

PRESBYTERY OF SAN DIEGO CALLED MEETING – August 12, 2008

The Called meeting of the Presbytery of San Diego at Northminster Presbyterian Church, San Diego was convened by the Moderator, Elder Elizabeth Crews at 6 p.m. She led the presbytery in a Lectio Devina on Ephesians 4: 1-6 and also a recitation of our ordination vows as Elders and Ministers of Word & Sacrament. She shared a story titled the “Emmanuel Baptist Church Story” and “The Wedding Story” and concluded the worship with prayer. The Rev. Marcus Watson, host pastor, welcomed the presbytery.

ROLL: It was VOTED that the roll would be taken by card, and that those registering during the meeting, together with corresponding members, and those requesting leaves of absence (when granted) constitute the roll. A quorum was present.

	<u>CONGREGATION</u>	<u>MINISTERS</u>	<u>ECCLESIASTICAL DESIGNATION</u>	<u>ELDERS</u>
2	Carlsbad, Christ Church of La Costa			<b>Laura Mitchell Gerry Tayler</b>
3	Chula Vista, Chula Vista	<b>R. Davis</b>	101	<b>Cora Gregory</b>
4	Coronado, Graham Memorial	<b>D. H. McElrath</b>	101	<b>Frank Wuerfel Langdon Smith</b>
5	El Cajon, First	<b>S. W. Locke</b>	101	
6	El Cajon, Fletcher Hills	<b>B. Reed</b>	103	<b>Patsy Battenfield Bob Battenfield</b>
7	Escondido, Westminster			<b>Carole Ostrander Dave Cumming</b>
8	Fallbrook, Fallbrook	<b>K. Bottomly</b>	101	<b>Paul Mattson Jerry Budd</b>
9	La Jolla, La Jolla	<b>P. Cunningham M. Sedgwick</b>	101 193	<b>Marcia Borgman</b>
10	La Jolla, Mt. Soledad	<b>J. Moser E. Piper</b>	101 797	<b>Jane Camerer</b>
11	La Mesa, La Mesa	<b>D. Pierson</b>	101	
12	Lakeside, Community	<b>R. W. Mentze</b>	101	<b>Larry Rega</b>
13	Oceanside, First	<b>E. Wilson</b>	103	<b>Paul Hefner Barry Farrell</b>
14	Rancho Santa Fe, Village Community	<b>J. Baca J. K. Farley S. Mitchell</b>	101 103 103	<b>David Buck</b>
15	San Diego, Christ United	<b>E. Girod</b>	105	<b>Ardelle Matthews Al Littlefield</b>
16	San Diego, Faith	<b>C. M. Lenocker</b>	101	<b>Stu Elder</b>
17	San Diego, First	<b>W. Ray M. E. Walls</b>	103 103	<b>Maurice Caskey Marilyn Carnes Peggy Baker</b>
18	San Diego, Korean	<b>Y. H. Kang</b>	101	
19	San Diego, Linda Vista			<b>Steve Awe</b>
21	San Diego, Northminster	<b>M. Watson</b>	101	<b>Loreto Remorca, Jr.</b>
22	San Diego, Pacific Beach			<b>Jane Kay</b>

23	San Diego, Palisades	<b>H. G. Throop</b>	101	<b>Barbara Van Meter Ruth Sweet</b>
24	San Diego, Point Loma Community	<b>J. Powell R. Brown</b>	101 103	<b>Charles MacVean</b>
25	San Diego, Rancho Bernardo Community			<b>Lois Sheldon Jeanne Pochel Polly Purcifull Cindy Paget</b>
28	San Diego, Westminster	<b>T. Wolfe</b>	101	<b>Bob Rantzow William Hodgkiss</b>
29	Solana Beach, Solana Beach	<b>T. D. Theriault J. Kerkhoff J. Lagerstrom</b>	103 103 107	<b>Ellen Larson Russ Love Barry Billingsley</b>
30	Spring Valley, Trinity	<b>R. W. Yenter</b>	101	<b>Bob Hensley</b>
31	Vista, Grace	<b>T. Straeter W. C. Bynagte</b>	101 797	<b>Hank Morris Joseph Purser</b>
32	Westmorland, Community	<b>E. Crews</b>	108	<b>Charles Pate A</b>

