

## PRESBYTERY OF YUKON FALL 2013 STATED MEETING

Jewel Lake Parish, Anchorage, Alaska

October 11-12, 2013

*Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.*

*Be hospitable to one another without complaining.*

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,*

*serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.*

I Peter 4:8 - 10

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2013

#### OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Presbytery opened with worship led by Rev. Curt Karns at 9:10 am in the Jewel Lake Parish sanctuary. Ruling Elder Richard Mauer delivered the message. Presbyters paired off to share joys and concerns with one another, and to address the question "What spoke to you from the I Peter scripture reading."

#### CONVENE

Moderator Rev. Duke Morrow convened the 2013 fall stated meeting at 9:30 am with prayer.

#### WELCOME

Jewel Lake Parish commissioned ruling elder Marjorie Poggas extended a warm welcome to Presbytery.

#### INTRODUCTIONS

Guests, first time ruling elder commissioners and teaching elders were introduced. Presbytery **VOTED** to grant voice to corresponding members and guests presenting reports or called upon to provide expertise.

#### ROLL

##### **Teaching elder members present:**

Linda Baggett – *co-interim, UCPC & New Hope Church*

Leisa Carrick – *co-pastor, United Protestant Church*

Piper Cartland – *pastor, Eagle River PC*

Woo S. Jeong – *stated supply, Fairbanks Korean PC*

Britt Johnston – *temporary supply, Anchor PC*

Curt Karns – *executive presbyter*

Sig Kristiansen – *honorably retired*

Kim MacInnes-Green – *member-at-large*

James Nageak – *honorably retired*

Matt Schultz – *pastor, First Anchorage PC*

Henry Woodall – *pastor, First Wasilla PC*

Trent Baggett – *co-interim, UCPC & New Hope Church*

Tim Carrick – *co-pastor, United Protestant Church*

Alice Green – *honorably retired*

Ellen Johnson Price – *interim, Good Shepherd Lutheran*

Luke Jones – *pastor, Jewel Lake Parish*

Dean Knapp – *validated ministry, AK Mountain Rescue*

Ian MacInnes-Green – *validated ministry, AK Child & Family*

Duke Morrow – *pastor, Utqiagvik PC*

Israel Nelson – *honorably retired*

Mary Ann Warden – *honorably retired*

##### **Commissioned ruling elders (CRE) present:**

Lucy Apatiki – *Gambell PC*

Virginia Kasak – *Kuukpik PC*

Sandra Wagenius – *United Protestant*

Leah Hathaway – *Jewel Lake Parish*

Marjorie Poggas – *Jewel Lake Parish*

##### **Churches represented by ruling elder (RE) commissioner:**

Anchor – *Paul Merkouris*

Eagle River PC – *Donna Davidson*

1<sup>st</sup> Anchorage PC – *John Beard*

1<sup>st</sup> Wasilla PC – *Daulton Morock (Fri), Laurie Kari (Sat)*

Immanuel PC – *Joanne Potts*

Kaktovik PC – *Elizabeth Rexford*

New Hope Church – *Cathy Johnson*

Delta PC – *Ann Geise*

Fairbanks Korean – *Jae Maloney*

1<sup>st</sup> Korean Anchorage – *Steve Bang (Fri), Sun Heo (Sat)*

Gambell PC – *Mike Apatiki*

Jewel Lake Parish – *Susan Woods*

Kuukpik PC – *Carolyn Ahkiviana*

Trinity PC – *Kirby Kauffman*

University Community PC – *Paula Long*  
United Protestant Church – *Beckie Behm*

Utqiagvik PC – *Edith Nageak*

**Other voting members present:**

RE Merle Apassingok – *Leadership Team*  
RE Mary Charlotte McCall – *Leadership Team*  
RE Shirley Novak – *Leadership Team*  
RE Molly Pederson – *Leadership Team*  
RE Fenton Rexford – *Leadership Team*

