

**Presbytery of Yellowstone – ZOOM Stated Meeting
May 15,16, 2020**

20-032. Opening of the Meeting

The Presbytery of Yellowstone met on Friday and Saturday, May 15, 16, 2020, Via Zoom format at 11:05 AM on Friday with prayer by the Moderator, RE Russ Kline. The theme for this meeting was “ **What Could Book-of-Acts-Inspired Churches Become Post Quarantine? Living & Writing Acts 29**”

There was a morning workshop “Packing for the Journey” which was led by Rev. Susi Ennis. Topic of the morning session was “How do we empower people to take their spiritual gifts, experiences, talents, and abilities to use them for the kingdom”. This session was one of the three work session conducted during this meeting. By the moderator, RE Russ Kline

20-034. Roll Call: (as taken from the registration forms and not as taken verbally)

Ruling Elder Commissioners

Anaconda	CRE Veva Larson, RE Linda Smith (session clerk)
Billings First	RE Russ Kline (Moderator)
Billings St Andrew	RE Ben Larson, Visitors RE Curt Kochner (Camp Director), Carol Mick (Deacon)
Big Hole	RE Larry Boksich, Visitors Julie Boksich (LC) Shawna Page, Susan Ovid, Sandy Cleary
Bozeman	Holly Eloise, RE Suzanne Bratsky (LC and PW), RE Ric Tieman (Treasurer)
Butte First	RE Chuck Wright (Seeker)
Colstrip	A
Deer Lodge	RE Marilyn Thomas, RE Lisa Cole
Dillon First	RE
Ennis	RE Mary Lee Hook
Forsyth Federated	A
Harlowton	A
Hysham Community	RE Waine Milmine—Visitors Sharon Milmine
Jordan	RE Bev Harbaugh (Session Clerk)
Lewistown First	A Charlie Brown
Manhattan	RE Kathy, Visitors, RE Debbie Blackburn (PMT Co-Moderator)
Miles City First	A
Phillipsburg St Paul’s	A
Poplar First	A
Stanford First	CRE Margee Smith
Terry Community	RE Nancy Pehl
White Sulphur Springs	A
Wolf Point First	RE Jeff Harada, Visitor Jakee Harada

Minister Members

David Andrew (absent), Jim Bell (Present), Priscilla Bell (absent), J P Carlson(present), Chuck Carlson (present), Paul Cannon (absent), Dick Davis (present), Jed Cauffman (excused), Paul Cousins (absent), John Dyce (present), Brent Long (present), Jody McDevitt (present), Warren (Rusty) Craig (present), Sherwood McKay (absent), Cathy McLean (present), Mary Davis (present), Steven A Hundley (present), Marcia Muir (absent), Sally Ralston (absent), Susi Ennis (present), Garrett Mostowski (present), Neva Rathbun (excused), Debbie Funke (present), Harlan L Rounds (absent), Jamie Schmeling (present),

George Goodrich (present), Bill Swanson (absent), Kathy Goodrich (present), Susan Thomas (present), Doug Johnson (excused), Sarah Logemann (present), David Thompson (present), 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 (absent), Daniel Triller (present), Wenda Fry (absent), Deborah Schmidt (present)

Commissioned Ruling Elder Members also listed with RE's above

CRE Margaret Smith, Veva Larson,

RE Moderators 2020, Voting Members:

Russ Kline (present), Debbie Blackburn (PMT Co Moderator)

RE Leadership Cabinet Voting Members:

Julie Boksich (present), Ric Tieman, Treasurer (present)

Corresponding member for meeting seated:

None

Staff with Voice:

RE Jim Tarr (Stated Clerk), RE Mellissa Bell (Asst Stated Clerk)

Visiting recognized with voice:

RE Ben Larson (Session Clerk), RE Susan Gibb, RE Janet Kline,

Balance check: Voting RE's, Voting MWS.

20-033. The Zoom meeting began with some instructional information supplied by Rev Jamie Schmeling. See Exhibit A.

20-034. A quorum was declared retroactively after the roll call email was verified.

20-035. The moderator Russ Kline had opened the business section of the meeting with prayer and gave floor to the Stated Clerk for the presentation of the following motions:

- **It was voted, the docket** for the meeting was approved.
- **The following Procedural Motion was approved.**
 1. That the roll for this meeting be established by email to; statedclerk@yellowstonepcusa.org
 2. Call in or Zoom attendees shall indicate in the email if they are a Member, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Elder Commissioner, Other Member with vote according to the presbytery standing rules, or guest.
 3. That written requests for absences received by the Stated Clerk be approved.
 4. That any Corresponding members present on the call phone be seated.
 5. 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.

6. That the Moderator and the Stated Clerk be empowered to suggest and adjust the Agenda during the meeting, as may be necessary, to provide for efficiency in reporting, and
 7. That all reports received at this meeting be accepted and if not supplied to the presbytery office in advance an electronic copy shall be supplied to the office of the stated clerk and the presbytery office immediately following the meeting.
- **It was voted to approve this motion, the stated clerk established specific rules for this Zoom Meeting;** the following was established as rules of conduct of all participants at this meeting.
1. All those present at the meeting shall gain practical skills needed to turn on the video and audio functions in Zoom as soon as possible as the meeting begins and to keep their audio microphone in the muted position until called upon or recognized to speak.
 2. All attendees who do not have their name attached to the screen showing who they are, will identify who they are and who they represent before speaking.
 3. The Moderator shall designate who can or cannot share documents before the meeting begins and all documents need to be posted in advance on the presbytery website or available to share will all at this meeting in digital format. (This means no paper handouts will be available to participants during a virtual meeting.)
 4. Attendance by phone only with no video will be subject to these same rules and must remain muted unless addressed to speak. When speaking, a phone call attendee must state name and church connection before addressing the body.
 5. Attendees when voting shall indicate in favor or opposed only when asked for a vote. Votes are cast by using the hand symbol in Zoom or visually raising of the hand and holding it until the vote can be counted. Phone in only participants will unmute and vote verbally after the visual votes are cast and before the determination of the vote is completed.
 6. During recesses and/or breaks attendees are to keep their computers on, turn off their video, but not the audio setting so they can hear when the meeting reconvenes. Log off when long recesses are planned or if an attendee must leave the meeting for any reason.
- **It was voted to approve this Omnibus motion. The Stated Clerk moved the following items be approved as listed.**
1. Minutes of the special meeting of the Presbytery April 7, 2020 be approved as published on the website.
 2. The treasurer's report be accepted as presented.
 3. The minutes of this meeting are to reflect that the statistical report of the presbytery indicates we had 1,626 members as of December 31, 2019 and a copy of the report which was in the meeting package be accepted as presented.
 4. The minutes of this meeting shall reflect the Presbytery has conducted a required annual review of its insurance and found it acceptable.
 5. The minutes of this meeting shall reflect that a team has been selected consisting of RE Debbie Blackburn and RE Dan Holland to review the financial records of the Presbytery and report their findings to the Leadership Cabinet.

