

**Yellowstone Presbytery Stated Meeting**

**November 4 -5, 2016**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**Butte, Montana**

**16 - 066 – Call to Order** – Moderator Teresa Kendall, TE, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The vision statement was read. Lanny Rounds, TE, welcomed the presbytery to First Presbyterian Church of Butte.

**16 - 067 – Roll Call** – Stated Clerk Debbie Blackburn, RE, called the roll and ensured that all present were introduced. The following people filled out registration sheets for the meeting.

<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder Minister Member</b>	<b>Ruling Elder Commissioner(s)</b>	<b>Others Present</b>
Anaconda	Vacant	Linda Smith	
Big Hole	Vacant	Julie Boksich	
First Billings	Dave Thompson	Chris Eriksen	
Billings, St Andrew	Susan Barnes	David Kimball Jim Tarr	Curt Kochner (Camping)
Bozeman	Dan Krebill Jody McDevitt	Dan Holland Suzanne Bratsky	
Butte	Lanny Rounds	John Clark Ron Hanson	
Colstrip	Unexcused	Unexcused	
Deer Lodge	Teresa Kendall	Unexcused	
Dillon	Steve Weber	Terry Johnson	
Ennis	Excused	Ray Easter Mary Lee Hooks	
Forsyth	Cathy McLean	Unexcused	
Geyser	Vacant	Unexcused	
Harlowton	Vicki Waddington	Unexcused	
Hysham	Excused	Unexcused	
Jordan	Unexcused	Unexcused	
Lewistown	Excused	Unexcused	

<b>Church</b>	<b>Teaching Elder Minister Member</b>	<b>Ruling Elder Commissioner</b>	<b>Others Present</b>
Manhattan	Debbie Funke	Eleanor Mest	Debbie Blackburn
Miles City	Excused Excused	Unexcused	
Philipsburg	Sally Ralston	Unexcused	
Poplar	Susi Ennis	Unexcused	
Stanford	Jack Bell (CRE)	Bonnie Soulsby	
Terry	Katie Emery	Unexcused	
White Sulphur Springs	Excused	Unexcused	
Wolf Point	Unexcused	Unexcused	

**Also Present or Excused:**

TE George Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter

TE Kathy Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter

TE Susan Thomas

TE Rusty Craig

TE Paul Cousins

Tom Gomola (Visitor)

TE Doug Johnson (excused)

TE Neva Rathbun (excused)

TE Leon Rathbun (excused)

TE Brent Long (excused)

**Corresponding Members Present:**

TE Rob Hagan (Presbytery of Northwest Coast)

**16 - 068- Procedural Motions** – Upon a motion by the clerk, the presbytery approved the following actions:

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.

**16 - 069 - Quorum/Docket** – A quorum was declared present and the Docket was adopted.

**16 - 070 – Worship** – Cathy McLean, TE, led the presbytery in Dwelling in the Word, focusing on Ephesians 4. After a time of reflecting and sharing, Cathy closed this time with prayer.

**16 - 071 – Spiritual Gifts Presentation-** Kathy Goodrich, TE, and Susi Ennis, TE, began with an overview of spiritual gifts including what are spiritual gifts, why do we have them, and how do we identify our gifts. Then they reviewed the gift definitions from the BuildingChurch.net inventory of spiritual gifts.

**16 - 072 – Break** - The Presbytery took a break at 3:15.

**16 – 073 – Spiritual Gifts (continued)** – Kathy and Susi resumed their presentation. They noted that God gives us all the gifts we need to do the work to which we are called. We receive energy and joy from spiritual gifts. Kathy announced that Rev. Stanley Ott will be with us at the Presbytery meeting in February.

**16 – 074 – Rob Hagan (Presbyterian Foundation)** – Rob reminded us that stewardship and money follow vision. He also reminded everyone of the Legacy Seminar that he will be holding on Saturday afternoon (after the close of the Presbytery meeting).

**16 – 075 – Announcements** – The next Presbytery meeting will be February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Billings. Open Enrollment with the Board of Pensions closes on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

**16 – 076 – Representation/Nominating** – Debbie Funke, TE, presented the ballot of nominations (see Attachment E). Voting for these nominations will be on Saturday.

**16 -077– Steve Weber Examination** – Dan Krebill, TE, introduced Steve Weber, TE, who is currently serving as stated supply pastor at Dillon. Steve reviewed his background and responded to questions.

√ Motion passed to approve Steve Weber as a member of Yellowstone Presbytery. His one year stated supply contract with compensation package (See Attachment A – Pastoral Ministry Team Report) was also approved. [Dan Krebill offered prayer for Steve.]

**16 -078 – Vicki Waddington Examination** – Dan Krebill, TE, introduced Rev. Vicki Waddington who is a Methodist pastor serving in the Federated Church of Harlowton. Vicki also serves three other churches (Hobson, Moore, and Judith Gap). Vicki reviewed her background and responded to questions.

√ Motion passed to close the examination.

√ Motion passed to approve Rev. Vicki Waddington as temporary member of Yellowstone Presbytery while serving in the Federated Church in Harlowton. [Dan Krebill offered prayer for Vicki.]

**16 -079 - Good News from Churches** – Vicki Waddington shared that there is a food bank in

the Harlowton church to help area families. There is also involvement with the local ministerial association. They hope to reconnect with the Presbytery. Teresa Kendall, TE, offered prayer.

**16 - 080 - Report from Co-General Presbyters** – George Goodrich, TE, and Kathy Goodrich, TE, shared highlights from their written report (Attachment G). They stressed the need to pray for each other and the importance of pastors meeting together in clusters. An application has been submitted for a Dream Grant with an emphasis on growing young. They are looking for equipping opportunities to replace WNLT.

**16 - 081 - Dinner** – Suzanne Bratsky, RE, offered prayer for the evening meal. Moderator Teresa Kendall, TE, recessed the meeting.

**16 - 082 -Worship** – Members of the Presbytery recorded a song for our friends in Zimbabwe. JP Carlson, TE, preached a sermon on “Christian GO”. Lanny Rounds, TE, presided over communion. The offering for the Makokoba Presbyterian Church in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe will be delivered by Jack Bell, CRE.

**16 - 083 - Reconvening** –Moderator Teresa Kendall, TE, reconvened the meeting with prayer at 8:35 a.m. on Saturday morning.

**16 - 084 - Dwelling in the Word** – Jack Bell, CRE, led a time of Dwelling in the Word focusing on I Corinthians 12. We were reminded to use the gifts we have been given and to encourage those around us to use their gifts.

**16 - 085 - Equipping** – Susi Ennis, TE, and Kathy Goodrich, TE, resumed their training on spiritual gifts. They had the members divide into groups based on results from the spiritual gifts inventory. Each group looked at the same set of challenges and then reported how their group would respond. Groups differed greatly in their answers based on the particular gifting area of each group.

