

PRESBYTERY OF SAN DIEGO STATED MEETING –September 15, 2020

The Stated meeting of the Presbytery of San Diego was convened via Zoom by Ruling Elder Wells Lyman, the Moderator of the Presbytery at 4:05 p.m. He led the Presbytery in prayer. The Stated Clerk declared a quorum was present. The Moderator also led the worship. The Executive Presbyter reported on the help given by the Synod and Presbytery for individual congregations during the pandemic.

ROLL: The roll was taken by the report generated from those who sign on to the meeting via Zoom, and that those registering during the meeting, together with corresponding members, and those requesting leaves of absence (when granted) constitute the roll. A quorum was present.

	<u>CONGREGATION</u>	<u>TEACHING ELDERS</u>	<u>ECCLESIASTICAL DESIGNATION</u>	<u>RULING ELDERS</u>
1-1	Brawley, First			Carl Stills
2-1	Carlsbad, Christ Church of La Costa	G. Bostrom E. VanGieson	101 103	Anne Warner
3-1	Chula Vista, Chula Vista			Joan Stroh Cora Gregory (A)
4-1	Coronado, Graham Memorial	D. McElrath J. Joseph	101 103	Ralph West
5-1	El Cajon, First	K. Dawsey-Richardson	101	Nancy Williams Doug Flick (A)
6-1	El Cajon, Fletcher Hills	K. Womack	101	Daniel Decker Tom DiFiore (A)
7-1	Escondido, Westminster	M. Sedgwick	101	Nancy Scholder Carole Ostrander (A) (e)
8-5	La Jolla, La Jolla	P. Cunningham S. Mitchell	101 103	Mary Kinyon (e) Lynn Lansing Deanne Rohde Pam Taunton Christy Zatkan Jen Marchesini (A) Jim Sedgwick (A) Steve Vincent (A) (e)
9-1	La Jolla, Mt. Soledad	J. Moser	101	William Green Cindy Green (A)
10-1	Lakeside, Community	A Deuel	105	Gerie Morrin Linda Sunkel (A)
11-2	Oceanside, First	M. Killeen E. Wilson-Manahan D. A. Walker	101 103 109	David McNulla Steven McConnell John Dowling (A)

12-4	Rancho Santa Fe, Village Community	J. Baca J. K. Farley N. Presa D. R. Caughey	101 103 103 109	Lyn Lloyd-Smith Laura Metzger Patrick Singer Michael Williams
13-1	San Diego, Christ United	N. Byrd	101	Audrey Littlefield
14-1	San Diego, Faith	S. Codington	101	Nancy Harber Joe Huffaker (A)
15-2	San Diego, First	J. Andrews J. Myers	101 103	James Beatty III Rudy Kosits Cheryl Kosits (A) Maurice Caskey (A)
16-1	San Diego, Iglesia Emmanuel			Wendy Gaska Amado Olguin (A)
17-2	San Diego, Korean	Y. H. Kang	101	
18-1	San Diego, Linda Vista	R. Roth	108	Stephen Awe
19-1	San Diego, Mira Mesa	D. McColl	105	Gary Huber
20-1	San Diego, Northminster	J. Shirley N. Landis	101 301	Rom Sarno
21-1	San Diego, Orange Ave			
22-1	San Diego, Pacific Beach	S. Locke	105	Steve Ritz
23-2	San Diego, Palisades	G. Ziccardi R. Ziccardi	105 105	Susan Pelloth Barbara Van Meter
24-4	San Diego, Point Loma Community	K. Shaw A. Wirth	101 103	Gresham Bayne Em Cummins Art Michalek Barbett Wood
25-4	San Diego, Rancho Bernardo Community	B. Stamper M. Wasef	101 103	Corey Buckner Mady Cheng Judy Enns Craig Riddle Jim Dunny (A) Le' Kubow(A)
26-1	San Diego, Southeast	R. Sparling	106	D Lund Phil Bazier (A)
27-1	San Diego, Taiwanese	Shang Nan Tsai	101	Winnie Davis Nick Tsai (A)
28-1	San Diego, Westminster	M. Cochran M. Taxer	101 109	William Hodgkiss
29-4	Solana Beach, Solana Beach	M. McClenahan J. D. Espitia P. Taylor	101 103 107	Barry Billingsley Cathy Tyre Commissioner 3 Commissioner 4

