

# REPRESENTATION/NOMINATING MINISTRY TEAM

November 3-4, 2023

## PART 1 - Nominating Report

The Representation/Nominating Ministry Team met seven times by Zoom this fall. We are pleased to have excellent people to nominate for many positions in our presbytery.

But our slate is incomplete. **WE NEED YOUR HELP IDENTIFYING PEOPLE WHO ARE ABLE AND WILLING TO SERVE IN SOME KEY ROLES, SO THAT WE CAN COMPLETE OUR WORK BY THE END OF 2023.**

- **Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery, who also serves on the Leadership Cabinet**  
Because of a significant imbalance on the Leadership Cabinet, this person should be a male Ruling Elder
- **Two positions in the class of 2026 on the Pastoral Ministry Team**  
Both these positions are for Ministers of Word and Sacrament, in accord with the presbytery's approved structure.
- **Moderator or Co-Moderators of Pastoral Ministry Team**
- **Alternates for Ruling Elder Commissioner to General Assembly and Young Adult Advisory Delegate**

We place in nomination the following slate of candidates for open positions, beginning January 1, 2024.

**Moderator of Presbytery:** MWS Mary Grace Reynolds

**Vice-Moderator of Presbytery:** RE \_\_\_\_\_

### LEADERSHIP CABINET

**Class of 2026**

MWS Dave Thompson

RE \_\_\_\_\_ (Vice Moderator of Presbytery)

### PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM

**2024 Moderator**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Class of 2026**

RE Julie Boksich (Big Hole)

RE Bill Banks (1<sup>st</sup> Billings)

MWS \_\_\_\_\_

MWS \_\_\_\_\_

### CAMPING AND YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

**2024 Moderator**

MWS Daniel Triller

**Class of 2026**

MWS Daniel Triller

Nichole Bodalski (1<sup>st</sup> Billings)

### SYNOD OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS (2-year term)

**Class of 2025**

**CRE** Margee Smith (Lewistown)

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RE Commissioner

Russ Kline (1<sup>st</sup> Billings)

Alternate RE

\_\_\_\_\_

MWS Commissioner

JP Carlson

Alternate MWS

Kimmy Briggs

Young Adult Advisory Delegate

Joelle Evans (Miles City)

Alternate YAAD

\_\_\_\_\_

**Representation & Nomination Team** (These people are nominated by the Leadership Cabinet and are included in this report for voting purposes, so we only have to have one election.)

**Class of 2027**

**2024 Moderator** MWS Harlan (Lanny) Rounds  
RE Sandy Welch  
RE Terry Johnson  
MWS \_\_\_\_\_

## **PART 2 - Selection Process for Minister Commissioner to General Assembly**

### **BACKGROUND TO PROPOSAL**

Current official process:

- NOT ELIGIBLE: At-large members, Out-of-Bounds members, non-PCUSA members, temporary and interim pastors, Honorably Retired members
- Points are earned for:
  1. Each year since ordination
  2. Each year since joining Yellowstone Presbytery
  3. Years since service as GA Commissioner
- Points are subtracted for:
  1. Unexcused absences from presbytery meetings in current year

Recent practice and observations about that practice:

- Presbytery staff have not been asked to serve in this role (or have declined), due to concerns expressed by some over potential conflicts of interest
- Rep/Nom has weighed more heavily the active role of ministers in the presbytery.
- Interest in being Commissioner has decreased
- With fewer pastors serving churches, we have a smaller pool to choose from

In 2019, Rep/Nom asked the Leadership Cabinet to revise the system. The LC asked Rep/Nom for a proposal. Then came 2020. . . . and here we are, 3 years later.

### **PROPOSAL (Highlighted portions are revisions)**

The Stated Clerk will keep a record of the following for each member of the presbytery:

- Status (Engaged in a Validated Ministry, Member at-large, or Retired)
- Ordination date
- Date of joining Yellowstone Presbytery
- Excused absences from presbytery meetings for the previous 2 years
- Unexcused absences from presbytery meetings for the previous 2 years
- Receipt of annual reports for the previous 2 years from retired ministers, ministers-at-large and those serving in validated ministries but not as installed pastors in Presbyterian churches.
- Year when member last served as GA Commissioner

To be eligible for consideration, a Minister of Word and Sacrament must be engaged in a validated ministry, a member at-large, or retired. Temporary Members from another Christian church will be ineligible.

The Representation/Nominating Team will consider the above factors, as well as the following factors, to prayerfully nominate a Minister Commissioner and Alternate.

- Engagement in the work of the presbytery
- Diversity (across the years of GA) of gender, age, and ethnicity
- Leadership potential for the future of the presbytery and larger church

## **PART 3 – Representation Report**

Our analysis of those serving in elected positions in Yellowstone Presbytery follows. Recommendations are highlighted in red.

**There are 4 Moderator roles currently filled. Of these, there are:**

2 men, 2 women

1 ruling elders, 3 ministers of Word and sacrament

*We are still in the process of filling leadership roles, with 2 additional roles to be filled. We recommend that the vice-moderator of the Presbytery should be a male Ruling elder to balance these leadership roles and bring greater balance to the Leadership Cabinet.*

**There are 41 elected positions filled at this time. Of these, there are:**

18 men, 23 women

23 ruling elders, 18 ministers of Word and sacrament

*These balances tip towards women (as does the balance in most congregations) and toward ruling elders. The 2023 Representation/Nominating Team is all women. Several of the ministers of Word and sacrament in our small presbytery are serving on two ministry teams.*

*We recommend that the Leadership Cabinet seek male representation on the Rep/Nom Team.*

**Geographical representation:**

9 are from the eastern region of Yellowstone Presbytery (8 churches)

21 are from the central region of Yellowstone Presbytery (7 churches)

11 are from the western region of Yellowstone Presbytery (7 churches)

Ruling Elders come from 11 of our 22 churches.

*The boundaries between these regions could be drawn differently, yielding a different count. The central region includes the largest congregations.*

*We recommend seeking more representation from the eastern and western regions, as well as encouraging participation of the 11 churches not currently represented in presbytery roles.*

**Age representation:**

26 are 60+ years of age

7 are 40-59 years of age

8 are under 40 years of age

*(Many of these ages are guesses!) This distribution is similar to one year ago. We have younger minister members who are taking on more roles in the presbytery. The time demands of presbytery service are more easily met by ruling elders who are retired than those who are younger and working full-time.*

*We recommend paying attention to this imbalance and encouraging young leadership, making accommodations in our time expectations as much as possible.*

**Race/ethnicity/culture**

*To our knowledge, only one person serving Yellowstone Presbytery checks a “non-White” box. This is reflective of most of the membership of our congregations, but also a reminder that our congregations do not represent the growing diversity in the state of Montana.*

*We recommend increased awareness and openness to the gifts of God’s diverse people in our communities.*

Respectfully submitted by the Representation/Nominating Ministry Team,  
Jody McDevitt (moderator), Terry Johnson, Sandy Welch  
Kathy Goodrich, staff