

**Presbytery of Yellowstone  
Stated Meeting – November 5-6, 2010  
First Presbyterian Church – Helena, Montana**

**MINUTES**

The Presbytery of Yellowstone met in a stated meeting at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, of Helena, Montana on Friday-Saturday, November 5-6, 2010.

**FRIDAY, November 5, 2010**

**10 – 70 Lunch** – Members of both Glacier and Yellowstone Presbytery's met jointly for lunch at 12:00 noon.

**10 – 71 Call to Order** – Rev. Jim Fielder, Pastor of the host church called the meeting to order and gave the opening prayer. He then asked the Stated Clerks to call the roll for their presbyteries.

**10 – 72 Roll Call** - Ron Hanson asked a representative from each church in Yellowstone Presbytery to introduce those present from their church with emphasis on first time attendees. Gayle Collins announced the number of churches represented and the number of attendees present from Glacier Presbytery. Following is the list of churches of Yellowstone Presbytery and the attendees from those churches.

<b>Church</b>	<b>Minister Members</b>	<b>Elder Commissioners</b>	<b>Others Present</b>
Anaconda	Mary Davis	Karen Moses	Jim Moses (Mission) Linda Smith (Representation)
Big Hole Billings, 1 <sup>st</sup> Billings, St. Andrew Bozeman	Dick Davis David Thompson excused Dan Krebill  Jody McDevitt	Greta Murray Sandra Welch Chuck Beck	Dave Kimball Highed Ed. Fran Babcock(Council Moderator) Suzanne Bratsky (PW Co-Moderator) Jim Babcock (COGA) Ric Tieman (Vision Team) Ted Williams (YP Moderator) Donna Beck Susan Gibb Ron Hanson (Stated Clerk) Darlene McNay
Butte Colstrip Deer Lodge Ennis Forsyth Jordan	excused unexcused Vacant excused Cathy McLean (CLP) Vacant	John M Clark David Mc Nay Barbara Paul Vi Haigh unexcused Claudia Stanton	June Haigh  Thomas Stanton Marlo Stanton Debbie Blackburn (B&F Moderator) Vicki Mc Guinness Marie Westprac
Manhattan	Debbie Funke	Ross Johnson	
Miles City Philipsburg Stanford Terry West Yellowstone White Sulphur Spgs.	David A. Schneider excused Editha McKay (CLP) Leon Rathbun Vacant Vacant	unexcused Jan Christiansen Anna Marie Hawkey (unexcused) (unexcused) Pam Jackson	Jim Christianson

**Other Minister Members Present:**

George H Goodrich, Jr (Co-General Presbyter)  
Kathy Goodrich (Co- General Presbyter)  
Neva Rathbun (At-Large)

Susan Thomas (At-Large)  
Kimberly Woeste (United Campus Ministry – MSU Billings)  
Rusty Craig (Honorably Retired)  
Paul Cousins (Honorably Retired)  
John Dyce (At-Large)  
Doug Johnson (At-Large)  
Freeman Mc Call (Honorably Retired)

**Corresponding Members Present:**

Rev. Zane Buxton, Presbytery of Denver  
Rev. Joel Wright, Presbytery of Wyoming and Synod Coordinating Council  
Rev. Jim Fiedler, Presbytery of Glacier  
Rev. Jerry Swanson, Dakota Presbytery

**Members from the Synod Coordinating Council:**

Lynn Smit  
Miki Laws  
Barbara Gilliland

**Also Present:**

Lyle Hamilton (Intermountain Children's Home)

**10 – 73 Worship** – Rev. Jim Fielder conducted a short opening worship service.

**10 - 74 Small group Activities** – Rev. Ed Albright asked the body to form in groups of 6-8 and discuss the following questions. "What do you remember about your baptism"? and "What are your gifts for service"?

**10 – 75 Linda Valentine** - Rev. Ed Albright, Consulting General Presbyter for Glacier Presbytery, introduced Linda Valentine (Executive Director of the General Assembly Mission Council). Linda spoke to the presbyteries on her recent trip to the Middle East.

**10 – 76 Snack Break** – Following the break each presbytery convened for the business portion of their meeting.

**10 – 77 - Moderator** Ted Williams called the Yellowstone Presbytery business portion of the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**10 – 78 – Christ Candle** – Rev. David Thompson read the Christ Candle Litany as the candle was lighted.

