

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus! We are excited to be hosting our Joint Presbytery meeting here in Helena on Friday, November 5 and Saturday, November 6. This meeting promises to be a wonderful event when folks from Yellowstone and Glacier Presbyteries will meet together for spirited worship, warm fellowship and delicious meals!! We will go our separate directions for the business portion of our time together. We are also blessed to have Linda Valentine, Executive Director of the General Assembly Mission Council, as our key note speaker.

**MEALS:** We will be serving lunch at 12 noon, dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and healthy snacks throughout the event. The cost for food is \$15.00 payable upon registration.

Please R.S.V.P. for meals by November 1<sup>st</sup> by calling Bruce Luke at 406-442-4775.

**ACCOMODATIONS:** We have made arrangements at three local hotels but our "Fellowship time" on Friday evening will be at the Super 8. Please ask for the special rate given for Presbytery attendees.

Super 8	\$55 plus tax	50 rooms - held until October 25
Days Inn	\$75 plus tax	25 rooms held until October 14
Hampton Inn	\$89 plus tax	25 rooms held until October 5

All three hotels will provide a full hot breakfast since we are not serving breakfast at the church.

**CHILD CARE:** We will be glad to provide childcare for little ones under the age of five if requested by November 1.

**MAPS:** We will have maps to these hotels available at the registration table in the church.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Interstate 15 take Exit 192 onto Prospect Avenue - Westbound.  
If you are coming North on Interstate 15 you will take Exit 192A and turn left onto Prospect Avenue.  
If you are coming South on Interstate 15 you will take Exit 192B and turn right onto Prospect Avenue.  
If you are traveling on Highway 12 turn South on to Rodney Street.  
Or contact Bruce prior to traveling for specific directions.

We are so glad you will be joining us!

Pastors Chris Haughee  
Jim Fiedler

Helena First Presbyterian Church  
535 North Ewing Street  
406-442-4775



**Speaker: Linda Valentine, Executive Director of the General Assembly  
Mission Council on the topic of**

**“Growing Christ’s Church Deep and Wide” *through Evangelism,  
Discipleship, Servanthood and Diversity***

**Come and talk with brothers and sisters in Glacier & Yellowstone Presbyteries as we  
explore with one another how Christ is calling us to join him in mission**

**First Presbyterian Church, Helena Montana  
535 N. Ewing St. 59601  
406-442-4775**

**Friday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>**

2:00 – 3:30 PM informal worship - Linda Valentine, speaking followed by questions and answers with small groups “Growing Christ’s Church Deep and Wide-Part 1 including The State of the Church”

**Saturday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>**

8:45 – 10:00 AM informal worship – Linda speaking followed by questions and answers with small groups on the topic “Growing Christ’s Church Deep and Wide-Part 2”

**Our Joint Presbytery Meeting, Glacier and Yellowstone presbyteries, begins with registration and lunch from 11:30-1:00 PM on Friday and will run through noon on Saturday.**

Linda Valentine, our featured speaker and resource person for the meeting, will be available for conversation during the business portions of the meeting. Major purposes of our joint meeting, in keeping with our vision statements, are to deepen our relationships, foster partnerships in mission, share ideas and prayerful dreams with one another and encourage one another in Christ. Your presence at any and all events is welcomed.

Information including hotel and meal registration can be found at:  
[www.glacierpresbytery.org/](http://www.glacierpresbytery.org/) or [www.yellowstonepcusa.org/](http://www.yellowstonepcusa.org/)

**Pre-registration for meals at the Presbytery is requested by calling  
FPC Helena  
406-442-4775**

For more information, including videos from the PCUSA on  
‘Growing Christ’s Church Deep and Wide’: <http://deepandwide.ning.com/>

Linda Bryant Valentine, Executive Director, General Assembly Mission Council

An ordained elder, lawyer, and executive, Linda Bryant Valentine has served as executive director of the General Assembly Mission Council of the Presbyterian Church (USA) since July 2006. Prior to that, Linda served as board member, fund manager and general counsel at Opportunity International, one of the world's largest microfinance networks, providing over a million small loans a year to poor people in developing countries.

From 1984 to 2002, Linda worked at Motorola, Inc. where she served in various capacities, including as senior vice president and general counsel for the corporation's \$30 billion communications businesses. Following Motorola, she served for a brief period as interim staff coordinator at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, where she was an elder, trustee, deacon and member for over 20 years. Linda has also worked as an attorney for United Airlines, Atlantic Richfield Co., a Philadelphia law firm and a computer software company. She has served on the board of a number of not for profit organizations.

Linda holds degrees in economics and political science from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC and studied business in the MBA program of University of Southern California.

**Our Vision**  
Yellowstone  
Presbytery –  
guided and  
sustained by  
Scripture, the Holy  
Spirit, and prayer --  
is a community  
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 Christ's  
mission in our  
communities,  
Montana, and the  
world . . .  
embodying and  
sharing Christ's  
Good News; loving  
and serving, as we  
are commanded, in  
our words, actions,  
and relationships.

\* Synergy: from  
the Greek syn-  
ergos, συνεργός  
meaning working  
together.

Adopted: 11/6/2009

**PRESBYTERY OF YELLOWSTONE  
PRESBYTERY MEETING AGENDA  
Friday November 5 & Saturday November 6, 2010  
First Presbyterian Church, Helena, Montana**

**Friday November 5, 2010**

**Gathering as a community rooted in the love of Jesus Christ**

4:00 p.m. Roll Call, Docket, Approval of Minutes (May 21-22, 2010).  
4:05 p.m. Dwelling in the Word.

**Equip and Encourage all Through the Work of the Presbytery**

4:20 p.m. Vision Team.  
4:35 p.m. Council.  
4:45 p.m. B&F Committee (2011 budget).  
5:00 p.m. Nominating Committee  
5:10 p.m. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution.  
5:25 p.m. COM (Minimum Salaries for 2011).  
5:35 p.m. Personnel Committee.  
5:45 p.m. Recess, with prayer, for dinner.

**Saturday, November 6, 2010**

10:45 a.m. Administrative Commission for Springhill Church.  
11:25 a.m. Nominating Committee (election of nominees).  
11:35 a.m. Camping and Youth Committee.  
11:45 a.m. Higher Education Committee.

**Going Out To Join Christ in His Mission**

12:00 Noon Adjournment with Prayer.

**Note: Committee Moderators are expected to file a written report. The Moderators should be prepared to present any recommendations for presbytery action and to respond to any questions from the members of presbytery.**

**Budget & Finance Committee - for Presbytery Meeting November 5-6, 2010**

**Actions for Presbytery:**

**(1) Approve increase of per capita rate for 2011**

**Increase Yellowstone Presbytery rate from 28.47 to 30.05**

**This would increase the total per capita rate from 41.00 to 43.00  
as Synod and GA have already increased their rates**

**(2) Approval of 2011 Administrative Budget**

**(3) Approval of 2011 Program Budget**

**Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman, MT**  
**Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2010**

**Monday, October 18, 2010**

**Page 1 of 2**

Account #	Account Name	Beginning Balance	YTD Balance
<b>Assets</b>			
1.00.1010.0000	Checking Account #3133214	100,235.92	114,291.91
1.00.1020.0000	Petty Cash	22.18	22.18
1.00.1030.0000	Money Market #129013355	122,275.20	122,860.85
1.00.1031.0000	St Timothy M. M #1 #3531961	1,500.72	1,500.73
1.00.1032.0000	St. Timothy MM #2 #129013686	1,500.40	1,500.47
	<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$225,534.42</b>	<b>\$240,176.14</b>
1.00.1040.0000	Beartooth Electric Coop	1,337.70	1,337.70
	<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$1,337.70</b>	<b>\$1,337.70</b>
1.00.1065.0000	St Timothy Chapel #1 52001085	188,253.16	184,560.27
1.00.1070.0000	St Timothy Chapel #2 52006024	89,814.97	84,846.19
1.00.1075.0000	Bozeman Campus 000104537	75,344.31	78,319.31
1.00.1080.0000	Partnership Fund MM 129013793	44,830.69	44,979.92
	<b>Total Principal Restricted</b>	<b>\$398,243.13</b>	<b>\$392,705.69</b>
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$625,115.25</b>	<b>\$634,219.53</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
	<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,307.00</b>
2.00.2009.0550	Advanced Pledge Payment	5,000.00	0.00
	<b>Advanced Pledge Payment</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
2.00.2120.1000	Payroll - Federal	524.30	709.82
2.00.2120.2000	Payroll State	1,067.00	847.00
2.00.2140.0000	G. Goodrich Flex Plan	0.00	969.94
2.00.2141.0000	S. Seibert Flex Plan	0.00	(250.16)
	<b>Total Payroll Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,591.30</b>	<b>\$2,276.60</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$6,591.30</b>	<b>\$4,583.60</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>			
3.01.2700.0000	Unreserved Fund Balance	38,460.11	26,395.39
3.02.2800.0000	General - Administrative	47,525.38	47,355.09
3.03.2805.0000	General - Program	35,490.61	35,490.61
3.04.2700.0000	General - Restricted Admin.	56,428.81	56,428.81
	<b>Total General Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$177,904.91</b>	<b>\$165,669.90</b>
3.19.2815.0000	Camp Scholarship Camp. & Youth	0.00	67.00
3.23.2820.0000	Christian Ed. Resources Misson	2,014.74	2,014.74
3.27.2825.0000	Clergy Emergency Fund COM	345.00	570.00
3.31.2830.0000	Continuing Education COM	5,876.14	4,976.14
3.35.2835.0000	Equal Exchange Coffee Mission	462.60	462.60
3.39.2840.0000	Linda Hofer COM	3,001.08	3,486.08
3.41.1000.0000	Mission Marketplace	173.00	173.00
3.43.2845.0000	New Church Development Fund	2,428.84	2,428.84
3.45.2847.0000	Parish Deveopment	1,406.02	1,406.02
3.47.2850.0000	Partnership- Available COM	830.98	980.21
3.48.2500.0000	Heifer Mission Trip	760.90	760.90
3.49.2700.0000	Pastor's Discretionary Fund	2,500.00	2,500.00
3.51.2855.0000	Peace Making Offering Mission	1,714.01	1,839.51
3.55.2860.0000	Pentecost Offerings Misson	335.32	335.32
3.56.1220.0000	Special Offering Other Fund	355.21	355.21
3.59.2865.0000	Restoring Creation Misson	1,165.07	1,165.07

**Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman, MT**  
**Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2010**

**Monday, October 18, 2010**

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Account #	Account Name	Beginning Balance	YTD Balance
3.63.2870.0000	Revamp Camp -Camp. & Youth	777.71	292.30
3.65.2825.0000	Springhill Funds	0.00	15,000.00
3.67.2875.0000	St. Timothy's Money Market #1	1,500.72	1,500.73
3.68.2877.0000	St Timonthy Money Market #2	1,500.40	1,500.47
3.70.3500.0000	Transformation Fund (COM)	7,353.94	7,353.94
3.71.2880.0000	Vanuatu Mission Fund	0.31	0.31
3.75.2885.0000	Yellowstone Prov. 28:8 Mission	5,667.90	5,253.55
3.78.0000.0000	Hunger Program	2,218.33	1,218.33
3.79.2890.0000	2 Cents a Meal Project Mission	68.67	68.67
3.85.2850.0000	Westminister Spires Camp Upgrades Balance	0.00	16,531.61
	<b>Total Designated funds</b>	<b>\$42,456.89</b>	<b>\$72,240.55</b>
3.90.2910.0000	Bozeman Campus Foundation	76,094.31	78,319.31
3.92.2920.0000	St.Timothys #1 (PC USA) Found	188,253.16	184,560.27
3.93.2921.0000	St. Timothys #2 (PC USA) Found	89,814.97	84,846.19
3.94.2930.0000	Partnership Fund Principal COM	43,999.71	43,999.71
	<b>Total Restricted Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$398,162.15</b>	<b>\$391,725.48</b>
	<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$618,523.95</b>	<b>\$629,635.93</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$625,115.25</b>	<b>\$634,219.53</b>

## Yellowstone Presbytery - Administrative Budget

		2010		Proposed	
		<u>2009 Actual</u>	<u>thru 9.30.10</u>	<u>2010 Budget</u>	<u>2011 Budget</u>
				2546 members	2448 members
	<b>Presbytery Per Capita</b>			<b>28.47</b>	<b>30.05</b>
	<b>Synod Per capita rate</b>			<b>6.38</b>	<b>6.45</b>
	<b>GA Per Capita rate</b>			<b>6.15</b>	<b>6.50</b>
	<b>Total Per Capita Rate</b>			<b>41.00</b>	<b>43.00</b>
	<b>Per Capita Presbytery</b>			<b>72,485</b>	
	<b>Per Capita Synod</b>			<b>16,243</b>	
	<b>Per Capita GA</b>			<b>15,658</b>	
	<b>Total Per Capita</b>	<b>105,272</b>	<b>87,910</b>	<b>104,386</b>	<b>105,264</b>
	<b>Less Per Capita Shortfall</b>				<b>(3,164)</b>
	<b>Total Synod Partnership Funds</b>	<b>54,000</b>	<b>40,500</b>	<b>54,000</b>	<b>45,900</b>
	<b>Administrative Support</b>	<b>48,110</b>	<b>17,925</b>	<b>44,500</b>	<b>44,500</b>
	<b>Reimbursed Expenses (from 2009)</b>		<b>6,766</b>	<b>3,114</b>	
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>207,382</b>	<b>153,101</b>	<b>206,000</b>	<b>192,500</b>
	<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>				
	<b>Meetings for Camping &amp; Youth **</b>	<b>269</b>			
	<b>Commission for Judicial Process</b>	<b>4,612</b>		<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>
	<b>Meetings for Budget &amp; Finance</b>	<b>50</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>
	<b>Meetings for Higher Ed **</b>	<b>98</b>			
	<b>Meals - COM</b>		<b>209</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>
	<b>Meetings Misc - COM</b>	<b>2,067</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>600</b>
	<b>Training - COM</b>			<b>400</b>	
	<b>Travel - COM</b>	<b>2,926</b>	<b>3,281</b>	<b>4,350</b>	<b>5,100</b>
	<b>Meetings for Mission **</b>	<b>791</b>			
	<b>Meetings for Nominations</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>350</b>
	<b>Meetings for Personnel</b>		<b>49</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>450</b>
	<b>Meetings for Representation</b>			<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>
	<b>Meetings - Comm. St Tim's Chapel</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>Meetings Comm. On Vocations **</b>	<b>187</b>			



## Yellowstone Presbytery - Administrative Budget

		2010		Proposed	
		<u>2009 Actual</u>	<u>thru 9.30.10</u>	<u>2010 Budget</u>	<u>2011 Budget</u>
	Lodging - Delegates to other Bodies	265		75	75
	Meals - Delegates to other Bodies	129	19	50	50
	Travel - Delegates to other Bodies	475	384	275	275
	Medicare & Social Security	2,816	2,125	2,866	3,020
	Work Comp Insurance			362	375
	Unemployment Taxes	59	(27)	150	150
	Per Capita GA Expenses Misc	16,470	15,658	16,243	15,790
	Per Capita Synod Expenses Misc	17,086	16,243	15,658	15,912
	Salary - Administrative Assistant	21,489	16,110	20,894	21,412
	Additional - Admin Assistant				960
	Travel - Administrative Assistant	121	43	120	120
	<u>Expense for General Presbyters</u>				
	Housing	26,400	19,800	26,400	26,400
	Lodging	567	298	600	600
	Meals	891	800	800	1,050
	Miscellaneous	592	292	700	700
	Miscellaneous Expense - Kathy	288	1,947	3,000	3,000
	Pension	19,190	14,392	19,500	19,988
	Salary	33,700	26,625	35,505	37,053
	Study Leave	0	765	700	700
	Telephone & Conference calls	1,429	1,141	1,100	1,250
	Professional Expenses	143	75	100	100
	Training	116	35	500	500
	Travel	7,275	7,109	6,500	7,500
	<u>Expenses for Stated Clerk</u>				
	Meals (and equipment 2009)	1,624		100	50
	Phone	286	115	300	200
	Pension	3,413	2,363	3,150	3,150
	Salary	10,749	7,725	10,300	10,558
	Travel	264		700	700

## Yellowstone Presbytery - Administrative Budget

		2010		Proposed	
		<u>2009 Actual</u>	<u>thru 9.30.10</u>	<u>2010 Budget</u>	<u>2011 Budget</u>
	Salary - Treasurer	6,079	4,697	6,262	6,421
	<b><u>Council Expenses</u></b>				
	Lodging - Council			100	200
	Meals - Council	345	250	400	500
	Miscellaneous - Council	207		200	200
	Travel - Council	1,931	811	2,000	2,000
	Legal				1,000
	<b><u>Presbytery Expenses</u></b>				
	Lodging - Presbytery	462	424	800	800
	Meals - Presbytery	110	51	100	100
	Miscellaneous - Presbytery	738	93	700	700
	Travel - Presbytery	5,918	3,423	6,700	6,700
	Convocation Planning - Presbytery		350	700	
	Vision Task Force	3,352	20	1,000	300
	<b><u>Expenses for Presbytery Office</u></b>				
	Copies & Postage	2,631	670	2,200	2,000
	Equipment	235	380	200	200
	Insurance	674	675	750	750
	Miscellaneous	76	95	460	461
	Rental - Office	9,390	7,043	9,390	9,390
	Supplies	2,066	1,146	1,800	1,800
	Telephone & Conference calls	2,148	1,489	2,200	2,200
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>213,446</b>	<b>159,824</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>215,500</b>
	<b>Subtotal (net loss)</b>	<b>(6,064)</b>	<b>(6,723)</b>	<b>(4,000)</b>	<b>(23,000)</b>
	Transfer to Restricted Admin.	(4,860)			
	Transfer from Reserve Account				23,000
	<b>Net profit (or loss) after transfer</b>	<b>(10,924)</b>			<b>0</b>
	** Transferred to Program Budget				

