

Fall Stated Cimarron Presbytery Meeting Agenda
First Presbyterian Church, Ponca, OK; Feb 18, 2020

Attendance:

Teaching Elders Present: Gordon Edwards, HR and Executive Presbyter; Rick Mills, Perry; Karen Rogers, Woodward; Leah Hrachovec, Stillwater, Jenny Hardin, Stillwater; Deborah Meinke, HR; Linda Sherry, Ponca City;

(clerks note: attendance sheets were lost for this meeting and the elders list that follows is likely incomplete or in error)

Ruling Elders Present: Don Tapp (CP), Tonkawa; Christianne Chase, Moderator, Enid; Mike Dvorak (CP), Perry; Billie DeBoard, Blackwell; Mark Southard (CP), Newkirk; Janice Shinn, Newkirk; Kathy Thomas, Stillwater; Ty Albers, Woodward; Ida Evans, Alva; Bill Salmons, Ponca City, Jennifer Bozarth, Guthrie.

Excused: Gay Cocheres, HR; Deborah Green, At Large; Cynthia Rigby, At Large, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary; Vern Arens, HR, United Church of Christ, Parish Associate, Stillwater; Andrew Long, Enid.

Ruling Elders Excused: Beaver, Guymon,

9:00 AM Registration/Fellowship Time

9:30 AM Welcome, Opening Prayer, Opening business – Moderator

Elder Christianne Chase, Sanctuary

Meeting Open by Christianne Chase opened meeting at 9:40am

Read poem by Ann Weams – “Searching for Shalom”

Prayer

Declaration of Quorum by Moderator – A Quorum was certified.

Seating of Corresponding Members – Joseph Moore, Plains and Peaks Presbytery; Joel Gill Arkansas Presbytery, Rev. Amy Rogers, Guthrie, DOC.

Recognition of Visitors- Kathy Sikes – Guthrie; Karen Gore Perry, Pam Dvorak, Rev. Robert Montgomery

Appoint Committee on Attendance (ruling and teaching elder) – Karen Rogers, Ty Albers

Appoint Committee to count Offering (ruling and teaching elder) – Leah Hrachovec, Ida Evans.

Gordon announced today’s offering would be for the Tulsa Black Wall Street Memorial and the Tri-Presbytery theme would center on Racism and remembrance of the Tulsa Race Massacre. Christianne appointed elder Jennifer Bozarth of Guthrie as vice moderator.

9:45 AM **Worship with Communion**, Sanctuary

Elder Mark Southard preaching, Offering will be designated for the Black Wall Street Memorial in recognition of the Tulsa Race Massacre.

10:45 Break

11:00 AM **Presbytery Business Meeting:**

The meeting agenda – adopted by consent

Review and approve minutes from the October 15 Stated Meeting – Motion by elder Mike Dvorak, Second by Rev. Gordon Edwards. Motion was approved.

Reports:

Treasurer – Rev. Andrew Long, Report on Presbytery Finances – (5 min)

 Christianne in Place of Andrew: Gordon moved to received – approved Offering \$416

Presbytery Council – Elder Christianne Chase, Moderator (5 min)

Requests from Churches:

Newkirk: Requested permission to re-elect one elder (Mike Hull) for one additional 2yr term past the 6 year term limit– Approved

Guymon: Requested to be excused from Per capita from 2019 on until new pastor installed. Council recommendation – Forgive 2020 Presbytery per capita –After discussion, the motion was tabled until next presbytery meeting so that a representative can attend from the congregation.

Executive Presbyter Report – Rev. Gordon Edwards (10 min)

Andrew long news – passed his PhD defense and was given a distinction award.

Dates for Lebanon and Syria delayed due to family medical issues. Contributions are still being received for the Syrian Presbytery. He is hoping to go in March or April \$6,000 already collected.

OPN report – March 9th Next meeting in OKC; 2021 sponsoring a tour to Israel and Palistine, literature available in at May Meeting. 1/3 religious pilgrimage 2/3 fact finding on current situation. July 18th: Post GA conversation in Tulsa. Hear about GA and impacts to Okla.

Presbyterians –(i.e. fossil fuel divestments). Will hear from delegates and a Keynote speaker.

Dwight Mission Agency Update– OPN has been very involved. The Dwight Board ceased operations for 2020. Two conversations were held – one in OKC and the other in Tulsa. Finances are very strained even with only one caretaker. Strong desire from Dwight Alumni and friends to save Dwight, but finances are severe. \$500,000 needed by May 2020. \$1.5MM needs to be pledged as well over 3 yrs. Conversation with 2 groups to take over camp. Details can be found on the Dwight web site. Bill Salmons: Ponca City Mission committee: A special offering to be held on April 26th. They challenge other congregations to do the same. Money will be returned if goal not reached, but funding is badly needed even in Shutdown status.

In an example of our connectional advantage – Joel Gill (Ferncliff camp) contacted us to see how they might help OPN selected 2 weeks where OPN would provide transportation to camp from OK sites.

Summer camping update – Joel Gill, Executive Director of Ferncliff Camp, also President of PCCCA board.

Ferncliff is working to keep camping options available to Ok kids. June 7th and July 19th are set as Oklahoma weeks. The camp is located just west of Littlerock about 5 ½ hr drive from here. They are willing to put up drivers in Hotel lodging for a night for \$25 at camp; Will also host youth leader while kids are at camp week.

