

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON FALL STATED MEETING

University Community Presbyterian Church

October 7-8, 2016

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Matthew 22:34-40

FRIDAY, October 7, 2016

OPENING SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Presbytery opened with worship at 9:00 am in the University Community Presbyterian Church sanctuary, with Rev. Curt Karns delivering the message, *'The Kingdom of God and the Healing of the Nations.'*

Scripture readings: Genesis 3:1-21 and Mark 2:1-12. Prayers of the people followed the sermon.

CONVENE/OPENING PRAYER

Moderator Ruling Elder (RE) Ron Illingworth convened the Fall Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Yukon with prayer at 9:40 am.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The moderator declared a quorum, in accordance with G-3.0304, that ruling elders representing at least three churches and three teaching elders constitute a quorum.

CORPORATION ACTION

On the recommendation of the Leadership Team, Presbytery **APPROVED** a motion declaring that the entire stated meeting be also a meeting of the corporation.

HOST CHURCH WELCOME

Pastor Rev. Neill McKay extended a warm welcome to Presbytery. Recognition was given to the University Community 'Garage Guys' small group, who organized and hosted the meeting.

ADOPTION OF DOCKET

Presbytery **ADOPTED** the docket, as amended and **APPROVED** a motion giving the moderator authority to make minor adjustments to the docket, as needed.

INTRODUCTIONS/SEATING OF CORESPONDING MEMBERS

Guests, first time ruling elder commissioners and teaching elders were introduced. Corresponding members were **ENROLLED**. Motion granting voice to corresponding members and guests giving reports and providing expertise, was **APPROVED**.

ROLL

Teaching elder members present:

Leisa Carrick – <i>co-pastor, United Protestant Church</i>	Tim Carrick – <i>co-pastor, United Protestant Church</i>
Piper Cartland – <i>pastor, Eagle River PC</i>	Britt Johnston – <i>temporary supply, Anchor PC</i>
Curt Karns – <i>executive presbyter</i>	Dan Ketchum – <i>honorably retired</i>
Ian MacInnes-Green – <i>member-at-large</i>	Neill McKay – <i>pastor, University Community PC</i>

Curtis Matz – *pastor, New Hope Church*
Matt Schultz – *pastor, First Anchorage PC*
Henry Woodall – *pastor, First Wasilla PC*

Israel Nelson – *honorably retired*
Johan Shin – *stated supply, 1st Korean Anchorage PC*

Commissioned ruling elders (CRE) present:

Virginia Kasak – *Kuukpik PC*
Richard Mauer – *Delta PC*
Marjorie Poggas – *Jewel Lake Parish*

Darlene Matz (effective Sat.) – *New Hope, Kaktovik PC*
Beulah Nowpakahok – *Gambell PC*
Cody Ryu – *Fairbanks Korean PC*

Churches represented by ruling elder (RE) commissioner:

Anchor PC – *Clyde Kaneshiro*
Eagle River PC – *Kim Arlington*
First Wasilla PC – *Shirley Novak*
Immanuel PC – *Sandra Haldane*
New Hope Church – *Matt Tinkelenberg*
United Protestant Church – *Jan Burger (Sat. only)*
Utqiagvik PC – *Ida Olemaun*

Delta PC – *Bob Lee*
Fairbanks Korean PC – *Jinhee Dickerson*
Gambell PC – *Mike Apatiki*
Jewel Lake Parish – *Susan Woods*
Trinity PC – *Spencer Biegel*
University Community PC – *Carol Nielsen*

Other voting members present:

Bob Christensen – *Leadership Team*
Arlayne Knox – *Leadership Team*
Sharon Rayt – *Stated Clerk*

Ron Illingworth – *Presbytery Moderator*
Danna Larson – *Certified Christian Educator*
Mark Wartes – *Leadership Team*

Teaching elder members excused:

Isaac Akootchook – *honorably retired*
Richard Carpenter – *honorably retired*
Green, Alice – *honorably retired*
Ellen Johnson Price – *temp supply, Immanuel PC*
Dean Knapp – *honorably retired*
William Ng – *honorably retired*
Youl Rhee – *honorably retired*
Mary Ann Warden – *honorably retired*

Patrick Bracken- *military chaplain*
Sandra Faison- *member-at-large*
Henry Guinotte – *honorably retired*
Luke Jones – *pastor, Jewel Lake Parish*
James Nageak – *honorably retired*
Dianne O’Connell – *honorably retired*
Ken Smith – *honorably retired*

Churches not represented by a ruling elder commissioner:

