

The Kendall Constellation

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Leadership - Where are we now? How did we get here? What's next?

Candie Wyckoff, Administrative Assistant

As many of you know, when Ron Lavoie resigned, we began a discernment process revolving around what kind of leadership we wanted, and what we wanted that leadership to look like. As a first step, Pamela Mayes was hired to serve as an interim Stated Clerk. On October 23, 2015, Council held a first discussion, inviting all who were interested to attend. Jane Odell, Interim Synod Executive, Synod of the Pacific, facilitated the discussion. It began with the attendees describing the Presbytery of Kendall. Strengths and weaknesses were discussed. As the meeting went on, there was renewed hope, a broader understanding of the next steps and prayers for the energy to move forward. By the end of the meeting we succeeded in better framing the questions waiting to be answered.

- How are other presbyteries were handling their leadership crises?
- What essential tasks need to be assigned?
- How do we continue to be connectional with other expressions of the church?
- What can we afford in terms of salary for leadership?
- How are we going to witness, and what is our mission?
- Do we want to hire another full time executive/stated clerk, or do we want several part time positions?

The conversation was an extremely open, honest exchange of ideas, concerns and hopes. Jane Odell complimented us on how ready people were to speak openly and honestly.

The Presbytery Council continued discussion in a conference call in November, and made research assignments for a second open meeting.

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The second group discussion was held on December 14, 2015, with about 15 church leaders present.

- Pamela Mayes and Barbara Corwin presented the information they had gotten from 4 Western presbyteries (Boise, Eastern Oregon, Western Colorado, and Glacier) similar in terms of geographic size and numbers of churches.
- Ron McCune, chair of the Board of Trustees, presented a financial summary which covered cash flow, backup resources, fund balances, deficit budgets, dedicated funds. How long could we sustain salary and benefits for a full time position? Under current patterns, we could probably do so for five years.
- The Church Relations Committee is looking at: “What do churches want? Do churches want an exec? What can/does the presbytery do for churches?” Answers to these questions will not be available until spring.
- Constitutionally we are required to have a Stated Clerk and a MRC/COM. Is it possible to be a viable presbytery with clerk and COM functions ably covered by part-time staff or through persons elected to leadership positions?

Also mentioned was the presbytery’s desire to centralize record keeping and handle our records and affairs in a professional manner. This subject led the group into a discussion of values.

Identified as values of the Presbytery of Kendall were:

- A functional, well-trained Committee on Ministry/Ministerial Relations Committee
- Initial training for CREs and ongoing training for all those in church and presbytery leadership; and
- Building and maintaining supportive and collaborative relationships among our congregations; perhaps doing meetings in a different way. We need to look at essential functions.

The discussion continues. If you would like to have input into this process of discernment, a third will be held on Friday, February 26th at 2:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Burley. This is the day before the February Stated Meeting, which is also in Burley. The meeting will be from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., with dinner at Perkins to follow. Rooms have been reserved for those who wish to come to the Friday meeting and stay for the Stated Meeting.

Registration has been sent to those in leadership positions. Reminders will be sent soon. Reservations are required because accommodations are provided. Please contact Candie Wyckoff for reservations or with any questions about arrangements.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. - Isaiah 43:18-19 NRSV

CLERKS OF SESSION DATES TO REMEMBER

February 18

Last day for clerks to enter statistical information for annual report

March 7

Last day for Candie to enter statistical information for clerks for annual report

March 12

Session Minutes Review
10:00 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church



Presbytery Dates

January 28 - Board of Trustees - Pocatello
- Board of Managers - Pocatello

February 8 - Council Meeting - Pocatello

February 26 - Leadership Discussion - Burley

February 27 - Stated Meeting - Burley

February 29-March 2 - Stewardship Kaleidoscope

June 4 - Stated Meeting - Idaho Falls

June 17-25 - General Assembly - Portland



What is Per Capita . . . Really?

In less than positive conversations about our denomination Per Capita has been called the price or tax required for being Presbyterian. Other disgruntled folks have called it the means to sustain an outdated bureaucracy.

According to the 1995 *General Assembly Minutes, Part I*, Per Capita is the means through which all members of the Presbyterian Church participate “equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians.”

The minutes provide an accurate bone dry definition, but what follows is one Presbyterian leader’s heartening description of Per Capita.

