

**Presbytery of Yellowstone - Stated Meeting  
June 16, 2023  
1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Lewistown and via Zoom**

**Friday, June 16, 2023**

**23.027. Opening of the Meeting**

The Presbytery of Yellowstone met on Friday June 16, 2023, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Some attended in person, and some attended via Zoom. Moderator Melissa Bell welcomed everyone. CRE Margee Smith, opened the meeting with prayer. The theme for this meeting was ***"Pentecost People Empowered by the Spirit."***

**23-028. Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by the Stated Clerk. All attendees were asked to register by email to [caroline@yellowstonepcusa.org](mailto:caroline@yellowstonepcusa.org) noting their name, church, and their position (minister member, member due to position, commissioner, corresponding member or guest).

**Ruling Elder Commissioners, CREs, Other RE's and visitors**

Anaconda	CRE Veva Larson, RE Sean Larson, Commissioner
Billings First	RE Jim Hummel, Commissioner; RE Betty Roy, Commissioner, RE Russ Kline, LC
Billings St Andrew	RE Cynthia Kessler, Commissioner, Jim Tarr, GA commissioner & PMT
Big Hole	RE Sandy Cleary, Commissioner, RE Julie Boksich, LC
Bozeman	RE John Sacklin, Commissioner
Butte	CRE Karolee Larson, RE Kathy Murray, Commissioner
Colstrip	A
Deer Lodge	A
Dillon	A
Ennis	A
Forsyth	A
Hysham	A
Jordan	A
Lewistown	RE Melissa Bell, Moderator & LC
Manhattan	CRE Chuck Wright, RE Stephanie Bergstrom, Commissioner, RE Debbie Blackburn, visitor,
Miles City	RE Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk
Phillipsburg	A
Poplar	A
Stanford	A
Terry	RE Nancy Pehl, Commissioner
White Sulphur Springs	A
Wolf Point	A

**Minister Members:**

David Andrew (absent); Jim Bell (present); Priscilla Bell (absent); Ashley Birk (present); David Bierschwale (excused); Kimberly Briggs (present); J P Carlson (excused); Warren (Rusty) Craig (present); Dick Davis (present); Mary Davis (excused); John Dyce (absent); Wenda Fry (absent); Debbie Funke (present); George Goodrich (present); Kathy Goodrich (present); Steven A Hundley (excused); Doug Johnson (excused); Lowell Johnson (excused); Teresa Kendall (present); Dan Krebill (excused); Brent Long (present); Freeman McCall (absent); Jody McDevitt (present); Sherwood McKay (absent); Marcia Muir (absent); David Murchie (absent); Sally Ralston (absent); Neva Rathbun (present); Mary Grace Reynolds (present); Harlan (Lanny) Rounds (excused); Jamie Schmeling (present); Deborah Schmidt (absent); Susan Thomas (excused); David Thompson (present); Daniel Triller (present); Kim Woeste (present).

**Commissioned Ruling Elder Members also listed with RE's above:**

CRE Karolee Larson (present), CRE Veva Larson (present); CRE Margee Smith (present); CRE Chuck Wright (present).

**2022 RE Moderators and Leadership Cabinet Voting Members also listed with their churches above:**

RE Melissa Bell, Presbytery Moderator elect, (present); RE Russ Kline, LC Moderator, (present) RE Julie Boksich (present), RE Ric Tieman, Treasurer (present).

**Corresponding Member:** MWS Rob Hagan, Presbyterian Foundation

**Guests:**

**Staff with Voice:** RE Caroline Fleming (Stated Clerk)

**Quorum/Balance check:** 16 voting RE's, 17 voting MWS. A quorum was declared present.

**23-029. Protocol:** (Attachment A) The Stated Clerk reviewed protocol for the meeting.

**23-030 Spirit Sighting, Music and Dwelling in the Word:** The Spirit is active in Melrose where, as Julie Boksich reported, the Easter Egg hunt held in April in Melrose was attended by 25 children. The turnout was more than expected and led to 2 children asking to attend Sunday worship services to “learn more about Jesus” and the development of an after-school program. Julie’s Spirit sighting was followed by presbyters being led in song by George Goodrich.

**23-031 Dwelling in the Word:** With a continuing focus on telling our faith stories, Russ Kline led presbyters in dwelling in Acts 1:8 and 2:1-12. Ideas raised by the passage included: rest is needed; speak up when you feel called to do so, and one cannot walk on water unless you get out of the boat. Other thoughts included the importance of small groups in reaching people, the necessity of recognizing and using gifts, the importance of asking the Holy Spirit for power needed to share faith with others. There is power to redirect and change lives when the Holy Spirit is present and, indeed, everywhere we look there is God.

**23-032. Omnibus Motion:** (Attachment A) The Stated Clerk presented the omnibus motion.

- **Action:** A motion was made to pull item 10. e (overture 22-P) from the omnibus motion and pass it as amended. The motion was seconded, and it passed.

- **Action:** A motion was made to amend the docket by moving the second “Spirit Sighting” to the first agenda item following lunch. The motion was seconded, and it passed.

