

**Presbytery of Yellowstone
Leadership Cabinet (LC) Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2015
First Presbyterian Church, Bozeman**

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

Present were:

Jody McDevitt
Debbie Blackburn
Dave Kimball
Jed Cauffman
Teresa Kendall
Dan Holland
Kristin Willett
Susi Ennis (by phone)

Absent/Excused:

Jack Bell

Also present:

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

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.
5. **Minutes of May 12, 2015** -
 - √ The LC approved, by acclamation, the minutes of the May 12, 2015 meeting.
6. **Minutes of June 12, 2015**
 - √ The LC approved, by acclamation, the minutes of the June 12, 2015 special meeting.
7. **Dwelling in the Word** – Kristen led Dwelling in the Word focusing on Jeremiah 17:5-13. There was a time of sharing what this Scripture is saying to each of us individually and as a Presbytery.
8. **Stated Clerk Search** – Neva Rathbun sent a report on behalf of the Stated Clerk Task Force. Their recommendation for Stated Clerk is Debbie Blackburn. It was decided that a telephone conference call will be needed in order for the Presbytery to vote on the nomination. Teresa Kendall (Presbytery vice moderator) will moderate the meeting.
 - √ The LC voted to have a Special Presbytery Meeting for the purpose of electing a stated clerk. The meeting will be on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 5:00 pm. Ron Hanson will see that the notification of the meeting is sent out within the required time frame.
9. **Presbytery Sunday** – Teresa and Kristin reported on the plan for Presbytery Sunday (October 11, 2015). Kristin showed a poster board she is working on that will include information on each congregation. The information gathered will be sent to all congregations of the Presbytery. George is to send to Teresa an updated version of the bulletin insert on what your Presbytery can do for you.
10. **Rural Ministry** – Kathy gave an update on the work that Joel and Mirra completed over the summer.
11. **Pastor Retreat** – It was reported that PMT has this on their list of items to consider.

- 12. Spiritual Directors Network** – George reported on some training options for spiritual directors. It was suggested that the LC seek to find persons within Yellowstone Presbytery to pursue the training.
- 13. Communications** - Yellowstone Currents is going well. However, it was noted that we need to continue to build our email list to include more people than we currently have. Dave K will continue to work with Susan T. on distribution questions. Kristin and George need to be made administrators of the presbytery Facebook (FB) page. We think the current administrator is Keri Olson. There was also some discussion regarding the desire to have on the FB page links to videos of YP pastors preaching.
- 14. Personnel Function of the LC** – Jed is the point person and Dan Holland will work with him. Some resource people suggested are Debbie Funke, John Patterson, and Caroline Fleming. George needs to be the lead person for staff reviews. It was agreed that people (not on the LC) co-opted for personnel responsibilities should have Leadership Cabinet approval.
- 15. Gift for Ron** – George will work with Ron to determine his preference for a gift from the Presbytery.
- 16. Presbytery Meetings** - Kristin was asked to share at the November Presbytery meeting what she and Brandon had the Miles City session do as a follow up to Vera White's training. It is hoped that the videos (of Vera White) made by Jack Bell will soon be available. It is desired to have the November meeting relate closely to what was done at the June meeting.
- 17. November Presbytery Meeting Planning** – Susi will convene the planning team next week.
- 18. New Worshiping Community Task Force** - Jack Bell was absent so there was no report.
- 19. Correspondence from GA** - General Assembly is asking for a response to the five peacemaking affirmations. It was decided that there would be an introductory session on this at the November Presbytery meeting. Any action taken would not be until the first Presbytery meeting in 2016.
- 20. Correspondence regarding response to Climate Change** – There is a symposium in Houston in October.
 - √ The LC voted to have Kristin W. draft a letter affirming the approach to climate change. The letter is to be sent before the symposium on October 2nd and 3rd.
- 21. Lunch** – The LC took a short break for lunch. Jody offered prayer for the meal.
- 22. Finance** – Dan handed out proposed budgets for 2016. Synod has proposed a 2016 Synod Per Capita rate of \$3.50 which will not be confirmed until Synod meets in late October. Dan proposes that the overall Per Capita rate for 2016 remain the same as 2015. Presbytery will need to vote in November to approve the 2016 Per Capita rate for YP. The YP rate will depend on the GA and Synod rates for 2016. George pointed out that the proposed transfer from the Restricted administrative fund is too high (based on salary package for Co-General Presbyters). It was suggested that the income transfer amount from the West Yellowstone funds be increased. Ron indicated that the December 2014 membership of YP was 1,970 members. The LC will look at the 2016 budgets again at their next meeting.
- 23. Personnel** – There was no report.
- 24. Rep/Nom** – Jody reported on behalf of Debbie Funke. September 15th is the deadline for applications for RE commissioner to the 2016 GA meeting as well as for YAAD applications.
- 25. Camping and Youth** – There was a written report from Curt indicating a wonderful camp season.
- 26. Rural Ministry /Whitworth** – Kathy handed out the letter that Joel and Mirra sent to Lewiston after their visit there. Sessions and congregations across the Presbytery will be reviewing the comments and suggestions that were sent to them. The letters include strengths, assets, and opportunities.
- 27. 1st Bozeman Real Estate Team** – Dan Krebill, Chuck Poremba, and Donna Beck provided information on a potential real estate transaction involving First Bozeman Church. They are working on a plan where the church would sell the office building across the street but keep most of the parking spaces. The timing of the closing is uncertain. It was suggested to ask the Presbytery (at the November meeting) to delegate to the Leadership Cabinet the authority to approve the transaction(s).
- 28. Synod Report** – The Synod Assembly will meet around October 19th and 20th. At that time we will know the 2016 per capita rate as well as the amount of the grant for 2016. There has been some discussion on the possibility of merging with Synod of the Pacific. David Ezekiel has taken a part time position at San

