

Meeting of the Presbytery of Riverside Minutes

September 12, 2020

Via Zoom Meeting

**The Vision/Mission Statement of the Presbytery of Riverside:**  
**As the Presbytery of Riverside we are called to be:**  
**Connected congregations in deep discipleship with Jesus Christ**  
**who are faithful and active witnesses**  
**to God's love, justice and peace.**

**PRESBYTERY CONVENED**

The stated meeting of the Presbytery of Riverside was called to order by use of the Zoom application, by Moderator Claire Schlegel at 10:02 am. The meeting was opened with a prayer and a reading of the Presbytery's Mission/Vision statement.

**ENROLLMENT**

CONGREGATION	TEACHING ELDER	Code	Commissioner
Beaumont	Scott Mason	101	Charnderia Smith
			Kathleen Stow
Big Bear	Tom Rennard	303&105	Richard Stanton
Cathedral City	Wayne Morrow	101	Jeffrey Kramer
			Jack Mowreader
Corona	Henry DeGraaff	105	Terrie Burbank
			Pete Mittelstadt
			Becky Millhollin
Hemet	Earl Stewart	101	Jim Strand
			Evalyn Demeaux
Indio	Julie Hodges	101	Ken Zanca
			Amy Laboda
			Carol Kocherhan
Lake Arrowhead	Bill Stanley	101	Gary Tompkins
			Mary-Justine Layon
			Carrie Black
Ontario	Curtis Webster	105	Ginny Mansfield
			Beverly Johns
			Jesse Rose
Palm Springs	Bruce Myers	105	Bud Cius

			Peggy Kueffer
			Bill Miller / John Evans
Rancho Cucamonga	Martin A. Smith	101	Pam Sickman
			Norman Balders
			Ronn Campbell
			Dave Baird
Redlands Community	CRE Jan Opdyke	107	John Haverty
Redlands First	Cheryl Raine	101	Jean Vieten
	Hart Tan CRE	107	Jerri Rodewald
			Grace Baldwin
		Alt	Wilson Kayange
Rialto	Andrew Parnell	108	Peggy Hill
			Wendy Hill
			Melinda Pure
Ridgecrest	Ralph Mueller	101	Jo Mueller
			Jackie Brennan
			Vicki Seamen
Riverside, Calvary	Erin Thomas	101	Paul Boyer
	Alfred Graise	101	Jeff Heath
			Sam Hynds
			Robert Spitzer
			Emalize Dhalinal
Riverside, Magnolia	Claire Schlegel	101	Jeanie Riggs
	Paul Knopf	101	Cherylyn Thornton
			Ann Laudermilk
Riverside, Victoria	Nancy Richmond	108	Johnathan Hussey
San Bernardino, First	Sandy Tice	101	John Garten-Shuman
	Wendy Lamb	107	Amy Smith
			Mary Bolanos
			Any Standing Elder
San Bernardino	No Pastor / Vacant		Margarito Ramos
Good Shepherd			A/C Member
Temecula, Grace	Neal Neuenschwander	101	Jeff Mague
			Bob Blechen
			Boris Dunigan
Twentynine Palms	Donald Thursby	108	Cynthia Libby

			Larry Libby
Upland First	Noel Anderson	101	Jim Smirl
			Bob Whitmore
			Roland Morris
Upland Taiwanese	Joshua Hsieh	101	Robert Tsai
			Sue Chen
Wildomar	No Pastor / Vacant	101	Jerry Baynard
			Paul Bennett
Yucca Valley	Wayne Morrow	101	Kent Johnson
			David Jenkins
<b>OTHER TEACHING ELDERS</b>			
Alam	Azeem	797	
Barkat	Hameed	299	
Jon	Berquist	797	
Berry	Sue	299	
Bishop	Les	797	
Bishop Tucker	Narcissis	797	
Blair	Tina	299	
Budi	Musiko	797	
Choi	Mickie	405	
Copeland	Brad	299	
Davis	Steven Jay	797	
Duvall	Ronald	797	
Eisenhower	Will	299	
Falconi	Noe	299	
Gammons	Kenneth	299	
George	Matthew	299	
Grande	Nelson	797	
Griffin	Darel	299	
Hangen	Jerry	299	
Huffstutler	James	299	
Huntley	William	644	
Ireland	Lee	302	
Ibrahim	Rafik	797	
Jackson	Julius	644	
Johnson	William	299	
Karcher	Sylvia	299	
Kennedy	Lynne	797	
King	Thelma	299	
Kovar	Albin	299	

Lloyd	Karen	795	
Loleng	David	403	
McCurdy	Sara	299	
McGuigan	William	299	
Munyi	James	791	
Nelson	William	299	
Park	Noah	797	
Rassieur	Charles	299	
Roberts	Sam	771	
Schutte	Jack	299	
Shin	Esther	797	
Shullanberger	Steve.	299	
Stewart	Robert	299	
Stout	Patricia	299	
Thursby	Barbara	299	
Wang	Chai Seng	299	
Willette	Jan	299	
Williamson	Don	299	
Willis-Watkins	Sally	797	
Wright	Diana	299	
Wu	Caleb	299	
Wu	Paul	703	
Yang	In	797	
Yu	Thomas	701	
<b>OTHER VOTING ELDER</b>			
Entler	Carol		Past Moderator
Baldwin	Grace		Chair of Personnel
Garten-Shuman	John		Chair of CPM
Kayange	Wilson		Chair of COR
Kistner	Melodee		Past Moderator
Law	Debbie		PWP Moderator
Mague	Jeff		Past Moderator
Mittelstadt	Marilyn		Past Moderator
Reierson	Don		Past Moderator
Shepherd	James		Past Moderator
Skoglund	Susan		Nominations Chair
Stanley	Carol		Certified C.E.
<b>CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:</b>			<b>FROM:</b>
Roozeboom	Bill		Classis of Albany, RCA

<b>GUESTS:</b>			<b>FROM:</b>
Sobers	Nathan		Stonewall Ministries
Lange	Mimi		Presbytery Staff
Rene	Myers		Presbyterian Mission Agency
Stanley	Christopher		LACPC / GA YAAD
Van Nostran	Kristi		Immigrant Accompaniment
<b>Total Churches</b>		<b>15</b>	
<b>Total Teaching Elders</b>		<b>22</b>	
<b>Total Voting Attendees</b>		<b>62</b>	
<b>Total in Attendance</b>		<b>66</b>	

## GATHERING

Declaration of a Quorum was made by Temp. Stated Clerk Tom Rennard.

