



LEADERSHIP TEAM (Board of Directors/Board of Trustees)  
2018 MINUTES

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**PRESBYTERY OF YUKON**  
 Leadership Team Special Meeting  
 January 6, 2018

CONVENE

Piper Cartland convened a teleconference of the Leadership Team at 10:05 pm with prayer.

ROLL

**Members Present:** Ruling Elders (RE) Jan Burger, Bob Christensen, and Paula Long; Revs. Piper Cartland, Israel Nelson, and Henry Woodall; ex-officio, nonvoting members: Executive Presbyter Rev. Curt Karns, and Ruling Elders Treasurer Joseph Brock, Synod Commissioner Ron Illingworth, and Stated Clerk Sharon Rayt

**Members Excused/Absent:** REs Clyde Kaneshiro and Ida Olemaun

**Others Present:** Presbytery financial secretary Mary Kron

A quorum was declared

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was **ADOPTED** as amended.

CLERK'S REPORT

**Synod review of 2016 Presbytery of Yukon minutes:** Several issues noted by the Synod stated clerk Rev. Dean Strong in his review were highlighted:

- “There is no evidence in the minutes or the manual that the Presbytery of Yukon has adopted a Child and Youth Protection Policy. If one has not been adopted, the Presbytery of Yukon is directed per G-3.0108 to adopt a policy at its next stated meeting and submit it to the synod Stated Clerk.” Rev. Woodall reported that the Ministry Commission is aware of this issue.
- “A provision for electronic meetings must be included in the bylaws. The topic is mentioned in the Manual of Operations table of contents, but none appears in the bylaws. There is also mention in the minutes of electronic votes.” Rev. Strong did share his concern with Piper Cartland. Sharon Rayt subsequently spoke with the Synod stated clerk about this issue, reporting that the bylaws do contain a provision allowing for electronic voting.
- The Presbytery was encouraged to adopt a special rule of order, which would allow presbytery to consider the Consent Agenda, at a time other than at the start of the meeting. The presbytery clerk will draft a provision, along with a provision granting the moderator the authority to adjust the docket as needed, for presbytery's consideration.

The full report by the Synod Stated Clerk will appear in the presbytery's winter stated meeting clerk's report.

AGENDA – Curt Karns

**Native Ministries**

Since the last presbytery meeting, a non-profit corporation, Intergenerational Arctic Ministries (IAM) Corporation was organized to pursue a ministry of faith-based healing from the intergenerational trauma experienced among the Alaska Natives. The corporation will be the funding agency, seeking grants to fund the ministry. Sessions within the Native Ministries region were approached about using their facilities for the ministry. Since only half of the sessions have responded, the presbytery is not ready to negotiate use of church properties.

The exec reported that with village churches floundering, additional staffing will be needed. A new vision for staffing within the Native Ministries region, is not ready yet for the Leadership Team's consideration.

Rev. Henry Woodall reported that Anchor Presbyterian church has asked for direction as it considers the possibility of moving from an established church model towards forming a fellowship.

### Winter Stated Presbytery Meeting

- **Theme Verse:** The Leadership Team **APPROVED** an amended motion to adopt Philippians 1:3-6 as the upcoming meeting's theme verse: *"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."*
  - **Ruling Elder Testimony questions:**  
Approved by **GENERAL CONSENSUS**:
    - What are you thankful for?
    - What partnerships do you see you are blessed by now and in the future?
  - **Presbytery Docket**
    - The LT approved by **GENERAL CONSENSUS**, a proposal to schedule the Presbyterian Foundation's 'Generosity' and 'Planned Giving Navigator' workshops for Friday morning and afternoon, respectively. The workshops, which will be led by Karl Mattison and Rev. Rob Hagan, will again be offered to the churches in the southcentral area on Saturday. The pair plans to fly to Utqiagvik on Sunday.
    - Regional Native Ministries and Road System meetings will be docketed for a two-hour slot on Saturday morning. Regions will report back in the afternoon.
    - In answer to the racism motion approved by presbytery at its stated meeting in October, Henry Woodall volunteered to help shape a conversation amongst road system churches. The exec and Henry will discuss more about this topic with Native Ministries.
    - Other reports: Leadership Team, Board of Pensions update, Bingle Camp (20 minutes), Ministry Commission (20 minutes).
    - Adjournment was set for Saturday at 3:30pm.
  - **Presbytery Finances**  
A draft of the 2017 Budget and Financial Statement was distributed prior to the teleconference. Even though presbytery underspent its budget by more than \$43,000, income from presbytery's churches fell well short of what was anticipated, causing the balance of presbytery's operating fund to drop to a level which won't even cover the basic expenses in January. The balance should not dip below \$75,000. The Leadership Team **APPROVED** a motion to use the remainder of the money in the Mary Jane Landstrom Fund, to make up for a portion of the lack of income in 2017.
- Curt Karns, Joseph Brock, Bob Christensen, Mary Kron, and Sharon Rayt were **APPOINTED** to a sub-committee to have a conversation as to what financial sustainability looks like. Other folks may be co-opted as needed.
- **Appointment of Investment Committee**  
Presbytery's Investment Policy revised policy makes mention of an investment committee, which will serve as the point of contact and decision making body between presbytery and presbytery's investment firm. It has been over a year since the policy was revised, but the appointment of a committee has slipped

through the cracks. The Leadership Team **APPOINTED** Bob Christensen, Joseph Brock, and Israel Nelson as voting members of the committee. Curt Karns and Sharon Rayt will serve as ex-officio members, without the right to vote. Financial secretary Mary Kron will be called on as needed.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 am with Curt Karns leading in the closing prayer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Rayt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sharon Rayt  
Stated Clerk

**PRESBYTERY OF YUKON**  
 Leadership Team (Board of Directors)  
 Regular Meeting  
 First Presbyterian Church, Wasilla  
 February 22, 2018

CONVENE

Team chair Piper Cartland convened the meeting at 6:50 pm in the church's conference room with prayer. Opportunity was provided for all to share a bit about themselves.

