

Leadership Cabinet
Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Yellowstone Presbytery Leadership Cabinet met via Zoom for its scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Cabinet members present:

RE Melissa Bell
MWS Ashley Birk
RE Russ Kline, Moderator
MWS Karolee Larson
MWS Mary Grace Reynolds
MWS Jamie Schmeling
MWS Dave Thompson

Members excused:

None

Others present:

MWS Kathy Goodrich, General Presbyter, RE Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk, RE Ric Tieman, Treasurer.

1. **Opening:** Moderator Russ Kline called the meeting to order and led members in prayer at 1:00 p.m.
2. **Quorum:** A quorum was declared present.
3. **Dwelling in the Word:** Members read Acts 2: 14-21 and discussed being “drunk in the Spirit” and letting ourselves go more often. We should let the Spirit lead us. Peter certainly seemed to know his scriptures to quote from Joel who predicts all people will be part of this new world. How great the sensation must have been to truly know that God was present and being brave enough to speak out about it.
4. **Spirit Sightings:**
 - Mary Grace reported the PW, which has become much smaller, has decided to dissolve the business portion of their group, but keep the care-taking focus that falls into more of a Deacon mode. She sees exciting possibilities in this change.
 - Ashley sees Rockhaven camp plans coming together well after their loss last summer.
 - Kathy stated that the Davises accessed the Board of Pensions and received a large grant. The grant and donations received have allowed for the purchase of a van and get it outfitted to fit Mary’s needs. She also sighted that prayer is happening around the world and people are preaching to thousands of people, notably in Trafalgar Square. More people world-wide are coming to churches, asking about Jesus, and requesting Baptism.
 - Karolee’s congregation has moved to a 9:00 a.m. worship service and had a grateful response from one young family about the change.
5. **Approval of Minutes:**

***Action:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the LC April 9 minutes. The motion passed with two abstentions from those not at the meeting.

6. General Presbyter's Report:

- Five churches have pastor nominating committees in the search process.
- The new presbytery website has a button on the top right where churches can post positions they are seeking to fill.
- Work with the Board of Pensions (BOP) has been substantial as they roll out the new benefits plans.
- Energy continues to generate from the March presbytery meeting as churches seek “fresh expressions” for worship and service.
- Kathy met with Lanny Rounds about the Representation/Nomination Team (Rep/Nom) work this year.
- Theme for the May presbytery meeting is “Ready. Set, Know” and will focus on deepening roots of faith as we grow. The need for more time in prayer was noted. Jamie shared her round of prayer that she created for the Terry and Fallon churches.
- We are encouraged to think of ways we can support one another in prayer, sermon preparation and other areas of ministry including social time.

7. Pastoral Ministry Team (PMT) update: LC members are asked to consider what PMT might need to advocate for pastors and churches as the new benefits plan from BOP rolls out.

8. Higher Education Grants 2024: LC members discussed how much of the remaining HE funds, \$10,646.87, to disperse in 2024 and what they want to disperse in the next year or two.

***Action:** A motion was made and seconded to disperse up to \$6,000 in 2024 to campus ministry programs and disperse all remaining funds in 2025 as the team seeks ways to continue to support the campus ministry programs in Yellowstone Presbytery in the future. The motion passed.

9. Treasurer's Report: (Attachment A) Ric Tieman reported that budgets are on track for 2024.

10. PMT update continued: (Attachment B) A written report from PMT's sub-committee to study the Olympia Overture to General Assembly (POL 01) was reviewed. The report includes key principles that might be changed if the overture passes at General Assembly and is approved by the presbyteries. Please read the attached report and information printed in Outlook magazine.

11. Presbytery meeting May 17 in Dillon: Church Consultant Christine Long will present on the new benefits program from Board of Pensions (BOP) and will answer questions. Please R.S.V.P. your intentions to attend the luncheon. The meeting is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closing worship will include commissioning of our MWS and RE commissioners and our YAAD.

12. Camping and Youth:

- JP's video about the LCM will be shared as part of the LC report.

- Revamp the Camp weekend is May 31-June 2. All are invited to take part.
- 1st Presbyterian Church Youth mission trip to Alaska will take place from June 22 through July 4.

13. Boundary Training: The mandatory Boundary Training will be offered on August 3 and November 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. People may attend one or the other; they need not attend both presentations.

14. Personnel Sub-Committee Report: Ashley reported that they are continuing work on the personnel policy.

15. Clerk Report: We still have the land in Valley County. The county will not simply take it back. It was suggested that an administrative commission be established to dispose of the property.

