

**Presbytery of Yellowstone - Stated Meeting
March 3-4, 2023
1st Presbyterian Church of Bozeman and via Zoom**

Friday, March 3, 2023

23.001. Opening of the Meeting

The Presbytery of Yellowstone met on Friday and Saturday, March 3 & 4, 2023, beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Friday. Some attended in person, and some attended via Zoom. Moderator Dave Thompson and Pastor Ashley Birk of Bozeman welcomed everyone. Rev. Dave Thompson, 2022 Moderator, opened the meeting with prayer. The theme for this meeting was *"I Am Doing A New Thing."*

23-002. Roll Call: Roll call was conducted by the Stated Clerk who asked people to respond with one word that describes George Goodrich to them. All attendees were asked complete a registration form if attending in person or to register by email to caroline@yellowstonepcusa.org if attending via Zoom 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 Sandi Schoenberger, Commissioner, RE Russ Kline, LC Moderator, Betty Roy, guest
Billings St Andrew	RE Sandra Welch, Commissioner, Jim Tarr, GA commissioner & PMT,
Big Hole	RE Sandy Cleary, Commissioner, RE Julie Boksich, LC
Bozeman	RE John Sacklin, Commissioner, Suzanne Bratsky, PW, RE Lloyd Mandeville, visitor
Butte	CRE Karolee Larson
Colstrip	RE Gail Beckham, Commissioner, Joy Murchie, visitor
Deer Lodge	A
Dillon	Callie Triller, visitor
Ennis	A
Forsyth	A
Hysham	RE Waine Milmine, Commissioner, RE Sharon Milmine, visitor
Jordan	RE Bev Harbaugh, Commissioner
Lewistown	RE Melissa Bell, Vice 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, RE Andrew Pehl, visitor
White Sulphur Springs	A
Wolf Point	A

Minister Members:

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

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

CRE Karolee Larson (excused), CRE Veva Larson (present); CRE Margee Smith (excused); 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 Suzanne Bratsky (present); RE Ric Tieman, Treasurer & LC (present).

Corresponding Member: MWS Charles Carlson, EP Glacier Presbytery

Guests: RE Dr. Ron Pyle, Professor Emeritus, Whitworth University

Staff with Voice: RE Caroline Fleming (Stated Clerk)

Quorum/Balance check: Voting 14 RE's, Voting 21 MWS. A quorum was declared present.

23-003. Protocol: (Attachment A) The Stated Clerk reviewed protocol for the meeting:

1. *Please keep your microphone muted and stay in the muted position 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.*
5. *New Item: Please do not use the chat feature for any debate on any issues. It is for sharing information only.*

23-004. Dwelling in the Word: Rev. Mary Grace Reynolds led presbyters in Dwelling in the Word concerning God doing a new thing based on Isaiah 43: 18-21. While people pondered the meaning of the passage for their lives, they colored a picture of a church imagining what church could be. Questions raised included:

- Would you classify yourself as one who likes change, thrives on change or resists change.
- What has the Israelites witnessed and what have you witnessed in your life?
- What are your stories about God?
- Is dwelling in the past different from drawing on the past for strength to face the future?

23-005. Stated Clerk report (Attachment A) The Stated Clerk reported on activities.

***Action: The Clerk presented the following omnibus motion:**

1. That the agenda for this meeting posted on yellowstonepcusa.org be approved.
2. That the roll for this meeting be established in two ways:
 - a. By email to 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, to provide for efficiency in reporting.
7. That the draft minutes of the Presbytery meeting of November 4-5, 2022 be approved as published on the presbytery website.
8. That the draft minutes of the Special Presbytery meeting of December 8, 2022 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 Presbytery's Standing Rule S5.02, which currently requires the Leadership Cabinet Moderator to serve a three-year term be changed to read:

Standing Rule S5.02: The leadership cabinet moderator shall be elected annually by the presbytery for a one (1) year term renewable for as long as the person serves on the leadership cabinet, but no longer than six (6) years consecutively.

This is the second reading of this proposed amendment. A yes vote will result in this amendment being adopted.

11. 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:

Recommendation

a. 22-C	(G-1.0501) Meetings of the Congregation	Concur
b. 22-D	(G-1.0503) Meetings of the Congregation	Concur
c. 22-E	(G-2.0503) Categories of Membership	Concur
d. 22-G:	(G-2.0603) Related to boundary training	Concur
e. 22-F	(G-0505a(1) Transfer from other Denominations	Concur
f. 22-H	(G-2.0605) Related to Oversight	Concur
g. 22-I	(G-2.0004) 12 Weeks Family Leave	Non-Concurrence
h. 22-J	(G-2-1001) Commissioning Res	Concur
i. 22-K	(G-2.1002) Related to boundary training	Concur
j. 22-L	(G-3.0303) Related to boundary training	Concur
k. 22-N	(G-3.0105) Meetings	Concur
l. 22-Q	(G-3.0303c Relations with Session	Non-Concurrence
m. 22-S	(G-4.0301) Trust & Confidentiality	Concur
n. 22-V	(W-3.0414) Communion prayer	Concur

Complete texts of reviews of the overtures are attached to the report as "Attachment A."

The complete book of Overtures are on the presbytery's website at www.yellowstonepcusa.org and at

www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/bk_of_amends_2022_final_1122023.pdf

Presbytery will hold a special meeting, probably in late April or early May to deal with the remaining 19 overtures.

12. The number of Teaching Elders (MWS) to Ruling Elders (RE) as of January 1, 2023 stands at 31 to 31, therefore the voting members are in balance.

NOTE: As of January 1, 2023 there were 35 Ministers of the Word and Sacrament (MWS) on the rolls of Yellowstone Presbytery. Twenty-nine of these live within the bounds of the presbytery, and two who live just outside the presbytery's geographic bounds participate regularly in Presbytery for a total of 31 active Ministers of the Word and Sacrament. On the same date, January 1, 2023, 22 churches were authorized to send one commissioner to presbytery meetings, plus one church (First Presbyterian Church of Billings) was authorized to send two commissioners to presbytery based on the size of their congregation. Additionally, there are 4 Commissioned Ruling Elders serving particular congregations in the presbytery with vote and 7 Ruling Elders authorized to vote based on their leadership roles within the Presbytery. The net result is that there are 31 MWSs and 34 REs and CREs authorized to vote on business before the Presbytery. Therefore, no MWS/RE imbalance exists in Yellowstone Presbytery for 2023.

