

Presbytery of New Covenant  
Stated Presbytery Meeting  
Addendum Report

October 20, 2012

**Addendum Report  
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Learn how your congregation can be part of the exciting 1001 New Worshipping Communities Initiative!

Sponsored by New Covenant's New Church Development Committee

Featuring national staff from the PC(USA) Office of Church Growth

Grace Presbyterian Church

Houston, Texas

Saturday, November 17, 2012

10 am to 3 pm

Register at <http://gitg.eventbrite.com>

Cost paid at the event is \$10 and includes lunch and all materials

***Here is what members of New Covenant's NCD Committee are saying about this exciting new vision and initiative***

I am inspired by the hope for the 1001 New Worshipping Communities initiative because I believe that evangelism and discipleship happens best in relationships formed in community...just look at the early church in Act 2:42-47. **Chris French, Associate Pastor, Grace**

I am inspired by the hope for 1001 faith communities because it is counter intuitive to the trends that people are citing about an aging and declining denomination. Let's see what new things the Spirit will do among us! **Andy Dearman; Assoc. Dean, Fuller Seminary's Houston Extension**

What inspires me about 1001 New Worshipping Communities is that we are moving away from the mythology of "Field of Dreams" evangelism where we "Build it and they will come!" and are being given the opportunity to be in community with unchurched, dechurched, and even Presbyterian seekers as together we follow Christ into all the world as growing disciples making disciples.

**Kyle Walker, Aggieland United Campus Ministries**

I love that the 1001 initiative puts the emphasis back on the community as the body of Christ at work in the world rather than on bricks and mortar construction. Developing a heart and a passion for the children of God IN the world is a noble calling. So many people today have either been hurt by the church or think it's just irrelevant and this initiative calls us to be in life giving relationships growing out of the abundance of God's grace. **Mary Marcotte, AGP New Covenant**

I am encouraged by the challenge for 1001 New Worshipping Communities because it provides permission for God's people to begin thinking outside the bricks and mortar of church, and instead rediscover the depth of what community in Christ is all about. **Ryan Cook, Associate Pastor, Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church**

I am very excited by the 1001 Faith Communities initiative because it offers such flexibility - flexibility as to meeting time and place, agenda, format, structure, and potential members. **H. Carlton Currie, Ruling Elder, 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian (Houston) and 2013 - Chair on NCD Committee**

# The Presbytery of New Covenant

*"Growing congregations that passionately engage their community to make disciples."*

## Stated Meeting – October 20, 2012

Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W NASA Parkway, Webster, TX 77598  
281/332-1251

*This year's theme – The Year of Biblical Scholarship*

Offering: Solar Under the Sun

9:00 Registration Opens Welcome Area  
9:15 New Commissioner Orientation TBD

There will be a place available all day for prayer and meditation. Signs will direct you to this location.  
*For your information, TE means Teaching Elder, and RE means Ruling Elder.*

### THE DOCKET

Please silence all devices!

9:25 am **Gathering Hymn** PH #138, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!"  
9:30 am **Call to Order and Opening Prayer** Moderator, RE Mary Lee Going

### WORSHIP – PYCC

**Minute for Mission – Rev. Ashley Broadhurst**  
**Solar Under the Sun**

10:20 am **Opening Business** Moderator and Stated Clerk

- ✦ Declaration of Quorum and Adoption of the Docket
- ✦ Welcome by Host Church – The Rev. Helen DeLeon
- ✦ Welcome of Others (First time Commissioners, Corresponding Members, New Minister Members, Visitors)
- ✦ Report of the Stated Clerk (B) TE Lynn Hargrove
  - Administrative Commissions for Installations/Ordinations - none
  - Dismissal recommendations: San Augustine, Memorial; Spring, Advent; Lake Jackson, First

**CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY – Doug Harper, 60 years of ordained service**  
**CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY – Janice Schessler retirement**  
**CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY – APA Certification**

- ✦ Omnibus Motion (B.1)
- ✦ Moderator's Remarks and Appointments
  - Tellers
  - Nominations to Nominating Committee
  - Election of Recording Clerk

TE Casey Jones

10:50 am **CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY – PYCC, TE Caressa Murray**

11:05 am **Ecclesiastical Affairs (C.1)** RE John Jo  
Parity Plan RE Becky Downs, Garry Schoonover

11:45 am **Celebration of Ministry: Mo Ranch – Dick Powell**

11:55 am Blessing before the meal/Instructions

NOON **FELLOWSHIP AT TABLE/OPEN SPACE CONVERSATIONS**

1:00 pm **Reconvening Hymn** PH #371, "Lift High the Cross"

1:05 pm **Celebration of Ministry: Doug Daghish, Presbyterian Pan American School**

1:10 pm Candidate Preaching – *Barbara Retzloff, called to Pines Presbyterian Church*

1:45 pm

**Ministries Division**  
**NCD:** 1001 Event  
**Outreach:** Grant recipients

**RE John Freeman**  
TE Chris French  
RE'S Karen Persely/Jim Luther

**Administrative Division**  
**Finance**

RE Jim Taylor

**Committee on Ministry**

**RE Shelley Hernandez**

1. Action Items  
Service of Retirement – Belinda Windham

TE Mike Cole

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

**TE Nora Fitch**

Service of Candidacy – Kay Atchison

**Celebration of Ministry - Justo Mwale Theological University College – The Ratief's**

**Nominating Committee**

**RE Bart Henson**

**Report of General Council**

**TE Casey Jones**

**Installation of the Moderator for 2013**

**RE Mary Lee Going**

**New Business** (Only if submitted four days prior to meeting date, so it can be posted online 3 days prior)

**Adjournment** (By rule of the presbytery, no later than 4:00 pm, unless the assembly votes by a 2/3 majority to extend beyond)

*Following adjournment, clerks will meet for session records review in The Meeting Room.*

***The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant will be  
Saturday, March 16, 2013 at Pines Presbyterian Church, Houston  
12751 Kimberly, Houston, Texas 77024***

## Corrections to the Presbytery Packet

- 1) Rev. Doug Harper is celebrating 55 years of service to our presbytery, and 60 years of ordained service. *(found on page 6)*
- 2) The Spring, Advent session vote was held on August 19 and was unanimous to seek dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (USA). The congregational vote was held on September 23 to seek dismissal to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. 43 of the 52 members attended, and the vote was 43 to 0 to seek dismissal. The quorum was 16. *(found on page 12)*
- 3) Rev. Scott Cummings serves the Pearland, Peace Presbyterian Church. *(found on page 23)*
- 4) The special offering for the 2013 Triennium will take place at the March presbytery meeting. The meeting has been rescheduled from February. *(found on page 34)*

### **Report of the Stated Clerk Addendum Report to the Presbytery October 16, 2012**

**B**

#### Updates on Congregations to be Dismissed

1. Memorial, San Augustine: The congregational vote, held October 14, 2012, was 31 in favor of dismissal, 0 against, with no abstentions. The quorum was 16. *(See page 9 in the packet)*

**Motion: Having met the requirements for seeking dismissal, the congregation of San Augustine, Memorial is dismissed to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church pending completion of the transfer to that body.**

2. Spring, Advent *(See page 12 in the packet):*

**Motion: Having met the requirements for seeking dismissal, the congregation of Spring, Advent, is dismissed to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians pending completion of the transfer to that body.**

3. Lake Jackson, First: The congregational vote, held October 14, 2012, was 240 in favor of dismissal, 6 against, with two blank ballots (presuming abstentions). The quorum was 146. *(See page 14 in the packet)*

**Motion: Having met the requirements for seeking dismissal, the congregation of Lake Jackson, First, is dismissed to Evangelical Presbyterian Church pending completion of the transfer to that body.**

#### For Information

The following people have been elected to serve on committees at the General Assembly level in the class of 2016:

- CRE Debbie Battiste-Kleinman, Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns
- RE Julie MacLemore, Advisory Committee on the Constitution
- RE Mary Marcotte, the Educator Certification Council

Congratulations on your election, and we are grateful for your service to the larger church.

