

Yellowstone Presbytery Stated Meeting
May 12 - 13, 2017
First Presbyterian Church
Dillon, Montana

17 - 029 - Call to Order – CRE Jack Bell, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and offered the opening prayer. TE Steve Weber welcomed the presbytery to First Presbyterian Church of Dillon.

17 - 030 - Roll Call – RE Debbie Blackburn, Stated Clerk, called the roll and ensured that all present were introduced. Those who filled out registration sheets are listed as present.

Ruling Elder Commissioners Present:

Anaconda - John Lombardi
Big Hole - absent
First Billings – Chris Eriksen
Billings, St Andrew – James Tarr
Bozeman – Suzanne Bratsky
Butte - absent
Colstrip - absent
Deer Lodge - absent
Dillon – William Knox, David Schuett
Ennis (Madison Valley) - Lucy Ennis
Forsyth - absent
Geyser - absent
Harlowton - absent
Hysham - absent
Jordan – absent
Lewistown- absent
Manhattan – Eleanor Mest
Miles City – Paul Helland
Philipsburg - absent
Poplar - absent
Stanford - absent
Terry – Gary Pfiefler
White Sulphur Springs – Pam Jackson
Wolf Point – absent

Teaching Elder Members of Presbytery:

David Andrew (absent)	Roderick Blair (absent)
Susan Barnes (absent)	Paul Cannon (absent)
James Bell (absent)	JP Carlson (absent)
Priscilla Bell (absent)	Jed Cauffman (present)

Paul Cousins (present)
Warren Craig (present)
Dick Davis (absent)
Mary Davis (absent)
John Dyce (absent)
Katie Emery (present)
Susi Ennis (present)
Debbie Funke (present)
George Goodrich (present)
Kathy Goodrich (present)
Doug Johnson (present)
Jean Johnson (absent)
Lowell Johnson (absent)
Teresa Kendall (present)
Jim Kidd (present)
Dan Krebill (excused)
Paul Krebill (absent)
Brent Long (absent)
Freeman McCall (present)

Jody McDevitt (excused)
Sherwood McKay (absent)
Cathy McLean (present)
Marcia Muir (absent)
Sally Ralston (present)
Leon Rathbun (absent)
Neva Rathbun (absent)
Harlan L Rounds (present)
Bill Swanson (present)
Susan Thomas (absent)
David Thompson (present)
Larry Vandecreek (absent)
Vicki Waddington (absent)
Steve Weber (present)
Brandon Willett (present)
Kristin Willett (present)
Kim Woeste (absent)

Other Voting Members:

Jack Bell (CRE- Stanford) [present]
Debbie Blackburn (Stated Clerk) [present]
Ron Hanson (Moderator St Tm's) [absent]
Curt Kochner (Moderator Camping) [absent]
Veva Larson (CRE- Anaconda) [absent]
Mary Lee Hooks (Moderator PW) [present]
Robert Shy (CLP – Colstrip) [absent]

Others Present:

Sandy Cleary (Glen)
Donald Fleeger (Dillon)
Donna Fleeger (Dillon)
Dan Holland (Bozeman)
Marcia Jarrett (Bozeman)
Jim Jarrett (Bozeman)
Lois Pfieffe (Terry)

17 - 031 - Procedural Motion – 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 grants 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 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.

17 - 032 - Quorum/Docket – A quorum was declared present and the Docket was adopted.

17 - 033 - Worship – TE Steve Weber led the presbytery in dwelling on Ephesians 4:7-16. After a time of reflection, the group separated into small groups to share and pray for one another. TE Kristin Willett closed this time in prayer.

17 - 034 - Equipping – TE Kathy Goodrich presented an overview of the Stan Ott materials that were introduced at the February Presbytery meeting. Kathy reminded everyone that handouts and video links may be found on the Presbytery website (under articles/links/resources). CRE Jack Bell shared how he has been using Word-Share-Prayer and has found it to be very useful in encouraging people to share prayer requests and pray for one another in small groups.

17 - 035 - Break – The Presbytery took a break at 3:05.

17 - 036 - Workshops – There were three workshops presented simultaneously. TE George Goodrich offered a workshop on how to create a discipling culture. TE Kathy Goodrich offered a workshop on Stan Ott Materials for those who missed the February Presbytery meeting. TE Susi Ennis offered a workshop on spiritual gifts. Everyone was able to attend one of the three workshops.

17 - 037 - Reconvening – After the workshops were completed the group gathered again as one large group to share what they had heard. TE Susi Ennis facilitated this time of feedback. TE Kathy Goodrich went over some next steps for leaders wanting to see spiritual growth in themselves and in their congregations. TE Kathy Goodrich closed this time with prayer.

17 - 038 - Report from Co-General Presbyters – TE George Goodrich and TE Kathy Goodrich submitted a written report (Attachment A). George talking about the cluster groups and the upcoming summer camp program. It was announced that Presbytery Sunday will be October 8, 2017. Elder Commissioners were encouraged to complete the report form and share at their next session meeting. Kathy gave information about the Whitworth Fellows who will be with us this summer. She plans to send a letter to congregations to raise some more funds for the Fellows.

