

Council Report

Stated Meeting of Presbytery at First PC San Bernardino
13 March 2010

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Presbytery Meeting Date and Places Changes

June 8 at Riverside-Victoria Presbyterian Church
September 14 at Lake Arrowhead Community Presbyterian Church
November 13th at Indio- St Andrew Community Presbyterian Church

The dates of Council Cabinet, Council, Presbytery and GA are listed for reference:

Month	Council Cabinet	Council	Presbytery	GA
February	25 th 2-4:30 pm			
March	25 th 2-4:30 pm		13 th LeAD & GA Moderator Meeting	
April				
May	27 th 2-4:30 pm	4 th 1-4pm	13 th -14 th -15 th Church Leader Retreat	
June			8 th Stated Meeting	
July				3 rd - 10 th Assembly
August		10 th 1-4 pm		
September			14 th Stated Meeting	
October		12 th 1-4 pm		
November			13 th Stated Meeting	
December		14 th 1-4 pm		

B. Visioning Work

At its Retreat in February, Council focused on visioning exercises using Appreciative Inquiry to gather information for forming goals related to the Vision Statement of the Presbytery. The work group of the Council is transforming the gathered information into goal statements. The adopted vision statement is:

Connected congregations in deep discipleship with Jesus Christ who are faithful and active witnesses to God's love, justice, and peace.

MOTIONS

A. SECOND READING FOR VOTE BY THE PRESBYTERY *Change The Standing Rules of the Presbytery of Riverside as follows: revising Assistant Clerk Position to a Recording Clerk Position:*

1) To delete Rule 4.07 The Assistant Clerk shall be elected for a three-year term beginning on January first following election, and may be re-elected. The Assistant Clerk is responsible for the Minutes of both Presbytery and Council. The Assistant Clerk shall report to the Stated Clerk.

2) To add Rule 4.07 The Recording Clerk shall be elected by the Council upon recommendation of the Personnel Committee for one year terms renewable with the following duties:

- a. To assist the Stated Clerk during the presbytery meeting by recording the actions
- b. To prepare the first draft of the minutes of the presbytery meeting to submit to the Stated Clerk
- c. To provide assistance to the Stated Clerk as needed about the *Book of Order* and *Robert's Rules of Order*

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B. DELEGATION OF PRESBYTERY POWERS FOR SUMMER 2010

Motion regarding Granting of Powers to Council and Committees from June Presbytery Meeting until September Presbytery Meeting

The Presbytery delegates the following powers of a presbytery to named entities in the presbytery for the period from 9 June 2010 to 31 August 2010 with the provision that all actions taken under delegated power shall be reported to the stated meeting of Presbytery 13 September 2010 and that Presbytery may reconsider any action reported to it:

G-11.0103b to coordinate the work of its member churches guiding them and mobilizing their strength for the most effective witness to the broader community for which it has responsibility; *to Congregational Nurture Team for recommendation to Council*

G-11.0103c. to initiate mission through a variety of forms in light of the larger strategy of the synod and the General Assembly; *to the Council*

G-11.0103d. to implement, consistent with G-9.0104, the principles of participation, inclusiveness, and affirmative action in employing its personnel and in establishing the membership of its committees, councils, boards, and other policy-making and policy-recommending bodies, in order to assure fair representation in its decision making and in the election of commissioners to synod and the General Assembly. Its committee on representation shall report directly to the presbytery, and shall be empowered to make recommendations to correct situations of unbalanced representation, including

the recommendation that the nominating committee reconsider its nominations; *to Personnel and Nominations for recommendation to Council for the first sentence only.*

G-11.0103 e. to counsel with a particular church where the various constituencies of the congregation are not represented on a session;

to Congregational Nurture Team , Committee on Ministry for recommendation for Council

G-11.0103 f. to provide encouragement, guidance, and resources to its member churches in the areas of leadership development, church officer training, worship, nurture, witness, service, stewardship, equitable compensation, personnel policies, and fair employment practices;

to respective committees and teams for recommendation to Council

G-11.0103g. to provide pastoral care for the churches and members of presbytery, visiting sessions and ministers on a regular basis (G- 11.0502c);

to Committee on Ministry

G-11.010 j. to control the location of new churches and of churches desiring to move;

to Committee on Congregational Nurture for recommendation to Council

G-11.0103 k. to take special oversight of churches without pastors, including the authority to select, train, examine, and commission lay pastors and may authorize them to administer the Lord's Supper (G-14.0562a); *to Committee on Ministry for recommendation to Council*

