



Grand Canyon Presbytery 2016 Annual Report

Highlights of 2016:

- Welcomed 12 new pastors
- Celebrated 5 Ordinations
- Installed 4 new pastors
- Enrolled 2 Inquirers
- 2 Inquirers moved to candidate
- Celebrated Honorable retirements of 2 Pastors
- Enrolled 1 CRE applicant
- Validated 4 ministries
- Celebrated the lives of :
Rev. Robert Rae
Rev. Jose Bibiloni
Rev. John Robertson
Rev. Laura Grace Eisenhower
Rev. Harold Byers
Rev. Richard Anderson
Rev. David Forsberg
Rev. William Pfeffer

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Presbytery Highlights

January (First, Casa Grande)

We welcomed PC(USA) Moderator, Heath Rada, to our combined annual meeting, where he explained how his staff was working to plan a 222nd General Assembly that would concentrate on who we as a denomination are going to be. Administrative Commissions were approved for 7 congregations seeking to leave the denomination. The ministries of immigrant pastors Daniel Albertson (Africa) and Estawri Khjeek (Iraq) were celebrated. Moderator Ken Page was installed and 222nd General Assembly delegates were commissioned.

April (Vah Ki)

Presbytery was welcomed to the Gila River Community by members of Vah Ki Presbyterian. Business included approval of funding for up to 9 new CRE applicants for Dubuque's online program, approval of a new Overture Concurrence Policy and an updated personnel policy. Nineteen triennium participants were commissioned and celebrated. Ordination anniversaries were recognized— including three pastors observing their 65th year of ministry.

August (Northminster, Tucson)

The August combined meeting is now held in conjunction with The Big Event— a day-long series of workshops for church leaders. Over 20 workshops were offered this year and nearly 300 people attended. This meeting also marked the first *Ignite the Spark* seminar funded by a PCUSA Transformational Grant. These seminars will be held in conjunction with Presbytery meetings over the next three years, addressing a variety of topics relevant for congregational renewal. Registration is ongoing (see the website) and free to participants from any Grand Canyon or deCristo church.

November (Faith, Sun City)

Congregations from across the Presbytery brought displays with information about mission being conducted at each church. Attendees were given time during the meeting to visit and exchange information about partnering with others in ministry. The annual George Brooks award was presented to Dr. Karen White-Hardin, a member of Southminster Presbyterian Church. Delegates to the 222nd General Assembly and 2016 Triennium gave reports on their experiences.

Message from the Moderator

2016 has been a difficult year for our presbytery. Much of our energy has been focused on churches leaving and wanting to leave our denomination. The person/hours, meetings, money, travel, legal fees, prayer, hand wringing and tears that this took were colossal. It's also very difficult to spend this much energy for something with so little payout. If we're successful, churches leave. We should, however, note that we've been successful in more than just churches leaving. We set ourselves a goal of gracious dismissal, and we formulated a policy toward that end. Almost all the churches that left expressed that the process, while hard, was indeed gracious. This isn't the kind of grace that manages not to trip during the grand entrance at the debutante ball! This is the grace of God! It's easy to show love to the people with whom we get along, but sometimes the real opportunities to show grace and love are when we have to do it in contentious situations. I believe God enabled us to do this. That is something to celebrate! We are now looking forward to relaxing into a time that is more comfortable. I believe that God is and isn't ok with that. God knows that we need some healing and unity that should be possible now. God also knows that too much homogeneity is not good for the church. We still have a great deal of diversity from skin color, to nationality, to language, to theological and political positions. We will need to continue to listen to God speaking from all our diversity and to let God give us the gifts of grace to be God's church in this time. It has been an honor to be your Moderator and I remain your grateful servant!



Ken Page, Moderator

In 2016,
11,632
Presbyterians
worked and
worshipped in
65 churches in
our Presbytery

Operations

Our committee continues to provide some of the basic services needed to keep the Presbytery healthy and to staff the various committees.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Nominations successfully recruited enough volunteers to staff the different committees as needed. Special thanks to this group for their hard work and dedication to keep these committees stocked with knowledgeable



and spiritual-minded individuals. Jeanette Miller, our liaison, kept us up to date on their progress.

