

**Yellowstone Presbytery Stated Meeting
November 6&7, 2015
First Presbyterian
Lewistown, Montana**

15-059 - Call to Order- Moderator Debbie Blackburn called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and offered an opening prayer.

15-060 – Procedural Motion - The Stated Clerk moved 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 Agenda during the meeting, as may be necessary, to provide for efficiency in reporting, and
6. That all reports received at this meeting be accepted.

15-061 – Roll Call – Members present introduced themselves and other members of their congregation. Those filling out registration sheets included:

Church	Pastor	Commissioner	Others
Anaconda	JP Carlson	Linda Smith Karen Moses	
Billings 1st	Dave Thompson	Chris Ericksen	
Billings St. Andrew	Excused	Cynthia Kessler	David Kimball Gail Kimball Carol Mick
Bozeman 1st	Dan Krebill	Suzanne Bratsky	Dan Holland
Butte	Jody McDevitt Harlan Rounds	Susan Gibb Unexcused	Ron ^{Hanson} (SC)
Colstrip	Unexcused	Unexcused	
Deer Lodge 1st	Teresa Kendall	Unexcused	
Dillon 1st	Excused	Unexcused	
Ennis	Excused	Excused	Merry Lee Hooks (PW)
Forsyth	Cathy Mclean		
Geyser	Vacant	Unexcused	

Harlowton	Unexcused	Unexcused	
Hysham	Paul Cannon	Emily Keegan	Joleanna Canon
Jordan	Vacant	Claudia Stanton	Tomas Stanton
Lewistown 1st	Jed Cauffman		Barbara Smith
Manhattan	Debbie Funke		Debbie Blackburn (Mod.)
Miles City 1st	Kristin Willett	Paul Helland	
	Brandon Willett		
Philipsburg	Unexcused	Unexcused	
Poplar	Susie Ennis	Unexcused	
Roy	Unexcused	Unexcused	Ken Siroky
Stanford	Jack Bell	Bonnie Soulsby	Ray Soulsby
			Gene Ernst
			Jane Hughes
			Karen Reilly
			Dixie Youderian
			Judy Fiedler
			Amanda Kelly
			Lois Pfiefler
Terry	Katie Emery	Gary Pfiefler	
White Sulphur Spgs.	Jim Kidd	Pam Jackson	
Wise River	JP Carlson	Unexcused	
Wolf Point	Unexcused	Unexcused	

Also Present or Excused:

George Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter
 Kathy Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter
 Susan Thomas ó Excused
 Dick Davis
 Mary Davis
 Marcia Muir
 Doug Johnson ó Excused
 Brent Long ó Excused
 Rob Hagan ó Central Washington Presbytery

15-684 – Quorum/Docket – A quorum was declared present and the Docket was adopted.

15-685 – Worship/Dwelling in the Word – Charlie Brown along with Cynthia Kessler and Dan Holland presented this section. Their selection was Mark 6:7-11. Following the presentations the presbytery formed into groups of 2 to discuss the selection and then shared their thoughts with the larger group.

15-686 - Leadership Cabinet (LC) – Moderator Jody presented an overview of the LC report.

(See Attachment A).

- ✓ Presbytery voted to set the Per Capita for 2016 at \$45.00.
- ✓ Presbytery voted to postpone action on the 2016 Program and Administrated budgets until Saturday morning.

15-687 - Representation/ Nominating Ministry Team – Debbie Funke presented the following slate of nominations. The election will be held tomorrow morning.

LEADERSHIP CABINET

TE Jed Cauffman - 2018 Lewistown - Personnel Point Person
 RE Bev Harbaugh - 2016 Jordan
 RE - Male - 2018 - _____ Vacant for now
 CRE - Jack Bell -2017 Billings First –

Vice Moderator of Presbytery for 2016

CRE Jack Bell – Billings 1st

PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM**Class of 2018**

TE David Andrew - Dillion
 RE Linda Smith - Anaconda
 TE Susi Ennis - Poplar
 RE Bonnie Soulsby - Stanford

Class of 2017

CRE- Veva Larson - Big Hole/Anaconda

CAMPING AND YOUTH**Class of 2018 -**

TE Paul Cannon - Hysham
 RE Russ Kline - Billings First
 RE Pam Jackson - White Sulphur Springs

MAC BOARD

RE Susan Gibb - Bozeman - 1 year term Mac Representative for Yellowstone Presbytery

GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATES - SUMMER 2016

RE COMMISSIONER - Elder Pam Jackson - White Sulphur Springs
 RE COMMISSIONER ALTERNATE - - Elder Emily Keegan - Hysham
 TE COMMISSIONER - George Goodrich – Co-General Presbyter
 TE ALTERNATE – - Rev. Lanny Rounds - Butte
 YAAD - Tanner Robison - from Butte Church - currently active in Presbycats at First Church, Bozeman
 YAAD - ALTERNATE _____ Vacant for now

15-688 – Pastoral Ministry Team – Dave introduced Katie Emery, the new Lutheran Pastor at Fallon and Terry. Katie commented on her recent experience in Africa and getting settled in Terry. The members asked a few questions of Katie.

- ✓ Presbytery voted to authorize the PMT to assemble an Administrative Commission to install Rev. Katie Emery as Pastor to the Terry Church and grant her membership into Yellowstone Presbytery as a temporary member.

Next, Dave introduced CRE Jack Bell. Jack has been serving the Stanford Church as Pulpit Supply Pastor during this past summer.

- ✓ Presbytery voted to approve CRE Jack Bell as the pastor of the Stanford Church with the following Terms of Call.