Atqasuk Chapel
First Anchorage PC
Kaktovik PC
Olgonik PC

Chapel in the Mountains
First Korean Anchorage PC
Kuukpik PC
Savoonga PC

Other voting members excused

CRE Paul Bodfish – *Atqasuk Chapel*
CRE Leah Hathaway – *Jewel Lake Parish*

Barbara Brown – *Leadership Team*
Elizabeth Hollingsworth – *Leadership Team*

Enrollment of corresponding members:

Rev. Todd Allen – *Interim pastor, Trinity PC (New Hope Presbytery)*
Rev. Mark Frey – *Regional consultant, Board of Pensions (Cascades Presbytery)*

Guests/Presbytery office staff:

Jim Anderson – *New Hope Church*
Dorothy Bekoalak – *Native Ministries presenter*
Mary Kron – *Presbytery treasurer*

Mark Anderson – *Youth Triennium adult attendee*
Kathy Christensen – *First Wasilla PC*
David LaMotte – *Workshop Presenter*

Charlie McNeill – *GA Young Adult Advisory Delegate*
Wanda Slwooko – *Gambell PC*
Steve Anderson - *Youth Triennium attendee*

Terri Ramsey – *Bingle Camp Ministries*
Steve Spencer – *Bingle Camp Ministries*

MODERATOR APPOINTMENTS

Mileage Committee: Rev. Matt Schultz

Resolutions: Rev. Henry Woodall

PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

The stated clerk presented the consent agenda. The vote to adopt was postponed to Saturday morning, giving commissioners sufficient time to review the consent agenda.

BOARD OF PENSIONS REPORT

Regional representative Rev. Mark Frey provided an update. A new plan will take effect in January, 2017. Churches were challenged to start caring for other employees, and the Board aims to provide needed resources. The pension portfolio remains strong, enabling the Board to continue to pay pensions.

NATIVE MINISTRIES (Part I) – Dorothy Bekoalak

Dorothy addressed presbytery on creating healthy communities. It is time for people to be healed from the maladaptive behaviors (e.g., domestic violence, addictions, suicide) caused by generational trauma. Missionaries brought the gospel but also brought forth the wrong impression that dancing and native languages were evil. The hurts of colonization, (e.g., boarding schools) resulted in the breakdown of the family which continues today. Jesus Christ can start to heal our communities from the hurt. Beginning with the Gambell reconciliation event, the reconciliation work that the church is doing is phenomenal. Curt Karns led in a prayer for Dorothy.

ECUMENICAL MINISTRY (PLUME) – Jan Burger

PLUME (Presbyterian, Lutheran, United Methodist, and Episcopal) has focused its energy this year on two specific initiatives: the PLUME Academy and a Latino missional community launch in the Mat-Su Valley.

The goal of the PLUME Academy is to surface new leaders for traditional and emerging church models by inspiring and equipping laity. Last spring, the PLUME Academy offered two courses that merged hands-on skill development with faith formation. There was a course on theology/gardening in Alaska with biblical reflections on earth care and another course on theology/drawing that taught participants basic drawing skills and reflected on how Christ has been presented in art throughout history. Two year-long studies will begin this fall: *Covenant Bible Study* (a Biblical overview following the primary theme of covenant) and *Companions in Christ* (developing the practices of a spiritual life). In spring 2017, short courses will focus on spiritual growth and lay training for ministry (e.g., an introduction to preaching course).

There is a growing Latino missional community in the Mat-Su Valley led by Hazel Davidson and Rev. Robert Hicks. They are working on a six week PLUME course this fall to teach the concepts and practices of forming a missional community. Hazel has led several seasonal celebrations that are of importance in the Latino community, which have been well attended.

In the midst of these challenges, the Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Robert Hicks, is resigning his position as of December, 2016. The board of directors are in a period of discernment about the future of Mat-Su PLUME Outreach and has asked for prayers.

RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

United Protestant Church - RE Jan Burger

The church's mission statement 'serving Christ together' is expressed through multi-dimensional, inclusive worship beyond Sunday. Love for their neighbor is expressed by sharing the facilities with AA groups, dance and Pilates classes, and the Mat-Su orchestra; working with Habitat for Humanity; providing food and gas cards to the homeless; collecting socks for Gambell; providing food for Saint Lawrence Island, and supporting mission in Albania, etc.

Fairbanks Korean Presbyterian Church - CRE Cody Ryu.

There is now only one elder on session. Love makes the congregation close to each other, God, and our neighbors. There is a plan to visit former members. Two areas of focus include the Christian life (Bible Study, prayer) and Christian task (service in the community, host a Korean language school and computer school for the elderly; assistance to the homeless as the budget allows).

