



180 24th Street West
Billings, MT 59102
(406) 656-9256
Rev. Susan Barnes,
Pastor



Welcome presbyters to St. Andrew Presbyterian Church.

We are located at 180 24th St. West, Billings, MT. We are north of the Rimrock Mall, just north of Sports Authority, across the street from Billings West High School's track. You may enter through one driveway north of Sports Authority, or turn west on Cook Avenue, then left into the parking lot.

From 1-90, take the King Avenue exit and go west to 24th Street. Turn right on 24th Street and proceed north past Central; St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is on the left. From Grand Avenue, turn south on 24th Street; St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is on the right.

We have reserved 25 rooms at \$97.23 each at Lexington Inn and Suites, 3040 King Ave. W. It includes breakfast and wi-fi. Please make your reservations before February 19th, 406- 294-9090 and mention Yellowstone Presbytery.

To get to the hotel from the church, go south on 24th St. West, then turn right on King Avenue, left into the driveway after Carino's restaurant at S. 31st Street.

The members and friends of St. Andrew are willing to host some presbyters in their homes. These rooms are limited, so please contact the church at 656-9256 soon if you would like to stay in someone's home.

We will host a light lunch before the meeting starts on Friday. Our Friday dinner will be \$8.00 and will cover the cost of the lunch on Friday also.

If you need child-care, please contact us as soon as possible so we can ensure we have enough nursery attendants.

I look forward to seeing you at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church March 6 and 7.

May God bless and guide our presbytery,

Rev. Susan Barnes



MISSION!

The Presbytery of Yellowstone 2015 theme for study and action

(from our Vision Statement)

We will Go Out to join Christ in Christ's mission in our communities, Montana, and the world,
embodying and sharing Christ's Good News;
loving and serving, as we are commanded,
in our words, actions, and relationships.

**Join the Presbytery in exploring God's call to mission, beginning
Friday, March 6 and continuing in all our stated meetings in 2015.**

**Our goal is to inspire one another with what we are doing now,
and grow together towards Christ's mission.**



Where in the world is God calling the Presbytery of Yellowstone?

Year: _____ EXPENSE VOUCHER
YELLOWSTONE PRESBYTERY
Attn: Treasurer, Sheryl Hallin
PO Box 1254, Bozeman, MT 59771

More forms available on website: www.yellowstonepcusa.org

Please complete the voucher, including your signature and the signature of one other person (Stated Clerk, Committee, Commission, Council, or Presbytery Moderator). Two signatures are required. Attach documentation and receipts for all expenses except mileage.* **Must submit within 30 days of charge.**

Pay to:

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____ PHONE _____

NOTE: Presbytery mileage reimbursement for 2014 is \$0.25 per mile. For car pooling, add \$0.05 per mile per additional passenger. Example: Driver and two passengers, multiply by \$0.35 per mile.

Acct# 7901.7800___ For 200 miles @ .25 Presbytery Meeting
Meeting Location Big Sky_____ Date MM/DD/YY \$___50.00___

Acct # _____ For _____

Meeting Location _____ Date _____ \$ _____

Acct # _____ For _____

Meeting Location _____ Date _____ \$ _____

Acct # _____ For _____

Meeting Location _____ Date _____ \$ _____

Acct # _____ For _____

Meeting Location _____ Date _____ \$ _____

TOTAL VOUCHER AMOUNT \$ _____

YOUR SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER/MODERATOR

If you would like to make a donation to the Presbytery, please do so with a check payable to the Presbytery so that you can obtain a donation letter at year end.

Treasurer's Use Only

Date of Check: _____ Number of Check: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Remaining Budget: _____ As of: _____

CHART OF ACCOUNTS

Please use the following account numbers when completing the voucher on the reverse side. This list does not include all account numbers. Please contact Sheryl at the presbytery office if you have any questions.

PRESBYTERY OFFICE

8201.2400 Copies & Postage
8201.4000 Misc.
8201.7400 Supplies
8201.7500 Telephone/Conference Calls

PRESBYTERY - Meetings

7901.3600 Lodging
7901.3700 Meals
7901.4000 Misc.
7901.7800 Travel
7999.4000 Vision Task Force-Misc.

PRESBYTERY LEADERSHIP CABINET – Meetings

7601.3600 Lodging
7601.3700 Meals
7601.7500 Telephone/Conference Calls
7601.7800 Travel

BUDGET & FINANCE - Meetings

2201.3700 Meals

2201.7800 Travel

PERSONNEL - Meetings

3701.3700 Meals

3701.7800 Travel

CAMPING & YOUTH TEAM - Meetings

1301.3700 Meals
1301.7800 Travel

CAMPING PROGRAM . EXPENSES

5.01.1351.2400 Copies & Postage
5.01.1351.2800 Facilities Maintenance
5.01.1351.5700 Publicity
5.01.1351.6000 Refunds
5.01.1360.1400 Camp Staff
5.01.1360.2900 Food
5.01.1360.4000 Misc. expenses
5.01.1360.6200 Rental Equipment
5.01.1360.7400 Supplies
5.01.1360.7490 Swimming
5.01.1360.7710 Transportation
5.01.1360.7800 Travel
5.01.1370.0000 Revamp Camp Misc.
5.01.1350.6010 Triennium
5.01.1390.4000 Winter, Summer, Fall Events, Misc.

PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM - Meetings

5.01.2840.0000 Meeting Expenses
5.01.2840.3600 Lodging
5.01.2840.3700 Meals
5.01.2840.7800 Travel
5.01.2849.4000 Cell Phone
2849.7700 Training
2852.4000 Emergency Career Counseling

REPRESENTATION/NOMINATING TEAM - Meetings

4001.3700 Meals
4001.7500 Telephone/Conference Calls
4001.7800 Travel

HIGHER EDUCATION - Meetings

2501.3700 Meals
2501.7800 Travel

ST. TIMOTHY'S

4301.3700 Meals
4301.7800 Travel

DELEGATES TO OTHER BODIES - Meetings

5201.3600 Lodging
5201.3700 Meals
5201.7800 Travel

THE PRESBYTERY OF YELLOWSTONE MEETING REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Church: _____

Address: _____

	Street or Box #	Town	Zip
Phone: _____			
E- Mail: _____			

I am a: ____ Minister Member of Yellowstone Presbytery.

I am a: ____ Elder Member of Yellowstone Presbytery.

I am a: ____ Elder Commissioner.

I am a: ____ Corresponding Member (Presbytery of _____).

I am a: ____ Visitor.

Our Vision

Yellowstone Presbytery –

guided and sustained by Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and prayer -- is a community rooted in the love of Jesus Christ

We will . . .

Gather Together

for God's glory and spiritual synergy*.

Equip and Encourage

disciple-making congregations and leaders for living the Gospel . . . intentionally becoming more like Christ; ably sharing our faith; impacting our communities; worshipping in loving response to God; and mutually supporting and training leaders.

Go Out to join Christ in Christ's mission in our communities, Montana, and the world . . . embodying and sharing Christ's Good News; loving and serving, as we are commanded, in our words, actions, and relationships.

* Synergy: from the Greek synergos, συνεργός meaning working together.

PRESBYTERY OF YELLOWSTONE PRESBYTERY MEETING AGENDA Friday and Saturday, March 6-7, 2015 St Andrew PC, Billings, Montana

Friday, March 6

Gathering Together

- 1:00 p.m. Opening prayer, Roll Call, Declaration of a Quorum, Procedural Motion, Docket Approval.
1:25 p.m. Worship (including installation of officers)

Equipping and Encouraging

- 2:20 p.m. God Calls Us to Mission – part 1
3:00 p.m. Break
3:20 p.m. God Calls Us to Mission – part 2
4:30 p.m. Institute for Peace Studies – Cindy Kunz
4:35 p.m. Co-General Presbyter's Report
4:50 p.m. Unit Reports (Leadership Cabinet, Pastoral Ministry

Team, Camping and Youth Ministry Team, Representation/ Nominating Ministry Team and Stated Clerks Nominating Committee.

- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Worship, Necrology Report and Communion (CRE Jack Bell preaching and Rev. Susan Barnes presiding at the Lords Table). {The offering is designated for the Westminster Scholarship Fund}.

Saturday, March 7

Gathering Together

- 8:30 p.m. Worship and Dwelling in the Word.
9:10 p.m. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution. (Presentations and Voting)
10:40 a.m. Break.
11:00 a.m. Announcement of Voting on the Amendments and a Pastoral Response.
11:20 a.m. Good News from Churches.
11:50 a.m. Completing the Commissioners Report Form.
12 noon Synod Executives Report
12:05 p.m. PW, St. Timothy's and Stated Clerks Reports
12:15 p.m. Closing Hymn and Adjournment.

**Yellowstone Presbytery Stated Meeting
November 7, 2014
1st Presbyterian Church
Bozeman, Montana**

14-061 – Call to Order ó Moderator Jed Cauffman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and offered the opening prayer.

14-062 ó Procedural Motion – The Stated Clerk moves 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 any Corresponding members present be seated.
 4. That the Presbytery grant the Moderator the authority to give privilege of the floor to persons, other than Members or Commissioners, for the purpose of reporting to this meeting.
 5. That the Moderator and the Stated Clerk be empowered to make adjustments to the Docket during the meeting, as may be necessary, to provide for efficiency in reporting.
 6. That all reports received at this meeting be accepted.
- ✓ Presbytery voted to approve the above motion.

14-063 – Roll Call – The following people filled out registration sheets for the meeting.

Church	Minister Member	Elder Commissioner	Others Present
Anaconda	vacant	Linda smith	
Big Hole	vacant	Julie Boksich	
Billings, First	Dave Thompson Jack Bell		
Billings, St. Andrew	Susan Barnes		Curt Kochner C&Y
Bozeman	Jody McDevitt Dan Krebill	Deborah Haynes Fred Dickensheets	Susan Gibb Ric Tieman Doris Krebill Dan Holland
Butte	Harlan Rounds	Unexcused	Ron Hanson Stated Clerk
Colstrip	Unexcused	Unexcused	
Deer Lodge	Teresa Kendall	Unexcused	
Dillon	David Andrew	Unexcused	
Ennis	Excused	Excused	
Forsyth	Unexcused	Unexcused	
Geyser	Unexcused	Unexcused	
Harlowton	Unexcused	Unexcused	

Hysham	Excused	Unexcused	
Jordan	vacant	Excused	
Lewistown	Jed Cauffman	Unexcused	
Manhattan	Debbie Funke	Unexcused	Debbie Blackburn Vice Mod.
Miles City	Brandon Willett	Unexcused	
Phillipsburg	Excused	Jim Christiansen	Jan Christiansen
Poplar	Susan Ennis	Unexcused	
Roy	Unexcused	Unexcused	
Stanford	Unexcused	Unexcused	
Terry	Vacant	Gary Pfiefler	Lois Pfiefler
White Sulphur Springs	James Kidd	Pam Jackson	
Wolf Point	Unexcused	Unexcused	

Also Present or Excused:

TE George Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter
 TE Kathy Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter
 TE Susan Thomas
 TE Neva Rathbun
 TE Leon Rathbun
 TE Rusty Craig
 TE Paul Cousins
 TE Paul Krebill
 TE Brent Long (Excused)
 TE Dick Davis (Excused)
 TE Mary Davis (Excused)
 TE Paul Cannon (Excused)

Corresponding Members Present:

TE David Ezekiel (Presbytery of Chicago)
 TE JP Carlson (Presbytery of Missouri River Valley)

14-064 – Introductions – Those present introduced themselves and said where they were from.

14-065 - Docket - The Docket was approved.

14-066 – Worship - Dave Thompson led the singing and offered a prayer. Preaching was from JP Carlson who was there to be examined by the Presbytery.

14-067 – Nominations from the Representation/Nominating Ministry Team ó Debbie Funke went over the ballot of nominations (1st reading) from the Rep/Nom Team (**Attachment A**).

14-068 - Leadership Cabinet Nominations - Jody McDevitt presented nominations from the Leadership Cabinet: RE Bob Culbertson to be nominated for the class of 2017 for the Representation/Nominating Ministry Team and Debbie Funke to be moderator of the Representation /Nominating Ministry Team for 2015.

14-069 - Leadership Cabinet Proposal for Stated Clerk ó The Leadership Cabinet recommends that the Presbytery set aside the standing rules (for one year) regarding term limits for the Stated Clerk to allow Ron Hanson to serve one more year. The Leadership Cabinet will appoint a search Committee to nominate someone by November of 2015 to serve as Stated Clerk beginning in January of 2016.

14-070 – Examination of JP Carlson – JP read his statement of faith and the members proceeded to examine JP through a series of questions. JP has received a call from the Anaconda Church and the Church of the Big Hole.

ç Presbytery voted to receive the Rev. Jonathan P. Carlson as a Teaching Elder within Yellowstone Presbytery and to approve the Terms of Call for the position as Teaching Elder for the Anaconda Church and the Church of the Big Hole.

ç Presbytery voted to allow the PMT to appoint two Administrative Commissions to install Rev. Jonathan P Carlson at appropriate dates and times to be determined.

14-071 – Neva Rathbun retirement – Members of the Presbytery shared their appreciation for Neva and gave thanks for the many ways she has served.

ç Presbytery voted to grant status of Honorably Retired to Neva Rathbun.

14-072 – Pastoral Ministry Team – Dave Thompson reviewed the recommended minimum salary figures for 2015 (which included a 2% increase in effective salary).

ç Presbytery voted to approve the minimum salary figures for 2015 (**Attachment B**).

14-073 – WNL T Report - George reported on a great WNL T event. Nine people from Yellowstone Presbytery attended.

14-074 – Synod Report ó David Ezekiel reviewed changes taking place at the Synod level. There will no longer be a Coordinating Council, only a Synod Assembly.

14-075 – Leadership Cabinet Report - Jody reviewed recommendations from the Leadership Cabinet.

√ Presbytery voted to approve the changes to the Synod By-Laws. (**Attachment C**).

√ Presbytery voted to approve the revised CRE in Pastoral Service Program.

Dan Holland went over the proposed Program and Administrative Budgets for 2015.

ç Presbytery voted to approve the Program and Administrative Budgets for 2015 (**Attachment D**).

ç Presbytery voted to approve Yellowstone Presbytery Per Capita rate of \$32.18 for 2015. This means that the total per capita rate for 2015 will remain at \$45.00 (GA rate of \$7.07 and Synod rate of \$5.75)

14-076 – Camping and Youth Report – Curt Kochner had submitted a written report. He indicated that summer camp provided many multi-generational experiences.

14-077 – Hearing from Churches – Three churches (Bozeman, Manhattan, and White Sulphur Springs) reported on what the Holy Spirit is doing in their communities. Jed Cauffman offered prayer for these congregations.

14-078 – Announcements ó Everyone was reminded to turn in various items before leaving. It was announced that the Thursday night offering was \$648. This offering will be split equally between Family Promise of Gallatin Valley and the PresbyCats.

14-079 – Recess for Dinner – A blessing was given for the evening meal and the business meeting was recessed until 7:00 p.m.

14-080 – Reconvening - The business meeting reconvened at 7:45.

14-081– Election for the Representation/Nominations Ministry Team

ç Presbytery voted to elect RE Bob Culbertson (Billings First) to a three year term and to elect Debbie Funke as moderator, for 2015 of the Representation/Nominations Ministry Team.

14-082 – Election of nominees from the Representation/Nominations Team

ç Presbytery voted to elect the slate of nominees from the Representation/Nomination Ministry Team

14-082 – Proposal for the Stated Clerk -

√ Presbytery voted to set aside the standing rules (for one year) regarding term limits for the Stated Clerk to allow Ron Hanson to serve one more year. The Leadership Cabinet is to appoint a search Committee to nominate someone by November of 2015 to serve as Stated Clerk beginning in January of 2016.

ç Presbytery voted to elect Ron Hanson as Stated Clerk for 2015.

14-083 – International Peacemaker Report – Susan Barnes gave a presentation on the visit to Yellowstone Presbytery of Rev. Lala Rasendrasahina from Madagascar.

