

**Yellowstone Presbytery Stated Meeting
November, 3, 2017
Conference Call**

17 - 062 - Call to Order - CRE Jack Bell, Moderator, opened the meeting with prayer. Due to inclement weather across the state, the in person meeting (which had been scheduled to be in Bozeman) was cancelled (including all workshops and worship). The business portion of the meeting was conducted by conference call.

17 - 063 - Roll Call - RE Debbie Blackburn, Stated Clerk, called the roll. Those who filled out registration sheets (in person or by email) are listed as present

Ruling Elder Commissioners Present:

Anaconda - Linda Smith
Big Hole - Julie Boksich
First Billings - Chris Eriksen
Billings, St Andrew - Virginia Allen
Bozeman - John Patterson
Butte - absent
Colstrip - absent
Deer Lodge - absent
Dillon - absent
Ennis (Madison Valley) - absent
Forsyth - absent
Harlowton - absent
Hysham - absent
Jordan - absent
Lewistown- Margee Smith
Manhattan - Eleanor Mest
Miles City - Sharla Helland
Philipsburg - absent
Poplar - absent
Stanford - Bonnie Soulsby
Terry - absent
White Sulphur Springs - absent
Wolf Point - absent

Teaching Elder Members of Presbytery:

David Andrew (present)	Roderick Blair (absent)
Susan Barnes (present)	Paul Cannon (present)
James Bell (absent)	JP Carlson (present)
Priscilla Bell (absent)	Jed Cauffman (absent)

Paul Cousins (absent)
Warren Craig (absent)
Dick Davis (absent)
Mary Davis (excused)
John Dyce (absent)
Katie Emery (present)
Susi Ennis (present)
Debbie Funke (present)
George Goodrich (present)
Kathy Goodrich (excused)
Doug Johnson (absent)
Jean Johnson (present)
Lowell Johnson (absent)
Teresa Kendall (present)
Dan Krebill (present)
Paul Krebill (absent)
Brent Long (absent)
Freeman McCall (absent)

Jody McDevitt (present)
Sherwood McKay (absent)
Cathy McLean (present)
Marcia Muir (absent)
Sally Ralston (absent)
Leon Rathbun (absent)
Neva Rathbun (absent)
Harlan L Rounds (present)
Bill Swanson (absent)
Susan Thomas (absent)
David Thompson (present)
Larry Vandecreek (absent)
Vicki Waddington (absent)
Steve Weber (absent)
Kim Woeste (absent)

Other Voting Members:

Jack Bell (CRE- Stanford) [present]
Debbie Blackburn (Stated Clerk) [present]
Ron Hanson (Moderator St Tm's) [absent]
Curt Kochner (Moderator Camping) [absent]
Veva Larson (CRE- Anaconda) [absent]
Mary Lee Hooks (Moderator PW) [absent]
Robert Shy (CLP - Colstrip) [absent]
Jim Tarr (RE - Synod commissioner) [present]
Paul Helland (RE - Leadership Cabinet) [present]
Suzanne Bratsky (RE - Leadership Cabinet) [present]
Dan Holland (RE -Leadership Cabinet) [present]

Others Present:

Lynn Smit (Presbytery of Plains and Peaks)
Doug Melius (Presbytery of Wyoming)

17 - 064 - Procedural Motion – Upon a motion by the clerk, the Presbytery approved the following actions:

1. That the roll for this meeting be established by completed Registration Sheets.
2. That written and oral requests for absences received by the Stated Clerk be approved.
3. That any Corresponding members present be seated.
4. That the Presbytery grants 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.
5. That the Moderator and Stated Clerk be empowered to make adjustments to the Agenda during the meeting, as may be necessary, to provide for efficiency in reporting, and
6. That all reports received at this meeting be accepted.

17 - 065 – Quorum/Docket – A quorum was declared present and the amended Docket was adopted.

17 - 066 – Scripture Reading – There was a time of reading and reflecting on Exodus 3:1-12.

17 - 067 – Report from Co-General Presbyters - A written report was submitted (Attachment A). George asked that everyone take the time to read the report. George reviewed highlights from the report. Jody McDevitt led the group in prayer for the families of TE Jim Kidd and TE Leon Rathbun.

17 - 068 – Ballot from Representation/Nomination Ministry Team - A ballot from Rep/Nom was presented (Attachment B). Voting on the ballot will take place later in the meeting.

17 - 069 – Stated Clerk’s Report– A written report was submitted (Attachment C). The Synod of the Rocky Mountains sent their Record of Review (for the 2016 Presbytery minutes) which indicated that the Presbytery of Yellowstone had two exceptions. The exceptions were: (a) No record of the review and approval of records of sessions and (b) No record of the review of adequacy of property and liability insurance.

√ Motion passed to approve the minutes from the May 12-13, 2017 Presbytery meeting and to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2017 Presbytery meeting.

