- e. Alternating monthly leadership with Rev. Carlson of worship at Cypressview Care home.

4. The session agrees that if a matter arises which might eventually result in discipline, it will immediately refer the matter to the presbytery and not initiate action itself.

Study Leave
request Rev.
Heather Carlson

Request for Study Leave

Rev. Heather Carlson, St. John's Presbyterian Church, Medicine Hat, AB
March 26, 2026

1. Date: August 5-7, 2026
2. Topic: Guder Pastoral Retreat, Centre for Missional Leadership, St. Andrew's Hall
3. Relation to the work of the church:
This opportunity would relate both to theology of ministry as it explores missiology, and skills for ministry.

This ministry retreat would deepen my continued interest in the Missional Church first sparked by Guder's book in the late 1990's by that same name. I was involved with "Church Renewal" for 5 years out of an Evangelical Mennonite root and would appreciate some of the reflection I would get on the things I was taught there, but in a more historic/mainline church tradition.

I hope to have 13+ more years of ministry before retirement, and this retreat would be a building block to the ministry I am called to in this time and place. St. John's congregation is primarily seniors with a history of affluence, and recent growth of younger folks with more career and economic instability. We are in a historic building in the downtown core that experiences the pressures of inadequate support for newcomers, addictions, mental health, and other factors that contribute to unhoused and housing instability.

4. Why I want to do this study at this time:
The retreat is designed for those in their first 15 years of ministry. Though I was ordained in 2001, I have only worked fulltime in

pastoral ministry for about 13 years due to employment, maternity leaves, and relocation. My time to qualify for this program is running short! May 2026 will also complete my first year fulltime with St. John's. I am in the unique position of returning to ministry in this small city where I grew up for 9 years, ministered part time for 2 years prior to ordination, and the United Church I grew up in closed in December 2025 and we have had an influx of 15+ folks over the last 6 months. It's an exciting opportunity to be leading in a new-to-me church & new denomination, but in a context where I have many connections in the community.

5. Session discussion and endorsement March 25, 2026

6. Presbytery Referral date:

7. Anticipated Outcomes & Key Learning:

One key question I highlighted in my application is: How will we be disciplined, and disciple those God is adding to our fellowship in these days in which significant strain surrounds us? That strain seeks to distract and divide the church and our community. I hope to come away with how the hospitality strength of St. John's can be rooted and deepened for people who are exploring and "tasting" life with God.

Having moved into a new denomination, I am seeking new colleagues to travel with in ministry, which makes the timing of this really applicable.

8. Study Leave Time and Money

The \$600 travel bursary will cover my flight from Calgary to Vancouver. Retreat registration, four nights of accommodation, and three days of meals are covered by St. Andrew's Hall. I estimate that I will use about \$300 of study leave money to cover parking, gas to Calgary and back, transportation in Vancouver, and meals en route.

Request for
Study Leave
Rev. Daniel
Surya

Request for Study Leave

Rev. Daniel Surya, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Lethbridge, AB
March 31, 2026

I am writing to request approval for study leave to participate in the Guder Leadership Retreat at the Centre for Missional Leadership, held at St. Andrew's Hall in Vancouver, from August 5 to August 7, 2026 (with travel on August 4 and departure on August 7 or 8).

I am grateful to share that I have been accepted into this retreat, which is a residential program focused on Spiritual Practices and Missional Practices in the Church. The retreat will be led by Rev. Albert Chu and Dr. Keas Keasler, and it gathers clergy for a time of intentional reflection, learning, and renewal in ministry.

This program is specifically designed for ministers serving within their first fifteen years of ministry. I bring with me nine years of ministry experience in Indonesia and four years of ministry in Canada at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Lethbridge, and I believe this retreat comes at a particularly meaningful time in my vocational journey.

This opportunity represents a valuable investment in my ongoing formation as a minister. The retreat's emphasis on missional leadership and spiritual practices aligns closely with the needs of congregational ministry, and I trust that the insights gained will contribute to both my personal growth and the life and ministry of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

I am pleased to share that the Session of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church has endorsed my participation in this retreat. I will ensure that all pastoral responsibilities are appropriately arranged during my absence.

In terms of logistics, a travel bursary of up to \$600 CAD is available and will cover my flight from Calgary to Vancouver. Retreat registration, accommodation (four nights), and meals during the program are fully covered by St. Andrew's Hall. I will also require a modest portion of my study leave allowance to cover gasoline and meals for travel between Lethbridge and Calgary (round trip), as well as bus transportation from Vancouver Airport to St. Andrew's Hall.

As I am required to confirm my participation by April 3, 2026, I would be grateful for your consideration of this request at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your ongoing care and support for clergy within our presbytery. I remain grateful for your ministry and encouragement.

**Student
Oversight Team
Report**

Student Oversight Team April Report to the Clergy Care Committee
Examination for Ordination March 17, 2026

Members conducting the examination: Rev. Daniel Surya, Rev. Laurie McKay, Rev. Greg Smith, Mary Lil Rozsa de Coquet.

A Certification for Ordination letter from St. Andrews Hall has been received, stating, "We are happy to report that according to his current

course completion and enrolment, Okelo is on track to graduate in May 2026.”

MOTION: MOVED by M. Rosza de Coquet, seconded by G. Smith that Okelo Aballa be certified for ordination pending successful completion of VST courses. **CARRIED**

Summary of Examination

Summary of Examination:

The examination of Okelo Aballa involved a collegial conversation lasting nearly two hours, based on The Book of Forms Appendix J, Okelo’s academic papers, and PCC assessments from his studies over the past five years.

Okelo’s call from God has strengthened throughout his life, especially since he began his ministry with fellow Anyuak immigrants here in Calgary. He is compassionate and reflects on his daily experiences through Scripture and his strong sense of the Holy Spirit’s presence. Consequently, he easily combines his academic studies with practical application, sharing theological concepts through real-life stories. His leadership honours others’ stories, as seen in how he teaches the Anyuak community about stewardship by encouraging others to share their experiences. Okelo has learned from experience that it is easier to contribute as a leader when called by name to speak. He welcomes others, truly listening to them and building relationships, inviting them to journey with him. For Okelo, faith and mission are united by love and relationships.

