

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

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Harvest Presbyterian Church, Madera, CA

Attendance:

Pastors:

Sandy Brown, Steven Carter, Marilyn Creel, Arcesio Cruz, David Dack, Paul DePledge, Bill Ekhardt, Chris Erdman, Jae Han, Bob Hewes, Carl Knoch, Rich Latta, Tedd Lyons, Tom Parsons, Mary Raine, Steve Raine, Alan Reutter, Jim Rogers, Randy Scheer, Dan Schwan, Kathy Schwan, Pat Sheahan, Sharon Stanley, Eric Thompson, David Votaw, Tony Winterowd

Commissioned Lay Pastors:

Terry Barnhill (Terra Bella), John Bosavanh (University), Lorna Bosavanh (University), Ramon Palafox (Corcoran)

Elder Commissioners:

Betty Lynn (Porterville), Beth Downie (Northminster), Kenny Kim (Bkfld Korean), John Kenney (Lemoore), Verna DenHartog (Coalinga), Laurie Jones (Fresno Westminster), Sharon Overgaard (Madera), Greg Faulk (University), Sue Benson (Coalinga), Betty Strain (Oakhurst), Sostenes Infante Jr (Hanford)

General Council:

Betty Braddy, Ruth Smith

Corresponding Member:

Mark Frey – Board of Pensions (Cascades Presbytery)

Visitors:

Ruth DenHartog (Coalinga), Richard Braddy (Oakhurst), Melody Downie-Dack (Lemoore)

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. with prayer by Moderator Tedd Lyons. Rev. Dave Votaw welcomed the presbytery to Harvest Community Church. Rev. Mark Frey was seated as a corresponding member.

The docket and the minutes of the June 11, 2011, meeting were **approved**. The Consent Agenda was presented.

Consent Agenda – September 15, 2011

From General Council:

- A. That we change the portion of our Manual of Operations for Presbytery of San Joaquin regarding the active committees of presbytery and the number of people on them to the following. This may be done by a simple majority vote of the members of presbytery present.**

I. COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS

1. The Presbytery of San Joaquin shall meet the requirements of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with the following committees and commissions:
 - a. Commission on Ministry (12 members)
 - b. Commission for Preparation for Ministry (6 members)
 - c. Finance and Property Commission (9 members)
 - d. Permanent Judicial Commission (7 members)
 - e. Personnel Committee (4 members)
 - f. Nominating Committee (6 members)
 - g. Committee on Representation (3 members)
 - h. Coordinating Commission (12 members)

2. Other committees may be appointed by the Coordinating Commission or by vote of the Presbytery. Currently those program committees are:
 - a. Mission Opportunity Team—Charged with developing opportunities for the people of our churches to be active in mission projects within the presbytery and beyond. (3 elected, more may be coopted)
 - b. Congregation Connection Team—Charged with helping the congregations of the presbytery to develop connections with one another for mutual support. (3 elected, more may be coopted)

B. That the Presbytery adopt the following to guide the functioning of the Committee on Ministry until that Committee can write their own manual of operations. This manual shall be completed by December 31, 2012

PROVISIONS FOR THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY AND COMMISSION ON PREPARATION

1. Until a manual can be completed of policies and operating principles for the presbytery the COM shall operate according to the following sections of the 2009-2011 Book of Order-Form of Government: G-6.0100, G-6.0200, G-6.0500, G-14

C. That it be recorded in the minutes of Presbytery, as is required by the Rules of Discipline, that the following persons currently serve or have recently served on the Permanent Judicial Commission (Class year in parenthesis):

Rev. David Abdo (2008)	Elder Ned Herbert (2008)
Elder David Prewitt (2010)	Rev. Kenneth Crabtree (2010)
Rev. Bill Ekhardt (2012)	Elder VJ Jones (2012)
Rev. Roger Minassian (2012)	Rev. Karl Schafer (2014)

Action of COM, June 14, 2011, for information purposes only:

1. It was **voted** with regret to honor the request to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Community Presbyterian Church, Three Rivers, and dismiss Arlin Talley to the Presbytery of Northern Waters, pending a call to First United Church of Coleraine & Bovey, Coleraine, MN, effective September 1, 2011. His last Sunday in Three Rivers will be August 28th.
2. It was **voted** to concur with the sub-committee from COM that met with Dave Dack, examined him, and approve him for ordination and installation pending a call.

Action of COM, August 9, 2011, for information purposes only:

3. It was **approved** for Joseph Cejka to transfer to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee
4. It was **voted** for Michael Lebsock to become pulpit supply and to administer the Lord's Supper at Monmouth Community Presbyterian Church when Art Kalafut resigns in December.
5. First Presbyterian Church has **renewed** the contract of Rev. David Watson as Interim as their PNC gets under way to search for a permanent Head of Staff.