ROLL

**Members Present:** Ruling Elders (RE) Jan Burger, Bob Christensen, Paula Long, and Ida Olemaun; Revs. Piper Cartland, Israel Nelson, and Henry Woodall; ex-officio, nonvoting members: Executive Presbyter Rev. Curt Karns, and Ruling Elders Treasurer Joseph Brock, Synod Commissioner Ron Illingworth, and Stated Clerk Sharon Rayt

**Members Excused:** RE Clyde Kaneshiro

**Others Present:** Presbytery financial secretary Mary Kron, Rev. Rob Hagan and Karl Mattison with the Presbyterian Foundation, elder Dennis Berry (reporting telephonically)

A quorum was declared

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Minutes from of the Leadership Team's October 5, 2017 regular meeting and January 6, 2018 special teleconference meeting were **APPROVED**, as distributed.

PRESBYTERY DOCKET

The Leadership Team's concurred with proposed changes to the docket:

- Switch Friday afternoon's report placement as follows: Presbyter Executive Report, to be followed by reports by Personnel and the Leadership Team Chair
- Provide 45 minutes on the docket for a report from Yukon Presbyterians for Earth Care
- Move the Bingle Camp report to late Friday afternoon

LEGACY GIVING

Karl Mattison and Rev. Rob Hagan introduced the Presbyterian Foundation's online, planned giving navigator program. Karl and Rob worked with Northwest Coast Presbytery to develop a program, whereby the presbytery would pay the first year's cost of the planned giving navigator program for churches interested in starting their own endowment. Bob Christensen proposed that the Presbytery of Yukon do likewise. Henry Woodall reported that First Presbyterian Church, Wasilla will match Presbytery's \$1,000, in support of the program. Motion to endorse the planned giving navigator program for churches by kicking in \$1,000 and accept First Wasilla's offer was **APPROVED**. Presbytery's stewardship special fund would provide presbytery's \$1,000 share.

GAMBELL BUILDING PROJECT

Project director Dennis Berry provided an update on the building project, via telephone. This upcoming summer will be busy. Materials to complete the project still need to be ordered and shipped this spring. Some contractors are needed to do specialized work, but whether the project is completed this summer depends on how much skilled, volunteer support there will be.

The fall 2018 presbytery meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in Gambell. It might be possible to push the presbytery meeting back a couple weeks, until Oct. 26-27<sup>th</sup>. Dennis should know by the middle of July as to whether construction could be completed in time for presbytery. Piper Cartland reported that

Eagle River would host the fall presbytery meeting, if the way is not clear to have the meeting in Gambell. The Leadership Team will make a decision on the location at its summer meeting.

The Siberian Yupik New Testament translation project is nearing completion. Earlier conversations focused on celebrating the project's completion concurrently with the new church building's dedication. If the way is not clear for that to happen this fall, other ways will be found to celebrate the translation project's completion..

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

A lot of money has been raised for specialized ministry, but the reality is that giving is down for the general operating budget. It is important for the Leadership Team to be aware of this reality.

A Synod Mission Development Certificate (MDC) worth \$357,717 is up for renewal on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The Leadership Team **APPROVED** a motion to fully cash out the MDC. Funds will be needed to pay the cost of completing the Gambell Church building's apartment, which is not covered by any of the three grants. Furthermore, funds will be needed upfront to complete construction of the remainder of the building - the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust will reimburse presbytery up to \$200,000, only after the project has been completed.

#### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The exec provided background information on the IAM Corporation (Intergenerational Arctic Ministries), which was formed to secure funds for the proposed, faith-based healing ministry. The IAM Board is up and running, but the Corporation now requires paid staff, notably an executive director. Because the presbytery exec has established relationships with various stakeholders and has put in much time as an IAM Board member, the Board recommends that Curt Karns be hired as a half-time, transitional executive director. Even though the contract has not been finalized, the contract will likely be between the IAM Corp. and the presbytery. It would be simpler to have just one party - the presbytery, pay Curt's salary and benefits, with the corporation reimbursing presbytery for half of Curt's salary and benefits.

The exec is still working full-time, albeit 80% of the time. Curt's move to half time would constitute a change in his terms of call, which requires a vote of Presbytery. Curt does not know what he was going to let go at the presbytery level – it is something he would have to live into.

#### ADJOURN

Concerns were shared, before Piper Cartland adjourned the meeting at 8:47 pm with a closing prayer.



Sharon Rayt  
Stated Clerk

**PRESBYTERY OF YUKON**  
 Leadership Team (Board of Directors)  
 Special Meeting  
 April 20, 2018

CONVENE

Newly elected chair Ellen Johnson-Price, convened a teleconference meeting of the Leadership Team (LT) at 10:06 am with prayer.

