

MINUTES
Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon
June 5, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The Presbytery of Grand Canyon of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its Stated June Meeting at University Presbyterian Church in Tempe. Gloria Young, Moderator-Elect, opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with the lighting of the Peace Candle and prayer. Elder Eric Hiser, Stated Clerk Pro Tem, was introduced, along with new Administrative Associate Beth Kath. A quorum was present.

Commissioners attending for the first time and other guests were welcomed. Corresponding Members were introduced and APPROVED by Presbytery for this meeting. Linda Bailey, former Grand Canyon staff, was welcomed in her new role as a Minister member.

Presbytery APPROVED the agenda and the following procedural motions: that the roll for this meeting be established by signing of roster sheets at the registration desk; that the Presbytery give the Moderator-Elect authority to grant privilege of the floor to persons for the purpose of reporting to this meeting; that the Moderator-Elect and Stated Clerk Pro Tem be empowered to make adjustments in the agenda during the meeting, as may be necessary, to provide for efficiency in reporting; and that written requests for absences received by the Stated Clerk be approved.

AGENDA

8:00 a.m.	Registration	
9:00 a.m.	Convene	Gloria Young
9:10 a.m.	Welcome First Time Commissioners, Guests	Gloria Young
	Enroll Corresponding Members	Eric Hiser
	Establish a Quorum	
	Approve the Agenda & Procedural Motions	
	Approve the Consent Agenda	
	New Business	
	Host Congregation Greeting	Trina Zelle
9:20 a.m.	Interim Executive Presbyter Report	Dave Wasserman
	Council Report	Glyndon Morris
	Annual George Brooks Award (Povl Boesen)	Leland Wilson
	Agua Fria Food and Clothing Bank announcement	Renato Alvarez
	Stewardship, Mission and Communications update	Mary Lynn Walters
9:50 a.m.	Director of Public Witness Compassion, Peace & Justice Ministry	J. Herbert Nelson II
10:00a.m.	Worship and Communion	
11:00 a.m.	Presentations/Conversations on "The Risky Business of Christ's Call	
Noon	Lunch & Fellowship	
1:00 p.m.	Reconvene	Gloria Young
1:05 p.m.	Ghost Ranch Conference Center Report	Kim Rodrigue
1:15 p.m.	COM Recommendation – Desert Hills	Ken Page
1:45 p.m.	Planning Committee Report	Rocky Mackey
2:55 p.m.	Adjournment	Gloria Young

CONSENT AGENDA

Presbytery APPROVED the Consent Agenda, with the exception of the section entitled "Recommendation Concerning the Presbytery's Response to the Session of Desert Hills Presbyterian Church, regarding its stated desire to lead the congregation to withdraw from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)," which was scheduled for discussion during the Committee on Ministry report.

1. Presbytery Council/Trustees Report
Stated Meeting May 13, 2010

The Council/Trustees of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon met for its Stated May Meeting at Valley Presbyterian Church. The meeting began at 11:05 a.m. and was opened with prayer.

COUNCIL/TRUSTEES MINUTES APPROVED

The February 5, 2010, and March 15, 2010, Minutes of the Council/Trustees were APPROVED as presented.

PRESBYTERY MINUTES APPROVED

Acting on its delegated authority, Council APPROVED the Minutes of the March 19-20, 2010, Stated Meeting of Presbytery as presented.

COUNCIL DIRECTIONS STATEMENT

The Council Directions 2010 outline was APPROVED as presented. It was suggested that Council explore “new ways to be a presbytery” while building relationships with our churches and together as a team. Council meetings are to focus on nurturing a vision for the Presbytery as it relates to our congregations, our denomination and our world while we seek to answer God’s call to be followers of Jesus Christ.

MEETING SCHEDULE AMENDED

Given the attention needed to properly explore and develop our vision, as well as the time required to consider other issues presently before the Council, it was APPROVED to hold meetings on 7/1, 8/19, 10/21, and 12/2, and to reserve 6/3, 9/2, and 11/4 for meetings as needed.

<u>Previous Schedule</u>	<u>New Schedule</u>	<u>Presbytery meetings</u>
	June 3 (as needed)	June 5 (call packet emailed May 21)
	July 1	
August 19	August 19	
	September 2 (as needed)	September 10-11 (call packet Aug 27)
October 21	October 21	
	November 4 (as needed)	November 13 (call packet Oct 29)
	December 2	January 18 (call packet Jan 4)

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Having spent the past six months searching out revitalized directions for our Presbytery’s future, including conversations and response from presbyters at the November 2009, January 2010, and March 2010 meetings, the Planning Committee reported already seeing results within numerous committees. Five components have been identified for making Presbytery meetings work well: good worship, efficient business, presentations from outside leaders, presentations from our own leadership, and conversation among the community of presbyters. It was APPROVED to present Items 1 through 4 (descriptive statements about Presbytery ministry opportunities for: 1. church sessions; 2. presbytery ministry team volunteers; 3. minister members of presbytery; and 4. congregational volunteers) at the June meeting of Presbytery in a simple way to be determined by the Planning Committee. It was suggested that time be allowed for continued discussion by presbyters at future meetings so they remain engaged in this ongoing process.

PRAYING FOR OUR CONGREGATIONS

Updates and prayer requests were given for the following churches: Wickenburg, Westminster, Fountain Hills, Yarnell, Yuma First, Christ, Parker Valley and University. Prayers were requested for Hispanic fellowships and

churches in Arizona. It was noted that half of our congregations have outstanding loans, and at least 30% of those churches have expressed payment difficulties and are in need of relief. Each of these congregations was lifted up in prayer.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The committee proposed that the long term budgeting process should not include the use of or reliance upon reserve funds or National Mission Partnership Funds. (Partnership Funds are intended for staff and racial ethnic staffing.) It was APPROVED to accept the outline of budget principles as presented by the committee in its April 5, 2010, memo. This included reorganizing the budget into eight categories, with a basic percentage of budget allotted to each. Based on anticipated 2010 funds from our congregations of \$930,000 via mission and per capita contributions plus interest earnings (with approximately the same expected per year for 2011 through 2014), the target goals would be as follows:

	<u>%</u>	<u>\$ amount</u>
Mission with Congregations (i.e. church development, Hispanic, education)	10	93,000
Mission with Leaders (i.e. candidates/commissioned lay pastors/COM initiatives)	2	18,600
Mission with Native American communities	10	93,000
Congregational Mission Initiative Grants (new category)	7	65,000
Per Capita commitments to Synod and GA	20	186,000
Institutional Life (i.e. Council/Presbytery meeting expenses, communications)	4	45,000
Personnel (all staff expenses)	40	353,400
Administrative (i.e. rent, insurance, phone and Internet, office supplies)	7	<u>139,500</u>
		\$930,000

It was noted that the percentage principle was meant to give guidance, but would have to remain flexible since work within the various committees could fall into several categories. It was further noted that the Personnel budget would have to be reduced by \$100,000 in order to achieve the amount noted above.

BUDGET REMINDERS

Budget requests for 2011 are due August 1. The budget will be presented to Council in October and to Presbytery in November. Council members were requested to review restricted funds for possible use. Due to current economic conditions, there was concern about receiving 2010 per capita funds from some of our churches.

DESERT HILLS RECOMMENDATION

Council considered a recommendation from the Committee on Ministry concerning the Presbytery’s response to the Session of Desert Hills Presbyterian Church on its desire, as expressed in its document of April 10, 2010, to lead the congregation to withdraw from the PC(USA).

