

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

Saturday, November 5, 2011  
University Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA

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**Attendance:**

*Pastors:*

Ren Adams, Sandy Brown, Steven Carter, Charles Castles, Ken Crabtree, Marilyn Creel, Arcesio Cruz, David Dack, Chris Erdman, Chris Gil, Art Kalafut, Carl Knoch, Adam Knudson, Tedd Lyons, Lou Paradise, Mary Raine, Steve Raine, Alan Reutter, Randy Scheer, Dan Schwan, Sharon Stanley, David Votaw, Tony Winterowd

*Commissioned Lay Pastors:*

Terry Barnhill (Terra Bella), Michael Lebsock (Monmouth), John Gutierrez (La Fe)

*Elder Commissioners:*

Norm Ferreira (Hanford), Verna DenHartog (Coalinga), Terry Holland (University), John Kenney (Lemoore), Sandy Papazian (Westminster, Fresno), Betty Braddy (Oakhurst), Fred Leavitt (Exeter), John Davis (Easterby), Steve Musson (Dinuba), Zoe Ann Taylor (Monmouth), Sharon Overgaard (Madera), Susan Benson (Coalinga), Brian Vaccaro (Woodlake)

*General Council:*

Ruth Smith

*Corresponding Member:*

Karen Sturdevant (Sacramento Presbytery)

*Visitors:*

Dan & Suzanne Kimball (Friends of Calvin Crest), Richard Braddy

The meeting of the was called to order with prayer by Moderator Tedd Lyons at 9:13 a.m. when a quorum was reached. The presbytery was welcomed to University Presbyterian Church by Teaching Elder Chris Erdman.

Karen Sturdevant (Sacramento Presbytery) the Resource Center in Sacramento was welcomed and seated as a Corresponding member. The Docket was **approved** with the addition of a report on New London at the beginning of the afternoon session.

The Consent Agenda was **approved** as presented:

*Motion from General Council/PAC:*

1. To **approve** the following revisions of our Operations Manual, which may be updated by majority vote at any presbytery meeting:
  - A. The name of the group once known as General Council is the Presbytery Advisory Committee (PAC)
  - B. The makeup of the PAC is: 1 representative each from COM, CPM, Finance and Property, Nominations, Hispanic Committee, Personnel Committee, Task Force for the Future, Congregation Connection Team, Mission Opportunity Team, Calvin Crest, and one of our representatives to Synod, in addition to the current Moderator, the Moderator Elect, and the past Moderator, who will be the Chairperson of PAC.

*For Information Purposes:*

2. The contract for the Interim General Presbyter was **approved** with no changes from the most recent contract in 2011, including housing still at \$28,000 a year.
3. The PAC reduced the number of **presbytery business meetings in 2012** to 4: February 4th, April 14th, June 9th, and November 10th. October 7, World Communion Sunday, has been set as the date for the Presbytery to worship together.

*Motion from COM, October 10, 2011:*

4. To **approve** Mike Lebsock's process of mentorship with the Rev. Arthur Kalafut as preparing him to be the CLP for Monmouth Community Presbyterian Church,

enabling him to preside at the Table of Holy Communion, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, to make hospital and house calls, anointing the sick in the name of the Lord and to preach the Word on all Sundays and specially called services by the Monmouth Session of Ruling Elders.

*Motion from Finance and Property Commission, September 12, 2011:*

5. Following discussion regarding what was needed for our 2012 budget, F&P recommends per capita of \$32 per member. Almost all of the increase is for the presbytery.

*Action of Finance and Property Commission, September 12, 2011:*

6. **Approved** the renewal of a mortgage loan up to the balance of \$459,173.80 for the Korean Presbyterian Church in Fresno.

*Action of Finance and Property Commission, October 18, 2011:*

7. **Approved** offering small churches the opportunity to run their payroll through the presbytery office, following what is already being done for our NCDs. The charge would be \$25 per person, per month, and would begin in January 2012.

*New action for Consent Agenda:*

8. Dismiss, with thanks, the installation commission for Steve Raine.

The minutes of the September 15, 2011, meeting were **approved** as printed.