***Action:** A motion was made and seconded to recommend Yellowstone Presbytery form an administrative commission composed of Caroline Fleming, Jamie Schmeling and Russ Kline to sell or dispose of the land in Valley County and report back to Presbytery when the disposal is complete. The motion passed.

Caroline will contact a title company in Valley County to get a plat map and ask about process.

16. Announcements:

- Butte will have a singspiration June 2.
- Presbytery meeting November 1 and 2: Russ will check with Dave Thompson concerning Billings 1st Presbyterian serving as the host church.
- Pray for healing for Melissa's arm.
- *Next Leadership Cabinet meeting is **July 9 at 9:30 a.m.***

***Action:** A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk

Presbytery of Yellowstone PCUSA

Statement of Financial Position

As of March 31, 2024

Accrual Basis

	Mar 31, 24	Feb 29, 24	\$ Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
1000 · Checking and Savings			
1005 · Checking 3214	134,110.67	145,685.09	(11,574.42)
1010 · Money Market 3355	142,218.42	142,098.07	120.35
1015 · Partnership Fund MM 3793	45,656.28	45,636.95	19.33
1060 · Vanco Clearing Account	1,933.00	331.00	1,602.00
Total 1000 · Checking and Savings	323,918.37	333,751.11	(9,832.74)
1020 · St Timothy Checking 1961	100.00	100.00	0.00
1030 · St Timothy Checking 3686	100.00	100.00	0.00
1050 · New Covenant 5737			
1051 · Higher Education	10,646.87	10,646.87	0.00
1052 · Other Designated Funds	107,567.53	101,383.82	6,183.71
Total 1050 · New Covenant 5737	118,214.40	112,030.69	6,183.71
1100 · St Timothy Endowment Funds			
1110 · St Timothy Chapel #1 1085	368,293.53	368,293.53	0.00
1120 · St Timothy Chapel #2 6024	112,223.35	112,223.35	0.00
Total 1100 · St Timothy Endowment Funds	480,516.88	480,516.88	0.00
Total Checking/Savings	922,849.65	926,498.68	(3,649.03)
Total Current Assets	922,849.65	926,498.68	(3,649.03)
Other Assets			
1850 · Beartooth Electric Co-op	974.23	974.23	0.00
1900 · Char Rem Trust 0931	143,391.00	143,391.00	0.00
Total Other Assets	144,365.23	144,365.23	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	1,067,214.88	1,070,863.91	(3,649.03)

