

Yellowstone Presbytery 2024 Minimum Salaries

These figures represent an 3.2% in minimum salaries for 2024 and are based on full-time of a 40-hour work week, which should be pro-rated for part-time positions. See below for CRE and part-time considerations.

PMT recognizes that Yellowstone Presbytery continues to remain near the bottom for compensation for pastors serving in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Given that it is important to compensate pastors enough to live without financial stress, PMT asks that every congregation engage in meaningful discussion regarding compensation at the local level. On the next page we have provided five guiding questions to shape those conversations.

PMT again invites congregations who struggle to meet these minimums to petition to PMT a reduction of minimum salaries. See next page for instructions for petition to PMT. In addition, PMT recommends at least a similar cost-of living adjustment for all clergy currently making above minimum.

Full-Time Pastor in 0-3 years of Ordained Ministry:

Effective Salary: \$54,759

The Board of Pensions requires that the manse amount be at least 30% of all other effective salary.

Board of Pension Dues (39% effective salary): \$21,356 (required for Installed Pastors)

Total for Installed Pastors w/ 0-3 years of Ordained Ministry: \$76,295

Full-Time Pastor in 4 or more years of Ordained Ministry:

Effective Salary: \$57,285

The Board of Pensions requires that the manse amount be at least 30% of all other effective salary item .

Board of Pension Dues (39% effective salary): \$22,341 (required for Installed Pastors)

Total for Installed Pastor w/ 4 or more years of Ordained Ministry: **\$79,626**

Additional Benefits for All Pastors (regardless of years of experience)

Continuing Education \$600/year (which can be accrued for up to three years)

Travel - Vouchered at the current federal rate

Study Leave - 2 weeks (cumulative to 6 weeks) including 2 Sundays

Vacation - 4 weeks including 4 Sundays

Family Leave Policy in accordance with Yellowstone Presbytery's Policy

Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)

The CRE salary is 75% of the Full-Time Pastor salary, pro-rated for part-time.

Part-Time Considerations

Part-time pastors and part-time CREs should also receive 4 weeks of vacation including 4 Sundays and 2 weeks of study leave including 2 Sundays. Part-time pastors and part-time CREs should receive \$600/year (which can be accrued for up to 3 years) for Continuing Education.

Petition Process

Churches finding themselves in a scenario where they are unable to meet these minimum salaries should research and document the actual numbers for a Master's Level teacher (including years of experience) and the police chief in your community. These numbers can be provided to PMT to petition for a lower minimum salary, but the exact numbers must be provided. All these requests will be taken seriously.

Questions for Congregations

Based on Jamie Dunlop's *Budgeting for a Healthy Church*

1. Church: What do other churches in the community pay their staff?
2. Non-Church: How much does a local school teacher with a Master's degree, school principal or police chief make?
3. Replacement Cost: If your pastor were to leave, would you need to increase the compensation package in order to attract an individual who would do the job equally well? (Dunlop, 80)
4. Personal Budget: What makes for a sustainable family budget at different stages of life in your community (including the cost of childcare)?
5. Housing: What is the median price to purchase a home in the same zip code as the church? Could your pastor afford to live in the zip code he/she is serving?

PMT is interested in knowing these numbers, so we would welcome your committees to share these numbers back to PMT, so that they can better inform our conversations for future minimum salary guidelines.