

MINUTES

Stated Meeting of Presbytery de Cristo

January 24-25, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Presbytery de Cristo of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its Stated Annual Meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Casa Grande. This was a joint meeting with the Presbytery of Grand Canyon. Moderators Jim Nelson, de Cristo, and Carol Gerlach, 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 area. Grand Canyon CRE Charlotte Fafard spoke about the history of the Tohono O'odham Nation spanning from Prescott to Tucson.

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 23 Teaching Elders, 24 Ruling Elder commissioners, 3 Commissioned Ruling Elders, 2 Ruling Elder members of the Leadership Commission and 4 Ruling Elder ministry moderators present, for a total of 36 voting members. There were 6 registered visitors.

Corresponding Members Enrolled

Kohlmann, Cindy (Boston)

Rocha, Conrad (Synod of the Southwest)

Leucht, Kristin (San Fernando)

Yates, Sharon (Synod of the Southwest)

Teaching Elders Present – 23

Adams, Mark

Elgin, Paul

Norton, Bill

Smith, Bart

Cheek, John

Harrington, Alison

Pickens, Bailey

Smith, Elizabeth

Christopher, Diane

Lindsey, Craig

Rico, Renée

Strubas, Rachel

Cummins, Jennifer

Melde, Steven

Seiferth, Peter

Ver Berg, Sara

de la Torre, Valerie

Montaño, Carlos

Sigmon, Mack

Voigt, William

Dunham, John

Munroe, Brad

Skodiak, Kenneth

Teaching Elders Excused

Abraham, Midhat

Cobb, Jim

Lee, Young

Seel, Robert

Barker, Lance

Davies, John

MacDonald, Robbin

Shepherd, Don

Bitar, George

Easley, George

McComb, Andrew

Smith, Michael

Brown, Kenneth

Evans, Bill

Moore, Della

St. John, Valerie

Buchanan-Barrow, Dorothy

Green, Thomas

Pennock, William

Streng, Barbara

Buehler, William

Harris, Mary

Pike, George

Stevenson, John

Chanslor, Don

Hervey, Jim

Remer, Jim

Williams, Carla

Chase, Lerry

Hunt, Edward

Ross, John

Wilson, James

Clark, Walter

Jenson, Jim

Sankey, Lee

Witte, Cathy

Churches/Ruling Elder Commissioners Present – 24

Christ - Nancy Schneider, Doug Thompson,
Rindit Tillema
Community Benson - Jackie Hada
Covenant Bisbee - Margot Wallar
Faith - Sonja Vander Meulen, Rita Van Otten,
Fred Whitley
First Casa Grande - Larry Pazier, Pete Vogel
First Globe - Micah Wheeler
Immanuel - Peggy Free

Mountain Shadows - Casey Fraley
Northminster - Kimberly Metcalf, Lou Riggs,
Bonnie Thompson
Southside - Josefina Ahumada
St. Mark's - Catherine Lurvey, Jan McCoy,
Diane Shifflett
Trinity - Leone Mahony, Alice Smedley
Valley - Judy Aguayo, Carol Peeler

Commissioned Ruling Elders Present – 3

Brownson, Steve Norton, Mary Jo Russell, Monica

Commissioned Ruling Elders Excused

Abrams, Lesley

RE Leadership Commission Present – 2

Nelson, Jim Schulz, Bob

RE Committee/Commission Moderators Present – 4

Amling, Russ/Bosma, Madeline (Nominating) Larson, Cheryl (Mission)
Heinle, Bill (Preparation for Ministry) Woods, Lori (COM)

Staff Members Present

Houser, Sue Kath, Beth

AGENDA

Presbytery approved the agenda which included Rules of Decorum and Debate and Procedures for Voting for the meeting.

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:

1/24/20 Consent Agenda

1. Administration Committee Report

Action taken at the September 12, 2019 meeting

Approved a recommendation to Leadership to raise per capita to \$45.00, in an effort to reach a balanced budget.