Personnel continued their due diligence with Rocky Mackey and the other members doing the evaluations of staff. We are very pleased with the reports and have recommended a 3% increase to this hard-working, diligent staff.

Communications has received many compliments from those who read the Tidbits link of the weekly **EFOCUS** publication. The churches who forward their monthly newsletters have increased. We look forward to 100% participation from

all the churches within the Presbytery.

Overtures

We have established a system, awaiting full approval, to change the bylaws to include established dates of nomination and approval of General Assembly delegates.

This will fall in line with the Presbytery's approval of staffing this Overtures sub-committee.

As Presbytery volunteers, this work is not particularly glamorous. However, it is essential to the success of the Presbytery and if you feel God's call to be a part of this, contact the contact the Nominations volunteers through the Presbytery Office at pbyoffice@gmail.com

Bill Lents, Chair

Evangelical Arabic Church

In the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit, Heavenly Father bless us to start our service as a nucleus, and building block for the revival of the first Evangelical Arabic Presbyterian Church (EAC) in Phoenix, where Arabic, Assyrian and Armenian are spoken.

Our services are held in Bethany Presbyterian Church on Fridays at 5:30 p.m. Bible Study and Sunday Worship Services are at 10:00 a.m. During these two services my wife does children's ministry, Sunday school for the kids. Also I participate in the English service when Rev. Tom Lineweaver asks me or we have shared services between the English and Arabic services.

Our services are based on education and discipleship to the individuals and families who are new to the Word of God. We communicate with them, giving them encouragement, love and assistance.

The members of our congregation are immigrants or refugees. Most of them are missing their families, relatives and friends. With our care we try to become their friends, also trying to build bridges of friendship and love with lots of families from other denominations and religions, especially Muslims, to attract them to Christ and to the Gospel.

Despite the life of this ministry (only one year) and despite the simple needs that will help the growth of the church, we thank the Lord for the excellent growth, continuity and biblical truth is clear.

So, pray for us, that God may give us wisdom to reach out to people through evangelism and education also patience and anticipation, for the great harvest for building the Kingdom of God. Also pray for our financial needs. We ask that God give grace in your eyes, and that everything will be for His Glory.



Commission on Ministry

The Commission on Ministry undertook the breadth of its roles the past year, most importantly teaming with the presbytery's churches in working through pastoral changes, monitoring agreements and terms of call, guiding congregations through conflict, ensuring churches are equipped with skilled leadership and striving for the spirit of Christ to pervade all ministries across the presbytery. Through a network of teaching and ruling elders working together with "clusters" of churches, COM has strived to be in close touch with their leaders and respond as needed.

The 27-member commission assisted Administrative Commissions through the daunting process of reaching settlements with congregations choosing to depart the PCUSA, including Christ (Goodyear), First Presbyterian of Wickenburg, Community Presbyterian (Lake Havasu City), Horizon (Phoenix), Fountain Hills and Scottsdale. We saw two other churches with dwindling membership close their doors – Sunnyslope (Phoenix) and Verde Valley (Cottonwood). We welcomed these pastors to the presbytery in 2016: Kelly and Mike Nieto; Gary Gard; Judy Winkelpleck; Sherry Willerton; Scott Fischer; Ben Seller and Katrina Campbell. Returning was David Hicks. Robert Felix and Renee Coffman were ordained.

Pastors honorably retired this year were Shelly Moe and Pat Young. COM revised its Manual of Operations Handbook to bring it up to date with practices and policies. New pastoral models were explored in the face of ever new challenges, including financial viability. Our far-flung rural churches and ethnically diverse congregations continue to need greater support. COM's moderator and vice moderator were Lawn Griffiths and Karen Muenich, while José Olagues and Bob Aldag have been elected to those roles respectively for 2017.



