

**PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA - GENERAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
JULY 17, 2010**

The General Council of the Presbytery of Alaska met by teleconference on July 17, 2010. The meeting began at 10:00 AM with a message given by the Council Coordinator, the Rev. Dr. David Dobler. The message was based upon Psalm 105. Following the message, Rev. Dobler opened the meeting with prayer.

ROLL CALL

In addition to Rev. Dobler the following voting members of the Council participated: The Rev. Ron Horn, Member-at-Large; The Rev. Linda Wescott, Personnel Representative; Elder Sheryl Dennis, Finance Representative; Elder Gail O'Dell, Committee on Ministry Coordinator; Elder Fred Baxter, Property Representative; The Rev. Dr. John Zimmerman, Presbytery Moderator; and Elder Barbara Searls, Presbytery Moderator-Elect. Also participating in the meeting were: Elder Guy Warren, Presbytery Stated Clerk; Christine Maddox, Acting Presbytery Treasurer; The Rev. George Pasley, Stated Clerk-Elect and Cyndi Gleason, Presbytery Office Manager.

No representative was present from the Native American Consulting Committee as no report has been received as to who they have selected as coordinator for 2010. Elder Cindy Whittington, who had been a Council Member-at-Large, has moved from the area and has resigned from the Council.

The presence of a quorum was noted.

MEETING DOCKET

Rev. Dobler presented a docket for the meeting which the Council VOTED to adopt.

STATED CLERK REPORT

The Presbytery Stated Clerk, Elder Guy Warren, presented a written report listing his activities since the last meeting of Presbytery. He noted that the Presbytery's Youth Advisory Delegate to the 2010 General Assembly had been unable to attend and that our alternate, Chelsea Mills of Kake, was sent instead.

Elder Warren noted that the Council needed to establish terms of office for its membership and that he would work with the members to do this.

Warren reported that he was working on a draft docket for the 2010 Fall Meeting of Presbytery and that with the volume of action items being presented to the Presbytery from the General Assembly, the Presbytery might want to consider holding its Spring 2011 Presbytery meeting face-to-face and deferring the annual teleconference meeting to the Fall.

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TREASURER' S REPORT

Year-to-Date 2010 Financial Reports were presented. Acting Treasurer, Christine Maddox, answered questions about the reports.

The Council voted to receive the reports.

Elder Guy Warren discussed some difficulties the Presbytery Office had encountered with an unrequested address change and misrouting of credit cards and billing statements from the Presbytery's credit card provider, J.P. Morgan - Chase. A new account has been established with a different bank and the Chase account is being closed. There is an outstanding question of late payment fees which the office has been in touch with Chase about.

The Council voted to authorized the Finance Sub-Committee to take whatever action they felt appropriate in reaching a final resolution to the Chase late payment fees.

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Elder Sheryl Dennis, Finance Subcommittee Coordinator, reported that the Finance Subcommittee has received the report of the Presbytery's 2009 Financial Review but has not yet had a chance to fully review the document.

PROPERTY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Elder Fred Baxter, Proprty Subcommittee Coordinator, reported that the title searches needed to transfer ownership of the Presbytery's Mission Properties is underway. At this point there are three churches, Metlakatla, Sitka and Wrangell where the task is still incomplete as there are historical handwritten documents that need to be properly interpreted. Once these are complete, the subcommittee will begin to draft the transfer paperwork.

HOONAH ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

Elder Gail O'Dell reported that the Hoonah Administrative Commission is beginning to wrap up their work in Hoonah. A local Session has been established and meetings are being held. The Rev. Dr. David Dobler has been serving as their Moderator, but will soon be replaced by the Rev. Ron Horn. O'Dell did note that the new session is still in its early states and the Commission is working to ensure that they continue to progress successfully. The building repairs that the Commission arranged are being wrapped up. The new Session does understand that they will be responsible for future repair efforts.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Elder Gail O'Dell, COM Coordinator, reported on the status of the churches currently in the process of drafting or posting Church Information Forms.

Elder O'Dell reported that the interim pastoral relationship between the church in Wrangell and the Rev. Janice Stamper is being discontinued. The Wrangell Session is concerned that they cannot properly compensate a pastor at this time. There is a strong emergent

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local leadership in Wrangell that will be able to keep the church open.

Northern Light United Church has called the Rev. Phillip Campbell to be their new pastor. He will begin service in September. He is currently on the Methodist rolls although he was originally ordained by the United Church of Christ.

PRESBYTERY MEETING PLANNING

The Council discussed the docket for the Fall 2010 meeting of Presbytery. The Leadership Equipping Center is holding a worship workshop in concert with the meeting and will be providing the worship leadership for the meeting. The workshop is scheduled to begin Friday morning and will have sessions on Sunday afternoon following Presbytery. They would also like to hold a two hour session during the Presbytery meeting itself, at which all attendees at the Presbytery meeting would be invited.

It was reported that Hunter Badgley, a youth from Haines, had travelled on a mission trip to Kenya. Council voted to invite Badgley to present a 30 minute talk on his time in Kenya.

It was noted that the Presbytery Stated Clerk, Elder Guy Warren and his wife Peg had recently returned from a week-long mission trip to the earthquake ravaged city of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The Council voted to request that the Warrens speak to the Presbytery on their trip.

PRESBYTERY OFFICE

Cyndi Gleason, the Presbytery's Office Manager reported that the move of the Presbytery office from its former location above the Chapel by the Lake's Narthex to a space within its Education Wing is essentially complete. The old location is being demolished as part of a remodeling of the Chapel's Narthex. The move required a careful review of the many years of paper files kept in the office and a considerable amount of obsolete items which did not need to be kept were discarded.

Gleason also reported on the transition to a new Presbytery Treasurer.

PRESBYTERY ORGANIZATION

Rev. Dobler, in his role as Pastor to the Presbytery, spoke on the Presbytery's need to deliberately find and train local leadership for our churches. He noted that financial and other concerns will simply make it not possible for us to have a full-time minister or Commissioner Lay Pastor serving in all of our churches.

Rev. Horn observed that changes being made at the General Assembly and Synod levels of the denomination are placing additional control and responsibility on the Presbytery and on the local Sessions.

Elder O'Dell indicated that with the ending of Rev. Dobler's position with Sheldon Jackson College, that the Presbytery needed to work to maximize Rev. Dobler's ability to work with the Presbytery of Alaska.

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Further discussion on this matter was deferred until later in the meeting.

PRESBYTERY MEETING PLANNING

It was agreed to provide two hours on Saturday for the open workshop being planned by the Leadership Equipping Center. It was also proposed that a full hour be given for presentations by our commissioners to the 2010 General Assembly.

NORTH PUGET SOUND PRESBYTERY COVENANT

The Rev. Dr. John Zimmerman, Presbytery Moderator, reported that he had been in contact with representatives from North Puget Sound Presbytery and that he would be working to reestablish the Covenant that had been setup between our two presbyteries.

REV. TRACEE HACKEL

It was noted that the Rev. Tracee Hackel, who is currently the Associate Pastor at Chapel by the Lake, was leaving the Chapel to seek a doctorate from Fuller Theological Seminary. She will for the time being remain a member of the Presbytery of Alaska and will remain on the COM and as the Coordinator of the CPM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council voted to go into Executive Session at 11:53 AM. Rev. Dobler, Treasurer Maddox and Office Manager Gleason were excused from the meeting. It was agreed that the Rev. John Zimmerman would serve as the Moderator of the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

During the Executive Session the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:04 PM. The meeting was closed with prayer led by the Rev. Ron Horn.

Guy Warren
Stated Clerk