

Presbytery of Riverside
Stated Presbytery Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2025
In the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian Church, Hemet

MEETING CONVENES

The stated meeting of the Presbytery of Riverside was convened and called to order in the Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian Church, Hemet, by Moderator Alfred Graise at 10:03 a.m. with Paul Knopf as Stated Clerk. The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the reciting of the Mission Statement and Why Statement.

***“Riverside Presbytery:
connecting and supporting
pastors, leaders, and congregations,
in sharing Christ’s transforming love”***
(Presbytery of Riverside Mission Statement)

CONNECTING

IIN
THROUGH
W/ITL

CHRIST
(Presbytery of Riverside Why Statement)

Moderator Graise asked the Presbytery to talk to each other and answer the question: beach, desert, or mountain?

After this community building activity, the Commissioned Pastor for Hemet, Patrick Shetler, welcomed the Presbytery to Hemet and oriented the Presbytery to the campus. He noted that it has been a while, at least ten years, since the Presbytery met at Hemet. He gave a brief summary of the pastoral history and invited an elder, Phil Martinez, to address the Presbytery. Phil Martinez invited the Presbytery to attend a special education seminar at Hemet on November 15 from 1:00pm to 4:30pm called “Walk Through the Bible: Old Testament.”

Moderator Graise expressed thanks to Hemet for hosting this meeting and for all the volunteers to make this meeting a positive experience.

STONEWALL MINISTRIES OF ALL PEOPLE’S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CATHEDRAL CITY

Moderator Graise invited TE Brian Symonds and TE Rob Stewart to make the report from Stonewall Ministries. TE Rob Stewart shared about how Stonewall Ministries came to be and its focus on outreach to the queer community. Stonewall also wanted to outreach into the homeless community around them and initiated a program that had been done earlier and elsewhere: Blessing Bags. He shared about the sources the ingredients for the bags (mostly from Amazon) and the ministry puts together 200 bags per month and it is distributed through local community engagement teams.

TE Stewart then invited the Presbytery to participate in putting together blessing bags. Commissioners, Corresponding Members, and Guests gathered around tables and assembled 200 Blessing Bags.

TE Symonds shared more information about the bags, including that 100 of them are given to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission for distribution and others are given to DAP Health. He shared that a \$1,000 grant was received from Costco to help fund the bags, along with water cartons from Forest Lawn, grants from the PIM committee, and private donations. TE Symonds ended this time with a prayer for the bags, its recipients, and the Presbytery.

Moderator Graise invited the Presbytery to reconvene in the Sanctuary for the remainder of the meeting.

MEETING RE-CONVENES IN THE SANCTUARY

Moderator Graise reconvened the Presbytery in the Sanctuary and called for introductions for first-time commissioners, Corresponding Members, and guests. The following were introduced:

First-time Commissioners: RE Jelaiya Jacob (Ridgecrest), RE Travis Denning (Ridgecrest), Kathy Showman (San Bernardino)

Corresponding Members: TE Johnson Kinuya (Los Ranchos)

Guests: Mary Waturi (Spouse of Johnson Kinuya), Alice Nyaga, Mildad Haroun

Moderator Graise declared that a quorum was present and asked if there were any changes to the Docket. It was **moved, seconded, and voted to approve** the docket.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK & CONSENT AGENDA

Stated Clerk Knopf reported the following:

For Information:

1. Records Review: Review of Session Minute Books and Registers will take place on Saturday, September 20th at 10:00am in-Person at Riverside, Magnolia
2. Stated Presbytery Meeting Schedule for 2025:
Saturday, November 8 10am In-person at Riverside, Magnolia

If your congregation would like to host an in-person meeting in 2026, please email statedclerk@riversidepresbytery.com to extend an invitation

