

Pastoral Ministry Team
Presbytery Report
November 2-3, 2018

The purpose of the Pastoral Ministry Team is to come alongside of churches, sessions, and pastors to provide encouragement, support, and training as we work together to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

A. Wishing our Best to the Rev. Susan Barnes

The Rev. Susan Barnes, pastor of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Billings, will be moving to Louisville, Kentucky, where her husband Mike has received a job as editor of the Presbyterian News Service. Pastor Susan's last Sunday at St. Andrew will be on Sunday, November 4. We pray for blessings for Pastor Susan and Mike as they transition to Louisville and appreciate their work at St. Andrew and our Presbytery over the past five years. Time to express our appreciation to Pastor Susan will be given at this meeting.

B. Wishing our Best to the Rev. Katie Emery

The Rev. Katie Emery, pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church in Terry and Hope American Lutheran Church in Fallon, has accepted a call to serve First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Longmont, Colorado. We wish Katie and her husband (Will) the best as they transition to their new community. Pastor Katie's last Sunday in Terry will be on October 28. We hope that Pastor Katie will be able to join us at this Presbytery meeting so we can offer our appreciation to her for her years of ministry to our Presbytery and those in eastern Montana.

C. Transferring Membership of the Rev. Stephen Weber

The Rev. Steve Weber has requested that his Yellowstone Presbytery membership be transferred to Kendall Presbytery in Eastern Idaho. Pastor Steve has served as the Interim Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in Dillon. We appreciate Pastor Steve's work in Dillon during a time of transition for the congregation.

D. Welcoming the Rev. Daniel Triller

The Rev. Daniel Triller was approved by Presbytery via conference call on September 14, 2018 to serve as the new pastor in Dillon. We welcome Pastor Daniel and his wife Callie to their new community and church family.

E. Welcoming the Rev. Deborah Schmidt

The Rev. Deborah Schmidt, a pastor in the United Methodist Conference, is now serving St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Phillipsburg. She is also serving the Methodist churches in Hall and Drummond. Due to the ecumenical relationship we have with the United Methodist Church we recognize her as a temporary member of our Presbytery.

F. Welcoming the Rev. Wenda Fry

The Rev. Wenda Fry, a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), was installed as the new pastor of the Yoked Parish in White Sulphur Springs on Sunday, October 21.

Pastor Wenda also serves Trinity Lutheran Church in Lennep. Due to the ecumenical relationship we have with ELCA we recognize her as a temporary member of our Presbytery.

G. Welcoming Margee Smith as a CRE Seeker

Margee Smith, a ruling elder from Lewistown, has begun the Commission Ruling Elder (CRE) process as a seeker. She is a retired kindergarten teacher and has been very active at First Presbyterian Church in Lewistown. Margee was interviewed by PMT in September and has begun the process toward commissioning. She has begun taking classes through Whitworth University in Spokane.

H. Presbytery Minimum Salary Guidelines for 2019 needs approval:

Here are the Pastoral Ministry Team's recommendations for 2019 Minimum Salaries. These figures represent a 2% increase in minimum salaries for 2019 and are based on full time of a 40 hour work week. We acknowledge that Yellowstone Presbytery remains near the bottom for compensation for pastors serving in the Presbyterian Church (USA). The PMT recognizes concerns about the minimum standards since these figures do not compensate a pastor enough to live without financial stress.

Full-Time Pastor in 0-3 years of Ordained Ministry:

Cash \$35,290

Housing \$10,587 (The Board of Pension requires that the manse amount be at least 30% of all other effective salary items.)

Effective Salary \$45,877

Board of Pension dues (Medical/Retirement/Death/Disability) \$16,975

Continuing Education \$600 (cumulative to 3 years)

Travel - Vouchered at the current federal rate

Study Leave - 2 weeks (cumulative to 6 weeks) including 2 Sundays

Vacation - 4 weeks including 4 Sundays

Family Leave - Each church shall develop a Family Leave Policy

Full-Time Pastor in 4 or more years of Ordained Ministry:

Cash \$36,875

Housing \$11,060 (The Board of Pension requires that the manse amount be at least 30% of all other effective salary items.)

Effective Salary \$47,945

Board of Pension dues (Medical/Retirement/Death/Disability) \$17,740

Continuing Education \$600.00 (cumulative to 3 years)

Travel - Vouchered at the current federal rate

Study Leave - 2 weeks (cumulative to 6 weeks) including 2 Sundays

Vacation - 4 weeks including 4 Sundays

Family Leave - Each church shall develop a Family Leave Policy

Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)

The CRE salary is 75% of the Full-Time Pastor salary, pro-rated for part-time.

I. Approve the Yellowstone Presbytery Policy on Non-PC(USA) Pastors

This policy was approved by our PMT on May 10, 2018 and we present it for Presbytery's approval.

Yellowstone Presbytery Policy on Non-PC(USA) pastors:

This is the Yellowstone Presbytery Policy for membership in the Presbytery for Persons serving as Pastors in other denominations. This policy shall not replace or be considered primary to the provisions of the Book of Order of the PC(USA). In event of any conflict the interpretation of the Book of Order will govern all decisions made by this council. For this reason, some of the existing provisions of the Book of Order 2017-2019 are quoted herein and any future changes in the provisions noted here will also govern if or when adopted.

Part 1.

We will be guided by the Book of Order PC(USA) provision on unity: F1.0302a

Unity is God's gift to the Church in Jesus Christ. Just as God is one God and Jesus Christ is our one Savior, so the Church is one because it belongs to its one Lord, Jesus Christ. The Church seeks to include all people and is never content to enjoy the benefits of Christian community for itself alone. There is one Church, for there is one Spirit, one hope, "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all" (Eph. 4:5-6).

Because in Christ the Church is one, it strives to be one. To be one with Christ is to be joined with all those whom Christ calls into relationship with him. To be thus joined with one another is to become priests for one another, praying for the world and for one another and sharing the various gifts God has given to each Christian for the benefit of the whole community. Division into different denominations obscures but does not destroy unity in Christ.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), affirming its historical continuity with the whole Church of Jesus Christ, is committed to the reduction of that obscurity, and is willing to seek and to deepen communion with all other churches within the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

In seeking the unity of the Church of Jesus Christ (G-5.0101), the General Assembly may authorize and direct that covenants, agreements, and statements of purpose and intent be developed with other Christian bodies. Such actions, when authorized and approved by the General Assembly, may address, but are not limited to, the mutual recognition of baptism and the orderly exchange of ministers. All councils of this church are encouraged to engage in

opportunities to minister together in mutual affirmation and admonition with other Christian bodies.

Part 2.

G-2.0505b Transfers of ministers of other denominations

In addition to these required standards of the Book of Order, this Presbytery shall require any transferred ordained person of another denomination outside those churches in full communion to become ordained and take the vows of ordination of the PC(USA). The persons to be admitted shall also clearly state they have no current desire to seek fellowship in any other denomination at the time of their examination. The whole presbytery will examine and vote on the admission of the transferred minister to the presbytery.

G-2.0506 Temporary membership for a period of service

In addition to the requirement of the Book of Order on these transfers or temporary assignments a candidate for a validated ministry will be required to become familiar with the general polity of the PC(USA) and shall accept the guidance of the Presbytery on all matters that they perform with or for the members of their fellowships who are members of the PCUSA. This will particularly require acceptance of the PC(USA) understanding of the sacrament of Baptism and the administration of the sacrament of Holy Communion. An unwillingness to accept and administer these sacraments according to PC(USA) understanding shall be grounds for refusing a transfer.

The Presbytery has granted its authority to provide temporary membership in this presbytery for validated ministry assignments to the PMT for approval and the reviews as required of the Book of Order. Temporary memberships can be for a specific term of office or if indeterminate shall be renewed annually by a vote of the Pastoral Ministry Team.

