

Yellowstone Presbytery Stated Meeting
March 2 -3, 2018
St Andrew Presbyterian Church
Billings, Montana

18 - 007 - Call to Order – CRE Jack Bell, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and offered the opening prayer. TE Susan Barnes welcomed the presbytery to St Andrew Church and invited everyone to the 50th anniversary celebration in June of this year.

18 - 008 - 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 - absent
Big Hole - absent
First Billings – Chris Eriksen, Carla Bracken
Billings, St Andrew – Virginia Allen
Bozeman – John Patterson
Butte - absent
Colstrip - absent
Deer Lodge - absent
Dillon – absent
Ennis (Madison Valley) - absent
Forsyth – Gayle Holland
Harlowton - absent
Hysham – Waine Milmine
Jordan – Deanna Hansard
Lewistown- Margaret Smith
Manhattan – Kathy Whitesitt
Miles City – Sharla Helland
Philipsburg - absent
Poplar - absent
Stanford - absent
Terry – absent
White Sulphur Springs – absent
Wolf Point – absent

Teaching Elder Members of Presbytery:

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

Paul Cousins (absent)
Warren Craig (absent)
Dick Davis (present)
Mary Davis (present)
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)
Dan Krebill (present)
Paul Krebill (absent)
Brent Long (present)
Freeman McCall (absent)

Jody McDevitt (present)
Sherwood McKay (absent)
Cathy McLean (present)
Doug Melius (absent)
Marcia Muir (absent)
Sally Ralston (absent)
Neva Rathbun (present)
Harlan L Rounds (excused)
Bill Swanson (absent)
Susan Thomas (present)
Dave Thompson (present)
Larry Vandecreek (absent)
Vicki Waddington (present)
Steve Weber (absent)
Diane White (present)
Kim Woeste (present)

Other Voting Members:

Jack Bell (CRE- Stanford) [present]
Veva Larson (CRE- Anaconda) [present]
Robert Shy (CLP - Colstrip) [present]
Debbie Blackburn (Stated Clerk) [present]
Curt Kochner (Moderator Camping) [present]
Caroline Fleming (Moderator Rep/Nom) [present]
Suzanne Bratsky (Leadership Cabinet) [present]
Julie Boksich (Leadership Cabinet) [present]
Dan Holland (Leadership Cabinet) [absent]
Paul Helland (Leadership Cabinet) [present]
Jim Tarr (Synod Commissioner) [present]
Ron Hanson (Moderator St Tm's) [absent]
Mary Lee Hooks (Moderator PW) [absent]

Others Present:

Lynn Smit (Synod Stated Clerk)
Ben Larson (St Andrew)
Don Holland (Forsyth)
Sharon Milmine (Hysham)
Jane Schmeling (Miles City)
Karie Regan (Miles City)
Sandy Cleary (Church of the Big Hole)
Janet Wagner (Church of the Big Hole)
Carol Mick (Billings)
Dwight Welch (MSU-B)

Garret Mostowski
Joel Schroeder
Luke Eckstrom
Kristin Kochner

18 - 009 - 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.

18 - 010 - Quorum/Docket – A quorum was declared present and the Docket was adopted.

18 - 011 - Worship – TE Paul Cannon provided music for singing and Garrett Mostowski (Candidate for Miles City) shared a meditation. Members of the Presbytery offered their reflections on what was shared by Garrett.

18 - 012 - Installation of Officers – TE George Goodrich conducted a service of installation of CRE Jack Bell as Moderator of Presbytery and of TE Susi Ennis as Vice Moderator of Presbytery. Prayer was offered for Jack and Susi.

18 - 013 - Conversation with Stan Ott – Stan Ott joined the meeting by phone. He began by reviewing several of the concepts that he had shared with the Presbytery a year ago. Included in his comments were thoughts about Word/Share/Prayer as well as thoughts about what it means to be gifted (and equipped and sent). He talked again about seeing with “people eyes” and reminded the group of the three steps of Discovery, Deployment, and Discernment. Stan closed our time with him by encouraging everyone to Think Small, Think Big, and Think Action.

