

Pastoral Ministry Team's  
Presbytery Report  
November 1-2, 2019

The purpose of the Pastoral Ministry Team is to come alongside of churches, sessions, and pastors to provide encouragement, support, and training as we work together to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

A. Retirement of the Rev. Jed Cauffman

The Rev. Jed Cauffman has made a request to the Pastoral Ministry Team to move his status to honorably retired and is seeking to transfer his membership to the Presbytery of Los Ranchos in Southern California where he is currently living. Jed faithfully served the First Presbyterian Church in Lewistown, Montana, for 25 years before moving to California in 2017. **“The PMT recommends to the Yellowstone Presbytery to move the Rev. Jed Cauffman to the status of honorably retired within the Presbyterian Church (USA) and to transfer his membership to the Presbytery of Los Ranchos upon request.”**

B. Commission Margee Smith as a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE):

Pending the approval of the Yellowstone Presbytery, Margee Smith will begin a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) relationship with the First Presbyterian Church of Lewistown, Montana, on November 3, 2019. The commission will be for Home Outreach Ministry to those in the church and community and will also include a wider ministry to churches in the area. Margee recently completed her CRE coursework through Whitworth University. Here are the contract terms:

Terms of Contract

Commissioned Ruling Elder

Home Outreach Ministry

Margaret (Margee) Smith

Placement: First Presbyterian Church, Lewistown, MT

Job Description:

- Margee will provide the structure of the homebound visits which will include visiting, prayer and spiritual support as needed.
- Margee will recruit and train people to serve on a homebound ministry committee. This will include accompanying people on visits when necessary.
- Margee will develop and maintain a rotation schedule to give attention to our homebound people from our church. She will disseminate that schedule to all involved.
- Margee will host meetings and trainings for this committee as necessary.
- Margee will encourage the committee to visit, send cards or call their assigned person or people weekly. She will also encourage the committee to let her know if something needs attention by the church or an outside resource with any of the homebound people. Margee will share those needs with the church for prayer or with Pastor Diane White if her counsel may be necessary.
- Margee will be allowed to serve communion to homebound people through this ministry.
- Margee will provide spiritual materials as necessary to the committee.

- Margee will maintain communication with the committee on a regular basis offering an opportunity for feedback from the committee.

In addition to those duties on the homebound committee:

- Margee will be allowed to provide pulpit supply to area churches and be given the authority to serve communion and perform baptisms in this capacity under the authority of the church's session.
- Margee will be allowed to officiate at funerals when asked.

Compensation: There will be no compensation for the Home Outreach Ministry position.

Compensation for other pastoral duties such as funerals and pulpit supply will be paid by the respective churches or individuals making the request.

Terms of Service: This commission is for one year from November 3, 2019 through November 3, 2020. It will be continued annually by authorization of the PMT.

Supervision/Oversight: Margee will serve under the session of the First Presbyterian Church in Lewistown, Montana, with the Reverend Diane White serving as her supervisor/mentor. She will also be under the supervision of the Presbytery per G-2.1004 of the book of order.

**Included below is Margee's Statement of Faith:**

I believe that the Bible is the authoritative word of God. It is through scripture that we learn of who and what God is, and therefore who and what we are in God. It is through scripture that we are able to better understand God's ways and how we are to reflect those ways in how we conduct our lives.

I believe that there is one God, eternally existing as three persons; God, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, known as the Trinity.

I believe that our God came to earth as Jesus, who was both mankind and yet fully God, to die on a cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

I believe that scripture tells us to love one another and to forgive one another. Jesus exemplified that on earth. God also assures us that we will be forgiven when asked with a true heart.

God also sends the Holy Spirit to be with us in our daily walk. The Holy Spirit reminds us that God is always with us and the Holy Spirit is the catalyst that encourages us and speaks words of comfort to our hearts and souls when needed. The Holy Spirit guides our path to turn us away from sin and live a life that pleases God.

I believe that baptism is a public declaration of our commitment to God and others of our faith. We are called to life in a new way as disciples of Christ and to share the good news of the gospel with others. It is a symbol of our adoption into Christ as we join other believers in declaring our faith as adults, or as parents on behalf of our infant children.

I believe that through communion we are able to celebrate Christ's presence among us by gathering around the communion table and partaking of bread and wine with fellow worshipers.

We use grape juice or wine to symbolize Jesus Christ's blood and bread to symbolize His body. Jesus gave instructions to us in the bible of how to celebrate to experience the fellowship of Christ. In this way, we are reminded that our sins are wholly forgiven by the love and grace of God through the blood of Jesus Christ.

I believe as it says in the Bible, that one day Jesus Christ will return to earth to call me home. I will stand with the saints of heaven and earth before God and Jesus as I enter into the kingdom for all of eternity. God will then take away all pain and suffering and replace it with joy and wonder! Until that day however, I am to love my neighbor as myself regardless of all other circumstances.

Although I cannot possibly know and understand everything that is in store for humankind on this earth, I can know and understand that through God, God's Son, and God's Holy Spirit, I am able to lead others to the love of our God! I believe that God is love and we are made in the image of God. Therefore, we are love. I believe that I will never look into the eyes of someone that God does not love.

- C. For the Yellowstone Presbytery **“to receive the minutes of the administrative commission assigned to ordain the Rev. Sarah Logemann as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) at the First Presbyterian Church in Miles City, Montana, on October 26, 2019.”**
- D. For the Yellowstone Presbytery to concur with PMT action **“to prevent at-large members the Rev. David Andrew and the Rev. Paul Cannon from accepting any positions in the PC(USA).”**
- E. Prayers Requested:
  - 1. To pray for all our distressed pastors and their families as this is a very difficult time for them.
  - 2. To pray for the many churches in Yellowstone that are seeking a new pastor or who are trying to hold things together without a Pastor to lead them.
  - 3. To pray for the future of this Presbytery and what it will need to change so it can continue to serve the churches within the Presbytery.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Dave Thompson, Chair  
Pastoral Ministry Team  
Yellowstone Presbytery