

March Council Update

“Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. . .”

If you’ve participated in our Sunday services in person or online, you’ve felt God’s love and guidance during our transitional time. We’ve had great preachers, glorious music, and a strong sense of community. While we’re eagerly awaiting **Pastor Charlie Packard’s first Sunday on April 18**, we do have wonderful supply preachers lined up: Deacon Bob Larson – March 28 (Palm Sunday); Rev. Carol Layton – April 4 (Easter); Rev. Leslie Wood – April 11.

Council had another busy month, meeting twice in March, on the 2nd and the 11th. Here are some of the highlights from our meetings:

- Our transition team (Lynne Evans, Alice Goertz, Joan Moyer, Randy Parker, and Vince Snowbarger) unanimously recommended Pastor Charles Packard as our interim pastor. Council also voted unanimously to hire Pastor Charlie.
- Dennis Eliason, Randy Parker, and Vince Snowbarger negotiated the contract with Pastor Charlie which council has approved.
- Many of you stayed after worship or tuned in for our short congregational meeting on March 7. Purpose of the meeting was to elect Pam Larson to our council, and she has agreed to serve as our Worship & Music Chair. Thanks to all who assisted with the vote and meeting: Bob McDaniel, Dee Moore, Anita Posey, Deacon Bob Larson, Jackie Berger, Linda Ingo, Barb Eliason, Randy Parker, and Joan Moyer.
- We welcomed Pam Larson as a voting council member on March 11.
- A proposed bylaws change, which reorganizes the council, was unanimously approved. You’ll be receiving information about the proposed changes and a future congregational vote is needed for implementation.
- Pam Larson reported that Ouray County is currently code blue on the state’s covid dial. The worship committee has recommended proceeding cautiously and to continue the practice of masks and 6-foot social distancing.
- Pastor Charlie and Carolyn Snowbarger met with the Committee on Ministries on March 15. They welcomed Charlie into the Western Presbytery and congratulated UCSJ on finding an interim so quickly. They offered continued support and resources to our congregation.

Carolyn Snowbarger, Council Chair