## Yellowstone Presbytery - Program Budget

		2010		Proposed	
		<u>2009 Actual</u>	<u>thru 9.30.10</u>	<u>2010 Budget</u>	<u>2011 Budget</u>
	Mission Pledge Income	44,001	18,909	34,990	35,000
	Christus Collegium		3,000	3,000	3,000
	Campus Ministry (Synod)	10,550	3,955	7,910	5,668
	Summer Camp	12,825	8,750	12,500	19,125
	Winter/Fall Events	1,888	503	1,500	4,000
	Rental of Camp Facilities	1,175	2,415	1,100	3,000
	Special Gifts	1,000			2,000
	Miscellaneous Income		2,350		
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>71,439</b>	<b>39,882</b>	<b>61,000</b>	<b>71,793</b>
	<b><u>Camping and youth</u></b>				
	Caretaker position				3,000
	Triennium		6,474	7,800	2,500
	Meetings				500
	Camping program	26,920	18,007	26,160	32,505
	<b><u>Comm on Higher Education</u></b>				
	MSU Billings	8,940	7,590	10,120	9,048
	MSU Bozeman	8,940			0
	Christus Collegium		3,465	4,620	4,620
	Rocky Mountain College			1,000	1,000
	Meetings		167	200	200
	<b><u>Committee on Ministry</u></b>				
	Triennial Visits Mileage				1,000
	COM program misc	75		500	500
	Training	3,000	610	1,200	1,200
	Emergency Career Counseling			1,000	1,000
	Clergy/Spouse Retreat			1,150	
	New Call Orientation	88		100	
	Vital Pastors				1,500
	Montana Pastors Seminar				1,000
	Leadership Crop (Synod)				400

## Yellowstone Presbytery - Program Budget

		2010		Proposed
	<u>2009 Actual</u>	<u>thru 9.30.10</u>	<u>2010 Budget</u>	<u>2011 Budget</u>
<b><u>Committee on Mission</u></b>				
Program Miscellaneous	3,650	2,000	3,500	3,500
Congregation Ministry	1,000		1,000	1,500
Western Leadership	1,050	500	1,100	2,000
Meetings		306	700	700
<b><u>Committee on Vocations</u></b>				
Distant Learning	300		350	350
Applicant Lodging & Meals			300	150
Applicant Travel			450	600
Exam Reader Travel				600
Mac Lay Ministry				600
Meetings (committee expenses)			900	925
<b><u>Mt Association of Churches</u></b>				
Membership	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Representation	244		250	250
<b><u>Presbytery</u></b>				
Convocation		1,369	1,000	1,000
Program	3,695		1,500	1,500
Vision Team				1,500
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>61,402</b>	<b>43,988</b>	<b>68,400</b>	<b>78,648</b>
<b>Net profit or loss</b>	<b>10,037</b>	<b>-4,106</b>	<b>-7,400</b>	<b>-6,855</b>
<b>Transfer from Reserve Funds</b>				<b>6,855</b>
<b>Net loss after transfer</b>				<b>0</b>

**Committee Report Form - -Yellowstone Presbytery**

**Committee Name: Higher Education**

**Committee Report for Presbytery Meeting, Scheduled for: November 5-6, 2010**

**Submitted By: David Kimball, Chair**

**I. For Council's Information:**

- a. The Committee's Three Stated Goals for 2010:
  - i. Priority 1: Pursue continued synod and Presbytery funding support for campus ministry programs
  - ii. Priority 2: Study Bozeman Campus Christian Center (Christus Collegium) partnership and implement recommendations for its future.
  - iii. Priority 3: Study new focus and organizational model for campus Ministry within the Presbytery
- b. Date of Committee Meeting:
  - May 12 - Committee tele-conference meeting
  - July 14 - Ad-Hoc Task Group of the Committee
  - August 1-20 - Committee email vote on Task Group Recommendations
- c. Members Present: Ad-Hoc Committee composed of David Kimball, Fran Babcock, Rev. Dan Krebill, Pat Griffin and Chuck Broughton
- d. Main Agenda Items: Committee vote on recommendations of Ad-Hoc Task Group on future of MSU Campus Christian Center (Christus Collegium)
- e. Decisions Made: The Committee voted to forward to Council the recommendations of the Task Group as stated below:

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Higher Education Committee recommends that action be initiated to terminate the Presbyterian membership in the Campus Christian Center by the end of 2011 and that any funds derived from the withdrawal be designated for the support of Yellowstone Presbytery campus ministries. The following actions should be taken:

- a. Give verbal notification at the next meeting of the CCC Board of Directors of the intent to terminate Presbyterian membership at the end of fiscal year 2011.
- b. Seek Synod concurrence with the withdrawal recommendation and guidance as to whether the Synod or the Presbytery is the appropriate action agency.
- c. Conduct a search for all documents relevant to our CCC membership, including the original membership certificate, percentage distribution of shares, original amount of funds invested and the source of that funding, documentation of the formation and dissolution of precursor entities such as the United Campus Christian Ministry and the Montana Ministries in Higher Education.
- d. Investigate options for legal review and support.

- f. Plan a special event to recognize the place these ministry organizations played on the MSU campus and bring closure for those who led and participated in these programs over the years.

**II. Council Actions:**

- a. At its Aug 27 meeting the Council approved the recommendations of the Committee to be taken to the full Presbytery for final approval.
- b. The Synod Executive advised that action on this issue is under the purview of the Presbytery.
- c. The Board of the Campus Christian Center was informed of our intent to terminate our partnership by the end of 2011.

**III. We request Presbytery Action on the Following:**

Approve the actions recommended by the Higher Education Committee and approved by the Council as stated above.

## Presbytery of Yellowstone Liaison Pastor/Congregation Assignments

Church	Contact Person	Phone # (406)	Liaison	Phone # (406)
Anaconda	Rev. Mary Davis	563-6953	Elder John Clark	494-8185
Billings, First	Rev. David Thompson	252-3434	CLP Editha McKay	738-4414
Billings, St. Andrew	Rev. Brent Long	656-9256	Elder Gayle Holland	628-2524
Bozeman, First	Rev. Dan Krebill	586-9194	Rev. Sally Ralston	460-4065
	Rev. Jody McDevitt			
Butte, First	Rev. Lanny Rounds	782-6595	Rev. Larry VandeCreek	522-7586
Colstrip, U.C.C.	Rev. Robert Shy, Jr.	748-4166	Rev. John Dyce	749-4638
Deer Lodge, First	Rev. Freeman McCall	683-4385	Elder John Clark	494-8185
Dillon, First	Rev. David Andrew IV	683-2655	Elder John Clark	494-8185
Ennis, Madison Valley	Rev. Jean Johnson	682-4355	Rev. Sally Ralston	460-4065
Forsyth, Federated	CLP Cathy McClean	346-7767	Rev. John Dyce	749-4638
Geyser, Community	CLP Editha McKay	735-4364	Rev. Larry VandeCreek	522-7586
Harlowtown, Federated	Rev. Jerry Collins	623-4228	Rev. Priscilla Bell	628-2524
Hysham, Community	Elder Gayle Holland	347-5438	Elder Russ Kline	652-6374
Jordan, Community	Elder Carol Fleming	950-3480	Rev. George Goodrich	586-7706
Lewistown, First	Rev. James Cauffman	538-3728	CLP Editha McKay	738-4414
Manhattan, Presbyterian	Rev. Debbie Funke	284-6961	Elder Joanne Jennings	586-9585
Miles City	Rev. David Schneider	234-4835	Rev. John Dyce	749-4638
Philipsburg	Rev. Sally Ralston	560-3553	Rev. Neva Rathbun	635-5719
Poplar			Elder Joanne Jennings	586-9585
Roy	Tom Moring	538-7346	Rev. George Goodrich	586-7706
	Elder Ken Siroky	464-5471	Rev. Robert Shy, Jr.	748-4624
	CLP Editha McKay	566-2517	Rev. J. Cauffman	538-3728
Standord, First	Rev. Leon Rathbun	635-5726	Rev. Larry VandeCreek	522-7586
Terry, Community			Rev. Robert Shy, Jr.	748-4624
West Yellowstone,				
Community Protestant	Rev. Freeman McCall	683-4385	Rev. Freeman McCall	683-4385
White Sulphur Springs	Elder Gordon Doig	547-3541	CLP Editha McKay	738-4414
Wise River, The Big Hole	Rev. Dick Davis	832-3281/560-4218	Rev. Freeman McCall	683-4385
Wolf Point, First	Elder Mary Boysun	653-1415	Rev. Neva Rathbun	635-5719
	Chaplain Jeff Harada	650-7092		

**PRESBYTERY OF YELLOWSTONE  
2011 MINIMUM SALARIES**

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY  
Recommended by COM on 08.19.2010\***

**FULL-TIME PASTORS IN 1<sup>ST</sup> 3 YEARS OF A CALL:**

Cash : \$29,991

Housing: \$ 8,997

Effective Salary : \$ 38,988

Pension (31.5%): \$ 12,281

Continuing Education: \$ 520

Auto: (vouchered at Federal Rate)

Study Leave: 2 wks., cumulative to 6 wks. including 2 Sundays

Vacation: 4 weeks including 4 Sundays

Family Leave: Each church shall develop a family policy

**FULL-TIME PASTORS AFTER 3 YEARS IN A CALL:**

Cash: \$31,489

Housing: \$ 9,447

Effective Salary: \$ 40, 936

Pension (31.5%): \$ 12,895

Continuing Education: \$ 520

Auto: (vouchered at Federal Rate)

Study Leave: 2 wks., cumulative to 6 wks. Including 2 Sundays

Vacation: 4 weeks including 4 Sundays

Family Leave: Each church shall develop a family policy

**Commissioned Lay Pastor (CLP)**

The CLP salary is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Full-Time Pastors salary pro-rated for part time

\*Consideration of the economy

\*75% of congregations have less than 100 members

FYI: Yellowstone Presbytery ranks 170 out of 173 presbyteries / minimum salaries



**Committee Report Form - -Yellowstone Presbytery**

**Committee Name: Committee on Representation**

**Committee Report for Council Meeting, scheduled for: Oct. 21, 2011**

**Submitted By Linda Smith, Chair, Claudia Stanton, Rusty Craig**

**I. For Council's Information:**

- a. The Committee's Three Stated Goals for 2010
  - i. Priority 1: Review the Committee on Nominations' Report
  - ii. Priority 2: Write a report for Presbytery and Council
  - iii. Priority 3:
  
- b. Date of Committee Meeting: Oct.11, 2010  
Date of Next Meeting: Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, if necessary
  
- c. Members Present: Linda Smith, Claudia Stanton, Rusty Craig (telephone)
  - i. Main agenda Items:
    1. Study report from Committee on Nominations in regards to gender equity, clergy, elder equity and geography.
    2. Write a report of our findings to be presented to Council Meeting in Bozeman and the Presbytery Meeting in Helena.
  
