

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
FALL 2020 STATED MEETING/MEETING OF THE CORPORATION
Virtual Meeting
October 5 – 11, 2020

*“I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong,
That is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.”*

Romans 1:11-12 (NIV)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 (Plenary session 1)

OPENING SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Presbytery opened with worship at 7:05 pm led by Rev. Piper Cartland and Rev. Henry Woodall providing the music.

CONVENE

Moderator Rev. Piper Cartland convened the fall meeting at 7:26 pm. Participants joined via videoconference or phone, for audio only. The worship service served in lieu of the opening prayer.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The moderator declared a quorum. In accordance with G-3.0304 and bylaw provisions, elders representing at least three churches, three ministers and a minimum of 10% of members present constitutes a quorum.

Presbytery membership (active ministers + elders)..... 58

Plenary session 1 attendance:

Number of minister members present: 11

Number of elders enrolled and present (representing 17 churches) 23

Percentage of members present..... 59 %

INTRODUCTIONS

First time elder commissioners, ministers, and guests were introduced. In accordance with the standing rules, guests presenting reports and providing expertise are granted voice on the floor of presbytery.

ROLL

The roll consisted of members present at any of the plenary sessions and regional meetings, via the internet or audio.

Ministers of Word & Sacrament members present (15)

Leisa Carrick – <i>co-pastor, United Protestant Church</i>	Timothy Carrick – <i>co-pastor, United Protestant Church</i>
Piper Cartland – <i>pastor, Eagle River PC</i>	Wendy Christianson – <i>assistant pastor, Utqiaġvik P</i>
Ellen Johnson-Price – <i>supply pastor, Immanuel PC</i>	Britton Johnston – <i>temporary supply, Anchor PC</i>
Luke Jones – <i>pastor, Jewel Lake Parish</i>	Curt Karns – <i>executive presbyter</i>
Richard Mauer – <i>pastor, Delta PC</i>	Neill McKay – <i>pastor, University Community PC</i>
Curtis Matz – <i>pastor, New Hope Church</i>	Dale Richesin – <i>supply pastor, Chapel in the Mtns</i>
Matt Schultz – <i>pastor, First Anchorage PC</i>	Johan Shin – <i>member-at-large</i>
Henry Woodall – <i>pastor, First Wasilla PC</i>	

Commissioned pastors (CP) present (6)

Merle Apassingok – <i>Gambell PC</i>	Joseph Brock – <i>United Protestant Church</i>
Darlene Matz – <i>Kaktovik PC, New Hope Church</i>	Beulah Nowpakahok – <i>Gambell PC</i>
Marjorie Poggas – <i>Jewel Lake Parish</i>	Matt Tinkelenberg – <i>New Hope Church</i>

Churches represented by an elder commissioner (14)

Anchor PC – <i>Renee Savage</i>	Delta PC – <i>Mary Ellen Lucas</i>
Eagle River PC – <i>Kim Arlington</i>	First Anchorage PC – <i>Diana Rotkis</i>

First Wasilla PC – *Bob Christensen*
Jewel Lake Parish – *Susan Woods*
New Hope Church – *Ron Illingworth*
Trinity PC – *Susan Lundgren*
University Community PC – *Lucile Hackett*

Immanuel PC – *Elsie Eckman*
Kaktovik PC – *Ida Angasan*
Olgonik PC – *Cora Akpik*
United Protestant Church – *Jan Burger*
Utqiagvik PC – *Elsie Itta*

Other elder voting members present (6)

Dennis Berry – *Leadership Team*
Danna Larson – *Certified Christian Educator*
Shirley Novak – *moderator, Nominating Committee*

Connie Irrigoo – *Leadership Team*
Debbie Melton – *Leadership Team*
Sharon Rayt – *Stated Clerk*

Minister members excused/absent

Timothy Baranoski – *Army chaplain*
Sandy Faison – *honorably retired*
Dan Ketchum – *honorably retired*
Israel Nelson – *honorably retired*
Youl Rhee – *honorably retired*
Elizabeth Schultz – *member-at-large*

Patrick Bracken – *Army chaplain*
Alice Green – *honorably retired*
Dean Knapp – *honorably retired*
William Ng – *honorably retired*
Joseph Reid – *stated supply pastor, Utqiagvik PC*

Churches not represented by an elder commissioner

Atqasuk Chapel
Chapel in the Mountains
Gambell PC
Savoonga PC

Fairbanks Korean
First Korean Anchorage PC
Kuukpik PC

Other voting members excused/absent

CP Mark Ahsoak – *Utqiagvik PC*
CP Paul Bodfish, Sr. – *Atqasuk Chapel*
CP Virginia Kasak – *Kuukpik PC*

Elder Lucy Apatiki – *Leadership Team*
CP Leah Hathaway – *Jewel Lake Parish*
CP Paul Bodfish – *Atqasuk Chapel*

Guests and staff granted voice

Mary Kron – *Presbytery Financial Secretary*
Rev. Rob Hagan – *Regional Ministry Relations Officer, Presbyterian Foundation*
Rev. Mark Frey – *Regional Consultant, Board of Pensions*
Randy Hoffbeck – *Temporary pastor, Trinity PC*
Karl Mattison – *Presbyterian Foundation*

Other registered guests

Elder Paula Long – *University Community PC*
Elder Maxine Nayakik – *Olgonik PC*
Jennifer Pottinger – *Candidate for Ministry, New Hope Church*

INTRODUCTION/EXPECTATIONS FOR A VIRTUAL MEETING

Leadership Team (LT) co-chair Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price described how presbytery got to this place and the amount of work that was involved in planning for a virtual meeting. The moderator highlighted the ten commandments of Zoom, stressing that our focus be on connection, rather than perfection.

