

## **Stated Clerk Report to Yellowstone Presbytery**

March 7, 2025

**Protocol Review** for all attending the Presbytery meeting by Zoom or in person:

1. **All attendees:** *Please say your name and the entity you represent when you speak.*
2. **All attendees:** *If not using a voice vote of “Yes” or “No,,” please use either the “raise hand” feature on your Zoom screen or raise your hand.*
3. **Zoom attendees:** *Please keep your computer microphone muted until called upon or recognized to speak. This helps eliminate feedback, minimize background noise, and helps us to move through our time together more smoothly.*
4. **Zoom Attendees:** *Please rename your Zoom participant identification to include “RE” or “MWS” if applicable, your first and last name, the entity you represent, your position (i.e., member, commissioner, guest) and town. For example: RE Caroline Fleming, YP Stated Clerk, Miles City.*

### **Omnibus motion.**

**The Stated Clerk moves the following:**

1. That the agenda for this meeting posted on [www.yellowstonepcusa.org](http://www.yellowstonepcusa.org) be approved.
2. That the roll for this meeting be established in two ways:
  - a. By email to [caroline@yellowstonepcusa.org](mailto:caroline@yellowstonepcusa.org) if you are attending via Zoom or
  - b. By registration form provided at the meeting if you are attending in person.
3. That all requests for excused absences received by the Stated Clerk be approved.
4. That any Corresponding members at the meeting be seated and given voice.
5. That Presbytery grant the Moderator authority to give privilege of the floor to persons, other than Members or Commissioners, for the purpose of reporting to this meeting.
6. That the Moderator and the Stated Clerk be empowered to suggest and adjust the agenda during the meeting, as may be necessary.
7. That the minutes of the Presbytery meeting of November 1-2, 2024 be approved as printed on the presbytery meeting website.
8. That the minutes of the Special Presbytery meeting of November 21, 2024 be approved as printed on the presbytery meeting website.
9. That Yellowstone Presbytery receive the 2024 Statistics report of Yellowstone Presbytery attached to this report.
10. That the following former members of the Permanent Judicial Commission are still eligible to serve if needed:  
Class of 2020: RE Sharla Helland, RE Gary Slagel  
Class of 2022: MWS Jody McDevitt and MWS Lanny Rounds  
Class of 2024: MWS Neva Rathbun and RE John Patterson

### **End of Motion.**

### **Activities since our last stated presbytery meeting:**

1. Attended all meetings of the Leadership Cabinet and the Pastoral Ministry Team and recorded meeting proceedings.
2. Attended a Zoom meeting on reporting statistics through the new PC (USA) website.
3. Kept records of all who submitted reports, whether from individuals or from churches.
4. Submitted 2024 presbytery reports: Misc. Form, Mid-Council Cost Form, Minister Change form, and Church Change form to the denomination.
5. Sent all pastors and churches the recording of the 2024 boundary training session encouraging clergy persons who did not attend to do so in accordance with our presbytery and denominational policy.
6. Worked to get annual reports from all retired and at-large pastors as required by our presbytery policies. It has been a bit more difficult this year than in previous years and the process is not completed.
7. Served on the team to plan the March Presbytery meeting.
8. Served on a team to create exit interview questions for Sessions and for pastors as a pastor moves on to his/her next call.
9. Continued research into ridding presbytery of the small plot of land in Vally County and am currently working on a Quit Claim deed to be filed with Valley County.
10. Attended Rocky Mountain Synod/Dubuque Seminary Introduction to the New Testament and the Reformed Theology classes.
11. Updated presbytery directory as needed.
12. Met with the Permanent Judicial Commission as they chose a moderator for the year, reviewed two General Assembly overtures, and made recommendations to Yellowstone Presbytery as you will see in their report to this meeting.
13. Worked with Clerks of Session on their statistical reports for 2024. In spite of a mistake on my part and a new denominational website, all churches got their statistics reports submitted in a timely manner. See Attachment A for the Presbytery's statistical report.
14. Conducted on email vote for Leadership Cabinet.
15. Attended the meeting of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains as an observer. NOTE: Yellowstone does need to elect an MWS Commissioner.
16. Calculated the balance of MWS and REs eligible to vote at presbytery meetings: As of December 31, 2024 there were 34 Ministers of the Word and Sacrament (MWS) on the rolls of Yellowstone Presbytery. Twenty-eight of these live within the bounds of the presbytery, and three who live outside the presbytery's geographic bounds participate regularly in Presbytery for a total of 31 active Ministers of the Word and Sacrament. On January 1, 2025, 21 churches were authorized to send one commissioner to presbytery meetings, and one church (First Presbyterian Church of Billings) was authorized to send two commissioners to presbytery based on the size of their congregation. Additionally, there are 2 Commissioned Ruling Elders with vote serving particular ministries in the presbytery and 10 Ruling Elders authorized to vote based on their leadership roles within the Presbytery. The net result is that there are 30 MWSs and 34 REs and CREs authorized to vote on business before the Presbytery. Therefore, no MWS/RE imbalance exists in Yellowstone Presbytery for 2025.

