

**Presbytery of Eastern Oregon**  
**Fall Stated Meeting**  
**October 23-24, 2009**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Lostine, Oregon**  
**DRAFT Minutes**

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The fall, 2009, stated meeting of the Presbytery of Eastern Oregon was called to order at 2:00 PM at the First Presbyterian Church, Lostine, Oregon, October 23, 2009, with Scripture and prayer by Moderator Pastor Todd Bensel. A quorum of three ministers and elders from three churches was present.

Attendance vouchers showed the following members and guests present.

| Church                  | Minister  | Commissioned Lay<br>Pastor | Other Elder   |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| First, Baker City       | [vacant]  |                            | Arlita Jewell   |
| Pioneer, Burns          |   |                            |   |
| Community, Dayville     |   |                            |   |
| Pine Valley, Halfway    |   |                            |   |
| Faith, Hermiston        |   |                            |   |
| First, LaGrande         | Larry Loftus  |                            | Mary Helen Garoutte   |
| Lostine                 | Steve Kliever   |                            | Jan Bird  |
| Grace, Milton-Freewater | Ginger Johnston   |                            |   |
| Community, Monument     | [vacant]  |                            |   |
| Community, Mt. Vernon   |   |                            |   |
| First, Pendleton        | Roger Harwerth  |                            | Bob Patterson   |
| Tutuilla, Pendleton     |   | Jack Schut                 | Bonnie Burke  |
| Community, Pilot Rock   |   | Todd Bensel                |   |
| Hope, Stanfield         | Jim Glover  |                            |   |
| Community, Ukiah        |   | Richard I Patt, Sr.        |   |
| Community, Umatilla     | [vacant]  |                            | Norma Bussler   |
| Other Minister          | Kate Bottorff<br>Roger Fisk<br>Dorothy Knudson<br>Volus McEachern<br>Linda Toth<br>Steve Toth |                            |   |
| Other Elders            |   |                            | Carole Brudevold<br>Jo Carmichael<br>Mraj Hoagland<br>Vicki Horneck |

| Church | Minister | Commissioned Lay<br>Pastor | Other Elder  |
|--------|----------|----------------------------|--|
|        |          |                            | Kate Loftus<br>Terral Schut<br>Mary Lou Welby<br>Peter Wells |

12 Visitors included Talitha Phillips, student intern from San Francisco Theological Seminary serving at  
13 Lostine, Elder Mary Lou Welby, and Elder Dale Lindsey.  
14  
15 Rev. Roger Harwerth moved to approve the agenda. That motion was seconded and approved.  
16  
17 Rev. Steve Kliewer presented greetings from the Lostine Presbyterian Church. He reported that the ramp  
18 has been installed between the basement and sanctuary level. Rev. Kliewer introduced seminary intern  
19 Talitha Phillips who will finish her work in December and return to San Francisco Theological Seminary.  
20 Dinner for evening is similar to their mission “cook's night out” program. This is an event open to the  
21 public with menus that recite no charge for the meal. The last such dinner had about 75 in attendance  
22 necessitating service in shifts. The city of Lostine is hosting a harvest festival this weekend.  
23  
24 Elders recognized as attending for the first time included Mary Helen Garoutte, from LaGrande, Aleita  
25 Jewell, from Baker, and Jan Burke, from Lostine.  
26  
27 Moderator Bensel introduced Rona Peterson, resource Center directory director for the three presbyteries  
28 of Boise. Eastern Oregon, and Kendall, Housed Nampa Idaho.  
29  
30 Rev. Roger Harwerth moved to seat Ms. Peterson as a corresponding member with voice. The motion  
31 was seconded and adopted.  
32  
33 Rev. Harwerth moved to approve the minutes of the April meeting as submitted. The motion was  
34 seconded and approved.  
35  
36 Stated Clerk Elder Pete Wells presented correspondence including opportunities for giving through the  
37 General Assembly Mission Council and a Montreat retreat center catalog.  
38  
39 Clerk Wells gave his written report.. He did receive minutes from the Tutuilla commission and the  
40 mission committee. Moderator Bensel reminded all committees and task forces to send minutes of  
41 meetings to the Stated Clerk.  
42  
43 Rev. Roger Harwerth move to receive the financial reports of June 30 and preliminary report of October  
44 20 as distributed. The motion was seconded and approved.  
45  
46 The presbytery reviewed the summary of the Presbytery Council meeting of September 12 as distributed.  
47 There were no questions.  
48  
49 Trustee Pastor Jack Schut Reported for the Board of Trustees. The trustees met at Monument, Mount

50 Vernon, and Stanfield. Pastor Schut asked churches to send proof of insurance to the Stated Clerk. Stated  
51 Clerk Wells will get corporate information from the State of Oregon and report the status of corporations  
52 to the Board of Trustees. In response to an inquiry, churches indicated that they are insured following the  
53 necessity to change insurance after the demise of Covenant Presbyterian Insurance Program.

