

**Presbytery of Yellowstone – Stated Meeting**

**Nov 1,2, 2019**

**First Presbyterian Church – Lewistown MT**

**19-050. Opening of the Meeting**

The Presbytery of Yellowstone met on Friday and Saturday, November 1,2, 2019, at First Presbyterian Church in Lewistown, Montana. Moderator, MWS Susi Ennis convened the meeting at 10:30 AM on Friday. With a Prayer.

**19-051. Roll Call:**

**Ruling Elder Commissioners:**

Anaconda	A
Billings First	Chris Erickson
Billings St Andrew	Curt Kochner
Big Hole	Sandy Cleary, Julie Boksich
Bozeman First	John Patterson, Dan Holland, Suzanne Bratsky
Butte First	A
Colstrip	A
Deer Lodge	A
Dillon First	A
Ennis	Bob Beekman
Forsyth Federated	A
Harlowton	A
Hysham Community	A
Jordan	A
Lewistown First	CRE Margee Smith
Manhattan	Debbie Blackburn
Miles City First	A
Phillipsburg St Paul's	A
Poplar First	A
Stanford First	A
Terry Community	Nancy Pehl
White Sulphur Springs	A
Wolf Point First	A

**Minister Members**

David Andrew (absent), Jim Bell (absent), Priscilla Bell (absent), J P Carlson(absent), Paul Cannon (absent), Dick Davis (present), Jed Cauffman (absent), Paul Cousins (absent), John Dyce (present), Brent Long (excused), Jody McDevitt (present), Warren (Rusty) Craig (absent), Sherwood McKay (absent), Cathy McLean (excused), Mary Davis (present), Steven A Hundley (present), Marcia Muir (absent), John Dyce (present), Sally Ralston (absent), Susi Ennis (present), Garrett Mostowski (present), Sarah Logemann (present), Neva Rathbun (present), Debbie Funke (present), Harlan L Rounds (excused), George Goodrich (present), Bill Swanson (absent), Kathy Goodrich (present), Susan Thomas (present), Doug Johnson (present), David Thompson (present), Jean Johnson (excused), Larry Vandecreek (absent), Lowell Johnson (absent), Vicki Waddington (absent), Teresa Kendall (present), Kim Woeste (absent), Dan

Krebill(present), Paul Krebill (absent), Freeman McCall (absent), Diane White (present), Daniel Triller (present), Wenda Fry (absent), Deborah Schmidt(absent)

**Commissioned Ruling Elder Members:**

Jack Bell (excused), Veva Larson (excused),

**RE Vice Moderator Voting Members:**

Russ Kline (present),

**RE Leadership Cabinet Voting Members:**

Julie Boksich (present), Dan Holland (present)

**Corresponding member for meeting seated:**

Rev. Jamie Schmeling (RCA), Rev. Stan Ott (Guest Speaker), RE Mark Fry (Board of Pensions) RE Kristin Leucht (Board of Pensions)

**Staff with Voice:**

RE Jim Tarr (Stated Clerk),

**Visiting recognized with voice:**

RE Charlie Brown, RE Carol Brown, RE Ric Tieman, RE Susan Gibb, Ken Siroly

**Balance check:** Voting RE's 10, Voting MWS 20.

**19-052.** The moderator Susi Ennis had opened the meeting with prayer and gave floor to Rev. Diane White to give a welcoming message.

**19-053.** The docket was approved and the following motion was approved:

**Procedural Motion** - The Stated Clerk moved the following Procedural Motion:

1. That the roll for this meeting be established by completed Registration Sheets.
2. That written and oral requests for absences received by the Stated Clerk be approved.
3. That any Corresponding members present be seated.
4. That the Presbytery grant the Moderator the authority to give privilege of the floor to persons, other than Members or Commissioners, for the purpose of reporting to this meeting.
5. That the Moderator and the Stated Clerk be empowered to make adjustments to the Agenda during the meeting, as may be necessary, to provide for efficiency in reporting, and
6. presbytery office in advance an electronic copy shall supplied to the office of the stated clerk and the presbytery office immediately following the meeting.

**19-054.** A quorum was declared by the Stated Clerk upon checking the role taken.

**19-055.** Dwelling in the word began with a prayer by Rev. Kathy Goodrich and giving thanks to the planning committee for their work getting this meeting lined out. The Rev. Stan Ott began with prayer for help with the planned presentations and an appeal for transformation to take place after this weekend. Dwelling in the word was led by Stan on 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2: 1-13 The entire presentation outline was in printed form and was handed out to all attendees.

Session 1.

Rev. Ott presented a complete written outline of his presentation in advance of the presentation, but his talk was focused on certain key points at each session held during this meeting. In session one he explained:

- a. Friends off the road.
- b. Friends of the heart.

And the three commitments a church must make.

- c. A commitment to Christ
- d. A Commitment to the Body of Christ
- e. A commitment to the work of Christ in the world.

Examples of each of these concepts was presented and work on in word/share/prayer breakout groups. In this session we heard about and discussed the difference between Hospitality and Friendship.

**19-056.** As we were meeting the Presbytery was kept informed Via George Goodrich about the failing fight for life CRE Jack Bell was waging in Great Falls and several prayers were focused on him and his family as he went through his life's final struggle. Jack went to be with his Lord and Savior while the meeting was progressing. The room was full of sadness and concerns for Jack's family and his seeing Jesus up close and personal. Tears flowed freely as we acknowledged Jack and his ministry in this Presbytery.

**19-057.** Mark Fry (Board of Pensions) explained the Heathy Pastor Healthy Church (HPHC) program of the Board of Pensions. Churches covenant with the Board of Pensions help and agree to participate in a training program and may receive up to \$10,000 to help them keep their Pastor and the Pastor Family supported by the church in this covenant relationship. The Lewistown Church has entered into this agreement and was in training after this Presbytery meeting. Mark also had lunch with a group of interested pastors during the Friday lunch break

**19-058.** Rev. Stan Ott presented session 2. of his talk after a working lunch break the 3 commitments were explained in detail and a second word/share/prayer breakout was held to think about hospitality vs friendship

**19-059.** The Co General Presbyters presented a written report (**Exhibit A**) to the meeting minutes.

**19-060.** The RE Curt Kochner presented the Camping and Youth report (**Exhibit B**). This was Curt's last year as Moderator and he was dismissed with a prayer and gratitude for his service and leadership in this vital ministry.

**19-061.** Rev. Dave Thompson gave a written report for the PMT (**Exhibit D**) He divided his actions into 2 parts one for the Friday session on the meeting and one for the Saturday portion of the meeting. During

the first session he presented Margee Smith as a Learner in the CRE training program. Margee was in attendance and the body interviewed her and heard about her calling and training as she sought this commissioning. Her statement of faith and proposed contract with FPC Lewistown was discussed and reviewed by the presbytery. The possibility of her serving the fellowships in Stanford and Denton, MT was discussed. A prayer was offered for the churches in Stanford and Denton. Her support team of MWS Susi Ennis, MWS Susan Thomas, MWS Kathy Goodrich and her mentor MWS Diane White also were recognized as helping her in her training.

**It was voted>** To commission Margee Smith as a CRE in service at FPC Lewistown, MT. without any specific terms of call at this time since the position is not salaried.

**19-062.** MWS Jody McDevitt presented a report of the REP/NOM committee for a first reading. **(Exhibit C)**. MWS Teresa Kendall Moderator of the Leadership Cabinet also presented a first reading of a report of the Cabinet which met Oct 30<sup>th</sup> and selected nominations and motions of the Cabinet as follows;

To set aside the Standing rules on the term limit of office of the moderator of the Rep/Nom Committee and allow Caroline Fleming to serve one more term of one year as moderator.

To Elect Caroline Fleming to serve as moderator of the Rep/Nom Committee for the year 2020.

**19-063.** The meeting recessed with Prayer for the meal by MWS Diane White and for the meeting and nominees by MWS Susi Ennis for dinner and worship at 6:40 PM.