<1>

These statements have not been audited, reviewed or compiled

Presbytery of Yellowstone PCUSA

Statement of Financial Position

As of March 31, 2024

Accrual Basis

	Mar 31, 24	Feb 29, 24	\$ Change
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable			
2000 · Accounts Payable	5,474.16	2,259.54	3,214.62
Total Accounts Payable	5,474.16	2,259.54	3,214.62
Other Current Liabilities			
2100 · Payroll Liabilities			
2110 · Federal Liabilities	514.26	534.26	(20.00)
2120 · State Liabilities	35.86	33.96	1.90
Total 2100 · Payroll Liabilities	550.12	568.22	(18.10)
2200 · Other Current Liabilities			
2200.02 · GA Mission Pledges	3,182.05	2,944.70	237.35
2200.03 · GA Peacemaking PM999999	610.00	610.00	0.00
2200.05 · GA Christmas Joy CJ999999	945.00	945.00	0.00
2200.06 · GA Theological EducationTE99999	700.00	700.00	0.00
2200.09 · GA Other Donation	1,075.00	1,075.00	0.00
Total 2200 · Other Current Liabilities	6,512.05	6,274.70	237.35
Total Other Current Liabilities	7,062.17	6,842.92	219.25
Total Current Liabilities	12,536.33	9,102.46	3,433.87
Total Liabilities	12,536.33	9,102.46	3,433.87
Equity			
3100 · General Funds			
3100.1 · Administrative	255.07	255.07	0.00
3100.2 · Admin Support	46,690.99	46,690.99	0.00
3100.3 · Program	45,709.22	45,709.22	0.00
3100.4 · West Yellowstone Funds	18,348.34	18,348.34	0.00
3100.9 · Unrestricted	28,984.34	28,984.34	0.00
Total 3100 · General Funds	139,987.96	139,987.96	0.00
3200 · Designated Funds			
3200.01 · Camp Scholarships	7,235.63	6,135.63	1,100.00
3200.02 · Clergy Emergency Fund	1,756.99	1,756.99	0.00
3200.03 · Equip & Encourage	39,746.16	41,996.16	(2,250.00)
3200.04 · Evangelism Grant	52,369.21	52,369.21	0.00
3200.05 · Higher Education Grant	10,646.87	10,646.87	0.00
3200.06 · Linda Hofer Education	19,495.65	19,495.65	0.00
3200.07 · Partnership Spendable Funds	2,390.00	2,390.00	0.00
3200.08 · Peace Making Offering to YP	6,436.70	6,436.70	0.00
3200.09 · Presbyter Discretionary Fund	3,331.54	3,331.54	0.00
3200.10 · Presbyter Study Leave	1,229.01	1,229.01	0.00
3200.11 · Presbytery Continuing Education	3,595.77	3,595.77	0.00
3200.12 · Revamp Camp	16,906.90	16,906.90	0.00
3200.13 · Rural Ministry Grant	1,070.28	1,070.28	0.00
3200.14 · Social Justice	6,469.45	6,469.45	0.00
3200.16 · St Timothy's MM #1	100.00	100.00	0.00
3200.17 · St Timothy's MM #2	100.00	100.00	0.00
3200.18 · Triennium Fund	6,793.52	6,793.52	0.00
3200.19 · Yell Pres Funds Await Cab Actio	17,478.27	17,478.27	0.00
3200.20 · Dubuque-Synod Of RM CRE cohort	1,850.00	900.00	950.00
Total 3200 · Designated Funds	199,001.95	199,201.95	(200.00)
3300 · Restricted Funds			
3300.1 · St Timothy Endowments	485,012.49	485,012.49	0.00
3300.2 · Char Rem Trust	143,391.00	143,391.00	0.00
3300.3 · Partnership Funds Principle Amt	45,599.57	45,599.57	0.00
Total 3300 · Restricted Funds	674,003.06	674,003.06	0.00
Net Income	41,685.58	48,568.48	(6,882.90)
Total Equity	1,054,678.55	1,061,761.45	(7,082.90)
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,067,214.88	1,070,863.91	(3,649.03)

<2>

These statements have not been audited, reviewed or compiled

Presbytery of Yellowstone PCUSA
Administration Budget Performance
March 2024

Accrual Basis

	<u>Mar 24</u>	<u>Jan - Mar 24</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
RECEIPTS					
4001 · Administrative Support	0.00	2,678.50	35,000.00	(32,321.50)	7.65%
4004 · Per Capita Income	256.17	76,938.51	80,040.00	(3,101.49)	96.13%
4005 · Interest Income	139.68	409.73	0.00	409.73	100.0%
4007 · Other Income	1.92	1.92	0.00	1.92	100.0%
Total RECEIPTS	<u>397.77</u>	<u>80,028.66</u>	<u>115,040.00</u>	<u>(35,011.34)</u>	<u>69.57%</u>
Total Income	397.77	80,028.66	115,040.00	(35,011.34)	69.57%
Expense					
LEADERSHIP CABINET					
6303 · Cabinet Meetings	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	(1,500.00)	0.0%
6304 · Accounting Fees	460.00	1,545.00	5,200.00	(3,655.00)	29.71%
6305 · Legal Fees	0.00	0.00	100.00	(100.00)	0.0%
6306 · Task Force Meetings	0.00	0.00	500.00	(500.00)	0.0%
6307 · Nom/St-Tim/Delegate Mtgs	0.00	0.00	500.00	(500.00)	0.0%
Total LEADERSHIP CABINET	<u>460.00</u>	<u>1,545.00</u>	<u>7,800.00</u>	<u>(6,255.00)</u>	<u>19.81%</u>
PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM					
6506 · PMT Meeting Expense	191.70	191.70	2,500.00	(2,308.30)	7.67%
Total PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM	<u>191.70</u>	<u>191.70</u>	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>(2,308.30)</u>	<u>7.67%</u>
PERSONNEL EXPENSES					
6601 · Admin Manager					
6601.1 · Salary	130.65	574.86	2,500.00	(1,925.14)	22.99%
Total 6601 · Admin Manager	<u>130.65</u>	<u>574.86</u>	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>(1,925.14)</u>	<u>22.99%</u>
6602 · General Presbyter					
6602.1 · Salary	588.32	1,765.00	7,060.00	(5,295.00)	25.0%
6602.2 · Housing	2,323.23	6,969.75	27,879.00	(20,909.25)	25.0%
6602.3 · Retirement	301.86	905.58	3,757.00	(2,851.42)	24.1%
6602.4 · Insurance	1,083.10	3,249.30	13,478.00	(10,228.70)	24.11%
6602.5 · Meals Reimb	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	(1,200.00)	0.0%
6602.6 · Travel Reimb	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	(4,000.00)	0.0%
6602.7 · Telephone	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	(1,200.00)	0.0%
6602.8 · Discretionary Fund	0.00	0.00	1,250.00	(1,250.00)	0.0%
6602.9 · Study Leave	0.00	0.00	700.00	(700.00)	0.0%
Total 6602 · General Presbyter	<u>4,296.51</u>	<u>12,889.63</u>	<u>60,524.00</u>	<u>(47,634.37)</u>	<u>21.3%</u>
6603 · Stated Clerk					
6603.1 · Salary	1,869.18	5,607.58	22,437.00	(16,829.42)	24.99%
6603.4 · Travel Reimb	452.32	452.32	2,500.00	(2,047.68)	18.09%
6603.5 · Discretionary Fund	51.00	51.00	500.00	(449.00)	10.2%
Total 6603 · Stated Clerk	<u>2,372.50</u>	<u>6,110.90</u>	<u>25,437.00</u>	<u>(19,326.10)</u>	<u>24.02%</u>
6604 · Payroll Taxes	154.59	477.91	2,000.00	(1,522.09)	23.9%
Total PERSONNEL EXPENSES	<u>6,954.25</u>	<u>20,053.30</u>	<u>90,461.00</u>	<u>(70,407.70)</u>	<u>22.17%</u>

