

## MINUTES

Stated Meeting of Presbytery de Cristo  
October 21, 2017

### CALL TO ORDER

Presbytery de Cristo of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its October Stated Meeting at Valley Presbyterian Church in Green Valley. Bill Voigt, Moderator, opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with prayer and the lighting of the Peace Candle.

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.

### ROLL

There were 22 Teaching Elder commissioners and 28 Ruling Elder commissioners, 3 Commissioned Ruling Elders, 5 Ruling Elder members of the Ministry for Leadership and Ruling Elder ministry moderators present, for a total of 58 voting members. There were 8 registered visitors.

#### Teaching Elders Present – 22

Adams, Mark	Lyman, Elizabeth	Shepherd, Don	Thomas, Raymond
Christopher, Diane	McComb, Andrew	Sigmon, Mack	Tittle, John
Cole, Harry	Medina, Mark	Smith, Bart	Ver Berg, Sara
Cummins, Jennifer	Munroe, Bradley	Smith, Elizabeth	Voigt, William
Dunham, John	Norton, Bill	Smith, Michael	
Elgin, Paul	Reese, Robert	Song, Sung Min	

#### Churches/Ruling Elder Commissioners Present – 28

Christ - Dolly Thompson, Linda Tillema	St. Andrew's - Kevin Oxnam
Community Benson - Liz Lopshire-Kading	St. John on the Desert – Mark Hopkins, Peter Mike
Faith - Dee Whitley, Fred Whitley	St. Mark's - Joeine Green, Sarah McKasson
First Casa Grande - Pete Vogel	Southside - Josefina Ahumada, Lisa Anderson
First Globe - Keith Gustafson	Superior - Richard Hing
First Silver City - Ruth McPherson, Anne Sherrell	The Holy Way - Dee Ellis, Gerry Pearson
Immanuel - Amanda Leachet	Tortolita - Dennis Larson, Sue Van Allen
Mountain Shadows - Jayne Raffety	Trinity - Billie Holbrook, Leone Mohney
Northminster – Martha Allen, Don Burig, Susan Naegle	Valley - George Curtis

#### Commissioned Ruling Elders Present – 3

Biehl, Larry	Heinle, Bill	Norton, Mary Jo
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#### RE Leadership Commission and Commission/Committee Moderators Present – 5

Peggy Free	Carol Peeler	Bonnie Thompson
Cheryl Larson	Bob Schulz	

#### Staff Members Present

Beth Kath	Carolyn McBurney
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**Teaching Elders Excused**

Abraham, Midhat	Clark, Walter	Hunt, Edward	Sankey, Lee
Barker, Lance	Cobb, Jim	Jenson, Jim	Seel, Robert
Brown, William	Davies, John	Loew, Edmund	Stevenson, John
Buchanan-Barrow, Dorothy	Easley, George	MacDonald, Robbin	St. John, Valerie
Buehler, William	Evans, Bill	Moore, Della	Studer, Virginia
Carr, John	Fife, John	Pennock, William	Williams, Carla
Chanslor, Don	Green, Thomas	Pike, George	Wilson, James
Chase, Lerry	Hargleroad, Roberta	Remer, Jim	Wert, Brandon
Cheek, John	Harris, Mary	Ross, John	
Chon, Myung	Hawkins, Joe	Rowley, Richard	

**Church Excused**

Papago United

**Teaching Elders Absent**

Akins, Steve	Goble, David	Letts, Thomas	Srubas, Rachel
Bitar, George	Grover, Mat	Melde, Steven	Toole, Jim
Brown, Kenneth	Hamilton, Stephanie	Montaño, Carlos	Toole, Pati
de la Torre, Valerie	Harrington, Alison	Ross, Andrew	
Fife, David	Hermes, Jon	Seiferth, Peter	
Foust, Jerry	Johnson, John	Skodiak, Kenneth	

**Commissioned Ruling Elders Absent**

Abrams, Lesley	Brownson, Steve	Munroe, Laura
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**Churches Absent**

Community Coolidge	Divine Grace	Korean of Tucson
Community San Manuel	First Douglas	Shepherd of the Valley
Covenant	First Florence	Trinity Cliff

**Staff Members Present**

Beth Kath	Carolyn McBurney
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**AGENDA**

Presbytery approved the agenda:

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order, Lighting of Peace Candle and Opening Prayer	Bill Voigt
9:05 a.m.	Welcoming First Time Commissioners, Teaching Elders, Guests	Bill Voigt
	Enrolling Corresponding Members	
	Establishing a Quorum	
	Approving the Docket	
	Receiving the Commission Reports	
	Approving the Consent Agenda	
	Approving the August 12, 2017 Presbytery Minutes	
	Receiving New Business	
	Welcome and Arrangements	Mark Medina
	Sharing the Peace of Christ	

