

Stated Clerk Report to Yellowstone Presbytery

March 13, 2026

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 responding to 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 and minimize background noise.*
4. **Zoom Attendees:** *Please label your Zoom participant name to include “RE” or “MWS” if applicable, your first & last name, the entity you represent, your position (i.e., member, commissioner, guest) & town. e.g.: 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 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 all written reports posted on the website www.yellowstonepcusa.org be received.
7. That the Moderator and the Stated Clerk be empowered to suggest and adjust the agenda during the meeting, as may be necessary.
8. That the minutes of the Presbytery meetings of October 3-4, 2025, December 15, 2025, and February 6, 2026 be approved as printed on the presbytery meeting website.
9. That the minutes of the Administrative Commission to install Rev. Nicole Melara on February 7, 2026 be approved as printed on the presbytery meeting website.

End of Motion.

Activities since our last stated presbytery meeting:

1. Attended all meetings of the Leadership Cabinet, the Pastoral Ministry Team and Yellowstone Presbytery special meetings and recorded meeting proceedings.
2. Followed up on requests to retired ministers and ministers-at-large as necessary and directed by PMT to submit 2025 annual reports.

3. Attested to MWS standings as necessary when requested by CLC.
4. Updated presbytery directory with new officers, team members, and pastor positions and continue to update as I am informed of changes by pastors, clerks, and/or churches.
5. Served on the team to plan the March Presbytery meeting.
6. Answered or found answers to any questions asked of me by pastors, team moderators or pastors.
7. Completed the Rocky Mountain Synod/Dubuque Seminary courses in Congregational leadership.
8. Worked with Clerks of Session on their statistical reports for 2025. I am pleased to report that all churches submitted their reports in a timely manner. See **Attachment A** for the Presbytery's 2025 statistical report.
9. Submitted 2025 Presbytery statistical reports to the PC (U.S.A.)
10. Conversated with new Stated Clerk of Rocky Mountain Synod, Janet Ballentine, several times concerning members' rights and identity of our Synod commissioners.
11. Calculated the balance of MWS and REs eligible to vote at presbytery meetings: As of December 31, 2025 there were 35 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. As of January 1, 2026, 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 8 Ruling Elders authorized to vote based on their leadership roles within the Presbytery. The net result is that there are 31 TEs and 33 REs and CREs authorized to vote on business before the Presbytery. Therefore, no MWS/RE imbalance exists in Yellowstone Presbytery for 2026.

Concerns:

1. I have received a number of requests this year concerning what the per capita amount is both per person and for the church even though all churches received a letter via U.S. Post last fall about this. How we can make the amount more visible to churches?
2. I am concerned with the large drop in membership in 2025. Some if this is due to churches removing people from their roles who do not participate in the life of their congregations due to the per capita cost, and some is a result of our aging membership.
3. I am concerned that a number of churches no longer feel they can contribute to the presbytery's mission work. We dropped from \$26,150.00 pledged in 2025 to \$ 20,750.00 pledged in 2026 thus far. I know finances are tight for many churches but also wonder how we can do better as a presbytery informing churches and their members "where the money goes" and about the work it funds.
4. I still struggle getting mass (all presbytery) emails delivered to gmail.com addresses. I have to send gmails in batches no larger than 10 at a time so they don't get returned as "undeliverable". If anyone has a solution to this, please let tell me.

2025 Presbytery Statistical Report

Presbytery Yellowstone
Address PO Box 1254, Bozeman, MT 59771
Phone 406-586-7706 **Fax** 406-556-0979
Email yellpres@yellowstonepcusa.org
Web Site www.yellowstonepcusa.org



Membership

Prior Active Members **1338** Adjusted membership **1338**

Gains

Certificate **7**
 Youth Professions **3**
 Professions & Reaffirmations **41**

Losses

Certificate **2**
 Deaths **39**
 Deleted for any Other Reason **65**

Total Gains **51** **Total Losses** **106**

Total Ending Active Members **1283**

Baptisms

Presented by Others **15** Average Weekly Worship Attendance **896**
 At Confirmation **1** Friends of the Congregation **265**
 All Other **4** Ruling Elders on Session **124**
 Do you have Deacons? Yes / No **11 / 11**

Age Distribution of Active Members

17 & Under **32**
 18 - 25 **45**
 26 - 40 **96**
 41 - 55 **177**
 56 - 70 **325**
 Over 70 **593**
Total Age Distribution **1268**

People with Disabilities

Hearing impairment **111**
 Sight impairment **39**
 Mobility impairment **68**
 Other impairment **40**

Gender Distribution

Women **811**
 Men **443**
 Non-Binary **2**

Youth in Congregation

Age 4 and under **62** Middle School (6th – 8th grade) **74**
 Elementary School (K-5th grade) **132** High School (9th – 12th grade) **103**

Total Youth **371**

Racial Ethnic

Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian **6** Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous **14**
 Black/African American/African **0** White **1208**
 Middle Eastern/North African **47** Multiracial **2**
 Hispanic/Latino-a **6**

Total Racial Ethnic **1283**

Budgeted Income **2,324,779**

Budgeted Expense **2,569,533**

Receipts

Regular Contributions **2,423,256** Bequests **27,728**
 Capital Building Fund **147,532** Other Income **80,898**
 Investment Income **740,912** Subsidy or Aid **0**

Expenditures

Local Program **1,717,027** Investment Expenditures **147,147**
 Local Mission **196,724** Per Capital Apprt **78,311**
 Capital Expenditures **112,812** Other Mission **37,320**