- e. Decisions we made: Who will follow through:
  1. Write a report of findings for Presbytery and Council, Chair: Linda Smith

Report: As of this date, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, Representation Committee Report

90 Positions to be filled

87 Positions are filled with 3 vacancies: Council 2 vacancies – Nominations Chair (set by Council) and Presbyterian Women's (Elect their own) and Committee on Ministry which should be a female elder.

Elders serving – 55

Clergy serving – 32

Men serving – 50

Women serving – 37

Note the discrepancy in number of men and women serving

Council – 8 elders, 5 clergy – 6 men 7 women with 2 vacancies - Nomination's Chair (Elected by Council) and Presbyterian Women (elect their own)

Committees:

Budget and Finance – 3 elders, 0 clergy -2 men, 1 woman  
Geographically all from Central Montana

Camping and Youth – 6 elders, 3 clergy – 4 men, 5 women  
No discrepancies noted

Higher Ed – 7 elders, 3 clergy – 8 men, 2 women  
Needs better gender equity

Ministry – 5 elders, 6 clergy – 6 men, 5 women  
1 vacancy should be women Elder

Mission – 8 elders, 4 clergy – 6 men, 6 women  
No Discrepancies noted

Personnel – 2 elders, 2 clergy – 2 men, 2 women  
Needs to be more diverse geographically

Permanent Judicial Commission -4 elders, 3 clergy – 3 men, 4 women  
Our question is the book says 7 members equal numbers, How?  
No discrepancies noted

Representation – 2 elders, 1 clergy – 2 men, 1 woman  
No discrepancies noted

St. Timothy's – 7 elders, 2 clergy – 6 men, 3 women  
Should have 6 elders and 3 clergy and better gender equality

Vocations – 1 elder, 3 clergy – 2 men, 2 women  
Requirement is 2 elders 2 clergy - Need a male elder to balance

4 churches that have no representation: Deer Lodge, Poplar, West  
Yellowstone, Wolf Point

The Nominating Committee should be commended for their hard work on a difficult task.  
Keeping 90 positions filled is most difficult. You see the discrepancies noted and must  
decide whether to ignore or rectify them.

Submitted by:

Committee on Representation:

Linda Smith, Chair

Claudia Stanton

Rusty Craig

**Yellowstone Presbytery** – guided and sustained by Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and prayer -- is a community 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 Christ’s mission in our communities, Montana, and the world . . . embodying and sharing Christ’s Good News; loving and serving, as we are commanded, in our words, actions, and relationships.

\* **Synergy:** from the Greek *synergos*, *συνεργός* meaning working together

Vision Statement Adopted by Presbytery 11/6/2009

**Yellowstone Presbytery’s Journey of Visioning and Discernment—WHERE ARE WE?**

**PHASE I**

To discover and learn what God is up to in the world today, including our contexts, congregations, and communities.

May ‘08—Apr ‘09

**PHASE II**

To discern God’s vision and role for congregations and presbyteries in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, especially for the gathering of churches known as Yellowstone Presbytery.

What is God’s vision for us?

Apr ‘09—Sep ‘09

- Dwelling in the Word with Sessions, Presbytery, Council, committees/teams
- Presbytery data/stats from Ten Year Report and Persept Report
- Assets, dreams, needs – Presbytery Council, committees & congregations (in progress)
- Insights from the Holy Spirit’s work from other Christians asking similar questions in 21<sup>st</sup> Century – PC(USA), other Christians, resources of various kinds, consultant
- Technological and social shifts in communications, media, values, and life styles
- Vision Team presents “Our Iceberg Is Melting” to Presbytery as model for presentation and training in new strategies, practices.

- Vision Team distills all inputs, drafts vision statement, interacts with Council & May Presbytery
- Vision Team visits clusters of congregations to interpret and dis-



October 21, 2010

**Phase III**

To embody--creatively, faithfully, and fruitfully-- God’s preferred future as an outpost of his church called, gathered, equipped, and sent in Montana.

How might we live and embody Christ’s vision in our life and mission together?

Sep ‘09—Spring ‘11

- September ‘09 vision retreat for leaders in congregations & presbytery— vision, priorities, practices
- November ‘09— Presbytery adopts and celebrates its new vision, further brainstorming, explores partnerships and networks
- Vision Team continues: facilitating further brainstorming, learning, connections, networks/partnerships; working on implementation strategies and communication with congregations, clusters, Council, committees . . .
- 2010-2011 Council & Presbytery considers implementation strategies.

-----> -----> **Ongoing learning, spiritual growth/transformation (attitudes, understanding, actions...)** - as individuals, groups... ----->



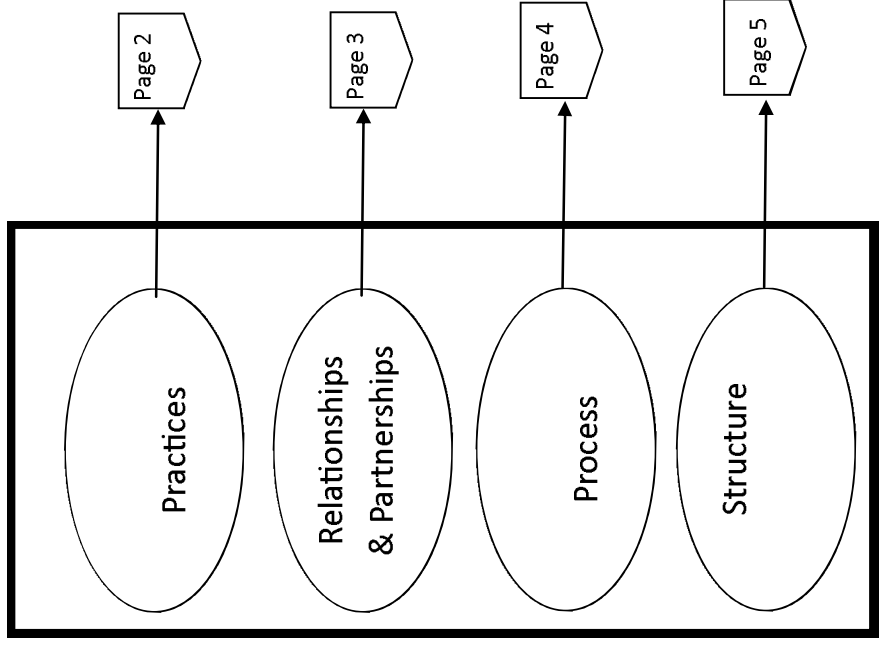
# Fulfilling the Presbytery Vision Statement:

*Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil! Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life! Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over. But don't, dear friend, resent God's discipline; don't sulk under his loving correction. It's the child he loves that God corrects; a father's delight is behind all this. Proverbs 3:5-6 (The Message)*

## Guiding Principles for Vision Team as we draft a plan to fulfill the Vision Statement:

- Scripture, prayer, guided by the Holy Spirit
- Rapid cultural change requires ongoing adaptation
- Fulfill Vision Statement
  - Disciple making
  - Dynamic Healthy Congregations
  - Join God in God's vision; trusting in God
- Connectivity, churches, leaders, commissioners, dreams
- Representative interactive grass roots
- Creativity — Artistry balanced with Tradition — Constancy
  - Grounded in Constitution (Books of Order & Confessions)
- Presbytery is all of US
  - Every Member
  - Every Church and affiliated organization
- Encouraging a culture of innovation
- Financially Responsible as we walk by faith.

Four Strands to Fulfillment of Vision Statement





## Practices:

### Tuning Hearts, Minds, and Lives to Discern, Discover, and Embody Christ's Mission Together

*"We proclaim [Christ] admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ." Col 1:28 (NSRV)*

- Dwelling in the Word — All committees, teams, and Presbytery meetings
- Three focus groups at Presbytery (Gathering, Equip and Encourage, Sending Out)
- Prayer
  - Worship at Presbytery meeting with intercession for 2-4 Churches
  - Voluntary prayer times
  - Monthly conference call prayer meetings
  - Call to presbytery wide prayer as appropriate
  - Prayer calendar for churches
- Fasting — individually and as a body
- Caring for and connecting with the Christ in one another
  - Informal and small groups at Presbytery Meetings
  - Discipleship groups / Vital Pastors and Leaders
- Mission together . . . The day before Presbytery Project, or other Spirit — directed efforts
- Core values developed and followed for our meetings and life together.
- Other . . .



