

Leadership Cabinet
Tuesday, May 10, 2022, via Zoom

Yellowstone Presbytery Leadership Cabinet met for its scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Cabinet members present:

RE Russ Kline, Moderator
RE Melissa Bell
RE Julie Boksich
RE Suzanne Bratsky
MWS Chuck Carlson
MWS Jamie Schmeling
MWS Dave Thompson
RE Ric Tieman, Treasurer

Members excused:

CRE Margee Smith

Others present:

MWS George Goodrich, Co-Executive Presbyter, MWS Kathy Goodrich, Co-Executive Presbyter, RE Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk

1. **Opening:** Cabinet Moderator Russ Kline called the meeting to order and led members in prayer.
2. **Quorum:** A quorum was declared present.
3. **Dwelling in the Word:** Russ led cabinet members in Dwelling in the Word based on Isaiah 40: 30-31, reminding us not only that we are human and require rest at times, but when we see others who are tired, who are weary, we should help them to take care of themselves. A focus on personal health and the health of others is important. We might focus a workshop at the November Presbytery meeting on health of self and others. Resources shared were To Be Made Well by Amy Julia Becker, Spiritual Discipline Handbook by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, and Soul Shaping by Doug Rumford.
4. **Minutes of previous meetings:**

Minutes from the February 1 and April 5 stated meetings and the May 6 special meeting of the Leadership Cabinet were reviewed.

Action: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Leadership Cabinet meeting of February 1, 2022. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

A correction to the minutes of the special meeting of May 6 was noted in #1, eliminating the word “of”.

Action: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Leadership Cabinet meetings of April 1, 2022 as printed and May 6, 2022 as corrected. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- 5. Co-General Presbyter Report:** George Goodrich reported the following:
- a. George is looking forward to continuing the lay preacher program following his sabbatical. The group may focus on pastoral care rather than on preaching. Possible resources include Helping when it Hurts by Robert Hunter, and the Stephens Ministry program. Billings 1st Presbyterian has 5 trained Stephen ministers who might help.
 - b. The Thursday afternoon pastors group George leads has been well-attended and valuable to all who take part.
 - c. Kathy suggested people watch Dillon's Sunday worship service from May 8 that mirrors much of what Pastor Daniel Triller shared in his workshop at presbytery.
 - d. Goodriches thank the Personnel sub-committee for seeing the need that they take a sabbatical.
 - e. Kathy referred to the book Soul Shaping: From Soul Neglect to Spiritual Vitality by Doug Rumford in which he says that the majority of the Paris Opera House consists of its backstage areas, basements and double foundation. Much of our lives consist of "backstage" and foundation. How do we care for ourselves? How do we care for our pastors, helping them restore their strength and resources?
 - f. George asked that we all be sure to pray for the presbytery as he does every day and night.

Cabinet members suggested the following to George and Kathy:

- a. Don't burn themselves out further in preparing for their upcoming sabbatical
- b. Get burner phones and give those new numbers to family. Lock your phones in the office.
- c. Let go and trust God to have things in hand.

6. Personnel Sub-committee report:

- a. The committee worked with Goodriches concerning their sabbatical. Dates George and Kathy will be on leave on the following dates:
 - May 16 – June 30: Sabbath Time.
 - July 16 – September 30: Sabbath Time.
 - October 1: George & Kathy back to regular rhythm (1/2 month on, 1/2 off)From July 1 to 15 (tentatively), George will be helping at camp & Kathy will work, staffing LC and PMT meetings.

On July 5, the committee will check in with George and Kathy.

- b. The committee continues to work to update the presbytery's personnel policy

Personnel sub-committee members are Chuck Carlson, Jamie Schmeling, Russ Kline and John Patterson.

7. Feedback from May 6-7 Presbytery meeting:

The meeting was well received. Triller's workshops were informative and enjoyable, as was morning worship with Mary Grace Reynolds. Dave's Dwelling the Word was inspirational as was Debbie Funke's sermon during evening worship. The offering for Ukraine relief was

over \$500.00. This was our 2nd hybrid meeting with attendees both in person and via Zoom. It went very well.

A synopsis report of the May Presbytery meeting that includes meeting highlights and resources will be created and shared with all churches and ministers.

8. Ideas for the November presbytery meeting:

- More small group time
- A choice of workshops (two at the same time).
- Possible speakers/workshop leaders: Jim Edwards, John Patterson, and/or Bobbi Blair
- Possible workshop topic: health/self-care
- Establish a deadline for submitting reports, at least one week and possibly two weeks before the presbytery meeting. This allows people time to read reports and information they will be voting on.
- Location? Possibly Lewistown or Miles City. Melissa will talk with Kimmy Briggs about the possibility of Lewistown hosting. Caroline and Jamie will talk with Charley Blom about the possibility of Miles City hosting. Ric Tieman will draft a paper concerning what churches need technically to host a hybrid meeting.