Presbytery of Yellowstone PCUSA
Administration Budget Performance
March 2024

Accrual Basis

	<u>Mar 24</u>	<u>Jan - Mar 24</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
PRESBYTERY EXPENSES					
6703 · Per Capita Expense	0.00	17,664.00	17,664.00	0.00	100.0%
6704 · Presbytery Meetings	501.50	501.50	6,000.00	(5,498.50)	8.36%
6705 · Presbytery Other Exp	675.00	1,810.77	800.00	1,010.77	226.35%
Total PRESBYTERY EXPENSES	<u>1,176.50</u>	<u>19,976.27</u>	<u>24,464.00</u>	<u>(4,487.73)</u>	<u>81.66%</u>
PRESBYTERY OFFICE					
6801 · Copies & Postage	0.00	232.00	300.00	(68.00)	77.33%
6802 · Insurance	410.22	410.22	400.00	10.22	102.56%
6803 · Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	100.00	(100.00)	0.0%
6804 · Rent	0.00	1,035.00	4,140.00	(3,105.00)	25.0%
6805 · Computer & Telephone Expense	0.00	0.00	700.00	(700.00)	0.0%
6806 · Bank Service Charges	1.20	11.63	250.00	(238.37)	4.65%
Total PRESBYTERY OFFICE	<u>411.42</u>	<u>1,688.85</u>	<u>5,890.00</u>	<u>(4,201.15)</u>	<u>28.67%</u>
Total Expense	<u>9,193.87</u>	<u>43,455.12</u>	<u>131,115.00</u>	<u>(87,659.88)</u>	<u>33.14%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>(8,796.10)</u>	<u>36,573.54</u>	<u>(16,075.00)</u>	<u>52,648.54</u>	<u>(227.52%)</u>
Other Income/Expense					
Other Income					
OTHER RECEIPTS					
Transfers from Unrestricted	0.00	0.00	10,075.00	(10,075.00)	0.0%
Transfers from W Yellowstone	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	(6,000.00)	0.0%
Total OTHER RECEIPTS	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>16,075.00</u>	<u>(16,075.00)</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Unrealized Gain(Loss)	6,183.71	6,183.71	0.00	6,183.71	100.0%
Total Other Income	<u>6,183.71</u>	<u>6,183.71</u>	<u>16,075.00</u>	<u>(9,891.29)</u>	<u>38.47%</u>
Net Other Income	<u>6,183.71</u>	<u>6,183.71</u>	<u>16,075.00</u>	<u>(9,891.29)</u>	<u>38.47%</u>
Net Income	<u>(2,612.39)</u>	<u>42,757.25</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>42,757.25</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

