

**Presbytery of Yellowstone - Special Meeting  
November 30, 2023**

**23-019. Opening of the Meeting**

The Presbytery of Yellowstone met on Thursday, November 30, via Zoom, beginning at 12:00 noon. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by the Moderator, RE Melissa Bell.

A quorum was declared present.

This special meeting was called by 2023 Presbytery Moderator Melissa Bell at the request of the Pastoral Ministry Team for the following reasons:

1. To examine and approve Charles Walden to be received as a member of Yellowstone Presbytery and as the installed MWS for Manhattan Presbyterian Church at the recommendation of the Pastoral Ministry Team.
2. To approve the Terms of Call for Charles Walden as the installed MWS for Manhattan Presbyterian Church at the recommendation of the Pastoral Ministry Team.
3. To authorize the Pastoral Ministry Team to finalize the date & Administrative Commission for the installation service for Charles Walden to Manhattan Presbyterian Church and invite the presbytery.

**Any action the Presbytery might wish to take must be related to items 1-3.**

**23-020. Present at the meeting:**

**Ruling Elders** with vote attending:

1. RE Russ Kline, Billings 1<sup>st</sup>
2. RE Debbie Ernst, Bozeman, PMT
3. CRE Chuck Wright, Butte/Manhattan
4. RE Julie Boksich, Church of the Big Hole
5. RE Debbie Blackburn, Manhattan, PMT
6. RE Stephanie Bergstrom, Manhattan
7. RE Melissa Bell, Lewistown, Moderator
8. RE Cal Boyle, St. Timothy Chapel
9. RE Nancy Pehl, Terry

**Ministers of Word and Sacrament Members Present:** (Note absences and excused absences are not reported for Special Meetings of this Presbytery)

Ashley Birk, Kimmy Briggs, Warren (Rusty) Craig, Mary Davis, Debbie Funke, George Goodrich, Kathy Goodrich, Doug Johnson, Teresa Kendall, Karolee Larson, Neva Rathbun, Mary Grace Reynolds, Harlan (Lanny) Rounds, Jamie Schmeling, Dave Thompson, Daniel Triller.

**Others Present:** RE Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk; RE Jim Lovell, Manhattan PNC; RE Kathy Whitsitt, Manhattan PNC; RE Marie Westpha, Manhattan PNC; Charles Walden, Corresponding member & guest.

**\*Action:** A motion was made and seconded to give members of the Manhattan PNC and Session voice at the meeting and to seat Charles Walden as a corresponding member. The motion passed unanimously.

### **23-021 Interview with Charles Walden: (Attachments A, B, & C)**

**\*Action:** Debbie Blackburn, on behalf of the PMT, moved that the presbytery approve Charles Walden as a member of Yellowstone Presbytery and as the called, installed pastor for Manhattan Presbyterian Church.

Jim Lovell, Chair of the Manhattan PNC introduced Charles Walden, and Charles shared a bit about himself and his sense of call to the Manhattan church. The floor was opened to questions for Charles, and he was asked about reasons for leaving his previous parishes, what he sees as the biggest issues facing congregations today, and what gifts he feels he brings to the Manhattan church. He was also asked to clarify his concept of church as the Body of Christ, how he feels he can nurture the faith community, and how he will continue to lead the church to be the caring community it has always been. Charles shared some of his dreams for the church, his spiritual discipline practices and favorite authors, his experience working across denominations and what he might prioritize in his first year at Manhattan church.

**\*Action:** A motion was made and seconded to arrest the exam. The motion passed and Charles was excused to a break room.

PMT presented their belief that Charles Walden is a good fit for Manhattan Presbyterian Church. The Manhattan PNC feels the same after his week-long visit to the town.

**\*Action:** Presbyters voted on PMT's motion to approve Charles Walden as a member of Yellowstone Presbytery and as the called, installed pastor for Manhattan Presbyterian Church. The motion passed unanimously.

Charles returned from the break room and Melissa Bell welcomed him to Yellowstone Presbytery and to the Manhattan Church.

**\*Action:** Debbie Blackburn, on behalf of the PMT moved presbytery approve the Terms of Call approved by the Manhattan congregation on October 1,2023. The motion passed.

NOTE: An adjustment to the salary will be made by the congregation at its 2024 annual meeting to meet the 2024 Presbytery minimum salary.

