

## MINUTES

Stated Meeting of Presbytery de Cristo  
April 23, 2016

### CALL TO ORDER

Presbytery de Cristo of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its April Stated Meeting at Papago United Presbyterian Church in Sells. Linda Freeman, Moderator, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with prayer.

Bob Schulz, Stated Clerk/Associate, reported that a quorum was present, consisting of eight Teaching Elder members and eight Ruling Elder members, with at least eight churches being represented by Ruling Elders. Commissioners attending for the first time and other guests were welcomed. One corresponding member was introduced and approved for enrollment by Presbytery for this meeting.

### ROLL

There were 11 Teaching Elder commissioners and 28 Ruling Elder commissioners, 4 Commissioned Ruling Elders and 3 Ruling Elder members of the Ministry for Leadership present, for a total of 46 voting members. There were 22 registered visitors.

### Corresponding Members Enrolled

Robin Thomas (Synod of SW)

### Churches/Ministers/Elder Commissioners

P=present/E=excused/A=absent; number after minister=occupational code; number before elder commissioner= # of commissioners for church

#### Benson, Community

A Jon Hermes (101) (2)

#### Bisbee, Covenant

A Carlos Montaña HR (101) (2)

#### Casa Grande, First

E Harry Cole (105) (2) Pete Vogel

P Bill Heinle (107)

#### Cliff, Trinity

E David Goble (101) (2)

#### Coolidge, Community

- John Johnson (101) (1)

#### Douglas, First

Vacant (2)

#### Florence, First

P John Johnson (101) (2) Denise Kolbert

#### Globe, First

E Bill Norton (101) (2)

#### Green Valley, Valley

E Lawrence DeLong (101) (3) George Curtis

P Diane Christopher (103) Eloise Fredrickson

E Paul Phillips (103)

#### Miami, Divine Grace

P Valerie De La Torre (797) (1) Barbara Kanagaard

#### Safford, Shepherd of the Valley

Vacant (1)

**San Manuel, Community**

A Jeff Dixon (101) (1)

**Sells, Papago United**

Vacant (3) Rechanda Chavez  
Diane Marks  
Louella Martinez

**Sierra Vista, Faith**

E Virginia Studer (101) (2) Dave Rockwell

**Silver City, First**

Vacant (2) Sherrie Lavelle  
Ruth McPherson

**Superior, Presbyterian Church of**

E Mary Jo Norton (107) (1)

**Tucson, Christ**

P Steve Melde (101) (2)  
P Steve Brownson (107)

**Tucson, Immanuel**

A John Tittle (101) (2) Peggy Free  
Gale Griffin

**Tucson, Korean**

A Sungmin Song (108) (2)

**Tucson, Mountain Shadows**

E Rachel Srubas (101) (2) Elizabeth Houle  
Jayne Raffety

**Tucson, Northminster**

E Andrew Ross (101) (4) Martha Allen  
E Mary Beth McSwain (108) Don Burig  
A Kenneth Skodiak (103) Marie Galloway  
E Pete Seiferth (103) Bonnie Thompson  
P John Cheek (103)

**Tucson, Southside**

E Alison Harrington (101) (3)

**Tucson, St. Andrew's**

A Jim Toole (101) (4) Jean McElrath  
A Mat Grover (105)  
Vacant

**Tucson, St. John on the Desert**

P Lesley Abrams (107) (2) Jan Kelm

**Tucson, St. Mark's**

E Bart Smith (101) (2) Mark Granato  
Jan McCoy

**Tucson, The Holy Way**

P Ray Thomas (101) (2) Dee Ellis  
P Elizabeth Smith (791) Sharon Groves

**Tucson, Tortolita**

P Jennifer Cummins (191) (2) Dennis Larson

**Tucson, Trinity**

A Jerry Foust (105) (2) Sheila Sievert  
A William Voigt (103) Alice Smedley

**Validated Outside a Congregation**

P	Mark Adams (405)	A	Alberto Cordova (751)
P	George Bitar (791)	A	David Fife (701)
P	Kenneth Brown (405)	P	Brad Munroe (304)
E	William Brown (644)		

