

149th Stated Meeting of Palo Duro Presbytery

April 30, 2021

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

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“CHURCH HOPE POST COVID”

Presbytery Meeting Code System

Docket

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WELCOME

149th Stated Meeting of Palo Duro Presbytery
April 30, 2021
Via Zoom

PRESBYTERY MEETING CODE SYSTEM

Stated Clerks Report	A
Preparation Ministry	B
Nominations Ministry	C
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Committee on Ministry	E
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Committee/Document – Year/Meeting i.e. A.1 2021/1
Presbytery's Common Life Ministry 1st Report – 2021
First Meeting

149th Stated Meeting of Palo Duro Presbyter Via Zoom

REVISED DOCKET		
Highlighted Reports below are the items added to this docket		
Friday, April 30, 2021		
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Registration	
5:00 PM	Opening Prayer via audio	HR Rev. Henry Chisholm, Brownfield
5:05 PM	Zoom Rules & Etiquette	RE Bryan Camp, Covenant, Lubbock
5:10 PM	Call to Order	Moderator Dee Rice
	Declaration of Quorum	Moderator Dee Rice
	Welcome	Moderator Dee Rice
	Announcements	Moderator Dee Rice
	Approval of Docket	Moderator Dee Rice
	Appointment of Committees	Moderator Dee Rice
	Minutes Review	Moderator Dee Rice
	Leave of Absence	Moderator Dee Rice
	Introduction of New commissioners/Ministers	Moderator Dee Rice
	Seating of Corresponding Members Rev. Lemuel Garcia-Arroyo – Presbyterian Mission	Moderator Dee Rice
	Stated Clerk's Report: A.1 – A.3 2021-2 148 th Stated Meeting Minutes A.4 2021/2 Called Meeting Minutes A.6 2021/2 Rev. Robin Gantz Statement of Faith G.1 2021/2	Elder & Stated Clerk David Kemp, St. Luke, Amarillo
5:20 PM	Worship H.1 2021/2 <i>(Have your elements for communion close by)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Offering will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Donations can be made using the link on the Palo Duro Presbytery Website. www.paloduropresbytery.org 	Rev. Andy Blair, First, Canyon; Rev. Dr. John Williams, Austin College, Sherman, TX; Rev. Scott Campbell, EP; Joshua & Andrea Wright, Cello Solo
5:40 PM	Preparation Ministry Report B.1 – B.3 2021/2	Rev. Janice Six, FCPC Abilene
5:50 PM	Nominations Ministry Report C.1 2021/2	Pastor Kathy Monroe, First, Sweetwater
6:00 PM	Common Life Ministry Report D.1 2021/2	RE Phyllis Baum, FCPC, Abilene, Kristen Bridwell, FCPC Abilene
6:10 PM	Committee on Ministry Report E.1 2021/2	Pastor Joe Gambill, Rev. Don Stribling, New Hope, Wichita Falls
6:20 PM	Celebration Scholarship Report F.1 2021/2 2021 Recipients: Andrew Brockovich; Evelyn Ludington; Camden Williamson; Preston Williamson	RE David Baum, FCPC, Abilene
6:25 PM	Resource Ministry Report H.1 2021/2	Rev. Doug House, Union, Brownwood, TX
6:30 PM	Closing Comments & Leave of Absence Report	Moderator Dee Rice
6:35-6:45 PM	Adjourn Palo Duro Presbytery Meeting and Open Amarillo Children's Home Board Meeting	Elder Dave Kemp, Stated Clerk, St. Luke, Amarillo;

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Via Zoom

	A.5 2021/2 <i>(Covenant Agreement included in 148th Meeting Minutes)</i>	Elder Ross Clopton, Liaison Amarillo Children's Home, St. Luke, Amarillo
6:50 PM	Reconvene Palo Duro Presbytery Meeting;	Moderator Dee Rice
7:00 PM	Adjournment and Closing Prayer	RE Mitchell Davenport, First, Jacksboro

Future Stated Meetings of Palo Duro Presbytery

150th Stated Meeting	September 24-25, 2021	Area IV	Grace Presbyterian Church, Lubbock, TX In Person
151st Stated Meeting	January 28-29, 2022	Area I	Invitation Needed
152nd Stated Meeting	April 29-30, 2022	Area II	Invitation Needed
153rd Stated Meeting	September 30-Oct. 1, 2022	Area III	Invitation Needed

Palo Duro Presbytery

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STATED CLERK'S REPORT To The 148th Palo Duro Presbytery April 30, 2021

- 1) Approval of Minutes. I request approval of the following minutes:
 - a) 148th Stated Presbytery Meeting, January 29, 2021, as recommended by the review committee of Rev. Chris Turner and RE Ross Clopton.
 - b) Special Meeting of March 26, 2021.
- 2) Ministerial Changes:
 - a) Rev. Matthew Thompson submitted a request to be released from ministry.
 - b) Rev. Robin Gantz was received from Cherokee Presbytery.
- 3) Information Items:
 - a) Election of Moderator. Our Standing Rules provide that we elect our moderator for a one-year term at the last stated meeting of the year, scheduled for September. Dee Rice our current moderator, is not eligible to be re-elected for another year. Our rules also state that “[a]ny session or any area of the presbytery may submit the name of a nominee [for moderator] to the stated clerk” by July 31. Nominations may still be made from the floor at the stated meeting.
 - b) Review of Minutes. I am planning an opportunity to have session minutes reviewed immediately prior to the next in person meeting of presbytery. More information will be available as the date approaches. As we can travel again, I will be open to travelling to churches in some organized manner for review – perhaps by areas? Finally, if your minutes are in electronic format, or can be easily scanned, I am happy to have you email those to me for review. You will receive an attractive electronic notice of review for your files.
 - c) Minutes and Records Continued. While we are on the subject, I encourage you to consider storing historical records with the Presbyterian Historical Society. That option keeps records safe, easily accessible, and out of your space. Please contact me if you are interested.

4) Statistical Reports “Report Card.” Our life as a connectional church includes giving a full picture of each of our churches with our statistical reporting to PCUSA. With that in mind, please note the following:

- a) All year-end reports due from the presbytery to PCUSA were filed. Attached is a snapshot of Palo Duro Presbytery drawn from some of this data.
- b) Also attached is the PCUSA-generated report showing how each church in our presbytery did in submitting their year-end reports in a timely manner. A “Y” in the appropriate column indicates compliance. Thank you to all those who were on time.

If there is no “Y”, the report was not received by PCUSA by the deadline. If a church can improve in this area, we are always available at the PDP office to help.

Respectfully submitted.



