

Presbytery of the Northwest Coast
Minutes of the 26th Stated Meeting
June 9, 2023

All times Pacific Daylight - Attachments are indicated by endnotes in the text

The meeting was held at the Community Church of Seattle/Hungai Church. The following gatherings were held at 2:00 p.m. prior to the meeting:

Workshop: *Resilient Pastors & Congregations*, by Kate Rae Davis MDiv, PHD Candidate, Director, Center for Transforming Engagement, Seattle School of Theology & Psychology.

Workshop: *Young Adults and the Church*, by Martin Jimenez, Pivot NW.

Workshop: *Presbytery Meeting Orientation for Korean Speakers*, by Rev. Jinsuk Kim.

Alaska Cluster Meeting.

Honorable Retired Clergy Meeting.

Worship

Worship commenced at 3:00 p.m. Revs. Laura Terasaki and Jinsuk Kim served as liturgists and presided at the Lord's Table. Music was provided by the CSS worship team. The offering was designated for the Katie Allen Scholarship Fund. Stated Clerk Rev. Dean Strong preached a sermon entitled *With Backbone and Heart* on John 15:9-17. Presbytery Co-Moderators presided at the installation of the Rev. Laura Terasaki as Executive Presbyter.

Discern, Discuss, Decide (F-3.0205)

The meeting of the presbytery convened at 4:00 p.m. with prayer by Co-Moderator Rev. Becca Niemeyer. A quorum was present; the roll is attached.¹ The agenda was approved as posted. The minutes of the previous meeting had been approved by the presbytery's standing rule and posted on the presbytery website. Guests and first time commissioners were introduced.

Stated Clerk's Report

Domski Ordination Administrative Commission – A service of Ordination was held February 14, 2023 at the First Presbyterian Church of Snohomish for the Rev. Addie Domskie who is serving there in a temporary relationship as Associate Pastor. The members of Administrative Commission who performed the ordination on behalf of the presbytery were the Revs. Ann Lewis, Charlie Lewis and Matt Paul; Ruling Elders Paula Erickson of FPC Snohomish and CP Dannille Riley of Concrete Presbyterian Church. The commission was dismissed with thanks.

Clallam Bay Administrative Commission – On March 13th, the Executive Board empowered the current Administrative Commission with original jurisdiction and the full powers of the session to dissolve the congregation, as follows: the following resolution was APPROVED [by the Executive Board], “Resolved, That at its request, the current Administrative Commission designated with original jurisdiction and the full powers of the session be further authorized to implement the dissolution of the congregation ‘in consultation with its members,’ and execute all other tasks of dissolution, including transferring the property to the presbytery, dissolving the corporation, acquiring all church records, and developing a fellowship covenant with current members if requested.” Current commission members: Moderator: Rev. Carol McLaughlin, Rev. Matt Paul, Rev. Bruce Cook, Loretta Klock and Donna Keys.

Annual Reports – The following annual reports were received by the presbytery and are attached to these minutes: *Administrative Review Progress Report*,² *Annual Statistical Report*,³ *Plan for Determining the Number of Elder Commissioners Elected by Each Session*⁴ (G-3.0301), the *2022 Necrology*.⁵

Bylaw Amendments – Proposed amendments to the bylaws were distributed with the agenda as required and are attached to these minutes.⁶ The following resolution was APPROVED, “*Resolved*, That the proposed Amendments to the bylaws be adopted, to accommodate new officer and standing commission terms, as distributed with the agenda and notice provided according to Article 15.”

Dinner Recess

The presbytery recessed for sixty minutes for a wonderful Korean dinner, hosted by Community Church of Seattle.

Executive Presbyter’s Report

The Rev. Laura Terasaki greeted the presbytery. She spoke about the staff turnover, the coming search for a new stated clerk, and other administrative items.

She has been in office ninety-three days, and has been “touring” the presbytery, including recent visits to FPC Port Angeles, Calvin, Mt. Baker, Spring Church, FPC Bellingham, and Neah Bay. “The presbytery is blessed, has healthy and vital leadership at every level, is stable financially, and has a collegial atmosphere with space for diversity.”

She noted that while the institutional church is in decline in terms of membership, it also is in a state of reformation. With fewer students entering seminary, and the ability of fewer churches to afford a full time professional pastor, the need for training lay leaders is greater than ever and is a presbytery priority.

Associate Presbyter’s Report

The Rev. Jinsuk Kim has served as Associate Executive Presbyter since 2013 and is retiring as of July 1st. He shared about the vitality of the Korean congregations and their many contributions and importance as part of the presbytery, expressing his deepest thanks for the privilege of serving them and the presbytery.

