



## MINUTES OF KAMLOOPS-OKANAGAN PRESBYTERY

OF BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFERENCE  
The United Church of Canada

February 18-20, 2011

WESTBANK UNITED CHURCH  
WEST KELOWNA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

### FRIDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2011

**PRESENT:**

**Ministry Personnel / Recognized Designated Lay Ministers / Designated Lay Ministers:** (27) Wayne Atkinson, Juanita Austin, LeAnn Blackert, Graham Brownmiller, Bari Castle, Bruce Chalmers, Richard Chung, Bruce Comrie, Elaine Diggler, Sheila Dunbar, George Feenstra, Sharon Ferguson-Hood, Leonard Fraser, Judith Hardcastle, Steve Hershey, Kent Israel, Kathleen Jones, Ken Jones, Teri Meyer, Rick Potter, Carolyn Ronald, David Sparks, Sandra Stickney, Laura Turnbull, Sharilynn Upsdell, Lily Watson, Ruth Wright; **RDLM** (4) Kelly Grittner, Jim Hannah, Carol Stokes, Ann White

**Students:** (1) Leanne Benoit

**Lay Delegates:** (39) Marie Allen, Heather Atkinson, Orma Baker, Cathie Baskett, Barbara Blysak, Betty Chenoweth, Maxine Coffey, Luise Denter, Judith Farago, Ian Fraser, Norma Fraser, Marilyn Hansen, Leona Harrison, Nan Hendrie, Rose Hoffman, Linda Hutchinson, Felicity Klassen, Marion Zokier, Linda Langevin, Megan Loyer, Doreen MacDonald, Clara Maltby, David Matthew, Janet McDonald, Althea Naundorf, Kenneth Perritt, Barb Pettie, Bill Pullan, Edith Rice, Reta Robertson, Abigail Rutley, Martha Scales, Leslie Stirling, Clifford Turner, Judy Valkes, Michele Walker, Jack Walmsley, Peter Waters, Peggy Whitley

**Members at Large:** (6) Marj Bailey, Martha Ashbaugh, Bob Blakely, Louise Burton, Lee Fraser, Cornelia King

**Youth Council:** (12) voting: Katie Coolidge, Alexander Dreger, Jake Highfield, Barrett Hoops, Nina Maricle, Paz Morrison-Rainville, Aiden Rice, Morgan Swift; non-voting: Christine Angle, Emily Burke, Zoe McNair, Jesse Sparks

