

**Presbytery of Yellowstone
Stated Meeting March 2-3, 2009
Springhill Presbyterian Church – Belgrade, Montana**

MINUTES

The Presbytery of Yellowstone met in a stated meeting at the Springhill Presbyterian Church, Belgrade, Montana on Monday-Tuesday, March 2-3, 2009.

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009

09-01 – 2008 Moderator Leon Rathbun opened the meeting with prayer at 1:08 p.m. on Friday afternoon.

09-02 – 2009 Moderator Susan Thomas preached at the opening worship, assisted by Ted Williams, 2009 Vice Moderator. At the conclusion of the service, Leon installed Susan Thomas, Moderator; Ted Williams, Vice Moderator; and Ron Hanson, Stated Clerk.

09-03 – Stated Clerk Ron Hanson called roll and determined that a quorum was present. Attendance was as follows:

Church	Minister Members	Elder Commissioners	Others Present
Anaconda	1-Mary Davis	1-Karen Moses	2-Cal Boyle (St. Timothy's Chapel Committee Moderator) 3-Jim Moses (Mission Committee Moderator Sally Ralston
Belgrade, Springhill	2-B.J. Otey	4-John Grossenbacher	5-Debbie Blackburn (Budget & Finance Committee Moderator) Richard Ramler Scott Smith Eric Wandishin Ron Pinkowski
Billings, First	3-Jacquelyn Pinkowski	6-Greta Murray	7-Cathy McLean (Camping & Youth Committee Moderator)
Billings, St. Andrew Bozeman	4-Brent Long 5-Dan Krebill 6-Jody McDevitt	8-Jim Tarr 9-Mike McCormick (Tuesday only)	10-Fran Babcock (Council Moderator) Jim Babcock (COGA) Chuck Beck Donna Beck 11-Susan Gibb (Personnel Committee Moderator) Doris Krebill Ric Tieman (Vision Team) Celia Vandecreek 12-Ted Williams (Vice Moderator)
Butte	7-Harlan (Lanny) Rounds	13-John M. Clark	14-Ron Hanson (Stated Clerk) Mary Lou Hanson
Colstrip	Robert J. Shy Jr. (CLP) (excused)	(excused)	
Deer Lodge	CLP Phil Maxwell (excused)	(unexcused)	
Dillon	8-David Andrew	(unexcused)	

Ennis	9-Jean M. Johnson	16-Ray Easter	June Haigh 17 Violet Haigh (Representation)
Forsyth	18-Vicki Waddington (CLP)	19-Eldon Rice	
Geyser	20-Editha McKay (CLP)	21-Dorothy Evans	
Harlowton	Jerry Collins (unexcused)	(unexcused)	
Hysham	10-John Dyce	(unexcused)	
Jordan	Vacant	22-Claudia Stanton	Thomas Stanton
Lewistown	11-Jed Cauffman	23-Mike Gapay	
Manhattan	12-Debbie Funke	24-Jim Lovell	Marie Westphal
Miles City	13-Sherwood McKay	(unexcused)	
Philipsburg	14-Warren S. Craig	25-Jim Christensen	Jan Christensen
Poplar	Vacant	(unexcused)	
Roy	Vacant	(unexcused)	
Stanford	Editha McKay (CLP)	26-Dixie Youderian	
Terry	15-Leon Rathbun	27-Carol Larsen	
West Yellowstone	Vacant	28-Glen Wheeler	
White Sulphur	John Rohwer (unexcused)	(excused)	
Wise River	Vacant	(unexcused)	
Wolf Point	Vacant	(unexcused)	

Other Minister Members Present:

- 16-Jim Bell (Honorably Retired)
- 17-George H Goodrich Jr. (Co-General Presbyter)
- 18-Kathy Goodrich (Co-General Presbyter)
- 19-Douglas Johnson (Hospital Chaplain-Billings Clinic)
- 20-Paul Krebill (Pastor Emeritus)
- 21- Neva Rathbun (Pastor at-large)
- 22-Susan Thomas (Moderator- Hospital Chaplain-Billings Deaconess)
- 23-Larry Vandecreek (Honorably Retired)
- 24-Kimberly Woeste (United Campus Ministry- MSU Billings)

Corresponding Members Present

- Zane Buxton – (Synod Executive) – member Denver Presbytery
- Bob Sheldon – (Synod of the Rocky Mountains) – member Denver Presbytery
- Carol Shellenberger – member Redwoods Presbytery

09-04 – Presbytery voted to grant corresponding members privilege of the floor, and adopted the amended docket as printed.

