

Stated Clerk's Report

February, 2017

For Information:

Since November 1st of last year I have participated in the following meetings and activities:

- Attended the November 2016 Presbytery meeting and prepared the minutes.
- Attended the November 2016 PMT meeting and prepared the minutes.
- Prepared and sent out (by email) year end packets for Clerks of Session.
- Assembled the 2017 Teaching Elder/Non-Teaching Elder Balance Report (attached).
- Prepared Necrology Report for 2016.
- Attended the January Pastoral Ministry Team meeting and prepared the minutes.
- Attended the January Leadership Cabinet meeting and prepared the minutes.
- Responded to requests from the Department of Revenue regarding property tax exemption applications.
- Participated in phone meetings for Leadership Cabinet and Presbytery planning.
- Responded to phone calls and emails from clerks of session regarding year end reporting.
- Reviewed some of the financial procedures of the Presbytery.

For action:

- I hereby request approval, with corrections if need be, of the following minutes:
Minutes of the November 4-5, 2016 Presbytery meeting
- I recommend that ten church sessions be authorized to elect another commissioner to presbytery in order to bring the Non-Teaching Elder authorized voter numbers in balance with the Teaching Elder voter numbers. These churches are Harlowton, Hysham, Jordan, Lewistown, Manhattan, Miles City, Philipsburg, Poplar, Stanford, and Terry.

YELLOWSTONE PRESBYTERY NECROLOGY REPORT – 2016

| Church | Elder's Name | Ordination Date | Date of Death |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| Anaconda | Ada Ewan | 1970 | June 9, 2016 |
| Billings First | Shirley Voyta Harry Cuff Willeen Dailey Paul Crellin George Green | February 3, 1974 January 20, 1985 March 3, 2003 February 1, 1959 February 4, 1973 | January 5, 2016 June 22, 2016 August 25, 2016 September 14, 2016 November 5, 2016 |
| Bozeman | Bob Mathis Don Frye, Jr. | January 21, 1983 December 30, 1979 | April 27, 2016 June 13, 2016 |
| Butte | James Sexton | February 8, 1970 | July 3, 2016 |
| Ennis | Hugh Leslie | Unknown | February 23, 2016 |
| Forsyth | Ruth Watson | January 27, 1985 | June 27, 2016 |
| Manhattan | Olga Campbell | Unknown | October 3, 2016 |
| Miles City | Ruth Schott Mildred Valach | January 22, 1984 January 11, 1976 | January 19, 2016 November 22, 2016 |
| White Sulphur Springs | Neva Lou Johnston | March 15, 1970 | July 12, 2016 |
| Wolf Point | Ben Harada | January 6, 1974 | July 11, 2016 |

TEACHING ELDER/NON-TEACHING ELDER BALANCE

As of January 1, 2017 there were 45 Teaching Elders (TE's) on the rolls of Yellowstone Presbytery. However, only 42 of these TE's were living within the bounds of the presbytery. On this same date there were 23 churches authorized to send one commissioner to presbytery meetings, plus one church authorized to send two commissioners to presbytery meetings based on the size of their congregations. There were 3 Non-Teaching Elder Pastors who were authorized to vote at Yellowstone Presbytery meetings. Additionally, there were 4 Ruling Elders who were authorized to vote based on their leadership roles within the Presbytery.

The net result is that there are 42 local Teaching Elders and 32 Non-Teaching Elders authorized to vote on business before the Presbytery.

Therefore, a Teaching Elder/Non-Teaching Elder imbalance currently exists in Yellowstone Presbytery.

Proposal: In order to bring the Non-Teaching Elder authorized voter numbers in balance with the Teaching Elder voter numbers, I recommend that ten (10) church sessions be authorized to elect another commissioner to presbytery. According to our stated rules (S2.07), these commissioners would be eligible to vote beginning with the second stated meeting of the calendar year through the first stated meeting of the following year. As was approved at the March 2015 Presbytery meeting, the sequence of churches for electing another commissioner will follow the order that churches are listed in the Directory. At the 2016 annual stated meeting of the Presbytery, Saint Andrew, Bozeman, Butte, Colstrip, Deer Lodge, Dillon, Ennis, and Forsyth were authorized to elect an additional commissioner. The next ten churches in the directory are Harlowton, Hysham, Jordan, Lewistown, Manhattan, Miles City, Philipsburg, Poplar, Stanford, and Terry.