G-11.0103 l. to enter into covenant relationship with those preparing to become ministers of the Word and Sacrament by enrolling them as inquirers, to receive inquirers as candidates, and to certify candidates as ready for examination for ordination; *to Committee on Preparation for Ministry for recommendation to Council*

G-11.010 m. to elect elder and minister readers of examinations for candidates for ordination at the request of the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates;

to Committee on Preparation for Ministry for recommendation to Council

G-11.0103 n. to ordain, receive, dismiss, install, remove, and discipline ministers, to plan for the integration of new ministers into the life and work of presbytery, to establish minimum compensation and benefit requirements for all pastoral calls (G-14.0534) and for all calls to Certified Christian Educators and guidelines for compensation and benefits for Certified Associate Christian Educators employed by the churches of the presbytery (G-14.0730b), to provide services of recognition for Certified Christian Educators (G- 14.0731), and to find in order, approve, and record in the presbytery minutes the full terms of all calls, and changes of calls approved by the presbytery;

to the Committee on Ministry

G-11.0103 o. to establish the pastoral relationship and to dissolve it at the request of one or both of the parties, or when it finds that the church's mission under the Word imperatively demands it;

to Committee on Ministry for routine calls and dissolution with recommendation to the Council if the finding regarding the church's mission is invoked.

G-11.0103 p. to designate ministers to work as teachers, evangelists, administrators, chaplains, and in other forms of ministry recognized as appropriate by the presbytery. Such ministers may administer the Sacraments at times and places approved by a governing body, or in conformity to other conditions specified by a governing body. The applicable provisions of W-2.3000, W-2.4000, and 3.3600 shall be followed; *to the Committee on Ministry*

G-11.0103 q. to receive under its care persons preparing for professional service in the church, and to commission them when appropriate (G-14.0140); *to Committee on Preparation for Ministry with recommendation to Council if commissioning appropriate*

G-11.0103 r. to serve in judicial matters in accordance with the Rules of Discipline; *to Council*

G-11.0103 u. to establish and maintain those ecumenical relationships which will enlarge the life and mission of the church in its district; *to Council*

G-11.0103v. to establish and superintend the agencies necessary for its work, including a presbytery council, providing for the regular review of the functional relationship between presbytery's structure and its mission. The presbytery may, by its own established rules, assign to its council responsibility for action between meetings of presbytery on such specific areas of its responsibilities as it shall deem appropriate, assign to its committee on ministry those powers specified in G-11.0502h, and assign to its committee on preparation for ministry authority to dismiss candidates, enroll inquirers, and certify candidates as ready for examination for ordination; with the provision that all such actions be reported to the next stated meeting of the presbytery (G-90403, G-14.0450); *to Council upon recommendation from Committee on Ministry or Committee on Preparation for Ministry those powers specified in G-11.0502h and the authority described over inquirers and candidates*

G-11.0103 w. to establish a nominating committee composed of equal numbers of ministers, laymen, and laywomen (i.e., one third each); *to Council*

G-11.0103 x. to review session minutes and records at least once each year; *to Polity and Records with recommendation to Council*

G-11.0103 y. to consider and act upon requests from congregations for permission to take the actions regarding real property as described in G-8.0000; *to Property and Finance for recommendation to Council*

G-11.0103 z. to authorize specific elders for periods not exceeding one year at a time, to administer or preside at the Lord's Supper in specific circumstances and with proper instruction by presbytery in the doctrine and administration of the Lord's Supper, when it deems it necessary to meet the needs for the administration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper that cannot otherwise be met; *to Committee on Ministry*

G-11.0103 aa. to deal with prevailing, emerging, and emergency issues of racism, racial violence, and racial injustices, as well as with any ideology that promotes racial oppression in the church and in the surrounding political and social contexts. *To Council*

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C. FIRST READING

Reception of New Minister Members

Council presents as a first reading the following proposed addition to Section 8 of the Standing Rules of The Presbytery of Riverside- *Powers of the Committee on Ministry*

8.02 Reception of Ministers of Word and Sacrament from Other Presbyteries and Denominations in Full Communion with the PCUSA

COM, meeting as a whole, shall be responsible for examining any previously ordained minister seeking membership in this presbytery.

