

**Presbytery of Yellowstone
Leadership Cabinet Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2014
1st Church, Bozeman, Montana**

Moderator Jody called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Present were:

Jody McDevitt
Debbie Blackburn
Dan Holland
Susan Thomas (phone)
Don Holland (phone)
Jed Cauffman (phone)

Absent:

Lanny Rounds

Also Present:

George Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter
Kathy Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter
Ron Hanson, Stated Clerk

1. **Opening Prayer** – The opening prayer was offered by Jody.
2. **Christ Candle** – Jody read the Litany of the Christ Candle and lit the Christ Candle.
3. **Quorum** – The Clerk declared that a Quorum was present.
4. **Docket** – The docket was approved.
5. **Minutes of September 9, 2014**
✓ The LC voted to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2014 meeting.
6. **Dwelling in the Word** – Ron led Dwelling in the Word focusing on Philippians 3:10-14. We were asked to consider if we are aiming too low. There was a time of sharing what this Scripture was saying to individuals and to us as Leadership Cabinet. Ron closed this section in prayer.
7. **Fifth Strand** – Time was spent discussing the mission of the Presbytery and Jody shared some of her power point presentation on the ~~W~~WHY+of mission. It was decided to use the theme of mission for the 2015 Presbytery meetings. Some mission related workshops should also be included in the Convocation.
8. **Leadership Cabinet 2014 Goals** . Time was spent going over the actions items determined at the last meeting. Most items appear to be in progress. George asked for help with the Currents newsletter. It was suggested that we have several reminders (as training) at Presbytery meetings for people to fill in information on their report form (What happened at the Presbytery meeting?). Ron has written a guide for commissioners. Dan Holland is to let Sheryl know the names of people for sending monthly financial statements (email). This list will need to be updated after the Presbytery meeting to reflect changes after elections.
9. **Amendment Assignments** . We need a plan for how amendments will be addressed at the winter Presbytery meeting. Jody will convene a subgroup to work on this. It was suggested that PMT be assigned items 14A and 14B. Ron will be responsible for 14D. The other amendments are yet to be assigned.
10. **Sexual Misconduct and Insurance Questions** . Ron has received a questionnaire from our insurance company in response to our request to increase the coverage limit for sexual misconduct. Ron will contact those persons who have not yet signed the appropriate sexual misconduct forms. Ron will reply to the questionnaire from the insurance company.
11. **Presbytery Roll Call and Introductions** - It was decided to return to the practice of introductions at the beginning of each Presbytery meeting. The official meeting attendance will still be based on written attendance forms. The Stated Clerk will give an oral report at each meeting regarding requests received for excused absences.
12. **Lunch** . The LC took a short break to gather food for lunch. Jody offered prayer for the meal.
13. **Higher Ed Ministry Grants** . Dan Holland had prepared a proposal regarding the grants.

✓ The LC voted to approve the Summary of Proposed Actions Regarding Higher Education Grants

(Attachment A). Jody will contact the higher education ministers. Dan will work with Sheryl on items she needs to do.

14. Preparations for November 7th Presbytery Meeting . The current proposed docket does not include any meeting time on Saturday. The YP meeting would conclude on Friday night.

½ The LC voted to approve that the Presbytery meeting will be on November 7, 2014.

Jody will contact Susan Seibert about making notifications that there will be no meeting on November 8th.

15. Budget for 2015 . Dan handed out preliminary budgets for 2015. There will be a phone conference call on Wednesday, October 22, 2014 (1 o'clock) to consider the budget after some adjustments are made.

It was noted that some of the salary for the General Presbyter is included in the program budget.

√ The LC voted to recommend a 2% salary increase for staff.

16. Nomination to Representation-Nominating Committee – The LC needs to nominate someone to replace a male ruling elder.

√ The LC voted to nominate Bob Culbertson (RE from 1st Billings). The LC voted to nominate Lloyd Mandeville (1st Bozeman) as an alternate should Bob Culbertson decline the nomination. Jody will contact Bob.

17. Process for Stated Clerk Search . Ron is finishing his second three year term. Our Standing Rules do not allow for more than six consecutive years

½ LC voted to ask Ron to serve one more year as Stated Clerk and to recommend that the Presbytery set aside the standing rules to allow this and have the LC appoint a search committee to nominate someone by November, 2015 for Stated Clerk beginning in 2016.

18. Synod By-Laws Changes . proposed changes for Synod of the Rocky Mountains

½ LC voted to recommend to the Presbytery the proposed changes in Synod Standing Rules and By Laws (Attachment B).

19. Co-General Presbyters Report . George handed out their report for October. The Synod transition will bring many changes. Susan Gibb and Rusty Craig will represent YP at MAC this month. Kathy reported on her conversations with Whitworth regarding a program to place interns in rural and small churches.

