

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON FALL 2014 STATED MEETING

New Hope Church, North Pole, Alaska

October 10 - 11, 2014

*'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'*

Romans 15:13

FRIDAY, October 10, 2014

OPENING SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Presbytery opened with worship at 9:05 am in the New Hope Church sanctuary. Rev. Curt Karns led in a *Litany for the Faithful in Anxious Times* (from Psalm 16) and delivered the message. Gospel reading: John 18:33-37.

CONVENE

Moderator RE Merle Apassingok convened the 2014 fall stated meeting at 9:35 am with prayer.

WELCOME

Church member Matt Tinkelenberg extended a warm welcome to Presbytery.

ROLL

Teaching elder (TE) members present:

Leisa Carrick – <i>co-pastor, United Protestant Church</i>	Tim Carrick – <i>co-pastor, United Protestant Church</i>
Piper Cartland – <i>pastor, Eagle River PC</i>	David W. Jeong – <i>stated supply, Fairbanks Korean</i>
Ellen Johnson Price – <i>member-at-large</i>	Britt Johnston – <i>temporary supply, Anchor PC</i>
Curt Karns – <i>executive presbyter</i>	Dean Knapp – <i>honorably retired</i>
Susan Knight – <i>temporary supply, Immanuel PC</i>	Ian MacInnes-Green – <i>member-at-large</i>
Kim MacInnes-Green – <i>member-at-large</i>	Israel Nelson – <i>honorably retired</i>
Matthew Schultz – <i>pastor, First Anchorage PC</i>	Henry Woodall – <i>pastor, First Wasilla PC</i>

Commissioned ruling elders (CRE) present:

Eunice Ahsuak – <i>Utqiagvik PC</i>	Paul Bodfish – <i>Atqasuk Chapel</i>
Virginia Kasak – <i>Kuukpik PC</i>	Richard Mauer – <i>Delta PC</i>
Beulah Nowpakahok – <i>Gambell PC</i>	Marjorie Poggas – <i>Jewel Lake Parish</i>
Sandra Wagenius – <i>United Protestant Church</i>	

Churches represented by ruling elder (RE) commissioner:

Anchor PC – <i>Maggie Irrigoo</i>	Atqasuk Chapel – <i>Elizabeth Hollingsworth</i>
Delta PC – <i>Ann Geise</i>	Eagle River PC – <i>Don Tybus</i>
Fairbanks Korean PC – <i>Jinhee Dickerson</i>	First Anchorage PC – <i>Dennis Berry</i>
First Wasilla PC – <i>Misty Jensen</i>	Gambell PC – <i>Wanda Slwooko</i>
Immanuel PC – <i>Joanne Potts</i>	Jewel Lake Parish – <i>Susan Woods</i>
Kuukpik PC – <i>Carolyn Ahkiviana</i>	New Hope Church – <i>Ron Illingworth</i>
Savoonga PC – <i>Hogarth Kingeekuk, Jr.</i>	Trinity PC – <i>Spencer Biegel</i>
University Community PC – <i>Sarah Lanstra</i>	Utqiagvik PC – <i>Samuel Ahsoak</i>
United Protestant Church – <i>Jan Burger</i>	

Other voting members present:

RE Merle Apassingok – <i>Presbytery Moderator</i>	Deacon Jo Ann Bantz – <i>Leadership Team</i>
RE Arlayne Knox – <i>Leadership Team</i>	RE Danna Larson – <i>Certified Christian Educator</i>
RE Shirley Novak – <i>Leadership Team</i>	RE Ida Olemaun – <i>Moderator, Nominating Committee</i>
RE Sharon Rayt – <i>Stated Clerk</i>	RE Mark Wartes – <i>Leadership Team</i>

Teaching elder members excused:

Isaac Akootchook – *honorably retired*
Richard Carpenter – *honorably retired*
Philip Gilbert – *honorably retired*
Henry Guinotte – *honorably retired*
Dan Ketchum – *honorably retired*
Tammy Letts – *member-at-large*
Peter Loughman – *inactive*
Duke Morrow – *pastor, Utqiagvik PC*
William Ng – *honorably retired*
Youl Rhee – *honorably retired*
Mary Ann Warden – *honorably retired*

Patrick Bracken- *chaplain, Ft. Wainwright*
Sandra Faison– *member-at-large*
Alice Green – *honorably retired*
Luke Jones – *pastor, Jewel Lake Parish*
Sig Kristiansen – *honorably retired*
Tom Letts – *member-at-large*
Ted McGovern – *chaplain, U.S. Army Reserves*
James Nageak – *honorably retired*
Dianne O’Connell – *honorably retired*
Kenneth Smith – *honorably retired*

Churches not represented by a ruling elder commissioner:

Chapel in the Mountains
Kaktovik PC

First Korean Anchorage PC
Olgonik PC

Other voting members excused

CRE George Agnasagga – *Olgonik PC*
CRE Leah Hathaway – *Jewel Lake Parish*

RE Donna Davidson – *Leadership Team*
RE Molly Pederson – *Leadership Team*

Enrollment of corresponding members:

Rev. Irma Balaba – *Asst. Program Secretary on Christian Unity & Ecumenical Relations (National Council of Churches in the Philippines)*
Rev. Claude Klaver – *honorably retired, (Presbytery of Pacific - Evangelical Presbyterian Church)*
Rev. Mark Klohe – *interim pastor, Trinity PC (Presbytery of Inland Northwest)*
Rev. Cynthia Holder-Rich – *Skype presentation (Presbytery of Maumee Valley)*
Rev. Montie Slusher – *temporary pastor, University Community PC (Episcopal Diocese of Alaska)*

Other Visitors/Presbytery office staff:

Deacon Tiffany Immingan – *Savoonga PC*
RE David Rohwer – *University Community PC*
Grace Jeong – *Fairbanks Korean PC*
Mary Kron – *Presbytery treasurer*
RE Carol Nielsen – *University Community PC*
Deacon Regina Wongittilin – *Savoonga PC*
Matt Tinkelenberg – *New Hope Church*

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present in accordance with the requirement in G-3.0304, that ruling elders representing at least three churches and three teaching elders constitute a quorum.

INTRODUCTIONS

Guests, first time ruling elder commissioners and teaching elders were introduced. Presbytery **VOTED** to grant voice to corresponding members and non-member guests presenting reports or called upon to provide expertise.

ADOPTION OF DOCKET

Presbytery **VOTED** to adopt the docket as amended.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Resolutions: Rev. Tim Carrick

Mileage: Rev. Israel Nelson, RE Susan Woods

RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

Elder commissioners were asked to address the question *‘What is giving you hope and joy in your church, in your home, and in your community?’*

Immanuel PC (Anchorage) – RE Joanne Potts

The congregation has been reeling from the death of RE Mary Jane Landstrom. The building is well used by several groups; trustees are working on improving the facilities. Garden plots constructed on church property served as a community garden.

Kuukpik PC (Nuiqsut) – RE Carolyn Ahkiviana

More people are attending worship. This has been a busy subsistence year – the village has been blessed with the landing of five whales and had a successful hunt for small animals. Money has been donated for much needed plumbing work due to the commode freezing up.