ROLL

**Members Present:** Ruling Elders (RE) Clyde Kaneshiro, Paula Long, and Ida Olemaun; Revs. Ellen Johnson-Price and Henry Woodall; ex-officio, nonvoting members: Executive Presbyter Rev. Curt Karns, and REs Treasurer Joseph Brock and Stated Clerk Sharon Rayt

**Members Excused:** REs Jan Burger and Bob Christensen, and ex-officio members Rev. Piper Cartland, and RE Ron Illingworth

A quorum was declared.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

- Minutes of the February 22, 2018 regular meeting were **APPROVED**, as amended.
- Electronic voting report: “Historical Trauma and Resilience” Workshop. The Presbytery is joining with the Alaska Synod of the ELCA to offer the workshop on April 24-25, 2018. Although held in Anchorage, all pastors and lay pastors within our Presbytery will be invited to attend. Because the Presbytery is co-sponsoring this event, presbytery will need to provide some of the funding. All participants are asked to pay a registration fee (\$50 for Presbyterians, more for the Lutherans because theirs covers an additional day for their biannual clergy gathering) to cover the cost of food and other miscellaneous expenses. There are other costs which presbytery will need to cover, and the Leadership Team needs to approve that funding. The exec and LT chair recommended the following funding proposal for email vote.
  - Funds to cover travel costs for pastors and lay pastors from outside of Anchorage/Mat-Su Valley who would like to attend. Funding could come from some stranded money in our funds (i.e., money that has sat in funds without anyone actually planning to use them), specifically the Utqiagvik/Barrow Healing Event and the Domestic Violence Workshop (total available from these funds totals \$2,020.03). This workshop is very much a continuation of the topics addressed and conversations started at last year's Healing Event, and thus using the funds remaining from that event makes sense. The original Domestic Violence workshop was several years ago. Although this month's event does not focus exclusively on domestic violence, that topic is certainly part of the broader issues of trauma and healing which will be discussed, especially in an Alaskan context. If all pastors/lay pastors in the Presbytery attended, travel costs would most likely exceed \$2020, in which case other sources of funding would need to be found.
  - Speakers' travel, lodging, and fees could come from the ‘Presbytery Events’ line item, with a budget of \$2,000. At this time, no other large-scale "events" are scheduled within presbytery for 2018, other than regular Presbytery meetings which have their own line item funding.

**E-mail voting results:** In addition to the recommendation by the LT chair, five voting members responded in the affirmative. With no negative votes, the funding proposal was **APPROVED** as recommended.

## AGENDA

The agenda was **ADOPTED**, as distributed:

- **LT vacancies:**
  - Presbytery Moderator-Elect - Native Ministries is searching for someone willing to be nominated and elected by presbytery to this office.
  - Road System representative - The region's moderator has been made aware that the region is responsible for electing a representative; election by presbytery is not required.
- **Annual Corporation Business**
  - Election of Corporation Officers: Motion was **APPROVED** to elect Ellen Johnson-Price as President; Sharon Rayt as Secretary, Joseph Brock as Treasurer, and the presbytery Moderator-Elect as Vice-President (when the way is clear, i.e., upon election by presbytery).
  - Appoint/remove check signers: Motion was **APPROVED** to remove Piper Cartland and add Ellen Johnson-Price to the CU1 and Merrill Lynch accounts. Joseph Brock, Mary Kron, and Sharon Rayt will remain as check signers on the accounts.
  - Adopt document signatory resolution: Motion was **APPROVED** to adopt the following resolution:  
*"BE IT RESOLVED, that Ellen Johnson-Price the President, the Presbytery moderator-elect the Vice-President [upon election], Sharon Rayt the Secretary or Joseph Brock the Treasurer; are authorized and empowered to sign any and all documents, conveyances, earnest money agreements, escrow instructions, closing statements, mortgages, hypothecations, promissory notes and any such other instruments in writing of whatsoever kind or nature that may be deemed necessary and proper to sell, convey, mortgage, encumber and manage any property owned by, on behalf of the corporation, and to affix the corporate seal thereto as may be required."*
- **Executive Presbyter's Report**

Written reports of the exec's visits to Wainwright, Atqasuk, and Savoonga were distributed prior to the meeting. Highlights of the Curt Karns verbal report:

  - Curt recently gave a presentation to the Advisory Board of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and the Alaska Mental Health Board in Utqiagvik. Intergenerational Arctic Ministries is seeking a grant from the Mental Health Board.
  - Installation of a fiber optic cable in Utqiagvik, Olgonik, and Atqasuk will provide valuable technology for the 'Listening Way' ministry, aid in mentoring, and enable worship services to reach across the North Slope. The three, aforementioned sessions have given their support of the technology, which should be installed by the end of the summer. There is the desire to put fiber optic in all North Slope communities. With advocacy, maybe we could get fiber optic to run to Saint Lawrence Island.
  - Gambell Building project: An on-site building superintendent has been hired for the upcoming building season.
  - At some point, churches, such as Olgonik and Savoonga will require funds to pay for repairs and renovations to the buildings. The Olgonik session is brainstorming ideas, which includes a building addition and possible pastoral staff. .Rev. Tim Carrick serves as Olgonik's new moderator. The LT will need to address the funding issue at a later date.
  - The exec hopes to include Anchor, as a 'Listening Way' congregation.

- **Intergenerational Arctic Ministries (IAM) contract**

The IAM Board made minor changes to the proposed contract, before giving its stamp of approval. After a brief discussion, the Leadership Team **APPROVED** the revised contract, as approved by the IAM board. Presbytery will seek reimbursement of expenses as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, the effective date of the contract.

#### SUMMER LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

There was a **CONSENSUS** that the summer meeting should be retreat scheduled over two days. The plan is to convene for dinner on Friday evening and adjourn by 4:00 pm on Saturday. First Wasilla will host the meeting, if the way be clear. Date options:

- August 17-18 was the preferred date. We should know by mid-August whether it will be feasible for the LT to schedule the fall presbytery meeting in Gambell.
- Other options include July 13/14 or July 20/21.

An email will be sent to LT members unable to attend this teleconference, inquiring about their availability for the preferred date.

#### ADJOURN:

With no other business pending, Ellen Johnson-Price adjourned the meeting at 11:12 am. Ida Olemaun led in the closing prayer.