Anchor Presbyterian Church - RE Clyde Kaneshiro

The church is complicated, and we serve the Lord in many different ways. The church's mission statement is to 'provide a welcoming place for people of all races.' One reason why Anchor exists is to help people along the way. The homeless are invited to partake of a snack weekly and a meal once a month after worship. First Presbyterian Church in Anchorage provides worship space. Funds are raised through garage sales and a spaghetti feed/silent auction event.

Atkasuk Presbyterian Church – no report

RE Arlayne Knox led in the prayer for these churches.

'WORLD CHANGING 101' WORKSHOP (Part I) – David LaMotte

Christian peacemaker, award-winning songwriter, speaker and writer David LaMotte led the 1.5 hour long workshop.

LUNCH RECESS

Rev. Neill McKay led in the blessing before the lunch recess at 12:15 pm. Presbytery reconvened at 1:30 pm with the singing of 'His Banner over Me is Love'.

BYLAWS REVISION (Part I: Presentation) - Rev. Piper Cartland

Leadership Team chair Cartland gave a presentation on the major revision to the bylaws. Major change reflecting presbytery's new structure include:

- Merging a majority of Standing Rule provisions with the Corporation Bylaws.
- Combining the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and the Committee on Ministry into a Ministry Commission.
- Designating the Leadership Team as the Presbytery's Board of Directors. The team will also assume the duties of the Board of Trustees which will be disbanded.
- Reducing the number of regions from four to two: Native Ministries (including Anchor Presbyterian Church) and the Road System. The regions will meet a minimum of three times annually, having responsibility for mission within their bounds. The Mission in Action Committee will be disbanded.

RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

Eagle River Presbyterian Church – RE Kim Arlington

To love God, you have to put your trust in Him. 2016 has been a challenging year financially; the church lost their main renter, but a medical clinic will be renting space. The church paid off their presbytery mortgage. Love INC. uses the building as a call center. As a Love INC partner, the congregation has

provided backpacks to local school children needing assistance. The Chugiak-Eagle River Food Pantry is housed in the building, and the Food Bank of Alaska uses the parking lot as a mobile food pantry site. The church, in cooperation with other area congregations, gathered food for the Thanksgiving Blessing project.

New Hope Church – RE Matt Tinkelenberg

The congregation reaches out to meet needs in the North Pole community and to their sister church in Kaktovik. Darlene Matz periodically travels to minister in Kaktovik. To meet the needs of individuals who are unable to attend Sunday worship, a Saturday evening service is planned, with Matt Tinkelenberg leading worship. Love one another—is what this is all about; to serve.

Kaktovik Presbyterian Church - no report

Gambell Presbyterian Church - RE Mike Apatiki

On average 40-60 attend worship weekly, but attendance is higher when leadership is provided from outside the village. Preaching duties are rotated amongst the seven elders. The community faces economic and addiction challenges. A large window, adorned by a huge dove representing the Holy Spirit, looks out east toward the mountains.

Gambell Building Project – Volunteer coordinator CCE Danna Larson

Volunteers have worked on the new building the past two building seasons. The goal is to recruit five work teams each, from the lower 48 and Presbytery of Yukon churches, to work on the building during the 2017 building season. An on-site building supervisor needs to be hired. Additional funds are needed to complete the construction project.

RE Ida Olemaun led in the prayer for these churches and the building project.

NATIVE MINISTRIES (Part II) – RE Ida Olemaun

Dorothy Bekoalak led a workshop at the Native Ministries meeting on grief, loss and trauma, from a Biblical perspective.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER REPORT – Rev. Curt Karns

When the winds of the Spirit blow, we see signs of it. In his traveling, the exec has noticed the following efforts under way:

Native Ministries Region:

- The Native Ministries Committee (NMC) is making a fresh beginning at this presbytery meeting.
 - a. NMC elected RE Merle Apassingok as moderator, RE Ida Olemaun as Moderator Elect, and RE Wanda Slwooko as secretary. Officers will meet monthly by phone.
 - b. NMC will review the health of Native Ministries churches and their leadership needs,
 - c. NMC will begin planning on how to follow-up on the General Assembly’s renunciation of the Doctrine of Discovery and their apology for the trauma caused by boarding schools in Native American life. Specifically, how do we address the trauma using Native American cultural wisdom, the insights of the social sciences, and the healing power of the Holy Spirit? Christian leader and social worker Dorothy Bekoalak is scheduled to be present. The exec moved that the Presbytery of Yukon join with the Utqiaġvik congregation to invite General Assembly leadership to travel to Barrow for a main event, for the purpose of issuing an apology and repudiating the doctrine of discovery. Motion was **APPROVED**.

