

## PRESBYTERY OF YUKON FALL 2015 STATED MEETING

United Protestant Church, Palmer, Alaska

October 9-10, 2015

*'In the same way, let your light shine before men,  
that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.'*

Matthew 5:16

### FRIDAY, October 9, 2015

#### OPENING SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Presbytery opened with worship at 9:00 am in the United Protestant Church sanctuary, with Executive Presbyter Rev. Curt Karns delivering the message.

#### WELCOME

Host co-pastor Rev. Tim Carrick extended a warm welcome to Presbytery.

#### CONVENE

Moderator Rev. Kim MacInnes-Green convened the Fall Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Yukon with prayer at 9:40 am.

#### INTRODUCTIONS

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

#### ROLL

##### **Teaching elder (TE) members present (16):**

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>	Ellen Johnson Price – <i>temporary supply, Immanuel PC</i>
Britt Johnston – <i>temporary supply, Anchor PC</i>	Luke Jones – <i>pastor, Jewel Lake Parish</i>
Curt Karns – <i>executive presbyter</i>	Dan Ketchum – <i>honorably retired</i>
Dean Knapp – <i>honorably retired</i>	Ian MacInnes-Green – <i>member-at-large</i>
Kim MacInnes-Green – <i>member-at-large</i>	Curtis Matz – <i>pastor, New Hope Church</i>
Neill McKay – <i>pastor, University Community PC</i>	Israel Nelson – <i>honorably retired</i>
Matthew Schultz – <i>pastor, First Anchorage PC</i>	Henry Woodall – <i>pastor, First Wasilla PC</i>

##### **Commissioned ruling elders (CRE) present (5):**

Virginia Kasak – <i>Kuukpik PC</i>	Richard Mauer – <i>Delta PC</i>
Beulah Nowpakahok – <i>Gambell PC</i>	Marjorie Poggas – <i>Jewel Lake Parish</i>
Chang Cody Ryu – <i>Fairbanks Korean PC</i>	

##### **Churches represented by ruling elder (RE) commissioner (17):**

Anchor PC – <i>Clyde Kaneshiro</i>	Delta PC – <i>Ann Geise</i>
Eagle River PC – <i>Dale Berry</i>	Fairbanks Korean PC – <i>Jinhee Dickerson</i>
First Anchorage PC – <i>Jim Powell</i>	First Korean Anchorage PC – <i>Chun Bang (Fri. only)</i>
First Wasilla PC – <i>Karen Foster</i>	Gambell PC – <i>Wanda Slwooko</i>
Immanuel PC – <i>Sandra Haldane</i>	Jewel Lake Parish – <i>Susan Woods</i>
New Hope Church – <i>Ron Illingworth</i>	Olgonik PC – <i>Cora Akpik</i>
Savoonga PC – <i>Christina Alowa</i>	Trinity PC – <i>Richard Wilson</i>
University Community PC – <i>Carol Nielsen</i>	Utqiagvik PC – <i>Miranda Rexford-Brown</i>
United Protestant Church – <i>John Deal</i>	

**Other voting members present (8):**

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/absent (17):**

Isaac Akootchook – *honorably retired*  
Richard Carpenter – *honorably retired*  
Sandra Faison – *member-at-large*  
Alice Green – *honorably retired*  
Tom Letts – *member-at-large*  
Ted McGovern – *chaplain, AK Army National Guard*  
William Ng – *honorably retired*  
Youl Rhee – *honorably retired*  
Mary Ann Warden – *honorably retired*

Patrick Bracken- *army chaplain*  
Jack Cormack – *temporary supply: Atqasuk, Kuukpik, Olgonik*  
Phillip Gilbert – *honorably retired*  
Henry Guinotte – *honorably retired*  
Peter Loughman – *inactive*  
James Nageak – *honorably retired*  
Dianne O’Connell – *honorably retired*  
Kenneth Smith – *honorably retired*

**Churches not represented by a ruling elder commissioner (4):**

Atqasuk Chapel  
Kaktovik PC  
Chapel in the Mountains  
Kuukpik PC

**Other voting members excused/absent (4):**

CRE Paul Bodfish - *Atqasuk Chapel*  
Elizabeth Hollingsworth – *Leadership Team*  
CRE Leah Hathaway – *Jewel Lake Parish*  
Ida Olemaun – *moderator, Nominating Committee*

**Enrollment of corresponding members (3):**

Rev. Rob Hagan – *ministry relations officer, Presbyterian Foundation (Presbytery of Central Washington)*  
Rev. Mark Klohe – *interim pastor, Trinity PC (Presbytery of Inland Northwest)*  
Rev. Duke Morrow – *former pastor, Utqiagvik PC (Presbytery of Detroit)*

**Other Guests/Presbytery office staff (14):**

Sheryl Bang  
Dick Branton  
Carla Cunnington  
Cheryl Greseth  
Mary Kron – *presbytery treasurer*  
Jennifer Perri – *member services, Insurance Board*  
Denise Wartes  
Alice Branton  
Kathy Christensen  
Cynthia Erbey  
Timothy Harris – *CEO, Insurance Board*  
John Mapes  
John Rozzi  
Helen Woodings

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

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

**ADOPTION OF DOCKET**

Motion to adopt the docket as amended by the Leadership Team was **APPROVED**.

**STATED CLERK’S REPORT**

The Stated clerk reviewed voting eligibility and presented the consent agenda. Voting was scheduled for Saturday, giving presbyters sufficient time to review the consent agenda.

### MODERATOR APPOINTMENTS

**Language Caucus Facilitators:** Inupiaq - RE Mark Wartes, St. Lawrence Island Yupik – CRE Beulah Nowpakahok, Korean – CRE Cody Ryu.

**Mileage Committee:** RE Bob Christensen, Mary Kron

**Resolutions:** Rev. Israel Nelson

### PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION

Northwest Regional Ministry Relations Officer Rev. Rob Hagan provided a brief report on stewardship.

### INSURANCE BOARD

CEO Tim Harris and member services director Jennifer Perri were introduced.

### LEADERSHIP TEAM RECOMMENDATION

On behalf of the Leadership Team, Rev. Piper Cartland moved that presbytery set aside the Standing Rules to allow the chair of the Interpretation and Stewardship Committee to also serve as the chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. Motion was **APPROVED**.

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

The exec highlighted the written report.

