

SPRING PRESBYTERY MEETING

Janet Whalley

I attended the joint Cariboo and Prince Rupert presbytery meeting in Smithers April 27 & 28 as your lay representative. As this was a combined presbytery meeting, there were approx. 35 people in attendance, including 3 from Bella Coola and one person from Haida Gwaii. Treena Duncan and Lisa Anwar, both from BC Conference, attended for most of Friday's meeting.

A great deal of our meeting time was set aside for discussion and voting on Remits 1-4 (the same remits that we have been discussing and voting on this year). The first remit Thursday night was Remit 2, The Elimination of Transfer & Settlement. Both presbyteries voted in favour. The second was Remit 3, Office of Vocation. This remit will be presented at the potluck on May 21 for our congregation. Remit 3 also carried

Friday morning, we learned about Remit 1, Three Council Model. Each of the remits was presented by Rev. Victoria. After lengthy conversation, Cariboo presbytery defeated Remit 1.

A joint presbytery group, including Rev. Teri Myer and Morgan Ryder, has been looking into ways that we can share resources between our two presbyteries. Suggestions have included treasurers, youth coordinators, a joint executive board and the like. This continues to be an ongoing work in progress.

Connect Live: Find Your True North is an exciting new program that should be available soon. Rev. Bob Fillier, St. Andrew's, Prince George has applied for grants to facilitate upgrading church's computer systems so that live streaming of morning worship, initially from Bob's congregation will be available, free of charge, every Sunday morning. He hopes to then expand it to include other congregations active participation in both presbyteries. Bible studies could also be live streamed with a two way conversation. Training will be available.

The Native Ministries report was presented by John Burton, who is presently on a 10 month contract serving as circuit minister for PR presbytery. Treena Duncan is now supervising native ministry. Lisa Anwar is the Native conference minister. She told us about her role. A representative from Kispiox was asking about where the native ministries are going to fit into the new 3 court structure. He filled us in on some of the many challenges facing his village.

Bob Fillier and Nancy O'Higgins (Haida Gwaii) presented their BC Conference Executive report.

The last remit to be discussed was Remit 4, Funding the new structure. Both presbyteries defeated this remit.

Both presbyteries met separately after the conclusion of the joint meeting. Morgan Ryder was elected by acclamation for another 2 year term as chair, and Doris Honeyman as vice-chair. Shelley Worthington from Smithers United will be starting her schooling at VST in September. She was elected as a Member at Large.

The budget for 2017 was approved.

Rev. Linda and Morgan Ryder will be submitting a Healing Circle grant proposal for Phyllis Webstad, to help support her attending Orange Shirt Day functions.

Morgan Ryder is entering a trial project where she will be employed half-time by Houston United, leading worship there the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. She will also lead worship in Burns Lake once a month as well as in Vanderhoof/Ft. St. James. Our own circuit minister!

The fall Cariboo Presbytery meeting will take place at Knox United, PG October 20-22, 2017. (Knox United and SAU, PG are continuing to explore the amalgamation process so this could potentially be the last presbytery meeting for Knox United)