Fresh movements of the Spirit among congregations in the Native Ministries Region include:

- Wainwright, Atqasuk, and Nuiqsut are hiring half time interim, Rev. Hugh Anderson, to serve as teacher and coach to leaders in these villages. Wainwright has identified three elders, who wish to be trained together as a team of CREs, and Nuiqsut has identified one. The churches are in the

process of nominating new elders and wish for their sessions to be freshly trained as a team. All three wish for their Sunday school teachers to receive training.

Hugh will begin with a 12-day tour of the three villages beginning November 4th. The contract is for one year as the three churches spend time evaluating their needs and considering how to redesign a long-term job description for a teaching elder.

- Rev. Joseph Reid, Barrow's new interim pastor, is working with session to clarify the church's understanding of God's mission for them now and living that mission in a way that touches lives and helps people to hear God's call to discipleship. They are reviewing their radio ministry, restarting Sunday school, and looking to improve their social witness in the region.
- Gambell Presbyterian Church has been in conversation with the three leadership bodies of their community (the City of Gambell, Sivuqaq Corporation, and the Gambell Indian Reorganization Act Council) to turn their new building into a combination church and community center. Community activities will be held in the building in partnership with a variety of agencies – but the community partnership is key, because the Gospel of Jesus Christ is about healthy people and healthy communities.
- In Fairbanks, a group of Iñupiaq people met in May and decided to begin a new Christian gathering that will include worship, food and fellowship, and Iñupiaq drumming and dancing.
- Chapel in the Mountains has been celebrating God's grace since a plane crash last December miraculously ended with no deaths. The congregation has been exploring how to properly respond in gratitude. As a result, worship time has changed to 3 pm on Sundays to unite the generations in worship, Sunday school began again, an Iñupiaq language for adults class has started (also to unite generations), and plans have been made for a community celebration on the survival after such a dramatic crash.

Road System Region

- Eagle River Presbyterian Church is doing some congregational soul searching – seeking a new sense of God's mission for them to embody in their community. They are being very intentional in interviewing their members and in seeking new ways to connect with youth and younger adults.
- Trinity Presbyterian Church is looking for a new pastor, which makes this a season that challenges the church to redefine their understanding of God's vision for their ministry.
- First Korean in Anchorage and Fairbanks Korean are at work raising up new leaders. Because elders had moved out from their churches, there aren't enough elders left to provide a quorum for session meetings. They are partnering with the presbytery, to form administrative commissions to help and strengthen them during this period of raising up new leaders. This appears to be a wonderfully positive, cross-cultural partnership at work in our presbytery and something to celebrate.
- New Hope Church is exploring how to use two CRE candidates to renew ministry in North Pole.
- First Wasilla, United Protestant, Anchor and First Anchorage continue energetic ministry with the homeless people of the region.
- Yukon Presbyterians for Earth Care and the presbytery office are exploring a proposal to hire a seminary intern, beginning next fall, to promote young adult leadership development in the

presbytery and to serve as Project Y.E.S. (Youth Exploring Service) coordinator for youth ministry in the presbytery. Project Y.E.S. began in Anaktuvuk Pass and Nuiqsut, and is a peer-evangelism ministry that focuses on building strong Christian youth leadership, while doing Christian service in local communities. Their study curriculum has been a holistic one that celebrates God's love for all creation and all people. Project Y.E.S. was very successful, but stopped when Certified Christian Educator Sally Johnston left Anaktuvuk Pass. The project needs a region-wide director to be able to function.

It is important to look to the life-giving movement of the Spirit at this time. Our churches are aging, and our budgets are tight. Presbytery lost 42% of its membership in the last ten years, leaving a significant financial and leadership drain. Yet, God is always leading us in fresh ways, reforming us into new ways of being the church. The exec expressed the hope that all will remain faithful in looking for the movement of the Spirit and openly celebrating it.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Part I: Report) - Rev. Tim Carrick

The committee's report was presented. Nominations and elections are docketed for Saturday.

AFTERNOON RECESS

Presbytery recessed for a break at 3:30 pm; reconvening at 3:55 pm.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY – RE Jan Burger

Preparation for Ministry Process

- CPM is exploring the possibility of how to ordain a person over the age of 65 who desires to be ordained as a teaching elder, but has little seminary training and lots of other training and life experience.
- The committee is working with Fairbanks Korean CRE pastor Cody Ryu to be ordained as a teaching elder. CRE Ryu is taking additional classes, having graduated from a non-PCUSA seminary. The committee moved Cody from inquirer to candidate on May 11, 2016.

Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) program

- A new Commissioned Ruling Elder brochure is now available.
- The committee is looking at instituting a plan, to provide partial and full commission training for everyone involved; considering the who, when, where, and what questions.
- Curt Karns has taught some CRE courses in Barrow to several individuals interested in becoming commissioned. A new teacher/coach will help with some of the training on the North Slope in the future.
- New Hope Church ruling elders Darlene Matz and Matt Tinkelenberg have both received training in CRE type courses through other denominations. Rev. Curt Karns has supplemented these courses and provided training in PCUSA polity. Darlene is ready to be commissioned at this meeting, whereas Matt will be ready by the February 2017 meeting.

RE Darlene Matz was introduced as a CRE candidate to serve primarily the Kaktovik Presbyterian Church but New Hope Church as well. Darlene traveled to Kaktovik a couple times, but has been unable to administer the sacraments or moderate session. Commissioning will enable her to minister there more fully. Elder Matz is a Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM) with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Presbytery proceeded with the examination. Darlene read her statement of faith (Appendix A) and fielded questions from the body. Questions were limited to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and areas of instruction. Presbytery **APPROVED** a motion to arrest the examination, and Darlene was escorted out of the room before discussion. On behalf of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Jan Burger moved that Darlene Matz's commission be through Presbytery for service to the Kaktovik Presbyterian Church and New Hope Church. Areas of responsibility include:

- Moderate session
- Administer the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism
- Officiate at marriages and funerals as needed.
- Have a voice and vote in the meetings of Presbytery

Presbytery **APPROVED** the motion to commission RE Darlene Matz, as previously described. The commission is for one year, after which time the commission may be renewed for a term not to exceed three years. Elder Matz rejoined the plenary session amidst applause. The formal commissioning service is scheduled for this evening's worship service.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mary Kron

The September 2016 financial statement and budget was distributed. The treasurer reviewed the finances year-to-date.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Rev. Matt Schultz

The presbytery is not required by the Board of Pensions to provide the core benefits package for the executive presbyter, a non-installed position. Covered by his wife's medical insurance, Rev. Karns has decided that it would be beneficial in the long term, to put what would have been paid as a medical premium into his retirement savings. Presbytery **APPROVED** a committee recommendation to move \$15,938 from the Executive Presbyter's Pension line item to a Retirement Savings line item.

2017 PROPOSED BUDGET (Part I: Presentation) - RE Bob Christensen

Elder Christensen presented the proposed budget for 2017; discussion and voting on the budget is docketed for Saturday.

The 50/50 Club was promoted in an effort to fund mission in the long-term. This program encourages everyone to give 10% of their Permanent Fund Dividend check to the 50/50 Club – 50% of the gift stays in the local church, the other 50% is directed to the Presbytery's Endowment Fund.

RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

Olgonik Presbyterian Church - no report

First Korean Anchorage Presbyterian Church – pastor Rev. Johan Shin

The church celebrated its 40th anniversary this year. The pastor extended gratitude to the Administrative Commission which is serving as a temporary session - there is only one elder on session. The church hopes to have a strong, viable session, but this will take time as the church goes through revitalization. The congregation and the pastor are getting used to each other as they work together.

University Community Presbyterian Church – RE Carol Nielsen.

The church's primary duty is to worship God, and secondly, to love others as ourselves. Adjacent to the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus, the church's location is a problem and a blessing. A number of homeless and transients camp in the church's prayer garden, and Rev. McKay ministers to as many of these people, as appropriate. The church's portion of the Peace Offering taken last week will be directed to a Fairbanks homeless ministry. As a Love INC partner, the congregation maintains a personal needs closet (diapers, deodorant). Other community outreach efforts include providing use of the building for many

community groups, holding a summer worship summer in the park, working with youth by providing adventurous activities and opportunities for outreach. The congregation made breakfast burritos for adolescents staying at *The Door*, a shelter for homeless youth.

Immanuel Presbyterian Church – RE Sandy Haldane

Small in size, but large in heart, the church’s mission speaks to be welcoming to all people. The congregation contributes to the Food Bank of Alaska and UNICEF, partners with nearby Nunaka Valley Elementary School, and provides space for a community garden. The congregation will participate with Sitka House, a home for the homeless in Anchorage. With five new members, membership has increased to 47. Several elderly congregants have special care needs, and two staunch members died this year. There are several children in regular attendance.

Rev. Tim Carrick led in the dinner prayer and the prayer for these churches.

