

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