6. The congregational members of the Harlowton Federated Church who are Presbyterian will become members of Yellowstone Presbytery after July 1, 2020 until such time as they join another church.
7. The minutes of this meeting shall report that there has been no call for a meeting of the Presbytery's PJC this year to date and that the following former members are still eligible to serve if needed; MWS Dan Krebill, RE Lloyd Mandeville, MWS Sally Ralston. HR
8. That the clerk reported there are **7 Churches** in this Presbytery that **do not** have their Child and Youth Protection Policy either completed and/or on file at the Presbytery Office.
9. That the clerk reported there are 5 churches who have presented their church records for review and 18 yet to be completed this year at the meeting in November. **This motion will also allow the Session Clerks of the churches** who might be unable to attend the meeting in November, to send electronic copies for review to the Stated Clerk via email for review after this meeting.
10. The report of the PMT to the Nov 1,2 meeting contained a motion to move the Rev. Jed Kauffman to the Presbytery of Los Ranchos in California. It is to be recorded as a part of this meeting that this action is approved with an effective date of Nov 2, 2019.
11. **End of Motions as adopted.**

20-036. The Dwelling in the word Acts 2- 1-21, and 36-47. The reading was led by RE moderator Russ Kline. After hearing the words, the meeting was split into small group discussions for response to some prepared questions. After this the groups came together and brought forth their understandings to the assembly. See Exhibit B for the guide for the discussion. Some of the responses covered the following questions.

1. The church in Antioch was completely different because it was a church coming out of the Gentiles/Greeks, not Jews. (without the tradition/like it was always done before). Therefore NEW means that we use the imagination we receive from the Holy spirit. Reflect: what would be different if you "started over" like the scattered church in Antioch with Gentiles?
2. What NEW thing(s) might God be leading.....
3. What might be different, in light of today's new reality?
4. The scattered Christians in Acts 11 had "Jesus' people eyes." Are you using "Jesus' people eyes" in your communities?

The dwelling sharing was closed with a Prayer by Rev Susi Ennis.

20-037. It was announced the offering for this meeting is to be mailed to the Presbytery Office and will go to replenish the Pastors Emergency Fund and the Westminster Spires Church Camp plumbing project.

20-038. the meeting recessed from 2:00PM until 4:00pm with a prayer by the Moderator RE Russ Kline.

20-039. Co General Presbyters Kathy and George presented a written report (Exhibit C), with the following elements highlighted:

1. Agility, what have we learned during this period of church gatherings in different ways?
2. Are we seeing how the Holy Spirit is working within this fellowship?
3. Are we more or less unified now?

Kathy brought up Mathew 16 vs 1-16 as a sign of our times. Besides the Act vs we just studied. She feels Yellowstone is ahead of the curve when discussing how we are doing with the GP peer group. We seem to be asking the right questions and dealing with the unknowns like what do we do when it is not Sunday? Our underlying assumptions are shifting. We are writing a new playbook and a big question. How do we organize for resilience?

Kathy admonished us to Keep asking these critical questions. The attached report has much more details about the GP's report and these statements are only a few the clerk felt stood out during their reporting.

20-040. The Leadership report was presented by LC Moderator Teresa Kendall and is attached as Exhibit D.

20-041. The treasurer discussed a need to establish an account with the Presbyterian Foundation to allow for donations to be made to the presbytery and its churches using their on-line services.

- **It Was Voted to allow the treasurer to apply to the foundation for the service.** This is link <http://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/11759.PFD-Online-Giving-Program-Guide-Revised.pdf>

Churches are advised they can apply for this service for on-line offerings through this program.

The treasurers report is attached as Exhibit E.

20-042. A musical interlude was provided By Holly Eloise.

20-043. The meeting reconvened at 9:02 Am Saturday with a prayer by the moderator RE Russ Kline. Prayers were offered for several people associated with the presbytery who were having medical related challenges.

20-044. A second musical interlude was offered via a recording prepared by Ric Tieman of Holly Eloise playing and singing.

20-045. the meeting held a moment of open prayer for those concerns in the presbytery for some of its members, its family ties, and for those service providers working front and center during these times.

20-046. The dwelling in the word for this portion of the meeting was led by Rev Susi Ennis on Acts 11 vs 19-30. The first time the word Christian was used in scripture. The assembly broke into small groups to pray and reflect on this scripture lesson.

20-047. Special recognition for her service to the Presbytery and sharing of many voices of reflection, gratitude and joys were offered to MWS Cathy Mclean and,

- It was voted to recognize MWS Kathy Mclean as Honorably Retired.

20-048. MWS Daniel Triller, camping and youth moderator, reported to the presbytery that the regular camping program for this summer was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic risk factors. His full report is attached as Exhibit F.

20-049. The delegates to the 224 GA were commissioned and a prayer offered for them by George Goodrich. Presented for the service of commissioning were MWS Teresa Kendall, alternate MWS

John Dyce, and In abstancia RE Sandy Welch. Our Youth advisory delegate was not recognized and will not be able to participate. We had a virtual laying on of hands during the prayer.

20-050. MWS Susi Ennis presented a report of the Geysers commission exhibit G.

