

**Presbytery of Yellowstone
Leadership Cabinet (LC) Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2018
First Presbyterian Church, Billings, Montana**

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

Present were:

Susi Ennis
Jack Bell
Suzanne Bratsky
Susan Thomas
Julie Boksich
Paul Helland (phone)
Steve Weber (phone)
Teresa Kendall (phone)
Dan Holland (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. Quorum** – A quorum was declared present.
- 3. Docket** – The docket was approved
- 4. Minutes of October 3, 2017**
√ The LC voted to approve the minutes of October 3, 2017.
- 5. Minutes of October 27, 2017**
√ The LC voted to approve the minutes October 27, 2017.
- 6. Dwelling in the Word** – Susi led the time of dwelling in John 1:1-18. 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. Action Item Spreadsheet** - The action items spreadsheet was updated to reflect items that have been completed and those items that are still open. Everyone was encouraged to refer to the spreadsheet between meetings to be reminded of commitments made and due dates.
- 8. Goals and Priorities for 2018** – Time was spent reviewing goals from 2017 and formulating goals for 2018. The vision statement was read to consider how the goals relate to the statement. It was pointed out that it is helpful to have goals that are measurable. However, it is hard to measure discipleship. A subgroup of Susan, Susi, George, and Teresa will work together to propose wording for the 2018 goals to be reviewed at the February LC meeting.
- 9. March Presbytery Meeting** – The meeting on March 2nd and 3rd will be at St Andrew. Kathy reported that Rob Hagan plans to do his workshop Friday morning. Also Kathy advised that John Patterson is available to do his workshop. The music workshop will not be available but George can still do his discipleship workshop. Kathy will contact Stan Ott to see about his availability (by skype) on Friday of the meeting. Kathy will work with the college students to see who could attend. Joel would still like to preach on Friday evening. The offering will be designated for expenses for Whitworth Fellows. (The offering at the May meeting will be for Westminster Spires). A workshop to inform about Elder

and Lay Leader training (through Whitworth) was suggested.

10. **Lunch** – Susi offered prayer for our meal. The LC recessed for lunch (and birthday cake for Kathy).
11. **Stated Clerk Search Committee** – The committee is interviewing applicants this week.
12. **Finance** – The financial reports for December are not yet available. Dan Holland reported that the preliminary figures indicate that we will not need to transfer as much as budgeted from reserve accounts. The fundraising by George and Kathy exceed budgeted amounts.
13. **Geyser Administrative Commission** - Susi reported that Glacier Presbytery thinks that there is not a critical mass of people who might be interested in reviving/starting up a congregation in Geyser. The AC will be meeting to consider the option to sell the property.
14. **Oswego Property** - Paul Helland has not heard back from Ken Wolfe about purchasing the lots. Susi will speak with a contact with the Fort Peck Tribes to see if they have any interest in the property.
15. **Personnel Ministry Team** – We are still looking for an additional person to be on the Team with Jack Bell and Paul Helland. Members were asked to bring to the February LC Meeting the names of people to be considered for the personnel team.
16. **Presbytery Meetings for 2018** – The March meeting will be at St Andrew in Billings and the May meeting will be in Harlowton. Suzanne will ask the Bozeman church if they would be willing to host the Presbytery meeting on November 2nd and 3rd.
17. **Insurance** – Jack reported that he has not received requested information from the insurance agent. He will try a face-to-face meeting with the agent to see if he can determine what the problem is. We are still waiting on more information about the quote for increased liability. Jack will also ask for an umbrella quote and a quote for Employer Practices Liability. Since the policy renews on February 1, 2018, the LC did not think there would be enough time to get quotes from other insurance agents. That is something to pursue for next year. Also, we still need the breakdown of the annual premium between St Timothy's, Westminster Spires, and the Presbytery office. Jack handed out a document of recommended (from PCUSA) insurance coverages.
18. **Rep/Nom Team** – The LC needs to nominate someone to replace Neva Rathbun who has resigned from the team. The other team members are RE Caroline Fleming (Miles City), RE Bob Culbertson (Billings), and TE Jody McDevitt (Bozeman). The open term is for one year.
19. **Report from Co- General Presbyters** – Kathy and George provided a written report. They each highlighted certain aspects of their report. They believe that an interpretive piece for per capita is still needed. Also other sources of income need to be researched. The preaching/teaching cohort has not met for the current academic year (Fall of 2017 to Spring of 2018). They talked about the Whitworth training program for lay persons. Several churches have leaders interested in pursuing this training. George mentioned the need for a point person for Mission activities of the Presbytery.
20. **Computer Backup Process** – The LC needs to appoint a subgroup to develop a process for employees and leaders in the Presbytery to backup electronic documents and financial data.
21. **Pastor Search Updates** – George reported on the search status for several churches.
22. **Lay Leader Training** - It has been determined that the program offered by the Lutherans does not meet the needs of our Presbytery at this time. Kathy reviewed the curriculum of the Whitworth Program. If the Presbytery pays a fee of \$1,000, individual participants (from the Presbytery) will get a reduced price for the courses (based on hours studied). Kathy is still working with Whitworth on the exact details of this.
 - v The LC voted to authorize the payment of \$1,000 to join the CRE Program at Whitworth and to work with the Pastoral Ministry Team on this. (Dan Holland will determine where to expense the funds).
23. **Whitworth Fellows** – Two former fellows have applied for a second time with Yellowstone Presbytery. More details will be available in a few weeks.
24. **St Timothy's** – The proposed revisions to the by-laws for St Timothy's need to be reviewed. George plans to attend the next St Timothy's Committee meeting on January 15th. Jack may call into the

meeting. The St Timothy's budget needs to be submitted to the LC for review and presentation to the Presbytery for approval.

- 25. Higher Ed Grant Applications** – Susi is working on revised applications.
- 26. Child Protection Policy** – Curt Kochner may be working on this. Status needs to be determined.
- 27. Docket** – Motion passed to extend the docket until 3:05 p.m.
- 28. Meeting Dates for 2018** – Susi announced the following meeting dates for the rest of 2018:
 - February 6, 2018 (Bozeman)
 - March 13, 2018 (Conference Call)
 - April 3, 2018 (Billings)
 - June 12, 2018 (Bozeman – Goodrich home)
 - September 11, 2018 (Billings)
 - October 9, 2018 (Bozeman)Additional meetings (usually conference calls) may be called as needed.
- 29. Wyoming Presbytery** – Kathy has talked with Steve Shive about an opportunity to hear from pastors from Syria and Lebanon. There may be a time scheduled in Billings in the fall (2018).
- 30. Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 6, 2018 in Bozeman.
- 31. Adjournment**– The meeting adjourned with prayer at 3:10 pm.