

Leadership Cabinet
Tuesday, August 1, 2023

Yellowstone Presbytery Leadership Cabinet met via Zoom for a special meeting on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, beginning at 1:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to review, discuss and vote on granting the requests received for higher education grants from United Campus Ministry at MSU Billings, Rocky Mountain College and Living Christ's Mission at MSU Bozeman.

Cabinet members present:

RE Melissa Bell
RE Julie Boksich
RE Russ Kline, Moderator
CRE Karolee Larson
MWS Jamie Schmeling
CRE Margee Smith
MWS Dave Thompson

Members excused:

MWS Ashley Birk

Absent:

Mary Grace Reynolds

Others present:

MWS Kathy Goodrich, General Presbyter, RE Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk.

1. **Opening:** Moderator Russ Kline called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and Kathy Goodrich led the team in opening prayer. Russ reviewed the purpose of the meeting and reminded the team that LC had decided to grant up to \$4,000.00 to campus ministries this grant cycle. Applications received totaled \$4033.00.
2. **Quorum:** A quorum was declared present.
3. **Rocky Mountain College (Attachment A):** The team reviewed the application from Kim Woeste at Rocky Mountain College first. Support for the program was voiced and disappointment that there was not more in the application about how they encourage prayer and work to make disciples. The idea of giving more encouragement to this and our other campus ministry programs was discussed. A suggestion was made to create a list of possible mentors who have specific gifts in prayer, discipleship and other spiritual gifts who would be willing to speak at student gatherings. When we send the award letters to the programs, we will include a sentence or two about wanting a deeper partnership with our campus ministries and LC working on a resource list that we will send to them in late September.

***Action:** A motion was made and seconded to award \$1200.00 to the Rocky Mountain Campus Ministry Program for the 2023-24 school year. The motion passed.

4. **MSU Billings (Attachment B):** The team discussed what comes across as exclusivity within the MSU Billings program and posed the question, "Can you be exclusive in your inclusion?" Since there are many students at MSUB who do not "live on the margins," are they receiving the guidance in the faith they need? Members wondered if ministry to those on the margins is the only ministry Dwight is called to, and if so, isn't the program missing out

on serving a wider group of students. The same offer of resources will be made available to Dwight and the ministry as are being offered to the other campus ministry programs, resources we hope will help to expand the vision of the program. A letter will be sent explaining why we are not granting the entire amount requested stating the belief that a campus ministry requires a broader focus.

***Action:** A motion was made and seconded to grant the MSUB program \$500.00. The motion passed.

- 5. MSU Bozeman (Attachment C):** Living Christ’s Mission, formerly “Lutheran Campus Ministry” was noted to be the best and most Christ-Centered campus ministry in the presbytery of the three programs requesting grants. Team members didn’t have any questions about the application or the program.

***Action:** A motion was made to extend to LCM the \$1,500 they requested and add the remainder of the \$4,000 LC has set aside for the higher education grants because LC wants to be involved in the work they are doing.

***Action:** A friendly amendment was proposed to grant the \$1,500 they requested plus another \$500 to LCM to acknowledge the great work they do. The amendment was seconded, and it passed.

6. Follow-up with all programs:

- a. Caroline and Jamie will work together to compose a letter to the three programs informing them of their grant award, the reason for the award as necessary, and the deeper partnerships we would like with our campus ministry programs. Melissa is happy to review the letters before they are sent.
- b. Members discussed holding conversations with all the programs about how they are encouraging students to worship, about possibly having church leaders meet with students about faith, spiritual life and secular life balance, and relationship building. The “Adopt a College Kid” program was raised as a possibility. Discussion will continue at the September LC meeting about how we facilitate this happening.

- 7. Prayer Requests:** Prayers were requested for the Lewistown church at the loss of one of their long-term members, deacon and treasurer, for the Matthews family of Miles City and their daughter/granddaughter born 3 days ago with health problems including two holes in her heart, and for Goodriches who have experienced deaths of five family members and a close friend within the last year.

- 8. Closing:** Dave Thompson closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk