

WYOMING PRESBYTERY SYNOPSIS

Presbytery Meeting First Presbyterian Church Saratoga, WY May 7-8, 2010

The Friday session of presbytery was opened with a worship service led by Rev. Guy Helms.

Rev. Gary Weaver, Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of Pueblo, gave a presentation on growing healthy churches. The afternoon session also included a movie from the National Religious Coalition against torture.

The Friday evening Worship and Communion Service was led by Gary Weaver with assistance from Bruce Ford. Following the worship service, a reception (roast) was held for Bruce Ford celebrating his service to the presbytery upon his resignation to accept a Call as Interim Transitional Presbyter/Stated Clerk for Abingdon Presbytery.

The business session of the presbytery meeting was held Saturday morning. The Silver Spur Award was presented to the First Presbyterian Church of Saratoga for its Prayer Shawl Ministry. The Prayer Shawl Ministry presented shawls to Tom and Virginia Kittleman.

Mable Frederick, Presbytery Moderator, explained the new process that would be used for this presbytery meeting. The program for Saturday is an on-going worship service with prayer and worship interspersed throughout the morning.

The presbytery approved the Camping Committee as host for the September 2013 presbytery meeting, probably at Camp Story.

At this point Rev. Paul Kuhn led the presbytery in the morning worship service.

Bruce Ford discussed the mission budget shortfall. Based on responses from churches, pledges are expected to amount to \$159,793, not \$166,634 as projected in the original budget. This results in anticipated income of \$244,293 (as opposed to \$251,134 as originally projected) with a resulting net loss of \$29,705 rather than \$22,864. Rather than adjust the budget at this time, council recommended that the budget remain as originally projected with the understanding that presbytery may have to draw from undesignated reserves at a later date.

Presbytery approved the proposed sexual misconduct policy on second reading for inclusion in the Administrative Operations Manual.

Presbytery accepted the resignation of Rev. Dr. Bruce Ford and dissolved the relationship between Rev. Dr. Ford and the Presbytery of Wyoming effective June 14, 2010 with greatest regrets and best wishes for his continued success. The presbytery authorized the council to perform a search and hire an interim general presbyter. An account for the search amounting to \$23,500 was established.

Presbytery granted the request by the First Presbyterian Church of Casper for Relief of Conscience based on its opposition to the Medical Benefits Plan of the Board of Pensions making payments for abortions.

Presbytery approved the appointment of an administrative commission for the First Presbyterian Church of Gillette as requested by the session of the church.

After much prayerful consideration presbytery approved the dissolution of the White Mountain Presbyterian Church of Rock Springs. The current administrative commission for the church was dismissed with thanks and a new administrative commission, under the direction of the presbytery moderator, was authorized to work in consultation with the members of the church to handle the closing ceremony on June 6, 2010. A separate administrative commission was authorized to dispose of all real estate and ecclesiastical assets and assume original jurisdiction.

Jae-Sun Hwang, candidate from the Cheyenne Korean Church, was certified as ready to receive a Call and to circulate his Personal Information Form.

The following persons were elected to the offices indicated:

Paul Kuhn as minister member of the Budget & Finance Committee

Skip Murdock as alternate minister representative to the Wyoming Association of Churches

Jim Clark as representative to the Association of Retired Ministers

There are still several unfilled vacancies with several more openings coming up in September. Debbie Rich, Moderator for the Nominating Committee, requests that members of presbytery prayerfully consider serving.

Presbytery received the report from the "Passing on the Faith" Team, outlining actions taken towards establishing the capital endowment program. The team is working with Al Oliver, of RSI, to conduct a feasibility study regarding the endowment.

Shirley Hawk, Moderator of the Camping Committee, announced that the committee has established a goal of increasing the number of campers by 10% over the 110 who participated in 2009. Jordan Davis was introduced as the new Program Director.

Freda Dixon discussed the Synod Spring Gathering in Billings on June 24-26 and the Presbytery Women's Retreat at Camp Story on August 12-14.

Zane Buxton, Synod Executive, described proposed changes to the synod structure that will be discussed at the June 11-12 synod assembly.