Okelo has been a ministry leader for some eighteen years. He is adept at inter-cultural work, demonstrating a thoughtful and critical understanding of his own cultural traditions coupled with on-going learning about the dominant Euro-centric cultures in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. He comes from a culture with specific traditional understandings regarding the role of women in the church, expectations for young people, and the inclusion of individuals who may identify in non-traditional ways, including those who identify as LGBTQI. He recognizes the wider diversity in the Presbyterian Church in Canada and deliberately and graciously works to bring people together through shared activities. In sum, Okelo demonstrates gifts of the Spirit that will enable him to work positively, pastorally and faithfully in these areas of possible generational and cultural conflict.

Okelo can articulate the common essentials of the Reformed tradition and the unique characteristics of Presbyterianism while embracing its many expressions. He understands Christ as the central focus at the heart of all individual discipleship. In the past year he has focused on equipping others for leadership and has started to delegate more of the church activities and

set stronger personal and family boundaries. Okelo loves Jesus and is willing to serve wherever God calls him.

**Congregational
Care**

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

1. 2026 Visitation Information

The Congregational Care and Resource Committee proposes the following Visitation Teams for 2026:

In an effort to have balanced visitation teams of three, with all team members being a part of the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod at large. Alternate Elders are included.

2026 Visitations

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Team Member 1</u>	<u>Team Member 2</u>	<u>Team Member 2</u>
<i>Calvin Hungarian</i>	*Bartholomew Alexander	Okelo Aballa	Tom Paasuke
<i>Centennial</i>	*Gergley Kasa	Moira Browlee	Greg Smith
<i>Knox Bassano/Gem</i>	*Daniel Surya	Karen Robbins	(Vacant) Filled by Sandra Cameron Evans
<i>St. Andrews, Calgary</i>	*Maren McLean Persaud	Omot Ochudu	Eszter Savanya
<i>St. Andrews, Lethbridge</i>	*Heather Carlson	Helen Snortland	Peter Baek
<i>St. John's</i>	*Bruce Clendening	Lynn Judd	Mary Rosza de Coquet

An asterisk * signifies the Team Lead, responsible for organizing the first meeting of the Visitation Team members.

MOTION: MOVED by J. Van Pernis and seconded by H. Bryant that the presbytery approve the proposed Visitation Teams for 2026. **CARRIED**

Visitation Teams are responsible for the following:

- Meeting to discuss the Presbytery's current visitation documents and to agree upon responsibilities within the visitation process and potential visitation dates.
- Contacting the Minister / Ministers and Clerk of Session of the congregation the team is assigned to visit to discuss the timing of a potential visit.

- When a date is determined provide communications introducing the team and sharing when the visit will be that can be shared with the assigned session and congregation in a timely fashion before the visit.
- Communicate the agreed upon visitation date with the Congregational Care and Resource Committee.
- Attend worship as a part of the visitation.
- Meet with the minister or ministers, session, board, and members of the congregation as a part of the visit.
- Draft a visitation report with recommendations in a timely fashion.
- Share a draft of the report with the minister or ministers and session of the congregation in a timely fashion for corrections to information (not to change the content of the report).
- Submit the report to the Congregational Care and Resource Committee.
- Be present at the Presbytery Meeting that the Visitation Report is presented at to address any potential questions or provide additional insight.

Congregations visited in 2025

The Clergy Care and Resource Committee desires to work with the Congregational Care and Resource Committee to provide a more informal visit, primarily with the Minister or Ministers, with congregations that have had a visit within the past year (see item 2 of this report).

Here are the congregations that were visited in 2025:

- St. Giles
- St. Paul's
- Varsity Acres
- Westminster
- Grace

In Transition

The following congregations will not have visitation teams: Knox, Calgary and Valleyview. The reason for this is that both are working through processes with the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod that are fulsome and regularly reported on through this work.

2. Visitation Process

The Congregational Care and Resource Committee has been discussing the desire expressed by the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod to have each congregation within the Presbytery receive an annual visitation as a way of building healthy and connective relationships between the congregations and the presbytery.

Two concerns have been raised by the Congregational Care and Resource Committee regarding an annual visitation process:

The first concern is over-extending the members of Presbytery who have a variety of responsibilities within their own congregations and in service to the presbytery by committing them to serve on a Visitation Team each year. Some related concerns that have been expressed include coordination of Visitation Teams (especially when travel is required for the visitation), provision and securing pulpit supply, and timing of visits.

The second concern is if a congregation has recently undergone a formal visitation and no concerns or issues have been identified, it can feel excessive or burdensome to schedule another full visitation only a few months later. For example, a congregation visited in December may reasonably find a subsequent formal visit in May unnecessarily frequent, especially if the questions used in the visitation process are not changed or varied.

The Congregational Care and Resource Committee, alongside the Clergy Care and Resource Committee are in the beginning stages of exploring a framework for the Presbytery visitation process and will bring this to presbytery with motions in the near future.

3. St. Giles Follow-up Team

The Follow-up Team named by the Congregational Care and Resource met with the Session of St. Giles on Tuesday, March 17, 2026. The Follow-up Team was encouraged by the energy the Session shared and how they are each seeing new life springing up at St. Giles in the midst of the transition away from the shared ministry with Calgary Korean Presbyterian Church.

The Follow-up Team was also encouraged that the Session has recently presented financials to the congregation and that the congregation is aware of different contingencies that may need to be taken due to the transition happening in the shared ministry with Calgary Korean Presbyterian Church.

The Follow-up Team also shared with the Session the importance of continuing to be transparent with the finances with the congregation and that there is a need to continue to plan for next steps to help continue to support the health and vitality currently happening at St. Giles.

4. Support Team St Giles & CKPC Shared Ministry

I. Mandate and Actions

The Team's mandate remains the same as outlined in previous reports and our Terms of Reference.

- On March 6, Rev. Coutts provided an update to Congregational Care and others, summarizing the progress of the Support Team

and indicating that he was stepping down as Convener of the Team, due to his anticipated absence for a number of weeks.