- One of the great challenges of our time is to find people God calls into leadership, and to train and support them well.
- The exec will be hosting a new, 5-week Bible study on *Salvation: Isn't It More Than 'Where Do I Go When I Die?'* using a multimedia, communications approach (YouTube, blog, Facebook, and teleconferencing).
- Presbytery has tried a couple ways to strengthen village churches, but lay pastors are finding it tough to minister in their own village, and leaders are prone to burnout. Rev. Jack Cormack is working to train and coach church leaders in Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, and Wainwright. The exec has begun working with elders in Kaktovik. Rev. Leisa Carrick continues on a volunteer basis, to come alongside elders who have been leading the congregations in Gambell and Savoonga for years.
- Presbytery is seeking to support and encourage pastoral leaders of the churches along the road system, through the formation of pastoral support groups – regional pastors gathering for mutual fellowship, sharing, prayer, and support.
- Presbytery is seeking to train new pastoral leaders as they come into the presbytery. Presbyterians, Lutherans, United Methodists, Episcopalians, and Russian Orthodox are co-sponsoring “Cultural Awareness Training” for new leaders on October 12-13<sup>th</sup> in Anchorage. A mostly Native American team will teach Alaskan history, Native American teaching and learning styles, etc. as a way of helping newcomers to ministry in this state.

RE Arlayne Knox expressed appreciation for the executive presbyter’s ministry.

### MORNING RECESS

Presbytery recessed for a brief break at 10:40 am, reconvening at 11:00 am.

### RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

**First Anchorage Presbyterian Church** – RE Jim Powell.

Things are going well with pastor Rev. Matt Schultz. Matt served as the church’s youth interim in earlier years and is now making connections with young families. A couple teams flew out to St. Lawrence Island to work on the new Gambell PC building. Appreciation was expressed to Christian educator Danna Larson for spearheading the Gambell volunteer recruitment effort. First Presbyterian Church is in the unique position of being close to the homeless population and continues to serve as an emergency, cold weather shelter for homeless families. A shortfall in income has been offset by revenue raised by renting space to a new charter school and leasing front,

parking lot spaces to Diamond Parking. With a new clerk of session on board, the session has recognized the importance of record keeping since discovering that records were five years behind.

#### **Kuukpik Presbyterian Church** – CRE Virginia Kasak

The congregation is blessed with the presence of pastor Rev. Jack Cormack. A young, traveling evangelist who did a lot of work in the village during the summer, preached and sang at Sunday evening services. Children in the village are not attending worship. Virginia loves to sing and has encouraged the children and young adults to sing. Arctic Slope Regional Corporation donated funds for the food bank through the Alaska Commercial store.

#### **Savoonga Presbyterian Church** – RE Chris Alowa

Elder Alowa was recently ordained and serves as the church treasurer. The church is struggling because many members are not attending worship; only two or three show up at times. Heidi Secor presides over Sunday services. The church houses the village food bank, which is in its second year of operation.

*JoAnn Bantz led in the prayer for these churches.*

#### YUKON PRESBYTERIANS FOR EARTH CARE – Barbara Brown

Congregations were challenged to take the earth care pledge, which focuses on worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

Rev. Britt Johnston introduced Dr. Barbara Doty, who narrated a slide show telephonically, on the impact of climate change on human health. Doreen Simmons (Utqiagvik PC) reported on how climate change has affected Barrow and the northern communities of Alaska during the past several decades: trash appears on the beach; rivulets are dirty; there is no ice to prevent waves from eroding the land; hunters are now falling through the ice; and whalers have to travel farther out. Rev. Johnston read a passage from Matthew. Danna Larson stressed the need for the faith community to have a stronger voice in the discussion. Presbyters broke into 5-6 small groups to consider two questions:

- What did you hear?
- In what ways can taking the earth care pledge inspire your congregation in climate change?

Presbyters regrouped in plenary session to hear each group's main concerns.

#### LUNCH RECESS

Danna Larson led in the blessing before the lunch recess at 12:40 pm. Presbytery reconvened at 1:30 pm.

#### ORDER OF THE DAY – Committee on Ministry

Co-moderator CRE Marjorie Poggas presented the committee's report.

- **Examination for presbytery membership: Rev. Jack Cormack**  
Rev. Cormack has covenanted with the sessions in Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, and Wainwright to serve as temporary supply, on a monthly, rotating basis. Start date was July 13, 2015. Terms of compensation are recorded in the presbytery consent agenda. Jack's service to Olgonik Presbyterian Church in Wainwright has been delayed until such time that church elders have secured his housing (the manse is rented out). The examination was carried out via Skype and telephonically. Rev. Cormack read his statement of faith (Appendix A) and responded to questions from the presbytery. Motion to arrest the examination was **APPROVED**. The phone/Skype connection ended; discussion followed. Motion to enroll Rev. Jack Cormack as a member of the Presbytery of Yukon, was **APPROVED**. Jack's reception becomes effective upon his dismissal from the Presbytery of Ohio Valley. Rev. Kim MacInnes-Green led in a prayer for Rev. Cormack.
- **Matters concerning Rev. Neill McKay**, installed pastor of University Community Presbyterian Church, as of July 19, 2015.
  - CRE Poggas presented the committee's recommendation to examine Rev. Neill McKay for membership. Neill read his statement of faith (Appendix B) and responded to questions from

presbytery. Motion to arrest the examination was **APPROVED**. Neill was escorted out of the room; discussion followed. Motion to enroll Rev. Neill McKay as a member of the Presbytery of Yukon was **APPROVED**. Transfer becomes effective upon his dismissal from the Presbytery of Providence. Neill was escorted back into the room amid applause.

- o Motion to concur with the call of Rev. Neill McKay, in accordance with the following terms of compensation, was **APPROVED**:

Cash salary .....	\$27,400
Housing Allowance .....	\$30,000
Board of Benefits core coverage (medical, pension, death, disability) .....	Full
Vacation time .....	4 weeks
Continuing Education (study leave) time .....	2 weeks/cumulative to 6 weeks
Continuing Education (study leave) reimbursement .....	\$1500/cumulative to \$4500
Worker's Compensation .....	Full coverage
Paid Holidays .....	7
Sick Leave .....	10 days per year, cumulative up to 20 days
Moving expenses .....	Up to \$20,000 total

- o ..... Presbytery  
**AUTHORIZED** the Committee on Ministry to appoint an Administrative Commission to work out the details for Rev. McKay's installation and to report back no later than January, 2016.

**2016 minimum terms**

**of call for installed pastors:** The Committee on Ministry recommended adding a sick leave component to presbytery's minimum terms of call. 2016 minimum terms of call were **APPROVED**:

**Minimum effective salary for 2014:** \$57,400

The Board of Pensions defines full-time service as 35 hours a week or more. Minimum effective salary for full-time service in 2016 is calculated as follows:

- o \$44,154 plus manse and utilities, resulting in an effective salary of \$57,400 **OR**
- o An effective salary of \$57,400 divided appropriately between cash salary and housing allowance. Effective salary for part time service may be pro-rated.

**Board of Pensions Core Benefits** (medical/pension/death/disability) coverage

2016 dues rate, as a percentage of effective salary:

- 35% Member only
- 36.5% Member + dependents needing medical coverage thru BOP (i.e., not covered by a spouse's employer).

**Vacation** - 4 weeks annually (does not accumulate)

For bush pastors, every second year an additional 2 weeks' vacation and reimbursement for a round trip by published cheapest airfare to Seattle for pastor and immediate family who reside in the manse/housing. Bush pastors are those who reside at and serve congregations located on other than a year around road or scheduled rail transportation system.

