

**Presbytery of Yellowstone  
Stated Meeting –May 15-16, 2009  
Rocky Mountain College, Billings, Montana**

**MINUTES**

The Presbytery of Yellowstone met in a stated meeting at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana on Friday- Saturday, May 15-16, 2009.

**Friday, May 15, 2009**

**09-35** – The Moderator, Susan Thomas, opened the meeting with prayer at 1:08 p.m. on Friday afternoon.

**09-36 – Welcoming Comments** - Kristi Foster, Chaplain at Rocky Mountain College, welcomed us. She read a letter from President Michael Mace also welcoming us. President Mace was out of town and unable to be personally present.

**09-37** – Stated Clerk Ron Hanson called roll and determined that a quorum was present. Attendance was as follows:

<b>Church</b>	<b>Minister Members</b>	<b>Elder Commissioners</b>	<b>Others Present</b>
Anaconda	1-Mary Davis	1-Karen Moses	2-Jim Moses (Mission Committee Moderator)
Belgrade, Springhill	2-Bedford J. Otey	3-John Grossenbacher	4-Debbie Blackburn (Budget & Finance Committee Moderator)
Billings, 1 <sup>st</sup>	3-Jacquelyn Pinkowski	5-Don Harr	6-Cathy McLean (Camping & Youth Committee Moderator)
Billings, St.Andrew Bozeman	4-Brent Long 5-Dan Krebill 6-Jody McDevitt	7-Mary Apple 8-Debbie Ernst	9-Fran Babcock (Council Moderator) Jim Babcock (COGA) Doris Krebill 10-Suzanne Bratsky (Co- Moderator of PW) 11-Ted Williams (Vice Moderator) 13-Ron Hanson (Stated Clerk)
Butte Colstrip	7-Harlan (Lanny) Rounds Robert J Shy, Jr. (LLP)	12-John M. Clark (excused)	
Deer Lodge Dillon Ennis	Phil Maxwell (CLP) 8-David Andrew 9-Jean M. Johnson (excused)	(unexcused) (unexcused) 14- Violet Haigh	
Forsyth Geyser	Vicki Waddington (CLP) Editha McKay (CLP) (excused)	15-Eldon Rice (excused)	
Harlowton	Jerry Collins (unexcused)	(unexcused)	
Hysham	10-John Dyce	16-Karen Van Hale	Lenor Welsh Sharon Milmine
Jordan Lewistown Manhattan Miles City	Vacant 11-Jed Cauffman 12-Debbie Funke 13-Sherwood McKay	17-Deanna Hansard 18-Mike Gapay (unexcused) (unexcused)	

Philipsburg	14-Warren S. Craig	(unexcused)
Poplar	Vacant	(unexcused)
Roy	Vacant	(unexcused)
Stanford	Editha McKay (CLP)	(excused)
	(excused)	
Terry	15-Leon Rathbun	
	Excused)	
West Yellowstone	Vacant	(unexcused)
White Sulphur	John Rohwer	(excused)
Wise River	Vacant	(unexcused)
Wolf Point	Vacant	(unexcused)

**Other Minister Members Present:**

- 16-Jim Bell (Honorably Retired)
- 17-George H. Goodrich, Jr. (Co-General Presbyter)
- 18-Kathy Goodrich (Co-General Presbyter)
- 19-Douglas Johnson (Hospital Chaplain-Billings Clinic)
- 20-Paul Krebill (Pastor Emeritus)
- 21- Neva Rathbun (Member-at-large)
- 22-Susan Thomas (Moderator – Hospital Chaplain-Billings Deaconess)
- 23-Dick McNeely (Pastor Emeritus)

**Corresponding Members Present**

- Zane Buxton – (Synod Executive) – member Denver Presbytery
- Richard Young – (Board of Pensions) – member of Grace Presbytery
- Skip Herbert – (Presbyterian Foundation) – member of Sacramento Presbytery
- Jerry Swanson – Member of Dakota Presbytery

**09-38** - Presbytery voted to grant corresponding members privilege of the floor, and adopted the docket as printed.

**09-39 – Worship** - Rev. Kathy Goodrich lead the opening worship. Her message were based on Luke 9 and 10 “where is God calling us and sending us today.” This question is foundational as we work at discerning God’s vision for Yellowstone Presbytery.