Worship service was ministered by RE Russ Kline and MWS Stan Ott. CRE Margee Smith was given her charge of service as per the Book of Order, G 2.1003 and the Directory for Worship, W-4.04.

An offering was received for Maintenance of Westminster Spires Church Camp in amount of \$ 992.00

**19-064.** The meeting reconvened at 8:40 AM Saturday with Prayer by moderator MWS Susi Ennis.

**19-065.** Rev Stan Ott Presented session 3.

**19-066.** Good news from the Lewistown Church was presented by RE Carol Brown. Applause given for the service of Jason Terronez who helped with all the video and audio setup and operation during the meeting.

**19-067.** Dave Thompson reported Part 2 of the PMT report. See **(Exhibit D)**.

**It was Voted>** To Honorably Retire Rev. Jed Cauffman. Motion included offering Great Thanksgiving for his years of service to this Presbytery and the Church in Lewistown.

**It was Voted>** to accept a report of the administrative commission whose charge was the administration of the Ordination of Sarah Logemann at FPC Miles City and discharge the commission with the thanks of the Presbytery. **(Exhibit E)**

**It was voted>** to recognize MWS Dick Davis as an At Large Pastor in Validated Ministry in an ecumenical service at Hope ELCA church in Anaconda Montana. (his terms of call were reviewed by the PMT and were acceptable for a part time position).

**It was voted>** To notify At Large MWS Paul Cannon and At Large MWS David Andrew that they are At Large in the boundaries of other Presbyteries and are no longer in good standing with Yellowstone

Presbytery and are not to be allowed to serve in any Pastoral Ministry Positions in the PCUSA. (This Motion will result in the Stated clerk being in the position to notify these MWS of the action, to Unattested any PIF they have on the CLC site and to notify the Presbyteries in which they reside.)

The PMT moderator MWS Dave Thompson and 3 of his committee members are term limited out and were recognized. They are MWS Dan Krebill, RE Linda Smith, and RE Gayle Holland. All these have served honorably and faithfully to the responsibilities of this committee. CoGP George Goodrich offered a Prayer of thanksgiving for their service and ministry.

**19-068.** LC Moderator MWS Teresa Kendall presented the cabinet report (**Exhibit F**) A boundary change between Yellowstone and Glacier Presbyteries was explained and discussed as needed to accommodate a ministry of Glacier located in the Boulder MT area.

**It was Voted>** To allow for the Ministry of Glacier in Boulder MT to operate in the bounds of Yellowstone and to agree to a boundary change proposed by Glacier to be approved and forwarded to the Synod for presentation of an overture to the GA Next year.

**19-069** A report of the treasurer was in the meeting package for information (**Exhibit G**). The budget was explained as representing the last time we will be able to sustain the staffing budget at the 2020 level and an appeal to find ways to increase Presbytery income and/or reduce Presbytery spending will be needed. This was treasurer RE Dan Hollands last meeting, and he was recognized for his many years of valuable service to this presbytery. Next year's Treasurer Ric Tieman was introduced by Dan.

**It was Voted>** The per capita assessment for the Presbytery for 2020 will be \$55. (\$43.05 Presbytery portion).

**It was voted>** To approve the Presbytery budget for 2020 as presented.

**19-070** MWS Jodi McDevitt presented a second reading of the slate of nominees recommended by the Rep/Nom Committee.

**It was voted>** to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of nominees presented (**Exhibit C**)

**It was voted>** to review the process for selection of the MWS delegate to the GA between the LC and Rep/Nom with understanding the Rep/Nom to oversee the making a final recommendation to the Presbytery before November 2021.

**It was Voted>** To set aside the standing rules and elect Caroline Fleming to be moderator of the Rep/Nom committee during 2020.

Some vacancies will need to be filled before the March 2020 meeting and when selected a special email vote will be called.

**19-071. It was voted>** to extend the meeting 10 Minutes for some final announcements.

**19-072.** Stated Clerk RE Jim Tarr presented a written report of activity of the office of Stated Clerk from June to the November meeting date. (**Exhibit H**).

**The minutes** of the Special Presbytery meeting Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 were approved as in the packet.

**The Stated Clerk** announced the church records will be reviewed the stated meetings next year and clerks are to bring 2 years past records to one of the meetings closest to their church for a review by representatives of the Stated Clerk and to get any needed training.

**19-073. A report of the Synod Commissioner** was provided and available for review. **(Exhibit I)**

**19.074. Announcements:**

**The PW** report was submitted and is **(Exhibit J)**.

**Dan Krebill** announced an update on Kori Robbins who was given enquirer status at the October 8, 2019 meeting was doing well at Pittsburgh Seminary and he has her blog site information if members would like to keep in touch with her progress.

It was announced a memorial service for CRE Jack Bell will be Held at FPC Billings at 11:00 AM on Saturday November 16, 2019.

The meeting adjourned with prayer by Moderator Susi Ennis at 12:40 PM.

**19-075.** The next meeting of Yellowstone Presbytery will be held at FPC Billings March 6,7, 2020.

Jim Tarr

Stated Clerk

Attached: Exhibits A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and J.

Exhibit A. CO GP Report.

**Co-General Presbyters' Report to Leadership Cabinet**

**November 1, 2019**

**A personal word of thanks and reflection on our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary here:** August 20<sup>th</sup> marked not only our 42nd anniversary of marriage but 15 years we have lived in Montana as we began our ministry in September 2004, as your Co-General Presbyters. Thank you all for your trust and partnership on this adventure and journey with Jesus. All these years we have focused the presbytery for the strengthening of our Christ-centered community and pastors and churches to be equipped, devoted, fruitful disciples of Jesus Christ and *disciple-makers*, equipped and sent to join Christ *in his mission*, for God's glory and good in our churches, communities, Montana and wherever he sends us. In times of disunity and confusion, we have called the presbytery to prayer, to the Word and to "keep the main thing the main thing, and the main thing is Jesus" because IN Christ alone is life and our unity and peace. God has faithfully answered, provided, transformed lives and abundantly blessed – us and the presbytery in the midst of challenges and great joys. Our great thanks for the privilege of serving Christ by serving Yellowstone Presbytery.

And a further note of gratitude: this fall Administrative Assistant Susan Seibert and Treasurer Sheryl Hallin also mark 15 years of service! Please congratulate and thank them.

**Understanding our shifting cultures and contexts and the accompanying trends. It is important for us as leaders to get the “balcony”, the 30,000’ perspective in order to properly discern the times** in which we are called to be God’s contrast community, sharing & embodying the Good News of Jesus Christ, salt and light.

- WSJ recent poll last month revealed a significant drop in millennials and Gen. Z of prioritizing religion, commitment to marriage, having children or to quote a fascinating analysis in the Atlantic - “Elite Failure has brought Americans to the Edge of an existential crisis” –by D. Thompson

- Secularism and workism have become new religions; economic and racial challenges continue

- Trust in and joining of institutions –marriage, church, groups/clubs,...- is at an all-time low, -> further alienation, individualism, community problems and impoverishment, increase in gangs & following authoritarian or more extreme leaders & movements

- Trustworthiness of pastors has plummeted (See recent *Christian Century* editorial by Marty)

- Loss of hope, manifesting itself in anxieties, fears and a variety of physical, emotional and mental health maladies and tragedies

**Yet in the post-Christian, post rationalism era, spiritual curiosity and hungers abound.**

In the midst of these forces is an amazing opportunity for God’s mission and God’s people, those to whom God has entrusted the Good News, commanded and empowered to embody incarnate and proclaim Jesus, with authenticity and integrity, and join together with Christ as *contrast communities* in Christ’s mission as individuals, marriages & families, disciple communities, and presbytery.

**Multiple research points to the essential need for the local congregation in our lonely, divided, technologically distracted times such as the article - [Where is the Church in North America Heading and What are the Implications?](https://freshexpressionsus.org/2019/09/06/heading/)**

Or the book, *Alienated in America: Why Some Places Thrive While Others Collapse*. By Timothy Carney describes the role the church has played and needs to reclaim with vitality, love and integrity, ESPECIALLY in small and rural areas. Take heart!

