Presbytery of Yukon Call to the Fall Stated Meeting & Meeting of the Corporation First Presbyterian Church 1375 E. Bogard Rd., Wasilla, AK 99654 October 6 – 8, 2022

Theme Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16 – 21

"Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life emerges! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you. How? you ask. In Christ. God put the wrong on him who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God. (Message Bible)

"From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

No longer, then, do we judge anyone by human standards. Even if at one time we judged Christ according to human standards, we no longer do so. Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come. All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also. Our message is that God was making all human beings his friends through Christ. God did not keep an account of their sins, and he has given us the message which tells how he makes them his friends. Here we are, then, speaking for Christ, as though God himself were making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf: let God change you from enemies into his friends! Christ was without sin, but for our sake God made him share our sin in order that in union with him we might share the righteousness of God.

(Good News Translation)

Presbytery Schedule

Thursday, October 6

Fully Human and Made in the Image of God Conversations on Race, Reconciliation and Restoration Begins at 9:00AM and everyone is invited

We will spend the morning together in worship, listening and discussing our present brokenness, as well as our call to reconciliation. Our morning will be punctuated with stories of how race and racial prejudice have shaped us and with songs of hope and encouragement. We will break for a long lunch provided for you here at the church. Then in our afternoon sessions you will have three options. One group will continue to focus on issues surrounding race, reconciliation, and restoration. A second group will choose leadership development and officer training as the topic. A third group will be able to learn more about stewardship and mission development with the Presbyterian Foundation. There will be two sessions of these three focus groups so you can attend two of the three topics as desired. Just like the morning our afternoon will be punctuated with stories and songs. Then at 5pm we will all gather together and speak of restoration, learn what is going on elsewhere, and discuss what it might be like here within our presbytery. Supper will be provided for everyone. At 7pm we will have

some drumming and dancing led by local people as well as a bit of a singspiration time. As with the meetings during the day, this is open to everyone in the community.

| THURSDAY SCHEDULE: | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| 9:00 - 9:30 | All together in the Sanctu | | | |

| 9:00 – 9:30 | All together in the Sanctuary - Welcome Story/Sharing Song | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|--|--|
| 9:30 to 10:30 | All together in the Sanctuary - Our Present Brokenness | | | |
| 10:30- to 11:00 | All together in the Sanctuary - Story/Sharing Song Break | | | |
| 11:00 to 12:00 | All together in the Sanctuary - Reconciliation A Biblical Calling | | | |
| 12:00 to 1:30 | Lunch is provided on site | | | |
| 1:30 to 3:00 | Focus Groups Session 1 - Three choices in three locations: | | | |
| | 1) Race, Reconciliation and Restoration (tentatively Anti-Racism Training Resources) | | | |
| | 2) Leadership Training (tentatively an in depth look at ordination vows) | | | |
| | 3) Presbyterian Foundation | | | |
| 3:00 to 3:30 | All together in the Sanctuary - Story/Sharing Song Break | | | |
| 3:30 to 4:30 | Focus Groups Session 2 - Three choices in three locations: | | | |
| | 1) Race, Reconciliation and Restoration (tentatively focus on Incarceration and Race) | | | |
| | 2) Leadership Training (tentatively on prayer and praying for the church) | | | |
| | 3) Presbyterian Foundation | | | |
| 4:30 to 5:00 | All together in the Sanctuary - Story/Sharing Song Break | | | |
| 5:00 to 6:00 | All together in the Sanctuary - Restoration Stories and Discussion | | | |
| 6:00 to 7:00 | Supper is served for everyone | | | |
| 7:00 until ??? | Fellowship, Drumming and Dancing, Singspiration | | | |
| | | | | |

| Friday, October 7 | | Saturday, October 8 | |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------|
| Check-in and Fellowship | 8:30 am | Reconvene | 9:00 am |
| Convene w/worship | 9:00 am | Adjourn | 4:00 pm |
| Dinner | . 6:00 pm | | |
| Worship/Communion Service | 7:00 pm | | |

Elder Commissioner Testimony Time

Each elder commissioner appointed by session is allotted time on the presbytery docket (agenda) to address presbytery, by responding to questions related to the meeting's theme scripture. In light of 2 Corinthians 5:16 - 21, and the ordination question, *Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors and work of the reconciliation of the world*, please respond to the questions below when you address presbytery. Please limit your responses to five minutes.

- 1. What does reconciliation mean to you?
- 2. Where do you see reconciliation happening right now?
- 3. Where would you like to see it?

Registration and travel

<u>Please submit your registration form by September 16th.</u> Call (907-276-0914) or email (<u>office@pbyukon.org</u>) the Presbytery office to make your flight reservations. *Ministers, please notify the stated clerk* (<u>sharon@pbyukon.org</u>) if you will be unable to attend.

Expenses

Meals, transportation, and lodging with church families will be provided. Anyone who chooses to stay in a hotel or use a riding share service or cab for transportation will be responsible for paying these costs.

Meeting Documents

Documents will be posted on the presbytery's website (www.pbyukon.org) as they become available. Limited copies will be available at the meeting. Please download documents to your mobile device in advance or print documents to bring with you.