

Leadership Cabinet Report
Yellowstone Presbytery, November 1-2, 2019
First Presbyterian Church, Lewiston MT

The Apostle Paul reminds us, “There are many members, but one body.” (1 Corinthians 12:20) Many of our member churches and pastors - and therefore the whole of Yellowstone Presbytery - are in a period of transition, a time of discerning what the Holy Spirit is leading us to do to proclaim Jesus’ reign in our churches and communities. Trying to discern the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst, the Leadership Cabinet has met for their regularly scheduled meetings and two special meetings since April. We have been in prayer and process over the following primary things:

We continue to evaluate our 2019 goals in light of implementing the Yellowstone Presbytery vision, noticing what has gone well and what still needs to be done. We have spent a significant time in Dwelling in the Word and prayer.

We have given our time and creative energy listening to the Holy Spirit - along with leaders and congregations - that the Holy Spirit might inform our planning and support for the mid-September Regional Gatherings and the training with Stan Ott at the November Presbytery meeting.

The Personnel sub-committee has been meeting personally with Presbytery personnel. It has been decided to keep the positions of stated clerk and assistant stated clerk at 50/50 for the time being.

The Leadership Cabinet approved grants from the Higher Education Fund for three collegiate ministry organizations: one each at Rocky Mountain College, MSU-Billings, and PresbyCats.

We have reviewed the 2018 year-end financial report and the 2019 budget for St Timothy’s Chapel.

We continue to track each congregation’s adoption of a Child and Youth Protection Policy.

We have made recommendations to the Representative/Nominating Ministry Team for future members of that Ministry Team.

We rejoice that a 1001 New Worshipping Community is meeting in Basin, Montana, supported by First Presbyterian Church in Helena! Working with Glacier Presbytery, we are composing an amendment to be sent through the Synod of the Rocky Mountains to the upcoming 224th General Assembly for a boundary change between our two Presbyteries in Jefferson County so that this Community is within the bounds of Glacier Presbytery.

As we all seek to live out our call to serve Jesus in our churches and our communities, and, together, as we flesh out our vision as Yellowstone Presbytery, we are faced with the challenge of a significant reduction in income for 2020 and beyond. The annual grant from the Synod of the Rockies has ended and Yellowstone Presbytery, having stretched our withdrawals from the Unreserved Fund much further than we expected, is nearing the end of this Fund.

Barring new gifts, and if nothing changes, Yellowstone Presbytery will need to raise an additional (and significant) amount of money to make our 2021 budget. Leadership Cabinet is aware of the situation. In the early church, recorded in Acts 16, the Holy Spirit closed doors and opened new ways for additional ministries and followers of Jesus when the apostles (Jesus’ Sent Ones) obeyed the Spirit’s direction. Leadership Cabinet has been praying to be led by God’s Holy Spirit to discern what is closed to us, what new ways are opened to us, and what we might try to address this challenge.

Motions from the Leadership Cabinet

1) Rep/Nom nomination:

MOTION: Leadership Cabinet recommends we set aside the standing rule (S06.02.01) for the terms of office for the Rep/Nom Ministry Team and nominate Caroline Fleming for one-year term to be nominated as Moderator.

Leadership Cabinet has asked more than one person to serve a three-year term (class of 2022). The current person we have asked is praying about her commitment to this position. We expect to be able to report our recommendation at our next Presbytery meeting.

2) Boundary Amendment to Synod from Yellowstone and Glacier Presbyteries

MOTION: Leadership Cabinet recommends the following motion to Yellowstone Presbytery:

ACTION: The Presbytery of Yellowstone, in concurrence with the Presbytery of Glacier, requests the Synod of the Rocky Mountains to Overture the 224th General Assembly to approve the following boundary change between the two presbyteries. In particular this includes redrawing the boundary through Jefferson county, so that Jefferson county north of the Boulder River would fall within Glacier Presbytery.

RATIONALE: Glacier currently has established a ministry in Basin, Montana which currently lies within the boundary of the Presbytery of Yellowstone. The two presbyteries have agreed to make this change so that the Presbytery of Glacier will be able to continue working with this ministry and assume all authority and liability for the ministry at Basin, Montana.

Draft GOALS for 2019

1. Encourage and Create a Disciple-Making Culture
 - a. Collecting and sharing stories of God at work
 - b. Enticing sessions to use Dwelling in the Word and/or Word-Share-Pray
 - c. Do more with "Growing Young" by activating a sub-group of new and experienced leaders to help guide the Leadership Cabinet and Presbytery to further explore and practice the principal tenets from "Growing Young"
 - d. Develop habits, practices, and mindsets of modeling discipleship in our leaders
 - e. Examine the roles, calls, and communication of pastors, ruling elders, and lay leaders in today's environment

2. Support Spiritual Nurture of Pastors, CREs, and Lay Leaders
 - a. Continue using the Presbytery Prayer Calendar and integrate it into cluster meetings, session meetings, worship services....
 - b. Provide more resources to pastors
 - i. Free retreats (using online resources)
 - ii. Create supportive relationships among pastors
 - c. Create a healing ministry by identifying gifts and call of presbytery members---pastors, leaders, church members, and participants---everyone

3. Foster Community in the Presbytery
 - a. Presbytery Sunday
 - i. Find an organizer for Presbytery Sunday
 - b. Collect Stories
 - i. Stories of God's work and mission stories
 - ii. Identify collector of stories
 - c. Explore mission opportunities
 - i. John 20:19-23
 1. Could this scripture be used as this year's theme for the Leadership Cabinet?
 - ii. Identify Mission facilitator

4. Examine God's Provision for God's Mission
 - a. The 4 T's
 - i. Time
 - ii. Talent
 - iii. Tithe
 - iv. Treasure
 - b. Explore grants, new people, new worshipping communities

5. Support Staff
 - a. Encourage Personnel sub-committee
 - b. Examine staffing models

