

SYNOD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND HAWAII

COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY**Regular Meeting**

Audio-Visual Conference via Zoom.com

Saturday, June 4, 2022

CONVENE The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commission of Assembly Chair Suzanne Malloy and opened with prayer.

ROLL Those present (P), absent (A), or excused (E) are indicated below. All in attendance were by video conference:

LR-Los Ranchos, PA-Pacific, RS-Riverside, SB-Santa Barbara, SD-San Diego, SF-San Fernando, SG-San Gabriel; TE- Teaching Elder, RE-Ruling Elder; SMOD-Synod Moderator, SVMOD-Synod Vice Moderator, CoAC-CoA Chair/President, SC/SE-Stated Clerk/Synod Executive

Synod Officers

P RE Chair-CoA – Suzanne Malloy (SB)
 P TE SMOD – Janine Tanahuvia (SF)
 E RE SVMOD – Mike Wallman (SD)
 P RE Synod Treasurer - Susan Skoglund (RS)
 P TE SC/SE – Mark Hong (LR)

Commissioner Members

P RE Sue Currie – LR
 E RE Frances Lin – SD
 P TE N'Yisrela Watts-Afriyie – SG

BIPOC Representatives

E TE Juan-Daniel Espitia (SD)
 P RE Yvonne Harmon (SG)
 E TE Joseph Shin (LR)

Presbytery Executives/Designees

P RE Sandy Thoits + – SB *
 P TE Juan Sarmiento – SF
 P TE John Moser – SD
 P TE Linda Culbertson – PA
 P TE Lee Ireland – RS
 P TE Wendy Tajima – SG
 P RE Pat Niles – LR

Ecclesiastical Chairs

P TE David Won PA - CoRN
 P RE Sandy Thoits SB + – Polity & Records

Also Present

P RE Fried Wilson – Synod Staff
 P Joanne Yi-Bortfeld – Synod Staff
 P TE Narcissis Tucker Bishop – REPL Staff
 P TE Janet Loughry (SB)
 P RE Monica Colonnier (LR)

P-Present A-Absent E-Excused

* designee

+ serving in dual capacities

OPENING PRAYER	TE Suzanne Malloy opened the meeting with prayer.
REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK	Stated Clerk Mark Hong presented a written report which is below.
QUORUM	The Stated Clerk reported that a quorum was present, and the Chair declared that a quorum was present: a quorum being that 12 of the 21 members are present, 5 presbyteries are represented, and there are four ruling elders and four teaching elders present.
AGENDA	It was VOTED to APPROVE the agenda with two items added under Other Business.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	It was VOTED to APPROVE the Commission of Assembly meeting minutes of March 5, 2022, as presented.
SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS	TE Janet Loughry (Partnering Grants) and RE Monica Colonnier (Restricted Funds) were seated as corresponding members with voice, but not vote, to present the reports from their respective committees.
FOR INFORMATION	<p>Strategy Team The members are as follows, and their work is ongoing.</p> <p>RE Frances Lin (SD, co-chair), TE Lee Ireland (RS, co-chair), TE Suzanne Malloy (SB, clerk), RE Susan Skoglund (RS), RE Sue Curry (LR), RE Yvonne Harmon (SG), TE Ken Baker (SF), TE David Won (PA). They are expecting to have a report prepared for the October CoA meeting.</p> <p>2020 and 2021 Assembly Minutes The Synod Minutes Review, conducted by the OGA, took place on March 28-29 in Kansas City. The peer-review resulted in no exceptions or comments. The minutes will be reviewed eventually by the Mid Council Committee during the 2022 General Assembly.</p> <p>Recognition from the PMA 20 plus years of Pentecost Special Offerings First Presbyterian of San Bernardino (RS) Westminster Presbyterian Church (SB)</p> <p>PCCCI update The civil case against PCCCI has been settled. The insurance company will be responsible for the \$30,815,000.00 settlement with three parties – a local property owner, CALFIRE and the Federal Government. PCCCI has since secured different insurance coverage for the Big Bear Conference Center operations.</p>

Dates for 2022 Meetings (all are Saturday)

The Commission of Assembly: October 1, December 10 (if needed)
The Assembly: December 3

Permanent Judicial Commission

PJC Case from San Fernando Presbytery was sent to the Stated Clerk. Tracie Lyons (PA) and Mickey Fenn (SB) were handling the case. The case has been dismissed since it did answer the four required questions.

REPORT OF SYNOD
TREASURER

RE Susan Skoglund briefly reviewed the financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2022. This report is provided as Attachment #1

She pointed out that it is always hard to draw many conclusions since the statements include only the first three months of the year. Per capita was a little lower than expected but should improve over the next few months. Some presbyteries pay on a quarterly basis, others monthly and one makes a single annual payment. It was suggested that reminders be sent out to the presbyteries about their per capita payments.

The Restricted Funds report and Partnering Grants report are also available for information.

RACIAL ETHNIC
PASTORAL
LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM

TE Narcissis presented a written report of the most recent REPL meeting which is included in Attachment #2. It included a further discussion of a request from the National Black Presbyterian Caucus of Southern California to rename REPL as The Rev. Dr. Leon Fanniel REPL Scholarship Program. They agreed with this name change and recommends the following:

That the Synod Commission of Assembly change the name of the Racial Ethnic Pastoral Leadership Committee (REPL) to *The Rev. Dr. Leon E. Fanniel Racial Ethnic Pastoral Leadership Scholarship Program*.

It was **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the motion.

RESTRICTED AND
SPECIAL FUNDS
COMMITTEE

RE Monica Colonnier presented a written report that is included as Attachment #3. The committee presented two motions:

Motion to recommend to the Commission of the Synod that the Chase account for Volunteer in Mission (\$1991.91) be transferred in its entirety to the PCUSA World Mission account D507536 in support of volunteer mission coordinator, Rev. Sarah Hankin.

