

**Presbytery of Yellowstone – ZOOM Stated Meeting
November 5-6, 2021**

21.0062. Opening of the Meeting

The Presbytery of Yellowstone met on Friday and Saturday, November 5-6, 2020, Via Zoom format at 9:30AM on Friday with prayer by the Acting Moderator RE Russ Kline. The theme for this meeting was: *“Keeping It R.E.A.L.”*

20-0063. Roll Call: (as taken from the registration forms and emails, not as taken verbally or visually)

Ruling Elder Commissioners and Other RE’s and visitors

Anaconda	CRE Veva Larson, RE Linda Smith,
Billings First	RE Sandi Schoenberger (Commissioner), RE Russ Kline (LC)
Billings St Andrew	RE Jim Tarr (Commissioner)
Big Hole	RE Sandy Cleary (Commissioner), RE Julie Boksich (LC & Moderator)
Bozeman (LC)	RE Debbie Ernst (Commissioner), RE Ric Tieman (LC Treasurer), Suzanne Bratsky
Butte First	Excused
Colstrip	RE Gail Beckham (Commissioner)
Deer Lodge	RE Marilyn Thomas (Commissioner)
Dillon First	A
Ennis	RE Elaine Hundley (Commissioner)
Forsyth Federated	A
Hysham Community	RE Wayne Milmine (Commissioner)
Jordan	RE Holly Harbaugh (Commissioner)
Lewistown First	RE Melissa Bell (Commissioner)
Manhattan	RE Stephanie Bergstrom (Commissioner), RE Debbie Blackburn (PMT Co-Mod.)
Miles City	A
Phillipsburg St Paul’s	A
Poplar First	A
Stanford First	CRE Margee Smith
Terry Community	RE Nancy Pehl (Commissioner)
White Sulphur Springs	A
Wolf Point First	A

Minister Members

David Andrew (absent), Jim Bell (absent), Priscilla Bell (absent), Davis Bierschwale (excused), Charley Blom (present), Kimberly Briggs (excused), Paul Cannon (absent), J P Carlson (present), Chuck Carlson (present), Warren (Rusty) Craig (present), Dick Davis (excused), Mary Davis (excused), John Dyce (absent), Wenda Fry (absent), Debbie Funke (present), George Goodrich (present), Kathy Goodrich (present), Steven A Hundley (absent), Doug Johnson (excused), Lowell Johnson (absent), Teresa Kendall (present), Dan Krebill (present), Brent Long (excused), Freeman McCall (absent), Jody McDevitt (present), Sherwood McKay (absent), Marcia Muir (absent), David Murchie (present), Sally Ralston (absent), Neva Rathbun (present), Mary Grace Reynolds (present), Harlan L Rounds (present), Jamie Schmeling (present), Deborah Schmidt (absent), Susan Thomas (excused), David Thompson (present), Daniel Triller (present), Larry Vandecreek (absent), Kim Woeste (absent)

Commissioned Ruling Elder Members also listed with RE's above.

CRE Veva Larson (present) CRE Margee Smith (present)

RE Moderators 2021, Voting Members also listed with their churches above:

RE Julie Boksich (Moderator), Debbie Blackburn (PMT Co Moderator)

RE Leadership Cabinet Voting Members also listed with their churches above:

RE Julie Boksich (present), Ric Tieman, (present), Susanne Bratsky (present), Russ Klein (present)

Corresponding members for meeting seated:

MWS Rob Hagan (Presbyterian Foundation), MWS Christine Long (Board of Pensions)

Staff with Voice: RE Caroline Fleming (Stated Clerk)

Quorum/Balance check: Voting 19 RE's, Voting 17 MWS.

Presbytery of Yellowstone – ZOOM Stated Meeting

21-0064. Acting Moderator Russ Kline offered opening prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting. A brief instruction was given concerning Word-Share-Prayer and the procedure for the morning's mini-conference

21-0065. Dwelling in the Word: Attendees were placed into small groups to read, reflect upon, and dwell in the scripture passage from Hebrews 12: 1-3. When small group time was over, all were called back to the main room and asked to share what people felt the Holy Spirit saying in their small group. Shared insights included:

- Consider whether the eyes we look through are worldly or are we looking toward Jesus?
- We must lay aside anger, resentment, fear, a desire for vengeance. If we don't, we'll have a very difficult time following Jesus.
- Stay focused on Christ and keep our eyes on the joy that is ahead rather than the burden of today.
- Do we fear and/or distrust God? Does that weight us down?
- Can we see with Jesus' eyes?
- We are surrounded; we aren't alone. We can endure. It may be a long race we are running, but ahead is heaven; ahead is joy.