20. CRE Program . This handbook needs to go in the administrative manual and comes to the LC from the PMT. There is one small typo (duplicate words) that Jody will report to Dan Krebill.

½ The LC voted to recommend to Presbytery approval of the revised CRE handbook.

21. Offering and Mission Interpretation . It was noted that the Presbytery docket includes several opportunities for mission interpretation. The convocation committee has already determined the convocation offering designations as Family Promise of Gallatin Valley and the PresbyCats.

22. Presbytery Meetings for 2015 . It was recommended that the first meeting of the year be March 6th and March 7th at St Andrew in Billings. It was recommended that the second meeting of the year be June 12th and June 13th at White Sulphur Springs. Ron will contact these churches to determine if they are agreeable to hosting the Presbytery on these dates. If WSS declines, then Ron will contact Lewistown regarding the second meeting. The last meeting of the year would be at a site in Glacier Presbytery (if the convocation is held in November of 2015).

23. Extending the Docket

½ LC voted to extend the docket to 2:10 p.m.

24. Leadership Cabinet Meeting Dates for 2015 – The following dates and locations were suggested:

Wednesday, January 14, 2015 (Bozeman)

Tuesday, February 10, 2015 (Billings)

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 (Bozeman)

Tuesday, May 12, 2015 (Billings)

Tuesday September 1, 2015 (Bozeman)

Tuesday, October 6, 2015 (Billings)

½ LC voted to approve the suggested meeting dates.

25. Next Meeting – The next meeting will be a phone meeting on Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 1 pm.

26. Adjournment - Dan gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Leadership Cabinet Minutes of October 14, 2014.

Summary of Proposed Actions Regarding Higher Education Grants

1. We should discontinue the payment of \$833.33 per month to MSU-Billings as of 9/30/14.
2. We should reclassify the monies advanced to MSU Bozeman in the amount of \$2,000.00 from account 3.90.2910 to account 5.01.2553.4.
3. We should enact the procedures necessary to transfer \$16,700 from the Higher Education Grant Fund (hereinafter HEGF) account held at the Foundation and deposit that money into the general checking account (it should be coded to account 4.01.4080.) We should further instruct the Foundation to reinvest any future dividends earned by that account back into the same account (in lieu of sending periodic dividend checks to us.)
4. MSU-Billings: we should send them a check in the amount of \$2,900.00 by the end of October. We should send them another check in the amount of \$6,000 in January, 2015. We should further instruct them to submit a grant proposal prior to our January meeting for \$2,000.00 to fund their spring mission trip. (Since they have already submitted this proposal, we could just verify with them that it is still their intent at that time.)
5. Rocky Mountain College: we should send them a check for \$1,300.00 by the end of October. We should send them another check in the amount of \$2,000.00 in January, 2015.
6. MSU-Bozeman: we should send them a check for \$3,000.00 by the end of October. We should send them another check in the amount of \$3,000.00 in January, 2015. We should further instruct them to submit a grant proposal prior to our January meeting to fund their spring mission trip.
7. We should instruct all parties that they should be prepared to submit grant proposals for the 2015-2016 academic year prior to our meeting in May, 2015. The grants awarded at that time will be paid out according to the timetable requested by the applicants.

Attachment B

From: Synod of the Rocky Mountains Coordinating Council

To: Presbytery of Yellowstone

Date: August 14, 2014

Re; Proposed change in Synod Standing Rules and ByLaws

Motion: Shall the presbyteries of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains concur with the following change in the plan and number for electing commissioners to the Synod Assembly?

In accordance with the Book of Order G-3.0401, effective January 1, 2015, the Synod of the Rocky Mountains has determined the plan for the election of Synod Commissioners to be:

- 1) Each presbytery of the Synod will elect two commissioners to Synod, one of whom shall be a ruling elder and one of whom shall be a teaching elder. Each commissioner shall serve a two year term and may be re-elected to serve no more than six years consecutively.
- 2) It is recommended that at least one of the commissioners from each presbytery be a member the presbytery council or its equivalent. Commissioners shall serve until their successors are elected by their respective presbyteries.
- 3) It is the responsibility of the presbyteries to ensure that the principles of participation and representation are fulfilled as found in F-1.0403 and G-3.0103.

All presbyteries must report the outcome of the vote to the Stated Clerk of the Synod no later than December 1, 2014.

Rationale:

The 2014 Synod Assembly, meeting in Denver, CO, on Friday, August 1, 2014, effected changes to the Synod's bylaws and standing rules changing the number of commissioners. The *Book of Order* requires that its entities be ever mindful that in the election of commissioners that representation and diversity is not diminished or ignored. To that end, the presbyteries are to give diligence in electing commissioners to the councils of the church. By approving this motion, the presbytery affirms that it will honor the principles of participation as found in F-1.0403 and G-3.0103.