

The Legacy of Service

Presentation from the Presbytery of New Covenant Day of Service

Offering (Designated for Hurricane Ike Recovery) The total collected for the offering was \$4011.64.

Offertory: The Calabash Choir

Doxology

Benediction

Postlude

10:35 am Opening Business

Moderator and Stated Clerk

The Moderator called on the Stated Clerk, the Rev. Diane Prevary, who declared a quorum to be present and moved the adoption with the following changes:

- Remove C.1a, “Proposed Changes to the Standing Rules for the Meetings of Presbytery.” This document will be considered at the February 2010 meeting of the presbytery.
- Remove I. 1. action item regarding the covering of the cost of psychological assessment for Commissioned Lay Pastor candidates, from the “Committee on Ministry” report.
- Synod Executive, the Rev. Judy Fletcher, will bring greetings from the Synod prior to Rev. Mike Cole’s address.
- Other reports will be moved as needed per time requirements.

The DOCKET was approved as follows:

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8:55 am Processional Introit, led by Calabash Choir

9:00 am Call to Order with Worship and Prayer

Moderator Wayne Eberly

Hymn #476 “O Worship the King, All Glorious Above”

(verses 1 and 2)

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF THEOLOGY, WORSHIP, AND SERVICE IN THE REFORMED TRADITION

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

All: Let us come before the Lord with thanksgiving and extol the Lord with music and song.

One: Come, let us worship and bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

All: For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Hymn #476: “O Worship the King, All Glorious Above” (verses 3 and 4)

THE LEGACY OF THEOLOGY

Reflections on John Calvin

The Reverend Dr. James S. Currie

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (QUESTIONS FROM THE GENEVA CATECHISM)

Master. - What is the true and right knowledge of God?

Scholar. - When he is so known that due honour is paid to him.

Master. - What is the method of honouring him duly?

Scholar. -To place our whole confidence in him; to study to serve him during our whole life by obeying his will; to call upon him in all our necessities, seeking salvation and every good thing that can be desired in him; lastly, to acknowledge him both with heart and lips, as the sole Author of all blessings.

Hymn #476 “O Worship the King, All Glorious Above” (verse 5)

THE LEGACY OF THE SAINTS (NECROLOGY REPORT)

All sing: *Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love*

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above

THE LEGACY OF WORSHIP

Preaching today is the Reverend Judy Fletcher, Executive, Synod of the Sun

THE LEGACY OF SERVICE

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Postlude

10:00 am

Opening Business

Moderator & Stated Clerk

- Declaration of Quorum and Adoption of the Docket
- Welcome by Host Church (The Rev. Kevin Boyd)
- Welcome of Others (First-time Commissioners, Corresponding Members, New Minister-Members)

Report of the Stated Clerk (B)

The Rev. Diane Prevary (H.R.)

Moderator's Remarks and Appointments

Administrative Division

Elder Ann Hardy

Ecclesiastical Affairs (C.1)

Elder Jim Taylor

~~Action Item: Amend Standing Rules of the Mtgs. of Pby. (C.1a)~~

(C.1b) is posted separately among Meeting Materials

Finance Committee (C.2)

Elder Sid Holderness

Personnel Committee (C.3)

Elder Dave Johnson

- Recognition of Janice Schessler and Carrie Walker, Level III Certification, Association of Presbyterian Administrators
- Report on annual evaluation of presbytery staff

Committee on Preparation (E)

The Rev. Marie Mickey

Service of Candidacy (Barbara McClintic, Pines)

Connections in Ministry: Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services

Mr. Josh Plumley

Report from Administrative Commission for Heritage Presbyterian Church

Elder Sidney Holderness & The Rev. Jerry Hurst

11:25 am

Connections in Ministry (CUPS)

The Rev. Laurey Murphy

11:30 am

Greetings from the Synod of the Sun

The Rev. Judy Fletcher, Executive

STATE OF THE PRESBYTERY

The Rev. Mike Cole

12:00 pm

FELLOWSHIP AT TABLE CURRIE HALL

Cards on lunch tables will indicate where commissioners will go following lunch, to hear sermons for ordination.

