

Presbytery of Riverside Healthy Pastors and Congregations Commission  
December 5, 2019, Beaumont Presbyterian Church, 5:45 p.m.

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

	<u>Class of 2020</u>		<u>Class of 2021</u>		<u>+Class of 2022</u>
ex	TE Becky Bane		TE Henry DeGraaff		RE Anand Dyal Chand
	TE Sam Roberts		RE Melodee Kistner		RE Peggy Hill
ex	TE Jesse Rose		TE Scott Mason		TE Julie Hodges
			TE In Yang	ex	RE Karen Keevil
					RE Sam Hynds

**Staff:** ex **Lee Ireland**, Temporary Executive Presbyter, on vacation; **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 AND QUORUM**

The opening prayer was led by the committee chair. There was a quorum (which is 7) present.

**APPROVE DOCKET**

An addition was made to the docket. We added first read of a revision to the HPCC leave policy to cover Minister Sabbaticals and Continuing Education accrued leave and financing.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved with one correction the Christine Dickerson’s exit interview will be done after a Desert Pastors gathering.

**UPDATE** “Vital Congregations Initiative”

There was a good “roll out” of it at the latest Assembly and sign up for the cohorts is strong. We were commended by the General Assembly representative for the level of congregational and clergy participation in our presbytery.

**CALLS / CONTRACTS**

Approve Marilyn Gamm’s Temporary Covenant

It was **approved**, with the suggestion to the Chair that he call his counterpart in Missouri to see how long this special arrangement is expected to last. Rev. Gamm’s husband is the Executive of that presbytery and she has asked to avoid conflict of interest by keeping her membership in Riverside while serving a Giddings Lovejoy congregation in a temporary relationship.

Approve Nancy Richmond’s Temporary Covenant

It was **approved**, with the observation that she is not eligible for the called position, an arrangement that we might like to suggest to the Session that they change to a Temporary Supply arrangement. It was also noted that the form on the presbytery web site from which the Covenant was drafted is in need of update to reflect new language and Constitutional references, and that has been done by the Stated Clerk (Temporary).

## **MATTERS CONCERNING CHURCHES**

Palm Springs Presbyterian Church hired Bruce Myers as an Interim Pastor

Bruce begins his service on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Covenant will be forthcoming.

Hemet Presbyterian Church voted to call Earl Palmer as an Installed Pastor

The vote was 88 to 2 on November 24<sup>th</sup>. He begins his service on December 16<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that the HPCC will meet with him at their next meeting to validate the Call and make plans for an installation. The HPCC is using the provision in the Manual of Administrative Operations that allows the HPCC to elect an installation commission when the Call comes 60 days before the next Assembly. The Call was **approved**.

Crestline Administrative Commission

Of the two remaining properties, the former Preschool was purchased and the A-Frame (hoped for manse) has been put on the market. The Minutes book and Register have yet to go to the Presbyterian Historical Society and are being stored in a basement area of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands.

New Beginnings Fontana Church

The property sold and the Minute book (no Register—lost) and pictures are awaiting mailing to the Presbyterian Historical Society.

Big Bear Presbyterian Church

An offer has been made to a potential Transitional Pastor. The Transitional Specialist is considering the Call. The Temporary Supply Pastor retires December 31<sup>st</sup> and it's presumed the Transitional Pastor would start January 1.

## **REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY LEADER AND STATED CLERK – Lee Ireland, no reports**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Christine Dickerson's exit interview

This will be conducted after a Desert Pastor's gathering. The Presbytery Leader and one other member of HPCC are in regular attendance.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Triennial Visits / Holy Conversations

The revised Manual of Administrative Operations gave clear responsibility to HPCC (with a representative from PIM) for Holy Conversations with each congregation once every two years. (These were formally called Triennial Visits.) Only one has been

completed (Beaumont). Discussion was initiated at possibly starting with churches which have Temporary pastoral relations.