**16 - 086 - Friday Night Offering** – It was reported that the total offering from Friday night was \$647. Jack Bell, CRE, will deliver the offering when he travels to Zimbabwe next week.

**16 - 087 - Good News from Churches (Part II)** – Bonnie Soulsby, RE, reported on how the Holy Spirit is working in the Stanford Church. Attendance is up and mission goals were met. VBS went very well with help from the Billings First Church and some of the Whitworth Fellows. Jim Tarr, RE, offered prayer for the Stanford Church.

**16 - 088 - General Assembly Reports-** Lanny Rounds, TE, and Tanner Robison (YAAD) reported on their time at General Assembly in June. Emily Keegan, RE, was unable to attend our Presbytery meeting but also attended GA. Lanny presented a slide show that showed many aspects other than just business (Bible study, worship, music, and relationships). Tanner served on the Middle East Committee and spoke of his experiences which he found to be very encouraging. There are eight proposed amendments to the constitution which the Presbytery will look at in 2017.

**16 - 089 - Break** – The Presbytery took a break at 10:40 a.m.

**16 - 090- Reconvening** - Moderator Teresa Kendall, TE, reconvened the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

**16 - 091 - Camping** –A written report was submitted (Attachment B). Curt Kochner, RE, noted that we are fortunate to have strong leadership in the camping program. He also reported on

Triennium and the involvement of the Whitworth Fellows at summer camp.

**16 - 092 – Stated Clerk’s Report** – A written report was submitted (Attachment C)

√ Motion passed to approve the minutes from the June 10-11, 2016 Presbytery meeting.

**16-093 – Leadership Cabinet** – A written report was submitted (Attachment D). Jody McDevitt, TE, noted that the new structure (now in its third year) seems to be working well. At this time there is no official covenant agreement with Glacier Presbytery. The Leadership Cabinet has voted to approve the closing of the convocation account and to divide the funds (around \$9,000) between Glacier and Yellowstone Presbyteries. A correction to the LC report is needed for the Presbytery meeting in May of 2017. That meeting will be May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> instead of as noted in the LC report.

√ Motion passed to elect Jody McDevitt, TE, and Caroline Fleming, RE, to the class of 2019 and to approve Neva Rathbun, TE, as the 2017 moderator of the Representation/Nominating Ministry Team.

√ Motion passed to approve the request from the Synod of the Rocky Mountains for reduced function status (details in Attachment D).

**16-094 –Budgets for 2017 and Per Capita** – Dan Holland, RE, presented the Administrative and Program Budgets for 2017 (included in Attachment D). He noted that at this time there are no plans for grants from the Synod after 2017. He has concerns about the sustainability of the Presbytery without enough income. Dan explained that the administrative budget is based on a total per capita rate of \$48.00 (General Assembly \$7.50, Synod \$3.50, and Presbytery \$37.00).

√ Motion passed to approve the 2017 Administrative Budget and the 2017 Program Budget as presented.

√ Motion passed to approve the Presbytery Per Capita rate of \$37.00 for 2017.

**16-095 – Appreciation for Moderator of Leadership Cabinet** – George Goodrich, TE, expressed our appreciation to Jody McDevitt, TE, for moderating the Leadership Cabinet for the past three years. Jody would like for a donation to be made to the PMA general fund instead of a personal gift given to her.

**16-096 – Pastoral Ministry Team** – A written report was submitted (Attachment A). Dave Thompson, TE, reported that revised terms of call for Paul Cannon are not available at this time. Kathy Goodrich, TE, offered prayer for the work of the Pastoral Ministry Team.

√ Motion passed to concur with the request to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the Rev JP Carlson and the Anaconda Church and the Church of the Big Hole and to receive JP as an at-large member of our Presbytery.

√ Motion passed to approve TE Susi Ennis (moderator), RE Jim Tarr, and RE Charlie Brown with TE George Goodrich as staff resource to serve as the Administrative Commission to First Presbyterian Church in Geysers, Montana, to take original jurisdiction of the session and to invite RE Fern Kaiser (Geysers) to serve with voice and no vote.

√ Motion passed to approve the 2017 Minimum Salaries as outlined in Attachment A.

**16-097 - Extending the Docket**

√ Motion passed to extend the docket for 15 minutes.

**16-098 - Elections**

√ Motion passed to approve the ballot (See Attachment E) as presented.

**16-099- MAC Report** – Dan Krebill, TE, reported on the MAC Connect event which was held in Butte in October. The focus of the event was on legislative issues. Governor candidates gave presentations and there was also a panel of four legislators. MAC has four advocacy groups. Additional information may be found on the website (Montana Association for Christians).

**16-100- Synod Report** – Kathy Goodrich, TE, reported that reduced function status of the Synod means more work for Executive and General Presbyters and also Clerks. Their next meeting will be on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

**16-101- St Timothy's Chapel** – A written report was submitted (Attachment F).

**16-102- Presbyterian Women** - A written report was submitted. Mary Lee Hooks, RE, reviewed some of the highlighst of the report including the new PW manual. Mary Lee Hooks, RE, and Suzanne Bratsky, RE, went to training offered by PDA in June. This oral report was concluded with a song.

**16-103- Announcements** – The new total for Friday night's offering is \$823.50. The next stated meeting of the Presbytery will be February 10-11, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church in Billings, MT.

**16-104 - Adjournment** – Moderator Teresa Kendall, TE, adjourned the meeting with prayer at 12:25 p.m.

Debbie Blackburn  
Stated Clerk

**Pastoral Ministry Team  
Presbytery Report  
November 2016**

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.

**A. Enrolling the Rev. Steve Weber (Action item)**

The Rev. Steve Weber, a Teaching Elder in the PC(USA), has been examined by the PMT to serve the First Presbyterian Church in Dillon as Stated Supply Pastor under a one year contract. The PMT recommends the Rev. Steve Weber to be examined and received as a member of the Yellowstone Presbytery.

Terms of Call for the Rev. Steve Weber

Cash Salary	\$35,000
Fair Rental Value of Manse	\$9,600
Excess Social Sec. Offset	\$1645
Total Effective Salary	\$46,245

Board of Pensions	\$16,186
Continuing Education	\$600
Auto Reimbursement	\$8,400
Social Sec. Offset	\$3,675
Total Cost of Ministry	\$75,106

Additional Benefits:

- 4 weeks of Vacation
- 2 weeks of Study Leave (cumulative to 6 weeks)

**B. Welcoming the Rev. Vicki Waddington (Action Item)**

The Rev. Vicki Waddington, a pastor in good standing in the Methodist church, is serving the Federated Church in Harlowton. We will be examining her to be received as a temporary member of the Yellowstone Presbytery. The Rev. Waddington formerly served the Federated Church in Forsyth some time ago.