# Relationships / Partnerships:

## The Presbytery is Us

*Therefore, as Gods people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other . . . Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect Unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Col 3:12-15 (NRSV)*

- One in Christ
- Encourage . . .
  - Efforts in connectivity — “Tinker Toy ‘Anding’”
  - Mutual Discipleship Groups of Pastors / Lay Leaders
  - Collaboration and partnerships in mission, equipping, . . .
    - Between those with passion for particular mission
    - Church to church
    - Individuals to individuals
    - With other presbyteries / judicatories / denominations
  - Mutual resourcing from within and outside Presbytery
    - Church to church
    - Leader to leader
  - Informal one-on-one across lines of diversity
  - Prayer for each other



# Process:

## Journeying Together

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart . . . Jeremiah 29: 11-13 (NRSV)*

- Presbytery
  - Pursue practices and relationships and structure
  - Distill and communicate this four streams process toward fulfillment: Practices, relationships and partnerships, structure, and process
  - As we follow Christ, fulfill the Vision
- Council provides visionary leadership for presbytery, maintaining focus and ongoing equipping
- Keeps the Vision Statement in front of Presbytery so Presbytery can be the spiritual, missional, leadership body
- Listens to God's Spirit through the voice of the Presbytery
- Carries out responsibilities as framed by Standing Rules
- Model mutual discipleship
- Council helps committees and ministry teams
  - Prioritize mandated and emerging ministries
  - Prayerfully evaluate effectiveness
  - Add, combine, discontinue committees as appropriate
- Encourages connectivity for Presbytery life and ministry to all levels of Presbytery
- Church—Session — Leader focused and equipped for their mission/discipleship in Christ
  - Communication of Presbytery vision to encourage congregation vision
  - Letter & questionnaire for sessions
  - E-Newsletter with stories, equipping for discipleship, and fostering connectivity.
  - Blog on discipleship
  - *This point Intentionally left blank for your ideas*
- Connecting and communicating through the uses of technology





# Structure:

## Organizing for Mission: Roles and Responsibilities

I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him. Romans 12:3 (The Message)

- Council Make-up:
  - Option 1 — Retain current Council structure to retain Ministry emphasis of council's duties
  - Option 2 — Reform the Council structure to emphasize missional visioning role of Council's duties

Continued . . .

Option 1: Retain current Council structure to retain Ministry emphasis of council's duties:

- Work with Vision Team for one year to help committees and council strategize and prioritize.
- Council works to disband and form new committees as appropriate to fulfillment of the presbytery vision.
- Benefits:
  - Allows for gradual transitions as the Spirit may lead.
  - Less disruptive to the presbytery at this time.
  - Developments of Practices, Relationships and Partnerships, and Process developed in the visioning process are being integrated and will be functional in the current structure.
  - Because the Vision Team is unsure the presbytery truly wants to change the way it is structured, this allows for vision and mission development by maintaining the structure, but shifting the emphasis to include visioning by presbytery and council.
  - Allows for moderate development and incremental successes.
  - No Standing Rules would need to be amended.

Continued . . .

Option 2: Reform the Council structure to emphasize missional visioning role of Council's duties:

- A council of six members: 2 Lay Elders, 2 Clergy; 2 Members at large.
- The Co-General Presbyters and Stated Clerk are additional ex officio members with voice but without vote.
- A Moderator and Vice- Moderator are elected from among the six elected members.
- Committee Moderators would no longer comprise the council, but members of council would interface with the committees and moderators towards the fulfilling of the vision, for mutual discipleship, for "anding."
- Benefits:
  - Expands the number of people involved in the leadership and mission of the presbytery.
  - Standing committee moderators may focus more on the work of their committees.
  - Allows Council to fulfill the vision with focus on the larger issues of visioning, discipleship, oversight and leadership, collaboration and innovation in support of the committees, ministry teams, focus groups, emerging mission/partnerships.
  - Strong emphasis on relationship-building and connectivity.
  - Standing rules could be thoughtfully amended.
  - Requires less meeting time, travel, money and energy at this level and frees up more time, energy and monies to be engaged in our mission and ministry.
  - Increases collaboration and partnerships

**Financial Considerations:** While the funds supporting the Administrative Budget of the Presbytery contain approximately \$100, 000 more than they did before the electing of our Co-General Presbyters, thus assuring the structure and ministry in- to 2013. The decline in partnership funds from General Assembly and the Synod may well produce a shortfall by 2014.

Continued . . .

## Option 2

### **Possible solutions include:**

(Your Vision Team in consultation with Council, has heard these but no final or formal decisions/actions have been taken on possible solutions as of August 2010)

- **Increase Revenues - Options heard include:**
  - Form other partnerships, perhaps with presbyteries or granting agencies
  - Assess, adapt, innovate existing ministry and mission in line with Vision (goal - greater faithfulness, effectiveness, fruitfulness)
  - Listen, explore, innovate new equipping, ministry and mission which congregations and groups NEED and WILL SUPPORT and which is in line with Vision
  - Implement online giving
  - Increase per capita
  - Intensify Co-General Presbyter fund-raising
  - Perhaps a unified budget, or allow congregations to designate per capita and program funding
  - Increase donations from those submitting expenses using existing voucher (Better publicize tax deduction)
  - Improved, expanded communication of both what IS happening/being offered & of needs & opportunities
  - Other
- **Decrease expenditures - Options heard include:**
  - Increase reliance on technology - i.e. virtual meetings via video conf, significant expansion and use of website for connecting, equipping,
  - Decrease travel to meetings
  - Explore doing some things differently or scaling back, better aligning functioning of presbytery with its vision
  - Prioritize in line with vision
  - Perhaps explore cooperation with Glacier Presbytery where duplication occurs
  - Other
- **Evaluate Staffing options:** While the personnel committee has received input that confirms the value of the Co-General Presbyter position and George and Kathy in that position, and while the vision team recommends the continuance of this arrangement, contingency plans should be developed in case the current staffing model should become financially unviable.

**Final Report of the Administrative Commission for Springhill Presbyterian Church**  
October 2010

Members of the Commission:

Phil Maxwell, moderator

Jody McDevitt, clerk

Jim Babcock, Jed Cauffman, Dick Davis, Terry Johnson, Janet Kline

Ex officio: George Goodrich, Ron Hanson, Zane Buxton

1. The commission met by conference call 4 times and in person 2 times, beginning December 8, 2009 and concluding September 28, 2010.
2. The commission worked with legal counsel Patrick Fox of Helena to prepare all necessary legal, corporate, and tax documents transferring ownership and authority over the property at Springhill to the Springhill Presbyterian Church. Included in the agreement was a payment schedule of \$15,000 per year for 5 years, beginning in 2010.
3. The dismissal agreement with the Springhill Church was signed by the clerk of session and the pastor of the Springhill Church on May 10, 2010. The moderator (Ted Williams) and the stated clerk (Ron Hanson) of Yellowstone Presbytery signed the agreement on May 21, 2010. Rick Ramler, attorney for the Springhill Church, filed a trust indenture, in favor of Yellowstone Presbytery, in the Gallatin County Courthouse on July 15, 2010. When the trust indenture is satisfied, Yellowstone Presbytery will need to file a deed of reconveyance giving the Springhill Church clear title to the church property. Additionally, the presbytery moderator and the stated clerk have signed a quit claim deed conveying Yellowstone Presbytery's interest in the church property to the Springhill Church since the trust indenture now covers Yellowstone Presbytery's interest.
4. Original session and congregational minutes and records have been received by Ron Hanson.
5. The Springhill congregation was dismissed to the Presbytery of the West of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
6. A revised process for discernment of the future for congregations experiencing disaccord with the denomination has been proposed to the Presbytery Council for consideration and possible proposal to the presbytery.
7. The commission proposes that the money received from Springhill be used by the presbytery in the following manner.
  - a) To pay the per capita costs attributable to Springhill in 2010 and 2011. This amount is \$5166 in 2010 and an estimated \$6200 in 2011.
  - b) The remainder to go into an interest-bearing account to further our stated mission to our congregations, and distributed through a grant process administered by a committee of oversight. (See document entitled Church Development Fund)
8. Our assignment complete, the administrative commission respectfully requests to be dismissed by the presbytery.

# **The Church Development Fund**

## **What is the Church Development Fund**

The Church Development Fund is an invested, interest accumulating, account established to provide startup grant assistance to churches desirous of initiating programs that will stimulate congregational as well as community interest and awareness to the virtues of a Christian life as demonstrated and lived out by the congregation. The source of the funds so invested will be derived from funds pledged to Yellowstone Presbytery resulting from the disassociation of Springhill Church from the P.C.(U.S.A.) This program was instituted in consideration of the primary stated intent of Yellowstone Presbytery to assist and serve its congregations. It is the purpose of the Church Development Fund to carry out that intent.

## **How will it function**

The Church Development Fund will be administered by an Oversight Committee that will have the responsibility for assuring the performance of the invested funds as well as receiving grant applications, their review as to appropriateness and approval of grants received from the churches of Yellowstone Presbytery.

Grant applications will be reviewed annually (once a year) and must be submitted at the onset of each successive calendar year. Applications will not be considered in that calendar year unless received no later than February 28<sup>th</sup> of said year.

## **Applying for grant assistance**

Grant applications may be considered, in any amount, from \$100 up to \$2500 when submitted with a Grant Application Form outlining a realistic implementation plan for use of the grant monies. The Oversight Committee will distribute grants in any calendar year not to exceed an aggregate amount of \$5,000.

Each grant so distributed will require an annual report from the church as to the appropriateness of its use as well its effectiveness.

The Grant application should include the objective of the project, how the funds will be used and how the grant will assist in furthering the mission of the congregation and its place and witness in the community it is endeavoring to serve.

Applications to be considered for a grant must contain detailed information considering the program or process to be granted funds as well as complete explanation of the manner in which the grant money will be used to assist in enabling this project.