**Youth Minister:** (1) Joanne Koster

**BC Conference Staff:** (2) Ivy Thomas, Treena Duncan

**BC Conference President:** (1) Dan Chambers

**Camping Ministries Representatives:** (1) Jeannine Perritt

**Resource Centre:** (3) Bette Cardinal, Irene Hart, Brenda Timm

**Registrar:** (1) Bob Hendrie

**Past Moderator:** (1) Marion Best

**Retired Order of Ministry:** (4) Harvie Barker, Bob Crosby, Lorraine Powell, Dawne Taylor

**Guests:** (6) Jack Best, Beth Campbell, Dee Hershey, Kathy McMillan, Maureen Theil, Sheryl Walker

**REGRETS:** Karen Medland, Cheryl Perry

**DINNER** Volunteers from Westbank United Church served the gathered crowd supper.

<b>GATHERING IN MUSIC</b>	We sang a number of musical selections to bring our voices together.
<b>GREETINGS &amp; INTRODUCTIONS</b>	Judith Hardcastle, Chair, welcomed folks to Presbytery and thanked Westbank United for the hospitality that has already been offered. On behalf of Westbank United Church, Don Froom welcomed us here. Judith offered some housekeeping items. Judith introduced our Guests – Dan Chambers, President of BC Conference and Treena Duncan, BC Conference Personnel Minister. Judith asked that new members to Presbytery might be introduced and welcomed.
<b>AUTHORITY &amp; CALL TO ORDER</b>	Pursuant to the authority of the 2010 Fall Meeting of Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery (KOP), the 2011 Spring meeting was Called to Order at Westbank United Church, West Kelowna, BC and was declared open to conduct the business properly before it, Chair Judith Hardcastle presiding. A quorum was present.
<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	<i>MS (L. Burton / N. Hendrie) that the minutes of the October 22-24, 2010 meeting of Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery be adopted with the following correction: (page 2010-98) change February 21, 2010 to October 24, 2010. <b>Carried</b></i>
<b>CORRESPONDING PRIVILEGES</b>	<i>MS (L. Stirling / K. Israel) that Corresponding Privileges be granted to visitors and guests to this meeting of Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery. <b>Carried</b></i>
<b>GIFTS &amp; CALLINGS</b>	Reta Robertson introduced a ‘Buddy System’ that is being encouraged for this meeting of Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery so that new delegates and guests can be welcomed and guided through the weekend by people who have some sense of what is going on.
<b>NOMINATIONS</b>	Nominations (through Gifts & Callings) will remain open until 6:30 Saturday evening. Please speak to Reta Robertson if you are interested in any of the positions available.
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	LeAnn Blackert introduced our guest speakers and theme presenters for this weekend: Ann Linnea and Christina Baldwin.
<b>THEME</b>	Ann and Christina introduced us to <i>The Circle Way</i> and the purpose and process for this weekend. They invited us to share in our circles based on the question: <i>Who has put honey into your heart?</i>
<b>WORSHIP</b>	Our worship team led us in evening worship based on 2 Kings 4.8-37 and “The Extra Room” by Ellen Anthony <i>The Weavings Reader</i> . We were asked to reflect on the questions: <i>What is my work for? What is my life for? Why do I think it is a lie that I will have new life?</i>

## **SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2011**

<b>CALL TO ORDER &amp; ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	After gathering in song, Judith Hardcastle called us back to order at 8:50 am with announcements, housekeeping and a review of the day’s agenda.
<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b>	The worship team led us in morning worship, again based on 2 Kings 4.8-37 and “The Extra Room” by Ellen Anthony <i>The Weavings Reader</i> . We were asked to reflect on the questions: <i>I wonder what my extra room is for? Who will come? Is it holy the way it is, empty?; Is it about working and resting? Easy to work but hard to rest? The in-between times, when nothing is happening, can I rest in those?</i>
<b>THEME: CIRCLES</b>	Ann & Christina opened the theme time of Circle Work by explaining some of the aspects of circle. They provided a sheet with Basic Guidelines (attached as Appendix I to these minutes.) We were asked to answer two questions in this time: <i>What have I come to contribute/what gifts do I bring? And What do I hope to learn from this experience.</i>  We were reminded of the importance of doing ‘body math’ – knowing how long we had to do the work and knowing how many people were in the group, and therefore that how much time we each spend talking is important to be aware of so all have a chance to share.
<b>WELLNESS BREAK</b>	
<b>THEME: CIRCLES CONT’D</b>	We returned to our circle group and we began the process, assigning a host, a guardian and a scribe. We were asked to reflect on the question: <i>What does my congregation most need from</i>

*Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery?* After our check-in on this question, our circle conversation and then our check-out, we were asked to Harvest our responses to give the flavor of the conversation that had taken place.

Many of the groups spoke about the need for continued relationship building between congregations and Presbytery and recognition that every member of the congregation *is* Presbytery (we are they, and they are us). There is also a desire for communication that is effective, healthy and more than just email based. We were reminded that Presbytery is not just in place for crisis, but also for support of joys and concerns of everyone in its bounds.

**LUNCH & BREAK** Lunch, served by those faithful volunteers from Westbank United Church, was followed by a self-care free time break.

**THEME: CIRCLES CONT'D** When we returned from lunch, Ann and Christina had modified what they heard from the morning Harvest and posed four questions for folks to gather around in circle:

- *How do we support Congregations to reach out to/for Presbytery resources that exist?*
- *How can Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery support both the emerging and the traditional church?*
- *Exactly how would congregations support self-care for their Ministers and each other?*
- *How do we honour boundaries and confidentiality and still share stories as teaching tales?*

Harvesting from this conversation is represented in Appendix II.

#### **WELLNESS BREAK**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Judith Hardcastle made some general housekeeping announcements and gave information regarding the agenda.

