

Draft of a Vision for the Prioritizing of the CRE Program
in Yellowstone Presbytery

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19

Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE's) are not new to the PCUSA, nor to the presbytery, and the Book of Order provides generally for their service (G-2.1001-4), and Yellowstone Presbytery has a history of CRE service. But, in addition to those CRE's currently serving, **new CRE's are needed for ministry in both traditional and new ways...**

1. To assume lay pastoral leadership of Congregations (with or) without Ministers of the Word and Sacrament (MWS), either in interim service or called.
2. To be trained in both traditional and new ways for ministry that are evolving new, ie., hybrid, pandemic-necessitated forms of worship, fellowship, mission, stewardship and pastoral care.
3. To think and prayerfully dream creatively on new forms of ministry in each ministry context.

To this end Yellowstone Presbytery's Leadership Cabinet and Pastoral Ministry Team will prioritize to a high level the prayerful recruitment, training, deployment and mentoring of CRE'S to minister within its bounds... The Presbytery will...

1. Pray for the raising of God's servants for this work.
2. Casting a vision for CRE ministry within the presbytery.
3. Form a cohort of current, in-process and potential CRE's.
4. Develop training/satellite sites out of some congregations like FPC's Billings, Bozeman, Dillon.
 - a. CRE's working with PMT and the church training sites might help the CRE choose the best site for her/him.
 - b. CRE's could all be trained virtually in one cohort in a rotation of new material and continuing ed.
 - c. Training could also be done at the Synod level virtually.
5. Emphasize the rightful place the ministry of ruling elders by...
 - a. Offering a plan and curriculum for enhanced elder training with pastors and leaders in local churches.
 - b. Helping Churches dream about ministry elders might perform in the local community.

The training might include:

- 1. Materials from Dubuque Seminary, Whitworth University, Emerging ministries within and without PCUSA, etc.**
- 2. Specifically, training and mentoring in...**
 - a. Spiritual formation and Modern-day, Christian discipleship**
 - i. Spiritual Gifts**
 - ii. Various types of personalities and spiritualities**
 - iii. Spiritual Disciplines and self-care**
 - iv. Cohort or Cluster connections**
 - v. How to lead a small group ministry/ worship**
 - vi. Importance of undergirding all with prayer.**
 - b. Preaching and Worship**
 - c. Old Testament and New Testament Survey**
 - d. Virtual ministries, pluses and minuses**
 - e. Personal Evangelism**
 - f. Church History, including PCUSA history**
 - g. Addressing the current issues in society with the Christ's Gospel of salvation, peace and justice.**
 - h. Understanding your specific context to ministry**
 - i. Pastoral Care and referrals**
 - j. Basic Principles of Christian Leadership**
 - k. Polity and Book of Order - Why we are PCUSA**
 - l. Church administration**

Toward These Ends:

- c. The concept will be discussed on the joint LC/PMT retreat on September 10-11.**
 - i. A Team of leaders for this ministry will be designated and charged to develop a plan and curriculum for this ministry.**
 - 1. Check with other presbyteries**
 - 2. Check with the Lutherans who are down the road on lay leadership since reformation times.**
 - ii. The team will present the plan to both the LC and PMT and, upon the approval of these teams, to the presbytery.**
- d. The Team will interface with the Presbytery Meeting Planning Team to determine ways of working together in equipping CRE's.**

- i. These teams may work together to appropriately emphasize CRE recruitment and training at the regional gatherings in September...**

Current and Potential CRE's

- a. Margee Smith – Stanford
- b. Jeff Harada – Wolf Point
- c. Veva Larson - Anaconda
- d. Chuck Wright – Butte
- e. Gail Beckham – Colstrip and Marshall Mead – Colstrip
- f. Russ Kline – FPC- Billings
- g. Waine Milmine – Hysham

People to Approach... George Suggests

- a. Dan Holland – FPC- Bozeman
- b. Graham Smith – Dillon
- c. Curt Kochner – St Andrew
- d. Rick Kern – Poplar
- e. Julie Boksich- Big Hole
- f. Traci Rushetti and maybe others – Butte
- g. Eva Twitchell / Rex Phipps – Jordan
- h. Charlie Brown, Dave Byerly and others – Lewistown
- i. Emily Keegan - ?
- j. Others –

Potential Pastors for Seminary Training:

- a. Karolee Larson – Butte
- b. Jon Dupuis – Butte
- c. Megan Dupuis – Butte
- d. Luke and Kristin Ekstrom – FPC-Billings

George Goodrich, 08/12/2020