

PRESBYTERY OF SAN DIEGO STATED MEETING – November 17, 2009

The Stated meeting of the Presbytery of San Diego at Oceanside First Presbyterian Church was convened by Pastor Chris Lenocker, Moderator, at 7 p.m. He led the presbytery in prayer. Rev. Dr. Tim Beal, 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>
1	Brawley, First	E. Crews	108	Cheryl Foster
2	Carlsbad, Christ Church of La Costa	D. J. Kelly B. Roth	101 193	Ann Calvert Bob Shuff
3	Chula Vista, Chula Vista	R. Davis M. Pena	101 107	Joan Stroh Cora Gregory
4	Coronado, Graham Memorial	D. H. McElrath (e)	101	Frank Wuerfel Konrad Kerr Langdon Smith
5	El Cajon, First	S. W. Locke	101	Anne Clark Dick Berry
6	El Cajon, Fletcher Hills	K. Womack B. Reed L E. Raines W. C. Manning	101 103 109 109	Patsy Battenfield Bob Battenfield
7	Escondido, Westminster	J. S. Rauch	101	Carole Ostrander Jean Swenk
8	Fallbrook, Fallbrook			
9	La Jolla, La Jolla	P. Cunningham J. Medcalf M. Sedgwick G. Spearman	101 103 103 797	Bobby Foushee Mary Kinyon Bill Nichol Vicki Padula
10	La Jolla, Mt. Soledad	J. Moser E. Piper	101 797	Jane Camerer
11	La Mesa, La Mesa	D. Pierson	101	
12	Lakeside, Community	R. W. Mentze	101	Larry Rega
13	Oceanside, First	T. Beal E. Wilson D. A. Walker	191 103 109	Kay Nelson Jackie Russell Dale Habermann
14	Rancho Santa Fe, Village Community	J. Baca J. K. Farley(e) S. Mitchell D. R. Caughey C. H. Dierenfield	101 103 105 109 109	David Buck Claire Padgett Laura Metzger Bill Brackett Jeanne Pochel
15	San Diego, Christ United	E. Girod G. W. Smith	106 109	Herman Collins
16	San Diego, Faith	C. M. Lenocker J. L. Messervé	101 797	Stu Elder
17	San Diego, First	J. Andrews M. E. Walls (e) L. Riley P. R. Pulliam	101 103 103 109	Marilyn Carnes(e) Peggy Baker Maurice Caskey Rudy Kosits A
18	San Diego, Korean	Y. H. Kang	101	Soon K Chang Kichull Kim

19	San Diego, Linda Vista	I. Farrell H. M. Heath, Jr.	106 109	Stephen Awe
20	San Diego, Mira Mesa	R. Trent	299	Patrick Hubbard
21	San Diego, Northminster	M. Watson N. Landis	101 301	Johana Smith
22	San Diego, Pacific Beach	A. Deuel	101	Jane Kay
23	San Diego, Palisades	H. G. Throop Art Mills	101 404	Barbara Van Meter Ruth Sweet
24	San Diego, Point Loma Community	J. Powell A. Sultz	101 109	Bob Moore Anne Fristrom John Pearson Kristine Zortman(e)
25	San Diego, Rancho Bernardo Community	B. B. Humphrey(e) N. Nybo R. Sparling M. Wasef J P. Lee	101 193 103 103 109	Lois Sheldon Jeanne Pochel Polly Purcifull Bob Newton Cec Chafin(e) Patty Cowen A
26	San Diego, Southeast	H. W. Cooper, Jr.	101	Victor Baker
27	San Diego, Taiwanese Presbyterian Church	Shang Nan Tsai	101	Sam Tsai
28	San Diego, Westminster	T. Wolfe M. Taxer	101 109	Marcy Bergqvist William Hodgkiss
29	Solana Beach, Solana Beach	M. McClenahan B. E. Moller T. D. Theriault J. Kerkhoff J. Lagerstrom J. Espitia P. Taylor (e)	101 103 103 103 107 107 107	Ellen Larson Russ Love Dorothy Griswold Brenda Thompson Gail Steel
30	Spring Valley, Trinity	R. W. Yenter	101	Margy Becker Greg Schwartz
31	Vista, Grace	T. Straeter W. C. Bynagte	101 797	Joe Purser Nancy Tiburski
32	Westmorland, Community	E. Crews(e)	108	Ruth Hoskins

BOLD = Attended Meeting = excused A = Alternate

<u>SPECIAL OFFICES</u>		<u>ECC DESIGNATION</u>
* Executive Presbyter	Clark Cowden	302
* Stated Clerk	Linda Therien	303
* Sudanese-American NCD	P. Lual	301
* Discovery Valley NCD	C. Kohlbry	301
Iglesia Presbiteriana	Efrain Romero	301
Director, Presbyterian Urban Ministries	Roger Christiansen	305

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Rev. Skip Herbert, Presbytery of Sacramento / Presbytery Foundation
 Fred Bentzovsky, San Francisco Theological Seminary
 Rev. Kevin L. Johnson, Chaplain, United States Navy, Redstone Presbytery

INQUIRERS & CANDIDATES

Deb Mitchell, Bethel Seminary, Westminster San Diego
Linda Rice, Fuller Seminary, Mount Soledad

MODERATOR

* **C. M. Lenocker**

VICE-MODERATOR/MODERATOR ELECT

* **Gerry Tayler**

* Owen Wickstrand	Chair, Budget, Property, and Finance Committee
* Anne Clark	Chair, Ecclesiastical Committee
* Eloise Housman	Chair, Committee on Ministry
* Bill Tayler	Chair of the Presbytery Missions Committee
* Nancy Harber	Chair, Human Resources
* Barry Billingsley	Member-at-Large of Council
Steve Rybicki	Director of Administration and Missions Services
Heather Paton	Presbytery Secretary/Receptionist

*= voting member

VISITORS AND GUESTS:

Manuel Barrientos, Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana
Hugo Carbajal, Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana
Luis Pineda, Orange Ave Church
Frank Akins, Orange Ave Church
Malcolm McGawn, Elder, Grace, Vista
William D. Lee, Seminary Student at San Francisco Theological Seminary
Lia O. Hawkes, Southeast Presbyterian Church
Sharen Yankers, Southeast Presbyterian Church
Melba Y. Blona, Southeast Presbyterian Church
Brenea Briggins, Southeast Presbyterian Church
C. Anderson, Southeast Presbyterian Church
Desaree Bland, Southeast Presbyterian Church
A. Warner

OTHER MINISTERS:

R. K. Adams	299	R. P. Goodhart	299	R. J. Myers	105
P. D. Allen	761	J. Hagelanz	299	D. H. Nason	654
H. Allen	797	C. Hammond	299	D. Newhouse	299
R. E. Anderson	299	R. Hayward	299	P. C. Paik	797
K. C. Bealo, Sr.	299	L. A. Henderson	299	P. Powell	797
C. Berry	797	W.W. Hoffmann	299	F. W. Pritchard	299
R. C. Betters	299	C. M. Hong	299	T. R. Respass	299
D. Bidy	299	R. F. Hughes	299	E. Reynolds	645
J. H. Boller, Jr.	299	R. Humphries	299	G. Robertson	797
R. Brown	797	W. L. James	101	J. H. Robertson	299
D. R. Burnight	299	T. A. Jasso	299	D. Satre	791
J. H. Calhoun	299	L. S. Johnson	797	T. M. Simpson	797
J. Chambers	299	T. F. Johnson	299	B. S. Smith	299
H. Christ	309	R. H. Kim	797	D. C. Smith	299
M. Cross Sexton	299	C. Kohlbry	301	M. Smith	761

R. R. Cunningham	299	T. C. Lai	791	W. A. Soldwisch	405
D. A. Davis	299	C. S. Lee	791	G. L. Stewart	299
S. W. DeLong	299	A. Y. Lin	791	W. A. TeSelle	299
A. F. Desterhaft	299	B. E. Lucas	797	L. E. Vick	299
D. R. Edic	299	E. V. Lyons	299	H. S. Vigeveno	299
B. C. Fairchild	299	W. B. Mack	299	A. J. Wartes	299
P. Fisher	797	R. H. Mayo	299	D. Webster	797
V. Ford	299	C. M. Mershon	299	P. Weiler	299
J. D. Freeberg	797	R. L. Miller	299	M. F. Willard, Jr.	299
R. Garton	299			R. T. Williams	299
J. Garza	299			S. E. Wirt	299
				W. G. Wollam	299

Attendance:

Ministers	44
Elders	44
Corresponding	3
Inquirers/Candidates	2
Visitors/Others	13
Total	103

The Moderator introduced Elder Linda Therien, Stated Clerk

Presbytery VOTED to approve the proposed docket.

The Presbytery VOTED to receive and approve the following report of the Stated Clerk:

1. The Stated Clerk reported the following resignations from Presbytery Committees:

Pastor Lee Riley, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Class of 2010
Elder Lola Buie, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Class of 2011

2. The Stated Clerk reported that the Administrative Commission to install Rev. Dr. Jerry Andrews as the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of San Diego has completed their work and has been dismissed with appreciation and thanks.

3. The Stated Clerk reported that the Administrative Commission to install Rev. Dr. Timothy Beal as the Designated Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside has completed their work and has been dismissed with appreciation and thanks.

4. The Stated Clerk reported that the appeal of Dr. Lewis León in Disciplinary Case #A-2008-2 was heard by the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of Southern California & Hawaii on August 29, 2009. They ruled that the Presbytery Permanent Judicial Commission did not err in their decision not to provide counsel for Dr. León in the process. This decision can be appealed to the Permanent Judicial Commission of the General Assembly, however the deadline for an appeal has passed and we have been advised that an appeal has not been filed.

5. The Stated Clerk reported that the Governing Body Relations Committee of the Synod of Southern California & Hawaii has reviewed the 2008 minutes and rolls of presbytery and has found the minutes to have one minor error and one exception. The minor error is that there was no record that the minutes of committees of presbytery were reviewed and the exception was that there was no report of the Committee on Representation. The report of this review was approved by the Synod Assembly on October 31, 2009.

6. The Stated Clerk reported that the transfer of the Rev. Janice Y. Cook to the Charleston- Atlantic Presbytery, retroactive to January 10, 2009, is now complete.
7. The Stated Clerk reported the death of the Rev. Dr. Francis W. Pritchard on September 29, 2009, in La Jolla, California at the age of ninety-seven. Dr. Pritchard became a member of the San Diego Presbytery in 1990.
8. The Stated Clerk reported that the offering received at the September 15, 2009 meeting of presbytery was \$652.00.
9. The Stated Clerk reported that there have been no changes to the *Manual of Operations, Part I*, in 2009 and remains the same as approved in 2005. A copy of this *Manual* is included in the official minutes of Presbytery for 2005.
10. The Stated Clerk reported the receipt of notice from the General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC) that a \$20,000 grant has been awarded to the Presbytery by the GAMC for the purpose of training ministers for preaching/teaching Bible. The grant comes from the 2009 General Assembly Restricted Fund applications.
11. The Stated Clerk reported that the following individuals were elected by the Synod Assembly on October 31, 2009, to serve the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii in 2010:

Rev. Dr. Alan Deuel, Minister Representative Synod Council, Class of 2012
 Elder Bill Tayler, Elder Representative to the Synod Council, Class of 2012
 Elder Rudy Kosits, Elder Representative to Committee on Cross Presbytery Ministries, Class of 2012
 Elder Carole Ostrander, Governing Body Relations Committee, Class of 2012
 Elder Cheryl Foster, Committee on Representation, Class of 2012
 Elder Loreto Remorca, Jr., Nominating Committee, Class of 2012

12. The Stated Clerk acknowledged the presbytery's responsibility to the encouragement, guidance and resource of its member churches (G-11.0103f) and during 2009 has done the following:
 - a. Sponsored a presbytery-wide "Leadership Training Event" in January 2009.
 - b. Sponsored with Presbyterian Global Fellowship, a two-day conference, attended by over three hundred people. The conference was called "Moving Back Into the Neighborhood."
 - c. Supported a presbytery-wide golf tournament as a opportunity for fellowship as well as fund raising.
 - d. Sponsored a "Pastor's Sabbath" as a one-day event.
13. The Stated Clerk reported that the 2008 financial audit is complete. Auditors Leaf & Cole issued a clean audit for the calendar year 2008. Specifically it states:

"In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly in all material respects, the financial position of the Presbytery of San Diego as of December 31, 2008, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."
14. The Stated Clerk reported for the record, the Permanent Judicial Commission members whose terms ended in the past six years and are listed in accordance with *Book of Order* D-5.0102 and D-5.0206b:

Class of 2005 – Rev. Glen Spearman and Rev. Harvey Throop
Class of 2007 - Rev. Robert Davis, Elder Nancy Harber and Elder Fred Jacobs
Class of 2009 – Rev. Dr .Bruce Humphrey and Elder Jeanne Pochel

15. The Stated Clerk reported that pursuant to the *Presbytery Manual of Operations, Part I*, the following will be the corporate officers of the Presbytery of San Diego in 2010, contingent on the vote of the Presbytery to affirm the Chairs of Standing Committees and the Stated Clerk:

President – Council Moderator – Rev. Dr. Chris Lenocker
Vice-President – Council Vice-Moderator – to be named by the Council Moderator
Secretary – Elder Linda Therien, Stated Clerk of Presbytery
Treasurer – Chair of Budget Property & Finance Committee – Elder Owen Wickstrand

These officers will be responsible for oversight of the corporate affairs of the Presbytery and for signing documents on behalf of the corporation in 2010.