#### **Moderator's Moments** – Tedd Lyons

Tedd cited a letter written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer on the day after the assassination attempt on Hitler, where he cited taking comfort in lectionary readings. As a young man, Bonhoeffer thought that faith meant living a holy life, but he discovered that instead of trying to make something of himself, he needed to learn to live completely in this world, conscious daily of death and resurrection. Only by living completely in this world can we learn to have faith...by so doing we throw ourselves completely into the arms of God, and the suffering of God in this world. That is how one becomes a man and a Christian.

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

Glen Puder, a retired member of Presbytery is turning 100 in a few days, and members of presbytery were asked to join in signing a birthday card for him.

Sandy attended the Fall Polity Conference in Pittsburgh, followed by a conference for Executive Presbyters. He is planning to attend the Fellowship gathering in Orlando in January, which will be the constitutional meeting of this group. He recommended that churches who are considering their future relationship with the PC(USA) send representatives.

General Assembly will be held in Pittsburgh June 30-July 7, 2012. Forms are available for the nomination of one Teaching Elder, one Ruling Elder, and one YAD (under age 25) as commissioners. The deadline for nominations is Jan 15, 2012, and will be voted on by presbytery in February.

A discernment committee will be appointed for First Pres, Hanford. Rick Lemberg and Terry Holland agreed to serve, and presbytery **approved** their appointment.

Ruling Elder Beth Downie will be Moderator for Presbytery for 2012, but she will be installed at the February 4, 2012, presbytery meeting. Tedd Lyons was thanked for his leadership this year.

The Task Force for the Future organized a tremendous presbytery-wide worship event at First Pres, Visalia, on World Communion Sunday with about 300 attending. The next presbytery-wide event will be in conjunction with the Presbytery meeting on Saturday, June 9, 2012. Details are pending.

Ten members of presbytery attended a Catalyst event at Saddleback Church and were introduced to many new ideas. Sandy also noted that the logo printed on Saddleback's pens is "We're better together!" to which we say "Amen".

Sandy takes seriously the idea that the church is one. When one part suffers, so do others; when one part prospers, so do the others. Grady Wilson, G.A. Stated Clerk, set a ten-year goal to establish 1001 new fellowships. Sandy challenged each of our churches to add ten new members in the next year.

### **Presbytery Advisory Committee (formerly General Council) Report – Ruth Smith**

It was reported that the new name for general council is Presbyterian Advisory Committee or PAC. Also, Ruth spoke of *The Divine Commodity* by Sky Gethani, who points out that we depend on institutions to represent the Spirit of God, rather than people, and we think the right programs will bring about our desired end—the rejuvenation of the church. However, God is more than institutions and programs.

### **Calvin Crest - Dan Kimball from Friends of Calvin Crest**

Calvin Crest often evokes nostalgia, bringing people back in time to their experience there. Currently Calvin Crest is looking at “Getting back to the reason and purpose of why we do what we do.” In the 1950’s people decided that churches and people needed a place where Christ would be shared, taught, discovered, renewed. Much has changed since the 50s, but the original need has not changed. The numbers and support have decreased, but the camp now serves groups other than just Presbyterians, and it continues to be a place where Presbytery and churches can train adults, kids, missionaries, and leaders.

Calvin Crest is emphasizing three major things:

1. In an expanded mission statement... “Using the resources and environment at 5,000 feet, we partner with churches to train disciples of Jesus Christ, with schools to teach outdoor education, and with communities to bring people to health and wholeness.
2. The creation of the Friends of Calvin Crest Foundation focuses solely on helping with the financial future of the camp.
3. A 24-month strategic plan has been created which affirms the vision that Christ continues to be taught through Calvin Crest as a retreat camp that witnesses to Jesus Christ’s love for all. Action plans are in place to achieve financial stability for CC with the camp leveraging all resources and acting collaboratively with other organizations, such as FIFEL, Fresno Street Saints, Radiant Church, and Fresno Pacific University.

Calvin Crest continues to need Presbytery support through financial donations, work parties, and in-kind gifts, besides sending our own kids and reaching out to kids in our neighborhoods who wouldn’t otherwise attend. Churches are asked to host CC gatherings, inviting Tony or other CC speakers. Calvin Crest is not closing or being sold but changing with our changing times.