Executive Board Report

The Board minutes were posted online and internet links were provided on the agenda. The Board is a standing commission of the presbytery and its minutes are part of the official record. The Rev. Becca Niemeyer, Co-Moderator, offered a brief report highlighting the following:

- Ingall's Creek Camp determined an Endorsed Mission Partner.
- New Worshiping Communities Coordinator and Task Force has been established
- An Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Antiracism Task Force has been established.
- Alaska reparations work continues.

Staff Retirements – This is the last presbytery where Rev. Dean Strong will serve as the Stated Clerk, who will fully retire when a new clerk trained and elected. Rev. Jinsuk Kim will retire on July 1st. Board member Rev. Emily Mitchell led the presbytery in recognizing the ministries of these two servants, presenting them with accolades and gifts. The presbytery laid hands on them and prayed for them.

Commission on Ministry

Commission Moderator Rev. Elizabeth Shen O'Connor presented the commission's report as follows, which had been distributed with the agenda. There were no further questions or actions.

Delegated Actions Reported to the Presbytery

Pastoral Relationships & Transitions, *by congregation*

Cottage Lake/Kelly – The temporary contract between Rev. Jonathon Kelley and the session was extended through May 31st. A temporary relationship between the session of Cottage Lake and the Rev. Sandy Hackett, commencing on June 1, 2023 for one year, was approved on May 4th.

Craig & Klawock/Nollette – A temporary relationship between Rev. Kevin Nollette and the session for a ten week period of service, including moderating the session and the congregation, was approved Feb. 8th. An MIF was approved May 30th for an installed, temporary, part time or full time pastor.

Kunéix Hídi Northern Light/UMC Candidate – An exam for both fit and temporary membership was completed Jan. 31st for the UMC candidate who will be appointed beginning July 1st. It is recommended that he or she be enrolled as a temporary member for a period of service (G-2.0506).

Lake Forest Park/Sonnanburg – A temporary relationship as interim pastor between Janet Sonnanburg and the session was approved Feb. 8th.

Lake Forest Park/Chamont – The associate pastor relationship between Rev. Andrea Chaumont and the congregation was dissolved on March 30th by the presbytery as requested by the congregation by its March 5th vote.

Lord of Glory/Kim – Pastor Byeung Kyu Kim has retired as of Feb. 28th. The session has requested that he be allowed to continue .25 FTE for one year. Rev. Kim was granted Honorable Retired status and a temporary relationship between him and the session was approved for one year, serving as a volunteer; he was appointed moderator of the session and the congregation. COM is requesting a waiver from the Board of Pensions to allow a small stipend to be provided.

North Creek/Helmcki – Rev. Kurt Helmcke is serving as a designated pastor on the exception clause since he was an associate pastor who succeeded the former pastor. The presbytery is requiring a full search of which Rev. Helmcke may be a candidate; the PNC is to be elected one year from the end of the designated term (April 1, 2023). The congregation approved a plan for the size, representation and election of a PNC on March 26. The required mission study has been completed.

The congregation also voted to end the associate pastor search and the associate pastor nominating committee was dissolved.

The temporary relationship with Rev. Scott Anthony was extended through June 30th.

Quilcene/McLaughlin – The temporary pastoral relationship between Rev. Coral McLaughlin and the Quilcene 1st session was renewed for one year as of Feb. 8th.

Quincy/Niemeyer – The temporary relationship between Rev. Rebecca Niemeyer and the session of The First Presbyterian Church of Quincy was reviewed and renewed for one year, effective April 10, 2023.

Sunnyside – A final candidate declined to accept a call in January; the PNC has resumed its search. The temporary relationship with Rev. Nick Valadez ended May 31. CRE Bob Merriman has been appointed as the moderator of the session.

Minister Members, Commission Pastors, by member

Peterson/Christ Lutheran – Member-at-large Rev. Chris Peterson was granted permission on Mar. 30 to enter into service outside the jurisdiction of the PC(USA) in the validated ministry of Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Yakima, WA.

Schmitt – Rev. Robert Schmitt, member-at-large in good standing, “against whom no inquiry has been initiated pursuant to D-10.0101 and D-10.0201, and against whom no charges have been filed,” was granted release from ministry as a minister of Word and Sacrament according to G-2.0507 at his request, in writing, on May 4, 2023. He may be restored, without re-ordination, by application to this presbytery, reaffirmation of the ordination questions, and engagement in a validated ministry per G-2.0503(a).

