

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
Special Zoom/Teleconference Meeting
December 4, 2021
DRAFT MINUTES

CONVENE

Presbytery moderator Denny Berry convened the video/teleconference at 10:04 am with Elizabeth Schultz leading in the opening prayer.

ROLL ESTABLISHED

Minister Members Present: Leisa Carrick, Piper Cartland, Ellen Johnson-Price, Luke Jones, Dean Knapp, Richard Mauer, Israel Nelson, Joseph Reid, Elizabeth Schultz, Matthew Schultz, Henry Woodall

Elder Members Present: *Church Elder Commissioners:* Joanne Bennett (Jewel Lake Parish), Elsie Eckman (Immanuel PC), Ron Illingworth (New Hope Church), Billy Kenton (Utqiagvik PC), CP Mary Ellen Lucas (Delta PC), John Russell (Trinity PC); *Commissioned Pastors (CP)* Beulah Nowpakahok (Gambell), Debbie Melton (United Protestant), Matt Tinkelenberg (New Hope); *Other elders enrolled* - Dennis Berry, Jan Burger, Shirley Novak, Sharon Rayt

Guests: Rev. Alison Burchett, Rev. Seung Hyun Yoo, Gayla Dugger (Trinity PC)

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:..... 57
Ministers present: 11
Elders present:..... 13
% of active members present.... 42 %

AGENDA

The special meeting was called by moderator Dennis Berry, with the concurrence of Rev. Leisa Carrick, Rev. Henry Woodall, elder Jan Burger (United Protestant Church) and elder Shirley Novak (First Wasilla PC) to act on business identified in the call to the meeting

Ministry Commission recommendations – Debbie Melton

- That Rev. Seung Hyun Yoo be examined for membership in the Presbytery of Yukon. Rev. Yoo has been called by First Korean Presbyterian Church in Anchorage to serve as installed pastor beginning December 1, 2021. The Ministry Commission examined Rev. Yoo and has concurred with calling Seung Hyun Yoo. He was ordained in South Korea on April 18, 2007 and is a member of the Presbytery of San Francisco (PCUSA). Rev. Yoo read his statement of faith and responded to questions from presbytery. Motion to receive Rev. Seung Hyun Yoo as a member of the Presbytery of Yukon was **APPROVED** without objection. The transfer is conditional on his membership release from the Presbytery of San Francisco. Rev. Leisa Carrick led in a prayer for Rev. Yoo.

- [In accordance with G-1.0502] that presbytery call a special meeting of the Trinity Presbyterian Church congregation for the purpose of electing an elder for the purpose of increasing the number of elders on session to the minimum required by Trinity's bylaws. Time is critical as session will be required to approve Rev. Alison Burchett's proposed stated supply contract. Motion to call a special congregational meeting for Sunday, December 5th during worship, was **APPROVED** without objection. The worship service will briefly pause for the meeting, to be moderated by Piper Cartland. Worship will recommence at which time the elder will be installed.

- That Rev. Alison Burchett be examined for membership in the Presbytery of Yukon. If the way is clear, Rev. Burchett will serve Trinity PC as their stated supply pastor starting January, 3, 2022. She has been examined by the Ministry Commission, which has approved her proposed contract. Alison was ordained by Cimarron Presbytery on October 2, 2021 and currently serves as an interim pastor in Enid, Oklahoma. Rev. Burchett read her statement of faith and responded to questions from presbytery. Motion to receive Alison Burchett as a member of the Presbytery was **APPROVED** without objection. The transfer is conditional on contract approval by session and membership release from Cimarron Presbytery. Leisa Carrick led in a prayer for Rev. Burchett.

To enable presbytery to respond and support churches in the future on a timelier basis, the Ministry Commission further recommends:

- That the Ministry Commission be granted authority to call congregational meetings on behalf of the presbytery. G-1.0502 grants presbyteries the authority to call congregational meetings. Motion was **APPROVED** without objection.
- That the Ministry Commission be given the authority to appoint an Administrative Commission with the full powers of a session, as an act in support of a church which does not have a legally constituted session as defined by the Book of Order and/or church bylaws. Administrative Commission members should include remaining elders on session. Motion was **APPROVED** as amended (replacing *should* with *shall* in the last sentence) and without objection.

These two motions will be added to the Ministry Commission's list of delegated duties as delineated in Presbytery's Standing Rules. Given that the time between stated presbytery meetings is so long, it was suggested that presbytery be informed of the more important actions taken on behalf of the presbytery by the Ministry Commission.