#### **Gifts & Callings**

Reta Robertson spoke to the court – there are some openings and vacancies on Leadership Circle, the Discipleship Coordinator, Stewardship and M&S, the Administration Coordinator, Worship Animation Chair, Christian Formation Chair, Gifts & Callings needs a layperson and a Clergy person, and an Archivist.

#### **Pastoral Oversight**

Lee Fraser spoke to the court to provide an overview of Pastoral Oversight – he is always looking for new people to help with Oversight Visits (especially clergy).

#### **Fundraising Sharing**

Lee also spoke about funding challenges experienced by congregations and he has asked for successful fundraising efforts to be shared throughout the Presbytery. Lee will forward a request through the Presbytery Secretary and will coordinate the responses and share them with all congregations through the Presbytery email list.

#### **Healing Pathways**

Betty Chenoweth announced that there are Healing Pathways workshops happening in the Presbytery: Trinity Vernon and Zion Armstrong are hosting a Phase 1 workshop March 25-27; Kelowna is holding a Phase 1 workshop March 25-27; and Penticton United is hosting a Phase 2 Part 2 workshop April 17.

#### **Dan Chambers – President of BC Conference**

Dan Chambers, President of BC Conference, expressed gratitude for the welcome he has experienced in each Presbytery but especially in Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery and for the learning portion of this weekend. He noted the commitment of the Presbytery for their 'showing up'. He shared some of his experience of being President of BC Conference over the past two years and then Dan spoke about the BC Conference General Meeting in

Penticton May 26-29, 2011. Dan is excited about the theme of Faithful Public Witness and based on Isaiah 58.10 “*then your light shall rise*”, the theme presenter Marilyn Legge and the workshop breakouts that will be available.

**PERMISSION TO LEAVE EARLY** *MS (N. Hendrie /L. Fraser) that David Sparks, Ruth Wright, Marj Bailey, David Matthew, Sheila Dunbar, Sharon Ferguson-Hood, Maxine Coffey and Maureen Thiel be granted permission to leave the court early. **Carried** with one vote contrary by Jim Hannah.*

**EVALUATIONS** Judith reminded folk that the evaluation is online (through the website) or that there are a limited number of paper copies with the Registrar.

**ADMISSIONS & RE-ADMISSIONS** Having received the names of those seeking Admission / Re-Admission to the Order of Ministry in the United Church of Canada, there is a requirement of **The Manual (031(w))** that the names are read at the Presbytery meeting and recorded in the Minutes:

Admissions

<u>Name</u>	<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Rec. Presbytery</u>
Coward, Basil	Moravian Church	Toronto Southeast
Kim, Chang Han	Presbyterian Church. Rep. Korea	Calgary
Miller, Craig Stephen	Presbyterian Church USA	Assiniboine
du Charme, Douglas	Presbyterian Church in Canada	Toronto Southeast
Van Zyl, Erasmus Johannes	Presbyterian/Cong. of S. Africa	South Alberta
Park, Eun-Joo	Presbyterian Church in Canada	London Conference
Porter, John E.	United Church of Christ USA	London Conference
Petrie, Kathleen Ann	Baptist Convention – Ont & Que	Seaway Valley
Blackert, LeAnn	United Church of Christ USA	Kamloops-Okanagan
Roberts, Margaret	Evangelical Lutheran Guyana	Toronto Southeast
Ross, Mathias M.	Church of North India	Saskatchewan Conf.
Vita, Rose Ann	Evangelical Lutheran America	Niagara
Gale, Scott Douglas	Roman Catholic Church	Cambrian
Descamp, Therese	United Church of Christ USA	Kootenay

Re-Admissions

<u>Name</u>	<u>Recommending Presbytery</u>
Barbezat, Edward Firmin	Montreal

**SEXUAL ABUSE POLICY** Jim Taylor, Member-at-Large, drafted a proposal to General Council regarding the Sexual Abuse Policy of the United Church of Canada. This proposal was discussed at the Leadership Circle and Executive meetings in January of 2011 and forwarded to the floor of this Presbytery Meeting with non-concurrence.

