

PRESBYTERY OF RIVERSIDE March 11, 2008
STATED MEETING Magnolia Presbyterian Church, Riverside

MINUTES

The Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Riverside was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Doug Garrard, at 2:05 PM on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at Magnolia Presbyterian Church, Riverside, California. The moderator opened with prayer. The moderator called on the host pastor, Rev. Brad Copeland to open the meeting and share some of Magnolia's history and mission projects both locally and abroad. Magnolia was founded in 1879 at \$250.00 an acre.

The Moderator declared that a Quorum was present.

Presbytery **VOTED** to seat the following corresponding members (see census):

Art Mills, Board of Pensions, San Diego Presbytery

Presbytery **VOTED** to seat the following corresponding members approved for the duration of their contracts in our Presbytery:

Tom Duggan, Interim, Community Presbyterian Church; Crestline
Rick Harrison, Director of Camps and Conferences

New commissioners were introduced to Presbytery (see census).

Louis Long and Marie Ventura Bethany, Rialto,
Lloyd Nix, San Bernardino
Susan Gray, Hemet
Mrs. Marty Beckman, Temecula

Guests: Gail Williams, Westminster

John Haggerty, Indio
Donna McCullen
Ken McCullen
Morella Larsen, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (Note: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance contact Morella Larsen at morella.larsen@att.net.)

Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the docket as corrected.

Presbytery **VOTED** by a two-thirds vote to hear the Reports of Committees that were not published on the website prior to the meeting, and that those reports and any others new business be presented at the end of the docket.

MODERATOR'S MOMENT – Rev. Doug Garrard

Asked Jan McMurtry from Committee on Ministry to present longevity awards to the retired pastors and offered a prayer.

Stated Clerk Jan Willette presented the **Stated Clerk's** report.

INFORMATION ITEMS FOR THE RECORD:

All correspondence has been referred to the appropriate committee, governing body, or individual.

1. The following dates and locations have been approved for presbytery meetings 2008:
 - Tuesday, May 8 at Bethany Presbyterian Church, Rialto
 - Tuesday, July 8 - no meeting as recommended by Council
 - Tuesday, September 9 at Mountain View Community Presbyterian Church, Wildomar
 - Tuesday, November 11 at First Presbyterian Church, Redlands
2. The Presbytery welcomes invitations for churches to host Presbytery meetings in 2009:
 - January 13, 2009
 - March 10, 2009
 - May 12, 2009
 - July 14, 2009 - ?
 - September 8, 2009
 - November 10, 2009
3. The following churches have not submitted their annual statistical reports for 2007:
 - Church of the Valley, Apple Valley
 - First Presbyterian Church, Beaumont
 - First Presbyterian Church, Fontana
 - Good Shepherd, San Bernardino
 - Yucaipa Valley Presbyterian Church, Yucaipa
4. Additions to the Necrology report for 2007:
 - Frances Marchak (HR) May 9, 2007
 - Roger Hillis (HR) June 25, 2007

Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the Stated Meeting of January 8, 2008.

Presbytery **VOTED** to receive Shalom Presbyterian Church upon transfer from Hanmi Presbytery so that they can be merged with First Presbyterian Church, Fontana.

Presbytery **VOTED** to request the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii to concur with the actions of Hanmi and Riverside Presbytery and overture the 218th General Assembly to transfer Shalom Presbyterian Church from Hanmi to Presbytery of Riverside.

Presbytery **VOTED** to dissolve the Administrative Commission for the former First Presbyterian, Colton with thanks.

The Rev. Jack Schutte presented the **Acting Interim Executive Presbyter's Report**.

Jack Schutte reported on the process of creating a Mission and Vision Statement to move ahead in new church development. Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church is always at

Presbytery and the faithful people attending Presbytery should be commended because they come the farthest distance of any church in the presbytery.

The Elder Anne Smith presented the **Presbytery Council** report.