**Study leave (continuing education) benefits**

2 weeks each year plus \$1,500 each year of reimbursable costs (may accumulate for a 3-year maximum of six weeks and \$4,500 reimbursable costs). Study leave shall not be used in conjunction with terminal leave.

**Moving expenses**

Transportation for family from place of residence to calling church and return to Seattle, plus 3,000 pounds household goods and 2,000 pounds of books moved at the most economical rate available. Moving expenses may be prorated during the first 3 years of service in the Presbytery of Yukon.

**Worker's Compensation** – full coverage

**Sick Leave**

10 days initially, accumulating at a rate of one (1) day per month of employment, up to 90 days, at which point long-term disability coverage takes effect.

• **Moment of Personal Privilege**

Former Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church pastor Rev. Duke Morrow expressed appreciation for our prayers and bid a tearful goodbye.

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION - Rev. Britt Johnston

No report

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Rev. Tim Carrick

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

RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

**Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church** – RE Miranda Rexford-Brown

Elder Rexford-Brown expressed gratitude to former pastor Rev. Duke Morrow and to those in recovery who are volunteering at the church. Several elders have received training in administering the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The interim pastor search process has been agonizingly long; four candidates interviewed for the position have declined. Working in pairs, elders have been responsible for leading the Sunday worship services and the Sunday evening singspiration program on KBRW; presiding over 18 funerals in Barrow; as well as assisting with funerals in the villages of Atqasuk and Wainwright. The food bank was closed for several months. Arctic Slope Regional Corporation donated \$100,000 to help buy freezers and food. Translators are working on the Old Testament. The church is working on printing a new Inupiaq songbook. With no pastor, choir director, Sunday school, youth group, or Women's Bible study, much prayer is needed. The congregation remains faithful that God will answer prayers. In closing, Miranda sang *How Great Thou Art* in Inupiaq.

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

In light of the theme for this meeting – “What are you doing in your church that makes you different from other social groups in your community?” elder Geise compared the church with the Delta Lions Club. The church's goal is to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. The Lions Club focuses on helping the visually impaired, but no longer posts the Lion's Club prayer on their website. Alcoholics Anonymous and an exercise club gather at the church, and the congregation is expecting to start another grief share program. Two young men in the congregation fill the pulpit when pastor Mauer is away. Two congregants are trained in the use of an AED (defibrillator) machine. The Delta Ministerial Association decided to disband and give the association's funds to Delta Faith Lutheran and the Seventh Day churches for Project Christmas. Leaky windows in the basement have been replaced which should reduce heating costs.

**Anchor Presbyterian Church** – RE Clyde Kaneshiro

The church's mission is “to provide a welcoming place for natives to worship as well as other people of all races.” The 17 member congregation reaches out by inviting the homeless to a potluck each Sunday after worship. This ministry to the homeless however, keeps some families with children away. Clothes are occasionally sent to Gambell. A homeless man with a math degree designed the church website. Some tasks are left undone because the pastor is only part-time. Session is considering training members to do some of the duties usually done by the

pastor. Fundraisers include a garage sale and spaghetti feed. The congregation has considered relocating, but has yet to find a place.

**Jewel Lake Parish** - RE Susan Woods.

Feeding the hungry is a major outreach. Food collected by the congregation supports the Sand Lake Elementary food backpack program and Lutheran Social Services food pantry. The pastor and congregants volunteer weekly at area mobile food pantry sites. Members assisted Gloria Dei Lutheran Church with their vacation Bible school program.

**Kaktovik Presbyterian Church** - no report

*Miranda Rexford-Brown led in the prayer for these churches.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Arlayne Knox, with assistance from Denise Wartes, volunteered to prepare a 'how to' manual for elders when called upon to lead unexpectedly.
- Danna Larson reported that Youth Triennium is scheduled for mid-July, 2016. Registration begins in January.

RECESS

Presbytery recessed at 3:45 pm; reconvening at 4:05 pm.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM) – RE Jan Burger

- The committee updated the Commissioned Ruling Elders application form and has explored ways to provide on-the-job training for new CREs, catering the training to the needs of the individual. Grant money will help fund this new way of training CREs in their own setting.
- Ruling elders Mark Ahsoak, Miranda Rexford-Brown, and Roy Nageak are working with limited commission function in Barrow. Rev. Israel Nelson provided training in administering the Lord's Supper. Rev. Jack Cormack is also assisting with their training. Elder Joseph Brock (United Protestant Church) is taking online courses through Dubuque Theological Seminary in preparation of becoming a CRE.
- Commissioning of Cody Ryu  
The Korean Presbyterian Church in Fairbanks has called ruling elder Cody Ryu to serve as pastor. Mr. Ryu received an accounting degree from the University of Washington and worked in the insurance industry for 29 years in Washington state, before semi-retiring. Cody completed his Master of Divinity degree from Northwestern Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Tacoma, Washington in the fall of 2013. Because elder Ryu did not receive his training at a PCUSA seminary, he is studying PCUSA polity under the guidance of Rev. Curt Karns and Korean consultant Rev. JinSuk Kim (Northwest Coast Presbytery). The Fairbanks Korean Presbyterian Church session has endorsed elder Ryu's desire to be commissioned and requested that he be authorized to perform the following duties:
  - Lead worship services and preach the gospel
  - Administer the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism
  - Have a vote and a vote in the meetings of presbytery
  - Perform a service of Christian marriage when invited by the session or other responsible minister, and when allowed by the state
  - Perform a service at a funeral

The Presbytery proceeded with the examination. Elder Ryu read his statement of faith (Appendix C) and answered questions from the floor. Questions were limited to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and areas of instruction. Motion to arrest the examination was **APPROVED**. Cody was

escorted out of the room before discussion. Motion to receive elder Ryu as a Commissioned Ruling Elder and to commission him during the evening worship service was **APPROVED**. The commission is for one year, after which time the commission may be renewed for a term not to exceed three years. Elder Ryu rejoined the plenary session amid applause.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT – Mary Kron

The September 2015 financial statement and budget was distributed. 61.6% of the budget has been spent year-to-date. \$182,000 was received from the Synod of Alaska-Northwest, Yukon's share of proceeds from the sale of a piece of Synod owned-property.

The Leadership Team (LT) assembled a task force to research and propose the allocation of additional funds received from Mary Jane Landstrom's estate. The task force presented three LT endorsed proposals for presbytery consideration; discussion ensued. Two motions were presented for vote.

- Presbytery **APPROVED** a motion to place \$10,000 of the bequest funds, in the Earl Jackman endowment fund; and through the Leadership Team, take up the notion of planning a Christian Education event to be funded by Mary Jane Landstrom bequest funds.
- Presbytery **APPROVED** a motion to make funds available from the Mary Jane Landstrom bequest to assure that every church have at least one copy of the Book of Common Worship, current Book of Order, and Book of Confessions. Arlayne Knox, Denise and Mark Wartes, and Susan Woods will work together to ensure that this is accomplished.