CELEBRATION

Presbytery took a few minutes to wish Rev. Henry Woodall a happy birthday.

OPENING BUSINESS

- **Bylaw Amendments:** In accordance with the bylaws, amendments to the bylaws were distributed with the call to the meeting. Motion to adopt was **APPROVED** as presented. (Appendix A)
- **Standing Rules for Conducting a Virtual Meeting:** Motion to adopt was **APPROVED**, as presented. (Appendix B)
- **Adoption of the Docket:** The docket was **APPROVED** as amended. Per the standing rules, the moderator is granted the authority to adjust the docket as needed.

MODERATOR APPOINTMENT

Resolutions: Rev. Wendy Christianson, CP Matt Tinkelenberg

INTRODUCTIONS

First time elder commissioners, ministers, and guests were introduced. In accordance with the standing rules, guests presenting reports and providing expertise were granted voice on the floor of presbytery.

ELDER COMMISSIONER TESTIMONIES

United Protestant Church – Elder Jan Burger

Olgonik Presbyterian Church – Elder Cora Akpik

Trinity Presbyterian Church – Elder Susan Lundgren

Eagle River Presbyterian Church – elder Kim Arlington

Rev. Henry Woodall led in the prayer for these churches

FELLOWSHIP TIME – Rev. Henry Woodall, facilitator

Presbytery took time out from its business to participate in a puzzle guessing game.

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION – Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price

The committee reviewed the nominating report and found that it was in order, with no further comments. Ellen went on to describe the committee's work.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE Part I: Reporting only – Elder Shirley Novak

The report of names to be placed into nomination at a later plenary session, was presented.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Rev. Curt Matz and elder Susan Lundgren presented reports on the virtual 224th General Assembly.

RECESS FOR THE DAY

Presbytery recessed for the day at 8:42 pm, with Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price leading in prayer.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

Road System members met for its semi-annual meeting at 7:00 pm.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Native Ministries members met for its regional meeting at 7:00 pm.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 (Plenary session 2)

CONVENE

Rev. Piper Cartland called the day's session to order with an opening prayer at 7:05 pm.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The moderator declared a quorum.

Presbytery membership (active ministers + elders).....	58
Plenary session 2 attendance:	
Number of minister members present:	13
Number of elders enrolled and present (representing 17 churches)	24
Percentage of members present.....	64 %

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

A typo and duplicate entry in the clerk's report were noted.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

There being no objections, recommendations on items 1 – 6 were **APPROVED** collectively:

1. Approve the minutes of the February 28-29, 2020 Winter Stated Presbytery Meeting, as distributed.
2. Approve the minutes of the April 16, 2020 Special Presbytery Meeting, as distributed.
3. Approve the minutes of the June 29, 2020 Special Presbytery Meeting, as distributed.
4. Amend the minutes of the Fall 2018 Stated Meeting, Ministry Commission section as follows: Add another bullet point under item # 5: Other Ministry Commission Actions, to read: *Appointed Rev. Tim Carrick and Elder Ron Illingworth as readers of the fall 2018 ordination exams.* Taking this action will remedy a deficiency noted in the Synod's review of the presbytery's 2018 minutes.
5. Direct the stated clerk to submit a complete report of church records reviewed by the end of the year and to attach the report to these minutes. (Appendix C)
6. To include in the record, the review of presbytery's 2019 financial records (Appendix D)

INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE MINUTES

Correspondence

1. The Presbytery's Paycheck Protection Program loan application was one of the very last approved before the first batch of money ran out. The presbytery received \$30,687 through First National Bank of Alaska. This allowed the presbytery to cover payroll for 8 weeks at a time when some of our churches found it more difficult to provide financial support to the presbytery.
2. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance approved our COVID-19 emergency grant request for \$7,500 to help meet unmet needs for those most vulnerable and severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Received the resignation of Leadership Team co-chair elder Molly Pederson, with regret.
4. Eagle River Presbyterian Church reported that the church did not need the \$170,000 bridge loan approved by presbytery on June 29th, because the insurance money came through in a timely manner.
5. Received notice from the North Slope Borough (NSB) that the religious exemptions for the following properties will be removed beginning in tax year 2021, because the properties are currently not in compliance with Alaska statute 29.45.030(a)(3) and the North Slope Borough's Municipal Code 3.25.60(b) 'properties used exclusively for nonprofit religious . . .
 - o Plat 87-13 Blk 16 Lot 7A (544 Main St.), Wainwright, property ID: R-002-061-02
 - o Plat 85-1 Tract D (2031B Barter Ave), Kaktovik, property ID: R-011-111-04
 - o Plat 86-18 Blk 9 Lot 8 (430 Contact Rd), Anaktuvuk Pass; property ID: R-043-171-05[The decision affecting the aforementioned properties in Anaktuvuk Pass and Kaktovik have been appealed. The manse in Anaktuvuk Pass is vacant, but will house the Chapel in the Mountains youth director once electrical repairs have been made. The manse in Kaktovik is rented to the NSB School District.]

