

The Presbytery of New Covenant

“Growing congregations that passionately engage their community to make disciples.”
Theme for 2008 Presbytery Meetings: Vital Churches=Vital Presbytery

Stated Meeting
Saturday, November 15, 2008
First Presbyterian Church, Pasadena, Texas
Theme: The Vitality of the Presbytery
Offering: Pastors’ Emergency Fund

GATHERING

At 9:00 am The moderator, Elder Jody Harrington, called the meeting to order with worship.

Morning Worship

Led by the Presbytery Prayer Team and featuring Jazz in the Morning. Thanksgiving for the saints of the church was given as the presbytery received the Necrology Report for the past year (report was included in the meeting packet.)

The offering received for the Pastors’ Emergency Fund was \$1825.00.

OUR MINISTRY

9:30 am Opening Business

- The Stated Clerk, the Rev. Diane Prevary declared a quorum to be present for the meeting. She moved the docket as amended and motion passed:

Amended Docket

GATHERING

9:00 am Call to Order Moderator, Elder Jody Harrington
Morning Worship

OUR MINISTRY

9:45 am Opening Business

- Declaration of Quorum and Adoption of the Docket
- Welcome by Host Church **The Rev. Dean Pogue**
- Welcome of Others – Stated Clerk Diane Prevary
First-time Commissioners, Corresponding Members
New Minister-Members:
Introduction of Tricia Pogue, Volunteer Coordinator, Ike Recovery Team

Report of the Stated Clerk (B and B.1)

Omnibus Motion B.1

10:00 am Moderator’s Remarks and Appointments
Nominating Committee (H & H.1) Elder Mary Lawrence
Report of General Council (F) The Rev. Wayne Eberly

- Nomination & Election of Stated Clerk, Treasurer & Recording Clerk

Update on Hurricane Ike Recovery Efforts Elder Dave Johnson

Minute for Mission: Synod of the Sun Seminary Scholarship Effort - The Rev. Dean Pogue

	Administrative Division (C)	Elder Rupert Turner
	Ecclesiastical Affairs (C.1)	Elder Dr. Susan McPhail Wittjen
11:00 am	Moments for Mission	
	a. Josh Plumley (Presbyterian Children's Homes)	
	b. Ana Schick (Interface Samaritan)	
	Update on Heritage Presbyterian Church	
	New Business (resolution from Ministries Division)	
	COM Report	Rev. James Harper
11:15 am	STATE OF THE PRESBYTERY	The Rev. Mike Cole
11:45 am	<u>FELLOWSHIP AT TABLE</u> (<i>Donations to Cents-Ability @ Tables</i>)	
	Today's donations will be given to the " Pasadena Community Ministries. "	
12:45 pm	Reconvene w/Hymn #485 "To God Be The Glory!"	
	Ministries Division (G)	Elder Pam Engler
	Outreach Ministries (Action Items: G.1 and G.2)	
1:00 pm	Sermon for Ordination	Candidate Paul Hoang
1:30 pm	Committee on Ministry (D)	The Rev. Dean Pogue
	Floor Examination of Candidate	
	Information and Action Items	

GOING FORTH

Installation of Moderator for 2009

Closing Hymn #554 ("Let All Things Now Living") and Prayer

Adjournment

- Welcome by Host Church The Rev. Dean Pogue
- Welcome of Others Stated Clerk Diane Prevary
- Corresponding Members: The Rev. Christina Alcorn (Presbytery of Cincinnati); Elder Eldon Sheffer, Schreiner University (Mission Presbytery); Rev. Sue Hyde (Presbytery of South Dakota)
- New Minister-Members: "Hmingi" Browne, Will Browne, Emilee Whitehurst, Michael Umbenhaur, David Nguyen, and Sharon Gazaway.
- Volunteer Coordinator, Ike Recovery Team: Tricia Pogue

Report of the Stated Clerk (B, B.1, B.2)

- Two corrections were made to COM report in the packet, page 44: 1) to add the line "Jackie Hannan installed as Designated Pastor of Atascocita Presbyterian Church on November 8 at 4:00 pm" after the line "To complete the commission: Elder Kay Doucet, Port Neches, Trinity and Elder Clinton Smith, Orange, First 11/8/08 at 4:00 pm"; 2) The Reverend Barrett Ingram, Pastor, Galveston, Westminster preached the sermon and The Rev. Gayle Grubbs completed the commission.
- Two additional names were added to the Necrology Report: Elders Cornelia Nelson and Charley Hooker from Westminster, Beaumont
- Add item of information: A Session Records Review will be held following the adjournment of today's meeting.
- Add to Omnibus Motion (B.1) (A. #5 and # 6): Two sets of Administrative Commission Minutes: 1) for the Installation of the Rev. Jacqueline M. Hannan as Pastor for Atascocita Presbyterian Church, Atascocita, Texas on November 8, 2008 and 2) for the

Installation of the Rev. Margaret Desmond as Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Port Neches, Texas on Saturday, October 25, 2008.