\*\*Note the need for hope, faith, trust, identity, meaning and purpose, community and connection, roots

**We believe the Presbytery faces the main challenges which are also God’s opportunities, now:**

**First: Increase the focus on an adaptive disciple-making, disciples-sending leaders and church cultures for the 21<sup>st</sup> century:**

We know many pastors are lost, frustrated, discouraged, at times threatened as they were not equipped for ministry in these times. Churches in these difficult cultural days are losing focus and purpose as well as spiritual power... Christ gave the church the timeless command to “make disciples of all nations,” Matthew 18-20. And has commanded us not to lose heart) see Paul’s exhortations.

Are we focusing on spiritual formation and life-on-life disciple-making vs maintaining or administrating programs and caring for building? Is each church, in a way that is authentic to pastor and congregation and call, doing this?

### Possible avenues, strategies:

- A. The regional equipping retreats gathered in September in four locations to wrestle with these issues. Pastor clusters for equipping for discipleship ministry and mission will begin again in the new year for equipping, and pastor nurture and support.
- B. Bring in those gifted, passionate with a track record in equipping our folks – i.e Stan Ott, joins us at this presbytery meeting.
- C. *Since change can be painful and unsettling, this requires cultivate deeper spiritual roots, love for Christ and the **spiritual practices** which transform us to be and live more like Christ, in transformative community*
- D. **A Focus on Practices including:** *discernment, prayer, paying attention consolation/desolation, prayer, repentance, lament, among many others*
- E. Ask sessions to consider one theological, practical ministry question at each meeting: “What is God’s call for Christ’s church, in this time and context? What are we trying to accomplish as a church?” If people are growing in their faith, how does it mean they will likely change, internally and in their life patterns?” “What practices are we seeking to model and teach to our communities of disciples?” “What kind of disciples are we trying to create and send out into the world, and what do they need to love, experience and see, know, what practices characterize world-impacting disciples?” ETC...
- F. Dwelling in the Word/ Word, Share, Prayer in all presbytery meetings, Ministry Teams, and session meetings across the presbytery.
- G. Read and apply Growing Young – Presbytery was invited to take a group to training with one of the authors/researchers coming to Jackson Hole church Oct. 18 – 20
- H. Waiting on and pray for the Holy Spirit to move. Admit we are basically powerless and in need of God’s re-firing of the Church as in Acts 1-2. Pray for this. Expect this. Remove the hindrances to the Spirit’s work and create an environment in which it is more likely to happen – spiritual disciplines, especially lament and repentance, as we need to be refined and transformed to be more like Christ.
- I. Other?

**Second: The Crisis of Congregational Leadership Clergy, Leaders:** Across Montana and much of the United States the skepticism about the church is real, the shortage of ordained pastors is deepening. Church leaders and members, pastors trained for a different world and church which is no longer our reality, often have more of an institutional, consumer ‘member of a club’ understanding rather than having been *equipped as equippers, Jesus and people loving disciples – loved and called, gifted and equipped and sent* Why?

- A. Many pastors are nearing retirement. Seminaries have fewer graduates and the percentage of those graduating entering pastoral ministry is also declining. And of those graduating, many want to start new churches rather than prop up existing ones unwilling to adapt and follow the Holy Spirit in innovating and experiments of being church in these fast changing times.
- B. The last spiritual renewal movement was in the 1990’s. Awakenings and renewals are feeders, inspiring and calling pastors and empowering ALL as disciples.
- C. Due to shifts in trends, cultural, ideological, economic and social and weather forces, fewer and fewer congregations can afford a livable, full-time pastoral salary and benefits. Rural



communities show a higher percentage of unanswered call opportunities than the suburbs. Also an opportunity!

- D. Denominational politics with less and less regard for the needs and issues before small town and rural local congregations are alienating some of the members with pronouncements.
- E. The rate of Baby Boomer pastors retiring far out-strips the rate of new pastors entering the church.

**YET** – The need for the local church and the embodied Good News is absolutely essential. Each month more is revealed in research and written on the crucial spiritual, social/relational/communal, cultural capital tied to the catalytic role churches play in the fabric of lives, families and communities. This is even MORE important as so many other aspects of our culture are weakened.

**Possible avenues, strategies:**

- A. \*\*Pray with repentance and lament for spiritual revitalization / revival, for the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest – Luke 10
- B. Equip more CRE's and lay leaders to lead churches, and God is raising some up among us! Although there is a mindset in withering communities that if a church can no longer afford an ordained pastor, the church is evidently in decline, along with the community. So fight to keep the pastor and decline lay leadership.
- C. The above with exploring the idea of regional pastors focused on equipping and empowering, who might be in the pulpit of a congregation once a month, and present with folks, with lay preachers carrying the preaching on the other Sundays and equipping and praying for the holy experiments in ministry.
- D. To start a seminary internship program.
- E. Seek or equip tent-making and bi-vocational pastors, CRE's
- F. Work ecumenically with other mainline churches to share pastors and expenses?
- G. Start new congregations in areas with growing populations or where our church will not adapt and be transformed, thus choosing to die.
- H. Other?

**Third: The Financial Condition of Yellowstone Presbytery:**

- A. 15 years ago, when we came, we were told that the presbytery would not have the financial strength to pay us after two years, unless we figured out a way to generate income. In the last 14 years we have raised, and many of you have generously given, somewhere around \$630,000 to support our position and the life and ministry of the presbytery. Our God has provided!
- B. But now, with the challenging economic and social circumstances, declining financial strength in many churches, it is a struggle to reach our budgeted \$35,000 a year. Additionally, the presbytery has been deficit-spending at about \$50-\$60,000 over the last couple years. At this rate of expenditure, the reserves available for the general administrative budget will be depleted by December, 2020, unless there is some windfall.
- C. The membership in Presbyterian churches across the country continues to decline, and this presbytery, in general, is following the national trend. Per capita is being carried by fewer and fewer people.

- D. The economy in our farming and ranching communities is especially weak right now. Weather has been brutal for crops and livestock. The trade war with China has driven down prices for product. Wheat, which takes \$7.00 a bushel to produce, was selling for \$4.00. Beef prices are down, too. Churches are trying to make budget with adverse conditions impacting the people of the congregation.
- E. The main reason: in 2004 the presbytery received \$75,000 a year from the synod as partnership funds, which have been declining gradually over the years. In 2018, the Grant funds disappeared completely, not to return. Had those funds continued, how different the story would be. But such is not the case.

***We believe God's Spirit is at work here in Montana where God has called and placed each of us to join in that mission and to seek to listen, discern, adapt and experiment with how to follow Jesus in these times, in new ways, perhaps doing some things very differently, and stepping even further out of our comfort zones.***

We also do not wish to jeopardize or impoverish the presbytery.

**Possible avenues, strategies:**

- A. Prayer for discernment, ask what God is doing and where God is leading. The Church is God's Church and God is not through with it yet. Expect God's leadings.
- B. Formulate a plan which may include:
  - I. Various reductions in expenditures
    - a. Staff reconfiguration, or reduction.
    - b. Dividing the work of the staff among trained regional leaders who might be paid a stipend.
    - c. Base the presbytery ministry in supportive regions, a la Western Colorado.(the jury is still out if this is actually "working")
    - d. Consider joining with another presbytery, or dividing and joining other presbyteries.
    - e. Discontinue per capita and work on a mission-giving model.
    - f. Consider program and budget cuts.
    - g. Be bold and spiritually innovative!
    - h. Other?
  - II. Continue to pray for and cultivate increased giving/income, including:
    - a. Planned and legacy giving
    - b. Identify those with gifts of generosity, sharing the stories of what God is up to here
    - c. Various grants
    - d. Church plants – who knows of those who may be called to this? Pray for God to call folks.
    - e. Explore entrepreneurial non-profits linked to congregations or presbytery which can generate income – this is being done by congregations
    - f. Cultivate more giving from elsewhere among those who understand the importance of the call and role of the church in rural and small town Montana.
    - g. Other

***Believing that the agenda for Our Presbytery meeting will reveal the wide range, specific work and efforts we have been focusing on since May with camping and youth, PMT, pastors, congregations – especially those in illness, need, transition, searches... we have presented this overview in hopes of setting the larger picture/perspective. As Christians we live in that exciting time between fear and***

*faith; between the already and the not yet; between God's mighty acts in the past and what Good things God will be bring in the future. We love you all so much! Thanks for the privilege of serving Christ with you!*

**And to Report:**

**Camp, 2019** – Another successful summer at Westminster Spires with enrollment holding about the same as last year. Please see Curt Kochner's detailed report. George was the Camp Bible Study leader for Elementary and Junior High Camps; Daniel Triller, for the Senior High Camp. Our camping mission is an important partner with our congregations in mission and ministry to children, youth, families and the core sharing and embodying the Good News and making disciples. See the Highlight from Manhattan church below!