**Presbytery of Yellowstone PCUSA
Program Budget Performance
March 2024**

Accrual Basis

	<u>Mar 24</u>	<u>Jan - Mar 24</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
RECEIPTS					
4002 · Camp Income					
4002.1 · Summer Camp Fees	0.00	25.00	10,000.00	(9,975.00)	0.25%
4002.2 · Event Fees	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.0%
4002.3 · Rental of Camp Facilities	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	(12,000.00)	0.0%
4002.5 · Other Camp Income	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.0%
Total 4002 · Camp Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>	<u>26,000.00</u>	<u>(25,975.00)</u>	<u>0.1%</u>
4003 · General Mission Pledge	839.29	12,897.87	24,000.00	(11,102.13)	53.74%
Total RECEIPTS	<u>839.29</u>	<u>12,922.87</u>	<u>50,000.00</u>	<u>(37,077.13)</u>	<u>25.85%</u>
Total Income	839.29	12,922.87	50,000.00	(37,077.13)	25.85%
Expense					
CAMPING & YOUTH					
6100 · Camping Expenses					
6101 · Activities	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	(1,200.00)	0.0%
6102 · Food	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	(3,500.00)	0.0%
6103 · Supplies	0.00	0.00	800.00	(800.00)	0.0%
6104 · Transportation	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	0.0%
6106 · Salaries & Wages	380.92	1,142.76	20,740.00	(19,597.24)	5.51%
Total 6100 · Camping Expenses	<u>380.92</u>	<u>1,142.76</u>	<u>27,240.00</u>	<u>(26,097.24)</u>	<u>4.2%</u>
6110 · Triennium	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	(1,500.00)	0.0%
6120 · Special Events	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	(3,500.00)	0.0%
6200 · Admin Camping Expenses					
6201 · Advertising & Marketing	0.00	0.00	200.00	(200.00)	0.0%
6202 · Copies & Postage	0.00	0.00	100.00	(100.00)	0.0%
6203 · Liability Insurance	3,721.24	3,721.24	3,500.00	221.24	106.32%
6206 · Utilities	107.20	321.10	3,000.00	(2,678.90)	10.7%
Total 6200 · Admin Camping Expenses	<u>3,828.44</u>	<u>4,042.34</u>	<u>6,800.00</u>	<u>(2,757.66)</u>	<u>59.45%</u>
Total CAMPING & YOUTH	<u>4,209.36</u>	<u>5,185.10</u>	<u>39,040.00</u>	<u>(33,854.90)</u>	<u>13.28%</u>
LEADERSHIP CABINET					
6301 · Intermountain Childrens Home	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	(1,500.00)	0.0%
Total LEADERSHIP CABINET	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>(1,500.00)</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM					
6501 · Training	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	0.0%
6502 · Congregation Ministry	100.00	100.00	1,000.00	(900.00)	10.0%
6503 · Emergency Career Counseling	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	0.0%
6504 · Rocky Mountain College	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	100.0%
6505 · Vocations Expense	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	(1,200.00)	0.0%
6507 · Dubuque-Synod of RM CRE cohort	0.00	312.50	0.00	312.50	100.0%
Total PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM	<u>100.00</u>	<u>1,912.50</u>	<u>5,700.00</u>	<u>(3,787.50)</u>	<u>33.55%</u>

**Presbytery of Yellowstone PCUSA
Program Budget Performance
March 2024**

Accrual Basis

	<u>Mar 24</u>	<u>Jan - Mar 24</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
PERSONNEL EXPENSES					
6602 · General Presbyter					
6602.1 · Salary	771.00	2,313.00	9,252.00	(6,939.00)	25.0%
Total 6602 · General Presbyter	771.00	2,313.00	9,252.00	(6,939.00)	25.0%
6604 · Payroll Taxes	29.44	88.33	336.00	(247.67)	26.29%
Total PERSONNEL EXPENSES	800.44	2,401.33	9,588.00	(7,186.67)	25.05%
PRESBYTERY EXPENSES					
6702 · Cluster Meetings	0.00	0.00	100.00	(100.00)	0.0%
6705 · Presbytery Other Exp	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	0.0%
Total PRESBYTERY EXPENSES	0.00	0.00	1,100.00	(1,100.00)	0.0%
Total Expense	5,109.80	9,498.93	56,928.00	(47,429.07)	16.69%
Net Ordinary Income	(4,270.51)	3,423.94	(6,928.00)	10,351.94	(49.42%)
Other Income/Expense					
Other Income					
OTHER RECEIPTS					
Transfers from Program Fund	0.00	0.00	6,928.00	(6,928.00)	0.0%
Total OTHER RECEIPTS	0.00	0.00	6,928.00	(6,928.00)	0.0%
Total Other Income	0.00	0.00	6,928.00	(6,928.00)	0.0%
Net Other Income	0.00	0.00	6,928.00	(6,928.00)	0.0%
Net Income	<u>(4,270.51)</u>	<u>3,423.94</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3,423.94</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Overture Processes and Background and Positions on the Olympia Overture, now POL 01

Overview of Process of overtures which seek to amend our *Book of Order (BOO)*.

