

*Minutes of the Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of San Joaquin
September 18, 2008*

Held at First Presbyterian Church, Dinuba, CA

Attendance:

Pastors: Noel Anderson, Terry Barnhill, John Bosavanh, Lorna Bosavanh, Sandy Brown, Charles Castles, Marilyn Creel, Arcesio Cruz, Noel Daniels, Paul De Pledge, Tom Elson, Chris Erdman, Rick Irish, Carl Knoch, Rich Latta, Mgrdich Melkonian, Louis Paradise, Harry Phillips, Greg Horn, Ruth Musson, Ron Owens, Tom Parsons, Lana Roberts, Jim Rogers, Karl Schafer, Randy Scheer, Dan Schwan, Sharon Stanley, Arlin Talley, Eric Thompson, Gus Wright

Elders: Charles Barrett, Midge Barrett, Jim Clark, Nancy Collins, Richard Crain, John Davis, Billie Diddle, Dennis Divine, Sam Gilman, George Marberry, Steve Musson, David Nash, Ruth Smith, Rodger Tiffin, Mark Vanciel, Joseph Wilson

General Council: Stuart Conrad, Beth Downie

Visitors: Betty Braddy, Richard Braddy, J. Scott Kroener, Dolores Martin, Don Martin, Jacqueline Nielson, Eric Sunderland, Bill Ulrich, Florence Ulrich, Johnett Watt, Mark Frey

The Presbytery Meeting was opened with Prayer at 4:20 pm by Noel Anderson as Moderator Pro tem during the temporary absence of Moderator Stuart Conrad. Terry Holland introduced Dr. Phil Butin, and Joseph Nguyen of San Francisco Theological Seminary. A quorum was present.

The Docket was **approved**. Consent agenda was **approved** as follows:

Actions of COM, July 8, 2008, for information purposes only:

1. Examined and voted to recognize the completion of Eliot Henderson's completion of training and certify him to be available as a Commissioned Lay Pastor. Eliot Henderson is a member of First Presbyterian, Bakersfield.

Action of Finance and Property Commission June 17, 2008, for information purposes only:

1. F&P approved putting the Tulare Korean church property up for sale, as the Koreans have moved out, are meeting elsewhere, and don't want it anymore.
2. F&P Commission approved a Secured Revolving Line of Credit for \$200,000 for Calvin Crest Conferences from the Synod of the Pacific. This replaces their previous line of credit.

Action of Finance and Property Commission August 12, 2008, for information purposes only:

1. F&P approved the application for a \$125,000 Muzzy loan for Nuevo Amanecer from the Synod of the Pacific.
2. F&P approved Nuevo Amanecer making an offer of \$300,000 to purchase a residence with contingencies, such as city approval to remodel it for a church.
3. F&P voted to accept an offer of \$250,000 by the Hispanic Church of God in Ivanhoe to purchase the property "as is", including continuing agreements and contracts.

Interim Evangelist Presbyter / Stated Clerk's Report - Rick Irish

Rick discussed the challenges we as a Presbytery and others are facing at this time, urging us to be encouraged that God is at work to bring new out of old through the turmoil and change, and challenging us to remain together and continue to listen for Jesus' direction.

Everyone was reminded of the Board of Pensions seminars on Nov. 5 on Pastors and Taxes, and the Pre-Retirement Seminar for Pastors on Nov. 6 and 7. The Presbyterians for Renewal Regional Gathering on Oct. 20th at 7 pm in Visalia was also announced.

Stuart Conrad resumed as Moderator

Board of Pensions Report - Mark Frey

Pension investments are secure at this time, and dues will not increase in 2009. The co-pay for all annual preventive exams is being eliminated. You can check on your coverage and other information on the BOP website.

Calvin Crest Report - Scott Henderson

New programs are up and coming, including new partnerships working with children that are at high risk. Calvin Crest is working with Living Water to become Clean Water U of the West to train mission teams to provide clean water in under-developed nations.

Nominating Committee - Gus Wright

Approved Betty Braddy, Elder, Sierra Vista Pres, Oakhurst, and Jim Rogers, pastor, Foothill Pres, Porterville, to serve as Synod Representatives, class of 2012.

The meeting adjourned for dinner at 5 pm and resumed at 6 pm for worship with Rev. Dr. Phil Butin, President of SFTS, preaching.. The meeting was called back to order at 7:15 pm.

Ministry Development Team – Betty Braddy

Nuevo Amanecer was presented the Walton Award of \$50,000.

Rick Irish was presented a plaque in appreciation for his service as Moderator in 2007.

General Council Report - Sandy Brown

Sandy announced that, due to changes in the Presbytery, the EP search committee had been dismissed. Council approved a new contract with Rick Irish to serve as Interim Evangelist Presbyter/Stated Clerk until September 25, 2009.

The motion from the special Presbytery meeting held September 4, 2008, to affirm the San Diego resolution, was taken off the table and presented in parts as follows:

1. VOTED, in response to the actions of the 218th General Assembly (2008), to make the following declaration, to be communicated to the Office of the General Assembly:
 - a) That the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is in a state of constitutional and confessional confusion and crisis;
 - b) There has been a disruption of trust in the covenant that binds our congregations and presbyteries together in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Furthermore, without consulting the presbyteries, the 218th General Assembly issued a series of authoritative interpretations that neither support the Church's Constitution nor enhance the peace, unity, and purity of our fellowship. The actions of the 218th General Assembly mark a change in our covenant life as Presbyterians and have generated uncertainty about the nature and authority of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We therefore call on the 219th General Assembly (2010) to reconsider the decisions of the 218th General Assembly regarding matters related to ordination standards.
2. VOTED that we, the Presbytery of San Joaquin, concur with the following overture from the Presbytery of San Diego in order to reduce confusion and help restore trust:

“San Diego Presbytery overtures the 219th General Assembly (2010) to:
“Issue an authoritative interpretation of G-6.0106, “Restoring to full force and effect the interpretive statements concerning ordained service of homosexual church members by the 190th General Assembly (1978) of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and the 191st General Assembly (1979) of the Presbyterian Church in the United States and all subsequent affirmations including the Bush v. Pittsburgh Presbytery (218-10) GA PJC decision.”
3. VOTED to register agreement with the Presbytery of San Diego's plan to develop a plan for dismissal of congregations, having already developed such a policy of our own.
4. VOTED to vote on PCUSA Constitutional Amendments at our next stated Presbytery meeting, November 22, 2008.

The floor was then opened for discussion regarding further responses to the actions of General Assembly. Rick Lemberg asked Council to see that each congregation is personally visited to ascertain their standing with the PCUSA. Noel Anderson indicated that COM will be working on that in the coming months.

Committee on Ministry - Noel Anderson

The Rev. Dr. Steven Carter was presented as the new Pastor at Westminster Pres, Fresno.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry - Beth Downey

After examination, it was **voted** to advance both Stephen Sherrill and Eric Sunderland to Candidacy.

After One Minute Messages were given, the meeting was closed in prayer at 8:40 pm by Stuart Conrad.

Next meeting will be Saturday, November 22, 2008, 9 am to 3 pm, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA