

**PRESBYTERY OF YUKON**  
Special Zoom/Teleconference Meeting  
January 18, 2022  
DRAFT MINUTES

CONVENE

Presbytery moderator Dennis Berry convened the video/teleconference at 5:05 pm with an opening prayer.

ROLL ESTABLISHED

**Minister Members Present:** Alison Burchett, Leisa Carrick, Tim Carrick, Piper Cartland, Britt Johnston, Curt Karns, Dean Knapp, Richard Mauer, Neill McKay, Israel Nelson, Joseph Reid, Matthew Schultz, Henry Woodall, Seung Hyun Yoo

**Elder Members Present:** *Church Elder Commissioners:* Elsie Eckman, (Immanuel PC), Lucile Hackett (University Community PC), Ron Illingworth (New Hope Church), Billy Kenton (Utqiagvik PC), CP Mary Ellen Lucas (Delta PC), John Russell (Trinity PC); *Commissioned Pastors (CP)* Debbie Melton, Beulah Nowpakahok *Other Enrolled Elders* – Lucy Apatiki, Dennis Berry, Jan Burger, Bob Christensen, Danna Larson, Paula Long, Shirley Novak, Sharon Rayt

**Guest:** Elders Ida Olemaun and Molly Pederson, *Intergenerational Arctic Ministries Board of Directors*

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: ..... 14  
Elders present:..... 16  
% of active members present .... 53 %

AGENDA

The special meeting was called by moderator Dennis Berry, with the concurrence of Rev. Joseph Reid, Rev. Curt Karns, elder Jan Burger (United Protestant Church) and elder Lucy Apatiki (Gambell PC) to act on business identified in the call to the meeting.

**Leadership Team**

- Elect an Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee.  
The Leadership Team-appointed exec strategy committee was tasked with taking the information that consultant Eliana Maxim provided in her report and begin the exec search process. After a number of meetings and hitting a roadblock, the committee requested that a professional facilitator (Eliana, if available) be hired to coach the committee as it moved forward. The Leadership Team concurred and granted the committee authority to contract with Eliana. With the exception of two village members, the original strategy committee members were willing to serve on the executive presbyter search committee.

According to presbytery bylaws, the Leadership Team is responsible for submitting names of nominees for an executive search committee, for election by the presbytery. The Leadership Team submitted its list of nominees, and the floor was open to nominations. Motion to elect Billy Kenton (Utqiagvik PC), Ida Olemaun (Utqiagvik PC), Rev. Joseph Reid, CP Mary Ellen Lucas (Delta PC), Doreen McNeill (University Community PC), Matthew Hobbie (Eagle River

PC), Rev. Matt Schultz, Rev. Britt Johnston as moderator, and Rev. Tim Carrick was **APPROVED** without objection. Given that the search committee lacks representation from the villages, the presbytery moderator suggested that if someone from a village church expresses interest in serving on the committee, presbytery should take that under consideration in the future. Britt Johnston led in a prayer for the committee.

- The Intergenerational Arctic Ministries (IAM) Board seeks a \$70,000 grant for its Intergenerational Trauma Recovery Program expenses on St. Lawrence Island. Board members Molly Pederson and Lucy Apatiki, and IAM co-executive Curt Karns provided a rationale and background information.

IAM is doing work that is so much needed on the island and on the north slope, but does not have funds for work on St. Lawrence Island. The ministry has received grants from the North Slope Borough and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC), but those funds cannot be used outside the north slope region.

The situation is such that without funding, IAM cannot move forward with work on the island. Passionate people have been recruited in Gambell and Savoonga, and IAM does not want to lose that momentum. St. Lawrence Island is in need of a lot of tender loving care now. \$70,000 is the exact amount that IAM is short to cover expected expenses for island work for the remainder of this fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022). If approved, funds will help pay *Listening Way, Healing and Renewal, and 12-Step Facilitation* program expenses. A grant request has recently been submitted to the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation to pay IAM expenses on St. Lawrence Island for next fiscal year.

After Covid hit and funding for IAM on the north slope dried up, presbytery absorbed a portion of IAM expenses. In late fall, IAM reimbursed presbytery \$70,219 for some of those expenses. The reimbursement was made possible through a ASRC special grant, paid with federal CARES act funds. Basically, IAM is asking presbytery to return \$70,000 of the reimbursed funds for ministry on St. Lawrence Island. Motion to approve the \$70,000 grant request was **APPROVED**, without objection. On behalf of the IAM Board, Molly Pederson expressed gratitude to presbytery for approving the request.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

Presbytery moderator Dennis Berry announced that presbytery will again gather for the winter presbytery meeting via Zoom. The Leadership Team seeks input from the churches as to whether there is interest in holding a presbytery-wide worship service on Sunday.

#### ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm with Curt Karns leading in the closing prayer.

Sharon Rayt  
Stated Clerk