

Presbytery of Eastern Oregon
Spring Stated Meeting
April 16-17, 2010
Pilot Rock Community Presbytery Church
Pilot Rock, Oregon

The spring, 2010, stated meeting of the Presbytery of Eastern Oregon was called to order at 2:00 PM at
 the Pilot Rock Community Presbyterian Church, Pilot Rock, Oregon, April 16, 2010 with prayer by
 Moderator Pastor Todd Bensel.

Church	Minister	Commissioned Lay Pastor	Other Elders and others
First, Baker City	Al Fry, Nevada		Mark Ferns
Pioneer, Burns	Jean Hurst		Irene Schulz
Community, Dayville			
Pine Valley, Halfway			
Faith, Hermiston	Duane Brudevold		Carole Brudevold
First, LaGrande	Keith Hudson		Emily Insko
First, Lostine	Steve Kliewer		Iva Lindsey
Grace, Milton- Freewater	Ginger Johnston		Judy Chesnut
Community, Monument			
Community, Mt. Vernon			Richard I. Patt, Sr.
First, Pendleton	Roger Harwerth		
Tutuilla, Pendleton		Pastor Jack Schut	
Community, Pilot Rock		Pastor Todd Bensel	Helen B. Humphreys
Hope, Stanfield			
Community, Ukiah		Pastor Richard I. Patt, Sr.	Nancy Martin
Community, Umatilla			Carolyn Robinson
Others	Kate Bottorff		Terral Schut
	Eric Chevis, North Seattle		Jean Simpson-Geddes
	Roger Fisk		Mary Lou Welby
	Mark Frey, Cascades		Pete Wells
	Linda Toth		
	Steve Toth		

Visitors

Norma Bussler
Christine Frey
Hannah Harwerth
Sean Rogers
Phyllis Tincher

11 A quorum of three ministers and elders from three churches was present.

12

13 Rev. Roger Harwerth moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and adopted..

14

15 Elders present for the first time included Emily Insko, LaGrande; Mark Ferns, Baker City; Helen
16 Humphreys, Pilot Rock, Judy Chesnut, Milton-Freewater; and, for the first time in several years, Jean
17 Simpson-Geddes, Baker City.

18

19 Visitors included Molly Gethridge, Minister in the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, and Dale Lindsey,
20 the first time as a visitor.

21

22 Rev. Roger Harwerth moved to seat Rev. Eric Chevis, North Seattle Presbytery, and Rev. Mark Frey,
23 Cascades Presbytery, with voice and Rev. Al Fry, Nevada Presbytery, with voice and vote as
24 corresponding members. The motion was seconded and adopted.

25

26 Rev. Jean Hurst moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and adopted.

27

28 Stated Clerk Elder Pete Wells reported that 2010-11 planning calendars are available to those who
29 ordered them in February. He reported that Rev. Al Fry of the Nevada Presbytery is laboring within
30 the bounds of presbytery as interim pastor at Baker City, Rev. Susan Barnes has transferred to East
31 Iowa Presbytery, and Rev. Larry Loftus has returned to the United Methodist Church on the completion
32 of his ministry at LaGrande.

33

34 Rev. Ginger Johnston reported that gifts to the Theological Education Fund were up 4.1% in 2009 and
35 congratulated the churches in Baker City, Burns, and Hermiston for their high giving; to the churches
36 in Halfway and LaGrande for giving for the first time; and to the churches in Milton-Freewater,
37 Pendleton, and Umatilla for their continued. Giving.

38

39 Rev. Eric Chavis reported for the Presbyterian Foundation. His territory has been Expanded to include
40 the presbyteries of Washington, North Idaho, Alaska, so that I know, Montana, Wyoming, and Utah.
41 The foundation is three companies, the foundation founded in 1799, new covenant funds, founded in
42 1999, and new covenant trust Company. The foundation is the funds managed manager for the
43 Presbyterian Church USA. Investment guidelines are governed by the Presbyterian Church policies on
44 mission responsibility through investment. Last year the funds managed by the foundation put \$72
45 million back into Presbyterian mission. The growth fund returned 46% in 2009 and income fund
46 returned 15%.

47

48 The foundation manages about \$2 billion in permanent funds and manages about 7000 of those funds.
49 One of the biggest programs is featured charitable gift annuity program. For a person making a chair
50 double gift annuity at age 80 the fund will return 8.1% interest. In addition, the donor receives
51 charitable deduction and an immediate check to the charitable beneficiary. The fund will accept special
52 needs trust and accept donations of real property operating or not.