***Action: The Stated Clerk moved the omnibus motion be passed. The motion was seconded, and it passed.**

The Stated Clerk reported that church statistics have been reported and Yellowstone Presbytery currently has 1380 members. The 2022 Presbytery Statistical Report is attached to the clerk's report (Attachment A)

23-006. Co-General Presbyters' report: (Attachment B)

Noting the three foci Yellowstone Presbytery keeps before us (loving Jesus, growing as God's people/disciples, and making disciples as we go), George and Kathy rejoiced at how much God has done in the presbytery over the last 19 years. They noted that need for lay leaders and leadership will continue to grow and look forward to our continuing partnership in meeting needs among the presbytery. Though this is George's last meeting, and his 50th, with us as a General Presbyter, he is not leaving the presbytery. Kathy will continue as our General Presbyter.

23-007. Installation of 2023 Officers

RE Melissa Bell joined the meeting via Zoom. She and MWS Mary Grace Reynolds were called forward and installed as Moderator and Vice Moderator of Yellowstone Presbytery respectively.

23-008. Leadership Cabinet report: (Attachment C)

Moderator Russ Kline noted that he and the transition team are working with Kathy Goodrich as she transitions into the ½ time General Presbyter. Concentration is being paid to assuring she does keep to the ½ time schedule and not overwork herself.

23-009. Representation & Nomination Team report: (Attachment D)

Moderator Jody McDevitt gave the 1st reading of the Nominating Team nominations.

23-010. Workshop on Telling our Stories with Ron Pyle (Attachment E)

Part I of the business meeting of Yellowstone Presbytery ended and presbytery participated in Dr. Ron Pyle's workshop "**Power & Honesty in our Faith Stories.**" The workshop continued after supper and ended at 8:15 p.m.

23-011. Reconvene Saturday, March 4 at 8:30 a.m.

Opening: Dwelling in the Word: Acting Moderator Dave Thompson led presbyters in Dwelling in the Word due to Melissa Bell's illness. Using Isaiah 43, people focused on the following questions:

1. What resonated with you as you dwelled in this passage?

2. Did the Spirit touch you with a particular word?
3. What does being the Lord's witnesses mean to you?
4. How can you apply being a witness in your day-to-day life?
5. Where do you see God's promises in this passage?
6. Is there a promise of trust in God relayed here as well?

23-012. Representation and Nomination Team report: (Attachment D)

Moderator Jody McDevitt gave a second reading to the nominations presented by the team.

Nominations are:

Leadership Cabinet

Class of 2024 Commissioned Ruling Elder Karolee Larson (Butte)

2023 Ordination Exam Readers

MWS Lanny Rounds
 RE Charlene Loge, Dillon
 Alternate MWS Jamie Schmeling

Acting Moderator Dave Thompson called for nominations from the floor. Russ Kline, Leadership Cabinet stated that there is a spot for one more person on the Leadership Cabinet and nominated MWS Ashley Birk of Bozeman to the class of 2025. The nomination is in addition to those nominated by the Rep/Nom team. Discussion followed concerning the ability of nominee Karolee to serve before she completes seminary this spring and concerning switching class years between Karolee and Ashley.

***Action:** A motion was made and seconded to elect the slate as proposed by the Representation and Nomination Team with the addition of Ashley Birk to serve in the class of 2025. With no further nominations from the floor, the slate was elected with three abstentions.

23-013. Pastoral Ministry Team report: (Attachment F)

Moderator Teresa Kendall reported on the team's review and recommendation concerning some General Assembly overtures, on a day of celebration at Jordan Community Presbyterian Church with 4 Baptisms and 8 young people confirmed into church membership, and on discussion among churches in eastern Montana concerning the future of ministry in the region and need for support.

23-014. Camping and Youth Ministry Team (Attachment G)

Westminster Spires campground is still inaccessible due to instability of the bridge. A one-week, all-ages camp will be held at Hyalite Camp, near Bozeman, June 19-23. The registration form is posted on the website. The camp committee and volunteers will lead camp. Anyone interested is invited to participate for the week, or a day. Age-specific experiences will be offered. The offering taken during this presbytery's closing worship will go to camp scholarships.

23-015. Financial Report: (Attachment H)

Dave Thompson gave the financial report on behalf of Treasurer Ric Tieman. The presbytery finished 2022 in the black.

INCOME:	Program	Administrative	St. Timothy	Total 2022
	\$113,936	\$37,388	\$16,775	\$168,100
EXPENSE:	<u>\$106,550</u>	<u>\$36,530</u>	<u>\$ 13</u>	<u>\$143,093</u>
NET INCOME	\$7,386	\$ 858	\$ 16,763	\$ 25,007

23-016. Good News from Presbyters and Churches:

- a. Dave Thomson's son is marrying in June.
- b. Bozeman's Rockhaven Camps are already filled for the summer.
- c. David Murchie is now leading worship at Hysham Community Presbyterian Church 3 Sundays a month in addition to his time with the Colstrip and Forsyth churches. The church meets at 5:30 p.m.

23-017. Announcements: People were reminded to create and/or send items for the memory book being put together for George on the occasion of his retirement.

23-018. Adjournment

The meeting of Yellowstone Presbytery adjourned and moved to closing worship and prayer followed by a luncheon celebration of George Goodrich's retirement and his 19 years of ministry among us.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk

(Attachments A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H

ATTACHMENT A

Stated Clerk Report for the Presbytery Meeting March 3-4, 2022

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 the proposed change to the standing rules first presented at our November meeting by the Leadership Council. It also includes an attachment of the 15 recommendations for concurrence or non-concurrence with 15 General Assembly overtures. All are included in hopes that we can work through the business meeting quickly leaving more time for the conference and personal interaction. 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 Bozeman 1st Presbyterian Church. While on the Zoom meeting, please adhere to the following protocol:

6. *Please keep your microphone muted and stay in the muted position 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.*
7. *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.)

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Omnibus motion.

The Stated Clerk moves the following:

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Presbytery will hold a special meeting, probably in late April or early May to deal with the remaining 19 overtures.

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End of Motion.

The above motion will be made at the opening of the March 3-4, 2023 meeting and will be posted on the presbytery website for review before the meeting begins.

Stated Clerk Activity

1. I worked with Clerks of Session to assure their annual reports have been submitted. All churches submitted their online reports before the deadline. The Presbytery’s statistical report is attached as Attachment C.
2. I have kept up with and answered emails almost daily.
3. I sent letters to all Ministers-At-large who had not yet sent their annual reports to the PMT. I am still waiting on three reports from at-large pastors. All retired Ministers submitted their reports. These reports are intended to be a valuable way to maintain contact with those we might not be see with as often as we would like.
4. I received information from Treasurer Ric Tieman that the property and liability insurance the presbytery holds with Brotherhood Mutual has been reviewed and is adequate, but we are unable to obtain property insurance on the Westminster Spires camp,

and St Timothy's Chapel is underinsured due to the limited carriers that will provide coverage in Wildfire Classified districts.

