

**Spring Stated Cimarron Presbytery Meeting Minutes**  
***First Presbyterian Church, Newkirk, OK; May 8, 2018***  
***“Knowing the Will of God”***

Teaching Elders Present: Gordon Edwards, HR and EP; Andrew Long, Enid; Leah Hrachovec, Stillwater; Joshua Kerr, Perry; Deborah Meinke, Stated Clerk; ; Cynthia Rigby, At Large, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Ruling Elders Present: Nancy Dale, Guymon; Don Tapp, Tonkawa; Christianne Chase, Enid; Mike Dvorak, Perry; Billie DeBoard, Blackwell; Mark Southard, Newkirk; Ed Arquitt, Stillwater; Kathy Thomas, Stillwater; Jenna Campbell, Certified Christian Educator, Stillwater; Phyllis Taylor, Stillwater; Helen Brake, Stillwater; Kathy Stokesberry, Tonkawa; Ty Albers, Woodward; Jan Harris, Guthrie; Ida Evans, Alva; Barbara Younger, Presbyterian Women; Harold Younger, Ponca City; Rebecca and Matthew Ware, Newkirk

Teaching Elders Excused: Sarah Chivington-Buck, Alva; Rick Mills, HR; Linda Sherry, Guymon; Glen Bays, HR; Gay Cocheres, HR; Deborah Green, At Large; Everett Miller, At Large; Karen Rogers, At Large

Ruling Elders Excused: Beaver

Seating of Corresponding Members – Rev. Robert Montgomery, Supply Pastor, Ponca City; Melinda Hunt, Solar Under the Sun Executive Director; Rob Duncan, Dwight Mission Inc.; Rev. Phil Erwin, Supply Pastor, Tonkawa

Recognition of Visitors – Sydney Reding, Andrea Arquitt, Stillwater

Registration and fellowship time began at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. Commissioners and guests went to the sanctuary for the morning session at 9:30 AM. Mark Southard, Moderator, opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed us as pastor of the host church. The clerk declared that a quorum (5 TE, 5 RE, 5 churches) was present. New commissioners and visitors were recognized and corresponding members were seated. The Moderator called for volunteers to appoint Committees on Attendance and Offering (1 ruling and 1 teaching elder). Attendance will be Leah Hrachovec, Stillwater and Barbara Younger, Ponca City. Offering will be counted by Josh Kerr, Perry and Christianne Chase, Enid. The Moderator entertained a motion to adopt the meeting agenda, which was adopted as presented. Minutes from the February 2018 Stated Meeting in Ponca City and the called March 2018 meeting conducted by teleconference were APPROVED by voice vote. Regretfully, Margaret Smith has withdrawn as General Assembly commissioner to the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. The alternate commissioner, Mike Dvorak, Perry was nominated in her stead and his election was approved by voice vote.

The presbytery worshipped together and celebrated the Sacrament of Communion by intinction. Rev. Dr. Cynthia Rigby, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, preached and Commissioned Pastor Mark Southard assisted in worship. Rev. Andrew Long provided beautiful organ and piano accompaniment during worship. The offering was designated for the Middle

East Mission. Stated Clerk Deborah Meinke, Stillwater, and Ruling Elder Mike Dvorak, Perry were commissioned in service to the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, June 16-23, in St. Louis. Following a short stretch break, members reassembled in the sanctuary to hear reports from committees and other entities.

## Committee Reports

### Executive Presbyter Report – Gordon Edwards

Gordon just returned from Lebanon and called attention to his report on disbursement of gifts to various persons/organizations in Lebanon and Syria. Gordon's next tour to Palestine and Israel (1/3 pilgrimage to holy sites, 2/3 observing and discussion conditions and issues in Israel/Palestine) will take place Sept 3-16, 2018 – sign up today! Gordon reminded all present of the post-GA gathering Sat. July 14<sup>th</sup> at Westminster Presbyterian Church, OKC to hear from commissioners and Outlook editor Jill Duffield. Each congregation encouraged to send 2 elders.