9:25 a.m.	Approval of Bylaws and Manual of Operations modifications	Bob Schulz
9:45 a.m.	Presbytery Pastor Report	Brad Munroe
10:05 a.m.	Overtures for 223 <sup>rd</sup> General Assembly	Bob Schulz
10:25 a.m.	Stated Clerk Report	Bob Schulz
11:00 a.m.	Worship and Celebration of the Lord’s Supper Recommissioning of CRE Mary Jo Norton	
noon	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	Frontera de Cristo Report	Mark Adams
1:20 p.m.	Mission Committee Report	Jayne Raffety
1:35 p.m.	Solar Power Program – Valley Solar Power Program – Frontera de Cristo	Tommy Calhoun Mark Adams
1:55 p.m.	Ignite the Spark Report	Zack Yentzer
2:15 p.m.	PWP PDA Report	Bonnie Thompson
2:30 p.m.	Adjourn with Prayer	Bill Voigt

**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:

10/21/17 Commission Reports

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**1. Leadership Team Report**

**Actions taken at the July 26, 2017 meeting**

To recommend to the Presbytery that the work of the Committee on Representation (COR) be combined into the work of the Nominating Committee, with a requirement that Nominating include an annual report on representation to the Presbytery.

Authorized, acting as the Presbytery’s Board of Trustees, the following recommendation of the Administration Committee:

Each of the authorized signatories identified in Section 3 of the Organization Resolution is duly authorized by resolution of the Presbytery de Cristo Board of Trustees to act on behalf of the organization in connection with any Vanguard mutual fund and/or Vanguard Brokerage account owned by the organization. Each such signatory is authorized to invest the assets of the organization; obtain information and give instructions for the purchase, sale, exchange, or transfer of securities; and execute any necessary documents in connection with those securities and/or the Vanguard accounts owned by the organization.

Each of the additional authorized persons identified in Section 3 is authorized to act on behalf of the organization in connection with any Vanguard mutual fund and/or Vanguard Brokerage accounts owned by the organization. Each such additional authorized person is authorized to invest the assets of the organization; obtain information and give instruction for the purchase, sale, exchange, or transfer of securities. However, the additional authorized persons are not authorized to execute any documents in connection with the organization’s accounts.

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The organization is solely responsible for informing Vanguard of any changes in the authority or identity of any of the authorized signatories or other authorized persons identified in Section 3. The Presbytery de Cristo Board of Trustees authorizes its Secretary of the Corporation, currently Robert Schulz, one of the signatories listed in Section 3, as the only representative of the organization to authorize any changes in signatories and their duties on changes made after setting up the Vanguard accounts by these forms.

Granted permission for Brad Munroe to serve as adjunct faculty with Ascending Leaders for at least a one-year commitment, with the curriculum to be used for the Presbytery of Grand Canyon co-hort.

**Actions taken at the August 23, 2017 meeting**

Approved participation by Presbytery de Cristo in the General Assembly’s revitalization pilot program.

Approved, as recommended by the Administration Committee, the application of First Presbyterian Church in Silver City for a PILP loan in the amount of \$25,000 for AC and electrical/lighting repairs and improvements, and approved the Presbytery co-signing on the loan documents based on the financial information provided.

**Actions taken at the October 2, 2017 meeting**

Approved in concept the installation and solar services agreement with Technology Credit Corporation and Technicians for Sustainability, pending legal approval.

**2. Commission on Ministry Report**

**Actions taken at the August 3, 2017 meeting**

**Cummins, Jennifer**

Approved a request from the Session of Tortolita Presbyterian Church, in accordance with the Presbytery COM Handbook, to call the Rev. Jennifer Cummins, currently Temporary Supply Pastor, as their Pastor and authorized the Session to: 1) call a Congregational Meeting to approve a Call; and 2) request COM approval for an installation date and the installation Administrative Commission.

**Valley Presbyterian Church**

Received the report of the Valley Administrative Commission, as well as the report of Interim Pastor Mark Medina, with the request that COM continue to receive reports on a quarterly basis.

