# Presbytery of Yellowstone - Stated Meeting March 7 & 8, 2025 1st Presbyterian Church of Butte and via Zoom

### Friday March 7, 2025

# 25.001. Opening of the Meeting

The Presbytery of Yellowstone met on Friday March 7, 2025 beginning at 1:10 p.m. and on Saturday, March 8 beginning at 8:30 a.m. Some attended in person, and some attended via Zoom. Acting Moderator Russ Kline and host pastor Karolee Larson welcomed everyone. Russ opened the meeting with prayer. The theme for the meeting: "Rooted in God: Uprooted by Grace."

**25-002. Roll Call:** The Stated Clerk conducted roll call. Attendees were asked to register in person or by email to <a href="mailto:caroline@yellowstonepcusa.org">caroline@yellowstonepcusa.org</a> noting their name, church, and position (minister member, member due to position, commissioner, corresponding member or guest).

### Ruling Elder Commissioners, CREs, Other RE's and visitors

| Anaconda           | RE Cal Boyle, St. Timothy's Chapel                               |  |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Billings First     | RE Sandi Shoenberger, commissioner; RE Russ Kline, Acting        |  |
|                    | Moderator;   |  |
| Billings St Andrew | RE James Tarr, commissioner                                      |  |
| Big Hole           | RE Sandy Cleary, Commissioner; RE Julie Boksich, LC member; Jo   |  |
|                    | Ann Weststeyn, guest   |  |
| Bozeman            | RE John Sacklin, commissioner; RE Ric Tieman, Treasurer; Charles |  |
|                    | Beck, guest, Deb Jackson, guest                                  |  |
| Butte              | RE D Kevin Shuttlesworth, Commissioner                           |  |
| Colstrip           | RE Gail Beckham, Commissioner                                    |  |
| Deer Lodge         | Absent   |  |
| Dillon             | Laura  |  |
| Ennis              | Absent   |  |
| Forsyth            | RE Danny Pratt, Commissioner                                     |  |
| Hysham             | Absent   |  |
| Jordan             | Absent   |  |
| Lewistown          | RE Melissa Bell, Presbytery Moderator (for part of meeting)      |  |
| Manhattan          | RE Stephanie Bergstrom, Commissioner; RE Debbie Blackburn, PMT   |  |
|                    | Moderator  |  |
| Miles City         | RE Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk;                               |  |
| Phillipsburg       | Absent   |  |
| Poplar             | Absent   |  |
| Stanford           | Absent   |  |
| Terry              | RE Nancy Pehl, commissioner                                      |  |
| White Sulphur Sp.  | Absent   |  |
| Wolf Point         | Absent   |  |
|                    |  |  |

### **Minister Members:**

David Andrew, absent; Jim Bell, absent; Priscilla Bell, absent; Ashley Birk, present; David Bierschwale, present; Kimberly Briggs, present; J P Carlson, present; Warren (Rusty) Craig, present; Dick Davis, present; Mary Davis, present; John Dyce, absent; Wenda Fry, excused; Debbie Funke, present; George Goodrich, present; Kathy Goodrich, present; Steven A Hundley, absent; Doug Johnson, excused; Dan Krebill, excused; Karolee Larson, present; Brent Long, excused; Freeman McCall, present; Jody McDevitt, absent; Sherwood McKay, absent; Marcia Muir, absent; David Murchie, absent; Sally Ralston, absent; Neva Rathbun, present; Mary Grace Reynolds, present; Harlan (Lanny) Rounds, present; Jamie Schmeling, present; Deborah Schmidt, absent; Susan Thomas, excused; David Thompson, present; Sarah Tunall, present, Kim Woeste, absent.

### **Commissioned Ruling Elder Members:**

CRE Veva Larson, excused; Margee Smith, excused;

2025 RE Moderators and Leadership Cabinet Voting Members also listed with their churches above:

RE Russ Kline, Acting Moderator; Julie Boksich, LC;

Corresponding Members: None

Guests: 3 guests present

Staff with Voice: RE Caroline Fleming (Stated Clerk), RE Ric Tieman, Treasurer

**Quorum/Balance check: 14** voting RE's, **18** voting MWS. **A quorum** was declared present.

**25-003. Dwelling in the Word:** Dave Thompson led presbytery in Dwelling in the Word using Ephesians 3: 14-21. Presbyters spent time in personal reflection about being rooted and grounded in love followed by time spent in small groups where they shared and prayed for one another.

**25-004.** Equipping: Kathy Goodrich noted that today's world is uncertain, complex, and requires deep roots if one is to operate effectively and faithfully. In small groups, people discussed who or what has had the greatest impact on their spiritual journey.

**25-005. Spirit Sightings:** Laura from Dillon shared a Spirit sighting about an intergenerational group that met at the Triller home for study and discussion using <u>Practicing the Way</u>. The group keeps meeting and now discusses how they might share the study with others. Julie Boksich shares that 4 to 5 people in the Big Hole meet and use <u>Preparing the Way</u>. The group uses each lesson for two weeks.

**25-006. Mission Work:** Attendees put together 50 sack lunches for the Butte Rescue Mission with help from members of the Butte church.

### 25-007. Business Meeting: Part 1

<u>Stated Clerk Report & Omnibus Motion:</u> (Attachment A) The stated Clerk reviewed her recent activities, voiced concern about the low levels of mission pledges, and reported that, with 30 Minister members of Yellowstone Presbytery and 34 Ruling Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders eligible to vote, there is no voting imbalance in 2025.

\*Action: The Stated Clerk moved the following Omnibus Motion. The motion was seconded, and it passed.

- 1. That the agenda for this meeting posted on <a href="www.yellowstonepcusa.org">www.yellowstonepcusa.org</a> be approved.
- 2. That the roll for this meeting be established in two ways:
  - a. By email to 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. (see Attachment A)
- **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

<u>Treasurer's Report</u>: (Attachment B) Treasurer Ric Tieman reported that we came in under budget in 2024. Income was 92% (\$155,139) while expenses came in at 94% (\$168,741) indicating good cost control according to the financial analysis done by Perplexity.Al. Ric did note that this year (2025) is the last year for which we have higher education fund grants.

\*Action: A motion was made and seconded to receive the financial report. The motion passed.