- **It was voted:** That the Geysers Administrative Commission be given permission to enter into an auction sale agreement with Shobe Auction and Realty to have an online auction of the property known as the Community Church in Geysers with a starting bid amount of \$10,000.00.
- **It was voted:** That should the online auction meet the minimum bid requirement, the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery be given permission to sign all documents necessary to complete the sale.

20-051. CoGP George Goodrich presented a report regarding the Closing of the Harlowton Church and that it will be the primary responsibility of the UMC DS to resolve issues with the use of the property.

- It was voted to close the Harlowton Church on June 28, 2020 and to report all related actions that will be required to the Leadership cabinet for final actions needed.

A prayer was offered for the church and what it has meant for so many people as it served the Harlowton community.

20-052. The Clerk report was presented as Exhibit H.

20-053. George Goodrich offered a review and summary of the events and actions of this presbytery at this meeting. Special mentioning was made for the number of participants from many churches who have not been able to attend in the past and that this ZOOM format was fruitful.

20-054. The PW report is attached as Exhibit I. as was in the meeting package.

20-055. Special words of thanks and gratitude were offered to Julie Boksich, Ric Tieman, Teresa Kendall, Kathy Goodrich and Susi Ennis for planning and organizing the activities for this meeting. Russ Kline thanked everyone for participating in this new Zoom meeting format.

- It was voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 PM with a prayer by the moderator Russ Kline.

20-056. The next meeting of Yellowstone Presbytery will be held at FPC Miles City Nov.6,7, 2020.

Jim Tarr

Stated Clerk

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

Exhibit A. Zoom Protocol

Yellowstone Presbytery Meetings
May 2020 – Via Zoom



Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

Welcome to the first ever Yellowstone Presbytery Meeting on Zoom!

The Leadership Cabinet and Planning Team have been working hard behind the scenes to create a positive, first experience in our “new” COVID-19 reality. We thank you in advance for

- your willingness to try something new,
- your patience as we expect technical difficulties,
- and your perseverance and imagination as we work together

to accomplish being the people of God and doing the work of God.

To join our meetings this weekend, you will need access to the following:

- A computer (ideal) with a microphone and camera/video capacity. This could be some other digital device (iPad, tablet, smartphone).
- Internet access. Wi-Fi will work, wired is best. If you have Wi-Fi, please consider where you have the best quality connection.
- The Zoom app for your smartphone, tablet, or computer. You can access the app on either Google Play or the Apple Store. You are looking for an icon that looks like a blue square with rounded corners and a white camcorder. (see image to the left). You want “Zoom for Cloud Meetings”. If using the computer, you will be asked to “run” or download the application when you “join a meeting”.
- The docket and documents on the Presbytery website.
<http://www.yellowstonepcusa.org/2020presbymeeting2.htm> If at all possible, we recommend reading what you can before the meetings begins.
- If you do not have access to a computer or the internet, and you cannot ask a friend or colleague for help, you will be able to join by phone.



Accessing the meeting using Zoom on an internet/wi-fi device:

1. Activate your Zoom App or visit zoom.us in your internet browser.
2. Select “join a meeting”.
3. Enter the Meeting ID Number: 406 586 7706
4. Enter the Password: 406 586 77

Accessing the meeting using Zoom on the phone (long-distance charges apply):

1. Dial 1 669 900 6833 **OR** 1 301 715 8592
2. When prompted enter Meeting ID 406 586 7706 then Password 726854

3. **NOTE:** Password different from joining via computer above Using Zoom

Like any other computer program, Zoom has ‘controls’. You can mute and unmute the microphone, turn video camera on and off, as well as change the view of how you see ‘who’ is present for the meeting. Zoom also has a chat feature, a way to virtually “raise your hand”, and even a virtual way to “clap” – go figure! If you are unfamiliar with any of these features, we strongly encourage you to try a zoom experience **before** our meetings convene. You may contact the following persons for such an experience.

- MWS Jamie Schmeling, (406) 852-0339; jamieschmeling@gmail.com
- RE Debbie Blackburn, (406) 570-5273; deb4cats@aol.com

Alternatively, or additionally, you will have the opportunity to learn some of these features at a pre-meeting which starts Friday at 10:40am.

Please be comfortable with the following, before the meeting begins. Thank you!

- How to mute and unmute your microphone
- How to turn on and off your video (video is not required, although a nice way to “see” one another)
- How to use the chat feature
- How to raise your hand

We acknowledge many of us will be on the computer together. Therefore, we ask that when you join the meeting, if you will please begin with your microphone muted and leave your microphone muted (unless speaking). Doing this will help a) eliminate feedback, b) minimize background noise, and c) help all of us move through our time together more easily.

As usual, we will need to establish some parameters about how we work together in this new space. We will also need to establish we have a roll call and a quorum – just like if we were meeting in person. So, here are the recommendations from the Leadership Cabinet for our Zoom meeting.

1. Start the meeting with your microphone muted.
2. Everyone has their name (first & last) and entity being represented in their Zoom Participant Identification. *For example, Jamie Schmeling, Terry, will be on mine. This is especially important for anyone joining by phone or without a zoom account. If you could send Jamie an email with the phone number you will be dialing in from, she can help with relabeling your zoom login details.* jamieschmeling@gmail.com
3. When you have the floor to speak, please remember to say your name and the entity you are representing each time you speak.
4. When voting, if not using a voice vote of Yes or No, please use the “raise hand” feature. We will count these votes and then check in for a verbal vote from anyone on a phone only.

We are excited about all we will do together! “See” you soon!

Sincerely,
The Leadership Cabinet & YP Staff

Exhibit B. Discussion Guide

The Church in Antioch 11:19-30 (NIV)

¹⁹ Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. ²⁰ Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

²² News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. ²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

²⁵ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

²⁷ During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) ²⁹ The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. ³⁰ This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

Questions for Reflection:

1. The church in Antioch was completely different because it was a church coming out of the Gentiles/Greeks, not Jews. (without the tradition/like it was always done before). Therefore NEW means that we use the imagination we receive from the Holy spirit. Reflect: what would be different if you “started over” like the scattered church in Antioch with Gentiles?
2. What NEW thing(s) might God be leading.....
3. What might be different in light of today's new reality?
4. The scattered Christians in Acts 11 had “Jesus’ people eyes.” Are you using “Jesus’ people eyes” in your communities?