1/24/20 Consent Agenda

2. Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report

Action taken at the November 7, 2019 meeting

Approved updating CPM's Online Boundary Training requirement as follows:

Required Courses Essential to Complete for Boundary Training

Duty to Report: Mandated Reporter
Preventing Sexual Harassment: Employees Edition
Preventing Abuse and Exploitation in Pastoral Ministry
Keeping Your Church Safe
Meet Sam (reviews characteristics of predators)
Social Media Safety (best practices for social media)
It Happened to Me (reviews effects of abuse on victims)

Recommended Review Courses for Subsequent Years to Reinforce Essentials

Now You're a Supervisor
Abuse Prevention Refresher

3. Mission Committee Report

Actions taken at the August 15, 2019 meeting

Approved a guarantee to provide a maximum of \$85,000.00 of the endowment received from the Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church in Safford to Papago United Presbyterian Church.

Approved requesting permission of the Leadership Committee to initiate a Presbytery Capital Campaign for the purpose of renovating Papago United Presbyterian Church.

Actions taken at the September 19, 2019 meeting

Approved \$200 for two elders from Papago United Presbyterian Church to attend the Gospel Hospitality and Empire Immigration Exodus Conference in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico sponsored by Presbyterian Border Region Outreach from November 8-10, 2019.

Approved paying the insurance for YAV, PCM, and MEPF in the amount of \$5,524.83 from the 2020 Mission Committee funds.

Approved paying \$3,475 for Board of Pension insurance and a small salary increase to meet insurance requirements for George Bitar.

1/24/20 Commission Reports

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. Leadership Team Report

Action taken at the October 23, 2019 meeting

Elected, on behalf of the Presbytery, the following person as presented by the Nominating Committee:

Nominating Committee

2022 Liz Lopshire-Kading (Community Benson)

Action to be considered at the January 22, 2020 meeting

Leadership Commission will be considering Overtures for the 224th General Assembly.

2. Commission on Ministry Report

Actions taken at the October 3, 2019 meeting

Medina, Mark

Approved the transfer of membership of the Rev. Mark Medina from Presbytery de Cristo to the Presbytery of Western Reserve effective October 3, 2019.

Studer, Virginia

Approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Virginia Studer and Faith Presbyterian Church effective September 29, 2019, following a meeting of the Congregation held on September 22, 2019 voting to approve this action due to Rev. Studer's health and her need to be placed on the Board of Pensions Disability Plan.

McComb, Andrew

Approved the Temporary Pastor Agreement between the Rev. Andrew McComb (HR) and Faith Presbyterian Church in Sierra Vista on a part-time basis, exempt from the Presbytery minimum salary requirement, for an indefinite period beginning September 22, 2019 on the following terms:

Housing	\$727.39/week
Mileage	\$.58/mile

Edwards, Denise

Approved renewal of the temporary membership of the Rev. Denise Edwards, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), in Presbytery de Cristo and her service as Parish Associate at Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church, effective October 3, 2019.

Immanuel Periodic Visit

Received the report of COM's periodic visit to Immanuel Presbyterian Church on September 10, 2019.

1/24/20 Commission Reports

Actions taken at the November 7, 2019 meeting

Horton, Mark

Approved the temporary membership of the Rev. Mark Horton (UCC) in Presbytery de Cristo for a period of one year, effective November 7, 2019.

Rico, Renée

Approved the Transitional Pastor Agreement between the Rev. Renée Rico and Faith Presbyterian Church for a period of one year, subject to 60 days notice for termination, on the following terms and the transfer of her membership from the Presbytery of San Joaquin to Presbytery de Cristo, effective December 1, 2019:

Salary	\$37,712	Pension/Medical	BOP dues as required
Housing Allowance	37,937	Dental/Vision insurance	
Professional Expenses	5,000	Vacation	Four weeks per policy
Mileage Reimbursement	2,000	Study Leave	Two weeks
Continuing Ed	2,700	Sick Leave	10 days

Lindsey, Craig

Approved the request of the Rev. Craig Lindsey to be installed as Pastor to Valley Presbyterian Church on November 24, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. and approved the following Administrative Commission for the Installation:

Teaching Elders

- Diane Christopher (Valley)
- Brad Munroe (Presbytery Pastor)
- Bailey Pickens (Pres Campus Ministry)
- Mack Sigmon (Trinity Tucson)

Ruling Elders

- Jim Nelson (Moderator)
- Rudy Sweisforth (Valley)
- Liz Wallendorf (The Holy Way)

Trinity Periodic Visit

Received the report of COM’s periodic visit to Trinity Presbyterian Church on September 17, 2019.