- Add to Omnibus Motion: From the Committee on Ministry (D), C. that the status of Honorably Retired be granted to The Rev. Robert Vagt, former President of Davidson College. (Note: none of the 3 Honorably Retired ministers was present.)
- The Stated Clerk moved the Omnibus Motion as amended and the motion carried.

10:00 am Moderator's Remarks and Appointments

- The moderator reported the names of the day's tellers: Elder John Jo (Houston, Korean Central); Elder Pam Engler (Bryan, First); Rev. Helen Deleon (Webster, Webster), and Rev. Alan Brehm (Dickinson, First and Houston, Servant-Savior)
- The moderator thanked the presbytery for the privilege of serving as moderator and noted that the high point in her year of serve was the chartering of three new churches. She retired the moderator's stole honoring the Decade of the Child and exhibited the new moderator's stole which had been created by Dorothy Goforth of Missouri City, Southminster.

Nominating Committee (H & H.1)

Elder Mary Lawrence, chair of the committee, placed in nomination for the respective positions, the names in the Nominating Committee report in the packet and the addendum. She corrected the church membership of Judy Gunn nominated to serve on United Campus Ministries, Class of 2011 to Faith Presbyterian Church, Baytown; added the name of Shelley Hernandez (Houston, St. Giles) as Chair of Care of Congregations (COM) for 2009; and added the name of Elder Bill Hall (Houston, First) to serve on the Finance Committee, Class of 2011. There were no nominations from the floor. The motion to elect was approved.

Report of the General Council (F)

Rev. Wayne Eberly, moderator of the General Council nominated Stated Clerk, the Rev. Diane Prevary to serve another three-year term as Stated Clerk. There were no further nominations from the floor. The motion carried

He nominated Elder Janice Schessler to serve another three-year term as Recording Clerk. There being no further nominations from the floor, the motion carried.

He nominated Elder Lee Larkin to serve another three-year term as Treasurer. There being no further nominations from the floor, the motion carried.

Rev. Eberly provided an update on the Windwood lawsuit, stating that counsel has been retained and a response team has met with the session of Windwood. The situation is, therefore, being dealt with on both a legal and pastoral basis.

Update on Hurricane Ike Recovery Efforts by Elder Dave Johnson

Elder Johnson informed the presbytery of the progress toward long-term recovery from Hurricane Ike, which struck the Gulf Coast on September 13, 2008. The mission statement for this long-term recovery effort follows:

Spirit Led Mission of Long Term Recovery

• FOUR AREAS OF EMPHASIS:

- **Spiritual Recovery** is the most important component of efforts and will be the driving force behind all our long-term recovery missional efforts....
 - The **Missional Recovery** connects churches in need with churches with resources to meet those needs...
 - The establishment of two **Volunteer Villages** in the Presbytery will be central to serving our communities which have been devastated. One village will be established in Texas City at First and the other in Pt. Neches at Trinity...
 - **Administration** is the necessary part of the work of the IRT. Includes financial and administrative oversight, communication of all aspects especially those special stories of human endeavor . The General Council of the Presbytery is the reporting body for IKE Recovery Team.

Minute for Mission: Synod of the Sun Seminary Scholarship Effort by the Rev. Dean Pogue.

Administrative Division (C)

Elder Rupert Turner

Mr. Turner explained that the repayment schedule did not appear in this presbytery meeting packet because there has been no change. We are on target for repayment of our obligations to General Assembly and others. Full report on repayment and the financial state of the presbytery will appear in the February 2009 presbytery meeting packet.

