

The Presbyterian Church in Canada The Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod

Alberta, Canada

Regular Meeting May 12, 2026

Gathering in God's Name

**Called to Order &
Constitution**

In Alberta at Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod met in regular session on Tuesday, May 12, at 1:00 p.m.

Worship was led by G. Kása. The Moderator, L. McKay constituted the meeting with prayer at 1:38 pm.

**Land
Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy, the Stoney Nakoda, the Tsuut'ina, and Otipemsiwak nations, honoring their history, culture, and ongoing presence. Our ancestors signed Treaty 7 and that means that we entered a covenant in the eyes of God, to care for each other and the land, in peace, with dignity and respect. May we keep our promises and be forgiven when we have broken them. May we be people of our word.

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, Daniel Surya, Chandra Mannix, Chris Joiner, Heather Carlson, and Gergely Kása.

Also present were ruling elders: Moira Brownlee, Heather Bryant, Sandra Cameron Evans, Cathy Gale, Deidre Harris, Lynn Judd, Omot Ochudo, Tom Paasuke, Karen Robbins, Mary Rozsa de Coquet, and Eszter Savanya.

Regrets

Regrets were received from Ministers of Word and Sacrament: Bartholomew Alexander; and from Ruling Elders: Joyce Engel and Teddy Picket. The alternate Elders, Marj Havens and Gail Lawrence, also sent regrets.

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

Guests

Guests: Layne Kilbreath

M. McLean Persaud given permission to be dismissed at 2:30 pm

Consent Agenda **Consent Agenda**

MOVED by C. Persaud, seconded by J. Van Pernis, that the following reports with recommendations be approved by Consent Agenda. **CARRIED**

Adoption of the Minutes

Regular meeting: April 14, 2026

Correspondence

Being the Body of Christ

Consent Agenda
Minutes

Adoption of Minutes – Clerk

MOTION: that the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 14, 2026 be accepted. **CARRIED**

Correspondence

Correspondence – Clerk

The Clerk presented the correspondence.

Receive for Information

26-047	M. Jardine & D. Harris, Fwd: Reminder: Trinity Fund Deadline, distributed
26-048	P. Andrade, Subscribe to the Intercultural Office's Newsletter!, distributed
26-049	M. Ho, Sacrament Elders' Course - 9th May 2026, distributed
26-050	Donations PCC, PCC Gifts by Presbytery, distributed
26-052	G. Smith, PIE at VAPC, distributed
26-053	G. Smith, Special Event at VAPC, distributed
26-054	L. McKay, Prayers for Fiona, distributed
26-055	S. Cameron Evans, Registration Form for Retreat, distributed

26-056	F. Swanson, Thanks to presbytery, distributed
26-057	S. McAndless, Notice of Suspension (Waterloo-Wellington), distributed
26-058	M. Copeland, Academic Degrees of Ministers, distributed
26-059	M. Copeland, Education and Reception - Information re Candidates, distributed
26-060	S. Cameron Evans, Corrected Retreat Registration Form, distributed

Refer to the Clerk

26-051	R. Simpson, O. Aballa expectation of graduation
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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 C. Persaud, seconded by J. Van Pernis 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 M. Rozsa de Coquet, seconded C. Mannix that the reports be received and their recommendations considered. **CARRIED**

Interim Moderator Reports

Centennial

Interim Moderator's Report for Centennial Church – Chandra Mannix

- The session continues to meet monthly moderated by the Interim Moderator
- Pulpit Supply has been arranged into July, including special services (special communion service, wedding, baptism, and a membership service thus far)

- Regarding pulpit supply, an elder from session is discerning his call to ministry and is preaching on a roughly monthly basis. The congregation, session and the Interim Moderator are very supportive of his discernment. His preaching is inspired, educational, and pastoral for the congregation. He preaches from the lectionary, and balances teaching and preaching the passages very well.
- Pastoral care continues to be led by the elders, with districts up to date and regularly attended upon and reporting each month to session
- Due to the busyness of the Easter season, and Chandra's extended holiday in April/May, the search committee has not yet met, though it was named in mid-March. First steps will include congregational self-analysis, conversations with session, and creating a draft congregational profile for session approval.
- The greatest challenge at this stage is the conclusion of the student ministry at the end of May. Conversations are underway at session regarding congregational needs to discern if there is need for ongoing ministry from Okello Aballa. The committee that advises Okello will meet with the Interim Moderator in 10 days to discuss next steps after another meeting with session elders next week.
- Consultation for support of the Interim Moderator as it regards the student minister and the search committee has continued.

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 last report.
 - b. Session – The Session has met once 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).

The presbytery amalgamation team met with Knox's Session in April to update the Session on the amalgamation process. The people from Knox on the writing team for the amalgamation plan submitted edits and additions to the ongoing draft, which were incorporated into the document. A lengthy conversation around the property and the timing of any proposed marketing it for sale occurred and was helpful in sorting out current options.