17 - 039 - Appreciation for Jed Cauffman – TE Dave Thompson, Moderator of the Pastoral Ministry Team, announced that TE Jed Cauffman is leaving his position as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Lewistown effective sometime early this fall. Jed and his family plan to move to California. People shared ways that Jed had touched their lives. The presbytery joined in prayer for Jed and his family.

17 - 040 - Dinner – CRE Jack Bell, Moderator, offered prayer for the evening meal and recessed the meeting.

17 - 041 - Worship – TE Brandon Willett and TE Kristin Willett preached at the evening worship service. Prayer was offered for Brandon and Kristin who will soon be moving to Arizona. TE Steve Weber presided over communion. The offering was designated for the Willetts.

17 - 042 - Reconvening - CRE Jack Bell, Moderator, reconvened the meeting with prayer at 8:30 a.m. Saturday. Several announcements were shared. The total for the Friday night offering was \$771 (for the Willetts). Revamp the camp will take place on June 2nd and 3rd. FPC Bozeman has offered books (no longer being used by the church) which may be reviewed downstairs.

17 - 043 - Worship - TE Jed Cauffman led the group in dwelling and reflecting on I Peter 4:8-11. He also reviewed the concepts of Word - Share - Prayer. Materials for dwelling in the word may be found on the Presbytery website and on the Vital Churches website. TE Teresa Kendall was recognized for her birthday today.

17 - 044 - Pastoring Possibilities and Equipping for Yellowstone Presbytery - TE George Goodrich presented information from the written report (Attachment B). He reminded us that we need to think creatively and be open to taking risks with new ways of doing things. CRE Jack Bell and RE Jim Tarr would like to visit churches to encourage CRE training. George closed this time with prayer.

17 - 045 - Good News from Churches - Susan Lively read a report (from clerk of session Julie Boksich) about the Church of the Big Hole. They have been without a pastor since last fall, but they have a PNC in place. The church is visible in the community and they feel that the congregation (which is spread over three locations and 75 miles) is working together. RE Dave Shuett gave an update on the Dillon congregation. They feel that they are coming back together and making their focus on Christ's church. The session works well together. TE Teresa Kendall offered prayer for these two congregations.

17 - 046 - Break - The Presbytery took a break at 10:05 a.m.

17 - 047 - Reconvening - CRE Jack Bell, Moderator, reconvened the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

17 - 048 - Growing Young Presentation - TE Kathy Goodrich showed a couple of video clips and then reviewed key points from the book Growing Young. There are six core commitments that are characteristics of churches that are growing young. Kathy reported that the research outlined in the books is well documented. It is very important to engage in a lot of listening before considering making changes.

17 - 049 - Stated Clerk's Report - A written report was submitted (Attachment C).

√ Motion passed to approve the minutes from the February 10-11, 2017 Presbytery meeting.

17 - 050 - Pastoral Ministry Team - A written report was submitted (Attachment D). TE Dave Thompson, Moderator of the PMT, announced that TE Brandon Willett and TE Kristin Willett will be moving to Arizona to work in a new church development there.

√ Motion passed that if the way be clear, to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the Revs. Brandon and Kristin Willett and the First Presbyterian Church in Miles City effective May 31, 2017 and to approve their transfer to Grand Canyon Presbytery.

Brandon and Kristin came forward to say goodbye. Several people spoke giving thanks for the contributions that Brandon and Kristin have made. TE Dave Thompson offered prayer for the

Willetts. TE Dave Thompson reported that the PMT has no recommendation regarding the proposal to revise the Directory for Worship.

√ Motion passed that we have a vote on the amendment (16-H).

Motion to approve amendment 16-H (Directory of Worship) failed.

17 - 051 - Leadership Cabinet – A written report was submitted (Attachment E). TE Susi Ennis, Moderator of the LC, explained the recommendation of the LC regarding Moderator of Presbytery for 2018. As there is currently no vice-moderator of Presbytery, the LC recommends that CRE Jack Bell be the moderator of Presbytery for 2018 also. This requires approval of the Presbytery.

√ Motion passed to set aside the Presbytery Standing Rules covering the term of the Presbytery Moderator for one year and request that Jack Bell continue as Presbytery Moderator for 2018.

The Leadership Cabinet presented for first reading changes to the Standing Rules (item S2.06). The proposed change would add the following wording to item S2.06:

“Also any ruling elder serving on the leadership cabinet or serving as a Synod Commissioner shall be a voting member of the presbytery for the duration of the term of such service.”

RE Dan Holland (finance point person) reported that funding from the Synod will be gone (or greatly reduced) in 2018. This means that the 2018 budget that will be presented in November will be somewhat different than previous budgets.

17 - 052 - Camping and Youth - A written report was submitted (Attachment F).

17 - 053 - Presbyterian Women – A written report was submitted (Attachment G). RE Suzanne Bratsky mentioned that there were two spring gatherings (Bozeman and Billings) as a way to try and reach more people.

17 - 054 - Next Meeting – The next stated meeting of the Presbytery will be November 3-4, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church in Bozeman, Montana.

17 - 055 - Adjournment – CRE Jack Bell, Moderator, adjourned the meeting with prayer at 12:05 p.m.