**10 – 79 – Quorum** - Stated Clerk Ron Hanson declared that a quorum was present.

**10 – 80 – Approval of the Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting of May 21-22 were approved with two corrections. The corrections dealt with spelling errors.

**10 – 81 – Dwelling in the Word** - Rev. Kathy Goodrich kicked off a continuation of the Joint session of the Presbytery's focused on Matthew 9:35 – 10-1. The point was made that before the laborers go out they first need to pray and those prayers need to be specific.

**10 – 82 – Visioning Team** – Ric tracked the history of the Vision Team process and presented a sheet for people to provide input to the Vision Team. Team Members presented the Guiding Principles that have been developed. Debbie Blackburn, Debbie Funke, Kathy Goodrich and Rick discussed the four strands for fulfilling the Vision Statement ( Practices, Relationships and Partnerships, Process and Structure). Ric talked on the two structural options ( #1 - Retain the current council structure to retain Ministry emphasis of Council's duties or # 2 - Reform the Council structure to emphasize missional visioning role of Council's duties). Option #2 was supported by Council at its October meeting. George talked about a more complete presentation in February with a decision on which option to adopt scheduled for the May presbytery meeting..

**10 - 83 – Zane Buxton** – Zane reported that funding for Middle Governing Bodies is on a downward trend. Special offerings are also down as is the giving of the Presbyterian Women. Mission Partnership Funds from the GA to synods will no longer be available after 2013. The Presbytery of Plains and Peaks is having financial problems at their camp. Wyoming Presbytery does not have an Interim General Presbyter yet.

**10 - 84 – Council** – Fran presented the Council report. She also read a letter of thanks from The Intermountain Children's Home for the \$500 gift from Yellowstone Presbytery.

**10 - 85 – B&F – Debbie Blackburn** presented a recommendation that Presbytery Per Capita be set at \$30.05 for 2011. This would set the total Per Capita at \$43.00.

ü Presbytery voted to set its Per Capita at 30.05 for 2011.

Next, Debbie presented the Administrative Budget for 2011 which totaled \$215,500 and called for a transfer from reserves of \$23,000. Rev. Dan Krebill raised a concern about using \$2,300 of mission funds to support the Administrative Budget.

ü Presbytery voted to reduce the 2011 Program Budget by \$2,300 and increase the transfer from reserves, to the Administrative Budget, to \$25,300.

**10 - 86 – Nominating Committee** – The Nominating Committee presented a written report covering nominations of Committee Moderators and committee members as well as other nominations. This list is for information only. The voting on all nominations will be conducted tomorrow.

**10 - 87 – Proposed Amendments to the Constitution** - Ron announced that copies of the three separate documents on the proposed amendments to the PC(USA) Constitution were available in the front of the room and encouraged every church to pick up a copy or two.

**10 - 88 – Committee on Ministry (COM)** – Neva presented the COM report which included a recommendation for minimum salaries for 2011 (See attached recommendations).

ü Presbytery voted to approve the recommended minimum salaries for 2011.

Rev. Dan Krebill requested information on the Terms of Call for all pastors, CLP's and Parish Associates that had been approved by COM during the past year. The presbytery agreed to return to this item in the morning.

**10 – 89 - Personnel** – Debbie Funke noted that with the closure of the Mission Treasury Service at the Synod there will be added duties for the presbytery staff. The committee is looking into how these added duties might affect current compensation levels.

**10 – 90 - Mission** – Jim Moses stated that the Zimbabwe storage is nearly full and, assuming that we continue this project, another church needs to volunteer to be the collection point for the next effort.. A second idea that the committee is promoting is to hold a mission work project at the location of each Presbytery meeting.

**10 – 91 – Recess for Dinner.**

**10 – 92 – Worship** – Worship, with the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, convened at 7:30 p.m. with Rev. David preaching. The title of his sermon was "When You Feel Like Giving Up".

**10 - 93 – Recess for the Evening.**

**10 – 94 – Opening Worship** – The opening worship of Scripture reading, Song and Prayer, led by Rev. George Goodrich, took place at 8:45 a.m.

**19 – 95 – Linda Valentine** – Linda spoke on “Growing Christ’s Church” with emphasis on the “Young Adult Volunteers” program. Donna Maddux presented Linda with a beautiful painting to remind her of her visit to Montana.

