

Presbytery of New Covenant
Stated Meeting
March 22, 2014
Korean Central Presbyterian Church

Moderator RE John Jo (Houston, Korean Central) called the meeting to order at 9:00 am, and opened it with prayer.

Stated Clerk TE Lynn Hargrove declared the quorum and moved the docket be adopted as shown in the addendum report.

Rev. Jae Ho Yee, senior pastor of Korean Central Presbyterian Church, welcomed the commissioners and visitors to the meeting.

WELCOME: First time commissioners were asked to stand and be welcomed. Corresponding members were introduced: RE Eldon Sheffer, Schreiner University; Tracy Ebart, Church Campaign Services; TE Dan Saperstein and RE Valerie Young from the Synod of the Sun; Sy Hughes, Presbyterian Mission Agency; TE Hector Rivera, COR/Mission Presbytery. TE Rose Niles and TE Michael Chen were welcomed as new members of the presbytery.

OMNIBUS MOTION: The Omnibus Motion passed, which approved the minutes from the November, 2013, presbytery meeting.

Moderator John Jo shared scripture from Matthew about us being salt and light, and challenged us to make disciples, which is our theme this year.

TELLERS: Moderator John Jo named TE Nora Fitch (Houston, St. Thomas), TE Sam Jun (Houston, Pines), RE Jody Harrington (Houston, MDPC), RE Garry Schoonover (Katy, New Hope) as tellers for the meeting.

NOMINATIONS TO NOMINATING COMMITTEE: RE David Bell, Northwoods Presbyterian Church. Nominations to the Nominating Committee are made by the current moderator, the most recent past moderator and the moderator elect. This is a correction to what is in the docket.

WORSHIP: We began worship at 9:18 am, which opened with Psalm 46. TE Caressa Murray, coordinator for youth ministry for the presbytery, explained the offering for today which was for funding scholarships to youth activities. She introduced two youth, Norberto Herrera and Emmanuel Rivera,) who were able to attend the recent conclave weekend due to receiving scholarship funding. The offering totals \$2977.00. 221 st General Assembly Commissioners were commissioned. They are: TE Dan Alexander (Waverly and Trinity), RE Forbes Baker (Houston, Westminster), TE Helen Deleon (Webster), TE Jackie Hannan (Atascocita), RE Ann Hardy (Houston, St. John's), RE Jody Harrington (Houston, MDPC), RE John Hathaway (Woodlands Community), TE Sam Jun (Houston, Pines), TE Steve Oglesbee (Houston, Clear Lake), RE Nancy Penney (Conroe, First), and YAAD Clay Shupak (Lufkin, First).

9:43 am Synod of the Sun co-leaders RE Valerie Young and TE Dan Saperstein were introduced. They brought greetings from our brothers and sisters across the 4 state synod, and shared some of the work

of the synod. The 15th Annual Multi-Cultural Conference is coming up this summer in Fort Worth. The mission statement of the synod can be summed up in these words: Connecting * Equipping * Empowering

9:55 AM KEYNOTE: Stated Clerk Lynn Hargrove introduced our keynote speaker, RE Robert Hall, who focused on the relationship crisis in our country and how the church can respond.

11: 05 AM REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK: Stated Clerk Lynn Hargrove offered these corrections to the packet and addendum:

Packet, page 23, Paul Nazarian's compensation – what is listed as SECA should read “other direct compensation/reimbursement

Packet, page 24, M2 – Covenant, College Station has been granted permission for a Designated Pastor Nominating Committee - add the word “designated”

Addendum, page 15, T, Houston, Spring Branch, was granted permission to elect a Designated Associate Pastor nominating committee, add the word “associate”

The report of the stated clerk can be found in the packet beginning on page 14, and in the addendum, on page 6. The motion can be found on page 5 in the Addendum: *Having met the conditions for dismissal under Section C6.05 of the Covenant for Providence Church of Southeast Texas between Providence Presbyterian Church of Southeast Texas (P.C.U.S.A.), and St. John Lutheran Church (ELCA) Creating a Union/Federated Congregation, the Presbytery of New Covenant approves the dismissal of Providence Church of Southeast Texas to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians pending completion of the transfer.* There was no discussion. The motion was approved. John Jo offered a prayer for the congregation of Providence Church of Southeast Texas.

TE Becky Downs was asked to pray for churches in the presbytery, particularly those who have used the discernment process – Houston, First and Houston, Grace. She prayed that we would ask forgiveness and seek repentance.

STATE OF THE PRESBYTERY: Moderator John Jo introduced TE Mike Cole, general presbyter, who shared the “State of the Presbytery” address. Mike then introduced TE David Sawyer, who is serving as our Vision Consultant for the future of the Presbytery of New Covenant.

Business scheduled for the afternoon was brought forward to the extra time in the morning. These reports were heard:

MINISTRIES DIVISION STEERING COMMITTEE (MDSC): RE Jody Harrington (Houston, MDPC) reminded commissioners that the deadline is April 1, 2014, for the Vision Initiative and Lynn Johnson Social Justice grants. She mentioned that the questions asked need to be answered completely for funding to be granted.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION STEERING COMMITTEE (ADSC): RE Jane Larkin (Houston, St. Philip) stated that the Finance chair, RE Don Murray (Baytown, Faith), was not in the room to give the report. Lynn Hargrove fetched him to be able to give the report.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY: TE Kevin Boyd (Houston, St. Paul) stated that the CPM report is found in the packet.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: RE Gayle Smith (Houston, First) gave the Nominating Committee report which is found in the packet. Nominations from the floor were requested, but there were none. The nominees were approved.