Delta PC (Delta Junction) – RE Ann Geise

The church is very blessed to have Pastor Mauer. There is hope and joy in helping people in the community. The Delta Ministerial Association is involved in the Thanksgiving meal, provides food boxes at Christmas, and holds a baccalaureate service. The church recently started a grief share support group, and since last fall has hosted an exercise group which meets thrice weekly and is open to members of the community at no charge. A local AA group meets twice a week. There are plans to purchase an automated external defibrillator. The building has been upgraded with insulation, windows, and siding which should help lower utility bills. Ten children will be involved in the Reformation Sunday worship service when the handbell choir will perform.

Kaktovik PC – Rev. Curt Karns, session moderator

Rev. Karns asked for prayers for this church, which has been struggling for the past year. After Rev. Warden moved out of the manse, everything froze up. No worship services are held at the church. Holy Week was amazing – young adult parents expressed interest in starting a Sunday school and asked for guidance on being Christian parents.

Rev. Leisa Carrick led in the prayer for these churches.

MISSION IN ACTION COMMITTEE – Jo Ann Bantz

The committee is struggling and having to organize differently than in the past. Others were encouraged to join in the work of the committee..

Yukon Presbyterians for Earth Care (YPEC) - Rev. Israel Nelson

Rev. Nelson began the report with prayer. YPEC hosted the first Regional Conference on Climate Change, September 1-8, 2014. Of the 47 participants, 25 were Presbyterians from the lower 48, and 22 were Alaskans, some who attended as conference presenters. Major emphases of the event:

- Experiential learning – participants observed vanishing glaciers, measured permafrost depths, viewed one urban and one rural experiment in Alaska for living more sustainably, and spoke with Alaskans working on these issues.
- Practical theology – participants met with perspective leaders in faith, science, and the indigenous peoples.
 - Faith perspective – Caring for this earth and its life systems is a primary commandment for Biblical people. Leader participants: ELCA bishop Rev. Shelley Wickstrom, Russian Orthodox Bishop Fr. David Mahaffey, Presbytery Executive Rev. Curt Karns.
 - Indigenous Ministries – Indigenous practices were not perfect, but were generally much more harmonious in relationship with the rest of God’s beloved creation. An indigenous worldview does not conflict with a biblical worldview and can inform our practical responses as people of faith. Leader participants: Aleut elder Ilarion Merculieff, executive director of the Native

Sciences Commission Inupiaq Patricia Cochrane, and young adult Native American leaders St. Lawrence Island Yupik Tiffany Immingan and Aleut George Pletnikof. Other native leaders unable to attend: Tlingit Elaine Abraham and Inupiaq Paul Bodfish.

- Multi-generational – There was a variety of middle-age to older participants. Participants in their 20s (Beckie Behm, Tiffany Immingan, and George Pletnikof) were intentionally recruited, making for a better outcome.

Outcome of the event: Many were surprised how Native American wisdom can inform all of us in how to respond for a more sustainable, way forward. In evaluations, participants recognized the depth of knowledge shared through a practical theology approach.

Should this be done again? Presbyterian seminaries and colleges may be interested in offering this as a for-credit academic course. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Russian Orthodox bishops, and perhaps others, are interested in a more ecumenical version next summer.

RECESS:

Presbytery recessed for a brief break at 10:25 am.

RECONVENE

Presbytery reconvened at 10:55 am. First time members arriving on the delayed flight from Anchorage were introduced.

REVISIONS TO VISION AND STRATEGY WORKING PAPER - Rev. Britt Johnston

Rev. Johnston presented recommended revisions and provided a theological justification for adopting the revisions: that the earth and everything in creation is from God and belongs to God; to serve God we must be respectful of creation; God must be glorified by caring for his creation; and we glorify God by doing good works. Following discussion, Presbytery **VOTED** to adopt recommended changes (Appendix A).

PRESBYTERY MISSION STATEMENT

Rev. Karns, noting a disconnect between Presbytery's mission statement and its revised vision strategy, recommended that Presbytery adopt the following text, (in the Vision and Strategy paper) as its mission statement:

- *The purpose of the Presbytery of Yukon is to facilitate Christ's ministry through congregations and other local ministries within the Presbytery.*
- *This requires the presbytery to assist each ministry in its own context.*
- *This also requires the presbytery to help provide the connections, both within the Presbytery and beyond that provide the kind of sharing that inspires and feeds the ministry of the whole church.*

Discussion ensued. Presbytery **VOTED** to postpone action, recruit a group to draft a shorter mission statement from the aforementioned text, and bring back a proposal for presbytery action before adjournment.

221st GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA) REPORTS

RE commissioner Jan Burger (United Protestant Church) shared her thoughts on her experience at GA. Despite the controversial nature of issues, people were polite, courteous, and respectful. Jan was impressed with the Young Adult Advisory Delegates (YAADs), who were articulate and well informed, and when the atmosphere got tense, it was the YAADs or theological delegates who sought to stop for prayer. A written report (Appendix B) was distributed. RE Burger served on the Social Justice Issues Committee

Clergy commissioner Rev. Ian MacInnes-Green reported being amazed at the richness of the theological, social, and political diversity; the number of people; and the connectionalism. Rev. MacInnes-Green served on the Church Polity and Ordered Ministry Committee.

Young Adult Advisory Delegate RE Samuel Ahsoak (Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church) reported that General Assembly was a wonderful experience – meeting others, praying when things got tense, and singing with other YAADs. Delegate Ahsoak served on the Peacemaking Committee.

Presbytery commended commissioners' Burger and MacInnes-Green and delegate Ahsoak with applause.

Savoonga PC deacon Tiffany Immingan, served as overture advocate for the sustainability and precautionary principle overture. Tiffany reported on her experience in advocating before the Immigration and Environmental Issues Committee. Rev. Karns remarked that Tiffany made an emotional connection with the committee during her passionate testimony on the effects of toxins on St. Lawrence Island.

Rev. Karns expressed gratitude to Danna Larson for setting up and staffing the Presbytery of Yukon booth and to Gambell RE Mike Apatiki for helping to staff the booth. The booth, which focused on the new church building in Gambell and "climate change tour," was very popular.

LUNCH RECESS

The assembly recessed for lunch as 12:03 pm with RE Merle Apassingok leading in prayer. The moderator reconvened presbytery at 1:05 pm with prayer.

RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

University Community PC (Fairbanks) – RE Sarah Lanstra

There is great joy as the congregation is committed to discerning God's call; whether it is hosting disaster recovery workers as workers traveled to/from the villages; assisting Kaktovik PC with their Vacation Bible School; or learning about the ongoing work in Cambodia from a missionary. The building is heavily used by support and community groups, and two congregations. Session is seeking other ways to use the building for ministry in the community. Building repairs were completed last summer. After interim co-pastors Rev. Linda and Trent Baggett departed in mid-June, CRE Lois Hildenbrand and military chaplain Rev. Patrick Bracken provided pastoral leadership for the remainder of the summer. Rev. Montie Slusher is again serving as pastor on a temporary basis. The Pastor Nominating Committee is hard at work.

