

# Presbytery of Yellowstone

Annual Meeting – February 22-23, 2010  
 First Presbyterian Church – Billings, Montana

## MINUTES

The Presbytery of Yellowstone met in its stated annual meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Billings, Montana on Monday-Tuesday, February 22-23, 2010.

### Monday, February 22, 2010

10-01 – Moderator Susan Thomas called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m. with an opening prayer. She passed around the holding cross to be shared with one another throughout the meeting. She appointed Rev. Dan Krebill to serve as recording clerk in Stated Clerk Ron Hanson’s absence.

10-02 - Recording clerk Dan Krebill called the roll and determined a quorum was present. Attendance was as follows:

Church	Minister Members	Elder Commissioners	Others Present
Anaconda	Mary Davis	Karen Moses	Jim Moses, Council member Linda Smith, Council member
Belgrade, Springhill	unexcused	unexcused	
Billings, First	Jacquelyn Pinkowski	Greta Murray	Cathy McLean, Council member Ron Pinkowski, visitor
Billings, St. Andrew	Brent Long	Curt Kochner	Dave Kimball, Council member
Bozeman	Jody McDevitt Dan Krebill	excused	Fran Babcock, Council member Jim Babcock, visitor Suzanne Bratsky, Council member Doris Krebill, visitor Ric Tieman, visitor Ted Williams, Moderator
Butte	Lanny Rounds	John M. Clark	Ron Hanson, Stated Clerk
Colstrip	Robert J. Shy, Jr. (CLP)	David B. McNay	Darlene L. McNay, visitor
Deer Lodge	VACANT	unexcused	
Dillon	David Andrew	unexcused	
Ennis	Jean Johnson, excused	Violet Haigh	
Forsyth	VACANT	Gayle Holland	
Geyser	Editha McKay (CLP)	unexcused	
Harlowton	unexcused	unexcused	
Hysham	John Dyce	unexcused	
Jordan	VACANT	unexcused	
Lewistown	Jed Cauffman	unexcused	
Manhattan	Debbie Funke	unexcused	Debbie Blackburn, council member
Miles City	VACANT	unexcused	
Philipsburg	Rusty Craig (Tues.)	unexcused	
Poplar	VACANT	unexcused	
Roy	VACANT	unexcused	
Stanford	Edith McKay (CLP)	unexcused	Jodie Licht, visitor

Church	Minister Members	Elder Commissioners	Others Present
Terry	Leon Rathbun	unexcused	
West Yellowstone	James B. Coates	unexcused	Bonnie Coates
White Sulphur Springs	VACANT	Pam Jackson	
Wise River	unexcused	unexcused	
Wolf Point	VACANT	Jeff Harada	

Other Minister Members Present:

Priscilla Bell (at-large)  
George H. Goodrich, Jr. (co-general presbyter)  
Kathy Goodrich (co-general presbyter)  
Doug Johnson (hospital chaplain)  
Paul Krebill (honorably retired)  
C. Freeman McCall (honorably retired)  
Neva Rathbun (at-large)  
Milous Repka (honorably retired)  
Susan Thomas (hospital chaplain)  
Kimberly Woeste (campus minister)

It was voted to seat Rick Young (Presbytery of Grace), and Marcia Muir (Presbytery of the Cascades) as corresponding members.

Rev. Jerry Swanson (Presbytery of Dakota) arrived for the last part of the Tuesday meeting.

10-03 – It was voted to approve the Docket as printed.

10-04 - Host Pastor Jackie Pinkowski welcomed the presbytery to the church. Greta Murray also announced that there will be a hospitality time following the evening worship at the Alumni House on the MUS-B campus.

10-05 – The presbytery moved to a time of worship in which Elder Ted Williams was installed as moderator and Elder Editha McKay as vice moderator.

10-06 – Elder Ron Hanson, stated clerk, arrived and updated the group on his wife’s (Mary Lou) illness. The members of the presbytery gathered around Ron in prayer for Mary Lou and Ron. Ron resumed the role of clerk with the expectation that Dan Krebill will serve as recording clerk for the Tuesday portion of the meeting.

10-07 – Elder Ric Tieman and Elder Debbie Blackburn provided background of the Vision process and the presbytery read aloud the adopted Vision Statement. Ric then introduced Elder Curt Kocher

10-08 – Curt Kocher presented his tinker toy example of the process of coming together. We are all different but we need to come together to move forward to live and do mission. There is, and needs to be tension between Constancy & Artistry. Curt reviewed the handout which contained examples of the types of tension needed. Members had an opportunity to raise questions and make comments.

