

**Presbytery of Yellowstone
Leadership Cabinet (LC) Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2015**

The Leadership Cabinet of Yellowstone Presbytery met by conference call on November 18, 2015 at 4:00 pm.

Present were:

Jody McDevitt
Debbie Blackburn
Dan Holland
Teresa Kendall
Jack Bell
Dave Kimball

Absent:

Susi Ennis
Kristin Willett
Jed Cauffman
George Goodrich
Kathy Goodrich
Ron Hanson

1. **Opening Prayer** – The opening prayer was offered by Jody.
2. **Quorum** – A quorum was declared to be present.
3. **Agenda** – The meeting was called for three purposes: to consider a mission grant application from St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Peacemaking Task Group, to nominate a moderator for the Rep/Nom Ministry Team for 2016, and to recommend a distribution formula for General Mission pledges for 2016.
4. **Grant Request** – Dave Kimball reviewed the plans of the Peacemaking Task Group from St Andrew. The grant funds would cover some of the fees to have a trainer come twice to Billings as well as the travel expenses for the trainer. Training would take place on January 9th and January 23rd. The church would also host a Presbytery discussion on February 6th. It was requested that the Task Group provide feedback to the Presbytery as well as interpreting to the Presbytery what the group is doing.
√ The LC voted to approve \$2,000 from the Equip and Encourage Fund for St Andrew Presbyterian Church Peacemaking Task Force (for training in dialog for deeper understanding). Jody will prepare a voucher for Sheryl Hallin to send the check.
5. **Moderator for Representation/Nominating Ministry Team for 2016 -**
½The LC voted to nominate Debbie Funke to be the moderator of the Representation/Nomination Ministry Team in 2016.
6. **General Mission Pledge for 2016**– The Synod is no longer accepting General Mission dollars so a new distribution formula is needed. There was some discussion regarding the fact that the YP General Mission Pledge document refers to General Assembly Mission. Some people felt that it would be clearer to replace General Assembly Mission with Presbyterian Mission Agency. It was agreed to have Ron Hanson verify what the correct wording should be.
½The LC voted to recommend that the distribution formula for the General Mission pledges be changed to 80% for Presbytery Mission and 20% for General Assembly Mission, and that the nomenclature be changed to match the (PCUSA) website nomenclature, if needed.
26. **Adjournment** - Jody gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 4:46 pm.

Presbytery of Yellowstone Mission Grant Application

Project Name: Dialogues for Deeper Understanding

Sponsoring Organization: St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Peacemaking Task Group

Amount requested: \$2000.00

Grant from: Equip and Encourage Fund

Brief description of project:

Dialogues for Deeper Understanding is a project which seeks to restore civil public discourse through an on-going series of community forums. Our intention is to host several dialogues throughout the Billings community each year and address big issues which we face globally, nationally, regionally and locally one civilized discussion at a time. We are in need of funds for task group members to become trained facilitators for potentially conflicting conversations. Funds will be used for a two-day training session led by Linda Gryczan from Mediation Works in Helena, Montana.

Goals and objectives of sponsoring organization and/or project:

The Peacemaking Task Group of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church seeks to:

- be obedient to Jesus Christ as it nurtures and equips God's people to be peacemakers
- bear witness to the love of God which flows to our neighbors
- help others understand that our faith helps us to perceive God's will through safe, constructive and loving dialogues
- begin to restore civility in dialogue through the Christian principles of patience, humility, integrity, and mutual respect

How will this project seek to involve the churches of the presbytery?

1. The Task Group would like to do a training during a Yellowstone Presbytery meeting that would prepare other presbyters to facilitate similar conversations. Our hope is that others would use this as a model to facilitate similar difficult discussions in their own communities and congregations.
2. We would like to help the presbytery discuss amendments that carry the potential for conflict, using this model of Deeper Understanding.
3. In addition, as participants are trained throughout the presbytery, people who show gifts *for* mediation could potentially be used by the FMT in its ministry to individual congregations in conflict.
4. As this is an unfolding project, we have not yet begun to see the possibilities this might hold for our churches, We are open to the Spirit's leading within Yellowstone Presbytery as we explore other possibilities together.

Please attach a previous year financial statement if this is an ongoing project.

The task group is newly formed and this is our first project.

Applicant name: St. Andrew Presbyterian Church (Mary Davis)

Applicant address: 2523 Beartooth Dr., Billings, MT 59102

Applicant Signature: /s/ Mary Davis

Date: 11/5/15