David Kemp

Stated Clerk, Palo Duro Presbytery

<u>Location</u>	<u>Organization Name</u>	<u>Stats</u>	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Racial Ethnic</u>	<u>Finance Accepted</u>
Abilene	Westminster	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	First Central	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Albany	Matthews					
Amarillo	St Luke	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Baird	First		Y	Y	Y	Y
Borger	First	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bowie	United PC of Montague County	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Breckenridge	First		Y	Y	Y	Y
Brownwood	Union	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Canadian	First		Y	Y	Y	
Canyon	First					
Childress	First					
Cisco	First					
Clarendon	First	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Coleman	First					
Colorado Cty	First	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cross Plains	First					
Dumas	First	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Eastland	First					
Graham	First					
Haskell	First					
Hereford	First	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jacksboro	First					
Lamesa	First	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Littlefield	First					
Lubbock	First	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Grace					
	Covenant					
Pampa	First	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Perryton	Trinity					
Plainview	First	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Post	First	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Quanah	First					
Santa Anna	First	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Seymour	First					
Snyder	First	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stamford	Central	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

<u>Location</u>	<u>Organization Name</u>	<u>Stats</u>	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Racial Ethnic</u>	<u>Finance Accepted</u>
Sweetwater	First	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tulia	First	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Vernon	First	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wichita Falls	New Hope	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Christ United	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Trinity					
Total		23	26	26	26	25

2020 Presbytery Statistical Report

A.3 2021/2

Presbytery Palo Duro
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Phone 806-797-2417 **Fax** 806-797-2419
Email pdpcyndl@gmail.com
Web Site www.paloduropresbytery.org



Membership			
Prior Active Members	4015	Adjusted membership	4141
Gains		Losses	
Certificate	17	Certificate	164
Youth Professions	4	Deaths	70
Professions & Reaffirmations	12	Deleted for any Other Reason	89
Total Gains	33	Total Losses	323
Total Ending Active Members	3851		
Baptisms		Average Weekly Worship Attendance	724
Presented by Others	5	Female Members	2380
At Confirmation	1	Friends of the Congregation	112
All Other	1	Ruling Elders on Session	203
		Do you have Deacons? Yes / No	5 / 22
Age Distribution of Active Members		People with Disabilities	
25 & Under	409	Hearing impairment	229
26 - 40	520	Sight impairment	142
41 - 55	528	Mobility impairment	104
56 - 70	822	Other impairment	105
Over 70	846		
Total Age Distribution	3125		
Christian Education			
Birth - 3	39	Grade 7	26
Age 4	21	Grade 8	30
Kindergarten	24	Grade 9	15
Grade 1	21	Grade 10	24
Grade 2	15	Grade 11	25
Grade 3	23	Grade 12	24
Grade 4	24	Young Adults	76
Grade 5	24	Over 25	378
Grade 6	20	Teachers/Officers	116
		Total Christian Education	925
Racial Ethnic			
Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	23	Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	6
Black/African American/African	48	White	3022
Middle Eastern/North African	3	Multiracial	4
Hispanic/Latino-a	51		
		Total Racial Ethnic	3157
Financial Data			
Annual Income	4,675,673	Mission Expenses	670,658
Annual Expenses	4,696,156	Personnel Expenses	2,019,105
		Facilities Expenses	971,001

Minutes
148h Stated Meeting of Palo Duro Presbytery
January 29, 2021
Electronic Meeting Using Zoom Platform
5:00 PM – 7:30 PM

A.4 2021/2

Prelude; Opening Prayer	After a prelude by Phyllis Baum, David Baum, Kristen Bridwell and Gene Six, Rev. Doug House offered an opening prayer.
Zoom Meeting and Etiquette Tutorial	Rev. Kristen Bridwell explained the voting procedure and rules for the meeting.
Call to Order	Moderator Dee Rice called the meeting to order at 5:16 PM.
Quorum	Stated Clerk David Kemp declared that a quorum was present.
Welcome and Announcements	Executive Presbyter Scott Campbell welcomed the commissioners and made opening announcements. He reminded the churches that Statistical Reports are due February 18, 2021.
Approval of Docket, Appointment of Committees	The docket for the meeting was adopted as presented. The Moderator named the Rev. Chris Turner and RE Ross Clopton as the Minutes Review Committee and the Rev. Janell Blair and CRE Kathy Munro as the Leave of Absence committee.
Introductions of Visitor, New Pastors, and First-Time Commissioners	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Valerie Young, Synod of the Sun Leader and Stated Clerk, was welcomed as a corresponding member. 2. Stated Clerk David Kemp welcomed new pastors Rev. Kyle Segars, Rev. Scott Hill and Rev. Lindsey Reed to the presbytery. 3. RE Joan Pruitt was welcomed as a first-time commissioner by Rev. Don Stribling.
Report of the Stated Clerk;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Approval of Minutes.</u> Stated Clerk David Kemp moved that the minutes of the 147th Stated Meeting, September 25, 2020, be approved as recommended by the review committee of Rev. Bob Field and RE David Baum. The motion was unanimously approved. 2. <u>Permanent Judicial Commission Report.</u> The Palo Duro Permanent Judicial Commission prosecuted a complaint alleging misconduct against Rev. F. James Friedewald. After a pretrial hearing on procedural issues, Rev. Friedewald chose to renounce jurisdiction pursuant to G-2.0509 of the Book of Order, effective October That action concludes the disciplinary process. 3. <u>Insurance coverage.</u> As required by BOO G-3.0112, Palo Duro Presbytery has insurance coverage for Property, Automobile, Workers Compensation, and other claims for 2021. A summary of the policies is attached. c. <u>PDP Financial Audit.</u> The audits for 2018 and 2019 are complete and will be filed with the minutes as required by BOO G-3.0113. A summary of the 2019 audit is attached. d. <u>Revisions to Manual of Operations:</u> The recommended revisions to the Presbytery's Manual of Operations, approved by the Council of Ministries, were reviewed for the commissioners by the Stated Clerk. The recommended changes were approved unanimously.

Worship	Worship was led by Rev. Doug House (Opening Prayer), soloist Lisette Ramirez, Rev. Scott Campbell (Sermon and Pastoral Prayer) and RE David Kemp (Closing Prayer). CRE Sara Core and RE Bill Core offered communion.
Committee on Preparation for the Ministry	<p>1. Rev. Janice Six, moderator of the committee, introduced Sara Mackey, for examination by the presbytery on her suitability for a commission. After a period of question and response, Rev. Six recommended on behalf of the committee that Sara Mackey be declared eligible to receive a commission. The recommendation was approved unanimously.</p> <p>Rev. Six then stated that Sara Mackey was released from the care of the Committee for Preparation for the Ministry to receive a call.</p> <p>2. Rev. Six introduced Symphoien Jean Abakiriho and recommended on behalf of the committee that he be moved from an Inquirer to a Candidate as he completes his education and PC(USA) call process. After a period of question and response, the recommendation was approved unanimously.</p>
Nominations and Representation Ministry	Moderator De Rice reported on behalf of the ministry, moving that it be authorized to fill any leadership vacancies between Stated Meetings of Palo Duro Presbytery. The recommendation was approved unanimously .
Committee on Ministry	<p>RE Joe Gambill gave the report of the committee.</p> <p>1. The COM approved the terms of call for Rev. Kyle Segar, First Presbyterian Church, Canadian. Compensation base of \$45,000 plus manse value of \$18,000, a total of \$63,000, plus five weeks of vacation, two weeks for continuing education, one week of emergency leave, and \$10,000 moving expense.</p> <p>2. The COM approved the renewal of the relationship between Rev. Don McDonald and First Presbyterian, Planview with changes in date to show 12 months starting March 1, 2021 plus auto expenses reimbursement rate of .56 cents per mile and adding "as needed" after pastoral care. Compensation is \$2,250 per month, three Sundays, three days in the office and allowing for three days preparations time from home, and \$500 available for continuing education.</p> <p>3. Rev. Don Stribling gave an expression of appreciation to Rev. Robert Brown, Jr. retiring as pastor of Christ United Presbyterian Church, Wichita Falls.</p> <p>4. RE Ben Maples on behalf of First Presbyterian Church, Dumas, offered appreciation and thank you to Rev. Janell Blair for her service to their church.</p> <p>5. Appreciation and thanks was offered to Dr. Julie Johnson for facilitating the Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training through "Safe Gathering." The committee reported that most ministers attended and were recognized. 2020. A reminder will be issued to the few who are not yet in compliance.</p> <p>6. Rev. Gambill reported on actions taken on behalf of the presbytery since the last stated meeting. Those actions are recorded in the committee report which is attached to these minutes.</p>