FOR INFORMATION:

1. Council established a task force for the purpose of making recommendations as to definitions of and Presbytery relationships with fellowship groups, nesting congregations, merging congregations, and similar ministries within the bounds. Membership will include representation from Committee on Ministry, Congregational Nurture Team, Mission and Stewardship, Property and Finance, Polity and Records, and others the group chooses to invite.
2. Council approved Vice Moderator Samuel Roberts to chair the Council Nominating Committee (which nominates individuals to serve on the Presbytery Nominating Committee).

For Action:

Presbytery **VOTED** to cancel the July 2008 Presbytery meeting.

Elder Diane Frasher presented the **Resource Center** report:

Gave results from the survey to insure the resource center is filling the needs of the Presbytery. Presbytery has ordered the videos regarding NUMA.

The Presbyterian Outlook did a report on the VBS material.

A list was sent around to sign up for e-mails from the resource center.

Elder Joan Carpenter presented the **Polity and Records** report:

FOR INFORMATION:

1. Agreed with the Stated Clerk that Mission and Stewardship Team may give the Hunger Enabler voice and vote on the Team.
2. The committee will hold a **Review of Records** for Clerks of Session and their Pastors on **April 12, 2008**, at the presbytery office, beginning at 10:00 a.m.
3. There will be another Review of Records at 12:30 p.m. on May 13 (prior to the presbytery meeting at Bethany, Rialto).

Presbytery **VOTED** to adopt the following policy for the duration between the June council meeting and the August Council meeting in place of the July Presbytery meeting. The Committee on Ministry may act upon Ministers of the Word and Sacrament who have been called by particular congregations and be received into the presbytery. (Act on behalf of presbytery) The Committee on Preparation for Ministry may act upon candidates who have been called to particular congregations and be received into the

presbytery or transferred to another presbytery. (Act on behalf of presbytery) and both committees must report this action to the presbytery at its next meeting.

Presbytery **VOTED** to accept the following change to the Manual of Operations:

In Part II of the Manual of Operations, Chapter 1 –Permanent Committee & Teams;
Congregational Nurture Team

*That the Composition of the team be changed from nine (9) persons, etc. to:
The Team is composed of twelve (12) persons, with at least four (4) clergy and (4) lay persons.*

(The remainder of the paragraph is not changed)

Certified Christian Educator Carol Stanley presented the **Education and Leadership Team** report.

Reminder that there are three camps coming this summer such as La Sherpa and Big Bear. Big Bear Presbyterian Conference Center will have one week for 4th – 6th graders and one for 7th – 9th graders.

Special Presentation - Elder Jacquie Lyman – representative to General Assembly Council

Participates on the Evangelism and Witness Committee, the Advocacy committee for Racial Ethnic ministry and the Ghost Ranch operating board working with Presbyterian Camp and Conference Centers, Inc (PCCCI).

Elder Susan Skoglund presented the **Property & Finance Committee** report.

FOR INFORMATION:

1. The Colton Church will be re-roofed at the cost of \$32,500. Heavy leaks occurred during the recent rainfalls. In order to protect the value of the property, we determined this expense was necessary.
2. Prior to advertisement to the public, we are offering for sale to any interested parties within the Presbytery, a Schulmerich set of hand bells valued on the open market for approximately \$5,000. The set consists of 25 bells (G through G octave) and was the property of the Colton congregation. The Administrative Committee anticipated asking \$3,500. If a church within the Presbytery was interested, the price could be lowered to \$2,500. The bells are currently stored in the Presbytery office.
3. For the past 6 months, the Committee has sought information and proposals from three different insurance companies in hopes of crafting an approach that would offer comparable or better coverage at a more attractive price than any of the individual churches were currently receiving. Several obstacles stood in our way. Covenant Presbyterian Insurance Program (CPIP) because of the recent change in its broker no longer had long-term records for its own use. CPIP currently insures most of the churches within the Presbytery. It continues to offer several unique features that

