

To: Members of Yellowstone Presbytery
From: Stated Clerk Search Task Force
Re: Report for the September 16, 2015 called meeting of presbytery

The Stated Clerk Search task force was moderated by Neva Rathbun (RE, Honorably Retired) and included Dan Holland (RE Bozeman) and Terry Johnson (RE Dillon) and Debbie Funke (TE Manhattan).

After over two months of advertising this position widely in the presbytery, the Synod, and on a national Stated Clerk's web site, the task force was pleased to have some very qualified applicants for this position. Each applicant was interviewed by the entire task force, and the team was impressed by the caliber of the applicants.

After the interview round, the team took a week for prayer and discernment before meeting to make our nomination. When we met again, it was the consensus of the team that although there were other excellent applicants, **Debbie Blackburn (RE from Manhattan)** is the one who can best serve the needs of our presbytery at this time.

Some of our rationale includes:

1. Debbie Blackburn served on both the vision team and the vision structure task force and thus is already very familiar with the vision, direction and structure of our presbytery.
2. Debbie has also served as moderator of the presbytery Budget and Finance Committee and has a solid grasp of presbytery finances.
3. Debbie is the current moderator of our presbytery and has served on Council and now the Leadership Cabinet and is connected to current discussions and priorities of the LC.
4. Debbie is serving and has served for several years on the Pastoral Ministry Team and its predecessor body, the Committee on Ministry. In this role she has been involved with several of our churches in times of conflict and/or transition or dismissal from the denomination. She has proven to have good pastoral sensitivities and she knows and understands the discernment and dismissal process. She has built good relationships with many in our churches in difficult situations.
5. Debbie has served for several years and continues to serve as the clerk of session in Manhattan and will be very capable of mentoring and interfacing with clerks of session.
6. Debbie has for the last two years been serving as recording clerk for presbytery meetings, Leadership Cabinet meetings and Pastoral Ministry Team.
7. Debbie has a proven track record of paying attention to details and doing her work and assignments promptly.

For all of the above reasons, Debbie Blackburn is the choice of the Stated Clerk Task Force as our nominee for a **three year renewable term** as the Presbytery of Yellowstone Stated Clerk, **beginning January 1, 2016**.

The terms of call as approved at the March 6-7 presbytery meeting are as follows:

This is a one-quarter time salaried position with annual compensation of \$11,655 and an annual pension plan contribution of \$3,846. There are also expense reimbursements of up to \$550.

The task force is very grateful for the other applicants who took the time and effort to complete an application and meet with us in a face to face interview. This made the process more challenging and rich and gave us an opportunity to have a very thorough process for which we are grateful.

In the Grace and Peace of Christ,
Debbie Funke for Neva and the team