

**Presbytery of Yellowstone
Leadership Cabinet (LC) Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2016
First Presbyterian Church, Bozeman**

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

Present were:

Jody McDevitt
Jack Bell
Jed Cauffman
Teresa Kendall
Dan Holland (afternoon)
Kristin Willett (by phone)
Susi Ennis (by phone)
Bev Harbaugh (by phone)

Also present:

George Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter
Kathy Goodrich, Co General Presbyter
Debbie Blackburn, Stated Clerk

- 1. Opening Prayer** – The opening prayer was offered by Jody.
- 2. Christ Candle** – Jody lit the Christ Candle.
- 3. Quorum** – A quorum was declared present.
- 4. Docket** – The docket was approved as presented.
- 5. Minutes of May 10, 2016**
√ The LC voted to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2016 meeting.
- 6. Dwelling in the Word** – Jody led the time of dwelling in Ephesians 4:7, 11-16. There was a time of reflecting and sharing about this passage.
- 7. LC Goals for 2016** - The LC spent time reviewing the chart that Jody had sent out. The possibility of a joint equipping event in 2017 with Wyoming and Pueblo Presbyteries was mentioned. The Minds and Hearts Cohort had its first meeting since the training week at Whitworth. Kathy mentioned the availability of research on getting younger people in church.
- 8. Presbytery Sunday** – Due to the limited time available before Presbytery Sunday it was agreed to use several of the resources from last year. Kristin will send out an email this week reminding churches of Presbytery Sunday (October 9th) and letting them know what to expect in the way of resources to be sent out the following week. Kathy will work with Susan S in the office on resources.
- 9. November Presbytery Meeting** - Teresa reported that Lanny Rounds would like for Rob Hagan (from the Foundation) to do a seminar immediately following the Presbytery meeting in Butte. It was agreed that the theme for the meeting will be Using Spiritual Gifts. We also need to get feedback from sessions about faith sharing presented at the June Presbytery meeting. Jed was asked to share what the Lewistown church has been doing with faith sharing. Kathy will contact the General Assembly delegates about presenting on Saturday morning. Teresa (convener), Kathy, George, Susi, Jack, and Debbie will meet by phone to continue planning for the meeting.
- 10. Synod Request for reduced function status** - There was a time of discussion regarding the request. Reduced function by the Synod (of the Rocky Mountains) would mean that more responsibility is placed on the Presbytery. Six of the eight Presbyteries in SRM must approve for this to pass.

- √ The LC voted to concur with this request (see attached) and recommend that Presbytery concur.
- 11. Nominations** - It was agreed to ask (Jody will) Dan Krebill to be the YP representative at the MAC meeting in October. The Board of Rocky Mountain College is looking for a Presbyterian to be on their board. George will talk with Dave Kimball, Bob Wood, and Katie Holland. George will give the name(s) of any willing to be on the board to the RMC Board for further action. The LC agreed to ask (Jody will contact) Caroline Fleming to serve another term on the Rep/Nom Ministry Team. Jody is willing to serve on the team also. The LC will nominate Neva Rathbun to be the moderator for the Rep/Nom Ministry Team in 2017.
- 12. Lunch Break** – Jed offered prayer for our meal and the LC recessed for lunch.
- 13. Budget/Finance** – Dan Holland will be working soon on the 2017 budget. It was suggested that the Partnership Fund requirements be reviewed (and adjustments recommended if needed).
- 14. Camping/Youth** – George reported that summer camp at Westminster Spires went very well. There has been some talk about a wilderness camp next summer. There will be a youth retreat October 20th to 22nd. Winter ski weekend will be February 24th to 26th. A triennium report from Dave Thompson was included in the packet materials.
- 15. Whitworth Fellows** – There is an article in the September Currents about the Whitworth Fellows.
- 16. Minds and Hearts Cohort** – George referred to a report from Heath Rada (see the Co-General Presbyters’ written report). In addition to the Preaching Cohort in YP, George is also an advisor to the cohorts in Wyoming and Pueblo Presbyteries.
- 17. Communications Team** – Kristin reported that the round of prayer points are posted on the FB page each week. Also links to some articles have been posted.
- 18. Child Protection Policy** – Kristin reported that Brandon continues to work on this.
- 19. New Worshipping Communities** – Jack has no update at this time.
- 20. Refugee resettlement** – No report at this time. There is a family from the Congo in Missoula.
- 21. Personnel** – Susi has no report at this time.
- 22. Pastoral Ministry Team** – The Jordan church is in the process of completing an MIF. Today is JP Carlson’s last day with the churches in Anaconda and The Big Hole.
- 23. Dream Grant Application** – Kathy spoke about the “growing young” material that is available. The deadline for the Dream Grant is October 4th. Kathy will send out a draft of the grant to the LC. Any feedback should be sent to Kathy.
- √ The LC voted to approve pursuing the Dream Grant application (concurring with the PMT).
- 24. Constitutional Amendments** - Debbie will review these and recommend which group or person should be asked to study and present each amendment (to be voted at the February/March 2017 Presbytery meeting).
- 25. 2017 Presbytery Meetings** – The LC discussed locations and dates for 2017 meetings. Jody will contact the churches involved to see if they would be willing to host on the dates indicated.
February 10th and 11th – St Andrew Billings
May 12th and 13th – Ennis first choice with Dillon as alternate choice
November 3rd and 4th – Bozeman First
- 26. Report from Co-General Presbyters** – A written report was submitted. George and Kathy mentioned that they love how we (in YP) listen to each other. Also Dwelling in the Word seems to be a very good part of Presbytery meetings (and Ministry Team meetings). There are many changes in Louisville (including the PMA Board).
- 27. Stated Clerk’s Report** – A written report was submitted. Our Presbytery minutes need to include the following item. The Synod of the Rocky Mountains approved the following Record Review Report on August 1, 2016: Presbytery of Yellowstone had one exception – No record of review and approval of records of sessions.