Debbie Blackburn
Stated Clerk

[God] will be a sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge. And the fear of the lord is the key to this treasure..." Isaiah 33:6.

This report is outlined by the goals adopted by the Leadership Cabinet for 2017

1. LC Goal 1: Emphasize disciple-making and disciple-sending among the congregations of our presbytery and at the presbytery level. This includes equipping people of all ages to know that they are Loved & Called, Gifted, Equipped, and Sent.**

Stan Ott: Well-received by the presbytery (pastors, elders, spouses attending, and across theological spectrum). Stan's biblically based, culturally and contextually informed and practical ideas and material for re-vitalizing congregations has now been distributed on DVD to every Yellowstone Church.

- I. **Intentional, systematic discussion and integration of this is a top priority for us, PMT and LC over the next year. The May Presbytery meeting resourcing time will feature and encourage sharing, discussion and ways pastors and congregations may integrate these and other discipleship materials.**
- II. Suggested usage:
 - a. Session devotions, min. teams, committees use Word-Share-Prayer/Dwelling in the Word
 - b. Equipping/training time...
 - c. Small group or evening study for church leaders AND any interested members...
 - d. Cluster presentations and discussions
 - e. Youth/college/young adults
 - f. Other...
- III. Westminster Spires Summer Camp, 2017. Please see Curt Kochner's excellent report on Camping and Youth. George will be training and leading staff with Curt again and speaking/discipling the staff and campers during the elementary and Junior High Camps this July.
How does this training integrate discipleship content into staff training?
- IV. PresbyCats! Dan Krebill led another successful year of collegian ministry at First, Pres. Bozeman and MSU, but graduating 5. Significant recruiting and connecting needed. Kathy hosted the semester-ending luncheon/party in our home on Sunday, April 30. Presbytery funds enable this ministry.
- V. Clergy Clusters: Three of the four are functioning well, and through dwelling in the word, sharing and prayer are deepening relationships with God and one another and ministries. Mutual support and collegial discipleship are occurring. Billings Cluster is struggling.

2. LC Goal 2: Focus on spiritual nurture of pastors, leaders and potential leaders across the presbytery by identifying, understanding and using spiritual gifts.

- a. **The Preaching and Spiritual Direction Cohort** met in March and April. At the last meeting the group considered a paper George is writing on the role of preaching in Spiritual

formation. Six members of the cohort have verbally committed to continuing for another year. Anyone interested in joining the cohort in the fall is encouraged to attend the Whitworth Institute for Ministry (WIM) this summer in Spokane for the week of July 24-28. \$250 scholarship and Details available from us. ***Reformation and Re-Formation: The Church as Witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ***
<https://www.whitworth.edu/FaithCenter/WIM/ProgramInformation.htm>

- b. **Emphasize the spiritual gifts inventory** offered at the November, 2016 Presbytery meeting. Without continued focus, suggestions and **specific strategy for ways to introduce and integrate this into congregation**, it is merely information, not **Transformation.**

3. **LC Goal 3:** Foster **community** in the presbytery, encouraging congregations and clusters to share stories of God's work in their midst as we **build and grow relationships** and **communication**, sharing in the fellowship and work of ministry and joint mission.

“Saints cannot exist without a community, as they require, like all of us, nurturance by a people who, while often unfaithful, preserve the habits necessary to learn the story of God.”
Stanley Hauerwas

- a. Clusters . the pastors/CREs relationships as well as the congregations.
- b. Look toward **Presbytery Sunday, October 8, 2017.** Additional leadership and gifts needed on planning group for this event. Thanks, Kristin for all your help!
- c. Encourage and see Yellowstone Currents / Susan Thomas at ckochner@mcn.net, for contributions from churches on the work of the Holy Spirit in their midst.
- d. Encourage Churches to send their newsletters to Susan/Yellowstone Currents.
- e. In coming months (and years) churches will have to adapt ways of working together in the face of the coming professional pastoral shortage and the inability of a good number of our smaller congregations to afford fulltime professional pastoral leadership.

4. **LC Goal 4:** Explore **partnership and collaboration** with presbyteries and other organizations as we grow in disciple-making and disciple-sending.

- a. **Whitworth Fellows Partnership, 2017:** Four Whitworth students, are placed in Yellowstone presbytery from June 1 – August 15. The primary focus of their work will be on helping Churches “grow young,” based on the research in the book, ***Growing Young***, along with other ministry.
- b. Joel Schroeder and Britt Williams, will be in the Lewistown congregation, where the leadership is actively studying the book and session and many others are committedly preparing to partner with these students .
- c. Luke Ekstrom and Kristen Elliott, will be based in Bozeman, living with us. They will travel Montana, listening to, dialoging and working collaboratively with and offering workshops on ideas to help churches grow young. They will be especially assigned to meet and spend a few days with congregations who are already studying the book and have a leadership which embraces and is starting to take some concrete steps. ***Please get a hold of a copy today. Ask Kathy and George if your congregation qualifies to discuss scheduling them for a few days this summer.***