**23-033 Representation & Nomination Team (Rep/Nom) report:** (Attachment B)

- Jody McDevitt reminded presbyters that the PC(U.S.A.) General Assembly will meet in Salt Lake City June 25-July 4, 2024. Applications for teaching elder commissioner, ruling elder commissioner and youth advisory delegate (YAD) are being accepted by the Rep/Nom Team for nomination at the November Presbytery meeting. The YAD must be between the ages of 18 and 23 at the time of the assembly.
- Jody gave the first reading of the nominations:
  - **PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM (effective July 16, 2023)**  
**2023 Co-Moderators** RE Debbie Blackburn and MWS Neva Rathbun
  - **SYNOD OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS (2-year term)**  
**Class of 2024** MWS JP Carlson

**23-034 Spirit Sighting:** The Spirit is active in Lewistown and Denton where Kimmy Briggs and Margee Smith reported the gift of partnering with other people and churches for Vacation Bible School. VBS in Lewistown has expanded the church’s reach beyond 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Lewistown. VBS in Denton was blessed with assistance from Dave Thompson and his high school youth who ran the Vacation Bible School there. Both events were wonderfully successful.

**23-035 General Presbyter’s report:** (Attachment C) General Presbyter Kathy Goodrich noted we are still living and writing the Book of Acts and what the Spirit is doing is amazing. She suggested it might be valuable for churches to integrate “Spirit Sightings” into worship services, session and committee meetings, and asks people to report back what they try. See the report for information on the new CLC, the CRE/CLP training program being offered by Dubuque Seminary and the Rocky Mountain Synod, and useful resources for people and churches.

**23-036 Pastoral Ministry Team (PMT) Report Part I:**

Karolee Larson: Chuck Wright presented Karolee Larson to Presbytery as a seminary graduate. Karolee shared her faith journey that brought her to this time following which Karolee was examined for ordination, installation at Butte 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, and membership in Yellowstone Presbytery. She was examined by presbyters. Chuck then presented three recommendations from the PMT.

**\*Action:** PMT recommends Karolee Larson to Yellowstone Presbytery for ordination and installation at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Butte. MT. The recommendation passed.

**\*Action:** PMT recommends Yellowstone Presbytery accept Karolee Larson into the membership of Yellowstone Presbytery. The recommendation passed.

**\*Action:** PMT recommends Yellowstone Presbytery authorize PMT to appoint a commission to ordain and install Karolee Larson. The recommendation passed.

Presbyters reviewed the terms of call offered to Karolee by the Butte church.

**\*Action:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the terms of call. The motion passed.

Kimmy Briggs offered prayer for Karolee, for her calling, for the Butte search team, the church, and for their future together.

### **Lunch Break**

**23-037 Spirit Sighting:** The Spirit is alive in Jordan where three children were baptized, eight confirmands joined the church membership, and 2 elders were installed to active duty on Session in February. It was a joy-filled day followed by wonderful fellowship at a church potluck.

### **23-038 Pastoral Ministry Team Report Part II:**

Margee Smith: PMT shared Terms of Call extended to Margee Smith by Lewistown 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church and made a recommendation from PMT:

**\*Action:** PMT recommends Yellowstone Presbytery approve the commission for Margee Smith to serve as CRE at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in Lewistown. The recommendation passed.

Presbyters were given opportunity to celebrate Teresa Kendall and her ministry in Yellowstone Presbytery and to say goodbye to her. Teresa will leave the pulpit of Deer Lodge church on August 31 and move to Tennessee. Prayers were lifted for Teresa for this new phase of her life.

ELCA sponsored an interdenominational gathering in Glendive attended by Presbyterians, Methodists, Lutherans and UCCs. Kathy, Caroline, Neva and Jamie attended and discussed difficulties and hopes churches have and hopes for the future that we have. ELCA will hold a CLP training this fall and invites people of other denominations to attend.

**23-039 Spirit Sighting:** The Spirit is alive in Melissa Bell and in Stanford where Melissa is helping to fill the pulpit. She enjoys preparing sermons and leading worship.

### **23-040 Leadership Cabinet report:** (Attachment D)

The sale of the McAllister Church property is complete, and funds have been received. 85% of the proceeds is sent to the Madison Valley Presbyterian Church and 15% will remain with Yellowstone Presbytery. The presbytery portion will be earmarked for evangelism. Churches can contact Russ Kline if they have an idea for evangelism that may need some funding.

Treasurer Ric Tieman reported camp fees are coming in. He also shared the work he is doing toward a new presbytery website (Attachment E).

### **23-041 Camping & Youth Team report:** (Attachment F)

Intergenerational camp will be held at Hayalite June 19-23. Fifty-four campers in grades 3 through 9 have signed up to attend, and 20 leaders are recruited and ready for the week. Anyone is invited to stop by the camp during the week. Churches are encouraged to help their campers share their camping experiences with the congregation.

The bridge at Westminster Spires Camp has been fixed. Presbytery looks to resume holding camp at Westminster Spires in the summer of 2024.

**23-042 Spirit Sighting:** The Spirit is alive in Ennis where the Session will be meeting shortly to make plans for green energy for the church and discuss other beneficial uses to which the funds from the McAllister sale might be put so their building can continue as a holy place.

**23-043 Rep/Nom Team Part II:** (Attachment B)

The nominations proposed by the Rep/Nom Team were read for a second time:

- **PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM (effective July 16, 2023)**  
**2023 Co-Moderators** RE Debbie Blackburn and MWS Neva Rathbun
- **SYNOD OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS (2-year term)**  
**Class of 2024** MWS JP Carlson

The moderator called for nominations from the floor. There were none.