BOLD = Attended Meeting = excused A = Alternate

<u>SPECIAL OFFICES</u>		<u>ECC DESIGNATION</u>
* Executive Presbyter	<b>Clark Cowden</b>	302
* Stated Clerk	<b>Linda Therien</b>	303
Director of Finance and Admin	<b>Steve Rybicki</b>	

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Anthony Hedrick, Cumberland Presbyterian Chaplain

MODERATOR

\* Elizabeth Crews

VICE-MODERATOR/MODERATOR ELECT

\* C. M. Lenocker

* <b>John Lucas</b>	Chair, Budget, Property, and Finance Committee
* <b>Doris Pate</b>	Chair, Nominating Committee
* <b>Nancy Harber</b>	Chair, Human Resources
* <b>Michael Williams</b>	Chair, Committee on Ministry
* <b>Bill Tayler</b>	Chair of the Presbytery Missions Committee
Carole Ostrander	Minute Clerk
<b>Machelle May</b>	Presbytery Secretary/Receptionist

\* = voting member

VISITORS AND GUESTS:

Jack Shelver, Faith Presbyterian & Chair of Synod Council  
Charles Pate, Westmorland Presbyterian Church  
Don & Deanna Benjamin, Westminster Escondido  
Jody McElrath, Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church  
Clark McEuen, Pacific Beach Presbyterian Church  
Art Miley, Mount Soledad Presbyterian Church  
Dirk Vanproyew, First Presbyterian Church San Diego

Teresa Stewinsky, First Presbyterian Church San Diego  
 Bill & Marion Abrell, La Jolla Presbyterian Church  
 Doug Jones, Coronado Presbyterian Church  
 Rod Rodriguez, Solana Beach Presbyterian Church  
 Pam Rega, Lakeside Presbyterian Church  
 Karilyn Ballard, First Presbyterian Church San Diego  
 Lori and Jim Meals, First Presbyterian Church San Diego  
 Steve Rolling, First Presbyterian Church San Diego  
 Dick & Ann Ruppert, Faith Presbyterian Church  
 Pat Kellenbarger, Solana Beach Presbyterian & Chair Presbyterian Council For Chaplains  
 Ralph Ziegler, Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church  
 Lucy Decorte, La Jolla Presbyterian Church  
 Debbie Morris, La Jolla Presbyterian Church  
 Eloise Housman, Solana Beach Presbyterian Church  
 Jim Benney, Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church  
 Owen Wickstrand, La Jolla Presbyterian Church  
 Joy Sworder, La Jolla Presbyterian Church  
 Ralph & Dauna Mackenzie, Mt. Soledad Presbyterian Church  
 Jack & Barbara Bartrell, Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church  
 Ed Taflinger, Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church  
 Rodney Jackson, Solana Beach Presbyterian Church  
 Steve Gauthier  
 Wanda Goeken, Christ United Presbyterian Church  
 Dick Walker, Graham Memorial

Inquirers & Candidates: Sharon Ramirez (Chula Vista), Jay Shirley (Village)

Fallbrook Presbyterian Church Members

Marilyn Arledge (Clerk of Session)	Tom DuMont
Chuck Boatman	Vicki Porter
Don Green	Jealyn Herrera
Art Deming	Wayne Taylor
Robert Mann	Greg Coppock
Susan and Harold Aurand	Judy Saunders

OTHER MINISTERS

<b>K. C. Bealo, Sr.</b>	299	<b>D. H. Nason</b>	654	<b>E. Reynolds</b>	645
<b>M. Cross Sexton</b>	299	<b>D. Newhouse</b>	299	<b>T. M. Simpson</b>	797
<b>W.W. Hoffmann</b>	299	<b>P. Powell</b>	797	<b>P. Weiler</b>	299
<b>Art Mills</b>	404				

Attendance:

Ministers	43
Elders	48
Corresponding	1
Inquirers/Candidates	2
Visitors/Others	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>

## **Moderator's Report**

Moderator Crews declared the purpose of the meeting as follows:

- To hear a report from Pastor Clark Cowden on the proposed resolution/overture;
- To receive and act on a resolution/overture to be presented by Pastors Bob Davis and Steve Locke;
- To receive and act on a report and motion from the Committee on Ministry;
- To receive and act on recommendations of the Moderator of Presbytery;
- To receive an update on the status of the 2008 Presbytery budget;
- To receive a report from the Evangelism Committee regarding a New Church Development
- To act on the report of the Council Nominating Committee/Executive Committee of Council (Consent agenda).