The first section of the COM recommendation was informational, providing background on the Desert Hills document and Presbytery’s response to date, then outlining pertinent statements from the PC(USA) Constitution. The remainder of the recommendation suggested the method and manner in which the Presbytery should respond, and minister to and among, the Desert Hills Session and all members of the congregation.

Key within this process was the formation of two teams to be appointed by Presbytery. The first, a Pastoral Team to be present at worship at Desert Hills, would serve to indicate the Presbytery’s concern for the congregation during this challenging time and be available, in a nonjudgmental way, to listen to all members, leaders and staff. The second, a Discernment Team of nine or more, would start with communicating to Desert Hills members all implications of departure from the PC(USA) and dialoging with the Session. The Discernment

Team would be charged with assuring that all voices are heard and nurtured, eventually bringing a report with recommendations to a meeting of Presbytery for its action.

Concerns during Council's discussion of the COM recommendation included:

1. that the upcoming process be open, calm, gracious and cooperative;
2. that it be understood the process will take time, perhaps mirroring the Desert Hills Session's year-long discussion prior to making its recommendation;
3. that the Presbytery's overwhelming desire would be to have Desert Hills remain with us;
4. that it be assured that every member of the Desert Hills community is informed and has a variety of opportunities to voice opinions and ask questions.

After a time of prayer, the Council VOTED to endorse the Committee on Ministry's recommendation. The full text of the recommendation is attached.

The draft of a letter to members, officers, staff and friends of Desert Hills was reviewed. Due to the importance of beginning communication as soon as possible, the letter was to be presented at a special meeting of COM representatives and Desert Hills Session members prior to the June 5 Presbytery meeting. Council APPROVED the letter, to be signed by Dave Wasserman and Dick Coffelt and presented to the Desert Hills Session at a special meeting at 6:00 p.m. on May 14, following the Council meeting. A copy of the letter is attached.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

The summary of 2009 Presbytery statistics was sent to General Assembly, and the 2009 Minutes of Grand Canyon Presbytery were approved by the Synod of the Southwest. At the Stated Clerk's request, Council APPROVED that Elder Eric Hiser serve as Stated Clerk Pro-Tem at the June 5, 2010 Stated Meeting of Presbytery.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Financial Report as of April 31, 2010, reflected a year-to-date revenue of \$443,510.06 and expense of \$363,291.97, resulting in a difference of \$80,218.09. Paul Rooker was asked to look into why expenditures for Council meetings were already over budget by 35% and mailing costs were over by 5% (p. 10 of report).

AGUA FRIA FOOD BANK CAN DRIVE

Renato Alvarez circulated a can with printed info designed to encourage food bank contributions, which are needed more during the summer as the utility cost of electricity rises and children are not in school to receive subsidized meals. Council APPROVED display of the can at the June Presbytery meeting. The idea of requesting presbyters to bring a canned good with them was discussed.

NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTANTS

Within their first three months, both of our Native American Consultants, Martha Sadongei (southern region) and Norma McCabe (northern region), have made initial contacts and held leadership group meetings. They have been encouraged to visit a session meeting at each of their churches by the end of 2010, as well as to continue work with the NAM committee to nurture long-term congregational partnerships.

FUNDS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Trina Zelle and Dave Wasserman have been working with the General Assembly's World Mission Funds Development Program. They are seeking one or two representatives who can represent the presbytery's interests as visits are made to potential Grand Canyon benefactors. Council APPROVED the selection of our NAM consultants to be included in the presentation to donors as possible designated recipients of funding through the World Mission program.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PEACEMAKING

Povl Boesen has been selected to receive the George Brooks Award based on his ecumenical council involvement and prison ministry. Sensibility funding has been resumed. Council was reminded that Leupp First has historically been partnered with Desert Hills and the two churches have a close relationship.

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

Council VOTED to endorse having NAM co-host, along with the GA's Native American Consulting Committee, a conversation at General Assembly on the concept of congregational partnerships. The draft of a brochure to be used at GA was distributed. It was noted that the benefit of partnership is not limited to funding and that our Native American congregations have unique gifts to share with larger churches.

EVANGELISM AND CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Council APPROVED that our Presbytery endorse a joint conference on Collaborative Ministry in Rural Settings, along with Methodist, Episcopal and Lutheran denominational partners (and possibly de Cristo Presbytery), to be held September 24-25, 2010, in Kearny, Arizona.

GANADO ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

Council received a draft report from the Commission, along with recommendations to be considered.

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL/TRUSTEES

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on July 1 at a place to be determined, with a possible meeting on June 3 as needed.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. with prayer.

Atchs. (2) – COM Recommendation and letter to Desert Hills congregation

Attachment 1 – Committee on Ministry Recommendation

**THE PRESBYTERY OF GRAND CANYON
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY AND COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING RESPONSE TO THE SESSION OF DESERT HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
REGARDING ITS STATED DESIRE TO LEAD THE CONGREGATION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE PC(USA)**

BACKGROUND

On April 14, the Presbytery was notified that the Session of Desert Hills Presbyterian Church had voted unanimously to recommend to the congregation that it withdraw from the PC(USA). A letter sent to the congregation from the Session indicated three decisions: (1) “The Session recommends that DHPC withdraw from the PC(USA) with the intent of keeping congregation, staff and property intact.” (2) “The Session recommends that DHPC become a reformed independent church, rather than affiliate with an existing denomination, and seek out associations and networks of like minded reformed congregations.” (3) “We recommend to the Presbytery of Grand Canyon that it call a congregational meeting [to] be held on October 31, 2010 in the afternoon for the purpose of voting on the above motions.”

The Presbytery has made three responses to date: (1) Presbytery leaders sent an email with letter attached informing Presbytery members and elder commissioners of this information, (2) Presbytery leaders observed a congregational conversation held at Desert Hills on April 21, 2010, (3) The Committee on Ministry and Presbytery Council have discussed and bring the following recommendations for your consideration.

GUIDING THE PRESBYTERY’S RESPONSE

We are a church with a Constitution. The Constitution makes the following statements:

G-11.0103i [The Presbytery has the responsibility] to divide, dismiss, or dissolve churches in consultation with their members.

G-11.0103g [The Presbytery has the responsibility] to provide pastoral care for the churches and members of presbytery,...

G-11.0502i [The Committee on Ministry] shall serve as an instrument of presbytery for promoting the peace and harmony of the churches...

G-8.0601 [Concerning property matters of a church in schism] the relationship to the Presbyterian Church (USA) of a particular church can be severed only by constitutional action on the part of the presbytery (G-11.0103i). If there is a schism within the membership of a particular church and the presbytery is unable to effect a reconciliation or a division into separate churches within the Presbyterian Church (USA), the presbytery shall determine if one of the factions is entitled to the property because it is identified by the presbytery as the true church within the Presbyterian Church (USA). This determination does not depend upon which faction received the majority vote within the particular church at the time of the schism.

Presbyterian Church Law of a constitutional nature is established or interpreted in the following ways:

1. through the Book of Order and its established process for amendment ,
2. through the written opinions and decisions of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission, and

- 3. through an interpretation of existing provisions in the Book of Order made by General Assembly, which is clearly identified as an authoritative interpretation.