5. I updated the Presbytery Directory for 2023 with all new information I have received. I will send it to the presbytery's email list following the election at the March 3-4, 2023 presbytery meeting.
6. I have attended all meetings of the Leadership Cabinet and Pastoral Ministry Team and have recorded minutes as required.
7. I have maintained contact with Mark Parker, the attorney who has been incredibly generous with his time concerning the sale of the McAllister church property. The sale is not concluded yet and has been a far longer process than we originally expected due to court requirements.
8. Worked with PMT and Leadership Council to review G.A. Overtures. We have reviewed and have recommendations for 15 out of 33 thus far. I will ask others to review those we still need to vote on and will hold a special meeting to conduct that vote.
9. I attended the following webinar:
 - Evangelism webinar 'Breaking the Myth of Presbyterian Fear of the 'E' Word'
10. I worked with the team planning the March presbytery meeting.

Caroline Fleming
Stated Clerk, Yellowstone Presbytery

ATTACHMENT A to the Stated Clerk's Report

*****PLEASE NOTE: throughout these amendments:**

All deleted text is in ~~striketrough~~. All added text is in *italics*.

22-C — G-1.0501 MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION

MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION G-1.0501 MEETINGS

"G-1.0501 ***Meetings***

"Meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer. Unless the congregation shall designate another parliamentary authority in its bylaws, meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, except when it is in contradiction to this constitution.

"In accordance with the requirement of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, congregations and their committees may meet electronically at the discretion of their sessions, provided that the technology employed allows for all members present to hear and be heard simultaneously. This includes joining one or more persons electronically to an otherwise in person meeting. Congregations should adopt special rules of order and standing rules to govern such meetings.

G-1.0502 Annual and Special Meetings

The congregation shall hold an annual meeting ..."

Recommend concurrence with 22-C

Our form of government leads us to make decisions in councils following opportunity for discussion. The past few years have proven that electronic means of meeting for discussion and vote are necessary and give opportunity for full discussion by all members. Absence of language allowing for electronic meetings has proven

problematic in some places. It is not the intent of these additions to require electronic meetings or to mandate any specific processes or procedures. Congregations and councils may make those determinations themselves.

22-D — G-1.0503 MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION

G-1.0503 BUSINESS PROPER TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS (ROD-06 1)

“G-1.0503 Business Proper to Congregational Meetings

Business to be transacted at meetings of the congregation shall be limited to matters related to the following: ...

... f. approving a plan for the creation of a joint congregational witness, or amending or dissolving the joint congregational witness (G- 5.05).;

g. receiving a disciplinary decision against a member of the congregation as required by D-9.0102.”

Recommend concurrence.

The proposed revision of the Rules of Discipline, which will likely become Church Discipline, includes a requirement for decisions with a finding of guilt in disciplinary processes against church members to be reported to the congregation of membership. This is to ensure that such findings are known to the body of membership as part of the overall goal of the restoration of trust in the community. It parallels the requirement that disciplinary decisions against ministers of the Word and Sacrament be read to the entire presbytery of membership. The amendment is necessary because business at congregational meetings is limited only to matters currently listed in G-1.0503.

22-E (G-2.0503) Categories of Membership

G-2.0503 Categories of Membership

A minister of the Word and Sacrament is a member of a presbytery and shall be engaged in a ministry validated by that presbytery, a member-at-large as determined by the presbytery, or honorably retired.

c. ~~Honorably Retired~~

Upon request of a member of presbytery, the presbytery may designate the member ~~honorably retired because of age or physical or mental disability.~~

PMT Recommends Concurrence

Rationale

As the Book of Order is currently written, the only option available for a Presbytery to grant a retired minister is the status of Honorably Retired. Such a title sounds prestigious, but that title has lost its meaning over the years since it is only the available title. Meaning, it isn't an earned title based on one's service, is a merely a title granted to a retiree. To put that another way, the Book of Order provides no option for an individual to be merely "retired." Rather, the status of "Honorably Retired" is currently applied to every pastor, upon his or her retirement, whether he or she is deserving of such a title. In some ways, the status of Honorably Retired is not unlike a participation trophy granted to a t-ball player based solely upon his or her showing up a couple of times.

While there are many pastors who deserve the specific, honorific status of "Honorably Retired" there are also pastors who do not. Whether we want to admit it or not, there are pastors, who will retire from service to the church having done significant harm not only to the churches entrusted to their care, but to other individuals within the church, including their colleagues in ministry. Sadly, too often these pastors who are causing and have caused harm, are not held accountable for their actions during their ministry, then are granted the status of "Honorably Retired" by vote of their presbytery.

Such harm is multiplied when a teaching elder or ruling elder, who has been harmed, is then asked to vote in favor of granting the status of “Honorably Retired” since no other status is available to a retiree.

It is important to note, that the status of “Honorably Retired” does not come with additional benefits from the Board of Pensions or from presbyteries of service. Its removal from the Book of Order would not change the benefits available to the retiree. In other words, the status of “Honorably Retired” serves no actual function.

It is time that the Book of Order change to reflect the straightforward retirement of its retirees.

Removing the word “Honorable” from the Book of Order would not prevent a Presbytery from creating its own process for a retiree to be granted the status of Honorably Retired, and such titles should be granted with significant prayer and discernment, and an opportunity for individuals to privately share their concerns prior to a vote to grant such a status.

Given all the changes occurring in our church and our communities, it seems that we could spend our time and energy on far more significant issues that are central to the church’s purpose of proclaiming the good news of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection to every corner of the world.

22-F G-2.0505a(1) TRANSFER OF MINISTERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS

“G-2.0505a(1) Transfer of Ministers of Other Denominations

- a. “(1) In the case of ministers for immigrant fellowships and congregations, a presbytery may, if it determines that its strategy for mission with that group requires it, *and in consultation and partnership with that community*, recognize the ordination and receive as a member of presbytery a new immigrant minister who furnishes evidence of good standing in a denomination, ~~even though~~. *If* at the time of enrollment that minister lacks the educational history required of candidates, and the *presbytery should* provide such educational opportunities as seem necessary and prudent for that minister’s successful ministry in the presbytery.”

PMT Recommends Concurrence

Reasoning: The Overture...

- a. ... recognizes the unique ministry, culture and needs of immigrant churches.
- b. ... seeks to strengthen the pastors coming from other cultures and nations and better enable them to fit into their new surroundings and equip them appropriately as the presbytery determines best.
- c. ... tries to strengthen and enable the presbytery’s role in equipping, while responsibly consulting with the immigrant community.
- d. ... enables ministry. It does not prevent it.