make it hard to compete against. It has a 100 million dollar per occurrence per church property loss feature. However, Lloyd's insurance carriers that actually provide the coverage are no longer willing to accept the low valuations that had kept the policy prices lower despite rising replacement costs. CPIP is in process of appraising properties over the next several years to rectify this situation. Heffernan who currently insures at least four of our churches seemed uninterested in working with us without more specific detailed information that we were unable to supply. Church and Casualty that carries Church Mutual insurance exclusively with whom a number of churches have their Workman's Comp insurance were very cooperative and tried hard to provide a competitive price. They are willing to work with us and will phase in price increases over the next 3 years in order to make any transition easier. However, they are unable to match the 100 million dollar property loss feature. They, however, appear to offer the most personalized service and have a much larger operation through Church Mutual than does CPIP. Because CPIP has still not firmed up its price structure and its connections with Lloyds for the coming year, we were unable to do any actual price comparisons with Church Mutual. Heffernan is an unknown at this point. What the Committee can offer individual churches is to consult with the members or employees of your church when you receive your renewal policies to provide the benefit of what we have learned during this process, such as some newer items to be covered and some recommended amounts of coverage. However, it remains incumbent upon those responsible that all property is updated and that all special needs are identified by each church for their specific property.

Presbytery **VOTED** to put the Colton Church property up for sale. The property consists of 9,167 square feet of building and 1.63 acres of land. The property was appraised in December 2007, at \$1.6 million by the Benefiel Appraisal Service of San Bernardino.

Elder Louis Kimes presented the **Treasurer's Report**.

The Moderator relinquished the gavel to the Vice-Moderator, CLP. Sam Roberts.

Elder Susan Skoglund presented the **Interim Executive Search Team report**

PIFs are in and the position is advertised in Presbyterian Today.

Mickie Choi presented a **Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP)** Special Presentation.

Three churches in Presbytery received rebates from this fund:
Northkirk Presbyterian Church, Rancho Cucamonga \$2,119.11
Grace Presbyterian, Temecula \$6,489.01
St. Andrews Community Presbyterian, Indio \$5,591.40

Rev Art Mills presented the **Board of Pensions** Report

The Plan is fully funded. The Board has voted a 3.8% apportionment to be effective after GA (July 1, 2008) Questions regarding benefits for retirees/active members can be directed toward Art Mills at Amills@pension.org.

Elder Anne Smith and Rev. Ken McCullen presented the **Congregational Nurture Team Report**.

The following congregations are working on Mission Assessment Processes:

Palm Desert Community - nearing completion
Bethany, Rialto - postponed until further notice from Bethany
First, Upland - complete - retreat scheduled with session on March 8
St. Andrew, Indio - nearing completion, using a modified process developed recently
First, Big Bear - in process
Community, Redlands - completed, approved, Committee on Ministry notified
Victoria, Riverside - Dick Olson will be the Congregational Nurture Team resource person for the Mission Assessment Process (MAP). Jack Schutte will orient the MAP team.

PROCEDURES DEVELOPMENT:

Congregational Nurture Team continues to work with Committee on Ministry to improve communication and cooperation between the two groups in an effort to provide more effective procedures. Areas of particular concern are the Triennial Visit process (Committee on Ministry) and the Mission Assessment Process (Congregational Nurture Team).

CONGREGATIONAL TRANSFORMATION and NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT:

Congregational Transformation, along with New Church Development, also continues to be a major emphasis for Congregational Nurture Team:

1. First Presbyterian Church Fontana/Shalom Korean Presbyterian Church - intent to merge – Congregational Nurture Team has been represented in this process
2. Plans to implement a consultation, using the model from the Great Commission Network, for a congregation in Riverside Presbytery are developing. Jack Schutte, Tom Rennard, and Glen Presley continue to work on a schedule for this meeting.
3. Congregational Nurture Team will aggressively explore opportunities to fulfill Presbytery's commitment to ministry in the West San Bernardino/Colton area.

The Moderator resumed the gavel.

Elder Wes Rousser presented the **Committee on Nominations** report:

Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the slate with corrections from the Nominations Committee as follows:

The Nominating Committee nominates:

Miles Broadman – Committee on Preparation for Ministry – 2010
Pat Laflin – Personnel Committee – 2010

Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the slate of Youth Advisory Delegates to 2010 GA:

The Nominating Committee nominates:
Andrea Heath, Calvary
Alternate, Loren Christen, Palm Desert

The Moderator appointed Frank Christiansen, Robin Oerman, and Carol Stanley to serve as tellers for the ballot for the delegates.