Sharon Rayt  
Stated Clerk

## PRESBYTERY OF YUKON

Leadership Team Retreat: *Discerning the Winds of the Spirit*

August 10-11, 2018

### Friday, August 10

#### CONVENE

Following dinner at the home of Bob and Kathy Christensen, in Wasilla, AK, the Leadership Team (LT) gathered at 7:30 pm on Friday, August 10th with song.

#### ROLL/DECLARATION OF QUORUM

**Members Present:** Revs. Ellen Johnson-Price, Henry Woodall; elders Jan Burger, Bob Christensen, Paula Long; ex-officio, nonvoting members: Executive Presbyter Rev. Curt Karns, Elders Treasurer Joseph Brock and Stated Clerk Sharon Rayt

**Members Excused:** Elders Clyde Kaneshiro and Ida Olemaun; ex-officio members as commissioners to Synod: elder Ron Illingworth and Rev. Piper Cartland

**Others Present:** Native Ministries moderator-elect elder Lucy Apatiki, financial secretary Mary Kron, Revs. Israel Nelson and Britt Johnston were present for their Saturday morning report.

A quorum was present.

#### AGENDA

**Financial/Stewardship Report:** Following singing to the Lord and a community building exercise, Mary Kron and Bob Christensen presented their reports.

- Financial Report: The July 2018 financial report/budget was distributed.
  - **Kaktovik:** The cost to reroof the church and manse will be approximately \$80,000 once all the bills are tallied. Mary Kron sought the LT's guidance on how to fund the project. The North Slope Borough School District pays presbytery annually a sum of \$14,400 for a teacher staying in the manse. The amount is evenly split between the Kaktovik PC special fund, which presbytery holds on behalf of the church and the presbytery's Kaktovik Manse Rent fund. The Leadership Team **APPROVED** a recommendation to use half of the \$16,983 amount in the Kaktovik Manse Rent fund to pay a portion of the roofing costs. [The remaining amount in the Kaktovik Manse Rent fund will pay for the church's moderator travel costs.] There was a **CONSENSUS** that the remaining roofing costs should be paid out of presbytery's Property Maintenance and Insurance fund.
  - **Bingle Camp:** Even though the budget for this line item was significantly raised this year, Mary has remitted the standard quarterly amount as sent in past years. Henry Woodall, who serves on the Bingle Camp Board, reported that the camp had enough money to get them through the camping season without needing the extra money, but recommended that we wait to see if the Bingle Board will need the extra funds to operate through the remainder of the year. Mary will continue to remit the regular quarterly payment unless she hears otherwise.
  - **2018 budget:** Presbytery is potentially \$50,000 short from what presbytery is expecting from the churches this year. According to Mary, there are unspecified funds which could be tapped to pay for any budget shortfall this year and beyond. Mary Kron, Bob Christensen, Joseph Brock, and the exec were **APPOINTED** to staff a small group which will work on identifying those funds and bring a recommendation to the October LT meeting.
  - The closed, Nome Presbyterian Church's Hillcrest loan has been paid off with proceeds received from a loan when the building was sold [to Northwind Ministries]. Mary Kron reported that the

buyer is making regular, monthly payments in the amount of \$800. The Leadership Team **APPROVED** a motion recommending that presbytery apply the \$800 payments to the Gambell building project Hillcrest loan.

- Stewardship: Bob Christensen reported that he is trying to figure out how to strategically meet with sessions. He has visited five churches since the February presbytery meeting, but follow up is necessary. Bob asked for an hour on the presbytery docket for a Presbyterian Foundation presentation.

#### EVENING PRAYER

Ellen Johnson-Price led the evening prayer before recessing the meeting at 9:53 pm.

#### **Saturday, August 11**

#### MORNING WORSHIP

The Leadership Team entered into a time of worship prior to the reconvening for business.

#### AGENDA (continued)

#### **Yukon Presbyterians for Earth Care (YPEC)**

Revs. Britt Johnston and Israel Nelson introduced four recommendations requiring the Leadership Team's approval. Costs for all will be taken out of the YPEC Conference special fund.

- Purchase two prints of the PBS Nova film "Decoding Climate Change" to be available through the Presbytery office. The cost is approximately \$25/print.
- That the February 2019 Stated Meeting be focused upon climate change, and that two hours be set aside for a two hour 'dinner and movie' presentation of "Decoding Climate Change".
- Presbytery purchase and then distribute to all the member churches a copy of Rebecca Barnes-Davies *Fifty Ways to Help Save the Earth*, at approximately \$15 each. Used copies are available on Amazon.
- We request that Ms. Barnes-Davies be invited by Presbytery to speak at the February, 2019 meeting of the Presbytery.

Recommendations were **APPROVED**. YPEC will work out most of the details.

Israel Nelson plans to attend the 2018 'Parliament of World Religions' program *Climate Action Initiative* in November. The approximate \$1,000 cost would also be taken out of the YPEC Conference special fund.

#### **Overture to the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly** – Rev. Matt Schultz

The commissioner to the general assembly and overture advocate briefly described the intent of the overture, an *Expanded Response to the Doctrine of Discovery*. The overture, having received the concurrence of Hudson River, was passed in committee and approved in plenary session. Matt highlighted a couple other overtures pertaining to Alaska Natives, Native Americans, and Native Hawaiians.

#### **Gambell Building Project**

Mary Kron, Jan Burger, and Sharon Rayt reported on their experiences as part of this summer's work teams sent to work on the building project. The exec reported that folks may have to be hired if the construction project is to be finished this year.

## Executive Presbyterian's Report (written report)

- Mission Strategy

- The Native Ministries Committee reported that many of our villages need a “fresh beginning” in ministry strategy. Worship leadership is spotty and sometimes not happening. Attendance is poor. Our current strategy is not working. It is time to develop a new approach that fits this moment in our history.

