

Meeting of the Presbytery of Riverside Assembly

Minutes

June 1, 2019

Beaumont Presbyterian Church

**The Vision/Mission Statement of the Presbytery of Riverside:**

**As the Presbytery of Riverside we are called to be:  
Connected congregations in deep discipleship with Jesus Christ  
who are faithful and active witnesses  
to God's love, justice and peace.**

**PRESBYTERY CONVENED**

The stated meeting of the Presbytery of Riverside was called to order in the Sanctuary of Beaumont Presbyterian Church in Beaumont, California, by Moderator Jeff Mague at 10:03 am. The meeting was opened with a prayer and a unison reading of the Presbytery's Mission/Vision statement.

**ENROLLMENT -**

The roll was taken by registration as follows: (Shading indicates in attendance.)

	<b>CONGREGATION</b>	<b>ATTENDED</b>	<b>CODE</b>
<b>VOTES</b>	Beaumont	TE Scott Mason	101
3		Beverly Webster	C
		Judy Strahan	C
	Big Bear	TE Roger Beukelman	158
2	Cathedral City	TE Lee Ireland	101
		Jeffrey Kramer	C
3	Corona	TE Henry DeGraaff	105
		Becky Bane	C
		Pete Mittelstadt	C
	Fontana	No Pastor / Vacant	0

2	Hemet	TE Tom Rennard	105
		Diana McNeil	C
		Jim Strand	C
2	Indio	TE Julie Hodges	101
		Ken Zanca	C
3	Lake Arrowhead	TE Bill Stanley	101
		Cathleen Coombs	C
2	Ontario	TE Curtis Webster	105
		Jesse Rose	C
2	Palm Springs	TE Christine Dickerson	101
2	Rancho Cucamonga	TE Martin A. Smith	101
		Pam Sickman	C
2	Redlands Community	CLP Jan Opdyke	107
2	Redlands First	TE Cheryl Raine	101
		CLP Hart Tan	107
		Jean Vieten	C
2	Rialto	TE Andrew Parnell	108
		Peggy Hill	C
2	Ridgecrest	TE Ralph Mueller	101
		Jo Mueller	C
		Jackie Brennan	C
3	Riverside, Calvary	TE Erin Thomas	101
		TE Alfred Graise	101
		Jeff Heath	C
		Sam Hynds	C
3	Riverside, Magnolia	TE Claire Schlegel	101
	-	TE Paul Knopf	101
		Jeanie Riggs	C
		Cherylyn Thornton	C
		Ann Laudermilk	C

2	Riverside, Victoria	TE Nancy Richmond	108
		Jim Williams	C
3	San Bernardino, First	TE Sandy Tice	101
		CLP Wendy Lamb	107
		John Garten-Shuman	C
		Amy Smith	C
	San Bernardino, Good Shepherd	No Pastor / Vacant	0
2	Temecula, Grace	TE Neal Neuenschwander	101
		Jeff Mague	C
2	Twentynine Palms	Donald Thursby	108
2	Upland First	TE Noel Anderson	101
		Jim Smirl	C
		Roland Morris	C
2	Upland Taiwanese	TE Joshua Hsieh	101
2	Wildomar	TE Joe Mazzela	101
2	Yucca Valley	TE Wayne Morrow	101
		Kent Johnson	C
		David Jenkins	C
<b>OTHER TEACHING ELDERS</b>			
	Choi	Mickie	405
	Eisenhower	Will	299
	Falconi	Noe	299
	Gamm	Marilyn	797
	George	Matthew	299
	High	Timm	797
	Huffstutler	James	299
	Karcher	Sylvia	299
	King	Thelma	299
	Kovar	Albin	299

	McCurdy	Sara	299
	McGuigan	William	299
	Park	Noah	797
	Shin	Esther	797
	Shullenberger	Steve.	299
	Stewart	Earl	299
	Stewart	Robert	299
	Williamson	Don	299
	Wright	Diana	299
	Yang	In	797
<b>OTHER VOTING ELDERS</b>			
	Entler	Carol	P. MOD
	Kistner	Melodee	PC.MOD
	Law	Debbie	PWP MOD
	Mague	Jeff	PA MOD & PERSONNEL
	Mittelstadt	Marilyn	P. MOD
	Reierson	Don	P. MOD
	Skoglund	Susan	NOM. MOD
	Smith	Anne	P. MOD
	Stanley	Carol	CCE
<b>PRESBYTERY OF RIVERSIDE STAFF</b>			
	Bowers	Kevin	
	Black	Carrie	
	Clements	Kim	
<b>CORRESPONDING MEMBERS</b>			
	Rev. Mark Hong	C & H Synod	
<b>GUESTS</b>			
	Nancy Connell	Church West Insurance	
	Nathan Sobers	Stonewall Ministries	

