

Presbytery of Yellowstone – Special Meeting
June 3, 2021

21-0049. Opening of the Meeting

The Presbytery of Yellowstone met on Thursday, June 3, 2021, via Zoom format beginning at 12:00 noon. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator, RE Julie Boksich.

This special meeting was called by the Pastoral Ministry Team acting in accordance with the Standing Rules for representation of the presbytery needed to call a special meeting. The meeting was also called by vote of the presbytery on a motion made by the Leadership Cabinet to allow for the Commissioning and installing the newly elected Stated Clerk. Specifically, the meeting was to include the following:

1. To install Caroline Fleming, RE, Miles City, as the newly elected Stated Clerk of Yellowstone Presbytery.
2. To dismiss the Stated Clerk Search Committee with our deepest thanks for their hard work and discernment on our behalf.
3. To approve the Administrative Commission for the July 31, 2021, installation service for Rev. Kimmy Briggs, FPC, Lewistown.
4. To examine and approve Mary Grace Reynolds to be received, ordained as a member of Yellowstone Presbytery as the installed MWS for Madison Valley Presbyterian Church. (She is a candidate under care of East Tennessee Presbytery, approved to seek a call, and has just graduated from Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA. YP's PMT has examined and unanimously recommends her for ordination and installation. She received a unanimous call May 23 from our Madison Valley Presbyterian Church.)
5. To approve the Terms of Call for Mary Grace Reynolds as the installed MWS for Madison Valley Presbyterian Church.
6. To authorize the Pastoral Min. Team to finalize the date & Administrative Commission for the ordination & installation service for Mary Grace Reynolds, to Madison Valley Presbyterian Church.
7. To act on Leadership Cabinet nomination to the Representation/Nominating Ministry Team

2021-0050. Ruling Elders with vote attending:

RE Russ Kline, Member LC
RE Julie Boksich (Moderator), Church of the Big Hole
RE Stephanie Bergstrom, Manhattan
RE Debbie Blackburn, PMT Co-Moderator
CRE Margee Smith, Stanford
RE Linda Smith, Anaconda
Re Chuck Wright, Butte
RE Caroline Fleming (Stated Clerk Elect), Miles City
RE Christine Dunham (PNC Madison Valley)
Re Debbie Blackburn (Co-Moderator PMT), Manhattan
RE Suzanne Bratsky, Bozeman
RE Lisa Cole, Deer Lodge

Ministers of Word and Sacrament Members Present: (Note absences and excused absences are not, reported for Special Meetings of this Presbytery)

Dave Thompson, Jamie Schmeling, Jody McDevitt, Dan Krebill, JP Carlson, Neva Rathbun, Debbie Funke, Rusty Craig, Kimmy Briggs, Charley Blom, Daniel Triller.

Other:

RE Jim Tarr Former Stated Clerk, MWS George Goodrich Co GP, MWS Kathy Goodrich Co GP, Mary Grace Reynolds, Candidate for Ministry, Knoxville, TN

21.0051. A Quorum was declared by the Moderator, Julie Boksich based on attendance visible on ZOOM.

21.0052. Moderator Julie Boksich led the group in meditation and reflection based on the scripture passage Luke 10: 2, "He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

21.0053. The following Procedural Motion was presented:

1. That the roll for this meeting be established by email to: statedclerk@yellowstonepcusa.org
2. Call in attendees shall indicate in the email if they are a Member, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Elder Commissioner, Other Member with vote according to the presbytery standing rules, or guest and one's church.
3. That written requests for absences received by the Stated Clerk be approved.
4. That any Corresponding members present on the call phone be seated.
5. That the Presbytery grant the Moderator the authority to give privilege of the floor to persons, other than Members or Commissioners, for the purpose of reporting to this meeting.
6. That the Moderator and the Stated Clerk be empowered to suggest and make adjustments to the Agenda during the meeting, as may be necessary, to provide for efficiency in reporting, and
7. That all reports received at this meeting be accepted and if not supplied to the presbytery office in advance an electronic copy shall be supplied to the office of the stated clerk and the presbytery office immediately following the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the procedural motion. The motion was approved.

21.0054. A motion was made to adopt the proposed docket. The motion was seconded and was approved.

21.0055. The new Stated Clerk was introduced By Jody McDevitt and the service of commissioning and installation was held. Co-Executive Presbytery Kathy Goodrich officiated the installation, Moderator Julie Boksich asked the constitutional questions of the Stated Clerk, and Jodi McDevitt asked the constitutional questions of the membership. The service concluded with a prayer and a virtual laying on of hands.

> A motion was made and seconded to dismiss the Stated Clerk Search Committee with the thanks of the Presbytery. The motion was approved.

21.0056. An action to vote on the installation service for the Rev. Kimberly Briggs to the Lewistown Church was made by the PMT as follows:

PMT requests that Presbytery approve the Administrative Commission for the July 31, 2021 (1:00pm) Installation Service for Rev. Kimmy Briggs, FPC, Lewistown.

The motion was approved.

21.0057. Candidate for ministry Mary Grace Reynolds was introduced to the Presbytery by JP Carlson, Co Moderator of the PMT. A report from the PNC Chair, Christine Dunham of the Madison Valley Presbyterian Church included a statement of unanimous consent on the selection of Mary Grace to be the church's next installed pastor. After introductions, Mary Grace spoke concerning her background, faith journey and sense of call to this ministry.

A special comment made by Mary Grace is deserving of being a part of these minutes when she said ***"You reach your community through the children."***

Mary Grace was examined by the presbytery and after much detailed questioning the following was voted on as presented by the PMT:

- 1. PMT unanimously recommends the approval Mary Grace Reynolds to be received for ordination by and membership in Yellowstone Presbytery as the installed MWS for Madison Valley Presbyterian Church.**

The motion was approved and Mary Grace was welcomed into the membership of Yellowstone Presbytery.

