

## **Stated Meeting of Mission Presbytery**

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Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church, Austin TX  
March 2-3, 2018

### **Presbytery Meeting Convened**

The moderator, Rev. Peter Crouch, convened the meeting at 1:01 p.m. in the sanctuary with prayer. Peter announced that the meeting was being streamed live on You Tube. He introduced the theme of the meeting “Empowering Congregations”. He welcomed President Steven O’Day of Austin College, Rev. Kathryn Threadgill with Presbyterian Mission Agency (Vital Congregations), Rev. Jon Reinink with Presbyterian Mission Agency (Special Offerings), Rev. Webster Kaisi, Rev. Brian Ellison with Covenant Network, Rev. Kevin Keaton with the Board of Pensions, and other special guests. He welcomed “home” Rev. Lemuel Garcia with Presbyterian Mission Agency.

### **Welcome from Host Church**

Rev. Peter Crouch introduced Rev. Leon Bloder who brought greetings from Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church. He announced that in order to prove that we are better together they are serving pulled pork, because nothing is better than eating smoked meat together. He thanked Rev. Rob Mueller for preparing the meat. He encouraged the body to go to the “selfie station” in the exhibit hall and get their pictures taken with “Presbyterian props”.

### **Introduction of the Designated Offering: Youth Triennium**

Rev. Ellen Hensle, Youth Connection Committee Co-Chair introduced the offering that will go to help fund the bus for our youth going to Triennium this July and a video on Youth Triennium was shown.

### **Omnibus Motion**

The Stated Clerk **MOVED** to approve the docket as found in the Mission Presbytery Pre-Presbytery Packet, that Presbytery receive all reports as posted on the Mission Presbytery Pre-Presbytery Packet webpage, with the exception of the recommendations or motions annotated as requiring vote on the floor of Presbytery, and to approve the minutes of the October 2018 meeting as found on the webpage. Seconded. **Motion carried.**

### **Seating of Corresponding Members**

The Stated Clerk **MOVED** the following be seated as corresponding members of this meeting of Presbytery with voice but without vote:

- Rev. Kevin Keaton, Board of Pensions
- Rev. Brian Ellison, Covenant Network
- Rev. Jon Reinink, Presbyterian Mission Agency
- Rev. Webster Kaisi, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Livingstonia Synod
- Rev. Kathryn Threadgill, Presbyterian Mission Agency

Seconded. **Motion carried.**

### **Presenters with Voice and No Vote**

The Stated Clerk **MOVED** the following be given voice without vote to:

- Teresa Ward, Westlake Hills
- Steven Carr, Shepherd of the Hills
- Neil McKown, Shepherd of the Hills
- Debbie Ficzeri, Shepherd of the Hills
- Bee Moorhead, Texas Impact
- Erica Nelson, Texas Impact
- Miriam Fiorent, Casa Marianella
- Tom Turk, Puentos de Christo
- Steven O'Day, Austin College

Seconded. **Motion carried.**

### **General Presbyter Report**

Rev. Sallie Watson, General Presbyter, gave her report. She introduced Marc Gerardis with The Insurance Board. She announced that Melody Gonzalez has cards to help people connect to the ACS software used by the presbytery for the directory. 12 congregations have signed up for Vital Congregations:

- Hope, Austin
- First, Brownsville
- Primera Iglesia, Brownsville
- Grace, Corpus Christi
- First, Elgin
- Forest Hills, Helotes
- New Hope, La Feria
- St. Andrew, Marble Falls
- First, McAllen
- First, Mission
- First, Palacios
- Crestholme, San Antonio

She reminded the body that the deadline to sign up for Vital Congregations in April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sallie shared the “top ten” churches in giving for shared mission support per membership:

- #10 – Grace, Victoria
- #9 – San Gabriel, Georgetown
- #8- Madison Square, San Antonio
- #7- Grace, Round Rock
- #6 – New Hope, La Feria
- #5 – First, Rockport
- #4 – First, Alice
- #3 – First, Cotulla

#2 – First, Luling

#1 – First, Palacios

She thanked the congregation for everything they give to the support the work of the presbytery.

The following congregations that have completed their recovery work from Hurricane Harvey:

- El Divino Salvador, Corpus Christi
- First, Collegeport
- First, Refugio
- First, Rockport
- First, Victoria
- Grace, Victoria
- Nicea, Victoria

She called on Ed Sackett, Disaster Recovery Coordinator of Mission Presbytery, to make an announcement about First Presbyterian Church in Taft. He announced that 38 students from Austin College are coming to work in Taft. There is a lot of work to be done that will cost about \$15,000. He invited congregations to consider if they can help support Taft through monetary gifts. Checks can be sent to the presbytery office and designated for Taft.

