

**Presbytery of Yellowstone  
Stated Meeting – May 14-15, 2012  
Forsyth Federated Church in Forsyth, Montana**

**MINUTES**

The Presbytery of Yellowstone met in a stated meeting at The Federated Church of Forsyth in Forsyth, Montana on Monday and Tuesday, May 14 and 15, 2012.

**MONDAY, MAY 14, 2012**

**12 – 046 – Lunch** – A light lunch was served by the ladies of the church at noon.

**12 - 047 – Call to Order** – Moderator, Rev Jody McDevitt called the meeting to Order at 1:08 p. m.

**12- 048 – Roll Call** - The member church's were call upon, in alphabetical order, to introduce their Pastor, Commissioner and others who were in attendance. Those present were:

<b>Church</b>	<b>Minister Member</b>	<b>Elder Commissioner</b>	<b>Others Present</b>
Anaconda	Mary Davis	Linda Smith	
Big Hole	Dick Davis		
Billings, First	David Thompson`	Jack Bell	
Billings, St. Andrew	Vacant	Curt Kochner	Jim Tarr (Vocations)
Bozeman	Jody Mc Devitt Dan Krebill	Chuck Beck	Ted Williams (Nominating) Suzanne Bratsky (PW) Doris Krebill Dan Holland (B&F)
Butte	Excused	John Clark	Ron Hanson (Stated Clerk)
Colstrip	Robert Shy Jr.	David McNay	Darlene McfNay
Deer Lodge	Vacant	Unexcused	
Dillon	Excused	Unexcused	
Ennis	Excused	Excused	
Forsyth	Cathy McLean	Gayle Holland	Don Holland (Vice- Moderator)
Geyser	Editha McKay	Unexcused	
Harlowton	Unexcused	Unexcused	
Hysham	Paul Cannon	LaVon Adair	Karen Van Haele Joan Cunnigham
Jordan	Monte Massar	Claudia Stanton	Bev Harbaugh Leila Massar
Lewistown	Excused	Unexcused	
Manhattan	Debbie Funke	Debbie Blackburn	

Miles City	David Schneider	Caroline Fleming	
Phillipsburg	Sally Ralston	Jim Christiansen	Jan Christiansen
Poplar	Susan Ennis	Unexcused	
Roy	Unexcused	Ken Siroky	
Stanford	Editha McKay	Unexcused	
Terry	Leon Rathbun	Gary Pfieffe	
West Yellowstone	Vacant	Unexcused	
White Sulphur Springs	Excused	Unexcused	
Wolf Point	Unexcused	Unexcused	

**Other Minister Members Present:**

George H Goodrich, Jr. (Co-General Presbyter)  
 Kathy Goodrich (Co- General Presbyter)  
 Neva Rathbun  
 Douglas Johnson  
 Paul Krebill

**Corresponding Members Present:**

Rev. David Ezekiel, Presbytery of Chicago

**Also Present:**

Vicki Waddington, Lonsdale United Methodist Church, Sidney, MT  
 Sheena Rice, Montana Organizing Project, Billings, MT  
 Scott Hedegaard, 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church, Glasgow, MT

**12- 049 – Opening Worship** – Rev. David Schneider delivered the message he titled “Worrying About What We Shall Be”. David was assisted by Gayle and Don Holland.

**12-050 – Quorum** – A Quorum was declared present.

**12-051 – Approval of the Docket** – The Docket was approved with two additions.

**12-152 – Procedural Motion** – The following Procedural Motion was approved by the presbytery:

- That the roll for this meeting be established by completed Registration Sheets.
- That written and oral requests for absences received by the Stated Clerk be approved.
- That any Corresponding members present be seated.
- That the Presbytery grant the Moderator the authority to give privilege of the floor to persons, other than Members or Commissioners, for the purpose of reporting to this meeting.
- That the Moderator and the Stated Clerk be empowered to make adjustments to the Agenda during the meeting, as may be necessary, to provide for efficiency in reporting.

**12-051 – Introduction of Monte Massar** - Neva introduced Monte Massar of the ELCA. Monte is the new pastor at the Jordan Church. Monte is also preaching at the Lutheran Church in Jordan. He introduced his wife, Leila, and spoke of his faith journey and his desire to serve and be accepted by the

presbytery. Neva offered a prayer for his ministry in Jordan.

