

“What’s The Presbytery Good For?”
Yellowstone Presbytery Council
August 2009

Premise 1: The Church is the Creation of, the Servant of, the Body of, the Beloved in Jesus Christ for the purposes of displaying the loving reign of God in the world.

Matt. 16: “...on this rock I will build my Church.”

Eph. 2:10: “God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works.”

I Cor. 12 and Rom. 12: The connected Body of Christ – all necessary.

Rom. 5:8: “But the proof of God’s amazing love is this... Christ died for us.”

Premise 2: The Presbytery is Body of Christ made up of the PCUSA Churches to lovingly display the reign of God through a given region.

We are connectional for the purposes of:

Governance

Training and Equipping / Nurturing

Vision and Mission Together

- I. **The Make-up of the Presbytery:** The Presbytery is US!
 - i. 27 Churches = 1 lay elder and 1 clergy member
 - ii. Committee membership of elders and clergy

- II. **The Responsibilities and Powers of Presbytery,** from Presbyterian Polity for Church Officers, by Joan S. Gray and Joyce C. Tucker
 - A. Mission [G-11.0103a,b,c] – *Council, Vision Team, Mission Committee*
 - i. Develop strategy for our region
 - ii. Link and Coordinate efforts of the churches
 - iii. Lead programs to carry out the ministry of the larger church in our area

 - B. Duties to Congregations [G-11.0103f,g] – *Committee on Ministry (CoM)*
 - i. Provide help, guidance and resources
 - ii. Provide regular pastoral visits

 - C. Powers in regard to Congregations [G-11.0103h,I,j,k,x,y] – *CoM*
 - i. Organize New Churches
 - ii. Divide, dismiss, and dissolve churches
 - iii. Control location of churches
 - iv. Oversee pastorless churches
 - v. Review minutes of sessions
 - vi. Act on requests for exemptions regarding real property

 - D. Powers in Regard to Ministers [G-11.0103 n,o,p] – *CoM*

- i. Ordain, receive, dismiss, install remove and discipline ministers / similar Commissioned Lay Pastors (CLP's)
 - ii. Establish and dissolve pastoral relationships
 - iii. Designate other than pastoral ministries

- E. Candidates [G-11.0103 l,m,q] – *Vocations Committee / CoPM*
 - i. Receive Candidates for Ministry
 - ii. Elect readers of Ordination Exams
 - iii. Receive Candidates for professional service other than ministry of the Word.

- F. Inclusiveness [G—11.0103 d,e,] – *Committee on Representation*
 - i. Show inclusiveness in its structures
 - ii. Help churches to be inclusive

- G. Judicial Powers [g-11.0103 r, s] *Permanent Judicial Commissions; Investigative Commissions*
 - i. Serve as the Court of the Church
 - ii. Exercise original jurisdiction

- H. Administration [G-11.0103v,w]—*Council and Committees, Staff*
 - i. Establish a Nominating committee
 - ii. Establish and oversee the work of its agencies, committees, and commissions –

- I. Relating to Higher Governing Bodies [G-11.0103t] – *Council / Presbytery*
 - i. Elect commissioners
 - ii. See that orders are carried out
 - iii. Propose matters of common concern
 - iv. Vote on amendments to the constitution.

III. Current Mission Statement of the Presbytery of the Yellowstone, 2001

The Presbytery of the Yellowstone as a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U. S. A.), is called to witness to Jesus Christ, and to oversee and assist its congregations and pastors. Relying on the Holy Spirit, we do this by:

- * Renewing and supporting the congregations and pastors
- * Establishing new churches
- * Maintaining and developing a Camping / Youth Program
- * Supporting our Higher Education Ministry

Short Term Mission Priorities for 2006-2008: *“To become all we are created to be in Christ and for Christ – for our congregations, families, and communities, in Montana and around the World in the 21st century...”*

* To encourage, disciple, resource, teach, equip the leaders in the churches and presbytery through collaborative learning, exploration and conversation.

* To work for the transformation of the local churches and presbytery to be all they can be in Christ.

* To assist the leaders and strengthen the presbytery and its committees to accomplish the presbytery's stated mission.

* To prayerfully work for the unification of the presbytery, towards becoming a community of communities.

* To strengthen the financial viability of the presbytery.

