

## Leadership Cabinet

May 13, 2025

Yellowstone Presbytery Leadership Cabinet met via Zoom for its scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

### **Cabinet members present:**

RE Melissa Bell  
RE Julie Boksich  
RE Julie Boksich  
MWS Karolee Larson  
MWS Jamie Schmeling  
MWS Dave Thompson, Moderator

### **Members excused:**

MWS Ashley Birk

### **Members Absent**

RE Charlie Brown

**Others present:** General Presbyter Kathy Goodrich, Treasurer Ric Tieman,  
Stated Clerk Caroline Fleming

1. **Opening:** Moderator Dave Thompson called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. with prayer. A quorum was declared present.
2. **Dwelling in the Word:** Several versions of Psalm 23 were read. All agreed that this is the Psalm many of us use when seeking comfort. It feeds us. It assures us that God gives us everything we need then proceeds to list those things. Many recite it in times of fear or need. It gives us beautiful pictures of how God cares for us. The image of the Shepherd is very powerful. When God prepares a table in the presence of our enemies, we should remember that the enemy is sometimes within ourselves, like our own self-doubt, a disease, our hatred of self or others. Regardless, we know that God has us, loves us, and is in control. Dave ended our discussion with prayer.
3. **Spirit Sightings & Surprises:** Karolee reported that 4 people under 40 want to become members of the Butte congregation. Two of them will also be Baptized. Caroline celebrated her 25-year marriage and turning the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday worship services in Forsyth over to Danny Pratt. Dave celebrated having over 300 in worship on Sundays, including lots of children. Manhattan is seeing 45 to 50 people in worship each Sunday. Julie's church in the Big Hole held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Easter Egg Hunt with 15 children taking part. In addition, the church has had 2 people step out from the pews willing to preach occasionally. Stanford church is talking about renewal and about missing people who have left. They plan to send letters to people inviting them to return and share time with brothers and sisters in faith. They might have a picnic when weather warms up.
4. **Vision Statement:** Karolee read the Yellowstone Presbytery vision statement.
5. **Approval of Minutes:**
  - Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 8 Leadership Cabinet meeting. The motion passed.

6. **Approval of Agenda:** Discussion of the Higher Education Fund and a Personnel Subcommittee report were added to the agenda. Members agreed with the additions and approved the agenda by consensus.
7. **General Presbyter's Report (Attachment A):** Kathy talked of bringing the holy Spirit in with prayer as we struggle to live the resurrection among all of today's struggles. She wants presbytery to focus more than we have on the global church. We must encourage one another and pray for our Pastoral Ministry Team and the heavy load they are carrying. Please read her complete report.
8. **Leadership Retreat (Attachment B):** An invitation will be sent to all presbytery team members within 2 days. The planning team consists of Julie Boksich, Melissa Bell, Jamie Schmeling, Dave Thomson and Kathy Goodrich. The retreat will focus on Sabbath practices.
9. **Presbytery Meeting Planning:** The flyer for the meeting is out. Guests who will join us are Christine Long of BOP, Sandra Moon from the Foundation, and Candice Sweet, Stated Clerk of the Synod. Members were asked what we want Christine Long to focus on in addition to what is new, the employee benefits package and scholarships for pastors. Members discussed the need to offer zoom for the meeting. We will offer it at this meeting, but if we hold a meeting in some of our smaller churches in the future, we won't be able to offer zoom. Thinking ahead, we hope to have Paul and Lydia Neshangwe at our October meeting.
10. **Camping & Youth (Attachment C):** Male staff is still needed at the camps. Scholarships are available for any youth attending camp. The team discussed whether to accept an offering for the Camp Scholarship Fund. Ric noted that the fund includes quite a bit of money. The team talked about accepting the offering for a camp endowment fund, but there are items that need to be set up before an endowment can be established. Members decided by consensus to accept the May 30 presbytery offering for a "Revamp the Camp" fund that can be used for things like building repairs. Ric will set up a line item in the financial report for it.  
  
Dave reported he has 15 tickets for the Youth Triennium event July 28 through August 2. Any high school youth who would like to attend is asked to pay \$300.00. The rest of their expenses are covered. Plans include attending Triennium, participating in a mission project, and doing a bit of sightseeing including a visit to the Louisville Slugger Bat Museum.
11. **Rep/Nom:** The team is meeting and working. They have asked David Bierschwale to serve as Synod Commissioner. He will need some training about both Synod and Yellowstone Presbytery. In October presbytery might discuss ways to seek and train people for leadership roles, including roles on presbytery teams and also discuss possibilities for service (e.g., how can we partner with Center Pole).