14-084 – Co-General Presbyters Report ó George and Kathy went over some of the items in their report (See Attachment E). They began working half time on October 1, 2014. George noted that the prayer days for Yellowstone Presbytery will be December 31, 2014 and January 10, 2015.

14-085 – Presbyterian Women Report ó A written report was submitted.

14-086 – St Timothy’s Chapel Report ó A written report was submitted. The 50th anniversary will be celebrated in 2015 on July 25th and July 26th. Ron noted that there was one action item regarding the long range plan.

ç Presbytery voted to concur with the updated long range plan of St Timothy’s Chapel.

14-087 – Montana Association of Christians Report ó A written report was submitted.

14-088– Stated Clerk’s Report - A written report was submitted (See Attachment F).

ç Presbytery voted to approve the minutes from the June 27-28, 2014 meeting in Butte.

14-089 – Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned, until the next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery, scheduled for March 6-7, 2015 at Billings St Andrew. Teresa Kendall offered the closing prayer.

Ron Hanson
Stated Clerk

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Attachment A

Ballot from Rep/Nom Ministry Team – November 7, 2014

Presbytery:

Debbie Blackburn ó Moderator of Presbytery 2015

Teresa Kendall ó Vice Moderator of Presbytery 2015

Leadership Cabinet:

RE Dave Kimball (Billings St Andrew) (2015)

RE Don Holland (Forsyth) (2016)

TE Susan Ennis (Poplar) (2017)

Pastoral Ministry Team:

RE Charlie Brown (Lewistown) (2016)

TE JP Carlson (Anaconda and Big Hole) (2017)

RE Debbie Blackburn (Manhattan) (2017)

RE Jim Tarr (Billings St Andrew) (2017)

RE Chris Eriksen (Billings First) (2017)

Camping and Youth Ministry Team:

Lay Cynthia Kessler (Billings St Andrew) (2017)

TE Brandon Willet (Miles City) (2017)

Permanent Judicial Commission:

RE Caroline Fleming (Miles City) (2020)

St Timothy's Chapel Committee:

TE Sally Ralston (Phillipsburg) (2016)

Synod Assembly:

TE Kathy Goodrich

RE Ron Hanson

MAC Board:

RE Susan Gibb (Bozeman)

Ministry Moderators for 2015:

Jody McDevitt (Leadership Cabinet)

Dave Thompson (Pastoral Ministry Team)

Curt Kochner (Camping and Youth)

Committee on Ministry's recommendation for 2015 Minimum Salaries

Full-Time Pastor in 1st 3 years of a Call:

Cash - \$32,303

Housing - \$9,691.

Effective Salary - \$41,994.

Pension - Family - \$15,819, Member Only - \$15,159.

Continuing Education - \$600.

Travel - Vouchered at Federal Rate.

Study Leave - 2 weeks (Cumulative to 6 weeks) including 2 Sundays.

Vacation - 4 weeks including 4 Sundays.

Family Leave - Each church shall develop a Family Leave Policy.

Full-Time Pastor after 3 years in a Call:

Cash - \$33,916.

Housing - \$10,176.

Effective Salary - \$44,092.

Pension – Family - \$16,094, Member Only \$15,432.

Continuing Education - \$600.00.

Travel - Vouchered at Federal Rate.

Study Leave - 2 weeks (Cumulative to 6 weeks) including 2 Sundays.

Vacation - 4 weeks including 4 Sundays.

Family Leave - Each church shall develop a Family Leave Policy.

Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)

The CRE salary is 75% of the Full-Time Pastor salary, pro-rated for part-time.

**Presbytery of Yellowstone
Leadership Cabinet Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2015
St Andrew Church, Billings**

Moderator Jody called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Present were:

Jody McDevitt
Debbie Blackburn
Susi Ennis
Teresa Kendall

Absent:

Jed Cauffman
Dan Holland
Dave Kimball
George Goodrich
Kathy Goodrich
Ron Hanson

Also present:

Curt Kochner

1. **Opening Prayer** – The opening prayer was offered by Jody.
2. **Christ Candle** – Jody lit the Christ Candle and read the litany of the Christ Candle.
3. **Quorum** – It was determined that a quorum was present.
4. **Docket** – The docket was approved
5. **Minutes of January 14, 2015** –
 - ✓ The LC voted to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2015 meeting.
6. **Dwelling in the Word** – Teresa led Dwelling in the Word focusing on Luke 10:1-12. There was a time of sharing what this Scripture is saying to each of us. Teresa closed this time with prayer.
7. **Review Team** – Debbie reported that several individuals thought that one year was too soon to evaluate the new structure. It might be better to wait a little longer before evaluating.
 - ✓ The LC voted to have the Review Team extend its work for another six months.
8. **Leadership Cabinet 2015 Goals** – The LC spent time working on specific plans to implement the goals for 2015. Teresa will contact Susan Thomas with information about an e-newsletter that was used in Shenango Presbytery. October 11, 2015 was chosen for Presbytery Sunday. Jody will use time at the next two Presbytery meetings to promote Presbytery Sunday and to seek volunteers for working on this event. The search committee for Stated Clerk will be having its first meeting on February 12th.
9. **Plans for March Presbytery Meeting** - Teresa and Debbie went over a proposal for the process to be used for amendments. It was decided that a time limit of two minutes per person should be used during the debate time. Susi reported on the progress of the subgroup working on the equipping part of the meeting. Ministry Team reports and the Co-General Presbyters report will hopefully be scheduled for Friday afternoon before dinner. Additional work still needs to be done on the Docket.
 - ✓ The LC voted to approve the Friday night offering to go to camp scholarships (Westminster Spires).
10. **Lunch** – The LC took a short break for lunch. Jody offered prayer for the meal.
11. **Financial Review for 2014** – Dan Holland’s written report indicated that the yearend transfers needed to cover expenses were substantially less than had been budgeted. For the Program account a transfer of \$2,086.98 was made from Program Reserves. For the Administrative account two transfers were made. A transfer of \$4,606.03 was made from the Administrative Reserves and a transfer of \$15,000 was made from the Springhill fund. Other transfers that had been approved in the budget were not necessary. It was suggested that at the next meeting of the LC we look at mission pledges for 2015 (from the various churches). Some churches are not familiar with how their mission pledges are utilized.
12. **Per Capita Discussion** – The Stanford congregation had previously been told that the LC would revisit the Presbytery’s policy of paying all Per Capita amounts due (as required by the Book of Order). After a time

of discussion no action was taken. It was noted that we need to work with congregations for ways the congregations can have their voices heard (by General Assembly).

- 13. Peacemaking Survey** – It was agreed to assign this project to Freeman McCall (with support from Teresa).
- 14. MAC Membership** – Montana Association of Churches is now defunct and there is a new organization which is the Montana Association of Christians.
 - ✓ The LC voted to recommend to the Presbytery that Yellowstone Presbytery be a chartering organization of the Montana Association of Christians.
 - ✓ The LC voted that money budgeted for 2015 for Montana Association of Churches be used for (dues) for Montana Association of Christians (if the way be clear).
 - ✓ The LC voted that the covenanting document for Montana Association of Christians should be sent to each church in Yellowstone Presbytery.
- 15. Search Committee for Stated Clerk** – Jody reported that Neva Rathbun has agreed to be the moderator of this committee. Also on the committee are Debbie Funke, Terry Johnson, and Dan Holland.
- 16. Relationship with Glacier Presbytery** – Jody is working on a phone meeting between representatives from Glacier and Yellowstone Presbytery.
- 17. Fall Presbytery Meeting** – It was decided to hold the fall Presbytery Meeting on November 6th and 7th. Jody will contact Lewistown to see if they are willing to host.
- 18. Stanford-Geyser Meeting** – Jody was part of a group from YP that traveled to Stanford on January 20th. Jody gave a verbal apology on behalf of the LC for not responding to a letter from the Stanford church to the Presbytery. This apology was accepted.
- 19. Co-General Presbyters' Report** – George and Kathy sent a written report as they were out of town on the date of the LC meeting.
- 20. Stated Clerk's Report** – Ron had sent to Jody a ballot to be used at the Presbytery meeting in March. Jody will work with Ron on a few adjustments to both the official ballot and the sample ballot. Ron also sent information that he is continuing to work on the title of the Mildred Church property.
- 21. Next Meeting** – The next regularly scheduled meeting is April 14, 2015 in Bozeman.
- 22. Adjournment** – Jody gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

What are Jesus questions? Jesus BIG purposes

I love questions. I grew up asking them in many situations, of many people, as soon as I could put a sentence together. Questions are very important, and very revealing. It is fascinating to study Jesus and questions, those he asked, those he answered and how, and those he did NOT answer but instead asked another question to get to the heart of what was true, of what was MOST important.

In John 9 the disciples and Jesus see a man blind from birth. You know the question they ask him. %Rabbi, who sinned, this beggar or his parents that he should be born blind? Jesus response refocuses them and reframes the whole situation to GOD, and GOD's BIG, REDEMPTIVE purposes they had *completely* missed. %Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind to reveal the works [or power] of God.+Eugene Peterson's *Message* translation has Jesus saying, %You are asking the wrong question!+

In a recent sermon this winter to the Presbytery of Inland Northwest before they voted on the current amendments to the Constitution, Bill Robinson, professor and President Emeritus of Whitworth University, reflected on this passage, saying,

± find it hard to encounter a problem without looking for a villain. Don't you?+

And the current amendment questions, about which our congregations and Yellowstone Presbytery hold differing convictions on, could be an excuse to do just that.

The last 2 weeks I have been pondering Bill's reflections, including:

%Jesus seems to have a better question than the %Who's the villain?+question. Jesus question for *all* disciples through the ages is,

±What can we do with this situation to reveal the works, the power of God?+

How might we, in the midst of our differences, seek to glorify God? This is about God first, not about us!

I love Bill's penetrating question to himself and their presbytery, %Why is that the last question we ask, if we even ask it at all?+

We are grateful for the ways in which the Holy Spirit has worked in our midst as Yellowstone Presbytery over many years, and particularly in the last 11, to gather to worship and glorify God, and to grow more like Christ individually and in our relationships and life together as a community of disciples, before a watching world. Would you join us humbly in prayer for wisdom and the mind and heart of Christ in our presbytery and congregations,

Jesus, would you purify my heart?

Jesus, would you show me, would you show us, how to be one as you and the Father are on and to reveal your glory in this difficult hour? (John 17)

Eph 3:20, 21 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory *in the church* and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Romans 12:1-2: "I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." When we offer ourselves in responsive, thankful worship, the Holy Spirit renews us with the mind of Christ. The verse is both a call to personal commitment to God and a challenge to offer ourselves together for our renewal of our mind of Christ as the united Body of Christ. May it be so for us.

Emerging Mission in the New Structure: The new structure presented that the mission and ministry of the presbytery would emerge in the clusters and in new task forces under the umbrella of the Leadership Cabinet, which was responsible for sewing a vision for mission.

- A. **Mission and Ministry in the Clusters:** We now have four strong clergy clusters – Butte, White Sulphur, Billings and Miles City. Each cluster is dwelling in the word, deepening relationships, and exploring God’s calling for their cluster. So far:
1. The White Sulphur Springs has become the locus for prayer ministry, the first cluster to offer to its churches in particular and to the presbytery as a whole a Saturday retreat on Spiritual renewal and Prayer. 40-plus people from nine different churches attended. The event was written about enthusiastically by GA reporter, Mike Ferguson, ([link](#)).
 2. The Billings Cluster is beginning to form plans to offer a similar retreat for its churches on the theme of Stewardship. The profound and trustful sharing and support is occurring in this group.
 3. The Miles City Cluster has yet to pick a theme to offer. But there is a clear need for pastor support in eastern Montana. Pastors from other denominations are attending.
 4. The Butte Cluster: This group wrestles deeply with the issues of the day. They are concerned for the cohesion of the presbytery and for justice.
 5. Positives of the clusters
 - a. Growing commitment to the groups, meetings and each other in the group.
 - b. Spiritual Growth and formation of those involved in this mutual discipleship.
 - c. The emerging training retreat format in partnership with the presbytery.
 - d. Regularly meeting now. All seem to be going to a new level.
- B. **Mission in Task Forces:**
1. Peacemaking Fellowship – After a year of discerning, A peacemaking fellowship emerged out of this year’s Convocation. Freeman McCall, Jody McDevitt and Merry Lee Hooks are the leaders. Clearly the Holy Spirit is leading.
 2. To further live into our vision, let’s be asking what needs we are discerning to help the presbytery develop discipling leaders, congregations, and ministries, who join in Christ’s mission. Areas in which people have already expressed need or interest:
 - a. College / Campus ministry – Ukirk.
 - b. 1001 – New Worshipping Communities.

- c. Nurturing Young Disciples... One elder: the Equipping done at the presbytery meeting in Butte was one of the best presbytery meetings in years.
- d. Strengthening, equipping rural congregations in discipling, missional ministry.
- e. The whole area of Mission and talking with Jack Bell who would be willing to work with a task force to develop Mission in the Presbytery.

PMT (formerly CoM):

- a. We continue to be involved in pastoring pastors and resourcing churches, particularly those in pastoral transition or some contention:
 - a. Churches searching for pastors – **Terry** is actively searching; **Jordan** has a temporary Lutheran CRE who is doing a great job after the sudden departure of the previous CRE.
 - b. Churches wrestling with their relationship to the denomination: **Stanford and Geyser**. Some other congregations are dissatisfied with GA's actions in 2014 and are trying to determine their response. This dissatisfaction varies in intensity. And the result of presbytery's voting on the Amendments in March will significantly impact Yellowstone Congregations, regardless of which way the controversial votes go. George and other members of the Pastoral Team with Cabinet Moderator, Jody McDevitt, met with the two churches on January 20, 2015. It seems that pastoral relationships are being re-established between these congregations and the presbytery.
 - c. Church closing this year: **Roy**. Reporting a per capita of about 27, but in reality about 10 Presbyterians and then a growing number of independent attenders. The PMT will bring a report that the Roy church had building and financial assets of about \$53,000, with much work to be done to upgrade their building. A settlement amount of \$5,000 was determined by negotiation to be paid to the presbytery. The agreement will be presented to the Presbytery for approval in March. The church will close as a PCUSA church on March 31, 2015. Members wishing to remain PCUSA will transfer their membership to FPC Lewistown.
 - d. We have also been confidentially pastoring of pastors and preaching in congregations
- b. Expect the Three-Year Boundary Training to be offered on May Billings and in Bozeman. A lawyer, associated with FPC-Billings will present. Every clergy and CRE in Yellowstone Presbytery will be required to attend one of these workshops.
- c. J. P. Carlson was installed as pastor in Anaconda on Sunday, January 11th at 4:00 PM; and on January 18th at 4:00 PM in the Big Hole. Check out the pictures **on the Yellowstone Presbytery Facebook page.**
- d. On February 24, at the request of the PMT the Presbytery observed a **Day of Prayer and Fasting** specifically for the Stanford and Geyser and Terry Congregations and for the churches of the presbytery in general. Thank you to those able to prayerfully observe this day.

Emerging Divisions in Congregations: We, with the PMT, are increasingly aware that the issues of the day and the actions of the 221 General Assembly in 2014 are fraying the unity of Yellowstone Presbytery congregations and congregations in every presbytery.

