

October 7, 2020

Dear Colleagues in the Presbytery of South Dakota,

Within this packet is the pre-mailing for the upcoming presbytery meeting. Please read through each report ahead of the meeting since there will be minimal time for reports that do not include action items.

Meeting Held Via Zoom Video Conference

We will once again be meeting via Zoom Video Conference due to COVID-19. The following details will allow you to connect to the meeting using the Zoom app or at Zoom.us where you can also download the app:

Meeting ID: 986 2138 8387

Password: 573902

By Phone: 312 626 6799

I will have the meeting active 15 minutes in advance so you may join early to test your system.

Registration Required for Commissioners

Without the ability for a physical registration process we ask *all* commissioners to register by calling the Presbytery Office or filling out the online registration form on our website under Events / Presbytery Meetings. *Your vote will not be counted without registering in advance of the meeting.* This is the simplest way for us to take record of those in attendance and the role they have at the meeting.

Guidelines for Debate

Because of the online format we will be following the same debate protocols that were utilized by General Assembly during their recent plenaries. Each person will be given 2 minutes to speak and may not speak more than twice per motion, and they will only be allowed to speak a 2nd time once everyone else has had a chance to speak first. This will maintain order and allow for the greatest number of voices to be heard.

If you have questions about any of this please let me know!

Many blessings,

Kevin Veldhuisen Mission Coordinator and Stated Clerk

STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH DAKOTA Friday, October 16, 2020

9:00 a.m. GATHERING IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

Welcome and Opening Prayer: Moderator Jane Hohm Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth: Rev. Kristi Holler

INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

<u>Determination</u> of the presence of a quorum by the Moderator Presentation of Agenda for adoption

Announcements of Moderator and Stated Clerk

Introductions of Teaching Elders attending for the first time

Introductions of Ruling Elders attending for the first time

Seating of Corresponding Members

Initial Report of Ministry Resource – Lisa Danielson

Consent Agenda

REPORTS OF PRESBYTERY OFFICERS & STAFF

Moderator – Jane Hohm

Stated Clerk & MC - Kevin Veldhuisen

Treasurer – Tami McGuire

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD – Rev. Brian Jones

Scripture: Romans 13:8-14 Message: "Neighbors!"

Necrology Report – Paula Zavitz

5-Minute BREAK

10:00 a.m. OUR RESPONSE TO CHRIST'S CALL

Administration & Coordination – Steven Johnson

Approval of 2021 Budget

Ministry Development & Education (MDE) – Bob Jacobs

Camping and Faith Formation – Denise Lutkemeier

Congregational and Pastoral Care – Nathan Esser

Hope Co-op – Chad Ensz

Coaching & Visioning Team – Carolyn Visser

Synod Report – Janice Palmer

PW Report - Mary Jenner

CRE Commission – Jerry Bertelson

Ministry Resource – Lisa Danielson

NEW BUSINESS

MISCELLANEOUS & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Salem Church Update – Jeff Nelson

Pioneer Camp Sale Commission Update – Benton Visser

11:35 a.m. BREAK

11:45 a.m. Program – Rev. Jerry Bertelson "Healthy Congregations: A Systems Perspective"

Installation of Moderator – by Jane Hohm

Announcements – by Newly-Elected Moderator Next Stated Presbytery Meeting:

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION – by Newly-Elected Moderator

1:00 p.m. Adjournment

STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Zoom Video Conference July 11, 2020

The Presbytery of South Dakota of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its Summer Stated Meeting via Zoom Video Conference on Saturday, July 11, 2020.

CONVENING THE PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery was called to order by Presbytery Moderator, Jane Hohm, at 9:06 A.M. and opened the meeting with prayer.

ROLL

The roll for this meeting of the Presbytery was constituted by registration with the enrollment clerk.

The following Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders were enrolled and present as commissioners:

Teaching Elders: Kennen Barber-Ensz, Donald Buck, David Cook, Andrew Crandall, Lisa Danielson, Terry Drew, Chad Ensz, Sarah Hagena, David Halleen, Pat Hammond, Kristi Holler, Bob Jacobs, Diane Janssen Hemmen, Brian Jones, Norlita Kaul, Rolly Kemink, Yeongsik Nam, Abigail Ozanne, Janice Palmer, John Pehrson, Richard Poppen, Allen Sager, Kathy Saxbury, Kevin Veldhuisen, Carolyn Visser, Steven Voris, Barbara West.

Commissioned Ruling Elders: Andrew Bellisle, Eleanor Harle, Gayle Janzen, Steven Johnson, Jerod Jordan, Jerry Lutkemeier, Paul Penn, Carolyn Petik, Gary Pribyl, Shirley Scotter, Ann Spitzenberger.

Commissioners: Lynn Hall-Bison, Steve Boomsma-Bonilla, Susan Smith-Brookings, Marsha Kurtenbach-Bemis Holland, Anne Glanzer-Spirit Lake, Paula Larson-Fedora, Stefanie Nelson-Hot Springs, Louise Van Poll-Huron, Trudi Nelson-Madison, Martha Gesick-Marion, Donald Larson-Martin, Richard Palmer-Miller, Heidi Norgaard-Mitchell, Nina Ripley-Onida, Duane Jenner-Pierre, Bill Zavitz-Rapid City First, Claire Gillaspey-Sioux Falls First, Linden Holler-The Little Stone Church, Deb Hout-Sioux Falls Westminster, Judy Symens-Sisseton, Wanda Blair-Sturgis, Holly Butrum-Veblen, Lonnie Greenfield-Watertown, Jim Major-Wessington, Marshall Edleman-Willow Lake.

Other Voting Members: Jane Hohm-Moderator, Meleta DeJong, Mary Jenner, Denise Lutkemeier, Jeff Nelson, Susan Wismer, Paula Zavitz-Vice Moderator.

Others Present: Tacey Braithwaite, Robert Brooks, Mindi Buck, Martin Christensen, Donna Flint, Robby Flint, Elizabeth Fox, Betty Jorgenson, David Larson, Tami McGuire, Charlie Trumble, Jason Wiedrich, Bill McConnell-Presbyterian Mission Agency.

