

DIGEST

A short review of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon meeting of January 24, 2004,
held at Chandler Presbyterian Church, Co-hosted by
Goodyear Village Presbyterian Church

Roll for January 24, 2004

Churches: Of 70 churches, 45 were present and 25 were not.

Commissioners:

Ministers Of the 107 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, 65 were present and 42 were not.

Of the 112 retired ministers on the rolls, 19 were present and 93 were not.

Elders Of 139 Elders authorized to attend as voting members from churches under the Imbalance Procedure approved on January 14, 2003, 68 were present.

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

Of 14 Elder Officers of the Presbytery or Elder members of Council 2 were counted as Elder Commissioners from churches and 11 others were present.

Summary Voting Members Present (unduplicated count)

Ministers 84

Elders 83

Total 167

Corresponding Members Enrolled 4

Visitors Present 28

Call to Order

Moderator Elder Kate Wilmoth called the meeting to Order with prayer at 9:15 a.m.; the Stated Clerk was present, a quorum reported and a Memorial Minute for the Rev. Warren Day was docketed as new business.

Service of Worship

A Service of Worship was held under the leadership of outgoing Moderator Kate Wilmoth whose message was titled "I Used to Think..." Liturgists were: Dick Coffelt, Starr Luteri-Hicks, Don Swanson and the Rev(s) Renato Alvarez, Ken Moe, and Judy Wellington. The Rev(s) Shelly Moe and Ed Spence administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. A time of remembering those ministers and elders who died in the Faith was held. The Rev. Gale Watkins was installed as Moderator of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon. Chandler Presbyterian Church and the Crosswinds Philharmonics provided music.

Time for Dialogue

Rev. Gale Watkins spoke about the way the presbytery should work with and disagree with each other and referred to the PC(USA)'s publication on *Working with Each other In Times of Disagreement*. The section, *Speak the Truth in Love (Ephesians 4:15)*, was highlighted. Presbyters were asked to gather in small groups to discuss the Scripture passage and to respond to the questions provided. After presbyters came back together from their small groups, they shared some responses from their conversations

together: “*To speak the truth in love* requires listening to others with open hearts and minds, putting our own agenda aside as we listen; there is a strong need for Presbytery leadership to give us the truth since many attendees don’t have all the information, we depend upon our leaders.”

Actions Taken

Election of Moderator-Elect and Election of Treasurer

Upon nomination by the Nominations Committee, and an opportunity for nominations from the floor, the Presbytery elected Elder Cecil Patterson (Southminster) as Moderator-Elect, and Elder Shirley Randolph (Mountain View) to a three-year term as Treasurer.

Yearly Report Of Imbalance

The Stated Clerk called attention to the Yearly Report of Imbalance of minister members and elders commissioners provided with the Call to the Meeting. Presbytery ADOPTED the proposed Motion that the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, in accordance with the policy adopted at its June 19, 2001 Stated Meeting, invite the Sessions of the 41 churches beginning with number 31 (Payson Community) on the printed Alphabetical Listing of Churches on the Basis of Location/Church and continuing on to number 1 (Alpine Community) on the list, to elect one additional Elder Commissioner for the remaining meetings in 2004 through the first meeting of 2005.

Annual Meeting of the Corporation

The Presbytery Meeting was recessed and the Annual Meeting of the Corporation was called to order with prayer by Ralph Meredith, President of the Corporation. Presbytery VOTED to name the following as officers of the Corporation as indicated: President - Elder Kate Wilmoth; Vice President - Rev. Gale Watkins; Treasurer - Elder Shirley Randolph; Secretary - Elder Richard Coffelt; Executive Secretary - Rev. Kenneth Moe. Rev. Moe reported that the Annual Audit for 2003 was in process with the Henry and Horne Accounting Firm. Following the closing prayer by Elder Wilmoth the Presbytery meeting was reconvened.

New Members Received

David E. Bybee, a member of the Presbytery of Northern Kansas, called to be the pastor to Lake Havasu City Community Presbyterian Church was introduced and received into membership.

MacHenry Schafer, a member of New Brunswick Presbytery, called to serve as Associate Pastor to Pinnacle Presbyterian Church was introduced and received into membership.

Election of Commissioners and Youth Advisory Delegate to the 216th General Assembly (2004)

Youth Advisory Delegate

The following were introduced and placed in nomination for Youth Advisory Delegate: Karlene Carlson (Orangewood PC), 18, junior at Shadow Mountain H.S.; Shawn Guiney (Fountain Hills PC), 16, junior at Fountain Hills H.S.; Jessica Helmers (Mountain View PC), 17, senior at Xavier College Preparatory; Kindra Ross (Southminster PC), 21, junior at Phoenix College and Kathryn Theobald (Peoria First PC), 18, senior at Arizona School for the Arts. With all ballots in and counted, Presbytery VOTED to elect Jessica Helmers from Mountain View Presbyterian Church as the Youth Advisory Delegate for 2004 and Shawn Guiney from Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church as the alternate Y.A.D.

