

Co-General Presbyter Report to Yellowstone Presbytery May 6, 2022

Revs. George and Kathy Goodrich

Seeking the shalom, peace and prosperity, of where I have sent you..., and pray for it for if it prospers, you too will prosper. ...“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jer 29:1-13.

So much has transpired even since we last met in February – outrage and tragedies of Russia-Ukraine war/genocide with sobering spiraling implications for the entire world as are truly all connected; the struggles of our planet and ecosystems; ongoing drought, worst in the west in 1,200 years; in the US, crisis of trust - in leaders, institutions including the church, a crisis of civility and overall working for the common good, for “liberty and justice for all”; many domestic challenges in the US of ALL sorts; ...

Wisdom and Insights for these times:

- 1. Three vital practices for thriving in a decade of accelerating change are A. Anticipating; B. Reflecting & C. Innovating**, drawing from the seasoned futurist Tom Sine & pastor/innovator Dwight Friesen in their new book, *2020's Foresight*.
- 2. Reclaim our identity, practices and ways of being children of God, contract communities who are citizens of HEAVEN, not of a nation or political ideology, Seeking FIRST God and God's kingdom/reign and ways of God and God's righteousness.**
- 3. Seeking the shalom, peace and prosperity, of where I have sent you..., and pray for it, for if it prospers, you too will prosper. Jer 29:1 – 13. Reflecting, Cultivating, Innovating a la Walter Brueggeman's “cultivating a shalomic imagination”**
- 4. Cultivating deeper spiritual roots and rest in Christ and relationships** – with Christ, marriages and families, church fellowships, and the neighborhoods/communities where God places us.
- 5. L's – Loving, Listening, learning,**

Our deep respect, appreciation and gratitude to and for you all!!! – We are deeply grateful for each of you and your friendship and partnership in the gospel. Being disciples, *being* and *doing* church, leading and equipping leaders and church fellowships and bodies in these fast-changing, tumultuous times and contexts, and especially the last 2+ years, has been exceptionally demanding on the personal, congregational, presbytery and communal levels. And, we are still in the midst of this race turned Ironman Triathlon!! to reference the analogy we shared in previous reports previous meetings.

Leadership Cabinet – We meet with, equip, resource and support the Leadership Cabinet, not only at meetings but informally, in what has been a significant increase in various matters they, and their subgroups and members need to consider and address- see LC February & May 2022 reports.

Pastoral Ministry Team – The workload and responsibilities of PMT continue at a very high level including our work in Supporting, equipping, resourcing, adapting, creating or updating policies with the Team and involvement with pastors, CRE's, sessions and PNC's, and congregations without pastors.

Visiting through the Presbytery

- a. Reduced travel and preaching due to illness (lingering covid) and do more via phone and zoom
- b. Love the opportunity to preach such as Hysham for Easter

Training for Elders, those exploring Commissioned Lay Pastor (Monthly via zoom) – Yearlong
Preaching training sessions are nearly completed.

- a. May repeat with another interested group and some who have done it.
- b. Interests expressed regarding both Lay pastoral care training... Goals, means, bringing Jesus into the room; and disciple-making, informal as well as formal, in all aspects life and being a disciple community
- c. Thoughts? What kind of lay training is most needed in this fast changing season in our culture and reduced availability of seminary trained pastors? do the elders and churches of the presbytery need?

MT Clergy Gathering (Weekly) ; Running for Two Years

- a. Hopefully we have, improved preaching and relationships among participating clergy
- b. Deepened our knowledge and love of God.
- c. Next steps...

Westminster Spires Camp – excited for the season in July – Read the camping report.

Check out the lovely new website @ westminsterspires.org A huge thank you for this to Callie and Daniel Triller assisted by Curt Kochner

Presbytery Insurance update – All insured now but the camp buildings due to very strict standards of insurance firm.

Presbytery staff – a year of transitions and experimenting. We are grateful for and appreciate working with Caroline

Meet with our counterparts in the **Synod Staff Forum** , and 2-3 times a year, along with monthly checkins and collaborations.

Small church task force just starting in synod

Rocky Mountain College – G's term expiring... Attending Visioning group

Personal

We have talked with Personnel about sabbath time after 9 years. However, with lingering, long covid and medical & wellness needs plus need for spiritual, personal and professional refreshment, these conversations have expanded and they are working on a recommendation.