

## MINUTES

Stated Meeting of Presbytery de Cristo  
January 25-26, 2019

### CALL TO ORDER

Presbytery de Cristo of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its Stated Annual Meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Mesa. This was a joint meeting with the Presbytery of Grand Canyon. Moderators Liz Lopshire-Kading, de Cristo, and Judy Wellington, Grand Canyon, opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. with the lighting of the Peace Candle and prayer.

There was a time to recognize the indigenous people of the Mesa area. Commissioners attending for the first time and other guests were welcomed. Corresponding members were approved for enrollment by the Presbytery for this meeting.

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

### ROLL

There were 17 Teaching Elders, 27 Ruling Elder commissioners, 4 Commissioned Ruling Elders, 4 Ruling Elder members of the Leadership Commission and 5 Ruling Elder ministry moderators present, for a total of 57 voting members. There were 5 registered visitors.

#### Corresponding Members Enrolled

Clayton Cobb (The Pacific)	Robert Leivers (Pueblo)
Pamela Fischer (Donegal)	Conrad Rocha (Synod of the Southwest)
Maggie Harmon (Presbyterian Foundation)	

#### Teaching Elders Present – 17

Adams, Mark	Elgin, Paul	Norton, Bill	Ver Berg, Sara
Brown, William	Harrington, Alison	Sigmon, Mack	Voigt, William
Cheek, John	Letts, Thomas	Sigmon, Amy	
de la Torre, Valerie	Melde, Steven	Smith, Elizabeth	
Dunham, John	Munroe, Bradley	Srubas, Rachel	

#### Teaching Elders Excused

Brown, Kenneth	Cole, Harry	Thomas, Ray
Christopher, Diane	Hamilton, Stephanie	

#### Churches/Ruling Elder Commissioners Present – 27

Christ - Laura Cech, Linda Tillema	Northminster - Don Burig, Paul Gavitt, Bonnie Thompson
Community Benson - Liz Lopshire-Kading	Papago United - Rochanda Chavez
Faith - Fred Conelly, Sonja Vander Meulen	Southside - Josefina Ahumada, Douglas Larson
First Casa Grande - Larry Pazier, Pete Vogel	St. Mark's - Catherine Levey, Jan McCoy
First Globe - Linda Cloud	Superior - Richard Hing
First Silver City - Ruth Mc Pherson	Trinity - Leone Mahoney, Alice Smedley
Immanuel - Gail Griffin, Carol Scherr, Ann Thornes	Valley - Judy Aguayo, Carol Peeler
Mountain Shadows - Cassie Fraley, Jeff States	

**Commissioned Ruling Elders Present – 4**

Heinle, Bill                                      Munroe, Laura                                      Norton, Mary Jo                                      Russell, Monica

**RE Leadership Commission Present – 4**

Cheryl Larson                                      Jim Nelson                                      Bob Schulz                                      Bill Winters

**RE Committee/Commission Moderators Present – 5**

Russ Amling (Nominating)                                      Janet Rowe (Administration)  
Bill Heinle (Preparation for Ministry)                                      Lori Woods (COM)  
Cheryl Larson (Mission)

**Staff Members Present**

Sue Houser                                      Beth Kath

**AGENDA**

Presbytery approved the agenda. The Rules of Decorum and Debate and Procedures for Voting were posted with the call materials for the meeting.

**COMMISSION REPORTS**

Presbytery received the Commission Reports as a record of actions taken on behalf of Presbytery de Cristo in accordance with the responsibilities granted to our commissions under the Bylaws and Manual of Operations:

1/25-26/19 Commission Reports

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**1. Leadership Team Report**

**Actions taken at the October 24, 2018 meeting**

Identified five items regarding decorum at Presbytery meetings:

1. Reports will not be allowed to be handed out unless they have been approved by the appropriate commission/committee and made available to all commissioners with the meeting call materials.
2. A second microphone, in addition to the lectern microphone, will be made available to moderators of committees/commissions and Administrative Commissions for presentation of sensitive issues which might be brought forth.
3. Gender dynamics with respect to presentations need to be considered by Presbytery attendees and awareness efforts and/or sensitivity training will be forthcoming.
4. For sensitive issues, have the capability to change printed motions and proposed changes via the computer projection presentation.
5. A real time rehearsal of anticipated decorum issues at the meeting will be held with the Moderator to be prepared for “what if” situations that can occur with confrontational issues.

Approved establishing a Standing Action (motion) on the Leadership agenda for determining a designee for the offering at the next Presbytery meeting worship service.

Approved designating the offering at the January 25-26, 2019 annual meeting to Triennium.

Approved extension of the service of Denny Honodel (de Cristo) and Paul Rooker (Grand Canyon) through 2020 on the Combined Finance Team to provide continuity as major decisions are being made.