G-5.0202 Full Communion

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is in full communion with those churches so recognized by the General Assembly. Full communion shall include the mutual recognition of baptism and the orderly exchange of ministers, as defined by ecumenical agreement. Councils of this church are encouraged to engage in opportunities to minister together in mutual affirmation and admonition with churches with which the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is in full communion.

We are already in communion with and accept transfers to and from:

The "Ecumenical Lutheran Church in America" (ELCA)

The "Reformed Church in America" (RCA)

The "United Church of Christ" (UCC)

The "Korean Presbyterian Church in America" (KPCA)

The Presbytery can accept into its membership any ordained pastor, preacher, teaching elder, ministers of word and sacraments into any Minister of Word and Sacrament position in this Presbytery upon verification of credentials supplied and examination for membership according to the same standards all Minister of Word and Sacrament are examined. If a merger or congregational relationship with one of these denominations churches is involved additional requirements may be established by each church's governing bodies.

Part 3.

For all other trained Pastors this presbytery can and shall require more information on the candidate for Teaching Elder. Such additional criteria may include competing training in PC(USA) Polity, a background check, college transcripts and other credentials that will validate sufficient education and skills needed for the ministry contemplated. In all cases membership in this Presbytery as a teaching elder will conform to G 2.0607.

G-2.0607 Final Assessment and Negotiation for Service

A candidate may not enter into negotiation for his or her service as a teaching elder without approval of the presbytery of care. The presbytery shall record when it has certified a candidate ready for examination by a presbytery for ordination, pending a call. Evidence of readiness to begin ordered ministry as a teaching elder shall include:

- a. a candidate's wisdom and maturity of faith, leadership skills, compassionate spirit, honest repute, and sound judgment;
- b. a transcript showing graduation, with satisfactory grades, at a regionally accredited college or university;
- c. 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; and
- d. examination materials, together with evaluations that declare those materials satisfactory in the areas covered by any standard ordination examination approved by the General Assembly. Such examinations shall be prepared and administered by a body created by the presbyteries.

G-3.0306–G-3.0401

Every teaching elder shall ordinarily be a member of the presbytery where his or her work is situated or of the presbytery where she or he resides unless approval is received from a

Presbytery of origin and gives Yellowstone Presbytery notice of approval for the Minister to serve out of bounds of the jurisdiction of his or her presbytery.

G-2.0610 Accommodations to Particular Circumstances

When a presbytery concludes there are good and sufficient reasons for accommodations to the particular circumstances of an individual seeking ordination, it may, by a three-fourths vote, waive any of the requirements for ordination in G-2.06, except for those of G-2.0607d. 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, it shall approve by three-fourths vote some alternate means by which to ascertain the readiness of the candidate for ministry in the areas covered by the standard ordination examinations. A full account of the reasons for any waiver or alternate means to ascertain readiness shall be included in the minutes of the presbytery and communicated to the presbytery to which an inquirer or candidate may be transferred.

G-2.0701 Ordination

Ordination to the ordered ministry of teaching elder is an act of the whole church carried out by the presbytery, setting apart a person to ordered ministry. Such a person shall have fulfilled the ordination requirements of the presbytery of care and received the call of God to service to a congregation or other work in the mission of the church that is acceptable to the candidate and to the presbytery of call.

Part 4. Revisions and review policy

This policy will be subject to review at a minimum of every two years and recommendations for changes will be submitted for review by the Pastoral Ministry Team of the Yellowstone Presbytery and subject to adoption by a simple majority vote of the presbytery until such time as it may become permanent policy.

This proposed policy was approved by the Pastoral Ministry Team on May 10, 2018

I am grateful for a dedicated group who serve as members of the Pastoral Ministry Team:

RE Charlie Brown

TE JP Carlson

TE Susi Ennis

RE Chris Eriksen

RE Gayle Holland

TE Doug Johnson

TE Dan Krebill

RE Veva Larsen

RE Linda Smith

TE Dave Thompson

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Dave Thompson, Chair