

MINUTES OF A CALLED MEETING OF MISSION PRESBYTERY
Grace Presbyterian Church – Victoria, Texas
January 9, 2016 – 10:30 A.M.

Call to Order & Opening Prayer

The Called Meeting of Mission Presbytery was called to order by the Moderator, Teaching Elder James Lee, and opened with a reading from Galatians 6 and a prayer at 10:30 A.M. on Saturday, January 9, 2016, at Grace Presbyterian Church in Victoria, Texas.

The required quorum of three Teaching Elders and three Ruling Elders from three different congregations was present. [See end of Minutes for actual count of attendees.]

The Moderator asked TE Dan Fultz, the host pastor, to give a greeting to the presbytery.

The Moderator asked the Interim Stated Clerk to present the call for this meeting. He reported that this meeting was called by the General Council of Mission Presbytery so that the presbytery might hear and act on a proposal from the Committee on Ministry that presbytery elect an Administrative Commission to inquire into reports of disorder in the session and congregation of First Presbyterian Church of El Campo, Texas.

The Call for the meeting was found to be in order.

Motion by Committee on Ministry

The Moderator asked RE Marie Baker (Hope, Austin), Chair of the Committee on Ministry (COM), to make the motion on behalf of the COM. After an opening explanatory statement, and on behalf of COM, she **MOVED** the following:

That Mission Presbytery authorize the formation of an Administrative Commission to inquire into reports of disorder in the session and congregation of First Presbyterian Church of El Campo, Texas, with the full power and authority of the presbytery, including the following:

1. To counsel with the session and pastor, and to inquire into difficulties that may exist within the session and congregation, and between the pastor and the session and/or congregation [G-3.0303d];
2. To advise the session as to appropriate actions to be taken to resolve the reported difficulties, offering to help as a mediator, if necessary;
3. To act to correct the difficulties, if requested by the session or if the session is unable or unwilling to do so, following the procedural safeguards of the Rules of Discipline;
4. To have access to all church records [G-3.0107], including but not limited to: membership rolls, minutes of Session and all boards and committees, minutes of congregational meetings, financial records, membership directories, newsletters, and materials distributed for sessional or congregational information; and
5. To assume original jurisdiction of the session if it determines that the session cannot appropriately exercise its authority [G-3.0109b; G-3.0303e].

TE Diana Whitley was asked to provide explanatory background concerning the situation in the El Campo Church. She quoted Jeremiah 23 to assure the presbytery that the plans for an AC are for the congregation's health and well-being. She gave some history behind the present circumstance, including the dire financial straits the congregation is experiencing, and the number of presbytery

representatives who have worked with the congregation over the past few years. She has been meeting monthly with the session over the past year.

There was brief discussion, following which the Motion was **approved** by voice vote.

Motion by General Council

RE Liz Anzaldua, Chair of General Council, **MOVED** that the following persons be elected to serve as the Administrative Commission:

TE Diana Whitley
TE Dan Fultz
TE Kathy Vineyard
CRE Joe Pat Nance (Pilgrim, Smiley)
RE Bonnie Wilkinson (First, Victoria)

The Motion was seconded and, upon motion by TE David Evans, they were **elected** by acclamation.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

The business for which this meeting was called having been completed, commissioners were thanked for their presence, and the meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Moderator at 11:03 A.M.

Actual Attendance:

Teaching Elders	17
Ruling Elder Commissioners	25
Executive Presbyter/Staff	1
Members of General Council (Non TEs)	5
Commissioned Ruling Elders (serving)	6
Certified Christian Educators (REs)	0
Certified Assoc. Christian Educators (REs)	<u>0</u>
Sub-Total, Voting Members	54
Corresponding Members (voice only)	0
Presenters given Voice	0
Visitors/Guests	36
Presbytery Staff	1
Youth Delegates	<u>0</u>
Sub-Total, Non-Voting Attendees	37
Total Attendance	91

Respectfully submitted,

TE William C. Poe
Interim Stated Clerk