22-G (G-2.0603) Purpose of Inquiry

“G-2.0603 Purpose of Inquiry

The purpose of the inquiry phase is to provide an opportunity for the church and those who believe themselves called to ordered ministry as ministers of the Word and Sacrament to explore that call together so that the presbytery can make an informed decision about the inquirer’s suitability for ordered ministry. *They shall provide a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements.*

PMT Recommends Concurrence

Rationale

At the time of ordination and/or installation all teaching elders, ruling elders (including Commissioned Ruling Elders), and certified Christian Educators answer the same questions. Questions four through seven read: “Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? Will you be

governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors and work for the reconciliation of the world? Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?"

Similarly, at the time of being received as a Candidate under care of the Presbytery, having completed the Inquiry phase of the ordination process, candidates are asked the following questions: "Do you promise in reliance upon the grace of God to maintain a Christian character and conduct, and to be diligent and faithful in making full preparation for this ministry? And do you accept the proper supervision of the presbytery in matters that concern your preparation for this ministry?"

The shared sentiment of these questions and vows offer a high bar for how leaders in the church, including Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders, Commissioned Ruling Elders, Certified Christian educators, and Inquirers in the ordination process live as pastors, leaders, and people in the community called the church. In all instances, the Book of Order describes the character of these individuals in the following way, "Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world" (Book of Order, G-2.01014a).

While this applies to many areas, it is especially appropriate when considering our leadership and ethical conduct. For those who minister in the name of Jesus Christ, whatever their title, attention must be given to such issues because it is through us, as leaders, that others come to understand God and the good news of the gospels.

There are many ways that we, as Presbyterians, could address issues of leadership, power, and ethical conduct. One such way is creating a shared understanding of appropriate professional boundaries, communicated through a required boundaries training, which must include topics of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training.

This is already a requirement for Teaching Elders in our denomination, and so it only makes sense that same standard of boundaries training is required of Commissioned Ruling Elders, Certified Christian Educators, and Inquirers in the ordination process.

22-H (G-2.0605) Oversight

"G-2.0605 Oversight

During the phases of inquiry and candidacy the individual continues to be an active member of his or her congregation and subject to the concern and discipline of the session. *However, during the time the individual is enrolled as an inquirer or candidate, the session shall report to the presbytery any matters of sexual misconduct.* In matters relating to preparation for ministry, the individual is subject to the oversight of the presbytery within the context of their covenant relationship."

PMT Recommends Concurrence

Sexual misconduct is, "at the core, an abuse of power." (Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns) Session should not be alone in its decisions on the issue of sexual misconduct, as this type of misconduct can be detrimental to the congregation and to the church as a whole. Therefore, it is appropriate that both session and presbytery are involved in addressing it.

Further, "A real conflict of interest through family and friends [and long-term parishioners] who serve on or influence their home church session." (Background and Rationale)

Presbytery should be involved because Inquirers and Candidates occupy an "in-between stage" for ordination. They are accountable to both councils during this time. Presbytery should be involved because the final decision regarding ordination is at the Presbytery level.

22-I G2.0804 Terms of Call (to include 12 weeks of family leave)

"G-2.0804 Terms of Call

The terms of call shall always meet or exceed any minimum requirement of the presbytery in effect when the call is made. The session shall review annually the minister's terms of call and shall propose for congregational action (G-1.0501) such changes as the session deems appropriate, provided that they meet the presbytery's minimum requirements. The call shall include *provision for a minimum of twelve weeks paid family medical leave and* participation in the benefits plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) including both pension and medical coverage, or any successor plan approved by the General Assembly."

PMT, recommends non-concurrence with G2.0804.

Reasons for disapproval:

- We believe that our current Yellowstone Presbytery family leave policy is more than sufficient and need not be replaced. It is generous and fair and strikes a healthy balance between supporting pastors and their families while also supporting the churches they serve.
 - As we understand it, one of the signature differences between our presbytery policy and the proposed terms of call amendment is an increase of 4 to 12 months for spousal leave. We believe our current policy better accounts for the biological differences between men and women and that it would not be culturally appropriate here in Montana for men/fathers to have 12 weeks of paid spousal leave.
 - Finally, we fear that 12 weeks of spousal leave and family leave could potentially have a negative impact on a pastor's ministry as it may stir up feelings of jealousy, resentment, and bitterness among congregants who are not offered the same in their own jobs. *Daniel here: My sense is that if were to take 12 weeks off for spousal or family leave (in addition to vacation/study leave) I would be burning so much relational capital that it would in turn greatly hinder my ministry.*
 - Some may object and say, "We should approve the amendment, pave the way for these new minimums and then individual pastors are free to decline their full allotment of paid leave should they choose." While that may be one option, we also recognize that the vast majority of churches in our denomination are similar to ours - small, solo pastor churches that too would struggle to absorb a pastor's absence for such a duration of time.
- Thank you for considering our recommendation.

22-J G-2.1001 Functions

COMMISSIONING RULING ELDERS TO PARTICULAR PASTORAL SERVICE

"G-2.1001 Functions

When the presbytery, in consultation with ~~the session~~ *one or more sessions* or other responsible committees, determines that its strategy for mission requires it, the presbytery may authorize a ruling elder to be commissioned to limited pastoral service *as a commissioned pastor also known as commissioned ruling elder* as assigned by the presbytery. A ruling elder so designated may be commissioned to serve ~~in a validated ministry~~ *one or more validated ministries* of the presbytery. Presbytery, in its commission, may authorize the ruling elder to moderate the session of the congregation *or congregations* to which he or she is commissioned, to administer the Sacraments, and to officiate at marriages where permitted by state law. This commission shall also specify the term of service, which shall not exceed three years but shall be renewable. The presbytery shall review the commission at least annually."

PMT Recommends Concurrence

22-J. 22-J expands services that seem to be working already. Both sessions and CREs could agree that making it multiple locations would not be too much to expect of a CRE. If it is working with one church and the CRE seems able to care for another church, then let the Presbytery

authorize that mission. It makes sense to expand something that is working. And of course, Yellowstone Presbytery has already commissioned a CRE to the Presbytery.

22-K (G-2.1002) Training, Examining, and Commissioning

G-2.1002 Training, Examining, and Commissioning

A ruling elder who seeks to serve under the terms of G-2.1001 shall receive such preparation and instruction as determined by the presbytery to be appropriate to the particular commission. *Such preparation shall include a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements.* The ruling elder shall be examined by the presbytery as to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and the areas of instruction determined by the presbytery. A ruling elder who has been commissioned and later ceases to serve in the specified ministry may continue to be listed as available to serve but is not authorized to perform the functions specified in G-2.1001 until commissioned again to a congregation or ministry by the presbytery.

PMT Recommends Concurrence

Rationale

At the time of ordination and/or installation all teaching elders, ruling elders (including Commissioned Ruling Elders), and certified Christian Educators answer the same questions. Questions four through seven read: “Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? Will you be governed by our church’s polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God’s Word and Spirit? Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors and work for the reconciliation of the world? Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?”