30-1	Spring Valley, Trinity	J. Rauch	105	Don Axe
31-1	Vista, Grace	M. Wallman	105	Marian Reed
32-1	Westmorland, Community	M. Watson	105	Cari Agusta Anne Mallory (A)

<u>OTHER PRESBYTERY MEMBERS and STAFF</u>		ECC DESIGNATION
Executive Presbyter	TE Michael Mudgett	302
Stated Clerk	RE Frances Lin	303
*Chair, Nominating Committee	* RE Sue Skala	
*At-large member Executive Committee	* RE Lloyd Tooks	
*At-large member Executive Committee	* RE Jpetul J'ernantes	
*Presbytery Moderator	* Wells Lyman	
Office Manager	Jennifer Sedgwick	
Director, New Day Urban Ministries	Raul Palomino	

OTHER MINISTERS:

R. K. Adams	299	R. Humphries	299	E. Piper	797
R. E. Anderson	299	W.L. James	299	B. Reed	299
R.C. Betters	299	K Johnson	761	E. Reynolds	645
J.H. Boller, Jr.	299	T. F. Johnson	299	L. Rice	701
W. Bynagte	299	J. Kerkhoff	797	J. Robertson	299
J. Chambers	299	J. Kim	797	D. Satre	791
C. Cowden	797	C. Kohlbray	171	T. Simpson	797
S.W. DeLong	299	T. C. Lai	299	M. W. Smith	761
A.F. Desterhaft	299	C. S. Lee	503	D. So	171
A Deuel	299	C. M. Lenocker	299	J. So	171
D.F. Edic	299	L. S. León	501	W. A. Soldwisch	299
V. Ford	299	A. Lin	501	G. Spearman	299
B. Franco	701	A. Y. Lin	791	G. L. Stewart	299
R. Garton	299	F. Lower	797	T. Theriault	299
E. Girod	299	P. Lual	299	H. S. Vigeveno	299
J. Hagelganz	299	R. Mentze	299	M. Walls	299
C. Hammond	299	J. Messervè	797	P. Weiler	299
W.W. Hoffman	299	B. Moller	299	M. F. Willard, Jr.	299
C.M. Hong	299	K. Pazan	797	M. Williams	751
G Horn	797	D. Pierson	797	T. Wolfe	299
		T. Loney	761	R Yenter	299

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS:

Sudanese American
Solana Beach
Southeast

William Tut*
Paula Taylor*
Steve Peters*

CANDIDATES:

Jamie Nelson
Mark Galbraith

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:

Mark Hong-Synod Executive

GUEST PRESENT:

Domingo Cabrera
Amy Gilchrist
Christine Willems
Patrick Mattioli
Paula Nance
Janice Coy
Corey Buckner
Kelly Church
Clay Westing

Attendance:

Teaching Elders	50
Ruling Elders	39
Corresponding	1
Inquirers/Candidates	2
Visitors/Others	9
Total	101

Section 1: Reports

A. Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk reports the following:

1. The offering received at the February meeting of Presbytery was \$503.25 and it was given to Global Immersion.
2. That the transfer of teaching elder Tracey Davenport from San Diego Presbytery to Grace Presbytery has been completed.
3. All actions of Presbytery relating to ministers, churches and persons elected have been referred to the appropriate governing body, committee, commission or staff in accordance with the *Manual of Administrative Operations*, Part I.

Frances Lin, Stated Clerk

B. Executive Committee Reports

1. **The Executive Committee voted** on August 18 to go through the Legacy Program for the Presbytery. It further instructed BP&F and the Bookkeeper of the Presbytery to start the process.
2. **The Executive Committee voted on August 18** to re-designate the fund titled “Disaster Relief Fund” for general disaster relief.
3. **The Executive Committee voted** on August 18 to approve a request to disburse funds from the Disaster Relief Fund to the persons adversely impacted by the Niland Fire as deemed necessary, not to exceed \$28,750.
4. **The Executive Committee voted** affirmatively via email on July 15. It moved that Evangelism and Mission Committee be authorized to submit a plan to the Executive Committee for Presbytery-wide education and discussion related to race relations to enhance the Presbytery’s understanding of what reconciliation in Christ looks like, in light of racial-ethnic divisions that we have observed in various communities. A racism audit of San Diego Presbytery may be included as part of this education and discussion.
5. **The Executive Committee voted** via Zoom meeting on July 2 to lift the limit on funding and the time constraints for churches to apply for additional funding from the Synod COVID fund.
6. **The Executive Committee voted** via email on June 1 to co-sign the Presbyterian Investment Loan Program (PILP) loan for Pacific Beach Presbyterian Church in the amount of \$67,500 for roof repairs and solar panel installation.
7. **The Executive Committee voted** affirmatively via email on May 18. It moved that the Presbytery of San Diego use the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan proceeds for purposes provided in the Presbytery’s PPP loan application.
8. **The Executive Committee voted** affirmatively via email on May 1 to cancel the scheduled May Presbytery meeting due to COVID.

