

1. **Look back at the voted Leadership Cabinet priorities (See attached notes we made in Billings)**- How are we doing with these? Plans we could form to go forward?

- a. I would particularly like to hear more from the Cabinet on **Communication - 1**. What would they find helpful? What might churches find helpful? What do we want to say to Synod and GA and how? Are there out-of-box ideas to be considered?
- b. **Spiritual Nurture-2?** How are we doing?
 1. Clusters
 2. Lewistown-Presbytery spiritual retreat, August 23rd. A model?
 3. Other.... Pastors'-Leaders-Spouses retreat (s)?
- c. **Planning Meaningful Presbytery Meetings -3?** Let's plan more than one meeting ahead.
- d. **Staff Transition Decisions-4?**
- e.. We should frame some evaluation on how the new structure is working.
- f. Dates for Presbytery mtgs in 2015

2. **The budgeting process for the presbytery** traditionally happens in the summer. Do we want to ask Dan Holland to take a stab at preparing a budget? I would say, "Yes." Again traditionally, we have asked the committee moderators to make requests, and that might be in order for the Camping and Youth and personnel... But it should be an easier process this year... (Yes, Dan is on this. Thanks, Dan.)

3. **The Pastoral Ministry Team is likely to be busy in the next year trying to help churches discern how/why to stay in the PCUSA.** Are there ways the Leadership Cabinet may be helpful to churches? Do we want to host a forum down the fall for pastors and sessions? Maybe a couple forums in clusters? The General Assembly tied visiting to each of the presbyteries for relationship building and listening to the approval of the marriage changes. How do we think they can help us? And When? (Dave Thompson is on this and has his own report)

- a. Develop the new three-part structure for PMT.
- a. Emphasize call to health sign-up for all pastors.
- b. Some discussion in Staff forum about CRE's and doing psych evaluations of them before enrolling.
- c. Pay more attention to CRE terms and job descriptions?
- d. How responsible is the presbytery for encouraging the spiritual life of pastors? In the yearly performance evaluation? Goals for another year?
- e. Tom Long will be in the presbytery at St. Timothy's Chapel and available to us, perhaps, on Monday, July 27, 2015
- f. Update on Anaconda-Big Hole search; Stanford-Geyser Discernment; Jordan sudden pastoral vacancy; Roy closing?other?
- g. Boundary training for all pastors again in February, 2015

4. **The Synod voted some major changes to its structure and procedures.** We need to be aware of these. Kathy and I were there... Also Neva Rathbun were present. Jim did a bang-up job reporting for Yellowstone Presbytery. Our other commissioners: Jed Cauffman was deaning Junior High Camp; Ron Hanson got flu-like sick the morning he was to fly to the meeting.

- a. The Synod voted a new, compact structure, primarily focused in a leadership team that will meet 3-4 times a year. The annual assembly was voted out.
- b. Funding will go to the presbyteries on about the same amount as last year, but the leadership team is working on a new formula for distribution.
- c. It is likely that, because of the GA decision on middle governing bodies that the SRM will either merge with another synod, be broken apart with presbyteries joining other synods, or parts of other synods will join us. What might we request as being in the best interest of Yellowstone Presbytery and its churches?
- d. Dream Grants for adventuresome, new ministries.... particularly with youth and young adults. Awarded first in t5he west this year. after that more competitive. Not for NCD's. Can be a for a new component for existing ventures. Congregations can request and then approval by presbytery council.

5. Camping and Youth report? Very good summer. George was there for 2 1/2 weeks as leader/speaker; other pastors who came up: Paul Cannon, Susi Ennis, Jed Cauffman, David Andrew. *Curt Kocher was, once again, the gifted over-all director. And please see Curt's submitted report.*

- a. Camp needs a sodded athletic field.
- b. Camp needs more promotion and visibility.
- c. Curt and Susan have been extremely generous with time and gifts.
- d. Pump and water system is working great. Thanks again, FPC-Bozeman!
- e. Fall Youth retreat Dates: Thursday, Oct. 16 - Saturday, 18 at Rockhaven Camp.
Speakers: Orrin Feddes from FPC-Billings; Traci Ruschetti from FPC-Butte; George Goodrich and maybe Kathy Goodrich
- f. Idea for a presbytery camp for a week - anyone who might be interested - 8/2-7, 2015

6. Co-GP report:

- a. PCUSA Evangelism Conference in Tampa, FL, 8-11 to 8-15.
 1. We offered a seminar on creating a culture of Spiritual Discipleship at the Presbytery level and attended excellent workshops and trainings. This innovative conference was filled with passion for Christ, His ministry, reaching those outside the church and outside the Christian Faith. It was also attended by the most diverse group - racially, internationally, culturally, theologically and age we and the leaders of the denomination have seen in any PCUSA gathering.
 2. We both attended the evangelism track. Some good ideas which may be helpful to congregations. Ask us about the story wall.
 3. George had a few minutes with new GA Moderator Heath Rada who said his three priorities were:
 - a. Listening with love to partnering voices inside and outside the PCUSA.
 - b. Establishing our Brand as a denomination - what makes us distinctive now?
 - c. Bringing the right resources, particularly the financial resources to the ministry needs.
- b. Transition to half-time as of October 1 is coming along.
 1. Requesting others to assume more responsibility, IE., Jack Bell was going to cover a Self-Development of people evaluation within our presbytery for George, but it was cancelled.
 - c. Resources to pitch: Convocation (Nov 6-7) and WNLT (Sept 29- Oct 1). Brochures for both should be out.
 - d. The Presbytery office is moving to FPC-Bozeman on Monday, September 29!!!!
 - e. Goodrich plans for the other half of their time? Some options solidifying...
 - f. George's Spiritual Direction Course is over half-completed... Next retreat: Nov 8 - Nov 12.
 1. Four of our pastors in spiritual direction with George now.
 2. ELCA Bishop, Jessica Crist, is willing to endorse me for this ministry to the Montana Synod of the ELCA.
 - g. FYI - St Timothy's Chapel has a major anniversary next summer - 50th? Ron?
 - h. A tickler file for Co-Gp's, Stated Clerk, Leadership Cabinet and all Ministry Teams?

6. Other Key Items to Keep in Mind:

- a. God seems to be leading Yellowstone Presbytery to consider more new worshipping communities?
 1. Jack Bell's and FPC-Billings' effort at the nursing home in Billings is moving forward
 2. Might FPC-Billings be moving forward with the Red Lodge effort again?
 3. Other possibilities?
- b. The growing emphasis on prayer in the Central Montana Cluster.
- c. Ministry and Mission partnerships between the presbytery and local congregations, such as the prayer retreat offered by FPC-Lewistown and the Presbytery.
- d. 125th Anniversary of the FPC-Dillon on September 14! Kathy will be preaching and representing the presbytery. Others able to attend?

7. Resources for Congregations: Ask us about these, if interested.

New Beginnings

Acts 16:5 and Barnabas

ENGAGE is off the presses and looks very good.

PCUSA Discipleship Conference in Tampa - St. Pete Beach - January 19 - 23, 2015

Jody, Ron, Kathy,

There will probably be more to talk about, but as Jody and Ron begin to think about the Leadership Cabinet meeting agenda, this is my input. Thanks for giving these items your consideration.

G.