

**Presbytery of Yellowstone  
Leadership Cabinet (LC)  
Mar 17 -25, 2020**

This was a special meeting at 2 times and was called via ZOOM to begin a discussion on how the Presbytery should respond to the Closing of gatherings and other issues due to the COVID-19 Pandemic rules and guidelines.

Meeting of the initial session of meetings opened with a prayer by RE Suzanne Bratsky.

**Present were:**

MWS Susi Ennis  
MWS Teresa Kendall (Moderator)  
MWS Susan Thomas  
RE Julie Boksich  
MWS Diane White  
RE Suzanne Bratsky  
RE Russ Kline  
RE Ric Tieman  
MWS Jamie Schmeling

**Absent and Excused:**

**Also, present:**

George Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter  
Kathy Goodrich, Co General Presbyter  
Jim Tarr, Stated Clerk, Melissa Bell, Assistant Stated Clerk  
Debbie Blackburn , Co Moderator PMT

1. The Docket was approved with adjustments proposed by George Goodrich.
2. Minutes of the meeting Jan 10, 2020 were presented in email format and approved as modified by the Asst. Stated Clerk.
3. The dwelling in the word was led by Julie on Jeremiah 29: 4-7 and a discussion was held on the way God's people dealt with the crisis of their time. A prayer by Rev. Teresa Kendall concluded the discussion.
4. The Co General Presbyters report highlighted the status of the effects of the COVID – 19 pandemic rules for gatherings and all the related changes we may face that will require the presbytery to respond and provide resources to help our churches weather this impact.  
Questions raised were:
  - a. Do we use Zoom or something else?
  - b. Do we network with churches to find ways to keep people together in fellowship?
  - c. Do we provide fireside type chats?
  - d. What decisions does the LC need to make?
  - e. Do we continue to meet to adapt to changes as they occur?
  - f. What is temporary and what is permanent?
5. **It was moved** to provide a scholarship that churches can apply for to get help recovering the cost of setting up technical assistance (systems, processes, hardware and software) that can be used to serve their fellowships. Such help to be available on a 50/50 basis. (Funding was proposed to come from the encourage and equip budget item.)

6. **It was voted to establish** a task group consisting of Suzanne, Ric, and Debbie Blackburn be asked to develop an application for applying for such funding and complete the related proposed motion.
7. **Treasurer Ric Tieman reported the** financial statements will begin to look different beginning in January 2020 and for the rest of the years reporting. He indicated the Per Capita Payments were coming in ahead of schedule with \$76,000 received so far. He advised Rob Hagan has a seminar available to help churches set up a system to collect offerings via on-line services of the Board of Missions PCUSA. Cost is about 3% of the amounts contributed.
8. **Melissa recommended** we look to the CDC Guidelines and follow them and not follow some of the misinformation that is coming from other sources.
9. **Kathy led** a discussion following on many of the questions listed above with a free flow of ideas needing resolution when the LC meets again next Wednesday. In the meantime Kathy will hold a couple meetings with pastors via ZOOM while we are in recess so that she can continue to gather ideas and determine more details on what the LC will need to decide as we encounter the effects of dealing with this virus.
10. **It was voted to recess the** meeting until Wednesday March 25 at 10:00 AM to 12:00PM.
11. The meeting was recessed with prayer by Rev Susi Ennis
12. The meeting on March 25 was reopened with Prayer by Russ Kline.
13. A quorum was still present, and the list of participants did not change
14. The dwelling in the word was Philippians 4:4-8 with a big question "How do we let our worry/concerns shape our next actions?"  
At this time, we went over ever person's worry and concerns and after hearing them we prayed to God to release all these concerns and then a closing prayer was rendered by George Goodrich.
15. Kathy then went on to discuss the blizzard conditions we are in and she discussed:
  - a. Resetting during chaos. We are in the storm
  - b. Unknown and uncharted. Ups and downs.
  - c. Short term sight, only seeing things as they occur.
  - d. Changing communication, are we paralyzed?
  - e. Changing relationships, reframing and resetting.

Our job is to see and do things differently.

- a. What is God's word for us?
- b. What about using those gifts that are needed?
- c. How do we separate, analyze and modernize how we apply them?

This means radical innovations and Ric said:

- a. Develop networks of contacts.
- b. Small group meeting with a covenant prayer relationship.
- c. Use George as resource.
- d. Pay attention to the websites we have established at each level.
- e. Pivot. (like in basketball to make the shot). What do we need to do next?
- f. Connect with other denominations to see what they are doing.

Task group for this was to be Jim, Susi, Kathy, and Ric.

Susi asks that we find out who is doing what where and put the information out there:

- a. How will we do Communion?
- b. How we worship during Holy Week?
- c. Will Holy Saturday be more special this year?
- d. And the big one "how will we do Easter Services?"

George to call Susanne to talk about postings to our website with links on the calendar.

16. **It was voted** to let PMT decide if and when to hold a special phone call meeting of the Presbytery to examine and install Rev. DD Chuck Carlson as Interim Pastor at FPC Butte.
17. **It was voted** to hold another special meeting to the Cabinet on April 1<sup>st</sup> via ZOOM at 10 AM
18. Melissa recapped the action items for this meeting.
19. Meeting closed with Prayer by Rev. Susan Thomas after a **vote to adjourn** at 1:40 PM

**Jim Tarr**

**Stated Clerk**

**Minutes approved September 10, 2020 MWS Neva Rathbun**