

**Presbytery of Yellowstone
Leadership Cabinet (LC) Meeting Minutes
June 12, Bozeman, Montana**

Moderator Susi called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM, at George and Kathy Goodrich's Home

Present were:

Susi Ennis
Jack Bell
Susan Thomas
Steve Weber
Julie Boksich
Suzanne Bratsky
Dan Holland
Teresa Kendall

Absent:

Paul Helland(Excused)

Also present:

George Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter (phone)
Kathy Goodrich, Co General Presbyter
Jim Tarr, Stated Clerk, Melissa Perrault-Baumann, Asst. Stated Clerk
Curt Kochner (Camping and Youth Moderator)
David Hendricks, Whitworth Fellow (Skyped)
Daniel Roberts, Whitworth Fellow,
Joel Shroeder, Whitworth Fellow (Skyped)
Luke Ekstrom, Whitworth Fellow
Kirstin Kochner, Guest

- 1.Meeting was opened with a lighting the Christ Candle, prayer by Moderator Susi and a dwelling in the word Matt 15: 29-31
2. **Quorum** – A quorum was declared present.
3. **Docket** – The docket was approved with a change to move the Whitworth Fellows to the opening portion.
4. **meeting agenda items** – Review changes to be suggested for future presbytery meetings
Interview the Whitworth Fellows.
Report of the Stated Clerk.
Review and approve a Job description for office of assistant stated clerk.
Status review of the insurance policy.
Discussion of budget process.
5. **Presbytery Meeting discussion**-some time was spent discussing the last meeting and if the goals were accomplished. After some suggestions they were not resolved and were deferred to the next meeting. (see comments after Whitworth Fellows Presentation for more details about planning)
6. **Whitworth Fellows**- The Fellows had a four point discussion as follows:
They Set the Tone: (Entirely quoted)

“We must be very forward-looking in these conversations. We must dream and look ahead to what we want our churches to look like in 10, 15, even 20 or 25 years from now. We must think about what we hope for our church for individuals who may not even be born yet. That said, much of what we have to share today are things that each of us and most young people genuinely care about. They are

ideas that we have learned in our time here in Montana and things that we have found to be so valuable and we are really excited to share them with you all. These ideas that we will be sharing are things from our very unique experience and we recognize that everyone's experiences and perspectives are so different. With that, Daniel will now take the first point.

Major Points:

1. Are we welcoming guests, or being the best neighbors?
 - a. Welcoming a trucker that is passing through, which is great, but understanding that this is not enough.
 - b. Growing Young – “Be the Best Neighbor” is the 6th Core Value of the Growing Young book.**
 - i. Who do you define as your neighbor? – Rhetorical Question
2. Physical Acceptance versus Emotional/Intellectual/Creativity
 - a. “We accept new people into our church, until they suggest new ideas and give input.”
 - b. It is wonderful that our church communities feel like they can welcome in the trucker, but we have to recognize that there is a greater and bigger step to be taken. There is a step to be taken towards open-mindedness.
 - c. This is not an exact break down, but we humans are about 10% physical (appearance, background, etc), but about 90% thoughts, creativity, intellect, emotion, ideas, etc. Our capacity as humans to create and contribute in the realms of thought and attitudes and open-mindedness is a huge portion of who we are as individuals. If we are only accepting what I view as the 10%, or merely the physical portion of humans, then we are not doing a good enough job. We must look at another whom is different and be willing to engage their ideas and opinions. We must consider what contribution can they make? What new ideas do they have?
 - i. Growing Young – “Empathize with Today’s Young People” is the 2nd Core Value of the Growing Young book.**
 1. The book explains that what it looks like to do this is to step into the shoes of those whom are different us. Those who are younger, or those who come from out of town, or out of the country.
 - ii. I don’t want to say what God can and cannot do, but I truly believe that it is through open-minded in which the Holy Spirit thrives and produces fruit.
3. Nationalism in Christianity
 - a. Communicating with Christians who are not Americans
 - i. Which do we value more? – Rhetorical Question
 - ii. Average Lutheran is a 14-Year-Old Ethiopian girl.
4. Education about the Global Church
 - a. Cross-Cultural Ministry
 - b. Awareness that we are limited to our community, but that the church is much bigger than us.
 - c. How do we represent the global church in our own communities?
 - i. How do other countries approach prayer?
 1. What prayer needs are there in other countries?
 - ii. Singing worship songs in different languages?
 - iii. Reading Scripture in other languages
 - iv. You never know who will walk through your church doors.

