

**PRESBYTERY OF YUKON**  
Special Zoom/Teleconference Meeting  
April 16, 2020

CONVENE

Presbytery moderator Piper Cartland convened the video/teleconference at 7:04 pm with an opening prayer.

ROLL ESTABLISHED

**Minister Members Present:** Tim Carrick, Piper Cartland, Ellen Johnson-Price, Luke Jones, Curt Karns, Mary Koch, Richard Koch, Curt Matz, Neill McKay, Matthew Schultz, Henry Woodall

**Elder Members Present:** *Commissioned Pastors:* Joseph Brock, Beulah Nowpakahok; *Elder Commissioners:* Candace Arlian (Immanuel PC), Kim Arlington (Eagle River PC), Meg Broste (First Wasilla PC), Muffie Durst (University Community PC), Ron Illingworth (New Hope Church); *Leadership Team members:* Dennis Berry, Bob Christensen, Debbie Melton, Molly Pederson, *Certified Christian Educator* Danna Larson, *Nominating Committee Chair* Shirley Novak, and *Stated Clerk* Sharon Rayt

**Guests:** Mary Kron, *Presbytery Financial Secretary*

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:..... 62  
Ministers present: ..... 11  
Elders present:..... 14  
% of active members present .... 40 %

AGENDA

The special meeting was called by the Leadership Team to act on business identified in the call to the meeting (Appendix A). [Items of business were not considered in the order presented in the call to the meeting.]

- Change the way that presbytery endowment interest is used for the next two years, if the way be clear.

Stewardship Committee moderator Bob Christensen introduced three funding proposals which the Leadership Team approved and recommends to presbytery for its consideration.

1. Approve a new Fund item for 2020, 'Gambell Stipends', effective July 1, 2020.
2. Allow the income from the Yukon Presbytery Permanent Endowment from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022 to be used to fund the new line item, 'Gambell Stipends.'
3. Allow up to \$48,000 from the \$100,000 in excess funds recently received from the Synod to be used in place of normal income for the presbytery budgets from Yukon's Permanent Endowment for the two-year period (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022).

The purpose of the requests:

- Allow a guaranteed income stream available to pay stipends to Gambell people working in the church.

- Allow the Presbyterian Foundation to help market this approach to its constituents whenever possible by encouraging people to contribute to the Presbytery's Permanent Endowment, including showing the Gambell Church 4-minute dedication video at the upcoming General Assembly. At this time, it was not known if General Assembly would meet as planned in Baltimore, June 20-27, 2020.

Possible positive outcomes:

- a. The Presbytery of Yukon's Endowment will grow, providing more future help to all in the presbytery.
- b. The Gambell church could find itself with its own Permanent Endowment to help provide funding for itself.
- c. The Gambell church could find an increase in direct gifts to help with its mission work.

Administration of Stipends:

By action of the Leadership Team, the stipends will be administered according to the following arrangement: The Ministry Commission, in consultation with the Executive Presbyter, the Gambell Session and others as appropriate, would determine:

- Who would receive a stipend;
- How much the stipend would be;
- When the stipend would be paid (frequency)

Funding Proposal Rationale:

For the last two years, Native Ministries has advocated for finding ways to pay commissioned pastors in the villages. Although there are possibly other churches off the road system which would benefit, this proposal is focused specifically on the Gambell church for the next two years. The Gambell church has had a high profile at the national level, having been the presbytery's primary mission focus for two consecutive General Assemblies. The Presbyterian Foundation, which videotaped the Gambell's new building dedication last year, expressed interest in marketing the church as it embarks on ministry in its new church/community center building.

Bob Christensen has had informal conversations with Gambell leaders about the concept, but not with the session. There was a consensus that presbytery's approval of the recommendations be provisional, i.e., requiring the approval of the Gambell session. Ultimately, contracts or covenant agreements would be drawn up for individuals identified as stipend recipients, which is the same mechanism employed with non-installed pastors and some commissioned pastors.

