

Note actions taken by Council or recommendations to Presbytery

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Presbytery of Yellowstone
March 18, 2011

The Council of the Presbytery of Yellowstone met at First Church in Billings on March 18, 2011.

Members Present:

Rev. Leon Rathbun (Moderator)
Elder Ted Williams (Nominating)
Rev. Neva Rathbun (COM)
Elder Curt Kochner (Camping and Youth)
Elder Bob Culbertson (Higher Education)
Rev. Jody McDivett (Vice- Moderator of Presbytery)
Elder Ken Siroky (Mission)
Susanne Bratsky (Presbyterian Women)

Members Absent/Excused:

CLP Editha McKay (Presb. Moderator)
Elder Bill McGladdery (Personnel)
Rev. Mary Davis (Vocations)
Elder Cal Boyle (St. Timothy's)
Elder Dan Holland (B&F)
Elder Claudia Stanton (Representation)

Others Present:

Rev. George Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter
Elder Ron Hanson, Stated Clerk)

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by Moderator Leon Rathbun. Jody offered the opening prayer. As the Christ Candle was lit by Leon we read, in unison, the litany for lighting the candle. This constituted the opening prayer.
2. Roll Call – Ron Announced he had taken the attendance and that a Quorum was not present since Elder Ken Siroky had not arrived yet.
3. Docket – The Docket was adjusted and approved. The adjustments were necessary because of the availability of some people at the time slots listed.
4. Approval of the Minutes. The Minutes of the Meeting of January 21 and January 26 were approved as printed subject to the affirmation of the group when a quorum is present.
5. Dwelling in the Word – Leon read from the 12th chapter of Romans, verses 9-18. The members commented on what the passage meant to them, to their home church and meant to the presbytery.
6. Budget & Finance – Per Capita for 2010 was about \$7,000 short (recently some of that shortage has been paid). Kathy and Ron are working on materials to interpret Per Capita to the churches.
7. Higher Education – Bob has scheduled a meeting for next month. He noted that there will be no funding available from the Synod of the Rocky Mountains after 2012.
8. Camping and Youth – Curt reviewed his written report. He shared his high regard for the Presbyterian Camp and Conference Association (PCCA). The committee plans on coordinating with churches that have strong Vacation Bible School programs.
9. COM –Neva is in contact with Glacier Presbytery about the possibility of sponsoring a joint seminar from the Board of Pensions. Hysham and Poplar are working on their CIF's. West Yellowstone is looking at the possibility of sharing a Pastor with the Island Park Church.
10. PW – Suzanne reported that PW is reviewing their By-Laws and discussing goals for the future. The Spring event will be on April 29 and 30. Gayle Hemmerick will speak on her visit to Dakota Presbytery.

11. St. Timothy's – There is a need for the Management Team to meet. Ron will contact Moderator Cal Boyle to set up a meeting soon so that a report can be made to presbytery in May.
12. Vocations – The committee is looking at approaches for recruiting CLP's.
13. Meeting critique – Several comments were made on how future meetings could be improved. A plus of the February meeting was the welcoming of new commissioners. There should be a special Name Tag for new commissioners so the members and regular commissioners can personally recognize them and make a point to welcome them. Eric Chavez should have been on the Docket on the first day so that people were aware of his presence and had time to talk with him if they wished. We should have a fellowship committee since Fran is no longer Council Moderator and may not wish to continue as the Fellowship Committee. There is an issue with serving beer and wine at some churches. If beer and wine are to be part of the fellowship time it should be done at some place other than the church.
14. Conference Call with Ray Jones and David Lelong and Kathy Goodrich – George opened the session with prayer. He then handed out a paper containing our Vision Statement, a list of goals for ENGAGE, and a draft of a process for going forward with the ENGAGE program. A discussion on both evangelism and discipleship, and the relationship between them, followed.
 - ü Council Voted to support and move forward with the ENGAGE program.
15. Mission – The committee has had one meeting. Anaconda has asked to be the next gathering point for the Zimbabwe project. This needs to be verified.
 - ü Council voted to have Rev. Long do a seminar on Christian Education at the November Convocation. This needs to be approved by the Convocation Planning Team.
16. Belhar Confession – The basic question was how to present the Belhar Confession to the presbytery at the May meeting. Council concluded that the presentation needs to start with presenting what a confession is. Both Billings 1st and Bozeman 1st have had discussions/classes on the Belhar Confession. Council asked Ron to send a letter to the Clerks of Session and ask them to have their session/commissioners study the document that was previously sent out.
 - ü Council voted to Docket one hour of time for presenting the Belhar Confession on the first afternoon (just before break) of the May presbytery meeting. The debate/comment on the Belhar Confession will follow after the break and will be limited to 30 minutes. The vote on this proposed confession will be held on Saturday morning.
 - ü Council agreed to have Jody and Dan do the one hour presentation.
 - ü Council voted to extend the Docket by 30 minutes.
17. General Communications – There is a need to find someone to gather stories for the Newsletter. If stories are gathered there is a volunteer who will publish the newsletter. At least one person is interested in having the presbytery retain the 800 phone number. The committee agreed that possible use of the computer program SKYPE should be looked into.
18. Convocation – The theme of the Convocation is "Equipping Ordinary People to do Extraordinary Things". The Convocation will be held at Great Falls 1st Church on November 10-11, 2011. The Presbytery business meeting is currently set for the set for the 9th. George will check into whether our business meeting could be scheduled for the morning of the 10th.
19. Church Liability Insurance – Ron handed out a spreadsheet showing the insurance coverage of the various churches in the presbytery. He noted that he is waiting for some answers from Ray Pryor of the Central Montana Insurance Agency. When those answers become available this topic will be on a meeting agenda.

20. Announcements – George asked people to pray for ideas about how Yellowstone might respond to the “Crisis in Japan”.
21. Next Meeting – The next meeting will be via conference call on April 26th at 10:00 a.m.
22. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by moderator Leon at 3:35 p.m.