Pastoral Agreement between CRE Jack Bell and the First Presbyterian Church in Stanford, Montana, shall be a one (1) year commission; beginning on November 15, 2015. The position will be 15 hours a week. Jack will plan to arrive in Stanford on Saturday afternoon and return to Billings on Monday evening.

The duties will include:

Leading worship on Sundays

Providing Christian Education Opportunities

Providing pastoral care and visitations

Administration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Moderating the session meetings

Presiding over weddings, baptisms, and funerals when needed

Mentorship: Meet monthly with the Rev. David Thompson and annually with the Pastoral Ministry Team

Compensation:

Annual Salary: \$14,400 (exceeds Presbytery minimums)

Housing: Jack will be staying at the home of Jack and Eli Davies. When unable to stay in their home, the church will cover motel costs.

Travel from Billings: \$100 in gas reimbursement per week. Additional travel for illnesses, hospital visits, care facilities, and other out of town trips will be reimburse at the current federal IRS rate.

Professional Expenses: \$300 per year - purchase of books, studies, etc.

Vacation: 4 weeks (prorated to 12 days) paid vacation annually including 4 Sundays.

Study Leave: 2 weeks (prorated to 6 days) of study leave annually

Next, Dave introduced Rev. Marcia Muir and said that her Statement of Faith is available. She is currently a member of the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks but now lives in Billings, MT and is currently working as a member of the Pastoral Care Team at St. John's Lutheran Ministries in Billings.

- ✓ Presbytery voted to receive Rev. Muir as an At-Large member of Yellowstone Presbytery and to validate her ministry at St. John's Lutheran Ministries.

Finally, Dave presented the following recommendation for 2016 Minimum Salaries.

Minimum Salary Guidelines for 2016:

The PMT recommends the following salary guidelines for 2016:

A. Full-Time Pastor in 0-3 years of Ordained Ministry:

Cash - \$33,272

Housing - \$9,982

Effective Salary - \$43,254

Pension - Family - \$15,970, Member Only - \$15,310

The church is expected to pay the full family rate if applicable. Exceptions must be granted by the Pastoral Ministry Team.

Continuing Education - \$600

Travel - Vouchered at the current 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

B. Full-Time Pastor in 4 or more years of Ordained Ministry:

Cash - \$34,934

Housing - \$10,481

Effective Salary - \$45,415

Pension - Family - \$16,576, Member Only \$15,895

The church is expected to pay the full family rate if applicable. Exceptions must be granted by the Pastoral Ministry Team.

Continuing Education - \$600.00

Travel - Vouchered at the current 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

C. Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)

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

✓ Presbytery voted to approve the recommended 2016 minimum salaries.

15-689 – Community Conversations – Susie reviewed pages 26 and 27 of the 1001 Worshipping Communities Handbook. Kristin shared the experiences of the Miles City Church and Cynthia Kessler shared the experiences of the St. Andrew Church as both churches followed through with their visits. Susie then asked people to pair up and visit with residents of Lewistown and report back to those present. Jed talked about the layout of the town so folks would have an idea of where they would like to visit. When the folks came back Susie asked them to report on their experiences. Six teams reported.

15-690 – Announcements –

- There will be Choir practice at 6:30.
- Breakfast will be provided by members of the Stanford church and sack lunches will be available at the close of the meeting tomorrow.
- Rob Hagan noted that he had some Stewardship materials available on the table downstairs.
- Dave Kimball reminded folks of the Youth Triennium taking place in July.
- The offering at tonight's worship service will go to the G.I.R.L.S. MINISTRIES here in Lewistown.

15-691 – G.I.R.L.S. – Tia Carr and Tricia Gatz shared the Background of the Ministry. It was founded in 2012 and the acronym stands for God Infusing Real Loving Sisters. The focus of the ministries to have women of all ages knit together with ties of love and is based on Colossians 2:2. A fact sheet and a copy of a flier from their 3rd Annual Youth Rally, which was held on October 31st were passed out.

15-692 – Recess for Dinner-

15-693 – Worship – Teresa Kendall delivered the sermon titled “God’s Mission has a Church”. Jed Cauffman presided over the Celebration of the Lord’s Supper. The local Bell Choir participated at two points during the service.

Saturday, November 7, 2015

15-694 – Dwelling in the Word – Jed Cauffman, along with Bonnie Solsby and Barbara Smith led Dwelling in the Word. The selection was Psalm 65: 5-13.

15-695 – 2016 Budget – Dan Holland presented the 2016 Program and Administrative Budgets ([See Attachment B](#)).

✓ Presbytery voted to approve the budgets as presented.

15-696 – Community Conversations – Part 2 – Susie continued her presentation focusing on Steps 4 & 5 of the 1001 Worshipping Communities Handbook. She emphasized that everyone can do these steps but the bottom line is prayer.

15-697 – New Church Development Task Force – Jack Bell Stated that a new church was still a goal but the focus now is on New Worshipping Communities. Ideas such as a Cowboy Church, a Hunters Church and a church for homeless kids are being considered. Teresa offered a prayer for the Task Force

15-698 Peacemaking Affirmation – George presented the 5 Peacemaking Affirmations which have been sent by the General Assembly for consideration and vote by the presbyteries. He stated that a vote would be taken at the 2016 Annual Meeting of our presbytery.

15-699 – Ministry in Lewistown – Jed, Charlie and Bonnie shared highlights of some of the ministries in Lewistown. They are part of the Prayer Cluster. Earlier this year they hosted a Prayer Retreat which was well attended. They continue to pray for all the churches in the presbytery. Their Youth Program is in cooperation with the Lutherans and the Methodists. Teresa offered a prayer for the churches ministries. Debbie announced that the Prayer Cluster will meet on Saturday the 14th at Stanford.