\*Note: Each Grant Application Form may be accompanied by further documentation if more detailed support information is required

All requests so supported, and duly submitted will receive a complete and fair review. It is the desire of Yellowstone Presbytery to encourage and provide warranted assistance to its congregations that have the potential of enhancing the presence and vitality of each of its churches. If these funds can be of assistance in furthering such a process then the Development Fund will have served its purpose.

## **The Oversight Committee**

The Oversight Committee shall be created by approval of the Presbytery of Yellowstone (hereafter referred to as the Presbytery)

Its purpose shall be the management and ongoing function of the Church Development Fund for the Presbytery.

The Committee's primary functions shall be to assure the Presbytery of the sound management of the funds entrusted to its supervision and the annual review and selection of congregations to be recipients of Grant assistance funds.

The Oversight Committee shall be comprised of five (5) members with one of that number selected by the Committee itself to serve as its Chairperson. This membership shall be selected by the Presbytery Council to serve a term of four (4) years. Each member may be entitled to serve a second term following which they shall be retired and may not be selected again unless standing down for at least one year.

Note:-Initially, in order to compensate for the probability that all five members could leave the Committee at the same time, leaving it bereft of experienced members, initially the Council may opt to select 2 members for shorter concurrent terms to assure experienced continuity. These "short-termers" may be reappointed for three terms.

Selection of members to serve on the Oversight Committee shall, as possible, take into consideration distribution across the spectrum of the Presbytery and incorporate individuals who possess the skills and perception that such an assignment requires.

**Church Development Fund  
of the Presbytery of Yellowstone  
Grant Application**

**Church Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

• **NOTE:** Is Church current on all Per Capita and Mission Giving requirements? Yes/No

**Project Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Description**

**Requested Grant Amount** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Are other sources or church budget also supporting this project ? If so please indicate the total project budget and the sources of said funding.**

**Goals and Objective of the project**

**How will the Grant be used to assist in enabling this project ?**



**How will the project assist in furthering the mission of the local congregation?**

**How will the project enhance the interaction of the congregation with the community?**

**How will the project involve members of the congregation? The community? Other churches in the Presbytery ?**

**Applicant Signature/s** \_\_\_\_\_

2010 EXPENSE VOUCHER

YELLOWSTONE PRESBYTERY

Attn: Treasurer, Sheryl Hallin

203 B Haggerty Lane, Bozeman, MT 59715

More forms available on website: [www.yellowstonepcusa.org](http://www.yellowstonepcusa.org)

Please complete the voucher, including your signature and the signature of one other person (Stated Clerk, Committee, Commission, Council, or Presbytery Moderator). Two signatures are required. Attach documentation and receipts for all expenses except mileage. \* **Must submit within 30 days of charge.**

**Pay to:** NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Presbytery mileage reimbursement for 2010 is \$0.25 per mile. For car pooling, add \$0.05 per mile per additional passenger. Example: Driver and two passengers, multiply by \$0.35 per mile.

Acct# 7901.7800 For 200 miles @ .25 Presbytery Meeting  
Meeting Location Big Sky Date 01/01/10 \$ 50.00

EXAMPLE

Acct # \_\_\_\_\_ For \_\_\_\_\_  
Meeting Location \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Acct # \_\_\_\_\_ For \_\_\_\_\_  
Meeting Location \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Acct # \_\_\_\_\_ For \_\_\_\_\_  
Meeting Location \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Acct # \_\_\_\_\_ For \_\_\_\_\_  
Meeting Location \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL VOUCHER AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
YOUR SIGNATURE Date: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE OF OFFICER/MODERATOR Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (all) or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ portion of my expenses to Yellowstone Presbytery.

.....  
Treasurer's Use Only

Date of Check: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Check: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Remaining Budget: \_\_\_\_\_ As of: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2010 CHART OF ACCOUNTS

Please use the following account numbers when completing the voucher on the reverse side. This list does not include all account numbers. Please contact Sheryl at the presbytery office if you have any questions.

### CAMPING & YOUTH - Meetings

1301.3700 Meals  
1301.7500 Telephone/Conference Calls  
1301.7800 Travel

### COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL - Meetings

3701.3700 Meals  
3701.7500 Telephone/Conference Calls  
3701.7800 Travel

### CAMPING PROGRAM - EXPENSES

5.01.1351.2400 Copies & Postage  
5.01.1351.2800 Facilities Maintenance  
5.01.1351.4000 Camp & Youth Program  
5.01.1351.5700 Publicity  
5.01.1351.6000 Refunds  
5.01.1360.1400 Camp Staff  
5.01.1360.2900 Food  
5.01.1360.6200 Rental Equipment  
5.01.1360.7400 Supplies  
5.01.1360.7710 Transportation  
5.01.1360.7800 Travel  
5.01.1370.0000 Revamp Camp Misc.  
5.01.1350.6010 Registration  
5.01.1390.4000 Winter, Summer, Fall Events, Misc.

### COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION - Meetings

4001.3700 Meals  
4001.7500 Telephone/Conference Calls  
4001.7800 Travel

### COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & FINANCE - Meetings

2201.3700 Meals  
2201.7500 Telephone/Conference Calls  
2201.7800 Travel

### COMMITTEE ON VOCATIONS - Meetings

4601.3700 Meals  
4601.7500 Telephone/Conference Calls  
4601.7800 Travel

### COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION - Meetings

2501.3700 Meals  
2501.7500 Telephone/Conference Calls  
2501.7800 Travel

### DELEGATES TO OTHER BODIES - Meetings

5201.3700 Meals  
5201.7800 Travel

### COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY - Meetings

2840.3700 Meals  
  
2840.7500 Telephone/Conference Calls  
2840.7800 Travel

### PRESBYTERY COUNCIL - Meetings

7601.3600 Lodging  
7601.3700 Meals  
7601.7500 Telephone/Conference Calls  
7601.7800 Travel

### COMMITTEE ON MISSION - Meetings

3101.3700 Meals  
3101.7500 Telephone/Conference Calls  
3101.7800 Travel

### PRESBYTERY - Meetings

7901.3600 Lodging  
7901.3700 Meals  
7901.4000 Misc.  
7901.7800 Travel

### COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS - Meetings

3401.3700 Meals  
3401.7800 Travel

### PRESBYTERY OFFICE

8201.2400 Copies & Postage  
8201.4000 Misc.  
8201.7400 Supplies  
8201.7500 Telephone/Conference Calls

### COMMITTEE ON ST. TIMOTHY'S

4301.3700 Meals  
4301.7500 Telephone/Conference Calls  
4301.7800 Travel



Dear friends,

Where can you go to hear about:

Running a MOPS program (Mothers of Preschoolers) in a tiny town when you don't have the money to do it?

Running a community garden whose bounty blesses church and community alike and creates serendipitous connections among all sorts of people?

Getting leaders and members to gather for prayer early Sunday morning? Holding community-wide prayer gatherings regularly for a HUGE community need?

Partnering with neighboring congregations so your congregation CAN offer Vacation Bible school for ALL the kids in the community

Fly fishing ministry initiated by a local congregation

Blending styles of music in your worship service so all generations can praise God in their own language and culture

Supporting a youth on parole through the judicial process.

The answer? Our Joint Yellowstone-Glacier presbytery gathering; Nov. 5 & 6 in Helena.

### **WHAT OUR SISTER CONGREGATIONS NEED YOU TO BRING TO MAKE IT HAPPEN:**

In order to learn and talk with each another about what the Holy Spirit is doing in and through each of the congregations in Yellowstone and Glacier presbyteries, the Vision Team joins the Joint Planning Team for our Joint presbytery meeting in asking that each congregation/session please bring a display board/poster which could stand on a table. Include:

1. Your congregation's vision or mission statement; include town, pastor and contact info.

2. **Internal life of your church community gathered-** A list, perhaps with brief descriptions of practices, programs, emphases, classes, groups- i.e. worship, prayer, fellowship, caring for one another, spiritual formation for disciples of all ages, parenting and marriage enrichment.....

3. **Your External life as God's SENT people** in mission - serving, loving, proclaiming, embodying Christ's Good News in your families, community, presbytery, region, world: i.e. in and at work, in schools, playgrounds, programs, mission partnerships with others in mission here and around the globe.

Are there a few ministries, areas of mission which you would like to highlight? Add pictures, bring samples to share. Be as creative as our awesome Creator!! We strongly recommend that some UNDER the age of 18 be involved in the creating along with pastor and elected leaders "in the know".

Come prepared to share the family stories of God at work, look for those you might partner with. Before long, we hope to be sharing this and much more on our website!!

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions,

Your Yellowstone Presbytery Vision Team

Ric Tieman & Debbie Blackburn, Co-Chairs [rtieman@jhoe.com](mailto:rtieman@jhoe.com) or [deb4cats@aol.com](mailto:deb4cats@aol.com)

## **Report of the 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Montana Association of Churches**

The Montana Association of Churches (MAC) held their annual meeting on October 18 and 19 in Great Falls. Yellowstone Presbytery delegates were Douglas Johnson and Celia VandeCreek. The assembly was convened by President Dan Krebill on Monday morning. Representatives from the eight participating mainline denominations as well as five judicatory executives plus assorted guests attended. Guests from our Presbytery were Doris and Paul Krebill and Larry VandeCreek.

Business meetings included committee reports of the various committees. MAC has regained financial stability after special problems in recent years. Also, having a competent administrator continuing in her third year has been an asset. For the upcoming 2011 Montana state legislative session, MAC determined to focus its efforts on passage of the abolition of the death penalty bill. To this end, MAC hired Jim Brown as lobbyist to work on this issue. Mr. Brown is an attorney from Dillon with extensive experience working with legislators both at the federal and state level. He will work in conjunction with the Montana Abolition Coalition.

