



Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant
Saturday, November 15, 2008 (9:00 am – 4:00 pm)
First Presbyterian Church, Pasadena, Texas

Registration Form

Please complete this form and bring it with you to the meeting. Thank you

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Church/City: _____

Are you a first-time commissioner? ____ Yes ____ No

CHECK ONLY ONE BOX BELOW

VOTING (check only one)

- Minister Member
- Elder Commissioner
(Elected from session of church listed above)
- Commissioned Lay Pastor
- Certified Church Educator
- Associate Certified Church Educator
- Elder with Privilege by Virtue of Office
*(Currently in a Presbytery leadership position,
designated for this privilege)*
- Former Moderator of Presbytery
- Elected Presbytery Staff
- Fellow – NACBA (National Associate of
Church Business Administrators)

NON-VOTING (check only one)

- Corresponding Minister-Member from

- Visitor from _____
- Presbytery Staff
- Inquirer/Candidate under care
- Commissioned Lay Pastor *(without voting
privileges)*
- Other Church Professional
*(Non-certified Educator, Youth Director, Business
Administrator, Music Director, other)*

CALL TO THE STATED MEETING
Saturday, November 15, 2008 9:00 am
First Presbyterian Church, Pasadena, TX
4647 Preston Road, Pasadena, TX 77505 (281-991-8700)
The Presbytery of New Covenant, Synod of the Sun
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

This meeting of the presbytery will be called to order at 9:00 am.

There is an **Orientation Session for first-time commissioners at 8:15 am.**

There will be a special time of "gathering music" beginning at 8:45 am in the Sanctuary, offered by
Jazz in the Morning.

A **Meeting Tool Kit** is available on the website (<http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org>), as are additional materials for the meeting. Each commissioner is responsible for obtaining these materials and bringing them to the meeting. There will be **NO** copies at the meeting other than Addenda .

No response is required for lunch, but childcare reservations **must be made directly to First Presbyterian Church, Pasadena (contact information is listed above).**

Complete the registration form in the **Presbytery Packet** *prior to the meeting*, and turn it in at the registration table.

Be sure to check the website three days prior to the meeting for additional meeting materials that may be posted (to include any New Business).

Requests for Excused Absences (from ministers and churches) must be submitted to the Stated Clerk's Office by fax 713-526-8814, by USPS, or e-mail (jschessler@pbyofnewcovenant.org or dprevary@pbyofnewcovenant.org).

October 30, 2008

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

At this meeting we will be celebrating the "Vitality of the Presbytery." Much has happened in our life together since General Council adopted and heralded the new vision for the Presbytery of New Covenant in 2005: *"Growing congregations that passionately engage their community to make disciples."* Mike Cole will present to us the General Presbyter's **STATE OF THE PRESBYTERY REPORT** which will include the latest update from the Hurricane Ike Recovery Team. You will meet Tricia Pogue, whom God has called to volunteer as the coordinator of these recovery efforts. Worship will be led by the presbytery's Prayer Team, a group called together following the 218th General Assembly for the purpose of planning prayerful and spiritual experiences for the presbytery in light of the challenging times in our denomination. It is under their direction that we now have a room designated at each presbytery meeting for prayer and meditation - a quiet place set apart from the business meeting - available to all commissioners and visitors.

Come and join your Presbyterian brothers and sisters in Christ in Pasadena on November 15.

Serving Christ and New Covenant Presbytery, I am

Faithfully,

Diane

[Diane K. Prevary, Stated Clerk]

STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT

SATURDAY, November 15, 2008

First Presbyterian, Pasadena, Texas

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For Information

Letters assigned for report organization:

- General Presbyter (A)
- Stated Clerk (B)
- Administrative Division (C)
 - Committees (C.1, C.2, etc.)
- Committee on Ministry (D)
- Committee on Preparation (E)
- General Council (F)
- Ministries Division (G)
 - Committees (G.1, G.2, etc.)
- Nominating Committee (H)
- Communications (I)
- Other Entities (J)

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, TX

Theme: **The Vitality of the Presbytery**

Offering: Pastors' Emergency Fund

The meeting will be called to order at 9:00 am.

Please turn off all cell-phones and electronics.

- 8:15 am New Commissioner Orientation in the Chapel
8:30 am Registration in the Narthex
8:45 am Gathering Music in Sanctuary, by **Jazz in the Morning**.

The Chapel has been set aside for prayer and meditation during the course of the meeting.

PROPOSED THE DOCKET

GATHERING

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

Morning Worship

Led by the Presbytery Prayer Team, and featuring Jazz in the Morning. Thanksgiving for the saints of the church will be given as the presbytery receives the Necrology Report for the past year (included in the PACKET)

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.2
- 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
- Committee on Preparation (E) The Rev. Marie Mickey
- Minute for Mission: Synod of the Sun Seminary Scholarship Effort* The Rev. Dean Pogue
- Administrative Division (C) Elder Rupert Turner

Ecclesiastical Affairs (C.1)
Finance (C.2)
[Center Operations; Personnel]

Elder Dr. Susan McPhail Wittjen
Elder Sid Holderness

- 11:00 am **Moments for Mission**
a. Josh Plumley (Presbyterian Children's Homes)
b. Ana Schick (Interface Samaritan)

Update on Heritage Presbyterian Church

- 11:15 am **ORDER OF THE DAY: STATE OF THE PRESBYTERY** The Rev. Mike Cole

- 12:00 pm **FELLOWSHIP AT TABLE** (*Donations to Cents-Ability @ Tables*)
Today's donations will be given to the "Pasadena Community Ministries." Thank you for your generosity.

- 1:00 pm **Reconvene w/Hymn #485** *"To God Be The Glory!"*

Sermon for Ordination Candidate Paul Hoang

- 1:30 pm Committee on Ministry (D) The Rev. James Harper
Floor Examination of Candidate
Information and Action Items

Ministries Division (G) Elder Pam Engler
Outreach Ministries (**Action Items: G.1 and G.2**)

New Business (must be submitted 4 days prior to meeting to be posted on-line)

GOING FORTH

Installation of Moderator and Moderator-Elect for 2009

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

Adjournment



**THE NEXT STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT WILL BE:
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009,
AT GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
10221 ELLA LEE BLVD, HOUSTON, 77042**

AT THIS MEETING THE PRESBYTERY WILL VOTE ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BOOK OF ORDER. THE AMENDMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT www.pcusa.org AND WILL ALSO BE MAILED TO THE CHURCHES IN EARLY DECEMBER.

A WORKSHOP ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WILL BE PART OF CHURCH OFFICER TRAINING (COT), SCHEDULED ON JANUARY 24, 2009, AT ST. LUKE'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN HOUSTON. ELDER JULIE MACLEMORE WILL LEAD THIS WORKSHOP.

STATED CLERK
REPORT TO PRESBYTERY
November 15, 2008

I. Recommendations for presbytery action:

1. That the Omnibus Motion be approved, found at **B.1** in the PACKET.

II. Actions taken on behalf of presbytery:

III. Items for Information:

1. Please note annual Necrology Report, found at **B.2** in the PACKET.
2. Received the following communication from the Office of the General Assembly:
The 218th General Assembly (2008) took the following action on overture(s) submitted by your presbytery:
Item 09-01. On The Church Addressing Intergenerational Injustice in America—From the Presbytery of New Covenant.
GA Action: Approved. To see the action on this item in PC-biz, go to <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=511>.

*Item 15-01. On Urging the Board of Pensions to Expand the Definition of Medical Necessity to Include Habilitative Services for Children with Congenital Developmental Disabilities—From the Presbytery of Central Nebraska. **Concurrence:** Presbytery of New Covenant*
GA Action: Approved. To see the action on this item in PC-biz, go to <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1421>.
3. Received a disciplinary allegation against a minister-member of the presbytery. Following procedures approved by the presbytery, the Moderator (of the presbytery) has appointed an Investigating Committee (IC.01-08), composed of Elders Julie MacLemore, David Baay, and Pam Stoops and the Reverends Laurey Murphy and Larry Spencer. As provided by the *Constitution*, the IC has one year to complete their work and to report their findings to the presbytery.
4. New minister-members of the presbytery will introduce themselves at this meeting, will sign THE BOOK, and the assembly is invited to extend to them the right-hand-of-fellowship during the lunch break.

OMNIBUS MOTION

November 15, 2008 Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant

At the time the Omnibus is presented, a commissioner/minister may request that an item be lifted for discussion at a later time in the meeting. This requires no vote of Presbytery. The Stated Clerk will announce when the item will be considered.

FROM THE STATED CLERK (B)

A. Received minutes from (to be included in the record), and moves that the following Administrative Commissions be dismissed with appreciation:

1. to ordain Whitney Lee Wilkinson to Ministry of Word and Sacrament, on Sunday August 31, 2008, at First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, TX, during worship at 10:45 am in the sanctuary. The Rev. Wilkinson has been called as a Mission Associate and will be tethered at First Church, Bryan;
2. to install as Designated Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Tomball, TX, the Rev. James Gill, on Sunday, October 26, 2008, during a service of worship;
3. to install as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Dickinson, TX, the Rev. Alan Brehm, on Sunday, October 26, 2008, during a service of worship;
4. to install as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Lufkin, TX, the Rev. Steven Frazier, on Sunday, September 7, during a service of worship.

B. That the minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant on Saturday, August 23, 2008, be approved as distributed (posted on presbytery's website, as part of the Meeting Materials for today's meeting).