RE Arlayne Knox – *Leadership Team*  
RE Beulah Nowpakahok – *Leadership Team*  
RE Ida Olemaun – *Moderator, Nominating Committee*  
RE Sharon Rayt – *Stated Clerk*  
RE Mark Wartes – *Leadership Team*

**Teaching elder members excused:**

Isaac Akootchook – *honorably retired*  
Richard Carpenter – *honorably retired*  
Philip Gilbert – *honorably retired*  
Dan Ketchum – *honorably retired*  
Tammy Letts – *assoc. pastor, Trinity PC*  
Peter Loughman – *inactive*  
William Ng – *honorably retired*  
Youl Rhee – *honorably retired*  
Ken Smith – *honorably retired*

Patrick Bracken- *chaplain, Ft. Wainwright*  
Sandra Faison– *member-at-large*  
Henry Guinotte – *honorably retired*  
Susan Knight – *temporary supply, Immanuel PC*  
Tom Letts – *senior pastor, Trinity PC*  
Ted McGovern – *chaplain, U.S. Army Reserves*  
Dianne O’Connell – *honorably retired*  
Murray Richmond – *validated ministry, Presbyterian Hospitality House*

**Churches not represented by a ruling elder commissioner:**

Atqasuk Chapel  
Nome PC  
Savoonga PC

Chapel in the Mountains  
Olgonik PC

**Other voting members excused**

CRE George Agnasagga – *Olgonik PC*  
CRE LeeAnn Crumbley – *serving Presbytery*

CRE Paul Bodfish – *Atqasuk Chapel*  
RE Dennis Berry - *Leadership Team*

**Seating and enrollment of corresponding members:**

Rev. Jin Hoon Kim – *interim pastor, 1<sup>st</sup> Korean Anchorage PC (Cherokee Presbytery)*  
Rev. E. Stanley Ott – *director, Vital Church Institute (National Capital Presbytery)*  
Rev. Neal Presa – *moderator, 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (Elizabeth Presbytery)*  
Rev. Ryan White – *PCUSA mission co-worker (Presbytery of Seattle)*

**Guests/Presbytery office staff:**

RE InSook Baik  
Charles Brower – *Nome Community UMC*  
RE Bernard Irrigoo  
Ai Soon Kim  
Mary Kron – *Presbytery treasurer*  
Melissa O’Malley – *Presbytery administrative asst.*  
RE Jim Powell  
RE Frank Sears  
Alethia White – *PCUSA Mission Co-worker*

RE Joanne Bennett – *Recording Secretary*  
RE Mike Cimino  
Grace Jeong  
RE Rozann Kimpton  
RE Mary Jane Landstrom – *Presbytery Resource Ctr*  
RE Richard Mauer  
RE Ken Selby  
Cynthia White – *PCUSA, Self-Development of People*

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum was present in accordance with the requirement in G-3.0304, that ruling elders representing at least three churches and three teaching elders constitute a quorum.

**ADOPTION OF DOCKET**

Presbytery **VOTED** to adopt the docket as amended by the Leadership Team.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Resolution Committee: Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price

## RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

In light of the theme verse from I Peter 4:8 – 10, elder commissioners were asked to address the following question posed by the Presbytery Leadership Team “What are the gifts your church has to serve the community?”

## TELLING OUR STORIES: Facilitator Rev. Henry Woodall

Presbyters were directed to mix and mingle in small groups and answer the following questions:

What are two wonderful things about God?

What are two great things about Jesus Christ?

What are two great things about the Holy Spirit?

What are some gifts God gives to the Church?

Name some of the gifts God gives to you.

Tell about a significant place of faith and/or significant event of faith.

Share your joys, blessings, concerns, challenges and opportunities.

Share special prayer requests.

## INTRODUCING THE MODERATOR OF THE 220<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Rev. Neal Presa briefly addressed the assembly.

## RECESS

Presbytery recessed for a brief break at 10:42 am and reconvened at 10:50 pm, with the joyful singing of “How Great Thou Art”.

## EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER REPORT: Rev. Curt Karns

The exec introduced new administrative assistant Melissa O’Malley; reported on changes within the Presbytery of Alaska, and highlighted sections of the written report (Appendix A), giving special attention to the varied leadership structures within our churches, and the additional pressure caused by a reduction in staffing hours. Presbytery was challenged to dream “God’s plan”. Rev. Mary Ann Warden led in a prayer for Alaska Presbytery.

## RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

### **University Community PC – RE Paula Long**

The church is used by several worshipping communities; serves as a meeting place for groups, including AA and Sweet Adelines; has been a place for the Summer Arts Festival to rehearse; houses the office of NADR (Northern Alaska Disaster Recovery). The congregation hosted disaster recovery groups assisting springtime flooding victims and supports ministries such as Stone Soup Café which feeds the homeless/poor and Love INC.

### **Atqasuk Chapel – no report**

### **Trinity – RE Kirby Kauffman and RE Frank Sears**

The church is blessed in offering the gift of music to the community; intentional connections have been made with the music community in Anchorage. The music on Sunday is wonderful; the worship serves as a witness to the many musicians who are not Christian. The congregation helps to raise funds for the neighboring elementary school and other groups. A member of staff substitute teaches in the school district.

### **Chapel in the Mountains – Rev. James Nageak**

Morning worship services are attended by the older generation. Presbytery was asked to pray for change in the church. James led in the singing of “We Are One in the Spirit”, while accompanying on the guitar.

*CRE Marjorie Poggas led in the prayers for these churches.*

### MISSION CO-WORKERS

Newly appointed PCUSA mission co-workers Rev. Ryan and Alethia White will be sent to Berlin, Germany to partner with the Iranian Presbyterian Church which is working with the Iranian refugee community in Berlin. Having been raised in Alaska, Ryan still considers Alaska home. Ryan and Alethia shared briefly about the work to which they have been called and asked for prayer and financial support.

### BREAKOUT GROUPS

*Conversation with General Assembly Moderator* - Rev. Neal Presa

*Church Transformation* - Rev. Stan Ott

Mission Co-workers Rev. Ryan and Alethia White

*Self-Development of People* – Cynthia White

*What can CPM do for those looking at entering the CRE program?* – CRE Sandra Wagenius

### LUNCH RECESS

Groups broke for the lunch recess at 12:30 pm. Presbytery reconvened at 1:30 pm

### ANNOUNCEMENT

Rev. Israel Nelson publicly submitted the Alaska Iona Community's pledge for 2014.

### 220<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY MODERATOR REPORT

Rev. Neal Presa addressed the *State of the Church* in his report; a question and answer period followed.

### JOINT PARISH REPORT

RE Fenton Rexford expressed appreciation to Jewel Lake Parish for hosting presbytery. The parish is working towards being formally organized and is exploring leadership options:

- Ruling elder commissioned to serve throughout the Ahmaogak-Akootchook Memorial Parish, rather than a single congregation.
- Shared pastor model for the villages of Atqasuk, Nuiqsut, and Wainwright. Another consideration warranting further discussion pertains to a shared pastor model in Kaktovik and Anaktuvuk Pass. Additional funding will be required.

Since the Synod began operating under a reduced function mode, Yukon's Native American Consulting Committee now provides oversight Synod-wide. The North Slope Borough's Healthy Communities Initiative is a good fit with the mission and goals of arctic churches.

### RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

**Utqiagvik PC** – RE Edith Nageak

The church is blessed to have new carpeting and a new sound system. The congregation has hosted the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission meeting; the ecumenical whaling worship service, singspirations, and AA meetings. God is alive and well. There is much to celebrate: 21 baptisms on Easter and the opportunity for two of their youth to attend Youth Triennium, but 18 funerals have brought much sorrow. Prayer brings the community together. The church, in cooperation with the other Barrow churches, has held four or five joint worship services this past year. Good progress is being made in translating the Old Testament into Inupiaq.

**First Wasilla PC** – RE Shirley Novak

Shirley addressed the body on behalf of youth director and commissioner Daulton Morock. Daulton and the church pastor were called to meet with the family of a church youth rushed to a local Anchorage hospital. Rev. Piper Cartland led in a prayer.