54  
55 Moderator Bensel reported that there is no report from the nominating committee. By unanimous consent  
56 the filling of terms for Presbytery for 2010 will be done at the next meeting of Presbytery, February 20,  
57 in Mount Vernon. Rev. Knudson stated that we do not have a good system for filling vacancies. The  
58 nominating committee needs names from churches of persons who would be good candidates to work in  
59 Presbytery. Moderator Bensel suggested that the peacemaking and sexual misconduct cadre be removed  
60 from the status of committees to task forces.

61  
62 Rev. Linda Toth reported for the task force on mission priorities. This report was discussed at a meeting  
63 of the committee on mission and program. Until changes in the program are defined, we will continue  
64 with the process originated by the Snake River Mission Area.

65  
66 Elder John Zerba reported for the Tutuilla Church administrative commission for the absent Rev. Duane  
67 Brudevold. He read a letter from Rev. Brudevold stating that the mission of the commission has been  
68 accomplished and we have solid worship and a pastor. The session is active. Mission and stewardship is  
69 being studied and incorporated into the church program. Youth is involved in activities, building  
70 rehabilitation is being planned. The commission opened the door for the activity and the congregation is  
71 taking responsibility for the church. The church is establishing ties with the Presbytery and the Nez Perce  
72 tribes in Idaho. The administrative commission moves that the commission be disbanded with thanks.

73  
74 Pastor Jack Schut described the work of the church. This weekend the Tutuilla church men will  
75 fellowship with men from Native American churches in Idaho. In the future the church may ask for a  
76 memorandum of understanding with the Presbytery that in the event that the church ceases to function  
77 and the property becomes the responsibility of the Presbytery, the Presbytery intends that the property  
78 revert to the tribal government. Pastor Schut reminded that we have a responsibility to not neglect  
79 churches. We must uphold and encourage them. If we know they church is not doing well we must take  
80 action to help it or to assist in its termination.

81  
82 Moderator Bensel thanked commission members Elder Connie Talboy, Rev. Roger Harwerth, Rev. Duane  
83 Brudevold, Rev. Linda Toth, Rev. Ginger Johnston, Rev. Dorothy Knudson, Pastor Todd Bensel, and  
84 Elder John Zerba. He also gave thanks for the help from the General Assembly Mission Council.. The  
85 motion to dismiss the Commission with thanks was adopted.

86  
87 Rev. Linda Toth reported for the mission commission. The youth that event scheduled for this summer  
88 did not take place. The Cascades Summer Conference which the Presbytery has supported for several  
89 years was canceled for 2009. Forthcoming meetings are being discussed by the planning committee. Rev.  
90 Toth reminded the Presbytery that the Youth Triennium is scheduled for July 2010. Joanna Dunn, First  
91 Presbyterian Church, Boise, will be registrar for the three shared ministry presbyteries. She will take  
92 names and contact information of participants, both youth and chaperones, and make arrangements for  
93 participation. Churches in this Presbytery should identify youth and adults to participate and  
94 communicate with Rev. Toth or Ms. Dunn. The first deadline is November 10 when the Presbytery  
95 should make a preliminary estimate of those participating. Youth ages 14 to 19 on July 20 are eligible to  
96 participate. Rev. Jean Hurst , Elder Nancy Martin, and Elder Vicki Horneck, members of the mission in  
97 committee, are contacting churches. The committee estimates a total cost of \$825 per participant. The

