

Presbytery Assembly – March 22, 2022

ROLL – (Beth)

Call to Order and Establishment of a Quorum: The meeting came to order at 5:31 p.m. Moderator Paula Steinbacher and Stated Clerk Olivia Hudson Smith were present. A quorum was established.

Prayer:

Presbytery Moderator Paula Steinbacher opened with prayer.

Zoom Instructions: Beth Carlisle

Tech Team: Jill VanderWal, Steve Cearley, John Yu.

Anyone on the phone, was asked to state their name and was renamed by the team.

Everyone was muted and asked to remain muted unless invited by the moderator. Those wishing to address the Assembly, were asked to please state their name, church, and role, and address questions to the moderator.

Attendees were directed to refer to the Assembly packet or the website for more information.

During discussion or when indicated by the moderator, attendees were asked to please use the raise your hand function in the Zoom reactions to be called on in the order. Attendees were asked to limit the use of the *chat with everyone* feature. The tech team monitors this as best as possible, but it can be difficult to monitor the chat for questions. Please use the *private chat function* to chat with friends. An online polling system is used for voting. Only one vote is allowed per device. Starting with our May Assembly, we will no longer accommodate phone voting via email. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Introductions and Welcome: Paula Steinbacher

Paula welcomed corresponding members and asked them to introduce themselves including their home Presbytery. New ruling elder commissioners were asked to introduce themselves identifying the congregation which they represent.

Preliminary Business (Omnibus Motion)

The assembly **approved**:

1. **The Docket** as distributed, with such changes as announced at the start of the Assembly.
2. **Enrollment of Corresponding Members** and granting permission of the floor for those who introduced themselves and registered attendance.
3. **Approve the minutes of January 25, 2022, stated Assembly.**
4. **Receive all reports** of Council workgroups and Standing Committees in the Assembly documents packet.

Approved the report of the Stated Clerk:

5. Recommending that the Presbytery of Denver concur with the following 225th General Assembly (GA) overtures that have been reviewed and approved by an ad hoc team of the Presbytery of Denver including, but not limited to, current and past General Assembly Commissioners, with the understanding that other Presbyteries have previously concurred with the same and the overtures will be reviewed and may be amended by a committee of the GA Commissioners before being recommended to the General Assembly in a plenary session at the 225th GA. All overtures may be found at [PC-Biz](#).
- A. ENV-04 On Creating the Presbytery Tree Fund

- B. GA-MC-05 Regarding the Creation of an Advocacy Committee for LGBTQIA+ Equity - From the LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Task Force
- C. GA-MC-07 On the Inclusion of Inclusive Gender Options When Gender Information is Collected by Any Entity in the PC(USA)
- D. IMM-06 On Declaring the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to Be a Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church
- E. IMM-08 Regarding the Treatment of Refugees
- F. INT-10 A Call for Ending the Siege of Gaza and Collective Punishment of Innocent Palestinian and Israeli Citizens
- G. INT-14 On Expanding Mission Engagement and Education with Eastern Europe
- H. POL-11 On Establishing a Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination to Ordered Ministry for Ruling Elders
- I. RGJ-08 On Offering an Apology to African Americans for the Sin of Slavery and Its Legacy
- J. RGJ-09 On Directing the Office of the General Assembly to Issue Apologies and Reparations for the Racist Closure of the Memorial Presbyterian Church, Juneau, Alaska
- K. STAN-08 On Deleting Standing Rule 1.4.-From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly
- L. STAN-20 On Amending Standing Rule A.3.d and e. Regarding Submitting Overtures- From the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly
- M. TWE-04 Regarding Worship Resources for Ministering to Veterans
- N. VIOL-01 Regarding Our Commitment to Gun Violence Prevention

Assembly at Worship

Worship

Moderator Paula opened with a call to worship, followed by a musical selection, “Jesus be with Us.” Molly Brown, Chair of the Presbytery of Denver Matthew 25 initiative gave a brief introduction of the Presbytery’s engagement followed by the introduction of the guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Diane L. Givens Moffett, President and Executive Director of the Presbytery Mission Agency, PC(USA). Rev. Dr. Moffett delivered a powerful sermon entitled “A Deep Commitment” based on Micah 6:8 and Matthew 25:31-46.

