

**Co- General Presbyters' Report to Council**  
**April 24, 2009**

“Without a Vision the people perish.” Amos

Over the last few months our efforts, guided by the Presbytery's Mission Priorities, have primarily focused on the enumerated areas:

- 1. *The Presbytery's Vision Process Team: “Vision serves the church as the North Star serves the explorer,”*** Kathy on the Presbytery website. Modes of effective ministry and mission are mutating; cultural norms and themes are evolving; the economic crisis is siphoning off previously available funds for both church and presbytery. Neither Presbyteries nor churches will be able to do all they have done. But what is God's mission for us? What are God's priorities for THIS time? What should Yellowstone Presbytery definitely do? This in light of the continuing reduction of support and resources from the GA offices. The Vision Process Team has been charged with leading through a process of *Discovering>>Discerning>>Embodying*. Kathy and I have been working extensively with this outstanding team towards the ends presbytery has set. George has met with a cluster of congregational leaders for elder training and as a part of this visioning process. This aspect will expand following our May presbytery meeting. The Vision Team, and we, are excited about all we are learning and discovering, and are passionate about the direction and opportunities we see emerging. An interim report will be brought to you this meeting and then to presbytery.
- 2. *Committee on Ministry:*** CoM is hard at work on behalf of all of us with our congregations, ministers and CLP's, in oversight, listening, care and guidance, planning & prioritizing. Ongoing training & equipping of this Committee is essential for the health of our congregations and leaders. The adoption of the Dismissal Policy and the request from the Session of the Springhill Church to pursue it, has and will require a great deal of time and focus of this committee and ours with the CoM of late as this is a “first” for the presbytery. There are always on-going pastoral concerns.
- 3. *Vital Pastors<>Vital Congregations<>Vital Communities:*** Throughout the denomination we are hearing and seeing that developing, training and building supportive networks for pastors/clpc's is a central key to strengthening and growing vital congregations. The Vital Pastors/leaders Program is being watched by the Board of Pensions as a potential model for presbyteries in other parts of the country. We'd like to increase the participation in Yellowstone Presbytery in the near future. Much of our time continues in the leading and development of this program for this and three other presbyteries in our region. The cluster groups of pastors, which meet in person, by conference call and computer, are supported and growing. A key goal, developing similar programs for lay leaders to be run by those “vital pastors and vital lay leaders.”
- 4. *Coordinating with Presbytery Staff and Moderators:*** Kathy and I are here to do all we can to ensure that all of you have successful ministries. When it is helpful, I am willing to work with you who moderate to help you in planning your meeting, resource you and help and prioritize the challenges and opportunities before your committee in line with your Committee's goals, furthering our presbytery's mission priorities. Please ask and stay in

touch. The Staff is in a time of transition with the election of Ron Hanson to follow Ted Williams in the Stated Clerk position. The transition is complicated with an exceptionally heavy workload in the judicial area added to this “start-up”. We ask your prayers, your patience and all of us understanding that judicial process is not the best process or venue for resolving differences between Christians.

5. ***Yellowstone Prayers:*** Jesus spent huge amounts of time in prayer with God, alone and with the disciples, a model for us. The Yellowstone Prayers continue to meet by conference call to support the work of God through all of us in the churches and in the presbytery. Talk to me, if you’d like to be involved, and have the congregations, leaders and ministries of Yellowstone a regular part of your prayer discipline.
6. ***Budget and Finance:*** These are uncertain economic times. With the Budget and Finance Committee, we are monitoring the projected income of the presbytery. Adjustments will likely have to be made in this year’s budgets. Prayerful and prudent suggestions and surgery will be required. So we are watching our progress.
7. ***Participation and service in/with higher governing bodies;m Relationships with other Institutions and Ministries:*** Yellowstone will be hosting the Presbytery Executive Forum, Exec’s from the other seven presbyteries in the Synod, in June. We are coordinating the arrangements. George, by virtue of this position, also serves on the Board of the Intermountain Children’s Home, its monitoring committee of the Board, having recently chaired their executive evaluation committee and been a member of the nominating committee. Kathy was asked to serve on the Board of Trustees of Whitworth University in Spokane, as they want to expand their relationships and reach in Montana and add gifts she brings to them. ( This is the ONLY PCUSA college in the west). Opportunities have come to both of us to speak as resources in other presbyteries and Kathy through Wee Kirk. George will be offering a seminar on how to read the Bible and get something out of it and coordinating an afternoon mission effort on the part of interested participants at WNL.T.
8. ***Continuing Education for us:*** George is looking into programs for further training and certification in Spiritual Direction, particularly as might relate to how we all help people grow spiritually in our congregations. Kathy is exploring programs in leadership.

### **For Action:**

1. We request that reimbursable expenses for George to attend the Healthy Ministry / Evangelism Conference at the Big Tent in Atlanta, June 11-13, be approved from the fund reserves for Administrative Support according to past Council action. **Approved by Council. CoM to nominate another as well.)**
2. That Council approve the following resolution: We gratefully receive all the snow the Good Lord has sent us during the winter of 2008-2009, but we respectfully request that Spring be allowed to come now. **(Much discussion, no action.)**