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

I plan to preach again at Knox in the summer and we will have another informal update and Q&A around the amalgamation process.

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 at Knox who continue to provide pastoral care and pulpit supply are to be commended for their diligent work. Worship leadership is secured several weeks in advance, and pastoral concerns are passed along appropriately.

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

We anticipate once a direction is set for potential sale of the property to be able to communicate this with current renters and potentially interested buyers. In the meantime, we continue to update the groups as we are able.

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.

**Committee
Reports**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clergy Care

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

1. Presbytery Retreat

The committee is planning time for the clergy of the presbytery to gather on the Sunday evening and Monday morning of the retreat, May 24-25, at the FCJ Centre. Sunday evening will begin with dinner at FCJ's dining hall, followed by a more informal gathering with sips and sweets and guided conversation. Monday morning will be more formal programming with a speaker. More details will be available by the time of the presbytery meeting, but we encourage all clergy of the presbytery, including those on the Appendix, to set aside the time.

Sunday, May 24

5 - 6 p.m. – Arrive

6:00 – Dinner

7:00 – 8:30 – Wine, cheese, and chocolate + Book discussion

Monday, May 25

8 a.m. – Breakfast

9 – 11:00 – Program (Dr. Jackie Stinton)

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

Rev. Christian Persaud Report: The committee received a report from Rev. Persaud on his study leave. It is attached to our report.

Rev. Laurie McKay Request: The committee received a study leave request from Rev. McKay, which is attached to our report.

MOTION: MOVED by C. Joiner, seconded by D. Surya, that the study leave request from Rev. L. McKay be approved. **CARRIED**

4. Clergy Well-being

The committee is planning a clergy and family picnic for Friday, August 14, at South Glenmore Park in Calgary. Email invitations have gone out, and we encourage all clergy of the presbytery, including those on the Appendix, to RSVP and plan to join us.

Post Study
Leave Report:
Christian
Persaud

Post Study Leave Report: Christian Persaud

Key learnings

It's often helpful to hear how others are doing in similar situations. Sometimes clergy can share ideas about what's working well in their congregations, helpful resources to use for sermon preparation, etc. Even though each person's set of situations and circumstances is unique, it's good to know that you're not the only one who is dealing with something, and there's a shared experience.

Serving in ordained congregational ministry presents its own joys and challenges, some of which are amplified when serving as a clergy couple in the same congregation. It was helpful to read *Yoked: Stories of a Clergy Couple in Marriage, Family, and Ministry* co written by Andrew Kort and Mihee Kim-Kort, a clergy couple in PC(USA), and be reminded that others experience relatable joys and frustrations in ministry, in marriage, and in parenting.

While much of the book was unique to the authors' lives and their journeys, without direct application to my own circumstances, it was useful in inviting reflection questions not often asked or explored. Occasionally, however, there were examples of situations that many clergy could relate to, even if not specifically for clergy couples. The book mentions this familiar scenario: "Tell us about your sense of call." This question in one form or another is, without fail, always asked during interviews by Pastoral Nominating Committees, higher governing bodies, and others when talking with a potential candidate for a ministry position. ...But it is interesting to me that once we get past that initial question and the years of ministry together march on, we are never, or very rarely, asked about our sense of call again – that is, until we happen to interview with another committee in another town (Kort & Kim-Kort 139).

Many of us, individually or as a couple, don't regularly reflect on our sense of calling once we've been called by a congregation. As a clergy couple with a toddler, this question gets pushed down the list for more urgent matters, but similar questions warrant time and thought. The book raised helpful questions like: In what ways have your dreams for ministry veered away from each other? How have you defined calling in relationship to one another? In what ways have you discovered your callings overlap? (Kort & Kim-Kort 20).

Reading the book has also provided a greater understanding and appreciation for Sabbath, not simply as a day off. One of the authors describes feeling stressed out all the time because Sabbath times were

undefined – they were haphazard and largely unintentional. In essence, they were neglected (Kort & Kim-Kort 99). Serving in part-time ministry provides more time to be spent outside of the office, but less time to complete the work that needs to be done. Serving as presbytery clerk is another part-time commitment, but has also made establishing a Sabbath more challenging. It has become clearer that Sabbath is necessary to be a healthier person, husband, father, minister, and presbyter.

The authors quoted Henri Nouwen with a few questions that each of us may want to consider: “What does it all mean? What is God trying to tell us? How are we called to live in the midst of all this?” Without such questions our lives become numb and flat (Kort & Kim-Kort 139).