53
54 Rev. Linda Toth reported for the task force on mission priorities. The task force is still using the
55 former Snake River Mission Area priorities until the Mission Statement" task force completes its work.
56 Rev. Linda Toth reported on the Evaluation of Priorities done in October. The goals set out in that
57 process were:

- 58 • Did we focus on important tasks and not on trying to "do it all" fairly well?
- 59 • Were mordant needs met?
 - 60 ○ The work of the nominating committee needs to be improved. The General Presbyter
 - 61 and Stated Clerk are working with the nominating committee to improve the
 - 62 committee's work
- 63 • Are members of the presbytery putting in less time? The Stated Clerk and General Presbyter
- 64 are doing more. Some members are putting in less time.
- 65 • Is the presbytery better focused? Yes
- 66 • Do we have the right number of committees? Yes
- 67 • Are task forces working? Yes
- 68 • What do members like about the new structure
 - 69 ○ Best - conference call meetings and fewer committees
 - 70 ○ Least - Not enough fellowship and some struggles getting started with the new structure
- 71 • The committee consisting of Rev. Linda Toth, Elder Meg Valentine, and Rev. Dorothy
- 72 Knudson would like to know what questions to ask of the presbytery in October of this year.

73 Rev. Roger Harwerth reported for the Committee on Ministry:

- 74 • The committee met with Molly Dethridge of the Presbytery of Ireland
- 75 • The committee recommends the readers of ordination exams be elected in 2011 for three year
- 76 terms
- 77 • The committee will make recommendations as to minimum terms of call in October for 2011
- 78 • The Tutuilla Church requested that the commission Pastor Jack Schut be extended for another
- 79 year. The committee concurs.
- 80 • The Lostine Church requested that the appointment of Stated Supply Minister Steve Kliever be
- 81 extended for another year. The committee concurs.
- 82 • Rev. Harwerth moved, on behalf of the committee that **the commission of Pastor Jack Schut,**
- 83 **Tutuilla, and the appointment of Stated Supply Minister Steve Kliever, Lostine, be**
- 84 **extended for one year.** The motion was adopted.
- 85 • The committee has no report of visitations with ministers and church sessions
- 86 • The committee reports that its supervision of Hope Presbyterian Church, Stanfield, is going
- 87 well after the work of Stated Supply Jim Glover ended on December 31. Pastor Todd Bensel is

88 moderating the church session. The session has arranged for pulpit supply through May.
89 There were 26 in worship the week the session met.

- 90 • Rev. Harwerth moved, for the committee, that the request of Rev. Jim Glover that **Rev. Glover**
91 **be transferred to the inactive roll** be granted. The motion was adopted.
- 92 • On the request of the session of the Dayville and Mt. Vernon churches, Rev. Harwerth moved,
93 for the committee, that the commission of **Pastor Richard I. Patt, Sr., be expanded to permit**
94 **Pastor Patt to preside over the Lord's Supper at Mt. Vernon and Dayville when Pastor**
95 **Skip Inscore is not available.** The motion was adopted.

96 Rev. Duane Brudevold reported for the Board of Trustees:

97 Rev. Brudevold stressed the need to for churches to communicate with the Board of Trustees when
98 dealing with church real property. Particularly:

- 99 ○ Please send annual proofs of insurance coverage to the Stated Clerk
- 100 ○ Copies of the Board of Trustees manual will be available on the presbytery web site and on
101 Google Docs.
- 102 ○ The board would like to hire property appraisers to give independent estimates of value for
103 each church in the presbytery each two to three years.
- 104 ○ The board would like to hire building inspectors to give advice on what improvements
105 should or must be done on the church buildings.
- 106 ○ The board would like to develop guidelines to assist churches in developing policies for use
107 of churches by outside organizations or groups. Rev. Brudevold reminded churches that the
108 Book of Order, G-8.0502, requires churches to obtain written approval by the presbytery to
109 lease any portion of church property to an outside group for more than five years or for any
110 length of time for worship.

111 Stated Clerk Wells reported for the nominating committee. The committee nominates **Hannah**
112 **Harwerth from the Pendleton First Presbyterian Church to be Young Adult Advisory Delegate to**
113 **the 219th General Assembly** to be held in Minneapolis. The motion was approved.

114 The presbytery was in recess from 3:20 PM until 3:35 PM

115 General Presbyter Rev. Linda Toth gave a **mission presentation**. The presbytery has been honored by
116 the General Assembly Mission Council for per capita giving to mission in several categories. Although
117 the presbytery has been active in financial support of mission, we have not been active, as a presbytery,
118 in hands-on mission in the past 20 and possibly 40 years. At this meeting we will be involved in
119 mission through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We will prepare and send mission hygiene and
120 school kits to be available for prompt response to disasters.

