

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
Special Zoom/Teleconference Meeting
June 3, 2021
DRAFT Minutes

CONVENE

Presbytery moderator Denny Berry convened the video/teleconference at 7:04 pm with Jan Burger leading in the opening prayer.

ROLL ESTABLISHED

Minister Members Present: Leisa Carrick, Tim Carrick, Curt Karns, Neill McKay, Israel Nelson, Jennifer Pottinger, Elizabeth Schultz, Matthew Schultz, Henry Woodall

Elder Members Present: *Commissioned Pastors:* Joseph Brock, Leah Hathaway, Debbie Melton, Beulah Nowpakahok; *Elder Commissioners:* Winnifred Findlay (First Anchorage PC), Ron Illingworth (New Hope Church), Sarah Lanstra (University Community PC), John Russell (Trinity PC), Susan Woods (Jewel Lake Parish); *Leadership Team members:* Lucy Apatiki, Dennis Berry, Jan Burger, Bob Christensen, *Nominating Committee Chair* Shirley Novak, and *Stated Clerk* Sharon Rayt

Guests: Trinity PC pastor Randy Hoffbeck, First Korean Anchorage interim pastor Rev. Philip Jang

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:58
Ministers present:9
Elders present:15
% of active members present.....41 %

AGENDA

The special meeting was called by moderator Dennis Berry, with the concurrence of Rev. Curt Karns, Rev. Henry Woodall, elder Debbie Melton (United Protestant Church) and elder Bob Christensen (First Wasilla PC) to act on business identified in the call to the meeting (Appendix A)

Ministry Commission recommendations – Henry Woodall

- Regarding Fairbanks Korean final pastoral candidate, Rev. Choonsik Kim
The Ministry Commission has fully vetted Choonsik, having met with him several times along with Northwest Coast Presbytery Associate Executive Presbyter for Korean Ministries Rev. Jinsuk Kim, who served as translator. Curt Karns and Jinsuk Kim met with Choonsik Kim at length on another occasion. Choonsik's membership resides with another denomination, and he wants to become a PCUSA pastor. There are three actions requiring presbytery approval which would enable him to do that:
 1. That presbytery waive the following constitutional requirements (waiver requires a ¾ vote):
 - G-2.0607b – a transcript showing graduation with satisfactory grades, at a regionally accredited college or university.
 - G-2.0607c: 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, satisfactory grades in all areas of study, and graduation or proximity to graduation.

Rationale: Rev. Kim graduated from college and seminary in S. Korea with the equivalent of an M. Div. Both institutions are located outside the United States, and therefore are not accredited by the same agencies used in the U.S. The college and seminary are known to be very good schools. Choonsik took Hebrew and Greek twice, first as an undergraduate and again in seminary. His grades were not great, but he passed the language courses. Motion that G-2.0607b and G-2.0607c be waived, was **unanimously APPROVED**.

- 2. That in lieu of the standard ordination examinations, that Rev. Choonsik Kim be granted an exemption from some or all of the examinations required of candidates.

If a presbytery judges that there are good and sufficient reasons why a candidate should not be required to satisfy the requirements of G-2.0607d (examination materials, together with evaluations that declare those materials satisfactory in the areas covered by any standard ordination examination approved by the General Assembly), it shall approve some alternate means by which to ascertain the readiness of the candidate (G-2.0610).

The Ministry Commission brought forth the aforementioned recommendation on the basis of G-2.0505 – Transfer of Ministers of Other Denominations, provision a(2) in that a minister of another reformed church who has been ordained for five or more years may be granted an exemption for some or all of the examinations by a 2/3 vote of the presbytery. Choonsik is a member of a Reformed church who has been ordained for more than 5 years. Choonsik was ordained in 1999 by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Korea and is a member of the Korean American Presbyterian Church, a reformed denomination in the U.S. Motion that Rev. Choonsik Kim be granted an exemption from all of the standard ordination examinations was **unanimously APPROVED**.

- 3. That select minimum terms of call provisions for Rev. Choonsik Kim be waived. (Denoted by an asterisk.)

Proposed terms of call offered to Rev. Choonsik Kim:

Cash Salary	\$2,000	per month
Housing: manse provided.....	\$3,000	value per month ¹
BOP Pastors' Participation benefits plan ²	provided	
Continuing Education	2 weeks	annually
Continuing education reimbursable amount *	none indicated	
Vacation Leave *	2 weeks	annually
Moving Expenses *	\$5,000 + Airfare	
Worker's Compensation	provided	
Other benefits	Church vehicle, gas, car insurance	provided

¹ Includes \$1,000 for condo fees and utilities.

² The Board of Pensions Pastors' Participation benefits' plan includes PPO medical coverage, a defined benefit pension plan, death/disability, temporary disability.

Choonsik is in agreement with terms as proposed by the church. Motion to waive minimum terms of call provisions was **APPROVED**.