**C. Change in Terms of Call for the Rev. Paul Cannon (Action Item)**

TE Paul Cannon has asked to have his hours reduced to 40% FTE as he and his family has moved to Billings. As a result, his terms of call have been reduced to reflect this change. **Presbytery needs to vote on his adjusted terms of call which will be presented at the Presbytery meeting.**

**D. Dissolve the Pastoral Relationship between Anaconda/Big Hole and the Rev. JP Carlson**

The Rev. Jonathan “J.P.” Carlson has resigned from his position as Teaching Elder of First Presbyterian Church in Anaconda and the Church of the Big Hole, effective September 20, 2016. PMT voted to concur with this action to dissolve the pastoral relationship between JP Carlson and these two churches and to receive the Rev. JP Carlson as an at-large member of our Presbytery. JP has taken the position as full-time Children, Youth, and Family Minister of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Bozeman, MT. The PMT asks that the Yellowstone Presbytery concurs with this request. **Presbytery needs to vote on this request as previously acted on by both congregations.**

**E. Administrative Commission to Geyser (Action item)**

The PMT would like the Presbytery to approve TE Susi Ennis (chair), RE Jim Tarr, and RE Charlie Brown, TE George Goodrich (staff resource) to serve as the Administrative Commission to the First Presbyterian Church in Geyser, Montana, to take original jurisdiction of the session and to invite RE Fern Kaiser (Geyser) to serve with voice and no vote.

**F. Minimum Salary Guidelines: (Action Item) To approve the minimum salary guidelines for 2017: Pastoral Ministry Team’s recommendation for 2017 Minimum Salaries**

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

- Cash - \$33,910
- Housing - \$10,180
- Effective Salary - \$44,090
- Pension \$16,093
- 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

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

- Cash - \$35,450
- Housing - \$10,640
- Effective Salary - \$46,090
- Pension \$16,823
- 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

**Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)**

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



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

TE David Andrew

RE Charlie Brown

TE JP Carlson

TE Susi Ennis

RE Chris Eriksen

RE Gayle Holland

TE Dan Krebill

RE Veva Larsen

RE Linda Smith

RE Bonnie Soulsby

RE Jim Tarr

TE Dave Thompson

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Dave Thompson, Chair

August 18, 2016

## **Camping and Youth Report September 2016**

### Westminster Spires Camps

We had a great summer season of camps at Westminster Spires. We have developed a very solid core of leadership with five returning counselors joined by three new staff members. Bill Scott returned as cook for his eighth year. George Goodrich has provided leadership for training and teaching for seven years and Curt Kochner has been in the role of Camp Registrar and background support for six years. Cynthia Kessler has been with the staff leading crafts, playing guitar and providing first aid for five years. Will Johnson from Terry joined us this summer to lead and teach during Junior High week.

The six Whitworth Fellows participated in some parts of Staff Training, Senior High and Junior High camps. Many thanks to Katy Schlata, Tyler Stitt, Jacob Gallegos, Samantha Cobb, Hannah Beard and Annette Peppel for their enthusiasm, leadership, music and presence. Kara Todd was at camp for the third summer along with Eli, Ella, Evelyn and Annelise to add to the multi-generational flavor. Brandon and Kristin Willett along with Graham, Micah and Levi joined us for Elementary camp and helped with teaching, camp repairs and additional adult presence.

We had 20 campers for Senior High, 16 for Junior High and 16 for Elementary camp. Three of our Senior High group came back for one more year of camp although they graduated this past spring. Campers participating in camp represented churches in Billings, Butte, Dillon, Manhattan, Miles City, White Sulphur Springs and Seattle.

Many thanks to the churches that provided a total of \$3,020 in scholarships for campers! Thanks to generous donations from the Yellowstone Presbytery offering collected in Miles City and other friends of Westminster Spires we were able to provide \$4,415 in Yellowstone Presbytery scholarships for campers.

### Revamp the Camp

Volunteers gathered at camp on the weekend of June 3-5 to get the camp ready for the season and to install new shingles on the two girls' cabins, the Booth cabin and one of the outhouses. We only need to replace the shingles on the second outhouse, the Dean's Cabin and the Patterson Cabin to have new roofs on all buildings at Westminster Spires. Many thanks to all the folks that helped during Revamp the Camp. Special thanks to Sandy Welch who provided leadership and excellent food for the weekend and stayed on for several days to complete the cleaning of the buildings. Also, special thanks to Lori Schweigert from Advanced Employment Services for donating professional roofers to help complete the work.

### Fall Retreat

The Fall Youth Retreat will take place at Rockhaven on October 20-22. Fall Retreat will take place on Thursday evening through Saturday lunch during the Montana PIR days. Registration forms will be available on the Yellowstone Presbytery website in early September.

### Westminster Spires Summer 2017

We have two family reunions scheduled for next summer, and we have a possible lead on renting the camp to another denomination for two weeks of camp in June.

### Camp Schedule for 2017

Staff Training	July 6-8
Elementary Camp	July 9-13
Junior High	July 16-21
Senior High	July 23-28

## Presbyterian Youth Triennium

17 youth and adults from the Yellowstone Presbytery traveled to Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, from July 17-26 to attend the Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT) conference. We had youth from First Presbyterian in Billings, St. Andrew Presbyterian in Billings, and Community Presbyterian in Terry. This conference is geared for youth ages 15-19 and is held every three years. Triennium is the signature youth event of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We joined about 5,500 other Presbyterian youth from around the world. Most of the youth are from the United States, but some are international. We had a group of guys on our dorm floor from Puerto Rico and it was fun to interact with them during the week. We joined in large worship experiences, small group times, recreational events, and designated times with each other from our own Presbytery.

I have attended the last five Trienniums and am proud of the way this group conducted themselves. We traveled 2,942 miles, traveling from Billings through North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana. On our trip to Purdue we stayed at the United Presbyterian Church in Jamestown (ND) and the First Presbyterian Church in Janesville (WI). On our return home we stayed at the First Presbyterian Church in Wisconsin Dells (WI), Oak Grove Presbyterian in Minneapolis (MN), and once again at the United Presbyterian Church in Jamestown (ND). We enjoyed some play time at Noah's Ark Waterpark in Wisconsin Dells and packaged food with the Feed My Starving Children organization in Minneapolis on our way back.

We would like to thank the Presbytery for financially and prayerfully supporting this great trip. We will organize another trip to Triennium in 2019 and would love to take a larger group with more churches from our Presbytery represented. Special thanks to the chaperones who assisted me on this trip: Pastor Katie Emery (Terry) and Heather McLean (1<sup>st</sup> Billings).