FROM THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (D)

- A.** That the status of Honorably Retired be granted to The Rev. Shun-Chi Wang, effective December 1, 2008. The Rev. Wang has served the church faithfully, most recently on the staff of the national office in Louisville, KY.
- B.** That the status of Honorably Retired be granted to The Rev. James Knez, effective January 1, 2009. The Rev. Knez has been an active member of our presbytery while engaged professionally as an attorney.

At the time the Omnibus is presented, a commissioner/minister may request that an item be lifted for discussion at a later time in the meeting. This requires no vote of Presbytery. The Stated Clerk will announce when the item will be considered.

NECROLOGY REPORT

B.2

The Presbytery of New Covenant celebrates the lives and ministry of these church officers who died in 2008.

MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Crossman, Lin (Houston, Clear Lake) – Oct. 29, 2008

TRUSTEES

Henry, Earl (Port Arthur, Providence) – Jan. 19, 2008

Marin, Albert (Rosenberg, First) – July 23, 2008

Orrick Jr., Jack (Beaumont, St. Andrew's) – May, 20, 2008 - (Trustee & Deacon)

ELDERS

Brunner, Louise Waddell (Eagle Lake, First) – May 2, 2008

Cain, Mary (Texas City, First) – Mar. 1, 2008

Carroll, Walter (Crockett, First) – Sep. 14, 2008

Chappell, Robert (Lake Jackson, First) – Mar. 8, 2008

DeSouza, Abel (Houston, St. John's) – July 7, 2008

Eubanks, James (Port Arthur, Providence) – Feb. 28, 2008

Fink, Dale (Houston, Windwood) – Mar. 22, 2008

Frizzell, Robert (Houston, Pines) – May 19, 2008

Maxwell, Helen Millar (Houston, Pines) – Jan. 17, 2008

McDonald, Burniece (Houston, Clear Lake) – Aug. 18, 2008 (Elder & Deacon)

Monroe, Opal (Huntsville, First) – May 14, 2008

Ryall, Patricia Ann (Katy, New Hope) – July 22, 2008

Schnatterer, Norman (Brenham, Brenham) – May 11, 2008

Shroyer, Guy (Crockett, First) – Feb. 16, 2008

Stonestreet, Bob (Houston, Clear Lake) – Jan. 29, 2008 (Elder & Deacon)

Stringer, Dewey (Brenham, Brenham) – May 6, 2008

Thompson, Edward Van (Lufkin, First) – Mar. 4, 2008

Turney, William "Bill" (Crockett, First) – Feb. 29, 2008

Watkins, Leslie Raymond (Bryan, First) – Oct. 4, 2008

Williams, John Sidney (Katy, New Hope) – Jan. 6, 2008 (Elder & Deacon)

DEACONS

Cobb, Frances (Beaumont, St. Andrew's) – Apr. 17, 2008

Griffith, George (Houston, Clear Lake) - Feb. 29, 2008

Pela, Marcella (Bryan, First) – May 7, 2008

Shanklin Jr., Marshall J. (Houston, St. Andrew's) – Feb. 11, 2008

Walton, Sue Ellen (Tomball, First) – Mar. 5, 2008

Woodyard, Betty (Katy, New Hope) – July 19, 2008

UNREPORTED FOR 2007

ELDERS

Atkins, Ken (The Woodlands, The Woodlands Community) – Oct. 24, 2007

Carr, Sanford L. (Houston, St. Andrew's) – Nov. 12, 2007 (Elder & Deacon)

Hodges, Katherine (Livingston, First) – Jan. 30, 2007 (Elder & Deacon)

Matthes, Russell (Bay City, First) – Nov. 27, 2007

DEACON

Pyle, Bill (Livingston, First) – Jan. 20, 2007

ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
REPORT TO PRESBYTERY
November 15, 2008

I. Recommendations for presbytery action: None

II. Actions taken on behalf of presbytery: None

III. Items for Information:

1. Continue to plan all presbytery meetings, including arranging for host churches and speakers for the 2009 presbytery. The 2009 presbytery meetings are planned for the following dates:

Feb. 7, 2009: Grace PC, Houston

- There will be a full worship service with communion.
- Commissioners will vote on proposed GA amendments.

May 9, 2009: Woodlands PC

August 1 & 2, 2009: Pines PC "A Weekend of Celebration & Service"

(Note date change – approved by General Council)

- Large Presbyterian gathering on Sat. with special speaker.
- Disperse to do mission projects in each church's community.
-

Nov. 14, 2009: Houston, St. Paul

Worship featuring "Calabash," St. Paul's African Choir

2. Clerk of Session Review of Minutes scheduled following this meeting.
3. Announcements regarding events planned by a church or committee of the presbytery may be submitted to the EAC for inclusion in the electronic announcements that run at various times during the presbytery meetings.
4. Elected members of this committee include Elder Susan McPhail Wittjen, Chair (LaMarque PC), Elder Jim Taylor (MDPC) and Elder John Jo (Korean Central PC). Ex-officio members include Elder Jeanie Flowers, Elder Jody Harrington, the Rev. Wayne Eberly, the Rev. Mike Cole, the Rev. Diane Prevary, Elder Janice Schessler.

Guidelines for Floor Discussion/Debate

(For any meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant)

1. Presbyters should speak only once during debate of each amendment. Presbytery will listen to alternate advocates who are asked to line up at appropriate (advocate/opponent) microphones. Refrain from applause or vocal expressions of either approval or disapproval.
2. There will be a two (2)-minute time limit on all speeches during debate.*
3. Written ballots will be used for amendments if requested by the presbytery.

*A yellow card will be held up by the moderator elect after 1 ½ minutes; a red card will be held up when the time limit is reached.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT TO PRESBYTERY

November 15, 2008

I. Recommendations for presbytery action:

- A. See Omnibus Motion.

II. Actions taken on behalf of presbytery:

1. On 9/2/08 COM approved the transfer of membership of William “Will“ Browne; validated his ministry as the Executive Director of the Medical Benevolence Foundation and sustained examination of the Committee on Examinations on 9/27/08. Transferring from Mid-Kentucky; ordained 9/14/75; Formal Education: Woodstock School, Mussoorie, UP, India, High School Diploma; College of Wooster, Wooster, OH, BA; 1975 Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN, MD; 1991 Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ DMin (**Statement of Faith follows COM Report in Packet**)
2. On 9/2/08 COM approved the transfer of membership Lal Hmingliani “Hmingi” Browne and sustained examination of the Committee on Examinations on 9/27/08. Transferring from Mid-Kentucky; ordained 9/2/95; Formal Education: 6/79-4/84 Aizawl Theological College, Mizoram, India BTh; 6/84-4/86 Bishop’s College, India MDiv; 1/88-6/89 Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Seoul, Korea ThM; 9/89-5/92 San Francisco Theological Seminary DMin; 9/91-5/92 Presbyterian School of Christian Education, MA (**Statement of Faith follows COM Report in Packet**)
3. Approved Elder Linda Owens (Katy, New Hope) to be examined by Committee on Examinations
4. Approved that Bob David be allowed to serve communion and moderate meetings of the congregation, on an as needed basis, through December 31, 2008 at Gulf Prairie Presbyterian Church, Jones Creek, TX
5. Approved commission to install
 - a. Commission to install the Rev. Nora Fitch as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Angleton, TX on Aug 17, 2008 at 4 pm.
To preside and propound the Constitutional questions:
Elder Jody Harrington, Moderator, Memorial Drive, Houston
To preach the sermon: The Rev. Judy Pistole, First, Alva, OK
To charge the pastor: The Rev. Fred Thrower, Associate Pastor, First, Kingwood
To charge the congregation: The Rev. Dean Pogue, Pastor, First, Pasadena
To complete the commission: The Rev. Carol Petty, Holy Comforter Episcopal, Angleton; Elder Claudia Oswald, First Angleton; Elder Ruben Armendariz, First, Kingwood; the Rev. Joy Boehnke, Bethel, Angleton and the Rev. Jim Fitch, First, Odessa.
 - b. Commission to install the Rev. Steven Frazier as pastor of First Presbyterian, Lufkin, TX, 9/7/08, 5 pm.
To preside and propound the Constitutional questions:
Elder Jody Harrington, Moderator, Memorial Drive, Houston
To preach the sermon: The Rev. Dr. David Jones, Austin Presbyterian Seminary, Austin, TX
To charge the pastor: The Rev. Ted Foote, Pastor, First, Bryan
To charge the congregation: The Rev. Steve Newton, Pastor, Westminster, Nacogdoches
To complete the commission: Elder Priscilla Meserole, First, Bryan; The Rev. Marie Mickey, Associate Pastor, First, Bryan; Elder Terri Machring, Westminster, Nacogdoches; Elder Finley Cartwright, First, Lufkin.
6. Approved Annual Reports Members at Large and Validated Ministers

Gayle Grubbs	Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson	Debbie Leo	Harry Yates
Michael D. Sydnor	John Wheeler-Waddell	John G. Crawford	James Knez
Jack Barden	Linda W. Sharon	Frederick "Rick" Elliott	Greg Han
Callie Candee	John William Wade	Carol L. Burgeson	Miranda Fontaine
David Jenkins	John Potter	David Brewer	Paul Bennett
Robert Coberly	Steven Spidell	Steven Thorney	Lynn Hargrove
Susan A. Phalen	Kyle Walker	Becky Downs	