The principal plenary speaker was Janice Springer, a pastor in the United Church of Christ currently serving a church in Missoula. She led four workshops around the theme I Know We're All Welcome at the Table, But Do I Have to Sit Next to You? These workshops addressed issues relating to living at peace with those people in our lives whose religion, politics, or personal issues differ sharply with us. She challenged the group to seek justice without making our opponent an enemy. Each session consisted of several break-out times of direct interaction in groups of two to four persons.

The Rev Patti Duckworth, regional executive of the American Baptist Churches, preached at the ecumenical worship service. She asserted the centrality of Christ to all our faith traditions and held before the assembly the disciplines and attitudes that achieve unity in Christ and further His work in the world.

This 37<sup>th</sup> annual assembly of MAC was considerably energized by the contribution and presence of numerous new, young representatives, both clergy and lay. Their vitality added a special spark to the meeting and gave credence to hope for the future in the joy of working in ecumenical ministry in the state of Montana.

Respectfully Submitted

Celia VandeCreek

## A Process for Discerning God's Future for the Relationship Between the Presbytery of Yellowstone and Our Congregations Experiencing Disaccord With the Presbyterian Church (USA) <sup>i</sup>

The Presbytery of Yellowstone seeks to serve God by developing, encouraging, supporting, and celebrating our common ministry given to us by Jesus Christ. Our work is best accomplished in organic spiritual unity found in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:14).

We recognize that we live in a time when our unity in Christ is being tested and our ability to work together in mission is being tried. We hope that even in these times of disagreement and conflict we will seek to uphold one another, build up one another, respect one another, and love one another, to the end that the mission of Christ be fulfilled. Together we seek to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church, minimizing confrontations while we seek to discern and follow the will of Christ.

When congregations find themselves in disaccord with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery of Yellowstone, there is a need to carefully discern ways to address this situation. The goal of this process of discernment is **reconciliation and continued relationship** for all congregations within the Presbytery. We take seriously the admonition of Christ to “first be reconciled to your brother or sister” (Matthew 5:24). Our hope for this process is in Jesus Christ our Cornerstone, in whom “the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God” (Ephesians 2:21-22).

### Faithful Affirmations

With the earliest Christians the Presbytery of Yellowstone believes that **Jesus Christ is Lord** (Philippians 2:11) and **Head of the body, the church** (Colossians 1:18). We believe that the church, the body of Christ, has many members and yet is one, “**for in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**” (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). We believe that Jesus Christ has reconciled us to God and given us **the ministry of reconciliation** (2 Corinthians 2:18).

With the whole Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Presbytery of Yellowstone believes:

The Church of Jesus Christ is the provisional demonstration of what God intends for all of humanity.

- a. The Church is called to be a sign in and for the world of the new reality which God has made available to people in Jesus Christ.
- b. The new reality revealed in Jesus Christ is the new humanity, a new creation, a new beginning for human life in the world:
  - (1) Sin is forgiven.
  - (2) Reconciliation is accomplished.
  - (3) The dividing walls of hostility are torn down.
- c. The Church is the body of Christ, both in its corporate life and in the lives of its individual members, and is called to give shape and substance to this truth. (G-3.0200)

In establishing this process the Presbytery of Yellowstone affirms the following guidance:

- (1) “The unity of the Church is a gift of its Lord and finds expression in its faithfulness to the mission to which Christ calls it.” (G-4.0201)
- (2) “Visible oneness, by which a diversity of persons, gifts, and understandings is brought

together, is an important sign of the unity of God's people. It is also a means by which that unity is achieved. (G-4.0203)

(3) "While divisions into different denominations do not destroy this unity, they do obscure it for both the Church and the world." (G-4.0203)

(4) The one Body of Christ, which is "the Church living under the one Spirit of God known through Christ," has "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all (Ephesians 4:5-6)." (G-4.0202)

### Discerning Process<sup>ii</sup>

This discerning process is based on the willingness of all parties to join together in discernment of God's will and to work towards a mutually agreeable implementation of what they discern God's will to be. That requires a high level of trust, communication, openness, and love. Mutual respect, deep conversation and prayer form the basis of the two phases of the discerning work of the congregation with the Presbytery: a time of listening and a time of resolution.

#### **Phase One: A Time of Listening**

When the leadership of the presbytery becomes aware through formal actions or informal contacts that a congregation or its leadership are seriously questioning their continued relationship with the Presbytery or the PC(USA), the Committee on Ministry will initiate a pastoral visit by a **Pastoral Team**.

This awareness may happen in a variety of ways. A pastor may voice his or her deep dissatisfaction over denominational developments; a session may wrestle with issues of conscience concerning its relationship to the PC(USA), or an elder may approach the Committee on Ministry or presbytery staff with questions about the expressed intent of the congregation's leadership. If a session docket to begin deliberations on its disaccord with the PC(USA) and possible separation, the clerk of session shall notify the Stated Clerk of the presbytery immediately. Presbytery representation shall be invited to that session meeting through the stated clerk; the Pastoral Team shall be invited to subsequent meetings at which the topic is scheduled for discussion.

Members of the Pastoral Team will be selected and trained by the Committee on Ministry (COM). Team size and membership will vary according to situation and will depend on the number of people or groups with which the team will be meeting. The work of the listening teams will be supervised by the COM.

The purpose of the Pastoral Team is three-fold:

- to listen to the concerns of the leaders and congregation;
- to express the concerns of the Presbytery; and,
- to engage in developing a process for mutual discernment of God's leading that involves the congregational leaders, the congregation and the Presbytery.

An important goal of this phase is to ensure that all voices are heard, including the smallest of minorities. The Pastoral Team will ensure a safe forum, free from pressure and intimidation, for all to express their thoughts and feelings.

In order to provide a safe forum and work toward our goal of reconciliation, continued relationship, and healing that visible unity requires, this time of listening will be guided by the following principles<sup>iii</sup>:

***An expectation that God desires to guide us:*** Our encounters with each other must rest on our

conviction of God's deep desire to be known to us and to be made known by us. Therefore openness in prayer to the God present with us at all gatherings is essential.

***A willingness to listen:*** Recognizing that we are created in God's image and for friendship, we believe we have an ability to hear and respond to God. We must be willing to listen and to speak from the heart in response to the promptings of God's Spirit. We must also be open to the ways God speaks to us through others. In fact, we need the listening hearts of others, especially those with whom we may disagree, to be able to fully and accurately hear God. Realizing we have a capacity to deceive ourselves, we can trust the Spirit dwelling within us and within our sisters and brothers to help us remain honest, open and alert.

***Respect for conscience:*** Scripture teaches us to "honor everyone" (1 Peter 2:17). We recognize each participant in this process as a child of God, possessing a conscience formed by the Spirit of Christ under the guidance of Scripture. Presbyterian tradition recognizes that there are "truths and forms with respect to which persons of good characters and principles may differ" and with regard to these differences it is our Christian duty "to exercise mutual forbearance toward each other. (G-1.0300 (5))

***An openness to the grace of repentance:*** Estrangement and alienation between Christians are a consequence of sin. We cannot say to one another "I do not belong to the body" or "I have no need of you" (1 Cor 12:14, 21). All of us must be willing to hear from each other the ways that we have hurt, excluded and offended. Then we must admit our sin and ask God for the grace of repentance and the mercy of forgiveness.

***A response of obedience:*** Gratitude for God's forgiveness and for the inestimable gift we have been given in Christ is most sincerely expressed in amendment of life. If reconciliation is achieved, those who have been listening to God and each other must respond with obedience, resolving not to repeat the offenses and mistakes of the past. Those reconciled must also celebrate the gift of their unity and love. Joyful, heartfelt worship is the appropriate response to gift of reconciliation in Christ. Beginning with the admonition of Scripture, in which Jesus teaches us to go to sisters and brothers seeking to understand any disagreement, a time of prayer and conversation will be focused on understanding the nature and causes of experienced alienation and conflict and on identifying steps to be taken toward reconciliation.

During the listening process it will be important to:

- Begin by building a wide consensus about group process
- Be spiritual in our work, fair in our process, and open to any outcome
- Be explicit in our communications with and expectations of each other
- Recognize that discernment takes time and the fewer time restrictions we put on the process the better.

For the Pastoral Team and the leadership of the congregation, working in good faith and in an atmosphere of trust and love will mean

- Being open, honest and respectful in all their dealings with each other;
- Providing all requested information and documents to each other on a timely basis;
- Committing to protect the rights of the officers and members, if any, of the church who desire that the congregation remain loyal to the Presbytery and PC(USA), or who desire to remain congregants of another PC(USA) church;
- Ensuring that the congregation and Presbytery refrain from any unauthorized, unilateral changes



in the way their assets are held or managed and do not initiate legal proceedings against the other party;

- Making the effort to reach a mutually agreeable resolution which provides clarification or mediation of the church's connectional relationship to the Presbytery within the limits of the *Book of Order* and other binding requirements existent throughout the PC(USA) and the Presbytery.

Periodic reports will be made to the COM and the congregation as to the progress of these efforts. If at any time during the listening phase the above expectations of good faith are not being met a report shall immediately be made to the congregation and the Committee on Ministry by the listening team in place. The COM may then initiate appropriate measures in the manner and with the authorities described in the *Book of Order* (G.9.0503).

