## WYOMING PRESBYTERY SYNOPSIS

**STATED Meeting of Presbytery**

**Friday & Saturday, October 6-7, 2023**

## Hybrid: IN PERSON at Union Presbyterian Church in Powell and ZOOM Meeting

**FRIDAY**

The meeting was called to order by Presbytery Moderator, Rev. Steven Niccolls at 1:00 PM. There were 35 voting member in attendance and (in person and zoom). Opening worship was led by Rev. Steve Niccolls. Items were collected by the Laramie church for Gifts From the Heart Disaster Kits (for more information go to [**https://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits**](https://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits) or call 307-460-3293).

Rev. Rob Hagan of the Presbyterian Foundation gave a report about the programs available. For additional Foundation information and helpful tools contact Rob at rob.hagan@presbyterianfoundation.org.

**Steve Young gave a presentation on Living Waters for the World. He thanked the following churches/groups for their participation in the work: Cody, Greybull, Mountain View, Powell, Shell, Sheridan and Presbyterian Women. For more information contact: livingwatersfortheworld.org. There will also be information and links to them on the Presbytery of Wyoming website.**

**Retirement recognition was given to Rev. Roger McDaniel (Cheyenne Highlands).**

**PROGRAM Rev. Dr. Mary Holder Naegeli, Honorably Retired, PCUSA, presented a program on finding calm in the midst of stress and anxiety in ministry** . Mary, a two-time cancer survivor is author of two books: *Deep Breathing: Finding Calm amid Cancer Anxiety* and *Why I Don’t Pray: Sharing the Struggle with Saints and Sages.* You can find out more about Mary at [https://revmary.net](https://revmary.net/).

## The evening worship and Communion was led by Rev. Tammy Mitchell and included the installation of Rev. Jeromey Howard as General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Wyoming. $321 was collected in the Offering for Backpack Blessings in Powell. Contributions can be sent to Union Presbyterian Church with a notation for “backpack blessings”. Dinner was provided by *Catering With Joy* and volunteers from the Powell church.

## SATURDAY

The meeting was called to order by Presbytery Moderator, Steve Niccolls at 8:40 am. There were 36 voting members in attendance (in person and zoom). Worship was led by Rev. Jeromey Howard.

## REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS:

**Syria-Lebanon Partnership Team** Rev. Bob and Holly Garrard reported on the work being done by this group and the needs they have. There will be a conference hosted by United PC Laramie on November 4. Everyone is welcome to attend. Contact UPC Laramie for more information.

**Treasurer’s Report** Trenda Weisshaar, Treasurer, gave a report focused on the 2024 budgets. The Mission Budget is a deficit budget for 2024. Trenda explained how the Mission Pledge of each church supports the work of the Presbytery, mostly the work of the General Presbyter. This is an important offering and every church is encouraged to give a mission pledge. For more information on how your mission pledge is used, contact Trenda at trenda@torringtoncpas.com.

**Council Report:** Moderator, Elder Diane Nye reported the actions taken by Council on behalf of Presbytery since the April 2023 meeting. Council approved:

* 2024 Presbytery meeting dates: April 19-20, location TBD & October 4-5, Jackson
* 2024 Council Stated Meeting Dates: 11/8/**23**; 2/7/24; 4/3/24; 6/12/24; 9/11/24
* Rev. Ben Pascal to serve on the Personnel Committee
* $2,000 for Conference on Syria and Lebanon:
* 5% cost of living increase for Administrative Assistant and Stated Clerk.

Council action items approved by Presbytery:

* Electing Izabel Clem (Sherian) as YAAD to the 2024 General Assembly (application attached).
* Electing Rev. Libby Tedder-Hugus to a second term on the Committee on Representation and Nominations (CRN), class of 2026.
* The election of an Administrative Commission (AC) to dissolve the First Presbyterian Church in Worland WY (see face sheet: AC to Dissolve the First Presbyterian Church in Worland, WY)
* Electing Rev. Sherry Stottler (HR) and RE Linda Moss (1st Worland) as members of the AC to Dissolve the First Presbyterian Church in Worland, WY. Sam Starnes was also elected. Council
* Revisions to the Presbytery Administrative Manual
* The 2024 Mission Budget
* The 2024 Administration Budget

**Committee on Representation and Nominations**. Moderator Elder George Barnes gave the report and the following people were elected to office/committees:

**Presbytery Officers** Vice Moderator of Presbytery, TE Bruce McBurney, Torrington

**GA & Synod Commissioners** RE alternate GA commissioner, Lejean Mitchell, Cody; TE alternate GA commissioner, Ben Pascal, Jackson Hole**;** Synod Commissioner, Bob Garrard, HR

**Council** Moderator, TE Lynn Williamson, HR; TE Shayla Graham, Pine Redge NWC; RE Jane Iddings, Torrington; RE Bruce Heimbuck, Cheyenne 1st

**Committee on Ministry** Moderator (2025), TE Michelle Bacon, Laramie; TE Karl Heimbuck, Sheridan; RE Lejean Mitchell, Cody; RE Deb Smith, Mountain View; TE Guy Helms, Member At Large

**Budget, Finance & Stewardship** RE Dave Blevins, Powell

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry** RE Sam Starnes, Thermopolis;TE Monte Reichenberg, Moorcroft

**Evangelism, Church & Leader Development** RE Gerald Van Campen, Laramie;

**Retreat, Outdoor, Camping, Conferences, and Services** AL C. J. Clem, Sheridan

**Welsh Memorial Scholarship Committee** RE Jim Keldsen, Rawlins**;** RE David Cole, Encampment

**Stated Clerk Report** Rev. Kellie Thomson

* The 2022 Session Minutes were reviewed: Approved WITHOUT EXCEPTION: Casper SOTH, Cheyenne Korean, Cody, Guernsey, Greybull, Encampment, Highlands, Jackson Hole, Moorcroft, First Cheyenne, Ft. Laramie, Rawlins, Lingle, Sheridan, Torrington. Approved WITH EXCEPTION(S): Gillette, Laramie, Mt. View, Saratoga, Shell, Thermopolis. NO Minutes submitted: Burns, Riverton, Star Valley, Worland. Received after deadline, not yet reviewed: Union/Evanston, Powell. Exempt: Shoshoni.
* The Shoshoni church has been dissolved and the building sold to the Wind River Church. A closing worship service was held September 17 celebrating the history of ministry by the Shoshoni Presbyterians and the continuing ministry in the Shoshoni community by the Wind River church.
* Jason Harshberger has renounced jurisdiction of the church, meaning he is no longer an ordained Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the PCUSA. He has been removed from the rolls of Presbytery and the denomination.

**Recognitions:** Rev. Steve Niccolls was thanked for his year of service as Presbytery Moderator as he moves to Washington to take a new call at the Wilbur Community Church. Rev. Bob Thomson was thanked for his three plus years as moderator of Council.

**A Service of Installation** for Elder Diane Nye, as Presbytery Moderator (2024) and Rev. Bruce McBurney, Torrington, as Presbytery Vice Moderator (2024) concluded the meeting.

## The next meeting will be on April 19-20, 2024, location TBD.