Key outcomes

- A workplan was shared with Session in September 2025 that reflects the gifts and callings for me and Maren
 - Initially we had split most ministry tasks 50/50 (eg. alternating preaching, moderating Session meetings, leading new members classes, etc.), but now share in areas more closely aligned with our gifts and interests
- Mondays now normally designated as a time for Sabbath

Study Leave
Request: Laurie
McKay

Laurie McKay Study Leave Request

Study leave Date – either summer or early fall 2026, depending on the church demands

Study Leave Topic - Becoming an Intercultural Congregation

- I have made many mistakes along the way with Indigenous neighbours. I could have avoided some of them by being aware of my own biases and assumptions. I want to do better.
- The work being done with the LGBTQi2S+ community has made me aware of a culture that exists within our culture that doesn't often include positive engagement in the Christian community. How can we do better?
- Being a youth today is very challenging, especially with the state of the world. How do we as “church” understand the culture and support youth and the current state of overwhelm?
- As we move into more intentional covenant relationship with the Nuer speaking afternoon (South Sudanese) congregation at St. Andrew's, I would like to learn how to appropriately honour and include both communities in worship, ministry and mission.

There are hidden biases and assumptions in all areas that are part of my dominant culture. What does it mean to be an inclusive community of faithful followers of Jesus across culture, gender identity, age, and backgrounds.

After 40 years of ordained ministry, my hidden assumptions as a white Canadian woman need to be challenged. To lead with integrity, I need to put the work into the biblical, theological, and practical ways to navigate these various communities. Intercultural training and resources are available.

I have asked for direction from Priya Jasmine Andrade, Intercultural Program Coordinator from the PCC National Office. There is training being offered to the church and I would like to preview this material, and read the books that are suggested.

1. Rah, Soong-Chan. *The Next Evangelicalism: Freeing the Church from Western Cultural Captivity*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2009.

Challenges the assumption that Western cultural expressions of Christianity are normative and universal. Rah names what many intercultural practitioners sense instinctively, that the dominant culture's ways of doing church are cultural choices, not theological necessities.

2. Shin, Sarah. *Beyond Colorblind: Redeeming Our Ethnic Journey*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2017.

Written specifically for Christian communities navigating ethnic and cultural differences. Shin's warm, pastoral voice makes this an accessible entry point for small groups or individuals early in their intercultural journey, particularly those moving from minimization toward deeper cultural self-awareness.

3. Livermore, David A. *Cultural Intelligence: Improving Your CQ to Engage Our Multicultural World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.

An accessible introduction to cultural intelligence for ministry audiences. Livermore provides a structured framework for building cultural awareness and adaptability.

4. Kim Sun, Hyung Jin (Pablo). *Building Mennonite Belonging: Toward an Intercultural Church*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University, 2025.

My earlier work explores many of the themes in this book through a different denominational lens, examining how ethnicity, culture, race, and faith intersect within Mennonite communities. Using three Mennonite theologies—messianic community, missional church, and shalom church—it navigates the intersection of identity and belief to broaden the vision of who belongs. Though centered on the Mennonite tradition, the insights are relevant for any faith community grappling with ethnocultural diversity.

Priya is prepared to invite the presbytery or congregation group to a fall cohort for this training as well. The material is designed to be done over 8-10 weeks and with a small group of learners.

How is this area of study relevant to your area of ministry now?

I am aware that being an inclusive community requires sensitivity and each area that is a priority for St. Andrew's has a culture: Indigenous, Youth, LGBTQi2S+, Sudanese. As lead minister, how do I help the session and congregation become genuinely inclusive, but more, how do we engage all to offer their perspective and gifts in the worship and work of the church? Do we stay siloed? How will that change us? Are we being led by the Spirit to become a new community?

It's (high) time to update my knowledge and skill – to see and help others see the blessing in our midst of diverse cultures that Christ is working through. "As many lament the decline of Christianity, ... very few have recognized that American Christianity may actually be growing, but in unexpected and surprising ways.... We are looking at a nonwhite majority, multiethnic Christianity in the immediate future." (The Next Evangelicalism: Freeing the Church from Western Cultural Captivity – Soong-Chan Rah)

Date discussed with session or minister resource committee: April 21, 2026

What outcomes or key learnings do you anticipate because of your study? Key outcomes will include open eyes, changed heart, and knowledge to lead.

How much study leave time and money will be used for this study?

I plan on taking one week for reading and no financial resources this year from my Study Leave Fund. The book costs will come from my book budget. Priya will release the material from the course to me for an 8-week window when the leave has been approved and scheduled.

Congregational
Care

Congregational Care and Resource – Jake Van Pernis (Convener)
(No Report)

Mission Care

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

1. New Ministries Initiatives Fund (NMIF)

MOTION: MOVED by D. Harris, seconded by M. Rosza de Coquet that the MCRC will not accept any applications to the NMIF at this time – until the future status of this fund is determined. **CARRIED**

Rationale: The MCRC is currently exploring the potential for merging the Trinity Fund and the NMIF.