121 The meeting recessed to allow participants to assemble hygiene and school disaster assistance kits.

122 The meeting reconvened at 4:30 PM for further discussion about presbytery involvement in mission.

123

124 The question arose as to why the kits are appropriate in light of the frequent requests for money to buy
125 response items locally in lieu of shipping donated material. These kits are small and assembled and
126 allow Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to get have them distributed quickly.

127 The second part of the mission activity is to discuss ways to be involved in mission outside the bounds
128 of the presbytery. The Mission and Program Committee has talked inviting churches to work together
129 in a mission service trip. To make this a reality, there is an item for \$11,000 in the 2011 mission
130 budget. The presbytery discussed the nature of an appropriate mission including where, what kind of
131 project, and who could be involved. After discussion, some of the suggestions were:

- 132 • Cemetery cleanup at the Tutuilla Church, May 15
- 133 • Possible work on building improvements at the Ukiah church (Pastor Todd Bensel to
134 investigate)
- 135 • Invite churches to offer local work project suggestions
 - 136 ○ possibly include work for members of the church
 - 137 ○ possibly do landscaping and yard work at the church, such as at Umatilla
- 138 • Tutuilla cemetery expansion
 - 139 ○ remove existing fence posts
 - 140 ○ move the fence
 - 141 ○ plant shrubs as a wind break
- 142 • Use local projects as a team building exercise for a national or international trip
- 143 • National projects may include
 - 144 ○ Campbell Farms in Central Washington Presbytery
 - 145 ○ Wasatch Academy
 - 146 ○ Assist Presbyterian Disaster Assistance with hurricanes, floods, etc.
 - 147 ○ Habitat for Humanity project in the vicinity of major flood area
 - 148 ○ Camp and chapel project at Talmax Camp, a project of Native American churches near
149 Winchester, ID

150 Members were invited send to the mission committee names and contact information of people willing
151 to participate in a task force.

152 The meeting recessed with prayer at 5:15 PM for dinner.

153 The meeting reconvened at 6:35 PM with prayer by moderator Bensel.

154 Elder Terral Schut gave an **Eastern Oregon Presbyterian Women's** report for moderator Marj
155 Hoagland. The printed report is attached. The fall meeting of Eastern Oregon Presbyterian Women
156 will be the last Saturday of September, Gail Parker Marshall, guest.

157 The **Shared Ministry Task Force** reported. The task force has recently sponsored the Anna Florence
158 Parker Conference. The presbyteries would like to have additional conference in the future. The
159 program will be helping to sponsor the Wee Kirk conference in May in the Boise area. The task force
160 is developing a web site, www.PresSharedMinistry.org.

161 There was no **Synod of the Pacific** report.

162 Pastor Jack Schut reported on the status of the former **Covenant Presbyterian Insurance Program**
163 (CPIP). The synod has been asked to vote on a recommendation that CPIP enter voluntary
164 bankruptcy. The presbyteries did not endorse the previous request for a voluntary liquidation fund.

165 The meeting recessed with prayer at 6:50 for worship, including the celebration of the Lord's Supper
166 and commissioning of Hannah Harwerth, Pendleton First Church, to be the Young Adult Advisory
167 Delegate to the 219th General Assembly., and for fellowship.

168 **Saturday, April 17**

169 The meeting reconvened at 9:20 AM on Saturday, April 17 with prayer by moderator Pastor Todd
170 Bensel.

171 Mark Frey, of the **Board of Pensions**, brought greetings from the Board. The Board funds have
172 weathered the recent down-turn in the market well. There was a 28.6% loss in the combined portfolio
173 in 2008 and a 28% increase in 2009. The pension program is fully funded. The Board is a defined
174 benefit plan that pays out regardless of market value. The Board has not had to sell assets at losses.
175 No apportionment increase was granted in 2009 or 2010. Soon active members will have the ability to
176 keep health records on line. Members will be offered a \$100 gift card for completing a medical
177 profile. There is no dues increase this year active members for health benefits. There is a \$5 per
178 month increase for health benefit for retired members.

179 The nominating committee nominated Rev. Jean Hurst to serve on the **Synod of the Pacific**
180 **Permanent Judicial Commission**. There being no further nominees, Rev. Hurst was elected. The
181 nominating committee, on recommendation from the Committee on Ministry, nominated Rev.
182 Harwerth to be principal reader and Rev. Dorothy Knudson to be alternate **reader of ordination**
183 **examinations** for terms to expire June 30, 2012. The nominees were elected by unanimous consent.
184 Rev. Knudson urged the presbytery to fill the vacant positions of female elder to be commissioner to
185 the Synod of the Pacific and for a moderator of the Peacemaking task force.

