

# Presbytery of Yellowstone

## Meeting of May 20 - 21, 2011

### Anaconda Presbyterian Church - Anaconda, Montana

#### MINUTES

##### Friday May 20, 2011

**11-036 – Mission Project** - In advance of the opening of the meeting 9 members, commissioners and visitors participated in a mission project for several hours. The project involved sorting donated clothing for the Anaconda Family Resource Center.

**11-037 – Call to Order** – Following a lunch provided by the members of Deer Lodge Church and a brief orientation for newer Commissioners, the meeting was called to order by Vice-Moderator, Rev. Jody McDevitt.

**11-038 – Procedural Motion** – Presbytery voted to approve the following Procedural Motion.

1. That the roll for this meeting be established by completed Registration Sheets.
2. That written and oral requests for absences received by the Stated Clerk be approved.
3. That the Presbytery authorize the Moderator to grant privilege of the floor to persons for the purpose of reporting to this meeting.
4. That the Moderator and the Stated Clerk be empowered to make adjustments to the Agenda during the meeting, as may be necessary, to provide for efficiency in reporting.

**11-039 – Introduction of new Commissioners** – New commissioners, and some newer commissioners, were introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

**11-040 – Meeting Attendance** – The following table contains the names of those who registered for the meeting.

Church	Minister Member	Elder Commissioner	Others Present
Anaconda	Mary Davis	Karen Moses	Cal Boyle (St. Timothy's) Barbara Beardslee Jim Moses Duwanne Woodie
Big Hole	Dick Davis	Julie Boksich	Larry Boksich
Billings, First Billings, St. Andrew	David Thompson`	Greta Murray	Robert Culbertson (H. E.)
Bozeman	Brent Long Jody Mc Devitt Dan Krebill	Curt Kochner Chuck Beck	Ted Williams (Nominating) Suzanne Bratsky (PW)
Butte	Harlan Rounds	John Clark	Ron Hanson (Stated Clerk)

Colstrip	Excused	David Mc Nay	Darlene Mc Nay
Deer Lodge	Donna Maddux	Pam Salverson	Barbara Paull Diana Sole
Dillon	David Andrew	Unexcused	
Ennis	Excused	June Haigh	Vi Haigh
Forsyth	Cathy McLean CLP	Unexcused	
Geyser	Excused	Unexcused	
Harlowton	Excused	Unexcused	
Hysham	Vacant	Unexcused	
Jordan	Vacant	Excused	
Lewistown	Excused	Unexcused	
Manhattan	Debbie Funke	Ross Johnson	
Miles City	Excused	Excused	
Phillipsburg	Sally Ralston	Jim Christensen	Jan Christensen
Poplar	Vacant	Unexcused	
Roy	Vacant	Ken Siroky	
Stanford	Excused	Unexcused	
Terry	Leon Rathbun	Unexcused	
West Yellowstone	Vacant	Unexcused	
White Sulphur Springs	Vacant	Unexcused	
Wolf Point	Vacant	Unexcused	

**Other Minister Members Present:**

Kathy Goodrich (Co-General Presbyter)  
George Goodrich (CO-General Presbyter)  
Warren S. Craig  
Neva J. Rathbun  
Doug Johnson  
Freeman McCall

**Corresponding Members Present:**

Rick Young, Board of Pensions, Member of the Presbytery of Grace

David Ezekiel, Interim Synod Executive, Member of the Presbytery of Chicago

**11- 041 – Welcoming** – Rev. Mary Davis, Pastor of the Anaconda Presbyterian Church, welcomed all to the meeting on behalf of the four hosting churches and shared the layout of the Anaconda church and the arrangements for the meeting.

**11 – 042 – Opening Worship** – Rev. David Andrew and Elder Linda Smith led the opening worship. The scriptural reference was 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 which was presented as an Echo Reading by Rev’s. Kathy Goodrich, Leon Rathbun and Neva Rathbun.

**11 – 043 - Approval of the Docket** – Upon motion, the Docket was approved.

**11 – 044 - Dwelling in the Word** – Kathy Goodrich and David Loleng presented this section which was based on Genesis 12:1-3.

**11 – 045 – Thanks** – The members offered a series of “Thank You’s” for those who participated in the mornings mission project, For the ministry of Rev. Marion Horton, for the cooperation of Glacier Presbytery in providing a CLP for the Deer Lodge Church and for the 125 years of ministry of the Anaconda Church as well as other things we are both thankful and grateful for.

**11 – 046 – Break**

**11 – 047 – Belhar Confession** – Rev’s. Dan Krebill and Jody McDevitt presented this section. Dan presented a handout showing the current creeds in the Book of Confessions and the “Essential Tenets of the Reformed Faith” that each creed spoke to.

**11 – 048 – Synod Interim Executive** – Rev. David Ezekiel Shared greetings from the Synod of the Rocky Mountains. As a means of introduction he shared he service to the church. He noted that he had only been serving since the 1<sup>st</sup> of May so wasn’t able to share in detail what is happening at the Synod. Rev. Ezekiel stated that the annual meeting of the Synod would be held in Denver on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of June.