1:00 pm

2 Sermons for Ordination

Fellowship Hall: Jonathan Murray (Candidate for DP, 1st Needville)

Sanctuary: Rachel Grassley Young (Candidate for AP, Clear Lake)

Committee on Ministry (D & D.1)

Examination(s) for Ordination

The Rev. Katie Cummings

Information and Action Items

The Rev. Margaret Desmond

Proposed Minimum Terms for 2010

Nominating Committee (H)

Elder Mary Lee Going

Report of General Council (F, F.1a, F.1b)

Elder Garry Schoonover

Action Item (F.1): Second Vote on Approval of Restated Bylaws for the Presbytery of New Covenant. Current Bylaws (F.4) posted separately online at www.pbyofnewcovenant.org

Action Item (in F): move and recommend dissolution of the Emmanuel Church of South India.

New Business

Action Item (J): Overture from Session of First Presbyterian Church,

Kingwood – to the 219th General Assembly of the PC(U.S.A.) at end of PACKET at (J).

(other New Business, only if submitted to Stated Clerk 4 days prior to the meeting; to be posted on-line with Meeting Materials no later than 3 days prior)

Service of Installation

Moderator and Moderator-Elect, 2010

Elder Garry Schoonover and The Rev. Patricia Clark

Adjournment

(BY RULE OF THE PRESBYTERY, NO LATER THAN 4PM, UNLESS THE ASSEMBLY VOTES BY A 2/3RD MAJORITY TO EXTEND BEYOND)

Welcome

1. The Rev. Kevin Boyd, Pastor of St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Houston, TX, welcomed the presbytery on behalf of the session and congregation.
2. Stated Clerk Diane Prevary led a time of introductions, recognizing first-time commissioners.
 - a. Corresponding Members: The Rev. Judy Fletcher from Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery; The Rev. Eid Hanna from the Synod of the Nile; and Candidate Kathy K. Sebring from Los Ranchos Presbytery in California.
3. New Minister-Members were asked to introduce themselves: The Rev. David Leard transferred from Indian Nations Presbytery, Associate Pastor of Northwoods Presbyterian Church in Houston; The Rev. Jolene Currie from Presbytery of San Gabriel to work as chaplain with Compassionate Care Hospice Foundation in Dickinson, TX; The Rev. Kristy Forbes Vits, transferred from Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery, Interim Associate Pastor of St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston, TX; The Rev. James Birchfield, transferred from Presbytery of Los Ranchos, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Houston, TX; The Rev. Lynn Hall Buckridge transferred from Mission Presbytery as Member at Large – she will serve as Parish Associate of Southminster Presbyterian Church in Missouri City, TX; The Rev. John Melsness, Associate Pastor for Discipleship of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Houston, TX; the Rev. Ryan Cook, Associate Pastor of Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church in Katy, TX.

Reports and Action Items:

4. Stated Clerk The Rev. Diane Prevary (H. R.)
 - a. The Stated Clerk highlighted two actions taken on behalf of the presbytery in her report (B. II, A and B),
 - b. and she recommended and moved the adoption of the Omnibus Motion, (B, I. A). The motion was seconded and carried.
5. Moderator's Remarks and Appointments The Rev. Wayne Eberly
 - a. Appointed the following persons to serve as Tellers during the meeting: Elders Mark Ruchscheidt (Houston, Heritage); Joanne Purdy (Houston, St. Stephen); Andy Bishop (Katy, New Hope) and Clergy: Viet Ho (Thien-An); Tom Atkins (Houston, St. Thomas); and Debbie Cenko (Wharton, First)
 - b. Elder Bart Henson (Houston, Memorial Drive) was nominated to serve on the Nominating Committee in the Class of 2010. The motion was approved.
6. Administrative Division Elder Ann Hardy
 - a. Ecclesiastical Affairs Committee (C.1) Elder Jim Taylor
 1. Elder Taylor lifted up the committee's concern over presbytery meeting attendance.
 2. He urged everyone to attend the next meeting of presbytery on February 6, 2010 which will focus on evangelism. The Rev. Eric Hoey, PC (USA) Director of Evangelism and Church Growth at the General Assembly will speak at a February 5, Friday pre-presbytery event hosted by Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, as well as being the keynote speaker at the presbytery meeting the next day.

- b. Finance Committee (C.2) Elder Sid Holderness
1. Elder Holderness directed the presbytery's attention to documents C.2a (2009-2010 Budget) and C.2b (Debt Repayment Schedule 2007-2012). He reported that at the end of three months into the financial year, the presbytery was doing well in comparison to last year's deficit.