2. Trinity Fund

- Attached to this report is the Final Report for the Pollinator Garden at Westminster Presbyterian Church.
- Adjudication Team Chair: The MCRC extends gratitude to John Chik for his leadership and guidance throughout the first three rounds of the Trinity Fund grant applications. John is stepping down as Chair, following the current round. The MCRC is actively recruiting someone to fill this role.
- The MCRC is actively collecting the names of potential adjudicators for future rounds of Trinity Fund applications.

3. Focus on Refugees

The MCRC continues to explore how mission-related people in Presbytery congregations can be brought together to discuss and brainstorm collective solutions pertaining to issues related to supporting refugees once they arrive in Canada (e.g. seeking in kind donations, how we welcome refugee families, navigating the educational and medical systems, buying groceries, language challenges, etc.). Support for refugees was identified as a priority by survey respondents in the fall of 2024.

The committee is planning a workshop to take place in late October or early November with a view to this becoming an annual event focusing on a mission related initiative. Details to follow.

4. Review of partnerships will occur when Presbytery Strategic Directions are determined.

5. Work plan for MCRC: Will be developed over the next few weeks.

6. Co-Convenor Role: The MCRC is actively exploring the recruitment of a Co Convenor – to be effective in June. Suggestions are welcome!

7. Next meeting: May 19, 2026: 12 noon via Zoom

Trinity Fund
Report –
Westminster,
Pollinator
Garden

Trinity Fund Grant- Final Report

Original Project Title	Pollinator Garden
Congregation	Westminster Presbyterian Church
Amount Received	\$7000
Grant Start Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	2025-05-01
Grant End Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	2025-10-31
Final Report Author	Christian Persaud

Public Summary

The funds received from the Trinity Grant were a tremendous help in establishing the pollinator garden at Westminster. A lot of planning and preparation had been done in advance, which enabled the funds to be put to work effectively. We were able to pay for landscaping for a gravel path, which made the garden easier for individuals to access, especially for individuals with walkers or mobility aids. The funds also gave us the opportunity to make a bulk purchase of plants, and have everything in place for the planting day with the wider community and students of Tom Baines. After weeks of preparing, planting, and watering, it was delightful to see pollinators arrive, and people sitting on the bench. Ultimately the pollinator garden was about addressing climate change in a spiritual, meaningful, concrete way and this was accomplished. Work on the garden will continue, and hopefully more people will become interested as well – both in the community and congregation. Students from Tom Baines also painted decorative rocks and stones, which were then placed in the garden and added to the colour and beauty of the space. Hopefully there will continue to be organic change, and conversations still continue with at least one teacher at Tom Baines to determine ongoing projects.

Additional Reflections

The grant adjudication team gave 59 points out of a total 60 towards the pollinator garden, and we believe the follow through reflects what was presented in the application. It would be good to see a greater interest in stewardship and creation, but there will continue to be opportunities as work on the garden continues for years to come. Conversations still continue with Tom Baines School, and the surrounding areas of the garden will be developed over time to incorporate plans for Phase 3 of the garden.

There were some learnings with the project, which will take some coordination and communication to address. First, it was difficult to know if someone had watered the garden that day or not. While there were volunteers who watered the garden when they were able to, there were times when watering occurred more frequently, or less frequently, than desired.

Also, some individuals wanted to identify the plants, but there was no legend provided to say which plants were placed in specific areas of the garden. Having some signage would help with this, but will take some further consideration as to design and implementation (eg. QR code to website, weatherproof sign, etc.).

Financial Summary

Funds were, or will be*, spent on the pollinator garden as follows:

Plants for garden \$1688

Gravel path \$1672

Community BBQ \$250

Speaker event \$400

*Lumber for bench \$2500

*Rain barrels \$800

**Work was completed on one bench and there is still money for another project (eg. pergola, additional benches). Some work needs to be done to the eavestroughs so that rainwater can be collected into rain barrels. We did not want to have barrels on site, or stored, and unused until this work was done. This will be completed before July 2026.*



Reports on Partnerships

Reports on Partnerships:

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

Calgary Interfaith Council: Laurie McKay (no report)

**Indigenous
Gathering
Place**

Indigenous Gathering Place: Cathy Gale

For years, the vision of an Indigenous Gathering Place in Moh'kinsstis has been guided by Elders, community, and a shared commitment to creating a space rooted in culture, ceremony, and connection.

On June 21, that vision comes to life.

On National Indigenous Peoples Day, the Indigenous Gathering Place Society will host The Gathering at Moh'kinsstis — a one-day activation that will transform ContainR Art Park and The Alexandra Centre into a temporary Indigenous Gathering Place in the heart of the city.

This is an opportunity to come together in a way that is Indigenous-led, grounded in culture, and open to all.