	Charlie Cutler	Church West Insurance	
	Jim Shepherd	Upland Pres.	
	Stacie Armenddft	1st SB	Youth
	Katrina Johnston	1st SB	Youth
	Jeanne Clark	Upland Pres.	Youth
	Airel Valverde	Beaumont	Youth
	Yezenia Gutierrez	Beaumont	Youth
	Wakaba Mwangi	LACPC	Youth
	Emilio Perez	Beaumont	Youth
	Hui Lee	Diamond Bar	Youth

There were 77 people in attendance and 62 with voting privileges at the start of the meeting.

#### **GATHERING**

A Quorum was declared.

Melodee Kistner, Moderator of the Presbytery Commission, introduced and presented the following for approval

Tom Rennard for Part Time, Stated Clerk (Temporary)

Lee Ireland for Part Time, Presbytery Leader for Mission and Vision (Temporary)

The Temporary Stated Clerk Covenant and Position Description and Covenant and Position Description for Presbytery Leader for Mission and Vision were provided in the Meeting Packet, including Terms of Call. Pensions and additional benefits were discussed. In response to a question, it was offered that whether the positions would be interim or permanent will be discussed by the Commission in coming months. No nominations were made from the floor in response to the Calls. Coming from a Commission with voting members of the Assembly, the Assembly moved and **voted to approve** each of the Commission's recommendations.

Tom Rennard as the new Stated Clerk announced that the next meeting would be on Saturday, September 14 at the Lake Arrowhead Community Presbyterian Church.

Introductions were made by some Teaching Elders of Members and Guests in attendance.

**WELCOME FROM HOST PASTOR**

TE Scott Mason

Rev. Mason welcomed those in attendance and gave some history of the church and pointed out the beauty and meaning of some of the stained glass windows.

**WORSHIP & COMMISSIONING SERVICE**

TE Julie Hodges

The Presbytery gathered in worship. The Word of God was preached by TE Julie Hodges in a sermon entitled "Heaven on Earth" based on Scripture text from Revelation 21:1-6 read by Rena Mason. An offering of \$668 was received and designated for Esther Shin and Noah Park's ministry in in Egypt. These funds will be matched by PIM, as will all funds received by all churches in the Riverside Presbytery during the mission co-workers current visit to the United States.

It was announced that 24 teens are going to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University from the Riverside Presbytery. Those present were invited to the front of the Sanctuary as Scott Mason led the recitation of the Promises of the Participants and the Promises of the Larger Church. Following the Promises, he stated that the teens were now commissioned as attendees to the 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

At 11:15 the Assembly was invited to transit from the Sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall for continuation of the meeting and lunch.

**NOT ON DOCKET REPORTS**

Stated Clerk

A motion **to approve** of the Minutes of the Presbytery of Riverside's last meeting on March 23, 2019 was made and passed.

A Report from the Administrative Commission for El Buen Pastor was presented by RE Jeff Mague regarding an April 24, 2019 meeting. No decisions had been made except to meet again with the principals of El Buen Pastor. It was further reported that TE James Munyi has resigned from the Commission and RE Izar Martinez has been appointed as a member of the Commission.

**GUEST SPEAKERS FROM CHURCH WEST INSURANCE**

Nancy Connell and Charlie Cutler

A presentation was made by Charlie Cutler who informed that Church West Insurance insures ministries and nonprofits in California, Nevada and Arizona, and has an office in Redlands. It represents The Insurance Board which is a non-profit organization which carries the policies for many of our congregations. The group also carries Brotherhood Mutual. A discussion of

various claims handled for churches was discussed. In California, the #1 reason for litigation is employment disputes. As a result, the company provides an Employee Handbook designed specifically for California churches. Nancy Connell works in this geographic area and was introduced.

### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

RE Susan Skoglund

Those members who were placed in nomination for Committees and Commissions were presented. The Assembly moved and **voted to approve** each of the Nominating Committee's recommendations. See Appendix 2 for the complete slate elected.

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

RE Debbie Law

The June 2019 Report was presented and has been attached as Appendix 3.

### **VITAL CHURCH INITIATIVE OVERVIEW**

TE Sandy Tice

TE Tice stated that 18 Presbytery members made a field trip to Denver to discuss and learn ways to revitalize and reenergize congregations. She presented the 7 Marks that are the foundation for this process. They are: 1) Lifelong Discipleship Formation, 2) Intentional and Authentic Evangelism; 3) Outward Incarnational Focus (helping others outside the church); 4) Empowering Servant Leadership (by finding the best ways members can contribute to the life of the church); 5) Spirit-Inspired Worship; 6) Caring Relationships (for all members); and 7) Ecclesial Health (represented by healthy systems that allow it to live into its mission). The Assembly was asked to consider whether its churches want to embrace this leadership and give it a two-year test. If so, Riverside Presbytery could be a part of it and could be part of the creation as the program unfolds. Assistance could be provided by the Presbyterian Mission Agency. It was pointed out that a church would not have to do all seven marks. The Presbytery has been awarded a grant for early funding, but the money has not yet been received. All churches are asked to consider and ask God if they can get help living up to these Marks so that a decision can be made at the September 2019 meeting. Following lunch, those assembled were invited to discuss the Vital Church Initiative in Table Talk Discussions.

The Doxology was sung as a prayer of thanksgiving for the lunch.

After lunch were Vital Church Initiative Table Talk Discussions.

**TWO-MINUTE ANNOUNCEMENT TIME** (Committees/Congregations/Individuals)

Carrie Black, Riverside Presbytery Office Manager reported that her request for volunteer help to sort documents from Crestline and Yucaipa and some from presbytery in the basement which was made at the last meeting resulted in the assistance of two volunteers for two days. As a result, 3/4 of the boxes have been reviewed, but there is a lot of paper to shred. She requested additional volunteers to assist with this task.

TE Nancy Richmond - Victoria Presbyterian Church has approximately 35 beautiful goldish-bronze choir vestments which are being offered to another church for free.

Carol Stanley - Camp is looking for candidates for a few three-week staff positions, especially male counselors and a guitar player. They may have the two males for this summer. Applications are at the Presbyterian Camp and Conference Centers Inc. website.

TE Cheryl Raine of Redland First – Thank you for the \$30,000 grant for Heating, Venting and Air Conditioning for the Sanctuary. It is helping them as they begin the project which is estimated to cost \$170,000 total.

TE Claire Schlegel - The clergy retreat is normally in October, but nothing has been started. She will start it by making a reservation but does not want to lead it. TE Wayne Morrow has agreed to help. TE Neal Neuenschwander also expressed interest.

TE Martin Smith, Northkirk Presbyterian, Rancho Cucamonga – Thank you Partners in Ministry for providing \$1,500 grant for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their theater in community. They have received five applications from high school and college students to direct a small play of five small vignettes for the summer camp.

Rev. Mark Hong, Southern California and Hawaii Synod Executive and Stated Clerk - The Synod is hosting sexual misconduct prevention training at three locations. Rev Dr. Kibbie Ruth will be the speaker September 5-7, 2019. Each day will be held at a different location for convenience. Synod will handle registration through the Synod website. Ministers are only requested to sign-up for one day from 9:30 to 3:00 pm. The afternoons are targeted for teaching elders. The morning session will be attended only by managers and employees.

TE Wayne Morrow, Desert Hills – On June 14 he is offering an introduction to Rock Climbing at Joshua Tree National Park for \$100. The church had three groups come and stay at our facility and go to JTNP. Any other church groups are welcome since JTNP can be almost impossible to get into at times. Groups can either be housed in the annex or can camp on the property.

The presbytery reconvened after lunch and was moderated by our Vice Moderator, the Rev. Claire Schlegel.



## **PRESBYTERY COMMISSION**

RE Melodee Kistner

### Appendix 4

RE Izar Martinez was nominated by the Commission for the Nominating Committee. Moved and **approved**.

