

Presbytery of Yellowstone

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Call to a Special Meeting of Yellowstone Presbytery
Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. to be held via Zoom*
See the Zoom Link below*

2025 Yellowstone Presbytery Moderator Melissa Bell, at the request of the Pastoral Ministry Team, calls a **Special Presbytery Meeting** on **Thursday, August 28** at **11:30 a.m.** on the following matters:

1. To examine Rev. Laura Wood and to act on PMT's recommendation that Laura Wood serve as a stated supply pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Deer Lodge, for a term no longer than 3 years and be received as a member of Yellowstone Presbytery. (See Attachment A: statement of faith and short, personal profile)
2. To approve the Stated Pastoral Supply Covenant between Rev Laura Wood and First Presbyterian Church, Deer Lodge, Montana, including the terms of call. (See Attachment B)
3. To elect Rev. Jamie Schmeling, an RE yet to be named, and an alternate person yet to be named, as ordination exam readers.

Any action the Presbytery might wish to take must be related to these items. NO OTHER BUSINESS may be acted upon as this is a specially called meeting. It is anticipated the meeting will last no longer than an hour.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85963734525?pwd=8R76xT13GY08sj9By3uRTAwkqGp1Fd.1>

Meeting ID: 859 6373 4525

Passcode: 487336

One tap mobile

+16694449171,,85963734525#,,,*487336# US

+16699006833,,85963734525#,,,*487336# US

Dial in using:

1 929 205 6099

1 301 715 8592

1 305 224 1968

Meeting ID: 859 6373 4525 Passcode: 487336



Statement of Faith
Rev. Laura L. Wood
Updated June 2025

I trust in the One God, Creator of the universe, and Sustainer of all. This Triune God is mysteriously and graciously revealed to the world as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God's love for human beings knows no end, and is not bound, compromised or enhanced by our action. That love can never be earned nor eclipsed.

I trust in Jesus the Christ, fully human and fully divine, sent by God to be born among us, experiencing all the struggles and joys of this life. Jesus was a friend to sinners, a frustration to those who sought power, and a source of wisdom to those who had eyes to see and ears to hear. He healed the sick, comforted those who were oppressed, and called his followers to love others without consideration of gain or recognition. Ultimately he was betrayed, tortured and publicly executed. In complete obedience to God's plan, he accepted a punishment he did not deserve, so that we might receive mercy and grace. Through this perfect sacrifice he made it possible for us to be reconciled to God and to one another; saving us, redeeming us, transforming us that we might participate in his mission of transforming the world, and granting us reassurance for the life to come. We who follow Christ are a resurrection people.

Jesus promised those who followed him that he would never abandon them. While his physical presence did not remain long after his resurrection, his spiritual presence remains with us even today. Through that Spirit we receive encouragement, wisdom, healing and wholeness. Wherever and whenever believers in Jesus gather, the Holy Spirit is present. In that gathering, which we call the church, the Spirit enables us to worship, pray, study, serve and offer fellowship to one another. In those gatherings, when we continue the practices of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, we participate in a sacramental remembering of the Body of Christ. We are mysteriously and powerfully united with believers of every time and place.

All these truths are revealed to us in the written word of God, the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, which reveal to us the Kingdom of God, and are our faithful and trustworthy guides for life in this world. It is both the calling and the joy of my life to explore the word of God with the people of God, so that together we might serve and glorify God.

Rev. Laura Wood Short Biography

Rev. Laura Wood is an ordained PC (U.S.A.) pastor and currently a member of Utah Presbytery. She received her Master of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary and has served as pastor, associate pastor, or co-pastor to churches in Utah, Michigan and Iowa. She has also served as a PRN Chaplain, a volunteer hospital chaplain, and Utah's Executive Presbyterian during her career. Laura is a native of the Belgrade/Manhattan area and was ordained to the ministry out of Manhattan Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Wood states she has a genuine love and compassion for people, her leadership style is friendly, approachable and informal. She especially enjoys working with smaller congregations and loves the core value of shared responsibility found there.

Of herself Rev. Wood writes:

"I approach my vocation with a sense of joy, curiosity and patience. I trust that without exception God provides us with all the resources we need to do the work that God asks us to do. Walking and working beside one another we can grow in our love for Christ, learn more about God's plan for our lives and our world, and experience the guidance and comfort of the Holy Spirit.'

'As I get near to retirement I am looking to serve a smaller congregation ... in Southwestern Montana... I am married to a retired fly fisherman who is ready to explore new rivers. We love Montana and plan to make it our permanent home.'

ATTACHMENT B

Covenant for Stated Pastoral Supply Between Rev Laura Wood and First Presbyterian Church, Deer Lodge, Montana Service from: October 9, 2025 to October 10, 2027

Pastoral Responsibilities:

- Plan, prepare, and lead the worship services
- Administer the sacraments and officiate at weddings, baptisms, and funerals
- Be a teacher of the Word by providing spiritual and administrative leadership to the congregation, including its Christian Education ministries
- Moderate Session and Congregational meetings, train newly elected officers
- Serve as an ex-officio member of the Deacons
- Engage in pastoral care, such as hospital visitations when allowed, be aware of and provide support for those with special concerns and struggles
- Disciple, equip, empower and challenge members and friends of the congregation to grow deeper in faith, discover and identify their individual gifts, and participate in ministry and

mission; enabling them to know they are valued and needed in this body of Christ and sent into the world as Christ's ambassadors

- Be an active member of Yellowstone Presbytery
- Lead and equip the church in understanding, engagement with, and mission in the wider community
- Nurture one's own physical and spiritual life and love for God, engaging in regular spiritual practices, including Sabbath keeping, and praying for the congregation and community.

Congregational Responsibilities:

- partner with the pastor in the shared work of ministry
- pursue an active faith life, seeking to continually grow in faith and respond to God's callings
- support the pastor in her ministry
- provide regular financial compensation according to the terms outlined below
- provide a performance review to the pastor at least annually
- pray for the pastor during this contract period
- participate in the wider ministry and mission of Yellowstone Presbytery, when needed/as appropriate

This agreement may be terminated by either party (session or pastor) upon 45 days written notice.

TERMS:

The pastor is employed on a two thirds basis serving approximately 26 hours per week, and will be compensated as follows:

Effective Salary split between Cash salary \$13,000 and Housing Allowance \$32,000

Board of Pensions fees Health (16%) \$7200

Reimbursable Medical flexible Spending account \$2000

SECA - \$3000

Professional Expense (mileage Books) Allowance \$1000 reimbursable

Study allowance (can be carried over up to 3 years) \$600

Total Package \$58,800

Other benefits:

4 weeks of vacation including 4 Sundays

2 weeks of study leave including 2 Sundays

Follow the Yellowstone Presbytery Family Leave Policy as attached.

One time Moving costs - Negotiated.

APPROVALS:

The session approved this contract and its conditions on _____

Signed: (clerk of session) _____ Date: _____

I agree to accept the terms of this contract.

Signed: (pastor) _____ Date: _____

The presbytery approved this contract and its conditions on _____

Signed: (Stated Clerk) _____ Date: _____

*Signed copies to be given to: 1) the minister, 2) the clerk of session, 3) the presbytery and
4) the minister's presbytery of membership/care (if other than the presbytery of this congregation).*

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