Furthermore, the Annotated Book of Order notes actions of the Permanent Judicial Commission in relationship to G-11.0103i. Among the notations:

- No congregation may be dismissed to independent or non-denominational status.
- Administrative commissions may not be empowered to approve dismissal.
- When dismissing a church with its property, a presbytery is required to give proper consideration to G-8.0201: property is held in trust.
- Withdrawal from the Presbyterian Church (USA) is not a matter that can be considered at a congregational meeting.
- It is the presbytery ... that has the responsibility to consult with the members of a church about dismissal. The presbytery is required to afford all persons affected by a dismissal notice... an opportunity to be heard on the subject.
- These consultations (which may be in the form of listening sessions, hearings or other consultations) are for the benefit of informing the presbytery as it considers a request for dismissal but are not meetings at which any business of the congregation may be considered.
- Presbyteries and congregations have a reciprocal obligation...the presbytery’s power “to divide, dismiss, or dissolve churches”... is to be exercised in a pastoral manner, with litigation seen as a last resort.
- A presbytery may not abdicate its power to exercise independent judgment in dismissing churches and ministers.
- The Constitution forbids dismissing a church to independence. The presbytery should decline to entertain the request. Dissolution is the only course.
- If dissolution occurs, those members desiring to remain come under care of the presbytery for transfer of membership to another church.

In addition, Grand Canyon Presbytery has adopted a policy for congregations desiring to depart from the PC(USA). (See attached, p. 9.)

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

At the congregational conversation held at Desert Hills Presbyterian Church on April 21, the Session distributed a Question/Answer resource to the congregation. Among the statements noted:

Why did the session recommend that DHPC withdraw from the PCUSA?

The Session is in complete unity in the belief that our church can more clearly represent its unique mission in the world outside of this denomination and that our basic essentials of faith are no longer the same as those of the PCUSA. The direction the PCUSA believes God is calling it, no longer matches God’s calling for DHPC.

What are the points of disconnect between the PCUSA and DHPC?

The heart of the differences can be summarized as differing views on Scripture, differing views on Jesus and His Ministry, and differing views on the Church and it’s Mission.

In the early conversation with the Session representatives, reference has been made to a commissioner resolution to the 218th General Assembly on urging a gracious, pastoral response to churches requesting dismissal. The document states:

2. Believing that trying to exercise this responsibility and power through litigation is deadly to the cause of Christ, impacting the local church, other parts of the Body of Christ and ecumenical relationships, and our witness to Christ in the world around us, [the General Assembly] urges [congregations considering leaving the denomination,] presbyteries[,] and synods to implement a process using the following principles:

- **Consistency:** The local authority delegated to presbyteries is guided and shaped by our shared faith, service, and witness to Jesus Christ.
- **Pastoral Responsibility:** The requirement in G-11.0103i to consult with the members of a church seeking dismissal highlights the presbytery's pastoral responsibility, which must not be submerged beneath other responsibilities.
- **Accountability:** For a governing body, accountability rightly dictates fiduciary and connectional concerns, raising general issues of property (G-8.0000) and specific issues of schism within a congregation (G-8.0600). But, full accountability also requires preeminent concern with "caring for the flock."
- **Gracious Witness:** It is our belief that Scripture and the Holy Spirit require a gracious witness from us rather than a harsh legalism.
- **Openness and Transparency:** Early, open communication and transparency about principles and process of dismissal necessarily serve truth, order, and goodness, and work against seeking civil litigation as a solution.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on prayerful reflection of our Constitution and policies and the information available concerning the Desert Hills Presbyterian Church, the Committee on Ministry and the Council recommend:

1. COMMITMENTS:

- a. That the presbytery be committed to full disclosure of its actions during this time of its discernment;
- b. That the presbytery be committed to a season of prayer, repeatedly submitting itself to God's leading through prayer;
- c. That the presbytery be committed to discovering a way for Desert Hills to remain in the PC(USA) and if not possible part company as reconciled brothers and sisters in Christ;
- d. That the presbytery offer respect for all persons involved, demonstrating the love and justice of Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit;
- e. That the presbytery be committed to insure that all voices be heard and nurtured.

2. PROCESS:

- a. That the presbytery appoint a Pastoral Team to be present in worship and available to the members, leaders, and staff of Desert Hills Church throughout this time of discernment;
- b. That the presbytery initially appoint a Discernment Team of not less than nine persons to fulfill the responsibilities of inquiring of all members as to their knowledge of the reasons for this recommended departure, their understanding of the implications of departure from the PC(USA) and their individual desire to do so. The Discernment Team shall engage in dialogue with the Session concerning the substantive reasons for this departure and to interpret the PC(USA)'s life, ministry and beliefs to the congregation as needed. When all the members have been consulted, the Discernment Team will, in consultation with the Committee on Ministry, gather the congregational members to indicate their response to the first

recommendation of the Session only (*"The Session recommends that DHPC withdraw from the PC(USA) with the intent of keeping congregation, staff and property intact."*). The Discernment Team will then bring a report with recommendations to a meeting of the Presbytery for its action.

- c. That, following the report of the Discernment Team to the Presbytery and the Presbytery's actions, the Presbytery may appoint an Administrative Commission of no less than nine persons to act on behalf of the Presbytery to implement the decisions of the Presbytery, with specific responsibilities to be outlined at the time of the Commission's appointment.

3. RESPONSE TO DESERT HILLS' DECISIONS:

- a. That the Presbytery communicate to the Session that the Process outlined above is its response to the first action [to withdraw from the PC(USA)];
- b. That the Presbytery communicate to the Session that, as guided by the Constitution of our Church, the Presbytery will not consider a request to be dismissed to become "a reformed independent church", as its response to the second action;
- c. That the Presbytery empower the Discernment Team with the authority to call a gathering of congregational members whenever it is ready, as its response to the third action requesting the Presbytery to call a congregational meeting on October 31,2010 for the purpose of considering the first two motions.

4. NEXT STEPS:

- a. That the Presbytery instruct the Moderator, Moderator of Council, Stated Clerk and Interim Executive Presbyter to write a letter to the entire congregation of Desert Hills Presbyterian Church, informing them of these actions and expressing the Presbytery's continued concern and ongoing prayers for the congregation;
- b. That the Committee on Ministry be authorized to appoint the Pastoral Team as soon as possible, to begin its work of pastoral care;
- c. That the Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Moderator of Council, Stated Clerk and Interim Executive Presbyter be authorized to appoint the Discernment Team as soon as possible, to begin their work.

And May God Almighty have mercy on the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, and all its congregations, members and ministers.

Approved at the September 15-16, 2006 Presbytery Meeting (Renewed with Amendment):

Presbytery Policy for Congregations Desiring a Departure from The PC(USA)

It is the desire of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon to have all the congregations now a part of the Presbytery remain united within the PC(USA).

1. The Presbytery shall be guided by the provisions in the Book of Order dealing with presbytery responsibilities ("to provide pastoral care for the churches and members of presbytery, visiting sessions and ministers on a regular basis" [G-11.00103g]) and Committee on Ministry responsibilities ("it shall serve as an instrument of presbytery for promoting the peace and harmony of the churches" [G-11.0502 i.]). Consistent with these provisions and its desire to have all congregations remain within the PC(USA), the presbytery will move quickly to be in contact with the session upon hearing that a departure from the PCUSA is being contemplated.
2. In the event of a properly constituted congregational vote to leave the denomination, the Presbytery shall determine if there is a viable constituency among those voting in opposition capable of maintaining the church as a member of the Presbytery. If such a constituency is found, it shall be recognized as the particular church of the PC(USA) continuing in that place. Ordinarily, this will be accomplished through an Administrative Commission elected by the Presbytery for this purpose.
3. In the absence of a viable constituency capable of maintaining a continuing congregation in the PC(USA), the group choosing to leave the PC(USA) may be given the option to buy the church property, the proceeds from which shall be given to the Presbytery Endowment for support of racial ethnic ministry and new church development.
4. If the group choosing to leave the PC(USA) does not buy the church property, the Presbytery shall (1) use the property as a new church development or mission station, or (2) sell the property on the open market, the proceeds from which shall be given to the Presbytery Endowment for support of racial ethnic ministry and new church development.
5. The Presbytery shall be guided by the provisions in the Book of Order dealing with "Property of Church in Schism." (G-8.0601) and the responsibilities of the Presbytery to divide, dismiss or dissolve church (G-11.0103).

