

**Update on our Board of Pensions upcoming changes &
SAVE THE DATE for Rev. Christine Long's in person training & consultations
May 16 & 17 – in Bozeman and Dillon, see below**

Greetings, friends, in this joyous Easter season! I am more grateful with each passing year for Jesus' wondrous love in his life, suffering, death and resurrection and the astounding resurrection love, hope, joy and power that is ours as Christ's resurrection people! How I pray EACH of us may experience this!

Like those first disciples we too find ourselves amidst the joys and struggles, certainties and questions and ambiguities. As we navigate the escalating changes and surprises in our lives, bodies, church, nation and world, Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, is "the same yesterday, today and forever".

Just like those first disciples, I hope we can help one another to keep wondering, learning, and practicing how can we be Jesus' Easter people, Experiencing and Practicing Resurrection, living between Easter and Jesus final coming to reign, living in the in between, the 'already but not yet'!

UPDATE: Our Board of Pensions has been in a season of consultations and exploration the last year plus, in light of sizable ongoing shifts and developing realities (i.e. inflation, decreasing numbers...), resulting in some **important changes in the new structure, options and plans for 2025+** now being unveiled (in stages as various information, calculator, tools and more figures become available). *See links to information below.*

Please know that your church, it's leadership and those in the BOP plan have our support in the presbytery, through our Pastoral Ministry Team, myself as General Presbyter, and *informed* resourcing coming from the BOP staff including our regional staff person, Rev. Christine Long, plus member services, 800-PRESPLAN (800-773-7752). Christine will be training our PMT in early May and longtime PMT member, Jim Tarr, will attend regional training soon. *See May 16-17 schedule for Christine Long's time with us and contact information below.*

Some of these changes are complex. We understand there are questions. These staff are here to educate, interpret, consult, support and walk with you through the learning, discerning and transitions.

I have been working since January tracking, learning, consulting and making plans with Christine and our PMT. Here is the *just* finalized improved, updated plan to provide additional face to face consultation/ education time *with Christine for us* in Yellowstone Presbytery @ our May 17 meeting in Dillon, PLUS consultations May 16.

Rev. Christine Long, BOP, with us in person for 2 FULL days now - Bozeman & Dillon/presbytery

~ **Thursday, May 16 from 9-3 in Bozeman @ FPC (library downstairs) for private consultation, as prearranged with her** for plan members/family, church treasurers, session, clerk, personnel committee reps etc... whomever works with these matters in your church. If it's not possible for you to meet with Christine on Thursday, she may have some time available on Friday. Please contact her.

~ She will travel to Dillon late afternoon for **fellowship, 5:00 & dinner @ 6:00 and fun for anyone** able to come, **@ home of Rev. Daniel and Callie Triller**, 420 S. Idaho St. **RSVP please!** office@fpcdillon.org
Stay tuned for lodging options coming soon.

~ **Friday, May 17 In Dillon, @ FPC, before, during & after in person & hybrid presbytery 9:30 am - 4 pm**
Christine will be presenting the new plan and answer questions. Her Presbytery meeting presentation will be from about 11:30 – 12:30, followed by lunch, then group Q & A before further presbytery reports & business. She will be available for specific consultations.

~A lovely catered lunch @ presbytery is a gift from Christine and the BOP! **RSVP please!** office@fpcdillon.org

Right now we are all in a **LEARNING phase**, about what we currently have and about the options, for members, churches and presbyteries. For most of us this phase takes time to digest the information and one might feel nervous, uncertain, overwhelmed. That's normal. Be patient, be curious, keep a list of questions, keep at it and reach out to those above when you need to.

The **DISCERNING phase follows**. The window of time to indicate decisions doesn't start until August.

Christine has already been proactively calculating best options for consideration for members in Yellowstone so *she is prepared*. George and I have always found her an informed educator/resource as well as kind and patient. She looks forward to conversations with you all. Ahead and in person. Please arrange an appointment as needed.

Contact information: Christine Long @ clong@pensions.org 215-704-7360
Board of Pensions Member Services call center is available to serve you Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET.
800-PRESPLAN (800-773-7752)

For background, an overview and summary you may want to start with the article "**PC (USA) Board of Pensions Restructures Benefit Offerings for 2025**" included with this email published in the *Presbyterian Outlook* recently.

Following are links that were released very recently that steer folks to the clearest information on the Benefits Plan 2025:

From pensions.org:

[Congregations Gain Flexibility Choice with Redesigned Benefits Plan](https://pensions.org/congregations-gain-flexibility-choice-with-redesigned-benefits-plan)

The Spring issue of the Board Bulletin contains pertinent information. Read whatever the Board sends!!
<https://pensions.org/our-role-and-purpose/about-us/our-leadership/board-bulletins/board-bulletin-spring-2024>

From the Season of Rebuilding microsite:

[Season of Rebuilding: A New Benefits Plan to Serve the Changing Church](https://pensions.org/season-of-rebuilding-a-new-benefits-plan-to-serve-the-changing-church)

[Dues Packages: Benefits Plan 2025](https://pensions.org/dues-packages-benefits-plan-2025) – this webpage has the layout of the Benefits packages.

We look forward to being together for presbytery in Dillon, along fellowship, dinner & fun the evening before. Further details forthcoming. Please RSVP for dinner and BOP's lunch.

In resurrection hope,

Kathy,

Rev. Kathy Goodrich, General Presbyter
Yellowstone Presbytery, Bozeman, Montana

Caroline

Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk
Yellowstone Presbytery

With blessings from the Yellowstone Presbytery Pastoral Ministry Team and Leadership Cabinet.

P.S. A rich resource for pastors and churches questions is **Pastorswallet.com**, a site Christine finds useful for user friendly, quality information on many matters relating to clergy finances, taxes, housing allowance, ...in addition to the Board of Pensions' specific PCUSA information. Amy Artiga is a CFP (Certified Financial Planner) with degrees in financial planning, business and theology.