

## DIGEST

A short review of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon meeting of September 17-18, 2004,  
held at Community Presbyterian Church, Payson

### Roll for September 17-18, 2004

Churches: Of 70 churches, 48 were present and 22 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, 58 were present, 20 were excused and 22 were absent.

Of the 111 retired ministers on the rolls, 17 were present and 94 were excused.

Elders Of 139 Elders authorized to attend as voting members from churches under the Imbalance Procedure approved on January 24, 2004, 65 were present

Of 9 Commissioned Lay Pastors 5 were present and 4 were absent

Of 15 Elder Officers of the Presbytery or Elder members of Council 10 were present and 5 were absent

Summary Voting Members Present (unduplicated count)

Ministers 75

Elders 80

Total 155

Corresponding Members Enrolled 5

Visitors Present 38

### Call to Order

Moderator Rev. Gale Watkins called the meeting to Order with prayer at 4:05 p.m. The Stated Clerk was present, a quorum reported and no new business docketed.

### Presbytery 102

Following the Call to Order the Moderator continued a practice, begun at the April 24, 2004 meeting, of providing an orientation to what the Presbytery of Grand Canyon does when it meets. He indicated that at the April meeting he presented an overview called Presbytery 101. At this September meeting he was going a little bit further, with Presbytery 102. His message was that our Constitution spells out several principles of Presbyterian government. Among them is this: "this church shall be governed by presbyters (elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament, traditionally called ruling and teaching elders" (G-4.0301b.). Thus, the presbytery, a governing body of the church, is made up of presbyters, elders and ministers in equal numbers.

Presbytery 102 was his reading of a few of the ordination questions that all presbyters have answered and he asked how they shape our work as members of, and commissioners to, this presbytery. He continued with "what we do here, while gathered as a presbytery, is part of the ministry that is ours as ministers and elders. This is not a distraction from our real work. Rather, this is one of the settings in which our real work is done." Moderator Watkins concluded by saying that his hope and prayer for the Presbytery of

Grand Canyon as “we meet here today and tomorrow, is that each of us would live out the promises we made on the day we were ordained.”

The full text of this orientation may be found by accessing the Presbytery Website at <http://www.pbygrandcanyon.org/pdfs/presbytery102.pdf>

### **Services of Worship**

- On Friday evening following dinner, the Service of Worship was led and the Message, “Harold’s” was given by Rev. Martha Sadongi, Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church - Phoenix. The music ministry was led by the Community Presbyterian Church Choir and Organist.
- On Saturday morning a time of devotion and prayer was led by Rev. Chuck Proudfoot, Pastor of Community Presbyterian Church and the music ministry was led by the Praise Choir.

### **Actions Taken**

#### Title Changes to Associate Executive Presbyter

Upon recommendation of the Presbytery Council the Presbytery approved title changes for the following Staff Positions:

- Associate for Native American Ministries to Associate Executive Presbyter for Native American Ministries
- Associate for Congregational Resourcing to Associate Executive Presbyter for Congregational Resourcing

#### Per Capita Rate Apportionment

Upon recommendation of the Presbytery Council the Presbytery approved an increase in the Per Capita Apportionment Rate effective January 1, 2005, based upon church membership as of December 31, 2003, from \$24.66 to \$25.00 due an increase in the Per Capita Rate for the General Assembly of \$.06 and in order to maintain the Presbytery share of Per Capita income closer to the level of 2004.

#### Presbytery Bylaw Changes

- Upon recommendation of the Educational Ministries Committee the Presbytery approved changes in the number of members and responsibilities of the committee.
- Upon recommendation of the Stated Clerk the Presbytery approved changes to the number of members of the Presbytery Permanent Judicial Commission from seven (7) to nine (9) members in order to provide for a minimum of five (5) members to hear a case in the event that two (2) of the members are required to participate in any petition for review under the provisions of the Rules of Discipline.

#### New Members Received

- Rev. Thomas Berry who began his ministry as Pastor to Community Presbyterian Church of Pinetop on August 1, 2004 from the Presbytery of Winnebago.
- Rev. Robert Cassell who began his ministry as Interim Pastor to Orangewood Presbyterian Church on August 1, 2004 from the Presbytery of San Fernando pending transfer of his membership.
- Rev. Woody Garvin who began his ministry as Pastor to Valley Presbyterian Church on August 1, 2004 from the Presbytery of Inland Northwest.