09-05 – Opening Worship – Opening Worship was conducted by the Moderator, Rev. Susan Thomas. The title of her sermon "Out of the Conflict Zone" was based on Genesis 12:1 -4 and Mark 1:16-18.

09-06 – Plenary Session – The Vision Task Force, represented by Ric Tieman, Debbie Blackburn and Rev Jim Bell made a power point presentation on John Kotter's book "Our Iceberg is Melting". The Vision Task Force is working toward identifying what Yellowstone Presbyteries mission will be in the future. There will most likely be some changes from the present. John Kotter's book presents an eight stage process of change. These eight stages were discussed.

09-07 – Recess for Refreshments – At this point the Moderator declared a 20 minute break for refreshments.

09-08 – Presbytery Council (including the Personnel and Budget & finance Committees) – Council Moderator Fran Babcock presented highlights from the Council meeting reports of December 9, 2008 and January 16, 2009

09-08.01 Presbytery voted to approve the following changes to the Administrative Manual.

- Insert a position Description for the Council Moderator
- Remove all references that the Nominating Committee is a committee of Council.

- Clarify that the Budget & Finance and Personnel Committees are committees of Council and as such, Council has the authority and responsibility to nominate the members and Moderators of these committees.

09-08.02 Presbytery voted to refer back to Council their proposal to "Go Electronic" on all presbytery meeting packets. Council was instructed to bring to the May meeting of presbytery a more detailed written proposal.

09-08.03 Presbytery voted to approve the Position Description for the Stated Clerk and insert it into the Administrative Manual.

09-09 – Committee on Ministry – The Committee on Ministry presented a written report detailing the actions it took at its January 23, 2009 meeting. These actions include:

- Approved Jackie Pinkowski's contract with 1st Presbyterian Church, Billings, as Stated Supply for one year (to March 22, 2010. The contract was signed by Rev. Pinkowski and the Clerk of Session on December 23, 2008.
- Concurred with West Yellowstone's request to dissolve the relationship with Rev. Steven Lympus effective December 31, 2008 pending congregational approval.
- Voted to change Rev Steven Lympus' status to Member at Large as of January 1, 2009.
- Voted to name Elder John Grossenbacher as Moderator of the West Yellowstone session effective January 1, 2009.
- Voted to allow Rev. Charles Dennison to moderate the annual meeting of the West Yellowstone congregation.
- Voted to allow Rev. Steven Lynpus to labor outside the bounds of Yellowstone Presbytery (in Seattle Presbytery).
- Voted to dismiss Rev. Steven Lympus to Seattle Presbytery when the way be clear.
- Voted to release \$2,500 for 2009, as our final commitment, to the Presbytery of Inland Northwest.

09-10 – Dismissal Policy – The proposed Dismissal Policy was presented by Elders John Grossenbacher, Rick Rambler and Rev George Goodrich. The presentation noted the process of development of the policy and the number of edits that had occurred. It was noted that the policy had already been presented to the Committee on Ministry and the Council. The presenters stated that the Dismissal Policy would be voted on tomorrow morning. Members and Commissioners were requested to study the policy that is in their packet and be prepared to vote tomorrow morning.

09-10.01 Presbytery voted to give Elder Rick Rambler the Privilege of the Floor so he could participate in the presentation on the Dismissal Policy

09-11 – Vocations – Rev. Mary Davis presented the report of the Vocations committee noting the Sally Ralston had successfully completed all her Ordination Exams and had been cleared to seek a call.

09-12 – Nominations – The Nominating Committee placed in nomination the following people to committees of presbytery.

Committee	Name	Class
COM	Sally Ralston	2010
	Freeman McCall	2011
St Timothy's	Ed Leipheimer	2011
Camping and Youth	Pam Jackson	2010
Synod Commissioner	Mary Sue Costello	2010

09-13 – Camping and Youth Committee – Kathy McLean commented on the written report she had submitted as Moderator of the committee.

09-14 - Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the PC (USA) – Vice Moderator Ted Williams presented and commented on the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the PC (USA), (except for proposed amendment 08-B which will be dealt with this evening) and the four proposed Ecumenical Statements.

09-15 – Vote on the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the PC (USA) and the four Ecumenical Statements. The presbytery voted in favor of all the proposed amendments and Ecumenical Statements that were presented by Vice Moderator Ted Williams.

09-16 – Theological Education Fund – Rev. Harlan Lanny Rounds encouraged all churches to become involved in supporting the Theological Education Fund.

09-17 – Recess – Moderator Rev. Susan Thomas recessed this portion of the meeting with prayer. The prayer also served as the blessing for the evening meal.