- On March 8, Rev. Van Pernis, Convener of Congregational Care, acknowledged Rev. Coutts'; resignation and the significant work of the Committee to this point.
- On March 9, Rev. Coutts and Rev. Smith had a conversation regarding next steps and communications to St. Giles and CKPC.
- March 10, Rev. Coutts sent a letter to the Shared Ministry Co-convener and church leadership requesting input on the agenda and process and the willingness of both parties to move to a final meeting.
- Rev. Coutts requested correspondence be directed to Rev. Smith whom he indicated will assume responsibility for the Team's ongoing work.
- March 10, A response was received from St. Giles; Co-convener of the Shared Ministry Team indicating her agreement with the process and agenda outlined.
- March 19, A response was received from CKPC's Co-convener of the Shared Ministry Team requesting adjustments to the agenda.
- March 27, Rev. Smith communicated to the Co-convener and to church leadership indicating reasons for keeping the proposed agenda, suggestions for areas that might be discussed in negotiation, and next steps.
- March 31, A response was received from the Co-convener for CKPC indicating agreement with the agenda and areas of discussion as outlined by Rev. Smith.
- March 31, A communication was sent from Rev. Smith to Rev. Tim Choi, representative of Han-Ca West Presbytery, suggesting a meeting of himself and Rev. Choi, as the Han-Ca representative, to update and communicate

II. Next Steps

- The Support Team will send communications to the respective Sessions and church leadership, outlining the agreed agenda and process and requesting formal confirmation of agreement from the Sessions to proceed to a meeting at which an agreement to end the Shared Ministry may be finalized
- A date and time for the meeting will be set.
- Any resulting agreement will be forwarded to the Sessions for their approval and then to the presbyteries for their review.

*On behalf of the Support Team,
Rev. Greg Smith*

5. Grace Presbyterian Church Visitation Report

The Congregational Care and Resource Committee reviewed the Visitation Report for Grace Presbyterian Church from the Visitation Team of Bartholomew Alexander, Kathy Gale, and Lynn Judd. The Grace Visitation Report is below and the Congregational Care and Resource Committee brings all five of the recommendations within the report to the Presbytery for consideration:

Grace
Presbyterian
Visitation
Report

Grace Presbyterian Visitation Report
January 2026

A full copy of the visitation report is available upon request to the clerk.

MOTION: MOVED by C. Gale, seconded by H. Bryant that the Session, the lay leaders, and congregation be commended for their faithful commitment to moving forward with the new ministry team and the strategic planning process. **CARRIED**

MOTION: MOVED by C. Gale, seconded by H. Bryant that the Clergy Care and Resources Committee regularly monitor the presbytery workloads taken on by ministers, reaching out to them and inquiring what supports would be most effective to manage workloads more effectively. **CARRIED**

MOTION: MOVED by C. Gale, seconded by H. Bryant that the Presbytery Care and Resources Committee and the Clergy Care and Resources Committee actively promote the opportunities offered by the annual Preaching Grace event, particularly to the ordained ministers within Calgary-Macleod.

AMENDMENT: **MOVED** by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by C. Persaud that the Presbytery Care and Resource Committee be removed from the motion. **CARRIED**

MOTION AS AMENDED: CARRIED

MOTION: MOVED by C. Gale, seconded by H. Bryant that the Presbytery Care and Resource Committee continue to pursue the goals of compiling and sharing resources beneficial to all congregations. Examples of this include workshops and pursuing a General Presbyter position for the presbytery.

AMENDMENT: **MOVED** by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by C. Persaud that the Presbytery Care and Resource Committee be changed to Congregational Care and Resource Committee.

CARRIED

MOTION AS AMENDED: **CARRIED**

MOTION: MOVED by C. Gale, seconded by H. Bryant that the Presbytery Care and Resources Committee explore the value of a workshop or guest speaker addressing multi-cultural and diversity training for leaders and congregations.

AMENDMENT: **MOVED** by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by C. Persaud that the Presbytery Care and Resource Committee be changed to Congregational Care and Resource Committee.

DEFEATED

MOTION (AS PRESENTED): CARRIED

There was discussion regarding some communication challenges (eg. who is responsible for communicating events, communication channels within the presbytery as a court and among congregations within the presbytery) and the responsibilities of committees. To address the concern and formalize a request, the following motion was made:

MOTION: MOVED by G. Smith, seconded by A. Mann, that the Presbytery Care and Resource Committee be tasked with clarifying presbytery-wide communication. **CARRIED**

6. Upcoming Treasurer's Gathering Information

A Team from the Congregational Care and Resource Committee has reached out to a number of the treasurers who are helping congregations in the presbytery and has set up a gathering which includes food, education and fellowship at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Calgary for Saturday, April 25, 2026 starting at 12:00 p.m. and going until 3:00 p.m.

Please share this information with the treasurer of your congregation and encourage them to register with Heather Carlson using the email: Minister@stjohnsmedicinehat.ca or by calling (403)-526-4542. Registration closes on Monday, April 20.

7. Information regarding accessing funds from the Riverside Fund for the Collective Youth Gathering

The Congregational Care and Resource Committee will be considering all applications for the Riverside Fund regarding Collective at its meeting on May 5, 2026.

Please submit all requests for accessing the Riverside Fund for use for Collective to the Congregational Care and Resource Committee by Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

Here is pertinent information regarding the Riverside Fund and what needs to be submitted, according the Standing Orders of the Presbytery, to be considered for funding:

Riverside Fund Purpose:

The purpose of the Riverside Endowment is to provide financial support to encourage the participation of youth and young adults who belong to one of the congregations within the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod in events sponsored or endorsed by The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Presbytery of CM, or the Synod of AB & the NW.

Who is eligible to apply?

Youth and young adults refers to those between the ages of 15 and 25. Eligible young people do not have to be professing members of the PCC but must be active participants in one of the congregations within the Presbytery of Calgary- Macleod or a student from one of those congregations enrolled in an education program while away from home. Affiliation with the applicant's home congregation must be endorsed by a letter provided by the Clerk of Session or Minister of that congregation.

What kinds of events qualify?

The Riverside Endowment supports participation in events that expand a young person's experience of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and its witness in the world and that provide opportunities for young people to deepen their faith in Christ and understanding of God's gospel purposes. For example, applications could be made to attend Uplift (now Collective, formerly Canada Youth) or similar events, Youth in Mission trips, World Council of Churches steward programs, or other ecumenical opportunities sponsored by networks in which the PCC is a member.

How much can I apply for?

Applicants should provide a letter outlining the full cost to them to participate in the event for which a grant is sought and identify all sources of financial support being sought. Requests for up to a portion of the costs of participation will be considered but the final amount of a grant will depend on the number of requests made in a year.

For events like uplift (now Collective, formerly Canada Youth) in which a large number of applications are expected for the same event, all applicants will be eligible to receive the same amount. An applicant is

eligible for no more than one grant in the same calendar year and no more than 3 grants over the applicant's years of eligibility.

How do I apply?