Thanks,

Dave Thompson, Pastor  
First Presbyterian-Billings

## **Stated Clerk's Report**

**November, 2016**

### **For Information:**

Since the June Presbytery meeting I have participated in the following meetings and activities:

- Prepared the minutes for the June Presbytery meeting.
- Attended four days of General Assembly (starting with opening worship).
- Participated in various meetings with Presbytery staff.
- Attended Pastoral Ministry Team meetings in July and September and prepared minutes.
- Attended Leadership Cabinet meetings in September and October and prepared minutes.
- Worked with Board of Pensions and churches on Employer Agreements for BOP.
- Participated in planning meeting for the November Presbytery meeting.
- Checked on mail and phone messages at Presbytery office while Susan was on vacation.
- Attended three days of Board of Pensions seminars in Billings.
- Participated in meetings of the Prayer Cluster.
- Plan to attend the Stated Clerk's Conference and the Polity Conference in Louisville, Kentucky (October 28<sup>th</sup> - October 31<sup>st</sup>).

### **For the Presbytery minutes:**

- The Synod of the Rocky Mountains approved the following Record Review Report on August 1, 2016: Presbytery of Yellowstone one exception – No record of review and approval of sessions.

### **For action:**

- I hereby request approval, with corrections if need be, of the following minutes: Minutes of the June 10-11, 2016 Presbytery meeting.

**LEADERSHIP CABINET**  
**Presbytery of Yellowstone**  
**Report to Presbytery November 2016**

***“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”***

1 Cor 12:7

<b>2016 Goals</b>
Emphasize <b>disciple-making and forming</b> in congregations and presbytery
Focus on <b>spiritual nurture</b> of pastors, leaders and potential leaders by understanding and using <b>spiritual gifts</b>
Build <b>community</b> in the presbytery, continuing to grow our <b>communication</b>
Clarify the covenant with Glacier and explore other <b>partnerships</b> for future collaboration

**Actions taken by the Leadership Cabinet since June meeting**

1. Approved November 2016 presbytery meeting offering to Makokoba Presbyterian Church, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. This is the church that Rev. Paul Neshangwe now serves, and Jack Bell will be traveling there this month. He will deliver the gift directly.
2. Approved DREAM grant application for Yellowstone-Whitworth “Growing Rural Churches Young” partnership
3. Approved a gift to Intermountain of \$1000 from the 2016 Program budget
4. Approved inviting Presbyterians to participate in Kairos Palestine event Oct. 17-20, 2016, held in several Montana cities, sponsored by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
5. Requested Dan Krebill to attend MAC Connect event in Butte, Oct 20-21, 2017
6. Approved Katie Holland to serve on the board of Rocky Mountain College
7. Initiated termination of Glacier-Yellowstone Presbyteries Covenant, due to lack of action. The Convocation account will be closed accordingly.

**Discussions and ongoing work**

1. Annual review of presbytery Mission and Ministry Priorities (Fifth Strand)
2. Annual report from Pastoral Ministry Team –appreciation to Dave Thompson, moderator
3. Annual report from Camping & Youth Ministry Team—appreciation to Curt Kochner, moderator
4. Provided materials for 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Presbytery Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in October (thank you to Kristin Willett)
5. Planning for November 2016 and February 2017 presbytery meetings (thank you, task force) Including recruitment of speaker for Feb 2017 meeting, Rev. E. Stanley Ott of the Vital Churches Institute
6. Communications team; New Worshipping Communities team; Refugee resettlement: Child Protection Policy; Personnel

## Recommendations for Presbytery action

1. Nominations to the Representation/Nominating Ministry Team  
Moderator TE Neva Rathbun (already elected to team, class of 2018)  
Class of 2019 TE Jody McDevitt  
RE Caroline Fleming
2. Approval of request from the Synod of Rocky Mountains for **reduced function status** (see attached)
3. That *per capita* for 2017 be **\$48.00** (increase of \$3)
4. Approval of 2017 Administrative Budget (see attached)
5. Approval of 2017 Program Budget (see attached)

## Announcements

### Presbytery meetings for 2017:

February 10-11, 2017 First Presbyterian Church, Billings

May 10-11, 2017 First Presbyterian Church, Dillon

November 3-4, 2017 First Presbyterian Church, Bozeman



# Synod of the Rocky Mountains

Office of the Stated Clerk

2226 Sherri Mar Street, Longmont, CO 80501

August 18, 2016

**To: The Presbyteries of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains (SRM)**

**From: The Synod of the Rocky Mountains Assembly**

The Synod of the Rocky Mountains Assembly approved the following motion on Monday, August 1, 2016 and hereby sends it to its presbyteries for action at their Fall 2016 meeting. The motion in its entirety reads:

*Given that our current Mission Statement and Core Values state:*

*The mission of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains is to assist, affirm, and strengthen its Presbyteries, incorporating to the greatest extent possible an emphasis on shared missions and ministries where they live and serve Jesus Christ.*

*As A Synod of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), serving our Lord Jesus Christ, the Synod of the Rocky Mountains upholds these core values:*

- 1) Participating in the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).*
- 2) Encouraging and supporting the ministry of its Presbyteries, facilitating and celebrating connections among Presbyterian governing bodies, congregations, and individual members,*
- 3) Seeking the involvement of persons with a broad range of experiences and interests in its work.*
- 4) Creating structure to meet mission challenges so that form follows functions.*
- 5) Communicating and evaluating its service.*
- 6) Recognizing God's grace at work among us and in other faith communities.*

**"Therefore, the Assembly of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains, meeting on August 1, 2016, moves to become a reduced-functioning synod, as permitted by the Book of Order at G-3.0404, that the date for this action to become effective is January 1, 2017, that the Assembly send this action to its presbyteries for consideration at their next Presbytery Assembly, and that the Stated Clerk of each presbytery forward the results of that vote to the Stated Clerk of the Synod". .**

#### **Rationale:**

The Synod of the Rocky Mountains (SRM) is one of 16 regional representations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and is the corporate expression of the eight presbyteries within its bounds: Denver, Glacier, Plains and Peaks, Utah, Western Colorado, Wyoming, and Yellowstone, which are located in the states of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and the panhandle of Nebraska. AS of December 31, 2015 there are 30,610 members in 208 churches within its bounds. Additionally, there are ten worshipping communities.

Rev. David Ezekiel, Transitional Executive  
Elder Brad Culp, Treasurer

Elder Lynn Smit, Stated Clerk  
Bobbi Hoffman, Office Admin

The Synod has always sought ways to resource its presbyteries; but, covering more than 465,000 square miles, it recognizes that it is not able to be an effective programmatic entity for its presbyteries. Therefore, SRM seeks to exercise responsible stewardship and complete its downsizing of operations. This is in keeping with its core values and provides a structure that will empower the 8 presbyteries of the Synod to meet the mission challenges each faces within its own context.