3. The 2025 per capita apportionment is as follows:

\$30.31 Presbytery
\$10.84 General Assembly
\$2.85 Synod
\$44.00 – 2025 Total

4. Information for your reference:

2025 Presbytery Minimums

Effective Salary (includes salary and housing)	\$66,560
Board of Pensions (43% of Effective Salary in Trans. Plan)	\$28,261
OR (26% of Effective Salary in New Plan)	\$17,306
Auto Reimbursement (\$ 0.70/ mile)	\$ 3,000
Professional/Business Expense Reimbursement	\$ 650
Study Leave (2 weeks)	\$ 1,200
Vacation (31 days, max of 5 Sundays)	
Paid Family Medical Leave (minimum of 12 weeks)	

5. The 2025-2027 Book of Order is in effect as of July 2, 2025

For the Record:

1. On July 24, 2025, the Committee on Ministry, being tasked with determining the readiness of the Rev. Noel Anderson for reinstatement to the Ordered Ministry of Minister of Word and

Sacramento, having already partially restored the Rev. Anderson, did determine him ready and able to be fully restored, and as of July 24, 2025, was fully restored, completing the Alternate Form of Resolution, January 6, 2024.

2. D-3.0602b states, *"The stated clerk shall keep a current roster of those members of the permanent judicial commission whose terms have expired within the past six years. The names shall be arranged alphabetically within classes beginning with the most recent class. The stated clerk shall report the roster annually to the council or councils."*

2026	2023	2021
TE Curtis Webster (resigned in 2023)	TE Alfred Graise RE Izar Martinez	RE Anne Smith† RE Carol Stanley

3. The Presbytery is in compliance with G-3.0106 having the following policies as part of the Manual of Administrative Operations:
- Sexual Misconduct Policy (Approved by the Assembly on June 10, 2017)
 - Harassment Policy (Approved by the Assembly on November 4, 2023)
 - Child and Youth Protection Policy (Approved by the Assembly on June 17, 2023)
- note: the 2025-2027 Book of Order now requires a Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy
- Antiracism Policy (Approved by the Assembly on November 4, 2023)
4. The Synod Review of Records occurred on August 11th at the San Gabriel Presbytery Office in Temple City. There was 1 exception (we didn't do a financial review) and 1 minor omissions (things that were not reported to the presbytery): Report on Minister Engagement *Corrections*: a financial audit is currently in progress and will likely be ready to report at the November meeting; and a minister's report is scheduled for the October HPCC meeting
5. Bylaw 7.04 is suspended until 2026 while some elected service positions extend beyond the six-year term limit (dates of service changing from July-June to January-December) (Action approved on June 15, 2024)

For Action:

The Stated Clerk brings the Consent Agenda for vote:

- Approve** the minutes of the June 14, 2025 stated meeting of Presbytery held online via zoom
- By participating in this meeting attendees are also **giving** the presbytery **permission** to audio record the meeting, for the benefit of the minutes
- Grant voice** without vote to presbyters in attendance who are members in good standing in other mid-level councils and who have registered for this meeting (corresponding members)
- Enter** upon the permanent record, at the close of the meeting, those information items provided to Presbytery but not otherwise acted upon
- Recognize** that the action items approved at this meeting, taken together with all votes responding to request by sub bodies of the Presbytery, as fulfilling the Presbytery's responsibility to review the work of the continuing committees, and special organizations, in accordance with the principles of administrative review in G-3.0108a
- Receive** the 2024 Annual Statistical Report for the Presbytery

The Property, Finance, Investment & Fund Development Committee brings the following items for vote

7. **Receive** the following financial report:

a. Budget vs. Actuals as of July 31, 2025

July Actual	YTD Actual	Full Year Budget
Revenue	\$ 13,931	\$ 228,259
Expense	<u>\$ 24,259</u>	<u>\$ 196,852</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$ 10,328)	\$ 31,408 (\$ 84,743)

8. **Approve** the Corporate Treasurer and the Corporate Secretary as the two signers on the New Covenant Investment Accounts. This is a change from the previous approval that had included the Corporate President as a third signer. This is being done to simplify the need for complicated and time-consuming annual filings with New Covenant

9. **Approve** the lease between Rancho Cucamonga, Northkirk and Legacy Learning Center and the lease between Rancho Cucamonga, Northkirk and Rancho Cucamonga Covenant Community Church (G-4.0206)

It was **moved, seconded, and voted** to **approve** the Consent Agenda.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Moderator Graise invited TE Neal Neuenschwander, Committee Co-Chair, to make the report.