The purpose of the meeting was read and approved. The Moderator reminded the Presbytery that the following "Rules of Conduct" would be followed during this meeting.

1. Each speaker must obtain the floor and be recognized by the presiding officer before beginning to speak.
  - a. Each speaker from Fallbrook Presbyterian Church must state his/her full name and the length of time he/she has been a member.
  - b. Commissioners to presbytery must state their name, the church they represent, whether they are a member of presbytery by virtue of holding an office in presbytery, or a minister member of presbytery.
  - c. Each speaker must state clearly whether they are speaking for or against the motion or if they are simply asking a question.
2. A speaker is limited to one minute and can speak twice to a motion, but the second turn can be taken only after everyone who wishes to speak the first time has spoken. Debate must be germane to the motion.
3. Any motion made from the floor must be submitted to the Stated Clerk in writing at the time the motion is made.
4. Speakers must be recognized by and address all remarks to the Moderator; cross talk between members is not allowed. Speakers must be courteous and not use inflammatory statements.
5. The Moderator and/or Acting Moderator will recognize those for the motion, those against the motion and those asking questions or making a neutral statement in rotating order. This will be managed with the use of green (pro), red (con), and yellow (questions) paddles found at each microphone.
6. The Moderator and/or Acting Moderator will remain impartial.
7. Should it become necessary to go into "Executive Session" at any time during this meeting, all non-voting participants present will be excused and expected to immediately leave the meeting.

The Moderator introduced Elder Linda Therien, Stated Clerk who moved the consent agenda.

**Consent Agenda:**

The Council Nominating Committee/Executive Committee recommended:

1. That Elder David Whitmoyer of Escondido Westminster Presbyterian Church be elected to serve the Presbytery Nominating Committee, Class of 2010.

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the consent agenda.

**Stated Clerk Report:**

The Presbytery VOTED the following as recommended by the Stated Clerk:

1. That all members of Fallbrook Presbyterian Church present at the meeting be granted voice during the portion of the meeting that deals with the business of their church.
2. That all ordained elders present that are currently serving their respective sessions, be given voice during this meeting of presbytery only.

**Resolution/Overture:**

The Moderator introduced Pastor Bob Davis who read the following resolution:

The San Diego Presbytery responds to the actions of the 218th General Assembly (2008) by:

1. Making the following declaration:

We, the Presbytery of San Diego, disagree with the actions taken by the 218th General Assembly regarding ordination standards. Given that actions were contemplated by this Presbytery at its stated meetings in November 2005 and March 2006, and that responses were proposed if such actions were taken, the Presbytery of San Diego hereby declares:

- a) That the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is in a state of constitutional and confessional confusion and potential crisis;
- b) There has been a disruption of trust in the covenant that binds our congregations and presbyteries together in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Furthermore, without consulting the presbyteries, the 218th General Assembly issued a series of authoritative interpretations that neither support the Church's Constitution nor enhance the peace, unity, and purity of our fellowship. The actions of the 218th General Assembly mark a change in our covenant life as Presbyterians and have generated uncertainty about the nature and authority of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

We therefore call on the 219th General Assembly (2010) to reconsider the decisions of the 218th General Assembly regarding matters related to ordination standards and approve the overture to reduce the confusion and help restore trust.

2. Approving an overture to the 219th General Assembly (2010) as follows:

San Diego Presbytery overtures the 219th General Assembly (2010) to:

Issue an authoritative interpretation of G-6.0106, "Restoring to full force and effect the interpretive statements concerning ordained service of homosexual church members by the 190th General Assembly (1978) of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and the 191st General Assembly (1979) of the Presbyterian Church in the United States and all subsequent affirmations including the *Bush v. Pittsburgh Presbytery* (218-10) GA PJC decision."

3. Determining that, until the above action is addressed, we will encourage our churches to restrict their giving and eliminate unrestricted giving, The Presbytery also declares that it will not forward any unrestricted mission giving.

