

July 2022

Northern Lights

Special points of interest:

- Staff Letters
- PNW Stated Meeting Summary
- Mission Spotlight
- Clearwater Forest
- Prayer Rotation

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Letter From Richard Blood

Grace to you, and peace,

Meeting with the CPM/CRE Committee last month, I was reminded again of just how important our Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) are to the ministry of the Presbytery of Northern Waters. The “average” PC(USA) congregation is small.

This is even more true now, as we move toward the end of “COVID time.” People are still unsure about when it’s safe to return to in-person worship, and are honestly just out-of-the habit of attending right now. This is true all over. Most of our congregations are running at somewhere around ½ the Sunday attendance they had before the pandemic. And this is not a local trend. It’s happening all over the country, and in most denominations. It is what it is right now.

But too often, low attendance means low income, something our small congregations can’t afford to begin with. How do we pay for trained, competent pastors? (And the Presbyterian Church has always stressed the importance of well-educated leaders.) One answer is trained ruling elders, (CREs) who can be commissioned by Presbytery to serve locally in most of the functions of Ministers of Word and Sacrament. The Presbytery of Northern Waters was a pioneer in training and commissioning ruling elders. We developed our own program, and have used CREs or lay pastors, for many years.



Rev. Richard Blood and his daughter

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Letter from CPM

Who Me?

Have you ever sat in worship on a Sunday morning and thought to yourself: I can do that? Or perhaps “ I can do that better?” You’d be amazed how many folks have just such thoughts. Yet we dismiss them as random thoughts, daydreaming. But suppose this is the Spirit calling you to a deeper commitment, to grow in your faith and challenge your discipleship? It’s the way God works. It might be the way God is working in your life.

When asked such questions, individuals most often respond, “Who me?” We think of being called to ordained ministries, those that require seminary and degrees. We seldom think ourselves in that framework. And yet, as Rich mentions in his article, PCUSA, our presbytery is in desperate need of pastoral leadership. There are so many small, faithful fellowships in our midst, struggling to survive and be good witnesses in their communities, yearning for their own pastor. What’s the answer?

One response is Commissioned Ruling Elders. Ruling elders are those in our local congregations we ordain for specific leadership roles, like serving on the session. But elders who undertake further study can become a pastor. These elders are known as Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs).

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2022 PNW Prayer Rotation

(Sep—Nov.)

3-Jul-22 First Presbyterian Church of Hurley, WI - Rev. Donald Nickolson, Stated Supply

10-Jul-22 Congregation of the Good Shepherd of Keewatin, MN – Rev. Aaron LeRoy Lofgren, Pastor

17-Jul-22 Community Presbyterian Church of Lac du Flambeau, WI - Vacant

24-Jul-22 First Presbyterian Church of Lake Nebagamon, WI - CRE Leslie Anderson

31-Jul-22 Community Church of Manitowish Waters, WI - Vacant

7-Aug-22 Calvary Presbyterian Church of McGrath, MN and Wahkon Presbyterian Church of Wahkon, MN – Rev. John Mann, Stated Supply

14-Aug-22 Round Lake Presbyterian Church of McGregor, MN - Rev. Arlin Talley, Moderator

21-Aug-22 Trinity Episcopal/Presbyterian Church of Park Rapids, MN - Rev. Mary Marotte, Pastor

28-Aug-22 First Presbyterian Church of Phillips, WI - Rev. Matthew Arneson, Pastor

4-Sep-22 United Presbyterian Church of Rice Lake, WI - Vacant

11-Sep-22 United Protestant Church of Silver Bay, MN - Rev. Paul Scaringi, Pastor

Presbytery Meeting Highlights

The Presbytery of Northern Waters held its 2022 spring meeting on May 5th, in person at Glen Avon Presbyterian Church, and virtually via Zoom.

The Rev. James Deters, Moderator, granted the Rev. Dorothy Duquette, 2021 Moderator, the honor of calling the meeting to order. After the declaration of a quorum, the Rev. Duquette opened the meeting with prayer at 9:49 am.

After a request to move Jackie Ranco's commissioning service to later in the meeting, the amended agenda was approved by the Presbytery.

