

STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF STOCKTON
 Saturday, May 7, 2016
 Harvest Presbyterian Church, Ceres

The Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Stockton was convened at 9:03 a.m. with prayer by the Moderator RE Laurel Wisenor. TE Jim Stochl welcomed the presbytery, with some history of the church and location, and gave a welcome to stay for lunch. The Stated Clerk declared that a quorum was present according to the Book of Order G-11.0202.

Attending	Teaching Elders	Ruling Elders
Ceres, Harvest	Jim Stochl	Patricia Artuzu Cynthia Cauley
Columbia, First	Janet Russell	Jim Brandt Jon Whited
Gustine, Community Lodi, Grace	Mark Hollingsworth	Kathy Mendonca Bill Stigle John Arthur
Manteca	Karl Hauser	Dan Gnade Pete Ludwigsen Perry Sedoo
Modesto, Geneva Patterson, Federated Stockton, First	Joshua Trautmann Eun-Joo Myung Augustine Wright	Merilyn Vaughn Jim Louden Letty Aspiras Cecilia Moran Shirley Gahm David Weisenberger
Stockton, Trinity		
Tracy, First		
Turlock, Cortez Turlock, First	Craig Wright	Pat Wallace

Other Teaching Elders: Nancy Clegg, Bill David, David Warner, Wendy Warner

Corresponding Members: None

Ruling Elder Officers and Chairpersons:

- Laurel Wisenor, Moderator
- Robert Opie, Chair of Finance
- Candace Peterson, Chair of Committee on Ministry
- CLP Tim Nguyen, Vietnamese Evangelistic Outreach
- Jennifer Warren Hauser, Chair of Mission

Others Present: Leslie Davis (First, Columbia), Gary Davis (First, Columbia), Joseph Torres (First, Stockton), Gretchen Loudon (First, Stockton), Diane Brandt (First, Columbia), Judy Gnade (Manteca), Cheryl Hunt (First, Stockton), Paul Lewis (Grace, Lodi), Steve Netniss (First, Turlock), Margaret Kinglin (Harvest, Ceres), Warren Cawley (Harvest, Ceres), Cynda Cawley (Harvest, Ceres), Pilar Rodriguez (Trinity, Stockton), John Vaughn (First, Stockton), Lawrence Kennedy (Trinity, Stockton), Janice Kennedy (Trinity, Stockton)

Total number of teaching elders present: 12; Total number of ruling elders present: 22

Total number of congregations present: 10

First-Time Elders were introduced.

The docket was adopted as presented. MSC.

Worship: TE Jim Stochl led the worship and gave the message, "Identity and Mission", using Luke 3:21-22 about Jesus' baptism as a calling into ministry. Together with the Moderator, General Assembly Commissioners TE Gus Wright and RE Cecilia Moran, and youth attending the Presbyterian Youth Triennium were commissioned.

Consent Agenda: Moderator RE Laurel Wisenor

- It was MSC to approval of the Minutes of the Stated Meeting held on February 6, 2016

Council Report: TE Mark Hollingsworth

- Report of Interim Presbytery Coordinator Search Committee – TE David Warner gave an update on the search committee's process. They will be interviewing prospective candidates soon.
- Motions to Dismiss First Presbyterian Church, Columbia – Following a summary of the report of the Presbytery Engagement Team, TE Hollingsworth stated the motions reported to the Council and recommended to presbytery.
 - It was MSC to allow the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia to be dismissed at their request to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO).
 - It was MSC to approve the previous terms of financial settlement as agreed by vote of the congregation on April 17, 2016 (\$57,000)
 - It was MSC to approve the request of TE Janet Russell regarding her desire to leave the PC(USA), and be dismissed to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO) as approved by COM on April 26, 2016.
 - It was MSC that the effective date of dismissal shall be August 5, 2016.
- Service of Blessing for First Presbyterian Church, Columbia – Mark shared from John 15 as a reminder of our connectedness in Christ through the true vine. Prayers were shared by Pastor Janet Russell, member of the Presbytery Engagement Team RE Perry Sedoo, and Chair of Council and member of the PET TE Mark Hollingsworth. Members of presbytery individually gave words of blessing and peace to those in attendance from First, Columbia.