4. Taking up the Assembly's action on dismissal of congregations, recommending the Presbytery of San Diego "develop and make available to congregations a process that exercises the responsibility and power 'to divide, dismiss, or dissolve churches in consultation with their members' with consistency, pastoral responsibility, accountability, gracious witness, openness, and transparency." Such a plan would be developed by Presbytery Council to be used in conformity with the Presbytery's primary responsibility as a mission agency within its geographic bounds of San Diego and Imperial Counties.

5. Directing the Presbytery Council to schedule at the November 2008 stated meeting the voting on the proposed amendments from the 218th General Assembly (2008).

**Debate:**

The Moderator announced that this business would be debated section by section and the Presbytery would ultimately vote on one perfected item of business.

A motion was made to strike the word "potential" under item 1a. The motion passed by a vote of 61/23.

A motion was made to add the word "following" in the second paragraph of 1b so that the paragraph reads as follows:

We therefore call on the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2010) to reconsider the decisions Of the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly regarding matters related to ordination standards and approve the "following" overture to reduce the confusion and help restore trust.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

After significant conversation, the presbytery VOTED 64-17 to approve a motion to eliminate item #3.

The Presbytery VOTED to add "subject to the approval of the Presbytery" in Item #4 after the words "Presbytery Council." The Presbytery VOTED to add the words "with a report to the Presbytery by the February 2009 stated meeting" in Item #4 immediately after "approval of the Presbytery." The new paragraph would read as follows:

Taking up the Assembly's action on dismissal of congregations, recommending the Presbytery of San Diego "develop and make available to congregations a process That exercised the responsibility and power to 'to divide, dismiss, or dissolve churches In consultation with their members' with consistency, pastoral responsibility, accountability, gracious witness, openness, and transparency." Such a plan would be developed by Presbytery Council, subject to the approval of the Presbytery with a report to the Presbytery by the February 2009 stated meeting, to be used in conformity with the Presbytery's primary responsibility as a mission agency within its geographic bounds of San Diego and Imperial Counties.

By consensus the assembly acted to instruct the Stated Clerk to renumber the resolution/overture based on the elimination of the original #3.

The Moderator declared the resolution/overture perfected and moved to a vote of the assembly.

The Presbytery VOTED 66/20 to approve the resolution/overture as amended.

The following is the full text of the resolution/overture:

**Resolution & Overture to the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

The San Diego Presbytery responds to the actions of the 218th General Assembly (2008) by:

1. Making the following declaration:

We, the Presbytery of San Diego, disagree with the actions taken by the 218th General Assembly regarding ordination standards. Given that actions were contemplated by this Presbytery at its stated meetings in November 2005 and March 2006, and that responses were proposed if such actions were taken, the Presbytery of San Diego hereby declares:

a) That the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is in a state of constitutional and confessional confusion and crisis;

b) There has been a disruption of trust in the covenant that binds our congregations and presbyteries together in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Furthermore, without consulting the presbyteries, the 218th General Assembly issued a series of authoritative interpretations that neither support the Church's Constitution nor enhance the peace, unity, and purity of our fellowship. The actions of the 218th General Assembly mark a change in our covenant life as Presbyterians and have generated uncertainty about the nature and authority of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

We therefore call on the 219th General Assembly (2010) to reconsider the decisions of the 218th General Assembly regarding matters related to ordination standards and approve the following overture to reduce the confusion and help restore trust.

2. Approving an overture to the 219th General Assembly (2010) as follows:

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3. Taking up the Assembly's action on dismissal of congregations, recommending the Presbytery of San Diego "develop and make available to congregations a process that exercises the responsibility and power 'to divide, dismiss, or dissolve churches in consultation with their members' with consistency, pastoral responsibility, accountability, gracious witness, openness, and transparency." Such a plan would be developed by Presbytery Council, subject to the approval of the Presbytery with a report to Presbytery, to be used in conformity with the Presbytery's primary responsibility as a mission agency within its geographic bounds of San Diego and Imperial Counties. The Council will report back to the presbytery at the February, 2009 meeting.