Exhibit C. Co-GP Report.

CoGeneral Presbyters' Report to Yellowstone Presbytery

May 11, 2020

In the last two months the way the world is church changed dramatically – and we, the leaders and churches of Yellowstone Presbytery, asked good questions, adopted possibility thinking, adapted quickly and kept pace. For the intense Covid-19 season, at least, the disciple community/*ekklesia*, was forced from its building-centered, ways-we-are-used-to-doing-things life for worship, relationships, growing disciples, ministry and mission. We are learning about being a more scattered church, experimenting with technologies and ways to worship virtually, to cultivate our love for and relationship with God, grow as disciples, to communicate and stay connected, to serve in ministry and mission in new ways with new forms. *We had to, we did*, with the help of God and others both within and outside *our* church, and that we continue to, is both essential and a gift.

Now, and In the near future, we are exploring, discerning what are realities and facts, safe ways, timing and phases to return to gathering with others in the body of Christ within the buildings with which we are familiar. Great will be the celebration when we do!

But, we now all are understanding better that only Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever and that change and being flexible, open, innovative and adaptive is the new normal. (How did we get to assume life was NOT this way?)

Ways we are growing, what we are learning will help frame our faith, our understanding of Christ's mission for THE church and for our congregation, and our life together outside and beyond as well as within the building going forward.

The changes and accompanying problems and challenges we are facing are of 2 types and it is important to understand the differences:

Technical problems. These are usually solvable with what we already know. A combination of money, time, and expertise should improve, likely make the problem go away.

Adaptive challenges are situations where there are many new or unknowns one is dealing with, no proven, or known “solutions” or perhaps many possibilities but no clear choices. Since they are, BY NATURE, adaptive, this also means they are fluid and change with circumstances. Imagination, creativity, experimentation, risk, breakthroughs...are part of this journey.

So, what we are facing and learning included both technical and adaptive challenges? A few may include:

What is truly MOST important in life.

Circumstances, realities and communities around us, we and Church are and will continue a rapid pace of change. Crises accelerate change. We had to adapt and we did

- The virtual church changed the way we relate to God, to one another, to those outside the church.
- Love can be virtual. Most congregations reached out to isolated members and non-members alike.
- Small churches saw the gifts of various members drawn on to help create and participate in new modes of worship, dreaming,
- The web is an essential path for information and helpful connections. Webinars, ZOOM conferences, social media, kept us connected, informed and encouraged within the presbytery and with the larger Church.
- ZOOM and other platforms are helpful, occasionally preferable modes for meeting as Leadership Cabinet, Pastoral Ministry Team, and sessions. While we all value and generally prefer personal contact, ZOOM meetings economize time, travel, money and energy when used appropriately. Further, ZOOM meetings, while wearying in themselves, can be crafted to be quite personal and connective.

How do we

1. ***Continue practices of discerning God's opportunities ongoing learning, unlearning, adapting and following Jesus in uncharted territory as a way of life?***
2. ***Bring these discoveries forward, to transform and enriching ALL aspects of how we understand and live out our mission and ministry, in the life of our churches, communities and the presbytery?***

When George talked with Waine Milmine last week as the Hysham Church considered re-gathering on Sundays, Waine noted that the Facebook Live ministry of the Church was now reaching far beyond the local congregation. "We have people in Texas who watch us on Facebook Live. When we re-open, we aren't going to forget them. We will worship in the building and keep going with Facebook, too."

Waine "gets" God is showing us new opportunities and ways. And we think most of us do. The church is changed for good and for good. Let's admit it. The old ways many of us have been doing and being church in our country have been fading, bearing less fruit, having less impact, for years. God is allowing the church to be disoriented, shaken up. God is giving us new opportunities to rethink, reframe and re-envision the Church, to experiment, and to cooperate with and be filled with and guided by the Holy Spirit. Time to dream God's dreams together.

And Our Job has Changed Dramatically, too. In the past two months we have:

- a. ***Engaged almost weekly with the leaders*** of the United Methodists, the Episcopalians, the United Church of Christ, the Disciples of Christ, ELCA Lutherans, the Roman Catholic and Glacier Presbytery judicatories across Montana for far more collegial work and relationships than we ever have.
- b. ***Kathy, particularly has, ZOOMed weekly with Presbytery Execs in national meetings discussing*** best practices, resources and trends, both gaining and offering insight and support.

- c. **Kathy has worked extensively with the presbytery planning team** (Susi Ennis, Julie Boksich, and Russ Kline) to create the first all virtual presbytery meeting for May.
- d. Both of us have helped craft and been significantly involved in the scheduled and now more frequent **Leadership Cabinet and PMT ZOOM meetings**.
- e. **Kathy** has worked hard with Susan Seibert in the office to update and **maintain a whole new section of the presbytery web page to resource churches and leaders about Covid-19 regulations and best practices**. Please check it out: Yellowstonepcusa.org.
- f. **George has focused more on the individual pastors and churches**, trying to encourage and enable their transition to virtual worship. But this season has also given him the opportunity to use his pastoral gifts more extensively with pastors and leaders struggling, like we all are in *these times*.
- g. **George has been crafting worship and preaching for the Jordan Church on ZOOM** for the last four Sundays. This has enabled him to gain precious (and sometimes) experience for new ways of bringing worship to the local church, as many of you are doing. Additionally, both of us have taken the opportunity to catch many of the worship services you all are offering on Sunday mornings.
- h. And the Montana denominational leaders **asked George to convene ad ZOOM gathering of Montana clergy who were interested in pursuing spiritual discernment** to ask questions like, "What might God be trying to work into me during this Coronavirus times?" Or, "What might God be doing in the local church I serve?" George, as a spiritual director was asked to do this. As of this writing the first such gathering has happened and a second is planned.

