

DIGEST

A short review of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon meeting of November 13, 2004,
held at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Phoenix

Roll for November 13, 2004

Churches: Of 70 churches, 44 were present and 26 were not.

Commissioners:

Ministers Of the 100 non-retired members on the combined roll of active members in service in congregations, in other service, in ministry beyond the jurisdiction and members-at-large, 55 were present, 26 were excused and 19 were absent.

Of the 114 retired ministers on the rolls, 21 were present and 93 were excused.

Elders Of 139 Elders authorized to attend as voting members from churches under the Imbalance Procedure approved on January 24, 2004, 61 were present

Of 9 Commissioned Lay Pastors 2 were present; 1 was excused and 6 were absent

Of 15 Elder Officers of the Presbytery or Elder members of Council 12 were present and 3 were absent

Summary Voting Members Present (unduplicated count)

Ministers	76
Elders	75
Total	151

Corresponding Members Enrolled	5
Visitors Present	17

Call to Order

Moderator Rev. Gale Watkins called the meeting to Order with an opening hymn and prayer at 8:40 a.m., the Stated Clerk was present, a quorum reported and no new business docketed.

Welcome by Southminster Presbyterian Church

Reginald Ragland, Commissioned Lay Pastor, welcomed Presbyters to the culmination of Southminster’s 50th Anniversary Celebratory Year. Southminster was formally organized in March 1954 with 52 members and the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Brooks as its pastor. Dr. Brooks, in establishing the philosophy of Southminster said: “That the church, if it is to be an instrument for the Gospel of Christ, it must serve the community and people with or without religious affiliation.” As a result, Southminster has become a religious and social force in the Phoenix community by providing many programs for youth and adults. Project Uplift, one of the first Head Start Programs, was begun in 1964 and still provides preschool education and after school activities.

Presbytery 103

Following the Call to Order, the Moderator continued a practice, begun at both the April 24, 2004 and September 17-18, 2004 meetings, of providing an orientation as to what the Presbytery of Grand Canyon does when it meets. In "Presbytery 103" Moderator Watkins highlighted the Mission Statement of the Presbytery and indicated: "Our mission is to celebrate and proclaim the gospel. We intend to do this in four ways that are listed. Note that three of them deal specifically with congregations. The Presbytery's very reason for being is the health of its congregations. Thus, when the Presbytery meets on a Saturday morning, there ought to be some connection between what we do here and the life of our congregations. Congregations and ministers ought to receive some benefit as a result of our gathering here on a Saturday...So we're spending a beautiful Saturday in Arizona in a meeting. Wouldn't it be great if it were time well spent, not wasted but invested in a mission that results in stronger and healthier congregations? May it be so!"

The full text of this orientation may be found by accessing the Presbytery Website at <http://www.pbygandcanyon.org/pdfs/presbytery103.pdf>

Service of Worship

The Service of Worship was led and the Message "Christ...The Common Denominator" given by Reginald Ragland, Commissioned Lay Pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church. The music ministry was under the direction of Lawrence Dabney, Director of Music, and was led by Soloist Susan Morris and the Chancel Choir. Rev. Marilyn Manning, Associate Pastor to Valley Presbyterian Church, administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. A Shalom Candle was lit by Rev Art Campbell, Pastor to Mission del Sol Presbyterian Church and Chair of the Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee. Rev. Campbell led in the litany that was intended to highlight the current issues of restoring creation, seeking peace, ending hunger and eliminating destructive addictions.

Cross-cultural Conflict Transformation Workshop "Who Knows But One Culture Knows No Culture"

Dr. David Augsburger, Professor of Pastoral Counseling at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena led a morning workshop in becoming more culturally capable in situations of conflict, especially in inter-cultural situations. As stated by Dr. Augsburger: "You can either make peace or get the credit for it, but you can't do both." Dr. Augsburger received his Ph.D. at the Claremont School of Theology. He has written books on the topics of forgiveness and cross-cultural conflict, and most recently "hate work." He has studied and taught all over the world, and serves frequently as a consultant to churches of many traditions that are in conflict.

Through vignette and role-play readings Dr. Augsburger highlighted that: "(1) Conflict is not an objective fact, it is a subjective experience. It is not a response to a problem, it is a reaction to fears and feelings; (2) Conflict is a way of feeling, thinking and acting in desperate, defensive manners. Conflict is the emotional rational or behavioral point where person's safety, security or survival becomes more important than a mutually satisfactory solution and equal good will; and (3) Conflict begins within us, not between us, its starts in here not out there."

