

Note actions taken by Council or recommendations to Presbytery

Presbytery of Yellowstone

COUNCIL MINUTES

September 28, 2011

The Council of the Presbytery of Yellowstone met at First Church in Bozeman on August 27, 2010.

Members Present:

Rev. Leon Rathbun (Council Moderator)
Elder Ted Williams (Nominating)
Rev. Neva Rathbun (CoM)
Susanne Bratsky (PW Co-Moderator)
Elder Bob Culbertson (Higher Education)
Rev. Susan Thomas (Co-Moderator – (Camp. & Youth)
Elder Curt Kochner (Co-Moderator – (Camp. & Youth)
Elder Dan Holland (B&F)

Absent/Excused:

Rev. Mary Davis (Vocations)
Elder Cal Boyle (St. Timothy's)
Elder Claudia Stanton (Representation)
Elder Ken Siroky (Mission)

Others Present:

Rev. George Goodrich, (Co-General Presbyter)
Rev Kathy Goodrich (Co-General Presbyter)
Elder Ron hanson (Stated Clerk)

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by the Moderator, Rev. Leon Rathbun. Neva offered the opening prayer. Leon lit the Christ Candle and read the Litany for lighting the candle.
2. Roll Call – Ron announced he had taken the attendance and that a Quorum was present.
3. Docket – The Docket was adjusted due to the availability of some people.
4. Approval of the Minutes - The minutes of the meetings of July 20, 2011 were approved.
5. Dwelling in the Word – Jody presented this item. Her scripture reference was Romans 12:9-12. This selection was read silently and the each person present read a verse. The group commented on what this passage meant to them and what it says to our individual churches and then what it means to Yellowstone Presbytery. This section was closed with prayer's .
6. Vision Team/ENGAGE, Cluster Activities – George opened this section with a note of appreciation to Leon for his conduct of the Council meetings. He mentioned that our original Vision Statement has led us to the program called ENGAGE. In the ENGAGE Program there are 9 levels of Disciple making. George led the group through portions of the ENGAGE Booklet. He stated his desire to meet with, and talk to, the various Sessions. There is a conference call once a month with Ray Jones and David Loleng for pastors who want to do more with the ENGAGE program. Ray will be a presenter at the Convocation and would like to meet church 's who are working with the ENGAGE Program. Jody shared what they are doing at 1ST Presbyterian Church in Bozeman.
7. Fellowship of Presbyterians – Kathy mentioned that in some ways today's issues resemble the period of the Reformation. The Fellowship group started with a number of the very large churches.. The Fellowship has identified for churches/presbytery four tiers/options for the future. These are:
 1. Remain PCUSA and affiliate with the Fellowship, access its resources and ascribe to its mission.
 2. Have two Administrative Commissions in presbyteries to do COM and CPM functions and have congregations choose which one they will ascribe to.
 3. Have separate overlay presbyteries along theological lines or switch presbyteries.

4. Join a new reformed body. The hope is that this new reformed body would be in correspondence with the PCUSA and be able to share staff and offices.

Kathy presented a diagram showing the first three of the four options. The fourth option is a new reformed body. The idea seems similar to the Northern Church and the Southern Church at the end of the Civil War. A discussion followed.

8. Lunch – Editha offered the blessing for lunch.
9. nFOG Task Force - Ted and Editha agreed to serve on the Task Force along with Ron and Co-Moderators Leon Rathbun and Dan Krebill.
10. Committee Reports -
 - B&F – Dan reviewed the proposed 2012 Administrative and Program budgets. Questions were raised on some of the line items. The proposal included two options for staff salaries for 2012. The first option was no change from 2011 and the second option was a 3% increase. By using the Administrative Reserves no increase in Per Capita would be needed for the 3% salary increase option. George, Kathy and Ron were excused while the Council discussed the salary options.
 - ü Council voted to propose to presbytery that staff salaries be increased by 3% for 2012.
 - ü Council voted to authorize Dan to make adjustment to the budget that were discussed today and present the adjusted budget to presbytery for adoption.
 - Personnel – George reported on behalf of the committee. Moderator Bill McGladdery has resigned. The committee has conducted all the personnel reviews and all employees received excellent evaluations. The committee is about ready to send to the Council a revision of the Personnel Manual for review.
 - Camping and Youth - Curt reviewed the written report of the committee. This was a very successful camping year. A large amount of work was completed in early June during the Re Vamp the Camp event. Work still is needed. Over \$4,000 in were received along with numerous In-Kind and volunteer donations. There is still a need for 6-8 picnic tables.
 - Co-General Presbyters – George presented their written report.
 - Nominations – Ted presented the following nominees for the Budget and Finance Committee:
 - Class of 2012 – Dan Holland (Moderator)
 - Class of 2014 – Debbie Ernst
 - ü Council voted to elect those nominated.
 - Ted presented the following nominees for the presbytery Nominating Committee:
 - Class of 2012 – Ted Williams (Moderator)
 - Class of 2014 – Suzanne Bratsky and Ted Williams
 - ü Council voted to recommend the above list of nominees to presbytery for election.
 - Ted discussed nominees for the Personnel Committee. He will ask Bill brown to serve as a member in the class of 2014. A moderator and a member for the class of 2013 are still needed.
 - Ted then reviewed the priority list of Pastors, Churches in line to send an Elder Commissioner and Churches in line to send a Youth Advisory Delegate (YAD) for the 2012 General Assembly meeting. The priority list is:
 - Pastors: Jody McDevitt and Lanny Rounds.
 - Elders: Miles City, Philipsburg, Roy, Terry, White Sulphur Springs and Dillon.
 - YAD: Philipsburg, Poplar, Roy, White Sulphur Springs, Wolf Point and Manhattan.
 - The Pastors and churches will be contacted in the order listed above to secure delegates for our presbytery to the 2012 meeting of the General Assembly.
 - Mission – George reported on behalf of the Committee. Ken Siroky has resigned as Moderator but will continue to deal with the WNLTS Scholarships. Paul Nesharigwe will be invited to be our speaker at the February, 2012 meeting of presbytery.

ü Council voted to request \$500 from the Synod of the Rocky Mountains to help cover the cost of bringing Paul to the meeting.

- COM – Neva presented her written report. She requested names for the upcoming Installation Commissions for Rev. James Kidd and Susan Ennis. Neva raised the question of whether or not the COM should continue to be able to receive members on behalf of the presbytery. It was decided to let the new Form of Government Task Force deal with that question. It was noted that changing the historic presbytery meeting schedule might reduce the need for this COM authority.
- St. Timothy's - No report.
- Higher Education – Bob raised the question as to whether our withdrawal from Christus Collegium is on track and what can we expect regarding our share of the ownership in the facility. This question will be referred to the sub-committee working on this issue. The other big question is what we will be able to do after the Synod will no longer provide funds Higher Education in 2013.
- Convocation – The Glacier/Yellowstone Convocation will be held at the Sunrise Presbyterian Church in Great Falls on November 10-12, 2011. Rev. Ray Jones, Coordinator for Evangelism for the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be the featured speaker. Lynn Smit, Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains, will be present and lead a workshop titled "Adapting to nFOG in the Local Congregation. Ron will send a note to the Clerks of Session alerting them to this Workshop.
- Docket for the November Presbytery Meeting – Ron handed out a draft Docket for the November 12th meeting. It was pointed out that there is also a 1 hour time slot on the 11th. Because this will be the first meeting for the new pastor for White Sulphur Springs, Rev. Jim Kidd, it would be a good idea to have introductions and a time of welcoming for him. Ron will redo the draft Docket and to incorporate the one hour time slot on the 11th and send it out for approval.

11. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m. Susan offered a closing prayer.