**Savoonga PC** – Rev. Leisa Carrick

Leisa reported on behalf of RE Commissioner Nichols Waghiyi who was unable to leave the island due to bad weather. The church has six new ruling elders in need of Presbytery's support and prayers. Unfettered by a survival mode mentality, the new leaders are discerning how to reach out into the community.

### **Jewel Lake Parish** – RE Susan Woods

Elder Woods lifted up those individuals within the church's family, who have passed away this past year. The church expends great effort in community outreach.

*RE Beulah Nowpakahok led in the prayers for these churches.*

### TREASURER'S REPORT: Mary Kron

The September 2013 financial report and budget was distributed.

- Presbytery is running through its reserves, with cash reserves now at \$75,000.
- First Fairbanks PC remitted the entire cash settlement this year, rather than spreading payments over four years. Funds which would have been paid in later years, have been set aside and will be designated for future use.
- The Gambell building fund stands at \$809,091.50

### RECESS

Presbytery went into a short recess at 3:45 pm.

### 2014 PROPOSED BUDGET

Two documents were distributed: proposed 2014 dream budget, and "From Vision and Strategy to Budget." The Vision and Strategy document identified Presbytery's two major purposes:

- 1) to further communication and connections with the church beyond local congregations,
- 2) to facilitate local ministries (congregations and other local ministries)

and described specific strategies currently in use or desired by the ministry teams of Presbytery. Funding will depend on sharing this vision and strategy throughout the presbytery, on sessions stepping up to fund the ministry, and upon others stepping up as they suggest how to find other funding sources.

It is too early to know whether sessions will step up to fund the ministry. Presbytery **APPROVED** by consensus, a motion delaying the budget vote until the February 2014 stated meeting. In the meantime, Presbytery will continue to operate at 2013 budget levels.

### RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

#### **Kaktovik PC** – RE Elizabeth Rexford

The church houses a food bank with Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) providing assistance. ASRC has donated materials and labor for specific renovations to the building. The church is in partnership with the Presbyterian Church in Manitowak, Wisconsin.

#### **Anchor PC** – pastor Rev. Britt Johnston

The church's main mission is to the homeless, who are invited to worship and to partake of the fellowship meal following worship. The church now has sufficient funds to pay rent to First Anchorage.

#### **Fairbanks Korean PC** – RE Jae Maloney

This is a growing and active congregation. Rev. Jeong has served as their new pastor since August.

#### **First Anchorage PC** – RE John Beard

Members were lost in a major schism, but the church is turning a corner – attendance has picked up, and the youth program has been invigorated. The church is blessed to share the building with two other worshipping communities: a Sudanese congregation and Anchor Presbyterian Church. The church is working towards being designated as an emergency overnight shelter.

*Rev. Trent Baggett led in the prayer for these churches.*

### COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (COM)

Committee co-moderator CRE Marjorie Poggas introduced United Methodist pastors Revs. Trent and Linda Baggett, who have been serving as interim co-pastors at University Community Presbyterian Church (UCPC) and New Hope Church since July 1, 2013. Presbytery **VOTED** to approve COM's recommendation to examine Revs.

Trent and Linda Baggett, who are eligible to be enrolled as temporary members during their term of service at New Hope and UCPC. Trent and Linda read their statements of faith (Appendix B and C), and Presbytery proceeded with the examinations. Presbytery **VOTED** to arrest the examination. The Baggetts were escorted out of the building prior to the discussion. Presbytery **VOTED** to sustain the examination and enroll Revs. Linda and Trent Baggett as temporary members of the Presbytery of Yukon, in accordance with G-2.0506. Linda and Trent rejoined the plenary session amidst applause.

CRE Poggas presented Rev. David (Woo S.) Jeong, who has been serving as Stated Supply at Fairbanks Korean Presbyterian Church since August 18, 2013. As a member of the Korean Methodist Church of the Americas, Rev. Jeong is not eligible at this time to be enrolled as a full member of Presbytery, but may be enrolled as a temporary member. Presbytery **VOTED** to approve COM's recommendation to examine Rev. David Jeong. Rev. Jeong read his statement of faith (Appendix D), and Presbytery proceeded with the examination. Presbytery **VOTED** to arrest the examination. Rev. Jeong was escorted out of the building prior to discussion. Presbytery **VOTED** to sustain the examination and enroll Rev. Woo S. Jeong as a temporary member of the Presbytery of Yukon, in accordance with G-2.0506. Rev. Jeong rejoined the plenary session amidst applause.

#### COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

Committee moderator CRE Sandra Wagenius presented the committee's report.

- The committee is exploring more effective ways of providing Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) training that is culturally relevant. A letter of intent was submitted to Cook Native Ministries requesting seed money to start a pilot project to explore an immersion approach. A response is due back from Cook Native Ministries in December.
- Rev. Duke Morrow has led two CRE trainings and has served as a consultant to CPM. Duke has been an invaluable addition to the committee.
- There has been follow-up with Richard Vitale who has been a candidate in the Presbytery since 2009. Vince has moved to California and as of the last contact was employed by a Roman Catholic school. He does not plan to return to the state of Alaska, but has been reluctant to move his candidacy to the presbytery where he resided. CPM worked with Vince to help him move toward a situation that would allow him to become ordained. In 2011, he was given guidance in steps he could take to attain his goal. At that time he was told that he needed to get back to the committee by the spring of 2012, or he would be removed as a candidate. In the spring of 2013, CPM contacted Vince via email – restating the timeline and advising him of the action to be taken at this meeting. The Office of Preparation for Ministry in Louisville has advised the committee that Vince does not have an active PIF, and as far as the office is concerned, he is no longer in the system. Due to inactivity and Richard's lack of communication with CPM, the committee has removed Richard from candidacy status.
- CRE Sandra Wagenius introduced ruling elder Richard Mauer, who having served as pastor of the Delta Presbyterian/Faith Lutheran congregation the past 14 months, seeks to be commissioned. Delta church moderator RE Mark Wartes commented that he has really seen the congregation come together under Richard's leadership. Elder Mauer has completed Whitworth University's lay ministry program and a PCUSA polity class led by Rev. Duke Morrow. Richard comes with high praise from the congregation in Delta Junction, and they eagerly await his acceptance by the Presbytery, so that he can be commissioned at his home church. Having met the requirements for becoming a commissioned ruling elder, the committee met with Richard and finds that he is well equipped to serve as a commissioned ruling elder in the Delta Junction church.

The session has requested that RE Mauer be authorized to perform the following duties: preach the word, administer the sacraments, conduct public worship, provide pastoral care, preside over weddings and memorial services, moderate session, have voice and vote at meetings of Presbytery.

By **CONSENSUS**, Presbytery chose not to have elder Mauer read his statement of faith before proceeding with the examination. Presbytery **VOTED** to arrest the examination, and Richard was escorted out of the building, prior to discussion. Presbytery **VOTED** to sustain the examination and commission ruling elder Richard Mauer at the Delta Presbyterian Church on December 15, 2013. RE Mauer rejoined the plenary session amidst applause. Delta moderator RE Mark Wartes, Delta RE Ann Geise, and Rev. Curt Karns were appointed to serve as the commissioning team.

#### EVENING RECESS

Presbytery recessed for the evening with prayer at 6:00 pm. After dinner, Rev. Stan Ott led the second session of *Growing a Generous Congregation*. [The first session was held on the eve of the convening of Presbytery.]

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12**

#### SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Presbytery gathered at 9:00 am for worship. Rev. David Jeong gave the opening prayer with Rev. Linda Baggett leading in the Prayer of Confession. New Testament readings: John 11:32-44 and 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. Rev. Neal Presa delivered the message and gave the benediction. Rev. Matthew Schultz presided over the Lord's Supper with Rev. Curt Karns and Matt serving. The offering in the amount of \$1,261.16 was designated to the emergency food crisis on St. Lawrence Island.