<u>General Presbyter's Report:</u> (Attachment C) Kathy lifted <u>The Missional Leader</u> and <u>How Not to Waste a Crisis</u> as good resources for churches and pastors, highlighted the Dubuque/Rocky Mountain CRE program, and shared that the PC (U.S.A.) is part of a national lawsuit concerning sanctuary and immigration, and stated that Sandra Moon is our new resource person for the Presbyterian Foundation. She asked all to pray for the 5 churches currently without pastors, for Candice Sweet, Stated Clerk of the Rocky Mountain Synod, and for Bobbi Hoffman, Office Support and Bookkeeper of the Synod.

<u>Representation/Nomination Team Report:</u> (Attachment D) Lanny Rounds reported that the team nominates the following:

Sarah Tunall as Moderator of the Camping & Youth Ministry Team

Russ Kline as a member of the Camping & Youth Ministry Team class of 2026 This is a first reading. The team will offer a second reading tomorrow and presbyters will vote.

<u>Pastoral Ministry Team-Part 1:</u> (Attachment E) Rev. Daniel Triller and his family joined the meeting allowing presbyters to thank them for being a part of our Presbytery family and participating actively in presbytery work. They cared for the Dillon church and its people so well, were generous in giving of their time with informative workshops, and shared their

family with us. Daniel offered both time and wisdom as a committee member. Both Daniel and Callie will be missed, and we wish the family God's blessings in Daniel's new call.

<u>Leadership Cabinet Report:</u> (Attachment F)

The following action was taken concerning adoption of an antiracism policy:

**Action:** Leadership Cabinet recommends Yellowstone Presbytery adopt the proposed Anti-Racism Policy. The recommendation passed unanimously.

Leadership Cabinet made recommendations concerning General Assembly overtures that Yellowstone Presbytery acted on as follows:

**Action:** Leadership Cabinet recommends Yellowstone Presbytery concur with 24-H: G-3.0106, General Administration of Mission. The motion passed unanimously.

Leadership Cabinet offered no recommendation to Yellowstone Presbytery concerning overture 24-I, Relationships with Synod and General Assembly about removing the need for at least one additional presbytery to concur with a proposed overture before it can be considered by the General Assembly.

**Action:** A motion was made and seconded to not concur with 24-I, Relationships with Synod and General Assembly. Presbyters discussed the proposed amendment. The motion passed with one abstention.

**Action:** Leadership Cabinet recommends Yellowstone Presbytery concur with concur with 24-J: Composition and Responsibility. The recommendation passed. **Action:** Leadership Cabinet recommends Yellowstone Presbytery concur with 24-M: Episcopalian-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries. The recommendation passed.

The following action was taken on the recommendation of the Leadership Cabinet: **Action:** Leadership Cabinet nominates Sandy Welch to serve as moderator of the Representation & Nomination Team. The motion passed.

**25-008. Review of Dinner Church & Spirit Sightings:** Sarah Tunall shared her experiences with dinner church and how it might be done in a more casual way than presbytery has been doing, using a single Jesus story. People can talk about the story or simply talk about their lives, sharing what is important to them. The table is to be a safe space for people to gather and hear a simple Jesus story. The hope is that people attending will invite a friend.

The shared Spirit sighting was that Rev. Freeman McCall had purchased a small home in Cody, WY and will move within a couple months.

Presbytery recessed to Rev. Karolee Larson's home for dinner and will reconvene at 8:30 a.m.

### Saturday March 8, 2025

**25-009. Reconvene:** Acting Moderator Russ Kline reconvened the meeting of Yellowstone Presbytery with prayer at 8:30 a.m.

**25.010. Word-Share-Prayer**: Julie Boksich led the group in Word-Share-Prayer reading Ephesians 3: 14-21. Presbyters spent time in small groups discussing and applying the passage

to our lives. We are all reminded to look for God and recognize God's presence in everyday events.

**25-011. Practicing the Way:** Technology was not our friend, and we could not watch the "Practicing the Way" video. People are encouraged to watch it when they can and consider how they are being formed to be with Jesus, be like Jesus, and do what Jesus did.

### 25-012. Business Meeting – Part 2

<u>Representation/Nomination Team Report:</u> (Attachment D) J.P. Carlson reported, for the second time during the meeting, that Rep/Nom recommends the following people be elected to the proposed positions:

Sarah Tunall as Moderator of the Camping & Youth Ministry Team
Russ Kline as a member of the Camping & Youth Ministry Team class of 2026
The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor three times. No additional nominations were made.

**Action:** The Rep/Nom Team recommended Sarah Tunall be elected Moderator of the Camping and Youth Ministry Team and RE Russ Kline be elected a member of the Camping & Youth Ministry Team class of 2026. The motion passed.

### <u>Camping & Youth Ministry Team:</u> (Attachment G)

- Thirty-three youth took part in this year's ski retreat hosted in Bozeman.
- Camp dates for Westminster Spires are set and everyone present received a camp flyer (See the website at <a href="https://www.yellowstonepcusa.org/westminster-spires">www.yellowstonepcusa.org/westminster-spires</a>
- Youth Triennium is July 28 August 2. Dave Thompson has 15 airline tickets available. Entire cost per student is \$900 and includes transportation, Triennium registration, housing, sightseeing and mission work.

<u>Permanent Judicial Commission:</u> (Attachment H): The PJC made recommendations concerning General Assembly overtures that Yellowstone Presbytery acted on as follows:

\*Action: The PJC recommended that Yellowstone Presbytery concur with D-7.0501: Referral to Investigating Committee. The motion passed.

\*Action: The PJC recommended that Yellowstone Presbytery concur with D-7.0902b: Administrative Leave. The motion passed.

### Pastoral Ministry Team-Part 2 (Attachment E)

On the recommendation of the Pastoral Ministry Team (PMT), the following action was taken:

\*Action: PMT recommends that MWS Mary Davis and MWS Dick Davis be placed on the rolls of retired pastors for Yellowstone Presbytery. The motion passed.

Presbyters celebrated the long-term ministry of both Dick and Mary Davis with words of thanks and a delicious cake. JP Carlson prayed for the Davises and their ministry.

PMT made recommendations concerning General Assembly overtures that Yellowstone Presbytery acted on as follows:

\*Action: PMT recommends Yellowstone Presbytery not concur with overture 24-A, F-1.0403: Openness to the Guidance of the Holy Spirit: Unity in Diversity. Presbyters discussed the recommendation at length with people speaking both in favor of and against the PMT recommendation. Some felt the issue was covered elsewhere in the Book of Order and others felt that continued clarity was important for inclusiveness.

- \*Action: A motion was made and seconded to call for the question. The motion passed 23 to 3 and discussion ceased.
- \*Action on the original recommendation on overture 24-A to not concur: The motion passed 18 to 10.
- \*Action: PMT recommends Yellowstone Presbytery concur with overture 24B, G-1.0104: The Congregation: Other Forms of Corporate Witness (Worshipping Communities, etc.). The motion passed.