15-700 – Break

15-701 – Co-General Presbyters Report – George and Kathy presented, and commented on their written report (See Attachment C).

15-702 Elections – See Ballot – Item 15-687.

- ✓ Presbytery voted to separate the GA Commissioners and YAAD from the ballot and elect all other nominees.
- ✓ George withdrew his name as a nominee and presbytery voted to elect TE Lanny Rounds as our TE GA Commissioner, RE Pam Jackson as our RE GA Commissioner, RE Emily Keegan as our Alternate RE GA Commissioner and Tanner Robison as our YAAD. At this time we do not have Alternates for a TE Commissioner or YAAD.
- ✓ Upon a motion By Dan Krebill, presbytery voted to instruct the Leadership Cabinet, in consultation with the Treasurer, to identify sufficient funds to cover the full cost of attendance at the upcoming meeting of the General Assembly in 2016 for our 2 Co-General Presbyters and our newly elected Stated Clerk.

15-702 – Docket Extension –

- ✓ Presbytery voted to extend the Docket for 15 minutes.

15-703 – Additional Reports – The following additional reports were presented and commented on.

- Montana Association of Churches, Synod Commissioners, Presbyterian Women and St Timothy's.
- Stated Clerk – Ron called attention to his report. He stated that since the minutes of the June 6-7 presbytery meeting and the September 16th Special presbytery meeting were not available, action on them will be taken at the March 2016 meeting of presbytery.

15-704 – Stated Clerk Recognition – George called Ron Hanson forward and announced that a gift has been sent to Intermountain Children's Home in recognition of Ron's seven years of service as Stated Clerk.

15-704 Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Ron Hanson
Stated Clerk

Attachment A

LEADERSHIP CABINET
Presbytery of Yellowstone
Report to Presbytery November 2015

2015 Goals

Improve communication within and beyond the presbytery
Focus on spiritual nurture of pastors and leaders
Build community in the presbytery
Make and carry out staff transition decisions (stated clerk)

A BIG THANK YOU to these Task Groups whose jobs are completed:

1. Search Committee for Stated Clerk
Neva Rathbun (chair), Dan Holland, Debbie Funke, Terry Johnson
This task group successfully identified a new Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Yellowstone, Ruling Elder Debbie Blackburn of the Manhattan Presbyterian Church. RE Ron Hanson will complete his work Dec. 31, 2015 and Debbie will begin her new role on Jan. 1, 2016. This was voted on by the Presbytery in a special meeting by conference call on Sept. 16, 2015.
2. Presbytery Sunday - first annual (1) was October 11, 2015
Teresa Kendall (chair), Dan Holland, Kristin Willett, Mary Davis, Mike Ferguson

These Task Groups continue:

3. Re view Team - hearing feedback from presbytery on new structure
Debbie Blackburn, David Andrew, Jim Tarr, Gayle Holland
4. Glacier-Yellowstone Covenant -Will continue discussions as per covenant.
Jody McDevitt, Debbie Blackburn, Teresa Kendall, George Goodrich
5. New Worshiping Communities Task Group
Jack Bell (chair), Jed Cauffman, Dan Krebill, Mary Davis, George Goodrich

And furthering our communication within the presbytery,

6. Many thanks to Susan Thomas for her work compiling and sending out Yellowstone Currents!
If you are not receiving this monthly e-newsletter, contact susan.seibert@yellowstonepcusa.org.

Actions taken by the Leadership Cabinet on behalf of the presbytery, since June

1. Approved sale of the Mildred Church for \$3500. Sale is now finalized.
2. Approved the transfer of monies received from the sale of the presbytery's portion of the Christus Collegium to the Higher Education Grant Fund. Amount of transfer - \$5760. Expected

future revenue approximately \$2000/year.

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3. Approved Teaching Elder JP Carlson as the Yellowstone Presbytery representative on the board of Intermountain.
4. Forwarded \$4800 received for Vanuatu Cyclone Relief to the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. This is in addition to the \$5000 grant from the presbytery and \$2000 from FPC Bozeman which was sent earlier in the year, making a total of \$11,800. Thank you to all who contributed! II
5. Received reports from 3 higher education ministries, from Pastoral Ministry Team, and from Camping and Youth Ministry Team.
6. Received correspondence from other governing bodies. A note of support was sent to New Covenant Presbytery, affirming support for a balanced approach to responses to climate change.
7. Set presbytery meeting dates for 2016:
 - Fri-Sat, March 4-5 Billings, First Presbyterian Church
 - Fri-Sat, June 10-11 Miles City
 - Fri-Sat, Nov 4-5 Butte
8. Reviewed the budget for 2016.

Decisions requiring action from the presbytery

1. Approval of per capita of \$45 for 2016.
2. Approval of presbytery's 2016 Administrative and Program Budgets

Next presbytery meeting:

March 4-5, at Billings First

Attachment B

Presbytery of Yellowstone-Administrative

Account Name	2,015	Actual	% of	2016
	Budget	Through 9/30/15		Budget
Per Capita Presby	54,250	58,332	108%	58,000
Per Capita Synod	9,700	10,059	104%	5,860
Per Capita GA	11,900	12,469	105%	11,900
Prior Year Per Capita	0	0		
Block Grant	27,450	20,588	75%	27,450
Transfer-Springhill fund	13,000			2,000
Transfer-W. Yellow.	2,000	0		2,000