The new strategy will be strongly affected by *The Listening Way* work that is beginning there. However, we do need to clarify how we understand *The Listening Way* affecting ministry, and what other efforts are needed. Paid leadership is essential.

The North Slope Borough is also concerned about this. They recently asked IAM (Intergenerational Arctic Ministries) to look into assuring that a quality Vacation Bible School happens in each North Slope Borough (NSB) community in 2019. Note how this marks a new day for our ministry, with the NSB asking for assurances on church work and indicating a willingness to partner with us in providing funding.

- Something similar to IAM needs to be done on the road system to have road system churches thrive. How do we start the conversation amongst the road system churches? The Leadership Team needs to be intentional in prayer and in thinking about the next steps God wants us to do.

How do we create leadership in the Alaskan context for how we interpret it – connecting it to the gospel of Jesus Christ? How can the church continue in addressing the sin of this age? Issues are bigger than racism, i.e., domination over others.

- October Meeting of Presbytery and Gambell Presbyterian Church

After visiting Gambell in July, Gambell construction project director Dennis Berry and I asked that the October meeting of presbytery not be held at the Gambell Presbyterian Church. The building construction is moving forward under the oversight of our construction superintendent, but it simply will not be ready in time. Construction should be completed by late October or November. Worship in the church by Thanksgiving seems to be a reasonable goal. The Leadership Team may wish to schedule a future meeting of the presbytery in Gambell, to include a dedication of the new building.

- St. Lawrence Island Yupik New Testament Dedication

- In March, the ‘audiobook’ version was recorded by an organization called *Faith Comes by Hearing*. On July 23, 2018, the printed version went to the printer for production.
- Wycliffe Bible translators Dave and Mitzy Shinen are planning to bring to Alaska dignitaries from Wycliffe, *Faith Comes by Hearing*, and other contributors to this project for a series of worship services aimed at dedicating the New Testament translation to God’s service. Dedication services are being scheduled, as follows:
  - a. Gambell ..... Sept. 16..... Gambell Presbyterian Church (old)
  - b. Savoonga ..... Sept. 17..... Savoonga Presbyterian Church
  - c. Nome ..... Sept. 19..... Nome Covenant Church
  - d. Anchorage ..... Sept. 23..... Anchor Presbyterian Church

- Doctrine of Discovery Overture – National Response

At General Assembly, our overture passed, asking for another two years for a Presbyterian Mission Agency oversight committee to collect information for the national church and to develop practical responses across the church to the denomination’s renunciation of the ‘doctrine of discovery.’ So far, we

have not heard of any real action to put that overture into effect. Another overture pertains to assessing the condition of buildings of Native American/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian congregations. Sharon Rayt was directed to follow up with the office of Racial Equity and Women's Intercultural Ministries in the Presbyterian Mission Agency about the status of the assessment.

- Doctrine of Discovery – Presbytery of Yukon Response

We might be able to provide leadership for our state and for the national church, in going deeper in our exploration of our own history as Presbyterians in ministry in Alaska.

- We may discover that in some ways our work facilitated a great improvement in the overall potential for Native peoples as Western culture collided with Indigenous culture. The church understood American history well enough to know that the invasion of Alaska by non-indigenous people would be ugly. The church's response was intended to help. That help showed itself at least in these ways (surely more ways, but this paper is only intended to start the conversation.)
  - a. A relationship with God, Who loves everyone, and Who inspires and empowers our efforts to deal with today's issues, always with justice, respect and proper relationship at its core.
  - b. Schools that would teach the skills needed to contend with the massive societal invasion that was coming – reading/writing, parliamentary processes, politics, western economics, etc.
  - c. Hospitals to care for people with low or no immunity to new diseases.
  - d. Economic capabilities that would empower people in a multi-cultural world.

Some would say that there is a great contrast in how the Iñupiat and other Alaska Native people of today are empowered to stand economically and politically in the world today, compared to places like Nigeria (where oil barons and European political leaders conspired to control government and economics to take away indigenous wealth and rights). Others are not so sure, noting the Alaska experience is not spotless in this regard, either. How are we to understand both the positive and negative outcomes of the kind of empowerment the churches, and others, tried to bring in the face of such a massive invasion by European people?

- We certainly need to be clear that the good intentions, mentioned above, were mixed with the prejudices and narrow-mindedness of that generation – as surely as our own good intentions are mixed with the foibles of our own generation. With the advantages of hindsight, we know that the church's best efforts included mistakes that continue today. We have spoken of punishment for use of indigenous language, or of indigenous children taken away from families to be 'acculturated,' of the racist attitudes that infused some of the leaders of that day.

We see those same attitudes doing damage in Alaska and across and country today among all races and segments of our society:

- a. Racism
- b. Dominance, control and powers' issue in so many ways (domestic violence, economic violence, ecological violence, etc.)

Can we enter into dialogue that can inform the church of today for meaningful ministry to address these issues that continue to plague our society, and the people we know and love in our society?

### **Intergenerational Arctic Ministries (IAM) – Lucy Apatiki and Curt Karns**

Funding has been bottlenecked all summer. As the ministry has yet to receive 501c3 status, they hope that the Arctic Community Foundation will serve as the ministry's fiscal agent. The Foundation will also be deciding whether to grant IAM \$250,000. IAM is seeking funding from the Alaska Mental Health Trust to begin much needed work on Saint Lawrence Island.

Lucy reported that the Gambell Presbyterian Church is seeking a grant from Presbyterian Women for leadership development, not only for the church, but also to expand out into the village of Gambell. With only 5% of people in Gambell attending worship, the church must reach out and engage with the community.

### LUNCH RECESS

Ellen Johnson-Price gave the blessing prior to the 12:45 pm recess. The Leadership Team gathered in song at 1:45 pm.

