

Minutes
Presbytery de Cristo
Stated Meeting
April 27, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Presbytery de Cristo of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its April Stated Meeting at The Holy Way Presbyterian Church in Tucson. Pete Seiferth, Moderator, opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with prayer.

The Rev. Ray Thomas, Pastor, welcomed Presbytery, explaining that The Holy Way was established in 1985. The first members worshipped in the ranch house next door until the sanctuary was built in 1999.

Sue Westfall, Presbytery Pastor/Stated Clerk, reported that a quorum was present, consisting of three Teaching Elder members and the Ruling Elder members present, with at least three churches being represented by Ruling Elders. Commissioners attending for the first time and other guests were welcomed. A corresponding member was introduced and approved for enrollment by Presbytery for this meeting. Presbytery approved granting privilege of the floor to the corresponding member and visitors.

ROLL

There were 35 minister commissioners and 34 elder commissioners present, for a total of 69 voting members, as well as 2 registered visitors.

Corresponding Member Enrolled

Beverly Howard (Riverside)

Churches/Ministers/Elder Commissioners

E = Excused; A = Absent; number after minister = occupational code; number before elder commissioner = number of commissioners for church.

Ajo, Good Shepherd

Vacant (2)

Benson, Community

E Jon Hermes (101) (2)

Bisbee, Covenant

Vacant (2) Kathy Baker-Addy
Judy Pike

Casa Grande, First

E Ben Seller (101) (3) Denny Honodel
Bill Heinle (105)

Cliff, Trinity

E David Goble (101) (2)

Coolidge, Community

Ann Graham-Johnson (108) (2) Janice Cockrill
Larry Graham-Johnson (108) Phyllis Mikles

Douglas, First

E Carlos Montaña (101) (3)

Florence, First

John Johnson (105) (2) Laura Hoffman
E William Dean (109) Sharon Liedl

Globe, First

E Bill Norton (101) (2)
E Edmund Lowe (109)

Green Valley, Valley

	Lawrence DeLong (101)	(3)	Chris Bell
E	Diane Christopher (103)		Jim Nelson
E	Joe Hawkins (109)		Debbi Shippy

Miami, Divine Grace

	Melynda Foust (105)	(2)	Barbara Kannegaard
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Safford, Shepherd of the Valley

E	Robin MacDonald (101)	(2)	
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San Manuel, Community

E	Jeff Dixon (101)	(2)	
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Sells, Papago United

	Myra Schouten (105)	(2)	Vernon Smith
	Hilbert Schouten (105)		

Sierra Vista, Faith

	Virginia Studer (101)	(2)	David Rockwell
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Silver City, First

	Bob Reese (101)	(2)	Sherrie Lavelle
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Superior, Presbyterian Church

	Vacant	(1)	
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Tucson, Christ Church

	Steve Melde (101)	(2)	Tracie Cousins
	Steve Brownson (105)		Eleanor Robinson
E	Joseph Skelly (109)		

Tucson, Immanuel

E	John Tittle (101)	(2)	
E	Larry Biehl (105)		

Tucson, Korean Church

	Jung Sook Kim (101)	(2)	
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Tucson, Mt. Shadows

	Rachel Srubas (101)	(2)	Susan Pearsey
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Tucson, Northminster

	Andrew Ross (101)	(5)	Martha Allen
	Kenneth Skodiak (103)		Donald Burig
	Pete Seiferth (103)		Karen Foss
	John Cheek (103)		Marie Galloway
E	Richard Rowley (109)		Susan Naegle

Tucson, St. Andrew's

E	Jim Toole (101)	(5)	LeAnn McDaniel
	Carla Williams (103)		Carmen Morris
E	Jennifer Wilcox Cummins (103)		

Tucson, St. John on the Desert

	Lesley Abrams	(2)	Kim Patton
E	Gary Gard (109)		

