

LEADERSHIP CABINET
Presbytery of Yellowstone
Report to Presbytery March 2015

The Leadership Cabinet has held 2 meetings so far in 2015, on Jan. 14 and Feb. 11. We are still in our first year under the presbytery's new structure and organizational vision. This is the way we work:

1. We establish annual goals for the Leadership Cabinet.
2. We attend to the tasks before us.
3. Teams of persons follow through on our goals and tasks. These teams are made up of persons from the Leadership Cabinet AND persons from the presbytery. THANK YOU to all who have said *YES, I WILL* when we have called!

2014 Goals	2015 Goals
Improve communication within and beyond the presbytery	Improve communication within and beyond the presbytery
Focus on spiritual nurture of pastors and leaders	Focus on spiritual nurture of pastors and leaders
Plan meaningful presbytery meetings	Build community in the presbytery
Make and carry out staff transition decisions (co-general presbyters)	Make and carry out staff transition decisions (stated clerk)

What has Leadership Cabinet done in 2015?

1. We have been listening to the Review Team as they have been listening to the presbytery regarding our new structure. **We voted to extend the Review Team for 6 months to allow more time for feedback.** Members of the Review Team are Debbie Blackburn, David Andrew, Jim Tarr, and Gayle Holland.
2. We recruited a **Search Committee for Stated Clerk**, which has already begun its work. The committee is moderated by Neva Rathbun and includes Dan Holland (who is on LC), Debbie Funke, and Terry Johnson. Target date: before Oct 9-11 training meeting in Portland.
3. We chose a **theme for the 2015 meetings of presbytery, Mission!** and assigned a task team to make plans for this theme. Thank you to those who are putting their heads and hearts together on this!
4. We **developed a plan for the discussion and voting on constitutional amendments**, designed to help us listen well to one another, respect one another, and remain in loving fellowship with one another when we disagree.
5. We assigned several amendments to appropriate ministry teams in the presbytery, asking the teams to advise a positive or negative vote on the amendments. **We voted to recommend "yes" votes on these amendments: 14-1 (Confession of Belhar) and 14-E (Interreligious stance)** (these will be voted upon along with other amendments)
6. We are **in conversation with Glacier Presbytery** regarding the future relationship between the two presbyteries. Glacier will not be hosting a convocation in 2015.
7. We set dates for future presbytery meetings:
June 12-13, 2015, in White Sulphur Springs
November 6-7, 2015, in Lewistown

8. We voted to have the **offering at the March 6, 2015 presbytery meeting be for Scholarship Fund for Westminster Spires Camp.**
9. We **approved a grant request from the Presby Cats collegiate ministry** at MSU-Bozeman, from the Equip and Encourage fund, for \$2500 for a spring break mission trip.
10. We **discussed the presbytery's policy with regard to payment of per capita to synod and General Assembly**, in cases where congregations do not pay. After considerable discussion, we took no action to change to our policy, which is to comply with the Book of Order and pay the per capita assigned to the presbytery. We recommitted ourselves to working with congregations to help them have their voices heard in the denomination.
11. We voted to **recommend to Presbytery that Yellowstone Presbytery be a chartering organization of the Montana Association of Christians**, the successor organization to Montana Association of Churches (MAC). **MOTION**
12. We reviewed the 2014 financial reports and gave thanks to God that our financial resources are stretching farther than we earlier anticipated. Specifically, **the presbytery was able to retain over \$50,000 in reserves that our 2014 budget anticipated being spent.**

In discussions of our 2015 Goals, a proposal emerged for

PRESBYTERY SUNDAY

OCTOBER 11, 2015

On this date, we hope all congregations of our presbytery will celebrate Yellowstone Presbytery. We hope that the day will **BUILD COMMUNITY** and **IMPROVE COMMUNICATION** while we consciously **FOCUS ON SPIRITUAL NURTURE** as a presbytery (3 of 4 goals!). We are looking for people who would serve on a task team to develop ideas and resources for congregations.

MOTION: That October 11, 2015, be designated as Presbytery Sunday, to celebrate our bond in the Spirit, serving Christ's mission together, and that all congregations be encouraged to participate in this celebration.