Personally:

- a. While there has been much to learn, breaking developments to keep up with, we have also benefitted from the slower, non-travel pace. **We are trying to use the small windows of free time for some rest, reflective reading and conversation, connecting with family via zoom and calls, and exercise.**
- b. We are saddened by the many struggles faced in all our communities, by Cathy McLean's declining health, by **the death of Paul Cousins** in Philipsburg 2 weeks ago. He was a member of the search committee who called us to serve the presbytery 16 years ago.
- c. With many of you, we are grateful to God for bringing **The Rev. Chuck Carlson to interim pastor the Butte church.**
- d. **Both of our aging Moms** continue to concern us, especially as we cannot easily visit them now. Many of you, too, have family in isolation elsewhere.
- e. While we have eastcoast friends who have contracted the Coronavirus, all have recovered, as far as we know. And to date, none of our family has contracted it.

Exhibit D. Leadership Cabinet Report.

**Leadership Cabinet Report
Yellowstone Presbytery
May 15-16, 2020**

Zoom meeting

The Leadership Cabinet has been meeting often in regular and additional meetings in March, April, and May to support one another and our churches during the CoVID-19 pandemic. We have done the following:

GATHER TOGETHER

We begin with Prayer and Dwelling in the Word at each of our meetings. Much of our time together at the beginning of our meetings has also been spent checking in with each other. Everyone's experience of the CoVID-19 pandemic is unique and every community is struggling with changing conditions and new information.

EQUIP & ENCOURAGE

- Leadership Cabinet voted to provide a matching fund for Yellowstone Presbytery churches. This fund would be available to recover some of the cost of setting up on-line technology for worship, Bible study, small groups, etc. The "Dream Team" for this fund consists of Suzanne Bratsky, Ric Tieman, and Debbie Blackburn.
- George and Kathy Goodrich have been filtering through many documents, webinars, and other resources, choosing the best ones for us, and having them posted on the Presbytery's website.
- Financially, the Presbytery is doing well. Per Capita payments have been made early and some churches have been willing/able to contribute again. As Leadership Cabinet and PMT meet on-line, transportation reimbursement has dropped significantly. Ric Tieman applied for \$25,750 from the Paycheck Protection Program for Presbytery salaries.
- Leadership Cabinet has tried to get a "balcony view" of life with CoVID-19 along with "listening on the floor." We want to discern the things to which God might be calling our churches and encourage innovation, **and** equip churches to be able to do new things that open up for them. "The church is not empty; the church is deployed."
- The feedback we received at our April meetings was that many of our churches were adapting to the new restrictions, trying new things, and caring for one another. We also know that many grieve - "People don't resist change. They resist loss."
- The May meeting of the Presbytery was changed to an on-line meeting rather than in-person. The planning team is working creatively under this new framework. The planning team has asked that those who attend the meeting watch the movie "Acts." The Presbytery will reimburse three copies of the movie if there is no access to Amazon Prime.
- Leadership Cabinet is looking to have special teams for this season to address the following:
 - 1) Technology and social media
 - 2) Connection and care for one another
 - 3) Discipleship and formation
 - 4) Serving children, youth, and families
 - 5) Serving our communities
 - 6) Economic needs and food sustainability

Other business:

- The Geyser Commission has entered into a process for an on-line auction. Please read Geyser report.
- Funds for Higher Education are available and a team of Ric Tieman, Suzanne Bratsky, George Goodrich, and Debbie Blackburn will have the application form ready by May 21st.
- General Assembly has moved to gathering on-line over pre-arranged dates of June 19th and 26th-27th. They will only present essential work to the commissioners.

Exhibit E. Treasurers Report.

Insert PDF copy of file here

Exhibit F. Camping and Youth Report

Westminster Spires Camp Update – May 2020

On May 12th, four of us who are connected to Westminster Spires and the Camping and Youth Committee (George Goodrich, Curt Kochner, Kara Todd, Daniel Triller) met over Zoom to discuss the possibility of holding camp this summer at Westminster Spires in midst of the situation regarding COVID-19. In the end, we all agreed that it would be best to not move forward and try to hold camp this summer (this includes Elementary, Middle and High School Camp).

While we are saddened by all of this, we feel this is the best decision for a handful of reasons. While we are unsure as to what phase we will be in come this July, either way we are confident that whatever restrictions are in place at that time would drastically altar and ultimately negatively impact the camp experience as we know it. In addition, we recognize that many families/parents would be reluctant to send their children to camp and we are hesitant to do a great deal of planning and preparation for a camp that may possibly never happen should the situation here in Montana remain the same or turn for the worse.

We also briefly discussed the possibility of holding a virtual camp experience, yet ultimately decided against it, since it would be difficult, if not impossible to recreate the camp experience virtually. Even more, we as a camp are not set up staff wise to make such happen.

With all this said, we are exploring two alternative options for camp this summer. One would be a leadership training camp of sorts, which would include a small group of CIT's and counselors that we could invest in as well as build up our leadership pipeline for future summers. Another possibility would be hosting a family camp or two. We think there's a real opportunity here for families to experience camp together, and in addition, social distancing would be far easier to maintain within family units where each family would have their own cabin. We will continue to explore these options over the next couple months.

In the meantime, Revamp the Camp will still take place June 5-7th as scheduled. This will allow a small handful of people to work on necessary maintenance projects and help get camp ready for a couple groups and family reunions that we anticipate will still take place.

Blessings,

Yellowstone Presbytery - Camping and Youth Committee

Exhibit G. Geyser Commission Report.

Geyser Administrative Commission
Report to Presbytery
May 15/16, 2020

History

In 2017 after months of discernment on the part of the congregation of the Geyser Community Church, the congregation voted to close the church. The Presbytery appointed an Administrative Commission (AC) composed of MWS Susi Ennis moderator, RE Charlie Brown, RE Jim Tarr, staff Rev. George Goodrich, and RE Fern Kaiser from Geyser as a non-voting member of the commission to facilitate that closing.

The AC reached out to Glacier Presbytery to see if either of the PC(USA) churches in Great Falls might be interested in starting a new ministry in Geyser. When they said no, the AC reached out to other judicatories in the area to see if they were interested in using the church building to start new ministry in Geyser. The answer from the others was also no.

