

February 2013

Motion From Personnel Committee:
For: Goodrich Sabbatical, 2013

The Personnel Committee Adopts and recommends the following motion and forwards it to the Leadership Cabinet for its consideration and approval.

Per the Instruction of the Presbytery at its May 2012 meeting, That George and Kathy Goodrich be accorded a Sabbatical during the year 2013 and that that 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 into three defined segments. Expenses for the sabbatical are to be reimbursable from the Administrative reserve funds which the Goodriches have raised.

The Goodriches have presented a draft plan for a Sabbatical which is in accord with the Vision Statement of the Presbytery for developing "disciple-making churches and leaders" and with their interests for personal and professional development. The Personnel Committee has approved the draft in concept and is working with them to finalize the plan which encompasses the full three months of Sabbatical study time, and more rest and refreshment.

Sabbatical Proposal, George and Kathy Goodrich 2013

Criteria for Sabbatical:

1. A Renewing Experience for George and Kathy
2. Of Professional interest to them.
3. Of direct benefit to the mission and ministry of Yellowstone Presbytery and its churches.
 - a. An outcome that can be shared with interested leaders in the presbytery
 - b. An outcome of producing at least three potential articles for Presbyterian / larger church publications – whether printed or not.
4. Of Reasonable Cost to be negotiated
5. With a schedule that will still allow the priorities of the presbytery for 2013 and beyond to be reached.
6. Drawing on the resources of the denomination and the larger-church.
 - a. Denominational leadership
 - b. Other presbyteries, congregations, leaders, groups with experience, expertise, results in these areas.

The Presbytery Vision Statement: Our Vision

Yellowstone Presbytery – guided and sustained by Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and prayer -- is a community rooted in the love of Jesus Christ

We will . . .

Gather Together for God's glory and spiritual synergy*.

Equip and Encourage disciple-making congregations and leaders for living the Gospel . . . intentionally becoming more like Christ; ably sharing our faith; impacting our communities; worshipping in loving response to God; and mutually supporting and training leaders.

Go Out to join Christ in Christ's mission in our communities, Montana, and the world . . . embodying and sharing Christ's Good News; loving and serving, as we are commanded, in our words, actions, and relationships.

Part 1 of 3: George and Kathy together: A Study of Discipleship in Reformation Germany and in the Nazi-era Confessing and National Churches. We plan to participate in this guided tour offered by Dr. James Edwards, professor at Whitworth University and sponsored by the University.

Reformation History – Biblical Faithfulness in an era of Change and upheaval.

1. Christian Faithfulness under government hostile to the practice of the Christian Faith
 - a. The Confessing Church and the Government Church in Nazi Germany
 - b. Effects of accommodation and civil disobedience (Barman Declaration)
 - c. What "Discipleship" meant in both streams of the German Church
 - i. The practices of living as disciples and growing disciples in those circumstances and times.
2. Goodriches assume most the cost of this trip.

Part 2 of 3 – George's Interest: To ask the Question: What is the role of a presbytery in helping congregations develop as disciple-making, spiritually- forming churches in general and Yellowstone Presbytery in particular?

1. What is Christian Discipleship as presented in the Scriptures and lived today in our context? What do I think? What do our pastors think? What do others thinking about this think?
2. The Role of the Vision Statement in leading the Presbytery into discipleship. How we might go about fulfilling it with increased effectiveness. Consider...
 - a. The Role of the General Presbyter
 - b. The Role of Council / Leadership Cabinet
 - c. The Possible Roles of the pastor/Commissioned Ruling Elder and what may determine these.
 - d. The impacting trends and influences of the Culture and Context
 - e. Helpful practices, processes, relationships and structures at the various levels of the presbytery.
 - f. Patterns for effectively discipling Youth within the presbytery
3. Helpful Biblical Studies and other resources and practices for developing disciples in spiritual formation and faith practice.
4. What the Holy Spirit seems to be doing with productive results in other presbyteries and judicatories.
5. Lessons from discipleship in the German Church in the Reformation and Nazi eras.

George's Draft Schedule

1. *January – 3 weeks – January 9 - 31*
 - a. Imago Christi, Spiritual Formation Retreat at the West Side Presbyterian Church, Richland Washington – January 10-12. Tom Ashbrook, ELCA Pastor and author of *Mansions of the Heart*, presenting. Followed by three days to reflect and integrate.
 - b. PC (USA) Discipleship Conference, St Petersburg, Florida, January 20-24. This is the one conference specifically offered by the PC (USA) in 2013 on Discipleship.
 - c. Two weeks for extensive reading, contacting PCUSA and other resources, and to pull our ideas for helping pastors and sessions to make some decisions about programs and practices in their congregation.
2. February, March, April, early May – Back and meeting with interested pastors and sessions. Helping interested pastors and churches understand and implement their own discipleship and spiritual formation plans informally in the spring and then in the fall and perhaps into 2014.
 - a. Considerations: There is a council meeting and a CoM meeting scheduled in January. The Vision Structure Team needs to finalize its ideas for a new structure for the presbytery in January and early February.
3. *Mid-May to Mid-June: 4 weeks- May 13-June 6;*
 - a. One week reading preparation
 - b. Germany for two weeks for the reformation and 20th Century German Church study a
 - c. One week to reflect, incorporate these ideas and rejuvenate.
4. *August - Two weeks* for writing and renewal. Couple this with two weeks vacation in August.
5. September through December - Helping interested pastors and churches understand and implement their own discipleship and spiritual formation plans down the fall and into 2014.
6. Perhaps specific Disciple-making / Spiritual Formation events offered in other presbyteries and judicatories. See what emerges.

Part 3 of 3 – Kathy's Interest: Evangelism, Discipleship/ Spiritual Formation and holistic evangelism in / through relationships, families and marriages Reading, research, conversations, visiting congregations / judicatories/leaders which are known for outstanding for fruitful relationship, family and marriage education/ministry.

Consulting with various practitioners, leaders, researchers, authors, including, Dr. Bill Doherty, Univ of Minn & his new research

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 - c. One week to reflect, incorporate these ideas and rejuvenate.
3. National Association for Relationship and Marriage Education Annual Training Conference, late June in California.
4. *August - Two weeks* for writing and renewal. Couple this with two weeks vacation in August.
5. September through December - Helping interested pastors and churches understand and implement their own discipleship and spiritual formation plans down the fall and into 2014.
6. Perhaps specific Marriage & relationship ministry and Disciple-making / Spiritual Formation events offered. See what emerges.

People We Wish to Consult Initially Consult with / work with:

1. *PC (USA) Resources*
 - a. Dr. Jim Edwards, Professor at Whitworth University, is leading a trip to Germany in May 2013 and we are planning to go. (Goodriches to absorb cost)
 - b. The Office Evangelism and Church Growth for the PC (USA), Louisville, KY
 - i. Ray Jones and Dave Loleng
 - ii. PC(USA) Evangelism Network
 - c. The Office of Theology and Worship, Chip Hardwick, Director
 - d. Vital Church Institute, Rev. Dr. Stan Ott, who has consulted with over 30 presbyteries and is currently working with 20.
 - e. Former Associate for Congregational Discipleship and Spiritual Formation, Pittsburgh Presbytery, Sharon Stewart (Budget shortfall led to position eliminated)
 - f. EP, Muskingham Valley Presbytery, Ohio, Debbie Rundlett, as she is doing discipleship and spiritual formation in the presbytery.
2. *Other Resources*
 - a. Other leaders like-minded presbyteries according to their vision statements and practices.
 - b. George's own readings and materials from his D. Min degree on the Spiritual Disciplines Course he took.
 - c. As they emerge to us.