

## PRESBYTERY OF YUKON WINTER STATED MEETING

First Presbyterian Church, Anchorage, Alaska

February 26 - 27, 2016

*We [I] can do all things through Him who strengthens us [me].*

Philippians 4:13

**FRIDAY, February 26, 2016**

### OPENING SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Presbytery opened with worship at 9:00 am in the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary, with Commissioned Ruling Elder Virginia Kasak and Rev. Jack Cormack leading the worship service. The Inupiaq choir joined in the singing of *Amazing Grace*.

### HOST CHURCH WELCOME

Host pastor Rev. Matt Schultz extended a warm welcome to Presbytery.

### CONVENE

Moderator Rev. Kim MacInnes-Green convened the Winter Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Yukon with prayer at 9:45 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.

### INTRODUCTIONS

Guests, first time ruling elder commissioners and teaching elders were introduced. Corresponding members were enrolled. Rev. Alice Green received special recognition, having been a member of the Presbytery of Yukon since 1945. Motion granting voice to corresponding members Rev. Todd Allen and Rev. Rob Hagan was **APPROVED**.

### ESTABLISH ROLL

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

Leisa Carrick – *co-pastor, United Protestant Church*  
Piper Cartland – *pastor, Eagle River PC*  
Green, Alice – *honorably retired*  
Britt Johnston – *temporary supply, Anchor PC*  
Curt Karns – *executive presbyter*  
Dean Knapp – *honorably retired*  
Kim MacInnes-Green – *member-at-large*  
Curtis Matz – *pastor, New Hope Church*  
Matt Schultz – *pastor, First Anchorage PC*

Tim Carrick – *co-pastor, United Protestant Church*  
Jack Cormack – *temp supply: Atqasuk, Kuukpik, Olgonik*  
Ellen Johnson Price – *temp supply, Immanuel PC*  
Luke Jones – *pastor, Jewel Lake Parish*  
Dan Ketchum – *honorably retired*  
Ian MacInnes-Green – *member-at-large*  
Neill McKay – *pastor, University Community PC*  
Israel Nelson – *honorably retired*  
Henry Woodall – *pastor, First Wasilla PC*

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

Leah Hathaway – *Jewel Lake Parish*  
Beulah Nowpakahok – *Gambell PC*  
Cody Ryu – *Fairbanks Korean PC*

Virginia Kasak – *Kuukpik PC*  
Marjorie Poggas – *Jewel Lake Parish*

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

Anchor PC – *Clyde Kaneshiro*  
Delta PC – *Ann Geise*  
Fairbanks Korean PC – *Jinhee Dickerson*

Atqasuk Chapel – *Elizabeth Hollingsworth*  
Eagle River PC – *Kim Arlington*  
First Anchorage PC – *John Weaver*

First Korean Anchorage PC – *Chun Bang* (Fri. only)  
Gambell PC – *Mike Apatiki*  
Jewel Lake Parish – *Susan Woods*  
New Hope Church – *Ron Illingworth*  
Trinity PC – *Susan Lundgren*  
University Community PC – *Doreen McNeill*

First Wasilla PC – *Meg Broste*  
Immanuel PC – *Sara Johnston*  
Kaktovik PC – *Carolyn Kulukhon*  
Savoonga PC – *Paul Rookok*  
United Protestant Church – *Joseph Brock*  
Utqiagvik PC – *Edith Nageak*

**Other voting members present:**

Jo Ann Bantz – *Leadership Team*  
Jan Burger – *Leadership Team*  
Arlayne Knox – *Leadership Team*  
Sharon Rayt – *Stated Clerk*

Barbara Brown – *Leadership Team*  
Bob Christensen – *Leadership Team*  
Danna Larson – *Certified Christian Educator*  
Mark Wartes – *Leadership Team*

**Teaching elder members excused:**

Isaac Akootchook – *honorably retired*  
Richard Carpenter – *honorably retired*  
Henry Guinotte – *honorably retired*  
Ted McGovern – *chaplain, U.S. Army Reserves*  
William Ng – *honorably retired*  
Youl Rhee – *honorably retired*  
Mary Ann Warden – *honorably retired*

Patrick Bracken- *chaplain, Ft. Wainwright*  
Sandra Faison– *member-at-large*  
Peter Loughman – *inactive*  
James Nageak – *honorably retired*  
Dianne O’Connell – *honorably retired*  
Ken Smith – *honorably retired*

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

Chapel in the Mountains  
Olgonik PC

Kuukpik PC

**Other voting members excused**

Ida Olemaun – *mod., Nominating Committee*

CRE Richard Mauer – *Delta PC*

**Enrollment of corresponding members:**

Rev. Todd Allen – *Interim pastor, Trinity PC (New Hope Presbytery)*

Rev. Dr. Rob Hagan – *Regional ministry relations officer, Presbyterian Foundation (Central Washington Presbytery)*

**Guests/Presbytery office staff:**

RE Lucy Apatiki

Sheryl Bang

Mary Kron – *Presbytery treasurer*

RE Miranda Rexford-Brown & daughter Miranda

ADOPTION OF DOCKET

Presbytery **APPROVED** a motion to adopt the docket, as amended and to give the Presbytery moderator the privilege of adjusting the docket, as necessary.

MODERATOR APPOINTMENTS

**Language Caucus Facilitators:** Korean – Rev. Johan Shin, St. Lawrence Island Yupik – CRE Beulah Nowpakahok, Inupiaq – CRE Virginia Kasak.

**Mileage Committee:** Rev. Israel Nelson, Mary Kron

**Resolutions:** Rev. Britt Johnston

PRESENTATION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

The stated clerk presented the consent agenda. To give presbyters sufficient time to review the consent agent, the vote to adopt is postponed to Saturday morning.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Certified Christian Educator (CCE) RE Danna Larson encouraged youth from every church to attend this summer's Youth Triennium.

## RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

### **Delta Presbyterian Church** - RE Ann Geise

God is indeed working through the church to reach out into the community. Delta and another congregation cooperate to provide food and gifts through Project Christmas. An exercise group is open to the community and meets three times a week. A grief share program includes a special holiday component. The annual spaghetti dinner is a major fundraiser and outreach to the community. Vacation Bible School is planned for the summer. Weekly Lenten services focus on different hymns. Several young children now attend on Sunday and made valentine candy to raise money to buy an animal through the Heifer Project or World Vision.

### **Anchor Presbyterian Church** – RE Clyde Kaneshiro.

Membership in this eight year old congregation has increased by three, to 18. Feeding the homeless at potluck meals is proving to be a challenge, a test of faith for this small congregation. Usable goods are collected and shipped to the village of Gambell. Funds are raised from the garage sale and spaghetti feed. The session hopes to start a Bible study.

### **Atqasuk Chapel** - RE Elizabeth Hollingsworth

‘Sometimes we pray for something to happen, and God has already given the answer; all we have to do is accept it.’ For quite some time, the session had a difficult time encouraging people to lead Sunday services. Rev. Cormack now prepares the bulletins for when he will be absent from the village, making it easier for members to lead worship services. The session hopes to add one more elder and deacon, and is seeking those of the younger generation. In response to deaths in Anaktuvuk Pass, four Atqasuk Chapel members visited the village to help with a revival and prayer. After a plane crashed in the Anaktuvuk Pass, villagers saw it as a testimony to what God can do when people pray.

### **Immanuel Presbyterian Church** - RE Sara Johnston

The congregation has been in a period of transformation and renewal since the arrival of Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price. After a few years of negativity and hardship, there is a sense of vibrancy. The church is thriving; new families are attending. Elder and deacon training was held recently. Session has been brainstorming on how to retain visitors. A community garden is again planned for the summer, and the congregation continues to reach out to Nunaka Valley Elementary School.

*Rev. Leisa Carrick led the prayer for these churches.*

## WORKSHOP: CULTURE OF GENEROSITY: Session I

Presbyterian Foundation's regional Ministry Relations Officer Rev. Rob Hagan led a workshop on *Creating a Culture of Generosity – Moving from Scarcity to Abundance*. Prayer was led before the lunch recess.

## LUNCH RECESS

Presbytery recessed for lunch with prayer at 12:30 pm, reconvening at 1:32 pm.

## RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

### **Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church** - RE Edith Nageak

Prayer was requested for the many who lost loved ones over the winter and for former pastor Rev. Duke Morrow. Gratitude was expressed for acting moderator, Molly Pederson and others who have kept the church going while without a pastor. Elders have stepped up, leading worship services on Sundays and for the radio program. Session members work as a team - Mark Ahsoak, Jr. contacted many of the families who lost loved ones and did many of the funerals with Roy Nageak, and Miranda Rexford Brown assisted with communion services. Rev. Curt Karns, Rev. Israel Nelson and Rev. Jack Cormack were thanked for providing assistance at communion services. The Inupiat's history of helping the poor continues today, with the deacons providing food to the needy. Glory was

given to God in the hiring of interim pastor, Rev. Joseph Reid who will be arriving just before Easter. ‘When you completely give everything to God, it is spectacular.’

**Fairbanks Korean Presbyterian Church** - RE Jinhee Dickerson, RE Cody Ryu

A year ago, only ten members remained, and the church struggled financially without a pastor. Thanks be to God, things are better now, under pastor Cody Ryu’s leadership. The women’s group held a fund raiser. A Bible study has been added. Elder Dickerson wears many hats, and pastor Ryu expressed concern that there are no others to fill Jinhee’s position on session, after she rotates off later this year.

**First Wasilla Presbyterian Church** – RE Meg Broste

Even though key people have left in the past year, God is moving in the church. Others have stepped up and been faithful financially, allowing the church to meet their budget. Deacons are active in the community, helping people with financial needs through the benevolence and furniture ministry. A community garden is again planned for this summer. The congregation hosted Covenant Players, a ministry of faith using drama to present the gospel. The women’s group is hosting the Alaska/NW Synod Women’s Gathering in June.

**Kuukpik Presbyterian Church** - CRE Virginia Kasak

CRE Kasak expressed gratitude to Rev. Jack Cormack for leading worship and a Bible study, and for preparing the bulletins for when he is in the other villages. The Delta and First Wasilla Presbyterian Churches sent teams to visit. The food bank is ongoing. Arctic Slope Regional Corporation donates money, which has helped pay for plumbing costs and other needs.

**University Community Presbyterian Church** - RE Doreen McNeill.

It has been wonderful seeing God working. Rev. Neill McKay has revitalized worship. The church again offers children and youth programs, with the men’s group mentoring youth in faith development. For a second year, the church provided a thanksgiving breakfast. The community is served through lunches. Session is looking for growth in mission outreach.

*Rev. Britt Johnston led the prayer for these churches.*

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY – RE Jan Burger

**Commissioned Ruling Elder program**

CRE training in Barrow was postponed, due to two of the three students needing to travel to other villages for funerals. A class on Reformed Theology is planned for March 10-12, 2016 in Barrow. The committee decided that certain foundational studies will be required, regardless of the focus of CRE candidates. Required areas of study are Reformed Theology/Polity and Old Testament/New Testament Bible, which are taught separately. Rev. Jack Cormack shared with the committee what he was doing in identifying and training laity in Barrow, Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, and Wainwright.

**Preparation for Ministry**

Cody Ryu has completed seminary courses at a non-PCUSA seminary and is seeking to be ordained as a teaching elder. Per committee action, elder Ryu was enrolled as an inquirer and is looking to take the final steps towards ordination. The committee anticipates that Cody will move quickly into the candidacy phase, spending the next year preparing and taking the ordination exams.