- 2. To approve the Terms of Call for Mary Grace Reynolds as the installed MWS for Madison Valley Presbyterian Church.**

The motion was approved.

- 3. To authorize the Pastoral Min. Team to finalize the date & Administrative Commission for the ordination & installation service for Mary Grace Reynolds, to Madison Valley Presbyterian Church and to ask that the Presbytery be informed of the details.**

The motion was approved.

Prayer was offered by Chuck Wright and J.P Carlson for Mary Grace Reynolds, her ministry in Ennis and the Madison Valley Presbyterian Church thanking God for the process that led to her selection.

21.0058. Leadership Cabinet made the following motion:

To elect Rev. Neva Rathbun, HR (Terry), to the Representation/Nominating Ministry Team for the class of 2021.

The motion passed was approved.

21.0059. The following announcements were made:

Former Stated Clerk Jim Tarr announced that all necessary credentials concerning Mary Grace Reynolds have been received.

The Reverend David Murchie will be installed as Pastor at the Colstrip United Community Church Sunday, June 6, at 2:00 p.m.

The Presbytery has received the check for the sale of the Harlowton church property

Shannon Kaisers training given at the may presbytery meeting is videotaped. Kathy said it will be made available to people in Yellowstone presbytery soon, but is not for general public use.

JP reminded people of the boundary training scheduled for Saturday, June 5, and said there are a few spaces still available.

Jody McDevitt announced that she and her husband Dan Krebill, Co Pastors at FPC Bozeman, will be retiring as of September 1, 2021 and moving to Billings along with Dan's Mom Doris.

All were asked to pray for families in our Presbytery who are facing great difficulties and situations.

21.0060. The next meeting of the Presbytery of Yellowstone will be held November 5 and 6th ,2021 as a Stated Meeting and Julie Boksich reported on some of the reason's participation will be important for as many as possible to attend this Zoom gathering.

21.0061. Moderator Julie Boksich closed the meeting with the Halverson Benediction at 1:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk

Attachments:

- A, Administrative Commission for the installation service for Rev. Kimmy Briggs
- B. Mary Grace Reynolds Statement of Faith
- C. Terms of Call to Mary Grace Reynolds from Madison Valley Presbyterian Church

Minutes were approved _____

Presbytery approved the Administrative Commission for the July 31, 2021 (1:00pm) Installation Service for Rev. Kimmy Briggs, FPC, Lewistown to include the following:

MWS JP Carlson (at-large)
MWS Kathy Goodrich (at-large)
MWS George Goodrich (at-large)
MWS Dan Triller (Dillon)
RE Debbie Blackburn (Manhattan)
RE Julie Boksich (Wise River)
Moderator RE Dave Byerly (Lewistown)
RE Margee Smith (Stanford)

Guests of the Administrative Commission might include the following:

MWS Steven Barnes (Presbytery of Greater Atlanta)
MWS Melanie Smith (Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy)
MWS Mindy Smith (Presbytery of the Inland Northwest)

Mary Grace Reynolds Statement of Faith

I confess belief in the one, triune God, to whom I belong and am in service to. God is present in the tangible but transcends all-knowing and all matter. God, who is in intimate relationship with all of creation, expresses Godself in three distinct forms of the same person: The Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. I confess that God spoke creation into being from the chaos of nothingness. With a loving whisper, God artfully crafted the cosmos and declared that it was all good. Humanity, included in the vast created world, was made in God's own image in order that they might enjoy God's presence, and testify to God's goodness. God's image is mirrored in humanity and God has made Godself knowable through Holy Scripture and the nature of creation, for the pleasure and delight of all humanity. I confess that humanity, despite being created as good, has fallen into sin; from which humanity is unable to escape by its own ability. Humanity's turn toward sinfulness was a conscious one and the painful consequence for humanity's rejection of God's good rule is evil. Evil now permeates the whole of human experience and it serves to obstruct humanity from knowing God's goodness. Because of evil, humanity's ability to truly perceive God is marred. Now, out of self-interest, fear, and cruelty, humanity destroys, undermines, and exploits all of that which God declared very good. One person's sin becomes someone else's experience of evil and therefore, the reason for their broken understanding of God and self. While, through the help of God's grace, we can consciously move away from sin, we will never escape our own sinfulness. I confess that God poured Godself into the person of Jesus Christ, who entered into this sinfilled world through a human mother as a vulnerable baby. Jesus, who is fully God and fully human, lived a blameless life and through his ministry of healing and peace, is able to reconcile humanity to God. I confess that Jesus lived under imperial oppressors and was sentenced to die on the cross. While the depth of human depravity is illustrated by Jesus' horrific death on the cross, evidenced by our willingness to kill he who was blameless, Jesus' physical resurrection illustrates the strength of God's love. It is through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which dealt a forceful blow to death, that God has redeemed the whole human race. I confess that the Church is the body of Christ, ordained by God to be the hands and feet of the Jesus on earth. It is the Church's privilege and ultimate duty to demonstrate the outward signs of God's grace through the proclamation of the Word of God and through the gifts of baptism and communion. I believe that the Church is continuously transformed by interaction with the Holy Spirit, who engages and empowers the Church through the waters of baptism and the nourishment of the bread and cup. The Spirit justifies us by grace through our faith and gives us courage. All are called by the Spirit, in all of the wonderful diversity they were created with by God, to the ministry of the Church. I confess that in time, at the end of all things, God will make all wrongs right and Jesus Christ, he who was resurrected from the tomb, will be made Lord of the whole earth. I rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate humanity from the love of God in Christ, our Lord.