ADSC: RE Jane Larkin (Houston, St. Philip) introduced the work of the Administrative Division Steering Committee, and then RE Don Murray (Baytown, First), the chair of finance. Don shared background on how the presbytery budget is assembled and how it moves through the committee structures. The short form of the budget is found on page 7 of the addendum. The detailed budget is on page 8. TE Cassandra Dahnke (Houston, Woodforest) asked a question about the proposed increase for the presbytery staff. The budget was approved.

Open Space over lunch:

Tracy Ebart, Church Campaign Services

Casey Jones, church ministry

Clare Zuposky, mission worker in Niger

Moderator Jo reminded the commissioners that there are four candidates preaching after lunch beginning at 1:10, and the meeting will reconvene at 1:45 pm.

Pete Chung of KCPC offered the blessing before lunch, as well as instructions for serving the meal, which was western style BBQ.

At 1:10 pm, the commissioners went to four different locations to hear the candidates for ordination preach their sermons. They were Ryan Kim, called to be associate pastor of Houston, Korean Central; Katherine Doehring, called to be Director of United Campus Ministry-Aggieland in College Station; Alex Cornell, called to be pastor of Houston, St. Stephen; and Greg Davis, called to be stated supply of Houston, San Pablo + Trinity. The sermon portions of their examinations were sustained in one of the four locations.

The commissioners reconvened in the sanctuary at 1:45 by singing, "More Love to Thee, O Christ", led by musicians from Houston, Korean Central.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY: Moderator John Jo recognized TE John Hirling (Houston, Westminster), the moderator of the COM, to give the report. Item 1 on the Table of Motions has been removed from consideration for these reasons: 1) it was presented in the packet as though it was a decision made by COM rather than recommended for approval; 2) there may be unintended consequences which will be studied further. A separate motion will be made after the table of motions business is concluded.

Motion: *to approve the name change from Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church to Alden Bridge Presbyterian Church.* The motion was approved.

TE Marie Mickey (Bryan, First) was invited to come forward to complete the examinations for the four candidates. First, Ryan Kim was invited to come forward. Marie asked, "One of the great ends of the church is the preservation of the truth. How does that inform and guide you in your ministry?" Other questions were invited, but none were asked. *The motion was made to sustain the examination of Ryan Kim.* The motion was approved.

Katherine Doehring was invited to come forward. Marie asked, "A phrase that we hear more than we like to hear is, "I am spiritual but not religious." How would you talk to students about the relevancy of the church if they were to say that?" Questions were invited from the floor, but none were asked. *The motion was made to sustain the examination of Katherine Doehring.* The motion passed.

Alex Cornell was invited forward. Marie asked Alex "Explain the connectional nature of the church and what it means to you?" No questions were asked from the floor. *The motion was made to sustain the examination of Alex Cornell.* The motion was approved.

Greg Davis was invited forward. Marie asked, "Of the essential tenets of the reformed faith, what one speaks to you and informs your ministry?" TE Dean Pogue (Katy, Grand Lakes) asked a question about Greg's statement of faith, and whether it contained a theology of works, and an acknowledgement of scripture compared to believing in scripture. Greg answered that faith is what we give our whole hearts to in relationship between self and God and self and others in the world. This is a more ancient understanding of belief than how it is used today. Greg answered Dean's questions to his satisfaction. *The motion was made to sustain the examination of Greg Davis.* The motion was approved.

TE John Hirling questioned if the action he wanted to bring forward needed the approval of presbytery. TE Winfield "Casey" Jones (Pearland, First) moved that the rules be suspended so that the motion could be brought. That motion passed. John Hirling made this motion: *That Teaching Elder Seung Hun "Paul" Yeou be permitted to serve Canaan Presbyterian Church up to one year without renouncing the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) pending approval by either The Presbytery of Chicago or Midwest Hanmi Presbytery.* John explained why he was bringing the motion. There were no questions. The motion passed.

John Hirling then introduced TE Kevin Keaton from the Board of Pensions who updated the commissioners on actions taken by the board about Teaching Elder participation in the medical plan. Kevin encouraged all Teaching Elders to take part in the "Call to Health," which can impact the amount of dues paid. Healthy pastors can translate to healthy congregations. The pension plan is fully funded.

All plan members received an experience apportionment recently. The non-taxable Housing Allowance is still in discussion.

TE Sam Knight (Houston, Grace) asked for the Committee on Ministry to work with the writing committee of the presbytery's discernment process. He made this motion: *"That the writing committee be charged to look at any changes affecting pastors and discernment procedure and not the COM adding other policies."* RE Mort McPhail (Houston, Northwoods) asked for clarification of the motion. Sam spoke to the COM making policies on top of policies regarding the discernment process, and that anything that would affect pastors would be reflected there rather than in separate COM policies. John Hirling spoke against the motion. Lynn Hargrove suggested that the motion is out of order as it was not received in the 4 days needed to consider new business. Moderator John Jo ruled that the motion was out of order.

The motion was made to adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn R. Hargrove
Stated and Recording Clerk
Presbytery of New Covenant

Today's Attendance – 247 Total

VOTING - 207

90 Teaching Elder Commissioners

97 Ruling Elder Commissioners

3 Commissioned Ruling Elders

1 Certified Church Educator

9 Ruling Elders/Virtue of Office

4 Former Moderators/Stated Clerks

2 Elected Presbytery Staff

1 Fellow NACBA

NON-VOTING - 40

4 Corresponding Minister Members

25 Other Visitors

1 Presbytery Staff

3 Candidates/Inquirers Under Care

4 Commissioned Ruling Elders

3 Other Church Professionals