In its dialogue with the church, the Pastoral Team may share matters for consideration with respect to implications for a church considering leaving the PC(USA) and for the status of the Presbyterian minister of such a church.

When the Pastoral Team determines that further progress can be made toward reconciliation through further dialogue, the Pastoral Team will report to COM and recommend continued discussion, prayerfully coming to an acceptable resolution. The Pastoral Team will submit a written report summarizing the work that was accomplished. In addition, the COM, or its designated representatives, will meet with representatives of the congregation and the Pastoral Team to hear their conclusions. The COM will report to and make recommendations to the Presbytery concerning this process.

#### **Phase Two: A Time of Resolution**

Following a time of listening, there may be situations where sessions and congregations do accurately understand the policies and stances of the Presbytery and the PC(USA) and simply disagree with them. If concerns continue to exist after the time of listening has been completed, a **Resolution Team** will be appointed by the Committee on Ministry. The decision to appoint this team will be communicated by COM to the congregation immediately by letter to every member and to the Presbytery.

The purpose of the Resolution Team will be to engage the congregation and its leaders in a prayerful discernment process seeking a mutual understanding of what God may will for the relationship between the congregation and the Presbytery and the PC(USA). It is the intent of this process that all parties will seek an amicable and equitable agreement about how the congregation may either remain in the Presbytery and the PC(USA) or be dismissed.

The Resolution Team shall consist of 3-7 members, balanced as evenly as may be practicable, between Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and elders/deacons, and may include individuals with special skills, training or experience in mediation and negotiation. It shall be representative of various theological perspectives of the Presbytery to the extent possible. Members of the Listening Team that has been working with a particular congregation may be appointed to the Resolution Team.

With the congregation and its leaders, the Resolution Team will:

- study and assess the situation in the congregation;
- engage in dialogue;
- clarify issues of concern of both the congregation and the Presbytery, including the call of God to church unity, the value of being a PC(USA) congregation, constitutional processes, the exercise of mutual discernment discipline, the guidance of Holy Scripture and the Holy Spirit; and

- work in good faith toward a mutually agreeable resolution. As a part of this study and assessment it will be critical to hear from a variety of voices from within the Presbytery, including those who are concerned about the impact on the Presbytery’s mission, those who are concerned about the “trust clause” of our constitution (G-8.0201), those who are concerned about breaking the body of Christ and its impact on the whole church, and those concerned about our witness to the gospel through our life together.

For the Resolution Team and the leadership of the congregation, working in good faith in an atmosphere of trust and love will mean:

- Being open, honest and respectful in all their dealings with each other;
- Providing all requested information and documents to each other on a timely basis;
- Committing to protect the rights of the officers and members, if any, of the church who desire that the congregation remain loyal to the Presbytery and PC(USA), or who desire to remain congregants of another PC(USA) church;
- Ensuring that the congregation and Presbytery refrain from any unauthorized, unilateral changes in the way their assets are held or managed and do not initiate legal proceedings against the other party;
- Making the effort to reach a mutually agreeable resolution which provides clarification or mediation of the church’s connectional relationship to the Presbytery within the limits of the *Book of Order* and other binding requirements existent throughout the PC(USA) and the Presbytery.

Periodic reports will be made to the COM and the congregation as to the progress of these efforts. If at any time during the resolution phase the above expectations of good faith are not being met a report shall immediately be made to the congregation and the Committee on Ministry by the Resolution Team in place. The COM may then initiate appropriate measures in the manner and with the authorities described in the *Book of Order* (G.9.0503).

A mutually agreeable resolution may result in a recommendation to the Presbytery that particular changes be made in the life of the Presbytery, in its organizational structure, and/or in the conduct of its meetings which will address experiences of disaccord. A mutually agreeable resolution may also result in a recommendation to the congregation and session of changes that can be made to lessen the feelings of disaccord among the members.

The Presbytery of Yellowstone recognizes that the full hope of reconciliation may not be achieved for a variety of reasons and that a mutually agreeable resolution may result in a recommendation to the Presbytery that the congregation be divided, dissolved, or dismissed to another Reformed denomination following all constitutional requirements. Requests for dismissal to another church body must specify a denomination or governing body in the Reformed tradition. Becoming independent, congregational, or non-denominational are not options. The failure to achieve a full reconciliation is a cause for repentance and deep sadness. When reconciliation cannot be achieved, then our hope is to accomplish a gracious separation.

The Presbytery of Yellowstone will be faithful to the principles set down by the 218th General Assembly for the development of processes for exercising the presbytery’s responsibility and power “to divide, dismiss, or dissolve churches in consultation with their members” (G-11.0103 i). Those principles are as follows:

- **Consistency:** The local authority delegated to presbyteries is guided and shaped by our shared faith, service, and witness to Jesus Christ.
- **Pastoral Responsibility:** The requirement in G-11.0103i to consult with the members of a church

seeking dismissal highlights the presbytery's pastoral responsibility, which must not be submerged beneath other responsibilities.

- **Accountability:** For a governing body, accountability rightly dictates fiduciary and connectional concerns, raising general issues of property (G-8.0000) and specific issues of schism within a congregation (G-8.0600). But full accountability also requires preeminent concern with "caring for the flock."
- **Gracious Witness:** It is our belief that Scripture and the Holy Spirit require a gracious witness from us rather than a harsh legalism.
- **Openness and Transparency:** Early, open communication and transparency about principles and process of dismissal necessarily serve truth, order, and goodness, and work against seeking civil litigation as a solution.

The process of gracious separation will be guided by the following principles based on our polity:

1. The Presbytery is the governing body empowered by the Constitution "to divide, dismiss, or dissolve churches in consultation with their members" (*Book of Order*, G-11.0103 i). In addressing such critical issues as dismissing or dissolving churches, it is wise to proceed deliberately and with due consideration for the opportunity for reconciliation.
2. The Presbytery (or its duly appointed representatives) has the responsibility to consult with the members of a church about dismissal (G-11.0103 i).
3. The unity we have in Christ and the relational nature of our polity require dialogue between and among governing bodies, congregations, pastors, and members, and the nature of dialogue requires faithful participation by all concerned. This faithful dialogue must be based on trust and love (G-7.0103).
4. The mission of the Kingdom of God and not the maintenance of any particular institution is our highest calling.
5. The particular institution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) embodies important principles and structures which have furthered and continue to further the Kingdom of God and which should not be cast aside lightly.
6. The local congregation is the primary mission unit of the Presbytery, and issues of property and money are always secondary to people and mission.
7. All decisions regarding property and finance will not be abdicated to the local congregation.
8. Property is maintained and administered locally by the congregation on behalf of the denomination. (*Book of Order*, G-8.0201)
9. Accountability and connection shall be maintained by shared, representative leadership and oversight.
10. Regarding issues of conscience, all parties must be willing to confront difficult realities, confront perceived breaches of trust, and consider the ongoing health and viability of the others.
11. Property issues will be approached in such a way as not to constrain local congregations in their ability to do mission and ministry.
12. Property issues will be approached in such a way as not to constrain the Presbytery's ability to do mission and ministry in any given locality under its jurisdiction.

The Resolution Team and representatives of the congregation seeking dismissal shall present to the Presbytery through the COM a formal proposal to accomplish a gracious separation. This proposal shall:

- Specify how the separation will affect assets, liabilities, including debt liquidations, pension, corporate, and other interests of the parties (including any group within the congregation which wishes to remain within the Presbytery) as well as the processes and procedures for the church to join another Presbytery or Reformed denomination.
- Be approved by secret ballot at a duly called congregational meeting where representatives of the Presbytery were present and given permission to speak and at least 75% of the members on the active roll were present and casting ballots.
- Be reviewed and assessed by the Council of the Presbytery.

If the Resolution Team determines that a congregation will not work in good faith according to these criteria or that a mutually agreeable resolution cannot be reached, it will recommend to Presbytery that an Administrative Commission be formed (Book of Order: G9.0408, G11.01032, and others).

The Resolution Team shall make a full report to the Committee on Ministry, and its recommendations shall require action by the Presbytery. Although discernment through the time of listening takes un-pressured time, the Resolution Team will attempt to complete its work within 60 days and submit a final report to COM within 30 days of that completion.

#### **A Final Word (from Philippians 2:1-11)**

It is our hope that through this process we will remember the consolation we have from love, the sharing in the Spirit we have enjoyed, and the compassion and sympathy we have for one another. Further, we will strive to do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than ourselves. We will not look to our own interests but to the interests of others. Above all else, we will seek to have within us the mind of Christ who came as servant to all.

i This document is closely based upon the process developed by the Presbytery of Albany. The contributions of these additional presbyteries are also acknowledged:

The Presbytery of Southern New England

The Presbytery of the Cascades

The Presbytery of Beaver-Butler

The Presbytery of New Covenant

The Presbytery of North Puget Sound

ii “Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement” is an additional resource for this discernment process.

iii Adapted from “DISCERNMENT: A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT Flowing with the Current of the Spirit in Church Meetings” by Marlene Kropf, Congregational and Ministerial Leadership Mennonite Church USA

**THE PRESBYTERY OF YELLOWSTONE REGISTRATION**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Street or Box #

Town

Zip

I am: \_\_\_\_\_ Minister member of presbytery.

I am: \_\_\_\_\_ Elder Commissioner from

\_\_\_\_\_

(church)

\_\_\_\_\_ Corresponding Member (Presbytery: \_\_\_\_\_ )

\_\_\_\_\_ Visitor \_\_\_\_\_