

**PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA -- GENERAL COUNCIL
MINUTES -- JULY 8, 2008**

The General Council of the Presbytery of Alaska met at the Chapel by the Lake on July 8, 2008. The meeting began with prayer led by the Council Coordinator, Elder Joyce Schultz at 1:15 PM.

ROLL CALL

Following the prayer, Elder Schultz declared the meeting open. In addition to Schultz the following voting members of the Council were present: The Rev. Ron Horn, COM coordinator; The Rev. Dr. Chuck Bovee, President of the Trustees; Elder Sheryl Dennis, Finance Committee Coordinator; The Rev. Linda Wescott, representing the Northwest Mission & Ministry Group; The Rev. Dixie Anders, representing the South Mission & Ministry Group; Elder Bonnie Shornbroich, representing the Northeast Mission & Ministry Group and Elder Janell Privett, representing the Presbyterian Women. Elder Rosie Fay, Council member-at-large, joined the meeting later in the day. Non-voting participants present included: The Stated Clerk, Elder Guy Warren; the Presbytery Office Manager, Cyndi Gleason, the Rev. Dr. David Dobler and the Rev. George Pasley.

Absent was the Presbytery Moderator-Elect, Rick Greene and a representative from the Native American Consulting Committee. Elder Rosie Fay, Member-at-Large, arrived later.

With over 50% of the voting members present, a quorum was declared.

DOCKET

A docket listing the items to be taken up was presented to the Council.

FALL 2008 PRESBYTERY MEETING DATE

In order to permit the Rev. Dr. Walter Soboleff to attend the Presbytery celebration honoring his 100th birthday, which is to be held at the Fall 2008 Presbytery meeting, it was learned that the date of our Presbytery meeting would have to change. The original dates conflict with the annual Alaska Native Brotherhood / Alaska Native Sisterhood Grand Camp meeting in Ketchikan, at which Dr. Soboleff will also be honored. The Council reviewed the options available to it and voted to hold the Fall 2008 Presbytery Meeting on October 17-19, 2008. The meeting will be held in Sitka.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The Council voted to hold its next meeting at 9:00 AM on August 27th. The meeting will be held in Juneau.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Council voted to approve without correction the minutes of the February 5, 2008 Council meeting.

Consideration of the minutes of the October 12, 2007 minutes was deferred until later in the meeting.

TELECONFERENCE SURVEY

The Presbytery Stated Clerk, Elder Guy Warren, presented the results of a survey he conducted following the Presbytery's Spring 2008 Stated

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Meeting, which was conducted via teleconference. Warren noted that including the mailing costs incurred distributing all of the reports; the meeting had cost \$1,008 to conduct. The cost for a standard Alaska Presbytery meeting would have been somewhere between \$10,000 and \$15,000. A considerable amount of gratitude for the notebooks with all of the reports neatly organized was expressed by almost all respondents.

2009 PRESBYTERY MEETING SITES

Elder Warren noted he had received invitations from Ketchikan's First Presbyterian Church to host the Fall 2009 meeting of Presbytery and an invitation to host either of the meetings in 2009 from Northern Light United Church in Juneau.

The Council voted to accept these invitations and hold the Spring 2009 Presbytery meeting at Northern Light United Church on April 17-19, 2009 and the Fall 2009 Presbytery meeting at Ketchikan's First Presbyterian Church on October 9-11, 2009.

YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

With a request from the Rev. George Pasley to have the Presbytery seek to restart the Young Adult Volunteer program and a reminder from the Stated Clerk that further research into this matter had been assigned to the Council by the Presbytery, it was agreed that this matter will be included on the docket of the next Council meeting.

SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION WORKSHOP

Elder Warren noted that the Council and the Presbytery had both voted to require pastors to attend a sexual abuse prevention workshop. An attempt to present one at the Fall 2007 meeting had fallen through when the scheduled presenter had a family emergency. The Council agreed that a sexual abuse prevention workshop should be included at the Fall 2008 meeting. The Trustees will work on arranging this with our insurance provider.

