

WYOMING PRESBYTERY SYNOPSIS
STATED Meeting of Presbytery
Friday & Saturday, April 28-29, 2023
Hybrid: IN PERSON at First Presbyterian Church in Sheridan and ZOOM Meeting

FRIDAY

The meeting was called to order by Presbytery Moderator, Rev. Steven Niccolls at 1:00 PM. There were 39 voting members in attendance (in person and zoom). Opening worship was led by Rev. Shayla Graham, pastor of the New Worshipping Community, Pine Ridge Ministries.

Rev. Christine Long, Board of Pensions, gave an update on increases and information on programs available for assistance and education.

Rev. Rob Hagan of the Presbyterian Foundation gave a report about the programs available. For additional Foundation information and helpful tools:

Stewardship Navigator <https://stewardshipnavigator.com>

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

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

PROGRAM Dr. Robert Williamson

Rev. Robert Williamson, book and pod cast author from Little Rock, Arkansas, presented the educational portion of the April 2023 Presbytery meeting. Based on his book, *The Forgotten Books of the Bible: Recovering the Five Scrolls for Today*, he spoke in depth about The Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Esther.

The evening worship and Communion was led by Rev. Lynn Williamson and Dr. Robert Williamson. Dinner was provided by people from the Shepherd of the Hills church. An offering of \$460 was collected for Interfaith of Natrona County.

SATURDAY

The meeting was called to order by Presbytery Moderator, Steve Niccolls at 8:10 am. There were 46 voting member in attendance (in person and zoom). Rev. Libby Tedder-Hugus, pastor of the The Table, and Jessika Waldron from Red Clay Abbey, led worship.

REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS:

Committee on Ministry Moderator Rev. George Pasek reported on actions they have taken since the April Presbytery meeting. Cheyenne First is searching for an Interim Associate Pastor. Gillette is searching for a pastor. Changes in the Terms of Call for Rev. Jason Harshberger at Rawlins Cooperative Parish were approved.

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

Council: RE Walter George, Cheyenne First; TE Ben Pascal, Jackson

Vice Moderator of Presbytery 2023: RE Diane Nye, Torrington

Committee on Ministry: TE Michelle Bacon, Laramie; RE Warren VanGenderen, Jackson; Marion Yoder, Cheyenne First; RE Carolyn Mc Burney, Torrington

Budget and Finance Committee: Moderator RE Marion Yoder, Cheyenne First; TE Paul Grossman, Thermopolis

Committee on Preparation for Ministry: Moderator: RE Joyce Kennedy, Riverton; RE Gail Heimbeck, Cheyenne First; TE Shayla Graham, Pine Ridge NWC

Permanent Judicial Commission: TE Guy Helms, HR;

Retreats, Outdoor, Camping, Conferences, and Services Committee: Moderator AL Ashley Braisted, Cheyenne

First

Evangelism, Church, and Leadership Development Committee: TE Karl Heimbeck, Sheridan
Synod Commissioner: Sally Sato, Cheyenne Highlands

Council Report: Moderator, Rev. Bob Thomson reported the actions taken by Council on behalf of Presbytery since the April 2022 meeting. Council approved:

2023 Presbytery Meetings dates: April 28-29 in Casper and October 6-7, location TBD;

2023 Council Stated Meeting Dates: 11/9/22; 2/15/23; 4/12/23; 6/14/23; 9/13/23;

Funding for New Worshipping Communities for 2023;

Cost of Living pay raises for Presbytery Staff Jan DeBeer, Kellie Thomson, Monica Hall

Council action items approved by Presbytery:

- A deed exchange between Winter Memorial and Tree of Life
- A change to the description of ROCCS in the Standing Rules (3.027)
- A change to Standing Rules 3.0213 s) to add presbytery moderator
- Updates to the Administrative Manual sections 3.02/03, 4.01, 11.01-02 and replacing the Office Procedures document with the new one
- The 2023 Mission Budget
- The 2023 Administration Budget which included a raise in the Presbytery portion of per capita to \$45.63
- The election of RE George Barnes, Cheyenne First, and TE Rev. Bob Garrard, HR, for a 2nd terms on the Committee on Representation and Nominations and George as Moderator.

Syria-Lebanon Partnership Team Rev. Bob and Holly Garrard reported on the work being done by this group and the needs they have.

Synod Report Rev. Bob Garrard gave the report. Lynn Smit, Synod Stated Clerk, is retiring at the end of the year. Candice Sweet, current Stated Clerk of Utah Presbytery, has been hired as the new Synod Stated Clerk. Red Clay Abby was awarded a \$500 scholarship.

General Assembly Commissioners' Reports were given by RE Trenda Wiesshaar and TE Rev. Bruce McBurney. Presbytery will vote on Overtures at its April 2023 meeting.

Stated Clerk Report Rev. Kellie Thomson 2021 Session Minutes were reviewed: Approved WITHOUT EXCEPTION: Casper, SOTH, Cheyenne Korean, Cody, Guernsey, Greybull, Encampment, Highlands, Jackson Hole, Moorcroft.

Approved WITH EXCEPTION(S): First Cheyenne, Ft. Laramie, Gillette, Laramie, Lingle, Mt. View, Powell, Rawlins, Saratoga, Sheridan, Thermopolis, Torrington

NO Minutes submitted: Burns, Riverton, Shell, Shoshoni, Star Valley, Worland

Received after deadline, not yet reviewed: Union/Evanston

Recognitions: Elder Mark Owens was thanked for his year of service as Presbytery Moderator (Mark is still Moderator until the end of the year).

A Service of Installation for Rev. Steven Nicolls, Saratoga, as Presbytery Moderator (2023) and Elder Diane Nye, Torrington, as Presbytery Vice Moderator (2023) concluded the meeting.

The next meeting will be a HYBRID format on April 28-29, 2023 with the in person portion held in Casper.