NATIVE MINISTRIES COMMITTEE (formerly Joint Parish) – RE Miranda Rexford Brown, Rev. Curt Karns  
Representing off road Native Alaskan Presbyterian churches and Anchor PC, the committee met prior to presbytery to discuss mission strategy for Native Alaskan churches. Miranda was appointed to serve as committee moderator. The committee plans to meet on a regular basis, except during whaling season. Providing training for Sunday school teachers is vital. Utqiagvik PC has no Sunday school program, the first time in decades and no youth group at this time. CREs Beulah Nowpakahok and Virginia Kasak were appointed to attend a national gathering this spring in Tempe, Arizona to discuss the future of Native American ministry.

## PRESBYTERY RESTRUCTURING PROPOSAL: Session I - Rev. Piper Cartland

A task force composed of Rev. Piper Cartland, RE Bob Christensen, Rev. Curt Karns, Rev. James Nageak, and RE Sharon Rayt met to draft a proposal to restructure the presbytery to more fully reflect the need for more region-based ministry as well as the changing leadership landscape of the Presbytery. The assumption is that organizing much of our presbytery's efforts by region would be more effective in *building meaningful relationships* between Presbyterians and in *creating effective strategies* for doing Christ's mission.

Presbytery **APPROVED** a motion to grant guests and those presenting reports or expertise, voice on the floor of Presbytery. Groups of 3-4 individuals gathered to address the following points of discussion:

- What are your hopes and dreams for our Presbytery?
- Would organizing work by regions help facilitate those hopes and dreams? What are the positives and what are the negatives?
- If the decision is made to organize by regions, how many regions would serve us best, and how should we define their boundaries?

## AFTERNOON RECESS

Presbytery recessed for a break at 4:00 pm; reconvening at 4:15 for the order of the day.

## ORDER OF THE DAY: COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (COM) - CRE Marjorie Poggas

- **Examinations for Membership:**
  - **Rev. Joseph Reid**, has covenanted with Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church to serve as interim pastor, beginning March 22, 2016. Terms of compensation were approved by the Committee on Ministry and appear in the consent agenda. The examination was carried out via Skype. Rev. Reid read his Statement of Faith (Appendix A) and responded to questions from the floor. Motion to arrest the examination was **APPROVED**. The Skype connection was severed; discussion followed. Motion to receive Rev. Joseph Reid as a member of the Presbytery of Yukon, pending his dismissal from the Presbytery of Shepherd-Lapsley, was **APPROVED**. Joseph rejoined the meeting via Skype. CRE Poggas led in a prayer for Rev. Reid.
  - **Rev. Johan Shin** was introduced by Rev. Tim Carrick. Johan has covenanted with First Korean Presbyterian Church in Anchorage to serve as stated supply pastor. Having finally received his Religious Worker's Visa, Rev. Shin arrived from Korea in mid-December, 2015. Terms of compensation were earlier approved by the Committee on Ministry and appear in the fall 2014 Presbytery meeting minutes. Rev. Shin read his Statement of Faith (Appendix B) and responded to questions from the floor. Presbytery **APPROVED** a motion to close the examination, and Johan was escorted out of the room prior to discussion. Motion to receive Rev. Johan Shin as a member of the Presbytery of Yukon, pending his dismissal from Eastern Korean Presbytery, was **APPROVED**. CRE Marjorie Poggas led in a prayer for Rev. Shin.
- Presbytery **APPROVED** a recommendation from the Committee on Ministry to approve changes to 2016 minimum terms of call for installed pastors (Appendix C), with comment that Eagle River Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church, Anchorage, and First Presbyterian Church, Wasilla should look at including sick leave in the pastors' terms of call.

## WOMAN OF FAITH AWARD WINNER RECOGNITION

RE Lucy Apatiki and other elders from Gambell PC were asked to come forward. A former Commissioned Ruling Elder and moderator of the Gambell PC, Lucy was recognized as one of three women to receive an award by the Presbyterian Church (USA) at the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly's Women of Faith Awards Breakfast in June. Lucy organized, together with the Gambell PC session, a reconciliation event held in Gambell. Rev. Curt Karns presented a slide show from the event. In addressing presbytery, Lucy gave God the glory and emphasized that the event would not have happened without the help of many, including the late Commissioned Ruling Elders Rodney Ungwiluk and Reggie Wongittilin. Other Gambell elders shared their experiences of the 2012 event. The tribute ended with the singing of 'How Great Thou Art' in all four languages. The exec led in a prayer for Lucy.

### COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION - Rev. Britt Johnston

Three categories in the slate were lacking: African American, Asian American, and youth. Otherwise, the slate was well represented.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Part I

Rev. Tim Carrick presented the committee's report. Nominations and elections were slated for Saturday.

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER - Rev. Curt Karns

- **Sharing together.**

A number of us have faith stories that instruct, as well as some God-given insights that should not be lost. The exec related a story about the plane crash in Anaktuvuk Pass. We need to "hold fast to what is good" (I Thess. 5:21) and to share new ideas that we are trying out as we seek to relate the gospel to a changing society. God uses such sharing for encouraging others, for "gladdening the heart," and for inspiring one another. Presbyters were invited to send the presbytery office anything they would like published in a presbytery archive. Materials will be put into a private online file that is accessible only by members.

- **Pastoral Leadership for our Congregations**

- At this point, all of our churches seeking teaching elders have one, although Rev. Reid and Rev. Allen are interim pastors.
- Three churches are served by Commissioned Ruling Elders: Fairbanks Korean PC, Delta PC, and Gambell PC.
- Five churches served by teaching elder pastors, are also served by CREs: Olgonik PC, Atqasuk Chapel, Utqiagvik PC, Kuukpik PC, and Jewel Lake Parish.
- Three churches have neither a teaching elder nor a CRE: Kaktovik PC, Chapel in the Mtns, Savoonga PC.