Kathy Goodrich closed our time of Dwelling in the Word with prayer.

21-0066. Workshops: Attendees chose to attend one of two hour-long workshops for the remainder of the morning:

1. "We Got This! Becoming REAL with God and Each Other" led by Russ Kline
2. "Spiritual Friendship: Thriving in Stressful Times" led by George Goodrich

(Handouts for these two workshops and for Kathy Goodrich's workshop "Hope: Making it Real in Conflicted, Changing, Crazy Times," that will be held Saturday morning, November 6, are included as **Attachment A**)

21-0067. Presbytery meeting convened: Acting Moderator Russ Kline convened the stated meeting of Yellowstone Presbytery at 1:00 p.m. with prayer.

21-0068. Introductions, roll call and declaration of quorum: The Stated Clerk called the roll, asking one person from each church to introduce everyone from that church, then took roll of At-Large and Honorably retired Minister members of Presbytery. A Quorum was declared by the Stated Clerk from the roll call. attendance.

21-0069. Procedural Motion and Omnibus Motion: The Stated Clerk' report (**Attachment B**) included Procedural and Omnibus motions that were reviewed. The Omnibus motion included motions to approve the minutes of the May 21-22, 2021, Stated Meeting of Presbytery, the minutes of the June 3, 2021, Special Meeting of Presbytery, and minutes of three Administrative Commissions: the July 31, 2021, installation of the rev. Kimberly Briggs, the August 28 ordination and installation of Mary Grace Reynolds, and the October 16, 2021, minutes of the installation of Rev. Jamie Schmeling.

➤ **A motion was made** and seconded to approve the clerk's procedural and omnibus motions as printed in exhibit B. Motion passed.

21-0070. Dwelling in the Word: Moderator Russ led the group in a short Dwelling in the Word based on Hebrews 12: 1-3 and in review of people's experiences in the morning workshops. Consensus was that we are very grateful for our Lord Jesus, for the great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us, and for the spiritual friends we have now, all of which help our faith to thrive. We want to offer this faith to others. People need community and small groups are an excellent way to do enhance the community experience.

21-0071. Co-General Presbyter's report (Attachment C): The Co-GP report was reviewed and is included as **Exhibit C**. Presbyters and church people are in a long race, much longer than we originally anticipated. Pastors are leaving the ministry or retiring in record numbers, leaving church members wondering what the future of the church will be. George and Kathy Goodrich are working very hard to equip people of Yellowstone Presbytery, and through them, our local churches, to live into the future.

21-0071. Pastoral Ministry Team Report Part 1: (Attachment D):

- a. PMT Co Moderator MWS JP Carlson introduced IPNC Chair of First Presbyterian Church of Bozeman (Bozeman FPC) Debbie Ernst who reviewed the process the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (IPNC) used in selecting MWS Ashley Birk as their candidate for Interim Pastor. MWS Ashley Birk was introduced and shared her personal history and history in the PC (USA) with the Presbytery. The candidate was than interviewed concerning theology, her sense of call to the Bozeman Church, what she hopes to focus on during her time with the Bozeman congregation, and her previous involvement in presbytery and PC(USA) activities. Following an opportunity to ask questions of Yellowstone Presbytery, Ashley left the meeting. The following actions were taken:
 - **It was voted** to approve the Pastoral Ministry Team recommendation that Presbytery approve Ashley Birk as Interim pastor at FPC Bozeman and for membership in Yellowstone Presbytery.
 - **A motion was made** and seconded to approve the contract between Ashley Birk and FPC Bozeman. The motion passed.
- b. PMT actions are listed in the PMT report. Highlights of their work include:
 1. Held three Installation services and one Ordination and Installation service since Presbytery last met: David Murchie in Colstrip on June 6, Kimmy Briggs in Lewistown on July 31, Mary

Grace Reynolds in Ennis on August 28 and Jamie Schmeling in Terry on October 16. We are blessed to have these gifted people working in our Presbytery.

