

**Minutes of the Stated Meeting
of the
Presbytery of San Joaquin
April 16, 2009**

First Presbyterian Church, Visalia, CA

Attendance:

Pastors: Noel Anderson, Terry Barnhill, Sandy Brown, Charles Castles, Marilyn Creel, John Guitierrez, Rich Hansen, Robert Hewes, Rick Irish, Rick Lemberg, Tedd Lyons, Mgrdich Melkonian, Roger Minassian, Harry Phillips, Alan Reutter, Lana Roberts, Jim Rogers, Karl Schafer, Randy Scheer, Kathy Schwan, Pat Sheahan, Sharon Stanley, Tony Winterowd

Elders: Shirley Castles, Jim Clark, Verna Den Hartog, Billie Dibble, Rick Dunn, Thomas Elson, Linda Hengst, Malia Mooradian, Sharon Overgaard, John Ramsey, Richard Ribarich, Tony Santa Maria, Ruth Smith, Florence Ulrich, Mark Vanciel

General Council: Betty Braddy

Corresponding Members: Skip Herbert

Visitors: Richard Braddy

The meeting was opened with prayer and song at 4:16 pm by Moderator Noel Anderson. A quorum was present. The minutes of the February 7, 2009, presbytery meeting were **approved**, with corrections: add Sharon Stanley as attending and change spelling under the CPM report from “excepting” to “accepting”. The docket was **approved**. Host Pastor Rich Hansen talked about where we were meeting and the evangelistic fruit that has been born through the ministry of First Pres’ 210 Center (www.210life.com), and the connection with the community of Visalia that has been cultivated through the arts.

Moderator’s Moments - Noel Anderson

Noel expressed the direction and vision of our Presbytery. He asked for all to open their hearts and minds to hear what God is challenging us to do during these hard times and lots of challenges ahead. We must remember that we are not alone and God has a plan.

Presbyterian Foundation – Skip Herbert

Skip reported that in spite of current economic conditions there are a lot of exciting things taking place through the work of the Foundation, and he urged congregation leaders to encourage their members to remember the ministries of the church in their wills. It is estimated that during the next few years \$66 trillion dollars will be changing generational hands, \$250 billion of which are in Presbyterian hands. At this point in the Presbytery of San Joaquin, 114 bequests have been made to the Foundation, averaging \$3625 each. New information has been added to the website at <http://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/>.

Worship was led by musicians from the 210 Center and the Moderator preached. *The meeting adjourned for dinner at 5:45 pm and was called back to order at 7:11 pm.*

Moments for Witness (CDT) – Jim Rogers

Kathy Schwan spoke of the great things happening with youth from Lemon Cove and the surrounding area, doubling their attendance and reaching 40 this year.

Jim Rogers spoke about Foothill Presbyterian Church, which finally has a home after twenty-eight years of ups and downs and by God’s grace is already seeing fruit in new growth. Elder Tony Santa Maria reviewed the history of the church and spoke of his appreciation for the Presbytery’s support through all the years. (He is so grateful that, as a professional landscaper, he is taking care of the grounds around the presbytery office without charge.)

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

Rick summarized the results of table discussions at the February Presbytery meeting, Plans to respond to those discussions are:

Worship

- A Sacred Assembly on Saturday, June 13th, 2009, from 9 am to noon, as part of the Presbytery meeting.
- Spiritual Life Retreat and Seminar, “Deepening Our Conversation with God” June 4, 5, and 6, 2009, with Drs Greg and Catherine Gregg at St. Anthony’s Retreat Center

Connect

- Council will organizing clusters and reach out to those not regularly at Presbytery events
- A new Form of Government will be presented to the 2010 General Assembly, and we are invited to provide feedback by June 30th
- Noel Anderson is setting up a study task group.

Grow

- Training for Elders on Saturday, May 16th, in Bakersfield, led by Revs. Dave and Wendy Warner

Serve

- Calvin Crest training for Living Waters for the World begins October, 2009
- Sandy Brown is calling for a team to install a water purification system in Xela, Guatemala.
- Mark Vanciel, 1st Pres Visalia., has two trips planned to Guatemala, with room for more in August 1 to August 8 and November 14 to November 21
- Terry Jaurena, 1st Pres Fresno, is leading a mission trip to Korce, Albania, tentatively June 21 – July 4
- Bob Carlson, Harvest Church Madera, reported that they will be building homes in Tijuana, Mexico, June 14 - June 20, and can take more
- The Presbytery newly formed Disaster Preparedness Task Force will meet June 30, 2009, and is looking for members.

Hispanic Committee - John Gutierrez

The Hispanic congregations are looking forward to Hispanic Family Camp again this year. La Fe is still persevering in faith, although they have lost a few members due to the economy and displaced workers. Nuevo Amanecer is still looking for the right facility in Bakersfield.

Calvin Crest - Scott Henderson

Calvin Crest is the presbytery’s Mission Partner. The land exchange is progressing with the help of a State Congressman. Clean Water U West will hold its first training October 4-8, 2009, and the new training facility will be under construction soon.

Presbyterian Women - Florence Ulrich

The purpose of Presbyterian Women is to support mission, and although times have changed, Presbyterian Women are still doing good things. Support the young and old in your congregation.

Synod - Betty Braddy

The Synod of the Pacific’s Opportunity Fund is being developed to support new and innovative missions and ministries, so consider ways you might want to put new funds to work.

Mission Support Team - Tom Parsons

On Palm Sunday, Lifespring had a great turnout at an open house held at Locan School, 7249 E. Kings Canyon Rd.in Fresno. Remember to submit your Presbytery Mission Pledges.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry - Beth Downie

Currently CPM is updating their guidelines and redoing their manuals. If you are aware of prospective Inquirers in your congregation, let CPM know.

Committee on Ministry - Terry Holland

Salary minimums were not changed for 2009. The next Sexual Harassment Prevention Seminar will be in 2010.

One Minute Messages were given.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Noel Anderson at 8:21pm.

The next meeting of Presbytery will be Saturday, June 13th with the Sacred Assembly from 9 to 11:30 am at St. James Anglican Cathedral Chapel at 4147 E. Dakota at Cedar Ave, (off freeway 168 at Shields), Fresno and lunch and the remainder of the meeting from noon to 4 pm at Easterby Presbyterian Church, 5136 E. Belmont (off freeway 180 at Peach Ave.)