The Rev Brad Carloss, Stated Clerk, reviewed the standing rules for this in person and virtual meeting. The Rev. Carloss then appointed Amanda Keppers as Roll and Minutes Clerk. There were no Corresponding Members to seat. The Stated Clerk moved to ratify all actions taken virtually by the Presbytery from April 2020 to the present (MSC.) The Rev. Carloss brought greetings from Nini Edwardo, Executive Secretary of the IEEP of Portugal, and thanked the Presbytery for prayers for his wife Sheryl after her heart attack, and reported she is doing well.

The Rev. James Deters, Moderator, received a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as written (MSC,) and reported on a special meeting of the Presbytery called to concur with a motion being brought to General Assembly encouraging environmental responsibility. The motion was approved at the special meeting, 96 percent in favor.

The Rev. Dorothy Duquette, Council Chair, brought two action items before the Presbytery on behalf of Council. The Presbytery approved the nomination of Deb Emory, CRE, to serve on the nominating committee, and voted to dismiss the Administrative Commission for the installation of the Rev. Jason Schiller at Community Presbyterian Church, Grand Rapids, with thanks.

The Rev. Barry Boyer, HR, Overtures and Bylaws Chair, recommended a change to our Manual of Operations requiring Boundaries Training every 3 years instead of every 5 years as in the past. The Rev. Robyn Weaver spoke on behalf of COM supporting the motion. (MSC.)

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Presbytery Meeting Highlights Continued

The Rev. Lon Weaver, Committee on Preparation for Ministry Chair, recommended Jocelyn Langholtz, a Ruling Elder from Ashland, be enrolled as an Inquirer for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Jocelyn spoke to the Presbytery about sense of calling to this path. After very positive discussion, the motion was moved, seconded, and carried. The Rev. Diana Bell led a prayer for Jocelyn as she moves through her discernment process.

The Rev. Richard Blood, General Presbyter, acting for Program Strategy, introduced two video Bible Studies in preparation for the 225 General Assembly. They were based on Hebrews 11, and focused on the theme of "Lament and Hope." These were the heart of our learning time.

The Revs. Robyn Weaver and Lawrence Lee, Co-Chairs of the Committee on Ministry, reported on ways God has been active and faithful in our Presbytery during this time of transition, while several congregations are looking for new pastoral leadership. Prayer was requested for Manitowish Waters, Lac du Flambeau, and Westminster as they seek God's guidance. Thanksgiving was offered for Wendy Christianson, coming to Virginia as Stated Supply, for the continuing ministry of Trinity Episcopal/Presbyterian Church in Park Rapids, and for exciting things happening at our Phillips Church. Rev Lee reported that all members of the Ironwood church have been put into the care of other congregations, and the building has been sold. There will be a celebration of the church's ministry at our October meeting. The Revs. Richard Blood and Brad Carlross reported for the First Pres Duluth Administrative Commission, that a joint meeting of the commission and the session is planned. The Rev. Joel Huenemann, Moderator at First, spoke of the congregation's deep emotional attachment to the building, while acknowledging an awareness that their current financial situation is unsustainable.

RE Paul Rigstad and the Rev. Robyn Weaver reported on a tumultuous year at Clearwater Forest. CF is celebrating a full complement of programs this summer after the struggles of COVID-19! Keep them in your prayers! It's been a hard year for the board however, dealing with major turnover in key staff positions, the total remodeling of Hallett Hall, the demolition of Osprey House, a flood in Eagle Lodge, and a fire in the Gate House kitchen.

2022 PNW Prayer Rotation

(Sep.—Nov.)

- 18-Sep-22** Country Peace Presbyterian Church of Superior, WI - CRE Leslie Anderson
25-Sep-22 United Presbyterian Church of Superior, WI - Rev. Brett Foote, Pastor
2-Oct-22 Peace & Global Witness Offering - Presbyterian Mission Agency and Synod, Presbytery, and Congregational peace and mission efforts
9-Oct-22 First Presbyterian Church of Tamarack, MN - Rev. Rick Mann, Pastor
16-Oct-22 St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower, MN - Rev. Douglas Workman, Pastor
23-Oct-22 United Church of Two Harbors, MN - Paula Gaboury, Pastor
30-Oct-22 Hope Community Presbyterian Church of Virginia, MN - Vacant
6-Nov-22 Warba Presbyterian Church of Warba, MN - Rev. Arlin Talley, Moderator
13-Nov-22 First United Presbyterian Church of Willow River, MN - Vacant
20-Nov-22 First Presbyterian Church of Winter, WI - Vacant

Mission Spotlight– Chippewa Falls Presbyterian Church

In June the State of Wisconsin recognized the work of the Open Door Clinic in Chippewa Falls by giving them a grant for \$120,000 which was presented to the Clinic by Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes.

The Clinic is housed in the First Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls where it has been since it opened in 2005.

During his visit, Barnes toured the facility and met with representatives of the Clinic and the church.

The Open Door Clinic, Inc. is a non-profit organization that provides basic health care services and a connection to community resources to Chippewa County residents who are without a health care alternative.

Nationally, it is estimated that eight to ten percent of the American population has no health insurance. In Chippewa County, that equates to 5,600 neighbors without health insurance. The Clinic, which is operated with the help of medical volunteers

- Provides basic health care services to uninsured.
- Provides basic lab testing.
- Provides basic pharmaceutical services.
- Assists patients with prescription program applications.

The Clinic, which is opened on Tuesday evenings from 5:00 to 7:30 provides medical services to Chippewa County residents who fall below 200% of the federal poverty level and are without health insurance.

They provide general medical services, pharmaceutical services, psychiatry, pulmonology, physical therapy and treatment from a chiropractor and dietician as necessary.

This is just one of the many projects available through the Chippewa Falls Presbyterian Church which has some to be known by many in the community as the “mission church”.



<https://www.wqow.com/news/politics/mandela-barnes->

Article respectfully submitted by Lynda Butek

Clearwater Forest

Joy in Music

**Honing Hospitality
Speaker - Rev. Katie Estes**

August 18 - 21, 2022
Optional Service Day August 17th

In contemporary culture, the term refers to the hotel and convention industry or to catering a meal and putting on a party, but hospitality means far more as a Christian practice. Hospitality is the offer to extend the privileges of community to those who do not have the standing to expect it, especially those who are vulnerable because they are strangers. Hospitality often involves sharing meals, but hospitality is about more than eating. Hospitality is an offer to identify with outsiders and to treat them like insiders.

All human life begins with God's act of hospitality—with God's making a place for us in the world that God created, a world that we had no claim to inhabit. God knew that this offer was dangerous because we the outsiders might defile the pristine world. But God welcomed us anyway. "Having been embraced by God, we must make space for others and invite them in—even our enemies," writes Miroslav Volf in his book *Exclusion and Embrace*. Hospitality is treating outsiders like insiders, just as God treated us.

We will use this weekend to hone our hospitality skills with God and with one another as we consider how we might practice a broader hospitality in the world.

Workshops

Power of Gratitude, Book Discussion, Scene Painting,
Cultivating Habits that Serve You, Improv Games for Church, Work & Play,
Heavenly Sweets: Cookie Creations

As a liturgical musician for the past 65 years of my life, it has been my calling and training from both of my grandmothers (who were church organists), my training at the Juilliard School in NYC and 50 years of positions as organist and choir director of churches in New York, and Maine. It has been my privilege to be a part of the Northern Waters Presbytery for the past 10 years; and I have wanted to communicate some thoughts about how we can share the joy in music to the Glory of God in our churches and at Presbytery Meetings. For the February meeting of 2023, I would like to undertake the responsibility of proposing a joint ensemble as a prelude to our worship with my direction. The music would be Amazing Grace played and sung by vocal and instrumental musicians. It is my fervent and prayerful hope that we could give this a try using the Blue Hymnal as our music. PLEASE come and share your talents at the rehearsal. We can make a Joyful Noise together one hour before Worship.

Thanks, Jackie.



Our Mission

Clearwater Chrysalis is a Christian based faith-building program of Clearwater Forest. We welcome adult women of all beliefs. Our vision is to nourish and support the body, mind and spirit in community with other women.

Fees, Registration, General Info

Fees for Chrysalis cover three nights of housing, all meals, speaker presentations, most workshops and more. Cost: summer cabin - \$228, lodge double room - \$308, single lodge room - \$430 | A \$75 deposit is required. All fees paid, minus the \$75 deposit, are refundable if a cancellation of registration occurs at least 10 days prior to the event.

The first 5 First timers who register are eligible for a discount.



Katie Estes has been attending and leading events at Clearwater Forest for more than 30 years and can think of no better place to rest and renew. She learned about hospitality from her family and many church families, and fully expects to learn more about it with the Chrysalis family this summer! She currently serves as Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Green Bay, WI; she previously served in South St. Paul, Bloomington and Roseville, MN. Katie loves to read, bake, hold babies, and travel—but not all at the same time.

Register Online

www.clearwaterforest.org

Or call the camp office at (218) 678-2325 to register. You will receive registration confirmation and additional information via email. Register by August 1, 2022. Scholarship funds are available through the Chrysalis Steering Committee. Contact the camp office at (218) 678-2325.

Featuring

Exercise Options: Water Exercise, Yoga
Free Time Options: Tie-dye, kayaks, high ropes, nature walk, relaxing hammocks
Entertainment: Bunco!

Housing for Summer Chrysalis is available in Leaning Tree and Eagle Lodges and the Summer Cabins.

Clearwater Forest is a regional program, retreat and conference center of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This beautiful setting near Brainerd, Minnesota, covers more than 1,000 acres of forest and includes 3 1/2 miles of lakefront, 10 miles of wooded trails, and majestic stone buildings.

16595 Crooked Lake Road, Deerwood, MN 56444



Save the Date!
Winter Chrysalis Feb. 24 - 26, 2023

Justice and Peace Book Club

- Read a J&P recommended book every two months
- Receive study guides to inform your reading
- Discuss the books with others via zoom

Books for the 2022 Reading Season:

- ◆ February 7- Trust Women by Rebecca Todd Peters
- ◆ April 11- Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance
- ◆ June 13- White Fragility by Robin Diangelo
- ◆ August 8- Poverty in America A Handbook by John Iceland

Most of these books are recommended by Presbyterian Women. There will be two times to join the Zoom sessions, 12:30 – 2:30 pm and 6:30 – 8:30 pm (Central Time). You must be registered to receive the study questions and to join the call due to Zoom protocol. Contact Kathleen Keefer at: kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com You do not need to commit to participate in future book discussions as you will register for each one separately. The “CLUB” is open to all regardless of gender.

Presbytery Meeting Highlights Continued

Moderator James Deters led in a commissioning service for Elder Jackie Ranco, our Ruling Elder Commissioner to the 225th General Assembly. Keep Jackie in your prayers as well!

The Rev. Brett Foote of Superior United led Presbytery in closing worship, with an immersive study from the Psalms, focusing again on the GA themes of lament and hope. Elder Jane Wester from Superior United led music.

Rev. Bradley Carloss, Stated Clerk, gave the report of the roll, with a total of 42 in attendance, in person and virtually.

Rev. James Deters, Moderator, closed the meeting with prayer at 12:40 pm.

The next meeting of Presbytery will be at Clearwater Forest, October 6-8. Please plan to join us as we resume a much-loved tradition!

Letter from Richard Blood Continued from page 1

In recent years we’ve moved towards a more standardized training process, and are currently using the “Academy,” run by the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. It’s a great program that brings in first-rate teachers, often during Synod School, to prepare lay leaders for many aspects of ministry in our congregations. We have a handful of wonderful, gifted participants in the Academy now, but could use more to fill the growing need in our many small congregations. Even some of our bigger churches are using CREs working under the supervision of Ministers of Word and Sacrament to augment their ministries.

Learning to listen to the wisdom of the past and face the challenges of a changing world is a life-long process for all of us. We can never afford to stop learning. That’s why seminary-trained pastors are required to do on-going education. But CRE training, and the Academy in particular, is a great place to start in preparation for ministry in our congregations. Pastors, do you have people in your congregations with gifts God clearly wants to use who aren’t in a place where seminary is feasible? Steer them towards our CRE program. Do you, a ruling elder, feel God may be calling you towards a bigger ministry in your congregation, or other congregations around you? Check out our CRE program and the Academy.

How? Get in touch with Lon Weaver, chair of the CPM/CRE program, or contact the PNW office and we can steer you in the right direction. Maybe God is calling you . . .

Yours in Christ,
Richard Blood
General Presbyter, PNW

Presbyterian Women Synod Gathering

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at our Synod of Lakes & Prairies Gathering in Sioux City, Iowa June 15-19. I was truly blessed to have been able to make this journey, and I thank you for helping me get there! The fellowship, the work shops, the involvement of so many amazing women in our synod is astounding! And, the Native American PW women are just phenomenal.

If you have never experienced a gathering, whether it be at our Presbytery, Synod or Churchwide level, you are missing out. The heartfelt devotion, emotion, information on how we can help, along with amazing work shop Leaders, can change your life, your heart!