- *In one congregation have adopted marriage and building use policies to see these policies strongly questioned by different-thinking members of the congregation.*
- *In another congregation, the session and pastor have thoughtfully begun the process to leave the denomination, only to see a similar response.*

We offer the following thinking:

1. *Please reread our intro letter to this report.*
2. *Please assume that members in your congregation hold a different opinion on the issue of marriage from your own, and devoted Christians will differ on this and other issues.*
3. *Please ask for help in managing the exploration and discussion of these issues from the PMT or from us.*
4. *The only way we know to maintain the unity in congregations is to face the dividing issues, but always keep "main thing the main thing." Remember that:*
 - a. *The Church is Christ's Church, not our own.*
 - b. *He calls us to take the cross in service to him and one another (Mark 8:31-38).*
 - c. *That those who favor gay marriage see the issue as a justice issue and will press faithfully and fervently for justice; that those who see the gay marriage issue as biblically defined sin will press for holiness and faithfulness in themselves and in the church. Both are seeking to honor God and read the Bible faithfully as they understand it.*
 - d. *The world, the flesh and the devil are our common challenges, struggling to bring disunity and derailing of the churches from their mission.*
 - e. *Fasting and Prayer days in your congregation. We would love to help you with this.*
 - f. *There will be challenging days ahead for all of us in the church and in the culture, but God is not surprised. God will see us through.*

Camping and Youth Ministry: The Camping and Youth continues to be **ry:** vibrant mission of the presbytery through this task force. In consideration for this summer: a week of presbytery camp for anyone interested particularly for family ministry. We are beginning to plan and promote camp for 2015. Please check the presbytery website for our July dates.

- a. Curt Kochner and Susan Thomas have given heavily to this ministry. Many Thanks!
- b. **Presbytery:** Please help us promote this ministry for the summer by suggesting high school and college-aged young people apply to be counselors; and by suggesting to families that they consider sending their young ones as campers.
- c. The Camping mission of the presbytery will be featured in the afternoon resourcing session at the March Presbytery meeting. Curt Kochner, presenting.

- d. George is also interfacing with Steve Shive, the Exec Presbyter of Wyoming Presbytery as Wyoming wrestles with its future in camping ministry
- e. The annual Winter Ski Retreat will be held on March 13-15 at the Butte Church. George is helping to organize this weekend and with Traci Ruschetti and Orrin Feddes, will again be one of the speakers. Please invite your youth!

The Emerging Partnership with Whitworth University for Rural Ministry Whitworth is in conversation with us (Kathy and George and the Presbytery) about helping redevelop their Institute for Rural Ministry and serving as their satellite in Montana. Further details will be available before our meeting and after a meeting with Rev. Dr. Terry McGonigle who will be present for the March Presbytery meeting.

- a. The Dream Grant was one of only eight to be awarded this year in the PCUSA!
- b. But the delays will likely affect the time table for implementation.
- c. Two Students are expected to serve among the presbytery churches as fellows this summer. And so we begin a new era of ministry discipleship in partnership with Whitworth University.

The Presbytery Transition:

- a. We adopted a half-time schedule in October of 2014. We are still in major transition:
 - a. Periodically we keep up with e-mail through the month. George has a new work e-mail address: george@yellowstonepcusa.org.
 - b. Occasionally, we must schedule a presbytery-related meeting on our own time. January, in particular, was a month in which we worked for the presbytery a great deal on our personal time, due to important developments in some congregations.
 - c. Thanks to First Bozeman for being willing to house the presbytery office: Dan, Jody, Linda, Larry and all the session – our thanks! And to Ric Tieman and his office for helping us move!
 - d. We are grateful to those of you who are stepping up – Jody, Dave Thompson, Debbie Blackburn, others.
 - e. In this transition time we are also trying to honor previous commitments to other entities made prior to the new schedule – for example, we will miss the February Leadership Cabinet meeting for a yearly Covenant Group meeting in Atlanta
- b. The office is now located in room 1001 of FPC-Bozeman. Susan Seibert, administrative assistant, half-time is there in the mornings.
- c. George has been in contact to signal my role in resourcing Neva Rathbun and the newly formed Stated Clerk Search committee and participated in the initial phone call.

Communication continues to be our challenge in the presbytery. However, Susan Thomas has volunteered to help develop a presbytery news letter! Final conformation pending on Susan's serving. Please submit news of ministry and mission developments in your congregations and clusters to her: ckochner@mcn.net or us...

Our fundraising efforts for 2014 were again successful – and we are VERY GRATEFUL to God and the friends and congregations of Yellowstone Presbytery who were able to contribute. The goal: \$40,000. The actual as of 1/6/2015 - \$41,960. I have hand-written and **completed all the thank-you notes to those churches and individuals** who gave financially to Kathy's and my fund raising efforts in 2014. ***And thanks again to those who were led and able to give!!!*** Because of their generosity we still minister among you.

Funding for 2015: The Presbytery should consider a couple of fundraising emphases:

- a. As in past years, we Goodriches are budgeted to raise at least \$40,000 again this year towards our salary, housing and ministry expenses.
- b. The program / mission budget for the presbytery has received little emphasis in some time. This budget funds the Westminster Spires Camping ministry for about \$12,000 a year; about \$7,500 funds the Goodrich ministry package as mission; Other funding for such ministries as Campus ministry and contributions to such independent ministries as the Institute for Peace Studies at Rocky Mountain College, is allocated from the Program Budget. Please see the update in this packet for the number of Churches pledging to this outreach ministry budget...
- c. The Rural Ministry Project, which we are undertaking in partnership with Whitworth will call for the presbytery to raise additional undetermined funding in 2015 and 2016.

Service to the Larger Church:

- a. On Friday and Saturday, Feb 6-7, we served the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks. George preached the evening worship and Kathy and George presented Engage as the PCUSA's valuable curriculum for disciple-making / engaging faith and ministry.
- b. **I have resigned from the Board of the Intermountain Children's Services** as of the end of my term in June, 2015. I have served for 11 consecutive years and been greatly enriched by my participation. I invite the leadership Cabinet to work with me to fill my *ex officio* board position and am helping Intermountain with its church relationships.
- c. I am planning to resource for **the presbytery the team that meets with Glacier Presbytery's team to discuss possible partnerships.** I have calendared the first meeting on Wednesday Evening, March 4, 2015

Our Developing Ministry:

- a. George: I am within five months of completing my spiritual direction certification program. Currently, I am working with six pastors and one lay leader in spiritual direction. We are also receiving invitations to speak on clergy/lay leadership retreats in the Synod. However, valuable as these ministries are, we may not break even... So please pray that God continues to lead us and provided. Ask George about this....

- b. Kathy is partway through her formal training with the Barnabas Leadership Group to be a trainer and coach to work with presbyteries and groups of leaders in enhancing “your leadership capacity and caring for your soul.” This integrated approach utilizes a cohort and coaching model. Ask her about this....

Further, several leaders and congregations have asked Kathy to come and work with them to equip and implement “Sticky Faith” approach in congregations. That includes spiritual formation for children, teens, parents and adults in congregations. Ask her about this....

Stated Clerks Report

February, 2015

For Information:

Since November 1st of last year I have been a participant in the following meetings and activities:

- Attended and finalized the minutes for the November 2014 presbytery meeting.
- Attended and finalized the minutes for two Pastoral Ministry Team meetings.
- Attended and finalized the minutes for one Leadership Cabinet meeting.
- Attended the Convocation in Bozeman.
- Participated in the Installation Service for Rev. JP Carlson at the Church of the Big Hole.
- Assembled and mailed the 2014 reports to the session clerks for their action.
- Assembled the 2015 Teaching Elder/Non-Teaching Elder Balance Report and the 2014 Necrology Report (See attached).
- Assembled the 2014 presbytery minutes and forwarded them to Synod for their review.
- Continued to work on the presbytery's Manual of Administrative Operations. All materials have been assembled and I am now scanning paper copies and inserting them into the document.
- Continued to work with our attorney Mark Parker on the advertisement and sale of the Mildred Church property.

For Action:

- I hereby request approval, with corrections if need be, of the November 8, 2014 presbytery meeting minutes.
- I recommend that two additional church sessions be authorized to elect another commissioner to presbytery. I further recommend that the sequence of churches for electing another commissioner follow the order that churches are listed in the Directory. Should an imbalance remain in subsequent years the order that churches are listed in the directory continually to be sequentially be followed to create a Teaching Elder/non-Teaching Elder balance.

End of Page

TEACHING ELDER/NON-TEACHING ELDER BALANCE

As of January 1, 2014 there were 39 Teaching Elders (TE's) on the Rolls of Yellowstone Presbytery. However, only 36 of these TE's were living within the bounds of the presbytery. On this same date there were 23 churches authorized to send a Commissioner to Presbytery meetings, plus 2 churches authorized to send two Commissioners to presbytery meetings, and cast a Vote. Additionally, there were 4 Ruling Elders who were moderators of Presbytery Ministry Teams or other units of the presbytery as well as 3 Non-Teaching Elder Pastors who were authorized to vote at Yellowstone Presbytery meetings.

The net result is that there are 36 local Teaching Elders and 34 Non-Teaching Elders authorized to vote on business before the Presbytery.

Therefore, a Teaching Elder/Non-Teaching Elder imbalance currently exists in Yellowstone Presbytery. This possibility is a result of our new structure and was pointed out last year.

Proposal: In order to bring the Non-Teaching Elder authorized voter numbers in balance with the Teaching Elder voter numbers I recommend that two additional church sessions be authorized to elect another commissioner to presbytery. I further recommend that the sequence of churches for electing another commissioner follow the order that churches are listed in the Directory. Should an imbalance remain in subsequent years the order that churches are listed in the directory continually to be sequentially be followed to create a Teaching Elder/non-Teaching Elder balance.

End of Page

YELLOWSTONE PRESBYTERY NECROLOGY REPORT – 2014

Church	Elders Name	Ordination Date	Date of Death
Anaconda	Ann Hawkins	February 1985	Sept. 2014
	Walter Frank Smith	March 25, 1990	October, 2014
Billings First	Florella Halverson	January 10, 1980	May 21, 2014
	Lewis Hammermeister	February 5, 1978	August 7, 2014
	Floyd Creekmore	October 26, 1986	September 27, 2014
	Ellen Ward	1966	August 14, 2014
	Michelle Reed	August 8, 2010	October 11, 2014
	Jean Castberg	??	October 13, 2014
Billings, St. Andrew	Harriet Whearty	April 21, 1963	May 15, 2014
	Ray Whearty	January 13, 1957	December 21, 2014
Bozeman First	Betty McClure	January 3, 1982	July 10, 2014
	Donna Mandeville	January 6, 1974	December 22, 2014
Deer Lodge	Ada Holt	February 23, 1964	August 31, 2014
	Audrey Nissen	January 25, 1981	April 24, 2014
Dillon	Carl Love	February 17, 1980	May 15, 2014
Forsyth	Russell K. Fillner	January 1962	October 9, 2014
Hysham	Ramsey Adair	February 18, 1968	February 3, 2014
Jordan	Donald C. West	April 26, 1959	August 31, 2014
Poplar	William Beck	March 4, 1973	August 27, 2014
Terry	John “Lum” Latimer	1977	September 12, 2014
Wolf Point	Geneva Allen	January 1993	March 29, 2014
	Margie Slennes	January 1962	September 14, 2014

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.

Pastoral Ministry Team
Presbytery Report
March 7, 2015

The purpose of the Pastoral Ministry Team is to come alongside of churches, sessions, and pastors to provide encouragement, support, and training as we work together to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. The PMT recently welcomed three new members to our team who include Charlie Brown (Lewistown), Chris Eriksen (First Billings), and the Rev. JP Carlson (Anaconda/Big Hole).

No action is needed by the PMT, but several items of information for the Presbytery are included below.

1. Boundary/Sexual Misconduct Training will be held in two locations this May. First Presbyterian Billing will host the training on Saturday, May 16 from 10 AM- 2 PM. First Presbyterian Bozeman will host the training on Saturday, May 23 from 10 AM - 2 PM. This training is **required for all Teaching Elders and CREs** within Yellowstone Presbytery every three years. For those unable to make this training, please talk with Ron Hanson about alternative training possibilities. The training is free and will include lunch at both locations.
2. Representing our presbytery at the annual Western Regional Board of Pensions Consultation in San Diego on April 25-26 will be Ron Hanson (Stated Clerk), Dave Thompson (Chair of the PMT), and possibly George Goodrich (Co-General Presbyter). The purpose of this annual consultation is to provide input to the Board of Pensions and to learn of all the ways the BOP can provide help and assistance to those in our presbytery.
3. Jack Bell, current Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) at First Billings, has made himself available to share about the CRE program with churches in our presbytery. Jack is more than happy to talk with pastors, session, or congregations about ways the CRE program can benefit local congregations. Jack can be reached by cell phone at (406) 698-7040.
4. The Rev. Dan Krebill (First Bozeman) and TE Jim Tarr (St. Andrew Billings) will be representing the PMT in regards to several amendments that will come before our presbytery at this meeting. These amendments have been recommended to us by the Leadership Cabinet of our presbytery to provide clarity, input, and consideration of vote.
5. CRE Learner Veva Larson (Anaconda/Big Hole) will be meeting with the PMT to finalize the steps in the CRE commissioning process. If the way be clear, Veva will be examined for CRE status at our June Presbytery meeting in White Sulphur Springs.

6. Whitworth Grant: Our PMT is working with Whitworth University in Spokane to begin a summer internship program whereby Whitworth students will work in churches within our Presbytery. These students will offer help in a variety of ministry areas and in turn learn valuable ministry skills from pastors and congregations within our bounds. More about this exciting program will be made available in the coming months.

I am grateful for a dedicated group who serve as members of the Pastoral Ministry Team:

The Rev. David Andrew

RE Debbie Blackburn

RE Charlie Brown

The Rev. JP Carlson

The Rev. Susi Ennis

RE Chris Eriksen

RE Gayle Holland

The Rev. Dan Krebill

RE Charlie Mandeville

RE Linda Smith

RE Jim Tarr

The Rev. Dave Thompson

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Dave Thompson, Chair

Narrative Report
Yellowstone Presbytery
Budget & Finance
March 6-7 Presbytery Meeting

Our report has several attachments, which serve to supplement this narrative. The attachments are:

2014 Year-end balance sheet
2014 Year-end Administrative P&L
2014 Year-end Program P&L
January balance sheet
January Administrative P&L
January Program P&L

We are pleased to report that various cost cutting measures as well as greater than anticipated income allowed us to finish 2014 by utilizing far fewer reserves than had been budgeted. On behalf of the Leadership Cabinet I welcome any questions or comments at the contact information you will find below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Holland, for the Leadership Cabinet
406-388-0878
djhollandcpa@mindspring.com

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2014

Friday, January 23, 2015

Page 1 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Beginning Balance	YTD Balance
Assets			
1.00.1010.0000	Checking Account #3133214	55,684.24	53,375.64
1.00.1020.0000	Petty Cash	22.18	22.18
1.00.1030.0000	Money Market #129013355	184,271.83	184,514.11
1.00.1031.0000	St Timothy M. M #1 #3531961	4,143.22	4,046.53
1.00.1032.0000	St. Timothy MM #2 #129013686	2,597.40	2,526.22
	Total Current Assets	\$246,718.87	\$244,484.68
1.00.1040.0000	Beartooth Electric Coop	1,337.70	1,337.70
	Total Other Assets	\$1,337.70	\$1,337.70
1.00.1065.0000	St Timothy Chapel #1 52001085	237,050.29	254,311.80
1.00.1070.0000	St Timothy Chapel #2 52006024	98,376.65	102,460.72
1.00.1075.0000	Bozeman Campus 000104537	73,986.51	57,651.62
1.00.1080.0000	Partnership Fund MM 129013793	45,198.24	45,230.52
	Total Principal Restricted	\$454,611.69	\$459,654.66
	Total Assets	\$702,668.26	\$705,477.04
Liabilities			
2.00.2120.1000	Payroll - Federal	705.58	618.02
2.00.2120.2000	Payroll State	1,471.00	81.00
2.00.2140.0000	G. Goodrich Flex Plan	(0.37)	(0.53)
2.00.2141.0000	S. Seibert Flex Plan	(0.21)	(0.37)
	Total Payroll Liabilities	\$2,176.00	\$698.12
	Total Liabilities	\$2,176.00	\$698.12
Fund Balance			
3.02.2800.0000	General - Administrative	12,861.10	8,255.07
3.03.2805.0000	General - Program	39,223.95	37,136.97
3.04.2700.0000	General - Restricted Admin.	45,587.77	45,587.77
	Total General Fund Balance	\$97,672.82	\$90,979.81
3.19.2815.0000	Camp Scholarship Camp. & Youth	935.71	576.56
3.27.2825.0000	Clergy Emergency Fund COM	1,840.00	1,786.00
3.32.2832.0000	Convocation	0.00	1,000.00
3.39.2840.0000	Linda Hofer Education	10,584.93	10,584.93
3.43.2845.0000	Equip and Encourage	40,480.44	36,830.44
3.47.2850.0000	Partnership- Available COM	1,666.69	1,698.97
3.49.2700.0000	Co-General Presbyters' Discretionary	2,150.00	1,546.94
3.51.2855.0000	Peace Making Offering Mission	606.55	1,214.19
3.56.1220.0000	Special Offering Other Fund	0.00	60.30
3.63.2870.0000	Revamp Camp -Camp. & Youth	0.00	380.95
3.65.2825.0000	Springhill Funds	15,000.00	15,000.00
3.67.2875.0000	St. Timothy's Money Market #1	4,143.22	4,046.53
3.68.2877.0000	St Timonthy Money Market #2	2,724.56	2,653.38
3.75.2885.0000	Social Justice	10,789.89	11,032.17
3.85.2850.0000	Westminister Spires Camp Upgrades Balance	(912.91)	3,066.70
	Total Designated funds	\$90,009.08	\$91,478.06
3.37.2800.0000	Funds Awaiting Cabinet Action Balance	1,760.00	3,760.00
3.69.2825.0000	Triennium Balance	2,387.07	4,887.07
3.86.2850.0000	Grant - Evangelism Balance	1,250.13	1,250.13
3.90.2910.0000	Higher Education Grant Fund	73,986.51	57,651.62