Tucson, St. Mark's

	Scott Opsahl (105)	(2)	Bob Turnbull
			Pat Turnbull

Tucson, Southside

	Alison Harrington (101)	(2)	Josefina Ahumada
E	John Fife (109)		Albert Jordon

Tucson, The Holy Way

Ray Thomas (101) (2) Sherrie Atleson
Robin Thomas

Tucson, Tortolita

Tom Green (105) (2) Alicia Rowe

Tucson, Trinity

Marney Wasserman (101) (2) Billie Holbrook
E William Voigt (103) Alice Smedley

Other Ministers

A	Midhat Abraham (646)	E	Ralph Hensley (299)
	Mark Adams (405)	A	Alejandro Hernandez (405)
E	Lance Barker (299)	E	James Hervey (299)
	George Bitar (791)	E	Edward Hunt (299)
E	Kenneth Brown (405)	E	Michael Japenga (797)
E	William Brown (654)	E	James Jenson (299)
A	Dorothy Buchanan-Barrow (299)	A	Gretchen Larson-Wolbrink (797)
E	William Buehler (299)	E	Della Moore (299)
A	John Carr (797)	E	William Pennock (299)
A	Lerold Chase (299)	E	George Pike (299)
A	Paul Choi (299)	E	William Rhoades (299)
A	Yoo Kyoon Chung (797)	E	Luke Roske-Metcalf (501)
E	Jim Cobb (299)	E	Lee Sankey (299)
A	Alberto Cordova (797)		Robert Seel (299)
E	Walter Clark (299)		Don Shepherd (299)
E	John Davies (299)	E	Joseph Skelly (299)
	Ellen Dawson (641)	E	Michael Smith (299)
E	George Easley (299)	E	Valerie St. John-DeLong (299)
	Bill Evans (299)	E	John Stevenson (299)
A	Norman Fedderly (299)	E	Ralph Strong (299)
E	David Fife (701)	E	Terry Swicegood (797)
E	Eneyas Frietas (791)	A	Nuhad Tomeh (797)
E	Stephanie Hamilton (641)	E	Patricia Toole (797)
	James Hargleroad (299)	A	John Wall (299)
	Roberta Hargleroad (299)		Brandon Wert (797)
E	Mary Harris (299)		Sue Westfall (304)
E	Ralph Hawthorne (299)	E	James Wilson (299)

Ministry for Leadership

Debbie Bouchard

Janet Rowe

Ministry Moderators

Dick Kampa (Nominating Committee)

Jasper Melton (Ministry for Administration)

Harriet Marsh (Committee on Preparation for Ministry)

Peter Vogel (Moderator-Elect)

Staff Member Present

Mary Anne Nollsch-Abshier

AGENDA

Presbytery **approved** the agenda, with one change to allow the Committee on Ministry five minutes at 1:00 p.m. to bring an update and motion on the Gracious Dismissal Policy:

8:30 a.m.	Registration	
8:40 a.m.	New Commissioner Orientation	Peter Vogel
8:45 a.m.	Opening Prayer	Pete Seiferth
	Greetings from The Holy Way Presbyterian Church	Ray Thomas
	Establishing a Quorum	Sue Westfall
	Enrolling Corresponding Members	
	Welcoming New Commissioners and Guests	
	Granting Privilege of the Floor	
	Approving the Agenda	
	Approving Minutes: Minutes of January 27-28, 2013 Annual Meeting	
	Minutes of March 2, 2013 Special Meeting	
	National Conference of More Light Presbyterians Report	Sylvia Thorson-Smith
	Joint Presbytery Nominating Committee Report	Bill Ricker
	Approving the Consent Agenda	
9:40 a.m.	Experiencing <i>Glory to God</i> , the new Presbyterian hymnal	Beverly Howard
10:30 a.m.	Worship & Celebration of the Lord's Supper	Rob Fohr, Preaching
11:45 a.m.	General Assembly Overtures	Pete Seiferth
	Heidelberg Catechism revision	
	Proposed Amendments: A through J	
12:15 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	Commissioning of Ruling Elder Bill Heinle	
1:10 p.m.	Engaging with Young Adults and Immigration Issues	
	Tucson Borderlinks	Maddie Heath
	Community Home Repair Project of Arizona	Karl Heimback
	Young Adults of Faith and Action	Rob Fohr
	Southside Workers Center	Stephanie Quintara
	Immigration and Unity	Teresa Waggner
2:40 p.m.	Synod Review/Visioning for the Future Task Force	Ray Thomas and Steven Brownson
3:15 p.m.	Synod Report on March meeting	Fred Whitley
3:25 p.m.	Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship Report	Marshall Worden
3:45 p.m.	Closing Worship	
4:00 p.m.	Adjournment	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 27-28, 2013 Annual Meeting were **approved**, with a correction requested to include Ruling Elder Marion Gray in the Memorial for Clergy and Elders. The Presbytery paused for a prayer of thanksgiving for the life of Marion Gray. The minutes of the March 2, 2013 Special Meeting were **approved** as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was presented. Two reports were withdrawn for discussion. Dick Kampa corrected the Report of the Nominating Committee to reflect that Denny Honodel was nominated to the Ministry for Administration (not Ministry for Leadership). Mike Smith affirmed that the Committee on Representation works to assure fair and diverse representation on each Presbytery ministry and committee.

Sue Westfall noted that the 2012 Church Statistics had been reported to the General Assembly in March, as included in the Consent Agenda.

The following was **approved**:

MOTION: To approve the Consent Agenda as corrected.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MORE LIGHT PRESBYTERIANS REPORT

Sylvia Thorson-Smith invited members of the Presbytery to the National Conference of More Light Presbyterians to be held on September 27-29, 2013, at St. Mark’s Presbyterian Church.

JOINT PRESBYTERY SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Bill Ricker reported that the committee, which included ten members from Presbytery de Cristo and ten from Grand Canyon Presbytery, had just begun its work.

NEW PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL

Dr. Beverly Howard, a member of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song and professor of music at California Baptist University, gave an introduction to *Glory to God*, the new PC(USA) hymnal. Beverly explained that an online edition, available in the fall, would have sample audios as well as print versions for bulletin inserts or projection.

WORSHIP

Ruling Elder Bob Fohr, the Young Adult Catalyst for the Presbyterian Mission Agency, delivered the sermon “Stories for the Journey,” a testimony to Christ’s transforming power in his life. The Revs. Ray Thomas and Alison Harrington presided over the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Also participating in the worship service were: Dylan Rudd (The Holy Way); Kendra Heimbuck, Sarah Osborne, Austin Langley, and Tavi Wallace, (Young Adult Volunteers); and Kristen Samoy (delegate to the Youth Triennium). Special music was provided by The Holy Way musicians, including their Men’s Trio. The offering was designated to help with Youth Triennium travel expenses.

Youth participants attending the 2013 Presbyterian Youth Triennium were commissioned, along with the adults accompanying them to Purdue University in July:

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|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Megan Carr-Studer (Faith) | Daniel Seddo (Trinity) |
| Erin Cech (Immanuel) | Cameron Toering (Trinity) |
| Kaitlyn Courville (Christ) | Katie VanMaren (St. Mark’s) |
| Michael Courville (Christ) | |
| Gordon Custic (Christ) | Advisors/Caregivers: |
| Amaris Gomez-Olaje (Faith) | Kenna Koch (Christ) |
| Jackson Hamlet (Christ) | Steve Melde (Christ) |
| Dylan Rudd (Holy Way) | Chelsea Ortiz |
| Kristen Samoy (Christ) | Gretchen VanMaren (St. Mark’s) |

VOTING ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY OVERTURES

Presbyters were asked to vote on: 1. the proposed new translation of the Heidelberg Catechism for the *Book of Confessions*, and 2. the *Book of Order* amendments recommended by the 220th General Assembly. The following were **approved**:

MOTION: That Presbytery de Cristo votes YES on Part 1, 12-1 Heidelberg Catechism—On Amending *The Book of Confessions* (Item 18-03).

MOTION: That Presbytery de Cristo votes YES on the following Proposed Amendments to the *Book of Order*:

- 12-A Business for Congregational Meetings—On Amending G-1.0503
- 12-C Presbytery Registers—On Amending G-3.0104 and G-3.0305
- 12-D Shared Synod Permanent Judicial Commission
 - 12-D.1 Judicial Commissions—On Amending G-3.0109a
 - 12-D.2 Administrative Commissions—On Amending G-3.0109b(6)
 - 12-D.3 Reduced Function—On Amending G-3.0404
 - 12-D.4 Permanent Judicial Commissions—On Amending D-5.0101
 - 12-D.5 PJC Expenses—On Amending D-5.0106
 - 12-D.6 PJC Meetings—On Amending D-5.0203
 - 12-D.7 PJC Quorum—On Amending D-5.0206
 - 12-D.8 Initiating a Remedial Case—On Amending D-6.0101
 - 12-D.9 Complaint in a Remedial Case—On Amending D-6.0202a(6)
- 12-E Enrolling Ruling Elders as Members of Presbytery—On Amending G-3.0301
- 12-F Concurrences for Overtures—On Amending G-3.3032d
- 12-G Ordination, Installation, Commissioning—On Amending W-4.4002
- 12-H Jurisdiction in Judicial Process—On Amending D-3.0101b(2)
- 12-I Administrative Leave—On Amending D-10.0106
- 12-J Investigating Committees—On Amending D-10.0202

Amendment 12-B Gifts and Qualifications—On Amending G-2.0104a was **not approved**.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

John Johnson gave an update on the Gracious Dismissal Policy and proposed that it be approved. After discussion, the following was **approved**:

MOTION: To postpone approving the Gracious Dismissal Policy until the next appropriate Presbytery meeting.