### **Concerns:**

1. I am concerned that a number of churches no longer feel they can contribute to the presbytery's mission work. I know finances are tight for many churches, but also wonder if the presbytery is doing an adequate job informing churches "where the money goes" and about the work it funds.

2024 Presbytery Statistical Report

**Presbytery** Yellowstone  
**Address** PO Box 1254, Bozeman, MT 59771  
**Phone** 406-586-7706 **Fax** 406-556-0979  
**Email** [yellpres@yellowstonepcusa.org](mailto:yellpres@yellowstonepcusa.org)  
**Web Site** [www.yellowstonepcusa.org](http://www.yellowstonepcusa.org)



<b>Membership</b>			
Prior Active Members	1374	Adjusted membership	1367
<b>Gains</b>		<b>Losses</b>	
Certificate	10	Certificate	7
Youth Professions	4	Deaths	33
Professions & Reaffirmations	46	Deleted for any Other Reason	49
<b>Total Gains</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Total Ending Active Members</b>	<b>1338</b>		

<b>Baptisms</b>		Average Weekly Worship Attendance	899
Presented by Others	14	Friends of the Congregation	346
At Confirmation	3	Ruling Elders on Session	126
All Other	4	Do you have Deacons? Yes / No	11 / 10

<b>Age Distribution of Active Members</b>		<b>People with Disabilities</b>	
17 & Under	30	Hearing impairment	134
18 - 25	52	Sight impairment	10
26 - 40	108	Mobility impairment	81
41 - 55	158	Other impairment	31
56 - 70	323		
Over 70	545	<b>Gender Distribution</b>	
<b>Total Age Distribution</b>	<b>1216</b>	Women	813
		Men	470
		Non-Binary	1

<b>Youth in Congregation</b>		<b>Total Youth</b>	
Age 4 and under	58	Middle School (6th – 8th grade)	83
Elementary School (K-5th grade)	116	High School (9th – 12th grade)	71
		<b>Total Youth</b>	<b>328</b>

<b>Racial Ethnic</b>		<b>Total Racial Ethnic</b>	
Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	5	Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	20
Black/African American/African	2	White	1281
Middle Eastern/North African	0	Multiracial	23
Hispanic/Latino-a	7		
		<b>Total Racial Ethnic</b>	<b>1338</b>

<b>Budgeted Income</b>	<b>16,784,942</b>		
<b>Budgeted Expense</b>	<b>21,175,530</b>		

<b>Receipts</b>			
Regular Contributions	2,288,865	Bequests	144,962
Capital Building Fund	25,828	Other Income	65,950
Investment Income	334,283	Subsidy or Aid	0

<b>Expenditures</b>			
Local Program	1,513,945	Investment Expenditures	261,187
Local Mission	137,143	Per Capital Apprt	81,233
Capital Expenditures	221,704	Other Mission	93,156