**Member-At-Large**

A	Steven Akins (797)	A	Thomas Letts (797)
E	John Carr (797)	P	Robert Reese (797)
A	James Myungwon Chon (797)	A	Patricia Toole (797)
A	Stephanie Hamilton (797)	E	Brandon Wert (797)

**Honorably Retired**

E	Midhat Abraham (299)	E	James Hervey (299)
E	Lance Barker (299)	E	Edward Hunt (299)
E	Dorothy Buchanan-Barrow (299)	E	James Jenson (299)
E	William Buehler (299)	E	Young Youl Lee (299)
E	Don Chanslor (299)	E	Edmund Lowe (299)
E	Lerold Chase (299)	E	Elizabeth Lyman (299)
E	Walter Clark (299)	E	Robbin MacDonald (299)
E	James Cobb (299)	E	Della Moore (299)
E	John Davies (299)	E	Bill Pennock (299)
E	William Dean (299)	E	George Pike (299)
E	John Dunham (299)	E	Richard Rowley (299)
E	George Easley (299)	E	Lee Sankey (299)
E	William Evans (299)	E	Robert Seel (299)
E	John Fife (299)	E	Don Shepherd (299)
E	Gary Gard (299)	P	Michael Smith (299)
E	Tom Green (299)	E	Valerie St. John (299)
E	Jerrold Groves (299)	E	John Stevenson (299)
E	James Hargleroad (299)	E	Ralph Strong (299)
P	Roberta Hargleroad (299)	E	John Wall (299)
E	Mary Harris (299)	E	Carla Williams (299)
E	Joe Hawkins (299)	E	James Wilson (299)
E	Ralph Hensley (299)		

**Commissioned Ruling Elders**

P	Larry Biehl (107)
E	Laura Munroe (107)

**Leadership Commission Present**

Linda Freeman	Cheryl Larson	Bob Schulz
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**Staff Members Present**

Beth Kath	Carolyn McBurney
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**AGENDA**

Presbytery approved the agenda:

10:00 a.m.	Call to Order, Lighting of Peace Candle and Opening Prayer	Linda Freeman
10:05 a.m.	Welcoming First Time Commissioners, Teaching Elders, Guests Enrolling Corresponding Members Establishing a Quorum Approving the Docket Approving the Consent Agenda Approving the January 29-30, 2016 Presbytery Minutes Receiving New Business Welcome and Arrangements Sharing the Peace of Christ	Linda Freeman
10:30 a.m.	Worship and Celebration of the Lord’s Supper Commissioning of CRE Larry Biehl Commissioning of Youth Triennium participants	
11:30 a.m.	Focus on YAV Ministry	
11:45 a.m.	Commission on Ministry Report Receipt of Annual Salary Review Ordination Anniversaries	John Johnson
Noon	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	Presbytery Pastor Report & Small Group Discussion	Brad Munroe
2:00 p.m.	Amending Presbytery Manual of Operations Gracious Dismissal Policy	Bob Schulz
2:10 p.m.	Stated Clerk Report GA Commissioner Training Representation Committee Update	Bob Schulz
2:15 p.m.	Focus on YAV Ministry	
2:25 p.m.	Nominations Report	Peggy Free
2:35 p.m.	Café Justo Report	Mark Adams
2:50 p.m.	Adjourn with Prayer	Linda Freeman

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 29-30, 2016 Stated Annual Meeting were approved as presented, with several corrections to attendance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Presbytery approved the Consent Agenda as a record of actions taken on behalf of Presbytery de Cristo in accordance with the responsibilities granted to the various ministry teams/committees/commissions under the Bylaws and Manual of Operations of the Presbytery.

4/23/16 Consent Agenda

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## 1. Leadership Team Commission Report

### Actions taken at the January 27, 2016 meeting

Approved the revised Reconciliation with Member Churches Seeking Gracious Dismissal policy dated December 21, 2015.

