

Fall Stated Cimarron Presbytery Minutes
Due to the continuing pandemic, this was an on-line meeting via Zoom

October 12, 2021

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

Attendance:

Teaching Elders: Alison Burchett(Enid); Ron Fike(Perry); Linda Sherry(Ponca City); Leah Hrachovec(Stillwater); Jenny Hardin(Stillwater); Karen Rogers(Woodward); Gordon Edwards(General Presbyter); Rick Mills(HR); Katrina Richardson(At-large)
Ruling Elders:Ida Evens(Alva); Mike Dvorak(CP, Blackwell); Sam Robinson(Enid); Dennis Laughlin(Guthrie); Nancy Dale(Guymon); Mark Southard(CP Newkirk, Stated Clerk); Bill Salmons(Ponca), Rick Norris(Ponca City, Council); Jennifer Campbell(Stillwater, CCE); Kathy Thomas(Stillwater, Moderator); Rusty Rex(Stillwater); Ed Arquitt(Nominations), Marry McKinley(Stillwater);
Corresponding:Alison Longman(Supply, Enid); Minwoo Kim(Supply, Guymon, EOP); Verne Arens(Stillwater, Assoc.); Lemuel Garcia-Arroyo(PMA); Kristi Rogers(Synod Moderator); Jim Kirk(PDA); Tim Blodgett(General Presbyter EOP)
Guests:Ann Salmons(Ponca City)
Excused: Christianne Chase (Treasurer, Enid); Ann Hight(Perry);

9:05 AM Welcome, Opening Prayer, Opening business – Moderator, Elder Kathrine Thomas

Declaration of Quorum by Moderator (9 TE, 13 Ruling Elders from 8 congregations)
Seating of Corresponding Members (Motion made, 2nd and passed)
Recognition of Visitors
Opening Prayer by Katherine Thomas

9:15 AM **Worship** – Rev. Alison Burchett

Offering to be sent to the Presbytery of Southern Louisiana for storm relief.

9:45 AM **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Update** – Jim Kirk

Thanked Cimarron for the invitation. PDA has been very active. Disasters did not stop during COVID. Now beginning in person responses. Still responding to disasters from past years as well as to the Haiti earthquake, thousands and thousands affected. Working with partners in Haiti to respond and rebuild. 130,000 structures affected.

Afghanistan refugees - partnering with bases and to resettlement community - working with Catholic charities in Oklahoma.

California wildfires are also being addressed.

Hurricane Ida relief is ongoing, but still responding to last year's storms as well. Not only affected Louisiana but also produced flooding damage in the NE as well.

Immediate grants done from core funding - such as one great hour of Sharing. Long term recovery aid comes from special appeals. He encouraged us to look at the PDA webpage for current information as well as social media.

Realize the importance of maintaining our connections particularly in the COVID days. "If you want to go fast, go alone if you want to go far, go together."

Q&A: Gordon - we can be in conversation with PDA about Afghan refugees- yes - Susan Krabull is coordinating.

What does PDA do with issues like mass shootings and the like. Yes - experience with human caused disasters. Specialized teams available. Even as early as the Murrow building bombing. PDA is not a Louisville program its "our program"

10:00 AM **Presbytery Business Meeting:**

Motion: Review and adopt the meeting agenda. Moved, 2nd - passed
Review and approve minutes since last stated meeting:

Stated Meeting May 11, 2021

Called Meeting August 10, 2021

Called Meeting September 21, 2021

Motion to Approve as Presented - moved and 2nd - approved

Reports:

Report of the Nominations Committee – Elder Ed Arquitt
Cimarron Presbytery 2022 Slate of new officers

Nominations Committee:

(nominated by Presbytery Council, also nominated to serve as Moderator) RE, Mike Dvorak (Perry) 2024

Treasurer

RE, Christianne Chase (Enid) 2024

Presbytery Moderator:

RE, Katherine Thomas, (Stillwater) renominated to a 2nd term

Vice-Moderator: To be appointed by the Moderator, confirmed by the Presbytery RE, Mike Dvorak