QUORUM

Teaching Elders: 27

Commissioned Ruling Elders: 11

Commissioners: 25

Other Members of Presbytery: 7
VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: 70

AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the Presbytery. **Agenda adopted.**

CONSENT AGENDA

Moderator Jane Hohm presented the Consent Agenda. Presbytery adopted the following:

- 1. That all lay persons and ministers of other denominations serving Presbyterian congregations in the Presbytery of South Dakota who are not temporary members of the presbytery be granted the privilege of the floor for this meeting with voice.
- 2. Approve the minutes of the January 25, 2020 stated meeting.

REPORTS FROM PRESBYTERY OFFICERS AND STAFF

MODERATOR'S REPORT

At the end of my January Moderator's Report, I shared an excerpt from Susie Larson's *Blessings for Every Day* devotional book, "May you learn to trust God in increasing measure. When He calls, may you follow where He leads, step out without having all of the information, speak up without having all the answers, and look up when your circumstances threaten to weigh you down. May you live, breathe, and speak as one who is ensured victory and equipped to do the impossible."

Since the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, we have most definitely been challenged to step out without having all the information and answers and to trust God in increasing measure when circumstances beyond our control weighed us down. That being said, the people of this Presbytery have continued to live as people who are equipped to do what some might find impossible! In spite of our circumstances, we are living, breathing, and speaking as people who are ensured victory.

Thanks to Zoom, committees continue to meet; rest assured God called capable and faithful people to serve the Presbytery of South Dakota! In addition to attending these committee meetings, I have hosted monthly moderator calls and written three letters to churches and leaders to share information from PCUSA and offer suggestions and encouragement. The last letter included Eleanor Harle's vision for all of us to pray in unison on 6/5 at 6:05 p.m.

I have been in communication with Kenneth Green from the Board of Pensions; he would like to meet with pastors and personnel committees (perhaps church treasurers as well) to share information about upcoming BOP changes for 2021. You can expect to hear more about this opportunity when plans are firm.

To date I have appointed Jeff Nelson and Rolly Kemink to serve on the Salem Church Commission and Jerry Bertelson to serve as moderator of the CRE Commission. On behalf of the Presbytery, I thank them for their willingness to give of their time and talent!

While COVID-19 has negatively impacted our lives in countless ways, it has also afforded us opportunities to live even more faithfully, cooperatively, and creatively! I feel blessed by the strengthened relationships and support I have experienced as your moderator. I consider each of you a gift and an answer to the question, "What do I do now?" found in the book *Ash and Starlight* by Sioux Falls native, Arianne Braithwaite Lehn.

"Your reassuring, Spirit-filled wind comes blowing at my back, announcing I'm not alone, that You will fill me with everything I need to take on what's next And do the things I didn't think possible."

Thank you, and may God bless each of you abundantly!

Moderator Jane M. Hohm

MISSION COORDINATOR AND STATED CLERK REPORT

Study Leave

I would like to formally thank the entire Presbytery of South Dakota for my study leave. While it was a vastly different experience than I had anticipated due to COVID-19, I am very grateful for this time of reflection, and most importantly for the time I was able to spend with my family. I can assure you that this time away will be easily made up with renewed vigor and insight that it provided for me, and in turn for the presbytery.

I also want to thank the many gifted leaders and ministry team moderators that faithfully continued to provide exceptional leadership during my absence, it is clear that the presbytery did not miss a beat, even amidst a global pandemic! And a very special thank you to Cindy Bailey in the office for navigating the innumerable inquires that came her way, and to Jim Hulbert and Jerry Lutkemier who covered my official stated clerk responsibilities while I was away.

All of this is proof that the Presbytery of South Dakota is a treasure in our denomination and I am so proud and blessed to be serving in ministry with you all. From my family to yours, thank you very much for all that you do and have done for me.

Minister Transactions

The following minister transactions have been completed and are registered with the Office of General Assembly: Honorable Retired of Terrence Drew; transfer of Norlita Kaul to POSD.

WORSHIP AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Scripture: John 13:19-25

Sermon: Learning to Lean, Rev. David Cook

CAMPING AND FAITH FORMATION

Rationale for Sale of Camp Pioneer

The Camping and Faith Formation Commission presented to Administration and Coordination Committee and now to the body of Presbytery, a motion to proceed with the sale of our Pioneer property. This is not a decision made lightly by the Camping Commission. Camp Pioneer offers a quiet beautiful setting for retreat groups and we recognize the value and generosity of the Trumble family gift that made Camp Pioneer possible, as well as those that provided financial support and sweat equity in the development of the property. It is the belief of the commission that it is not financially or programmatically feasible to continue to maintain and retain both properties. Yet doubling down on one property is NOT "cutting" ministry opportunities; it could actually multiply our efforts by consolidating our focus and mission. We believe the resources acquired from the sale of Pioneer will provide us new and year-round, powerful opportunities for ministry.

Reasons and rationale for proceeding with the sale of property.

• Ministry Focus

- The current commission has the conviction that it is time to sharpen our focus and recommit our energy and resources on the mission and ministry of camping rather than property.
- o The commission has been energized by camp director, Jason Wiedrich's concept of virtual camp season, which has been approved for summer of 2020.

 Over the past several years, the need for ongoing discussion of upkeep, marketing of each site and our financial picture has dominated the commission's time, resources and attention, often causing tension and conflict within the commission and throughout the presbytery, diverting the focus from the true mission of our ministry.

Financial

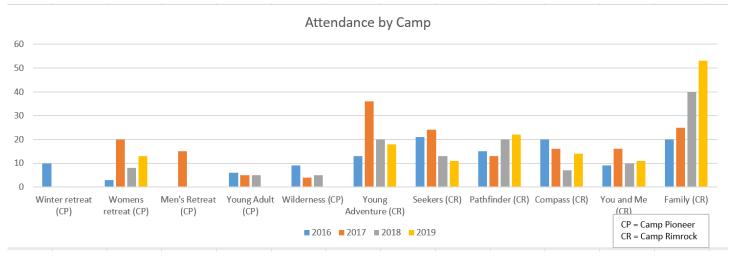
- o Camping Checking balance consistently below sustainable amount.
- Camping Commission has required ongoing financial support from Presbytery for several years. This ranges from annual support of \$10,000 to an additional \$30,000 loan to cashflow, even before COVID-19.
 - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Youth Rally and the regular onsite camping season were cancelled, meaning minimal to no income during the camping season.
 - Camp rental / user groups at a minimum due to COVID-19
 - PPP loan was approved to help cover Camp Director's salary until August 31, 2020.
 - Synod grant covered some costs of virtual camp
- o 2019 2020 fund raising campaign failed to raise necessary support for two properties.
- Contacts with property management firms were not receptive to offering properties for short term rentals.
- O Despite our greatest efforts, maintaining two facilities is not sustainable. Currently, no other presbytery our size has successfully maintained more than one camp facility.
- Intentions for proceeds of sale will be used for improving and sustaining our camping ministry.
 - o In recognition of the original gift, we would establish an endowment fund of at least \$600,000 (subject to final sale price) with interest to be used to help maintain the ministry for years to come.
 - o The remainder of the proceeds will be reinvested into Camp Rimrock to improve efficiency and sustainability. (Possibilities include improving lodge energy efficiency, windows, kitchen upgrade, chapel updates, upper road / parking lot, cabin upgrades (explore options to relocate cabins from Pioneer to Rimrock).