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2014

Friday, January 23, 2015

Page 2 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Beginning Balance	YTD Balance
3.92.2920.0000	St.Timothys #1 (PC USA) Found	237,050.29	254,311.80
3.93.2921.0000	St. Timothys #2 (PC USA) Found	98,376.65	102,460.72
3.94.2930.0000	Partnership Fund Principal COM	43,999.71	43,999.71
	Total Restricted Fund Balances	\$458,810.36	\$468,321.05
3.66.2850.0000	West Yellowstone Funds Balance	54,000.00	54,000.00
	Total Fund Balance	\$700,492.26	\$704,778.92
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$702,668.26</u>	<u>\$705,477.04</u>

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Treasurer's Report as of December 2014 for General Fund (Administrative)

Friday, January 23, 2015

Page 1 of 3

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Income					
4.01.1000.0000	Per Capita Presbytery Inc.	2,422.10	62,667.65*	58,000.00	(4,667.65)
4.01.1010.0000	Per capita Synod	417.67	10,806.56*	10,000.00	(806.56)
4.01.1020.0000	Per capita GA	517.73	13,395.29*	12,400.00	(995.29)
	Per Capita	\$3,357.50	\$86,869.50*	\$80,400.00	(\$6,469.50)
4.01.1821.0000	Block Grant - Administrative	2,500.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00
	Synod Partnership Funds	\$2,500.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00
4.01.1900.0000	Administrative Support	9,100.00	41,545.00*	40,000.00	(1,545.00)
4.01.1905.0000	Affordable Care Act Refund	8,019.70	8,019.70	0.00	(8,019.70)
	Total Other income	\$17,119.70	\$49,564.70*	\$40,000.00	(\$9,564.70)
4.01.4005.0000	Transfer-Springhill Fund	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00
4.01.4010.0000	Transfer-W. Yellowstone	0.00	0.00	14,000.00	14,000.00
4.01.4020.0000	Transfer-Gen.Admin Fund	4,606.03	4,606.03	13,000.00	8,393.97
4.01.4030.0000	Transfer-Restricted Admin Fund	0.00	0.00	12,300.00	12,300.00
	Transfers	\$19,606.03	\$19,606.03	\$54,300.00	\$34,693.97
	Total Income	\$42,583.23	\$186,040.23	\$204,700.00	\$18,659.77
Expense					
5.01.2840.0000	COM/Vocation Meetings	82.50	4,119.65	5,200.00	1,080.35
5.01.2845.4000	COM/Vocation Other Expenses	68.74	682.40	1,100.00	417.60
	Pastoral Ministry Team	\$151.24	\$4,802.05	\$6,300.00	\$1,497.95
5.01.3401.3500	Nomination Meetings	0.00	90.40	150.00	59.60
5.01.3401.4000	Nominations Other	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
	Committee on Nominations	\$0.00	\$90.40	\$200.00	\$109.60
5.01.4301.3500	St. Tim's Meetings	0.00	138.75	250.00	111.25
5.01.4301.4000	St. Tim's Other	0.00	49.45	50.00	0.55
	Com. on St Timothys Chapel	\$0.00	\$188.20	\$300.00	\$111.80
5.01.5201.3500	Delegate's Meetings	0.00	249.00	350.00	101.00
5.01.5201.4000	Delegates Other	0.00	39.80	50.00	10.20
	Delegates to Other Bodies	\$0.00	\$288.80	\$400.00	\$111.20
5.01.6700.3800	Medicare/Social Security	254.51	3,122.57*	3,120.00	(2.57)
5.01.6700.8100	Work Comp Insurance	0.00	0.00	375.00	375.00
5.01.6700.8200	Unemployment Taxes	0.00	32.92	150.00	117.08
	Payroll Taxes	\$254.51	\$3,155.49	\$3,645.00	\$489.51

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Treasurer's Report as of December 2014 for General Fund (Administrative)

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
5.01.7001.4000	Per Capita GA Expenses Misc	0.00	14,166.36*	13,935.00	(231.36)
5.01.7002.4000	Per Capita Synod Expense Misc	0.00	11,603.50*	11,414.00	(189.50)
	Per Capita	\$0.00	\$25,769.86*	\$25,349.00	(\$420.86)
5.01.7301.1100	Admin Mgr.Benefits	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
5.01.7301.6600	Admin Mgr Salary	2,004.30	23,444.79*	23,170.00	(274.79)
5.01.7301.7800	Admin Mgr Travel	0.00	110.31	120.00	9.69
5.01.7301.8100	Admin Mgr FLEX Plan	0.00	(1,387.33)		
	Admin. Manager	\$2,004.30	\$23,667.77	\$24,790.00	\$1,122.23
5.01.7302.3100	Housing	1,666.66	26,425.92	28,568.00	2,142.08
5.01.7302.3600	GP Lodging	0.00	541.15*	500.00	(41.15)
5.01.7302.3700	GP Meals	180.28	848.32	1,050.00	201.68
5.01.7302.4000	GP Miscellaneous	876.98	1,233.92*	700.00	(533.92)
5.01.7302.4001	Miscellaneous Expenses - Kathy	0.00	2,697.64	3,000.00	302.36
5.01.7302.4900	GP Pension	2,045.41	24,544.92*	22,659.00	(1,885.92)
5.01.7302.6600	Salary Exp.	748.23	21,066.27	25,096.00	4,029.73
5.01.7302.7300	Study Leave	0.00	0.00	700.00	700.00
5.01.7302.7500	GP Telephone & Conference Calls	234.22	1,361.68	1,500.00	138.32
5.01.7302.7800	GP Travel	1,332.38	6,940.62	7,500.00	559.38
5.01.7302.8100	FLEX Plan Expenses Exp.	0.00	1,387.33		
	General Presbyter	\$7,084.16	\$87,047.77	\$91,273.00	\$4,225.23
5.01.7304.3700	Stated Clerk Meals	0.00	47.00	50.00	3.00
5.01.7304.4000	Stated Clerk Miscellaneous	68.74	414.55*	100.00	(314.55)
5.01.7304.4900	Pension Exp.	308.08	3,696.96	3,771.00	74.04
5.01.7304.6600	Stated Clerk Salary	952.08	11,424.96	11,426.00	1.04
	Stated Clerk	\$1,328.90	\$15,583.47*	\$15,347.00	(\$236.47)
5.01.7306.6600	Treasurer Salary	579.06	6,948.72*	6,946.00	(2.72)
	Treasurer	\$579.06	\$6,948.72*	\$6,946.00	(\$2.72)
	Personnel	\$10,996.42	\$133,247.73	\$138,356.00	\$5,108.27
5.01.3101.3500	Mission Meetings	0.00	0.00	650.00	650.00
5.01.3101.4000	Mission Other	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
5.01.7601.3500	Council Meetings	0.00	816.93	2,100.00	1,283.07
5.01.7601.4000	Council Other	0.00	208.40	500.00	291.60
5.01.7601.8100	Legal	30.94	145.94	1,000.00	854.06
5.01.7701.4000	Budget/Finance Meetings & Other	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
5.01.7751.4000	Personnel Meeting & Other	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
5.01.7801.3500	Task Force Meetings	0.00	320.86*	250.00	(70.86)
5.01.7801.4000	Task Force Other	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
	Leadership Cabinet	\$30.94	\$1,492.13	\$5,050.00	\$3,557.87
5.01.7901.3500	Presbytery Meetings	0.00	3,454.59	7,600.00	4,145.41
5.01.7901.4000	Presbytery Other	450.00	890.00*	700.00	(190.00)
	Presbytery Expenses	\$450.00	\$4,344.59	\$8,300.00	\$3,955.41
5.01.8201.2400	Office Copies & Postage	56.40	1,856.30*	1,200.00	(656.30)
5.01.8201.2600	Equipment Exp.	0.00	335.31*	200.00	(135.31)
5.01.8201.3200	Insurance Exp.	0.00	620.00	750.00	130.00
5.01.8201.4000	Office Miscellaneous	0.00	538.68*	460.00	(78.68)
5.01.8201.6100	Rental -Office	345.00	7,295.00	9,390.00	2,095.00
5.01.8201.7400	Office Supplies	220.61	817.34	1,800.00	982.66
5.01.8201.7500	Office Telephone & Conference Calls	6.25	1,198.35	3,000.00	1,801.65
	Presbytery Office	\$628.26	\$12,660.98	\$16,800.00	\$4,139.02
	Total Expense	\$12,511.37	\$186,040.23	\$204,700.00	\$18,659.77
	Difference	\$30,071.86	\$0.00	\$0.00	

* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Treasurer's Report as of December 2014 for General Fund (Program)

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Income					
4.01.1210.0000	General Mission Pledge	4,807.91	25,465.42*	25,000.00	(465.42)
	Pledge	\$4,807.91	\$25,465.42*	\$25,000.00	(\$465.42)
4.01.1420.0000	Summer Camp Fees	0.00	10,350.00	11,000.00	650.00
4.01.1430.0000	Winter, Summer, Fall Events	0.00	5,078.00*	4,000.00	(1,078.00)
4.01.1440.0000	Rental of Camp Facilities	0.00	8,025.00*	5,000.00	(3,025.00)
	Camp Income	\$0.00	\$23,453.00*	\$20,000.00	(\$3,453.00)
4.01.4080.0000	Grant Transfer from Designated Funds	0.00	16,700.00	16,700.00	0.00
4.01.4090.0000	Transfer from Reserves	2,086.98	2,086.98	20,500.00	18,413.02
	Program Transfers	\$2,086.98	\$18,786.98	\$37,200.00	\$18,413.02
4.01.1500.0000	Miscellaneous Program Income	0.00	3,096.17*	1,500.00	(1,596.17)
	Total Income	\$6,894.89	\$70,801.57	\$83,700.00	\$12,898.43
Expense					
5.01.1351.2400	Copies & Postage Exp.	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
5.01.1351.2800	Facilities Maintenance	0.00	325.48	1,000.00	674.52
5.01.1351.3200	Insurance	328.14	4,650.68*	4,600.00	(50.68)
5.01.1351.5700	Publicity	0.00	12.90	500.00	487.10
5.01.1360.1200	Camp Caretaker	583.34	3,500.04*	3,500.00	(0.04)
5.01.1360.1400	Camp Staff	0.00	11,281.69*	9,000.00	(2,281.69)
5.01.1360.2900	Food	0.00	3,109.85	3,500.00	390.15
5.01.1360.4000	Miscellaneous Exp.	0.00	87.88	300.00	212.12
5.01.1360.6200	Rental Equipment-Rafting	0.00	770.00	1,000.00	230.00
5.01.1360.7400	Supplies	0.00	253.01	500.00	246.99
5.01.1360.7490	Swimming	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
5.01.1360.7710	Transportation-Bus	0.00	195.47	800.00	604.53
5.01.1360.8300	Utilities: Westminster Spires	86.70	2,381.00	3,000.00	619.00
5.01.1365.4000	PCCCA Membership	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
5.01.1380.6010	Triennium	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
5.01.1390.4000	Events Miscellaneous	0.00	6,206.87*	5,000.00	(1,206.87)
5.01.1395.4000	Admin Travel & Meals	0.00	528.25*	300.00	(228.25)
	Camping & Youth	\$998.18	\$35,803.12	\$36,050.00	\$246.88
5.01.2550.4000	Higher Ed Travel & Meals	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
5.01.2551.4000	Chaplain's Program RMC Misc	0.00	1,300.00	2,000.00	700.00
5.01.2552.4000	Program MSU Billings Misc	0.00	10,399.97*	10,000.00	(399.97)

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Treasurer's Report as of December 2014 for General Fund (Program)

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
5.01.2553.4000	Program MSU Bozeman Misc	0.00	5,000.00*	4,500.00	(500.00)
	Higher Education	\$0.00	\$16,699.97	\$16,700.00	\$0.03
5.01.2849.7700	Committee on Ministry-Training	0.00	29.95	1,000.00	970.05
5.01.2852.4000	Emergency Career Counseling Exp.	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.01.2853.4000	Vocations-Other	0.00	0.00	1,700.00	1,700.00
	Pastoral Ministry Team	\$0.00	\$29.95	\$3,700.00	\$3,670.05
5.01.3150.4000	Comm on Mission Program	0.00	517.25	2,000.00	1,482.75
5.01.3160.4000	Congregation Ministry	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.01.3180.4000	Western Leadership	0.00	580.00	1,000.00	420.00
	Leadership Cabinet	\$0.00	\$1,097.25	\$4,000.00	\$2,902.75
5.01.5851.4000	MAC Membership Miscellaneous	0.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00
5.01.5852.4000	MAC Representation Misc	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
	Mt. Association of Churches	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,750.00	\$250.00
5.01.7903.4000	Convocation Exp	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
5.01.7950.4000	Presbytery Program Other	0.00	80.85	1,500.00	1,419.15
5.01.7960.4000	Cluster Meetings	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
5.01.7970.4000	Allocated GP Salary	446.71	12,590.43	15,000.00	2,409.57
	Presbytery Expenses	\$446.71	\$13,671.28	\$19,500.00	\$5,828.72
	Total Expense	\$1,444.89	\$70,801.57	\$83,700.00	\$12,898.43
	Difference	\$5,450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	

* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2015

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Account #	Account Name	Beginning Balance	YTD Balance
Assets			
1.00.1010.0000	Checking Account #3133214	53,375.64	81,038.52
1.00.1020.0000	Petty Cash	22.18	22.18
1.00.1030.0000	Money Market #129013355	184,514.11	184,533.52
1.00.1031.0000	St Timothy M. M #1 #3531961	4,046.53	6,591.40
1.00.1032.0000	St. Timothy MM #2 #129013686	2,526.22	3,551.24
	Total Current Assets	\$244,484.68	\$275,736.86
1.00.1040.0000	Beartooth Electric Coop	1,337.70	1,337.70
	Total Other Assets	\$1,337.70	\$1,337.70
1.00.1065.0000	St Timothy Chapel #1 52001085	254,311.80	251,767.05
1.00.1070.0000	St Timothy Chapel #2 52006024	102,460.72	101,435.78
1.00.1075.0000	Bozeman Campus 000104537	57,651.62	57,651.62
1.00.1080.0000	Partnership Fund MM 129013793	45,230.52	45,232.90
	Total Principal Restricted	\$459,654.66	\$456,087.35
	Total Assets	\$705,477.04	\$733,161.91
Liabilities			
2.00.2120.1000	Payroll - Federal	618.02	1,068.74
2.00.2120.2000	Payroll State	81.00	172.00
2.00.2140.0000	G. Goodrich Flex Plan	(0.53)	(0.53)
2.00.2141.0000	S. Seibert Flex Plan	(0.37)	99.63
	Total Payroll Liabilities	\$698.12	\$1,339.84
	Total Liabilities	\$698.12	\$1,339.84
Fund Balance			
3.01.2700.0000	Unreserved Fund Balance	0.00	27,283.16
3.02.2800.0000	General - Administrative	8,255.07	8,255.07
3.03.2805.0000	General - Program	37,136.97	37,136.97
3.04.2700.0000	General - Restricted Admin.	45,587.77	45,587.77
	Total General Fund Balance	\$90,979.81	\$118,262.97
3.19.2815.0000	Camp Scholarship Camp. & Youth	576.56	576.56
3.27.2825.0000	Clergy Emergency Fund COM	1,786.00	1,786.00
3.32.2832.0000	Convocation	1,000.00	1,000.00
3.39.2840.0000	Linda Hofer Education	10,584.93	10,822.93
3.43.2845.0000	Equip and Encourage	36,830.44	34,330.44
3.47.2850.0000	Partnership- Available COM	1,698.97	1,701.35
3.49.2700.0000	Co-General Presbyters' Discretionary	1,546.94	1,546.94
3.51.2855.0000	Peace Making Offering Mission	1,214.19	1,214.19
3.56.1220.0000	Special Offering Other Fund	60.30	60.30
3.63.2870.0000	Revamp Camp -Camp. & Youth	380.95	380.95
3.65.2825.0000	Springhill Funds	15,000.00	15,000.00
3.67.2875.0000	St. Timothy's Money Market #1	4,046.53	6,591.40
3.68.2877.0000	St Timonthy Money Market #2	2,653.38	3,678.40
3.75.2885.0000	Social Justice	11,032.17	11,051.58
3.85.2850.0000	Westminister Spires Camp Upgrades Balance	3,066.70	3,066.70
	Total Designated funds	\$91,478.06	\$92,807.74
3.37.2800.0000	Funds Awaiting Cabinet Action Balance	3,760.00	5,760.00
3.69.2825.0000	Triennium Balance	4,887.07	4,887.07
3.86.2850.0000	Grant - Evangelism Balance	1,250.13	1,250.13

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2015

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Account #	Account Name	Beginning Balance	YTD Balance
3.90.2910.0000	Higher Education Grant Fund	57,651.62	57,651.62
3.92.2920.0000	St. Timothys #1 (PC USA) Found	254,311.80	251,767.05
3.93.2921.0000	St. Timothys #2 (PC USA) Found	102,460.72	101,435.78
3.94.2930.0000	Partnership Fund Principal COM	43,999.71	43,999.71
	Total Restricted Fund Balances	\$468,321.05	\$466,751.36
3.66.2850.0000	West Yellowstone Funds Balance	54,000.00	54,000.00
	Total Fund Balance	\$704,778.92	\$731,822.07
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$705,477.04	\$733,161.91

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Treasurer's Report as of January 2015 for General Fund (Administrative)

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Income					
4.01.1000.0000	Per Capita Presbytery Inc.	23,563.63	23,563.63*	54,250.00	30,686.37
4.01.1010.0000	Per capita Synod	4,063.37	4,063.37*	9,700.00	5,636.63
4.01.1020.0000	Per capita GA	5,036.75	5,036.75*	11,900.00	6,863.25
	Per Capita	\$32,663.75	\$32,663.75*	\$75,850.00	\$43,186.25
4.01.1821.0000	Block Grant - Administrative	2,287.50	2,287.50	27,450.00	25,162.50
	Synod Partnership Funds	\$2,287.50	\$2,287.50	\$27,450.00	\$25,162.50
4.01.1900.0000	Administrative Support	300.00	300.00	30,000.00	29,700.00
	Total Other income	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$30,000.00	\$29,700.00
4.01.4005.0000	Transfer-Springhill Fund	0.00	0.00	13,000.00	13,000.00
4.01.4010.0000	Transfer-W. Yellowstone	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
4.01.4020.0000	Transfer-Gen.Admin Fund	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
4.01.4030.0000	Transfer-Restricted Admin Fund	0.00	0.00	18,063.00	18,063.00
	Transfers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35,063.00	\$35,063.00
	Total Income	\$35,251.25	\$35,251.25*	\$168,363.00	\$133,111.75
Expense					
5.01.2840.0000	COM/Vocation Meetings	528.46	528.46*	5,200.00	4,671.54
5.01.2845.4000	COM/Vocation Other Expenses	475.94	475.94*	1,100.00	624.06
5.01.2846.4000	Pastoral Discernment Team	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Pastoral Ministry Team	\$1,004.40	\$1,004.40*	\$6,300.00	\$5,295.60
5.01.3401.3500	Nomination Meetings	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00
5.01.3401.4000	Nominations Other	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
	Committee on Nominations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
5.01.4301.3500	St. Tim's Meetings	12.50	12.50	250.00	237.50
5.01.4301.4000	St. Tim's Other	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
	Com. on St Timothys Chapel	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$300.00	\$287.50
5.01.5201.3500	Delegate's Meetings	0.00	0.00	350.00	350.00
5.01.5201.4000	Delegates Other	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
	Delegates to Other Bodies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
5.01.6700.3800	Medicare/Social Security	373.37	373.37*	3,242.00	2,868.63
5.01.6700.8100	Work Comp Insurance	0.00	0.00	375.00	375.00
5.01.6700.8200	Unemployment Taxes	5.77	5.77	150.00	144.23
	Payroll Taxes	\$379.14	\$379.14*	\$3,767.00	\$3,387.86

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Treasurer's Report as of January 2015 for General Fund (Administrative)

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
5.01.7001.4000	Per Capita GA Expenses Misc	0.00	0.00	14,013.00	14,013.00
5.01.7002.4000	Per Capita Synod Expense Misc	0.00	0.00	11,397.00	11,397.00
	Per Capita	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,410.00	\$25,410.00
5.01.7301.1100	Admin Mgr.Benefits	1,500.00	1,500.00*	1,500.00	0.00
5.01.7301.6600	Admin Mgr Salary	1,919.00	1,919.00	23,634.00	21,715.00
5.01.7301.7800	Admin Mgr Travel	0.00	0.00	120.00	120.00
5.01.7301.8100	Admin Mgr FLEX Plan	0.00	0.00		
	Admin. Manager	\$3,419.00	\$3,419.00*	\$25,254.00	\$21,835.00
5.01.7302.3100	Housing	1,666.66	1,666.66	20,000.00	18,333.34
5.01.7302.3600	GP Lodging	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
5.01.7302.3700	GP Meals	140.23	140.23*	1,050.00	909.77
5.01.7302.4000	GP Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	700.00	700.00
5.01.7302.4001	Miscellaneous Expenses - Kathy	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
5.01.7302.4900	GP Pension	0.00	0.00	19,217.00	19,217.00
5.01.7302.6600	Salary Exp.	626.58	626.58	7,519.00	6,892.42
5.01.7302.7300	Study Leave	0.00	0.00	700.00	700.00
5.01.7302.7500	GP Telephone & Conference Calls	117.62	117.62	1,500.00	1,382.38
5.01.7302.7800	GP Travel	0.00	0.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
5.01.7302.8100	FLEX Plan Expenses Exp.	0.00	0.00		
	General Presbyter	\$2,551.09	\$2,551.09	\$60,686.00	\$58,134.91
5.01.7304.3700	Stated Clerk Meals	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
5.01.7304.4000	Stated Clerk Miscellaneous	34.88	34.88	500.00	465.12
5.01.7304.4900	Pension Exp.	320.50	320.50	3,846.00	3,525.50
5.01.7304.6600	Stated Clerk Salary	971.24	971.24*	11,655.00	10,683.76
	Stated Clerk	\$1,326.62	\$1,326.62	\$16,051.00	\$14,724.38
5.01.7306.6600	Treasurer Salary	590.42	590.42*	7,085.00	6,494.58
	Treasurer	\$590.42	\$590.42*	\$7,085.00	\$6,494.58
	Personnel	\$7,887.13	\$7,887.13	\$109,076.00	\$101,188.87
5.01.7601.3500	Council Meetings	406.93	406.93*	1,500.00	1,093.07
5.01.7601.4000	Council Other	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
5.01.7601.8100	Legal	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.01.7801.3500	Task Force Meetings	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
	Leadership Cabinet	\$406.93	\$406.93*	\$3,500.00	\$3,093.07
5.01.7901.3500	Presbytery Meetings	221.35	221.35	7,600.00	7,378.65

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Treasurer's Report as of January 2015 for General Fund (Administrative)

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Page 3 of 3

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
5.01.7901.4000	Presbytery Other	0.00	0.00	700.00	700.00
	Presbytery Expenses	\$221.35	\$221.35	\$8,300.00	\$8,078.65
5.01.8201.2400	Office Copies & Postage	40.98	40.98	1,200.00	1,159.02
5.01.8201.2600	Equipment Exp.	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
5.01.8201.3200	Insurance Exp.	0.00	0.00	750.00	750.00
5.01.8201.4000	Office Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	460.00	460.00
5.01.8201.6100	Rental -Office	345.00	345.00	4,200.00	3,855.00
5.01.8201.7400	Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
5.01.8201.7500	Office Telephone & Conference Calls	85.81	85.81	2,500.00	2,414.19
	Presbytery Office	\$471.79	\$471.79	\$11,110.00	\$10,638.21
	Total Expense	\$10,383.24	\$10,383.24	\$168,363.00	\$157,979.76
	Difference	\$24,868.01	\$24,868.01	\$0.00	

* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Treasurer's Report as of January 2015 for General Fund (Program)

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Page 1 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Income					
4.01.1210.0000	General Mission Pledge	3,392.50	3,392.50*	22,450.00	19,057.50
	Pledge	\$3,392.50	\$3,392.50*	\$22,450.00	\$19,057.50
4.01.1420.0000	Summer Camp Fees	0.00	0.00	11,000.00	11,000.00
4.01.1430.0000	Winter, Summer, Fall Events	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
4.01.1440.0000	Rental of Camp Facilities	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
	Camp Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,000.00	\$23,000.00
4.01.4090.0000	Transfer from Reserves	0.00	0.00	8,750.00	8,750.00
	Program Transfers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,750.00	\$8,750.00
	Total Income	\$3,392.50	\$3,392.50	\$54,200.00	\$50,807.50
Expense					
5.01.1351.2400	Copies & Postage Exp.	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
5.01.1351.3200	Insurance	0.00	0.00	4,600.00	4,600.00
5.01.1351.5700	Publicity	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
5.01.1360.1200	Camp Caretaker	291.67	291.67	3,500.00	3,208.33
5.01.1360.1400	Camp Staff	0.00	0.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
5.01.1360.2900	Food	0.00	0.00	3,250.00	3,250.00
5.01.1360.4000	Miscellaneous Exp.	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
5.01.1360.6200	Rental Equipment-Rafting	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.01.1360.7400	Supplies	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
5.01.1360.7490	Swimming	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
5.01.1360.7710	Transportation-Bus	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00
5.01.1360.8300	Utilities: Westminster Spires	60.68	60.68	2,750.00	2,689.32
5.01.1380.6010	Triennium	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
5.01.1390.4000	Events Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
5.01.1395.4000	Admin Travel & Meals	0.00	0.00	400.00	400.00
	Camping & Youth	\$352.35	\$352.35	\$33,750.00	\$33,397.65
5.01.2849.7700	Committee on Ministry-Training	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.01.2852.4000	Emergency Career Counseling Exp.	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.01.2853.4000	Vocations-Other	0.00	0.00	1,700.00	1,700.00
	Pastoral Ministry Team	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,700.00	\$3,700.00
5.01.3180.4000	Western Leadership	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
	Leadership Cabinet	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
5.01.5851.4000	MAC Membership Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	3,500.00

Presbytery of Yellowstone - Bozeman MT
Treasurer's Report as of January 2015 for General Fund (Program)

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Page 2 of 2

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
5.01.5852.4000	MAC Representation Misc	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
	Mt. Association of Churches	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00
5.01.7903.4000	Convocation Exp	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5.01.7950.4000	Presbytery Program Other	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
5.01.7960.4000	Cluster Meetings	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
5.01.7970.4000	Allocated GP Salary	625.00	625.00	7,500.00	6,875.00
	Presbytery Expenses	\$625.00	\$625.00	\$12,000.00	\$11,375.00
	Total Expense	\$977.35	\$977.35	\$54,200.00	\$53,222.65
	Difference	<u>\$2,415.15</u>	<u>\$2,415.15</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	

* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date

CAMPING AND YOUTH REPORT MARCH 2015

Motion from the Camping and Youth Committee

“About 1934 or 1935, Camp Miles (later Camp Spires), on the Cooke City highway about ten miles above Red Lodge, had its beginnings in Yellowstone Presbytery. This was made possible by funds contributed for a conference ground by Elder George M. Miles’ widow in Miles City.” *From Presbyterianism In Montana: Its First Hundred Years*

The current Yellowstone Presbytery Special Use Permit for Westminster Spires will terminate on December 31, 2015. We have been responsible stewards of the grounds, and I do not anticipate any concerns related to the renewal of the permit. In order to maintain our Special-Use Permit for Westminster Spires, the Camping and Youth Committee requests Presbytery approval of a motion to proceed with the submission of an application to renew our Special-Use Permit with the Forest Service.

Winter Retreat Planning

The Winter Ski Retreat will be held at Butte First Presbyterian starting after dinner on Friday, March 13, and ending after lunch on Sunday, March 15.

George Goodrich, Orrin Feddes and Traci Ruschetti will lead talks and discussion groups at the retreat.

We will ski at Ski Discovery on Saturday

Westminster Spires Camps

Summer Camp Season:

- Training, July 8-11
- Elementary Camp, July 12-16
- Junior High Camp, July 19-24
- Senior High Camp, July 26-31
- Adult and Family Camp, August 2-7

-A copy of the All Camp Slide Show has been sent to all 2014 campers along with two brochures for the 2015 camp and a note to “Invite a Friend to Camp”.

-Invitations have been sent to previous summer staff to see who is planning to return this summer. Several of them have indicated they are planning to return, so we should have a strong foundation for staff again this summer.

-Summer Camp brochures and a copy of the slide show are available. Registration materials are also available on the Yellowstone Presbytery website.

-We expect a strong turnout for Elementary and Senior High Camps. We have a large number of students moving from Junior High to Senior High, and not many moving from Elementary to Junior High, so recruitment of Junior High campers will be a priority.

Adult and Family Camp

-We have scheduled the week of August 2-7 to offer an Adult and Family Camp. This is a new program, and it would stretch our personnel resources. We would like input from members of Presbytery on this idea. Is there interest? If we proceed, we will design the program so folks could come for any portion of the week. We recognize that taking a full week may be too long to be away. Please visit with Curt, George, David Andrew, Cynthia Kessler or any other member of the Camping and Youth Committee if you have ideas or suggestions.

Facilities

-Roofing materials have been purchased to reroof most of the buildings at camp. We will need labor to complete the installation. Half of the boys’ cabin was completed at Revamp the Camp last year.

-15 more new mattresses will be purchased this spring thanks to a donation. Bunk extensions will be installed on 15 lower bunks to accommodate 36” mattresses. The wider lower bunks provide better seating (so you don’t hit your head on the upper bunk!), and the wider size is standard so less cost than a special order 30” mattress.

-Special thanks to Sandy Welch and Jim Tarr from St. Andrew for providing leadership for Revamp the Camp and facility improvements.

