

**Leadership Cabinet**  
**Wednesday, July 13, 2022**

Yellowstone Presbytery Leadership Cabinet met for its scheduled meeting on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, beginning at 11:30 p.m. This was a hybrid meeting with some joining via Zoom and some meeting at the Goodrich's home in Bozeman, MT.

**Cabinet members present:**

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

**Members excused:**

RE Julie Boksich  
MWS Jamie Schmeling  
CRE Margee Smith

Others present:

Co-General Presbyter MWS George Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter MWS Kathy Goodrich, 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:** George led members in Dwelling in the Word reading Matthew 26: 1-16 (*Attachment A*). Members discussed Jesus' lack of fear of death, how the disciples and we too often bother people who are engaging in ministry that we don't think important, and how the woman in the passage gave her all to Jesus. Let us not focus on what we give, but instead focus on giving our all to Christ. We are reminded that when we see Christ as the woman saw him, we will walk in a different world, Christ's world.

**4. Co-General Presbyter's Report:**

**George:** George reported he is grateful for the sabbatical time but misses camp time, which was cancelled due to flooding. He spoke of helping churches realize that being without a pastor is not a sign of failure and sometimes God must tear down what we have mistakenly built, or what is passe, in order to build new and fresh. Let's all seek people in our churches who might participate in training for our Commissioned Lay Preacher program, or at least in part of it. He is planning to offer a course on pastoral care in the fall and is thinking ahead to courses on worship and evangelism and will likely offer another session on preaching in the future.

**Kathy:** Kathy lifted to 150<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Dillon and Bozeman churches that are being celebrated this year. Both were founded through Sheldon Jackson's evangelism work. She lifted the idea of an evangelism class to fan the flames for people who have the gift of evangelism. How do we tell the stories of our faith in ways that attract people? An excellent resource is [2020s Foresight: Three Vital Practices for Thriving in a Decade of Accelerating](#)

Change by Tom Sine and Dwight J. Friesen. Ways we might use this resource include a workshop offering at a presbytery meeting or a series of zoom classes/meetings. Seeking to tap into everyone's gifts, we know that there are a limited number of pastors, but all of us are ministers.

5. **Presbytery meeting November 4-5:** Miles City has agreed to host the November Presbytery meeting. Ric might discuss technical needs with the church, and local people knowledgeable in technology can be asked to assist with the meeting.
6. **Break:** Dave Thompson offered a prayer for our lunch break.
7. **Financial Report:** Ric has not received financial reports for June yet, but our finances are good. Net income in the program budget is \$6,000 with all camp fees returned due to cancellation of our Westminster Spires camp season. The Administration budget has receipts ahead of the budget by over \$20,000. Investment income is down. We do have funds from the Harlowton Church sale and funds from the Anaconda manse sale are invested in the Presbyterian Foundation and belong to the Anaconda church.

Funds from the sale of the Harlowton church total about \$43,000. The team reviewed Jamie Schmeling's input to "further the kingdom' and honor the commitment of those in Harlowton who have been and who remain," and like the idea of sponsoring a day on the Christian radio station as a beginning use of the funds.

LC members like and want to honor the wishes of the commission who worked on the sale of the McAllister church to use the proceeds from the sale for evangelistic efforts. LC authorized creation of an LC task force to explore avenues for evangelism using funds from the sale. People with a passion for evangelism will be sought and asked to serve on this group. They do not have to be a member of LC to serve on this task force. Russ is willing to serve and spearhead the group's work. The presbytery has additional funds earmarked for evangelism and grants may be available for some projects.

**\*Action:** A motion was made to move \$30,000 from the Harlowton sale proceeds into the presbyter's evangelism fund and use \$1200.00 of the proceeds from the same proceeds to sponsor a day on Your Network of Praise Radio Station. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Caroline will work with Jamie on the PA that will run during our day of sponsorship and ask that Jamie to continue exploring the cost of getting the station on the air in Harlowton.

