

**Presbytery of Yellowstone
Leadership Cabinet (LC) Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2015
First Presbyterian Church, Billings**

Moderator Jody called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Present were:

Jody McDevitt
Debbie Blackburn
Susi Ennis
Dave Kimball
Jed Cauffman
Teresa Kendall (by phone)
Dan Holland (part of the meeting)

Also present:

George Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter
Kathy Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter
Ron Hanson, Stated Clerk
Jack Bell
Kristin Willett

1. **Opening Prayer** – The opening prayer was offered by Jody.
2. **Christ Candle** – Jody lit the Christ Candle and read the litany of the Christ Candle.
3. **Quorum** – It was determined that a quorum was present.
4. **Docket** – The docket was approved as amended.
5. **Minutes of April 14, 2015** -
 - √ The LC voted to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2015 meeting.
6. **Dwelling in the Word** – Jody led Dwelling in the Word focusing on Colossians 3:12-17. There was a time of sharing what this Scripture is saying to each of us about living in community.
7. **Review Team** – Debbie mentioned that some questions had come up about the Personnel function of the Leadership Cabinet. Ron indicated that the LC is the Personnel “Committee” (under new structure).
8. **LC Goals for 2015** – Jody mentioned how important it is that action items have a specific person assigned to each item. It was suggested that Susan Thomas send out a monthly email asking for input for the electronic newsletter. Dave will work with Susan T regarding newsletter distribution questions. Kristin offered to help George with the Facebook page. Susi and Debbie are to encourage PMT to consider planning a pastor retreat. George will do some research on how the Presbytery could offer or assist with training for spiritual direction.
9. **Stated Clerk Search** – The task force will meet again on May 14, 2015.
10. **Planning for June Presbytery meeting** – Vera White will be with us in White Sulphur Springs. We would like for Vera to have four or five hours on the docket (Friday afternoon and Saturday morning). It was suggested that the various reports to Presbytery take place immediately following worship on Friday afternoon (for about 45 minutes). It was decided that Vera would meet (for lunch) with the Leadership Cabinet and the NWC Task Force at the close of the Presbytery meeting on Saturday. Jody has prepared a bulletin insert on Vanuatu to be distributed to congregations. The offering at the Presbytery meeting will go to cyclone relief for Vanuatu. George offered prayer for the June meeting.
11. **Higher Education Ministries Updates** - Ron Kirby (MSU-B), Kim Woeste (Rocky Mountain College), and

Dan Krebill (Presby Cats) joined the meeting and presented reports on the activities of their ministries during the recently completed academic year.