Presbytery Council:

RE, Rick Norris (Ponca) 2023

Commission on Ministry and Preparation: (3 TE's & 3 RE, 3yr terms) TE, Leah Hrachovec (2022), Moderator (by Nominations Committee) RE, James Smith (Alva) 2024

TE, Jenny Hardin (Stillwater) 2024

Committee on Representation:

TE, Karen Rogers (Woodward) 2024

Ordination Exam Readers: (Annual election, no term limit)

Ruling Elder – Phyllis Taylor, (Stillwater) Teaching Elder - Rev. Deborah Green, (At Large) Alternate Reader – Thad Leffingwell, (Stillwater)

Synod of the Sun Commissioners:

TE, Ron Fike (Perry) 2023

Agency for Dwight Mission

RE, Annette Newcomb (Ponca) 2024.

Presbytery Permanent Judicial Commission: No vacancies this year **Synod**

Permanent Judicial Commission No vacancies this year

Commissioners to 225th General Assembly, Louisville

TE, Jenny Hardin, Stillwater

TE Alternate: Karen Rogers, Woodward

RE, Nancy Ryan, Woodward.

Young Adult Advisory Delegate - TBD

Request for Nominations from the floor – Moderator Kathrine Thomas

None

Report was approved and officers elected as presented.

Treasurer – Elder Christianne Chase, Report on Presbytery Finances, - by reviewed by Gordon Edwards. (See Attached)

Question from Jenna on funds left over in camps and conferences - plans? Could they be set aside for next year to help with Triennium.

Motion by Jenna Campbell: Add \$2800 to Triennium from camp and conference budget line. 2nd by Gordon, Motion passed.

Presentation of proposed 2022 Budget

Council met and decided to reduce budget to account for lower membership. \$1000 less from expenses and \$2000 from clerk's expense and \$1000 from Camp and Conference budget lines to construct PDA disaster relief line.

Adoption of 2022 Budget – Kathrine Thomas

Adoption moved by Gordon 2nd by Dennis Laughlin Budget adopted.

Council – Elder Kathrine Thomas, Moderator

Nominations for Nominating Committee Moderator

Mike Dvorak was nominated - no other nominations - Approved.

Motion to Dismiss Ordination Commission for Alison Burchett -moved by Karen Rogers seconded by Ron Fike, Approved

Motion to Appoint an Administrative commission to commission Rev. Minwoo Kim to the Guymon Congregation. Commissioning to be October 23rd at 1:00pm, lunch provided at 12:00pm

Proposed Members: Gordon Edwards, Mark Southard, Karen Rogers, Katherine Thomas, 3 Guymon elders, invite EOP representatives as corresponding members. Moved by Gordon Edward's , 2nd by Leah, Approved

Update (for Steve Fairbanks) - Solar under the Sun - started in 2009 in Haiti - still operational in spite of Hurricanes and earthquake - Kenya too.

Honduras work goes on as . Power for 63 of 76 complete.

Urged to go to Solar school, donate and pray for partners.

Commission on Ministry and Preparation – Rev Leah Hrachovec, Moderator

Leah - a lot has happened since last stated meeting

Celebrate RE from Tonkawa, Junior Wood who is now in CIM courses at Austin.

At July 6th meeting, we received Katrina Richardson as at-large member

Voted to dissolve the call with Andrew Long at Enid and dismiss upon request by his receiving Presbytery.

Ordained Alison Burchett at Enid

Met with Brett Wilenzick who is discerning whether to pursue CIM

Met with Katherine to concur with her call to the Guthrie congregation. She will candidate this coming Sunday.

PNC still active at Alva.

Motion from Gordon to empower COMP to appoint an Installation Commission for Katrina Richardson at Guthrie FUPC if the way be clear. 2nd and approved.

Executive Presbyter and OPN report – Rev. Gordon Edwards

Dwight Mission deal is final and needs no further action from us. Dwight mission board still exists with a large bequest still pending from a donor payable upon death. The board may transform into a camping board in the future.