- c. Personnel Committee (C.3) Elder Dave Johnson
1. Presbytery of New Covenant staff members, Elders Janice Schessler (Bellaire, ChristChurch) and Carrie Walker (Houston, University) were recognized for their Level III Certification in the Administrative Personnel Association, a PCUSA professional association serving Administrative Professionals.
2. Elder Johnson reported on the recently completed annual evaluation of the presbytery staff. This was a newly revised process for constructive conversation.

7. Committee on Preparation (E) The Rev. Marie Mickey
a. Service of Candidacy For Barbara McClintic (Houston, Pines). The candidate shared her journey of faith and reasons to pursuing life in ministry. Moderator Wayne Eberly asked for questions from the floor and, there being none, the motion carried to enroll her as a candidate in preparation of Ministry of Word and Sacrament. The moderator posed the constitutional questions to her, and Rev. Marie Mickey challenged the candidate to love God and His people and to take care of herself. She then offered a prayer. The doxology was sung.

11:15 am Connections in Ministry – Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services – Josh Plumley

8. Report from Administrative Commission for Heritage Presbyterian Church – Elder Sidney Holderness and the Reverend Jerry Hurst
a. On behalf of Elder Jim Bushong, chair of the Administrative Commission, Elder Holderness spoke of the presbytery's three-year commitment, now at the mid-point, to support Heritage Presbyterian Church. He expressed gratitude to the presbytery for this support and introduced Rev. Hurst who had been installed in June as the church's Designated Pastor. Rev. Hurst spoke glowingly of the church's progress in the community, an increasing number of new members, and its many outreach activities.

11:25 am Connections in Ministry – CUPS (*Comunidades Unidas Pro Salud*) – a border ministry for health – The Rev. Laurey Murphy & Elder Bruce Blum and son Parker, Spring Branch Presbyterian Church in Houston

Moderator Wayne Eberly offered a prayer.

9. Synod of the Sun Update Executive, the Rev. Judy Fletcher
a. Rev. Fletcher announced that there were three new presbytery executives in the Synod and she hopes that the fourth will be welcomed in February. She emphasized that the Synod of the Sun enables mission instead of doing mission.
b. She reported that the Synod newspaper will now be found online: Synodsun.com.

11:36 am STATE OF THE PRESBYTERY General Presbyter, the Rev. Mike Cole
Presentation titled "Blessed to be a Starfish Presbytery," later available on the presbytery's website.

Rev. Cole offered the blessing for the lunch.

12:00 pm FELLOWSHIP AT TABLE - CURRIE HALL

1:00 pm Two Sermons for Ordination

Fellowship Hall: Jonathan Murray (Candidate for Designated Pastor, Needville, First)
Sanctuary: Rachel Grassley Young (Candidate for Associate Pastor, Houston, Clear Lake)

10. Committee on Ministry (D & D.1)

a. Examinations for Ordinations

The Rev. Katie Cummings

1. Rev. Cummings introduced Candidate Rachel Grassley Young and questioned her on behalf of the Examinations Committee. Following her responses, and after no questions from the floor, the motion to sustain her examination was approved. Moderator Wayne Eberly offered a prayer.
2. Rev. Cummings introduced Jonathan Murray and questioned him on behalf of the Examinations Committee. Following his responses, she asked if there were questions from the floor. After the question and his response, she moved his examination be sustained. The motion was seconded and carried. Moderator Wayne Eberly offered a prayer.

b. Information and Action Items

The Rev. Margaret Desmond

1. Rev. Desmond made two corrections to information in the meeting packet: Salary and Housing Allowance for the Rev. James Birchfield (D. II.,f) was corrected from \$125,000 to \$175,000; and Rev. Lynn Hargrove's status was corrected from ~~Interim~~ to Stated Supply (D. II., 42).
2. Rev. Desmond recommended and moved the Proposed Minimum Terms of Call for 2010. The motion passed.
3. Two recommendations appearing in the Addendum were approved: that the Rev. Ray Harper be granted Honorably Retired status effective January 1, 2010 and that the Rev. Gerald McKenny also be granted Honorably Retired status effective January 1, 2010. Rev. Harper's retirement will be celebrated at the February 2010 presbytery meeting. Rev. Desmond offered a prayer.
4. The recommendation that The Reverend Tomas Spath be allowed to be called as the next installed pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Crockett, TX was approved. The Rev. Blake Brinegar offered a prayer.
5. Rev. Desmond called attention to the "Policy for Professional Development" for Ministers and Certified Christian Educators which appeared in the Addendum.