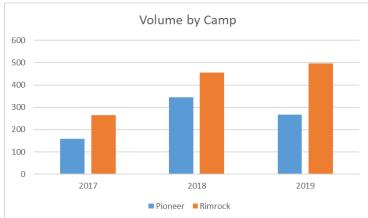
Rationale for sale of Pioneer Property

Discussion on which camp to sell centered around the items listed below:

- Past attendance indicating camper preference and amount of camper space
- Proximity of each camp to Rapid City
- Readiness of each property to host campers
- Sustainability
- Surrounding scenery
- Sweat equity, finances and work that has been completed and work that needs to be completed
- Historic and sentimental connections to both camps

Camps volumes by location:





Most attended camp sessions were held at Camp Rimrock. Wilderness Camp and Young Adult camp, held at Camp Pioneer, were poorly attended in years 2016 – 2018 and cancelled in 2019 due to lack of interest.

In 2015, middle and high school camps were offered at Camp Pioneer but cancelled due to little to no interest.

2016 and 2017 – Young Adventures camp was held at Camp Pioneer. Due to negative camper

and crew evaluations, this camp was moved to Camp Rimrock in 2018 and 2019.

We would like to address some concerns that have been voiced on the sale of Pioneer:

- Some feeling of terms of original gift not met.
 - O Documentation dated 12/22/2008 states if the plan to improve a larger camp facility was not materialized within ten (10) years, the funds would be distributed per instructions in the letter. Pioneer Lodge officially opened in 2014.
 - A Trumble family member has been consulted and has voiced understanding and supports efforts to sustain the camping ministry.
- Department of Forestry Easement concerns
 - o Presbytery stated clerk and treasurer have researched this and reassured no issues to prohibit a potential sale. Have a conditional use permit that will transfer to potential buyers. There may be some benefit to not having a current easement due to concerns of transfer to new owners.

Additional support for the sale of a property include:

Past studies and discussions that have taken place with recommendations from those studies were also taken into consideration during the commission's decision making.

 Noted in a report from Jim Books and Earl Dailey, co-moderators of Rimrock and Pioneer Site Evaluation Taskforce, from January of 1991, at the October 1990 meeting, Presbytery voted to dispose of Camp KODA, citing lack of resources or program need to justify facilities and operations at more than one camp. We continue to face these same realities today.

- POSD meeting, 10/23/2015 Restructure Task Force
 - Every group confirmed the importance of staying in camping / retreat ministry, naming the value of reaching children and youth in different ways than in church or in community, unique experiences of positive Christian formation, how highly formative it is for young people and simply that it is important. There was NO support for ending the ministry.
 - There was support for continuing the ministry with one site only, reasons being financial, spreading ourselves too thin with 2 sites, 2 sites not sustainable.
- Excerpts Deb DeMeester (Director of Leadership Development for the Synod of Lake and Prairie report February 2019
 - o Finances: The most significant challenge the camps face is financial.
 - o Barebones budget of the camp does not include much for property improvements.
 - o Program: The benefits of summer camp for children and youth continue to be significant. A study conducted by Harris Interactive found, "The environment and activities at camp incorporate all of the elements of healthy youth development. Summer camp provides young people with productive and creative uses for their time by offering a valuable mix of both physical and intellectual activities."
- Executive director and treasurer of the Presbyterian Camping and Conference Center Association (PCCCA) toured and evaluated the sites in December 2018 and met with the commission in January to hear their insights.
 - The essence of their report is that each site has tremendous potential but given that they are in the same geographical area that we should keep just one site so we can focus energy and resources on just one site. They described Pioneer as "raw" and Rimrock as "rundown." In the end, their recommendation is that we keep and re-develop Rimrock.
 - The reasons for this are as follows:
 - For them it was a matter of math. They asked, "Where can you provide facilities that participants will demand and that can sustain this ministry the fastest?"
 - From their perspective, Rimrock is able to sustain this ministry the most quickly and for less money.
 - This camping ministry has been highly dependent on the presbytery for financial support and there is a recognition that this needs to change.
 - The camp needs to have a solid stream of income from retreat and conference ministry in order to be self-supporting and putting resources into Rimrock will get you closer to that goal of sustainability more quickly than Pioneer.
 - Part of this is because Rimrock has the basic infrastructure in place and a perceived "town center" that Pioneer doesn't have.
 - Some of this infrastructure may need to be updated as buildings are replaced. If you were to choose Pioneer, it will need a number of buildings to meet the needs of the programs you currently house at Rimrock. The honest assessment of the PCCCA consultants was that you do not have the time or money to get Pioneer to where it needs to be.
 - To redevelop Rimrock we will replace the aging cabins with adult friendly facilities that will generate revenue and give the needed financial stability for the camping ministry.
 - There are formulas about how many beds at what quality (i.e., adult comfort) at what occupancy level at what frequency are needed to cover costs that the Commission is now exploring.
 - At this point there are no other camps that have the kind of adult friendly facilities we are considering which will open doors for usage and promote the sustainability the consultants recommend.

ADMINSTRATION AND COORDINATION MINISTRY

The following actions of A & C Ministry are taken from the minutes of the February 21, February 27, April 17, May 19, June 12 and June 25, 2020 meetings.