Anchor PC (Anchorage) – RE Maggie Irrigoo

An average of 25 attend Sunday worship. The small congregation provides a meal and warm place for the homeless to worship on Sunday mornings. Congregants visit those in the hospital or jail, helping them to stay in touch with the church. Maggie, who is formerly from Gambell, is glad to see people from St. Lawrence Island. The congregation is learning how to understand the Bible. Members are working on handicrafts to raise money for the new Gambell church building. A Thanksgiving meal is planned.

United Protestant Church (Palmer) – RE Jan Burger

There is great joy - several young families with very young children have been attending. The challenge is to keep parents coming back. An active middle school group is under the leadership of pastor Leisa. Senior high students have too many demands on their life to participate in a senior high group. Outreach to the homeless continues through the valley's Family Promise ministry. Congregants help sort clothing for a local thrift store, provide Fred Meyer gift cards, and are involved in the Kairos prison ministry. Deacons are fairly new and discovering who they are.

Atqasuk Chapel – RE Elizabeth Hollingsworth

Elizabeth reported on being challenged several times, for needing to be prepared to lead worship when no leaders show up on Sunday morning. Elizabeth is grateful that the old, sand-filled carpet has been replaced by easier-to-clean linoleum. A revival is scheduled for November 11-14th, after the ground freezes and the people are able to travel by snow-machine from Barrow and Wainwright to attend the celebration/revival.. The choir is raising funds to help with revival transportation costs. The food bank has been blessed and is now fully stocked in a new warm location. The village of Atqasuk still continues to donate to the food bank. A Pastor Nominating Committee is seeking a pastor to share with Wainwright and Nuiqsut.

First Wasilla PC – RE Misty Jensen

Before presenting her report, Misty read from Romans 15:13. There is hope in a time of transition, when members leave and new families come aboard. In July, the church partnered with United Protestant Church in Palmer and flew a team to Savoonga to repaint the church, lead VBS, and provide pastoral visits to village residents. First Wasilla works to find housing and financial assistance to those in need in the Mat-Su Valley.

Misty reported on her work promoting *smoke-free workplaces* through Alaska Family Services. As there has been very little support from churches, RE Jensen encouraged presbyters to sign ‘A Resolution of Support for Smokefree Alaska’ and take a packet of information back to their session.

CRE Sandra Wagenius led in the prayers for these churches.

MISSION IN ACTION - Deacon Jo Ann Bantz

International peacemaker Rev. Irma Balaba was introduced. Rev. Balaba serves as the Assistant Program Secretary for Christian Unity and Ecumenical Relations with the National Council of Churches in the Philippines. Rev. Balaba reported on how people of faith around the world are helping residents survive their circumstances – in poverty and from natural disasters. Rev. Britt Johnston led the prayer for Rev. Balaba, her work in the Philippines, and peacemakers.

MOMENT OF PRAYER

Rev. Curt Karns led in a prayer for Utqiagvik pastor Rev. Duke Morrow who is hospitalized in Anchorage.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM) Part I - CRE Sandra Wagenius

A written report was distributed. (Appendix C)

Preparation for Professional Ministry

There are no inquirers or candidates at this time.

Examination for Commissioning

CRE Wagenius presented RE Beulah Nowpakahok for examination as a Commissioned Ruling Elder. On the basis of Beulah’s steadfast faith and demonstrated leadership, the Gambell PC session recommended that Beulah be commissioned and has requested that she be authorized to perform the following duties: lead worship services and coordinate with visiting pastors; officiate at weddings, baptisms, and funerals; administer Holy Communion, moderate session, work with session in carrying out missions such as food ministry, youth ministry, and home visitations when invited. [By prior action of Presbytery, CRE’s have voice and vote on the floor of Presbytery.] Having completed the requisite classes, RE Nowpakahok met with members of CPM. The committee finds that Beulah is well-equipped to serve the Gambell PC and recommended that Presbytery proceed with the examination.

RE Nowpakahok read her statement of faith (Appendix D) and answered questions from the floor on her personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and areas of instruction. Presbytery **VOTED** to arrest the examination, and Beulah was escorted out of the room. Presbytery **VOTED** to commission RE Beulah Nowpakahok for one year, after which time the commission may be renewed for a term of three years. Beulah rejoined the plenary session amidst applause; after which CRE Wagenius led in a prayer for Beulah. Commissioning will take place during the evening worship service.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER’S REPORT - Rev. Curt Karns

Highlights of the exec’s written and oral report:

Over the years, fewer and fewer of our churches have been served by full-time pastors, and more and more are served by unpaid Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs). We live in times of great social change, requiring the church of Jesus Christ to adapt and change to fit the new context. There is much for which to give thanks. There is some experimentation under way in our presbytery, and at least some of that experimentation will bear fruit.

- 1.) Some are finding newer ways of including the teaching elder gift in ministry.
 - **Gambell & Savoonga:** Rev. Leisa Carrick is volunteering (with the support of United Protestant Church) as teaching elder to St. Lawrence Island, providing coaching and support to CREs. This arrangement has borne some fruit over the past few years.
 - **Kaktovik PC:** The exec has begun serving the church in Kaktovik, using a model similar to the one used on St. Lawrence Island. It is unclear yet if this is a good ministry model for Kaktovik.
 - **Olgonik PC (Wainwright), Atqasuk Chapel (Atqasuk), and Kuukpik PC (Nuiqsut):** The shared Pastor Nominating Committee is active, and the Committee on Ministry will work with the PNC to find candidates. The full time pastor to be hired will work primarily to train, coach, and come alongside of local leaders, similar to Leisa Carrick's work.
 - **Chapel in the Mountains (Anaktuvuk Pass):** Currently, this congregation has neither an active teaching elder nor CRE, nor is there a candidate for training. RE Mark Wartes has put much effort into serving as moderator. It is unclear what ministry model fits this church.
 - **University Community PC (Fairbanks) and New Hope Church (North Pole):** Both churches are unable to support a full-time pastor, and both have decided to hire a part time pastor. This is the "tent-making" pastor model, where the pastor gets part of his/her income from work outside the church. New Hope has voted to call the Rev. Curt Matz, pending Presbytery and Alaska Methodist Conference approval. UCPC's Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is actively seeking candidates.
 - **Anchor:** The church currently contracts with Rev. Britt Johnston to serve as pulpit supply, session moderator, and occasional pastoral care.
- 2.) **The Yukon Presbyterians for Earth Care sponsored a very successful event** that is gaining some national recognition across the church.
- 3.) **There is at least one small group exploring forming a new worshiping community** of some sort – maybe not a traditional "church."
- 4.) **Joint Parish** has put together a rough draft of a new Village Ministries Committee for presbytery. This continues the Indigenous Church emphasis that came out of our partnership with Tayal Presbytery. If this passes it will restructure some of our presbytery work to empower village people to oversee village ministry strategy.
- 5.) **Our PLUME (Presbyterian, Lutheran, United Methodist, Episcopalian) partners are exploring a new lay-monastic community.** This may take more than one track. One will be to provide short, discipling experiences to help people learn new ways to embody Christ's ministry. Others may include a coaching/small community "class" under the oversight of Rev. Dr. Elaine Heath to teach some of the methods for more effective experimentation in building ministry communities. She is seeking how to make this available in ways that are appropriate to different cultural contexts. We have been invited to participate.

