



June 29, 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

This will be a new experience for all of us as we navigate our first meeting via video conference. The following details will allow you to connect to the meeting using the Zoom app or at Zoom.us:

Meeting ID: 945 7116 5524
Password: 647827

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.

Proposal for the Sale of Pioneer

A motion to sell Camp Pioneer will be brought to the floor as a recommendation from Administration and Coordination and the Camping and Faith Formation commission. Visitors *will* be allowed to speak to this prior to the start of debate if the commissioners vote to grant voice to visitors in attendance. If the motion fails then voice will only be granted to commissioners and corresponding members present.

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

Many blessings,

Kevin Veldhuisen
Mission Coordinator and Stated Clerk

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STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Saturday, July 11, 2020

9:00 a.m. Gathering in the Name of Christ
Welcome and Opening Prayer: Moderator Jane Hohm
Hymn: *We Gather Together*

INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

Determination of a Quorum
Announcements of Moderator and Stated Clerk
Presentation of Agenda for Adoption
Introduction of Teaching Elders attending for the first time
Introduction of Ruling Elders attending for the first time

REPORTS OF PRESBYTERY OFFICERS AND STAFF

Moderator's Report: Jane Hohm
Mission Coordinator and Stated Clerk: Kevin Veldhuisen
Treasurer: Tami McGuire

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

John 13:19-25

The Rev. David Cook
"Learning to Lean"

OUR RESPONSE TO CHRIST'S CALL

Administration and Coordination (Steven Johnson)
Congregational and Pastoral Care (Nathan Esser)
Ministry Development and Education (Bob Jacobs)
Camping and Faith Formation (Denise Lutkemeier)
CRE Commission (Carolyn Visser)
Ministry Resource (Lisa Danielson)
Coaching and Visioning Team (Carolyn Visser)
PW Report (Mary Jenner)
Hope Co-op (Chad Ensz)
Synod Report (Janice Palmer)
General Assembly Report (Paul Penn)

NEW BUSINESS

MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Meeting: October 16, 2020

12:00 p.m. SENDING INTO THE WORLD
Closing Prayer and Benediction
Hymn: *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*
Adjournment

STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH DAKOTA**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH****January 25, 2020**

The Presbytery of South Dakota of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its Fall Stated Meeting at Lake Gospel Church in Willow Lake, SD on Saturday, January 25, 2020.

CONVENING THE PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery was called to order by acting Presbytery Moderator, Jane Hohm, at 10:01 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: Andrew Crandall, Chad Ensz, Sarah Hagen, David Halleen, Kristi Holler, Brian Jones, Abigail Ozanne, Richard Poppen, Allen Sager, Carolyn Visser, Steven Voris, Barbara West, Diane Wonnemberg.

Commissioned Ruling Elders: Gayle Janzen, Steven Johnson, Jerod Jordan, Gary Pribyl, Shirley Scotter.

Commissioners: Judy Barnard-Bonilla, Donna Flint-Brookings, Marsha Kurtenbach-Bemis Holland, Ann Glanzer-DeSmet, Gordon Brooks-Hot Springs, Louise Van Poll-Huron, Trudi Nelson-Madison, Martha Gesick-Marion, Richard Palmer-Miller, Bob Sprang-Mitchell, Duane Jenner-Pierre, Jane Alberda-Platte, Dawn Bargmann-Rapid City First, Paul Penn-Sioux Falls First, Deb Hout-Sioux Falls Westminster, Marlin Jenner-Sisseton, Vivian Monson-Veblen, Lon Greenfield-Watertown, Jim Major-Wessington, Alana Hansen-Wilmot.

Other Voting Members: Jane Hohm-Moderator, Mary Jenner, Jeff Nelson.

Others Present: Robby Flint, Lance Griese, Jim Hulbert, Cheryl Jenner, Norlita Kaul, Crystal Knock, Dave Robinson, Mary Van Buskirk.

QUORUM

Moderator Hohm declared the presence of a quorum with:

Teaching Elders: 13

Commissioned Ruling Elders: 5

Commissioners: 20

Other Members of Presbytery: 3

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: 41

AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the Presbytery Agenda as amended on the floor. **Agenda adopted.**

INTRODUCTIONS

Teaching elders present for the first time: Norlita Kaul – Brookings;

Ruling elders present for the first time: Dawn Bargmann-Rapid City First; Donna Flint, Brookings First; Jerod Jordon, Spirit Lake

MILEAGE COMMITTEE

Moderator Hohm appointed the following to the mileage committee: CRE Gayle Jansen, TE Sarah Hagen.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moderator 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 October 25, 2019 stated meeting.