The following motions were made and passed at the March 3, 2018 meeting of Yellowstone Presbytery in regard to the property known as Community Church in Geyser:

Motion passed that the Geyser Administrative Commission be given permission to list for sale the property known as the Community Church in Geyser, and that the Geyser Administrative Commission be given permission to negotiate the sale price with any potential buyer keeping in mind the appraised value of the property. It is understood that the final sale of the property would be approved by the full Presbytery at a meeting of the Presbytery.

Motion passed to amend the motion to include that it is understood that the final sale of the property (Geyser) would be approved by the full Presbytery at a meeting of the Presbytery.

Over the years there were some inquiries and offers made, however, the offers were well below the appraise value and counter offers from the AC were not accepted.

In November 2019 the AC met with Jayson Shobe of Shobe Auction and Realty. Jayson is a well-known businessman in the Lewistown community and comes with strong recommendations. His business has a proven track record. Jayson advised that the best way to proceed would be to hold an online auction. These auctions reach far beyond the borders of Montana. He said that it is surprising the number of people who do not live in Montana are interested in property here. He feels that the online format would reach a significant number of potential buyers. 2

2020 Actions

Exhibit a. attached to this report is the format of the contract the AC would be signing with Shobe Auction and Realty once we can firm up the dates. The terms of the agreement are that Yellowstone Presbytery would offer the property for sale in an online auction. Bidding would start at 10,000.00. At this time, the dates are to be determined because of the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. As you can see there are conditions that address the costs for advertising, costs associated with closing the sale, and costs that may be incurred if the auction is unsuccessful. The agreement also tells us of the steps taken to complete the sale.

The Presbytery motion of March 2018 states that the final sale of the property be approved by the full Presbytery at a meeting of the Presbytery. At that time, it was believed that we would be following traditional business models for selling a property where an offer would be made by a buyer and we would negotiate toward an acceptance.

The path an auction takes is that the seller, Yellowstone Presbytery, agrees to accept an offer that meets the minimum bid amount which has been set at \$10,000.00 based upon the appraised value and Jayson's recommendation. In an online auction if the minimum bid is met the sale is binding. Also, the closing must be completed within 30 days.

Because of the nature of an auction, and the requirement that the Presbytery approve the sale of the property; the AC presents the following motions:

1. That the Geyser Administrative Commission be given permission to enter into an auction sale agreement with Shobe Auction and Realty to have an online auction of the property known as the Community Church in Geyser with a starting bid amount of \$10,000.00.
2. That should the online auction meet the minimum bid requirement, the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery be given permission to sign all documents necessary to complete the sale.

Exhibit b. is a Q & A document that we hope will address any concerns that you might have before you consider the motions.

Report submitted by
MWS Susi Ennis, moderator
RE Charlie Brown
RE Jim Tarr
Staff Rev. George Goodrich
RE Fern Kaiser 3

Exhibit a.

Jayson & Kyle Shobe, Auctioneers

408 West Main Street

Lewistown, MT 59457

Office: 406-538-5125 Cell:406-366-5125

Geyser, MT Presbyterian Church Auction Proposal

1.) Auction to be conducted by United Country - Shobe Auction & Realty in an

“Online Only” format.

2.) Auction bidding to open on date to be determined.

3.) Auction bidding to close on date to be determined.

4.) Property previewing: by appointment with a church representative or by scheduled open house.

5.) Auction will be for one total lot, including all personal and real property.

6.) Property to be cleaned to showable condition at the expense of the Seller prior to public viewing.

7.) Advertising to be the expense of the Seller.

8.) Advertising to begin by date to be determined.

9.) Advertising budget not to exceed \$1500.00; due upon execution of the auction contract.

10.) Starting bid will \$10,000.00.

11.) If bidding does not meet the starting bid, a No Sale Fee will be \$1000.00.

12.) Seller to pay for title insurance and ½ of closing agent closing fee.

13.) Transaction Closing to be within 30 days following the close of the bidding.

14.) Commission will be 10% of the final bid.

15.) Buyer's premium of 3% will be added to the final bid to arrive at the total contract price.

16.) Buyer's premium is the property of the Auctioneers to pay the Internet Hosting fee.

17.) An Auction Contract will be generated and executed by Seller and the Auctioneers

upon mutual agreement to auction date, time, terms and conditions.

Respectfully submitted,

February 21, 2020

Jayson Shobe Kyle Shobe 4

Exhibit b.

Question and Answer

Q: Who is Jayson Shobe?

A: Jayson Shobe is with Shobe Auction and Realty in Lewistown. Both Charlie Brown, a member of the AC, and Melissa Bell, assistant Stated Clerk know Jayson. They have both told us that he is a successful, upstanding businessman in Lewistown who is active in his own community of worship.

Q: Why an online auction?

A: Since the traditional way of selling a property has not been fruitful, this is an alternative suggested by Jayson Shobe of Shobe Auction and Realty.

Q: Will we receive a fair price for the property?

A: Yes, the Administrative Commission will set a minimum bid of \$10,000.

When it was moved and passed the direction of the Presbytery was to “not give it away”. This minimum bid is based upon the appraisal and concurred with by Jayson Shobe.

Q: What costs will the Presbytery incur?

A: There will be a cost for Shobe Auction and Realty to advertise the online sale. The agreement caps the advertising budget at \$1500.

The typical costs associated with the sale of a property will be taken from the proceeds upon completion of the sale.

Q: What if there is no minimum bid and the property is not sold?

A: We will still have the advertising cost of \$1500 and we will be required to pay Shobe Auction and Realty \$1000 for the work they have done on our behalf.

Q: Why does the agreement say “date to be determined”?

A: Due to the current situation with COVID-19, Jayson was unable to provide firm dates as of the writing of this report (May 7). Charlie Brown will be in touch with Jayson in the days before Presbytery to see if the situation is such that dates can be scheduled.

Q: Why are we being asked to approve this motion from the Administrative Commission?

A: When an auction takes place there is no negotiation. If the minimum bid is met then it is binding upon the seller to complete the sale. By approving this motion, the Presbytery is approving a sale which meets the conditions set by the motion of the March 2018 meeting.