4. Directing the Presbytery Council to schedule at the November 2008 stated meeting the voting on the proposed amendments from the 218th General Assembly (2008).

By consensus, the Presbytery acted to instruct the Stated Clerk to forward this matter to the appropriate entity of the Office of the General Assembly.

**Committee on Ministry recommendation:**

1. That the Presbytery of San Diego establish an Administrative Commission (AC) for the Fallbrook Presbyterian Church. The Stated Clerk announced that, if voted, the AC would initially have nine members and not ten as originally listed in item #1.

The following is the full text of the rationale and motion:

Presbytery of San Diego  
Creation of an Administrative Commission  
for Fallbrook Presbyterian Church  
August 12, 2008

WHEREAS, the Fallbrook Presbyterian Church filed a civil lawsuit against the Presbytery of San Diego on July 16, 2008 and the Presbytery received the Summons and Complaint on July 22, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Fallbrook Presbyterian Church filed the civil lawsuit without any attempt to initiate dialogue with the Presbytery of San Diego in contravention of the stated policy adopted by the Presbytery on March 11, 2008 which states "As a preferred means of settling disputes, the Presbytery of San Diego agrees to covenant with its member churches to try to settle matters of separation and property relationally and pastorally, rather than seek out the judgment of the courts in accordance with the spirit of I Corinthians 6:1-11."

WHEREAS, the decision of the congregation to file the civil complaint appears to have been done without any conversation with the Committee on Ministry, Executive Presbyter, Stated Clerk or other leadership of the Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, the Fallbrook Presbyterian Church Pastor/Head of Staff has announced he will resign from his position with the church and accept a call to the Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church of Sacramento Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, the status of the Pastor/Head of Staff at Fallbrook Presbyterian Church, The Rev. Kirk Bottomly, will be uncertain until litigation pending in Sacramento is settled and it can be determined if the congregation of Fair Oaks will be released to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, it is uncertain whether or not Sacramento Presbytery will receive him as a minister member pending the outcome of the ongoing litigation; and

WHEREAS, the status of the Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church in Sacramento Presbytery is in question as they have renounced the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and affiliated with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church New Wineskins Transitional Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, it is unclear that upon acceptance of a call to Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church whether that act itself constitutes a renunciation of the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); and

WHEREAS, the Presbytery of San Diego has been unable to determine if the congregational meeting was properly called or what the actual vote of the congregation was or what information was presented to the congregation prior to their vote, or how it was decided that their Associate Pastor would become their Interim Pastor upon the resignation of the Pastor; and

WHEREAS, it is unclear as to the intentions of the Fallbrook Presbyterian Church to remain with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or to unite with another denomination; and

WHEREAS, these acts and others contribute to confusion within the congregation of Fallbrook Presbyterian Church including the confusion of how an Interim Pastor will be named to replace Rev. Bottomly assuming he accepts the Fair Oaks position as Pastor/Head of Staff; and

WHEREAS, the Presbytery of San Diego will now be required to defend this civil matter causing both an interruption in its ministry and the potential of incurring expenses that will further impact the limited resources of the Presbytery; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Presbytery of San Diego hereby creates an Administrative Commission at Fallbrook Presbyterian Church with the power to assume original jurisdiction of the Session. The members of the commission will be appointed by the Moderator of the Presbytery and affirmed by a vote of the Presbytery.

1. The commission is established in accordance with Book of Order G-9.0503a(4). This commission will initially have nine members and shall be composed of ministers of Word and Sacrament and elders in numbers as nearly equal as possible. The Presbytery can act to add or replace members of the Administrative Commission should the need arise but at no time will it function with less than the seven members required by the Book of Order.

2. The commission may assume original jurisdiction to assume the responsibilities of the Session enumerated in Book of Order G-10.0102a through G10-0102s, subject to any Court order limiting jurisdiction **relating to property**. The commission is required to adhere to the provisions of G-9.0505 when determining the necessity to exercise such power, and they are instructed that as a means of settling disputes, the Presbytery of San Diego agrees to covenant with its member churches to try to settle matters of separation and property relationally and pastorally rather than seek out the judgment of the courts in accordance with the spirit of I Corinthians 6:1-11.
3. In anticipation of the resignation of the Pastor, the commission shall have the authority to appoint a Moderator of the Session, pursuant to G-10.0103b.
4. The Presbytery and the session will work with the Administrative Commission in the continuing life and ministry of the church.
5. The commission may make personnel decisions regarding staff. The commission may impose administrative leave on any member of the staff without returning to the Presbytery for additional approval. The commission may not dissolve the called/installed pastoral relationship, without returning to the presbytery for approval.
6. The commission must report monthly to the Presbytery Council and Committee on Ministry and quarterly to the Presbytery of San Diego. These reports will include updates on what has been accomplished and indications of what additional steps will be taken to resolve issues at the church.
7. The commission may request that the Committee on Ministry recommend and provide resources, as necessary.
8. The commission may provide officer training.
9. The commission shall conduct their work in consultation with the Moderator of Presbytery, Executive Presbyter, Stated Clerk, Presbytery Council and Committee on Ministry with the full understanding that none of these parties has a vote with the commission.
10. The commission is empowered to work with the attorneys representing the Presbytery of San Diego in matters of San Diego Superior Court Case #00056477 (Fallbrook Presbyterian Church v Presbytery of San Diego) but not empowered to make final decisions on the disposition of the case if stipulations are negotiated. Final authority over these decisions will be retained by the Presbytery itself.
11. The commission is empowered to work with any attorneys representing the Presbytery of San Diego in matters that may arise as a result of the aforementioned case, including but not limited to, matters between other denominations or matters of common interest with the Presbytery of Sacramento of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
12. Any requests for the expansion of the commission's authority must be brought to the Presbytery at a future date, in accordance with the Book of Order.

The Moderator introduced Rev. Kirk Bottomly, Pastor of Fallbrook Presbyterian Church, and invited him to address the presbytery. He was allowed four minutes for his presentation.

The Moderator informed the Presbytery that the delegation from the Fallbrook Presbyterian Church had requested that one member of their group speak for all of them and that she be given three minutes to speak, rather than the one minute voted earlier by the Presbytery. By consensus, the Presbytery agreed to this change. Elder Judy Sanders addressed the Presbytery.

The Presbytery voted to add the language to the motion shown in bold in item #2 above.

After significant discussion, and the opportunity for any member of Fallbrook Presbyterian Church to speak, the Presbytery VOTED 80/7/1 to approve the motion as amended.

**Presbytery Moderator’s Report:**

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the recommendation of the Presbytery Moderator that the following be affirmed to serve as the Administrative Commission:

Elder Jack Shelver, Chair (Faith)	Rev. Willem Bynagte
Elder Eloise Housman (Solana Beach)	Rev. Dr. Pamela Powell
Elder Carole Ostrander (Westminster Escondido)	Rev. Randy Yenter
Elder Bill Tayler (Christ Rancho La Costa)	Rev. Tom Straeter
Elder David Buck (Village Rancho Santa Fe)	

**Budget Report - Status of the 2008 Presbytery budget:**

Steve Rybicki, Director of Administrative and Mission Services of Presbytery, gave the financial report. He referred to the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Analysis distributed at the meeting. He reported that assuming the Presbytery will receive 100% of assessed per capita and pledged shared mission pledges, a year-end deficit of \$188,000 is projected. He further reported that the audit of 2007 will be completed by the end of 2008.

**Evangelism Committee Report:**

Pastor David Pierson, Chair of the Evangelism Committee of Presbytery presented the following as a first reading of their recommendations with the anticipation that this business will be presented to Presbytery at their stated meeting on September 16, 2008 for a vote:

Background: Beginning in January of 2006 the Evangelism Committee has engaged a discernment process of prayer, consultation, investigation and dialogue about the possibilities of establishing one or more New Church Developments somewhere within the boundaries of the Presbytery of San Diego. After much prayer and discernment, the Committee has focused on development of a new church in the South County that would target the fast-growing second generation Hispanic/Latino population.

After much prayer and discernment the committee has now identified many of the components required to start an initial project. One of the primary issues for this ministry is leadership and they have identified Mr. Marc Pena, an Elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) who is in the process of transferring his church membership from a congregation in Santa Barbara to the Chula Vista Presbyterian Church of San Diego Presbytery. Mr. Pena will seek certification as a

Commissioned Lay Pastor (CLP) in San Diego Presbytery as this ministry is developed. Mr. Pena was a CLP in Santa Barbara, where he successfully established a new church development of that of that presbytery.

