

November 13  
Stated Meeting  
of the Presbytery  
of Grand Canyon

**BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Presbytery voted to cast its ballot in favor of adding a new confession to the Book of Confessions, The Belhar Confession. This confession emphasizes God's call to justice and reconciliation, and comes from the Reformed Church of South Africa. The Presbytery's vote was 86 yes, 28 no.
- The Presbytery welcomed two new ministers: Rev. Josephine Dickson, from deCristo Presbytery in southern Arizona and Rev. Joe Keesecker, from Santa Fe Presbytery -New Mexico.
- The retirement of Bevan Lewis, the Commissioned Lay Pastor who has served the Maricopa First Presbyterian Church for 20 years was recognized.
- Art Mills, Regional Representative of the Board of Pensions, provided an update on the Board's work.

**Next Meeting**  
Saturday, January 22, 2011

## GRAND CANYON PRESBY-GRAM

November 2010



### Dear Friend,

*On Saturday, November 13, the Presbytery of Grand Canyon held its fifth meeting of 2010, at Bethany Presbyterian Church, Phoenix. This communique features several of the highlights.*

### NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The Presbytery reviewed the proposed new Form of Government, adopted by the General Assembly in July. Rev. Mark Tammen (Office of the General Assembly, Louisville, KY) and Rev. Trina Zelle (GA Commissioner and Interim Pastor, University Presbyterian Church, Tempe) led the presentation. Under the proposal The *Book of Order* would be amended by striking out the text of Chapters 1 through 18 of the current Form of Government and inserting two new documents, Foundations of Presbyterian Polity and a new Form of Government. The proposal offers simplicity, flexibility and focus on the church's work of proclamation, sacraments, and accountability. The Presbytery will debate and vote on this proposal at its January, 2011 meeting.



### MARTHA SADONGEI COMMISSIONED

The Presbytery commissioned Rev. Martha Sadongei to serve on the General Assembly's Staff for Native American Ministries. Martha adds this part-time position to her ongoing work as Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Phoenix and one of two Native American Ministry Consultants for the Presbytery. Rev. Sterling Morse (Associate Director of the Women's and Racial Ethnic Ministries Division of the General Assembly Mission Council, Louisville, KY) and Presbytery Moderator Rev. Karen Muenich (Heritage Presbyterian Church, Glendale) led the commissioning.

### BUDGET ACTION

Upon recommendation of the Council, the Presbytery:

\* adopted a budget for 2011 that calls for a \$.15 increase in per capita, a challenge to grow mission giving, and a \$25,000 line item to be used to award small grants to congregations wanting to try a new ministry. (NOTE: the Synod reduced its per capita to \$5.00; the total **2011 per capita is \$30.50**).

\* accepted with regret the resignation/retirement of Dick Coffelt as Stated Clerk, effective March 31, 2011. Dick has served as Stated Clerk for 17 years.

\* accepted with regret the recommendation to conclude the position of Associate Executive Presbyter for Congregational Resourcing, effective June 30, 2011. Rev. Jose' Olagues, who has served in this position for the past 10 years, will conclude his service in Grand Canyon Presbytery at that time. (NOTE: the Presbytery was also informed that Elder Don Swanson, the Presbytery's Property Manager for the last 8 years, will retire in June 2011.)



### JOSE OLAGUES COMMISSIONED

- The Presbytery commissioned Rev. Jose Olagues to serve on a new General Assembly Commission on Middle Governing Bodies. The commission is responsible to assist presbyteries and synods as they adjust their ministries and boundaries to new realities in the church. Rev. Mark Tammen (Office of the General Assembly) and Presbytery Moderator Rev. Karen Muenich (Heritage Presbyterian Church, Glendale) led the commissioning.

- Worship was led by the Praise Team of Bethany Church. Rev. Lorelei Hillman, Interim Associate Pastor of University Presbyterian Church, Tempe, preached on the Advent theme of Saying Yes to God (story of Mary).

- The Stated Clerk, Elder Dick Coffelt, gave a report on the recent Synod meeting, in which the Synod reversed its position about not holding meetings in Arizona in response to the proposed state immigration law, SB1070.

- The day concluded with an Advent story about Elizabeth and Mary, presented by Sandy Ogelsby.

-The Presbytery discussed two papers that are part of the Planning Committee's work: a paper on vision and values, and a paper on minister and elder leadership. The participants spent time in small group discussion and then provided written feedback. The hope is to present a full report to the March, 2011 Presbytery meeting (with adoption at the June, 2011 meeting).

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**THANK YOU,  
BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN!**