- d. Whitworth's grant funds for this are decreasing in year 3. Church partners must pick up more this last year. We receive \$6,000 less than we had hoped and need to provide \$6,000 plus room, board and travel costs. We are seeking congregations and individuals who can support this unique and strategic opportunity God has provided. Please see separate letter.
- e. **The Third Way**, referring to a term used in the early church. Kathy just met with the leadership of Whitworth's Office of Church Engagement (OCE) who want us (and our interested congregations) to partner with them in a new Lilly grant whose focus is on equipping disciples in congregations to learn about, go deeper, in the community of a cohort, learning about the faith, the practice of spiritual disciplines and then select from a track as they will seek to live intentionally as disciples in the vocations and callings God has given them. The details should be available shortly.
- f. **Mission Co-Workers Visiting Yellowstone and Glacier Presbyteries in August!** Charles and Melissa Johnson will be visiting (August 8-14) Dillon, Butte, Billings, and Stanford within our presbytery. The Johnsons serve Chosefu Theological College in Zambia which teaches pastors agriculture as well as theology so that their ministry is more holistic in addressing needs of the rural communities where they will be called.
- g. **Wyoming Presbytery's Sabbath Center, June 22-24** in Casper. George will lead this leadership retreat on "All Who Are Thirsty: A Spiritual Retreat on the Practice of Using Scripture in Christian Discipleship." Clergy and Lay Leaders from Yellowstone Presbytery are welcome to attend – presbyterywyo@gmail.com
http://www.pbywy.org/_pdfs/2017/Apr/WyoConnect040117.pdf
- h. **Rocky Mountain College:** George Continues on the Board working with the Church Relations and Student Affairs committees. The Church Relations Committee, with Chaplain Kim Woeste, is quite active and interestedly pursuing some sort of Internship program modeled loosely on the Whitworth Fellows program beginning in the summer of 2018. The college would place interested interns with Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and other mainline congregations. Training and mentoring would be offered.

5. Equipping leaders and congregations in **Growing Young**, per the research.

See # 1 above. Integrating the Ott practices, mindsets and shifts are foundational to and go along with Growing Young.

See Whitworth Fellows and Growing Young in #3 above.

Addition information

Very Important #1: The Presbytery now must focus on helping congregations in pastoral transition:

- i. Discern new forms of pastoral ministry.
- ii. Strengthen / Disciple lay leadership as in 1-5 above
- iii. Search for quality new pastors who are equipped for, committed to the vision here.
- iv. Intentionally preserve the presbytery vision, goals and culture of Christ-like mutual discipleship and respectful, collegial ministry as pastors familiar with the culture depart and new and unfamiliar pastors enter. We need to develop a strategy and work with PMT and Stated Clerk and clusters to ensure this happens. George and Kathy write an article focusing on the Spirit's work and fruit of the process, vision and culture.

v. **Churches Pastoral Transition: Eight of our congregations**

1. Jordan. search in process
2. Big Hole (Three Congregations) . MIF completed, about to begin search
3. Miles City . Brandon and Kristin leave June 1; PMT liaison/ George active.
4. Lewistown . Jed just announced his departure in the fall
5. Other Churches may be entering the search process in the not-to-distant-future .

- b. **Very Important #2:** The Funding from the Synod that has been steadily decreasing for the last 12 years will end this December, eliminating some \$27,000 from the Presbytery's annual budget for 2018 and beyond. Please look at the budget carefully.

6. **Presbytery Life:**

- a. Brandon and Kristin Willett their daughter, Kennedy Willett, born last month!
- b. Kathy led a vision retreat for the Butte congregation on Saturday and Sunday, February 25-26 and preached the Sunday Service. Quite a few expressed hope, and a sense of how they might live their vision in 2017.
- c. John Dyce's mother, Lois, died in April. Her funeral was April 29 at First, Billings. George went.
- d. Rev. Dick McNeeley, H. R. died. His funeral is May 6, 11 a.m. at Springhill, new Bozeman location.
Gretchen requested that George be a part of the service.
- e. For Pastoral changes, see above under "Very Important #1."
- f. Ted Williams, former Stated Clerk celebrated his 90th birthday. George, Kathy and Debbie were there, along with many from First Presbyterian
- g. The Babcocks are now in Spring Meadows retirement facility in Bozeman, where Jim is on hospice. George saw them recently.

7. **Family:** our son, Chip, and Staci, his wife with their two children have moved from Spokane, WA to Paradise Valley south of Livingston. The small company that hired him, after 3 weeks restructured their staff, eliminating his position. He is seeking employment in the area. Prayers appreciated.

George and Kathy Goodrich

1. The Emerging Situation:

- a. An unusual number of pastors will be retiring in the next few years
- b. Generally, pastors attracted to Montana's small churches feel isolated and unfamiliar with the context. Therefore, they may only stay a few years.
- c. The cost of a full-time pastor with the required benefits is moving beyond the capacity of the individual small church.
- d. Many existing churches are finding it increasingly difficult to grow in today's culture (see *Growing Young* & Stan Ott's DVD's, outline and handouts from February workshops here: *Transformed & Mobilized: Love & Called – Gifted and Equipped -> Sent*). Reasons include:

- 1. Many trends in culture, beliefs, mindsets, lifestyles mean we live in a radically different culture than even 15 – 20 years ago. Those above 30 are like immigrants, foreign to our present culture/subcultures. Pastors and older leaders (30/40 +) not used or trained to understand and operate in our present realities.