**11 – 049 – Board of Pensions** – Rev Rick Young brought greetings from the Board. He stated that the pension is fully funded but there will be no apportionment this year. The Major Medical portion is less clear. Uncertainties, with the national health care law, make future predictions difficult. The Board is working with other denominations to deal with these uncertainties.

**11 – 050 – Council Report** – Moderator Leon presented the minutes of the council meetings of March 18<sup>th</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup> (**Attachment A**). Council recommended that we adopt the current Book of Order as our Policy and Procedures for a one year period while a new set of policies and procedures are being developed. The following Substitute motion was introduced and passed. **“In the event that the New Form of Government is approved the current 2009/2010 Form of Government be adopted as our policies and procedures insofar as the new Form of Government is silent on matters not addressed by our current administrative and procedures for a one year period while a new set of policies and procedures are developed”**.

**11 – 051 – Camping and Youth** – Curt Kochner presented a written report. He passed out copies of a suggested Sunday Prayer List which indentified a schedule for prayer for Churches and individuals of Yellowstone Presbytery. Curt also passed out brochures for the camping program at Westminster Spires.

**11 – 052 – Vocations** – Moderator, Rev. Mary Davis, nvited Inquirer Cathy McLean as well as Rev. David Thompson, Elder Greta Murray and members of the First Presbyterian Church of Billings forward. Mary explained the “Inquirer” and “Candidacy” phases for a person to become a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. Cathy read her Statement of Call titled “Christian Vocation in the Reformed Tradition”. At this point Cathy was dismissed. Mary then made the following motion on behalf of the Vocations Committee. **“Having completed the requirements as stated in the Book of Order, we move to recommend that Cathy McLean be transitioned to Candidacy for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament”**. Presbytery voted to approve the above motion.

Cathy returned amid applause from the presbytery. Rev. Leon Rathbun gave the charge to Cathy and Rev. David Thompson offered closed this report section with prayer.

Mary then mentioned that we need to elect a person to represent as a fall Ordination Exam reader. The meeting for this is scheduled for October 2-5, 2011 in San Francisco.

**11 – 053 – Nominations** – Moderator Ted Williams nominated the following people for the class of 2013: Debbie Blackburn (COM), Lanny Rounds (Mission Committee) and Ron Hanson (Synod Coordinating Council). **Following the appropriate number of Calls for nominations from the floor, Presbytery voted to elect those nominated.**

**11 – 054 – Recess for Dinner** –

**11 – 055 – Evening Worship** – Rev. David Loleng's sermon title was "Witness" and was based on Acts 1:1-8. Rev's Mary and Dick Davis presided at the communion table. Others taking part in the service were Lorrain Doran (Organist), Rev. Sally Ralston (Pianist), Greta Murray (Liturgist) Jim Johnson (Harpist) and the Presbyterian Choir.

**Saturday, May 21, 2011**

**11 – 056 – Announcement** – Donna Maddux presented a RESOLUTION FOR A DAY OF REPENTANCE which was passed by the Deer Lodge Church. The resolution is based on Leviticus 23:26-32 and calls for a time of fasting and prayer beginning on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> and ending after worship on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.

**11 – 057 - Opening Worship** – Rev. Debbie Funke and Elders Ken Siroky and Ross Johnson led the opening worship. The scriptural reference was 2 Corinthians 4:1-7.

**11 – 058 – Call to Order** – Rev. Jody McDevitt called the meeting to order and thanked all who led and participated in the meeting's worship services.

**11 – 059 – Dwelling in the Word** – Rev's Mary and Dick Davis led this section. They chose Isaiah 43:18-21 for their presentation.

**11 – 060 – ENGAGE Program** - Rev. Kathy Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter & Rev. Dave Loleng, Associate Director of Evangelism, Office of Evangelism & Church Growth, presented this section.

Kathy commented that for all of us it's about 'Keeping the main thing the main thing' - Living our vision as we seek to embody God's preferred future here in Yellowstone Presbytery. She stated that as we are living into our Vision in Phase III of this journey the Vision Team seeks to lead, encourage, and equip us to stay focused on our vision. Our grant to pilot the ENGAGE resources is a major opportunity to fulfill our Vision. An important practice in Phase III will be the ongoing evaluation of who we are, what we do (practices, priorities, time and monies) and how we are fulfilling our Vision.

Rev. David Loleng affirmed the presbytery for its excellent vision statement and for the exciting things he and Rev. Ray Jones observe the Holy Spirit doing in Yellowstone presbytery as we are learning to live our vision out. He expressed how grateful they are to partner with us in what we are doing as well as for the pilot refining the resources and process of ENGAGE for

congregations who are seeking to engage the Gospel, Discipleship, Culture and their Community.

