

**HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 12, 20010**

The Committee met by teleconference at 5:00 with the following participants: Dave Kimball – Chair, Bob Robertson, Curt Kochner, Shari Dayton, Ray Knox, Chuck Broughton, Kristi Foster and Kim Woeste. Additional participants were Dan Krebill, Nancy Giddings, George Goodrich.

Dave Kimball opened the meeting with prayer and thanked everyone for their participation. This was one of the highest levels of participation we have had in recent years.

Campus Ministry Reports:

MSU-Billings Rev Kim Woeste provided an overview of the United Campus Ministry under six program areas which include pastoral ministry, educational ministry, ministry of justice and reconciliation, ministry of institutional responsibility, ministry of responsiveness, and witness and ministry of interpretation. Her goals and priorities for the coming year are to sustain financial support to maintain the program and work on strategic planning. She is now working ¼ time as a Christian education director for a local church and relies more on student peer ministers. Students have been involved with Habitat and Kiwanis projects in addition to other local service activities. She continues to be supported by a very active United Ministries Board.

Rocky Mountain College: Chaplain Kristi Foster is completing her second year at Rocky and has developed a growing program of activities including field trips to local churches and for-credit fall and spring break service trips. She is called on frequently to participate in campus ceremonies and is an active part of the student life program for the Dean of Students. Four students have expressed interest in pursuing calls to ministry. She will be attending two national youth gatherings this summer, including the PC(USA) Triennium. Kristi will be formally installed as chaplain next September 23. Dr. Deborah Krause, Academic Dean at Eden Theological Seminary and PC(USA) elder, will be the guest speaker.

MSU-Bozeman: Rev. Dan Krebill reported that Jerry Crabbs has stepped down as volunteer campus program minister and they are establishing a parish-based campus ministry based on 3-5 student peer ministers under a scholarship program that will provide between \$1,000 and \$1,600 in financial support for their work. The program will be under the oversight of Elder Nancy Giddings, chair of the Spiritual Growth Committee. Two students have applied for the program for next fall. Funding from Synod and Presbytery for the program are held in a separate account and have accumulate under the volunteer coordinator system

2010 Synod and Presbytery Funding Status: The funding grants from Synod for this year were MSU-Billings - \$5,060; MSU-Bozeman - \$2,550; and Rocky Mountain College - \$1,000. The Presbytery matched these grants with a like amount to each. Presbytery Council suspended further payments at its January meeting until the future of the ministry program was defined. Rev. Krebill advised here is currently sufficient funding available to startt the scholarship program for next fall.

2011 Budget Planning: The 2011 budget formulation work will begin in June and a request for Synod grant support will be due in September. Zane Buxton, Synod Executive, has provided preliminary information that the 2011 funding level will be in the 85% range of the 2010 budget. Special Partnership funds that the Synod has received from General Assembly are being reduced and will phase out by 2013. These funds have been used to support much of the Synod-level programs, including campus ministry, and payments made to presbyteries, including Yellowstone Presbytery. The loss of these funds will result in significant restructuring of both Synod and Presbytery programs and levels of activity.

Christus Collegium Status: The Presbytery's involvement in interdenominational campus ministry programs at MSU-Bozeman was reviewed, as well as the current status of Christus Collegium and our participation in funding and using the facility. Jerry Crabbs attempted to use the office and space, but in a September 2009 memorandum to the Higher Education Committee, he recommended that we measure the benefits to students against the cost of operations and maintenance and assess the value of continuing Presbyterian participation. The Presbytery currently pays \$4,620 per year as our assessed share of the costs to maintain the facility. Rev. Krebill advised that a study was conducted several years ago, but no action was taken. The Higher Education Committee agreed that a working group should be formed to identify the steps required to dissolve the Presbyterian partnership in Christus Collegium. This recommendation will be taken to Presbytery Council.

Student Peer Ministry Crosstalk Both of the MSU campuses will be using student peer ministry as a key element of their to establish an active cross-talk on how best to make this an effective program.

Other Business:

- Rev. Foster was asked to track down the Covenant between Yellowstone Presbytery and RMC. A signed copy has not been returned.
The Pachem Summit in July, sponsored by the PC(USA) Office of Collegiate Ministries in St. Paul, MN., was discussed.