A letter of application outlining the event, costs of participation, all sources of financial support, and the applicant's reasons for wanting to participate in the event should be submitted to the Clerk of Presbytery at least six weeks before the event takes place. The applicant's letter should be accompanied by a letter of reference from either the Minister or the Clerk of Session of the applicant's congregation.

For those planning to attend Uplift [now Collective] formerly Canada Youth), the Presbytery Congregational and Resource Committee will facilitate applications for all participants in a given year.

Who makes the decisions?

The Congregational Care and Resource Committee in consultation with the Clerk and Treasurer.

How is the fund maintained?

The Presbytery will disperse up to 10% of the Riverside Endowment Fund each year.

Mission Care

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

1. New Ministries Initiatives Grant application

MOTION: MOVED by D. Harris, seconded by H. Snortland that the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod approve the \$30,000 grant application from Walk As We that is attached with this report. We ask that the \$30,000 be directed towards Elder honorariums and other current ministry expenses.

CARRIED

In recognition of the PCC's commitment to collaborating with Indigenous leaders to enact the statements made in the Confession and Apology of the PCC, and to demonstrate commitment to the Calls to Action of the TRC.

This recommendation recognizes that Walk As We is a Spirit-led ministry, requires Indigenous elder involvement, and acknowledges that the Presbytery is committed to reconciliation, but needs more time to finalize and structure this priority.

2. Trinity Fund

John Chik (current chair of Adjudication Team) has issued several invitations to be part of the pool of potential adjudicators. The MCRC is

seeking 3 more candidates and would appreciate suggestions from Presbyters.

Reminder that the deadline for Trinity Fund Grant submissions is April 15, 2026. Upcoming priorities for the MCRC are to review the TOR for the Trinity Fund and to explore the potential for combining the Trinity Fund and the New Ministries Initiative Fund.

3. Focus on Refugees

MCRC continues to explore how mission-related people in Presbytery congregations can be brought together (in person or on Zoom) in the next few months to discuss and brainstorm collective solutions pertaining to issues related to supporting refugees once they arrive in Canada. Support for refugees was identified as a priority by survey respondents in the fall of 2024.

4. Review of partnerships will occur when Presbytery Strategic Directions are determined. Two partnership reports are attached to this report. These are from the Chair of Christian Thought and the Medicine Hat Ecumenical Campus Ministry.

Re: MC&RC questions about New Ministry Initiatives Fund - St. Andrew's Application

Note: Job task list, approved job descriptions and 3 three testimonials below.

1. Description of the specific project for which funds are being requested. Walk As We is hoping to partner with the Churches of Calgary-Macleod – and other Calgary Churches – who want to coordinate equipping and reconciliation efforts. We have a good start, 25 churches & organizations are gathering in the Good Ways Networking Circle. WAW is a relational ecumenical Christian ministry that supports Indigenous initiatives. WAW is learning from the mistakes of the past and does not proselytize but rather focuses on Jesus' words to love our neighbours. We have a three step process to help non- Indigenous people become friends with Indigenous people and model a way of reconciliation: **Education → Friendship & Community → Action**. This is a way Churches can live out their confessions and apologies, and the TRC Calls to Action.

2. Description of the project activity and time frame.

Walk As We leaders are committed to this work for the long-haul, or until Creator/ Jesus says stop. Our co-directors are available to meet with any Church in the Presbytery (or other Churches in Calgary) for reciprocal learning, support-raising (prayer, volunteer and financial) and to equip interested Churches and create a shared calendar so that we can maximize our Christian efforts and cooperate with one another. One pastor

says that WAW could be the connective tissue for Indigenous ministry in the Presbytery - we love that image! WAW is joining the good work that is already happening and praying that we can do our part to catalyze a movement of people loving Indigenous neighbours here.

3. Budget detailing how the \$30,000 will be spent.

This \$30,000 will work as seed money to bridge the gap as we secure long-term funding and find more grants to support Indigenous initiatives.

Simple Budget for 2026 - Walk as We			Notes
1/2 time salary for Rev. Layne Kilbreath		\$49,000.00	In line with PCC stipend guidelines
1/2 time salary for Indigenous Leader - Willy		\$49,000.00	
	Subtotal	\$98,000.00	
Honorariums for Elders			
Hearts Exchanged	\$150 x 8 sessions	\$1,200.00	
Indigenous Actions/ Initiatives	\$350 x 6	\$2,100.00	
Jesus Centered Sharing Circle	\$150 x 22	\$3,300.00	
Good Ways Networking Circle	\$350 x 10	\$3,500.00	
Practical help, moves & relationship building with Indigenous Peopl		\$1,800.00	
Networking with Churches		\$400.00	
	Subtotal	\$12,300.00	
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$24,600.00	
Income			
From various sources: 2024 to date	\$84,800.00		
Grants to support Indigenous Initiatives	\$87,200.00		Trinity Fund and Cal Fdn
Current Bank Balance Jan. 2026		\$3,339.25	(known donations not yet accounted + \$2500)
Grant Requests from Presbyterian Sources			
Conference Fund		\$8,000.00	
Chisholm Fund		\$25,000.00	
Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod New Ministry Initiati		\$30,000.00	
National New & Renewing Ministry		\$10,000.00	
	Total	\$73,000.00	
Notes:			
Walk as We was not funded by the Trinity Fund (\$30,000)			
The Fiscal Agent for all funds is the Lantern Church			
Layne is responsible for all reporting.			
A volunteer treasurer and bookkeeper are provided by Lantern Church			
Oversight is provided by the Steering Committee: Rev. Adrian Jacobs - Christian Reformed Church; Rev. Mary Fontaine - Presbyterian Church; Rev. Tony Snow - United Church; Rev. Laurie McKay (St. Andrew's Presbyterian); Ezenwa Echefu (CPA); and Dr. Heather Dreise (Prediatrician at Mascwacis, Samson Cree Nation)			

4. What are the hoped-for outcomes, impact or achievements?

WAW is on its way to becoming a humble and trusted partner that catalyzes loving neighbours in Calgary, resulting in friendships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Presbyterian Churches and members are invited to partner with Walk As We. Some who join will climb the mountain and rest or stop after education. Others after friendship. Still others will make their way to the top of a mountain and support an Indigenous person (by themselves or in a group) on an action and their

way of doing things for themselves, their family, their community, or in-line with one of the Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action.