Budget Overview

-Camp Scholarship Camping and Youth account	\$576.56
-Revamp the Camp account	260.00
-Spires Camp Upgrades Account	3,066.70
-Triennium Account	4,887.07

Total Expenses for Fall Retreat, Winter Retreat, Triennium and Westminster Spires Summer Camps	\$35,803
Total Income from Fall Retreat, Winter Retreat and Summer Camp	\$23,453
Fall and Winter Retreat Income and Expenses are designed to balance. (\$310 excess this year)	
\$2,500 per year goes into the Presbyterian Youth Triennium Account	
Total Yellowstone Presbytery Support for Camping and Youth in 2014	\$12,350

Additional donations from individuals and churches during 2014

Camp Expenses	\$ 4,209
Roofing Project	9,065
Scholarships	<u>700</u>
Total Donations	\$13,974

Budget Specifics

Income

Summer Camp Fees	10,350
Retreat Fees	5,078
Camp Rentals	<u>8,025</u>
Total	23,453

Expenses

Facilities	326
Insurance	4,650
Publicity	13
Caretaker	3,500
Camp Staff	11,282
Food	3,110
Miscellaneous	88
Rafting	770
Supplies/Crafts	253
Transportation	195
Utilities	2,381
Triennium	2,500
Retreat Events/Activities	4,768
Forest Service Fees	1,439
Administrative Travel	<u>528</u>
Total	35,803

St Timothy's Memorial Chapel Committee
Report to Yellowstone Presbytery
March, 2015

The January 2015 meeting was held at the Episcopal Church where we joined the St. Timothy's Music Committee for Lunch. Following lunch we opened our meeting with prayer. Those in attendance were Gary Rowe, Teresa Kendall, Art Keeler, Zane Murfitt and Ron Hanson. Since a Quorum was not present no actions could be taken. Proposed actions will be voted on via e-mail before the next meeting.

Major items on the Agenda were:

Worship – Contracts for the 2015 Pastors have been signed. Rev. Andrew Mullin will be present for the first two Sundays, Rev Gordon Stewart will be present for the next four Sunday's and Rev. Wayne Boulton will lead worship for the last six Sundays. Additionally Rev. Tom Long will be the 50th Anniversary though a contract has not been signed yet.

Nominations – Ed Leipheimer wrote that he had contacted all members whose terms were up and they agreed to stand for election. Ron Hatcher had resigned and Ed nominated Art Keeler to replace him. Presbytery had already elected Sally Ralston to replace Teresa Kendall.

Finance and Investment Subcommittee - Gary read the Treasurer's report. Gary next presented the 2014 budget. The budget will be discussed by the Management Group in May and presented to presbytery at their June meeting. The reasons for the delay are family health issues and income tax season..

50th Anniversary Celebration ó Ron handed out a preliminary schedule for the 50th Anniversary Celebration on July 26th. Diana has some of the music lined up. The speaker for the event is Rev. Tom Long. He has also agreed to hold a workshop in Bozeman on Funerals and Memorial services on Saturday July 25th. Much more needs to be done on this program.

Next meetings - The Committee set the following dates and times for our next three meetings:

Spring clean-up meeting-----May 30, 2015 at 12:00 noon with clean-up at the Chapel and manse followed by dinner and business meeting.

Fall meeting-----Sept 8, 2015 at 12:00 noon at the Chapel with lunch followed by business meeting.

Winter meeting-----Jan 11, 2015 at 12:00 noon at Anaconda Presbyterian Church with lunch followed by business meeting.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned. Teresa offered a closing prayer.

**STATED CLERK
PRESBYTERY OF YELLOWSTONE
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

ACCOUNTABILITY: The Stated Clerk is accountable *to the Presbytery Leadership Cabinet with a cooperative relationship with the General Presbyter as Head of Staff. The Leadership Cabinet, in conjunction with the General Presbyter,* shall be responsible for the performance *evaluation*.

PURPOSE: Perform all duties prescribed in the Book of Order and the Standing Rules of the Presbytery pertaining to documents and records. Responsible for all the communication to other governing bodies of the actions of the presbytery as assigned to the Stated Clerk. Facilitate meetings of the presbytery.

MODE OF ELECTION AND TERM: The Stated Clerk shall be elected by the Presbytery for a three-year term as prescribed in the Standing Rules, and shall not serve for consecutive terms, full or partial, for more than six years.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Stated Clerk shall have the duties and responsibilities set forth in the Book of Order and the Presbytery's Administrative Manual, as well as the following duties:

1. PRESBYTERY SUPPORT AND MEETINGS:

- a. Attend all meetings of the Presbytery, recording accurately and publishing regularly the transactions of the Presbytery, and maintaining an accurate record of the attendance of *Teaching Elders* and *Elder Commissioners* at all meetings of the Presbytery.
- b. Maintain an accurate roll of the particular churches of presbytery, as well as of the *teaching elders, commissioned ruling elders in pastoral service (CREs)*, certified Christian educators, clerks of session and treasurers.
- c. In cooperation with the *Leadership Cabinet* and presbytery staff, prepare a proposed docket for stated meetings of the Presbytery.
- d. Send to each *teaching elder, commissioned ruling elders in pastoral service* and each clerk of session due notice of all stated and special meetings of the Presbytery, together with the docket and supporting documents.
- e. Support the *Leadership Cabinet* in making arrangements for meetings of the Presbytery, e.g., sites, meals, meeting rooms and equipment.
- f. Notify those elected or appointed to a Presbytery office, *ministry team*, commission, or unit of their selection.
- g. Serve as parliamentarian for presbytery with reference to the Standing Rules of the Presbytery, the Book of Order and Robert's Rules of Order.
- h. Update and maintain the Administrative Manual.

2. RECORDS, REPORTS AND ROLLS:

- a. As custodian, maintain all ecclesiastical and historical records of the Presbytery.
- b. In support of and in cooperation with ministry teams and Commissions,
 - i. maintain the roll, records, and files of inquirers and candidates under the care of presbytery.
 - ii. process all calls, contracts, dissolutions, and transfers of *Teaching Elders*, providing for the orderly reception and dismissal of *Teaching Elders* within the bounds of the Presbytery.
 - iii. Provide such advisory services as may be required by *Presbytery ministry teams* or relating to judicial process.
- c. Prepare and present in writing to each meeting of the presbytery a report of appropriate matters coming to the attention of the Stated Clerk since the prior meeting.
- d. At the proper time, supply each church with forms for their annual reports and receive the same.
- e. Exercise responsibility for the presbytery's annual review of session records of particular churches.
- f. Prepare and forward the reports of the Presbytery required by the Synod and General Assembly.

3. TRAINING AND ORIENTATION

- a. Support orientation for new Ruling Elder commissioners and Teaching Elder members to presbytery.
- b. Support orientation for commissioners to Synod and General Assembly.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. May annually attend the meetings of the Stated Clerks' Conference.
- b. Serve as an interpreter of the Book of Order, Administrative Manual, and, in cooperation with the General Presbyters, the policies and actions of the presbytery regarding polity and constitutional issues to the presbytery, to its *Leadership Cabinet*, *ministry teams*, commissions, units and staff, and when requested to do so, to the congregations, sessions and members of the presbytery.
- c. Process all ecclesiastical correspondence from governing bodies, referring it to the *Leadership Cabinet* and appropriate *ministry teams*, commissions or units of presbytery and process all matters relating to judicial *cases and procedures*.
- d. Process all legal transactions of presbytery upon action of the trustees of the presbytery as a corporation of Montana.
- e. Serve as the secretary of the presbytery *Leadership Cabinet* and *Pastoral Ministry Team* and any Disciplinary ministry teams and administrative commissions which may be appointed.
- f. Notify Clerks of Sessions of the Presbytery of the per capita assessments on an annual basis.
- g. Attend annual Synod minute review usually in April in Denver.
- h. Maintain and work from a tickler file assuring presbytery's compliance with all legal and ecclesiastical matters.
- i. Perform all such other duties, functions, and services as may be assigned by the presbytery from time to time.

Qualifications for the Stated Clerk

SKILL SETS, EXPERIENCE AND AREAS OF EXPERTISE

The Stated Clerk shall possess:

- In-depth knowledge of the workings of the denomination, the requirements of the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.
- Strong interpersonal skills as a skilled manager who demonstrates warmth, patience, care, concern and competence in a people-intensive environment.
- Ability to demonstrate a cooperative, flexible spirit as a team player.
- Ability to exercise discretion with sensitive and confidential information.
- Ability to manage a number of activities at one time and be extremely detail oriented.
- Ability to exercise discretion with sensitive and confidential information.
- Ability to work with others and instill a collegial relationship with the presbytery staff, presbytery *Leadership Cabinet*, presbytery *ministry team* volunteers and members of the churches within the presbytery.
- Good written, verbal and *technological* communication skills.
- An ability to provide reports, documents, letters in a timely and completed manner.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Is committed to Jesus Christ, informed by the Scriptures and guided by the Book of Confessions and the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Is committed to the stated Mission of the presbytery and to the Short-Term Mission Priorities.
- Appreciates the *theology and ethics shaped by the sexual, familial, social, economic, cultural, and political diversity* of our denomination and presbytery. *.
- Possesses a commitment to and a genuine sense of, the connectional nature of the Presbyterian Church and demonstrates this commitment to the local churches, Synod, and General Assembly.
- Possesses personal integrity, spiritual wholeness, broad intellectual interests, humor and humility.

*(See **Book of Confessions** The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): Part 1, Preface, pg. xv, 2007; **Book of Confessions** The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): Part 1, Preface, pg. ix, 2014.

Approved by LC

To be approved by Presbytery on March 6/7, 2015

Presbytery/presbytery

SAMPLE BALLOT

Official ballots will be distributed at the presbytery meeting to teaching elder members of the presbytery and to ruling elder commissioners from each congregation. In addition, the Standing Rules of Yellowstone Presbytery authorize the following people to cast votes on items before the presbytery.

S2.06 A ruling elder, holding office in the presbytery as moderator, vice moderator, stated clerk, treasurer, or as moderator of the leadership cabinet, or as moderator of a ministry team of the presbytery shall be a voting member of the presbytery for the duration of the term of such service. When the moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Yellowstone is a ruling elder, or the moderator of the St. Timothy’s Memorial Chapel Committee is a ruling elder, he or she shall be a voting member of the presbytery for the duration of the term of such service.

[CIRCLE YES IF YOU AGREE WITH THE AMENDMENT – CIRCLE NO IF YOU DISAGREE WITH THE AMENDMENT]

- 14-1 Confession of Belhar.....YES.....NO
- 14-A Renunciation of Jurisdiction.....YES.....NO
- 14-B Special Committee to Review the Preparation for
Ministry Process and Standard Ordination Exams
 - 14-B.1. Final Assessment.....YES.....NO
 - 14-B.2. Accommodations.....YES.....NO
- 14-C Child Protection Policy.....YES.....NO
- 14-D Minimum Composition of a Presbytery.....YES.....NO
- 14-E Interreligious Stance.....YES.....NO
- 14-F Marriage.....YES.....NO

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the *Book of Confessions*
and the *Book of Order*

**Approved by the 221st General Assembly (2014) and
recommended to the presbyteries for their vote.**



Including: Note from the Stated Clerk, a list of the amendments with advice from the ACC, and an index.

NOTE FROM THE STATED CLERK

The 221st General Assembly (2014) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approved and recommended to the presbyteries, for their affirmative or negative votes, the addition of Confession of Belhar to the *Book of Confessions*. If approved by a two-thirds majority of presbyteries and enacted by the 222nd General Assembly (2016), the Confession of Belhar will be added to the *Book of Confessions*.

The General Assembly also approved and recommended to the presbyteries, for their affirmative or negative votes, proposed changes in the language of the *Book of Order* that, if approved, will amend the Constitution.

Please note that with each proposed amendment, reference is made to an item number that indicates the General Assembly committee report and action related to each proposed amendment. These item numbers also indicate where to find other background information from various entities that was available electronically to the General Assembly commissioners. This information may be accessed through PC Biz at <http://www.pc-biz.org>. The item number references will also be found in the *Minutes of the 221st General Assembly (2014)*, which are expected to be available to the presbyteries by the time they consider the amendments. The full advice of the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC) and other advisory entities can be found immediately following the item in the *Minutes* for which the advice is given.

Unless otherwise indicated, new language to be added to the *Book of Order* is in italics and any language to be stricken will have a line through it. In providing rationale and advice for each item, direct quotations from the various groups that presented or commented on these items before the General Assembly is used whenever possible.

It is recommended that presbyters, in preparation for voting on the proposed amendments, review all the information for each proposed amendment, found on PC-Biz (www.pc-biz.org). Click on the “Committees” tab, then click on a specific committee by using the first two numbers of the item number associated with each proposed amendment. From the list of committee business, click on the specific item you wish to review.

Presbyteries must report to the Office of the General Assembly a separate vote on each proposed amendment. A presbytery may vote on the amendments in a consent agenda or omnibus motion, as long as each proposed amendment is identified separately. Presbyteries are required to report their votes by June 21, 2015. However, in order to make the changes and publish the 2015–16 *Book of Order* in a timely manner, receipt of votes prior to this deadline would be appreciated (by May 15, 2015, if possible).

Thank you for your time and careful attention as you prepare to vote on these proposed amendments.

Gradye Parsons
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

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**14-1 Confession of Belhar
On Amending the *Book of Confessions* (Item 13-01)**

The 221st General Assembly (2014) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall the Confession of Belhar be included in the *Book of Confessions*?

[Explanatory notes: (a) Text for the Confession of Belhar can be found on page 1 (b) Biblical citations should be listed in the margins by the relevant text as is shown, and (c) While not of constitutional character, whenever the Confession of Belhar is printed in the *Book of Confessions*, it should be accompanied by the original Accompanying Letter from Belhar to explain the context of the confession. This letter is on page 4]

Background and Rationale

The 220th General Assembly (2012) approved the action to begin the process of amending the *Book of Confessions* to include the Confession of Belhar, as provided in G-6.03, and approved the authorization of a budget for education across the church about the confession, in addition to its committee budget for direct expenses (*Minutes*, 2012, Part I, p. 1527). ...

The committee held one face-to-face meeting in October 2012, and monthly conference calls between December 2012 and January 2014. Much of the committee's work was focused on developing educational resources for churchwide use. These can be accessed through the committee's website, www.pcusa.org/belhar. They consulted with several different constituency groups within the PC(USA) as well as consulting with ecumenical partners in the U.S. and South Africa. They gave significant consideration to the implications of the Confession of Belhar for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at this moment in the church's history. The sub-themes of Justice, Unity, and Reconciliation framed their approach to the Confession of Belhar and the development of interpretative materials.

The Special Committee on the Confession of Belhar reached a unanimous decision to recommend inclusion of the Confession of Belhar into the *Book of Confessions*.

The Confession of Belhar

Revelation 21:6–7 **We believe** in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

Matthew 28:19–20 **We believe** in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe

Ephesians 2:13–20 • that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;

Ephesians 4:11–16,
Psalm 133 • that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought; one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;

John 17:20–23 • that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted;

- John 13:34
 - Colossians 3:12–16
 - Philippians 2:1–5
 - 1 Corinthians 1:10–13
 - Ephesians 4:1–6
 - 1 Corinthians 10:16–17
 - Ephesians 3:18–20
 - Galatians 6:2
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3–4
 - 1 Corinthians 12:24b–28, Ephesians 3:14–20
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4–11,
Romans 12:3–8
 - Galatians 3:27–29
- that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways;
 - * in that we love one another;
 - * that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another;
 - * that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another;
 - * that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind;
 - * have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope;
 - * together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ;
 - * together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity;
 - * together know and bear one another’s burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ;
 - * that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another;
 - * that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity;
 - that this unity can be established only in freedom and not under constraint; that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, convictions, as well as the various languages and cultures, are by virtue of the reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment within the one visible people of God;
 - that true faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership of this church.

Therefore, we reject any doctrine

- which absolutizes either natural diversity or the sinful separation of people in such a way that this absolutization hinders or breaks the visible and active unity of the church, or even leads to the establishment of a separate church formation;
- which professes that this spiritual unity is truly being maintained in the bond of peace while believers of the same confession are in effect alienated from one another for the sake of diversity and in despair of reconciliation;
- which denies that a refusal earnestly to pursue this visible unity as a priceless gift is sin;
- which explicitly or implicitly maintains that descent or any other human or social factor should be a consideration in determining membership of the church.

