

WYOMING PRESBYTERY SYNOPSIS
STATED Meeting of Presbytery
Friday & Saturday, September 25-26, 2020
Combination IN PERSON at First Presbyterian Church in Cheyenne and ZOOM Meeting

FRIDAY

The meeting was called to order by Presbytery Moderator, Ruling Elder Barry Johnson 1:00 PM. There were 18 in person attendees (14 voting members) and 31 Zoom attendees (26 voting members). Corresponding Members seated were Lynn Smit, Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains, and Rev. Rob Hagan of the Presbyterian Foundation. Rev. Steve Shive and Rev. Diana Hartman led the opening worship and reviewed the Rule of Life. The focus for all of Presbytery the next three months is Romans 12:4-8.

Before beginning Presbytery business, Barry reviewed our Vision and Values, and read the values: faith, generosity, transformational leadership, team work, and engaged listening.

Rev. Kellie Thomson, Stated Clerk, and Safety Response Coordinator, led a training on the Sexual Misconduct Policy. This training is required for all members of presbytery and volunteers for any and all presbytery events, and committee members. An online version will be available soon. A policy acknowledgement form must be completed and returned to the Stated Clerk.

REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS:

Synod & General Assembly Reports

Rev. Bob Garrard and Ruling Elder Carole Hertz gave the Synod report. Synod voted to give a rebate to the Synod portion of *per capita* for 2020. Bob was elected Moderator of Synod. Rev. Jason Harshberger gave the General Assembly Report. A written report by Ruling Elder Warren VanGenderen was also submitted. The meeting this year was all done virtually, by Zoom. Business was limited and there were no major actions taken. The Commissioners missed the fellowship of the in person meeting.

Camp Story Report

Alicia Ford, Camp Story Director, gave the Camp Story report. She spoke about the financial difficulties due to COVID-19 shut downs and expressed her appreciation for the donations and grants they have received. They have been doing extra projects at the camp since they've been closed due to COVID-19. She encouraged people to come up to the camp and help with spring cleanup.

Committee on Ministry Report COM Moderator, Rev. Ed Brenegar. On behalf of Presbytery, COM reported that it:

- Approved the call of Rev. Tammy Heimgartner to Star Valley United Church, Thayne
- Approved Rev. Steve Shive as interim moderator of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Gillette
- Approved acceptance of the following pastors as temporary members of the Presbytery of Wyoming:
 - Rev. Tammy Heimgartner - Star Valley United Church, Thayne.
 - Rev. Ross Kershaw - Community Federated Church, Thermopolis.
 - Rev. Roger McDaniel - Highlands United Church, Cheyenne.
 - Rev. Sara Shields - Union PC, Evanston.

COM PRESBYTERY ACTION ITEM:

Presbytery approved the policy on Temporary Presbytery Membership for non-PCUSA ministers serving churches in the Presbytery of Wyoming to be added to the Presbytery's Policies and Procedures as part of the COM Manual.

NWC Report

Rev. Shayla Graham gave the report for Pine Ridge. They have seen an increase in giving recently. During the last few months, they have built a Prayer Ravine, put together a website, and conducted an informational meeting. Rev. Steve Shive gave the report for The Table because Libby Tedder-Hugus was having technical difficulties connecting to Zoom. Libby is back from maternity leave and is serving The Table again. She will be ordained and her baby daughter will be baptized, at The Table on September 30, 2020.

ROCCS Report

Rev. Jason Harshberger gave the report for ROCCS. He stated that much of their ministry centers around youth and COVID has impacted their programs. The ski trip in March is their main in-person gathering. They have started a virtual youth group lead by himself and CJ Clemm.

Mission Grant Report

Rev. Karl Heimbeck reported that Council has approved mission grants totally \$14,000 for four churches: Cheyenne Highlands, Moorcroft, Lingle and a joint application between Lingle and Torrington.

ECDL Report

This report was given by Rev. Bruce McBurney who shared a video about missional shift.

Worship & Communion

Rev. Tammy Mitchell gave a sermon based on Ephesians 4: 1-6. Rev. Lynn Williams and Rev. Steve Niccolls led Communion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM until Saturday morning at 8:30 AM. Those attending in person enjoyed dinner at 1st Presbyterian Cheyenne, catered by Dickey's BBQ and served by volunteers from the church.

SATURDAY

The meeting was called to order by Presbytery Moderator, Ruling Elder Barry Johnson 8:30 AM. There were 14 in person attendees (11 voting members) and 26 Zoom attendees (22 voting members). Rev. Steve Shive and Rev. Diana Hartman lead worship on Romans 12: 4-8 with a meditation session.

Council Report: Council moderator, Rev. Bob Thomson. On behalf of Presbytery, Council reported it had:

- Approved giving the Camp Story Commission \$8707.34 from accounts 32560 and 32561 and to ask ROCCS to contribute the balance from the amount requested of \$16,000.
- Set the **2021 Presbytery meetings** for: April 16-17, and September 24-25; Locations TBD
- Set Council meeting dates in 2020-2021: Sept. 15, 2020 zoom, Nov 17,2020 zoom , Feb 23,2021 zoom, Apr 6, 2021 zoom, April 15, 2021 in person, before presbytery meeting, June 22,2021 zoom, Aug 24,2021 in person if possible, Sept 2021 TBD, presbytery schedule
- Elected RE David Blevins (Powell) as Personnel Committee Chair.
- Elected RE Jane Iddings (Torrington) for Personnel Subcommittee

Council Presbytery ACTION ITEMS:

- Presbytery voted to rescind its action to extend the Camp Story lease taken at the September 2019 Presbytery meeting.
- Presbytery voted to add 1 week to Steve Shive’s vacation time, increasing it to six weeks total.
- Presbytery approved the 2021 administrative and mission budgets as submitted
- Presbytery voted to adopt the Standing Rules with changes/edits as submitted.

Please note the change in the terms for Committee Members, Ruling Elder Commissioners, and presbytery Moderator and Vice Moderator from September to September to January to December.

- Presbytery voted to adopt of the Policies and Procedures with changes/edits as submitted.
- Presbytery approved the revised Sexual Misconduct Policy (General and Pertaining to Minors/Vulnerable Adults).
- Presbytery elected RE Sam Starnes (Thermopolis) to a second term on the Nominating Committee, class of 2023 and TE Libby Tedder-Hugus, 1st term, 2023.

Presbytery Nominating Committee Report Moderator Elder George Barnes

Presbytery voted to elect the nominations as presented.

Moderator of Council, 2023 TE Bob Thomson, Cheyenne 1st, (2nd term)

Council, 2023 RE Dave Blevins, Powell (2nd term)

Council, 2023 RE Jane Iddings, Torrington (1st term)

Vice-Moderator, Presbytery, RE Mark Owens, SOTH Casper

Moderator of COM, 2021 TE Lynn Williamson, SOTH Casper

COM, 2023 TE Vacant

COM, 2023 RE Bruce Heimbuck, Cheyenne 1st (2nd term)

CPM, 2023 TE Steven Nicolls, Saratoga (2nd term)

CPM, 2023 RE David Cole, Encampment (2nd term)

PJC, 2026 TE Bob Gerrard, HR

PJC, 2026 RE Marion Yoder, Cheyenne (1st term)

ROCCS, 2023 TE Jason Harshberger, Rawlins (2nd term)

ROCCS, 2023 RE Todd Bacon, Laramie (1st term)

ECDL, 2023 RE Melinda Brazzale, Cheyenne 1st (1st term)

Stated Clerk Report

Presbytery received reports and recommendations from the Fremont AC and the Joint AC with Presbytery of Plains and Peaks. Presbytery approved **\$10,000 for the implementation of the electronics for the two churches that are part of the Fremont County AC from the tithe of the sale of the office (3-305 01).**

The annual statistical report for 2019 shows Presbytery membership at 2,664, a decrease of 79 from 2018. The following churches completed their 2019 Session Minutes Review: Burns, Cheyenne Highlands, Cheyenne Korean, Cody, Encampment, Evanston, Ft. Laramie, Guernsey, Jackson Hole, Laramie, Moorcroft, Mt. View, Rawlins, Saratoga, Shell, Sheridan, Thermopolis, Torrington. The following churches have submitted their Sexual Misconduct and/or Child Protection policy to the Stated Clerk: Laramie, Mt. View, Saratoga, SOTH, Ft Laramie, Cody, Torrington.

General Presbyter Report Rev. Steve Shive.

1. Steve encouraged everyone, in the midst of the pandemic crisis, to consider if it is a crisis or an

opportunity. He pointed out that we are in a new era and this is not the time to sit back, but time to engage.

2. He asked Rev. Bob Garrard to give a summation of the Tyre and Aleppo Zoom meeting. Bob said that the people in this part of the world need a lot of prayer and our support. Steve asked churches who want to be involved in this project to contact Bob or Holly Garrard, or him.

3. Steve asked Melinda Brazzale to talk about the opportunity with the Sabbath Center coming in November. She said it will be a low-cost time of renewal.

Presbytery Moderator Report

Barry Johnson, out-going Presbytery Moderator, gave his report. He stated that his theme for the time he has been moderator has been, "Be the connection for Presbytery of Wyoming". He thanked Rev. Lynn Williamson for her mentorship, Rev. Bob Thomson and Rev. Kellie Thomson for their support, the Council for their backing, and Rev. Steve Shive for his support, leadership and direction. He also announced that he and Stacy are in the process of moving to South Dakota.

Appreciations

Rev. Steve Shive expressed appreciation, on behalf of Presbytery, to Barry and Stacy Johnson, Melinda Brazzale, Rev. Lynn Williamson, Rev. Ed Breneger, Diana Dikeman, Erin Estes and Rev. Susan Reichenberg.

Installation of Presbytery Moderator and Vice Moderator

Rev. Diana Hartman was installed as Moderator of Presbytery and Mark Owens was installed as Vice-Moderator. They will step into their positions immediately to fill the vacancy left by Barry moving, rather than waiting until December.

The Meeting Adjourned at 11:26 AM

Announcements & Information:

Please make sure your information is updated for the 2020 Directory. Call 307-472-4717.