

MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2021 ASSEMBLY

Via Zoom

ROLL – Coming Soon

Call to Order and Establishment of a Quorum: The meeting came to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was present. Moderator Peter Hulac and Stated Clerk Olivia Hudson Smith were present. Moderator Hulac opened with prayer. A quorum was established.

Prayer:

Presbytery Moderator Peter Hulac and Vice-Moderator Paula Steinbacker opened with prayer acknowledging our Asian congregations and offered prayers for the mass murders in Atlanta and Boulder, Colorado.

Welcome: Peter Hulac

Members and visitors were welcomed. Pete offered that he and Paula will handle motions calling the question going forward recognizing that all voices are necessary for open deliberation. Members are requested to offer the motion sparingly.

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 the stated January 26, 2021, Assembly.**
4. **Receive all reports** of Council workgroups and Standing Committees in the Assembly documents packet.
5. **Receive the report of the Stated Clerk:**
6. Ann Christensen requested and has been released from ordered ministry pursuant to G-2.0507, Book of Order 2019-2021.
7. The Office of the General Assembly Statistical record for churches in the Denver Presbytery shows an overall loss of 565 in membership in 2020 resulting in a total active membership at the end of 2020 of 8124. If membership falls to 8000 or less, the Presbytery will lose one ruling elder and one minister member as commissioners to the General Assembly.
8. For 2021, there is no change in the number of Ruling Elder commissioners allotted for each congregation. The Stated Clerks full annual report for 2020 will be available at the next regular Assembly.

Assembly at Worship: Members of the congregation of Iglesia Presbiteriana de Valverde paid tribute to CLP Jorge Barbaran and his family. CLP Barbaran, the organizing pastor will retire at the end of April 2021. Moderator Hulac recognized his many years of dedicated service and offered prayer. CLP Barbaran extended his gratitude to the Presbytery of Denver for its immigrant hospitality and reminded the Presbytery that Jesus and his family had to leave their homeland for the safety of another land.

Assembly Business:

Vision Construction Team and Process:

Rob Habiger, Daphne Rice-Allen, and Paula Steinbacher brought the report. Rob gave an overview of the process thus far noting that the team is in the curate and generate chapter. Rob introduced the Bright Spot Hunting concept, a way of listening to one another reflecting on bright spots members have received in and around the Presbytery. Bright spots are people, places, and ministries that are working well and can be better than problem solving because they create energy for moving toward life. Members moved to breakout rooms with a facilitator to name and reflect on bright spots.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

John Bell introduced Inquirer Danielle Hillyer whom the committee brought before the Assembly for examination to move to Candidate. She was questioned on her faith journey, service, and motivation for ministry. The motion to move from inquirer to candidate was **Approved**. The constitutional questions were administered and prayer extended.

Committee on Ministry:

Judy Jensen and Jim Emig reported. Rev. Ann Rosewall was introduced as a new minister member with prayer and affirmation of support. The pastoral care team approved by the committee, comprised of Bill Sanders, Heather Cameron, Rich Stewart, Christine Beitzel, and Jane Ritterson were introduced. The committee approved Rev. Justin Spurlock and CLP Sandy Safford for Pastor Renewal funding grants in 2021.

Motion: COM recommended to the Assembly that it approve the call of Rev. Evan Amo currently serving as the installed Designated Pastor of Peoples Presbyterian Church as the indefinite installed Pastor of Peoples Presbyterian Church. **Approved**.

Presbytery Foundation:

Joseph Moore reported that the Presbytery Foundation has provided all Presbyterians an avenue to realize their philanthropic goals through a variety of giving and investment options. The Foundation remains focused on the Reformed values that have guided stewardship and investment for more than 200 years. Congregations are encouraged to consider the online giving platform offered by the Foundation and consider using Stewardship Navigator as a tool for fund raising.

Nominating Committee:

Bill Sanders reported for the committee. The following standing committee slates were offered and **Approved** with no nominations coming from the floor:

Committee on Ministry: To elect Rev. Terry Olthoff (HR) to the Class of 2021; Rev. Whitney Dempsey (Georgetown) to the Class of 2022; and Rev. Sheri Fry (Good Shepherd) to the Class of 2023.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry: To elect RE Martin Cobb (St. Paul) to the Class of 2023.

Highlands Camp Joint Committee: To elect to the Class of 2022 CLP Sandy Safford. Bob Briggs elected at the January Assembly to the Class of 2022 but a typo indicated the Class of 2023.

Presbytery of Zimbabwe and Denver Presbytery:

Barbara Lefevre-Lyons reported that in 2020 due to COVID-19, a touchstone of the partnership, sending and receiving delegates was postponed and will not take place in 2021. Work with the Central Fund continues enabling sending of much needed help to supply food for parishioners and stipends for pastors and evangelist. To continue close communication with our partners they

are initiating small groups of pastors from Denver and Zimbabwe to connect via Zoom or WhatsApp. Pastors are prayerfully encouraged to become part of these small groups.

Treasurer:

Sue Pilcher reported that the Presbytery has received 30% of the per capita for the year for which she is pleased. The Presbytery will receive \$915,000.00 from the Colorado Trust in 2021, which is over the budgeted amount. Investment income year to date is \$74,357.00 bringing the year to date deficit to \$134,465.

Council:

Finance and Property Workgroup:

Pat Queen moved the following motions on behalf of Council

Motion: Council recommends to Assembly that it approve a request that the Presbytery of Denver guarantee a \$1.2 million PILP 20-year loan for Central Presbyterian for a \$3.8 million renovation project. **Approved.**

Motion: Council recommends to Assembly that it approve a \$250,000 grant to Central Presbyterian for its renovation project, and that if approved, the money shall be withdrawn from the Presbytery's larger investment account. **Approved.**

Mission and Ministry:

Jo Culbertson introduced a video highlighting three Presbytery mission partnership that are active in the local community, Journey with Migrants, Covenant Cupboard, and New Genesis. The video, narrated by Loye Troxler was shown at the Assembly is available on the Presbytery website and available to churches.

Stated Clerk Report

Olivia Hudson Smith reported that the North Highlands property closed on March 10, 2021. The Lakewood property is under contract but the closing date was extended until May as the potential buyer continues to negotiate with T-Mobile to relocate the cell tower located in the steeple to a temporary location on the property for redevelopment purposes.

Adjournment

The Assembly was adjourned at 7:58 p.m. with the benediction offered by Jorge Barbaran.

The next stated Assembly will be held via Zoom on May 25, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Olivia L. Hudson Smith, JD

Stated Clerk