

Our Vision

Yellowstone Presbytery – guided and sustained by Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and prayer--is a community rooted in the love of Jesus Christ.

We will . . .

Gather Together

for God's glory and spiritual synergy*.

Equip and Encourage

disciple-making congregations and leaders for living the Gospel . . . intentionally becoming more like Christ; ably sharing our faith; impacting our communities; worshipping in loving response to God; and mutually supporting and training leaders.

Go Out to join Christ in Christ's mission in our communities, Montana, and the world . . . embodying and sharing Christ's Good News; loving and serving, as we are commanded, in our words, actions, and relationships.

*** Synergy: from the Greek *syn-ergos, συνεργός* meaning "working together"**

Presbytery of Yellowstone Leadership Cabinet

Oct 14, 2014

Bozeman 1st, Bozeman, MT

Gathering Together

9:30 Fellowship

10:00 Opening prayer & lighting of Christ candle
Roll call, quorum, approval of docket
Approval of minutes of Sept 9, 2014 ✓
Dwelling in the Word – (Ron)

Equipping and Encouraging

10:30 **Spiritual and Vision Implementation**

1. The Fifth Strand – Mission & Mission Interpretation
2. Leadership Cabinet 2014 Goals – Action items

Organizational Responsibilities

11:30 Carry over from Sept 9 meeting

1. Amendments assignments
 2. Sexual misconduct/insurance coverage questions
- Other – letter from Dan Krebill

12:00 **LUNCH-**

12:15 Carry over – Higher Ed ministry grants ✓

Preparations for Nov 7 presbytery meeting

1. Budget ✓
2. Nomination to Representation-Nominating committee ✓
3. Process for Stated Clerk search ✓
4. Synod Bylaws change ✓
5. Review CRE Handbook
6. Discussion of docket for presbytery
7. Offering and Mission interpretation

1:15

Dates for 2015 Leadership Cabinet meetings

Planning for 2015 Presbytery meetings

1:45 Co-General Presbyters' report
Stated Clerk's report

Going Out

2:00 Closing prayer (including prayer for 1st Church Deer Lodge and Teresa Kendall) and adjournment

Action items

**Presbytery of Yellowstone
Leadership Cabinet Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2014
1st Church, Bozeman, Montana**

Moderator Jody called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Present were:

Jody McDevitt
Debbie Blackburn
Dan Holland
Susan Thomas

Absent:

Jed Cauffman
Don Holland
Lanny Rounds

Also Present:

George Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter
Kathy Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter
Ron Hanson, Stated Clerk

1. **Opening Prayer** – The opening prayer was offered by Jody.
2. **Christ Candle** – Jody read the Litany of the Christ Candle and lit the Christ Candle.
3. **Quorum** – The Clerk declared that a Quorum was present.
4. **Docket** – The docket was approved.
5. **Minutes of May 6, 2014 and May 27, 2014**
 - ✓ The LC voted to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2014 and May 27, 2014 meetings.
6. **Dwelling in the Word** – Debbie led the time spent dwelling in Philippians 4:4-8. There was a time of sharing what this Scripture was saying to individuals and to us as Leadership Cabinet. Debbie closed this section in prayer.
7. **Review Team** – Debbie reported that the Review Team has not had any feedback regarding the new structure. The Leadership Cabinet spent some time discussing the new structure. Communications continues to be a high priority. Also it was noted that the area of Mission seems to be lacking attention. It was decided that copies of the financial reports should be sent monthly to the members of the Leadership Cabinet and also to the moderators of Ministry Teams.
 - ✓ The LC voted to request that the Nominating Team increase the size of the LC from the current membership of seven to the allowed membership of nine. (Debbie will contact Gayle Holland).
8. **Leadership Cabinet goals for 2014** – Jody handed out a chart showing the four main goals of 2014 for the LC. Time was spent reviewing what is going well and determining action items. George asked for some clarification of his priorities. Some more work needs to be done in developing backup plans for crises that may occur in the weeks when George and Kathy are not working (for the Presbytery).
9. **Higher Ed Grant Process** – It was decided that we will meet with all three higher education ministers during lunch. Jody will ask a series of questions that will be answered alternately.
10. **Lunch** – The LC was joined by Kim Woeste, Dan Krebill, and Ron Kirby. Various questions were asked of the higher education ministers. We also received feedback from them regarding the new grant process.
11. **Higher Ed Grant Process (Part II)** – There was lengthy discussion but no resolution on the grants.
 - ✓ The LC voted to continue to pay each of the higher education ministries through the end of the year the amounts budgeted for 2014 for higher education. The discussion of the grants will continue at the October meeting. Work needs to be done on this before the meeting.
12. **Extending the Docket**
 - ✓ The LC voted to extend the docket to 2:30 pm.
13. **Budget and Finance** – Dan is working on the 2015 budget. He reported that the 2014 budget looks OK.
14. **Personnel** – Susan had nothing to report.
15. **Co-general Presbyters Report** – George reviewed their written report. He highlighted the change in the Synod structure that was approved by the synod Assembly. Funding to the presbyteries will be about the same as last year. He noted that they appreciate the prayers of the presbytery as they transition to half time.