DINNER RECESS

Rev. Tim Carrick led in the prayer before presbytery recessed for dinner at 5:35 pm.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Presbytery gathered at 7:00 pm for worship. The scriptural text focused on John 1:1-5. Rev. Leisa Carrick served as liturgist, with Rev. Tim Carrick delivering the message ‘*Chasing the Dancing Light.*’ Rev. Neill McKay presided over the Lord’s Supper with Rev. Curt Matz, CRE Cody Ryu, and RE Mark Wartes assisting. There was a service of commissioning for RE Darlene Matz, with RE Ron Illingworth asking the constitutional questions. David LaMotte provided special music. Commissioners were asked to bring forth their church’s Peacemaking Offerings.

SATURDAY, October 8, 2016.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Presbytery gathered for worship at 9:00 am, with Rev. Johan Shin delivering the message. The \$829.12 collected during the offering will be directed to Bingle Camp.

RECONVENE

Moderator RE Ron Illingworth reconvened the meeting at 9:40 am.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Presbytery **APPROVED** a motion to adopt the consent agenda, as presented:

ACTION ITEMS:

Recommendations for Action from the Stated Clerk

1. Approve the minutes of the February 26-27, 2016 winter stated presbytery meeting, as distributed.
2. Approve the minutes of the June 9, 2016 special presbytery meeting, as distributed.

INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR REPORTING PURPOSES:

Actions of the Leadership Team:

1. Expressed support of Utqiagvik’s session request to invite the Presbyterian Church (USA) stated clerk to Barrow for the purposes of offering in person (1) PCUSA’s apology over the damage to Native American children caused by forcing them to attend boarding schools and (2) the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery. [Aug 21, 2016 electronic vote]

2. Concurred with the recommendation to designate Matthew 22:34-40 as the theme of fall Presbytery meeting:

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the

greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”
[Sept 3, 2016 electronic vote]

3. Approved the recommendation that elder commissioners address these questions during the elder testimonies: *How is the theme verse playing out in your congregation now and how will it play out in the future?* [Aug. 24, 2016]
4. Approved a motion to recommend the proposed bylaws revision to Presbytery for adoption. [Aug. 24, 2016].

Actions of the Committee on Ministry:

1. Transferred the membership of military chaplain Rev. Ted McGovern to ECO’s (A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians) Presbytery of Alaska. [April 5, 2016 electronic vote]
2. Transferred the membership of Rev. Jack Cormack to John Calvin Presbytery. Jack received a call to serve Hillcrest Presbyterian Church in Springfield, MO beginning August 1, 2016 and was received as a member of John Calvin Presbytery on May 19, 2016, pending his release from the Presbytery of Yukon. [Oct. 6, 2016]
3. Removed Rev. Peter Loughman from the roll of the Presbytery per provision G-2.0508 – Failure to Engage in Validated Ministry. Peter has been in the inactive roll for six years since leaving Alaska in 2010. He resides in Texas and has not been involved in Presbyterian Church (USA) ministry since his departure. [Oct. 6, 2016]
4. Renewed the commission of CRE Cody Ryu (Fairbanks Korean PC) for another year, at the Administrative Commission’s request. [Oct. 6, 2016]
5. Approved Rev. Hugh Anderson as moderator for Olgonik PC and Kuukpik PC. [Oct. 6, 2016]

Session Records’ review

1. Atqasuk Chapel: Reviewed for the period 1/16/14 – 12/20/15
Good minutes. Minutes were approved with exceptions as noted:
 - Minutes did not indicate if there was a quorum.
 - Session minutes were not approved by session.
 - Not all minutes were signed.Church register was not available for review.

LETTER OF ARCHBISHOP WELCOME

Presbytery **APPROVED** the following resolution to send to the new Archbishop:

“The Presbytery of Yukon offers best wishes to his Excellency the Most Reverend Paul Etienne as he assumes his new ministry as fourth Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Anchorage.

RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

Kuukpik Presbyterian Church – CRE Virgie Kasak

Virgie extended greetings from the congregation. Illness plagues many session members and a session family member. The church opens the community food bank on Wednesday. The people want to start learning songs in Iñupiaq so the sanctuary is open to everyone on Wednesday. Even though only a few show up on Wednesdays, they hope to continue. Sunday school and elder training is greatly needed. The former pastor left last spring, but Rev. Hugh Anderson may be hired as a trainer. The village was blessed with the

landing of four small whales – the weather was perfect, and all were caught in less than a week. Prayer is needed for the young people.

