

CLERK'S REPORT March 2025**RECOGNITION OF NATIVE LANDS AND PEOPLES**

The Presbytery of Nevada is comprised of land that belonged to the indigenous people for countless generations before we took that land for ourselves.

We honor the Indigenous people's ongoing work for recognition and their fight to recover their relationship with the land. The repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and encouragement to start our meetings with a land acknowledgment was recommended by the PCUSA General Assembly in 2018 to all mid councils, that is, presbyteries and synods. It is a way to demonstrate that we are God's people who stand for justice for all.

Before we begin, we pause in holy reverence to remember the ground beneath our feet. This land—shaped by wind and time, fire and water—is sacred.

The Valley of Fire, with its towering red rocks and ancient petroglyphs, holds the memory of the Southern Paiute people, especially the Moapa Band, who have lived, loved, prayed, and journeyed here for thousands of years.

We honor their deep and abiding relationship with this land long before borders or maps were drawn. Their stories are etched into stone, their songs carried on the desert wind. This land was never empty—it has always been alive with presence, purpose, and people.

Today, the Moapa Band of Paiutes continues to live nearby, on a portion of their ancestral homeland, where they care for their community, their culture, and the earth entrusted to them. They continue to resist erasure, celebrate their heritage, and work for justice, dignity, and sovereignty.

As people of faith, we acknowledge the painful legacy of displacement and injustice that Indigenous peoples have endured. We confess the complicity of churches and governments in this harm. And we recommit ourselves to walking in the ways of justice, humility, and peace.

With gratitude, we recognize the Moapa Band of Paiutes and all Southern Paiute peoples—past, present, and future. May our gathering here be marked by respect, by listening, and by the hope of reconciliation.

Wherever you are, I encourage you to learn about the indigenous people of the land that you are on.

March 2025 [actions at Fall September 2024 presbytery meeting and afterward]

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| ORDINATIONS | NONE |
| CHARTERED | NONE |
| INSTALLATIONS | Rev. Jeff Rumble Spanish Springs Presbyterian 1/26/2025 P 1/16/2025 |
| ENROLLMENTS | NONE |
| DISMISSALS | NONE |
| REMOVED | NONE |
| RENUNCIATED | NONE |
| RELEASED | NONE |
| TRANSFERRED | Rev. Thomas Willadsen, John Calvin Presbytery, 11/2/2024 P 1/15/2025 |
| DECEASED | Rev. Jackie Leonard, January 12, 2025 P 1/16/2025 P 1/16/2025 |
| VALIDATED MINISTRY | NONE |
| STATED SUPPLY | NONE |
| HONORABLY RETIRED | Rev. Adolph Koone, November 10, 2024 P 1/16/2025 Rev. Jackie Leonard, November 10, 2024 |
| INACTIVE | NONE |
| LABOR IN BOUNDS | NONE |
| LABOR OUT OF BOUNDS | NONE |
| MINISTER AT LARGE | NONE |
| CANDIDATE UNDER CARE | |
| INQUIRER ENROLLED | Elder Elaine York, September 24, 2024 |

OTHER PERMISSIONS / APPROVALS / CHANGES

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Resignation as CRE | Elder Jennifer Koopman, Elko First, by letter, October 17, 2024 P 1/16/2025 Elder Siliva Cooke, Lee Vining, as of 5/6/2024 by email P 1/17/2025 |
| Conduct Baptism/Communion | NONE |
| Enter CLP Program | NONE |
| Congregation Moderator | NONE |
| CLP Commissioning | Elder Dennis Bunce, Westminster Presbyterian Elder Udechukwunyere Aso Chukwukelu |

SESSION REVIEWS: Annual Review, Done in person by Elder John Harbison at the September 2024 meeting.

