

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
Special Teleconference Meeting
May 11, 2019

CONVENE

Moderator Beulah Nowpakahok convened the teleconference at 10:04 am. Henry Woodall led in the opening prayer.

ESTABLISH ROLL

Minister Members Present: Tim Carrick, Ellen Johnson-Price, Britt Johnston, Curt Karns, Curt Matz, Neill McKay, Johan Shin, Henry Woodall

Elder Members Present: Commissioned Pastor Joseph Brock (United Protestant Church), Susan Lundgren (Trinity PC), Commissioned Pastor Beulah Nowpakahok (Gambell PC) and Stated Clerk Sharon Rayt (Jewel Lake Parish)

Guests Present: Elder Cody Ryu. [Elder Ryu had voice at the teleconference, via a standing rule authorizing specific guests be given voice.]

All other members were excused.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present in accordance with presbytery's bylaws and G-3.0304, in that at least 10% of members and no fewer than three elders representing at least three churches and three ministers were present.

Active Members:60
Ministers present:8
Elders present4
% of active members present.....20 %

AGENDA

The special meeting was called by moderator Commissioned Pastor Beulah Nowpakahok with the concurrence of Rev. Henry Woodall, Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price, elder Jan Burger (United Protestant Church) and elder Sharon Rayt (Jewel Lake Parish), to act on business identified in the call to the meeting (Appendix A):

Ministry Commission – co-moderator Henry Woodall

- **Examination of Rev. Dale Richesin for temporary membership**
This week, the Ministry Commission (MC) received information from the Chapel in the Mountains session which will require more conversation with the session and Rev. Richesin. Given that the process needs to be slowed down, the MC recommended that this item of business be removed from the agenda. **Motion APPROVED.**

- **Discussion and voting on matters pertaining to Cody Ryu's readiness to begin ordered ministry as a Minister of Word and Sacrament**
The Ministry Commission met with preparation for ministry candidate Cody Ryu on different occasions and certified him ready for examination for ordination at last October's MC meeting. Elder Ryu has received a call from his home church in Northwest Coast Presbytery. Northwest Coast informed Yukon's stated clerk, that they did not receive enough information from us as to Cody's readiness for ministry and questioned whether candidate Ryu was properly assessed.

Sharon Rayt reported that the Ministry Commission (MC) acted on behalf of the presbytery, in accordance with its understanding of the presbytery bylaws which granted the commission oversight of inquirers and candidates. When candidate Ryu met with the MC last fall, the commission used as its basis for certifying Cody's readiness for ministry: his university background, seminary education, personal achievements, service to the Fairbanks Korean Presbyterian Church as a Commissioned Pastor, and receiving a satisfactory in areas covered by the ordination exams.

Rev. Woodall outlined for presbytery, the elements required for determining a candidate's readiness of ministry. At this meeting of presbytery, the focus was specifically on requirements identified in G-2.0607 b, c, and d.

- **b) a transcript showing graduation, with satisfactory grades, at a regionally accredited college or university.**

Cody Ryu provided a brief history of his time in the U.S., after immigrating here in December 1976. After his arrival, Cody began working and enrolled in the University of Washington nearly three years later. Candidate Ryu mentioned that his English was not all that good, and even though he did not receive good grades, he was able to complete his studies, with a business administration degree in accounting. Elder Ryu retired after a 28 year career in business. Presbytery **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** a motion accepting that because Cody Ryu received a degree from an accredited university, it means that his grades were satisfactory.

- **c) a transcript from a theological institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools acceptable to the presbytery, showing a course of study including Hebrew and Greek, exegesis of the Old and New Testaments using Hebrew and Greek and satisfactory grades in all areas of study.**

Cody Ryu attended the KPCA Northwestern Presbyterian Theological Seminary located in Tacoma Washington, receiving a Master of Divinity degree in 2015. The seminary, however, is not accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry [prior to presbytery's reorganization] expected that presbytery would need to waive this requirement. After researching Cody's seminary courses, Ellen Johnson-Price and Ron Illingworth determined that even though the seminary was not accredited, the courses were in line with what would be offered by an accredited seminary. His studies included Hebrew and Greek. Candidate Ryu received additional, post-seminary training by Rev. Jinsuk Kim, who served as mentor while Cody was preparing for the ordination exams.

Johan Shin reported that the Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad (KPCA) offers this seminary training for Korean students in the U.S. and is considered an accredited institution in South Korea. The KPCA is a denomination within the reformed tradition and is in a covenantal relationship with the PC (USA).

As the Ministry Commission's clerk, Sharon Rayt reported that there was a general consensus amongst commission members that the seminary requirement was waived, but the clerk could find no evidence that action was taken.