Leadership Team Actions

The Leadership Team serves as the presbytery's Board of Directors/Trustees. A full electronic record of past proceedings is in the process of being created and preserved. During the pandemic, electronic or hard copies may be obtained from the stated clerk.

Corporation Business

6. Annual election of corporation officers: Ellen Johnson-Price as President; Dennis Berry as Vice-President, Sharon Rayt as Secretary, and Joseph Brock as Treasurer. [March 31, 2020]
7. Approved the corporate document signing (Certificate of Incumbency) resolution. [March 31, 2020]
BE IT RESOLVED, that Ellen Johnson-Price, the President; Dennis Berry, the Vice-President; Sharon Rayt, the Secretary; or Joseph Brock, the Treasurer, is authorized and empowered on behalf of the corporation:
 - *To sign any and all documents, conveyances, earnest money agreements, escrow instructions, closing statements, mortgages, hypothecations, promissory notes and any such other instruments in writing of whatsoever kind or nature that may be deemed necessary and proper to sell, convey, mortgage, encumber and manage any property owned by the Corporation;*
 - *To sign a guarantee of repayment of principal and interest as required by lenders on loans of PCUSA churches within the bounds of the Presbytery of Yukon;*
 - *To affix the corporate seal thereto as may be required.*

8. Reviewed and approved the presbytery's *Distribution of Investment Earnings Policy*, as amended [March 31, 2020]

Based on the consideration of the following goals:

- *An adequate reserve is kept to insulate against market loss.*
- *Some funds need to be "inflation proofed" or we have an obligation for a grant to receive interest.*
- *Long term, we hope to be able to help fund operations with earnings from investments*

The following funds receive monthly interest at the rate of the highest interest Mission Development Certificate held (2%, effective March 31, 2020).

- *Hillcrest Loan Fund*
- *Property Maintenance and Insurance Fund*
- *Lay Leadership Training (Earl Jackman)*
- *Internship Fund (Mathes)*
- *Heiserman Grant*
- *Morris Evangelism Fund Grant*
- *Merchant Fund Grant*

The Undistributed CF Earnings and the Gains minus fees Funds be combined to form one reserve against market loss. All earnings and gains not distributed to the above funds to go into this fund until it reaches 15% of the monies invested in the market.

9. Adopted a Workplace Safety Policy: If the presbytery has a workplace safety program in place, it may qualify for a 3% premium credit in recognition of its loss prevention efforts. The adopted policy applies to presbytery employees and to teams working on village churches. [March 31, 2020]

'The safety and health of employees is an important business consideration for the presbytery. No employee will be required to do a job that they consider unsafe. The presbytery will attempt to

comply with all applicable OSHA workplace safety and health requirements and maintain occupational safety and health standards.

The Presbytery pledges to do the following:

- *Strive to achieve the goal of zero accidents and injuries.*
- *Attempt to provide mechanical and physical safeguards wherever they are necessary.*
- *Enforce presbytery safety and health rules and require employees to follow the rules as a condition of employment.*
- *Investigate accidents to determine the cause and prevent similar accidents.*

Managers, supervisors, and all other employees share responsibility for a safe and healthful workplace.

- *The Leadership Team (LT) is accountable for preventing workplace injuries and illnesses. The Leadership Team will consider all employee suggestions for achieving a safer, healthier workplace. The LT will also be kept informed about workplace safety-and-health hazards and regularly review the presbytery's safety and health program.*
- *Supervisors are responsible for supervising and training workers in safe work practices, where ever practical.*
- *Supervisors should enforce presbytery rules and ensure that employees follow safe practices during their work.*
- *Employees are expected to immediately report hazards, unsafe work practices, and accidents to supervisors, and wear required personal protective equipment, if necessary.'*

Pandemic Related Business

10. Financial

Approved Stewardship Committee recommendations related to providing financial support during the pandemic. [March 31, 2020]

- That all churches with paid employees apply for a Paycheck Protection Program loan.
- That presbytery provide technical support to churches applying for loans. First Anchorage PC elder Diana Rotkis, Rev. Joseph Reid, and Mary Kron were appointed to the support team.
- That presbytery provide financial aid to churches during the crisis.
- That presbytery provide grants for new ministry aimed at providing aid to people in need during the pandemic. Grant requests up to \$5,000 would be reviewed and decided by the Leadership Team, with grant requests greater than \$5,000 requiring the approval of presbytery.

Ministry Grant Guidelines [Apr 13, 2020]

- Grant requests require the approval of session;
- Grant requests should be directed to the stated clerk by whomever session appoints to submit the request;
- Sources of funding for these grants (under the guidance of financial secretary Mary Kron):
 - a. Remaining money in the Synod Disbursement Fund,
 - b. Other designated funds as appropriate, e.g., Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, other special funds, etc.

