

Presbytery of Sacramento
Minutes of the Meeting of the Presbytery Council
January 7, 2016

| | Name | Class | J | F | M | A | S | O |
|----|--|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | TE Pamela Anderson Pastoral Support | 16 | E | | | | | |
| 2 | RE Sue Bennett At Large | 17 | P | | | | | |
| 3 | Vacant Moderator Elect | | | | | | | |
| 4 | RE Julie Edwards At Large | 16 | A | | | | | |
| 5 | Karen Studevart Congregational Support | 16 | P | | | | | |
| 6 | TE Wes Nordman Moderator | 16 | P | | | | | |
| 7 | Peg Vanderkar Chair of Council | 16 | P | | | | | |
| 8 | RE Hazel Watson Committee on Ministry | 18 | P | | | | | |
| 9 | Ivan Herman Mission Support | 16 | p | | | | | |
| 10 | Pat Stokes At Large | 18 | A | | | | | |
| | Ex-officio | | | | | | | |
| | RE Loren Douglas Budget and Finance | 16 | P | | | | | |
| | TE Jim Kitchens Committee on Preparation | 16 | | | | | | |
| | TE Jack McNary Personnel | 18 | | | | | | |
| | Keith DeVries Nominating Committee | 16 | | | | | | |
| | Judi Angell Committee on Representation | 16 | | | | | | |
| | TE Robert Watkins Interim General Presbyter | | | | | | | |
| | TE Nancy Clegg Stated Clerk | | P | | | | | |
| | RE Marie Segur Treasurer | | | | | | | |

Others Present: Claire Pisor, Recording Clerk

Opening Prayer and Devotion

- The meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m. by Moderator RE Peg Vanderkar. The devotion was provided by Moderator Vanderkar emphasizing inclusion in our churches from the book subtitle: “Making Room for Grace”. Various ways by which we extend grace to others that help facilitate inclusion were explained. The Council read the vision of the presbytery together.
- **Attendance:** The Council had a conversation about the difficulty of securing a quorum for its meetings. An agenda item for the next meeting will be further discussion of the actual member categories of Council. It was mentioned that it would be helpful to have better communication with Budget and Finance and therefore extend a standing invitation to Budget and Finance and the Treasurer.
- It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Presbytery Planning—TE Nancy Clegg

- **January 30** meeting will take place at Carmichael, Presbyterian Church. Congregational Support is taking the lead with the theme of Leadership Development and Training. The following breakout sessions will be available: 1) Elders led by TE Jack McNary, 2) Deacons led by TE Rick Hull, 3) Treasurers led by Earl Lavagnino, 4) Session Clerks led by TE and Stated Clerk, Nancy Clegg, and 5) “Meet the Interim General Presbyter” led by TE Robert Watkins. TE Watkins will be invited to provide the sermon for worship and will be asked to speak on leadership. The planning committee will determine if there are 2 rounds of breakout sessions or just one. TE Herman noted that Carmichael Presbyterian will have contemplative prayer stations available at the Chapel. Other agenda items the planning committee will be including are reports from the Administrative Commissions, COM report, Budget & Finance, and voting on General Assembly Overtures. Congregational Support will complete the planning for the worship service.
- **May 14:** The location not determined. The theme is mission so Mission Support has taken the lead on planning and has secured TE J. Herbert Nelson as the keynote speaker. There will be discussion/small group breakout time.
- **October 5-6:** The meeting will be at Zephyr Point and will follow the Preaching Pastors’ Retreat. It is proposed that the Retreat speaker, Jack Myer, be the worship leader. The meeting will start early to mid-afternoon and conclude after a morning session on the 6th. Registration procedure will be handled through the office.
- **December 1:** TBD

Chair of Council – RE Peg Vanderkar

- **Updated dates for Council meetings:** February 18, March 31, August 11, September 15 and October 20.
- **General Presbyter Nominating Committee Formation**—Moderator Vanderkar requested input of timing and names of folks to serve on the committee. It was decided to wait for a few months to begin work.
- **“Gracious Conversations”:** There was extensive discussion about the proposal from TE Bob Fernandez from the COM Transitions Subcommittee. In an effort to address the difficulties experienced in our presbytery due to decisions made at the General Assembly of the PCUSA and subsequent meetings of presbyteries, this proposal invites the Council to consider how our presbytery might engage in “gracious conversations” that allow the commissioners (and congregations throughout the presbytery) to explore each other’s points of view in a respectful and constructive way. He proposed using “Seeking to Be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement” as a basis. RE Watson offered to have conversations with various people in the presbytery to ascertain interest in participating in such an opportunity and will report back to Council at the March meeting. Moderator Vanderkar will respond to TE Fernandez about this plan of action.