Lawn Griffiths, Chair

Montlure



We are proud to report that 2016 marked the 85th year of Montlure's Ministry! As an extension and a supplement to the Christian Education programs in both Presbytery de Cristo and Grand Canyon Presbytery, we strive to bring the uniquely powerful faith experiences of Christian camping to the children and youth of our presbyteries and Arizona.

Montlure continues to provide high-quality Christian camping ministry, despite the challenges from the Wallow Fire. In 2016 we pushed forward with exciting changes and again provided a rich in-residence camping program. Andrea Cronin joined us this summer as camp director bringing a wealth of camping ministry experience through her work at the Heartland Presbyterian Center. Campers returned to Camp Colton near the foot of the San Francisco Peaks in Flagstaff to explore what it means to be Christian and Presbyterian away from the distractions of everyday life. Both Andrea and Camp Colton are on board for next summer and camp dates have been scheduled.

After four successful weeks in the pines, Andrea and her team hosted "Traveling Day Camp" at Mission Del Sol in Tempe. This program brings the camp experience to churches, and provides a week-long day camp program for children too young for the in-residence camps. It is a wonderful opportunity to share the ministry of Montlure more broadly, and we have received glowing evaluations from campers and parents.

In 2016 the Council also made significant strides towards finding a solution to return to Greer. While return is far from guaranteed, we continue to work closely with the Forest Service to plot a course. We expect to meet with them in early 2017 to present a restoration plan for ensuring a safe camp site.

Montlure ministry is blessed with talented staff and volunteers, amazing campers, and the prayers of all of you. However, it has been challenging.

The Council made significant operating changes in 2016 and was able to reduce the operating budget by nearly half over the past two summers. Even with these changes, we are still facing a significant budget deficit. The Council will continue to partner with the Presbyteries to discern the best path forward for the ministry. Children and youth have grown in their faith through the life-changing experiences of camping ministry. Our hope and prayer is this can continue long into the future.



Presbytery of Grand Canyon had 185 Teaching Elders in 2016



Peace and Justice

We were blessed to receive a visit from another International Peacemaker through the PC(USA) in 2016. Rev. Luis Fernando Sanmiguel from Colombia delivered very inspiring messages about the peacemaking efforts in his country, involving violent factions. He met with ASU youth and met with Sierra Vista Presbyterian in Yuma, where he visited with Rev. Cesar Vasquez Santizo from Sonora Mexico. He preached at Faith in Sun City, and met with groups at Betania, Memorial, Orangewood, First Presbyterian (Sun City) and the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon. Rev. Sanmiguel was accompanied by Daniel Pappas, who served as translator. Daniel had just returned from a YAV assignment in Peru. We were all challenged to visit Colombia and take part in the peacemaking process there! Hosts for our guests were Rev.



Ricardo and Betty Ramos of Mesa.

Members of the network presented the “Toward Right Relationships” workshop at Orangewood in late April, led by Joan Fenton. This workshop focused on the history of indigenous Americans and how we can work to repair our relationships with them. The network also supported the development of a series of classes on tolerance, entitled “No Offense, but...Dialog in a Polarized Culture.” The Network continued to give financial support to the Florence Project on behalf of the Presbytery and sponsored a workshop by them at the Big Event in August. The annual George Brooks Award was presented to Dr. Karen White-Hardin of South-

minster at the November Presbytery meeting.

Presbyterian Women of Grand Canyon

This year’s theme “Mission Matters Because God’s People Matter” was put into action with a Leadership Development Day in January.

The Spring Gathering was held at Faith Presbyterian, Sun City. There were guest speakers and workshops and a Birthday Party to support the PW yearly offering.

In October, the Grand Canyon CT supported the PWS Fall Gathering.