Docket Approval - Temp. Stated Clerk Tom Rennard requested that three items be added to the published docket:

1. As the Presbytery Bylaw (3.05) states that when the Presbytery meets virtually the Stated Clerk, the Minutes Clerk, the Presbytery Leader, the Moderator, and the Vice-Moderator will be in the same location for the meeting, the Temp. Stated Clerk requested that 3.05 be set aside for purposes of conducting this meeting during a time of pandemic, allowing those named to be present in separate locations. Moved. Seconded. There being no objections, the motion was passed. **(MSP)**
2. The Statement of Faith for TE Bill Roozeboom has been added to the meeting packet.
3. Reconsideration of the Community Presbyterian Church of Cathedral City's request regarding the sale of their property was deferred at the June meeting, and must be added to the docket during Property Finance Investment and Funds Development Committee's time. **MSP**

With those changes, the meeting docket was presented for approval. **MSP**

## JUNE 13, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

**Tom Rennard, Temporary Stated Clerk**

Corrections to the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of June 13, 2020 were noted as follows:

- On page 5, subparagraph 2, "the Committee of Representation" should be replaced with "TE Bruce Myers";
- Rene Myers name was inverted in the attendance roll;
- The VCI report refers to an Appendix 9, but there is no Appendix 9. Appendix 9 will be located and added to the June 13, 2020 Minutes of the Presbytery Assembly.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

## **STATED CLERK'S REPORT**

**Tom Rennard, Temporary Stated Clerk**

The 2019 Presbytery of Riverside Statistical Report is attached at Appendix 1.

## **INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS, CORRESPONDING MEMBERS, GUESTS**

TE Scott Mason introduced new RE Commissioner Kathleen Stow from Beaumont.

TE Micki Choi from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program introduced herself.

TE Neal Neuenschwander introduced new Boris Dunigan from Grace, Temecula.

Nathan Sobers, Ministry Leader from Stonewall Ministries, introduced himself.

Guest Kristin Van Nostran, introduced herself as Immigrant Accompaniment Organizer from the Presbyteries of Pacific and San Gabriel.

## **WELCOME FROM VIRTUAL HOST**

**Jeff Mague, Committee/Commission Chair (CC)**

Presbytery Commission Chair Jeff Mague explained to the meeting how to navigate Zoom in order to mute, unmute, raise hands, turn the camera off and on. He explained that voting would be conducted by means of requesting objections. To vote no on an issue, raise the blue hand from the Participants window. If more than one commissioner is using the same connection, let Jim Strand or Carrie Black know, and they will record the second vote. If no hands are raised, then the motion will be deemed to have passed. If a vote seems to be close, then a poll will be taken, and users who are sharing a connection will notify Carrie or Jim of their second vote.

## **WORSHIP—DEVOTIONAL MOMENT**

**TE Sam Roberts**

TE Sam Roberts led a guided meditation to begin the devotional moment, then asked questions about what we experienced, demonstrating that all of us experience unconscious bias. He spoke of Ubuntu, a term meaning "humanity", often translated as "I am because we are," and of the example of Nelson Mandela in South Africa in kindness and the overcoming of bias. It is important to acknowledge the problem, as the Presbyterian Church is better than some, but still has far to go. He advocates transformative action, i.e. working on ourselves, then working on the world. First we must listen to hear what the problems are, then educate ourselves and do the homework to understand the problems and the need to change, and after that act, take conscious action to make change happen. TE Roberts then led us in a prayer.

## **WHAT'S LIMINALITY?**

**Lee Ireland, Temporary Presbytery Leader**

We are living in a time of liminality, where many of our established ways of doing things are coming to an end, and no new things have emerged to take their place. We are invited to be transformed by the renewing of our minds to discern the will of God (see Romans 12:2-8). Abraham, Ruth, and Jesus are examples of people whose lives were changed by living through such a time of change. We have opportunities to form new communities, unhampered by our physical location as we are shifting from a physical church with a digital presence to a digital church with a physical presence.

Each church must rediscover what matters most as we go through this time. An outline of the presentation can be found at Appendix 2, and TE Ireland will continue on this theme at future meetings.

## **PRESBYTERY COMMISSION REPORT      Jeff Mague, Committee/Commission Chair (CC)**

Several items were presented for action as reflected in Appendix 3.

1. The Stated Clerk recommended that the records reviews required by the Book of Order (G-3.0108a) be postponed for 2020 until such time as it is safe to meet, likely in 2021.  
**MSP with no dissenting votes.**
2. **Selection Process of Permanent Leader and Stated Clerk**
  - a. The commission recommended that the Presbytery Bylaws be changed to make the Presbytery Leader for Mission and Vision and the Stated Clerk into two separate positions, instead of one position as currently required. After discussion as to financial feasibility, part time versus full time, etc., the assembly was advised that the motion did not preclude any structuring of the two positions, and **only recognized the fact that the two jobs are distinctly different and need to be separated.** (Update the Bylaws for a two-person model.) **MSP**
  - b. The commission recommended that the Presbytery forego the establishment of Transitional Search Committees, and establish two regular Search Committees, one to search for a new Presbytery Leader for Mission and Vision, and one to search for a new Stated Clerk. **MSP**
  - c. The commission recommended that the terms of service for the Temporary Presbytery Leader Lee Ireland and the Temporary Stated Clerk Tom Rennard be adjusted, and allow for them to remain in their respective temporary positions until permanent personnel are hired.
    - i. **A superseding motion** was made to postpone 2.a and 2.b definitely until the November PA meeting November meeting so that further discernment might be done. The vote was taken by Zoom poll, and the result of the poll was 23 in favor, 26 against. **The superseding motion did not carry.**
    - ii. An amendment was offered to 2.c to change the status of the two Temporary positions into Transitional status. They will be eligible to apply for the permanent positions.
      1. This requires setting aside Bylaw **Section 4.11, specifying the process of establishing a Transitional Search Committee.**  
**MSP with 2/3 majority.**
    - iii. **The motion for the amendment 2.c.ii was approved.**
    - iv. The amended motion of 2.c, which now reads “The status of the Temporary Presbytery Leader and Temporary Stated Clerk Leader shall be changed from Temporary to Transitional, and the terms of service for the Transitional Presbytery Leader Lee Ireland and the Transitional

Stated Clerk Tom Rennard be adjusted to allow for them to remain in their respective temporary positions until permanent personnel are hired." **The amended motion was approved.**

The Commission noted several information items and specifically requested that members who have questions and/or comments to contact the Commission members with them, specifically with regard to the number of hours required for the Presbytery Leader and Stated Clerk positions.

As the discussion had taken longer than anticipated, the Moderator called for a 5-minute break at this time. The meeting resumed at 12:00 Noon.

