

Report to the Presbytery of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains Assembly, Sept 21, 2019.

I attended this meeting in Denver and can report to Yellowstone Presbytery on some of the critical decisions that we made.

For everybody to understand the Synod of the Rocky Mountains is now a reduced function Synod and as such has no Synod Executive. I think this new format of the Synod has been in effect for about 4 years. As a reduced function previous Assemblies approved changes in how the Synod supports its presbyteries and dispersed all financial support available at that time plus during last year they dispersed a portion of grant from the estate of one of the members.

At this current time the Synod will no longer provide annual financial support to the presbyteries. The Assembly voted to reduce the per capita to be paid by the Presbytery to the Synod from \$3.50 per member to \$3.00 per member. This change will have little effect for the Presbytery of Yellowstone since we only have a little over 1,500 members as of end of 2018. The larger member Presbyteries can gain more if they maintain their current per capita charges. Another impact on per capita will be a proposed increase in the GA per capita this year. GA Per capita for the 2018 membership numbers will be \$7.73 and will go up next year to \$8.95. These amounts are already approved by the GA. The total operating budget for the Synod for 2020 is \$105,250 and includes salary and expenses and employer costs for 3 staff people. Unrestricted net assets of the Synod will be an estimated \$397,044.89 at the end of this year. The budget for 2020 will incur a loss of \$9,259.00 possibly from this reserve.

The Presbyteries can still apply for financial aid via certain specific grant and loan programs the Synod has available. These remain in existence. This include minor support to the 2 connected colleges on of which is Rocky Mountain College in Billings which will get \$250.00 Synod funds. The loan program is substantial and could help any of our churches that need essential improvement or repairs but do not have enough current funding to pay for this need. Another activity is grants are available for Joint Presbytery functions and events. These funds require collaboration of 2 presbyteries before they can be used.

Jim Tarr, Synod Commissioner.