**Action:** PMT recommends Yellowstone Presbytery not concur with overture 24-C, G-2.0104b, Ordered Ministries of the Church: Gifts and Qualifications. Presbyters discussed the recommendation and raised questions for clarity about the overture.

- \*Action: A motion was made and seconded to call for the question. The motion passed unanimously, and discussion ceased.
- \*Action on the original recommendation on overture 24-C to not concur: The motion passed 21 to 3 with two abstentions.
- \*Action: A motion was made and seconded to extend the docket 30 minutes. The motion passed.

**Action:** PMT recommends Yellowstone Presbytery concur with overture 24D, G-2.0504b, Pastoral Relationships: Temporary Pastoral Relations. The motion passed unanimously.

\*Action: PMT recommends Yellowstone Presbytery concur with overture 24-E, G-2.0504b: Pastoral Relationships: Temporary Pastoral Relationships. Presbyters discussed the recommendation.

- \*Action: A motion was made and seconded to call for the question. The motion passed unanimously, and discussion ceased.
- \*Action on the original recommendation on overture 24-E to concur: The motion passed.

**Action:** PMT recommends Yellowstone Presbytery concur with overture 24-F, G-2.0610: Preparation for Ministry: Accommodations to Particular Circumstances Presbyters discussed the recommendation.

- \*Action: A motion was made and seconded to call for the question. The motion passed unanimously, and discussion ceased.
- \*Action on the original recommendation on overture 24-F to concur: The motion passed.
- \*Action: PMT recommends Yellowstone Presbytery concur with overture 24G-2.0901 Dissolutions of Pastoral Relationships: Congregational Meeting. The motion passed.

PMT elected the following as the Administrative Commission to install Rev. Jamie Schmeling as Pastor at 1st Presbyterian Church of Miles City, MT on April 5, 2025: MWS Kathy Goodrich (Bozeman)

RE Caroline Fleming (Miles City)

RE Melissa Bell (Lewistown)

MWS Neva Rathbun (Terry)

RE Gail Price (Miles City)

RE Russ Kline (Billings 1st)

RE Danny Pratt (Forsyth)

MWS Dave Thompson (Billings 1st)

MWS Kimmy Briggs (Lewistown)

Rev. Gretchen Wagner, Trinity Lutheran Church, Culbertson will preach (guest)

**25-013. Spirit Sightings:** People voiced that they felt the Spirit at work in the discussions presbyters had concerning overtures and in the celebration for Dick and Mary Davis and their ministry.

### 25-014. Announcements:

- Everyone may take 2 copies of the book <u>Practicing the Way</u> for their church and pastor.
- People are invited to join the Manhattan church as they stream the <u>Rural Impact</u> Leadership Conference from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 16. Lunch will be provided.
- People were reminded to return their name badges, to register either via email or on a registration sheet, and to get travel vouchers in for signatures.
- Leadership Cabinet asked people to please inform the team what folks would like to have offered during our equipping time.

**25-015. Closing:** Presbyters adjourned to the sanctuary for closing worship at which Melissa Bell was installed as Presbytery Moderator for 2025, the 2024 necrology was read, and Holy Communion was celebrated. The meeting ended following the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk

## **Stated Clerk Report to Yellowstone Presbytery** March 7, 2025

<u>Protocol Review</u> 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. <u>All attendees:</u> 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. <u>Zoom attendees:</u> 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:

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- 2. That the roll for this meeting be established in two ways:
  - a. By email to caroline@yellowstonepcusa.org if you are attending via Zoom or
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  - 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:

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.

# Presbytery of Yellowstone PCUSA Total All Classes January through December 2024

### **Accrual Basis**

|                                 | Jan - Dec 24 | Annual Budget | \$ Over Budget | % of Budget |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense         |              |               | ÷ 3.0- 2.08    |             |
| Income                          |              |               |                |             |
| RECEIPTS                        |              |               |                |             |
| 4001 · Administrative Support   | 22,588       | 35,000        | (12,412)       | 65%         |
| 4002 · Camp Income              | 22,754       | 26,000        | (3,246)        | 88%         |
| 4003 · General Mission Pledge   | 26,711       | 24,000        | 2,711          | 111%        |
| 4004 · Per Capita Income        | 80,810       | 80,040        | 770            | 101%        |
| 4005 · Interest Income          | 1,620        | 0             | 1,620          | 100%        |
| 4006 · Dividend Income          | 656          | 0             | 656            | 100%        |
| Total RECEIPTS                  | 155,139      | 165,040       | (9,901)        | 94%         |
| Total Income                    | 155,139      | 165,040       | (9,901)        | 94%         |
| Expense                         |              |               | , , ,          |             |
| CAMPING & YOUTH                 | 30,175       | 39,040        | (8,865)        | 77%         |
| LEADERSHIP CABINET              | 8,935        | 10,800        | (1,865)        | 83%         |
| PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM          | 1,878        | 6,700         | (4,822)        | 28%         |
| PERSONNEL EXPENSES              | 99,627       | 100,049       | (422)          | 100%        |
| PRESBYTERY EXPENSES             | 21,708       | 25,564        | (3,856)        | 85%         |
| PRESBYTERY OFFICE               | 6,418        | 5,890         | 528            | 109%        |
| Total Expense                   | 168,741      | 188,043       | (19,302)       | 90%         |
| Net Ordinary Income             | (13,602)     | (23,003)      | 9,401          | 59%         |
| Other Income/Expense            |              |               |                |             |
| Other Income                    |              |               |                |             |
| OTHER RECEIPTS                  |              |               |                |             |
| Transfers from Admin Support    | 12,412       | 0             | 12,412         | 100%        |
| Transfers from Camp Scholarship | 925          | 0             | 925            | 100%        |
| Transfers from Dubuque-Synod    | 312          | 0             | 312            | 100%        |
| Transfers from Program Fund     | 0            | 6,928         | (6,928)        | 0%          |
| Transfers from Unrestricted     | 0            | 10,075        | (10,075)       | 0%          |
| Transfers from W Yellowstone    | 0            | 6,000         | (6,000)        | 0%          |
| Total OTHER RECEIPTS            | 13,649       | 23,003        | (9,354)        | 59%         |
| Realized Gain(Loss)             | 44           | 0             | 44             | 100%        |
| Unrealized Gain(Loss)           | 14,963       | 0             | 14,963         | 100%        |
| Total Other Income              | 28,656       | 23,003        | 5,653          | 125%        |
| Net Other Income                | 28,656       | 23,003        | 5,653          | 125%        |
| Net Income                      | 15,054       | 0             | 15,054         | 100%        |
|                                 |              |               |                |             |