## **PROPERTY, FINANCE, INVESTMENT AND FUNDS DEVELOPMENT**      **Cheryl Raine (CC)**

TE Raine explained that there was no Financial Statement due to the transition to a new accountancy firm, David Raff and Company. A report on properties, investments, and outstanding PILP loans within the Presbytery is at Appendix 4.

A motion for action postponed from the June 13 meeting was reintroduced:

**Motion: That the Session of the Community Presbyterian Church, Cathedral City be authorized to enter into a contract to sell the church property for no less than 85% of the appraised value within 18 months, with all the proceeds to be retained by CPCCC, in trust for the PC(USA), less costs associated with the sale and any repayment of loans, and those remaining proceeds to be used in expanding its ministries in the greater Cathedral City area.** We also request approval of the Riverside Presbytery to approve the same.

TE Wayne Morrow read a statement from the Session of Community Presbyterian, Cathedral City, which noted gratitude to the Presbytery for the feedback from the June Presbytery meeting, and listed several actions taken by the Session in the time since that meeting, including: They have completed a MAP and submitted same to the Partners In Ministry on August 27<sup>th</sup>. They have identified three options going forward:

1. Selling the property and obtaining new worship space;
2. Growing the congregation so that the present building may be supported;
3. Expanding partnerships with other worshipping communities and seeking other rental options in the wider community.

As the support of the building is beyond the means of the current congregation, selling remains an option, but it is not the only option.

Objections raised included:

- The property is held in trust by the Presbytery, and allowing sale at 85% of appraised value seems like poor trusteeship/stewardship;
- Once property is lost, it is gone.
- Presbytery should retain proceeds of sale if property is sold, not the congregation.

Arguments in favor included:

- The property has been appraised at approximately 1.2 million dollars by a commercial real estate professional, and the sale will be handled by a different real estate professional. The motion specifies that no offer less than 85% of appraised value may be entertained, but allowing a sale at that price point if necessary, takes into consideration the fluctuating real estate market.

- There have been potential buyers, and options for remaining on the property are still being considered.
- The property was obtained with funds from the congregation, so to allow the congregation to retain those funds to continue their ministry is to exercise good trusteeship/stewardship.
- Maintaining a building, when that maintenance requires all the resources of the congregation, doesn't allow for ministry to be done.

The Presbytery Leader suggested that we consult with the PC(USA) as to the legalities of allowing the proceeds of the sale to be retained by the congregation. This would not stop the sale, but ensure that the proceeds of the sale are dealt with “decently and in proper order”.

**The vote was taken by Zoom poll. The result was 34 in favor, 10 against, 6 abstaining. The motion passed.**

### **COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION**

**Wilson Kayange (CC)**

Wilson Kayange from Redlands First spoke to the vision of the Committee on Representation. The written report of the Committee on Representation is Appendix 5.

### **PARTNERS IN MINISTRY**

**Paul Knopf (CC)**

The written report of Partners in Ministry can be found at Appendix 6. TE Paul Knopf noted that the number of COVID-19 grants awarded is now 20, up one from the written report.

Kristi Van Nostram, Immigrant Accompaniment Organizer with/for Pacific and San Gabriel Presbyteries noted that there had been a great deal of movement in this ministry. A family in Riverside Presbytery is hosting an asylum seeker. Many donations of money, backpacks and other luggage have been received. 75 migrants have been helped by Riverside Presbytery in the past 5 months. Kristi is accepting invitations to speak to congregations and other groups about the Immigrant Accompaniment Ministry. An application has been made for a grant to allow the Presbytery to add Kristi to the staff. (See Appendix 3, Information paragraph 3).

### **TWO-MINUTE ANNOUNCEMENT TIME**

Micki Choi from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program announced that PILP has been providing short-term debt service relief on a case by case basis since March due to the pandemic. A new program offers a revolving line of credit for transitional times. And the current interest rates are the lowest ever for PILP.

TE Cheryl Raine announced that the Believe Walk will take place on October 4<sup>th</sup>, and that Team Presbyterian will be participating for the fourth year in a row. The walk is a virtual one this year, making it easier than ever to participate. Proceeds go to cancer patients in the Inland Empire and to hospitals.

TE Wayne Morrow announced that three historically black churches need help with digital equipment purchases in this time of pandemic.

Vital Congregations Initiative Coordinator Rob Stewart announced that two new Zoom classes are available: An Overview of the Presbytery of Riverside and the Seven Signs of Vitality. Contact Rob for more information or to arrange for a group to take a class.

TE Erin Thomas announced that SMART training will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> and will be virtual this year.

TE Paul Knopf announced that a concept design for the new sanctuary to replace the one destroyed by fire in December, 2018 can be seen at <https://www.magpres.com/building.html>

The Moderator announced a 5-minute break.

The meeting resumed at 1:10 p.m., at which time Moderator Schlegel turned the meeting over to Vice Moderator Neal Neuenschwander.

Due to time constraints, Carrie Black, who was scheduled to give a tutorial on the new In-C Presbytery Directory, announced the establishment of the online database, and promised an email would be sent out showing us how to use it.

## **HEALTHY PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS COMMISSION**

**Scott Mason, (CC)**

TE Scott Mason introduced Dr. Bill Roozeboom as a nominated new Teaching Elder, and gave the assembly time to read Dr. Roozeboom's Statement of Faith (Appendix 7a).

Dr. Roozeboom introduced himself and expanded on his written Statement of Faith and gave some biographical information in describing his faith journey. He teaches Pastoral Care and Counseling and does some pastoral counseling. He answered questions from the assembly and a motion was made to receive him into the Presbytery as a Minister of Word and Sacrament (Teaching Elder).

### **MSP**

The written report of the Healthy Pastors and Congregations Commission is at Appendix 7b.

## **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Ralph Mueller (CC)**

The written report of the committee is at Appendix 8, and includes two nominations:

Sally Willis-Watkins (TE) to the Healthy Pastors and Congregations Commission, Class of 2023; and Susan Skoglund (RE) to the Personnel Committee, Class of 2023.

The Moderator called for nominations from the floor. Receiving none, the nominations were closed, and the two nominations were voted on. **MSP**

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS AND ADVISORY DELEGATE REPORT**

The 2020 General Assembly with the theme of From Lamentation to Hope was held virtually. Commissioner In Yang and Cherylyn Thornton reported that most of the critical agenda was deferred to the next General Assembly because of the virtual nature of the 2020 GA. Though grateful for God's provision that the virtual process worked as well as it did, they noted that persons who speak English as a second language could find it difficult to keep up, and urged everyone to look at and consider the 137 deferred items, products of much hard work and discernment. They can be found online at <https://www.pc-biz.org>

Advisory Delegate Christopher Stanley reported that he was amazed to find so many people who were so engaged by polity, and that he was grateful for the experience.