10-09 – The presbytery organized into small groups to discuss and share ideas on what Curt shared. The groups used as a reference the handout that Curt had prepared for his presentation. Following 15 minutes of discussion the small groups reported back to the presbytery.

10-10 – Elder Jim Moses introduced Rev. Lanny Rounds and noted that the Mission Committee provided financial support to the Butte church for their mission trip to Mexico. The 6 members from the Butte church were part of a much larger medical mission group named the Association of Medical Christians. Lanny presented a power point presentation and commented on the trip and its accomplishments.

10-11 – Rev. Kathy Goodrich introduced the next session of the Vision Team presentation. Following the refreshment break each person was requested to join one of three group discussions. The three groups are:

- Gathering Together.
- Equipping and Encouraging Disciple Making.
- Going Out Together.

10-12 – The presbytery recessed for 30 minutes for a refreshment break.

10-13 –Rev. Kim Woeste reported on her trip to Nicaragua. The focus was on the advantages of the Equal Exchange Coffee Program. She reminded us that 15 cents of every pound of coffee under Equal exchange is returned to the Presbyterian Hunger Program. She profiled a typical small farmers operation and living conditions. About 70% of the shade grown coffee is harvested by small farmers. The cooperative she visited was set up by a grant from OGHS in 1997.

10-14 – Rev. Rick Young reported on behalf of Synod Executive, Zane Buxton. He highlighted issues in Utah and Glacier Presbyteries. Rick announced that Eric Chavis is the Funds Development Officer from the Presbyterian Foundation assigned to our region. On his own behalf he stated that last year the pension fund lost 27% and in this past year the investments increased by 27%. Fortunately the pension fund is funded at 118%. Dues have not been increased for three years.

10-15 – Rev. Neva Rathbun and Elder Suzanne Bratsky, co-moderators of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery, presented the report for Presbyterian Women (PW). They announced upcoming events for PW. Neva announced a special mission project of PW for the Roma people of the Balkans. Suzanne announced the palm tree project the PW has invested \$80,000 in the project. PW has concluded that they connect with the presbytery through mission.

10-16 – Rev. Mary Davis, Moderator of the Vocations Committee announced that there are two people are seeking status as CLP's. Mary also put in a pitch for attendance at the upcoming Montana Presbyterian Convocation. The Convocation will be held in Bozeman on the 22 through the 24<sup>th</sup> of April. The theme of the Convocation will be "Healthy Congregations under the Big Sky".

10-17 – Rev. Leon Rathbun presented the Nominating Committee's report. After following the customary nominations and election procedure, the following people were elected:

Position	Term	Name	Church
Committee on Ministry	Moderator (2010)	Rev. Neva Rathbun	At-large
	Class of 2011	Rev. Larry VandeCreek	Honorably retired

Position	Term	Name	Church
Committee on Mission	Class of 2012	Elder Joan Cunningham	Hysham
		Elder Bev Harbaugh	Jordan
		Elder Bonnie Soulsby	Stanford
		Rev. Brent Long	St. Andrew, Billings
Nominations Committee	Class of 2012	Elder Bob Muir	First, Billings
Commissioner to Synod		Rev. Lanny Rounds	Butte
YAD to General Assembly	2010	Sarah Pisk	Terry

10-18 – Rev. George Goodrich and Rev. Kathy Goodrich presented the Co-General Presbyters Report. George made a pitch for short term retreats for pastors. He referred to his written report on the web site. Kathy noted that the Spirit is on the move in Yellowstone Presbytery. Kathy asked for comments from all on how they could be more helpful.

10-19 – Rev. John Dyce reported on behalf of the Committee on Ministry. Actions taken by the committee include:

- COM concurred with the action of the First Presbyterian Church of Billings to extend the Stated Supply contract of Rev. Jackie Pinkowski for one year.
- COM voted to send an E-mail to the Members of the Billings First Church explaining their rationale for their decision.
- Com voted to approve the Church Information Form of the Billings First Church with some recommended changes.

John also announced that there will soon be 9 churches that will be in different stages of transition and that COM is in the process of updating its Liaison assignments.

10-20 – Rev. Freeman McCall was given a moment to present the following motion. 'I move that the Presbytery of Yellowstone give \$2,000 to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund for Haiti. \$2,000 will be made up from \$1,000 from the Proverbs 28:8 Fund and \$1,000 from the Hunger Program Account. The presbytery voted to approve the motion.