Sabbaticals – Joshua Tsieh

A question came from a Clerk of Session if a planned sabbatical should be in the annual Terms of Call for a co-pastor. Another question came in if the presbytery has a policy for aggregated study leave to accommodate some seminaries' requirement to do a six-week residency for completion of their Doctor of Ministry. A suggestion revision of the presbytery's Leave Policy which currently covers disabilities and other leaves of absences was read, and will be brought in written form to HPCC next month.

## **CLOSING PRAYER / MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There was closing prayer and the motion to adjourn was **approved**.

(Next meeting: Thursday, January 9, 2019 at 5:45 p.m. at Beaumont)

### **Congregations, A Conference Center, and Fellowships**

Apple Valley Transformation Multi-Cultural Fellowship

Beaumont Presbyterian Church

Big Bear Presbyterian Church known as Bridge Presbyterian Fellowship

Big Bear Lake Big Bear Christian Conference Center

Community Presbyterian Church, Cathedral City

Stonewall Fellowship, Cathedral City

Palm Springs Korean Presbyterian Church, Cathedral City

First Presbyterian Church of Corona

New Beginnings Church, Fontana

First Presbyterian Church of Hemet

St. Andrew Community Presbyterian Church, Indio

Lake Arrowhead Community Presbyterian Church

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Ontario

Palm Desert Spirit of the Desert Fellowship

Palm Springs Presbyterian Church

Northkirk Presbyterian Church, Rancho Cucamonga

Upland Taiwan Presbyterian Church, Rancho Cucamonga

Community Presbyterian Church, Redlands

Inland Empire Presbyterian Fellowship-Taiwanese/Ethnic Chinese

First Presbyterian Church of Redlands

Bethany Presbyterian, Rialto

Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church

Calvary Presbyterian Church, Riverside

Magnolia Presbyterian Church, Riverside

Victoria Presbyterian Church, Riverside

San Bernardino Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church / Iglesia El Buen Pastor

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

San Bernardino Home of Neighborly Service

Grace Presbyterian Church, Temecula

Temecula Valley Arabic PC Fellowship

Little Church of the Desert, Twentynine Palms

First Presbyterian Church of Upland

First Presbyterian Church of Lake Elsinore known as Mountain View Church, Wildomar

Desert Hills Presbyterian Church, Yucca Valley

**Healthy Pastors and Congregations Commission**  
**January 9, 2020**  
**Minutes and Report**

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

	<u>Class of 2020</u>		<u>Class of 2021</u>		<u>Class of 2022</u>
x	TE Becky Bane	x	TE Henry DeGraaff	x	RE Anand Dyal Chand
x	TE Sam Roberts	x	RE Melodee Kistner	x	RE Peggy Hill
x	RE Jesse Rose	x	TE Scott Mason	Ex.	TE Julie Hodges
		x	TE In Yang		
				x	RE Sam Hynds

**Staff:** **Lee Ireland**, Temporary Presbytery Leader for Mission and Vision; **Tom Rennard**, Temp. Stated Clerk

Mission Statement recited was by the Commission

The chair opened the meeting with prayer.

Approve Docket: We moved approval of Marilyn Gamm’s Transitional Pastor Contract with Trinity Church, University City, MO to the 2.6.20. meeting due to it being received so close to the meeting date. Otherwise, docket approved as distributed.

Vital Congregations Initiative (VCI) Update: Becky Bane told us the cohorts have begun and there’s a good feeling about the work that’s being done. Tom shared about the Pastor’s Cohort Group which is not VCI oriented but is being led by the VCI Coordinator Rob Stewart. A great first meeting.

Calls/Covenants

**Voted to approve the Rev. Bruce Meyer’s Transitional Pastor Covenant with the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church.**

**Voted to approve the Rev. Andrew Parnell’s Temporary Pastor Covenant with the Bethany Presbyterian Church of Rialto.**

**Voted to approve the Rev. Thomas Rennard’s Transitional Pastor Covenant with the Bridge Presbyterian Fellowship of Big Bear.**

Typographical corrections were made on the first and third covenants. Otherwise, approved as distributed to the Commission.