Transfer-Gen. Admin fund	2,000	0		2,000
Transfer-Rest. Admin fund	18,063	0		23,601
Administrative Support	30,000	30,145	100%	35,000
Total Budgeted Income	168,363	131,593	78%	167,811

	2,015	Actual Through	% of	2016
PMT	Budget	9/30/15	Budget	Prelim.
Meetings Exp	5,200	3,390	65%	5,200
Discernment Team	0	476	#DIV/0!	1,000
Other	1,100	318	29%	1,100
Total PMT	6,300	4,184	66%	7,300

	2,015	Actual Through	% of	2016
Comm. On Nominations	Budget	9/30/15	Budget	Prelim.
Nomination meetings	150	0	0%	150
Nomination other	50	0	0%	50
Total Nominations	200	0	0%	200

	2,015	Actual Through	% of	2016
St. Timothy's	Budget	9/30/15	Budget	Prelim.
St. Tim's meetings	250	100	40%	250
St. Tim's other	50	0	0%	50
Total St. Timothy's	300	100	33%	300

	2,015	Actual Through	% of	2016
Delegates to other bodies	Budget	9/30/15	Budget	Prelim.
Delegates meetings	350	0	0%	600
Delegates other	50	0	0%	50
Total Delegates	400	0	0%	650

	2,015	Actual Through	% of	2016
Payroll Taxes	Budget	9/30/15	% of	Prelim.

			Budget	
Medicare/Soc. Sec.	3,242	2,467	76%	3,400
W/C Insurance	375	0	0%	375
Unemployment	150	18	12%	150
Total Payroll Taxes	3,767	2,485	66%	3,925

	Actual			
	2,015	Through	% of	2016
Per Capita	Budget	9/30/15	Budget	Prelim.
Per Capita GA	14,013	14,013	100%	14,026
Per Capita Synod	11,397	11,397	100%	6,895
Total Per Capita	25,410	25,410	100%	20,921

	Actual			
	2,015	Through	% of	2016
Admin Mgr.	Budget	9/30/15	Budget	Prelim.
Admin Mgr. Salary	23,634	17,589	74%	24,107
Admin Mgr travel	120	9	8%	120
Admin Mgr benefits	1,500	1,500	100%	1,500
Total Admin Mgr	25,254	19,098	76%	25,727

	Actual			
	2,015	Through	% of	2016
General Presbyter	Budget	9/30/15	Budget	Prelim.
Housing	20,000	15,000	75%	20,000
GP Lodging	500	0	0%	500
GP meals	1,050	948	90%	1,050
GP miscellaneous	700	1,149	164%	700
Misc.-Kathy	2,000	0	0%	2,000
GP Pension	19,217	8,905	46%	19,217
Salary exp	7,519	5,639	75%	8,200
Study leave	700	0	0%	700
GP telephone/Conf calls	1,500	990	66%	1,500
GP travel	7,500	4,825	64%	7,500
Total General Presbyter	60,686	37,456	62%	61,367

	Actual			
	2,015	Through	% of	2016
Stated Clerk	Budget	9/30/15	Budget	Prelim.
Stated Clerk meals	50	0	0%	50
Stated Clerk misc.	500	261	52%	500
Pension exp.	3,846	3,205	83%	3,846
Stated Clerk salary	11,655	8,741	75%	11,888
Stated Clerk travel	0	0	#DIV/0!	0

Total Stated Clerk	16,051	12,207	76%	16,284
	2,015	Actual Through	% of	2016
Treasurer	Budget	9/30/15	Budget	Prelim.
Treasurer Salary	7,085	5,314	75%	7,227
Total Treasurer	7,085	5,314	75%	7,227
Subtotal Personnel	112,843	76,560	68%	114,530
	2,015	Actual Through	% of	2016
Leadership Cabinet	Budget	9/30/15	Budget	Prelim.
LC meetings	1,500	2,127	142%	2,500
LC other	500	433	87%	500
Legal	1,000	0	0%	1,000
Task Force meetings	500	52	10%	500
Total LC	3,500	2,612	75%	4,500
	2,015	Actual Through	% of	2016
Presbytery	Budget	9/30/15	Budget	Prelim.
Presbytery meetings	7,600	3,951	52%	7,600
Presbytery other	700	649	93%	700
Total Presbytery	8,300	4,600	55%	8,300
	2,015	Actual Through	% of	2016
Presbytery Office	Budget	9/30/15	Budget	Prelim.
Copies & postage	1,200	554	46%	1,200
Equipment	200	0	0%	200
Insurance	750	1,290	172%	750
Miscellaneous	460	-21	-5%	460
Rent	4,200	3,105	74%	4,200
Supplies	1,800	769	43%	1,800
Telephone & Conf calls	2,500	956	38%	2,500
Total Presby Office	11,110	6,653	60%	11,110
Total Expenses	168,363	120,119	71%	167,811
Net	0	11,474		0

Presbytery of Yellowstone-Program

Account	2,015	Actual	% of	2016	Notes
ID	Budget	Through	Budget	Prelim.	
Account Name		9/30/15			
4.01.1210	22,450	21,486	96%	22,450	
4.01.1250					
4.01.1420	11,000	12,230	111%	12,000	
4.01.1430	4,000	1,472	37%	4,000	
4.01.1440	8,000	1,450	18%	7,000	
				0	
4.01.1810	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	
	8,750	0	0%	9,500	
4.01.1500	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	
Total Budgeted Income	54,200	36,638	68%	54,950	