| Church | Reviewed 9/2023 | Reviewed 3/2024 | Reviewed 9/2024 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| First Thai-Laotian Presbyterian Church | | | |
| Henderson United Presbyterian Church | | | |
| Christ Presbyterian Church | YES | | YES |
| Grace Presbyterian Church | | | |
| Valley Presbyterian Church Mesquite | YES | | |
| Reno Korean Presbyterian Church | * | | |
| Lamoille Community Presbyterian Church | YES | | YES |
| Spanish Springs Presbyterian Church | YES | | YES |
| Wells Community Presbyterian Church | | | |
| Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church | YES | | |
| Lee Vining Community Presbyterian Church | | | |
| Taiwanese American Presbyterian Church | YES | | YES |
| Green Valley Presbyterian Church | YES | | |
| Mountain View Presbyterian Church | | | |
| Elko First Presbyterian Church | | | |
| Westminster Presbyterian Church | | | |
| Valley Bishop Presbyterian Church | | | |
| Virginia City First Presbyterian Church | YES | | |
| St. John's Presbyterian Church | | | |
| Hawthorne Community Presbyterian Church | YES | | |
| Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church | | | |

*Minutes in Korean

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS

The Annual Statistical Reports are filled out online by the clerks of our churches . 19 of the 20 churches turned in their annual reports. The PC(USA) and Stated Clerk thanks the clerks and sessions for their work.

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bishop, Valley | Elko, First | Gardnerville, Christ | Hawthorne, Community |
| Henderson, Green Valley | Henderson, United | Lamoille, Community | Las Vegas, Mt. View |
| Las Vegas, Grace | Las Vegas, Taiwanese Am | Las Vegas, Westminster | Mesquite, Valley |
| Reno, St. Johns | S Lake Tahoe, Lake Tahoe Com | Sparks, Korean Reno | Sparks, Spanish Springs |
| Truckee, Truckee Lutheran | Wells, Wells | | |

In 2024, no churches in the Presbytery of Nevada closed, merged, or opened, keeping the total number at 21.

In 2024, with two churches not reporting, the average reported attendance at Sunday worship was 1,541. Five churches reported an average worship attendance of over 100. Our churches reported 16 baptisms last year.

The presbytery began the year with 2,239 members and ended with 2,188, reflecting a 2.3% decrease. There were 79 recorded deaths. Four churches reported membership growth, with First, Virginia City seeing the largest percentage increase—nearly one-third of its membership. Grace Presbyterian had the highest numerical growth, gaining 20 members. Mountain View reported the most professions of faith, with 18.

Demographically, 84% of members identified as white, with Asian/Pacific Islanders as the second-largest group at 10%. One church, Bishop Valley, reported no white members.

| Location | Organization Name | 1/1/2024 | Transfer | Youth+ | Adult+ | CrtLoss | Deaths | Delete | 1/1/2025 | Change |
|---------------|--------------------|----------|----------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| Bishop | Valley | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 9 | -3 |
| Elko | First | 72 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 68 | -4 |
| Gardnerville | Christ | 29 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 28 | -1 |
| Hawthorne | Community | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 17 | -3 |
| Henderson | Green Valley | 485 | 2 | 0 | 21 | 1 | 18 | 10 | 479 | -6 |
| Henderson | Henderson United | 126 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 38 | 88 | -38 |
| Lamoille | Community | 58 | | | 4 | | 1 | 3 | 58 | 0 |
| Las Vegas | First Thai-Laotian | 89 | | | | | | | 89 | 0 |
| Las Vegas | Grace | 334 | 6 | 7 | 19 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 354 | 20 |
| Las Vegas | Mountain View | 342 | 2 | 0 | 33 | 3 | 14 | 18 | 342 | 0 |
| Las Vegas | Taiwanese Am | 27 | 3 | 0 | 1 | | | | 31 | 4 |
| Las Vegas | Westminster | 39 | 3 | | | | 4 | 2 | 36 | -3 |
| Lee Vining | Community | 7 | | | | | | | 7 | 0 |
| Mesquite | Valley | 55 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7 | | 49 | -6 |
| Reno | St Johns | 177 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 11 | 166 | -11 |
| S Lk Tahoe | Lk Tahoe Comm | 89 | 0 | 0 | 5 | | 2 | 2 | 90 | 1 |
| Sparks | Korean PC of Reno | 106 | 2 | | 1 | 3 | 1 | | 105 | -1 |
| Sparks | Spanish Springs | 91 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 84 | -7 |
| Truckee | Truckee Lutheran | 42 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 0 |
| Virginia City | First | 17 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 24 | 7 |
| Wells | Wells | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 0 |

COMMISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY

Lee Vining Presbyterian Commission has scheduled worship leadership, including CRE Garth Butz and Methodist minister Rev. Karen Moore to provide worship leadership via Zoom while the church building has been closed for the winter. It continues its work with the congregation.