16. The Stated Clerk reported that the transfer of Rev. Dr. Jerry Andrews to San Diego Presbytery from the Presbytery of Chicago is complete.
17. The Stated Clerk reported the death on October 31, 2009, of Elder Jeanne Marshall Pritchard, a long-time volunteer with the Presbytery of San Diego and resident of the White Sands. Mrs. Pritchard will be remembered at a memorial service on Sunday, November 22, 2009, at 2 pm at La Jolla Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Pritchard was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Francis Pritchard, who died on September 20, 2009.
18. The Stated Clerk reported that all official correspondence and communications received since the last meeting have been referred to the appropriate governing body, committee, commission or staff in accordance with the *Manual of Operations, Part I*

Elder Linda Therien

Report of the Synod Assembly

REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY OF SAN DIEGO Synod Assembly October 30–31, 2009, Synod of Southern California and Hawaii

David Buck, Maurice Caskey, Rudy Kosits and Carole Ostrander were the elder commissioners; Clark Cowden, Bob Davis, Steve Locke and Art Mills were the minister commissioners. Jack Shelver, Synod Treasurer, also attended. The meeting was held at the St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach.

1. The budget for 2010 was presented and approved. Synod per capita remains unchanged from 2009. Budgeted amounts are:
- Ecclesiastical Budget – \$228K
 - Council Budget – \$490K
 - Committee on Cross Presbytery Ministry (CCPM) Budget – \$112K.

The budget was passed with virtually no discussion other than that which was held in the workshops, a notable first.

2. The Synod voted to provide out of its reserves funding of \$100K per presbytery for each of the next two years. The 2010 budget will be revised to reflect this expense.

3. A motion to form a design team to downsize the synod structure was defeated. A series of related motions then was withdrawn.
4. Reports were received from each presbytery and related corporations.
5. The Nominating Committee made the following nominations for 2009:
 - Moderator, Elder Jane Smith [currently Vice Moderator], Riverside Presbytery
 - Vice-Moderator, Rev. Arthur Ross, Pacific Presbytery
 - From San Diego Presbytery:
 - Rev. Dr. Alan Deuel, Synod Council, 2012
 - Elder Bill Tayler, Synod Council, 2011
 - Elder Rudy Kosits, CCPM, 2012
 - Elder Carole Ostrander, Committee on Governing Body Relations, 2012
 - Elder Cheryl Foster, Committee on Representation, 2012
 - Elder Loreto Remorca, Jr., Nominating Committee, 2012.

They were elected; the moderator and vice moderator were installed during the closing worship service.

Respectfully submitted,
Maurice R. Caskey
Elder Commissioner

Actions of Council being reported to Presbytery

The Presbytery Council met on October 6, 2009 and voted the following:

1. To empower the Administrative Commission for Fallbrook Presbyterian Church to continue the work that needs to be accomplished in order to settle the property ownership issue and further to continue any needed work to conclude the business.
2. To invite General Assembly Moderator, Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow to visit the San Diego Presbytery on March 16, 2010.
3. To ask the Executive Committee of the Council to develop a draft procedure for receiving pastors into presbytery membership in the months the presbytery does not meet.
4. To ask the corporate officers of the Presbytery to review the 2008 audit report.
5. To nominate to Presbytery Pastor Harvey Throop, Palisades Presbyterian Church, to serve as the Chair of the Presbytery Nominating Committee in 2010.
6. To affirm the report of the Stated Clerk Review Committee and their recommendation that Elder Linda Therien be nominated at the November meeting of Presbytery to serve as the Stated Clerk of Presbytery for a three-year term effective January 1, 2010.
7. To approve pre-presbytery meeting plans for November 2009 as well as February and April 2010. The plans are to invite Luis Palau with San Diego City Fest in November, Pastors Jake Medcalf and Paul Cunningham to present information on the progress at the Orange Avenue Church in February and the Rev. Dr. John Stevens, retired Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Colorado Springs in April.

8. To approve the following Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Dr. Tim Beal as the Designated Pastor of Oceanside Presbyterian Church on October 11, 2009.

Elder Gerry Tayler, Moderator, Rancho Santa Fe Village
Elder Anne Clark, El Cajon First
Elder Polly Purcifull, Rancho Bernardo
Rev. Dr. Clark Cowden
Rev. Dr. Chuck Hammond

9. To approve the following Presbytery meeting dates for 2010:

Tuesday – February 16, 2010 – 5 pm – Rancho Santa Fe Village
Tuesday – April 20 2010 – 5 pm – Pacific Beach Presbyterian
Saturday – June 19, 2010 – 9 am – Location TBD
Tuesday – September 21, 2010 – 5 pm – Location TBD
Tuesday – November 16, 2010 – 5 pm – Location TBD

10. To approve the following Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Michael Sedgwick as the Associate Pastor of La Jolla Presbyterian Church on November 8, 2009 at 8:45 am.

Elder Michael Williams, Rancho Santa Fe, Moderator
Elder Linda Therien, Palisades
Elder Lucy DeCorte, La Jolla
Pastor Paul Cunningham
Pastor Glen Spearman

Pastor Bruce Humphrey, Vice-Chair for Elder Elizabeth Crews, Chair

Actions of the Committee on Ministry (COM) being reported to Presbytery

The COM met on September 29, 2009 and took the following actions:

1. Approved the request of the Rev. Jan Cook and the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery that her presbytery membership be transferred to them retroactive to January 10, 2009, in order that she might receive and accept the call to be an Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care at the First Presbyterian Church of Hilton Head South Carolina. The terms of call are as follows:

Salary	\$44,360
Housing	30,000
Study Leave	1,200
Full Board of Pensions participation	
One-time moving costs - \$10,000	
Four weeks vacation & two weeks study leave	

2. Approved the request of the First Presbyterian Church of San Diego and the Rev. Lee Riley that the pastoral relationship between Rev. Riley and First Presbyterian be dissolved effective August 31, 2009. All financial obligations to the parties have been met.
3. Approved the request of Westminster Point Loma that Rev. Dr. Mikel Taxer be named Pastor Emeritus and that this designation be celebrated at the November 2009 stated meeting of the presbytery.