7. Appointed Moderators
 - a. Houston, Formosan – Rev. Marcos Yeh
 - b. Houston, Heritage – Rev. Jim Currie
 - c. Pearland, Peace – Wendy Bailey
8. Granted Houston, Northwoods permission to elect an APNC
9. Approved CIF
 - a. Houston, St. Andrew’s – Associate Pastor for Discipleship
 - b. Bay City, First – Interim Pastor
10. Approved adding William Vanderbloemen to Pulpit Supply List
11. Approved renewal Stated Supply and Temporary Supply contracts
 - a. Between Crockett, First and Tomas Spath as full time, effective 9/15/08

Salary	\$23,500
Housing Allowance	15,000
Utilities Allowance	5,000
Auto Expense Reimbursement	@ IRS Rate
Medical and Pensions @ Full Rate	13,703
Study Leave Allowance	1,675
Study Leave Time	2 weeks
Vacation	4 weeks
Annual Review	
12. Approved renewal of Interim Pastor Contract
 - a. Between Bob Murphy and Missouri City, Southminster for 6 months, 8/1/08 – 1/31/09

Salary	\$23,213
Housing Allowance	15,000
Books, Professional Expenses	150
Auto Expense Reimbursement	2,400
Medical and Pensions @ Full Rate	12,038
Study Leave Allowance	1,200
Study Leave Time	7 days
Vacation	2 weeks
13. Approved dissolving the relationship between Rachel Poysky (Associate Pastor) and Houston, Memorial Drive, effective Sept 7, 2008
14. Approved Transfer of membership
 - a. Dismiss Robert Poteet to Grace Presbytery effective August 26, 2008
15. Approved pastoral call
 - a. Between Houston, First and Bill Heston effective November 18, 2008

Salary	\$43,200
Housing Allowance	40,000
Auto Allowance	3,000
Board of Pensions Dues (Full 31.5%)	Full
Study Leave Allowance	1,500
Study Leave	accumulative for 3 years
Vacation	4 weeks
Annual Review	
 - b. Houston, Korean Young Nak (approved 9/10) (Keaton)

Salary	\$21,000
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Housing Allowance		15,000
Auto Allowance		3,000
Board of Pensions Dues (Full 31.5%)		11,340
Study Leave Allowance		2,000
Study Leave	accumulative for 3 years	2 weeks
Vacation		4 weeks
Social Security Compensation up to 8.24%		2,970
Annual Review		
c. Dickinson, First and Alan Brehm, part-time, effective June 1, 2008		
Salary		\$12,625
Housing Allowance		12,625
Social Security Offset		2,082.50
Auto Allowance		833.33
Books, Professional Dues		208.33
Board of Pensions Dues (Full 31.5%)		8,609.54
Study Leave Allowance	accumulative for 3 years	600
Study Leave	accumulative for 3 years	2 weeks
Vacation		4 weeks
Social Security Supplement		2,255
Annual Review		
16. Validated Call for Candidate under care of presbytery		
a. Charles R. Packard called to serve as pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Waco, TX, Grace Presbytery		
17. Granted Lynn Hargrove permission to labor out of bounds to perform a wedding in Mission Presbytery		
18. Approved Changes in Terms of Call		
a. Between James Harper and Houston, First effective 6/1/08		
Salary	\$53,000	\$57,120
Housing & Utility Allowance	50,000	50,000
Auto Allowance	3,000	3,000
Board of Pensions Dues (Full 31.5%)	31,470	34,687
Study Leave Allowance	accumulative for 3 years 3,000	3,000
Study Leave	accumulative for 3 years 3 weeks	3 weeks
Vacation	4 weeks	4 weeks
Annual Review		
b. Between Jon Crantz and Houston, First effective 6/1/08		
Salary	\$40,000	\$42,800
Housing & Utility Allowance	30,000	30,000
Auto Allowance	3,000	3,000
Board of Pensions Dues (Full 31.5%)	Full	23,877
Study Leave Allowance	accumulative for 3 years 1,500	1,500
Study Leave	accumulative for 3 years 2 weeks	2 weeks
Vacation	4 weeks	4 weeks
Annual Review		
c. Between Andrew Stepp and Houston, First effective 6/1/08		
Salary	\$30,000	\$22,200
Housing & Utility Allowance	25,000	35,000
Auto Allowance	3,000	3,000
Board of Pensions Dues (Full 31.5%)	18,270	18,963
Study Leave Allowance	accumulative for 3 years 1,500	1,500
Study Leave	accumulative for 3 years 2 weeks	2 weeks
Vacation	4 weeks	4 weeks
Annual Review		
d. Between Bill Heston and Houston, First effective 6/1/08		

Salary	\$40,000	\$43,200
Housing & Utility Allowance	40,000	40,000
Auto Allowance	3,000	3,000
Board of Pensions Dues (Full 31.5%)	25,200	27,153
Study Leave Allowance accumulative for 3 years	1,500	1,500
Study Leave accumulative for 3 years	2 weeks	2 weeks
Vacation	4 weeks	4 weeks
Annual Review		

19. Approved Annual Reports Members at Large and Validated Ministers

Jake Gonzales Rebecca Harrison James Chang Greg Headington Helen Bailey

20. Approved commission to install/ordain

a. Commission to install Jim Gill as Pastor of Tomball, First on 10/26/08 at 4:00 pm

To preside and propound the constitutional questions:

Elder Jody Harrington, Moderator, Houston, Memorial Drive

To preach the sermon: The Rev. Lynn Hargrove, Member-at-Large NCP

To charge the pastor: The Rev. Dr. Kevin Boyd, Pastor, Houston, St. Paul

To charge the congregation: Elder Mary Whitaker, Tomball, First

To complete the commission: Elder Bob Kochler, Tomball, First; Elder Steven Scott, Pearland, Peace; the Rev. Patricia Clark, Houston, St. Stephen; the Rev. Aluu Williams Nnali, Houston, First African NCD; and Elder Phoy Varabauth, Commissioned Lay Pastor, Houston, Laotian

b. Commission to install Alan Brehm as (part-time) Pastor of Dickinson, First on 10/26/08 at 3:00 pm

To preside and propound the constitutional questions:

The Rev. Mike Cole, Former Moderator, General Presbyter NCP

To preach the sermon: The Rev. Helen DeLeon, Associate Pastor, Webster

To charge the pastor: The Rev. Dr. Richard Kleiman, Baytown, Faith

To charge the congregation: The Rev. Dr. Mary Currie, La Porte, St. James

To complete the commission: The Rev. Clark Chamberlain, HR; Elder Sue Edrozo, Texas City, First; The Rev. David Green, Galveston, First; and Elder Susan Wittjen, La Marque

21. Approved Policy for Professional Development (**Follows Items of Information in COM Report**)

22. Approved Covenant of Confidentiality (**Follows Items of Information in COM Report**)

23. Granted permission to elect an APNC

a. Houston, Clear Lake – APNC

b. Katy, Grand Lake - APNC

Statement of Faith

Michael G. Umbenhaur Jr.

I trust in the One, Triune God, who is revealed to be unique, personal, almighty, sovereign, all-knowing, compassionate and completely just and holy. God, the Creator and Ruler of the universe, is both separate from this world and intimately connected with all humanity.

I trust in Jesus the Christ, God's only son and God Incarnate. In his life, ministry, death and resurrection, Jesus acted in love to restore us to God by overcoming all that has kept us separated from God, including death. The Resurrection of Jesus established Christ's Lordship once and for all. Jesus died in our place, taking the consequence due for our sin. It is his atoning death that has redeemed us. Through death we have life.

I trust in the Holy Spirit, God's presence in the world and in our lives. It is the Holy Spirit who calls people to turn toward God, and who makes us new in Christ. The Spirit moves as the wind, inspiring people everywhere. By the Spirit, we are baptized into the Body of Christ; by the Spirit we are strengthened.

I trust in the Bible, the authoritative word for the ordering of life the way God desires it to be, and its divinely inspired record of God's activity throughout history with humanity. Both the Hebrew and Greek texts are for inspiration, reflection, teaching, preaching and continual study; serving the community of faith as well as the individual.

I trust in the Church, the last great hope for the world and God's witness to the world. The Church gathers to hear the Word of God proclaimed, to worship and to celebrate the Sacraments, to pray, to fellowship and to serve together. Standing as an agent of healing and as bearer of the Good News, God equips the Church to provide occasions for the reconciliation between people and God. This is done through evangelism (particularly relational evangelism), proclaiming the Gospel and attending to human need in local and world mission. The Church corporately seeks to bring reconciliation through activity in the cause of peace between individuals, groups and nations.

I trust in the Sacraments of the Church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. These are the visible signs of God's invitation into a covenant relationship, instituted by and manifested in Jesus Christ. We participate in these Sacraments as a response to God's unconditional love.

I trust that God calls each disciple in the community of faith to a life of service. We are called to act and serve under God's direction as faithful stewards of all that God has given us—earth, time, money, talents, and love. God has uniquely shaped each disciple to use his or her spiritual gift to build up the Body of Christ.

I trust in the hope of the Church; that's Christ's victory at the cross will be fully realized even within a suffering and dying world. The Resurrection reminds us that God is in control, and to focus our work on the eternal intension. To place one's trust in God alone is to know that Christ will return to establish justice, to relieve suffering and to lead us into life everlasting. On that my faith will stand.

Lal Hmingliani Browne

For me, faith is based in theology and theology is something that I do. I uphold the Reformed doctrines and confessional beliefs in service to God. I summarize those as the Sovereignty of God, the Lordship of Jesus, the Power of the Holy Spirit, the Authority of Scripture and the Depravity of Humanity. Jesus Christ is my personal Lord and Savior, on whom I depend for grace and mercy, as I persevere to live out my Christian witness for the glory of God. I affirm and seek the presence of the Holy Spirit working in the world. I believe the Spirit calls upon us to respond with courage in love and in mercy, acting on the faith graciously given to us and according to the authoritative guidance we find in scripture.