Sallie shared a video of Alex Villapondo, ruling elder at Memorial Presbyterian, San Marcos on the restoration of their buildings after the fire in 2016.

Sallie announced that if there are any “kangeroos” present to gather up front with President Steven O’Day of Austin College before breaking for workshops for a photo opp.

### **Greetings from Austin College**

Moderator Crouch invited Rev. Josh Robinson to introduce President Steven O'Day. President O'Day brought greetings from Austin College and acknowledged the Austin College alumni who are members of Mission Presbytery.

### **Workshops**

The presbytery broke for the following workshops at 1: 51 p.m.

- So Much Left to Do: Seeking Real Welcome for LGBTQIA People in Church & Society – Rev. Brian Ellison
- More Than a Tambourine! (Vital Congregations) – Rev. Kathryn Threadgill & Rev. Sallie Watson
- Welcoming and Retaining Visitors – Teresa Ward
- Utilizing Social Media to Its Fullest – Rev. Leon Bloder, Steve Carr, Neil McKown and Debbie Ficzeri
- The Immigration Panel – Caly Fernandez, Bee Morehead, Erica Nelson, Miriam Fiorent

### **Worship**

The Presbytery gathered again at 4:00 p.m. for worship. Rev. Amy Meyer of First Presbyterian, Elgin preached the sermon on Nehemiah 8:1-10 encouraging the members to say “Yes, And!” to the ministries we are called to as congregations. Rev. Leon Bloder and Rev. Britta Dukes officiated at the Lord’s Table. Communion also included an opportunity to be anointed with oil.

### **Order of the Day – Commission on Ministry (Report A)**

Rev. Dan Fultz, Chair, presented on behalf of the committee. He brought greetings from the Commission on Ministry. He shared that each church is assigned a liaison from the Commission on Ministry and encouraged congregations to be open in communication with their liaison and see them as an ally and resource.

He called on Rev. Monica Smith, chair of the COM examination team to present Sheri Dittman for examination to be commissioned as a Commissioner Pastor at First Presbyterian, Brownsville. Sheri was asked, “what steps are important as you prepare a sermon for your congregation”. The floor was open for questions. Rev. Bart Roush asked her to speak about the role and purpose of the church. Rev. Joel Moody asked her what brings her great joy in ministry. She asked what she would do if a member came to her asking if that member should harbor an undocumented person. Rev. Dan Fultz **moved** that her examination be sustained and she be commissioned to serve at First, Brownsville. **Motion approved.**

Rev. Smith presented the following ministers who have been welcomed into the presbytery since the last meeting and asked them to share one or two things that excite them in their work:

Rev, Margaret Aymer (Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary)

Rev. Jack Barden (Presbyterian Church of Lake Travis)

Rev. Nancy Benson-Nicol (Member-at-large)

Rev. Erin McGee (First Presbyterian Church, El Campo)

Rev. Emily Owen (Hyde Park Presbyterian Church)

Rev. Alex Serna-Wallender (Trinity University)

Rev. Emily Wright (Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church)

The meeting recessed at 6:03 p.m. and will reconvene at 8:30 Saturday morning.

### **Morning Prayer**

The meeting reconvened at 8:34 a.m. with morning prayer led by Rev. Stacy Ikard and the Shepherd of the Hills Praise Band.

### **General Council Report (Report B)**

RE Judy Ferguson, Chair of General Council gave the report. She shared that the General Council had a retreat in January and started to study the book *Canoeing the*

*Mountain*. She thanked Rev. Rob Mueller and RE Laura Dabney for their service as listening team for First Presbyterian Church of Del Rio.

The council **moves** that the presbytery approve an Administrative Commission to work with First Presbyterian Church in Del Rio, Texas with the following tasks:

- To compile an accurate roll of members
- To work with the congregation on visioning and mission for the future
- To assume original jurisdiction
- Other tasks that may be necessary for the future of First, Del Rio

The members of the Administrative Commission would be:

- Rev. Rob Mueller
- RE Laura Dabney of First, Uvalde
- Rev. Sonja Dalglish

**Motion carried.**

### **Report on the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly**

The Commissioners to the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly presented the second part of their report. The first part was presented at the October 2018 meeting. Rev. Dan Milford, Rev. Carolina Trevino, RE Rick Covington and RE Dahlia Vela were all present to report. YAD Alexis Milford-Rosales joined via phone from Spain. They shared about the committees they served on and ran a video that represented how fast things went by at General Assembly. Alexis Milford-Rosales shared about her experience as a YAD. Rick Covington thanked Mission Presbytery for sending the overture regarding *Comfort My People* and provided information on its approval and funding of \$486,000.

