

Minutes
Presbytery of Santa Barbara
“Joining Together. Worshipping God. Loving People”
468th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Santa Barbara
Saturday, February 6, 2021 – 9:30a.m.
Online Zoom Registration and Meeting

*The Mission of the Presbytery of Santa Barbara:
We, the PCUSA churches and ministries of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo
counties, join together to foster vibrant worshipping communities who proclaim and live
out the love of Jesus Christ for one another and our neighbors.*

The 468th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Santa Barbara, Presbyterian Church (USA) was convened on February 6, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom audio/video teleconference call platform, by Moderator Rev. Tom Stephen.

Opening Prayer. *Remembering Clayton Cobb.* Moderator Stephen asked Rev. Mark Hong, Synod Executive and Stated Clerk, to lead a prayer remembering and honoring Rev. Clayton Cobb, pastor and Board of Pensions regional consultant who recently passed away. Moderator Stephen then prayed for a Spirit-filled meeting.

Moderator Stephen introduced Elder John Losey, ruling elder from Monte Vista Presbyterian Church, acting as administrator host for the Zoom online meeting platform. RE Losey explained the functions on Zoom, including voting.

Stated Clerk, Sandy Thoits, confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Roll was taken by pre-meeting online registration and video confirmation of attendance. The roll of the Presbytery is constituted by those who registered for the meeting and whose attendance during the Zoom meeting was confirmed by the Stated Clerk.

Attendance: 52 persons

Registered Voters Roll Summary: 47

Includes 2 Honorably Retired TE

Teaching Elder Members: 22

Ruling Elder Commissioners: 17. Representing 10 Churches.

Presbytery Officers: 4

TE Tom Stephen, Moderator

RE Lee Kirkpatrick, Moderator-Elect ((voting as Ruling Elder
Commissioner)

RE Sandy Thoits, Stated Clerk

RE Scott Eschbach, Treasurer

Committee Chair: 3

CRE Chuck Curtis (Church in the World)

Rev. Mickey Fenn (Clergy Support, COPE)

Rev. Janet Loughry HR (CORN)
Misc. Presbytery RE Member (Cambria): 1

Non-Voting Registration: 5

Commissioned Ruling Elders: 1 (CRE Diane Kirkpatrick)
Corresponding Members: 2
Visitors/Others: 2

ROLL

CHURCH/TEACHING ELDERS

RULING ELDER
COMMISSIONERS

- Carpinteria Jarrett Johnson	
- Goleta Jim Pazan	John Bloomer Jim Friestad
- Grover Beach	
- Lompoc (Cityview)	
- Moorpark Keenan Barber	Vera Rhimes
- Newbury Park Tom Stephen Matt Elam	
- Nipomo Garrett Andrew	Gail Lopez Robyn Myli
- Ojai	Terry Holland
- Oxnard Ted Brandt	Mary Brislinger Deborah Oberlander
- Paso Robles (Highlands) James Baird	
- Pismo Beach	
- Port Hueneme (Living Hope) Ron Urzua (and Santa Paula)	
- San Luis Obispo John D'Elia	Pamela Rodewald Tim Smith

- Santa Barbara (First Pres.)
Erik Wiebe
- Meryle Gaston
Lee Kirkpatrick
- Santa Barbara (St. Andrew's)
Jennifer Fraser
- Kirk Grier
Mona Wise
- Santa Paula
Ron Urzua (and Living Hope)
- Robert Schleef
Rodney Thompson
- Simi Valley (Stonebridge)
Jon Saur
Jonathan Lusche
- Summerland
- Thousand Oaks (Emmanuel)
David Anderson
- Joyce Maxwell

Other Teaching Elder Members: Julia Fogg, Steve Jacobsen, Bruce Lethbridge, Suzanne Malloy, Neal Nybo, Jim Seeber, Dan Stevens (HR), Kate Wiebe

Committee Chairs: Chuck Curtis, CRE; Rev. Mickey Fenn, Janet Loughry (HR).