	2,015	Actual	% of	2016	Notes
Camping & Youth	Budget	9/30/15	Budget	Prelim.	
Copies & postage	100	0	0%	100	
Facilities Maintenance	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	
Insurance	4,600	3,535	77%	4,600	
Publicity	250	0	0%	200	
Camp caretaker	3,500	2,333	67%	3,500	
Camp staff	9,000	11,572	129%	10,000	
Food	3,250	2,921	90%	3,250	
Miscellaneous	200	0	0%	200	
Rental equip/rafting	1,000	980	98%	1,000	
Supplies	300	364	121%	500	
Swimming	100	0	0%	150	
Transportation/Bus	800	113	14%	350	
Utilities-Westminster					
Spires	2,750	2,280	83%	2,750	
PCCCA membership	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	
Triennium	2,500	0	0%	2,500	
Camping travel	400	0	0%	400	
Events misc.	5,000	1,442	29%	5,000	
Total Camping & Youth	33,750	25,540	76%	34,500	

	2,015	Actual Through	% of	2016	Notes
PMT	Budget	9/30/15	Budget	Prelim.	
PMT training	1,000	435	44%	1,000	
Vocations other	1,700	0	0%	1,700	
Emergency counseling	1,000	0	0%	1,000	
Congregation ministry misc.	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	
Total PMT	3,700	435	12%	3,700	

	2,015	Actual Through	% of	2016	Notes
Leadership Cabinet	Budget	9/30/15	Budget	Prelim.	
Western Leadership misc.	1,000	500	50%	1,000	
Total LC	1,000	500	50%	1,000	

	2,015	Actual Through	% of	2016	Notes
MT Ass. of Churchs	Budget	9/30/15	Budget	Prelim.	
MAC membership	3,500	3,500	100%	3,500	
MAC representation	250	0	0%	250	
Total MAC	3,750	3,500	93%	3,750	

	2,015	Actual Through	% of	2016	Notes
Presbytery	Budget	9/30/15	Budget	Prelim.	
Convocation	1,000	1,000	100%	1,000	
Program misc.	1,500	138	9%	1,500	
Cluster meetings	2,000	0	0%	2,000	
Allocated GP salary	7,500	5,625	75%	7,500	
Total Presbytery	12,000	6,763	56%	12,000	
Total Expenses	54,200	36,738	68%	54,950	
Net	0	-100		0	

Attachment C

November, 2015 – CoGeneral Presbyters’ Report to Yellowstone Presby. George and Kathy Goodrich

“God sends forth his love and faithfulness” (TNIV) Recently the Psalm in the daily lectionary for the day, was Psalm 57. It is a psalm thought to be written by David when he was on the run from Saul. As such, it is appropriate

for those of God's people who find themselves hard-pressed, worried, weary. But in the middle of the Psalm, is a word of faith, hope, strength, and love for all of us: "God sends forth his love and his faithfulness," 57:3b.

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As we approach the Advent season, amidst the blessings and provisions, the tragedies, conflicts and suffering, may we not only **look** for the promised signs of God's love and faithfulness in our live and the life of the presbytery, the leadership cabinet and the congregations, and in our world. May we prayerfully ask to be willing to **BE transformed** to be more like Christ and **BE** the Christ-shaped lives and community indwelt by the Holy Spirit through which God gifts God's love and faithfulness to each other and out in mission from all of us into the world!

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 is responsible for keeping us focused on our vision, sowing a vision for mission.

Mission and Ministry in the Clusters: We have four strong clergy clusters – Butte, White Sulphur, Billings and Miles City. Each cluster is dwelling in the word, praying with and for one another, deepening relationships, and exploring God's calling for their cluster or beyond. (Note particular focus on our vision & LC goals 2 & 3)

- 1) The White Sulphur Springs has become a locus for prayer ministry and spiritual formation ministry, and has both lay and clergy membership. Beginning to discuss future retreat offerings for the cluster churches and the presbytery. This cluster met for a prayer retreat and focused prayer for congregations in the region in Lewistown on July 17 (Whitworth fellows attended as part of their Lewistown visit) as well as by conf calls. Debbie Funke is coordinator. The cluster will meet in Lewistown this Thursday, November 5.
- 2) The Billings Cluster had the Whitworth fellows join the clergy CRE's in attendance at the June meeting. Trustful sharing and support is occurring in this group, but there are growing pains. Next gathering: November 19; Mary Davis is coordinator.
- 3) The Miles City Cluster is growing as a multi-denominational gathering of clergy. Neva Rathbun is coordinator; Next gathering – November 10.
- 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. Rusty Craig and Freeman McCall are coordinators; next meeting will be December 3 at FPC-Butte.
- 5) Positives of the clusters:
 - a) Growing commitment, **beautifully deepening trust** in the groups, meetings and with each other.
 - 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.**
 - e) **Some mentoring** is happening in a way that nips potential PMT problems in the bud.
 - f) **Increased connections, communications and hopefully collaborations between pastors in regions.**

Mission in Task Forces:

- 1) To further live into our vision, let's continue to prayerfully ask what needs we are discerning, how the Spirit may be leading us 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 include:
 - a. College/Campus ministry – All underway. i.e. Presbycats' wide outreach, visibility and relational approach on campus and Facebook, events, bearing fruit. Five peer leaders, up from three, Mission trip to Ireland.
 - b. 1001 – New Worshipping Communities. After 3-7-15 Presbytery vote to explore and moved towards starting at least 1 NWC in YP in the next year, Jack Bell convenes this new Task Force. This was our aspect of mission and equipping in our June and Nov. presbytery meetings. Vera White, PCUSA staff for this ministry, was our resource person and preacher for the June presbytery meeting. A brief organizational meeting was held for those interested immediately following the June meeting in White Sulphur Springs. It is important that we all intentionally apply and follow up, building upon this training interest, guidance and

momentum, including learning from from each other and resourcing time at Nov. presbytery meeting and in EACH session and congregation. **Input desired from congregation and individuals regarding BOTH:**