18 - 014 - Break – The Presbytery took a break at 3:20 p.m.

18 - 015 - Workshops – After the break attendees had a choice of two workshops. One workshop was “Called to Life: A Year of Call at First Presbyterian Church, Bozeman. The other workshop was “Christian Discipleship”.

18 - 016 - Reconvening – The entire group came back together for a time of sharing and reflecting on what they had heard and learned in the worships.

18 - 017 - Pastoral Ministry Team – TE Dave Thompson, Moderator of PMT, presented several items from the Pastoral Ministry Team Report (see Attachment A).

√ Motion passed to allow the Rev. Marcia Muir permission to labor outside of the bounds of Yellowstone Presbytery as she is serving the Chester United Methodist Church in Chester, Montana.

√ Motion passed to allow the Rev. Dick Davis permission to labor outside of the bounds of Yellowstone Presbytery as he is serving the Whitlash Community Presbytery Church in Whitlash,

Montana as pastor in residence.

√ Motion passed to approve the contract between the session of the Church of the Big Hole and the Rev. Mary Davis. See Attachment A for terms of the contract. Corrections to what is listed in the PMT report: The contract is effective February 1, 2018 (and not January 2, 2018). The contract provides for two weeks of paid vacation (including 2 Sundays). The contract provides for one week of study leave, including one Sunday. The contract calls for Rev. Mary Davis to preach 33 Sundays.

Dave Thompson next called Garrett Mostowski (candidate for Miles City) to come forward for examination for ordination, proper fit with the First Presbyterian Church in Miles City, and membership in Yellowstone Presbytery. Garrett has been under care of Western Colorado Presbytery and is scheduled to graduate from Princeton Theological Seminary in May of 2018. Garrett shared some of his faith journey. Then there was a time of questions for Garrett from the Presbytery members.

√ Motion passed for the examination to be arrested.

Garrett left the room and there was further discussion regarding various issues relating to ordination and call to the church in Miles City.

√ Motion passed to call the question.

√ Motion passed to sustain the examination for ordination pending Garrett Mostowski's graduation from Princeton Seminary and approval of the call from Miles City.

√ Motion passed to approve Garrett Mostowski as an active member within the Presbytery pending Garret's graduation from Princeton Seminary and approval of the call from Miles City and pending his ordination.

√ Motion passed to approve the terms of call shown in the report from the Pastoral Ministry Team (See Attachment A) pending Garret Mostowski's graduation from Princeton Seminary and approval of the call to Miles City Church and pending ordination. (The church in Miles City was advised to check with Board of Pensions to determine effective salary items and taxable items shown in the terms of call).

Garrett returned to the room and Dave Thompson led the Presbytery in prayer for Garrett. Dave next introduced Rev. Diane White who is the interim pastor at the church in Lewistown and a new member of the Presbytery. Diane came forward as Dave gave some background information on her. Dave announced Boundary Training that will take place in Billings (September 15, 2018) and in Bozeman (September 29, 2018).

18-018 – Stated Clerk Thank You – TE Kathy Goodrich and TE George Goodrich led a time of appreciation for retiring Stated Clerk Debbie Blackburn and presented her with a gift from the Presbytery.

18 – 019 – Dinner – There was a prayer for the evening meal and Moderator Jack Bell recessed the meeting.

18 - 020 - Worship - Joel Schroeder (Whitworth student) preached at the evening worship service. TE George Goodrich read the necrology report. . TE Susan Barnes presided over communion. The offering was designated for the Presbytery fund for Whitworth students.

18 - 021 - Reconvening and Worship - CRE Jack Bell, Moderator, reconvened the meeting with prayer at 8:10 a.m. Saturday. There was a time of worship and Word/Share/Prayer. The group divided up into small groups of 2 or 3 people to share with and pray for one another.