**\*Action:** A motion was made to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. The motion passed.

Presbyters were reminded to consider applying or asking others to apply for the commissioner and YAD positions at the General Assembly. The meeting dates are June 25 through July 4.

**23-044 Stated Clerk's report:** (Attachment A)

Item 10 a that had been pulled from the omnibus motion was reviewed. The recommendation to not concur was discussed and included the fact that developing and adhering to policies against harassment and racism protect the most vulnerable among us. The Gospel isn't easy and if presbytery does not concur with this overture, it will send the wrong message to any looking at our presbytery.

**\*Action:** A motion was made and seconded to concur with G.A.Overture 22-P (G3.0106). The motion passed.

No recommendation was received concerning the proposed Church Discipline section of the Book of Order. The lack of recommendation to concur or not with the new rules is very concerning as this is a major section of our PC (U.S.A.) Book of Order.

**\*Action:** A motion was made that between presbytery's June and November meeting a training opportunity to all Presbytery leaders, the Permanent Judicial Commission, Clerks of Session, pastors and any interested persons concerning the Church Discipline section of the Book of Order. The motion was seconded and passed with 2 opposed.

Neva Rathbun offered to convene a meeting of the PJC to review the new Church Discipline and elect a moderator for the PJC.

People were reminded to register their attendance in an email to [caroline@yellowsotnecusa.org](mailto:caroline@yellowsotnecusa.org)

**23-045 Presbyterian Foundation:** Rob Hagan, Ministry Relations Officer for our area is willing to come to presbyteries and to individual churches to talk about legacy giving and endowments. The Foundation is hosting a Kaleidoscope event in Minneapolis September 25-27. It is open to any who wish to participate. A Lily grant will help people attend by paying ½ of all expenses. Information is available on the Foundation's website at [www.presbyterianfoundation.org](http://www.presbyterianfoundation.org)

**23-046 Meeting Summary:** As people shared highlights of the presbytery meeting, it was noted that the Spirit is at work in Yellowstone Presbytery as noted in the individual “spirit Sightings” people shared and that the best decisions are made in groups with open, honest discussion. The image of the Spirit is wind that sometimes blows as a gentle breeze and sometimes as a strong gale. We are all reminded to be ready when it blows.

**23-047 Next stated meeting of Yellowstone Presbytery: November 3 & 4 in Butte.**

**23-048 Closing:** George Goodrich closed the business meeting with prayer.

**\*Action:** A motion was made to have the benediction at the close of worship serve as adjournment of the meeting. The motion was seconded, and it passed.

## ATTACHMENT A

### Stated Clerk Report for the Presbytery Meeting June 16, 2023

Presbyters, this Stated Clerk is quite long due to the length of the omnibus motion. Please take time to read it all. The Omnibus Motion includes an attachment of the 15 recommendations for concurrence or non-concurrence with 15 General Assembly overtures. **If there is anything that you would like to discuss on the floor of Presbytery, please ask to pull that item before we vote on the omnibus motion.** This process is not in any way meant to stifle conversation on issues important to you.

#### Protocol Review

The Clerk anticipates some people will attend this meeting via Zoom and some will attend in person at Lewistown 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church. While on the Zoom meeting, please adhere to the following protocol:

- 1. Please keep your microphone muted until called upon or recognized to speak. This helps eliminate feedback, minimize background noise, and helps us to move through our time together more easily.*
- 2. Please rename your Zoom participant identification to include “RE” or “MWS” if applicable, your first and last name, the entity you represent, your position (i.e., member, commissioner, guest) and town. For example: RE Caroline Fleming, YP Stated Clerk, Miles City. (In ZOOM, click on the 3 dots on your picture screen and you can rename yourself and include the information above.)*
- 3. When you have the floor, please say your name and the entity you represent each time you speak.*

4. *When voting, if not using a voice vote of “Yes” or “No,” please use the “raise hand” feature found toward the bottom of the screen if participating via Zoom and raise your hand if attending in person. We will count these votes then ask phone-only participants to unmute their phones and vote verbally.*

**Omnibus motion.**

**The Stated Clerk moves the following:**

1. That the agenda for this meeting posted on [yellowstonepcusa.org](http://yellowstonepcusa.org) be approved.
2. That the roll for this meeting be established in two ways:
  - a. By email to [caroline@yellowstonepcusa.org](mailto:caroline@yellowstonepcusa.org) if you are attending via Zoom or
  - b. By registration form provided at the meeting if you are attending in person.
3. That all requests for excused absences received by the Stated Clerk be approved.
4. That any Corresponding members present at the meeting be seated.
5. That the Presbytery grant the Moderator 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.
7. That the draft minutes of the Presbytery meeting of March 3-4, 2023 be approved as published on the presbytery website.
8. That the draft minutes of the Special Presbytery meeting of May 23, 2023 be approved as published on the presbytery website.
9. That 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, RE Sharla Helland, RE Gary Slagel, MWS Jody McDevitt and MWS Lanny Rounds.
10. That the recommendations on overtures reviewed and approved by the Pastoral Ministry Team and by the Leadership Cabinet be approved as recommended to Presbytery and listed here:

a.	22-A – F-1.0302c	The Calling of the Church	Concur
b.	22-B – F-1.0404	Openness to the Guidance of the Holy Spirit	Concur
c.	22-M – G-3.0104	General Principles of Councils	Concur
d.	22-O – G-3.0106	General Principles of Councils	Concur
e.	22-P – G-3.0106	General Principles (Admin of Mission)	Non-Concurrence
f.	22-R – G-3.0401	Synod (Composition & Responsibilities)	Concur
g.	22-T – W-3.0205	Gathering (Confession & Forgiveness)	Non-Concurrence
h.	22-U – W-3.0409	Sacrament (Theology of Lord's Supper)	Non-Concurrence
i.	22-W – W-4.0403	Ordination, Installation & Commissioning	Concur
j.	22-X – W-5.0104	Worship & Personal Life	Concur
k.	22-Y – W-5.0104	Worship & Personal Life	Concur
l.	22-Z – W-5.0201	(1) Worship & the Church's Ministry Within the Community of Faith	Concur
m.	22-Z – W-5.0301	(2) Worship & the Church's Mission in the World	Concur
n.	22-AA – W-5.0204	Pastoral Care	Concur
o.	22-BB -W-5.0204	Pastoral Care	Concur

The complete book of Overtures are on the presbytery's website at [www.yellowstonepcusa.org](http://www.yellowstonepcusa.org) and at [www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/bk\\_of\\_amends\\_2022\\_final\\_1122023.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/bk_of_amends_2022_final_1122023.pdf)

**End of Motion.**

The above motion will be made at the opening of the June 16, 2023 meeting and will be posted on the presbytery website for review before the meeting begins.

**Stated Clerk Activity:**

1. Worked with the team planning this presbytery meeting.
2. Attended the Synod's minutes review in Denver.
3. Have kept up with and answered emails almost daily.
4. Updated the Presbytery Directory for 2023 as new information was received.
5. Attended a 2-day meeting in Glendive sponsored by the ECLA and attended by members of UMC, UCC, ELCA and PC (USA) to discuss the future of ministry in eastern Montana.
6. Maintained contact with Mark Parker, the attorney who has been incredibly generous with his time concerning the sale of the McAllister church property. We have finally concluded the sale and proceeds have been received.
7. Have reviewed G.A. overtures presbytery had left to vote on. Recommendations for 15 are included in the omnibus motion. I did ask our PJC to review and make a recommendation concerning the new Rules of Discipline, but that did not get done, so there is not recommendation concerning that, nor concerning the overtures related to the old Rules of Discipline. Any actions Presbytery chooses to take concerning the new



Rules of Discipline would be fine, but it has already passed and will become part of the Book of Order July 1.

8. Attended the following webinars:
  - Rural Church Technology
  - New CLC system
  - BOO New Requirements for All Councils
9. Have attended all meetings of the Leadership Cabinet and Pastoral Ministry Team and have recorded minutes as required.

Caroline Fleming  
Stated Clerk, Yellowstone Presbytery

## **ATTACHMENT B**

### **REPRESENTATION/NOMINATING MINISTRY TEAM**

#### **Nominating Report to Presbytery, June 16, 2023**

The Representation/Nominating Ministry Team met twice by Zoom this spring to consider upcoming vacancies created by Teresa Kendall's announced resignation from presbytery responsibilities effective July 31, 2023.

Chuck Wright has served well as co-moderator of PMT in 2023, but due to health reasons (which he anticipated and told us about when he accepted the position) will be stepping down from co-moderating at the end of June. He will continue to serve on PMT.

We place in nomination the following slate of candidates for open positions.

#### **PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM (effective July 16, 2023)**

**2023 Co-Moderators** RE Debbie Blackburn and MWS Neva Rathbun

#### **SYNOD OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS (2-year term)**

**Class of 2024** MWS JP Carlson

Respectfully submitted by the Rep/Nom Team,  
Jody McDevitt (moderator), Terry Johnson, Teresa Kendall, and Sandy Welch  
Kathy Goodrich, staff

**General Presbyter Report to Yellowstone Presbytery Kathy Goodrich June 16 2023**

*“ You are my witnesses, says the Lord and I am God.” Isaiah 43: 12b*

*“...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea*

*and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” ” Acts 1: 8*

**Spirit Sightings and Surprises as we live/write Acts 29+**

seems an apt heading to cultivate the practices of “having eyes to see” to discern the voice and work of the Holy Spirit and telling the story/ being witnesses as we worked on with Dr. Ron Pyle at our March Presbytery meeting. I have been integrating this question and a time for sharing into my report time with the Leadership Cabinet. These times have fueled our faith and imaginations, encouraged and given hope. The questions we ask, what we measure and focus on are highly determinative.

I and the Leadership Cabinet look forward to integrating this spiritual practice into our presbytery meetings.

*Question: what may be some of the benefits of experimenting with integrating this practice into all the groups (ALL ages) and worship in your church?*

I want to share with you just a couple of the WIDE, astonishing, delightful, humbling and convicting, confirming, exciting and energizing, gifts, experiences and insights of my and our last few months. Gifts of grace in this season of loss for us.

In addition to our lives and ministries in Montana, George and I were invited back to Pennsylvania in April for wonderful celebrations and reunions.

~the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary!! Of First Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh where we were both ordained, I the first woman (1978 & 1984) and where he was an Assoc. Pastor for youth and camping and I worked in camping and youth while in seminary.

~Camp reunion for Ligonier Camp and Conf. Center (formerly First Presbyterian Church Camp) 109 years of visionary, remarkable example of anticipating, reflecting, imagining, and adapting Christian ministry for the future needs for kids, families, adults out in God’s creation, a visionary risk when much of the country still lived in rural areas! Did we tell you we LOVE camping, youth and family ministry and ministry, living in Christian community?!