REPORTS FROM PRESBYTERY OFFICERS AND STAFF

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Last January I received an e-mail from an unknown sender, Steve Allman. Often I delete such messages without reading, especially when the subject line is blank. Only God knows what prompted me to do otherwise on that particular day. Steve was writing on behalf of the Presbytery of South Dakota's Nominating Committee. He asked me to prayerfully consider a call to be Vice Moderator of the POSD in 2019, and if the way be clear, to serve as Moderator in 2020. Never had such a call entered my mind. As early as third grade, I began feeling passionate about becoming a teacher; I felt I was in control of my destiny and prepared in every way possible to see this passion to fruition. The call to eventually serve as Moderator of our Presbytery felt very different. I was certainly anything but prepared! What was God thinking? Was I worthy of this call? I immediately began prayers of discernment; God was not sending me any messages to decline. Before making a final decision, I turned to those people closest to me. Their support and encouragement can best be summed up in the idea that "if God led me to it; He would see me through it".

Throughout my life, God has been on board! I was born on St. Patrick's Day in 1952 and am one of five children, all of whom are believers. My youngest sibling is the Prioress of Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton, SD. Yes, I was raised Catholic. In 1974 I married my husband, John (who, by the way, also has a St. Patrick's Day birthday)! We have two sons and three grandchildren. When our sons were young, I made the big decision to become Presbyterian to enable us to worship together as a family. I believed God would recognize me and love me wherever I attended church! I became Presbyterian in 1978, served as Clerk of Session in Hastings, NE, and now at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Marion, SD. John and I "retired" in 2013 from careers in education in Hastings and Kearney, NE. I don't think we were particularly good at retirement; however, as John still works at Ace Hardware part time, and I love substitute teaching! We are also in the process of flipping a house! Just for the record, I am practicing saying "no" to other projects at this time in order to fulfill my responsibilities as Moderator!

The past year I attended all of the Presbytery meetings, as well as committee meetings when available. In November I attended Moderators Training in Louisville and got crash courses in *Robert's Rules of Order*, strategies for conflict management, the role of Moderator as a spiritual leader, and took a tour of the Presbyterian Center. One presenter reminded participants that we are called to be faithful, not perfect! That was very reassuring! It resonated beautifully with what I once heard about God not calling only the qualified but rather qualifying the called! In December I met with Steven Johnson, Kevin Veldhuisen, and Diane Janssen Hemmen for the purpose of sharing transition components and updating calendars for January committee meetings.

My dream for Presbytery this year is that we grow in faithfulness and fellowship. Through the building of personal relationships, perhaps it can be a year where all churches have a renewed commitment to the Presbytery as evidenced by increased meeting attendance and participation in committee work.

My closing thoughts for each of you are shared from Susie Larson's *Blessings for Every Day*. "May you learn to trust God in increasing measures. 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."

MISSION COORDINATOR AND STATED CLERK REPORT

Minister Transactions

The following minister transactions have been completed and are registered with the Office of General Assembly: removed Don Barbalace from minister rolls (deceased).

Annual Reports for Congregations

Annual reports for congregations have been sent and are now be returning to the office. Deadline for reports is February 20.

Special Committee of General Assembly

By the time of our meeting I will have largely completed my work on the GA special committee on per capita and financial sustainability. It has been a very long and difficult task that took me away from my presbytery work on a regular basis and I appreciate the support that I have received during this past year as we worked toward restructuring the denomination and the system that funds it.

Study Leave

I am working diligently to plan and coordinate my study leave which will run March 5 – May 31. My first day back in the office will be June 1. I have completed a 2 day assessment at Leaderwise in the cities which included study leave planning and coaching that will assure the greatest level of return for both myself and the presbytery. Jim Hulbert (Iroquois) and Jerry Lutkemeier (Wilmot) have agreed to cover my day-to-day stated clerk responsibilities and Pam Prouty (Synod Stated Clerk) has agreed to be on call for all matters necessitated an acting stated clerk's guidance or presence. Cindy in the Presbytery Office will be the first point of contact for those needing resourcing or assistance and she will direct each person to the committee moderator that can best facilitate their need. I am very thankful for this time away from my day to day ministry work so I can separate myself for a while to exam be restored, to evaluate my leadership style, to grow in my faith and formation, and to reconnect with my family who has missed their daddy and husband when I am away as often as I am.