Motion to receive the treasurer's report was **APPROVED** with comment, that Mary has done a fantastic job.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY OVERTURES – Part I

In the aftermath of the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, Foothills Presbytery assembled a group of theological diverse ruling elders and teaching elders to creatively address not only "dysfunction in the denomination, but also the serious need for the Presbyterian Church (USA) to update its practice to meet our 21<sup>st</sup> century context." The fruit of their labors are eight overtures, presented for discussion and possible concurrence by the Presbytery of Yukon.

Rev. Piper Cartland provided an overview of the eight overtures from Foothills Presbytery to be considered at the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in Portland, Oregon in June, 2016. Questions for clarification were permitted. Voting on whether to concur with the overtures is docketed for Saturday afternoon.

#### DINNER RECESS

Rev. Tim Carrick led in the prayer before presbytery recessed for dinner at 6:03 pm.

#### SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Presbytery gathered at 7:00 pm for worship. Scripture readings: Deuteronomy 4:1-9; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15; James 1:17-27. Rev. Piper Cartland delivered the message. There was a service of commissioning for Ruling Elder Cody Chang Myung Ryu. Host church co-pastors Revs. Tim and Leisa Carrick presided over the Lord's Supper with Rev. Israel Nelson and United Protestant elder John Deal assisting. Heavenly music was provided by Alice Branton and the United Protestant Church choir. The \$618.58 offering will be donated to the Willow Rebuild Project, part of the ministry of PLUME (Presbyterian, Lutheran, United Methodist, Episcopal). [The Willow Recovery Team in concert with the Willow Rebuild Project are assisting seven families identified by the State of Alaska as being most at risk due to having sustained a total loss of home and personal property in the 2015 Sockeye wildfire. These families have either children, are single parents or are elderly/disabled.]



## **SATURDAY, October 10, 2015**

### SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Rev. Curt Karns opened the worship service with prayer at 9:05 am. CRE Beulah Nowpakahok delivered the message; Inupiaq and St. Lawrence Island Yupik singers provided music. The service closed with the singing of *To God be the Glory*.

### RECONVENE

Moderator Rev. Kim MacInnes-Green reconvened the meeting at 9:45 am.

### ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

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

#### ACTIONS ITEMS

#### **Recommendation for Action from the Stated Clerk**

1. Approve the minutes of the February 27-28, 2015 stated presbytery meeting, as distributed.
2. Approve the minutes of the April 15, 2015 special presbytery meeting, as distributed.
3. Receive with regret, the resignation of Ruling Elder (RE) Dale Berry from the Personnel Committee.

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

1. At the request of the Gambell Presbyterian Church session, to renew the commission of CRE Beulah Nowpakahok, for another 3 years. Responsibilities when Beulah was first commissioned include: moderate the Gambell PC session meetings; lead worship services and coordinate with visiting pastors; officiate at weddings, baptisms, and funerals; work with the session in carrying out missions such as food ministry, youth ministry, and home visitations when invited; and administer the Lord's Supper.
2. Change the status of Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price from 'member-at-large' to 'engaged in validated ministry'. Ellen is serving as part time pastor at Immanuel Presbyterian Church.

#### MATTERS OF INFORMATION

#### 1. **Actions of the Leadership Team:**

##### • **Electronic Voting**

- Endorsed Eagle River Presbyterian Church's application for a \$1,000 grant from General Assembly restricted fund 59239 (mission program with preference given to advocacy for environment and evangelism). The church hopes to expand in 2016, its congregational garden project. Produce from the garden will supplement the Eagle River food pantry, which is housed on church property.
- Endorsed a grant proposal by the Presbytery of Inland Northwest (PIN). The project entitled "Hearts and Minds Set on Jesus: Spiritual Renewal and Preaching Enrichment for Pastors," requires the endorsement of 15 presbyteries in the western U.S. Project description (as provided by PIN's executive presbyter.) "The Presbytery of the Inland Northwest is in formal covenant partnership with Whitworth University, a historically and pervasively Presbyterian institution of higher education. Through a grant from the Lilly Endowment, the University has established the Office of Church Engagement (OCE) in order to utilize its resources (facilities, finances, personnel, and relationships) in support of churches to deepen and expand the effectiveness of their ministries. . . . The project proposal envisions a three pronged approach to serving pastors:
  - 1) Funding to support the establishment of Presbytery specific cohorts of pastors who desire to pursue intentional integration of their own spiritual renewal with the enrichment of their preaching skills;
  - 2) Funding eight pastors per presbytery to attend the Whitworth Institute of Ministry (WIM) each summer 2016 and 2017 (up to 120 pastors total); and

3) Funding for the electronic delivery to each presbytery of specific instruction in preaching skills and the application of scripture as a primary tool in spiritual transformation to be used by those who attend WIM as well as others who cannot. The result of the “Heart and Mind” project will be the establishment of the Preaching Academy, one of several Academies structured in partnership between the Presbytery of Inland-Northwest, Office of Church Engagement, and other presbyteries working collaboratively to strengthen PCUSA ministries in the Western United States.

- Endorsed a grant proposal from the Presbyterian Hunger Program for a ‘Congregation Based Community Organizing Start Up Grant’ for the Mat-Su Valley. Grant funding decisions will be determined this fall.
- Confirmed Personnel Committee appointments: RE Rex Okakok and RE Kay Sanders (class 2017); Rev. Matthew Schultz (class 2018). RE Molly Pederson (class 2016) was the sole remaining member of the committee prior to the appointments.
- August 2, 2015 teleconference
  - Appointed Rev. Kim MacInnes-Green, RE Bob Christensen, and RE Arlayne Knox to a subcommittee tasked with proposing a recommendation for allocating the additional funds received by Mary Jane Landstrom’s estate.
- September 8, 2015 teleconference
  - Designated Matthew 5:16 as the theme verse of the 2015 Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting: *“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”*
  - Designated ‘letting your light shine’ as the theme of the 2015 Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting:
  - Proposed that elder commissioners address the following statement in their reports: In light of the theme verse, “What are you/your church doing that makes you different from any other social club in your community?”
  - Confirmed the appointment of Rev. Matthew Schultz, to the Presbytery Personnel Committee (class 2018).
- October 9, 2015 meeting
  - Took action to require presbytery host churches to arrange for the recycling of paper, plastic, and aluminum.