The Vision Task Force is at work towards the development of the new Vision in light of impending financial considerations... Ric Tieman, elder at FPC Bozeman and Debbie Blackburn, elder at Springhill lead this task force. ric.tieman@gmail.com; deb4cats@aol.com.

III. Presbytery Council / Committees

- a. Moderator: Fran Babcock, three year term, elder – 1st Bozeman
- b. Moderator of Presbytery: Rev. Susan Thomas, 1-year term, Hosp.
- c. Vice-Moderator of Presbytery: Ted Williams, 1 year term, elder – 1st Bozeman
- d. Committee on Ministry: Phil Maxwell, CLP – Deer Lodge
- e. Mission Committee: Jim Moses, elder – Anaconda
- f. Committee on Vocations: Rev. Mary Davis - Anaconda
- g. Nominating Committee: Connie Townsend, elder – White Sulphur
- h. Budget and Finance: Debbie Blackburn, elder – Springhill, Belgrade
- i. Higher Ed Campus Ministry: Rev Paul Krebill, retired
- j. Personnel Committee: Susan Gibb, elder – 1st Bozeman
- k. Camping and Youth Committee: Cathy MacLean, CLP, 1st, Billings
- l. Committee on Representation: Vi Haigh, elder – Ennis
- m. Permanent Judicial Commission: Jim Babcock, elder – 1st Bozeman
- n. St. Timothy Chapel: Cal Boyle, elder – Anaconda
- o. New Church Development / Evangelism --- disbanded
- p. Presbyterian Women: Rev. Neva Rathbun, at large; Suzanne Bratsky, elder – 1st Bozeman.
- q. Ex Officio: Co-General Presbyters – George and Kathy Goodrich
 - i. Stated Clerk: Ron Hanson, elder -- Butte

IV. Presbytery Staff:

- a. Co-General Presbyters: Rev's George and Kathy Goodrich sharing one job/salary. ghgoodrich@aol.com; kagoodrich@aol.com.
- b. Stated Clerk, part-time: Ron Hanson; assistant clerk: Ted Williams, StatedClerk@yellowstonepcusa.org.
- c. Administrative Assistant: Susan Seibert (office in the mornings)
- d. Treasurer: Sheryl Hallin..

V. Presbytery Office in Bozeman: 203-B Haggerty Lane, Bozeman, MT 59715

- a. 406-586-7706

- b. Fax: 406-556-0979
- c. Website: www.yellowstonepcusa.org
- d. E-mail: YellPres@yellowstonepcusa.org

VI. Synod of the Rocky Mountains: Zane Buxton, Synod Exec.
7601 S. University Blvd., Ste 206
Centennial, Co. 80122
303-477-9070

Proposed Vision Statement, August 2009

Yellowstone Presbytery – guided and sustained by Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and prayer – is a community of congregations and pastors that are rooted in the love of Jesus Christ. We will...

Gather Together for God's Glory and spiritual synergy.

Equip and Encourage disciple-making congregations and leaders for living the Gospel... intentionally becoming more like Christ; ably sharing our faith; impacting our communities; worshipping in loving response to God; and mutually supporting and training leaders.

Go Out to join Christ in His mission in our communities, Montana, and the world... embodying and sharing His Good News; loving and serving as we are commanded, in our words, actions, and relationships.

Possible Mini Statements:

YP: A community of congregations gathering together, equipping and encouraging, and going with Christ.

YP: Gather, Equip, Go.

YP: Congregations helping congregations gather, equip and go.

Vision Questions for the Council

1. Quick review of the visioning process (Bow Tie, etc.)
2. What stands out to you about the Mission Statement?
3. What is the role of Council in seeing that the statement is realized?
 - a. What might we do differently than we are doing now?
 - b. What should we continue to do as we are doing?
4. What might be the role of your committee in the fulfilling of the statement?
5. What personal strengths does each council member bring towards the realization of this mission statement?

Vision Questions for Clusters and Congregations

Summer 2009 "Visioning the Mission of Yellowstone Presbytery"

1. What are the issues / dreams for outreach and ministry in your congregation?
2. Thinking Creatively: What resources are available to you outside the congregation?
3. How might the Presbytery and sister congregations be helpful to you?
4. What strengths / Resources / Experience do you have which might be helpful to other congregations?

Yellowstone Presbytery's Year of Visioning and Discernment—WHERE ARE WE?

