



February 13, 2019

The First Presbyterian Church of Billings is looking forward to hosting the March 8-9 meeting of the Yellowstone Presbytery. The church is located on the corner of Poly Drive and 13th Street West. Lots of parking is available in the church's parking lot. Information is provided below about registration, lodging, meals, and nursery care.

Registration:

Registration will be held in the church's gallery beginning at 11:00 AM on Friday, March 8.

Lodging:

There are many hotels in the Billings area. We recommend the Quality Inn Homestead Park located at 2036 Overland Ave. They can be reached at (406) 652-1320. This hotel provides a free full breakfast, pool, and fitness center at a reasonable rate. Other hotels near the church include the Home2 Hilton Hotel located at 2611 7th Ave North (252-2255) and the Best Western Clock Tower Inn located at 2511 1st Ave North (259-5511).

Meals:

The church will provide a free lunch at 12noon on Friday in the fellowship hall. The evening meal on Friday will be served for a cost of \$7/person. If special dietary needs are requested, please e-mail Pastor Dave Thompson at pastordave@fpcbillings.org or call/text him at 696-4913. The church will also provide snacks on Friday and Saturday.

Nursery Care:

If nursery care is needed, please contact Pastor Dave Thompson at the contact number below and we can arrange to have a nursery attendant provide care during the meeting.

We look forward to having you join us!

Pastor Dave Thompson
pastordave@fpcbillings.org
406-696-4913



Year: _____ EXPENSE VOUCHER
YELLOWSTONE PRESBYTERY
Attn: Treasurer, Sheryl Hallin
PO Box 1254, Bozeman, MT 59771

More forms available on website: www.yellowstonepcusa.org

Please complete the voucher, including your signature and the signature of one other person (Stated Clerk, Committee, Commission, Council, or Presbytery Moderator). Two signatures are required. Attach documentation and receipts for all expenses except mileage.

*** Must submit within 30 days of expense**

Pay to:
NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

NOTE: Presbytery mileage reimbursement is \$0.25 per mile. For car pooling, add \$0.05 per mile per additional passenger.

Acct # _____ For _____

Meeting Location _____ Date _____ \$ _____

Acct # _____ For _____

Meeting Location _____ Date _____ \$ _____

Acct # _____ For _____

Meeting Location _____ Date _____ \$ _____

Acct # _____ For _____

Date _____ \$ _____

TOTAL VOUCHER AMOUNT \$ _____

YOUR SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER/MODERATOR

If you would like to make a donation to the Presbytery, please do so with a check payable to the Presbytery so that you can obtain a donation letter at year end.

Treasurer's Use Only

Date of Check: _____ Number of Check: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Remaining Budget: _____ As of: _____

CHART OF ACCOUNTS

Please use the following account numbers when completing the voucher on the reverse side. This list does not include all account numbers. Please contact the Treasurer at the presbytery office if you have any questions.

PRESBYTERY OFFICE

8201.2400 Copies & Postage
8201.4000 Misc.
8201.7400 Supplies
8201.7500 Telephone/Conference Calls

PRESBYTERY

7601.3500 Task Force Meetings
7901.3500 Presbytery Meetings
7901.4000 Presbytery Other

LEADERSHIP CABINET

7601.3500 Cabinet Meetings
7601.4000 Cabinet Other

PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM/VOCATIONS

5.01.2840.0000 PMT/Vocation Meetings
5.01.2853.4000 PMT/Vocations-Other

CAMPING PROGRAM – EXPENSES

5.01.1351.2400 Copies & Postage
5.01.1351.3200 Insurance
5.01.1351.5700 Publicity
5.01.1360.1400 Camp Staff
5.01.1360.2900 Food
5.01.1360.4000 Misc. expenses
5.01.1360.6200 Rental Equipment
5.01.1360.7400 Supplies
5.01.1360.7490 Swimming
5.01.1360.7710 Transportation-Bus
5.01.1360.8300 Utilities Westminster Spires
5.01.1350.6010 Triennium
5.01.1390.4000 Events, Misc.
5.01.1395.4000 Admin Travel & Meals

REPRESENTATION/NOMINATIONING TEAM

5.01.3401.3500 Rep/Nom Meetings
5.01.3401.4000 Rep/Nom Other

ST. TIMOTHY'S

5.01.4301.3500 St. Tim's Meetings
5.01.4301.4000 St. Tim's Other

DELEGATES TO OTHER BODIES

5.01.5201.3500 Delegates' Meetings
5.01.5201.4000 Delegates' Other

THE PRESBYTERY OF YELLOWSTONE MEETING REGISTRATION

Date: _____

Name: _____

Church: _____

Address: _____

Street or Box #

Town

Zip

Phone: _____ E- Mail: _____

I am a: _____ Minister Member of Yellowstone Presbytery.

I am a: _____ CRE commissioned to pastoral service in Yellowstone Presbytery.

I am a: _____ Elder Commissioner (elected by my church)

I am a: _____ Ruling Elder but not a voting commissioner.

I am a: _____ Elder Member of YP (as defined in Standing Rules)

I am a: _____ Corresponding Member (Presbytery of _____).

I am a: _____ Visitor.

Yellowstone Presbytery Elder Commissioner Report Form

Thank you for serving your congregation as an Elder Commissioner to this meeting of Yellowstone Presbytery!

One of the most important responsibilities of an Elder Commissioner, beyond active participation in the meeting, is reporting back to the session, and possibly to your congregation, on what happened at the meeting.

To assist you in making your report, the following outline may be helpful. Keep this sheet with you throughout the meeting. Make notes on it from time to time on decisions made, resources offered and times when the Holy Spirit was obviously present.

Date and Location of the meeting: _____

Date and Location of the next meeting: _____

Presbytery Discussions and Decisions the Session should know about or act upon...

Resources and Presentations offered by the presbytery:

Churches / Pastors / Programs of Yellowstone Presbytery that need our prayers:

I sensed God's leading / presence when... or I felt most engaged when:

Upcoming Events:

Vision Statement

Yellowstone Presbytery--guided and sustained by Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and prayer---is a community rooted in the love of Jesus Christ.

We will . . . **Gather Together** for God's glory and spiritual synergy*

Equip and Encourage disciple- making congregations and leaders for living the Gospel...intentionally becoming more like Christ; ably sharing our faith; impacting our communities; worshipping in loving response to God; and mutually supporting and training leaders.

Go Out to join Christ in Christ's mission in our communities, Montana, and the world... embodying and sharing Christ's Good News; loving and serving, as we are commanded, in our words, actions, and relationships.

*Synergy: from the Greek syn-ergos, *συνεργος* meaning working together

PRESBYTERY OF YELLOWSTONE PRESBYTERY MINI-CONFERENCE DOCKET Friday and Saturday, March 8-9, 2019 First Presbyterian Church, Billings, MT

Loved and called, gifted and equipped and -> sent to join Christ in Christ's mission For God's glory and the world God loves - Stan Ott

**Following The Leader –Jesus:
What did/does it look like to follow Jesus today?**

Friday, March 8, 2019

10:15 am Coffee
10:30 am – Noon **Workshop by Mark Frey, Board of Pensions**
 “Serving the Servants of the Church: Caring for
 Your Church Employees”

GATHERING TOGETHER

11:00 am Registration Desk Opens
Noon Lunch and Fellowship
1:00 pm Opening Prayer
 Welcome from the Host Church
 Roll Call, Declaration of a Quorum
 Procedural Motion, Omnibus Motion, Approval Of Docket
 EQUIPPING & ENCOURAGING

1:25 pm **Worship – Dwelling In The Word**
 Equipping and Encouraging Part 1:
 Following The Leader – Jesus
 What did Jesus do? What did the disciples do?
 (see bulletin insert/flyer)

2:55 pm **Mark Frey, Board of Pensions**
3:03 pm **Break**
3:23 pm **Equipping and Encouraging Part 2**
 Following The Leader – Jesus
 What do we do? Patterns, Practices, Priorities

5:00 pm **Rob Hagan, Presbyterian Foundation**
5:05 pm **Leadership Cabinet Report, part 1**
5:15 pm **Co-Presbyters Report**

5:25 pm **Camping and Youth Ministry Report** (evening offering to benefit Westminster Spires Scholarship Fund)

- 5:35 pm Pastoral Ministry Report, part 1**
Including: Retirement of Rev. Priscilla Bell
- 5:50 pm First Reading of Rep/Nom report – nominations**
- 5:55 pm Announcements**
- 6:00 pm Dinner – (\$7.00 pay at registration desk)**
- 7:00 pm Worship**
Installation of Moderator and Vice Moderator, Necrology Report,
Rev. Daniel Triller preaching; offering to benefit Westminster Spires Scholarships

Following worship there will be a time of prayer for our leaders, our families, and our churches.

Saturday, March 9, 2019

- 8:00 am Opening Worship – Dwelling In The Word**
Equipping and Encouraging Part 3
Following the Leader – Jesus
A case study in a culture of disciple making and disciple sending:
Westminster Spires – Panel of Camp Directors and young adults
- 10:00 am Break**
- 10:20 am Good News from churches –**
- 10:45 am Rep/Nom Report - election**
Leadership Cabinet Report part 2
Child and Youth Protection Policy updates – congregations
Training Opportunities/partnerships for leaders, pastors...
General Assembly Overtures 18-A, 18-C, 18-F
- PMT Report part 2**
Overtures 18-B (18-B1 & 18-B2), 18-D, 18-E, 18-G, 18-H (18-H1 & 18H2)
- PJC Report**
Overtures 18-G, 18-H
- Stated Clerk Report**
Any Omnibus Motion action items removed from motion for consideration
Any Additional Reports requiring Presbytery action
PW

SENT OUT TO JOIN CHRIST IN CHRIST'S MISSION

- 11:55 Recap of Meeting**
Announcements
Closing Prayer

Future Presbytery Meetings:

- June 8, 2019 Regional Gatherings for Teleconference Meeting**
TBD Equipping and Encouraging Retreat
November 1-2, 2019 First Presbyterian Church in Lewistown, MT

**Leadership Cabinet Report
Yellowstone Presbytery
March 8-9, 2019
First Presbyterian Church, Billings MT**

The Leadership Cabinet met for their regularly scheduled meetings in January and February. We have done the following:

- Evaluated the 2018 Goals to determine which goals had not yet been met, which to keep working on or change, and new ones to add.
- Continue to plan our gatherings of the Presbytery so that they give hands and feet to our Vision and Goals.
- Created a general Child and Youth Protection Policy for tweaking and adoption by each congregation.
- Approved the Corporation Letter for the State of Montana naming the officers of the corporation.
- The Personnel sub-committee is strong and moving forward.
- Authorized moving monies from various funds and the reserve to balance our budget. There will be no monies from the Synod of the Rocky Mountains this year.
- Discussed the General Assembly Overtures assigned to Leadership Cabinet and are ready to make referrals to the Presbytery.
- We are collecting interpretive pieces for Per Capita - what it is and what it does - for churches to use in their bulletins, newsletters, and mailings.
- Future to-do: update the Administrative Manual.
- We are still in process regarding two Presbytery properties: Oswego and Geysers.
- We are in dialogue with Wyoming Presbytery on an educational event in Jackson, WY the weekend of June 2, 2019.

