

Minutes of the Stated Meeting
of the
Presbytery of San Joaquin
June 13, 2009

St. James Anglican Cathedral, 4147 E Dakota, Fresno, in the Morning
Easterby Presbyterian Church, 5136 E. Belmont, Fresno, in the Afternoon

Attendance:

Pastors: Noel Anderson, Ren Adams, Terry Barnhill, Steven Carter, Jeff Chandler, Arcesio Cruz, Bob Hewes, Carl Knoch, Lou Paradise, Tom Parsons, Harry Phillips, Lana Roberts, Dan Schwan, Kathy Schwan, Sharon Stanley, Arlin Talley, Tony Winterowd
Elders: Jim Clark, Richard Crain, John Davis, Verna Den Hartog, Wilma Holden, Linda Hongst, Anne Myers, Dan Piper, Lilace Turmon
General Council: Betty Braddy, Stuart Conrad, Terry Holland, David Nash
Corresponding Members: Deborah DeBoer, Tyra Talley
Visitors: Richard Braddy, Andy Garcia

The meeting convened at 9:15 am at St. James Anglican Cathedral in Fresno with worship in Sacred Assembly until 11:30 am, at which time it was recessed until 1 pm at Easterby Presbyterian Church. The meeting reconvened with prayer at 1:05 pm by Moderator Noel Anderson, and Elder John Davis brought greetings from the host church. A quorum was present.

The Rev. Dr. Tyra Talley of Northern Waters Presbytery and Rev. Deb DeBoer of Northern New York Presbytery were seated as corresponding members. The docket was approved as printed. The minutes of the April 16, 2009, Presbytery meeting were **approved**. The *Consent Agenda* was **approved** as printed:

Actions of COM, February 7, 2009, for information purposes only:

1. Noel Daniels resigned at Easterby Presbyterian Church in Fresno.
2. Voted to **approve** the commission and installation of Patrick Sheahan at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Bakersfield on March 22, 2009.

Actions of Finance and Property, March 16, 2009, for information purposes only:

1. It was **approved** for GA to automatically deposit grant payments in our bank account.
2. The conversion of Dinuba Pres' line of credit to a \$352,787 mortgage with Synod of the Pacific was **approved**.

Actions of Finance and Property, April 14, 2009, for information purposes only:

1. Two grant applications were **approved** to forward for GA restricted funds: 1) on behalf of FIRM by University Pres, Fresno, for \$5965 from Fund #59251 to support a Loa worship group; and 2) \$9950 from Fund #59239 to support FIRM's Healthy Home Project.

Actions of Finance and Property, May 11, 2009, for information purposes only:

1. The Presbytery of San Joaquin 2008 audit by M Green & Company was received as presented.
2. A \$3000 grant for building improvements at the Locan School for LifeSpring was **approved**.
3. F&P **approved** of a 1.7 million dollar loan for Calvin Crest to pay off two existing Synod loans and for improvements and additions to the facilities, equipment, and services.

From Finance and Property:

1. To **approve** Trinity Presbyterian Church in Clovis moving their \$922,000 loan from the Synod of the Pacific to Wells Fargo Bank.

General Council Report – Stuart Conrad

GC is seeking input from presbytery members in regard to how the Presbytery might function in light of changing needs and departing congregations. Presbyters were also requested to provide response by June 30, 2009, to the GA's New Form of Government task force report.

Moderator's Moments - Noel Anderson

Noel reiterated the call for response to the New Form of Government. He also encouraged the use of Roberts Rules as the best means of dealing with conflict while affording opportunity to express convictions, all in the most efficient manner. Our Presbytery's vision statement is true whether we are forty congregations or four, and it is best that we remain our own unique Presbytery and seek to grow and thrive.

Moment for Witness - Andy Garcia

Andy Garcia, a former elder at Easterby Pres, gave testimony to his faith in Jesus Christ and to his desire to serve Him in spite of his ongoing battle with cancer. Andy is available to preach, having completed training to serve as a Commissioned Lay Pastor. Prayer was offered for Andy by members of Presbytery.

