

MWF Standing Committee Annual Report 2025-2026

The MWF Standing Committee met five times between the 2025 and 2026 retreats via Zoom on June 3, August 19, November 11, January 15, and March 16. Email facilitated communication between meetings. Technology and registration sub-committees also met throughout the year.

Roles and Responsibilities. Prior to the June meeting, all members reaffirmed their interest and willingness in serving on the Committee. During the June meeting the following roles for the year were determined by consensus:

- Rita Lyon, chair
- Elizabeth Reed, treasurer
- Laura Wallace, registrar and technology
- Dorcas Jarrard, secretary/note-taker and print program designer
- Sarah Parnell with assistance from Jill Mann, program planners
- Julia Mann, correspondence, publicity, and technology

We decided to adopt a practice of including a representative of the host congregation in our meetings during the year leading up to the retreat at that location. Ruth Falk became Clarinda's representative for this year.

In November we discussed pros and cons associated with possibly changing membership within the committee from time to time. It was decided by consensus that certain positions—particularly the treasurer and registrar, and some people thought the chairman—should not be handed off frequently. We decided to gauge other women's interest in serving through a question in the registration form.

Retreat Program. Tori Sturm agreed to be our main speaker on the topic of Counseling One Another. Bridget Rizama offered and was engaged to be our missions speaker. Maggie Allyn will be in charge of the mixer and Mitzie Van Horn will present memorials.

Technology. Lori Hemphill continues to serve as MWF Technology Coordinator, for which we are very thankful. She also trained Laura to be able to manage the website as a backup. Rita, Laura, and Julia also met in July to discuss technology needs and transitions. In December, Laura met with Ron and Mary Lou Patterson to assume responsibilities in maintaining the MWF email distribution list. Laura created midwestwomensfellowship@gmail.com as an official email address for the Committee.

Host Rotation. Since 2023, an effort has been made to rotate the location of retreats geographically between the east, west, and south regions of the presbytery. In view of the few congregations and relatively small base attendance in the southern region, we are now trying for east, west, and central regions, with Manhattan/Clay Center included in the central region.

Other Reports. A treasurer's report and memorials have already been uploaded on the MWF website. A literature report will be added soon.

The Lord has blessed the Midwest Women's Fellowship with gifted and responsible women who are using their time and talents to serve the women of this presbytery. I am so thankful to the members of this committee for their cheerful and reliable servant leadership. They are truly a pleasure to work with.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Lyon for the Standing Committee: Dorcas Jarrard, Rita Lyon, Jill Mann, Julia Mann, Sarah Parnell, Elizabeth Reed, and Laura Wallace