**Mission Presbytery MInutes**

**Stated Meeting on June 19, 202 via Zoom**

Moderator RE Carlos Baladez called the stated meeting of Mission Presbytery to order at 9:00 AM. A quorum was present, and Carlos opened the meeting with prayer.

The Moderator gave instructions about voting on Zoom.

The Moderator and the Moderator-Elect, Rev. Nancy McCranie, presented the rationale for holding the meeting on June 19, Juneteenth. Then the presbytery worshiped together, including the celebration of the Lord’s Table. The Rev. Dr. Peter Jeong, First Korean PC, San Antonio, preached the sermon.

**Stated Clerk’s Report, Rev. Laurie Palmer**

The Stated Clerk called attention to the written report in the packet and brought three pieces of business for presbytery’s action:

1. That the Rev. Allen Mosiman be elected to fill a vacancy on the Administrative Commission for Port Aransas. This was moved, seconded, and approved.
2. That the Rev. Kathy Escandell and RE Albino Garza be added to the Rio Grande Valley Evangelist’s Administrative Commission. This was approved. Ezequiel Herrara is our RGV Evangelist.
3. That the excused absences for this meeting be approved. Seeing no objections from the presbytery, the Moderator declared this approved.

**General Presbyter’s Report, Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson**

Good morning, friends! So we’ve been at these virtual meetings for fifteen months now - and it looks like, God willing, this may be the last totally virtual one.

Just like you and your congregation, we have learned so much during this time. Mainly, we’ve learned that no staff is an island. No one of us could have pulled this off on our own. It has taken almost our entire staff to do all the behind-the-scenes things that you’re not usually able to see: registrations, check-ins, script preparation, spotlighting, power points, Zoom templates, and other vocabulary we didn’t have fifteen months ago. They work so hard at making it go smoothly, and all I have to do is show up! I’d like to take a minute this morning and ask that you join me in saying thank you to this fabulous staff that you and I get to work with: Melody Gonzales, Laurie Palmer, Ed Sackett, Caitlin Supcoff. Without the help of these three, your meeting would not look nearly as good.

We’ve learned that no staff is an island, as I’m sure you’ve learned too. And, as I’m sure you’ve learned too, we’ve learned that all the Zooming and YouTube-ing and virtual meeting kinds of things have brought on a whole new kind of weary. As much as we’ve all joked about being able to work barefoot from home or dress casually from the desktop down, as great as it has been to actually see each other while we’ve had to be in isolation, it seems to require a whole ‘nother level of focus.

Some of my friends say that the mind can only endure as much Zoom as the posterior can tolerate! Maybe. I think the biggest thing behind the fatigue, at least for me, is the loss of energy and spark that’s generated when two human beings begin to exchange ideas. We need to be in the same room. We need to gather around the coffee pot in the hallway. We just need to be together.

But you know, fatigue can sometimes be a symptom of grief. We have a low-level awareness every day not just of the things we’ve learned, but the things that we’ve lost. And in some cases, we are all too aware that some of those people we met with around the coffee pot won’t be there when we come back together. All of us are trying our best, and most of us feel like it’s never quite enough. I think that we could get so much further down the road if we would just stop and remember that everyone you see - your neighbors, your pastors, your parishioners, your session, strangers, refugees, civil servants of all stripes, the person who bumps into your cart at HEB - ***everyone*** is tired, and grieving, and trying their best to get through this. Just like you are.

Now, many of us have come back together for Sunday worship. Many others are having hybrid worship, figuring out how to offer worship virtually AND in person. We are planning to do the same thing for our meeting in October. And let me tell you, the next lesson that we are learning along with you is that coming back out of a pandemic is a lot harder than shutting down to go into one.

We can figure out how to stop things. But where’s the manual for starting back up? Especially when we’re getting mixed signals from coast to coast about what to do, and when. Do we spend thousands of dollars on video equipment, or do we put our cell phones on a music stand and go? How can we ensure that everyone gets seen and heard? I think the manual is still being written on this, friends. We know that things are different and are going to continue to be more different still, but we still don’t know what it’s going to look like. Once it is over, we will probably look back and smack our foreheads and wonder why we worried so much about this or that. But for now, we just have to figure out the next right step.

So, what have we learned? No one - no staff, no congregation - is an island. We are all worn out from what we’ve been through, and grieving the things that we’ve lost. We’ve learned that figuring out how to come back together is a lot harder than figuring out how to shut down. But I hope that we have also re-learned something very important: that the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit abide with us always.

That’s what gets us out of bed every morning, and what helps us go to sleep every night. Even in circumstances like these, God’s love for us is new every morning. And God’s providence, God’s provide-ence, gives us everything we need to continue forward together, and to reach out to neighbor and stranger to share God’s abundance. I’m so grateful for God’s presence in your life and mine, and I’m so grateful to be on this journey with you.