-wedding in the family of dear friends, from hundreds of years of Mennonites, who have modeled for us Jesus’ sacrificial love for their severely handicapped non-verbal son, now 40.

-precious moments with a few of the seasoned saints whom God used mightily in our very young lives. We got to hug and tell them we are forever grateful, wiser, richer and blessed.

**Some Spirit Sightings and Surprises include:**

1. We could hug and rekindle bonds with some dear ones we had not seen in 40 years because in Christian community, life -on-

life we had learned, listened, lived, loved, labored together in relationally based ministry with them at an inner city rescue mission service and at camp/retreats in the widest array of circumstances – with an injured or homesick camper, praying as we gathered hundreds of kids and staff in a small basement during a tornado warning (no cell phones! Only a radio), agonized with kids and teens over the early death of a parent or fighting divorcing parents. ..What a privilege to be entrusted with deep fears and questions they felt safe to share, to play pranks (toilet papered people's houses dressed in dark clothes), to spend New Year's Eve with MANY senior high students and some college staff at an inner city rescue mission where George spent a week incognito on study leave (ask him!) as we got to know and listened respectfully to the stories and wisdom of men living on the edges of life and hope; encouraged fearful kids and staff up a 50' rock cliff and talked through how to "TRUST the rope and your belayer" to repel down; huddled prayed and listened to the Spirit through each another for situations WAY beyond our years or human wisdom and witnessed the Spirit move in healing, life-giving power.

Now ,we were hearing countless stories from these ones of walking and wrestling with Jesus, making disciples(apprentices) down the decades wherever the Spirit sent them, and some of the painful places and relationships in which they found themselves seeking to respond to the Spirit's love and transforming invitations, wounded healers per Henri Nouwen.

**"As you are going, make disciples..." Mt. 28:18**

**"IF you are faithful in [what may seem] the little things you will be faithful in the large ones." Luke 16:10a NLT**

**Friends, how can you and I, our churches, help one another not to underestimate or get distracted (seduced or enticed!) from**

the foundational, transforming, people/community and world changing, core mutual discipleship practices of Jesus – prayer; 1 – 1 & small group *life-on-everyday life together*; rooted in and shaped by the Word written and the Word lived/Jesus; equipped and encourage to *live sent*, to join the Spirit already at work as we bear one another's burdens, serve, share and embody the Good News, love, justice, compassion ... of Jesus for the sake of the flourishing of not only the disciple community but the wider community and world outside our buildings, and for God's glory and Big purposes!

**Phyllis Tickle**, writer, publisher and Christian thinker refers to this season as one of the spiritual awakenings or "rummage sales" that Christianity holds about every five hundred years, sorting, letting go of what's no longer essential or workable and in this process of reforming itself for the new era[ 1] she sees us as entering "the Age of the Spirit," when our overfocus and reliance, perhaps obsession? With control and order would fail, even harm us, and once again [Read Acts, The Acts of the Holy Spirit] we would HAVE to rely on the Holy Spirit whose ways are rarely predictable, changeable as the wind. [2] Near the end of her life at an Emerging Church conference in 2013 she proclaimed, "Our jaws should drop open in amazement," "I think we're seeing a shift in Christianity as dramatic as that first Pentecost wildfire." [3]

**Filled by God's Spirit we are Empowered for FAR more than we can imagine! I Cor 2:9 Eph 3:20-21**

**Remember (and celebrate), Reflect, Re-Store/Re-story, Re-frame, Respond to the Spirit's promptings, invitations and**

opportunities.

**PMT** – A great deal has been happening – several transitions in both PMT and our congregations are underway or approaching and lived into with all the feelings, complexities and questions, frustrations, *and* God's opportunities. Several searches underway or will be. First off I want to thank so many on PMT who have been working extremely

hard, often in ways which cannot be shared publicly, to assist with some time consuming processes and ongoing conversations, prayer and consultations on the phone when we had thought all was in place and then. Amidst it all we have also been privileged to have a front row seat to experience answers to prayers and the Spirit at work.

With gratitude and sadness we celebrate the friendship with and the Spirit's work in and through Teresa Kendall as she and

Tom move south to be near their growing family. Thank you, Teresa, for all you have given to Deer Lodge and this body.

Congratulations to FPC, Butte & Karolee Larson whom we are examining at this meeting to become the called, installed pastor. Karolee just graduated from Dubuque Theological Seminary receiving 4 awards! See PMT report.

Networks and Partnerships are part of the new ways in which life in church and community is springing up and supported.

**A fruitful initial ecumenical conversation regarding ministry was convened in eastern Montana in Glendive May 5-6 with 5 mainline bodies represented. Why?** The dearth of pastors, lay pastors, disciples, empowered and sent members and much more is even more of a challenge in rural areas and felt across all types and stripes of churches. Yet, isn't desperation when we pray and rely on the Spirit?

**Our team**, Caroline, , Gail Beckam (Colstrip & PMT) , Jamie Schmeling (Terry & LC), Neva Rathbun (PMT) and Nancy Pehl, (Terry) plus Charley Blom (formerly Miles City) also joined, were, in my estimation, some of the most prepared, insightful and creative voices of leadership, partnership and possibility in the group of about 25 which wants to meet again this year.