**Regional Equipping Gatherings, September 14 and 21, 2019.** Over 70 pastors and lay people from around the presbytery gathered in four different locations (Butte, Lewistown, Billings, and Terry) to receive training and vision to be better equipped as disciple-making churches. Understanding the culture and context in which we are all ministering was also a focus. Kathy attended the Butte and Lewistown gatherings. George attended the Butte and Billings gatherings. Thanks to the excellent Planning Team – Susi Ennis, Julie Boksich, Russ Kline, Diane White and Kathy and Susi Ennis who led the Terry gathering.

**Planning Presbytery Meetings:** Kathy teams with the whole LC and Planning Team Julie Boksich, Susi Ennis, Diane and Russ Kline in seeking to listen to the Holy Spirit through you, our leaders and congregations needs, requests, Montana, the PCUSA, trends and culture in discern both longern and short terms needs in to help guide the planning of our equipping and encouraging at our meetings. This Team is putting in a vast amount of time and energy and we are grateful!

**Rep/Nom Team:** This team of people, has presented us again with an outstanding slate of nominees for the offices and team members of the Leadership Cabinet and other teams! Thanks to them! George serves as the staff resource for this team.

**Pastor-Searching Congregations:** As described above, these are difficult days for churches to be searching for pastors. George continues in support of the Jordan, Hysham and Colstrip Churches. Kathy supports the St Andrew Church. Both serve in support of the Pastoral ministry team as seems appropriate, especially seeking to be supportive of pastors and leaders in crisis and preaching in churches and meeting with congregational leaders.

**A highlight:** On September 15, George participated as Pastor Debbie Funke and the Manhattan Church baptized 9 youth and 3 adults in the Gallatin River. George had met many of the young people at camp. Gratefully, we recognize the amazing youth ministry the Manhattan Church offers in the community,

**Coming up:** George has been invited by GA Co-Modertor Vilmarie Cintron-Oliveri to co-lead a seminar with her at the GA Moderators Conference in Louisville, November 21-23, 2019. The topic is "The Moderator as Spiritual Leader." Susi Ennis plans to attend. Your prayers are humbly appreciated.

We rejoice in God's care for, healing and guiding our mom's and our families. Last week we helped with the process of moving George's Mom to be near his other brother and sister-in-law.

We are excited to welcome a granddaughter in December!

## Exhibit B. Camping and Youth Report.

### Camping and Youth Report

Yellowstone Presbytery November 2019

**Westminster Spires Camp Season** We had a wonderful camp season at Westminster Spires! Campers joined us from Anaconda, Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Dillon, Hysham, Manhattan, Terry, Lynnwood, Washington and Alexandria, Virginia. Elementary camp included eight campers; Junior High welcomed sixteen campers and Senior High had fourteen campers.

Staffing and Volunteers: Curt Kochner Camp Registrar and Logistics George Goodrich Staff Training-Elementary and Junior High Camp Leader Daniel Triller Senior High Camp Leader Kara Todd Program Director Nichole Ferestad Crafts Stephanie Brewster Counselor and First Aid (Stephanie is a Nursing student at Montana Tech) Brooke Moen Counselor and First Aid (Brooke is a Nursing student at Montana Tech) Kristin Kochner Counselor (Billings) Megan Dupuis Counselor (Divide) Scott Sherman Counselor (Butte) Eli Todd Counselor in Training (Alexandria, Virginia) Samantha Welk Counselor in Training (Billings) Jean-Paul Guion Counselor (Whitworth Fellow from Seattle) Jim Tarr Volunteer Cook and Bongos Sandy Welch Volunteer Cook Anna Roberts Volunteer Cook Becky Kochner Volunteer Cook Bill Scott Volunteer Cook

Other guests that joined us or visited included Callie and Noah Triller, Sam and Annelise Todd, and former camp counselors Jon Dupuis, Hunter Skov and Heather O'Brien.

A highlight of Senior High Camp was a visit from Bill and Belinda Scott and their granddaughters Mara and Reagan. They prepared a dinner meal and visited with campers and staff they have come to know over the past decade. Bill served as camp cook for the past ten years but was unable to be with us this summer as he is undergoing treatment for esophageal cancer. Our prayers continue for Bill and his family!

Many thanks to the folks that joined us as volunteer cooks to provide meals. Sandy Welch served as chef for Sunday night dinner and Monday breakfast each week of camp. Jim Tarr helped cover meals for Staff Training. Becky Kochner and Anna Roberts prepared meals and snacks for Junior and Senior High Camp.

Thanks also to Billings First Presbyterian Church for the use of their two vans for camp. The use of the vans provides the opportunity for campers to visit the Beartooth Pass, travel to trail heads for hikes, visit Red Lodge for recreation and mission projects and ride to the Stillwater River for a raft trip. The use of the vans is a huge help to the camp budget.

Scholarships: Churches in the Presbytery provided \$1,945 in scholarships to help young people attend camp. Thanks to the offering collected at the Presbytery meeting and additional gifts toward the scholarship fund, \$2,720 in scholarships were provided by Yellowstone Presbytery for campers.

Facilities Revamp the Camp focused on cleaning and preparation of the buildings and grounds for the season. Roger Giese from Laurel brought his paint spray equipment to camp and sprayed the boy's cabin. The exterior of all the cabins have been painted within the past few years. Several more trees

have been taken down due to the Ips Beetle infestation. Additional electrical fixtures were installed in the Cook's cabin and the Booth cabin.

Several projects on our wish list are upgrading the water lines into the kitchen and the bath house sinks and showers, installing windows in the Paterson cabin and making new curtains for all the cabins.

Camp Guests 2019 June 16-22 Bridger Ski Foundation Ski Groups June 16-30 AdvantEdge Ski Group  
Ski Group from Maine July 1-5 Family Reunion July 6 Wedding July 10-Aug. 2 Camp Season August 30  
Wedding Sept. 6-8 Close Camp for the Season

The ski groups will return next summer to rent the camp for most of the month of June. We will open camp with Revamp the Camp on the weekend of June 5-7.

Revamp the Camp St. Andrew did not hold Highland Holy Days this year. The weekend usually set aside for this event was used to close the camp for the season. Thanks to Sandy Welch, Jim Tarr, Patti Johnson, Shirley Dore, Ketih Hansen, Bill Stewart and Curt Kochner for getting the facilities and grounds ready for winter.

### **Summer 2020 Camp Season**

July 8-11 Staff Training

July 12-16 Elementary Camp

July 19-24 Junior High Camp

July 26-31 Senior High Camp

Winter Youth Retreat Dates and location for the Winter Youth Retreat have not been set.

**Representation/Nomination Team Amended Report to Yellowstone Presbytery November 2019**

The Representation/Nomination Team worked faithfully and prayerfully to fulfill the work entrusted to us. We sought people who were qualified and felt called to serve on Yellowstone Presbytery teams for the terms available. Team members did an outstanding job in seeking qualified people to say “yes” to God’s call for service. I am very grateful to Jody McDevitt, Robert Culbertson, Lanny Rounds, and George Goodrich, our faithful staff person, for the good job they have done.

You will see a fairly good, though not perfect, balance of MWS/RE, cultural background, and geographic representation. The male/female representation is not so balanced, though is indicative of the higher number of females who are active in the Presbyterian Church and in Yellowstone Presbytery in particular. The Leadership Cabinet will include 6 females and 3 males, the Pastoral Ministry Team will have 7 males and 5 females, and the Camping and Youth Ministry Team will be made up of three males and five females if those nominated are elected. High priority was given to finding and nominating the right persons to the available positions.

We still seek one more person to serve as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) Alternate to General Assembly. We on the Team thank everyone who considered serving, whether you felt the time was right for you to accept a particular position or not.

Respectfully submitted, Caroline Fleming, Team Moderator

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Working together and led by God’s Spirit, the Representation/Nomination Team commends to Yellowstone Presbytery the following slate of officers, moderators and team members for your election. NOTE: Those listed in bold and underlined are the nominees. Other team members are listed so you can see the representation balance on each team.

2. The Representation/Nominations Team recommends the Leadership Cabinet be asked to revise the “point system” of choosing the Minister Commissioner to General Assembly.

Reasoning: It is this team’s judgment that the current system is not serving us well in identifying those who could most effectively serve. We believe that factors other than seniority should be considered, such as current leadership in the presbytery, potential leadership, diversity, and vision, and we would like to have a system which included these factors. Several years ago the presbytery chose to move away from a rotational system for choosing our Ruling Elder Commissioner to GA and our Young Adult Advisory Delegate. The rotational system was prone to clogging up. We would ask the “next church in line” to

2 Rep/Nom Report November 2019

identify a ruling elder, wait for several months, and then find out that they didn’t have a person. Then we’d go to the next church, and go through the same process until we were sometimes past the deadline for submitting our commissioner’s name to GA. By instituting an application process and actively recruiting across the presbytery, we have been able to identify ruling elders who are ready and

willing to serve. When choosing among applicants, we use their church's history of sending commissioners as one factor in our decision, but not as the determinative factor.

Moderator of Presbytery: RE Russ Kline

Vice Moderator of Presbytery: RE Julie Boksich

### **LEADERSHIP CABINET**

2020 Moderator: MWS – Teresa Kendall

Class of 2020 MWS – Susie Ennis MWS – Teresa Kendall (2019 moderator of Leadership Cabinet) RE – Julie Boksich

Class of 2021 MWS - Susan Thomas RE – Jack Bell RE – Russ Kline (2020 Moderator of Presbytery) MWS - Diane White

Class of 2022 RE - Suzanne Bratsky RE – Ric Tieman (finances)

NOTE: In 2019 Presbytery to set aside the Standing Rules to allow 10 to serve on Leadership cabinet due to the fact that the Representation/Nomination Team recruited team members before securing a Presbytery Vice Moderator nominee and thus neglected to allow a space for the Vice Moderator on the team. That said, we nominate 2 names for class of 2022 this year to return the team to 9 members, the maximum allowed in the Standing rules. We foresee the team balance of 3 people per class returning with the class of 2024.

3 Rep/Nom Report November 2019

### **PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM:**

2019 Co- Moderators: RE - Debbie Blackburn, MWS - JP Carlson

NOTE: The team spoke to several people about the position of Moderator for PMT and all felt they could not do the work as well as they would like if they were the sole Moderator. We decided to ask two people to Co-Moderate, thus sharing the position. Debbie and JP have been talking with one another about how they will share the leadership duties, and we anticipate the PMT will discuss how efficient is to have Co-Moderators.

Class of 2020 MWS – JP Carlson, 2019 Co-Moderator MWS - Steve Hundley MWS – Doug Johnson RE – Veva Larson

Class of 2021 RE – Charlie Brown RE - Debbie Blackburn , 2019 Co-Moderator MWS – Debbie Funke RE - Graham Smith

Class of 2022 RE – Gail Beckham MWS – John Dyce MWS – Neva Rathbun RE – Chuck Wright

### **CAMPING and YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM (8)**

2020 Moderator: Dan Triller

Class of 2020 RE – Cynthia Kessler MWS – Dan Triller

Class of 2021 MWS - Garret Mostowski RE - Sandy Welch Kristin Kochner

4 Rep/Nom Report November 2019

Class of 2022 MWS – Sarah Logemann RE - Nancy Pehl Jonathan Dupuis

**COMMISSIONERS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020**

RE: Sharla Helland RE Alternate: Sandy WELCH

MWS: Teresa Kendall MWS Alternate: J P Carlson

Young Adult Advisory Delegate: Jonathan Dupuis YAAD Alternate: \*\* Still needed \*\*

**GA COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY - EXAM READER**

The Representation/Nomination Team commends the following names, selected by the Pastoral Ministry Team, for affirmation:

RE: Dave Byerly

MWS: Susie Ennis

Alternate MWS Susan Thomas

DRAFT



Exhibit D. PMT Report.

**Pastoral Ministry Team's Presbytery Report November 1-2, 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. Retirement of the Rev. Jed Cauffman The Rev. Jed Cauffman has made a request to the Pastoral Ministry Team to move his status to honorably retired and is seeking to transfer his membership to the Presbytery of Los Ranchos in Southern California where he is currently living. Jed faithfully served the First Presbyterian Church in Lewistown, Montana, for 25 years before moving to California in 2017. "The PMT recommends to the Yellowstone Presbytery to move the Rev. Jed Cauffman to the status of honorably retired within the Presbyterian Church (USA) and to transfer his membership to the Presbytery of Los Ranchos upon request."

B. Commission Margee Smith as a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE): Pending the approval of the Yellowstone Presbytery, Margee Smith will begin a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) relationship with the First Presbyterian Church of Lewistown, Montana, on November 3, 2019. The commission will be for Home Outreach Ministry to those in the church and community and will also include a wider ministry to churches in the area. Margee recently completed her CRE coursework through Whitworth University. Here are the contract terms:

Terms of Contract Commissioned Ruling Elder Home Outreach Ministry Margaret (Margee) Smith  
Placement: First Presbyterian Church, Lewistown, MT

Job Description: ● Margee will provide the structure of the homebound visits which will include visiting, prayer and spiritual support as needed. ● Margee will recruit and train people to serve on a homebound ministry committee. This will include accompanying people on visits when necessary. ● Margee will develop and maintain a rotation schedule to give attention to our homebound people from our church. She will disseminate that schedule to all involved. ● Margee will host meetings and trainings for this committee as necessary. ● Margee will encourage the committee to visit, send cards or call their assigned person or people weekly. She will also encourage the committee to let her know if something needs attention by the church or an outside resource with any of the homebound people. Margee will share those needs with the church for prayer or with Pastor Diane White if her counsel may be necessary. ● Margee will be allowed to serve communion to homebound people through this ministry. ● Margee will provide spiritual materials as necessary to the committee.

● Margee will maintain communication with the committee on a regular basis offering an opportunity for feedback from the committee.

In addition to those duties on the homebound committee: ● Margee will be allowed to provide pulpit supply to area churches and be given the authority to serve communion and perform baptisms in this capacity under the authority of the church's session. ● Margee will be allowed to officiate at funerals when asked.

Compensation: There will be no compensation for the Home Outreach Ministry position. Compensation for other pastoral duties such as funerals and pulpit supply will be paid by the respective churches or individuals making the request.

Terms of Service: This commission is for one year from November 3, 2019 through November 3, 2020. It will be continued annually by authorization of the PMT.

Supervision/Oversight: Margee will serve under the session of the First Presbyterian Church in Lewistown, Montana, with the Reverend Diane White serving as her supervisor/mentor. She will also be under the supervision of the Presbytery per G-2.1004 of the book of order.

Included below is Margee's Statement of Faith: I believe that the Bible is the authoritative word of God. It is through scripture that we learn of who and what God is, and therefore who and what we are in God. It is through scripture that we are able to better understand God's ways and how we are to reflect those ways in how we conduct our lives.

I believe that there is one God, eternally existing as three persons; God, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, known as the Trinity.

