

**Presbytery of Yellowstone  
Leadership Cabinet Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 2013  
Billings 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, Billings, Montana**

**Present were:**

Rev. Leon Rathbun, Moderator  
Rev. Neva Rathbun, COM  
Rev. Jody McDevitt, Past YP Moderator  
Curt Kochner, C&Y  
Don Holland, YP Moderator  
Jim Tarr, Vocations  
Suzanne Bratsky, PW  
Rev. Paul Cannon, Mission  
Bob Culbertson, HE  
Rev. Jed Cauffman, YP Vice-Moderator  
John Stewart, Personnel

**Also Present:**

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

1. **Call to Order** – Moderator Leon called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. **Christ Candle** – Leon read the Litany of the Christ Candle and lit the Christ Candle. Jed offered an opening prayer.
3. **Quorum** – The Clerk declared that a Quorum was present.
4. **Docket** – The docket was approved after an adjustment regarding the discussion of the recommendations prepared by those assigned to make such recommendations on the proposed Amendments to the PC (USA) Constitution rather than just a reminder of the assignments.
5. **Dwelling in the Word** – George led this item. His selection of scripture was Thessalonians 1:2-12. Following a reading of this selection by different people the group responded to the four questions that George posed. Following prayers by several of those present Paul led the group in singing “How Great Thou Art”.
6. **Vision Structure Task Force (VSTF) Report** – George started the report and passed out two sheets to the members. The first being the paper outlining how the presbytery will fulfill its vision and the second was an outline of the planned presentation. Kathy reviewed the Rationale for a Strategic Restructuring of the Presbytery. George then reviewed the local congregation portion of the new proposed structure. Kathy followed with a presentation of the role of the Covenant Orders.
7. **Lunch** – Don offered a blessing for our food.
8. **Vision Structure Task Force (VSTF)** – George presented the Leadership Cabinet

proposal for the new structure and then discussed an organic transition for the new structure. Ron followed with a discussion of the schedule the VSTF proposed for the completion of its work. George then called the groups attention to the VSTF report and the questions on the back of the sheet. Discussion followed and the group offered a series of concerns which were noted.

9. **Letter to the Glacier Presbytery Cabinet** – Neva passed out a draft of a letter to the Glacier Presbytery Cabinet and provided background for the letter which was to determine the possibility of working with them on sharing efforts on programs and staff. A number of changes were suggested for the letter. Kathy and Ron will adjust the letter and send it to the Glacier Presbytery Council before the end of next week.
10. **Convocation** – The 2013 Convocation will be at 1<sup>st</sup> Church in Great Falls on November 7-8. Planning needs to start on the 2013 Convocation. Editha and Susie Ennis were suggested as our Planning Team members with George serving in an ex-official manner.
11. **Committee Reports**
  - **B&F** – Dan Holland submitted a written report covering the Annual Financial Review of the 2011 presbytery accounts.
  - **C&Y** – Curt presented a written report.
  - **COM** – Neva reported on the Resolution and Dismissal Agreement with the West Yellowstone Church. The Agreement calls for a payment by the church of \$60,000 over a 5 year period. She suggested that a Dismissal Prayer Service be held for the West Yellowstone Church. Neva also noted a minus that the Clergy Emergency Fund.
  - ✓ The Leadership Cabinet voted to designate the offering, at the upcoming presbytery meeting, for the Clergy Emergency Fund.
  - ✓ The Leadership Cabinet voted to hold a Dismissal of Church Liturgy at the presbytery meeting after the finalization of the Dismissal Agreement.
  - **Higher Education** – There is a high interest in applying for a state-wide grant to implement a UKirk program for Montana’s higher education units. A preliminary proposal has been drafted.
  - **Mission** – Paul commented on his written report.
  - **Vocations** – Jin presented a written report noting progress that Cathy McLean is making on her course work as she seeks to become a Candidate. He also noted Jack Bell’s progress toward becoming a CRE.
  - **St Timothy’s** – Ron presented a written report. The most significant item is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chapel in 2015.
  - **PW** – Suzanne commented on her written report. She will be stepping down as moderator and Merri Lee Hooks from Dillon will be the new moderator.
  - **Personnel** – John presented a written report and moved the approval of a Sabbatical for George and Kathy for discipleship and spiritual formation. He commented that we need to honor their time away.
  - ✓ The Leadership Cabinet voted to approve the following motion. “Per the instruction of the presbytery at its May 2012 meeting, that George and Kathy be accorded a Sabbatical during the year of 2013 and that the Sabbatical be conducted according to the terms of Yellowstone Presbytery’s Sabbatical and Personnel Policies. Recognizing that this is a pivotal year for the presbytery, the Personnel Committee recommends the unusual condition that the Sabbatical be structured in three defined segments. Expenses for the Sabbatical are to be reimbursed from the Administrative Reserve Fund.

- **Co-General Presbyters** – George, with Kathy’s assistance spoke to the 11 points of their written report. He commented that the retreat with the Lewistown and Stanford Church sessions went well.
12. **Next Meeting** – The next Leadership Cabinet meeting was set for April 30, 2013 in Bozeman.
  13. **Docket Extension** – By consensus, the Docket was extended for 30 minutes.
  14. **Proposed Amendments to the PC (USA) Constitution** – Those assigned to review the proposed Amendments reported on their recommendations. The recommendations, by Amendment number, were: 12-A, Concur; 12-B, Not Concur; 12-C Not Concur; 12-D.1-9, Concur; 12-E, Concur; 12-F, Concur; 12-G, Concur; 12-H, Concur; 12-I, Concur and 12-J, Concur. It was announced that Amendment 12-1, amending the Heidelberg Catechism will be dealt with at the June meeting of presbytery.
  15. **Presbytery Meeting Docket** – Ron passed out a draft of a Docket for the upcoming presbytery meeting. The item “Installation of New Officers” was added.
  16. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned with prayer by George at 3:35 p.m.