

WYOMING PRESBYTERY SYNOPSIS
STATED Meeting of Presbytery
Friday & Saturday, April 19-20, 2024
Hybrid: IN PERSON at Community Federated Church in Thermopolis and ZOOM Meeting

FRIDAY

The meeting was called to order by Presbytery Moderator, Elder Diane Nye at 1:00 PM. There were 37 voting members in attendance (in person and zoom). Opening worship was led by Rev. Paul Grossman, Thermopolis.

PROGRAM A presentation was given by Rev. Vonne Yardley a Validated Minister of the Presbytery of Wyoming who serves as Vice-Moderator on the Committee on Ministry, is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Wyoming and Nebraska, and a Mental Health Professional, currently employed at Healing Connections in Torrington, Wyoming. Her focus was on dealing with trauma as individuals and as the church. Vonne has many great resources available, most were sent out with the packets prior to the meeting but can be obtained by contacting Vonne at vonne.yardley59@gmail.com.

The evening worship and Communion was led by Rev. Bob Thomson, First Cheyenne, and included the reading of the necrology/remembering the saints. installation of Rev. Jeromey Howard as General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Wyoming. \$505 was collected in the Offering for the senior center in Thermopolis. Contributions can still be sent to Community Federated Church with a notation for "presbytery offering/senior center". Dinner was served by volunteers from the Thermopolis church.

SATURDAY

The meeting was called to order by Presbytery Moderator, Elder Diane Nye at 8:40 am. There were 42 voting members in attendance (in person and zoom). Worship was led by Rev. Vonne Yardley.

REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS:

Treasurer's Report Trenda Weisshaar, Treasurer, gave a report focused on the 2024 budget. Trenda explained how Per Capita is used and 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 per capita and mission pledge are used, contact Trenda at trenda@torringtoncpas.com.

Council Report: Moderator, Rev. Lynn Williamson (HR) reported the actions taken by Council on behalf of Presbytery since the October 2023 meeting. Some items of note that Council approved:

- A rental agreement with the Good News Church for the N. Grant Property in Casper
- The sale of the Riverton Property for \$320,000
- Establishing a designated fund for proceeds from property sales to be used to support and develop pastoral leadership within the Presbytery
- Electing RE Jeremy Baxendell (Mt. View) to 2nd term on COM; TE Sara Shields (Casper) to a 2nd term on ECLD; CJ Clem (Sheridan) as Moderator of ROCCS; TE Tammy Mitchell (Jackson) as GA Commissioner;
- Paying approximately \$5,000 for Camp Story insurance
- Paying the cost of the 2024 Umbrella Insurance (\$3,512) rather than billing churches
- Paying the N. Grant property boiler repair (\$2,300 est.)
- Participating in the CRE program of the Synod at \$1,250 per year for two years

Council action items approved by Presbytery:

- Adopting an antiracism policy as required by the Book of Order. This policy will be posted on the presbytery website and can be used by individual churches for their own required policy. All churches must adopt an antiracism policy.

- A new meeting structure for Presbytery. There will no longer be Hybrid meetings. There will be one in person meeting per year and two online/zoom meetings per year. The dates, times and location for the in person meeting are yet TBD. Council welcomes input from the presbytery as they plan these meetings. Council also welcomes feedback following the implementation of the new structure as it evaluates its effectiveness and consider changes in the future.

Committee on Ministry. Moderator Rev. Michelle Bacon reported the actions taken by COM on behalf of Presbytery since the October 2023 meeting. Some items of note that COM approved:

- Rev. Libby Tedder-Hugus and Rev. Vonne Yardley status as engaged in validated ministry
- Contracts between CRE Kirk Probasco (Utah Presbytery) and the Evanston and Mt. View churches
- To pay \$2700 from COM budget for training interpreters with the Holy Cow Assessment program. This is a tool available to churches. For more information contact General Presbyter Jeromey Howard or COM Moderator Michelle Bacon.
- To dissolve the relationship between Rev. Bruce McBurney and the Lingle and Torrington churches and dismiss him to the Presbytery of Western Colorado where he has taken a call to the Glenwood Springs church.
- Enrolling Rev. Debbie Upton (UMC), Rawlins, as a temporary member of the Presbytery
- Ruling Elders who attended training to administer the Lord's Supper with the approval of Sessions
- Rev. Libby Tedder-Hugus presented information on Coaching in the Presbytery of Wyoming and provided resources available to all. For more information about Coaching, contact Libby or the COM.

Council action items approved by Presbytery:

- To form an Administrative Commission to facilitate the federation of the Union Presbyterian Church and the UMC church in Powell with AC members: RE Lejean Mitchell (Cody), RE Cindy Blevins (Powell), and TE Pat Montgomery (Cody).

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 Tammy Mitchell, Jackson

2024 GA Alternate Commissioner RE Walt George, 1st Cheyenne

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

RE Shelley Cundiff, Sheridan, was nominated from the floor and elected to fill the vacancy on COM.

Stated Clerk Report Rev. Kellie Thomson

- The Worland AC has completed the dissolving of the congregation and is working on selling the property. All accounts have been closed and transferred to the Presbytery (approx. \$13,000). The Presbytery will continue to pay the bills for the property.
- The presbytery is in balance regarding the number of resident ministers (16) and eligible ruling elders (40) as voting members of presbytery.
- The annual statistical report for 2024 shows Presbytery membership at 2,287 a decreases of 46 members (142 losses, 96 gains).

Presbytery Moderator Report Elder Diane Nye is working on the program for the October meeting and open to input on the needs of the presbytery that might be addressed. She is also available, and honored, to visit churches throughout the presbytery at their invitation.

General Presbyter Report Rev. Jeromey Howard reported on his work in the Presbytery. He welcomes invitations to worship and events of all the congregations in the presbytery. He is conducting training for Ruling Elders to administer the Lords' Supper and Moderate Sessions. He will be attending the BOP information meeting and helping the presbytery implement the changes being made to BOP. He brought an overture for concurrence from the Utah presbytery and the Presbytery voted to concur.

Installation for Rev. Tammy Mitchell, Jackson, as Presbytery Vice Moderator (2024) and the **Commissioning** of GA Commissioners (Tammy Mitchell, Jane Iddings) and YAAD (Izabel Clem) concluded the meeting.

Announcements:

- The passing of Rev. Beth Wilson, at-large member of the presbytery, who served in Cheyenne, Ft. Laramie, and Guernsey. Beth was currently living and serving in South Carolina.
- Presbyterian Women is having their spring retreat at Camp Story May 31 – June 2 and the discussion will be on sex trafficking in the US by *Uprising* and the bible study will be *One Thousand Gifts* by Ann Voskamp. Registration materials are on the Presbytery website (www.pbywy.org)
- Camp Story is open for summer registrations. Join us on May 17-19, for Camp Clean Up to help get camp ready for the summer campers. A new week this summer is June 20 – 24: Hands, Heart, Soul for adults (families welcome) led by Rev. Karl Heimbeck and Rev. Doug Melius. Contact Camp Story www.campstory.org for more information.
- Seven miles from the highway and three miles to Dubois, Ring Lake Ranch honors its mission to facilitate “renewal in the sacred wilderness”. During each seminar week from June through Augusts, guests ride, hike, and fish or rest high in the Wind River Mountains. For more information on attending, contact Rev. Lynn Williamson.

The next meeting will be on October 4-5, 2024 as a HYBRID meeting with the in person portion held in Jackson.