98 committee recommends that the shared approximately \$275 each to the family of the youth participant,  
99 the church with which the youth is affiliated, and the Presbytery. The Presbytery share would be paid  
100 from funds previously committed to the shared ministry use program.  
101  
102 Rev. Linda Toth reported that missionaries from Japan toured the Presbytery July 20-24. If hosts had  
103 expenses in connection in connection with this visit please forward them to the treasurer for  
104 reimbursement.  
105  
106 The mission committee expects a mission trip opportunity in 2011. The committee would like to start  
107 making arrangements for a foreign mission opportunity for 2012. The committee has approved the  
108 expenditure of mission budgeted funds to purchase two of mission yearbooks for prayer and study for  
109 each church with single yearbooks for the stated clerk and the general presbyter.  
110  
111 Rev. Linda Toth presented a report as general presbyter. Rev. Toth thanks Lori Whitaker of the Pioneer  
112 Presbyterian Church in Burns for taking the lead for arrangements for the missionary visits in October.  
113 She reports that she has spent significant time since June 8 connection with the failure of the covenant  
114 Presbyterian Church program as well as on the vacancies in LaGrande and Baker City.  
115  
116 Rev. Toth reported that the new form of government report is available with a link through the Presbytery  
117 web page.  
118  
119 Rev. Toth will post to the Presbytery web site documents concerning the duties of chairs and task forces.  
120  
121 Rev. Toth thanked elder John Zerba for working with the covenant Presbyterian insurance program. Mr.  
122 Zerba reported that he has been elected secretary of the board of the program.  
123  
124 Rev. Toth commended to the Presbytery three celebrations: 1. The presbytery has received an award for  
125 leading the Presbyterian Church USA in two categories of mission giving per capita. This giving supports  
126 new church development, mission workers, Presbyterian disaster assistance,. 2. This year we celebrate  
127 the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of Rev. Roger Fisk and his service to the service of the Church.  
128 Moderator Bensel led the Presbytery in a celebratory prayer. 3. Elder Mary Lou Welby reported on the  
129 celebration at the Mount Vernon Community Presbyterian Church on their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
130 building of their church. The church was started in 1904 with Sunday school, 1909 with a structure, and  
131 1913 with affiliation to the Presbyterian Church. Elder Welby expects a memory book to be available  
132 around the first of 2010. Moderator Bensel led Presbytery and a prayer celebrating the history and  
133 continued support of the Mount Vernon congregation.  
134  
135 Rev. Toth explained a process for evaluation of the presbytery structure. She distributed evaluation forms  
136 and asked that they be returned by the end of the meeting.  
137  
138 The Presbytery was in recess from 3:30 PM to 3:45 PM  
139  
140 Elder Mary Lou Welby, moderator of the task force to develop a presbytery mission statement, led  
141 discussion on the mission and priorities of the Presbytery. The results of this discussion will be used by  
142 the missions statement task force in its determination. Following a priority setting exercise the Presbytery  
143 held a conversation about those matters important to and about the Presbytery, specifying:  
144 1. The duties of the Presbytery are to assist churches to address their problems.  
145 2. Make churches better churches.

- 146 3. The mission statement should be a brief statement of mission. Elder Welby reported that the task  
147 force intends to produce a short mission statement, possibly with more complete explanations.  
148 4. The task force should start with a vision and from the vision produce a mission statement. From  
149 the mission statement statements of values and principles..  
150 5. The task force intends to rely on the Holy Spirit to lead it to it's intended result.  
151 6. The Presbytery provides support for each other.  
152 7. We need to port to include a missional theology.  
153 8. The Presbytery needs to support the needs of its member of ministers and churches.  
154 9. The Presbytery supports the relationships between its members.  
155 10. We must remember that the Presbytery is the cement that keeps this conventional church  
156 together.  
157 11. The important role of Presbytery is to foster relationships between ministers and churches.  
158  
159 12. The Presbytery is to be friends working together.  
160 13. The Presbytery is to build relationships among pastors and elders.  
161 14. The presbytery needs to encourage members of host congregations to participate in both  
162 presbytery meetings , if only for worship.  
163 15. The mission statement task force will continue his work and post drafts to presbytery websites.  
164

165 The Rev. Steve Kliever recessed the meeting for fellowship support and supper with a prayer.  
166

167 The meeting reconvened at 6:35 PM with prayer by Pastor Bensel..  
168

169 Elder Marge Hoagland reported on the work of Eastern Oregon Presbyterian Women. Members attended  
170 the church-wide gathering of Presbyterian Women in July. At that gathering more than \$70,000 in gift  
171 cards were contributed to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and an additional \$55,000 in a general  
172 offering. The previous meeting of Presbytery donated the worship offering to Eastern Oregon  
173 Presbyterian women. The fund was then donated to the networkers program for malaria control. The next  
174 meeting of Presbyterian women will be April 24, 2010, in Pendleton.  
175