- **Ecumenical New Clergy Orientation**

The Methodists, Lutherans, and Presbyterians held an orientation in October for church leaders new to the region. Leaders were all Native American, plus Libby Roderick from University of Alaska Anchorage, who partnered with Ilarion Merculieff in teaching on 'white privilege. Four members of the presbytery attended.

- **Pastor Care**

Three clergy care groups have formed to allow pastors of churches to provide mutual care. One group, for installed and temporary supply pastors, has been operating for a couple years. Two groups are new:

- Clergy in the interior have met at least twice since November, meeting for mutual support.
- A new, Southcentral group formed last month, composed of retired and members-at-large teaching elders, and CREs in the region. This group is following the same 'Jesus Caritas' format as the older group, to give them structure.

Something like these model, perhaps using electronic methods, would be of great value for village church leaders.

- **Our relationships:** The Leadership Team has been working to design ways to improve our relationships and mission together.

- Last year, the presbytery office began collecting Moments for Mission from each congregation to share throughout the year.
- Annual visitations to each church will begin this year. The two, assigned visitors will visit with session and attend a worship service, in an effort to connect with the congregation. It is the Leadership Team's desire to hear what ministry is like from all the churches and to learn how to share ideas, as the Spirit leads us in order to grow all our church's effectiveness in ministry.

- Budget – With reserves expected to be used up in 2016, it is time to discuss the changes necessary to begin living within our means. From the discussion of how we can do our work better together, we will likely see what approaches to funding make the most sense.
- Opportunities for the Church in Times of Change: We are in a time of great social change, and with that change brings fear and opportunity. We know that in Christ “we have not been given a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but a Spirit of adoption,” which means our confidence is in God, who has gathered us in Christ. So let’s share those things that we see as ‘opportunity’ rather than threat.

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER:** Mary Kron

2015: The year-end Financial Statement and Budget was distributed (Appendix D).

2016: Cash flow may drop below our minimum reserves. Only \$84,000 has been pledged this far from the nine churches submitting pledges. Other churches were encouraged to submit their pledges. 2016 per capita increases from \$45.92 to \$46.00:

GA .....	\$7.12
Synod.....	\$1.50
Presbytery.....	37.38

The treasurer, unable to be present for Saturday’s corporation meeting, reported that the 2014 corporation financial report has been corrected as follows: removing 2014 interest incorrectly imputed to University Community PC’s 1999 loan and including payments received in 2014 from the sale of the Nome church building.

**DINNER RECESS**

Presbytery recessed for dinner at 6:00 pm with Rev. Henry Woodall leading in prayer.

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

Presbytery gathered for worship at 7:00 pm. The scripture reading focused on Philippians, with Rev. Rob Hagan delivering the message. Rev. Matthew Schultz presided over the Lord’s Supper. The St. Lawrence Island Yupik choir provided special music. In the remembrance of the saints, the stated clerk read the names of leaders who have gone home to be with the Lord since January 2015.

	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Church</u>
RE Marion Porter .....	August 31, 2015 .....	First Anchorage Presbyterian Church
RE Lavonne Koon.....	January 21, 2015 .....	Delta Presbyterian Church
RE Arlene Jenks .....	April 5, 2015 .....	Delta Presbyterian Church
RE Nancy Brace.....	February 25, 2015 .....	Immanuel Presbyterian Church
RE Ethel Stoneman .....	September 9, 2015.....	New Hope Church
RE Charles “Bud” Howell.....	December 6, 2015 .....	New Hope Church
RE Paul Rohwer .....	November 6 2015.....	Trinity Presbyterian Church (former member)
RE Jesse DeVries .....	July 7, 2015 .....	United Protestant Church
RE Nathaniel Olemaun.....	Sept. 21, 2015.....	Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church
Rev. Phillip Gilbert .....	June 20, 2015	
Rev. Sig Kristiansen.....	January 27, 2015	
Rev. Chuck Jenkins .....	October 2, 2015	

**SATURDAY, February 27, 2016**

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

Presbytery gathered for worship at 9:00 am, with Rev. Henry Woodall leading worship.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Kim MacInnes-Green reconvened the meeting with prayer at 9:30 am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A *Tending the Orchard* stewardship training workshop is scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup> at First Wasilla.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Presbyters were given the opportunity to pull items from the consent agenda. There being none, Presbytery **ADOPTED** the consent agenda, as presented.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Recommendations for Action from the Stated Clerk**

1. Approve the minutes of the October 9-10, 2015 stated presbytery meeting, as distributed.
2. Approve the minutes of the November 14, 2015 special presbytery meeting, as distributed.

**Recommendations for Action from the Committee on Ministry:**

1. Regarding Teaching Elder status:
  - Renew Rev. Kim MacInnes-Green’s status as ‘member-at-large’ (per G-2.0503b) for another year.
  - Renew Rev. Ian MacInnes-Green’s status as ‘member-at-large’ (per G-2.0503b) for another year.
2. Receive the report of the administrative commission to install Rev. Neill McKay and to dismiss the commission with thanks. Rev. McKay was installed as pastor of University Community Presbyterian Church on November 29, 2015. Administrative Commission members present: Rev. Curt Karns, Rev. Curt Matz, RE Jim Durst (University Community PC) and RE Mark Wartes (Utqiagvik PC). CRE Richard Mauer (Delta PC) was unable to be present. Also present: Rev. Neill McKay, Ruling elders David Rohwer and Jim Chipperfield.