These three actions clear the way for the congregation to vote on calling Rev. Choonsik Kim as their installed pastor. If the congregation votes to approve, and Rev. Kim accepts the call, the Ministry Commission is asking Choonsik to take a polity class and will make sure that happens. He is excited to get in the field and begin working with the Fairbanks Korean Presbyterian Church. He has a number of PCUSA colleagues, and he thinks he can serve well in the PCUSA.

- Consideration of New Hope Methodist/Presbyterian Church's congregational decision to move from union church status to a single denomination.

During a period of transition and after consulting with both denominational regional leaders, the church went through a period of discernment in preparation of moving forward to answering God's call to mission and ministry. One aspect of that discernment was determining whether it would be beneficial to remain a union church or to uncouple from one of the denominations. Information was provided to members before a May 2, 2021 special congregational meeting called to consider the question. The meeting was well attended; the congregation asked good questions, and there was a good discussion. Henry Woodall attended as the presbytery liaison. Two votes were taken. The congregation first voted to discontinue as a union church by a 2/3 vote. The second vote involved choosing the denomination with which the church wished to maintain their affiliation. Their choice was very overwhelming Presbyterian.

For a number of years, the church has been unable to pay their full United Methodist and Presbyterian apportionments. The Methodist calculated the apportionment on the valuation of New Hope's property, which is much greater than the Presbyterian's which is based on the number of active members. During their interim pastorate at New Hope, the Baggetts drafted an agreement (in 2013 or 2014) affirming that the church would remit \$2,500 to each denomination for their yearly apportionment. The church has continued to pay \$2,500 annually.

New Hope Church leaders met very recently with the Presbytery exec and United Methodist Church (UMC) superintendent Carlo Rapanut to hammer out some of the details of the process to dissolve the union relationship in accordance with UMC polity.

- Given that New Hope Church has been significantly underpaying their apportionment to the Methodists for a number of years, New Hope has agreed to pay the UMC the church's full apportionment for 2021, plus an extra amount for the United Methodist retirement system. The combined \$11,000 will be taken out of the church savings, which has increased since the church is no longer paying an installed pastor and associated benefits.
- The UMC have agreed to not contest anything as far as their separation is concerned.

The United Methodists will consider the dissolution of New Hope as a United Methodist congregation later in June. If the way is clear, the effective date as far as the UMC is concerned would be July 1, 2021.

Questions arose about what would happen to the property if the way was clear to dissolve the church's relationship with the UMC. If New Hope ceases to be a union church and becomes solely Presbyterian, then the property reverts to the Book of Order provision [G-4.0203], which states that all property held by or for a congregation, . . . is held in trust nevertheless for the use and benefit of the PCUSA. That needs to be clarified so that everyone understands what is going to happen. There was a consensus that the Presbytery's property committee be given the task of working with New Hope's council (soon to be session) to clarify the issue in case the UMC later decides it wants the property, or because we never know what future issues might arise. New Hope elder Ron Illingworth mentioned that church leaders had that discussion and intend to draft a document addressing the issue.

Even though New Hope has not had a congregational meeting to vote on a new name, there is the expectation that the congregation will opt to drop *Methodist* and become New Hope Presbyterian Church.

When it came time to vote, the presbytery **CONCURRED** with the decision of the New Hope Methodist Presbyterian Church to dissolve its union relationship with the United Methodist Church, thereby solely establishing itself solely as a Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation.

Clerk's Report

- The 2020 annual statistical (Appendix B) and 2020 church membership (Appendix C) reports were received for inclusion in the record.
- Announcement: First Wasilla Presbyterian Church will host the October 7 – 9th Fall Stated Presbytery meeting. Pastor Henry Woodall reported that the 7th will be a day of education workshops and discussion on the issues of race, reconciliation, and restoration.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned with Jennifer Pottinger leading in the closing prayer.

Sharon Rayt
Stated Clerk

Appendices

Appendix A: Call to the meeting

Appendix B: 2020 Annual Statistical Report

Appendix C: 2020 Church Membership Report

DRAFT



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To: Members of the Presbytery of Yukon
From: Sharon Rayt, Stated Clerk
Date: May 19, 2021
RE: June 3, 2021 Called Presbytery Zoom Video/Teleconference Meeting

A called meeting of the Presbytery of Yukon will convene via Zoom on Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The meeting has been called by Moderator elder Dennis Berry, with the concurrence of Rev. Curt Karns, Rev. Henry Woodall, elder Debbie Melton (United Protestant Church), and elder Bob Christensen (First Wasilla PC). The agenda will be limited to the items listed below. Additional information will be provided at the meeting.

Ministry Commission

- Take action re: Fairbanks Korean installed pastoral candidate, Rev. Choonsik Kim: Rev. Kim graduated from college and seminary, with the equivalent of an M. Div. in South Korea and was ordained in 1999 by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Korea. He is a member of the Korean American Presbyterian Church. Having fully vetted Rev. Kim, the Ministry Commission recommends:
 1. that the following constitutional educational requirements be waived
 - G-2.0607b: a transcript showing graduation, with satisfactory grades, at a regionally accredited college or university
 - G-2.0607c: 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, satisfactory grades in all areas of study, and graduation or proximity to graduation.
 2. In lieu of the standard ordination examinations, that the candidate be granted an exemption for some or all of the examinations required of candidates for ordination, on the basis of G-2.0505 – Transfer of Ministers of Other Denominations, provision a(2) in that Rev. Kim is a member of a Reformed church who has been ordained for more than five years.
 3. Waive minimum terms of call provisions (attached).

