

**Minutes of the Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of San Joaquin
February 7, 2009**
First Presbyterian Church, Hanford, CA

Attendance:

Pastors: Terry Barnhill, John Bosavauh, Lorna Bosavauh, Steven Carter, Charles Castles, Ken Crabtree, Bill Ekhardt, Greg Horn, Paul Irwin, Carl Knoch, Rich Latta, Tedd Lyons, Mgrdich Melkonian, Ron Owens, Jose Ramon Palafox, Louis Paradise, Tom Parsons, Mary Raine, Alan Reutter, Jim Rogers, David Bruce Rose, Randy Scheer, Dan Schwan, Kathy Schwan, Pat Sheahan, Jaeshin Han, Arlin Talley, David Votaw, Tony Winterowd

Elders: Bynes Bank, Susan Benson, Jim Clark, Richard Crain, John Davis, Verna Den Hartog, Billie Diddle, Winda Hengst, Vreeland Jones, Gracie Lee, David Nash, Richard Ribarich, Patricia Thorp, Lillian Turmon, Brian Vaccaro, Mark Vanciel, Louise Wade,

General Council: Betty Brady, Stuart Conrad, Beth Downie, Terry Holland, Melvin Khachigian, George Marsh, Ernst Schroeder Jr., Ruth Smith, Florence Ulrich

Visitors: Richard Braddy, Steve Raine

The meeting was opened with prayer at 9:30 a.m. by Moderator Noel Anderson, who expressed his joy at visiting other churches and their services. A quorum was present. The minutes of November 22, 2008, presbytery meeting were **approved**, the docket was **approved** and Consent Agenda was **approved** as follows:

Actions of General Council, January 23, 2009, for information purposes only:

1. **Approved** authorization of Rev. Mary Raine's application for GA's seminary debt reduction grant
2. **Approved** 2009 meeting dates of Presbytery: Saturday, February 7; Thursday, April 16; Thursday, June 11; Thursday, September 17; and Saturday, November 14.

Actions of COM, January 13, 2009, for information purposes only:

1. Gus Wright was **approved** to labor outside the bounds of the presbytery in a Lutheran church in Bakersfield, pending details

Actions of COM, December 12, 2009, for information purposes only:

1. The members of the Installation Commission for Steve Carter, Westminster Pres, Fresno, are Elder Stace Cartor, Rev. Lana Roberts, Rev. Ron Owens, Rev. Sharon Stanley, Elder V.J. Jones, Elder Terry Holland, Elder John Davis, and Rev. Rick Irish. It was **voted** to discharge the Commission pending installation in January.

Mission Support Team - Tom Parsons

Tom Parsons gave a PowerPoint presentation, and Rick Latta and John Davis gave an update on LifeSpring, which has lots of activities planned

Moments for Witness/ CDT - Jim Rogers

Exciting things that have been happening in our churches and communities. Mark Vanciel talked about the impact that "210" at First Pres in Visalia has had in the community and their plans for now and in the future. Jim Rogers also offered thanks for the presbytery's support and prayers as Foothill Pres held their first Sunday service in their own building after many years in transition.

The meeting adjourned for Worship at 10 a.m. which was led by Pastor Noel Anderson and was called back to order at 11:13 a.m.

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

"The Lord is up to something." I feel that with all the travel, work, economic times, diminishing numbers, and congregations leaving that the Lord is still working with us and in us. Through the storm, there is going to be new life, so we don't give up, we don't stop praying or listening, we don't stop believing. We remember that the Lord is up to something! Let's clear away the obstacles to seeing and hearing through a Solemn Assembly this spring.

Moderator's Moments - Noel Anderson

Noel reported on the council retreat at Calvin Crest, where they did a lot of vision work, and looked at the intent of the Presbytery of San Joaquin for the upcoming year. "Worship, Connect, Grow, and Serve"- this is what we came up with as the four key points that we need to focus on in 2009. Worship – prayer is the community of our business. Connect – clusters, meetings, more relationship building, finding the strangers among us, listening to God together. Grow – study, training, and nurturing one another, mentoring, and having regular retreats. Serve - work together, give testimonials for outrageous service, meet in non-church service settings.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 11:45 a.m. and was called back to order at 1:11pm. There were short discussions about what each table came up with to help our Presbytery to grow and what would bring us back together. Here are some of items that were discussed were:

Doing a party, bringing the choirs together, open the meeting to other members of the congregations, Unified Mission tour with our missions that our Presbytery supports, have a large congregation work with one of the smaller ones so the team work will pull them closer together. Bring back the ACTS conference. Remember that we are all members of this Presbytery and this is our church. Why aren't our Pastors that are not making it to the meeting being called upon just as we as Pastors would call on members of our own home churches.

Council Report - Stuart Conrad

No report at this time

Committee on Preparation for Ministry - Beth Downie

Delissa Fulce and Ron Eckert will both be excepting calls in the next year. There will be a CPM retreat at Calvin Crest in March with inquirers and candidates and their spouses to pray, talk, build relationships, and retreat with one another together.

Committee on Ministry - Terry Holland

Pat Sheahan from Northminster Pres in Bakersfield introduced himself and told the members of his journey in the ministry. His installation is March 22nd.

Transition Team - Rick Lemberg

The team has been working with the four churches that are looking at leaving PC(U.S.A.) Each group meets with the pastors and then the members of the session. Other churches who are looking at or thinking of leaving are to please

contact Rick Irish, as we need to keep the Presbytery office involved early in the process.

Finance & Property - David Nash

The committee has approved a grant to Calvin Crest in the sum of half a million dollars for maintenance and capital improvements. Without this grant, they will not be able to move forward. Part of the money will come from the sale of some property that is currently in escrow. We would not be pulling all of this money out of savings. It was voted and **approved**.

Calvin Crest - Scott Henderson

Scott told of the background of Calvin Crest and its financial history. Mission support in this year alone has gone down by 15%, which doesn't help when costs have all gone up. The risks are to go to a seasonal camp only, having to lay off half of the staff, and not having safe and secure places to sleep and meet. These are things that we don't want to see happen and this grant will be able to help greatly. Thanks to everyone for their support and prayers.

One Minute Messages were given.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Noel Anderson at 2:15 p.m. The next meeting of Presbytery will be on Thursday, April 16, 2009.