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

Rick urged the Presbytery to focus attention on those places God is at work, even in the midst of congregations leaving the Presbytery and other challenges in the world. God is at work in: Andy Garcia; forty participants in a recent Presbytery spiritual life retreat; Tom Taylor's visit in May, pointing to God's work at the national level of PC(USA).

The Transition Team continues to work with congregations seeking dismissal. Recommendations for Presbytery action will likely be brought to the September 17th Presbytery meeting.

The annual reading of session minutes will take place at 2 pm on Sunday, September 13, 2009, in the Fireside Room at University Pres in Fresno.

Congregations are encouraged to prepare for potential disasters, be it the H1N1 flu, fire or earthquake. Helpful materials can be found at www.pcusa.org/pda

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) – Lou Paradise

William Ekhardt was **approved** to serve as the Presbytery's reader for the 2009-10 ordination exams with the Presbyter's Cooperative Committee on Examinations.

Candidate Dino Rustin (First, Bkfld), after having been examined, was found ready for ordination and **approved**, pending the completion of all proper paperwork from John Knox Pres, Tulsa, OK, in Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery, where Dino is being called to serve as Associate Pastor. The following ordination commission was also **approved**, pending completion of his call: , Rev. Noel Anderson (First, Bkfld), Rev. Jeff Chandler (First, Bkfld), Rev. Lou Paradise, member-at-large; Elder Lorna McWilliams (First, Bkfld); and Elder Beth Downie, (Northminster, Bkfld). The ordination service will be at 5 pm on Sunday, August 23, 2009, at First Pres, Bakersfield.

Calvin Crest - Scott Henderson

Summer camp registrations are comparable to the last two years, expecting 2100-2300 campers. This year's theme is Exodus and the journey. A big "Thank You" to the 145 people who worked at camp over the Memorial weekend to prepare for summer. All but four of the Sherwood huts have been enclosed.

The land exchange is moving slowly but continues to move forward. The new multipurpose mission training center building is expect to be ready by October, increasing indoor dining and meeting space by 200.

Calvin Crest continues to face challenges, including a decline in mission support within the Presbytery. Please pray for Calvin Crest!

Committee on Ministry (COM) - Terry Holland

Randy Scheer was **approved** for honorable retirement, effective November 1, 2009. He will continue to serve Orange Cove Presbyterian as Stated Supply with special approval from the Board of Pensions. The congregation will pay vacancy dues.

Sandy (Alexander) Brown was **approved** for honorable retirement, effective July 31, 2009, pending congregational approval.

Calvin Hoff was **approved** for honorable retirement effective June 13, 2009.

Gus Wright has been installed as half-time pastor of the Community Church of Life, ELCA, in Bakersfield. His call was **approved** with the following terms: Salary \$8000, Housing \$15,000, Professional Expenses \$2400, 2 weeks vacation, 1 week of study leave (cumulative to 3 weeks).

Eric Thompson resigned as Associate Pastor at Westminster, Fresno. COM **approved** dissolving the relationship effective June 30, 2009, at which time Westminster closed the Associate Pastor position.

Deb DeBoer, member of the Presbytery of Northern New York, was **approved** to labor within the bounds of the Presbytery of San Joaquin to serve as pulpit supply, contingent upon approval by her Presbytery to labor outside their bounds.

Mission Support Team - Tom Parsons

Tom introduced Sharon Stanley who gave a report on the ministry and financial status of the Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministry (FIRM), which serves at least 6000 people. FIRM's core mission is *Christ focus, Outreach year round, Relationship orientation, Empowerment of low income people and Evangelism*. Despite cost-cutting measures, State and Federal funding cutbacks have required the staff to be cut in half, and the remaining staff will only be paid at 40% of their contracts for the remainder of 2009, unless another \$75,000 is raised.

One Minute Messages were given.

The meeting was closed in prayer at 3:30 pm.

The next meetings of Presbytery will be on Thursday, September 17, 2009, from 4 to 8 pm at First Pres, Exeter; and Saturday, November 14, 2009, from 9 am to 4 pm at the Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, Fresno.