Delta Presbyterian Church – RE Bob Lee

The church and Faith Lutheran Church worship together as a single congregation with the liturgy alternating weekly. Outreach includes participation in the Christmas project, in cooperation with another church. The project provides gifts from birth to the age of 17; parents have the opportunity to choose and wrap the gifts. Everyone gets a full Christmas dinner. Sometimes boy scouts help pack food boxes. Other outreach includes supporting a child from World Vision and exploring the possibility of supporting a non-denominational coffee house with a theme of spreading the news of Jesus Christ. The local emergency planning committee approached the session/council, asking how the church can help in a mass disaster. In addition, they have been approached by an agency in Fairbanks, about offering office space for a program to help folks. Building improvements have been made: younger folks helped fix the roof, new windows were installed, and the building has been reinsulated, reducing fuel costs. The congregation is blessed with money to take care of these problems.

1st Presbyterian Church, Anchorage – pastor Rev Matt Schultz

The past summer saw a lot of transition. The church's long time administrator passed away, leaving a big loss in the functioning of the church. Gratitude was expressed for the office's new administrator. The choir director retired, but a new music director has been hired. The Lord's Supper is celebrated monthly at the Anchorage Pioneer home. More, younger families are attending worship. Elders on session are wonderful, even during times of disagreement. The Board of Deacons is smaller than is desired. The congregation is blessed to have Danna Larson who is involved in so many ways. Visitors say the congregation is warm; a change from what hasn't always been so.

1st Presbyterian Church, Wasilla – RE Shirley Novak

The facility is used by various community groups: native drummer's group, Wasilla High choir, Valley Performing Arts, etc. Other outreach efforts include operating a furniture ministry, providing gas vouchers, contributing to the Thanksgiving Blessing project, donating produce to the food pantry from the church's 10 garden boxes, and aiding the homeless by being a Family Promise host. A Logos program is provided for youth, some who have brought their families into the fold of the church. A work group traveled to Bingle Camp to spruce up the facilities. A large estate donation has enable the church to make additional gifts to the presbytery.

Savoonga Presbyterian Church – Rev. Leisa Carrick

The session is struggling for health, one member is ill and others on session are overwhelmed as they are relied on by the village to provide leadership. It is hard to get new leaders to take over on the session. The church is important for community events. The building is dilapidated, and the roof needs to be replaced. Domestic violence, alcohol, and theft are problems. Hunting and subsistence have not been very successful, but the church has been a blessing by housing the community food bank. Prayers were sought for the church which is struggling and feeling isolated.

CRE Marjorie Poggas led in the prayer for these churches.

WORKSHOP (Part II) – David LaMotte

Presbytery participated in a role-playing exercise.

LUNCH RECESS

Presbytery recessed for lunch at 12:15 pm and reconvened at 1:33 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

University Community PC is sponsoring a David LaMotte concert on Sunday, at 6:00 pm. Admission may be gained by bringing cans of food for the Fairbanks Food Bank.

YOUTH TRIENNIUM – CCE Danna Larson

Danna, 15 high school youth, and four adults attended the July 19-23 Presbyterian event at Purdue University. Nine youth attended from the villages and six from the cities. Gratitude was extended to presbytery staff involved in the logistics, Rev. Leisa Carrick for planning the lock-in pre-event held at the Palmer church, churches and families for sending youth and to those that tried but could not. Attendees CRE Virgie Kasak, Mark Anderson, and youth Steve Anderson were asked to provide comments. Event theme was ‘Go and Tell.’

222nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

Attendees to the 222nd General Assembly in Portland Oregon: Rev. Henry Woodall, RE Sara Johnston, and Young Adult Advisory Delegate Charlie McNeill. Sara Johnston was unable to be present to give a report. Charlie offered thanks to his home congregation University Community Presbyterian Church and the presbytery, for being supportive and offering advice. Henry Woodall led presbytery in the singing of the General Assembly’s theme song ‘*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout.*’ Rev. Woodall provided highlights: election of two women co-moderators and a new stated clerk; issues of relationships – racial, international, sexual, truth-telling and apologies. There was still some internal wrangling about restructuring and doing mission together. Most of the speakers were well spoken and well received. There was a sense that the denomination is ready to move on, having gone through a period of pain.

BINGLE CAMP – Director Steve Spencer

The camps were smaller than the Board of Directors would have liked to see. A total of 100 attended, with the count exceeding 200, if outside groups are counted. A lot of work was accomplished on correcting deficiencies and improving the facilities such as installing concrete pilings under the retreat center and insulated skirting. The Board is working on several issues: promoting greater use of the camp and retreat center by various groups; trying to make it easier for kids to attend camp at a cheaper cost; and bringing kids from everywhere, including Anchorage so they can experience God. Rev. Neill McKay provides presbytery representation on the Board of Directors.