Annual Report Filed for State of SD

Our Annual Report to the State of SD was filed in December to update our officers with the Secretary of State to maintain our organization.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financials

Year-end financials are mostly completed by the Synod office and Tami presented the good news that we ended the year in the black. Greater detail should be available in the next week.

Investments

Our new investment accounts did extremely well this past year.

Bookkeeping

We are officially doing our own bookkeeping in-house as of January 1, 2020. Tami is also doing the camping program's bookkeeping as well. Conversations with the Camping and Faith Formation team are going well during this transition.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Sermon: Rev. Kristi Holler, Emmanuel Presbyterian, Marion.

ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION MINISTRY

The following actions of A & C Ministry are taken from the minutes of November 22, 2019 and January 10, 2020 minutes.

For Presbytery Information

Staff Mileage Rates

A motion was made to specify within the Manual of Operations that Presbytery staff will be reimbursed for mileage at the current year's IRS rate for employees. **Motion was referred back to finance subcommittee for continued conversation in partnership with Personnel subcommittee.**

Presbytery and Installation Offerings

A motion was made to transfer the current balance of \$8,132 of the Presbytery and Installation Offerings fund over to the Leadership Development Fund. **Motion was approved.**

Study Leave for Kevin Veldhuisen

Personnel has approved for Kevin to take an extended study leave March 1 – May 30, 2020. A & C concurred that it is in the sole discretion of Personnel to make the decision. In the January meeting the study leave date was amended to March 5 – May 31, 2020. Kevin will return to work on June 1, 2020. Plans to cover for Kevin in his absence were discussed in the January meeting.

Additional Vacation Time for Cindy Bailey

Personnel made a motion to provide an additional 2 ½ days of vacation each year for Cindy Bailey beginning in 2020. This will bring her total annual vacation to 12 ½ days. **Motion was approved.**

CRE Vote at Presbytery Meetings

A&C took time to discuss the current policies regarding vote for CREs at Presbytery Meetings. After discussion the group affirmed the current policies within the Manual of Operations that broadly specifies that CREs may only have vote if they are currently serving as a moderator of session, with exception of those elected as the commissioner for their home congregation.

Discernment Team for Wilmot

A motion was made to approve the election of a 4 person discernment team to meet with First Presbyterian in Wilmot. The team presented by Diane Janssen Hemmen, and in concurrence of Nathan Esser on behalf of Congregational and Pastoral Care, is RE Holly Butrum, RE Jim Hulbert, and TE Janice Palmer. A 4th member of the team will be confirmed by Diane Janssen Hemmen and Nathan Esser. FPC of Wilmot will also provide 4 representatives for the discernment team. They will hold 3 meetings within the next 6 months and Kevin Veldhuisen will provide training for the team.

Yankton Property

A motion was made to send Chad Ensz and Paul Penn of the Coaching and Visioning Team (CVT) to continue meeting with the Yankton session prior to any decisions and concurrence of the presbytery regarding the sale of the property. The session is encouraged to have at least two additional meetings with the CVT. Administration and Coordination will make its decision after a final report of the visioning team representatives. **Motion was approved.**

November 2019 Financials

The November financials were presented for discussion.

Removal of Nolting from Bank Accounts

With the transition of moderators within the Camping and Faith Formation Commission a motion was made to remove Don Nolting from all bank accounts. **Motion was approved.**

January 25 Presbytery Meeting

Agenda Planning team presented the agenda for the January 25, 2020 presbytery meeting. **Motion was approved.**

Call Seekers Video

The creation of a Call Seekers video was discussed and received wide support. For now, it was referred back to Kevin Veldhuisen and Caitlin Pisha to research the perceived benefits of other such videos that are currently in use by other mid-councils around the country. This data will be presented at the February 21, 2020 meeting of A&C for final decision of this video at that time.

Ministry Team Roundtable

A discussion of bringing the ministry teams together in some sort of roundtable discussion was had. This had a favorable response and was referred to the ministry team moderators to discuss at their next Zoom call.

CONGREGATIONAL AND PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM

No report was given at this time, but will be e-mailed to commissioners once available.