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Written report attached as Appendix 9.

**VITAL CONGREGATIONS INITIATIVE**

Written report attached as Appendix 10.

**COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

Written report attached as Appendix 11.

**How and where did we experience the Holy Spirit in this meeting?**

**Presbyters**

Comments and affirmations were made from the floor.

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT, CLOSING PRAYER**      **Neal Neuenschwander, Vice Moderator**

Adjournment (**MSP**) and Prayer at 2:05 pm.

Rev. Thomas G Rennard \_\_\_\_\_

Transitional Stated Clerk

# **Appendage for:**

Meeting of the Presbytery of Riverside

Minutes

September 12, 2020

Via Zoom Meeting

**Presbytery** Riverside  
**Address** PO Box 1165, Redlands, CA 92373-1165  
**Phone** 909-881-1595 **Fax** 909-881-1596  
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**Web Site** [www.riversidepresbytery.com](http://www.riversidepresbytery.com)

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<b>Membership</b>			
Prior Active Members	3048	Adjusted membership	3025
<b>Gains</b>		<b>Losses</b>	
Certificate	37	Certificate	5
Youth Professions	4	Deaths	66
Professions & Reaffirmations	124	Deleted for any Other Reason	198
<b>Total Gains</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>269</b>
<b>Total Ending Active Members</b>	<b>2921</b>		
<b>Baptisms</b>			
Presented by Others	17	Average Weekly Worship Attendance	1396
At Confirmation	4	Female Members	1717
All Other	11	Friends of the Congregation	407
		Ruling Elders on Session	162
		Do you have Deacons? Yes / No	18 / 1
<b>Age Distribution of Active Members</b>		<b>People with Disabilities</b>	
25 & Under	128	Hearing impairment	328
26 - 40	217	Sight impairment	128
41 - 55	331	Mobility impairment	128
56 - 70	603	Other impairment	238
Over 70	923		
<b>Total Age Distribution</b>	<b>2202</b>		
<b>Christian Education</b>			
Birth - 3	24	Grade 7	13
Age 4	20	Grade 8	19
Kindergarten	27	Grade 9	11
Grade 1	27	Grade 10	14
Grade 2	21	Grade 11	15
Grade 3	22	Grade 12	10
Grade 4	26	Young Adults	36
Grade 5	20	Over 25	396
Grade 6	20	Teachers/Officers	180
		<b>Total Christian Education</b>	<b>901</b>
<b>Racial Ethnic</b>			
Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	232	Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	5
Black/African American/African	52	White	1788
Middle Eastern/North African	3	Multiracial	10
Hispanic/Latino-a	112		
		<b>Total Racial Ethnic</b>	<b>2202</b>
<b>Financial Data</b>			
Annual Income	5,719,271	Mission Expenses	203,218
Annual Expenses	4,894,540	Personnel Expenses	2,815,465
		Facilities Expenses	1,027,375

### **“What’s Liminality?”**

Liminality: From Wikipedia – During liminal periods of all kinds, social hierarchies may be reversed or temporarily dissolved, continuity of tradition may become uncertain, and future outcomes once taken for granted may be thrown into doubt. The dissolution of order during liminality creates a fluid, malleable situation that enables new institutions and customs to become established.

From Susan Beaumont, author of the book, *How to Lead When You Don’t know Where You’re Going: A quality of ambiguity and disorientation that occurs in transitory situations and spaces, when a person or group of people is betwixt and between something that has ended, and a new situation not yet begun.*

Three-part structure:

1. Separation
2. Liminal period
3. Reassimilation

### **Are we living in a Season of Liminality?**

#### **Opportunities in a Liminal Season:**

1. New communities form
2. Innovation
3. Rediscovery of what matters most
4. Discovering wisdom

#### **Threats in a Liminal Season:**

1. Anxiety increases
2. Denial
3. Change in power dynamics
4. Rise of false saviors
5. Leadership rejection

#### **Leading in a Liminal Season**

1. Effective Leadership traits
2. Contemplative Leadership traits

#### **Letting Go, letting God**

1. Shift field of attention/awareness
2. Voice of Judgement
3. Voice of Cynicism
4. Voice of Fear

#### **Discernment vs. Decision Making**

### **For Action**

1. Annual Records Review

The Stated Clerk as recommended we postpone the records reviews in 2020 and until such time as it is safe, likely sometime in 2021. As this is a Book of Order requirement (G-3.0108a), the Commission seeks Assembly approval to postpone the reviews.

2. Selection Process of Permanent Presbytery Leader and Stated Clerk

Three motions are recommended for approval:

- a. The Commission recommends we begin the process of obtaining permanent Presbytery leadership. The current bylaws state we will have a single person as Presbytery Leader for Mission and Vision/Stated Clerk. The Commission believes a two-person model works better for us and moves we update our bylaws to reflect a Presbytery Leader for Mission and Vision, and a Stated Clerk as our model, each with an indefinite term, and adjust our planning processes for this model.
- b. Forgo the process of establishing an Transitional Search Committees to find an Transitional Presbytery Leader for Mission and Vision, and an Transitional Stated Clerk. Our next step would be to establish two regular Search Committees, one for the Presbytery Leader, and one for the Stated Clerk. We anticipate starting this process at the November 2020 PA meeting.
- c. Adjust the terms of service for Lee Ireland and Tom Rennard to be indefinite, allowing for them to stay in their respective temporary positions until permanent personnel are hired.

### **For Information**

1. The Commission will establish a team, to be selected by the PA Moderator and Vice-Moderator, to review and appropriately update our prior Mission Assessment related documents. The majority of the documents are the output of Marilyn Gamm's Holy Conversations report in 2016. The update will include an estimate of what the Presbytery might look like post-COVID-19 (which may be very difficult to accomplish), an estimate of our financial future, a statement of what we need from leadership, and recommendations. This material will be given to the two search committees for the permanent Presbytery Leader and Stated Clerk, with the intent that it will help them in their search and interviewing process.
2. The Commission hired Mimi Lange as Minute Clerk, rate of pay is \$20/hour, with expected time to be about 10 hours/meeting, and with the Stated Clerk approving additional hours which may be needed from time to time.
3. Approved a Position Description for an Immigrant Accompaniment Organizer, who will be working in a joint effort with the Presbytery of San Gabriel. Costs will be covered by PCUSA grants. The Partners in Ministry Committee is sponsoring the effort.
4. When the Temporary Presbytery Leader for Mission and Vision position was established in June 2019, it was anticipated the duties would be able to be accomplished in 20 hours per week. The Personnel Committee reported that it has been very difficult to get the minimum duties accomplished in that amount of time. The Presbytery Commission, in conjunction with the Personnel Committee, is considering a change in the position and invites Assembly members to forward comments and concerns to the Commission. Under consideration is increasing the number of anticipated hours per week to 35, or changing the status to Full-time Exempt.