176 Pastor Jack's Schut introduced resource center director Rona Peterson who reported on the work of the  
177 shared ministry task force. We continue to share ministry with the presbyteries of Boise and Kendall. The  
178 resource center has, in addition to books and video resources, access to materials is by phone or mail.  
179 Ms Peterson is also the administrator of the shared ministry program and registrar of the shared ministry  
180 training program.  
181

182 The commissioners and attendees to the Synod of the Pacific, Rev. Bottorff, Rev. Linda Toth, Pastor  
183 Richard Patt, and Pastor Jack Schut reported. Rev. Bottorff reported on the failure of the Covenant  
184 Presbyterian Insurance Program. She also encourage members to visit the Pacific Mission Exchange  
185 web site for a good view of some of the mission projects in the Synod of the Pacific. If individual  
186 congregations have mission projects to support on the site they should contact clerk Wells.  
187 [www.pacificmissionexchange.org](http://www.pacificmissionexchange.org). The Synod is also involved in the Clean Water University at Calvin  
188 Crest Camp and Conference Center to train people to build drinking water wells.  
189

190 Pastor Schut serves on the evaluation committees for the Synod executive and stated clerk. They are  
191 reviewing the evaluation process. The Synod is going to reduce the time at Synod meetings to allow  
192 pastors to return to their congregations for Sunday worship. The means that the meetings will end earlier  
193 on Saturday. The Synod is also trying to distribute materials early and use conference calling for more

194 efficient meetings.  
195  
196 Pastor Richard Patt serves on the mission finance committee. The committee has authorized over 15  
197 large loans and monitors loans for performance. The committee heard a presentation by the United  
198 Church of Christ Insurance Board. The Synod has extended coverage through the Insurance Board  
199 through 2010. The Synod will look at other insurance options thereafter. The Synod is not recommending  
200 insurance providers to congregations or presbyteries.  
201  
202 Rev. Toth urged churches who have made pledges for mission programs to satisfy those pledges.  
203  
204 Rev. Toth asked that the presbytery nominate a female minister to replace Rev. Susan Barnes on the  
205 Synod Permanent Judicial Council. Pastor Jack Schut moved to recommend Rev. Jean Hurst to the Synod  
206 nominating committee for a position on the Synod Permanent Judicial Council. The motion was  
207 seconded and adopted.  
208  
209 At 7:45 PM, following a prayer by Rev. Linda Toth, the presbytery was in recess for worship, including  
210 the celebration of the Lord's supper and sermon by Rev. Steve Kliewer.  
211  
212 Following the overnight recess, the presbytery reconvened its fall stated meeting at 9:15 AM on  
213 Saturday, October 24. Moderator Todd Bensel opened the meeting with a reading from Ezekiel and  
214 prayer.  
215  
216 Rev. Steve Toth reported for the Committee on Ministry. Rev. Toth distributed the 2009 terms of call for  
217 the churches in the presbytery. He added to the list Lostine: 27,485 in salary and housing allowance,  
218 \$6,800 in pension, \$3000 in personal expenses, and \$200 and continuing education. Mount Vernon and  
219 Dayville are weekly pulpit supply plus mileage. Ukiah pulpit supply by Pastor Richard Patt preaching 2  
220 to 3 weeks a month at \$125 week plus \$50 a month for mileage.  
221  
222 Rev. S. Toth for the committee, moved to accept the report and approve the terms of call. The motion was  
223 approved. Rev. S. Toth, for the committee, moved that the minimum effective salary of \$36,070 remain  
224 in effect. The motion was adopted. Rev. Toth moved for the committee that the lay pastor relationships  
225 with between Todd Bensel and the Pilot Rock Community Church, Skip Inscore and the Dayville  
226 Community Church, and the Mount Vernon Community Church be continued for an additional year. The  
227 motion was approved. Rev. Toth stated that the committee wishes to continue discussions with the  
228 Stanfield session and Rev. Jim Glover regarding the position of stated supply. The committee on  
229 preparation for ministry is working with Elder James Kouth of, Baker City toward Commissioned Lay  
230 Pastor and the working on the process of assessment of commissioned lay pastors.  
231  
232 Rev. Roger Harwerth, for the committee on ministry, reported on the vacancy at Baker City. The  
233 committee proposes an interim contract between the Baker City congregation and Rev. Al Fry of the  
234 presbytery of Nevada and that Rev. Fry be permitted to labor within the bounds of the presbytery. This  
235 motion was approved. The proposal is for a contract to begin November 29 for one year and may be  
236 extended in six-month increments. Rev. Fry also be authorized to moderate's session meetings.  
237  
238 Moderator Bensel introduced Laura Hudson and Keith Hudson (with son Luke), candidates for  
239 ordination in the Presbytery of Alaska and for membership in the Presbytery of Eastern Oregon if called  
240 by the first Presbyterian church in LaGrande. Pursuant to book of order paragraph G.– 14.0482, the  
241 presbytery examined Laura Hudson and Keith Hudson into matters of faith, theology, Bible, sacraments,

