

# Assembly Connect

## Presbytery of Chicago Presbytery Assembly | November 16, 2019

On November 16, 2019, 82 Ministers of Word and Sacrament, 71 Ruling Elders, and 8 visitors gathered in the Buchanan Chapel of Chicago's Fourth Presbyterian Church for fellowship and worshipful work.

### **"One Year, One Church"**

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With this Presbytery Assembly, our "One Year, One Church" project draws to a close. We give hearty thanks to and for the staff and volunteers at Chicago's Fourth Presbyterian Church for their hospitality this year.

Next year, we'll return to our traditional pattern of moving the assembly around the presbytery – starting off in February with the installation of our new Assembly Moderator, Ruling Elder Sandy Zeles, at St. Luke Church (her home congregation!) in Downers Grove.

### **Assembly Worship**

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Using Jesus' conversation with a Canaanite woman in Matthew 15:21-28 as her text, Rev. Nayoung Ha preached a sermon titled "The Divine Agitator." In it, she described her work with the [Home Is Here](#) coalition, which organizes to protect the rights of DACA recipients and their families.

Kristene Hiepler-Hartwig, David Thornton, and John Mackey provided a rousing rendition of "Let There Be Peace on Earth" for our offertory. Proceeds from this assembly's offering went to the PC(USA) Christmas Joy Special Offering, and totaled \$2,002.00.

### **Presbytery Elections**

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Our Presbytery Nominating Committee has continued its good work and provided us with a robust slate of officers for our November meeting. We give thanks for (and to) the following newly-elected presbytery committee members:

- **Permanent Judicial Commission:** Elder Denise Cureton; Rev. Barbara Bundick
- **Commission on Ministry:** Elders Barbara Churchill, Barb Coop, Lorenzo Jackson, and Laure Kaeser; Revs. Adam Malak, Jane Tuma, and Lesley Weir
- **Commission on Preparation for Ministry:** Elder Carol Korak; Rev. Chip Hardwick
- **Mission Committee:** Elders Paul Abraham, Fred Veenbaas, Luz Fonseca, and Dale Valaskovic; Revs. Nayoung Ha, Matt Helms, and Jeff Lehn
- **Presbytery Coordinating Commission:** Elders Jayne Wellman, Ariel Gloor, and Lisa Dagher; Revs.

Erik Khoobyarian, Nancy Dolan, and José Muñiz-Agrón

- **Administration Team:** Elders Tom Frey, Mary Johnson, and Tony Ruger
- **Constitutional Procedures Work Group:** Rev. Noris Caban
- **Personnel Team:** Elder Jayne Wellman; Rev. Lolly Dominski
- **Presbytery Assembly Planning Team:** Elder Rebecca Chu; Rev. Lis Valle
- **Presbytery Nominating Committee:** Rev. Leslie Sanders

We also held elections for Chicago Presbytery's commissioners to the **224th General Assembly**, which will be held June 20-27, 2020 in Baltimore, Maryland. Per Chicago Presbytery's standing rules, Assembly Moderator Rev. Paige Stephan and Assembly Moderator-Elect Sandy Zeles were automatically elected to serve in this capacity. Also elected to serve were Elders Hope Daniels, Ariel Gloor, and José Ocampo, Jr.; and Revs. Linda Eastwood, Michael Miller, Jr., and Beth Wagner. Catherine (Kaki) Lynch will serve as Chicago's Young Adult Advisory Delegate.

## Mission Fair & Grant Opportunities

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At November's Presbytery Assembly, 16 recipients of Chicago Presbytery **Mission Grants** set up displays and shared information about their respective ministries:

- [Arlington Heights Southminster Presbyterian Church](#): CROP Walk
- [Chicago First Presbyterian Church](#): Food pantry
- [Chicago Fourth Presbyterian Church](#): Church-wide composting program
- [Chicago New Deliverance Presbyterian Church](#): Diaper & Caring for Homeless People ministries
- [Christopher House](#): Community development programs
- [Edgewater Presbyterian Church](#): Spirit Space
- [Erie House](#): Community development programs
- Havana Chicago Partnership: Cultural exchanges
- Hispanic Chicago Partnership: Camp/VBS programs
- [The Inclusive Collective](#): Campus ministry
- [Itasca First Presbyterian Church](#): PADS ministry
- [Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church](#): Vigil Against Gun Violence
- [Middle East Task Force](#): Peace trip to Israel/Palestine
- [Morgan Park Presbyterian Church](#): Covenant gathering camp retreat
- [Naperville River Glen Presbyterian Church](#): Camp scholarships
- [United Campus Ministry at Northwestern](#): Campus ministry

The Mission Committee accepts **grant proposals** on an ongoing basis – its next (quarterly) deadline is February 1, 2020. Have a great new idea to minister within your community, but need some cash to turn your dreams into reality? [Fill out an application!](#)