**Actions taken at September 7, 2017 meeting**

**Grover, Mathew**

Approved renewal of the Temporary Pastor Agreement between the Rev. Mat Grover and St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church for a period of three years effective September 1, 2017, subject to 30 days notice for termination, on the following terms:

Salary	\$31,212	Pension/Medical	BOP dues as required
Housing Allowance	31,212	Vacation	Four weeks
Expense Allowance	4,800	Study Leave	Two weeks

10/21/17 Commission Reports

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**Smith, Elizabeth**

Approved renewal of the Parish Associate agreement between the Rev. Elizabeth Smith and The Holy Way Presbyterian Church for part-time service (10 hours/week at \$30/hour) under supervision of the Session effective April 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, subject to 30 days notice for termination, with her terms of call adjusted to include an amount equal to the Board of Pension dues which would be payable if she was eligible, plus a Social Security offset.

**Phillips, Paul**

Approved dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Paul Phillips and Valley Presbyterian Church effective September 4, 2017.

**Actions taken at October 5, 2017 meeting**

**Lloyd, Linda**

Approved the Interim Associate Pastor Agreement between the Rev. Linda Lloyd and Valley Presbyterian Church for a period of one year, subject to 30 days notice for termination, on the following terms and her transfer from the Presbytery of Grand Canyon to Presbytery de Cristo effective October 22, 2017:

Salary and Housing	\$50,000	Pension/Medical	BOP dues as required
Continuing Ed Allowance	1,500	Vacation	Four weeks per policy
Professional Expenses	1,500	Study Leave	Two weeks
Travel Allowance	.575/mile		

**Ross, John**

Approved the transfer of membership of the Rev. John Ross (HR) from Denver Presbytery to Presbytery de Cristo, effective October 5, 2017.

**Foust, Jerry**

Approved granting the status of Honorably Retired to the Rev. Jerry Foust effective June 1, 2017.

**3. Stated Clerk Report**

**REPORT ON REVIEW OF SESSION RECORDS**

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

August 12, 2017  
St. Andrew's

**SYNOD REVIEW OF PRESBYTERY MINUTES**

The Synod of the Southwest Executive/Stated Clerk, the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Sierra Blanca, the Administrator of the Presbytery of Santa Fe and the Stated Clerk/Associate of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon and Presbytery de Cristo met in Phoenix on August 29, 2017 and reviewed the minutes, rolls and registers of Sierra Blanca, Santa Fe, Grand Canyon and de Cristo. The Minutes Presbytery de Cristo covering January 29, 2016 – October 15, 2016 were approved without exception.

## **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:

10/21/17 Consent Agenda

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### **1. Administration Committee Report**

#### **Action taken at the August 17, 2017 meeting**

Approved support of a PILP loan to First Presbyterian Church in Silver City, New Mexico in the amount of \$25,000 for new lighting and air conditioning for the church.

#### **Action taken at the September 14, 2017 meeting**

Approved in concept, and recommended approval by the Presbytery Board of Trustees, an installation agreement between Valley Presbyterian Church and Technology Credit Corporation and Technicians for Sustainability for a solar panel parking structure at Valley (pending Session and 90% congregation approval) with costs to be covered up front and Valley to have a buyout option in five years, with the Presbytery Board of Trustees required to sign an agreement to cover costs should Valley not fulfill their obligation.

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

#### **Actions taken at the September 7, 2017 meeting**

Approved a new Presbytery de Cristo handbook for the Preparation for Ministry process for Inquirers and Candidates for the office of Teaching Elder effective September 7, 2017.

Approved a new Presbytery de Cristo handbook for the Preparation for Ministry process to oversee the training of applicants to become Commissioned Ruling Elders effective September 7, 2017.

Approved having Harriet Marsh contact Dr. Hector Barillas, recently selected by CPM to administer psychological consultations, to obtain an agreement stating his methodology and tools, fees charged and who will receive future reports.

#### **Actions taken at the October 5, 2017 meeting**

Approved the request of Candidate Laura Munroe (St. Andrew's) for a waiver on completing Beginning Greek due to a learning disability, with Laura to instead take Biblical Tools and the required Exegesis class.

Approved moving CRE applicant Monica Russell (Faith) from the Seeker to the Learner stage, subject to completion and approval of her psychological exam and background check.

10/21/17 Consent Agenda

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**3. Mission Committee Report**

**Action taken at the August 17, 2017 meeting**

Approved a special request for financial assistance from Papago United for \$343.95 to provide food and resources for their gathering.

**APPROVAL OF PRESBYTERY MINUTES**

The minutes of the August 12, 2017 Stated Meeting were approved as presented.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business. The Rev. Mark Medina, Interim Pastor, welcomed Presbytery to Valley Presbyterian Church. Presbyters shared the Peace of Christ.