Ecclesiastical Affairs Committee (C.1)

Elder Dr. Susan McPhail Wittjen

- February 7, 2009 Presbytery Meeting – Voting on proposed General Assembly Amendments to the Book of Order.
- Elder Julie MacLemore, former Stated Clerk of the presbytery, will lead a workshop about the amendments at the Church Officer Enrichment on January 24, 2009 at Houston, St. Luke's.
- Dr. Wittjen introduced Demonica Yarborough who presented a banner honoring the Presbytery staff's participation as a Community of Respect in the Greater Houston area.

10:45 am **Moments for Mission**

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services – Josh Plumley

Interface Samaritan Counseling Center – Ana Schick, Executive Director and Susan Lang, Counselor

Update on Heritage Presbyterian Church

Elder Rupert Turner

The Administrative Commission appointed by the presbytery and chaired by Elder Jim Bushong is favorably impressed with that congregation's progress. The report (J) which appears in this presbytery meeting packet contains details. The commission created a financial task force which is actively working on a plan and which hopes to bring a report to the February 2009 presbytery meeting.

NEW BUSINESS from Ministries Division

The Rev. Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson, Director of United Campus Ministries of Greater Houston, moved that February 21, 2009 be declared a day of thanksgiving to God for the life and witness of John W. (Jack) and Helen Lancaster. The motion was approved.

Committee on Ministry Report

Rev. James Harper

Rev. Harper, COM chair, directed attention to three reports in the meeting packet: Policy for Professional Development, the Policy for Unused Continuing Education Funds, and the Covenant of Confidentiality. He also reminded the body of the honorable retirements of three ministers approved by the Omnibus Motion.

The clerk announced that today the enrollment of Ministers and Elder Commissioners is 193; there are 30 registered visitors.

11:00 am **STATE OF THE PRESBYTERY**

The Rev. Mike Cole

Using Psalm 139, and his own experience on a recent retreat, Rev. Cole used five lenses through which to examine the past year of the presbytery's life and ministry: physical, financial, spiritual, vocational, and relational. In each area the presbytery is on solid ground. However, there have been "New Winds" blowing through the presbytery: Hurricane Ike, Dissent, and the Failing Economy. At the same time, there are other gentler and more promising winds: the Peru Partnership, Faithful Long-Term Recovery, Congregation to Congregation Classroom Recovery Project, and New Church Planting. Rev. Cole's "Credo" is *we can do all this and more through God*.

Following his presentation, Rev. Cole invited the assembly to a "Good News Speak-Out." He asked churches to share how they are making disciples in their communities, after which he offered prayer and thanksgiving for the meal to come.

11:45 am FELLOWSHIP AT TABLE

Donations to Cents-Ability will be directed to "Pasadena Community Ministries."

12:45 pm Reconvene with the singing of "To God Be the Glory."

The Stated Clerk announced that 250 were fed at lunch and that Rev. Kevin Keaton, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Sugar Land has answered the call to be the General Presbyter in the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley, in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, thanking him for his service to this presbytery and wishing him Godspeed on behalf of the presbytery.

Ministries Division (G)

Elder Pam Engler

1. Renewal of CEDEPCA Covenant Agreement (Greg Davis) (G.1). The motion to renew and adopt the covenant was approved.
2. Adoption of Peru Partnership (Clark McCullough) (G.2). The motion to adopt the covenant was approved.

1:40 pm Sermon for Ordination

Candidate Paul Hoang

Rev. Dean Pogue introduced Paul Kim Hoang, candidate under care from The Presbytery of Shepherd and Lapsley and called to be the associate pastor of Korean Young Nak Presbyterian Church in Houston.

Following Mr. Hoang's sermon, Rev. Pogue entertained questions from the floor, pertaining only to the sermon. The motion to sustain was approved.

Rev. Pogue moved, after asking a question from the floor, that Mr. Hoang's examination for ordination to the ministry be sustained.

The Stated Clerk announced that the Cents-Ability offering taken during lunch was \$80.00.

GOING FORTH

The Moderator for 2009, the Rev. Wayne Eberly (Houston, Pines) was installed by the General Presbyter and Outgoing moderator. Elder Jody Harrington presented him with the new stole, the gavel, and cross. She posed the constitutional questions to him, charged the congregation, and then offered a prayer.

General Presbytery Mike Cole recognized the four former moderators who were present asking the new moderator to rely on them for their wisdom and that Rev. Eberly exhibit "passionate moderation" during his tenure.

After the singing of "Let All Things Now Living," Elder Jody Harrington offered the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Schessler
Recording Clerk