

DIGEST

A short review of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon meeting of April 24, 2004,
held at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Co-hosted by
First Presbyterian Church, Peoria

Roll for April 24, 2004

Churches: Of 70 churches, 52 were present and 18 were not.

Commissioners:

Ministers Of the 102 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, 49 were present, and 53 were not.

Of the 113 retired ministers on the rolls, 20 were present and 93 were not.

Elders Of 125 Elders authorized to attend as voting members from churches under the Imbalance Procedure approved on January 14, 2004, 77 were present

Of 5 Commissioned Lay Pastors 2 were present and 3 were not

Of 16 Elder Officers of the Presbytery or Elder members of Council, 2 were counted as Elder Commissioners from churches and 12 others were present.

Summary Voting Members Present (unduplicated count)

Ministers 69

Elders 91

Total 160

Corresponding Members Enrolled 1

Visitors Present 28

Call to Order

Moderator Reverend Gale Watkins called the meeting to Order with prayer at 9:00 a.m., the Stated Clerk was present, a quorum reported and no new business docketed.

Presbytery 101

Following the Call to Order the Moderator provided a brief orientation to what the Presbytery of Grand Canyon does when it meets. He called this orientation *Presbytery 101* and indicated that he was speaking especially to those who were present for the first time, "though there are some others who could use a refresher course." The full text of this orientation may be found by accessing the Presbytery Website at http://www.pbygrandcanyon.org/pdfs/pres_mtg_april04/presbytery101.pdf

Service of Worship

The Opening Service of Worship with the theme of *Feed My Sheep* was led with a Meditation by Rev. Pat Young; Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Peoria. The Service of Worship included Celebration of the Lord's Supper by intinction and the Commissioning of Commissioners / Advisory Delegate to the 216th General Assembly (2004). The ministry of music was led by the combined choirs of Northminster-Peoria First and Organist Daphne Collins. Other participants in the service were Rev. Robert Bigler, Interim Pastor of Northminster; Rev. Gale Watkins, Presbytery Moderator and Pastor to Westminster Presbyterian Church; and Elders Barbara Kolb and Bob Brandt from Northminster.

Actions Taken

Re-election of Rev. Kenneth A. Moe to an indefinite term as Executive Presbyter

Upon recommendation of the Presbytery Council, following completion of the five-year comprehensive review, called for when Ken Moe was elected Executive Presbyter in 1999, the Presbytery VOTED "the Call to the Rev. Kenneth A. Moe to undertake the office of the Executive Presbyter be renewed for an indefinite term subject both to annual and comprehensive fifth-year term reviews." The Presbytery also approved beginning the process of exploring the granting of a Sabbatical Leave with a report and recommendation at a future meeting of the Presbytery. The full text of the results of the comprehensive review and Presbytery Council recommendation are available on the website as part of the Call Papers to the presbytery meeting.

Proposed Changes to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Members of the Bills and Overture Committee consisting of Elder Jody Hodahkwen, Rev. Jim Longstreet, Rev. Tom Parker and Elder Kate Wilmoth, who were Commissioners to the 215th General Assembly (2003), were present and introduced for consideration the following proposed changes to the PCUSA Constitution which were acted upon as indicated below:

THE PRESBYTERY VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE ON THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS

Amendment 03-A.1

Preparing and Adopting Budgets- On Amending G-9.0404d and G-13.0103I

Amendment 03-A.2

Reporting and Review of Records – On Amending G-9.0407b-d

Amendment 03-A.4

Changing Terms of Office – On Amending G-13.0111a; G-13.0112a; G-13.0202a(1)-(5); G-13.0202b(1); G-13.0202d; and D-5.0102

Amendment 03-A.5

Advising for and Amending the Book of Order – On Amending G-13.0112b and G-18.0301c-e

Amendment 03-B

Clarifying Involuntary Dissolutions – On Amending G-9.0505b

Amendment 03-C

Participation in Synod – On Amending G-12.0204

Amendment 03-D

Changing the Number Required to Call a Special Meeting of the General Assembly – On Amending G-13.0104

Amendment 03-E

Expanding the Category of "In Correspondence." On Amending G-15.0201

Amendment 03-F

Obtaining a Stay of Enforcement – On Amending D-6.0103

Amendment 03-H

Granting an Extension of Time for an Investigating Committee to File Charges When Civil Authorities Become Involved – On Amending D-10.0401a