9. **The Executive Committee voted** affirmatively via email on April 24. It moved that the Executive Committee, acting as the board of trustees, to guarantee a loan in the amount of \$167,000.00, for the Christ United Presbyterian Church of Rancho La Costa.

Fairlight Collins Lower, Chair

Section 2. Consent Agenda

The Stated Clerk recommends, and the PRESBYTERY VOTED:

1. That the proposed minutes of the Presbytery Stated meeting on February 18, 2020, be approved.
2. The Committee on Ministry recommends the removal of teaching elder Dr. Marvin Williams from the rolls of Presbytery.
3. The Executive Committee recommends the forming of the Interim Executive Presbyter Search Committee.
4. The Executive Committee recommends that the Executive Committee Chair appoints a three to five-persons team to be the Interim Executive Presbyter Search Committee with the Executive Committee's input.
5. The Executive Committee recommends that the Interim Executive Presbyter Search Committee determines whether the position will be half time, three-quarter time, or full time with input from the Budget Property and Finance Committee.
6. The Executive Committee recommends forming a Strategic Plan Task Force to review the current strategic plan and make any recommendations for changes.
7. The Executive Committee recommends the Executive Committee Chair appoints five persons to serve on the Strategic Plan Task Force.

Frances Lin, Stated Clerk

Section 3: Business to be presented and/or VOTED on the floor

1. **The Presbytery voted unanimously** to suspend the requirements of the standing rule prohibiting Presbytery meetings by electronic means in *Manual of Administrative Operations* chapter 16, paragraph XI. A.3, per chapter 16, paragraph X.B.
Note: this will require a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of those members of the Presbytery and commissioner signed into the Zoom meeting.
2. **Committee on Preparation for Ministry**
Teaching Elder Markus Watson presented candidate Mr. Jamie Nelson on behalf of the Committee. Jamie's Statement of Faith (Attachment A) was attached to the docket and published on the Presbytery website; therefore, reading of his statement of faith was waived. Markus also asked the first question to begin the examination process. Several questions were asked from the members.

The Presbytery voted unanimously to ordain Mr. Jamie Nelson.

Markus Watson,Chair

3. Committee on Ministry

- Teaching Elder Chris Lenocker presented the terms of call(Attachment B) for Jamie Nelson as the Designated Associated Pastor of Solana Beach Presbyterian Church.

The Presbytery voted unanimously to approve the terms of call.

- Teaching Elder Chris Lenocker presented the candidate Ruling Elder Jpetul J'ernantes as a Commissioned Ruling Elder at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church for a period of three (3) years for limited pastoral service with the Hispanic Ministry and is authorized to preach the words and serve the sacraments. His Statement of Faith (Attachment C) was attached to the docket and published on the Presbytery website; therefore, reading of his statement of faith was waived. Chris also asked the first question to begin the examination process. Several questions were asked from the members.

The Presbytery voted unanimously to approve the Jpetul J'ernantes as a Commissioned Ruling Elder.

- Teaching Elder Chris Lenocker introduced the candidate the Rev. Mark Galbraith. Mark is coming from Lutheran Church. His Statement of Faith(Attachment D) was attached to the docket and published on the Presbytery website: therefore, reading of his statement of faith was waived. Chris also asked the first question to begin the examination process. Several questions were asked from the members.

The Presbytery voted unanimously to approve the Rev. Mark Galbraith to labor in bound.

Chris Lenocker,Chair

General Assembly Commissioner Reports

Reports from the following commissioners to the 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are received for information:

Ruling Elder Maurice Caskey-Attachment E

Ruling Elder Wells Lyman-Attachment F

Teaching Elder Fairlight Collins Lower-Attachment G

Teaching Elder Mike Wallman-Attachment H

Attachment A

Statement of Faith

Presbytery Meeting September 15, 2020

Jamie Nelson

God is real. Not imagined, conceived, constructed or borrowed. From nothing God created everything—not in an act of need and necessity but in lavish abundance and love.