Elder Commissioners

Presbytery VOTED to confirm Elders Marilyn Berry (Yarnell) and Annette Stewart (Vah-Ki) as the Elder Commissioners to the 216th General Assembly (2004). The Churches were elected at the November meeting to nominate Elder Commissioners.

Minister Commissioners

Rev. Darren Hawkins (Sierra Vista Yuma), Rev. Michael Hartwell (Crosswinds), Rev. Shelly Moe (At-Large), Rev. Jane Wilson (Mountain View) were introduced to the Presbytery and given an opportunity to address the presbyters. With all ballots in and counted, Presbytery VOTED to elect Rev.

Darren Hawkins and Rev. Shelly Moe as Minister Commissioners to the 216th General Assembly (2004). Rev. Michael Hartwell and Rev. Jane Wilson were elected as alternates.

Items of Interest

Service of Honorable Retirement

There was a Service of Honorable Retirement for Rev. Stan Burtless. Presbyters came forward to express appreciation for his years of dedicated service and ministry.

Bid Farewell to Three Minister Members of our Presbytery

Revs. Brian and Jill Paulson and David Choate were recognized for their service of ministry in the Presbytery of Grand Canyon as they are transferring soon to other presbyteries.

Bills And Overtures Committee Report

The members of the Bills and Overtures Committee presented recommendations concerning the Proposed Constitutional Amendments Approved by the 215th General Assembly (2003) and Recommended to the Presbyteries for their Affirmative or Negative Votes. Questions were invited from the floor for the purpose of clarification. The voting will take place at the April 24, 2004 Stated Meeting.

Presbytery Council Report to the Presbytery Of Grand Canyon

Following the presentation at the November 15, 2003 Presbytery Meeting, by the Synod of the Southwest Council on its decision to relocate the Synod Office, a motion was passed requesting that the Presbytery Council provide a written report to clarify questions that were raised by Presbyters following the presentation. The report was in three sections as indicated below and was included as a part of the documents associated with the Call to the January 24, 2004 meeting:

1. Summary and Recommendations approved by the Presbytery Council at its Meeting of January 8, 2004
2. Background on the Request for this Report
3. Brief description of documents that were reviewed in preparation for this report and are on file in the office of the Presbytery Stated Clerk

Outgoing Chair of Council, Rev. Ralph Meredith, called attention to the following statement of the Council found in the written report:

“The Council sincerely believes that as a presbytery we must move beyond the current issues related to the Interchurch Center Property. Those matters are in the hands of the Interchurch Center Corporation and its Board of Directors. Of course the presbytery does have interest in the final resolution as it impacts the location of and operation of the offices of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon. Further the Council is sincerely seeking ways to improve the relationships between and among the Synod of the Southwest and its presbyteries. The Synod of the Southwest Council as reflected in their meeting of November 24, 2003 joins us in this endeavor.

Therefore we call upon all presbyters to put the issues of the Interchurch Center behind us and join in prayer for a new day in the Presbytery of Grand Canyon’s relationships with the Synod of the Southwest and the presbyteries of Santa Fe, Sierra Blanca and de Cristo.”

Memorial Minute for Rev. Warren Day

Rev. Joedd Miller led a Memorial Minute in honor of the life and witness of Rev. Bud Day who died in December and had been Joedd’s pastor in India many years ago.

Annual Report of the Presbytery Executive and Chairperson of the Presbytery Council

Rev. Ken Moe stated that last year’s finances for the Presbytery did not require us to use our reserves; however, we did only match our *reduced* budget. The 2004 GA meeting will have heavy traffic, as the next one will not be held until 2006. Many overtures have already been delivered. We need to remain calm! Pastoral changes – in the next few years we will get a dozen or more new pastors; there is a

projected 100% turnover in the next seven years. Elders are also changing. These people will not have the personal experience of what we did in the 20th century.

Rev. Ralph Meredith referred to the Committee Annual Reports for 2003 and commended them to the Presbytery. He shared a reading on faith – our faith is in God. He asked the question, “Are we living life to the fullest, or are we being too cautious?”

Recognition for Service and Expressions of Thanks

Outgoing Chair of Council – Rev. Ralph Meredith

A presentation was made to Ralph Meredith, in recognition of his dedicated service as Moderator-Elect, Moderator and Chair of Council. Presbyters responded with a round of applause.

Outgoing Treasurer – Elder Robert Gerlach

A presentation was made to Bob Gerlach (First PC, Mesa) in recognition of his six years of service as Treasurer. Presbytery responded with a round of applause.

Thanks to the Hosts

Thanks were given to Chandler Presbyterian Church and Goodyear Village Presbyterian Church, and all those who were so helpful in arranging this meeting.

Next Meeting

The next Stated Meeting of Presbytery will be Saturday, April 24, 2004 at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Phoenix.

Adjournment

Presbytery adjourned with Rev. Gale Watkins giving the closing prayer at 3:40 PM