PP-43A-2006

Attachment 2 - Letter to Desert Hills

May 14, 2010

TO: Members, Officers, Staff, Friends of Desert Hills Presbyterian Church
FROM: Grand Canyon Presbytery

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! As we approach the celebration of the birth of the Church at Pentecost, we pray that God's Spirit will sustain your life and guide you through what has become a difficult season as a community of believers.

Yesterday, the Presbytery's Council received and endorsed a report from the Committee on Ministry as its response to the Session of your congregation regarding a recommendation to withdraw from the Presbyterian Church (USA). This report will not be acted upon by the Presbytery until Saturday, June 5. However, we want you to know what the recommendations are as a way of building a strong communication bridge during this time.

In writing to the Presbytery, the Session has announced that it has concluded a season of discernment concerning its affiliation with our denomination. And, as they have informed you, their request begins a season of discernment for your brothers and sisters in Grand Canyon Presbytery. It is now upon us to determine how best to respond to the Session's request. The report going to the Presbytery outlines the process the Presbytery will use to conduct its discernment. That process contains three basic parts.

First, we Presbyterians, by being connected to one another, have a concern that we live in the love and justice of our Lord Jesus Christ. That you wish to consider disconnecting from this part of the Reformed and Presbyterian family gives rise to a pastoral concern. You have been, are, and will continue to live in a trying time. We want you to know that you are not walking this journey alone. Therefore the first part of our recommendations addresses our pastoral concern for you. The Presbytery is being asked to **appoint a Pastoral Team** of elders and ministers who will offer, in ways yet to be determined, a pastoral presence to all of you. If approved, this team will be appointed by our Committee on Ministry, as soon after June 5 as possible. They will contact your Session and offer several ways that we might express our love and concern for all of you. And in addition, the entire Presbytery is being asked to remain in prayer for all of you. If you know members and ministers in our Presbytery, we encourage you to contact them and allow them to be prayer partners with you during these next months.

Second, our constitution outlines responsibilities to our Presbytery, responsibilities which are echoed in our own policies. As the Session has made its determination through its conversations with your members, the comments it has received from you, its conversations with representatives of the presbytery and other denominations, and its own conversation and prayer, so now the Presbytery begins its work. The second recommendation will be to **appoint a Discernment Team**, responsible to contact and consult with every member of Desert Hills to listen to your concerns, joys, fears, hopes – and anything that influences your personal feelings and thoughts about this recommendation to withdraw from the PC(USA). This team will develop its own way of engaging this work. It could hold small group meetings with you, it could send its own survey instrument to you. It will surely hold several conversations with your Session. And, it will want to understand exactly why you believe that our beliefs, practices, and experiences of a connectional community

are so different from the beliefs, practices and experiences of community at Desert Hills as to request to withdraw. Frankly, there are two extenuating circumstances we must recognize as the Discernment Team conducts its work. First, our General Assembly meets this summer and its actions could be a source of joy or concern for you and thus influence how the “team” works. Second, and more obviously, the need to contact all church members becomes difficult in a summer/early fall season when we understand many of your members are not in residence in the valley. We all need to acknowledge that the Session’s hoped-for congregational meeting is not likely to take place on October 31. We ask for your understanding because our desire is not to prolong but to do our work as thoroughly as your Session understands it has done.

There is one **point of constitutional information** we wish to clarify now. Our constitution does not permit the Presbytery to “release” any congregation to independent status. Therefore, if the Presbytery, at the conclusion of its discernment, including input from a congregational poll, determines to concur with the Session’s request, the only option will be other than dismissal. All this means is that the report going to the Presbytery on June 5 *recommends that the Presbytery not consider the request to be dismissed to become “*In the report going to the Presbytery on June 5, we will ask that the Presbytery approach this work with **five basic commitments**: a commitment to full disclosure of its actions, a commitment to a season of prayer, a commitment to discovering any way for Desert Hills to remain in the PCUSA and if not to part company as reconciled brothers and sisters in Christ, a commitment to offer respect for all persons involved, demonstrating the love and justice of Jesus Christ, and a commitment to insure that all voices be heard and nurtured.

By the time you receive this letter, we hope to have met with the Session of your church to review what will be presented to the Presbytery on June 5; to make sure that the Session is understanding the implications of its request; and to pray for one another. We will be praying that the grace and love of our God, the peace of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit attend to all of us in the months ahead. Until such time as the discernment team is in place, should you have questions, please contact the Presbytery office.

On behalf of the Presbytery Council,

Elder Dick Coffelt
Stated Clerk

Rev. Dr. Dave Wasserman
Interim Executive Presbyter

2. Committee on Ministry Report

Committee Action/Approval taken on behalf of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon in accordance with the responsibilities granted to the Committee by the Presbytery and to be reported for information to the Presbytery Council and the Presbytery at their next meetings:

Actions taken at the March 23, 2010, Meeting

1. Hodgson

Approved renewal of the Interim Pastor Agreement between the Rev. David Hodgson and the Session of Desert Palms Presbyterian Church for a period of one year effective January 1, 2010, subject to 30 days notice for termination, on the following terms:

Salary	\$57,000	Medical/Pension	Post Service Retirement Dues
Housing	40,000	Study Leave	Two weeks
Travel *	2,000	Vacation	One month per policy
* = vouchered		Study Allowance *	\$2,000

2. Selestewa

Approved renewal of the Stated Supply Agreement on a one-half time basis between the Rev. Sharon Selestewa and the Session of Vah-Ki Presbyterian Church for a period of one year effective January 1, 2010, subject to 30 days notice for termination, on the following terms:

Salary	\$14,200	Medical/Pension	As required by the BOP
Housing	6,800	Study Leave	Two weeks
Travel * Mileage Reimburse		Vacation	One month per policy
* = vouchered			

3. Gregory

Pending action of John Knox Presbytery as outlined below, approved the Validation of the Ministry of Candidate for Ministry Kelly Gregory, under care of John Knox Presbytery, as Chaplain at Banner Good Samaritan Health Care as a Ministry Beyond the Jurisdiction G-11.0411 effective upon her ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament. Requested that John Knox Presbytery conduct the examination for ordination and, if sustained, proceed to a Service of Ordination and advise Grand Canyon Presbytery of the effective date of her ordination.

4. Moderator Appointment

Approved the appointment of the Rev. Hipolito Melendez as Moderator of the Session of Gila Crossing Presbyterian Church.

