

MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY OF SAN JOAQUIN
Thursday, May 19, 2016
First Presbyterian Church of Exeter, Exeter

Attendance:

Teaching Elders: Christian Choi, Ruth Clayton, Marilyn Creel, Arcesio Cruz, Deborah DeBoer, Ara Guekguezian, Wayne Hawkins, Robert Hewes, Leslie Hyder, Tedd Lyons, Kimberly MacArthur, Stephen Murray, Lou Paradise, David Park, Mary Raine, Jim Rogers, David Rose

Commissioned Ruling Elders: Terry Barnhill (Terra Bella), Simon Biasell (Woven Community), John Bosavanh (University Fresno), Lorna Bosavanh (University–Fresno), Jim Newman (Exeter)

Elder Commissioners: Rob Arnold (Coalinga), John Davis (Easterby), Karen Garner (Foothill), Jim Clark (Lemoore), Richard Crain (Three Rivers), Janet Marberry (Terra Bella), Ruth Smith (Terra Bella), Carolyn Foxe (Visalia)

Presbytery Advisory Committee (PAC): Tom Link, Anne Myers

Visitors: Karen Anderson, Shirley Batchman Richard Braddy, Vikrant Khera, Hever Sanchez

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Moderator Tom Link.

CRE Jim Newman welcomed the presbytery to First Presbyterian Church of Exeter and led the opening the prayer.

Ruling Elder Anne Meyers, Personnel Chair, introduced the new staff of the Presbytery, Rev. Deborah De Boer, Shirley Batchman, and Karen Anderson.

Rev. Dr. Les Hyder introduced the Presbytery website and led the presbytery on a tour of the website. He gave thanks to Natasha Biasell for designing the website, as she was unable to be present tonight, and he used her script to describe the site.

At 5:30 the presbytery moved to worship and celebration of the Lord's Supper. The sermon was preached jointly by members of the Identity Team: Revs. Deborah De Boer, Arcesio Cruz, and Rev. Dr. David Bruce Rose. Revs. Les Hyder and Deb DeBoer officiated at the table, and Les Hyder and Tom Link served the elements.

The meeting recessed for dinner at 6:10 p.m.

Tom Link reconvened the meeting at 6:47 p.m. with the **General Presbyter/Stated Clerk Report--** Teaching Elder Les Hyder.

Les shared that, like the poppies, the spirit sometimes lays dormant for a time, and then blooms abundantly. His theme was "When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice." He referenced Proverbs 29:2a. He hopes we claim that verse as we go forward.

He explained further the job descriptions and gifts of the new presbytery staff, and that they are all part-time. With this staffing design, they've cut more than \$30,000 from the presbytery budget.

Les detailed his travels in his orientation process, and the churches where he has preached and visited so far.

He explained his initiatives:

- General Assembly participation in Portland, OR

- Expanded Clergy Cohorts, with their organizers:

 - North Valley --- Rev. Bob Hewes (Bob spoke to this new group, and asked his group when would be a good time and day)

 - Central Valley – Rev. Tedd Lyons

 - South Valley – Rev. Deb De Boer

- Annual Pastors' Retreat

 - Chair: Rick Lemberg

 - Targeting midweek dates in January or February, at Calvin Crest

 - Based on new book, Paradox Lost, by Rich Hansen

- Rural Church Task Force

- Presbytery-Wide Education and Fellowship

 - The last week of October – Rich Beebe

- Financial Stability-

 - Consulting with Bill Ekhardt Jr. for financial planning

 - Reviewing Presbytery merger options, made contact with other presbytery leaders

- Conflict Resolution Training

 - Offering this to churches and couples for no cost.

Les Moved that the Presbytery of San Joaquin grant to the City of Madera an easement on our property located at 2001 National Avenue, Madera, CA, for a bus stop, along with temporary access of property for construction purposes. **M/S/C.**

Report of the Commission on Ministry--Teaching Elder Ruth Clayton

Ruth introduced Rev. Ara Guekguezian, TE, who has begun a new ministry at New Beginnings Hospice, and reported that the COM has validated that call. Ara has also made himself available for pulpit supply.

Ruth reported on Bakersfield Korean Presbyterian Church, which is preparing to call a new pastor. The COM will meet with the pastor shortly, and he will preach at a neutral pulpit. The COM hopes to bring this call to the next Presbytery meeting.

Ruth then introduced Rev. Kimberly McArthur, who is requesting to transfer her membership to the Presbytery of San Joaquin from the Presbytery of Nebraska. Kimberly presented her statement of faith, and Moderator Tom Link opened the floor for questions. **M/S/C to suspend the examination.**

M/S/C to receive Rev. Kimberly McArthur into membership in the Presbytery of San Joaquin. Members of the Westminster Fresno congregation laid hands on her and prayed for her.

