

**PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT
MINUTES
STATED MEETING, SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2008
GRAND LAKES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – KATY, TEXAS**

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

Theme for this meeting: “Becoming More Multicultural and Welcoming Communities of Faith”

Offering to: The Multicultural Café
(One Table – Unlimited Seating – Come As You Are)

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn: “Come Thou Almighty King”

The stated meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant was called to order with worship by the Moderator, Elder Jody Harrington at 8:55 am in the Sanctuary of Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church in Katy, Texas.

At 9:00 am the Rev. Tim Phillips led the Morning Prayer. Also leading in the time of scripture reading, prayer and song were: Elder Nancy Diaz (Houston, San Pablo+Trinity), Pamela Ise (First African NCD), and the Rev. Jae Kim (Houston, Korean Central). The offering received for the Multicultural Café was \$1323.25.

9:20 am – Opening Business

- The Rev. Diane Prevary, Stated Clerk, declared a quorum to be present.
- After noting that the Windwood overture had been withdrawn in consultation with the Stated Clerk, she moved the docket as amended. The docket was approved as amended:

THE DOCKET

GATHERING

8:55 am Gathering Hymn #139

Call to Order

Morning Prayer

9:20 am Opening Business

- Declaration of Quorum and Adoption of the Docket
- Welcome by Host Church
- Welcome of Others – Stated Clerk Diane Prevary
First-time Commissioners, Corresponding Members
New Minister-Members:

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

Omnibus Motion B.2

9:45 am Moderator’s Remarks and Appointments

Committee on Preparation (E)

Service of Candidacy

Committee on Ministry (D)

Service of Retirement: **The Rev. Bryan Kile** The Rev. Mike Cole

Administrative Division (C)

Elder Julie MacLemore

The Rev. James Harper

Elder Rupert Turner

9:00 am

	Ecclesiastical Affairs (C.1)	Elder Dr. Susan McPhail Wittjen
	Finance (C.2)	Elder Sid Holderness
	Center Operations Committee	Elder Dave Johnson
	Nominating Committee (H & H.1)	Elder Mary Lawrence
	Ministries Division (G)	Elder Pam Engler
	FOCUSin October	Elder Anne Wilson
	Report of General Council (F)	The Rev. Wayne Eberly
11:30 am	KEYNOTE “A Confessing Church”	The Rev. Jin Kim
12:30 pm	<u>FELLOWSHIP AT TABLE</u> (Donations to Cents-Ability @ Tables)	
	Today’s donations will be given to Katy Christian Ministries, area food pantry. Thank you for your generosity.	
1:30 pm	Sermon for Ordination	Candidate Whitney Wilkinson
2:00 pm	Committee on Ministry	
	Floor Examination for Ordination	The Rev. Dean Pogue
2:20 pm	Report of the Heritage Administrative Commission-	
		The Rev. W. Casey Jones
	PowerPoint and Brief Oral Presentation	Elder Jim Bushong
2:35 pm	Adjournment	

* * * * *

- **Welcome by Host Church Pastor**, the Rev. Harry Slye
- **Welcome of Others** by the Stated Clerk, the Rev. Diane Prevary
First-time Commissioners and guests, including Bill Wilkinson, out-of-town visitor, were recognized and welcomed.

The Stated Clerk noted that all corresponding members are granted Privilege of the Floor: Rev. David M. Evans, Director of Seminary Relations, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Mission Presbytery); Rev. Judy R. Fletcher, Synod Executive, Synod of the Sun (Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery); Rev. Sharon Gazaway from First Presbyterian Church, Jasper, Texas (Mid South Presbytery); Rev. Daniel A. Nguyen from Bellaire NCD Vietnamese Presbyterian Church (Presbytery of Stockton); The Rev. Jin Kim; Rev. Rick Young, Regional Representative from the Board of Pensions (Grace Presbytery).

The Stated Clerk introduced new minister-members: Steven Frazier (Lufkin, First); Nora Fitch (Angleton, First); and Carol Burgeson (Member-at-Large).

Report of the Stated Clerk (B, B.2, and B.3)

The Stated Clerk reminded the body: 1) that the Windwood overture had been withdrawn in consultation with the Stated Clerk and that 2) there had been a change in schedule for review of church records with the October 25 review at Brazoria, First being cancelled. She also added to the Omnibus Motion completion of the installations for The Rev. Nora Fitch, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Angleton on August 17, 2008, and for the Rev. Alan Brehm, Pastor of A Community of the Servant Savior in Houston, Texas on August 3, 2008.

The Stated Clerk moved the Omnibus Motion (B.1). The motion was seconded and passed.

- | | | |
|---------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 9:45 am | Moderator’s Remarks and Appointments | Moderator, Elder Jody Harrington: |
| | 1. announced the location of the Prayer Room | |
| | 2. announced the names of tellers for the day: Elder Libby Stapleton (Lufkin, First); Rev. Nora Fitch (Angleton, First); Elder Clif Peabody (Missouri City, Southminster), and Rev. Jim Davis (Kingwood, First) | |

3. introduced the Rev. Wayne Eberly, Moderator of the General Council who placed the following names in nomination for service on the Nominating Committee: Elder David Bauer (Missouri City, Southminster), Class of 2009; Elder Pat Hosford (Houston, Northwoods), Class of 2010; the Rev. Fred Thrower (Kingwood, First), Class of 2011. There were no additional nominations from the floor. The motion to elect these three was approved.
4. led a Service of Recognition for C. Dale Hendrix, Business Administrator at Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston as Certified Fellow in Presbyterian Church Business Administration.