Leave of Absence Report	RE Kathy Munro reported that Rev. D.C.Adams and Rev. Tim Tam had been excused.
Closing Prayer	Rev. Scott Campbell offered a closing prayer for this portion of the meeting.
Presbyterian Children's Home	Stated Clerk David Kemp introduced RE Ross Clopton as the presbytery's liaison with the Amarillo Children's Home (aka Presbyterian Children's Home) and reviewed proposed amendments to the Covenant Agreement between the ACH and the presbytery. Motion, Rev. Davis Price, 2 nd by Rev. Rich Schempp, that consideration be tabled until next presbytery. Motion carried .
Adjournment; Closing Prayer	The business of the meeting having been concluded, Rev. Davis Price moved adjournment, with Rev. Sam Lanham, providing a second. Motion carried . The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM with prayer by Stated Clerk David Kemp.


David G. Kemp, Stated Clerk

A COVENANT BETWEEN AMARILLO CHILDREN'S HOME AND PALO DURO PRESBYTERY

I. The Nature of the Covenant

A. Definition

This covenant is a voluntary agreement between the Presbyterian Home for Children in Amarillo (here called "Amarillo Children's Home" or "ACH") and Palo Duro Presbytery (here called the "Presbytery") to make explicit a historic and continuing relatedness between the two bodies. We choose the term "covenant" as a way of indicating that Amarillo Children's Home and the Presbytery are related to each other in a unique way and as a way of stating the seriousness of our intentions and hopes. Both Amarillo Children's Home and the Presbytery recognize that upon adoption and ratification, this will become the written affirmation of our relationship.

B. The purposes of this covenant are:

1. To clarify the relationship between Amarillo Children's Home and the Presbytery.
2. To maintain the relationship through regular review and renewal.
3. To provide a means of resolving practical and legal questions in the future about the relationship.
4. To affirm mutual trust, concern, and mission.

C. Parties to the Covenant and Their History

Amarillo Children's Home began with the gift by Mr. and Mrs. Allen Early, Sr. of what had been the Lowry-Phillips School properties, additional lots, and \$10,000 as an initial endowment to the Central Presbyterian Church of Amarillo (now First Presbyterian Church). That congregation offered the property to Amarillo Presbytery on April 5, 1923. The Amarillo Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America accepted the gift on April 10, 1923 and appointed a Board of Directors to run the school on June 5, 1923. Presbyterian Home for Children in Amarillo was chartered on November 20, 1924. W.N. Stokes in 1953 wrote:

"... the Amarillo Presbytery appointed the Board of Directors and assumed a benevolent interest in the welfare of the children's home (sic) being operated by said corporation under said trust, and has continued to appoint the directors and advise, direct and visit the home and consulted with its Board of Directors at will and on numerous occasions throughout the period of its existence..."

Thus, Amarillo Children's Home and the Presbytery have been related since the inception of the home. The charter is styled, "The Presbyterian Home for Children in Amarillo" and ACH operates under the name "Amarillo Children's Home."

The original intent of the charter for Amarillo Children's Home was for operating a charitable institution "for orphan and otherwise needy children."

Palo Duro Presbytery is a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It is the legal successor organization of the Amarillo Presbytery and the later Plains Presbytery of the same denomination. It is an ecclesiastical organization covering 72 counties in West Texas.

The Covenant with the Palo Duro Presbytery continues the charitable public trust that was established with the Amarillo Presbytery after it became the Palo Duro Presbytery in the 1983 reunion which established the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Presbytery accepted the responsibilities of operating and maintaining the property as a charitable public trust when it accepted the gift that originated with Mr. and Mrs. Early. The current commissioners of the Palo Duro Presbytery constitute a class of members of the corporation, and all members of the corporation will hold one meeting annually for the purpose of hearing a report of the operations and programs of the Amarillo Children's Home. The ownership/property of Amarillo Children's Home is in the full control of the Board of Trustees of the Amarillo Children's Home. In the unlikely event, and only if the organization can no longer fulfill its basic mission of caring for children, the assets of the organization shall revert to the Palo Duro Presbytery or its designee.

The Role and Mission of Amarillo Children's Home

Amarillo Children's Home offers admittance and provides residential facilities for dependent, neglected, abused, and orphaned children from age 5 into young adulthood. The aim of ACH is to provide for the basic needs of children and to help each child feel secure and know himself or herself to be a person of value in a healthy, home-like atmosphere. While there are explicit entrance requirements, ACH is operated as a non-sectarian facility, providing services as a licensed child-care facility under the Texas Department of Human Services.

The Presbytery meets regularly and reviews its mission work, and typically adopts its budget annually. The Presbytery has declared:

"Palo Duro Presbytery is the body of Christ, a broken but redeemed community of faith in the Reformed tradition, called by God to live and serve in covenant relationship with God, God's people, and God's creation. In response to God's call, guided by the Holy Spirit, prayer and Bible study, the faith communities of Palo Duro Presbytery proclaim the Gospel of grace and love in word and deed. Micah 6:8 "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" and Mark 12:28-31 "One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Connected by grace and love, we who are Palo Duro Presbytery seek to nurture and support our communities of faith as we discern God's call to mutual care and opportunities for growth and service."

Palo Duro Presbytery's mission embraces the specific institutional mission of Amarillo Children's Home.

II. Responsibilities

A. The Parties and Their Relationships to Each Other

On the grounds of history and common mission, ACH and the Presbytery establish this covenant relationship as the basis for fulfilling a common ministry to children in the name of Christ and his Church and continuing to trust in each other in improvement of

this work. In establishing this covenant, ACH acts through its Board of Trustees, and the Presbytery acts through its commissioners. These commissioners constitute a class of members of the nonprofit corporation known as the Amarillo Children's Home in Amarillo. Presbytery's delegated committee for management of Presbytery work is the Council of Ministries through whom ACH or its Trustees may communicate conveniently with Presbytery.