For Presbytery Information

Matching Gifts Campaign

The following ministries will be supported through this year's Matching Gifts Campaign – Camping and Faith Formation, CRE Program, Hope Co-op, and the Church Development Fund. This will be for gifts up to \$500 per ministry from individuals. Total matching not to exceed \$20,000 for the year 2020. **Motion approved.**

Website Maintenance Plan

A motion was made to contract Caitlin Pisha at a rate of \$250/month for a maintenance plan that will provide technical assistance for the website (March, April, and May). **Motion was approved.**

2021 Presbytery Meeting Dates and Locations

The following dates have been named for 2021 meetings of Presbytery: February 26, 2021 – Oahe in Pierre June 25, 26 – Lemmon October 22, 2021 – Wessington?

New Printer/Copier for Presbytery Office

A motion was made to purchase a new printer/copier for the Presbytery office, total cost shall not exceed \$10,000. **Motion was approved.** A motion was made to pay for the new copier/printer from the Emerging Needs Fund. **Motion was approved.** A motion was made to sell the old copier/printer for whatever price we are able to receive. **Motion was approved.**

Subcommittee on Financial Policy and Planning

A motion was made to make Jason Weidrich an official employee of the POSD. **Motion was approved.** A motion was made to apply for a SBA for a loan/grant for the POSD. **Motion was approved.** A motion was made to provide funding for Kevin Veldhuisen to attend GA. **Motion was approved.**

Action for Treasurer

A motion was made to give Tami McGuire the authority to cash in CD if needed. **Motion was approved.**

Camping and Faith Formation

A motion was made to pay Jason Weidrich salary and benefits for six months starting March 1 – August 31. **Motion was approved.**

A motion was made to refer to Property and Legal the recommendation to sell one of the camps. **Motion was approved.**

Old Printer/Copier

A motion was made to give copier to a church within the Presbytery or camp or get rid of by 5/30/2020. **Motion was approved.**

Discussion of Presbytery meeting in July

A motion was made to schedule the July meeting for Saturday, July 11th. The start time would be 9:00 am and go no longer than 12:00 pm. Meeting will be conducted via Zoom. **Motion was approved.**

ACTION ITEMS

Sale of Pioneer Camp

In the June 12th meeting of Administration and Coordination a motion was made to sell Pioneer Camp. This motion was postponed until a June 25, 2020 special meeting of A & C. In the June 25th meeting a substitute motion was made. The Substitute Motion is to authorize the sale of Pioneer Camp property with the following goals:

- 1. Strengthening the quality of, and achieving self-sustainability, of the presbytery camping ministry
- 2. Terms of sale and use of proceeds for the camping ministry would be in coordination and consultation with A & C

Postponement of Decision

A motion was made to postpone the motion sell Camp Pioneer to the next stated meeting of the Presbytery of South Dakota. **Motion failed, 27 in favor of postponement, 42 against postponement.**

Order of the Day

A motion was made to conclude the meeting due to the Order of the Day. **Motion failed, 15 in favor, 43 against.**

Main Motion

Motion is made to authorize the sale of Pioneer Camp property with the following goals:

- 1. Strengthening the quality of, and achieving self-sustainability, of the presbytery camping ministry
- 2. Terms of sale and use of proceeds for the camping ministry would be in coordination and consultation with A & C

Motion passed, 40 in favor, 22 against.

Pioneer Camp Sale Commission

A motion was made to have the Presbytery of South Dakota establish a moderator appointed commission to oversee the coordination of the sale of Pioneer Camp, including the details and negotiations of the sale. Final terms would be brought to POSD for approval. **Motion passed.**

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

The Ministry Development and Education Team is looking forward!

MDE is considering a Presbytery-sponsored mission trip (available to anyone from our Presbytery) in 2021 – unless the COVID situation in our country necessitates a change of plans. This is a great opportunity to participate in a meaningful trip without having to do all the planning. The trip would likely be in February 2021, but stay tuned for details.

The CRE Commission has completed training for 8 CREs. (See separate report.)

MDE is working on plans for a Presbytery-wide event in April of 2021 (God willing). This event would be open to all: pastors, CREs, officers, and congregation members. It would include opportunities for rejuvenation and soul-care, as well as hearing from an engaging speaker on the subject of Faith Formation. More details to come...

MDE wants to encourage our congregations to be caring churches. During the COVID pandemic, churches have faced challenges in terms of caring for their members as well as people in their community; they have also responded in faithful, creative ways. We want to hear from you as you share both 1) ways your church has provided care during the COVID pandemic, and 2) ways in which extending care has been difficult. Please email Cindy Bailey today at cindy@presbyteryofsd.org. Thank you!

MDE approved the purchase of an online SBS (Staycation Bible School) curriculum that can be adapted for home use. This curriculum is available to all POSD congregations, free of charge. Please call the Presbytery office for more information.

ACTION ITEM

Halleen Ordination

Now that David Halleen has satisfied the Presbytery regarding his preparation for ordination in the PC(USA), MDE moves that a Service of Ordination and Installation be scheduled for David Halleen at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Sioux Falls and to be ordained into the PC(USA). **Motion passed.**

CRE COMMISSION

- . Recommendations to the Presbytery of South Dakota:
- A. That the following Ruling Elders, having completed the Presbytery Training, be Commissioned to the congregations of the Presbytery of South Dakota to moderate sessions of congregations, to administer the Sacraments, and to officiate at marriages in the state of South Dakota for a term of three years effective July 11, 2020:
 - 1. Robert Brooks, First, Huron.
 - 2. Tracy Bultena, Westminster, Sioux Falls.
 - 3. Marshall Edelman, Lake Gospel Church, Willow Lake.
 - 4. Robert Flint, First, Brookings.
 - 5. Donna Flint, First, Brookings.
 - 6. Elizabeth Fox, First, Brookings.
 - 7. Lance Griese, First, Britton.
 - 8. Louise VanPoll, First, Huron.
- B. That the above Ruling Elders commissioned this day be part of a Commissioning Celebration Service to be held at a future Presbytery of South Dakota meeting held in person.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women are still doing mission, but more individually than before Covid. Some have packed boxes of food, some have sewn masks. Others make calls to friends and family to make sure everybody is okay. One group meets in the local park once a week, each bringing their own lunch and lawn chair (chairs spaced 6 feet apart.).

From June 2019 to June 2020, PW focused on the Pathfinder Center in central SD, a long-term recovery center for those who were victims of human trafficking.