I believe God has blessed each of us with individual gifts and wisdom, yet it is as the covenantal community of the Church that we are to worship and serve our Lord. It is within this community that we express our thankfulness to God for our redemption through the grace of Jesus Christ, as we lovingly serve our neighbor in obedience to God's will. In Baptism we celebrate that we are forgiven of our sin and made children of God dying to death and rising with Christ to new life. In Communion we remember and experience God's love given in Jesus passion – body and blood – and celebrate being one with Christ. The sacraments both include us in the family of God and send us out into the world.

I believe we are called to uplift one another in the faith of Jesus Christ and to share the gospel of God's gracious love toward humanity with the world around us. We are to be a safe place where people of all ages and backgrounds can examine and discern God's calling within their lives. We are a place where people receive emotional, mental, physical and spiritual support for the ministries and missions to which God calls them.

I believe that our faith involves all aspects of life. Therefore we are called to address issues such as homelessness, the ecology, political relations with other nations, and the increase of crime and violence, out of our theological base. And, because we are Reformed. We believe doing so requires careful study and disciplined action. The polity of our church is grounded in Reformed theology. From that base it works to provide a just and safe context for the life of the church, the role of leadership and the church's ministries and mission. Both as individuals and as the collected Church, I believe we are called to live out our faith of deep thankfulness to God's mercy to us. I believe we are called to be a part of Christ's body, the church. I believe, as the church we are called to praise, worship and honor God and to serve God's people in the name of Jesus.

William C. Browne

I believe in my need for and God's abundant provision of grace. Looking back I can see God at work in my life from before its beginning and I can see where I resisted and rebelled against God's call in my life. But God's steadfast love has always worked around my sin and failing. I believe God forgives and continues to call me into the community of faith and into Christian service. It is my highest honor and deepest joy to answer that call as an expression of my heartfelt gratitude for the grace I have received.

I believe that when we try to use words to portray God we are definitionally bound to fail for God is far beyond our understanding and is shrouded in mystery and power. Yet, I live in the joyful awareness that God has chosen to reach repeatedly into human life and was present with us in Jesus who is the Word incarnate. I understand scripture to be the "unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ." In Jesus we are invited into a relationship that is personal and yet encompasses the whole of human history and the whole of humankind. In Jesus we know and are known by God, our lives are opened to the Spirit, and we are connected to the One who was and is and is to be.

It is my experience that living faith is far from easy and that we are called to live faith in a corporate manner through God's gracious gift of the church. I do not believe the church is optional. Despite its many failings the church is the needed context of our accountability and growth and discipline for service. Within the church we also receive the holy gift of the sacraments in which God acts in baptism for the forgiveness of sin, naming and sealing us as God's own and in the Eucharist incorporating us into the mystery of unity with Christ in the remembrance of God's love given in the body and blood Christ. I have found Reformed ecclesiological understanding to be consistent with scripture, a proper basis for church polity and helpful for my life and service. I believe our heritage is a gift immensely suited to the need of the day and one we are privileged to share with others.

For me faith cannot be severed from church and church is only church when lived into mission. I understand mission to be God at work in the world. It is both wonder and joy that God invites us to join in that work. It is a matter of confession that we so often interpret that call through our own cultural biases and arrogance. Yet, I believe the richness of each culture deepens our appreciation of the nature of God and helps us better discern God's call in mission.

III. Items for Information

1. Committee met on September 2, 2008 and October 7, 2008
2. Committee on Examinations met on September 27, 2008

A COVENANT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
For Use by the Committee on Ministry (COM)
Revised & Adopted by Committee on Ministry: 10/7/08

MYTH #1: Confidentiality means secrecy.

MYTH #2: If you receive confidential information, you cannot use it.

FACT #1: The deliberations of COM should be considered confidential. The *actions* of COM will be reported to presbytery, but the *deliberations* should be treated as confidential and any background or supporting information shared during the reporting should be considered carefully.

FACT #2: Once you report information, it is open information, unless it occurs in the context of an executive or private session of the group to whom you are reporting. Any files which you keep should be secured, maintained carefully, and accessible only to qualified persons (those approved by COM).¹

Definition of Confidentiality

Confidentiality may best be understood as the careful stewardship and wise management of the information with which COM members are entrusted as they conduct business on behalf of the presbytery.

By proper definition the word “confidential” refers to information released to a second person, with the assurance or professional requirement that it will not be shared with others without expressed or written permission.²

Content of Confidential/ Limited Access Information

All information obtained and discussed by the members of the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of New Covenant **shall** be respected as confidential/ limited access information.³ All information and documentation is to be considered for *internal use only* and is not to be shared with any person who does not have the need to know.

The majority of information shared within the context of COM is more appropriately defined as “limited access information” or “qualified confidential information.”

This information may or may not have been confidential in nature but is released for the purpose of relevant, responsible committee work prior to the information becoming general knowledge. “Limited access information” **usually** reveals specific but limited details (and even may be anonymous) and is protected for a specified period of time.⁴

Specified Period of Time

Most COM information becomes “open information” once it is reported/ received by the presbytery and therefore is no longer considered “confidential/ limited access information.” Even when such information becomes open information, COM members need to be mindful that they often possess more details than others in the presbytery. As “information stewards” COM members **shall not** reveal details beyond the information shared as open information.⁵

Wise use of information

Discernment is crucial in determining *who* needs to receive the information as well as *what* needs to be shared. A good rule of thumb in evaluating sensitive information is that only the *essential details* should be shared. There are occasions when there is a need for the name(s) of the person(s) involved to remain anonymous until it is appropriate to release the name(s).⁶

Electronic Communications:

Discipline is necessary with the relative ease of electronic communication. E-mail transmission of COM business **shall not** be forwarded or copied to those inside or outside COM who are not participating in the particular matter/ situation. E-mail communications regarding the business of COM should be deleted from member’s computers upon completion of service on COM.

Limitations of Confidentiality

The Committee on Ministry recognizes that there may be times during the course of consulting with clergy and congregations that certain things cannot be kept confidential, such as incidents involving illegal discrimination or abuse, sexual harassment, acts of workplace violence or felony activity, where the laws of the State of Texas dictate certain action(s). Information will be disclosed according to applicable legal mandates for reporting and according to the ethical standards of the leadership in the P.C. (USA). In those cases, however, confidentiality will be maintained about any and all information not directly related to the concern for safety.⁷

Defamation, Slander, and Libel

Nothing is defamation if it is TRUE and not spread with MALICE or “careless disregard of the facts.” The same is true for slander and libel (oral or written testimony, respectively). It is very important that the information shared during the search process and during any committee deliberations or work with congregations, pastors, and inquirers/candidates to be TRUE to be best of your knowledge and investigations. If you are unsure of the veracity of any information, it is best not to share or act upon it. RUMORS should never be spread. Even if what is shared is not technically illegal, remember that perception is often more powerful than truth.⁸

Violation of Confidentiality

Violation of this Covenant of Confidentiality shall be considered highly detrimental to the member ministers and churches of the presbytery and may result in removal from the Committee on Ministry, as well as disciplinary action as per the Rules of Discipline of the Book of Order of the PC (U.S.A).

+++++

I have read and agree to the terms of this Covenant.

(COM member's name)

(date)

Endnotes:

1) Adapted from: “COMs, CPMs, and Confidentiality”

Synod of Lakes and Prairies *Prepared by Diana Barber, Associate Synod Executive for Leadership Development 6/23/97/Rev 2/4/03*

<http://www.pcusa.org/mgbconnect/pubs/comcpmconfidentialitysynodoflandp.pdf>

2) Healthy Disclosure, Ruth & McClintock, Alban, 2007, p. 94-100

Levels of Information Disclosure

Private	Information known only by one person who therefore owns it.
Confidential	Information released to a second person, usually with assurances that it will not be shared with anyone beyond the two without expressed or written permission.
Limited Access	Information known by three or more people but protected from distribution by agreements protecting it.
Open	Information shared openly with the (constituency) yet not easily accessible to the public.
Public	Information easily accessible and widespread, such as news reports and criminal records.

3) Ibid., p. 100-106; 4) Ibid.; 5) Ibid., p. 96-100; 6) Ibid., p. 100-106; 7) Ibid., p. 98; 8) “COMs, CPMs, and Confidentiality”

**POLICY OF THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT
CONCERNING UNUSED CONTINUING EDUCATION FUNDS
(to be used by all congregations of the presbytery)**

A. On accumulation of funds and/or time:

“We interpret the Continuing Education term “cumulative for 3 years” to mean that one may accumulate a maximum of 3 years worth of dollars and/or time, after which it is lost; if any dollars and/or time are carried over from one year to the next, then those dollars and/or that time counts as one of the 3 years that can be accumulated.”

Minutes of the Committee on Ministry, December 3, 1996

B. Upon dissolution of pastoral relationship:

Policy on Vacation and Continuing Education

adopted by COM, October 7, 1997.

Revised by COM October 7, 2008

Vacation time, continuing education time, and continuing education allowances are considered by the Committee on Ministry to be a part of the contract between the employing organization and the employee who shall use them only for the purposes specified. As such, upon resignation, an employee shall be entitled to receive prorated vacation and continuing education time and full salary, housing, and Board of Pension payments. The prorated continuing education allowance shall be sent to the employee’s next employer. If an employee has utilized more than his/her prorated vacation time, continuing education time or continuing education allowance, which would ordinarily be due upon his/her resignation, the employee should refund the amount of the overpayment to the employer or the employer may forgive without any overpayment.