8. **Minutes:** The team reviewed minutes from the June 7 meeting.

**\*Action:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2022 meeting of the Leadership Cabinet. The motion was seconded, and it passed.

Caroline asked team members to review minutes from the May Presbytery meeting and offer corrections before they are posted on the Presbyter meeting web page for approval at the

November presbytery meeting. She will send a reminder to team members to review them and email any suggestions/corrections to her in the next few weeks.

9. **Rocky Mountain College Board positions:** We need new Presbyterian presence on the board of Rocky. George's position on the board is an advisory one without vote. Katie Lehman has completed a term that does have a vote. LC has been seeking a person to fill George's position. Neither Dan Krebill nor Jody McDevitt feels called to serve at this time. Dave Thompson suggested we ask John Stewart of Billings to serve in Katie's seat, which has a vote. Dave will contact him. We will continue to seek a person to serve in George's seat without vote.
10. **Earth care issues:** (*Attachment B*) Members discussed how to best form our work with St. Andrew Presbyterian Church as we seek together ways to address issues concerning care of our earth. George noted the approach needs to be God-focused, emerging from the biblical perspective of care for God's creation rather than from fear of what is happening or may happen in the future if this issue is ignored. The team agreed. George is willing to staff a task force and LC members or others with a passion for the issue of earth care can join in the task force. Members will discern their calling concerning this issue and will think of others not on LC who have a passion for the work and ask them to serve, too.
11. **Synod PJC class of 2026:** The Synod Permanent Judicial Commission needs a female teaching elder from Yellowstone Presbytery to serve a term. MWS Teresa Kendall is willing to fill that role.

**\*Action:** It was moved to place Teresa Kendall's name in nomination to the Synod nominating committee to serve on the Synod PJC. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

12. **Payment of Camp Staff:** Camp Staff committed to working at Westminster Spires Camp this summer, but camp has been cancelled due to damage from flooding at Red Lodge that made the camp inaccessible. Curt Kochner, Camp Director, would like to pay the staff to compensate for their commitment of time to the camp season. We have dedicated counselors and staff who have served for several years and/or may serve in future years. Curt feels their commitment should be honored as should our commitment and gratefulness to them. Treasurer Ric Tieman assured members that there is plenty in the camp fund to pay the salaries (\$1,000 each). There is also an offering of a \$4,000 donation to help cover these expenses. Ric will talk with Curt about payments to staff.

**\*Action:** A motion was made to pay camp staff whatever they were to earn before camp was cancelled from the camp fund as a wage. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### 13. **Update on summer camp season:**

- a. **Property:** Repair to the bridge accessing Westminster Spires campgrounds will be handled by the Forest Service. As soon as possible, people need to look at the buildings to assess any damage, particularly noting what necessary repairs should be made before

winter. Caretaker Simon is testing the spring and tests have been negative for any problems thus far. Depending on needed repairs, if any, we might apply for a PDA grant. Russ will maintain contact with Curt and update LC members as needed.

**b.** Communication with camp staff: Kathy will compose a pastoral letter to camp staff thanking them for their dedication to the camp, and assuring them that we, too, are dedicated to it and committed to keeping Westminster Spires as our presbytery's camp. She will send it to LC members for review and input before sending it.

**c. Report from Moderator Daniel Triller:** Daniel reported that an abbreviated camp session will be held for all ages July 18-21st at Hyalite Youth Camp. Daniel, Jamie Schmeling, Mary Grace Reynolds, and Debbie Funke will be speakers. Thirty campers are signed up to attend. Dave will compose a letter thanking Daniel for his dedicated work in finding a place to have camp and in planning the camping agenda so quickly. Dave will collaborate with Kathy as she is drafting the letter to be sent to original camp staff.

**14. Initial 2022 General Assembly report:** (*Attachment C*) Cabinet members received a letter from G.A. Commissioner Teresa Kendall concerning the meeting and expenses that she incurred while attending plenary sessions at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Billings.