“For those of us who understand the church as an organic whole rather than a network of autonomous parts, per capita is our investment in the ‘connective tissue’ that holds us together. As the Apostle Paul might say, connective tissue by itself is not a very ‘respectable part of the body.’ It can be kind of fatty and gooey in places, and yet it holds parts of the body together that desperately need each other to support the whole. **Per capita is our way of contributing to the overall vitality of the body of Christ, not by investing in something spectacular, but by investing in the connective tissue that holds us together in a humble but absolutely necessary way.** In that manner, one might conclude, we treat per capita with special honor and offer it as a kind of ‘first fruits’ of our presbytery’s contribution to God’s work in the world.” – Tom Cramer, Leader for Vision & Mission, Presbytery of Los Ranchos

Per Capita as first fruits, Per Capita as that which binds us together in ministry and mission – now those two ideas help us place our annual payments in a new, broader, more missional perspective. Thank you Tom and Los Ranchos Presbytery!

Pamela Mayes, Interim Stated Clerk

A Mission Support Synod



The Synod of the Pacific is structured in such a way as to provide comprehensive support services for its presbyteries in fulfilling the mission of the church within its region and beyond. It provides administrative, financial investment and loan, health and benefit, and mission treasury services as well as opportunities for multi-presbytery gatherings and workshops around areas of common interest, in addition to those ecclesiastical functions required by the Book of Order.

Among the many benefits of being a member of Synod of the Pacific, one of the most significant is the Synod investment and loan services. These services are available to any church, presbytery, specialized ministry or ecumenical partner related to the Presbyterian Church (USA) located within the Synod bounds.

The Synod Investment Service pays its investors competitive rates on their deposits. Investors may choose a demand account or purchase Mission Development Certificates, maturing after 6 months, 1 year, 2 years, or 3 years. Currently over \$43 million dollars are invested with the Synod.

The Synod Loan Service offers Amortized, Line of Credit, and Low Interest loans that help churches with new buildings, repairs and renovations, property purchases, debt refinancing, loss prevention and pastor housing. The Loan Service is primarily underwritten by the churches’ deposits in the Synod Investment Service. Discounted loan rates are available to churches with excellent mission giving histories, to small churches, New Church Developments and Racial Ethnic Ministries.

Currently, the Synod is working on a new service intended to provide professional bookkeeping services for individual presbyteries and, in the future, this service may even extend to individual churches. While this service is not yet formatted for wide use, if you are interested, your representative to Synod can find out the latest developments. What this indicates is that your Synod has its finger on the pulse of its members and is flexible enough and mission-oriented enough to perceive a need and explore that need to further its services to its members.

To learn about other services provided by the Synod of the Pacific, keep your eye on future editions of this newsletter and/or check out this link to the Synod of the Pacific website at <http://www.synodpacific.org>.

Cathy Spielman, Synod Commissioner



Presbyterian Women (PW) in the Presbytery of Kendall

Greetings All: If you are a woman and a member of a Presbyterian Church in this Presbytery, you are a Presbyterian Woman! Here are some dates for you to put in your nice, new, empty calendars before they get filled up with other things.

March 12, 2016	PWPCT meeting, Pocatello, 10:00 a.m.
May 7, 2016	PWP Spring Gathering, Buhl, 10: a.m.
August 6, 2016	PWPCT meeting, Burley, after their Brunch
September 23-25, 2016	PWS Gathering, Mercy Center
October 8, 2016	PWP Fall Gathering, Pocatello, 10:00 a.m.

Now a brief explanation of each of these:

PWPCT Meetings: (March and August) are business meetings that the Presbytery PW Officers and the local church PW Moderators should attend. Everyone, however, is welcome.

PWP Spring and Fall Gatherings: All women are welcome at these meetings. There is usually a worship service, an interesting and informative program, lunch, and a business meeting.

PWS Gatherings: PWS stands for Presbyterian Women in the Synod. The PWS Gatherings are every 2 years and the third year is the Churchwide Gathering. The PWS Gatherings are usually in the Spring, but this year it was decided to have it coincide with the USA Mission Experience (USAME) which will be much longer but will include a few days with us. All women are welcome to attend. There will be an expense associated with this meeting. The USAME is on Human Trafficking this time and will be held in the San Francisco Bay area.

If you have any questions, please contact me: Joan McCune, Moderator
Presbyterian Women
Presbytery of Kendall
mccujoan@isu.edu

We have had a request from Scott Gruwell, CRE, who is providing pastoral services to the First Presbyterian Church in Malad. They would like a baptismal font if any of the churches has one they would like to donate. Contact Scott at sage911@cableone.net



⁴ When he finished teaching, he said to Simon, “Push out into deep water and let your nets out for a catch.” ⁵⁻⁷ Simon said, “Master, we’ve been fishing hard all night and haven’t caught even a minnow. But if you say so, I’ll let out the nets.” It was no sooner said than done – a huge haul of fish, straining the nets past capacity. They waved to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They filled both boats, nearly swamping them with the catch. - Luke 5:4-7

From The Message