

Presbytery of Sacramento
Minutes of the Meeting of the Presbytery Council
January 18, 2017

	Name	Class	J	F	M	A	J	A	O	D
1	TE Pamela Anderson (VM, Trinity Cathedral) Moderator-Elect		E							
2	RE Bob Schultz (Davis) Moderator		P							
3	RE Sue Bennett (Davis) At Large	17	P							
4	TE Rick Hull (HR) Congregational Support	17	P							
5	TE Wes Nordman (Westminster) Chair of Council	17	P							
6	TE Ivan Herman (Carmichael) Mission Support	17	P							
7	TE Hayes Noble (St. Andrew) Pastoral Support	18	P							
8	RE Hazel Watson (Faith) Committee on Ministry	18	P							
9	RE Pat Stokes (Grace, Sac) At Large	18	P							
10	RE David Rue (Davis) At Large	19	P							
	Ex-officio									
	RE Maria Rodriguez (Faith) Budget and Finance	18	P							
	TE Jim Kitchens (At-Large) Committee on Preparation	18	P							
	TE Jack McNary (Northminster) Personnel	18	P							
	TE Keith DeVries (Carmichael) Nominating Committee	18	P							
	RE Judi Angell (El Dorado Fed) Committee on Representation	19	P							
	TE Robert Watkins Interim General Presbyter		P							
	TE Nancy Clegg Stated Clerk		P							
	RE Marie Segur (Carmichael) Treasurer									

Others Present: Claire Pisor, Recording Clerk; Earl Lavagnino, Accountant

Opening Prayer and Devotion

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Members introduced themselves. With prayer and devotion by Council Moderator TE Wes Nordman, the Council considered how the call from both John and Jesus of “Repent, the kingdom of heaven is near, ” might pertain to our awareness of God’s presence with us even now and for potential changes in ministry focus in the year ahead. Noting that changes in behavior are causative for changes in life, the members of Council identified some “best practices” that they would like to apply to their work together.

- Refrain from making decisions on the “day of” —provide documentation in advance of the meeting.
- Participate in more “vision” conversations than “reporting” conversations
- Apply devotional insights of the day and weave prayer into the business at hand
- Look to other Councils for new ideas
- Provide information ahead of time and consider more use of the consent agenda
- Practice the “Terms of Agreement” in the work of Council that Presbytery adopted
- Allow every voice to be heard
- Provide committee/ministry team reports in advance of the meetings and commit to reviewing them prior to the Council meeting

A quorum was declared present. Hearing no objections, **the agenda was approved.**

PRESBYTERY PLANNING— TE Nancy Clegg

Next Stated Presbytery Meeting – February 11, 2017 at Celtic Cross.

Items on the agenda at this point in time:

1. Presentation and vote on the proposed amendments from GA. Various formats for presentation and discussion were offered. The GA Commissioners have been invited to be a part of leading discussions as well as TE Kristen Saldine who was instrumental in developing the changes to the Directory of Worship. It was noted that the proposed amendments were distributed via the newsletter in January, via the Pre-call that went out earlier this month, that a summary of them will be included in the February newsletter and will be included in the Call to the meeting.
2. Worship: TEs Bob Yule and Grace Suwabe will be asked to lead worship with a request that it be in the afternoon with a variety of music options and styles included.
3. Council delegated the final planning to a smaller group including TE Watkins, RE Schultz, TE Anderson, TE Clegg, RE Watson and leadership from Celtic Cross. This meeting will be held on Friday, January 20, with a follow-up meeting that includes the parliamentarian.
4. Time on the agenda has been requested by PneuMatrix--20 minutes, Nominating—5 minutes, COR—5 minutes