**General Council Report, Rev. Dr. Stacy Ikard, Chair**

Rev. Ikard called attention to the written report in the packet and brought motions for presbytery’s action:

1. General Council moves to make the Disaster Preparedness and Assistance Committee (DPAC) an official committee of Mission Presbytery. The motion passed.
2. General Council moves to update the Manual of Operations to include DPAC.

The motion passed.

1. General Council approved the Sabbatical Leave Policy for presbytery staff written by the Human Resources Committee. In turn, General Council moves that presbytery also approve the policy. The motion passed.

Rev. Ikard introduced RE Fred Gamble, Chair of Fiscal Oversight, to give the financial report. The financial report is in the meeting packet. Fred announced good news, that Mission Presbytery is in good financial shape. He thanked the churches for their commitment to the work and mission of the presbytery.

**Commission on Ministry Report, Rev. Monica Smith, Chair**

**For Presbytery action:**

1. Rev. Smith introduced RE Dan Bautista for examination for commissioning to the role of hospice chaplain. The Book of Order allows this. COM validated the position and approved his commissioning in the role, pending COM’s examination and presbytery’s examination. The Book of Order requires (G-2.1002) that the presbytery examine in the areas of personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and the areas of instruction determined by the presbytery. Rev Smith asked the first question: “Please describe the role of grace in salvation.” The Moderator opened the floor for questions. Once the examination was finished, Rev. Smith moved on behalf of COM that Dan Bautista’s examination be sustained and that he be commissioned as a hospice chaplain. The motion passed. Rev. Smith offered a prayer.
2. Examination of Julia Giddings for ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Ms. Giddings is a Clinical Pastoral Education educator at Baptist Health Systems, San Antonio. Rev. Smith asked the first question: How do we know that God is with us when we suffer? After answering, the Moderator opened the floor for questions. Once the examination was finished, Rev. Smith moved on behalf of the COM that Julia Giddings’ examination be sustained and she be enrolled, pending ordination, as a member of Mission Presbytery. The motion passed. Rev. Smith offered a prayer.
3. COM moves that an Administrative Commission be elected for the purpose of walking alongside Betania Presbyterian Church, McAllen, to evaluate their administrative processes and bring them into alignment with the PCUSA Book of Order and recommended practices for administrative processes.

The Administrative Commission’s duties shall include but shall not be limited to:

A. Inquiring into the current status of membership and all finances, as well as administrative processes.

B. Assuming original jurisdiction of the Session, if needed.

C. Ascertaining what legal recourses may be required, if needed.

D. Recommending to the presbytery a plan for the property, if needed.

Named to the Administrative Commission: Rev. Joel Martinez, Primera PC, Brownsville; Rev. Eric Dittman, FPC, Mission; RE Mary Pechezi, Gethsemane PC, San Benito; RE Bertha Morado, Gethsemane PC, San Benito.

Presbytery approved the motion.

**Actions taken by the COM on behalf of Mission Presbytery:**

**Approved the following Terms of Call and Contracts**:

Kathy Anderson and El Divino Salvador PC, CC, Stated Supply: 16 hours per week

Salary $13,800

Manse value   12,000 (church pays all utilities)

Continuing Ed/Books      500

Profession Expenses      500

Carol Clarke and St Andrew, Marble Falls, for sabbatical coverage

12 weeks, beginning May 24, 2021; Salary and Housing $8000

Commissioned Pastor Irene Jimenez and Everlasting Hope PC, Taylor; for 2021, 20 hours/week  
 $100/Sunday

Reimbursed Expenses  $300

Continuing Ed       300

Commissioned Pastor Bruce Goodlock and Six Mile PC, 01/01/2021-12/31/2021

Lead worship 26 times a year; $100/Sunday

Commissioned Pastor Rafael Dominguez and Sinai, 11/20/2020-11/20/2021, 30 hours/week

Lead worship 52 Sundays a year

Salary $25,440

Auto       300

Cont Ed       400

TE Bryan Stamper and San Pedro PC, San Antonio, installed FT

Salary $36,639

Housing   23,751

BOP   22,344

½ SECA     4,696

Auto     1,000

Professional     2,400

Study Leave               2,600

Other                            2,350

Moving expenses up to $10,000

TE Bill Clark, Pastor and Westminster, Austin, installed FT

Salary $52,403

Housing   55,414

BOP   39,892

Self-Employment Tax  8,931

Professional     4,000

TE Ellen Williams Hensle, Associate Pastor, Westminster, Austin, installed FT

Salary   25,300

Housing   31,156

BOP   20,519

Self-Employment Tax    4,594

Professional       3,000

TE Charlotte Trafton, Minister for Children and Families, Westminster, Austin, installed PT

Salary 0

Housing     25,971

BOP                   2,597

Self-Employment Tax      2,152

Professional       1,875

TE Carl McCauley and New Braunfels PC for leave of absence coverage.