Questions + Dialogue:

1. What goals do we have for the church?
 - a. What do we want the church to look like?

- b. What qualities should the church have?
- c. What identity markers are most important in the church?
 - v. Based on race, town of origin, etc.?
- d. What do you want your surrounding community to view you as?
 - i. What legacy do you want to have?
 - 1. Example: St. Andrews just celebrated their 50th Anniversary. So they had the opportunity to look back on where they started and how far they've come.
 - 2. We've established what we want our church to look like, so where are we at now?
 - a. How would we describe the state of our churches here in the Yellowstone Presbytery?
 - i. Understanding that every church is at a very different place.
 - b. What are we doing well?
 - c. What are we doing poorly?
 - 3. What tangible things can we be doing to reach our goals and dreams for the church?
 - a. Are we being the best neighbors in our various contexts? And even outside of our immediate contexts?
 - b. What does it look like even within our own Yellowstone Presbytery?
 - i. How do congregates in Billings be the best neighbor to those in Terry? Or how do the congregates of Bozeman be the best neighbor to those in Poplar?
 - 1. Something that has been on my heart is how little, myself included, people know what life is truly like in other places even within this presbytery. What would it look like for people in Bozeman and Billings and these bigger towns to experience what life is like in Terry or Jordan.

We want to leave you all with one last thing and that is this: we have talked a great deal about the global church and about ways we can be more inclusive communities on a global scale. These are questions that the entire church, on a global scale, have to face and ask. We also have spoken to this because we know that the younger generation is itching to learn about the world and to learn about their place in the world. The church can play such a huge role in allowing the younger generation to do this, and in order to do this, we must start locally.

In other words, does Christ matter here? Does Christ matter in these small towns of Montana? How are we living as though Christ matters here in our homes and our communities? Once we discover these things, we can grow and develop into churches and communities that know Christ more completely."

The discussion was lively and appreciated. We are still short of funding the program for these fellows to continue their work. It was reported an additional \$2,000.00 is needed.

Susi discussed the issue of conversations with the representative people in the Dakota Presbytery who were her neighbors in Poplar and surrounding communities. Cultural issues are offering difficult challenges as attempts to collaborate are rejected.

A concern to be noted was when and if these issues raised by the fellows should be topics of discussion at cluster meetings. In general, it was felt the questions raised in the discussion should be made at the cluster meetings as a part of their finding ways to make our church more relevant to our youth and people with a differing cultural bias.

As a continuation the cabinet discussed some ideas for work at the November presbytery meeting including having Kirsten join in the planning. Susi, Suzanne, Kristin, and Kathy will be having

conversations with the Fellows over the summer to help as we develop our November plan. Teresa will join us in the Fall as we turn to logistics.

It was suggested the LC send these questions from the Fellows to the Pastors for review and comment, and to ask the PMT to review and comment on their input and perspective. There are multiple themes possible so getting inputs for various groups may help get some focus and can be helpful. A review of all inputs can be made at the September meeting of the cabinet.

7. Treasurer Report- Dan passed out preliminary budget figures for 2019 and some discussion followed. Key points of discussion were;

- Give Dan feedback and ideas on where cuts can be made and where we can find new sources of revenue.
- Encourage will and estate planning training in the churches with adding the presbytery as a beneficiary for portions of the estates.
- Solicit grants for special programs such as higher education programs and from Synod sources.
- Ask churches for donations to support the work of the presbytery.
- Ask participants as well as members to consider paying dues for participation in the church as they would in any other organization.
- Conduct more meetings by conference calls to reduce travel costs.

8. Child Protective Policy- it was discussed that the child protection policy needed to be presented to the body of the presbytery with a preamble indicating some background on its formation and sources. In order for the presbytery to have a policy in force as soon as practical the cabinet **voted:**

- **The Child Protective Policy of Yellowstone Presbytery dated May 31, 2018 shall be provisionally adopted and in effect until such time as it can be voted on by the presbytery. Churches of the presbytery are also to be encouraged to adopt a similar policy as soon as practical.**

An email vote is still to be planned for adoption and the email is to contain the background statement, a statement as to why we must do this, and that the individual churches need to adopt a similar policy. It can also be noted that the policy when in effect can reflect on the cost of insuring the church bodies and councils. (Book of Order section G-3.0106 specifically says councils of the church “**shall establish a child and youth protection policy**”)

9. Clerk Report- The Stated clerk gave a short brief on the training received at the GA in Louisville. Focus was learning what is important information for each council of the church to maintain and how it should be done.

10. Job Description- A job description for the assistant stated clerk position was presented and the cabinet **voted;**

- **The job description for the assistant state clerk shall be in effect as a working document and shall be subjected to review of the personnel committee.**

11. Insurance- Some discussion on changes to the proposed insurance were held but no vote was taken due to a lack of final premium information. Susi will follow-up with the insurance agency.

12. A letter from the Presbycats was noted which thanked the presbytery for its support of the mission trip to Miami FL.

13. Co GP reported no one from the Presbytery office will be able to attend the General Assembly in St Louis due to a lack of gifting both personal and from others this year.

14. Next meeting of the cabinet will be in Billings on September 11, 2018 at 10:00 AM at 1st FPC Billings.

15. The meeting closed with prayer by David Hendricks at 1:38 PM.

16. After the meeting we continued in fellowship with a pot luck cookout on a beautiful summer day in Bozeman Montana. Special thanks to our hosts George and Kathy for their hospitality and sharing their lovely home with us.

Jim Tarr

Stated Clerk