

Fall Presbytery Gathering Looks Back with Gratitude and Forward with Hope

On October 31, Glacier Presbytery held the first of a three part fall Presbytery gathering. In the opening worship, outgoing Moderator Rose Leavitt and incoming Moderator Glenn Burfeind offered a two-voice sermon in which they looked back and forward in their personal and church lives. Their testimony shared gratitude and hope in the God who is faithful. Hamilton Pastor Patty Stone served a co-celebrant for communion with retiring Hamilton Commissioned Pastor Peggie Oury. And words of thanksgiving were offered for the ministries of Peggie, retiring Treasurer Dick Siderius, and Courtney Arntzen - moving into fuller Missoula Community Chaplaincy and concluding her service as Stated Clerk. One of the Scripture readings for the worship service was a Psalm 33 medley, with a verse read by each congregation (picture above). The wonderful expression of praise for God can be viewed at the video [here](#).

With the presbytery fall theme of "Looking Back with Gratitude and Forward with Hope," the monetary offering was dedicated to three of our freshest, forward-looking ministries in Glacier - the Basin Presbyterian Church New Worshipping Community, the Serious JuJu NWC, and the Missoula Community Chaplaincy. These three ministries had thorough reports with pictures as a refrain through the business meeting. Excerpts from their reports will be highlighted here in weeks to come.

Additional business included elections with slates for all committees, and incoming Treasurer Ralph Swain. Budgets were adopted for 2021 for the Presbytery general operations, and for Glacier Presbyterian Camp. Good news was shared on the near completion of the deck and generous gifts to the "Drive for 75" (\$75,000 to offset financial challenges during the pandemic, see article below). Testimony of the spiritual gifts given through Glacier camping ministry was heard, and conversation was shared on the forms of ministry in generations to come.

Though the fall gathering was moved to Zoom for safety as COVID risk rises in Montana, a true sense of fellowship and worship accompanied the business accomplished in this gathering. Two Sunday evening studies followed in which Glacier Camp Executive Director Tim Lanham and Presbytery Leader Beth McCaw led reflection on select confessions. Participants explored the contexts out of which four confessions were written, and how they might apply to life and ministry today. The Nicene Creed, the Heidelberg Confession, the Brief Statement of Faith, and the Confession of Belhar were included.