Similarly, at the time of being received as a Candidate under care of the Presbytery, having completed the Inquiry phase of the ordination process, candidates are asked the following questions: “Do you promise in reliance upon the grace of God to maintain a Christian character and conduct, and to be diligent and faithful in making full preparation for this ministry? And do you accept the proper supervision of the presbytery in matters that concern your preparation for this ministry?”

The shared sentiment of these questions and vows offer a high bar for how leaders in the church, including Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders, Commissioned Ruling Elders, Certified Christian educators, and Inquirers in the ordination process live as pastors, leaders, and people in the community called the church. In all instances, the Book of Order describes the character of these individuals in the following way, “Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world” (Book of Order, G-2.01014a).

While this applies to many areas, it is especially appropriate when considering our leadership and ethical conduct. For those who minister in the name of Jesus Christ, whatever their title, attention must be given to such issues because it is through us, as leaders, that others come to understand God and the good news of the gospels.

There are many ways that we, as Presbyterians, could address issues of leadership, power, and ethical conduct. One such way is creating a shared understanding of appropriate professional boundaries, communicated through a required boundaries training, which must include topics of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training.

This is already a requirement for Teaching Elders in our denomination, and so it only makes sense that same standard of boundaries training is required of Commissioned Ruling Elders, Certified Christian Educators, and Inquirers in the ordination process.

22-L (G-3.0303c) Christian Educators

G-2.1103 Christian Educators

a. Skills and Training

Certified Christian educators are persons certified and called to service in the ministry of education in congregations and councils. They shall have skills and training in biblical interpretation, Reformed theology, worship and sacraments, human development, faith development, religious education theory and practice, and the polity, programs and mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). *Certified Christian educators shall provide a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet these two requirements.*

b. Presbytery Responsibility

The presbytery shall establish minimum requirements for compensation and benefits for Certified Christian educators and Certified Associate Christian educators and shall provide access to the area of the presbytery that oversees ministry (G-3.0307). During their term of service in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the presbytery, Certified Christian Educators are entitled to the privilege of the floor with voice only at presbytery meetings, and in the case of Certified Christian Educators who are ruling elders, the privilege of voice and vote at all meetings. *Certified Christian educators and Certified Associate Christian educators shall provide to the presbytery in which they serve a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet these two requirements. Presbytery shall report a certificate of completion to the national certifying body for these two trainings.*

PMT Recommends Concurrence

Rationale

At the time of ordination and/or installation all teaching elders, ruling elders (including Commissioned Ruling Elders), and certified Christian Educators answer the same questions. Questions four through seven read: “Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? Will you be governed by our church’s polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God’s Word and Spirit? Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors and work for the reconciliation of the world? Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?”

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This is already a requirement for Teaching Elders in our denomination, and so it only makes sense that same standard of boundaries training is required of Commissioned Ruling Elders, Certified Christian Educators, and Inquirers in the ordination process.

22-N — G-3.0105 MEETINGS

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF COUNCILS G-3.0105 MEETINGS (ROD-06 3)

Shall G-3.0105 in the Form of Government be amended as follows?

“G-3.0105 Meetings

“Meetings of councils shall be opened and closed with prayer. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, except when it is in contradiction to this Constitution. Councils may also make use of processes of discernment in their deliberations prior to a vote as agreed upon by the body.

“In accordance with the requirement of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, councils and their commissions and committees may meet electronically, provided that the technology employed allows for all members present to hear and be heard simultaneously. This includes joining one or more persons electronically to an otherwise in-person meeting. Councils should adopt special rules of order and standing rules to govern such meetings.”

Recommend concurrence

Our form of government leads us to make decisions in councils following opportunity for discussion. The past few years have proven that electronic means of meeting for discussion and vote are necessary and give opportunity for full discussion by all members. Absence of language allowing for electronic meetings has proven problematic in some places. It is not the intent of these additions to require electronic meetings or to mandate any specific processes or procedures. Congregations and councils may make those determinations themselves.

22-Q G-3.0303c RELATIONS WITH SESSIONS (MC-03)

“G-3.0303 Relations with Sessions ...

“... c. establish minimum compensation standards, *including provisions for dissolution terms*, for pastoral calls *and for those serving in temporary pastoral service*, Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators within the presbytery;”

PMT Recommends Non-Concurrence

22-Q - We recommend a no vote on this. When we hear severance, we think that one party is very unhappy and wants to end the relationship. Installed pastors have a yearly review of terms of calls, but we don't think the Presbytery should enter into severance discussions if the session/congregation and Pastor can come to an agreement. If severance and midterm departure is the only way ahead, then let the session/congregation and Pastor work out a plan that is not based on a minimum coming from Presbytery. There have been instances when a session or the Pastor has asked for Presbytery or PMT involvement which can still be done with the current rules. If this amendment is approved, then the Presbytery will need to come up with a policy for minimums. Of course, zero can always be a minimum.

22-S (G-4.0301) Trust and Confidentiality

“G-4.0301 Trust and Confidentiality

*“In the exercise of pastoral care, ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders who have been commissioned by a presbytery to limited pastoral service (G-2.10) shall maintain a relationship of trust and confidentiality, and shall **work to create communities of trust, accountability, and confidentiality while protecting the vulnerable. Confidentiality creates safe and sacred space for individuals to share concerns, questions, and/or burdens and seek spiritual guidance. Confidentiality should not be an excuse to hold secret the knowledge or risk of harm especially when related to the physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse of a minor or an adult who lacks mental capacity. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and commissioned ruling elders shall** hold in confidence all information revealed to them in the course of providing care and all information relating to the exercise of such care. **except:***

*“When the person whose confidences are at issue gives express consent to reveal confidential information, then a minister of the Word and Sacrament or a **commissioned ruling elder** ~~commissioned pastor (also known as commissioned ruling elder)~~ may, but cannot be compelled to, reveal confidential information, **or when** a minister of the Word and Sacrament or a **commissioned ruling elder** ~~commissioned pastor (also known as commissioned ruling elder)~~ may reveal **confidential information when she or he** reasonably believes that there is risk of imminent bodily harm to any person.”*

PMT Recommends Concurrence

These additions keep the original intent of G-5.0301 and correct the CRE language. The new language gives the conditions under which confidences [of both the vulnerable and the perpetrators] are told or kept in “communities of trust, accountability and confidentiality.”

These additions define the vulnerable, and the boundaries of confidentiality to “protect the vulnerable (Background and Rationale)

Romans 14:12 says, “So then, each of us will be accountable to God”, for our actions and the effects of our actions. Christians are called to love both the vulnerable and the perpetrator. We have an obligation to protect the vulnerable AND to avoid further offending by the perpetrator (who may confess their own guilt and need for treatment and healing). This provides for accountability and affliction their own affliction and require), in order to provide accountability and opportunity for healing.

