

## Narrative Budget – 2021 Presbytery of Yukon November 17, 2020

### Narrative Budget Purpose:

The purpose of this budget narrative is to provide both a connection between each budget line to the mission of the Presbytery of Yukon, and a bit of justification for the amount in the line item. It is hoped this will help remind congregations what we have covenanted to do together in 2021, and provide another means for the Holy Spirit to inspire us regarding new work God would have us do into the future.

### Presbytery of Yukon's Mission Statement

The Presbytery of Yukon  
Seeks to bear witness  
In the world  
To the saving and transforming  
grace of God

By caring for and connecting  
Local ministries  
In the service of  
The triune God and of  
All God's creation.

### I. Presbytery Meetings and Functions, Lines 1-15

This section reviews the costs for the administration and ministry of all meetings in the presbytery, as well as the mission portion of the presbytery's various committees.

#### **Lines 1 and 2: Synod Per Capita: \$380, and General Assembly Per Capita, \$13,604**

In essence: Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Said another way, it is a Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund — part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Because every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system should be shared by everyone as well.

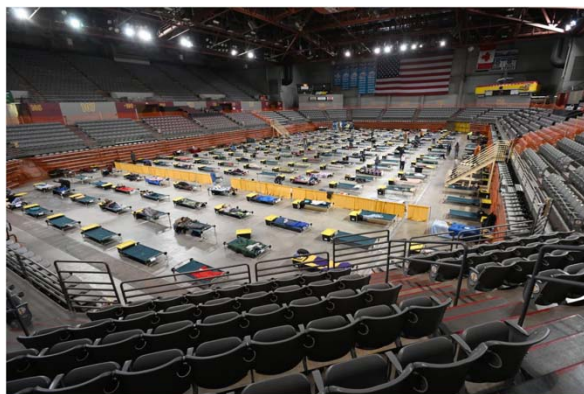


Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is one example, among

the many, many Presbyterian national missions at work in the world because of our support.

*Sullivan Arena Mass Shelter – Anchorage*

In this unusual year, PDA had coordinated much of the COVID-19 response of the national church. So far, PDA has provided grants totaling \$2,522,628 to churches across the country providing COVID-19 relief. The Presbytery of Yukon received one of those grants



allowing, among other things, for the Eagle River Presbyterian Church, and the First Presbyterian Church of Anchorage to provide electronic equipment for the Anchorage mass emergency shelters for homeless, set up in the Sullivan and the Dempsey-Anderson arenas.

**Line 3:**

**Meetings of Presbytery, \$14,000**



The Presbytery of Yukon is comprised of 21 congregations: twelve from the Road System Region and nine from the Native Ministries Region of the presbytery. Normally, commissioners from all congregations meet in person twice each year to decide mission priorities, to approve personnel and budgets, and to build connections between the congregations through mutual worship and fellowship.

In the wake of the pandemic, the presbytery met electronically in October and will need to do that again, at least for their February meeting. With that in mind, the Presbytery Meetings budget has been reduced by \$12,300 from 2019, since electronic meetings are cheaper than in-person meetings.

**Line 4:**

**The Leadership Team, \$2000**

The Leadership Team meets regularly throughout the year to gather committee moderators, regional representatives, and other presbytery leaders. Their purpose is to coordinate the work of the presbytery between Meetings of the Presbytery. Much of their expenses have always been for electronic meetings, though they do have budget for a small amount of other work, as well.

**Line 5:**

**Property Committee, \$250**

The Property Committee collaborates with church sessions and boards of trustees, and provides oversight of all PC(USA)-owned properties for the presbytery. This committee normally meets telephonically only. This committee also approves presbytery subsidized building repairs for aid-receiving churches. However, funds for repairs are held in investments from past sales of property (plus other gifts), and do not normally come out of the general fund.

**Line 6:**

**Ministries Commission, \$1000**

The Ministries Commission has been empowered by the presbytery to act on behalf of the whole presbytery in deciding compensation for ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament, negotiating contracts for temporary pastors, overseeing the training and oversight of Commissioned Ruling Elders, (CREs) and helping churches whenever they are facing issues regarding their leadership. This year travel is reduced due to the pandemic.