Appendix 4A, Parliamentary Special Rules and Procedures was received for second read and was moved and **approved** by the Assembly. It will be inserted into the appropriate place in the Manual for Administrative Operations.

Congregational Revitalization Initiative: The idea was presented to send 3-5 people to the Baltimore Training for Facilitators August 4-6, 2019. How will the 3-5 be selected and financed? was asked. It was explained that there must be a minimum of 2 facilitators. The facilitators must be prepared to actually lead this for the Presbytery. Lee Ireland commented that applications for the training will help self-select the people. The monies will be taken from the Gracious Dismissal account. Who will receive the applications and decision makers? Answer: The Commission would receive applications and approve them.

Motion: To **authorize** 3-5 people to attend training in Baltimore and the final selections will be determined by the Presbytery Commission. Moved and **approved**.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES** TE Wayne Morrow

Wayne Morrow questioned whether the presbytery has new members for the Commission for New Worshipping Communities. Answer: There were no names presented at the last presbytery meeting. Some people have come forward since then, but their names will not be presented until the next presbytery meeting.

## **HEALTHY PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS COMMISSION**

TE Scott Mason

No written report was submitted. TE Steve Schullenberger was introduced and the Assembly was informed he was brought into the membership of the presbytery by action of the Commission. Steve spoke about being a product of the Pacific Northwest and a graduate of Oregon State University. He has served at three Presbyterian churches in the last 30 years, first nine years in San Joaquin Presbytery, next 18 years in the upper Midwest area in Rockford, IL of the Winnebago Presbytery and most recently for a small congregation on the Texas Gulf Coast. The church was decimated by a Class 4 hurricane, as was almost everything on the island. At this time, he felt the discernment of the Lord to let his wife's vocation as a physician assistant determine their location. After taking time to pray, they now live in Loma Linda near her

family, and he is looking for something to do and to serve in any way he can. He is privileged to be a part of Riverside Presbytery and looking forward to serve any way he can. He has been approached to consider moderating the Personnel Committee, something he has done in the past. He is not currently serving a congregation, but he is on the Pulpit Supply list.

**PARTNERS IN MINISTRY**

TE Paul Knopf

Appendix 6. A summary of the Committees accomplishments for the year was presented and appreciation for those who have served on the Committee.

**PROPERTY, FINANCE, INVESTMENT & FUNDS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** TE Ralph Mueller

Appendix 7 including the Riverside Presbytery Financial Position, April 30, 2019.

Moved and **Approved:** “The Committee recommends the Assembly approve the Lease Agreement Regarding Facilities Use Between the Centro Cristiano and the Presbytery of Riverside Fontana Administrative Commission.” Typographical corrections were made and it is included in the minutes as Appendix 7A.

Moved and **Approved:** “The Committee recommends that the Presbytery of Riverside discontinue the practice of leasing properties of congregations which have dissolved or have been dismissed from the Presbytery/PCUSA.” Background: The Presbytery staff and volunteers are spending a disproportionate amount of time managing properties, specifically, Crestline, Yucaipa and Fontana. As the Presbytery Leader pointed out, this has become a major focus of our attention and has distracted from our mission. The intention will be to offer the properties for sale. Presbytery’s efforts would be better spent supporting new worshipping communities and the vital congregation’s initiative.

**STATED CLERK'S REPORT**

TE Tom Rennard

The presbytery approved the Call to be Stated Clerk (Temporary) at this meeting effective today. There is no report at this time.

**PRESBYTERY LEADER FOR MISSION AND VISION REPORT**

TE Lee Ireland

The presbytery approved the Call to be Presbytery Leader for Mission and Vision (Temporary) at this meeting. There is no report at this time.

Appendix 8 was submitted in writing by the recently departed Presbytery Leader for Mission and Vision/Stated Clerk and will be appended to these minutes. Important dates and the report of one Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Don Thursby as Pastor of the Twenty-Nine Palms congregation were included.

**QUESTION: "HOW AND WHERE DID WE EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THIS MEETING?"**

Comments and affirmations were made from the floor.

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT, CLOSING PRAYER**

The meeting was closed in prayer and the presbytery was blessed by our Vice Moderator.