Our CT is ready to begin the new year with lots of plans, caring and love towards all our PW Sisters. There are also eight women who have been trained and certified to work with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



Carole Jean Soine, Moderator

Congregational Resourcing

As the newest committee of the presbytery, the CRT continued to take steps toward clarifying its purpose and ways it can support and resource congregations. The team hosted a



mission fair at presbytery in which congregations looking for mission partners could tell their stories and look for ways to connect with new projects. The team also took on the work of

soliciting grant applications from mission partners and distributing available mission funds. Beyond support of Native American congregations, the team received \$122,000 of grant requests and was able to fund \$45,000 from available dollars. As

additional gifts are given by *your congregation*, the team will review new grant requests and pass along the blessings provided by the presbytery’s churches.

The Presbyteries of de Cristo and Grand Canyon have received a grant to aid in helping congregations to begin and continue a transformational way of life with a three year cycle of workshops aimed at initiating congregational renewal called *Ignite the Spark*.

This leadership program is designed to assist with the transformational processes by helping congregations to better envision what God is calling them to be for their communities.

The PC(USA)’s New Worshipping

Communities creates a platform to encourage the innovations needed for the church to prosper into the 21st century. Not only does it provide pathways for new churches to be created but for established ones to be renewed. Judging by the quality and ingenuity of the proposals that have been seen so far, the process is working and 2017 looks to be a very good year for the church. It is hard to know what the church wants until you ask. The committee has conducted Congregational Surveys to get a better understanding of where our churches want to go. This year we got the surveys out. We are now compiling the data.

George Brooks, Jr., Chair

The Committee on Preparation had another busy year guiding the Inquirers, Candidates and CRE applicants under care of our Presbytery, conducting at least one personal consultation with each of them. The CPM meets monthly and, in addition, each CPM member serves as a personal liaison to one or more Inquirer, Candidate or CRE applicant, helping them in the process of discerning God's call to enter ministry.



Several of our members also volunteer as readers for the PCUSA ordination exams. We welcomed new Inquirers Ben Crelin (Desert Palms) and Chris Woodard (Valley). We were pleased to see several of our candidates move on to full time ministry. Robert Felix (Valley) was ordained 1/10/16, and Paul Elgin (Pinetop) was ordained by Presbytery de Cristo in January.

We were also pleased to present gifts from the scholarship fund; these were distributed to the persons under our care who are currently enrolled in seminaries across the country.

Rev. Cathy Northrup, Chair

From the Presbytery Pastor, Brad Munroe

2016 was a year of struggle: churches being dismissed and dissolved, conflict in local congregations and the wider culture, and the need to reset the budget to align with reality.

Good-bye and good riddance to 2016!

Yet in the midst of the shadow of 2016 I sense the dawning of hope within me, for even the most difficult days of this past year were accompanied by God's light, the encouragement of the community of faith, and whispers of Holy Spirit moving us forward toward faithfulness for today's challenges.

Dismissals: This past year saw the dismissal of churches using the new gracious dismissal policy approved in 2015. While imperfect, the application of our new gracious dismissal policy led to a substantially more harmonious process. Sure, the negotiations between the Administrative Commissions and churches got sticky at times, as negotiations do, but the end results kept the greater needs of both the congregations and presbytery- in mind, heart and spirit. I offer a big thank you both to the many folks who served on one of the ACs as well as to the Session members from the dismissed churches who also participated with faith, hope and love.



Conflict: As is common in congregations, some relationships in local settings became troubled, but the emergence of the Reconciliation Team is giving the presbytery new tools with which to promote healthy communication and healthier congregational life. As the Reconciliation Team continues its training and develops its skill set, their ability to nurture health will grow stronger and become a blessing for our congregations. I am finding this work of reconciliation takes longer to do than I expected, for there are no quick-fix solutions to relational difficulties, but am also discovering the deep healing that is possible for those who commit to the work.

Budget: The conversations on adaptive change sought to deal with the new realities of our more limited resources. Through conversations with committee and commission leadership, as well as at the March presbytery meeting, ideas emerged which allowed us to restructure the ways we budget that will stabilize our ability to resource congregations and mission partners for future years. We are not quite to a balanced budget for the coming year, but project that the deficit will decrease by approximately 2,000% (yes, the number is 2,000)!