**\*Action:** Debbie Blackburn moved Yellowstone Presbytery authorize PMT to finalize a date and Administrative Commission for the installation service of Charles Walden to the Manhattan Presbyterian Church and invite presbytery to attend. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Kathy Goodrich offered prayer for Charles and for the Manhattan Presbyterian Church.

### **23-021. Announcements:**

- Plans for the Commissioned Ruling Elder program through Dubuque Theological University is nearly complete. Class will begin in January. People can sign up now and can attend one or all classes.
- Merry Christmas to everyone.

**23-022. \*Action:** A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk

**Resume**

Charles Walden  
 3 Hickory Grove  
 Macomb, IL 61455  
pastorcharlesemail@gmail.com  
 618-713-4015

**EDUCATION**

M. Div.	Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary	2002
M. Ed.	University of Montana	1994
B.A.	University of Georgia	1991

**EXPERIENCE**

2021 - present	Scotland-Trinity & Ipava Presbyterian Churches Macomb, IL	Solo Pastor
2016 - 2021	Jackson Woods Presbyterian Church Corpus Christi, TX	Solo Pastor
2009 - 2016	First Presbyterian Church Murphysboro & Pinckneyville, IL	Solo Pastor
2007 -2009	REI Associate Outdoor Recreation leader	Atlanta, GA
2003-2007	Madison Crossroads Presbyterian Church Toney, AL	Solo Pastor
1998 - 2002	Various Church & Chaplaincy Internships while a Student at L.P.T.S.	

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1995 - 1997	Pacific International Institute <i>Student Services Director</i> for ESL Institute	Lewiston, ID
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**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

- + National Stewardship Conference
- + Preaching & Homiletics Conferences
- + Various Montreat Conferences

- + Various Mo-Ranch Conferences
- + *The Philippians Project* (3-year Pastors' cohort to equip pastors and church leaders to help re-develop congregations) 2017 - 2019
- + Leadership conferences
- + Taize, France 4-day encampment (participated in multiple worship services per day)

### **ACTIVITIES & FURTHER INTERESTS**

- + 5K road racer
- + Cycling, kayaking, hiking
- + Travel
- + Multi-disciplinary voracious reader

### **REFERENCES**

Available Upon Request

Statement of Faith - Charles Walden

God transcends all time and space. God is omniscient and omnipotent, and the Creator of all things.

I believe that sin is ever-present in this world, corrupting our relationship with God and each other. God has provided a Redeemer for all of us in Jesus Christ. I believe in Jesus as: God Incarnate, the Son of God, fully God, fully human, & the living Christ. Jesus was God's ultimate expression of love toward us. He is also the means by which we can attain salvation and the bridge by which our stain of sin and our separation from God are healed. By redeeming us, God is reconciling us to Him. This work will be complete when Christ comes again. His Second Coming will bring rejoicing for all believers, and the fulfillment of history. I believe that the Holy Spirit was sent to us to dwell within us and abide with us. It is God's Spirit that continually draws us to the mind of God, and explicates God's Will for our lives. This is the process of sanctification. In response to God's sanctifying work, we are led to more Christ-like behavior. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, and by our response to God's grace, we are constantly being sanctified by God throughout our lifetime.

I believe that we are justified by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Grace is God's unmerited divine favor and love, shared by God with us. God's grace allows us to have faith in His atoning work in Jesus Christ.

While we are on this earth, we can be a part of the body of Christ,

which is the Church. This is the visible presence of Christ for the world. The Church exists to nurture and guide the children of God, to provide the means and support by which we can proclaim the Gospel, to help preserve the truth of God's purposes, and to exhibit God's kingdom to the world.

I believe that the sacraments are the means by which God enables us to share deeply in the mysteries of our faith, especially the redemptive acts of Christ. When we are baptized, we (as the church) recognize God's grace that has come to us, as one who is claimed and sealed in the redemptive purposes of God. When we partake of Communion, we are remembering what Christ instituted for us. I believe that Christ is spiritually present with us in Communion, and that we are to commune expecting to encounter the risen Lord. When we gather around the Lord's table, we experience with our senses the signs and promises of God's grace that has come to us.

I believe that Holy Scripture is the unique and reliable testimony to Jesus Christ, and is the inspired Word of God to us. We need the Holy Spirit to illuminate the Word of God for us. I believe the Confessions of the Reformed faith, which are a trustworthy guide of who we are and what we believe. They strengthen my commitment and witness because of their concise and inspiring statements of Reformed belief. The Confessions guide me in study and understanding of Scripture, and help direct the Church in maintaining sound doctrines and a coherent witness.