Adopted by the Committee on Ministry: October 7, 2008

THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY (to be used by all congregations)

PRINCIPLES OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

The policies regarding professional development are based on the following principles:

1. That the Vision of the Presbytery of New Covenant “...to grow congregations that passionately engage their community to make disciples...” requires the ongoing professional development of its leadership.
2. That ministry is both a vocation and a profession. As a vocation, it is a response to God’s call for an individual to use his/her gifts in service to God’s people. As professionals, Ministers and Certified Christian Educators have a specialized body of knowledge that they apply in specific ways to attempt to address particular human needs.
3. That this body of knowledge and its application is not static but continues to grow and develop.
4. That seminary is simply the beginning of professional training. Its purpose is to equip Ministers and Certified Christian Educators with the tools for a lifetime of continuing professional development.
5. That it is the responsibility of a professional to update continually his/her professional expertise that s/he might serve his/her constituents better.
6. That professional development is to enhance ministerial skills as well as growth in Christian faith.

Based upon these principles, *all calls in the Presbytery of New Covenant include minimums of both time and money for professional development.* These guidelines are intended to assist Ministers and Certified Christian Educators, and churches in using these resources wisely.

PARAMETERS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The paramount purpose of professional development should be the enhancement of personal and professional skills having immediate relevance to the ministry to which the Ministers and Certified Christian Educator is called, and the plans should be designed accordingly. However, this principle should not be so narrowly applied as to preclude acquiring and developing skills for future calls and assignments. The Church has an obvious interest in developing a cadre of competent professionals.

1. Ordinarily, the program for professional development should be pursued away from the Minister’s or Certified Christian Educator’s normal place of service. Professional development opportunities sponsored by universities, seminaries, hospitals, clinics and retreat centers as well as conferences, seminars, workshops and mission study programs offered by the church (broadly defined) would normally fulfill the spirit of these guidelines. However, parts of these programs may include some “on-site” training, provided these are under the supervision of a qualified professional.
2. The content and purpose of the educational components of any professional development plan should be consistent with the Reformed tradition as represented in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Again, this principle should not be so narrowly interpreted as to exclude courses and experiences that contribute to the breadth and enrichment of the professional’s ministry.

The following do not normally constitute valid professional development programs for which absence from the congregation would be approved: extended vacations; leaves of absence; or activities such as guiding tours.

PROCEDURES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In order to assure the on-going professional development of its Ministers and Certified Christian Educators, *the Presbytery of New Covenant shall not approve a call which does not provide for professional development.*

Professional development shall include the following:

- a. *A minimum of two weeks per year* for professional development (including two Sundays) accumulative over three years up to six weeks (including six Sundays).
- b. *A minimum annual monetary allowance* which shall be designated annually by the presbytery accumulative to up to three years after which the allowance is forfeited.

2. Less than Full – Time Service:

For calls to less than full- time service, *the minimum monetary allotment shall be prorated* and subject to accumulation; however, *the time allotment shall remain two weeks including two Sundays*, also subject to accumulation.

3. Involvement in Denominational Activities:

Participation in the work of Synod or General Assembly as well as other denominationally – sponsored work/mission projects/trips, including serving as a director/leader for a summer camp or as an adult advisor/ leader for youth at camps, conferences, or national or regional events, *shall normally be considered church service not requiring use of professional development leave or vacation time.* Professional Development Funds may be used to encourage such participation in service to the larger church.

Upon the dissolution of the relationship:

- a. Vacation time, professional development time and allowances are considered by the Committee on Ministry to be a part of the covenant between the employing organization and the employee who shall use them only for the purposes specified. As such, upon dissolution of the relationship, an employee shall be entitled to receive prorated vacation time.
- b. The prorated amount of any unused professional development allowances, shall be sent to the Treasurer of the next employing organization or the appropriate presbytery. Ordinarily, unused professional development time is not compensated.
- c. If an employee has utilized more than the prorated professional development allowance, it ordinarily should be refunded to the current employing organization. The current organization is free to overlook the overpayment if it so chooses.
- d. When approaching retirement, the retiring professional should utilize his or her unused professional development time and allowance, perhaps in one of the pre-retirement seminars offered by the Board of Pensions. Upon retirement, any unused professional development time and allowances are forfeited.

ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY: OCTOBER 7, 2008

**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY
REPORT TO PRESBYTERY
November 15, 2008**

(See Addendum)

**REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY
GENERAL COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 15, 2008**

I. Actions Recommended for Presbytery's consideration:

- A.** Place in nomination the name of Diane Prevary for a three-year term as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of New Covenant (November 2008 to November 2011).
- B.** Place in nomination the name of Janice Schessler for a three-year term as Recording Clerk of the Presbytery of New Covenant (November 2008 to November 2011).
- C.** Place in nomination the name of Lee Larkin for a three-year term as Treasurer of the Presbytery of New Covenant (November 2008 to November 2011).

II. Actions taken on behalf of the presbytery

- A.** Authorized an IKE Recovery Team to meet immediate needs. (Pat Clark will represent General Council; a member of Finance Committee will be asked to work with volunteer Financial Officer for the team.)
- B.** Called for a gathering of the presbytery for Communion, Thanksgiving and Prayer for worship, to gather stories and information, and to share joys and concerns; on October 5 in two locations 3:00 – 5:00. Planning Team: Pat Clark and Wendy Bailey.
- C.** Approved a Mission Celebration Day/Weekend (August '09). This will be the quarterly meeting of the presbytery, with open invitation to all.
- D.** Approved a General Council Retreat (to include all committee chairs) Tuesday & Wednesday, January 6 and 7, 2009 @ Cho-Yeh with Jill Hudson as Facilitator. Focus: Look at new and different ways of "being presbytery."
- E.** Approved a revised "Disaster Assistance Application Form" for use by Outreach Ministries.
- F.** Approved retaining counsel to represent the presbytery in the suit served by Windwood Presbyterian Church, an answer to which was due October 20.
- G.** Appointed a Response Team to meet with the Session of Windwood Presbyterian Church, to be staffed by Mike Cole, General Presbyter. The following persons have agreed to serve: Mort McPhail (Elder, Northwoods); Debbie Cenko (Pastor, 1st, Wharton); Kevin Keaton (Pastor, 1st, Sugarland); Ann Hardy (Elder, St. John's).
- H.** Instructed the Moderator of General Council and Stated Clerk to inform the presbytery of the lawsuit by written letter. (The letter was mailed on October 23, 2008 to all minister-members and clerks of session.)

(continued, next page)

III. Items for Information

- A. Received the resignation of The Rev. Greg Han from General Council, due to professional conflict with the time of GC meetings.
- B. General Council met on September 23, October 7 and October 21.
- C. **Minister-members of GC:** Wayne Eberly, Chair; Pat Clark, Vice-Chair; Asa Hunt; Margaret Desmond; Paul Nazarian; Kevin Rudolph.
Elder-members of GC: Jeff Early (1st, Kingwood), Don Gregory (Westminster, Nacogdoches), Sabrina Hergert (Grace), Janet Lionberger (1st, Houston), Gay Van Osdall (MDPC).
Members By Virtue of Office: Elder Pam Engler, Moderator of Ministries Division Steering Committee; Elder Jody Harrington, Moderator of Presbytery; Elder Rupert Turner, Moderator of Administrative Division Steering Committee.

G

OUTREACH MINISTRIES COMMITTEE
REPORT TO PRESBYTERY
NOVEMBER 15, 2008

- I. **Recommendations for presbytery action:**
 - 1. Recommend and move the renewal of the Covenant Agreement with *Centro Evangelico de Estudios Pastorales en America Central* -- Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA) as outlined below at **G.1.**
 - 2. Recommend and move the adoption of the Peru Partnership as outlined below at **G.2.**
- II. **Actions taken on behalf of presbytery:**

Disaster assistance grant applications were received and processed from eleven (11) congregations. Funds were disbursed totaling \$84,065.
- III. **Items for Information:**
 - 1. In an ongoing review of Covenant Relationships and Agreements between the Presbytery of New Covenant and other institutions, a collaborative decision by Outreach Ministries, Ministries Division Steering Committee and General Council has been made that local and national covenants will be presented by Outreach Ministries to General Council for approval, and all international covenants will be presented to the presbytery for their adoption.
 - 2. Additional disaster grant applications are being received and will be processed until existing funds are depleted.

PRESENTED FOR RENEWAL

**Covenant for International Partnership
2009-2011**

Presbytery of New Covenant (PNC)

&

Centro Evangelico de Estudios Pastorales en America Central (CEDEPCA)
Evangelical Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America

I. Mission of Each Partner

CEDEPCA, which is based in Guatemala City, is a Christian community with faith ties throughout Central America, including Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, as well as Mexico and Cuba.

CEDEPCA's vision includes encouraging theological reflection, promoting the development of Protestant church leaders through theological training, providing pastoral care and empowerment to women, including victims of family violence, offering solidarity and consolation in times of crisis, supporting prophetic and service ministries that arise out of a Protestant perspective, and contributing to the search for practical answers to pastoral and ecclesiastical problems.