Both parties agree that the life of each will be enriched and made more dynamic by recognizing that each party has its distinctive role, which can be strengthened through contacts with each other in appropriate ways. The Board of Trustees of ACH and Presbytery recognize the need for mutual counsel, support, and encouragement. While each group has its unique role, both affirm that they share common ground.

B. The Common Ground: The Affirmation

This Covenant affirms that:

1. The two parties acknowledge that faith in Christ provides the context for each to move into the future with new hope rooted in Christ.
2. Amarillo Children's Home is non-sectarian in service, yet Presbyterian in heritage. Not devoted to one sect in service - yet Presbyterian – Reformed in Heritage.

C. Corporate Integrity of Each Party

Both ACH and the Presbytery are chartered under the laws of the State of Texas. The bylaws of ACH provide that the corporation has members, and one class of members are the current elected commissioners of the Presbytery. One stated meeting each year shall serve as the annual meeting of the members of the Corporation. The members of the Corporation may hear reports, ask for information, and be provided information regarding the elected members of the Board of Trustees. Trustees need not be members of the Corporation.

The Presbytery will appoint a Liaison through the Council of Ministries to communicate concerns between the Council of Ministries and the Board of Trustees of the Amarillo Children's Home when necessary.

It is our understanding that if ACH should be dissolved for any reason, it would devolve on the members of the Corporation (the Presbytery) to determine what disposition would be made of the residual assets of ACH, mindful that the original donation was for the care of "orphan and needy children."

The Board of Trustees of ACH agrees to place in the office of Palo Duro Presbytery a copy of its charter and articles of incorporation. Minutes of Amarillo Children's Home's Board of Trustees meetings will be made available to the Presbytery office upon request.

D. Operational Relationships

Two sorts of linkage embody the Covenant. The Presbytery shall at a Stated Meeting of the year docket a corporate meeting of ACH for the purpose of hearing a report of conditions. ACH will have appropriate personnel to present this report since this is an opportunity for ACH to "tell its story" to the Presbytery in ways which will foster the "sense of belonging" envisaged by this covenant. (For other linkage see III A). There

will also be a time set aside for questions and answers between ACH and the Commissioners at such meetings of the Presbytery.

E. Review and Renewal Cycle

There shall be a review of the Covenant every four years to consider modification of the Covenant made appropriate by changes in circumstances in the intervening years. The Board of Trustees and the Ministry Council will each name two people to participate in the review, together with a Chairperson selected by ACH and Presbytery. The Executive Director of ACH and the Executive Presbyter may be ex-officio members of the Review Team. ACH will provide to the Review Team appropriate Trustees' Minutes and copies of any audits of financial records performed in the interim.

The Covenant Review Team shall evaluate the health of the covenant relationship, address emerging issues related to the Covenant Relationship, and propose to both ACH and the Presbytery amendments to the covenant appropriate to these ends. Other non-covenant issues should be addressed in a timely fashion through the Liaison (See II C) and the Council of Ministries of Palo Duro Presbytery.

III. Mutual Understanding and Resourcing

A. Mutual Concern and Support

Both Amarillo Children's Home and the Presbytery shall show mutual concern and support for each other. ACH shall be a resource for the Presbytery regarding residential care for at risk children, interpreting as requested the challenges of ministry in this specialized area of social witness and ministry. ACH may also be a means for educating the Presbytery to the changing dynamics and practices in the field of residential childcare, maintaining a witness to the need for sensitivity in serving this special population.

The Presbytery will be a resource to ACH by providing specific channels of communication and counsel on specific matters as ACH may request, providing ACH with regular mailings of publications regarding the life and work of the Presbytery, including current editions of the "Presbytery Directory." Through the processes of budget development, the Ministry Council is the place where ACH may, if its Board chooses initiate requests for direct financial support.

It is understood that ACH will continue to seek funds from Presbyterians and others who wish to support this ministry.

The Presbytery and ACH express concern regarding the policy and practices of ACH regarding the Christian nurture of its residents. It is the Presbytery's view that children admitted to ACH should experience the Christian faith and attend a church as a cottage family unit. It is the desire of ACH and The Presbytery that the children from at least one cottage attend St. Luke Presbyterian (PCUSA), First Presbyterian (ECO), or Westminster Presbyterian (ECO). It is the hope of ACH and The Presbytery that other churches in Amarillo become involved in the life of ACH and the children. ACH will notify The Presbytery if there are any changes in the relationship between an individual cottage and a local Presbyterian church.

IV. Formal Approval

This document establishes and contains all the terms of the Covenant Relationship between the Palo Duro Presbytery and The Presbyterian Home for Children in Amarillo. By formal action, the Board of Trustees, acting for Amarillo Children's Home, and the

Presbytery, on recommendation of the Council of Ministries, may adopt this Covenant and pledge themselves to carry out its provisions.

The formal ratification of the Covenant shall be done at a meeting of the Corporation following approval by the above bodies. A brief ceremony of Covenant Making may be conducted to celebrate this new relationship between these two groups.

Revised January 1986

Updated August 1993

Updated January 2011

Updated January 2017

Updated April 2021

Palo Duro Presbytery



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Rev. Scott Campbell
Executive Presbyter
Email: eppdpssl@gmail.com

Elder David G. Kemp, J.D.
Stated Clerk
Email: dgkemp@sbcglobal.net

March 9, 2021

TO: Teaching Elders, Ruling Elder Commissioners, and Educators of Palo Duro Presbytery
FROM: David Kemp, Stated Clerk of Palo Duro Presbytery
SUBJECT: **Called meeting of Palo Duro Presbytery on Friday, March 26, 2021 at 1:00 PM**
By ZOOM

A Special Meeting is called for **Friday, March 26, 2021**, by ZOOM, to transact the following business:

- a. SALE OF CHURCH PROPERTY-FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LITTLEFIELD: To consider and act upon the request from First Presbyterian Church Littlefield to sell the church manse.
- b. SALE OF CHURCH PROPERTY-FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PLAINVIEW: To consider and act upon the request from First Presbyterian Plainview to sell church property, a vacant lot not currently being used by the church.
- c. MESSIAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PROPERTY, LUBBOCK: To authorize the executive presbyter to negotiate and sell the former Messiah Presbyterian Church for an amount equal to or above the appraised value to the current tenants or other qualified purchaser. The tenants desire to purchase the property but are struggling to receive financing. Approval of this item will allow the executive presbyter to proceed with the sale when the funds are acquired.
- d. CHRIST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WICHITA FALLS – REQUEST TO CLOSE: To form an administrative commission to consult with the congregation of Christ United Presbyterian Church and present a recommendation to presbytery regarding the closure of the church.

The ZOOM Code for this meeting will be forwarded when available.

Sincerely,

David Kemp, Stated Clerk

**PALO DURO PRESBYTERY
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 26, 2021**

A Special Meeting convened by ZOOM on March 26, 2021 at 1:00 P.M. by Moderator Dee Rice. The stated clerk declared a quorum was present. Rev. Dana Mayfield opened the meeting with prayer.