#### PASTORAL WELCOME

Due to the host pastor's unavailability on Friday, Rev. Luke Jones took the opportunity to greet members of presbytery.

#### MISSION IN ACTION COMMITTEE

RE Sara Johnson reported on the Evangelism and Church Growth conference.

#### RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

##### **Gambell PC – RE Mike Apatiki**

Rev. Sig Kristiansen married Mike and his wife. The new church building committee is hard at work. Important mission lies across the ocean in the Chukotka area.

##### **Immanuel PC – RE Joanne Potts**

Madison Colson attended this year's Youth Triennium and reported that it was a wonderful experience being with other youth. The congregation is in partnership with Nunaka Valley Elementary School; other mission includes the Food Bank of Alaska, AA, and the Mary Magdalene Home. Youth participate in the Crop Walk. The session is working on other ideas to help the youth group.

##### **Olgonik PC – Rev. Curt Karns**

Curt spoke on behalf of CRE George and Lydia Agnasagga who are in Anchorage for medical reasons. Rev. James Nageak and other the Inupiat singers came forward to sing; Rev. Mary Ann Warden translated.

##### **New Hope – RE Cathy Johnson**

The past year has been a year of healing under the leadership of Interim Pastor Rev. Jim Christensen. Rev. Trent and Linda Baggett are currently serving as interim co-pastors. A Pastor Nominating Committee has been elected, but the biggest challenge is in determining whether the church has the financial resources to call a full time pastor. The preschool is at full capacity (39) with a waiting list. Mission involvement includes Love INC, adopt a Hospitality House teenager for Christmas, food distribution; quilts and prayer shawls for needy families.

*Prayer was led for these churches.*

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Part 1

Committee moderator RE Ida Olemaun presented the committee's report. Nominations and elections are scheduled for later in the day.

## CELEBRATION OF THE MINISTRY OF THE NOME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RE Mark Wartes and the exec met with the session after Rev, Youl Rhee retired in the summer of 2011. With few members remaining and the building in poor condition, the session desired to close the church. Members have been attending other churches in Nome the past couple years, but occasionally gather as a gospel choir. The church's mail has been forwarded to the presbytery office, and the church's bank account has been closed. Church funds are sitting in a designated presbytery fund. The building was sold earlier this year. On the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry, Presbytery **VOTED** to appoint Rev. Sig Kristiansen, Rev. Curt Karns, Rev. Leisa Carrick, and RE Beulah Nowpakahok to an administrative commission tasked with the responsibility of preparing for worship service to close the church on November 24, 2013.

Charles Brower, pastor of Community United Methodist Church in Nome briefly addressed presbytery. Rev. Leisa Carrick read a brief history (appears in italics) of the Nome church, as compiled by Rev. Dianne O'Connell in her book History of the Presbytery of Yukon:

*"During the summer of 1900, a Presbyterian church was established in Nome to accommodate the needs of the gold seekers. A year later, it was turned over to the Congregationalists. It wasn't until 1973, that there was interest to rekindle a Presbyterian church in Nome; this time from the Alaska Native population. A number of St. Lawrence Yupik Presbyterians had relocated to Nome and finding no Presbyterian Church there, they sought to establish one.*

*So here are the names we know . . .*

**Clarence Irrigoo** wrote a letter to Jessie DeVries of the Mission Strategy and Evangelism Committee. He indicated that Nome now had a population of 2,500 and that approximately 160 to 170 people from St. Lawrence Island now lived in Nome. Even though there were seven other churches currently laboring in the community he felt they would rather attend a Presbyterian church, if available.

**Rev. Sig Kristiansen**, pastor at the Gambell Church, wrote a letter a few days later saying he had tried to discourage the new church idea, but after many pleas, he was beginning to change his mind.

**Rex Okakok**, moderator of the Arctic Area Council, wrote in November that the Nome idea had enough merit to send a committee to check it out with the people there.

