

## Special Presbytery Meeting, Dec 8, 2020

**Note:** The Yellowstone Presbytery meeting conducted a special meeting via Zoom on December 8, 2020, because of an announced call to meet dated, Nov 28, 2020 made by the leadership Cabinet. The Stated Clerk had made a ruling that the Leadership Cabinet's call was acceptable and met the requirements of the Standing Rules for calling special meetings. This meeting was called with specific needed votes requested by the Leadership Cabinet. No additional expenses were authorized for this meeting.

**20-081. Opening Prayer offered by the moderator RE Russ Kline and a quorum was established by the email registration which recorded the attendance by responses from:**

### **Attending Ruling Elders:**

RE Jim Tarr (Stated Clerk), St Andrew  
RE Jeff Harada, FPC Wolf Point  
RE Russ Kline (Moderator)  
RE Julie Boksich (Vice Moderator)  
RE Sandy Cleary, Church of the Big Hole  
CRE Margee Smith (Leadership Cabinet) FPC Stanford  
RE Sandi Schoenberger, FPC Billings  
RE Debbie Blackburn, (Co Moderator PMT), Manhattan  
RE Terry Johnson, Dillon  
RE Ric Tieman (Treasurer), FPC Bozeman  
RE Waine Milmine, Hysham  
RE Marilyn Thomas, Deer Lodge  
RE Caroline Fleming, (Rep/Nom), Miles City  
RE Suzanne Bratsky, (PW) FPC Bozeman

### **Attending Ministers of the Word and Sacrament:**

MWS Kathy Goodrich, MWS George Goodrich, MWS Teresa Kendall, MWS David Bierschwale, MWS Jim Bell, MWS JP Carlson, MWS Chuck Carlson, MWS Rusty Craig, MWS Dave Thompson, MWS Jodi McDevitt, MWS Dan Krebill, MWS Steve Hundley, MWS Jamie Schmeling,  
**Balance checked:** RE's with vote 14, MWS members with vote 13.

Your attendance was registered by emailing the Stated Clerk your name, church, make it known if you were a Ruling elder, Teaching elder, visitor @ [statedclerk@yellowstonepcusa.org](mailto:statedclerk@yellowstonepcusa.org)

### **20-082. Dwelling in the Word - 1 Peter 3:8-9 Lead by Russ Kline Moderator.**

"Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing."

### **20-083. Leadership Cabinet Reported:**

- **1. The Leadership Cabinet nominated, and it was voted** to elect RE Terry Johnson (Dillon) and RE Sandy Welch (St Andrew, Billings) to the Representative/Nominating Ministry Team.
- **2. The Leadership Cabinet recommended, and it was voted to elect the following to serve on the Yellowstone Presbytery Stated Clerk Search Committee:**

CHAIR, MWS. Jody McDevitt (FPC Bozeman)

RE Carol Brown (Lewistown)

RE Andy Pehl (Terry)

MWS Chuck Carlson (Butte, Leadership Cabinet Liaison)

MWS Debbie Funke (Manhattan)

MWS Kathy Goodrich will serve as Staff Liaison.

Clerk note: On all the above votes the Moderator requested Nominations from the floor 3 times and there were none made.

- **3. A separate vote** was held which elected MWS Jodi McDevitt to be the moderator Of the search Committee.
- **4. The Leadership Cabinet requested and it was voted that Yellowstone Presbytery form an Administrative Commission to be charged with the maintenance and disposition of the property and building of the former Federated Church of Harlowton, and to work with the United Methodist Church Conference.**

Specific powers include:

The care of the building in the short term.

The disposal of the property and building, including possible sale.

The expenses of the building incurred by the UMC Conference be half-reimbursed to them for their expenses upon sale of the building.

This Administrative Commission be empowered to act on behalf of Yellowstone Presbytery.

- **5. The Leadership Cabinet recommended, and it was voted** that the Yellowstone Presbytery elect the following slate for the Administrative Commission for Harlowton Church/Property:

CHAIR RE - Lloyd Mandeville (Bozeman)

MWS HR- Jim Bell (At-large, Laurel)

RE - Jim Tarr (Stated Clerk, St Andrew)

**The presbytery was advised of the following:**

Consulting with the AC will be Mark Parker, lawyer (FPC, Billings) and George Goodrich as Staff Liaison.

There is also a Real Estate Agent in Harlowton who is available to this AC.

RE Esther Kalitowski (Harlowton) has agreed to set up care for building/property.

Harlowton Church Update (provided by George Goodrich)

The Federated Church of Harlowton was dissolved with a beautiful worship service in the fall. The Corporation of the Church drafted a quit claim deed to pass ownership, 50-50, to the Big Sky Conference of the Methodist Church and to Yellowstone Presbytery. The questions are was the quit claim deed the proper avenue for passing ownership and who really owns the building?

George has engaged real estate Attorney Mark Parker, member of the First Presbyterian Church of Billings to work with the Methodist-hired attorney to determine ownership and in what percentages.

The building is currently occupied by the Harlowton Food Bank, operating one day a week.

The Insurance on the building lapses on or about December 20, 2020.

- **6. The Leadership Cabinet requested, and it was voted** that the Leadership Cabinet be empowered to allocate the proceeds from the sale of the church property and building of the Federated Church of Harlowton as it deems appropriate.

**20-085. Closing discussions:**

November 5,6, 2020 Yellowstone Presbytery Meeting minutes and minutes of this December Special Meeting will be posted to the website this week and an email vote to approve the minutes will be solicited within the week.

**20-086.** RE Caroline Fleming was recognized and thanked for her service to the Rep/Nom committee for the last 7 years as well as serving as Moderator for and extra year.

**20-087.** RE Russ Kline was thanked for his serving as Moderator of Yellowstone Presbytery this year

**20-088.**

- Afterward a vote to adjourned with prayer of gratitude was made for those who are serving during this difficult year by MWS Kathy Goodrich and followed by a Prayer of Benediction by MWS George Goodrich at 1:45 PM

**20-089.** The next stated meeting of Yellowstone Presbytery will be held March 5,6, 2021 (likely via Zoom)

Respectfully submitted for approval Dec 8, 2020

Jim Tarr

Stated Clerk