THE PRESBYTERY VOTED IN THE NEGATIVE ON THE FOLLOWING TWO PROPOSALS

Amendment 03-A.3

Determining the Number of Commissioners to GA – On Amending G-13.0102

Amendment 03-G

Administrative Leave in Cases Alleging Sexual Misconduct Towards a Minor –
On Adding Section D-10.0106

THE RESULTS OF THE VOTING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS BY ALL OF THE PRESBYTERIES MAY BE FOUND AT:

<http://www.pcusa.org/generalassembly/vote03.htm>

Approval of Annual Terms of Call

Upon recommendation of the Committee on Ministry the Presbytery VOTED approval of the changes in Terms of Calls for those Ministers of the Word and Sacrament who had reported changes and as they were listed in the Annual Salary Review of Ordained Personnel included in the packet distributed at the meeting. (Note: Copies of the Annual Salary Review are available upon request through the Presbytery Office)

Examination for and Commissioning of Commissioned Lay Pastors

The Presbytery sustained the examination for Commissioned Lay Pastor of Elder Everett Howard, who had completed all requirements of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon Commissioned Lay Pastor policy, been endorsed by the Preparation for Ministry Committee as ready for Commissioning and approved by the Committee on Ministry as a Commissioned Lay Pastor to Blackwater Presbyterian Church.

The Presbytery sustained the examination for Commissioned Lay Pastor of Elder Annette Lewis, who had completed all requirements of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon Commissioned Lay Pastor policy, been endorsed by the Preparation for Ministry Committee as ready for Commissioning and approved by the Committee on Ministry as a Commissioned Lay Pastor to Gila Crossing Presbyterian Church.

Moderator Gale Watkins led the Presbytery in a joint Service of Commissioning of Everett Howard and Annette Lewis during which time members of their families, members of the congregations they will be serving, and others who had been instrumental in their journey, gathered around them to offer support in their new ministries.

New Members Received

Rev. Charles Philip Courtney who began his ministry as Pastor to First Presbyterian Church, Yuma on February 16, 2004, was received into membership from the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse where he served as Pastor at United Church of Fayetteville, Fayetteville New York, for the past 23 years.

Inquirer to Candidate

Upon recommendation of the Preparation for Ministry Committee Inquirer Reginald Ragland, who is also Commissioned Lay Pastor to Southminster Presbyterian Church, was examined with respect to his Christian faith, forms of Christian service undertaken and motives for seeking the ministry. The examination was sustained. Inquirer Ragland responded in the affirmative to the questions posed by Moderator Gale Watkins following which the Moderator gave a brief charge and prayer. Reginald Ragland's name will be recorded on the presbytery's roll of candidates.

Alternate Examination Process

The Presbytery by more than a three-fourths vote approved the recommendation of the Preparation for Ministry Committee that Sharon Selestewa, a candidate for Minister of Word and Sacrament be

authorized to receive an alternate form of the standard ordination examination in the following two areas, Theology and Biblical Exegesis, as provided in the Book of Order G-14.0313b and in accordance with the presbytery's official policy for Alternate Means of Examination as revised in January 2003.

Nominations Approved

Educational Ministries: 2005: Adair Bentley (Sierra Vista)

Committee On Ministry: 2004: Joe Roediger (Memorial) (replacing Genni Denetsone)

Native American Ministries: 2006: Joy Manus (Chinle/Canyon)
LaBerta Collins (Salt River)
Theresa Donahue (Maricopa First)
Chair: Herschel Andrews;
Vice-Chair: Freida Payestewa

Women's Ministries: 2005: Celia Maddox (Gilbert)
2006: Rev. Trina Zelle

Montlure: Ginny Mallia (Mesa 1st), Matt Mallia (Mesa 1st)

Readers For Ordination Exams

Rev. Jane Wilson, Rev. Shelly Moe, Elder Cecil Patterson, Rev. Hipolito Melendez (Spanish), Rev. José Bibiloni (Spanish)
Alternates: Rev. Ken Moe, Rev. Gloria Pulido, Rev. Chuck Proudfoot

Concurrence on Overture 04-28 on Racism Training

Upon recommendation of the Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee the presbytery voted to concur in Overture 04-28 from the Presbytery of Detroit on directing the General Assembly Council (GAC) to provide an Introduction to Anti-Racism for Assemblies in 2006, 2008 and 2010 and making recommendations in 2010 for future events.