**B.1**

#### **Omnibus Motion**

1. To approve the minutes of the Stated Meeting of June 9, 2012 and Called Meeting July 15, 2012.
2. To elect TE Lynn Hargrove as the Recording Clerk of the presbytery, effective January 1, 2013. This is to fulfill the unexpired three year term of Janice Schessler, who is retiring effective December 31, 2012. This will be in addition to Lynn's duties as Stated Clerk. *(For the job description and terms of call, see the Personnel report in the addendum, C.3.)*

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**The Presbytery of New Covenant**  
*“Growing congregations that passionately engage their community to make disciples.”*  
**Called Meeting**  
**Sunday, July 15, 2012 – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Love Presbyterian Church**  
**Jersey Village Texas**

**Gathering**

At 3:00 p.m., Moderator Ruling Elder Mary Lee Going called the meeting of the presbytery to order. The commissioners sang the first verse of “The Church’s One Foundation” and the Moderator offered the opening prayer.

**Opening Business**

The Moderator called on the Stated Clerk, Teaching Elder Lynn Hargrove who declared a quorum to be present. Tellers for the meeting: Ruling Elders Mary Whitaker, Tomball, First; Katherine Nobles, Livingston, First; Lee Larkin, Houston, St. Philip; and Roy Penney, Conroe, First.

On behalf of Love Presbyterian Church, the Moderator welcomed the commissioners to the meeting.

She then invited the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Commissioners to speak:

**RE Jason Reed** (Pasadena, First (Review of General Assemblies Permanent Committees)

**TE Jeff Smith**, Houston, St. Andrew’s (Health Issues, including how we treat people with disabilities, and reproductive rights)

**TE Mary Currie**, Navasota, First (Church Growth and the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program)

**RE Nell Schwartz** – Missouri City, Southminster (Confessions of the Church, including a new translation of the Heidelberg Catechism, and a reconsideration of the Belhar Confession)

**TE Blake Brinegar** – Houston, Westminster (Middle East and Peacemaking Issues)

**TE Bob Murphy** – Conroe, First (work of the Board of Pensions, the Presbyterian Foundation, and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation)

**RE Gail Northern** – Houston, St. Giles (Marriage and Civil Unions)

**RE Jim Allison** – Houston, Pines (Social Justice Issues, including overtures on racism, poverty, corporal punishment, and other imbalances of power and authority)

**TE Vicky Jones** – Houston, Memorial Drive (Theological Issues, Institutions, and Christian Education)

Unable to be present was **RE Jennifer Carr** - Webster, Webster (Immigration Issues).

TE Jack Haberer, editor of Outlook magazine) gave an overview of the events at the General Assembly in Pittsburgh and then introduced the commissioners who presented their own perspectives of their committee work and their experiences.

At 3:50 p.m. following the reports, TE Jeff Smith opened the meeting for a time of questions and answers, after which TE Jack Haberer wrapped up by saying “the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly was a wonderfully difficult assembly with a high level of prayer and animated debates.”

At 4:15 p.m. General Presbyter TE Mike Cole said that Presbyterians now have a 2-year respite from debate and that he hopes that the time will be spent in prayerful discernment, reasonable discussion and consensus building. He thanked the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly commissioners for their commitment and hard work. The Moderator expressed thanks to the presbytery staff for taking good care of the commissioners during the Assembly.

**Finance Committee** – RE Bill Strange, Chair

Mr. Strange referred the commissioners to the 6-month budget which had been placed on the presbytery's website prior to this called meeting. After his report, he moved that the budget for 6 months, ending with December 31, 2012 be approved. No second was required and he then asked for questions. Following the question and answer time, the vote was taken and the motion **WAS APPROVED**.

**Ecclesiastical Affairs Committee** – RE Garry Schoonover

Mr. Schoonover spoke on behalf of the committee and its chair, RE John Jo who was unable to be present. He stated that the Ecclesiastical Affairs Committee was withdrawing the motion regarding the Equalization Plan which had been included in the Called Meeting Packet. A plan for equalization will be presented at the October 20, 2012 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery instead.

Presbyters were invited to submit their own comments and suggestions concerning the equalization of votes between teaching elder and ruling elder commissioners for purposes of deciding the business coming before the presbytery. Comments should be made with the Book of Order's direction in mind (G-3.0301, G-3.0103, and F-1.0403).

**Adjournment**

At 4:30 the motion to adjourn **WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED** to follow the benediction by the Moderator RE Mary Lee Going. She expressed the appreciation of the presbytery to Love Presbyterian Church for hosting the afternoon's event and reminded everyone that the next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery would be Saturday, October 20, 2012 at Webster Presbyterian Church in Webster.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Schessler  
Recording Clerk

Attendance for the day:

**Voting:** 35 Minister Members; 67 Elder Commissioners; 1 Commissioned Ruling Elder; 6 Elders with Privilege by Virtue of Office; 4 Former Moderators of Presbytery; 1 Elected Presbytery Staff; 1 Fellow – NACBA for a total of 115 voting.

**Non-voting:** 1 Corresponding Minister-Member; 26 visitors; 1 Presbytery Staff; 2 Inquirer/Candidate under care for a total of 30 non-voting.

**TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 145**



**Presbytery of New Covenant  
Parity Plan by Congregation Size  
October 20, 2012**

C.1
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<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Membership</u>	<u>2011 RE</u>	<u>2013 RE</u>
Houston, Memorial Drive	4343	7	12
Houston, First	4300	7	12
Houston, Grace	2594	6	10
Kingwood, First	1611	5	6
Houston, Northwoods	1301	4	5
Houston, Windwood	1078	5	4
Houston, Korean Central	1052	4	4
Houston, Clear Lake	1049	4	4
Conroe, First	779	3	3
Woodlands, Woodlands	708	3	3
Houston, Pines	638	3	3
Webster, Webster	571	3	3
Houston, St. Philip	557	3	2
Beaumont, St. Andrew's	555	3	2
Katy, Grand Lakes	511	2	2
10 Churches with 290-500 members		varied	2
81 Churches with under 290 members		1	1
Total Churches	106		
Total Teaching Elders	218		

(Total Ruling Elders by Office = 42) + (Total RE from Congregations = 176) = 218

**Personnel Committee  
Addendum Report to the Presbytery  
October 20, 2012**

**C.3**

**PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT  
POSITION DESCRIPTION  
FOR  
Stated and Recording Clerk  
70% Time**

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The individual who is elected to the position of stated and recording clerk of the Presbytery of New Covenant should be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. This individual who is an elder or minister of the Word and Sacrament shall be elected by the presbytery as provided in the bylaws of the Presbytery of New Covenant and shall fulfill the requirements of Book of Order, G-.0203a, b as an officer of the presbytery. This individual will work collaboratively, cooperatively and collegially with all persons, including those who have different theological views.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Records the transactions of the presbytery
- Keeps presbytery's rolls of membership and attendance
- Preserves the records of the presbytery
- Furnishes extracts from the records of the presbytery when required by another governing body of the church
- Serves as clerk for the General Council of the presbytery
- Performs other duties as directed by the General Council or the presbytery
- Provides support to Ecclesiastical Affairs Committee
- Provides training, support, and interpretation of constitutional issues and process to Committee on Ministry, Investigating Committees, Administrative Commissions and the Permanent Judicial Commission
- Maintains the Manual for the Committee On Ministry
- Participates in higher governing bodies of the church as requested by those bodies or the presbytery
- Leads/teaches General Assembly orientation, Church Officer Training, and other sessions as requested
- Responds to questions concerning the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Bylaws and Manuals of Operations of the Presbytery of New Covenant, and parliamentary procedure.
- Attends staff meetings of the presbytery
- Attends meetings of the General Assembly and annual OGA Polity Conference