Presbytery **VOTED** against the motion to vote for the clergy and know the results of the clergy vote before voting on the elder delegates.

Presbytery **VOTED** to elect the pastor delegate Sandy Tice, San Bernardino First to 2010 GA and Rev. Ralph Mueller, Ridgecrest was elected as alternate delegate.

Presbytery **VOTED** to elect the pastor delegate Elder Donna Misterly, Big Bear to 2010 GA and Elder Susan Skoglund, San Bernardino First was elected as alternate delegate.

Rev. Sam Roberts presented the **Committee on Representation** report

Is having trouble reaching the committee members. The Synod is having a training workshop at Pasadena Presbyterian Church, April 12, 2008. This is an open workshop, not just for Synod members.

Rev Charlie Brown presented the **Mission and Stewardship Team** report.

Diane Jones just got back from India working with the rural schools and made a presentation to Presbytery.
All churches members are invited to get involved in mission and the committee.

Rev. Jerry Hangen presented the **Committee on Ministry** report.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. The Committee received reports of Triennial visits for:
First Presbyterian Church, San Bernardino
First Presbyterian Church, Upland
2. The Committee received reports from Interim Pastors, Patricia L. Stout (St. Andrews, Indio) and from Andrew Short (Victoria, Riverside)
3. The Committee voted to co-sponsor, along with the Board of Pensions and ARMSS, the Retirees Luncheon to be held prior to the March 11 presbytery meeting.
4. Approved the CIF from Calvary Presbyterian Church, Riverside.

Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the **Consent Agenda** from the Committee on Ministry.

1. On behalf of presbytery, the Committee approved extending the Interim Pastor contract between the Reverend Bill Johnson and Palm Springs Presbyterian Church through June 30, 2008 with no change in terms of call.
2. On behalf of presbytery, the Committee approved changes in the terms of call for the Reverend Mickie Choi in accordance with G-11.0401: Annual Salary (including

manse and utilities allowance of \$36,000.00) changed from \$58,004.71 to \$59,744.85 effective January 1, 2008.

3. On behalf of presbytery, the Committee approved the appointment of the Reverend Jack Schutte as Parish Associate, Grace Presbyterian Church, Temecula, effective March 11, 2008.

Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the Reverend Margaret Koontz' request to become a Member-at-Large (G-11.0406 b) pending transfer from Genesee Valley Presbytery. Reverend Koontz has been interviewed by members of Committee on Ministry who found her credentials in order and consider her eligible for membership.

Presbytery **VOTED** to go into executive session.

The Moderator appointed Frank Christian, Robin Oerman, and Carol Stanley to serve as tellers.

Presbytery **VOTED** to approve to compliance with the Settlement Agreement of June 3, 2003 and in accordance with D-12.0104(h) to restore the Reverend Dennis Barger to the exercise of ordained office subject to the following conditions:

that Reverend Barger remain within the jurisdiction of Presbytery of Riverside

that Reverend Barger remain in communication with his assigned liaisons from Committee on Ministry, Riverside Presbytery

that Reverend Barger meet in person with Committee on Ministry one year from restoration (March 2009)

that Reverend Barger be placed in the category Member at Large (G-11.0406 b)

Presbytery **VOTED** to leave executive session.

Presbytery **VOTED** to receive all reports given at this meeting.

Presbytery **VOTED** to authorize the Stated Clerk to communicate a resolution of thanks to the Magnolia Presbyterian Church, Riverside for hosting this meeting.

Presbytery engaged in a time of worship, led by the Rev. Ken McCullen and the NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE leaving the question open to Presbytery; "We have been given talents, what are we going to do with them?"

There being no further business, Presbytery ADJOURNED with prayer by Reverend Roger Beukelman from at 6:47 p.m.

Committees not requesting Docket time:

Personnel Committee - Rev. Dean Kokjer-Chair

Committee on Preparation for Ministry - Rev Scott Mason-Chair

Presbyterian Women - Elder Marjie Boyer- Chair