If these recommendations are approved, the way is clear for the congregation to vote.

- Consideration of New Hope Methodist/Presbyterian Church's congregational decision to move from union church status to a single denomination. The overwhelming choice of denomination was Presbyterian. (G-5.05c)

Receive the clerk's report (for inclusion into the record)

- 2020 statistical report summary and church membership reports (attached).

ZOOM MEETING ACCESS

To join via the internet:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7959606340>

Meeting ID: 795 960 6340

To join via phone (for audio only)

1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

877 853 5257 US Toll-free

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 795 960 6340

Rev. Curt Karns
executive presbyter
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Sharon Rayt
stated clerk
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Web Site	pbyukon.org		

**Membership**

Prior Active Members	1520	Adjusted membership	1520
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Gains

Certificate	10
Youth Professions	0
Professions & Reaffirmations	5

Total Gains

Total Gains	15
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Total Ending Active Members

Total Ending Active Members	1487
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Losses

Certificate	7
Deaths	28
Deleted for any Other Reason	13

Total Losses

Total Losses	48
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Baptisms

Presented by Others	3
At Confirmation	1
All Other	0

Average Weekly Worship Attendance	455
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Female Members	901
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Friends of the Congregation	67
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Ruling Elders on Session	71
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Do you have Deacons? Yes / No	8 / 4
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Age Distribution of Active Members

25 & Under	53
26 - 40	129
41 - 55	133
56 - 70	238
Over 70	243

People with Disabilities

Hearing impairment	29
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Sight impairment	7
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Mobility impairment	40
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Other impairment	24
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Total Age Distribution

Total Age Distribution	796
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Christian Education

Birth - 3	18
Age 4	7
Kindergarten	10
Grade 1	9
Grade 2	8
Grade 3	9
Grade 4	8
Grade 5	12
Grade 6	6

Grade 7	5
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Grade 8	10
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Grade 9	13
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Grade 10	5
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Grade 11	8
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Grade 12	6
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Young Adults	11
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Over 25	72
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Teachers/Officers	162
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Total Christian Education	379
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Racial Ethnic

Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	88
Black/African American/African	15
Middle Eastern/North African	0
Hispanic/Latino-a	7

Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	24
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White	692
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Multiracial	0
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Total Racial Ethnic	826
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Financial Data

Annual Income	2,434,344
Annual Expenses	2,323,312

Mission Expenses	245,519
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Personnel Expenses	1,058,351
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Facilities Expenses	633,545
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Summary Membership Report for 030-800 2020

<u>Location</u>	<u>Pin #</u>	<u>Church Name</u>	<u>Begin Total</u>	<u>Adj. Member.</u>	<u>New Member. Total</u>	<u>Cert Gains</u>	<u>Youth Profess.</u>	<u>Profess./ Reaffirm.</u>	<u>Cert Losses</u>	<u>Death Losses</u>	<u>Deleted Losses</u>	<u>End Total</u>	<u>Diff</u>
Anaktuvuk Pass	8421	Chapel in the Mountains	36	0	36					3		33	-3
Anchorage	12058	Anchor	17	0	17					1		16	-1
Anchorage	9126	First	270	0	270	1			1	6	8	256	-14
Anchorage	10379	First Korean	38	0	38	1			0	0	0	39	1
Anchorage	8576	Immanuel	37	0	37					1	1	35	-2
Anchorage	10163	Jewel Lake Parish	40	0	40					1		39	-1
Anchorage	9127	Trinity	94	0	94					2		92	-2
Atqasuk	11225	Atqasuk	20		20							20	0
Barrow	9128	Utqiagvik	296		296							296	0
Delta Junction	8585	Delta	16	0	16					1	1	14	-2
Eagle River	10877	Eagle River	94	0	94	0	0	0	0	1	0	93	-1
Fairbanks	10548	Korean	37	0	37	8			4	1		40	3
Fairbanks	9136	University Community	73	0	73			5	2	2		74	1
Gambell	8926	Gambell	40	0	40					1		39	-1
Kaktovik	8451	Kaktovik	17	-2	15							15	0
North Pole	10446	New Hope	17	0	17					1		16	-1
Nuiqsut	10310	Kuukpik	39	0	39					1		38	-1
Palmer	9131	United Protestant	118	0	118					1	2	115	-3
Savoonga	9133	Savoonga	48	0	48					2		46	-2
Wainwright	9134	Olgonik	37	0	37					1	1	35	-2
Wasilla	8647	First	136	2	138					2		136	-2
Totals			1520	0	1520	10	0	5	7	28	13	1487	-33