Since its inception in 1980, CEDEPCA has maintained a fraternal relationship with the Presbyterian Church (USA). Through this relationship, CEDEPCA has formally implemented hundreds of courses of study dealing with biblical and theological reflection and contextual pastoral ministry for lay leaders and pastors throughout Central America. It provides ministry to women, including victims of family violence. It gives direct relief assistance to communities in crisis. It organizes visits from congregations, presbyteries, and groups in the United States who come to Central America to learn about the social, economic, ecclesiastic, and political realities. And CEDEPCA maintains vital Partnerships with two Presbyteries, Presbytery of New Covenant (PNC) in Texas and Presbytery of the Peaks in Virginia.

Presbytery of New Covenant Mission is:

- Confessing Jesus Christ as Lord
- Connecting one another in ministry
- Challenging one another for mission

New Covenant Presbytery's Vision Statement:

Growing congregations that passionately engage their community to make disciples.

History

In 1991, leaders of Presbytery of New Covenant heard God's call to stand with our brothers and sisters in Central America. In response, the Presbytery Church (USA) recommended that PNC form a relationship with CEDEPCA. During 1991 and 1992, exchange visits between representatives of Presbytery of New Covenant and CEDEPCA led to the establishment of a Partnership between these

two ecclesiastical bodies. A Memorandum of Understanding was jointly prepared, setting forth the initial basis for the Partnership including needs, opportunities, objectives, commitments, and available resources. The Memorandum of Understanding was formally approved by CEDEPCA on February 25, 1993 and by PNC on March 13, 1993. This original understanding was revised in January 1995 for 1995-1998, renewed for 1999-2003, and again for 2004-2008.

Since establishment of the Partnership, the implementation of mutual activities has been coordinated for PNC by the CEDEPCA Partnership Leadership Team and its larger network within PNC's Outreach Ministries, and for CEDEPCA by its ecumenical staff and board in its central office in Guatemala City.

After years of experience with this Partnership, both partners recognize the importance of continuing this mission relationship. Therefore, upon formal approval by both partners, this Covenant will replace the Covenant of International Partnership of 2004-2008, and will be the guiding agreement for future Partnership. This Covenant will be in effect from the time of its formal approval through December 2011.

Contacts

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CEDEPCA

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Rev. Nelly Miranda de Mansilla
President of the Board
(see above address and phone)
cedepca@cedepca.org

II. Rationale for Partnership

- A. To serve as a mutual support for the ministries of PNC and CEDEPCA.
- B. To share faith journeys so that Christians of PNC and Central America will be encouraged and challenged to live more faithfully as disciples of Jesus Christ.
- C. To understand the realities faced by Central American and North American Christians and how these realities are interrelated.
- D. To serve as liaisons between Central American and PNC congregations.
- E. To facilitate the exchange of experiences and resources in order to further the unique missions of CEDEPCA and PNC.

III. Mutual Partnership Objectives

- A. To have lay pastors, lay leaders, women, men, and youth share our faith journeys in order to understand our respective situations.
- B. To organize study and work mission trips to acquaint Central Americans and North Americans with the realities of Christian life in each partner's home countries.
- C. To facilitate congregation to congregation relationships.

IV. Implementation

A. Presbytery of New Covenant

- 1. Host visits of Central American pastors and church leaders. The Central Americans will visit with the purpose speaking and preaching at PNC and other congregations and gatherings, as well as learning about the realities of being a disciple of Jesus Christ in the USA.
- 2. Organize study and other trips to Central American countries to further our Partnership and to learn about ecclesiastical and social realities.
- 3. Organize presbytery educational events dealing with Central America.
- 4. Send a church leader representing PNC to CEDEPCA's Intercambios in Central America.
- 5. Provide up to \$15,000 annually in direct grant to facilitate the ongoing mission of CEDEPCA.
- 6. Assist representatives of CEDEPCA in soliciting funds directly from congregations who give mission funds outside of Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly Mission Programs.
- 7. Provide annual reports and updates of our Partnership to Outreach Ministries, Presbytery of New Covenant, and to PCUSA Worldwide Ministries.

B. CEDEPCA

- 1. Share experience of faith and ministry in Central America at PNC events, gatherings, and congregations.
- 2. Organize trips and opportunities for immersion in the ecclesiastical and social realities of Central America.
- 3. Host church leaders representing PNC as part of Intercambios in Central America.
- 4. Facilitate Partnership relationships between PNC congregations and Central American congregations.
- 5. Provide annual reports to PNC of activities, finances, and personal testimonies of its participants.

V. Procedures

- A. PNC will provide within budgeted funds for costs of projects implemented by the partners.
- B. All transfers of funds between partners will be handled through CEDEPCA's Partnership Account of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

- C. The partners will review the relationship together annually and will report on their evaluation to their respective governing bodies.

_____ Rev. Nelly Miranda de Mansilla CEDEPCA, President	_____ Sharyl Davis, Co-Chair Central America Partnership, PNC
_____ Judith Castaneda de Barrientos General Coordinator, CEDEPCA	_____ Greg Davis, Co-Chair Central America Partnership, PNC
_____ Rev. Mike Cole, General Presbyter Presbytery of New Covenant	_____ Lisa Simpkins, Moderator Outreach Ministries, PNC
_____ Rev. Diane Prevary, Stated Clerk Presbytery of New Covenant	
_____ Date of Approval by CEDEPCA	_____ Date of Approval by PNC

G.1a

FOR INFORMATION:

Presbytery of New Covenant
Central America Partnership
with
CEDEPCA

Centro Evangelico de Estudios Pastorales en America Central
Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America

Since 1991, Presbytery of New Covenant has had an official partnership with CEDEPCA. Many churches and individuals throughout Presbytery of New Covenant are active in the rich exchanges that result from visits by CEDEPCA guests who are brought to our presbytery area and by our delegations to countries in Central America.

CEDEPCA is based in Guatemala City and works throughout Central America, taking theological education to church leaders where they live and according to their academic level, providing outreach to women to encourage their role in the church and society, including education to counter domestic violence, and offering mission study for North Americans through intercultural faith encounters.

Prayers Needed for CEDEPCA Friends

Dr. Karla Koll, PCUSA Missionary who serves at CEDEPCA, sent a message saying: *“In the midst of a difficult context, CEDEPCA’s work for transformation continues.”* We as CEDEPCA’s partners in faith continue to send prayers for the safety of our partners.

According to recent Guatemala Human Rights Commissions reports, human rights defenders are under attack in Guatemala. Indigenous leaders, community organizers, women's rights advocates, church leaders, journalists, and union representatives are facing increasing threats and assaults. Attacks have increased more than 370%. Institutions have been raided and important equipment and files stolen. Some defenders have even been murdered.

“Women Walking Together” Guatemala Trip

In January, Eunice Clemons, Northwoods PC, was part of a delegation from the U.S. which was led by Betty de Paz, Coordinator of CEDEPCA's Women's Pastoral Program. The focus of the trip was the ministry which CEDEPCA provides to victims of family violence. Group members from the U.S. who are experienced in the field of family violence gave workshops to train Central American women as facilitators in their own countries.

Presbytery Delegation to Costa Rica

June 20-28, twelve members of Presbytery of New Covenant traveled to Costa Rica to further our partnership with CEDEPCA. Our group witnessed the profound results of our presbytery's support for CEDEPCA's ministry; we saw lives transformed and church leaders empowered. We also discovered the alive connections between the Latin America Biblical University (UBL), our PC(USA) missionaries, and CEDEPCA. The trip is led by Julia Ann Moffett, retired PC(USA) Mission Worker and member of Atascacita PC, and Sharyl Davis, Missions Director at Northwoods PC.

George Williams summed up the group's experience by sharing with his Atascacita congregation: *“I didn't hammer, I didn't saw, I didn't mix concrete, I didn't build anything. I listened, I learned, I cried, I laughed, I hugged, and I built relationships.”*

Horizons Bible Studies

The Presbyterian Women of Presbytery of New Covenant dedicated their offering from their fall gathering to purchase Horizons Bible Studies in Spanish which are greatly needed for CEDEPCA's women's study groups throughout Central America. With this offering, 166 copies were purchased, and our CEDEPCA Network added an additional 117 copies, making a total of 283 copies provided for CEDEPCA of the 2007-08 and 2008-09 issues.

Presentations by Human Rights Workers

Phil and Lorie Gates visited Houston and spoke at a Central America Partnership gathering in May. The Gates' were jointly awarded the Grand Canyon Presbytery's Peace and Justice Award for their human rights work. Phil, a retired school superintendent, served as a PC(USA) accompanier in Colombia to stand in solidarity with Presbyterian Colombians whose lives are at high risk, and Lorie will soon serve for one month. In addition to Phil's testimony, Lorie provided a moving and powerful monologue of Dorothy Kazel, one of four murdered U.S. churchwomen and human rights workers in El Salvador.

Visit by CEDEPCA Women's Coordinator

In August, Betty Carrera de Paz, CEDEPCA's Coordinator of the Women's Pastoral Program in Guatemala made a visit to Houston after attending a family violence conference in San Antonio. She spoke at several Presbyterian gatherings while here. Her leadership at CEDEPCA for over 11 years has produced dramatic results throughout Central America in educating about domestic violence and strengthening women through self-empowerment groups and leadership training. Betty is the daughter of a Guatemalan Presbyterian pastor, and she serves as a ruling elder at Central Presbyterian Church in Guatemala City.

2009 Events

Concert Benefiting CEDEPCA – February 22 at Northwoods PC

On February 22, the “Trombones de Costa Rica” brass ensemble from Costa Rica will be performing as part of Northwoods PC concert series. A portion of ticket sales will benefit CEDEPCA, and our partner ministry will be highlighted.

