

Minutes of the Presbytery Of San Joaquin
Stated Meeting – April 17, 2008
At Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA

Attendance:

Pastors:

David Abdo, Terry Barnhill, Eliecer Barrantes, Charles Castles, Ken Crabtree, Marilyn Creel, Arcesio Cruz, Tom Elson, John Gutierrez, Jae Han, Rick Irish, Carl Knoch, Rick Lemberg, Mgrdich Melkonian, Robbyanto Notomihardjo, Ron Owens, Ramon Palafox, Tom Parsons, Lana Roberts, Jim Rogers, Rob Rose, Karl Schafer, Randy Scheer, Arlin Talley, Jerry Voss, Tony Winterowd, Gus Wright

Elders:

Richard Crain, Bob Collier, Jim Clark, John Davis, Verna Den Hartog, Sandra Eaton, Andy Garcia, Ronna Hendrickson, Sindee Irelan, Archie Smith, Louise Wade, Gregg Wilkenson

General Council:

Stuart Conrad, Beth Downie, Carol Harrison

Corresponding Member:

Skip Herbert (Sacramento Presbytery)

The meeting was opened with prayer at 4:17pm by Moderator Stu Conrad, who expressed his joy of visiting other churches and their services and how wonderful it was to see ordinary saints of Christ caring for the everyday activities of carrying forth Christ and His mission.

Consent Agenda/Docket was voted and **approved** as follows:

Consent Agenda

Actions of COM for information purposes only:

1. Voted to transfer Robert Dodson to Cascades Presbytery.
2. Voted to transfer Aahmes Overton to Santa Barbara Presbytery.
3. Approved amending the effective date of Art Kalafut's retirement to July 31, 2008.
4. Approved Garner Odell as moderator of the session at Lemoore Presbyterian Church during Sandy Brown's sabbatical.
5. Approved Jim Clark to serve as moderator of Coalinga's session during Sandy Brown's sabbatical.

Action of Finance and Property Commission for information purposes only:

1. Approved putting the Tulare Korean church building for sale on the open market after May 1, 2008, following notification to the Hispanic congregations in order to give them first option to purchase.

Action of General Council for information purposes only:

1. Approved moving the June Presbytery meeting from June 19th to June 7th
2. Approved, at Personnel's recommendation, the appointment of Arlin Talley as the Presbytery Parliamentarian, serving primarily at meetings of Presbytery and COM, to be remunerated \$100 per Presbytery meeting, with the term to expire at the end of the interim period
3. Approved utilizing the mission trip funds set aside from the Calvary tithe, totaling \$9633, for setting up "Solar Water Purification" training at Calvin Crest to enable mission trips by congregations in our presbytery.
4. Approved the appointment of Rick Irish as the primary advocate for our Presbytery's overture to General Assembly regarding the Solemn Assembly.

Interim State Clerk/Evangelist Presbyter – Rick Irish

- Thanked congregations their mission pledges. Rick urged undesignated giving, which along with per capita, supports Presbytery salaries, utilities, etc. Congregations have been

designating their money to specific causes, therefore the Presbytery does not receive enough to cover all expenses and reserves are very low.

- GA needs volunteers. Go to www.pcusa-ga08.org/
- Solemn Assembly overture to General Assembly: Stockton Presbytery has concurred and Presbyterians for Renewal have committed to supporting its passage.
- Thanks to Tom Parsons for his work in raising mission support. He will not continue to serve beyond April 31, 2008, due to our funding shortfall.
- The June presbytery meeting has been changed to Saturday, June 7, 9 am to 3 pm, at First Presbyterian Church, Visalia.
- Arlin Talley was appointed Parliamentarian and will be compensated according to the terms in the Consent Agenda.

Nominating Committee —Ken Crabtree

The following nominations were **approved**:

Synod representative	Rev. Jim Rogers, Foothill, Porterville (class of 2012)
Synod representative	Elder Vince Correll, First, Fresno (class of 2012)
Mission Support Team	Elder Margaret Burns, Westminster, Bakersfield

Millbrook Committee – Rick Lemberg

Millbrook Presbyterian Church has asked to be dismissed with their property to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Council appointed a committee, which met with the session, and asked any Millbrook members who disagree with the congregation's decision to contact them. Members of presbytery who have strong feelings about it should also contact one of the committee, and Jerry Voss invited people to contact Millbrook church as well.