The 2005 report “San Diego Presbytery – Long Range Planning Task Force Report” stated several recommendations and recommendation #4 is:

*“We have identified three areas of population growth in San Diego County where there is no PC (USA) presence or strategy to expand the influence of the kingdom: Eastlake/Chula Vista, Torrey Hills/56 Corridor and San Elijo Hills/San Marcos. We believe we need a new vision and strategy for developing new communities of faith to meet the needs of these growing communities.”*

Rev. Pierson also presented an expanded report of this business that was distributed to the Presbytery for information and is attached to these minutes. (Attachments I – IV)

The Presbytery engaged in a time of questions to the Evangelism Committee with the expectation that additional debate about this matter will occur at the September meeting of the Presbytery.

**Adjourn:**

The Presbytery adjourned at 9:00 pm with prayer by the Moderator.

Elder Carole Ostrander, Minute Clerk for  
Elder Linda Therien, Stated Clerk

## **A Missional New Church Development in San Diego?**

*"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

■ Matthew 9:37-38

The Evangelism Committee of Presbytery of San Diego is excited to report the initial steps of a project we anticipate will become a vital multi-ethnic New Church Development known as *Trinity Life Fellowship*.

### **Why Should the Presbytery of San Diego Establish this NCD?**

- Because New Church Development has been part of our presbytery vision since at least the Vision Statement of 2002. It is one of the priorities Evangelism Committee has been instructed to pursue.
- Because the population around us is growing and changing while many of our churches are not growing. The overall impact of Presbyterian worship and witness in San Diego and Imperial Counties has steadily diminished for at least the past decade.
- Because new churches are “the most effective form of evangelism under heaven.”
- Because this is a missional step, an important way of living out our declaration that we are becoming a relational mission agency rather than a regulatory body.
- Because establishing new churches advance “The Great Ends of the Church”. (Book of Order, G-1.0200)

### **Who will be reached? Where?**

Approximately 2 million people live in San Diego County south of Interstate 8. Over 25% of this population is Latino-Hispanic (538,718), making this the fastest growing racial ethnic population. The total Presbyterian witness within the area has evangelized less than 1/10 of 1% of this population.

*“Our goal, within the next 5 years, is to have a church membership of over 200 people that accurately reflects the cultural diversity of South San Diego County. Although the Latino-Hispanic population within the target area exceeds 500,000 it is important to note that a majority of this group (approximately 65-70%) are 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Latinos. They are Latino-Americans that were born, raised and educated in the United States and continue to have strong familial and relational ties with 1<sup>st</sup> generation Latinos. Hence, our mission must have the ability to be multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and trans-generational in scope and focus.*

## **What about Other Opportunities for NCD?**

The Evangelism Committee believes San Diego and Imperial Counties present multiple opportunities for NCD! Our hope and prayer is that this is the first of multiple successful projects by the Presbytery of San Diego and our congregations.

Note: “Vision San Diego” the website of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptists lists no less than 20 New Church projects on their website. With one exception they are all less than 4 years old.

Note: The Christian and Missionary Alliance has successfully planted 15 churches along the I-15 corridor between San Diego and Temecula in the past half decade.

Note: The Presbyterian Church in America is also planting in San Diego, and one of our churches, Faith, hosts the Sunday evening/college worship service of Kaleo, a Church Plant by the Acts 29 Network out of Mars Hill Church in Seattle.

God is giving us abundant opportunity!

## **Who will provide leadership?**

In February of this year **Marc Pena**, a 2008 M.A. candidate at Fuller Theological Seminary contacted Executive Presbyter Clark Cowden seeking partnership with a Presbyterian/reformed entity to develop a new church in San Diego to serve an urban, second generation Latino/Hispanic/multi-ethnic population.

Clark immediately invited the Evangelism Committee to join in conversation, prayer and discernment with Marc concerning his sense of call to plant a new church in the bounds of Presbytery of San Diego. Is this God’s call and God’s timing?

