

Leadership Cabinet
Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Yellowstone Presbytery Leadership Cabinet met for its scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, beginning at 1:00 p.m. This was a Zoom meeting.

Cabinet members present:

RE Melissa Bell
RE Julie Boksich
RE Russ Kline, Moderator
MWS Mary Grace Reynolds
CRE Margee Smith
MWS Dave Thompson

Members excused:

MWS Jamie Schmeling

Others present:

MWS George Goodrich, Co-Exec. Presbyter, MWS Kathy Goodrich, Co-Exec. Presbyter
RE Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk,

1. **Opening:** Presbytery Moderator Russ Kline called the meeting to order, and Dave Thompson led the team in prayer.
2. **Quorum:** A quorum was declared present. Mary Grace Reynolds was welcomed as a new member of LC and as presbytery's Vice Moderator.
3. **Dwelling in the Word:** Russ read Ecclesiastes 3: 1-9 which reminded team members that life is wonderful at times and not so wonderful at other times. When we live in the present, we experience it all, both good and bad. We cannot always plan for what comes next in life, nor can we assign meaning to everything that happens. This passage shows us that there is a balance to life, and we should celebrate the good times every bit as much as we struggle through the difficult times. The one constant is God who will be what we need during all the times of our lives. Kathy closed our time of Dwelling in the Word with prayer.
4. **Minutes of the previous meeting:**

***Action:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2022 meeting as written. The motion was seconded, and it passed.
5. **Co-General Presbyter's Report:** (Attachment A)

Kathy and George thanked people for their prayers during recent difficult times.
Kathy now has a new computer and new phone which we hope work better than the old.
As they (and we) focus on the future, we are challenged to ask, "What does making disciples look like in today's society?"
Churches in eastern Montana need provision for pastoral care, and perhaps regional pastoring would help fill this need.
Resources were shared that are found in the attached written report.
6. **Visioning:**

It was noted that if we want to spread the Gospel, we must become more interesting, more well-rounded, and must be where they are. We cannot expect them to come to us. Distrust in institutions is widespread. We can help counteract that distrust by sharing ourselves, telling

our stories about what we believe to those outside our church walls. We must empower others to do the same. It is hard because many don't think they are "qualified," but we are all messy and unsure of ourselves. Yet we love Christ despite our messiness, and Christ loves us.

Our goal should be to be the body of Christ, not an institution.

Members are asked to reflect on the questions raised in the Co-GP report and send Russ any additional questions you might like to address at our next meeting, which is re-scheduled to February 16.

- 7. Transition Team:** Daniel Triller, Sandy Welch, Teresa Kendall, Chuck Wright, and Russ Kline (ex-officio) are serving as the transition team as we envision the leadership change coming with George's retirement and Kathy assuming the role of solo General Presbyter. The Transition Team will be invited to the next LC meeting (February 16).
- 8. Finances:** There was no finance report.
- 9. Personnel:**
 - a. Deb Jackson, secretary at 1st Presbyterian Church of Bozeman, has been hired as our part-time office assistant. She believes she can complete the assigned duties in an hour each week.
 - b. We need a fourth person to serve on the personnel sub-committee. Members are asked to think of qualified people.
- 10. Insurance:** Our Gladwell Insurance agent is looking for insurance for Westminster Spires.
- 11. Stated Clerk Report:**
 - a. The Clerk reported six people eligible to be called to PJC duty if a conflict of interest arises for one of the people currently serving on PJC: Dan Krebill, Lloyd Mandeville, Sharla Helland, Gary Slagel, Jody McDevitt and Lanny Rounds.
 - b. Ten G. A. overtures have been referred to the Pastoral Ministry Team for review and recommendation leaving 18 more to be reviewed and the proposed Rules of Discipline. Caroline will send the link to the overture booklet to LC members. The sub-group assigned to look at overtures and create a plan for review and recommendation (Kathy, Caroline, Margee and Julie) has not met yet.
 - c. The Clerk is working with Clerks of Session on annual reports.
 - d. Attorney Mark Parker forward a request for more information to Caroline concerning signing authority for the McAllister property. The information is sent.
- 12. Announcements and Closing:**
 - a. A ski retreat for youth is planned for March 24-26.
 - b. Karolee Larson's commissioning will be Saturday, January 14, at Butte. All are invited to attend.
 - c. George closed the meeting with prayer at 3:45 p.m.