Action of Finance and Property Commission, September 12, 2011, for information purposes only:

6. A discretionary loan for \$1000 was **approved**.

Action of Tedd Lyons, Moderator of Presbytery, for information purposes only:

7. Ordination for David Dack was set for July 30, 2011, at University Pres, Fresno. Ordination commission consisted of Rev. Tedd Lyons, Rev. Dr. Chis Neufeld-Erdman, Elders Dan Cunningham, Melody Downie-Dack, and Gordon Graves (University), Elders Robert and Priscilla Dack (Easton), Elder Beth Downie (Northminster), Elder Jim Logsdon (Lemoore). Afterwards, the ordination commission was dismissed with thanks.

8. Installation commission for David Dack was set for August 7, 2011, at Lemoore Presbyterian Church. The installation commission consisted of Elder John Kinney (Lemoore), Rev. Tedd Lyons, Rev. Sandy Brown, Rev. Lou Paradise, Elder Robert Dack (Easton), Elder Beth Downie (Northminster). Afterwards, the installation commission was dismissed with thanks.

New action for Consent Agenda:

9. **Approve** Marilyn Creel to receive the call as Interim Pastor of Three Rivers Community Church, beginning September 5, 2011, for a year. Terms of call are: \$19,855 salary and housing, \$2,382.22 pension (no medical), medical reimbursement (\$1,000), continuing education (\$700 annually and 1 week every six months), reimbursement of ministry expense \$2,000. These agreements are for half-time compensation.
10. **Approve** David Dack to receive the call of Pastor of Lemoore Presbyterian Church, beginning August 1, 2011. Terms of call are: salary \$20,000, housing \$20,000, full pensions, 1 month paid vacation, 2 weeks paid continuing education leave cumulative to 6 weeks, paid leave to participate with the Company of New Pastors, 1 work week each year for annual sermon planning, moving expenses as needed. Travel and professional expenses reimbursed annually to \$4000, and continuing education expenses reimbursed (\$700 base plus \$300 for the first 3 years for ministerial library) cumulative up to 6 weeks.

Item #5 under COM was clarified as First Presbyterian Church of Visalia. The consent agenda was **approved** with this change.

Moderator's Moments – Tedd Lyons

The next Presbytery meeting will meet at University Presbyterian Church in Fresno on Nov. 5, 2011, not on the 12th, as previously scheduled.

To encourage the connections between churches in the presbytery, Tedd suggested that each church should write an epistle to be shared in turn on communion Sundays throughout the presbytery. University Pres prepared such an epistle for presbytery's worship service. Harvest Community, Madera, will write the next epistle.

Interim General Presbyter/Stated Clerk's Report – Sandy Brown

Sandy attended the Big Tent gathering and the Gathering of the Fellowship of Presbyterians in Minneapolis. Rev. Roger Dermody, speaking at the Big Tent meeting, challenged the denomination to start 1001 churches in the next 10 years. Sandy challenged each church in our presbytery to bring in 10 new members and perform 10 adult baptisms by December 2012. Accepting these goals would change us.

Sandy has written up a guide listing the questions sessions need to answer and have in a cohesive form in a policy book. If these questions are answered and compiled in one place and passed by session, the minimum necessary requirements of nFOG will have been met.

He will have meetings for stated clerks for training purposes and to review session minutes over the next few months.

General Council Report – Ruth Smith

Council is seeking a new name, as nFOG has changed the presbytery itself into a "council." Suggestions are welcome. Bill Ekhardt and Steve Raine will be reading ordination exams, with Jim Rogers serving as alternate.

Board of Pensions – Mark Frey

The Board of Pensions is considering how National Health Care Reform will impact programs. Most immediately, unemployed children of members, up to the age of 26, will now receive coverage. The bill restricts the ability to make retroactive changes in billing, so changes in status

need to be reported to the Board of Pensions immediately. After 5 years of no increases to dues, there will be a ¾% increase in healthcare dues on 1/1/12, and another ¾% increase in 2013. The dues increase is not related to a referral from GA regarding providing benefits to same sex partners. Such benefits are still under study. Annual physicals are covered at 100% for all members—including family. VSP will be offered for eye care. Walgreens will no longer be affiliated with Express Scripts pharmacy which will affect Board of Pensions members.

The legal challenge to the housing allowance has been dismissed.

Statements are now available online.

Although the economy is volatile, the Pensions program is funded at 100% and building reserves. The Board of Pensions hopes to give an experience apportionment soon. The active program of assisted support to retirees and those in need is funded through the Christmas Joy Offering, not through the dues of members.

Calvin Crest - Tony Biasell

Tony has been exploring other populations than the usual ones for camp opportunities. He was asked if an outdoor education camp for the developmentally delayed would be possible and is exploring that possibility. A pastor with HIV inspired Calvin Crest to explore the possibility of doing a camp for families impacted by HIV.

People without camp experience have a different perspective on what can be done with the property. For instance, Brian King of the Fresno Street Saints saw Calvin Crest as a site to have a basketball camp—"Hooping in the Mountains." The purpose of the camp was not to just develop athletic skills but to teach life skills. 40 youth participated this year and it is hoped to double that number next summer. The camp was underwritten by a volunteer donor. Nike will be approached for financial assistance for next year.