Recess: The presbytery took a short recess.

Updated credential report – TE 12; RE 22; Churches 10

Stated Clerk Report: TE Nancy Clegg

- The Clerk held a Session Minutes Review on April 2, 2016. Seven of the 11 churches attended the review. Two churches had no exceptions to their minutes: First, Tracy and Geneva, Modesto. Four remain to be reviewed: Patterson Federated; Cortez, Turlock; Grace, Lodi; First, Turlock. The remaining had some exceptions to be corrected: Harvest, Ceres; Community, Gustine; Manteca; First, Stockton; Trinity, Stockton.
- Statistical Reporting for 2015 has been completed. TE Clegg shared some statistics: Membership loss of remaining churches: 62 - All but First, Tracy and First, Turlock showed losses. Current membership of the presbytery: 1,437. Age distribution shows the greatest number over 65 years of age. Racial Ethnic Breakdown shows members in each category, with 1,050 white.

- TE Clegg shared an update on the dismissal process for Covenant Community, Vacaville. The title of the church remained in Sacramento Presbytery, and the loan transfer from the Synod to a local bank revealed the discrepancy. Nancy is working with the title company to get all the documentation required, so it has delayed the final dismissal date.
- Cortez Administrative Commission - TE Wendy Warner
The manse renovations were supported by a vote of presbytery of \$15,000 at the November 2015 Stated Meeting. Additional expenses came from the Cortez savings. The AC requests additional support for the ongoing ministry and mission though the rest of the year. It was MSC to allocate up to \$16,000 in undesignated funds to Cortez, Turlock through 2016, and during which time the A.C. and Cortez will develop a mission plan for Cortez and bring that plan back to presbytery at the September Stated Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: TE Jim Stochl

- Mission Giving and Per Capita Giving reports were made available. It was MSC to receive the Treasurer's reports.
- Board of Pensions Regional Consultation – Jim summarized the changes to the benefits plan, primarily with medical coverage and options expanded for other staff and validated ministries.
- Student Loan Proposal – Finance Committee proposes a grant option to churches with first call pastors with student loan debt; \$1,000 for the first year, \$2,000 the second year, \$3,000 the third year, \$4,000 the fourth year, and \$10,000 the fifth year, for a total of \$20,000. The money is granted to the churches, to pass on to the pastor. The money will be treated by the church as taxable income to the pastor. The church can set up its own reporting criteria for such a grant.
 - This grant is not to be used for personal debt.
 - This grant shall be overseen by the Committee on Ministry and the qualifying criteria shall be set by COM. These churches shall be paying at least half time presbytery minimum salary. These churches shall also be current on per capita payments and mission payments.
 - This grant will begin in 2016, but COM may want to apply this retroactively to 2014 or 2015 for currently serving pastors.
 - The money can be taken out of Presbytery of Stockton general reserves, given the fact that about \$249,000 will be coming into the Presbytery from departing churches in the next few months.
 - Recommend that the bulk of the money be placed in a 12-month MDC at the Synod in order to earn maximum interest.

It was MSC to approve the Student Loan Grant.

- Housing Proposal – Finance Committee proposes a grant option in order to assist churches in keeping TE's who wish to purchase a home, to set aside \$100,000 in assets to be distributed in the following manner:
 - A sum of up to \$50,000 to be lent to a local church that has a Teaching Elder who wishes to purchase a house or housing unit in the community.
 - This money would be lent to the churches, to use to assist the TE in making a down-payment on a home in the community.