Q: Who is representing the Presbytery with Shobe Auction and Realty and any potential bidders?

A: The members of the Administrative Commission will be representing the Presbytery in working with Shobe Auction and Realty. If a bidder wishes to view the property a member of the Administrative Commission will make the arrangements.

Exhibit H. Stated Clerk Report.

Stated Clerk Report March to May 2020

His has been an interesting and transitional time in the life of the church because in March everything began to change after the actions of the Government shutting down our right to assemble. This was made possible by the establishment of the War Powers Act to stop the spread of the COVid -19 pandemic. After the church was restricted from assembly it became important to hold some special meetings of the Cabinet and PMT to coordinate with and help the churches make these adjustments.

LC met March 20 and continued March 25 to deal with issues due to the above change impacts. Minutes of this meeting were taken, and drafts submitted to the Moderator. Minutes of the Jan 11, retreat meeting was approved at this meeting.

The LC met again April 1st and minutes were prepared, sent out for review, and minutes of the LC meeting March 20-25 were approved.

The MT

The Corporate report was prepared and mailed after numerous attempts to do the on-line filing the system did not work for me.

Presbytery Minutes review process requires the clerk to review our meeting minutes and check them against the requirements for content required by the Synod and the Book of Order. Is review process take several hours as all documents are checked for needed content and forms filled out indicating what is missing.

During 2019 we have the following deficiencies in our minutes:

- The Church minutes were not reviewed by the Stated Clerk.
- Not all minutes were signed and attested and this was not noted on all the on-line copies.
- The Presbytery had not recorded an independent audit of the financial records had been completed.
- The dates and places of the next meeting was not provided at the special meetings.
- The report of the Synod commissioners and record review meetings was not recorded as well as the actions taken by the Presbytery to correct the deficiencies in the 2018 records.
- The membership role of the PJC was not recorded along with the names of former members subject to being called to serve.
- The meetings or lack of meetings of the PJC were not recorded.
- The completion of the requirements for all staff to have signed the documents relating to the Presbytery Sexual Harassment Policy and results of the background checks having been completed was not recorded
- The establishing a record that all the churches in the Presbytery now have in place a Child and Youth Protection Policy has not been completed.

The LC Zoom meeting of April 21 was attended and minutes prepared. Minutes of the March 20-25 meeting were reviewed and approved.

The Synod Clerk conference review of our Presbytery meeting minutes was held on April 23rd. Our Presbytery minutes continue to have deficiencies.

The clerk attended a meeting of the PMT May 6, 2020 and a meeting of the LC on May 12, 2020.

A draft docket for the May meeting was prepared along with a call to a Zoom Conference Connection and instruction via email. Since the Presbytery has no standing rules concerning the

conducting of virtual meetings, the clerk will follow the guidelines prepared by the GA Stated Clerk for conducting Stated meetings in this format until the Presbytery adopts rules in our Standing Rules.

The Stated clerk was given advise from the Leadership Cabinet to provide an Omnibus Motion for approval of the Presbytery and the motion will cover procedural and well as specific rules for the conducting this virtual meeting.

The Clerk will move the following motions:

Procedural Motion - The Stated Clerk moves the following Procedural Motion:

8. That the roll for this meeting be established by email to;
statedclerk@yellowstonepcusa.org
9. Call in or Zoom attendees shall indicate in the email if they are a Member, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Elder Commissioner, Other Member with vote according to the presbytery standing rules, or guest.
10. That written requests for absences received by the Stated Clerk be approved.
11. That any Corresponding members present on the call phone be seated.
12. 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.
13. That the Moderator and the Stated Clerk be empowered to suggest and adjust the Agenda during the meeting, as may be necessary, to provide for efficiency in reporting, and
14. That all reports received at this meeting be accepted and if not supplied to the presbytery office in advance an electronic copy shall supplied to the office of the stated clerk and the presbytery office immediately following the meeting.

Rules for This Zoom Meeting- The Stated clerk Moves the following be established as rules of conduct of all participants at this meeting:

7. All those present at the meeting shall gain practical skills needed to turn on the video and audio functions in Zoom as soon as possible as the meeting begins and to keep their audio microphone in the muted position until called upon or recognized to speak.
8. All attendees who do not have their name attached to the screen showing who they are, will identify who they are and who they represent before speaking.
9. The Moderator shall designate who can or cannot share documents before the meeting begins and all documents need to be posted in advance on the presbytery website or available to share will all at this meeting in digital format. (This means no paper handouts will be available to participants during a virtual meeting.)

10. Attendance by phone only with no video will be subject to these same rules and must remain muted unless addressed to speak. When speaking, a phone call attendee must state name and church connection before addressing the body.
11. Attendees when voting shall indicate in favor or opposed only when ask for a vote. Votes are cast by using the hand symbol in Zoom or visually raising of the hand and holding it until the vote can be counted. Phone in only participants will unmute and vote verbally after the visual votes are cast and before the determination of the vote is completed.
12. During recesses and/or breaks attendees are to keep their computers on, turn off their video, but not the audio setting so they can hear when the meeting reconvenes. Log off when long recesses are planned or if an attendee must leave the meeting for any reason.

Omnibus motion. The Stated Clerk moves the following items be approved:

- ~~12.~~ The minutes of the Presbytery meeting March 6,7, 2020 be approved as published on the Presbytery Website.
13. The minutes of the special meeting of the Presbytery April 7, 2020 be approved as published on the website.
14. The treasures report be accepted as presented.
15. The minutes of this meeting are to reflect that the statistical report of the presbytery indicates we had 1, 626 members as of December 31, 2019 and a copy of the report which was in the meeting package be accepted as presented.
16. The minutes of this meeting shall reflect the Presbytery has conducted a required annual review of its insurance and found it acceptable.
17. The minutes of this meeting shall reflect that a team has been selected consisting of RE Debbie Blackburn and RE Dan Holland to review the financial records of the Presbytery and report their findings to the Leadership Cabinet.
18. The congregational members of the Harlowton Federated Church who are Presbyterian will become members of Yellowstone Presbytery after July 1, 2020 until such time as they join another church.
19. The minutes of this meeting shall report that there has been no call for a meeting of the Presbytery's PJC this year to date and that the following former members are still eligible to serve if needed; MWS Dan Krebill, RE Lloyd Mandeville, MWS Sally Ralston.
HR
20. That the clerk reported there are **7 Churches** in this Presbytery that **do not** have their Child and Youth Protection Policy either completed and/or on file at the Presbytery Office.