**Line 7:**

**Presbytery Regional Events, \$0**

No in-person events are currently planned by either region for 2021 due to the pandemic. The costs of electronic events can be absorbed by other parts of the budget.

**Line 8:**

**Stewardship and Budget, \$1000**

The Stewardship and Budget Committee assists congregations in their interpretation of Presbyterian mission and in their development of member spirituality. The committee also recommends budgets and budget changes to presbytery, and oversees presbytery investments.



*Laying on of hands at Commissioning of Merle Apassingok as Co-CRE for Gambell.*

are beginning with Gambell this year. However, it is our hope that all churches will have a way to provide support for pastors as needed.

This year the Stewardship and Budget Committee joined with the Native Ministries Committee to provide leadership in seeking ways to pay our pastoral leadership more equitably. In 2021 funds from the presbytery endowment will be used to support salaries for CREs in Gambell. It is presbytery's plan to increasingly raise funds through special fundraisers and investments to give assurance that CREs do not have to be volunteers, but can receive a living wage for pastoral work. We

#### **Line 9:**

#### **Newsletter, \$250**

If anyone wishes to be put on the presbytery's eNews list, contact the Presbytery Office at [office@pbyukon.org](mailto:office@pbyukon.org). To see archived copies of old eNews newsletters, see our website at <http://pbyukon.org/home.html>.

#### **Lines 10 and 11:**

#### **Nominating, \$50; and Representation, \$50**

The Nominating Committee confers with congregational leadership to nominate qualified leaders to guide ministry at the presbytery level and beyond. The Committee on Representation reviews the work of Nominating Committee to assure that all constituent groups present in the presbytery are given opportunity to serve in leadership positions.



*Native Ministries Committee  
Feb 2020, Utqiagvik, AK*

with Native Corporations to provide a Christian spiritual approach to healing from the social ills of intergenerational trauma.

#### **Line 12:**

#### **Native Ministries Com**

This committee oversees the work of the congregations in the Native Ministries Region. In the past decade, this committee has been leading the presbytery, first in reconciliation events in the villages of the presbytery, and now in developing a new, ecumenical ministry called Intergenerational Arctic Ministries (IAM). IAM is partnering with other churches with villages and

The NMC Committee also advises the presbytery in congregational needs in the region. Most recently they, along with the Stewardship and Budget Committee, have led the presbytery in developing new financial strategies aimed at paying Commissioned Ruling Elders serving in the region.

<b>Lines 13 and 14</b>	<b>Educational Resources and Yukon Presbyterians for Earth Care, \$0</b>
------------------------	--

**Line 15:** **Pastor Retreat, \$2000**

## ***II. Mission Church Support: Lines 16-23***

**Lines 16, 17, 18, 19, 20**      **Atqasuk-\$150; Anaktuvuk Pass-\$280; Savoonga-\$13,000; Gambell-\$17,000**

**Line 21:** **New Hope Methodist Presbyterian Church, \$18,900**

**Lines 22 and 23: Mission Moving Expenses, and Mission Candidating, \$0**

### ***III. Joint Parish at Work: Lines 24-25***



The two St. Lawrence Island congregations are the only St. Lawrence Island Yupik language and culture communities in our presbytery. Due to their geographic isolation, as well as cultural distinctiveness, these two congregations often depend on mutual support from each other, sending guest speakers, or prayer teams to the other community for encouragement. These funds make that kind of collaboration happen.

**Line 24:**

**Aywaan Parish, \$1000**

Sharing resources helps both churches to thrive. Sometimes, elders from one congregation visit another to problem solve, and to offer encouragement. Also, Savoonga Presbyterian Church currently does not have a commissioned pastor, but Gambell does. Sharing a pastor for a weekend can be a great support.



Rev. Carrick & elders from Gambell and Savoonga  
At Aywaan Parish Consultation 2017

Currently, little travel is happening due to the pandemic. However, it is our hope that some travel will be able to resume later in 2021.

**Line 25:**

Rev. Leisa Carrick works 75% of full time employment as co-pastor for The United Protestant Church in Palmer. However, she also gives her time and energy as moderator for Savoonga Presbyterian Church, and as Teaching Elder Advisor to both the Gambell and Savoonga congregations on St. Lawrence Island.

