

John Calvin Presbytery
November 01, 2025

Two Hundred-Twentieth Stated Meeting
Trinity Presbyterian Church,
Springfield, Missouri

Report of Executive Presbyter November 1, 2025

2025 has seen a lot of faithful work in John Calvin Presbytery. I have made worship visits to 17 churches and met with several more pastors and sessions. I watched the mother of the moderator-elect skydive on the occasion of her 100th birthday. We are training and resourcing PNCs. This will continue in 2026. I enjoy being with the people of John Calvin Presbytery.

We held five boundaries trainings for pastors and pulpit supply, in different parts of the presbytery and different times, including a special section for HR members. Compliance was high from all who are required to attend.

Our committees are functioning well. The Committee on Ministry and the Mission & Nurture Committee meet almost monthly. COM is usually in person, and M&N usually via zoom. Council meets 5-6 times a year. Administrative Ministries, which is responsible for finance, personnel, and trustee functions, is working in task groups for policy updates and also as committee of the whole. The Committee on Representation met the second half of the year to be ready with nominees for the November presbytery meeting. COR is responsible for getting all our committees off to a good start.

JCP has a skeleton staff—every person, including me, is part-time. Staff members are competent and responsive and we are lucky to have them.

2025 brought our second successful Toolbox event and pastor's gathering. There were also several smaller events such as the Crockpot gathering and other small toolboxes. At these gatherings, conversations are energetic as people reconnect across the wide distances of our presbytery.

We all need outside eyes.

At a recent worship visit, there was a sign with an arrow pointing to the correct door on the other side of the building. Following the arrow, I tried a total of five doors, some of them up a flight of steps, before I found an unlocked door. (The sign was wrong.) A less determined visitor would likely have given up after two tries.

All churches have metaphorical doors that are locked, even if we ignore them sometimes. Managing difficult people takes a toll on function. Many of us are trying plenty hard, but we can benefit from fresh eyes. Being in relationship with the presbytery is one way to get an outside perspective.

It is my prayer that 2026 will continue the decades of ministry that is our history, providing a Presbyterian presence in the communities within our bounds. I am grateful to serve with you.

See you at presbytery!
Malinda