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

- Pastoral changes:
  - ..... Recommended that the Fairbanks Korean session terminate Rev. Jeong’s pastoral relationship, as of May 10, 2015, in accordance to the terms of his contract, i.e., presbytery minimum payment for return moving expenses. The church, having experienced a split, had insufficient funds to keep Rev. Jeong in the pulpit.
  - ..... Concurred with the Immanuel session request to dissolve Rev. Susan Knight’s pastoral relationship with Immanuel Presbyterian Church, effective April 13, 2015.
  - Concurred with the Atqasuk, Kuukpik, and Olgonik sessions’ request to offer a contract to stated supply Rev. Jack Cormack, with the start date of July 13, 2015, in accordance with the following terms:
    - Cash Salary.....\$44,154

Fair rental value of furnished manse .....\$13,246 = Part-time in 3 manses  
 Travel expenses within presbytery .....\$12,000  
 Professional expenses.....\$2,000  
 Pension/medical/death/disability.....Full coverage  
 Continuing Education.....Up to \$2,500/2 weeks  
 Vacation leave .....8 weeks, plus 1 round trip plane ticket to Seattle  
 Workers' Compensation.....Provided by Presbytery  
 Moving costs .....Provided by the presbytery as follows:

At the beginning of the contract the presbytery will provide transportation from the place of residence to the church and will move the pastor's personal effects north using the following guidelines:

- Up to 2000 lbs. of books shipped via USPS at the media rate.
- Up to 3000 lbs. of household goods, as appropriate for a furnished manse, by the most economical means.

At the successful completion of the contract, the presbytery will provide transportation to Seattle and move the pastor's personal effects as far as Seattle using the following guidelines:

- Up to 2000 lbs. of books via USPS at the media rate, and
- Up to 3000 lbs. of household goods by the most economical means.

- Concurred with the action of the Immanuel session to extend a part time (19 hours/week), temporary supply contract to Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price, with the start date of October 1, 2015, in accordance with the following terms:

Cash Salary..... \$16,000  
 Housing Allowance ..... \$17,000  
 403(b) Contribution..... \$12,000  
 Vacation .....4 weeks/year  
 Continuing Education leave .....2 weeks/year  
 Continuing Education..... \$1,500/year

- ..... Concurred with the proposed staffing pattern of Fairbanks Korean Presbyterian Church. Ruling Elder Chang Myung (Cody) Ryu had been invited to provide temporary pastoral leadership to the Fairbanks Korean congregation; initially as a guest preacher. The session negotiated with elder Ryu to come and serve as a CRE while he completes his ordination requirements. His personal circumstances allow him to serve without a salary; the church will pay for housing.

- Presbytery membership transfer

- ..... Rev. Duke Morrow to the Presbytery of Detroit
- ..... Rev. Tammy Letts to Peace River Presbytery.  
 Tammy was called to serve as associate pastor at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church in Naples, Florida, beginning July 1, 2015.

- Moderator appointments/dismissals:

- ..... University Community Presbyterian Church – Rev. Neill McKay; dismiss RE Mark Wartes with thanks
- ..... Kuukpik Presbyterian Church (Nuiqsut) – Rev. Jack Cormack; dismiss CRE Virgie Kasak with thanks.
- ..... Olgonik Presbyterian Church (Wainwright) – Rev. Jack Cormack; dismiss Rev. Ian MacInnes Green with thanks.

- ..... Immanuel Presbyterian Church – Rev. Ellen Johnson; dismiss Rev. Israel Nelson with thanks.
- ..... Fairbanks Korean Presbyterian Church – Denise Wartes, with oversight provided by Mark Wartes

- Understanding that it needs to be more visibly active, COM assigned liaisons to provide oversight to sessions with non-installed, leadership positions:
- Vacant Church Report [does not include churches served by a commissioned ruling elder]

Church	Status	PNC	Moderator
Chapel in the Mtns	Not seeking a pastor	none	Mark Wartes
Fairbanks Korean	Guest pastor Cody Ryu	none	Denise Wartes
1 <sup>st</sup> Korean Anchorage	Waiting for pastor Johan Shin to arrive from South Korea	work completed	Rev. Tim Carrick
Kaktovik PC	Not seeking a pastor	none	Rev. Curt Karns
Savoonga	Not seeking a pastor	none	Rev. Leisa Carrick
Trinity PC	Seeking a long-term interim	active	Interim Rev. Mark Klohe
Utqiagvik PC	Seeking an interim	active	RE Molly Pederson

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**Records' Review**

- First Anchorage Presbyterian Church: Reviewed 10/1/15 for the period 1/15/15 – 9/15/15  
Very good minutes. Minutes were approved without exception.  
Church register has not been updated for some time.
- Trinity Presbyterian Church: Reviewed 10/1/15 for the period 1/1/2015 – 9/8/2015  
Very good minutes. Minutes were approved with exceptions, as noted:
  - Financial review has not been done for some time.
 Church register approved without exception.
- Immanuel Presbyterian Church: Reviewed 10/1/15 for the period 2/8/15 – 8/16/15  
Good minutes. Minutes were approved with exceptions, as noted:
  - Minutes did not indicate if there was a quorum.
  - Name of moderator was not noted.
  - There was no record that the Lord's Supper was celebrated.
 Church register was not available for review.
- Jewel Lake Parish: Reviewed 10/1/15 for the period 11/2014 – 8/2015  
Very good minutes. Minutes were approved without exception.  
Church register had not been updated and was not available for review.
- Delta Presbyterian Church  
Excellent minutes. Minutes were approved without exception.  
Church register had not been updated and was not reviewed.
- New Hope Church: Reviewed 9/28/2015 for the period starting 1/19/15  
Very good minutes. Minutes were approved with exception, as noted:
  - It was unclear if the congregational meeting was the annual meeting
 Church register has not been updated and was not available for review.

- University Community Presbyterian Church: Reviewed 9/28/2015 for the period starting 10/14 Very good minutes. Minutes were approved with exception, as noted: Congregational minutes not included. Church register was not reviewed.

4. **Miscellaneous reporting**

- The Committee on Preparation for Ministry appointed the following readers for the 2015 fall ordination exams:  
**Principal readers:** Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price and RE Ron Illingworth  
**Alternate Reader:** RE Jan Burger
- On April 27, 2015, the Permanent Judicial Commission convened in session and took action to dismiss charges filed in case 14-02.
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance approved a request for \$3,000 to help set up an office for a long-term Sockeye Fire recovery team. Funds were forwarded to the Anchorage Interfaith and Interagency Disaster Recovery Committee for the Willow Recovery Team.
- Presbytery Resource library books and Christian education materials have been donated to First Presbyterian Church’s library. Church staff will purge outdated materials. The Presbytery office still maintains in its office, a number of books from the Alban Institute.

- 2014 Church Membership
 

Chapel in the Mountains.....	35
Anchor .....	17
First Anchorage PC .....	286
First Korean Anchorage .....	56
Immanuel.....	43
Jewel Lake Parish.....	51
Trinity.....	220
Atqasuk.....	24
Utqiagvik.....	250
Delta .....	22
Eagle River .....	110
Fairbanks Korean .....	22
University Community .....	79
Gambell .....	42
Kaktovik.....	17
New Hope.....	35
Kuukpik.....	39
United Protestant .....	155
Savoonga .....	57
Olgonik.....	57
First Wasilla .....	173

GAMBELL NEW CHURCH PROJECT UPDATE

Project director Dennis Berry reported that volunteer teams worked on the building’s interior during the summer of 2015. Danna Larson serves as the project’s volunteer coordinator. The project director and fellow church members from First Presbyterian Church of Anchorage was the first team to arrive in early July. Eagle River elder Dale Berry reported that the community was very welcoming when his work team arrived in Gambell. They

were met at the airport by Ennis on a 4 wheeler—"Walrus Flipper Taxi." Dale Berry's team included Rev. Britt Johnston who delivered the sermon on Sunday. The team from Wasilla and Palmer sang with the children. A group from Bay City, Michigan also volunteered on the building project. Two work teams from the lower 48 installed temporary stairs and helped community members with home repairs.