17 - 070 – Stated Clerk Search Committee – TE Jody McDevitt, Moderator of the SC Search Committee reported that applications will be received until December 15, 2017. Applications and an updated job description may be found on the Presbytery website. Others on the committee are TE Debbie Funke, RE Paul Helland, and RE Don Holland. TE Kathy Goodrich is serving as resource person for the committee.

17 - 071 – Leadership Cabinet – A written report was submitted (Attachment D). TE Susi Ennis referred to item P in the report which is the second reading of changes to the Standing Rules (S.206) of the Presbytery.

√ Motion passed to approve changes to the Standing Rules (S.206) as indicated in Attachment D from the Leadership Cabinet Report.

Susi next presented nominations from the Leadership Cabinet for the Representation/Nominations Ministry Team. The LC nominates RE Bob Culbertson for the class of 2020 and nominates RE Caroline Fleming as the 2018 moderator of the Rep/Nom Ministry Team. No other nominations were received.

√ Motion passed for nominations to cease and that a unanimous vote be cast for the nominations as presented for Rep/Nom Ministry Team (RE Bob Culbertson for class of 2020 and RE Caroline Fleming as Moderator for 2018).

17 - 072 - Budgets for 2018 – RE Dan Holland presented the Administrative and Program Budgets for 2018 (Attachment E). He explained that the Administrative budget is based on a total per capita rate of \$52.00. (The total per capita rate for 2017 was \$48.00) The membership of the Presbytery as of December 31, 2016 was 1,696 members. It was reported that currently the Synod has not approved any funds for the Presbytery for 2018.

√ Motion passed to approve a total per capita rate of \$52.00 for 2018. (The Presbytery portion of the per capita rate is \$40.77).

√ Motion passed to approve the 2018 Administrative and Program Budgets as presented (see Attachment E).

17 - 073 - Pastoral Ministry Team – A written report was submitted (Attachment F). TE Dave Thompson, Moderator of PMT, presented items for Presbytery approval.

√ Motion passed to approve the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Jed Cauffman and the First Presbyterian Church in Lewistown, Montana, and to move the Rev. Jed Cauffman to at-large status within our presbytery.

√ Motion passed to approve the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Paul Cannon and the Community Presbyterian Church of Treasure Country in Hysham and to move the Rev. Paul Cannon to at-large status within our presbytery.

Dave gave some background information on TE Doug Melius who has recently moved to Livingston, Montana after retiring from the First Presbyterian Church in Sheridan, Wyoming. Doug is currently a member of Wyoming Presbytery and would like to transfer his membership to Yellowstone Presbytery. There was a brief time of asking questions and hearing from Doug.

√ Motion passed to receive Doug Melius as an Honorably Retired member of Yellowstone Presbytery. TE Cathy McLean offered prayer for Doug.

Dave next presented the proposed Minimum Salary Guidelines for 2018. It was pointed out that the Study Leave amount of \$600 should be adjusted to show cumulative up to three years.

√ Motion passed to approve the 2018 Minimum Salary Guidelines as presented (see Attachment F) with the addition of adding that Study Leave of \$600 is cumulative up to three years.

Dave referred to item E of his report which indicates action taken by the PMT regarding TE David Andrew (at large pastor). A letter from TE David Andrew will be considered at the next meeting of the PMT on November 9, 2017. The PMT will also consider at that time a request from TE Dick Davis to labor outside the bounds of Yellowstone Presbytery.

17 - 074 - Voting on Rep/Nom Ballot - TE Jody McDevitt spoke about the blank spots on the ballot and indicated that the Rep/Nom Team will continue to work on these. There have been no applications for RE delegate to General Assembly in 2018. TE Dave Thompson announced that RE Chris Eriksen (Billings First) has agreed to be nominated for Pastoral Ministry Team, class of 2020. There were no other nominations from the floor.

√ Motion passed to close the nominations and to accept the ballot (Attachment B) as amended (addition of RE Chris Eriksen, class of 2020 for PMT) and cast a unanimous vote.

17 - 075 - Other Reports - Members were encouraged to read other reports that were received but did not require any actions. These reports are: Camping and Youth (Attachment G), St Timothy's Chapel (Attachment H), Presbytery Women (Attachment I), Geyser Administrative Commission (Attachment J), and Synod Commissioner (Attachment K). It was pointed out that a correction needs to be made to the Camping and Youth report. The winter retreat is scheduled for Billings (and not Bozeman as reported).

17 - 076 - Next Meeting - The next stated meeting of the Presbytery will be March 2-3, 2018 at St Andrew Church in Billings, Montana.

17 - 077 - Adjournment - TE George Goodrich offered a closing prayer and Moderator Jack Bell adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Debbie Blackburn
Stated Clerk