5. Sadongei

Approved renewal of the Stated Supply Agreement between the Rev. Martha Sadongei and the Session of Central Presbyterian Church on a part-time 20 hour per week basis effective April 5, 2010, for a period of one year, subject to 30 day notice for termination, on the following annual terms:

Salary	\$14,000	Medical/Pension	As required by the BOP
Housing	8,000	Study Leave	Two weeks
Travel * Mileage Reimburse		Vacation	One month per policy
*= vouchered		Professional Sundays	2

6. Saylor

Approved the Pastoral Call of the Rev. George Saylor as Designated Pastor to Chandler Presbyterian Church effective April 8, 2010, for a minimum of two years and a maximum of 4 years, under the provisions of Form of Government G-14.0521, G-14.0522 and G-14.0523 – Designated Pastoral Relations, on the following terms:

Salary	\$40,000	Medical/Pension	As required by the BOP
Housing	15,000	Study Leave	Two weeks
Expense Allow *	3,400	Vacation	One month per policy

* = vouchered

All EEO Requirements met.

7. Geils-Nord

Approved the transfer of membership of Rev. Alice Geils-Nord from the Presbytery of Grand Canyon to National Capital Presbytery effective February 3, 2010, as she has accepted the position of Interim Co-Pastor to Trinity Presbyterian Church, Arlington, VA.

Actions taken at the April 22, 2010, Meeting

1. Hicks

Approved renewal of the Stated Supply Agreement between the Rev. David Hicks and the Session of Memorial Presbyterian Church for a period of one year effective January 1, 2010, subject to 30 days notice for termination, on the following terms:

Salary	\$30,000	Medical/Pension	As required by the BOP
Housing	19,000	Study Leave	Two weeks
Medical Reim *	2,000	SECA	\$2,295
Study Leave *	500	Vacation	One month per policy

* = vouchered

2. Saylor

Approved renewal of the Stated Supply Agreement between the Rev. Saylor and the Session of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church for a period of 7 ½ months effective May 15, 2010, subject to 30 days notice for termination, on the following “annualized” terms:

Salary	\$23,270	Medical/Pension	As required by the BOP
Housing	20,000	Study Leave	Two weeks
Medical Reim *	5,900	403b	\$1,200
Travel *	1,140	Vacation	One month per policy

* = vouchered

(Note: Purpose of the less than one year is to get the contract period on a January 1 to December 31 yearly basis.)

3. Ragland

Approved the Commissioned Lay Pastor Agreement between Reginald Ragland and the Session of Southminster Presbyterian Church for a period of up to 3 years effective July 1, 2009, on a one-half time basis, subject to 30 days notice for termination and on the following annual terms:

Salary	\$5,000	Vacation	Two (2) weeks – may be accrued for
Housing	22,500		no more than 2 years
403B Cont	2,197	Study Leave	1 Week

4. Nielsen

Concurred in the request of the Rev. Richard Nielsen that he be granted Honorably Retired status effective August 31, 2010.

5. Moderator Appointment

Approved the appointment of the Rev. Leslie Vogel as Moderator to the Session of Guadalupe Presbyterian Church effective September 1, 2010.

6. Permission to Labor within the Bounds

Approved the request of the Rev. Karen Hagen, member of Milwaukee Presbytery, to officiate at a wedding service within our bounds during the month of September 2010.

7. Permission to Labor outside the Bounds

Approved the request of the Rev. Debra Avery to labor outside our bounds to officiate at a wedding service within the bounds of Great Rivers Presbytery on May 23, 2010.

8. Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church

Granted permission to form a Pastor Nominating Committee.

3. Stated Clerk’s Report

A. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

The Administrative Commission to ordain Candidate for Minister of Word and Sacrament Linda Bailey as Minister of Word and Sacrament met at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 25, 2010 at Valley Presbyterian Church and did ordain Linda Bailey as Minister of Word and Sacrament. **MOTION:** The minutes of the Administrative Commission be included in the minutes of the June 5, 2010 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon.

B. SYNOD REVIEW OF PRESBYTERY RECORDS

At the February 19-20, 2010 Meeting of the Synod of the Southwest, the Minutes of Grand Canyon from January 17, 2009 through November 14 2009 were approved without exception.

**C. SUMMARY OF STATISTICS SENT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR 2009
PRESBYTERY OF GRAND CANYON**

<p>I. MINISTERIAL CHANGES</p> <p>January 1- December 31, 2009</p> <p>LOSSES</p> <p>Necrology 8</p> <p>Dismissed – Presbyterian 9</p> <p>Dismissed – Denomination 0</p> <p>Other Removals 0</p> <p>TOTAL LOSSES 17</p> <p>GAINS</p> <p>Received – Presbyteries 9</p> <p>Ordained 2</p> <p>Received – Denominations 0</p> <p>Restored 0</p> <p>TOTAL GAINS 11</p> <p>MINISTERS ON ROLL</p> <p>January 1, 2009 212</p> <p>December 31, 2009 206</p>	<p>III. CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS</p> <p>BAPTISMS</p> <p>Children 207</p> <p>Adult 47</p> <p>OFFICERS</p> <p>Male Elders 252</p> <p>Female Elders 271</p> <p>Male Deacons 144</p> <p>Female Deacons 448</p> <p>COMPOSITION</p> <p>Active Membership</p> <p>Asian 88</p> <p>Black 234</p> <p>Hispanic 287</p> <p>Native American 296</p> <p>White 12,127</p> <p>Other 9</p>
<p>II. INQUIRERS/CANDIDATES</p> <p>Inquirers on Roll 12/31/09 7</p> <p>Candidates on Roll 12/31/09 12</p>	<p>CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS</p> <p>Session Membership</p> <p>Asian 3</p> <p>Black 15</p> <p>Hispanic 9</p> <p>Native American 26</p> <p>White 430</p>
<p>III. CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Active Members 1/1/09 15,133</p> <p>Gains by Profession</p> <p>17 and under 117</p> <p>18 and over 468</p> <p>Certificate 223</p> <p>Other Gains 42</p>	<p>CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS</p> <p>Deacon Membership</p> <p>Asian 0</p> <p>Black 21</p> <p>Hispanic 15</p> <p>Native American 31</p> <p>White 492</p> <p>Other 0</p>

Losses		
Certificate	130	
Death	310	
Other	1,061	
Total Active 12/31/09	14,482	

IV. FINANCIAL STATISTICS

EXPENDITURES

RECEIPTS

Regular Contributions	16,703,227
Capital/Building	1,670,199
Investments	679,953
Bequests	834,788
Other Income	2,579,015
Subsidy	178,774

Local Programs	16,871,018
Local Mission	794,205
Capital Expenditures	1,417,341
Investments	367,526
Per Capita	417,244
Validated Mission	873,426
Theological Education	8,853
Other Mission	373,925

D. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REVIEW OF SESSION RECORDS

The Review of Records Committee of the Presbytery Council has scheduled several review opportunities for 2010. The following Session Records were reviewed on May 8, 2010 at University Presbyterian Church:

Celebration of Life Presbyterian Church

Records approved without exception.

Horizon Presbyterian Church

Records approved with the following exceptions:

- Action regarding previous review not taken
- Composition of Session not recorded
- Annual Statistical Report not included
- Mission Statement not included within a 3 year period

John Calvin Presbyterian Church

Records approved with the following exceptions:

- Action regarding previous review not taken
- Composition of Session not recorded
- Annual Statistical Report not included
- Mission Statement not included within a 3 year period
- No record of Ordination/Installation of officers

Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church

Records approved with the following exception:

- No record of Continuing Education for Session

Verde Valley Presbyterian Church

Records approved with the following exceptions:

- Action regarding previous review not taken
- No record of Examination of Elders-elect

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NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

GREETING

The Rev. Trina Zelle, Interim Head of Staff, welcomed Presbytery to University Presbyterian Church.