BYLAWS REVISION (Part II: Discussion and Voting) - Rev. Piper Cartland

Presbytery **APPROVED** the adoption of the bylaws, as amended by presbytery (Appendix B). Approved amendments:

- Article II - Identity and Authority B-1.4: Delete Board of Trustees [functions now delegated to the Leadership Team.]
- Article III - Membership B-3.1b: Delineate each category of ruling elder member with a bullet.
- Article IV – Meetings B-4.2a: Begin the text for each bullet with the wording: ‘Starting on the’
- Article IV – Meetings B-4.5: Move provision above regional meetings’ section. [Quorum provision applies to stated and special meetings.]
- Article V – Officers B-5.2a: Insert the word ‘secretary’ amongst the list of officers in the first sentence and add the word ‘ordinarily’ at the beginning of the last sentence.
- Article VIII – Permanent Committees and Commissions B8.7.a: Numbering error – Change the second B-8.7a to B-8.7b

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT – Rev. Israel Nelson

- On behalf of the Board, the President introduced the proposed revision to presbytery’s 2007 investment policy. Presbytery **APPROVED** an amendment to add, as the top objective of each class of investments, ‘Socially Responsible Investments’. Henceforth, objectives for each asset category

will appear in the following order of importance: Socially Responsible Investments, Safety, Liquidity, and Yield. Presbytery **APPROVED** the proposed policy, as amended (Appendix C).

- Trustees worked diligently to solve the fuel oil delivery system in Gambell and Savoonga.

2017 PROPOSED BUDGET (Part II: Discussion and Voting) - RE Bob Christensen

Presbytery **APPROVED** the budget as presented (Appendix D). Line item 39, reflects \$30,000 in income from special funds, to be determined by the Leadership Team.

RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church – RE Ida Olemaun

Since Interim Rev. Joseph Reid’s arrival in March, worship attendance has increased; adult Sunday school has begun and the children’s is about to start; there are more baptisms; and more people getting married. The creation of a child care policy is almost completed. The office has a consistent secretary, and session is ready to hire a bookkeeper. The church is getting back on their feet with a choir. The Canadian Bible Society has helped with the translation effort and is donating the printing. The congregation has been blessed with a \$30,000 gift from the regional native corporation for the community food bank which is housed in the church. Deacons help with the food bank one Tuesday a month. The community has been blessed with a bounty of whales this fall, catching the season’s quota. Tragic deaths have hit the community hard.

Trinity Presbyterian Church – RE Spencer Biegel

Their mission is ‘*Filled up and poured out.*’ The congregation has been blessed with two great interims. Ten new members joined in the past year; finances are holding their own, and the church is still able to support multiple missions not only locally but internationally as well. The church has a strong session and a full board of deacons. Youth join with other youth groups. The building is used by multiple groups – two congregations, a marimba band, jazz band, Suzuki group, etc. As a congregation on the rebound, they are now able to experience a loving attitude with each other.

Chapel in the Mountains - no report

Jewel Lake Parish – RE Susan Woods

Outreach into the community includes picking up litter along Northwood Street as an ‘adopt-a-road’ partner and providing help with the Alaska Food Bank’s mobile food pantry on Tuesday and Saturdays.

Rev. Curt Matz led in the prayer for these churches.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY – Rev. Henry Woodall

Regarding **Rev. Johan Shin**, stated supply pastor of First Korean Presbyterian Church in Anchorage: In February, Presbytery took action to receive Rev. Shin as a member, pending his transfer from Eastern Korean Presbytery. It was recently discovered that the presbytery dropped Rev. Shin from its roll, when Johan was serving as a mission pastor in South Korea. Presbytery unanimously **APPROVED** a Committee on Ministry recommendation that Rev. Shin be enrolled as a member of the Presbytery of Yukon. [Clerk’s note: Johan’s membership is classified as temporary, i.e., while serving in a ministry validated by the presbytery. Yukon does not have the authority to restore a teaching elder to the permanent roll, if the teaching elder is removed from the roll by another presbytery.]

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Part II: Nominations and Elections) – Rev. Tim Carrick

Commissioners to Synod: The slate of nominations was presented and the floor was opened for nominations. Motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot was **APPROVED**. Terms for Synod commissioners end December 31st.

Principal Teaching Elder Commissioner: Rev. Piper Cartland, class 2018

Alternate Teaching Elder Commissioner: Rev. Leisa Carrick, class 2018.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS – none

OTHER BUSINESS

Gratitude was expressed to University Community Presbyterian Church and partner churches for hosting the fall presbytery meeting.

ADJOURN

Moderator RE Ron Illingworth adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm. Rev. Tim Carrick led in the closing prayer.

Sharon Rayt
Stated Clerk

DRAFT