The presbytery **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** by amended motion that the accredited theological institution requirement be waived for the following reasons:

- Seminary training was received in Cody's native language.
 - The transcript shows that he took courses in Greek and Hebrew.
 - The Committee on Preparation for Ministry earlier affirmed that all the courses were valid.
 - Cody received post seminary, extensive training from mentor Rev. Jinsuk Kim.
 - Cody passed all the ordination examinations, proving that he does have the knowledge.
 - The PCUSA is in a sister relationship with the KPCA denomination.
 - The KPCA Northwestern Presbyterian Theological Seminary is accredited in South Korea.
- **d) examination materials, together with evaluations that declare those materials satisfactory in the areas covered by any standard ordination examination approved by the General Assembly.**

Candidate Ryu received a satisfactory on the standard Bible Content and Exegesis exams, but an unsatisfactory on the standard Worship and Sacraments, Polity, and Reformed Theology exams. After receiving the unsatisfactory evaluations, Cody reported that he was not sure what the written questions were asking and that his typing skills were slow. Mentor Jinsuk Kim had reported to the Ministry Commission that “reading the translated questions must be hard for Cody to get through the authentic intention of the questions, especially for one whose theological education was done all in Korean, and that oral examination would be a better option for Cody and would be a true test of his abilities.”

The Ministry Commission waived the requirement that candidate Ryu re-take the written standard Worship and Sacraments, Polity, and Reformed Theology ordination exams and granted approval to test Cody in these areas via an alternate means, on the grounds that oral examination would be a better test of his abilities, because of his low computer skills, language barrier, and not understanding the written questions. Candidate Ryu subsequently passed all three oral exams. The stated clerk confessed that she forgot to report in the presbytery minutes, the waiver and reasons for providing an alternate means of assessment in the three areas.

The presbytery **UNANIMOUSLY AFFIRMED** by motion that the Ministry Commission made the correct decision when it previously waived the standard ordination examinations in Reformed Theology, Worship and Sacraments, and Polity and allowed Cody to be tested in the areas of Reformed Theology, Polity, and Worship and Sacraments via alternate means, i.e., oral examination, for the following reasons:

- Low computer skills
- Language barrier
- Elder Ryu not sure what the written questions were asking
- That an oral exam would be a true test of Cody Ryu’s abilities.

The presbytery **APPROVED** a motion re-affirming the Ministry Commission’s decision that Cody Ryu is ready, pending a call, to be examined for ordination.

Exec Curt Karns expressed concern about the Ministry Commission’s responsibility on behalf of the presbytery. Although action to delegate additional, specific responsibilities to the Ministry Commission for all candidates pursuing a call is beyond the scope of the call to this meeting, presbytery directed the stated clerk to include the exec’s concerns in the minutes, for consideration in the future.

Leadership Team

Several years ago, it was suggested that presbytery adopt a rule authorizing the celebration of the Lord’s Supper at Leadership Team retreats (G-3.0301b, W-3.0410). The suggestion was never brought to the attention of presbytery for action. Presbytery **APPROVED** a motion, authorizing the celebration of the Lord’s Supper at Leadership Team retreats, provided that the Lord’s Supper be administered by a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 am with Britt Johnston leading in the closing prayer.

Sharon Rayt
Stated Clerk



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To: Presbytery of Yukon Members: Ministers, Commissioned Pastors, Elder Commissioners, Leadership Team voting members, RE Danna Larson (Certified Christian Educator), Nominating Chair RE Shirley Novak

From: Sharon Rayt, Stated Clerk

Date: April 25, 2019

RE: May 11, 2019 Called Presbytery Meeting

A called meeting of the Presbytery of Yukon will convene via teleconference on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 10:00 am. The meeting has been called by moderator Commissioned Pastor Beulah Nowpakahok with the concurrence of Rev. Henry Woodall, Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price, elder Jan Burger (United Protestant Church) and elder Sharon Rayt (Jewel Lake Parish). The agenda will be limited to the following items of business:

Ministry Commission

- Examine Rev. Dale Richesin for temporary membership in the Presbytery of Yukon. In addition to his job as principal of the Nunamiut School in Anaktuvuk Pass, Dale serves as supply pastor at Chapel in the Mountains. Rev. Richesin received his M.A. and D. Min. from the University of Chicago Divinity School, was ordained by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and has standing with the United Church of Christ. Dale did a two-year student internship at First Presbyterian Church of Chicago.

Resources to help guide our conversation with Dale:

- Statement of faith - attached
- *Questions for Examination* - accessed via the presbytery's website: www.pbyukon.org, 'About Us' tab, under resources.
- Discussion and voting on matters pertaining to Cody Ryu's readiness to begin ordered ministry as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. See G-2.0607 *Final Assessment and Negotiation for Service* and G-2.0610 *Accommodations to Particular Circumstances* for more information

Leadership Team

- Authorize the celebration of the Lord's Supper at Leadership Team retreats.

Teleconference access:

Cell call: 276-1095 or 907-276-1095

Local landline call (Anchorage/Eagle River area): 276-1095

Long distance landline in Alaska: 1-866-298-1095 (toll free)

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