I believe that our God came to earth as Jesus, who was both mankind and yet fully God, to die on a cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

I believe that scripture tells us to love one another and to forgive one another. Jesus exemplified that on earth. God also assures us that we will be forgiven when asked with a true heart.

God also sends the Holy Spirit to be with us in our daily walk. The Holy Spirit reminds us that God is always with us and the Holy Spirit is the catalyst that encourages us and speaks words of comfort to our hearts and souls when needed. The Holy Spirit guides our path to turn us away from sin and live a life that pleases God.

I believe that baptism is a public declaration of our commitment to God and others of our faith. We are called to life in a new way as disciples of Christ and to share the good news of the gospel with others. It is a symbol of our adoption into Christ as we join other believers in declaring our faith as adults, or as parents on behalf of our infant children.

I believe that through communion we are able to celebrate Christ's presence among us by gathering around the communion table and partaking of bread and wine with fellow worshipers.

We use grape juice or wine to symbolize Jesus Christ's blood and bread to symbolize His body. Jesus gave instructions to us in the bible of how to celebrate to experience the fellowship of Christ. In this way, we are reminded that our sins are wholly forgiven by the love and grace of God through the blood of Jesus Christ.

I believe as it says in the Bible, that one day Jesus Christ will return to earth to call me home. I will stand with the saints of heaven and earth before God and Jesus as I enter into the kingdom for all of eternity. God will then take away all pain and suffering and replace it with joy and wonder! Until that day however, I am to love my neighbor as myself regardless of all other circumstances.

Although I cannot possibly know and understand everything that is in store for humankind on this earth, I can know and understand that through God, God's Son, and God's Holy Spirit, I am able to lead others

to the love of our God! I believe that God is love and we are made in the image of God. Therefore, we are love. I believe that I will never look into the eyes of someone that God does not love.

C. For the Yellowstone Presbytery “to receive the minutes of the administrative commission assigned to ordain the Rev. Sarah Logemann as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) at the First Presbyterian Church in Miles City, Montana, on October 26, 2019.”

D. For the Yellowstone Presbytery to concur with PMT action “to prevent at-large members the Rev. David Andrew and the Rev. Paul Cannon from accepting any positions in the PC(USA).”

E. Prayers Requested: 1. To pray for all our distressed pastors and their families as this is a very difficult time for them. 2. To pray for the many churches in Yellowstone that are seeking a new pastor or who are trying to hold things together without a Pastor to lead them. 3. To pray for the future of this Presbytery and what it will need to change so it can continue to serve the churches within the Presbytery.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

DRAFT

Exhibit E. Sarah Logemann Ordination Commission Report

Ordination Commission for Sarah Logemann's Ordination Service

Saturday, October 26, 2019

First Presbyterian Church in Miles City

The Ordination Commission was convened by the Rev. Susi Ennis (moderator) with an opening prayer.

Each person from the Commission introduced themselves.

The following motion was presented by the Rev. David Thompson, acting secretary

To convene the ordination commission for the purpose of ordaining the Rev. Sarah Logemann to the Presbyterian Church (USA) at the First Presbyterian Church in Miles City, Montana, on Saturday, October 26, 2019 and to dismiss the commission after the benediction at the conclusion of the ordination service.

Those who are serving on the commission include:

The Rev. Susi Ennis, Moderator of the Commission

The Rev. David Thompson, Secretary of the Commission

Don & Gayle Holland, ruling elders from Forsyth

Paul & Sharla Helland, ruling elders from Miles City

Karie Regan, ruling elder from Miles City

The Rev. Kathy Goodrich, General Presbyter

The Rev. Neva Rathbun

The Rev. Garrett Mostowski

And to receive as guests:

The Rev. Debra Christine, District Superintendent of the Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church

Christina Ostendorf, Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee of the First United Methodist Church in Miles City

The Rev. Jamie Schmeling, Reformed Church in America

The Rev. Julie Long, Our Savoir's Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Broadus

The Rev. Nick Knoblauch, Powder River Congregational Church (UCC) in Broadus

Sharon Gladwin, ruling elder from the First Presbyterian Church of Dutch Neck in West Windsor, New Jersey

The Rev. Susi Ennis put forth this motion as the moderator of the commission.

The Rev. Garrett Mostowski provided the second to the motion and the motion passed.

The Commission went through the flow of the ordination service with all parts assigned.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Rev. Susi Ennis.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. David Thompson,

Commission Secretary

DRAFT

## Exhibit F. Leadership Cabinet Report

Leadership Cabinet Report Yellowstone Presbytery, November 1-2, 2019 First Presbyterian Church, Lewiston MT

The Apostle Paul reminds us, “There are many members, but one body.” (1 Corinthians 12:20) Many of our member churches and pastors - and therefore the whole of Yellowstone Presbytery - are in a period of transition, a time of discerning what the Holy Spirit is leading us to do to proclaim Jesus’ reign in our churches and communities. Trying to discern the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst, the Leadership Cabinet has met for their regularly scheduled meetings and two special meetings since April. We have been in prayer and process over the following primary things:

We continue to evaluate our 2019 goals in light of implementing the Yellowstone Presbytery vision, noticing what has gone well and what still needs to be done. We have spent a significant time in Dwelling in the Word and prayer. We have given our time and creative energy listening to the Holy Spirit - along with leaders and congregations - that the Holy Spirit might inform our planning and support for the mid-September Regional Gatherings and the training with Stan Ott at the November Presbytery meeting. The Personnel sub-committee has been meeting personally with Presbytery personnel. It has been decided to keep the positions of stated clerk and assistant stated clerk at 50/50 for the time being. The Leadership Cabinet approved grants from the Higher Education Fund for three collegiate ministry organizations: one each at Rocky Mountain College, MSU-Billings, and PresbyCats. We have reviewed the 2018 year-end financial report and the 2019 budget for St Timothy’s Chapel. We continue to track each congregation’s adoption of a Child and Youth Protection Policy. We have made recommendations to the Representative/Nominating Ministry Team for future members of that Ministry Team.

We rejoice that a 1001 New Worshipping Community is meeting in Basin, Montana, supported by First Presbyterian Church in Helena! Working with Glacier Presbytery, we are composing an amendment to be sent through the Synod of the Rocky Mountains to the upcoming 224th General Assembly for a boundary change between our two Presbyteries in Jefferson County so that this Community is within the bounds of Glacier Presbytery.

As we all seek to live out our call to serve Jesus in our churches and our communities, and, together, as we flesh out our vision as Yellowstone Presbytery, we are faced with the challenge of a significant reduction in income for 2020 and beyond. The annual grant from the Synod of the Rockies has ended and Yellowstone Presbytery, having stretched our withdrawals from the Unreserved Fund much further than we expected, is nearing the end of this Fund. Barring new gifts, and if nothing changes, Yellowstone Presbytery will need to raise an additional (and significant) amount of money to make our 2021 budget. Leadership Cabinet is aware of the situation. In the early church, recorded in Acts 16, the Holy Spirit closed doors and opened new ways for additional ministries and followers of Jesus when the apostles (Jesus’ Sent Ones) obeyed the Spirit’s direction. Leadership Cabinet has been praying to be led by God’s Holy Spirit to discern what is closed to us, what new ways are opened to us, and what we might try to address this challenge. Motions from the Leadership Cabinet 1) Rep/Nom nomination:

**MOTION:** Leadership Cabinet recommends we set aside the standing rule (S06.02.01) for the terms of office for the Rep/Nom Ministry Team and nominate Caroline Fleming for one-year term to be nominated as Moderator.

Leadership Cabinet has asked more than one person to serve a three-year term (class of 2022). The current person we have asked is praying about her commitment to this position. We expect to be able to report our recommendation at our next Presbytery meeting.

2) Boundary Amendment to Synod from Yellowstone and Glacier Presbyteries **MOTION:** Leadership Cabinet recommends the following motion to Yellowstone Presbytery:

**ACTION:** The Presbytery of Yellowstone, in concurrence with the Presbytery of Glacier, requests the Synod of the Rocky Mountains to Overture the 224th General Assembly to approve the following boundary change between the two presbyteries. In particular this includes redrawing the boundary through Jefferson county, so that Jefferson county north of the Boulder River would fall within Glacier Presbytery.