We believe it is! Marc is a gifted and experienced Church Planter. In the 1990s, while serving as a Commissioned Lay Pastor of the Presbytery of Santa Barbara, he spearheaded a successful NCD project which grew from 10 to 300 in five years. He then returned to Fuller Theological Seminary to resume work on his M.A. in Theology.

## **Marc’s work experience demonstrates competency and success as a Church Planter.**

Over the last 20 years Marc has served as a Director of Church Planting in major cities on the east coast, as a discipleship pastor of a medium size congregation (350). As the Assistant Pastor of a large church, Cornerstone San Diego, he oversaw the development of a small group and ministry structure that supported the growth by 1,000 members in 18 months. As a CLP he served as the Organizing

Pastor of New Covenant Presbyterian Church in Santa Maria. By 2004 it had grown to 300 people in worship attendance.

Marc is bi-lingual and understands different cultures, growing up in New York City and Puerto Rico. He received Christ in his late teens and became active in a dynamic, non-denominational Church-planting movement. After moving his family to California he commenced studies at Fuller and connected with leaders in the Presbytery of Santa Barbara while serving as CLP. Marc is a winsome evangelist and a seasoned leader. He is theologically Reformed and PC(USA) by conviction, calling and choice. We believe God has uniquely shaped and equipped Marc for such a time as this.

**The Presbytery Council** meeting on April 8, 2008 approved a motion from Evangelism Committee to submit a New Congregation Grant Application to Synod to help fund Trinity Life Fellowship. We await response from the Synod, as well as seek additional funding.

### **A Timeline of Events to Date:**

**2006:** The Evangelism Committee of Presbytery of San Diego prioritizes prayer for our presbytery to move ahead in three priority areas of Campus Ministry, Church Revitalization and New Church Development.

**2006 - 7:** Prayer continues, E.P. transitions from Andy Smith to Linda Therein to Clark Cowden. During this time Evangelism Committee engages Bill Malick, a national leader in Church Planting, as a consultant to help us identify and implement a successful NCD strategy. At least five possible projects are investigated but for various reasons none come to fruition (at least not in the near term).

**February, 2008** Clark Cowden contacts Evangelism Committee regarding Marc Pena, a student at Fuller Theological Seminary. That month several members of the evangelism committee and Clark Cowden meet with Marc face to face. Marc has already been commuting weekly to San Diego to lead a home Bible Study group on Friday evenings, since November of 2007.

**March:** Marc Pena meets face to face with both the Evangelism Committee and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

**April 8:** Council approves a motion from Evangelism Committee to submit a New Congregation Grant Application to Synod seeking funding for Trinity Life Fellowship.

**May/June:** Marc Pena finishes an M.A. at Fuller and moves his family to San Ysidro. Weekly gatherings for Bible Study begin in the Pena's home.

**June/July:** While General Assembly, summer camps and vacations happen, Marc begins making local contacts and building a network to support the development of a new church.

**July:** Website established for new church: [www.trinitylifechurchsd.com](http://www.trinitylifechurchsd.com), receives 7,000 in first three weeks, 11,000 hits in first month.

**August:** 25 people attend weekly Friday night pot luck dinner and Bible Study, with a goal to reach 50 this fall.

Chula Vista Presbyterian Church receives Marc into membership by transfer from Santa Maria. CVPC also opens Fellowship Hall for Friday evening potluck and Bible Study that has grown Marc's home.

Committee on Ministry begins to consider Commissioned Lay Pastor status for Marc Pena (this may have happened in July?).

**Presently:**

- Core Team we will personally hand out 5,000 invitations during the next 4 weeks.
- Secured a location for Sunday worship services (Swiss Park Club)
- Opening Sunday Worship Service scheduled for September 14

**How will this be paid for?**

- We are working on this.
- Projected offerings from Trinity Life NCD will begin at \$20,000/year and grow to \$110,000 in five years, in support of a budget ranging from \$169,000 to 212,000.
- PSD has submitted a grant application to Synod
- If you have a funding source or ideas please contact Executive Presbyter Clark Cowden at [ClarkCowden@PresbyterySD.org](mailto:ClarkCowden@PresbyterySD.org), or Pastor David Pierson at [pastor@lamesapresbyterian.org](mailto:pastor@lamesapresbyterian.org)