Approved concurrence with an Overture by the Presbytery of Santa Fe to the 222<sup>nd</sup> GA regarding a merger of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly.

Approved concurrence with an Overture by the Presbytery of Santa Fe to the 222<sup>nd</sup> GA regarding rescinding Item 05-04, Mid council Report on the General Assembly and new configuration of Synod boundaries.

Nominated TE Bart Smith and TE Bill Voigt to serve on the Nominations Committee.

Approved an overture to the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, as approved by the Committee on Ministry, for recommendation to the Presbytery to clarify *Book of Order* G-2.1001 regarding utilization of CRE's to serve multiple churches, as commissioned.

Approved the Transformational Grant application from the Presbytery to GA, with the need to plan for the required matching local funding of \$3,000.

### Actions taken at the February 24, 2016 meeting

Approved the PILP loan application of Christ Presbyterian Church for \$250,000, pending approval by the Administration Committee, for renovations to the church's sanctuary, multipurpose building and roof.

Affirmed approval by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry for Inquirer Stephanie Quintana-Martinez to serve, as elected by McCormick Theological Seminary, as a TSAD at the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly.

Approved designation of the offering at the April 23, 2016 Presbytery meeting for those attending the Youth Triennium.

### Actions taken at the March 30, 2016 meeting

Approved the following Presbytery stated meeting dates for 2017, with locations to be determined:

January 27-28	Joint annual meeting with Grand Canyon
April 22	
August 12	Joint educational event with Grand Canyon
October 14	

4/23/16 Consent Agenda

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**2. Administration Committee Report**

**Action taken at the January 13, 2016 meeting**

Approved increase in 2016-17 COM budget line item from \$1,500 to \$2,000 to allow reimbursement for expenses involved with Triennial visits.

**Action taken at the February 26, 2016 meeting**

Concurred with Leadership Team Commission approval of Christ Presbyterian Church’s application for a PILP loan.

**3. Commission on Ministry Report**

**Actions taken at the November 12, 2015 meeting** (in addition to those reported 1/29/16)

**Johnson, John**

Approved revised terms of call for the Rev. John Johnson, as approved at an October 11, 2015 Congregational Meeting of First Presbyterian Church of Florence, wherein Rev. Johnson will serve as pastor to both First Florence and Community Presbyterian Church in Coolidge on a trial basis from October 2015 through April 2016, at which time the Florence Session will review the arrangement, with Rev. Jim Cobb to continue service as Moderator of the Coolidge Session. New monthly terms of call are as follows, with Community Coolidge to provide \$2,100/month payable to First Florence:

Salary	\$1,887.86	Pension/Medical	BOP dues as required
Housing Allowance	1,716.24	Fuel Allowance	\$200

**Supervision for CREs**

Concurred with the following recommendations made by Stated Clerk Bob Schulz for remedial action in response to a letter claiming irregularity and delinquency regarding the CRE commissions of Laura Munroe and Larry Biehl, in accordance with the *Book of Order*, Presbytery de Cristo Bylaws and Manual of Administration, and the COM Handbook and policies, in order to provide for supervision of Presbytery de Cristo CREs:

1. Each CRE with multiple assignments for “limited pastoral service,” must complete a quarterly summary of services provided, in the form of a spreadsheet to be provided by the Stated Clerk. These quarterly reports will begin documentation on January 1, 2016. Copies of the reports will be provided to COM and will be filed by the Stated Clerk.
2. Annual evaluations, as required in the *Book of Order*, shall be conducted at the beginning of each year for all CREs in the Presbytery. Copies of the evaluations will be provided to COM and will be filed by the Stated Clerk.
3. Reports and evaluations listed above shall be used to evaluate the ability to re-commission CREs for continued service at the conclusion of a three-year term.