2. Completed two boundary training sessions in 2021. If any minister or commissioned Ruling Elder could not attend one of the two training sessions, they will have to attend an approved training as soon as possible.
3. Suggests the following honorarium rates for pulpit supply and moderating session or congregational meetings:
 1. Pulpit Supply - \$150 for one Service plus mileage; \$ 50 for each additional location and/or service
 2. Session Moderator - \$50 for Zoom Meeting; \$75 for In Person Meeting
 3. Congregational Meeting Moderator - \$50 plus mileage

Note: Mileage should be calculated using current IRS rates for employees

4. PMT recommended the following actions:
 - **PMT recommends** that Yellowstone Presbytery adopt a 3% increase in the minimum salary for pastors effective January 2022.
Discussion followed and included the fact that the recommended increase is below the federal cost of living adjustment (COLA). PMT Co-Moderator JP Carlson was asked to send a pastoral letter to all churches informing them of the increase and stating that PMT will consider exceptions in hardship situations. In addition, churches are to adopt a Family Leave Policy effective January 2022.
 - **Action:** It was moved and seconded to extend the docket by fifteen minutes, from 4:15 to 4:30 p.m. Motion passed.
 - **Action:** The previous motion from PMT to adopt a 3% increase in the minimum salary for pastors passed.
 - **In response to Esther Berg's request** for reinstatement to ordained ministry in the PC(USA), based on records and documentation, the pastoral Ministry team recommends her request be denied. The motion passed.

The PMT report Part 1 concluded, with one item of business left for Saturday morning.

21-0072. Budget and Finance Report (Attachment E): Treasurer Ric Tieman, reported that the bank account balance is down \$15,000 as of September 30, 2021, with a total in current assets of \$932,006.07. \$605,484.06 of those funds are restricted. The Presbytery's program budget is doing very well this year, in large part due to a very successful camping season.

Proposed 2022 budget (Attachment F): Treasurer Ric Tieman reviewed the proposed 2022 budget which is slightly less than the 2021 budget.

- **Action:** It was moved and seconded to approve the proposed 2022 budget as recommended by the Leadership Cabinet. Motion passed.
- **Action:** It was moved and seconded to adopt the per capita fee of \$56.00 per person as recommended by Leadership Cabinet. Motion passed.

NOTE: Per Capita is distributed as follows:

General Assembly	\$ 8.98
Synod	\$ 3.00
<u>Presbytery</u>	<u>\$44.02</u>
TOTAL:	\$56.00

NOTE: Co-General Presbytery will raise \$35,000 of their salary in 2022.

21-0073. Camping and Youth Team report (Attachment G): Moderator Dan Triller reported that the camping season at Westminster Spires was very successful.

- **Action:** It was moved and seconded to extend the docket 15 minutes to 4:45 p.m. Motion passed

21-0074. Representation & Nomination Team Report 1 (Attachment H): Team Moderator Jody McDevitt gave the first reading of the nominations the team is recommending for positions and reported the results of the June 27 email vote to elect RE Jim Tarr to serve on the PMT class of 2022 and MWS Kimmy Briggs to serve on the PMY class of 2023.

21-0075. Announcements included a welcome to Christine Long, our Board of Pensions representative and instructions on accessing the worship bulletin after which the meeting recessed at 4:45 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. with prayer offered by Debbie Funke.

21-0076. Worship: Presbytery reconvened for worship at 7:00 p.m. Rev. George Goodrich preached a message based on Luke 5 that reminded us God asks us to take on more than we have strength for because God wants us to depend on God's strength. "Obedience yields blessing." The evening's offering will go to Intermountain in Helena and can be given online through the GIVE NOW button at Yellowstone Presbytery website or can be mailed to the Presbytery office.

Presbytery recessed for the evening following worship.

21-0077. Reconvene: Presbytery reconvened at 8:30 a.m. with prayer offered by Melissa Bell.

21-0078. Dwelling in the Word: The group listened to Hebrews 10: 19-25 read and reflected silently on the passage after which we broke into small groups to discuss the passage using printed questions. Small group work ended with participants praying for one another based on concerns voiced. Following a short break, people from the breakout groups shared with the large group what their group heard the Holy Spirit saying through the passage.

21-0079. Workshops (Attachment A): Attendees chose to attend one of two hour-long workshops:

1. "Hope: Making it R.E.A.L in Conflicted, Changing, Crazy Times!" led by Kathy Goodrich
2. "Spiritual Friendship: Thriving in Stressful Times" led by George Goodrich

21-0080. PMT report Part 2 (Attachment D): Presbytery reconvened as a committee of the whole for the continuation of the PMT report as Presbytery honored Rev. Dan Krebill and Rev. Jody McDevitt for their service in ministry. They retired on September 30 after 25 years as co-pastors at FPC Bozeman and both served Yellowstone Presbytery in a variety of positions. The couple will move to Billings November 15, so are not leaving the presbytery. Many people offered praise and thanks for both Dan and Jody, celebrating times spent together and work done to God's glory.

- **Action:** PMT recommends that Yellowstone Presbytery grant honorably retired status to Dan Krebill and Jody McDevitt. Motion passed.

George Goodrich closed the celebration of Dan & Jody's ministry and the PMT report with prayer.