In the coming year, I have **faith** that we will be able to focus our energies on building ministry rather than deconstructing ministry! I have **hope** that we will embrace one another within and between our congregations to discover the support and encouragement that comes from being in Christ together. I know that we are **loved** in him.

*Grace and peace,
Brad Munroe*

Clerk's Report

Grand Canyon Presbytery encompasses Apache, Coconino, Mohave, Navajo, Yavapai, Maricopa, Gila, Yuma and Pinal Counties



This past year has presented a great deal of opportunity to explore administrative areas not often a part of a typical year in the Presbytery Office.

- Implementing a new Gracious Dismissal Policy
Authorizing the dismissal of six churches from the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, including property transferral
Creation of an Administrative Commission to follow-up with multi-year dismissals (only 1 church)
Attended the Spring meeting of the Board of Pension to learn the basics of the changes to benefits with a focus on Health Care
Summarized the 86 Overtures to the General Assembly brought to that body for action
Attended the General Assembly meeting in Portland, Oregon
Served as Overture Advocate for 6 presentations to General Assembly committees on behalf of overtures submitted by the Presbytery of Grand Canyon and Presbytery de Cristo
Attended the Polity Conference in Louisville with a focus on post 222nd General Assembly meeting changes outlined for the future direction of the denomination
Continued on the Steering Committee for the Association of Mid Council Leaders
Served on the evaluation team of the Presbytery Leadership Formation (PLF) program for training of new executives of presbyteries in the PC(USA)
Dissolution of Verde Valley Presbyterian Church
Completed the sale of properties from dissolved churches; Sunnyslope, Winslow, and Verde Valley
Supervising sale of property in Surprise
Drafted changes for a new COM Handbook containing information, policies and guidelines for the operations of COM
Provided services to Presbytery de Cristo



Rev. Norma McCabe



Rev. Martha Sadongei



Rev. Sharon Selestewa



Rev. Judy Wellington

Our Native American Ministers serving churches

After a year such as 2016 I will emphasize again that the work of the Stated Clerk could not be accomplished without the often unrecognized efforts of the staff: Carolyn, Beth, and Paul. I am thankful for their professionalism in sorting through all of the demands placed upon us. I am also very appreciative of the leadership provided by Brad Munroe and the collaboration he provides working with your Stated Clerk.

I am also very appreciative of the assistance provided by Carol Gerlach in training of Clerks of Session for Presbytery of Grand Canyon and Presbytery de Cristo. This also includes the monumental job of coordinating Review of session minutes.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank all of those members serving on Administrative Commissions. They have been dedicated in their efforts to carry out the duties given to them and have given of their precious time to carry out commitments necessary to meet prescribed procedural schedules. Their faith has provided for the foundation of their deliberations and has guided them in being gracious in all they have been called to do. A special thank you to the moderators of those Commissions for the leadership they have given and the assistance they have provided me in the final dismissal actions required.



Bob Schulz
Associate/Stated Clerk

During 2016 many individuals in Grand Canyon Presbytery made a concerted effort to develop a new approach for the 2017 Presbytery budget. Major deficits in recent years threatened the viability of our Presbytery. Changes included the development of a four million dollar endowment; division of our overall budget into two linked parts, a mission budget and a connecting (operating) budget; significant changes in the process for awarding available mission dollars; inclusion of all grant funding in the annual budget; and large decreases in parts of the connecting budget. Our goal is a budget that will support a strong, viable Presbytery going forward.