God is mysterious—not containable, manageable, or predictable. God exists in the three persons of the Holy Trinity; Father, Son, and Spirit being one but three with full yet distinct personhood.

Jesus is alive. Being fully man and fully God, Jesus lived a life without sin and died an unjust death. His death paid the price for all of humanity's sin and mistakes so that they could approach the Almighty, Holy God clean and spotless, but he did not stay dead. On the third day he rose again not metaphorically in concept but physically in substance. He ascended into heaven where he exists in bodily form—alive. Jesus will return. No one knows how or when, but Christ promised to return as judge and Lord of humanity. He will reign over all and the church will rise in bodily form to eternally worship God.

The Holy Spirit is present. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to the church and that promise is fulfilled now. The Spirit dwells internally both in the individuals of the church and the church as whole. The Spirit is not a thought, idea, or extension of the Father and Son but a full-fledged person of the Holy Trinity and is to be worshiped and revered as such.

Humanity was made in the image of Christ. Both male and female God created humanity to bring glory to God. Humankind has continually failed at this task but God provided justice, grace, mercy and ultimately the gift of God's own son. Our calling is still the same; to bring glory to God through loving both God and our fellow humanity.

Salvation is found in no other God. It is only through the blood of Jesus and faith in Christ that salvation can be found. Attempts to discover this are not just futile but are a rejection of Christ and his atoning work on the cross. Faith in Jesus Christ is humanity's response and responsibility to this atoning work and even this faith is a gift of grace from God.

The Bible is authoritative. As the inspired Word of God the scriptures of the Old and New Testament are useful for instruction, teaching, correcting, and guiding in the life of the church. These scriptures are accessible by all believers and not only a select, trained clergy. The Word of God is both living and active in the church and is the ultimate authority on all matters of church and personal life. The Bible should be approached and studied with reverence, humility, diligence, faith and trust.

The Church is the plan. To truly be the church is to worship God and love people together. The church is simply those to whom God has justified, sanctified, and will glorify with Christ. The Church best serves the world when it proclaims the Word and properly administers the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. These signs and seals of incorporation and communion with Christ both remind and practice the reality of Christ's presence in worship and the Church.

Attachment B

Presbytery Meeting September 15, 2020

Terms of Call for Jamie Nelson

\$80,000 salary and housing

\$3600 auto allowance

\$1000 study leave and two weeks

\$1000 pastor resource

four weeks of vacation

Three month sabbatical after 7 years (with \$5000 stipend)

Attachment C

STATEMENT OF FAITH-JPETUL J'ERNANTES

Presbytery Meeting September 15, 2020

I believe in one God who reveals one divine nature as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is attested in the Scriptures and is the Creator, Sustainer, Savior, Redeemer, Merciful and Graceful One for all eternity. Because of God's Sovereignty all things will be upheld and directed according to the Righteous and Omnipotent will that can only be our Lord's.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the ultimate manifestation of God in the flesh for our life and reconciliation. For being dead in sin, Christ is the Atonement before the Father and hope for us. Through the birth, life, death on the cross, resurrection and ascension Jesus becomes our Savior and Redeemer on earth, as we wait to be with our Lord for eternity.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit who connects us to the life of Christ by Justification and Sanctification. The connection is both supernatural and real, for the Spirit comes and abides within us. As Creator, now seeks to soften, draw and restore the broken, by indwelling in our life and spirit for repentance and transformation by faith alone. So we can receive the power, comfort and the ability to do God's good and perfect will in love within the body of Christ and the reconciliation of the many who are still lost.

I believe in the Holy Bible (66 books), the breathed Word of God to be the sole authority and rule to live by as individual Christians and as a church.

I believe in the Body/Church of Christ made up of personal repented sinners who by the work of The Holy Spirit, in Faith receive the Grace of God for justification and Salvation. Now born again and as members of God's family, we have an awesome responsibility and privilege to embody the ideals, promise and plan that is set before us. That is, to accept the priesthood in God's service and to be the instruments as individuals and as a church to proclaim, to witness, to teach and to practice in word and in deed the message of the one and only Eternal Kingdom of God on earth.