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

The MDE Ministry Team focuses on the present and future of this presbytery. It is responsible for inspiring innovation in our presbytery and within each congregation. They relate to congregations by developing new ministries, transforming existing ones, and training leaders (such as CREs). They coordinate educational opportunities at Presbytery meetings as well as shepherding any teaching elder inquirers and candidates within the ordination process.

The MDE Team is in the process of discerning how best to facilitate and encourage congregational vitality in our presbytery in a proactive and sustained way. We will be meeting again in February to spend more time in this discernment. As always, we would love to hear from members of the Presbytery regarding this question:

Due to low interest, we will not be sponsoring a Presbytery-wide mission trip this winter/spring.

CRE Eleanor Harle requests Presbytery's authorization to serve the Lord's Supper in her context at the Dow Rummel Village retirement community in Sioux Falls.

MDE has proposed (and CPC has concurred) that the requirement for David Halleen to take a Hebrew Exegesis course be rescinded (the final hurdle in his full ordination in the PC(USA)). Collectively, we believe there are good and sufficient reasons for this requirement be waived: David has completed his Hebrew language requirement; he has put forth a good-faith effort to enroll in an exegesis course; and he is more than adequately qualified for his ministry in every other way. We recommend that Presbytery approve this "accommodation to particular circumstances" (see G-2.0610; requires a ¾ vote of Presbytery).

MDE approved the funding of two years of coaching for Chad Ensz/Hope Co-op at \$1500 per year. (This coaching is a requirement for having received the 1001 New Worshiping Communities Development Grant, which was given last fall.)

MDE approved up to \$300 to subsidize Steven Johnson's participation in the Commissioned Pastors Conference in Richardson, Texas (May 13-16, 2020).

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY ACTION

Harle Authorization

Authorize CRE Eleanor Harle to serve communion at Dow Rummel Village retirement community. **Motion passed.**

Halleen Ordination Requirements

Approve the “accommodation to particular circumstances” regarding David Halleen no longer being required to take a Hebrew Exegesis course, thus clearing the way to his full ordination in the PC(USA). **Motion passed.**

CAMPING AND FAITH FORMATION

- Camping Financials have transitioned to SD Presbytery Treasurer – Tami McQuire.
 - Exploring financial audit options
 - Financial deficit for 2019
 - No pending reservations at either camp at this time.
 - Ongoing financial and camp attendance support is essential to continuation of our ministry.
- Update on process / plan to build partnership with all churches in our camping ministry, mission and support.
 - Approximately \$3500 received in 2019
 - Still compiling 2020 pledges.
 - Anticipate additional contacts to pastors / session clerks

20220 Camp Dates – Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date
Youth Rally	April 3-5
Women’s Retreat	May 1-3
Pioneer Disc Tourney	May 16
Work Camp	May 22-25
Young Adventure Camp	June 7-12
Day Camp	June 15-19
Seekers	June 21-26
You and Me	June 27-30
Family Camp 1	July 2-5
Compass	July 5-11
Trailblazer	July 12-18
Adventure Camp	July 19-24
Day Camp	July 27-30
Family Camp 2	July 31- Aug 3
Men’s Retreat	Oct 9-12

Camp Tidbits / Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you know someone who would make a great camp counselor? Talk to Jason W. • Register early! • Always a need for Chaplains... • Be on the watch for camp packet coming to your church

Did You Know??
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Pioneer is just 30 miles from Terry Peak? • User fees for both Camp Rimrock and Pioneer to \$25 per person per night with \$75 per family maximum. • Meal fees: \$6 - \$8 - \$10 – with a minimum of 12 guests established.

- Presbyterian Youth Rally
 - April 3-5, 2020, Ramkota Hotel in Pierre.
 - Theme for rally will be based on Jeremiah 17:10 “But I the Lord search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards according to what their actions deserve.”
 - Speaker - Lance Griese, from Britton. will speak on living a life of a servant and he will help us discover how we can serve our Lord and others in a way that will better our own being.

COMMISSION ON COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

The CRE Commission is currently training nine elders. They meet monthly at Willow Lake. Continuing education for current Commissioned Ruling Elders takes place twice a year; in Bison and Watertown. CRE's also complete two independent studies each year. Eleven churches in the Presbytery of South Dakota are being served by CREs. Others, including Eleanor Harle, are available to work with congregations in various capacities.