**Motion from the Leadership Cabinet (for Saturday)
To elect Caroline Fleming as Moderator of Representation/Nominating Ministry Team and
Lanny Rounds as Rep/Nom member, class of 2021.**

Draft GOALS for 2019

1. Encourage and Create a Disciple-Making Culture
 - a. Collecting and sharing stories of God at work
 - b. Enticing sessions to use Dwelling in the Word and/or Word-Share-Pray
 - c. Do more with "Growing Young" by activating a sub-group of new and experienced leaders to help guide the Leadership Cabinet and Presbytery to further explore and practice the principal tenets from "Growing Young"
 - d. Develop habits, practices, and mindsets of modeling discipleship in our leaders

- e. Examine the roles, calls, and communication of pastors, ruling elders, and lay leaders in today's environment
2. Support Spiritual Nurture of Pastors, CREs, and Lay Leaders
 - a. Continue using the Presbytery Prayer Calendar and integrate it into cluster meetings, session meetings, worship services....
 - b. Provide more resources to pastors
 - i. Free retreats (using online resources)
 - ii. Create supportive relationships among pastors
 - c. Create a healing ministry by identifying gifts and call of presbytery members---pastors, leaders, church members, and participants---everyone
 3. Foster Community in the Presbytery
 - a. Presbytery Sunday
 - i. Find an organizer for Presbytery Sunday
 - b. Collect Stories
 - i. Stories of God's work and mission stories
 - ii. Identify collector of stories
 - c. Explore mission opportunities
 - i. John 20:19-23
 1. Could this scripture be used as this year's theme for the Leadership Cabinet?
 - ii. Identify Mission facilitator
 4. Examine God's Provision for God's Mission
 - a. The 4 T's
 - i. Time
 - ii. Talent
 - iii. Tithe
 - iv. Treasure
 - b. Explore grants, new people, new worshipping communities
 5. Support Staff
 - a. Encourage Personnel sub-committee
 - b. Examine staffing models

Yellowstone Presbytery Leadership Cabinet recommendations for GA Amendments 18-A and 18-F

18-A

Shall G-2.0401 of the Form of Government be amended as follows?

[Text to be deleted is shown with strike through; text to be added or inserted is shown in italic.]

“G-2.0401 Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons

“Ruling elders and deacons are men and women elected by the congregation from among its members. The nomination and election of ruling elders and deacons shall express the rich diversity of the congregation’s membership and shall guarantee participation and inclusiveness (F-1.0403). Ruling elders and deacons shall be nominated by a committee elected by the congregation, drawn from and representative of its membership. ~~Congregations may provide by their own rule for a congregational nominating committee, provided that the committee shall consist of at least three active members of the congregation, and shall include at least one ruling elder who is currently serving on the session.~~ *Congregations may provide by their own rule for a congregational nominating committee. The rule shall meet the following criteria: (1) the minimum size of the committee as specified in the rule shall be at least three persons; (2) at least one member of the committee shall be an elder currently serving on session; and (3) a majority of those persons on the committee who are eligible to vote shall consist of persons not currently serving on session.* The pastor shall serve ex officio and without vote. When elections are held, full opportunity shall always be given to the congregation for nomination from the floor of the congregational meeting by any active member of the congregation. A majority of all the active members present and voting shall be required to elect.”

The Leadership Cabinet of Yellowstone Presbytery thought these election requirements were reasonable for our many smaller churches and recommends the presbytery concur with this amendment.

18-F.

Shall W-4.0202 be amended as follows:

[Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“W-4.0202 Welcoming to the Table

“In cases where baptized children who have not yet begun to participate in the Lord’s Supper express a desire to receive the Sacrament, ~~the session should provide an occasion to welcome them~~ *they shall be welcomed* to the table ~~in public worship.~~ *Their introduction to the Lord’s Supper should include—and the session should ensure they receive* ongoing instruction or formation in the meaning and mystery of the Sacraments.”

The Leadership Cabinet of Yellowstone Presbytery recommends the presbytery concur with this amendment.

The Yellowstone Presbytery Leadership Cabinet recommends presbytery approval of GA Amendment 18-c.

“Shall G-3.0104 of the Form of Government be amended by adding the following statement as the last paragraph to read as follows?

[Text to be added is shown as italic.] ***“No congregation, session, presbytery, synod, or national office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), nor any individual acting on behalf of or in an official capacity for the above institutions, shall publicly endorse or oppose, or otherwise encourage or discourage others to vote for or against an individual running for public office.”***

Rationale for Approval by the majority of the Leadership Cabinet:

1. The taking of public, political stands specifically for or against a particular candidate is almost always divisive to a congregation, session, or presbytery and unnecessarily disrupts the “peace unity and purity of the church.” This is particularly true in our rural congregations in which a diversity of political opinions is present.
2. This amendment protects the session or presbytery from being manipulated by a pastor or cadre. It also protects the freedom of conscience of the pastor from being bullied into speaking for or against a particular candidate by governing bodies.
3. It protects churches from lawsuits which may result from a pastor or session speaking out against a candidate in an election, thus maintaining compliance the Johnson Amendment of 1954 to the U. S, Tax Code which prohibits tax-exempt institutions, such as churches, from speaking out for or against candidates to influence elections.
4. There is a movement to repeal the Johnson Amendment, which if it happens, would remove this protective provision from the church.

Rationale for Disapproval by the minority of the Leadership Cabinet:

1. This amendment limits the freedom of conscience and the speech of pastors and governing bodies, for we believe that “God alone is Lord of the conscience.”
2. To speak from the pulpit for or against a candidate will almost certainly be divisive to a congregation, and should never be done except in extreme circumstances and never without prayerful reflection and advice from other leaders in the church or community.
3. But there may be times when justice and conscience compel the taking of a stand in a way that is mindful of but regardless of consequences. John the Baptist spoke out against King Herod’s sin – and took the consequences. The German Church has often been criticized for not speaking out against the rising Adolf Hitler.
4. The minority would have preferred a proposed amendment to the overture suggested by the Committee for Social Witness Policy which read: “[No] Except in cases of extreme danger to the common good, and even then with cautions against extreme partisanship, no congregation, session, presbytery, synod, or national office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), nor any individual acting on behalf of or in an official capacity for the above institutions, shall publicly endorse or oppose, or otherwise encourage or discourage others to vote for or against an individual running for public office.” But it was not approved by the 2018 GA.

The Leadership Cabinet of Yellowstone Presbytery recommends, with a minority report, the presbytery concur with this amendment.

Camping and Youth Report
Yellowstone Presbytery
March 2019

Winter Youth Retreat

The Winter Youth Retreat will be held at the Butte Presbyterian Church on the weekend of February 22-24. We will gather after dinner on Friday evening, ski at Discovery on Saturday, worship with the Butte congregation on Sunday and depart for home with sack lunches after worship. Fellowship, recreation and study will fill out the balance of the schedule. Registration information is available on the Yellowstone Presbytery website.

Revamp the Camp

May 31-June 2- Our major focus this year will be cleaning and painting. Everyone is invited to join us for a few days at camp to help prepare the buildings and grounds for the upcoming camp season. Contact Sandy Welch at 861-1691 if you plan to be with us at Westminster Spires for Revamp the Camp. No experience required! This is a fine time of fellowship, work, service and time to be in God's presence in the mountains.

Westminster Spires Camps 2019

July 10-13- Staff Training
July 14-18- Elementary Camp
July 21-26- Junior High
July 28- Aug. 2- Senior High

Camp brochures and registration forms are available on the Yellowstone Presbytery website.

Bill Scott has been our cook for the past ten years. Our deepest thanks to Bill and Belinda for their loving service and great meals and snacks through the years! Unfortunately, the Scotts will not be returning this summer. This summer our camp staff will prepare breakfast and lunch, and Denise Hash from Red Lodge will be our dinner cook. Denise lives in Red Lodge, so this will work out well for everyone!

Cynthia Kessler has been our crafts leader and first aid consultant for the past six years. Her love of the campers, amazing creativity with crafts, tender care of medical mishaps and steady leadership made her a most valuable member of the staff. We will be looking for a staff person to carry on our great tradition of creative craft time at camp.

Daniel and Callie Triller from Dillon will join us to lead one of the camps. George Goodrich will return to provide leadership for Staff Training and two of the camps.

Many of our veteran counselors are moving on with their lives as they graduate from college, so we hope to bring on a number of counselors in training (CITs) to build a foundation for the staff of the future. If you know any young people that might be interested and have the skills to be a part of this ministry, please encourage them to apply. Contact Curt Kochner (406-672-4547) for more information. Staff applications are available on the Presbytery website.

The Camping and Youth Committee will meet at Billings First Presbyterian Church following the Yellowstone Presbytery meeting in Billings on March 9.

2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University in Indiana

Depart Billings: Sunday, July 14
Triennium: July 16-20
Return to Billings: Tuesday, July 23

Contact: Pastor Dave Thompson at First Presbyterian Church in Billings
Pastor Dave Email: pastordave@fpcbillings.org
Phone: 406-696-4913

Clerk Report Nov -2018 to March-2019

Nov 2- 3, 2018 attended Presbytery meeting in Bozeman MT. This was my second stated meeting and I thought I was better prepared, however the volunteers who were to work the registration did not get on the registration desk until just before the meeting opening time and as a result the process did not go smooth for the delegates. The short notice cancellation of the Mark Fry Pension pre meeting seminar also caused some issues and adjustments to the registration process.

On Nov 8, 2018 the PMT Met in Billings and Bozeman via conference call and minutes were prepared. The PMT is working on getting more involvement between the liaisons and their assigned churches. A second effort is helping churches without pastors get help with the PNC function. It appeared 5 churches will be without an installed pastor at the end of 2018. RE Margee Smith of Lewistown is moving forward to being commissioned as a CRE under the guidance of the PMT. Prayers for her and her learning to have a positive outcome are in order.

A letter with instructions was sent to the membership regarding the need for each church to comply with the Book of Order provision requiring them to establish a child and youth protection policy. The clerk prepared a draft of a policy a church can use to easily adopt the required policy along with a form to be returned to the presbytery office as to when this policy will be adopted. This work of the churches is being closely monitored by the office of the presbytery and the Stated Clerk to help insure all our youth are provided protection from abuse as they participate in church activities. At this report time only 2 of our 23 churches have developed a session approved policy so we have a long way to go.

On Dec 13, 2018 the LC met in Bozeman and minutes were prepared. Planning for next year's presbytery meetings began and a focus on equipping disciples was planned.

Work of the Clerk in December includes getting the instruction letter out to the church clerks and pastors with the invoices for the per capita billing being mailed. The clerks and pastors also received several emails regarding reports we need to have to be able to remember our elders who have passed on to be with God. The reporting functions get to be a lot of work since we always have some turnover in church clerks and pastors who need to be trained in the process. Between January and February almost every day a communication related to the reporting process needed to be addressed.

The PMT met in Bozeman January 10, 2019 and minutes of the meeting were prepared. New committee members were introduced and briefed on the work of the PMT. The liaison list was reviewed and updated to make the change in membership fit the church assignments.

The LC met January 15, 2019 in Billings and a few members called in to the meeting due to weather conditions. This was the meeting the cabinet looks forward to activities in 2019 and found volunteers to plan for the upcoming meetings. One focus was on "How did Jesus change the culture, habits, and mind set of the church in His time". "How did He do it?" It will be interesting to see if anything happens to alter the course of our churches are taking as we work and study together. The cabinet did a review of the 2018 goals and how they were or were not met and began the process of setting goals for 2019.

The personnel committee met with me via phone call Feb 8 and reviewed job related issues that have needed attention since I began as clerk in April 2018. I appreciate to work of this committee to help staff with issues that affect our work for the presbytery. This is a long overdue function and I appreciate the

Cabinet having set up this function and review process. Since I have not completed a year cycle in this position.

I attended by phone a special meeting of the PJC on February 12 at 7:30 PM. The PJC elected rev MWS Jody McDevitt to moderate the commission. RE John Patterson was elected temporary secretary. The clerk was called upon to help organize the newly elected membership and assure leadership was decided. The PJC will report on the discipline section of the BoO overtures we will vote on at the March meeting.

I had a staff meeting in Bozeman On February 22nd to update the status of our records and get materials prepared for the March Meeting. I find it essential to visit the presbytery office once in a while to complete filings and work with staff to get things done that cannot be done via mail or phone calls.

The PMT met March 14 2019 and minutes were taken. The clerk reported to the PMT that session clerk documents have not been reviewed for some time and a provision to get them reviewed will be needed.