The initiatives listed above are huge achievements, and greater than that, Walk As We is hearing stories of some Indigenous and non-Indigenous meeting in homes for meals and becoming family/ kin. Currently we are supporting or connected to and supporting six Indigenous initiatives: SoberCrew, SoberCrew Women, Neechi-Mart, Reconciliation Journey Walk, and Youth Wellbriety. A goal is to support three additional Indigenous initiatives each year.

5. How does this project encourage engagement or promote Christian Witness in your community?

This is a love God and love neighbour ministry, that witnesses to the love and goodness of Jesus. We believe that over time, friendship will change the world. Rev. Tony Snow, a leader on our steering committee and local Indigenous Elder from the Stoney Nakoda Nation and a Minister in the United Church of Canada gifted us with this challenge:

“Walk As We connects to the Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action #60 to lift up and restore Indigenous Spirituality and create spaces to mitigate settler ignorance and address spiritual violence. One reason this program is needed is to address issues of spiritual harm and work toward acceptance that ‘God created all’ (Acts 17:24-28).”

6. What are the plans for sustainability

Our long-term funding goals need some time to develop:

- \$120,000 from denominations - 6 x \$20,000 - \$47,000 received to date - Conversations are at various stages with: Anglican Diocese of Calgary, Catholic Diocese of Calgary, Christian Reformed Church (DMC/ Resonate) Lutheran AB Synod, Mennonites, Presbyterian Church in Canada
- \$60,000 from Churches (25 Good Ways Networking Circle Churches and others)
- \$30,000 from Individuals - \$44,925 received to date
- WAW will continue to help Indigenous people write grants for their initiatives. So far these initiatives have received almost \$80,000 from your Trinity Fund and the Calgary Foundation (SoberCrew, Reconciliation Journey Walk, Neechi-Mart).
- The Good Ways Networking Circle will continue to deepen the relationships and community that will sustain WAW for the long-haul.

Testimonials:

Walk as We has begun from relationship with Indigenous people welcomed and given a place to gather and affirm their identity as Indigenous people and address real felt needs. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action to the church are being realized in Calgary and I support

Walk as We's Director Layne Kilbreath because he has embodied the TRC's call to healing working together with Rev. Laurie McKay (Adrian Jacobs, Oct 14, 2025).

“Walk as We” in Calgary with its vision to walk with Jesus Christ and Indigenous people, without denying their identity is good news. As a former resident of Calgary for many years, an Indigenous person was accepted as a Christian as long as you didn’t talk about your Indigenous culture or identity. Layne’s heart is there, a genuine friend of Indigenous people, listening with the heart, adopting an Indigenous worldview and open to Indigenous leadership in the ministry. His partnership with the Rev. Laurie McKay adds to the good news for an Indigenous ministry in Calgary. As the former Convenor of Hummingbird Ministries in Vancouver, Laurie is highly regarded by our Indigenous elders (Mary Fontaine, Oct 15, 2025).

Good day relatives,

My name is Lydia Hunter (SoberCrew Women’s Group Leader, prepared for Walk As We... kin’d). I come here today in a good way, with gratitude and respect for the people, the land, and the ancestors who walked before us.

In my community work, I facilitate the SoberCrew Woman’s Group, where I bring women together in circle to support one another in healing.

The SoberCrew Woman’s Group is a safe and supportive healing circle where women can come together in community to grow, to heal, and to support one another.

As the facilitator, my role is to create a space that is welcoming, respectful, and grounded in compassion, where women feel comfortable sharing their stories and being their authentic selves.

Our gatherings focus on healing from life’s challenges such as grief, trauma, addiction, and personal struggles, while also encouraging women to build healthy habits, strengthen their sense of identity, and reconnect with their inner strength.

We use a variety of approaches in our circles including sharing circles, guided discussions, cultural teachings, creative activities like beading or art, and moments of reflection that help women reconnect with themselves and with one another.

The purpose of the group is not only to support sobriety but also to nurture emotional, spiritual, and personal growth.

We walk alongside each other in a spirit of honesty, accountability, and encouragement.

Every woman who comes to the circle brings her own story, and together we create a community where healing, resilience, and hope can grow.

At the heart of the SoberCrew Woman's Group is the belief that when women come together in a safe space, speak their truth, and support one another, powerful healing can happen.

Outside of circle, I also do outreach work alongside Robbie Daniels, Clarissa Stevens, Cheyenne Hunter and many more.

Together we collect clothing donations, prepare lunches, and go out into the community to support our relatives who are struggling on the streets due to homelessness and addiction.

We meet our people where they are, with respect, compassion, and a reminder that they are not forgotten.

All of this work is rooted in the spirit of unity. When we stand together as Indigenous people, supporting one another and walking the Red Road, we become stronger.

Through that unity we have built a strong community within SoberCrew—one that believes in healing, accountability, culture, and lifting each other up.

I am grateful to do this work, and I carry it with humility, knowing that every step we take toward healing helps strengthen our people and the generations to come.

In closing, my dream is to see every one of our people find their way back to the Red Road—back to culture, back to healing, back to the strength that Creator and our ancestors placed within us. I believe that when we walk together in unity, supporting one another with compassion and accountability, that path becomes possible for all of us.

Ishnish, thank you for allowing me to share today.

Task List sample and official description links [here](#).

- Facilitate WAW as a humble “circle” where everyone is heard and where Indigenous initiatives move ideas to concrete implementation: AMA ‘HNA ‘BINO WALK (SoberCrew), Reconciliation Journey Walk
- Education: co-facilitate Hearts Exchanged w/ Alphonse Nepoose (Samson Cree Nation)

- 8 month learning cohort about the history of Canada for Christians.
- Engage others in reconciliation and truth-telling so they can replicate this themselves
- Friendship & Community:
 - Good Ways Networking Circle with Rev. Tony Snow (Stoney Nakoda) & Alphonse Nepoose
 - Networking and relationship-building with friends, partners and potential partners
 - Coffees and lunches
 - Support Indigenous and non-Indigenous friends holistically: mentally, emotionally, spiritually, socially and physically
 - Help with moves, rides, court, groceries, etc
- Action: support Grassroots Indigenous initiatives & their leaders:
 - SoberCrew & SoberCrew Women (Robbie Daniels and Lydia Hunter Firingstone (Treaty 7)
 - AMA 'HNA 'BINO WALK
 - Neechi-Mart (Kate Webb Harris)
 - Reconciliation Journey Walk (Alphonse Nepoose)
 - Ikusinsan Creation (Ana Poucette, Goodstone)
 - Feast for the Children (Rev. John Snow & Alphonse Nepoose)
 - Youth Wellbriety (Willy's new initiative through Cree Nation)
 - Other:
 - Finances:
 - Full cycle and grants, recruited volunteer future writer
 - Liaise with Lantern Treasurer and bookkeeper
 - Communication:
 - Website design and updates
 - Communicate upcoming events (in-person & social media)

In closing,

1. We believe the Holy Spirit/ Creator has started something new in Calgary and that we are in a Kairos moment (God's time) - both Indigenous and non-Indigenous are invited to participate. Click here for some pictures from our recent Walk As We... kin'd supported in part by donations made to The Presbyterian Church in Canada (\$8,000 Conference Support Fund).