During the Pandemic, Leisa cannot travel as in the past, and so the budget was reduced. However, the presbytery hopes she may resume at least some travel before the end of 2021.

**IV. Mission At Work: Lines 26-34**

This section describes mission work not attached to any particular congregation.

**Line 26:**

**Commissioned Ruling Elder Training, \$0**

We have funds saved for this. It was deemed unnecessary to include this in the General Budget at this time. However, CRE training remains a priority, and the Leadership Team would like to see our Leadership Training Funds spent! They encourage widespread recruiting!

**Line 28:**

**Bingle Camp/Knox Retreat Center Operations, \$20,050**

Bert Bingle Memorial Camp, near Fairbanks, has a long history of fostering Christian discipleship, especially among children and youth. Christian camp experiences provide the kind of in-depth relationships with both campers and staff that helps people



experience some of the real potential available through Christian faith and fellowship.

In 2020, Bingle Camp was mostly shut down, though cabins were made available for families that wanted a safe place to retreat in a Christian environment. It is Knox Retreat Center-Part of Bingle Camp  
our hope that a regular camp schedule can resume in 2021.

**Line 27: Village Youth Camp Scholarships, \$1,000**

These funds are aimed at allowing young people from the Native Ministries Region to be able to enjoy the benefits of a Christian camp experience. Village participants have given glowing reports of their experiences at Christian camp.

**Line 29:**

For decades, the Presbytery of Yukon has provided Kairos Prison Ministries retreats in South Central Alaska. These retreats provide participants with an intensive experience of Christian fellowship and caring, along with a short course on Christian faith and life.

**Kairos Prison Ministries, \$2000**



Alaska has an incarceration rate of 691 per 100,000 people (including prisons, jails, immigration detention, and juvenile justice facilities), meaning that it locks up a higher percentage of its people than many wealthy democracies do. Outreach to people in prison is essential for anyone, who takes Matthew 25 seriously. At the same time, justice reform that deals with trouble without bringing as many people to prison is a must.

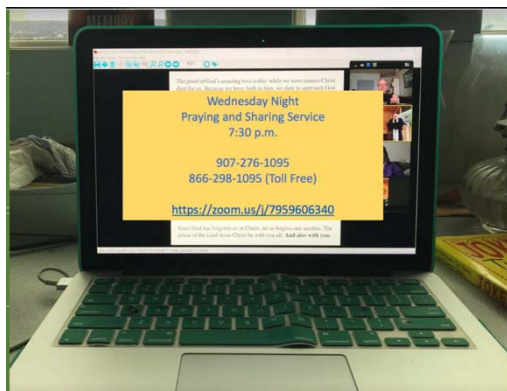
**Line 31:**

**New Ministry, \$0**

This line item was reduced to \$0 from the general budget. However, [the Presbytery Leadership Team is making small grants available to churches seeking new ministries now](#), in this time of radical change. The money will not come from the general fund, but from funds currently available through presbytery investments. Churches can apply by contacting Stated Clerk Sharon Rayt: [sharon@pbyukon.org](mailto:sharon@pbyukon.org).

**Line 30:**

**Technology - \$20,500**



2020 has taught us the importance of technology for the future of ministry, well beyond the end of this pandemic. The presbytery is expanding its support for churches seeking a right-fit for technology and their ministry. It is our understanding that churches must employ technology, if they wish to serve people in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This represents an increase of \$18,500 over 2020 for this line item.