The Clerk attended a meeting of Stated Clerks of the Synod on March 19 in Denver for review of our minutes of the meetings of the presbytery in 2018. Our document review was done by Mark Kernning acting stated clerk of the Plains and Peaks Presbytery. He and the review indicated we were missing a few actions and these included:

1. We are not recording a review of session minutes and approving them. Most of the presbyteries present require the session clerks to attend one of the presbytery meetings closest to them annually and bring the records to the stated clerk for review. Some make this a training meeting time after the regular meeting time or before and help the clerks understand what has been updated and what is needed in the recording process. Our administrative rules will need amending before this can be a policy.
2. The financial books of the presbytery need an annual independent financial review and this has not been done and recorded as having been accomplished. Suggestions for correction were made and selection of a financial document and process review resulted in several options. Responsibility to get this work completed may fall within our leadership cabinet to arrange.
3. The PJC membership list needed to be recorded as to current and past members still active with the presbytery at least once per year. The reason for tracking names of past members is so if needed they can be called to review cases both pending and continuing as or as a resource for a current case. We have in our directory the current names and contact information for our PJC but have not listed past members who can be called upon to assist.
4. Our Nominating Committee and the Committee on Representation which is a separate required function in the Book of Order are not shown as reporting to the presbytery in the documents. This could be because we have combined the functions due to our size and resources available. It appears we need to work on a modification to our administrative rules and/or our standing rules to define the nature of these separate functions so that their actions can be recorded in our minutes.

My report for the March meeting will include an update of the presbytery status on the following items:

- A. Change in the membership number as a part of our annual statistical report.
- B. A comment on the % of worshipers classed as friends and a total number comparison.

- C. % of mission giving vs % of staff cost.
- D. The PCUSA per capita invoice dated Oct 31, 2018 in the amount of \$13,170.00 was sent to the treasurer for payment.
- E. A letter from Abington Presbytery was received and indicated that MWS Paul Cannon will remain an at large member of Yellowstone Presbytery.
- F. A letter of thanks for financial support in amount of \$1,000.00 was received from Intermountain.
- G. A letter from the Mid Kentucky Presbytery accepting MWS Susan Barnes into their membership was received on Jan 15, 2019.
- H. A letter from Utah Presbytery requesting transfer of membership of Steve Weber to the Utah Presbytery. This requires our previous approval to the Kendall Idaho presbytery be modified to move Steve to the Utah Presbytery instead.
- I. We need to accept the reports of the administrative commissions who met in 2018 and dismiss those whose work is completed. This includes the commission to ordain and install Garret Mostowski at FPC Miles City, MT and to install Daniel Triller at the FPC of Dillon, MT. These commissions need to be dismissed with the thanks of the presbytery for their work. The work of the Geyser administrative committee is to be reported as ongoing.

End of Report

Jim Tarr

Stated Clerk

Yellowstone

Yellowstone Presbytery, PCUSA
Permanent Judicial Commission
Meeting Minutes
2/12/19 7:30 p.m.

Members present: Neva Rathbun, Sharla Helland, Pam Jackson, John Patterson and Jody McDevitt. Jim Tarr also attended as Stated Clerk

The telephone meeting was called by Jody McDevitt specifically to 1) Elect a moderator and 2) To determine our recommendations to the Presbytery relative to proposed Amendments to the Book of Order.

The opening devotion, very pertinent to the PJC, was a discussion of Proverbs 12:1-3 and an opening prayer by Jody McDevitt.

Jim Tarr, Stated Clerk, spoke with the Commission about our responsibility relative to selecting a Moderator and Secretary and making a recommendation at the March Presbytery Meeting relative to the proposed Amendments to the Book of Order.

Jody McDevitt was nominated and elected as Moderator of the PJC. John Patterson offered to serve as Secretary, at least for this meeting.

It was moved and approved that the Commission concurs with the proposed Amendments to the Book of Order:

D-2.0203b “b. An offense is any act or omission by a member or a person in an ordered ministry of the church that is contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). *Sexual abuse as defined in Section D-10.-4-1c shall be considered contrary to the Scriptures or Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and therefore an offense for purposes of these rules.*”

D-10.0401b “b. For instances of sexual abuse of another person, the five-year time limit shall not apply. *There is also no time limit for charging that a person who knew or reasonably should have known of the reasonable risk of sexual abuse of another as defined in D-10.0401c (1) or (2) failed to take reasonable steps to minimize the risk. Both charges may be brought regardless of the date on which an offense is alleged to have occurred.*”

D-10.0401c “(1) any person under the age of eighteen years or anyone ~~over the age of~~ ~~eighteen years~~ without the ~~mental~~ capacity to consent, or”

Jody McDevitt, as PJC Moderator will present the PJC’s concurrence with the Amendments at the March Presbytery meeting.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Neva Rathbun.

Pastoral Ministry Team
Presbytery Report
March 8-9, 2019

The purpose of the Pastoral Ministry Team is to come alongside of churches, sessions, and pastors to provide encouragement, support, and training as we work together to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

A. Welcome New Members to the PMT:

We are happy to welcome the following new members to our ministry team:

Elder Debbie Blackburn from Manhattan
The Rev. Debbie Funke from Manhattan
Elder Graham Smith from Dillon

B. The Retirement of the Rev. Priscilla Bell:

We wish to thank the Rev. Priscilla Bell for her years of service with our Presbytery and the larger denomination. We will take time during our report to recognize and appreciate her as she honorably retires.

C. Margee Smith as a CRE Seeker:

Margee Smith continues her study as a Seeker with the Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) program. Margee is an elder from Lewistown and is making good progress toward commissioning.

D. PMT Input on General Assembly Amendments to the Constitution:

A sub-team of the PMT was appointed to look at the General Assembly amendments to the Constitution which pertained to the scope and breadth of our ministry team. The Rev. Dan Krebill will provide rationale to our below recommendations at the time the amendments are discussed and voted upon during the meeting.

<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>PMT Recommendation</u>
18-B (18-B.1 and 18-B.2)	Renunciation of Jurisdiction	PMT recommends a No vote
18-D	Membership of Presbytery	PMT recommends a Yes vote
18-E	Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor	PMT recommends a Yes vote
18-G	Disciplinary Offense	PMT recommends a No vote
18-H (18-H.1 and 18-H.2)	Time Limit	PMT recommends a Yes vote

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Dave Thompson, Chair
Pastoral Ministry Team
Yellowstone Presbytery

REPRESENTATION/NOMINATION TEAM REPORT TO YELLOWSTONE PRESBYTERY
March 2019

The Representation/Nomination Team met via conference call once in January 2019 to discuss possible candidates for two partial terms on the Camping and Youth Ministry Team left open when both Katie Emery and Susan Barnes left the Presbytery late in 2018. The team sought people who were qualified and felt called to serve. Representation/Nomination Team members worked quickly and efficiently in seeking qualified people to say “yes” to God’s call for service. I am, as always, grateful for team members Jody McDevitt, Robert Culbertson, Teresa Kendall and George Goodrich, our faithful staff person, for the good job they do.

The Camping and Youth Ministry Team has a fairly good, though not perfect, balance of TE/RE, male/female, cultural background, and geographic representation. The largest discrepancy is in the male/female balance of three males and five females serving if those nominated are elected. The highest priority was given to finding and nominating the right persons to the available positions.

Respectfully submitted, Caroline Fleming, Team Moderator

ACTION ITEM:

The Representation/Nomination Team commends to Yellowstone Presbytery RE Missy Turner of Butte to serve a one-year term, and MWS Dan Triller of Dillon to serve a two-year term on the Camping and Youth Ministry Team.

The entire team is listed below so you can see the representation balance on the team:

CAMPING and YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM (8 members)

2019 Moderator: RE Curt Kochner

Class of 2019 RE – Curt Kochner (2019 Moderator of Camping and Youth Ministry Team)

RE – Missy Turner

MWS – Cathy McLean

Class of 2020 RE – Cynthia Kessler

MWS – Dan Triller

Class of 2021 MWS - Garret Mostowski

RE - Sandy Welch

Kristin Kochner

Narrative Report
Yellowstone Presbytery
Budget & Finance
March 8-9, 2019 Presbytery Meeting

Our report has several attachments, which serve to supplement this narrative. The attachments are the various year end reports prepared by our Treasurer, Sheryl Hallin, as well as a spreadsheet analyzing the status of our reserve funds.

The Leadership Cabinet is pleased to once again report the positive results on these financial statements for 2018. The budget for the Administrative portion of our operations called for transfers from reserve funds of over \$45,000, yet due to generous contributions to the administrative support account as well as conservative spending throughout the year, we only required reserve transfers of a third of the budgeted amount. In addition the Program side of operations only required reserve transfers of one-tenth of the amount originally budgeted. This was primarily a result of generous mission giving from our congregations and larger than expected camp rentals and donations.

You may recall that the 2019 budget passed by this Presbytery at our November meeting anticipates transfers from reserves totaling some \$54,000 on the Administrative side and \$9,000 for Program activity. To keep you informed of the status of these reserves we have attached a spreadsheet outlining this activity. These reserves are crucial to our continued existence in our current form. The Leadership Cabinet continues to monitor this and explores ways to extend the life of this body we all love.

We thank our congregations as well as individuals within our boundaries and beyond for their generous support. We are blessed by God's good grace to be able to continue our vital ministry in this Yellowstone country we all call home.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Holland, Budget & Finance
406-388-0878
djhollandcpa@mindspring.com

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2018

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Page 1 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Beginning Balance	YTD Balance
Assets			
1.00.1010.0000	Checking Account #3133214	89,430.61	11,858.40
1.00.1020.0000	Petty Cash	22.18	22.18
1.00.1030.0000	Money Market #129013355	185,118.51	185,303.72
1.00.1031.0000	St Timothy M. M #1 #3531961	1,500.00	1,500.00
1.00.1032.0000	St. Timothy MM #2 #129013686	1,500.00	1,500.00
	Total Current Assets	\$277,571.30	\$200,184.30
1.00.1040.0000	Beartooth Electric Coop	1,337.70	1,337.70
	Total Other Assets	\$1,337.70	\$1,337.70
1.00.1065.0000	St Timothy Chapel #1 52001085	246,376.70	282,702.42
1.00.1070.0000	St Timothy Chapel #2 52006024	92,249.03	98,881.61
1.00.1072.0000	St Timothy #3 New Covenant Fund	20,695.43	20,719.62
1.00.1075.0000	Bozeman Campus 000104537	60,971.10	61,042.32
1.00.1080.0000	Partnership Fund MM 129013793	45,312.00	45,339.19
	Total Principal Restricted	\$465,604.26	\$508,685.16
	Total Assets	\$744,513.26	\$710,207.16
Liabilities			
2.00.2120.1000	Payroll - Federal	682.44	990.06
2.00.2120.2000	Payroll State	1,469.00	1,591.00
2.00.2140.0000	G. Goodrich Flex Plan	(0.53)	(0.53)
2.00.2141.0000	S. Seibert Flex Plan	(0.37)	(0.37)
	Total Payroll Liabilities	\$2,150.54	\$2,580.16
2.00.2160.0000	Prepaid 2016 GP Expenses	1,245.29	1,245.29
	Total Liabilities	\$3,395.83	\$3,825.45
Fund Balance			
3.01.2700.0000	Unreserved Fund Balance	15,187.51	15,187.51
3.02.2800.0000	General - Administrative	8,255.07	8,255.07
3.03.2805.0000	General - Program	37,136.97	35,531.63
3.04.2700.0000	General - Restricted Admin.	45,587.77	45,587.77
	Total General Fund Balance	\$106,167.32	\$104,561.98
3.19.2815.0000	Camp Scholarship Camp. & Youth	3,553.04	993.04
3.27.2825.0000	Clergy Emergency Fund COM	1,160.00	1,160.00
3.39.2840.0000	Linda Hofer Education	17,488.40	18,427.40
3.43.2845.0000	Equip and Encourage	37,830.44	37,830.44
3.47.2850.0000	Partnership- Available COM	1,780.45	1,807.64
3.49.2700.0000	Co-General Presbyters' Discretionary	450.14	450.14
3.51.2855.0000	Peace Making Offering Mission	1,916.32	2,979.16
3.56.1220.0000	Special Offering Other Fund	0.00	1,099.40
3.63.2870.0000	Revamp Camp -Camp. & Youth	845.95	1,645.95
3.65.2825.0000	Springhill Funds	2,563.74	0.00
3.67.2875.0000	St. Timothy's Money Market #1	1,510.00	1,510.00
3.68.2877.0000	St Timonthy Money Market #2	1,637.16	1,637.16
3.75.2885.0000	Social Justice	6,136.57	6,321.78
3.85.2850.0000	Westminister Spires Camp Upgrades Balance	2,083.41	376.52
	Total Designated funds	\$78,955.62	\$76,238.63
3.69.2825.0000	Triennium Balance	8,231.94	8,231.94
3.72.2872.0000	St. Timothy #3 New Covenant Fund Balance	20,695.43	20,719.62
3.86.2850.0000	Grant - Evangelism Balance	1,250.13	1,250.13
3.90.2910.0000	Higher Education Grant Fund	28,931.10	24,202.32
3.92.2920.0000	St.Timothys #1 (PC USA) Found	246,376.70	282,702.42

**Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2018**

Thursday, January 17, 2019

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Account #	Account Name	Beginning Balance	YTD Balance
3.93.2921.0000	St. Timothys #2 (PC USA) Found	92,249.03	98,881.61
3.94.2930.0000	Partnership Fund Principal COM	43,999.71	43,999.71
	Total Restricted Fund Balances	\$441,734.04	\$479,987.75
3.50.2875.0000	Co-General Presbyters' Study Leave Balance	1,400.00	0.00
3.64.2825.0000	Rural Ministry Grant Balance	3,753.00	457.78
3.66.2850.0000	West Yellowstone Funds Balance	54,000.00	41,311.90
3.80.2850.0000	Workshop Balance	220.00	106.72
3.81.2850.0000	Restricted Disaster Balance	1,650.00	0.00
3.82.0000.0000	PDA Wildfire Grant Balance	7,500.00	0.00
3.91.2915.0000	Presbytery Continuing Education	3,716.92	3,716.92
3.95.4000.0000	St. Timothy Roof Repair Balance	42,020.53	0.03
	Total Fund Balance	\$741,117.43	\$706,381.71
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$744,513.26	\$710,207.16

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Treasurer's Report as of December 2018 for General Fund (Administrative)

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Page 1 of 3

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Income					
4.01.1000.0000	Per Capita Presbytery Inc.	944.72	66,735.36*	62,231.00	(4,504.36)
4.01.1010.0000	Per capita Synod	80.74	5,703.12*	5,342.00	(361.12)
4.01.1020.0000	Per capita GA	179.54	12,682.52*	11,799.00	(883.52)
	Per Capita	\$1,205.00	\$85,121.00	\$79,372.00	(\$5,749.00)
4.01.1821.0000	Block Grant - Administrative	0.00	19,514.60*	10,000.00	(9,514.60)
	Synod Partnership Funds	\$0.00	\$19,514.60	\$10,000.00	(\$9,514.60)
4.01.1900.0000	Administrative Support	24,350.00	38,279.00*	35,000.00	(3,279.00)
	Total Other income	\$24,350.00	\$38,279.00	\$35,000.00	(\$3,279.00)
4.01.4005.0000	Transfer-Springhill Fund	2,563.74	2,563.74	3,000.00	436.26
4.01.4010.0000	Transfer-W. Yellowstone	12,688.10	12,688.10	30,000.00	17,311.90
4.01.4020.0000	Transfer-Gen.Admin Fund	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
4.01.4030.0000	Transfer-Restricted Admin Fund	0.00	0.00	5,563.00	5,563.00
	Transfers	\$15,251.84	\$15,251.84	\$46,563.00	\$31,311.16
	Total Income	\$40,806.84	\$158,166.44	\$170,935.00	\$12,768.56
Expense					
5.01.2840.0000	COM/Vocation Meetings	0.00	2,875.93	6,000.00	3,124.07
5.01.2845.4000	COM/Vocation Other Expenses	0.00	0.00		
5.01.2846.4000	Pastoral Discernment Team	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
	Pastoral Ministry Team	\$0.00	\$2,875.93	\$7,500.00	\$4,624.07
5.01.3401.3500	Nomination Meetings	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00
5.01.3401.4000	Nominations Other	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
	Committee on Nominations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
5.01.4301.3500	St. Tim's Meetings	0.00	23.75	250.00	226.25
5.01.4301.4000	St. Tim's Other	0.00	43.46	50.00	6.54
	Com. on St Timothys Chapel	\$0.00	\$67.21	\$300.00	\$232.79
5.01.5201.3500	Delegate's Meetings	0.00	140.80	600.00	459.20
5.01.5201.4000	Delegates Other	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
	Delegates to Other Bodies	\$0.00	\$140.80	\$650.00	\$509.20
5.01.6700.3800	Medicare/Social Security	279.02	3,531.90	3,600.00	68.10
5.01.6700.8100	Work Comp Insurance	0.00	0.00	375.00	375.00
5.01.6700.8200	Unemployment Taxes	0.00	44.31	150.00	105.69
	Payroll Taxes	\$279.02	\$3,576.21	\$4,125.00	\$548.79
5.01.7001.4000	Per Capita GA Expenses Misc	0.00	13,110.08*	13,110.00	(0.08)
5.01.7002.4000	Per Capita Synod Expense Misc	0.00	5,936.00	5,936.00	0.00

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Treasurer's Report as of December 2018 for General Fund (Administrative)

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Page 2 of 3

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
	Per Capita	\$0.00	\$19,046.08	\$19,046.00	(\$0.08)
5.01.7301.1100	Admin Mgr.Benefits	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
5.01.7301.6600	Admin Mgr Salary	2,090.08	25,080.96	25,081.00	0.04
5.01.7301.7800	Admin Mgr Travel	0.00	0.00	120.00	120.00
5.01.7301.8100	Admin Mgr FLEX Plan	0.00	0.00		
	Admin. Manager	\$2,090.08	\$27,080.96	\$27,201.00	\$120.04
5.01.7302.3100	Housing	1,666.66	19,999.92	20,000.00	0.08
5.01.7302.3600	GP Lodging	0.00	111.19	500.00	388.81
5.01.7302.3700	GP Meals	317.62	1,795.38*	1,350.00	(445.38)
5.01.7302.4000	GP Miscellaneous	1,252.44	1,252.44*	700.00	(552.44)
5.01.7302.4001	Miscellaneous Expenses - Kathy	1,316.40	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
5.01.7302.4900	GP Pension	1,321.17	15,854.04	19,217.00	3,362.96
5.01.7302.6600	Salary Exp.	654.16	9,499.92	9,500.00	0.08
5.01.7302.7300	Study Leave	0.00	700.00	700.00	0.00
5.01.7302.7500	GP Telephone & Conference Calls	109.40	970.95	1,500.00	529.05
5.01.7302.7800	GP Travel	3,641.95	8,615.81*	7,500.00	(1,115.81)
5.01.7302.8100	FLEX Plan Expenses Exp.	0.00	0.00		
	General Presbyter	\$10,279.80	\$60,799.65	\$62,967.00	\$2,167.35
5.01.7304.3700	Stated Clerk Meals	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
5.01.7304.4000	Stated Clerk Miscellaneous	0.00	504.67*	500.00	(4.67)
5.01.7304.4900	Pension Exp.	640.98	3,845.83	3,846.00	0.17
5.01.7304.6600	Stated Clerk Salary	1,030.82	12,769.90*	12,370.00	(399.90)
	Stated Clerk	\$1,671.80	\$17,120.40	\$16,766.00	(\$354.40)
5.01.7306.6600	Treasurer Salary	626.66	7,519.92	7,520.00	0.08
	Treasurer	\$626.66	\$7,519.92	\$7,520.00	\$0.08
	Personnel	\$14,668.34	\$112,520.93	\$114,454.00	\$1,933.07
5.01.7601.3500	Council Meetings	0.00	3,412.29*	2,500.00	(912.29)
5.01.7601.4000	Council Other	0.00	252.95	500.00	247.05
5.01.7601.8100	Legal	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.01.7801.3500	Task Force Meetings	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
	Leadership Cabinet	\$0.00	\$3,665.24	\$4,500.00	\$834.76
5.01.7901.3500	Presbytery Meetings	0.00	6,780.08	7,600.00	819.92
5.01.7901.4000	Presbytery Other	17.24	333.94	700.00	366.06
	Presbytery Expenses	\$17.24	\$7,114.02	\$8,300.00	\$1,185.98
5.01.8201.2400	Office Copies & Postage	105.00	325.00	1,200.00	875.00
5.01.8201.2600	Equipment Exp.	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Treasurer's Report as of December 2018 for General Fund (Administrative)

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Page 3 of 3

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
5.01.8201.3200	Insurance Exp.	0.00	1,425.60	1,500.00	74.40
5.01.8201.4000	Office Miscellaneous	365.49	(644.63)	460.00	1,104.63
5.01.8201.6100	Rental -Office	690.00	4,140.00	4,200.00	60.00
5.01.8201.7400	Office Supplies	150.41	1,172.89	1,800.00	627.11
5.01.8201.7500	Office Telephone & Conference Calls	111.47	2,741.16*	2,500.00	(241.16)
	Presbytery Office	\$1,422.37	\$9,160.02	\$11,860.00	\$2,699.98
	Total Expense	\$16,386.97	\$158,166.44	\$170,935.00	\$12,768.56
	Difference	\$24,419.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	

* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Treasurer's Report as of December 2018 for General Fund (Program)

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Page 1 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Income					
4.01.1210.0000	General Mission Pledge	5,800.00	30,025.00*	21,500.00	(8,525.00)
	Pledge	\$5,800.00	\$30,025.00	\$21,500.00	(\$8,525.00)
4.01.1420.0000	Summer Camp Fees	0.00	9,345.00	11,500.00	2,155.00
4.01.1430.0000	Winter, Summer, Fall Events	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
4.01.1440.0000	Rental of Camp Facilities	0.00	6,450.00*	4,000.00	(2,450.00)
4.01.1445.0000	Other Camp Income (Gifts)	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
4.01.1459.0000	Camp Other Income	139.59	3,822.85	0.00	(3,822.85)
	Camp Income	\$139.59	\$19,617.85	\$22,500.00	\$2,882.15
4.01.4090.0000	Transfer from Reserves	1,605.34	1,605.34	16,592.00	14,986.66
	Program Transfers	\$1,605.34	\$1,605.34	\$16,592.00	\$14,986.66
	Total Income	\$7,544.93	\$51,248.19	\$60,592.00	\$9,343.81
Expense					
5.01.1351.2400	Copies & Postage Exp.	139.59	658.59*	100.00	(558.59)
5.01.1351.3200	Insurance	213.56	6,495.83*	6,292.00	(203.83)
5.01.1351.5700	Publicity	0.00	713.11*	200.00	(513.11)
5.01.1360.1200	Camp Caretaker	333.33	3,999.96	4,000.00	0.04
5.01.1360.1400	Camp Staff	0.00	12,207.38*	12,000.00	(207.38)
5.01.1360.2900	Food	0.00	3,113.77	3,500.00	386.23
5.01.1360.4000	Miscellaneous Exp.	518.00	1,278.00*	200.00	(1,078.00)
5.01.1360.6200	Rental Equipment-Rafting	0.00	920.00	1,000.00	80.00
5.01.1360.7400	Supplies	0.00	1,132.03*	500.00	(632.03)
5.01.1360.7490	Swimming	0.00	124.00	150.00	26.00
5.01.1360.7710	Transportation-Bus	0.00	902.11*	350.00	(552.11)
5.01.1360.8300	Utilities: Westminster Spires	449.87	3,901.66*	2,750.00	(1,151.66)
5.01.1380.6010	Triennium	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
5.01.1390.4000	Events Miscellaneous	0.00	80.00	4,000.00	3,920.00
5.01.1395.4000	Admin Travel & Meals	0.00	502.08*	400.00	(102.08)
	Camping & Youth	\$1,654.35	\$36,028.52	\$36,942.00	\$913.48
5.01.2849.7700	Committee on Ministry-Training	0.00	426.81	1,000.00	573.19
5.01.2852.4000	Emergency Career Counseling Exp.	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.01.2853.4000	Vocations-Other	0.00	0.00	1,700.00	1,700.00
5.01.2854.4000	Congregation Ministry Misc	142.86	142.86	1,000.00	857.14
	Pastoral Ministry Team	\$142.86	\$569.67	\$4,700.00	\$4,130.33
5.01.3185.4000	Intermountain Childrens Home	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
5.01.3285.4000	Whitworth Fellows	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Treasurer's Report as of December 2018 for General Fund (Program)

