

**Presbytery of Yellowstone
Leadership Cabinet (LC) Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2016
First Presbyterian Church, Billings**

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

Present were:

Jody McDevitt
Teresa Kendall
Jack Bell
Kristin Willett
Bev Harbaugh
Susi Ennis (by phone)
Dan Holland (by phone part of the meeting)

Absent:

Jed Cauffman

Also present:

George Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter (by phone)
Kathy Goodrich, Co General Presbyter (by phone)
Debbie Blackburn, Stated Clerk

- 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** – A quorum was declared present.
- 4. Docket** – The docket was adopted.
- 5. Minutes of January 12, 2016**
 - √ The LC voted to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2016 meeting.
- 6. Dwelling in the Word** – Jody led this section. The scripture selection was Ephesians 4:1-16. There was a time of reflecting on this passage. Kristin commented that she thought the new Presbytery structure allows people to better use their gifts. Jody and George closed this time with prayer.
- 7. 2016 Leadership Cabinet Goals** – The LC spent time reviewing the goals for 2016 and considering specific ways to achieve these goals. It was pointed out that it is important to model practices that we are trying to teach to others. It was agreed that Presbytery Sunday will be scheduled for October 9, 2016. Kristin would like to facilitate a Communications Team which would include Jack Bell, Susan Thomas, Susan Seibert, and Kristin. There was a suggestion to develop Dwelling in the Word resources for congregations.
- 8. Moderator Rada's Call to the Church** - The LC spent time discussing and reflecting on the "call to the church". There was a general consensus that we need to re-do the current way we do church.
- 9. March Presbytery Meeting** – Details regarding the March meeting were reviewed. It was pointed out that there needs to be a theme (what are we hoping to do?). The group was reminded of the two questions we want to ask churches that are sharing good news. (1) Where do you see the Holy Spirit at work internally (making and growing disciples)? (2) Where do you see the Holy Spirit at work externally (sent out, mission)? The moderator of Presbytery will continue to be the person contacting churches for sharing. It would be nice if churches could prepare a handout on what is being shared. Teresa and her group will work to finalize the planning for the meeting.
 - √ The LC voted to approve that the offering on Friday night will go to the Tumbleweed program for homeless youth (located in Billings).

- 10. Lunch** – The LC recessed for lunch and Bev gave a blessing for our meal.
- 11. Peacemaking** – Mary Davis joined the meeting and presented information on the Peacemaking activities at St Andrew Church. She thanked the LC for the grant money (previously approved). There have been two meetings (January 9th and January 23rd) on Dialogues for Deeper Understanding in addition to the meeting on February 6th which focused on the five Peacemaking Affirmations from the General Assembly. The recommendation to Presbytery is to adopt these affirmations. Dick Davis will present the rationale for this recommendation at the March Presbytery meeting. The group would like to present more of the training process at a future Presbytery meeting. It was agreed that this task group (Seeds for Peace) would be an official group of the LC with accountability to the LC on a regular basis.
- 12. Ministry Team Reports** – There were no reports from Camping or from Rep/Nom. George gave an update on the work of the PMT. There will be three seminars presented by the Board of Pensions in Billings in September. The first seminar (Tuesday, September 27th and Wednesday, September 28th) will be for clergy approaching retirement. The second seminar (Thursday, September 29th) will focus on tax related issues. The third seminar (Friday, September 30th) will be for younger clergy and will focus on money management and debt. Glacier and Wyoming Presbyteries will also be invited.
- 13. Synod** – Kathy reported that there is an overture asking that the GA decision to reduce the number of synods be rescinded.
- 14. New Worshipping Communities** – Jack reported that there is no update at this time.
- 15. Personnel** – Jed Cauffman needs to step down from his responsibilities for Personnel. It was agreed that Susi Ennis will now be the coordinator for personnel issues.
- 16. Covenant with Glacier** – No update at this time.
- 17. Finance** – The final financial reports for December 2015 were included in the packet sent out by Jody. Dan reported that a transfer of \$1,859.76 was made from the Springhill Funds to balance the administrative expenses for 2015. (The budgeted amount for transfers was \$35,063). There were no transfers needed for the Program budget as income exceeded expenses by \$5,897.01. Kathy will work on getting an estimate for GA expenses for 2016. There has been a donation of \$1,000 to be used for costs for attending GA. There will need to be some funds for expenses for the Whitworth fellows (possibly \$4,000), but more information is still needed on this.
- 18. Equipping of GA Commissioners** – Kathy is tracking overtures and will work on specific training.
- 19. Nomination for Rep/Nom Ministry Team** – Jody reported that Neva said yes.
v LC voted to nominate Neva Rathbun for the class of 2018 on the Rep/Nom Ministry Team.
- 20. Whitworth Summer Fellows 2016** – Kathy will have more information at the April meeting. She did report that there are five confirmed fellows so far. Two will be at Manhattan, two will be at Anaconda/Big Hole, and one will be at Lewistown. There may be a 2nd person for Lewistown.
- 21. Co- General Presbyters Report** – George reported that he will be participating in the youth ski retreat the last weekend of February. They are looking for summer staff as well as campers for Westminster Spires. Kathy will be sending out an email with information on the Preaching Grant.
- 22. Stated Clerk Report** – Debbie reported that she has been working with session clerks and treasurers on various issues (including property tax applications and online reporting of statistics). She will be attending clerk training in Louisville in March right after the Presbytery meeting.
- 23. BOP seminar at close of March Presbytery meeting** – Debbie and Kathy will work on a flyer for the seminar. Susan Seibert will keep of list of people who register for the event. There will be a charge of \$5 for those wanting lunch at the seminar.
- 24. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned with prayer at 2:05 p.m.