### ACTION ITEMS

#### **Yupik New Testament Dedication:**

Rev. Leisa Carrick and Curt Karns plan to attend, but the LT was asked whether anyone else from the presbytery should be invited. The LT **APPROVED** a motion to commission the following to attend and to take the needed transportation funds out of the Leadership Team's budget: Presbytery moderator Paula Long, Native Ministries moderator-elect Lucy Apatiki, Sharon Rayt (if the stated clerk's schedule allows it), and someone chosen from the Arctic Bible translators.

#### **Native Ministries Intercessory Prayer Request – Lucy Apatiki**

Native Ministries decided to begin a concerted, focused prayer for Native Presbyterian Churches on the North Slope and on St. Lawrence Island, in an effort to discern how to work with the Holy Spirit for Kingdom solutions and strategies for these congregations. In order to do this, Native Ministries has asked the Leadership Team for help in finding committed folks who feel called to this prayer ministry. Names should be sent to Lucy or Curt Karns. Lucy is willing to take the lead and coordinate the ministry. Monthly telephonic meetings may be scheduled in an effort to keep the prayer warriors connected. The LT approved this request by **CONSENSUS**. The stated clerk offered to send the Native Ministries letter to each clerk of session, and the Presbytery office will be responsible for sending the letter to everyone on the presbytery's email list and to include the letter in the next newsletter.

#### **October Stated Presbytery Meeting**

- Meeting theme and guiding question(s) approved by **CONSENSUS**
  - Theme: *Discerning the Winds of the Spirit*
  - Theme Verse (not just at presbytery, but over the next two months): John 3:8 - *"The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*
  - Questions for elder commissioners:
    - a. Where is God's Spirit/wind blowing in your congregation?
    - b. Where is there enthusiasm, fire, and passion?
    - c. Where are people being encouraged and empowered to serve Jesus Christ in new ways?
- Presbytery meeting docket
  - Intersperse 20-30 minute blocks of time throughout the meeting. This will be a time for reflection, a safe place for introverts and extroverts to reflect on where they heard God's spirit. Leadership members will facilitate each group; with the goal of highlighting a couple points in each group. The experience is less about collecting though, but more about discerning what the Holy Spirit is saying. The exec will introduce the idea in worship. Guided prayer will lead into and after each block of time. The end goal is discerning whether there is there anything presbytery needs to remember? A Leadership Team meeting will be scheduled soon after presbytery for follow up.
  - Regional meetings: The road system (RS) is struggling to discern a way forward. Ellen Johnson-Price reported that some of the challenges are structural, i.e., how to make the meeting work, with no core group present except for pastors. Suggested topics for discussion:

- a. Hear Curt's teaching on mission strategy.
- b. How to get the right people to facilitate a conversation, with an ever changing group of elder commissioners, so that the region become transformational.
- c. What part of our connectional nature is blessing you, broken, or whatever?
- d. What are the benefits and needs of this connectionalism?
- e. What is really valued at the Presbytery?
- o Ministry Commission: one hour for examination(s), 2019 minimum terms of call, etc.
- o Native Ministries report
- o IAM report: 20 minutes
- o Stewardship:
  - a. Presbyterian Foundation presentation: 1 hour
  - b. 2019 budget: docket presentation towards the end of Friday; discussion/vote on Saturday
  - c. Mission Development Certificate program (Dean Mielke will be invited): 10 – 15 minutes
- o Bingle Camp report: 20 - 30 minutes
- o Property Committee: Gambell PC project and Kaktovik reroofing project, report to include projecting photos for each project.
- o Brainstorming session before Saturday's lunch
- o General Assembly reports

#### MISCELLANEOUS

**Clergy Retreat** – Since no retreat been offered for a number of years, discussions have begun on scheduling a retreat for 2019.

**Moment of Gratitude** – The Christensen's were thanked for their hospitality in hosting the retreat.

#### ADJOURN

The retreat adjourned with song, the reading of Psalm 19, and a closing prayer led by Ellen Johnson-Price.



Sharon Rayt  
Stated Clerk

**PRESBYTERY OF YUKON**  
 Leadership Team (Board of Directors)  
 Regular Meeting  
 Eagle River Presbyterian Church  
 October 11, 2018

CONVENE

Chair Ellen Johnson-Price, convened a meeting of the Leadership Team (LT) at 6:40 pm. Rev. Johnson-Price's reading of Psalm 16 served as the evening prayer.

ROLL

**Members Present:** Ruling Elders (RE) Lucy Apatiki, Bob Christensen, Paula Long; Revs. Ellen Johnson-Price and Henry Woodall; ex-officio, nonvoting members: Executive Presbyter Rev. Curt Karns, and REs Treasurer Joseph Brock and Stated Clerk Sharon Rayt and commissioners to Synod Rev. Piper Cartland and RE Ron Illingworth

**Others Present:** Presbytery financial secretary Mary Kron

**Members Excused:** REs Jan Burger and Clyde Kaneshiro

A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was **APPROVED** as amended.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

- Minutes of the April 20, 2018 LT special meeting were **APPROVED** as distributed and the minutes of the August 10 - 11, 2018 LT retreat were **APPROVED**, as amended.
- Correspondence: Alaska National Insurance Company, reported that presbytery's workers' compensation policy was renewed for the period Oct 2, 2018 – Oct. 2, 2019. Presbytery may be eligible for a 3% premium credit if it has a workplace safety program in place and there have been no losses during the policy period. Sample policies will be sought out which could fit our context. Action is postponed to a later date.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Stewardship Committee