The following items of business were considered:

- A. SALE OF CHURCH PROPERTY-FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LITTLEFIELD:**
Rev. Doug House presented the following on behalf of the Resources Ministry:

"It is moved that the request from First Presbyterian Church Littlefield to sell the church manse be approved."

The recommendation was **approved**.

- B. SALE OF CHURCH PROPERTY-FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PLAINVIEW:**
Rev. Doug House presented the following on behalf of the Resources Ministry:

"It is moved that the request from First Presbyterian Plainview to sell church property, a vacant lot not currently being used by the church."

The recommendation was **approved**.

- C. MESSIAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PROPERTY, LUBBOCK:**
EP Scott Campbell presented the recommendation of the Resources Ministry:

"It is moved that the presbytery authorize the executive presbyter to negotiate and sell the former Messiah Presbyterian Church for an amount equal to or above the appraised value to the current tenants or other qualified purchaser."

After a period of debate, Rev. Becky Fox moved to close discussion. After being seconded, the motion was approved.

The action on the floor was then **approved**.

- D. CHRIST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WICHITA FALLS - REQUEST TO CLOSE:**

Moved, by Rev. Davis Price, with 2nd by Rev. Becky Fox, that an administrative commission, composed of RE Joe Gambill, RE Mona Statser, Rev. Don Stribling, and a member of Christ United Presbyterian Church be formed to consult with the congregation of Christ United Presbyterian Church and present a recommendation to presbytery regarding the closure of the church.

The action was **approved**.

There being no further business before the presbytery, the meeting was adjourned at 2:02 P.M. with prayer by Rev. Janell Blair.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Kemp', written in a cursive style.

David Kemp, Stated Clerk
Palo Duro Presbytery

Palo Duro Presbytery Special Called Meeting via Zoom

3-26-2021

Attendance at Meeting

Name	Church/Guest
Moderator Dee Rice	First, Plainview
Rev. Don McDonald	First, Plainview
Rev. Don Stribling	New Hope, Wichita Falls
Rev. Scott Campbell, Executive Presbyter	Palo Duro Presbytery, Lubbock
Elder David Kemp, Stated Clerk	Palo Duro Presbytery
Pastor Joe Gambill	First, Breckenridge
Rev. Andy Blair	First, Canyon
Cathy Reed, Validated Ministry	First, Sweetwater
Gene Deason, Secretary COM	Union, Brownwood
CCE SarahLee Morris	Grace, Lubbock
Cecilia George	Covenant, Lubbock
Rev. Janell Blair	First, Borger
Rev. Beverly Cook, HR	Spearman, TX
Rev. Davis Price, HR	Lubbock
Dean & Sherry Thompson	Resource Ministry
Rev. Marie Mickey	Abilene, TX
Barbara Ballew	Grace, Lubbock
Rev. Rich Schempp, HR	Winchester, VA
Bryan Camp	Resource Ministry
Rev. Doug House	Union, Brownwood
Allyn Arnold	Resource Ministry
Rev. Georgia King, HR	Canadian, TX
Rev. Dana Mayfield	Grace, Lubbock
Judy Patterson, Clerk of Session	Christ United, Wichita Falls
Rev. Becky Fox	Covenant, Lubbock
Carroll & Jackie Harrell	Christ United, Wichita Falls
Elder Ben Davidson	First, Littlefield
Erica Smyth	First, Canadian
Rev. Clover Bailey, HR	Aurora, CO
Pastor Ann Mills (via email)	United Presbyterian Church of Montague Co.
Elder Gary Terrell	Trustee
Cyndi Slaughter, Admin. Asst.	Palo Duro Presbytery

**Committee on Preparation for the Ministry
Palo Duro Presbytery
Called Meeting by ZOOM
April 20, 2021**

Present: Nancy Diggs, Sally Osoinach, Joy Parsons Janice Six (moderator), David Kemp (Stated Clerk).

The Zoom meeting opened with prayer at 2:10 p.m. led by the moderator. David Kemp was authorized to take the minutes of the meeting.

1. Examination of Grace Sosa and Carlo Sosa. Grace and Carlo were separately shared their sense of call; educational experience in preparation of becoming a candidate; and statement of faith.
 - a. Grace Sosa: moved by Sally Osoinach, 2nd by Nancy Diggs, that Grace be recommended to presbytery as a candidate for ordination. **Approved.** Sally Osoinach was designated as her liaison.
 - b. Carlo Sosa: moved by Sally Osoinach, 2nd by Nancy Diggs, that Carol be recommended to presbytery as a candidate for ordination. **Approved.** Nancy Diggs was designated as his liaison.
2. Acceptance of Steven Chambers (RE, FPC Littlefield) and Mitchell Davenport (RE, FPC Jacksboro) as enquirers to become Commissioned Ruling Elders.
Moved, Nancy Diggs, that Steven Chambers and Mitchell Davenport be accepted as enquirers to be commissioned as CREs/CLPs. **Approved.**

There being no further business to be conducted, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 3:00 PM by Rev. Janice Six.

Respectfully submitted,



David Kemp
Stated Clerk

Outcomes of Inquiry and Moving to Candidacy

Name: Carlo Sosa-Ortiz

Date Enrolled as Inquirer: 3/16/2020

Current Church Membership: First Central Presbyterian Church

Session Evaluation and Recommendation

1) A statement of his or her understanding of Christian vocation in the Reformed Tradition and how it relates to his or her sense of call.

Many traditions place a strong emphasis on a personal sense of call, which is certainly important. From scripture, we do see that God calls individuals to work out the kingdom mission. However, I have learned from the Reformed Tradition that churches also have to discern a call as well. Both the church and individual must work out this process together and come to understand God's purpose for the church – their preparation of the candidate – and the individual.

A Christian vocation is different than a job. It is a place where one feels God's invitation to work and be a part of creation rather than a mere task. From this perspective, any occupation – minister, teacher, janitor, doctor, maintenance worker – can become a vocation. It is a place where we intentionally do the things that are not necessarily part of our "job description." We creatively find ways where we can show God's love and presence even in the mundane parts of our job. Sometimes the calling is not necessarily a specific field, though that can be a part of it. A calling is where we feel convicted by the grace we have received and share that with others.

2) A statement of personal faith which incorporates an understanding of the Reformed Tradition.

I believe that the Father, Son, and Spirit are in a perfect loving and triune relationship that co-exist and are distinguishable from one another. All things were created by God as God is sovereign creator of all things. Together, the Godhead demonstrates a loving community for humanity, inviting all people through grace to participate in that fellowship. Through Jesus Christ's death, the bond of sin was broken, and the fetters of death no longer bind humanity. Through the Holy Spirit's power, all of creation is to be reconciled to God. Having a personal relationship with the Godhead reveals to us what is good, righteous, loving, and admirable.

3) An analysis of at least one concept from this personal faith statement regarding what it suggests about God, humanity, and their interrelationships.