### **Hymnal Advocate Report – Beth Downie**

The new Hymnal comes out June 30 2013.

### **Task Force on the Future - Mary Raine**

A Grand A’Faire is being planned for the presbytery meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> with a picnic in a park. There will be an opportunity for each of our churches to highlight their innovative ideas of mission, along with fun for all ages.

Mary attended Catalyst in the fall and reported that it was energizing. No answers were given, but questions were asked that brought attendees to focusing on growth and mission, not methods and programs, in the church. Focusing on mission brings back new life.

Mary reminded the presbytery that the Rule for the Presbytery was meant to be a guide to bring us into more life. Don’t stick it away. Put it somewhere it can be seen every day.

### **Small Groups**

The Presbytery broke into small groups to discuss:

1. What is the nature of the church?
2. What does it mean to be the church?

### *Ruling Elder Group 1:*

1. Body of believers; body of Christ; reflect nature of God; Christ's disciples; reflection of God of what we are supposed to be
2. Representative of church; part of a living being; scriptural discernment; serve as ambassadors; model love of God; spread gospel of Christ; work together as unified body; witness to community and world; find one's own mission; to be inheritors and parents of faith; all called to own ministry, not all called to same ministry; acting and putting into practice what we have learned and been taught.

### *Ruling Elder Group 2:*

To be Christian; not the building, but people; needs organization; a church family which may disagree, may look alike, belonging is part of family; together we can do what we can't do alone; accept each other; each small bit magnified by others; relevancy, 1 Peter 4:9-10.

### *Teaching Elders Group 1:*

1. Called to exist by the Spirit; driven by the Spirit to proclaim the risen Christ; where Christ is rightly preached, sacraments rightly administered, discipline rightly practiced. If church closed what would people miss? Church is a place where we practice loving God by loving each other; in church we are called to listen, not just for church but for world, to what God would say.

### *Teaching elders Group 2:*

Nature of church comes from nature of Christ, incarnated as human, incarnate in church; body of Christ; family of God; where people grow and experience how to be people of God; becoming a reality; vine and branches; Christ our life; we strive to be infused with him; people in Christ are broken and sinful people, nothing without him, come to see Jesus and then reveal to world; church becoming reality of every tribe, nation, tongue, not club; see in Muslim world that Jesus is making self known through visions, dreams; bride of Christ; the wonder and terror of being loved by God (C.S. Lewis) hiddenness of Christ among us making him- self known in Communion; scandal of cross; church made up of imperfect people; the foolishness of God more wise than the wisdom of humans; not yet "there," like Paul pressing on, the least of apostles; going "Further up and farther in," (C.S. Lewis); always on journey.

## **Worship**

Following worship, the meeting adjourned for lunch. The meeting resumed at 1:20 p.m.

### **New London report – Matt Naylor**

The population of New London is highly transient, and many are probably undocumented. After 3 years, Matt continues to look for opportunities for churches, individuals, and groups to become involved in mission, such as the three teams that hosted VBS this summer. Between 30 and 40 children participated each time.

They have improved a public park, rebuilt a basketball court, and a boys' Bible study. In addition, Matt is working on opening a thrift store in conjunction with KAPS (Kingsburg Community Assistance Program). There is a need for ministry to girls in the community.

They would like to establish a discipleship house for young men. A property has become available, and \$25,000 more is needed. A grant application to the Synod for an emerging need was completed, and Betty Braddy made a motion that the Presbytery endorse this grant application for funds to be used for the purchase of what would become the Discipleship House. Presbytery **voted to approve** the endorsement.

### **Finance and Property - Carl Anderson**

Carl reported that, historically, Presbytery receives 80% of the per capita budgeted. The subsequent shortfall requires trimming expenses, so it is very important that per capita money come in, because there is little in the budget that can be cut.

Presbytery needs more income, so Finance & Property is exploring non-traditional ways of securing income. Carl reported that Presbytery needs to look at things differently than it has in the past because at current spending levels, funds will be depleted in about 3 ½ years.

