

The Week of November 9, 2025

THE KISKI WEEKLY



From the Desk of Rev. Erin Kobs, Organizational Presbyter & Stated Clerk

I just spent time this week at the Presbyterian Center (PCUSA national office) in Louisville, KY, where I gathered with other mid council leaders (executive presbyters, stated clerks, synod executives) for a yearly conference. It is always a joy to be with others who do the same work & we can be in community & learn from one another. We had the opportunity to hear from members of the national office staff regarding the ongoing work of the unification commission, who are diligently working on unifying the previous two agencies - Presbyterian Mission Agency & the Office of the General Assembly. This has been a monumental task & their new structure is going into effect next Monday. Rev. Jihyun Oh, Stated Clerk & Executive Director of the Unified Agency, shared with us her wonderings on the need to embrace curiosity during seasons of change. One of her questions that she is currently wrestling with is what can help us toward a more hopeful future? I think this is a question that we as the Presbytery of Kiskiminetas are also wrestling with as we continue to live into our new structure. What do we need to do or talk about or consider as we work to move towards God's hopeful future for us?

I attended two workshops on Tuesday afternoon. The first one was a conversation with other stated clerks. It is always good to be surrounded by other clerks who truly understand the complexities of the position. We talked about the current makeup of our presbyteries, issues that we are facing, & heard from one of the records folks at the Presbyterian Historical Society. The second workshop was on the new funding model for the denomination as a part of the unification process. During 2026, there will be field studies with a variety of presbyteries across the country trying out a couple of models regarding per capita contributions to the denomination. I learned an interesting fun fact - the first recorded instance of a per capita contribution was in 1848. The funding model development team is working hard to come up with a more sustainable model to fund the church going into the future. I'm excited to hear where the year of field studies will lead them.

We also heard from Rev. Sarah Moore-Nokes, who is the lead for Thriving Mid Councils in the new agency. She encouraged us to create a high level of trust & continue to build relationships within our presbyteries, just as they are doing at the national office. One thing that stood out to me was the idea of dancing in the middle of the spectrum between curiosity & certainty. We want certainty. We want to know all the right answers on our time. But, we are being called to stay curious & continue to listen to God's still, small voice guiding us towards taking the next faithful step together. I am hopeful this will be the case for this new unified agency, but also us as a presbytery.

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Kiski Presbytery
Synod of the Trinity

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From the Desk of Rev. Erin Kobs, continued

We also heard from Kate Trigger-Duffert, the co-lead for General Assembly Support. She shared with us updates on the planning for the 227th General Assembly, which will occur in June 2026 in Milwaukee, WI. Rev. Dave Koehler & Ruling Elder Carrie Martin will represent Kiskiminetas as our commissioners. It sounds like it will be a great assembly for all who attend.

We gathered in worship inside the Presbyterian Center Chapel, where we were treated to some absolutely beautiful worship services. On Monday morning, the Rev. Carlton Johnson brought the word to us & on Wednesday morning, the Rev. Cece Armstrong, co-moderator of the 226th General Assembly closed out our conference with such an inspiring word from Psalm 71.1-6. It was such a joy for me to hear both of these wonderful folks preach, particularly Cece, as she's been a friend for over 7 years. What struck me most was the gorgeous music. The chapel is stunning & has such amazing acoustics. There is something truly breathtaking about singing with 140 plus folks & hearing the harmonies.



Presbyterian Center, downtown Louisville



the doors to the chapel

I'm grateful for the time to spend with colleagues & learning from each other. I've returned back to Dayton, OH, where I will be based for the remainder of this month. Next week, I will travel to Chicago for the Mid Council Financial Conference. I'll spend the week of Thanksgiving on vacation with my family & will be back in the office in Yatesboro on Monday, December 1st. If you need me, please reach out via my cell or email.

