

WYOMING PRESBYTERY SYNOPSIS
STATED Meeting of Presbytery
Friday & Saturday, September 24-25, 2021
Hybrid: IN PERSON at Star Valley United Church in Thayne and ZOOM Meeting

FRIDAY

The meeting was called to order by Presbytery Moderator, Rev. Diana Hartman at 1:00 PM. There were 17 in person attendees (14 voting members) and 26 Zoom attendees (19 voting members). Rev. Tammy Heimgartner, from the host Star Valley United Church, led worship.

Rev. Christine Long gave news and Fall updates on Board Of Pensions programs available to installed ministers and other employed clergy. A slide show of the information and a Youtube video are available: *contact Rev. Kellie Thomson, Stated Clerk for a link.* (klt@presby.org). For more information about Board of Pensions, contact Christine at CLong@pensions.org.

PROGRAM Fresh Expressions

Rev. Luke Edwards and Rev. Angelica Regalado Cleza from Fresh Expressions presented a program titled, Hybrid Community: Building and Bridging Virtual and In-Person Relationships. The course focused on the need for an online and in-person community, the right way to start an online community, and how to encourage participation in your church's hybrid community. *This portion of the meeting was recorded for the Presbytery to use. If you would like to watch the presentation, contact Rev. Kellie Thomson, Stated Clerk for a link.* (klt@presby.org).

The evening worship and Communion was led by Rev. Monica Hall, our new Interim General Presbyter. The offering was taken for the Thayne Community Food Bank.

SATURDAY

The meeting was called to order by Presbytery Moderator, Rev. Diana Hartman 8:30 AM. There were 18 in person attendees (14 voting members) and 30 Zoom attendees (23 voting members). Rev. Liz Morgan from the Ft. Laramie and Guernsey churches led the opening worship.

REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS:

Rev. Rob Hagan of the Presbyterian Foundation gave a report on what the Foundation is doing and resources they offer for stewardship and financial giving/planning. He highlighted sermonspice.org stewardship videos, IRA charitable giving, how to endow pledges, the legacy ministry and the Stewardship Navigator free seminars on 3 Wednesdays beginning Oct 13, at 10 am MST. He can also help with end of the year giving questions. For additional Foundation information:

Stewardship Navigator <https://stewardshipnavigator.com>

Church Financial Leadership Academy <https://churchfla.com>

For more information contact Rob at rob.hagan@presbyterianfoundation.org

Synod Report Rev. Bob Garrard (HR) is moderator of Synod and reported the budget for the Synod for 2022 has been approved and there will be a rebate for per capita.

Council Report: Council moderator, Rev. Bob Thomson called attention to the written report of Council that showed the actions taken by Council on behalf of Presbytery since the April 2021 meeting. The highlight was the hiring of Rev. Monica Hall as Interim General Presbyter. Council action items approved by Presbytery:

1. Raised the Presbytery *per capita* portion by \$0.02 to \$33.02, making total \$45.00
2. Approved the 2022 Presbytery Administrative and Mission budgets

3. Elected Rev. Monte Reichenberg and Melinda Brazzale to the Committee on Representation and Nominations
4. Approved revision of policy on reimbursement of expenses for presbytery meetings.

Presbytery will reimburse the following expenses:

Presbytery Meetings

Round trip mileage (at 14 cents per mile) and meals for commissioners and minister members, and for *ruling elder members of council, presbytery committee moderators, and* the moderator (or vice moderator) of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Wyoming.

Round trip mileage, housing and meal expenses for ruling elder officers (*presbytery moderator, presbytery vice moderator, stated clerk, treasurer*) of the presbytery.

Churches should be reminded to consider including in their budgets provision for covering all non-reimbursed expenses for commissioners and other ruling elder voting members of presbytery.

5. Approved an Administrative Commission to work with the Shoshoni Church on its future and in its agreement with the Wind River Church to use the facilities.

