



REPORT



April 2004

Synod of the Southwest Holds Its 33rd Annual Meeting in Tucson

Meeting at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tucson the middle of March, commissioners from the four presbyteries of the Synod of the Southwest elected elder Hilbert Schouten, Coolidge, Arizona, as moderator. The term is for two years.

Active in his community as well as the church at the local, presbytery, and synod level, Schouten has been treasurer and moderator of Presbytery de Cristo. At the synod level he has served on the Budget and Finance Committee and was moderator of the committee for one term. By profession he is a CPA and Registered Representative for LPL with offices in Chandler, Tucson, Sierra Vista and Sonoita.

He has been married to Myra for 41 years and together they had three children, one of whom is deceased. As Moderator, he will moderate the annual meetings of the synod and the regular meetings of Synod Council. He succeeds Elder Adrian Martinez, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

In other business:

- Commissioners approved a budget for 2004 of \$1,194,377. Of this amount, some \$826 thousand comes from the General Assembly as a Mission Partnership Grant. Congregations throughout the two-state area are expected to contribute some \$140 thousand. The per capita apportionment of \$5 per member will add another \$180 thousand. Investment income and unallocated fund balances from previous years will round out the budget.
- On the expenditure side of the budget, commissioners approved an allocation of \$130 thousand to each of the presbyteries for support of each presbytery's executive and racial ethnic staff persons. Some \$312 thousand will be used to support the Synod Office, and \$335 thousand will be divided between the presbyteries through an elaborate formula for each presbytery's mission.
- Commissioners voted to extend the call to the Rev. Jan DeVries as stated clerk/synod executive for another five years.

- On nomination of the Nominating Committee the following were elected to serve as moderators of the committees of Synod:
 - The Rev. Janet Arbesman, Phoenix, vice moderator;
 - Elder Conrad Rocha, Albuquerque, Budget and Finance;
 - Elder Helen Orr, Phoenix, Personnel;
 - Elder Adrian Martinez, Las Cruces, Hispanic Ministries Coordinating Committee;
 - The Rev. Jaime Quiñones, Committee on Representation;
 - When convened, the Permanent Judicial Commission will elect its own moderator.
- The moderator of Funds Development Committee is currently vacant.
- Synod elected the Rev. Bob Williams moderator of the Nominating Committee.

Speaking briefly to commissioners were three young Volunteers in Mission who are spending their terms working on the border. They were Laura Crim, Jennifer Hill, and Natalie Shetler. Another of the volunteers, Kelky Wesselink was not at the Synod meeting.

Synod-Wide Fall Event Set

Under the leadership of Vice Moderator Janet Arbesman, a Synod-wide fall event is being planned on the theme, "Abiding in God" at the Marriott Hotel in Albuquerque, October 24-26.

Keynote speaker will be the Rev. Howard Rice, retired professor at San Francisco Seminary and currently interim president of Cook College and Theological School in the Phoenix area.

The event is designed to nurture the spiritual development of church leaders in three areas: personal, congregational, and sharing with others. Church officers, who include pastors, elders, deacons, as well as members involved with the leadership of the church, are invited to experience the renewing freshness of the Spirit and learn specific spiritual skills for challenging and often uncertain times when abiding in God is difficult.

Synod Office Now In Tucson

Since the meeting of the Synod last year, the synod office has moved to Tucson and is located at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Commissioners had the opportunity to visit the new office space. In making the move, the Synod withdrew from the Interchurch Center in Phoenix where the office had been located for many years. The rent for space in Tucson is much less expensive and results in a considerable savings to the Synod.