I met and explored ideas with a wide range of people including a creative Lutheran Sr. pastor, in Sydney, Lutheran LPA, who started her training at 65 after pushing off God's call for decades!, A Methodist pastor from Tonga who loves small towns, Rev. Tony Clark, new UCC Conf minister, and rich talks with those from our team. Our group will report and keep you updated.

I am attending and/or preaching in a few churches, often those in transition, Manhattan, Bozeman, Brent Long's installation.

**CLC – connecting, discerning, calling is rolling out and training for the NEW CLC ( Church Leadership Connection**, pastor church 'dating 'service!). Caroline, Neva, Debbie Blackburn, Chuck Wright and I attended a National Webinar May 31 for presbytery staff & COM mod's. (Recorded and archived for Mid Council Leader Use). This has been and will continue to require a great deal of learning and interpretive time and energy for me, Caroline, our PMT leaders and any involved in search processes. There are some improvements and adaptations. The rollout is bumpy as the new forms, instructions, manuals, FAQ's, have not been available or else not finalized to coincide with their trainings and now, full operation of the new system.

Rev. Brent Long was installed in UCC church in Big Timber June 4 and is already deeply appreciated by many. I preached a homily and was one of the contingent from Yellowstone which included George, Karolee Larson, Jim Tarr and several others from St. Andrew Presbyterian where Brent previously pastored.

The Board of Pensions is in a season of significant reassessment and adapting. DO read whatever they send. With dwindling clergy and mostly shrinking churches there are challenges and changes.

**Leadership Cabinet** – Good leaders, prayerful, listening and hard at work on a WIDE range of matters.

Pertaining to living our vision in the context. See their report. Meetings with the presbytery planning team have been very blessed as well as busy. My time has been needed to work on transitions to a solo general presbyter – **wide range of information exchanged, gathered, perspectives.** More time was required for start up employment tasks and ongoing conversation and work with the Personnel subgroup-administrative, financial processes, paperwork, BOP, conversations ..made more complex with various transitions in our presbytery and at the national level, plus the loss of our mothers. Yet, God is good and faithful.

**Camping and Youth** – God’s provision and good news on Westminster Spires and campers for next week’s all ages camp tup at Hyalite the wonderful Yellowstone team and See Daniel’s report. FPC Bozeman’s Rockhaven is full.

**Synod of the Rocky Mountains-** Update on 2 Grants applied for by Synod, or will be submitted soon as they know which presbyteries are participating. A partnership among the presbyteries, for all who choose to join. Most are already “in”.

CRE/CLP 2 year online training in a cohort (Jan. 2024-Dec. '25) in a pioneering partnership for the presbyteries in our Synod with Dubuque Seminary, Beth McCaw, former Glacier GP, and heading this up. Dubuque faculty working in partnership with Synod presbyteries on this. (A Lily Grant is part of the funding for this experiment) . This opportunity is for both those who are interested in the full program as well as those who may want to take a course or 2. Those in the 2 year program will meet together 2x a year. A zoom planning meeting 6/15 was very impressive and encouraging for a host of reasons. Who may the Spirit be calling to explore Lay pastoring? Pray and ask!

Synod Training of Presbytery Clerks to then do training at home in several areas: training clerks in churches, training Administrative Commissions, PJC’s...

Sept Synod Assembly meeting will be in person and again include Execs as well as commissioners. They want a 5 minute video from each presbytery to highlight the Spirit at work there.

**Personal** – Many blessings. We celebrated with Gillian as she was awarded Excellence in Teaching award by MSU! We continue to live into this new season for us. My mother’s memorial service and burial were June 9. We have felt your love and prayers and are grateful for those of you who came to worship, celebrate and hug us. Prayers for all the work and family complexities welcomed. In our off time we head east for George’s mother’s memorial service in Charlottesville, Va June 24.

**A few Resources:**

**Webinar: Leadership and the Challenges Facing our Neighbors Today and Tomorrow with futurist Dr. Tom Sine,**

In order to build adaptive capacity for the long haul of change, church leaders must be able to identify ongoing pain points in their community. But in an ever changing world, is it possible to identify pain points of the *future*? How can you anticipate incoming waves of change so that your church has lead time to create new ways to respond within your unique congregational calling? This is the question we explore in a free webinar with Tod Bolsinger, Executive Director of the Church Leadership Institute, and Tom Sine, author of *Live Like You Give a Damn: Join the Changemaking Celebration*, and co-author, with Dwight J. Friesen, of *2020s Foresight: Three Vital Practices for Thriving in a Decade of Accelerating Change*.

This FREE webinar replay can be watched @ <https://depre.org/webinar-leadership-and-challenges/>

There are some worthwhile reads from the week of May 19's *Presbyterian Outlook* pertaining to the priorities, hopes, practices and shifts needed as churches prayerfully explore acting on what we observe and learnings, with what I like to refer to as "holy experiments" I imagine many others of you do this as well, but I have found that "seeding, fertilizing and informing" my mind and imagination with valuable research, ideas, insights from others on this journey of discovery and transformation is crucial in order to not only see from my own vantage point, or solely based on my previous experiences, assumptions or comfort levels.

1. **"Investing in Relationships OVER church programs".** "...the church's potential to reach the younger generations with Christian faith depends on our ability to prioritize relational ministry over programmatic ministry. Programmatic ministry seeks to attract people to an event that usually happens in our building. Relational ministry seeks to build relationships with people, regardless of location. It seeks to know the real struggles, joys, and questions of young people. To me, if relational ministry is going to be the way we reach the next generation with Christian faith, then we also have to prioritize relational evangelism."