2009 Presbyterian Women’s Gathering

Our Partnership will host two representatives from CEDEPCA at the Presbyterian Women’s Gathering in Louisville next July. Plans are being made to connect with other women from Presbytery of New Covenant there. Making possible the participation at past trienniums for our CEDEPCA partners has proven to be powerful faith experiences for our guests and for those of us who shared it with them.

*Submitted by Sharyl Davis,
Co-Chair, Central America Partnership Network
of Presbytery of New Covenant*

G.2

RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION:

Covenant Agreement for International Partnership January 1, 2009- December 31, 2011 The Presbytery of Juan Calvino, Lima, Peru and The Presbytery of New Covenant, Houston, Texas

I. Statement of Purpose

Through the love of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we humbly seek to express our mutual respect, compassion, hospitality and solidarity through the establishment of a partnership between the Presbytery of Juan Calvino and the Presbytery of New Covenant.

II. Mission and Vision of Each Partner

The Presbytery of Juan Calvino Mission is:

Witnessing of the Triune God of grace in His world

Sharing our engagement with Jesus Christ in our communities

Promoting the holistic Mission of the Church:

The Presbytery of Juan Calvino Vision:

Congregations that evangelize: to promote growth-making disciples who engage with the transformation of the world.

The Presbytery of New Covenant Mission is:

Confessing Jesus Christ as Lord

Connecting one another in ministry
Challenging one another for mission

The Presbytery of New Covenant Vision:

Growing congregations that passionately engage their community to make disciples.

History

In 1998 the Pastor and members of First Presbyterian Church of Kingwood, Texas made initial contact with pastors and churches in the Presbytery of Juan Calvino. Through the years, First Presbyterian Church of Kingwood has sent numerous medical and educational mission teams to Lima to work with some of the churches in Juan Calvino Presbytery to establish health, food supplement, sports training, medical, and educational assistance programs. The pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Kingwood invited the General Presbyter of the Presbytery of New Covenant to visit Peru and meet with pastors from the Presbytery of Juan Calvino. Following this visit in the fall of 2007, the Presbytery of Juan Calvino sent an invitation to the Presbytery of New Covenant to enter into an official covenantal relationship. This document reflects the mutual understandings and objectives of each presbytery in this covenant relationship.

Background

The **IEPRP** (Evangelical Presbyterian and Reformed Church in Peru) formed as a result of the union of two Presbyterian denominations: Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru (IEPP in Spanish, 1963) and National Presbyterian church of Peru (INPP in Spanish, 1958). The first came from the free church of Scotland and the second from Presbyterian Church in America.

In 1998 the General Assembly of IEPRP met in Ayacucho to establish the constitution of the Presbytery of Juan Calvino. From this point on, the presbytery has been developing its activities of mission, government and administration. The presbytery was formed with three churches: Pueblo Libre, Santa Anita, and San Genaro, and one missionary extension: San Agustin. In 2000 San Agustin was organized as church. In 2007 welcomed San Borja Church into its fellowship. In 2008 the presbytery started the mission extension at San José de los Molinos, Ica.

The first board was:

Pbro. Jose Ventura, moderator
Pr. Pedro Arana, vice moderator
Pr. Roger Araujo, secretario
Pbro. Oscar Quiñones, tesorero
Pr. Emmanuel Solano, vocal

The current board:

Pr. Pedro Arana, moderator
Pbro. Jose Ventura, vice moderator
Pr. Roger Araujo, secretary
Pbro. Oscar Quiñones, tesorero
Pr. Emmanuel Solano, pro, tesorero
Pr. Rafael Torres, vocal

The Presbytery of New Covenant is a diverse presbytery. Spread throughout 106 congregations and 16 new church developments, we are rural, suburban, small town and rural; it is large congregations of 4,000 or more, small congregations of 10 or less, and every size in between. The presbytery has established congregations more than 100 years old, and also brand new faith

communities. Three of its churches were chartered in 2008. The presbytery is made up of 16 or more nationalities, worshipping in 11 languages.

Contacts

The Presbytery of New Covenant

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General Presbyter
1110 Lovett Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77006, USA
713-526-2585, mcole@pbyofnewcovenant.org

The Presbytery of Juan Calvino

Pedro Arana Quiroz

Lima Peru
(970) 433-0232, parana@casadelabiblia.org

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Rev. B. Hunter Farrell
Director, World Mission
Presbyterian Church (USA)
100 Witherspoon Street
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Maria Arroyo
Area Coordinator for South America and Caribbean
World Mission, General Assembly Mission Council
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Sherron George
South America Liaison
World Mission, General Assembly Mission Council
sherron@supernet.com.br

Jacob Goad
2008 Delegations Coordinator, IEPRP
jacoballengoad@gmail.com

III. Rationale for Partnership

- F. To promote peacemakers in a country in which democracy has existed for less than 30 years by joining their efforts to feed, educate, house, clothe, nurture and provide healthcare for Peruvians.
- G. To serve as a mutual support for the ministries of The Presbytery of Juan Calvino and the Presbytery of New Covenant.
- H. To share faith journeys so that Christians of The Presbytery of Juan Calvino and the Presbytery of New Covenant will be encouraged and challenged to live more faithfully as disciples of Jesus Christ.
- I. To understand the realities faced by South American and North American Christians and how these realities are interrelated.
- J. To serve as liaisons between The Presbytery of Juan Calvino and The Presbytery of New Covenant congregations.
- K. To facilitate the exchange of experiences and resources in order to further the unique missions of The Presbytery of Juan Calvino and The Presbytery of New Covenant.

IV. Mutual Partnership Objectives

- D. To share our faith journeys and to seek God's leading through prayer and dialogue.

- E. To organize study and work mission trips to acquaint Peruvians and North Americans with the realities of Christian life in each partner's home countries.
- F. To facilitate congregation-to-congregation relationships.

V. Implementation

A. Presbytery of Juan Calvino will provide the following as resources allow:

Host visits of New Covenant Presbytery pastors and church leaders. The leaders will visit with the purpose speaking and preaching in The Presbytery of Juan Calvino and other gatherings, as well as learning about the realities of being a disciple of Jesus Christ in Peru.

1. Organize mission, study, educational, medical and other trips to Peru to further our partnership.
2. Share experiences of faith and ministry in Peru at The Presbytery of New Covenant events, gatherings, and congregations.
3. Help organize trips and opportunities for immersion in the ecclesiastical and social realities of Peru particularly related to being effective peacemakers.
4. Host church leaders representing The Presbytery of New Covenant.
5. Facilitate Partnership relationships between The Presbytery of New Covenant congregations and the Presbytery of Juan Calvino congregations.
6. Provide information annually to The Presbytery of New Covenant of activities, finances and personal testimonies of its participants related to this partnership.

B. Presbytery of New Covenant will provide the following as resources allow:

1. Sponsor a minister with demonstrated experience in cross-cultural mission to itinerate through the Presbytery of Juan Calvino for a period of at least two weeks.
2. Host visits of Juan Calvino Presbytery pastors and church leaders. The leaders will visit with the purpose speaking and preaching in The Presbytery of New Covenant and other gatherings, as well as learning about the realities of being a disciple of Jesus Christ in the USA.
3. Organize mission, study and other trips to Peru to further our Partnership and to learn about ecclesiastical and social realities particularly related to being effective peacemakers.
4. Organize presbytery educational events featuring Peru.
5. Send a church leader representing The Presbytery of New Covenant to the Presbytery of Juan Calvino to document this covenant agreement.
6. Make up to \$5,000 annually available to facilitate this relationship. These funds will be provided by the Presbytery of New Covenant through its Peacemaking restricted account and a Peru Partnership restricted account.

7. Assist representatives of the Presbytery of Juan Calvino in soliciting funds directly from congregations who give mission funds outside of Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly Mission Programs.
8. Provide a information annually to The Presbytery of Juan Calvino of activities, finances and personal testimonies of its participants related to this partnership.
9. Provide annual reports and updates of our Partnership to Outreach Ministries, The Presbytery of New Covenant, and to PCUSA Worldwide Ministries.

VI. Procedures

- A. The Presbytery of New Covenant will establish a Peru Partnership Committee to coordinate and facilitate this relationship and covenant agreement
- B. The Presbytery of New Covenant will make available up to \$5,000 per year from our restricted Peacemaking account and a designated Peru Partnership account to facilitate this relationship.
- C. All transfers of funds between partners will be handled through the IEPRP and reported to PC(U.S.A.) mission coordinators
- D. The partners will review the relationship together annually and will report on their evaluation to their respective governing bodies.

Presbytery of Juan Calvino

Presbytery of Juan Calvino

Presbytery of Juan Calvino

Presbytery of Juan Calvino

Rev. Mike Cole, General Presbyter
Presbytery of New Covenant
The Presbytery of New Covenant

Wayne Eberly, Moderator
General Council,
The Presbytery of New Covenant

Rev. Diane Prevary, Stated Clerk
Presbytery of New Covenant

Pam Engler
Ministry Division Steering Committee
Presbytery of New Covenant

Date of Approval by Presbytery of Juan Calvino

Date of Approval by Presbytery of New Covenant

This Covenant Agreement is in effect from January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2011.

Appendix A

What the Presbytery of Juan Calvino has to gain

What the Presbytery of New Covenant has to gain

1. Sense of connection within our presbytery in support of this venture.
2. Living out Christ's commands.
3. Connect with Peruvian's passion for the gospel.
4. Become more aware of our conspicuous consumption.
5. Become more evangelical
6. Focus on what is important – God, others.
7. Discipline
8. Opportunity to make a difference.
9. Pastors/leaders interchange.