Blessings,



Rev. Jihyun Oh, Stated Clerk & Executive Director
Unified Agency



A gathering of presbyters, stated clerks, & synod executives



Presbytery Upcoming Events

November 8th - 21st: Erin working remotely from Ohio; Angela working remotely from Tennessee

November 18th: Formation Commission & Organization Commission meetings (at office & via Zoom)

November 19th- 21st: Erin at Mid Council Financial Conference, Chicago, IL

November 24th - 29th: Erin on vacation

November 24th: Advent Lectionary Group begins (Zoom)

Good News Board

Have some good news to share?

Email us at orgpresbyter@kiskipby.org

- **Mt Zion's** Presbyterian Women packed 18 shoe boxes & had them dedicated on November 2nd.
- **Calvary** celebrated their 218th anniversary on November 2nd.
- **Cross Roads Community** is hosting their 16th annual free Thanksgiving dinner this month.
- **Crooked Creek** has adopted a 3rd grade class this year as one of their outreach programs. They help with supplies, indoor recess, & buy student book for the year.
- **Crooked Creek** celebrated 200 years in September.
- **Trinity** celebrates the days of detouring are over! The Clarksburg bridge is now open & the church is now easier to find.
- **Shelocta** held their annual Rwanda fundraiser with a breakfast & basket raffle. The funds raised (\$1,035.00) will go to our sister church, Kirwa, for their needs. A special raffle was held for a handmade quilt made by one of our pulpit supply ministers & gifted to us to help raise funds.
- **Shelocta's** deacons held their annual Harvest Home Collection of collecting paper products to be distributed to the Shelocta/Armstrong Township food bank participants in November.
- **Shelocta** has plans to adopt a family from Salvation Army's Adopt a Family for Christmas. They will provide gifts & all items needed for a Christmas meal.

Upcoming Events Around Kiski



Christmas Concert

Get into the Christmas Spirit with a free evening of holiday music with Chad Toland!

Dec. 6

- Starts at 6pm
- Music at 7pm
- Free Shuttle

LIVE MUSIC BY CHAD TOLAND

- BASKET RAFFLE
- 50/50 RAFFLE

Contact below for tickets
Apollo United PC
401 First St.
M-F 9am-2pm
724-478-4807

Indigo Market
2107 River Rd.
Sun-Sat 7am-2pm

Apollo United Presbyterian Church
401 First St. Apollo

A Love Offering will be taken for our musician and Food4Kids.

Contact below for tickets
Quality Life Services
151 Good View Dr.
M-F 8am-4:30pm
724-727-3451

Boiling Springs PC
1668 PA-56
Tues/Thur 3pm-6pm
724-478-1523



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

155 N. JEFFERSON STREET, KITTANNING
Two Performances 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Free to the Public

“Once, There Was A Star, is an original composition by Carnegie Mellon University students Chris Renaud and Alex Irwin. The cantata features the choir along with vocalists and musicians from Carnegie Mellon University.



Mandated Reporter Trainings

A reminder that the Book of Order does require that elders, ministers, & volunteers (Sunday school teachers, VBS workers, anyone who is working directly with children) every **36 months** (G-3.0106). This is a change from the past, when it was every 5 years, which is still the requirement for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mandated Reporter training takes about an hour & a half. There is the option to do Zoom for these. The Zoom link will be emailed to all registered participants on **the day of the training**.

If your church is interested in hosting a Mandated Reporter Training, please contact Erin Kobs, Organizational Presbyter & Stated Clerk (orgpresbyter@kiskipby.org)

Clearances

- **Mandated Reporter Training** (Child Abuse Prevention) - all ministers, elders, deacons & volunteers who work with children. Certificates are good for 36 months.
- **Boundary Training** - all ministers & elders. Must be done every 36 months (according to the Book of Order)
- **FBI Fingerprint Clearance** - all ministers. Certificates are good for five years (in accordance with PA state law & Presbytery policy)
- **PA State Police Clearance** - all ministers & those who work directly with children. Clearance is good for five years (PA state law), but are highly recommended to be done every 3 years for protection of our churches.

Presbyterian Women Upcoming Events

- Synod of the Trinity PW Gathering is from July 16-18, 2026, held at Antiochian Village, Bolivar, PA. The theme is Find Joy in the Journey! Join us! All sisters welcomed!

