

**Yellowstone Presbytery
Pastoral Ministry Team Report
March 2023**

At each meeting we begin with prayer and Dwelling in the Word - being the people of God before we do the work of the People of God.

We include in each meeting an overview of current church situations and transitions.

In January we received Good News from a variety of churches in Yellowstone Presbytery.

In February we wrote notes of encouragement and invitation to attend the Yellowstone Presbytery workshop/meeting in March.

We are working with Leadership Cabinet on an April retreat to include both teams.

We have received the Co-General Presbyters 2023 Sabbatical report.

PMT received a decision from Margee Smith to not renew her contract with Stanford church. Assigned a team to work with the Stanford church, including Session Co-Moderators George Goodrich and Jim Tarr.

We concurred with dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Debbie Funke and Manhattan church upon her retirement. Commissioned Ruling Elder Chuck Wright was asked to serve the Manhattan church for three months ending January 31, 2023. This contract was replaced with a five month contract at 3/4 time while permanent pastor recruitment efforts continue.

We elected an administrative commission for Karolee Larson's commissioning service to serve First Presbyterian Church in Butte as Commissioned Ruling Elder to begin January 1, 2023. Recommended approval of her contract.

PMT recommended Ordination Exam Readers to Yellowstone Presbytery for approval.

We received Annual Reports from retired and at-large pastors. A four-person team volunteered to read the reports, pray for them, and note any concerns.

George reported good participation from the Presbytery in the Pastoral Care Training series.

In January, the Pastoral Ministry Team reviewed the Responsibilities and Covenant for PMT members. New co-moderators, Teresa Kendall and Chuck Wright received training.

PMT set our meeting schedule for the first half of 2023.

We validated the ministry and approved terms of call for Brent Long to serve as installed pastor for UCC church in Big Timber, Montana.

We confirmed our list of PMT Liaisons and churches/contact persons.

PMT received the General Assembly Overtures assigned to us from Leadership Cabinet. We assigned pairs to each overture, to report at our February meeting their recommendations to

PMT gave permission to Caroline Fleming to act on behalf of George Goodrich (who was ill) at the church in Jordan on Sunday, February 5, 2023.

We received the renewal contract for Interim Ashley Birk at First Presbyterian, Bozeman.

We received the 2023 contract for Mary Davis at Church of the Big Hole.

PMT received a report from the initial conversation of the Eastern Montana Ministries Planning Team.

We received a report from a joint meeting of Hysham, Forsyth, and Colstrip.

We encouraged attendance in a free zoom workshop “Breaking the Myth of Presbyterian Fear of the ‘E’ word” on February 23rd 5:00-6:00pm.