186 Elder Carole Brudevold, for the Personnel Committee of the Presbytery Council, nominated **Elder**
187 **Pete Wells be elected Stated Clerk** for a term to expire June 30, 2013. There were no further
188 nominees. Elder Wells was elected.

189 **General Presbyter** Rev. Linda Toth gave her report. Since her last report in February she has
190 participated in 17 meetings for the presbytery and nine for the Synod of the Pacific. She is no longer
191 on the General Assembly Mission Council. She still needs names of persons to help with the mission
192 trip task force and needs suggestions for the evaluation process for the next presbytery meeting.

193 The Mission Committee report is attached. In addition, the Cascades Summer Conference was
194 canceled last year and will not continue. The committee will be seeking other conference activities to
195 recommend to churches. The Presbyterian Youth Triennium will be held in Indiana in July. Rev.
196 Joanna Dunn from the Boise First church is coordinating the program. They anticipate 7 youth and 2
197 chaperons to attend. The committee has authorized an additional \$700 be paid to pay 1/3 of the
198 chaperon cost.

199 Rev. Toth introduced the presbytery to the Synod of the Pacific's Pacific Mission Exchange
200 (www.pacificmissionexchange.org) The service provides an opportunity for presbyteries to tell church
201 mission stories and solicit financial and volunteer support. There is no charge to the presbytery for
202 using the service.

203 The Mission Committee estimates that there will be approximately \$54,223 available for 2010 mission
204 plus previous carryover. The commission moves that **the 2010 mission budget be increased as**
205 **follows:**

- 206 • \$1,250 to the Ukiah church for pulpit supply
- 207 • \$2,000 to the Hermiston church for a mission trip to El Salvador this summer
- 208 • \$4,800 to the Tutuilla church to assist the Lost and Found program, formerly funded by the
209 Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation.
- 210 • \$3,000 for Koininia House at Eastern Oregon University, LaGrande

211 The motion was approved.

212 The Mission Committee moved the the the **2011 mission budget** include

- 213 • \$11,000 for a mission project by presbytery
- 214 • \$2,000 for education scholarships
- 215 • \$800 for mission yearbooks for churches and presbytery staff
- 216 • \$3,000 for youth events
- 217 • \$6,350 for Ukiah church support
- 218 • \$3,000 for Koininia House at Eastern Oregon University, pending an application from the
219 program
- 220 • \$2,500 Ring Praise music ministry
- 221 • \$6,000 Shared Ministry programs
- 222 • Total: \$34,650.

223 The motion was adopted.

224 Smaller discussion groups discussed the the following suggestions for mission opportunities:

- 225 • Possibilities for International projects.

- 226 ○ Suggest working with existing organizations, such as Border Links (most likely with
227 Mexico or SW US. Work on demolition, construction, and working with kits. Get
228 yourself to Tucson and they take over. \$130 per day per person)
229 ○ Medical Teams International.
230 ○ Northwest Medical teams. Mostly partnerships with local people and churches. Would
231 like for us to develop a long-term partnership such as continuing prayer, fund raising,
232 and one mission trip per year. Projects such as Moldova, formerly part of USSR,
233 working with a burn center. Rooms for therapy and other, additional work with
234 clinics. Recommends developing a long-term relationship with a community. Suggest
235 team size of 6 – 10 most of the time.
- 236 • Suggest a project with specific benefit of the one project with possibility of a long term
237 relationship.
 - 238 • The next step will put together a task force to report in October

239 Mary Lou Welby reported for the **Mission Statement task force**. The task force was charged with
240 making the mission of Christ and as expressed in the Books of Order and Confessions as applied in
241 Eastern Oregon. She challenges the members of and commissioners to presbytery to help the task
242 force to make the mission statement appropriate specifically for this presbytery.

243 The presbytery has previously accepted the invitations from Pioneer Presbyterian Church, Burns, for
244 the October meeting and Community Presbyterian Church, Umatilla, for the February, 2011, meeting.

245 The following churches **invited the presbytery to future meetings**:

246 April, 2011, First Presbyterian Church, LaGrande

247 October, 2011, First Presbyterian Church, Baker City

248 February, 2012, Tutuilla Presbyterian Church

249 A motion to accept these invitations was approved by unanimous consent.

250 The presbytery received an offering of music by Shawn Roger of Ring Praise.

251 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Moderator Bensel with a prayer by Rev.
252 Mark Frey at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter H. Wells, Stated Clerk

Approved by Presbytery, October __, 2010

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DRAFT
Page 8