- ü By consensus the presbyteries agreed to donate the offering (\$920.00) at last evenings worship service to the Young Adult Volunteers program of the General Assembly Mission Council.

**10 - 96 – Synod Coordinating Council - Barbara** Gilliland ( CLP in Pueblo Presbytery), Viki Laws (Elder from Utah Presbytery and Joel Wright (Minister from Wyoming Presbytery) introduced themselves and brought greeting from the Synod.

**10 – 97 – Rev. David Schneider** – David, Interim Pastor in Miles City introduced himself. David has served 40 years in the ministry and is the s of a Presbyterian pastor.

**10 – 98 – Montana Resource Center** - Elaine Huntly of Great Falls reported that the ARK, at the University of Montana had been sold and the Resource Center materials had been moved to Great Falls First Presbyterian Church. She offered to make materials available, upon request, to meetings of Yellowstone Presbytery.

**10 – 99 - Jerry Swanson** – There is a need for a Bus for the Native American Youth Choir that Doug Swanson started. The need is about \$1700 Dollars. The Choir is learning the Dakota language and sing it. There is also a need for funds for a TV partnership for the Youth Choir.

**10 – 100 – Presbyterian Foundation** – Rev. Eric Chavez reported that the Presbyterian Foundation has a new president - Tom Taylor. The foundation is for people who want to make a difference through their financial contributions. The Foundation was established in 1799 the current investment vehicles are New Covenant Funds.

**10 – 101 – Administrative Commission for the Springhill Church** – Rev. Jody McDevitt presented the final report of the Administrative Commission for the Springhill Presbyterian Church. The report cited an agreement for Springhill to pay Yellowstone Presbytery \$15,000 per year for 5 years, beginning in 2010. The report also included recommendations for the use of the funds.

- ü Presbytery voted to use the funds, first, to pay the per capita costs attributable to Springhill in 2010 and 2011. The amount for 2010 is \$5,166 and the estimated amount for 2011 is \$6,200.
- ü Presbytery voted to place the remaining funds into an interest-bearing account to further presbytery’s stated mission to our congregations, and distribute these funds through a grant process administered by a committee of oversight.

Next, Jody presented a Development Fund proposal, for the proceeds from the Springhill Church financial settlement, that had been written by Jim Babcock and Janet Kline. Grants from the Development Fund would be available to Congregations for Mission projects. The proposal called for the Council to create an Oversight Committee to manage the Development Fund. After the Oversight Committee is formed funds would be available, a year from now, in the amounts of \$100 to \$2500.

- ü Presbytery voted to approve the Development Fund Proposal.

Next, Jody presented a new Discernment Procedure to replace the existing Dismissal Policy. She noted that we were way too late in our response to Springhill’s proposal to withdraw from the PC(USA). A question was raised on how this is better than the existing Dismissal Policy. Jody commented that this procedure focuses Discernment and Resolution and that the idea of dismissal is only an action of last resort. Council members also commented on why they felt the proposal was a better approach.

- ü Presbytery voted to rescind the existing Dismissal Policy and replace it with the proposed Discernment Procedure and to dismiss the Administrative Commission with their heartfelt thanks.

**10 – 102 - Nominating Committee** - The official Ballot, which was also presented yesterday, was presented for action. The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor the required three times. No other

nominations were made. In the discussion that followed it was noted that the Committee on Vocations would not be in balance if the nominees were elected. To be in balance a male Elder from the east side of the presbytery is needed. A Question was also raised as to whether or not the Committee on Ministry would meet the required balance if the slate of nominees were to be elected. Jim Moses asked that his name be removed as a nominee for the class of 2013 on the Mission Committee.