16. **Peace Making** – Jody called attention to a written report from Susan Barnes regarding the availability and preliminary itinerary of Rev. Lala Haja Rasendrasahina. Susan has contacted all churches and will do so again regarding his availability during the first week of October.
17. **Convocation/presbytery Meeting** – The group was reminded of the meeting(s) which are scheduled for November 6-8.
18. **Sexual Misconduct Insurance Coverage** – Ron passed out a write-up on the LC's decision to increase the presbyteries insurance coverage for sexual misconduct. This will be discussed at the October meeting.
19. **Mildred Church** – Ron passed out a short write-up regarding the Mildred Church property.
 - ✓ The LC voted to have Ron work with our attorney to sell the property.
20. **Adjournment** – The meeting was closed with prayer.

Ministry and Mission Priorities -- The Fifth Strand

(for initial implementation of the Vision. It is intended to be a piece of the Manual of Administrative Operations)

- Pray
- Continue to employ the Vision Statement at all levels of the presbytery, particularly evaluation its Practices, Relationships and Processes to support the Statement, Especially the Practice of Dwelling in the Word.
- Continue to develop Relationships in clusters between pastors and congregations for mutual ministry and collegial ministry. Miles City, Billings, Butte, Bozeman
- Continue to develop a culture of discipleship/leadership development/spiritual formation in the presbytery and the congregations. Help us to understand the depth of Christian life; (e.g.) 7 levels
- Continue to develop the emerging camping and youth ministries.
- Continue to develop the UKirk network and collegiate ministries in congregations, collaborating with Glacier Presbytery
- Continue to develop an attractive presbytery culture/life to attract strong pastoral candidates and to help churches in the search process.
- Continue to encourage fanning the flames of new ministries that are emerging in individuals around the presbytery (i.e. Marriage and Family, Day Care/Pre School and Prayer Ministries).
- Explore “New Worshipping Communities”
- Explore outreach to Native American-Presbytery relations)
- To provide for a Mission Interpretation presentation at each presbytery meeting.
- To maintain ecumenical relationships.

Leadership Cabinet 2014 Goal	Action items for near term	Persons assigned
Improve communication within and beyond the presbytery	1. Make a plan for the use of Currents, including timing and who should receive 2. Revise the "What Happened at Presbytery?" form 3. Send financial statements monthly to LC and others	George Ron Sheryl – instructions to come from ?????
Focus on spiritual nurture of pastors and leaders	1. Western cluster meeting in Dillon 2. Hysam/Miles City cluster 3. Continue Dwelling in the Word at gatherings	Kathy, David George All leaders
Plan meaningful presbytery meetings	1. Plan series of meetings in 2015 2. Develop followup process 3. Include Commissioner Report form	Leadership Cabinet Kathy Ron, George
Make and carry out staff transition decisions	1. Clarification of priorities 2. Annual Tickler file for Co-GP role Tickler file for PMT Tickler file for LC 3. Backup plan for PMT	George, Kathy, Jody, Susan T. George initiate, Ron 2 nd look Ron initiate, George 2 nd look George initiate, Jody 2 nd look Dave/PMT

To: Presbytery of Yellowstone Leadership Cabinet
From: Dan Krebill
Date: October 8, 2014
Re: Opening business at presbytery Meetings

I wish to recommend 2 changes to the Leadership Cabinet regarding the practice of opening business at presbytery meetings.