- a. The person seeking a call shall present a Statement of Faith.
- b. COM shall follow the guidelines of G 11. 0402 and G. 11.0404 in conducting a thorough and substantive examination of persons seeking membership.
- c. The Presbytery grants to COM all the authority listed in G 11.0502h; thus, granting the power to receive new members of presbytery from

other presbyteries and denominations in full communion with the PCUSA.

The process of welcoming a new minister of word and sacrament into our presbytery would include at least the following:

- a. As soon as COM voted an individual into membership, the Executive Presbyter would invite a neighboring pastor to become a shepherd/colleague for that person for one year. A job description for this task would be written to include:
 - + meet over coffee monthly for one year,
 - + introduce him/her to pastors and elder commissioners at presbytery meetings
 - + get to know the person well enough to introduce him/her formally at presbytery
 - + help her/him understand our presbytery's organization structure/committees
 - + introduce the new person to the nominating committee in regard to where her/his skills might best serve our presbytery
- b. Their personal statement of faith would have been printed and distributed before the first presbytery meeting after their arrival.
- c. At the first presbytery meeting the new individual would be given 20 -30 minutes to be introduced by their shepherd/colleague or by an elder from their congregation, and to tell their personal story, their journey of faith, the unique or special skills that they bring to the church/presbytery, and other information they wish to share.
- d. In the time allotted to #3 questions could be asked from the floor of presbytery about the new individual's story and/or their statement of faith. This anticipates serious discussion about matters of faith and theology.
- e. There would be no vote following this welcoming introduction as that has already happened at COM thus making the welcoming time a non-judgmental event.

Rationale:

The work group sought to honor the Book of Order's statement that presbyteries are responsible for determining the members of the body and the granting of that responsibility to the COM in G. 11.0402 and G- 11.0502(h) with the stipulation that the whole committee or at least a quorum thereof conduct the examination. The Book of Order passages are printed at the end of this paper.

The work group sought to honor the Presbytery's desire to get to know new members and encourage ongoing dialogue in the presbytery about various theological and ministerial concerns.

The work group sought to encourage presbytery's hospitality toward new members by including the requirements for a shepherd/colleague and a time of significant

introduction at the first meeting of the presbytery after the member's reception into the presbytery.

Process:

First Reading on Standing Rule March 13, 2010 - no discussion

Vote on Standing Rule Change June 8, 2010 following opportunity for discussion

Until the Standing Rule is voted in June 2010 the procedure of the presbytery remains as voted at the Stated Meeting of November 2009 in accepting the Council Report:

The practice of Presbytery regarding the entrance of ministers from other presbyteries until the above policy is adopted by Presbytery is the following procedure-clearance by the Committee On Ministry by interview, statement of faith of the minister will be in the preparation materials for the presbytery meeting, the entry person is to be present at the Clarification Corner for a meet and greet of 45 minutes at a pre-presbytery event, the person being introduced by Committee during its report, and there will be no theological questioning on the floor of presbytery.

Book of Order References

G-11.0402 Minister Seeking Membership

The presbytery, through its appropriate committee, shall examine each minister or candidate who seeks membership in it on his or her Christian faith and views in theology, the Sacraments, and the government of this church, except as provided in G-14.0481. Every minister seeking membership in a presbytery shall have a call to a pastoral relation within the presbytery, or from a governing body or agency as defined in G-11.0410, or be entering a work defined in G-11.0411, for which the receiving presbytery shall give its permission, or shall be honorably retired as defined in G-11.0412.

G-11.0502(h) in the list of ways the Committee on Ministry serves the presbytery

h. It may be given authority by the presbytery to find in order calls issued by churches, to approve and present calls for services of ministers, to approve the examination of ministers transferring from other presbyteries required by G-11.0402, to dissolve the pastoral relationship in cases where the congregation and pastor concur, to grant permission to labor within or outside the bounds of the presbytery, and to dismiss ministers to other presbyteries, with the provision that all such actions be reported to the next stated meeting of the presbytery. (G-9.0403)