**MATTERS OF INFORMATION:**

1. D-5.0206b requires the stated clerk to provide annually a roster of those members of the Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) whose terms have expired within the past six years. Whenever the PJC reports its inability to obtain a quorum, the stated clerk shall immediately select, by rotation from that roster, a sufficient number of former members of the PJC to constitute a quorum.
  - 2016 ..... RE Harry Brower, Jr. .... CRE Richard Mauer ..... Rev. James Nageak
  - 2015 ..... CRE Beulah Nowpakahok
  - 2014 ..... Rev. Dean Knapp ..... Rev. Kim MacInnes-Green

2. Ruling Elder/Teaching Elder Parity report

<b>Active Teaching Elders</b>	<b>Ruling Elders (RE)</b>
(within bounds of Presbytery)	
Validated Ministry .....12	Elder Commissioners.....21
Members-at-large .....2	Commissioned Ruling Elders .....7
Honorably retired .....6	RE Officers/Committee moderators, 8
	& Geographic reps. ....8
<b>Total active teaching elders.....20</b>	<b>Total Ruling Elders .....36</b>
<b>Other Teaching Elders on Roll</b>	
Inactive (within bounds) .....3	
Out-of-state .....8	

With the number of ruling elders exceeding the number of active teaching elders within the bounds of presbytery, there is no need to add additional ruling elder commissioners.

3. **Insurance Coverage**

Program: Insurance Board                      Policy Period: 1/1/2016 to 1/1/2017  
 Named Insured: Presbytery of Yukon, Chapel in the Mountains, Kuukpiik PC, Atqasuk Chapel, Delta PC  
 Gambell PC, Kaktovik PC, Olgonik PC, Savoonga PC

Summary of Coverage (see Memorandum of Insurance for specific category breakdown and coverage amount)

Property .....	Included
Crime .....	Included
General Liability .....	Included
Umbrella (Excess Liability).....	Included
Abusive Acts & Pastoral Liability .....	Included
Directors and Officers Liability .....	Included
Hired & Non-owned Automobile Liability.....	Included

**4. Electronic Voting**

Presbytery approved the election of Charlie McNeill, (University Community Presbyterian Church) as Principal Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in Portland, Oregon.

**5. Correspondence Received**

- An invitation from University Community Presbyterian Church to host the October 7-8, 2016 Fall Stated Meeting.
- The Bingle Camp Board announced that Steve Spencer has been hired as the camp’s Executive Director.

**6. Actions of the Leadership Team**

- January 9, 2016 teleconference
  - Designated Philippians 4:13 as the theme verse of the 2016 Winter Stated Presbytery Meeting. [Substituting ‘we’ for ‘I’ and ‘us’ for ‘me’]: *“We can do all things through him who strengthens us.”*
  - Proposed that elder commissioners address the following questions in their reports:
    - *Pinpoint one or two significant ways you saw God working in the life of your church since the last presbytery meeting AND*
    - *What are you looking forward to God doing in the church in this year?”*
- February 25, 2016 winter meeting
  - Appointed elder Arlayne Knox to attend the Synod of Alaska Northwest’s face-to-face meeting in March. Yukon’s principal commissioner Ron Illingworth will be unable to attend.

**7. Actions of the Committee on Ministry (COM)**

- Pastoral changes:
  - Concurred with the action of the Trinity session to extend an interim pastor covenant to Rev. Todd Allen, to begin in mid-late November, in accordance with the terms as defined below. The covenant may be extended for up to two (2) periods of 6 months each or extended on a month-by-month basis, upon mutual agreement of session, interim pastor, and COM for a term specified by a written addendum. The position is full time. [Date of action: Oct. 2015]

Cash Salary .....	\$3,500/month
Housing Allowance .....	\$1,500/month
Board of Pensions core benefits .....	full coverage
Automobile Allowance.....	\$250/month
Travel Allowance .....	\$1,500/year
Vacation Leave.....	4 weeks/year
Continuing education .....	as approved by session
Moving Costs .....	\$2,000
Workers Compensation .....	As required
  - Concurred with the action of the Utqiagvik P.C. session to extend an interim pastor covenant to Rev. Joseph Ray Reid, for the period of March 22, 2016 – March 22, 2017, in accordance with the terms as defined below. The relationship may be renewed with the concurrence of session, interim pastor, and COM. The position is full time. [Date of action: Feb. 25, 2016]

Cash Salary .....	\$54,000/yr
Manse & utilities .....	\$23,143/yr
Board of Pensions core benefits .....	full coverage
Study Leave time.....	2 weeks/yr <sup>1</sup> (includes Sundays)
Study Leave reimbursement expenses.....	\$1,500/yr <sup>1</sup>
Vacation .....	4 weeks/yr
Sick Leave .....	Presbytery minimum <sup>2</sup>
Workman’s Compensation .....	Full coverage
403 b9 Retirement Savings Plan.....	Member only contribution
Internet, phone, basic cable, cell .....	Paid by church
Moving expenses .....	Presbytery minimum <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> May accumulate up to a maximum of 3 years. Study leave may not be used at the end of contract.

<sup>2</sup> 10 days initially, with additional sick leave accumulating at a rate of one (1) day/month of employment until there is a total amount of 90 days. Any period of illness lasting longer than 90 days, long-term disability coverage shall take effect.

<sup>3</sup> Transportation for Rev. Reid (and any family who will live at the manse) from Atlanta, Georgia and/or Birmingham, Alabama to Utqiagvik PC, Barrow and cost of return to Seattle by air, driving and/or ferry. Moving expenses also include up to 3,000 lbs. of household goods and up to 2,000 lbs. of books moved to Barrow at the most economic rate available as well as return of such items from Barrow to as far as Seattle at the end of the term.

- Presbytery membership transfers
  - Rev. Thomas C. Letts to the Presbytery of de Cristo. [December 14, 2015 electronic vote]
- Moderator appointments/dismissals
  - Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church – Rev. Joseph Reid; dismiss RE Molly Pederson with thanks.
  - First Korean Presbyterian Church, Anchorage – Rev. Johan Shin; dismiss Rev. Tim Carrick with thanks.
  - Trinity Presbyterian Church – Rev. Todd Allen
- Miscellaneous
  - Approved the Trinity PC session request to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee. CRE Marjorie Poggas will serve as COM’s liaison with the PNC. [Date of action: February 25, 2016]
  - Vacancy Church Report (excludes churches served by: CRE, temporary supply, stated supply, installed)

Church	Status	PNC	Moderator
Kaktovik PC	Not seeking a pastor	None	Rev. Curt Karns
Chapel in the Mtns	Not seeking a pastor	None	RE Mark Wartes
Savoonga PC	Not seeking a pastor	None	Rev. Leisa Carrick
Trinity PC	COM granted authority to form a PNC	To be elected	Rev. Todd Allen
Utqiagvik PC	Interim recently hired	None	Rev. Joseph Reid (3/23/16)

**RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES**

**First Korean Anchorage PC – RE Steve Bang**

Elder Bang gave thanks to Rev. Tim Carrick, the Committee on Ministry for their support, and to current pastor Rev. Johan Shin. The congregation is continuing to grow through God’s Word. In mission, the congregation support missionaries abroad.

