

**Stated Meeting of the  
Presbytery of San Joaquin  
February 3, 2007  
Millbrook Presbyterian Church  
Fresno, CA**

**Attendance:**

*Pastors:* David Abdo, Ren Adams, Terry Barnhill, Sandy Brown, Charles Castles, Clark Cowden, Ken Crabtree, Marilyn Creel, Paul De Pledge, Bob Dodson, William Ekhardt, Chris Erdman, Jamie Evans, John Gutierrez, Reynaldo Gutierrez, Robert Hewes, Rick Irish, Rick Lemburg, Roger Minassian, Ron Owens, Lou Paradise, Harry Phillips, Alan Reutter, Jim Rogers, David Bruse Rose, Bill Rudy, Randy Scheer, Chuck Shillito, Sharon Stanley, Jung Kil Suh, Arlin Talley, David Votaw, Toney Winterowd, Augustine Wright

*Elders:* Susan Benson, Nancy Campbell, Robert Case, Jim Clark, Nancy Collins, Stuart Conrad, Richard Crain, Rebecca Dodson, Sandra Eaton, Richard Frasch, Barb Grunwald, Ronna Hendrickson, Wilma Holden, Anna Myers, Brian Vaccaro, Joseph Wilson

*General Council members:* Betty Braddy, Mel Khachigian

*Visitors:* Chuck Kinney

The meeting was opened with prayer by moderator Rev. Rick Irish at 9:05 am. The presbytery was welcomed by the host pastor, the Rev. Jerry Voss. People from Millbrook shared some of the ministry that is taking place in and through the church:

Robert Hyatt spoke on discipleship, Ingrid Voss spoke about the Mustard Tree foundation, Ned Herbert spoke about Alpha, Curtis Nickel spoke about the men's ministry, Gary Forester spoke about AWANA, and Jerry Voss spoke about their Hispanic ministry.

**Moderator's Moments – Rev. Rick Irish**

The moderator announced his willingness to meet with sessions and churches across the presbytery and his desire to see God move in our midst. The moderator announced the pastors/spouses prayer retreat at Calvin Crest February 19-21.

A MOTION was made to elect an Investigative Committee to investigate an accusation that has been filed versus Minister X of our presbytery. Elected to the IC were:

Mel Khachigian	Westminster Pres, Bakersfield,
Ken Byrum	Westminster Pres, Bakersfield,
Joy Harvey	Foothill Pres, Porterville.

(The moderator has the authority to appoint others to this commission, as well.)

**Stated Clerk/Evangelist Presbyter's Moments – Rev. Clark Cowden**

A MOTION was made to approve the minutes of the last meeting. An amendment was made to add the Rev. Sharon Stanley, who was also in attendance. Motion was *approved*. Clark read from G-4.0201 – the church is to seek the enlargement of the circle of faith, and to never be content to enjoy the benefits of the Christian faith alone.

Leaders are encouraged to consider the Allelon Summer Institute at Fuller Seminary June 11-13.

Clark is currently teaching a Presbyterian Polity class at Fuller Seminary /Northern California.

Clark has been asked to co-moderate a synod conference on the PUP report that will probably be held May 9-10 in Burlingame.

Rev. Tom Parsons is teaching in Albania for a couple of weeks.

There is a memorial service today at 2 pm at First Pres Bakersfield for the Rev. David Newquist, who died a few weeks ago.

Joanne Kalafut, wife of Rev. Art Kalafut, is recovering well from surgery.

Rev. Ken Crabtree surgery will be Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>.

Next Saturday, First Pres Bakersfield is having a drive, asking for donations of wheelchairs, crutches, and walkers. Please donate if you have any.

Clark also expressed thanks for support from people during stressful times. There is stress in the denomination, the synod, and the presbytery. but God continues to be faithful in wonderful ways.

#### **Calvin Crest Board – Rev. Sandy Brown**

The new executive director, Scott Henderson, is moving here right now. He will begin his work on Monday. A plaque was given to express the board's appreciation to the Rev. Rick Irish, who has completed his term as interim executive director. The camp will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sherwood Forest, by sponsoring a fundraising golf tournament at the Sherwood Golf course in Sanger. Date will be announced soon. Bill Dodge (who has served 25 years at Calvin Crest) expressed his appreciation for Rick Irish as well. Bill announced the beginning of a new program, Sierra Splendor, which will begin in April for those ages 50 and over. Calvin Crest received some money from a person who put the camp in their will. The money is being used for a new bathroom and a new snowplow, both of which are greatly needed.

#### **COM – Rev. Bill Rudy**

Rev. Jae Sin Han was welcomed to the Bakersfield Korean church.

#### **CPM – Rev. Randy Scheer**

Three people are coming into the process, considering whether they are being called to the ordained ministry of Minister and Word and Sacrament.

#### **Nominating – Elder Betty Braddy**

Elder Stuart Conrad was nominated to be Moderator-elect of the presbytery for 2007. The MOTION was approved.

The following were nominated to serve on a newly-formed Session Minutes Reading team:

Rev. Paul Armstrong	First Fresno
Elder Jack Taftwell	Sierra Vista, Oakhurst
Elder Gail Kaulfuss	Lemoncove
Elder Jim Clark	Lemoore.

The MOTION was approved.

A new mission funding team is also being formed. Mission funding needs to be raised for funding new churches along with other missions in the presbytery. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Betty Braddy, Ken Crabtree, or call the presbytery office.

#### **Worship**

The Presbytery moved into a time of worship led by a team from the Millbrook church.

