COMMISSION ON MINISTRY AND MINISTRY PREPARATION
Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2026

The meeting of the Commission on Ministry and Ministry Preparation was held via Zoom and called to order by Dawn Russell at 10:00 a.m. January 28, 2026 following prayer by Dawn Russell.

Members present: Nathaniel Asperger, Al Hosler, Christina Jensen, Scott Kroener, Mark Morningstar, Suzy Rockwell, Dawn Russell, Kim Strunz and Jane Young.

Members excused: Robbie Carnes, Deb Coverdill, Linda Gibbs and Gayle Wooster.

Presbytery staff present: Ted McCulloch, Stated Clerk and Staci Percy, Communications Manager/Recording Clerk

Introductions were held.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to elect Dawn Russell as Moderator and Al Hosler as Vice Moderator for 2026.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to approve the agenda.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2025 stated meeting.

Discussion was held regarding subteam assignments. They are as follows:

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)
Robbie Carnes
Scott Kroener
Gayle Wooster

Transition Team
Nathaniel Asperger
Christina Jensen
Mark Morningstar
Suzy Rockwell
Kim Strunz

Admin Team
Linda Gibbs
Al Hosler
Dawn Russell
Jane Young

It was reported that Hal Shaffer's exit interview has been completed.

The **Admin Team** report was given by Dawn Russell.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to approve the following contracts:

The renewal of the Pastoral Partnership Agreement between the Rev. Denny Irish, Vassar-First and First United Methodist Church of Vassar effective January 1, 2026 for a period of one year. Time expectations to Vassar-First is part-time (20 hours/week). The following are the terms for Vassar-First's portion of his salary and funds will be paid to Vassar-First United Methodist on a monthly basis.

Salary	$40,929/annum ($3,411/month) (Vassar-First's portion)
Housing	Included in salary paid to V-FUMC
Medical	Included in salary paid to V-FUMC
Continuing Education	Included in salary paid to V-FUMC
Travel Reimbursement	Included in salary paid to V-FUMC
Vacation Time	4 weeks including 4 Sundays
Study Leave	2 weeks including 2 Sundays
Additional Leave	4 weeks on the 5th Sundays on the month

The part-time (approximately 48 days/year) CRE Covenant renewal between Elder Jon Baker and Rosebush for a period of one year effective November 1, 2025. Terms are as follows:

Cash Salary	$200/week
Vacation Time	4-8 Sundays
Study Leave	N/A

The Rev. Andrew Miller will continue to serve as his mentor.

The part time (8-10 hours/week) Temporary Relationship covenant between Grand Blanc-Kirkridge and Elder Julianne Princinsky effective January 1, 2026 for a period of six months. Terms are as follows:

Cash Salary	$1,200/month
Social Security/Medicare	$91.80/month
Vacation	2 weeks including 2 Sundays
Study Leave	1 week including 1 Sunday

The full time Temporary Relationship covenant between Davison-St. Andrew's and Rev. Linda Graham effective January 1, 2026 for a period of one year. Terms are as follows:

Cash Salary	$25,000
Housing Allowance	$22,000
IRA Allowance	$4,000
Medical (estimate)	$3,500
Vacation Time	4 weeks including 4 Sundays
Study Leave Time	2 weeks including 2 Sundays
Family Leave Time	Up to 12 weeks

The CRE contract between Elder Mark Garavaglia and Sandusky and Yale-First congregations effective January 1, 2026 for a period of one year. Terms are as follows:

Salary	$837/week [split 60% (Sandusky)/40% (Yale)]
Medical	$800/month
Continuing Education	$1000/year
Travel Reimbursement	At current IRS Rate
Vacation Allowance	4 weeks including 4 Sundays
Study Leave	2 weeks including 2 Sundays
Family Leave Time	Up to 12 weeks

The Rev. Robbie Carnes continues to serve as his mentor.

The part-time (25 hours/week) Temporary Supply Covenant renewal between the Rev. Sue Hand and Tawas effective for a period of one year, effective January 1, 2026. Terms are as follows:

Cash Salary	$27,000
Housing Allowance	$25,000
Travel Reimbursement	At IRS rate
Vacation Time	4 weeks (non-consecutive) including 4 Sundays
Study Leave Time	3 weeks including Sundays
Compensatory Time Off	5 weeks including Sundays 12 weeks plus Sundays at one week per month
Family Leave Time	Up to 12 weeks
Reimbursable Items	Study leave allowance, phone calls, professional expenses and others

It was noted that Jon Essex is having surgery in March. Christina Jensen and Nathaniel Asperger agreed to check in with him prior to the surgery as well as after.

Kim Strunz was appointed as Moderator of Session for Caro-First and Cass City-First.

The following people will continue serving as Moderator of Session for the congregation listed:

- Mark Morningstar at Breckenridge-Emerson
- Christina Jensen at Fairgrove
- Joseph Novak at Flint-Trinity United
- Al Hosler at Harbor Beach-First
- Robbie Carnes at Houghton Lake-Kirk of the Lakes
- Mark Morningstar at Ithaca-Lafayette
- Robbie Carnes at Lapeer-First
- Jon Baker at Rosebush
- Ted McCulloch at Saginaw-Second

It was noted that Fenton-Tyrone will need a Moderator of Session in the spring while Cassie Todd is on sabbatical.

The **Transition Team** report was led by Christina Jensen and Dawn Russell.

Updates were given on:

- Grand Blanc-Kirkridge and Flint-Trinity United
- Lapeer-First
- Croswell-First
- Saginaw-Second

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to approve Saginaw-Second's Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP).

Devotions will be led by:

February	Scott Kroener
March	Jane Young
April	Mark Morningstar
May	Christina Jensen

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to adjourn at 10:45am following prayer by Dawn Russell.

The next scheduled meeting of the Commission on Ministry and Ministry Preparation will be held Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 10:00am via Zoom.

Staci Percy
Communications Manager/Recording Clerk