Committee on Preparation (E)

Elder Julie MacLemore

Elder Julie MacLemore moved and recommended moving Joann Lee (Pathways/Pines) to the candidacy phase of preparation for Minister of Word and Sacrament. Following her expression of her journey of faith and the Moderator's constitutional questions, the motion to approve enrolling her as a candidate was approved. Elder Julie MacLemore charged candidate Joann Lee, and the body sang the Doxology.

Committee on Ministry (D)

The Rev. James Harper

1. Action Item: Minimum Terms of Call for 2009 includes a 3% increase from 2008. Rev. Harper moved the new minimum terms of call, and the motion was approved.
2. The motion to approve granting the status of Honorably Retired to the Rev. Twyla Susan Werstein was approved (she was unable to be present).
3. The Rev. Mike Cole led the Service of Retirement for the Rev. Bryan Kile whose HR status had been approved in June 2008.

Administrative Division (C)

Elder Rupert Turner

Ecclesiastical Affairs Committee (C.1)

Elder Susan Wittjen

Committee chair Elder Susan Wittjen noted that the last meeting of 2008 would be held at Pasadena, First on November 15th and would feature a report on the Vision Initiative Grants by General Presbyter Mike Cole and that Jazz in the Morning would perform during worship. The first meeting of 2009 will be held at Grace Presbyterian Church on Saturday, February 7th at which time the vote on the proposed amendments to the constitution will be held. Remaining 2009 meetings are: May 9, August 22, and November 14. She also noted the disappointing attendance record of pastors and commissioners at presbytery meetings, saying the committee works hard to make the meetings efficient and meaningful.

Finance Committee (C.2)

Elder Sid Holderness noted that the Fiscal Year Budget had been revised and appears in today's meeting materials with the net income being \$107,109.

Center Operations Committee

Elder Dave Johnson

Elder Dave Johnson reported that the Committee is working on developing a Disaster Recovery Plan for the presbytery and has developed a new communication system that will help churches know how to reach presbytery personnel and how presbytery personnel can reach congregations in the case of a disaster. A request for names of two contacts at each church has garnered a 19% response and a form for this has been placed on the presbytery website. The team is working with interfaith groups, a complete inventory of presbytery equipment has been completed and recorded on video, the building's alarm system is being upgraded, and all computer systems are being backed up with off-site storage being utilized for the back-ups.

Nominating Committee (H & H.1)

Elder Mary Lawrence

The committee moved the names appearing in their reports H & H.1 (attached). There were no additional nominations from the floor. The motion to elect was approved

Ministries Division (G)

Elder Pam Engler

Elder Anne Wilson urged everyone to attend the FOCUS event in October because of the excellent classes and inspiring leaders, including Rev. Tom Long and Rev. Joan Gray. Registration may be made at the website set up for the event.

General Council (F)

Rev. Wayne Eberly

There were no motions and the information report appeared in the meeting materials.

Report of the Heritage Administrative Commission

Seeing that the time would allow, the Stated Clerk moved the Report of the Heritage Administrative Commission to this time on the docket. Elder Jim Bushong came forward to show a PowerPoint and make a brief oral presentation about the progress of the Heritage Presbyterian Church. He said that the church is alive and healing and he introduced the members who were present.

11:00 am Keynote

“A Confessing Church”

The Rev. Jin Kim

The Stated Clerk asked if there were any objection to moving the Order of the Day forward from 11:30 to 11:00. As there were none, Rev. Mike Cole introduced the Rev. Jin Kim to give his keynote, “A Confessing Church.”

12:00 Noon

Fellowship at Table (Donations to Cents-Ability at Tables)

(Donations for Katy Christian Ministry totaled \$190.28.)

Upon return to the Sanctuary for the business of the afternoon, the Stated Clerk announced that registrations for the day totaled 270 (80 Ministers of the Word and Sacrament; 136 elders; and 54 visitors).

The Rev. Dean Pogue offered a prayer.

1:00 pm Sermon for Ordination

Candidate Whitney Wilkinson

Examinations Committee – the Rev. Dean Pogue

Candidate Whitney Wilkinson completed her ordination exam in preparation for the ministry of Word and Sacrament by preaching a sermon before the presbytery. The Rev. Dean Pogue moved to sustain the preaching part of the examination. The motion was approved.

After questions from the floor, the Rev. Dean Pogue moved that all parts of her examination for ordination be sustained in full. The motion was approved.

Adjournment

- The body expressed appreciation for the day’s gracious hospitality by giving a round of applause to Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church.
- The moderator, Elder Jody Harrington, offered the closing prayer.
- The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Schessler, Recording Clerk