Changing times also raise some difficulties for us to address.

- 1.) **Finances are tight and we do not currently have a viable plan** to address our shortfall. We received a windfall from the synod this year, which buys us time to devise some "experimentation" in new ideas for financing.
- 2.) **Going to church continues to fall out of fashion**, especially among the younger generation. This requires new approaches for reaching out with the gospel. Again, this leaves room for some very interesting experimentation with new approaches!
- 3.) **The world is changing. This raises the question of how the Presbytery can best serve now.** This is a good time to ask the ongoing question: What role (or roles) can the Presbytery play in the life of Christ's church to encourage health and innovation in local churches and local ministries?

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mary Kron

The September 2014 financial statement and budget was distributed. Presbytery is not expected to receive much additional income from churches for the remainder of the year. The 50/50 Club program was identified, as a way to increase funds in the presbytery's endowment fund held by the Presbyterian Foundation. Anyone pledging at least 10% of their Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) to the 50/50 Club received either a thumb drive or mug (from past years) as a thank you gift. A Charles Tuckfield print was the gift for anyone pledging their entire PFD.

As reported in the consent agenda, the Leadership Team approved two recommendations requiring Presbytery approval:

- That all of the \$232,401.99 received as a bequest from Mary Jane Landstrom (plus accrued interest), be deposited in the Presbytery's Mission Fund Permanent Endowment held by the Presbyterian Foundation. The bequest did not designate a specific use for the funds. Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the motion from the Leadership Team.
- That the cash flow reserve be returned to \$100,000. Increasing the reserve will enable Presbytery to pay Synod and GA per capita as required by the *Book of Order*. Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the motion from the Leadership Team.

Presbytery **VOTED** to receive the Treasurer's Report.

RECESS:

Presbytery went into recess at 3:40 pm; reconvening at 4:05 pm with the joyful singing of 'Stand Up, Stand Up to Jesus.'

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (Part II) - CRE Sandra Wagenius

Examination for Commissioning

CRE Sandra Wagenius presented RE Eunice Ahsuak for examination as a Commissioned Ruling Elder. The Utqiagvik PC session has recommended that RE Ahsuak be commissioned to serve as a Commissioned Ruling Elder at Utqiagvik PC and/or all other Presbyterian churches throughout the North Slope on an as-needed basis, and that Presbytery grant her the authority to officiate at baptisms, the Lord's Supper, marriages, and funerals under the guidance of the respective sessions and the Committee on Ministry. [By prior action of Presbytery, CREs are granted voice and vote on the floor of Presbytery.] Having completed the requisite training, RE Ahsuak met with members of CPM. The committee recommended that Presbytery proceed with the examination.

RE Ahsuak read her statement of faith (Appendix E) and answered questions from the floor on her personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and areas of instruction. Presbytery **VOTED** to arrest the examination, and Eunice was escorted out of the room. CRE Wagenius reported that appointing a mentor is crucial. COM co-moderator CRE Marjorie Poggas assured Presbytery that a mentor for Eunice would be appointed. Presbytery **VOTED** to commission Eunice Ahsuak for one year; after which time the commission may be renewed for a three-year term. RE Ahsuak rejoined the plenary session amidst applause; after which CRE Wagenius led in a prayer for Eunice. Commissioning will take place during the evening worship service.

JOINT PARISH REPORT – RE Merle Apassingok

Presbytery moderator-elect, Rev. Kim MacInnes-Green stepped in to preside while moderator Merle Apassingok presented the parish report. Appreciation was extended to former parish moderator RE Fenton Rexford for his leadership. Rev. Curt Karns was thanked for his effort and energy in inviting RE George Olemaun and RE Apassingok to a planning meeting.

Churches need more *Aarons and Hurs* to support the CREs, pastors, and elders who are working hard and suffering from burn out. There needs to be a way for villagers to share with each other. Youth especially need help. Major points addressed at Thursday's joint parish meeting, will require additional work before recommendations are brought before Presbytery:

- The Joint Parish does not want to do the work of presbytery committees, but to take the time to share their stories, to listen and discern village needs, and pass them on to the Committee on Ministry and Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
- The Joint Parish would replace the Native American Consulting Committee (NACC), which has not met in years, and take the NACC seat on the Leadership Team.
- The Joint Parish has requested that its budget line item be increased to allow one additional meeting per year.
- Anchor PC was invited to be a part of the parish.

CRE Paul Bodfish and RE Merle Apassingok were elected co-chairs; RE Miranda Rexford-Brown was elected secretary. No decision has been made on a name for the Joint Parish.

At the conclusion of the report, RE Apassingok resumed moderating the meeting.

RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

Korean Fairbanks PC – RE Jinhee Dickerson

A great joy in Jinhee's life is that all members of her family respect each other. Her prayer for the church is that all be one, salvation for all in Jesus; that people be transformed to be like Jesus. Small groups are happening to help make this happen. The congregation shares in evangelizing those who do not believe in Jesus Christ and share in the community through food and meals. RE Dickerson appreciates Presbytery's prayers and love, especially during periods of conflict. Mark Wartes was thanked for helping the session. RE Mark Wartes reported that it is wonderful to see women kneeling in prayer while session meets.

Gambell PC – RE Wanda Slwooko

The congregation of 40-50 still worships in the old building. The church is plagued with heating problems; the church trustees are laboring to keep the Toyo stoves working. Ruling elders rotate leading Sunday worship services. Construction on the new building is progressing. Wanda expressed gratitude to God for many blessings. A Baptist church in Arkansas has given Christmas gifts to the school, and a group has visited for two summers, giving haircuts and leading Vacation Bible School. This past summer men helped with repairs to the church and homes in the village.

Gambell new building project – RE Dennis Berry

Elder Berry expressed thanks to Jewel Lake Parish's Reynolds' brothers, who built and assembled panels and were instrumental in pulling together the exterior building package before the last barge of the summer left for Gambell. Four workers from Nome and four from Gambell have erected the shell; siding and roofing is being installed at this time. The mechanical and electrical design have yet to be completed.

The interior will be completed next summer, with labor provided by volunteers. Presbytery's booth at General Assembly has garnered some interest. One volunteer work team from Pennsylvania has signed up, but more teams will be needed. Teams from around Presbytery are encouraged to sign up. A significant amount of funds will be needed for the purchase and shipping of supplies required to complete the building's interior.

First Anchorage PC – RE Dennis Berry

Elder Berry expressed appreciation to Rev. Matt Schultz who has completed his first year as pastor. Prior to Matt's arrival, the church had gone through a difficult time. Rev. Schultz has organized and led discussions on very difficult topics. To have the opportunity to talk with people with very opposing views and come out still friends, is very gratifying. The building serves as home to Anchor Presbyterian Church and a Sudanese congregation. This fall the church started its second year as an Anchorage Cold Weather Emergency Shelter for families. Other local mission includes participating in F.I.S.H. and the largest one day food drive in Anchorage.