4. Approved the request of the session of the Rancho Santa Fe Village Presbyterian Church that the Interim term of Rev. Scott Mitchell be extended one year or until March 16, 2010.
5. Affirmed a vote taken by Email that the following Administrative Commission be recommended to Presbytery to install the Rev. Dr. Jerry Andrews as the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of San Diego on September 13, 2009 at 5 pm.

Rev. Dr. Chris Lenocker, Moderator
Rev. Dr. Clark Cowden
Rev. Margaret Walls
Elder Brad Baker, San Diego First
Elder Linda Therien, Palisades

The COM met on October 27, 2009 and took the following actions:

1. Voted the request of the Rev. Bill Soldwisch that he be granted the status of Honorably Retired effective May 30, 2010. Additional information: Rev. Soldwisch will conclude his service to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on November 30, 2009, but will not officially retire until May 30, 2010.
2. Approved the request of the Rev. Dr. Pamela Baker Powell that her work at Bethel Seminary be approved and validated, retroactive to August 1, 2008. Her position at the seminary is as the Director of Student Life and Faculty Associate for Pastoral Theology.
3. Concurred in the request of the congregation of La Jolla Presbyterian Church that their Associate Pastor Nominating Committee be dissolved.

Elder Eloise Housman, Chair

Actions of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) being reported to Presbytery

The CPM met on October 13, 2009 and took the following actions:

1. Approved Candidate Juan Daniel Espitia for Final Assessment and approved him to circulate a Personal Information Form (PIF) and seek a call.
2. Approved the report of the annual consultation with Inquirer Deborah Mitchell.

Pastor Margaret Walls, Chair

The following matters from the Stated Clerk, Council, Presbytery Nominating Committee, Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry and Ecclesiastical Committee were voted on consent:

The following reports were voted on consent:

From the Stated Clerk:

1. The minutes of the stated presbytery meeting on September 15, 2009 were approved.

2. The Presbytery concurred with the following recommendations in order to facilitate the smooth transition of presbytery operations from 2009 to 2010:

Authorize the Executive Committee of Council to act for the Council if necessary, in the months Presbytery meets and further recommend suspending Standing Rule in Chapter IV, II.5 of the *Manual of Operations, Part I*, to allow the Council to meet only in the months the Presbytery does not. Additional Info: This has been the practice for the past three years and will be recommended as a permanent change in the *Manual of Operations, Part I* that will be voted in February 2010. The primary task involved in this motion is the approval of the docket of Presbytery meetings in cooperation with the Stated Clerk.

Authorize the Moderator and Vice-Moderator of Presbytery, to begin their service on January 1, 2010 and not be required to wait until after their installation at the February 2010 meeting of Presbytery.

3. The Presbytery concurred in her recommendation that Elder Carole Ostrander of Westminster Escondido Presbyterian Church be confirmed to serve as the Minute Clerk for 2010, contingent on the election of the Stated Clerk for a third term.

Elder Linda Therien

From the Committee on Ministry:

1. That the minimum salary/housing compensation for installed pastors for 2010 be set at \$50,873 which represents no increase over 2009. Additional information: The last increase in this minimum figure was a 2.8% increase from 2008 to 2009.

From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

1. That Brittany Markey, of the First Presbyterian Church in Oceanside be enrolled as an Inquirer.
2. That the Presbytery concur in the recommendation of the committee that the request of Inquirer Rus Kosits of Pacific Beach Presbyterian Church be granted and that he be allowed to transfer his inquiry status to the Presbytery of the Redwoods. The Presbytery of the Redwoods has requested his transfer.

From the Nominating Committee of Presbytery that the following be elected to serve committees of the Presbytery:

Budget Property & Finance Committee

Elder Herman Collins, San Diego Christ United, Class of 2012
Pastor Ed Piper, At-Large, Class of 2012

Evangelism

Elder Jim Lagerstrom, Solana Beach, Class of 2012
Elder Hugo Carbajal, Iglesia, Class of 2012

Human Resources

Pastor Neal Nybo, Solana Beach, Class of 2010
Elder Paul Diller, Pt. Loma Community, Class of 2012
Elder Em Cummins, Pt. Loma Community, Class of 2012

Committee on Ministry

Pastor Art Mills, At-Large, Class of 2012
Elder Nancy Harber, Faith, Class of 2012
Elder Elizabeth Crews, San Diego First, Class of 2012
Pastor Jan Farley, Rancho Santa Fe, Class of 2012
Pastor Will James, Honorably Retired, Class of 2012
Elder Charlie Merrow, Palisades, Class of 2012

Ecclesiastical

Pastor Jerry Andrews, San Diego First, Class of 2011
Elder Ellis Dugger, Palisades, Class of 2012
Elder Rudy Kosits, San Diego First, Class of 2012

Missions

Elder Carole Ostrander, Westminster Escondido, Class of 2012
Elder Christy Zatkin, La Jolla, Class of 2012
Pastor Jake Medcalf, La Jolla, Class of 2012

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Pastor Kevin Womack, Fletcher Hills, Class of 2011
Elder Polly Purcifull, Rancho Bernardo, Class of 2012
Elder Art Michalek, Pt. Loma Community, Class of 2012
Elder Barry Billingsley, Solana Beach, Class of 2010
Elder Eloise Housman, Solana Beach, Class of 2012

Permanent Judicial Commission

Pastor Steve Locke, El Cajon 1st, Class of 2015
Elder Jeanne Pochel, Rancho Bernardo, Class of 2015

Members-at-Large to Council

Pastor Tim Beal, Oceanside, Class of 2011
Elder Paula Taylor, Solana Beach, Class of 2011

Pastor Harvey Throop, Chair

From the Council of Presbytery the Presbytery voted the following:

1. That Elder Marilyn Carnes (San Diego First) and Elder Eloise Housman (Solana Beach) be elected to serve the Presbytery Nominating Committee, Class of 2012.
2. That the Presbytery concur in the recommendation of the Presbytery Council and approve the proposed 2010 budget prepared by the Budget Property & Finance Committee and concur in the recommendation that per capita remain at \$30.00 per member in 2010.