10-21 – Elder Jim Babcock presented the report of the Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) on its activities during the past year. Three complaints were received. Three investigating committees were appointed to thoroughly illuminate the complaints. Two of those complaints resulted in a dismissal of the complaints with proper notification of the decisions to the affected parties. In the third instance the investigating committee, after completing its work, filed charges. Those charges were received and processed by the PJC. The judicial process resulted in a formal rebuke to the party so accused, the Rev. Brent Long, and was concurred in by him and his counsel. The presbytery received a portion of that rebuke in the form of an apology to the body from Rev. Long who fulfilled another segment of the rebuke on Sunday, February 7, 2010 in an apology to his congregation. With these actions the case is closed.

10-22 – The meeting was declared in recess for dinner.

10-23 – The presbytery reconvened for worship at 6:45 p.m. with Elder Editha McKay preaching and Rev. Jackie Pinkowski presiding at the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. The offering received was designated for the support of the presbytery’s delegation to the 2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

10-24 – During the worship service the necrology of elders who had died in 2009 and joined the church triumphant was recited as follows:

Church	Elder	Ordination Date	Date of Death
Anaconda	Linda May	February 2007	July 24, 2009
	Robert Green	December 1980	March 15, 2009
Billings, First	James Canan	February 1, 1976	September 22, 2009
	Jane Scheidecker	January 1954	November 26, 2009
Billings, St. Andrew	Lucia Glenn	January 19, 1975	May 11, 2009
	Pat Fink	February 9, 2009	October 5, 2009
	Fred Woodson	February 7, 1965	December 24, 2009
Big Hole	Rebecca Jones	February 15, 1976	April 15, 2009
Bozeman	Alma Dugdale	February 2, 1975	April 26, 2009
	Peggy Gould	January 6, 1985	February 6, 2009
	Gordon McLeod	unknown	May 6, 2009
	Ora McNeal	January 3, 1971	September 24, 2009
Butte	Billie Lou Kelly	February 20, 1977	March 11, 2009
Deer Lodge	Gail Jones	February 7, 1988	June 24, 2009
	June Evelyn Lyman	January 23, 1955	September 4, 2009
Forsyth	LeRoy Larsen	February 2, 1975	December 24, 2009
Geyser	Esther Kaiser	January 15, 1981	September 11, 2009
Jordan	Kenneth A. Coulter	February 3, 1963	November 26, 2009
Miles City	Jerome Viall	September 16, 1972	May 4, 2009
Terry	Edwin A. Falkenstern	December 2, 1965	October 6, 2009
Wolf Point	Florence Burnison	January 13, 1980	January 7, 2009
	Burke Taylor	March 2, 1964	November 28, 2009

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

10-25 - Moderator Ted Williams at 8:37 a.m. called out of recess the presbytery for the morning worship led by Brent Long, George Goodrich and Kathy Goodrich.

10-26 – The Vision Team engaged the presbytery in a third session on “Emerging Ways of Living and Being Disciple Communities.”

10-27 – The Mission Committee’s third report was presented by Elder Jim Moses. He introduced Cindy Koutz, an administrator from the Institute for Peace Studies at Rocky Mountain College. Jean Bradford, a member of the institute’s board, and Cindy shared some background on the institute as well as its current work with international students. She expressed the institute’s thanks to the presbytery for its continued undesignated financial support. Jim provided an update on the Zimbabwe mission project. A shipment is about ready to be sent out. He encouraged the presbytery to keep the horrible situation in Haiti before it in the coming months and years. The Heifer Project is also a focus of the Mission Committee. He again encouraged the churches to participate in the Equal Exchange coffee project. He encouraged presbyters to communicate with those in mission and those in need.

10-28 – Elder Cathy McLean presented the report of the Camping and Youth Committee. She reminded the presbytery of the plan for Westminster Spires Camp and Camping Program that was approved by the presbytery at the last meeting. A facilities subcommittee is now geared up under Brent Long's leadership. That subcommittee is dealing with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's requirement that the spring water system needs to be replaced with a closed system which most likely will necessitate the drilling of a well. Funds for this project are available from a fund that has been set aside by the First Presbyterian Church in Bozeman. She read a letter from a camper who has been at Westminster Spires the last three summers expressing her appreciation for the camp and camp program. Miguel Covarrubias, C.E. and Youth Director from Billings First was introduced before he showed a promotional video on Westminster Spires Camp that he produced. It is available in DVD as well as on YouTube. Rev. Jody McDevitt presented a report on the plans for the presbytery's delegation to the upcoming 2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium, July 20-24. Seven different churches are represented in the 19 youth who are registered. Russ Kline, Heather McLean and Erin Pehl, all from Billings, First are the 3 adults in the delegation. She thanked the presbytery for its support through the offering from last evening's worship which was \$697.