**RATIONALE:** Glacier currently has established a ministry in Basin, Montana which currently lies within the boundary of the Presbytery of Yellowstone. The two presbyteries have agreed to make this change so that the Presbytery of Glacier will be able to continue working with this ministry and assume all authority and liability for the ministry at Basin, Montana.

DRAFT



Presbytery of Yellowstone-Administrative						
Account		2,019 Budget	Actual Through 7/31/19	% of Budget	2020 Prelim.	Notes
ID	Account Name					
4.01.1000	Per Capita Presby	60,617	63,637	105%	61,920	1600x43.00x9
4.01.1010	Per Capita Synod	5,106	5,359	105%	5,040	1600x3.50x90
4.01.1020	Per Capita GA	13,057	13,704	105%	12,888	1600x8.95x90
4.01.1025	Prior Year Per Capita		0			
4.01.1821	Block Grant	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	
	Transfer-W. Yellow.	40,000	0		1,312	
	Transfer-Gen. Admin fund		0		8,255	
	Transfer-Rest. Admin fund	14,930	0		44,588	
	Grants					
4.01.1900	Administrative Support	35,000	10,344	30%	35,000	
	<b>Total Budgeted Income</b>	<b>168,710</b>	<b>93,044</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>169,003</b>	
		2,019 Budget	Actual Through 7/31/19	% of Budget	2020 Prelim.	Notes
	<b>PMT</b>					
	Meetings Exp	4,000	2,204	55%	4,000	
	Discern Team/Other	1,500	0	0%	1,500	
	<b>Total PMT</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>2,204</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>5,500</b>	
		2,019 Budget	Actual Through 7/31/19	% of Budget	2020 Prelim.	Notes
	<b>Comm. On Nominations</b>					
	Nomination meetings	150	0	0%	150	
	Nomination other	50	0	0%	50	
	<b>Total Nominations</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>200</b>	
		2,019 Budget	Actual Through 7/31/19	% of Budget	2020 Prelim.	Notes
	<b>St. Timothy's</b>					
	St. Tim's meetings	250	57	23%	250	
	St. Tim's other	50	0	0%	50	
	<b>Total St. Timothy's</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>300</b>	
		2,019 Budget	Actual Through 7/31/19	% of Budget	2020 Prelim.	Notes
	<b>Delegates to other bodies</b>					
	Delegates meetings	300	0	0%	150	
	Delegates other	50	0	0%	50	
	<b>Total Delegates</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>200</b>	
		2,019 Budget	Actual Through 7/31/19	% of Budget	2020 Prelim.	Notes
	<b>Payroll Taxes</b>					
	Medicare/Soc. Sec.	3,800	2,155	57%	3,900	
	W/C Insurance	375	0	0%	375	
	Unemployment	150	26	17%	150	
	<b>Total Payroll Taxes</b>	<b>4,325</b>	<b>2,181</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>4,425</b>	
		2,019 Budget	Actual Through 7/31/19	% of Budget	2020 Prelim.	Notes
	<b>Per Capita</b>					

	Per Capita GA	14,508	14,508	100%	14,320	1600x8.95
	Per Capita Synod	5,674	5,674	100%	5,600	1600x3.5
	Total Per Capita	20,182	20,182	100%	19,920	
			<b>Actual</b>			
		<b>2,019</b>	<b>Through</b>	<b>% of</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	<b>Admin Mgr.</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>7/31/19</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Prelim.</b>	
	Admin Mgr. Salary	25,833	15,069	58%	26,850	2% for all staff
	Admin Mgr travel	120	0	0%	120	
	Admin Mgr benefits	2,000	2,000	100%	3,500	
	Total Admin Mgr	27,953	17,069	61%	30,470	
			<b>Actual</b>			
		<b>2,019</b>	<b>Through</b>	<b>% of</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	<b>General Presbyter</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>7/31/19</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Prelim.</b>	
	Housing	20,000	11,667	58%	20,000	
	GP Lodging	500	0	0%	500	
	GP meals	1,350	530	39%	1,350	
	GP miscellaneous	700	0	0%	700	
	Misc.-Kathy	2,000	0	0%	2,000	
	GP Pension	15,922	9,461	59%	15,922	
	Salary exp	10,385	6,280	60%	10,593	
	Study leave	700	0	0%	700	
	GP telephone/Conf calls	1,500	548	37%	1,500	
	GP travel	7,500	4,823	64%	7,500	
	Total General Presbyter	60,557	33,309	55%	60,765	
			<b>Actual</b>			
		<b>2,019</b>	<b>Through</b>	<b>% of</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	<b>Stated Clerk</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>7/31/19</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Prelim.</b>	
	Stated Clerk meals	50	0	0%	50	
	Stated Clerk misc.	500	192	38%	500	
	Pension exp.	3,846	2,243	58%	3,846	
	Stated Clerk salary	12,741	7,432	58%	12,996	
	Stated Clerk travel	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	
	Total Stated Clerk	17,137	9,867	58%	17,392	
			<b>Actual</b>			
		<b>2,019</b>	<b>Through</b>	<b>% of</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>7/31/19</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Prelim.</b>	
	Treasurer Salary	7,746	4,519	58%	7,901	
	Total Treasurer	7,746	4,519	58%	7,901	
	<b>Subtotal Personnel</b>	<b>117,718</b>	<b>66,945</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>120,953</b>	
			<b>Actual</b>			
		<b>2,019</b>	<b>Through</b>	<b>% of</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	<b>Leadership Cabinet</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>7/31/19</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Prelim.</b>	
	LC meetings	2,500	1,746	70%	2,500	
	LC other	500	0	0%	500	
	Legal	1,000	0	0%	1,000	
	Task Force meetings	500	0	0%	500	
	Total LC	4,500	1,746	39%	4,500	
			<b>Actual</b>			
		<b>2,019</b>	<b>Through</b>	<b>% of</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>7/31/19</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Prelim.</b>	
	Presbytery meetings	7,600	1,312	17%	4,500	
	Presbytery other	700	80	11%	520	
	Total Presbytery	8,300	1,392	17%	5,020	
			<b>Actual</b>			
		<b>2,019</b>	<b>Through</b>	<b>% of</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	<b>Presbytery Office</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>7/31/19</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Prelim.</b>	
	Copies & postage	800	294	37%	800	
	Equipment	200	0	0%	200	
	Insurance	3,000	1,575	53%	3,000	
	Miscellaneous	460	-133	-29%	460	
	Rent	4,200	2,070	49%	4,200	
	Supplies	1,500	1,602	107%	1,500	

	Telephone & Conf calls	1,500	1,475	98%	2,250
	Total Presby Office	11,660	6,883	59%	12,410
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	168,710	99,409	59%	169,003
	<b>Net</b>	0	-6,365		0

## Exhibit H. Stated Clerk Report.

### Stated Clerk Report June 8, 2019 to November 1, 2019

Attended a phone call meeting of the Presbytery June 8, 2019

Minutes of June 8, 2019 Phone call meeting were prepared.

Attended the July 11, 2019 meeting of the PMT and took meeting notes

Minutes of the PMT meeting July 11, 2019 were prepared.

E Minister roles updated as changes occurred.

Attended the August 13, 2019 meeting of the PMT and took meeting notes. At this meeting Kori Robbins was interviewed as a potential inquirer and Sarah Logemann as a potential ordained Pastor.

Minutes of the PMT meeting August 13, 2019 were prepared.

Attended the LC meeting in Lewistown Sept 10, 2019.

Reviewed a draft of the docket for the special Presbytery meeting in Billings so it could be posted to the Website after the September LC meeting.

Helped Garrett Mostowski with a grant application and support documents for his education loan.

