



Yellowstone Presbytery Mini-Conference & Stated Meeting
Reconnecting our Churches with our Communities:
Moving out into the community as Jesus did



May 21 & 22, 2021 via zoom

Friday May 21: 9:30am to 12:30pm Mini-Conference

1:30pm-4:30pm Business meeting + 7:00pm-8:15pm Worship

Saturday, May 22: 8:30 am to 2:15 pm Mini-Conference

Conference Speaker: Rev. Shannon Kiser, PCUSA pastor

- *PCUSA Parish Associate Pastor, Riverside Presbyterian Church in Sterling, VA, preaching, teaching, & pastoral care with this multicultural, church planting congregation*
- *Fresh Expressions US, Director of Training (Transforming congregations from "The Outside In")*
- *PCUSA Mission Agency, Past 1001 Associate, developing strategy for releasing new works of ministry*

Preparing for Conf. & Training - Letter from Rev. Shannon Kiser

The pandemic has been a strange, yet, **I believe, critical moment for the church to discover what it means to embody the life and priorities of Jesus not only in re-gathering in our buildings, but in the needs, networks, and neighborhoods all around us. Your church has unique opportunities to do this...let's spend some time discovering what those opportunities might be. Will we take seriously our mission and connection with the community where God has placed us?** Jesus taught in synagogues, but he also met and engaged people along roads, in towns, in boats, in trees, in homes and beside watering holes. What could that look like for your church in your town/community today?

On day two of our conference and training, May 21-22, you will be invited to spend some time in your own community. Don't worry...this is not a scary or solo adventure. We will be preparing and inviting you to strike out into your local community in pairs, just as Jesus sent his disciples into towns/villages (Luke 10:1). Be thinking about where you might want to go to do some thoughtful observing and listening. Maybe there is a part of town you would like to learn more about. Maybe there is a popular fishing spot, a ballfield, a hardware store, a diner, a market. The possibilities are endless. Be thinking about your local setting, and where you might want to focus some attention.

You'll also want to be thinking about *who in your congregation would benefit from participating in this communitylistening exercise.* Who are you hoping could catch a vision for deeper connection between the community inside your church and the community outside your church? Invite them. Is there anyone in your congregation who could add valuable insight and perspective because they add diversity (age, ethnicity, life experience, etc.) to the conversation? Invite them. Is there anyone in your congregation already particularly active in the life of the larger community surrounding your church? Invite them.

This Pentecost weekend, let's join the Holy Spirit at work in this pregnant moment for the church to discover afresh what it means to embody the message, life and priorities of Jesus not just in our buildings, but in the needs, networks, and neighborhoods all around us. Your church has unique opportunities to do this...let's spend some time discovering what those opportunities might be. I look forward to our conversations.

Gratefully, Shannon Kiser, Fresh Expressions US

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88324059019?pwd=VUxqZkNRZkxHajg4eWJYZ1dpM3FnUT09>

Meeting ID: 883 2405 9019 Passcode: 332368 or

One tap mobile +16699006833,,88324059019#,,,*,332368# US

Dial from any phone: 253 215 8782 or 346 248 7799 Meeting ID: 883 2405 9019 Passcode: 332368

Detailed schedule/docket & conference materials will be posted a few days ahead @

<http://www.yellowstonepcusa.org/2021May2122PresMeeting.htm>