

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
Ministry Commission Report to Presbytery
October 6–7 Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting

DELEGATED ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE MINISTRY COMMISSION (MC) ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY

Pastors examined and recommended by the Ministry Commission to be approved as members of Presbytery of Yukon:

- Recommended that Rev. Blake Severson be welcomed as a member of Presbytery of Yukon as interim pastor of Eagle River Presbyterian Church [June 19, 2023].
- Recommended that Evangelical Church of America (ELCA) pastor, Rev. Erika Bergh be welcomed as a temporary member of the Presbytery of Yukon with voice and vote in the presbytery meetings [June 7] while she is supply pastor at University Community Presbyterian Church.
- Recommended that Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad (KPCA) pastor, Rev. Seongjin Ryu be welcomed as a temporary member in the Presbytery of Yukon with voice and vote in presbytery meetings [July 27, 2023] while he is supply pastor at Fairbanks Korean Presbyterian Church.

Pastors dismissed to another Presbytery:

- Voted to dismiss Rev. Timothy Baranoski to Pueblo Presbytery [October 5, 2023].
- Voted to dismiss Rev. Alison Burchett to Cimarron Presbytery, if the way be clear [October 5, 2023].

2024 Minimum Terms of Call.

- The MC amended the Presbytery of Yukon's Minimum Terms of Call for called and installed pastors to conform with the 2023-2025 Book of Order. The Book of Order requires that the call includes a minimum of twelve weeks paid family medical leave. [July 27, 2023]
The added section is as follows:
Family Leave – up to 12 weeks paid family medical leave. Family Leave is defined as leave to accommodate the birth, foster placement, or adoption of a child; leave to provide care to an ill or disabled family member; and leave to heal following a loss or tragic event.
- The Ministry Commission approved a task force to review minimum terms of call for called and installed Pastors, and to develop minimum terms of call for supply pastors [October 5, 2023].

Administrative Commissions (AC)

- Fairbanks Korean. Reorganized the AC to include elder Jinhee Dickerson (Fairbanks Korean), moderator Seong Hyun Yoo (First Korean, Anchorage), and at least 2 MC members [April 2023]. Voted to add Fairbanks Korean's pastor Rev. Seongjin Ryu as a member of the AC and to move him toward moderating the AC and session when he has received proper PC(USA) polity training [October 5, 2023]
- First Korean, Anchorage. The MC appointed an AC, with members CP Debbie Melton (United Protestant Church), Elder Steve Bang (First Korean Anchorage PC), with Rev. Seung Hyun Yoo serving as moderator. [February 23, 2023]
- Chapel in the Mountains, Anaktuvuk Pass. The MC dissolved the Administrative Commission after the congregation successfully elected a session [July 27, 2023].

Covenant agreements

The MC approved action of the **New Hope Presbyterian Church** session to renew Commissioned Pastor (CP) **Mathieu Tinkenberg's** Stated Supply Contract for one year, beginning January 1,

2023. This is a part time contract for approximately 20 hours per week [April 12, 2023]. Annual compensation and benefits:

Effective Salary	
Cash Salary	\$0
Housing Allowance	\$30,000
TOTAL	\$30,000
Reimbursable Expenses (by voucher)	
Professional Expenses	To Be Determined
Continuing Education	\$1,000
Other	
Vacation Leave	2 weeks/year
Continuing Education Leave	To Be Determined
Worker's Compensation	Required

The MC approved action of the Immanuel Presbyterian Church session to renew **Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price's** Stated Supply Contract for one year, beginning January 1, 2023. This is a part time contract for approximately 28 hours per week. Annual compensation and benefits:

Effective Salary	
Cash Salary	\$5,400
Housing Allowance	\$39,600
403(b) Contribution	\$12,000
Minister's Choice Benefits allowance)	\$5,700 (10% of cash salary + housing allowance)
TOTAL	\$62,700
Other	

- Vacation Leave; 4 weeks/year. Unused vacation time cannot be cashed out at the end of the year, nor can any be carried over from year to year. If this one-year covenant is not extended for additional years, unused time is lost. Session must approve leave.
- Continuing Education Leave: 2 weeks/year and \$1,500 study leave. CE time and allowance may be banked for no more than a 3-year accumulation.
- Medical leave: 14 days
- Paid Family Medical Leave (FML): up to 8 weeks per event of paid FML may be granted if a significant life event happens to the employee or an immediate family member. Session must approve leave. Significant life events are, but are not limited to: death or debilitation of an immediate family member, significant health condition of the employee or an immediate family member, employee divorce or dissolution, etc.
- Worker's Compensation is required

The MC approved action by the **University Community Presbyterian Church** session to enter into a contract with Evangelical Lutheran Church of America pastor, **Rev. Erika Bergh** as Stated Supply Pastor for one year, beginning June 1, 2023. This is a part time contract for approximately 25 hours per week [June 7, 2023].