Stated Clerk – TE Nancy Clegg

- **Approval of Minutes of Council**— It was moved and seconded to approve the Council minutes of December 14, 2016 with the following changes: Sue Bennett’s absence from December as excused, the ministry teams of Congregational Support and Committee on Representation as leads for the May Presbytery meeting, and the correct spelling of TE Alison Messick-Watkins’ name. MOTION CARRIED as corrected.
- **Stockton Presbytery**— The BOO requires a minimum of ten congregations to form a presbytery. Stockton presbytery is moving toward a more vulnerable place as so many churches have left, leaving them close to that number. Financial sustainability as a presbytery is also a risk factor. Synod is pressing Stockton for a plan of action. San Joaquin (with boundaries from South of Merced to Bakersfield) is eager to discuss merging as they are still dismissing churches and have similar concerns in spite of their (approximately) 20-congregation membership. A meeting is scheduled in Seattle on January 24-25, 2017 with Presbytery Executive Corey Schlosser-Hall and Northwest Coast Presbytery regarding presbytery realignment. TE Clegg

is going as well as representatives from the presbyteries of Stockton and San Joaquin. TE Clegg will report back to Council after the meeting. Council was asked to submit options that might be taken under advisement in light of potential changes. Considerations included:

- merging with Stockton presbytery, or some of its churches
- keeping all the presbyteries diverse (ethnicity, multi-cultural congregations, theology, disabilities, among other criteria) and keeping those voices in the conversation,
- hearing from the churches of the Stockton presbytery and their hope and vision for changes,
- navigating challenges administratively and relationally as a “super-regional Sacramento presbytery” that could potentially stretch from Stockton to Burney and if “clustering” would be a way to serve those more distant from the geographic center
- being aware that the timeline for approval of any change is (at the earliest) 2018 at the GA

It was decided that representatives from Congregational Support, COM, and others (Pat Stokes and Judi Angell) would discuss possible options for Sacramento Presbytery with TE Clegg, serving as an interim “Presbytery Realignment Team”. There will be a report back to Council in March on their ideas.

Stated Meetings Dates and Locations:

Saturday, May 13, 2017; Woodland

Thursday, September 14, 2017; TBD (possibly Shepherd of the Sierra, Loomis—with Carmichael as a back-up)

Thursday, November 9, 2017; Faith Presbyterian Church, Sacramento

Interim General Presbyter – TE Rob Watkins

Administrative Commissions:

New Worshiping Communities (ACNWC) –This AC is focusing anew on how they approach their work. Initially they focused on setting up the procedures for and starting the ACNWC. Now their work is evolving and there is need for adjustment about how ACNWC interfaces with the actual NWCs. Their next meeting in Feb. will include all leaders of NWCs. (See Congregational Support Ministry Group report for a motion to be considered for presentation to presbytery in February.)

Burney –Things are quiet. Member RE Bob Johnson is following up with them.

Capital Korean, El Dorado Hills –One of the major items of work at this time is their pastor search. Mission study is completed and a proto-session is in place. TE Yubang Lee remains as their Stated Supply through June.

Journey, Folsom –They are working on committee structure and setting up a proto-session. All is good, positive and hopeful.

Marysville—The AC members include TE Tom Tripp, TE Chris Kersting HR, RE Mike Ratto (Oroville). They are hoping to identify one more member: a female RE from Bidwell, Chico. Their task is to walk alongside the session as they decide what to do with their property. The trustees of the presbytery will be involved if they decide to sell.

Other updates – January 17 was the one-year anniversary of IGP Watkins serving with us. He is continuing to visit all the churches of the presbytery for worship and has four left: Oroville, Orland, Chico and Corning. He also needs to schedule Grace Community and GKI. He learned that the northern churches are economically strapped. Many of their industries of the past are no longer there and he saw how they are working to creatively accomplish ministry in spite of being cash-poor.

Moderator – RE Bob Schultz

Moderator Schultz is looking forward to leading the presbytery meetings and visiting churches through the region. He was thankful for serving as the Moderator for TE Paul Bagai’s installation as he witnessed the joy of a congregation that has been graced with the match of a wonderful pastor. He asked for prayers for his family as he attends to his responsibilities as Moderator.

Budget and Finance – RE Maria Rodriguez

With a \$70,000 deficit this year, fully 25% of budget, B & F is meeting in February and March to assess specifically how the deficit might be cut by 25% in each of the next four years. Going forward, they will request

a task force of expanded representation from Council ministry teams to be convened by April that will further address long-term budget limitations within the context of the presbytery's ministry vision. A blessing was lifted up for the work of this team.

Committee on Ministry – RE Hazel Watson

No report since there has not been a meeting since the last Council meeting. It was requested that RE Watson verify if it is time to schedule the "Professional Boundaries" training.