We believe

- 2 Corinthians 5:17–21
 - that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;
- Matthew 5:9, 13–16;
2 Peter 3:13;
Revelation 21:1–5
 - that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;
 - that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;
- Romans 6:12–14,
Colossians 1:11–14
 - that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people on a racial basis promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity;
 - that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.
- James 2:8–9
 - that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.

Therefore, we reject any doctrine which, in such a situation sanctions in the name of the gospel or of the will of God the forced separation of people on the grounds of race and color and thereby in advance obstructs and weakens the ministry and experience of reconciliation in Christ.

We believe

- Isaiah 42:1–7
 - that God has revealed God’s self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- Luke 6:20–26
 - that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;
- Luke 4:16–19
 - that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
- Luke 7:22
 - that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
- Psalms 146
 - that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps the orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
- James 1:27
 - that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
- Micah 6:8
 - that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;
- Amos 5:14–15, 23–24
 - that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;

- Psalm 82:1–5 • that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged;
- Leviticus 19:15 • that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

Acts 5:29–32;
1 Peter 3:15–18 **We believe** that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things, even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering be the consequence.

Jesus is Lord.

To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory forever and ever.

Accompanying Letter to the Confession of Belhar

This letter was a statement made upon the adoption of the Belhar Confession by the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa

1. We are deeply conscious that moments of such seriousness can arise in the life of the Church that it may feel the need to confess its faith anew in the light of a specific situation. We are aware that such an act of confession is not lightly undertaken, but only if it is considered that the heart of the gospel is so threatened as to be at stake. In our judgment, the present church and political situation in our country and particularly within the Dutch Reformed church family calls for such a decision. Accordingly, we make this confession not as a contribution to a theological debate nor as a new summary of our beliefs, but as a cry from the heart, as something we are obliged to do for the sake of the gospel in view of the times in which we stand. Along with many, we confess our guilt, in that we have not always witnessed clearly enough in our situation and so are jointly responsible for the way in which those things which were experienced as sin and confessed to be sin have grown in time to seem self-evidently right and to be ideologies foreign to the Scriptures. As a result many have been given the impression that the gospel was not really at stake. We make this confession because we are convinced that all sorts of theological arguments have contributed to so disproportionate an emphasis on some aspects of the truth that it has in effect become a lie.
2. We are aware that the only authority for such a confession and the only grounds on which it may be made are the Holy Scriptures as the Word of God. Being fully aware of the risk involved in taking this step, we are nevertheless convinced that we have no alternative. Furthermore, we are aware that no other motives or convictions, however valid they may be, would give us the right to confess in this way. An act of confession may only be made by the Church for the sake of its purity and credibility and that of its message. As solemnly as we are able, we hereby declare before men that our only motive lies in our fear that the truth and power of the gospel itself is threatened in this situation. We do not wish to serve any group interests, advance the cause of any factions, promote any ideologies, or achieve any ulterior purposes. Yet, having said this, we know that our deepest intentions may only be judged at their true value by him before whom all is revealed. We do not make this confession from his throne and from on high, but before his throne and before men. We plead, therefore, that this confession would not be misused by anyone with ulterior motives and also that it should not be resisted to serve such motives. Our earnest desire is to lay no false stumbling blocks in the way, but to point to the true stumbling block, Jesus Christ the rock.

3. This confession is not aimed at specific people or groups of people or a church or churches. We proclaim it against a false doctrine, against an ideological distortion which threatens the gospel itself in our church and our country. Our heartfelt longing is that no one will identify himself with this objectionable doctrine and that all who have been wholly or partially blinded by it will turn themselves away from it. We are deeply aware of the deceiving nature of such a false doctrine and know that many who have been conditioned by it have to a greater or lesser extent learnt to take a half-truth for the whole. For this reason we do not doubt the Christian faith of many such people, their sincerity, honor, integrity, and good intentions and their in many ways estimable practice and conduct. However, it is precisely because we know the power of deception that we know we are not liberated by the seriousness, sincerity, or intensity of our certainties, but only by the truth in the Son. Our church and our land have an intense need of such liberation. Therefore it is that we speak pleadingly rather than accusingly. We plead for reconciliation, that true reconciliation which follows on conversion and change of attitudes and structures. And while we do so we are aware that an act of confession is a two-edged sword, that none of us can throw the first stone, and none is without a beam in his own eye. We know that the attitudes and conduct which work against the gospel are present in all of us and will continue to be so. Therefore this confession must be seen as a call to a continuous process of soulsearching together, a joint wrestling with the issues, and a readiness to repent in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in a broken world. It is certainly not intended as an act of self-justification and intolerance, for that would disqualify us in the very act of preaching to others.
4. Our prayer is that this act of confession will not place false stumbling blocks in the way and thereby cause and foster false divisions, but rather that it will be reconciling and uniting. We know that such an act of confession and process of reconciliation will necessarily involve much pain and sadness. It demands the pain of repentance, remorse, and confession; the pain of individual and collective renewal and a changed way of life. It places us on a road whose end we can neither foresee nor manipulate to our own desire. On this road we shall unavoidably suffer intense growing pains while we struggle to conquer alienation, bitterness, irreconciliation, and fear. We shall have to come to know and encounter both ourselves and others in new ways. We are only too well aware that this confession calls for the dismantling of structures of thought, of church, and of society which have developed over many years. However, we confess that for the sake of the gospel, we have no other choice. We pray that our brothers and sisters throughout the Dutch Reformed church family, but also outside it, will want to make this new beginning with us, so that we can be free together and together may walk the road of reconciliation and justice. Accordingly, our prayer is that the pain and sadness we speak of will be pain and sadness that lead to salvation. We believe that this is possible in the power of our Lord and by his Spirit. We believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ offers hope, liberation, salvation, and true peace to our country.

The vote of the Assembly Committee on Theological Issues and Institutions and CE (13) to approve the proposed amendment was 46/6/0. The 221st General Assembly (2014) approved the committee's recommendation 551/87/0. (See *Minutes*, 2014, Part I, pp. 24, 947ff.)

For the full report of Item 13-01 go to <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=4695&promoID=327>

**14-A. Renunciation of Jurisdiction
On Amending G-2.0509 (Item 06-05)**

The 221st General Assembly (2014) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0509 of the Form of Government be amended by adding the following new paragraph at the end of that section? [Text to be added or inserted is shown in *italic*.]

“Whenever a former teaching elder has renounced jurisdiction in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding as the accused, that former teaching elder shall not be permitted to perform any work, paid or volunteer, in any congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Background and Rationale

This amendment originated from the Presbytery of Western Reserve as Item 06-05 (*Minutes*, 2014, Part I, pp. 27, 72, 73, 360). Presbyteries of Greater Atlanta and Santa Barbara concurred, with Greater Atlanta also proposing a similar overture (Item 06-03), which was answered by the action taken on this item. The Presbytery of Western Reserve provided the following rationale:

As stated in the Rules of Church Discipline, Preamble, “the purpose of discipline is to honor God by making clear the significance of membership in the body of Christ” (*Book of Order*, D-1.0101, Church Discipline). The principles also state in D-1.0102: “The power that Jesus Christ has vested in his Church ... is one for building up the body of Christ, not for destroying it.”

When a teaching elder renounces the jurisdiction of the church in the midst of formal judicial process, there is no resolution for either party, particularly for the complainant. Because there has been no acquittal or determination of guilt, the teaching elder has, by virtue of renunciation, removed himself/herself from leadership and office within the church. It could be argued that the church remains vulnerable due to lack of information regarding the circumstances and facts uncovered in the investigative process that might have come to light in the judicial proceeding. Renunciation to stop judicial process should not be an alternative vehicle to continue to work or volunteer in the church when facts and circumstances have not come to light.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC) advised the 221st General Assembly (2014) to disapprove Item 06-05 providing the following advice:

This proposed amendment appears to be punitive toward individuals who have renounced the jurisdiction of the church, without regard for the assessment by the council with jurisdiction over the work. The proposed amendment would set up a constitutional bar to any work done by the individual based solely on the individual’s having renounced the jurisdiction of the church during a judicial proceeding. Many different alleged delinquencies or irregularities could lead to a remedial complaint while more serious offenses could lead to a disciplinary process. Without regard for the nature, seriousness, or truth of the alleged delinquency, irregularity, or offense, renunciation in the midst of a judicial proceeding would trigger a permanent bar to employment or volunteer service.

Even if the individual does not resume membership in the PC(USA), the church is committed to openness. “Persons who are not members of, or who may have ceased active participation in, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are welcome and may participate in the life and worship of this church and receive its pastoral care and instruction” (G-1.0404). This openness does not eliminate the authority of a council having responsibility for particular paid or volunteer service to assess the suitability of the individual. These two proposed amendments would not permit the council with responsibility for the work to fulfill its G-1.0404 responsibility, regardless of its finding about suitability.

The proposed amendment attempts to create a permanent bar to participation in the life and work of the PC(USA). Renunciation of jurisdiction is a very serious matter, but it does not create an unchangeable status. The return path is to accept the jurisdiction of the PC(USA) anew by joining a congregation. “The members of a congregation put themselves under the leadership of the session and the higher councils (presbytery, synod, and General Assembly)” (G-1.0103).

An individual, who has renounced jurisdiction, may later take a return path of seeking employment or attempting to volunteer in a congregation or other entity of the PC(USA). There is an authoritative interpretation that states:

A person who has renounced membership and/or church office in a PC(USA) congregation may, at some subsequent point, seek admission to membership in another PC(USA) congregation by reaffirmation of faith. (*Minutes*, 2008, Part I, p. 274, authoritative interpretation)

If the council having jurisdiction over that paid or volunteer work learns of the prior renunciation, that council has the responsibility to inquire into the circumstances to assess the suitability of the particular service for the individual. These proposed amendments would bar the participation of the individual without regard for whether the unresolved issues have a bearing on the individual's suitability for the particular service.

This proposed amendment seeks to address a local issue by means of a constitutional amendment creating a churchwide rule. Alleged prior misconduct is a serious issue and should be addressed by councils in their administrative manuals. Councils should explicitly ask, in writing, about any involvement as a defendant in disciplinary cases or renunciation of jurisdiction from the PC(USA).

Section F-3.0209 provides that "Councils possess whatever administrative authority is necessary to give effect to duties and powers assigned by the Constitution of the church." Any council that employs individuals in paid or volunteer service already has the authority to screen such individuals in order to protect those served by the church. Most employing councils have adopted employment policies, and should consider adding to their administrative manuals the requirement of appropriate background checks.

The 221st General Assembly (2014) Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to disapprove the proposed amendment 48/7/2. The 221st General Assembly (2014) amended the original overture and approved 309/207/0.

For the full report of Item 06-05 go to <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=4573>

14-B. Special Committee to Review the Preparation for Ministry Process and Standard Ordination Exams (Item 06-12)

Background

These two proposed amendments (Item 06-12, recommendations 11 and 12) are part of the recommendations of the Report of the Special Committee to Review the Preparation for Ministry Process and Standard Ordination Exams. The Special Committee was formed in response to the referral from the 220th General Assembly (2012): *On Reevaluating the Process by Which Ordination Exams Are Written, Administered, and Graded* (Minutes, 2012, Part I, p. 682).

14-B.1. Final Assessment

On Amending G-2.0607 (Item 06-12, Recommendation 11)

The 221st General Assembly (2014) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0607 be amended as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown in italic.]

“A candidate may not enter into negotiation for his or her service as a teaching elder without approval of the presbytery *of care*. The presbytery shall record when it has certified a candidate ready for examination *by a presbytery* for ordination, pending a call. Evidence of readiness to begin ordered ministry as a teaching elder shall include:

“a. [Text in a.–c. remains unchanged.]

“d. ~~satisfactory grades, together with the examination papers~~ *examination materials, together with evaluations that declare those materials satisfactory in the areas covered by any standard ordination examination approved by the General Assembly. Such examinations shall be prepared and administered by a body created by the presbyteries.*”

Rationale

The special committee gave the following rationale for the approval of Recommendation 11:

This change in language seeks to distinguish the standard ordination examinations from examination by presbyteries for ordination as well as to reiterate that candidates are accountable to their presbytery of care. It also makes specific that the standard exams are evaluated by way of written comments but are not “graded” and would allow for the introduction of exams for which the “work product” of the exams may be other than written responses to essay questions.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 221st General Assembly (2014) to approve Item 06-12, Recommendation 11, providing the following advice:

The proposed amendments to the lead paragraph of G-2.0607 are clear and do not change the intent of the section being modified. However, the Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises that these amendments are not necessary, as the meaning of the paragraph is already clear:

- The presbytery that performs a final assessment of a candidate can only be the presbytery “of care.”
- An examination for ordination can only be conducted by a presbytery (G-2.0702). The final assessment of the presbytery (ready for examination for ordination, pending a call) is a determination made after all of the tasks of preparation for ministry have been completed (G-2.0607a–d), including satisfactory evaluations of the standard ordination exams.

The proposed language to amend G-2.0607d is clear, and adequately expresses the flexibility the special committee proposes for certifying a candidate's readiness for examination for ordination, pending a call.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment was 54/0/0. The 221st General Assembly (2014) approved the committee's recommendation 578/41/0. (See *Minutes*, 2014, Part I, pp. 27, 75, 379.)

For the full report of Item 06-12, including the report of the special committee, go to <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=4773&promoID=331>

14-B.2. Accommodations

On Amending G-2.0610 (Item 06-12, Recommendation 12)

The 221st General Assembly (2014) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0610 be amended as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown in italic.]

“G-2.0610 ~~Exceptions~~ Accommodations to Particular Circumstances

“~~By a three-fourths vote, a presbytery~~ When a presbytery concludes there are good and sufficient reasons for accommodations to the particular circumstances of an individual seeking ordination, it may, by a three-fourths vote, waive any of the requirements for ordination in G-2.06, except for those of G-2.0607d. If a presbytery judges that there are good and sufficient reasons why a candidate should not be required to satisfy the requirements of G-2.0607d, it shall approve by three-quarters vote some alternate means by which to ascertain the readiness of the candidate for ministry in the areas covered by the standard ordination examinations. A full account of the reasons for ~~exception~~ any waiver or alternate means to ascertain readiness shall be included in the minutes of the presbytery and communicated to the presbytery to which an inquirer or candidate may be transferred.”

Rationale

The special committee gave the following rationale for the approval of recommendation 11:

The new phrasing proposed in G-2.0610 first changes the title of the paragraph to address the perception of some that being an exception is prejudicial in and of itself. The changes proposed in the paragraph are intended to clarify that presbytery minutes should include reasons for both waivers and for alternate means of assessment. The sequence of sentences in the current paragraph could be construed to mean that a presbytery may “waive” everything but G-2.0607d without “good and sufficient reasons” or explanation in the minutes so long as the three-fourths vote threshold was met.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 221st General Assembly (2014) to approve Item 06-12, Recommendation 12, with amendment (subsequently adopted in plenary), providing the following advice:

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises that the phrase “individual seeking ordination” is more appropriate language for the first part of Recommendation 12 than “inquirer or candidate.”

There are other situations where G-2.0610 is applicable, such as a presbytery receiving by transfer a minister of another denomination (G-2.0505a): “... Such ministers shall furnish credentials and evidence of good standing acceptable to the presbytery, and shall submit satisfactory evidence of possessing the qualifications of character and scholarship required of candidates of this church. (G-2.0607 and G-2.0610) ...” The proposed amendment will limit the availability of a

waiver to the requirements of G-2.06 to inquirers and candidates only, preventing a presbytery from considering such waivers in these other situations.

Otherwise, the proposed language of the amendment clearly and adequately expresses the intent of the special committee to remove language which the special committee judges to be prejudicial.

