

**PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA - GENERAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
AUGUST 27, 2008**

The General Council of the Presbytery of Alaska met at the Chapel by the Lake in Juneau on August 27, 2008. The meeting began with prayer led by the Rev. George Pasley at 9:02 AM.

ROLL CALL

Following the prayer, The Council Coordinator, Elder Joyce Schultz, declared the meeting open. In addition to Schultz, the following voting members of the Council were present: The Rev. Randy Russom, Presbytery Moderator; The Rev. Ron Horn, COM Coordinator; The Rev. Linda Wescott, NW M&M Representative; The Rev. Dixie Anders, South M&M Representative; Elder Rick Greene, Presbytery Moderator-Elect; The Rev. Chuck Bovee, Trustee President; Elder Sheryl Dennis, Finance Coordinator; and Elder Bonnie Sharnbroich, NE M&M Representative. Elder Janell Privett, Moderator of the Presbyterian Women joined the meeting later. Also attending the meeting were the Stated Clerk, Elder Guy Warren; The Rev. Dr. David Dobler, Presbytery Pastor; Cyndi Gleason, Presbytery Office Manager; Venus Zink, Presbytery Bookkeeper; and the Rev. George Pasley, Synod Ministerial Commissioner. The Rev. Janice Stamper also joined the meeting later.

A quorum was declared.

PRESBYTERY PASTOR REPORT

The Rev. David Dobler updated the Council on his work with the Presbytery and his belief as to the direction the Presbytery must head. He believes we should be ready to make a number of changes to simplify the presbytery at the Presbytery's Spring 2009 meeting. He listed several items which the Presbytery should address.

With the help of the bookkeeper they have been carefully reviewing all of the Presbytery's assets. As part of this review, they have determined that while the Presbytery is the beneficiary of certain funds, we are not the owner. This has reduced the number for the presbytery's assets to \$1,214,257.53.

RECESS/RECONVENE

The Council recessed at 10:06 AM. The meeting was called back to order at 10:25 AM. *Elder Janell Privett and the Rev. Janice Stamper arrived at this time.*

PRESBYTERY FINANCIAL REPORT

The Presbytery Bookkeeper, Venus Zink, presented the current listing of Presbytery restricted and unrestricted funds. This list is still currently being finalized and when complete will include the specific text for any restrictions placed by the donor on funds given to the Presbytery.

It was noted that one question that must eventually be resolved is what the precise definition of the "Anna Jackman Ministry" will be for the Presbytery.

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES – AUGUST 27, 2008

Zink then presented the current version of the Presbytery's balance sheet, a listing of the accounts they are using, and the current income and expense statement.

PRESBYTERY BUDGET

The draft Presbytery budget as developed by the Finance Committee was presented to the Council. The Presbytery portion of the per capita rate for this budget will be \$46.82.

Following discussion the Council voted to recommend that the Presbytery adopt the draft budget and set the Presbytery portion of the per capita rate at \$46.82. *The full text of the budget as adopted by the Presbytery will be included as an appendix to the 2008 Fall Presbytery Meeting Minutes.*

RECESS/RECONVENE

The Council recessed for lunch at 11:57 AM. A prayer for the meeting and the meal was offered by the Rev. Janice Stamper. Following lunch, the meeting was called back to order at 11:57 AM. *Elders Rick Greene and Bonnie Sharnbroich had early flights to catch and were unable to return to the meeting.*

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The coordinator of the Presbytery Finance Committee, Elder Sheryl Dennis, noted there were several funds which had seen their interest rolled into the principal, leaving no funds available to the Presbytery for the current year. The Council voted to authorize moving current year interest earned on these accounts to current year operating accounts.

JUNEAU MEMORIAL CHURCH RECORDS

The Presbytery Stated Clerk, Elder Guy Warren, noted that he was actively researching the status of the records of the Juneau Memorial Church. He has found that some records had been provided to the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia for secure storage. He has a request into the Society for the exact inventory of records held. He has also asked the Rev. Jesse Perry to research into the possibility that some of the records may be in storage at Northern Light United Church.

PELICAN MISSION

The Council heard a report from the Rev. Janice Stamper and Deb Spencer of Pelican concerning the status of the Pelican Mission. Rev. Dobler will be travelling to Pelican in the near future. After some discussion, the Council voted to dismiss the existing Pelican Task Force with thanks, and to give responsibility for the Pelican Mission to the Committee on Ministry.

PRESBYTERY MODERATOR-ELECT

Due to a family tragedy, Elder Rick Greene submitted a written letter indicating that he will not be able to serve as the Presbytery Moderator in 2008-2009. He asked that he be allowed to resign as the Presbytery Moderator-Elect. The Council voted to accept his

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES – AUGUST 27, 2008

resignation and to request that the Nominations Committee find a replacement for the Presbytery to consider at the Fall 2008 Presbytery Meeting.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The General Council discussed possible names for the ministerial term on the Presbytery Nominations Committee. The term will expire on December 31, 2011. Individual members were designated to obtain the permission of the proposed nominees. The Council will ratify a nominee by email poll prior to the Fall 2008 Meeting of Presbytery.

PRESBYTERY PLANNING

The Council reviewed the time requirements for the Fall 2008 Presbytery meeting. In order to fit within the Alaska Airlines schedules, the meeting will begin early Friday afternoon. The celebration honoring the 100th birthday of the Rev. Dr. Walter Soboleff will be held Saturday evening and a workshop on Sexual Abuse prevention will be held on Sunday afternoon. The workshop will conclude on time for those taking the Sunday evening flight back to Juneau.

The Stated Clerk will develop a detailed draft docket for the meeting and distribute it to the Council for their final review prior to the report deadline of September 5.

COUNCIL PLANNING

Rev. Dr. Dobler noted that the Council and the Presbytery will have a full list of changes to consider in Spring 2009. He urged we work quickly to set the date for a Council meeting in early 2009.

CRAIG/KLAWOCK GRANT REQUEST

A request from the Craig/Klawock church was presented asking that the Council endorse a request for grant funds from the PCUSA Presbyterian Women's program for the Craig HOPE program. The HOPE program brings people together to build a safe island community and provides safety, support and advocacy for persons who have experienced personal or domestic violence. The Council voted to ask the Stated Clerk to draft and submit this endorsement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Written reports were received from the Presbytery Trustees and the Presbytery Finance Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned with prayer led by the Rev. Chuck Bovee at 2:40 PM.

Guy Warren
Stated Clerk