22-V — W-3.0414

SACRAMENT

W-3.0414 COMMUNION (TWE-05 4)

Shall the second paragraph of W-3.0414 in the Directory of Worship be amended as follows?

“W-3.0414 Communion ...

~~“...When all have received the bread and cup, the remaining elements are placed on the table. **The minister of Word and Sacrament then leads the people in prayer. A prayer follows,** thanking God for the gift of the Sacrament and asking for grace to live and serve faithfully until the coming of Christ’s realm in fullness.”~~

Recommend Concurrence

This amendment eliminates the requirement that the prayer after communion be led only by a minister of the Word and Sacrament or ruling elder authorized by the presbytery to administer communion, thus allowing for more flexibility in the prayer after communion, including the use of a unison congregational prayer.

2022 Presbytery Statistical Report Yellowstone

PO Box 1254, Bozeman, MT 57971

406-586-7706

yellpres@yellowstonepcusa.org

www.yellowstonepcusa.org



Presbytery Address Phone Email Web Site

Membership

Prior Active Members	1393	Adjusted membership	1383
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Gains

Certificate	29
Youth Professions	14
Professions & Reaffirmations	42

Total Gains 85

Total Ending Active Members 1380

Losses

Certificate	3
Deaths	35
Deleted for any Other Reason	50

Total Losses 88

Baptisms

Presented by Others	20
At Confirmation	2
All Other	12

Average Weekly Worship Attendance 748

Friends of the Congregation 349

Ruling Elders on Session 131

Do you have Deacons? Yes / No 11 / 11

Age Distribution of Active

17 & Under	24
18 - 25	74
26 - 40	143
41 - 55	182
56 - 70	349
Over 70	581

Total Age Distribution 1353

People with Disabilities

Hearing impairment	146
Sight impairment	17
Mobility impairment	84
Other impairment	88

Gender Distribution

Women	829
Men	477
Non-Binary	0

Youth in Congregation

Age 4 and under	56
Elementary School (K-5th grade)	121

Middle School (6th - 8th grade) 75

High School (9th - 12th grade) 61

Total Youth 313

Racial Ethnic

Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	7
Black/African American/African	2
Middle Eastern/North African	0
Hispanic/Latino-a	4

Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	20
White	1346

Multiracial 1

Total Racial Ethnic 1380

Budgeted Income 2,558,428

Budgeted Expense 2,784,137

Receipts

Regular Contributions	2,136,238
Capital Building Fund	101,453
Investment Income	190,414

Bequests	29,391
Other Income	286,944
Subsidy or Aid	0

Expenditures

Local Program	2,134,629
Local Mission	457,231
Capital Expenditures	277,457

Investment Expenditures	2,850
Per Capital Apprt	76,402
Other Mission	73,636

Co-GP Report to Yellowstone Presbytery March 3, 2023 Kathy & George Goodrich

Jesus' Three *GREATS* = Keeping the MAIN thing the main thing

Jesus replied: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.—This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.—All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. Mt. 22:37-40

When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go [verb=as you are going] therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.
Mt 28:17-20

Have you also been asked, or asked yourself and the Holy Spirit, “What is the most important thing I/we should be doing or focusing on, have as our emphasis?” “What is the ‘latest’ , “new, improved” thing or program of emphasis our church should have?” “What is God’s mission for this, God’s church?” We sure have too, in a group, a church and as Exec’s.

Jesus' Three *GREATS* = Keeping the MAIN thing the main thing!

As we seek to cultivate, grow in and embody LOVING Jesus

LOVING, grow as God’s people/disciples

LOVING the world God made and loves, making disciples as we go

In light the 3 foundational commands, priorities, of Jesus for his followers and in light of the times, trends and contexts in which we find ourselves (see Trends for 2023 article link below), we and the Leadership Cabinet have been asking these questions and invite us all to continue to be curious and open asking questions such as:

1. **What can we likely anticipate as** realities, trends and contexts, needs? How can we listen well to those within and without our churches.
2. What is the Holy Spirit saying as we pay attention, **reflect alone and in community?**
What should be our priorities - in BEING the people of God as well as DOING the work of the people of God?
3. What **innovations** may the Spirit be inviting us to?

A few helpful resources among many:

<https://careynieuwhof.com/future-church-trends/For 2023 - previously sent>

9 Min podcast - Leadership for the Long Haul- (and in times of complex, adaptive challenges & change),

Tod Bolsinger and Markus Watson, PCUSA pastors. discuss this quote from *Leadership Without Easy Answers*, by Ronald Heifetz:

"In a crisis we tend to look for the wrong kind of leadership...in short, someone who can make hard problems simple. But problems like (we have been facing) are not simple.... Making progress on these problems demands not just someone who provides answers from on high but

changes in our attitudes, behavior, and values. To meet challenges such as these, we need a different idea of leadership...."

<https://www.markuswatson.com/2023/01/10/leadership-for-the-long-haul-a-quick-conversation-with-tod-bolsinger-146/>

Six-stage process moving people from isolation to community (**with God & others**). **Luke Edwards**

Listening - Loving People - Building Community - Exploring Discipleship - Church Taking Shape - Doing It Again

Underpinned by prayer & continuing connection to the wider church, usually a congregation From: Summary article: @ <https://freshexpressions.com/2022/10/10/fresh-expressions-journey-six-steps-that-can-move-people-from-isolation-to-Christian-community> & Book, *Becoming Church*

While this is primarily focused on new fresh expressions of church started by a few, connected to a congregation(s) it also applies to the existing churches and the presbytery.

1. Work with Leadership Cabinet on wide range of items including:

- a. prep for Feb. in person day retreat for evaluation of last few years, listening, Visioning & discerning God's priorities for 2023
- b. Established a Transition Team to consult with LC: Daniel Triller, TE, Dillon; Teresa Kendall, TE, Deer Lodge; Chuck Wright, Commissioned RE, Manhattan/Butte; and Sandy Welch, RE St. Andrew, Russ Kline, *ex officio* as LC Moderator & Personnel subgroup. The scope and depth of its work on transition includes not only Yellowstone in this GP leadership transition, but the many transitions and shifts underway in the world, culture and church during/post covid and the post-Christian culture, here and elsewhere. Every pastor is functionally a transitional pastor! The hope is that this process and prioritization will include broad listening and interaction with the presbytery.
- c. Personnel - We both met in December with Personnel for our annual reviews, noting many things the Spirit has been doing, and growing edges for us as leaders. Wide range of conversations and steps for presbytery leadership and administrative responsibilities, denominational needs related to Kathy & George's transition and George's retirement.

2. PMT- Significant time needed here with new PMT leadership, ongoing searches, church transitions and equipping, supporting and consulting with congregations with no pastors, often partnering with PMT members.

