

Spring Stated Cimarron Presbytery Meeting Minutes
Online Meeting via Zoom; May 12, 2020

9:00 AM Roll Call (Clerk: Mark Southard - in lieu of Sign up sheets)

Attending:

Teaching Elders: Gordon Edwards (General Presbyter); Andrew Long (Enid); Rick Mills (Perry); Linda Sherry (Ponca City); Leah Hrachovek (Stillwater); Jenny Hardin (Stillwater); Karen Rogers (Woodward); Deborah Meinke (HR)

Ruling Elder Commissioners: Christianne Chase (Enid, Moderator); Mike Dvorak (CP Blackwell); Billie DeBoard (Blackwell); Jennifer Bozarth (Guthrie); Nancy Dale (Guymon); Mark Southard (Stated Clerk & CP Newkirk), Mike Hull (Newkirk); Ann Hight (Perry); Bill Salmons (Ponca City); Kathy Thomas (Stillwater); John Mark Day (Stillwater); Jenna Campbell (CCE Stillwater)

Corresponding: Valerie Young (Synod Leader/Stated Clerk, Synod of the Sun); Lemuel Garcia (Presbyterian Mission Agency Representative)

Guests: Rebecca Jett (Guymon); Ann Salmons (Ponca City); Ed Arquitt (Stillwater); Mary McKinley (Stillwater); Wendy and Don Long (Maryland)

Excused: Ty Albers (RE, Woodward); Kathy Stokesbury (RE, Tonkawa); Ida Evans (RE, Alva)

9:05 AM Welcome, Opening Prayer, Opening business – Moderator
Elder Christianne Chase opened the meeting with a Poem by Steve Garness-Holmes “One Body”

Declaration of Quorum by Moderator – Certified that a Quorum was present.
Seating of Corresponding Members and Recognition of Visitors (see attendance)

9:15 AM **Worship – Lead by Rev. Dr. Andrew Long**

9:45 AM **Presbytery Business Meeting:**

Review and adopt the meeting agenda (*Approved*)

Review and approve minutes from the Feb 18th Stated Meeting in Ponca
(*Approved as submitted*)

Reports:

Treasurer – Rev. Andrew Long, Report on Presbytery Finances – (5 min)
Andrew Presented the current balance sheets - attached

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

- Guymon: Request for an Exemption from 2020 Presbytery per capita dues. (***Motion Approved***)
- Reappointment of Jenna Campbell as our Education Certification Advisor - A brief description was given of the role served by Jenna - (***Motion Approved***)
- Offering to be designated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Rev. Lemuel Garcia: Greetings from PMA. He looks forward to sharing the Matthew 25 program at a future meeting. Appreciates donations to PDA to help those on the margins of society. General Assembly will be held online this year due to the COVID pandemic. Initial meeting will

be on June 19th to elect Moderator(s), followed by business sessions on June 26-27th. He is the resource to PMA for our Presbytery and churches. lemuel.Garcia@pcusa.org

Executive Presbyter – Rev. Gordon Edwards (5 min)

- Expressed thanks to those who prepared this online meeting.
- OPN report - Planned GA Commissioner training shifted to on-line Synod Training to be held on May 28th at 4:00pm. Alternate delegates are invited too.
- Summer camping update –All Ferncliff Camps canceled this summer. This will cost the camp nearly \$1MM. “Camp-in-a-box” program is being offered for a small fee.
- Palestine-Israel trip still on but brochures are late due to pandemic. Planned for Sept 6-17, 2021 for \$3500.
- Tuesday Check-ins at 11:00am on Zoom are ongoing - please join us. An hour of plans and status updates and best practices. Right now many are concerned about reopening.
- Question from Bill Salmons regarding Dwight Mission campaign - On Hold. Current Caretaker resident is resigning soon, the board trying to find another on-site person.

Synod of the Sun – Elder Valerie Young, Synod Leader (5 min)

Greetings - On-line giving plus an App are now available as ways to give offerings to PMA or Synod of the Sun.