I believe that Baptism and Communion are the sacraments of the Church. They are the evidence of God's unending covenant and love for those elected and called in Grace. In Baptism we are reminded of the cleansing that only comes in the person of Jesus Christ and make a public profession of the inner reality of change to trust that Salvation is found in the shed blood, which should challenge us to teach and instill these truths to our children. It is also the evidence we give to our brothers and sisters in the same faith of our incorporation and unity to the family in covenant, the church. The Bread and the Cup, while symbolic, the transformation of our life is made real by the Holy Spirit and for that reason we are reminded to never take it lightly. But in humility and reverence come to our Lord's Table and dine so that we might be empowered, nourished and guided to carry God's Good News that is at hand.

We are to be the salt and light in our homes, community and the world, today. For Jesus Christ will return in a "blink of an eye", in power and glory to establish a new Heaven and a New Earth as the King of Kings, where "every knee shall bow... and every tongue shall

confess to God." May our Savior find us busy conveying the Truth, Love, Mercy and Faithfulness as those who came before us and whom persevered, assured that "nothing, no one can separate us from the love of God." For as redeemed whether deceased or alive we will be transformed and rejoice in eternal fellowship in worship to our Creator and Savior.

Attachment D

My faith statement.
Pastor Mark Galbraith

My faith statement begins and is centered in the biblical witness of the Triune God...in other words, God in God's fullness as God promises to be for us as who we need God to be God for us.

The first way God fulfills his promise to "I am the LORD your God (Exodus 20:2a)", as Father Almighty, I believe that God wonderfully created me and all that exists. God not only called all things to being, but continues to call into being and sustains all things in heaven and earth by the very creative nature at God's core. I believe that God knit me together wonderfully my mother's womb (Psalm 139:13-18) and equipped me with callings, gifts, and abilities to fulfill as part of my stewardship (as far as I am concerned, being as pastor is one of the many callings I do~i.e. actor, citizen, father, neighbor, friend, son, brother, relative, worker, ext.~it's not what I am, not to mention the only thing I am).

I believe God, who has spoken through the prophets, provides "Torah", instruction, of the very givens and assumptions in created life of what it means to be human; in other words, to be "human" is to have a God and be a neighbor. God has left the witness of Torah in every time every place with every culture, and the 10 Commandments are summaries of what it means to be a human creature, made to love God and serve each other. As co-creators with God, we are partners to develop and steward our lives and all we are given to steward (Genesis 1:28), so that we help our neighbor and world become what they are meant to become.

I believe that, as the Bible is the God-breathed (with *inherent* authority; The Bible speaks for itself without our needs to defend its' authority) theological epic narrative of God's sojourn in the world, first through Israel and finally and fully in Jesus of Nazareth, in order to, in the words of the One seated on the throne, "*See I am making all things new (Revelation 21:5)*".

I believe Israel, that most unlikely of all people with the most unlikely of beginnings (seems to be God's modus operandi, in the biblical narrative, and in life today. "Accidental Saints", as Pr. Bolz-Weber would call them.), Israel was called to be a people through whom all nations of the world, by their witness (Deut. 4:5-8), would be drawn back to God. But, as the Hebrew Scriptures bears out, and as Dr. Wendt cryptically observes, "*The Old Testament is an inspired account of human stupidity*".

In fulfillment of his covenant with Israel, and as the 2nd way God fulfills his promise to "Your God", God became one of us in Jesus of Nazareth. As the ancient hymn in Philippians 2 says, in essence, he gave up all his rights and privileges of being God, put them on the shelf, and submitted to growing and developing in every way of human life as we are called, to love and trust God and serve neighbor with all our beings, thus fulfilling what Israel failed to be as a people. Jesus was our trailblazer, a second Adam (Romans 5:15-21), a new beginning. I believe that he was crucified for sins, taking the hit and inevitable penalty and judgment from sin that we deserve so what we don't have to (Romans 5:6-8). I believe that Jesus was risen from the dead, in accordance to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3-4), and his resurrection was Gods' check mark of approval on everything Jesus said, did, and accomplished. In Jesus of Nazareth, God fulfills His second way to be God for us in His Fullness.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is God's Ever-Active Presence, and the final way God fulfill God's promise to be God-for-us. God's Ever-Active Presences not only formed all things in creation, brooded over creation, but spoke to the prophets, inspired and gifted countless people as seen throughout the Hebrew Scriptures for gifts and service, and is Jesus' very presence with us. When Jesus ascended he didn't remove his presence; he transformed it (Acts 1:6-9) so that he can be ever present with us now. The very fact that I can say Jesus is my savior, Jesus is my Lord is proof that the Ever Active presence of

God is having his way with me (1 John 4:2), and continues to have his way with me; my confession as such is fruit and evidence of the miracle of the transforming and resurrecting power of the good news of God's love for us in Jesus Christ that God's Ever Active Presence brings to life in us and for us.