The need for continual communication with our churches and ministers is important and is even more necessary during the time George and Kathy are on sabbatical. Jamie, Dave and Caroline will work on a newsletter that can be sent every month. The communication will include a moderator's report, who to contact for specific needs, and a calendar.

- 9. Next meeting dates:**
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| June 7 | 2:00 p.m. |
| July 13 | 11 – 4 Picnic at Goodrich home. Bring a side dish! |

10. Budget/Finance report:

- a. The team discussed reimbursing churches for expenses incurred while hosting presbytery meetings. Expenses might include meals, snacks, musician's fees, etc. Reimbursement has not been offered before, and some churches give the funds collected for dinner and/or through free will offerings back to the presbytery. Consensus was that we will not offer reimbursement for expenses incurred while hosting presbytery meetings at this time.
- b. A concern has been raised that the volunteer mileage reimbursement of \$.25 per mile is low considering the cost of gas and the fact that the rate has been in place for some years. Ric noted that the federal reimbursement rate for volunteers is \$.14 per mile and no presbytery he knows of pays more than \$.14 per mile. No change in the volunteer reimbursement rate will be made at this time.
- c. Presbytery has been holding \$5000.00 in St. Timothy Chapel's funds to pay their insurance premium annually. As of this year, they are paying for their own insurance. Ric suggested the presbytery hold only \$200.00 total to cover liability insurance which is still paid by the presbytery and give the remaining funds to the St. Timothy Chapel account.

Action: A motion was made that Yellowstone Presbytery maintain only \$200.00 to cover St. Timothy Chapel's liability insurance and forward the rest to their them. The motion was seconded, and it passed.

11. McAllister funds distribution: Team members reviewed the suggested distribution of funds from the Commission for the sale of the McAllister Church:

- a. The cost of the Survey of \$1,304 be reimbursed to the Madison Valley Presbyterian Church.
- b. \$1,122 be reimbursed to the Madison Valley Presbyterian Church for emergency repairs to the roof.
- c. 85% of net proceeds to the Madison Valley Presbyterian Church with the recommendation that a portion be put in the Madison Valley Presbyterian Church PCUSA Foundation account; and
- d. 15% of net balance to the Presbytery of Yellowstone with the recommendation that this be used for evangelism within the bounds of the presbytery.

Action: A motion was made to distribute the funds from the sale as recommended by the Administrative Commission. The motion was seconded, and it passed with one abstention.

When funds are received, an email will be sent to the Ennis church asking them how much they would like sent to the Presbyterian Foundation on their behalf. Caroline will contact the attorney, Mark Parker, asking where the sale stands and when we might expect to receive a settlement statement.

12. LC response to St. Andrew Presbyterian church on the G.A. Overture “Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, Speak Up.”

George will contact Susan Thomas to follow up on the letter sent to the St. Andrew session explaining why the overture was not put in front of presbytery and offering to partner with them concerning environmental issues.

13. Closing: With no further business before the Leadership Cabinet, Chuck Carlson closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Fleming
Stated Clerk

Leadership Cabinet Action Items		
Responsible Person(s)	Action Item	Due Date
Ongoing Action Items		
Personnel committee	Update Presbytery's Personnel Policy	Ongoing
Russ, Dave, Caroline, Jamie, Kathy	Continue work with the team discussing how to encourage experimental ministry, training small group leaders, and helps for facilitating small groups in congregations	Ongoing
LC as a whole	Consider uses for the proceeds from the sale of the Harlowton Church and the Anaconda manse that would be advantageous to our churches in the presbytery	Ongoing
LC members	Consider a person well-qualified to serve on the board of Rocky Mountain College	Ongoing
??	Get a list of the responsibilities and the skills needed by a person serving on the Rocky Mountain College board.	Before June 2022
New Action Items		
Caroline	Create synopsis report of the presbytery meeting for churches that includes resources, reports on workshops and policies adopted	ASAP
Caroline	Call Attorney Mark Parker to ask when we might expect closure of sale of the McAllister Church property and when we might expect to receive a settlement statement.	ASAP
Ric	Write up the technical needs to host a hybrid presbytery meeting for churches	ASAP
Jamie & Caroline	Talk with Charley Blom about the possibility of Miles City hosting the November presbytery meeting	ASAP
Melissa Bell	Talk with Kimmy Briggs about the possibility of Lewistown hosting the November presbytery meeting	ASAP
Jamie, Dave, Caroline	Create a monthly presbytery newsletter to communicate regularly with our churches and pastors.	No date set
Everyone	Bring side dishes to the July LC picnic/meeting at Goodrich's home	July 13