Carl presented the Presbytery budget for 2012 and it was **approved** as presented:

	2012 Budget
<b>INCOME:</b>	
Mission Pledges	145,000
Designated mission pledges	35,000
Interest Income	4,000
Per Capita (3705 members x \$32)	118,560
Partnership Grant for salaries	78,557
Transformation Grant	11,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>392,117</b>
<b>SHARED EXPENSE:</b>	
Reimbursed mileage:	
Presbytery meetings	1,000
Committees/Teams/Commissions	2,500
GA Per Capita	24,564
Synod Per Capita	19,340
Resource Center (Joint Project)	3,500
Calvin Crest	35,000
Restricted monies (pass through)	25,000
Total	110,904
<b>Shared Prioritized Expenses</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Required committees:</b>	
<b>Committee on Ministry (COM):</b>	
Counseling, Triennial visits	250
<b>Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM):</b>	
Reimbursed student expenses	250
<b>Nominating</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Permanent Judicial Commission</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Other committees/teams/task forces:</b>	
<b>Congregation Development Team:</b>	
Parish Papers & Other Resources	150
<b>Finance and Property:</b>	
Audit	7,200
Insurance - Property & Liability	4,200
Legal services	250
Misc Presbytery Expense	200
Total	11,850

**General Council:**

Moderator's expense	300
Special Task Forces	300
Transformation Grant	11,000
Total	11,600

**Hispanic Committee:**

Pastors' Conference	
Family Camp	
Joint Services	
Total	3,500

**Ministry Development Team:**

0
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**Personnel:**

Compensation <i>packages</i>	138,000
General Presbyter (Part time)	
Admin Associate (Full time)	
Travel & Professional reimbursement	12,000
Stated Clerk salaries ( 2 people)	18,000
Office (Part time)	8,000
Worker's compensation	1,400
FICA +	1,200
Total	178,600

**Ministry Support Office:**

30,000
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Tfr from designated to Congregation Dvlpmt Fund

35,000
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**TOTAL EXPENSE**

392,104
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**TOTAL INCOME**

392,117
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**CREDIT / DEFICIT**

13
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**Commission on Ministry - Randy Scheer**

Art Kalafut introduced Mike Lebsock, whom he has known for many years and who once served as Youth Director at the Monmouth church. Art is mentoring Mike to be a Commissioned Lay Pastor. Mike also teaches in Fresno and has received an award as Outstanding Teacher of Middle School History. Mark spoke of his call to service at Monmouth. The motion to permit Mike to moderate the session of the Monmouth Community Presbyterian Church was **approved**. The Presbytery gathered around Mike in prayer and blessing.

The form, "Report of Terms of Call for Installed Pastor," needs to be returned to the presbytery office by Dec. 1, 2011. On the back of the form, report what God has done through and for you in the past year.

**Nominating Committee - Terry Holland**

The slate of nominations was presented and **approved**.

*Finance and Property:*

Ken Crabtree (2014-2); Lewis Nelson, Three Rivers (2014-1); Fred Leavitt, Exeter (2014-1)

*Committee on Ministry:*

Randy Scheer (2014-2); Bill Ekhardt (2014-2); Tom Link, Visalia (2014-2)

*Committee on Preparation for Ministry:*

Adam Knudson (2014-2); Tom Elson (2014-2)

*Permanent Judicial Committee (Term longer than 3 years):*

Sung Chang (2016)

**One Minute Messages**

Steve Carter requested for prayer for military personnel coming home from Iraq.

Terry Holland, serving as representative for the Committee on Theological Education and Education Fund, reminded Presbytery of the importance of Seminaries. She asked that churches remember Seminaries in their yearend giving.

Mary Raine announced the availability of “Save the Date” cards for the Grand A-Faire, and Sandy Brown asked churches to think of fun and entertaining ideas to share.

Betty Braddy announced that the Synod loan committee has an excess of funds to loan and are asking for applications. Interest rates are between 2.75 and 3.5%. Some funds are set aside for “green” projects.

Presbytery was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Tedd Lyons at 2:31 p.m.