28. Kairos Palestine Brochure –We are not endorsing the event on October 17-20, 2016. However, there was discussion about publicizing the event.

√ The LC voted to put the brochure on the YP website and to send out an email right away. The brochure should also be included in the October currents.

[Jody will work with Susan Seibert and Susan Thomas on this.]

29. Next Meeting – The next meeting of the LC will be October 11, 2016 in Billings.

30. Adjournment– The meeting adjourned with prayer at 2:20 p.m.



Synod of the Rocky Mountains

Office of the Stated Clerk

2226 Sherri Mar Street, Longmont, CO 80501

August 18, 2016

To: The Presbyteries of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains (SRM)

From: The Synod of the Rocky Mountains Assembly

The Synod of the Rocky Mountains Assembly approved the following motion on Monday, August 1, 2016 and hereby sends it to its presbyteries for action at their Fall 2016 meeting. The motion in its entirety reads:

Given that our current Mission Statement and Core Values state:

The mission of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains is to assist, affirm, and strengthen its Presbyteries, incorporating to the greatest extent possible an emphasis on shared missions and ministries where they live and serve Jesus Christ.

As A Synod of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), serving our Lord Jesus Christ, the Synod of the Rocky Mountains upholds these core values:

- 1) Participating in the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).*
- 2) Encouraging and supporting the ministry of its Presbyteries, facilitating and celebrating connections among Presbyterian governing bodies, congregations, and individual members,*
- 3) Seeking the involvement of persons with a broad range of experiences and interests in its work.*
- 4) Creating structure to meet mission challenges so that form follows functions.*
- 5) Communicating and evaluating its service.*
- 6) Recognizing God's grace at work among us and in other faith communities.*

"Therefore, the Assembly of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains, meeting on August 1, 2016, moves to become a reduced-functioning synod, as permitted by the Book of Order at G-3.0404, that the date for this action to become effective is January 1, 2017, that the Assembly send this action to its presbyteries for consideration at their next Presbytery Assembly, and that the Stated Clerk of each presbytery forward the results of that vote to the Stated Clerk of the Synod". .

Rationale:

The Synod of the Rocky Mountains (SRM) is one of 16 regional representations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and is the corporate expression of the eight presbyteries within its bounds: Denver, Glacier, Plains and Peaks, Utah, Western Colorado, Wyoming, and Yellowstone, which are located in the states of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and the panhandle of Nebraska. AS of December 31, 2015 there are 30,610 members in 208 churches within its bounds. Additionally, there are ten worshipping communities.