### **Kaktovik PC - RE Carolyn Kulukhon**

New elders have completed their first year of service. Church moderator Curt Karns has helped them learn much. Carolyn is now able to prepare a bulletin, and now speaks in worship. With two elders rotating off session, the search is on for new elders. Worship attendance has been very low lately, sometimes with only 2-3 present. Darlene Matz helped with worship services for two Sunday's last month and was well received when she visited the seniors. All the maintenance problems have been repaired in the manse, thanks to a school maintenance worker. The manse has been cleaned by the tenant renting out the manse.

### **First Anchorage PC – RE John Weaver.**

Elder Weaver extended a warm welcome to all and gave thanks to those who pulled together to help host presbytery. The church celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. The building is also home to Anchor PC, a Sudanese congregation, and the Presbytery office. Missions include support for the Downtown Soup Kitchen, F.I.S.H., Beans Café, United Way, Habitat for Humanity, the CROP Walk, gift exchange for Haiti, and participating in the Cold Weather family service program, whereby the church provides a warm place to sleep, eat, and shower for 10-20 homeless families on a rotating basis, upon referral from the AWAIC shelter. Last week, the church was asked by the mayor's office to house 20 single men for one night. Additional revenue is raised by leasing the west wing to a charter school and renting the front parking lot to downtown workers.

### **New Hope Church - RE Ron Illingworth**

The United Methodist/PCUSA congregation is served by part-time Lutheran pastor Rev. Curt Matz. Curt's wife Darlene, the equivalent of a CRE in the Lutheran church, has traveled to Kaktovik a couple times to assist with worship services and other pastoral duties. A prolific knitter, Darlene has provided hats to villagers and others in need of a winter hat. New Hope's preschool is growing. With 42 children on a waiting list, the church plans to convert another classroom to meet the preschool needs. More families with children have started to attend worship services.

### **Eagle River PC – RE Kim Arlington**

The mortgage with the presbytery has been paid off! The building is home to the Eagle River food pantry. Last summer, the congregation began growing fresh produce to supplement the food pantry. Sunday school children harvested the potatoes and distributed the produce to the food pantry's clients. The congregation is collecting coats and other clothing for women being released from the Hiland Mountain Correctional Center.

### **Olgonik PC – pastor Rev. Jack Cormack**

The North Slope is a small village spread out over 56.6 million acres! It is a "thin place" between heaven and earth. The spirituality of the people is profound and deep. Lots of people have conversations with God, but they do not see the need for church, except for funerals. How do we make a connection where worship attendance ranges from 3-15? How does our spirituality and the practice of religion meld? People are beginning to talk about brokenness, such as addictions openly and are exploring the challenge of supporting those who are incarcerated. Jack's ministry is through the martial arts. He teaches karate classes, which are well attended, and encourages people to come for worship as they do for karate.

*Mark Wartes led in the prayer for these churches.*

### **WORKSHOP: CULTURE OF GENEROSITY: Session II**

Rev. Rob Hagan facilitated the second workshop on creating a culture of generosity and led in the prayer prior to the lunch recess.

### **LUNCH RECESS**

Presbytery recessed for lunch at 12:00 pm. The Gambell Building Committee met during the lunch recess.

### **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION**

Board of Trustees president Rev. Dean Knapp convened the annual meeting of the Corporation with an opening prayer at 1:05 pm. A quorum was present.

- Members **APPROVED** the minutes of the February 28, 2015 Annual Corporation meeting, as distributed.

- The 2015 Corporation Financial Report was distributed. Rev. Knapp reported that the purchasers of the Nome church building are current with their payments. Presbytery **APPROVED** the report, as presented.
- In May 2015, CPA Jenny Rogers, conducted a financial review of the books and records for the Presbytery of Yukon, Inc. for the year ending December 31, 2014. Her findings: the books and records appear to be in order, and the reviewer did not identify any material errors or issues with the books and records.
- There were two openings on the Board – Rev. Knapp rotates off after serving six years, and the position from the west has been vacant for over a year. The nominating committee presented its slate; the floor was opened for nominations. Presbytery closed nominations and **ELECTED** Rev. Israel Nelson (Anchorage/Valley) and RE Wanda Slwooko (West) by unanimous ballot, to the class of 2017.
- Church properties:
  - Kaktovik PC – the boiler is now working. Presbytery owes its gratitude to Kent Reynolds for locating and shipping the necessary parts and to Leroy Stigen for completing the repair.
  - Fairbanks Korean PC – The old manse has been sold.

The corporation meeting **ADJOURNED** at 1:21 pm with Rev. Dean Knapp leading in prayer.

#### GAMBELL NEW BUILDING UPDATE

Project director Dennis Berry reported that the summer of 2015 was very successful. Even though mechanical, electrical, and sheetrock work will be done this summer, much work remains. The committee is still working to raise additional funds to complete the project.