David stated that he had conducted workshops this week in Billings & Anaconda, at this presbytery meeting and with COM. All workshops dealt with part 2 of the 4 part **ENGAGE** program training. David's comments focused on the Four Needed Shifts for Congregations on engaging the 'New Normal' of our Culture. He also discussed how congregation or groups might adapt and use the ENGAGE materials for their local situation.

**11 – 061 – Belhar Confession Vote** – The Moderator appointed Barbara Beardslee and David Ezekiel as tellers. They passed out ballots and collected and counted them. **The vote was 22 in favor and 13 opposed. The presbytery thus voted to pass this amendment.**

**11 – 062 – St. Timothy's Chapel** – Cal Boyle presented the report of the recent Management Team meeting at which the budget for 2011 was discussed. **Presbytery voted to approve the 2011 budget for St. Timothy's (Attachment B).**

**11 – 063 – Co-General Presbyters Report** – Rev. George Goodrich presented their written report (**Attachment C**).

**11 – 064 – PW** – Suzanne reported that the Spring Event had been cancelled. The Manhattan and Bozeman church's will be doing a mission trip to the Fort Peck Reservation in July. She shared a newspaper clipping from a long time ago. The short clip reads:

**1965**

**Presbyterians voice concern over the use of computers**

**Columbus, Ohio** – The nation's biggest Presbyterian body convened today with a warning that computers may be a bigger threat to religion than the devil.

“Continuous concern with persons is the only thing that will preserve technological society from manipulating people and overriding personality, declared the Rev. John Coventry Smith of New York City. Our lives of faith demonstrate a truth which extends beyond the areas where science speaks with authority, Smith said as the 177<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church U.S.A. opened here

**11 – 065 – Break**

**11 – 066 – Consequences to Yellowstone Presbytery as a result of the Passage of Amendment 10-A** – Co-General Presbyter George Goodrich shared his perspectives on the effect that the passage of Amendment 10-A will have on Yellowstone Presbytery. A number of churches have serious reservations about this amendment, especially those that are not in attendance here today. George commented that there will always be things that fracture our unity. We need to focus on God and pastor to each other in small groups. The GA Per Capita of \$6.50 will be an issue. We need to review our Restoration Policy and focus on our Vision Statement. The sense is that we need to continue to talk, continue to listen, and wait for God's leading. This section was closed with prayer for the presbytery and its churches.

**11 – 067 – Mission Report** – The four churches hosting this meeting shared mission projects that they are participating in.

**11 – 067.1 – Anaconda Church** – Projects include support to the Anaconda Troubled Youth Discovery House, providing backpacks for kids and providing Christmas gifts for patients at The Warm Springs State Hospital. The Anaconda Church will be celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on July 22, 23 and 24, 2011. The Anaconda Session has authorized hosting the Zimbabwe mission project.

**11 – 067.2 – Big Hole Church** – The spirit is being renewed in Melrose and Wise River. Sunday School and Vacation Bible school are being hosted. Wisdom provides support for the homeless. The Big Hole Congregations work together and have become more active in presbytery.

**11 – 067.3 - Philipsburg Church** – The church has a Samaritans Purse program. They have provided 13 boxes of needed items for the needy community members and in cooperation with the Methodists a total of 25 boxes have been provided. The church also provides food and money to the local Food Bank.

**11 – 067.4 – Deer Lodge Church** – The church hosts a Spiritual Life Week for the community. PW provides aid for battered women and is talking about being a transition group for battered women. The church has a ministry to kids who have incarcerated parents.

**11 – 068 – COM Report** – Rev. Neva Rathbun Presented a written report listing the actions taken by COM since the last presbytery meeting (**Appendix D**).

**11 – 069 – Stated Clerks Report** – Ron Hanson presented the report. He noted that we had received Thank You letters from the Billings Family Service for our Mission Project and our gift of \$440; From the General Assembly for our faithful steward ship in 2011 and from the Theological Education Fund for our support in 2010. He noted that our presbytery minutes were approved, without exception by the Synod. This morning's mission project at the Anaconda Family Resource Center was attended by 9 people. He requested approval of the February 28/March 1, 2011 Presbytery Meeting minutes noting that he had added the corrections he had received. **Presbytery voted to approve the Minutes with the correction noted by Ron.** Ron also announced that the offering at last night's Worship Service, which was designated for camping scholarships, amounted to \$677.00.

**11 – 070 – Vocations** – Rev. Mary Davis nominated Rev. Susan Thomas to be our representative for reading Ordination Exams. **Presbytery voted to elect Rev. Thomas as an Ordination Exam reader to this fall's scheduled session in San Francisco.**

**11 – 071 – Theological Education Fund (TEF)** - Rev. Neva Rathbun, on behalf of TEF representative Rev. Lanny Rounds, presented certificates for support of TEF to the Butte, Hysham, Bozeman, Jordan, Anaconda, and Terry churches and increased giving certificates to Philipsburg and Billings First (for supporting a seminarian) church's. She recommended that each local church receive a special offering for TEF on September 18, 2011.

**11 – 072 – Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned with prayer at Noon.  
(See attached Financial Statement – Attachment E)