In becoming a reduced-functioning synod, SRM will limit itself to the following regular functions:

- 1) Assembly will meet face-to-face at least once every two years.
- 2) Setting an annual budget and establishing per capita.
- 3) Provide judicial process and administrative review of its presbyteries (for example: investigative committees, administrative commissions, review of presbyteries records).
- 4) And other items of necessity that might arise (for example: presbytery mergers, redrawing presbytery boundaries).

This also means that the presbyteries shall take upon themselves the responsibilities for mission within their areas and for providing training and educational opportunities and programs. As such, SRM will no longer develop resources or provide staffing support for its presbyteries. As currently envisioned, the staffing pattern for the Synod will include a part-time Stated Clerk, a part-time treasurer, and a part-time bookkeeper. These persons will provide the administrative resourcing for SRM and the Assembly.

SRM will always encourage its presbyteries to develop leaders, provide for disciple-making opportunities, and engage in mission. The following is what SRM in its more streamlined configuration will continue to do in the immediate future to support its presbyteries:

- 1) Midwest Ministry Development Services – financial support for a clergy referral program.
- 2) Intervention (Presbytery Consultant Travel) – financial support to assist a presbytery needing conflict resolution.
- 3) New EP Training – financial support to the denomination's training for new Executive Presbyters (by whatever title).
- 4) Staff Forum – convening and supporting the gathering of the EPs (by whatever title) in SRM. This gathering is vitally important to make and facilitate connections between presbyteries, promote program cooperation, as well as offering mutual support.
- 5) Educational Training – SRM will allocate funding to assist presbyteries as they construct training opportunities in conjunction with neighboring presbyteries.

Again, SRM has been boldly moving in this direction for the past several years and is now in the culminating stage. It does not want to continue to prop up an old methodology of operation; rather it seeks to streamline itself and repurpose its resources. The response from the presbyteries is that this path will not only economize, but will facilitate the building of relationships, partnerships, and dynamic teams to accomplish specific ministry tasks for all. The goal is to recognize and develop common strengths in order to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By undertaking this action, presbyteries recognize that ministry necessitates the reliance upon one another to work for the reign of God in our lives and in the world. It will require presbyteries to be more functional, connective, and collaborative. And it acknowledges that ever expanding methods of communication and technology have revolutionized our ability to connect with one another.

If approved by the presbyteries, the Synod will enter this new phase on January 1, 2017. SRM will live into this new mode of being over the next three years during which time Synod Assembly will constantly monitor progress and evaluate results.



Following is the process by which the Synod of the Rocky Mountains becomes reduced-functioning:

1. The motion is passed by the Synod Assembly.
2. The motion is sent to the Stated Clerks of the presbyteries of the Synod for action.
3. The motion requires a 2/3rds approval by the presbyteries (this percentage requirement is met when passed by at least 6 of the 8 presbyteries).
4. The Stated Clerk of each presbytery forwards the result of the vote to the Stated Clerk of the Synod. The Stated Clerk of the Synod verifies the vote.
5. Synod Assembly (meeting on November 14, 2016) receives and verifies the vote totals. (This only serves to dot "i"s and cross "t"s.)
6. If approved by the presbyteries, SRM Assembly announces the result and takes all necessary action to implement the results of the vote. The Synod anticipates approval, but, if not approved the presbyteries, SRM Assembly immediately considers alternatives at its November 14, 2016 meeting.

**Book of Order – G-3.0404 *Reduced Function***

*A synod may decide, with the approval of a two-thirds majority of its presbyteries, to reduce its function. In no case shall synod function be less than the provision of judicial process and administrative review of the work of the presbyteries (G-3.0401c). Such a synod shall meet at least every two years for the purposes of setting budget, electing members to its permanent judicial commission, and admitting to record the actions of its permanent judicial and administrative commissions. Presbyteries of such a synod shall assume for themselves, by mutual agreement, such other synod functions as may be deemed necessary by the presbyteries and the synod.*





			Actual			
		2,016	Through	% of	2017	Notes
	Per Capita	Budget	9/30/16	Budget	Prelim.	
	Per Capita GA	14,026	14,026	100%	13,170	
	Per Capita Synod	6,895	6,895	100%	6,146	
	Total Per Capita	20,921	20,921	100%	19,316	
			Actual			
		2,016	Through	% of	2017	Notes
	Admin Mgr.	Budget	9/30/16	Budget	Prelim.	
	Admin Mgr. Salary	24,107	18,080	75%	24,589	2% for all staff
	Admin Mgr travel	120	0	0%	120	
	Admin Mgr benefits	1,500	1,500	100%	1,500	
	Total Admin Mgr	25,727	19,580	76%	26,209	
			Actual			
		2,016	Through	% of	2017	Notes
	General Presbyter	Budget	9/30/16	Budget	Prelim.	
	Housing	20,000	15,000	75%	20,000	
	GP Lodging	500	97	19%	500	
	GP meals	1,050	1,343	128%	1,350	
	GP miscellaneous	700	0	0%	700	
	Misc.-Kathy	2,000	0	0%	2,000	
	GP Pension	19,217	12,584	65%	19,217	
	Salary exp	8,200	6,150	75%	8,914	
	Study leave	700	0	0%	700	
	GP telephone/Conf calls	1,500	913	61%	1,500	
	GP travel	7,500	1,809	24%	7,500	
	Total General Presbyter	61,367	37,896	62%	62,381	
			Actual			
		2,016	Through	% of	2017	Notes
	Stated Clerk	Budget	9/30/16	Budget	Prelim.	
	Stated Clerk meals	50	0	0%	50	
	Stated Clerk misc.	500	34	7%	500	
	Pension exp.	3,846	2,885	75%	3,846	
	Stated Clerk salary	11,888	8,916	75%	12,126	
	Stated Clerk travel	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	
	Total Stated Clerk	16,284	11,835	73%	16,522	
			Actual			
		2,016	Through	% of	2017	Notes
	Treasurer	Budget	9/30/16	Budget	Prelim.	
	Treasurer Salary	7,227	5,420	75%	7,372	
	Total Treasurer	7,227	5,420	75%	7,372	
	<b>Subtotal Personnel</b>	114,530	77,024	67%	116,609	
			Actual			
		2,016	Through	% of	2017	Notes
	Leadership Cabinet	Budget	9/30/16	Budget	Prelim.	
	LC meetings	2,500	1,359	54%	2,500	
	LC other	500	0	0%	500	
	Legal	1,000	0	0%	1,000	
	Task Force meetings	500	0	0%	500	
	Total LC	4,500	1,359	30%	4,500	
			Actual			
		2,016	Through	% of	2017	Notes
	Presbytery	Budget	9/30/16	Budget	Prelim.	
	Presbytery meetings	7,600	3,328	44%	7,600	
	Presbytery other	700	130	19%	700	
	Total Presbytery	8,300	3,458	42%	8,300	
			Actual			
		2,016	Through	% of	2017	Notes
	Presbytery Office	Budget	9/30/16	Budget	Prelim.	
	Copies & postage	1,200	274	23%	1,200	

	Equipment	200	0	0%	200
	Insurance	750	1,296	173%	1,500
	Miscellaneous	460	-155	-34%	460
	Rent	4,200	3,105	74%	4,200
	Supplies	1,800	664	37%	1,800
	Telephone & Conf calls	2,500	697	28%	2,500
	Total Presby Office	11,110	5,881	53%	11,860
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	167,811	112,210	67%	169,835
	<b>Net</b>	0	-925		0

Presbytery of Yellowstone-Program						
Account		2,016	Actual	% of	2017	Notes
ID	Account Name	Budget	Through	Budget	Prelim.	
			9/30/16			
4.01.1210	General Mission pledge	22,450	21,080	94%	21,500	
4.01.1250	Prior year pledge					
4.01.1420	Summer camp fees	12,000	12,320	103%	11,500	
4.01.1430	Winter/summer/fall events	4,000	1,558	39%	3,000	
4.01.1440	Rental of camp	7,000	1,200	17%	4,000	
	Other Camp income (gifts/scholarships)				4,000	
4.01.1810	Transfer from Designated	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	
	Transfer from Reserves	9,500	0	0%	12,950	
4.01.1500	Misc Program income	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	
	<b>Total Budgeted Income</b>	<b>54,950</b>	<b>36,158</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>56,950</b>	
		2,016	Actual	% of	2017	Notes
	Camping & Youth	Budget	Through	Budget	Prelim.	
			9/30/16			
	Copies & postage	100	0	0%	100	
	Facilities Maintenance	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	
	Insurance	4,600	3,553	77%	4,600	
	Publicity	200	0	0%	200	
	Camp caretaker	3,500	2,625	75%	4,000	
	Camp staff	10,000	10,496	105%	12,000	
	Food	3,250	3,052	94%	3,250	
	Miscellaneous	200	25	13%	200	
	Rental equip/rafting	1,000	1,190	119%	1,000	
	Supplies	500	467	93%	500	
	Swimming	150	0	0%	150	
	Transportation/Bus	350	0	0%	350	
	Utilities-Westminster					
	Spires	2,750	1,717	62%	2,750	
	PCCCA membership	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	
	Triennium	2,500	2,500	100%	2,500	
	Camping travel	400	113	28%	400	
	Events misc.	5,000	1,568	31%	4,000	
	<b>Total Camping &amp; Youth</b>	<b>34,500</b>	<b>27,306</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>36,000</b>	
		2,016	Actual	% of	2017	Notes
	PMT	Budget	Through	Budget	Prelim.	
			9/30/16			
	PMT training	1,000	0	0%	1,000	
	Vocations other	1,700	60	4%	1,700	
	Emergency counseling	1,000	0	0%	1,000	
	Congregation ministry misc.	0	0	#DIV/0!	1,000	
	<b>Total PMT</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4,700</b>	
		2,016	Actual	% of	2017	Notes
	Leadership Cabinet	Budget	Through	Budget	Prelim.	
			9/30/16			
	Western Leadership misc.	1,000	0	0%	0	
	Intermountain Children	0	0		1,000	
	<b>Total LC</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1,000</b>	
		2,016	Actual	% of	2017	Notes
	MT Ass. of Churches	Budget	Through	Budget	Prelim.	
			9/30/16			
	MAC membership	3,500	0	0%	3,500	

	MAC representation	250	0	0%	250	
	Total MAC	3,750	0	0%	3,750	
			<b>Actual</b>			
		<b>2,016</b>	<b>Through</b>	<b>% of</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>9/30/16</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Prelim.</b>	
	Convocation	1,000	0	0%	0	
	Program misc.	1,500	0	0%	3,000	
	Cluster meetings	2,000	0	0%	1,000	
	Allocated GP salary	7,500	5,625	75%	7,500	
	Total Presbytery	12,000	5,625	47%	11,500	
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>54,950</b>	<b>32,991</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>56,950</b>	
	<b>Net</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,167</b>		<b>0</b>	

**BALLOT FOR NOVEMBER 2016 - OFFICERS AND MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED**

**MODERATORS**

CRE Jack Bell -2018 Stanford/Geyser - Moderator of Presbytery 2017

\_\_\_\_\_ **Vice Moderator of Presbytery 2017 (Member of Leadership Cabinet)**

TE Susan Ennis - 2017 Poplar - Moderator of Leadership Cabinet

TE David Thompson- Billings 1st - Moderator of PMT

RE Curt Kochner Moderator of Camping and youth - Billings St. Andrew

**LEADERSHIP CABINET (7-9 people, with these new or re-elected names we will be at 8)**

**Class of 2018**

TE Steve Weber -2018 Dillon First

**Class of 2019**

RE Suzanne Bratsky 2019 Bozeman

RE Dan Holland 2019 Bozeman - Finance

RE 2019 \_\_\_\_\_

**PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM (12) - With this ballot all positions are filled**

**Class of 2019**

TE David Thompson- Billings 1st - Moderator

TE Dan Krebill - Bozeman

RE Charlie Brown - Lewistown

RE Gayle Holland - Forsyth

**CAMPING and YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM (8)**

**Class of 2019**

TE Susan Barnes Billings St. Andrews

TE Cathy McClean - Forsyth

**PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION (7) - all positions are filled with this election**

**Class of 2022**

TE Brandon Willet - Miles City

TE Jody McDevitt - Bozeman First

**SYNOD COMMISSIONERS - 2 year terms**

TE Kathy Goodrich - Staff - Class of 2018

RE Jim Tarr - Billings St. Andrew Class of 2018

**ST. TIMOTHY CHAPEL - Their board will make nominations**



**St. Timothy's Chapel**  
**Report to Yellowstone Presbytery**  
**November, 2016**

The Chapel Committee met on September 10, 2016 at the manse. Present were Art Neill, Art Keeler, Ray Tribelhorn, John Fitzpatrick, Diana Neely, Ed Leipheimer, Zane Murfitt, R D Corette and Ron Hanson. Lunch was served and a blessing for the meal and an opening prayer was offered. Following are the major agenda items

**Manse Flower Beds** – An upper and lower flower beds, along with a watering system, were redone at the Manse. Rev. Boulton Commented: “They instantly gave the Parish House a less deserted, and a more lived-in look even with no car(s) in the driveway. Together with the front deck the Manse has become an even more welcoming host site for Chapel events”.

**Chapel Parking Sign** – A new sign at the junction of the new and old road to Southern Cross was installed. The posts are similar, but on a smaller scale, than the posts for the sign at the highway.

**Columbarium** –The selected color for the niche faces is Mahogany. The capstone will be polished black granite. Eickhof's contract price Quote is \$18,410 for 42 niches (installed). We have promised donations of \$30,000 to cover the cost and have received slightly more than half of that. Two thirds of the \$18,410 has been paid to Eickhof's so final drawings can be prepared and stone cutting can be started. It takes up to 20 weeks for stone cutting can be completed. We are responsible for all site preparation work (ground leveling, concrete pad and columbarium foundation and rocking the back and sides of the columbarium. The rock will be the same as the rock used on the chapel. Plantings and a possible extension of the sprinkler system are planned. Two benches will be purchased locally.

**Worship Attendance and Offerings** – Attendance for 2016 was 442 and averaged 34 per worship service. Offerings totaled \$4,444 and averaged \$342 per worship service. This compares to the last 3 year average of 417 worshipers and \$5,467. Keep in mind that we had 13 worship services in 2016 and only 12 in the previous years.

**Weddings** – We hosted 7 weddings this summer. This was down from 15 weddings last year. At \$350 per wedding this is a \$2,800 reduction in income.

**Advertising – Posters, Printed Business Cards and Weddings -**

Committee members shared concerns over both the attendance numbers and the drop in the number of weddings. We will be working with our consultant to come up with a marketing plan and an advertising program to see if we can turn things around on attendance and the number of weddings. Rev. Boulton said “The St. Timothy’s business cards were a big hit this summer”. His recommendation is to make the cards more generic. This will permit a larger font size and the pastor, as well as committee members can all use the same card.

**Ad-Hoc Group to Study Reuse of the Superintendents House** – There is an Ad Hoc group that is undertaking a study of possible reuse(s) of the Superintendents House. No date has been set for the completion of their work.

**2017 Summer Pastors** – There will be 3 pastors next summer. Contracts for all three have been signed.

**Next Meeting** - The next meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2017 at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in Anaconda

Ron Hanson

Moderator

St. Timothy’s Chapel Committee

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**Moderator of the 221 General Assembly, Heath Rada, gave his report on the state of the PCUSA** to the 222 General Assembly in Portland, OR in June... His emphasis (please see his excerpted remarks included in packet): Across the church, **“Presbyterians are hungry for the renewal of faith formation and proclamation....”** And **“Congregational vitality is essential.”**

While his words may be understood and lived out differently in various contexts and cultures, these priorities have been on our screen in Yellowstone Presbytery for quite a few years. Seemingly, the Holy Spirit has us on the right track with our vision and priorities as a presbytery (see our Vision statement), the resourcing and equipping of at presbytery meetings, through grant opportunities, the emphasis on Dwelling in the Word, our pastor clusters BUT, please let us keep prayerfully listening to the Holy Spirit and exploring how to equip, encourage and the lives, faith, and mission of pastors/CREs, congregations, leaders God has called us to lead and serve as we share and embody the Good News, exploring NEW ways to join Christ in Christ's mission including NEW worshipping communities to better embody the gospel. These best reach those outside the church.

In January and February the Cabinet outlined **Four Goals for 2016**. These frame our report:

**I. *Emphasize Disciple-making in our congregations and in our presbytery***

- a. Camping / Youth: George trained staff and lead bible studies for Sr and Elem camps.
  - i. The summer camping season at WSS Camp was successful. **See Curt's report.**
    1. Rockhaven Camp had a successful season. **Info: Jody McDevitt**
  - ii. Exploring Plans: a week of wilderness camp in for 2017. **Info: George/Curt**
  - iii. Jr-Sr High Presbytery Fall Retreat was held at Rockhaven, October 20-22, 2016.
- b. College-age ministry:
  - i. PresbyCats at FPC-Bozeman is off to a great start for 2016-2017 as well as ministries at Rocky Mountain College and MSU-Billings.
  - ii. Congregations, youth & Whitworth Fellows, Year 2... (See Sept. Yellowstone Currents)
    1. Six Fellows served in six Churches (Anaconda/Big Hole, Manhattan, Lewistown) and at Westminster Spires Camp. Recommendation: Plan to participate in Fellows program with Whitworth for next summer as part of Growing Rural Churches Young and DREAM grant we are praying for. We must contribute for \$\$ than last year. **Info: Kathy**
- c. Pastors and Leaders:
  - i. Minds and Heart Set on Christ Grant for pastors/CRE's for collegial discipleship, spiritual formation and to grow our preaching. Ten Yellowstone Clergy/CRE's are covenanted and are participating, meeting regularly in 2016-17. Started with Whitworth Institute for Ministry, July, 2016 and has met twice, including Dwelling in the Word, discussion of writings by Tom Long and Will Willimon. **For info: George**
  - ii. The Four Pastor Clusters are tuning up again now that fall is here. **Info: George**
  - iii. Resourcing of March and June Presbytery Meetings was “Telling our Stories...” Share how you are practicing this in your life, congregation. Positive feedback received from congregations, Whitworth Fellows who have been doing this...
  - iv. **Equipped and empowered disciples and churches - theme for our Nov & February meetings to equip EVERY session, congregation & ministry. What are spiritual gifts? What happens when EVERY disciple, young AND old, discovers, develops and is deployed to use their spiritual gifts?** See IV below and look for letter on training we will be offering and on the Spiritual Gifts Inventory to take BEFORE presbytery, if at all possible.
  - v. Training GA commissioners, YAAD, ahead and on the job! Kathy, assisted by Debbie B.
- d. **Equipping us all in “Growing Young” . Our PMT is hearing from MANY churches the urgent need for help/equipping to become more vital, to adapt in, grow deeper in**

**faith/discipleship and to 'grow young, or their longterm future could be in question.**  
**Therefore, our PMT and Leadership Cabinet have supported our application for a PCUSA DREAM grant for *Growing Rural Churches Young*.** How can we in Yellowstone be effective and fruitful in: growing vital churches and members who love, understand, serve and attract youth/young adults and families in our communities; growing youth/young adults as *lifelong* disciples/followers of Christ; better equip, understand, retain and empower younger people? Kenda Creasy Dean, Princeton Seminary, praises this the research and practical help for churches. "What's irresistible about *Growing Young* is that it's not primarily about age--it's about hope. Through story after compelling story, the authors demonstrate how prioritizing the young is a *church-changing* strategy,...and how pursuing Jesus by 'growing young' fundamentally changes the ways congregations interact with their communities and their leaders, as well as with youth and adults. With refreshing candor, this book blows the sanctuary doors open thanks to its insistence on following Christ in a way that prioritizes listening, empathy, and care for *all* young people and families, not just the Christian ones...This book is for the church. At last."