Lead worship from May 2-June 6, 2021, moderate the session and congregational meetings; 10-15 hours per week. Compensation--Worship: $200 plus mileage per Sunday worship; $75 plus mileage to moderate; honorariums for special events, per church policy.

TE Richard Lounsberry and Los Angeles Heights PC, SA, Stated Supply, PT 20 hours per wk:

Annual Cash Salary $11,140

Housing   11,140

SECA ½ per month                   210

Reimbursement:

Mileage per month                      50

Continuing Ed/Books and Professional Expenses, as requested

TE Glen Thorp and LiveOak Church: A Presbyterian Congregation, Leander, Interim contract, PT; February 22, 2021-February 22, 2022

Cash salary $22,236.44

Housing   16,600.00

BOP     4660.37

SECA ½     2970.99

Auto allowance         250.00

Continuing Ed/Books    1,000.00

Professional Expenses  1,750.00

TE Gini Norris-Lane and FPC, Uvalde, stated supply; PT; June 13, 2021-December 31, 2021.

Monthly cash salary $1,140

Monthly housing   1,500

Auto     360 total

Commissioned Pastor Jose Munoz and FPC, New Braunfels, PT 4/7/2021-4/7/2022.

Lead worship and preach for 45 Sundays administer the sacraments, moderate session meetings, perform weddings, attend and have voice and vote at presbytery meetings, provide pastoral care.  Compensation: $250 per week; Continuing Ed reimbursement, $400.00.

TE Erin McGee and FPC, El Campo, FT, installed

Cash Salary $40,000

Housing   28,000

BOP     5,202

Continuing Ed/Books/Professional   $8,800

TE Lemuel Garcia-Arroyo and Presbyterian Mission Agency

Cash Salary $61,641.20

Manse Allowance             29,000.00

BOP, in full

TE Carol Johnson and St. Andrew’s PC, Austin, PT, Parish Associate

January 26, 2021-January 31, 2023. There is no remuneration.

**Triennial Visits Completed**

* Boldtville, Boldtville, 4/18/21
* First, McAllen, 4/27/21

**Ordination and Installation Commission Approved and Dismissed**

For Andrew Lemlyn and First Presbyterian, Seguin

RE Carlos Baladez, Moderator (To preside over the AC)

RE Tome Walters, FPC Seguin

RE Judy Ferguson, FPC Kerrville

RE Lou Williams, University, San Antonio

Rev. Ed Sackett, Mission Presbytery, Disaster Recovery Coordinator

Rev. Sallie Watson, Mission Presbytery, General Presbyter

Rev. Ann Brizendine, HR, Mission Presbytery

Guests of the Commission

Rev. Chad Lawson, Canyon Lake PC (Charge the pastor)

Rev. Hailey Malcolm, Pastoral Presbyter, Tres Rios

Rev. Carol Rahn, HR, Mission Presbytery

Rev. Marcus Bigott (Emmanuel’s Lutheran, Seguin)

Rev. Kelsie Theiss (Emmanuel’s Lutheran, Seguin)

Rev. Paul Theiss (St. John Lutheran, Seguin)

Other members of the commission:

Dr. Paul Hooker, APTS (Preach the sermon)

RE Fred Gamble, FPC Kerrville

Janine Zabriskie ordained to chaplaincy;  March 7, 2021; 3:00 PM

Brown Memorial PC, Baltimore, Maryland AND Central PC, Austin

Ruling Elders: Meg McReynolds, Rick Carlson, Daniel Williams

Teaching Elders: Katheryn Barlow-Williams, John Leedy, Carolina Trevino

Guests of the Commission: Andrew Conners (Baltimore), Phyllis Stutzman (Northern Kansas), and Everett L. Zabriskie III (RCA)

To install Bryan Stamper, San Pedro, PC, SA; Sunday, June 20, 2021; 11:00 AM

Ruling Elders: Judy Harris, Dan Gostylo

Teaching Elders: Paul Gaedke, Sallie Watson, Kristen Huffman

Guests of the AC: Rev. Dr. Bryan Stamper (Bryan’s father), to preach the sermon; Quest PC, Gotha, Florida; Central Florida Presbytery

**Permission to Form Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)**

* Live Oak, Leander
* First, Rockport (Designated for a two year term)
* First, Yorktown
* First, Kerrville

