

Leadership Cabinet Report to Yellowstone Presbytery March 6-7, 2020

Leadership Cabinet and Pastoral Ministry Team had a joint retreat in Bozeman on January 9-10, 2020. We ate and prayed together, did Word-Share-Prayer and dreamed together, and also met separately orient new members, set our 2020 visions and goals, and take care of business. Leadership Cabinet considered how the challenges facing our churches might become opportunities, how the Leadership Cabinet can model spiritual practices (“Be the people of God before we do the work of the people of God”), how we might plan Presbytery meetings that are more transformational while being informational, and how to do what God wants us to do.

Based on comments and requests from a variety of folks in the presbytery, along with articulated needs, this year we will focus on Stan Ott’s Three Commitments and accompanying transferable concepts and dynamic shifts. The Three Commitments, which are based on Jesus’ “Four Greats” as noted below, have a great deal of similarity with our vision statement. At each presbytery meeting this year, one of these will be our theme and will focus much of our equipping. At our March meeting we will begin with Stan providing a brief review, finishing more of his outline with a deeper dive on Commitment #3, then more on Commitment #1 on Saturday.

Stan Ott’s Three Commitments:

#1 - A Growing Commitment to and love for Jesus Christ. (March 6-7)

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37)

#2 - A Growing Commitment to and love for the Body of Christ. (May 15-16)

“And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matthew 22:39) Also, “a new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35)

#3 - A Growing Commitment to and love for the Work of Christ in the World. (Nov. 6-7)

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

We heard an encouraging word from our new Treasurer, Ric Tieman, as to the financial health of Yellowstone Presbytery. We agreed with Russ Kline’s suggestion that we make commitments to support and connect our congregations in the area of mission. We expressed our desire to help George and Kathy prioritize their work in light of less time and funds.

At our February meeting we:

- Continued to spend a significant amount of time in Dwelling in the Word (Word-Share-Prayer) and in prayer for our vision, leaders, churches, ministries, and presbytery.
- Reflected on how to encourage the Clusters, and the possibility of using seminary interns to enhance their seminary experience while assisting our churches.
- Took further steps in planning the March Presbytery meeting - to include equipping workshops and worship with Necrology Report, Mission Team Commissioning, and Holy Communion.

- Reflected on the effectiveness reported from several of those who attended the 2019 Regional Meetings. These meetings reached more people, focused on equipping and sharing ideas, and helped build relationships across churches. Leadership Cabinet is considering something similar for September 2020.
- Elected officers for the Corporation to report to the State of Montana.
- Began gathering members of the 2020 Personnel Committee.
- Appointed Susi Ennis and Kathy Goodrich to continue and adapt the Yellowstone Currents newsletter.
- Considered the possibility of on-line auctions to handle church property at Geysers and Oswego after years of these lands/buildings being on the market with no sale.
- Appointed Jamie Schmeling and George Goodrich from Leadership Cabinet, along with Dan Krebill, to work with the United Methodist Church in closing the Federated Church in Harlowton.
- Renewed the Covenant of Understanding with Rocky Mountain College in Billings.
- Did some future planning of the May meeting of the Presbytery using Commitment #2 as the theme.
- Received the news that we (and many of our churches) have a new insurance company and agent - Glidewell Investments and Insurance Group, Agent Kristen Wedan.
- Voted and approved to designate the offering at the first Presbytery Meeting of every year to Presbytery Camp Scholarships for Westminster Spires.