**12-051 – Faith in the Oil Fields** – Moderator Jody showed the video “Boom Behind the Bakken”, produced by the students at the University of Montana. The video included interviews of people talking about how the boom is affecting their lives and communities. She also announced that the video would be shown this coming Thursday on Montana Public Television.

**12-052 – Panel Discussion** - Robert moderated a panel of Vicki Waddington, Pastor of the Lonsdale United Methodist Church in Sidney, Montana; Scott Hedegaard, Pastor of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church in Glasgow; Montana and Sheena Rice of The Montana Organizing Project in Billings, Montana. Robert posed a series of Questions to the panel. The Questions were “What gives you the most joy about your life in the oil Boom”? “What is your Greatest concern about living in oil country”? and “What needs do you see as critical need, to which you might respond”? Each Panel member responded, in turn, with their thoughts, both personal and professional, on these questions. Moderator Jody made a few closing comments to this section of the Docket.

**12-053 – Break**

**12-054 – Discussion Groups** - The presbytery reconvened at 3:45 p.m. into three discussion groups to discuss the video and the comments of the panel. Each panel member was assigned to one of the discussion groups. Each group was assigned one of the following topics – “Impacts on Local residents”; “The needs of oil workers” and “Ministry Opportunities”. Following the discussion groups the presbytery reconvened in plenary session.

**12-055 – Welcome** – CRE Cathy Mclean welcomed the presbytery on behalf of the three Host Churches (Forsyth, Colstrip and Hysham).

**12-056 – Comments from the Discussion Groups** - Jody offered an opportunity to anyone who wished to comment on the points made in the Discussion Groups – Several people responded.

**12-057 – New Form of Government Task Force** – Dan Krebill traced the history of the work of the Task Force and offered, on behalf of the Task Force and the Leadership Cabinet, two recommendations which were acted on by the presbytery (See Attachment A).

- ü Presbytery voted to extend our current Policies and Procedures to July 10, 2013 while a new set of Policies and Procedures are developed.

- ü Presbytery voted to receive, as a “First Reading” changes to Section 2.0, 4.0 and 7.0 of the Standing Rules.

**12-058 – Leadership Cabinet** – Leon first offered an opportunity for the Vision Team to expound on their work on behalf of the presbytery. Debbie Blackburn responded first and read the Vision Statement. George and Kathy then traced the phases of the Teams work which were labeled - **TO Discover, To Discern and To Embody**. George commented that a vision gives us a direction toward a Goal and helps us deal with new things that arise. Kathy commented on the four strands (Practices, Relationships and Partnerships, Process and Structure) for implementing the Vision of the presbytery. She noted that we need to remain responsive, adaptive and flexible as we go about implementation the Vision of the presbytery. Kathy invited Curt, Debbie Blackburn and Debbie Funke, forward to acknowledge their hard work. A round of applause was given for the Vision Team members and for the gifts they brought to the effort (See Attachment B for the Leadership Cabinet Reports)

Leon stated that the three panel members had attended at their own expense.

- ü Presbytery voted to pay the travel expenses of the Panel Members and to provide each of them with a \$100 Honorarium from the Program Fund (Account 3.03.2805).

**12-059 – Commissioning of our General Assembly Commissioners and our YAAD** - Leon Rathbun called our Commissioners forward and offered a prayer for their upcoming work st the General Assembly this summer. Our Commissioners and YAAD are:

Teaching elder – Jody McDevitt

Ruling elder – Caroline Fleming

YAAD – Katie Holland (represented by her Father Dan Holland)

**12-060 – Announcements –**

- Dan announced that the Bozeman church has a scholarship program that is available for MSU students from Montana Presbyterian Churches. Scholarships amount to \$500 per semester.
- Cathy McLean stated that she has VBS materials to pass on.
- George announced that Robert Shy has flyers available on the fall Glacier/Yellowstone Convocation.
- Kathy announced that she has flyers available for the summer Institute at Whitworth.

**12-061 – Recess** – The meeting was recessed for Dinner. Jody offered a blessing for our meal.

**12-062 - Worship** – Paul Cannon preached. The title of his sermon was “The Source of Grace”. Cathy presided over communion. Others, assisting in the service, included Joan Cunningham, Robert Shy Jr., Neva Rathbun and George Goodrich. George announced that there would be a gathering for prayer after the service.