- ü Presbytery voted to remove the name of Rev. Jed Cauffman from the ballot for a position, in the class of 2013, from the Vocations Committee.
- ü Presbytery voted to close discussion and proceed to a vote.
- ü Presbytery voted to elect the following nominees:
  - Moderator of Presbytery – CLP Editha McKay
  - Vice Moderator of Presbytery – Rev. Jody McDevitt
  - Moderator of Council – Rev. Leon Rathbun
  - Co-Moderators of the Camping and Youth Committee – Rev. Susan Thomas  
Elder Curt Kochner
  - Moderator of Higher Education Committee – Elder Robert Culbertson
  - Moderator of the Ministry Committee – Rev. Neva Rathbun
  - Moderator of the Mission Committee – Elder Ken Siroky
  - Moderator of the Nominating Committee – Elder Ted Williams
  - Moderator of the Representation Committee – Elder Claudia Stanton
  - Moderator of the ST. Timothy’s Chapel Committee – Elder Cal Boyle
  - Moderator of the Vocations Committee – Rev. Mary Davis
  - Members of the Camping and Youth Committee – Class of 2013
    - Elder Pam Jackson
    - Rev. Susan Thomas
    - Elder Curt Kochner
  - Members of the Higher Education Committee –
    - Class of 2011- Rev. John Dyce
    - Class of 2013 – Elder Robert Culbertson and Elder David Kimball
  - Members of the Committee on Ministry – Class of 2013
    - Rev. Neva Rathbun
    - Rev. Dick Davis
    - Rev. Larry Vandecreek
  - Members of the Mission Committee Committee – Class of 2013
    - Rev. Jean Johnson
    - Elder Ken Siroky
    - Rev. David Schneider
  - Members of the Nominating Committee – Class of 2013
    - Rev. Sally Ralston
    - Elder Russ Johnson
    - Elder Greta Murray
  - Members of the Permanent Judicial Commission – Class of 2016
    - Rev. Jean Johnson
    - Rev. Neva Rathbun
  - Member of the Representation Committee – Class of 2013
    - Elder Charles Brown
  - Member of St. Timothy’s Chapel Committee – Class of 2013
    - Elder Jane Baker
    - Elder Linda Smith
    - Rev. Lanny Rounds
  - Member of the Committee on Vocations – Class of 2013
    - Elder Charlene Mandeville
  - Member of the Synod Coordinating Council
    - Elder Ted Williams
  - Member of the Synod Nominating Committee

- Mike Gapay
- Montana Association of Churches
  - Commission on Church and Society – Rev. Doug Johnson
  - Commission on Faith and Order – Rev. John Dyce

**10 – 103 - Camping and Youth** - Susan and Curt are getting their feet on the ground. They had a great Fall Retreat for the youth.

**10 – 104 - Camping and Youth (Facilities)** – Chuck Beck stated that there is not yet an accounting of the \$25,000 spent on drilling the well at Westminster Spires. Additionally there is a need for an additional \$23,000 if a chlorination system is needed(10,000) will probably be needed.

- ü Voted to direct the Facilities Sub Committee to collect water samples and proceed to install a chlorination system, if necessary and if funds are available. George suggested that the committee meet before Christmas.

**10 – 105 - Higher Education** - David Kimball introduced Rev. Kim Woeste of the United Campus Ministry at MSU- Eastern, He stated that we are still in transition at MSU-Bozeman. The committee has applied for Grant Funds from the Synod of the Rocky Mountains for Rocky Mountain College and MSU Billings. Dave stated that the both the Committee and Council recommend that the presbytery withdraw its membership from Christus Collegium in Bozeman. Even though we may vote to withdraw this action would not be effective until the end of 2011.

- ü Presbytery voted to start the process for withdrawing our membership from the Christus Collegium.

**10 – 106 – Co-General Presbyters** – Rev. George Goodrich presented the written report of the Co-General Presbyters.

**10 – 107 – COM (continued)** - Rev. Dan Krebill raised a concern that COM actions regarding terms of call for Pastors, CLP's and Parish Associates had not been properly reported to the presbytery. He made the following motion, "that all terms of call for Pastors, CLP's and Parish Associates that have been reviewed and approved by COM this year, be sent to all members of Yellowstone Presbytery and all elder commissioners to this meeting, and that those terms of call be included in the minutes of this meeting". The motion was duly seconded.

- ü Presbytery voted to approve the above motion made by Rev. Krebill.

**10 – 108 – Announcement** - Fran announced that Rev. Dan Krebill will present a workshop on nFOG on November 19, 2010 at First Church in Bozeman. The workshop will start at 9:00 a.m. and run until 3:00 p.m.. A lunch will be provided. A Council meeting will follow the workshop.

**10 – 109 - Adjournment** – CLP Editha McKay offered a closing prayer and the Moderator adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m..