

## November, 2014 George & Kathy Goodrich Co-General Presbyters' Report to Yellowstone Presbytery

Now to [God] who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Eph. 3:20-21

We are grateful to God and to you as we reflect on and celebrate 10 years here partnering with each of you in Christ's body, in Christ's mission! We are grateful God has worked in and sustained us all through some difficult decisions and times. We rejoice in answered prayers, many congregations reaching out to join Christ in his mission and growing in numbers as well as more Christ-like as disciples. As we shared, we want to dream Christ's dreams with you, love, help lead and equip us all to follow Christ, yet not deplete presbytery finances. It is a hard transition to move to ½ time, the last couple of months our work has been focused in the following areas:

- 1- Assisting the **Pastoral Ministry Team** has included:
  - a. Churches in the discernment, dismissal or closing process (Stanford, Geysler, Hysham, others possible. Some considering joining the Fellowship. Roy closing.)
  - b. Working on complicated process, celebrating the call for JP Carlson to Anaconda/Big Hole churches.
  - c. Preaching, moderating, celebrating anniversaries, supporting quite a few pastors in various crises.
  - d. Increased opportunities for discipleship & outreach/service in small towns/rural communities. Grant submitted. See # 6 below
  - e. Spiritual support & pastor/leadership training and community, helping congregations improve discipleship and outreach through marriage and family and 'Sticky Faith' ministries
- 2- **Convocation Planning Team work**, November 6-7 in Bozeman. Please register, room left. See website.
- 3- **Presbytery Transition** The research, sorting, relocation of the office to FPC-Bozeman. Thank you for your welcome. Staff adjustments. We owe Ric Tieman and J&H enormous thanks for generosity, space, and support of every kind for many years. Positioning the presbytery for half-time co-general presbyter service, working with Cabinet & PMT, has required
- 4- Developing the **Pastor Clusters** for mutual discipleship, support, accountability, and mission
  - a. The White Sulphur Cluster launched the presbytery in cluster *ministry* with its Prayer retreat in August, attended by 9 congregations, excellent evaluations, requests to offer it in at least 2 other locations. Cluster *ministry/mission* is a key piece in our new presbytery structure / vision. To what might God be calling your congregation/cluster?
- 5- **Leadership Cabinet**
  - a. Presbytery Mission
    - a. Working with Cabinet & presbytery to establish priorities / Task Forces
    - b. Clusters in ministry/mission.
    - c. YP consider prioritizing 1001 new worshiping communities. FPC Billings conversations.
  - b. Coverage / function of the office, systems & our work when we are ½ time and not available.
- 6- **Exploring partnering with Whitworth University**, including to establish a student rural ministry internship initiative here in YP. Joint Grant request submitted for DREAM grant through Synod. Kathy is taking the lead in this. Conversation and coordination with PMT. 2 grants and fundraising involved.
- 7- **Camping and Youth**
  - a. George, Junior/Senior High Fall Retreat – October 16-18 at Rockhaven Camp. With Curt Kochner, organizing and preparing to speak.
  - b. George Assisting Curt Kochner in leading the summer camp in July and beginning to plan 2015.
- 8- **Communication**, we need help here with communication priority of Cabinet .
  - a. Revitalizing Yellowstone Currents

- b. Developing a plan, with leadership Cabinet, for better and more effective communication and connecting within the presbytery.
- 9- **Assisting the YP Nominating Committee** in its work to present the teams for 2015
- 10- Assisting the **Budgeting Process** for 2015 and the **fundraising** for our position in 2014.
- 11- **Our Synod of the Rocky Mountains** is escalating its transition, some it planned, some due to GA mandated merging of synods to 10-12 maximum by 2016.
- a. Meeting with the other General Presbyters in the Synod for mutual support of our ministries, for identifying potential areas of fruitful partnership and collaboration, including beyond our Synod bounds.
  - b. Assisting the presbytery to understand the coming changes; offering input so the changes at the synod level are evenhanded, benefiting Yellowstone Presbytery *and* all the others.
  - c. Participated in Western National Leadership Training (WNLT). Key Learnings include:
    - 1. Ken McFayden (UTS, Richmond): Proper process: Ask “Why,” before “What and How.” We took a lot of notes. We could offer this to YP.
    - 2. Future of WNLT? “This is an old and questionable model of learning.” In Jackson?
- 12- **Board of Trustee work:** Whitworth University (Kathy); Intermountain Childrens Services (George); Rocky Mountain College (George); MAC (George, moving to decreased role).
- 13- **Spiritual Direction Training, Certification, and Practice**, George continues in the Selah Program and four Yellowstone Pastors requested are engaged with him in Spiritual Direction / Companionship.
- 14- **Personal Notes for us:**
- a. In process discerning God’s call(s) for our other half-time
    - i. Kathy –a. has been approached twice to consider leading/facilitating EP/pastor/leadership groups or learning communities; b. dreaming, equipping congregations and families grow and improve discipleship and outreach including relationship, marriage and family and Sticky Faith insights; c. speaking & retreats for congregations, presbyteries, groups, d. university communities.
    - ii. George is progressing in establishing a ministry of spiritual direction, personal and group retreats.
  - b. Our family is doing well where they are currently planted. Little Charlie is a joyful blessing!
  - c. The saga of the aging parents continues for both sets of parents. Fairly stable at present.
  - d. **Spiritually,**
    - i. Kathy, in addition to **Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids (gift to each congregation @ our June presbytery meeting with trainings offered)** and **Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family** by Kara Powell, is inspired by Mark Labberton’s new book, **Called: the Crisis and Promise of Following Jesus Today**, which reminds us as Christians that our high calling, both as individuals and as disciple communities, is to follow Jesus which entails sharing and embodying the ways and the character of Christ. “If we put first things first (Matthew 22:36-40), our sense of call will shape our character, transform how we perceive the world, reshape us.... This is what God desires and intends to do in us in order to exhibit or embody such qualities through us.... Be the ‘Good News’ Church in a time of global change and confusion.” – Mark Labberton.
    - ii. George continues to follow the lectionary in the Presbyterian Yearbook for Prayer and Study, enjoying his readings for his spiritual direction courses. . The book that has spoken to him profoundly this month is **The Solace of Fierce Landscapes** by Belden C. Lane. The author treats desert spirituality, with the wisdom of the desert fathers and mothers and brings it forward to us today.