Calvin Crest – Scott Henderson

Calvin Crest worked hard to formulate mission goals and is striving to accomplish them. They are partnering with churches to support them in the fulfillment of their mission goals. For the future, as retirees are a big part of our constituency, Calvin Crest has instituted elder-hostel type activities. They're building a Coffee Café, that will also serve gourmet cookies, and have made huge improvements in the kitchen facilities. There are Weekend Retreats and new programs to teach backpacking and outdoor life. An endowment fund will be created to provide funds for the future and leave Calvin Crest more financially secure. The Board's commitment is to remain rooted in the Reformed faith, even as they extend their reach to a broader constituency.

Presbyterian Foundation – Skip Herbert

Skip reported many statistics, including the fact that \$88 million were brought in to the foundation in 2007 to support a wide range of mission causes. The donors decide how the money will be used.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Beth Downie

Greg Ehlert was **examined** for ordination and **approved** for ordination as a minister of word and sacrament contingent upon completion of his call to serve as associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Fresno. The ordination service is scheduled on June 1, 2008, at 3 pm at First Presbyterian Church, Fresno.

Committee on Ministry

COM is examining the Presbytery's relationship with MBBS. It is also defining the process for development and support of CLPs. Eliecer Barrantes was commissioned as a Commissioned Lay Pastor to the Hispanic ministry of Easton Presbyterian Church, and Robbyanto Notomihardjo was commissioned as Commissioned Lay Pastor to Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, Fresno.

Evangelist Presbyter Search Committee – Tony Winterowd

The committee is working hard to update the job description and will take it to council for approval. They plan to advertise the position at General Assembly in San Jose in June. The committee is open to any suggestions from the Presbytery.

The meeting adjourned for dinner at 5:30 pm and resumed at 6:30 pm for worship. The meeting was called back to order at 7:48pm.

Preparation for our Solemn Assembly – Rick Irish

Rick discussed the need for the Solemn Assembly at the June 7th Presbytery meeting, what it will be about and how to prepare for it. Rick asked everyone to set aside time daily to pray for the Presbytery before the meeting and perhaps even fast. For more info go to www.heartrest.com or www.sjpresbytery.org.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Beth Downie

Beth brought a motion to advance Jessica Horn to candidacy. After examination, the motion was **approved**.

Living Water Overture Concurrence – Rick Irish

On Requesting that the 218th General Assembly celebrate the mission, *Living Waters for the World* and view a video describing that ministry.

“The Presbytery of _____ overtures the 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to celebrate with us the life-changing impact of *Living Waters for the World* as a clear, proven example of the shared future of mission as described in *An Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God’s Mission*, and respectfully requests that the video, *Clean Water for All of God’s Children*, or a portion thereof, be shown to the assembled body of commissioners.”

Rick presented the GA overture. It was **voted to concur**.

Solar Water Purification Mission Partnership – Tom Parsons and Scott Henderson

Scott talked about mission service together with this project and how the funds are needed, what they will be used for, and how we can all help. For anyone interested in participating, there will be training at University Pres, Fresno, on April 28th.

Mission Support Team – Tom Parsons

Tom spoke on all the upcoming Mission trips throughout the presbytery and encouraged everyone to let their congregations know of all the opportunities available. More info will be on the Presbytery web site.

One Minute Messages were given.

The Presbytery is hosting Board of Pensions Seminars: *Clergy and Taxes and Terms of Call*, November 5, 2008, in Fresno, and *Pre-Retirement*, November 6-7, at Calvin Crest.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Charlie Castles at 8:42pm

The **next meeting** of Presbytery will be Saturday, June 7, 2008, 9 am to 3 pm at First Presbyterian Church of Visalia, beginning with the Solemn Assembly. Everyone is asked to engage in spiritual preparation before this date with prayer and fasting, and writing sins of omission and commission which will be used anonymously in the Solemn Assembly.