Effective Salary	
Cash Salary	\$19,200
Housing Allowance	\$10,800
403(b) Contribution	<u>\$12,000</u>
TOTAL	\$42,000
Reimbursable Expenses (by voucher)	
Continuing Education	\$1,500

Other

- Vacation Leave: 4 weeks/year, including 4 Sundays
- Holidays: 6 paid holidays
- Study leave (continuing education): 2 weeks per year, including 2 Sundays
- Worker’s compensation: full coverage
- Medical leave: 10 days initially, accumulating at a rate of one (1) day per month of employment.

The MC approved action of the **Eagle River Presbyterian Church** session to enter into a contract with **Rev. Blake Severson** as interim pastor for one year, beginning September 1, 2023. This is a full-time contract for approximately 40 hours per week [June 19, 2023]. Annual compensation and benefits:

Effective Salary

Cash Salary, housing and utility	\$80,000
TOTAL	\$80,000

Reimbursable Expenses

Other

Moving expenses paid by Eagle River PC	\$6,000
Moving expenses paid by Presbytery	\$4,000
Reimbursable expenses	\$2,000

- Two airline tickets from Ohio to Anchorage (using air miles)
- Pension to include medical, disability, dental and death benefit according to the PC(USA) Board of Pensions, specific coverage to be negotiated
- Vacation Leave: 28 days/year, including 4 Sundays

The MC approved action of the **Utqiagvik PC** session to renew **Rev. Joseph Reid’s** stated supply contract for one year, beginning March 23, 2023. This is a full-time commitment; however, Pastor Reid will be allowed to work quarterly from Atlanta and from Utqiagvik as the task or work requires. [July 27, 2023].

Annual compensation and benefits:

Cash Salary	\$80,000
Manse and Basic Utilities	\$23,143
Basic utilities	Paid
Board of Pensions core benefits	Paid by church
Retirement Plan, 403(b)(9)	pastor may contribute
Continuing Education (Study Leave)*	2 weeks/year, including 2 Sundays
Study Leave Reimbursement*	\$1,500
Vacation Leave**	4 weeks/year, including 4 Sundays
Sick Leave ***	Paid
Worker’s Compensation	Full Coverage
Use of Vehiclechurch vehicle provided, gas & upkeep paid by the church	
Travel Expenses to/from Atlanta: ½ paid by church as determined by session	
Moving expenses	as identified in 2016. Includes cost of

return to Seattle by air, driving, and/or ferry. Air fair shall be paid for any family living at the Manse at the time of departure. Moving expenses also include up to 3,000 pounds of household goods and up to 2,000 pounds of books moved to Barrow at the most economic rate available as well as return of such items from Barrow to Seattle at the end of the term.

* Study leave time and reimbursement may be accrued for no more than 3 years. Study leave may not be used at the end of the contract term.

** Vacation leave does not accumulate. For every second year, the pastor (as a bush pastor) has an additional 2-weeks' vacation and reimbursement for round-trip airfare by published cheapest airfare to Seattle for the pastor and any immediate family residing in the manse. Pastor Reid will have the option of having a solid one-week vacation each quarter, rather than one or two longer vacations.

*** Sick leave: 10 days initially, with additional leave accumulating at a rate of one day/month until there is a total of 90 days.

The MC approved action of the session of the **Korean Presbyterian Church of Fairbanks** to enter into contract with Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad (KPCA) pastor, **Rev. Seongjin Ryu** as stated supply pastor for one year, beginning August 6, 2023. This is a part-time contract for approximately 25 hours per week [July 27, 2023]. Annual compensation and benefits:

Annual compensation and benefits:

Cash Salary	\$30,000
Manse	Provided
Moving Expense (to Fairbanks)	\$3,000
Worker's Compensation	Required
● Housing – Provided	
● Medical – Provided	
● Pension – BOP Minister's Choice (10% of cash salary) – Provided	
● Vacation – 4 weeks including 4 Sundays	
● Study leave – 2 weeks including 2 Sundays	
● Medical Leave – 10 days	
● Utility – Provided	
● Vehicle/gas – Provided	

Ministers

- a. Entered into a temporary pastoral relationship with United Methodist Church (UMC) pastor, **Rev. Charley Brower**, to perform sacraments at PC(USA) churches on the North Slope and at University Community Presbyterian Church, as requested by IAM and by University Community session through February 2024. The relationship will be reviewed annually at the February Ministry Commission meetings [April 23, 2023].