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY ACTION

Filepeck Commissions

A motion was made to temporarily suspend Gayle and Mary Felipeck as a Commissioned Ruling Elders in Raymond. **Motion passed.**

Hanson Commission

A motion was made to suspend the commissioning of CRE Carolyn Hanson, per her request. **Motion passed.**

For more information please contact a commission member (Jerry Lutkemeier, Steven Johnson, Gayle Janzen, Carolyn Visser, Janice Palmer, or Dick Poppen[520-3098])

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW held their Spring Gathering on April 27, at First Presbyterian Church in Brookings. Overnight and morning snow kept some at home, but 45 attended. Presentations about Bienvenidos a Brookings, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Pathfinder Center filled the morning. Worship with communion, dedication of special offerings, necrology, installation of new officers, and a business meeting filled the afternoon. (Trudi Nelson finished her second term as Moderator, and Mary Jenner began her term as Moderator.)

PWPCT(Coordinating Team) met in February to finalize details for the Spring Gathering, and again in October to hear reports and make plans for 2020. Meeting were at First Presbyterian in Huron.

The SLAP (Synod of Lakes and Prairies) held their triennial Synod Gathering, June 20-23, at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. Eleven from SD attended (Linda Barnett, Dianne Boatright, Pat Boelman, Margaret Ellefson, Diane Helin, Betty Huebner, Mary Jenner, Trudi Nelson, Judy Rops, Lois Stanfield, and Louise Van Poll).

Mission has always been a focus of PW. Local groups gave as they felt led, to the Birthday Offering, Thank Offering, Fellowship of the Least Coin, and Centsability (formerly Hunger Fund).

Mission project for June-December (and on into 2020) was the Pathfinder Center which ministers longterm to victims of trafficking. Through hard work and generosity, over \$7,000 was donated in 2019. Donations will continue to be received through April, 2020.

Though many of SD's PW's struggle, due to small numbers and rural locations, they strive to fulfill the PW Purpose; "Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves: to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the Church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

In the planning stages are the 2020 Spring Gathering, April 25, at Marion, SD, and the Faithful Women's Fall Retreat (triennial event), September 19, at the Crossroads in Huron, SD.

MINISTRY RESOURCE

The following names were brought forward for nomination:

Paula Zavitz - Vice Moderator of the Presbytery of South Dakota

Barb West – Administration and Coordination

Lon Greenfield - Administration and Coordination

Shirley Scotter - Administration and Coordination

Nominations approved.

INSTALLATION OF PRESBYTERY VICE MODERATOR

Moderator Hohm led a service of installation to install Paula Zavitz as Vice Moderator of the Presbytery of South Dakota.

NEW BUSINESS

The following request was received by Peace Church in Yankton:

The session and congregation of Peace Church request permission to list the church property at 206 E 31st St in Yankton, SD for sale as a part of their continued discernment process for the future of Peace Church.

Request approved.

MILEAGE COMMITTEE

Gayle Janzen gave the mileage committee report. The following report was **approved**:

Total Miles Driven: 4,506

Mileage subtotal: \$665.12

Donated to POSD: \$153.43

Final Cost: \$511.69

NEXT MEETING

Moderator Jane Hohm announced the next stated meeting of presbytery is Friday and Saturday, July 10-11, 2020 at United Churches in Hot Springs.

ADJOURNMENT

Moderator Jane Hohm **adjourned** presbytery with prayer and a benediction at 2:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kevin Veldhuisen
Mission Coordinator and Stated Clerk

CONSENT AGENDA
Presbytery of South Dakota
July 11, 2020

In order to optimize our time together we are heavily utilizing the Consent Agenda for this meeting. **Any Ruling Elder commissioner or Teaching Elder commissioner can remove any item on the Consent Agenda by making that request to the moderator.** The item would then be placed in the agenda and discussed. Questions for clarity about a particular item are welcome. To remove an item, no second is needed, and no discussion or vote are needed.

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.

Moderator's Report for July 2020 Presbytery Meeting

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

STATED CLERK AND MISSION COORDINATOR REPORT

July 11, 2020

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.

ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION MINISTRY

July 11, 2020

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.**

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

Amended motion was approved.

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 was approved.**

Camping and Faith Formation Commission Report 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 re-commit our energy and resources on the mission and ministry of camping rather than property.
 - 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**
 - 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
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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).

