

**Presbytery of Yellowstone
Leadership Cabinet (LC)
April 1, 2020**

This was a special meeting 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 Ric Tieman.

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:

Russ Kline

Also, present:

George Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter
Kathy Goodrich, Co General Presbyter
Jim Tarr, Stated Clerk, Melissa Bell, Assistant Stated Clerk

1. A Quorum was declared.
Minutes of the meeting February 11, 2020 were presented and approved as modified by Ric Tieman citing the name of the insurance agent needed changing and he was asked to send the change to the Stated Clerk.
2. The dwelling in the word was led by Julie on Psalm 118. And a discussion held on the way we are called praise God and be thank filled for what he has provided. A closing prayer was offered by Julie.
3. Teresa led the gathering with a 2 minute each checking in time and a closing prayer.
4. **The Co General Presbyters** report by George Goodrich who presented some observations:
 - a. Presbytery doing very well in this time under the circumstances.
 - b. Most churches adjusting; Stages that really are ahead of us.
 - c. We are still in the early stage of this many-stage pandemic.
 - d. Grief at deaths and economic struggle; and that church will have changed greatly and not go exactly back to where we were.
 - e. Kathy and George are trying to be there for leaders and pastors...
 - f. Understanding we are just at the beginning and we are challenged to consider how we present ourselves, how we use technology, and how do we hear about issues.
 - g. Are we anticipating needs and defining what is essential?
5. **Treasurer Ric Tieman** presented his advice that the Presbytery should be able to make it through this year with the current level of income and **Kathy** pointed out the travel portion of the budget should be reduced an save us in that area of expenses.

6. Susi Ennis reported the **Geyser Commission** The church will go up for sale on an internet as auction; \$1,000 to auctioneer. We will need to complete sale within 30 days of the auction closing and Leadership Cabinet would have to approve. Cabinet has authority to approve the sale and accept the bid, per (Stated Clerk). We should set a minimum reserve that we will accept. She reported the commission had not met and will need to meet and to consider entering into an agreement for an on-line auction type sale of the property. A copy of the agreement was sent to the LC.
7. **Julie reported on the Mini-Team:** Russ and Julie are looking for others to participate – Mini team would put actions in place and address perceived needs.
8. **It was announced the scheduled stated meeting of the Presbytery May 15, 16 will possibly be changed to a virtual meeting.** The planning group thinks there is a 99% chance a virtual meeting will be held instead. The host church, the Church of the Big Hole, has already voted to not agree to hold the meeting at their church. No action of the LC was taken as it will decide what to do at this future meeting.
9. **Kathy** then provided additional items in the Co GP report.
 - a. The needs of churches and intensity of Grief; various grief responses to the suffering of the virus and the loss of the familiar.
 - b. We are trying to listen well; what people need now. The normal we've known will not return to society, economics, employment and food will be issues. How do we equip ourselves to work short-term? Can we be on the floor and listen to the people, but then go up to the balcony to get the big picture and make the decisions there on balcony. Tiring and hard work.
 - c. Helping people not get bottled up with fear and become paralyzed. buildings will never be the same, new habits are being set, so how will we do church in hybrid ways? "The Church is not empty; the church is deployed". How do we embrace this? Creative outreach and grounding practices for spiritual health and life and so equip sessions to take the journey with us.
 - d. And those who see what is coming must be careful to tend the sheep. Look at websites for PCUSA and YP website.
 - e. And Suzanne commented on the need to deal with issues of loss.
10. **The next meeting** of the LC will be called for April 15 at 10:00 AM. It was undecided if we would need to meet again at the regular scheduled meeting on April 21.
11. **Voted to adjourn the** meeting and a closing prayer by Rev. Jamie Schmeling was offered.

Jim Tarr

Stated Clerk

Minutes approved September 10, 2020