The Administrative Commission for the installation of Rev. Jeff Rumble as pastor of Spanish Springs Presbyterian Church reports they installed Rev. Rumble as pastor on January 26, 2025, finished their work, and dissolved at the close of the service. The Presbytery thanks the Commission members for their service.

BOUNDARY TRAINING STATUS

As of January 1, 2025, the Presbytery of Nevada includes 44 minister members and 14 ruling elder members who serve as CREs, committee chairs, or officers. In addition, there are 30 commissioners representing our 21 churches. All of these individuals are covered by the Presbytery's boundary training policy, which also applies to commissioners from the past two years. (Standing Rules: 1.3000)

The full policy can be found in the Administrative Manual, under Policy #10. In summary, Presbytery members are directed to complete the following three courses from Praesidium Academy:

- *Keeping Your Church Safe*
- *Preventing Abuse and Exploitation in Pastoral Ministry*
- *Safeguarding God's People: Preventing Sexual Harassment*

Please note: *Safeguarding God's People: Preventing Sexual Harassment* has been retired by Praesidium Academy. Until the Equipping Committee updates the course list, we suggest *Promoting a Safe Environment: Supervisor Sexual Harassment Training (ENG)* as a suitable alternative. This update and additional guidance are posted on the Presbytery website under Resources | Boundary Training.

As of now, 23 out of 88 current presbyters have completed at least one of the courses offered by Praesidium Academy. **Nine presbyters have fulfilled the entire requirement** by completing all three courses listed above (or the suggested substitute). These individuals are:

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Elder Lori Ashton | Rev. Robert Crall | Rev. Adrian Doll |
| Rev. Nonong Ordonez | Rev. Hilda Pecoraro | Rev. Christy Ramsey |
| Elder Jean Rey | Elder Ron Scovill | Rev. Lee Styer |

Presbyters can take their training by emailing the stated clerk (clerk@nevadapresbytery.org) for an invitation to enroll in Praesidium Academy. An email invitation from Praesidium to create an account with Praesidium will be sent to those that request one from the Stated Clerk. More information is on the website's top menu under Resources | Boundary Training or by browsing to: nevadapresbytery.org/2024/05/29/boundary-training/

Additional statistical reporting from Praesidium Academy has been provided to the Equipping Committee for their work.

ACTIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL (Our Version of the Consent Agenda)

It was approved that at the Fall 2025 meeting of the Presbytery of Nevada, the Tuesday Worship service would center upon Jesus and the gifts of ministry as per the Book of Order and include a service of Commissioning for the Pastor to the Presbytery of Nevada, the Rev Kate Freeman.

Council affirmed the new chair of Mission Outreach Committee, Elder Dennis Bunce. CRE Bunce accepted the position after the last meeting of the Presbytery.

Council approved the transfer of the Rev Thomas Willadsen to John Calvin Presbytery.

Council approved COM allowing Sue Goodman to serve in Mission Discernment assisting St John's as they move through the process of calling a new pastor.

Council approved the following action: *(position titles and agency names have been updated)*

That the Presbytery of Nevada understands that the Reverend Jeanie Shaw is authorized to labor outside the bounds only in ministries that are part of her position as Ministry Engagement Advisor of the Interim Unified Agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Furthermore, the Presbytery of Nevada has not authorized the Reverend Jeannie Shaw to lead any mission trips or ministries outside of its bounds that are not directly authorized and related to her work as Ministry Engagement Advisor of the Interim Unified Agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or authorized and approved by the Presbytery of Nevada following its stated policy.