COMMISSIONING OF BILL HEINLE

Ruling Elder Bill Heinle was examined by the Presbytery for the position of Commissioned Ruling Elder. Bill shared his background and statement of faith. After an opportunity for questions from the floor and a motion to cease the examination, Bill was escorted from the room and the following was **approved**:

MOTION: To commission Ruling Elder Bill Heinle as a Commissioned Ruling Elder.

A service of commissioning took place and Ben Seller gave the charge. Friends and members from First Presbyterian Church of Casa Grande, where Bill was to serve as Commissioned Ruling Elder for Caring Ministries, came forward to join Bill as the closing prayer was offered.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dick Kampa presented nominations. There being no nominations from the floor, the following nominations were **approved**:

Ministry for Administration

2015 RE Denny Honodel (Casa Grande)

Committee on Ministry

2013 TE Ed Loew (HR)

ENGAGING WITH YOUNG ADULTS AND IMMIGRATION ISSUES

Rob Fohr, who grew up in the St. Marks' congregation, gave a challenging presentation on how to inspire, equip and connect with young adults. He offered a generational analysis, noting that young adults were raised in a different cultural context and want to be engaged in action in their community and the world. Rob reflected that if the church was meaningful to young adults, they would be in church. He encouraged us to join young people "where they are" in order to be their bridge to faith.

A former YAV (Young Adult Volunteer) himself, Rob introduced YAV Maddie Heath who spoke about her work with Tucson Borderlinks and YAV Karl Heimbeck who spoke about the Community Home Repair Project of Arizona. Rob then introduced Teresa Waggener, of the General Assembly's Office of Immigration Issues, who explained her work providing legal counsel to congregations that call immigrant pastors, as well as creating resource materials about immigration law and GA policy. Teresa said her office focuses on promoting family unity and creating legal avenues for those coming to the U.S., including help with obtaining VISAs and finding a pathway to citizenship.

SYNOD TASK FORCE REPORT

Ray Thomas and Steven Brownson reported on results of a Synod of the Southwest survey within its four presbyteries. The survey was part of a two-year task force study to consider the Synod's future and make recommendations. Survey responses ranked leadership development, border and immigrant issues, congregational regeneration, communications, racial ethnic ministry and stewardship as desired priorities. The task force was to begin making recommendations on the Synod's future in light of shrinking funding denomination-wide and the inevitable need to eliminate some mid-government body structure.

SYNOD OF THE SOUTHWEST MARCH MEETING REPORT

Fred Whitley reported that there was a review of the Synod's \$3 million in assets. The Synod wanted to continue offering financial programs to aid the 146 churches within its four presbyteries. The Synod also wanted to continue its support for the presbyteries, while at the same time seeking to reduce expenses.

MIDDLE EASTERN PRESBYTERIAN FELLOWSHIP ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION REPORT

Commission members shared stories of how the ministry is both serving and being joined in ministry by refugees from the Middle East, helping heal the trauma and "make a place" for them in what is a new and very foreign home. A majority of the Fellowship faced death in their country of origin due to their faith. About 75 adults and children were regularly attending the Arabic-language worship service each Sunday at Northminster Presbyterian Church. The worshipping community was comprised of immigrants, refugees and, most recently, asylum-seekers.

Larry Biehl outlined the history of the Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship (MEPF). It was begun as a joint initiative of the General Assembly, Synod of the Southwest and Presbytery de Cristo in 2007. George Bitar was called as Organizing Pastor in April 2008 under the auspices of the Presbytery's New Church Development Committee. The Administrative Commission was formed by Presbytery in April 2011 to support a path toward chartering, originally expected to be in 2016.

Pastor George Bitar said their Sunday gathering included worship with Communion, Sunday school, and a community time of food and music. The refugees needed help in many ways, such as getting to the food bank and medical appointments, learning English and finding housing.

Dick Kampa explained that funding would continue to be a challenge, with MEPF continuing its reliance on the Presbytery and Synod. The Administrative Commission was seeking more sources for financial support. He said continuing prayer support and financial assistance from de Cristo congregations were needed and greatly appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the motion was made to adjourn. The meeting was closed with worship and prayer, led by Pete Seiferth, at 3:35 p.m. The next Stated Meeting of Presbytery was scheduled for August 17, 2013, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Tucson.

Sue Westfall, Presbytery Pastor/Stated Clerk

Date