For me, the concept of the Trinity is incredibly powerful. Our churches can learn so much about diversity, community, and love from the Trinity. The idea of God being in relationship and intentionally seeking community is meaningful for Christians. Being made in the image of God is being aware of how much we are affected by our relationships to others. Unfortunately, we sometimes believe that we only find ourselves in solitude. But the Trinity shows us that we find meaning in service to others, by completely offering ourselves in humility to our neighbors.

4) A statement of what it means to be Presbyterian, indicating how that awareness grows out of participation in the life of a particular church.

While in the Reformed Tradition our “faith seeks understanding,” we also acknowledge that our minds, intelligence, and hearts sometimes fail us. God makes Godself known to all of humanity, and we must recognize that to designate God to a specific box goes against the Reformed Tradition. I have greatly valued the expression “We are reformed and always reforming.” Even just a brief look at our tradition’s history shows that we have not always been inclusive or welcoming to minorities, women, or other historically oppressed people. But throughout our history, we can always find small groups of churches – or sometimes only one – where they stand for diversity and inclusion even if it puts them at odds with others. Sometimes our local contexts teach us and shape us in ways that our larger denomination cannot.

I have found such comfort and meaning at our church since we joined almost two years ago. I have been given a freedom to express myself and my faith in ways that I never thought possible. For example, With the increasing cases in COVID this past year that fell close to Easter and Logsdon’s closure, Lent gave me the opportunity to process the emotions that I wanted to hide away. And then come Easter, I gave those concerns, worries, fears, hurt, and anger back to God. Going through the church calendar, changing the banners around the sanctuary, and the contemplative music in worship have been a gift like the tongues of fire during Pentecost. I am grateful to be given the opportunity to explore my faith with the ancient practices of our church.

We experience these changes and periods of growth in a local church with others who are being created in God’s image. I was able to mourn, be challenged, and experience God with people from FCPC. This last year, I have been given the opportunity to share my frustrations with Logsdon’s closure and this pandemic with God’s people. I am blessed by our church and our leadership who give us the space to process with a community of believers.

5) A statement of self-understanding which reflects the inquirer’s personal and cultural background and includes a concern for maintaining spiritual, physical, and mental health.

Self-care is incredibly important for me. The way I handle stress and anxiety will ultimately influence my work, school, and familial relationships. I make walks a part of my practice. For 30 minutes three times a week, I listen to Taize chants, pray, and reflect on my day. I journal as regularly as I can, and I read the daily readings from the lectionary every morning.

I came from a predominately Hispanic town, and my beliefs of culture and language were challenged when I moved to Abilene. I had never seen more than one African American in Weslaco or so many Caucasians before! It was such a change that I had not expected. It forced me to question my beliefs and predispositions. It taught me the value of inclusion and diversity and how God is best expressed in a plurality rather than a singular person, race, gender, or ethnic group.

6.) A statement of his or her understanding of the task ministers of the Word and Sacrament perform, including an awareness of his or her specific gifts for ministry of the Word and Sacrament and of the areas in which growth is needed.

Pastoral care is a task given to ministers of the Word and Sacrament that reminds people that they are made in God's image. Growing up, my family had to navigate several challenges: my brother's diagnosis with schizophrenia, my parents' deteriorating marriage and eventual divorce, homelessness, joblessness, medical bills, etc. My childhood was anxiety-ridden, and every member of my family had to learn to persevere. My pastors were valuable and gave us constant spiritual support, and that eventually led me to seeking God's calling to the ministry. They helped me find peace and joy when we had no place to live, my brother was in and out of the mental hospital, and my mother was without a job. It is my personal conviction that God is calling me to offer the grace and peace to others that was offered to me. These personal experiences have also shaped the way I handle conflict. I tend to comprise quickly and find conflict stressful. It is certainly something that I am working on and striving to improve.

Grace Sosa: Candidacy Questions

1. Christian vocation in the Reformed Tradition and sense of call

I understand vocation in the Reformed Tradition to be God's call on a person's life to serve God's people in ministry. Ministry varies from both ordained and non-ordained church staff positions to the mission field, classroom, and social justice organizations. My sense of calling began when I was in high school after going on several mission trips. While I still love mission work, I am currently discerning a call to ordained ministry in the church.

2. Statement of Faith and understanding of the Reformed Tradition

I believe that God is the creator and sustainer of all things. God demonstrated God's love, justice, and compassion throughout scripture and continues to reveal God's self in personal relationships with people. I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and trust in his redemptive work for salvation. I believe that the Holy Spirit was given to the believers at Pentecost and that it continues to work on Earth today, prompting the hearts of the faithful. The Trinity exists in a mysterious and perfect relationship as one, yet distinct from one another. I believe in the sovereignty of God, the priesthood of all believers, and salvation by grace through faith.

3. Analysis from the statement regarding what it suggests about God, humanity, and their interrelationships

The doctrine of the Trinity as being in community with one another reminds me that God created not out of loneliness, but out of love. This is why it is essential for believers to also live in community with God and with one another. The church is not just a building or a place to learn—it is a community of believers who grow and serve together as they join God's redemptive work in the world.

4. What does it mean to be a Presbyterian?

I was originally drawn to the Presbyterian Church because of their affirmation of women to all positions of ministry. However, my appreciation for the denomination has grown to include more aspects as well. I affirm the Presbyterian Church's emphasis on the sovereignty of God and the necessity of God's grace for salvation. The structure of church government is an important part of Presbyterianism, providing a system of checks and balances. I also appreciate that the order of worship includes call and responses, corporate confession, and assurance of pardon. These elements remind us of our unity as the body of Christ and our continual need for God's grace and forgiveness. Every year, I am blessed by the seasons of the church year, giving me space for joy, mourning, growth, and waiting.

5. Personal and cultural backgrounds; concern for maintaining spiritual, physical, and mental health

I see myself as a dedicated worker in school and in my jobs. I am driven and love to accomplish things, but I also love spending time with people and getting to know them. My dad is a pastor, and my mom is a teacher, which in part influenced my current position as a children's minister. I enjoy writing, especially sharing the stories of people and the things they are doing for

Christ. I am passionate about walking alongside women, refugees, and other marginalized groups as they find their voice and achieve the goals they set for themselves. I grew up in a predominately White context in north Texas, but we moved to Pecos, Texas when I was a freshman in high school. The population of Pecos is about 80% Hispanic. The move gave me experience with a culture different than my own and also gave me the experience of not being a part of the majority culture. That experience gave me more empathy and understanding than I think I would have had if I had lived in the same context my whole life.

Aside from attending worship services, I maintain spiritual health by beginning my morning with the day's lectionary reading and an email from Richard Rohr. I attend a Bible study to deepen my knowledge of scripture and to learn from other people in community. I am also a part of a mentor group with my seminary where we share prayer requests and keep up with each other's lives.

For physical health, I have a trainer at ACU who has helped me develop an exercise and diet routine. I work out three times a week and also enjoy walking and yoga. In terms of mental health, I have gone to counseling at the HSU Counseling Center whenever I went through a time of anxiety and depression. They taught me to practice mindfulness and helped me deal with past issues which were affecting my mental health. I went through the Midwest Ministry Development program, where I met with a counselor and psychologist. My husband and I also went to professional premarital counseling before we were married.