**TUESDAY May 15, 2012**

**12-063 – Breakfast** – A continental breakfast was provided by the Colstrip Church.

**12-064 – Worship** – Opening worship and “Dwelling in the Word” was led by Neva Rathbun. Her selection was 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 and John 16:33. Susan Ennis participated in the service. Jody closed the service with a blessing.

**12-065 – Mission in the churches** – Mission and ministry activities at Forsyth, Hysham, and Colstrip were presented by members of those churches.

**Colstrip** – A lot of their work is with Youth. The youth are becoming more involved and the church asked for prayers for their youth. Also, the downgrading of the coal industry is having an adverse affect on Colstrip. They participated with other churches in National Day of Prayer. Robert will be on sabbatical for three months.

**Hysham** – They enjoy participating in Presbyterian offerings and knowing that the money will be used somewhere else. They have a card ministry and enjoy various times of fellowship with food. They have some ecumenical participation with the Baptist Church such as a sunrise service and a Good Friday service. Their music program is being renewed. Their session voted to support the Billings mission trip with a donation of \$500 since their church is not involved in a mission trip this year. They challenge other churches to also support the mission trip. Their PW is few in number but very strong.

**Forsyth** – The church has a heart for mission. They have challenges with youth but last year offered a VBS program to reach the young children in their neighborhood. They have an active card ministry, take communion to the nursing home, and host several Bible studies. They are involved in the Heifer International Program and have gotten other churches in town interested in this also. Last year the church reached a goal of \$2,500 which meant the pastor preached in her pajamas. There was a group that gave a matching donation to increase the total of \$5,000. There are community activities going on in the church almost every day.

**12-066 – Synod Report** - David Ezekiel stated that many changes are occurring. The Synod of the Rocky Mountains is trying to be more flexible and responsive to the needs of the presbyters. There is no longer a physical location for the office. One motion that will come

before GA this summer will be a request to do away with Synods. One way that the Synod helps resource Presbyteries is through the WNLTC conference. The Synod hopes to set aside funds to see that this conference will continue for at least 6 years. They are working on scholarship money for WNLTC for people from remote and rural places.

**12-067 – Budget and Finance** – Dan Holland thanked the Forsyth for their cards to his daughter and the prayer shawl. He stated that the Financial Report was posted on the web site (see attachment C). Dan asked if there were any questions. None were asked. He stated that the committee will be doing follow up work this summer with those churches who are behind on their Mission and/or Per Capita giving. (Note: Dan had submitted a report of the financial review for 2011 to the Stated Clerk. A copy of that report is included as Attachment D).

**12-068 – Camping and Youth** – Curt Kocher indicated that the committees written report had been posted on the web-site. The brochures for the summer camps are available. Counselors for this summer have been hired and the water system updates are in the final stages. Curt stated that we owe a big Thank You to Chuck Beck for his work on the water system. There are about 120 dead trees on the property that are being removed by the Forest Service. Cathy McLean offered a prayer for our camping ministry.

Curt also mentioned that a new edition for the “Round of Prayer” is available. Jody thanked Curt for putting this together. Churches are encouraged to use this list and put the information in their bulletins. Cathy mentioned that last night’s offering totaled \$502.00 and is to be used for camp scholarships. Kathy stated that the Hysham Church provides camp scholarships for students who do not attend their church.

**12-069 – Co-General Presbyters** – George and Kathy presented their written report. The report was passed out to those in attendance. George stated he would love to visit with any leaders who want more information on disciple-making. George related his story of how someone invited him in the tenth grade to a meeting to learn more about having a personal relationship with Jesus. He stated that Disciple-making involves investing your life in someone. Kathy pointed out some information from the ENGAGE booklet. She suggested each church should consider doing the activities on pages 22-23. She then posed two questions each church might consider asking itself - How could our church help this community? How could we pray for you? It was stated that there are many proposals that will come before GA this year. Videos can be seen online about these proposals. (See Attachment E).

#### **12-070 - Break**

**12-071 – Mission** – Robert presented the committees written report. The committee will be sending a questionnaire to learn what mission projects the various churches are involved in. The results will be shared with all the churches.

**12-072 - Personnel** - Debbie Funke indicated that this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Personnel Policy which is posted on the web site. One non-material change from the first reading (shown in red) is in Section 4.034.