#### Introduction of New Members Received Previously by the Committee on Ministry in May and June

- Rev. Hap Brahams (HR) from the Presbytery of San Diego
- Rev. Alexandra Hendrickson (Member-at-large) from the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky

- Rev. Brett Hendrickson, Stated Supply to Guadalupe Presbyterian Church, from the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky
- Rev. Deborah Kehle (Beyond the Jurisdiction), Chaplain at Hospice of Arizona, from the Presbytery of Pueblo

#### Presbytery Meeting Schedule for 2005

Upon recommendation of the Presbytery Council the Presbytery approved a return to five meetings per year (from four in 2004) with the “fifth” meeting in 2005 (as yet to be identified) to be devoted to education and fellowship with a minimum of business to conduct. The meeting schedule will be:

- Saturday, January 22, (First, Sun City)
- Friday-Saturday, March 18-19 (John Calvin, Apache Junction)
- Saturday, June 11, (Scottsdale)
- Friday-Saturday, September 16-17 (Ft. Defiance)
- Saturday, November 12, (Fountain Hills)

#### Nominations Approved

- Synod of the Southwest Commissioners (Class of 2006)  
Ministers – Mae Hicks, Kyle Weir, Mary Jane Miles  
Elders – Darlene Balcom (Yarnell), Lois McFadden (Celebration of Life)
- Montlure Board  
2006 – Ginny Mallia (Mesa 1<sup>st</sup>), Loretta Blackwater (Sacaton)  
2007 - Rev. Pat Young (Peoria 1<sup>st</sup>), Kim Keylon (Palo Cristi), Chris Knudsen (Mtn. View)
- Educational Ministries  
2005- Kirk Sexton (Valley)  
2006 – Don McGuirk (Central)
- Representation  
2006 Andy Molina (Guadalupe)

#### Maranantha Ethiopian Fellowship Administrative Commission

The charge of the Commission is to “explore the possibility of the El Bethel Ethiopian Missionary Church [previously known as the Maranantha Ethiopian Fellowship] becoming a chartered Congregation of the PC(USA), and for the commission to return with a recommendation at a future presbytery meeting.” The Presbytery, at its meeting of September 15-16, 2000 approved a policy for self-forming congregations. The policy provides for a two-step process of becoming a self-forming chartered congregation (as contrasted to the process of a new church development chartered congregation). The process envisions a step of becoming a Fellowship before the step of chartering.

The El Bethel Ethiopian Missionary Church has met all of the requirements to become a Fellowship including an indication that the leader and congregation intend to become a part of the Presbyterian Church (USA); showing an understanding and affirmation of Presbyterian polity and belief and indicate the group’s full cooperation with the supervision of the Presbytery; agreeing to contribute to PC(USA) General Mission and agreeing with the Presbytery on a plan toward implementing the requirements of the Presbyterian Church. El Bethel Missionary Church currently worships in the former Covenant church building located at 1210 E. Virginia and has done so for about three years. The El Bethel congregation also has a strong sense of calling back to do evangelism in Ethiopia. They have started several small churches there. Social and political changes have created an interest and removed obstacles in a way that creates a new opportunity.

Upon recommendation of the Commission, 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.

### Preparation for Ministry Approval – Enrollment as a Candidate

Upon recommendation of the Preparation for Ministry Committee and following examination of Inquirer Linda Worsnop by the Presbytery with respect to her Christian faith, forms of Christian service undertaken, and motives for seeking the ministry and an affirmative response to the questions posed by the Moderator of the Presbytery enrolled Linda Worsnop as a Candidate for Minister of Word and Sacrament.

### **Reports and Items of Interest**

#### Executive Presbyter

Heard the report of Ken Moe on the subject of Mandatory Reporting in cases of sexual or other abuse of a minor. State law recognizes physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect as crimes. Arizona Revised Statute 13-3620 makes all pastors, other church employees, and all church volunteers who have responsibility for the care of children mandatory reporters of abuse. They are legally required to report any information about physical or sexual abuse or neglect of a minor either to Child Protective Services or to local police. This requirement applies if there is reasonable belief that abuse has occurred. Failure to report abuse or suspected abuse is a crime. And for mandatory reporters – clergy and church employees and volunteers who work with children – this extends to any situation at any time, and not only to information gained in the course of church activities.