Underwood – The Rev. Laurel Underwood, HR, has accepted a part time position as Interim Music Ministry Director at Calvin, which is not a validated ministry per G-2.0503, and does not affect retirement benefits per BOP Administrative Rule 801; a confirmation letter was sent to the Board on her behalf.

Annual Status Review of Members-at-large G2.0503b) – The following were reviewed and renewed for one year: David Casson, Andrea Chaumant, Amy Delaney (anticipated that she will be transferring to Cascades Presbytery), Tracey Hackel (has moved permanently to Colorado and is encouraged to transfer to Denver Presbytery within one year), Faith McClellan, Catherine Tobey.

Review Received with further action needed – Thomas Adams, Kyle Anderson, Bruce Cook, Koon Kim, Christina Gregory, Heather Mikelson, Sooil Shim.

Did not report and will be determined as “No longer engaged” per G-2.0508 without voice or vote in meetings of the presbytery – Rebecca Dix.

Validated Ministers Received and Reviewed – Mark Cook, Gracey Ekblad, Robert Ekblad, Heidi Greider, Rob Hagen, Laurie Jackson, Jinsuk Kim, Yo Sub Kim, Diana Kunce, Mike Neelley, Christopher Peterson, David Ro, Esther Sanders, Dean Strong, Laura Terasaki, Adam Tobey, Jane VanAntwerp, Doug Waltar.

Validated Ministers who have not reported – Cindy Harris.

Congregations

Calvin – Inquired whether vacation and study leave still applied during a sabbatical year. It was affirmed that terms of call (vacation and study leave) remain enforce during a sabbatical year.

Clallam Bay – At the request of the session, COM recommended to the Executive Board that the current administrative commissioned be empowered to dissolve the congregation, transfer property title to the presbytery and execute a fellowship covenant with any interested members; the Board approved the request March 30th (see Stated Clerk’s report).

Community Church of Seattle/Satellite Campuses. A formal communication has been sent to Seattle

Presbytery stating that the pastors of satellite campuses in Bellevue and the University District of Seattle are under the jurisdiction of NWCP until those campuses charter as congregations at which time they would be transferred to Seattle Presbytery; talks continue.

Ketchikan – Is exploring a building tenant to help financially and a merger with the Ketchikan UMC congregation.

Kennewick –MIF has been approved for an Associate Pastor position.

Petersburg – Congregation voted to form a PNC to call a part-time pastor. Congregation is financially stable and has investment resources. The MIF was approved.

Yakutat – Pastor Cort, who was there last summer, has indicate a willingness to return this summer.

For Information Only

Churches without pastoral leadership – Acme, Craig & Klawock First, Hydaburg, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sunnyside, Yakutat.

COM Administration, Strategy, Policies, & Procedures

Terms of Call – 2023 Terms of Call for ministers serving churches have been reviewed.⁷

Costs for the required psychological evaluations for students in the Commissioned Pastor program will be borne equally among COM, the sponsoring congregation, and the student," as is consistent with CPM's policy for those in the Preparation for Ministry process.

Examinations

The Examination Team of COM reported the following resolution, "*Resolved*, That the Rev. Sandy Hackett, of Seattle Presbytery, be received as a member to serve as Temporary Pastor of Cottage Lake Presbytery Church. The Candidate made a brief statement of faith and commitment to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament. The presbytery continued to examine her 'Christian Faith and views in theology, the Bible, the Sacraments, and the government of the church.' A motion to end the examination was approved and she was excused. After discussion, the resolution was APPROVED.

Rev. Hackett welcomed (again, having previously been a member) by the presbytery with an additional nonsensical and humorous personal "examination" led by Doug Bunnell, and with gifts, the laying on of hands and prayer.

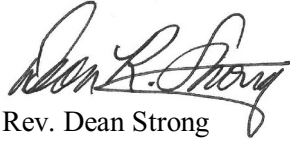
Announcements

Tall Timber Ranch – Director Rev. Adam Tobey greeted the presbytery. A written report had been distributed with the agenda.⁸ He shared visuals and information about the coming summer programs.

Closing

The Rev. Jinsik Kim closed the meeting with prayer at 5:37 p.m. The Rev. Dean Strong offered the final benediction.

The next regular meeting of the presbytery is scheduled for October 19, 2023 to be held via internet conferencing software.



Rev. Dean Strong
Stated Clerk

Attachments:

¹ *Roll & Attendance.*

² *Administrative Review Progress Report.*

³ *Annual Statistical Report.*

⁴ *Plan for Determining the Number of Elder Commissioners Elected by Each Session .*

⁵ *2022 Necrology.*

⁶ *Bylaw Amendments.*

⁷ *2023 Terms of Call.*

⁸ *Tall Timber Ranch Report*