



Presbytery of Yukon

October 25, 2023

Meet our New Executive Presbyter



We welcome Rev. Elizabeth Schultz as the new Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Yukon. Rev. Schultz was voted in and commissioned on Friday, October 6th, 2023, as part of the worship service at the October Presbytery meeting. Rev. Elizabeth Schultz has been an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PCUSA since 2006. Elizabeth holds a bachelor's degree from Juniata College and Masters of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. Elizabeth began her ministry career as a campus

minister in Pennsylvania before moving to Anchorage, Alaska in 1997 to serve as the Co-Director of Youth Ministries with her husband, Matt Schultz. From Alaska, she followed the call to seminary and to various calls in vocational ministry, working in a validated ministry call in community mission and as an Associate Pastor, focusing on youth and families, community outreach, and national and international service opportunities. Elizabeth served as the Community and Nonprofit Liaison for Governor Bill Walker from 2014 to 2018 and then as a Community Relations Manager for a local nonprofit until 2023, while also serving as a Parish Associate and Member at Large within the Presbytery of Yukon. Elizabeth and Matt are the proud parents of three children and love to call Alaska home!

Rev. Schultz is honored to serve the diverse and unique churches and congregations in our Presbytery. For more information, you can read the report from the Executive Presbyter Search committee [here](#).

New Happenings in the Presbytery

Email:

Please note that the staff of the Yukon Presbytery have new emails.

- Elizabeth Schultz: ep@yukonpres.org
- Doreen McNeill: statedclerk@yukonpres.org
- Rachel Graham: financialsec@yukonpres.org
- Melissa O'Malley: office@yukonpres.org

Website:

In the coming months we will be reviewing various parts of our website, updating existing content, and adding additional resources and materials. If you would like to assist with our website update, please reach out to Elizabeth at

ep@yukonpres.org

Newsletter:

We would like to start building a monthly newsletter again for our Presbytery, to be sent out at the end of each month. We would love to hear input and ideas from all of you about what you would like to see in a Presbytery Newsletter. What is most helpful? How could this serve to address the needs brought forward from Presbytery for ongoing connection and communication? Suggestions can be sent to

ep@yukonpres.org. Initial ideas include:

- Church Happenings around the Presbytery -Feature one or two churches/newsletter
- Updates from IAM (Intergenerational Arctic Ministries)
- News from the Synod and General Assembly
- Upcoming Events and Trainings
- Presbytery Meeting plans
- Cultural and Seasonal Observances
- Grant and Funding Opportunities
- Pastoral Reflections
- Prayer Requests
- Suicide and domestic violence hotlines for Alaska

October 2023 Presbytery Report

The churches and congregations of the Presbytery of Yukon met together at First Presbyterian Church from October 6th-7th for Presbytery. We met to worship, plan, talk and dream together. Our theme was "For I'm about to do something new!"

In addition to welcoming a new EP, there were many new things to celebrate. Thank you to our new committee members; Rev. Leisa Carrick for serving as co-chair of the Leadership Committee and to Rev. Blake Severson for joining the Ministry Commission. Thank you to those serving as delegates to General Assembly, which will take place from June 25th to July 4th in Salt Lake City, Utah, with a theme of "Live into Hope." Look for more updates on GA in upcoming newsletters.

Additional information can be found here: <https://ga-pcusa.org>

During the Presbytery meeting, each church shared joys, struggles and prayer requests. Common shared joys included:

Churches large and small are engaged in dynamic mission work, offerings of deep connection and worship with various types of music and choirs. Several of our churches have new pastoral leadership, new families joining and young children in worship. Much thankfulness was expressed for the existence of technology to provide continued online worship and increased internet connection across the north slope and St. Lawrence Island. Thankfulness was given for generous financial contributions, upgrades and repairs to buildings, the blessings of a whale for an arctic community, and for the sharing of gifts and talents of all kinds.



In Recognition and Thanksgiving

Over the last few years our Presbytery has experienced great change and transition:

Thank you to **Sharon Rayt** for 26 years of service to the Presbytery, 23 years as our Stated Clerk and 3 years as Recording Secretary.

Thank you **Leisa Carrick** for serving as Interim Executive Presbyter for almost 2 years.

Thank you to the **Executive Presbyter Search Committee** for their years of faithful service.

News from the Synod and OGA

Toward Healing: Presbyterian Apology and Reparations for Closing Memorial Church.

An inter-agency delegation from the Office of the General Assembly

(OGA), the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA), and Northwest Coast Presbytery traveled to Juneau, Alaska from October 7th-9th 2023 to attend a Formal Service of Acknowledgement, Apology and Commitment to Reparations. The apology is one of more than a dozen steps directed by the General Assembly last summer.

As reported in September, “The 225th General Assembly approved an overture to meaningfully address the wounds inflicted on Alaska Natives, who were directly impacted by the sin of the unwarranted 1963 closure of Memorial Presbyterian Church, a thriving, multi-ethnic, intercultural church.” The United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. was also responsible for dismissing Memorial’s pastor, the Rev. Dr. Walter Soboleff, which caused further harm to Native communities in Juneau. The weekend events were planned through a Healing Task Force shared by members of Kunéix Hídi Northern Light United Church and Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. Videos of the events of the weekend can be found [here](#).

