

Note actions taken by Council or recommendations to Presbytery

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Presbytery of Yellowstone  
January 21, 2011

The Council of the Presbytery of Yellowstone met at First Church in Bozeman on January 21, 2011.

Members Present:

Rev. Leon Rathbun (Moderator)  
Elder Ted Williams (Nominating)  
Elder Bill McGladdery (Personnel)  
Rev. Neva Rathbun (COM)  
Rev. Mary Davis (Vocations)  
Elder Curt Kochner (Camping and Youth)  
Elder Cal Boyle (St. Timothy's)  
Elder Bob Culbertson (Higher Education)  
Elder Dan Holland (B&F)  
Rev. Jody McDivett (Vice- Moderator of Presbytery)  
Elder Ken Siroky (Mission)  
Susanne Bratsky (Presbyterian Women)  
Elder Claudia Stanton (Representation) Via phone

Members Absent/Excused:

CLP Editha McKay (Presb. Moderator)

Former Council Members Present:

Elder Fran Babcock (Council Moderator)  
Elder Debbie Blackburn (B&F)  
Elder David Kimball (Higher Education)

Others Present:

Rev. George Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter  
Rev. Kathy Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter  
Elder Ric Tieman (Vision Task Force)  
Elder Ron Hanson, Stated Clerk)

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 10:00. As the Christ Candle was lit by Leon we read, in unison, the litany for lighting the candle. This constituted the opening prayer.
2. Introductions – Each Commissioner introduced themselves and identified where they were from and their committee responsibility.
3. Roll Call – Ron Announced he had taken the attendance and that a Quorum was present.
4. Former Moderator's comments – Fran offered the following bits of advice to the new committee moderators:
  - Work for the betterment of Yellowstone Presbytery rather than just for your own committee.
  - Meet the due date for your written report and read all reports before the meeting.
  - When replying to e-mails on the Council choose "reply to all" and don't forget to keep the presbytery office informed.
  - Help in the search for a person to take on the responsibility for producing a Yellowstone Newsletter.

5. Docket – Several questions were raised regarding the Docket. The Docket was approved as presented.
6. Approval of the Minutes. The Minutes of the Meeting of November 19, 2010 were approved as printed.
7. Dwelling in the Word -
8. Role and responsibility of committee moderators – George passed out a list of the seven responsibilities of committee moderators. These include:
  - Providing leadership in Visioning; equipping; managing and implementing and discipleship.
  - Providing spiritual nurture.
  - Setting in light of the presbytery's Vision Statement.
  - Team building.
  - Conducting committee meetings.
  - Drafting committee budgets.
  - Reporting on committee work in light of the presbytery's Vision Statement.

George also passed out forms to assist the moderators in agenda planning, reporting to Council and reporting to presbytery. If the report to council is to be used as the report to presbytery Susan needs to be informed so she can post it in the proper place on the web site. He stated that he was available to assist committee moderators. He is usually in the office in the mornings except for Monday which is day off. His cell phone number is 570-2937.

Other items mentioned were the use of conference calls and the possible use of video conferencing between the J&H offices in Billings and Bozeman. George will write up the instructions for both types of conference calls and send the instructions to the committee moderators. If video conference calls are desired there is a necessary lead time of at least 5 days.

George passed out a book titled "Almost Christian" to each of the moderators.

9. Vision Team – Ric presented materials related to the work of the Vision Team. These included the "Bow Tie" diagram and the document showing the Four Strands to fulfilling the Vision Statement. The point was made that the strand labeled "Practices" is the most important at this time. Other material passed out was a diagram on the "Change Process" and a sheet showing the tension that exists between "Constancy and Artistry."
10. Vision Team – Action Items for Council members – George shared a list of four Action Items for Council Members. The list included:
  - Each moderator and committee – Model, live incorporation of the spiritual practices, which grow and make disciple leaders, i.e. prayer, dwelling in the word, ....
  - As council members and committee moderators, lead the focus, process and work of that committee to implement and further the presbytery's Vision statement and first three strands. This includes aligning the committees priorities, goals, practices and outcome with the Vision, being open to the Holy Spirit's leading and innovations and undertaking "holy experiments".
  - Build connections, relationships, and collaboration in the spheres of your ministry, leadership and influence.
  - Pray for one another and communicate question, feedback, ideas, possibilities and resources back to the Vision Team.

ü Council voted unanimously to adopt these Action Items.

11. Transition – This time was setup as an opportunity for Committee Moderators, both past and present, to share the activities and direction the committees are undertaking and other information for the council.

