

**PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA - GENERAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2010**

The General Council of the Presbytery of Alaska met at the Chapel by the Lake in Juneau on February 3, 2010. The meeting began at 9:04 AM with a message given by the Presbytery Moderator, the Rev. Dr. John Zimmerman. The message was based upon the Genesis account of Abraham and Sarah's seeking for a child. Following the message, Rev. Zimmerman opened the meeting with prayer.

ROLL CALL

With no Council Coordinator yet elected, Rev. Zimmerman, as the Presbytery Moderator and acting Council Coordinator, declared the meeting open. In addition to Rev. Zimmerman, the following voting members of the Council were present: 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 Cindy Whittington, Member-at-Large; Elder Barbara Searls; Presbytery Moderator-Elect. Also attending the meeting were: Elder Guy Warren, Presbytery Stated Clerk; The Rev. Dr. David Dobler, Pastor to the Presbytery; Venus Zink, 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 they had yet to elect a coordinator for 2010.

The presence of a quorum was noted.

MEETING DOCKET

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Presbytery Treasurer, Venus Zink, presented the financial report. This included a preliminary report of the Presbytery's revenues and expenses in 2009, the year-end balance sheet, and the 2010 approved budget. The final reports for 2009 will be submitted for a full financial review and will be presented to the Presbytery at its Spring meeting. Zink provided explanations on the line items which had exceeded their original budgeted amounts.

It was noted that there was an error in the budget as the amount to be paid for Property and Liability insurance for the mission churches was shown in two places. The Council VOTED to correct this error, showing the amount in the Mission Partnership line, with a memorandum notation showing that \$15,000 of that amount was for the insurance premium.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Rev. Zimmerman noted he had asked each of the subcommittee coordinators to find individuals to serve on these subcommittees. This had been done and the following persons were nominated to serve on the subcommittees shown:

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES – FEBRUARY 3, 2010

Property Subcommittee

Elder Fred Baxter, Auke Bay, Coordinator
The Rev. Ron Horn, Haines
Elder Barbara Searls, Juneau

Finance Subcommittee

Elder Sheryl Dennis, Skagway, Coordinator
The Rev. Ron Horn, Haines
Elder Cindy Whittington, Sitka
Venus Zink, Treasurer (ex-officio)

Personnel Subcommittee

The Rev. Linda Wescott, Yakutat, Coordinator
Elder Susan Fisher, Ketchikan
Elder Randy Gamble, Angoon

The Council VOTED to elect the nominated individuals.

The Council further VOTED that additional members for subcommittees may be recommended to the General Council for confirmation.

PRESBYTERY HISTORY

The Council briefly recessed to permit setting up a projector. Rev. Zimmerman then presented a history of the Presbytery of Alaska "How we got here", beginning with the initial missionary visits in the 1800's to today. The history began with our being fully supported and led by the national church to today, where we receive very little financial support from the national church and have far more responsibility for our own leadership.

FUTURE YEAR BUDGETS

Elder Sheryl Dennis presented an early draft listing the amount of revenues the Presbytery could count on in the years to come and some of the expenses we would be likely to incur. This was to allow the Council to offer some guidance as to future budgeting priorities.

One significant item in the discussion was the status of the property and liability insurance for the churches within the Presbytery of Alaska.

In reviewing the number of reserve accounts held by the Presbytery, it was agreed that a proposal to consolidate these accounts where permitted would be presented to the Presbytery at its Fall 2010 meeting.

RECESS/RECONVENE

The Council recessed at 10:54 AM and then reconvened at 11:02 AM.

COREY SCHLOSSER-HALL

The Council heard from Corey Schlosser-Hall, Executive Presbyter for North Puget Sound Presbytery, by teleconference. He shared on the work he had done with Fellowship groups. These groups were used with small immigrant communities in Seattle Presbytery and with an older congregation in North Puget Sound. They permitted worship without all of the overhead required by a constitutionally established congregation.

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES – FEBRUARY 3, 2010

Schlosser-Hall noted that for this structure to work there must be someone available to lead services, but this need not be one person.

In response to questions from the Council, Schlosser-Hall noted that the members of the fellowship are shown as other members of Presbytery for reporting purposes and that they are eligible to serve on Presbytery Committees and can attend meetings of Presbytery.

FINANCE REPORT CONTINUED

The Council returned to the subject of future year presbytery budgets. After some additional discussion, it was agreed to hear the reports of the Property and Personnel sub-committees and then return to the Finance Report.

PROPERTY SUBCOMMITTEE

Elder Fred Baxter presented the report of the Property Subcommittee. The subcommittee believes that the Presbytery is moving towards self-reliant churches in a self-reliant presbytery. To that end they believe it is incumbent upon the presbytery to develop a plan that provides for the orderly transfer of real property to the respective mission churches.

Per recommendations from the subcommittee the Council:

VOTED to authorize the Property Subcommittee to expend up to \$3,500 to order title reports for the mission church properties.

VOTED to authorize the Property Subcommittee to take all action necessary to present its recommendations to General Council for the transfer of real property to the mission churches located in Angoon, Hoonah, Kake, Yakutat, Metlakatla, Haines, Skagway, Petersburg, Wrangell, Sitka and any other properties the subcommittee may discover in their research.

VOTED to recommend that the Presbytery transfer the mission church property in the village of Kasaan to the Organized Village of Kasaan. Such a transfer would be consistent with the stated intent of the Native American Church Wide Policy Statement adopted in 1978 by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA.

VOTED to recommend that the Presbytery amend the following Articles of the Presbytery's Articles of Incorporation as follows:

Revise Article VIII to read:

"The affairs of the corporation shall be managed by the General Council consisting of nine (9) members of the Presbytery. The officers of the Presbytery shall consist of Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Stated Clerk and Treasurer all of whom shall be elected by the members of the corporation."