Need to name a nominee to the Synod Presbyterian foundation board. Christianne's term is ending and we need a volunteer. Board meets twice a year to review Synod investments via Zoom.

Tri-Presbytery will be held June 3-4 2022 in Tulsa

OPN is looking at how to structure the meeting. Originally planned to include GA staff.

Synod of the Sun - Kristy Rogers, CP at FPC Bartlesville and Moderator elect of the Synod. Greetings! Kristy reported that the Synod works through Networks composed of representatives from at least 2 Presbyteries and listed current Networks. 2021 designated as a year of anti racism - offered several resources. Thanks to Rev Jenny Harding for leading Network for dismantling Racism

For 2022 the focus shifts toward reconciliation. Synod assembly coming up soon. Invitation to get involved. Kat Nip is current RE Commissioner to Synod

Matthew 25 - Lemuel Garcia-Arroyo PMA mission advisor.

Available to assist in any resources or questions. Thanks for involvement in special offerings. Almost 900 congregations 80 mid councils and 50 other groups in Matthew 25 initiative Links available for resources to gun violence.

PMA has voted to approve report concerning reimagining their vision.

Youth Triennium - Jenna Campbell

Sending information out soon through clerk and education. Moved to Indianapolis with air conditioning. Rising 9th graders through graduated Seniors are eligible. Registration

fee is \$515 plus housing (\$150), would like to partner with congregations to support costs. Need estimates for attendance by December. Deadline in January

Camp day - Held in September at Camp Loughridge - 50 attended. Hope to continue to build the community for future activities.

Gordon asked if she needed adult sponsors for Triennium - Yes!

Alison - Triennium is a great event!

Jenna - wonderful speakers on the Matthew 25 themes.

Ron - A previous sponsor - like vacation bible school on steroids! Great opportunity.

Stated Clerk – Elder Mark Southard

It has been a busy and eventful Summer this year.

Welcoming Rev. Minwoo Kim - working with OGA Theresa Waggoner to secure necessary immigration approvals. We said goodbye to Andrew Long with a special Presbytery lunch, as he left for a new call in Watertown New York.

I have been working to renew our Insurance policy with the Church board. They added a long questionnaire this year.

I submitted our Minutes and administrative procedures for review to the Synod and received feedback reminding us of the requirement for an annual review of financial records among other administrative matters.

Thanks to the Following churches who sent me their 2020 minutes for review, I will be getting feedback to you shortly: Alva, Enid, Stillwater, Guymon, Ponca City, Newkirk, Woodward.

With the adoption of the 2022 budget, I will be sending out per Capita Letters shortly to all the clerks in the presbytery, so that you can include those figures in your church budgets for next year, Towards the end of the year, we will also once more need to report the annual statistics through the portal system.

It is my duty to also report to you that I received a disciplinary allegation last month on September 8th. This event begins a confidential process according to our Book of Order. Upon receipt of an allegation an Investigative committee was formed by the Presbytery Moderator and myself and this action was then approved by the Presbytery council. According to our discipline, I am required to report to you at our next Stated meeting (today) that the allegation has been received and that an Investigating Committee has

been formed, but not the nature nor the name of the accused. The committee held its first meeting on September 17th where they were first trained in their responsibilities and given access to the allegation. Their work remains confidential while they undertake a thorough investigation of the matter. If you should be contacted by the IC, I remind you that their work is to remain confidential to protect the accused and the process until such time that the allegation has been investigated. They have up to 1 year to complete this task. Following the investigation one of three outcomes is possible: 1. They may decide that the facts of the case do not warrant any action, in which case the matter is dropped unless the accuser appeals that decision to our PJC. In this case, I would report to you that the Disciplinary process is concluded 2. They may determine that a chargeable offense likely occurred and may work with the accused to reach what is called an Alternative Form of Resolution (AFR). They have 120 days to reach an agreement which must then be approved by the Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC). At this point the terms settlement and censure will be reported to the presbytery and the process is ended. If an agreement is not reached or if the IC decides not to pursue one, we go to the 3rd possibility which is the filing of formal charges and a trial in front of the PJC. Once formal charges are filed the process becomes public. Since this is an thankfully seldom used process in our Presbytery with many possible paths, I have included a flow chart in the packet constructed by Gerry Tyer, Stated Clerk of Grace Presbytery for your reference **Motion** to receives clerks report - approved

No other reports offered

10:57 AM Break 5 minutes

11:03 AM Time for Conversation: “Strengthening Presbytery Witness in Oklahoma” – Rev. Tim Blodgett, General Presbyter of Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery

Tim offered thanks for invitation.