**For Action by the Presbytery Assembly:**

- 1. None required

**Committee Decisions**

- 1. **PFIFD moved, seconded and approved the Presbytery’s engagement agreement dated July 23, 2020, with David Raff and Company for financial services starting August 1, 2020.** The motion was passed unanimously via email communication with committee members and recorded in their August 12, 2020 Zoom meeting. Basic information about the agreement: Initial startup cost of \$2,500 and a monthly fee of \$1,700 for 2020.

**Information Items**

- 1. **The Presbytery of Riverside currently has two properties that require oversight by PFIFD:**
  - o Yucaipa Presbyterian Church Property located at 34558 Avenue E, Yucaipa CA 92399, which is occupied by two renters utilizing the property: Christ’s Church and Ark Christian Preschool. Initial work to divest the Presbytery of this property is underway, although a sale cannot be finalized before July of 2021, because official notification of proposed divestment of property with Ark Christian Preschool requires a one-year notice.
  - o Home of Neighborly Services (HNS) located at 839 N Mt Vernon, San Bernardino, CA 92411, which also sublets to Project Fighting Chance.

**2. Presbytery monies invested in the Presbyterian Foundation New Covenant Mutual Funds As of 6/30/2020**

Operating: Balanced Growth	\$486,202.81
Operating: Balanced Income	\$102,526.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$588,729.70</b>

Restricted Dismissal: Balanced Growth	\$397,369.67
Restricted Dismissal: Balanced Income	\$291,915.35
Treasury Obligations Fund	\$ 14,687.82
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$703,972.84</b>

HNS: Balanced Growth – Disbursement	\$ 66,162.52
HNS: Balanced Growth – Disbursement	\$100,381.53
HNS: Balanced Growth – Capital	\$ 35,384.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$201,928.67</b>

**3. The Presbytery of Riverside hold notes for the following sold properties. More detailed information will be provided at future meetings:**

- o Colton located at 710 W C Street, Colton, CA 92324
- o Corona located at 950 W. Ontario Ave, Corona, CA 92882
- o Crestline located at 23594 Lake Dr, Crestline, CA 92325
- o Fontana located at 9260 Mango Ave, Fontana, CA 92335

o

<b>4. Current PILP Loans</b>	<b><u>Original Loan Balance 12/31/19</u></b>		<b><u>Mthly Payment</u></b>
First Presbyterian Church San Bernardino	\$ 292,500	\$ 183,113.77	\$1,930.38
First Presbyterian Church Upland	\$ 295,000	\$ 223,824.53	\$1,710.88
Upland Taiwan Presbyterian Church	\$ 450,000	\$ 323,317.14	\$2,609.82
Northkirk United Presbyterian Church	\$ 30,500	\$ 28,460.94	\$ 287.52
Palm Springs Presbyterian Church	\$ 375,000	\$ 193,559.83	\$2,474.84
Fontana First Presbyterian Church	\$ 20,000	\$ 4,316.00	\$ 202.50
First Presbyterian Church Redlands	\$ 189,450	\$ 187,667.01	\$1,027.13
Grace Presbyterian Church	\$1,755,000	\$ 1,320,419.52	\$5,200.00
Northkirk United Presbyterian Church	\$ 450,000	\$ 316,127.40	\$2,806.32
First Presbyterian Church Wildomar	\$ 481,000	\$ 330,493.85	\$2,969.51

Vision: To advise the Presbytery Assembly regarding the development of procedures and mechanisms for promoting and reviewing the Presbytery Assembly's programs related to inclusiveness and representation, to advocate for diversity in leadership, and to consult with the Presbytery Assembly on the employment of personnel, in accordance with the principles of unity in diversity.

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Moderator Wilson Kayange at 1:08 PM via Zoom.

In attendance: Mary Bolaños, Ralph Mueller; Excused: Rafik Ibrahim

1. For Reflection: 1 Samuel 4:1-11

Folks noticed the elders determined on their own to bring "the Lord's Covenant" from Shiloh before going to battle. The Philistine's noticed the response of the Israelites when the Ark came into the camp, and determined their god—the gods who struck the Egyptians with plagues; the resolve of the Philistine's was strengthened—and a great defeat came to the Israelites.

Today we're tempted to have many false gods; yet God declares: "I am here. Trust me." Question: What is our Ark? What's in our Ark?

2. Zoom meetings with sessions. Wilson will contact Stated Clerk Tom Rennard and Presbytery Leader Lee Ireland to see if there's a list of regular Session meeting days of the month and times for our various congregations.
- First Presbyterian, San Bernardino meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 4 or 5 PM
  - First Presbyterian, Redlands meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 6:30 PM
  - Ridgecrest Presbyterian meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 6:30 PM

COR members are to work-on what we hope to accomplish in meeting with Sessions. Who is COR? What is our Purpose? What is our responsibility with the Presbytery and Congregations? How can we be a resource to congregations? What might Sessions want us to know about the congregation and community? What insights might they have to offer COR and the Presbytery, that might help other congregations, the Presbytery, and Presbytery leadership discover barriers and obstacles (often unseen, not recognized or understood) that discourage us from being more representative of our communities in our membership? Who are the poor in your community, and what root causes of poverty are known? What conversations are happening around race and opportunity?

3. For Presbytery Assembly, September 12, 2020. Following discussion COR members would like to be able to use "our" time to have the Presbytery Assembly go into a number of break-out meeting rooms for discussion of two or three questions. Initial questions or topics for conversation: what do people see in the 8 minute 46 second video of George Floyd's death—the police, the witnesses, and George Floyd? What is coming out into the open in light of the protests? What does it mean to live in a society where some people are treated as less than full persons? What do we make of the perspective that in some parts of the country, slave patrols evolved into police forces? Reflect on the founding principles of the organization *Black Lives Matter*. What is the church's role or roles in this particular time? In re-forming as the Presbytery Assembly, each group's reporter would have 30-45 seconds for a brief report; with notes to be e-mailed to COR.
4. Presbytery Leadership: COR members request to be present at the August 18 Zoom meeting of the Nominating Committee to address the importance of diversity in identifying future leadership of the Presbytery, particularly with regard to the Vice- Moderator of Presbytery; the Presbytery Leader, and the Stated Clerk. Likewise, COR would like to emphasize the need for diversity in the Search Committees for the Stated Clerk and Presbytery Leader. For the Search Committees, to present 3 or 4 viable candidates for the positions.