### Stated Clerk – Deborah Meinke (written report)

In addition to the written report, Deb brought instructions for knitting Prayer square shawls that she will take to General Assembly, which will be distributed by the Ecumenical And Interfaith Committee. Pick up your church's packet on *per capita*. She reviewed recent Oklahoma Conference of Churches Emotional and Spiritual Care trainings and deployments. The clerk has received 2017 minutes from FPC, Blackwell

### Council – Mark Southard, Moderator

The council has one action item for the presbytery.

*Action Item:* The Council recommends that a designated fund for Mideast Mission be created. (see explanatory document from Gordon) –APPROVED by voice vote

### Treasurer's Report – Andrew Long, Treasurer (written reports)

Andrew explained that the transition between treasurers is complete. He emphasized that check and requests for reimbursements should be mailed to the treasurer's attention at 502 W. Maine, Enid, OK 73701. We offer deep thanks to Laura McVay for her service as treasurer and hope that her daughter's health stabilizes soon.

### Committee on Nominations – Ed Arquitt, Moderator

No Report

### Commission on Ministry and Preparation – Christianne Chase, Moderator

No Report

We welcomed Rev. Dr. Cynthia Rigby back to the microphone to present her thoughts on knowing the will of God. Rev. Dr. Rigby expressed her thanks for the invitation and her regrets that she has been unable to attend most Cimarron meetings due to her teaching commitments at Austin. She has just completed a new book  *Holding Faith*  which addresses theological topics in a manner accessible to lay audiences. Our discussion of crisis theology was thought-provoking and stimulating. At 12:20 PM, the presbytery moved to Fellowship Hall to eat lunch served by members of the Newkirk congregation. Following lunch we returned to business reports.

## Solar Under the Sun - Melinda Hunt, Executive Director

Melinda presented a brief slide show that highlighted Solar School training and the ongoing installation of solar panels in Honduran villages. The Solar program is having some success in recruiting local Hondurans to learn about installing the equipment themselves.

## Presbyterian Women - Barbara Younger, Moderator (written report)

Barbara reported on the spring gathering in Guthrie, Fall gathering will be Sat. Aug. 25, at FPC, Stillwater to hear about the 2018-2019 Bible Study from Rev. Linda Sherry, Guymon. Barbara expressed PW's frustration at dwindling numbers of participants.

## Other Business

Jenna Campbell announced that on Sept. 20 there will be a Faith Formation overview in OKC by Melinda from Congregational Publishing. Also the SCRAPCE Oct conference at APTS keynoted by Traci Smith *Faithful Families*

Cynthia Rigby talked about merger of PMA and Pres Publishing Corporation.

Rev. Dr. Rigby returned to lead a discussion of how we can know that we are hearing word(s) from God or from another source. "Be Still and Know...is required." The best test is whether it advances justice for the weak and vulnerable. When we do gospel work, we do not 'add on' our efforts to God's effort, but God works through us. We thoroughly enjoyed our conversation with Cindy and are actively seeking ways that she can engage with us (and more Cimarron Presbyterians) more frequently.

## Attendance and Offering Reports

Attendance - 6TE, 19 RE, and 11 churches, 31 people total

Offering - \$326 was collected for Middle East Mission

**Joys and Concerns** were shared - Laura McVay daughter's illness, Summer Mission trips, Dwight Mission summer programs, Ponca City PW dinner on June 6. Rev. Amy Rogers, Guthrie, recovery from surgery, elder Ken Rothschof's death in Guymon  
The meeting adjourned with prayer at 3:00 PM, singing the doxology led by Rev. Josh Kerr.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Deborah Meinke, Stated Clerk

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Mark Southard, Moderator

## Upcoming Meetings and Deadlines

Oklahoma Presbyterian Network, Stillwater – Mary 16, 2018

223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, St. Louis, MO, June 16-23, 2018

Oklahoma Presbyterian Network Post-General Assembly gathering with Jill Duffields,  
Presbyterian Outlook editor , Westminster PC, OKC, July 14, 2018  
Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering, Louisville, KY, August 2-5, 2018  
Synod Sunday, August 26, 2018  
Commission on Ministry and Preparation, Enid, September 4, 2018  
Fall Stated Meeting, Blackwell, October 9, 2018