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
Russ, Dave, Caroline, Jamie, Kathy	Continue work with the team discussing how to encourage experimental ministry, training small group leaders, and helps for facilitating small groups in congregations and communities.	Ongoing
LC members	Consider a person well-qualified to serve on the board of Rocky Mountain College	Ongoing
Ric	Write up the technical needs to host a hybrid presbytery meeting for churches	ASAP
Jamie, Dave, Caroline	Create a monthly presbytery newsletter to communicate regularly with our	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
Russ	Serve as one on an LC sub-group addressing evangelism, bringing ideas for effective evangelism to LC and the presbytery	ongoing
Caroline, Kathy, Margee and Julie	Review and divide G.A. overtures between teams, groups and sub-committees	ASAP
New Action Items		
All LC members	Reflect on the questions raised in the Co-GP report and send Russ any additional questions you might like to address at our next meeting	By 2-16-23
All LC members	Consider qualified person who might serve on the personnel sub-committee	By 2-16-23
Kathy, Caroline, Mary Grace, Melissa?	Begin planning March presbytery meeting	ASAP
Caroline	Send link to G.A. overture booklet to LC members	ASAP

Co-GP Report to Leadership Cabinet January 10, 2023 Kathy & George Goodrich

Jesus' Three *GREATS* = Keeping the MAIN thing the main thing

Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. ' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. Mt. 22

When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go [as you are going] therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the S on and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Mt 28:17-20

Have you also been asked, or asked yourself and the Holy Spirit, "What is the most important thing we should be doing or focusing on, have as our emphasis?" "What is the 'latest' thing or program of emphasis our church should have?" We sure have too, in the pastorate and as Exec's.

Jesus' Three *GREATS* = Keeping the MAIN thing the main thing! As we seek to cultivate
LOVE Jesus
LOVE and grow as God's people/disciples
LOVE and make disciples in the world God made and loves

In light the 3 foundational commands, priorities, of Jesus for his followers and tin light of the times, trends and contexts in which we find ourselves (reference to Trends for 2023 article),

1. **What can we likely anticipate as** realities, trends and contexts, needs? How can we listen well to those within and without our churches.
2. What is the Holy Spirit saying as we **reflect** alone and in community?

What should be our priorities – in BEING the people of God as well as DOING the work of the people of God?

3. What **innovations** may the Spirit be inviting us to?

A few resources:

<https://careynieuwhof.com/future-church-trends/> For 2023 – previously sent

9 Min podcast - Leadership for the Long Haul-

(and in times of complex, adaptive challenges & change), Tod Bolsinger and Markus Watson, PCUSA pastors. discuss this quote from [Leadership Without Easy Answers](#), by Ronald Heifetz:

"In a crisis we tend to look for the wrong kind of leadership...in short, someone who can make hard problems simple. But problems like (we have been facing) are not simple.... Making progress on these problems demands not just someone who provides answers from on high but changes in our

attitudes, behavior, and values. To meet challenges such as these, we need a different idea of leadership...."

<https://www.markuswatson.com/2023/01/10/leadership-for-the-long-haul-a-quick-conversation-with-tod-bolsinger-146/>

Six-stage process moving people from isolation to community (with God & others). Luke Edwards

Listening - Loving People - Building Community - Exploring Discipleship - Church Taking Shape - Doing It Again

Underpinned by prayer & continuing connection to the wider church, usually a congregation

Summary article: @ <https://freshexpressions.com/2022/10/10/fresh-expressions-journey-six-steps-that-can-move-people-from-isolation-to-christian-community>

While this is primarily focused on new fresh expression of church started by a few, connected to a congregation(s) it also applies to the existing churches and the presbytery.

1. PMT – Significant time needed here with totally new PMT leadership, ongoing searches, church transitions and equipping and supporting and consulting with congregations with no pastors

2. Transition Team – Kathy & Chuck Carlson met by phone covering:

A. the make-up of the Team – Personnel asked and received an affirmative from: Daniel Triller, TE, Dillon; Teresa Kendall, TE, Deer Lodge; Chuck Wright, Commissioned RE, Manhattan/Butte; and Sandy Welch, RE St. Andrew. To ensure the input, wisdom and continuity with the important work of the LC & Personnel subgroup LC Moderator, Russ Kline, will be ex officio and he has agreed to this.

B. the scope and depth of its work – transition = not only for Yellowstone in this GP leadership transition, but the transition in the culture and church during/post covid and the post -Christian culture, and churches here and elsewhere.

This process and prioritization will include broad listening and input from the presbytery

3. Personnel – We both met with Personnel for our annual reviews, noting many things the Spirit has been doing, and growing edges for us as leaders.

4. Our Synod has half new leaders and the input, perspective and history from us as the longest serving execs here or anywhere has taken on a much larger role. We met on zoom last week. Kathy had several ongoing interactions.

Prayers for our ongoing healing in body, mind soul, spirit and family are very welcomed.