**09-40 – Plenary Session I** – Rev. George Goodrich, Rev. Jim Bell, Rev. Debbie Funke and Debbie Blackburn led Session I of the Visioning and Discerning process underway in Yellowstone Presbytery. The presbytery has completed Phase 1 (Discovering) of the process and for the next few months will be in Phase 2 (Discerning). This second Phase will culminate in a Presbytery retreat on September 18-19, 2009. Rev. Marianne Rehbergen will be present to lead that retreat. Phase 3 (Embodying) will be undertaken from September 2009 through March 2010.

**09-41 – Refreshment Break** - Moderator Susan Thomas recessed the meeting for a half hour refreshment break. During the break tours of the Rocky Mountain Campus were offered for those who were interested.

**09-42 – Mission Committee Report** – Jim Moses, Moderator of the Mission Committee presented and commented on the written report of the committee. Jim thanked St. Andrew Church for hosting the Zimbabwe Mission Storage Shed. It is nearly full and the contents will be on the way to Zimbabwe soon. The committee is looking for another church to host the shed. Jim also mentioned the committee is hoping to have the Zimbabwe mission partners visit Yellowstone Presbytery this fall.

**09-43 – Plenary Session II** – Rev. Kathy Goodrich led the second Plenary Session. The focus was to become Vision shaped- Vision Led community and to discern God’s vision for Yellowstone Presbytery. Small groups were formed to work on a vision statement for the presbytery.

**09-44 – Evening Recess** - Moderator Rev. Susan Thomas recessed the meeting for travel to the First Presbyterian Church for evening worship.

**09-45 – Worship** – Rev. Zane Buxton, Synod of the Rocky Mountains Executive, conducted the evening worship service. His sermon was based on Acts 10:44-48 and was titled “Signs of a Great Transformation”. He was assisted by Rev. Jacquelyn Pinkowski, Rev. Richard Young and Vice Moderator Ted Williams. Cathy McLean and Dave Kimball aided in serving the Communion elements. George Goodrich led a season of intercessory prayer for the concerns and congregations of the presbytery to conclude worship

**09-46 – Recess** – At the conclusion of worship, which served as a closing prayer, the meeting was recessed for the evening. Members, Commissioners, Corresponding Members and Guests were on their own for dinner.

## **SATURDAY, May 16, 2009**

**09-47** – Moderator Susan Thomas reconvened the meeting at 8:30 A.M. following a continental breakfast in the Great Room. Susan announced that the offering at last night's worship service was \$438.67 which is designated for mission programs at Rocky Mountain College.

**09-48 – Morning Worship** – Rev. George Goodrich led the Morning Worship Service and a *Bible Study*. He was assisted by CLP's Vickie Waddington and Robert Shy. George's sermon title was “Seeking and Finding the Lost”.

**09-49 – Camping and Youth** – Cathy McLean and others performed a most entertaining skit whose purpose was to encourage all of us to help enlist campers for the upcoming camping sessions. Kathy announced the following camping schedule.

- Re-vamp the Camp – June 11-14
- Camp Staff Training – July 6-11
- Elementary Camp – July 12-16
- Middle School Camp – July 19-24
- Senior High Camp – July 26-31

**09-50 - Rev. Jerry Swanson's Report-** Rev. Swanson was accorded time to share anecdotal comments on happenings in Dakota Presbytery. His report was both enlightening and entertaining. The bottom line was that God is at work in Dakota Presbytery.

**09-51 - Westminster Spires Report** – The Task Force Report for the future plans for Westminster Spires was presented by Rev. Brent Long. The report differentiated between the facility and the program. It also included short term and long term recommendations. Following discussion, which questioned the continuing need for the facility, the Presbytery voted to adopt the Task Force report as a vision for the future of Westminster Spires Camp.