Finance administration: Endowment interest payments are deposited with the presbytery on a quarterly basis. Presbytery should receive the second quarter payment at around July 20<sup>th</sup>. Mary Kron reported that if the way is clear, presbytery would take on the responsibility of paying the stipends directly to the recipients and filing the required government and workers' compensation paperwork.

Presbytery **APPROVED** the funding recommendations, providing a way to enter into discussions with the Gambell session.

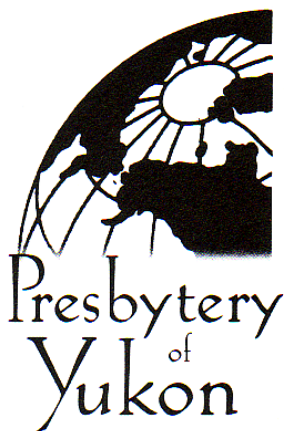
- Presbytery Response to COVID-19
  - Postponement of Hillcrest Loan Payments  
University Community PC has asked for a three-month delay on making Hillcrest Loan payments. New Hope Church is the only other church carrying a Hillcrest Loan. Motion was that Presbytery grant 6-months' worth of Hillcrest Loan forgiveness (principal + interest) effectively immediately, was **APPROVED**. This action applies to both University

- Community and New Hope church loans. It is up to the churches if they want to make payments during this time. Mary Kron reported that loans will still accrue interest on the remaining amounts.
- Consider a recommendation that presbytery provide financial assistance to churches for needs not covered by the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act.
    - Bob Christensen outlined the Leadership Team approved guidelines for churches applying for new ministry grants during the pandemic.
      - a. Grant requests under \$5,000 would be reviewed and decided by the Leadership Team, with grant requests over \$5,000 requiring the approval of presbytery;
      - b. Grant requests require the approval of session;
      - c. Grant requests should be directed to the stated clerk by whomever session appoints to submit the request;
      - d. Total cap for the grants is set at \$30,000;
      - e. Sources of funding for these grants (under the guidance of Mary Kron):
        - i. remaining money in the Synod Disbursement Fund,
        - ii. other designated funds as appropriate, e.g., Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Economic Injury Disaster Loan, other special funds, etc.
    - On the recommendation of the Stewardship Committee, the Leadership Committee did not see a need right now to provide financial aid to churches and suggested that support be put on hold. A handful of churches have applied for aid under the CARES Act, so it would be best to wait until federal monies have been distributed. If a need is identified at a later time, presbytery is willing to partner with churches. Motion to concur with the recommendation was **APPROVED**.

#### ADJOURN

Participants were asked to share one word which tells how they were feeling at the moment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm with the moderator leading in the closing prayer and all saying the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Sharon Rayt  
Stated Clerk



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To: Presbytery of Yukon Members: Ministers, Commissioned Pastors, Elder Commissioners, Leadership Team, RE Danna Larson (Certified Christian Educator), Nominating and Representation committee chairs.

From: Sharon Rayt, Stated Clerk

Date: March 31, 2020

RE: April 16, 2020 Called Presbytery Meeting

A called meeting of the Presbytery of Yukon will convene via video/teleconference on Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm. The meeting has been called by action of the Presbytery's Leadership Team. The agenda will be limited to the following items of business:

- Presbytery Response to Covid-19
  - Consider a recommendation that the Presbytery provide financial assistance to churches for needs not covered by the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act. Details and conditions will be fined tuned at a meeting of the Leadership Team on April 13<sup>th</sup> and compiled into a final report for presbytery's consideration.
  - Postponement of Hillcrest Loan payments
- Change the way that endowment interest is used for the next two years, if the way be clear.

***Video/teleconference access***

To join on the web for video conferencing: <https://zoom.us/j/7959606340>

To join by phone, for audio-only conference call, select one of these three options:

+1-669-900-9128, (Zoom number) OR

907-276-1095 (Presbytery conference call number, you will be linked in) OR

1-866-298-1095 (Toll Free conference number for land lines in Alaska, you will be linked in)

If calling in, you will be asked for the meeting's ID: 795 960 6340#

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