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Page 2 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
	Leadership Cabinet		\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00
5.01.5851.4000	MAC Membership Miscellaneous	0.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00
5.01.5852.4000	MAC Representation Misc	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
	Mt. Association of Churches		\$0.00	\$3,800.00	\$300.00
5.01.7950.4000	Presbytery Program Other	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
5.01.7960.4000	Cluster Meetings	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.01.7970.4000	Allocated GP Salary	775.00	7,650.00	7,650.00	0.00
	Presbytery Expenses	\$775.00	\$7,650.00	\$11,650.00	\$4,000.00
	Total Expense	\$2,572.21	\$51,248.19	\$60,592.00	\$9,343.81
	Difference	\$4,972.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	

* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date

Administrative Reserve Funds:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Balance @ 1/1/2018</u>	<u>Actual transfers required for 2018</u>	<u>Balance available for 2019</u>	<u>Budgeted 2019 transfers</u>	<u>Anticipated balance available for 2020</u>
General Admin. Reserve	8,255.07	0.00	8,255.07	0.00	8,255.07
Restricted Admin. Reserve	45,587.77	0.00	45,587.77	14,930.00	30,657.77
Springhill Fund	2,563.74	2,563.74	0.00	0.00	0.00
West Yellowstone Fund	<u>54,000.00</u>	<u>12,688.10</u>	<u>41,311.90</u>	<u>40,000.00</u>	<u>1,311.90</u>
Total Admin.	110,406.58	15,251.84	95,154.74	54,930.00	40,224.74

Program Reserve Funds:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Balance @ 1/1/2018</u>	<u>Actual transfers required for 2018</u>	<u>Balance available for 2019</u>	<u>Budgeted 2019 transfers</u>	<u>Anticipated balance available for 2020</u>
General Program Reserve	<u>37,136.97</u>	<u>1,605.34</u>	<u>35,531.63</u>	<u>9,472.00</u>	<u>26,059.63</u>
Total Program	37,136.97	1,605.34	35,531.63	9,472.00	26,059.63

St. Timothy's Memorial Chapel Committee (STMCC)
Report to Yellowstone Presbytery
March – 2019

Information -

2018 Summer Worship – We had a total of 446 worshipers in attendance at our 13 worship services. This is a minimal increase over those present in 2016. However, the Offering was \$5,350 – a 20% increase over 2016.

Columbarium – Plans are to develop a brochure on the columbarium for distribution and to place that brochure on our web site.

Chapel Roof – The Chapel was reroofed in September.

2019 Pastors – For years we have

Rev. Andrew Mullins – All of June.

Rev. Dr. Paul Hayden, All of July and August.

Music Concerts – Five Music Concerts are scheduled for 2019.

Weddings – Seven weddings are currently scheduled for 2019.

2019 Maintenance Projects – Next spring we are faced with a number of maintenance projects. While many are small we need to replace the pump for the well at a cost of near \$9,000. Estimated costs for all projects are included in the budget adopted by the committee.

Action items –

- 1. The St. Timothy's Memorial Chapel Committee requests that the presbytery rescind the St. Timothy's Financial Procedures document.**

When the revised document was approved by the presbytery in May of 2018 I commented that the Management Group, after a year or two of experience may bring a recommendation to Presbytery to rescind the document.

I met with George on February 14th. His email documenting the results of that discussion are attached.

-----Original Message-----

From: george@yellowstonepcusa.org [<mailto:george@yellowstonepcusa.org>]

Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2019 2:20 PM

To: Jim Tarr <statedclerk@yellowstonepcusa.org>; AsstStatedClerk@yellowstonepcusa.org; Teresa Kendall <teresakendall@mac.com>; kagoodrich@aol.com; Ron Hanson <hanson_ron@bresnan.net>; Jack Bell <bell.jack@gmail.com>

Subject: St Timothy's Chapel update - Important

Ron Hanson and I spoke this afternoon... we are prepared to recommend the following:

That the management team (which would meet by phone once a year to review the financial condition of St. Timothy's) be deactivated. No appointments from LC would be necessary.

However, because the Chapel is a ministry of the Presbytery and the property is deeded to the presbytery that the following proposed procedures be put in place....

The St Timothy's Board continue:
Function and oversee the ministry... And...

That Jack Bell and I, or others as the LC may recommend attend Chapel board meetings three times a year...

That year-end financials and reports from the St. Tim's Board be submitted to the LC and Presbytery for review and approval.

That the Budget for the following summer of ministry at the Chapel be presented by the St. Tim's Board to the presbytery at the first presbytery meeting of the year.

That at least once a year, at the spring meeting, St Timothy's be highlighted as a ministry of the presbytery and the members of presbytery be invited to participate when on vacation in the Georgetown Lake area...

Thoughts?

George

2. The St. Timothy's Memorial Chapel Committee requests that the presbytery review its 2018 year-end financial report and approve the budget the committee adopted budget for 2019.

The document covering both of these elements is attached. This request follows the agreement that George documented in his February 14th email.

St. Timothy's Chapel

2019 Revenue

General Fund

<u>Revenue Category</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>
Chapel Fees	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,450.00	\$600.00
Cards/Miscellaneous Income	25.00	866.41	25.00
Sunday Offerings	5,300.00	4,471.50	5,000.00
Memorials/ Donations	250.00	680.41	250.00
Interest	0.00	212.42	200
Dividends	3,200.00	2,445.45	3,600.00
Presbytery	11,500.00	11,410.52	11,500.00
Wedding Income	1,050.00	1,277.86	700.00
Transfer from Savings	<u>5,375.</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>	<u>10,285.00</u>
Total	\$27,300.00	\$25,814.57	\$32,160.00

Special Projects

<u>Revenue Category</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>
Roof Replacement	\$57,000.00	\$66,999.97	-0-

Restricted Funds

<u>Revenue Category</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>
Columbarium Sales	\$9,000.00	\$9,850.00	\$7,500.00

All Funds

<u>Revenue Category</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>
Grand Total	\$93,300.00	\$102,664.54	\$39,660.00

St. Timothy's Chapel

2019 Expenditures

General Fund

<u>Expenditure Category</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>
Buildings and Grounds	\$4,900.00	\$6,158.99	\$ 6,000.00
Custodial Srv Chapel	1,440.00	2,560.00	2,400.00
Ministerial Services	3,900.00	4,200.00	3,900.00
Music Services	1,820.00	1,680.00	1,820.00
Operating Supplies	850.00	41.25	250.00
Chapel Utilities	3,000.00	3,785.58	3,000.00
Manse Utilities	750.00	497.34	750.00
Special Assessments	1,000.00	350.00	1,000.00
Telephone	600.00	389.23	600.00
Miscellaneous	300.00	1,547.25	300.00
Chapel Maintenance	5,750.00	5,610.00	9,000.00
Manse Maintenance	750.00	27.95	1,500.00
Printing/Advertising	1,400.00	264.96	800.00
Custodial Srv. Weddings	840.00	470.00	840.00
Transfer to savings	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$27,300	\$27,582.55	\$32,160.00

Special Projects

<u>Expenditure Category</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>
Roof Replacement	\$57,000.00	\$67,500.00	0.00

Restricted Funds

<u>Expenditure Category</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>
Columbarium Landscaping	\$400.00	\$1,154.00	\$400.00
Columbarium Irrigation/Misc.	1,000.00	329.00	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
			\$1,400.00

All Funds

	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>
Grand Total	\$85,700.00	\$96,565.55	\$33,560.00

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

Proposed Amendments to the *Book of Order*

Approved by the 223rd General Assembly (2018) and
recommended to the presbyteries for their vote.



Including: Note from the Stated Clerk, a list of the proposed amendments
with advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, and an index.

NOTE FROM THE STATED CLERK

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved and recommended to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes proposed changes in the language of the *Book of Order* that, if approved, will amend the Constitution.

With each proposed amendment, reference is made to an item number that indicates the General Assembly Committee report and action related to each proposed amendment. These item numbers also indicate where to find other background information from various entities that was available electronically to the General Assembly commissioners. This information may be accessed through PC-Biz at <https://www.pc-biz.org>. The item number references will also be found in the *Minutes of the 223rd General Assembly (2018)*, which are expected to be available to the presbyteries by the time they consider the amendments. The full advice of the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC) and other advisory entities can be found immediately following the item in the *Minutes* for which the advice is given.

Unless otherwise indicated, new language to be added to the *Book of Order* is in italics and any language to be stricken will have a line through it. In providing rationale and advice for each item, direct quotations from the various groups that presented or commented on these items before the General Assembly is used whenever possible.

Presbyteries must report to the Office of the General Assembly a separate vote on each proposed amendment. A presbytery may vote on the amendments in a consent agenda or omnibus motion, as long as each proposed amendment is identified separately. Presbyteries are required to report their votes by June 23, 2019. However, in order to make the changes and publish the 2019–2021 *Book of Order* in a timely manner, receipt of votes prior to this deadline would be appreciated (by May 10, 2019, if possible).

Thank you for your careful and prayerful consideration of these proposed amendments.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "The Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

The Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

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18-A. Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons On Amending G-2.0401 (Item 06-11)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0401 of the Form of Government be amended as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with strike through; text to be added or inserted is shown in *italic*.]

“G-2.0401 Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons

“Ruling elders and deacons are men and women elected by the congregation from among its members. The nomination and election of ruling elders and deacons shall express the rich diversity of the congregation’s membership and shall guarantee participation and inclusiveness (F-1.0403). Ruling elders and deacons shall be nominated by a committee elected by the congregation, drawn from and representative of its membership. ~~Congregations may provide by their own rule for a congregational nominating committee, provided that the committee shall consist of at least three active members of the congregation, and shall include at least one ruling elder who is currently serving on the session.~~ *Congregations may provide by their own rule for a congregational nominating committee. The rule shall meet the following criteria: (1) the minimum size of the committee as specified in the rule shall be at least three persons; (2) at least one member of the committee shall be an elder currently serving on session; and (3) a majority of those persons on the committee who are eligible to vote shall consist of persons not currently serving on session. The pastor shall serve ex officio and without vote. When elections are held, full opportunity shall always be given to the congregation for nomination from the floor of the congregational meeting by any active member of the congregation. A majority of all the active members present and voting shall be required to elect.*”

Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Grace as Item 06-11. The Presbyteries of Grand Canyon, Muskingum Valley, Huntington, and de Cristo concurred. The Presbytery of Grace provided the following rationale [edited].

This proposed amendment clarifies the somewhat ambiguous language regarding the nominating committee membership.

The proposed changes set the minimum size of the nominating committee at three members, not including the pastor. This is ideal for small congregations yet also provides flexibility for churches to add more from this minimum.

The goal is to provide clarity while preserving the overall permission-giving nature of the Form of Government.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 06-11 as amended providing the following advice [edited]:

The Presbytery of Grace presents proposed language to clarify the minimum size of a congregational nominating committee and the requirement that a majority of the voting members of a congregational nominating committee be members-at-large of the congregation.

The proposed amendment provides helpful clarification to G-2.0401. The minimum size of a congregational nominating committee shall be three members, at least one member of which must be a ruling elder in active service on

the session. The minimum size of three is appropriate for smaller congregations. There is no maximum size for a congregational nominating committee.

The proposed amendment adds clarity and is consistent with past practice. The majority of a congregational nominating committee should be members-at-large of the congregation, not ruling elders currently serving on the session.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 54/0. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee's recommendation with amendment 478/3. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 69, 72, 592.)

For the full report of Item 06-11, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>

18-B. Renunciation of Jurisdiction

Background

These two proposed amendments, 18-B.1 and 18-B.2, (Item 06-09, Recommendations 1. and 2.) come out of the intent to clarify congregational prohibition and individual jurisdiction when a PC(USA) minister of Word and Sacrament renounces jurisdiction while in the midst of disciplinary proceedings and then wants to rejoin the PC(USA). [Editor's Note: The General Assembly approved the combination of two proposed amendments in one item. The advice on each of these proposed amendments come from the separate items, (Items 06-09 and 06-07) not on the combined items. In addition, the General Assembly asked that a third item similar be referred to the Rules of Discipline Task Force (Item 06-09, Recommendation 3.).]