21-0081. Leadership Cabinet report (Attachment I): Leadership Cabinet reported on the work done to equip and encourage the people of Yellowstone Presbytery since the June presbytery meeting. Actions included setting presbytery meeting dates for 2022 on February 11 & 12, May 6 & 7, and November 4 & 5.

Leadership Cabinet makes the following motions to Yellowstone Presbytery:

- Recommends to Yellowstone Presbytery Rev. Teresa Kendall to serve as member of Synod Nominating Committee member (class of 2024) beginning January 1, 2022.
 - **Action:** Motion passed.
- Recommends that allocated funds received from the sale of Harlowton and Geyser properties be moved into Presbytery's Unrestricted Funds budget line item.
 - **Action:** Motion passed.
- Recommends to the Presbytery that the sale of the manse of the First Presbyterian Church of Anaconda be approved and the realized funds from the sale be dispensed according to provisions outlined in the letter from the church, dated October 25, 2021 (**Attachment J**).
 - **Action:** Motion passed.
- Recommends to the Presbytery that the Leadership Cabinet appoint a team of 2-3 people, along with Rob Hagan of the Presbyterian Foundation, to work in support of the session of First Presbyterian Church of Anaconda to ensure the effective investment of the funds for the on-going ministry of the church and its mission, and that the team remains constituted until the funds are invested and the church is cared for pastorally, probable duration of the team about a year.
 - **Action:** Motion passed.
- **A motion was made** from the floor and seconded to extend the docket by 15 minutes.
 - **Action:** Motion passed.
- Recommends to the Presbytery that the Leadership Cabinet be the presbytery entity to oversee this process and receive reports from the session of First Presbyterian Church of Anaconda.
 - **Action:** Motion passed.

21-0082. Rev. Dr. Rob Hagen, Presbyterian Foundation (Attachment K): Rob encouraged churches to look at end of the year giving as an opportunity to share the possibility of people giving through one's I.R.A. This could reduce a person's tax liability as well as offer significant gifts to the church.

21-0083. Representation & Nomination Team Report 2:

- The Moderator of the Representation & Nomination (Rep/Nom) Team gave the second reading of the proposed slate of candidates for election to open positions in Yellowstone Presbytery (Attachment H). After a call for nominations from the floor, the following action was taken:

- **Action: It was moved and seconded to close nominations** and cast a unanimous ballot to elect MWS Dave Thompson Moderator of the Presbytery for 2022, RE Melissa Bell Vice Moderator for 2022, RE Russ Kline Moderator of Leadership Cabinet for 2022, MWS Kimmy Briggs Moderator of PMT for 2022 and to elect all the members of the cabinet and committees as listed in the Rep/Nom report. Motion passed.
- It was noted two vacancies remains on the PMT class of 2024, and that Presbytery needs an alternate RE Commissioner, a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) and an alternate YAAD to General Assembly.
- Moderator Jody reviewed the Representation Report of the Rep/Nom Team (**Attachment L**) noting the following recommendations to correct imbalances:
 - *We recommend that the Leadership Cabinet seek male representation on the Rep/Nom team when nominations are open.*
 - *We recommend seeking more representation from the eastern region.*
 - *We recommend paying attention to the age imbalance and encourage young leadership, making accommodations in our time expectations as much as possible*
 - *We recommend increased awareness and openness to the gifts of God's diverse people in our communities.*

The Representation Report was received

21-0084. Board of Pensions (Attachment M): Rev. Christine Long introduced herself as the new Church Consultant for Yellowstone Presbytery. She shared a handout on benefits and a PowerPoint presentation.

21-0085. Stated Clerk Report (Attachment B): The Stated Clerk reported on her activities since taking office June 1 and reported two presbytery email votes:

- June 27 election of two people to PMT reported by the Rep/Nom Moderator
- September 21 to elect the administrative commission to install Jamie Schmeling on October 16.

21-0086, Presbyterian Women: No report

21-0087. Synod Report (Attachment N): Commissioner Jim Tarr submitted a written report.

21-0088. St. Timothy's Chapel (Attachment O): Moderator Cal Boyle submitted a written report.

21-0089. Summary of Mini0Conference and meeting: All were thanked for attending and participating. People were asked to give feedback on the content and ideas for improvement.

21-0090. Announcements and Closing: People are asked for ideas on re-inventing Presbytery prayer and encouraged to talk with Debbie Funke if this is something you would like to pursue.

- **Action:** A motion was made and seconded to adjourn following closing prayer. Motion passed.

Rev. Jamie Schmeling closed the Presbytery meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Caroline Fleming
Stated Clerk