### **Amendments to the Book of Order (Report C)**

Rev. Tricia Tedrow, Stated Clerk, presented the amendments to the Book of Order that came from the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly for vote. The amendments were presented in the following order:

- 18- A. Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons. On Amending G-2.0401  
**Approved**
- 18-B. Renunciation of Jurisdiction. Note: The General Assembly approved the combination of two proposed amendments in one item. 18-B.1 On Amending G-2.0509 and 18-B.2 On Amending D-10.0401d **Approved.**
- 18-C. Officers On Amending G-3.0104 **Failed.**
- 18-D. Membership of Presbytery On Amending G-3.0306 **Approved.**
- 18-E. Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to Its Pastors and Congregations On Amending G-3.0307 **Approved.**
- 18-F. Welcoming to the Table On Amending W-4.0202 **Approved**
- 18-G. Disciplinary Offense On Amending D-2.0203b **Approved**
- 18-H. Time Limit On Amending D-10.0401 Note: The General Assembly sends 18-H.1 and 18-H.2 as one amendment. **Approved.**

#### **Order of the Day – Break**

Break was taken at 9:38 and the meeting reconvened at 9:55 a.m.

#### **Committee on Representation and Participation (Report D)**

CP Kris Bair, Co-Chair, presented the report on behalf of the committee. She presented the slate of nominees as found in the report with the addition of RE Karl Spinner to serve on the Stewardship and Fiscal Oversight Committee, Class of 2021. The floor was opened for nominations. There being none, Kris Bair **moved** that the nominations cease and that the nominees be elected. Second. **Motion carried.**

#### **Board of Pensions**

Rev. Kevin Keaton, Church Consultant brought greetings from the Board of Pensions. He shared that the Board has seen growth in membership in the plans. He announced that the Board is no longer charging vacancy dues starting Jan. 1, 2019. The post-retirement services dues will be repurposed. He announced two new



initiatives; the Sabbatical Support grants and the Healthy Pastors/ Healthy Congregations plan.

**Order of the Day – Committee on the Preparation for Ministry (Report E)**

Rev. Laura Walters, Co-Chair, presented the report. She encouraged the congregations that if they know someone who is entering seminary or is in seminary to make sure that they know about the ecclesiastical process for ordination.

She made the following **motions**:

- That Mission Presbytery concur with the actions of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry to remove Stephanie Butler from the roll as an Inquirer, per G-2.0609 at her request. **Motion carried.**
- The Mission Presbytery concur with the actions of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry to remove Chelsea McCutchin (First, Round Rock) from the rolls as a Candidate, per G-2.0609 at her request. **Motion carried.**

**Presbyterian Foundation**

Sherry Kenney brought greetings from the Presbyterian Foundation and spoke to the programs they have to help support giving including online giving and legacy giving. Beginning March 4<sup>th</sup>, the Stewardship Navigator, an online resource for planning stewardship programs will be available. The Stewardship Kaleidoscope event will be held at the end of September and there are scholarships available.

**John Knox Ranch (Report E)**

Executive Director, Henry Owen, presented the report. He showed a video by Rev. Karen Ware, a former JKR camper. March 23<sup>rd</sup> is the Open House Summer Camp Rally Day. A new camp called Family Camp will be held this summer. There are scholarships available. They are working hard to get ready for camp including relining the pool, redesigning a new pool bathroom, and remodeling the bathroom in Calvin Cottage. He announced that there are opportunities for a volunteer day

including a scheduled one on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Elise Neal, member of the JKR steering committee, brought a letter of thanks from the committee for the presbytery's generosity in removing the "debt" to Mission Presbytery (see attached).

### **Youth Connection Committee (Report F)**

Rev. Ellen Henlse, Co-Chair, presented the report. She announced that the offering for Youth Triennium totaled: \$3,016.82. She reported that 400 people attended MidWinters at Mo Ranch this January. The next event is "Youth at Presbytery" held in conjunction with the June presbytery meeting. This will include commissioning the youth attending Triennium. The application form for "Youth at Presbytery" will be available on the presbytery website.