David Boyne, Chair

PRESBYTERY OF GRAND CANYON
Summary Financial Report
 January through December 2016

	Actual 2016	2016 Budget	\$ Variance	% of Budget
Income				
PER CAPITA INCOME FROM CHURCHES	350,372	420,750	-70,378	83.3%
MISSION INCOME FROM CHURCHES	152,868	195,621	-42,753	78.1%
INVESTMENT INCOME	80,042	27,425	52,617	291.9%
GRANTS / MISC INCOME	35,725	61,196	-25,471	58.4%
2016 SHORTFALL - RESERVED FUNDS	60,418	62,647	-2,229	96.4%
GRANTS / MISC INCOME	96,142	123,843	-27,701	77.6%
Total Income	679,424	767,639	-88,215	88.5%
Expense				
SYNOD & GA PER CAPITA	116,800	137,610	-20,810	84.9%
PROGRAM / ADMINISTRATION				
GRANTS- CHURCH SUPPORT				
Native American	120,476	120,323	153	100.1%
Hispanic	32,582	33,568	-987	97.1%
Redevelopment / NCD	19,819	35,000	-15,181	56.6%
Total GRANTS- CHURCH SUPPORT	172,876	188,891	-16,015	91.5%
GRANTS- OTHER	16,055	16,895	-840	95.0%
PRESBYTERY MEETING EXPENSE	3,725	5,700	-1,975	65.4%
LEADERSHIP TEAM EXPENSE	680	2,000	-1,320	34.0%
COMMITTEE EXPENSES	17,423	28,500	-11,077	61.1%
PROPERTY COMMITMENTS	12,663	18,786	-6,123	67.4%
COMMUNICATIONS	14,856	19,855	-4,999	74.8%
LEGAL	0	3,000	-3,000	0.0%
CONTINGENCIES	1,536	2,000	-464	76.8%
Total PROGRAM / ADMINISTRATION	239,814	285,627	-45,813	84.0%
PERSONNEL	316,143	333,402	-17,259	94.8%
OTHER PERSONNEL	6,667	11,000	-4,333	60.6%
Total Expense	679,424	767,639	-88,215	88.5%
Net Income	0	0	0	0.0%

Leadership Team

The Leadership Team has the privilege and challenge of working across the breadth of our life in The Presbytery of Grand Canyon. We sometimes initiate new activities, but most often respond to tasks already begun by others. We collaborate in helping various teams, networks, committees and commissions bring their ideas and resources together. Naturally, much of this is possible because of excellent staff members to whom we owe a huge Thank You!

This year has been one of continued major changes in our shared life. Gracious Dismissal of six congregations from our denomination involved numerous meetings by four new Administrative Commissions and the members and leaders of the congregations. Training and guidelines for the process were carried through by Bob Schulz, including clarifications and rulings along the way to keep us on course. Additional ACs continued work with other congregations, some of which were dissolved (three congregations in the past 14 months) and one of which continues to be in the process of Gracious Dismissal. The sorrow and grief of this work have been considerable.

The personal impact of the loss of congregations is difficult for more than staff and the Leadership Team. This is true for you and others across our presbytery. Let us keep praying for all involved! In addition, we are in



times of financial adjustments of great import. We thank our Treasurer, Barbara Zubler, for her careful work with the Budget Task Force to establish clearer ways to



approach budgeting into the future. She also contributed to the work of our Resources Committee as it clarified the financial crisis of the Urban Connect congregation. We thank you, participants in our April Presbytery meeting, for considering options and making suggestions for our future. Our staff-- with Paul Frieling's steady guidance as Financial Manager--has been taking initiatives to plan for financial stability, even making suggestions that might threaten their own positions.

Maintaining reliable function in what we are already doing takes place in the midst of developing options beyond our present practice. New initiatives are already unfolding and will be most helpful to congregations and to our presbytery. Many of them have resulted from Brad Munroe's application for grants and securing other funding to bring expert help for us in working through crises, building new realities and strengthening leadership at all levels. You will find them highlighted already in plans outlined on our PGC website. Thank you for your work as a member in the Presbytery of Grand Canyon and for your prayers along the way. We thank God for leading us all in our next steps together!

*Your brother in Christ,
John Clark Poling
Moderator*



Rev. Brad Munroe
Presbytery Pastor



Elder Bob Schulz
Stated Clerk/



Paul Frieling
Finance Manager

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Elder Cindy Michels
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