Olgonik PC (Wainwright) – no report

Rev. Henry Woodall led in the prayer for these churches.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Part 1 – Report) – RE Ida Olemaun

On the advice of the stated clerk, the committee recommended that Presbytery take action to amend previous action taken, for the purpose of correcting classes for officers and PJC members elected in February. Changing terms will bring Presbytery into compliance with Article V in the Standing Rules of Presbytery and ‘The Rules of Discipline.’

	<u>Term incorrectly reported</u>	<u>Correct term of office</u>
Moderator – RE Merle Apassingok	2017	2015
Moderator Elect – Rev. Kim MacInnes-Green	2017	2015
Permanent Judicial Commission – Rev. Matt Schultz	2017	2020
Permanent Judicial Commission – Rev. Britt Johnston	2017	2020

As previous notice was not provided, a supermajority vote was required to amend previous action. By unanimous vote, Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the recommended changes.

Vacancies

RE Olemaun presented the committee’s report. Nominations and elections are scheduled for Saturday.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (Part I) - Rev. Dean Knapp, Rev. Israel Nelson

Presbytery Discernment Policy Revisions

Rev. Dean Knapp reported that two driving forces were behind a majority of the proposed revisions to Presbytery’s current policy:

- The *Tom et. al. vs. Presbytery of San Francisco* General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission decision, which addressed the PCUSA trust clause.
- Confusion over the process used during First Fairbanks PC dismissal. The proposal divides the process into discernment and negotiating phases, each phase requiring a different set of gifts.

The proposed, revised policy was reviewed by former members of the Committee of Counsel (appointed to defend Presbytery in the remedial case filed with the Synod) and the Presbytery Board of Trustees, before presentation to Presbytery for action. Discussion followed. Presbytery **VOTED** to adopt the revised policy as presented (Appendix F). Rev. Leisa Carrick reminded the assembly of the importance of courtesy and parliamentary procedure.

DINNER RECESS

RE Mark Wartes led in a prayer prior to the dinner break at 6:15 pm.

WORSHIP

Presbytery gathered at 7:15 pm for worship and service of commissioning. CRE Sandra Wagenius and RE Beulah Nowpakahok participated in the service, with Rev. Irma Balaba delivering the message. The Scripture reading focused on Deuteronomy 30:15, 19 and Micah 2:1, 2. Rev. Leisa Carrick led the service of commissioning for RE Beulah Nowpakahok and RE Eunice Ahsuak. Members of the assembly gathered to lay hands on the newly Commissioned Ruling Elders during the prayer. Rev. Tim Carrick presided over the Lord’s Supper with New Hope ruling elder Jim Anderson assisting.

SATURDAY, October 11, 2014

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Presbytery gathered at 9:05 am for worship, with Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price leading the service of worship.

RECONVENE

Moderator RE Merle Apassingok reconvened the assembly at 9:44 am.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes from the June 7, 2014 special presbytery meeting was pulled from the consent agenda for separate consideration. Presbytery **VOTED** to adopt the consent agenda, as amended:

Action Items

1. Approve the minutes of the February 28-March 1, 2014 stated presbytery meeting, as distributed.
2. Approve the minutes of the March 15, 2014 adjourned presbytery meeting, as distributed.
3. Receive with regret, the resignation of RE Fenton Rexford who is unable to continue his service as moderator of the Joint Parish, moderator of the Native American Consulting Committee, ruling elder commissioner to Synod, member of the Presbytery Leadership Team and member of the national Native American Consulting Committee.
4. Receive with regret, the resignation of CRE Sandra Wagenius, as the moderator and member of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. CRE Wagenius is preparing to move to Oregon.
5. Receive with regret, the resignation of Ruling Elder Cathy Johnson from the Presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission.
6. Receive with regret, the resignation of Ruling Elder Paula Long, as moderator of the Committee on Representation. Family obligations prevents Elder Long from continuing to serve.

Information Provided for Reporting Purposes

1. Electronic Voting Results

- In June and by unanimous vote, Presbytery approved a request authorizing the celebration of the Lord's Supper as part of the Presbyterian's for Earthcare Regional Conference hosted by Yukon Presbyterians for Earthcare during September. According to W-3.6204, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is appropriate for any special gathering.
- In June and by unanimous vote, Presbytery approved University Community PC's (UCPC) request to grant permission for Commissioned Ruling Elder Lois Hildenbrand to administer the Lord's Supper from June 1, 2014 to September 1, 2014, while serving as pulpit supply at UCPC. The scope of Lois' commission will expand to include this newly granted authority. Lois, serving as half-time temporary pastor at New Hope Church in North Pole, was re-commissioned on June 7, 2014 at a special teleconference meeting of Presbytery.
- In July and by unanimous vote, Presbytery approved a request of the Fairbanks Korean PC congregation, on the recommendation of the church session, to sell the manse, a two bedroom condo. The primary reason for selling the property is that the manse is too small for the pastor and his family. There is no indebtedness on the property; the condo was purchased in 2012 with cash. The session is waiting for Presbytery approval before the property is listed. There are plans to purchase a larger, three bedroom condo after the manse is sold. Further presbytery action will be required to act on the purchase which will likely be partially funded with a Presbytery Hillcrest loan.

2. Correspondence

- PCUSA Budget Coordinator Christopher Nicholas wrote to express appreciation to the Leadership Team for its decision to pay the \$8,935.27 balance owed for 2012 and 2013 General Assembly per capita.
- Correspondence received from U.S. Army Lt. Col. John W. Kaiser, Jr.: "Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend Presbytery in the North Pole this weekend due to mission requirements. This would have been my last Presbytery Meeting in Alaska as my family and I prepare to move to Germany in December. I want to say it has been an outstanding experience working with the Yukon Presbytery for the last two years, even spending time together at the GA!"

I especially appreciated the opportunity to frequently worship and preach at the neighbor Presbyterian Church to JBER-Richardson, Eagle River Presbyterian Church. It was an honor to have had the

opportunity to support Piper Cartland in her ministry in a Community and Church so near and dear to our installation.

I cc'd Chaplain Larry Greenslit, who is our PCUSA Endorser for Chaplains and Military Personnel, and allows us to have such great ministry opportunities as I have had in Alaska.”

- The Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel invites the Presbytery of Yukon to support Presbyterian chaplains and their families by participating in the council’s Four Chaplains Sunday appeal.
“The story of the Four Chaplains is not only compelling in its own right but especially relevant during a time when the American public has a heightened awareness of the sacrifices made by our military members and their families – the story of the Four Chaplains highlights the faith, courage, and spirit of interfaith cooperation that chaplains are called to exhibit in caring for service members and their families.”
- The session of Kingston Presbyterian Church in Conway, South Carolina, concerned over the actions of the 221st General Assembly, requested that all presbytery commissioners prayerfully consider the effect of their votes on changing the *Book of Order*.