### **Special Offerings**

Rev. Jon Reinink, Associate for Church Support with PMA brought greetings and shared information about the special offerings. He reported that Mission congregations have given over \$740,000 in the past five years. He announced the 33 congregations are *Four for Four* congregations (giving to all four special offerings):

- First, Alice
- Faith, Austin
- Genesis, Austin
- Hyde Park, Austin
- St. John's, Austin
- University, Austin
- St. Mark, Boerne
- First, Copperas Cove
- Parkway, Corpus
- First, Cuero
- San Gabriel, Georgetown
- Gonzales, Gonzales
- Forest Hills, Helotes
- New Hope, La Feria

- First, Luling
- St. Andrew, Marble Falls
- First, McAllen
- New Braunfels, New Braunfels
- First, Port Lavaca
- First, Rockport
- Round Rock, Round Rock
- Divine Redeemer, San Antonio
- Grace, San Antonio
- Los Angeles Heights, San Antonio
- Northwood, San Antonio
- St. Andrew, San Antonio
- University, San Antonio
- Grace, Victoria
- Wimberley, Wimberley

The following have been part of it for over fifteen years:

- Central, Austin (17 years)
- Westminster, Austin (18 years)
- First, Austin (20 years)
- First, Kerrville (20 years)

#### **Mission, Outreach and Justice Committee (Report G)**

Rev. Claire Berry presented the report on behalf of the committee. She introduced Rev. Webster Kaisi, a student at APTS and an ordained minister in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Livingstonia Synod who brought greetings to the presbytery and thanked the presbytery for their support. Rev. Webster Kaisi's full letter to the presbytery is attached to the minutes.

### **Stewardship and Fiscal Oversight (Report H)**

RE Rita Livingston, Chair, presented the report. She announced that the Better Together Grants for 2019 are available to apply for. She also shared the changes made to the criteria for the grants. She announced there were five \$100 scholarships for attending the Kaleidoscope event.

The books for 2018 have not yet been closed out. The 2018 finances will be sent out in some format. After the April meeting of Fiscal Oversight, there will be bids for an audit of the 2018 books. They are working on reports for each of the committees on their expenses and designated funds.

She made the following motion on behalf of the committee:

- To elect Rev. Leslie Ellison to serve as Treasurer and RE Thurman Adkins to serve as Assistant Treasures for Mission Presbytery for 2019. **Motion carried.**

### **Church Development and Evangelism Committee (Report I)**

Rev. John Roberts presented the report on behalf of the committee. He encouraged congregations to become part of Vital Congregations. The Philippians Project is in its last year. There are grants available for evangelism efforts. The committee is looking at a possible new church development with partnership with Dripping Springs in the Austin area. Rev. Kyle Walker asked where this new church development would be located. Rev. Sallie Watson shared that it would be south of Austin, possibly in the Buda or Kyle area.

### **Puentos de Cristo and Building Healthy Temples**

Dr. Thomas Turk, president of Puentos de Cristo presented a report on the new program Building Healthy Temples.

**Being a Transformative Church in this Intercultural Era**

Rev. Lemuel Garcia brought greetings and presented information on being a Matthew 25 church as voted on at the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. He spoke to the 223<sup>rd</sup> action to approve an imperative on the reformation of the PCUSA to be a transformative church in this intercultural era.

**Stated Clerk's Report** (Report K0)

Rev. Tricia Tedrow, Stated Clerk, presented the report. She thanked all the congregations that had submitted their statistical reports for 2018. The deadline for all reports has now passed. The presbytery now has the ability to take online donations. The Donate Now button is on the home page of the website, and people can donate to the shared mission support or to specific projects including funds to help fund the bus for Youth Triennium.

She reported that the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Alice held a congregational meeting on Sunday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> to vote on the future of the church and brought the following motion from them:

- **That Mission Presbytery concur with the request of First Presbyterian Church of Alice, Texas that they be dissolved as of December 31, 2019.**  
Seconded. **Motion carried.**

The attendance for the meeting was:

Ministers – 108

Ruling Elder Commissioners – 118

Members of General Council (not TEs) – 8

Commissioned Pastors – 7

Certified Christian Educators – 0

Certified Associate Christian Educators – 3

Subtotal, Voting Members – 244

Corresponding Members – 5

Presenters given voice – 9

Visitors/Guests – 33

Presbytery Staff – 4

Subtotal, Non-voting Members – 51

Total - 295

The complete list of attendees is attached.

**Pastoral Care Committee** (Report L)

Rev. Carol Rahn, Chair, presented the report of the committee. She offered prayer for First Presbyterian Church, Alice. She announced that each region will have a representative that congregations and pastoral leaders can contact regarding pastoral care needs.

The necrology report for 2018 was presented (see attached).

Carol Rahn announced that Rev. Sonja Dalglish has been granted Honorably Retired status. Sonja shared how she has served Mission Presbytery with joy and she plans to “write more, and act less”.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Peter Crouch, and was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

The Presbytery will reconvene on June 21, 2019 at Cross Roads Church: A PC (USA) Congregation, 8102 Midcrown Drive, San Antonio Texas.

Submitted,

Tricia Tedrow, Stated Clerk