

Presbytery of Yellowstone

COUNCIL MINUTES

January 24, 2012

The Council of the Presbytery of Yellowstone met at First Church in Bozeman on January 24, 2012 at 10:00 a.m..

Members Present:

Rev. Leon Rathbun (Council Moderator)
Elder Jim Tarr (Vocations)
Elder Ted Williams (Nominating)
Rev. Neva Rathbun (CoM)
Susanne Bratsky (PW Co-Moderator)
Elder Bob Culbertson (Higher Education)
Elder Curt Kochner (Co-Moderator – (Camp. & Youth)
Elder Dan Holland (B&F)
Rev. Jody McDevitt (YP Moderator)
Elder Don Holland (Vice YP Moderator)

Absent/Excused:

Elder Claudia Stanton (Representation)
Elder John Stewart (Personnel)
Clp Robert Shy Jr. (Mission)

Others Present:

Rev. George Goodrich, (Co-General Presbyter)
Elder Ron Hanson (St. Timothy's & Stated Clerk)

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by the Moderator, Rev. Leon Rathbun. George offered the opening prayer. Leon lit the Christ Candle and read the Litany for lighting the candle.
2. Roll Call – Ron announced he had taken the attendance and that a Quorum was present.
3. Docket – Several additions to the Docket were requested and approved.
4. Approval of the Minutes - The minutes of the meetings of September 28, 2011 were approved.
5. Dwelling in the Word – George led this section. His scripture reference was Mark 1: 21-28. This selection was read silently and the each person present read a verse. The group commented on what this passage meant to them and what it says to our individual churches, and then, what it meant to Yellowstone Presbytery. This section was closed with a prayer by Leon.

6. Orientation/Training – Jody handed out a sheet listing the duties of committee moderators and led the group in a discussion of the 10 listed duties. The list also included information on Consensus Decision-Making which Jody talked about. A comment was made that Jody’s 10 points should be merged with the current list of moderator duties and placed in the Administrative Manual.
7. Vision Team Report – Debbie presented background information on the development of the Vision Statement. George provided some additional background and talked to the twelve lessons learned from the visioning process (Attached). George continued with a discussion of the steps ahead for implementing the presbytery’s vision and the responsibility of the council to lead this implementing effort.
8. Lunch – Jody offered the blessing for lunch.
9. Council Goals for 2012 – Ron shared a sheet listing some ideas for goals. After discussion several suggestions of change were made.
 - ü Council voted to adopt the adjusted goals for 2012 (see attached).
10. Discipleship – George shared with the council the 9 steps of Discipleship. They are:
 1. Spiritual Searching
 2. Exploring Christ (the answer to the search)
 3. Deciding
 4. Learning
 5. Incorporating those things learned
 6. Replicating Discipleship
 7. Calling to lead (Gifts)
 8. Holding the world
 9. Culmination (Heaven)
11. Dream Team – George discussed the background and the need for this group. The impetus comes from the conclusions of the Synod Staff Forum the presbyteries will need to share a General Presbyter or Executive due to the limited funds of the Synod and presbyteries and the elimination of the Mission Partner Funds after 2013. It is possible the some funds will be available from GA after 2013 but no decisions have been made yet by GA. The idea at this point is that Yellowstone and Glacier Presbyteries would share a General Presbyter.
 - ü Council appointed Ron Hanson, Debbie Blackburn, Neva Rathbun and Dan Krebill (if he accepts – he did accept) to the team to work with a group from Glacier Presbytery to figure out how sharing a GP and sharing some committee work might be structured. The actual charge for the committee will be worked out by the combined members of the Dream Team and brought back to council for approval.

12. 2011 Financial Close Out – Dan reported that the books are not closed for 2011 yet but things look OK with possibly of a 13,000 savings in the Program Budget but a 11,000 overage in the Administrative Budget.
13. Springhill/Designated and Restricted Funds Review – The council was briefed on the decisions of presbytery for handling the Springhill annual payment (three annual payments of \$15,000 over the next three years – 2 payments of \$15,000 have already been received). The suggestion was that these funds should be handled by the Mission Committee instead of a by separate committee. Also, the idea of combining some of the 24 Designated/Restricted Funds was suggested.
 - ü Council voted to have Jody, Dan and Debbie study these suggestions and bring a recommendation back to council.
14. Convocation – The membership of the Convocation Planning Team was discussed. Jed Cauffman and two members from the Lewistown church will be on the Planning Team. George will talk to Editha about serving and Leon will ask Susan Ennis about being a member. The Team will work with Team members from Glacier Presbytery. George will send a not to Ed Albright on both the Dream Team members and the Convocation Planning Team Members.
15. Nominating Committee - On Behalf of the Council Ted nominated people to the Personnel Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee
 - ü Council elected Debra Ernst to the Budget and Finance Committee
 - ü Council elected John Patterson and John Stewart to the Personnel Committee and named John Stewart as Moderator.

Ted also reported that the committee is still working on a Commissioner and YAD, as well as alternates, for the upcoming General Assembly. It was mentioned that the YAD should be active in presbytery. Ron commented that there a lack of communication from the Nominating Committee of St. Timothy's and the presbytery nominating Committee. Ron will get the recommended slate of members to the Presbytery Nominating Committee so the confusion can be resolved at the upcoming presbytery meeting.
16. PW – Suzanne shared a written report of the activities of Presbyterian Women during 2011.
17. COM - Neva shared her written report. She requested suggestions for members for the Administrative Commission to Ordain Paul Cannon and Install him as postor for the Treasure County Community Presbyterian Church.
18. Camping and Youth –
19. Council Meeting Dates for 2012 – The following council meeting dates were established.
 - April 19th – St Andrew

- July 19th – Bozeman
 - October 11th – FPC Billings
20. Presbytery Meeting Dates – The May meeting was originally scheduled for the 14th and 15th in Forsyth. The November meeting will be in Lewistown in conjunction with the Convocation on November 2-3.
21. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m. with a prayer by Neva.