1/25-26/19 Commission Reports

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## **2. Commission on Ministry Report**

### **Action taken at the October 11, 2018 meeting**

#### **Valley Presbyterian Church**

Approved the mission statement prepared by Valley Presbyterian Church dated March 18, 2018 and approved the request of the Session of Valley Presbyterian Church to form a PNC for the purpose of calling a new Pastor.

### **Actions taken at the November 1, 2018 meeting**

#### **Cheek, John**

Approved renewal of the Temporary Pastor Agreement between the Rev. John Cheek (HR) and First Presbyterian Church of Silver City, on a part-time basis (10-13 days/month), for a period of one year effective January 1, 2019, subject to 30 days notice for termination, on the following terms:

Salary	\$150/day
Housing Allowance	555.55/month

#### **Community Presbyterian Church Benson**

Authorized Ruling Elder Monica Russell to moderate Session and administer the Sacraments at Community Presbyterian Church in Benson until a part-time pastor has been called.

Authorized the formation of a 3-person ad hoc committee (Lori Woods, Bill Ricker, Brad Munroe) to review and approve on behalf of COM a contract to be developed by the Temporary Pastor Committee of Community Presbyterian Church in Benson, with part-time terms to take into consideration the Presbytery's minimum salary.

#### **Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church**

Ratified the approval of RE Glen Snider to serve as moderator of the Shepherd of the Valley Session for actions taken in service of dissolving the congregation and facilitating the transfer of property to True Hope Fellowship in accordance with (a) the actions taken at the October 20, 2018 stated meeting of Presbytery de Cristo, (b) the requirements of the Title company, and (c) all legal statues of the State of Arizona and the Arizona Corporation Commission.

#### **Minimum Teaching Elder salary review**

Approved requesting the Administration Committee to research our current minimum salary for Teaching Elders of \$42,500, with consideration of the cost of living in our area but also recognizing the challenge our small congregations have in meeting the current minimum.

### **Actions taken at the December 6, 2018 meeting**

#### **Soule-Hill, Jennifer**

Approved the transfer of membership of the Rev. Jennifer Soule-Hill as a Member At-Large from the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks to Presbytery de Cristo, effective December 6, 2018.

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**Ahumada, Josefina**

Approved RE Josefina Ahumada as ready for commissioning, as recommended by CPM, with a service of commissioning to take place during the worship service at the January 25-26, 2019 Presbytery meeting for a commission to be determined.

**Russell, Monica**

Approved RE Monica Russell as ready for commissioning, as recommended by CPM, with a service of commissioning to take place during the worship service at the January 25-26, 2019 Presbytery meeting.

Approved the Temporary Pastor Agreement between RE Monica Russell and Community Presbyterian Church in Benson, on a one-third time basis, for a period of one year effective January 1, 2019, subject to 30 days notice for termination, on the following terms:

Salary	\$14,170	Vacation	Four weeks
Travel Allowance	.545/mile	Study Leave	Two weeks
Lodging Reimbursement	as required		

**Cole, Harry**

Approved the transfer of the Rev. Harry Cole from Presbytery de Cristo to the Presbytery of Grand Canyon effective October 1, 2018, with the understanding that he may continue as a member of the de Cristo Committee on Ministry during the time he spends as an Interim Pastor in Grand Canyon.

**Minimum Effective Salary**

Approved a minimum effective salary for Teaching Elders in Presbytery de Cristo of \$52,000: 1) effective January 1, 2019 for new calls and initial agreements beginning in 2019, and 2) effective January 1, 2020 for salary terms existing prior to December 31, 2018, with a church able to request an exception through COM if it is unable to meet the \$52,000 minimum effective salary.

**3. Stated Clerk Report**

**DISSOLUTION OF SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

In accordance with actions taken by Presbytery de Cristo on October 13, 2018 and the completion of details outlined during that meeting, a letter dated December 19, 2018 was sent by Stated Clerk Robert Schulz to the Shepherd of the Valley Clerk of Session affirming that Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church in Safford, Arizona was dissolved, resulting in the church being removed from the rolls of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Presbytery de Cristo, effective December 19, 2018.

**REPORT ON REVIEW OF SESSION RECORDS**

In addition to those previously reported, the following Session records for 2016 and/or 2017 were reviewed and approved:

October 23, 2018

First Silver City	Superior
Mountain Shadows	Tortolita
St. John on the Desert	Valley
St. Mark's	

January 12, 2019

Faith

1/25-26/19 Commission Reports

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**ANNUAL REPORT OF FINANCIAL REVIEW**

As required by the *Book of Order* (G-3.0113) it is noted the Administration Committee of Presbytery de Cristo received a report on the internal audit for the fiscal year 2017 (February 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018) on January 10, 2019. A copy of the financial review is available for review in the Presbytery office.

