

WYOMING PRESBYTERY SYNOPSIS
STATED Meeting of Presbytery
Saturday, February 22, 2025
ZOOM Meeting

The day began at 8:00 AM with an informal virtual fellowship time.

Worship was led by Shayla Graham and members of Pine Ridge Ministries, Stephen Bibb, Michelle Bacon, and Jerome Howard. The service included live and prerecorded segments. The necrology and Communion were included. The offering was designated for Food Bank of Wyoming and donations can still be made either directly to the Food Bank or to the presbytery.

The meeting was called to order by Presbytery Moderator, Rev. Tammy Mitchell. . There were 40 voting

REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS:

Presbytery Moderator Report, Rev. Tammy Mitchell welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year and introduced her theme verse for the year, Colossians 2:6-7.

Rev. Sandra Moon is the new representative from the Presbyterian Foundation, following the retirement of Rev. Rob Hagan. She introduced herself and highlighted current programs. For information and helpful tools contact Rev. Moon at sandra.moon@presbyterianfoundation.org.

Rev. Christine Long from the Board of Pensions reported on the current work of BOP. For more information contact her at CLong@pension.org.

Treasurer's Report Trenda Weisshaar, Treasurer, reported on the status of the current budget. Trenda thanked the churches for the per capita payments and mission pledges and emphasized the work these payments allow the Presbytery to do. As a reminder, the Presbytery pays its portion of per capita to General Assembly for all of its churches, even if the church does not pay to the Presbytery. Questions can be sent to trenda@torringtoncpas.com.

Committee on Ministry (COM). Moderator Rev. Vonne Yardley reported the actions taken by COM on behalf of Presbytery since the October 2024 meeting, including approving new calls and terms of calls.

COM introduced Rev. Katherine Saxbury to be the new pastor at Shepherd of the Hills, Casper, starting March 25. Rev. Sara Shields is doing well in her cancer recovery but is retiring. Members of the Presbytery thanked Sara for her many years of service in the Presbytery.

COM introduced Rev. Elizabeth Morgan to be the new pastor at Community Federated Church, Thermopolis, starting April 13. Liz was thanked for her work as the pastor of the Ft. Laramie and Guernsey churches.

COM introduced Delaney Piper, who read her statement of faith and was examined for ordination. Presbytery approved the examination for ordination of Delaney Piper to serve **as pastor at Highlands Presbyterian Church**, Cheyenne, starting March 1. Delaney will be ordained in her home presbytery, Coastlands and installed at Highlands at a date TBD.

Council Report: Moderator, Rev. Lynn Williamson reported the actions taken by Council on behalf of Presbytery since the October 2024 meeting. Council approved. There was only one action item: Presbytery voted to approve the Anti-Harassment policy required by the Book of Order. This policy will soon be available on the presbytery website www.pbywy.org. As a reminder, all churches are required to have an anti-harassment policy.

Stated Clerk Report Rev. Kellie Thomson

The closing service for the Ft. Laramie church will be March 30, 2025 at 3:00 PM, with April 6 as an alternate date in case of bad weather. All from the Presbytery are invited to attend.

Presbytery approved the recommendation from the Administrative Commission to approve the Plan of Union, By-Laws, and Incorporation documents.

Presbytery approved the request from the Gillette church for a waiver for the Book of Order Ruling Elder term limits. Three other churches were granted waivers by Council this year. Churches were encouraged to address problems filling positions through their by-laws and leadership development. It was noted that requests for waivers are exceptions and not to be expected to be granted repeatedly or on a routine basis.

General Presbyter Report, Rev. Jeromey Howard highlighted several events this year:

Clergy Lunches around the Presbytery

April 1 – Cheyenne

April 30 – Rawlins

May 21 – Gillette

June 5 – Jackson

2025 Clergy Retreat at Camp Story – To be scheduled in September

CAMP: A Planning Retreat for Clergy by Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation

August 17-21, 2025

CAMP 2025 is situated in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. Worship leaders are invited to gather for curated planning time amidst the rugged mountains, fertile valleys, and varied wildlife.

Camp Story Report Dick Birkholz reported a new Camp Director was hired: CJ Clem, who will be leaving her position at the Sheridan Church to lead camp. The summer schedule is available and all registration is done on line. A Spring Clean Up to get camp ready will be May 16-17 and everyone is welcome to come help.

Synod Report Rev. Bob Garrard reported that the per capita amount for Synod will remain at \$3.00. Also, there is grant money available for NWC and continuing education needs.

Presbytery broke out into three groups to discuss the General Assembly proposed amendments. Presbytery will vote on the amendments at the May meeting. Information about the amendments is available on the Presbytery website www.pbywy.org.

Announcements/Reminders:

Rev. Libby Tedder Hugus announced a Lilly funded program for Christian Formation called **Around the Table**. For more information contact Libby at resonatenowcoach@gmail.com

Youth Triennium will be in Louisville, KY, July 28-31, 2025. C J Clem will host three Zoom meetings to answer questions and share information about this event. ROCCS will pay 1/3 of participant's expenses. For more information contact CJ at cj@sheridanfpc.church.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

The next meeting of Presbytery will be ZOOM ONLY on May 10, 2025. Churches are urged to make sure email contact info is on file with the Presbytery for all voting members of Presbytery. The last meeting of the year will be an in person only meeting in Casper on September 26-27.