**REVISED PRESBYTERY BYLAWS AND MANUAL OF OPERATIONS**

Bob Schulz explained that the changes to the Presbytery Bylaws consisted of: 1) incorporating functions of the Committee on Representation into the Nominations Committee, as permitted by the *Book of Order*, and 2) dealing with changes for titles for ministers and church commissioners.

Bob reported this change in titles had resulted in a \$100,000 cost to the Board of Pensions to correct their database and forms. Bob noted the Presbytery was to continue using Teaching Elder and Ruling Elder in its documents rather than to try to make extensive revisions.

A vote was taken by a show of hands of at least three-quarters of the presbyters present and the following was approved:

**MOTION:** To approve the Bylaws of Presbytery de Cristo, as amended October 21, 2017.

Bob Schulz explained that the Manual of Operations had been updated with 1) details of incorporating the function of assuring representation into the role of the Nominating Committee and b) a revision to the policy for determination of ruling elder Presbytery commissioners, as previously approved by the Leadership Commission. Concern was voiced about discontinuing assignment of extra church commissioners based on ethnic representation. A vote was taken by a show of hands and the following was approved by a simple majority:

**MOTION:** To approve the Manual of Operations of Presbytery de Cristo, as amended November 4, 2017.

**PRESBYTERY PASTOR REPORT**

Brad Munroe reported he had attended the celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation held at Frontera de Cristo. He suggested that inviting our mission partners to worship might be a good way for congregations to meet them and feel more involved in their ministries.

Brad's recent Presbytery activities had involved working with several congregations in conflict. He was pleased to note that Tortolita and Southside had begun building campaigns. Brad had written an Advent devotional that was available for churches to use, with any resulting donations to be given to our mission partners.

### **OVERTURES TO 223<sup>RD</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Bob Schulz reported that our Leadership Commission and 2018 GA commissioners were reviewing overtures being received from GA. Presbytery de Cristo was being asked to concur with an overture proposed by the Presbytery of Grand Canyon requesting that facilities of the denomination's 98 Native American churches be surveyed for needed improvements and seeking funding for these projects. Bob reported he had attended the recent PC(USA) Polity Conference.

### **WORSHIP**

The Revs. Mark Medina and Diane Christopher delivered meditations, based on readings from Luke 6 and Acts 5, and then presided over the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Special music was provided by Valley Presbyterian musicians. The offering collected during the worship service, totaling \$1,061, was dedicated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

### **RECOMMISSIONING OF CRE**

Mary Jo Norton was commissioned during the worship service to continue her service as a Commissioned Ruling Elder at Superior Presbyterian Church. Bill Voigt led a prayer of thanksgiving for her gifts in speaking God's word and leading her congregation.

### **MISSION COMMITTEE**

Jayne Raffety reported on the unified mission budget which supported all eight of the Presbytery's mission partners. She invited presbyters to attend a mission fundraiser, Gifts of Hope, to be held at Trinity on February 11, 2018. She introduced two participants in the Compañeros en Misión border ministry to children and families. They reflected on issues faced in Nogales, including economic struggles, suicide and drug cartels. A new bell choir had been started with a donated set of bells, part of Compañeros' goal of showing the children what it meant to simply be kids.

Mark Adams reported on some of the joys and challenges of the Frontera de Cristo fellowship spanning the U.S./Mexico border. Citing Ephesians 2:11-22, he asked presbyters to consider, "What do 'borders' mean to you?"

### **HARNESSING SOLAR POWER**

Tommy Calhoun shared details of the solar services lease agreement which Valley Presbyterian Church had recently entered into with Technicians for Sustainability. Northminster was doing the same thing. Tommy reported that Valley was hoping to ease its \$18,000 per year electric bill by earning 12.8 cents per kilowatt generated by the solar panels, which would also provide shaded parking. Valley had the option to buy the system after a period of years. Mark Adams reported that Frontera de Cristo was starting a similar project using funds donated by Trinity Presbyterian Church.



**OTHER BUSINESS**

Zach Yentzer, speaker at the Ignite the Spark event, gave an overview of his presentation on Friday which had focused on effective ministry with millennials.

Bonnie Thompson spoke about how Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) was reaching out to those in need. Bonnie was one of two commissioned Presbyterian Women PDA trainees for Presbytery de Cristo who were available to go out to our churches to help them develop disaster preparedness plans.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Valley congregation was thanked for its hospitality. The motion was made to adjourn and the meeting was closed in prayer at 2:05 p.m. The next Stated Meeting of Presbytery was scheduled for January 26-27, 2018, at First Presbyterian Church in Casa Grande.

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Robert S. Schulz, Stated Clerk/Associate

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Date