**Support the Planning and Coordinating of Meetings of the Presbytery**

- Send reminders to staff and committee chairs as to deadlines for reports
- Update and distribute host church packets
- Work with the church liaison as to set-up, host church pastor invitation, etc
- Assemble Presbytery Meeting Packet and be responsible for seeing that it is placed on website mailed to those without e-mail (Ann and Pat)
- Arrange for Pre-presbytery planning meeting (send notifications and act as liaison between EAC and participants)
- Coordinate requests for display space

### **Ecclesiastical Affairs Committee**

- Take, prepare and distribute minutes of committee meetings.
- Maintain list of presbytery meeting host churches, dates, and attendance figure
- Maintain list of presbytery meeting moderators

### **Coordinate preparation of annual statistical reports**

- Alert clerks of session as to deadlines
- Alert clerks how to find workbooks online/mail to those without e-mail (with Pat)
- Be available to answer questions and give assistance to the clerks
- Disseminate statistical information to staff as needed, particularly to Pat and to Forbes

### **Act as Recording Clerk for Presbytery Meetings**

- Take notes of the meetings and prepare minutes to give to Ann Williams
- Work with Ann Williams to prepare books of minutes for binding
- Deliver minutes to binder (FYI Lynn – Legacy Bookbinding Plus at 6999 West Little York Road, Houston 77040 – Paul Romero at 713/299-2582 cell)

### **Direct the receiving, processing, and preparation of reports of the congregations for the General Assembly**

- Annual Statistical Reports
- Filing of “Five-Part Forms” (MARY CURRIE, Volunteer in Mission does this work)
- Data gathering for and providing designated periodic reports of the presbytery to requesting agencies (e.g., annual necrology report- ANN WILLIAMS)
- Prepare end-of-year reports for General Assembly (work with Sharon, Forbes, Mary Currie)

### **Review of the churches’ session minutes**

- Act as registrar
- Act as liaison between host church clerk and Stated Clerk in preparation for hosting the review
- Prepare information for Stated Clerk to take to the reviews (registration forms, stamp, envelopes, etc.)

### **Nominating Committee**

- Maintain an accurate list of all those elected to positions by the presbytery (work closely with Data Base Coordinator/Receptionist)

### **Limited Administrative Duties Related to the Day-to-Day Activities of the Presbytery Office**

Place copies of General Council Minutes and EAC minutes in their assigned workroom drawers

### **POSITION REQUIREMENTS**

- Thorough knowledge of and commitment to the following:
  - The Constitution, Parts I and II, of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (The Book of Confessions and The Book of Order)
  - The structure of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
  - The structure of the Presbytery of New Covenant
- Conversant with and at ease in the use of the computer and electronic technology, including the following:
  - Windows operating system and e-mail
  - Office procedures
- Ability to do the following:
  - Maintain confidentiality and exercise discretion in communication
  - Prepare detailed reports and documentation accurately and completely
  - Organize own work for efficiency and timeliness; set or follow established priorities and procedures

- Take initiative to develop improved methods
- Develop positive working relationships with presbytery staff, congregations, pastors, professionals, and leadership of the presbytery
- Encourage personal/professional development of staff reporting to the Clerk
- Provide conflict resolution and be a peacemaker when necessary

**Position Accountability**

- This position is accountable to the Personnel Committee and the Presbytery of New Covenant.
- This position works as a compensated elected officer of the Presbytery of New Covenant. Appropriate expenses for completing the assignments of this position shall be reimbursed upon presentation of valid receipts to the director of finance/presbytery office.
- This position works on the basis of this job description which is reviewed by the Personnel Committee, in consultation with General Council.
- There shall be an annual performance review by the Personnel Committee, in consultation with General Council.
- The stated and recording clerk shall normally be elected to a three-year term.
- Election of the stated clerk occurs during the last presbytery meeting of the third year of the current term.
- The term of office is January 1 – December 31.

**Reviewed and Approved: October, 2012**

**Terms of Call  
Stated and Recording Clerk  
70%**

**PART ONE: Compensation Subject to Board of Pensions Dues**

a. Annual Cash Salary	\$16,660
b. Housing and Utility Allowance	\$16,660
Total Effective Salary	<b>\$33,320</b>

**PART TWO: Reimbursed Expenses**

a. Auto Allowance @ <i>IRS Rate</i> \$.55/mile	
b. Books, Professional Dues – allowance shared with GP and AGP	\$3,500

**PART THREE: Benefits**

a. Board of Pensions Dues 33% of effective annual salary	\$12,398
b. Professional Development Allowance ( <i>cumulative for 3 years</i> )	\$1,190
c. Paid Prof. Development Leave ( <i>Time cumulative for 3 years</i> ) 2 weeks	
d. Paid Vacation - 4 weeks	

**Committee on Ministry**  
**Addendum Report to the Presbytery**  
**October 20, 2012**

**D**

**I. Recommendations for Presbytery action:**

- A. The committee recommends and moves that **Teaching Elder David Peterson** be granted Honorably Retired status effective June 30, 2013.
- B. The committee recommends and moves that **Teaching Elder Steve Thorney** be granted Honorably Retired status effective February 1, 2013.
- C. The committee recommends and moves that the **Proposed 2013 Minimum Terms of Call** be approved. (*Proposed 2013 Minimum Terms of Call follows the COM report*).
- D. The committee recommends and moves that the examination of **Barbara Retzloff, candidate for ordination** be sustained.
- E. The committee recommends and moves that an alternative form to the standard ordination exam be offered to **Rev. Michael Chen**, serving as pastor of Houston, Formosan Presbyterian Church.

**RATIONALE:**

The Rev. Michael Chen, an ordained Baptist minister has been serving the Formosan Presbyterian Church for four years, while taking the Standard Ordination Exams of the PCUSA. Rev. Chen's first language is Taiwanese. The language of the exams (provided only in English, Korean and Spanish) has become a stumbling block for Rev. Chen. The office of General Assembly which supervises the exams does not have any provision for an alternate language except by the action of a presbytery. The Book of Order (G-2.0610) provides a way for a presbytery to approve an alternate means to demonstrate competency in the examination areas by  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote.

The Committee on Ministry recommends approval of the process outlined below by the Presbytery of New Covenant as an "alternate means" to demonstrate competency of the Rev. Michael Chen in the areas of Bible Content, Exegesis, Theology, Worship and Sacraments, and Polity.

**METHODOLOGY:**

- Rev. Shun Chi Wang has recruited four Taiwanese-speaking readers of the exams from across the PCUSA
  - The Rev. Ching-fen Hsiao, Ph.D., Newark Presbytery
  - Rev. Chien-Di Hung, Ph.D., National Capital Presbytery
  - Rev. Chun-lan Tung, Ph.D. Pastor, Taiwanese/American Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Somerset NJ
- The Presbyteries Cooperative Committee on Exams will provide the General Presbyter with the standard exam questions from August, 2012. These questions will be kept confidential until released to one of the four readers for translation.
- One reader will translate the question and instructions into Taiwanese
- A different reader will offer insight and guidance to Rev. Chen on the expectations of the readers on each exam
- A date will be selected for each exam, which will be proctored in the presbytery office by a member of the presbytery staff
  - Each exam will be administered in the normal time frame – three hours for Bible Content, Theology, Worship and Sacraments and Polity; five days for Exegesis
  - Rev. Chen may complete the exam in writing or electronically
  - When the exam is complete, Rev. Chen will submit the exam to the proctor
  - The proctor will send the exam to the readers for grading

- The grade will be issued within two weeks of the exam
- If the exam is passed, Rev. Chen, the Presbyteries Cooperative Committee on Exams and the Committee on Ministry will be notified of the passing grade
- If the exam is not passed, a second re-exam (using a different question) may be scheduled within six months

DISCLOSURE:

The Committee on Examinations has already administered the Bible Content exam to Rev. Chen, which he did pass. The exam was administered under the guidance of the Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Examinations, before it was realized that an alternative process would have to be approved by a ¾ vote of the presbytery. COM recommends that the passing grade of Rev. Chen on the Bible Content Exam be validated by the vote on this alternate process.