ROLL

Corresponding Members Enrolled

Garcia, Joaquin (Nuevo Leon, Mexico)
Keesecker, Joe (Santa Fe)
Letizia, Gordon (Long Island)
Meier, Cora Lee (Faith Lutheran Church, Phoenix)

Nelson, J. Herbert II (Mid-South)
Rodrique, Kim (Santa Fe)
Cochrell-Wood, Patricia (Savannah)

Ministers Present

Alvarez, Renato
Anderson, Mark
Arbesman, Janet
Avram, Wes
Baer, Doug
Bailey, Linda
Baker, Brant
Baxter, Pat
Berry, Tom
Byrd, Nathan
Campbell, Art
Citron, Suzanne
Clark, Bobbye
Clark, Robert
Claus, Bob
Courtney, Phil
Doh, Helen
Doh, Joseph
Evans, Bill
Evans, Lloyd
Fletcher, Tully
Fredrick, John
Fulton, Helmi
Garvin, Woody
Hartwell, Michael
Hicks, David
Hicks, Mae
Hillman, Lorelei
Hodgson, David
Hubbard, Deborah
Jarvis, Troy
Jennison, Cynthia
Johnson, Caleb
Johnson, Bruce
Kehle, Deborah
Kimberlin, Ken
Lineweaver, Tom
Manning, Marilyn

Moe, Shelly
Moranville, Tom
Moser, Paul
Murman, Kimberley
Noble, Jim
Olagues, José
Page, Ken
Palmer, Theron
Parker, Gayle
Parker, Tom
Phillips, Bev
Proudfoot, Chuck
Ramos, Gonzalo
Remer, Jim
Roberts, Margaret
Sadongei, Martha
Saylor, George
Saylor, Mary
Schenck, Jed
Schmitt, Gus
Selestewa, Sharon
Simmons, Bob
Soderquist, Paul
Spence, Ed
Tilly, Mark
Uhley, Jim
Van Arsdale, Dave
Vautier, Grif
Wasserman, Dave
White, Frank
Willett, Kristen
Wintz, Mike
Wintz, Susan
Worsnop, Linda
Young, Pat
Zelle, Trina

Churches/Elder Commissioners Present

Alpine Community Ken Thompson
Celebration of Life Beverly Schleigh
Central Jody Hodahkwen
Chandler Jim Miller
Church of the Master Bill Christie, Elva Davies
Crosswinds Teri Conrad
Desert Hills Mary Denaro, Barbara Conti
Desert Palms Jean Montgomery, Robin McFarland
Emmanuel Tom Jenney
Faith Linda Trovato, Gerri Kressel, Betty Forsberg
Flagstaff Federated Kent Christensen
Ganado Merlin Yazzie
Fountain Hills John Brockelman
Gila Crossing Gloria Suchta
Gilbert Mike Gallagher
Goodyear Village Lester Gage
Guadalupe Hector Zavaleta
Horizon Chuck Jarrell
John Calvin Jane Wahler
Kingman Joan Johns
Lehi Eugene Chiago

Leupp First Duane Hamp
Memorial Ellie Hetrick
Mesa First Nancy Tordai
Mingus View Ron Fox
Mission del Sol Kurt Boesen
Mohawk Valley John Klingenberg
Mountain View Shirley Randolph, Barbara Jones,
Gail Loeffel
Northminster Bob Brandt, Nick Albert
Orangewood Fred Norling, Bob Orf
Palo Cristi Paul West
Payson Community Val Sullivan
Peoria First Priscilla Cook
Pinnacle Doug Brown, Bill Noyes, Paul Rooker
Prescott Trinity Dede Tilly
Sacaton First Caroline Miles
Salt River Ray Salcido
Scottsdale Craig Reynolds
Sierra Vista Cindy Michels
Southminster Gloria Young
Sun City First Mary McMartin

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Sunnyslope Dave Peterson, Willy Zunker
University Lawn Griffiths
Valley Judy Lippmann
Verde Valley Karen Colby

Wellton Community Paul Ehler
Westminster Judy Guy, Melynda Foust
Yarnell Community Jack Rauh
Yuma First Suzanne Courtney

Commissioned Lay Pastors Present

Danforth, Mary Jones, Paul

Ragland, Reginald

Council Members Present

Branyan, Helen Mackey, Rocky
Harding, Paul Miller, Jeanette
Jacobob, Louis Morris, Glyndon

Swanson, Don
Walters, Mary Lynn
Wilmoth, Kate

Wilson, Leland

Staff Members Present

Kath, Beth McBurney, Carolyn

Visitors Present

There were 23 registered visitors present.

Ministers Excused

Anderson, Fred Fuehrer, Robert
Anderson, Richard Flahiff, John
Atchinson, Glenn Fooks, John
Avery, Debra Forsberg, David
Berg, George Fowler, H. Douglas
Bibiloni, Jose Fox, Charles
Bigler, Bob Gephart, Al
Borden, John Good, Bill
Borhauer, Harold Goodenberger, Al
Brahams, Hap Gray, Barrie
Bruening, Jim Hawkins, Ron
Burtless, Stan Hawley, Barnard
Byall, Lowell Hayes, William
Byers, Harold Hodgson, Deanne
Clark, Walter Hood, Brandon
Clarke, Dennis Illingworth, J. Davis
Confair, Jay Jacobs, Sr., John
Conroy, Floyd Jann, Donn
Cook, John Coy Jenkins, Charles
Corazin, Nan Lyn Joe, Victor
Corbett, Cecil Johnston, Rob
Corbett, Larry Jones, Stanley
Dulaney, Robert Jousan, C. Mike
Eckert, Peter Kilgore, Wilson
Eisenhower, Laura Kim, Kwang
Grace Kim, CHC, USN,
Engstrom, Bud Myung Bae
Ensley, Jr., Milton Kuhn, Laura Joost-
Exon, Ina Kush, Gary
Farwell, Barbara Latty, Allan

Lefebvre, Eugene
Lodge, David
Martz, Bob
Mayes, Bob
McCabe, Norma
McIntosh, Constance
Melendez, Hipolito
Meredith, Ralph
Miller, Craig
Miller, Jerry
Miller, Joan
Moe, Kenneth
Moxness, Mike
Muenich, Karen
Oppenhuizen, Kathleen
Park, Fran
Pfeffer, William
Phillips, Norm
Poling, John
Porter, Don
Pratt, Edward
Prichard, Jack
Pulido, Gloria
Pyke, Kathryn
Pyke, Dick
Rae, Robert
Ramsdell, Richard
Rhoades, Francis
Robertson, John
Roop, David

Rosson, Roland
Sabbagh, John
Schlotzhauer
Sheane, J. Kenneth
Siekmann, Eugene
Smith, Esther
Stevens, Charles
Straatmeyer, Al
Thom, Francis
Ulrickson, Paul
Valle, Paula
Van Dyke, P. James
Vautier, Holly
Voth, John
Walker, George
Wallace, David
Watkins, Gale
Wayne, Richard
Weir, Kyle
White, Frank
Williamson, Donald
Windsor, Charles
Witte, Catherine
Wright, Douglas
Wright, Eugene
Young, Al
Zabriskie, Richard