09-18 – Dinner – A delicious meal was served by the members of the Springhill Church. Near the end of the meal a short program honoring the former Interim Stated Clerk Ted Williams was presented. Following the many positive comments regarding Ted's long dedicated service to the presbytery he was presented with a card and a beautiful stained glass replica of the symbol of the PC (USA). Ted, in his usual gracious manner, thanked all who were present.

09-19 – Worship – Presbytery reconvened for worship at 6:00 P. M. the worship service was led by Rev. George Goodrich.. He was assisted by Rev. Neva Rathbun, Rev. B.J. Otey, Rev Jodi McDevitt and Rev Dan Krebill. The title of Rev. Goodrich's sermon was "Entering God's Presence" and his scriptural reference was John 13:1-7, 33-34.

09-20 – Discussion and vote on proposed amendment 08-B to the constitution of the PC (USA) – Following worship, Presbytery reconvened in the Fellowship Hall to deal with Proposed Amendment 08-B to the Constitution of the PC (USA). Rev. George Goodrich outlined the Purpose, Process and Format that would be followed. A number of members and Commissioners spoke in favor of and opposed to the passage of this proposed Amendment.

09-20.01 Moderator Susan Thomas appointed Doris Krebill and Rev. Bob Sheldon to be Tellers of the secret ballots on this question. Following the casting of the ballots and while the votes were being counted the group sang hymns familiar to all.

09-20.02 The Tellers reported their count of the votes cast. There were 25 in favor of the proposed amendment, 23 opposed to the Amendment and 1 abstention. The Moderator declared that Yellowstone Presbytery voted in favor of passage of Proposed Amendment 08-B.

09-20.03 The Presbytery voted to approve the following motion expressing consensus of the body. "We love God, We are Christ's Family, We love and respect each other and listen to one another and We want to listen to the Holy Spirit".

09-20.04 The Presbytery expressed its thanks to Susan Thomas, George Goodrich and Mary Davis for their role in shaping the process for discussion of proposed Amendment 08-B and a broad agreement and affirmation for the feelings that were expressed in this evening's gathering.

09-20.05 While the body stood in a circle and held hands Rev. Zane Buxton offered a closing prayer for the evening's portion of the meeting.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009

09-21 – Worship – Presbytery reconvened with a Bible Study and worship service led by Rev. George Goodrich.

09-22 – Visioning Task Force – The Task Force continued its presentation on a visioning process for Yellowstone Presbytery.

09-23 – Recess – The Moderator declared a 15 minute recess for refreshments.

09-24 – Dismissal Policy – Presbytery voted to approve the Dismissal Policy as it was presented yesterday.

09-25 – Elections of Committee members – Following the appropriate number of calls for nominations from the floor nominations were closed and presbytery voted to elect those that had been nominated by the Nominating Committee.

09-26 – Transformation – Rev. Kathy Goodrich and Elder Debbie Blackburn updated the presbytery on the status of the Transformation program in the churches currently enrolled in the program.

09-27 – Higher Education – Rev. Paul Krebill referred the presbytery to the written report he had submitted..

09-28 – Presbyterian Women – Rev. Neva Rathbun commented on her written report. She noted two upcoming events. The first was the spring gathering of Presbyterian Women, which will be held in Bozeman on May 1&2, 2009. The second was the Church Wide Presbyterian Women gathering, which will be held in Louisville, KY on July 11-15, 2009.

09-29 – Mission – Elder Jim Moses commented on his written Mission Committee report. He offered special thanks to Rev. Jodi McDevitt for her dedicated and successful leadership as Moderator over the past several years. Jim also mentioned that there was significant progress on the Zimbabwe Mission project, and the storage shed at St. Andrews is filling fast.

09-30 – Presbytery voted to extend the docket by 20 minutes.

09-31 – General Assembly and Synod reports – Jim Babcock, Office of the General Assembly; Zane Buxton, Synod Executive; and Bob Sheldon, Synod Development Officer; commented on their respective offices. The bottom line for all seemed to be the economy and the effects on funding programs.

09-32 – Co - General Presbyters Report – Rev. George Goodrich presented this report, which included the significant activities he and Rev. Kathy Goodrich had been involved in during the past four months.

09-33 – Stated Clerks Report – Ron Hanson, Stated Clerk reported the following items.

09-33.01 A review of the Minister – Elder Imbalance, according to Standing Rule #82.07 concluded that no imbalance exists.

09-33.02 Presbytery voted to approve the minutes of the November 7-8, 2008 meeting held at West Yellowstone.

09-33.03 Presbytery voted to accept the invitation from the Butte Church to hold its November 2009 meeting there.

09-34 – Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned with a short worship service which included a Service of Necrology for those Elders who had passed on to the Church Triumphant during 2008.