Valerie shared a cartoon sketch concerning a possible future after COVID. The March Synod gathering was held online successfully with larger than normal attendance. She also shared how the Synod has been able to help congregations to adapt: Continues to support online technology. Sponsored a series of webinars - they can be found on the Synod U-tube channel or linked from the Synod web site. The Synod youth workshop is coming on-line as well.

Lots of creativity is being seen. Normal may have changed forever - perhaps we can point to a better future.

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

The Commission is engaged in conversations with several churches who are looking for Pastors - Guthrie, Perry, Guymon and Alva. Perry and Guymon are activity looking with approved MIF's online.

No candidates are under care at the current time, Leah invited us to encourage those who might be interested.

Stated Clerk – Elder Mark Southard (5 min)

Busy learning Zoom, hosting online meetings and beginning to update the Website. We now have an on-line giving button to the Presbytery on the homepage through the Presbyterian Foundation.

10:15 PM Rev. Dr. Andrew Long led a discussion on “Worship as Pastoral Care in a Pandemic”

Worship as Pastoral Care is the subject on his recent Doctor of Ministry - Andrew gave a brief account of his background and featuring his early years in the Episcopal Church and his work as a church musician. He then proceeded to share some of his recent DMin work.

(His entire presentation is available from Andrew upon request, a very brief summary follows)

His presentation began with the subject of Pastoral Care and Trauma

3 Common effects of trauma:

1. The endless feedback loop
2. Thoughts of Annihilation.
3. Ability to minimize their own experience

He then related these findings to the current pandemic and how Worship can offer healing. He advised us to craft liturgies that are honest and empathetic. Are we telling our people the truth through worship? Don't sell out to popularity. There is pressure to be upbeat and flashy, but we need to be honest. Worship should not minimize suffering - it significant to God and should be to us.

Andrew's presentation was followed by a Q&A session.

11:15 PM Rev. Jenny Hardin – “Continuing our Conversation on Racism: Increased Impact of the Corona Virus Pandemic on Communities of Color”

From our previous discussion at the last presbytery meeting - Racism is a systemic problem.

Yesterday on a Webinar by PCUSA Office of Public witness - Rev. Roslyn Bouier said: “If we were all in this together then we would all have access to the same resources.” Many inequities affect people of color in this Pandemic. Posted now as a Facebook video.

Jenny asked us to think about factors affecting people of color - via the chat dialog. The following were emphasized:

- Housing and Housing discrimination - even though its illegal it still happens particularly in urban areas. High number of people in one house - poverty - public transportation - working in “essential workers” have to get out. Can't shelter in place. We are not in this together.
- Lack of Clean water - big talking point in webinar - Detroit Michigan, Navajo reservation, Price of water and resumption of service after a cutoff is expensive. If no water, their children can be taken from the home.
- Mass incarceration- overcrowding of Jails African Am is 5X that of whites. If equal percentage Jail population would decrease by 40%. They lack cleaning supplies there too.
- Access to health care - DONT have sick leave, cant take time to go to the doctor. Can't get tested. Harder to seek treatment. Racism in health care - treated poorly and are turned off of seeking care.

- Education disparities - bias against people of color, schools have less resources, less internet and technology, if public places closed then no access to internet ! 25% of Okla. students don't have internet.
- Barriers to employment - higher rates of unemployment - jobs put them at higher risk and work multiple jobs - therefore higher risk to interacting with more people. Black immigrants with an accent are discriminated against though to be less educated.

What can we do? What can our member do to provide immediate Relief and long term systemic change?

- Poor nutrition leads to poor health - Can Food banks provide healthier food (diabetes, obesity..)
- Have Churches and business pared with individual schools.
- Advocate for availability.
- Discussion about working around barriers to voting.

Closing Business :

Attendance Report - 8TE, 9RE Commissioners
 Joys and Concerns – Ty Albers sister (Tina) having surgery for a broken ankle
 Ann Hight for upcoming knee Replacement
 Prayers for Fairbanks family in loss of their Grandson
 Shirley Hile's death last night in Ponca

12:00 PM Adjournment with prayer – Moderator Christianne Chase

<p>Church hosts for remaining 2020 Presbytery Meeting Dates: Blackwell – Oct. 13, 2020 (in person we sincerely pray!)</p>