An overture to the GA can be adopted by a presbytery or synod. It is then sent to and reviewed by the Stated Clerk's office, Office of the General Assembly. If received within the correct timeframe, it is then sent to the Bills and Overtures Committee (B & O) of the elected GA for that year. It is posted under the GA business (PC-biz) and available to commissioners/delegates and the wider church. B & O makes any needed determinations and assigns it to one of the Standing Committee's of that year's GA. The Standing Committee reads it along with any pertinent advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (see below for details), and any other resources deemed pertinent, hears from the overture advocate from the presbytery (or synod) and any concurring ones, hears open testimony for and against and deliberates. The Committee then can recommend it as presented, edit/alter it, answer it with another action, not recommend it. If there is a minority report as well as a majority report from a diverse committee (not unusual) the whole Assembly will then follow detailed rules for hearing, discussing, amending and finally taking action.

If there is some sort of BOO amendment which passes the GA, it is still not "official". It is sent to and must be discussed by, voted on and be passed by a majority of all the presbyteries before it officially becomes part of our BOO.

The GA's Advisory Committee on the Constitution of the General Assembly (ACC) reviews and issues a report ahead of GA on all overtures and reports/recommendations from other entities coming before the GA. It is to be considered by each committee and commissioner/delegate. This attempt at "360" advice is based on the Constitution, on denominational "case law" from all previous PJC cases, and on any Authoritative Interpretations which the GA has adopted in its history. The later 2 include all former denominations.

ACC on Olympia Overture, identified by the GA now as POL 01 (POL = Polity Committee) 01-A They write this is allowable in keeping with Constitution to being inclusive. See details in ACC paragraph.

01-B This is reviewed as having many contradictions and inconsistencies with key provisions in both the Constitution and "case law" going back many years in both former denominations, including:

I. God alone is Lord of the conscience, [as stated in the *Historic Principles of Church Order* , adopted in 1788] F-3.0101 "... and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men² which are in anything contrary to his Word, or beside it, in matters of faith or worship..." and further underscored in 3.0107.

2 "The individual elected members of the councils (session or presbytery), in assessing persons for ordination, have the freedom to vote their conscience "for God alone is Lord of the conscience..."

II. Every council has the right to determine it's own membership,(since 1729). Many of the concerns/conflicts cited from a variety of BOO citations or case law conflict with this in some way, such as:

1. Each council has the right and obligation to examine each candidate for ordination and/or installation *on a case-by-case basis*;
3. A resolution that discourages candidates from seeking membership or ordination before a case-by-case evaluation exceeds a session's or presbytery's authority;

III. The ACC report ends by stating why B is redundant in their view. W-4.0404e covers this already.

Review the ACC report including the list of 1-9 and case law.

Overview of some reasons, perspectives, beliefs, historical precedent, values, for and against it (some split A & B)

For
Rationale

Twice in 2022 Olympia Presbytery held ordination votes on the floor of presbytery involving ordinands with opinions that did not fully embrace the equal and affirmed status of LGBTQIA+ persons in the church. Those conversations were difficult because the *Book of Order* does not include gender identity or sexual orientation in its list of protected classes. These experiences reveal the need for denominational clarity concerning the church's ministry to LGBTQIA+ individuals as full participants in all aspects of life in the church.

While affirming the freedom of councils of the church to make ordination decisions as guided by the Holy Spirit, we acknowledge that the Church has been called upon historically to be ever more faithful to the most inclusive and affirming statements of Scripture and promptings of the Holy Spirit. The Church continues to find and confirm that the limits of each council of the church in their "local option" are conditioned by affirmations found in the *Book of Order*: sex, race, or any other prejudicial category, now to include gender identity and sexual orientation.

We feel that the Spirit is working in the churches concerning this matter. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the following resolution:

1. Celebrating the expansive embrace of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the breadth of our mission to serve a world in need, the 223rd General Assembly (2018) affirms the gifts of LGBTQIA+ people for ministry and celebrates their service in the church and in the world.