|  | Dec 31, 24       | Dec 31, 23        | \$ Change         |
|--|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS Current Assets Checking (Sovings)   |                  |                   |                   |
| Checking/Savings<br>1000 · Checking and Savings  | 279,652          | 280,419           | (767)             |
| 1020 · St Timothy Checking 1961<br>1030 · St Timothy Checking 3686<br>1050 · New Covenant 5737 | 100<br>100       | 100<br>100        | (O)<br>O          |
| 1051 · Higher Education<br>1052 · Other Designated Funds                                       | 6,247<br>121,403 | 10,647<br>101,384 | (4,400)<br>20,019 |
| Total 1050 · New Covenant 5737   | 127,649          | 112,031           | 15,619            |
| 1100 · St Timothy Endowment Funds  | 509,249          | 485,012           | 24,237            |
| Total Checking/Savings   | 916,750          | 877,662           | 39,088            |
| Other Current Assets<br>1420 · Prepaid Expenses  | 0                | 1,500             | (1,500)           |
| <b>Total Other Current Assets</b>  | 0                | 1,500             | (1,500)           |
| Total Current Assets   | 916,750          | 879,162           | 37,588            |
| Other Assets<br>1850 · Beartooth Electric Co-op<br>1900 · Char Rem Trust 0931                  | 949<br>143,391   | 974<br>143,391    | (25)<br>0         |
| Total Other Assets   | 144,340          | 144,365           | (25)              |
| TOTAL ASSETS   | 1,061,091        | 1,023,528         | 37,563            |

|   | Dec 31, 24 | Dec 31, 23 | \$ Change |
|---|------------|------------|-----------|
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY                      |            |            |           |
| Liabilities                               |            |            |           |
| Current Liabilities                       | 24,773     | 10,665     | 14,108    |
| Total Liabilities                         | 24,773     | 10,665     | 14,108    |
| Equity                                    |            |            |           |
| 3100 · General Funds                      |            |            |           |
| 3100.1 · Administrative                   | 255        | 255        | 0         |
| 3100.2 · Admin Support                    | 34,279     | 46,691     | (12,412)  |
| 3100.3 · Program                          | 45,709     | 44,607     | 1,102     |
| 3100.4 · West Yellowstone Funds           | 18,348     | 18,348     | 0         |
| 3100.9 · Unrestricted                     | 28,759     | 31,978     | (3,219)   |
| Total 3100 · General Funds                | 127,351    | 141,879    | (14,529)  |
| 3200 · Designated Funds                   |            |            |           |
| 3200.01 · Camp Scholarships               | 6,687      | 6,136      | 551       |
| 3200.02 · Clergy Emergency Fund           | 1,757      | 1,757      | 0         |
| 3200.03 · Equip & Encourage               | 39,746     | 42,871     | (3,125)   |
| 3200.04 · Evangelism Grant                | 52,369     | 52,369     | 0         |
| 3200.05 · Higher Education Grant          | 6,247      | 10,647     | (4,400)   |
| 3200.06 · Linda Hofer Education           | 19,564     | 19,496     | 69        |
| 3200.07 · Partnership Spendable Funds     | 2,390      | 2,390      | 0         |
| 3200.08 · Peace Making Offering to YP     | 6,787      | 6,132      | 655       |
| 3200.09 · Presbyter Discretionary Fund    | 2,526      | 3,332      | (806)     |
| 3200.10 · Presbyter Study Leave           | 0          | 1,229      | (1,229)   |
| 3200.11 · Presbytery Continuing Education | 3,596      | 3,596      | 0         |
| 3200.12 · Revamp Camp                     | 18,066     | 16,907     | 1,159     |
| 3200.13 · Rural Ministry Grant            | 1,070      | 1,070      | 0         |
| 3200.14 · Social Justice                  | 6,469      | 6,469      | 0         |
| 3200.16 · St Timothy's MM #1              | 100        | 100        | (0)       |
| 3200.17 · St Timothy's MM #2              | 100        | 100        | 0         |
| 3200.18 · Triennium Fund                  | 6,794      | 6,794      | 0         |
| 3200.19 · Yell Pres Funds Await Cab Actio | 17,478     | 17,478     | 0         |
| 3200.20 · Dubuque-Synod Of RM CRE cohort  | 3,703      | 0          | 3,703     |
| Total 3200 · Designated Funds             | 195,448    | 198,872    | (3,424)   |
| 3300 · Restricted Funds                   |            |            |           |
| 3300.1 · St Timothy Endowments            | 509,249    | 485,012    | 24,237    |
| 3300.2 · Char Rem Trust                   | 143,391    | 143,391    | 0         |
| 3300.3 · Partnership Funds Principle Amt  | 45,825     | 45,600     | 226       |
| Total 3300 · Restricted Funds             | 698,465    | 674,003    | 24,462    |
| Net Income                                | 15,054     | (1,891)    | 16,945    |
| Total Equity                              | 1,036,318  | 1,012,863  | 23,455    |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY                | 1,061,091  | 1,023,528  | 37,563    |

### ## Financial Analysis of Presbytery of Yellowstone PCUSA (January - December 2024)

This analysis is based on the income statement for the Presbytery of Yellowstone PCUSA for the period of January through December 2024. The statement provides a comparison between actual figures and the annual budget.

### ### Income Overview

The total income for the period was \$155,139, which is 94% of the budgeted amount of \$165,040. This indicates that the organization fell slightly short of its income target. Key income sources include:

- \*\*Per Capita Income\*\*: The largest income source at \$80,810, slightly exceeding the budget (101%).
- \*\*General Mission Pledge\*\*: Exceeded expectations at \$26,711, which is 111% of the budgeted amount.
- \*\*Camp Income\*\*: Reached 88% of the budget at \$22,754.
- \*\*Administrative Support\*\*: Significantly under budget at \$22,588, only 65% of the expected amount.

### ### Expense Analysis

Total expenses amounted to \$168,741, which is 90% of the budgeted \$188,043. This suggests overall good cost control. Notable expense categories include:

- \*\*Personnel Expenses\*\*: The largest expense at \$99,627, almost exactly on budget (100%).
- \*\*Camping & Youth\*\*: Underspent at \$30,175, reaching 77% of the budget.
- \*\*Presbytery Expenses\*\*: \$21,708, which is 85% of the budgeted amount.
- \*\*Pastoral Ministry Team\*\*: Significantly underspent at \$1,878, only 28% of the budget.