Presbytery Officers present: TE Tom Stephen, Moderator; RE Lee Kirkpatrick, Moderator Elect; RE Sandy Thoits, Stated Clerk; RE Scott Eschbach, Treasurer

Other Voting Members: RE Tom Cochrun, Safe Harbor NCD

Non-Voting Registration:

- Commissioned Ruling Elders present: CRE Diane Kirkpatrick
- Corresponding Members: TE Maggie Harmon, Presbyterian Foundation; TE Mark Hong, Synod Exec. & Stated Clerk.
- Visitors/Others: RE John Losey, Monte Vista Presbyterian Church; RE Tamara Skov, St. Andrew's

Moderator Rev. Tom Stephen asked for the Introduction of First Time Ruling Elder Commissioners: Ruling Elder Scott Eschbach introduced first time REC Kirk Grier, from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

Introductions and Seating of Corresponding Members: Rev. Mark Hong, Synod of So. Calif. & Hawaii Executive & Stated Clerk; Rev. Maggie Harmon, Presbyterian Foundation

Motion to grant privilege of the floor to Corresponding Members and Committee Members. **Approved**

Motion to Adopt the Agenda as distributed. **Approved**

Report of the Stated Clerk. See written report attached as Attachment 1 to these Minutes. Stated Clerk Sandy Thoits reported that Presbytery Council has set a Special Called Presbytery Meeting for Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., to be held by Zoom meeting platform. The purpose of the meeting is for a Presbytery-wide discussion on strategic use of Presbytery reserves. The Notice of Call for Nominations for Presbytery Moderator-Elect is included with the documents and reports for this meeting. Presbytery will elect the Presbytery Moderator Elect (2021-2022) at the Saturday, May 15, 2021 Presbytery Meeting. Presbytery Standing Rules (S.R.) 3.22 provides for 90-days notice for the Call for this election. The deadline to submit nominations forms to the Stated Clerk is May 1, 2021.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda (Attachment 1), as distributed. **Approved**

The November 10, 2020, Presbytery Minutes were approved with the Consent Agenda.

Presbytery Adjourned for a time of Worship, Music, Meditation and Prayer.

- *Music.* Video Music by the Highland’s Church Worship Band.
- *Meditation.* Rev. Jenifer Fraser, Pastor at St. Andrew’s Pres. Church, led a time of mediation, “Love Thy Neighbor,” parable of the Good Samaritan.
- *Prayer.* Rev. Suzanne Malloy led a time of prayer.
- *Breakout Rooms.* The Moderator announced that the Zoom “Breakout Rooms” option will be used as an opportunity for Presbyters to be placed in Zoom small groups for sharing with each other, based on questions from a quotation from Henri Nouwen: *Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone’s face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are real questions.* At the conclusion of the Breakout group discussion time, presbyters returned to the full meeting, and one person from each group shared a thought from their discussion.

Report of Presbytery Council. Rev. Janet Loughry, Council Chair, reported.

- **Introduction of Council Members.** Rev. Loughry shared the names and positions of each of the Council Members, as an introduction of Presbytery Council.
- **Treasurer’s Report.** Ruling Elder Scott Eschbach, Chair of the Presbytery

Property & Finance Committee, reported on the year-end 2020 Financial Position, 12/31/2020. Scott Eschbach showed the financial slides on the Zoom screen and highlighted some items. Statement of Operations (January – December 2020). Summary of Statement of Financial Position (December 31, 2020). Selected items were further explained. Front Porch Income Program Portion Expense: RE Eschbach highlighted Front Porch leadership and diligence indicated by the footnote: ** In April 2020 in response to external, economic challenges Front Porch Council responsibly set a revised financial target of \$260,132

- Net Operating Income through December 31, 2020 was a deficit of (\$31,428). Total Liabilities & Net Assets, December 31, 2020: \$6,280,649.
- **Motion** to receive the Treasurer's report, was made, seconded.

Approved

Report from Synod Assembly. Rev. Suzanne Malloy reported from the December 5, 2020 Synod Assembly, which was the first completely virtual Synod Assembly. Presbytery of Santa Barbara was well represented. Rev. Malloy crafted the worship service, which included the message by Rev. Tom Stephen, communion was celebrated and administered by Rev. Jen Fraser and Rev. Malloy, with music performed by Erin McKibben and Konrad Kono of St. Andrew's Pres. Church. Committee reports were presented. Rev. Malloy reported on other highlights from the meeting. At the meeting, Rev. Malloy was installed as the Synod Moderator for this year.