Commissioned Pastors

- Approved commission renewal for CP Joseph Brock for 3 years and reappointed Rev. Leisa Carrick as his pastor mentor [June 7, 2023].
- Determined that Presbytery will pay for CP-in-training Vera Lincoln's flight to Anaktuvuk Pass for Commissioned Pastor polity training [April 12, 2023]. Is working to provide Vera with a Pastor Mentor, as requested (but not required) [October 5, 2023].
- Noted that the 2023 Book of Order makes it clearer that it is allowable for commissioned pastors (CPs) to be commissioned to serve in one or more ministries. For example, more than one church. If CPs and sessions desire to expand the commissioning of a CP, they should approach the Ministry Commission [October 5, 2023]

Churches

New Hope Presbyterian Church

- Approved Elder Cristina Welker to moderate the session, with the understanding that the polity of PC(USA) requires the pastor to be the moderator and that New Hope will work toward the goal of having their pastor or commissioned pastor moderate session after taking PC(USA) polity training [April 12, 2023].

Gambell Presbyterian Church

- Approved elder Deborah Apatiki to moderate session, with the understanding that the polity of PC(USA) requires the pastor or commissioned pastor to be the moderator and that Gambell will work toward the goal of having their moderator take PC(USA) polity training by February 2024, as facilitated by the Ministry Commission [April 12, 2023].

Eagle River Presbyterian Church

- Rev. Leisa Carrick was appointed acting moderator until an interim pastor is hired. UMC pastor, Rev. Todd Carter offered to assist with pastoral care until an interim is in place. Rev. Carrick agreed [April 12, 2023].
- Rev. Tim Carrick will be the Ministry Commission Liaison for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) [April 12, 2023].
- Approved Rev. Blake Severson as interim pastor [June 19, 2023]

First Wasilla Presbyterian Church

- Rev. Tim Carrick will be the Ministry Commission Liaison for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) [April 12, 2023].
- Appointed Rev. Alison Burchett as moderator of session [April 12, 2023]
- Approved the Ministry Information Form (MIF) to advertise for an interim pastor on the Church Leadership Connection website [May 9, 2023].
- Appointed Rev. Piper Cartland to replace Rev. Alison Burchett as moderator of session [October 5, 2023]

University Community Presbyterian Church

- Elder Debbie Melton will remain the Ministry Commission liaison for the PNC [April 12, 2023].
- Released Rev. Rich Mauer as the church moderator [June 7, 2023].
- Appointed ELCA pastor, Rev. Erika Bergh as the church Moderator [June 7, 2023]

Korean Presbyterian Church, Fairbanks

- Rev. Seung Hyun Yoo was appointed the Ministry Commission liaison [June 7, 2023].

Jewel Lake Parish and Trinity Presbyterian Church

- Approved the contract to yoke these two churches [June 7, 2023]

Chapel in the Mountains, Anaktuvuk Pass

- Approved elder Vera Kalik Lincoln as the session moderator [June 7, 2023]

Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church, Utqiagvik

- Appointed Elder Matthew Hobbie as MC liaison for the PNC [October 5, 2023]

Other Actions

Fall 2023 Senior Ordination Exam Reader Appointments [July 27, 2023]

Rev. Alison Burchett – principal reader

Elder Ron Illingworth – principal reader

Ruled that anyone coming to Yukon Presbytery to serve as a full-time interim/transitional pastor for a contract of one year or longer must have participated in the PC(USA)'s training for transitional pastors [April 12, 2023].

Appointed a task force to determine CP training requirements. Members include MC members Rev. Piper Cartland, Rev. Leisa Carrick. The MC is looking for volunteers who would like to be on this task force [October 5, 2023].

Appointed a task force to update the Minimum Terms of Call for installed pastors and create a Minimum Terms of Call for supply pastors. Members include MC members Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price and elder Diana Rotkis. The MC is looking for volunteers who would like to be on this task force [October 5, 2023].

Miscellaneous information

1. The stated clerk received word this year that
 - a. The ministry commission received word that Rev. Curt Karns and Rev. Charley Brower celebrated communion and baptized people at the following North Slope churches, as part of their Intergenerational Arctic Ministries (IAM) visits [April and August 2023]
 - i. Kaktovik, Easter April 9: Baptized 16 children and 2 adults.
 - ii. Atqasuk August 20: Baptized 5 children and 3 adults.
 - b. The stated clerk received word that CP Darlene Matz passed away on April 25, 2023 in Anchorage, AK. Darlene served as a lay pastor at Kaktovik Presbyterian Church for many years.
 - c. The stated clerk received word that elder Mark Wartes passed away on January 26, 2023. Mark was an active member of Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church, and was active in many ministries throughout the presbytery.
 - d. The MC noted that the Leadership Team approved funding for Rev. Curt Karns to travel to Chapel by the Mountains in Anaktuvuk Pass every 3 months to lead worship and provide the Lord's Supper.