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1. **how existing congregations can better listen to and learn about their communities, what is happening, needs and opportunities and where to join the Holy Spirit in sharing and living the Gospel?**
2. **Who may God be calling to be part of a NWC leadership team? You?**
3. **Where might the Spirit be preparing as places for possible New Worshipping Communities?**

- c. Nurturing Young Disciples – This, along with ministry to/with children AND their families, was one of the primary needs, concerns and opportunities arising from the Whitworth Fellows' research and conversations in 10 of our congregations and communities. Kathy continues to hear stories, receive requests from pastors & congregational leaders for resourcing and/or consulting for better, more fruitful ministry in this area.
- d. Strengthening, equipping rural congregations in disciplinemaking, missional ministry. See DREAM grant, preaching and spiritual formation grant.
- e. Peacemaking – St Andrew Presbyterian, Billings, long-concerned for peacemaking, is seeing a resurgence of interest. They will be hosting all those interested from the presbytery on Saturday, February 6, to consider the presbytery's advisory vote on the Five Affirmations presented by the General Assembly's Peacemaking Task Force. Their recommendation will likely inform the presbytery's vote at our March 4-5 meeting.

PMT (formerly CoM) We continue to be involved in pastoring pastors and resourcing PMT & churches, particularly those in pastoral transition or some contention (See ongoing communications from PMT):

- a) Tom Long seminar recovering the Christian Funeral and witness to the resurrection in today's secular culture July 25 was well-attended by our clergy, followed by fellowship lunch. See August *Currents* for a summary.
- b) Churches searching for pastors – **Terry called a new pastor – The Rev. Katie Emery(ELCA), arrived Oct 1. Her installation is slated for November 29 at 9:30 AM. Her clergy husband serves in Glendive. Jordan** has a temporary Lutheran CRE, Jeff Bolstad.
- c) Churches wrestling with their relationship to the denomination: **Stanford and Geyser**. PMT is working closely with these churches, but the ministry is now very fragile in both congregations. We are very grateful to CRE Jack Bell who has sensed a call to pastor in Stanford and perhaps in Geyser for one year. Pastoral Teams from the PMT continue to work with both congregations. Your sincere prayers are requested for our brothers and sisters in Christ there and the work of the Holy Spirit. A group wishes to remain and worships together.
- d) **Veva Larson** was commissioned as a CRE in the Anaconda Church on Sunday, September 20 in Anaconda and in the Big Hole Churches on Sunday, October 18. Congratulations to Veva and the pastor of those congregations, J. P. Carlson!
- e) The differences in our denomination and culture regarding same sex behavior and marriage and other topics are being experienced and handled in a variety of ways, from relatively amicable arrangements to agree to disagree to deep divisions or rumblings on the part of at least some in some congregations as to various ways to respond or express their convictions, including whether to remain. Some sessions are/have discussed their response and developed policies. This is requiring quite a bit of informal and formal time, listening, attention, prayer, consultation, visits on the part of Co-GP's, PMT and Pastoral Teams.
- f) **Commissioned Ruling Elder training was offered this summer** in Spokane in July @ Whitworth Univ. They will be making this available online.
- g) Church closing this year: **Roy**. Some real estate details are still being hammered out. Now waiting for their action. Pastor Tom Mooring had a heart attack. We expect settlement soon.

- h) We have been confidentially pastoring pastors and their family members & preaching in congregations.
- i) **The PMT will be sending to the Leadership Cabinet a proposal** for input to and collaboration with them for intentional focus, searching and developing those called to service as CRE's for service in Yellowstone

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- j) Presbytery. **WHOM DO YOU KNOW WHO MIGHT GOD BE GIFTING AND CALLING TO THIS MINISTRY, TO START A NWC???** Please be asking God and paying attention to the Spirit's work !!

The REQUIRED Three-Year Boundary Training was offered May 16 in Billings and 23 in Bozeman. Mark Bassingthwaighe, from FPC, Billings, is an attorney who travels extensively conducted the trainings on ethics and misconduct patterns. Every clergy and CRE in Yellowstone Presbytery is REQUIRED to have such training every 3 years so Yellowstone Presbytery. As of October, all of our clergy are in compliance!

Camping and Youth: This continues to be a vibrant, discipling and outreach mission of the presbytery through this Ministry Team. Fifty traditional campers and additional non-traditional campers were served this summer. The eight college-age staff were excellent leaders. George was the Bible Study leader for the Elementary and Senior High Camps; David Andrew led the Junior High studies. The Willetts joined for elem camp. Curt Kochner was the Co-Director for each of these camps and offered quality leadership training to the staff during orientation.

- 2) **Curt Kochner and Susan Thomas** continue to give heavily to this ministry in countless ways. Many Thanks!
- 3) **Camp Staff End-of-season cook-out:** George and Kathy, Curt and Susan, hosted a camp staff reunion-recap cook-out and overnight at the Goodrich's home, August 22.
- 4) **Camp DVD's** portraying the Westminster Spires camping ministry 2015 are finished will be sent shortly. Please share with not only families but congregations in the fall to celebrate what God has done, educate about camp and plant seeds for ALL ages and church leaders.

The Partnership with Whitworth University for Rural Ministry Thank you all for welcoming Mirra and Joel and Terry as they have been with us this spring and summer.