SYNOD NOMINATIONS

Elder Janell Privett, who serves as one of the Presbytery's Synod Commissioners and who is serving on the Synod Council; noted that we had several positions on Synod Committees that our current incumbents were not fully active on. She was hoping that we could seek to resolve this situation. The Stated Clerk agreed to work with the Synod to determine the full details of this situation and will, if appropriate, let the Presbytery Nominations committee know so that they can seek possible replacements.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elder Sheryl Dennis, coordinator of the Finance Committee, presented the Presbytery's financial reports. These were produced in several formats with varying degrees of detail. The Council members were asked to review these reports and consider what format they would like to see used in the future.

The reports included a full listing of the Presbytery's Investment Accounts, showing their amounts and their restriction status. The total amount in these accounts was shown as \$1,424,707.76.

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The Committee also presented a report detailing the actions they have taken since the last meeting of Presbytery. This included two teleconference meetings and a face-to-face meeting. Their work has included arranging the required review of the Presbytery's Financial records and working to get out the application forms for the Presbytery's Mission Partnership Funds.

RECESS/RECONVENE

The Council recessed at 2:45 PM. The meeting was called back to order at 3:00 PM.

REV. DR. DAVID DOBLER PRESENTATION

The Rev. Dr. David Dobler spoke to the Council on the history of the church in its work within Southeast Alaska and how changes in mission giving and operation will revise how we operate. He noted that the unified system of giving for mission is dead. The central planning processes which have played a major part in the Presbytery's history are waning. He urged the Council to work with the Presbytery to begin work now on how we deal with the future. He believes the Presbytery should seek to be self-sufficient within two years. He noted that the Presbytery needs to seek to be simpler in its structures, but not too simple.

During this presentation Elder Rosie Fay arrived. She shared some of the issues currently facing the people and church of Kake.

RECESS/RECONVENE

The Council recessed with prayer for the meeting and the people of Kake at 4:30 PM. The meeting reconvened at 4:41 PM.

DOBLER AGREEMENT

Following the consideration and approval of several amendments, the Council voted to approve the tentative agreement naming the Rev. Dr. David Dobler as the Pastor to the Presbytery of Alaska. Final approval of the agreement will require presbytery action. *The text of the final agreement will be included in the minutes of the Fall 2008 Presbytery meeting.*

FALL 2008 PRESBYTERY PLANNING

The Council then discussed several matters concerning the Fall 2008 Presbytery meeting. The NACC Healing Blanket has been scheduled for presentation at this meeting. Concerns about how best to fit the oral Elders' reports at this meeting were also reviewed. Final decisions on the schedule for this meeting were deferred to the August Council meeting.

PRESBYTERY TRUSTEES

The Rev. Dr. Chuck Bovee distributed copies of the Synod's Sexual Misconduct Policy. The Trustees are considering revising this document for the Presbytery and may be presenting it at the Fall 2008 Presbytery meeting. Rev. Bovee encouraged the Council members to send in any comments they had on this document.

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OTHER REPORTS

Written reports were received from the Committee on Ministry, the Anna Jackman Parish Concept Task Force and the Northeast Mission & Ministry Group.

The Rev. Ron Horn reported that the Rev. Bob Cameron's lung cancer had returned. Rev. Cameron will be travelling to Anchorage for further diagnosis and treatment.

Concerns about the status of the records of the Juneau Memorial Church (which was led by the Rev. Dr. Walter Soboleff and which eventually merged to become part of Northern Light United Church) were raised. The Stated Clerk volunteered to look further into this matter.

Elder Janell Privett, who serves as one of the Presbytery's Elder Commissioners to the Synod and as the Moderator of the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery, presented reports for both organizations.

Privett reported that the Synod has been working to provide a waiting area for those visiting family members at the neighboring Veteran's Affairs Hospital. The hospital lacks such a facility.

She noted that mission support from the Synod is declining. She doesn't blame the Synod for this, being convinced they don't want to cut our mission support, but they are simply trying best to deal with the funding cuts they are encountering.

For the Presbyterian Women she reported how the Synod level group had met in Anchorage. Each woman was encouraged to bring a new pair of socks to be given by podiatrists to men and women visiting a local soup kitchen. Hundreds of pairs of socks were received. They also received an offering to help finance an addition to the church in Nuiqsut. She reviewed the other activities the group has and will be involved in.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Council voted to approve without correction the minutes of the October 12, 2007 Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned with prayer for the meeting and the Rev. Bob Cameron and his wife Miriam led by the Rev. Dr. Chuck Bovee at 5:37 PM.

Guy Warren
Stated Clerk