Birthdays

Pastors with November birthdays:

- November 5th - Matthew Gress (CP, Crete)
- November 16th - Bill King (Retired)
- November 17th - Marty Cartmell (St. Benedict & St. Paul's)
- November 28th - Erin Kobs (Org Presbyter & Stated Clerk)

Need Something? Call Us!

Have a question? Need some information about an upcoming event? Looking for a particular resource?

If you are in the need of something, please call us here at the Presbytery Office. We will make sure that you are put in touch with the correct person to answer your questions whether it is the Formation Commission, the Organization Commission, or our two Presbyters (Training Presbyter or Organizational Presbyter/Stated Clerk). We are here to help & want to make sure that you are getting the correct information.

Rwanda Partnership News

Our Rwanda Partnership will be celebrating it's 20th year in 2026. In honor of that, two things will be happening.

- In June 2026, we will be hosting a trip to Rwanda for interested folks. The trip will be June 1st -11th, with an opportunity to visit parishes that are sponsored by our congregations. The trip is limited to 8 folks. If you are interested, there is an [application](#). Applications are due to Mark Phoebus by November 30, 2025.
- A fundraiser contest to purchase 10 motorcycles for pastors in Rwanda in order for them to get to their churches or visiting parishioners. Each motorcycle is \$2,000. The church who raises the most money per member (according to their 2024 statistical report) will win the Philippian Prize (a gift from Rwanda). Raising only \$10 per member could just do it! Funds must be submitted to the Presbytery Office by June 1, 2026.



Presbytery Directory

Need to access the Directory? [Click here](#)

The directory is under password. If you need the password, call Cheryl at the office

Clerk of Session Corner



Here is important information for clerks of session of our congregations

2026 Terms of Call & Contracts

The 2026 Terms of Call & Contract forms are now in fillable PDFs on the [Kiski website](#). All forms are due by January 30, 2026. The original form must be mailed to the office - no scanned copies via email or photos will be accepted. After they are signed off by the Organization Commission, the original forms will be sent back to the church for your records.

2026 Minimum Terms of Call (as set at September 13th Stated Gathering)

- Without a manse - \$55,550
- With a manse - \$55,500 (\$42,692 salary & \$12,808 manse value)

2026 Per Capita Rates

Presbytery: \$27.00

Synod of the Trinity: \$2.40

General Assembly: \$11.26

Total: \$40.66

Remittance forms will be arriving via email along with a letter shortly.

Church Financial Leadership

Church Financial Leadership Academy has 3 financial videos – good for sessions, auditors, and treasurers. They can be found at www.churchfla.org. These videos are between 5-6 minutes long & are very informative.

They are: Principles of Financial Reporting, Narrative Budgets, & Reading Church Financial Statements.

You will need to register in order to view the videos. Registration code is PCUSA.

There are also a lot of other useful information around finances available on their website.

2026 Board of Pensions Rates

Congregational Pastor Package

- Pastor only (required for installed pastors) - 17.5% of effective salary
- Additional optional coverage:
 - Pastor & spouse - 17.5% + \$12,250
 - Pastor & child(ren) - 17.5% + \$9,950
 - Pastor & family - 17.5% + \$22,200

Transitional Pastor Package

This is only available to those who were in the package in 2025 & this package will go away in 2028

- Pastor & family - 37% of effective salary

Annual Statistical Reports

It is just about that season again! Please be on the look for information on how to file your annual statistical report in your email or via mail in the coming weeks. I would advise clerks to begin gathering the necessary information in preparation of filing your report.

Stewardship & Financial Resources

We are gauging interest in churches & sessions who might be interested in information & seminars regarding church stewardship, financial planning, or year end giving. The Presbyterian Foundation offers a wide variety of resources & seminars. If we have interest, we will reach out to Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelly, who is our Ministry Resource Officer for the Foundation. If your church is interested, please send an email to kiski@kiskipby.org.