In resolving conflict he further highlighted that: "(1) Problem solving and conflict management are two distinct processes, the conflict must be managed well before the problem-solving can begin; (2) When disputes occur, we first work to reduce the conflict, then negotiate to resolve the problem. Problems are composed of issues and interests, conflicts by desperate feelings, thought and actions; (3) When we encounter an ill-intentioned or a non-negotiable person, we recognize the interaction as facing a problem, not a conflict. We must be deliberate, not desperate in coping with such intransigence; (4) We recognize problem situations as two-or-more person phenomena. It takes at least two people to have a problem. (One can have a conflict alone, but not a problem). So problems are best defined, negotiated, resolved

mutually, jointly, in reciprocal dialogue; and (5) It is not possible to live without problems, but is desirable to live with few conflicts.”

Actions Taken

2005 Provisional Budget

Upon recommendation of the Presbytery Council the Presbytery approved a Provisional Budget with income of \$1,265,633 and expenditures of \$1,278,256 reflecting a difference of \$12,623 between income and expense. The approved Provisional Budget may be viewed in Narrative Form on the presbytery website at http://www.pbygrandcanyon.org/pdfs/2005_narrativebudget.pdf

Renewal of the Sexual Conduct Policy

Upon recommendation of the Committee on Ministry the Sexual Conduct Policy was renewed for an additional five years effective November 13, 2004. In recommending renewal, COM indicated that the Sexual Conduct Policy as currently worded continues to provide appropriate standards for responsible conduct and sets forth appropriate and well thought-out expectations, definitions, tasks, procedures and processes.

New Members Received

- Rev. Dr. Howard Rice (HR) and Interim President of Cook College and Theological School from the Presbytery of San Francisco
- Rev. Mike Moxness (HR) who returns to membership in the presbytery following his transfer to the Presbytery of the Cascades in 1998 where he served as Pastor to the Presbyterian Church of the Suislaw in Florence, Oregon.

Nominations Approved

40 persons were nominated to fill vacancies in the Class of 2007 on 11 of the Presbytery Committees. Additional nominations to fill vacancies in the Class of 2007 and to fill vacancies in other classes as a result of resignations will be presented at the January 22, 2005 Annual Meeting. The slate of those elected will be included in the Minutes of the November 13, 2004 meeting.

Elections to the Presbytery Committee on Nominations

The following persons were elected to the Presbytery of Grand Canyon Committee on Nominations in the classes indicated:

Class of 2005

Joanne Jones (Valley)
Rev. Karen Muenich

Class of 2007

Sue Stevenson (Christ)
Bob Campbell (Kingman)
Dale Baker (Pinnacle)

Examination for and the Commissioning of Mary and Walter Danforth as Commissioned Lay Pastors

Elders Mary and Walter Danforth, University Presbyterian Church, have been serving the Parker Valley Presbyterian Church as Temporary Supply Pastors. They have completed the proscribed training program of the Presbytery and been approved by the Preparation for Ministry Committee to become Commissioned Lay Pastors. They read their Statements of Faith and were examined by the presbytery. The Presbytery sustained the examinations. As the Parker Valley Session had previously recommended Mary and Walter to be the congregation's Commissioned Lay Pastors and had received the approval of the Committee on Ministry the presbytery voted to proceed to commissioning. The Danforth's friends, family and supporters gathered in the Chancel and the Presbytery held a Worship Service of Commissioning; the Moderator administered and Mary and Walter Danforth answered the required

Constitutional Questions. The Moderator, on behalf of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, welcomed them to their ministry as Commissioned Lay Pastors.

Reports and Items of Interest

Executive Presbyter

Heard the report of Ken Moe on the struggles within the denomination between those labeled conservatives and those labeled liberals, those labeled progressive and those labeled evangelical and between those who are attempting to keep the Reformed Tradition alive and those from a small segment who in recent years have been tilting away from these touchstones of the Reformed Tradition and toward the doctrines of the holiness tradition. He reported that these struggles portend danger for our denomination and proceeded to outline the struggles, differences, possible schism and the challenges before us as we face these differences and issues as a denomination.

The full text of the Executive Presbyter's report is available on the presbytery website at http://www.pbygrandcanyon.org/pdfs/exec_pres_report/epr_nov04.pdf

Introduction of New Members Received Previously by the Committee on Ministry

Rev. Alexandra Hendrickson (Member-at-large) from the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky who is currently serving as a Chaplain to Hospice of the Valley

Other Recognitions

Jeanette Miller, Chair of the Committee on Ministry, called on and recognized the following members of the presbytery in order that the presbytery might extend appreciation and thanks for their work and wish them well:

- Paula Valle, Associate Pastor - Mountain View Presbyterian Church, on her Honorable Retirement effective August 31, 2004.
- Jane Wilson, Interim Associate Pastor – Mountain View Presbyterian Church, on her Pastoral Call to be Associate Pastor to a church in the East effective January 1, 2005. Note: The name of the church is withheld in this digest as the congregation will not act on the Call until December 5, 2004.
- Tom Berry, Pastor – Pinetop, who will be installed on November 21, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. Presbyters were encouraged to attend this celebration of installation.