- 2. Fewer people especially, younger generation respond to previous 'attractional' approaches, in which most pastors were previously trained. New approaches required.

- 3. Many Montana counties and towns are decreasing in population

- 4. Some congregations are gaining in membership, some are in decline.

- 5. Many of the key needs in people and reasons people would be likely to come to a church have shifted. We need to educate ourselves in those and how to be passionate and culturally relevant in sharing, caring and embodying the Good News.

- e. Some churches will likely have trouble searching for and calling a pastor, especially a pastor equipped with mindset, practices and capabilities to lead the changes and adaptations to thrive in ministry & mission in today's realities.

- 2. Shifts and equipping in the mindset, practices, & capabilities of Transformed and Mobilized needed in our congregations – pastors and sessions and leaders - NOW so that they stand the best chance to make progress moving from declining and maintaining to discipleship-focused thriving and outreach/service/mission. *Unless* this occurs they will not search for or attract a pastor with the above passions and abilities nor understand what and who they need to look for in such a pastor.**

3. Possible Structures for Pastoral Ministry for existing churches:

- a. A Full-time pastor for one church. Some of our congregations are still able to afford a full-time pastor and to pay the pastor well, but few.
- b. A Full-time pastor shared by two or more congregations or of congregations that are federated, yoked or combined in some fashion. Partnering with other denominations to effectively pastor churches in a region may be considered, as in Denton (UMC) and Stanford (PCUSA).

- c. Tentmaking / Bi-vocational pastors. Some pastors and CRE's are now part-time with the church and part-time in another job. Are there employment possibilities in your community that could support a part-time pastor?
- d. Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE's) for one or more congregations.
 - i. One CRE to a congregation
 - ii. Two or more CRE's in a given congregation who serve and lead according to their gifts.
- e. A Regional Pastor who may travel and serve several congregations in a region of the presbytery while equipped elders/CRE's lead the local ministry.
 - i. The regional pastor equips the local elders to serve, lead and raises up disciples to Christian maturity, sends out to mission and ministry 24/7.
 - ii. On the pattern of a circuit rider with services on different days of the week.
 - iii. Travels for special services, such as weddings, funerals.
 - iv. May moderate the sessions.
 - v. Could work on a team with several others, i.e. CRE's according to Spiritual giftedness, passions, callings, experiences.
- f. **Technology enabled worship:**
 - i. A sermon is streamed into the local congregation from another church (great care needed with this), while present pastors and presbytery equip elders/deacons, others to not only lead the rest of worship but are trained to listen, care, connect, lead groups... according to their spiritual gifts, passions, experiences....
 - ii. Music: may be streamed also to congregations who lack competent musicians or we could have pastors who have extensive expertise using audio and video now, share with and equip others.
- g. **Encourage new worshipping communities and House Churches probably with called/gifted/trained leaders, yet non-pastor dependent.**
 Research needed as to how this has been working elsewhere – ID this passion and work on a concrete strategy to share this message & opportunity and expand Yellowstone's New Worshipping Community group.
 The model of a denomination sending out teams of 3 to start churches is proving most effective in today's culture. All 3 with discipleship-based, relational, mission-minded ways of operating: 1 evangelist giftings, 1 pastor & other giftings, 1 with music passions/abilities. These supported mostly from the outside for several years.

4. **Possible steps forward:**

- a. Pray. God is not confused or anxious about the emerging challenges and opportunities for Yellowstone Churches. God has attracted and is growing some remarkable pastors / leaders to Yellowstone Presbytery and will likely do so in the future.
- b. Promote, teach, embed/integrate into our congregations the basics of
- c. 1. discipleship and the *Transformed and Mobilized: Loved & Called* -> Gifted and Equipped -> SENT content (Presbytery vision, Stan Ott's focus) ;
2. *Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*
- d. Study and integrate how churches in rural areas and small towns are growing today.
- e. Alert the congregations and pastors to the emerging situation and inform them of options and invite them in a positive way. Work with the sessions and pastors at every stage of the process.

- f. Begin to explore / test the above options in local churches as seems fitting in context.
 - i. Immediate concerns: Jordan / Big Hole (3 congregations) / Miles City / Lewistown
 - ii. Probable coming retirements or departures in the next three-four years: Philipsburg / Butte / White Sulphur / Forsyth / Ennis / Manhattan
 - iii. Possible Pastor Transitions: Dillon in a couple years and two other churches

- g. Research and learn from what forms of ministry are emerging in other presbyteries and denominations. The UMC in MT are prioritizing \$, staff time and equipping into the areas that Stan taught, expanded.

5. Think through how such changes could likely alter the face and ministries of the presbytery.

- i. Fewer full-time pastors. More lay & elder leadership.
- ii. Increased regional connectional grouping within the presbytery along with presbytery-wide focus. The focus will be more on building discipleship and ministry in the local churches and context.
- iii. Increase in relationships, networking and partnerships
- iv. What if the presbytery had only a Stated Clerk in five years for financial or staff-change reasons?
 - i. What models might enable the mission of the presbytery then?
 - ii. How will the presbytery prioritize for ministry and mission?

