

**Presbytery of Yellowstone
Leadership Cabinet (LC) Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2016
First Presbyterian Church, Bozeman**

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

Present were:

Jody McDevitt
Teresa Kendall
Jack Bell
Kristin Willett (by phone)
Susi Ennis (by phone)
Dan Holland (after lunch)

Absent:

Jed Cauffman
Bev Harbaugh

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 and read the litany of the Christ Candle.
- 3. Quorum** – A quorum was declared present.
- 4. Docket** – The docket was approved with minor additions.
- 5. Minutes of February 9, 2016**
 - √ The LC voted to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2016 meeting as corrected (removing the last three words from item #14).
- 6. Dwelling in the Word** – George led this section of dwelling in John 21: 1-14. There was a time of reflecting and sharing about this passage. It was suggested that this passage be considered as a theme for the June Presbytery meeting. George closed this time with prayer.
- 7. Evaluation of the March Presbytery meeting** – There were positive comments about the faith sharing time. It was suggested that a ruling elder share at the June meeting. It was agreed that we should take a break from going out into the community. However, there should be a time for reviewing the purposes for going out into the community and reflecting on new ways to look outward. Kathy suggested that everyone on the LC view a set of eight videos on new worshipping communities by NW Coast Presbytery (www.northwestcoast.org/learning-community).
- 8. LC Goals for 2016** - The LC spent time discussing and evaluating the goals for 2016. Action items include a Book Swap at presbytery meeting, a retreat for pastors, the BOP seminars in the fall, and doing some work on procedures involving St. Timothy's Chapel. George will contact Marcia Anson to see if their cabinet has had any discussion regarding the covenant between Yellowstone and Glacier Presbyteries.
- 9. June Presbytery Meeting** – It was suggested that we might offer a book (as a gift) at the Presbytery meeting. Kristin will convene a subgroup (with George, Jack, Teresa, and Debbie) to work on specific plans for the equipping part of the meeting.
- 10. St Timothy's Chapel** – Ron Hanson sent a write up that Debbie had requested from him on St. Timothy's Chapel. This should become part of the Administrative Manual. However, it was agreed that no action would be taken at this time as the LC needs a better understanding of all procedures regarding the chapel committee. George, Dan H, Debbie, and someone from the chapel committee

should form a subgroup to work on this. What is the relationship with Yellowstone Presbytery? Are any practices contrary to Yellowstone Presbytery's policies or harmful to Yellowstone Presbytery?

11. **GA Overture regarding Synod Structure** – Kathy presented information on an overture to GA that asks for the rescinding of the 2014 decision to reduce the number of Synods. The intent was to have the Presbytery consider concurring with the overture. However, it was determined that the deadline for this is already past.
 12. **Lunch** – The LC recessed for lunch and Jack gave a blessing for our meal.
 13. **Financial Reports** – Dan Holland reported that the current financial status is good.
 14. **Communications Team** – Kristin gave an overview of the main forms of Presbytery wide communication (Newsletter, Website, and Facebook). Kristin, Jack, George, and Teresa are administrators for the Facebook page. It was pointed out that we need guidelines regarding what items are posted to the Facebook page and also to the website. Kristin outlined a suggested schedule for regular postings on Facebook. She will start with “Pause for Prayer” items.
 15. **Child Protection Policy** – Kristin reported that Brandon has been looking at sample policies. It was agreed to combine the Child Protection Policy with the existing Sexual Misconduct Policy. The first draft should be reviewed by the Pastoral Ministry Team and the Camping and Youth Ministry Team before bringing it to the LC. It was suggested that reviewing the Rockhaven Camp policy could be helpful.
 16. **March and September BOP Seminars** – Those who attended the March seminar thought it was worthwhile. Dan Krebill is the Presbytery contact person for the seminars in September.
 17. **New Worshiping Communities** – There was no update.
 18. **Minds and Hearts Grant** – Kathy reported that TEs are required to pay \$50 of the registration cost and the grant covers the rest of the registration cost. There is some private housing available. The WIM conference will be July 18th through July 22nd.
 19. **Covenant relationship with Whitworth** – Kathy will bring something on this to the May LC meeting.
 20. **Refugee Resettlement**– George has made some calls and is waiting to hear back from them. Kathy may be able to get some information from the Outreach Foundation.
 21. **Dakota Presbytery** – Jody reported on a conversation where she was told that some in Dakota Presbytery would like to have more of a relationship with Yellowstone Presbytery. Also one church expressed an interest in transferring to Yellowstone. FPC Bozeman will be sending a group in late May to work with some of the churches in Dakota Presbytery. The church at Lindsay has reopened.
 22. **Personnel** – Susi has had some conversations with George. Anyone who is co-opted for Personnel work should have the approval of the LC (see LC minutes from September 1, 2015).
 23. **Camping and Youth**– George reported that staff people have been hired. Will Johnson (husband of Katie Emery and ELCA pastor in Glendive) will join the team working with junior high students.
 24. **Whitworth Summer Fellows** – Kathy reported that contacts have been made between the churches and the students. The Presbytery does need to provide some additional funding.
- √ LC voted to approve a grant not to exceed \$2,000 to be used for expenses for the Whitworth Fellows. The funds are to come from the Equip and Encourage Fund.
25. **Funds Request from Synod** – Kathy reported that we may request \$1,000 from Synod to be used for continuing education purposes. It was suggested that we ask for \$1,000 to be used first towards further assistance and costs as needed for the Minds and Hearts Set on Christ continuing education PCUSA grant. Any remaining funds would be used towards continuing education in Yellowstone for disciple making and forming in congregations and the presbytery.
- √ LC voted to approve that a letter be written requesting the \$1,000 from the Synod. Kathy will work with Debbie on this letter.

- 26. Funds awaiting cabinet action** – The balance in this account is currently \$9,500. The balance consists of three items: \$3,500 from the sale of the Mildred church property, \$5,000 from the sale of the Roy church property, and a donation of \$1,000 from the buyer of the Mildred church property.
- √ The LC voted to transfer \$8,500 to the Equip and Encourage Fund.
- 27. PDA Grant** – June will be the one year anniversary of receiving these funds. Any unused funds will need to be returned to PDA at the end of one year.
- 28. Co-General Presbyters' Report** – George and Kathy handed out a written report. They highlighted the positive aspects of the cluster groups. We should be working with pastors and churches on discipleship practices. One main idea is to help sessions discern “what might effective discipleship look like in your congregation”.
- 29. Stated Clerk's Report** – Debbie had a written report. She indicated that Clerk's training in Louisville was very helpful. She also mentioned the proposed federal changes regarding exempt employees (which would increase the salary threshold from \$23,660 to \$50,440).
- 30. Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the LC will be May 10, 2016 at FPC in Billings. Jack Bell will moderate the meeting in Jody's absence.
- 31. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned with prayer at 2:05 p.m.