COM Handbook addition

Approved inclusion of a new “Periodic Visit with the Session” discussion template in the COM Handbook as a recommended general format for periodic visits.

3. Stated Clerk Report

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

Minutes of Service of Installation – Rev. Craig Lindsey November 24, 2019

The Administrative Commission to Install the Rev. Craig Lindsey met at Valley Presbyterian Church, Green Valley, on Sunday, November 24, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. and did install Rev. Lindsey, following the guidelines set forth in the Directory for Worship (W-4.4). Members of the Administrative Commission were:

Teaching Elders

- Diane Christopher (Valley)
- Brad Munroe (Presbytery Pastor)
- Bailey Pickens (Pres Campus Ministry)
- Mack Sigmon (Trinity Tucson)

Ruling Elders

- Jim Nelson (Moderator)
- Rudy Sweisforth (Valley)
- Liz Wallendorf (The Holy Way)

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Nelson

1/24/20 Commission Reports

REPORT ON REVIEW OF SESSION RECORDS

In addition to those previously reported, the following Session records for 2018 were reviewed and approved:

- October 12, 2019
- Divine Grace
- First Globe
- First Silver City

APPROVAL OF PRESBYTERY MINUTES

The minutes of the October 12, 2019 Stated Meeting were approved as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

GREETING

The Rev. Paul Elgin, Pastor, welcomed Presbytery to First Presbyterian Church in Casa Grande.

ELECTION OF MODERATOR-ELECT

The following was approved:

MOTION: To elect TE Steve Melde to serve as Moderator-Elect of Presbytery de Cristo for 2020.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Jim Nelson presented the nominations. There being no nominations from the floor, the following were approved:

Commission on Ministry
 2022 RE Gay Russell (Mountain Shadows)

Permanent Judicial Commission
 2025 TE Georges Bitar (MEPF)

Mission Committee
 2022 RE Larry Biehl (CRE)
 2022 RE Dennis Nelson (Mountain Shadows)

Nominating Committee
 2022 RE Madeline Bosma (Mountain Shadows)
 2022 TE Bill Norton (First Globe)

Synod Commissioner
 TE Andrew McComb (HR)
 RE Ruth McPherson (First Silver City)

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 2020 Presbytery de Cristo corporation officers:

President	Josephina Ahumada
Vice President	Steven Melde
Treasurer	Bill Winters
Secretary	Robert Schulz

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation was adjourned.

FIRST CASA GRANDE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Paul Elgin invited commissioners to check out the Community Garden and Labyrinth on church grounds sponsored by local non-profit Seeds of Hope. The University of Arizona extension office and Americorps volunteers were instrumental in creating the growing beds.

MATTHEW 25 MINISTRY

Cindy Kohlmann, Co-Moderator of the PC(USA) 223rd General Assembly, spoke about the ministry based on Matthew 25:31-46. Its three initiatives were building vital congregations, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Cheryl Larson reported that nine de Cristo churches had pledged \$28,936 for mission at the beginning of 2019. By the end of the year \$51,076 had been donated. There was a reserve of approximately \$5,000 to be held over for 2020. For 2020, nine churches had pledged \$19,250. Based on faith, the Mission Committee was working with a projected 2020 budget of over \$58,000.

BOARD OF PENSIONS REPORT

Kristin Leucht, our Board of Pensions representative, reported that over 4,500 church and camp employees had been added to the medical coverage due to new plans made available for 2020. Over 68,000 people were now covered and over \$200 million was dispersed annually through the Board of Pensions.

SYNOD OF THE SOUTHWEST REPORT

Synod Exec Conrad Rocha reported that \$500 grants were available to CREs to attend training via podcasts to be held twice a month. He was running a two-part training course for GA commissioners and YAADs. Bart Smith reported a young pastors retreat was planned for February. Ruth McPherson reported the Menaul School covenant was being reviewed. Grants had been approved for 14 to attend the national PC(USA) Native American Women’s Conference.

CHURCH NEWS

Josefina Ahumada reported that Papago United in Sells began as a reservation chapel in 1914. Its current membership was 30 with 15-18 attending Sunday worship. The church had recently received an \$85,000 Presbytery grant for repair work on the sanctuary roof. Josefina said the “small but mighty” congregation was active in a number of mission projects within the local community.