6. Ministry tasks, ministry gifts, and growth areas

There are many tasks that ministers of the Word and Sacrament perform. Worship tasks include preaching, administering Communion, performing baptisms, and writing and leading liturgy. Many pastors also teach a Bible study or Sunday school class in addition to their preaching responsibilities. Pastoral care tasks include visiting people in the hospital, ministering to people who have lost loved ones, and pastoral counseling. Ministers also perform administrative tasks such as leading or participating in meetings, overseeing budgets, and maintaining the church building. Pastors are involved in the community through church ministries and partnerships with other non-profit organizations. Ministers also lead the church in spiritual formation, introducing spiritual practices and creating spaces like retreats.

My natural gifts in ministry are in teaching/preaching, spiritual formation, and administration. I have had opportunities to develop and practice those skills in my classes and in my church. Growth areas include pastoral care, especially hospital visitation, and people who have experienced a loss. I am planning to take a hospital ministry class in the fall and would love to accompany my pastors on hospital visits when COVID-19 restrictions allow it.

Presbytery Report: Nominations and Representations Committee
Monday April 19, 2021, 2:00pm Zoom Meeting

Those present : Whit Hunt, Doris Jean Foster, Carmen Timora, Rev. Cliff Stewart, Kathy Monroe, Dee Rice, David Kemp, Scott Campbell.
Those absent: Pat Osoinach, John Leonard, Ross Clopton.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Kathy Monroe.

As we waited for our quorum to arrive online, we discussed the vacancies that we had been made aware of by the Celebration Scholarship President David Baum. The vacancies were from the class of 2020, left by members who had served two terms.

The meeting was called to order with discussion centering around a new moderator for Nominations and Representations. Carmen Timora had voiced a desire to step down from that role.

Discussion ensued. Whit Hunt made the motion to elect Kathy Monroe as moderator of Nominations and Representations Committee. Cliff Stewart seconded. Scott called for the vote and it was unanimous.

Discussion returned to the vacancies on Celebration Scholarship Committee. We brainstormed names and formed two lists of people who might be willing to serve in that capacity from the two areas needed to balance the committee. One person was to be chosen from Area 2 and one from Area 4.

The names and numbers were dispersed to the members of Nominations to make contact and ask the people if they were willing to serve on the Celebration Scholarship Committee. The description of the job was also discussed so those interested could be informed as to their roles.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Kathy Monroe.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Monroe, Moderator Nominations and Representations
Palo Duro Presbytery

Palo Duro Presbytery Meeting April 30/May 1

Report of the Common Life Committee

The Common Life Committee of Palo Duro Presbytery met several times in the last three months to plan the Presbytery meeting for April 30th on ZOOM from 5-7p.m. We discussed ZOOM registration and voting rules for the meeting. We planned the worship service inviting John Williams from Austin Seminary to be our preacher. The theme of the meeting is HOPE.

We are also working on a plan for Presbytery Wide Elder Training and Confirmation Camp. These two items are just in the planning stages right now. We hope that this will be something helpful for all the congregations in our Presbytery.

Our committee is also working with Buffalo Gap camp in developing a covenant as to rules and responsibilities of the Camp and the Presbytery in providing summer camps for our children. We will have more to do on this after the Buffalo Gap Camp Board meeting in April.

Congregational Mission is another area that our committee on which our committee is working. We have two congregation who are interested in having a facilitator from Presbytery meet with them in developing their congregational mission. If any other congregations are interested, we need to hear from them soon, so we can plan meetings for these churches.

Our next meeting will be held in May.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Baum
Moderator, Common Life Ministry

Reminder: PRM minutes are confidential and provided only to PRM members.

**Palo Duro Presbytery
Committee on Ministry
Minutes of Meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, March 3, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10 am by moderator Joe Gambill. New members were welcomed. Prayer was led by Dana Mayfield.

QUORUM DECLARED

A quorum (consisting of half plus one) was declared with the following members present: Jeff Allen, Bill Core, Gene Deason, Robert Fortney, Joe Gambill, Carol McClelland, Dee Rice, Don Stribling, Lee Stribling, and Doug Tanner. Also present was David Kemp, PDP Stated Clerk.

MINUTES

Motion by Bill Core, with second by Lee Stribling, to approve the minutes of the January meeting as presented. **MOTION APPROVED.**

MIF FROM PLAINVIEW

Dana Mayfield said Plainview's Session has approved a larger salary range than the document originally circulated shows. Recommendations from COM members were taken seriously, and the revised MIF was met with favorable review. **MIF APPROVED.**

COVENANT AGREEMENT FOR CLP NANCY RUFF AT CLARENDON

Joe Gambill raised a question about reimbursement of expenses. The form needs updating. Lee Stribling moved to approve, with second by Doug Tanner. **MOTION APPROVED.**

POINT OF INFORMATION REGARDING STEVE SULLWOLD (No action)

Steve Sullwold has been added back to the Seymour church's membership. The moderator said we have done what is necessary before he is open to a call as CLP.

LINDA LEVERAGE AT BRECKENRIDGE

A successful fit interview with Linda Leverage, former Commissioned Pastor in Grace Presbytery now living near Breckenridge, was held March 1 with Joe Gambill, Scott Campbell, and Gene Deason. She had previously expressed an interest in a part-time commission, but during the fit interview indicated she was open to a full-time commission. That would give Breckenridge, which currently has an active PNC, new options. No request for a commission has been received. Dana Mayfield moved, with a second by Jeff Allen, to receive Linda Leverage as a member of Palo Duro Presbytery. **MOTION APPROVED.**

POINT OF INFORMATION ON NON-COMPLIANCE ON SAFE GATHERINGS TRAINING (No action)

Eight people have yet to respond after repeated inquiries, and one has been totally non-communicative. What should we do? Our powers seem limited, especially with an installed pastor as opposed to a commissioned pastor. Dana Mayfield suggested asking the church's clerk of session to make a contact. Contacts could be made to employers of those in a validated ministry. Joe asked Dave Kemp to work with Scott Campbell to carefully craft communications to clerks of session and to employers of those in validated ministries. Dana Mayfield said a measure of grace should be extended given the conditions in which we are all working.

POINT OF INFORMATION ON INSTALLATION OF REV. KYLE SAGERS, CANADIAN

The Session at Canadian needs to plan a service with the COM area team, and COM can respond. Don Stribling moved to offer the Session at Canadian an option of an in-person installation with only vaccinated individuals participating, or a Zoom installation service, or something else more creative that Canadian might propose. The second to the motion was not recorded. **MOTION APPROVED** with one opposed.

INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR DC ADAMS, GRAHAM (no action)

As a side note to the discussion of the installation service at Canadian, Jeff Allen said the installation for Rev. DC Adams at Graham is planned for the first anniversary of his ministry there.

SESSION MODERATOR, COMMUNION AT SEYMOUR

Don Stribling moved, with second by Dana Mayfield, to approve a request for Joe Gambill to serve Communion and moderate Session at Seymour through the end of May.

