



Stand Up | Speak Out | **LEAD**

Connecting with the Community through Action

On March 26, 2019, the Presbytery of Denver gathered in Assembly at Genesis Presbyterian Church. Moderator, Ruling Elder Dr. Wanda Beauman and Vice Moderator, Rev. Justin Spurlock presided. Rev. Dr. Don Shrumm, Pastor of Genesis, welcomed the Assembly. The Presbytery of Denver offers thanks and appreciation to the host congregation for hosting the Assembly and preparing the wonderful fellowship gathering.

ASSEMBLY AT WORSHIP

Worship was integrated into the business of the Assembly. The Message “*Stand up: The Courage to Stand up, Stand with, and Stand for*” based on Isaiah 58:6-14 and Luke 4:14-21 was offered by Rev. James Foucher, Montbello United Church in concert with the 2019 Presbytery focus “Stand up, Speak out, Lead”. Genesis Presbyterian’s Pastor and musicians led worship with music and liturgy along with Vice-Moderator Justin Spurlock.

THANK YOU TO JOHN BOETTIGER

Council Moderator Dana Hughes recognized John Boettiger, Treasurer, upon his retirement from the position and requested a motion from the floor to accept John’s letter of resignation. A motion made and properly seconded was **Approved**. Dana thanked John for his service and the Assembly concurred with applause. John was presented with a gift of appreciation.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Moderator Sandy Safford led the report honoring retired Minister of Word and Sacrament, William “Bill” Sanders, with the presentation of certificate of Honorable Retirement and words of gratitude for his years of faithful service. New minister member, Carl Anderson was introduced by Bob Matchett, Jill VanderWal was introduced by Ken Furlow, and Phil Barrett was introduced by Sherry Kenney. Three minister members who died in 2018 were remembered, Clarence Ammons by Cindy Cearley, Joseph Hadley honored by Katie Robb Davis, and Lowell Campbell was remembered by Dwight Blackstock.

STATED CLERK REPORT ~ Olivia Hudson Smith

The following Amendments to the Constitution were presented and moved:
18-A. Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons; 18-C. Officers; 18-D. Membership of Presbytery; 18-E. Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to Its Pastors and Congregations; 18-F. Welcoming to the Table **Approved 18-A, 18-D, 18-E, an 18-F. Disapproved, 18-C.**
Following reading of portions of the Preamble to Principles of Church Discipline, and excerpts from the Confession of 1967, Olivia Hudson Smith read the following order



pursuant to section D-11.0701, Book of Order 2017-2019, The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Part II, This action was taken as a result of an approved motion (Omnibus) to amend the January 22, 2019, stated Assembly minutes: *The Presbytery of Denver for The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) vs. The Rev. Joelle Brummett Minister of Word and Sacrament*, a disciplinary Case in which the accused was found guilty of a violation of Exodus 20:14. The Permanent Judicial Commission, acting as a court of the church imposed the censure of rebuke with supervised rehabilitation. The full order will be found in the January 22, 2019, minutes of the stated Assembly.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dave Goss presented the following slate of nominee for standing committees:
Committee on Ministry: To elect Rev. David Pettit (Calvary) to the Class of 2019 and to elect Ruling Elder Lucus Nkwelle (Bethel) to the Class of 2020.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry: To elect Rev. Carrie Doehring (Iliff School of Theology) to the Class of 2021.

Highlands Joint Camp Committee: To elect Deacon Bart Wilkie (Peoples) to the Class of 2020.

Slate Approved with no nominations from the floor.

HIGHLANDS JOINT CAMP COMMITTEE

Gary Forbes reported that Highlands experienced water difficulties during 2018 that are repaired. Highlands is the recipient of several large bequests and plans to use 50 percent to retire debts in addition to entering into a debt reduction campaign. A portion of the gifts will be used to make improvements that are needed. May 11, 2019, is set aside as the Spring Work Day and all are invited to participate.

PRESBYTERY OF ZIMBABWE AND DENVER PRESBYTERY

Ruth Huff presented the report and discussed the devastation our partners experienced by the recent Cyclone Idai. Our Zimbabwean partners are requesting prayers and those wishing to provide financial assistance are encouraged to do so through the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund. Kim Graber reported that she is initiating the establishment of the Denver Presbytery Nakai Task Force to support Nakai Task Force established by our partners. The focus is on women and girls health, particularly breast cancer for which they receive little medical support for and have fewer treatment options in Zimbabwe. Ruth requested sending prayer for Barb Lyons, who will begin short-term service in Zimbabwe in May.

TREASURER

Joann Goss, temporary interim Treasurer, reported that the Colorado Trust has notified the Assembly that it will receive \$691,000.00 in 2019. The conservative estimate when budgeting was \$525,000.00, which would have resulted in a \$154,000 budget deficit for 2019. Based on the actual distribution, the anticipated deficit for 2019 should be



eliminated. The Presbytery cash flow for February 28, 2019 show a balance of \$173,518.00.

TRANSITIONAL PRESBYTERY PASTOR

Dana Hughes explained her role as transitional pastor and stated that the visioning process will begin in May. She is working on putting together a visioning team, which will work for seven to eight months and perhaps be ready to report in March or May of 2020, focusing on four questions: Where have we been? Where are we going? What God wants us to do when we get there? In addition, who is our neighbor?

COUNCIL REPORTS

Personnel. Bill Davis reported that Council has approved the formation of a Treasurer Search Team to bring forth a recommendation to the Presbytery. The team consists of Vice-Moderator Justin Spurlock, Ruling Elder Joyce Matthews, and Ruling Elder Sharon Blackstock, staffed by workgroup co-moderator Bill Davis. Council's Financial Management Task Force has hired a part-time accountant Kelly Fitzgerald.

Leadership. Nancy Dixon reported that the workgroup will host two events in 2019 and asked the Assembly to save the dates. In keeping with the Presbytery focus of Stand up, Speak out, Lead, on **June 1, 2019**, Executive Director of the Colorado Council of Churches, Adrian Miller, will present on legislative advocacy. At the fall Leadership event on **November 8–9, 2019**, at Highlands Camp and Retreat Center, Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Director of the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness, will lead take away sessions on Advocacy and will lead a practicum on Immigration Advocacy.

Mission and Ministry. Jo Culbertson spoke on the mission moneys distributed this year, which is less than in the past years because mission money from the churches to the Presbytery has been on a steady decline since 2014. The Presbytery's design as a connectional body is to bring congregations together in mission partnerships, covenant communities and mission taskforces in which 40/47 congregations are participants and recipients of mission moneys. She encouraged congregation to increase their giving and participation.

Cathy Nagy and Whitney Mayhew presented a video on the Guatemalan Mission Partnership. The focus is bringing clean water to our neighbors in Guatemala supported by mission funding in the Presbytery.

Immigration Taskforce. Jean Demmler introduced Commissioned Lay Pastor Jorge Barbaran, serving Iglesia Presbiteriana de Valverde. Jorge discussed the immigration concerns currently facing our migrant neighbors and congregants and encouraged all to participate in aiding a just resolution to these human concerns.