**The proposal:** *that Kamloops Okanagan Presbytery hereby petition the General Council of The United Church of Canada to clarify the Sexual Abuse Policy and Procedures (2007) to ensure that its application would not restrict persons holding positions of responsibility from seeking and entering into a long-term committed relationship with another member/adherent of that congregation.*

Following discussion the following motion was made:

- MOTION** *MS (Lee Fraser / E. Diggle) that we vote in concurrence with this proposal. **Defeated.***
- THANKSGIVING** **Martha Ashbaugh** expressed her appreciation to the Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery for the support received at her husband Gale's death.
- NEW BUSINESS** **Peace & Justice** - Martha Ashbaugh advised us that Kathy Johnson, chair of Peace & Justice Working Unit is away, but that Chris & Susan Ferguson (returned oversees personnel from the near East) are currently in Toronto, but will soon be coming to BC and would like to know if congregations would be interested in hosting them for a presentation. Either Martha or Kathy will circulate further information when it is available.
- PROPERTY & MANSES** **Property & Manses** - Bob Blakely informed the court that Kamloops United Church has been doing work toward re-development and were coming to the Presbytery for approval as required by *The Manual*. We invited Marie Allen from Kamloops United Church to share some of the story of this redevelopment with us.
- MS (B. Blakely / L. Blackert) that Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery give consent to the proposal for the re-development of the Kamloops United Church property as set out in the certificate of Trustees asking for Consent of Presbytery dated February 13, 2011. **Carried unanimously.***
- The certificate of Trustees asking for Consent of Presbytery is attached as Appendix III.
- Marie Allen, on behalf of Kamloops United Church, thanked the court for assisting in this step forward for Kamloops United Church.
- SPIRITUAL CARE NETWORK** **Spiritual Care Network** – Juanita Austin and Carol Stokes spoke to the court about the Spiritual Care Network (SCN). They gave information of the support and resources that are offered by the SCN. The Annual Clergy Retreat begins Monday at Naramata Centre and there has been much work done this year to keep the retreat affordable (\$150 for accommodation, meals and the program by Ray McGinnis) and is a time for replenishment, social connection, time to 'come away' for a while. The SCN encourage congregations to include this as part of the pay package for their Ministers and recognize that it is work time, not holiday nor Continuing Education.
- ANNOUNCEMENT** **Stewardship Workshop** - Carol Stokes reminded folks of the poster that went out via email last week and the Stewardship Workshop being done by John Pentland. Stewardship is not just about money, it is actively responding to God's unique call to us and the congregation.
- RESOURCE CENTRE** **Resource Centre** – The Resource Centre is open downstairs in the church and encourages folks to pay on the spot by offering a ten percent (10%) discount. There are many outstanding Accounts Receivable which makes it hard for the Resource Centre to be on top of their own bills.
- MANAGEMENT TEAM** **Management Team** - Kent Israel spoke words of thanks to Bob Blakely, Ivy Thomas and Graham Brownmiller who have been working on the Property & Manse portfolio over the last while, doing due diligence on the redevelopment work and projects and keeping some of those in-person connections alive.
- Oasis United Church** has submitted a change for their constitution to include a *borrowing clause* in order to obtain a line of credit for day to day operations of the Oasis United Church congregation at the discretion of the Leadership Team in consultation with the Trustees.
- MS (K. Israel / L. Stirling) that we approve the Constitutional Change regarding a borrowing clause submitted by Oasis United Church. **Carried***
- Kent expressed his excitement and his sadness that this is one of his last actions as Chair of Management Team, but happy to announce that Steve Hershey will be taking over as of the rise of this meeting. He noted that the Management Team really is a team and that it has been a thrill to work with this team, especially the Treasurer, Leslie Stirling. Management Team has been following procedures and Kent gives thanks for the amount of trust that is given to the work.
- Kent also asked that as a courtesy, when there is business that the Management Team (and/or Leadership Circle and/or Executive) will need to attend to, that it would be greatly appreciated if

adequate time were given for thoughtful discernment regarding those decisions. There have been many times when decisions and motions and items of business have been handed over as a Presbytery Meeting is beginning, or when there are 24 hours to make a decision.