Stated Clerk's Report

May, 2017

For Information:

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

- Prepared the Presbytery meeting minutes for the February meeting.
- Attended the March and May Pastoral Ministry Team meetings and prepared the minutes.
- Attended the March, April, and May Leadership Cabinet meetings and prepared the minutes.
- Participated in phone meetings for Leadership Cabinet for planning Presbytery meeting.
- Attended a meeting in Denver on April 25th for Stated Clerks in our Synod.

Attached is a summary of the 2016 Statistics Report for Yellowstone Presbytery.

Rev. Richard McNeely died on May 20, 2017 at the age of 88.

For action:

- I hereby request approval, with corrections if need be, of the following minutes:
Minutes of the February 10 – 11, 2017 Presbytery meeting

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Presbytery Report 2016

Presbytery Number	300796
Name	Yellowstone

Address	PO Box 1254
City/State	Bozeman, MT 57971
Phone	406-586-7706
Email	yellpres@yellowstonepcusa.org
Web Site	www.yellowstone.pcusa.org
Fax	406-556-0979

Membership

Prior Active Members	1756		
Gains		Losses	
17 & Under	14	Certified	3
18 & Over	45	Deaths	50
Certified	7	Other	93
Other	20		
Total Gains	86	Total Losses	146

Total Active Members	1696
Baptized	60
Other Participants	85
Total Adherents	1841
Female Members	1024

Average Attendance	888
Affiliate Members	65

Baptisms		Officers	
Child Baptisms	18	Male Session	53
Adult Baptisms	7	Female Session	76
		Male Deacons	27
		Female Deacons	60

Age Distribution of Active Members		Male	Femaie
25 & Under	135	70	65
26 - 45	215	88	127

46 - 55	222	83	137
56 - 65	255	85	167
Over 65	711	251	434
Total Distribution	1538	577	930

People with Disabilities

Hearing	85
Sight	21
Mobility	42
Other	19

Christian Education

Birth 3	27	Grade 7	30
Age 4	40	Grade 8	17
Kindergarten	50	Grade 9	31
Grade 1	41	Grade 10	28
Grade 2	36	Grade 11	30
Grade 3	38	Grade 12	12
Grade 4	24	Young Adults	43
Grade 5	32	Over 25	217
Grade 6	29	Teachers/Officers	87
Total	812		

Racial Ethnic Breakdown	Membership	Elders	Deacons	Male	Female
Asian	7	2		4	3
Black				0	0
African American	1	0	0	0	1
African	0	0	0	0	0
Middle Eastern	0	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	2			1	1
Native American	17	5		5	12
White	1511	114	79	529	836
Other				0	0
Totals	1538	121	79	539	853

Potential Giving Units	87,195
Budgeted Income	2,053,097
Budgeted Expense	2,329,699

Receipts

Regular Contributions	2,034,153	Bequests	76,702
Capital Building Fund	178,649	Other Income	183,328
Investment Income	120,521	Subsidy or Aid	5,000

Expenditures

Local Program	1,924,865	Per Capital Apprt	75,572
Local Mission	157,846	Validated Mission	51,811
Capital Expenditures	317,404	Theological Fund	2,035
Investment Expenditures		Other Mission	30,555

Pastoral Ministry Team
Presbytery Report
May 12-13, 2017

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. Dissolution of the Pastoral Ministry Relationship in Miles City

The congregation of the First Presbyterian Church in Miles City has voted to recommend to Yellowstone Presbytery to dissolve the pastoral ministry relationship between the Revs. Kristin and Brandon Willett and the congregation. This request was made at a congregational meeting on Sunday, May 7, 2017 which was moderated by the Rev. Neva Rathbun.

Brandon and Kristen will be moving to Phoenix, Arizona, to continue their pastoral ministry work in a new church development in Anthem, Arizona, as part of the 1001 New Worshipping Communities initiative in the PC(USA). The PMT wishes to express our gratitude to Brandon and Kristin for their good work in Miles City and with our Presbytery. They have been serving the Miles City congregation since October 2012.

Action Needed: If the way be clear, to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the Revs. Brandon and Kristin Willett and the First Presbyterian Church in Miles City effective May 31, 2017 and to approve their transfer to the Anthem New Worshipping Community in Grand Canyon Presbytery.

B. Dissolution of the Pastoral Ministry Relationship in Lewistown

TE Jed Cauffman has announced his leaving his position as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Lewistown effective sometime early this fall. He and his family plan to move to California to be closer to his extended family. Pending a vote of the congregation, we will need to vote to dissolve the pastoral relationship between TE Jed Cauffman and First Presbyterian Church in Lewistown. We greatly thank Pastor Jed for his 25 years of pastoral service to the Lewistown church and Presbytery.

C. Directory for Worship Changes:

The PMT has no recommendation regarding the proposal to revise the Directory for Worship. The Presbytery will be voting on this amendment which was postponed from our last meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Dave Thompson, Chair

Leadership Cabinet Report
Yellowstone Presbytery
May 12-13, 2017
Dillon, MT

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, Ephesians 4:11-12

In 2017 we will focus on %Equipping and sending the gifted into ministry+.