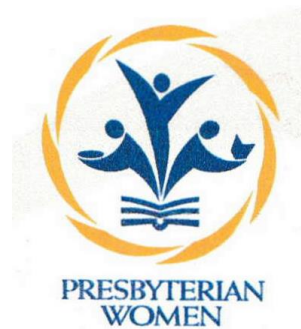
21. That the clerk reported there are 5 churches who have presented their church records for review and 18 yet to be completed this year at the meeting in November. **This motion will also allow the Session Clerks of the churches** who might be unable to attend the meeting in November, to send electronic copies for review to the Stated Clerk via email for review after this meeting.
22. The report of the PMT to the Nov 1,2 meeting contained a motion to move the Rev. Jed Kauffman to the Presbytery of Los Ranchos in California. It is to be recorded as a part of this meeting that this action is approved with an effective date of Nov 2, 2019.
23. End of Motion.

The above motions will be made at the opening of the next meeting and will be in the meeting packet for review before the meeting begins.

End of report.

Jim Tarr
Stated Clerk

Exhibit I. PW Report.



Presbyterian Women Report to Yellowstone Presbytery

May 2020

Save the Dates!! Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, **August 5-8, 2021**. The theme for the Gathering will be "Rejoice in Hope". This seems like an appropriate theme for these pandemic times. Hope many of you are thinking about attending. Pray that we will not have to cancel the event even though it is a year from now. Visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering for downloadable jar wrappers or labels to make saving for the Gathering easy; a two-minute Gathering trailer to watch or share; and a down-loadable flier that you can customize with contact information for your PW group. PW Churchwide gathers are always fun, educational, inspiring and uplifting. Plan to attend. Start saving now.

Yellowstone Presbytery and Presbyterian Women have had several changes in our churches both in numbers of members and numbers of pastors. We do have some tremendous new pastor pairs and pastor singles for which we are very grateful.

East Cluster: Billings

FPC Billings has had a "banner year" with 15 new members in their 5 circles. Each circle added at least one new member! Their three primary mission projects are The Birthday Offering, Fellowship of the Least Coin and the Thank Offering and they also make contributions to missions at the local, national and international levels. Sunday morning coffee fellowship is provided by PW members. They also work with other committees to provide dinners and assistance to the Presbytery and other groups that meet in their church. Their Youth went to Triennium this past summer and took PW pillowcases with them to add to the collection that was being sent to Puerto Rico for hurricane victims. They raise funds from personal donations, working funerals, and a successful book sale. They are using the *PW Horizons Magazine Bible Study*, "Love Carved in Stone". They report that they thrive and grow because of the devoted leadership of the Circle Chairs.

Bozeman

First Presbyterian Church in Bozeman has 2 circles that are going well. There are approximately 13 women in each circle. They raise funds to give to many local groups that care for homeless high school kids and women and children in serious situations. We continue having an awareness of Trafficking of women and men. They use the *PW Horizons Bible Study* too.

Hysham has a Circle that also studies the *PW Horizon's Bible study*. They do funeral dinners and provide monies for kids to attend camp.

Terry has a circle and a new Pastor Jamie Schmeling who was newly installed in December.

West Cluster: Ennis

The seven women and 3 men who support PW/Ennis bring expertise to fundraising. A small town that swells to a larger one during the tourist season, PW baked goods and pie and ice cream have a tasty reputation among hungry fishermen and their families. This year we made \$2,700.00 between the Arts Council Celebration and the Fly Fishing Festivities. The distribution to Mission is as follows:

Caring and Sharing:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (earmarked for Hurricane Dorian) and Living Waters for the World Intermountain Children's Home, (funds and at request, Sheep Banner made and donated by member of congregation)

Church World-wide Service (earmarked for blankets)

Peace Place (Great Falls, Montana)

Ennis Community Children School

Charles and Melissa Johnson. (Presbyterian missionaries in Zambia)

Lazare' & Chantal Tshibuabua (Presbyterian missionaries in Congo - earmarked for Chantal's medical needs)

Funds sent for Christmas:

The Reverend Jean Johnson. (Rev. Jean deceased. The donation was applied to MVPC)

Madison Valley Bank Giving Tree

Interstate Giving Tree

Christmas Joy Offering PCUSA

2 local families in need.

Leaving \$713.99 for anticipated needs.

Other: Blood draw, Christmas Bazaar and crisis meals.

Anaconda

The Bible Study is *2018-2019 Horizons "Gods Promise: I Am With You"*. We meet once a month from September to May. Our projects often overlap with the Deacons of the church and it is hard to distinguish PW from Church.

The main fundraiser is the annual pasty sale which supports The Presbyterian Women's Mission Pledge, The Discovery House, (for children in jeopardy during court proceedings) The annual Christmas Tree, (dedicated to the school children in need of clothes, hats, gloves and sox's.)

Church of the Big Hole-Melrose, Glen, Wise River, Jackson

Church of the Big Hole has elected a ministry of hospitality, providing community to those in need where "word of mouth" is more relevant than the internet. The unique interdependence of those for whom place may be the deciding factor for well-being may also strengthen the sense of community. This awareness of one another's needs may take the form of inviting isolated folks to events and on occasion providing a cabin, meals and support as they find work. This echoes the purpose and mission of PW while demanding creativity.

Formal Bible Study is a cohesive force for The Church with the Big Name. The minister is in the process of consolidating prior PW Bible Studies to write a forward-looking focus for the PW of The Church of the Big Hole. The Grace of God has no boundaries.

Contributed by Suzanne Bratsky, Moderator PWP and Merry Lee Hooks, Moderator West Cluster

Reviewed May 14,15, 2020 meeting draft, Approved November 6,7, 2020

Approved _____

Jim Tarr

Stated Clerk

DRAFT