

October 27, 2022

To: Yellowstone Presbytery

From: George Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter

*'To everything there is a season...'* - Ecclesiastes 3:1

With a very grateful heart to God and everyone of you in Yellowstone Presbytery, and sadly aware of the passing of seasons for me, I have asked that the Leadership Cabinet to recommend to the Presbytery the status of Honorably Retired be accorded me from the Call of Co-General Presbyter, effective March 31, 2023.

Thousands upon thousands of miles traveled across our beautiful state... hundreds of sermons preached and shared in worship with you on many a Sunday morning... hundreds of presbytery, cabinet, Pastoral Ministry and Camp team meetings, session and clusters, conversations in person and over the miles... in which we have prayed and wrestled together for the leading and heart of God... and most of all the precious friendships we have developed as you, too, have poured out your loving service to God, your church, and the presbytery. I am so very humbled and grateful to have served you and with you as your Co-General Presbyter! *And am glad we still have five months to go!*

Why retiring? A) I turn 70 years old in February, 2023, and after 44 years of ordained ministry, my energies are diminishing. B) After 18 years in this call, while parts of the call still hold great appeal, other parts are demanding more creativity and emotional energy than I can muster. C) It seems to be a time to give focus to family and grandchildren. D) I long to focus ministry in areas of my gifting: preaching and worship for pulpit supply here in Montana: spiritual direction and companionship with individuals; equipping lay church leaders to preach and minister and lead in zoom and retreat settings. E) Financial reasons. With the financial sacrifice Kathy and I have made to pursue this call, we now need the "raise" we will get by my beginning to receive pension.

I am happy to report that Kathy is sensing God's leading to continue in the call as General Presbyter, and according to provisions in the Book of Order (G-2.0504a), that is the process. Therefore, as our children and grandchildren live here, we plan to remain in Montana and the presbytery. As my passion for some elements of ministry remains, I would hope to offer my gifts in retirement to the presbytery as a volunteer where appropriate. We will be discussing this with the Leadership Cabinet and its Personnel subgroup.

There are not words or colors to describe my feelings of both grief and gratitude to each of you for the changing season. Through the challenges, opportunities, and "ordinary" days, the Spirit has used you to encourage and teach me spiritual and life lessons. We have shared meaningful friendships, which I hope to continue in some new form, yet to unfold.

I thank you and God profoundly for the call to serve you as Yellowstone Presbytery Co-General Presbyter all these years, and I look forward to supporting Kathy as she continues in the call. And, hay! We still have five months to go!

Love in Christ,

George Goodrich