I was able to go on a pre-gathering tour, Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Center, which was a clinic she helped start, and is now being refurbished and will hold satellite medical offices and a cultural center. Dr. John G. Neihardt Center, which was a museum filled with information about Native Americans, the Faith Presbyterian Church, which Dr. Susan was a teacher at, Susan's home, Bancroft cemetery, which is where she is buried, and the Honoring the Clans Sculpture Garden, which was truly inspiring.

It was a very spiritual tour, visiting places that are sacred, places that it took perseverance and a strong sense of working for the good of all the people for Dr. Susan and others to create a long lasting legacy.

I attended six very informative workshops! One was listening to a PW board go on a road trip to the various PW groups in their Presbytery! Awesome ideas. Another was 'Before & After the SOS', information regarding Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

One was 'But what I can do?' I am getting a sheet emailed to me with various websites that can help you figure out just what you can do, at your level. Let me know if you would like one.

One was the 'ABC's of LGBTQIA+' Very informative! We need to remember that we are all God's children! Interesting conversations about supporting your loved ones through all their journey, not just the part you feel comfortable with.

'Following Spirit in Dakota Territory' really spoke to my heart. The Dakota Presbytery has the unique distinction of being non-geographical and spoken in Dakota language. We often forget our history.

I also attended an awesome workshop 'Storytelling: Oral Tradition in Native American Culture'. Interesting to hear and see what the others in our workshop heard from the story that was told.

This is pretty lengthy, but not long enough to write about all that I experienced and witnessed, but a brief summary of four wonderful days, seven, if you count the travel time! But, I found new friends from all over our Synod!

Peace and Blessings,

Hope Dougherty

Presbyterian Women Chair, PNW



The Presbytery is grateful for our General Assembly Commissioners who were able to attend this years 225th General Assembly.

The Presbytery of Northern Waters Commissioners for the 225th GA were:

- Rev. Sue Goodin,
Honorably Retired
- Jackie Ranco,
Ruling Elder of Ashland Presbyterian Church

Thank you for your service!



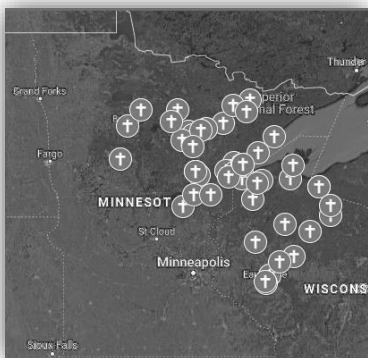
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Invitation to Share News

We'd really like to feature the events and mission projects your congregation is most proud of, as a way of planting ideas and encouraging us all. Please send us notes, articles, and needs that we can share. Want to brag? Send it. Have prayer requests? Send them. Celebrating the life and accomplishments of a congregation member? Someone you're really grateful for? Let us celebrate with you! Help keep us

CPM Letter Continued – Who Me?

Suppose you think you are experiencing just such a call. What do you do? Where do you start?

In a nutshell, here's the process for becoming a CRE.

- Pray
- Talk to your pastor. Explore your experience and questions together. Pray together.
- Contact a member of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM). The presbytery office has current contact information.
- Once you decide to become a candidate for the program, you must come "under care" of your session. That usually involves a vote by session, reflecting their commitment to support you in your training and a letter of recommendation to CPM. At the same time, CPM must also receive a letter of recommendation from your pastor.
- When CPM receives these recommendations, you will come "under care" of CPM itself. You will be given a liaison from CPM, who will be your primary contact throughout the process.
- The candidate will be asked by CPM to submit a "faith journey" statement and a Statement of Faith.
- Occupational experience and academic achievement as it's relevant to the CRE program will be explored with CPM.
- A program of studies is pursued in areas required by the Book of Order. Currently, this takes place through a synod-based program, The Academy. It takes about two years to complete all the courses.
- Candidates will complete a psychological evaluation and be found within clinical norms.
- After completing coursework and any other preparation CPM requires, the committee will meet with the candidate for a final evaluation. Following the evaluation, CPM will forward a recommendation to presbytery stating the candidate's readiness for a call and commissioning

Sounds complicated, doesn't it? But it's not. Your liaison from CPM will be there for you, to answer your questions and help you find your way through the forest of requirements. We look forward to meeting you, sharing the journey with you, and celebrating your commissioning with you.

Sue Goodin