Churches/Elder Commissioners Excused

Bethany Lanny Trapnell
Chinle Trinity Rena C. Begay
Fort Defiance Florence Davis

Heritage Jerry Muenich
Pinetop Community Judi Morland
Wickenburg First Mike Horn

Council Members Excused

Dick Coffelt Roberta Fogel

Jack Gunter

Kathryn Owens

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Ministers Absent

Barklind, John	Hart, Floyd	Ramirez, Julio	Vogel, Leslie
Blincoe, Bob	Hawkins, Darrin	Reinhold, Ruth	
Bybee, David	Kerber, Keith	Schumacher, Bruce	
Eaken, Larry	Nielsen, Richard	Turner, David	

Commissioned Lay Pastors Absent

Blackwater, Richard	Halwood, Danny	Kelly, Calvin
Davis, Roger	Jefferson, Audrey	Lewis, Bevan

Churches Absent

Fountain Hills	Fort McDowell	Lake Havasu	Tuba City First
Arizona Korean	Historic First	Community	Vah-Ki
Betania	Indian Wells	Maricopa First	Winslow
Blackwater	Kayenta	Parker Valley	
Christ		Springerville	

REPORTS, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dave Wasserman, Interim Executive Presbyter, thanked Eric Hiser (Orangewood) for serving as Stated Clerk Pro Tem. Dave highlighted several important issues before Presbytery which will require an emotional investment, and perhaps some risk-taking, from each of us, including: the recommendations in response to Desert Hills' desire to leave the denomination; the Planning Committee's efforts in leading revitalization of Presbytery and how it relates to and serves Grand Canyon members; and the challenge of responding to immigration reform as Christians with differing opinions. Members were encouraged to visit one of our five Hispanic communities, all in serious membership decline and facing economic hardship, for a worship service in coming months.

Glyndon Morris, Council Chair, reported on the May meeting and some of the items under discussion. These included consideration of a vision paper, budget reorganization, and the Desert Hills recommendations. He noted that Council had added several meetings back to its regular schedule and that Council members were contacting and regularly praying for our congregations. The first quarterly report on the work of our two Native American consultants had been received, and there were plans to present a plan at General Assembly for churches to partner with our Native American congregations. On recommendation of Council, Presbytery APPROVED the following:

MOTION: To name the "Native American Ministry Consultants" as a significant funding need to present to potential donors as part of the General Assembly's World Mission Funds Development program.

The annual George Brooks Award for Social Justice and Human Rights was presented to Povl Boesen (Mission del Sol) by Leland Wilson, Chair of the Social Justice & Peacemaking Committee. Povl devoted his career to work within the Illinois criminal justice system, developing a heart for restorative justice. Starting out at a juvenile detention facility and eventually serving as president of the state's Probation and Parole Association, he became an advocate for the fair treatment and rehabilitation of prisoners and assistance to new parolees in making a successful transition after release. He was a professor at Illinois State University and helped develop their masters program in Corrections. His redemptive ministry has continued into retirement by actively advocating parole for a fellow church member in prison for 37 years. Povl thanked his wife Betty; their three sons; and his pastor Art Campbell. His \$500 award was to be donated to Mission del Sol's Legal Assistance Fund.

Renato Alvarez, Ministry to the Rural Poor Director, explained how needs at the Presbytery's Agua Fria Food and Clothing Bank increase over the summer while children are not receiving meals at school and air conditioning costs strain budgets. Food bank demand during the summer typically goes up by 20% while

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donations dip by 25%. Renato presented an idea called “Success Comes in Cans” designed to help congregations start food drives. If each of our 15,000 church members donated one can during each of the next four months, the food bank would receive 60,000 cans.

Mary Lynn Walters and Chuck Proudfoot of Stewardship, Mission and Communications announced a plan to propose a fall membership visitation campaign, with an anticipated increase in giving of at least 15% based on past results. Committee members planned to visit sessions to encourage participation and provide support. An update of Grand Canyon’s website had been started with funding assistance from the Synod of the Southwest, and input from Presbytery members was requested. Information was shared about an immigration conference called “Crossing Borders,” presented in conjunction with the PC(USA), Synod of the Southwest, Synod of the Sun, and the two Mexican Presbyterian Church synods immediately south of the Texas, New Mexico and Arizona borders. Additionally, pastors were invited to participate in a Synod program, Kaleidoscope, presented under the auspices of a grant from the General Assembly Mission Council for training pastors in biblical preaching.

Presbytery was addressed by the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, Director of the PC(USA) Public Witness, Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry based in Washington, D.C. He explained that the cornerstone emphasis of the capital office, opened in 1946, was not to be lobbyists but to work with our ecumenical partners to “connect the biblical word to the politics of our day.” Reflecting that in years past a U.S. president would consult with national ministry leaders, he said today the Reformed denominations are not being heard. Drawn to Arizona at this time to learn more about the immigration debate, J. Herbert acknowledged the need for reform nationwide and for us, despite differences in opinion, to continue to seek fair and just policies. Encouraging us to remember the Great Commission, he commented, “I don’t know what to do,” then added of our debate, “But I do know that when Presbyterians refuse to leave the table, something can change.”

WORSHIP

The Rev. Tully Fletcher (Orangewood) delivered the sermon, “But Why Can’t We Just Stay Here?” The message, based on Luke 10:1-12, explored the idea of risk-taking in our Christian walk. Communion was served. Special music was provided throughout the service by the UPC choir and musicians, led by Carol Rickel, Director of Music.

YOUTH TRIENNIUM DELEGATES

During the worship service, the following delegates and advisors to the Youth Triennium at Purdue University from July 21-24, 2010, were commissioned:

<u>Youth Delegates</u>		<u>Adult Advisors</u>	
Rebecca Lineweaver	Bethany	Marsha Wilson	Ganado
Morgan Ward	Bethany	Tom Berry	Pinetop
Kaylee Renata Begay	Chinle	Kristin Willett	Pinnacle
Cynthia Stewart	Ganado		
Kara Stewart	Ganado		
Elisha Wilson	Ganado		
Jaymie Lucas	Gilbert		
Katie Sullivan	Gilbert		
Colleen Sullivan	Gilbert		
Matthew Coyle	Mountain View		
Hannah Rasmussen	Mountain View		
Collin Van Orden	Mountain View		
Erick Berry	Pinetop		
Kate Fantetti	Pinnacle		
Cole Henry	Pinnacle		
Ally Mitchell	Pinnacle		
Natalie Denomme	University		
Clarissa Knorr	University		
Annsley Niemann	University		

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CONVERSATIONS ON THE MISSIONAL/EMERGING CHURCH

Participants were given a chance to attend a break out presentation/conversation based on the theme of “The Risky Business of Christ’s Call,” followed by lunch at noon. Discussion topics included:

General Assembly – Overview and Expectations	Bob Orf (Orangewood, GA Commissioner)
Immigration – Facts and Issues	Rev. Trina Zelle (University)
Peace and the Middle East	John Bivens (Fountain Hills)
The Risky Business of Christ’s Ministry	Rev. Lorelei Hillman (University)
Social Creed for the 21 st Century	Dick Humphries (Desert Palms)

RECONVENE

The meeting was reconvened at 1:00 p.m. by Moderator-Elect Gloria Young, who opened with prayer.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Presbytery APPROVED the following nominations as presented by the Nominations Committee:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Class</u>
Rev. Kathryn Pyke	Educational Ministries	2012
Rev. John Borden	Educational Ministries	2012
Rev. Jim Noble	Evangelism and Church Development	2010
Dick Humphries (Desert Palms)	Evangelism and Church Development	2011
Rev. Helen Doh	Evangelism and Church Development	2012
Rev. Joaquin Guzman	Hispanic Ministries	2012
Audrey Jefferson (CLP, Ganado)	Stewardship, Mission and Communication	2010
Rev. Kyle Weir	Stewardship, Mission and Communication	2011
Cayetano Santiago (Heritage)	Stewardship, Mission and Communication	2012

