

## **Synod of The Rocky Mountains Commissioners Report.**

Jim Tarr Synod Moderator opened the meeting 9AM Monday September 21, 2020 and the gathering with 15 commissioners plus added staff was conducted by Zoom. Attending from Yellowstone Presbytery were RE Jim Tarr, and MWS Kathy Goodrich.

Key activities consisted of electing or selecting people to serve various positions in the synod, approval of the budget, and approval of the Per Capita for 2021. The per capita was set at \$3.00 per member with a \$.25 credit to be reimbursed for prompt payment. The per capita invoice was sent to the Yellowstone Presbytery Treasurer.

Among the vacancies to be filled at the Synod are a MWS either sex from Yellowstone to serve on the Synod Nominating Committee. Right now, RE Jim Tarr and serves on this committee for one more year and he can relay our selection to the Synod Committee.

We recognized those commissioners whose terms of office were up and/or term limited and leaving. Among those who were term limited was our own Kathy Goodrich who all acknowledged will be missed for her experienced judgement and continuity of commitments to the church and all its needed functions. She indeed will be missed. This means we will need to elect a MWS from Yellowstone to replace her starting 2021.

The Assembly elected MWS Bob Gerrard Hon. Ret. of Cheyenne, WY as Moderator for 2021. Synod Moderators serve a one-year term and Bob will moderate the next meeting on September 20, 2021. Moderator RE Jim Tarr administered the oaths of office and installation service.

Among the Clerks reports was noting no actions were needed by the Synod PJC which is a good sign of the peace and unity of the churches in this Synod is working well.

RE Jim Tarr conducted the closing worship, the installation service and it also included a short sermon with virtual communion service conducted by RE Jim Tarr. Jim received approval of the PMT Yellowstone to conduct the service with guidance and instruction provided by MWS Dave Thompson and a special thanks to MWS Susan Thomas for assisting with the scripting of the service.

In the above sermon the following was stated by RE Jim Tarr and may be of interest to our churches:

*"I recently attended a seminar put on by a group called" Listening in your Community" There are 4 sessions which basically include:*

- a. How to Listen.*
- b. Listening to people who are not like us.*
- c. Listening to those who lead in our communities.*
- d. And Listening for what God has to say about what we learned during the process.*

*This could be a way to shift the focus of a fellowship from the social club type gathering we have been used to, to a church that really wants to engage in the issues facing their community. Many have considered this to be just another way to do a mission study on your community when calling a new pastor. Nothing could be further from the minds of this group as the goal here is to change the culture of the Christian community in ways it has not been effective in the past. This new aera I like to call the "Connectional age" the focus will be on finding ways to love people where they are and help them see the redeeming love of Jesus and grace that our God has freely given us.*

*Let us find ways to communicate what were are doing to connect with those who are showing up on our Zoom Meetings and our Facebook pages so they can find a way to better understand why it might be a good Idea to become a Presbyterian and stay with us on a permanent basis. It is now time to equip our fellowships for evangelism in these new ways of connecting with people. Let us get to work.*

*Amen"*

Jim Tarr

Kathy Goodrich

Synod Commissioners