18-B.1.

On Amending G-2.0509 (Item 06-09)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendments to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0509 be amended by striking the fourth paragraph and adding two new paragraphs to read as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added is shown as italic.]

~~“Whenever a former minister of the Word and Sacrament has renounced jurisdiction in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding as the accused, that former minister of the Word and Sacrament shall not be permitted to perform any work, paid or volunteer, in any congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) unless and until the person rejoins the church, comes forward and resubmits to the disciplinary process.~~

“No congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall be permitted to employ, for pay or as a volunteer, a former minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder) who has renounced jurisdiction in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding as the accused.

“Any former minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder) who has renounced jurisdiction and later wants to be restored to office can be restored only through application to the presbytery in which he or she renounced jurisdiction for restoration to office, in which case the provisions of D-10.0401d and D-12.0200 shall apply.”

Rationale

The proposed amendment 18-B.1 originated from the Presbytery of Central Florida as Item 06-09 and proposed amendment 18-B.2 originated from the Presbytery of The Twin Cities Area as Item 06-07 Recommendation 2 and added to Item 06-09 by the General Assembly. The Presbyteries of Albany, Grand Canyon, Muskingum Valley, Newton, North Alabama, Tropical Florida, Wabash Valley and de Cristo concurred with Item 06-09 and the Presbyteries of Albany, Denver, Grand Canyon, Missouri River Valley, Wabash Valley and de Cristo concurred with former Item 06-07 including Item 06-07 recommendation 2. The Presbytery of Central Florida provided the following rationale for Item 06-09 [edited].

The [former] amendments to G-2.0509, while intended to protect the church and its entities from ministers who have left the church without submitting to the constitutional process for establishing guilt or innocence and providing for repentance when repentance is needed, have instead created a situation in which the administration of justice, as defined

by the amendment, is impossible to carry out. By definition of the section itself, a person who has renounced jurisdiction no longer holds membership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The preamble to the Rules of Discipline defines the limits of church discipline as follows:

... The purpose of discipline is to honor God by making clear the significance of membership in the body of Christ; to preserve the purity of the church by nourishing the *individual within the life of the believing community*; to achieve justice and compassion for all participants involved; to correct or restrain wrongdoing in order to bring *members* to repentance and restoration; to uphold the dignity of those who have been harmed by disciplinary offenses; to restore the unity of the church by removing the causes of discord and division; and to secure the just, speedy, and economical determination of proceedings. ... (D-1.0101, emphasis added)

Since church discipline exists for the welfare of the believing community and applies to members of that community, a former minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder) who has renounced jurisdiction is no longer a member by action of the presbytery that removes his or her name from its rolls. In any complaint, the Rules of Discipline would apply to the congregation or other entity which employed that former minister. Should a former minister of the Word and Sacrament who has renounced jurisdiction wish to be restored to the ordered ministry of minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder), the process for restoration is spelled out in the Rules of Discipline, D-12.0200.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to answer Item 06-09 with action on Item 06-07 providing the following advice [edited]. The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to answer Item 06-07 recommendation #1 with disapproval and refer recommendation #2 to the Rules of Discipline Task Force. They provided the following advice [edited].

Both Items 06-07 and 06-09 would amend G-2.0509 on renunciation of jurisdiction. Each proposes correcting a perceived flaw in the language of the last paragraph of G-2.0509. The approaches are different and do not achieve the same end. There is a comprehensive description of the issues related to renunciation of jurisdiction in the advice on Item 06-07 that will provide helpful background for consideration of this overture as well.

There are particular issues inherent in Item 06-09 [18-B.1]. The first sentence of Item 06-09 addresses the actions of a congregation. The second sentence of Item 06-09 [18-B.1], addresses actions of a former minister. Each part is discussed separately below.

... The Advisory Committee on the Constitution finds that the first paragraph would place requirements on the congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the PC(USA), rather than on a former minister who has renounced the jurisdiction of this church and, therefore, is no longer subject to its jurisdiction and discipline. Section G-2.0509 is about ministers of the Word and Sacrament and their actions in renouncing jurisdiction. Insertion of requirements for a congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the PC(USA) interrupts the flow and sense of this section.

... The Advisory Committee on the Constitution finds that the second paragraph presents some matters of concern.

- Having struck the requirement for rejoining the church in the existing text of G-2.0509, if approved, the new language would eliminate any requirement for membership before “application” for restoration.
- It would require “application” to the presbytery. “Application” is not defined, nor are there any criteria for considering such an “application.”
- Most significantly, it assumes that renunciation of jurisdiction is equivalent to removal from ordered ministry in judicial process. A person who seeks to be restored after the censure of removal (D-12.0201) has subjected him or herself to the discipline of the church and satisfied the requirements for restoration. A person who has renounced jurisdiction of this church in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding has avoided the discipline of this church. A 1989 authoritative interpretation specifies that one who renounces jurisdiction and seeks to return to ministry of the Word and Sacrament “should first come again under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a member of a particular church and then initiate the process and procedures found in G-2.06, Preparation for Ministry (formerly G-14.0300, Preparation for the Office of Minister of the Word and Sacrament).” The proposed language of Item 06-09 conflicts with this and would not require membership in the church.

[Editor's note: As noted in their advice above, the ACC provided advice on Item 06-07, which also applies to Item 6-09 since they recommended answering Item 06-09 with Item 06-07. The applicable advice is as follows.]

Return to Ordered Ministry

When a former minister renounced jurisdiction while a disciplinary case against him or her was pending, and now desires to return to ordered ministry in the PC(USA), additional process is required. Renunciation is not the removal of a person's status in ordered ministry, but a voluntary abandonment of it. A minister of the Word and Sacrament who renounced jurisdiction may not be *restored* to ordered ministry and the office of minister of Word and Sacrament because the person voluntarily acted in a manner to negate that status. This is particularly true where the minister renounced while a disciplinary case was pending against him or her and thus refused to be subject to church discipline.

1. A person who has renounced jurisdiction while subject to a disciplinary process and who is a minister in good standing of another denomination may seek to have those credentials recognized under G-2.0505.
2. A person who has renounced jurisdiction while subject to a disciplinary process and who is not a minister in good standing in another denomination or whose credentials are not recognized by the PC(USA), must do so as a member of a congregation through the process of G-2.06, Preparation for Ministry.

18-B.2.

On Amending D-10.0401d (Item 06-09)

Shall D-10.0401d be amended to read as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“For instances where a former minister of the Word and Sacrament ~~comes forward in self-accusation to undergo a disciplinary process to regain permission to perform work under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (G-2.0509)~~ who renounced jurisdiction while being accused in a disciplinary case rejoins the church, no time limit from the time of the commission of the alleged offense to the filing of charges shall apply. Charges based on all accusations that had been made by the time that the former minister of the Word and Sacrament had renounced jurisdiction may be brought regardless of the date on which any such offense is alleged to have occurred.”

Rationale

The proposed amendment 18-B.1 originates from the Presbytery of Central Florida as Item 06-09 and proposed amendment 18-B.2 from the Presbytery of The Twin Cities Area as Item 06-07 Recommendation 2. The Presbyteries of Albany, Grand Canyon, Muskingum Valley, Newton, North Alabama, Tropical Florida, Wabash Valley, and de Cristo concurred with Item 06-09 and the Presbyteries of Albany, Denver, Grand Canyon, Missouri River Valley, Wabash Valley and de Cristo concurred with former Item 06-07 including Item 06-07 Recommendation 2. The Presbytery of Central Florida provided the following rationale for Item 06-09 [edited].

How the Book of Order's Currently Mandated Disciplinary Process in G-2.0509 and D-10.0401d Is Inconsistent with the Preamble of the Rules of Discipline

Recently adopted language in the *Book of Order* may seem to be merely a compassionate response to former ministers of the Word and Sacrament who renounced jurisdiction while being accused in a disciplinary case, who may have done so because of pressing family or medical reasons, for example. The current process allows former teaching elders to rejoin the church, but does not require them to face accusations until sometime in the future when they themselves choose to come forward, in self-accusation, to resume the disciplinary process. However, requiring the disciplinary process to resume only when the accused chooses to come forward in self-accusation is inconsistent with

five out of seven of the purposes of discipline stated in the Preamble of the Rules of Discipline (D-1.0101), because such a process (1) tramples on victim's rights, (2) is not likely to remove causes of suspicion, and (3) is not likely to bring perpetrators of offenses to repentance, especially if many years pass between when the accused renounces jurisdiction and when the accused chooses to resume the disciplinary process.

The Preamble of the Rules of Discipline state that three of the purposes of discipline are:

- “to achieve justice and compassion for all participants involved;”
- “to uphold the dignity of those who have been harmed by disciplinary offenses;”
- “to secure the just, speedy, and economical determination of proceedings.” (D-1.0101)

When an accusation is made, victims have a right to see a fair and impartial investigation go forward with all deliberate speed (up to and including a trial, if necessary), so that, whatever the outcome of the disciplinary process², victims feel free to put memories of painful events in the past, and move on with their lives. However, under the current process in the *Book of Order*, victims (and perhaps their families or friends) may feel compelled to have to constantly prepare to testify about abusive events, just in case they ever receive notice from a new investigating committee that the accused wants to resume the disciplinary process, which could be at any time in the future of the accused's choosing. It is cruel, inhumane, and anything but “speedy,” to expect victims to keep hanging on to evidence of abuse and to relive painful memories for months, years, or even decades in the future, on the perhaps slim chance that the accused might rejoin the church and choose to resubmit to the disciplinary process. In the words of a theological seminary advisory delegate to the 2016 General Assembly (2016), the process in G-2.0509 and D-10.0401d as now written “punishes victims.”

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to answer Item 06-09 with action on Item 06-07 providing the following advice [edited]. The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to answer Item 06-07 recommendation #1 with disapproval and refer recommendation #2 to the Rules of Discipline Task Force. They provided the following advice [edited].

Part 2

Recommendation 2 of Item 06-07 would amend D-10.0401d to add words to make clear the section applies only to a former minister of the Word and Sacrament who renounced jurisdiction of the PC(US.) while a disciplinary proceeding was proceeding against him or her as the accused. There is a task force working on a revision to the Rules of Discipline. The amendment to D-10.0401d (Recommendation 2 of Item 06-7) should be referred to it.

Advice from the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns

The Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 06-09 for its greater clarity of language in amending the *Book of Order*, G-2.0509 and approve Item 06-07 Recommendation 2.

While ACWC supports the above changes, they are inadequate. Unless victims have the right to a fair and impartial investigation with all deliberate speed, they will never feel free to put memories of painful events in the past and move on with their lives. Under the current ruling, however, former teaching elders are allowed to rejoin the church but are not required to face accusations and resume the disciplinary process until a time in the future of their own choosing. Thus, a predator can deliberately wait until after key witnesses have moved on with their lives, perhaps even died, or *the original* evidence is no longer available.

Advice from the Office of the General Assembly

The Office of the General Assembly advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) advises that all items, including Items 06-09 and 06-07, amending the Rules of Discipline, be referred to the Rules of Discipline Task Force, which is

currently revising the Rules of Discipline as a whole and will report with suggested changes to the 224th General Assembly (2020).

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 54/3. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee's recommendation with amendment 466/7. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 71–72, 588.)

For the full report of Item 06-09, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>

18-C. Officers

On Amending G-3.0104 (Item 06-16)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-3.0104 of the Form of Government be amended by adding the following statement as the last paragraph to read as follows? [Text to be added is shown as italic.]

“No congregation, session, presbytery, synod, or national office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), nor any individual acting on behalf of or in an official capacity for the above institutions, shall publicly endorse or oppose, or otherwise encourage or discourage others to vote for or against an individual running for public office.”