The day will feature a demonstration powwow, Elder storytelling and cultural teachings, an Indigenous artisan market, hands-on activities and family-friendly programming, and an evening Indigenous contemporary music showcase, along with much more. Together, these experiences will create space for connection, learning, and celebration.

Volunteers will play an important role in welcoming the community, supporting activities throughout the day, and helping us create a warm, inclusive, and well-organized space for all who attend.

Ecumenical Campus Ministry, Lethbridge: Karen Robbins (no report)

**Ecumenical
Campus
Ministry,
Medicine Hat**

Ecumenical Campus Ministry, Medicine Hat: Joyce Engel

The Apostle Paul references Isaiah 52:7 when he writes ““How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” (Romans 10:15b) Paul refers here to all who bring good news (the gospel) which, of course, includes himself. However, there is not a shred of boasting in Paul's words. In fact, Paul identifies himself as the foremost of sinners! (1 Timothy 1:15) and in Romans 7 he describes his struggle with sin, ending in the lament “what a wretched man I am.” But then he goes on to say “Praise be to God who gives the victory!” I say...ditto!

The beauty of campus ministry is found in the Good News of Jesus. It is not found in the chaplain but in the message! The good news of God's love is spoken, and it is embodied in the emotional, spiritual and mental supports as well as in the food and other material supports that are funneled through campus ministry. Paul says...How can they preach unless they are sent? Thank YOU for sending me to MHC with the message of God's love.

I write all this because I want YOU to see the difference YOU are making in the lives of countless students and the entire college community. In

this light, please listen to a few stories which illustrate the way YOU are blessing our college.

She was an International Exchange Student who came to the Interfaith Centre to say goodbye and thank you before she left Medicine Hat. She attended the Campus Ministry Retreat at Whispering Pines Camp, in September. She seldom missed a Community Cooking event and regularly enjoyed a free bowl of soup on Wednesday. When she dropped by that day, she gave me a homemade cookie with a note attached to it.

Several other international exchange students came by the Interfaith Centre last week as well to say good. One said, "I felt at home here since the day I met you at New International Student Orientation! (Orientation is held before the semester starts.) Thank YOU for giving so much and expecting nothing in return!!!

The chaplain - according to numerous students - offers the "best snacks ever" during exams! Why? Because YOU provide the best snacks ever for the chaplain to distribute!!!

Eleven students took to the stage at Living Hope Church on April 29 to celebrate graduation at the Campus Ministry Faith Based Grad Service. We shared a meal together before spending an hour in praise and worship - led by one of our graduates and her alumni sister.

Congratulations were extended by the Campus Ministry Board Chair and by one of our amazing volunteers. Chaplain George encouraged the graduates to run the race with perseverance, keeping their eyes focused of Jesus. After the valedictorian's address, which was so good!, the graduates took to the stage and introduced themselves and spoke a few words about their hopes for the next chapter of their Lives.

One of the students said "I would never be on this stage -graduating- if it weren't for the campus ministry. Thank YOU for making graduation possible for this and other students who have expressed the same truth!

And so, from Nick who met Jesus at the Campus Ministry Retreat in September and was baptized in February, and from a thousand other students, staff and faculty, Thank YOU for funding and maintaining the Medicine Hat Campus Ministry!!!!

*In His Service,
George*

Presbytery
Care and
Resource

Presbytery Care and Resource – Sandra Cameron Evans (Convener)

Presbytery Retreat

The Retreat, entitled "First Steps, Next Steps", will be held on May 25 and

26 at the FCJ Centre in Calgary. Finley and Associates will be present to lead a discussion about their report addressing presbytery priorities. There will also be opportunities for worship and fellowship as we consider where the Holy Spirit is guiding the presbytery.

Amalgamation Team for Knox and St. Giles

MOTION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by H. Bryant that the appointment of Terry Fach as Convener of the Amalgamation Team be homologated. **CARRIED**

MOTION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by H. Bryant that changes to the Terms of Reference for the Amalgamation Team, as reflected below, be approved. **CARRIED**

Terms of
Reference for
Presbytery
Amalgamation
Team

Terms of Reference for Presbytery Amalgamation Team

1. Purpose

This amalgamation team is appointed by the presbytery to accompany and support Knox Presbyterian Church (Calgary) and St. Giles Presbyterian Church as they are discerning a possible amalgamation. The team will facilitate prayerful and collaborative dialogue with each congregation, and their Sessions, ensuring that the process is guided by the mind of Christ, rooted in trust, and aligned with the polity of the church.