**09-52 – Committee on Ministry** – Moderator Phil Maxwell commented on the situation at Billings First Presbyterian Church and the Springhill Church and noted the following decisions that COM had taken on behalf of presbytery.

**09-53.1** Named Rev. Freeman McCall as moderator of West Yellowstone Community Church.

**09-53.2** Authorized a grant of \$1,500 from the Continuing Education Account to Rev. Sherwood McKay to partially cover his cost of attending Interim Pastor training.

**09-53.3** Next, Committee Moderator Phil Maxwell presented nominations for the Pastoral Team to work with the Session of the Springhill Church as the church considers dismissal from the PC(USA). Those nominated included Phil Maxwell (Moderator), Rev. Jody McDevitt, Sally Ralston and Rev. Freeman McCall. The Presbytery voted to elect those nominated. As defined in the previously approved Dismissal Policy, Presbytery Staff will also serve as ex-officio members.

**09-54 – Vocations** – Committee Moderator, Rev. Mary Davis, presented the written report of the committee and highlighted two items. The first was that Jessica Crane has passed all her Ordination Exams and is ready to seek a call and to be examined for ordination. The second is that Michael Gapay of the First Presbyterian Church of Lewistown was accepted into the Seeker Phase of the CLP Program.

The Vocations Committee requested that presbytery waive the requirement, of G-14.50b for Kathy McLean so she could apply to the M. Div. Program (Distance Learning Program) at Dubuque Theological Seminary. This request was based on extraordinary circumstances (G-.0470) and Kathy's education and her work experience. A lengthy discussion ensued.

09-54.1 It was Moved, Seconded and Carried that "The Presbytery of Yellowstone endorse Kathy McLean's application to the M. Div. Program at Dubuque Theological Seminary without her possessing a Baccalaureate degree which is normally required".

**09-55 – Nominations** – Vice Moderator Ted Williams, presented the report of the Nominating Committee. The report contained six recommendations for action by the presbytery. Presbytery took the following actions.

**09-55.1** Voted to amend the Administrative Functions of the Personnel Committee (page 2.12.1 of the Administrative Manual as follows:

- Delete Duty D.
- Substitute *the Nominating Committee* for the word *their* in Duty F.
- Add the following statement to Duty G. *except Presbyterian Women and the Nominating Committee.*

**09-55.2** Voted to elect Ted Williams to a one year term on the Synod Coordinating Council and Mike Gapay to a three year term on the Synod Nominating Committee.

**09-55.3** Voted to elect Rev. Jody McDevitt to an unexpired term (class of 2011) on the Camping and Youth Committee.

**09-55.4** Voted to waive the term limit for Kathy Mclean to serve on the Camping and Youth Committee. Kathy Previously served an unexpired term in 2005 and 2006 and was subsequently elected to a three year term (2006-2009).

**09-55.5** Voted to waive the term limits for Cal Boyle, Rev. Rusty Craig and Art Neill for their service on the St. Timothy's Chapel Committee.

**09-55.6** Voted to approve the proposed procedure for selecting Elder Commissioner and Youth Advisory Delegate to General Assembly. This change will go into effect for the 2014 General Assembly Meeting.

**09-56 – Refreshment Break** – Moderator Rev. Susan Thomas declared a 15 minute refreshment break.

**09-57 - Higher Education** – Rev. Paul Krebill called attention to the written report of the committee. He then asked Rev. Kristi Foster to forward and share her ministry as Chaplin at Rocky Mountain College, both current and planned activities. Kristie asked anyone who had Questions about the programs to call her at 406-657-1000.

**09-58 – Presbyterian Women** – Susanne Bratsky, Co-Moderator of PW presented the committee report. She noted that the women are starting a new study based on Joshua. The study is titled "Journey of Faith"

**09-59 – Representation** – Vi Haigh provided the shortest report of the session. She referred to her written report and mentioned that she would provide a detailed report at the November meeting.