4/23/16 Consent Agenda

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**First Silver City**

Authorized First Presbyterian Church of Silver City to elect a PNC, or to elect the Session to serve as the PNC, to seek a part-time pastor with duties to include 5-8 working days per month, 1-2 Sundays preaching per month, pastoral visits, housing or travel allowance, and monthly stipend.

**The Holy Way Parish Associate**

Rescinded the motion approved at the October 1, 2015 COM meeting defining the new Holy Way position as “Temporary Associate Pastor.”

Approved a new position at The Holy Way Presbyterian Church to be defined as “Parish Associate” for part-time service by a Teaching Elder under supervision of the Session for a six-month trial period beginning October 1, 2015, for various pastoral duties for ten hours per week at \$23 per hour.

**Actions taken at the February 11, 2016 meeting**

**Song, Sungmin**

Approved allowing the Rev. Sungmin Song (Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea) to serve within the bounds of Presbytery de Cristo as Temporary Stated Supply Pastor at the Korean Presbyterian Church of Tucson, effective January 17, 2016, with the approval to be reviewed after one year.

**Papago United**

Approved Ruling Elder Larry Biehl to moderate the annual Congregational Meeting at Papago United Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 6, 2016, and to preside over the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper on March 6 and April 3, 2016.

**First Silver City**

Approved Ruling Elder Dave Rockwell to moderate the annual Congregational Meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Silver City on Sunday, February 14, 2016.

Approved Ruling Elders Ruth McPherson, Beth Spann and Anne Sherrell to moderate meetings of the Session and/or preside over the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper at First Presbyterian Church in Silver City through June 30, 2016.

**Actions taken at the March 10, 2016 meeting**

**Song, Sungmin**

Approved the membership of the Rev. Sungmin Song in Presbytery de Cristo, contingent upon receipt of: 1) a letter from Rev. Song requesting membership and 2) a signed affidavit from him renouncing his membership in The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) so that he may be enrolled as a Teaching Elder in the PC(USA).

**First Casa Grande**

Acknowledged receipt of the mission study conducted by the First Presbyterian Church in Casa Grande and approved their formation of a PNC.

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**COM Liaison**

Approved TE Elizabeth Lyman as the coordinator of COM liaisons for At-Large members and those in Validated ministries within Presbytery de Cristo, either serving as liaison herself or communicating with others serving as COM liaison to any of these members.

**Actions taken at the April 7, 2016 meeting**

**Song, Sungmin**

Approved the proposed Temporary Stated Supply Pastor Agreement between the Rev. Sungmin Song and Korean Presbyterian Church of Tucson, on a part-time (20 hour/week) basis, for a period of one year effective January 17, 2016, subject to 30 days notice for termination, on the following terms, pending Rev. Song signing the agreement:

Salary	\$12,000	Vacation	Four weeks per policy
Housing Allowance	12,000	Study Leave	Two weeks

**Johnson, John**

Approved the proposed terms of call for the Rev. John Johnson wherein he will serve as Pastor to both First Presbyterian Church in Florence and Community Presbyterian Church in Coolidge effective May 1, 2016, dependent upon ratification by both congregations, on the following terms, with Community Coolidge to provide \$2,100/month payable to First Florence:

Salary	\$22,655	Pension/Medical	BOP dues as required
Housing Allowance	20,595	Fuel Allowance	\$200

**Cheek, John**

Approved the proposed Temporary Pastor Agreement between the Rev. John Cheek and First Presbyterian Church in Silver City, on a part-time basis (5-8 days/month) effective May 1 through December 31, 2016, and then extendable through April 30, 2017, subject to 60 days notice for termination, on the following terms, pending approval by the congregation:

Stipend	\$150/day	Housing/Mileage Allowance	\$555.55/month
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**Northminster Presbyterian Church**

Approved the report of the Triennial Visit with the pastors and Session of Northminster Presbyterian Church.

**4. Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report**

**Action taken at the March 10, 2016 meeting**

Approved Josefina Ahumada as an applicant to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE).