The Gambell PC session desires to support religious services and community needs. CRE Beulah Nowpakahok read a letter from the session identifying potential community uses of the church building:

- Community food bank site. Poor hunting has led to less food and less ivory for carving, which when sold provides much needed cash.
- Site of the elder nutrition program. The program's previous site was inadequate, due to its lack of running water. The lodge currently provides the meal, but does not offer a place for seniors to gather for fellowship.
- A gathering place for potlucks, cultural gatherings involving dancing and drumming, thanksgiving and other holiday feasts; native corporation meetings, etc. The school gym is not adequate for some of these gatherings and is not always available. The church has previously had to pay to use the school for the Christmas program.
- A community youth center is needed - the church already has a popcorn machine.
- Community wi-fi hot spot. Access to electronic communications is vital in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Evacuation center for times of very high winds, which cause very high surfs, destroying homes. The new church building is located away from the water.
- Yupik language learning center. Beulah would be available to teach now that the translation project she has been working on for many years, is nearly complete.
- Distribution center for clothing and blankets
- Temporary housing for the homeless.

Danna Larson invited people to participate in these ways:

- Pray
- Sign up to work as an individual or on a team.
- Give a financial gift.
- Speak with folks in your community about the vision and invite them to be a part of it.

## PRESBYTERY RESTRUCTURING PROPOSAL – Session II

Rev. Piper Cartland compiled the responses from Friday's group discussions. Commissioners broke into three regional groups [Native Ministries (North Slope, St. Lawrence Island, and Anchor churches), Southcentral, and Interior] for additional discussion on the following questions:

- Shall we move forward with regional based ministry?
- What are the regions?

### Discussion Feedback:

- Interior: The region does not see the advantage of being a separate region. The region consists of only four churches which are already working together. The regional approach will be more costly in off road areas and we would get more value by coming together as a presbytery. A downside of the regional approach to the presbytery, is the loss of connectedness and the possible diminishing of the native voice in the presbytery.
- Southcentral: The region does not want to lose the native voice. The region still desires to meet face-to-face twice a year as a presbytery, with regional meetings scheduled twice a year. Sister church relationships would continue.
- Native Ministries: There are too many committees. We need voices from all areas, coming together to work for God. This is the time to work together and not feel isolated.

Leadership Team comments: We are attempting to do the work of presbytery and the work of God more efficiently. One of the main elements that is not working is the current committee structure. We are not destroying the whole when we plan to work regionally and would hope that the Native Ministries area would find mission commonalities that they can do together. Regions are most suited to do the work in their context.

Commissioners were asked to forward comments on how we should move forward to the Leadership Team task force. The Leadership Team should have details flushed out by September. Rev. Piper Cartland led in a prayer.

## MISSION IN ACTION COMMITTEE

Committee moderator JoAnn Bantz reported that the committee is planning a peacemaking event later in the year.

Bingle Camp director Steve Spencer reported on the presbytery owned camp. The Board of Directors is seeking a dedicated person from the presbytery to fill a vacancy on the Board. Open since 1953, the camp is run as a non-denominational camp, dedicated to sharing the gospel with young people. Because the camp cannot charge for what it costs to run camp programs, the Board is seeking donations and looking to increase the number of users at the camp, by promoting the use of the chapel on weekends for mini retreats, by churches and the Harding Lake community. Presbytery's annual contribution pays for most of the cost of insurance.

Materials and manpower is needed to make improvements to camp facilities. Most buildings are in need of work, with the biggest need to install footings under the buildings. LightShine Ministries' professional builders out of Pennsylvania is aiding in this work.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

RE Miranda Rexford-Brown and daughter Miranda dedicated songs, '*Meet You by the River*' and '*Someday*' to staff and volunteers of presbytery.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Part II

Committee member Rev. Tim Carrick presented the slate of nominations on behalf of moderator RE Ida Olemaun. The floor was opened for nominations. Nominations were closed, and Presbytery cast a unanimous ballot for the entire slate, to include the newly nominated. With the restructuring to take effect next February, nominees (with the exception of those elected to the Permanent Judicial Commission), were elected to the class of 2017.

**Legend:** AV – Anchorage/Valley; AR – Arctic North; I – Interior; W – West.  
 Number after a name indicates term on the committee.

Moderator .....	(I).....	RE Ron Illingworth .....	17
Moderator-elect.....	(AV) .....	Rev. Israel Nelson .....	17
Committee on Ministry.....	Co-moderator (AV)...	Rev. Henry Woodall (1) .....	17
Committee on Ministry.....	Member (I) .....	Rev. Curtis Matz (2).....	17
Committee on Ministry.....	Member (AR) .....	RE Miranda Rexford Brown (2).....	17
Committee on Preparation for Ministry.....	Member (I) .....	RE Ron Illingworth (2).....	17
Committee on Preparation for Ministry.....	Member (AR) .....	Rev. Jack Cormack (1) .....	17
Interpretation & Stewardship.....	Member (AV).....	CRE Marjorie Poggas (1).....	17
Interpretation & Stewardship.....	Member (I) .....	RE Jim Anderson - New Hope (1) .....	17
Mission in Action Committee.....	Member (AV).....	Rev. Johan Shin (1) .....	17
Mission in Action Committee.....	Member (AR) .....	RE Linda Agnasagga.....	17
Nominating Committee .....	Member (AV).....	Rev. Tim Carrick (2) .....	17
Nominating Committee .....	Member (AR) .....	RE Edith Nageak (1) .....	17
Nominating Committee .....	Member (W).....	RE Paul Rookok (1) .....	17
Permanent Judicial Commission.....	Member (AV).....	Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price .....	21
Permanent Judicial Commission.....	Member (AR) .....	RE Michael Jeffrey .....	22
Permanent Judicial Commission.....	Member (AV).....	CRE Marjorie Poggas.....	22

**RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES**

**Savoonga PC** – Paul Rookok

God is always there when we need help. People are always willing to volunteer in the church, filling the heating oil tank, etc. Assembly of God minister, Heidi, delivers the messages every Sunday, besides assisting with the Food Bank. Others from the Baptist church also help. Special services are held at Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Eve Night-watch. A combine prayer service is held as whaling season begins.