El Bethel Ethiopian Missionary Church

At the September 17-18, 2004 Stated Meeting the Presbytery approved that the El Bethel Ethiopian Missionary Church become a fellowship of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, according to the policy for self-forming congregations adopted September 2000. On behalf of the Administrative Commission to the El Bethel Ethiopian Missionary Church, Don Swanson introduced Tadele Lonsako who is the Pastor of El Bethel. Pastor Lonsako gave a brief history of the church, its current ministry at the Covenant Community Center, and its outreach ministry in establishing churches in Ethiopia. He then introduced the choir whose music ministry to the presbytery was uplifting and inspiring .

Board of Pensions

Jan Willette, Regional Representative of the Board of Pensions, reported that the Board of Pensions is 287 years old and was first established as a “fund for pious uses” and in 1870 it became a Board for Ministerial Relief and Widows and Orphans Fund. The present plan of the Board of Pensions came into being at the time of reunion in 1987. For the year 2003 there was a 27.5% gain in the investment portfolio and as of September 30 a 3% gain for 2004. She indicated that the Board of Pensions Website at <http://www.pensions.org/> has been redesigned and provides enhanced information and answers to questions.

Jan has been serving the Presbytery of Grand Canyon for a number of years and announced that after 40 years of ministry as a Minister of Word and Sacrament that she will be retiring as of the end of the year. Following her report the Moderator Elect Elder Cecil Patterson thanked Jan for her faithful service to our presbytery and wished her well in retirement.

Mission, Stewardship and Communications Development

Rocky Mackey, Chair of the Mission, Stewardship and Communications Development Committee, announced that the committee will be sponsoring a Mission Tour to Zimbabwe and Mozambique in May of 2005. It is the hope of the committee that this will lead to a partnership between our presbytery and a presbytery in one of those countries. She indicated that we have a lot to learn and encouraged presbyters to consider going on the trip or if unable to go that they consider supporting those who are going; financial contributions toward expenses would be one way of expressing support.

Council Personnel Committee

Helen Orr, Chair of the Council Personnel Committee, reported that:

- Staff Reviews for 2004 have been completed and face-to-face conversations held with each staff member. She expressed appreciation for the work of and contribution that each staff member makes to the mission and witness of the Presbytery.
- Comprehensive reviews, through the survey instruments distributed and returned; were completed for the Director of the Clergy Spouse Ministry and the Associate Executive for Congregation Resourcing positions and that the Council had affirmed that both positions be continued.

Ganado Task Force

Ann Poulos, Convenor of the Ganado Task Force, reported on the work of the Task Force to date. The Ganado Task Force was approved by the Presbytery Council in May 2004 to deal with emerging issues related to the 106 acres of the Ganado Mission which is owned by the Presbytery. The Ganado Mission was established in 1902 with a tri-fold ministry of health, education and spiritual development through the College of Ganado, Sage Hospital and the Ganado Presbyterian Church. The College was closed several years ago and the Sage Hospital facilities have been leased by the Navajo Health Foundation since 1969 when the Foundation was initiated by the Presbyterian Church. The Navajo Health Foundation is pressing the Presbytery to give them the property so they may build a new hospital. According to the Foundation they are pressed for time since the State Health Department will pull their accreditation if a new facility is not under way soon. Neither the Property Committee of the Council nor the Council itself has enough information to make an informed decision on these matters, hence the establishment of the task force. The Task Force has met with the Navajo Health Foundation, as has the Presbytery Council, and the Ganado Presbyterian Church Session. Conversations and meetings are ongoing. Through these discussions and other research the Task Force is seeking to be able to answer these questions:

- What are the negatives/positives connected with giving the Ganado Compound to the Navajo Health Foundation?
- What are the negatives/positives with keeping things just as they are?
- What are the negatives/positives if the Navajo Health Foundation moves the new hospital off the property and breaks the lease, effectively giving back the compound to the Presbytery lock, stock and barrel?
- What are the negatives/positives if the Presbytery gives the land back to the Navajo Tribe in an act of repatriation?

General Assembly Council

Mary Lynn Walters, member of the GAC from Grand Canyon Presbytery, called attention to her written report that was included with the Call materials to the meeting. She highlighted the continuing controversies surrounding the action of the 216th General Assembly (2004) relating to Israel / Palestine.

Without minimizing the controversy she indicated that there is a fair amount of misinformation about these actions and issues related to divestment. She encouraged presbyters to fully utilize the resources that are available through the PCUSA website at <http://pcusa.org/israelandjewishrelations/>

NOTE

The full minutes of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon's Stated Meeting of November 13, 2004 will be approved by the Presbytery Council at its meeting of December 2, 2004 and posted on the Presbytery of Grand Canyon Website at least two weeks prior to the January 22, 2005 Stated Meeting.