I believe that the Holy Spirit pours out the gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12) to the church, each individually as the Spirit chooses, for the building up of the body of Christ and for service to neighbor, not spiritual aggrandizement.

I believe that the Spirit of God calls and gathers us around God's Presence through Word and Sacrament (those objective actions and vehicles of the Good News, giving birth to and feeding the same promises of, in essence, the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation) in weekly worship and liturgy (traditional, contemporary, whatever style will get the job of proclamation done in the context of the community of faith is in). We are "gathered to be scattered" ...gathered to be fed, equipped, refreshed and renewed with Good News so that we are sent right back out to BE and embody Good News, in our homes, schools, workplaces, and wherever we cross paths with our neighbor. These are the core purposes of the Church, the living body of Christ in this time and place, in worship, evangelism, learning, fellowship, and service.

I value the diversity of the church in all her expressions and denominations, because it displays the richness and depth of the Word to live out in specific times and contexts. That is the beauty of the Church and the work of the Living Word in time, context and history. Let us embrace what we confess in common, and be enriched by the nuances of our understandings of the Living Word.

Bottom line for me? The ground is level at the foot of the cross for all of us (1 Corinthians 2:2; II Corinthians 5:18-19). This is the ground I stand on.

'Nuff said!

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P Galbraith

Jeremiah 29:11 (my life passage) The Message (MSG)10-11 This is GOD's Word on the subject: "As soon as Babylon's seventy years are up and not a day before, I'll show up and take care of you as I promised and bring you back home. I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for."

Attachment E

Report on 224th General Assembly of the
Presbytery Meeting September 15, 2020

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Thank you, San Diego Presbytery, for nominating me as an alternate commissioner to this year's General Assembly (GA). As circumstances turned out, I became a commissioner. We had planned on a trip to Baltimore for the usual proceedings, but that all changed with COVID.

The use of Zoom made a meeting of 467 commissioners and about as many corresponding members and observers possible. We were convened by the co-moderators of the 223rd GA on Friday, June 26, 2020, for what was expected to be a rather calm plenary and election of the new co-moderators. There were no committees to review and make recommendations on business. Therefore, the Committee on Business Referral proposed an agenda with 3 categories of business, in item 01-04:

- Items to be received for information
- "Critical business" items to be acted upon by the 224th GA
- Items to be referred for action to the 225th GA.

Immediate motions were made to move 2 items related to Native-American matters from the 225th GA list to the list of items to be acted upon by this GA. A lengthy discussion had to do with the status of San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS), which has been purchased by the University of Redlands (Redlands). These and other discussions surrounding the agenda took so long that the assembly recessed at 11:28 p.m. EDT without the moderatorial election.

An unplanned plenary was held on Saturday during which a motion was made to reconsider item 00-04; it was deferred to plenary 2 on Friday. The assembly then proceeded to the election process with nominations, questions, and balloting. Teaching Elder Gregory J. Bentley from the Presbytery of North Alabama and Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area were elected co-moderators on the 1st ballot.

There was a Zoom Bible study on June 25 with participants subsequently broken into small groups for discussion. This was an interesting way for a large number of individuals to hear the same Bible study and then have a manageable discussion immediately thereafter.

Business resumed with plenary sessions on Friday & Saturday, June 26 & 27. Most matters were routine elections to various committees and positions, approval of the budget (per capita will remain \$8.98 for 2021 & 2022), and other such items. Teaching elder Neal Presa was elected to the Presbyterian Foundation Board, the only person from San Diego Presbytery elected. It's noted that all presbyteries are not equal; San Francisco Presbytery had 7 elected. There was another discussion of the SFTS situation; the co-moderators will be meeting with representatives of the Committee on Theological Education, SFTS, and Redlands to resolve the status of the relationship between the PC(USA) and SFTS.

There was very little business directly related to building up the denomination or helping wee kirks. The theme of racism dominated virtually all aspects of this assembly. Overall, it was an unusual assembly in being conducted on-line, not having any committee work, and no opportunities to connect with friends and colleagues from across the nation. I appreciate the opportunity to represent San Diego Presbytery in the (hopefully) unique environment.