242 and government of the Church. Rev. Bottorff moved that the examination be arrested. The motion was  
243 seconded and adopted. The candidates were excused. Following discussion, the committee on ministry  
244 moved to approve Keith Hudson and Laura Hudson for ordination and for membership in the presbytery  
245 and, if called, approval of the call from the First Presbyterian Church of LaGrande on the terms set forth  
246 in the handout. The motion was adopted.

247  
248 Rev. Roger Harworth moved, for the committee, that the moderator appoint a commission to conduct the  
249 installation in LaGrande at a time convenient to the church and the Hudsons. Members of the committee  
250 to be Elder Arlita Jewell, Pastor Jack Schut, elder Sandra Rochert, Rev. Roger Harwerth, and Rev. Steve  
251 Toth. The motion was approved.

252  
253 Rev. Toth reported that Mark Frey of the Presbyterian Pension Board is willing to do some training in  
254 2010. He will do two workshops if there is sufficient demand. It may be better to have training in a time  
255 separate from a Presbyterian meeting.

256  
257 Rev. Steve Toth, for the committee on ministry, moved that the presbytery approve the terms of call of  
258 the Rev. Susan Barnes to the presbytery of East Iowa and finds that the terms of call me or exceed the  
259 presbytery minimums. The motion was adopted.

260  
261 Elder Carole Brudevold, for the personnel committee moved that the job description for general  
262 presbyter Linda Toth be amended in two respects, accountability and physical requirements, as  
263 distributed. The motion was approved. Elder Brudevold also moved that compensation for general  
264 presbyter to continue in 2010 the same as 2009. The motion was adopted.

265  
266 The task force on the administrative and ecclesiastical budget moved the budget as and per capita  
267 assessment as attached. The motion was adopted.

268  
269 Rev. Linda Toth reported on the obligations of the presbytery on the failure of the Covenant Presbyterian  
270 Insurance Program. It is likely that the presbytery, as a class A member, will be asked to pay some  
271 portion of the insurance programs debt. This requirement may come due before June 2010.

272  
273 Rev. Linda Toth presented the proposed mission budget for 2010, attached. The committee moved that  
274 this budget be approved. The motion was adopted.

275  
276 Rev. Toth, for the presbytery, thanked Rev. Larry Loftus for his service previously in Lostine and most  
277 recently in LaGrande. The presbytery concurred with applause. Rev. Roger Harworth moved that the  
278 moderator be directed to send a letter of appreciation to Larry and Kate Loftus for their years of service.  
279 The motion was approved.

280  
281 Stated Clerk Wells moved to accept the invitation of Umatilla Community Presbyterian Church for the  
282 February, 2011 presbytery meeting. The motion was adopted.

283  
284 Moderator Bensel thanked the Lostine church for hosting this presbytery meeting.

285  
286 There being no further business, and following a prayer by Rev. Bottorff, Moderator Bensel adjourned  
287 the meeting at 11:45 AM on Saturday, October 24..

288  
289 Respectfully submitted,

290 Peter H. Wells,  
291 Stated Clerk

292

293

294 Written reports to attach:

295 1. Clerk's report

296 2. Financial reports 6/30 and 10/xx

297 3. Summary of Sept. Council meeting

298 4. A & E Budget

299 5. Mission Budget

300 6. Summary of Terms of Call

301 7. Terms of Call of Laura and Keith

302

303 Task forces to report in April.

304 1. Mission priorities

305 2. Mission Statements

306 3. Evaluation of presbytery structure