

## 2011 November Report of Co-General Presbyters to Yellowstone Presbytery

*"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your heart so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones." -- 1Thessalonians 3:12-13*

George: On August 31<sup>st</sup> I prayed this prayer and asked that God's love, for me, in me, through me, and for others and the world might be the focus of my life for the next year. Many lessons, but the one that stirs me now: Each day is full of encounters with God's love. I thank God for all the daily evidence of God-love and hope to grow better at confessing when and where I have failed in his love. Ask me more, if you care to....

### Points of Our Emphasis:

#### A. Fulfilling the Vision Statement:

- a. Using it as the focus for a vigorous call to discipleship in congregations, committees; to promote ENGAGE as a means of fulfilling our vision equipping/strengthening disciple-making congregations and leaders and go out to join in Christ's mission;
- b. Vision Team is focusing on practices & implementation with ENGAGE, networking, partnering "doing different with different."
- c. Resourcing Council, committees and Presbytery

#### B. Discipleship:

- a. Re-igniting clusters of pastors in small group mutual discipleship
- b. Convocation - George is Yellowstone's point person for planning
- c. ENGAGE as a full-orbed approach for churches to deepen leader & congregational discipleship and engage their community in mission.
- d. George is beginning to work with interested sessions to developing their understanding of discipleship.
- e. Continue to teach/emphasize "Dwelling in the Word."

#### C. Congregational Life, Pastors/CLP's – CoM

- a. Providing equipping, information, work and care for congregations, pastors/clp's
- b. Assisting Neva the Moderator and then liaisons as we are able.
- c. Focus on churches in need of a pastor/clp: Hysham, West Yellowstone, Deer Lodge, St. Andrew, Miles City, Jordan
- d. Rejoicing with White Sulphur Springs and Poplar on the calling of their new pastors
  - i. WSS- Jim Kidd; Poplar – Susan Ennis
- e. Attended Board of Pension Pre-retirement and Clergy Tax Seminars – ask us.

#### D. Youth and Camping:

- a. George was the speaker and a co-team leader of Elementary and Senior High Camps at Westminster Spires.
- b. We are seeking to continue these relationships with youth
- c. Retreat for Junior and Senior occurred October 20-22 at Rockhaven. Curt Kochner, Traci Ruschetti and George were the speakers. Jody pulled the administration together.

#### E. Raising financial support for half of our salary and expenses: \$44,000 in 2011.

- a. One donor is substantially decreasing their contribution; we need to increase our efforts.
  - b. Partnership funds from the Synod decrease from about \$46,000 this year to \$43,700 next. To - 0- at the end of 2013. Options? How might the presbytery adjust, or the Goodriches adjust with a half-time GP position?
  - c. Small Group discussion with Roger Dermody, Deputy Director GAMC for Mission, 10/27/11, indicates that some funds may be available for national mission which meets new criteria being developed.
- F. Resourcing Presbytery Committees
- a. Being In contact with moderators prior to meetings as possible / requested.
  - b. Assuming work within the committee when apparent, asked or necessary as volunteers stretched very thin, some barely able to continue, others are resigning. Reprioritization in keeping with our Vision and reduction of our workload needed here.
- G. Understanding, implementing NFoG
- a. Both attending the Polity Conference and Assoc. of Exec Presbyters in October
  - b. Bringing SynodRM Stated Clerk, Lynn Smit, to the Convocation to lead workshop for sessions.
  - c. Staff support to the YP Council Task force to implement NFoG here.
  - d. Getting help when we need it from constitutional gurus.
  - e. George and Kathy attended the National Polity Conference and the AEPS conference in Oct.
- H. Realigning, Re-forming movements in PCUSA - The Fellowship of Presbyterians, NextChurch, ...
- a. Living into God's Vision here in Yellowstone
  - b. Inputting where we can to them, exploring Tiers 1-3 remaining-PCUSA-and affiliating options.
  - c. Networking to understand the Fellowship's potential impact.
  - d. The emerging Progressive white paper and movement: NextChurch.
- I. Board and Ecumenical Relationships
- a. Board of Directors/President's council and committee member for Intermountain Children Deaconess Services (The Home) George & Kathy
  - b. Board of Trustees Whitworth University (PCUSA) - Kathy
  - c. Board of Trustees for Rocky Mountain College - George
  - d. SRM Synod Staff Forum of EP's. – George & Kathy
  - e. Synod Coordinating Council rep (on rotation basis) until June 2012 - George
  - f. Montana Association of Churches (MAC) Board of Directors - George
- J. Increasing Speaking Opportunities for George
- a. WNLT Bible Study Leader, October 2011
  - b. Wyoming Presbytery Pastor-Spouse retreat, April 9-12, 2012
  - c. Ecumenical Preacher for the MT Lutheran Synod Annual Conference, June 3, 2012.
  - d. Preaching widely in YP churches through the year, meeting with sessions and leaders.

Comment: "Ministry is additive." – Stephen Fleming, BoP Educational Associate. The longer one is in a position, the more expectations are increased through growing relationships, networks, accomplishments and opportunities. Like many of you, we are spread very thin at present and are talking with Personnel regarding prioritization.