Revise Article X, replacing "Board of Trustees" with "General Council".

LUNCH RECESS

The Council recessed for lunch at noon. Prayer for the meeting and the meal was given by The Rev. Dr. David Dobler. Following lunch the meeting was reconvened with prayer led by Rev. Zimmerman at 12:37 PM.

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES – FEBRUARY 3, 2010

LEADERSHIP EQUIPPING CENTER

Rev. Zimmerman reported on behalf of the Leadership Equipping Center. He reported that they were currently conducting a distance education program on cross-cultural communication.

The Committee is also working on an evangelism workshop to be held at the Shrine of St. Terese in Juneau April 13-16. Ray Jones of the General Assembly's Evangelism and Church Growth office is the resource person for the program. Funding for Jones' expenses are being covered by the General Assembly, travel costs for the other participants are being covered by a grant from the Synod.

HOONAH ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

The chair of the Presbytery's Hoonah Administrative Commission, Elder Gail O'Dell, reported on the activities of the Commission and their work in Hoonah. She reported that an emerging congregation has grown out of this process and they are hopeful that the congregation will soon be electing a Session to lead the church. The Commission has worked on repairing the church building, which required a new roof. Rain routinely passed through the roof and would fall on those sitting in the sanctuary.

Several attendees who had some recollection of the history of the Hoonah church provided some background on that history for the newer members of the Council.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Elder O'Dell reported on behalf of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. She reported that the Rev. Dan Fullerton was serving as an interim pastor to the church in Sitka.

PASTOR TO THE PRESBYTERY

The Rev. Dr. David Dobler presented his report, describing the status of the CPIP insurance program. A final decision on how the program will be discontinued has yet to be made and the potential liability for the Presbytery also has yet to be determined.

Rev. Dobler spoke on the importance of having all written reports submitted in a timely basis for the Spring 2010 Presbytery meeting, the evangelism conference to be held in April, and the importance of the General Council in the Presbytery's new structure.

RECESS/RECONVENE

The Council recessed at 1:52 PM and then reconvened at 2:02 PM.

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE.

The Council resumed the discussion on the priorities to be used by the Finance Subcommittee in drafting the 2011 Presbytery Budget.

During this discussion, the Council discussed Presbytery Staffing. During this portion of the discussion, the Council went into executive session. Rev. Dobler, Venus Zink and Cyndi Gleason were excused. No votes were taken during the executive session.

The Council returned from executive session. Those previously excused from the meeting returned.

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES – FEBRUARY 3, 2010

The Council VOTED to recommend the following priorities (with amounts) for the 2011 Presbytery Budget to the Finance Subcommittee.

20,000 Mission Church Property and Liability Insurance

20,000 Self-Reliance Empowerment

72,000 half-time executive support

12,000 Mission Partnership

6,500 Financial Audit

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

The Presbytery Stated Clerk, Elder Guy Warren, presented a written report of his activities since the last meeting of Presbytery. He reported that at this time only 1 of our 15 churches have completed the annual reporting process.

Warren noted that the Council needed to officially set the time and place for this year's Presbytery Meetings.

The Council VOTED to conduct the Spring 2010 Presbytery Meeting by teleconference. The meeting will be held on April 10, 2010 beginning at 10:00 AM.

The Council VOTED to accept the invitation of the Petersburg Session and hold the Fall 2010 Presbytery Meeting in Petersburg. So as to avoid a conflict with the ANB/ANS Grand Camp meeting, it will be held on October 15-17, 2010.

Elder Warren reported that two churches are currently involved with increasing or restructuring their current debt. Rev. Dobler reported that the changes being sought by Northern Light United Church did not increase the interest being paid by the church, nor did it increase the amount owed, thus he approved the changes. Elder Warren reported that a loan proposal was likely to be submitted by the Chapel by the Lake for building repairs and improvement, but that it has not yet been submitted.

Elder Warren reported that he had been notified Dale Bucich, who is currently an inquirer for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament under the care of the Presbytery, has been proposed by Dubuque Theological Seminary as an alternate Theological Advisory Delegate to this year's General Assembly. This action will require the approval of the Presbytery, but this approval is required prior to our Presbytery meeting. The Stated Clerk will conduct an email poll and will show the Presbytery as concurring with this action unless some opposition is reported. The email poll will be confirmed by a vote at the Spring Presbytery meeting.

SYNOD LOAN REVIEW

Elder Warren reported that as of last report, all of the loans made by the Synod to churches within the Presbytery are current. No action by the Council was required at this time.

GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES – FEBRUARY 3, 2010

EVANGELISM WORKSHOP

The Council VOTED to approve the Leadership Equipping Center's plans for the April Evangelism Workshop.

COUNCIL COORDINATOR ELECTION

The Council VOTED to elect the Rev. Dr. David Dobler as the Council Coordinator for 2010.

SYNOD GRANTS

Rev. Dr. Dobler announced that the Synod has approved the following grants from the following Sources for the following amounts:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Kake Memorial PC	Housing Fund	\$4,000
Ketchikan PC	Armenta Fund	\$ 715
Yakutat PC	Armenta Fund	\$2,500
Yakutat PC	Communications Fund	\$2,500
Yakutat PC	Historical Commitments Fund	\$5,000
Yakutat PC	Housing Fund	\$3,759

On behalf of the Presbytery, the Council VOTED to endorse and approve these grants.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned with prayer led by the Rev. Dr. John Zimmerman at 3:25 PM.

Guy Warren
Stated Clerk