Covid-Ministry Grant Requests Approved

- Trinity PC - \$2,000 to fund a mask ministry. Members of Trinity sewed cotton masks for groups that requested them, e.g., fire fighters, paramedics, clinics, businesses, individuals. [electronic vote - April 8, 2020] Grant funding source: Synod Disbursement Fund
- First Anchorage PC - \$2,000 for up to three televisions and gift cards to be used for the Municipality of Anchorage's second homeless shelter where people under isolation and

quarantine are being housed during the pandemic. The \$10 grocery gift cards were used as an incentive to encourage people to stay in the isolation/quarantine shelter. [electronic vote - April 11, 2020]

- Bean's Café homeless Shelter: Purchase of a 65" television. The presbytery exec responded to a time-sensitive request from the Municipality of Anchorage, soon after the shelter opened at the Sullivan area. Rev. Karns was reimbursed for this purchase. This does not duplicate a later request for televisions received from the municipality. Eagle River also provided a television for the shelter which the church was not using. [Apr. 13, 2020] All television grants funding source: Housing Ministry Fund plus Synod Disbursement Fund.
- University Community PC - \$1,500 for supplies for the church's 'hygiene closet.' The church has hosted the closet ministry for many years but due to the pandemic the need has been overwhelming. The hygiene kits will be distributed through the Food Bank distribution network in Fairbanks. [electronic vote - April 22, 2020]
- First Wasilla PC - \$3,000 to be shared equally among three groups: *My House* which feeds homeless youth, *Mat-Su Food Bank* which feeds child and youth through their Food 4 Kids Program, and *Kids Cupboard* which also feeds youth and children in the community. Funding Source: COVID-19 Ministries Grants' Fund, which was funded by the \$7,500 grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- Bingle Memorial Camp – \$4,500 to cover costs of a family camp program. The camp has curtailed most of its operations this summer because of the pandemic, but the camp board wanted to offer the camp facilities to family groups. Families will be asked to give a donation, but it was expected that the grant would cover the remaining food, staff, and supplies costs. Funding Source: Hansen Camp Fund, with the remainder from the Armanta Merchant Fund (for small congregations and missions in Alaska). [June 8, 2020]

11. Re-opening Mitigation Plans

Acted to require sessions to submit a mitigation plan to the presbytery on the Friday prior to the first gathering, for the purpose of assuring presbytery that an approved plan is in place. The LT proposed a list of questions to be sent to sessions to consider when developing the mitigation plan. [Apr. 28, 2020].

Church Mitigation plans received to date:

- Chapel in the Mountains, Anaktuvuk Pass
- Delta Presbyterian Church
- First Presbyterian Church, Anchorage
- First Presbyterian Church, Wasilla
- New Hope Church
- Trinity Presbyterian Church
- University Community Presbyterian Church
- United Protestant Church

Miscellaneous Actions

12. The Leadership Team endorsed the Point Hope Youth Congress and provided \$100 in funding from the Peacemaking Fund. The group's organizers sought an endorsement and funding of the event from various groups and denominations. The congress is a week-long conference for a select group of students from Alaska and nuclear impacted countries. The goal is to empower young Alaskans with the leadership skills necessary to build an enduring statewide movement that can bring Alaska-specific

concerns and insights into the ongoing efforts of national and international organizations dedicated to the global elimination of nuclear weapons. [March 31, 2020]

13. Actions regarding the fall 2020 stated meeting of presbytery. [July 30, Aug. 25, 2020]
 - a. Recognizing that the pandemic had not abated, the LT decided that presbytery would meet virtually using the Zoom platform for the meetings.
 - b. Designated October 5 – 12th as the dates for the stated meeting.
 - c. Designated Romans 1:11-12 as the theme verse: *I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong, that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. (NIV).*
 - d. Designated elder commissioner questions
 1. How are you staying connected?
 2. What would you say to encourage us?
 - e. Invited all churches within the presbytery to participate in the closing worship service which will be broadcast on Facebook and YouTube.

14. Regarding New Hope Church's request for financial assistance [Aug. 25, 2020]:
 - o Give New Hope Church \$3,150/month to pay the pastor's salary and housing for the remainder of the year. The \$3,150 will be run through the presbytery budget.
 - o Recommended that presbytery defer New Hope's mortgage payments and interest accumulation, beginning September 1st for the rest of the year.

The church is required to provide monthly financial reports and a plan for continuing into the future. The Alaska United Methodist Conference was invited to participate in this venture to help the union church.

15. Appointed elder Jan Burger to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of LT co-chair Molly Pederson (class 2023). [Sept. 22, 2020]

16. Delayed the Gambell stipend until 2021 and approved returning the stipend's \$12,000 back into the 2020 budget. [Sept. 22, 2020].

17. The Leadership Team acted on two recommendations pertinent to Native Ministries. [Sept. 22, 2020]
 - A. Affirmed the decision to cancel in-person worship and funerals in Nuiqsut, except for graveside services. The church no longer has a functioning session, and there is no official Administrative Commission to assist. The only session member left in town was uncomfortable making a unilateral decision on how to proceed during Covid restraints. The LT's affirmation would give the elder backup when people ask about these decisions.