4/23/16 Consent Agenda

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**Action taken at the April 7, 2016 meeting**

Approved offering a stipend of \$400 to a Candidate under care to help defray the expense of traveling to Tucson for the final assessment of readiness for ordination, pending a call.

**5. Stated Clerk Report**

**REPORT ON REVIEW OF SESSION RECORDS**

The following Session records for 2015 were reviewed and approved:

January 29, 2016

Divine Grace

First Casa Grande

Immanuel

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**WELCOME**

Diane Marks welcomed Presbytery to Papago United Presbyterian Church. The meeting and worship were held in the outdoor pavilion behind the church.

**WORSHIP**

The Rev. Elizabeth Smith delivered the sermon based on Acts 8:25-38. The Revs. Elizabeth Smith and Brad Munroe presided over the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Special music was provided by the Papago United choir. The offering collected during the worship service, totaling \$474.46, was dedicated to Youth Triennium. The Cents-ability collection, a program of the Presbyterian Hunger Ministry, took place at lunch and totaled \$74.20.

Presbyterian Youth Triennium high school participants traveling to the event at Purdue from July 19-23, along with their chaperone, Steve Melde, were commissioned during the worship service:

Nicholas Budwine  
Taylor Carloss  
Harmany Carranza  
Megan Carr-Studer  
Conner Cech  
Leslie Courville  
Gordon Custis  
Sasha Enriquez

Emilee Erickson  
Dean Friskey  
Amaris Gomez-Olaje  
Aiden Hamilton  
Marilyn Johnston  
Leah McAdams  
Mary Ruiz  
Monica Russell

Kristen Samoy  
Dejada Sanchez  
Eloise Standifer  
Genevieve Standifer  
Jesse Tellez  
Anthony Wyatt

**COMMISSIONING OF LARRY BIEHL**

Ruling Elder Larry Biehl was commissioned as a Commissioned Ruling Elder by the Presbytery during the worship service. His commission was to be on call to serve at the request of a named congregation or its Teaching Elder, made directly or through COM, and subsequently reported by Larry to COM, to

moderate a session or congregational meeting and/or administer the sacraments at the following churches: Community Presbyterian Church, Benson; Covenant Presbyterian Church, Bisbee; Trinity Presbyterian Church, Cliff; Community Presbyterian Church, Coolidge; First Presbyterian Church, Douglas; First Presbyterian Church, Florence; First Presbyterian Church, Globe; Divine Grace Presbyterian Church, Miami; Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church, Safford; Community Presbyterian Church, San Manuel; Papago United Presbyterian Church, Sells; First Presbyterian Church, Silver City; Presbyterian Church, Superior; Korean Presbyterian Church, Tucson; and Tortolita Presbyterian Church, Tucson, with appropriate compensation to be paid by each church.

The commission was to be for one year, effective April 23, 2015, and was renewable. Moderator Linda Freeman led a commissioning prayer and gave the charge to Larry and the Triennium participants.

**FOCUS ON YAV MINISTRY**

Alison Wood, Tucson Borderlands Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Site Coordinator, introduced the three 2016 YAV volunteers pursuing various areas of mission work in Agua Prieta, Mexico. Chris Madison was working with the Frontera de Cristo migrant resource center; Melissa Navarrete Ocampo with the children’s program at a community center; and Jake Crowther with CRREDA, a drug and alcohol rehab center. All three had appreciated their volunteer year while they discerned what future vocational pathway to follow.

**COMMISSION ON MINISTRY REPORT**

John Johnson noted that the Annual Salary Review for Teaching Elders for 2015/2016 was distributed with the call materials for the meeting.

