



Glacier Presbytery

P.O. Box 4005
Missoula, MT 59806
glacierpresbytery.org

September 29, 2020

Dear Glacier Family,

Grace and peace to you in Christ as we make our way through a year of challenge and hope. It has been a privilege to minister alongside pastors and church leaders who are finding ways to be flexible and creative in shining a light of hope in the midst of particular needs in God's beloved world. Blessings as you lead so in your local community.

I write with two invitations as we join together as a presbytery in ministering in this part of Montana. One is related to sustaining our camping ministry and staff during a time of suspended revenue due to COVID-19. We have great thanksgiving to offer God as Director Tim Lanham, and the extraordinary staff he built this year, created an abbreviated but safe camping experiencing for children and youth. Lives were changed. At the same time, many other groups cancelled and so special gifts are needed to see us through the end of 2020. The Camp Board has launched a "Drive for 75." \$75,000 is what is needed to maintain our commitments through the holidays. Nearly half of this amount has already been pledged! Please consider giving generously personally or as a congregation, through your budget or a special offering.

The second invitation is for your input on vision and values related to our camping ministry. I have already mentioned Tim's leadership and teaching, staff who shape lives, gatherings that help us encounter God in the beautiful, thin space of creation. During this somewhat fallow year of waiting to see what will emerge post-pandemic, the Cabinet and Camp Board would like to know the elements of our camping ministry that are part of Glacier "DNA," so to speak. Specific prompts are below. You may pass along compiled responses from a session, or contact one of these people to share your thoughts individually: Tim Dalstrom; Carrie Benton; Kirk Kestler; Patty Stone; Rose Leavitt; Butch Plowman; Miriam Mauritzen; Mary Fagenstrom; Risa Paul; or myself. Feedback earlier rather than later is helpful as we look toward the fall Presbytery meeting on October 31 in which we plan for 2021.

- *What is your best memory of our camping ministry? Why was/is that so good?*
- *What does our camping ministry uniquely do that no other ministry covers in the same way?*
- *How does or can God use our camping ministry to help others experience the gospel or glimpse the kingdom?*
- *What is most essential in our camping ministry that makes these possible?*

Thank you for your consideration of the gifts we have received in our camping staff and ministry, and the gifts we have to offer in thanksgiving.

Yours in Christ,
Beth McCaw
Glacier Presbytery Leader
Beth.glacierpresbytery@gmail.com

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