Proposed 2010 Budget
Budget Detail

Per Capita Budget		PSD Budget Classes	Shared Mission Budget		Totals	
Income	Expenses		Income	Expenses	Income	Expense
327,235		Per Capita Income				327,235
		Shared Missions Income	150,000			150,000
		Other Income	10,000			10,000
187,600		Salaries & Benefits		92,400		280,000
13,040		Executive Presbyter		6,960		20,000
7,000		Stated Clerk				7,000
48,000		PSD Administration		48,000		96,000
6,300		COM				6,300
5,000		CPM				5,000
2,400		Communications		2,400		4,800
		Investigative Commission		1,200		1,200
5,000		Administrative Commission				5,000
1,000		BP&F		1,000		2,000
		Human Resources		1,000		1,000
		Council		1,000		1,000
		Evangelism		1,000		1,000
		Mission		2,000		2,000
11,000		Audit				11,000
327,235	286,340	Class Income & Expenses	160,000	156,960		487,235 443,300

Budget Recommendation

Total Budget Income	487,235
Total Budget Expenses	443,300
Less Loss of Income Reserve	43,935
Proposed Operating Budget	487,235

PSD Mission Projects	Designated Income	Expenses	less depr.	Expected Budget
Iglesia	72,864	72,864	10,061	62,803
Presby. Urban Ministry	185,000	185,000	3,539	181,461
Mt. Laguna Retreat Center	7,500	7,500	0	7,500
Sudanese	42,724	42,724	19,120	23,604
Orange Ave-LJPC	18,000	18,000	0	18,000
Trinity Life (NCD)			0	0
Total Missions	326,088	326,088	332,150 32,720	293,368
Total Budget		813,323		780,603

2010 Proposed Budget Budget Narrative

The total proposed budget for 2010 remains the same as the total budget for 2009. We have held our budget at \$487,235. Because of the faithful giving by our member congregations and the conscientious work of our staff to keep expenses in line, we do not need to ask for a budget increase for 2010.

To date, we are 4% (\$11,000) under on income projections, but we are also 12% (\$30,000) under on expenses. We believe this pattern will continue through the end of the year. While we encourage churches to do their best to meet their per capita and mission giving goals, we believe our expenses will remain less than our income, and that we will survive 2009 in decent shape.

Because we are not asking for an increase in the total budget, we are also not asking for an increase in per capita. We are proposing to keep per capita at \$30 per member. The breakdown would be the same as 2009, which is that the presbytery portion would be \$21.36, the synod portion would be \$2.60, and the GA portion would be \$6.04. Here is a summary of the proposed changes for the 2010 budget:

1. Salaries and Benefits are reduced from \$293,042 to \$280,000, for a net savings of \$13,042. Even with a slight salary increase recommended by our Human Resources committee, this is possible because of reductions in work hours at two of our positions.
2. Because 2010 is a General Assembly year, we have added about \$5,000 to cover the costs for our delegation to attend and participate in the meeting. This is included in the Stated Clerk's line item. The Stated Clerk will not be spending additional money. This is simply the cost of sending people to the biennial meeting.
3. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry budget has been increased by \$1,400 to cover the costs of additional psychological evaluations for our candidates. Because we have so many inquirers and candidates under care (which is great!), we have to do more psychological evaluations, which are a required step in the process. The presbytery pays 1/2 of the expense and the inquirer's session pays 1/2 of the expense. This is an important part of preparing strong candidates for ministry leadership.
4. Our Communications expenses are decreasing by \$1400 because of cost savings by switching to a new webmaster and webhosting company.
5. Most committee expenses are being held at the same level as 2009.
6. The costs for the professional outside audit are increasing by \$3,000. This is simply to bring our budgeted amount in line with what we are actually paying.

We are proposing to keep the "Loss of Income Reserve" in the budget. This is money that we believe may be needed for ongoing legal expenses. We are hoping that we will not need this whole amount, but we know that we will need something. We want to be prudent and plan with foresight, so that we don't come up short. In terms of the budgeted amounts for the specific missions of the presbytery:

1. Iglesia's budget has been adjusted from \$98,850 to \$72,864. This is to more accurately reflect the actual amount of the income coming in from the Iglesia people, as well as the remainder of the fund reserve that is available to them.
2. The Presbyterian Urban Ministry (PUM) budget is increased from \$185,000 to \$200,000. This will pay to increase the staff from 35 hours per week to 40 hours per week, so that they have more time to assist the increased number of clients they are serving. This can be covered through their reserve account and their ongoing fundraising efforts.

3. The Mt. Laguna Retreat Center budget is reduced from \$7500 to \$4800 to match the amount of giving that comes in for them.
4. The expenses of the Sudanese/Orange Ave. property and ministries are increasing by \$2724. This small increase can be covered through the donations that are received.

Your Budget, Property, and Finance committee has worked hard this past year to steer our way through our challenging economy. We have been working hard, as we know your congregations have been, as well. We believe this budget is prudent and feasible. We believe that it is realistic and achievable. We are confident that this budget is a good stewardship of the resources with which God has entrusted to us. We encourage you to approve it, so that we can move forward in the mission of God in our region in 2010. Thank you.

3. That the proposed changes to the *Manual of Operations, Part I*, as presented to the Presbytery in September 2009, be incorporated into a more comprehensive rewrite of the *Manual* being done by the Ecclesiastical Committee of Presbytery. This will be a first reading with a vote on the new *Manual* taken in February 2010.

Pastor Bruce Humphrey, Vice-Chair for Elder Elizabeth Crews, Chair

Business for Presentation and/or Action on the Floor

The Presbytery Nominating Committee recommended and Presbytery VOTED the following:

1. That the following be elected to serve the Presbytery as Moderator and Vice-Moderator/Moderator Elect in 2010:

Elder Gerry Tayler, Moderator
Rev. Paul Cunningham, Vice-Moderator

The following is a brief bio of Rev. Cunningham:

Rev. Paul Cunningham was ordained to the office of Minister of Word & Sacrament in June 1994 by Palo Duro Presbytery. He graduated with a BS in Finance from Santa Clara University in 1988 and an MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1994. He is currently working on his Doctor of Ministry through the Reformed Theological Seminary.

Paul has served two churches prior to being called to be the Pastor of the La Jolla Presbyterian Church in August 2006. He served as the Moderator of the Worship Committee and Mission Committee and member of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry in Palo Duro Presbytery as well as on the Board of Directors of Knox Fellowship for five years. In San Diego, Paul served as a member of the Task Force on the Way Forward.