- Higher Education – Intend to work more closely with the Camping and Youth Committee to better minister to the youth who enter college. There will be no funds coming from Synod after 2012 for the Higher Education Program.
- Nominations – Working on filling a vacancy on the Vocations Committee and the Committee on Ministry.
- Mission – Ken noted that the focus on the committee will include three elements – Mind, Muscle and Money. We hope to connect churches in mission.
- PW – We will support the Vision where we fit in.
- St. Timothy's – Our biggest problem has been attendance. I have decided to remind members 1 month, 1 week and 1 day before the scheduled meeting date.
- B&F – We will be looking at the budget on a monthly basis. We plan to delegate more tasks and thereby involve more people.
- Personnel – With the changes at the Synod (deleting the Mission Treasury Service) more work will be shifted to Susan and Sheryl. This is more work for them but the additional dollars are not there.
- Camping and Youth – There have been two transition meetings with Cathy McLean. We are looking at how we can work with Higher Education on the Youth portion of our responsibilities.
- COM – It has been a learning experience. There are good members on the committee. The work is challenging because of churches in transition and distances.
- Vocations – We will be working on our relationships with Sessions to discern who might be a candidate for the CLP program or Seminary.
- Council – Leon mentioned that relationships are important and would like to see us get back to where we were when first came to the presbytery many years ago. He also said he can be reached at the church on Wednesday and Friday before 11:00a.m.. The church phone number is 406-853-1417. His new home phone number is 406-635-4185

12. Lunch –

13. Committee reports – Most committee reports were written. High lights of those reports follow:

- Nominations – Ted stated that the Committee will be asking presbytery to set aside the Standing Rules to allow Jim Tarr to be nominated and elected to a third three year term on the Vocations Committee. Due to some confusion Jim was never informed of his election for a first term and therefore never served that term.
- Personnel – There was an overage in the personnel budget of \$834 in 2010.
- Council voted to authorized The \$834 overage
- Camping and Youth – We attended the PCCCA meeting in Colorado. Our current effort is to identify people for leadership positions for the C&Y program.
- Higher Education – Written report
- St Timothy's – The new parking lot has been paved. Logging of the beetle killed trees on the site is now underway.
- B&F – The presbytery ended up overspending the 2010 approved budget by \$7,279.10. The question was raised as to whether or not presbytery should pay the Per Capita for churches who did not pay their Per Capita. Also, since the office will be doing some of the work previously done at the Synod level, the question was raised if presbytery should retain some of the Synod Per Capita payment to cover this added work.

Kathy and Ron agreed to work on a brochure to interpret Per Capita to the churches of the presbytery.

- COM – We are still one member short. Ric Young from the Board of Pensions has offered to do a workshop or a webinar regarding the changes to the retirement plan. The committee will follow up with Ric on this possibility.
  - General Presbyters – The ENGAGE pilot program is a go. Ray Jones is scheduled to be in the presbytery from February 19 -28 and will preach at the presbytery meeting on the evening of February 28<sup>th</sup>. Eric Hoy will be in the presbytery in March. So far the only firm date for Ray is a workshop in Butte on February 26<sup>th</sup>.
14. Christus Collegium – The Christus Collegium has been notified of our intention to withdraw our membership. The date of withdrawal is December 31, 2011.
    - ü Council vote to appoint Fran Babcock, Ted Williams and Dave Kimball to work with our attorney, Pat Fox, to handle the details of the withdrawal.
  15. Fall Presbytery Meeting –
    - ü Council voted to schedule the Fall presbytery for November 9&10 in Great Falls. This will be immediately before the planned Glacier/Yellowstone Convocation which is set for November 10-11, 2011 in Great Falls.
  16. Glacier/Yellowstone Convocation Planning Team – So far Editha, George and Dan are scheduled to work with folks from Glacier to plan the Convocation. More volunteers are needed.
  17. Docket for the February/March Presbytery Meeting – A draft Docket for the February/March presbytery meeting was reviewed.
    - ü Council voted to defer a vote on the Belhar Confession until the May meeting.
    - ü Council voted to schedule a telephone conference on January 26, 2010 to discuss the process to present the proposed constitutional amendments to the presbytery at the February/March meeting.
  18. Announcements – Paul Hooker will be present tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. to present a workshop on the New Form of Government. The meeting will be at the Bozeman 1<sup>st</sup> Church. So far it appears that 21 people from Yellowstone, 10 people from Glacier and 5 people from Wyoming presbytery will be present for the workshop.
  19. Next Council Meeting – The next Council meeting will be held on March 18, 2011 at 1<sup>st</sup> Church in Billings. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m.. Additional meeting dates may be set during the conference call on January 26, 2011.
  20. Adjournment – George offered the closing prayer and Leon adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m..