

George & Kathy Goodrich Co-General Presbyters Report
Yellowstone Presbytery May 20,2011, @ Anaconda, Montana

Dear Yellowstone Presbytery family,

Keeping 'the main thing the main thing' The 'main thing' - Living our vision, seeking to embody-- creatively, faithfully, and fruitfully-- God's preferred future as an outpost of Christ's church called, gathered, equipped, and sent in Montana. In reliance on Prayer, Scripture and the Holy Spirit, it is our call with you to develop and nurture missional, disciple-making, disciple-sending congregations and leaders. Together, we seek to help congregations and each other be all we can be in Christ -- joining Christ's mission. Fulfilling Christ's vision and call is not merely about the words of a statement. It is about cooperating with God transforming who we *are* and *how we live*, for Jesus' sake, sent out in these changing and challenging times in Montana and around the world. Christ's vision is fulfilled in our faith-filled practices; in what we do as disciples individually and together; in networking, collaborating and deepening our relationships; and in adapting our processes and structures for more fruitful, faithful missional ministry in 2011.

Living into our Vision: The Vision Team in Phase III of our journey seeks to lead, encourage, equip us to think differently than we have in the past about vision, mission and ministry. The presbytery's calling now is to evaluate and align who we are, what we do with our Vision. We will be encouraged to continue to deepen and develop new practices of how we grow as Christ's disciples, including how we come together and live as Christ's community of disciples; new ways of deepening our relationships and building bridges across congregational and various lines; new ways of how God may be leading us to make disciples to share and embody the Good News as salt and light in our communities, following Christ and adapting in these changing times.

Engaging the Gospel, Discipleship, Culture and Your Community

As part 2 of the 4 part ENGAGE training for Yellowstone congregations and leaders as we pilot this WITH National staff, Rev. Dave Loleng, partner with Ray Jones in the Office of Evangelism & Church Growth, is with us this week...

Anaconda – Fri, May 21 @ Presbytery Workshop 1:50 – 2:50 - ENGAGING the 'New Normal' of our Culture;
& Preaching @ our worship Friday evening

Saturday, 12:30 – 2:30 right after presbytery, stay for lunch & this interactive workshop for *BOTH Four Needed Shifts for Congregations Today* PLUS the ENGAGE resources - learning more and discussing with Dave how your congregation or group might use/adapt the ENGAGE materials, hear from leaders from other churches.

Passing of Amendment 10-A : Our letter of last week talked about the change in the process and wording regarding ordination standards in 10-A which will take effect July 10. On Saturday we will take some time as a community regarding this. Communication in print has many limitations and it is important for us to be face to face for prayer and conversation on these difficult matters, as hard as that may be. George will give a brief presentation & facilitate prayerful opportunity to discuss & listen to the Holy Spirit, to one another.

Goals of that time include--

1. Information and clarity regarding the new polity & implications resulting from passage of 10-A
2. Focus us all on Jesus Christ who is the head of the church and who promises us the peace that passes all understanding as we give Jesus our anxieties, Philippians

3. Continue the conversation, including sifting consequences & possible options in light of the complexities and totally new territory the new polity sets up

We are both grateful & proud of how we as the body of Christ have chosen to handle our intense feelings and disagreements as we discussed and voted on this amendment at our February meeting. May we continue in this prayerful, humble Christ-like spirit, keeping in mind: If someone walked into the room at presbytery during this conversation would they know that we belong to and honor Jesus from how we talk and conduct ourselves? Restrained and respectful conversation which does not impune or assuming motives or convictions

A gradual, prayerful working through allows congregations and usall to continue focusing on strengthening disciple-making churches and not allow this to distract us.

Be sure to check out and publicize Summer Camp @ Westminster Spires...Program, staff and facilities are all moving forward. See Report of Camping & Youth.

As the Middle Governing Body Commission proceeds, it is fascinating to read the observations, suggestions and important feedback and conversation bubbling up from all across our denomination, taking place here. They as asking for input and formal request/proposals as they were formed to work with presbyteries and synods as they seek to find new ways to be and do church in our radically shifting denominational realities and 21st century context

<http://pcusa-oga.typepad.com/mgbcomm/2011/05/from-the-the-mgb-commission-observation-deck-8.html>

At this meeting we will be discussing & voting on whether to add the Belhar Confession to our Book of Confessions. It will take until summer to know the status of the NFOG.

Prayer for sisters & brothers in congregations presently without a pastor: White Sulphur Springs, West Yellowstone, Hysham, Poplar and Jordan,

Other duties of our position include leadership in our region: Intermountain, Montana Association of Churches, Rocky Mtn College Board, and Whitworth University Board.

Synod of the Rocky Mountains– Meets in JuneThe . MGB Commission will have someone there, and we will be hearing about the various models and initiatives among all our presbyteries as we learn from and with one another, among other topics... Give any Input to our commissioners Lanny Rounds, Priscilla Bell or George. Ron will go as an observer.