10-29 – The Personnel Committee report was presented by Rev. Debbie Funke. She referred to the printed reports that are available. She summarized that all of the evaluations of staff that have been completed show that all are functioning at high levels with competency and inspiration. The evaluation of the stated clerk is still underway due to the personal situation in the clerk's family. She closed the report by sharing a floral gift to George and Kathy Goodrich as a token of appreciation for their 5 years of ministry with the presbytery. After the opportunity for presbyters to express their appreciation to George and Kathy, Debbie led a prayer of thanksgiving for George and Kathy as well as a prayer for God's blessing to continue to be upon them. George and Kathy expressed their appreciation to the presbytery for this shared ministry.

10-30 - Elder Dave Kimball presented the report of the Higher Education Committee. He reminded the presbytery of the three very different ministries on the three campuses in our presbytery: Kim Woeste at Montana State University-Billings (MSU-B), Kristi Foster at Rocky Mountain College, and the volunteer-led ministry that is parish-based in Bozeman at First Presbyterian Church to Montana State University and how that ministry is evolving without a paid staff person. Kim Woeste provided an update on the MSU-B ministry. She is now working  $\frac{3}{4}$  time in that ministry as well as  $\frac{1}{4}$  time at a local UCC congregation. She thanked her board for the support it provides in continuing to fashion a vital ministry on campus. Dave shared that the funding of the MSU Bozeman ministry is being held for the moment by the Presbytery Council until there is further clarity about that ministry. Dave then shared a story that culminated in the honoring of Paul Krebill for his 54 years of support of higher education ministry in this presbytery. Rev. Paul and his wife, Doris, were asked to come forward in order to receive a certificate of appreciation for his 54 years of dedication for ministry of higher education.

The presbytery took a 15-minute break.

10-31 – When the presbytery reconvened Elder Debbie Blackburn, moderator of the Budget and Finance Committee presented the financial report.

- Financial reports for 2009 show an increase in total general fund balances from \$172,727 to \$177,904.

- The administrative block grant from the Synod of the Rocky Mountains will be the same in 2010 as it was in 2009.
- The presbytery voted to approve the 2010 administrative budget with total income of \$206,600 and expenses of \$212,300.
- The presbytery voted to approve the 2010 program budget with total income of \$61,000 and total expenses of \$66,500.

10-32 – The moderator pointed out the written report of the Committee on Representation.

10-33 – Rev. Neva Rathbun reported for the Committee on Ministry, supplementing its earlier report. Rev. Sherwood McKay has accepted a call to a church in Wisconsin. Phil Maxwell (CLP) has moved to Fairfield, Montana. Vicki Waddington (Methodist CLP) has been appointed to a Methodist church in Sydney, Montana. Rev. Jonathan Rohwer has moved to a Lutheran Church in Phoenix, Arizona. Rev. Rusty Craig is planning on retiring at the end of May.

10-34 – Elder Fran Babcock presented the report of the Council. The following items

- Upcoming presbytery meeting dates: May 21-22, 2010 at Lewistown, with Geysler, Stanford and Roy assisting; November 5-6, 2010 at Helena which would be held jointly with the Presbytery of Glacier;
- Upon recommendation of the Council it was voted to approve a 3% raise in salary for 2010;
- Upon recommendation by the council it was voted that the Camp Facilities Committee be authorized to drill a new well, and to hire an engineering firm to design and oversee the work; that money for the well come from the Bozeman First Presbyterian Church gift; and that April 9, 2010 be set as the date to assess where we are.
- It was voted to permit the Camping and Youth Committee to undertake a capital campaign to create a capital improvements fund for Westminster Spires Camp.
- It was voted to make a \$350 gift to the resource center in Great Falls from program reserves.
- The presbytery sang “Happy Birthday to You” to Fran as she concluded her report.

10-35 – It was voted to extend docket to 12:45 p.m.

10-36 – It was voted to approve the November minutes as printed.

10-37 – Dan Krebill presented on behalf of Ron Hanson the Minister – Elder balance report. At the end of 2009 there were 34 Ministers on the roll of Yellowstone Presbytery. At the end of 2009 there were 8 Elders serving as Moderators of Committees and authorized to vote at Presbytery meetings. There are 27 churches in the Presbytery who are authorized to send Commissioners to Presbytery meetings. Therefore no imbalance exists in the Minister-Elder membership.

10-38 – It was voted to adjourn at 12:45 p.m. George Goodrich closed the meeting with prayer.

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Ron Hanson, Stated Clerk

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Dan P. Krebill, recording clerk