Rationale

The proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as Item 06-16. The Presbytery of de Cristo concurred. The Presbytery of Western North Carolina provided the following rationale for Item 06-16 [edited].

Since 1954, the Johnson Amendment has been a provision in the United States tax code prohibiting charitable organizations, including churches, from endorsing or opposing political candidates. This allows for charitable organizations to qualify for tax exemption and qualifies donations to these organizations as tax-exempt. In recent years, there has been discussion regarding the repeal of this amendment; those in favor of repeal claim that the amendment infringes on the first amendment rights of clergy and other leaders of religious and charitable organizations while those in favor of maintaining the statute fear that a repeal would lead to religious and charitable organizations becoming safe-havens for tax-exempt and un-reported political contributions.

While full repeal of the Johnson Amendment has not yet come to fruition, action has been taken to loosen the interpretation and implementation of the statute when churches and secular charitable organizations are found to be in violation.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has long supported the notion of the separation of church and state. We can see this throughout our Foundations of Presbyterian Polity. Section F-3.0101a and b affirms that “God alone is Lord of the conscience,” and that “We do not even wish to see any religious constitution aided by the civil power, further than may be necessary for protection and security, and at the same time, be equal and common to all others.”

While it is clear that the principles of this overture are present in abundance throughout the *Book of Order* and *Book of Confessions*, there is no explicit guidance offered to governing bodies or to those in leadership positions regarding endorsing or opposing candidates running for political office. This amendment to the *Book of Order* precludes such activity while still allowing for churches and leaders to actively engage with secular issues that touch on the life of faith, to work towards bringing God’s reign of justice and peace ever closer to reality.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) disapprove Item 06-16 providing the following advice [edited].

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina summarizes the history of the “Johnson Amendment,” and anticipates change to that statute. Because the Johnson Amendment has not yet been revoked or altered, it is premature for the assembly to address anticipated statutory change. The overture would reverse long-standing foundational principles of our denomination and have long-reaching effects on the church,

Individual Discernment and Diversity of Religious Belief

Presbyterians begin with a firm and fundamental belief in the private discernment of religious belief. Section F-3.0101 sets forth and affirms the historic principle that “God alone is Lord of the conscience” and that “in all matters that

respect religion” “we consider the rights of private judgment ... as universal and inalienable.” Holy Scriptures are the only rule of faith, and church power in matters of religious belief is limited as explained in F-3.0107. This first historic principle of church order (F-3.0101) was affirmed and explained in the policy statement, “God Alone Is Lord of the Conscience.”¹ The principle that God alone is Lord of the conscience both reflects and underlies many other foundational² and confessional³ statements in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

“Religious bodies and people of faith hold to a wide variety of convictions, ideas, and values that make important contributions to the shape and strength of public life. That life has been shaped by individuals and groups that have sought to create new forms, sustain traditional ones, challenge existing ideologies and reform or resist unjust institutions. Participation is thus viewed by the government sometimes as a blessing and at other times as a threat” (*God Alone*, p. 48; see also F-1.404). Because the individual is the bearer of conscience, it does not matter whether others of the same faith make the same conscientious claim. *God Alone*, p. 19. “Religious tolerance and pluralism are our political and societal norm. We do not perfectly achieve that norm and intolerance has not been eliminated....” (*God Alone*, p. 7).

Formation of Conscience in Community

While Presbyterians emphasize individual belief, we also recognize the importance of community and our shared expression of belief. Discourse and expressions of diversity within the church are important to formation of religious conscience. As Presbyterians, we recognize that “The formation of conscience occurs in community, but its exercise is very often finally an individual matter” (*God Alone*, p. 19). It is a fundamental principle for our church and our country that “The individual’s right to believe cannot be divorced from the right to exercise that belief in the company and community of others. For nearly every human being, the right to practice religion only as a solitary individual is virtually no right at all” (*God Alone*, p. 12). “The exercise of individual and corporate conscience must be affirmed as an integral aspect of religious liberty.”⁴

Separation of Church and State

The freedom to express religious views in public is as important as the freedom to determine religious beliefs for oneself. For Reformed Christians, “faith demands engagement in the secular order and involvement in the political realm” (*God Alone*, p. 48). The so-called “separation between church and state” is “particularly misleading when used to advocate the separation of religion from politics or from any other dimension of the public order. The First Amendment has never meant separation of religion from community or separation of the church from public life. On their face, the religion clauses [of the U.S. Constitution] constitute an absolute prohibition on government participation in religious life; there is no hint that that barrier was even thought to isolate religion from the life of the republic” (*God Alone*, pp. 47–48).

Responsibility for Involvement in Public Life

The freedom and responsibility to express religious and moral views in public is an important part of our denominational principles and history. The Gospel demands that we share our faith and that we seek to be a community of faith witnessing to God’s good news and Christ’s teachings to the world in words and deeds. According to the Reformed tradition and standards of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), “it is a limitation and denial of faith not to seek its expression in both a personal and public manner, in such ways as will not only influence, but transform the public order and involvement in the political realm” (*God Alone*, p. 48). This principle reflects our foundational statements (F-1.0301, F-1.0304, F-1.0404), other parts of the *Book of Order* (e.g., W-5.0304), and our long-standing and important history of social witness to world.

Endorsement or Opposition to Political Candidates

“For these reasons, limitations upon the freedom of religious bodies to participate in public life are illegitimate and unconstitutional. The church is bound to reject any regulation limiting church advocacy or particular legislation or endorsement of candidates, or establishing religious qualifications for office holders” (*God Alone*, p. 50). Over the centuries, Presbyterians have stood up and spoken out against those who would silence the church and the faithful.

Internal Revenue Code provisions that limit tax-exempt religious organization from devoting “substantial” activity to attempts to influence legislation or participate or intervene in political campaigns on behalf of any candidate for public office, as well as recent public debate, heighten concerns about religious discourse about public life. There is a difference between discussion of issues and candidates, on one hand, and intervention in campaigns on behalf of specific candidates on the other” (*God Alone*, p. 50).

The 200th General Assembly (1988) specifically affirmed that: “We recognize that speaking out on issues will sometimes constitute implicit support or opposition to particular candidates or parties, where policy and platform differences are clearly drawn. Since such differences are the vital core of the political process, church participation should not be curtailed on that account; but we believe that it is generally unwise and imprudent for the church explicitly to support or oppose specific candidates, except in unusual circumstances” (*God Alone*, p. 50).

Each council should be mindful of these foundational principles and historical practice. “It is easy to step from advocating our vision to seeking to enforce it, from protecting religious liberty to requiring ‘right’ belief and action. The church must advocate its positions on public issues, but it should not seek to exercise political authority in its own right” (*God Alone*, p. 50).

Endnotes

1. *God Alone Is Lord of the Conscience* is a policy statement of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adopted by the 200th General Assembly (1988), and affirmed or cited by numerous subsequent General Assemblies and entities of the church. Hereafter “God Alone.”

2. Section F-1.0301 states the “Calling of the Church” is to be a community of faith, a community of hope, a community of love, and a community of witness. “The Great Ends of the Church” (F-1.0304) include “the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.” Section F-1.0404 explains the “Church seeks a new openness to God’s mission in the world.”

3. See, e.g., the Theological Declaration of Barmen and the Confession of 1967, which can be found in the *Book of Confessions*.

4. “The church is always obliged to respect claims of conscience lest it frustrate efforts to obey the will of God. We need not agree with the specific dictates of another’s conscience to respect and support the right to exercise that conscience. Paul told Christians that they were freed from Jewish dietary laws, but if the conscience of another is offended by eating certain foods, ‘for conscience sake—I mean his conscience, not yours—do not eat it’ (1 Corinthians 10:28–29). The obligation to respect the exercise of conscience is not only a dynamic of life within the church; it is both a demand and a dilemma of the First Amendment’s protection of religious freedom” (*God Alone*, p. 18).

Advice from the Advisory Committee for Social Witness Policy

The Advisory Committee for Social Witness Policy advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve 06-16 with suggested amendment providing the following advice [edited].

The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) advises approval as amended below: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through and with brackets; text to be added or inserted is shown with an underline and with brackets.]

“~~No~~ [Except in cases of extreme danger to the common good, and even then with cautions against extreme partisanship, no] congregation, session, presbytery, synod, or national office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), nor any individual acting on behalf of or in an official capacity for the above institutions, shall publicly endorse or oppose, or otherwise encourage or discourage others to vote for or against an individual running for public office.”

The substantial and generally fine General Assembly social witness policy on church/state relations, *God Alone Is Lord of the Conscience* (1988; <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/1-god-alone-is-lord-1988.pdf>) refuses to limit prophetic religious speech, but also recognizes the wisdom of our predominant practice. “The church is bound to reject any regulation limiting church advocacy or particular legislation or endorsement of candidates, or establishing religious qualifications for office holders.” But then, “There is a difference between discussion of issues and candidates, on one hand, and intervention in campaigns on behalf of specific candidates on the other.” And further, “... we believe that it is generally unwise and imprudent for the church explicitly to support or oppose specific candidates, except in unusual circumstances” (all three quotes from page 50).

The General Assembly spoke to the issues involved in the Tax Justice policy of 2014, reaffirming the principles behind the current 501.c.3 category, and further addressing the abuse of the 501.c.4 category of “social welfare institutions” for political purposes and personal enrichment:

Rules governing tax-exempt “social welfare organizations” (501(c)(4)s) should exclude or strictly limit the eligibility of donations for partisan political purposes, parties and candidates, and the individual and corporate donors to or through such organizations should be made public due to their influence on the political process (http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/acswp/pdf/acswp_tax_justice_42.pdf, p. 4).

The 222nd General Assembly (2016) addressed this matter even more directly, responding to Supreme Court decisions in the Citizens United and Voting Rights Act cases, which intensified the role of money in politics:

[The Assembly:] Endorses the continuing prohibition of partisan political endorsements by religious organizations or their leadership and other measures to respect both religious liberty and the separation of church and state. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) strongly supports the freedom of religious organizations to speak on matters of policy, but personal endorsements and partisan ties may present the appearance of or opportunity for collusion, special treatment, and the violation of nonprofit tax status. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/Election-Protection-and-Integrity-in-Campaign-Finance-2016-ACSWP.pdf>, pp. 2-3)

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 31/24. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee’s recommendation with amendment 370/99. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 73, 611.)

For the full report of Item 06-16, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>

18-D. Membership of Presbytery
On Amending G-3.0306 (Item 06-05)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall the fourth paragraph of G-3.0306 of the Form of Government be amended by adding the following statement as follows? [Text to be added is shown as italic.]

“Every minister of the Word and Sacrament shall ordinarily be a member of the presbytery where his or her work is situated or of the presbytery where she or he resides. The presbytery may grant a minister permission to engage in work validated ministry that is outside its geographic bounds or which is not under its jurisdiction, but no presbytery shall permit a minister to engage in work that is within the geographic bounds of another presbytery and which is properly within the responsibility of another presbytery without consent of that presbytery. Such permission shall be obtained from both presbyteries and shall be reviewed and renewed annually.”

Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Tropical Florida as Item 06-11. The Presbyteries of Central Florida, Greater Atlanta, Huntington, Wabash Valley and de Cristo concurred. The Presbytery of Tropical Florida provided the following rationale [edited].

The current Form of Government lacks clarity with regard to the seeking of and granting of permission for a minister member of a presbytery to labor beyond the geographic boundaries of the presbytery of membership. This overture provides clarity to the seeking of permission to labor within the geographic bounds of a presbytery beyond that of the minister of Word and Sacrament’s membership.

As “the presbytery is the council serving as a corporate expression of the church within a certain district” (G-3.0301), the presbytery needs to have knowledge of and oversight for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) witness within its geographic district. Without the Form of Government making it clear that permission must be granted by the presbytery for all validated ministry taking place within its bounds, the particular corporate witness of a presbytery within a certain district may lack unity of strategy for mission under the Word. The addition of this paragraph to the Form of Government enhances the presbytery’s capacity for unity in its corporate witness as strategy for mission under the Word.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 06-05 as amended providing the following advice [edited]:

Item 06-05 seeks to return to the *Book of Order* the mechanism for seeking permission to labor beyond the geographic bounds of membership of the minister of the Word and Sacrament. The ... text ... is based on the language that was in the 2009–2011 edition of the *Book of Order*.

