

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF  
PRESBYTERY OF SAN JOAQUIN**

Saturday, June 12, 2010

First Presbyterian Church, 475 Sunset St., Coalinga, CA

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**Attendance:**

*Pastors:*

Noel Anderson, Sandy Brown, Steven Carter, Charles Castles, Chris Erdman, Jaeshin Han, Bob Hewes, Greg Horn, Rick Irish, Carl Knoch, Tedd Lyons, Harry Phillips, Mary Raine, Alan Reutter, Jim Rogers, Randy Scheer, Sharon Stanley, Eric Thompson

*Elders:*

Terry Barnhill, John Bosavanh, Lorna Bosavanh, Pam Byers, Shirley Castles, Jim Clark, Richard Crain, John Davis, Beth Downie, Verna Den Hartog, Norma Ferreira, John Guitierrez, Joy Harvey, Terry Holland, Claudia Keith, Fred Leavitt, Brian Vaccaro, Johnnet Watt

*General Council:*

Ruth Smith, David Prewitt, Florence Ulrich

*Visitors:*

Jim Clark, Verna Den Hartog, Katherine Horn, Jessica Horn, Anne Meyers, Sandy Scheer

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am with prayer by Moderator Ruth Smith. Hosting pastor Mary Raine welcomed the Presbyters. There were no corresponding members to be seated.

The docket was **approved** as printed, and the consent agenda as follows was **received**:

*Actions of Finance and Property, May 10, 2010, for information purposes only:*

1. The commission **approved** converting the Westminster Pres, Bakersfield, Line of Credit to an amortized loan of \$545,731 with the Synod of the Pacific.
2. First Pres, Visalia, was **approved** for a \$1,000,000 amortized loan with the Synod of the Pacific to pay for costs associated with the construction of 210.

The minutes of the April 22, 2010, Presbytery meeting were **approved**, with the addition of the indicated approval of the Transition Team's resolution regarding the dismissal of Bakersfield 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church.

**Moderator's Moments** – Ruth Smith

Ruth Smith challenged the Presbytery with the goal that we all strive “to present everyone mature in Christ.”

**General Council report** - Noel Anderson

Council Moderator, Noel Anderson, pointed out that as the Presbytery plans for our future, we must emphasize the side of managing our structures as over against managing our mission. But, as soon as we can, it is imperative that we retool in order to learn how to start and grow new churches rather than simply maintaining the status quo.

The Council nominated Elder Dan Piper, Hanford 1<sup>st</sup>, to serve on the Presbytery's Nominating Committee. He was **elected** to that position for a one-year term.

**Congregation Development Team/ Moments for Witness** – Jim Rogers

Presbyters were urged to use the Pacific Mission Exchange as a way of learning about and giving to support ministries in the Synod of Pacific. A link can be found at [www.sjpresbytery.org](http://www.sjpresbytery.org) or at [www.pacificmissionexchange.org](http://www.pacificmissionexchange.org).

Dusty Ellington, a member of this Presbytery on assignment with PCUSA world mission, was introduced. Dusty reported that after being forced by the government of Egypt to leave ministry at the Evangelical Seminary in Cairo, Egypt, he and his family have been reassigned to serve as

PCUSA missionaries in Zambia. His wife, Sherri, will be involved with community health evangelism. Dusty will serve as professor of New Testament at the Justo Mwale Theological University College in Lusaka, Zambia, where he will train leaders to work among the explosive growth taking place there. The Ellingtons thank the Presbytery for our prayers and for financial support. For information about how to support the Ellingtons, Dusty can be contacted at [ellingtondustin@gmail.com](mailto:ellingtondustin@gmail.com) or Sherri at [so.ellington@gmail.com](mailto:so.ellington@gmail.com).

#### **Hispanic Committee - John Gutierrez**

The Corcoran Hispanic congregation, Centro Cristiano Agua Viva, has recently conducted leadership training and monthly community outreach. Four new families came to the church recently from Arizona due to fear of the new immigration law.

In Bakersfield, Nuevo Amanecer, is asking for prayer in the face of stagnant growth, which they attribute partly to limitations in their facility. They are still seeking their own home.

The Easton Hispanic outreach is no longer functioning because the pastor, Eliecer Barrantes, is moving away.

At La Fé in Lindsay, one new family was added this month, nine youth graduated from high school this spring, and forty-six people attended a celebration where the police were called because "they were having too much fun!"

Gathered in presbytery-wide celebrations, seventy-nine Hispanic women (doubling last year's attendance) and forty-eight men met in separate groups to build connections across the presbytery.

At 10 a.m. a **worship service** was conducted with the Lord's Supper, followed by recognition of Rev. Charles Castles on the occasion of his retirement.

#### **Task Force for the Future – Sandy Brown**

Huge changes continue in the church whether we like it or not, and we must deal with necessary changes of structure while still focusing on fulfilling our calling by connecting in our faith with one another, both as individuals and congregations. When this Presbytery divided into two, we had 15,000 members. In 2000 we had 8550 members and 37 congregations. By the end of 2010, we will have 4200 members and 27 congregations. In spite of our decline in numbers, the Task Force fully believes that we can move forward as a presbytery. As one means of undergirding this, we are working to establishing a "common rule" as a guide for our life together, describing who we are and what we intend to do as Christians, Presbyterians and members of churches.

The Task Force for the Future members are: Mary & Steve Raines, Jim Rogers, Tedd Lyons, Rick Irish, Chris Erdman, Pat Sheahan, and Cindi Rogers.