Francisco Seminary. Any input on WNLТ should be given to Kathy.

29. **Deer Lodge/PDA** – Teresa reported on the visit from the PDA reps to Deer Lodge. It was pointed out that any funds not used from the PDA grant will need to be returned. Perhaps some disaster training could be offered locally in Montana.
30. **Finance transfers** – On the balance sheet there is an account titled “Funds awaiting cabinet action”. The balance of \$5,760 is for monies received from the sale of Christus Collegium. We continue to receive about \$2,000 per year from this sale.
 - √ The LC approved a motion to transfer \$5,760 plus any future monies received from the sale into the Higher Education Grant Fund.There was also discussion regarding the balance of \$1,000 in the Convocation fund. No action was taken.
31. **Mildred Church** – Ron reported that the successful bidder for the Mildred Church did not want to go forward with his offer after seeing the condition of the building. The potential buyer sent a letter to the attorney along with a check for \$1,000 as a donation to Yellowstone Presbytery. The potential buyer is not willing to pay more than \$3,500 for the building.
 - √ The LC voted to accept the offer of \$3,500 for the Mildred Church.
32. **Intermountain Board** – George is no longer on the board for Intermountain. He has talked with JP Carlson who is willing to be the YP representative on the board.
 - √ The LC voted to approve JP Carlson as the Yellowstone Presbytery (YP) representative on the Intermountain Board.
33. **MAC Board** – It was also noted that Yellowstone Presbytery needs a replacement for George on the MAC board.
34. **Extending the Docket** -
 - √ The LC voted to extend the docket until 2:15 pm.
35. **Roy Church** – There has been no resolution at this time regarding the sale of the church.
36. **Report of Co-General Presbyters** – George and Kathy submitted a written report. They are still struggling to keep their work time closer to half-time hours.
37. **Stated Clerk’s Report** – Ron reported that he has been going through his files. He has lots of documents that could possibly be donated to a historical society. We need to see if there is any room in the office for a couple more filing cabinets.
38. **Report on Fires** – The fires present an opportunity to minister to firefighters. The Presbytery of Inland Northwest has been providing some supplies to some reservation churches in Idaho. An email has been sent to Rusty Craig asking for his input.
39. **Next Meeting** – The next regularly scheduled meeting of the LC is October 6, 2015 in Billings.
40. **Adjournment** – Jody gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.