It was **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the motion.

Motion to recommend to the Commission of the Synod that the Chase account for Washington Legislation (\$301.85) be transferred in its entirety to the PCUSA Office of Public Witness E865714.

It was **VOTED to APPROVE** the motion.

DECISION ON
DECEMBER 3
ASSEMBLY

The Stated Clerk raised the question with the CoA on the format for this year's meeting; should it be in person, via Zoom.com, or a hybrid meeting with people meeting in person and others attending electronically. A number of opinions were expressed about the difficulties with hybrid meetings and prior experiences that attendance at Zoom.com meetings has been much better than with in person meetings.

A motion was made and seconded to hold the Synod Assembly via Zoom.com. It was VOTED to APPROVE the motion.

PARTNERING
GRANTS
COMMITTEE

In the absence of the committee chair, the clerk of the committee, RE Janet Loughry, presented a written report. The grant request for \$200,000 from FPC of Redlands and Riverside Presbytery along with supporting documentation from the church and presbytery and the recommendation of the Partnering Grants Committee are included in Attachment #4. A written statement from the Riverside Presbytery Officers and written comments from interested individuals that were provided to the committee are included in Attachment #5.

In summary, the following extract from the grant request has this to say about the project.

The sanctuary project is FPCR'S next step, as we seek to create a community usable chancel area, create ADA compliant restrooms, install new lighting, sound, and acoustical wall treatments. The project budget is \$549,556, which includes a 9% contingency of \$45,376. The budget is found on page 4 of this grant application. If this project is completed, it will provide a place for the community to hold events throughout the week, while also enhancing our worship space.

We would not be seeking these funds if the project was for our sole benefit. We would also be reluctant to request these funds were we not assuming the primary responsibility as a church family. We anticipate modest upfront support from the University of Redlands School of Music and the Redlands's Symphony, but we pledge to secure the majority of the funds from members, friends, and accrued income from an endowment account totaling \$339,556. The Presbytery of Riverside has already committed \$10,000 to this community inspired plan. Were FPCR to be fortunate enough to receive this regional support from the Synod and the Presbytery we can be assured of the probability of completing this important project at the estimated cost of \$550,000. Without this support this project would most likely not be able to move forward.

The following extract from the minutes of the Partnering Grants Committee details the committee's comments and recommendation.

Once a quorum was determined, Paul Knopf graciously excused himself from the meeting since the proposal being reviewed at today's meeting is from Chair Paul Knopf's Presbytery (Riverside).

Cheryl Raines, pastor of the Redlands PC, was invited to join the meeting at 1:15 to present the proposal and answer questions from the committee. She left the meeting at 1:30. Presbytery Leader Lee Ireland joined shortly afterwards to present the presbytery's views on the proposal, and to answer questions as well.

Because it appears from minutes, letters and emails forwarded to the committee (by Mark Hong) prior to this meeting, that there were disagreements within the congregation and the presbytery over this proposal including the proposed work, the funding process, and the approval process, the questions posed to both Pastor Raines and Mr. Ireland were within the bounds of those concerns.

It was noted that while the presbytery approved the proposal, the vote was 57% in favor, 34% opposed, and 9% abstentions. After discussion, the committee crafted the following Motion:

To refer this request back to the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands and the Riverside Presbytery to reconsider the proposal and to resubmit it at a later time.

The Commission **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the committee's recommendation to refer this request back to the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands and the Riverside Presbytery to reconsider the proposal and to resubmit it at a later time. TE Ireland (RS) and RE Skoglund (RS) recused themselves from this vote.

Lee Ireland requested that it would be helpful for him if the CoA sent it back with comments on the concerns that the two bodies should consider. After some discussion, the following motion was made and seconded:

To ask, when reconsidering, that the congregation and presbytery confirm that strong support was attained by congregation and presbytery.

It was **VOTED** to **APPROVE** the motion. TE Ireland (RS) and RE Skoglund (RS) recused themselves from this vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Grant Request from
Korean Presbyterian

The K.P.C request is for \$4,680 to be used for a family retreat summer camp at Zephyr Point Conference Center from August 8 to 11. The requested amount will cover the minimum lodging obligation. Additional information is in their

Churches (K.P.C.) of the Synod written report (Attachment #6). Note that original motion as presented incorrectly referred to the "Synod of the Pacific" rather than the "Synod of Southern California and Hawaii." The funds will be taken from an account that had been established from the sale of a property when the Hanmi Presbytery was dissolved. This account is under the purview of the CoA, rather than the Restricted Funds Committee.

Motion was made and seconded to provide K.P.C. a grant of \$4,680 for their summer retreat. It was VOTED to APPROVE the motion.

Synod Website TE Lee Ireland suggested that CoA form a task force to review the Synod Website to ensure that it provides the information needed by the presbyteries. Several other members thought this was a good idea. A motion was made and seconded as follows:

To have the CoA Chair assemble a team to review the Synod website content and consider how it can be improved and updated to better serve the needs of the presbyteries.

It was **VOTED to APPROVE** the motion.

TE Ireland volunteered to serve as a member. The CoA chair asked that others interested in serving on the team should contact her after the meeting.

REPORT OF SYNOD EXECUTIVE Mark Hong reflected upon his recent illness and recuperation period; the loss of loved ones during the Covid pandemic; the shooting at the Irvine Taiwanese PC; the upcoming General Assembly and the orientation session the Synod provided to its commissioners; and the work of the Synod Strategy Team. Please refer to his written report for more information (Attachment #7).

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 with prayer offered by the CoA Chair.

Mark Hong, Stated Clerk

Fried R. Wilson, Journal Clerk