TE Neuenschwander shared that CP Patrick Shetler was originally commissioned (February 10, 2024) for 18 months with the possibility of one renewal for a total of 3 years, meaning he was not eligible for an additional renewal after that. TE Neuenschwander added that the congregation and the commissioned Pastor are asking the Presbytery to reconsider the restriction preventing an additional renewal. On behalf of COM, TE Neuenschwander **moved** that the Assembly amend Mr. Shetler's original Commission, removing the restriction preventing him from applying for a new Commissioned Pastor contract, if the way be clear (Amend Something Previously Adopted (RONR 12th ed. 35:1). After discussion, it was **voted** to **amend** Mr. Shetler's original commission, removing the restriction of renewing after a total of 3 years.

TE Neuenschwander **moved**, on behalf of COM, that Patrick Shetler be authorized to limited pastoral service as a Commissioned Pastor to the First Presbyterian Church of Hemet with the following terms:

- That the commission includes the power to officiate at weddings and funerals and administer the sacraments;
- That the commission be for 18 months
- That RE Shetler is not part of the church's financial ministry
- That a TE be assigned as a mentor and supervisor

After discussion, it was **voted** to **authorize** Mr. Shetler to limited pastoral service.

TE Neuenschwander **moved**, on behalf of COM, the approval of the 2026 Minimum Terms of call:

Effective Salary (includes salary and housing)	\$70,304
Board of Pensions (26% of Effective Salary)	\$19,334*
OR (47% of Effective Salary in Trans. Plan)	\$33,043
Reimbursements	\$4,850
(including Auto/Travel, Professional/Business, and Study Leave)	

Study Leave (2 weeks)

Vacation (31 days, max of 5 Sundays)

Paid Family Medical Leave (minimum of 12 weeks)

*Overall compensation for installed pastors cannot be reduced below 2024 Terms of Call levels due to health plan benefit changes by the BOP

-note: the Minimum Terms of Call apply to Installed Pastors

-Temporary Pastor Minimum: 85% of Installed Pastor Effective Salary minimum (per COM Handbook)

-Commissioned Pastor Minimum: 85% of Installed Pastor Effective Salary minimum (per COM/HPCC vote on March 2, 2023)

TE Neuenschwander shared that the effective salary is based on the California Minimum for exempt employees. After discussion, it was **voted to approve** the 2026 Minimum Terms of Call.

CORPORATE WORSHIP

The Presbytery worshipped together. RE Jelaiya Jacob led the Presbytery in a Call to Worship, the Presbytery sang, "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty." After a prayer of confession, Luke 12:16-21 was read by TE Rafik Ibrahim in English and Mildad Haroum in Arabic. TE Andrew Parnell preached, sharing the ancient writer, Virgil's phrase, "Tempus Fugit" (time flies/flees) and his grandmother's adaptation, "Tempus Fizzit" (pronounced fsst). He encouraged the Presbytery reminding that "we don't know much time we have, so make the most of it." RE Travis Denning invited the Presbytery to give an offering to support the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice. Moderator Graise led the commissioning of CP Patrick Shetler, asking him the constitutional questions which he answer in the affirmative. Moderator Graise offered a commissioning prayer and welcomed CP Shetler again to his commissioned ministry. The Presbytery sang, "Come Sing, O Church, in Joy" and TE Andrew Parnell gave the benediction.

REPORT OF THE PARTNERS IN MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Moderator Graise invited TE Erin Thomas, Committee Chair, to make the report.

TE Thomas shared the names of the members of the committee and that they meet the first Thursday of every month. She also notified the Presbytery that an additional \$250,000 is available in Synod Partnering Grants and that the criteria and application for Partnering Grants would be on the new Presbytery website soon. TE Thomas then invited Moderator Graise to share about the recent Triennium delegation.