The next COR meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 1, 2020 with the time to be confirmed.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Mary Bolaños at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ralph Mueller

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Since our last Presbytery Assembly Meeting, your Partners in Ministry Committee has met three times (via Go-to-meeting online meeting service); what follows is a summary of our work:

**COVID 19 grants (Synod Funds):**

- On behalf of the Presbytery Assembly, PIM is approving and requesting funds be dispersed for \$5,000 grants related to COVID concerns
  - The following churches have had grant requests approved and checks should have been sent already (19 communities): Beaumont, Big Bear, Cathedral City, Hemet, Indio, Lake Arrowhead, Ontario, Palm Springs, First Redlands, Ridgecrest, Calvary Riverside, Magnolia Riverside, El Buen Pastor, San Bernardino, Temecula, Twentynine Palms, Upland, Wildomar, and Yucca Valley
  - **19 out of a possible 30 worshipping communities (63%)** have received grant funds
  - In addition to the Synod Funds, PIM has approved funding for an additional \$3,000 grant from Grace, Temecula; and is considering an additional funding request from First, Redlands

**Mission Assessment Process:**

- PIM takes the lead at the beginning of the MAP and hands it off to HPCC part way through the process (this is our understanding)
  - Community Presbyterian Church, Cathedral City has requested a MAP
    - Bruce Myers will be the PIM liaison to the CPCCC MAT (Mission Assessment Team)
  - Mountain View Community Church, Wildomar has requested a MAP
    - Bruce Myers will be the PIM liaison to the MVCC MAT (Mission Assessment Team)

**Accompaniment Work:**

- San Gabriel Presbytery approached Riverside Presbytery, through the PIM Committee, to form a new partnership around the accompaniment work that Kristi Van Nostran has been doing
  - San Gabriel and Pacific Presbyteries have been in partnership already and invited Riverside to participate
  - As part of this partnership, PIM applied for a \$7,500 COVID PDA grant; received \$5,000
    - these funds were sent to Pacific Presbytery to administer to help transport and accompany released detainees as they head back to the airport
    - PIM approved collecting masks, backpacks and bags for this effort
      - these donations can be sent to Kristi Van Nostran, or to Magnolia Riverside, who will get it to Kristi
  - PIM has applied for a \$25,000 PDA grant for the purpose of partially funding an Immigrant Accompaniment Organizer position (Kristi Van Nostran); and this joint effort will also ask Synod for a joint \$30,000 grant (with the intention of it being divided 3 ways: Pacific, San Gabriel, Riv)
  - PIM requested that the Presbytery Commission approve creation of an Immigrant Accompaniment Organizer position, pending receipt of grant; position would be supervised by jointly by Personnel, PIM, and San Gabriel Presbytery

**Summer Camp:**

- Our local Presbyterian Camp, Big Bear Lake Christian Conference Center, held a virtual camp the week of July 5-11
  - July 5-8 Elementary Camp, July 9-11 Middle/High School camp; both were virtual
  - July 5-11 LEAD Internship Program, invited up to 5 graduating seniors to be present on site
  - 11 staff who practiced intentional distancing
  - approximately 60 “campers” total; all campers were from Riverside presbytery
  - We give praise to God for this ministry and staff for their ability to adjust and provide a meaningful “camp” experience for the children and youth within our presbytery

Submitted by:

### **Journey of Faith**

*Reformed and ever reforming* is the most concise way to name my faith. I was born into a Dutch Reformed family in the Midwest and was baptized shortly thereafter at Third Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa. My father later left farming to follow God's call into full-time vocational ministry, serving as Senior Minister for three congregations. Therefore, faith was a central part of our family's identity. However, I was never one to take things at face value and always strove to dig deeper, think critically, and ask difficult—what I now know were deconstructive type—questions. Therefore, my faith while *Reformed*, has continued to *reform* as I followed my own vocational calling into ministry, furthered my education, and gained lived and ministry experience. Throughout my years of ministry—whether in academic, parish, or clinical settings—I have come to realize that the impetus of this reforming is God's presence showing up in places and in ways that challenge my assumptions and expectations—expanding my horizons and solidifying my sense of prevenient grace. Through this process, my faith has deepened and refined, and I've come to see evidence of God's liberating love and call to be agents of justice in the world. In short, I've become a pastoral theologian, or one who does theology pastorally.

### **Tenents of Faith**

God, consisting of three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (The Holy Trinity)—is a perfect, perichoretic unity. God created the world “ex nihilo” and formed woman and man in God's own image and likeness (Imago Dei) to be in relationship with God and one another. All of creation was originally good; however, tempted by Satan, humanity rebelled against God and became separated from God and unable to return to God. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

God's remedy for the situation of estrangement was Jesus Christ, humanity's redeemer, Lord, and Savior. Christ, born of the virgin Mary and fully God and fully human, took on the sin of the world and by his substitutionary atonement reconciled humanity to God. This was accomplished through Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection on the third day, where he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Before Christ left this earth, he promised a helper, the “Paraclete” (Holy Spirit), would come in power and sustain and guide us. The Holy Spirit dwells in each believer, renews our hearts and minds, and persuades us to repent from our sin and confess Jesus Christ as Lord. The Spirit also intercedes on our behalf and reassures us of our divine pardon, justified by faith alone through Christ, and reminds us of our eternal life in Christ Jesus.

God has revealed Godself through creation and through God's Word, Holy Scripture. Scripture is the inspired, authoritative, and trustworthy Word of God recorded in the books of the Old and New Testament. These books record God's self-revelation and offer guidance to living faithfully. They are to be interpreted according to their historical context and purpose.

God graciously adopts us and extends his covenant to us, welcoming us into the heavenly family. As sons and daughters of God we are to represent and re-present Christ to the world, loving our neighbor as ourselves. The Holy Spirit empowers believers and partners with us to do this work through various gifts and graces.

God created one catholic (unified) and apostolic Church to be God's hands and feet in the world and to bear witness to the Kingdom of God (God's rule and reign now and in the age to come). The Church brings people together in fellowship as the Body of Christ. The Church is to worship God, obey God's commands, spread the Gospel message, make disciples of all nations, celebrate the sacraments, work for justice, and relieve human distress and need.

God's redemptive purpose will be fulfilled in the second coming of Christ, when God makes all things new. The dead will rise, the final judgment will occur, and God's eternal and glorious kingdom will be ushered into its fullness.