In its report, the Mission Committee also named the first round of congregations to receive **Salary Supplement Grants**: Morgan Park Presbyterian Church, Palatine Presbyterian Church, Tinley Park Faith United Presbyterian Church, Wheaton Hope Presbyterian Church, Chicago Faith Presbyterian Church, and Hanover Park Presbyterian Church. Over the next three years, Chicago Presbytery will not only help to close the budget gap of their respective pastors' salaries, but will also walk with them as they discern and work toward what God is calling them to be and do into the future. Interested in seeing if your congregation might qualify for next year's round of recipients? Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

## Celebrations Across the Lifespan

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When we gathered at November's Presbytery Assembly, Assembly Moderator **Paige Stephan** was one week away from the due date of her first child. (Update: Our Baby Moderator has arrived. Paige gave birth to daughter Adelia Lawson Morrow on November 23. Adelia remains in the hospital for continuing care.) As Stated Clerk Ken Hockenberry quipped during his opening remarks, we are now considering her on full maternity leave concerning all presbytery-related matters. If you need presbytery-level representation at an event in these next few months before Sandy is installed as moderator, please contact the presbytery office and we'll make sure you're taken care of.

During the presbytery assembly we also celebrated Revs. **David Perkins** and **Judy Watts**, who have recently entered the ranks of the Honorably Retired. Judy shared a few moments of wisdom with the assembly.

As an assembly, we joined in a liturgy commemorating and thanking God for the ministry of **Round Lake Calvary Presbyterian Church**. They celebrated their final worship service on July 9, 2019.

## Other News & Business

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During its report, the Commission on AntiRacism and Equity (CARE), as part of its continuing effort to increase awareness of systemic racism, dramatically illustrated the concept using water and sharks as metaphors. When we think of racism we often look out for "sharks" (i.e., white supremacy), but we need to be mindful of the danger of the water (i.e., systemic racism) that's all around us.

**Save the date!** We'll be holding a presbytery-wide training event on March 7, 2020, at Arlington Heights First Presbyterian Church. This event is open to *all* pastors and congregation members in Chicago Presbytery – not just your presbytery commissioners. We'll send out more information after the new year.

Other business approved at this assembly:

- We unanimously approved the 2020 presbytery budget.
- We unanimously approved the call of Rev. Barbara Gorsky to be installed as pastor at Elk Grove Presbyterian Church.
- We empowered the Presbytery Trustees to act on our behalf regarding the former Round Lake Calvary Presbyterian Church and North Riverside Christ Church properties.
- We guaranteed a \$50,000 Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program (PILP) loan to Palatine Presbyterian Church.
- We approved the September presbytery assembly minutes.

Other odds and ends to be aware of:

- We currently have one active Investigative Commission for a disciplinary matter. While details remain confidential, please be in prayer for all parties involved.
- While new items of business will be accepted at each presbytery assembly, they must be presented in writing to the Stated Clerk's desk within the first hour of the meeting.
- The biennial congregational minutes review process continues this year; if you are an "even-year church," expect an invitation soon.

## URL Appendix

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Words or phrases in blue letters are hyperlinks to sources for more information. For those who choose to print out the document, here is a list of the URLs to which those links refer:

Home is Here: <https://homeishere.us/>

Arlington Heights Southminster Presbyterian Church: CROP Walk - <https://spcah.org/>

Chicago First Presbyterian Church: Food pantry - <https://www.firstpresbychicago.org/>

Chicago Fourth Presbyterian Church: Church-wide composting program - <http://www.fourthchurch.org/>

Chicago New Deliverance Presbyterian Church: Diaper & Caring for Homeless People ministries - <https://newdchurch.com/>

Christopher House: Community development programs - <https://christopherhouse.org/>

Edgewater Presbyterian Church: Spirit Space - <https://www.edgewaterpres.org/>

Erie House: Community development programs - <https://eriehouse.org/>

The Inclusive Collective: Campus ministry - <https://www.letsgetinclusiveuc.org/>

Itasca First Presbyterian Church: PADS ministry - <https://fpitasca.org/>

Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church: Vigil Against Gun Violence - <https://www.lppchurch.org/>

Middle East Task Force: Peace trip to Israel/Palestine - <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/mosaic/>

Morgan Park Presbyterian Church: Covenant gathering camp retreat - <https://morganparkpres.org/>

Naperville River Glen Presbyterian Church: Camp scholarships - <https://www.riverglen.org/>

United Campus Ministry at Northwestern: Campus ministry - <https://www.ucmnorthwestern.org/>

Fill out an application (Mission Grant Application): [https://www.chicagopresbytery.org/hp\\_wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Application-for-Funds-for-Presbytery-of-Chicago-Nov.-edit.pdf](https://www.chicagopresbytery.org/hp_wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Application-for-Funds-for-Presbytery-of-Chicago-Nov.-edit.pdf)