Moderator Graise shared that there were 5 adult leaders in addition to other adults from Riverside who went in support of Triennium. He shared that 18 youth and 5 adults went, and all 18 youth, the same youth, returned, meaning it was a successful trip. A video was shown which included collated pictures from Triennium. Moderator Graise then shared that the excitement from Triennium continues in joint youth events involving youth from Triennium and youth from camp, including this joint youth group helping to serve meals at the Hot Meals program at Riverside, Calvary, with an addition event planned for the first Sunday in October.

CCE Carol Stanley shared that at Triennium, there was hand-on mission project that was funded/supported by the Presbyterian Hunger program and that the Riverside delegation was able to lead a procession at one of the all-group gatherings.

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY LEADER

Moderator Graise invited TE Frances Lin to give her report.

TE Lin reflected on the tenor and feel of this meeting and wondered aloud if we should do Presbytery meetings more often. She also shared the importance of our connectional nature and couched it in covenant, reflecting on world events and our responses to them. She reflected on receiving her Doctor of Ministry degree and thanked the Presbytery for their support.

TE Lin shared that the website has undergone a redesign and shared images of the new website as well as the new presbytery logo.



TE Lin expressed appreciation to the Presbytery Office Manager, Jim Strand, and shared that he recently celebrated a birthday and presented him with a gift, a custom engraved Louisville Slugger baseball bat.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION AND NOMINATIONS

Moderator Graise invited RE Amy Smith, Committee Chair, to make the report.

RE Smith reminded the Presbytery that self-nominations are open for Commissioners to the 227th General Assembly with openings for 1 TE Commissioner, 1 RE Commissioner, and 1 YAAD (who needs to be between the ages of 18 and 25 when GA begins).

MODERATOR CHANGE

Moderator Graise turned the duties of the Moderator over to Vice-Moderator Ann Laudermilk.

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY COMMISSION

Vice-Moderator Laudermilk invited TE Alfred Graise to make the report of the Presbytery Commission.

TE Graise shared that Commission Chair, Julie Hodges, was not able to attend today and asked that he report in her place.

TE Graise, on behalf of the PC, moved that Presbytery be in recess to convene the annual meeting of the Corporation. It was voted and the Presbytery was in recess.

**The Presbytery of Riverside Corporation
Annual Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2025**

The annual meeting of the Presbytery of Riverside Corporation was called to order in the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Hemet at 12:10 hrs. by Corporation Vice-President Alfred Graise, who was asked to moderate by the Corporation President Julie Hodges. He declared that a quorum was present.

President Graise announced that as stipulated by the Bylaws, the Corporation Officers for the coming year, 2026 are as follows:
Alfred Graise, Incoming Chair of the Presbytery Commission, is President
Ann Laudermilk, Incoming Presbytery Moderator, is Vice-President
Paul Knopf, Stated Clerk, is Secretary
Paul Lambert, Chair of PFIFD, is Treasurer

President Graise asked if there was any other business to come before the Corporation and Treasurer Paul Lambert made the following **motion**:
Be it Resolved that the signers for the Presbytery New Covenant Account be Treasurer Paul Roberts Lambert III and Secretary Richard Paul Knopf Jr. It was **seconded** and after opportunity for discussion, **voted** to **approve** the motion.

President Graise asked if there was any other business to come before the Corporation and there was none. It was **moved, seconded, and voted** to **adjourn** and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 hrs.

Vice-Moderator Laudermilk reconvened the Presbytery at 12:15 pm.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR WILDOMAR, MOUNTAIN VIEW

Vice-Moderator Laudermilk invited TE Neal Neuenschwander, AC Chair, to make the report.

TE Neuenschwander reviewed the history of the creation of the AC and the situation at Wildomar, including:

- the AC was established earlier this year
- Wildomar was not paying their mortgage payments to PILP and the Presbytery agreed to catch up the mortgage loan by paying the arrears payments with the expectation that Wildomar would pay it back
- Wildomar had to choose between paying their mortgage loan or paying a pastor, so when their temporary pastor retired, they opted not to hire a new pastor
- the Clerk of Session has been preaching
- with TE Neuenschwander moderating the Session, there was an attempt to revitalize the congregation
- it was clear that it was not possible, having tried many things for many years
- the Session and Congregation are tired
- the Congregation voted at a congregation meeting to dissolve the congregation effective November 30th, 2025

TE Neuenschwander, on behalf of the AC, **moved** that the Presbytery **dissolve** Mountain View Community Church of Wildomar effective November 30, 2025. It was **voted** and **passed**.

