

Reports of the Presbytery Commissioners

February, May, and June 2020 meetings of Indian Nations Presbytery

I. Stated, February 28pm/29am, 2020, First Presbyterian Church of Pauls Valley

The meeting was called to order Friday the 28th with prayer at 1pm. Host (interim) Pastor Rick Baggett welcomed the presbytery. Customary actions to begin a meeting were done and officers gave their reports.

The featured theme for this stated meeting was “Church Health,” meaning both at the congregational and presbytery levels. INP consultant the Rev. Dr. David Sawyer led the presbytery in small group work (“How Are We Healthy and How Are We Stuck?”) Friday afternoon, and gave a plenary address “How INP Got Unstuck and How It Can Stay Healthy”).

Besides summarizing the recent history of INP as a “stuck” presbytery (i.e. mix of healthy and unhealthy qualities) in his teaching piece Dr. Sawyer spoke in detail about the following disciplines:

- Keep the community immune system healthy
- Watch for symptoms of stuckness—“what else is going on?”
- Continue to agree on civility

The new networks (Standing Rules revision of October 2019) gave their first presentations and reports to presbytery.

Worship featuring word and holy communion was led by the Rev. Dr. William Galbraith, HR, liturgist Charlotte Lovett RE, Commissioned Ruling Elder Delores Strider, and the fine musicians at FPC/Pauls Valley.

Offerings of food goods and dollars went to Samaritans of Pauls Valley, a food pantry ministry organized decades prior by FPC/Pauls Valley and ecumenical partners; it continues very strongly to this day.

The meeting went into recess at 6pm and a beautiful dinner was served.

Saturday the presbytery resumed with scripture, devotional, and return to regular session at 9am. Officer, Coordinating Council, and Committee reports were made.

The Committee on Administration moved a \$249K (income) / \$366K (expenses) 2020 budget, which was approved. Presbytery assets entering 2020 are \$3,151,659. The presbytery’s audit (Bell & Rhodes, P.C.) was received. The INP Foundation communicated its current-year church grant opportunity (typically \$3K, sometimes higher). INP Foundation assets: \$330K.

The retirement of the Rev. Mark Henslee (finishing his tenure at Westminster PC/Lawton) was recognized and celebrated.

Steven P. O'Day, President of Austin College in Sherman, Texas, a PC(USA)-affiliated college, gave an update.

INP shifts its summer camp and conference center focus to Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center (near Little Rock, AK) while Dwight Mission leadership and OK presbyteries attempt to recover its viability. Emily Wernsdorfer, Ferncliff Associate Director presented the character of the camp and its current programming.

The Board of Trustees moved approval of a real estate contract to sell FPC/Clifton building and land for a sum of \$55K; approved.

Dean Sergent, a Dwight Mission board member, gave a Dwight Mission update. Dwight is soliciting funds to run the camp in 2021. It seeks \$500K between February 15 and May 15, 2020. The Board is working with OKC Boys and Girls Club to get metro kids to camp.

The Interim Presbytery Pastor search committee provided an update on its ministry; they feel they are getting close in their work with a short list of candidates.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 12noon.

Respectfully submitted,

David Butler, commissioner

II. Called/Special, May 15, 10:00am, Zoom

This meeting was called by the Coordinating Council on April 23rd after being notified by the Interim Presbytery Pastor Search Committee that they have a candidate to nominate to the presbytery.

Meeting materials included proposed terms, and a start date of August 1st, 2020. The candidate is the Rev. Charles Carroll Smith, III, currently a minister member of a Kansas presbytery and serving a congregation within those bounds.

Meeting materials also included the IPP search committee report, TE Smith's Journey of Faith, Statement of Faith, the IPP job description, and the IPP search committee charge.

The IPP search committee reported; TE Smith was introduced; the presbytery asked him various questions, and then he was transferred to the "waiting room". The presbytery voted unanimously to contract with TE Smith for this position for a period of 3 years, with option to renew.

The meeting moved to adjournment and closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Yasminda Choate, commissioner

III. Stated, June 6am, 2020, First Presbyterian Church of Altus

Cancelled

IV. Called/Special, June 22, 1:00pm, Zoom

This meeting was called by officers of the presbytery on June 11th, and the call was affirmed by the Coordinating Council on June 17th. The one item of business for this meeting was for the presbytery to consider approval of a lease agreement between FPC/Norman and 2nd Act LLC for the parking needs of a new hotel adjacent. (The *Book of Order* permits congregations to enter into lease agreements of up to 5 years on their own, but for longer agreements presbytery approval is required.) This is a 20-year lease at \$65K per year.

Meeting materials included appropriate minutes of the FPC/Norman Session, of the INP Board of Trustees, and the lease agreement itself.

Presbytery approval of the lease agreement was moved by the Board of Trustees. After a few questions and some discussion the presbytery voted 23 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstain; the motion succeeded.

The meeting moved to adjournment and closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Yasminda Choate, commissioner; Scott White, moderator