**\*Action:** A motion was made to reimburse Teresa for her expenses (\$259.00) to attend G.A. plenary sessions in Billings. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Presbytery Moderator Dave Thompson will send a letter to St. Andrew thanking them for hosting our G.A. commissioners.

**15. Announcements:**

- a.** Melissa attended an event at Deer Lodge Presbyterian Church celebrating their 150 years of ministry and witness in the community. The celebration was fun and informative.
- b.** Bozeman is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. A tea will be held July 30 from 2 to 4 p.m. that includes a presentation on the church's history. All former pastors have been invited to return on October 23 and will be celebrated during Sunday worship service. Melissa will attend to represent Yellowstone Presbytery. All are invited to attend these events if able.
- c.** All forms for annual reporting that were adopted at the May presbytery meeting are posted on the website in fillable format. Thank you, Kimmy Briggs and Ric Tieman.
- d.** Possible workshop topics for November 4-5 presbytery meeting include Biblical basis for earth care, and 2020s Foresight.
- e.** All please keep Curt Kochner, campers and staff, Margee Smith and family, Julie Boksich and family, and Effie Fry and family in your prayers.
- f.** Next cabinet meeting: **September 13 at 1 p.m.**

Leadership Cabinet Action Items		
Responsible Person(s)	Action Item	Due Date
<b>Ongoing Action Items</b>		
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 and communities.	Ongoing
LC members	Consider a person well-qualified to serve on the board of Rocky Mountain College in Georges current position.	Ongoing
Ric	Write up the technical needs to host a hybrid presbytery meeting for churches	ASAP
Jamie, Dave, Caroline	Create a monthly presbytery newsletter to communicate regularly with our churches and pastors.	No date set
Caroline	Follow up with 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	ASAP
<b>New Action Items</b>		
Kathy	Draft a pastoral letter to camp staff thanking them for their work and commitment noting that we are determined to keep Westminster Spires as our Presbytery's camp.	ASAP
Dave	Write a thank you letter to Daniel for his work to hold camp this summer, coordinating with Kathy's thank you letter to camp staff.	ASAP
Dave	Send a thank you letter to St. Andrew Presbyterian Church thanking them for hosting our GA commissioners for plenary sessions of General Assembly	ASAP
Caroline	Work with Jamie to word the PA that will air on the Christian radio station on the day the Presbytery sponsors the broadcast.	ASAP
Dave	Ask John Stewart of Billings if he is willing to serve on the Rocky Mountain College board with vote, replacing Katie Lehman whose term is expiring.	ASAP
LC members	Seek people with a passion for earth care who would work with St. Andrew in bringing concerns/ideas to LC and presbytery	ongoing
Russ	Serve as one on an LC sub-group addressing evangelism, bringing ideas for effective evangelism to LC and the presbytery	ongoing

**Dwelling in the Word: Today's Daily Lectionary Passage: Matthew 26:1-16**  
**Leadership Cabinet, 7.13.2022**

**The Plot to Kill Jesus** <sup>1</sup> When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> 'As you know, the Passover is two days away – and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.'<sup>3</sup> Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, <sup>4</sup> and they schemed to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. <sup>5</sup> 'But not during the festival,' they said, 'or there may be a riot among the people.'

**Jesus anointed at Bethany**<sup>6</sup> While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, <sup>7</sup> a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. <sup>9</sup> When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.'

<sup>10</sup> Aware of this, Jesus said to them, 'Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>11</sup> The poor you will always have with you,<sup>[a]</sup> but you will not always have me. <sup>12</sup> When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. <sup>13</sup> Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.'