- a. conversations with pastors/CRE's for personal and professional matters
- b. Participated in Karolee Larsons's Commissioning to FPC, Butte. Gifts to Karolee from the presbytery.
- c. Churches and ministry in eastern MT - First zoom conversation for PMT in eastern and staff regarding state of churches, leadership, trends in eastern MT. Prayer, brainstorming and intentional reaching out underway to listen and learn from key leaders in various churches. In future, widening the conversation to other churches/denominations, including ELCA conversations in early May. Plans have emerged for parttime pastoring and partnership -Hysham, Forsyth and Colstrip.
- d. Conversations with various pastors, key leaders in churches
- e. CLC, major overhaul underway. Kathy attended Exec zoom info session and conversation with CLC leadership. Much was not ready to read or in form it could be shared with presbytery or congregational leaders. They propose a very aggressive implementation calendar. If this occurs, it will require a great deal of time for Co-Moderators, Caroline and Kathy, and others we ask to join so we can learn and operate in the new system.

f. Candidates' exegesis exam and many related systemic concerns of deep concern to ALL presbytery leadership, and those working with candidates and beyond

g. research on some GA overtures

3. Lay and CRE Training/equipping for ANY interested YP Church Leadership - George and Bob Hunter (author, PCUSA pastor) completed the 4 session *Helping When It Hurts* Feb. zoom gathering - Dwelling in Word on Mark 1 - healing the leper, sharing & praying for one another, listed topics desired for future trainings.

March 7 -Theme: Domestic Violence, Caroline Fleming is special guest.

4. Our Synod has half new leaders and the input, and the perspective and history from us as the longest serving execs in the Synod has taken on a much larger role. We meet monthly on zoom and 3x a year in person as able. Always energizing and provides ideas and partnership options. Will keep you posted.

5. Camping and Youth - Westminster Spires bridge not safe and not fixed, sadly, so only a one-week camp at Hyalite Camp June George met with Team planning our Plan B one-week camp June, and other camp related calls and work. A time of transition and adapting and God is doing new things in new places, with new people...

6. Very part-time Financial/office person. Thanks to Ric for this connection. Kathy has met in person with Deb Jackson several times. She is more than we could ever have hoped for in competence and spirit and people skills. All going smoothly & takes only an hour a week. She is happy to help us with other things as needed. Kathy thinks this will be needed as Co-GP position moves to true halftime. Deb has time and can do a few more things in the time we agreed for her. She is eager to meet us at presbytery attend our equipping times and promote them.

7. George attended MAC closing worship service along with all the other judicatory heads in Helena in January. Worthwhile to be there. (Only a handful of others in attendance.)

8. George is mentoring new Glacier Exec, Chuck Carlson!! at request of National office!

9. Training churches for both the equipment and ways of better hybrid/online functioning & worship and understanding and adjusting to the reality that a hybrid way of operating IS the new reality and how to do it well. High Tech and High touch/relationship and connecting are here to stay. Kathy spoke with ELCA's Colter McCarty who is willing to provide training. A group needed of at least 2 who can.

Personal

In this season of multiple losses, grief and transitions, we would appreciate prayer for healing of every kind, faith, faith-fullness, and protection with multiple challenges on every side at the moment. Thank you for your kindnesses and understanding as you all are living in and have journeyed through so much yourselves. We just returned from Virginia for the burial of Nancy Goodrich and time with George's brothers, their wives, and a few nieces and husbands.

We are seeking:

-to practice the discipline of daily gratitude, including for the "small" things such as beauty, a card received smiles and times with little people, kind friends,

-To steward and honor our limits and bodies in this time of layered grief and traumas and illness.

-to make prayer the foundation of all we do for unless the Spirit moves, works, transforms, opens doors, 'we labor in vain'!

We just celebrate George's 70th this month!

Leadership Cabinet Report
Yellowstone Presbytery March 3-4, 2023
FPC Bozeman

Leadership cabinet met in November, December, January and February. 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 first have to be able 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 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 the context in which we are sent.

EQUIP & ENCOURAGE

- Reflected on feedback from November Presbytery mini-conference.
- Received and discussed Co-Presbyters reports at each meeting.
- Commissioned Karolee Larson as CRE serving Butte Church.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Hired Deb Jackson to be our part-time offices assistant.
- Formed a transition team for General Presbyter position(s) and future administration of the Presbytery.
- Recommended a change to Standing Rule S5.02 from a 3-year term to a one-year term for the LC Moderator so the rule will read: *"The leadership cabinet moderator shall be elected annually by the presbytery for a one (1) year term renewable for as long as the person serves on the leadership cabinet, but no longer than six (6) years consecutively."* The second reading of the recommendation is included in the Omnibus Motion in the Stated Clerk's report.
- Reviewed and approved recommending concurrence on 4 overtures, 22-C, 22-D, 22-N and 22-V, and approved including the recommendations for concurrence in the omnibus motion that will be presented by the Stated Clerk.

Submitted by Russell Kline, LC Moderator

Representation/Nominations Team

Report to Presbytery, March 3-4, 2022

The Representation/Nominations Team met on January 17, 2023, to discuss two areas of need in Presbytery leadership. Follow up to this meeting provided the following nominations for Presbytery action.

Leadership Cabinet

Class of 2024 Commissioned Ruling Elder Karolee Larson (Butte)

2023 Ordination Exam Readers

MWS Lanny Rounds
RE Charlene Loge, Dillon
Alternate MWS Jamie Schmeling

Respectfully submitted,

Jody McDevitt

Team members Terry Johnson, Teresa Kendall, and Sandy Welch

ATTACHMENT E

Understanding and Telling Narratives

Yellowstone Presbytery

March 3, 2023

Dr. Ron Pyle

Some Kinds of Language

- Representative
- Emotive
- Actional
- Instrumental

Two Important Kinds of Language

- Naming – Bringing a world into consciousness
- Narration - Words that have sequence and meaning. Narratives unite God's past and continuing action with ours. Almost all narratives share a structure: Calm, conflict, turning point, and consequences
 - We need both naming and narration

Why Give Special Attention to Narratives?

- God is a narrative being
- God commands us to use narratives Deut. 6: 4-8; 1 Peter 3:15,16
- We, made in God's image, are narrative beings (Homo Narrans)
- Our identities are shaped by narratives
- Narratives appeal to both the logical and intuitive parts of humans
- The world is a set of stories from which we choose
- Narratives provide "reasons to believe" but not all stories are equally compelling.

What Makes Stories Persuasive?

- Narrative rationality – the provision of "good reasons" is a product of:
- Narrative coherence
- Narrative fidelity

Narrative Coherence

- Internal coherence – Do the parts of the narrative "hang together"?

- Are the arguments probable?
- Are the characters believable?
- External coherence – Is this story probable in light of other stories the audience accepts?