It shall be communicated to Reverend Shaw that she shall not organize, lead or participate in any mission trip that has not been authorized and approved by the Interim Unified Agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or the Presbytery of Nevada following its stated policy #26 Sponsored Mission Trips.

Council joyfully commissions ministers Sue Goodman, Bob Kelley, and Christy Ramsey, along with elders Charlie Park (Reno Korean), Peggy Hall (Spanish Springs), and Vicki Wilson (Christ), with the Rev. Dr. Nancy Martin Vincent (San Francisco Presbytery) as a corresponding member, to install the Reverend Jeff Rumble as pastor of Spanish Springs Presbyterian Church. The service of worship will be scheduled cooperatively by the commission, the congregation, and Rev. Rumble to ensure broad participation from the presbytery. Rev. Sue Goodman will serve as moderator and ask the constitutional questions. In addition to the responsibilities outlined above, the commission is authorized to adjust its membership as needed while ensuring a balance between elders and ministers and that no more than one elder from the same church serves on the commission. The commission may also welcome additional corresponding members from other PCUSA Presbyteries and take any actions necessary to fulfill its commission with joy, grace, and care.

Council accepted with regret Rev Sue Goodman resignation from COM. Council notes that Rev. Goodman will continue her work with St. John's Presbyterian Church. Rev. Bob Kelley will take over the responsibilities of Preparation for Ministry.

Council approved Joan Jeffers to serve on the Committee on Ministry

Email Vote Approved

An electronic vote as provided by Policy #17 of the Presbytery of Nevada (quoted below) has concluded with a vote in the affirmative.

The motion was: "**Does the Council of the Presbytery of Nevada acting as the Presbytery determine that its mission strategy requires authorizing Ruling Elder Dennis Bunce to serve in limited pastoral service as a Commissioned Pastor (also known as a Commissioned Ruling Elder) for Westminster Presbyterian Church?** This authorization would grant him responsibilities as outlined in Policy 25, including proclamation of the Word, administration of the sacraments, and moderating session and congregational meetings when invited by the session."

Council voted electronically from November 6, 2024, to November 13, 2024. Of 16 council members, of

which three are non-voting members. The vote was 13 YES, 0 No; 3 non-voting members declined to ask for a meeting to discuss the motion. The Motion Passed. Council is empowered to take this action by our bylaws (quoted below) The results will be reported at this meeting of council and the following Presbytery meeting.

Fifteen members of the Council of the Presbytery of Nevada were emailed on November 6, 2024, one member was emailed on November 7, 2024. All 16 were recorded as successfully delivered. Votes were recorded via an online survey hosted at MailChimp via an individual link sent only to their email which was included in their vote response. Additionally, voters entered their name on the survey. There are 13 voting members. All members opened the email and voted. The voting was closed on November 13 on the seventh day from the original email, after responses from every council member were received. There were no motions to have the motion taken up at a meeting of council.

Council reviewed and made changes to the policies according to the scheduled three year review of policies. The current wording is in black, new additions are in *red italic*, and removed text is ~~crossed out~~.

Policy 6 Pastoral Changes – ~~Pastor Information Forms (PIF)~~ was changed to **Personal Discernment Profile (PDP)**

Policy 7 Young Adult Advisory Delegates – *Was referred in January 2024 to Equipping Committee*

POLICY 8 ~~SPECIAL OFFERINGS~~ **AT ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS**

~~It is suggested that Offerings received during Installations and/or Ordination Services ordinarily are be used by the Nevada Inquirers/Candidate assistance to Inquirers, Candidates or those seeking CRE accreditation. , when appropriate. Should there be no candidates, the funds shall be used to assist CRE candidates to pursue accreditation. It is an Extra Opportunity Fund.~~

POLICY 12 APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL DISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

The Stated Clerk in consultation with the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and the Presbytery Pastor is authorized to appoint the Special Investigating Committee when required by the Book of Order. **Should any of these be the subject or initiator of the Allegation of Offense, they are excluded from the consultation and the remaining are authorized to appoint the Special Investigating Committee.**