- August and September 2018 financial statements were distributed.
- Recommendations for action:
  - Recommendation from the group appointed by the LT in August, which was tasked **with identifying those unspecified funds which can be tapped to make up for any budget shortfall in 2018:**  
*"The Leadership Team recommends to Presbytery that the \$134,126 in unspecified held funds in our 2018 budget projection come from first, the Litigation Reserve Fund of \$7,161.18; second, the Fire Loss Reserve [Fund] of \$29,534.25; and the remaining as needed from the Synod Building Sale Fund that currently has \$187,421.71.*  
 Recommendation was **APPROVED**. Ellen Johnson-Price will present the motion to presbytery on behalf of the Leadership Team.
  - Review the policy adopted in 2017 on **distribution of investment earnings:**  
 Based on the consideration of the following goals:
    1. An adequate reserve is kept to insulate against market loss.
    2. Some funds need to be "inflation proofed" or we have an obligation for a grant to receive interest.
    3. Long term, we hope to be able to help fund operations with earnings from investments

The following funds receive monthly interest at the rate of the highest interest Mission Development Certificate held (currently 1.54%):

- Hillcrest Loan Fund
- Property Maintenance and Insurance Fund

- Lay Leadership Training (Earl Jackman)
- Internship Fund (Mathes)
- Heiserman Grant
- Morris Evangelism Fund Grant
- Merchant Fund Grant

The Undistributed CF Earnings and the Gains minus fees Funds be combined to form one reserve against market loss. All earnings and gains not distributed to the above funds to go into this fund until it reaches 15% of the monies invested in the market.

This proposal to be effective retroactively to January 1, 2017 (except where distributed interest has already been spent) and reviewed at the beginning of 2018. There was a **GENERAL CONSENSUS** that presbytery stay the course.

- The Stewardship Committee presented a **proposed budget for 2019**:
  - Mary Kron reported that the Synod of Alaska/NW 2019 per capita of \$.50 will not be due until April, 2019. The expectation is that per capita will be reduced to \$0 when Synod meets in March.
  - GA per capita shows an increase
  - The Bingle Camp Board has dropped their request for funds to \$20,000, which will be distributed quarterly, per the Board's request.
  - Curt Karns and Melissa O'Malley's staff increases are due to their work with Intergenerational Arctic Ministries.
  - Decreases were made to various line items.

No changes were proposed by the Leadership Team. On that note, the LT **APPROVED** a recommendation that presbytery approve the proposed 2019 budget.

- Bob Christensen reported that the financial review of 2017 records has been completed and everything balanced and was found to be in order.

#### NATIVE MINISTRIES INTERCESSORY PRAYER REQUEST UPDATE

Lucy Apatiki reported on the effort to seek individuals for an intercessory prayer group which will focus prayers on seeking Kingdom solutions for Native Presbyterian Churches on the North Slope and Saint Lawrence Island. Five individuals, including two from the Leadership Team, have signed up to date. Even though this call for intercessors has been advertised through the presbytery newsletter and directly to sessions, it was proposed that the call for intercessors be announced during the presbytery meeting. In showing the Leadership Team's solidarity with this effort, Ellen Johnson-Price or Piper Cartland will stand with Lucy for the announcement.

#### DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY NATIONAL RESPONSE UPDATE

Curt Karns reported that due to a shortage of nominees for the national committee, the nomination period has been extended.

#### INTERGENERATIONAL ARCTIC MINISTRIES (IAM)

There is a major bottleneck in securing funding for this summer. As IAM has not yet been classified as a 501c3 entity, another organizations with 501c3 status will need to serve as IAM's fiscal agent. Should it be necessary, the Presbyterian Foundation is willing to take on that role, provided that presbytery takes action to validate the ministry. Board member Merle Apassingok will present the motion recommending that presbytery validate IAM's ministry.

#### PRESBYTERY DOCKET

Proposed changes were approved by **GENERAL CONSENSUS**

- Building projects' update is moved from Saturday to late Friday afternoon, per the request of project director Dennis Berry. Dennis and volunteer coordinator Danna Larson will be honored for their volunteer efforts on the Gambell building project.
- Stewardship Committee report moved to Friday morning.
- Due to the recent whaling accident in Utqiagvik,
  - Rev. Henry Woodall will lead the Friday evening worship service in Rev. Reid's absence.
  - Merle Apassingok will present the IAM report on behalf of IAM Board President Molly Pederson.
- The Ministry Commission does not have a Child and Youth Protection Policy to present at this time. This item of business is postponed to the February meeting.
- *Reflections of the Spirit* breakout sessions
  - This will be a time for reflection, a safe place for all to reflect on where they heard God's Spirit, to change the way people listen and in the end to discern whether there is anything presbytery needs to remember.
  - Three, 20 – 25 minute sessions will be scheduled.
    - Friday morning: Ellen Johnson-Price will introduce the intent of the sessions and process involved. Leadership Team members Lucy Apatiki, Bob Christensen, Clyde Kaneshiro, and Ron Illingworth will model to presbytery examples of where they have heard the Spirit moving.
    - In subsequent sessions, time will be allotted for a period of intentional silence, followed by the gathering of folks in groups of 5 – 6, for the purpose of making connections and hearing where others have heard the Spirit moving. A member of the LT team will be present in each group to listen for any overarching themes of what the Holy Spirit is saying.
  - On Saturday afternoon, time will be allowed for *Movements of the Spirits*, which will be an opportunity for people to share with the entire assembly.
  - A special Leadership Team teleconference will be scheduled soon after the presbytery for follow up.

#### FEBRUARY 22-23, 2019 WINTER PRESBYTERY MEETING

- **Yukon Presbyterians for Earthcare:**
  - Copies of Rebecca Barnes book '*50 Ways to Help Save the Earth*' have been ordered.
  - Sharon Rayt reported that it may not be possible to show the Nova Film 'Decoding Climate Change. Even though research has not been completed, it appears that the video may not be available with limited public performance rights. Sharon will continue researching the legality of showing the film
- **Host church:**

No invitations had been received to date, and Jewel Lake Parish, which is near the top of the host church rotation list, would not be a good venue. United Protestant clerk of session Joseph Brock will ask session if it would be feasible for the church to host the February presbytery meeting.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Leadership Team is scheduled for Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, at 10:15 am.