# Manhattan Presbyterian Church

## Pastoral Call

Manhattan Presbyterian Church of Manhattan, Montana, belonging to Yellowstone Presbytery, being well satisfied with your qualifications for ministry and confident that we have been led by the Holy Spirit as one whose service will be profitable to the spiritual interest of our church and fruitful for the Kingdom of our Lord, earnestly and solemnly calls you, Charles Walden, to undertake the office of Solo Ordained Minister and Pastor of Word and Sacrament of this congregation, beginning \_\_\_\_\_, promising you in the discharge of your duty all proper support encouragement and allegiance in the Lord.

That you may be free to devote full-time to the ministry of Word and Sacrament among us, we promise and obligate ourselves to pay you in regular monthly payments the following effective salary and following vouchered expenses:

Effective salary		Reimbursable expenses (by voucher)	
Cash Salary	\$ 38,000	Automobile Expense (IRS Rate)	\$1,800
Fair Rental Value of Manse	\$ 16,000	Professional Expenses	\$1,100
Housing Allowance	\$ 3,000	Continuing Education	\$1,600
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$57,000</u>	Moving Costs	* see below

Full medical, pension, disability, and death benefit coverage under the Board of Pensions (\$22,230)

\*Moving Costs Lowest professional bid plus Pastor's personal travel expenses

Manse Utilities Will be in the name of MPC, billed to the church, and paid directly by MPC.

Paid Vacation 4 weeks including 4 Sundays

Paid Continuing Education 2 weeks including 2 Sundays

Family Leave Policy (as adopted by Yellowstone Presbytery)

We further promise and obligate ourselves to review with you annually the adequacy of this compensation.

In testimony whereof we have subscribed our names this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 2023.

Jim Lovell, PNC Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Stephanie Bergstrom \_\_\_\_\_

Debbie Blackburn \_\_\_\_\_ Patty Dworshak \_\_\_\_\_

Marie Westphal \_\_\_\_\_ Kathy Whitesitt \_\_\_\_\_

Having moderated the congregational meeting which extended this call for ministerial services, I do certify that the call has been made in all respect according to the Presbytery Policy and the Form of Government, and that the persons who signed the foregoing call were authorized to do so by vote of the congregation.

Vote of the congregation at the meeting was \_\_\_\_\_ in favor of the candidate and \_\_\_\_\_ opposed.

(signed) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reverend Charles Wright  
 Moderator of the Congregational Meeting

## Certification of Call

### A. Action by Presbytery of Call

The Presbytery of Yellowstone has reviewed and approved this call.

Date of action \_\_\_\_\_ (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Stated Clerk or Authorized Signer

### B. Action by the Minister's/Candidate's Presbytery

The Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_ finds it expedient (not expedient) to release  
\_\_\_\_\_ to accept this call.

Date of action \_\_\_\_\_ (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Stated Clerk or Authorized Signer

### C. Acceptance of the Call

This is to certify that I have received and accepted the call.

Date of action \_\_\_\_\_ (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Minister

*Complete and sign four original copies. When all parties have signed, an original copy goes to  
1) the minister, 2) the calling church, 3) the presbytery of call and 4) the minister's presbytery of membership/care.*

## **Pastor Job Description (Manhattan Presbyterian Church)**

- Plan, prepare, and lead Spirit-filled worship services
- Teach the Word and provide spiritual leadership
- Equip congregation members to deepen their personal faith and grow spiritually
- Foster a deep prayer life within the church
- Work with the worship team to lead the congregation in song, prayer, and worship
- Equip leaders for children's worship services and mid-week activities
- Perform baptism, wedding, and funeral services
- Partner with the congregation to engage in pastoral care such as hospital visitations, prayers with those who are struggling
- Support those with special concerns and struggles
- Facilitate the congregation's use of individual talents and gifts so everyone contributes and has a sense of belonging -
- Empower congregational leadership for ministry and church administration teams
- Evaluate current ministries, identify new family-focused ministry opportunities, and equip teams to pursue those ministries
- Serve as an ex-officio member of ministry and administration teams (note: Pastor & Session will work together to build a process for forming administrative teams in a mutually agreeable timeframe)
- Reach out to the Manhattan churches to foster cooperation, joint ministries
- Facilitate and participate in youth and adult mission trips
- Moderate session and congregational meetings
- Train newly elected officers
- Participate in Presbytery meetings and teams
- Collaborate with elders on classes for new members