**Line 32:** **Youth Triennium, \$1000**

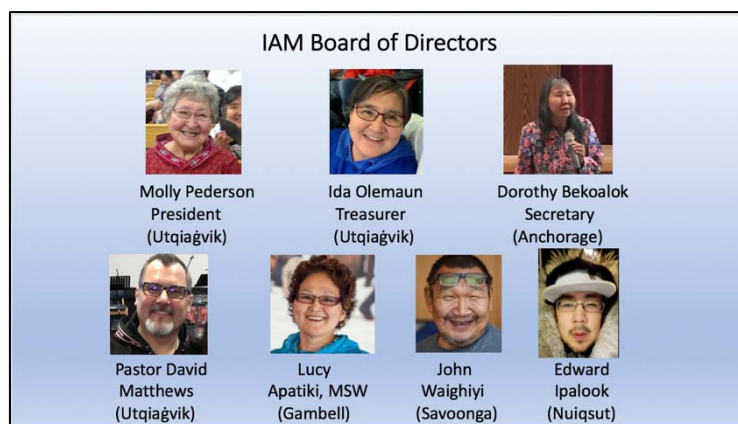
Youth Triennium, the national Presbyterian youth gathering at Purdue University, is one of the best youth discipleship events provided in the denomination. Though Triennium is only held once every three years, we put away money in our budget each year so that we can build a large enough nest egg to send as many youth as possible.

This year, our savings have been reduced, due to the tight budgets our churches are facing. Still, we did not leave it out of the budget. Our youth are that important.

**Line 33:** **St. Lawrence Island Study, \$5000**

These are funds requested by the Native Ministries Committee to provide resources to allow the two congregations on St. Lawrence Island to do a complete mission study. It is the hope that this will revitalize ministry on the island, and provide a template for more renewal in other parts of the presbytery.

**Line 34:** **Intergenerational Arctic Ministries (IAM), \$5000**



IAM has not been successful in raising funds to support the St. Lawrence Island portion of their program. These funds would support IAM in this portion of their efforts. The COVID crisis caused other funders to pull back on support for 2020. As a result, IAM currently owes the presbytery for past expenses, and will have to pay off those debts before this new money could become available. However, good progress has been made in

recent weeks, making IAM's funding look more promising in the months to come.

**V. Office Expenses: Lines 35-39**

**Lines 35-39** **Office Rent, Telephone, Office Equipment, Insurance - \$12,950**

These expenses remain within historical norms. We are grateful to First Presbyterian Church of Anchorage for providing office space at a rate well below market value. It makes so much difference.

**VI. Staff and Staff Expenses: Lines 40-50**

In general, the compensation levels remain at current levels for the Stated Clerk, the Treasurer and the Executive Presbytery. During the pandemic, much of our operations have changed, leading to a reduction in the hours, and therefore, in the total compensation for the Administrative Assistant.

**Lines 40-41** **Stated Clerk Salary - \$26,530, and FICA - \$2030**

**Line 55:** **Stated Clerk Expenses - \$2000**

**Lines 42-43** **Financial Secretary Salary - \$1,636, and FICA - \$1655**

**Line 54:** **Financial Secretary Expenses - \$2000**

**Lines 44-45** **Executive Presbyter Salary - \$48,828, and Housing Allowance - \$41,713**

The presbytery made the EP available to work for IAM at ½ full time employment as a part of the presbytery's interest in starting this ministry. In the past, IAM reimbursed the Presbytery for their half of his services. However, since June, IAM has had to stop its support for his salary until their funding resumes. The presbytery therefore reduced the EP to the 80% salary level he was earning before IAM began. However, the presbytery still makes the EP available for administrative services, providing his services as pure mission until the funding streams resume.

**Lines 46 and 47** **Exec Pension, \$9054 and Retirement Savings \$0**

The Board of Pensions now allows pastors, who are not working as called-and-installed pastors in congregations, to opt out of the Presbyterian Medical Plan. Since Rev. Karns has medical insurance through his wife's family plan, he has opted for these funds to go into pension.

**Line 51:** **Exec Travel, \$12,000**

This represents a \$3000 reduction from the 2020 budget, due to reduced travel expectations.

**Line 52:** **Exec Business Expenses, \$2000**

**Line 53:** **Exec Study Leave, \$2000**

These two items remain at historical levels.

**Lines 48 and 49** **Administrative Assistant Salary - \$12,000 and FICA - \$918**

Due to the pandemic, office work has been significantly reduced. For instance, the office is not planning travel and hospitality related events. As a result, fewer hours are need for administrative Assistant work, leading to a reduction in expected salary from \$20,000 to \$12,000. Melissa O'Malley does this work remotely from Arizona.

**Line 50:** **Worker's Compensation Insurance, \$2500**

Required by the state, and based on salary levels.