Many thanks to Rev. Tim Carrick, from the United Protestant Church in Palmer, Alaska, for representing the Yukon Presbytery at this event. Please read Rev. Carrick’s experience in his own words:

Apology for the Closing of Memorial Presbyterian Church in Juneau

Apologies are difficult. A simple “I’m sorry” is always appropriate, but sometimes before an apology can be heard or accepted, the reason for the apology needs to be addressed. In the Church we often focus on confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation ~ perhaps it is part of most of our worship liturgies. It is a powerful and moving experience when seeing it in action, even as an “outside observer” as I was last week (October 7-9) in Juneau.

Half a century after the events took place in Juneau in 1963, many people gathered to recognize deep hurts and divisions which took place under the umbrella of our denomination’s “mission strategy.” The Presbyterian Board of National Mission funded the birthing of a Presbyterian church for Alaska Native peoples in Juneau in the 1800’s. When the Rev. Walter Soboleff was called to be their pastor in 1940 it was still an era of racial and ethnic segregation throughout much of our country. For over two decades Rev. Soboleff was the pastor of Memorial Presbyterian Church, a thriving congregation ~ a congregation ahead of its time in already being multi-ethnic and multi-racial, although predominately Alaska Native.

In the early 1960s our denomination began to “see the light” that segregation in churches was not what we wanted to be. The Board of National Missions and the Alaska Presbytery agreed. Just a few blocks from Memorial Presbyterian Church was the struggling Northern Lights Presbyterian Church ~ a Caucasian congregation. The decision makers at the time decided that to counter segregation, it would be important to bring the two congregations together to make one. Their solution was to close the thriving Memorial church and transfer all their members to the struggling Northern Lights congregation. The pastor of the Northern Lights congregation kept his job while the Rev. Walter Soboleff lost his job. A few months later after the pastor of Northern Lights church left, instead of inviting the Rev. Walter Soboleff to become the pastor, a Caucasian pastor was called. Many of the members of the former Memorial church did not choose to transition to Northern Lights church. Even a couple months before the Rev. Walter Soboleff’s death at age 102, the pain was still fresh.

I attended to represent Yukon Presbytery. I did not have to say or do anything, but it seemed important to us and to them to have someone from our presbytery standing with them through the three days of events. A p.s.: The year before the Memorial church was closed and demolished,

the congregation had completed a fund-raiser to purchase new pews for their sanctuary. The new pews were a joy for the congregation. The K̲unéi̲x̲ Hídi Northern Lights church (as its name has been changed to meaning “people’s house of healing”) now has those pews lining the sides of their sanctuary ~ a constant reminder of the congregation which once was.

-Tim Carrick, United Protestant Church in Palmer

A link to Alaska Public Radio’s article of the event:

<https://alaskapublic.org/2023/10/10/presbyterian-leaders-apologize-begin-reparations-for-1962-closure-of-juneau-church/>

A link to a short YouTube documentary of the Memorial Presbyterian Church:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uU3OswuYybo>

More Photos from Presbytery







Prayer Requests



Prayers from our Presbytery Meeting in October:

The hope for more youth and young families in churches. Leadership for congregations without a pastor. The grief felt over the loss of church members. The needs of our brothers and sisters who are homeless. The challenges that come with aging church buildings. The vision to see new ways of worshiping and gathering as a community. Letting go of the old and embracing the new. Rev. Seung Yoo of First Korean

church in Anchorage stated, "Our joys and struggles are combined. We go through trials which lead to perseverance which leads to joy."

Prayers for Israel & Palestine:

Mere words can hardly convey the depth of suffering and pain that is ongoing in Israel and Palestine. As people of faith, we grieve with those who grieve, we cry out to the Holy Spirit to intercede, and we dwell on the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." We pray for peace to come to this region and to all areas of our hurting world affected by violence and war.

Information on how to help through the PCUSA and resources for worship (Prayers, Litanies, Bulletin Inserts) can be found here: **[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#)**

Mark Your Calendars

November 23, 2023



Happy Thanksgiving!

The Presbytery office will be closed the week of November 19-25 in observance of the holiday.

December 25, 2023

Merry Christmas!

The Presbytery office will be closed the week of December 24-30 in observance of the holiday.



January 1, 2024



Happy New Year!

The Presbytery office will resume normal business hours on Wednesday, January 3rd.

February 9-10,
2024

The Next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery in Anchorage

Domestic Violence Help

[Click here](#) for contact information on crisis teams across Alaska and to find programs in your area that can help.

Suicide Prevention

If you're having thoughts of suicide, call [the Alaska CARELINE](#) (1-877-266-4357), or reach out to someone you love and trust. You can also text 4HELP to 839863, 3 - 11 pm Tuesday – Saturday.

Careline treats callers with respect and listens without judging. Careline also provides information for those concerned about someone else. Advice is tailored to Alaskans.

Suicide prevention works. People can and do put suicidal thoughts behind them.

Presbytery of Yukon
616 W. 10th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-276-0914



www.pbyukon.org



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

Presbytery of Yukon | 616 W 10th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501

[Unsubscribe office@pbyukon.org](mailto:unsubscribe@pbyukon.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data](#)
[Notice](#)

Sent by office@pbyukon.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!