Calvin Crest--Teaching Elder Tony Biasell

Calvin Crest has hired a Ministry Director, Rev. Dr. David Chumley. David has pursued a life-long calling to minister to young people through local church ministry, denominational administration and studies in higher education. He has been involved in youth ministry for more than 30 years in a number of churches throughout California, and during that time he also earned a Doctor of Missiology from Fuller Seminary focused on relational youth ministry. David will begin his responsibilities as Director of Calvin Crest Ministries effective August 1, and will be present this summer familiarizing himself with church leaders and campers in addition to the different camps that Calvin Crest offers.

Calvin Crest is doing well financially. Wade Bean is the Guest Services Director. Joel Gist is the new Outdoor School Director. Tony reports he is thankful to be a part of life at Calvin Crest, and a part of the Presbytery of San Joaquin.

Nominating Committee--Teaching Elder Tedd Lyons.

The nominating committee brings three nominations to the floor:

RE Ken Aldag – Finance and Property Commission

RE Mary Rose – Committee on Representation

TE Alan Knudson - Vice Moderator

M/S/C to cast a unanimous ballot for all three positions and to approve all three nominations from the Committee.

New Worshiping Communities --Teaching Elder Greg Maroot
Rio Mesa plans are proceeding.

Introduced Alex Gonzales, who gave an update on NWC in West Fresno, La Roca Community Presbyterian Church.

Report of the Personnel Committee--Ruling Elder Anne Myers

Anne Myers expressed how thankful the committee is for the work Tom and Les put into recruiting the people who now have on staff. "We are really pleased with how things are going, and we hope you are too."

Stewardship Committee—John Davis

John thanked those churches who have paid their per capita. The presbytery has to still pay per capita, even when churches don't, so in a sense, those that pay are paying for those that don't. He indicated that there are copies of the Stewardship Manual, available to take to your congregation, to help in year round stewardship planning. Also available, "Stewardship in Small Congregations."

Report from the Synod Commissioners- TE Marilyn Creel

Interim Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Tony DeLaRosa spoke to the assembly about the state of the denomination as it reorganizes. Projections that the PMA would have a 3 million (+/-) dollar deficit last year proved wrong; they ended with 3 million (+/-) to the good. Registrations for the Youth Triennial are outpacing previous years. Other events are also seeing high numbers of participants.

Synods have categorically rejected the directive from GA to reduce their number by merging several Synods. Each Synod is different, is responsive to the needs of the presbyteries in their region. They do not see any merit in merging and besides, it would cost a lot. They will be reporting this response to GA in June in Portland.

Synod approved the extension of Annual Contracts for Jane Odell and John Kelso, other elected Synod staff and approved the Contracts of new Presbytery Executives

Robert M. Messick-Watkins (TE, SAC)

Leslie R. Hyder (TE, SJQ)

Boise Presbytery is still completing the contract for Executive Presbyter

Daryl R. Wilson.

Stockton and Cascades are the only Presbyteries without execs right now and they are still studying what configuration will work best for them

Synod approved changes to the Synod Administrative Manual, chapter 8 (personnel):

Chapter 8.12 Sexual Misconduct and Harassment Policy and Procedures to ensure that the employer conducts a fair, timely and thorough investigation.

Chapter 8.11.5 Workplace/smoking where smoking refers to both cigarettes and electronic cigarettes, including but not limited to, vaping devices.

Search committee for new Synod Executive

At the request of the Transitional Executive, and pursuant to SAM 8.2.4.3.1 and Book of Order G-3.0110 Personnel Committee has declared the installed permanent position of Synod Executive vacant and has established a search committee made up of members of Synod Personnel Committee, Committee on Representation, Finance and Mission Partnership Committees.

Board of Pensions representative, Clayton Cobb

Because churches will no longer be required to cover interim pastors with full pension and medical benefits due to choices interims may have, in order to prevent churches from defaulting to hiring only those pastors who do not ask for full coverage COMs may require full benefits be paid for interims when requested.

Good news--

Although the number of churches in the Synod continues to fall as churches depart, Kendall Presbytery added a church when it chartered Church in the Tetons on May 15 with a charter membership of 62.

Mission Moment--- Greg Callison

TE Mary Raine introduced Greg Callison, who has been serving as a Mission Co-Worker with his wife for many years. They served in Berlin from 2006-2010. They began ministry with Kurds in Iraq in 2010, with the Presbyterian Church in Iraq. He shared that it now takes \$138,000 to finance a mission couple, which has to come from designated funds. He invites us all to come to Northern Iraq and hear from our brothers and sisters in that part of the world. A brochure and a postcard was passed out that included the account numbers for the Callisons. Moderator Tom Link offered appreciation for all Greg's years of ministry in the mission field.

The meeting was adjourned in a moment of silence to honor those who passed into the church triumphant, Betty Braddy, Lawrence and Art Kalafut, followed by prayer at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Rev. Deb DeBoer
Assistant Stated Clerk
Presbytery of San Joaquin