**Judas agrees to betray Jesus** <sup>14</sup> Then one of the Twelve – the one called Judas Iscariot – went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and asked, 'What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?' So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

**Questions for Reflection: Expecting God to speak in our own hearts and through each other**

- 1. What is the Holy Spirit lifting up for you from the text?**
- 2. Describe the two basic attitudes toward Jesus / toward the world contrasted in this passage...**
- 3. Verse 13: Jesus dramatically makes the point that wherever the Gospel is preached, the story of what this woman has done will be told in her memory... Why?**
- 4. As the LC considers future evangelism efforts, why is this story important for us?**
- 5. Take two minutes. Ask: "Jesus, what do you have for me in this text?"**

May 26, 2022

Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk Leadership  
Cabinet, Presbytery of Yellowstone P.O. Box  
1254 Bozeman MT 59771

Dear Ms. Fleming and Leadership Cabinet:

Thank you for your careful consideration of the Overture, “The Time Is Now to ‘Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, and Speak Up,’” to be presented this summer to the PCUSA General Assembly currently supported by ten Presbyteries and one Synod.

We fully support your “second” approach. St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is happy to provide a Presbytery plenary or to host a conference similar to the *Faith, Science & Climate Action Conference*. It was that conference that inspired us to co-host the *Solar Power Workshop for Faith Communities* the following January with about 60 participants from ten faith communities. Please let us know how we can help the Presbytery in educational endeavors. This year the Faith, Science & Climate Action conference, sponsored by the Montana Interfaith Power and Light will be November 11-12, on-line so all Yellowstone Presbytery church members can attend! The theme is “Our Children’s Right to a Livable Future.”

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We were similarly inspired at that conference by Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, a Christian scientist, who explained how critical it is to act now on climate change. We watched her videos last Fall during a 10 week study in which she encouraged churches to talk about climate change. With concerns similar to Dr. Hayhoe, brilliant Presbyterian scientists wrote the Overture.

It is our hope that some if not all churches in the Yellowstone Presbytery will become PCUSA Earth Care Congregations which calls for a deep commitment to include earth care in worship, education, facilities, and outreach. It was our desire to do more in the area of outreach that led St. Andrew Presbyterian Church to study the overture and “Speak Up” by taking it to the Presbytery of Yellowstone. We only regret that every church in the Presbytery was not involved in reading/discussing the Overture. If there are deep divisions in opinions, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is willing to host *Constructive Conversations* for the Presbytery which helps people to listen and understand differing ideas.

We’d like to invite all the Presbytery of Yellowstone churches to our Earth Care educational programs. Please come to the Pollinators Festival, June 25, 10-4 p.m. at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. Check out the entire week’s activities in Billings at [www.pollenation.org](http://www.pollenation.org).

Again, we appreciate that you took the time to study the commitment others in PCUSA have in embodying Christian values in caring for God’s creation.

In Christ’s love, PCUSA Earth Care Congregation, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Betty Whiting,  
Organizer, 180 24<sup>th</sup> Street West, Billings, MT 59102, 406-656-9256

Dear Leadership Cabinet,

It was an honor to serve as Yellowstone Presbytery's Teaching Elder Commissioner to the 225th General Assembly. Ruling Elder Commissioner Jim Tarr and I met at St Andrew church in Billings for the plenary sessions July 5th-9th.

As was my experience two years ago, meeting together in the same room while doing a virtual plenary made all the difference in the world! Jim and I could encourage one another, worship together, and talk about upcoming votes. Jim was also very helpful with my occasional process questions.

I incurred a number of expenses by traveling and staying in Billings. Is the Presbytery in a position to reimburse me in part or in whole?

I stayed with the Ruler Elder Commissioner for the 224th General Assembly - Sandy Welch. She understood what my days would look like and offered generous hospitality - a place to stay and some meals. The congregation of St Andrew provided fixings for lunch, along with an excellent location in which to meet.

My expenses included mileage to and from Sandy's home, travel to and from the church for the five days of GA, a dinner I hosted as a "Thank you" for Sandy's hospitality, and some food for our dinner breaks.

I have attached a presbytery expense voucher for the total of \$258.99.

Thank you for whatever the Presbytery is able to reimburse!

Teresa