### ### Net Ordinary Income

The organization reported a net ordinary loss of \$13,602, which is better than the budgeted loss of \$23,003. This improvement is due to both lower-than-expected income and even lower-than-expected expenses.

### ### Other Income and Net Income

Other income, primarily from transfers and investment gains, significantly impacted the final results:

- \*\*Total Other Income\*\*: \$28,656, which is 125% of the budgeted amount.
- \*\*Unrealized Gain\*\*: A substantial \$14,963, which was not budgeted.
- \*\*Transfers\*\*: Various transfers totaling \$13,649, including \$12,412 from Administrative Support.

After accounting for other income, the organization achieved a \*\*Net Income of \$15,054\*\*, compared to a budgeted break-even point.

### ## Key Observations

- 1. \*\*Budget Variance\*\*: While income was below budget, expenses were managed well, resulting in a better-than-expected net ordinary income.
- 2. \*\*Investment Performance\*\*: Significant unrealized gains contributed positively to the financial outcome.
- 3. \*\*Transfer Reliance\*\*: The organization relied on transfers, particularly from Administrative Support, to achieve a positive net income.

- 4. \*\*Expense Management\*\*: Most expense categories were under budget, with Pastoral Ministry Team showing the largest proportional underspending.
- 5. \*\*Income Challenges\*\*: Administrative Support income fell significantly short of expectations, which may require attention in future planning.

In conclusion, while the Presbytery of Yellowstone PCUSA faced some income challenges, effective expense management and strong investment performance led to a positive financial outcome for the year 2024.

# ## Financial Analysis of Presbytery of Yellowstone PCUSA Balance Sheet (As of December 31, 2024)

This analysis is based on the Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) for the Presbytery of Yellowstone PCUSA, comparing the financial position as of December 31, 2024, to that of December 31, 2023.

### ### Assets

Total assets increased by \$37,563, from \$1,023,528 to \$1,061,091, representing a 3.7% growth.

### #### Current Assets

- \*\*Checking and Savings\*\*: Increased by \$39,088 to \$916,750, primarily due to:
- New Covenant 5737 funds grew by \$15,619.
- St Timothy Endowment Funds increased by \$24,237.
- \*\*Prepaid Expenses\*\*: Decreased by \$1,500, from \$1,500 to \$0.

### #### Other Assets

- Remained relatively stable with a minor decrease of \$25.

### ### Liabilities and Equity

### #### Liabilities

- Current liabilities increased significantly by \$14,108, from \$10,665 to \$24,773, a 132% increase.

### #### Equity

Total equity increased by \$23,455 to \$1,036,318.

- 1. \*\*General Funds\*\*: Decreased by \$14,529 to \$127,351.
  - Notable changes:
  - Admin Support decreased by \$12,412.
  - Unrestricted funds decreased by \$3,219.
- 2. \*\*Designated Funds\*\*: Slightly decreased by \$3,424 to \$195,448.
  - Significant changes:
  - Higher Education Grant decreased by \$4,400.
  - Equip & Encourage decreased by \$3,125.
  - New Dubuque-Synod Of RM CRE cohort fund of \$3,703 was added.
- 3. \*\*Restricted Funds\*\*: Increased by \$24,462 to \$698,465.
  - St Timothy Endowments grew by \$24,237.

4. \*\*Net Income\*\*: Improved significantly from a loss of \$1,891 to a profit of \$15,054.

### Key Financial Ratios and Observations

- 1. \*\*Current Ratio\*\*: (Current Assets / Current Liabilities)
  - 2024: 37.01 (916,750 / 24,773)
  - 2023: 82.43 (879.162 / 10.665)

While still very strong, the decrease indicates a relative decline in short-term liquidity.

- 2. \*\*Debt-to-Equity Ratio\*\*: (Total Liabilities / Total Equity)
  - 2024: 0.024 (24,773 / 1,036,318)
  - 2023: 0.011 (10,665 / 1,012,863)

The slight increase suggests a minor rise in leverage, but the ratio remains very low, indicating strong financial health.

- 3. \*\*Asset Growth\*\*: 3.7% increase in total assets demonstrates moderate growth.
- 4. \*\*Equity Growth\*\*: 2.3% increase in total equity shows steady financial progress.
- 5. \*\*Cash Position\*\*: Checking and savings accounts comprise 86.4% of total assets, indicating a very liquid position.
- 6. \*\*Endowment Growth\*\*: St Timothy Endowment Funds grew by 5%, potentially providing more resources for future activities.

### ### Conclusions

- 1. The Presbytery's overall financial position strengthened in 2024, with growth in both assets and equity.
- 2. The organization maintains a very strong liquidity position, though the current ratio has decreased due to increased current liabilities.
- 3. The significant improvement in net income from a loss to a profit indicates better financial performance in 2024.
- 4. The growth in restricted funds, particularly endowments, suggests increased long-term financial stability.
- 5. The decrease in general funds, especially Admin Support, may require attention to ensure operational stability.
- 6. The organization's very low debt-to-equity ratio indicates minimal financial risk and strong solvency.

Overall, the Presbytery of Yellowstone PCUSA appears to be in a solid financial position with improved performance in 2024, though some areas like the decrease in general funds and increase in current liabilities may warrant monitoring.

General Presbyter Report to Yellowstone Presbytery Rev. Kathy Goodrich March 7-8,2025

Ephesians 3:14-21.

What times we are in! The context and culture are all in a state of flux. This is referred to by leaders and consultants coaching high level leaders around the globe as *VUCA - Volatile*, *Uncertain*, *Complex*, *Ambiguous* (see Arable Group, book *Life in Flux*)). Can feel like whiplash!

Yet, in these times, God has lifegiving, exciting opportunities and invitations for us beyond what we can ask or imagine, as we are rooted in, filled with all the fullness of Christ through his riches and power transforming us, working in and through us, right in the place where we are sent. (Eph. 3)

Gandhi read and was very intrigued by parts of the Bible, Christ's teaching and was drawn to Christ. However, as he said "I like your Christ; I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."

It was truly tragic that the racism, colonialism,... and other ideologies had formed most of the Christians he encountered such that they were not like Jesus.

What do people observe, experience when they are around you and me, around our churches? Communities of disciples/apprentices of Jesus who are like him and do what he did? Or...?

We are being observed! A great deal at stake in how we choose to respond, to speak of and treat one another and all others, including the lonely, the least, the lost and the foreigners in our midst.