Policy 14 Alternate Commissioners to General Assembly – *Was referred in January 2024 to Equipping Committee*

POLICY 19 ~~CONFERENCE/VIDEO CALLS~~ **ELECTRONIC MEETINGS**

The Presbytery, council, committees, commissions, task forces and other groups elected/appointed/**commissioned** by presbytery may meet ~~by conference call~~ **electronically** when a face-to-face meeting is not possible or the best use of stewardship resources. All other requirements for a meeting shall be met, including the requirement that all participants in the meeting are able to communicate simultaneously with all others present. **This includes joining one or more persons electronically to an otherwise in-person meeting.**

The Council commended Elder Jean Rey for her work on the proposed Policy 28 Child and Youth Protection Policy but did not approve it, leaving it to Presbyterian action in March of 2025. Note: Presentation and vote planned outside of the Stated Clerk's report.

This is the end of the council report and are actions for the Presbytery of Nevada reported at this meeting.

VOTE ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE STANDING RULES

(as included in the Call for the Meeting)

Two changes to our Standing Rules are being presented for a vote:

1. **Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs):**

One proposed change extends to the Committee on Ministry the same authority to adjust the service of Commissioned Ruling Elders that it currently holds for Ministers of the Word and Sacrament. This helps align oversight of both types of pastoral leadership within the Presbytery.

2. **Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC):**

The second change outlines the structure necessary for a functioning Permanent Judicial Commission. Since the Book of Order no longer specifies how PJCs must be organized, it is now up to each presbytery to define this. The proposed structure reflects the minimum needed to ensure that we can respond to any Allegation of Offense promptly and appropriately.

For reference, a sample Allegation of Offense Form is available on our website:
nevadapresbytery.org/publication/allegation-of-offense-form

The current wording is in black, new additions are in *red italic*, and removed text is ~~crossed out~~.

5.0203 Between Stated Meetings, presbytery has authorized the Committee to review Calls issued by churches, approve and present Calls for service of Teaching Elders, approve the examination of ministers transferring from other presbyteries, dissolve pastoral relationships in cases where the congregation and the Pastor concur, to grant permission to labor within or outside the bounds of the presbytery, and to dismiss ministers to other presbyteries.

The Committee is also authorized to modify, dissolve, or move between congregations or validated ministries the commission of those currently serving as Commissioned Ruling Elders when the Commissioned Ruling Elder and congregation or validated ministry concur. with the provision that

[A]ll such actions be reported to the next Stated meeting of presbytery.

7.0000 Permanent Judicial Commission

The Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) shall consist of nine (9) members. Three (3) members shall be elected at a Presbytery meeting held in odd-numbered years, with elections occurring every two years. The Nominating Committee will present nominations, with the floor open for additional nominations.

7.0001 Balance of Representation -The PJC shall strive to maintain an equal representation of Ruling Elders and Ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

- 7.0002 Filling Vacancies If a vacancy occurs, the Moderator may appoint a temporary member to serve until the next Presbytery meeting, where the appointment can be affirmed or a new member elected.
- 7.0100 Annual Meeting and Officer Elections The PJC shall hold an annual meeting to elect the following officers: Moderator, vice-moderator, clerk, and assistant clerk. In the absence of the Moderator or clerk, the vice-moderator and assistant clerk shall perform their respective duties.
- 7.0101 Response Committee Appointment Annually, during the annual PJC meeting, the Moderator shall appoint a response committee, typically composed of one current PJC member and two former PJC members selected from the roster of former PJC members.
- 7.0200 Book of Order Compliance -The PJC's composition and duties shall follow the Book of Order and Presbytery policy, including appointing a special investigating committee when necessary. In cases of conflict, the Book of Order shall take precedence over these by-laws.

Please see the docket for registration information for our next Presbytery in September at Zephyr Point. Registration is now open and **due by July 15, 2025**, It will be on the website by April 1st.

Christy

Rev. Mr. J. Christy Ramsey (he/him/his) Stated Clerk/General Presbyter Presbytery of Nevada