Maurice Caskey

Attachment F

Presbytery Meeting September 15, 2020

Wells Lyman Commissioner
224 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

I want to thank the San Diego Presbytery for honoring me to be appointed as Commissioner to the 224 General Assembly Meeting. Of course, it was my hope and wish to be able to attend the Meeting in Baltimore but plagiarizing an old TV show, welcome to my “So called” life.

There is, however, a strange bonding experience that we all feel and that I saw happen as we entered the preparation and meeting experience in the virtual world. The first entry way to this experience was the pre-meeting training. I was gently taught how to attend and actually participate in an 800 person two weekend Zoom meeting. The GA made a valent attempt to give us the ambience of an actual person to person gathering. I was assigned randomly to a small fifteen member group of fellow commissioners, We had a zoom meeting for the purpose of befriending and bonding with each other. I thought it might be contrived until I signed into the meeting. There were folks from all over the Country, mixed gender, race and age. The remarkable thing was that all of us, as you, are experiencing the same sucky isolation at the same time. There was an 18-year-old music worship leader who was bemoaning the frustration of making music with his band in separate isolation. He and I ended up chatting (zoom chatting) All of the participants expressed the same thoughts and may I say, sadness at being isolated from the people in their world. One young woman said it was simply exhausting. Another cried because she was missing her Grandchildren. So, we did bond, praise God.

Entering the first plenary meeting on the first Friday, I was visually awed by the sheer numbers. I think the commissioners and other participants approximated seven hundred. The Stated clerk opened with a stunning prayer. He said “ We feel that Covid 19 is robbing us of our time, but it is not our time, it is God’s time. After wiping away a tear I began the meeting.

The first Plenary, as predicted, dealt with more administrative matters. Two items involving Native American churches was tabled to 225 GA. How to resolve the issue of the San Francisco Theological Seminary (Purchased by Redlands University) was tabled for further discussion to a later plenary. Because of timing delays the election of moderators was deferred to 4:00 that same day I must admit that I was mostly focused on how the moderators would navigate a zoom meeting and herd 700 cats. It was like attending a moderator’s master’s class. At the 4:00 continued meeting, Teaching elder Gregory Bentley (North Alabama) and Ruling elder, Elona Street- Stewart (Twin Cities) were elected Co-moderators.

The resumed meetings the next weekend dealt with the San Francisco Seminary issue and the Committee on Theological Education was assigned the task to resolve the status.

The bulk of the time was devoted to responding to the issue of systematic racism that has been made more urgent by the tragic murder of George Floyd. The discussion was reminiscent of our own Executive Committee dialogues. Included in the dialogue was whether to also adopt The Poor People's Campaign Moral Justice Platform. (It was later decided that the Stated Clerk act as a signatory to the Platform.) Issues were passionately debated as to whether to expand the dialogue to brown lives, black women and girls, Native American lives, LGBTQ+. One brought up the issue of pre-born lives. The assembly, by vote, opted to focus on the immediate and issued a "Response to the Sin of racism and a call to action. I was in agreement with the approach because it was not productive to open up the Pandora's box of injustices. I was haunted, however by the many pleas of a young black female participant. She convincingly and passionately gave voice to the historic dismissal of the injustices condoned against Black women and girls throughout history to the present. She said at one point that the White slave owners basically used black women as "Breeders". That depiction set me back. The final Saturday saw the re-election of the present Stated Clerk.

The leadership of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has my deep appreciation and respect. The meetings were concluded with an Eight minute, Forty six second time of silence.

Respectfully and prayerfully submitted.

Wells Lyman

Attachment G

Report on 224th General Assembly of the

Presbytery Meeting September 15, 2020

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

What an honor to be chosen as a Commissioner to General Assembly in 2020!

General Assembly began on Juneteenth, as American citizens both celebrated the end of slavery in America and the day slaves in Texas were told about their freedom and the end of the Civil War and mourned the deaths of people of color at the hands of those called to protect and serve. While I had hopes of being physically present with my siblings in Christ in Baltimore, my hometown, I was pleased with the decision to move forward with GA in the best way that we could virtually. As some of the other commissioners have mentioned in their reports, we were gathered in a large Zoom meeting and given opportunities to vote, speak to the motion, ask questions and worship together. The production quality of pulling something off like this was stellar.

