

Leadership Cabinet February 11, 2025

Yellowstone Presbytery Leadership Cabinet met via Zoom for its scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Cabinet members present:

RE Melissa Bell
MWS Ashley Birk
RE Julie Boksich
RE Charlie Brown
MWS Karolee Larson
MWS Jamie Schmeling
MWS Dave Thompson, Moderator

Members excused:

None

Others present:

General Presbyter Kathy Goodrich, Stated Clerk Caroline Fleming.

1. **Opening:** Moderator Dave Thompson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
2. **Dwelling in the Word:** Members read and pondered on Isaiah 43: 1-3. Ideas raised by the passage included the fact that the words “through” and “when” are popular words with God. It is comforting to know someone is with you in tough times, someone who has gone through what you are going through and has made it through. We are reminded that God is always there, we are God’s children. The word “you” is used 16 times in the passage. God thinks about us a lot! Dave ended the discussion and opened the meeting with prayer.
3. **Spirit Sightings and Prayer Concerns:** Ric was grateful that the potential tsunami in the Caribbean did not occur. The Rockhaven Camp celebration in Bozeman was lovely and one testimony received a standing ovation. Jamie is hopeful that a court case will be settled out of court, for a discount she got on windshield wipers, and is looking forward to an upcoming trip to Florida. Kathy shared the good time she had in Dillon at the congregational meeting in which the congregation dissolved Daniel Triller’s call and installed incoming officers. Charley celebrated having 7 children in worship in Lewistown.
4. **Quorum:** A quorum was declared present.
5. **Vision Statement:** The Presbytery vision statement was read.
6. **Approval of minutes:** Minutes of the January 14 meeting were reviewed.
 - **Action:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 14th meeting of Leadership Cabinet. The motion passed.
7. **General Presbyter Report: (Attachment A)** Discerning what we can do and cannot do, including what we are called to do, is ongoing. Kathy will send links to “Practicing the Way” videos for LC to view. They will be used at the upcoming presbytery meeting. Christine Long from the Board of Pensions plans to attend the May presbytery meeting and is available for individual consultations. LC members are asked to think about people might have the gifts to attend the Board of Pensions training in Denver in April and share information about the BOP

program with the presbytery. As the March presbytery meeting approaches, LC members are encouraged to invite people to attend.

8. **Leadership Retreat:** Julie has looked into possible places to meet for a retreat. Chico is not possible. A Bed & Breakfast in Bozeman might work or, depending on the date we might “retreat” to the camp. Dave suggested we meet at the Goodrich home for a couple hours on May 29, go out to dinner together then go to Bozeman Hot Springs.
9. **Presbytery Planning:** The team who are planning the March presbytery meeting were: Melissa Bell, Dave Thompson, Julie Boksich, Karolee Larsen, Sarah Tunall, Kathy Goodrich and Caroline Fleming. The theme is Rooted in God; Uprooted by Grace and the poster has been sent out. We will participate in dinner church at Karolee’s home, dwell in the word, spend time in small groups, talk about “Practicing the Way”, celebrate the ministry of Dick and Mary Davis in their retirement, say farewell to Danial Triller, hear the 2024 necrology report, and deal with the changes to the Book of Order proposed by the 2024 General Assembly. Please try to get people to this meeting, or as LC Moderator Dave Thompson said, “Get your butts to Butte!”
10. **Book of Order Amendments:** Members reviewed and discussed proposed amendments 24-H, 24-I, 24-J, and 24-M. Discussion concerning three of the four overtures led to the following recommendations:
 - **Action:** A motion was made and seconded to recommend Yellowstone Presbytery concur with 24-H: G-3.0106, General Administration of Mission. The motion passed unanimously.
 - **Action:** A motion was made and seconded to recommend Yellowstone Presbytery concur with 24-J: Composition and Responsibility. The motion passed unanimously.
 - **Action:** A motion was made and seconded to offer no recommendation to Yellowstone Presbytery concerning overture 24-I, Relationships with Synod and General Assembly about removing the need for at least one additional presbytery to concur with a proposed overture before it can be considered by the General Assembly. The motion passed unanimously.
 - **Action:** A motion was made and seconded to recommend Yellowstone Presbytery concur with 24-M: Episcopalian-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries. *The vote on the motion was postponed until people took time to read through the overture. The stated clerk was ordered to conduct an email vote next week concerning the recommendation to presbytery.*
11. **Proposed Anti-Racism Policy (Attachment B):** Members reviewed the proposed Anti-Racism policy and discussed that the Leadership Cabinet would be the team responsible for offering education and resources the presbytery about the topic.
 - **Action:** A motion was made and seconded to recommend the Anti-Racism Policy to Yellowstone Presbytery for adoption. The motion passed unanimously.
12. **Camping and Youth Ministry Team update:** Daniel’s departure had left the need for a new moderator for the team. Sarah will offer an update and promotion of camp at the presbytery

meeting. Youth triennium is being held July 28 – August 2. Dave hopes to take 15 or more youth to the event and include 2 or 3 extra days during which the youth will engage in a mission project in Louisville.

13. Boundary training: the video is available for any person or church to use. Caroline has sent the video link to all pastors and CREs who didn't participate in the 2024 training session. Two of those have watched it.

14. Clerk report: Calls have been made to all clerks whose churches have not yet submitted their statistics report to the denomination. Those reports are due by the end of the week. Because a number of churches are not pledging to the mission of the presbytery or denomination, the clerk asks that a discussion on how we might generate or re-generate church's excitement for mission at a future meeting.

15. Treasurer report: (Attachment C) Ric has sent registration fees for the CRE class to Synod. He proposed several dates for a document storage training session and will let people know when that is scheduled. Presbytery ended the year very well financially.

16. Input from Rep/Nom Team: There is a vacancy on the Pastoral Ministry Team, two vacancies on Leadership Cabinet, and a need for a moderator for Rep/Nom.

- **Action:** A motion was made and seconded to recommend Yellowstone Presbytery elect Sandy Welch as moderator of the Representation & Nomination Team. The motion passed unanimously.

Members are asked to email any Rep/Nom member if they have ideas for a person or people who might be interested in serving in any of the vacant positions.

17. Announcements, future meetings, and closing:

- PC(USA) is one of 27 of plaintiffs in a lawsuit in response to a rescission of the Department of Homeland Security's "sensitive locations" policy. The policy had restricted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from conducting immigration raids, arrests and other enforcement actions at houses of worship.
- Jamie Schmeling's installation at First Presbyterian Church in Miles City will be held April 5.
- Prayer requests include Freeman, Travis, Melissa, Jamie and Ashley.
- Presbytery meeting March 7 & 8 in Butte
- Future LC meetings: March 11, April 8, May 13
- The meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Fleming
Stated Clerk