**ROLL:** (A=absent, E=excused, all others present)

	<u>Class of 2023</u>		<u>Class of 2021</u>		<u>+Class of 2022</u>
A	RE Becky Bane	P	TE Henry DeGraaff	ex	RE Anand Dyal Chand
		P	RE Melodee Kistner	A	RE Peggy Hill
		P	TE Scott Mason	P	TE Julie Hodges
		ex	TE In Yang	P	RE Sam Hynds

**Staff:** ex **Lee Ireland**, Temporary Presbytery Leader for M. and V.; **Tom Rennard**, Temp. Stated Clerk

**MISSION STATEMENT** – “Connected congregations  
 in deep discipleship with Jesus Christ  
 who are faithful and active witnesses to God’s love, justice, and peace.”

**OPENING PRAYER**

**APPROVE DOCKET** Docket approved.

**APPROVE MINUTES** No prior meeting minutes available for the July meeting.

**UPDATE** “Vital Congregations Initiative” - Becky Bane. None given.

**CALLS / CONTRACTS**

Approve Mickie Choi’s retirement. **Mickie’s retirement as a specialized minister with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program approved effective January 1, 2020.**

Approve TE Bill Roozeboom for transfer into the presbytery. **Approved transfer from the Classis of Albany, Reformed Church of America to the Presbytery of Riverside.**

TE Christine Dickerson – Exit Interview (Postponed)

**MATTERS CONCERNING CHURCHES**

Mountain View Church, Wildomar, Temporary Supply and Transitional Pastor Contract with TE Steve Shullanberger

**Motion to approve Steve Schullanberger as Temporary Supply Pastor July 20, 2020 to August 31, 2020.**

**Motion to approve Steve Schullanberger as Transitional Pastor September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021.**

**REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY PRESBYTERY LEADER AND STATED CLERK**

– **Lee Ireland**

Holy Conversations: There was extensive discussion about the Holy Conversations which are required by our Manual of Administrative Operations every two years. These have not been completed in the last four. It was agreed that we would do these in the remainder of the year and try to have them wrapped up by the November Presbytery Assembly. Training for HPCC and PIM members will be prior. They will be conducted via Zoom. They replace triennial visits in the former Form of Government but may yield results about what the presbytery should be and do as we seek a new Leader and Stated Clerk.

Bethany Rialto Covid Assistance Application for \$10,000 loan: **The loan was approved by the Commission. Per our policy, it will be a no interest loan to assist with Covid-19 constraints and**

**will be due in two years from the date of this meeting of HPCC, the granting group.** Determining the line item and loan agreement will be determined the presbytery staff.

**- Tom Rennard**

Interim Covenant – Westminster, Ontario **To approve the Transitional Pastor Covenant for September 1, 2020-August 31, 2020 with the Rev. Curtis Webster.** A face-to-face (via Zoom) meeting with Curtis at our next HPCC meeting was suggested with possible congregational representation. Curtis has been six years in this position and we want to support the congregation and pastor.

Child and Youth Protection Policy: **The Policy was approved by the Commission and will be sent to the Assembly for possible adoption pending an attorney’s review of the document.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Making our churches welcoming to all races and increasing racial and ethnic membership. The question was whether we get a speaker for the Presbytery Assembly. We brainstormed about who to get to address the Assembly. Subsequent to the meeting the Rev. Sam Roberts was contacted and will do a 10-minute conversation on race and the presbytery at the September 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

Form a team to review our Commission documents and perhaps organize them after the Donegal Presbytery (Pennsylvania) model.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Minimum salary should be twice the minimum wage times 2080 for full time work which is currently \$49,920. **Approved.** It was suggested we consult with attorney who has studied not-for-profit (which includes churches) California employment law after the Personnel Committee of the presbytery believes anyone not making \$49,920 to be considered a non-exempt employee under California law and would be required to fill out a time card and be eligible for overtime. This is new territory for our part-time pastors and sessions so we want to get it right.

**CLOSING PRAYER / MOTION TO ADJOURN**

(Next virtual or live meeting: Thursday, September 3, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.) **Motion to receive reports distributed, meet September 3<sup>rd</sup> and adjourn.**

**Church Assignments:                      Commission Liasons**

<u>Beaumont</u>	<u>Peggy</u>
<u>Community, Cathedral City</u>	
<u>Corona</u>	<u>Peggy</u>
<u>Hemet</u>	<u>Anand</u>
<u>St. Andrews, Indio</u>	
<u>Lake Arrowhead</u>	<u>Jesse</u>
<u>Westminster, Ontario</u>	<u>Henry</u>
<u>Palm Springs</u>	<u>Scott</u>
<u>Northkirk, Rancho Cucamonga</u>	<u>Melodee</u>
<u>Community, Redlands</u>	<u>Sam H.</u>
<u>First, Redlands</u>	<u>Anand</u>
<u>Bethany, Rialto</u>	<u>Becky</u>
<u>Calvary, Riverside</u>	<u>Melodee</u>
<u>Magnolia, Riverside</u>	<u>Becky</u>
<u>Victoria, Riverside</u>	<u>Henry</u>
<u>First, San Bernardino</u>	
<u>Grace, Temecula</u>	<u>Henry</u>
<u>Little Church, 29 Palms</u>	<u>Julie</u>
<u>Mountain View, Wildomar</u>	<u>(Lee has been meeting with them)</u>
<u>Desert Hills, Yucca Valley</u>	<u>Julie</u>

## Report of the Committee on Nominations to the Presbytery Assembly, September 12, 2020

Ralph Mueller, Chair

### For Action

The Committee nominates the following persons:

- Sally Willis-Watkins (TE) to the Healthy Pastors and Congregations Commission, class of 2023
- Susan Skoglund (RE) to the Personnel Committee, class of 2023

### For Information

The committee had hoped to nominate a **Vice-Moderator** of the Presbytery Assembly but has received only negative responses. Given our recent history, we would recommend nominating a Female Ruling Elder.

Property, Finance, Investment and Funds Development Committee has need of two additional members. Of particular interest, a Ruling Elder with experience in property maintenance and management.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry has need for an additional person or two, with preference for a Ruling Elder with experience as Clerk of Session.

Committee on Representation has need for one or two additional committee members.

We will also need to elect two Synod Commissioners (RE & TE) to replace two commissioners whose terms expire following the December, 2020 Synod Assembly.