At our March meeting we made some adjustments to the 2017 Goals by changing the 5th goal to reflect our emphasis on **Growing Young**. Here are the current goals.:

1. Emphasize **disciple-making and disciple-sending** among the congregations of our presbytery and at the presbytery level. This includes equipping people of all ages to know that they are Loved & Called, Gifted, Equipped, and Sent.**
** continuing to explore New Worshipping Communities across our presbytery.
2. Focus on **spiritual nurture** of pastors, leaders and potential leaders across the presbytery by identifying, understanding and using **spiritual gifts**.
3. Foster **community** in the presbytery, encouraging congregations and clusters to share stories of God's work in their midst as we **build and grow relationships** and **communication**, sharing in the fellowship and work of ministry and joint mission.
4. Explore **partnership and collaboration** with presbyteries and other organizations as we grow in disciple-making and disciple-sending.
5. Equipping leaders and congregations in **Growing Young**, per the research.

Since the February Presbytery Meeting the Leadership Cabinet has taken the following actions.

- A. Evaluated the February meeting and discerned how to continue the work begun at that meeting through both the May and November 2017 meetings. Both the May and November meetings will **be equipping events**.
- B. Begun a review of the current Insurance coverage for the Presbytery as we discern if we have appropriate and adequate coverage for the properties and programs of the Presbytery.
- C. Received reports from Campus Ministries at MSU-Billings, Rocky Mountain College and the PresbyCats and approved grants for the 2017/18 program years. We will be developing a format for their reports going forward which will tie their program events and grant request to the mission and vision statement of the Presbytery. We would like to encourage congregations in communities where there are colleges to consider how a ministry might be developed to reach out to the students. These congregations would be able to apply to the Presbytery for grants from Higher Education funds. Be aware that at this time there are limited funds in that account and we will be looking to discern how we might add to those funds.

- D. Begun discussion, in light of our Presbytery vision and theme for 2017-2018 and quite a few potential pastoral transitions the new few years from retirements or moving, to explore and develop intentional strategies, with PMT, to address:
 - a. the need for intentional discipling, equipping and leadership development within congregations and equipping of pastors and lay leaders,
 - b. creative options for identifying and developing pastoral/CRE leadership, or perhaps teams of leaders,

We would like to ensure that congregations in our Presbytery are able to continue the equipping strategies we are engaging around being **Loved & Called—Gifted—Equipped—Sent** and **Growing Young** as we look toward the future and the transitions. More information may be found in the Co-General Presbyter Report.

- E. Approved new signatories on the St. Timothy's bank account at Glacier Bank to align with the new officers elected by the St. Timothy's committee. The appropriate letter to the bank will be prepared and sent.
- F. Approved funding and sources of that funding for the 2017 Whitworth Fellows. This is the funding that is the Presbytery's portion which is added to the grant funds for the entire program.
- G. The Leadership Cabinet is responsible for ensuring the Presbytery remains faithful to and increasingly effective in living out its mission and vision, the intent of our new structure. Therefore, we would like to recommend that:
 1. current Moderator Jack Bell, with his mix of gifts, passion, call and understanding of our Vision and 2-year theme, be continued for 2018. This also provides important continuity for the presbytery during 2 years of significant pastoral turnover, 2 searches, 2 recent resignations, several retirements anticipated.
 2. the position of Vice Moderator remain vacant until the Fall meeting with the 2018 Vice Moderator coming from a member of the current Leadership Cabinet who has had at least a year's experience.

See the motion below as we address the continuation of Moderator Jack Bell for 2018.

Requested Action of the Presbytery:

- H. Motion from the Leadership Cabinet
We move to set aside Presbytery Standing Rule covering the term of the Presbytery Moderator for one year and request that Jack Bell continue as Moderator for 2018.
- I. Present for First Reading a change to Standing Rules S2.06 with the suggested changes in red. This is being done so that we may continue to raise up leaders within the Presbytery and expand growth in use of Spiritual Gifts as these leaders look forward to their contributions to the ministry of the Presbytery.

STANDING RULES YELLOWSTONE PRESBYTERY

with changes adopted by the Presbytery through February 22, 2014

S1.0 BOUNDARIES

The Presbytery of Yellowstone is a corporate expression of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), consisting of all the churches and teaching elders within the counties of Beaverhead, Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Gallatin, Garfield, Golden Valley, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, McCone, Madison, Meagher, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux and Yellowstone; that portion of Powell County that lies south of 46 degrees 40 minutes north latitude; and Richland County with the exception of the City of Fairview; all in the state of Montana.