How the body of Christ has the mind and heart of Christ, how it embodies Christ's ways, love, life in and before the world is SO crucial!

Jesus told us that his plan for the reconciliation and redemption and transformation of the world he loves in his Holy Spirit power and presence at work in and through his church.

So, how do you and I become formed to be more like Christ, living and joining Christ in his mission?

We are ALL being formed. The only question is by what, by whom into what image and likeness? Most people never stop to look and be honest if they are intentionally engaged in being formed as Christ's apprentices/disciples. It is a BIG deal! The word for disciple/apprentice/follower appears 269 times in the New Testament!!

**Practicing the WAY** is a clear, engaging, quality resource/process for groups, churches being rooted and grounded in Jesus, in his love, that we may be formed, may grow up into the fullness of maturity in Christ.

Be with him Become like him Do as he did!

NOTE: Sometimes we Presbyterians can prefer substituting knowledge *about* God (we think we can master or control information) and miss out on experiencing the transforming healing love of God that surpasses knowledge! (Eph. 3:19).

I hope you and groups in your church will consider using the book, free workbook & videos, pastor/leader helps, to provide the content and the connections and community opportunities for the Holy Spirit to do "more than you dare to ask or imagine by HIS power at work within us"! This is foundational for ALL else.

Leadership Cabinet - I worked on a range of areas to help resource, plan ahead, carry out the various aspects of ministry they do, including, policies, personnel, finances, visioning, direction, oversight and coordination. Planning presbytery meetings with a team as we seek to equip, encourage, connect, provide support for our presbytery. We are a fully remote office, with Deb's assistance on site with file cabinets. I worked with Deb and Ric to finish sorting/emptying. We are grateful to FPC Bozeman for the office and years of great hospitality. Anti racism policy: staffed and Interacted several times with members of Subgroup that worked on second anti racism draft that is recommended to the presbytery. See report.

BOO amendments - worked with Caroline, LC & PMT.

Office of the Stated Clerk: Resourcing from the Office of the Stated Clerk office is less than in the last several decades. The primary resource on the proposed Amendments etc. has seen a shift in both strategy and role from a balanced information piece inclusive of pro/con to only promotion of the Amendments.

**PMT**, pastors, CRE candidates and churches - November - February have been some of the most active months in quite while for churches, some with unique challenges, pastors, CRE candidates and transitions across our presbytery. See Report for MANY things occurring.

The transitions, session and PNC work with some churches involves a variety of subgroup work, conversations, and meetings of several kinds, conferring, and partnering with PMT liaisons and PMT leadership, along with supporting leaders and sessions as needed. PNC's are active and covet your prayers in Deer Lodge, FPC Bozeman, Jordan, Terry, and will be in Dillon. Christine Long from BOP plans to be with us and available at our May meeting.

We are grateful for successful shoulder surgery for Wenda Fry and Freeman's heart cath and 2 stents. Our love and prayers are with:

Dan Krebill and Jody McDevitt on the loss of Doris Krebill at 99! What a lady!

Dave and Vicki Thompson and their families with the loss of Vicki's Herb Sackman in the Terry Church.

We are grateful for the ministries of Dick and Mary Davis and celebrate their retirement! And are sad to say good by the Daniel and Callie Triller as he has taken a call in WA state near family.

CRE training program through Dubuque/Synod: Several from Yellowstone have been taking courses, all or just some. We are blessed to have a wide range of CRE's in training. PMT has taken Caroline Fleming, (Miles City), Danny Pratt (Forsyth) and Traci Ruschetti, (Butte) into the Seeker phase of our process and others shortly.

Uncovering Buried Treasure and Sharing the Light - continuing to explore the best timing to have Rev. Dr. Verlon Fosner from Seattle hold an in person training workshop on Dinner church for the presbytery. I and leaders in several churches attended the Discipleship Reset equipping workshop week by Fresh Expressions. Quality ideas!

Immigration and foreigners or asylum seekers in our midst: How are we as citizens of heaven to live out the Bible's commands to love the sojourner / foreigners in our midst with the highly complex and fast shifting circumstances and legal aspects surrounding immigration. I have been researching, networking, and sent out information/resourcing for those in our presbytery regarding educational, legal, and a variety of needs and opportunities. See my February letter, including the lawsuit which the PCUSA is one of many denominations.

**Synod:** I attend valuable monthly meetings covering a wide range of needs, ideas, opportunities, sharing with the other Presbytery Execs. We met together in Nov. including a fruitful consultation with Corey Schlosser-Hall regarding stories, insights from transitions and adaptations in and among other presbyteries. Synod Assembly met virtually in Feb. for its 2024 meeting.

Camping and Youth: These ministries are our primary mission as a presbytery and God is doing some great things! We hope you all will support them. Thanks to the leadership and all who helped with a wonderful ski/soak retreat in Bozeman last weekend. It was great to see what God was up to when I had dinner and some of Sat. evening with the group. Camp is shaping up well. See report for lots of details

Personal: We are grateful for many blessings and appreciate prayer for the lingering flu and virus challenges.

### ATTACHMENT D

### REPRESENTATION/NOMINATION Ministry Team Report March 7-8, 2025

Members: JP Carlson, Terry Johnson, Lanny Rounds, Sandy Welch, GP Kathy Goodrich, ex officio. REPNOM committee has met twice in February to discuss the vacancies in several ministry teams. After prayers and thoughtful consideration:

1) Camping and Youth Ministry Team REPNOM has nominated Rev. Sarah Tunall as moderator of Camping and Youth Committee. REPNOM has nominated Russ Kline, RE, FPC Billings as Camping and Youth member of Class of 2026, filling the vacancy left by Daniel Triller.

Moderator: Rev. Sarah Tunall, TE, Manhattan Class of 2025: Jeff Harada, Brent Long and Nancy Pehl

Class of 2026: Nichole Bodalski & Russ Kline, RE,

Class of 2027: Patti Johnson, Curt Kochner and Sarah Tunall

2. We are requesting prayerful reflection and recommendations for qualified candidates for the Leadership Cabinet and Pastoral Ministry Team. If you know of someone who would be a good fit, please notify someone on REPNOM.

| Leadership Cabinet: (Min of 7, max of 9 members)   |
|--|
| LC Moderator: David Thompson   |
| Class of 2025: Ashley Birk & Jamie Schmeling &   |
| Class of 2026: Melissa Bell, Julie Boksich and David Thompson Class of 2027: Charles Brown &         |
| Needed: presbytery Vice-Moderator: a 3 year term   |
|  |
| Pastoral Ministry team   |
| Moderators: Debbie Blackburn and Neva Rathbun  |
| Class of 2025: Gail Beckham, Neva Rathbun and Jim Tarr &   |
| Class of 2026: Julie Boksich, Cheryl Banks, George Goodrich and Steven Hundley Class of 2027: Debbie |
| Blackburn, Debbie Ernst, Freeman McCall, and Andy Pehl   |

ATTACHMENT E

Pastoral Ministry Team Report Yellowstone Presbytery Meeting - March 7-8, 2025 First Presbyterian Church in Butte, Montana

### **Items for Action from the Pastoral Ministry Team:**

PMT recommends that MWS Mary Davis and MWS Dick Davis be placed on the rolls of retired pastors for Yellowstone Presbytery.

