

Presbytery of Yellowstone

Stated Meeting of March 2-3, 2012

Bozeman 1st Presbyterian Church -Bozeman, Montana

MINUTES

Friday March 2, 2012

12-014 – Mission Project - In advance of the opening of the meeting 6 members, commissioners and visitors participated in a mission project for several hours. The project involved classifying donated clothing at the Clothes Closet of Love, Inc. in Belgrade, Montana.

12-015 – Lunch – Members of the Bozeman church provided lunch to those present.

12-016 – Call to Order – Following a lunch provided by the members of Church the meeting was called to order by Moderator, Rev. Jody McDevitt.

12-017 – 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 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.

12-018 – Roll Call – New commissioners, and some newer commissioners, were introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

12-019 – 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	Linda Smith	
Big Hole	Dick Davis		
Billings, First	David Thompson`	Jack Bell	Bob Culbertson (H Ed.)
Billings, St. Andrew	Vacant	Dave Kimball	Curt Kochner James Tarr
Bozeman	Jody McDevitt Dan Krebill	Chuck Beck	Donna Beck Suzanne Bratsky (PW) Ric Tieman (Vision Team) Susan Gibb Dan Holland (B&F) Doris Krebill

Butte	Harlan Rounds	John Clark	Ted Williams (Nominating)
Colstrip	Excused	David McNay	Ron Hanson (Stated Clerk)
Deer Lodge	Vacant	Unexcused	Darlene McNay
Dillon	David Andrew	Unexcused	
Ennis	Excused	June Haigh	Vi Haigh
Forsyth	Cathy McLean	Gayle Holland	Don Holland (Vice-Moderator)
Geyser	Excused	Unexcused	
Harlowton	Unexcused	Unexcused	
Hysham	Paul Cannon	Excused	
Jordan	Vacant	Unexcused	
Lewistown	Jed Cauffman	Unexcused	
Manhattan	Debbie Funke	Jim Lovell	Debbie Blackburn
Miles City	David Schneider	Caroline Fleming	
Phillipsburg	Unexcused	Unexcused	
Poplar	Excused	Unexcused	
Roy	Unexcused	Unexcused	
Stanford	Excused	Dixie Youderian	Bonnie Soulsby
Terry	Leon Rathbun	Gary Pfiefl	Lois Pfiefl
West Yellowstone	Vacant	Unexcused	
White Sulphur Springs	Jim Kidd	Pam Jackson	
Wolf Point	Vacant	Unexcused	

Also Present:

Paul Cousins
 Brent Long
 Neva Rathbun
 Susan Thomas
 Paul Krebill
 Kathy Goodrich
 George Goodrich
 Freeman McCall
 Rusty Craig

Corresponding Member Present:

Carol Shellenberger (Presbytery of the Redwoods)
 Paul Neshangwe (Presbytery of Denver)

12-020 – Opening Worship – Debbie Funke presented the message of Christ’s love and Christian love which was based on John 15:9-17. Dan Holland assisted Debbie in leading the service. Council Moderator Leon Rathbun presided over the installation of the 2012 presbytery officers who are Jody McDevitt (Moderator) and Don Holland (Vice Moderator).

12-021 – Nominating Committee – Ruling Elder Ted Williams presented a written ballot of the nominees to fill vacant positions. Included, for information to the presbytery, were members who have been elected by the Council to the Budget and Finance and Personnel Committees. Elections will take place tomorrow morning.

12-022 – Personnel Committee – Teaching Elder Debbie Funke announced the availability of the revised Personnel Policy and moved, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, that the policy be accorded a first reading at this meeting. Two questions were raised. One related to the choice of words in section 3.03 and 3.04. Another related to the determination of Exempt Staff. Members were encouraged to read the document and send their questions and comments to the Personnel Committee. Debbie noted that the Policy has been posted on the website. Debbie also stated that George and Kathy had received very positive reviews in their year-end evaluations.

ü Presbytery voted to accept Debbie’s recommendation that her presentation be accepted as a first reading of the policy.

12-023 – Letter from the Bozeman Church – Clerk Ron Hanson read a letter from the Bozeman 1st Church addressed to Stated Clerk Grayde Parsons, and Yellowstone Presbytery Stated Clerk Ron Hanson (Attachment A). The letter recommended the establishment of a set of “Best Practices” on the subjects of congregational demographics and financial stability so that individual churches can learn from others as they deal with these challenges.

ü Presbytery voted to refer this letter to the Council/Leadership Cabinet.

12-024 – Break

12-025 – Camping and Youth – Ruling Elder Curt Kochner presented a series of slides, set to music, on activities of the successful 2011 camps. Curt commented that the committee’s written report was available on the website. The report includes curriculum themes for the 2012 summer camps.

12-026 – Resourcing the Presbytery – TE Paul Neshangwe spoke of his Mother’s faith and posed, and answered, a series of questions. “How many people have come to love Christ through your testimony?”; “Why is the church in America not growing?”; “Why make Disciples?” Paul’s presentation was recorded and is available from the Bozeman 1st Church.

12-027 – Recess for Dinner –

12-028 – Worship – The evening worship service opened at 7:00 p.m. Teaching Elder Paul Neshangwe delivered the sermon which was titled “Troubled but not Destroyed”. Teaching Elders Dan Krebill and Jody McDevitt presided at the Sacrament of the Lords Supper. Jody read the Necrology report and a bell was sounded acknowledging the passing of each person on the report. Others, participating in the worship service, included Teaching Elder Paul Cannon and Teaching Elder Kathy Goodrich.

12-029 – Recess – Following the evening worship service the meeting was recessed until tomorrow morning.

SATURDAY, March 3, 2012

12-030 – Breakfast – The members of the co-Host Manhattan Church served a continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m.

12.031 – Opening Worship and Dwelling in the Word – Dave Thompson led this section with Suzanne Bratsky and Jody McDevitt participating. Dwelling in the Word used Philippians 4:2-7 as its scripture and David titled it as “Feuds, Factions and Fights.”

12-132 – Holy Spirit’s Work in Three Churches – Members of the Bozeman and Manhattan Church’s shared what they are doing through the urging of the Holy Spirit. George spoke on behalf of the West Yellowstone church and the struggles they are facing because of recent actions of the General Assembly.

12-033 – Billings 1st Mission trip – Billings 1st will be making a mission trip to Belize from June 9-16, 2012. There will be 28 adults and youth signed up to go. The project is to build a house at an orphanage. Dave Thompson shared informative slides about the planned trip.

12-034 – Council/Leadership Cabinet – Leon called attention to the to the council’s written report (See Attachment (B)).

12-035– New FOG Taskforce – Dan Krebill presented, for a second reading, the proposed changes to the Standing Rules of the presbytery. These changes had been posted on-line since before the presbytery meeting of last November. Dan noted that there will be a second set of changes, presented for a first reading, at the May meeting of presbytery. Dan also noted that the work of the Task Force will not be done by the July 11th date set by presbytery and that an extension of time will be requested at the May meeting.

ü Presbytery voted to approve the proposed changes to its Standing Rules (See Attachment C).

12-036 – Co-General Presbyters – George and Kathy Goodrich presented their written report (See Attachment D). The report included 10 points of emphasis as we seek to live into our Vision Statement highlights. Kathy announced that updated ENGAGE materials would be available in June.

12-037 – COM – Neva Rathbun presented the committee’s written report of actions taken by the COM since the last presbytery meeting (See Attachment E). The report included a recommendation that presbytery approve a new Remuneration schedule for session moderators when a church is without an installed pastor.

ü Presbytery voted to approve the proposed Remuneration Schedule.

12-038 – St. Timothy’s – Ron Hanson reported that the committee will be revising the Long Range Plan for the ministry and facilities of the chapel. He also presented the budget for 2012. The budget called for receipts of \$45,861 and expenditures of \$45,861. Additionally, the

nominees for the Chapel Committee were presented. It was noted that St Timothy's has its own web-site and consideration should be given to linking it to the presbytery web-site.

ü Presbytery voted to approve the budget for St. Timothy's for 2012.

ü Presbytery voted to elect those nominated to the Chapel Committee.

12-039 – PW – Suzanne Bratsky commented on PW's written report which covered the activities during the year of 2011.

12-040 – Mission – George Goodrich presented, on behalf of the committee, its written report. The report listed the goals for the committee for this year.

12-041 – Budget and Finance – Dan Holland presented the committee's written report. Of special concern is the lack of mission pledges received to date. This may significantly impact the presbytery's ability to provide services (See Attachment F).

12-042 – Higher Education – Bob Cuthbertson presented the written report of the committee. The report included several suggestions for the 2012 Convocation. Also included was the appointment of George Goodrich as the presbytery's liaison to the Christus Collegium Board as they work through the presbytery's withdrawal from ownership in the Christus Collegium.

12-043 – Nominations – In addition to the names presented by the Nominating Committee, TE Paul Cannon was nominated for the Mission Committee to the class of 2014.

ü Following the required three calls for other nominations, presbytery voted to elect the following nominees.

- Committee on Ministry
 - Class of 2013 – RE Debbie Blackburn
 - Class of 2014 – RE Jenice Fugure
- Commissioners to General Assembly (2012)
 - RE Caroline Fleming (Alternate Pam Jackson)
 - YAAD Katie Holland (Tanner Blair)

(Note: TE Jody McDevitt was elected at the November 2011 Meeting)

2-044– Stated Clerk – Ron Hanson presented a report listing his activities and meetings since the last presbytery meeting. Also included were the 2011 Necrology Report, The Terms of Call for Ministers and CLP's, a letter listing the insurance coverage for the presbytery and a statement judging the adequacy of that coverage and the Minutes of the Special meeting of January 13, 2012 and the Stated meeting of November 11-12, 2011 (See Attachment G).

ü Presbytery voted to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2012 Special Meeting and the minutes of the Stated Meeting of November 11-12, 2011.

12-045 – Adjournment and Closing Prayer – The meeting was adjourned, with prayer, until the next Stated Meeting scheduled for May 14th and 15th of 2012.

Stated Clerk