1. S2.0 MEMBERSHIP

2. S2.01 Membership in the presbytery shall consist of teaching elders and ruling elders, in numbers as equal as possible.
3. S2.02 All teaching elders enrolled by the presbytery as active members, members-at-large, or honorably retired shall be voting members. All temporary members of presbytery shall be voting members.
4. S2.03 Each church in the presbytery shall be represented by at least one ruling elder commissioned by the session to be a voting member, and enrolled by the presbytery at each of its meetings.
5. S2.04 Each church with an active membership of three hundred and one (301) persons and larger shall be represented by two ruling elders commissioned by the session to be voting members, and enrolled by the presbytery at each of its meetings.
6. S2.05 Commissioned Ruling Elders in Pastoral Service (CRE) when granted a local commission will have a voice and vote in meetings of presbytery for as long as the commission is validated.
7. S2.06 A ruling elder, holding office in the presbytery as moderator, vice moderator, stated clerk, treasurer, or as moderator of the leadership cabinet, or as moderator of a ministry team of the presbytery shall be a voting member of the presbytery for the duration of the term of such service. **Also any ruling elder serving on the leadership cabinet or serving as a Synod commissioner shall be a voting member of the presbytery for the duration of the term of such service.** When the moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Yellowstone is a ruling elder, or the moderator of the St. Timothy's Memorial Chapel Committee is a ruling elder, he or she shall be a voting member of the presbytery for the duration of the term of such service..

Submitted by Susi Ennis, moderator Leadership Cabinet

Camping and Youth Report
Yellowstone Presbytery
May 2017

Winter Youth Retreat- The Winter Ski Retreat was held at Bozeman First Presbyterian on February 24-26 with skiing at Bridger Bowl on February 25. Fifty young people and leaders gathered for the retreat and worshipped with the Bozeman congregation on Sunday, February 26. 20" of new snow at Bridger the night before the group skied made for a great day on the slopes!

Westminster Spires Schedule for 2017

Revamp the Camp	June 2-4
Kotar Wedding	June 10-11
Bridger Ski Foundation	June 20-26
Tadon Family Reunion	June 30-July 5
Staff Training	July 6-8
Elementary Camp	July 9-13
Junior High Camp	July 16-21
Senior High Camp	July 23-28
Cox Family Reunion	July 30- August 2
Nathan Family Reunion	August 6-10
Eisen Wedding	August 25-27
Murphy-Prouty Reunion	August 30- September 2
Highland Holy Days	September 8-10

This will be the busiest summer we have had in many years.

Summer Camp Program

Promotion

The Summer Camp Brochure and Registration Application are posted on the Presbytery website. Copies of the Camp Brochure were sent to previous campers and retreat participants in March and again in April. Please contact me if you need brochures to distribute during your Vacation Bible School program!

Staff Update for Summer 2017

Promotion and Registration	Curt Kochner	
Staff Training	George Goodrich	
Elementary Camp	George Goodrich	
Junior High Camp	George Goodrich	
Senior High Camp	Katie Emery and Will Johnson	
Cook	Bill and Belinda Scott	
Crafts	Cynthia Kessler	
Program Director	Kara Todd	
Counselors	Cynthia Kessler	
	Dani Repka	Megan Dupuis
	Nichole Ferestad	Tamara Lucht
	Jon Dupuis	Hunter Skov

Presbytery Scholarships

We have kept camp fees at the same level for more than seven years. We still have many young people that need scholarship assistance. Many thanks to all the churches that generously provide scholarships for campers! Thanks to the generosity of donors and the offering from the last Presbytery meeting, we have scholarship funds available from the Presbytery. Please contact Curt Kochner if you have campers that need assistance to attend camp. We can make it happen!

Revamp the Camp

Sandy Welch from St. Andrew will once again provide leadership for Revamp the Camp. We will gather at Westminster Spires the weekend of June 2-4 to get the camp ready for a busy season. We only have to replace the shingles on two more cabins and one outhouse to have new roofing on all the buildings at camp. This has been a four year project, but we are close to completion. Projects for the weekend will also include cleaning of all the cabins, clearing up the grounds, enjoying fine fellowship and eating great food. We would not be able to keep the camp in such good shape without the hard work of all the folks that help with Revamp the Camp.



Women of the Yellowstone Presbytery
May 12, 2017

Out of the Darkness... into the Light (Jn. 1:5) The Spring Gathering, May 8-9, 2017 featuring the 2016 Mission Experience: Domestic Violence Responses and Interventions, A Coalition of care to End Trafficking, Responding Faithfully to the Immigration Crisis and Improving and Saving Women's lives in San Francisco: International Rights at the Local Level.

Our participant from the Synod was Carol Day, an outstanding speaker. She acknowledged that immigration, human trafficking and domestic violence are amazingly complex issues and yet encouraged us to see the hope for all of the larger John passage. As we congregate for these Gatherings we no longer feel small and ill-equipped, we know we can live generously and boldly for others. Look for the Peace Pals at the PW display.

Maren Haynes Marchensini led us in a short paperless singing workshop. "We are fearfully, wonderfully made In The Image of God." We felt blessed by Maren. She writes her own words and music and taught us that every voice, every sound, is needed.

Check out our newsletter at yellowstonepcusa.org and scroll down to Presbyterian Women of Yellowstone to the link, News From Presbyterian Women Presbytery of the Yellowstone May, 2017. It's a wee bit tedious but just do it.

In the future all circles will have a forum in the newsletter to share their work and missions in a "round robin" format. We also will be developing archive material from circles which may have disbanded and uploading our history to the national pw archives. This will help us stay connected.

Prayerfully yours,

Merry Lee Hooks