What the Presbytery of Juan Calvino has to offer

1. An experience of cross-cultural mission
2. Our perspective and understanding of mission as an interrelated process of liturgy, communion, evangelism, discipleship, service, prophetic, stewardship and ecumenical functions of the church.

What the Presbytery of New Covenant has to offer

1. Financial
 - a. Support for special purposes. Financial accountability would be a key component of this.
2. Designated Projects
 - a. Children – through Sunday School projects
 - b. Love a Child Project – feed children so they are healthier and can learn better.
3. Education
 - a. Collaboration with children and adult educators, including appropriate materials in Spanish and English
 - b. Vacation Bible School – possibly in conjunction with medical missions.
4. Medical
 - a. Kingwood does two one-week trips each year
5. Construction
 - a. Assist in providing joint oversight
6. Sports Mission
 - a. Uniforms, coaches, supplies for church-based soccer teams
7. Marketing
 - a. Commercial kitchen in church allows women and men to learn to cook and bake for sale to the community.
 - b. Members of the church make quality handicrafts and textiles for groups to bring back for sale in the US. Churches sell at a slight profit and tithe the proceeds back to the church in Peru.
8. Water –
 - a. Project Living Water or others which provide clean, safe drinking water to homes and/or communities and which can be constructed, operated and sustained by local communities.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Saturday, November 15, 2008
For Election

Moderator-Elect of the Presbytery of New Covenant AND Chair of General Council for 2009

Garry Schoonover (Rosenberg, First)

General Council

Class of 2009

Rhonda Haskins (Pasadena, First)

Rev. Bill Poe (Houston, St. Philip)

Class of 2011

Rev. Mauricio Chacon (Houston, Memorial Drive/Fuente de Esperanza)

Mary Herlitz (Houston, St. John's)

Rev. Debbie Measells (Brazoria, First)

Administrative Division Steering Committee

2009 Chair

Ann Hardy (Houston, St. John)

AD/Ecclesiastical Affairs

2009 Chair

Jim Taylor (Houston, Memorial Drive)

AD/Finance

Class of 2008/2011

Peter Koester (Webster, Webster)

AD/Personnel

2009 Chair

David Johnson (Houston, Clear Lake)

Class of 2011

Rev. Laurey Murphy (Houston, Spring Branch)

Committee on Ministry (COM)

2009 Chair

David Coles (Houston, Heritage)

2009 Vice-Chair

Rev. Margaret Desmond (Trinity, Port Neches)

COM/Care of Church Professionals

2009 Chair

Rev. Jim Gill (Tomball, First)

Class of 2011

Mary Swan (Pasadena, First)

COM/Care of Congregations

2009 Vice-Chair

Patty Tremble (Houston, Spring Branch)

Class of 2010

Rev. Carol Burgeson (PNC)

Class of 2011

Jim Brown (Pasadena, First)

Rev. Helen DeLeon (Webster, Webster)

Rev. John Hirling (PNC)

COM/Examinations

2009 Chair

Rev. Dean Pogue (Pasadena, First)

2009 Vice-Chair

Rev. Katie Cummings (Houston, Grace)

Class of 2008

Rev. Jim Currie (PNC) – to fill a vacancy

Class of 2011

Rev. Callie Candy (PNC)

Rev. Katie Cummings (Houston, Grace)

Rev. Jim Currie (PNC)

Rev. Rachel Poysky (PNC)

COM/Lay Pastor

2009 Chair

Rev. Debbie Cenko (Wharton, First)

2009 Vice-Chair

Rev. Steve Rehrig (The Woodlands, Timber Ridge)

Class of 2009

Rev. Aluu Williams Nnali (Houston, First African)

Class of 2011

Rev. Debbie Cenko (Wharton, First)

Jane Whitney (Houston, St. Andrew's)

Jon Kotchaver (Spring, Advent)

COM/Committee on Preparation

2009 Chair

Rev. Marie Mickey (Bryan, First)

Class of 2011

Rev. Bill Heston (Houston, First)

Rev. Nora Fitch (Angleton, First)

Monica Lin (Houston, Formosan)

Jean Young (Houston, Pinecrest)

Committee on Representation2009 Chair

Rev. Carol Tompkins (Beaumont, Westminster)

Class of 2009

Jane Larkin (Houston, St. Philip)

Class of 2011

Rev. Carol Tompkins (Beaumont, Westminster)

Ministries Division Steering Committee2009 Chair

Pam Engler (Bryan, First)

MD/Evangelism & Renewal2009 Vice-Chair

Rev. Scott Cummings (Huntsville, First)

Class of 2010

Margaret Bremer (Houston, St. Andrew's)

Class of 2011

Rev. Scott Cummings (Huntsville, First)

Rev. Jackie Hannan (Atascocita, Atascocita)

Yup Kim (Kingwood First)

Gayle Smith (Houston, First)

MD/New Church Development2009 Chair

Rev. Charles Hendricks (Houston, Northwoods)

Class of 2011

James Demases (Kingwood, First)

Ann Earnest (Houston, Grace)

MD/Outreach2009 Chair

Lisa Simpkins (Houston, Memorial Drive)

Class of 2010

Rev. Robert Kwik (PNC)

Class of 2011

Rev. Mark Downs (Houston, Heights)

James Evans (Navasota, First)

Lisa Simpkins (Houston, Memorial Drive)

MD/Congregational Resourcing Team2009 Chair

Rev. Blake Brinegar (Houston, Westminster)

Class of 2011

Lynne Quinn (Houston, First)
Rev. Caressa Murray (Webster, Webster)
Jim Wilson (Houston, Northwoods)

Synod of the Sun

Class of 2010

Rev. Maricarmen Castro (PNC)
John Cronk (Houston, St. Thomas)

APTS/Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Houston Extension Advisory Board

Class of 2011

Rev. Katie Cummings (Houston, Grace)
Rev. Lynn Hargrove (PNC)

UCMGH/United Campus Ministries of Greater Houston

Class of 2011

Garrett Etgen (Houston, First)
Carole Peterson (Houston, St. Andrew's)
Judy Gunn (Houston, St. Philip)
Mike Alexander (Houston, St. Philip)

**REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR HERITAGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT
15 NOVEMBER 2008**

SITUATION REPORT

ACTIONS SINCE LAST PRESBYTERY MEETING

The Heritage Nominating Committee completed its work and presented slates to the congregation for a session, board of deacons and a designated pastor nominating committee. The slates were elected at a congregational meeting on 7 September. Members of the AC planned and conducted a training program for the newly elected officers. They were examined by the AC/Session on 11 October and ordained/installed during worship on 12 October. The AC has now relinquished its role as session in favor of the newly ordained and installed local governing body, but continues in existence to provide further support and guidance as needed.

The Committee on Ministry appointed the Reverend Jim Currie as moderator *pro tem* of the new session and Elder Shelley Hernandez as the liaison to the DPNC. The session held its first meeting on 27 October. The DPNC has completed a Church Information Form and is in the process of reviewing a list of prospective pastors. Jane Petit, a seminarian under care of this presbytery has been engaged as temporary supply student pastor and will be working under the supervision of members of the presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

The other activities of the church, to include the preschool, Christian Education and mission are growing in scope and numbers. The church has received 10 new members into its fellowship in the past 5 months. The AC will continue to support all the activities of the church until a pastor has been selected and a secure financial base has been established.

THE FINANCIAL PICTURE

As reported at the last presbytery meeting, the AC has extended an invitation to the churches who have contributed monies to Heritage to appoint representatives to a task force organized to develop a plan for financial support to the church over the period until Spring 2011. The organizational meeting of that task force was held on 20 October. At that meeting the financial situation of the church was reviewed and several strategies discussed for presenting the needs of the church to the presbytery. The immediate need is for sponsorship from you, the presbytery, to cover the pastor's salary until the church can grow enough to assume that responsibility on its own. Each church of the presbytery is asked to prayerfully consider including this need in your budgets as we conclude the current stewardship season, and may expect to be contacted by the task force in due course. As a reminder, the presbytery voted to support Heritage as it reorganizes and grows through the period noted above. This support is essential, in no small part because the current congregation of just over 100 members is making a mortgage payment of approximately \$5,650.00 each month.

Postlude,

the publication that highlights the events and business conducted at the presbytery meeting, will be published on the presbytery's website.

An e-mail will be sent notifying you when the Postlude is available. Commissioners are encouraged to share it with their sessions.

Those churches not having internet access will be mailed a copy of The Postlude.

Comments and suggestions should be directed to:

Helen Wolf at hwolf@pbyofnewcovenant.org

Next Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant

will be

Saturday, February 7, 2009

At

**Grace Presbyterian Church
Houston, Texas**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

2008

November 18
General Council
Presbytery Center

November 20
United Campus Ministry
University of Houston

November 27 & 28
Thanksgiving Holidays
Presbytery Center Closed

December 4
Christmas Open House
11:00 – 1:00
Presbytery Center

December 24 & 25
Christmas Holidays
Presbytery Center Closed

2009

January 1
Presbytery Center Closed

January 6 & 7, 2009
General Council Retreat
Cho-Yeh Camp & Conference
Center

January 13
Committee on Ministry
Presbytery Center

January 20
General Council
Presbytery Center

January 24
Church Officer Training & Session
Records Review
St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
Houston

February 7
Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of
New Covenant
Grace Presbyterian Church
Houston

Displays for Today's Meeting

Austin Seminary - Houston Extension Program

CEDEPCA Partnership of Outreach Ministries

New Covenant More Light Presbyterians

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services