2. Mandate and Responsibilities

The team will:

- Support Sessions and Congregations involved in discussions about amalgamation. This will include attending Session meetings upon request, and congregational meetings, whether they are held independently or conjointly.
- Facilitate Discernment: Help all parties engage in prayerful, respectful dialogue about their shared future by asking questions that might be overlooked by the respective congregations and Sessions.
- Coordinate Conversations:
 - With each congregation separately
 - With congregations together
 - With the Presbytery
- Identify Challenges: Surface areas of concern (e.g., property, governance, mission priorities) that congregations should be aware of.
- Ensure Clarity: This team does not have any decision-making power, but is established only to help guide and discern. Reports to presbytery will be shared through the Knox Interim Moderator.
- Report Regularly to the Presbytery to ensure transparency, oversight, and accountability.

3. Authority

The Committee acts in an advisory and facilitative capacity only. Final decisions related to amalgamation rest with the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod, which will review the plan submitted by the respective congregations of Knox and St. Giles.

4. Membership

Appointed by the presbytery, the Amalgamation Team will include:

- A Convener, appointed by the Presbytery Care and Resource Committee
- 2–4 Ruling or Teaching Elders with experience in:
 - Congregational leadership
 - Church governance
- Others may be consulted as needed for expertise in certain areas (eg. property planning, legal matters, etc.).

5. Process and Approach

- Pastoral and Prayerful: Centered in worship, listening, and mutual respect.
- Transparent and Collaborative: All congregations are treated fairly and heard equally.
- Missional Focus: The goal is to seek God's call for faithful ministry in the community.

6. Reporting

The Committee will provide regular written reports to presbytery, including:

- A summary of the discernment progress
- Recommendations regarding amalgamation and its suitability

7. Confidentiality and Sensitivity

Members shall maintain confidentiality and exercise discretion in all matters, especially regarding sensitive issues recognizing that financial status, congregational conflict, or leadership transitions will have an impact on amalgamation.

8. Term of Service

The Committee shall serve for the duration of the amalgamation process between Knox and St. Giles. Membership may change as needed.

9. Review Regardless of the outcome, the amalgamation team will assess what went well, what could be improved, and suggest any updates to the Terms of Reference if necessary.

Confidentiality of Presbytery Documents on the Website

At the time the Standing Orders were reviewed, there were discussions about how to appropriately address presbytery reports and minutes,

ensuring their accessibility but conscious of information that needs to be confidential.

MOTION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by H. Bryant that presbytery approve having the presbytery meeting agenda and reports be emailed to presbytery members and filed in a password-protected area of the website, with all members having access. This will take effect once the changes have been made to the website. **CARRIED**

MOTION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by H. Bryant that presbytery approve minutes provide only brief summaries of reports, to be done by the Presbytery Clerk and Presbytery Secretary. They would sparingly include any discussion necessary for context or especially important to record.

M. McLean Persaud withdrew from the court at 2:30 pm

MOTION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by H. Bryant that presbytery approve having the presbytery meeting minutes filed in a password-protected area of the website, with all members having access. This will take effect once the changes have been made to the website. **WITHDRAWN**

Moderator Elect

MOTION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by H. Bryant that the Rev. Bartholomew Alexander be named Moderator Elect for the 2026-27 presbytery year. **CARRIED**

New and Renewing Fund Grant from Grace, Calgary

The Presbytery Care and Resource Committee was advised that Grace had submitted its report to the national church for receipt of the New and Renewing Fund Grant.

Synod Regional Resource Grant

MOTION: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by H. Bryant That presbytery approved submitting to Synod a request for funds up to \$25,000 to do a Communications Review with Recommendations.

There was considerable discussion and concern about the nature of the request, the amount needed, and whether funds could be better used.

MOTION: MOVED by C. Mannix, seconded by M. Rozsa de Coquet that the motion be referred back to Presbytery Care for follow up at the next presbytery meeting. **CARRIED**

Comparative Balance Sheet

	<u>As at 03/31/2026</u>	<u>As at 03/31/2025</u>
ASSET		
Current Assets		
Chequing Bank Account	41,995.31	98,242.22
Investments - RBC Black Acct	10,087.50	10,105.00
Investments - RBC	396,698.51	379,840.44
Trinity fund - Mawer	951,708.75	975,657.64
Accounts Receivable	38,947.55	41,325.60
Accounts Receivable GST	-65.96	4.02
Account Receivable YE	65.96	0.00
Knox Loan	37,607.63	37,000.00
Total Current Assets	<u>1,477,045.25</u>	<u>1,542,174.92</u>
TOTAL ASSET	<u>1,477,045.25</u>	<u>1,542,174.92</u>
LIABILITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	1,382.01	2,621.45
Accounts Payable Promotion	3,032.68	3,032.68
GST Paid on Purchases	-480.58	-15.00
Prepaid Dues	23.30	801.20
Clerk's Conference	575.00	575.00
Youth Conferences	723.35	723.35
Youth Ministry	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Current Liabilities	<u>7,255.76</u>	<u>9,738.68</u>
TOTAL LIABILITY	<u>7,255.76</u>	<u>9,738.68</u>
EQUITY		
Owners Equity		
Trinity Funds	748,790.81	748,790.81
Retained Earnings - Previous Year	742,298.71	694,513.57
Current Earnings	-21,300.03	89,131.86
Total Owners Equity	<u>1,469,789.49</u>	<u>1,532,436.24</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>1,469,789.49</u>	<u>1,532,436.24</u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>1,477,045.25</u>	<u>1,542,174.92</u>