- A shared-equity or other agreement would be created and agreed to by the TE and the church, and ratified by the presbytery.
- The church would be encouraged to also contribute some money to the down-payment of the housing unit.
- An annual report will be made to the Presbytery through the Finance Committee.
- Qualifying churches shall be paying the TE at least half time presbytery minimum salary. These churches shall also be current on per capita payments and mission payments.
- A dedicated fund that would lend money to individual congregations solely for the purpose of assisting the congregation's TE in the purchase of a home.
- The money will be taken out of Presbytery of Stockton general reserves. Until used, the money be placed in a 6-month MDC at the Synod in order to earn maximum interest.
- The Loan to the church from the Presbytery would be interest-free.
- The Loan will not require periodic payments, but would become due upon the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the congregation and the TE.
- The congregation will enter into a shared equity or other acceptable agreement with the TE.
- The housing assistance agreement would include provisions under which the loan to the TE would become payable.
- When the loan is repaid to the congregation, the amount of the original loan from the Presbytery will be repaid to the Presbytery and retained in the housing assistance dedicated fund.
- Any earnings above the original loan amount will be retained by the congregation.

It was MSC to approve the Housing Grant.

Committee on Ministry: RE Candace Peterson

- Salary Reports are lacking, having only received three reports to date. Candace not so gently reminded the churches represented that still needing to fulfill this requirement to fill out the salary report and send to the COM.

Committee on Preparation: TE Wendy Warner

- Inquirer Steve Netniss was introduced to the presbytery, and Steve shared his statement of call with the presbytery. After words of affirmation, it was MSC to move Steve from Inquirer to Candidate.
- Wendy asked for volunteers to be Ordination Exam Readers; 1 RE, 1 TE, 1 alternate; August and October. TE Jim Stochl, RE Candace Peterson, and RE Pat Wallace (alternate) were approved. It was MSC.

Mission Committee: RE Jennifer Warren Hauser

- RE Warren Hauser shared that the Mission Committee has approved financial support for mission trips this summer and for the Youth Triennium.
- RE Cheryl Hunt, member of the committee, reported on her attendance at the Ecumenical Advocacy Days held in Washington, D.C. in April. The theme was “Lift Every Voice; Race, Class and Power“. Cheryl shared her experience, and offered

resources gleaned from the conference. Cheryl also attended the PC(USA) Compassion, Peace, and Justice Training Day at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, with guest speaker Tony De La Rosa, Interim Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

- Jennifer invited anyone interested to attend the Sacramento Presbytery Mission Dinner on Friday, May 13 at Carmichael Presbyterian Church from 6-9 p.m. Director of the Office of Public Policy and the Nominee for GA Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson will be speaking.

Healthy Congregations Committee: TE Karl Hauser

- Certificates are provided for those who attended the Safe Church Training led by Jane Odell held during the Leadership Training Event.
- Website Preparation for Congregations - Candidate Steve Neatness shared the new website of First Presbyterian Church, Turlock as a model he has recently built for the church. He offers his assistance to help congregations develop websites.
- A special event with *Hillsong*, will be offered on Saturday, June 11, 2016 at Manteca Presbyterian Church to introduce contemporary music options to the church.
- All-Presbytery Picnic on a Saturday in July is being planned.

Personnel Committee Report: RE Marilyn Vaughn

- RE Vaughn reported that annual personnel reviews will be held in June.

New and Unfinished Business/Friendly One Minute Announcements

- First, Stockton hosts a NT Bible reading marathon on June 11, 2016.
- CRE Nguyen announced the passing of his father who was the founding pastor of the Vietnamese Baptist Church of Sacramento.
- PW honored two women, Shirley Gahm and Cecilia Moran with life membership.
- Grace, Lodi will be initiating online giving, and thanked the presbytery for this encouragement.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: RE Laurel Wisenor

- The Moderator thanked Harvest Presbyterian Church for their hospitality and lunch.
- It was MSC to adjourn. Laurel closed in prayer at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

TE Nancy Clegg, Stated Clerk