COMMISSION ON MINISTRY AND MINISTRY PREPARATION
Meeting Minutes
February 25, 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. February 25, 2026 following prayer by Scott Kroener.

Members present: Nathaniel Asperger, Robbie Carnes, Deb Coverdill, Linda Gibbs, Al Hosler, Christina Jensen, Scott Kroener, Mark Morningstar, Suzy Rockwell, Dawn Russell, Kim Strunz, Gayle Wooster and Jane Young.

Members excused: None

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

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to approve the agenda as amended.

Introductions were held.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2026 stated meeting.

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

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to approve renewal of the part-time (35 hours/month) Temporary Relationship Covenant between the Rev. Chris Thomas and Holly effective March 1, 2026 for a period of one year. Terms are as follows:

Housing	$1,000/month
Travel Reimbursement	At current IRS Rate
Vacation Time	4 weeks including 4 Sundays
Study Leave Time	2 weeks including 2 Sundays
Family Leave	12 weeks
Study Leave Allowance	$650/year
Professional Expenses	$500/year

The responsibilities of the **Admin Team** were reviewed. They are as follows:

1. Review contracts for compliance with Presbytery's minimum terms of call.
    a. Yearly for Temporary and Interim Pastor relationships
    b. As needed throughout the year or yearly for CREs
    c. For Called and Installed during the call process and at the request of Clergy when the terms of call are out of compliance with the presbytery minimums.
    d. Communicate the approval of contracts back to the Clerk of Session.

2. Review moderator assignments for churches without pastoral leadership and communicate with church and moderator the appointment.

3. Review grant requests

4. Update the COMMP Handbook as needed

The **Transition/Interview Team** report was led by Dawn Russell.

The responsibilities of the **Transition/Interview Team** are as follows:

1. Providing guidance and facilitation for church sessions and PNC's without dedicated pastoral support including
    a. Dissolution of current pastoral relationship
    b. Determination of future ministry models
    c. Mission Studies
    d. Recommendation for COMMP approval when a church is ready to form a PNC
    e. Pastoral Call Process and CLC support
    f. Collaboration between churches regarding shared pastoral support
    g. And other transition related support

2. Interviewing all persons wishing to be ordained into the presbytery; transferring membership from another presbytery; desiring to be placed on the pulpit supply list; and conducting exit interviews with clergy departing the presbytery or retiring.

3. Acting as liaisons for all sessions and moderators with regards to questions or requests for presbytery guidance and assistance

Updates were given on:
- Lapeer-First
- Saginaw-Second
- Grand Blanc-Kirkridge and Flint-Trinity United

The responsibilities of the **Committee on Preparation for Ministry** were reviewed. They are as follows:

1. Guiding and encouraging people to discern God's call on their lives through the ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

2. Guide and encourage Ruling Elders who are discerning God's call on their lives through the Presbytery of Lake Huron's CRE program.

Deb Coverdill was assigned to the Transition/Interview Team.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to appoint Jane Young as Moderator for Fenton-Tyrone.

The Liaison responsibilities were discussed. They include:

1. Pray for the Pastor and congregation.
2. Encourage and support the pastor(s) as they lead the congregation and care for themselves and their families.
3. Become familiar with the church's story.
4. Be aware of strong lay leaders in the congregation/session.
5. Be aware of points of tension within the congregation/session or between pastor and session or staff.
6. Connect with Clerk of Session maintaining open communication with the lay leadership of the congregation.
7. At Presbytery Meeting be intentional. Connect with Pastor and commissioners from congregation. Say hello and explain briefly your role as liaison when it is your first meeting.

Develop a Liaison Elevator Speech
Example: The liaison serves as a support to the congregation. I like to hear what is going well in your congregation as well as concerns. When the congregation needs an advocate, I am a person you can reach out to.

At the March COMMP meeting discussion will be held regarding how to connect with congregations.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to adjourn at 10:50am following prayer by Scott Kroener.

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

Staci Percy
Communications Manager/Recording Clerk