18 - 022 - Growing Young Plenary - TE Kathy Goodrich along with Joel Schroeder and Luke Eckstrom (Whitworth students and Fellows) led a time of reviewing principles from research on Growing Young. Kristin Kochner joined Joel and Luke to answer questions and reflect on comments from the group. The Presbytery attendees then divided into four groups to continue discussion of ways of reaching young people, especially those who are unchurched.

18 - 023 - Break - The Presbytery took a break at 10:25 a.m.

18 - 024 - Good News from Churches - TE Susan Barnes shared news from St Andrew Church and RE Waine Milmine shared news from the church at Hysham. This was followed by a time of sharing prayer concerns and joys by several persons. CRE Veva Larson offered prayer to close this time.

18 - 025 - Announcements - It was announced that the Friday night offering was \$650. TE Dave Thompson gave information on a trip (with some vacancies) to Israel. RE Caroline Fleming offered a pocket cross to anyone who wanted one.

18 - 026 - Report from Co-General Presbyters - George and Kathy Goodrich submitted a written report (Attachment B). They each highlighted a few items from their report.

18 - 027 - Camping Report - A written report was submitted (Attachment C). RE Curt Kochner announced that brochures for summer camp have been sent out. The offering at the May Presbytery meeting will be designated for camp scholarships at Westminster Spires.

18 - 028 - Stated Clerk's Report - A written report was submitted (Attachment D).

√ Motion passed to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2017 Presbytery meeting, the minutes of the December 7, 2017 special Presbytery meeting, and the minutes of the February 15, 2018 special Presbytery meeting.

18 - 029 - Geysler Administrative Commission - A written report was submitted (Attachment E).

18 - 030 - Leadership Cabinet - A written report was submitted (Attachment F). TE Susi Ennis, Moderator of the LC, highlighted some items from the report including the Leadership Cabinet Goals for 2018. She also announced that the May Presbytery meeting will be in Harlowton and the November Presbytery meeting will be in Bozeman. Reservations for motel rooms in Harlowton will need to be made prior to April 4, 2018. Susi next reviewed the recommendation from the LC regarding the church property in Geysler and read the motion from the LC. There was a time of discussion regarding the motion. Some felt that the final sale of the property should be approved by the full Presbytery and an amended motion was presented. It was also clarified that the property to be sold includes the land and the building.

√ Motion passed to call the question on the amendment to the motion.

√ Motion passed to amend the motion to include that it is understood that the final sale of the property (Geysers) would be approved by the full Presbytery at a meeting of the Presbytery.

√ Motion passed that the Geysers Administrative Commission be given permission to list for sale the property known as the Community Church in Geysers, and that the Geysers Administrative Commission be given permission to negotiate the sale price with any potential buyer keeping in mind the appraised value of the property. It is understood that the final sale of the property would be approved by the full Presbytery at a meeting of the Presbytery.

18 - 031 - Additional Reports Received - Reports were received from Budget and Finance (Attachment G), St Timothy's Chapel (Attachment H), Synod Commissioners (Attachment I), and Presbyterian Women (Attachment J).

18 - 032 - Announcements - TE Dan Krebill thanked the Presbytery for their support of the Presby Cats' mission trip. RE Suzanne Bratsky announced that PW will have gatherings on March 23rd (Billings) and March 24th (Bozeman). More information may be found on the Presbytery website.

18 - 033 - Elder Commissioner Report Form - TE Susan Thomas presented a recap of the meeting from her perspective with her thoughts of what she saw and heard. RE Commissioners were encouraged to complete their report forms to share with their sessions.

18 - 034 - Next Meeting - The next stated meeting of the Presbytery will be May 4-5, 2018 at the Federated Church in Harlowton, Montana.

18 - 035 - Adjournment - TE Susan Thomas adjourned the meeting with prayer at noon.

Debbie Blackburn
Stated Clerk