<https://pres-outlook.org/2023/05/investing-in-relationships-over-church-programs/>

2. "I know decline isn't inevitable, but it requires adopting an entrepreneurial mindset and practices..." writes Rev. Graham

Standish in "Have We Become Sears?" <https://pres-outlook.org/2023/05/have-we-become-sears/>

3. What can Christian summer camps tell us about the needs of the church?... I do know we are missing a powerful opportunity to raise leaders in the church by not listening to them and clinging to what we have always known. Church is not about me, or you, it is about the beloved community coming together to worship and serve. This is especially true in the PC(USA) where we pride ourselves on being able to worship together despite our differences. We are losing generations because we aren't willing to compromise, to listen, to empower, to let go of the past and make way for a yet unknown future. I am grateful for the experience camp gives to our younger generations and I abide in hope that we as a church will take that energy and empower it."

[https://pres-outlook.org/2023/05/what-can-christian-summer-camps-tell-us-about-the-needs-of-the-church/?utm\\_source=Presbyterian+Outlook+Email+Updates&utm\\_campaign=76ba1558ea-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_10\\_13\\_07\\_31\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_b2a9be72d0-76ba1558ea-417106753&mc\\_cid=76ba1558ea&mc\\_eid=c8f47c307a](https://pres-outlook.org/2023/05/what-can-christian-summer-camps-tell-us-about-the-needs-of-the-church/?utm_source=Presbyterian+Outlook+Email+Updates&utm_campaign=76ba1558ea-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_10_13_07_31_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b2a9be72d0-76ba1558ea-417106753&mc_cid=76ba1558ea&mc_eid=c8f47c307a)

## ATTACHMENT D

### Leadership Cabinet Report Yellowstone Presbytery June 16 2023 FPC Lewistown/ Zoom

Leadership cabinet met in March, April and May. We started every meeting with Dwelling in the Word. This is to remind us that to be able to do the work of God that we must first have to be the people of God and to hopefully have our minds, dreaming and planning shaped and guided by the **Spirit** through the scriptures, and to listen to and learn from one another as we seek to learn God's leading. The vision statement directs us to gather together for God's glory and spiritual synergy. We have kept this in mind as we plan Presbytery meetings and work toward being disciple-making, disciple-sending leaders. A major vehicle since Jesus and his followers, involves creating small groups in our churches, neighborhoods, and throughout our Presbytery.

We desire to equip and encourage one another for living out our whole vision as Christ's disciples in context in which we are sent.

#### EQUIP & ENCOURAGE

- Reflected on feedback from March Presbytery mini-conference.
- Received and discussed General Presbyter's reports at each meeting.
- Shared where we have seen the Spirit at work recently, especially in and through our lives, small groups and churches. We are incorporating this practice of seeing and sharing about the Holy Spirit at work into our June Presbytery meeting.

#### OTHER BUSINESS included:

- Sent out applications for higher education grant to MSUB, Rocky Mtn College and MSU and U of M Western in Dillon (this one through Dan Triller).
- Finalized the sale of McAllister property & Ric Tieman, Treasurer, has disbursed the funds for use as the AC and presbytery directed.
- Reviewed and accepted the insurance quote from General Star Indemnity Company through Promont Specialty for \$3920.00 with inclusion of the term "religious expression".
- Reviewed finance reports at each meeting.
- Continue to seek and discuss equipping opportunities for leaders and churches in the Presbytery including: how to recognize and discover gifts in others and help all of us to develop and deploy those gifts for Christ's work for the building up of the disciple community and the flourishing of the wider community, equipping for holistic evangelism that builds on Ron Pyle's storytelling workshop, partnering with churches, and much more.
- Stayed updated on both Westminster Spires situation and the Camping and Youth Ministry Team's work for this year's camp at Hyalite Youth Camp – See Camping report.
- Heard about the Ecumenical conversations and consultation among 5 denominations held in Glendive regarding the dire needs and opportunities for ministry in eastern Montana. We and PMT have been praying, dreaming about this for a while and welcome thoughts.
- Heard reports from the personnel sub-committee as it continues working on the Presbytery's Personnel Policy.
- Elected to move Yellowstone Presbytery's investments from the Income Fund (NCICX) to the Balanced Growth Fund (NCBGX)

#### **ATTACHMENT E**

#### Website Proposal

Our website was created with Macromedia Dreamweaver software early in 2000's and has been maintained with Adobe Contribute software that was discontinued on January 27, 2017. We continue to use the unsupported Contribute software to edit pages but there is difficulty in running the program on new computers. Additionally, the base structure of our site is unchanged since it was created over 20 years ago and web technology has left us behind.

I am offering to cover the full cost of this project for the first year and convert our current website to one on a managed server that will allow multiple members of Presbytery to maintain and publish to specific areas on the website..

The choice of a managed hosted installation is to provide permanent website expertise at a reasonable price. This proposal will have an ongoing cost of \$200 per year and provide user manageable pages, ability to segregate access to both view pages and to create pages, and provide discussion blogs, Facebook links, and encourage engagement of those that would like to create content, as approved by LC and PMT. It would become the focal point of our communications with our 22 churches and related organizations. The potential as a "Newsletter" replacement is also viable.