**09-60 – St. Timothy's Chapel** – Rev. Rusty Craig commented on happenings at the Chapel. Summer worship will begin in June.

**09-61 – Council** – Presbytery voted to approve an Electronic Document Policy which was presented by Council. This issue was referred to them by Presbytery at its March meeting. The policy calls for Distribution of an electronic PDF copy of the presbytery packet three times prior to the presbytery meeting. The first distribution would be 28 days before the meeting; the second would be 14 days before the meeting and the third would be 7 days before the meeting. Additionally the minutes of the meeting would be sent to the General Presbyters 7 days after the meeting and posted on the website 14 days after the meeting. Paper copies of the packet will still be available to those who do not have the ability to access the documents online. After a one year trial, paper packets will be provided at a charge of \$15.00 each. However, this fee will be waived for any participant who does not have high speed internet access.

**09-62 – Budget and Finance Committee** - Moderator Debbie Blackburn presented the financial reports (Balance Sheet and Income and Expense reports for the Administrative and Program accounts) The other portion of her report contained three recommendations for presbytery action.

**09-62.1** Presbytery Voted to amend the 2009 budget by moving \$5,700 from the General - Administrative Fund and increasing the following accounts by the amounts shown below.

- Stated Clerks Expense budget – Increased by \$1,500 for the purchase of a computer. This was in the 2008 budget but was not spent in 2008.
- Presbytery Office budget – increased by \$350 to cover the cost of insurance.
- Judicial Process budget – Increased by \$3,900 to cover the cost of increased work.

**09-62.2** Presbytery voted to amend sections 3.b and 4.b of section E. of the Fiscal Policy by adopting the U.S. General Services Administration per diem rates for Montana, and particularly for Bozeman. The new rates are:

- Breakfast: \$7.00
- Lunch: \$11.00
- Dinner: \$18.00
- Incidentals: \$3.00

**09-62.3** Presbytery voted to amend section 4.d of section E. of the Fiscal Policy so it would read: “a 21 day advance purchase of airline tickets is required except for unforeseen events as may be approved by the Moderator of the Budget and Finance Committee and the General Presbyter.”

**09-63 – Co-General Presbyters** – Rev. George Goodrich presented their written report. He emphasized both the Visioning process and the Vital Pastors/Leaders training. Both efforts are currently underway. Other items in the report included activities and plans of both him and Kathy. He stated that he will attend the Big Tent Event in Atlanta on June 11-13, 2009. COM will also nominate another person to attend.

**09-64 – Board of Pensions – Rev.** Rick Young reported on behalf of the Board of Pensions. He emphasized the sound financial status of the Board but noted that there would not be any apportionment this year.

**09-65 – Synod Report** – Synod Executive Presbyter, Rev. Zane Buxton reported that the Block Grants to Presbyteries for 2010 will remain the same as the 2009 grant. He also announced that this is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Synod Funds Development Director Rev. Bob Sheldon’s ordination. It was also announced that three members of Yellowstone Presbytery were celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary. Those three are Rev. Jed Cauffman, Rev. Kathy Goodrich and Rev. Jean Johnson.

**09-66 – Extension of the Docket** – With the concurrence of the presbytery, the Moderator extended the Docket for 20 minutes.

**09-67 – Presbyterian Foundation** – Rev. Skip Herbert reported on the opportunities for churches and individuals that are available through the Foundation.

**09-68 – Stated Clerks Report** – Ron Hanson reported that he attended the Synod Record Review meeting and that Interim Stated Clerk Ted William’s Presbytery minutes had been approved without exception. He also commented that one of the Investigating Committees had completed its work and decided not to file charges. No review of that decision was requested so the case is closed. Two Investigating Committees are still active on other Disciplinary cases.

09-68.1 – Presbytery voted to approve the minutes of the March 2-3, 2009 meeting with three corrections noted. The three corrections were that Rev. George Goodrich preached at the Monday evening Worship Service; that the Date of March 3, 2009 was misplaced and that presbytery’s approval of the Dismissal Policy was omitted.

**09-69 – Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:55 P.M.