As Calvin Crest seeks to respond to the call to the unreached, they desire to answer the needs that present themselves. Tony asked that people contact him if they have or hear of any concerns or questions regarding what is going on at Calvin Crest.

Hymnal Advocate Report – Beth Downie

The new Presbyterian hymnal will be titled *Glory to God*, and available in red or purple covers. Samples will soon be sent to churches. The hymnals will cost \$15 each if prepaid before June 2013, and \$20 each after publication. A finalized list of hymns will be available at GA in 2012.

Worship

The final ordination question was addressed by retired minister Tom Parsons, elder Beth Downie, and deacon Chet Hansen. The pastoral epistle from University Pres was read aloud.

Presbytery adjourned for dinner at 6:15 p.m. and reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

Report from The Gathering in Minneapolis

Sandy Brown and pastors and elders from Northminster Pres, First Pres Visalia, and Sierra Vista Pres attended and were encouraged. 850 congregations, 50 states and 3 countries were represented at The Gathering. Attendance was primarily male, Caucasian, and 50 years old or older.

Many opportunities were provided to share concerns about the direction of the denomination following the passage of 10A. Beth Downie reported that questions were addressed as they were raised. There was clearly dialogue between denominational representatives and those in attendance. Sandy Brown commented that event leadership allowed for dissent and were complimentary of GA staff. Leaders of The Gathering want to work with the denomination and have engaged in dialogue with the Covenant Network. He also spoke to the organization of the

event in which executive presbyters were separated from lay and minister attendees to permit the latter to speak freely.

Four options were presented:

1. Remain and work within the denomination
2. Form non-geographic Presbyteries of like-minded churches
3. Form presbyteries within presbyteries, separate COMs, etc.
4. Develop a new reformed body with the possibility of dual membership

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church is not a perfect fit due in great part to their stand on the ordination of women, which differs from church to church or presbytery. The next meeting will be held in Orlando in January and will address formation of a new body. Attendees were encouraged *not* to make this an issue in their congregations if it wasn't already an issue.

Task Force on the Future- Mary Raine

Prior to the task force's report, Tedd Lyons read the pairing of churches for upcoming pulpit exchanges.

The presbytery was reminded of the presbytery-wide event on World Communion Sunday to be held in the afternoon at First Pres, Visalia. Discussion held during the Hanford presbytery meeting about how churches could support each other led to nine members of the Coalinga church painting trim at the Three Rivers church in August, and plans for Pat Sheehan from Northminster Pres in Bakersfield to speak to the Coalinga session and Mary to speak to Northminster about children's ministries. Churches were encouraged to look for opportunities to help each other.

Copies of the Rule for Daily Living were passed out and presbyters were urged to give them to elders and deacons in their churches.

Committee on Ministry – Randy Scheer

The commission, consisting of Tedd Lyons, Randy Scheer, Lou Paradise, John Davis, Barbara Wiest, and Mary Raine, was **approved** to install Steve Raine as pastor of Easterby Presbyterian Church on October 15, 2011,

Kathy Wingert from University Presbyterian was **approved** to celebrate communion at Bible Study and Centering Prayer meetings.

Dave Dack and his wife Melody were welcomed to the Presbytery, and their ministry at Lemoore Pres was prayed for.

Seven churches are still considering leaving the denomination: Hanford, Terra Bella, Orange Cove, Northminster, Sierra Vista, Dinuba, and Woodlake.

Personnel Committee Report – Marilyn Creel

The Personnel Committee, in conversation with Interim General Presbyter Sandy Brown, the Synod, and the Presbytery Finance Committee, requested that Presbytery amend Sandy Brown's contract to be increased from 25 hours per week to 30 hours per week. Salary would increase from \$39,000 annually to \$60,000 annually, with benefits adjusted accordingly. Expenses would be reduced by \$2000 for 2011. This change would be retroactive to July 1 and extend to Dec. 31, 2011. Sandy works an additional 10 hours per week as Stated Clerk, so, with this change, would be working 40 hours per week. The amendment was **approved** and Sandy was commended for his work on behalf of congregations and the presbytery.

Report of the Nominating Committee – Jim Rogers

With the adjustment made to the number of members in each committee, the Nominating Committee will present nominations at the next presbytery meeting.

One Minute Messages

The death of Rev. Ed Danks was announced with thanks for the faithfulness of his life and ministry.

Greg Callison is in Coalinga as Chris had ankle replacement surgery. Greg will be speaking at Easterby Pres about his work with the Kurds in Iraq.

Rick Irish is gaining strength and the ability to travel.

Dusty Ellington spoke at Terra Bella Pres about his work in Zambia.

Sharon Stanley reported on the success of the community gardens and FIRM's interest in issues of planning in Fresno, the Affordable Care Act, and foreclosure issues. John and Lorna will be part of a water purification trip to Laos in early October.

Clean Water University at Calvin Crest is approaching and among the participants will be five Ecuadorans and three Guatemalans.

The next Presbytery meeting will be held at University Pres, Fresno, on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2011, beginning at 9 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Tedd Lyons at 8:45 p.m.