

**Presbytery of Yellowstone
Leadership Cabinet (LC) Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2017
First Presbyterian Church, Bozeman**

Moderator Susi called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Present were:

Susi Ennis (by phone)
Jack Bell
Suzanne Bratzky
Steve Weber
Dan Holland (afternoon)
Jed Cauffman (by phone)
Teresa Kendall (by phone)
Kristin Willett (by phone)
Paul Hellend (by phone)

Absent:

None

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 Susi.
- 2. Christ Candle** – We did not have a candle as Susi was unable to attend in person.
- 3. Quorum** – A quorum was declared present.
- 4. Docket** – The docket was approved as presented.
- 5. Minutes of January 17, 2017 and February 3, 2017**
 - √ The LC voted to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2017 meeting.
 - √ The LC voted to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2017 special phone meeting.
- 6. Dwelling in the Word** – Susi led the time of dwelling in I Peter 2:9-12. There was a time of reflecting on this passage to see how it was speaking to individuals and to us as LC. Susi closed this time with prayer.
- 7. Orientation** – George continued with some of the orientation topics. He reviewed the purposes of the Leadership Cabinet along with administrative as well as spiritual responsibilities of the LC. There was also some discussion of the clusters and various partnerships that the Presbytery is involved in (such as Whitworth Fellows and the Preaching Cohort). Jack's connection with Zimbabwe as well as the work of the Bozeman Church with Dakota Presbytery were mentioned. Kathy reviewed changes that have occurred at the Synod level now that there is no longer a Synod Executive. The budgeting process will be reviewed at our next meeting.
- 8. Leadership Goals for 2017** – It was pointed out that our fifth goal is an emphasis on equipping congregations in growing young. The goal of building relationships (currently listed as the fifth goal) could be included in the third goal of fostering community. The LC discussed ways that people could be encouraged to take the spiritual gifts inventory. Sharing stories of how this information is being used in churches is very important. Another suggestion was to see if the clusters would be interested in coordinating some training for churches. Another idea was to bring several laptop computers to a church on Sunday to make it easier for people to complete the inventory. Teenagers could help those people not familiar with computers. Susi will coordinate a discussion with Kathy, Suzanne, and Debbie

to develop some concrete ideas to be reviewed at the April LC meeting.

- 9. Evaluation of February Presbytery Meeting** – This discussion overlapped with the discussion of goals. It was mentioned that personal contact with pastors would probably be needed in order to get churches to move forward with the materials presented by Stan Ott. And churches sharing what they have done or are doing could be helpful to other churches. Several ideas are listed in the report from the Co-General Presbyters.
- 10. Planning for May Presbytery meeting** – One suggestion was to show some short video clips from Stan Ott's presentations. Susi will convene a group to work on planning for the Presbytery meeting. That group is Susi, Kathy, Jed, Jack, and Debbie.
- 11. Lunch** – The LC recessed for a lunch break.
- 12. Vice Moderator of Presbytery** – This will be discussed at the April LC meeting. It was pointed out that there will be a vacancy on the LC when Kristin moves in June. Jack will continue to plan worship for the Presbytery meetings in the absence of a vice moderator.
- 13. Term for Moderator of Presbytery** – There was a discussion regarding the pros and cons of having an option for the Moderator of Presbytery to serve for two years. It would be necessary to allow the Vice Moderator to serve for two years also. These options would require changes to the Standing Rules. No action was taken. This item will be discussed again at the April LC meeting.
- 14. Insurance Review** – The LC has the responsibility of reviewing the insurance coverages. Jack Bell will work on this and bring a report to the April LC meeting. Debbie will send the coverage documents to Ron Hanson and Curt Kochner. Ron will be asked to look at the coverages for St Timothy's Chapel and Curt will be asked to look at the coverages for Westminster Spires.
- 15. Ruling Elder Commissioners** - Debbie suggested that we consider a change that would allow Ruling Elders serving on the Leadership Cabinet and REs serving as Synod Commissioners to be voting members of Presbytery. The current system for dealing with the TE/RE imbalance in the Presbytery does not seem to result in many more REs attending Presbytery meetings. It was also mentioned that many retired TEs do not attend Presbytery meetings.
- ✓ Motion passed for Debbie to craft proposed changes to the Standing Rules regarding Ruling Elders and Presbytery membership .
(This document will be considered at the April meeting of the LC).
- 16. Budget Report** - Dan reported that the January financials are positive. It was suggested that we need a process for following up with churches about per capita and mission pledge payments.
- 17. Request from Anaconda**– There was a request from Anaconda requesting assistance with some expenses for building improvements. Currently the Presbytery does not have a fund that is for this purpose. George will let the Anaconda church know about PILP which is a loan program.
- 18. Report from Co-General Presbyters** – Kathy and George sent an updated report by email. George mentioned leadership transitions and the need for CRE training. We need to be more intentional about encouraging CRE pursuits. The ski retreat went well. Kathy mentioned that she will have an opportunity in April to meet the Whitworth Fellows (for summer 2017). She indicated that the Presbytery will need to provide \$10,000 for the students in addition to expenses.
- 19. Missionary Visit to Montana**– Charles and Melissa Johnson, mission co-workers in Zambia, will be visiting in Montana August 7-16th. So far there has been interest from Great Falls, FPC Billings, and Stanford in having them visit their churches. Contact information for them was included in an email that was sent out.
- 20. Personnel** – No report at this time. There is a need to co-opt other people to help with this.
- 21. Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 4th in Billings.
- 22. Adjournment**– The meeting adjourned with prayer at 2:05 p.m.