12. **Lunch** – The LC took a short break for lunch. Jody offered prayer for the meal.
13. **Higher Education Ministries Grant Requests** - Dan, Kim, and Ron each reviewed their specific grant requests. It was pointed out that the Higher Education Fund will be depleted in about 2.5 years at the current rate of funding.
 - ✓ The LC voted to approve the three grant requests for the 2015-2016 academic year as requested: Rocky Mountain College Chaplaincy (\$1800), United Campus Ministry at MSU-Billings (\$10,000), and First Presbyterian Church Bozeman (\$5,000 for Presby Cats). Jody will notify the recipients and ask Dan Holland to work with Sheryl Hallin.
14. **Covenant with Rocky Mountain College** – George, Kathy, and Dave will work with Kim on updating the covenant between Yellowstone Presbytery and Rocky Mountain College.
15. **Financial Reports** – George reviewed the Program Budget and reiterated the need for Presbytery to communicate with churches about how mission pledges are used. It was noted that the \$10,000 Rural Ministry Grant represents funds from PC(USA) to be used in 2016. YP should be receiving other funds to help with 2015 expenses for Whitworth Fellows. It was agreed that Debbie would contact Dan Holland about various questions, especially balance sheet items (Convocation and Funds Awaiting Cabinet Action).
16. **Vanuatu Cyclone Response** - Jody reported that the \$5,000 from YP had been wired as well as an additional \$2,000 from FPC Bozeman. It is hoped that the bulletin inserts, to be distributed at the Presbytery Meeting, will encourage other congregations or individuals to respond.
17. **Presbytery Sunday** – Teresa and her group have gathered many good ideas for the event.
18. **New Worshiping Community Task Force** - Jack Bell reported that he has not yet met with the people who volunteered to serve on this group but he will contact them by email.
19. **Extending the Docket** – It was agreed by consensus to extend the docket for 30 minutes.
20. **Representation Nominating Ministry Team** – Debbie and Jed suggested three names to be considered for the vacancy on this ministry team. Jody will make contact to see if one of these people will agree to serve.
21. **Peace Institute Grant Request** – Susan Barnes had sent a grant request for \$1,500.
 - ✓ The LC voted to approve \$1,000 from the Peace Making Offering Fund for the Peace Institute Grant.
 - ✓ The LC voted to approve \$500 from the Social Justice Fund for the Peace Institute Grant.
22. **Intermountain** – George reported that the current Program Budget does not include any funds for Intermountain. Also the covenant between YP and Intermountain needs to be reviewed. Susi will work with George on reviewing the covenant.
 - ✓ The LC voted to donate \$1,000 to Intermountain for 2015 using the funds that had been budgeted for convocation.
23. **Discernment Policy** – The policy needs to be updated to reflect current Book of Order citations. The PMT will be working on this.
24. **Co-General Presbyters Report** – George and Kathy reviewed their report. The two fellows from Whitworth will be staying with them this summer but will spend some of their time visiting churches within the Presbytery.
25. **Presbytery of Inland Northwest Grant to GA** – Preaching in the West Restricted Fund.
 - ✓ The LC voted to be a co-signer in partnership with the Presbytery of Inland Northwest, supporting the application for a GA Restricted Fund Grant, “Preaching in the West” (See Attachment A).
26. **Stated Clerk Report** – Ron reported that he continues to work on the Administrative Manual. Bids for the Mildred Church property are due by June 3, 2015. Copies of certificates from the upcoming Boundary Training need to be given to Ron. Ron attended the recent Board of Pensions meeting in San Diego. The LC commented again that YP would like to have BOP offer a retirement/clergy tax seminar in Montana. Ron will send a letter to YP churches to see who would like to view the DVD for church treasurers.

27. Next Meeting – The next regularly scheduled meeting of the LC is September 1, 2015 in Bozeman.

28. Adjournment – Jody gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Attachment A

Hearts and Mindset Set on Christ: Spiritual Formation and Preaching Enrichment for Pastors
Partnership in Grant

To Yellowstone Presbytery Leadership Cabinet, May 12, 2015

For Action:

To be a co-signer in partnership with the Presbytery of Inland Northwest, supporting the application for a GA Restricted Fund Grant, “Preaching In The West”:

The Presbytery of the Inland Northwest (PIN) is in formal covenant partnership with Whitworth University, a historically and pervasively Presbyterian institution of Higher Education. Through a grant from the Lilly Endowment, the University has established the Office of Church Engagement (OCE) in order to utilize its resources (facilities, finances, personnel, and relationships) in support of churches to deepen and expand the effectiveness of their ministries. Working together, PIN and OCE are soliciting partnerships with 15 Presbyteries in the Western United States to develop a project entitled “Hearts and Minds Set on Christ: Spiritual Formation and Preaching Enrichment for Pastors”. The project proposal envisions a three pronged approach to serving pastors:

- 1) Funding to support the establishment each of 2 years of Presbytery specific cohorts of pastors who desire to pursue intentional growth and integration of their own spiritual formation with the enrichment of their skills in preaching and teaching the Bible, including special attention to younger generations under 30;
- 2) Funding 8 pastors per Presbytery to attend the Whitworth Institute of Ministry (WIM) each summer 2016 and 2017 (up to 120 pastors total); and
- 3) Funding for the electronic delivery to each Presbytery of specific instruction in preaching skills and the application of scripture as a primary tool in spiritual transformation to be used by those who attend the preaching cohort at WIM as well as others who cannot.

The result of the “Hearts and Minds set of Christ” grant will be the establishment of the Preaching Academy, one of several Academies structured in partnership between PIN, OCE, Yellowstone and other western Presbyteries, working collaboratively to strengthen PCUSA pastors, ministries and mission in the Western United States.

This will provide for up to 8 pastors/CRE’s to receive substantial grant funding.