Rev. Rick Irish preached on John 17:20-23, *United or Untied?* The Presbytery commissioned Jon and Lorna Bosavannah as Commissioned Lay Pastors to the University Presbyterian Church in Fresno's Lao ministry. An offering was collected to help support the Freeze Relief efforts in our valley.

#### **MINISTRY CONNECTIONS:**

##### **Future Discernment Team – Rev. Ron Owens**

A MOTION was made to approve the following proposed property covenant:

##### **Covenant**

The presbytery covenants with its members and congregations to settle property disagreements relationally, rather than in the courts of the church, or by initiating settlement in civil court thereby violating I Corinthians 6:1-11. In furtherance of this goal, the presbytery covenants to:

- A. refuse the temptation to love church property and assets too much. (These are important ministry tools, but they are not the most important aspect of our ministry.);
- B. be open, honest, and transparent, speaking the truth in love;
- C. exercise pastoral oversight of congregations in the spirit of I Peter 5:1-5, "...shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God.... And all of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another....";
- D. work pastorally with any pastor, session or congregation that seeks dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (USA);
- E. not take any preemptive action against any pastor, session or congregation who considers faithfully following the Great Ends of the Church (G-1.0200) in another Reformed denomination (which includes not secretly filing papers in civil court claiming ownership of church property);
- F. interpret "use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (USA)" in G-8.0201 to mean solely whatever furthers the Great Ends of the Church (G-1.0200);
- G. interpret its express power "to coordinate the work of its member churches, guiding them and mobilizing their strength for the most effective witness to the broader community for which it has responsibility" (G-11.0103b) to allow that in some cases, after careful and prayerful consideration, a congregation, with its property and any financial assets, may be dismissed from the Presbyterian Church (USA) without penalty.

### Rationale

First Corinthians 6 is more than a little clear in directing believers to come together instead of going to secular court. The historic principles of the PCUSA are similarly clear stating that "all church power... is only ministerial and declarative" (G-1.0307) and that church discipline "must be purely moral or spiritual in its object, and not attended with any civil affects" (G-1.0308). Further, in I Timothy 6:10, we read that "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." As people of faith, as ordained presbyters who are bound together by common vows, we must follow biblical principles for conflict resolution rather than employ tactics that "crucify our Lord afresh."

In John 17:21, Jesus prays that those who believe in Him would be one. The Presbyterian Church (USA), like all Christian denominations, is only one part of the Church for which Christ prayed. The Great Ends of the Church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world (G-1.0200).

Therefore any ministry that truly furthers the Great Ends of the Church also benefits the Presbyterian Church (USA).

A MOTION was made to amend the document by adding the following language:

1. Under the last bullet point under the "Facts" section, add the quote from D-1.0103: "Unless after prayerful deliberation they are determined to be necessary to preserve the purity and purposes of the church".
2. Add at the beginning of the first sentence under "Covenant" the phrase "as a primary means for settling disputes".
3. Add a sentence at the end of the "Covenant" section (but not a lettered point): "However, this does not abrogate provisions for litigation described in D-1.0103 should litigation be determined necessary after prayerful deliberation by the Presbytery.

The MOTION to amend was approved.

As it was the order of the day, the Property Covenant was referred back to the Future Discernment Team, for further discussion, to bring back to the next presbytery meeting.

**Calvary Administrative Commission** – Rev. Ron Owens gave an update on the work of the Administrative Commission.

**One Minute Messages:**

Rich Latta – Lifespring NCD worship service this evening. They have \$35,000 of \$50,000 raised and need to raise \$15,000 more. They are meeting at Lone Star Elementary School.

Jim Rogers – Youth Triennium is happening July 17-22 at Purdue University, with about 6000 students.

Arlin Talley – National Conference of Presbyterian Men will be held the last week of April in Louisville.

Marilyn Creel – Presbyterian Border Ministry has worked with a village in southern Chiapas, to help them not come over the border illegally, by creating jobs where they are, by helping them grow coffee

Elba Gutierrez – Avenal Hispanics are struggling, may need a new place to worship, and are wanting to sell tamales to raise money

Sharon Stanley – There are over 18,000 units of substandard housing in Fresno. Jon Bosavannah works with many of these people through FIRM. Yesterday they celebrated the opening of some new housing. Applications, due by 5 pm on Monday, are available for those wanting to move in.

Terry Holland – Please support the Theological Education Fund (TEF).

The Presbytery took a lunch break at 12:05 and reconvened at 1:00 pm.

**MISSIONAL MINISTRIES:**

**Freeze Relief** – Rev. Jim Rogers

A MOTION was made and approved to apply for a \$10,000 grant from the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for immediate freeze relief. An additional MOTION was made and approved to apply soon for an additional \$50,000 grant.

**Mission Funding** – Rev. Clark Cowden

The presbytery is looking for a person to work one day a week on communications for missions. 2007 Mission pledges from our congregations need to be turned in as soon as possible.

The Sanger/Clovis NCD needs more funding and is looking for individuals who would like to donate to this very important project.

**SUPPORTING OUR MISSION:**

Voting on amendments to the Book of Order from GA:

06-A Revision of Form of Government, chapter 14 – *NOT approved*

06-B1 Moving ordination, installation, and commissioning questions and service information to the Directory for Worship – *NOT approved*

06-B2 Adding Licensure of Candidates – *NOT approved*

06-B3 Removing synod approval of extraordinary exam process – *NOT approved*

06-C Enabling New General Assembly Council Structure – *Approved*

06-D Opening COM to access by Commissioned Lay Pastors – *Approved*

06-E Members of the Synod – *NOT approved*

06-F Naming Certified Christian Educators as Mandated Reporters – *Approved*

Meeting was closed in prayer at 1:45 pm.