From June 2020 to June 2021, the mission project is Shallow Wells, through Marian Medical Mission. US teams will not participate directly in well-building this year, because of the Coronovirus, BUT,

3000 wells are still being planned, relying on native laborers and staff that have been trained. Many villages will still get safe drinking water (and less illness),

The 2020 Spring Gathering was cancelled because of the virus. The Fall Faithful Women's Fall Retreat is still on the schedule, with everyone hoping it can be held as planned. It is planned for the Crossroad in Huron, September 25 (afternoon)-September 26(3 PM).

Members are urged to continue financial giving, as the virus affected finances on all levels: PW on the Presbytery, Synod, and Churchwide levels.

SYNOD REPORT

Strategic Service and Witness: About every five years the committees of the Synod revisit the work they have undertaken and decide how they might adjust their goals and so undertake an exploration of possibilities for such changes. This year they chose to take up three entirely different goal areas: connecting more closely with presbyteries, working more intentionally with racial ethnic folks, and expand what previous committees have done. Their work will be always focused on these three goals. They will no longer be known simply as "the grant-giving group.

<u>Self-development of People</u>: This will involve assistance with immigration and citizenship education for Liberian immigrants in North Dakota. The second program will support folks at the American Indian Center in St. Paul, offering preventative nutrition using traditional healing and cultural practices for health improvement. (This is the 50th anniversary of SDOP.)

<u>Committee on Racial Ethnic Ministries</u>: This body grants financial awards to racial ethnic students across a variety of disciplines as well as institutional awards to Tribal Colleges within our bounds. The goal is to nurture higher level thinking of justice in the world.

<u>Transforming Communities' Vital Leaders</u>: This group is working on a Leadership Development grant for which presbyteries can apply in order to attract and retain new pastors.

<u>Financial Services</u>: Jim Koon declared that our financial assets were well-managed this year. Our stock market portfolio saw an unusually large gain.

Communications Committee: Will be developing a new website.

<u>Committee on Representation</u>: Part of this report considers the composition of the Synod membership. The majority represent a balance between female and male, and teaching and ruling elders. The majority of the membership are white and older. People with disabilities are also considered in this report.

<u>Synod Presbyterian Women</u>: All of the presbyteries' PWs had to cancel their spring gatherings where much of the business takes place. They plan to meet again in the fall.

<u>Board of Pensions</u>: Ken Green spoke about the changes that are in effect through the COVID presence and others that will take place in 2021. Please check with him through the Synod office for the concise provisions of what these changes affect. We can say that dues will remain at the same 37%. There are within the plan new provisions for disabilities.

<u>Presbyterian Mission Agency</u>: The long-time fellow who oversees this work in the presbyteries is amazed at the ability of all our pastoral leaders and elders to move the church online. He says he's seen more imagination in the past four months than at any other time in his service. He educates congregations about the special offerings of the church; he can talk about grants which are available through the PMA and PDA. He reports that all of our mission co-workers are sheltering in place, either at their home or here back in the USA.

Synod Executive: Elona has been thinking about who we are as a Synod. We are used to disasters of the physical kind, but this is our first pandemic. At least Zoom and other technologies make it possible for us to meet and see each other. She realizes the need to make sure that we are doing enough outreach to our presbyteries.

Synod School is still in question. The Leadership Summit has been cancelled.

A number of government programs are available to congregations and presbyteries—most specifically the payroll protection program through the SBA. The Synod did apply for such, which we did receive in the amount of \$104,000. The Synod will use the funds to support the congregation sin our geographic area. The Synod is in the process of figuring out how to use these funds for payroll protection.

NEW BUSINESS

Terry Drew Honorable Retirement

A motion was made to move Rev. Terry Drew to Honorable Retirement. **Motion Passed.** Kind words of affirmation were offered for Terry at the conclusion of the vote.

NEXT MEETING

Moderator Jane Hohm announced the next stated meeting of presbytery is Friday, October 16, 2020, location to be determined based on the status of COVID-19 at that time.

ADJOURNMENT

Moderator Hohm **adjourned** presbytery at 1:00 PM with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kevin Veldhuisen Stated Clerk and Transitional Mission Coordinator

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Zoom Video Conference October 5, 2020

The Presbytery of South Dakota of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held a Special Called Meeting via Zoom Video Conference on Monday, October 5, 2020. The business of the meeting was to approve the final terms of sale following the auction for Pioneer Camp.

CONVENING THE PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery was called to order by Presbytery Moderator, Jane Hohm, at 5:02 P.M. CT and opened the meeting with prayer.

AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda. Agenda adopted.

ROLL

Teaching Elders: Kennen Barber-Ensz, Jerry Bertelson, Marcus Brooks, Donald Buck, Andrew Crandall, Lisa Danielson, Chad Ensz, David Halleen, Pat Hammond, Paul Henschen, Kristi Holler, Bob Jacobs, Diane Janssen Hemmen, Brian Jones, Rolly Kemink, Abigail Ozanne, John Pehrson, Allen Sager, Kathy Saxbury, Kevin Veldhuisen, Carolyn Visser, Steven Voris, Barbara West.

Commissioned Ruling Elders: Andrew Bellisle, Elizabeth Fox, Gayle Janzen, Steven Johnson, Jerry Lutkemeier, Gary Pribyl, Shirley Scotter, Ann Spitzenberger.

Commissioners: Lynn Hall-Bison, David Peterson-Brookings, Gordon Brooks-Hot Springs, Louise Van Poll-Huron, Martha Gesick-Marion, Donald Larson-Martin, Richard Palmer-Miller, Heidi Norgaard-Mitchell, Duane Jenner-Pierre, Jane Alberda-Platte, Bill Zavitz-Rapid City First, Claire Gillaspey-Sioux Falls First, Linden Hiller-The Little Stone Church, Deb Hout-Sioux Falls Westminster, Wanda Blair-Sturgis, Holly Butrum-Veblen, Lonnie Greenfield-Watertown.

Other Voting Members: Jane Hohm-Moderator, Meleta DeJong, Mary Jenner, Denise Lutkemeier, Jeff Nelson, Paula Zavitz-Vice Moderator.

Others Present: Robert Brooks, Susan Geib, Tami McGuire, Benton Visser, Jason Wiedrich, Ryan Wieman-Wieman Auction.

