

**Montana Association of Churches 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Assembly**  
October 26-28, 2014      Ursuline Retreat Centre      Great Falls, MT

Presbytery Representatives:

TE Rusty Craig	Anaconda	Pastor Delegate
RE Susan Gibb	Bozeman	Lay-Person Delegate
TE Paul Cannon	Hysham	MAC Board of Directors At-Large Member

***Theme: "Church: Be the Church"***

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Jim Ryan, retired Executive Director, Colorado Council of Churches

In his two messages Rev. Ryan reminded us that "just as the church needs to speak a prophetic message to society, so too does the church need to speak to itself."

Business conducted:

The Montana Association of Churches celebrates its 41<sup>st</sup> year with significant organizational changes. President Peter Erickson detailed how the Annual Assembly and Board of Directors did some serious "wondering" the past few years on how MAC can be an ecumenical organization in these times of rapid change and reduced resources. A re-visioning task force (TE Dan Krebill was a member) spent the past year working on proposed changes and drafting new bylaws. After close review and extensive discussion, Assembly delegates voted overwhelmingly to accept the new bylaws. Major changes are as follows:

1. The name is changed to Montana Association of Christians, still known as MAC.
2. Membership is open to ecclesiastical judicatory members; local church congregations; individuals; and non-profit organizations approved by Council.
3. Any judicatory interested in the purpose of MAC but for whatever reasons cannot or will not join in full membership, may have Observer Status (voice not vote).
4. In lieu of the Annual Assembly, as done in the past, MAC now will be governed by a Council as the policy and decision-making entity. Council members will be one appointee from each charter and later judicatories plus three to six at-large members.
5. Annual Assemblies still meet for the purpose of education, worship, service, fellowship, and generating issues for Council's consideration.
6. Ministry teams will be established by Council to do the focused work of MAC.

7. Standing Committees will be an Executive Committee, Legislative Committee, Nominating Committee and Assembly Planning Committee.
8. The Council may employ staff as programs require and resources permit.
9. Public Statements on moral, social and political issues may be adopted and published by MAC.

The proposed 2015 budget of \$42,945.00 was adopted. This compares to a 2014 budget of \$61,250.00.

A vote was scheduled to consider MAC's endorsement of the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act. A detailed briefing on the Act was presented but due to not all judicatories being present [under the previous bylaws] a vote could not be taken by the Assembly. At the close of Assembly the Council met to begin the complex transition planning. During that meeting MAC endorsement of the Heritage Act was approved.

The following nominated officers were elected and installed:

President-Elect:	The Reverend Valerie Webster (EP - Bozeman)
Secretary:	The Reverend Su DeBree (UMC - Helena)
Treasurer:	Judith Reel (GP - Butte)

MAC's Guiding Vision [from the new bylaws]

1. Our Covenant: We covenant as ecclesiastical judicatories, congregations, non-profit organization and individuals in Montana to make visible our unity in Jesus.
2. Our mission: We are called together by God to
  - a. Pray together as one
  - b. Be present in our state's broken places
  - c. Walk in the freedom and openness of the Holy Spirit
3. Our Values: faith, unity, justice, and compassion.
4. The Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes within the meaning of section 501(3)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code

***[www.montana-churches.net](http://www.montana-churches.net)***