There is still a lot of work to be done- boiler and sprinkler systems, electrical, sheetrock, sanding, and painting. Volunteers will be needed, beginning in early July, 2016. Rev. Henry Woodall addressed the logistical and cost aspects, e.g. mail supplies in advance; pack personal items in one bag, fill a second bag with food; use a mileage ticket to get to Nome. Bering Air offered a special deal for volunteers working on the project, in addition to charging only \$10 for the second bag. Volunteers were encouraged to contribute to the cost of the building.

Rev. Rob Hagan, Regional Ministry Relations Officer with the Presbyterian Foundation addressed the foundation's vision: connecting people with missions. A foundation videographer traveled to Gambell to produce a video on the building project and got in on the village's July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. The video may be accessed from the Presbytery's website.

Insurance Board President Tim Cook and Jennifer Perri presented a \$5,000 check for the Gambell building project.

Grateful for Bering Air's contribution to the project, Arlayne Knox recommended that presbytery acknowledge their generosity, by adopting the following resolution:

*WHEREAS Bering Air has contributed greatly and generously to the Gambell Presbyterian Church building project by providing mission groups to travel to and from Gambell at a discounted rate;*

*AND WHEREAS Bering Air ships without cost recyclable materials from St. Lawrence Island to the mainland,*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Presbytery of Yukon, in a meeting assembled this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October in the Year of our Lord, 2015, recognizes the generosity of Bering Air and commends them for their generosity.*

Motion to adopt the resolution was **APPROVED**, with the suggestion that it be published in Nome and Fairbanks newspapers.

#### RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

##### **Gambell Presbyterian Church** - RE Wanda Slwooko

The building currently used for worship is in poor shape. Sunday worship leadership rotates amongst the elders. Elders started a Sunday evening Bible study. The church is blessed to have CRE Beulah Nowpakahok as their pastor. Pastors volunteering on the building project also assisted with Sunday worship. Elder Slwooko expressed gratitude to the Gambell Corporation for providing free lodging to one volunteer work team.

##### **Immanuel Presbyterian Church** - RE Sandy Haldane

The church is and is not like a social club. We offer our members activities that center around a purpose - to glorify God throughout every aspect of our lives and not just during our meeting times. We do not require members to meet some set of criteria in order to belong. We do not charge admission or charge for membership rather, we ask that people consider giving their time, talents and worldly resources in order to glorify His name. We have a club house, of sorts – it's called the House of God. We do not discriminate membership based upon age. While social clubs often look internally for the benefits members receive through participation, the congregation look externally for the love, goodness, and light that we can take outside into our community and the world, through our support of Nunaka Valley Elementary, raising of funds for the food bank, PCUSA hunger

programs, and Souper Bowl of Caring. The congregation also raised funds for one youth who travels to Rwanda annually to work with street orphans and for another youth raising funds to purchase bags of cement for a school being built in Rwanda; provided on-site community garden; and collected change for bus passes, etc. The congregation was challenged with a change in church leadership, but resilience and faith got us through. We were once again been blessed when Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price signed a covenant to serve as temporary supply pastor.

#### **United Protestant Church - RE John Deal**

The church was founded by 13 Protestant denominations and the culture has persisted. It is more than a social club – it is a key element of the community. The church opens its doors to many in the community at minimal or low cost, e.g., recitals, symphony, soccer club, exercise group. Ministries include partnership in the PLUME ministry, Kairos prison ministry, and Family Promise

#### **First Korean Presbyterian Church, Anchorage - moderator Rev. Tim Carrick (for RE Chun Bang)**

The new pastor's visa was denied, then the process was delayed. Now it seems that everything is in order and Rev. Shin will arrive in November or December.

*Rev. Tim Carrick led in the prayer for these churches.*

#### **RECESS:**

Presbytery recessed for a short break at 10:40 am, reconvening at 10:50 am.

#### **INSURANCE BOARD EDUCATION EVENT**

Jennifer Perri led presbytery through a PowerPoint overview of services and resources available to churches.

#### **LUNCH RECESS**

The moderator led in a prayer prior to recessing presbytery for lunch at 12:05 pm. Presbytery reconvened at 1:00 pm.

#### **RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES**

##### **University Community Presbyterian Church - RE Carol Nielsen**

A succession of non-Presbyterian pastors have filled the pulpit in the past few years. Elder Nielsen expressed appreciation to Mark Wartes for his help in moderating session. God is good, holding the church together until Rev. Neil McKay's arrival. The session has reached out into the community, planning quarterly events such as a community Easter egg hunt; a July outdoor service in the park, and a homecoming Sunday in October - an effort to reach out to members who have drifted away from the church. The building remains a Red Cross emergency shelter and serves as a community meeting place for women, the men's breakfast, the garage guys, a Christian motorcycle association, youth, etc. Active community service outreach includes providing a personal needs closet for Love in the Name of Christ (Love INC.) and supporting the community food bank. There is hope that the Tanana Valley Conference of Churches, which was active a decade ago, will be restored and again offer the traditional Thanksgiving community breakfast and Thanksgiving Day dinner. Elder Nielsen closed her report with a quote from Galatians 6:9 - "Let us not grow weary in doing good."

##### **Fairbanks Korean Presbyterian Church – RE Jinhee Dickerson.**

Elder Dickerson presented her report in Korean with CRE Cody Ryu translating. Jinhee expressed appreciation to God, for Mark and Denise Wartes, and pastor Ryu. Despite earlier problems, the church has come far by the grace of God. Session wants to renew and reshape the congregation through prayer and Bible study. An intercessory prayer meeting held every Friday after Bible study, is open to neighbors and the community. The church is open to the public for community needs, by offering a basic computer class for the elderly and unbelievers and providing space for a language school. Session hopes to start a new program for newcomers to the community, encouraging people to settle in the neighborhood and to attend worship. The congregation is looking forward to growing in the strength of the Lord Jesus Christ.

##### **Chapel in the Mountains – moderator RE Mark Wartes**

Since the 1950s, the church built on a hill, has been a light drawing people to the village of Anaktuvuk Pass. Two services are offered; the elderly attend the morning service, the younger generation in the evening. Rev. James Nageak and Mark Wartes presided over 27 baptisms on Easter. Sally Johnston, will return next week with 27 children’s Bibles, paid for with funds raised by Sally and Keith Johnston’s church in Richmond, Virginia. Three youth traveled to Virginia over the summer. There is major worry in the village over the delayed migration of the caribou through the area. Caribou is a major food source. Other localities have provided food - Barrow shared whale, and Homer sent fish. Prayers were requested in the hope that caribou will arrive.