A video of the camp was shown to Presbytery. See www.ferncliff.org/oklahoma - for specific information for Oklahoma campers.

They have 1500 summer campers, 1200 acres, lakes and pool. A farm and garden on site – hire college age aids. They also will have a family camp – Memorial day weekend

Mission team program – work in disaster relief center.

Also offer traveling day camp program as well to your site. Churches provide housing for staff Brochures available. Cost for up to 40 kids ~\$1800. Online registration link available.

Cost – \$479 per week Sunday evening through Friday afternoon

Can set registration code for Scholarships from Churches – will then bill church at end of Summer.

Synod of the Sun report – Rev. Rick Mills, Synod Commissioner (5 min)

May13-16 Empowering Commissioned Pastors Conference

July 13-18 – Youth workshop in Tulsa – Drew Travis Keynote Speak 9th through 12th at TU

Planning underway for Imagine event this fall

Commission on Ministry and Preparation – Rev Leah Hrachovec, Moderator (5 min)

- Request to Dismiss Rev. Bruce Taylor to the Denver Presbytery - Approved
- January meeting – Met with Amy Rogers (Pastor at Guthrie) and Ron Pingleton (new supply for Alva)
- Lunch with Vern Arens – Renewal of covenant

SCRAPCE – Elder Jenna Campbell (5 min)

APSE event in Little Rock next year in Chicago. Open to all interested people.

Thursday – Feb 27 great Apse share – Zoom call Review of recent conference and sharing of resources. SCRAPE.Team@gmail.com or call Jenna.

October 4th – 7th at Austin Seminary – Digging deeper into the well of Ministry resources” Information from PMA.

Newsletters are sent out 3X/yr. Email Jenna or use the SCRAPSE Link

Presbyterian Foundation - Joseph Moore (5 min)

Greetings from Presbyterian Foundation. Joseph is replacing Sherry Kenny. He acts as a Resource to Sessions and mission committees. He has served as a Pastor and is available to preach. His job is to bring resources of the Foundation to our churches and committees:

- A cost effective on-line giving platform is available (only 2% fee) It is able in integrate in to church web site.
- Coaches to pair with pastors stewardship with help from Lilly foundation.

Matthew 25 Program at Guthrie – Rev. Amy Rodgers: Delayed until May meeting.

Stated Clerk Report – Elder Mark Southard (10 min)

Recognition of our Retiring Clerk – Rev. Deborah Meinke

Presentation of gifts of appreciation from the Presbytery:

- Topographic Plaque of Oklahoma
- Christianne – Nursey \$200 gift from New Home tree and card
- \$200 donation to cause of your choice.

Deborah: It has been a joy to be among us, she met Jenna at only 5yrs old, She served on the PNC that called Gordon. She met Christianne as a pastoral candidate on COM, has pastored and now served as clerk for 7yrs. She stated it is a joy to be connected, knows most of the Presbyterians in Oklahoma! She plans on moving up to Kansas City and hopes to keep these connections. The recognition was concluded with a prayer by Rev. Leah Harocovik.

12:15 PM LUNCH - Fellowship Hall

Additional Business:

Gordon Edwards requests authorization to request Synod grant to fund transportation with Indian Nation and Eastern Oklahoma Presbyteries to Ferncliff Camp.

Motion by Karen Rogers, Seconded by Mike Dvorak 2nd – Motion Approved

Motion by Karen Rogers, Seconded by Linda Sherry: Motion to match the offering received today during worship from Presbytery funds. Motion Approved.

1:00 PM “Racism and White Supremacy: Beginning the Conversation”, Rev. Jenny Hardin

Rev. Hardin began our program time with prayer. She remarked that this is just the beginning of a conversation. The following is a brief outline of some the activities she led us through:

Objectives: Build a shared language; understand system reality; understand power arrangements that make us complicit in racism .

In Robin DeAngelo’s book “White fragility” the author makes a point about white progressives – they believe they are “woke” but do damage anyway.

Table group discussion: Why does Cimarron Presbytery need to think critically about racism and why does it matter? – 6 words i.e. Look at the room and our churches!

Courageous space – Sharing in the risks of speaking Truth, Sharing in emotional work, willing to stay engaged and take responsibility. Committed to speak honestly

Center/Borderlands – Gloria Anzaldua. Power exists in the center and defines everyone else’s reality. “Center” defined by categories like tradition, white, male, education, Christian, able-bodied, straight.

Borderlands: Muslim, People of color, Mental illness, poor, homeless, lazy non-english speakers, gay etc...

White Supremacy: A system that benefits whites and justifies exploitation of other groups. Continuum on Becoming Antiracist Multicultural Institution.

Following our discussions, Gordon Edwards moved that Presbytery buy each congregation 2 copies of the book “White Fragility” by Robin Diangelo and send them out with a with letter inviting them to read and be prepared to discuss at our May Presbytery Meeting Second by Jenny Hardin, Motion Passed.

3:00 PM Attendance and Offering Reports

Attendance: 12 Ruling elder 9 Churches; 7 TE from 4 churches ;7 visitors

Joys and Concerns –

Moderator Christianne Chase closed the meeting with a poem by Ann Weams.

Meeting was adjourned.

Church hosts for remaining 2020 Presbytery Meeting Dates:

Blackwell – Oct. 13, 2020

Respectfully Submitted

Mark Southard, Stated Clerk

Christianne Chase, Moderator