 - B. Asked Native Ministries or a subset thereof, to consider serving as an Administrative Commission for churches that do not have fully functioning sessions.

Representation of the Leadership Team

Name	TE	Elder	Male	Female	Region	Position
Ellen Johnson-Price	X			X	Road System	LT Co-chair
Jan Burger		X		X	Road System	LT Co-chair, Synod commissioner
Piper Cartland	X			X	Road System	Presbytery moderator
Dennis Berry		X	X		Road System	Presbytery moderator-elect
Connie Irrigoo		X		X	Native Ministries	Native Ministries moderator

Lucy Apatiki		X		X	Native Ministries	Native Ministries representative
Henry Woodall	X		X		Road System	Ministry Commission co-moderator Synod commissioner
Debbie Melton		X		X	Road System	Ministry Commission co-moderator
Joseph Brock		X	X		Road System	Road System rep; Pby treasurer
Bob Christensen		X	X		Road System	Stewardship moderator
Rev. Curt Karns	X		X		Road System	Presbytery Exec (ex-officio)
Sharon Rayt		X		X	Road System	Stated Clerk (ex-officio)

NOMINATING Committee: Part II – Elder Shirley Novak

The committee put into nomination its slate of candidates. The floor was opened for nominations. Motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the slate identified below, was **APPROVED**.

Legend: NM – Native Ministries region; RS – Road System region

Number after a name indicates first or second term of office.

Ministry Commission	Member (NM)	Rev. Wendy Christianson *	21
Synod Minister Commissioner	Principal (RS)	Rev. Henry Woodall ⁽²⁾	22
Synod Minister Commissioner	Alternate (RS)	Rev. Leisa Carrick	22

* Replaces Rev. Johan Shin

ELDER COMMISSIONER TESTIMONIES

- Delta Presbyterian Church** – Elder Mary Ellen Lucas
- Anchor Presbyterian Church** – Elder Renee Savage
- Kaktovik Presbyterian Church** – Moderator CP Darlene Matz
- Immanuel Presbyterian Church** – Elder Elsie Eckman
- First Presbyterian Church, Wasilla** – Elder Bob Christensen
- Chapel in the Mountains** – Pastor Rev. Dale Richesin

Elder Jan Burger led in the prayer for these churches.

MINISTRY COMMISSION: Rev. Henry Woodall

Commission Recommendations:

- To receive Delta PC former Commissioned Pastor Richard Mauer as a minister member. Richard was ordained by the Alaska Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) on July 12, 2020.

Richard reported on the path he took towards ordination through the ELCA’s unique, theological education program. The TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) program takes into consideration a person’s education, experience in the church, and life experiences, and designs a path specific to that individual. Languages are not part of the program, but the quality of instruction is top notch and highly recommended. Motion to receive Richard Mauer as a member was **APPROVED** by general consent. [Richard’s membership is temporary, i.e., he remains a member as long as he continues to serve the Delta PC.]

- Miscellaneous recommendations were **APPROVED** by general consent:
 1. Ratify the Ministry Commission’s action to appoint Certified Christian Educator Elder Danna Larson as the presbytery’s educator certification advisor. This action was taken in response to a request by the national church asking each presbytery to appoint a certification advisor. Educator certification advisors are critical in the certification process of an educator, serving as liaisons to presbyteries, the Educator Certification Committee, and the Christian educator. Advisors also serve in an advocacy

role with local church sessions and occasionally, with the presbytery. [electronic vote - May 15, 2020].

2. Ratify the Ministry Commission's action granting First Korean Presbyterian Church Anchorage permission to form a Pastor Nominating Committee. [Sept. 17, 2020]

3. From this point forward, delegate to the Ministry Commission the responsibilities described below. These responsibilities will be added to the Ministry Commission's list of delegated responsibilities as defined in the Standing Rules of Presbytery. [Sept. 17, 2020]

- Appoint certification advisors
- Grant a church permission to form a Pastor Nominating Committee

Actions Taken by the Ministry Commission as Delegated by the Presbytery: Date of Ministry Commission action appears in brackets.

• **Commission Renewals**

1. At the request of the Utqiagvik PC Session, Mark Ahsoak, Jr.'s commission was renewed for a period of three years. Duties authorized under Mark's commission [electronic vote – April 16, 2020]:
 - Lead worship services and preach the gospel;
 - Administer the Lord's Supper;
 - Administer the sacrament of Baptism;
 - Have a voice and a vote in the meetings of Presbytery;
 - Perform a service of Christian marriage when invited by the session or other responsible minister, and when allowed by the state;
 - Perform a service at a funeral;
 - Moderate Session meetings in the absence of the Moderator, and perform these duties at other churches in the Presbytery, when invited.
2. At the request of the Utqiagvik PC Session, Roy Nageak's commission was renewed for a period of three years. Duties authorized under Roy's commission [electronic vote - April 16, 2020]:
 - Lead worship services and preach the gospel;
 - Administer the Lord's Supper;
 - Administer the sacrament of Baptism;
 - Have a voice and a vote in the meetings of Presbytery;
 - Perform a service of Christian marriage when invited by the session or other responsible minister, and when allowed by the state;
 - Perform a service at a funeral;
 - Moderate Session meetings in the absence of the Moderator, and perform these duties at other churches in the Presbytery, when invited.
3. At the request of the Kaktovik session, Darlene Matz' commission was renewed for a period of one year. Duties authorized under Darlene's commission [Sept. 17, 2020]:
 - Lead worship services and preach the gospel;
 - Administer the Lord's Supper
 - Administer the sacrament of Baptism'
 - Moderate session;
 - Perform a service of Christian marriage when invited by the session and other responsible minister and when allowed by the state;
 - Have voice and vote at presbytery meetings