2. That the following be elected to serve as the Chair of their respective Committee in 2010:

Elder Owen Wickstrand, Budget Property & Finance
Pastor Scott Mitchell, Evangelism
Elder Paul Diller, Human Resources
Pastor Randy Yenter, Committee on Ministry

Pastor Margaret Walls, Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Pastor Jerry Andrews, Ecclesiastical
Pastor Jake Medcalf, Missions

3. That the following names be placed in nomination to serve as commissioners and alternates and as the Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the General Assembly in 2010.

Elder Gerry Tayler, Rancho Santa Fe Village (2010 Presbytery Moderator)
Elder Eloise Housman, Solana Beach
Alternate: Elder Pat Kellenbarger, Solana Beach

Pastor Tim Beal, First Oceanside
Pastor Bob Davis, Chula Vista
Alternate: Pastor Jerry Andrews, San Diego First

Young Adult Advisory Delegate: Ryan Johnson, Palisades

Additional Information: The Nominating Committee of Presbytery received nominations from individuals and churches for these positions. They reviewed those nominated and now nominate to the Presbytery the slate of names listed above. Nominations are open today and will remain open until the February 2010 meeting of Presbytery.

The Standing Rules of the Presbytery provide for the Moderator of Presbytery to attend the General Assembly at the expense of the Presbytery if not sent as a commissioner.

Pastor Harvey Throop, Chair

The Presbytery Council recommended and Presbytery voted the following:

1. That Pastor Harvey Throop, be elected to Chair the Presbytery Nominating Committee in 2010.

Pastor Bruce Humphrey for Elder Elizabeth Crews, Chair

The Report the Administrative Commission (AC) for Fallbrook:

Actions & Activities since the last report to Presbytery on September, 15, 2009

- Reported to the Presbytery Council on September 29, 2009.
- Motion for Summary Judgment – Hearings on October 9, and October 16, 2009
- Judge Maas issued Minute Order (Decision and basis for Decision) October 20, 2009
- Report to Committee on Ministry - October 27, 2009
- The AC Fallbrook Session met to discuss the decision of the Court, and probable short term actions on the part of the Presbytery - November 11, 2009

Although the judge has announced his decision in the Minute Order he has not yet signed his formal order that details the impact of his decision. We expect that formal order to be signed and issued any day soon. In his Minute Order the motion for summary judgment was granted.

The Attorney for Fallbrook (in an e-mail to our attorney) and the Fallbrook Session (in a message to the congregation) have said that they plan to appeal the Superior Court decision to the Fourth District Court of Appeals. All attorneys involved have independently estimated that an appeal may take 12 to 14 months to conclude.

The Presbytery VOTED on recommendation of the AC the following:

A) That the Presbytery support the short term strategy of the Administrative Commission outlined above; and

B) That the Presbytery authorize the Presbytery Treasurer to sign a term rental agreement with Fallbrook Presbyterian Church as directed by the AC, and;

C) That the Presbytery authorize the Administrative Commission to exercise discretion to negotiate a long-term solution to the disposition of the Fallbrook property for recommendation to the Presbytery that could include but not be limited to the:

- Shared use of the campus
- Selling our interest in the property to the Fallbrook congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
- Selling the property to another party:
- Inviting the Fallbrook Evangelical Presbyterian Church congregation to vacate the property to enable the Presbytery to plant a new Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation on the site.
- Sell a portion of the property to support one or another of the options noted above.

The final actions will be brought back to Presbytery for approval.

Presbytery VOTED to accept the report and to authorize action items requested by the Administrative Commission.

Elder Jack Shelver, Chair

The Committee on Ministry recommended and Presbytery voted the following:

1. To recognize Rev. Dr. Mikel Taxer as Pastor Emeritus.
2. That an Administrative Commission be established for the Southeast Community Presbyterian Church. The complete rationale, background information, motion and charge is as follows. Presbytery voted 52 - 48 in favor of establishing the Administrative Commission.

Presbytery of San Diego
Administrative Commission
Southeast Community Presbyterian Church

November 17, 2009

WHEREAS the *Committee on Ministry* has been engaged in various stages of intervention with the session and pastor for the past several years; and

WHEREAS the church has been unable to maintain financial stability or financial controls and reporting does not seem to be evident or adequate; and

WHEREAS the church has been delinquent with their responsibilities to the Presbyterian Board of Pensions, including failure to report changes in compensation to the Pastor; and

WHEREAS the church is not responsive to requests for information made by the Office of the Stated Clerk; and

WHEREAS the church is not responsive to inquiries made by the Committee on Ministry; and

WHEREAS the church has not maintained adequate rolls and records of the church as required by our polity, an issue that was specifically addressed by Presbytery in November 2002; and

WHEREAS the church rolls and registers now appear to be current but were not kept current for over five years; and

WHEREAS the church has not had an annual audit in several years, only recently completing an internal audit of current finances; and

WHEREAS the church has not sent representation to the Presbytery in recent years; and

WHEREAS the church has not completed or submitted the required annual report of church statistics with the Office of the General Assembly, and intervention from the Presbytery Office was required to complete even a minimal report that was not filed timely; and

WHEREAS the church is unable to adequately support the Pastor financially; and

WHEREAS it appears the church is facing some of the same issues that were addressed by a previous Administrative Commission that reported in November 2002 and was dissolved; and

WHEREAS the church appears to not be able to sustain itself financially; and

WHEREAS *Book of Order G-9.0503.a(4)* authorizes a presbytery to create an Administrative Commission “to visit particular churches, governing bodies, or other organizations of the church reported to be affected with disorder, and to inquire into and settle the difficulties therein, except that no commission shall have the power to dissolve a pastoral relationship unless such power has been specifically delegated to it by the appointing body;

NOW THEREFORE, the Presbytery of San Diego hereby creates an Administrative Commission with the power to assume original jurisdiction of the Southeast Community Presbyterian Church of San Diego.