It was reported that an Administration Commission had been formed when the Session at Covenant in Bisbee had requested that the congregation be dissolved. They were down to a few members, their historic building needed major roof repair, and the Session was overworked and exhausted. In a wonderful turnaround, the local community responded to news that the church might close. A \$10,000 gift from the Presbytery had been matched with \$20,000 in two months and there were 11 new members. The Rev. Carlos Montaña had been hired as their half-time pastor.

RECESS

There was an approved motion to recess the meeting after the worship service.

WORSHIP

The Rev. Cindy Kohlmann delivered the sermon. The Revs. Cindy Kohlmann and Paul Elgin presided over the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Special music was provided by First Presbyterian musicians. The offering collected during the worship service was dedicated to Native American property rehabilitation and the 2022 Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Following the benediction the meeting recessed until Saturday morning.

NECROLOGY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019

Teaching Elders	James Hervey James Wilson		
Ruling Elders	Green Valley	Valley	Fred Landenberger, Roger McFarland Mary Lee Shurigar
	Miami	Divine Grace	Connie Chaidez
	Silver City	First	Hester Billings, Helen Greenhill
	Tucson	Christ	Janet Bezdikian, Martha Chester, Arlene Lenox, Norm Mason, Gene Stough, Jim Wade
	Tucson	Immanuel	Don McClure
	Tucson	Mountain Shadows	Roe Erlandson
	Tucson	St. Andrew’s	Jack Boire, William Fleming, Joseph Wilcox
	Tucson	St. John on the Desert	Janet Kelm
	Tucson	Tortolita	Duane Thompson
	Tucson	Trinity	Alice Anderson, Pat Whiting, Lester Wilka, David Windsor

INSTALLATION OF PRESBYTERY MODERATORS

The Moderators for 2020 were installed during the worship service, CRE Josefina Ahumada for de Cristo and TE Ben Seller for Grand Canyon. They were presented with the symbols of their office by Jim Nelson and Carol Gerlach.

COMMISSIONING OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS

Our commissioners to the 224th General Assembly were commissioned during the worship service:

- TE Elizabeth Smith
- RE Ruth McPherson
- YAAD Leslie Courville

RECONVENE

The meeting was reconvened in prayer by Moderators Josefina Ahumada and Ben Seller on Saturday, January 25, 2020, at 8:45 a.m.

RECOGNITION OF 2019 MODERATORS

The 2019 Presbytery Moderators, Jim Nelson for de Cristo and Carol Gerlach for Grand Canyon, were recognized and thanked for their service.

PLENARY

Cindy Kohlmann, Co-Moderator of the PC(USA) 223rd General Assembly, led a discussion about the neighborhood church as a resource.

MONTLURE CORPORATION 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. A risk mitigation plan for the Greer camp site had been accepted by the U.S. Forest Service and was under environmental review. 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 | John Poling |
| Vice President | Josefina Ahumada |
| Secretary | Robert Schulz |

STATED CLERK REPORT

Bob Schulz noted the imbalance computation had been completed. A list with the number of church Ruling Elder commissioners for April 2020 through January 2021 had been posted with the meeting materials. Bob announced that State environmental funds had been approved for the clean up at historic First Sacaton Presbyterian Church which had been destroyed by an arson fire.

PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY REPORT

Jim Heinle introduced a motion from the committee. There were several comments followed by an approved motion to call the question. The following was approved by a hand count of 30 for and 1 against:

MOTION: That Presbytery de Cristo grant a waiver to candidate Laura Munroe of the requirement to take an exegesis course in Hebrew (G.2.0607c), pursuant to G.2.0610 allowing a waiver upon a three-quarter vote of the Presbytery.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the First Casa Grande congregation was thanked for its hospitality. The motion was made to adjourn and the meeting was closed in prayer at 11:50 a.m. The next Stated Meeting of Presbytery was scheduled for April 25, 2020 at Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 24-25, 2020 Stated Meeting of Presbytery de Cristo were approved by the Presbytery at its Special Called Meeting on July 18, 2020.

S/Robert S. Schulz

Robert S. Schulz, Stated Clerk/Associate

July 18, 2020

Date