**12. Treasurer's Report:** Ric reported no flags on our financial reports. \$589.00 was received for the Linda Hofer Memorial Fund at Jamie Schmeling's installation in Miles City. Ric is working on our cloud file storage system.

**13. Stated Clerk Report:** Caroline reported that the corporate report had been filed with the Secretary of State office, and she will work to get the corporate name corrected. She has worked with others to plan the May presbytery meeting and to update the presbytery's Round of Prayer updated for the web page. She is thinking of ways to bring church leaders and perhaps church people in eastern Montana together this summer, but no plans are made yet.

**14. Old Business:** The Dillon Presbyterian Church was granted a \$2,500 matching technology grant. Jamie did agree to serve on the team that reviews these grant requests but reminded the team that her term on LC expires at the end of this year.

**15. New Business:**

a. There is \$6,246.87 left in the Higher Education Fund.

- **Action:** A motion was made and seconded to divide the remaining funds as follows: \$3,246.87 to LCM in Bozeman, 2,000 to Rocky Mountain Campus Program, and \$1,000 to the campus program at MSU Billings. The motion passed.

Caroline will compose a letter to send to the three campus programs informing them of the gift and that these are the last funds we have to distribute.

b. **Personnel Subcommittee:** Jamie reminded members that both she and Ashley will term out and leave the LC at the end of December. This means that they will no longer be able to serve on the Personnel Subcommittee. LC will have to deal with this at a future meeting.

**16. Concerns and Prayer Requests:**

Jamie reported that her beloved pet bunny Thumper has died, and the Schmeling home is very quiet right now.

Pray for all our churches and particularly the Ennis Church and Mary Grace

**17. Closing:** With no further business, Dave Thompson closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next Meeting: June 10 at 1:00 p.m.  
July meeting is cancelled**

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk

| Leadership Cabinet Action Items |                                                                                                                                                                                     |               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Responsible Person(s)           | Action Item                                                                                                                                                                         | Due Date      |
| Ongoing Action Items            |                                                                                                                                                                                     |               |
| Personnel committee             | Update Presbytery's Personnel Policy                                                                                                                                                | Ongoing       |
| Jamie, Dave, Caroline           | Create a monthly presbytery newsletter to communicate regularly with our churches and pastors.                                                                                      | No date set   |
| LC members                      | Seek people with a passion for earth care who would work with St. Andrew in bringing concerns/ideas to LC and presbytery                                                            | Ongoing       |
| Caroline                        | Create and send information on mission pledges and where the money goes to churches                                                                                                 | No timeline   |
| LC members                      | Think about possible equipping topics including how to recognize gifts in others and help them share those gifts, doing evangelism that builds on Ron Pyle's storytelling workshop. | Ongoing       |
| Ric                             | Work with Caroline Fleming, teaching them to post items on the website.                                                                                                             | ASAP          |
| Ric                             | Conduct training on saving documents to the cloud                                                                                                                                   | May 22        |
| Caroline                        | Contact Secretary of State office to change corporate name                                                                                                                          | ASAP          |
| All Members                     | Send Kathy stories of spirit sightings                                                                                                                                              | As they arise |
| New Action Items                |                                                                                                                                                                                     |               |
| Caroline                        | Get Round of Prayer updated                                                                                                                                                         | Before 5/30   |
| Caroline                        | Compose letter to campus ministry programs informing them of the 2025 gift from the higher education fund and that this is the last year we will have this fund to share            | ASAP          |

**General Presbytery Report to Leadership Cabinet May 13, 2025 Kathy Goodrich**

In this Resurrection season of Jesus' triumph over sin, evil and death, of life, hope, joy, and power

**I am praying and pondering the honest struggles and hopes of faith, the transformative power and presence of Jesus, the power of walking with, listening to, being WITH Jesus in community and around table together, the power in listening to and being touched by God -> our hearts were burning within us, disciples with hearts on fire can't help do and go wherever to share the story of their encounter and experience with Jesus with others.**

**The fellowship of the burning heart – 1. Wesley and the Methodist awakening in England and the US** (Steven Foster, Anglican rector in St. Aldates in Oxford where this awakening spread commented that what is being experienced in Oxford and other places in the UK has not been seen in this way since the days of Wesley)

2. A group of Presbyterian young people at a camp for college/young people, almost all Presbyterians in SoCal, Forest Home, had a POWERFUL experience of our Triune God, in Dr. Henrietta Mears cabin as they prayed and described themselves going forward as the Fellowship of the Burning Heart.

