

Leadership Cabinet

June 10, 2025

Yellowstone Presbytery Leadership Cabinet met via Zoom for its scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Cabinet members present:

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

Members absent:

RE Charlie Brown

Others present:

General Presbyter Kathy Goodrich, Treasurer Ric Tieman,
Stated Clerk Caroline Fleming

1. Opening:

Dwelling in the Word: Moderator Dave Thompson called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and opened with Dwelling in the Word based on John 14: 25-27. If Christmas means “God With Us”, then Pentecost means “God in Us.” Names for the Holy Spirit include Counselor, Advocate, Helper, Empowerer, Friend, Encourager, Restrainer, Guide. Members shared how the Spirit has been any or all of those in our lives. We are not left abandoned or bereft. Jesus’ parting gift to us is peace. “The space between offering the best one can and the receiver of the message is holy ground.” Discussion concluded with prayer.

2. Quorum: A quorum was declared present.

3. Approval of agenda:

***Action:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

4. Concerns for prayer: Ric will get mapping for cataract surgery, Caroline will have a shot in her hip and Jack is struggling with a rash, Ashley’s Dad, Bob, is having knee surgery today, Melissa will have surgery tomorrow, God has been doing good things in the Ennis church, the Dillon PNC is very positive, George and Kathy will be in Jordan June 22 to baptize, celebrate Holy Communion and meet with the Session, Julie has finished her 1st round of chemotherapy with minimal side effects.

5. Spirit Sightings: Rockhaven staff is receiving training, Lisa Evans and her family are back in the U.S.A., Westminster Spires camp is fully staffed, presbytery received \$499.00 in offerings for “Revamp the Camp.” Two people attended worship in Stanford due to a letter Earl Evans and Melissa sent, Stanford is planning a picnic, Jamie and her children got a new pet bunny, 63 children attended VBS in Lewistown, Miles City has a new member joining on Sunday and a new Office Administrator hired.

6. Vision Statement: Dave read the presbytery’s vision statement.

7. Minutes of May meeting: Melissa stated there were several spelling corrections she will send to Caroline.

***Action:** A motion was made and seconded to accept Melissa's spelling corrections and approve the minutes contingent upon those corrections being incorporated into the minutes.

8. General Presbyter's Report (Attachment A): Kathy talked about how Pentecost changed everything due to God in Us. Since wind and fire are two things we often can't do much about, how can we predict and plan when "the Spirit blows where it will?" As we consider who and what we are as a presbytery community, we must remain flexible as we work with the Spirit in our planning. Guests at our recent meeting found our presbytery refreshing and joy filled. Presbytery's PMT is very active with many churches in the search process. Funding a big concern for many of them. Seeking new ways to use buildings might help. As we consider the global church, Kathy said a new Synod in Ethiopia is seeking presbytery or synod prayer partners. Some who might help with more connection to the global church might be Kimmy Briggs, Dan Krebill, Jody McDevitt, and Lisa Evans. The Presbyterian Foundation will offer a workshop in cultivating generosity and stewardship in June.

9. Leadership Retreat: Special thanks to Jamie and Julie for their planning with Kathy, for Melissa for her cooking, and for the space to practice Sabbath. Some wanted a longer retreat but know it might be a hardship for some. Discussion about how to continue the Sabbath learning and practice included reading a book together. Suggestions were Practicing the Way and Embracing Rhythms of Work and Rest: From Sabbath to Sabbatical and Back Again. Team members were reminded that no one needs more work. A one-day retreat worked well.

10. Review May Presbytery Meeting: The technology worked smoothly. Our guests enjoyed the meeting and our presbytery's comradery, but there was not enough business to travel like we did. In the future, we could meet in cluster locations and link via Zoom for a one-day meeting in May or June, then meet in a location for the annual meeting in the spring and for the fall meeting. We might meet at some of the smaller churches and not have a zoom connection for that one meeting a year. The pattern could be one hybrid meeting, one in-person meeting, and one Zoom meeting from cluster locations.

11. October Presbytery Meeting: Scheduled for October 3-4 at Billings 1st Presbyterian Church. At this time, Paul and Lydia Neshangwe will join us from Zimbabwe. We need to find out if they can join us in person or virtually. Kathy, Julie, Melissa and Caroline will serve as the planning team for the meeting.

12. Personnel Sub-Committee: Ashley and Russ met with Kathy, and she informed them she plans to retire in April, 2026. They and LC need to explore and discern future staffing for the presbytery. Who might be good resource people for us to have exploratory conversations with?

13. Camping & Youth Report (Attachment B): A written report is attached. Dave noted that there are still 2 spots available for travel to Youth Triennium. Please contact him if you have a young person who wants to attend.

14. Representation & Nomination Team: Please pray for their work and share names of people you think would be willing and capable.

15. Treasurer: Ric had nothing to share concerning finances newer than the recent Presbytery meeting report. He recommended that a letter be written to the church hosting a presbytery meeting concerning staffing the registration table and receiving the meal fee. *LC members need to discuss and decide how meals at presbytery meetings will be covered at the next LC meeting.* Anyone who submitted vouchers at the May presbytery meeting is asked to resubmit them to deb Jackson at 1st Presbyterian Church, Bozeman.

16. Stated Clerk Report: Caroline was contacted about a possible grant submission for a Synod Zimmerscheid Grant. If a submission is received before the end of June, an e-vote will be conducted to approve it for submission to Synod. Caroline is working on who qualifies for MWS General Assembly commissioner and in what order they qualify.

17. Task Force: Those working to plan a training on "Uncovering Treasures & Sharing the Light are looking in to grant possibilities to fund the training.

18. Closing: With no further business to discuss, Moderator Dave closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Leadership Cabinet Meeting: August 12 at 1:00 p.m.

Next Yellowstone Presbytery Meeting: October 3-4, FPC, Billings

ATTACHMENT A

General Presbyter Report to Leadership Cabinet June 10, 2025

How might we live as Resurrection, Pentecost people every day?

I pray that we may all continue to pray, surrender (Gal 2:20, 21) and follow God's invitations that the wind and fire of the Holy Spirit may fill, overflow and move mightily in EACH of us and EACH one in Yellowstone presbytery and through our churches and ministries.

Fred Rogers "The space between what someone who is offering the best he/she can and between someone is need is holy ground."

Filled with the Spirit, which includes the fruit of the Spirit, may we be Christ's witnesses, embodying Christ's character and ways living like Jesus amidst the wide variety and messiness we read about in Acts with many languages, races, young and old, rich and poor, women as well as men (Joel 2)... following, joining the Spirit in God's mission as God's sent people.

As one pastor prayed, "May we be hungry, humble and holy"

This REQUIRES resting and living in Christ, and out of Sabbath rest and rhythms –
What are God's invitations to do more of this individually, as LC, PMT... and wider presbytery. Provide for and nurture Connections and community with God and with one another

Sabbath is designed to be practice by and in community as well as alone. ideas from the retreat include:

a. studying together the book Embracing Rhythms of Work and Rest ; encourage pastor groups, churches to do the same;

b. Practicing the Way – forming of a group, shared and integrated into some churches, this includes community and sabbath

c. another longer retreat;

d. incorporate some sabbath rest time into a presbytery meeting...

Hebrews 10:19-25 Encouraged in Faith: Spurred to Love in Action

I received quite a few positive comments on the passage, Word Share Prayer, and the equipping video and conversations – most said, can we do more of this and for longer. Make use of that video series with so many, including younger generations looking for authentic community and connection.

Community - Intentionally INCORPORATE sharing of Joys and Sorrows into our ministry teams and presbytery meetings. Encourage in our churches.

Power of hospitality and gathering around the table – what we experienced on the retreat.

How can we intentionally encourage one another in meetings, in life and ministry?

encourage to LOVE and GOOD DEEDS – LOVE IN ACTION There is a huge need for love and kindness in these times.

Show up – the compassion of Jesus

Speak up- with the good news and hope of Jesus. We are to hold fast to hope so that we may be light-bearers, hope-bearers to others. As Peter wrote, "in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this in gentleness and respect." 1 Pet. 3:15

Our hope is not merely vague or a feeling, but a person, Jesus Christ.

Stand up – the ways, flourishing/shalom and justice of Jesus, for the poor, least, lost, marginalized, ...

See *Centered and Soaring Taking the Adventure the Lord has for You*, - 2 conferences here in YP by Rev. Dr. Stan Ott in 2019 & 2020 under missional Mandate packet used found @ <https://yellowstonepcusa.org/wp-content/uploads/yp-fatcow/documents/2020.03.06ConferenceStanOttpacket.pdf>

LC – Since our last meeting work for the presbytery meeting, possible grant funding regarding New Worshipping Community and outreach, sharing good news evangelism has

PMT – In addition to praying, reviewing, editing/updating various policies for the presbytery, oversight, equipping and staying on top of happenings in our churches, ministries and pastors/CRE's, mentoring... I am seeking to equip and partner with PMT members (always with an eye out to identify and network for those with the gifts/passions/experience to

Transitions are significant wet cement opportunities with unique challenges. With high levels of vulnerabilities, both for the church and in the people, with feelings of grief, loss, fear (sometimes relief), it's essential for a presbytery, through it's the GP/EP and PMT, and

other leaders and pastor/CRE's to reach out, be present and provide a wide range of leadership, support, resourcing, pastoring, praying, walking with, reframing that all may also learn to expect and look for and embrace God's opportunities and invitations – spiritual, relational, systemic, missional...