Teaching Elders: 23

Commissioned Ruling Elders: 8

Commissioners: 17

Other Members of Presbytery: 6 VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: 54

Approval of sale of Pioneer Camp

A motion came from the Pioneer Sale Commission to approve the winning bid for the sale of Pioneer Camp. The winning bid was \$1,810,000. The auctioneers will receive a 4% commission of \$72,400, plus the cost of advertising. **Motion was approved with 47 in favor, 2 against.** The purchases is a cash buyer, so closing is set for approximately 30 days out from the auction.

ADJOURNMENT

Moderator Hohm **adjourned** presbytery at 5:42 PM with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kevin Veldhuisen Stated Clerk and Transitional Mission Coordinator

Moderator's Report for October 16, 2020

What a whirlwind year this has been! In spite of our limited opportunities for fellowship, it seems the Holy Spirit has stirred up plenty of opportunities to be faithful. In Genesis 1:1-2, we are reminded that in the beginning the earth was formless and empty with a darkness over the surface; nonetheless, the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. The darkness of our world today presents itself in many ways . . . Coronavirus, civil and political turmoil, as well as struggles in our personal lives and communities of worship. We can find hope from the words in Isaiah 61:1, "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness the prisoners." We do not walk alone; we are empowered by the stirrings of the Holy Spirit. Psalm 45:7 states that those who have loved righteousness and hated wickedness have been anointed by God.

The people of the Presbytery of South Dakota are indeed anointed, charged with the responsibility of carrying out God's ways. We are blessed with many gifted people who generously share their time and talent. I am thankful for each and every one of you for answering the call to serve this year; you are counted among my blessings.

My first Presbytery meeting of 2020 in Willow Lake can best be described as the calm before the storm, one of the best days of my life! What a joy to meet Presbytery attendees and people who knew my grandparents personally. Little did I know there was a "storm" brewing (COVID-19) that would change life as we knew it indefinitely! Sessions throughout the Presbytery were tasked with evaluating their circumstances to make decisions about in-person worship services. A combination of unemployment and online worship impacted tithes and offerings. The Presbytery and many of our churches continue to experience elevated financial crises. The need to make agonizing decisions has become a reality, including the vote to sell Pioneer Camp.

Over the course of the pandemic, I sent communications to pastors and churches with information from the Board of Pensions, loan opportunities, suggestions for procedural precautions, and an invitation to share ideas and strategies with each other. Quarantine posed challenges, but it did not shut us down. Zoom no longer conjures up an image of something passing by quickly, but rather, a video/audio meeting online! And so it is that my work as moderator continued with business as "somewhat" usual in committee attendance, stated and called meetings, and moderator calls. I don't believe any of us are willing to accept this as the "new normal" though; already there is talk of a desire to hold a "hybrid" Presbytery meeting in 2021 with a combination of in-person and Zoom attendance.

Beyond committee involvement, written communications, and moderating meetings, I made appointments to three commissions in 2020. These appointees have worked tirelessly on behalf of the POSD and deserve our sincere appreciation for doing so:

- 1. Salem Church Commission: Jeff Nelson, Rolly Kemink, Gayle Janzen
- 2. Pioneer Camp Sale Commission: Benton Visser, Denise Lutkemeier, Donald Buck
- 3. Moderator of CRE Commission: Jerry Bertelson

As I come to the close of my term, I thank you for the privilege of serving as Moderator of the POSD. I encourage each of you to believe that you are anointed, empowered by the Holy Spirit to make a difference! In Judges 6, we receive the message, "Go with the strength you have; the Lord is with you." Collectively we are mighty warriors and can do great things that bring God glory! Blessings!

STATED CLERK AND MISSION COORDINATOR REPORT October 16, 2020

It has certainly been a busy end of Summer and entrance into Fall! We continue to be in a very turbulent time within our country and within the Church, but I continue to have confidence in God's power to lead us through the muck and to sustain us while we wait for the storm clouds to clear. I continue to work with our congregations and ministry teams on a daily basis and I feel so blessed to have such an amazing team of people to work with.

Here to Help

Please know that I am here for you all and I am eager to help during these difficult times in any way that I can. If you need assistance navigating these times, please let me know. I am here to help!

Pioneer Sale

The sale of Pioneer Camp required a fair amount of work by a number of dedicated people. Together we all formed a solid and capable team that led to a very successful sale. I still have some paperwork that needs to be sorted out, but I hope to have it all transacted within 30 days of the sale date.

Year End Reports

All year end reports that are due to the Office of General Assembly have been completed and submitted prior to their deadlines.

Annual Reports for Congregations

Annual reports for congregations will be sent out in early January once we're passed the busy holiday season. Anyone wishing to receive their reports earlier will be granted that ability upon request.

Proof of Insurance

Our insurance for the presbytery is up to date and I will be meeting with our insurance agent to discuss any adjustments that may need to be made for 2021. Administration and Coordination will review these suggestions at their upcoming meeting.

Presbytery of SD Membership

Total membership of active members, based on 2019 statistics of the 48 churches that reported in (out of 61), within the Presbytery of South Dakota is 5,919. We gained 149 members, lost 117 to death or certificate transfer, and 258 listed as "deleted" losses. The last category represents churches cleaning their rolls. With that in mind, the difference in actual membership may more accurately be presented as positive gain of 32 members *in the year* 2019.

ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION MINISTRY October 2020

The following actions of A & C Ministry are taken from the minutes of the August 3, August 18, and September 11, 2020 meetings.

For Presbytery Information

Clarification of Responsibilities

A motion was made to clarify that the Camping and Faith Formation Commission will determine the items that will be moved to Rimrock and the items that will be placed on the sale. The Pioneer sale commission will then determine the best means for its sale. **Motion passed.**

Personal Items Donated to Pioneer

A motion was made to ask the Camping and Faith Formation Commission to be in contact with anyone who may have donated key items to Pioneer. The camping commission will thank each donor for their gift(s) and ask their desires for those items (move to Rimrock, return to donor, or sold on auction). **Motion passed.**

Terms of Sale for Pioneer Property

A motion was made to concur with the Pioneer Sale Commission to contract Wieman Land & Auction of Marion, SD and Bradeen Auction of Custer, SD. The auctioneers' fees will be 4% of the sale price of the land and a 1% broker commission will be offered to any realtor that brings the winning bidder for the land sale to the auction. Wieman Auction has agreed to sell the equipment and other personal items at 0% commission fee. A \$200,000 non-refundable down payment, due on the day of the sale, would be required from the winning bidder for the land sale, to be held at the title company of presbytery's choosing. A marketing budget of no more than \$20,000 will be assessed from the final sale proceeds. Auction date and reserve price will be determined by the Pioneer Sale Commission. **Motion passed.**

Boundary Survey

In the instance that a boundary survey cannot be located, a motion was made to approve the contracting of a professional survey company to determine the legal boundaries of the Pioneer property. The cost of this survey would be fronted by the Emerging Needs Fund and reimbursed from the land sale proceeds. **Motion passed.**

Emerging Needs Fund

A motion was made to provide the Pioneer Sale Commission and the Camping and Faith Formation commission with advance funds for expenses related to the sale of the property and the moving of items and cabins to Rimrock, including expenditures for the site preparations related to cabin relocations. All expenses will be reimbursed using proceeds from the auction. **Motion passed.**

Salary Support for Jason Wiedrich

A motion was made to pay Jason's full salary package through the end of the 2020 year. The funds would be allocated from the Emerging Needs Fund. Camping and Faith Formation will repay this allocation as funds become available. **Motion passed.**

Camp Pioneer Auction Date

The Sale Commission for Camp Pioneer proposed an auction date of October 5, 2020 for the sale of Pioneer. No opposition was expressed with this date.

Special Called Meeting of Presbytery

A motion was made to hold a special called meeting of the Presbytery of South Dakota at 5:00 PM CT / 4:00 MT, held via Zoom. **Motion passed.**

Per Capita Letter

A reminder of 2020 per capita payments will be sent out with a deadline of December 11, 2020 in order for apportionments to be credited to this year. A letter will accompany the reminder thanking those who have already paid and reminding others of the importance of giving to per capita.

October 16, 2020 Presbytery Meeting

A discussion regarding in-person vs Zoom for the October 16 presbytery meeting. A motion was made to have the meeting held via Zoom Video Conference. **Motion approved.** The meeting will be held from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM CT / 8:00 – Noon MT.

Pioneer Property Sale

It was requested that the specifics regarding the sale price for Pioneer should be transmitted to the presbytery as quickly as possible after the auction for the property has ended. This will provide commissioners as much time as possible to consider the specifics prior to the special called meeting of presbytery at $5:00 \, \text{PM CT} / 4:00 \, \text{MT}$ on the day of the auction.

Pioneer Cabins

After considerable discussion, a motion was made to affirm the current development plans of the Camping and Faith Formation commission, including the move of all 3 cabins from Pioneer to Rimrock, as a manner of enhancing our outdoor ministries. **Motion approved.**

Task Force

On August 27, 2020 I appointed a task force to look at long range staffing goals for the POSD staff. Members of the task force are: Martha Gesick, Carolyn Visser, Jerry Lutkemeier, Rolly Kemink, and Diane Janssen Hemmen. I appointed Diane Janssen Hemmen to moderate the task force meetings. Other non-voting members are: Jane Hohm, Tami McGuire, and Kevin Veldhuisen.

For Presbytery Action

Approve the 2021 budget proposal.

Greetings from the Camping and Faith Formation Commission.

Camping Report

Although our camping season looked considerably different, 2020's virtual camp, "Connection Shift" did see 3 brand new campers this year as well as many returning campers. We particularly celebrate the team who came out to Rimrock to put together the online materials. We had a wide-spread influence from people viewing the content from all over the nation. We are excited to explore the opportunity to continue some of these online components into the future, even when in-person camps can resume. Camp Schedule for 2021 has been tabled until January 2021 in hopes that the COVID pandemic status is better defined. The Commission did establish a sub-committee to work on programmatic ideas or options. The team will be made of Jason, Abigail, and Andrew, who will present their ideas to the full commission, to hopefully make a decision by February 1, 2021.

Financial Report

With limited campers and users of the properties this summer due to the COVID pandemic, we had corresponding limited income and expenses. The groups that did use the facilities were extra generous in their rental fees.

A Synod Pandemic Support grant for \$10,000 was awarded to the Camping Commission in August. \$5,000 was designated for staff bonuses at the end of the camping season with the remainder to be deposited into the general camping checking account to reimburse for food expense and general expenses.

Rimrock Redevelopment

After the sale of Camp Pioneer property and fixtures is complete and the amount of proceeds known, the Commission will begin to formalize a proposal for the redevelopment of Camp Rimrock and would look to give further detail at the February Presbytery meeting.

It is anticipated that the 3 cabins and decks from Camp Pioneer will be moved to a temporary location at Rimrock until a permanent site can be prepped.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lutkemeier
Camping and Faith Formation Moderator

CRE Commission Report October 2020

The CRE Commission met on September 1, 2020. As of that date, there was no one in the CRE Training, but one application was received prior to that date. It was decided to wait until next Spring to discuss further action on beginning a new CRE class.

An online CRE Continuing Education event is scheduled for Saturday, October 24th from 9 am – 4 pm. Rev. Jerry Bertelson will be facilitating the event and the topic will be on Bowen Systems Theory and Healthy Congregations. A Spring continuing education event is being planned.

The following ruling elders were trained and commissioned at the July Presbytery meeting:
Robert Brooks, Huron
Louise Van Poll, Huron
Robert Flint, Brookings
Donna Flint, Brookings
Elizabeth Fox, Brookings
Marshall Edelman, Willow Lake
Tracy Bultena, Sioux Falls
Lance Griese, Britton

Respectfully Submitted, CRE Commissioners

MDE Report to Presbytery of South Dakota September 2020

The Ministry Development and Education ministry team (MDE) met on Thursday, September 24 via Zoom.

MDE received a report from CRE liaison Jerry Bertelson, who shared that due to Covid-19, the CRE program will wait until after the New Year before accepting new candidates into the CRE program. There is a training event scheduled for October 24th for current CREs on Family Systems and Healthy Congregations, which will be held online. There is also a CRE Education Event tentatively scheduled for April 24th with the location TBD.

MDE approved \$960 in financial support from the Leader bship Development Fund 3630 to support Jerry Bertelson's participation in the KC Center for Family Systems post-graduate program.