The full text of Ken Moe's report can be found by accessing the Presbytery Website at:

[http://www.pbygrandcanyon.org/pdfs/exec\\_pres\\_report/epr\\_sept04.pdf](http://www.pbygrandcanyon.org/pdfs/exec_pres_report/epr_sept04.pdf)

#### Interchurch Center Property

Grand Canyon Presbytery Board of Trustees met by conference call on July 28<sup>th</sup> and approved proceeding with the negotiation for sale of the Presbytery share of ownership of the Interchurch Center to the United Church of Christ and the Disciplines of Christ (two of the five members of the ICC Corporation) and authorized the continued work necessary to complete the Agreement for Purchase and Redemption of Membership document and a five-year Lease Agreement for the Presbytery of Grand Canyon offices in the Interchurch Center.

Subsequently in a letter dated August 31, 2004 the UCC and Disciples advised they had concluded that it was not possible to reach an agreement regarding redemption of memberships and subsequent leasing of space that would be acceptable to all 5 members.

In light of this a special ICC Board Meeting was held on September 14<sup>th</sup> at which time the Board received two offers to purchase. One at \$800,000 and one at \$900,000. The ICC Board unanimously approved that the ICC proceed with the Letter of Intent from Luke Land Inc. to purchase the ICC property at \$900,000 with a list of Tenant Improvement requirements as well as painting and carpeting improvements, and asking for reduction in the due diligence time period, clarification of the 80% lease renewals and the rental of common space.

The ICC Board is hopeful that this sale will come to fruition to the benefit of all of the five members of the ICC Corporation and permit the ELCA, Disciples, UCC and the Presbytery to continue to lease space from the new owners with the required tenant improvements at a favorable lease rate at the Interchurch Center site.

#### Final Report of the Oversight Committee of the Arizona Korean Presbyterian Church

The Committee on Ministry Oversight Committee approved by the Presbytery in September 2002 began its work with the Session in January 2003. During the period of January 2003 through August 2004 members of the Oversight Committee have met with the Pastor, Session and members of the congregation on numerous occasions. Considerable progress has been made since the Administrative Commission completed its work in September 2002, original jurisdiction was returned to the session and this period of

special oversight comes to a close. The oversight committee, on behalf of the Committee on Ministry has been pleased with the work of the Pastor and Session as they attempt to do their work in faithfulness to their own cultural setting while at the same time being faithful the covenantal community known as the Presbytery of Grand Canyon. The Oversight Committee asked for the prayers and support of the entire Presbytery of Grand Canyon community for Arizona Korean Presbyterian Church and encouraged churches and sessions to seek opportunities for mutually beneficial times for worship and fellowship.

### **Peace, Unity and Purity Task Force Video and Dialogue in Small Groups**

The Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church was mandated by the 213th General Assembly (2001) to "lead the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in spiritual discernment of our Christian identity in and for the 21st Century." It will make its final report to the 217th General Assembly (2006). The preliminary report of the Theological Task Force was endorsed by the 216<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2004). The report calls for a dialogue on the affirmations of Presbyterians of differing theological views. Rev. Martha Sadongei, a member of the Task Force, shared with presbyters that the preliminary report is an invitation to the whole church to join with the Task Force to begin where we can agree - with the affirmation that Jesus Christ is the source of the Church's peace, unity and purity. Presbyteries and sessions are asked to form groups of diverse persons to pray together and study affirmations.

In the course of its work, members of the Task Force have produced a series of lectures and presentations to the Task Force. Some materials have been formatted into videos or placed on the Task Force Website at <http://www.pcusa.org/peaceunitypurity> - these resources are intended to inform and to involve the broader Presbyterian community during the process of the Task Force's work. The second video in the series is "Who is Jesus Christ?" It addresses the topic of Christology - our confessions of Jesus Christ, who he was and is for us - which is one of the areas the Task Force was charged in its mandate to address. The material is based on a series of presentations made to the task force by one of its own members Dr. P. Mark Achtemeir, Associate Professor of systematic theology and ethics at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.

Presbyters viewed a portion of the video and then broke into twelve small groups to discuss the following questions:

1. Are ancient controversies in the church still important? Why or Why not?
2. Define "Confession"
3. What is the most challenging question you have about Jesus?
4. What significance is there for you that Jesus is fully God?

### **NOTE**

The full minutes of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon Stated Meeting of September 17-18, 2004 will be approved by the Presbytery Council at its meeting of October 2, 2004 and posted on the Presbytery of Grand Canyon Website at least two weeks prior to the November 13, 2004 Stated Meeting.