Yes, it was very unusual not to be in Committees working together with Commissioners and Advisory Delegates deciding on the business that would ultimately come before the Body as a whole. We did hear from the Committee that ultimately decided on the business that would be presented and their rationale and I trusted their judgment.

We elected our Co-Moderator two incredible humans to lead us these next two years: Elder Elona Street-Stewart and Rev. Gregory J. Bentley, our first Indigenous Woman Ruling Elder and our first African-American Man Teaching Elder. They lead us with grace and humility and confidence in the days that followed. They chose the turquoise Sankofa bird (Ghanian symbol) standing in the Mississippi river as their symbol that partners perfectly with their motto: “Learning from the past, living in the present.”



One of the highlights of this Assembly was passing passed a resolution entitled “Responding to the Sin of Racism and a Call to Action”. On the last day, two new items of business were brought before the Boday, after all the docketed business was finished, to be considered. The Body decided not to consider either item as new business; however, the first item was such a close vote that the Body felt a prayer was in order. What followed was beautiful! Our Stated Clerk, Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, called to mind and heart the trials and struggles of Black women and girls, convicted us of our complicity and called us to act justly and with love. The Assembly ended by taking 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silence—to remember, confess and pray, as a people committed to ending racism.

I firmly believe that our denomination did the best we could under the circumstances: voices were heard; God was honored; and the Holy Spirit was present and guiding us. There was and is definitely more we could say and more we could do, as a Body. There were places where we failed and places where we succeeded; we are imperfect vessels. My prayer is that the decisions of the 224th General Assembly will encourage discussion, create deeper relationships and bring healing and justice.

I am very grateful to my colleagues, Wells Lyman, Maurice Caskey and Mike Wallman, whose reports provide other insights and details for you, the San Diego Presbytery. Thank you, again, for this opportunity.

Peace to you,
Fairlight Collins Lower, Teaching Elder

Find out more: oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/224th-general-assembly-2020/

Attachment H

Presbytery Meeting September 15, 2020

224 General Assembly Report

Mike Wallman Teaching Elder Commissioner from San Diego Presbytery

June 2020

Thank you to San Diego Presbytery for electing me to represent you at the 224 GA. To say the least, it was a quite different GA than any that preceded it due to the Covid-19 restrictions. All business deemed not immediately necessary was referred to the 225 GA. All business that was necessary was brought before the floor of GA for decisions.

The theme of GA was: "Lament to Hope" based on Lamentations 5:20-21. There was a lot to lament i.e., Racial injustice, urban violence, Covid 19 restrictions causing us to meet online instead of in Baltimore. The GA was conducted all on Zoom with over 800 people invited to that platform and who knows how many on the streaming site. There were approximately 467 commissioners from all the Presbyteries across the nation plus Advisory delegates from around the world.

There were originally 3 days of Plenary sessions planned but ended up doing 4 because the first day and the election of the co-moderators took longer than expected. A few of the deferred recommendations to the 225 GA were voted off the referral list to be dealt with in the 224 GA. Also, a couple of the Consent agenda items were pulled off. The hard part was that there were no committees to process any decisions before voting on them on the floor of GA. Very frustrating. So that was the main reason the GA leadership wanted to put off important overtures. However, given the climate of Racial issues in the nation, the GA decided to make a few statements which you can find on the GA news. I'm glad we were able to do at least that much.

The issue of SFTS and their being bought by Redlands University kept coming up because the Office of GA does not recognize them anymore as a Presbyterian Seminary. But that is an ongoing conversation and the co-moderators are going to pursue reconciliation.

On a practical note, we commissioners had to be trained how to view documents on PC-biz and vote there on one computer and to view the Zoom meeting and speakers on another computer. Not hard but they wanted everyone to be on the same page—it all seemed to work okay, although there was a need to pause long enough for motions, questions, and amendments to appear in the queue. That was learned by the co-moderators in short order. Worship was raw but meaningful—good music, preaching, in the Zoom format and communion was served of course with everyone having the elements at home.

We were invited to attend a Bible study and a separate fellowship Zoom meeting to build some community, but I found them superficial. I missed the networking and in-depth connections that occur over the course of being together for 8 days.

You can find a detailed summary of all the actions taken on PC-biz.org or at PCUSA.org and search for GA news.

Blessings in Christ,
Mike Wallman

Presbytery VOTED to adjourn at 7:20 pm and were dismissed with prayer by the Moderator

Frances Lin, Stated Clerk