

ü Note actions taken by Council or recommendations to Presbytery

COUNCIL

Presbytery of Yellowstone

MINUTES

August 14, 2009

The Council of the Presbytery of Yellowstone met at Bozeman First Church on Friday, August 14, 2009.

Attendance was as follows:

Elder Fran Babcock (Council Moderator)
Elder Debbie Blackburn (B&F)
Elder Susan Thomas (Presbytery Moderator)
Elder Vi Haigh (Representation)
Rev Paul Krebill (Higher Education)
Rev Neva Rathbun (Presbyterian Women Co-Moderator)
Elder Connie Townsend (Nominations)
Elder Cal Boyle (St Timothy's Chapel)
Jim Moses (Mission)
Rev. George Goodrich, co-General Presbyter
Rev. Kathy Goodrich, co-General Presbyter
Elder Ron Hanson, Stated Clerk
Elder Ric Tieman (Vision Task Force)
Rev. Jody McDevitt (Pastoral Team)
CLP Phil Maxwell (COM/Pastoral Team- via Phone)
Rev. Marianne Rehenberg (via phone for a portion of the meeting)

Absent:

Rev Mary Davis (Vocations)
Rev John Dyce (Transformation Rep)

1. Call to Order: The meeting was convened at 9: a.m. by Moderator Fran Babcock. George Goodrich gave the opening prayer.
2. Approval of the Docket: Council approved the Docket with the addition of a discussion on the format of the Presbytery Docket
3. Rotation of Meeting Locations: The council discussed the idea of holding Council meetings in various locations rather than rotating meetings between Billings and Bozeman.
 - ü MSC to move the Council meetings around the Presbytery to various churches based on invitation and evaluate this change at the end of 2010. The following meeting dates were scheduled:
 - Oct. 16, 2009 (Meeting scheduled for Anaconda)
 - Jan. 22, 2010 (need an invitation)
 - ü MSC to set the 2010 annual Presbyterian date on February 22-23, 2010 (location to be determined)
4. Vision and Mission Together: Debbie led a Bible study on 1st Thessalonians. George handed out a paper titled "What is the Presbytery Good For". Ric Tieman led a discussion on the proposed Vision Statement . A number of points were brought up but no changes were made to the statement. Kathy shared comments on "Christ's Pattern of Equipping and Disciple making. She noted that it was a 5 step process. The concept of Asset Mapping was discussed. Marianne commented on how to move the Vision forward. She noted that both people and resources need to be considered.
 - ü MSC that if Council members register by September 1 for the Vision Retreat, the cost will only be \$20.00.

5. Convocation: Yellowstone Presbytery will host the Glacier/Yellowstone Convocation in 2010. Susan Thomas, Kathy Mclean and Ron Hanson volunteered to be on the Planning Team from Yellowstone Presbytery.
 - ü MSC that the Convocation be held on April 23-24 or April 25-26 or the 30th of April and the 1st of May.
6. Lunch: Neva offered a blessing for our Lunch.
7. Pastoral Team: Jody handed out of material that is on the website along with the Aug. 12th letter out lining the PT's plan for the Aug. 16th meeting. The three Objectives of the Pastoral Team are 1. To share facts, 2. To put a face on the Presbytery, and, 3. To talk about options. Kathy read the following note which will go to the members of the Springhill church. *"The Yellowstone Committee on Ministry (COM) pledges to work with and assist those desiring to remain in the PC(USA) by supporting you as Springhill Presbyterian Church as we have for many years. Although other options are available, i.e. joining other existing PC(USA) churches in the area, The COM assures you that we will help you assess your needs and develop a plan to achieve your goals and dreams. The COM will provide financial support, personal resources and networking with other churches that are on similar journeys. We will engage in thoughtful prayer for you and with you as we fellowship together. In the beginnings of the Springhill Church, the Yellowstone Presbytery was instrumental in the life of the church. We find ourselves sin that position again and with the faith of a few strong people, the work of many, along with the Holy Spirit, we will help you pursue the ministry and mission that Christ has for you"*. The property issue will be discussed after the Vote by the Congregation. Jodi asked if there were any suggestions on negotiating. Paul said –Paul said, keep a PC(USA) church at Springhill. The redevelopment effort there was successful. Debbie said some who attend are not members but they consider the Church part of the Community. The idea of a PC(USA) at Springhill has not been shared w/ the Cong.

Jody closed the portion of the meeting with prayer.
8. COM Report: Phil noted that COM extended Rev. BJ Otey's Temporary Supply contract for 6 months and named him Moderator of the Session for that same period. Not doing so would have further complicated the situation at the Springhill Church. He will moderate the upcoming congregational meeting as per PC(USA) rules. COM is recommending a 2% increase in Minimum Salary for 2010 with a minimum of 75 % of the pastor's salary for CLP's. COM talked to Rev. Pinkowski about the situation at Billings First Church. COM has not found time to conduct Triennial Visits. COM is requesting the same budget for 2010 as they had in 2009. Phil commented on his future plans. George commented that there are other issues with some churches. Fran suggested we need to do a better job of interviewing candidates. Jody closed this portion of the meeting with prayer.
9. B&F Report: Debbie provided a written summary of income and expenses as of 6/30/09 and a Preliminary Budget for 2010. She noted that not all the committees have submitted a proposed budget for 2010.. This will be an item for the Oct meeting. Fran commented on the need for written reports from all Committees.
10. Nominating Committee: Connie presented a written report on the status of the committees work.
11. Discussion on Nominating and Personnel Committees: A question was raised as to whether Committee members from the Springhill Church should remain on these committees. It was noted that John Grossenbacher had already resigned his membership on the Committee on Ministry.
 - ü MSC that Fran will ask Rick Rambler if he has the necessary time to devote to the Personnel Committee.
 - ü MSC that Bill McGladdery be elected to the position of Moderator of the Personnel Committee, assuming he is willing to accept the position.
12. Higher Education: Paul Krebill reported on the activities of the Committee.
13. Mission: Jim reviewed the WNLT Scholarship Process (i.e. register/pay/get reimbursed). He noted that a missionary from Zimbabwe will be in Yellowstone Presbytery from 9/26 to 10/1). The first and last days of this schedule are set for travel. This itineration is a Mission Program of the G.A. He also noted that we are close to filling the shipping container for Zimbabwe that is located at Billings St. Andrews church. Jim commented that the Mission Committee's 2010 budget request includes \$1,000 for the Pantry at Rocky Mtn. College (Institute of Peace Studies) to provide

food to foreign students who would otherwise go without at times during the year. This is also a mission program of the Anaconda Church.

14. St Timothy's: Cal commented that the program is moving ahead. There has been a shortfall in the weekly giving this summer. A management team meeting is scheduled for August 27th.
15. Co-General Presbyters Report: George presented a request for the use of his accumulated Study Leave funds.
 - ü MSC that if George is accepted into the Diploma for Spiritual Direction Program of San Francisco Seminary that he be allowed to use his accumulated study leave for three weeks in the next three January's and that approximately \$4,000 be paid from the Administrative Restricted Fund, to cover the expenses of the first term.
16. Extension of the Docket: By mutual consent the Docket was extended by 15 minutes.
17. Presbytery Docket: Susan handed out examples of Dockets from other Presbyteries and suggested we consider some changes for the November Meeting Docket. She also shared an example of what our docket might look like if some of her suggestions were accepted. Her suggestions will be considered as the November Docket is put together.
18. Adjournment: The Meeting was adjourned w/ prayer by Susan Thomas @ 3:45 P.M.