Phase 1 for research and development. Whitworth fellows, Joel Silvis and Mirra Matheson, were with Yellowstone Presbytery June 1 – August 15, thanks primarily to grants from Whitworth's Office of Church Engagement

Based out of Bozeman, they listened, observed, asked questions, built relationships. They attended 2 pastor cluster meetings, part of a PMT meeting, our June Presbytery and training with Vera White; attended Sr. High Camp @ Westminster Spires; met regularly with George and Kathy; met via Skype with Whitworth staff; met with WU Prof Stacey Keogh; stayed in homes and visited 10 of our congregations and communities. They were listening and learning about God's not only the realities, strength and challenges of each, but also possibilities, missional dreams and callings God has or might have for congregations.

At the end of the summer they met for 2 days with George and Kathy and Terry McGonigal in MT to share and discuss findings and together evaluate and explore possibilities for next summer of additional fellows.

1. Their findings and feedback is as varied as the wide range of communities and congregations they visited which they shared back with each pastor.

2. The responses from both pastors, congregational leaders who interacted with them and from the fellows was that this was a very worthwhile, stretching and valuable experience. They were unabashed in saying they felt that out of the 38 fellows, they had the BEST fellowship!

3. Phase 2. They are highly supportive of many aspects (albeit a first time learning for all) and recommend WU place several teams of fellows here next summer. They will not only be involved in that process but both are

wondering if God might be calling them to return.

Some themes and observations from their outside, young eyes this summer include:

Many congregations do not broadly know their mission, or perhaps have a mission. J & M perceive several could use

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help exploring God's call and discerning and defining a clear vision/mission for their ministry.

All want to do more or better with ministry to children and youth and families or college students.

Congregations and their communities often face large economic challenges need more funding and to explore a WIDE range of creative ways that might be accomplished. Shrinking populations are often a part of this.

Underlying many areas is the need for a better understanding of and intentional discipling (versus limitations of membership mindset) as part of the culture and practices of congregations.

Reticence or resistance to changes, sometimes to THE exact actions and mindsets which are needed to move forward to accomplish *what leaders themselves say repeatedly they want to have happen* in their congregation. In some places too much valuing of comfort, contentment with current status quo. A need – people eyes to see as Christ sees, a culture of innovation and equipping pastors AND lay leaders for leading change/transformation in a way which works for each place.

New ways of doing and being church with many changes in culture, communities and congregations – adaptations, transformation and new worshipping communities depending on the community.

Quality relationships and high level of trust in pastor clusters, of prayer in one of them.

Creative exploration of buildings and other such assets in service of Christ-centered missional mission/service in the community.

Healthy collaboration, partnerships, relationships between pastors and congregations, in ministerial associations make a significant difference. Varies greatly from place to place.

George and Kathy, with their experience, gifts, expertise and respect/relational and leadership capital across the presbytery, should be able to use them more, initiate more.

There are WONDERFUL people across this amazing state. Many hardworking, dedicated people in presbytery and congregations. The Spirit of God is at work!

The research, networks and unfolding opportunities will then inform the Grant administrators (in YP and WU) in collaboration with the 2 bodies towards detailed planning for **phase 2** with more fellows for summer of 2016.

The Presbytery Transition: Transition continues for us and presbytery. We are grateful to all of you who are answering God's call, investing your gifts & time in this mission.

a) George was the staff resource for the Stated Clerk Search Committee for the Presbytery, chair Neva Rathbun, and Debbie Funke, Dan Holland and Terry Johnson. The search team interviewed several quality candidates and nominated Elder Debbie Blackburn to the presbytery which elected her. Great work by this team!

b) George is serving with Jody McDevitt and others on a task force interfacing with Glacier Presbytery to explore, map the possible coordination and collaboration of future ministries. The thought is to launch a shared website to inform of the resources and ministries available in both presbyteries.

c) Periodically we keep up with e-mail through the month. George's new work e-mail address: george@yellowstonepcusa.org.

Communication Susan Thomas sends out *Yellowstone Currents* the beginning of every month! She, George & Kathy continue to work together. Please submit news of ministry, mission developments, opportunities in your congregations and clusters to her or us a few days before the end of the month: ckochner@mcn.net.

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Rep/Nominating Ministry Team: George & Kathy both resourced this Team, seeking to cover the many responsibilities in our 2 short weeks. Debbie Funke moderates this team which has worked extensively to nominate candidates to the vacant positions. Please see the teams' report in the presbytery packet.

Funding for 2015: several mission interpretation and fundraising emphases:

- a) The group met via phone to discuss both presbytery day and interpreting mission here and asking for support for it. See notes from this call. The program/mission budget for the presbytery has received little emphasis for some time.
- b) Our fundraising efforts for 2015 are going well – and we are VERY GRATEFUL to God and the friends and congregations of Yellowstone Presbytery who were able to contribute. The goal: \$40,000, is ambitious and we are already at \$31,244. ***We would be most grateful if you would consider making our ministry a line item in your mission budget this year, or certainly in 2016, after the needs of your congregation.***
- c) The Yellowstone-Whitworth Rural Ministry Initiative, will call for the presbytery to raise money in 2015 and in 2016. New DREAM initiatives such as this can sometimes be more attractive to those who have not previously given, for new monies or to those outside the church.
- d) See Synod and per capita recommendation in bold under b below.