Stated Clerk—TE Nancy Clegg

- **Approval of the minutes:** It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council December 2, 2015. MOTION CARRIED.
- **Vacant Minutes Clerk:** It was moved and seconded to reinstate RE Claire Pisor as Minutes Clerk. MOTION CARRIED.
- **Administrative Commissions:** There are currently four ACs. Following are reports on each.
 - **New Worshiping Communities**—All funded communities are going well. An updated list of AC members is needed from TE Winter.
 - **Burney:** The AC is planning to place a pastor at the church. After meeting with the District Superintendent of the Methodist Church, they are considering sharing a pastor with the local Methodist Church who is licensed with the Methodist church.
 - **Capitol Korean**—The AC and remaining congregants are working to maintain a PCUSA presence at the church site. TE Ezra Kim has renounced his ordination and is officially neither ordained nor a member of the PCUSA. AC is helping the remaining leadership refinance their loan. Worship is happening every Sunday. There is a need for resources to help with keeping the youth program going.
 - **Zion, Sacramento**— At this time, there appears to be no congregation left, so the AC is faced with what to do with the property and closing the church. They are working with the Christian Community Credit Union that holds the loan in order to grant more time to determine how to proceed. Russell Austin, a real estate attorney and member of Westminster Presbyterian, is available to provide assistance. Time is of the essence so the AC is proceeding with judicious haste.
 - **Remedial complaint:** This complaint, filed with the presbytery PJC, is nearing completion and needs an official response from the committee of counsel of the particular session stating that it is in agreement with the ruling of the PJC.
 - **Formal Connection with Stockton Presbytery:** This task force has suspended its work until they have hired a part-time interim presbytery coordinator (executive position) to help with the conversations.
 - **Personnel:** Terms of Call for TE Rob Watkins, Interim General Presbyter, have changed since the approval of the contract at the December meeting. It was moved and seconded to approve the amended contract terms effective January 19, 2016 and continuing up to 2 years:

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|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ▪ <u>Salary/Housing</u> | <u>80,000</u> |
| ▪ <u>Travel and Business Exp.</u> | <u>12,000</u> |
| ▪ <u>Continuing Ed.</u> | <u>3,000</u> |
| ▪ <u>Pension/Medical</u> | <u>36 1/2% of Salary and Housing</u> |
| ▪ <u>Moving Costs</u> | <u>up to 10,000</u> |
| ▪ <u>Paid vacation</u> | <u>4 weeks</u> |
| ▪ <u>Paid Cont. Ed.</u> | <u>2 weeks</u> |
| ▪ <u>Dental Insurance</u> | <u>1632/year</u> |

Motion CARRIED. TE Watkins will be asked to provide the housing cost breakout for approval at the next Council meeting.

Presbytery Planning subcommittee—TE Wes Nordman

The subcommittee (Moderator/Chair/Moderator Elect/Office Manager and GP) will meet on January 14 @ 9:00 at Presbytery office to finalize the docket for the January 30 presbytery meeting.

Budget and Finance

- It was moved and seconded to adopt the budget presented at the previous Council meeting with the following adjustments included: 1) mission receipts increased from \$190,000 to \$215,000 and adjustments of the Interim Presbyter’s contract.

- **Presbytery Office Facility:** A commission was formed a year ago to investigate the on-going costs of the facility in light of declining membership and income. A member of Budget and Finance continues this work and has no recommendation at this time. The sublease with the Lutherans has been renegotiated.
- **Property at 7463 Persimmon Avenue:** Disposition of this property location that has been intended for the GKI Fellowship, will be the subject for discussion at a joint meeting of B & F and Congregational Support. There are differing opinions about how to proceed with the project that has included several contract delays, fines from the City, zoning questions and has cost about \$500,000 and is not yet completed. It was moved and seconded that B & F and Congregational Support to meet together within a week of this Council's meeting date today and determine an action plan for property on Persimmon Avenue and continued care of the GKI Fellowship and return a recommendation to Council electronically by January 15. MOTION CARRIED.

COM—RE Hazel Watson

- **Journey, Folsom—**A motion will be brought forward from COM at the January 30 meeting of presbytery that an AC and its responsibilities be established. While there remains a viable congregation at Journey as a PCUSA church, there is not a schism. Along with this remnant congregation there is an equal number of folks who previously left the membership but desire to reconnect if the church remains PCUSA. At this time, the PNT is claiming the trust clause and the current session of Journey has been informed of the decision. The PNT will be working with the remnant to identify those who will be serving in leadership roles. PNT has agreed to remain as the AC, if so approved by presbytery. Current leadership of Journey has requested that existing funds (\$130,000, an investment of the church) with Synod been released to them. The Synod does not release funds to churches who are in negotiation for dismissal. TE Dave Huusko will be dismissed to another denomination that he is yet to name officially.

Congregational Support—TE Ivan Herman and RE Karen Sturdevant

- **Triennium** apps due by Friday, January 8. The goal is to review the apps and register those attending by the first of February.
- **Approved contracts:** Contracts have been renewed with TE Bob Azzarito to University NCD, TE Herry Mukdani (UCC) to GKI Fellowship, and TE Dexter McNamara to Elk Grove NCD. The Elk Grove congregation has been encouraged to move forward with chartering. An AC will need to be formed for them in the next 6 months. They have 51 pledging units and \$126,000 in pledges.
- **Latino ministry:** This ministry remains in transition. Conversations are beginning to determine if the ministry will remain a part of Trinity, West Sacramento. Under consideration is identifying a CRE as a leader.
- Two vacancies remain on the committee and a chairperson needs to be named.

Mission Support—TE Nancy Clegg

- **Monetary Challenges:** This committee is requesting extensive monetary support for mission trips. There are requests that exceed the committee's budget allocation. At the first meeting of the year, members will prioritize those ministries they will monetarily support and clarify priorities.

Pastoral Support

Next Preaching Pastors' Conference will be held May 2-4, 2016 with Kang Na (Westminster College, PA) as keynote speaker.

Adjournment--The next Council meeting is February 18, 2016 at 9:00 - noon. It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting 1:00. MOTION CARRIED. TE Nordman closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

RE Claire Pisor, Recording Clerk
TE Nancy Clegg, Stated Clerk