3. Actions of the Leadership Team

- July 12, 2014 Leadership Team regular teleconference
 - The LT accepted New Hope Church’s invitation to host the Fall 2014 Stated Meeting of Presbytery
 - 2015 Budget timeline: Given that few churches submitted pledges prior to the 2014 budget vote in February, Presbytery did not gain much by delaying the vote. The LT team approved a recommendation to revert back to scheduling the budget vote for October.
 - Business pertaining to the 2014 Fall Presbytery Meeting.
 - ‘*Abounding in Hope*’, the theme of the 221st General Assembly, was adopted as the theme of the October meeting.
 - Romans 15:13 designated as the theme verse:
*‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.’*
 - Appointed elder commissioners to Presbytery will be asked to respond to the following question during their commissioner reports. “*What is giving you hope and joy in your church, in your home, and in your community?*”
 - The LT approved a request by the PLUME (Presbyterian, Lutheran, United Methodist, and Episcopal) Outreach Ministry to expand the PLUME ministry.
 - Rev. Curt Karns, Shirley Novak, Mary Kron, Sharon Rayt, and Rev. Alice Green (if the way be clear) were appointed to a LT sub-committee to investigate ways of using funds received from the estate of Mary Jane Landstrom and Synod (in the wake of its downsizing), and bring back a proposal to the Leadership Team.
- August 20, 2014 Leadership Team Special Teleconference
 - On the recommendation of the funds distribution sub-committee,
 - The LT voted to recommend to Presbytery that all of the \$232,401.99 received as a bequest from Mary Jane Landstrom (plus accrued interest), be deposited into the Presbytery’s Mission Fund Permanent Endowment held by the Presbyterian Foundation.
 - The LT approved a recommendation that remaining balances of General Assembly per capita from 2012 (\$4,212.58) and 2013 (\$4,722.69) and any deficit of both General Assembly and Synod 2014 per capita be paid out of the \$125,549.10 Presbytery received

from the Synod. (Synod already reduced the past due Synod per capita from 2012 and 2013.)

- In regards to our policy regarding per capita, the LT voted to revert back to assuming responsibility for remitting all General Assembly and Synod per capita in a timely manner and to request that the Budget and Finance committee include the 2015 General Assembly and Synod per capita amounts in the 2015 budget.
 - The LT voted to recommend to Presbytery that the cash flow reserve be returned to \$100,000. Returning the cash flow reserve to \$100,000 will enable payment of per capita in a timely manner. The intent is that the balance of the \$125,500+ from Synod will be used to balance the budget for the next several years.
- In regards to the October Stated Meeting of Presbytery:
- Proposed Amendments to the Constitution: The Confession of Belhar and Marriage amendment will be scheduled for Saturday morning. A member of the Belhar Committee and Rev. Matthew Schultz will be asked to make the presentations, respectively.
- October 9, 2014 Leadership Team regular meeting.
- Acting as the Personnel Committee, the Leadership Team
- Voted to approve a \$1,000 bonus for Presbytery Administrative Assistant Melissa O'Malley for a job well done in trouble shooting for the earth care event and preparing for the presbytery meeting. Half of the bonus will be paid with money left over from the eco-tour
 - Recommended that Presbytery pay the 1.5% cost for family medical coverage for the exec in 2015. Recommendation will require separate action by Presbytery, as any change in the exec's compensation represents a change in terms of call.
 - Recommended that Rev. Curt Karns, treasurer Mary Kron, and Melissa O'Malley receive a 2% cost of living increase in 2015. The recommendation for the exec will require separate action by Presbytery.
 - Recommended a 25% increase in the stated clerk's salary in 2015, due to an increased workload.

4. Miscellaneous Reporting

- Moderator Appointments: RE Merle Apassingok appointed Rev. Israel Nelson, Rev. Duke Morrow, Rev. Dean Knapp, and Dawn Coggan, to a team to revise Presbytery's Discernment Policy.
- The Investigating Committee appointed in May has completed its investigation and reported that charges will be filed against a teaching elder member of Presbytery.

CONSIDERATION OF ITEM PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2014 special meeting, as amended.

2015 BUDGET (Part I) - Treasurer Mary Kron

Acting as the Personnel Committee, which needs to be re-staffed, the Leadership Team recommended two changes to the Executive Presbyter's 2015 terms of call:

- Increase salary by 2% and the pension amount accordingly. Rev. Karns requested that the 2% be allocated to cash salary rather than housing allowance.
- Pick up the equivalent of 1.5% for medical coverage of the exec's spouse. Dropping the spousal coverage would result in additional out-of-pocket expenses and thus could be seen as a cut in the exec's pay.

Presbytery **VOTED** to approve both recommendations.

The treasurer reported that the proposed budget is not sustainable; Presbytery is not even close to supporting itself.

It was recommended that the income interest line amount be increased by \$3,000 and the operating fund balance be decreased by \$3,000. Vote on the proposed budget is slated for the afternoon.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

- **Amendment 14-1: Confession of Belhar – On Amendment the *Book of Confessions* – Rev. Cynthia Holder-Rich**

Rev. Curt Karns introduced Rev. Holder-Rich, who served for two years as a member of the Special Committee on the Confession of Belhar. Via Skype, Rev. Holder-Rich provided background information and explained the rationale behind the reconsideration of adding Belhar to the *Book of Confessions*, after its defeat by presbyteries two years ago. Discussion ensued. By a majority vote, Presbytery **VOTED** to approve Amendment 14-1. Presbytery expressed gratitude to Rev. Holder-Rich for taking the time to aid Presbytery in understanding Belhar.

- **Amendment 14-F: Marriage: On Amending W-4.9000 – Rev. Matthew Schultz**

The 221st General Assembly approved an authoritative interpretation (AI) of W-4.9000, giving pastors the discretion to perform same-gender marriages in states where it is legal. The AI offered the same discretion for churches with regard to use of church property. The Authoritative Interpretation does not require the approval of presbyteries. The 221st GA approved a proposed amendment amending the text W-4.9000, which requires approval by a majority of presbyteries. Motion to postpone discussion and voting on the amendment until the next stated meeting in February, failed. Amendment discussion followed. Presbytery, via paper ballot **VOTED** to approve: Yes – 27; No – 19. The Inupiat choir sang a hymn while the ballots were counted.

LUNCH BREAK

The New Hope Church kitchen crew presented a birthday cake to celebrants REs Miranda Rexford-Brown and Samuel Ahsoak. RE Ron Illingworth led in the prayer for lunch at 12:15 pm. The moderator reconvened Presbytery with prayer at 1:15 pm. RE David Rohwer led in a prayer of healing for Samuel MacInnes-Green.

RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

Savoonga PC – RE Hogarth Kingeekuk, Jr.

Hogarth gave thanks to all for sharing God's love through people, hymns, and Scripture. This gives them hope. Occasional lock-downs scheduled for the youth provide an opportunity for youth and older ones to communicate. There have been many baptisms this year. The elders work with the families for funerals. The first time Hogarth met with a family, he didn't know what to do. His wife told him to trust the Lord and consult with other elders. The elders, along with Rev. Leisa Carrick, take Communion to those who are homebound. Hogarth is appreciative of the advice to work in twos. Hogarth gave thanks to all who contributed funds for food when the walrus didn't come. Thanks was extended to the Wasilla/Palmer group who visited to paint the church, install new skirting, and help with Vacation Bible School. The skirting will especially help to keep the building warmer this winter.