Report from Maggie Harmon, Presbyterian Foundation. Maggie Harmon shared about the upcoming 2021 Free Learning Opportunities from the Presbyterian Foundation. March 2 – Presbyterian Foundation Day of Learning; March 24 – Leadership and Self-Care; April 21 – Best Stewardship Practices; May 19 – Do's and Don'ts of Narrative Budgets. The Foundation has an online Stewardship Navigator, with a new module on planned giving. Contact Maggie Harmon for more information.

G.A. Per Capita Video. A video titled "Blessed Be the Tie that Binds" from the PC(USA) Office of General Assembly, on the topic of Per Capita, was shown on the Zoom platform screen for Presbyters to view. Moderator Stephen then expressed appreciation for the giving to Presbytery Per Capita by the congregations.

Committee Reports

- **Church in the World.** CRE Chuck Curtis, Chair, reported on the success of the racial reconciliation program *Rising to the Moment*, an online program, five Sundays in January. The virtual program was very well attended. Recordings will be made available. The Santa Barbara Mission Conference this year was also held virtually and well attended. Elder Curtis expressed appreciation for all the leaders, volunteers and participants.
- **Clergy Support Committee.** Rev. Mickey Fenn, Chair, reported that the Committee members are Revs. Keenan Barber, Bob Crouch and Jim Pazan. Christmas cards were mailed to the ministers in the Presbytery. Rev. Barber

reported on the results of the survey that went out to pastors. Regular Tuesday morning Zoom meetings continue for pastors and mutual support.

- **CORN.** Rev. Janet Loughry, Chair, reported with thanks that last year nine new people agreed to serve on Presbytery Committees. The CORN Committee continues to seek those with interest in joining a Committee. Rev. Loughry reported that Council designated Rev. Mickey Fenn as Chair of the COPE Committee. Moderator-Elect candidates are being sought. Please see the form in the meeting documents to submit nominations.
- **Property and Finance Committee.** Ruling Elder Scott Eschbach, Chair, reported that the pandemic has slowed the audit process this year. Communications continue with the auditing firm.
- **Church Development Committee.** Rev. Matt Elam, Chair, reported that the Presbytery Mission Study Guide is now posted on the Presbytery website, under the “Resources” tab. Information on grants for New Worshipping Communities is also available on the website. Rev. Elam shared about the current Presbytery New Worshipping Communities.

Closing Meditation. The Moderator called on Rev. David Anderson to lead a time of Meditation as a closing to the meeting. Rev. Anderson shared a reading by Howard Thurman, titled “If I Knew You,” and encouraged Presbyters to act with neighborliness.

Moderator Stephen asked Elder Vera Rhimes to lead the closing prayer. Moderator Stephen then read the Presbytery Vision Statement and expressed encouragement to continue moving forward as a Presbytery. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

A Special Called Presbytery Meeting for Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., to be held by Zoom meeting platform. The 469th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Santa Barbara will be held on Saturday, Saturday, May 15, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., by Zoom meeting platform.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Thoits
Stated Clerk

ATTACHMENT 1

Report of the Stated Clerk and Consent Agenda February 6, 2020

Consent Agenda

NOTE: All items on the Consent Agenda will be presented for approval on one motion; however, any item may be removed for discussion and separate vote. Other Consent Agenda items may be distributed at the meeting.

The Stated Clerk:

- Recommends **approval** by Presbytery of the November 10, 2020 Minutes of the 467th meeting of the Presbytery of Santa Barbara.
- Minister Transactions:
 - The Committee on Ministry recommends Presbytery **approval** of the Dismissal of Rev. Dennis Falasco (HR) to East Tennessee Presbytery, pursuant to their request.