Comparative Income Statement

	Actual 01/01/2026 to 03/31/2026	Actual 01/01/2025 to 03/31/2025
REVENUE		
Revenue		
Dues	22,525.68	26,261.37
Fort MacLeod Funds	0.00	50,534.99
Revenue	22,525.68	76,796.36
Other Revenue		
Investment Interest	8,983.07	12,056.03
Unrealized Gains	-5,031.32	15,654.37
Total Other Revenue	3,951.75	27,710.40
TOTAL REVENUE	26,477.43	104,506.76
EXPENSE		
Missions		
University of Lethbridge Grants	1,500.00	1,500.00
Missions Total	1,500.00	1,500.00
Pastoral Effectiveness		
Workshops	0.00	3,374.19
Police Checks	74.70	0.00
Clergy Gathering	300.00	0.00
Pastoral Effectiveness Total	374.70	3,374.19
Payroll Expenses		
Student Ministry	9,000.00	0.00
General Presbyter	9,000.00	0.00
EI Expense	205.38	0.00
CPP Expense	500.80	0.00
PCC Medical & Dental Ins	1,041.34	0.00
PCC Pension	933.98	0.00
Payroll Charges	54.00	0.00
Total Payroll Expense	20,735.50	0.00
General & Administrative Expenses		
Promotion	0.00	324.00
Legal	3,192.75	0.00

MOTION: MOVED by C. Persaud, seconded by J. Van Pernis that the financial reports be adopted. **CARRIED**

M. Rozsa de Coquet was given permission to withdraw from the court at 2:45 pm

Request for Consultation

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

Clerk's Report

Clerk's report – Christian Persaud

2025 Congregational Records Check

St. John's completed their records check. To date 2 of 13 congregations have completed the check.

MOTION: MOVED by C. Persaud, seconded by J. Van Pernis that the congregational records check for St. John's be approved as neatly and correctly kept. **CARRIED**

Certified Candidate for Ordination

Communication was sent to the national church (Ministry and Church Vocations) to indicate that Okelo Aballa has been certified for ordination by Calgary-Macleod.

M. Rozsa de Coquet was granted permission to be dismissed from the meeting.

Fire Drills

As a follow-up from the April meeting, the information below shares the date of the last recorded fire drill shared with the clerk, and the due date for the next drill. This is part of cultivating an environment of safety and care, under the Leading with Care policy.

<u>City</u>	<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Last Held Drill</u>	<u>Next Drill Due</u>
Banff	St. Pauls	Feb 2025	Overdue
Bassano/Gem	Knox	Sept 28/25	Sept 2026
	Gem	Jan 2025	Overdue
Calgary	Calvin Hungarian	Sept 2025	Sept 2026
	Centennial	April 2025	Overdue

	Grace	Sept 2025	Sept 2026
	Knox	Nov 2024	Overdue
	St. Andrew's	July 27, 2025	July 2026
	St. Giles	Sept 21/25	Sept 2026
	Valleyview	May 2025	May 2026
	Varsity Acres	June 2025	June 2026
	Westminster	May 2025	May 2026
Lethbridge	St. Andrew's	Oct 2025	Oct 2026
Medicine Hat	St. John's	Oct 2025	Oct 2026

**General
Presbyter's
Report**

General Presbyter's Report – Terry Fach

Responsibility	Activity	Who Else?	Start Date	Status
Resource and Support Congregational Care & Resource Committee	Assist/support teams for congregational visitations	Congregational Care Committee	April 2026	ongoing
	Follow up on recommendations made in visitation reports		March 2026	ongoing (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	ongoing
	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	92% 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 and Resource Committee	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	ongoing
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 and Resource Committee	April 2026	See note #4
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 am currently following up on recommendations from two visitation reports: Westminster and Grace

2. This is an ongoing project. Two initial recommendations will come to presbytery in May (see Presbytery Care and Resource Committee report). Just a reminder that these (and future) recommendations reflect our consultations Sarah Moore-Nokes (former GP in PCUSA, currently Director of Organizational Development PCUSA) as we develop a plan relating to security and confidentiality of presbytery information and records.

