

## **Leadership Cabinet Tuesday, December 12, 2023**

Yellowstone Presbytery Leadership Cabinet met via Zoom for its scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

**Cabinet members present:**

RE Melissa Bell  
MWS Ashley Birk  
RE Julie Boksich  
RE Russ Kline, Moderator  
MWS Karolee Larson  
MWS Mary Grace Reynolds  
MWS Jamie Schmeling  
MWS Dave Thompson

**Members excused:**

CRE Margee Smith

**Others present:**

Kathy Goodrich, General Presbyter, Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk, Ric Tieman, Treasurer

**Opening:** Moderator Russ Kline called the meeting to order with prayer at 1:05 p.m.

**Dwelling in the Word:** Kathy led Dwelling in the Word having people read 4 scripture passages: Isaiah 9: 2b, Genesis 16: 13, Matthew 1:23, and Matthew 9:36. Passages referred to God seeing, Jesus seeing, The light shining, and us seeing God. Members shared what it means to be truly seen by others. It is comforting, yet to be seen by God who sees all our flaws can be scary and comforting at the same time since we know we have God's unconditional love. Questions for all: How might we seek to truly see as God sees? How can we look for God in others and know they are created and loved as we are? Do we choose not to see? Dave mentioned Andy Andrew's book The Noticer. How can we help each other to be good noticers?

Members shared Spirit Sightings: Julie's church held its first "Parents' Night Out" with great success. Caroline shared her day of game with the grandson and Jack's compliment about how well she played with him.

**Quorum:** A quorum was declared present.

**Minutes of November meeting:** There is a mistake concerning Board of Pensions notifications on page 1. It will be corrected, and the team will review and approve the November minutes at the January meeting.

**General Presbyter Report: (Attachment A)** Kathy's complete report is attached. Please read it. Highlights from her report include:

the formation of a new task force, “Uncovering Treasure and Sharing the Light: Evangelism and planting new churches/worshipping communities/fresh expressions of church.” Anyone interested in participating can contact Russ or Julie Boksich.

Planning for the CLP program through Synod and Dubuque is nearly complete.

Classes start in January.

Ideas to explore for mission and service: who might we partner with to expand our mission in the world.

**Leadership Retreat Update:** At least three members cannot attend a retreat in January. After conversation, it has been decided to postpone the retreat until after Easter. A grant may be applied for to pay expenses incurred if the retreat is held at some kind of retreat center. Plans are in progress.

“**Uncovering Treasure and Sharing the Light**” is the title of a new task force that will focus on evangelism, new worshipping communities, and fresh expressions of church. Russ Kline and Julie Boksich initiated this and plan to travel to churches, dine with them and discuss ways the church can evangelize and revitalize. Dinner Church is one idea that will be presented. They hope to equip the church in storytelling using material from Ron Pyle’s workshop.

**PMT & CRE Dubuque/Synod program:** Kathy reported that Synod is having a hard time getting people together to finalize details for the program. The cost of each course is \$150.00, and January 9, 2024 is the last day to register for the program.

**FPC Billings Youth Mission Trip:** Dave Thompson reported they are planning a youth mission trip to Alaska in June 2024. Cost per person will be \$1200 to \$1400. Nicole Bodalski is the contact person for the event.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Ric Reported that LC has to decide into which category to move funds from the sale of both Geysers and Harlowton churches. Amounts from the sales are \$8068.00 and \$9409.58, respectively. An anonymous doner has offered to match year-end gifts to the presbytery up to \$10,000. Kathy will send a letter to all churches that includes information about the match.

**Clerk’s Report:** Caroline reported that all churches should have received information concerning per capita and all year-end reporting. She will send a follow-up letter to clerks asking if they have received the information. May reports are due January 31<sup>st</sup>. The portal for reporting statistics is open until mid-February.

**Upcoming meetings:** January 9  
February 13

**Announcements:** Kathy noted the need for a Vice Moderator of Presbytery to fill the vacancy on LC. Rep/Nom might also select a person to fill the vacancy who can learn about the workings and responsibilities of LC and Presbytery. That person might then be willing to step into a leadership role.

**\*Action:** A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the LC meeting and move to a corporate meeting of the Trustees of the Corporation. The motion passed unanimously.

Note; The minutes of the corporate meeting are attached as Attachment B.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk

| • Leadership Cabinet Action Items                |   |               |
|--|---|---------------|
| Responsible Person(s)                            | Action Item   | Due Date      |
| <b>Ongoing Action Items</b>                      |   |               |
| Personnel committee                              | Update Presbytery’s Personnel Policy  | Ongoing       |
| Jamie, Dave, Caroline                            | Create a monthly presbytery newsletter to communicate regularly with our churches and pastors.  | No date set   |
| 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       |
| Caroline   | Write a letter to Valley County expressing our desire to turn the land in Valley County over to the county.   | ASAP          |
| Kathy and LC                                     | Appoint a person to the Rocky Mtn College Board   | June 2023     |
|  | Create and send information on mission pledges and where the money goes to churches   | No timeline   |
| LC members                                       | Think about possible equipping topics including how to recognize gifts in others and help them share those gifts, doing evangelism that builds on Ron Pyle’s storytelling workshop. | Ongoing       |
| All Members                                      | Send Kathy stories of spirit sightings  | As they arise |
| Caroline, Kathy, Ric, Debbie B, George & Melissa | comprise a sub-group to propose what happens to the office and items that are currently in the office   | Dec. 2023     |
| <b>New Action Items</b>                          |   |               |
| Caroline   | Correct November minutes and submit for approval at the January LC meeting  | Jan. 9, 2024  |
| Caroline   | Send Dave Thompson information on 2024 per capita and year-end reporting.   | ASAP          |
| Caroline   | Send Ric all churches 2024 per capita information   | ASAP          |