2. The assembly celebrates that over the years, LGBTQIA+ people have faithfully, lovingly, and courageously served in every kind of service to which Christian disciples are called— notwithstanding the church's efforts to exclude them from particular types of service.

3. The assembly laments the ways that the policies and actions of the PC(USA) have caused gifted, faithful, LGBTQIA+ Christians to leave the Presbyterian church so that they could find a more welcoming place to serve, as they have been gifted and called by the Spirit.

4. *At the same time, the assembly gives thanks for the LGBTQIA+ pioneers of the faith who have persisted in relationship with the Presbyterian church, at great personal cost and sacrifice, together with the whole of the LGBTQIA+ community, moving the church toward a more generous, loving, and just understanding of God's grace.*

5. *The assembly also gives thanks for those who continue to seek deeper understanding, and more authentic welcome, even amid discomfort or uncertainty about how best to show hospitality, in the spirit of continuing Reformation.*

6. *Today, openly LGBTQIA+ people are leading churches, preaching the gospel, serving those in need, and otherwise using their gifts for ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).*

7. *With an eye toward the future, the assembly affirms God's presence and call in the lives of all God's people and commits to seeking justice, equality, and inclusion for all in church and society.*

8. *The assembly calls on the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, the Presbyterian Mission Agency (through its Office of Public Witness), and all who represent the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to actively work for the protection of human and civil rights, both in the United States and around the world, especially the rights of marginalized and oppressed groups, including people facing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.*

9. *The assembly calls upon mission co-workers and ecumenical representatives to advocate for justice and equality for all God's people in ways appropriate to their cultural and ecclesiastical context.*

10. *The assembly encourages all congregations and councils of the PCUSA continually to seek to expand their welcome so that all might know the Good News of Jesus Christ and encourages all other communions to do the same.*

We follow this encouragement by urging that gender identity and sexual orientation be established as protected classes against which we must not discriminate. As the PC(USA) continues to celebrate the gifts of our LGBTQIA+ siblings, we must amend our *Book of Order* to prevent discrimination against those same siblings.

We further feel that justice will be served and the children of God will be supported by this amendment. Studies show that LGBTQIA+ youth who have religious parents that share negative views on being LGBTQIA+ have higher rates of suicide attempts.[1] We believe that the Church is being called to affirm and support this at-risk population as children, youth, and adults.

We pray that the PC(USA) will fully affirm our LGBTQIA+ siblings by adding language that protects these historically oppressed people.

[1] [The Trevor Project](https://www.thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/LGBTQ-Youth-and-Religion-Research-Brief-April-2020.pdf): (https://www.thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/LGBTQ-Youth-and-Religion-Research-Brief-April-2020.pdf)

[This section below is condensed, drawing upon articles, and convictions, stories, positions expressed, social media, expressed FOR this overture FOR, containing]

The rationale in the overture itself expresses the convictions and reasons of those bringing this overture, feeling with the pain, exclusion and difficult experiences of those who are *LGBTQIA+*. believing it is time. And it is deemed essential for parity, for clarity, for inclusion and for celebration.

A denomination with uniformity in this 1 theological interpretation on the 1 issue of human sexuality, along with these measures and mandates are needed, and needed now. This is the only way to ensure and to enforce non-discrimination and full inclusion. This is seen as necessary and the only way the church can be just, supportive and loving to those who are *LGBTQIA+*.

The action component of B is deemed necessary so as to prevent those who hold a different theological position on human sexuality from coming into any form of leadership in the future to further impede progress in enacting this throughout the church.

Individuals and councils which are not uniform in sharing and/or participating in actively advocating for this theological conviction and full participation in all governance are referred to in a variety of ways (articles, social media...) as detrimental to the cause. Non-discrimination policies in presbyteries and congregations are seen as vehicles to compel compliance or subscription.

Against

1. Foundational principle of freedom of conscience, “for God alone is Lord of the conscience...” is denied and thus functionally removed as 1 theological interpretation on sexuality, as expressed in overture rationale and articles, Proponents of the overture believe it is now to be desired and expected by all to be ordained or installed. See citations above.

If freedom of conscience, as described and protected in F-3.0101, 0107, is no longer foundational and honored, then the floodgates open for compelling conscience, speech and belief on a wide range of matters. What is next?

Related: This could set up circumstances in the future similar to those which gave rise to the need for the Declaration of Barmen when the dominant ideology and position(s) in both government and the German Reformed Church sought to compel conscience, belief/compliance, and action by all in the church.