Congregational Support Ministry Group – TE Rick Hull

On behalf of the Administrative Commission for New Worshiping Communities of Sacramento Presbytery and the Congregational Support Ministry Team, it is moved that the Council request the Presbytery to dismiss the Administrative Commission with its thanks so that it can become an ongoing subcommittee of the Congregational Support Ministry Team, reporting to the Presbytery through the CSMT and maintaining authority over Presbytery's New Worshiping Community processes and funds. Discussion: Concern was raised over the authority for the expenditure of the funds as that authority was designated to the ACNWC. Only the chair of the AC currently has the authority to authorize expenditures. It was noted that that authority would not change; the new chair is RE David Williams. Another question was relative to how will members of the ACNWC would be selected as they are now by appointment of the Moderator, not by nomination by the Nominating Committee. **MOTION CARRIED.** Eventually the by-laws will need to incorporate this change in CSMT structure if presbytery approves this change.

The CSMT is focusing on equipping congregations for ministry in various worshiping communities. A subcommittee structure is being developed that will expand the number of persons involved with the ministry work.

Mission Support Ministry Group – TE Ivan Herman

This ministry group has 6 of its 7 members joining in the past year. Thanks were expressed to Mary Harbison-Sindle for her long tenure as the representative from Presbyterian Women. At this time, they will be evaluating the usual and customary activities for this ministry and moving to discern God's will and plan for the upcoming year.

Pastoral Support Ministry Group – TE Hayes Noble

This ministry is evaluating its vision as well. They intend to continue to promote the personal growth and health of our pastors in ministry. Major work has been done through the preaching pastors' conferences in the past, but Zephyr Point is going to take responsibility for those conferences—obtaining speakers and promoting it. Pastoral Support is going to communicate with pastors about what they need to be successful. Passport for Pastors luncheons will continue. The next one is Feb. 21 at Oz Korean BBQ. They will continue to provide spiritual direction vouchers for pastors. Other opportunities for fellowships and grants will be explored. It was suggested that the ministry let the Clerks of session know that the money is available for these various activities so that sessions can encourage pastors to use it.

Ex-Officio Reports

Committee on Preparation – TE Jim Kitchens

A training session for new members will be held in January. There are no new inquirers or candidates.

Committee on Representation – RE Judi Angell

Re: May Presbytery meeting—TE Christin Norman will be doing a multicultural worship service in an effort to demonstrate how congregations might help all cultures feel a greater inclusion in the worship services. RE Angell reminded Council that, although the COR definitions from the Book of Order traditionally includes the more historically underrepresented, it also includes the diversity of theology, geography and disability as well. She stated that "it is important that the person who lives the life, has a voice at the table".

Nominating Committee – TE Keith DeVries

No report—Jan 27 next meeting.

Personnel – TE Jack McNary

All job descriptions are updated. The 2-year contract with TE Watkins now has one year remaining and his status will be a topic of priority for the committee. Those who have input to offer the committee should forward it to TE McNary.

New Business:

2017 Council Meetings

Council is required to meet 6 weeks prior to each Stated Presbytery meeting, although last year Council augmented that with 2 additional meetings. The following dates were agreed upon for 2017 with meetings starting at 9:30 a.m.: March 29, August 2, September 27, as required dates, with the additional dates of May 31 and December 6.

Council Retreat

Canoeing the Mountains—will be the book for the basis of a retreat. Books will be purchased and provided to Council members at the February Presbytery meeting. The date for the retreat will be set at the next meeting.

“Extraordinary Vision”

The “top ideas” from the results of the “Extraordinary Vision” process conducted at the 2016 October Presbytery meeting were distributed. Council was asked to review these and consider how they might be implemented. Discussion of this will be on the agenda for the March 29 meeting.

Advance Reports

When the call for the next Council meeting goes out, Moderator Nordman requested that all ministry chairpersons “Reply to All” with minutes from their ministry groups and teams meetings attached so that Council can review them in advance. Should there be any motions for Council to consider, rationale for those motions should be included.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at noon with the singing of “Just As I Am” and prayer led by Moderator Nordman.

Respectfully submitted,

RE Claire Pisor	TE Nancy Clegg
Recording Clerk	Stated Clerk