Service to the Larger Church includes:

- a) George led the morning Bible Study at WNL T again (September 30-October 2 – ESTES PARK, CO) and was well-received.
- b) Kathy, along with Ron, is serving as Yellowstone Commissioner to the Synod Assembly and its TF for reviewing WNL T. We met July 14-15, & Oct 19 in Denver.
Synod – Several items of note included –
 1. Exploring merger options in separate conversations with the Synod of the Pacific and Synod of the Southwest (Ron a part of these) in response to GA voted mandate to reduce the number of synods.
 2. David Ezekiel has taken a 9 month appointment at San Francisco Seminary in Evangelism and his position is now ¼ time.
 3. **Synod** voted to reduce Synod Per Capita from \$5.75 to \$3.50 as their programmatic and staffing needs are significantly decreased, thus giving presbyteries the option of retaining this amount for the presbytery's needs without increasing per capita on congregations. **It is our recommendation that the LC and presbytery seriously consider this option for Yellowstone, and NOT ask more from our congregations this year. Yellowstone must make up for reduced support monies from the Synod and our Presbytery staff and entities have slowly been doing some of the work Synod staff did.**
- c) **George resigned from the Board of the Intermountain Children's Services** as of the end of term in June, 2015. He have served for 11 consecutive years and been greatly enriched by my participation. The Leadership Cabinet has approved the nomination to the Intermountain Board of J. P. Carlson to represent the Presbytery.
- d) George serves on the Board of Trustees for Rocky Mountain College, This Board needs and deserves more focused time than he has to give. Kim Woeste's and other's input has been that he has an important voice and influence at this pivotal time and he is needed and should remain.
- e) Kathy serves on the Board of Trustees for Whitworth University, and on its Academic Affairs Com.

f) George and Kathy continue to serve on the Synod Staff Forum, increasingly important for resourcing, ideas, partnership opportunities in the region with Synod staff reduction. We met Sept 2-4, then in January.

g) The Montana Association of Christians: Goodriches are part of the judicatory heads group. The Annual Gathering was held in Great Falls, October 23-24, 2015. Themes on justice ministry and spirituality were featured. Please see Susan Gibb's MAC report for details.

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Our Developing Ministry:

- a) George: I have completed the work for my spiritual direction certification program. Through the training I formally worked with six pastors in spiritual direction. I hope to develop this ministry in coming months. Anyone want to try spiritual direction/companioning or know someone who might benefit from it? George will also be offering a beginning spiritual direction retreat in January or February for 6-8 interested pastors and leaders. Ask George for details.
- b) We are also receiving invitations to speak on clergy/lay leadership retreats in the Synod. George was a speaker at Highland Holy Days retreat of St. Andrew Church.
- c) 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....
- d) 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....

Upcoming equipping events in the region include:

"Hearts and Minds Set on Christ: Spiritual Formation and Preaching Enrichment for Pastors". Yellowstone has received grant monies through our partnership with Presbytery of Inland Northwest, and over 10 presbyteries in the Rocky Mountain region and west and Whitworth's Office of Church Engagement. This grant provides the pastors access to grant monies and a year's training beginning in July 2016 (18-22) or July 2017. Throughout the next 12 months, cohorts will meet regularly within their presbyteries for ongoing encouragement, support, and training. Each cohort will be guided by a cohort leader from the participating presbytery. Each participant will also have periodic contact with the cohort mentors, each one experienced and skilled in the integration of personal Christian spiritual formation with the process of teaching and preaching the Scriptures. See separate handout for further details and talk with George and Kathy.

Other responsibilities to the Leadership Cabinet – and more

Kathy continues to work on many aspects of the growing number of our grants, in touch with and reporting to National offices, Whitworth as well as Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Some aspects involve us both.

George is the staff resource to the Mission Emphasis Planning Team for the November presbytery meeting.

In June Kathy wrote and the **Presbytery received a grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** to support immediate and longer term ministry through the Deer Lodge church and in and with those communities following the tragic shootings affecting the Deer Lodge/Anaconda communities. We have both had ongoing conversations with Teresa Kendall, Linda Smith, JP Carlson, others and PDA regarding this ministry and PDA's grant.

Yellowstone Presbytery Family updates -

The Community Presbyterian Church in Jordan, MT celebrated its 100th anniversary on August 15th. Five previous pastors and interns, including Dick Davis, Neva Rathbun, Tim Lanham, Caroline Fleming and Dan Krebill, brought greetings. George participated in offering the pastoral prayer and installing elders.

We are pleased to announce the **Baptism of Levi Parker Willett**, third child of Kristin and Brandon Willett, who co-pastor the First Presbyterian Church of Miles City. George was honored to perform the baptism and preach on Sunday, August 16 in the morning worship service.

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Congratulations again to **Teresa Kendall and Tom Gomola on their wedding** Memorial Day weekend.

The Krebill-McDevitt clan celebrated Doris Krebill's her 90th birthday in October!

Family Life Updates since mid June- and please keep sharing yours.

As we celebrated our 38th anniversary, we counted SO many ways God has blessed, grown, guided us. We are overflowing with gratitude for family, friends, and amazed at how God has allowed us to join in his mission, catching glimpses of holy, lifegiving, redemptive work.

George's Dad's 90th birthday celebration in June with most of the extended family was a precious, priceless time together. He was better than he has been in a while in energy and interacting with each one, including ALL 3 great grandchildren. We are grieving his death in September but so grateful for his life, love, faith and legacy. Time together as extended family, including all 3 great grandchildren, was a priceless gift.

Thank you for your years of and now prayers as my dad just passed away, home at last with Jesus, after a valiant fight and almost 95 years. God gave holy moments around his passing, We will all gather for a service for him just before Thanksgiving and then bury him here in Montana at the time he loved best here, summer and rodeo season just before July 4. Thank you for your love, prayers and patience and listening hearts as we journey through this double loss and grief. How grateful we are that Jesus is the resurrection and the life and that we grieve as those with the greatest hope!

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