**GENERAL  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Tonight's Social Evening** - Jim Hannah spoke about tonight's sing-a-long. For a few Presbytery meetings there has been a 'talent' evening and some folks were already thinking of it as a tradition, so tonight there will be a different kind of optional social evening. Bob Blakely has agreed to play his banjo and anyone else with a guitar or musical instrument can play along. This is a time to simply sing together and share space and time.

**Worship tomorrow** morning with Westbank United Church is at 10:00 am.

**WORSHIP**

The worship team led us in a final worship based on 2 Kings 4.8-37 and "The Extra Room" by Ellen Anthony *The Weavings Reader*. We were asked to reflect on the questions: *Who is the dead one? Is it me? Is it the room itself or the stone bed? Is it someone I know who has gone dead inside? Someone I am avoiding loving dead?*

**DINNER**

Dinner was served by the fantastic crew at Westbank United.

**EVENING**

The evening time was set aside for freedom and/or for joining in the optional sing-a-long time with Bob Blakely and friends.

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2011**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

Sunday morning worship was celebrated with Westbank United Church.

**LUNCH**

The volunteers of Westbank United Church once again served lunch to Presbyters and members of the congregation.

**GATHERING**

We gathered our bodies and voices in song.

**REGISTRAR'S REPORT**

Bob Hendrie, Registrar, reported that there were one-hundred and nine (109) people present at this meeting. Eighty-six (86) of those registrations were received through the online registration made available at this meeting (approximately seventy-nine percent (79%)).

**GIFTS & CALLINGS**

Reta gave thanks to Kent Israel for his work as Chair of Management Team. She presented the following slate of nominations ( \_\_\_ represents continued need):

Leadership Circle: Elaine Diggle, Norma Fraser, Peter Waters

Discipleship Coordinator: Teri Meyer

Stewardship and M&S: \_\_\_\_\_

Finance/Administration: \_\_\_\_\_

Worship Animation: \_\_\_\_\_

Christian Formation: Abigail Rutley (chair), Maxine Coffey

Gifts & Callings: Sandy Stickney

Archivist: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair at Rise of Conference: Karen Medland

2<sup>nd</sup> Term for Leadership Circle: Jim Hannah

**MS** (R. Robertson /M. Ashbaugh) that we accept this slate of nominations as presented. **Carried**

**MS** (B. Castle /L. Stirling) that the Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery affirm the nomination of the Leadership Circle of Karen Medland for Chair of Presbytery. **Carried**

**PASTORAL RELATIONS**

**MS** (M. Ashbaugh /M. Walker) that we approve the request of the Rev. Dr. Ruth Wright for a change in Pastoral Relations to retirement as of June 30, 2011, and to Retain her on the Roll of

*Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery. Carried*

## REPORTS

**Youth Council** – Jake Highfield and Morgan Swift, co-chairs of Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery Youth Council reported on their work. They were appreciative of the hospitality received and expressed their joy at the model employed at this meeting of Presbytery as opposed to the old style because it gave voice to youth and to those others who do not always feel ready, able or empowered to speak. Naarai Kir is happening March 4-6, 2011 at Mt. Paul United Church, Kamloops, and registration is going well. The Youth Council has been selling bracelets as fundraising during this weekend.

Morgan Swift, Zoe McNair and Katie Coolidge made a presentation regarding ethically raised meats. This included some clips from the film *Food Inc.*

**MS (M. Swift / J. Highfield)** that only certified ethically raised meats are eaten at Presbytery gatherings. **Carried**

**MS (M. Swift / A. Rice)** that a proposal be sent to BC Conference that only certified ethically raised meats be eaten at future BC Conference gatherings. **Carried**

**Camping** – Lorraine Powell spoke about Camping Ministries in Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery and commented that although Mackenzie Camp was the only one with a presentation, the Camping Ministry supports all camping. We viewed Mackenzie Camp's presentation.

## WORKING UNIT REPORTS

Judith invited chairs of Working Units and others to share information about some of the other things that are happening, not recorded in the written and circulated reports.