Multiple PNC's and Pastor searches are underway. With their PMT liaison, I planned, listened consulted ahead, and met in person with the Dillon PNC for their initial training. They are a committed, prayerful, diverse in many ways and enjoyable group.

Ennis transition – I, along with Debbie Blackburn and Julie Boksich, (liaison) have met several times with the session and moderated their May 18 congregational meeting. Mary Grace ended serving the Ennis church May 31, has taken the LSAT's and is moving to the Butte area. In 2 conversations she asked for prayer for god's provision of housing including a pet, employment and God's leading on law school. I and PMT(had docket time) invited her to share with us about God's leading @ our May meeting and so we could pray with and for her. She did not attend. Brain Conklin, hired as half time lay pastor (interviewed by PMT) & Rev. Steve Hundley, session moderator, were at the presbytery.

Board of Pensions: See and share Christine's information

Make sure there is at least 1 person (an elder and treasurer) in your church who received BOP mailings, stays informed about new developments, offerings and seeks to coordinate with the pastor/CRE and session on these matters.

Funding Presbyteries - Many presbyteries are in financial need and exploring new funding models and options. There is a national TF on this. I have been trying to keep up with these developments.

Personnel – I am grateful for the chance to visit with them at my request part way through the year to listen, explore, think ahead.

Global Church – In light of the significant shifts in the strategy, personnel and partnerships at the national level many in our congregations are confused, frustrated, wondering, not knowing how to stay informed or partner. I have been contacted by 2 different groups seeking to build connections, partnerships.

We need to create a TF connect a few people in our churches who are interested in this.

We are part of our Christ's church, local, regional and global. How might we equip, embody and encourage ALL these dimensions, being Christ's "global" church?

We, through a letter I received just before presbytery, from Washington Presbytery, received an invitation to explore a partnership with one of the fastest growing regions of Presbyterians in the world, in Ethiopia, a new synod being formed. Seeking a presbytery partner. We are one of the few presbyteries without a global partner.

Paul and Lydia Neshangwe from Zimbabwe @ October presbytery?

Presbyterian Foundation: Vital partner for our presbytery and congregations with the wide range of all they provide. See Sandra's handout.

NOTE; Virtual Equipping workshop in cultivating generosity and stewardship, and learning to tell the story of your church and its mission/calling June 26 as emailed out
Presbytery feedback – "It was such a positive time and went very smoothly." A Joy...

Personal – After needing to work many extra hours in most of April and May I need to take some comp time in July and August along with some vacation. I will be available for Aug. LC

Camping & Youth Update – LC June 2025

We have an AWESOME summer planned at Westminster Spires!

A highlight:

- More rentals than ever before! Weddings, reunions, retirement parties... God is providing a space for people to encounter Him through His creation!

Staff Update: We have a FULL staff! Please be praying for:

- Program Directors: Hunter Skov (originally Billings First, now in Bozeman) & Nichole Bodalski (Billings First)
- Camp Director: Sarah Tunall (Manhattan Pres)
- Cook: Russ Kline (Billings First)
- Counselors:
 - o Pace Greenup (18 y/o entering Senior year in Spokane)
 - o Lane Smith (17 y/o Ministry Intern Billings First)
 - o Chris Pfeffer (18 y/o graduate Billings First, MSU next year)
 - o Zeal Elrod (18 y/o graduate Manhattan Pres)
 - o Evelyn Todd (17 y/o entering Senior in South Carolina)
 - o Lily Ascheman (17 y/o entering Senior year Billings First)
- ** Adventure (7th – 10th) only:
 - o Emma Lovaas (18 y/o entering Senior year Dillon)
 - o Taylor Lovaas (UM Western Senior, former Intern Dillon)
- ** Explorer (3rd – 6th) only:
 - o Tayah Kovanda (18 y/o graduate, UM Western next year)
- Amazing Support Staff!
 - o Kara & Sam Todd
 - o Cynthia & Jeff Kessler (St. Andrews, Billings)
 - o George Goodrich
 - o Laura Malesich (Dillon)
- And a ton of parent & community volunteers!

Current Camper Numbers:

Adventure (7th – 10th): 20 campers (13 female, 7 male)

Explorer (3rd – 6th): 18 campers (13 female, 5 male)

Limitless (16 & older): 1 registered camper, 7 counselor campers, hopefully MANY more INCLUDING YOU!

** Still LOTS of time to get youth & adults registered for this amazing summer! Spread the word, please!