

Leadership Cabinet Report

Yellowstone Presbytery November 6-7, 2020

Zoom meeting

The Leadership Cabinet met in June, August, September, and October trying to model the Spirit-focused, grace-filled “pivot” as we adapt to this time of change that is now the new normal in our churches and communities.

GATHER TOGETHER

The Acts of the Apostles has been our go-to book during this Covid-19 season for Dwelling in the Word - that we might see how the early church responded to changing conditions and live as citizens of God’s kingdom on earth. We have been looking for the Holy Spirit’s work in the early church to show us where we might look for the Spirit’s leading in our lives and in our communities.

EQUIP & ENCOURAGE

- At September’s meeting the Leadership Cabinet met with the Pastoral Ministry Team for a retreat. We opened with Dwelling in the Word from Acts 16 and had a conversation, including small groups, with Vilmarie Cintron-Oliveri, past Co-Moderator of the General Assembly (2018-2020). We focused on God’s abundance, what is being “shaken” in our Presbytery, and what Paul & Silas - and God - were doing under persecution. Vilmarie suggested “Working in the Draft” because of the constant change we are living with.
- Planned a Presbytery-wide Zoom Gathering for October 3rd and 6th to experience Dwelling in the Word and introduce PODs: very small discipling groups that are easy to begin and maintain either in-person or using technology. www.pod-church.com
- Encouraged the Prayer Cluster in leading the presbytery in a Day of Prayer and Fasting on October 20, 2020. Three members of the Cabinet assisted by leading prayers.
- Planned November presbytery meetings on a Zoom format to include Word-Share-Prayer, Equip and Encourage events, worship, and business.
- Working with the Pastoral Ministry Team, we have created a Draft of a Vision for the Prioritizing of the Commissioned Ruling Elder Program in Yellowstone Presbytery. We are taking steps to implement this Vision along with the Pastoral Ministry Team.
- Heard from and evaluated the college ministries at MSUBillings, PresbyCats, and Rocky Mountain College. Distributed Higher Education Grants to these ministries. Communicated with pastors in Butte, Dillon, and Miles City to encourage them to think creatively about ministry with the colleges in their cities.
- Members of the Leadership Cabinet attended the closing worship of the Harlowton Church on Sunday, June 28, 2020. The United Methodist Church and Yellowstone Presbytery are equal owners of the building and we are, at this time, waiting for direction from the Methodist Conference.
- The sale of the Geyser property has been successfully completed with an on-line auction and the money distributed to the Westminster Spires Camp Scholarships (\$1000), Re-Vamp the Camp (\$2000), Higher Education Grants (\$1000), Clergy Emergency Fund (\$1000), and the balance to the Equip and Encourage Fund (c. \$17,000). A gift has been given to Fern Keiser for her excellent and faithful work during the process of the sale. Per the Geyser Administrative Commission, monies

from the church's bank account (about \$7000) were approved to be distributed as follows: \$2000 given to First Presbyterian Church in Stanford and the balance to be given to the Equip and Encourage Fund. (see ACTION ITEMS #2)

- Heard from and supported the voted request from the congregation of the Madison Valley Presbyterian Church in Ennis that Yellowstone Presbytery sell the McAllister church building and small property. This tiny, very old building was given by the Methodists to Yellowstone Presbytery many years ago. It has been rarely used for worship services, and only in good weather. There is no plumbing and the building is in serious disrepair. There are several interested buyers. Leadership Cabinet voted to recommend that Yellowstone Presbytery elect an Administrative Commission to address this. We also voted to ask Kathy Goodrich and Debbie Blackburn to follow up on potential nominees for the Administrative Commission and finalize the motion (see ACTION ITEMS #3, #4, #5).

- Will give a gift of appreciation to Susan Seibert for her faithfulness for 16 years to Yellowstone Presbytery as Administrative Assistant.

- Approved the 2021 PerCapita for Yellowstone Presbytery at \$43.27 to be added to \$8.98 for General Assembly and \$3.00 for Synod of the Rocky Mountains. PerCapita total is \$55.25 per member. A discount of \$1.25 is being offered by Yellowstone Presbytery for payment received prior to February 15, 2021 making the total early payment amount \$54.00 per member. Leadership Cabinet will encourage churches to take advantage of the early payment for PerCapita.

- Received the Report from the Synod of the Rocky Mountains, including a PerCapita rebate of \$.25 if paid early.

- Approved the Yellowstone Presbytery budget for 2021 with a 2% cost of living increase.

- Hired Bozeman Accounting Solutions for the Presbytery's bookkeeping service. So far, this has been a positive and professional experience. Hiring the bookkeeping service and switching to QuickBooks have already begun to save the Presbytery money.

- Received the annual report from the St. Timothy Memorial Chapel Committee. Leadership Cabinet requested the two St Timothy checking accounts - used to cover the insurance premium - be increased from \$1,500 each to \$2,500 each to cover the increased cost of insurance. Approved the streamlined Financial Procedures with an amendment - that the annual report be received by the Presbytery Treasurer by January 31st of each year.

- Supported the on-going work of the Personnel sub-group of Leadership Cabinet, Planning Team (for Presbytery meetings), and the Representative/Nominating Ministry Team.

- Continues to support the work and ministries of Intermountain Home (Yellowstone Presbytery is one of the founding partner denominations) and the Montana Association of Christians (MAC).

