



THE PRESBYTERY OF LAKE ERIE

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Everything should be done decently, with respect and in proper order. Brothers and sisters, keep your attention on the Good News I preached, which you received, in which you stand and in which you are being saved, if you hold on to its message. -1 Corinthians 14:40-15:1

September 2026

To: Clerks of Session and Moderators of Session of Lake Erie Presbytery Congregations

It is that time of the year again—Record reviews! I do know that schedules are hard to coordinate, so there will be multiple opportunities for a record review. Call if there are issues.

Just a reminder these are required. They are also helpful—some churches in our presbytery were again asked to show their minutes and reviews or lose their tax-exempt status with one church facing a \$16,000 tax bill and court costs to fight the county's taking their status away because they could not prove documentation and review such as meetings, worship including quarterly sacraments, and corporate filings. Reviews are not only required by the Book of Order (G-3.0108a) but authorized reviews and records are required by state law and many insurance companies too. Of course for me, the best reason is to get together with other clerks, share encouragement and fellowship (and maybe learning we are not in this alone), and just learning from each other.

NOTE: Use this year's (2026) review as a few items have been updated as I do from year to year. I do not require you to show everything the Book of Order requires, so please follow your checklists. In particular we need to know the dates of your annual corporate filings with Dept of State for the PA congregations and a look at Christian education.

Included in this mailing and on-line at the presbytery website (<https://pbylakeerie.org>) under the resources tab are the required worksheets that will be the basis of our reviews. Please fill these sheets out prior to your coming, citing page numbers or notes. Remember, the work of the clerk is important, but reviews such as this are not aimed at you personally. These are not “your” minutes ... they belong to the full session! I get my presbytery minutes, including the record of these reviews of sessions, reviewed at the Synod Level as well, and we use a similar peer review process for the same reasons. Finally, remember to ask questions, seek help especially in interpreting the Constitution, and walk together. I am available for support, to answer questions, and to walk with you in this ministry. Call or email me! (712) 832-0062 -c (814) 676-8577 -o statedclerk@pbylakeerie.org or harmont@hotmail.com

See you all at the reviews.

Record Review Dates:

Sat Oct 3	10:30am-noon	Oil City, PA	Second Presbyterian	111 Reed Street
Sat Oct 10	10:30am-noon	Edinboro, PA	First Presbyterian	4281 Route 6N
Wed, Oct 14	5:00pm-6:30pm	Meadville, PA	First Presbyterian	890 Liberty Street
Sun, Oct 18	3:30pm-5:00pm	Kane, PA	Kane Presbyterian	103 Greeves Street