

**Presbytery of Yellowstone  
Leadership Cabinet Meeting Minutes  
Conference Call  
March 13, 2018**

**Prayer:** Susi Ennis opened the meeting with prayer at 10:05pm.

**Present:** Susi Ennis, Suzanne Bratsky, Jack Bell, Teresa Kendall, Susan Thomas.  
Also present: Co-General Presbyter Kathy Goodrich and Stated Clerk Debbie Blackburn.  
Dan Holland and Co-General Presbyter George Goodrich joined us later in the meeting.

A quorum was declared.

A motion to approve the docket was made, seconded, and approved.

**Our Dwelling in the Word** was focused on Mark 8:1-10.

**Stated Clerk Search Committee Report:**

Jody McDevitt joined us to present the report of the committee.

Following interviews, the committee nominates Jim Tarr, ruling elder from St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, as stated clerk. In addition, the committee recommends that Melissa Perrault-Baumann, ruling elder from First Presbyterian Church, Lewistown, be employed as assistant stated clerk.

Suzanne moved and Teresa seconded the motion to appoint Jim as acting stated clerk April 1. The motion carried.

Teresa moved and Suzanne seconded a motion to ask the presbytery to set aside the first sentence of our standing rules in order that the stated clerk may be elected after the end of our current stated clerk's term. The motion passed.

Jack moved and Teresa seconded the motion to call a special conference call meeting of Yellowstone Presbytery on Tuesday, April 3 at 2 p.m. The purpose of the meeting would be to set aside sentence number one of the Standing Rules of the Presbytery regarding the stated clerk, and to take action on the unanimous recommendation of the Stated Clerk Search Committee and the Leadership Cabinet to elect Jim Tarr as Stated Clerk.

The motion carried.

The Leadership Cabinet discussed the New Stated Clerk Training event to be held in Louisville May 13-16. The new Stated Clerk's expenses will be paid by GA. A motion was made and seconded to support the assistant stated clerk's attendance at the training, possibly at a later date. This support includes our financial assistance if needed. The motion passed.

Currently, our stated clerk is paid a salary and an amount is allocated to a retirement account. If an amount is not allocated, payroll taxes and worker's comp are increased by about \$400.00. At this point, it is not clear whether a portion of the compensation must be allocated to a retirement benefit or what are the preferences of the new Stated Clerk. This question will be determined later.

After prayer, we excused Jody and thanked her and the Stated Clerk Search Committee for their service.

### **Presbytery Meeting Planning:**

We reviewed the March meeting, noting the feedback received from commissioners. The workshops were well-received however we attempted many events in a short amount of time. Worship was delayed and so Friday was a long day, especially with the addition of a morning workshop.

Ideas for the May meeting were presented such sharing stories, how to have people eyes, working with the musical gifts in Harlowton.

Teresa, Suzanne, Susi, and Kathy will work together to begin planning for the May meeting.

### **Co-Presbyters Report:**

Marsha Anson, Stated Clerk of Glacier Presbytery, has applied for a Geller Center Fund grant for a workshop for both Glacier and Yellowstone Presbyteries. The workshop will provide tips and techniques to help churches communicate more effectively with their communities. The workshop will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Helena on Thursday, September 27 from 9am – 3:30pm.

Kathy will communicate with Marsha to gain more information and also to communicate our hopes about the timing of the conference, participation from Yellowstone Presbytery, and video possibilities.

### **Higher Ed Grant Request Form:**

In order that the LC may be informed about the ministries of higher education in Yellowstone Presbytery, and keeping in mind our Vision Statement, the following questions are proposed for inclusion in our grant request form:

1. How are you an expressly Christian ministry? Please include your Vision and goals. How do your staff/leaders and Christian students share the Good News of Jesus Christ informally and formally in relationships and programs?
2. As you seek to embody the Good News and join Christ in *Christ's* mission, how do you connect your love and service to Christ, connecting to the question above?

3. How do you make disciples and disciple-making leaders to intentionally love and become more like Christ? Specifically describe the ways you:
  - Are guided and sustained by scripture
  - Model and teach prayer
  - Worship and encourage worship in student's lives
4. Do you encourage students to become involved in a local congregation? If so, how?
5. Please describe your weekly and monthly priorities, schedules, activities, programs of all types within and without the university context.
6. How much are you requesting and what items will it be funding in your budget?
7. Should we give you a grant, to whom should we write the check and where should it be addressed?

Currently, ministries at the campuses of Rocky Mountain College, MSU-Billings, and MSU-Bozeman have been supported. A question was raised about ministries in Butte, Miles City, Dillon, and Poplar. Contacting these ministries will be pursued.

Susi raised the question of being clear about our funding limits and determining our priorities and vision as we approve higher education grants.

Jack Bell moved and Dan Holland seconded a motion that our cap for higher ed giving this year will be \$6000.00. The motion passed.

**Personnel:**

We still need one more member to serve with Jack and Paul on this LC sub-committee. The committee will begin working and hopefully add one more member. Diane White will be contacted to ascertain her interest in serving.

Written updates were received from Insurance, Oswego Property, Geyser Administrative Commission, Rep/Nom Committee, Finance, St. Timothy's, and the Child Protection Policy.

**The meeting closed in prayer at 1pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Thomas