

Presbytery of Sacramento
Minutes of the Meeting of the Presbytery Council
April 14, 2016

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

Others Present: Claire Pisor, Recording Clerk; Maria Rodriguez, Finance; Earl Lavagnino, Presbytery Accountant

Opening Prayer and Devotion

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. with prayer by RE Peg Vanderkar. The Council members shared what each thought s/he is called to in faith and that is most difficult to follow. The agenda was approved by consensus.

Presbytery Review and Planning—TE Nancy Clegg

Presbytery Meetings—

1. May 14 will have a mission emphasis and be held at Federated, Placerville. TE J. Herbert Nelson (Office of Public Witness, Washington, D.C.) will be the Preaching and Keynote speaker as well as TE Sara Lisherness (Keynote Speaker). They will have the morning section of the meeting. The Federated choir with organ will be participating. TE Nelson would like to speak on gun violence for the keynote time, and other topics such as homelessness, immigration and refugee settlement are also of interest for him to address. Sara Lisherness is the Director of the Compassion, Peace and Justice ministry which oversees the Office of Public Witness, Presbyterian Hunger Program, Peacemaking, and other areas of social witness. A dinner will be held at 6 p.m. May 13 at Carmichael Presbyterian Church with an emphasis on the “Educate a Child” initiative. The following will be included on the agenda with 5 – 10 minutes for each report/action: Commissioning of Triennium participants, Committee on Representation, Commissioning of GA delegates, Nominating, CPM, Pastoral Support, Budget and Finance, COM. Business will be handled in the afternoon. On May 15 at 2 p.m. at DCC J. Herbert Nelson and Sara Lisherness will share the new video on immigration that has been released.
2. October 5-6 will be at Zephyr Point and Pastoral Support is taking the lead for planning. Shelley is working on the registration process. There will be a cost involved and churches will be asked to partially/fully cover the cost for their commissioners. The theme of the presbytery meeting will be “Extraordinary Visions—Moving from Good to Great”. The presbytery speaker is changing to Lillian Daniels (UCC) as Jack Myers had to cancel. DeWitt Jones, National Geographic photographer will be speaking at 7:00 p.m., October 5. The schedule is being finalized for October 6 that will include some small group conversations.

Chair’s Report—RE Peg Vanderkar

1. Council meeting time/dates—Meeting dates and times were discussed. COR asked the Council to make decisions that do not reduce diversity of Council representation. It was moved and seconded to shift the meetings to Wednesdays at 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on the second week of the month. MOTION CARRIED.
It was moved and seconded to meet every other month. MOTION CARRIED. The meetings for the rest of the calendar year are June 8, August 10, October 12, and December 14.
2. **Council Membership**—Membership of the Council was discussed. Ex-officio members now are invited to each meeting. A task force that includes TE Watkins, TE Clegg and RE Vanderkar will evaluate 5.001 and 5.002 of the Manual and will bring a recommendation to the June Council meeting. Clarity of the purpose of at-large members is needed.

Stated Clerk—TE Nancy Clegg

1. It was moved and seconded to approve the Council meeting minutes of February 18, 2016. MOTION CARRIED.
2. **Remedial Complaint** filed with the Presbytery PJC – This complaint is still in process.
3. **Board of Pensions Regional Consultation**—July 11 is the date that churches can go on-line to get the actual amount it will cost churches/staff/TEs for health care coverage in 2017 for the flexible menu plan being offered to other than installed pastors. A team is available to assist churches with questions they

may have. Earl suggested that churches assume an increase of 7 ½ percent to each church budget. Pensions are still solvent.

4. **General Assembly Training and Preparations**—TE Clegg has scheduled a date for training with the delegates. There is potential of two overture advocates (Fossil Fuel Divestiture and Number of Synods) of which one so far has requested funding assistance to attend. The AC serving the Journey Church is requesting funding for two members of the Journey steering committee to attend as observers. It was moved and seconded to approve a total of \$1,500 to provide financial support assistance to the overture advocate(s) and two of people from the Journey steering committee to attend GA. **MOTION CARRIED.**

There was also much encouragement to plan a report of the GA Commissioners, YAAD and Staff following soon after the meeting of the General Assembly rather than waiting until the October Stated Meeting as the sole opportunity for a formal report.

5. **Synod Executives Meeting and the Stated Clerks of the Synod**—TE Clegg attended these meetings. Stated Clerks will be doing a reading of presbytery meeting minutes bi-annually.
6. **Session Meeting Minutes Reading**—Thirteen clerks attended. Another reading will be scheduled.