1. The commission is established in accordance with *Book of Order G-9.0503.a(4)*. The commission will initially have seven members and shall be composed of ministers of Word and Sacrament and elder in numbers as nearly equal as possible. The Presbytery can act to add or replace members of the Administrative Commission should the need arise.
2. The commission will have the following powers and authority as described in Chapter X of the Book of Order and will exercise said authority should it be determined that original jurisdiction is necessary. Specifically G-10.0102.a through G-10.0102.s as follows:
 - a. to provide opportunities for evangelism to be learned and practiced in and by the church, that members may be better equipped to articulate their faith, to witness in word and deed to the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and to invite persons into a new life in Christ, in accordance with G-3.0300;
 - b. to receive members into the church upon profession of faith, upon reaffirmation of faith in Jesus Christ, or upon satisfactory certification of transfer of church membership, provided that membership shall not be denied any person because of race, economic or social circumstances, or any other reason not related to profession of faith;
 - c. to lead the congregation in participation in the mission of the whole Church in the world, in accordance with G-3.0000;
 - d. to provide for the worship of the people of God, including the preaching of the Word, the sharing of the Sacraments, and for the music program, in keeping with the principles in the Director for Worship, and to appeal to the presbytery for a duly trained and authorized elder under the

provisions of G-11.0103 in those extenuating circumstances where an ordained minister of the Word and Sacrament is not available to meet the needs for the administration of the Lord's Supper;

- e. to provide for the growth of its members and for their equipment for ministry through personal and pastoral care, educational programs including the church school, sharing in fellowship and mutual support, and opportunities for witness and service in the world;
- f. to develop and supervise the church school and the educational program of the church;
- g. to lead the congregation in ministries of personal and social healing and reconciliation in the communities in which the church lives and bears its witness;
- h. to challenge the people of God with the privilege of responsible Christian stewardship of money and time and talents, developing effective ways for encouraging and gathering the offerings of the people and assuring that all offerings are distributed to the objects toward which they were contributed;
- i. to establish the annual budget, determine the distribution of the church's benevolences, and order offerings for Christian purposes, providing full information to the congregation of its decision in such matters;
- j. to lead the congregation continually to discover what God is doing in the world and to plan for change, renewal, and reformation under the Word of God;
- k. to engage in a process for education and mutual growth of the members of the session;
- l. to instruct examine, ordain, install and welcome into common ministry elders and deacons on their election by the congregation and to inquire into the faithfulness in fulfilling their responsibilities;
- m. to delegate and to supervise the work of the board of deacons and the board of trustees and all other organizations and task forces within the congregation, providing for support, report, review, and control;
- n. to provide for the administration of the program of the church, including employment of non-ordained staff, with concern for equal employment opportunity, fair employment practices, personnel policies, and the annual review of the adequacy of compensation for all staff, including all employees;
- o. to provide for the management of the property of the church, including determination of the appropriate use of church buildings and facilities, and to obtain property and liability insurance coverage to protect the facilities, programs, and officers, including members of the session, staff, board of trustees, and deacons;
- p. to maintain regular and continuing relationship to the higher governing bodies of the church, including
 - (1) electing commissioners to presbytery and receiving their reports; sessions are encouraged to elect commissioners to the presbytery for at least one year, preferably two or three;
 - (2) nominating to presbytery elders who may be considered for election to synod or General Assembly;
 - (3) in both the above responsibilities, implementing the principles of participation and inclusiveness to ensure fair representation in the decision making of the church;
 - (4) observing and carrying out the instructions of the higher governing bodies consistent with the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*;
 - (5) welcoming representatives of the presbytery on the occasions of their visits;
 - (6) proposing to the presbytery and, through it, to the synod and the General Assembly such measures as may be of common concern to the mission of the whole church;
 - (7) sending annually to the stated clerk of the presbytery statistical and other information according to the requirements of the presbytery.
- q. to establish and maintain those ecumenical relationships necessary for the life and mission of the church in its locality;
- r. to serve in judicial matters in accordance with the Rules of Discipline;

- s. to keep an accurate roll of the membership of the church, in accordance with G-10.0302, and to grant certificates of transfer to other churches, which when issues for parents shall include the names of their children specifying whether they have been baptized, and which when issues for an elder or deacon shall include the record of ordination.
3. The Presbytery and the session will work with the Administrative Commission in the continuing life and ministry of the church.
4. The commission may make personnel decisions regarding staff. The commission may impose administrative leave on any member of the staff, ordained or not ordained, 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.
5. The commission may replace the session, including the Clerk, should they determine it would be in the best interest of the whole church
6. The commission must report at least quarterly to the Presbytery of San Diego.
7. The commission may request that the Committee on Ministry recommend and provide resources, as necessary.
8. The commission will consider the need for officer training.
9. 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.

Elder Eloise Housman, Chair

Recognition of Rev. Bill Soldwisch

Rev. Bill Soldwisch was recognized for his twenty-five years of service to the Pueblos Hermanos Presbyterian Border Ministry in Tijuana, Mexico of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and was granted the status of Honorably Retired. Pastor Soldwisch was joined by his wife Susan and their family as well as others from the mission project. Pastor Soldwisch was presented a certificate of Honorable Retirement and the Presbytery joined in prayer for his future in retirement. Rev. Soldwisch addressed the presbytery and shared that some of his time in retirement will be spent travelling between the United States and the Phillipines.

The Stated Clerk Review Committee recommended and Presbytery VOTED the following:

That Elder Linda Therien be elected to serve a third three-year term as the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery effective January 1, 2010. Presbytery voted unanimously to elect Elder Linda Therien as Stated Clerk.

The following is the full report of the committee:

October 6, 2009

Report of the Stated Clerk (SC) Review Committee (SCRC)

On June 16, the committee elected for the review of the SC was conducted in the library of the Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church. On August 20 the SCRC conducted interviews with EP Clark Cowden and Linda Therien at the Presbytery office.

In Attendance: Elder Maurice Caskey, First Presbyterian San Diego, Pastor Jan Farley, Village Church, Pastor Ed Girod Christ United, Pastor Steve Locke, First El Cajon, and Elder Bill Tayler, Village Church.

Pastor Jan Farley was elected to serve as Chair for the SCRC. Pastor Steve Locke was excused from the August 20 meeting.

The Human Resource Committee representative, Pastor Ed Girod, reported that a review on Ms Therien had been conducted. The committee represented spoke with Linda as to her desire to remain on staff as SC. She stated her desire to remain as SC as it is currently defined in the job description, *i.e.*, as part-time (32 hours per week). The HR also spoke with over a dozen people and asked for their review of her performance in the SC role. The interviewees included Presbytery's Moderator, Vice Moderator, Chair of Council and chairs of committees. It was noted that all gave stellar reviews and expressed their appreciation for Ms Therien and her competence in this role.

The SCRC also met with Executive Presbyter Clark Cowden and Stated Clerk Linda Therien separately. The Rev. Dr Cowden stated his appreciation for Ms Therien's work and professionalism and thought they got along well. Ms. Therien also expressed her ease in working with Mr. Cowden and shared insights into her own strengths and weaknesses in serving as SC.

The SCRC evaluated Ms Therien's performance for each of the duties set forth in the Presbytery Manual, Chapter 2, "Officers of the Presbytery." The committee found her performance to be outstanding for each of the required duties. Those on the committee also stated their own personal experience in interfacing with Ms Therien and noted that she has always acted professionally and helpfully, especially during the interim time when our presbytery was without an EP. Her friendly manner and theological balance helps in her working with members of this presbytery and beyond.