### PMT makes the following recommendations to Yellowstone Presbytery:

**Recommendation 1:** PMT recommends Yellowstone Presbytery **not concur** with overture 24-A, F-1.0403: Openness to the Guidance of the Holy Spirit: Unity in Diversity.

**Recommendation 2:** PMT recommends Yellowstone Presbytery *concur* with overture 24- B, G-1.0104: The Congregation: Other Forms of Corporate Witness (Worshipping Communities, etc.).

**Recommendation 3:** PMT recommends Yellowstone Presbytery **not concur** with overture 24-C, G-2.0104b, Ordered Ministries of the Church: Gifts and Qualifications.

**Recommendation 4:** PMT recommends Yellowstone Presbytery *concur* with overture 24- D, G-2.0504b, Pastoral Relationships: Temporary Pastoral Relations.

**Recommendation 5:** PMT recommends Yellowstone Presbytery *concur* with overture 24-E, G-2.0504b: Pastoral Relationships: Temporary Pastoral Relationships.

**Recommendation 6:** PMT recommends Yellowstone Presbytery *concur* with overture 24-F, G-2.0610: Preparation for Ministry: Accommodations to Particular Circumstances

**Recommendation 7:** PMT recommends Yellowstone Presbytery **concur** with overture 24- G-2.0901 Dissolutions of Pastoral Relationships: Congregational Meeting

# PMT approved the following motions since the November Presbytery Meeting:

- To approve the contract between CRE Veva Larson and the Anaconda Church, with the addition of pension (Attachment A).
- To Extend CRE Veva Larson's contract for one year, with a full evaluation to be conducted in December of 2025.
- To approve a scholarship in the amount of \$900 from the Linda Hoffer fund for CRE Veva Larson for classes at Dubuque.
- To approve JP Carlson as moderator of the session at the Church of the Big Hole (following the retirement of MWS Mary Davis).
- To approve a motion regarding people who still need to participate in boundary training. They will be asked to watch the video from this year's training and then write a response to written scenarios and send to PMT.
- To authorize Carleen Gaub and Caryn Rein to serve communion at Terry Community Presbyterian Church as invited. (Carleen and Caryn are LPAs licensed in the Lutheran denomination).
- To validate MWS Brent Long and MWS J P Carlson in their respective ministries.
- To approve Sarah Tunall to moderate the session at the Dillon Church.
- -To accept the contract, including the family leave, between the Federated Church of Forsyth and Vicki Waddington with the caveat that the contract will be reviewed at a date in the near future since Vicki has been with the church for over 4 months (Attachment B)
- -To concur with the Dillon congregation to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the Dillon Church and Rev. Daniel Triller effective February 28, 2025.
- -To approve the contract between MWS Ashley Birk and First Presbyterian Church of Bozeman. (Attachment C)

- -Approved an installation service for Rev. Jamie Schmeling to be held on April 5, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Miles City, MT.
- -Acted to receive RE Caroline Fleming (Miles City), RE Danny Pratt (Forsyth), and RE Traci Ruschetti (Butte) as Seekers in the CRE program
- -Elected the following as the Administrative Commission to install Rev. Jamie Schmeling as Pastor at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Miles City, MT:

MWS Kathy Goodrich (Bozeman)

RE Caroline Fleming (Miles City)

RE Melissa Bell (Lewistown)

MWS Neva Rathbun (Terry)

RE Gail Price (Miles City)

RE Russ Kline (Billings 1st)

RE Danny Pratt (Forsyth)

MWS Dave Thompson (Billings 1st)

MWS Kimmy Briggs (Lewistown)

Rev. Gretchen Wagner, Trinity Lutheran Church, Culbertson will preach (guest)

Submitted by Debbie Blackburn and Neva Rathbun (Co-Moderators)

ATTACHMENT F

Leadership Cabinet Report
Presbytery Meeting
March 7-8, 2025
First Presbyterian Church in Butte, Montana

The Leadership Cabinet (LC) of the Yellowstone Presbytery meets monthly to oversee, plan, and implements many facets of ministry pertaining to our Presbytery. The LC provides oversite to the Presbytery regarding its meetings, finances, staff, training, direction, and mission.

Presbytery meeting schedule for 2025:

March 7-8, 2025, at the First Presbyterian Church in Butte May 30, 2025, at the First Presbyterian Church in Bozeman October 3-4, 2025, at the First Presbyterian Church in Billings

### Anti-Racism Policy:

The Leadership Cabinet reviewed the proposed Anti-Racism Policy for the Yellowstone Presbytery and offered a few minor adjustments and corrections from what was presented by the subcommittee. We bring this policy to the Presbytery for discussion and vote for approval.

**Recommendation 1:** Leadership Cabinet recommends Yellowstone Presbytery adopt the proposed Anti-Racism Policy.

General Assembly Amendments to the Book of Order:

The Leadership Cabinet discussed the proposed amendments to our Book of Order from General Assembly which the Yellowstone Presbytery will vote on at this meeting. We have the following recommendations pertaining to four of the amendments under consideration:

**Recommendation 2:** Leadership Cabinet recommends Yellowstone Presbytery concur with 24-H: G-3.0106, General Administration of Mission.

**Recommendation 3**: Leadership Cabinet recommends Yellowstone Presbytery concur with concur with 24-J: Composition and Responsibility.

**Recommendation 4:** Leadership Cabinet recommends Yellowstone Presbytery concur with 24-M: Episcopalian-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries.

Leadership Cabinet offers no recommendation to Yellowstone Presbytery concerning overture 24-I, Relationships with Synod and General Assembly about removing the need for at least one additional presbytery to concur with a proposed overture before it can be considered by the General Assembly. Presbyters will have to discuss and decide on this overture on the floor of the presbytery meeting.