As an assembly delegate, the Clerk attended the Synod Assembly meeting in Denver Colorado and was elected Synod Moderator for 2020. As a part of the meeting it was noted the Meeting Documents Reviewed from Yellowstone during year 2018 were not acceptable and deficiencies noted had not all been corrected yet. The clerk will be engaged in clearing these deficiencies during 2019. All minor corrections needed have been taken care of at this time. The remaining issue is to find an economically feasible way to church record reviews. This will not get done until 2020 and will remain a deficiency issue for our records for 2019.

**To Rectify the reporting deficiency noted above each church in the presbytery will be required to send their Session Clerk to one of the Stated Meetings of the Presbytery closest to their church location and bring the church Minutes Book and Membership Roll Book to that meeting for a review by the office of the Stated Clerk.** This review will take place either before the opening of the meeting on Friday or just after the close of the meeting on Saturday. Both the LC and PMT have agreed this work will get done in this manner. A check list for the review process will be posted on the Presbytery website.

Attended the LC meeting in Billings Oct 8, 2019 and during that day also attended a Special Presbytery Meeting in Billings which had some participants on the phone.

Posted finalized minutes of the June 8, 2019 Presbytery Meeting as approved Oct 8, 2019

Prepared draft Minutes of the LC Meeting Oct 8<sup>th</sup> and the Special Presbytery Meeting Oct 8<sup>th</sup>.and circulated them. Corrections needed were made before publishing.

Prepared the draft docket for the November meeting and communicated with various Moderators on items needing attention at this meeting.

The clerk reviewed items needing attention on the Clerk Portal and its associated records needing attention and cleared or completed some of the transactions needed.

Records certifying Sarah Logemann as ready for ordination were received Oct 22, 2019 from the New Brunswick Presbytery after much delay and the Stated Clerk was able to certify her readiness for ordination on Oct 26, 2019. Sarah will be installed as part time Pastor at the Methodist Church in Miles City at a separate time. She will remain "At Large" in Yellowstone Presbytery in a Validated Ministry.

Primary focus regarding the Presbytery functions for 2020 will be to find ways to continue to serve our 23 churches with the fewer resources we will have available. A better idea might be to work on growing our fellowships and our mission giving so we can do more not less. Just saying.

Jim Tarr

Stated Clerk

DRAFT

Exhibit I. Synod Commissioner Report.

**Report to the Presbytery of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains Assembly, Sept 21, 2019.**

I attended this meeting in Denver and can report to Yellowstone Presbytery on some of the critical decisions that we made.

For everybody to understand the Synod of the Rocky Mountains is now a reduced function Synod and as such has no Synod Executive. I think this new format of the Synod has been in effect for about 4 years. As a reduced function previous Assemblies approved changes in how the Synod supports its presbyteries and dispersed all financial support available at that time plus last year, they dispersed a portion of grant from the estate of one of the members.

At this current time the Synod will no longer provide annual financial support to the presbyteries. The Assembly voted to reduce the per capita to be paid by the Presbytery to the Synod from \$3.50 per member to \$3.00 per member. This change will have little effect for the Presbytery of Yellowstone since we only have a little over 1,500 members as of end of 2018. The larger member Presbyteries can gain more if they maintain their current per capita charges. Another impact on per capita will be a proposed increase in the GA per capita this year. GA Per capita for the 2018 membership numbers will be \$7.73 and will go up to \$8.95 for years 2019 and 2020. These amounts are already approved by the GA. The total operating budget for the Synod for 2020 is \$105,250 and includes salary and expenses and employer costs for 3 staff people. Unrestricted net assets of the Synod will be an estimated \$397,044.89 at the end of this year. The budget for 2020 will incur a loss of \$9,259.00 which possibly could come from this reserve.

The Presbyteries can still apply for financial aid via certain specific grant and loan programs the Synod has available. These remain in existence. This will include minor support to the 2 connected colleges one of which is Rocky Mountain College in Billings which will get \$250.00 Synod funds. The loan program is substantial and could help any of our churches that need essential improvement or repairs but do not have enough current funding to pay for this need. Another activity is grants are available for Joint Presbytery functions and events. These funds require collaboration of 2 presbyteries before they can be used. I think these are called the Geller Center Funds.

The most valuable part of participation at the Synod level is the opportunity to network with the other commissioners from the 8 Presbyteries represented. We share the presbytery good news and concerns in the formal part of the meeting but in the off times we get to engage one on one and seek advice on issues of concern that some have already solved.

The Assembly `approved the Stated Clerks minutes of the 2018 meeting.

The Assembly also voted on the following:

1. Received and approved the treasurer's report.
2. Received and approved the report of the Personnel Committee
3. Approved the Synod per capita for 2020 to be \$3.00 per member.
4. Received and approved the report of the COR committee
5. Received and approved the report of the Nominating Committee.
6. Received a written report from the PW.
7. The Presbyterian Mission Agency had representatives attending and reporting including Bill McConnell and Jon Reinink and they explained some of the impacts that the Agency has been working on both in the USA and around the globe with a focus on how much the needs are for the 4 special offerings the churches are being asked to contribute.
8. The Assembly approved the membership of the committees to serve during 2020.
9. The Assembly voted to elect Jim Tarr as Moderator for 2020 effective Jan 1, 2020.
10. The most important action taken was the request of adjusting the boundary between Yellowstone Presbytery and Glacier Presbytery in Jefferson County Montana. The Clerk had verified the issue of boundary changes was one that required an overture from the Synod, and it would need to be presented to the GA before the 45-day deadline for filing for actions of the 2020 GA. This meant it required immediate action at this assembly. What was decided the Two Presbyteries Glacier and Yellowstone need to determine a legal definition of the boundary change and submit the proposed change and draft overture to the Synod Stated Clerk for Review and formally submitting the final request as an overture of the Synod. Representatives to the Assembly from each of these presbyteries are to

assist in this getting the cooperative definitions prepared by each of the 2 presbyteries. This basically means the Yellowstone presbytery needs to act soon to agree with Glacier on the new boundary definition and it cannot wait until the spring 2020 meeting.

Jim Tarr

Yellowstone Presbytery

Synod Assembly Commissioner

Please note, due to illness my Co Commissioner Kathy Goodrich could not attend this year's assembly.

DRAFT



Exhibit J. PW Report.

## **Report for Yellowstone Presbytery from Presbyterian Women of the Yellowstone**

Merry Lee Hooks and I attended the Synod Coordinating Team Meeting in Cheyenne Wyoming on August 8th. We heard from the Inclusive Community Committee about ways we can increase our exposure and settled on at least one: To develop a presence of PW of the Presbyteries on the PCUSA Synod of the Rocky Mountains website. We need to provide more information and contacts to PW groups across our Synod so we can stay better connected. Our Montana PW groups contributed the highest amount to the PW Mission budget of the entire Synod! We are small, widely spaced and mighty.

The next three days were spent at the Synod Triennial Gathering. The focus was “And Yet She Persisted” with oral presentations about Courageous Women. Merry Lee has pictures to share. It was fun to put ourselves in the shoes of courageous women across the last 100 years since women were given the right to vote.

Jeri Joy and Gail Heimback reported on the just completed USAME trip to the Finger Lakes Region in New York. “The PW USA MISSION EXPERIENCE WAS OUTSTANDING!” They went to a land steeped in the legacy of human rights, civil rights and women’s rights.

Marilynn Collins and Gail Heimback led two creative “hands-on” workshops. (Did you know quilters used a quilt code to navigate the Underground Railroad during the Civil War?)

Vicki Terry led an in-depth discussion of the book Small Great Things by Jodi Picot.

We had the pleasure of hearing from Dakota and Tanner Kohfield who were YAD’s (Young Adult Volunteer Program of PSUCA). They spent a year on the Arizona/Mexican border doing mission work with refugees.

All of the presenters are available to itinerate thru Yellowstone Presbytery. Their presentations were all very informative. Call us for more information!

Report Prepared by  
Suzanne Bratsky, PW Moderator of PW of Yellowstone 406-539-0211

**End of Minutes November 1,2 – 2019**

**Reviewed March 7,8 2020 meeting**

**Approved \_\_\_\_\_**

**Jim Tarr**

**Stated Clerk**