

Note actions taken by Council or recommendations to Presbytery

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Presbytery of Yellowstone
July 20, 2011

The Council of the Presbytery of Yellowstone met at 1st Presbyterian Church in Billings, Montana at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 20, 2011.

Members Present:

Rev. Leon Rathbun (Moderator)
Elder Bob Culbertson (Higher Ed.)
Rev. Neva Rathbun (COM)
Susanne Bratsky (Presbyterian Women)
CLP Editha Mc Kay (Presb. Moderator)
Rev. Susan Thomas (Camping and Youth)
Elder Debbie Blackburn (B&F)
Elder Ted Williams (Nominating)

Members Absent/Excused:

Elder Bill McGladdery (Personnel)
Rev. Jody McDivett (Vice- Moderator)
Elder Ken Siroky (Mission)
Elder Claudia Stanton (Representation)
Elder Cal Boyle (St. Timothy's)
Elder Dan Holland (B&F)

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. Neva Rathbun offered the opening prayer.
2. Christ Candle – Editha lit the Christ Candle and read the liturgy for the candle.
3. Roll Call – Ron Announced he had taken the attendance and that a Quorum was present.
4. Approval of the Minutes – The minutes of the meetings of March 18, 2011 and April 26, 2011 were approved as written.
5. Dwelling in the Word – George offered a centering prayer and read Matthew 13:31-33 and 44-52 twice. The group then participated in a discussion on what the verses meant to them.
6. ENGAGE – George reported that a video conference on the ENGAGE program will be held this Friday.
7. Synod Report – Ron reported that Rev. Lanny Rounds was elected as Moderator for the upcoming year. Rev. David Ezekiel, the Interim Synod Executive, reported that his main task is to assess the role of the Synod. He stated that he felt that the role of the synod was to support the mission and ministry of the presbyteries and that the synod needs to be working in partnership with the presbyteries. The Synod adopted a new Personnel Policy and a Sexual Misconduct Policy. Synod adopted their 2012 Program Budget which includes \$43,700 in Mission Partnership Funds for Yellowstone Presbytery. The budget also included \$25,176 for Higher Education. This amount is down from \$33,568 for 2011. The total will be disaggregated to the presbyteries based on submitted proposals. The Administrative budget that was approved had a projected surplus of \$27,000. This amount was based on a Per Capita assessment of \$6.45. Since the synod staff has been reduced and some of the work previously done by the synod has been shifted to the presbyteries the Per Capita amount seems high. The budget included \$500 to both Glacier and Yellowstone Presbyteries to support their Convocation. There will be a conference call this Friday to vote on selling the synod property at Colorado State University for the appraised amount of \$300,000.

8. New Form of Government (nFOG) – There is a video conference on nFOG scheduled for August 2, 2011. Ron shared his plan to identify the session/congregation needed changes as he conducts the session minute reviews in September.
 - ü Council appointed the following people to the task group to review and recommend updates to the Yellowstone Presbytery Administrative Manual: Dan Krebill, Leon Rathbun, Ron Hanson, Gayle Holland (to be contacted by Leon) and Carol Brown (to be contacted by Editha). Leon and Dan will serve as co-moderators.
9. Amendment 10-A – During lunch George shared his perceptions of the consequences of Amendment 10-A on the churches of Yellowstone Presbytery. He stated that he had visited with a number of the churches in the presbytery. While many have concerns most are taking a wait and see approach.
10. Committee Reports –
 - Budget and Finance – The Council reviewed the June 2011 treasurers report.
 - Higher Education (HE) – Bob presented the committee report. Program assessments are underway for the HE units. The committee is working on the idea of collaboration among the HE units. At a minimum this would include information exchange on a quarterly basis. Including The Glacier Presbytery HE unit is being considered.
 - Camping and Youth – Susan submitted a written report noting that 25 people participated in the Revamp the Camp project and that 24 campers attended the Elementary and Junior High camps and 22 campers were signed up for the Senior High camp which is scheduled for next week.
 - Mission – The Anaconda Church has taken the Zimbabwe project over. A trailer has been purchased to haul donated materials from churches to Anaconda. They are planning to have Rev. Paul Nesharigwe of Denver Presbytery speak at the February, 2012 Yellowstone Presbytery meeting. George will follow through in confirming this with Paul. The committee is looking into how they might help the Poplar church deal with substance abuse and a high suicide rate of youth on the Fort Peck Reservation.
 - COM – Neva presented a written report. Com will meet tomorrow at St. Andrew in Billings. One item the committee will be dealing with is the establishment of an Ordination Commission for Candidate Jessica Crane Munoz. She is scheduled to be Ordained at her home church in Lewistown on September 4, 2011. Neva reported that a number of churches (White Sulphur Springs, Hysham, West Yellowstone and Poplar) are in the process of filling their vacant pulpit. Cathy McClean is starting her second year in Forsyth. David Schneider, Interim at Miles City has had his contract extended for one year.
 - Vocations – No Report.
 - Personnel – No report.
 - Nominations – The Nominating Committee met on June 15th and assigned various members to work on finding nominees for the class of 2014. Ted reminded that the Council that it is their responsibility to nominate members of the Nominating Committee.
- ü Council voted to receive all reports.
11. Convocation – The Convocation will be held in Great Falls on November 10 & 11, 2011. Rev. Ray Jones will be the main speaker at the convocation. The theme for the convocation is “Encouraging Ordinary People to do Extraordinary Things. Yellowstone Presbytery will meet on November 9 & 10, 2011
12. WNL – The Western National Leadership Training event will be held in Jackson, WY on October 5-7, 2011. The theme is “Building Bridges in Ministry”. Two great speakers, Craig Barns and Jana Childers will lead the event. The presbytery has scholarships for eight attendees.

13. Announcements –
 - The Anaconda Church will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary this coming weekend.
 - Rev. Sally Ralston will be married in late August.
 - The next council meeting will be on September 28, 2011 in Bozeman.
14. Yellowstone Presbytery Meeting Dates for 2012 – The following meeting dates were set. The locations are subject to confirmation.
 - March 2-3 (possibly Bozeman, in cooperation with Manhattan)
 - May 15-16 (possibly Wolf Point and/or Poplar)
 - November 2-3 (possibly Terry and/or Miles City)
15. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2.10p.m. George offered the closing prayer.