Opportunity for Dialogue

Executive Presbyter

Heard the report of Ken Moe on the topic of church related ethics "since many of the difficulties we face today in the denomination are exacerbated by differences in ethical standards as we deal with differences in doctrinal positions." Following the report presbyters gathered in small discussion groups to discuss these questions, which were posed for possible discussion:

1. Describe an experience where your own competing values put you in an ethical bind. How did you resolve the situation?
2. Are pastors bound to higher ethical standards than church members? Why or why not?
3. Are there circumstances, such as in defending church doctrine, when behavior that would otherwise be unethical is acceptable? Do the ends justify the means in some cases? Do the ends partially justify the means?
4. When might violence in the name of God be ethically acceptable?
5. Under what circumstances would it be acceptable to discredit publicly someone with opposing religious views?
6. When is it ethically acceptable to initiate an invitation for a person to leave his or her church and join yours?
7. Is mental or emotional manipulation a valid tool for evangelism?

Note*: Full text of the Executive Presbyter Report may be accessed at http://www.pbygrandcanyon.org/pdfs/exec_pres_report/epr_april04.pdf

Other Reports and Items of Interest

George B. Brooks Award

The Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee awards The George Brooks Award each year on behalf of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon in honor of Dr. George B. Brooks. Rosemarie Wallace was honored as the 2004 George Brooks Award recipient for her dedication to social justice, human rights, and peacemaking. She had been a member of Celebration of Life Presbyterian Church for seventeen years and died in January of this year. Rosemarie's pastor, Rev. Dale Strong received the award for her. The George Brooks Award plaque will be presented to Rosemarie's church family on May 9, 2004.

Congregational Transformation Report

To redevelop a congregation is to redirect its ministry in response to significant changes that may have taken place either among its membership or in the larger community it serve, or both. Redevelopment includes a planned effort to refocus the congregation's ministry. José Olagues, Presbytery Associate for Congregational Resourcing highlighted the dynamics that are important to redevelopment or transformation within a congregation. Rev. Bob Simmons from Christ Presbyterian Church, Rev. David Hicks and Mary Lynn Walters from Memorial Presbyterian Church shared some of their own experiences with the congregational transformation process.

Report of the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Synod of the Southwest

Rev. Janet Arbesman, who was elected Vice-Moderator of the Synod of the Southwest at the March 12-13, 2004 meeting of the Synod, presented on behalf of the six minister commissioners; Alice Geils Nord, Mae Hicks, Fran Park, John Poling, Grif Vautier and Judy Wellington; and the six elder commissioners; Darlene Balcom (Yarnell), Lois McFadden (Celebration of Life) Gloria Wilson (Crosswinds), Ike Cantrell (Scottsdale), Jody Hodahkwen (Central) and Virginia Strachan (Valley); a brief summary of reports and actions taken by the synod at its meeting which was held at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tucson. She highlighted approval of the budget for 2004, in the amount of \$1,194,377 of which approximately \$826,000 comes from the General Assembly as a Mission Partnership Grant, \$140,000 in mission pledges and \$180,000 in per capita from churches within the four presbyteries and the balance from investment income and unallocated fund balances from previous years. She also announced the Synod-Wide Fall Event on the theme of "Abiding in God" planned for October 24-26 in Albuquerque with Rev. Dr. Howard Rice as the keynote speaker. (Note: For a summary Synod of the Southwest Report of the 33rd Annual Meeting in Tucson written by Rev. Ray Kersting, Santa Fe Presbytery Stated Clerk and former Synod Moderator, click on the following link http://www.pbygrandcanyon.org/synod/report_april04.pdf)

Next Meeting of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon

The next meeting of the Presbytery will be held at the Community Presbyterian Church of Payson on Friday and Saturday September 17-18, 2004.

NOTE

The full minutes of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon Stated Meeting of April 24, 2004 will be approved by the Presbytery Council at its meeting of June 3, 2004 and posted on the Presbytery of Grand Canyon Website at least two weeks prior to the September 17-18, 2004 Stated Meeting.