**Ministerial Changes**

* Dismiss TE Caz Minter to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church
* Dismiss TE Sara Elizabeth James to the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley—chaplain, Children’s Hospital and Nebraska Medical Center
* Dismiss TE Ed Boyce III to the Presbytery of West Jersey—Pittsgrove Presbyterian
* TE Carol Johnson approved as Parish Associate, St. Andrews, Austin
* Dismiss TE Jennifer Mitchell to Grace Presbytery—Westminster, Corsicana, TX
* Dismiss TE Janine Zabriskie to Baltimore Presbytery—chaplain
* Dismiss TE Joel Moody to Wabash Valley Presbytery—Sunnyvale, South Bend, IN
* Dismiss TE Bart Roush to Twin Cities Presbytery—Oak Grove, Bloomington, MN
* Move TE Charles Walden from Jackson Woods, Corpus Christi, to member-at-large
* Move TE Dave Diercksen from Interim, Yorktown, to member-at-large
* Remove TE Fred Abney, at his request, renunciation of jurisdiction, to join St. Helena’s Episcopal Church, Boerne.

**Examinations**

* TE Glen Thorp, HR, to serve Live Oak, Leander, as Interim. Transfer from San Joaquin Presbytery
* RE Dan Bautista, for commissioning to serve as chaplain, Harbor Hospice, Rio Grande Valley
* Julia Giddings, for ordination, to serve as Certified Educator Candidate for CPE, Baptist Health System, San Antonio

**Honorably Retired Status Granted**

* Dalila Samayoa-Russell
* David Lee Jones

**Deaths Reported**

* Gerald Hurst, February 2, 2021

The presbytery took a brief break.

**Keynote: Rev. Dries Coetzee and Inquirer Natarsha Sanders, a discussion reflecting on Martin Luther King Jr’s “A Letter from a Birmingham Jail.”**

A recording of this discussion will be made available to Mission Presbytery congregations.

Moderator Carlos Baladez asked Moderator-Elect Nancy McCranie to moderate the next two reports.

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report, RE Meg McReynolds, Co-Chair**

**For Presbytery action:**

1. Enroll Carlos Baladez (Holy Trinity, SA) as an Inquirer. Motion passed.

2. RE McReynolds moved that Amy Nelson (Covenant, Austin) be enrolled as a Candidate.

Ms. Nelson gave a statement as to her faith journey and call to ministry. The floor was opened to questions as to Ms. Nelson’s Christian faith, forms of Christian service she’s taken, and her motivation for seeking the ministry. Once this examination was finished, Moderator-Elect McCranie called for the vote. The motion was approved.

Moderator-Elect McCranie asked Ms. Nelson the constitutional questions for Candidacy. Rev. Ann Brizendine charged the Candidate and offered prayer.

**Pastoral Care Report, RE Phil Barnes**

Phil present the Rev. Dalila Samayoa-Russell for honorable retirement.

Moderator Carlos Baladez moderated the rest of the meeting.

**Committee on Representation and Participation Report, CP Kris Bair, Chair**

This committee is always seeking people to fill our commissions and committees. CP Bair called attention to the nomination form found on the Mission Presbytery website.

She also lifted up the nomination form for General Assembly Commissioners for the 2022 meeting. Sallie Watson spoke to this and how the GA meeting will look next year. That description is in the meeting packet.

**For Presbytery action:**

Given that the pandemic meant no in-person General Assembly meeting in 2020, CORP asks the presbytery’s permission to allow the Commissioners from 2020 to reapply as Commissioners for the 2022 GA meeting. The motion passed.

**Mission Outreach and Justice Committee, Rev. Dries Coetzee and RE Caly Fernandez, Co**-**Chairs. For Presbytery action:**

MOJC moves that Mission Presbytery approve the five-year covenant with Seminario Evangelico Presbiteriano and the National Presbyterian Church of Guatemala.

Information about this is in the meeting packet. Rev. Coetzee called upon Rev. Rob Mueller to give the rationale for this motion. After discussion, the motion passed.

**John Knox Ranch Report, Katie Henderson**

Camp is booming this year with 838 registrants! Ms. Henderson presented a video about the camp mini-sessions that they’re doing this year. All is well at John Knox Ranch.

**Disaster Preparedness and Assistance (DPAC) Report by RE Jennifer Rektorik and Rev. Ed Sackett.**

An overview was given about the work of DPAC. One video highlighted the work of DPAC in Louisiana. Another lifted up the need for volunteers. A chainsaw training will take place at Mo-Ranch, more details to follow. Note the disaster preparedness guide in the meeting packet.

**Stewardship Committee Report, Rev. Kevin Jones**

Rev. Jones had a presentation for this year’s grants. Descriptions of their ministries are in the meeting packet. Next year, Rev. Jones expects to have $50,000 available for 2022 grants. The deadline is April 15, 2022. Rev. Jones prayed for the recipients of this year’s grants.

The Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn, which was seconded and he closed the meeting with prayer at 12:50 PM

Minutes submitted by Rev. Laurie Palmer, Stated Clerk.