TE Neuenschwander also reported that the Session included four elders in active service and all four had submitted letters of resignation. As a result, the AC, consisting of TE Neal Neuenschwander, Chair, RE Chris Nettles, Secretary/Clerk, and TE Bill Stanley, believed it was time to assume original jurisdiction. They met on August 26th and voted to assume original jurisdiction of the church.

REPORT FROM MAGNOLIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, RIVERSIDE

Vice-Moderator Laudermilk invited RE Kris Shea and RE Cherylyn Thornton, both commissioners from Riverside, Magnolia, to make the report.

RE Shea shared that Riverside, Magnolia is attempting to make its worship services more accessible to all of God's children, particularly those who find it difficult to hear. The church has begun using CaptionKit.io which provides live captions to a website that can be accessed by anyone with an internet connection. In addition to live captions, it provides language translation as well, all done by artificial intelligence, and while it is not perfect, it is pretty good. The cost is \$20 per month and it has been useful to those at Riverside, Magnolia.

RE Shea also shared that Riverside, Magnolia has been a founding partner of Family Promise of Riverside who is helping families who are at risk of and experiencing homelessness. Although the original model was for 13 faith communities to shelter families for one week, four times a year, the pandemic forced communities to reassess and the current model asks faith communities to shelter families for a month or more at a time. She expressed gratefulness to congregations who have stepped up, like Riverside, Calvary. The shelter is only available to families from 6pm-6am, so faith communities have full access to the campus during the day, but the areas used for shelter become home to families in the evening. Family Promise allows volunteers to help at multiple levels, including reading a book, making a meal, helping with art, and being a volunteer host. Since Family Promise of Riverside opened its doors 33 months ago, over 30 families have transitioned from experiencing homelessness to being in stable housing. They have also helped 200 families avoid homelessness through vouchers and helping them in their current situation. RE Shea invited the Presbytery to consider unused spaces on each congregation's campuses and consider being a site for Family Promise or similar programs.

RE Thornton invited the Presbytery to attend a food packing event at Riverside, Magnolia on September 21st at 10am, where the plan is to put together 10,000 meals to help feed hungry people in third world countries. During our normal worship time, we will worship in a different way. Instead of music, prayer, and sermon, we will do hands-on mission between 10am and 1pm. RE Thornton shared that the neighborhood and community have been invited to participate and extended an invitation to the Presbytery to join in. She acknowledged that this event was sponsored in part by a grant from the PIM Committee.

TE Paul Knopf expressed appreciation to the commissioners for making the report and also asked the Presbytery for prayers as the Session of Riverside, Magnolia as they decide what to do with the new building construction. The original design was over \$3 million more than expected so a new design was created. This new design is still over \$1 million more than anticipated so a decision is being made whether or not to move forward with this new design.

TWO MINUTE ANNOUNCEMENT TIME

The presbytery was invited to share announcements:

-RE Susan Skoglund invited the Presbytery to attend a gathering for which flyers were distributed, but noted that the time on the flyer (which said 9am) was incorrect and will begin at 10am instead

-TE Paul Knopf shared that the Synod Executive and Stated Clerk, Mark Hong, could not be present today, but wanted to extend an invitation to Boundary Training provided by the Church Insurance Board, but offered by the Synod: December 9th at Pasadena Presbyterian Church and December 11th in Fullerton. The cost is free but registration is required

-TE Frances Lin shared that a Pastor's mini-retreat will be held on September 22nd from 10am-3pm at Redlands, First, with the Rev. Tony Larson, Co-Moderator of the 226th General Assembly, as speaker

-RE Cherylyn Thronton shared that Riverside, Magnolia is in possession of a bunch of Blue Presbyterian Hymnals and if anyone wants them, they are available to pick up

-TE Sam Roberts invited the Presbytery congregations to participate in our connectional church by paying their per capita apportionment, which helps the church as a whole operate

WRITTEN REPORTS

Vice-Moderator Laudermilk called attention to the written reports in the packet that contained information for the presbytery. These included the the Property, Finance, Investment, and Fund Development report.