Rev. David Ezekiel, Transitional Executive
Elder Brad Culp, Treasurer

Elder Lynn Smit, Stated Clerk
Bobbi Hoffman, Office Admin

The Synod has always sought ways to resource its presbyteries; but, covering more than 465,000 square miles, it recognizes that it is not able to be an effective programmatic entity for its presbyteries. Therefore, SRM seeks to exercise responsible stewardship and complete its downsizing of operations. This is in keeping with its core values and provides a structure that will empower the 8 presbyteries of the Synod to meet the mission challenges each faces within its own context.

In becoming a reduced-functioning synod, SRM will limit itself to the following regular functions:

- 1) Assembly will meet face-to-face at least once every two years.
- 2) Setting an annual budget and establishing per capita.
- 3) Provide judicial process and administrative review of its presbyteries (for example: investigative committees, administrative commissions, review of presbyteries records).
- 4) And other items of necessity that might arise (for example: presbytery mergers, redrawing presbytery boundaries).

This also means that the presbyteries shall take upon themselves the responsibilities for mission within their areas and for providing training and educational opportunities and programs. As such, SRM will no longer develop resources or provide staffing support for its presbyteries. As currently envisioned, the staffing pattern for the Synod will include a part-time Stated Clerk, a part-time treasurer, and a part-time bookkeeper. These persons will provide the administrative resourcing for SRM and the Assembly.

SRM will always encourage its presbyteries to develop leaders, provide for disciple-making opportunities, and engage in mission. The following is what SRM in its more streamlined configuration will continue to do in the immediate future to support its presbyteries:

- 1) Midwest Ministry Development Services – financial support for a clergy referral program.
- 2) Intervention (Presbytery Consultant Travel) – financial support to assist a presbytery needing conflict resolution.
- 3) New EP Training – financial support to the denomination’s training for new Executive Presbyters (by whatever title).
- 4) Staff Forum – convening and supporting the gathering of the EPs (by whatever title) in SRM. This gathering is vitally important to make and facilitate connections between presbyteries, promote program cooperation, as well as offering mutual support.
- 5) Educational Training – SRM will allocate funding to assist presbyteries as they construct training opportunities in conjunction with neighboring presbyteries.

Again, SRM has been boldly moving in this direction for the past several years and is now in the culminating stage. It does not want to continue to prop up an old methodology of operation; rather it seeks to streamline itself and repurpose its resources. The response from the presbyteries is that this path will not only economize, but will facilitate the building of relationships, partnerships, and dynamic teams to accomplish specific ministry tasks for all. The goal is to recognize and develop common strengths in order to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By undertaking this action, presbyteries recognize that ministry necessitates the reliance upon one another to work for the reign of God in our lives and in the world. It will require presbyteries to be more functional, connectional, and collaborative. And it acknowledges that ever expanding methods of communication and technology have revolutionized our ability to connect with one another.

If approved by the presbyteries, the Synod will enter this new phase on January 1, 2017. SRM will live into this new mode of being over the next three years during which time Synod Assembly will constantly monitor progress and evaluate results.

Following is the process by which the Synod of the Rocky Mountains becomes reduced-functioning:

1. The motion is passed by the Synod Assembly.
2. The motion is sent to the Stated Clerks of the presbyteries of the Synod for action.
3. The motion requires a 2/3rds approval by the presbyteries (this percentage requirement is met when passed by at least 6 of the 8 presbyteries).
4. The Stated Clerk of each presbytery forwards the result of the vote to the Stated Clerk of the Synod. The Stated Clerk of the Synod verifies the vote.
5. Synod Assembly (meeting on November 14, 2016) receives and verifies the vote totals. (This only serves to dot "i"s and cross "t"s.)
6. If approved by the presbyteries, SRM Assembly announces the result and takes all necessary action to implement the results of the vote. The Synod anticipates approval, but, if not approved the presbyteries, SRM Assembly immediately considers alternatives at its November 14, 2016 meeting.

Book of Order – G-3.0404 *Reduced Function*

A synod may decide, with the approval of a two-thirds majority of its presbyteries, to reduce its function. In no case shall synod function be less than the provision of judicial process and administrative review of the work of the presbyteries (G-3.0401c). Such a synod shall meet at least every two years for the purposes of setting budget, electing members to its permanent judicial commission, and admitting to record the actions of its permanent judicial and administrative commissions. Presbyteries of such a synod shall assume for themselves, by mutual agreement, such other synod functions as may be deemed necessary by the presbyteries and the synod.