Matters Concerning Churches

Crestline Administrative Commission: 2 of the 3 Properties have been leased or sold and the third (the “Manse” A-Frame) is in escrow for sale at the asking price of \$179,000.

The First Presbyterian Church of Fontana (dba New Beginnings) was sold for approximately \$900,000 and the proceeds have been referred to the Property Finance Investments and Funds Development Committee for a recommendation of how to spend the proceeds.

Reports of the Stated Clerk and Presbytery Leader (both Temporary)

Tom informed the Commission that a minister member who is currently in good standing in the Classis of Albany, of the Reformed Church of America will be applying for minister membership in the presbytery next month. Lee informed the Commission that he will be leaving the employ of the Community Presbyterian Church of Cathedral City after Easter Sunday, 2020. In his presbytery work, he is looking for ways to connect congregations at the lay level with the presbytery. He suggested that doing the Vital Congregations Initiative for the presbytery may be one way. He informed the Commission that benefits will now be pro-rated for proportional time for minister members of the presbytery at the recommendation of the Personnel Committee. He initiated getting liasons for each of the 26 congregations for which the Commission has oversight with the Commission members. Each voting member took a certain number of congregations to liaison with, a list of responsibilities will be located and forwarded to new members of the Commission.

## New Business

The Commission voted **to have the Presbytery Leader form a Task Force to keep churches open.** This may come out of the Presbytery Commission but the HPCC wanted some group to focus on keeping churches sustainable. We noted with appreciation that some congregations who were thinking of dissolving their relationship with the denomination have decided to stay in the Church.

## Closing Prayer and Motion to Adjourn

The prayer was led by Tom Rennard and the **motion to adjourn passed.**

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 6, 2020 at Westminster, Ontario.

Presbytery of Riverside Healthy Pastors and Congregations Commission  
February 6, 2020, Beaumont Presbyterian Church, 5:45 p.m.

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

	<u>Class of 2020</u>		<u>Class of 2021</u>		<u>+Class of 2022</u>
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x	TE Sam Roberts	ex	RE Melodee Kistner	x	RE Peggy Hill
ex	RE Jesse Rose	x	TE Scott Mason	x	TE Julie Hodges
		x	TE In Yang		
				A	RE Sam Hynds

**Staff:** ex **Lee Ireland**, Temporary Presbytery Leader for Mission and Vision; **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.”

Mission Statement-read. Opening Prayer

**Approved Docket** as distributed.

**Approved minutes** with addition of staff names. A confirmation email was received from Karen Keevil confirming her resignation from the Commission.

Update Vital Congregations Initiative – Becky Bane. Distributed Year One Sample Calendar. Becky stressed mid council participation. There are 10 churches involved in the “January Track.” It will be a one-year process for the 10.

We will read the drop box of the presbytery packet once a link is sent.

**Calls/Contracts**

**Sally Willis-Watkins** was introduced. She gave us her background and sense of call. She is seeking transfer into the Presbytery. Lee will do a reference check and we’ll act on her request in the March meeting of HPCC. We read her statement of faith. The motion to recommend her for membership in the presbytery pending a PL reference check will be made in March.

**Matters Concerning Churches**

Crestline has sold or leased all of its buildings. Records are with the Presbyterian Historical Society.

Update of Big Bear was given by Tom Rennard, Transitional Pastor

**Old Business**

Sabbaticals and Accrual of Study Leave Policy: There was extended discussion. Suggested to use the Lilly Endowment as a model. Held over to future meeting.

**New Business**

Task force to keep churches open. Much work needs to be done on this. Synod funds are available. Much more thought and discussion is needed. Task force level at the Presbytery Assembly level rather than from the Commission. The view was expressed that it needs to come out of HPCC. How do we need to get young adults engaged in our churches?

Information on Budget desired. Extensive discussion on the health of the churches and their ability to attract people.

How much money does the presbytery have to fund current operations?

**Closing Prayer and Motion to Adjourn**

Location for Next Meeting: First, Redlands