**New Hope Church** - RE Ron Illingworth

The United Methodist/Presbyterian union church is a modified PLUME congregation, receiving help from an Episcopalian and served by a Lutheran pastor. What makes the church different from a social organization – the congregation is intentional in making Christ known by providing school lunches for children going without and children’s emergency clothing; donating food from the community garden to the food bank; and volunteering at Love, INC. The preschool has a waiting list. Many attending worship are not members.

**Olgonik Presbyterian Church** – RE Cora Akpik.

The four elders alternate in leading Sunday worship and are looking forward to Rev. Jack Cormack’s arrival. The church has held funerals and weddings, and asked that presbytery lift them up in prayer.

*CRE Virginia Kasak led in a prayer for these churches.*

PRESBYTERY PARISH COMMITTEE

No report.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Part II)

Rev. Tim Carrick presented the slate of nominations on behalf of moderator Ida Olemaun. The floor was opened for nominations. Motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot was **APPROVED**. Terms for Synod commissioners terminated at the end of the class calendar year.

**Legend:** AV – Anchorage/Valley; AR – Arctic North; I – Interior; W – West  
Number after a name indicates term, if applicable.

Principal TE Commissioner to 222 <sup>nd</sup> GA.....	(AV).....	Rev. Henry Woodall .....	2018
Alternate TE Commissioner to 222 <sup>nd</sup> GA.....	(AV).....	Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price .....	2018
RE Commissioner to Synod .....	(I).....	RE Ron Illingworth (2) .....	2017
Committee on Preparation for Ministry.....	Member (AV).....	Rev. Britt Johnston (1) .....	2018
Permanent Judicial Commission .....	Member (AV).....	RE Jim Powell .....	2021

MOMENT OF PRAYER

Presbytery entered into a period of prayer for the family of David Hobson, grieving his death after David fell through the ice in the lagoon in Barrow.

OVERTURES – Part II

Rev. Piper Cartland facilitated a discussion of the eight overtures submitted by Foothills Presbytery for consideration at the upcoming 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. Presbytery limited discussion to two minutes per speaker. Amendments were discussed and voted upon separately.

*Foothills Overture 1 (GA Overture 003) – On Amending G-3.0503 and G-6.04 Regarding Meetings of the General Assembly and Amending the Constitution. Motion to concur **FAILED**.*

*Foothills Overture 2 (GA Overture 004) - On Adding a New Standing Rule F.5.c. Regarding Social Witness Policy Statements or Resolutions at the General Assembly. Motion to concur **FAILED**.*

*Foothills Overture 3 (GA Overture 005) - On Setting Aside “Forming Social Policy” at the Next Three General Assemblies. Motion to concur **FAILED**.*



*Foothills Overture 4 (GA Overture 006) - On Amending Standing Rule B.2.b. to Add the Category “Presbyter Advisory Delegates”.* Motion to concur **FAILED**.

*Foothills Overture 5 (GA Overture 007) - On Amending G-6.04e. to Require a Two-Thirds Majority Vote to Amend the Constitution.* Motion to concur **FAILED**.

*Foothills Overture 6 (GA Overture 008) - On Adding G-3.0105c. to Permit a Presbytery to Abstain on Constitutional Changes.* Motion to concur **APPROVED**.

*Foothills Overture 7 (GA Overture 009) - On Adding a New Standing Rule L.2. Identifying the Right of Presbyteries and Synods to Submit Overtures Changing the Standing Rules.* Motion to concur **FAILED**.

*Foothills Overture 8 (GA overture 010) - On Amending G-3.05 On the Review of the Manual of the General Assembly.* Motion to concur **FAILED**.

### RULING ELDER TESTIMONIES

#### **Trinity Presbyterian Church** – RE Richard Wilson

The church has gone through a rough patch. There’s been a winnowing, but the congregation is ready to sprout again. Interim Rev. Mark Klohe has been a God-send and helped set a new course. New interim Rev. Todd Allen will continue to build on the progress made this past year, by building up the children and youth ministries. The church’s mission statement is “to be prayerfully filled up and poured out.” Even though the church’s resources have been reduced, they’ve held onto all their local, national, and international missions of the past. At least two music groups practice at Trinity and offer concerts. The congregation’s relationship with Chapel in the Mountains in Anaktuvuk Pass has continued. Some Chapel in the Mountains members attended Trinity’s ‘remembrance’ night, a time to remember who Trinity has been and can still be. The church partnered with nearby Huffman Elementary – children planted potatoes and carrots in an area in front of the church. The harvest was donated to Bean’s Café.

#### **First Presbyterian Church, Wasilla** - RE Karen Foster

The congregation is truly blessed, with a beautiful building, wonderful full-time pastor, and supportive community. What we do really well: worship, fellowship (with food), music—singing and instrumental, prayer, teaching. They do mission in the community and around the state. The congregation continues to minister to homeless families through Family Promise. Garden boxes were a success this year—produce put out by the front door had soon disappeared. Sunday school had more teachers than students, so a non-traditional approach will be tried with Sunday school meeting only once a month. The congregation is doing a good job of meeting the needs of the people who walk in the door, many of whom walk out the back door. Each elder on session was asked to call members of the church, especially those who have left. This was viewed as a success. Session is looking at possibly joining the Fellowship of Presbyterians.

#### **Eagle River Presbyterian Church** – RE Dale Berry

The church is not a social club, but here to do God’s work. Their relationship with Jesus is the basis for their mission. There is an increased use of the Eagle River food bank, which is housed in the church’s building. Produce from the new vegetable garden supplements the food bank. The church is within six months of paying off their mortgage. The church is spiritually and fiscally stable, even though some people have come and gone.

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

### RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE – Rev. Israel Nelson

The Presbytery of Yukon, Presbyterian Church (USA) convened for its scheduled fall meeting on Friday, 9 October, 2015 at the United Protestant Church in Palmer, AK. Welcomed in worship by Presbytery’s Owl, Rev. Dr. Curt Karns, who called us to celebrate the joy of our common life, and announced he is conducting an on-line Bible study focused on salvation. We began with birthday greetings for Rich Wilson from Trinity Church. Joyfully we welcomed a final visit from Rev. Duke Morrow. We celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First