**II. Actions taken on behalf of Presbytery – October 2, 2013**

A. Approved Pastoral Call - September 4, 2012 (*Statements of Faith follow the COM report*).

1. **Candidate Barbara Retzloff** called to serve as Associate Pastor at Pines Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX

Salary	\$21,214
Housing and Utility Allowance	21,214
Other direct compensation - Cell Phone	900
- Discretionary	750
Other paid insurance – Death and Disability	424
Auto Allowance @IRS Rate	2,400
Books, Professional Dues (not included in Professional Development Allowance)	500
Board of Pensions Dues - Full 2012	14,351
- Full 2013	14,685
Professional Development Allowance cumulative for 3 years	2 weeks
Professional Development Leave – time cumulative for 3 years	4 weeks

Pastoral Call approved by COM 9/4/12; sustained the examination of the Committee on Examination on 9/27/12; COM approved the examination on 10/2/12; to be ordained 11/25/12

Formal Education: 1984 BBA Texas A & M  
 1986 MA Presbyterian School of Christian Education  
 2012 MDiv Fuller Theological Seminary

2. **Teaching Elder Troy Jarvis, Honorably Retired**, transferring from Grand Canyon Presbytery; called to serve as Stated Supply at First Presbyterian Church, Eagle Lake, TX a ¼ time contract for one year effective 9/1/12

Salary	\$ 800 month
Auto Expenses reimbursed at IRS Rate	200 month
Continuing Education	475 year
Annual Review	9/1/13

COM approved Stated Supply Contract on 9/4/12; sustained examination of the Committee on Examination on 9/27/12; COM sustained the examination on 10/2/12; Ordained 6/19/66

Formal Education: BA/Philosophy Austin College, Sherman, TX  
 BS Computer Information Systems DeVry University, Irving, TX  
 MDiv Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, TX  
 Grad Studies Psychological Counseling, Metropolitan University, Phoenix, AZ

**3. Teaching Elder Margaret “Peg” Ferguson”, Honorably Retired**, transferring from Boston Presbytery; COM approved transfer 9/4/12; sustained examination of Committee on Examination on 9/27/12; COM sustained examination 10/2/12; ordained 9/20/81

Formal Education: 1959 BA Goucher College, Towson, MD  
 1960 MEd Goucher College, Towson, MD  
 1967 – 1968 Graduate Fellow in Educational Administration, University of Maryland at College Park  
 1981 MDiv St. Mary’s Seminary and University, Baltimore, MD

**B. Approved Pastoral Call**

**1. Between Pasadena, First and James Currie from Designated Pastor to Installed**

**Pastor** effective 11/1/12

Salary		\$33,200
Housing and Utility Allowance		32,100
Auto Allowance @ IRS Rate		5,400
Board of Pensions Dues		23,090
Professional Development Allowance	cumulative for 3 years	1,500
Professional Development Leave	cumulative for 3 years	2 weeks
Vacation		4 weeks
Annual Review		Yes

**2. Between Houston, Heights and Lynne Hall Buckridge as Designated Pastor** effective 10/15/12

Salary		\$25,000
Housing and Utility Allowance		15,000
Books, Fees, Dues, etc		530
Board of Pensions Dues		13,200
Professional Development Allowance	cumulative for 3 years	1,804
Professional Development Leave	cumulative for 3 years	2 weeks
Vacation		4 weeks/ 30 days
Social Security Compensation up to 8.24%		3,296
Annual Review		Yes

**C. Approved Terms of calls**

**1. Between Cassandra Dahnke and Houston, Woodforest** effective 9/1/12

Salary	\$ 3,800	\$ 4,600
Housing and Utility Allowance	18,000	18,000
Auto Allowance @ IRS Rate	Actual IRS Rate	Actual IRS Rate
Books, Professional Dues, etc.	1,000	1,000
Board of Pensions Dues	10,215	10,508.28
Study Leave Allowance	cumulative for 3 years 1,000	1,450
Study Leave	cumulative for 3 years 3 weeks	3 weeks
Vacation	4 weeks*	4 weeks*
Annual Review		8/29/12

\*Pastor is allowed 6 additional Sundays when she does not have to fill the pulpit.

**D. Approved Contract**

**1. Thomas Sharon and Chaplain Resident (CPE) at St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital**

effective 8/27/12 – 8/25/13, full time

Salary	\$18,200
Housing Allowance	7,800
Vacation	40 hours
Medical Insurance	108/paycheck
Retirement Benefit Plan - 403b with 50% employer match up to 6%	Yes

Annual Review by CPE supervisor – with final evaluation by  
8/25/13

Quarterly

2. **Between NCD Committee/NCP and Aurelio Rodriguez Ordas** effective 7/1/12 – 6/30/12. **The New Church Development Committee of New Covenant Presbytery shall receive from the congregation the following funds to cover the employment of pastor during this contract** is half time, total compensation is \$18,000 and distributed as follows:

Salary	\$ 0
Housing and Utility Allowance	3,817.62 July-Dec, 2012
	3,545.62 Jan-June 2013
Pension/Medical Care	5,182.38 July-Dec 2012
	5,545.38 Jan-June 2013
Social Security	0
Travel & Auto per IRS Rates reimbursement paid directly by the congregation	
Professional Development Allowance - cumulative for 3 years	0
Professional Development Leave	2 weeks
Vacation	1 month
Annual Review - the adequacy of these terms will be reviewed by the NCD Committee in advance of the preparation for the 2013/14 budget	

3. **Between NCD Committee/NCP and Daniel A. Nguyen** effective 7/12 – 12/12. **The New Church Development Committee of New Covenant Presbytery may not be able to offer financial assistance**, however if the Pastor/Evangelist is employed part-time; a total compensation of \$11,124 and distributed as follows:

Salary	\$5,150
Housing and Utility Allowance	5,974
Travel & Auto Allowance @ IRS Rate	Up to 500
Pension/Medical Care	3,942.24
Social Security	0
Professional Development Allowance - cumulative for 3 years	860
Professional Development Leave	2 weeks
Vacation	1 month
Annual Review - the adequacy of these terms will be reviewed by the NCD Committee in advance of the preparation for the 2013/14 budget	

#### **E. Approved validation of Ministry**

1. **Steven Spidell** new job with The Methodist West Houston Hospital, Staff Chaplain, in Katy, TX

#### **F. Approved validation of call**

1. **Candidate under the care of presbytery, Elizabeth Cluff**, called to serve as pastor of Cann Memorial PC, Elizabeth City, NC, Presbytery of New Hope.

