

PRESBYTERY OF YELLOWSTONE

LEADERSHIP CABINET MEETING, First Presbyterian Church, Billings, Montana

September 26, 2013

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

The CoM has met together on a Conference Call meeting on July 26, 2013, and for two meetings, one on August 2, 2013; the other on September 18, 2013. Reported below are actions/recommendations made by the members, including TE Davis Andrew, RE Debbie Blackburn, RE John Clark, RE Gayle Holland, TE Jim Kidd, RE Russ Kline, TE Neva Rathbun, RE Linda Smith, TE David Thompson.

Most recent action:

Minimum Salaries for 2014, recommended by the task group, reflects a 1% increase in salary as well as the 2% increase mandated by the BOP for Major Medical Dues.

P CoM voted to recommend Minimum Salaries for 2014 to presbytery at its November meeting. (See attached.)

The PNC of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Billings, MT., has been interviewing candidates to serve as their Teaching Elder, TE. Liaison TE Neva Rathbun and RE Russ Kline sat in on the second interviews of candidates and answered questions when asked. Subsequently, the PNC determined their top candidate and CoM interviewed via SKYPE this candidate on Wednesday, September 18, 2013. Some concerns needed clarified by the St. Andrew PNC. Once that was accomplished there was a request for a Special Called Presbytery Meeting scheduled for Friday, October 4, 2013. (Please check the yellowstonepcusa website for further information.)

P CoM interviewed candidate on September 18th and approved candidate as a “fit” for St. Andrew pending the way be clear.

The Rev. Aline G. Russell, interim TE at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, has returned to her home following her extended contract with St. Andrew. She is recuperating from total shoulder replacement. Get well wishes and appreciation for her ministry with St. Andrew and participation in Presbytery may reach her at in 824 McKinley Blvd., Alton, IL 62002 or email alinerussell@gmail.com. We pray for healing and for her continued ministry. From Rev. Russell’s report for the August 2, 2013 meeting, CoM was informed that her last day would be September 15th. However a prior request came from the St. Andrew session for approval of a three (3) month extension of Rev. Aline Russell’s Interim contract. On June 26th CoM

P approved extension of Rev. Russell’s Interim contract pending the clarification of her salary during her time of medical leave.

The St. Andrew Ministry Information Form, MIF, has been submitted for approval. CoM

P approved the MIF

P CoM voted to appoint TE Dave Thompson as Moderator of the St. Andrew session following Rev. Russell’s departure and until a full-time TE is called.

RE Russ Kline and TE N. Rathbun met with Rev. Russell on Monday, August 26th for Rev. Russell’s exit interview.

Following a SKYPE interview with Candidate TE Teresa Kendall for the First Presbyterian Church, Deer Lodge. Although the terms of call are low making it necessary for Rev. Kendall to work part time at another job to supplement her income, CoM feels she is a “fit” for the congregation.

P CoM voted to approve a call to Rev. Kendall from the Deer Lodge church and recommend membership into the Presbytery of Yellowstone, if the way be clear and

P voted to request a Special Meeting of Presbytery to examine Rev. Kendall for membership on Wednesday, September 18th pending the way be clear. (On Sunday, September 22nd, Ron Hanson, Stated Clerk, CoM appointed Moderator, conducted the congregational meeting of First Presbyterian Church. Both parties have agreed to the terms of the call. TE Kendall is to arrive in Deer Lodge in late October to begin on November 1, 2013.)

Since TE Dick Davis has moved out of Yellowstone Presbytery (due to his work load in Yaak) and unable to finish the work of the Dismissal Agreement with West Yellowstone, TE George Goodrich Co-Gen. Presbyter reviewed the negotiated changes to the Dismissal Agreement with West Yellowstone.*

P CoM MSC to approve the Agreement with the changes noted.

A mission study was received from the Church of the Big Hole with CoM suggesting some changes for clarity. It is the Church of the Big Hole's desire to link to First Presbyterian Church, Anaconda and seek a pastor to serve both churches. Their CoM liaison RE Linda Smith, along with TE George Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter and TE Neva Rathbun, has been working with their PNC as they prepare their MIF.

P CoM voted to approve the church's Mission study once the suggested changes were made.

With the vacancy left by TE Mary Davis, and prior approval (July 26, 2013 by CoM) of the Anaconda First Presbyterian Church's mission statement/study, a congregational meeting was set for August 4, 2013 for the purpose of electing a Pastor Nomination Committee.

P RE John Clark was assigned to serve as Moderator for that congregational meeting.

A request has come to the CoM from the Roy Presbyterian Church session with concerns for their future ministry.

P CoM MSC to form a team, TE David Thompson, RE Editha McKay and TE George Goodrich, Co-Gen. Presbyter to explore options for their future.

With the Teaching Elder vacancy at the Terry Community Presbyterian Church, Com

P appointed Rev. Kristin Willett to serve as session Moderator until a pastor is called.

TE Leon Rathbun met with RE Gayle Holland, liaison, and TE Kristin Willett for his Exit interview on June 25, 2013, at First Presbyterian Church, Miles City. On August 6, 2013, Liaison RE Gayle Holland and TE Kristin Willett conducted the exit interview with the session of Terry Community Presbyterian Church. An up-date for Terry Community and Hope Lutheran Church, Fallon, MT, an interim pastor has been contracted by the Shared Ministry Committee. Bishop Jessica Crist of the ELCA Montana Synod has informed us that Rev. Melanie Dent, current pastor of the Lutheran church in Anaconda, will begin her ministry journey with both congregations on November 1, 2013. In the meantime, short Interim contracts have been made with Rev. Betty Mawby, retired Lutheran pastor from Glendive, to serve until Rev. Dent arrives.

One of the joys that CoM has experienced, and there have been many, is not only having worked with Rev. Cathy McLean as a CRE serving the Forsyth Federated congregation but having the pleasure of walking with her as she completed her requirements for ordination and installation as a TE for the Forsyth congregation. At the June Com meeting some concerns with use of terms (Contract vs. Call) were discussed.

P Com approved the rewording of this document with the changes that Gayle had recorded.

Discussion pursued in regard to the compensation package that had been agreed to by the session and Cathy. The package does meet the Minimums for Presbytery of Yellowstone.

P CoM voted to approve the package and record the amounts on the Annual Ministers Report Form – Part 2. In addition, TE N. Rathbun presented a list of candidates for the Administrative Commission to ordain and install Cathy McLean as a Teaching Elder for the Forsyth congregation.

PCoM approved the list of commissioners and the Ordination/Installation service was celebrated on Sunday, July 28, 2013.

*The Dismissal Agreement has been agreed to by both the West Yellowstone Protestant Congregation and the Presbytery of Yellowstone. The appropriate signatures are in place.

Respectfully submitted,
By NJR 09.26.13