Presbyterian Church of Anchorage. Rev. Rob Hagan suggested to us that writing checks for donations to the work of the church is like eating chocolate – if you find it helpful – as a way to encourage generosity. Yukon Presbyterians for Earthcare led us in the study of climate change and encouraged us to take personal responsibility for responding to climate change as well as for churches to consider taking responsibility to address the crisis. Several churches on the north slope have either instituted or continued to provide food banks as part of their ministry. We conducted examinations for membership for Rev. Jack Cormack (who has been to Iona) and Rev. Neill McKay, (or McCoy in North Carolina dialect), as they begin their services to churches. We welcomed Cody Ryu as pastor of Fairbanks Korean Presbyterian Church. We learned that Anchor Church in Anchorage continues a ministry to “houseless” persons. We wished a tearful goodbye to Rev. Duke Morrow. On Saturday, we celebrated the birthday of Rev. Luke Jones. During the report on the Gambell church building project, we joyfully received a check for \$5,000 from the Insurance Board.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Presbytery of Yukon will assemble again on Friday, 26 February, 2016 in Anchorage, AK, when First Presbyterian Church will begin their 101<sup>st</sup> year of service. We are resolute in our determination not to meet in Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch (pronounced lanvairpulwingil), Anglesey, Wales, to the great disappointment of Rev. Timothy Carrick, who is proud of his Welsh heritage.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

**Presbyterian Women** – Barbara Brown

Interest in Presbyterian Women is waning. The annual gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Alaska/Northwest will be hosted by First Presbyterian Church in Wasilla, June 16-18, 2016. Theme will be ‘*One Body, One Spirit*’.

#### ADJOURN

Moderator Rev. Kim MacInnes-Green adjourned the meeting at 4:01 pm with a closing prayer.

Sharon Rayt  
Stated Clerk

## STATEMENT OF FAITH - Rev. Jack Cormack

I believe in a Trinitarian understanding and experience of God. God over us. God with us. God in and around us. God over us is the God who created all that is both seen and unseen. This including all of the physical stuff like, earth, wind, sky and that which is above the sky. And all of the stuff we can't see like, spirit and soul. The God over us concept also helps me to understand that God is greater than any human experience both individual and corporate. There is nothing too large that can ever separate us from God's love; no bomb, no war, or natural or un-natural disaster. When I remember that the large things in life cannot separate us from God's love, I know I am safe. I am free then to remember the small things that God has created including my breath; which leads me to the reality even my breath is a gift from God and not of my own creation. Then, when I remember the greatness of God's love, I am free to be a person of gratitude with each breath.

God with us, helps me to remember that in the person of Jesus, who is the Christ, that God fully enter the human experience. When Emmanuel was born in Bethlehem He not only entered into all of human experience but He entered my (and each individuals) experience right now. God with us reminds me that regardless of our trials and tribulations or heart and soul aches; Jesus has experienced the far greater pain of the cross so that we may know peace and joy that passes all understanding. For us to fully experience forgiveness of sin we need to acknowledge that Jesus not only died for our sin but because of our sin. And He chose the pain of the cross any way so that all sin would die in His death; therefore, we, along with all of creation, may experience the abundant life of the resurrection.

God in and around us is the constant reminder to me that we are not alone and this is not the end. If we are willing to trust the God above us and the God with us, then we can follow our pain to its end and we will find a God waiting for us that is far greater than our wildest imagination. In this experience of trusting God, we can then and only then, live into the truth that the difficult times in our lives are hard but not bad. The journey to the depths of our pain, which is hard, leads us to the truth of God's transcendent love, which we can experience at the very core of our being; we are not alone and this is not the end.

## Rev. Neill D. McKay - A Personal Statement of Faith

### **I believe in the Grace of the one Triune God**

One God, three persons  
God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit  
Equal, Eternal, living in Perfect Communion

### **I believe in the one Sovereign God of Israel**

The Creator of the world and giver of all life  
Whose compassion and mercy are unceasing  
The final Judge of all persons and nations

### **I believe in Jesus Christ, my personal Lord and Savior**

Born of the Virgin Mary, fully human yet fully Divine  
Who lived a sinless life as a model of human perfection  
Whose incarnation and resurrection sealed The New Covenant

### **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the guiding force in Christian Life**

The Spirit that inspired the writing of the Holy Scriptures  
The governing force in my life and ministry  
The earthly sustainer and revealer of God's will in our lives

### **I believe the Holy Sacraments are the seal of God's promise on our life**

We are cleansed in the water and nourished in communion  
The Baptism is our adoption into the Body of Christ  
The Lord's Supper confirms the promise of resurrection

### **I believe in the one Holy catholic and apostolic church**

The living and earthly embodiment of Christ  
The recognition of One Baptism  
The Communion Table is the reconciliation of the imperfect to the Perfect

### **I believe the Holy Bible is the written Word of God**

The Living Word of God and Divinely inspired  
Transposes the context of time and space, relevant in all things  
It is the Law of the Old Testament and God's New Covenant for all people

### **I believe in the Priesthood of all Believers who are called to witness to the Glory of God**

To Proclaim the Word and minister to all peoples and nations  
To confess our Faith through honest witness  
To serve our Lord by serving others

I confess Christ is one path to salvation for all people.

I confess that our Church is called to reach out to the weak and the powerful,  
the righteous and the sinner, the oppressed and the oppressor

I confess that we, the church, are the elements of the Body of Christ and are to proclaim the Word, live a model of Christian life, and be a beacon of light in a broken world.

Amen

## **Christian Confession of Faith by Cody Ryu**

**October, 2015**

My grandmother's faith in God became a seed from what is now North Korea. It blossomed with my Dad's quiet, unwavering faith, especially throughout his difficult life as an elderly immigrant to the USA. All of his children are following in his footsteps, of believing in Jesus as our personal Savior. In 1976, we began harsh immigrants' lives in USA. We became founding members of the Korean United Presbyterian Church of Seattle (UPC – PC USA) 35 years ago.

In 1994 I was baptized after accepting Jesus Christ as my personal savior. At UPC I learned more about God through a two-year Bible study course and served with enthusiasm in the church. I was ordained a Deacon in 2003. Praying through my Dad's long illness and facing his death, my relationship with God became very personal and I dedicated my life to God. In 2009 I was ordained an Elder at UPC.

To serve God in earnest, my wife and I sold our Allstate Insurance Agency.

I received my calling to His ministry in 2010 during early daily prayer services at UPC. Holy Spirit's true guidance led me to formally study the Word at Seminary so that I may better understand God and I enrolled in Northwest Presbyterian Theological Seminary where I finished the Masters in Divinity in January, 2015.

Jesus died on the cross to pay for my sins and I believe He rose again from the dead. I believe He will come again. I believe God made the universe and governs the world with endless love. God has been pouring miraculous blessings upon me, a weak and undeserving person, and He is making what I have, and who I am now, possible.

I believe in not only listening to the Word, but also in God's service. I served as District and Small Group Leader of 15-20 church members, led Bible studies, and we tithe. I served as President of Daniel Missions, assisted with attendance records and outreach to absentees. I drove church vans and directed parking.

I am amazed at God's graciousness and providence, who led me in June, to the Korean Presbyterian Church in Fairbanks. I have come to love its members who are patient with my improving sermons. With the steady guidance provided by Ruling Elders Denise and Mark Wartes, Rev. Curt Carns, and the Presbytery of Yukon, I look forward to stability within this congregation, strengthening of its spirits, and growth in Jesus Christ, our Lord.