#### **G. Appointed liaison/transition team/or moderator**

1. Katy, New Hope – transition team – Chuck Johnson and teaching elder  
2. Houston, Memorial Drive – transition team (Dave Peterson retiring 6/13); Patty Tremble and clergy

#### **H. Approved request from sessions for Ruling Elders to service communion**

1. Cleveland, St. Luke's – **Ruling Elder Anna Marion**



2. Freeport, First – **Ruling Elder Lee Attema**

**I. Approved Administrative Commission to Install Minister**

1. **Commission to install Drew Tomberlin** as pastor of College Station, Covenant on Sunday, 10/21/12 at 10:30 am

To preside and propound the constitutional questions: Ruling Elder Mary Lee Going, Moderator, Houston, Memorial Drive

To preach the sermon: Rev. Neil D. Cowling, Pastor, Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, Westland, MI

To charge the pastor: Rev. James Heimsoth, United Methodist Church, Le Mars, IA

To charge the congregation: Ruling Elder Richard Griffin, College Station, Covenant

To complete the commission: Ruling Elder Sharon Darden, Houston, Pinecrest; Teaching Elder Callie Candee, Chaplain, New Covenant Presbytery; Teaching Elder Kyle Walker, Campus Minister, Texas A & M, New Covenant Presbytery; and Teaching Elder Marie Mickey, Associate Pastor, Bryan, First

2. **Commission to ordain Elizabeth Cluff** at Bryan, First on Sunday 10/28/2012 at 2 pm

To preside and propound the constitutional questions: Ruling Elder Mary Lee Going, Moderator, Houston, Memorial Drive

To preach the sermon: Teaching Elder David Prentice-Hyers, Ann Arbor, MI, First

To charge the pastor: Teaching Elder Ted Foote, Pastor, Bryan, First

To charge the congregation: Teaching Elder Marie Mickey, Associate Pastor, Bryan, First

To complete the commission: Ruling Elder Julie MacLemore, Houston, St. Philip; Ruling Elder Walter Buerger, Bryan, First; Teaching Elder Callie Candee, Chaplain, New Covenant Presbytery; and Ruling Elder Carol McClellan, Abilene, TX, First Central.

**III. For Your Information:**

A. November 7, 2012 New Minister Orientation starting with chapel at 10 am.

B. Committee on Ministry met on October 2, 2012

C. Committee on Examinations met on September 22, 2012

D. Ruling Elders attended and were certified for attending the Sacraments Class on 9/18/12

1. Ruling Elder Anna Marion, Cleveland, St. Luke's

2. Ruling Elder Lee Attema, Freeport, First

3. Commissioned Ruling Elder Debbie Battise-Kleinman, Livingston, Indian

4. Commissioned Ruling Elder Imelda Carrillo, Galveston, Emmanuel

5. Teaching Elder Isabel Rivera-Velez, Stated Supply, Houston, Juan Marcos

6. Ruling Elder Jim Mayer, Houston, St. Luke's

## STATEMENTS OF FAITH

Margaret "Peg" Ferguson

### A Statement of Faith

**To: The Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Southern New England**  
**From: Margaret J. ("Peg") Ferguson**  
**Date: December 12, 2005**

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I believe in the triune God known to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We meet this God who creates the heavens and the earth, in the Scriptures of the Old Testament. This is the God who crushes powerful empires, who unshackles slaves, who liberates captive peoples, who cares about the aliens within our gates, who demands that those who worship rightly work passionately for social righteousness and justice, show mercy equal to their own need of mercy, and walk humbly and reverently in the Divine Presence. Nothing is impossible with this awesome God!

Knowing that we mortals could not bear the sight of the Holy One unmasked, God comes to us in human form, in a tiny child, in whom all the glory and beauty of the Divine Presence dwelt. Jesus becomes our window into the nature of God – personifying the compassion, the limitless love, the healing power, the justice of the One he taught us to address as Abba, Father. In demanding that those who claim to honor God discard their lust for power over others and become the servants of all, he offended many. In declaring that our treasure is in heaven and not in our investment portfolios, he startled many. In preaching that God is our supreme loyalty and demands total allegiance from those who claim to serve him, he terrified those who were convinced that they could juggle more than one master concurrently. For those who loved him, his excruciating death on Calvary's cross became the atonement for the sin of the world and the gateway to a new relationship with God through the forgiveness of sins. His resurrection on the

third day offers new life to those who believe that God's power alone makes new life possible to those who trust in his name.

Jesus, as he was preparing to ascend to heaven, promised his distraught disciples the gift of the Holy Comforter who would be Sanctifier, Teacher, Guide and Source of Power for them as individuals and for the community of faith centered in him.

I believe in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the story of God's activity in human history. It was written by human beings under the influence of the Holy Spirit as the authoritative witness to God's saving activity on our behalf.

I believe that the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper bind together and define the community of faith – believers washed in the baptismal waters, fed by Christ's body broken and blood shed, nourished to live as faithful witnesses, reconcilers, peacemakers in a shattered world that is loved and redeemed by a Risen Lord.

I believe that the church is a hospital for sinners! It is to bind up the broken, mend souls fragmented by betrayal, point to a new way of being in the world that honors God's intent for all creation. The church is to help persons catch a glimpse of who they could become as they begin to grasp the reality that they are made in the image of God. The church calls us all to be accountable for our use of natural resources, for our use of military power, for our exploitation of others, for our racism, our sexism, our ageism, our alienation of our sisters and brothers whose attitudes, political views and sexual orientation are beyond our experience and understanding, for our presumption to judge others forgetting that judgment is God's prerogative solely and that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Righteous Judge, died to save us all! The church is to nourish persons of all ages in faith and faithfulness, to model social righteousness, to be a community of grace and graciousness – reflecting the character of its Lord.

### **Troy Jarvis**

Truth has always been an important part of my life from the time I was a child. I can remember a catechism class in East Texas where the teacher, talking about truth as one of the attributes of God, said that one thing this meant was that we should never be afraid of truth because if something is true it is from God. I was around eight years old at the time.

That has always stayed with me; so when I later encountered teachings such as the scientific theory of evolution or higher criticism of the Bible that challenged some of the ideas I had been taught as a child, they were not particularly threatening to me.

In more recent years, I have come to appreciate God as Mystery. No matter what I (or anyone else for that matter) may say about God, ultimately for me God remains Mystery, the Mysterious One from whom all things come and to whom all things return. In faith I can say that God is present in my life and in the life of the world, but how God works is also mystery. What is important to me is opening myself to the presence of God. In what I consider my more lucid moments, it seems that meditation and contemplation are the most effective ways for me to prepare myself for that to take place. (I do not consider myself accomplished at either.) This is my more mystical bent.

Like a lot of other people I know, I have been fascinated by Bonhoeffer's concept of "religionless Christianity", which of course he did not really define. Where I am today is not anti-religion, but sensing that we need to go deeper than our religions, and I think a step in that direction is to focus on emulating Jesus and less on doctrinal distinctions. I am not talking about "what would Jesus do", but more in line with taking on the values of Jesus, particularly focused on loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves. I do not believe we can ever know with certainty what Jesus said and what he did in his lifetime, who the "historical Jesus" really was; but we do the best we can at understanding and go from there in prayerfully determining our own

### **Barbara Retzliff**

God is one in essence yet distinctly three – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – infinite, incomprehensible, and indescribable. God is supreme over all, ruling with justice, goodness and compassion. God is the giver of life and all that is good and beautiful – God simply and mysteriously is. God is beyond and over all and yet very present to the created world - nothing is outside of God's loving, watchful care. Though created in God's image, declared good and given dominion over all of creation, we rejected God and fell into sin insisting upon our independence and importance with full disregard for God's blessings and guidance thus separating ourselves from God; there is not one who is without sin and there is not one who can return to God by their own effort or will. As sinful human beings, reconciliation and a right relationship with God are impossible for us to achieve on our own.

Lost in sin and completely unable to return to God by our own merit, God reached out to us fulfilling the promises made at the beginning of the world to bring forgiveness and reconciliation to a broken world by sending the only begotten Son. Existing before time, the Son is eternally one with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. At just the right time, God entered into time, taking on our flesh in Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose again so that all who receive God's free gift of grace in Jesus Christ by faith may live fully in the present time and then beyond the bounds of time into eternity. Jesus Christ was fully divine and fully human. In Jesus Christ, God chose to become face-to-face, hand-to-hand, eye-to-eye present to humanity living and walking among us as one who exhibited deep compassion, challenged the status quo, and redefined what it means to be human taking the form of a servant and, in complete obedience, he humbled himself unto death. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross and victory over the grave are an indescribable gift and unfathomable mystery by which we experience God's forgiveness, love, and reconciling power. Christ is now seated at the right hand of God, is present among us when we gather in His name, and will come again to bring the fullness of God's Kingdom.