To: Presbytery of Riverside  
From: Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Riverside  
Respectfully submitted by Debbie Law, Moderator  
Subject: September 2020 Presbytery Assembly Report

*“so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.”*  
-Romans 12:45 NRSV

The mission and ministry of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Riverside continues to use the safest and healthiest ways to support our PWC's and remain part of the solution during this time of concern of Covid-19. During the summer months, our PWC's are planning for the coming year and preparing for the 2020-2021 Horizon's Bible Study by meeting virtually or connecting by phone calls. We continue to learn the technology and find other creative ways to stay connected to ensure we uphold the Presbyterian Women Purpose while being physically distanced from one another.

PW service never ceasing, PWC's are finding safe ways to deliver goods and assemble needed packages. PWC of Beaumont First Presbyterian Church is currently collecting personal hygiene items and assembling hygiene kits. The hygiene kits are donated to Faith In Action of the San Geronio Pass (FIA). FIA will distribute the kits to those that do not have permanent addresses and seeking shelter at Banning Village. PWC of San Bernardino First Presbyterian Church held their Birthday Gathering by ZOOM. Guest Speaker was Kristi Van Nostran. Kristi is the Immigrant Accompaniment Organizer for San Gabriel and Pacific Presbyteries. Kristi supports and aids migrants seeking asylum and plans and organizes travel and/or housing that may be needed upon release from the detention center in Adelanto.

As PWC's in the Presbytery are planning for the 2020-2021 Horizons Bible Study, we have been invited to join PWS in the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii to the 2020 Virtual Fall Gathering, *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*, by P. Lynn Miller, on September 19, 2020 from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon. Lynn will give an introduction to the 2020-2021 Bible Study and lead us through an interactive paint and pray. Lynn is an art instructor and the first illustrator and author of a Horizons Bible Study. All are welcome. For registration information, please contact your PWC Moderator. From PW PC(USA), we were also given the opportunity to join live webinars in June, led by Lynn Miller. Lynn guided us through each chapter of the Bible Study, it's theme and what we can expect and learn. Resources, study guides and worksheets were made available to accompany the Bible Study.

To access these materials go to: [www.presbyterianwomen.org/into+the+light](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/into+the+light)

July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 celebrated **PW Gives Day**. On this day, PWP Riverside joined our PW sisters in celebrating the 230-year call to mission and 32 years as an official organization of the PC(USA) bringing God's light to the world through our PW ministry and service. The annual fund ensures the health of PW's many ministries, programs, resources, and the triennial Churchwide Gathering. This day was an opportunity for PWP's and PWC's to show their support and gratitude for all that PW does. A PWS Gives Day video was made to celebrate our PW mission. You can watch this video by clicking [PW Gives Day 2020](#) and you'll see many familiar faces from around the PWC's in our Presbytery. May we through PW, who are many, who are one body in Christ, continue to work together to provide, sustain and show up in places that need our presence, because we all belong to one another.

PWP Riverside will join our PW(PCUSA) and PCUSA family from August 24-30, 2020 for Presbyterian Week of Action (<https://www.pcusa.org/weekofaction/>) in solidarity and affirmation of Black Lives Matter. PWP Riverside will continue to reaffirm and stand for justice and equity in all forms for our most marginalized communities. PW(PCUSA) has released resources and suggested reading for all PWP's and PWC's to aid in our call to service for racial equity and cultural humility ([https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what\\_we\\_do/build-community/antiracism/](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/build-community/antiracism/)). PWP Riverside will continue to be a community of welcome where diversity and all identities are respected as beloved kin of Christ.

### **PWP Coordinating Team 2017 – 2019 (2020-2022 Coordinating Team to be elected and installed at future Gathering)**

Debbie Law (Moderator, FPSB); Nancy Richmond (Vice Moderator, Victoria); Carol Valentine(Secretary, FPSB); Lou Jolliff (Treasurer, HemetFP); Grace Baldwin (Search,RedlandsFP); Judy Strahan(Mission, BeaumontFP); Alice Munde (Racial/Ethnic, RedlandsFP); Kelsey Law (Hunger, FPSB); Nancy Horstmann (Justice/Peace, FPSB); Judy Strahan (Newsletter, BeaumontFP)

**HIGHLIGHTS of first 18 months:**

1. Presbytery of Riverside is selected to be among first 14 presbyteries to inaugurate VCI in early 2019
2. 18 people from Riverside Presbytery attended Introduction to VCI in Denver, May 2019
3. Six attended training in Baltimore in August 2019; 4 form a VCI Team for the presbytery
4. VCI Team contacts nearly all pastors of congregations, invite them to join VCI in 2020
5. Clergy retreat has 20 clergy participating, with at least 13 interested in VCI; several agreed to participate, Oct '19
6. Presbytery chooses emphasis on Relationships for 2020
7. Presbytery hires Rob Stewart to Coordinate VCI over 3 years beginning Oct 4, 2019
8. VCI Team meets 3 times and lays out a plan in late 2019 and early 2020
9. VCI Team calls or meets with pastoral leaders and several sessions to discuss VCI
10. Ten congregations agree to engage the VCI process, beginning January 2020
11. Rob Stewart made 2 reports to presbytery: Nov 2019, June 2020
12. Rob writes at least bi-monthly in presbytery's online news and adds info to new website, all 2020
13. Rob begins convening monthly 4 cohorts involving 20 pastoral leaders in Jan 2020.
14. 2 Facilitators led workshop "What is VCI" at LEaD; May 2020: 2 attended (both already in VCI)
15. Rob prepares various resources for pastors, sessions, and congregations including summarizing how the VCI process can be implemented
16. Rob is participating in ongoing regular Wednesday VCI national zoom chats and monthly Facilitator connections.
17. At least 4 congregations completed the VCI Bible Study in spring 2020.
18. Two VCI congregations lose pastors in summer 2020; Interims are put in place; now compiling & writing Mission Assessments into autumn, aiming to select new pastors
19. Evaluation of the cohorts after six months was accomplished with colleagues urging their continuation. Many expressed appreciate for the opportunities to pray, to share personally and professionally their struggles, successes, and hopes. Relationships and trust are deepening.

**Commission on Preparation for Ministry**  
Minutes for May 12, 2020  
Zoom Conference Call Meeting

11

Thru 6/2020  
Martin Smith

Thru 6/2021  
Wendy Lamb  
Matthew George

Thru 6/2022  
John Garten-Shuman  
Sylvia Karcher

Ex-Officio – Lee Ireland

Visitor – Barbara Thursby

Opening prayer – Sylvia

Established a quorum was present and agreed upon agenda.

Nathan Sobers, applicant to become a commissioned local pastor, presented his statement of faith, followed by questions and comments from the commission.

Members spent time discussing the statement of faith, as well as Nathan's overall preparation for ministry. As a follow-up to the meeting, a letter outlining next steps and expected outcomes will be drafted by John, reviewed by the commission, and sent to Nathan.