• **Pastoral Changes**

1. Rev. Johan Shin

- o Concurred with the decision to dissolve Rev. Shin's pastoral relationship with First Korean Anchorage PC, effective June 29, 2020. Johan has moved to Atlanta, Georgia to pursue hospital chaplaincy and additional educational opportunities. [June 11, 2020]
- o Dissolved Rev. Shin's status was changed from 'validated ministry' to 'member-at-large'. [June 11, 2020]
- o Granted Rev. Shin permission to labor outside the bounds of the Presbytery of Yukon. This action is conditional on the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta granting him permission to labor inside its bounds. Rev. Shin requested that his membership remain in the Presbytery of Yukon. [Sept. 27, 2020]

2. Revs. Richard and Mary Koch: The Ministry Commission concurred with the decision to dissolve the Koch's pastoral relationship with Trinity Presbyterian Church, effective August 31, 2020. The Kochs plan to relocate to the lower 48 this fall. [Aug. 13, 2020]

3. Rev. Dan Ketchum, honorably retired: Dan has relocated to Tulsa, Oklahoma.

• **Covenant of Agreements**

1. Concurred with the action of the First Korean Presbyterian Church Anchorage session to approve the church's interim pastoral ministry covenant of agreement with Rev. Philip Jang, beginning July 8, 2020, for a period not to exceed 12 months. The pastor will be employed by the church on a full-time basis. Rev. Jang is a retired member of the Presbytery of Northwest Coast. [Aug. 13, 2020]

Compensation

Cash Salary	\$1,000 per month
Housing Allowance.....	\$1,500 per month
Manse.....	provided by church
Automobile expense	provided by church
Professional expenses *	\$1,000
Continuing Education *	\$1,000
Moving Costs.....	\$3,000
Vacation Leave	4 weeks
Continuing Education Leave.....	2 weeks
Workers Compensation Coverage	Required

* Reimbursable expense (by voucher)

2. Concurred with the action of the Trinity Presbyterian Church session to approve the church's covenant of agreement for temporary pastoral ministry with Randy Hoffbeck for the period August 18 2020 – August 17, 2021. The pastor will be employed by Trinity on a part time basis, serving approximately 20 hours per week. Trinity's Pastor Nominating Committee continues its search for a pastor. Mr. Hoffbeck retired from secular employment, received his M. Div. from Liberty University and is working towards completing his ordination requirements under the auspices of the Covenant Church. [Aug. 13, 2020]

Compensation

Cash Salary	\$25.00 per hour
Housing Allowance.....	50% of hourly cash salary
Continuing Education	to be determined
Vacation Leave	2 weeks after every 6 months, as applicable*
Continuing Education Leave.....	to be determined
Workers Compensation Coverage	Required

*The parties understand that the pastor will not be available to work from November 12, 2020 to December 4, 2020 and the time will be taken without compensation. The pastor will also not be available Wednesday evenings in September and October, 2020.

• **Moderator Appointments:**

First Korean Anchorage PC – Rev. Philip Jang [Aug. 18, 2020]
Trinity PC – Rev. Piper Cartland [electronic vote - Aug. 27, 2020]

• **Miscellaneous Ministry Commission Actions:**

1. Approved Trinity's Ministry Information Form [electronic vote - March 31, 2020]
2. Endorsed sending a pastoral letter to pastors, commissioned pastors, churches, and clerks of session, in response to the heavy workload carried by church leaders during the pandemic. [electronic vote - May 21, 2020]
3. Appointed Elder Ron Illingworth and Rev. Tim Carrick to serve as presbytery's principal readers for the fall 2020 ordination exams. Elder Debbie Melton will serve as alternate. [June 11, 2020]
4. Awarded to preparation for ministry candidate Jennifer Pottinger, up to \$3,000 from the Mathes Internship Fund, i.e., if Jennifer still needs financial aid for seminary. There was a consensus that Jennifer's work as an apprentice at New Hope Church fits the definition of an internship. [Aug. 13, 2020]
4. Approved the purchase of a new 4-wheeler for Commissioned Pastor Beulah Nowpakahok (Gambell PC) and to allocate up to \$10,000 for purchase and shipping. The ATV will be used as a tool for Beulah to use in her ministry. Funding source: 'Special Fund' [Aug. 13, 2020]
5. In light of the current economic conditions caused by the pandemic, there was a consensus that the '2021 Minimum Terms of Call for Installed Pastors' remain the same. (Attachment E) [Sept. 17, 2020]
6. Appointed Rev. Tim Carrick to serve as the Ministry Commission's liaison to First Korean PC, Anchorage during the pastoral search process. [Sept. 17, 2020]
7. Recommended that Kuukpik elder Olivia Cabinboy, Native Ministries elder Connie Irrigoo, and Rev. Tim Carrick be appointed to the Administrative Commission for the Kuukpik Presbyterian Church for the purpose of receiving members and electing/training and installing elders. Note: Native Ministries is expected to bring forth a related motion for presbytery action, which would supplant this recommendation. [Sept. 17, 2020].