2. We have seen a letter from Pastor Jake at Grace Presbyterian that could result in asking the presbytery to make Walk As We one of her ministries. The Walk As We steering committee is very open to this, as long as they retain direction and control, and would like to discuss this further.

3. Finances: Some have commented on the large number of grants WAW has applied for. So far, we have been unsuccessful with the Trinity Fund, so we are applying for all the grants we can within the PCC and other

denominations. WAW is in a critical time financially. We are also committed to transparent and open communication about finances. We are willing to have our Treasurers talk to one-another and make adjustments as grants are received or not. We believe our ecumenical funding goals (\$210,000) need more prayer, time and seed money so that we can stay focused on our mission.

- a. Denominations: \$20,000 x 6 = \$120,000
- b. Churches: \$60,000
- c. Individual donors: \$30,000

4. New & Renewing Ministry Fund (PCC): If successful this would be \$10,000 in the first year (Seed), \$20,000 in the second year (Growth), \$30,000 in the third year (Yield).

Sincerely,

WAW co directors

Willy Anderson on behalf of Willy and Layne Kilbreath

Reports on Partnerships

Reports on Partnerships:

Chair of Christian Thought Advisory Council: Mary Rozsa de Coquet

- As corrected verbally last meeting, The Chair of Christian Thought and other religion courses will become part of the Dept. of Philosophy later this spring. Dr. Musseig who holds the Chair position has been given a one-year extension of her contract, 2026 – 2027.
- The final lecture of the academic year was held April 10 at the downtown public library followed by a workshop organized by the Inter Faith Council on the 11th. The next event, offered through The Faith and Spirituality Centre, will be a “pub” crawl for students where they will visit two or three houses of worship.
- The first lecture next year, Sept 18 – 20, will be the collaboration with Grace featuring well-known Yale theologian Dr. Miroslav Volf offering an examination of “ambition, comparison, and what it means to follow Christ in a competitive world”.
- The annual donation from the Presbytery will be matched if received as part of U of C’s Giving Day. Phil is working on this.

Calgary Interfaith Council: Vacant

Indigenous Gathering Place: Cathy Gale

Ecumenical Campus Ministry, Lethbridge: Karen Robbins

At the Annual General Meeting on March 26, the revised Bylaws were adopted and there was the election of officers for 2026 -2027. Chair – Adina Sanderson, Vice-Chair – Melanie Winter, Secretary – Corrine Steele and Treasurer – Sharon Tillmanns. In February, Karen Robbins had indicated that after seven and half years as secretary, she would be stepping down from this role. She will continue to be the representative of St. Andrew’s Lethbridge on the ECM Board of Directors.

CONNECTIONS

Throughout the academic year at the University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge Polytechnic, the weekly Smiles & Snacks program has been a real stress release for many students. It is an opportunity to build relationships among students and staff. Students get to know others beyond their classmates. At the busy times in the semester, ECM offers extra Smiles & Snacks events.

Testimonial from Polytechnic: "A huge thank you for not only the regular Smiles and Snacks, but for attending the Long Night Against Procrastination at the library last week. It is so nice for other students to have a chance to connect with all of you."

VOLUNTEERS

We have an incredible group of dedicated volunteers. Their interaction with students involves working together on various crafting projects, just having a chat or handed out snacks, healthy and not so healthy. During nutrition week, ECM ran a special Smiles and Snacks micro green pot event at Polytechnic. Volunteers find their time hanging out with students to be very rewarding. This small gesture helps to make a student's day a little brighter.

Testimonial from Polytechnic: "One of my current practicum students told me he loves the Smiles and Snacks volunteers, when he started a few weeks ago and I was orienting him to our programs, activities, and events. It is so wonderful to have these natural conversations and hear students exclaim how important you are and what a great part of their post-secondary experience the Smiles and Snacks volunteers are! I am grateful that I do get that experience often and want to make sure you all know that this is very common in my day-to-day."

SERVICE

During the year, Chaplain Erin has often collaborated with the Buddhist community and Indigenous Elders in many interfaith events in three key areas: U of L campus blessing (September), crisis situations and various worship services.

COMMUNITY

The annual Cade Lecture Series, named after William (Bill) Cade, will be held in the Fall.

Bill was the U of L President and Vice-Chancellor from 2000 to 2010. He passed away in December 2025. At the Lecture Series, we will remember and honor Bill for his unwavering support of students, the work of ECM and the genuine interest he took in people across the campus and throughout the broader community. Under Bill's tenure, many changes took place at the University; one being the shifting of the University from primarily an undergraduate institution to a comprehensive university by strengthening

research capacity and expanding graduate programming.

SUPPORT

McKillop United Church, one of the supporting congregation of ECM, held a highly successful Rib Dinner fundraiser in support of Ecumenical Campus Ministry Lethbridge, UCC Canyon Camp and McKillop's YOUined Youth program. The proceeds were equally divided among these three ministries.

Testimonial from University of Lethbridge: "Words to describe ECM Lethbridge are impactful, community building, warmly surprising for chat and free food, and great connections."

Ecumenical Campus Ministry helps to build lives through education by its involvement at the University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge Polytechnic.

Ecumenical Campus Ministry, Medicine Hat: Joyce Engel Highlights of the 25-26 Academic Year

Student: "Wish me luck! I have an exam in 10 minutes."

Chaplain: "I can do better than wishing you luck."

Student: "Really?"

Chaplain: "Yes, really. 'God we pray for ___ as she writes her exam. Give her clarity of mind, help her remember everything she read and studied. Help her to clearly understand the questions and to answer them well. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen'"

Student: "Um...wow....Thanks Chaplain! That was better than wishing me luck!"