**II. Clarify the Covenant with Glacier and explore other partnerships for future collaboration.**

- a. **Significant reduction by the Synod:** The Synod has voted to become a 'reduced functioning' synod as of Dec. 31, with no more Synod Executive. This means that presbyteries and their staff and leadership staff must assume much more responsibility and take more initiative. We are already working informally together to create new patterns of communication and partnerships in ministry. See motion on this in Packet. **Info: Kathy**
  - i. **No WNLT this year.**
- b. **Glacier** The Leadership Cabinets of both presbyteries are proposing concluding our formal ministry covenant with Glacier Presbytery, but continuing to inform and work collegially, inviting participation from the other presbytery at each other's events.
- c. **Active partnerships:**
  - i. *Whitworth University, Office of Church Engagement (2 grants – Minds and Hearts Set on Christ, Student Fellows & Growing Rural Churches Young/DREAM grants)*
  - ii. *Within Synod (most active) Wyoming, Denver, and Pueblo Presbyteries*
    1. *Kathy was asked to serve on planning team for this initiative for an equipping conf/initiative begin planting new worshipping communities.*
    - ii. *Board of Pensions – Seminars, call to health, etc.*
    - iii. *PDA – new grant for St. Andrew for hail damage to church & garden.*
    - iv. *United Methodists / Lutherans –on providing pastoral leadership*
    - v. *Suggestions?*

**III. Build community in the presbytery, continuing to grow our communication.**

- a. Communications Team – **Info: Kristin Willett**
- b. Yellowstone Currents – **Info: Susan Thomas**
- c. Facebook – **Kristin, Jack Bell, George**
- d. Presbytery Sunday, October 9...
- e. \*\*\*\*Dwellings in the Word for Session resourcing/devotions are now posted on the presbytery website. **Info: George**
- f. Pastor Clusters build community in regions.
- g. Please pray for the pastoral search in Jordan and pastoral needs in Anaconda/Big Hole churches as JP leaves to take a position in Bozeman (family needs) @ Christ the King ELCA.
- h. Suggestions?

**IV. Focus on spiritual nurture of pastors, leaders and potential leaders by understanding and using spiritual gifts.**

- a. **Equipped and empowered disciples and churches - theme for our Nov. & February meetings and for EVERY session, congregation & ministry. What are spiritual gifts? What happens when EVERY disciple, young AND old, discovers, develops and is deployed to use their spiritual gifts?**

Paul wrote that we are not to be ignorant about the spiritual gifts for they are given by the Holy Spirit to EVERY Christian, for the Spirit's fruitful, transformative work in each person and through the body of Christ. Research several inventories, processes that could be considered and used by leaders and congregations.

Bring a team of leaders for training at our Nov and Feb. meetings for in-depth training.

Look for an email in the next few days with further details on training we will be offering and for the link to a Spiritual Gifts Inventory to take BEFORE presbytery, if at all possible.

- b. Will be discussed In the Minds and Hearts Spiritual Formation-Predaching Cohort.
- c. George continues to offer spiritual direction to a few of the presbytery pastors. **Info: George**

#### **Other Items to Report:**

- A. We continue to be involved with supporting the work of the PMT in many areas: some significant needs in the lives and families of our pastors/CREs training for this crucial Ministry Team, BoP related matters, churches in transition Dillon (Steve Weber started in September), Geysler, Jordan in a pastoral search, Anaconda and Big Hole now vacant & other needs.
- B. George attended the joyful installation of the New UMC Bishop, Karen Oliveto, a dedicated, gifted and able leader for the Rocky Mountain / Yellowstone Conference region. Kathy and George joined other judicatory heads and some spouses to welcome Bishop Oliveto over dinner.
- C. Our 2016 Year-end campaign to complete the required funding our position. Your generous giving, *after* gifts to your congregation, has made all the difference. We would appreciate your prayers for our leadership and ministry here and God's provision for the remaining 55% we need to raise. Our ministry update and fundraising letter is arriving soon!
- D. Kathy continues to serve: Board of Trustees of Whitworth University, as one of the Yellowstone Presbytery commissioners to Synod. She trained our GA commissioners/YAAD and attended the General Assembly in June along with Debbie Blackburn, and a few observers from Yellowstone.
- E. George serves on the Board of Rocky Mountain College, member of two Board Committees; JP Carlson continues as our presbytery representative on the Board of Intermountain.
- F. Both of us meet three times a year with the other Synod Execs, a group that must assume significantly more leadership and importance as the Synod has voted to move to reduced function.

#### **Personal Items to Report:**

- A. Requesting a conversation with a personnel team from Leadership Cabinet regarding our job performance and possible future projections of our work, impacted by Synod change and more.
- B. George has received positive test results regarding some health developments. Prayers and patience have been much appreciated.
- C. Daughter Gillian and husband Peter have moved to Bozeman. She loves her calling as a fulltime faculty member at MSU teaching Spanish; he continues his work remotely in finance for Chipotle.
- D. Chip and Staci and boys are well in Spokane.

## Moderator Heath Rada's Report to General Assembly – Excerpts

**From: Presbyterian Outlook magazine – Leslie Scanlon, June 17, 2016**

**Denominational support.** “Our church is hungry for renewal, faith formation and proclamation,” Rada said, especially in churches in need of support. For example, Rada lifted up smaller churches, many of which are rural, that comprise 80 percent of PC(USA) congregations. Similarly, racial-ethnic congregations are facing “inequity, threats and challenges” and are “asking to join together with one voice.”

What has Rada learned?

Rada gave the committee a preview of remarks he will make to the whole assembly June 18, describing some of what he’s learned through the listening conversations he organized around the country this spring. Among his points:



**Heath Rada addresses The Way Forward committee**

- 1) Presbyterians are hungry for the renewal of faith formation and proclamation.** Increasing numbers of Americans describe themselves as “nones” (not affiliated with any religion) or “dones” (“those who’ve had it with organized religion and don’t want to be part of it any more,” as Rada described it). Yet Presbyterians have a renewed sense of urgency about the importance of proclaiming God’s word and helping form and grow people’s faith. The religiously disenchanted also are watching the PC(USA) “to see if we are genuinely looking to be different,” Rada said.
- 2) Congregational vitality is essential.** However, about 80 percent of PC(USA) churches are small and many are rural, “and they’re saying they don’t feel supported adequately.” It’s not just a matter of giving money, Rada said, but also sharing resources and ideas to help small churches transform their ministry.