- ü Presbytery voted to approve the Personnel Policy with the addition of the added wording in Section 4.034.

Debbie then called peoples’ attention to the Draft Sexual Misconduct Policy. This policy has been looked at by legal counsel and our insurance carriers and is available on the website. Jean Johnson and Caroline Fleming spent a great deal of time developing this policy. Several changes to the draft were suggested from the floor of Presbytery. Dan Krebill suggested to remove the word assault from the title, change the word clergy to Teaching Elders and change the word “abuse” in Section G to “misconduct”. Other questions that were raised were: Are CRE’s included?, Who are employees?, Who is subject to this policy?, Does this policy apply to our Inquirers and Candidates? On this last question Jim Tarr suggested that the Vocation

Committee and the Personnel committee should to coordinate.

ü Presbytery voted to refer these suggestions to the Personnel Committee.

Debbie encouraged all present to study the policy and submit their suggested changes to the Personnel Committee.

Additionally, there was a request from the floor to have the Personnel Committee look into providing a Sabbatical for George and Kathy.

**12-073 – St. Timothy’s** – Ron Hanson indicated that the committee will be updating the Long Range Plan for the chapel. Also, they will be working on a Capital Improvement Plan and an Investment Policy. He mentioned that the chapel website is now linked to and accessible from the Presbytery website.

**12-074 – Vocations** – Jim Tarr introduced Jack Bell as the newest “Learner” in the CRE Program. He noted that Cathy McLean is progressing in her education to become a Teaching Elder. Jim Nominated Susan Thomas as an Ordination Exam reader for this Falls testing.

ü Presbytery voted to designate Susan Thomas as Yellowstone Presbytery’s Ordination Exam reader.

**12-075 – Higher Education** - Paul Krebill commented that he thinks there are several higher education locations within our presbytery that are not receiving much attention. He requested that the Leadership Cabinet look into this.

**12-076 – COM** – Neva commented on her written report (See Attachment F).

ü Presbytery voted to grant authority to COM to appoint Moderators to churches when no Installed Pastor is in place.

Neva noted that COM has dismissed the Pastoral Team for the Community Protestant Church at West Yellowstone and will be meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to appoint a Resolution Team. George Goodrich, Debbie Blackburn, and John Clark from the Pastoral Team came forward to answer questions from the floor about the situation at West Yellowstone. Jody offered prayer for West Yellowstone and for the team.

Dan Krebill commented that the Resolution Team should take a pro-active approach and consider doing a church planting effort and determine the cost to send a church planting pastor to West Yellowstone. Dan also suggested that a Special Presbytery meeting may be necessary because the next Stated Meeting will not be till November. Jody closed w/ prayer.

David Schneider was called forward and thanked for his service to Miles City 1<sup>st</sup> Church. George offered a prayer for David.

**12-077 – Nominations** - Ted Williams stated that there is no written report. The committee has an additional challenge for 2013 since the future structure is unknown. Also he indicated that in the future the Presbytery will be using a different procedure for selecting the RE Commission and the YAAD for General Asswembly. The Nominating Committee will receive nominations for these positions. Finally, Ted stated that the committee needs new people for the Permanent Judicial Committee (6 year terms). See Ted if you are interested. Ted them placed in nomination the name of Sally Ralston to the Class of 2014 on the Vocations Committee.

ü After the appropriate number of calls for nominations from the floor Presbytery voted to elect Sally Ralston to the Vocations Committee – Class of 2014.

**12-078 – Stated Clerks** – Ron called attention to his written report (See Attachment G) and requested approval of the March 2-3, 2012 Presbytery Meeting Minutes.

ü Presbytery voted to approve the March 2-3, 2012 presbytery meeting minutes.

**12-079 - Announcements** –

- Chuck Beck announced the June 24<sup>th</sup> event at Rock Haven. Invitations to this event are on the table. Ryan Mandeville will be there.

- Don Holland thanked everyone that helped in preparing the worship services. He will call on others to help for the November meeting.
- Jim Tarr issued an invitation to the Highland Hold Days (St Andrew Church's Retreat at Westminster Spires) the first weekend of September after Labor Day.

**12-080 – Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned, until the next Stated Meeting scheduled for November 2-2, 2012, with a prayer by the Moderator, Jody McDevitt, at 12:05 p.m.

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Stated Clerk  
Ron Hanson