**Truth & Reconciliation** – Marion Best and Lorraine Powell have been two of the *listeners* at the Residential Schools Hearings. The first of seven *Truth and Reconciliation* Events was held this past year and an event will be held in BC in 2012. Information will be shared through the Presbytery Secretary.

**Worship Animation Working Unit** – there is not a contact person at this point since Juanita Austin took a Sabbatical from this working unit. Although worship was organized for this meeting through the Leadership Circle, there is no official contact person despite the willingness for many folks to lead in worship. Gifts & Callings will continue to work on this.

**Diaconia of the United Church / Diaconia of the Americas and the Caribbean (DUCC / DOTAC)** – Sharilynn Upsdell is serving an 8-year term on these committees and wanted folks to be aware that they existed. Contact Sharilynn for more information.

**First United Church, Kelowna** – At a congregational meeting on February 13, 2011, First United voted to become an Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada. They are excited to recognize too that being Affirming is more than just about sexuality and gender, but about all forms of inclusion. Part of their process included presentations on Racial Justice, Sexuality and Gender, and Diverse Abilities.

**Management Team** – Kent Israel extended thanks to Norma Fraser who has discerned a call to Leadership Circle and so is leaving the Discipleship Coordinator position and also to Steve Hershey who is taking on the Chairing of that team.

He also expressed thanks to Louise Burton, Joanne Koster, Ivy Thomas, Graham Brownmiller and Leslie Stirling.

**Leadership Circle** – For the next while there will be a focus on reviewing all of our policies and working with the Executive to ensure proper procedures are being followed.

**WHAT ARE WE TAKING HOME?** Ivy led us through another circle exercise to Harvest our “What Are We Taking Home” items based on *What put honey in our hearts that we are taking home from this gathering?*

- youth are leading us in a variety of important ways
- *honey in the heart*
- the invitation that is offered in the potential of circle: to enter, to engage, to listen, to be listened to, to ‘be with’, a depth of listening and hearing.
- singing and worship that opened our hearts and minds – the Spirit thick
- the treasure that is our differences
- making sacred space for the Holy One to live – we might influence another’s spirit
- Desire and inspiration to live important things forward (circles, ethically raised meats)
- Importance of our Christian Heritage

These will be circulated through the email list and on the Presbytery Website.

**COURTESIES** Judith thanked Wayne Atkinson and Westbank United Church again for their hospitality.

**MOTION TO EMPOWER** *MS (G. Brownmiller /R. Robertson) that the Presbytery Executive be empowered to carry out the business of Presbytery until we meet at BC Conference, May 26-29, 2011 in Penticton, BC. **Carried***

**CLOSING PRAYER** Ivy Thomas led us in a closing prayer.

**ADJOURNMENT** Having reached the order of the day, we adjourned.

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Judith Hardcastle, Chair

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Graham Brownmiller, Secretary

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## Harvest of Saturday Afternoon Circles

How do we support Congregations to reach out to/for Presbytery resources that exist?

- education
- minute for Presbytery
- is there value in supporting the old paradigm?
- are we afraid to share because of fear of judgment and competition – is this a barrier to sharing best practices
- an inventory of resources – would people share it / would people ask for it
- what and who are the resources that are identifiable
- how do congregants offer themselves as resources
- Minute for Presbytery

How can Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery support both the emerging and the traditional church?

- don't give us lots of work / don't bog us down
- encourage authenticity
- support workshops to promote communication
- don't be paternalistic

Exactly how would congregations support self-care for their Ministers and each other?

- clear communication and expectations of roles
- keep away from employee / employer relationships
- education – not just 2 hours on Sunday – a cultural shift / 7 day relationship
- be willing to adjust rules
- empower lay participation to promote inclusiveness and ownership
- make use of volunteers but be aware that they burn out too
- engage where strengths and passions lie
- an active M&P Committee to help arrange and organize time off and self-care (including making sure that stat holidays are taken)

How do we honour boundaries and confidentiality and still share stories as teaching tales?

- remember that confidentiality is not secret keeping
- share stories with no identifiers
- remember “I'm not at liberty to talk about ...”
- is someone going to learn or benefit from the story / does it serve a purpose?
- pause and allow space for intentional prayer
- Jesus often stepped over boundaries