Trinity PC – RE Spencer Biegel

The congregation is experiencing a time of transition and healing; this past year has been a tough time for the session, the membership and finances. Rev. Mark Klohe serves as interim pastor. Trinity's purpose is summed up in its mission statement 'Filled up with the Holy Spirit and poured out to the community.' Many of the old programs such as Beans Café and the Rescue Mission, are continuing. New members have joined the church recently. A prayer team offers prayer after worship. Members of the congregation are invited to attend open session meetings.

Jewel Lake Parish – RE Susan Woods

Susan is grateful for surviving last winter's auto accident. 'The little church with the big heart' is working with other churches in the area to make a difference in the Sand Lake Community. The church food pantry is open to the public in the surrounding area.

Chapel in the Mountains – moderator RE Mark Wartes

Elders are doing well leading the morning service; youth/young adults lead an evening service. Rev. Keith and Sally Johnston were flown up for last spring's Jubilee celebration, with the youth leading the fund raisers. Mark asked for Presbytery's prayers and support; church elders are tired, having to do everything alone for a long time. Any temporary help with Vacation Bible School or Sunday school would be most welcome.

Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price led in the prayer for these churches.

MINIMUM WAGE INITIATIVE

Rev. Matt Schultz presented an informational report on increasing Alaska's minimum wage which will come before Alaskan voters this fall.

MISSION STATEMENT REVISITED

Rev. Curt Karns, on behalf of the committee recruited to draft a shorter, mission statement, presented its recommendation for presbytery action:

*The Presbytery of Yukon seeks to
bear witness
by caring for
and connecting local ministries
in the service of all God's creation.*

Members of the temporary committee included Rev. Curt Karns, Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price, Rev. Israel Nelson, RE Misty Jensen, and RE Shirley Novak. Presbytery **VOTED** to adopt the proposed wording. Presbytery **VOTED** to approve an amended motion to translate the mission statement into Inupiaq, St. Lawrence Island Yupik, and Korean and to include any other language represented in our presbytery.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO STANDING RULES & MANUAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONS (MAPO) – Rev. Piper Cartland, Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price

Proposed changes to Standing Rules Article X: Commissioners to General Assembly and Synod, were presented. Discussion ensued. Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the proposed changes. (Appendix G).

Presbytery **VOTED** to bring proposed, applicable provisions in the Manual of Administrative Procedures and Operations (Appendix H) into compliance with the Standing Rules.

RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

New Hope Church –RE Ron Illingworth

After three years without a called pastor, a call has been extended to Lutheran pastor (ELCA) Rev. Curt Matz. Rev. Matz will start work in the part-time position in December. Gratitude was extended to the PCUSA, United Methodist and Episcopalian Churches for providing interim leadership. Member Matt Tinkenberg, formerly of the Dutch Reformed Church, is working with Rev. Matz and exploring candidacy for ministry. The New Hope preschool has been quite successful in reaching out to the community. Several families of the preschoolers have started attending services.

Utqiagvik PC – RE Miranda Rexford-Brown

Miranda shared a scripture from Romans and asked for prayers for pastor, Rev. Duke Morrow. The church celebrated their 115th of ministry. New carpet and a new sound system and projector are other reasons to celebrate. New songbooks are in the Inupiaq language. Worship services are held on Wednesday and Sunday; two elders lead worship when there is no pastor. The number of children in Sunday school is down; older youth have moved to other churches. Teachers are in need of training. No Vacation Bible School was held in 2014. There is a small, good-sounding choir which volunteers to sing for funerals. There were many funerals and fewer weddings. Barrow radio station KBRW broadcasts a live Christian radio show Sunday evening for two hours - people share testimonies, scriptures, and songs. AA meets in the building three times a week. The congregation was pleased to send RE Samuel Ahsoak to General Assembly.

First Korean Anchorage PC – moderator Rev. Tim Carrick

Interim pastor Rev. Jin Hoon Kim left several weeks ago after serving for one year. The new pastor will be arriving from Korea after he receives his religious workers' visa.

Eagle River PC – RE Don Tybus

The church's membership is stable. Much of the church's ministry is accomplished through use of the building by AA and the Eagle River food pantry. Session is looking at ways to expand the church's ministry. Elder Tybus is grateful for the turnaround in his life and expressed gratitude to the Presbytery for hearing what he says and for the forbearance of the church in spite of differences and disagreements.

RE Ida Olemaun led in the prayer for these churches.

2015 PROPOSED BUDGET

There being no further discussion, Presbytery **VOTED** to adopt the proposed 2015 budget, as amended. (Appendix I)

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (Part II): CRE Marjorie Poggas

Recommendations for action:

1. The Committee on Ministry, having examined Lutheran (ELCA) Rev. Curt Matz via teleconference, recommended that Presbytery approve his call by New Hope Church to serve as half-time pastor beginning December 1, 2014.

Salary plus housing	\$33,465	annually
SECA	\$2,770	annually
Portica	\$15,514	annually
Pension, Disability, Life, Retire Support, Medical (Medicare is primary medical for spouse)		
Vacation	4 weeks annually	Does not accumulate
Study Leave	2 weeks annually	May accumulate for 3 years max
Worker's Compensation	full coverage paid	
Reimbursed expense – continuing education.....	\$1,500	annually
Reimbursed auto expense	\$1,000	at IRS rate
Moving expenses	\$6,000	

Presbytery **VOTED** to approve Rev. Matz's terms of call. Rev. Matz will be examined for presbytery membership at Presbytery's stated meeting in February. Installation will be scheduled at a later time.

2. To receive the report of the Administrative Commission to install Rev. Matthew Schultz as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Anchorage and to dismiss the commission with thanks.
"On Sunday, July 22, 2014 at an 11:00 am service, Rev. Matthew Schultz was installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church Anchorage. The Administrative Commission to install consisted of Rev. Curt Karns, executive presbyter and Rev. Piper Cartland of Eagle River Presbyterian Church, CRE Marjorie Poggas from Jewel Lake Parish, and Elder Marcus Geist of First Presbyterian Church Anchorage.

Rev. Wayne Nickerson delivered the message "All Things New." Rev. Karns spoke about installation, prayed and delivered a declaration of installation. The Constitutional questions to Rev. Schultz were asked by Elder John Weaver and to the congregation by Elder Marcus Geist. A charge was delivered by Rev. Matt's mother, Rev. Susan Schultz and prayer followed by Rev. Elizabeth Schultz, his wife. The service closed with sending and benediction from the newly installed Rev. Matthew Schultz."

Presbytery **VOTED** to receive the report of the AC and dismiss the commission with thanks.

3. To grant member-at-large Rev. Dr. Dean Knapp, the status of honorably retired. Presbytery **VOTED** to approve.
4. To grant member-at-large Rev. Sandy Faison, the status of honorably retired. Presbytery **VOTED** to approve.

5. To approve the recommended 2015 minimum terms of call for installed pastors. With the exception of the change pertaining to Board of Pensions family medical dues coverage which was approved in June 2014, COM has recommended that the remaining terms of call remain unchanged.