GHOST RANCH EDUCATION AND RETREAT CENTER

Kim Rodrigue, who handles Faith Community and Campus Relations for the Center, told about its wide variety of cross-cultural course offerings, many of which are designed for pastors and ministry leaders. Owned by the PC(USA) since 1955, the Center has locations in Abiquiu and Santa Fe, New Mexico. Programs are available for youth and families, and the natural landscape provides an “earth honoring faith” setting for personal retreat and sabbatical. For more information and course descriptions, visit their website at www.ghostranch.org.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

Mark Anderson, Staff Chaplain at Banner Desert Medical Center in Mesa, was introduced. Ordained in 1993, Mark pastored three PC(USA) congregations, including Grand Canyon’s Emmanuel in Phoenix, and several years ago was led to the one-on-one ministry of chaplaincy. After training and serving as interim chaplain at Banner Desert, he was offered the permanent position in December 2009. Mark was welcomed back to our Presbytery as a Member-at-Large.

DESERT HILLS RECOMMENDATIONS

Ken Page gave an introduction to the recommendations from the Committee on Ministry regarding the session of Desert Hills’ April letter announcing their desire to leave the PC(USA). Before discussion began, there was a time of prayer asking God’s guidance so that any decisions made would ultimately bear His fruit. The following motion was opened for questions and comments:

MOTION: To approve all four Recommendations concerning the Presbytery’s response to the Session of Desert Hills Presbyterian Church, regarding its stated desire to lead the congregation to withdraw from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

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RECOMMENDATIONS -----

Based on prayerful reflection of our Constitution and policies and the information available concerning the Desert Hills Presbyterian Church, the Committee on Ministry and the Council recommend:

1. COMMITMENTS:

- a. That the presbytery be committed to full disclosure of its actions during this time of its discernment;
- b. That the presbytery be committed to a season of prayer, repeatedly submitting itself to God's leading through prayer;
- c. That the presbytery be committed to discovering a way for Desert Hills to remain in the PC(USA) and if not possible part company as reconciled brothers and sisters in Christ;
- d. That the presbytery offer respect for all persons involved, demonstrating the love and justice of Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit;
- e. That the presbytery be committed to ensure that all voices be heard and nurtured.

2. PROCESS:

- a. That the presbytery appoint a Pastoral Team to be present in worship and available to the members, leaders, and staff of Desert Hills Church throughout this time of discernment;
- b. That the presbytery initially appoint a Discernment Team of not less than nine persons to fulfill the responsibilities of inquiring of all members as to their knowledge of the reasons for this recommended departure, their understanding of the implications of departure from the PC(USA) and their individual desire to do so. The Discernment Team shall engage in dialogue with the Session concerning the substantive reasons for this departure and to interpret the PC(USA)'s life, ministry and beliefs to the congregation as needed. When all the members have been consulted, the Discernment Team will, in consultation with the Committee on Ministry, gather the congregational members to indicate their response to the first recommendation of the Session only (*"The Session recommends that DHPC withdraw from the PC(USA) with the intent of keeping congregation, staff and property intact."*). The Discernment Team will then bring a report with recommendations to a meeting of the Presbytery for its action.
- c. That, following the report of the Discernment Team to the Presbytery and the Presbytery's actions, the Presbytery may appoint an Administrative Commission of no less than nine persons to act on behalf of the Presbytery to implement the decisions of the Presbytery, with specific responsibilities to be outlined at the time of the Commission's appointment.

3. RESPONSE TO DESERT HILLS' DECISIONS:

- a. That the Presbytery communicate to the Session that the Process outlined above is its response to the first action [to withdraw from the PC(USA)];
- b. That the Presbytery communicate to the Session that, as guided by the Constitution of our Church, the Presbytery will not consider a request to be dismissed to become "a reformed independent church", as its response to the second action;
- c. That the Presbytery empower the Discernment Team with the authority to call a gathering of congregational members whenever it is ready, as its response to the third action requesting the Presbytery to call a congregational meeting on October 31, 2010 for the purpose of considering the first two motions.

4. NEXT STEPS:

- a. That the Presbytery instruct the Moderator, Moderator of Council, Stated Clerk and Interim Executive Presbyter to write a letter to the entire congregation of Desert Hills Presbyterian Church, informing them of these actions and expressing the Presbytery's continued concern and ongoing prayers for the congregation;

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- b. That the Committee on Ministry be authorized to appoint the Pastoral Team as soon as possible, to begin its work of pastoral care;
- c. That the Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Moderator of Council, Stated Clerk and Interim Executive Presbyter be authorized to appoint the Discernment Team as soon as possible, to begin their work.

It was noted that PC(USA) members make certain promises when joining their church and that, despite the need for reform, our goal should be to restore unity. There was confirmation that it would not be in order to dismiss Desert Hills to independent status. While the Desert Hills Session voted unanimously on leaving the denomination, there was concern as to how the rest of the congregation viewed that decision. Regarding the percentage of the congregation to be considered a “viable constituency” to retain the church, the answer would entail more than numbers in a congregational vote called by Presbytery; other factors, such as sufficient financial backing, would also be considered.

A central concept within the Recommendations was the appointment of two teams, a Pastoral Team to attend Sunday worship at Desert Hills and serve as caregivers, and a second Discernment Team. It was confirmed that Pastoral Team members would be appointed by COM, and the Discernment Team would be selected by the Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Council Chair, Stated Clerk, and Interim Presbyter. Key qualifications for Discernment Team members would include knowledge of the PC(USA) and Reformed theological principles, as well as gifts in mediation and conflict resolution.

Presbytery VOTED that one central task of the Discernment Team would be to seek out details regarding how the Desert Hills session considers its beliefs to differ from those of the PC(USA). It was confirmed that Desert Hills had received the Recommendations and had voiced no objections.

After a break for prayer and confirmation by the Moderator-Elect that the motion was in order, the question was called and Presbytery unanimously APPROVED the motion as stated above on the four Recommendations regarding Desert Hills.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee presented ideas for new ways to imagine what we can be as a church. Resources and ministry opportunities were outlined for sessions, minister members, and churches. New ministry teams were envisioned to help Presbytery better serve congregational needs, and a website update had been initiated. Presbytery members were encouraged to apply for grants for use of Mission Initiative funds.

ADJOURNMENT

Presbytery APPROVED the following Resolution of Thanks from Stated Clerk Pro Tem Eric Hiser:

MOTION: That we, the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, wish to express our appreciation to the Session and Congregation of University Presbyterian Church for: their generosity in extending to us the use of their beautiful facilities; the care they have taken for our comfort and well-being; and their graciousness in giving time to answer our questions and help us on our way. We thank our brothers and sisters in Christ for their wonderful efforts!

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. as Gloria Young gave the benediction. The next Stated Meeting of Presbytery will be September 10-11, 2010, at Community Presbyterian Church in Payson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Presbytery Council, acting on its delegated authority, approved the Minutes of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon Stated Meeting of June 5, 2010, at the Council meeting on July 1, 2010.

S/ Eric Hiser
Eric Hiser, Stated Clerk Pro Tem

7/21/10
Date