#### **Personnel Committee - Terry Barnhill**

We need to do so with less in the way of people and resources, because this year's budget would create a \$75,000 deficit in 2011. Having trimmed much of the budget already, we have no choice but to reduce staff. Terry reported the recommendations of the Personnel committee, with the support of the General Council and the Task Force for the Future, that for budgetary reasons, the position of Administrative Assistant, currently held by Jenn Stallions, be eliminated. The motion was **approved**. Our Administrative Associate, Cindi Rogers, will continue to serve full time.

Presbytery broke for **lunch** at noon and celebrated Moderator Ruth Smith's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Presbytery resumed at 1 p.m.

#### **Personnel Committee (continued)- Terry Barnhill**

The Presbytery **approved** reducing the position of Executive Presbyter to half time and renaming it "General Presbyter", effective August 1, 2010. **Approval** also was given to divide

the part time Stated Clerk position from that of the General Presbyter. With these staff changes it is expected that we will be able to balance the budget for 2011.

**Task Force for the Future** (continued) -Mary Raines

Mary introduced the challenge to strengthen our connections by adopting a “common rule/guide” for our life together as a presbytery, based on our ordination/installation vows as Presbyters. Groups were assigned one of the first three vows out of which they were to compose imperative statements to be used in the “rule,” with results being reported at future meetings.

**Interim General Presbyter/Stated Clerk’s Report** - Rick Irish

Rick Irish explained that the role of the Evangelist Presbyter will change from that of manager/administrator to one of Presbytery Pastor. The title of General Presbyter has been chosen as one utilized across the denomination which eliminates the connotation of executive/administrator.

For the foreseeable future, as long as the Presbytery and he choose, Rick will continue to serve as Interim General Presbyter. With this reduction in time, he will spend less time in administration and business meetings and more time with pastors, elders, Sessions and congregations, with the aim of strengthening our life together in Christ and in our ministry to the world. This will require shifting some of his current responsibilities to office staff, the Moderator, and Committees of the Presbytery. Hopefully this will provide opportunity for more people to share ownership in the presbytery’s ministry.

Rick requested prayer for the Karl Avakian family with his recent death. He also asked prayer for those attending General Assembly in Minneapolis. A special Presbytery meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, July 22, 7 to 9 pm, at First Pres in Visalia to hear reports from our commissioners.

**Commission on Ministry (COM)** - Co-chair, Anne Myers

Moved on behalf of the commission and it was **approved** to renew the commissions of Elder John Bosavanh and Elder Lorna Bosavanh as Commissioned Lay Pastors for University Presbyterian Church, Fresno, for three years (until June 2013) with the following authorities: Administer the Lord's Supper, Administer the Sacrament of Baptism, Perform marriages, and have voice and vote at meetings of the presbytery.

It was **approved** to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the Reverend Charles Castles and Woodlake Presbyterian Church, with the consent of the congregation, effective September 1, 2010. It was **approved** to appoint the Reverend Arlin Talley to be moderator of the session of Woodlake Presbyterian Church, effective September 1, 2010.

**Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)** - Alan Reutter

Alan presented two candidates for ordination for examination:

The examination of **Jessica Horn** was sustained. The Commission on Ministry has found her call to serve as a chaplain in the Navy Reserve to be in order, if the way be clear with the Navy Reserve. The presbytery **approved** the call and authorized her to labor outside the bounds of presbytery and **approved** her to be ordained once the Navy finds her call to be in order.

**Eric Sunderland** has been called to serve as Associate Pastor of the Cedar Heights Presbyterian in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Following examination, the Presbytery **approved** Eric for ordination. The service of ordination will take place June 13, 2010, with the following ordination commission: Elder Beth Downie, Northminster; Elder, Ruth Smith, United Presbyterian, Terra Bella; Elder Marge Nunez, University Pres, Rev. Chris Erdman, University Pres; Rev. Tedd Lyons, University Pres; and Rev. Lou Paradise, Lemoore Pres. **Approved** the celebration of communion at this service.

**Approved** adopting the CPM manual as presented, as a supplement to the advisory handbook of the General Assembly for application in the Presbytery of San Joaquin.

### **Synod Report - Jim Rogers**

Jim noted that the Synod brings the resources of eleven Presbyteries together, particularly through providing loans to congregations. It is mission oriented, and money received from interest goes back into mission in the Presbyteries.

### **Nominating Committee - Sandy Brown**

Sandy presented nominees for Synod commissioners: Elder Beth Downie for the class of 2014, and Minister Commissioner Gregory Horn for the class of 2014. There being no nominations from the floor, these nominations were **approved**.

### **One Minute Messages**

Terry Holland encouraged support of Princeton Seminary and other theological institutions of the PCUSA through the theological education fund, stating that UPC, Westminster, Fresno, Hanford, Lindsay and Orange Cove support the fund.

Lorna Bosavanh reported that FIRM's Family Festival happened this week to reach out to the neighborhood. The FIRM banquet for celebration and support will be held September 24, 6-8:30 pm, at 1<sup>st</sup> Armenian Presbyterian in Fresno.

Claudia Keith spoke saying that if we believe in the PCUSA and in our mission, we need to stick together in order to impact the larger church. He urged us all to remember to pray for GA while in session.

Sharon Stanley reported that Living Waters Clean Water U session for August has been cancelled due to lack of registrations, but the one scheduled for October 3-7, 2010, has room for participants.

Beth Downie talked about San Diego Presbytery which has Reality Changers, a program for helping at-risk youth change the course of their lives and go to college; with some similarities to Hope Now For Youth.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Irish, Stated Clerk