

## Presbytery of Yellowstone Vocations Meeting, April 11, 2013

Location of meeting: St Andrew Presbyterian Church, Billings MT

While checking in we tried to start up a Skype connection and failed. We had to rely on a phone connection during AM portion of this meeting.

Roll Call: In Bozeman, George G, Sally R., In Billings, Leon R., Cathy M., Jack B. and Jim T.

Minutes taker selected was: Jim T.

Meeting convened with Prayer by Jack Bell

Acts 9: 1-20

### *Dwelling in the Word:*

1. Where has God been working in your life?
2. Was your conversion to Christianity a sudden revelation moment, by being raised Christian, by attending a church of you chose as an adult, by an evangelizing pastor, by witnessing another Christian, or by some other manner?
3. Some Christians claim an A-HAW moment. Have you witnessed this and what was the background story?
4. Of all the influencers who cause you to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior what has been the most valuable in shaping your life?

Reviewed Minutes of Previous Meeting March 2012 and meeting notes were approved

Cathy Mclean: *Report Form attached.* Kathy is in her final semester term and expects to graduate in May. All ordination exams have been passed. If the way be clear, the committee has voted to recommend Cathy for the COM to consider her for ordination. She has stated a call will be granted by the Federated Church in Forsyth assuming the Federated relationship will permit the continuation of an ordained Presbyterian Pastor in this position. We did not record the actual date, but she has been given the opportunity to preach at a regular Presbytery meeting and should not be required to do this again prior to the ordination ceremony. (For information only) In the past the position of Pastor in Forsyth has alternated between the two denominations. Presbytery might consider in this regard, the dissolution or temporary dissolution the federated status of the church and its full participation as part of the Presbytery of Yellowstone. Any such actions are not the purview of this committee to recommend and this matter should be referred to the proper committee. COM will need to confirm the acceptability of Cathy's call with the federated partner before we complete this process. Cathy is advised to complete a PIF as soon as practical.

Jack Bell reported continued progress with his CRE program at Dubuque. He will still be taking classes through this fall. Jack continues to assist in ministering to the West Park Plaza community in Billings and is available for Pulpit supply as time and scheduling permits. Both Jack and Cathy were gracious in helping with the continuation and discussions taking place at this meeting.

We took a Lunch Break about 12:10 PM

At 1:15 we established a Skype connection for remainder of the meeting.

The Committee recommended, Susan Thomas be Nominated as Exam Reader for fall 2013 readings.

Leon announced his plans to retire in June and he will also be term limited off of this committee. The Committee will recommend that the nominating committee consider selecting nominating someone more recently completing the ordination or commissioning process to serve on the committee assuming this committee continues to be separate from COM.

The committee gave consideration to the Presbytery Structure plan to consolidate Vocations and COM committee functions. After considerable discussion the consensus of the committee was that Vocations should remain a separate committee and that it not be merged with COM. See action item below for additional information on this subject.

The current committee moderator's term will expire in December and will need to be replaced by nominating a new committee member and the committee will need to seek a new moderator for 2014 assuming no merger takes place before that time

Reviewed past Candidates, Seekers or Learners who have been inactive. Sally will be checking to see if Veva Larson would want to reenter the commissioning process. All other previous potentials have no current status with the committee.

We reviewed a 1<sup>st</sup> draft of a revised CRE Manual and agreed to make the following changes:

- a. CLP to CRE language changed
- b. Sexual Harassment declaration added
- c. Reference made to PCUSA , CRE brochures
- d. Some attachments added regarding above changes

This draft is to be completed and presented to the Cabinet for review before adoption.

Other business contained a recommendation for Vocations and COM to hold a joint meeting and discuss issues relating to any merger at an early date and before any final structure changes are proposed to the Presbytery.

Once we got the SKYPE connection working it was recommended that we use this method to gather for future meetings since it saves a considerable amount of travel expenses for this type of meeting.

At 2:45 PM we adjourned with prayer. No next meeting was scheduled.

Cabinet Action Items:

1. James Tarr RE and Susan Thomas TE are to be elected exam readers for the fall of 2013 readings.
2. Cathy Mclean is to be moved from the care of the Vocations Committee to the care of the Committee on Ministry as soon as she graduates.
3. The Vocations committee has revised the CLP Manual for Yellowstone Presbytery to conform to the revised language for Commissioning Commissioned Ruling Elders in church service (CRE). Copy of the revised manual is attached to this report.
4. Cabinet confirmed that the Forsyth Presbyterian Church is no longer affiliated with any other denomination and is free to call a Pastor from the PCUSA

Presbytery Actions Requested:

1. Approve all of the above recommended actions.
2. Extend the thanks of the Presbytery to Rev. Leon Rathburn for his service on the committee as he retires from active ministry.
3. Congratulate Cathy McLean on her graduation from Dubuque Seminary with a Master of Divinity Degree.
4. If Nominee is named for a replacement to Leon's vacancy proceed with that election at the appropriate time.

Respectfully;

Jim Tarr

Moderator

Vocations Committee

Attachments; Revised CRE Manual