Interim General Presbyter – TE Rob Watkins

1. **Synod meeting-** TE Watkins attended this meeting and his assessment is that the Presbytery of Sacramento is one of the healthiest presbyteries in the Synod. He anticipates an “Apology” Overture—that would extend a formal apology to the LGBT community, to come before the GA. Divestiture of accounts with Israel continues to be a divisive issue. He would like to see a feedback mechanism from GA to report activities there, to be set up for our presbytery.
2. His visitation of the churches of the presbytery continues.
3. Administrative Commissions:
 - a. Burney—No new information.
 - b. Capital Korean, El Dorado Hills—The AC reports good progress.
 - c. Zion, Sacramento—Sacramento Presbytery still does not have access to the property. Yubang Lee met with the Korean people who are using the property and they refuse to provide keys. The Christian Community Credit Union states it does not have the authority to intervene as they believe it is the presbytery that administers the property. Earl Lavagnino is willing to have a conversation with the Credit Union, but has not received the go-ahead from Dexter McNamara, chair of the AC. It was moved and seconded to give authority to Earl Lavagnino to speak with the Christian Community Credit Union after being updated on the situation by TE McNamara. **MOTION CARRIED.**
 - d. Journey, Folsom—TE Jim Kitchens reporting. The congregation is holding regular worship services. The AC is still in the process of dismissing folks. There are fifty people who are members/regular attenders. The AC adopted a 9-month budget and they believe there is a giving pattern that will sustain the church. The Steering committee is meeting with the AC once a month; AC meeting twice a month. They have reinstated four previous members and a new member class of 3 is being held.
 - e. NWC—TE Ken Winter is introducing 3DM within the New Worshiping Communities. It was recommended that TE Watkins confer with TE Jeff Chapman (Faith) who is involved with this discipleship movement.

Moderator of Presbytery—TE Wes Nordman

No report

Budget and Finance—RE Maria Rodriguez reported for Loren Douglas.

1. Maria is training to be the chairperson for next year. She thanked Council for the privilege of attending the Board of Pensions meeting earlier this month.
2. GKI Fellowship property—With \$500,000 and 5 years invested in the Persimmon property and no significant progress, it is the recommendation of Budget and Finance to sell the property. B & F and Congregational Support propose that Council recommend to the presbytery the sale of property on Persimmon Avenue. MOTION CARRIED unanimously. This will be presented with the Budget & Finance report as a business item at the May 14 presbytery meeting.
3. Capitol Korean refinanced their Synod loans and approval of this will be placed on the consent agenda.

Committee on Ministry—RE Hazel Watson

A COM retreat was held and positive feedback was received from members. COM is reviewing how biennial visits are conducted. TE Watkins and RE Watson are working to develop a letter to go out to all churches to help them understand what and how biennial visits will be done for the near future. Three COM folks have been asked to participate in a visioning exercise whereby COM considers how it helps create community in the presbytery and if biennial visits are the way to do it. Walnut Grove had their MIF approved and are proceeding with searching for an interim TE. TE Dave Huusko renounced his membership in the PC(USA). TE Ted Shin is retiring.

Congregational Support—RE Karen Studevart

Triennium training will be held at Faith on April 23. A meeting with Trinity, West Sacramento and the Latino Ministry will be held to determine goals and expectations, communication methods in the ministry and how mentoring will be achieved. The next meeting of the Congregational Support Ministry Team will be April 19 with a representative from Journey Church AC attending. They are developing a grant proposal form for the River Valley Legacy Funds.

Mission Support—RE Mary Harbison-Sindle

Journey steering committee will attend their next meeting to learn what they are doing.

Pastoral Support—TE Pamela Anderson

The Preaching Pastors' Retreat speaker will be Kang Na from Westminster College, PA. The topic is "Looking at Old Texts with Fresh Eyes". Vouchers (6-\$30 vouchers) for spiritual direction are still available. Women clergy will be celebrating 60 years of PCUSA ordination of women this year. Teaching Elder lunches are still taking place. Sacramento Area Congregations Together (ACT) is an organization that (among other issues) addresses racial justice issues. It was suggested that an article be included in "Bridges" to let all know of this organization as well as include a flyer about ACT in the May presbytery packet.

CPM—TE Jim Kitchens

Roster of Candidates

- The Ministry Team is continuing relationship with three persons certified ready to receive a call.
- They will report to presbytery in May that they have certified Allie Wilson, a member of St. Andrew, Yuba City
- They are also working with four Inquirers, one of whom – Greg Rapier of Faith Presbyterian, Sacramento – will be presented for candidacy at the May presbytery meeting.

The committee is working to develop a new set of guidelines that would move us from a more regulatory process to one more focused on mutual discernment of call and readiness for ordination. When the new guidelines have been approved by the committee, they will be recommended to presbytery for its adoption.

The national CPM and Vocations offices both report that our current minister oversupply will flip to a minister undersupply in 10 or so years as more of the Boomer generation of pastors enter retirement.

COR—RE Judi Angell

COR meets on April 20. The Ministry Team continues its conversation with Nominating, providing recommendations about representation and developing revisions to the Manual of Operations about how they are to work together. We continue to get annual feedback about diversity (multi-cultural) nature of the church. The Indonesian health professional training plan is going well.

Nominating Committee—TE Keith DeVries

The committee is about done with filling vacancies. The Council was thanked for putting together an excellent nominating committee. The committee is looking at the overall structure of the presbytery and how it has *not* changed even though the presbytery size has changed and if revisions should be made. The committee continues to make appeals for Moderator-Elect. There was discussion about possible candidates.

Personnel— TE Jack McNary

The Personnel Committee reports all is going well.

Adjournment – RE Peg Vanderkar

The next Council meeting is June 8, 2016 at 10 a.m. It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting 12:55 p.m. MOTION CARRIED. TE Watkins closed in prayer with the laying on of hands with TE DeVries, representing the Nominating Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

TE Nancy Clegg
Stated Clerk

RE Claire Pisor
Recording Clerk