Minimum effective salary for 2014: \$57,400

Board of Pensions Core Benefits (medical/pension/death/disability) coverage. 2014 dues are 35% of effective salary. In 2015, medical dues will remain at 23 percent for members only, but will rise to 24.5 percent for members with covered partners and/or dependent children. Churches will be responsible for paying member dues and if needed, family medical dues.

Vacation - 4 weeks annually (does not accumulate).

For bush pastors, every second year an additional 2 weeks' vacation and reimbursement for a round trip by published cheapest airfare to Seattle for pastor and immediate family who reside in the manse/housing. Bush pastors are those who reside at and serve congregations located on other than a year around road or scheduled rail transportation system.

Study leave (continuing education) benefits

2 weeks each year plus \$1,500 each year of reimbursable costs (may accumulate for a 3-year maximum of six weeks and \$4,500 reimbursable costs). Study leave shall not be used in conjunction with terminal leave.

Moving expenses

Transportation for family from place of residence to calling church and return to Seattle, plus 3,000 pounds household goods and 2,000 pounds of books moved at the most economical rate available. Moving expenses may be prorated during the first 3 years of service in the Presbytery of Yukon.

Worker's Compensation – full coverage

Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the recommended 2015 minimum terms of call for installed pastors.

Information provided for reporting purposes

1. The Trinity session, with concurrence from COM, voted to extend a contract to Rev. Mark Klohe. Rev. Klohe will be providing full time interim pastoral services for the period July 15, 2014 – January 15, 2015, in accordance with the following terms of compensation:

Cash Salary	\$4,000	month
Housing Allowance	\$1,000	month
Auto Allowance	Loaner auto provided by the church	
Pension, medical coverage	\$1,750	month
Other		

Trinity will provide 3 round trip air tickets between Anchorage and Spokane
Rev. Klohe will be laboring outside the bounds of the Presbytery of Inland-Northwest, his presbytery of membership.

2. The First Korean Anchorage session, with the concurrence of the Committee on Ministry, voted to extend a contract to Rev. Johan Shin. Start date is dependent on when Rev. Shin can obtain his 'religious worker's visa. Rev. Shin will be providing full time pastoral services as a stated supply, in accordance with the following terms of compensation:

Cash salary	\$2,800	month
Fair rental value of manse	\$2,200	month
Housing expenses	utilities paid by the church	
Pension/Medical coverage	Paid	
Automobile expense	auto & fuel provided	
Professional expenses	Negotiable	
Vacation Leave	4 weeks	annual

Continuing education expense	\$1,500	annual
Continuing education leave	2 weeks	annual
Full workers' compensation insurance	Paid	

3. The Anchor session, with the concurrence of COM, voted to renew Rev. Britt Johnston's 12 hour/week temporary supply contract, for another year, in accordance with the following terms of compensation:

Cash salary	none	
Vacation and/or Study Leave	4 weeks	annual
Study Leave	4 weeks	annual
Mileage and expenses	\$6,000	

4. The Immanuel session, with the concurrence of COM voted to renew Rev. Susan Knight's 19 hour/week temporary supply contract, for another year, in accordance with the following terms of compensation:

Cash salary	\$16,300	annual
Accountable Reimbursement Arrangement	\$4,500	annual
Housing allowance	\$19,200	annual
403(b) Retirement plan (retroactive 6/1/14)	\$341.67	month
United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)		
Vacation	4 weeks	annual
Continuing Education	2 weeks/yr	may accumulate for up to 3 years
Study Leave Allowance	\$1,500/yr	may accumulate for up to 3 years

If this one-year covenant is not extended any unused time and allowance are lost.

5. The Fairbanks Korean session, with the concurrence of the Committee on Ministry, voted to renew Rev. David (Woo) S. Jeong's full time Stated Supply contract, for another year, in accordance with the following terms of compensation:

Salary	\$43,072	annual
Rental Value of Manse	\$14,328	annual
Board of Pension core benefit dues	paid	
Continuing Education expenses	\$1,500	annual
Continuing Education leave	2 weeks	annual
Vacation	4 weeks	annual
Condo fees	Paid by the church	
Auto	Use of church vehicle for church activities	
Full Workers' Compensation coverage	Paid	

6. COM granted authority for Delta ruling elders Sherry Heinbockel and Toni Lee to administer the Lord's Supper the first two Sundays of the month, in the absence of pastor CRE Richard Mauer. Both elders have received training in presiding over the Lord's Supper. (W-2.4012c).

7. Church Vacancy Report

Church	Status	PNC	Moderator
Atqasuk Chapel Kuukpik PC Olgonik PC	These three churches are seeking a shared pastor/mentor to	Appointed Summer 2014	CRE Paul Bodfish CRE Virginia Kasak CRE George Agnasagga
Chapel in the Mtns	Not seeking a pastor	-	RE Mark Wartes
Kaktovik PC	Not seeking a pastor	-	Rev. Curt Karns
Gambell PC	CRE Beulah Nowpakahok	-	CRE Beulah Nowpakahok
Savoonga PC	Not seeking a pastor	-	Rev. Leisa Carrick
New Hope Church	Awaiting arrival of Rev. Curt Matz	-	New Hope ruling elder
University C. PC	MIF approved by COM	Active PNC	RE Mark Wartes
Trinity PC	Interim pastor Rev. Mark Klohe, Not seeking a pastor at this time.	-	Rev. Mark Klohe
1 st Korean Anch.	Awaiting arrival of Rev. Johan Shin	-	Rev. Tim Carrick

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Part II) – RE Ida Olemaun

The committee's slate was entered into nomination. The moderator opened the floor for nominations. There being none, Presbytery **VOTED** to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the following

Clergy Commissioners to Synod (Class 2016)

Principal – Rev. Piper Cartland ⁽²⁾

Alternate – Rev. Leisa Carrick

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)

RE Richard Mauer ⁽¹⁾ 2016

RE Jan Burger ⁽¹⁾ 2017

Note: Terms for Synod commissioners terminate at the end of the class calendar year. Number after name indicates first or second term. The nominating committee recommended that CPM choose a temporary moderator.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Travel: The committee approved four reimbursement requests.

Resolution: Rev. Tim Carrick read the report

It is with deep gratitude and great joy that the Presbytery of Yukon, at its Fall 2014 Presbytery Meeting, has received the hospitality of New Hope Church. Truly the hospitality of the host sets the tone for the gathering. New Hope Church: Thank You!

For our leaders, we give thanks to God.

Merle Apassingok, our Moderator;

Sharon Rayt, our Stated Clerk;

Jan Burger, our Recorder;

Piper Cartland, our Pianist;

Irma Balaba, our International Peacemaker;

Curt Karns, our Executive Presbyter;

Mary Kron, our Treasurer;

Melissa O'Malley, our Administrative Assistance.

For each other gathered here in North Pole, we give thanks to God. We are on the journey of faithfulness to Christ, together.

Until we gather again at our Winter Presbytery Meeting, may we all dwell in the safety of God's compassionate hands.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next stated meeting will be February 27-28, 2015 in the Anchorage area.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm with Rev. Curt Karns leading in the closing prayer.

Sharon Rayt
Stated Clerk