The conversation happened in the parking lot and is illustrative of the joys, blessings, privilege, impact and importance of campus ministry. In addition to praying for blessings for the student's academic activities, we pray for family, for health, for finances, for jobs and so much more! If you stripped away everything else, leaving only prayer, I would still claim that this ministry is fully worth supporting...but there is so much more than just prayer.

Faith Based Grad

On Thursday June 12 we held our first "Faith Based Baccalaureate Service" at Victory Lutheran church. Students gathered with family and friends to celebrate the completion of their studies at Medicine Hat College as they gave praise to God for enabling them to complete this chapter of their lives. This year I'm hoping to hold the service on April 30th, right after exams are finished.

McMaster University Campus Ministry Conference

During the third week of May I met with post-secondary chaplains from across Canada and the US at McMaster University. Not only did we swap

ideas on campus ministry, but we learned about McMaster's approach to caring for the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical needs of their students.

Praise and Worship

Weekly Bible Study and Worship night, City Wide Worship events and a visit from the YWAM Circuit Riders offered many opportunities for our students to give expression to their love for the Lord as well as to grow in their faith.

Campus Ministry Student Retreat

Our annual retreat at Whispering Pines Camp near Elkwater is always a favorite. We meet in the Cypress Hills for a weekend in September, where students make friends and connections as they play, eat and worship together. Lifelong friendships are established at the retreat and for many international students a sense of family forms after leaving their childhood homes to come to Canada.

Baptism

"I came to Canada without God or Religion in my life" he said. The Spiritual journey began at the Campus Ministry Student Retreat. Baptism on February 8th was a celebration and a life committed to learning and deepening faith continues.

Community Cooking

Every Tuesday we gather in the residence community room for dinner. Every week features the food of a different culture. As we cook and eat together, we learn about other cultures and countries. Friendships and connections are made.

Huddles

Every Monday we gather for lunch and a discussion. Amazing conversations are had and students leave feeling heard and supported.

Food

While we do not live by bread alone, it's pretty hard to survive without food! The Medicine Hat Ecumenical Campus Ministry has been blessed with the opportunity to serve students 1200 bowls of soup over the past year. (Thankyou Methanex for taking over the sponsorship of Free Soup and 1/2 of the community cooking.) Thanks to Redcliff Bakery we have given away thousands of loaves of bread and buns, countless donuts, cinnamon buns, cookies and savory treats. Local farms and greenhouses have given us many pickup loads of vegetables to distribute. Thousands of dollars' worth of groceries, donated by churches and individuals passed through the Interfaith Centre during the past year.

During the past year the Medicine Hat Ecumenical Campus Ministry has not exactly changed the world, but, thanks to you who support this ministry, we have been able to improve the world for hundreds of students as we supported them in spiritual, mental and emotional, and physical ways! And now, as I finish up this report, a student sits in the room. She is smiling, she is laughing, she has friends, she has a job, she is getting high marks, she is excited about life. She has found her stride and has gained a level of confidence that amazes me. Though not a Christian, she thanked me for all the times I spoke with her and prayed with her. A year ago, it was all tears, stress and anxiety, and failing marks. Today she's a different person, living in a new world. I was not alone in helping her, coaching her, supporting her. The entire Student Supports team at the college is dedicated to helping students thrive. I am especially thankful for the spiritual role I play. Soli Deo Gloria.

Thanks for making it all possible.
In His Service!
George

**Presbytery
Care and
Resource**

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

Work continues on planning the Retreat. Information, including date and location will be communicated shortly.

UPDATE: May 25 & 26 at FCJ Centre

Application from Anyuak Worshipping Community to the Avondbloem
Experimental Fund

MOTION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by H. Bryant that presbytery approve the application of the Anyuak Worshipping Community to the Avondbloem Experimental Fund. **CARRIED**

Application from St. Andrew's, Calgary for a Second Year of a New and
Renewing Ministries Grant

MOTION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by H. Bryant that presbytery approve the application of St. Andrew's Church, Calgary for a second year of a New and Renewing Ministries Grant. **CARRIED**

Moderator for June Presbytery Meeting

In the Moderator's absence, Heather Bryant, as Past Moderator, will moderate. Chisholm Fund Report from Westminster, Calgary The Presbytery Care and Resource Committee was advised that Westminster had submitted its report to the national church for the Chisholm Grant received last year.

The email also offered this thanks:

“I would like to reiterate again how grateful we were to be awarded this grant. Please extend our thanks to those who donated the money, and those who selected our church as a recipient. This generous support went a long way in ensuring the success of our project.”

Request for Consultation

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

Clerk's Report

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

Knox, Bassano & Gem and Knox, Calgary chose not to send commissioners. As a result, St. John's, Medicine Hat (listed as backup) will be sending Darrell Risk and Varsity Acres will be sending Cathy Gale. Varsity Acres was next on the rotation list for sending an elder to General Assembly.

Next on the rotation list for General Assembly are:
Greg Smith, Jake Van Pernis, Chris Joiner, backup Heather Carlson Centennial, St. Paul's, Calvin

2025 Congregational Records Check

St. Andrew's, Lethbridge remains the only congregation to have completed the records check. Please complete this and send it to the clerk soon.

Fire Drills

Overdue –

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

Grant Applications

The Conference Support Fund provided a grant of \$8,000 in support of the Walk As We event.

Thank-you to grant recipients who have provided follow-up reports and sent them back.

The clerk of session from Centennial shared that they have filled the position of newcomer support lead, which was funded by a grant from the Trinity Fund. Ms. Edith Moliki has been hired for the part-time position, and her start date was Monday, April 13, 2026. Centennial thanks the presbytery for our support.