3. A Clergy Care & Resource Committee objective is to work with other committees to develop a presbytery-wide initiative for building capacity in congregational leadership. Over the next 6 – 12 months we aim to develop a strategy and assemble appropriate resources for elder recruitment and training as we consult with all stakeholders. 4. See separate report: “Knox and St. Giles Amalgamation Team Report”

Other Business

Other Business

Voluntary Withdrawal Committee

Voluntary Withdrawal Committee (no report)

Amalgamation of Knox & St. Giles

Amalgamation of Knox and St. Giles

Purpose and mandate: The Amalgamation Team (Diane Hill, Cathy Gale, Terry Fach) has been appointed by the presbytery to support the amalgamation of Knox Presbyterian Church (Calgary) and St. Giles Presbyterian Church by facilitating prayerful dialogue with each congregation and their Sessions, seeking a process and outcome that is honouring to God and aligned with PCC policy. Our singular focus is helping the two churches produce a plan that, through diligent prayer and discernment, will be approved by the congregations and the presbytery,

and will help unify the new congregation in mission and in mutual love and fellowship.

April activity: Since Terry was appointed convener in early April, the team met 4 times to review its mandate and responsibilities, to review progress of the amalgamation discernment process to date, and to plot next steps. In addition, the team attended Sunday worship at both churches, attended Knox session on April 28, met individually with Knox's Interim Moderator and St. Giles' minister, and met with Avison Young's Ron Dezman to review progress on Phase 1 of their consultation report on development of both church properties.

Next steps:

(1) The AT is reviewing the amalgamation plan draft presented on April 1, 2026. That original draft has now received several additional contributions, and we are working with representatives from both sessions to review and consolidate these. (2) We are also revisiting the amalgamation plan writing process, so that we can accelerate the completion of the plan even as we continue to surround our work with prayerful and respectful dialogue. (3) We will not convene another amalgamation meeting until the new writing team is satisfied with their draft (we've identified three topics as particularly important). (4) The AT hopes to help Knox and St. Giles bring a completed amalgamation plan to presbytery by September 2026.

Prayer: The AT is humbled to be serving two faithful congregations who are on an amalgamation journey. Let us all join in regular and earnest prayer, both personal and corporate, for Knox and St. Giles congregations and their sessions, for Rev. Chris and Rev. Chandra as they shepherd the people, and for our AT: for wisdom in our discernment, courage and resolve to make the decisions we must, healing for those who are grieving, strong hearts for those who fear inevitable change, and for faith that God is caring for us in this season.

Request from
Camp Kannawin

Request from Camp Kannawin

MOTION: MOVED by L. Judd, seconded by C. Gale that presbytery support Camp Kannawin by contributing a grant of \$25 000.

AMENDMENT: MOVED by S. Cameron Evans, seconded by C. Joiner that presbytery approve paying \$25,000 to Camp Kannawin for this one-time occasion. **CARRIED**

MOTION AS AMENDED: CARRIED

Adoption of
Reports

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

Enthusiasms and Concerns

Enthusiasms and Concerns

K. Robbins shared enthusiasm for 1 baptism that occurred on Sunday as well as 3 people allowing their names to stand for eldership.

G. Smith shared that Roman Sizer has completed his practicum at VAPC and is willing to do pulpit supply over the summer (contact Greg to be put in touch with Roman)

Also, VAPC is hosting a Trans in Alberta event on Thursday, May 14 at 7pm. Please RSVP if you can make it.

E. Savanya shared enthusiasm for 3 baptisms that happened on Sunday. There were also 6 young people who confirmed their faith.

L. Kilbreath thanked presbytery for their endorsement and support of Walk As We. They are grateful for the grant given by the presbytery as well. Walk As We will continue to discern and explore their partnership with the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod. Watch for the email that invites Presbyters and interested congregants to a meeting.

C. Mannix shared enthusiasm for 3 kids that will be baptized Cameroonian style on May 24th.

St. Giles Orchestra will be playing at St. Giles on Saturday, May 23rd.

H. Carlson shared enthusiasm that the St. John's, Medicine Hat refugee team raised money for 6 refugees who will be arriving on Thursday, May 21, 2026.

L. McKay shared that Ruth Harvey, executive director of the Iona Community in Iona, Scotland, will be coming to Calgary on October 23rd (Friday) as part of a Canadian pilgrimage. Please save the date. St. Andrew's, Calgary will be hosting this event. There will be a "Fingerprint Labyrinth" from 3:00 - 6:00 pm, a simple supper at 5:00 pm, followed by a presentation on "Rooted in Hope".

M. Jardine shared that Grace Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Lunch & Learn event on Saturday, May 30th about Planning for the End of Life. Check Grace website for content and registration details.

Prayer of Intercession

C. Persaud 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, June 16, 2026 at 7 pm via Zoom. Worship led by Varsity Acres. Reports due June 4, 2026 by noon.

**Adjourn to Serve
Benediction** **MOTION:** MOVED by K. Robbins that the Court be adjourned. **CARRIED**

The Court was dismissed at 3:32 p.m.

Moderator
Rev. L. McKay

Clerk of Presbytery
Rev. C. Persaud