As God was incarnate among us in Jesus of Nazareth and as God lived in covenant with the nation of Israel, so God lives with us still by the presence of the Holy Spirit who calls and empowers us to be the Church; the Body of Christ. Just as God spoke to the patriarchs and

matriarchs, the prophets and apostles, so God speaks to the Church today through the scriptures which are God's word to us, written by particular people through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and understood by the inspiration of the same Holy Spirit. Drawn to faith in Christ by the Word of God and the call of the Holy Spirit, with Christ as the only Head of the Church, the Church gathers to worship God, hear the Gospel proclaimed, pray, participate in the sacraments of baptism and communion, join together in fellowship, and be formed through instruction. By the call of the same Spirit, the Church is dispersed to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth proclaiming in word and deed the transforming power of God's love to bring life where there is existence, to bring identity where there is confusion, to bring justice where there is abuse, and to bring unity where there is division. Being unbound by time and place, God is working for the benefit of creation in ways we don't see and beyond what we perceive. The Church is called to join in God's Kingdom work for as God sent Jesus, so God sends the church to be a reconciling force and an incarnate presence, bringing God's love to a broken world until that day when Jesus Christ returns and God's purposes are fulfilled and creation is reconciled and restored to the wholeness and unity God intended from the beginning.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

### **The Reverend Dr. Belinda C. Windham**

Belinda was ordained to the office of Teaching Elder on March 22, 1992, in Mission Presbytery. Since then she has served congregations in Taylor, Livingston, and Houston, Texas, in solo, associate, and interim positions. In addition she has served as adjunct faculty for Houston Graduate School of Theology, as a member of the Advisory Board of The Institute of Pastoral Studies, and has lectured at Rice University and Texas Southern College of Law.

Belinda earned her bachelor degree *summa cum laude* from St. Edward's University. Her Master of Divinity degree is from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, with the award at graduation of the W. P. Newell Memorial Fellowship for outstanding academic achievement and showing promise for leadership in the church. She earned a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, in 1996. In 2010 she served as President of the Board of the Austin Seminary Association.

Belinda has always served the larger church in the higher judicatories. For eight years she was a member of the national body that writes and administers the ordination examinations. In conjunction with her service in that capacity, she also convened the Oklahoma City Reading Group. She served on the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of the Sun and she was a member of the Board of United Campus Ministries of Greater Houston.

She is one of the founding members of the Katy-West Houston Interfaith Clergy Association, and an active member of the Katy Chamber of Commerce. At the height of the Intifada, Belinda became the first woman clergy to be awarded a diplomatic exchange in Project Interchange by the American Jewish Committee, Washington, D.C. In recent years, Belinda has been named as an outstanding woman of Houston by the Friends of Women's Studies of the University of Houston, and an outstanding woman of Katy Texas.

Belinda has lived in the Spring Shadows neighborhood of Houston for 14 years. Her only child, Sam, and his wife, Vanessa, live in Humble. Belinda's other interests include the theater, film and art. Her special interest is cooking and entertaining at home for family and friends. After almost seven years, Belinda will retire her pastorate at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Katy, December 31. Five days later, she will be starting a new phase in her life, when she and her fiancé, Jan Koenig, will be married.

**Proposed Minimum Terms of Call—2013  
from the Committee on Ministry**

A. On Part One of NCP's Minimum Terms of Call, the compensation provisions, COM usually forms its recommendations based on (1) increases in the Church-Wide Median Salary for pastors, as reported by the Board of Pensions, and (2) changes in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers [CPI-U], as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, giving due consideration to the annual changes adopted by (3) Grace Presbytery and (4) Mission Presbytery. Grace Presbytery sets its minimum at 80% of the Church-Wide Median Salary as reported by the Board of Pensions. Mission Presbytery links its minimum effective salary to increases in the CPI-U.

The Board of Pensions reports that the Median Salary for Pastors for 2013 will be \$54,000. [The Median Salary was \$53,300 in 2012.] Even though the Committee on Ministry did not recommend any increase in minimum levels of compensation last year, for 2012, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the CPI-U had increased 3.4% nationally as of October 2011, and by 3.7% in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria urbanized area. Now, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that for the 12-month period through August, 2012, the CPI-U has increased 1.7% nationally, and 0.7% in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria urbanized area.

Grace Presbytery has adopted a minimum effective salary for 2013 of \$42,640. Mission Presbytery has not yet adopted its 2013 minimum, but it is likely to be at least \$39,350. New Covenant uses a scale based on experience levels, rather than a single number as a minimum.

The Committee on Ministry recommends *an increase in minimum levels of compensation based on a combination of the 2011 and 2012 CPI-U percentage increases*. Because the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria urbanized area does not include all the churches in our presbytery, several members of the Committee felt it would be appropriate to use the broader measure. Since there was no increase in the Minimum Terms of Call previously reflecting the increases in cost of living documented in the 2011 CPI-U, the Committee recommends a modest increase to allow our pastors and churches to "catch up" with current expense levels. Therefore, the aggregate increase in cost of living, 4.4%, is multiplied by the Median Salary for 2013 as determined by the Board of Pensions, which is \$54,000. This figure, \$2,376, is rounded to \$2,400 and added to each step on the NCP Minimum Compensation chart. Every level of experience for pastors in the Presbytery gets the same increase in the minimum compensation.

## Minimum Terms of Compensation for [2012] 2013

### PART ONE: Compensation

#### Experience

Newly ordained	\$38,500	\$40,900
1 year experience	\$39,300	\$41,700
2 years experience	\$39,800	\$42,200
3 years experience	\$40,400	\$42,800
4 years experience	\$40,900	\$43,300
5 years experience	\$41,400	\$43,800
6 years experience	\$41,900	\$44,300
7 years experience	\$42,600	\$45,000
8 years experience	\$43,100	\$45,500
9 years experience	\$43,600	\$46,000
10+ years experience	\$45,200	\$47,600

[Compensation consists of salary plus housing and utility allowance as well as Social Security Supplement 8.25% ]

Part-time calls are to be prorated in accordance with the fraction of full-time service the call represents.

### PART TWO: Reimbursed Expenses

Auto Allowance—to be reimbursed at the IRS standard rate of compensation.

### PART THREE: Benefits

#### a. Pension/Medical Dues

Full participation in the denominational Pension and Major Medical Insurance Program: [32.25%] 33.0% of the Total Effective Salary.

#### b./c. Study Leave

For those clergy who do not attend the Presbytery of New Covenant Clergy Retreat: Study leave for two weeks with expense allowance of \$1,450 annually, accumulative for 3 years.

For those clergy who attend the Presbytery of New Covenant Clergy Retreat: Study leave for two weeks (*including 2 Sundays*), *plus 3 days*, with expense allowance of \$1,700 annually, accumulative for 3 years. This includes an additional allowance of \$250 for the Clergy Retreat and additional leave of three days (this leave is not cumulative).

Newly Ordained Clergy are required to participate in the Presbytery of New Covenant Clergy Retreat for the first three years of ministry.

Newly Ordained Clergy shall participate in Entry into Ministry events sponsored/supported by the Presbytery of New Covenant. Full provision will be made for the actual cost for one year (plus or minus \$750) and the time needed to participate in these events.

#### d. Paid Vacation

Paid vacation for four weeks (includes 4 Sundays).

*Study leave and vacation are not prorated for part-time calls or contracts. Study leave and vacation may be prorated for limited term calls or contracts.*

Actual Moving Expenses (where applicable).

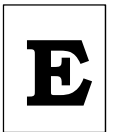
## **PART FOUR: Annual Review**

The session will establish a review committee to meet with the Minister every twelve months to discuss:

- The congregation's expectations of the minister and how well he/she meets those expectations;
- The minister's expectations of the congregation and how well it (and its members) meet those expectations; and
- Adequacy of compensation.