**Trinity PC** - RE Susan Lundgren.

The congregation, no longer defined by the troubles of the past few years, is growing. Rev. Todd Allen serves as the new interim pastor, and a pastor nominating committee is being formed. Healing and reconciliation services are scheduled quarterly. The church now has a full slate of elders and deacons. A new members’ class was held last week for the first time in a long time. The church survived a financial crisis which took them near the brink of bankruptcy, but they are recovering by renting to another church. A sustainable budget for 2016 was recently passed. Their partnership with Huffman Elementary has been renewed. An Easter vigil service is planned as well as a sunrise service. Children are again present on Sunday mornings, and the church partners with First Presbyterian Church Anchorage for some children’s and youth programs.

**Jewel Lake Parish**—Susan Woods.

The council is talking about remodeling the sanctuary to make it more inviting. Two members of the buildings and grounds committee have been involved in the Gambell Building project and installing a new heater for Kaktovik PC.

**United Protestant Church** – Joseph Brock

It’s impossible not to see God everywhere. There has been a large focus on the Deacons’ ministry. Much of the work has been done through food/gas cards from Fred Meyer—83 were given out last year. One of the goals coming out of the Session retreat is to inspire people to be more intentional in reaching out to others.

**Gambell**—Mike Apatiki.

The church is over 100 years old. Sheldon Jackson brought the first Presbyterian missionaries to St. Lawrence Island, and lots of people in Gambell became Christians because of the Presbyterian Church. A large revival in 1980 brought many people from Savoonga. With the assistance of the Holy Spirit, elders lead Sunday worship services, on a rotating basis. In June, there are often mighty winds which shape the melting snow into the form of a

dove, whereby they see the Holy Spirit. Ice conditions for whales and walrus have not been good the past few years, causing food shortages. The new building will be the church's third building since its inception. Many have come to work on the new church building. Thanks was extended to Danna Larson for coordinating the volunteer effort.

**Chapel in the Mountains** – no report

**Alaska Mountain Rescue** chaplain Rev. Dean Knapp asked for prayers, having just received word that one person died and others are missing in an avalanche near Nelchina.

*Rev. Todd Allen prayed for these churches, avalanche victims and their families.*

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Mileage Committee:** Rev. Israel Nelson reported that two requests were approved.

**Resolutions:** Rev. Britt Johnston Johnson presented the report.

*WHEREAS The Presbytery of Yukon has met in stated meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Anchorage on February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2016, and*

*WHEREAS the presbytery has been received with great hospitality and graciousness by the members and staff of First Presbyterian Church, and also by an apparent hippie wearing a flower necklace, and*

*WHEREAS all the refreshments were delicious and timely, and*

*WHEREAS Moderator Kim MacInnes-Green kept us in good order wearing a ball cap, and*

*WHEREAS Rev Tim Carrick has not only the music but also the Yup'ik in him, and*

*WHEREAS we learned that the church in Delta feeds its community both spiritually and physically, and*

*WHEREAS we learned the spiritual lesson from Elizabeth Hollingsworth that if you keep pressing the same button on the elevator, you don't go anywhere, and*

*WHEREAS Ellen Johnson-Price has been reported to be "nothing but goodness," and*

*WHEREAS we found that to get Presbyterians to move, they must first move to move, and*

*WHEREAS generosity involves vulnerability, and*

*WHEREAS Rob Hagan brought us a fresh perspective on giving to the church, and*

*WHEREAS the ministry in Barrow is all about strong and new leadership in the face of great difficulty, and*

*WHEREAS Miranda Rexford Brown testified with tears of joy that working for the Lord transformed her life, and*

*WHEREAS there was much rejoicing in the approval of Rev. Joseph Reid and Rev. Johan Shin to join us in ministry, and*

*WHEREAS we were assured that when CRE Cody Ryu is ordained next year, the Fairbanks Korean Church is gonna PARTAAY! and*

*WHEREAS the University Community Church in Fairbanks is really firing up under the ministry of Neill McKay, and*

*WHEREAS there are so many things to do in Wainwright, Atkasuk, and Nuiqsut, that absence of candlesticks notwithstanding, Pastor Jack must be both nimble and quick, and*

*WHEREAS the new leadership team chair must not be either Piper or Henry, but someone else who can integrate the BOO and the NFOG with the MAPO as the CPM and the COM become one MC with equal numbers of RE and TE with the PE and the LT leading Bingle, with the continuation of the COR and the PJC and the BOT among the new VSC which guides the Regions, each represented by a REPR who we hope will not be grim, and*

*WHEREAS NEW HOPE also is working on a new reorganization with new members and*

*WHEREAS the members of Kaktovik take their hats off to Darlene Matz, and then put new ones on, and*

*WHEREAS we rejoice that the churches in Eagle River, Wasilla, and Immanuel all have community garden ministries, and*

*WHEREAS visionary churches have generous contributors, and*

*WHEREAS serious thought has been given to a new plan for presbytery reorganization, and*

*WHEREAS we shared our struggles and joys with each other, and*

*WHEREAS we are grateful for our moderators, who are going out and coming in,*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Presbytery of Yukon, in Stated meeting this day, the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, 2016, do hereby GIVE THANKS TO GOD and rejoice in the gifts of ministry given to us, and*

*BE IT RESOLVED that we commend the hospitality of First Presbyterian Church of Anchorage, and*

*BE IT RESOLVED that we will go forth from this place newly inspired by the hope we have been given, to renew our ministry to a hurting world.*

#### OTHER BUSINESS

**Presbyterian Women**—Barbara Brown.

All women were invited to the Synod Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women on June 16, hosted by 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in Wasilla and United Protestant Church in Palmer.

#### INSTALLATION OF THE NEW MODERATOR

Ruling Elder Ron Illingworth was installed as moderator, with Moderator Rev. Kim MacInnes-Green laying on hands in prayer.

#### ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 pm with Rev. Israel Nelson leading in the closing prayer.

Sharon Rayt  
Stated Clerk