In another letter in December, Rev. Kristiansen urged consideration for the concept of a Presbyterian/Methodist joint venture in Nome.

**Jessie DeVries** wrote back to [Clarence] Irrigoo that on Saturday, January 12, 1974, she, Rev. Gordon Corbett (the associate synod executive), and the Rev. Samuel Simmonds (of Wainwright) would be in Nome to confer with him and other interested members.

**[Gordon] Corbett** found that the people had a definite need for worship, nurture, and supportive fellowship that they were not receiving in Nome's other churches. A Presbyterian church needed to be established.

*And, so they began to meet.*

**Alice Green** had conducted services in the early part of the summer. Clarence Irrigoo had led the services in July.

**Third-one persons** signed a petition to form a Presbyterian church. They pledged to support it with their attendance, financial and other support and prayers. On July 30, Alice Green wrote Jessie DeVries indicating



*that she had prepared the petition for the Islanders in Nome, and that she had had several conversations with John Shaffer, the new Methodist minister in Nome.*

*Plans continued to establish the new congregation, Rev. Sig Kristiansen, on September 25, 1974, wrote a letter copied to all concerned, outlining what would be needed – choice of a name for the church; election of elders; establishment of a budget to pay for the stated supply and the use of the Methodist Church; and the establishment of a Charter Membership Roll.*

*And so it happened. The Commission to organize the Nome Presbyterian Church was called to order and a motion was made to establish a United Presbyterian Church in Nome. The service of organization for the Nome Presbyterian Church was held on January 15, 1975 in the United Methodist Church in Nome. The membership included people such as Timothy and Anna Gologergen, Clarence and Mildred Irrigoo, Rodney and Josephine Ungwiluk, John and Della Waghiyi, Lucille and Nick Wongittilin, Albert Kulowyi. These are names of people we have known.*

*After the Rev. John Shaffer resigned in 1981, the Rev. Sigurd Kristiansen was appointed stated supply in 1986. He retired in 1990. Clarence Irrigoo served as CLP in 1991. In 1995 CLP Timothy Gologergen served, later being ordained. Rev. Youl Rhee was the last pastor who served this congregation*

The church has declined in membership as many families moved back to St Lawrence Island. Others have married and joined other churches in Nome or moved to Anchorage. Many members have passed on. There were only three session members left (Angela Larson, Bivers Gologergen, and Delia Ipeyana) and no other members available to serve. The ministry of the Nome Church had completed its season of ministry for such a time as this. No doubt many people had been nurtured in their faith from this faithful ministry. We give God thanks for this Presbyterian Church in Nome.”

Rev. Alice Green and Rev. Sig Kristiansen led in a prayer/grace before the lunch recess.

#### LUNCH RECESS

Presbytery recessed for lunch at 11:30 am and reconvened at 12:30 pm with the singing of “I Will Call upon the Lord...” Rev. Henry Woodall accompanied on the guitar.

#### RECOGNIZING OUR ECUMENICAL PARTNERS

Rev. Curt Karns introduced fellow ecumenical leaders Episcopal Bishop Mark Lattime and Alaska Methodist Conference Rev. David Beckett. ELCA Bishop Shelley Wickstrom was unable to attend. Rev. Mary Ann Warden led in an Inupiaq prayer for Presbytery’s ecumenical partners.

#### RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

**Kuukpik PC** – RE Carolyn Ahkiviana

Morning services are held at the Kuukpik church, whereas evening services are hosted by the Assembly of God church. Healing prayer has helped many. Many visitors attended the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration – there was much singing and Eskimo dances.

**Eagle River PC** – RE Donna Davidson

The church is in the heart of the community with the community at heart. Before the church purchased the retail building, it was a pool hall. The building is rented to small start-up businesses focused on helping others. AA meets in the facility every day. The church hosts the Eagle River food pantry which had 6,000 visits last year. The pipe and drum core practice at the church; a tax accounting group uses space once a year for pro bono tax help. The church partners with the school by providing backpacks. 20-24 food baskets were distributed during the Thanksgiving blessing project. The yearly auction raised money for mission, and there is a monthly collection box for various missions.