Information provided for reporting purposes

- Fairbanks Korean PC Administrative Commission Report: The Pastor Nominating Committee's search for a part-time pastor continues.
- Anchor PC Administrative Commission Report (Attachment F)

FELLOWSHIP TIME – Rev. Henry Woodall, facilitator
Presbytery took a brief recess to engage in an exercise to music.

REGIONAL MEETINGS FOLLOW-UP

Native Ministries (NM) – Elder Connie Irrigoo

- Regional election results:

- o Moderator: elder Connie Irrigoo
 - o Moderator-elect: elder Elsie Itta
 - o Rev. Britt Johnston will continue as clerk.
 - o Veronica J. Neakok (Atqasuk): appointed to a two-year term as the region’s representative on the Leadership Team’s property committee.
- Appointments to a Youth Ministry Work Group – Elder Connie Irrigoo (Anchor PC), Rev. Wendy Christianson (Utqiagvik PC), Elder Olivia Cabinboy (Kuukpik PC), Veronica Neakok (Atqasuk Chapel). The group will begin the work of trying to raise up and train young leaders.
 - Native Ministries recommendation for presbytery action: That an Administrative Commission be appointed to act as the session for Kuukpik PC and possibly other [Native Ministries] churches without a functioning session, for a period of one-year, possibly renewable. Commission members will include the Native Ministries moderator, moderator-elect, and secretary, Rev. Tim Carrick and other elder(s) from churches needing assistance. Motion was **APPROVED**.

Road System (RS) – Elder Ron Illingworth

The region’s moderator provided a summary which focused on Covid and its impact, adaptations made, and shortfalls. The region advocated for providing technology grants to churches.

BINGLE CAMP – Rev. Henry Woodall

The camp did not open this past summer for normal camp activities, but was made available to a few families for a donation. The Board hopes to re-open and run a normal camp schedule next summer.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER – Rev. Curt Karns

Much work has included national church virtual meetings and putting more time into newsletters. It is encouraging that some of the churches are learning skills and how this shapes us for the good in the future. In talking with pastors, small group Zoom sessions have been very positive and life-giving. Native Ministries offers a presbytery-wide Wednesday night virtual service, with an average attendance of 12.

There will be a leadership shift soon, as many of our pastors are in their 60’s. We need to ensure that we are fostering relationships not only with the younger generations across the regions, but also cross-regionally. It has been a strange year, but God has been good.

RECESS FOR THE DAY

The meeting recessed for the day at 8:26 pm with CP Matt Tinkelenberg leading in the day’s closing prayer.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 (Plenary session 3)

CONVENE

Piper Cartland reconvened the day’s session with an opening prayer at 1:02 pm.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The moderator declared a quorum.

Presbytery membership (active ministers + elders).....	58
Plenary session 3 attendance:	
Number of minister members present:	13
Number of elders enrolled and present (representing 17 churches)	20
Percentage of members present.....	57 %

ELDER COMMISSIONER TESTMONIES

Kuukpik Presbyterian Church – Utqiagvik elder Elsie Itta

New Hope Church – Elder Ron Illingworth

Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church – Elder Elsie Itta

First Presbyterian Church, Anchorage – Elder Diana Rotkis

Gambell Presbyterian Church – CP Beulah Nowpakahok

Elder Danna Larson led in the prayer for these churches.

BOARD OF PENSIONS UPDATE - Rev. Mark Frey

During an update on the Board of Pensions programs, Mark announced that he will be retiring at the end of December after 23 years of service. The presbytery moderator extended gratitude to Mark's for his work with the presbytery and congregations. Piper led in a prayer for Mark.

ORDER OF THE DAY: Rev. Rob Hagan, Karl Mattison
Presbyterian Foundation presentation entitled 'Offering 2.0'.

RECESS

Presbytery took a short 10-minute recess at 2:25 pm. In lieu of the talent show, there was a musical interlude with Alice Branton of United Protestant Church offering her gift on the piano.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – Elder Bob Christensen, Mary Kron

Recommendations for presbytery approval:

1. Amend the decision to use Presbytery of Yukon endowment interest to pay stipends for Gambell church leaders, as follows: Delay paying the stipend until January 1, 2021. Rationale: January 1st is the beginning of the budgetary year, and the session has made no decision as to whom and how much should be paid. The recommendation was **APPROVED** by general consent.
2. That University Community PC's mortgage loan rate [on the larger loan] be lowered to 1.25% effective from when the loan begins to accrue interest again, until December 31, 2023. The church is currently paying a 3.25% rate on a smaller loan, which should be paid off in the next month or two. Payment on the larger loan does not begin until the smaller loan is paid off. Rate on the larger loan was 5.75% in 2000, reduced to 4.75% in 2010, then to 0% in 2014. The interest remains at 0% until the smaller loan is paid off or at the end of 2020, whichever came first. If presbytery takes no action, the 4.75% rate will kick in. The recommendation was **APPROVED** by general consent.
3. That the money for CP Beulah Nowpakahok's 4-wheeler, be taken out of the 'special fund', which has over \$32,000. The Ministry Commission has approved up to \$10,000 for an ATV for the Gambell PC pastor. The ATV has already been ordered; cost includes shipping to Gambell. The recommendation was **APPROVED** by general consent. Beulah extended her heartfelt appreciation.