#### ADJOURN

With no other business pending, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm with Rev. Piper Cartland leading in the closing prayer



Sharon Rayt  
Stated Clerk

**PRESBYTERY OF YUKON**  
 Leadership Team (Board of Directors)  
 Special Meeting  
 November 9, 2018

CONVENE

Chair Ellen Johnson-Price, convened the teleconference with prayer at 10:20 am.

ROLL

**Members Present:** Ruling Elders (REs) Joseph Brock, Jan Burger, Clyde Kaneshiro, Commissioned Pastor (CP) Beulah Nowpakahok; Revs. Ellen Johnson-Price and Henry Woodall; ex-officio, nonvoting members: Executive Presbyterian Rev. Curt Karns, Stated Clerk RE Sharon Rayt and commissioner to Synod RE Ron Illingworth

**Members Excused:** REs Lucy Apatiki, Bob Christensen, Paula Long; ex-officio member and commissioner to Synod Rev. Piper Cartland

A quorum was present.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

- Minutes of the October 11, 2018 regular meeting were **APPROVED**, as amended.
- Electronic poll results: Danna Larson was appointed registrar for next year's Youth Triennium.

FOLLOW-UP TO REFLECTIONS OF THE SPIRIT CONVERSATIONS

- **What did we hear?**
  - What a difference the right leadership can make and the new energy that the right leadership can bring. Examples cited of unexpected leadership include: 1) local pulpit supply leaders and the youth worker at Chapel in the Mountains; 2) Rev. Curt Karns and CP Darlene Matz's Kaktovik visits; 3) Rev. Ian MacInnes-Green's lengthy visit to Nuiqsut; 4) the new things happening at Trinity.
  - The translation of the New Testament in St. Lawrence Yupik could possibly rekindle the Chukotka Native Christian Ministry (CNCM) work across the ocean
- **Did any themes emerge about where the Spirit is moving in our Presbytery?**
  - The New Testament translation is the start of something bigger.
  - The Spirit is moving forward and will move amongst the villages of Saint Lawrence Island. There are new leaders in Gambell, and more people attending worship.
  - Appropriate leadership and new leaders at the right time. Right leadership applies to all – small and urban churches, as well as the presbytery.
- **Given what we have heard, is there any concrete action that the Leadership Team might want to take?**
  - Consider restoring the Chukotka Native Christian Ministry (CNCM)
    - Since CP Merle Apassingok is interested in reaching out to the Chukotka region, it was recommended that Merle contact John Waghiyi in Savoonga about his potential interest in this endeavor.
    - Dave and Mitzi Shinen are working to complete the New Testament translation into Cyrillic. Beulah Nowpakahok mentioned that the Gambell School plans to invite a group from Provideniya to attend their Yupik Days. This event would provide the Gambell Church an opportunity to invite visitors to worship and present them with Cyrillic Bibles. Regular contact with the Shinens should continue.

It is important for the Leadership Team to keep this vision in prayer. How else the Leadership Team can be supportive of this effort on Saint Lawrence Island should be a topic at future LT meetings. Beulah Nowpakahok will bring this idea to tomorrow's session meeting.

- Leadership development: raising up a new generation of leaders is vital. Helping churches to encourage, train, and empower new leaders is of paramount importance. Conversation will continue.

#### FEBRUARY 22-23, 2019 WINTER STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING

- **Host Congregation** – United Protestant Church in Palmer
- **Theme** – Earth Care. Yukon Presbyterians for Earth Care will be asked to recommend a theme verse.
- **Update on the dinner and movie plan** - The Nova film *Decoding Climate Change* does not have limited public performance rights. In lieu of the film, it was suggested that First Presbyterian Church Anchorage elder Scott Gruhn be asked to present his climate change slide show.
- **Appoint LT liaison with Yukon Presbyterians for Earth Care (YPEC)** - Joseph Brock volunteered to serve as liaison.

#### WORKPLACE SAFETY POLICY

Sample policies were distributed. Any policy the LT adopts must fit our identity and context. Provisions should address safety for employees, volunteers, as well as sub-contractors. The stated clerk will follow up with the Insurance Board, Worker's Compensation carrier Alaska National Insurance Co. and the State of Alaska's Division of Insurance.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

- **October Financial Report:** no report
- **Intergenerational Arctic Ministries (IAM)**  
The Board has gotten past the bottleneck in funding. The presbytery will be reimbursed by the end of the year by the Arctic Slope Community Foundation (ASCF) which has been approved to serve as IAM's fiscal agent. Funding from the North Slope Borough and the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation has been approved and monies should be deposited in ASCF's account by the end of November. There is no word yet on whether IAM will receive funding from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.
- **Future Leadership Team Meetings**
  - Saturday, January 12, 2019 at 11:00 am. Agenda to include finalize plans for the February presbytery meeting: adopt theme verse, discuss docket, and follow up on Doctrine of Discovery recommendation #7 approved by the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly - *'Direct the agencies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to begin each meeting with an acknowledgment of whose land they are meeting on and that greetings to the assembly include a welcome from those Indigenous peoples currently living on the land.'*
  - Thursday, February 21, 2019 face-to-face meeting: LT chair Ellen Johnson-Price is unable to stay into the evening. On that note, there was **GENERAL CONSENSUS** that the meeting be scheduled for 4:00 – 6:30 pm, with dinner served towards the end of the meeting.

#### ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 am with Jan Burger leading in the closing prayer



Sharon Rayt  
Stated Clerk