Narrative Fidelity: Assessing the Reasons

- Values – What are the implicit and explicit values being presented in the narrative?
- Relevance – Are the values in the message relevant the hearer?
- Consequence – What is the result of accepting the values presented?
- Consistency – Are the values confirmed in the personal experience of the audience, and in the life stories of credible others?

Identification: Finding commonality between persons through:

- Values and beliefs
- Personalities
- Experiences
- Goals
- Membership in a group
- Shared enemies
- Hardships and victories

Applying: In pairs consider the narrative of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

- x To what extent does this narrative have coherence (internal and external) for you and why?
- x To what extent does this narrative have fidelity for you (consider values, relevance, consequences, and consistency)?
- x With whom did you identify in this narrative and why?

My Faith Story Work Sheet - Side A

This story/testimony writing exercise will help you to reflect on Jesus - who he is, and some of what he has done, your journey and story. Applying what we know about how narratives work will also help you to be ready to share your story. As you write your narrative, think about how to apply concepts such as coherence, values, consequence, and identification. Your story is important because:

1. God has always worked through Word and the stories.
2. Stories are powerful and personal. Friends and even strangers are often interested & can relate to a well-done story.
3. People cannot argue with the fact that your life is more like Christ and has been changed (See side B if you became a Christian at an early age.)

An attention-getting opening sentence (think about how to create identification here):

Before I knew and loved Christ, I lived, thought... this way:

How Jesus encountered me, who shared or modeled Christ for me, how I received Christ...:

Were there things which finally motivated or convinced you to actually come to God for forgiveness and to accept Christ as Lord? (A story needs conflict)

After I received Christ, some of the changes God has been working in my life.
Be honest about joys and blessings, ups and downs, doubts and challenges along the way,

Why I still love and follow Jesus:

Pertinent or favorite Bible verse which is important in my Faith in Jesus Christ:

Other reflections to share:

Listen well with love and attentiveness. Pray for the person or group you are sharing with (often silently but ask if they would like you to pray for them). As the Spirit leads, invite folks to consider, taste and see, join you for further conversation, a group, study, even worship.

My Faith Story Work Sheet - Side B

(Side B for those who became Christians at an early age; use side A if you became a believer as an adolescent or young adult)

See opening notes on other side

An attention-getting opening sentence (think about how to create identification here):

My background and early Christian experience:

How Jesus encountered me, who shared or modeled Christ for me, how I received Christ...:

After I received Christ or some of the changes God has been working in my life.

Be honest about joys and blessings, ups and downs, doubts and challenges along the way (this is a great place to consider values and identification).

Why I still love and follow Jesus:

Pertinent or favorite Bible verse that is important in my Faith in Jesus Christ:

Other reflections to share:

Listen well with love and attentiveness. Pray for the person or group you are sharing with (often silently but ask if they would like you to pray for them). As the Spirit leads, invite folks to consider, taste and see, join you for further conversation, a group, study, even worship.

ATTACHMENT F

Presbytery Report for Camping and Youth

March 2023 *Camp 2023*

Unfortunately, the bridge that provides access to camp sustained more damage than we initially thought. Because it is owned by the Forest Service, we must wait and adjust to their timeline. Therefore, we have secured an alternative site and will be moving forward with the plans below:

Hyalite Youth Camp (outside of Bozeman, where we were in 2022)

June 19-23 (Mon-Fri)

Students entering 3rd-12th grade

Cost TBD. (Aiming for \$250). Scholarships available.

This will again be an all-ages camp (Elementary, Middle, High School) and we will go to great lengths to create age appropriate experiences and learning environments for all ages. In addition, we plan to offer an overnight backpacking trip (***June 23-24 (Fri-Sat)***) for all high school students (and maybe middle schoolers?) as a trip capstone of sorts.

How you can help:

- Invite students to consider camp in 2023
 - o In those conversations, remind students and parents of what makes our camp great: Beautiful location, lots of adventure and great experiences, reasonable cost, and most importantly, an emphasis on relationships, community and encouraging students to grow in Christ.
 - o If students from your church went to camp last summer, have them help get the word out to your church and wider community by telling stories, showing pictures of their experience at camp
- Recommend Camp Counselors
 - o If you know of college students or young adults who could serve as camp counselors, please pass their name and contact info along.
- Volunteer
 - o Chances are we'll need all the volunteers we can get :) Whether it's to help in the kitchen, lead an activity or craft, help lead worship, or simply to give other volunteers a much-needed breather, even to come up for a day or half a day would be amazing! Let us know if you're interested and how you might be able to help!

Praises / Prayer Requests:

- o Pray that the word gets out and that students join us this summer

- For rounding out our volunteer team
- 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!

Lastly, it was decided that we would not have a Presbytery Ski Trip this year. We apologize for not making this happen this year but hope to invest all the more in making camp great this summer.

Blessings,

Daniel Triller
Pastor - FPC Dillon
Camping and Youth Moderator

ATTACHMENT G

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Treasurer's Report Presbytery of Yellowstone Report to Presbytery

The Program budget finished in the black with a slight surplus.

The Administration Budget also finished in the black as the unrealized losses are not consider true expense.

No budget transfer from Designated Funds where required for 2022.

Please note that Unrealized Gains & Losses are recorded in these statements but do not affect the budget performance. The Net Ordinary Income is highlighted in yellow.

Respectfully submitted,

Ric Tieman, Treasurer 406-595-1250 treasurer@yellowstonepcusa.org

02/15/23
Accrual Basis

Presbytery of Yellowstone PCUSA
Statement of Financial Income and Expense by Class January
through December 2022

	Administrative	Program	St Timothy	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
RECEIPTS	113,936	37,388	16,775	168,100
Total Income	113,936	37,388	16,775	168,100
Expense				
CAMPING & YOUTH	0	21,996	0	21,996
LEADERSHIP CABINET	4,839	0	0	4,839
MT ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES	0	3,000	0	3,000
PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM	0	184	0	184
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	75,129	9,751	0	84,880
PRESBYTERY EXPENSES	19,308	1,600	0	20,908
PRESBYTERY OFFICE	7,273	0	13	7,286
Total Expense	106,550	36,530	13	143,093
Net Ordinary Income	7,386	858	16,763	25,007
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
OTHER RECEIPTS				
7100 ■ Other Income	0	0	9,000	9,000
Total OTHER RECEIPTS	0	0	9,000	9,000
Unrealized Gain(Loss)	(14,047)	0	(102,464)	(116,511)
Total Other Income	(14,047)	0	(93,464)	(107,511)
Other Expense	0	0	(76,702)	(76,702)
Net Other Income	(14,047)	0	(16,763)	(30,810)
Net Income	(6,661)	858	0	(5,803)