MDE agreed not to sign on to the PCUSA's Matthew 25 Initiative as a presbytery, as many of their aims are implicit in our own existing emphases. Congregations may avail themselves of Matthew 25 resources at www.pcusa.org/matthew25.

Due to the uncertainty around the Covid-19 pandemic, POSD will not be coordinating a presbytery-wide mission trip for February 2021, as previously planned.

There was favorable discussion concerning a presbytery-wide event on Faith Formation in late April (possibly in conjunction with the CRE event slated for April 24th). Depending on the pandemic, we hope to have more detailed information to share soon.

Please pray for our sister Eleanor Harle, who is moving through our seminary/ordination process, even as she struggles physically with fighting cancer.

MDE approved the underwriting of ministry coaching by Chad Ensz. MDE will pay \$25 for each hour of coaching provided (to be matched by leaders/congregations who contract with him). Please call Chad to learn more about this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Jacobs, MDE Moderator

Salem United Commission Status Report.

In July Moderator Jane Hohm reactivated the Salem United Commission with a charge to bring to closure to the 'dismissal' by the Presbytery of SD of the joint Presbyterian/ Methodist Salem United Church.

The Salem United Church conducted a joint Methodist/Presbyterian ministry in Salem, SD for several decades. The ministry was guided by a Plan of Union which was originally approved by the Methodist Dakotas Conference and the Presbytery of SD. On June 1, 2016 the Salem United Church congregation voted to dissolve the Salem United Church and recharter as the Unite Church affiliated with the Embrace Church as part of the Methodist denomination.

That action triggered a petition by the Methodist Dakotas Conference to POSD to dissolve per the Plan of Union. In its July 2016 meeting held in the Britton Presbyterian Church POSD approved the requested dissolution pending final administrative compliance with the Plan of Union. At that time a three person Commission was appointed to meet with Methodist counterparts to complete that work.

In early 2018 the first Commission ceased active efforts after an impasse was reached with the Methodists. In August 2020 Moderator Jane Hohm reconstituted a new Salem Commission with Jeff Nelson appointed as Moderator and Rolly Kemink and Gayle Janzen as Commission members.

Since then discussions with the Methodists Dakotas Conference have restarted with a goal to reach closure of this matter by the end of this year. The primary question to be resolved is how to appropriately divide the assets of the Salem United Church. This division of assets is prescribed by the Plan of Union in event the joint church ceases to exist.

The Unite Church currently has an active ministry using the assets of the former Salem United Church, namely the church building and a manse. A profile of the Unite Church can be found on their website.

The current POSD Commission is being guided by a desire to balance the competing challenges of sustaining the mission of the current Embrace church (Unite Church) in its ministry while at the same time recognizing Unite Church/Methodist Dakotas Conference responsibility to honor the Plan of Union through a reasonable division the assets of the former Salem United Church.

The current Salem Commission and its Methodist counterparts are engaged in active discussion with the goal to reach closure by the end of this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Nelson, Moderator, and on behalf of the Salem Commission Rolly Kemick, Commission Member Gayle Janzen, Commission Member September 25, 2020

2019 Necrology Report

<u>Church</u> Presbytery of South Dakota Presbytery of South Dakota	<u>Name</u> Rev. Don Barbalace Rev. Sylvan Williams	Date of Passing November 26, 2019 May 13, 2019	Comments Minister of Word and Sacrament Minister of Word and Sacrament
Bison, First	Jerry Poseley Joseph Hoff	January 21, 2019 February 14, 2019	Elder since January 2008 Husband of CRE Florence Hoff
Bonilla Presbyterian, Bonilla	Harriet Binger Alice Hamilton	January 16, 2019 July 22, 2018	Elder since 1965 Elder since 1974
Brookings, First	Priscilla Eitel	June 10, 2019	Elder since 2010
Emery, St. Paul's	Bernita Tammen Marvin Willaredt	April 15, 2019 March 24, 2019	
Fedora, Endeavor	Marion Lambert	April 15, 2019	Elder since 1997
Flandreau, Second Presbyterian	Everett Milne Walter Adolph Dorothy McFarland	March 31, 2019 June 30, 2019 December 28, 2019	Elder since 1996
Hurley, Harmony Presbyterian	Meredith Larson Karla Parsons	May 4, 2019 December 29, 2019	
Huron, First	Joyce Peterson	September 23, 2019	Deacon
Lake Andes, First	Dollie Rolston Helen Benner	April 2, 2019 February 1, 2019	Elder since 1979
Spencer Memorial, Lemmon	Wilbur Hintz Frances Merriman	July 7, 2019 March 25, 2019	Elder since 1971 Elder since 1972
Madison, First	Shirley Piper	August 27, 2019	Elder since 1998
Marion, Emmanuel	Richard J. Tschetter	January 7, 2019	
Martin, Lindsey Memorial	Luella Cozan JoAnn Pauly	April 17, 2019 September 14, 2019	Elder since 1989 Elder since 1995
Miller, First	Georgia Mae Cook Soper Edith Croll Herman Margaret Graham Eric Johnson Dorothy Stevens	January 24, 2019 August 7, 2019 June 15, 2019 April/May 2019 July 6, 2019	Elder since 1992 Elder since 1978
Mitchell, First	Bev Wire	December 12, 2019	Dedicated member
Onida, First	Helen Trumble	March 20, 2019	Elder since 1996
Platte, SD	Patricia M. Nachtigal	June 20, 2019	Elder since 1990
Rapid City, First	Glenn Barber Kathy Berry	May 9, 2019 September 9, 2019	Elder since 1979 Deacon
Sioux Falls, First	Ronald Severtson Doris Haber Harold Waite	December 10, 2019 January 16, 2019 July 21, 2019	Deacon Very involved & active since 1989 Very involved & active since 1963
Sioux Falls, Westminster	Darlene (Baron) Grotewold	January 7, 2019	Charter member and Deacon
Sioux Falls, Wild Flower	Larry Anderson Rev. Donald Barbalace	March 4, 2019 November 26, 2019	Clerk of Session, Elder since 1997 Served as Moderator
Sisseton, First	Leon Palmer	July 18, 2019	Elder since 1978
Tuthill Community Presbyterian	Dean O'Neill Leota Frandsen	October 17, 2019 June 4, 2019	Elder since 1998
Whitewood, First	William "Ron" McCormick James Schrader	November 4, 2019 January 16, 2019	Ordained at Kadoka