Preface: Our witness is already strengthening, doing more than ever. Love to hear about new ministries. We are still closing churches but more is right than wrong. The pump is primed for 2022 to begin new ministries.

Broad Landscape:

WE have seen a decline of the Presbyterian Church - from Map of 1995 membership and numbers of churches have shrunk by almost half. We have fewer ministers, elders, less giving, and Presbytery staff - trying to do more with less.

Post WW2 boom is ended and deaths are now major cause of loss. Generational change is accelerating.

Good news: God is doing a new thing - a new generation is stepping up. New ministries and creative approaches. They are more collaborative and better at working together. Stronger together - than alone.

Question- What are we doing that we are proud of and what are our strengths?

Mike - we know each other well.

Rick - we play well together, and work well together.

Bill Salmons - we coordinate mission work - Solar under the Sun, Czech mission group.

Kathy - Study together and learn together, Pastors get together.

Jenna - Presbytery meetings involve learning and reflection - helps reinforce culture. Outward focused.

Allison (DOC pastor leading Guthrie) - Church positions of being open and affirming and mission focused. Positioned to welcome youth who do not fit in elsewhere. Forward looking.

Tim - Affirm what we said - Willingness to work together.

What are the Obstacles and challenges that we face, what is holding us back and what help do we need?

Feedback:

Nancy Dale - Group #1

Pastor searches are having a hard time finding interested candidates. (Such as Alva and Guymon)

Many are not attending regularly post COVID

Grieving PrePandemic times

Challenge for older adults to become imaginative

Youth engaged mid week but not on Sunday

We have large facilities no longer fit our congregations - high costs

Group #3 - Linda Sherry

Similar things Mix of cultures in the state

Small and aging churches - physically limited to do mission

Geographic challenges - Zoom helps

Struggle of COVID expectation for things to go back rather than forward.

Group #2 Tim

Lack of younger demographic

Smaller churches not revisiting policies

Wonderful leadership - concerned about potential loss of leadership - few replacements available.

Looking into the future

How might these challenges be addressed by collaboration?

Oklahoma presbyteries committed to increasing collaboration, so where have we and where should we?

Youth and Triennium collaboration

Alison - Is there an opportunity to share youth opportunities among churches and partner better?

Rusty - get caught up in our own church - call somebody!

Tim - updating policies- opportunities with others

Karen - news letter to encourage one another about other congregations in Oklahoma

Tim OPN - EOP hosting online pastors retreat - including other churches.

Gordon - OPN sponsoring work group to South Louisiana

Working together, we can get to know each other better and inspire each other.

Allison - key in planning - need to know about things soon enough. Need advance planning.

Tim- difficulty of attracting pastors - financial - presbytery minimums are low. INP recently sold a church and used funds to supplement 1st 4 years of ministry. Can we partner that way?

Other needs and possibilities?

Shared staffing, Marketing and evangelism at Presbytery and state level? Synod offers media services.

More conversations to come. We will have to come to depend more on each other. The church is changing how can we work better together.

Tim asked us to think further to work collaboratively better and thanked us for the opportunity to have the discussion.

12:00 PM Concluding Business and Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: made and 2nd

Joys and Concerns -

- Thanks from Dennis Laughlin to Leah Hrachovec for her help to Guthrie's PNC.
- Prayers for Minwoo for his commissioning and immigration procedure
- Prayers for the Fairbanks (Covid)
- Prayer shawl for Andrew
- Prayers for Guthrie and Katrina's new ministry
- Owaso congregation's search
- Closing prayer - Gordon Edwards

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Southard

Stated Clerk