**Action requested:** Authorize Ric Tieman to purchase, learn, and implement, at his expense, the first year of a Hosted and Managed Wordpress site with **Elementor** page builder, file manager, table manager plug-ins at the temporary web address of **yellowstonepcusa.info**

The learning curve is steep to create the framework and it would be helpful to have others interested in working various section of the site. I anticipate it to take me nearly a year to learn Wordpress and to migrate **yellowstonepcua.org** to this new platform.

***I choose Wordpress as a Content Management System (CMS) because of its popularity:***

Rank	CMS	Number of users
<b>1</b>	<b>WordPress</b>	<b>60 million+</b>
2	Joomla	3.5 million+
3	Drupal	2.5 million+
4	Typo3	1.5 million+

WordPress is the most popular CMS system because it is easy to use and customize, and there are a large number of plugins and themes available. Joomla is another popular CMS system that is known for its flexibility and power. Drupal is a powerful CMS that is known for its security and scalability. It is a good choice for large and complex websites

***I choose Elementor because of its popularity:***

**Elementor** is a drag-and-drop page builder plugin for WordPress. It is one of the most popular WordPress plugins, with over 5 million active installations. **Elementor** allows users to create and edit pages without any coding knowledge. It offers a wide range of features, including:

- A drag-and-drop editor
- A library of pre-made templates
- A variety of widgets and blocks



- The ability to add custom Custom Style Sheets (CSS)
- The ability to export and import pages

**Elementor** is a powerful tool that can be used to create a variety of different websites. It is easy to use and offers a wide range of features. It is a great option for users who want to create a professional-looking website without any coding knowledge.

**Elementor** is ranked as the #1 WordPress page builder plugin by WordPress.org. It has a 4.8 out of 5-star rating from over 200,000 reviews.

Here are some of the features that make Elementor a great choice for WordPress users:

**Drag-and-drop editor:** Elementor's drag-and-drop editor makes it easy to create and edit pages without any coding knowledge.

**Pre-made templates:** Elementor comes with a library of pre-made templates that can be used to create a variety of different websites.

**Widgets and blocks:** Elementor offers a variety of widgets and blocks that can be used to add content to pages.

**Custom CSS:** Elementor allows users to add custom CSS to pages to make them look unique.

**Export and import pages:** Elementor allows users to export and import pages, which makes it easy to create a new website from an existing one.

***I choose Managed Hosting for its simplicity for the Presbytery:***

Managed WordPress hosting is a type of web hosting that is specifically designed for WordPress websites. Cost is \$200 per year. Managed WordPress hosting providers take care of all of the technical aspects of running a WordPress website, such as:

- **Security:** Managed WordPress hosting providers use a variety of security measures to protect your website from attacks, such as firewalls, intrusion detection systems, and malware scanning.
- **Updates:** Managed WordPress hosting providers automatically update your WordPress software and plugins, which helps to keep your website secure and up-to-date.
- **Performance:** Managed WordPress hosting providers use powerful servers and caching technology to ensure that your website loads quickly.
- **Support:** Managed WordPress hosting providers offer 24/7 support from WordPress experts, who can help you with any problems you may have with your website.

A managed WordPress hosting can be a great way to save time and money. Managed WordPress hosting providers take care of all of the technical aspects of running a WordPress website, so we can focus on creating content and connecting our members.

***Project Timeline:***

- July - August: install framework and page structure
- September - December: recruit and train helpers and contributors, web based training videos
- January - March: Compare new site to old site for quality, consistency, and missing content
- April - June: Demonstrate use to Presbytery

**Presbytery Report for Camping and Youth**

June 2023 Hyalite Camp 2023

It's go time! Camp is right around the corner, I mean, weekend. June 19-23 (Mon-Fri)

We're thrilled to share that we have 51 campers joining us. 15 Elementary, 31 Middle, 5 High School (Yes, the high school number is low, but let's be honest, how many high schoolers want to go to camp with 4th graders? :) I get it ... )

Students come from all over our Presbytery: Anaconda, Butte, Dillon, Manhattan, Ennis, Billings, Hysham)

We're also delighted to have an 20 person leadership team, including pastors, speakers, program director, cook(s), nurse, counselors, counselors in training, lifeguard, crafts, etc. George Goodrich, Daniel Triller, Freeman McCall, Mary Grace Reynolds will all be there representing our Presbytery leadership.

Our camp talk theme will be on *The Parable of the Good Samaritan*, as we encourage each other to Love Our Neighbor, all while pointing them to Jesus, the greatest neighbor and the greatest Samaritan of all :)

Prayer Requests:

- o That campers would build meaningful relationships with each other and with their counselors, that campers would build bridges with students from other churches and push past comfortable cliques and existing church groups
- o That students would grow in their faith in Christ and love for their neighbor through camp talks, small groups, holy ground and more
- o For fun, safety, laughter, and good health

- o That with Christ at work within us, that our God would do more than we could ask or imagine and that through camp all campers would come to a deeper love and knowledge of Jesus!

Westminster Spires Bridge Update and Summer 2024

The bridge is officially fixed! Wahoo! Even with this repair now finished, very little will happen on site this summer. Various people will help to maintain the building over the summer, all in an effort to hit the ground running for another year of camp and hosting other groups in 2024.

Thanks,

Daniel Triller

Pastor - FPC Dillon

Camping and Youth Moderator