John recognized the following Teaching Elders celebrating ordination anniversaries in 2016:

<u>5 Years</u> Stephanie Hamilton	<u>25 Years</u> William Brown Alejandro Hernandez Virginia Studer	<u>50 Years</u> Lee Sankey Michael Smith	<u>65 Years</u> John Davies
<u>10 Years</u> Allison Harrington Brandon Wert	<u>45 Years</u> Harry Cole	<u>55 Years</u> Ralph Hensley James Hervey	
<u>20 Years</u> Jeff Dixon			

**PRESBYTERY PASTOR REPORT**

Brad Munroe reported that GA had approved the Transformational Grant to be designated for congregational renewal and training for both Teaching and Ruling Elders. Speakers and workshop sessions were being planned to be held in conjunction with Presbytery meetings.

Brad reported that the Presbytery had a budget deficit in 2015 and was facing the same for 2016 and beyond, with little left in reserves to cover deficits. Among the topics under consideration by the Budget Task Force was whether to continue the shared staff plan with the Presbytery of Grand Canyon after the end of the original four-year agreement ending in 2017.

### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

In light of increasingly serious budget restraints, presbyters were asked to form into small groups for discussion of questions aimed at prioritizing the essential core work of the Presbytery. The groups reported back on their discussions. In addition, each person was asked to fill out an individual response and those were to be tallied and categorized for use in developing a revised budget going forward.

### **APPROVAL OF GRACIOUS DISMISSAL POLICY**

Bob Schulz had provided, with the meeting call materials, a copy of the recommended policy indicating where changes were made to the existing Gracious Dismissal policy, as requested at the January 29-30, 2016 Presbytery meeting. It was noted that the revised policy seemed less relational and more authoritative. Bob agreed, explaining that the process of dismissing a church required a greater level of detail and adherence to *Book of Order* requirements. The revised policy had been reviewed by PC(USA) Constitutional Services.

A three-quarters vote was required for the policy to become part of our Manual of Operations. There was a voice vote which was not definitive. This was followed by a show of hands and the following was approved:

**MOTION:** To approve the Presbytery de Cristo Policy of Commitment To Pursuing Reconciliation with Member Churches Seeking Gracious Dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), effective April 23, 2016.

It was noted that the Policy contained incorrect references to some committees and/or commissions and the following was approved:

**MOTION:** To authorize Stated Clerk Bob Schulz to modify the names of various committees and commissions within the Policy to correspond to those used in the Presbytery's Bylaws and Manual of Operations approved on January 30, 2016.

### **STATED CLERK REPORT**

Bob Schulz reported that several sessions had been held by the Synod to train 2016 GA commissioners. Topics included how the General Assembly works and a review of the overtures and other plenary business to be presented. Bob noted that the Committee on Representation continued its work to monitor the makeup of our committees and commissions.

Bob also reported that the Board of Pensions was revising its benefits structure, with new health insurance options offered for lay staff and costs adjusted by geographic area. Details were to be forwarded to churches on how to set up their specific insurance options. Coverage for pastors was not changing.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Peggy Free presented nominations. There being no nominations from the floor, the following were approved:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Leadership Commission</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>COM</u>
2018	Carol Peeler (Valley)	2018	George Pike (HR)
<u>Class</u>	<u>CPM</u>	<u>Middle Eastern Fellowship</u>	
2018	Ruth Aikens (Faith)	Candy Nelson	
		Jim Nelson	

**CAFÉ JUSTO REPORT**

Mark Adams reported that 22 congregations had partnered with Café Justo, a grower-owned coffee cooperative in Chiapas, Mexico. The new roasting facility in Agua Prieta had processed more than 47,000 lbs. of coffee since opening in March 2016. The Café Justo ministry had generated more than \$400,000 in the past four years, providing much needed jobs and income to individuals and their local families.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Papago United congregation was thanked for its hospitality. The motion was made to adjourn and the meeting was closed in prayer at 2:45 p.m. The next Stated Meeting of Presbytery de Cristo was scheduled for August 20 2016, at Northminster Presbyterian Church as a joint educational event with the Presbytery of Grand Canyon.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 23, 2016 Stated Meeting of Presbytery de Cristo were approved by the Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on August 20, 2016.

S/Robert S. Schulz  
Robert S. Schulz, Stated Clerk/Associate

August 20, 2016  
Date