**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 our ministry committees under the Bylaws and Manual of Operations:

1/25-26/19 Consent Agenda

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**1. Administration Committee Report**

**Actions taken at the November 1, 2018 meeting**

Received a risk assessment report prepared by John Dunham for 14 churches in the Presbytery under his care for risk.

Approved for inclusion in the Administration Policies the following: If a church secures a PILP loan (or any loan) and it is determined the church's name is not on the deed, then the Presbytery will take action to have the church's name added to the deed at the time the loan documents are being prepared and executed.

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

**Action taken at the November 1, 2018 meeting**

Approved RE Josefina Ahumada of Southside Presbyterian Church as prepared to be commissioned by our Presbytery as a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE), pending receipt of an acceptable psychological evaluation, and approved referring Josefina to the Commission on Ministry for their consideration when the appropriate pastoral setting is available.

**3. Mission Committee Report**

**Action taken at the November 15, 2018 meeting**

Approved engaging Clyde Parks, an engineer in Grand Canyon Presbytery, and Doug Seavers, an architect at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Presbytery de Cristo, as possible experts to assist Papago United Presbyterian Church with a plan to repair their roof.

**APPROVAL OF PRESBYTERY MINUTES**

The minutes of the October 13, 2018 Stated Meeting were approved as presented.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**GREETING**

The Rev. Ann Conklin, Pastor, welcomed Presbytery to First Presbyterian Church.

**ELECTION OF MODERATOR-ELECT**

The following was approved:

**MOTION:** To elect RE Josephina Ahumada to serve as Moderator-Elect of Presbytery de Cristo for 2019.

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Russ Amling presented nominations. There being no nominations from the floor, the following were approved:

<u>Leadership Team Commission</u>	<u>Commission on Preparation for Ministry</u>
2021 RE Andres Molina (Papago United)	2021 TE Mat Glover (St. Andrew's)
	2021 RE Mark Horton (Valley)
<u>Commission on Ministry</u>	2021 RE Greg Lantz (St. Andrew's)
2021 RE Carol Peeler (Valley)	
	<u>Mission Committee</u>
<u>Permanent Judicial Commission</u>	2021 TE John Cheek (Silver City)
2024 RE Liz Wallendorf (Immanuel)	2021 RE John Deering (St. John on the Desert)

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION**

The Presbytery meeting was recessed and the Annual Meeting of the Corporation was called to order. The following was approved:

**MOTION:** To elect the 2019 Presbytery de Cristo corporation officers:

President	Jim Nelson
Vice President	Josephina Ahumada
Treasurer	Bill Winters
Secretary	Robert Schulz

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation was adjourned.

**ADMINISTERING ALTERNATE ORDINATION EXAM**

As requested by the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, the following was approved:

**MOTION:** To authorize the Commission on Preparation for Ministry to administer an alternate Polity ordination exam for Chris Woodard, a Candidate in the Presbytery of Grand Canyon.

**OPEN SPACE GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

There was an hour before dinner devoted to group discussion on a selection of topics:

Digging into the Data: Using the Insite Database	Tom Letts
Insuring Your Property, Workers and Activities	Marc Gerardis
Estate Planning 101	Maggie Harmon
Contemplative Prayer and Ministry	Rachel Srubas
Latest Opportunities from the Board of Pensions	Clayton Cobb
Engaging Faith and Politics Using Health/Wholeness Tools	Brad Munroe/Jen Fraser

**IGNITE THE SPARK REVIEW**

The Rev. Bill Brown, a member of Presbytery de Cristo, spoke about the connection between our theology of wonder and the work of discernment for ministry.

**COMBINED STAFFING PLAN**

Brad Munroe explained that the Combined Finance and Combined Personnel committees for our Presbytery and the Presbytery of Grand Canyon were reviewing the possibility of continuing our combined staff plan into 2020 and beyond. The staff was tracking their hours over a three-month time period to assess where their time was being spent between the two presbyteries.