**Luke 24**

<sup>21</sup> **but we had hoped that he...**<sup>25</sup> **He [Jesus] said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.**

<sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> **But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.**

<sup>30</sup> **When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”**

<sup>33</sup> **They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem.** There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup> and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.”<sup>35</sup> Then the two told **what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.**

**Heb 10:19-25 – passage for May presbytery -**

Some of my work the last month has included

Praying for, sometimes with, our pastors, leaders and churches through Lent/Holy Week and Easter

May presbytery Planning Team - multiple meetings and work in between see flier

Interactions with Paul and Lydia Neshangwe in Zimbabwe regarding October meeting

Leadership Retreat Work - evaluate and integrate retreat plans already in works with insights from LC for May 29. Subgroup will meet this week. We have all had over full lives.

PMT -The lack of widespread passion for Jesus and his mission, commitment to the community of the church, and curiosity or desire to be FOR their communities  
See past 3 months of reports, with continuing or new challenges for several members. All churches searching have had a GREAT DEAL going on in need to time for training, consults, retraining and course correction, some significant internal pastoral needs, from PMT liaisons and at times, myself. PNC's these days require a great deal of extra explaining, pastoring, adapting work and journeying with at times. Only a few have much grasp of basic 3 way presbyterian ways or that they are a part of a wider body and the benefits and what the connection cooperation can be and why.

When one suffers, all suffer

Mary Grace Reynolds announced at the end of worship May 4 that her last Sunday is May 25 (out of the blue for just about everyone). We learned the news only hours ahead of previously planned subgroup meetings with both session and her. Jesus is at work. Prayers welcomed for all and for God's good purposes.

CLC has just released a video

Synod Staff Forum, we met April 21-23 in CO, is working on a draft of a CRE process for feedback and consideration for all presbyteries. Hope is to help those with no staff and option to be able to share CRE's across the synod.

Consults, dreaming, networking with leadership of Camping and Youth

RepNom - meeting together. It is essential to LISTEN well to discern needs, hungers, gifting find new and better ways in include and invite folks to serve with in Christ's mission , meet together as steps towards experiencing the broader body of Christ and understanding beyond their local church "silo"

Sharing more stories and opportunities and inviting people 1-1.

## May 29 Retreat - “*Unforced rhythms of grace*” with Jesus, in community

*Practicing Sabbath* – important rhythms for leaders and apprentices/disciples in our 24/7 culture,

Invitation and Opportunity for Retreat, Rest, Re-creation, Restoration

Genesis 2:1-3 <sup>2</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. <sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. <sup>3</sup> Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Exodus 20:8-10

<sup>8</sup> Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns.

Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30 The Message

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

As those seeking to lead and follow “Jesus the Way and practicing the Way” ---Sabbath is a Spiritual Practice/Discipline, important not only for individual leaders and all apprentices but for churches/groups to be salt and light in our frantic, frenetic, reactive culture ( churches !?)

Context: This group will be about ¾ elder and members and ¼ clergy who are VERY diverse and from a wide range of cultures and communities in Montana.

Before retreat, prepare and reflect on scriptures, and suggested resources

Watch a video clip on the Sabbath from *Practicing the Way* (link to be sent out soon)

Suggest “Founder’s Day Lecture – Dr. Carol Bechtel” (link on youtube.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mds11n5nL-0>

A few articles and books on Sabbath

**Draft Retreat Plan for May 29 Retreat 12 – 7 followed by fun & recreation**

(integrating what Retreat planning Group worked on last year)

*(Instead of only getting information about, and talking about Sabbath, we will practice some rhythms of the Sabbath )*

- Sharing lunch and dinner in community - sharing our life with each other around the table
  - Creative ways of getting to know others
- Worship---Music, Dwelling in the Word, Prayer
- Time for Solitude and Quiet Reflection Alone---  
Sabbath Rhythms – visions, contemplative prayer, prayer beads, novel, poetry / writing, prayer walking/running  
Sharing & prayer in 2's 3's
- Prayer
- Recreating---Hot Springs and other activities we can share together

## ATTACHMENT C

### Camping & Youth Update

We are in the process of planning an awesome summer!

*Currently we have:*

1 Camp Director - Sarah Tunall  
2 Program Directors - Hunter Skov & Nichole Bodalski  
1 Cook - Russ Klien  
2 Arts & Crafts/Support Staff - Jeff & Cynthia Kessler  
5 Counselor Candidates (4 interviews done... working on making reference calls)  
1 Camp Grandpa - George Goodrich  
A handful of amazing adult volunteers from Dillon

*Our needs:*

Adult volunteers for Explorer Week (entering 3rd - entering 6th)  
YOU to attend Limitless & invest in Generation Z/Gen Alpha & the church intergenerational  
Volunteers for Revamp the Camp - May 30 - June 1  
Music leadership for Explorer Week  
Churches to get camp information out to families

*Prayers:*

For our counselor-candidates  
Another male counselor pops up  
Sarah, Hunter, Nichole as we plan