CRN (representation and nominations) Report: Elder George Barnes, moderator, presented the following candidates for election to committees and they were approved:

Vice Moderator of Presbytery :TE Steve Niccolls, Saratoga

Council: TE Lynn Williamson, Shepherd of the Hills, Casper

Committee on Ministry: TE George Pacek, HR (Moderator)

TE Elizabeth Morgan, Guernsey/Ft. Laramie

RE Jeremy Baxendell, Mt. View

TE Libby Tedder Hugus, The Table, Casper

RE Ann Rose, Lingle

RE Sam Starnes, Thermopolis

Budget and Finance Committee: TE Bob Garrard, HR

Retreat, Outdoor, Camping, Conferences, and Services Committee

RE Kennedy Coor, Jackson

Evangelism, Congregational Development & Leadership Committee

TE Bruce McBurney, Torrington (Moderator)

RE David Cole, Encampment

TE Sara Shields, Evanston

RE Ann Rose, Lingle

Commissioner to General Assembly 2022

Primary: RE Trena Weisshaar, Torrington

TE Bruce McBurney, Torrington

Alternate: RE Jane Iddings, Torrington

TE Libby Tedder Hugus, The Table, Casper

Commissioner to Synod of the Rocky Mountains

TE Bob Garrard, HR

There are still some vacancies on committees to be filled if you are or know of a ruling elder who would like to serve the Presbytery.

COM Report COM Moderator, Rev. Lynn Williamson, called attention to the COM written report. COM will be working with the Stated Clerk on following up with clergy who have not completed their sexual misconduct policy

requirements and they are also working on the next boundary training. COM had 1 action item approved by Presbytery: Chuck Cooper approved to be session moderator for Riverton Church.

ECLD Report: Rev. Bruce McBurney gave the report that included a presentation on the Red Clay Abbey by Jessika Girod. This is a New Worshipping Community connected to The Table that will be moving into the St. John building, formerly Winter Memorial Church in Casper. ECLD also continued a presentation begun at the September 2020 meeting about becoming missional. This was part 3 of a lecture series given by Michael Frost of the Tinsley Institute, a mission study center in Australia.

ECLD presented 2 action items that Presbytery approved:

1. The paid position in the presbytery of Campus Minister.
2. A search committee to hire the Campus Minister.

New Worshipping Communities (NWC) Report

Pine Ridge Ministries (PRM) report was given by Rev. Shayla Graham. Pine Ridge Ministries celebrated its 5th anniversary this year. Shayla expressed her gratitude to Presbytery for their support.

The Table report was given by Rev. Libby Tedder-Hugus. The Table celebrated its 7th anniversary this year. Libby shared stories of the people who have received the love of God at The Table.

Stated Clerk Report Rev. Kellie Thomson reported on several items including:

1. As required by the Book of Order, the 2020 Session Minutes have been reviewed by the Presbytery for *the following churches*: Shepherd of the Hills Casper, Cheyenne 1st, Highlands, Cheyenne Korean, Cody, Encampment, Ft. Laramie, Gillette, Greybull, Guernsey, Jackson, Laramie, Lingle, Moorcroft, Mt. View, Rawlins, Saratoga, Shell, Sheridan, Thermopolis, Torrington.
2. *The following churches/NWC* have submitted 2021 insurance policies for review per POW Policies and Procedures 5.01:
Shepherd of the Hills Casper, Cheyenne 1st, Highlands, Cheyenne Korean, Cody, Evanston, Ft. Laramie, Greybull, Guernsey, Jackson, Laramie, Lingle, Moorcroft, Pine Ridge, Mt. View, Saratoga, Shell, The Table
3. Action Item: Presbytery dismissed, with thanks for their work, the Fremont Administrative Commission

Appreciations Monica thanked Rev. Diana Hartman for her work as Moderator of Presbytery and Rev. Lynn Williamson for her work as Moderator of COM, and presented each of them with a gift.

Installation of Presbytery Moderator and Vice Moderator Ruling Elder Mark Owens was installed as Moderator of Presbytery and Teaching Elder Rev. Steve Niccolls was installed as Vice-Moderator for 2022.

The next meeting will be a HYBRID format on April 29-30, 2022 with the in person portion held in Laramie. The Fall meeting will be in Sheridan, September 23-24.