**VOTING ON AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Consideration was given to the amendments passed by the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in June 2018. Seven amendments were pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion. The following were approved via the Consent Agenda with a count of hands vote of 32 for and 0 against:

**MOTION:** To approve the following amendments from the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly:

**Form of Government**

- G-3.0306      18-D      Membership of Presbytery
- G-3.0307      18-E      Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to Its Pastors & Congregations

**Directory for Worship**

- W-4.0202      18-F      Welcoming to the Table

There was consideration of each of the remaining amendments, with time for comments pro and con. Votes were taken via a count of hands. The vote on Item 18-A was 29 for disapproval and 4 against. A vote on Items 18-B-1 and 18-B-2 was taken together, with 34 for disapproval and 0 against. The vote on 18-C was 33 for disapproval and 0 against. The vote on 18-G was 27 for disapproval and 5 against. A vote on Items 18-H-1 and 18-H-2 was taken together, with 17 for disapproval and 13 against. The following were approved:

**MOTION:** To disapprove the following amendment from the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly:

**Form of Government**

- G-2.0401      18-A      Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons

**MOTION:** To disapprove the following amendments from the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly:

**Form of Government**

- G-2.0509      18-B-1      Renunciation of Jurisdiction

**Rules of Discipline**

- D-10.0401d      18-B-2      Renunciation of Jurisdiction

**MOTION:** To disapprove the following amendment from the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly:

**Form of Government**

- G-3.0104      18-C      Officers

**MOTION:** To disapprove the following amendment from the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly:

**Rules of Discipline**

D-2.0203b 18-G Disciplinary Offense

**MOTION:** To disapprove the following amendments from the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly:

**Rules of Discipline**

D-10.0401b 18-H-1 Time Limit

D-10.0401c(1) 18-H-2 Time Limit

**RECONVENE**

The meeting was reconvened in prayer by Moderator Liz Lopshire-Kading on Saturday at 8:50 a.m.

**WORSHIP**

The Rev. William Brown delivered the sermon based on 1 Corinthians 4:1-2. The Revs. William Brown and Ann Conklin presided over the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Special music was provided by First Mesa musicians. The offering collected during the worship service was dedicated to Youth Triennium and totaled \$1,229, split between the two presbyteries. Church 2019 Mission Pledge forms were submitted.

**NECROLOGY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018**

<b>Teaching Elders</b>	none			
<b>Ruling Elders</b>	Casa Grande	First	William Isom	Helen Wheeler
	Coolidge	Community	Robert Goree	
	Green Valley	Valley	Al Ackerman Carol Rude	Fred Collins
	Miami	Divine Grace	Ashley Sanchez	Jason Sanchez
	Silver City	First	Lynnita DeJarnett	
	Tucson	Immanuel	Lyda Langeberg	
	Tucson	Mountain Shadows	Mike Munro	
	Tucson	Northminster	Sam Adkins Paul Carey	Nancy Bingham Evelyn Summers
	Tucson	St. Andrew’s	Bobby Black Ruth Tyree	Barbara Gross
	Tucson	St. John on the Desert	Patricia Greene	
	Tucson	St. Mark’s	Charles Roske	
	Tucson	Tortolita	Margaret Snyder	
	Tucson	Trinity	Robert Bechtel Jane Parker Ron Uhle	Shirley Letson Shirley Jo Taylor

**INSTALLATION OF PRESBYTERY MODERATORS**

The Moderators for 2019 were installed during the worship service, RE Jim Nelson for de Cristo and RE Carol Gerlach for Grand Canyon. They were presented with the symbols of their office by Liz Lopshire-Kading and Judy Wellington.



**COMMISSIONING OF CREs**

Josephina Ahumada and Monica Russell were commissioned as Commissioned Ruling Elders to serve congregations within the Presbytery.

**IGNITE THE SPARK REVIEW**

The Rev. Tom Letts, a member of Presbytery de Cristo, spoke about using the Insight database available to the Presbytery as a demographics tool for our churches to define ministry targets.

**RECOGNITION OF 2018 MODERATORS**

The 2018 Presbytery Moderators, Liz Lopshire-Kading for de Cristo and Judy Wellington for Grand Canyon, were recognized and thanked for their service.

**STATED CLERK REPORT**

Bob Schulz noted the imbalance computation had been completed. A list with the number of church Ruling Elder commissioners for April 2019 through January 2020 had been posted with the meeting materials.

**MONTLURE ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING**

There was an approved motion to recess the Presbytery meeting and convene the annual corporate meeting of Montlure Presbyterian Properties, Inc. Commissioners from both presbyteries were included in the meeting. It was clarified that the Montlure Council made most decisions on behalf of Montlure but served under the direction of the two presbyteries. Kent Simon and Kellie von Borstel gave an update on the camp and plans for the summer. The following was approved, after which the meeting was closed in prayer:

**MOTION:** To elect the 2019 Montlure Presbyterian Properties, Inc. corporate officers:

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| President      | Brad Munroe   |
| Vice President | Mike Nieto    |
| Vice President | Jim Nelson    |
| Secretary      | Robert Schulz |

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the First Mesa congregation was thanked for its hospitality. The motion was made to adjourn and the meeting was closed in prayer at 11:55 a.m. The next Stated Meeting of Presbytery was scheduled for April 6, 2019, at Valley Presbyterian Church in Green Valley.

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Robert Schulz, Stated Clerk/Associate

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Date