- Leadership Cabinet would like to propose three dates for 2021 Yellowstone Presbytery meetings: March 5-6, May 21-22, and November 5-6.

- Leadership Cabinet would recommend that the Presbytery Meeting Offering be given to Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN, mfbn.org)

As Jesus fed 5000 with five loaves and two fish, Leadership Cabinet wants to respond to an increasing need in our Presbytery with what little we have: "Our mission is to end hunger in Montana through food acquisition and distribution, education and advocacy. MFBN has been feeding Montana since 1983. Our vision is a Montana free from hunger where everyone has equal

access to nutritious food.”

1 in 10 Montanans struggle with hunger. 1 in 6 children struggle with food insecurity.

Based in Missoula, Montana Food Bank Network serves 31 counties including all the counties served by a Yellowstone Presbytery church. MFBN does this through generous donations and local partnerships.

Programs MFBN serves are Network Partner Agencies (ie local food pantries), Backpack Program, School Pantry, Mail-a-Meal, Hunters Against Hunger, Grocery Rescue, and SNAP Application Assistance.

ACTION ITEMS FOR YELLOWSTONE PRESBYTERY

Leadership Cabinet voted to support and recommend to the Presbytery a change in the Standing Rules suggested by the Representative/Nominating Committee. (Please note: Our Standing Rules require a two-step process for any changes. Proposed changes are to be proposed and discussed at a presbytery meeting, and then voted on at a subsequent meeting)

#1 Leadership Cabinet recommends changing Section 5.02 of the Standing Rules of Yellowstone to read as follows:

S5.02 The Leadership Cabinet moderator shall be elected by the presbytery for a one year term, renewal for up to 3 years.

Rationale: Standing Rules Section 5.02 currently reads that the moderator “shall be elected for a 3 year term with no more than 2 consecutive terms”. Representation and Nomination Team finds that unrealistic since people are elected to the Cabinet for 3 year terms, and can serve no more than 2 terms. The team might find itself asking a newly elected member of Leadership Cabinet to moderate without that person having experience on the Cabinet. The amendment would allow for needed flexibility in seeking qualified leadership.

#2 Leadership Cabinet recommends that Yellowstone Presbytery dismiss the Geysers Administrative Commission with the thanks of the Presbytery. Members of the Commission are: Ruling Elder Charlie Brown, Ruling Elder Jim Tarr, Ruling Elder Fern Kaiser, Moderator MWS Susi Ennis, and staff George Goodrich.

#3 The Leadership Cabinet recommends the formation of an Administrative Commission to handle the sale of the property (land and building) known as the McAllister Church (S33, T04 S, R01 W, Acres 1, W Side Hwy 287 S Side N Meadow Creek Rd SW4NW4). The Administrative Commission is to be given the authority to sell the property based on a highly competitive price and consideration of all factors.

#4 The Leadership Cabinet nominates the following three people to serve on the Administrative Commission for the McAllister property: Moderator MWS Dan Krebill (FPC Bozeman), Ruling Elder Bob Beekman (Madison Valley PC, Ennis), and Ruling Elder Charlene Mandeville (FPC Bozeman) who is also a certified realtor and who, in the past, has served as Ruling Elder at Madison Valley Presbyterian Church. (All have accepted the nomination).

#5 The Leadership Cabinet recommends, based on the practice from many previous building/land sales over the last 20 years, that it be given authority to determine the allocation of funds from the sale of the McAllister Church property, most likely to be split between the Madison Valley Presbyterian Church and Yellowstone Presbytery.

MICRO-GROUPS email

Daniel Tiller (Dillon), Dan Krebill and Jody McDevitt (FPC Bozeman) Teresa Kendall (Deer Lodge)

During worship on Friday (Nov 6th) at the Presbytery meeting, the Planning Team would like to hear from three churches around the theme of Empowering Churches with Micro-Groups. We would like to include Dillon/FPC Bozeman as one of the three.

What new form(s) has the church you serve created to empower the church during this year (particularly Covid)?

How are you using Micro-Groups to “live in the draft”, build up the church, empower the congregation?

At the end of March, when our church had to go to on-line worship only because of Covid, I offered Evening Prayer on Zoom. We were stuck at home, and this was an opportunity for a small group of us to meet together and pray without leaving our homes. Six people showed an interest. With about 25 people attending worship that’s almost 1/4 of our worshipping congregation!

At first, we met 5 evenings a week. We have continued to meet these last seven months, currently meeting on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings with a core group of 4 and myself.

I use the outline of Evening Prayer found in our Book of Common Worship. We start with the assigned opening scripture and prayer of thanksgiving for the light. I wanted to nurture in us eyes for seeing what God was doing in our midst during Covid so at this point I insert the question, “Where have you seen God working today?” After we each answer that question, I read a Psalm and ask folks to join me in a time of silence reflecting on what the Holy Spirit is saying to each of us from that reading. Then we share what we heard.

We close our time with our prayers of thanksgiving and intercession using the outline in the Evening Prayer service, and then the Lord’s Prayer.

Sometimes we have time before or after to share a bit our lives.

I look forward to this time together because it touches so many of the elements of Christian worship and fellowship - sharing our lives, praying together, discerning God’s movement in our midst, and meditating on Holy Scripture - the things that grow us up in the likeness of Jesus.

One of our Ruling Elders is grateful for this time together, saying, “We care about what’s going on in the world, and this is a place to lift up our prayers to God for the world.”