1. I believe that more has been lost than gained in the elimination of roll call at the beginning of each presbytery meeting. While I can understand the stated clerk's desire to establish the official meeting attendance by way of the written attendance forms submitted by presbyters, the elimination of the roll call diminishes the sense of community and rapport within the body. The time that it takes to complete the roll call is a good use of our time as it provides a sense of who is in attendance and gives first time attendees and visitors a much better understanding of the make up of the body. I have heard more than one new teaching elder and ruling elder comment that they just don't know who is in the room. This coupled with our sloppy (aka informal) practice of failing to introduce ourselves before addressing the presbytery only serves to further depersonalize the experience of the meeting. Our presbytery is of such a small size that the roll call can easily be added to each meeting without adding a big chunk of time.
2. The practice of granting the stated clerk the authority to grant excused absences based on the requests submitted also diminishes the sense of community, particularly for teaching elder members for whom the presbytery is the council of membership. I believe we have not only the right, but also the responsibility, to know who of our fellow members is not in attendance and why. It's not so much that I believe we will want to decide whether or not a particular request should be granted, but rather that we better understand why someone is absent. This is particularly true for those among us who are chronically absent (both teaching elders and ruling elder commissioners). Knowing the reasons for absence requests allows us to better support and uphold one another in the body.

As for the stated clerk's procedures, the official attendance can and should still be based on written registration forms submitted. And when roll call is reinstated, the request and reasoning for an excused absence can be shared when that person's name or church session comes up in the roll call.

I urge the cabinet to reinstate these practices beginning with the next meeting of the presbytery. I believe both of them together will strengthen our presbytery and deepen our connection to one another.

Thank you.

Summary of Proposed Actions Regarding Higher Education Grants

1. We should discontinue the payment of \$833.33 per month to MSU-Billings as of 9/30/14.
2. We should reclassify the monies advanced to MSU Bozeman in the amount of \$2,000.00 from account 3.90.2910 to account 5.01.2553.4.
3. We should enact the procedures necessary to transfer \$16,700 from the Higher Education Grant Fund (hereinafter HEGF) account held at the Foundation and deposit that money into the general checking account (it should be coded to account 4.01.4080.) We should further instruct the Foundation to reinvest any future dividends earned by that account back into the same account (in lieu of sending periodic dividend checks to us.)
4. MSU-Billings: we should send them a check in the amount of \$2,900.00 by the end of October. We should send them another check in the amount of \$6,000 in January, 2015. We should further instruct them to submit a grant proposal prior to our January meeting for \$2,000.00 to fund their spring mission trip. (Since they have already submitted this proposal, we could just verify with them that it is still their intent at that time.)
5. Rocky Mountain College: we should send them a check for \$1,300.00 by the end of October. We should send them another check in the amount of \$2,000.00 in January, 2015.
6. MSU-Bozeman: we should send them a check for \$3,000.00 by the end of October. We should send them another check in the amount of \$3,000.00 in January, 2015. We should further instruct them to submit a grant proposal prior to our January meeting to fund their spring mission trip.
7. We should instruct all parties that they should be prepared to submit grant proposals for the 2015-2016 academic year prior to our meeting in May, 2015. The grants awarded at that time will be paid out according to the timetable requested by the applicants.

**Leadership Cabinet
October 14, 2014**

Representation/Nominating Ministry Team

(from the approved structure task force report)

“The Leadership Cabinet at the last presbytery meeting of the calendar year makes nominations to this committee to the presbytery.”

Current membership:

RE Gayle Holland (Moderator) Class of 2016

RE Ted Williams Class of 2014

TE Lanny Rounds Class of 2015

TE Debbie Funke Class of 2016

It is our responsibility to nominate someone to a 3-year term, class of 2017, ensuring inclusiveness and representation. The position is currently filled by a male ruling elder. Please bring to our October 14 meeting your ideas for nomination for this one position.