**Pastoral Ministry Team** - I am grateful for Neva and Debbie's experienced leadership as excellent partners with the wide range of proactive as well as responsive responsibilities, along with good folks serving. Losing 3 of our best team members is a loss for Caroline and me, PMT and the presbytery and congregations. A huge thank you to Debbie Blackburn, Linda Smith and Kimmy Briggs. We are glad Julie Boksich will be joining the Team along with Steve Hundley. PMT continues to have a great deal going on - pastors and CRE's and leaders, with varying levels with churches in transitions, interims, searches at various stages on the journey, churches exploring and experimenting with new ways of worship, becoming more intergenerational, connecting with and serving their communities, work with other judicatory heads on some of our churches and their needs,

A great deal has been needed to be done with both Dubuque, Synod staff and our folks on the CRE program. See above. Still awaiting updates.

The multiple challenges in and with the performance of the CLC in Louisville and total lack of response/communication from many EPs across the country. continue while some are experiencing some good results I hear. Here, this has negative impacts such as increased time and frustration for me, some PMT members, PNC's and pastors. More on this in the new year.

Rep/Nom Ministry Team - I continue to attend the meetings as they have worked and prayed diligently. We owe Jody McDevitt a HUGE thank you for her leadership and diligence with the Team. Pray for Terry Johnson (RE Dillon) whose husband is battling cancer.

**Mission and service** - We are a part of the entire body of Christ which includes not only locally but globally and need to continue to embody that, a crucial part of our vision statement and be providing more in these areas partnering with those gifted in these areas. With changes in leaders and in churches over the years, this has slipped. I have had a specific request lately, and our congregations need the visibility, interpretation and partnerships in this area. Who do you know who may be gifted and passionate about this?

1. Partnership and Work in the Middle East - seminary in Cairo, Dr. Anne Zaki, and the important and generative work of the Presbyterian Outreach Foundation (one of the many partner organizations who work with the PCUSA, many there used to be with our World Mission. That work is very contextual and important. Kimmy Briggs has traveled and served with them.
2. I have been in touch with folks at **FPC Billings** regarding Dave Thompson's gracious offer to open up their youth mission trip to Alaska. It is slated for the end of June. Look for further info. Contact Youth Director Nichole Bodalski.
3. Exploring strengthening our past, very active ties with Revs. Paul and Lydia Neshangwe and the Presbyterian Church in Zimbabwe. Paul is a national and local pastor and leader, has suffered at the hands of the government for his faith and speaking and acting for just and nonviolent treatment of citizens, and much more. They had to flee to the US for several years. In addition to the partnership with Denver, Yellowstone initiated a partnership with them. He has spoken at the Yellowstone Glacier Convocation here in the last 15 years and FPC Billings and Bozeman are among the churches who have had him visit and partnered with him. We zoomed with him during a presbytery meeting several years ago.

"Rev Dr. Lydia is an ordained minister from Zimbabwe where she ministers in a diverse congregation at St Columbas Presbyterian Church in the mountainous city of Mutare. She is the first Black female Moderator of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA), a transnational denomination in four countries: South Africa, Zambia, DRC, and Zimbabwe. She is an ecumenist at heart and is currently the Moderator of the Council for World Mission (CWM), a global organization that brings together 32 church denominations from around the world. She serves as the Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) Advisory Board, and the

Zimbabwe Country Coordinator for Hope's Promise, an orphan care organization." She is the new moderator, first female, for the All Africa Conference of Churches.

# Presbytery of Yellowstone

Kathleen A. Goodrich  
General Presbyter

Caroline Fleming  
Stated Clerk

Ric Tieman  
Treasurer

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December 12, 2023

The Yellowstone Presbytery held a duly called meeting of the Trustees of the Corporation on December 12, 2023.

The purpose of the meeting was to elect officers of the Corporation for FY 2024.

A Quorum from the Board of Trustees was declared present by the Secretary. The Stated Rules of Yellowstone Presbytery state the Leadership Cabinet is the Board of Trustees for the Corporation. As such they are to elect the Corporate officers.

The following were nominated to the corporate positions indicated;

Elder Russ Kline, President  
Rev. Mary Grace Reynolds, Vice President  
Elder Caroline Fleming, Secretary  
Elder Ric Tieman, Treasurer

A motion was made and seconded to close nominations and elect the slate presented. The motion passed.

After electing these officers, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Corporate Meeting. It passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Fleming  
Secretary