**General
Presbyter's
Report**

General Presbyter's Report – *Terry Fach*

Responsibility	Activity	Who Else?	Start Date	Status
Resource and Support Congregational Care & Resource Committee	Participate in teams for congregational visitations	Congregational Care Committee	April 2026	St. Andrew's, Lethbridge
	Follow up on recommendations made in visitation reports		March 2026	See note #1
Resource and Support Clergy Care & Resource Committee	Assist with planning and implementation of 2026 Clergy Visits	L. Judd, plus 2 reps from Cong. Care	April 2026	Not completed
	Assist with developing a rhythm of seasonal clergy well-being events	C. Joiner, D. Surya, Clergy Care Committee	May 2026	
	Develop and update list of online resources on presbytery website	B. Clendening	April 2026	
Encourage Relationships of Mutual Trust and Respect	2026 Presbytery Retreat planning	M. Rosza, S. Evans	Feb. 2026	Almost complete
	Meet with each minister for pastoral visit and discussion re: presbytery support and resources		Feb 2026	85% completed
	Attend worship and/or one event at each congregation as time permits		Feb 2026	33% complete
Work with all committees to Foster Ongoing Information Networks and Partnerships	Research and recommend best practices for handling confidential documents and records of the Presbytery	H. Bryant, C. Persaud, Presbytery Care	March 2026	See note #2
	Exit Interview IM resource	Clergy Care Committee	ongoing	
	regular updating			
	Develop a plan for elder recruitment & training	Clergy Care, Cong. Care	May 2026	See note #3
	Report at each Presbytery meeting: share resources and information that strengthens the ministry of congregations		Each Presbytery meeting	Complete to date
Respond to Emergent Situations	Quarterly report regarding contacts	Clergy Care convener and Clerk	June, Sept, Dec	
	Provide pastoral care to ministers, on behalf of the Presbytery, as directed	Clergy Care convener and Clerk		
	Convene Amalgamation Support Team for Knox/St. Giles Amalgamation	D. Hill, C. Gale, Presbytery Care Committee	April 2026	
Participate in the Courts and Committees of the Church	Participate in all meetings of the Presbytery			Complete to date
	Participate as ex-officio member of all four Presbytery committees			Complete to date

Notes:

1. I met with three Westminster ministry committee conveners to discuss leadership capacity-building and succession planning in ministry committees (Faith and Formation, Hospitality, Mission committees)
2. We are meeting with consultant Sarah Nokes-Moore on April 8, 2026 to continue developing a plan for dealing with a range of questions relating to communication of presbytery information, confidentiality, and accessibility of records.
3. It is a listed objective in Clergy Care & Resource Committee's current work plan to liaise with other committees to develop and implement a presbytery-wide initiative. The goal is to encourage faithfulness and to build capacity in congregational leadership. Such an undertaking may

require up to a year to consult with stakeholders, assemble resources, and then begin recruitment and training events.

Request by Maren McLean Persaud to leave early was granted.

Other Business

Other Business

Voluntary
Withdrawal
Committee

Voluntary Withdrawal Committee

A Letter for Asset Transfer was requested and sent from the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly to the lawyer acting for Valleyview Community Church. This letter was to hasten the issuance of a Canada Revenue Agency Business Number for the new community of Spring Valley Community Church. Depending on an affirmative vote by the members of Valleyview, and after the date of dissolution, The Presbyterian Church in Canada will then revoke the CRA Business Number of Valleyview Community Church.

The Principal Clerk confirmed that Valleyview Community Church may raise funds immediately for the new congregation, as financial assets are based on December 31, 2024 financials.

A date for the second congregational vote is planned for September 2026. Upon an affirmative second vote, a proposed date of dissolution will be presented to the presbytery.

Amalgamation of Knox and St. Giles (*no report*)

Adoption of
Reports

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

MOTION: MOTION: H. Bryant to continue beyond 2 hours **CARRIED**

Enthusiasms and
Concerns

Enthusiasms and Concerns

C. Gale asked for prayer for a friend who has been closely linked to the presbytery in the past and is experiencing some significant health problems.

T. Paasuke shared his enthusiasm that there had been 2 baptisms on Sunday at St. Paul's, Banff.

G. Smith shared about 2 events coming up at Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church. VAPC will hold a PIE service on April 26 at 10am. The guest speaker will be Safa Rahman from the El-Tawhid Juma Circle (Calgary Unity Mosque) The service will be followed by a pizza lunch.

On May 14th at 7pm, VAPC is presenting Dr. Victoria Bucholtz from TransAction Alberta, speaking about the impact and challenge of the Province's Anti-Trans Policies.

S. Cameron Evans shared that St. Gile is having a Walk for HomeSpace, an affordable housing provider here in Calgary, on May 2nd. Churches are invited to enter teams.

K. Robbins shared that St. Andrew's, Lethbridge celebrated 2 baptisms in March. She also shared that they have a new Clerk of Session, as she has stepped down after nine years as Clerk. To help with the transition, she wrote a handbook for the Clerk of Session outlining the duties and included relevant reference information.

M. Rosza de Coquet shared that Grace Presbyterian welcomed 9 new members to the church. They participated in a book study course prior to becoming members.

She also shared joy in hearing the sanctuary filled with many newcomers and beautiful Easter Music and the gospel being shared to all.

A. Mann shared that St. Andrew's, Calgary is being more intentional in seeing the church as 1 congregation with 2 services, one in English and one in Nuer. She shared joy in seeing both services more interconnected and collaborative.

O. Ochudo shared his excitement and happiness on behalf of Centennial and the Session for Okelo Aballa for completing his studies and for his upcoming ordination.

H. Carlson shared enthusiasm that St. John's, Medicine Hat's choir no longer fits in the choir loft.

She also shared enthusiasm in the Kitchen party, which was a full house and for the monthly lunch they host for those who typically would eat alone. Heather also asked for prayer for many of those in the congregation who are partners turning into caregivers.

St. John's, Medicine Hat also received 10 days notice that they will be receiving a refugee family with 5 young adults and a grandmother. Prayers for them as they arrive and adjust are appreciated.

G. Kása shared that Calvin Hungarian Church has gotten 2 new families in the congregation. One is a family from Ukraine, and the other is a family from Bassano. They both come to the congregation with young children.

J. Van Pernis shared that Grace is hosting a Gospel Music night on May 3 at 6pm featuring the Mountain Top Gospel Choir.

He also shared that Preaching Grace will be held on September 18th with the topic being "The Cost of Ambition." The speaker will be Miroslav Volf.

L. McKay shared that Rev. John Snow passed away just before Holy Week. His funeral was held on April 1 at the Goodstoney Rodeo Center Arena in Minî Thnî, AB.

**Prayers of
Intercession**

S. Cameron Evans 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, May 12, 2026 at 1 pm hosted by Calvin Hungarian Church. Lunch will be provided at 12 pm. Reports due April 30, 2026 by noon.

**Adjourn to Serve
Benediction**

MOTION: MOVED by M. Rozsa de Coquet that the Court be adjourned.
CARRIED

The Court was dismissed at 3:04 p.m.

Moderator
Rev. L. McKay

Clerk of Presbytery
Rev. C. Persaud

Clerk of Presbytery
Christian Persaud