Stated Clerk Report

- **Notice of Special Called Presbytery Meeting, 3/9/21:** Presbytery Council has set a Special Called Presbytery Meeting for **Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, to be held by Zoom meeting platform. The purpose of the meeting is for a Presbytery-wide discussion on strategic use of Presbytery reserves.
- The **Notice of Call for Nominations for Presbytery Moderator-Elect** is included with the documents and reports for this meeting. Presbytery will elect the Presbytery Moderator Elect (2021-2022) at the Saturday, May 15, 2021 Presbytery Meeting. Presbytery Standing Rules (S.R.) 3.22 provides for 90-days notice for the Call for this election. The deadline to submit nominations forms to the Stated Clerk is May 1, 2021.
- **225th General Assembly (2022) News:** Last month, the PC(USA) Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) approved a hybrid General Assembly in 2022 that will include both in-person and online meetings. The in-person location was changed from Columbus, Ohio to Louisville, Kentucky, site of the PC(USA) national office. The Assembly's 12 committees will hold committee meetings, to be held in Louisville. Three committees will meet on June 20–22, three on June 23–25, three on June 27–29, and three on June 30–July 2. All plenaries will be held online with the exception of an initial quorum gathering. Plenary dates are still to be determined.
- **PC(USA) Year of Leader Formation: Investing in Ruling Elders and Deacons.** The PC(USA) Office of General Assembly has launched a year-long initiative in 2021 that will focus on Deacons and Ruling Elders. The initiative, "Year of Leader Formation: Investing in Ruling Elders and Deacons" brings

together new training resources, a series of articles, a webinar series, and other tools to help participants grow in the role.

- Resources are available at www.pcusa.org/leader-formation/
- *Coming Alive In Christ: Training For PC(USA) Ruling Elders And Deacons Based on The Constitutional Questions*. A multi-session resource delivered through an online training site, EQUIP. Study guides will be provided for leaders to use in a monthly and retreat format. Now available at <https://equip.pcusa.org/>

The Agenda, Reports, Minutes and other documents for this Meeting are posted on the Presbytery Website: www.sbpres.org

Report of the Presbytery Council

Presbytery Council usually meets monthly on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00AM, by Zoom. The meetings are open, and Presbytery members are encouraged to attend for all or part of the meetings. If you would like to attend a Council meeting, please contact Sandy Thoits, Stated Clerk, stated-clerk@sbpres.org, for the dates and times for the upcoming Council meetings. If you have concerns or recommendations, please contact the Moderator (Tom Stephen), Chair of Council (Janet Loughry), or Stated Clerk (Sandy Thoits).

December 2, 2020 Meeting by Zoom

- Approved the 11/10/20 Presbytery Meeting Minutes.
- Heard a report of positive results from the Front Porch Campus Ministry virtual fundraiser.
- Received a status report from the UMB Property Management Task Force on finalization of a property management contract for 2021.
- Planning for undertaking a Presbytery wide survey on possible uses for Presbytery reserves, as follow up to a motion approved by Presbytery at the November 10, 2020 Presbytery Meeting.
- Heard an update on planning and registrations for the *Rising to the Moment* (Tracey Stringer) program on five Sundays in January.
- Heard a report from the Clergy Support Committee on a survey emailed to pastors inquiring about ideas and pastoral needs.
- Authorized the Church Development Committee to distribute the \$3,750 remaining Synod COVID-19 grant funds to Presbytery new worshipping communities.
- Heard a report from the Stated Clerk on a virtual Zoom meeting on clerking topics hosted by the Stated Clerk for all church Clerks of Session.
- Approved holding the February 6, 2021 Presbytery Meeting by Zoom.

January 6, 2021 Meeting by Zoom

- Reviewed and received the November 30, 2020 financial report from the Treasurer.
- Planning for undertaking a Presbytery wide survey on the use of Presbytery reserves, as related to the Designated GP position and other possible uses. Council reviewed and approved a survey format. The survey to go out by email link (ie. Survey Monkey) concurrent or after the 2/6/21 Presbytery Meeting. Council will set a date for a Special Presbytery Meeting in March, 2021, after the survey results are available, for discussion on the strategic use of Presbytery reserves.
- Meeting Follow Up: Subsequent to the 1/6/21 meeting, Council approved the following Motions by vote by email on January 15, 2021.
 - Motion to Approve the Tentative Agenda for the February 6, 2021 Presbytery Meeting. Approved.
 - Motion to set a Special Called Presbytery Meeting by Zoom on Tuesday, March 9, at 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; the purpose of the meeting is for a Presbytery wide discussion on strategic use of Presbytery reserves. Approved
- Heard a report from COPE and discussed planning for the February 6, 2021 Presbytery Meeting.
- Heard a report on the status of the PRT dismissal process for City View Community Church, Lompoc.
- Heard a report from Rev. David Anderson, CPM Chair, about two possible candidates to come under care.
- Approved holding the May 15, 2021 Presbytery Meeting by Zoom.