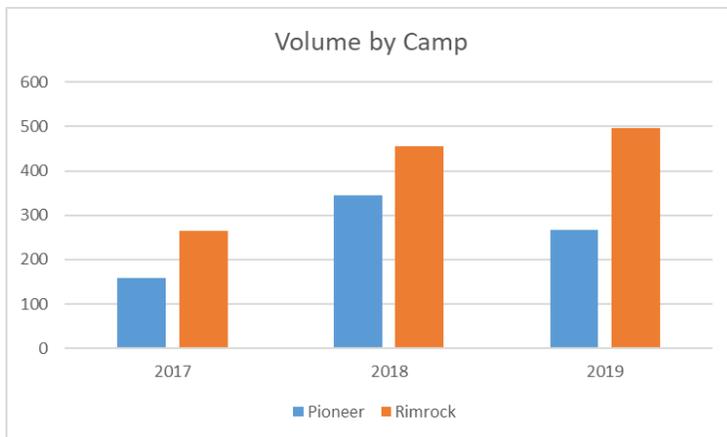
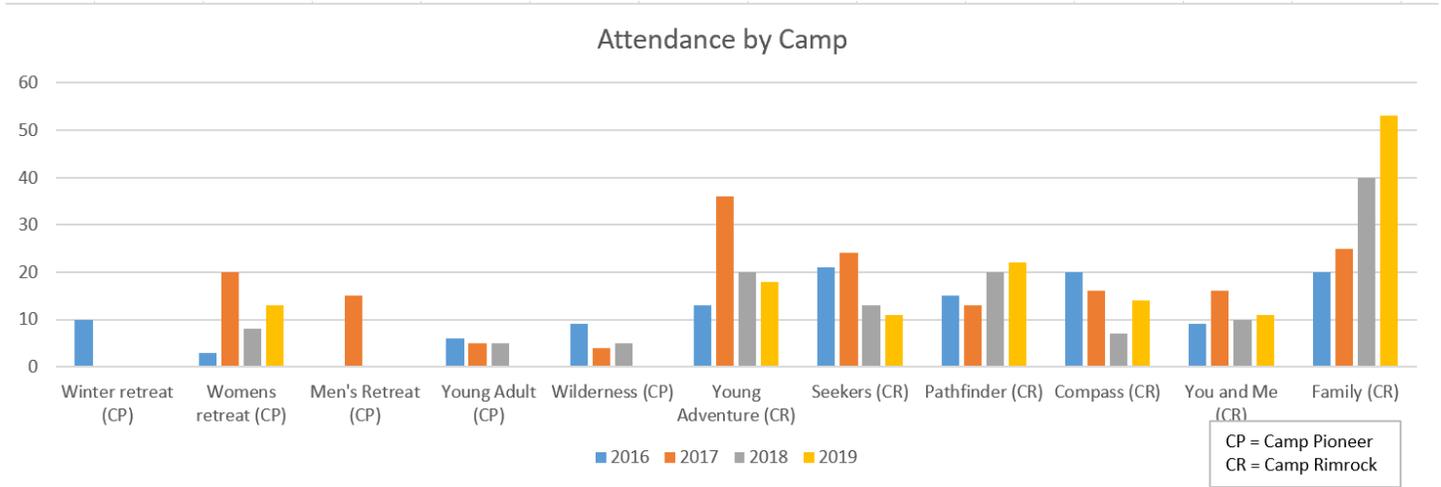
Rationale for sale of Pioneer Property

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.
 - 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
 - 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
 - Finances: The most significant challenge the camps face is financial.
 - Barebones budget of the camp does not include much for property improvements.
 - 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.

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER COMMISSION REPORT

July 11, 2020

1. Recommendations to the Presbytery of South Dakota:

A. That CRE Michelle Mehlberg, First, Raymond, have her commission suspended effective July 11, 2020, per her request.

B. 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.

C. That the above Ruling Elders commissioned this day be part of a Commissioning Service to be held at a future Presbytery of South Dakota meeting held in person.

Respectfully submitted,

The PoSD CRE Commission

The Rev. Jerry Bertelson

CRE Gayle Janzen

The Rev. Janice Palmer

CRE Jerry Lutkemeier

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Visser

CRE Steven Johnson

**MDE Report to POSD
June 18, 2020**

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.

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

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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE PRESBYTERY**REPORT-SUMMER 2020**

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 Coronavirus, 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.

Mary Jenner,

Moderator, Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery (PWP)