The review committee is encouraged to utilize the resources provided by the Committee on Ministry "Guidelines for Church Professional Evaluations" [[http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org/forms/2008\\_01\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_Evaluations.pdf](http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org/forms/2008_01_Guidelines_for_Evaluations.pdf)]. The session shall report to the Committee on Ministry, not later than July 1 of each year, the date on which the annual review was conducted, and the date of the congregational meeting at which the adequacy of compensation of the minister has been reviewed, upon report of the prior review by the session, as provided in G-7.0302 of the Book of Order.

### **Committee on Preparation for Ministry Addendum Report to Presbytery October 20, 2012**



#### **I. Recommendation for Presbytery action:**

A. The committee recommends and moves that **Kay Atchison (Houston, Memorial Drive)** be enrolled as a candidate.

#### **II. Actions on behalf of Presbytery:- October 13, 2012**

- Approved Job Description for **Jody Maas (Missouri City, Southminster)**
- Approved Job Description for **Charles Kelly (Houston, St. Philip)**
- Granted **Charles Kelly (Houston, St. Philip)** permission to take exegesis ordination exam in January 2013.
- Granted **Brian Long (Atascocita)** permission to take polity exam in January 2013 – he is encouraged to find a suitable mentor who knows the new Book of Order.
- Granted **Becky Provence (Houston, MDPC)** permission to take all four ordination exams in January 2013.
- Granted **Becky Provence (Houston, MDPC)** request to be put on the presbytery's Pulpit Supply List with COM's approval.
- Amy Klinkovsky (Bryan, First)** – Jolene Currie will serve as Amy's advisor.

**Actions approved by Commissioned Ruling Elder for Particular Service Subcommittee CPM** - All actions sustained.

- June 19, 2012 meeting – assessed **Ruling Elder Craig Wood (The Woodlands, Timber Ridge)** as ready to receive a commission.
- Enrolled **Ruling Elder Lee Attema (Freeport, First)** in the CRE process.
- August 21, 2012 meeting – Enrolled **Ruling Elder Sharon Templeman (Nacogdoches, Westminster)** in the CRE process.
- September 18, 2012 meeting – Enrolled **Ruling Elder Anna Marion (Cleveland, St. Luke's)** in the CRE process.



### III. FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

A. Committee on Preparation for Ministry met on October 13, 2012

B. Commissioned Ruling Elder for Particular Service Subcommittee met on June 19, 2012; August 21, 2012; and September 18, 2012.

#### C. Candidates and Inquirers Under Care – New Covenant Presbytery 2012

Atkins, Daniel	Houston, Memorial Drive	Inquirer
Atchison, Kay	Houston, Memorial Drive	Candidate
Augustus, David	Houston, First	Assessed/Ready to Receive a Call
Bleike, Wendy	Houston, First	Candidate
Briggs, William "Will"	Kingwood, First	Inquirer
Brinegar, Selena	Houston, Memorial Drive	Assessed/Ready to Receive a Call
Ceder, Anthony	Houston, First	Candidate
Clarkson, Craig	Houston, First	Inquirer
Davis, Greg	Houston, San Pablo+ Trinity	Candidate
Edstrom, Jessica	Katy, New Hope	Inquirer
Erb, Chad	Kingwood, First	Candidate
Gaide, Brandon	Houston, Memorial Drive	Inquirer
Garibay, Francisco	Houston, Grace	Inquirer
Garner, Paul "Martin"	Woodlands, Woodlands	Candidate
Gordon, Luke	Houston, Memorial Drive	Candidate
Harris, Victor	Houston, St. Andrew's	Candidate
Henderson, Ray	Houston, Northwoods	Assessed/Ready to Receive a Call
Hergert, Sabrina	Houston, Grace	Inquirer
Homeyer, Shelly	Houston, First	Inquirer
Kelly, Charles	Houston, St. Philip	Candidate
Keyes, Andrew	Houston, Westminster	Candidate
Klinkovsky, Amy	Bryan, First	Candidate
Lloyd, Jennifer	Woodlands, Woodlands	Inquirer
Long, Brian	Atascocita, Atascocita	Inquirer
Maas, Jody	Mo. City, Southminster	Inquirer
Noah, Joshua Silva	Houston, Heritage	Inquirer
Payne, Alyssa	Houston, Grace	Candidate
Provence, Becky	Houston, Memorial Drive	Candidate
Retzloff, Barbara	Houston, Pines	Assessed/Ready to Receive a Call
Shannon, Jessica	Houston, Grace	Candidate
Stevenson, Ashley	Houston, First	Candidate
Suba, Lauren	Houston, St. Philip	Inquirer
Swoboda, Blake	Houston, Grace	Inquirer
Wallace, AnneMarie	Houston, First	Candidate
William, Paxton	Houston, St. Philip	Inquirer
Wright, Sally	College Station, Covenant	Assessed/Ready to Receive a Call



*The following is provided for information to the presbytery.*

### **Response to Questions Raised During the Discernment Procedure**

The paragraph in question from our Procedure is as follows:

*“6. The Presbytery recognizes that “the church” in a particular area is not its building or financial assets, but the people of the congregation. When the required majority votes to join another Reformed body, and when a minority of at least 10% vote to remain in the PC (U.S.A.), a separate meeting shall be convened at a separate time to discern interest, if any, in starting a PC (U.S.A.) congregation. If 25 or more members of the active membership sign a letter expressing intent to begin another PC (U.S.A.) congregation, the New Church Development committee of Presbytery, or its agent, shall determine if the leadership, mission, and resources exist to organize a new church. If the NCD Committee or its agent makes that determination, an amount of money at least equal to the insured value of the property minus loans, multiplied by the percentage of its active membership signing the petition shall be made available for the new church development before dismissal of the majority with property. 1*

*1. The intent of this section is to help a minority of the congregation who wish to remain in the PC (U.S.A.) by undertaking and supporting the initiation of a new PC (U.S.A.) congregation. Given the commercial value of much church land is many times the value of the buildings, this minimum formula (which can be exceeded) gives members wishing to start a new PC (U.S.A.) congregation significant funds to do so and asks a departing congregation to make significant contribution without unrealistically burdening the departing congregation.”*

#### **There appear to be three main questions/issues:**

1. Shall the payment for the New Church Development be made up front or shall we allow the dismissed congregation to pay over a period of months or years?
2. If the NCD fails in a specified period of time, will any remaining funds from the NCD payment be refunded to the dismissed congregation?
3. How shall we structure the timing of the official dismissal with the determination of the size of the minority (and therefore the payment due for the NCD) so as not to unnecessarily delay the transfer to another denomination?

#### **Regarding Question #1**

The Procedure is clear that the funds to be made available to the NCD are to be paid in full prior to the dismissal of the congregation. There are several reasons for this:

- Typically an NCD needs the bulk of funding at the beginning of its ministry rather than spread out over time.
- No need for a promissory note and a lien on the property
- No lasting entanglements between the dismissed congregation and the presbytery

Once initiation of a specific NCD is approved by the NCD Committee, all funds received will be deposited into a segregated account to be used only for the purpose of funding that NCD.

#### **Regarding Question #2**

Based on our prior experience, it ordinarily takes a minimum of three years for an NCD to “take root.” General Council anticipates that disbursement of funds provided for the NCD would necessarily be heavily front-loaded (e.g., 60% at startup; 25% after 12 months; 15% after 24 months). Thus, it is unlikely that any funds would remain after two years, i.e., before it is clear that the NCD will succeed or fail.

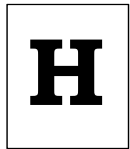
General Council believes that it is in the best interest of the NCD not to provide a refund.

### **Regarding Question #3**

It is not the intent of General Council to protract the dismissal process when an NCD is involved. Council believes that the following procedure would enable the presbytery to determine the maximum financial contribution of the majority to the minority NCD prior to the official dismissal of the congregation by vote of the presbytery.

