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# GRAND CANYON *PRESBY-GRAM*

March 2011



## March 11-12 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon



We celebrated the gracious gifts of wisdom, humor, time, and talents shared with the Presbytery over the past 17 years by our retiring Stated Clerk, Elder Dick Coffelt.



## Voting on GA Amendments

Presbyters responded to the remaining 15 proposed amendments before us from the 2010 General Assembly. Items 10-C through 10-O were approved (as recommended by our GA commissioners) via a consent agenda. Amendment 10-B to add wording regarding the

Dear Carolyn,

On Friday and Saturday, March 11-12, the Presbytery of Grand Canyon met for its stated meeting at First Presbyterian in Yuma. The gathering provided time for fellowship while we tackled major decisions before our presbytery on both the local and national levels.

## YOUNG PRESBYTERIANS GAVE VOICE TO

what it means to be a servant leader by a panel representing various areas of ministry: Robert Felix (Candidate, Valley), Tully Fletcher (Assoc Pastor, Orangewood), Adam Lavazza (Inquirer/youth advisor, Mountain View), and Valerie Zehr (CE Director, Emanuel), along with our guest from San Luis Sonora, Mexico, the Rev. César Vasquez.



## DESERT HILLS DISCERNMENT TEAM REPORT

The team reported on its research into the request from the Session of Desert Hills Presbyterian Church to leave our denomination. After several congregational meetings and extensive personal interviews with the pastors, Session, and individual members, the Discernment Team determined: 1) that a wide majority of the Carefree congregation agreed with their Session and would follow the church as it sought membership within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church; and 2) that there were not enough remaining members to become a viable congregation on their own. Therefore the Discernment Team recommended, and Presbytery approved with regret, that an Administrative Commission be appointed

process for removal of a Stated Clerk to G-9.0203b was not approved. After a structured time for debate, Amendment 10-A, proposing new G-6.016b wording for ordination standards, was approved by a ballot vote of 84 to 53. Final decisions on the amendments are dependent on voting by all 173 presbyteries and will become effective at the 2012 General Assembly.

### Next Meeting

Saturday, June 11  
Mission del Sol Presbyterian  
Tempe



### PERSONNEL

Election of the Rev. Joe Keesecker as Temporary Stated Clerk beginning April 1, bridging the time while we search for an interim for the newly created position of Associate Executive/Stated Clerk.

to oversee the dissolution of Desert Hills from the PC(USA).

### Other Highlights Included:

- Participation on Friday afternoon by 30 Grand Canyon volunteers in a variety of mission outreach projects in the Yuma area, including feeding the homeless, building benches for a nature habitat, and a domestic violence prevention workshop.
- Recognition of our presbytery's five Hispanic congregations and fellowships, with a time to enjoy pictures and hear how God is at work within those faith communities.
- Examination of Kirk Sexton, Candidate for Minister of Word and Sacrament, paving the way for his ordination as he begins serving as Interim Pastor at Community Presbyterian Church in Springerville.
- Presentation for final reading of the Planning Committee's report, with emphasis on simplifying our organizational structure, supporting our congregations, and creating ways for those with a passion for various ministry areas to join together as we all seek to revitalize our presbytery and serve the Lord with wise use of both people and resources.

### Contact Information

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**THANK YOU,  
FIRST YUMA, SIERRA VISTA,  
MOHAWK VALLEY AND WELLTON!**