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

Vice-Moderator Laudermilk invited the presbytery to respond verbally to the question: How did you experience the Holy Spirit in this meeting? Responses included: the blessing of meeting new friends, hearing scripture in a different language, Andrew's message, seeing pictures of young people at triennium, being asked to help lead worship, beautiful songs, reconnecting with friends, and the blessing bag activity. It was **moved**, **seconded**, and **voted** to **adjourn** (12:47pm), the closing prayer was offered by Vice-Moderator Laudermilk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Knopf, Stated Clerk

Meeting Attendance September 13, 2025

Beaumont, Beaumont (3)

TE Scott Mason
Absent: 3

Big Bear, Bridges (2)

Absent: 2

Cathedral City, Community (2)

TE Brian Gaeta-Symonds
Absent: 2

Corona, First (3)

RE Terrie Burbank
Absent: 1

Hemet, First (3)

CP Patrick Shetler
RE Martin Richter
RE Don Silva
RE Jim Warren
Absent: 0

Indio, St Andrew (2)

RE Bo Ford
RE Steve Stiles
Absent: 0

Lake Arrowhead, Comm (4)

TE Bill Stanley
RE Stefanie Morrell
RE John Millsap
Absent: 2

Ontario, Westminster (2)

TE Narcissis Tucker-Bishop
Absent: 2

Palm Springs, Palm Springs (2)

Absent: 2

Rancho Cuca., Northkirk (2)

RE Joyce Brand
Absent 1

Redlands Community (2)

TE Sylvia Karcher
Absent: 2

Redlands, First (4)

RE Paul Lambert
RE Wilson Kayange
Absent: 2

Rialto, Bethany (2)

TE Andrew Parnell
Absent: 2

Ridgecrest, Ridgecrest (2)

RE Travis Denning
RE Jelaiya Jacob
Absent: 0

Riverside, Calvary (3)

TE Alfred Graise
TE Erin Thomas
Absent: 3

Riverside, Magnolia (3)

TE Paul Knopf
RE Kris Shea
RE Cherylyn Thornton
Absent: 1

Riverside, Victoria (2)

Absent: 2

San Bernardino, First (3)

RE Mary Bolaños
RE Jeanne Clark
RE Katharine Showman
Absent: 0

San Bernardino, El Buen (2)

Absent: 2

Temecula, Grace (4)

RE James McCune
Absent: 3

29 Palms, Little Church (2)

Absent: 2

Upland, First (4)

RE Tony Webner
Absent: 3

Upland, Taiwanese (2)

Absent: 2

Wildomar, Mountain View (2)

Absent: 2

Yucca Valley, Desert Hills (2)

TE Wayne Morrow
Absent: 2

Validated Calls

TE Les Bishop
TE Rafik Ibrahim

Honorably Retired TE

TE Tina Blair
TE Sylvia Karcher
TE Matthew George
TE Sam Roberts

Members-at-Large

RE Susan Skoglund (Past Mod)
RE Carol Stanley (Past Mod)
RE Marilyn Mittelstadt (Past Mod)
RE Amy Smith (Committee Chair)

Presbytery Staff

TE Frances Lin, Presbytery Leader
TE Rob Stewart, Transitional
Ministries
RE Jim Strand, Office Manager

Guests

TE Stephen Smith, Corresponding
Member
Betty Barr
Paul Barr
Dave Duncan
Diane Duncan
Louisa Martinez
Phil Martinez
Karen Ostertag
Tony Palecki
Doris Silva
Judy Sylvester
Dr. Johnson Kinuya
Mary Waturi
Purity Walker
Walker Bundi
Alice Nyaga
Elizabeth Karanja
Dr. Frida Bundi
Edward Kamotho
Milad Haroun

Churches represented: 11

RE Commissioners: 26

TE Members/CRE: 21

Total Voting: 47

Total Attendance: 69