- The presbytery will be allowed to explain the “minority New Church Development” aspect of our procedure to the congregation in correspondence, town hall meetings and the congregational meeting when the vote on dismissal is taken. The goal of these presentations is to offer an objective view of starting an NCD and to inform the congregation that funding from the majority to the minority for a New Church Development will be provided if at least 10% of those attending the congregational meeting vote against dismissal. The congregation will be informed that subsequent meetings will be held to determine if there are sufficient numbers of members to establish a viable new church.
- General Council will consider all “no” votes on the issue of dismissal at the congregational meeting seeking dismissal to represent possible intent to form a New Church Development. If this number is at least 10% of the voting congregation and exceeds 25 persons, the financial support of the NCD will be computed using the number voting against dismissal in the formula found in the GRD Procedure.
- The financial amount established will be the maximum contribution of the majority to the minority NCD.
- Escrowing this amount with the presbytery will be deemed sufficient commitment for presbytery to take up the motion to validate the dismissal procedure (assuming all other aspects of the GRD Procedure have been fulfilled).
- A congregation may opt not to escrow the initial amount and may delay the payment of these funds, but the procedure will not be deemed complete and no action will be considered by the presbytery on the validation of the dismissal until all steps in the Procedure for seeking Dismissal are completed.
- If subsequent deliberations by the minority result in fewer signatories to the petition than originally determined by the procedure described above, the presbytery will refund the difference to the majority.

**Nominating Committee  
Report to Presbytery  
October 20, 2012**



AD/ADSC – Administrative Division Steering Committee

- 2013 – Chair – Jane Larkin, Houston, St. Phillip
- 2013 – Vice-Chair – Jim Hegenbarth, Houston, MDPC

AD/CO – Center Operations

- 2015 – Tom Montgomery, Houston, First
- 2013 – Chair – Gail Northern, Houston, St. Giles

AD/EA – Ecclesiastical Affairs

- 2014 – Mary Lee Going, Houston, MDPC
- 2013 – Chair – Rev. Becky Downs, Houston, John Knox

AD/FIN – Finance

- 2015 – Dave Johnson, Houston, Clear Lake
- 2015 – Ada Fuller, Houston, First
- 2013 – Chair – Celia Morgan, Houston, St. Phillip
- 2013 – Vice-Chair – Don Murray, Baytown, Faith

AD/Personnel

- 2015 – Rev. Fred Seay, Sugarland, First
- 2013 – Chair – Rich Early, Missouri City, Southminster

Committee on Ministry/COM

- 2013 – Chair – Shelley Hernandez, Houston, St. Giles
- 2013 – Vice-Chair – Rev. Bob Bullock, Galveston, West Isle

COM/Calls & Contracts

- 2015 – Leslie King, Houston, First
- 2015 – Connie Nyquist, Houston, Clear Lake
- 2015 – Carla Burns, Houston, Saint Philip
- 2015 – Betty Janicek, Bellaire, ChristChurch
- 2013 – Chair – Mike Marcotte, Houston, Pines
- 2013 – Vice-Chair – Rev. David Northcutt, Southminster, Houston (Parish Associate)

COM/CL – Congregational Life

- 2015 – Rev. David Jones, Woodlands, Woodlands Community
- 2015 – Rev. Linda Herron, Houston, St. John's
- 2015 – Rev. Debbie Cenko, Wharton, First
- 2015 – Laurie Fitzpatrick, Houston, St. Andrew's

COM/Examinations

- 2015 – Rev. Marie Mickey, Bryan, First
- 2015 – Peter Holmes, Tiki Island, Tiki Island Chapel
- 2015 – Peggy Hendricks, Woodlands, Woodlands Community
- 2015 – Polly Miller, Conroe, First
- 2013 – Chair – Rev. Marie Mickey, Bryan, First
- 2013 – Vice-Chair – Greg Feigh, Houston, St. Giles

COM/Professional Life

- 2014 – Rev. Margaret Desmond, Port Neches, Trinity
- 2015 – Susan McGrail, Bryan, First
- 2015 – Rev. Mark Stoub, Bay City, First
- 2015 – Martha Giese, Waverly, Waverly
- 2015 – Rev. Patricia Clark, HR
  - 2013 – Chair – Edie Purgason, Houston, Grace
  - 2013 – Vice-Chair – Rev. Helen DeLeon, Webster, Webster

COR – Committee on Representation

- 2015 – Sharon Darden, Houston, Pinecrest

CPM – Committee on Preparation

- 2014 – Agnes Adair, Houston, MDPC
- 2015 – Bill Hargrove, Houston, First
- 2015 – Bill Parker, Houston, Clear Lake
- 2015 – Rev. Kristy Forbes-Vits, PNC At Large
- 2015 – Rev. Christa Brewer, Woodlands, Woodlands Community
- 2015 – Rev. Harry Yates, Houston, Northwoods
  - 2013 – Chair – Rev. Nora Fitch, Houston, St. Thomas
  - 2013 – Vice-Chair – Charles Dunagan, Houston, Northwoods

CPM/CRE – Committee on Commissioned Ruling Elders

- 2013 – Yup Kim, Kingwood, First
- 2015 – Barbara Retzloff, Houston, Pines
- 2015 – Nancy Penney, Conroe, First
- 2015 – Rev. Mary Currie, Navasota, First
  - 2013 – Chair – Rev. Sharon Gazaway, Jasper, First
  - 2013 – Vice-Chair – Melissa Brown, Houston, Grace

GENERAL COUNCIL

- Presbytery Moderator Elect (chairs General Council) – John Jo, Houston, Korean Central
- 2015 – Rev. Steve Oglesbee, Houston, Clear Lake
- 2015 – Sharon Carey, Houston, St. Paul
- 2015 – Rev. Gayle Grubbs, PNC At Large
- 2015 – David Bybee, Houston, First

MD/MDSC – Ministries Division Steering Committee

- 2013 – Chair – Jody Harrington, Houston, MDPC
- 2013 – Vice-Chair – Carlton Currie, Houston, First

MD-CRT-Congregational Resourcing Team

- 2015 – Rev. Leigh Wisner, Texas City, First
- 2015 – Debbie Waller, Baytown, Faith
- 2015 – Jessie Edstrom, Katy, New Hope
  - 2013 – Chair – Rev. David Leard, Houston, Northwoods
  - 2013 – Vice-Chair – Rev. David Green, Galveston, First

MD/ER – Evangelism & Renewal

- 2014 – Ava Kimbell, Houston, Pinecrest
- 2015 – Ann Earnest, Houston, Grace
- 2015 – Tracy Allison, Houston, Pines
- 2015 – Rev. John Dearman, Conroe, First
- 2015 – Imelda Carillo, Galveston, Immanuel
  - 2013 – Chair, Rev. Rachel Young, Houston, Clear Lake

2013 – Vice-Chair – Cheryl Miller, Pearland, Peace

MD – New Church Development

2014 – John Schweers, Pearland, Peace

2015 – Rev. Andrew Dearman, At Large

2015 – Gladys Chacon, Houston, MDPC (Fuente de Esperanza)

2015 – Rev. Mike O’Neil, Angleton, First

2015 – Rev. Shawn Kang, Houston, Pathways

2013 – Chair – Rev. Kyle Walker, Bryan, First

2013 – Vice-Chair – Rev. Wayne Eberly, Houston, Pines

MD – Outreach

2013 – Pamela Kate Harada, Houston, First

2015 – Rev. Katrina Pennington, Houston, Clear Lake

2015 – Karen Persely, Bellaire, ChristChurch

2015 – Sue Crawford, Houston, St. Giles

2013 – Chair – Rev. Mark Downs, PNC At Large

2013 – Vice-Chair – Karen Persely, Bellaire, ChristChurch

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Livingston

Invites you to join with them in

“Lighting the Way in the Congo”

Information can be found in the display area.