The Form of Government (G-3.0306) establishes that each presbytery determines the ministers who are its members and validates the ministries in which they are to be engaged, following the criteria of G-2.0503a(1)–(5) and the policy developed by the presbytery for validating the ministries of its members.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 52/1. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee’s recommendation with amendment 442/13. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 71, 571.)

For the full report of Item 06-05, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>.

18-E. Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to Its Pastors and Congregations

On Amending G-3.0307 (Item 06-02)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-3.0307 of the Form of Government be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“G-3.0307 Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to Its ~~Pastors~~ *Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Congregations*

“Presbyteries shall be open at all times to communication regarding the life and ministry of their congregations.

“Each presbytery shall develop and maintain mechanisms and processes to serve as pastor and counselor to its ~~pastors, both ministers of the Word and Sacrament, and ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service (also called commissioned pastors (also known as commissioned ruling elders)), as well as the~~ *and certified Christian educators of the presbytery; to facilitate the relations between the presbytery and its congregations, ~~pastors ministers of the Word and Sacrament, commissioned pastors,~~ and certified Christian educators; and to settle difficulties on behalf of the presbytery where possible and expedient.”*

Rationale

The proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Santa Fe as Item 06-02. The Presbyteries of Grand Canyon, Muskingum Valley, Sierra Blanca, Southeastern Illinois, and de Cristo, concurred with Item 06-02. The Presbytery of Santa Fe provided the following rationale for Item 06-002 [edited].

The Presbytery of Santa Fe was one of the concurring presbyteries on the 2016 overture that became Amendment 16-C, Recommendations C.1 through C.8, ratified by a majority of the presbyteries. We are mindful of the valid criticism of Recommendation 16-C.6 (G-3.0307) raised by the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, as well as other concerns about repetitive wording. We believe this can be easily remedied by our proposed amendment.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 06-02 as amended providing the following advice [edited]:

The rationale for Item 06-02 focuses on the issue of repetitive wording in this section, but there is a more important issue that is corrected by this amendment.

The 222nd General Assembly (2016) approved Item 06-08 on amending the *Book of Order* to clarify titles to Ordered Ministry. Item 06-08 (2016) was a large amendment with seven recommendations, most which dealt with switching the default term for the ordered ministry of “teaching elder” to “minister of the Word and Sacrament.” In the process of approval, the 222nd General Assembly (2016) approved an amendment to G-3.0307 (sixth recommendation) to strike out the term “teaching elder” and insert not “minister of the Word and Sacrament,” but “pastor.”

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution called the attention of the assembly to an unintended consequence of this amendment, that by inserting the word “pastor” into the action defining who had access to the committee on ministry or its equivalent, the amendment was cutting off all ministers of the Word and Sacrament not serving as installed or temporary pastors from access to this committee or entity. Item 06-08 (2016) was approved and referred to the presbyteries without addressing this concern.

Item 06-02, if approved, will restore constitutional access to the committee on ministry or its equivalent to all minister members of the presbytery. It also deals with the issue of repetitive wording in this section with language that is clear and concise.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 52/0. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee's recommendation with amendment 464/3. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 70, 565–66.)

For the full report of Item 06-02, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>

18-F. Welcoming to the Table

On Amending W-4.0202 (Item 14-03)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall W-4.0202 be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“W-4.0202 Welcoming to the Table

“In cases where baptized children who have not yet begun to participate in the Lord’s Supper express a desire to receive the Sacrament, ~~the session should provide an occasion to welcome them they shall be welcomed to the table in public worship. Their introduction to the Lord’s Supper should include and the session should ensure they receive ongoing instruction or formation in the meaning and mystery of the Sacraments.”~~

Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Grace as Item 14-03. The Presbyteries of de Cristo, Grand Canyon, Huntingdon, Newton, and Palo Duro concurred. The Presbytery of Grace provided the following rationale [edited].

The current language “provide an occasion to welcome them” could be interpreted as the need to provide a “first communion” service for baptized children. If taken this way, the language could develop a mindset that baptized children must wait until a certain age or complete certain educational requirements before belonging at the table. This mindset would violate our understanding that the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are linked (W-3.0408 “Welcome”) and that “all who come to the table are to be offered the bread and cup regardless of their age or understanding,” (W-3.0409 “The Theology of the Lord’s Supper”).

Striking this phrase simplifies the wording while maintaining the intent—to welcome the baptized and provide them with ongoing instruction. The responsibility for instruction in baptismal identity and worship education and participation is addressed in W-4.0201 “Nurturing the Baptized,” W-2.0303 “Ruling Elders,” and W-2.0305 “Shared Responsibility and Accountability.” The issue of welcome to those not baptized is addressed in W-3.0409 “The Theology of the Lord’s Supper.”

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 14-03 providing the following advice [edited]:

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 14-03.

This amendment seeks to clarify that when children receive the Lord’s Supper for the first time, the Directory for Worship is not suggesting a service such as “first communion.”

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution finds that the overture has identified a possible contradiction between W-3.0409 and the current language of W-4.0202 and has provided an amendment to W-4.0202 that would resolve that contradiction. The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises that the proposed language is clear and consistent with the stated intent of the overture.

The Assembly Committee on Theological & Church Growth Issues and Institutions (14) voted to approve the proposed amendment with comment 50/1. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee’s recommendation with a voice vote. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 17, 1205.)

For the full report of Item 14-03, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000016/business>.

18-G. Disciplinary Offense

On Amending D-2.0203b (Item 06-04)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall D-2.0203b of the Rules of Discipline be amended as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“b. An offense is any act or omission by a member or a person in an ordered ministry of the church that is contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). *Sexual abuse as defined in Section D-10.0401c shall be considered contrary to the Scriptures or Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and therefore an offense for purposes of these rules.*”

Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of North Alabama as Item 06-04. The Presbyteries of Albany, Boise, Grand Canyon, Huntington, and de Cristo concurred. The Presbytery of North Alabama provided the following rationale [edited].

A recent ruling by a synod permanent judicial commission effectively indicated that actions in violation of a council’s sexual misconduct policy are not under the jurisdiction of the Rules of Discipline unless those actions are explicitly specified as contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution. The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) requires “all councils shall adopt and implement a sexual misconduct policy and a child and youth protection policy” (*Book of Order*, G-3.0106). In order to meet this requirement, actions or omissions in violation of these policies must have the capacity to be addressed through our disciplinary process; otherwise the policies are unenforceable. Furthermore, it should be implicit that actions that violate constitutionally required policies are by their very nature contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution. Decisions in prior disciplinary cases have supported this concept.

The members and congregations of the Presbytery of North Alabama wish to stringently affirm that sexual misconduct is sin. We believe past failure to confront this behavior has led to injustice and discord within the church, and scrutiny and litigation from without. We humbly ask the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to take an unequivocal stand for justice by equating this sin as an implicit violation of scriptural norms and constitutional ordination vows.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to disapprove Item 06-04 with comment. They provided the following advice [edited].

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to disapprove Item 06-04 with the following comment.

“While sexual misconduct is not condoned by Scriptures or the Constitution of the PC(USA), adding this language to the *Book of Order* is unnecessary. All councils and judicial commissions are admonished to consider sexual misconduct as contrary to the Scriptures and the Constitution of the PC(USA).”

Scriptures and the Constitution do not condone sexual misconduct or the abuse and endangerment of children and youth. Many acts involve impermissible sexual overtures, force, and misconduct. The assembly is reminded that the Constitution is not an enumeration of specific permitted or prohibited conduct, but rather a guide for all councils in administering their mission. Each council should be mindful that any act of sexual misconduct or child abuse is in violation of the Constitution. By singling out a particular violation of a particular policy, an inference might be made that violations of other policies are not contrary to the Scriptures and the Constitution.

Councils have the authority to establish and enforce their policies. Not all violations of a particular policy may be found to be contrary to Scripture or the Constitution. Violation of a council's sexual misconduct and/or child and youth protection policy may be procedural and may not rise to the level of a constitutional offense. The Rules of Discipline set forth the process for determining proof of an alleged offense, including sexual misconduct.

The assembly may consider admonishing all councils and judicial commissions that sexual misconduct is contrary to the Scriptures and the Constitution and that all councils are required to adopt and implement a sexual misconduct policy and/or child/youth protection policy (G-3.0106).

Alternatively, the assembly may consider referral of this item to the Task Force on the Rules of Discipline for report to the 224th General Assembly (2020).

Advice from the Advocacy Committee on Women's Concerns

The Advocacy Committee on Women's Concerns advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) approve Item 06-04 providing the following advice [edited].

The Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (ACWC) agrees that any act or omission prohibited by the council of authority's duly adopted sexual misconduct policy and/or child and youth protection policy should be considered contrary to the Scriptures or Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and therefore an offense for purposes of these rules. ACWC agrees with this overture that past failure to confront sexual misconduct has led to injustice and discord within the church, and scrutiny and litigation from without.

Because all sexual abuse is, at the core, an abuse of power, certain populations are more vulnerable to such abuse. For instance, children and youth, developmentally disabled adults, and immigrant night shift workers are often the targets of sexual misconduct. Gender inequities rooted in theological misunderstandings based in patriarchy leave women within the church particularly vulnerable to sexual misconduct, not only from other clergy, but also to sexual harassment from male members of their congregations. It is essential that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) take an unequivocal stand for justice by equating sexual misconduct to be an implicit violation of scriptural norms and constitutional ordination vows.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 53/0. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee's recommendation with amendment 416/13. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 70, 570.)

For the full report of Item 06-04, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>.

18-H. Time Limit

On Amending D-10.0401 (Item 06-24)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

18-H.1.

Shall D-10.0401b of the Rules of Discipline be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“b. For instances of sexual abuse of another person, the five-year time limit shall not apply. There is also no time limit for charging that a person who knew or reasonably should have known of the reasonable risk of sexual abuse of another as defined in D-10.0401c(1) or (2) failed to take reasonable steps to minimize the risk. Both charges may be brought regardless of the date on which an offense is alleged to have occurred.”

18-H.2.

Shall D-10.0401c(1) of the Rules of Discipline be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“(1) any person under the age of eighteen years or anyone ~~over the age of eighteen years~~ without the mental capacity to consent; or”

Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution comment on a referral from the 222nd (2016) General Assembly to the Office of the General Assembly. The original item before the 222nd (2016) General Assembly originated from the Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to refer Item 06-24 to the Rules of Discipline Task Force or approve as amended. They provided the following advice [edited].

[b.] The ACWC proposed and ACC recommended languages both impose a level of responsibility on persons that is not currently part of the Rules of Discipline. The ACC recommendation imposes a negligence standard for failure to respond to situations involving a reasonable risk of sexual misconduct, including the failure to report appropriately.

[c.1)] This language recognizes that minor persons cannot consent. The second clause clarifies that sexual abuse includes persons who lack of the capacity to consent for any reason whatsoever.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 47/1. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee’s recommendation with amendment 455/16. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 73–74, 631–32.)

For the full report of Item 06-24, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>

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**Yellowstone Presbytery
Pre-Meeting Workshop
Friday, March 29, 2019
10:30 am – Noon**

Rob Hagan, Presbyterian Foundation

Rob Hagan from the Presbyterian Foundation will be with us to present a workshop on:

Best Stewardship Practices

“People give to Vision and People give to people”!

Today's landscape of giving and stewardship is changing rapidly. Generations view money differently and why they give and how they give is crucial for churches to know. How to engage your givers i.e. the gifted giver, the thoughtful giver, the casual giver, the reluctant giver is a crucial and essential endeavor in parishioner's faith walk and trusting in his provision.

With 50% of people in attendance on Sunday morning giving nothing it becomes a spiritual issue which churches/pastors/elders need to address. It is essential in today's world to build into the church a Culture of Generosity. It is not about the church receiving but the giver giving for impact for Christ's Kingdom! The workshop will address:

- Best Stewardship Practices
- Engaging your givers
- Generational Giving(if we have time!!)