

**WYOMING PRESBYTERY SYNOPSIS**  
**STATED Meeting of Presbytery**  
**Friday & Saturday, April 29 – 30, 2022**  
**Hybrid: IN PERSON at United Presbyterian Church in Laramie and ZOOM Meeting**

**FRIDAY**

The meeting was called to order by Presbytery Moderator, Ruling Elder Mark Owens at 1:30 PM. There were 25 in person voting member attendees and 18 Zoom voting member attendees. Opening worship was led by Rev. Lynn Williamson from Shepherd of the Hills in Casper and included the reading of the necrology report, remembering Ruling Elders and Ministers who died in 2021.

**PROGRAM** Rev. Elizabeth Thompson, founder and lead consultant of Eremos Consulting Group, presented boundary training for clergy and lay leaders. This is a COM required training. Multiple handouts are available and a recording will be available as well. For more information contact *Rev. Kellie Thomson, Stated Clerk.* ([klt@presby.org](mailto:klt@presby.org)).

The evening worship and Communion was led by Rev. Michelle Bacon, pastor of the host church, UPC Laramie. Over \$700 was collected for the offering that was taken for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) emergency response to the war in Ukraine. Our General Assembly Delegates were commissioned by Presbytery Moderator, Mark Owens. Our Minister Commissioner is Rev. Bruce McBurney of Lingle/Torrington and our Ruling Elder Commissioner is Trena Weisshaar of Lingle. The 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly will be held June 18 – July 9, 2022, with Committee sessions in person in Louisville, KY, and Plenary sessions online.

**SATURDAY**

The meeting was called to order by Presbytery Moderator, Mark Owens at 8:10 AM. There were 26 in person voting member attendees and 16 Zoom voting member attendees. Rev. Ed Brenegar led the opening worship. The honorable retirements of Rev. Ed Brenegar and Rev. Diana Hartman were recognized with a liturgy led by Mark Owens.

**REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS:**

Rev. Christine Long gave news and updates on Board Of Pensions programs available. The Assistance Program has expanded and more help for active and retired clergy members of BOP is available. For more information about Board of Pensions, contact Christine at [CLong@pensions.org](mailto:CLong@pensions.org).

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report:** CPM Moderator, Rev. Karl Heimbuck, called attention to the revised CPM Manual that is available. CPM Inquirer Aaron McKee appeared before the Presbytery and was examined for Candidacy. Presbytery approved enrolling Aaron as a Candidate pending the satisfactory completion of his psychological evaluation and completion of the Presbytery's sexual misconduct policy.

**ROCCS** reported plans for a youth trip to Zephyr Pt for a program sponsored by the Utah Presbytery. For more information or to sign up, contact CJ Clem at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Sheridan, [cj@sheridanfpc.church](mailto:cj@sheridanfpc.church).

**Camp Story** is preparing for summer camps and encouraging Wyoming Presbytery children and youth to come to camp this summer. Church Mutual recently dropped the camp's property insurance but a new company has been found and Council approved the added expense on behalf of presbytery. There is a work weekend May 20-22 and all are welcome to come help get ready for summer camp.

**New Worshipping Communities** reported on their ministry and the exciting things happening. The Red Clay Abbey is sponsoring a retreat in May.

**Syria-Lebanon Partnership Team** Bob and Holly Garrard are leading the work of raising funds for the Medical Center in Aleppo and reported on the ongoing work there.

**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 September 2021 meeting. Council action item approved by Presbytery:

1. To concur with the Overture from Utah Presbytery On Expanding Mission Engagement and Education with Eastern Europe

**CRN (representation and nominations) Report:** Elder George Barnes, moderator, presented three recommendations that were approved by the Presbytery:

1. To allow 13 members to serve on the Committee on Ministry for 2022
2. To elect 5 nominees to serve on the General Presbyter Search Committee:
  - a. Rev. Jason Harshberger, Rawlins
  - b. Rev. Tammy Mitchell, Jackson
  - c. RE Rex Arney, Sheridan
  - d. RE Jane Iddings, Torrington
  - e. RE Mark Owens, Casper SOT
3. To elect John Wickstrom, RE Saratoga, to a second term, class of 2024, on the Welsch Memorial Scholarship Committee

**ECLD Report:** Rev. Bruce McBurney reported that interviews have begun for the Campus Minister position.

**Safety Response Coordinator Report.** Kellie Thomson reviewed the requirements of the Sexual Misconduct Policy for all volunteers (Elder Commissioners, Committee Members, etc). All of the information can be accessed through Presbytery of Wyoming website [www.pbywy.org](http://www.pbywy.org)

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

1. The statistical report shows a loss of 128 members, leaving a Presbytery membership of 2,552 in 2021.
2. The following churches/NWCs *have submitted* their insurance policy information for review by Council (reviewed and reported by Dave Blevins) per POW Policies and Procedures 5.01: Casper SOTH, Cheyenne 1<sup>st</sup>, Cheyenne Highlands, Cheyenne Korean, Cody, Encampment, Evanston, Ft. Laramie, Gillette, Greybull, Guernsey, Jackson, Laramie, Lingle, Moorcroft, Mt. View, Pine Ridge, Powell, Rawlins, Saratoga, Shell, Sheridan, Star Valley, Thermopolis, Torrington, The Table.
3. The following churches *have submitted* their required Sexual Misconduct Policy (Book of Order G-3.0106): Casper SOTH, Cheyenne Highlands, Cody, Ft. Laramie, Greybull, Guernsey, Lingle, Moorcroft, Mt. View, Rawlins, Saratoga, Torrington
4. The following churches *have submitted* their required Child and Youth Protection Policy (Book of Order G-3.0106): Greybull, Jackson, Lingle, Mt. View, Rawlins, Saratoga

**General Presbyter's Report.** Interim GP Rev. Monica Hall reported the difficulty in finding pastors for churches, not just in Wyoming, but everywhere. She also encouraged churches to do what they can to support their pastors in finding rest and renewal following the past two years of dealing with COVID.

**Presbytery Moderator** Mark Owens closed the meeting by thanking everyone for the great honor of electing him as moderator.

**The next meeting** will be a HYBRID format on September 23-24, 2022 with the in person portion held in Sheridan.