Nominating Committee – Shirley Novak

Of the six General Assembly commissioner/Young Adult Advisory Delegates (YAAD) positions, five remain unfilled. Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price was elected in October as the Principal Minister Commissioner. On behalf of the committee, Shirley Novak presented the following slate of nominees:

General AssemblyAlternate Minister CommissionerRev. Neill McKay
General AssemblyPrincipal Elder CommissionerCP Mary Ellen Lucas (Delta PC)
General AssemblyPrincipal YAAD.....Penelope Hobbie (Eagle River PC)

There were no nominations for General Assembly Alternate Elder Commissioner and Alternate YAAD. The floor was open for nominations. There being none, motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot was **APPROVED** without objection.

Stated Clerk's Report

- Action Request
That presbytery directs the stated clerk to submit a report of church records reviewed by the end of the year and to attach the report to these minutes. Motion was **APPROVED** without objection.
- Correspondence Received
At its October 20, 2021 meeting, the Synod of Alaska-Northwest approved the distribution of remaining cash and Presbyterian Foundation earnings (based on donor restrictions) to its presbyteries. The Presbytery of Yukon's share is to be used in accordance with the following Foundation restrictions:
 - \$168.25: Housing Ministry Fund - for housing ministry or homeless ministries within bounds of the presbytery

- \$86.73: Mission Fund (NMPF) - for mission needs, as determined by your presbytery
- \$141.19: Elias Foundation (0028) - Christian Education within Synod for scholarship or program, where need is greatest.
- \$2,047.26: Armenta Merchant Fund (0676) - mission support for small congregations in Alaska; consult with presbytery within Alaska. Allocated same way as Elias.
- \$437.57: Armenta Merchant Fund (5348) - for small congregations and missions in Alaska
- \$121.92: Janette Hansen Fund - camps in your presbytery
- \$164.10: Underwood Fund - aviation mission within Synod/Alaska/Yukon travel
- \$592.88: Morris Evangelism Fund – evangelism focus
- \$151.84: Schaffer Family Foundation – as determined by presbytery leadership.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Dennis Berry announced that Jan Burger was elected Synod moderator.

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 11:14 am with Luke Jones leading in the closing prayer.

Sharon Rayt
Stated Clerk

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE CHURCH RECORDS' REVIEW
Submitted with the minutes of the December 4, 2021 Special Meeting

In accordance with G-3.0108a, presbytery is responsible for reviewing the proceedings and actions of all PCUSA churches within its jurisdiction. In reviewing the procedures, the presbytery shall determine whether the proceedings have been correctly recorded, been prudent and equitable, and faithful to the mission of the whole church.

The on-going pandemic and other factors necessitated that clerks-of-session review their church's session/congregational minutes and church registers in 2021. Major omissions noted in the reviews:

Delta Presbyterian Church:

Minutes reviewed: 1/31/21 – 11/13/21. No major exceptions were noted.

Eagle River Presbyterian Church

Minutes reviewed: 1/29/21 – 12/6/21. Major exceptions noted:

- No financial review was conducted. [G-3.0113]
- Session did not review the membership rolls. [G-3.0201c]

First Presbyterian Church, Anchorage

Minutes reviewed: unknown. Major exceptions noted:

- No financial review was done – audit committee was inactive. [G-3.0113]
- The Lord's Supper was not celebrated quarterly. According to the clerk of session, Covid was a major disruptor to the celebration of Communion [G-3.0201b]
- Ruling elders and deacons were not properly instructed and examined. [G-3.0201c]

First Presbyterian Church, Wasilla

Minutes reviewed: 1/17/21 – 12/12/21. Minutes were reviewed by the presbytery stated clerk. Major exceptions noted:

- No indication that a review of financial records had been done. [G-3.0113]
- No indication that session had reviewed the membership roll. [G-3.0201c]

Jewel Lake Parish

Minutes reviewed: 12/14/20 – 11/18/21. Major exception noted:

- No financial review was documented in the minutes [G-3.0113]

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Minutes reviewed: 8/4/20 – 12/5/21: Major exceptions noted:

- Session did not officially review the membership rolls. [G-3.0201c]

University Community Presbyterian Church

Minutes reviewed: 1/21/21 – 12/4/21. No major exceptions were noted.

Session and congregation meeting minutes not reviewed in 2021:

Anchor PC (congregation inactive, no session)	Kaktovik PC
Atqasuk Chapel (unknown if there is a session)	Kuukpik PC (no session)
Chapel in the Mountains (no session)	New Hope PC
Fairbanks Korean PC	Olgonik PC
First Korean Anchorage PC	Savoonga PC (no session)
Gambell PC	United Protestant Church
Immanuel PC	Utqiagvik PC