**Recommendation 5:** Leadership Cabinet nominates Sandy Welch to serve as moderator of the Representation & Nomination Team.

Boundary training: Our boundary training, which is required every three years, was conducted this past year by Mark Bassingthwaighte, attorney and former member of the First Presbyterian Church in Billings. Mark's presentation was recorded, and the video is available for any person or church to use. Caroline has sent the video link to all pastors and CREs who didn't participate in the 2024 training session.

Jamie Schmeling's installation: The Rev. Jamie Schmeling will be installed at First Presbyterian Church in Miles City on Saturday, April 5 at 1pm.

The Leadership Cabinet continues to discuss ways that presbytery meetings can be helpful, relevant, and useful to those we serve in the Yellowstone Presbytery. We stive to seek ways to make the meeting helpful in building up the larger body of Christ within our Presbytery. If you have feedback to help accomplish this end, please contact one of the members of the Leadership Cabinet.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. David Thompson, Moderator Leadership Cabinet of the Yellowstone Presbytery

**ATTACHMENT G** 

# **Camping and Youth Report**

March 2025

### Winter Retreat - Feb 28 - March 3, 2025

We had an amazing weekend in Bozeman with 11 leaders and 33 youth. Throughout the weekend we shared meals, played crazy games, skied/boarded Bridger Bowl, soaked in the White Sulphur Hot Springs, met in small groups, and learned about God's great love for us through the story of the Prodigal Son. It was a great weekend, and we can't

wait for more to experience it next year!

Huge shout out to Dave Thompson & Gillian Cleary for serving as speakers!

Nancy Pehl and Sarah Tunall for planning the weekend!

Aaron Blakeslee for cooking up delicious food all weekend!

The AMAZING Youth Leaders who gave up their weekend to give Middle School

& High School Youth this experience!

# **Westminster Spires 2025**

We are excited for a summer at Westminster Spires and have some great things in the plans! With some shifting of staff, we are taking 2025 as a "reset" year & creatively approaching camp with some new ideas. These ideas are meant to create room for growth and engage people of all generations in the camping experience while discipling, building relationship, and exploring God's creation.

### **Schedule**

May 30 - June 1 (Fri - Sun): Revamp the Camp July 9-12 (Wed-Sat) - Staff Training Led by George Goodrich & Sarah Tunall July 13-

18 (Sun-Fri) - Adventure Camp (7-10<sup>th</sup>)

This camp will provide discipleship & recreation opportunities for entering 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> graders. Campers will be in small groups based on grade for reflection and discipleship opportunities. Unique opportunities for campers at Adventure Camp may include:

- White water rafting, hike in the Bear Tooth Mountains, swimming in Red Lodge, campfires, camp games and more!
- Opportunities to grow and serve others July

20-24 (Sun-Thurs) - Explorer Camp (3-6<sup>th</sup>)

This camp will provide discipleship & recreation opportunities for entering 3rd to 6th graders. Campers will be in small groups based on grade for reflection and discipleship opportunities. Unique opportunities for campers at Explorer Camp may include:

- Scavenger Hunt and swimming in Red Lodge, hikes and adventures near camp, campfires, camp games and more!
- Opportunities to grow and serve others July

24-27 (Thurs-Sun) - Limitless Retreat (16 +)

This weekend retreat is a new concept as we look to provide opportunities for discipleship & recreation for students entering junior year in high school and older and adults seeking deeper relationships with others and Jesus. "Limitless"

will focus on intentional connection between young adults & adults, offering space for relationship to begin forming that hopefully will keep young adults connected to the church past graduation/after college.

"Limitless" will be centered around ACTIVE engagement in our bodies and our faith! The weekend will allow for option, many of which may include:

- White water rafting, full-day hike & optional overnight on trail, campfires and worship, camp crafts, games and delicious food

### Staffing:

Counselors - 16 years & older (need commitment for full camp season, attend Limitless) Leaders in Training - 13 years & older (attend Adventure, serve at Explorer)

Camp Director -- Sarah Tunall

Program Directors -- Nichole Bodalski & Hunter Skov Camp Grandpa - George Goodrich Camp Cook - Russ Klein

Staff needed: Nurse, Speakers (3), Wonderful Adults to love kids.

### How Can We Help?

As we get further into the spring season, here's how pastors, elders, and church members can help (& pray):

- Recruit and invite high school students, college age students and older to serve as counselors.
- Spread the word and share camp dates with your churches, youth groups, families, relatives, neighborhoods, towns and beyond and invite them to join us this summer.
- Join us for Revamp the Camp (May 31-June 1) to help us get camp ready for the summer season.
- Contribute towards our scholarship fund (offering for camp scholarships will take place this weekend)
- Provide rides for campers and to and from camp as needed.
- Consider volunteering for a week of camp yourself in a variety of roles
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would work in the hearts and lives of campers and families everywhere to help get as many students to camp as we possibly can.
- Pray that with Christ at work within us, that our God would do more than we could ask or imagine and that through camp all campers would come to a deeper love and knowledge of Jesus!

Registration will officially open online in mid-March and scholarships will be available.

To follow up on any or all of the above, please email Sarah Tunall at sarah.tunall@gmail.com.

### **ATTACHMENT H**

# Report of the Permanent Judicial Commission To Yellowstone Presbytery March 7-8, 2025

The Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) of Yellowstone Presbytery met on February 17, 2025 to chose a moderator and to review and make recommendations to Yellowstone Presbytery concerning two proposed amendments to the Book of Order of the Constitution of the PC(U.S.A.).

Sandi Schoenberger volunteered and was accepted by member to serve as the commission's moderator.

The PJC makes the following recommendations to Yellowstone Presbytery:

RECOMMENDATION: We members of the PJC recommend that Yellowstone Presbytery concur with D-7.0501: Referral to Investigating Committee.

Rational: Members are in agreement with the proposed changes noting that the inclusion of the word "person" reminds people that the accused is indeed a person, and the word "shall" leaves no doubt that this next step is a must. Members did discuss what they felt was a need for broader

language concerning who does and does not lack mental capacity. There may be times when a person, due to circumstances they are living in, is unable to make wise decisions for themselves. Do they, at that time, "lack mental capacity"? This maybe something to look into in the future.

RECOMMENDATION: We members of the PJC recommend that Yellowstone Presbytery concur with D-7.0902b: Administrative Leave.

Rational: Members agreed the proposed change was an important one that supports the presumption of innocent until proven guilty.

Thanks to all the PJC members for their diligent work.

Sandi Schoenberger, Moderator