Stated Clerk

Standing Rules of Yellowstone Presbytery:

S4.05 *The stated clerk shall be elected by the presbytery at the last stated meeting at which the term of the incumbent expires, and shall assume office upon installation at the close of said meeting. The term of office shall be three years; the stated clerk shall not serve for consecutive terms, full or partial, for more than six years.*

Ron Hanson’s 2nd term as Stated Clerk ends in 2014. (needs verification)

With all the other transitions this year, we are not well-prepared to fulfill the standing rules and put in place a new stated clerk within the next few months. Here is one possible solution to this problem, **for**

the Leadership Cabinet’s consideration:

1. That we request the presbytery to set aside the standing rules regarding the term limit for Stated Clerk for 1 year.
2. That we ask Ron to serve for an additional year.
3. That we appoint/elect a search committee, which would report to the Leadership Cabinet over the next year, and present a candidate to the presbytery by November 2015.

a) Do you like this plan, or do you have alternatives/modifications to it?

b) Who can you suggest who would be well-suited to serve on a stated clerk search committee?

From: Synod of the Rocky Mountains Coordinating Council

To: Presbytery of Yellowstone

Date: August 14, 2014

Re; Proposed change in Synod Standing Rules and ByLaws

Motion: Shall the presbyteries of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains concur with the following change in the plan and number for electing commissioners to the Synod Assembly?

In accordance with the Book of Order G-3.0401, effective January 1, 2015, the Synod of the Rocky Mountains has determined the plan for the election of Synod Commissioners to be:

- 1) Each presbytery of the Synod will elect two commissioners to Synod, one of whom shall be a ruling elder and one of whom shall be a teaching elder. Each commissioner shall serve a two year term and may be re-elected to serve no more than six years consecutively.
- 2) It is recommended that at least one of the commissioners from each presbytery be a member the presbytery council or its equivalent. Commissioners shall serve until their successors are elected by their respective presbyteries.
- 3) It is the responsibility of the presbyteries to ensure that the principles of participation and representation are fulfilled as found in F-1.0403 and G-3.0103.

All presbyteries must report the outcome of the vote to the Stated Clerk of the Synod no later than December 1, 2014.

Rationale:

The 2014 Synod Assembly, meeting in Denver, CO, on Friday, August 1, 2014, effected changes to the Synod's bylaws and standing rules changing the number of commissioners. The *Book of Order* requires that its entities be ever mindful that in the election of commissioners that representation and diversity is not diminished or ignored. To that end, the presbyteries are to give diligence in electing commissioners to the councils of the church. By approving this motion, the presbytery affirms that it will honor the principles of participation as found in F-1.0403 and G-3.0103.

Possible docket for Nov 7 Presbytery meeting

Gather Together

2 pm Roll call, quorum, procedural motion, approval of docket

2:15 Worship, JP Carlson preaching

Equip and Encourage

2:45 Representation-Nominating Committee – 1st reading of nominations
Leadership Cabinet proposal for Stated Clerk

3:00 Pastoral Ministry Team (pt. 1) – Examination of JP

3:30 BREAK

3:50 Pastoral Ministry Team (pt. 2) – CRE Handbook, 2015 Salary minimums, other

4:20 WNLT report back from participants (MI)

4:30 Synod of Rocky Mtns report from David Ezekiel

4:45 Leadership Cabinet report

2015 Budget

5:25 Co-General Presbyters report, including report on staffing and office transitions

5:40 Announcements

5:45 Break for Dinner

7:00 Representation-Nominating Committee – 2nd reading and vote on nominations
Decision on Stated Clerk

7:10 International Peacemaker report back (MI)

7:20 Camping & Youth summer report (MI)

7:30 Stated Clerk's report

7:40 Hearing from churches what the Holy Spirit is doing

Go out

8:00 Closing prayer and hymn

8:15 Adjournment

Proposed Dates/Locations for Presbytery meetings 2015

Week of March 2-7	Billings , St. Andrew
June 12-13	White Sulphur Springs? Lewistown?
(Nov 6-7?)	Glacier Presbytery/Convocation

Straw poll – what do you think of the idea of switching convocation to spring?

Proposed Dates/Locations for Leadership Cabinet meetings 2015

Wed, Jan 14 (PMT is Thurs in Bozeman)	Bozeman
Tues, Feb 10	Billings
Tues, April 14	Bozeman
Tues, May 12	Billings
Tues, Sept 1	Bozeman
Tues, Oct 6	Billings