Matthew 25: Molly Brown

Molly provided information on the Presbytery’s May Matthew 25 engagement and thank Rev. Dr. Moffitt for her message.

Assembly Business

Council Part 1

Agency Review Task Force: Rob Habiger, Council Moderator, presented and updated the work of the Agency Review Task Force, which completed listening sessions of letting go throughout March facilitated by Reverends Evan Amo, Dee Cooper, and Russ Kane. Assembly attendees were asked to respond to “What one comment or question do you have for the Agency Review Task Force?” done in small groups in breakout rooms which were facilitated by the task force members and others.

Letting Go: Paula Steinbacher

Paula and John offered a responsive lament on the newly adopted value of letting go.

Lead Presbytery Nominating Committee (LPNC): Sheri Fry

The Committee reviewed 44 Personal Information Forms (PIF), requested additional information from fourteen (14) applicants, conducted five (5) video interviews, and has invited one person to Denver for an interview. The hope is to bring a recommendation to the May Assembly.

Nominating: Dave Goss

The Nominating Committee offered the following names of persons to serve in the roles and for the classes identified beginning in 2022. There were no nominations from the floor. **Approved.**

Committee on Ministry To elect Minister of Word & Sacrament Clover Bailey (HR) to the Class of 2024.

Highlands Camp Joint Committee To elect Ruling Elder Frank Middleton (PCOC) to the Class of 2024.

General Assembly Commissioners To elect Ruling Elder Bradley Drenth as primary commissioner and to elect, Ruling Elder Noel Matthews as alternate commissioner to the 225th GA Assembly.

Presbyteries of Zimbabwe and Denver Partnership (PZDP): Barb Lyons

Despite the interruptions to travel during the pandemic, the partners continue to connect regularly electronically, and the work of the joint ministry is ongoing. The Central Fund projects including cattle, greenhouses, chickens, and fish are up and operating. The Zimbabwe connections through Denver Presbytery mission partnerships and task forces continue to grow. Barb shared a joyous video of the installation of a pastor in Zimbabwe in a remote area which previously did not have a pastor.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM): Chris Spotts

Chris Spotts moved that Inquirer Dr. Joseph Edwin Sunder be moved to Candidate. Edwin responded to questions from the Assembly and was moved to a breakout room for discussion and voting by poll. **Approved.** Vice Moderator, John Yu administered the constitutional questions and offered prayer.

Highlands Camp: Terry Buchanan

Terry Buchanan, Acting Executive Director of Highlands, reported that the camp just completed an ecumenical retreat for youth. The camp is preparing for the summer camping season, registrations are open. They are still looking to fill summer staff positions. He has been contacted by Youth Triennial which was cancelled by the denomination about hosting an event.

Committee on Ministry (COM): Cindy Cearley

Rev. Clover Bailey was introduced as a new HR Minister Member of the Presbytery coming from Palo Dura Presbytery.

Treasurer: Sue Pilcher

Income for the month of February was \$56,042.53. Investment losses during February were (\$82,934.17) resulting in a year-to-date loss on investments of (\$350,235.54). The Presbytery has

not received income from the Colorado Trust but should receive moneys after the end of March. Moneys from the Hayes grant which are restricted funds will move to a special fund for paying salaries for those hired in the incubator initiative.

Council Part 2

Racial Ethnic Diversity Workgroup (RED): Evan Amo

In the ongoing effort to share our stories and how our race and ethnicities have influenced our faith, RED shared a video of Tom Bacon, a member of Wellshire Presbyterian Church, who serves on Wellshire's diversity committee, and the Presbytery's RED workgroup and Matthew 25 initiative.

Finance and Property Workgroup: Pat Queen

Motion: Council recommends to the Assembly that New Hope Presbyterian Church be approved to sell a portion of its property for debt reduction, not connected to worship space, parking, or other developed property for not less than 90% of the listing price. **Approved**

Stated Clerk: Olivia Hudson Smith

Presbytery Vice Moderator, Rev. Dr. John Yu, will be the guest preacher of the 75th Easter Sunrise Service at Red Rocks, at the invitation of the Colorado Council of Churches.

Adjournment: 7:40 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Paula Steinbacher

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Olivia L. Hudson Smith, JD
Stated Clerk