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution makes no comment on the proposal to strike “Exceptions” and insert “Accommodations to Particular Circumstances,” as this is not a constitutional matter. The indexing system and related titles are not part of the Constitution. Only the text itself is constitutional.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment 57/1/1. The 221st General Assembly (2014) approved the committee’s recommendation with amendment by voice vote. (See *Minutes*, 2014, Part I, pp. 27, 72, 75, 379–80.)

For the full report of Item 06-12, including the report of the Special Committee, go to <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=4773&promoID=331>

14-C. Child Protection Policy
On Amending G-3.0106 (Item 08-14)

The 221st General Assembly (2014) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Amend the fourth paragraph of G-3.0106 as follows: [Text to be added or inserted is shown in italic.]

“All councils shall adopt and implement a sexual misconduct policy *and a child protection policy.*”

Background and Rationale

This proposed amendment originated from the Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns (ACWC) requesting that the Stated Clerk be directed, “to send proposed amendments to the *Book of Order* regarding the requirement of all councils of the PC(USA) to adopt and implement a child/youth protection policy....” ACWC provided the following rationale:

Currently the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) and Child Advocacy Office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has provided some extremely helpful resources regarding Child/Youth Protection measures and policies, which are available online. One such resource can be found under Creating Safe Ministries through pcusa.org.[1] However, many of these resources are focused primarily on sexual harassment policies and procedures and not adequately on the broad scope of child/youth protection. The Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns (ACWC) asks that the Presbyterian Mission Agency direct that new/updated resources be created for synods, presbyteries, and particular church use that are from the PC(USA) and address child youth protection measures and policies – including and expanding beyond the focus of sexual harassment. There are many issues that have evolved with working with children/youth which need to be addressed in the work of the church.

The focus of child/youth protection policies is to ensure a safe, thriving, and nurturing environment for children and youth in our churches and church-sponsored events. These policies address screening child and youth workers and volunteers, how to implement mandatory training, simple rules involving transportation, adult/youth/child ratios, minimum age requirement of volunteers, facility security and safety, etc. *It is important to understand in developing these policies that these policies and procedures are completely separate from sexual misconduct policies*, and there is a need to differentiate between these resources and policies. That is why we request an amendment in the *Book of Order* to require all councils of the PC(USA) to make this differentiation and adopt and implement a child/youth protection policy alongside a separate sexual harassment policy.

It is the church’s responsibility to provide a safe, thriving, and nurturing environment for children and youth, and we must take seriously how our faith informs this responsibility. Our theology of the child is reflected in how we care and nurture children and youth who are under the care of the church. This theology must reflect the love, care, and high regard for the humanity and dignity of the child reflected in the Gospels.

[1]“Create Policies,”*Creating Safe Ministries*, <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/creating-safe-ministries/create-policies/> (16 January 2014).

The Stated Clerk, through the Office of the General Assembly (OGA), advised the assembly that this recommendation could be accomplished by the following action:

The 221st General Assembly (2014) directs the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Amend the fourth paragraph of G-3.0106 as follows: [Text to be added is shown as italic.]

“All councils shall adopt and implement a sexual misconduct policy *and a child protection policy.*”

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 221st General Assembly (2014) as follows:

If it is the intent of the assembly to require each council to adopt and implement a child protection policy, the ACC believes the language of the proposed amendment, as shown in the OGA comment, is clear and concise.

The Assembly Committee on Mission Coordination (08) voted to approve the OGA proposed language to amend the *Book of Order* 69/0/0. The 221st General Assembly (2014) approved the committee's recommendation 554/18/0. (See *Minutes*, 2014, Part I, pp. 40, 43, 531–32.)

For the full report of Item 08-14 go to <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=4763>.

14-D. Minimum Composition of a Presbytery

On Amending G-3.0301 (Item 06-06)

The 221st General Assembly (2014) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

**Shall the second paragraph of G-3.0301 of the Form of Government be amended as follows?
[Text to be added or inserted is shown in italic.]**

“The minimum composition of a presbytery is ten duly constituted sessions and ten teaching elders, unless an exception is approved by its synod and the General Assembly giving consideration to the responsibilities assigned to presbyteries in G-3-01 and G-3.03.”

Background and Rationale

This amendment originated from the Presbytery of Eastern Oregon as Item 06-06. The Presbyteries of Boise, Northumberland, and San Joaquin concurred. The Presbytery of Eastern Oregon provided the following rationale:

1. Of the 173 presbyteries in the PC(USA), 30 presbyteries have 30 or fewer churches. Of those, 3 are racial ethnic and 3 are east of the Mississippi River, leaving 24 of the smallest presbyteries in the PC(USA) in the western United States where the distances between churches is often measured in hours and presbytery boundaries include entire states.

The Comparative Statistics 2012 of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shows 67 percent of our congregations have fewer than 150 members and 75 percent have fewer than 200 members. We are a denomination of small churches and vital ministries in the locations where we are planted; where history and connectionalism meet in faithful congregations as they have for hundreds of years.

2. The representation of small churches and presbyteries is vital to the direction and sustainability of the PC(USA) now and into the future. Small presbyteries pay per capita to participate in the life of the denomination, to support the task forces of the denomination, and to have access to the PJC’s of the synods and General Assembly.

Small presbyteries also pay mission, joining our contributions together with those of the larger presbyteries to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and World Missions. We are faithful in providing leadership at all levels of the denomination. The leadership and modeling of small presbyteries provides a path for others to follow as we remain faithful to Christ in local settings. The representation of small presbyteries at the synod and General Assembly level is a necessary and responsible voice to and with the denomination.

3. Mission is not dependent upon size. In small presbyteries the local PC(USA) congregation is often the only Protestant witness within their community. As such these congregations are responsible for the food pantries, schools, social gathering places, and many other creative ministries. These are more than buildings where people meet on Sunday; this is Christ at work in the midst of the people. These congregations are supported monetarily and spiritually by the presbytery and sustained by the connections with other congregations within the presbytery.

4. Matthew 18:20 states, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Neither the exact number of congregations nor teaching elders determine the validity of a presbytery. Rather, the validity and vitality of the presbytery lies in its ability to support the ministry of its congregations, synod, and General Assembly as it is the body gathered in Christ’s name, doing His work with the resources at hand and through the congregations being the body of Christ in the world.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 221st General Assembly (2014) to approve Item 06-06 with amendment (subsequently adopted by the assembly committee), providing the following advice:

This overture seeks to amend Section G-3.0301 of the Form of Government to allow the synod and General Assembly to change the minimum composition of a presbytery from a minimum of ten sessions to a lesser number on a case-by-case basis. The purpose of this change is to increase the flexibility when forming a presbytery. This change is in keeping with:

1. The recently adopted Form of Government's statement "Councils of the church exist to help congregations and the church as a whole to be more faithful participants in the mission of Christ" (G-3.0101). Leaving the minimum number of sessions in the hands of the synod allows each synod to consider how best to fulfill this mandate.
2. The minimum number of sessions was reduced from twelve to ten by the actions of the General Assembly in 2008 (*Minutes*, 2008, Part I, p. 146, Item 03-07). Allowing flexibility for the minimum number would continue the efforts of the General Assembly to be responsive to the missional needs of the church and its mission.
3. Permitting flexibility, with review, is in keeping with the guiding principles behind the recently adopted Form of Government that "mission determines the forms and structures needed for the church to do its work" (G-3.0106).
4. The change of "*the*" to "*its*" provides clarity as to which synod would be asked to approve the exception. This change would clearly designate the synod wherein the presbytery is located.
5. Presbyteries are charged with a wide variety of responsibilities for the church's mission in G-3.01 and G-3.03. Synods that are requested to approve a presbytery that has less than ten congregations and ten elders should carefully review these responsibilities to determine whether the smaller presbytery can fulfill them.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment 57/0/2. The 221st General Assembly (2014) approved the committee's recommendation 510/9/0. (See *Minutes*, 2014, Part I, pp. 72, 73, 361–62.)

For the full report of Item 06-06 go to <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=4589>

14-E. Interreligious Stance

On Amending G-5.0102 (07-02, Recommendation 2)

The 221st General Assembly (2014) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-5.0102 be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

~~“The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at all levels seeks new~~ *will be open to and will seek opportunities for conversation and understanding respectful dialogue and mutual relationships with non-Christian entities and persons from other religious [entities] traditions. It does this in the faith that the church of Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, is a sign and means of God’s intention for the wholeness of all humankind and all creation.”*

Background and Rationale

This proposed amendment originated from The General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (GACEIR) as part of their recommendation to the 221st General Assembly (2014) to approve the policy statement, *The Interreligious Stance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 221st General Assembly (2014) to disapprove Item 07-02, Recommendation 2, providing the following advice:

The committee recommendation does not indicate how the proposed language strengthens or clarifies G-5.0102. Section F-1.03 and F-1.0404 more completely address the intent of the recommendation.

The Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations (07) voted to approve the proposed amendment 59/4/0. The 221st General Assembly (2014) approved the committee’s recommendation by a hand vote. (See *Minutes*, 2014, Part I, pp. 34, 35, 444.)

For the full report of Item 07-02, including the adopted policy *The Interreligious Stance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, go to <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=4673>

14-F. Marriage

On Amending W-4.9000 (Item 10-02)

The 221st General Assembly (2014) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Amend W-4.9000 by striking the current text and replacing it with the following: [Text to be added or inserted is shown in italic.]

“Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives. The sacrificial love that unites the couple sustains them as faithful and responsible members of the church and the wider community.

“In civil law, marriage is a contract that recognizes the rights and obligations of the married couple in society. In the Reformed tradition, marriage is also a covenant in which God has an active part, and which the community of faith publicly witnesses and acknowledges.

“If they meet the requirements of the civil jurisdiction in which they intend to marry, a couple may request that a service of Christian marriage be conducted by a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), who is authorized, though not required, to act as an agent of the civil jurisdiction in recording the marriage contract. A couple requesting a service of Christian marriage shall receive instruction from the teaching elder, who may agree to the couple’s request only if, in the judgment of the teaching elder, the couple demonstrate sufficient understanding of the nature of the marriage covenant and commitment to living their lives together according to its values. In making this decision, the teaching elder may seek the counsel of the session, which has authority to permit or deny the use of church property for a marriage service.

“The marriage service shall be conducted in a manner appropriate to this covenant and to the forms of Reformed worship, under the direction of the teaching elder and the supervision of the session (W-1.4004–.4006). In a service of marriage, the couple marry each other by exchanging mutual promises. The teaching elder witnesses the couple’s promises and pronounces God’s blessing upon their union. The community of faith pledges to support the couple in upholding their promises; prayers may be offered for the couple, for the communities that support them, and for all who seek to live in faithfulness.

“A service of worship recognizing a civil marriage and confirming it in the community of faith may be appropriate when requested by the couple. The service will be similar to the marriage service except that the statements made shall reflect the fact that the couple is already married to one another according to the laws of the civil jurisdiction.”

“Nothing herein shall compel a teaching elder to perform nor compel a session to authorize the use of church property for a marriage service that the teaching elder or the session believes is contrary to the teaching elder’s or the session’s discernment of the Holy Spirit and their understanding of the Word of God.”

Background and Rationale

This amendment originated from the Presbytery of the Cascades as Item 10-02. Presbyteries of Albany, Baltimore, Boston, Cayuga-Syracuse, Chicago, East Iowa, Genesee Valley, Heartland, Hudson River, National Capital, New York City, San Francisco, Southern New England, The Redwoods, Twin

Cities, and Transylvania concurred, many with additional rationale. Presbytery of the Cascades provided the following rationale:

The PC(USA) has a long history of working for social justice and equal rights for all people.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) churches throughout the denomination are seeking to be inclusive, welcoming communities of Christian faith and are committed to honoring diversity and promoting peace, health, and justice in personal relationship, church, community, and the world.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) churches throughout the denomination also have a long history of struggling with issues of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) equality; working within the structure and standards of the PC(USA) and also taking actions of ecclesiastical defiance when their conscience leads them to believe the teachings of Jesus require such actions.

As requested by the 220th General Assembly (2012), many churches have been studying the issue of marriage equality both in the pulpit and through adult education classes.

The Presbytery of the Cascades stands with those in the PC(USA) who believe that the teachings of Jesus call for radical inclusion of all people and that the actions of Jesus, passed down in Scripture, showed unconditional love and equality for all people. We believe that God created each of us with many differences, including sexual preferences, and that those differences are to be celebrated as part of the creative plan of God.

Support of marriage equality is consistent with our faith tradition. The covenant of marriage requires love and commitment; qualities that are in no way gender specific.

Failing to allow for marriage equality continues to have negative consequences for the Body of Christ, the Church, in that it gives some of our members fewer rights than others, treating them as second-class members. This is inconsistent with the teachings of Jesus. Valuing the worth, health, and happiness of our children and youth, requires that they are allowed to grow wholly and holy in a church that embraces them and their visions of their future loving relationships. To deny marriage to the GLBT community will continue the discrimination they already experience and increase the level of stress and mental health issues that make this community more susceptible to substance abuse, depression, and suicide.

Marriage equality, on the other hand, will reduce the numbers of young people who find banning gay marriage to be hypocritical, unfair, and not the act of a caring Christian congregation.

The *Book of Order* of the PC(USA) should be amended to allow marriage between “two people” rather than limiting marriage to “between one man and one woman” and to allow PC(USA) church officials to perform marriage ceremonies between same-sex couples.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 221st General Assembly (2014) to disapprove Item 10-02, providing the following advice:

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution’s advice on this overture is the same as its advice to the General Assembly Committee on Civil Unions and Marriage in 2012 (*Minutes*, 2012, Part I, pp. 1164ff) and is not intended to be advice on the theological, ethical, and legal merits of the overture. The overture does not propose to change the basic premise that “marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind,” rather the overture seeks to amend the definition of marriage from “a man and a woman” to “two people.” Amending the definition of marriage to two people would alter the foundation on which previous AIs of this section have rested. A possible consequence of the proposed language is perceived tension between Scripture, the Confessions, and the *Book of Order*. The assembly will need to articulate the reasons for changing the current definition of Christian marriage.

If the assembly approves this overture, a constitutional issue that should be considered is the use of the word “shall” in the third paragraph (“who shall agree to the couple’s request only if ...”). This could be interpreted to limit the teaching elder’s ability to deny performing a service of Christian marriage for any reason other than that given in the overture.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP)

The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) advised approval of Item 10-02. The full text of ACSWP’s advice can be found in the report of 10-02 on PC Biz

Advice from the Advisory Committee for Women's Concerns (ACWC)

The Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns advised the 221st General Assembly (2014) to approve Item 10-02, providing the following advice:

The Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns concurs with the rationale given in this overture.

The ACWC believes that in withholding the right to marry from same-gender loving people, the church is upholding a patriarchal standard for humanity. Committed to standing against patriarchy and its effects within the world and the church, ACWC advocates giving access to all that Christian marriage provides to same-gender couples in committed and loving relationships who are in the PC(USA).

The proposed amendment is a clear and compelling statement reflecting the gift of God that marriage provides to human beings. It encourages healthy families, congregations, and communities.

The Assembly Committee on Civil Union and Marriage Issues (10) voted to approve the proposed amendment 49/18/0. The 221st General Assembly (2014) amended and approved the committee's recommendation 429/175/0. (See *Minutes*, 2014, Part I, pp. 29, 30, 780–81.)

For the full report of Item 10-02 go to <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=4593>

LIST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

14-1. Confession of Belhar—Amending the *Book of Confessions*1

14.A. Renunciation of Jurisdiction—On Amending G-2.05096

**14-B. Special Committee to Review the Preparation for Ministry Process and
Standard Ordination Exams**

14-B.1. Final Assessment—On Amending G-2.06078

14-B.2. Accommodations—On Amending G-2.06109

14-C. Child Protection Policy—On Amending G-3.010611

14-D. Minimum Composition of a Presbytery—On Amending G-3.030113

14-E. Interreligious Stance—On Amending G-5.010215

14-F. Marriage—On Amending W-4.900016