Recommendation per the Presbytery Manual, Chapter 2, section II, "Mode of Election, Terms and Duties," paragraph B, 4.b: In appreciation and praise of the stellar work that Linda Therien, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of San Diego, the SCRC recommended that Ms. Therien continue in the office of Stated Clerk. The SCRC also recommended that she be nominated for another three-year term as Stated Clerk in the November Presbytery meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stated Clerk Review Committee
Elder Bill Tayler for Pastor Jan Farley, Chair

Report of the Ecclesiastical Committee

1. The Ecclesiastical Committee presented the third revision of the *Manual of Operations, Part I*, as a first reading with the expectation that this revision will be voted at the stated meeting of Presbytery in February 2010. Copies of this proposed *Manual* were available at the registration table and can be found on-line on the "meetings" page.

Additional information: This rewrite does not change in any substantial way how the Presbytery conducts business. The changes do however better reflect how business is actually being done at the present time.

- The Presbytery Nominating Committee is reduced from twelve to nine
- The Presbytery Missions Committee is reduced from twelve to nine
- The Presbytery Stated Meeting dates are changed to the third Tuesday or third Saturday of February, April, June, September and November from the second Tuesday of January, March, May or June, September and November
- Updates to *Book of Order* references are included
- Updates lists of Ministry Teams in existence
- Amends language to allow individuals to serve two presbytery committees simultaneously where previous language was unclear

- Adds language to allow electronic voting
- Clarifies process to submit overtures to General Assembly
- Adds language to allow volunteers to be covered by the provisions of the California Labor Code

2. That the following overtures, received from the session of Grace Presbyterian Church in Vista, be introduced today and presented for discussion and vote of the Presbytery at the stated meeting in February 2010. The committee encourages each session to study these proposals.

#1 An Overture Concerning the Number Of General Assembly Commissioners

The Presbytery of San Diego overtures the 219th General Assembly (2010) to replace G-13.0102b with the following language: “When the General Assembly meets biennially, it shall consist of equal numbers of elders and ministers from each presbytery, in the following proportion: each presbytery consisting of not more than 15,000 members shall elect one elder and one minister. Presbyteries consisting of more than 15,000 members shall elect one additional elder and one additional minister for each additional 15,000 members, so that:

Presbyteries of 15,001 to 30,000 members shall elect 2 elders and 2 ministers;
 Presbyteries of 30,001 to 45,000 members shall elect 3 elders and 3 ministers;
 Presbyteries of 45,001 or more members shall elect 4 elders and 4 ministers.

Rationale: When the General Assembly voted to move from annual assemblies to biennial assemblies, one of the reasons given to make the change was to save the denomination money. However, the move to biennial assemblies was also accompanied by an increase in the number of commissioners. The extra expense in paying for these additional commissioners meant that no financial savings were ever realized. The promise of reducing expenses never materialized. In the economy in which we live, we must continually look for ways to save money. While it may be nice to have extra commissioners, we can no

longer afford this unnecessary luxury. It is time to return to the original, yet never realized, promise. As the income of the church continues to decline, we must look to reduce costs in unnecessary areas, so that funds can be directed toward more necessary areas. Because we live in the worst economy since the Great Depression, it is time to return to a leaner number of commissioners.

#2 An Overture Concerning the Responsibilities of the General Assembly

The Presbytery of San Diego overtures the 219th General Assembly (2010) to eliminate G-13.0103q, which says that the General Assembly has the responsibility and power “to decide controversies brought before it and to give advice and instruction in cases submitted to it, in conformity with the Constitution.”

Rationale: G-13.0103 lists twenty-four responsibilities of the General Assembly. One of these responsibilities, letter “q”, has become overly dominant and has expanded way beyond the intent of the Constitution. Most General Assemblies spend an inordinate amount of time on trying to decide controversies, and not enough time on its more important responsibilities, such as Setting priorities for the work of the church in accordance the church’s mission under Christ and developing overall objectives for mission.

Our General Assembly process, procedures, and responsibilities are in need of reform. More and more commissioners return from the Assembly experience frustrated, confused, and unfulfilled. The General Assembly can no longer successfully decide controversies that are brought before it. In fact, in its attempts to decide controversies, the Assembly often creates more or bigger controversies. This drives

members and congregations farther away from the national church, in a time where more and closer connections are needed.

As a part of the necessary reform of the General Assembly process and procedures, it is time for the Assembly to shift its time and energy to more important matters. What congregations need now are not more and more ill-fated and unsuccessful attempts to decide controversies, but a body that will study scripture together, pray together, seek the will of God and the mind of Christ together. We need an Assembly that focuses on theology, relationships, and mission. It is time to begin shifting to a new and more fulfilling paradigm of a national assembly. One key step in this process is the elimination of G-13.0103q.

#3 An Overture Regarding Amending the Book of Order

The Presbytery of San Diego overtures the 219th General Assembly (2010) to amend G-18.0301c by adding **two-thirds vote**, so the new sentence would read “Proposed amendments must be approved by a **two-thirds vote** by the General Assembly..., and to amend G-18.0301d by adding **two-thirds**, so the new sentence would read “When the Stated Clerk has received written advice that a proposed amendment to the *Book of Order* has received the affirmative votes of **two-thirds** of the presbyteries...”

Rationale: Many of the controversial issues in the denomination today are being “decided” by very close votes, which while they may gain a little more than a majority, certainly do not indicate that a consensus, or a broad section of the church is in favor. On issues where emotions run hot, moving forward with a slight majority can do more harm than good. There are some issues that unless they have the support of a larger majority of the church, will end up splitting and dividing the church.

Many presbyteries across the denomination get increasingly frustrated and irritated with a General Assembly process that allows issues to continue to be sent to the presbyteries for repeated votes by a slim majority, only to see them get voted down again and again at the local level. A simple solution to the problem is that changes to the Book of Order would not be sent to presbyteries unless the Assembly approved them with a two-thirds vote. We already require a two-thirds vote on amending the Book of Confessions. It is time we require a two-thirds vote on amending the Book of Order, as well. Instead of having a majority vote for one part of the Constitution and a two-thirds vote for another part of the Constitution, it is time to make both amendment processes equal, and require a two-thirds vote for both parts.

Elder Anne Clark, Chair

Adjournment

There was no unfinished or new business. Presbytery adjourned at 7:55 p.m. with prayer by the Moderator.

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