11. Nominating Committee (H) (H.1)

Elder Mary Lee Going

- a. Elder Going reported that a task force has been formed and will report to General Council through the Nominating Committee to study and discuss the concern raised by First Presbyterian Church, Lake Jackson, about the way nominees for General Assembly commissioners are selected.

She requested the name of Thao Hoang (Houston, Korean Young Nak) be removed from consideration to serve on the Evangelism and Renewal Committee, Class of 2012.

- b. Elder Going moved that the following additional names be elected to serve in the designated positions:

Care of Congregations: Rev. Kristy Forbes Vit (Houston, St. Philip)

Contracts Committee: Smitty Snodgrass (Houston, Memorial Drive), Class of 2012

Chair of Contracts Committee: Betty Hundley (Houston, First)

Vice-chair of Contracts Committee: Barbra Mabry (Houston, St. Luke's)

Committee on Representation: Rev. Tim Phillips (PNC, at large) Class of 2012

The motion carried.

- c. After asking for and receiving no additional names from the floor, Elder Going moved that those whose names appeared in the Packet Nominating Committee Report be elected. Motion carried.

12. Report of General Council (F, F.1a, F.1b)

Elder Garry Schoonover

a. Action Item (F.1.A): Move and recommend adoption of the Restated Bylaws of the Presbytery of New Covenant found at F.1 in the Packet. This is a second vote, required by the current Bylaws. The first vote, on July 14, 2009 was in the affirmative. Current Bylaws (F.4) were posted separately online. The stated clerk reviewed the process and intent of the document, emphasizing it is actually the second vote. There was, however, language approved in July that didn't get into this document. The two corrections that are to be made are: (1) Add to ARTICLE IX: The Ministries Division, 9.4 which is to state "The Ministries Division is accountable to and reports directly to the presbytery." (2) In ARTICLE X: Committees of Presbytery, 10.1 should read: "The Committee on Ministry shall be composed of a chairperson, vice chairperson, the chairpersons and vice chairpersons of its subcommittees and members of all subcommittees although members of the Examinations Committee shall not be counted toward the quorum. Subcommittees shall be divided ..."

The motion to adopt the corrected Restated Bylaws for the Presbytery of New Covenant **was approved.**

b. The motion to recommend the dissolution of the Emmanuel Church of South India, a union church of the PC(U.S.A.) and the Church of South India, effective December 31, 2009 **was approved.**

c. Presbyters were encouraged to read III., "Items for Information," particularly E., a letter from the session at LaMarque Presbyterian Church which has been referred to the "Beyond Per-Capita" study/discussion group.

NEW BUSINESS

Action Item (J): Overture from Session of First Prsbyterian Church, Kingwood – to the 219th General Assembly of the PC (U.S.A.) to: "joyfully reaffirm the historic, biblical and Christological teaching of the Church on the topic of marriage as a gift from God to bless humankind. As God created man and woman, so does God call some men and women to live together as husband and wife. God's very order and design defines the institution."

The session of Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church in Katy, Texas voted unanimously Monday, October 26, 2009 to concur with the recommendation for action by the session of First Presbyterian Church in Kingwood, Texas.

Following discussion, the moderator called for the question and then asked for a moment of silence, after which he offered a prayer. The tellers were called forward to count the written ballots.

The proposed overture **was approved** to send forward to the Office of the General Assembly, 107 to 86, to be considered by the 219th General Assembly.

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

Moderator and Moderator-Elect, 2010

2009 Moderator of the Presbytery, the Rev. Wayne Eberly, asked the constitutional questions of the Moderator for 2010, Elder Garry Schoonover (Katy, Grand Lakes), and the Moderator-Elect for 2010, the Rev. Pat Clark (Houston, St. Stephen). He issued a charge to them and then to the presbytery. He offered a prayer and presented the stole, cross, moderator's handbook, and gavel to the newly elected moderator.

The final registration numbers are: 102 Ministers, 116 Commissioners, 4 Commissioned Lay Pastors, 11 Elders with Privilege, 7 Former Moderators, 2 Presbytery Staff, 1 NACBA Fellow, 2 Corresponding Members, 56 Visitors, 1 Inquirer/Candidate for a total of 302.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm with appreciation to the host church, St. Paul Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Schessler
Recording Clerk