2. The non-discrimination and protections being advocated for in the area of human sexuality are elevated as being more important in F-1.0403 and over-ride non-discrimination and diversity in the area of theological conviction, protected in this same sentence and elsewhere in the Constitution.

3. The PCUSA “Big Tent Church” inclusive experiment of just 12 years, is to be replaced with an exclusive church for only those with 1 interpretation on 1 issue of human sexuality.

In 2012 the PCUSA, seeking to create a path forward *together*, in a “Big Tent Church” with room for diversity, adopted the following way to uphold “the peace, unity and purity of the church” and uphold that “God alone is Lord of the conscience, ...” . Mutual forbearance will characterize us “as we also believe that there are truths and forms with respect to which men of good characters and principles may differ. And in all these we think it the duty both of private Christians and societies to exercise mutual forbearance toward each other.” F-3.0105.

The 220th GA in 2012 said:

The 220th General Assembly (2012) acknowledges that faithful Presbyterians earnestly seeking to follow Jesus Christ hold different views about what the Scriptures teach concerning the morality of committed, same-gender relationships. Therefore, while holding persons in ordered ministry to high standards of covenant fidelity in the exercise of their sexuality, as in all aspects of life, we acknowledge that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) does not have one interpretation of Scripture in this matter. We commit ourselves to continue respectful dialogue with those who hold differing convictions, to welcome one another for God's glory, and not to vilify those whose convictions we believe to be in error. We call on all Presbyterians to join us in this commitment.

POL 01 contradicts both the spirit and the Constitutional provisions/protections for mutual forbearance, for holding “peace unity and purity” in tension, for differing interpretations on human sexuality, for respectful dialogue, as with this overture a divergent theological interpretation on human sexuality alone could not be allowed by the majority and in councils could become cause for exclusion or a disciplinary case.

4. This overture will function in a divisive, destructive manner, forcing every congregation, often very diverse, and every presbytery, to examine each candidate's (elder, deacon, pastor) convictions on sexuality. The addition of B requires all local congregations and presbyteries (Nominating Committees, sessions, COM's, Candidates committees, presbyteries) to examine all potential candidates for ordination or installation as elders, deacons or ministers of word and sacrament, *in the principles of participation, representation, and non-discrimination found in the expanded version of F-1.0403.*

The addition to further delineate the existing term, “sex”, with *gender identity, sexual orientation* is explained by overture proponents as the intent to move towards mandating one uniform theological position on human sexuality. No longer do “we believe that there are truths and forms with respect to which [people] of good characters and principles may differ. And in all these we think it the duty both of private Christians and societies to exercise mutual forbearance toward each other.” *F-3.0105*

5. The health, integrity and unity of diverse local congregations are important to our witness in these divided times and need to be encouraged and protected as they are in our current BOO. Many PCUSA congregations across the country, and in our presbytery, small and large, rural, town or city, are highly diverse, purple if you will. They are seeking to love and grow more like Christ, love God and neighbor, join Christ in Christ's mission in their community and world. In our polarized times, they focus on the center, Jesus. Their unity is in Christ. This common faith and being in Christ, is their focus, not their theological conviction on a particular issue or issues on which they may differ.

6. The current practice of freedom of conscience for individuals and councils, and what has been referred to “Local option”, provides for each council to discern and decide whom they will ordain and install, including those who identify as LGBTQIA+. Nothing in our present polity prevents this.

7. Perception is reality. If the GA sends POL 01 down to the presbyteries as an amendment, regardless of the outcome of the vote, the message and perception will be crystal clear: that the PCUSA's foundations, some of it's polity and it's “Big Tent” commitment to diversity,

including theological diversity, is no longer is operational. This will be true for many in diverse congregations as well as for those who may hold a different theological conviction on human sexuality.

8. History shows the questionable “wins” of coerced compliance among US Presbyterians in the last century, the Fundamentalists demands in the 20’s (Burnett article) and the 70’s 80’s (Haberer article).

9. This overtures create several **internal contradictions and inconsistencies within our Constitution and how we live and operate.** Impacts of that include, but are not limited to: confusion, chaos, a plethora of PJC cases, further erosion of trust and respect for the denomination in a time of low trust for institutions and a church weakened by the covid era in an increasingly secular society.

10. It is important to recognize this overture creates further rifts with many ecumenical partners and almost all (> 90%) of the global church on these matters.

“Diversity is the hardest thing to live with but the most dangerous thing to live without.”
Henry Sloan Coffin dr 4