

[OVT-030] On Adjusting the Presbytery Boundaries within the Synod of Alaska-Northwest**Source:** Presbytery**Committee:** Unassigned**Event:** 226th General Assembly (2024)**Sponsor:** Synod of Alaska-Northwest**Type:** General Assembly Full Consideration

Recommendation

On Adjusting the Presbytery Boundaries within the Synod of Alaska-Northwest

The Synod of Alaska-Northwest overtures the 226th General Assembly (2024) to approve the geographic districts of its presbyteries as follows:

The geographic district of the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest consists of the counties of Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Clearwater, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce, and Shoshone, all in the state of Idaho; and the counties of Adams (excluding that portion known as the Panhandle), Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman, all in the state of Washington.

The geographic district of the Presbytery of the Northwest Coast consists of the portion of the state of Alaska east of the 141° W longitude, known as the Panhandle or Southeastern Alaska, extending from Dixon Entrance in the south to and including the Yakutat region in the north; and the counties of Adams (that portion known as the Panhandle), Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Island, Jefferson, King (that portion north of NE 160th Street, Seattle), Kittitas, Klickitat (that portion east of the White Salmon River), Okanogan, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Walla Walla, Whatcom, and Yakima, all in the state of Washington. The Fruitland Presbyterian Church in Pierce County, which is in the geographic district of the Presbytery of Olympia, is also a member congregation.

The geographic district of the Presbytery of Olympia consists of the counties of Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Thurston, and Wahkiakum, all in the state of Washington, with the exception that the Fruitland Presbyterian Church in Pierce County is a member of the Presbytery of the Northwest Coast.

The geographic district of the Presbytery of Seattle consists of counties of King (that portion south of NE 160th Street) and Kitsap, in the state of Washington.

The geographic district of the Presbytery of Yukon consists of the portion of the state of Alaska west of the 141° W longitude.

Rationale

In 2021 the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) initiated a project to develop a database with the descriptions of each presbytery's geographic district, as well as a precise and accurate map. When the process revealed a variety of discrepancies and needs for clarification, OGA had conversations with mid council leaders in every synod to resolve identified issues. Agreements developed during those consultations resulted in these clear descriptions, now presented to the General Assembly for approval.

Where a congregation that is a member of one presbytery is located in the geographic district of another presbytery, the exception is noted in the description of both presbyteries; this is a recognition of current reality, reflecting decisions made in the past, and is not intended as permission for a presbytery to organize congregations outside its own district.

