

Moderator of the 221 General Assembly, Heath Rada, gave his report on the state of the PCUSA to the 222 General Assembly in Portland, OR in June... His emphasis (please see his excerpted remarks included in packet): Across the church, **“Presbyterians are hungry for the renewal of faith formation and proclamation....”** **And** **“Congregational vitality is essential.”**

While his words may be understood differently by people across the church, these priorities have been on our screen in Yellowstone Presbytery now and over past years. Seemingly, the Holy Spirit has us on the right track with our priorities as an LC, the resourcing and equipping ó at presbytery meetings, through grant opportunities, the emphasis on Dwelling in the Word, the activities in our pastor clustersí BUT, please letø keep prayerfully exploring how to enrich the lives, faith, and mission of pastors/CLPø, congregations, leaders God has called us to lead and serve, and to explore NEW ways and worshipping communities to BETTER embody the gospel.

In January and February the Cabinet outlined **Four Goals for 2016**. These frame our report:

I. *Emphasize Disciple-making in our congregations and in our presbytery*

- a. **Camping / Youth:** George trained staff and lead bible studies for Sr and Elem camps.
 - i. The summer camping season at WSS Camp was successful. **See Curt's report.**
 1. Rockhaven Camp had a successful season. **Info: Jody**
 - ii. Exploring Plans: a week of wilderness camp in for 2017. **Info: George/Curt**
 - iii. Jr-Sr High Presbytery Fall Retreat will be at Rockhaven, October 20-22, 2016.
- b. **College-age ministry:**
 - i. PresbyCats at FPC-Bozeman is off to a great start for 2016-2017. **Info: Dan K.**
 - ii. Congregations, youth & Whitworth Fellows, Year 2... (see Yellowstone Currents)
 1. Six Fellows served in six Churches (Anaconda/Big Hole, Manhattan, Lewistown) and at Westminster Spires Camp. Recommendation: Plan to participate in Fellows program with Whitworth for next summer. **More \$, DREAM grant? Info: Kathy**
- c. **Pastors and Leaders:**
 - i. Whitworth Institute for Ministry, July, 2016; Ten Yellowstone Clergy and a CRE attended. Ten have covenanted to meet regularly in the year ahead for collegial discipleship, spiritual formation and to grow in our preaching. **Second meeting was fully attended on Oct. 4. Discussion of writings by Tom Long and Will Willimon. For info: George**
 - ii. The Four Pastor Clusters are tuning up again now that Fall is here. **Info: George**
 - iii. Resourcing of March and June Presbytery Meetings was “Telling our Stories...” Share how you are practicing this in your life, congregation. Positive feedback received from congregations, Whitworth Fellows...
 - iv. Resourcing for November Presbytery mtg. on this theme? **Info: Planning Team**
 - v. Training GA commissioners, YAAD, ahead and on the job! Kathy, assisted by Debbie B.

II. *Clarify the Covenant with Glacier and explore other partnerships for future collaboration.*

- a. **Major Development:** The Synod is becoming a ‘reduced functioning’ synod as of Dec. 31. No more Synod Executive. Presbyteries and staff are already working informally together to create new patterns of communication and partnerships in ministry. **Info: Kathy**
 - i. **No WNL this year.**
- b. **Glacier?** We are working collegially with Marsha Anson, EP- Stated Clerk. But where do we stand here? *Suggest we draft a document proposing redefinition of this relationship*
- c. **Active partnerships:**
 - i. *Whitworth University, Office of Church Engagement (2 grants)*

- i. *Within Synod (most active) Wyoming Presbytery, Pueblo Presbytery*
- ii. *Board of Pensions – Seminars, call to health, etc.*
- iii. *PDA – new grant for St. Andrew for hail damage to church & garden.*
- iv. *United Methodists / Lutherans –on providing pastoral leadership*
- v. *Suggestions?*

III. Build community in the presbytery, continuing to grow our communication.

- a. Communications Team – **Info: Kristin Willett**
- b. Yellowstone Currents – **Info: Susan Thomas**
- c. Facebook – **Kristin, Jack Bell, George**
- d. Presbytery Sunday, October 9...
- e. ****Dwellings in the Word for Session resourcing/devotions are now posted on the presbytery website. **Info: George**
- f. Pastor Clusters build community in regions.
- g. Please pray for the pastoral search in Jordan and pastoral needs in Anaconda/Big Hole churches as JP leaves to take a position in Bozeman (family needs) @ Christ the King ELCA.
- h. Suggestions?

IV. Focus on spiritual nurture of pastors, leaders and potential leaders by understanding and using spiritual gifts.

- a. In the Sp. Formation-Predaching Cohort, JP Carlson is leading a process by which we learn our own spiritual gifts and those of the others in the cohort.
- b. George continues to offer spiritual direction to four of the presbytery pastors.
- c. Research several inventories, processes which could be considered and used by leaders and congregations. **Info: Kathy** completing research on this. More info to follow.
- d. **BUT** we have not done much with this goal as relates to spiritual gifts across the presbytery.

Other Items to Report:

- A. We continue to be involved with supporting the work of the PMT in many areas: individuals, BoP related matters, churches in transition Dillon, Geyser, Jordan, Anaconda and Big Hole & other needs.
- B. **George attended the joyful installation of the New UMC Bishop, Karen Oliveto, a very dedicated, gifted and able leader for the Rocky Mountain / Yellowstone Conference region. Kathy was able to join George and other judicatory heads to welcome Bishop Oliveto and her wife, Robyn over dinner.**
- C. Our 2016 Year-end campaign to help fund our position is starting. Your generous giving, *after* gifts to your congregation, have made all the difference. **Look for our fundraising letter later this month!**
- D. Kathy continues to serve: Board of Trustees of Whitworth University; one of the Yellowstone Presbytery commissioners to Synod. She trained attended the General Assembly in June.
- E. George serves on the Board of Rocky Mountain College, member of two Board Committees.
- F. Both of us meet quarterly with the other Synod Execs, a gathering which must assume significantly more leadership and importance as the Synod has voted to move to reduced function.

Personal Items to Report:

- A. Requesting a conversation with the personnel team from Leadership Cabinet regarding our job performance and possible future projections of our work, impacted by Synod change and more.
- B. **George has been exploring some health developments. Prayers and patience have been much appreciated.**
- C. Daughter Gillian and husband Peter have returned to Bozeman. She is now a fulltime Spanish Instructor at MSU; he continues his work remotely for Chipotle.
- D. Chip and Staci and boys are well in Spokane.