2020 Proposed Budget

The proposal is the best guess at this time in the midst of the pandemic. Significant changes over 2020 figures are due in large part to reducing the number of presbytery, leadership team, and committee in-person meetings. The fair share figure of \$226.99 is based on the total active church memberships as of December 31, 2019. The budget was **APPROVED** by general consent. [Appendix G] The Stewardship Committee was encouraged to develop a narrative budget, which would be very helpful in interpreting the fair share to congregations.

ELDER COMMISSIONER TESTIMONIES

Atqasuk Chapel – Native Ministries moderator elder Connie Irrigoo

Jewel Lake Parish – Elder Susan Woods

Savoonga Presbyterian Church – Rev. Leisa Carrick, liaison for St. Lawrence Island

University Community Presbyterian Church – Elder Lucile Hackett
First Korean Presbyterian Church, Anchorage – Former pastor Rev. Johan Shin
Fairbanks Korean Presbyterian Church – Rev. Neill McKay

The presbytery exec shared a screen photo of 103-year-old Rev. Alice Green. Unable to receive visitors, Alice is feeling very isolated at the Pioneer Home.

Rev. Neill McKay led in the prayer for these churches and for Alice.

OTHER BUSINESS

Resolution: CP Matt Tinkelenberg presented the resolution:

When looking at different remote locations, either Anaktuvuk Pass or Gambell and all the things that come up, what brings sadness is some of the leadership needed in areas. Loved what Beulah said when she read in Mark 5:36 - do not fear, only believe. This is a beautiful way to end this meeting, but unfortunately because of the current situation, whether Covid, politics or whatever it may be, fear is overriding faith. At the last supper, when Jesus was talking, the one thing that seemed to be lacking while he was talking, was the lack of fear. He kept preaching the word, he kept telling us which way we should go. I encourage people to have this faith we have in the Lord Jesus Christ, to override the fear we are going through now. When you listen to Gambell and hear about all of the suicides and all these things that are happening, we need to keep these things in our prayers and ask God to eradicate that fear and to get people to go back to faith. I look at everything going on, these meetings are phenomenal. We miss meeting together. Over this past week, in the meeting in virtual zoom, despite the current situation with Covid, our Heavenly Father has created a way for us to continue to serve him through the virtual world. His gift given to those who have created a system for us to gather, without being next to each other, is a great gift. We would love to sit next to one another during a service or meeting, to see their faces and smiles like we are used to, that would be a great gift. But given the current circumstances, we have to find another way to stay in contact and carry out His words and work. If only the disciples would have had this opportunity, they had their own challenges, and we have ours today. But our Father in heaven keeps showing us better ways to spread His word in time of need. We hear the words and needs of those in remote locations, which we might not have heard before, and we thank God for giving this to us.

We certainly want to thank Piper for being moderator of this presbytery meeting. We thank her for inviting us into her home without breaking the 6-foot rule. In fact, most of us kept a minimum 350- mile separation. Although none of us are wearing masks, I would however like to get a budget together for a bigger computer screen as the separation on mine was less than an inch, which could cause a computer virus.

We must acknowledge Henry for his dance routine, I tried to do what he told us to do, but after move #3, my back went out. After a popular vote, the winner of the dance contest is with Ellen or Kim, although Ellen had an edge as she had the first graders do a similar dance routine, so she had a leg up so to speak.

The food provided was exceptional! All those who provided a meal should pat themselves on the back. Matt Schultz in my opinion is a winner as he chose a frozen pizza his children did not like.

This meeting of presbytery was one which will remain with me for a long time.

In closing: when we pray, we always ask our Father in heaven to rescue us from whatever we are going through. But sometimes we forget to glorify our Father in heaven for who He is, for He knows our needs and wants, but we need to glorify Him above all. All are invited to listen to the song 'Is He Worthy', because it fits so beautiful with what is going on today. It is a song which not only poses a question, but also gives the answer.

Matt closed out his report by sharing on screen 'Is He Worthy?' by Chris Tomlin.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 pm with Piper Cartland leading in the closing prayer.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 (Closing Worship Service)

Churches and individuals gathered virtually to watch/listen to the 11:00 am closing worship service. The scripture reading focused on Philippians 4:1-9. Rev. Joseph Reid delivered the message from Utqiagvik PC; other portions of the service were pre-recorded or recorded live from Eagle River, First Anchorage, and Immanuel churches. Music was provided by First Anchorage musicians, the Utqiagvik church choir, United Protestant ensemble, First Wasilla praise team and Jewel Lake Parish praise team.

Sharon Rayt
Stated Clerk

DRAFT