### **Delta PC – RE Ann Geise**

The church has been blessed with Richard Mauer leading worship this past year. Service to the community includes hosting AA meetings, provides an emergency fund, participating in Project Thanksgiving and Project Christmas, and serving as an active partner in the Delta Christian Ministerial Association. The roofing job was completed over the summer and the congregation is working on making the building more energy efficient by switching from single to triple pane windows and adding new insulation.

### **United Protestant – RE Beckie Behm**

In service to the community, the church doors remain unlocked, and the church serves as host to groups such as the mom's club, Mat-Su orchestra; mission groups; Family Promise families, etc... The deacons provide quick meals from the deacon's freezer; deacons offer gas or food cards in addition to offering rides to appointments and worship; the Sunday school food drive helped stock the food pantry and Christmas boxes; cards of celebration and sympathy are distributed.

### **First Korean Anchorage – RE Sun Heo**

Thirty percent of the members have left. Elder Heo gave thanks for presbytery during this stressful time. The church is served by an interim pastor, but still needs to hire a youth group pastor. The church hopes to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee. Elder Heo asked for prayers for the church.

*RE Fenton Rexford led in a prayer for the churches.*

### **COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION**

Committee moderator RE Paul Long reported that the slate of nominees is geographically balanced.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Part 2**

RE Ida Olemaun reported that the Committee has had a difficult time getting nominees from the interior and western regions. Names were placed into nomination. The moderator opened the floor for nominations. Hearing none, Presbytery **VOTED** to close nominations and direct the clerk to cast a unanimous ballot, as follows:

Committee on Ministry.....	Member (AV) .....	Rev. Tim Carrick <sup>(1)</sup> .....	15
Committee on Ministry.....	Member (I) .....	RE Richard Mauer <sup>(1)</sup> .....	15
Committee on Ministry.....	Member (AR) .....	RE Miranda Rexford-Brown <sup>(1)</sup> .....	16
Native American Consulting Committee .....	Member (I) .....	RE Mark Wartes <sup>(1)</sup> .....	16

The moderator opened the floor for nominations for ruling elder commissioners to Synod. There were additional nominees from the floor; Presbytery **VOTED** to close nominations. Election was by paper ballot. The following were elected by majority vote:

Commissioner to Synod, Principal .....	Ruling Elder .....	RE Fenton Rexford <sup>(1)</sup> .....	15
Commissioner to Synod, Alternate.....	Ruling Elder .....	RE Paula Long <sup>(1)</sup> .....	15

**Legend:** AV – Anchorage/Valley; AR – Arctic North; I – Interior; W – West.

Number after name indicates 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> term on the committee. \*if the way be clear

Terms for Synod commissioners end on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the class year.

### **“A CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) - TWO-HOUR STUDY”**

Lack of time precluded Rev. Henry Woodall and Rev. Tim Carrick from leading Presbytery through the study. Congregations were encouraged to undertake the six-hour study.

### **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Rev. Ellen-Johnson Price drafted and distributed the Resolution report (Appendix E).

#### OTHER BUSINESS

**Yukon Presbyterian Women:** YPW moderator RE Shirley Novak distributed a written report. The Spring Gathering was held at Immanuel PC in Anchorage on May 17-18, 2013. College student, Waverli Rainey gave a presentation on Human Trafficking, and Liz Potter talked about her trip to the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in March. The fall gathering is scheduled for October 19, 2013 in First Wasilla PC.

**Youth Triennium Report:** 1<sup>st</sup> Anchorage Christian Education Director Danna Larson submitted a written report (Appendix F).

#### FIX THE TIME TO WHICH TO ADJOURN

With other business remaining on the docket, Presbytery **VOTED** to fix the time to which to adjourn to October 29, 2013, at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be conducted via teleconference. The day's session closed with prayer at 1:55 pm.

Sharon Rayt  
Stated Clerk