MOTION APPROVED.

CLOSING OF CHRIST UNITED, WICHITA FALLS

Information has reached us that Christ United has decided to close with Easter Sunday believed to be the final worship service. Bob Brown has retired but is still moderating Session. A moderator of Session has not been appointed by COM. Don Stribling suggested appointing an Administrative Commission to handle this closing. A called meeting of Presbytery has been set for March 26, and one could be appointed then. Members of the commission need to be chosen in advance, with most members, but not necessarily all its members, being from that Area. Don Stribling will work with Joe Gambill and Scott Campbell on how to proceed. Motion by Dee Rice, with second by Dana Mayfield, to request that Presbytery appoint an Administrative Commission to deal with the closing of the congregation. **MOTION APPROVED.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 am with prayer led by Dana Mayfield.

Items for COM report to Presbytery on April 30, 2021:

Approved asking Presbytery to appoint an Administrative Commission to deal with the closing of Christ United Presbyterian-Wichita Falls.

Approved a covenant agreement between First Presbyterian-Clarendon and Commissioned Pastor Nancy Ruff. Terms will be for 12 months part-time (20 hours a week) beginning January 1, 2021, with a housing allowance of \$14,400.00 annually with two weeks of vacation and one week of study leave. Termination is allowed by either party with 30-days' notice and COM concurrence. This commission approves Pastor. Ruff to moderate Session, administer the Sacraments, and officiate at marriages and funerals at Clarendon.

Approved a covenant agreement between First Presbyterian-Seymour and Commissioned Pastor Joe Gambill. Terms will be for 12 months part-time (20 hours a week) beginning June 1, 2021, with \$3,000 a month housing allowance, mileage based on the federal rate, two weeks study leave, three weeks of vacation, and reimbursement of costs for church and Presbytery meetings. Termination is allowed by either party with 30-days' notice and COM concurrence. This commission approves Pastor Gambill to moderate Session, administer the Sacraments, and officiate at marriages and funerals at Seymour.

Minutes of the Celebration Scholarship Board Meeting

March 16, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 am by the board president, David Baum. After an opening prayer, the board heard a brief financial report. David emphasized that scholarship funds were somewhat low, and everyone needs to be aware of this and request donations whenever we have an opportunity to do so.

The committee then moved to the selection of students to receive the 2021 Celebration Scholarships. There were eleven applicants:

After some discussion, the board decided to take a poll of each board member's top choices. Board members then reported their top choices with their reasons for choosing the students they selected. The board discussed the top choices, focusing on church involvement and academic performance. The choices were prayerfully and thoughtfully considered. The board chose the following four students to receive the 2021 Celebration Scholarships:

Andrew Brockovich - David Baum, Board Liaison

Evelyn Ludington - Janell Blair, Board Liaison

Camden Williamson - Liz Reed, Board Liaison

Preston Williamson - Liz Reed, Board Liaison

Next the board reviewed a brief description of the Celebration Scholarship. The board considered where it might be added to the bylaws. It was unanimously decided to add it to the opening statement of the bylaws.

The subject moved to board membership. Two board members, Empress Terrell (Class of 2021) and Janet (JJ) Cullendar (Class of 2021), have both completed two three-year terms. They are rolling off of the board. Margaret Brubaker (Class of 2020) resigned in advance of this meeting after serving one term. As a result we have three board vacancies that need to be filled. Kathy Monroe, chair of the nominating committee has been notified of this fact.

Traci Prather from First Presbyterian in Canyon was mentioned as a possible new board member. This information was also given to Kathy Monroe.

The board then thanked Empress and JJ for six years of faithful service. The meeting was closed in prayer which was offered by Janell Blair.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Baum Celebration Scholarship Board President

STATEMENT OF FAITH

REV. ROBIN GANTZ

I believe in a loving God, God Almighty, three-in-one, Creator, Redeemer, Holy Spirit, who not only formed us and all creation, but who never, ever, lets us go! God guides, forgives, redirects, gives us a vision for all that is good and just.

God is unchanging in purpose and love, but always in flux, recreating the created in response to our response. God is unrelenting in leading us toward being what we were created to be, that we might have life, and that abundantly and eternally. That is the God I not only believe in, try to follow, but absolutely cherish and love.

God came to us in human form, as Jesus the Christ, who corrected humanity's distorted understanding of God and revealed the true nature and intent of God and God's will. His love for all people and creation led him to the cross, giving his life for our redemption and salvation. He showed us The Way, living it to the death himself, for our sake. In that sacrificial death, Christ revealed God's power over death, turning it into but a door to eternal life for believers.

Christ sent the Holy Spirit to be with us in his absence until his coming again, that Spirit being Comforter, Sustainer, enabler, guiding grace, renewer of fallen and frail humanity.

I celebrate the creation and existence of the church universal: God's heart, mind and hands in the world, commissioned to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. Even though it is led by God's Word in scripture, and the model of Christ in character and service, even though it is guided and empowered by the Spirit, it is—nevertheless— a flawed and frail community of followers. It is also an amazing body of people who passionately and unselfishly try to bring about God's holy kingdom, God's beloved community.

I know real evil, suffering and brokenness exists in the world. Each of us, in spite of our desire or intent to do otherwise, participates in the existence of such, Yet, I also know, not just believe, that a greater power for goodness, healing and reconciliation, exists. That power comes from God through Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Page 2, Statement of Faith, Robin Gantz

God calls us and equips us to participate in God's good purposes of reconciliation and healing, establishes us as covenant partners. God transform us through Word and Sacrament, the church universal, and God's own Presence through Christ and the Holy Spirit.

I believe in the already, but-not-yetness of the Kingdom of God, present, yet still unfolding. I believe that someday God will gather all of us, all cultures and orientations, back into the family of God as intended from the beginning, where justice, mercy, peace and joy will reign forever.

Such mercies and blessings move me to deep gratitude and praise!

3/29/21



149th Stated Meeting of Palo Duro Presbytery Worship

April 30, 2021 via Zoom

Have Your Communion Elements Ready

Poetry: “Listen to What God Is Saying To Us” by Henri J.M. Nouwen, 1992, Rev. Scott Campbell

The Call to Worship: From The Scots Confession (excerpt 3.01 and 3.08), 1560 led by Rev. Andy Blair, First Presbyterian Church, Canyon

The Presbyter: We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible, one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

The Presbytery: By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory. The same eternal God and Father, who by grace alone chose us in his Son Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world was laid, appointed him to be our head, our brother, our pastor, and the bishop of our souls.

Duet: Gospel Medley “May The Circle Be Unbroken,” “Do Lord,” and “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” with the Tone Deaf Cowboys

Unison Prayer of Confession: Dear Lord, we praise you for you are the Almighty and Holy God and you deserve our honor and praise. We come before you today in response to your amazing love, the

undeserved forgiveness, and the constant love you give us. We are your disciples. We are so caught up in the things of this world, and we forget to whom we belong.

Quiet. One Silent Minute of Personal Confession. Amen.

Assurance of God's Graceful Forgiveness:

The Presbyter: "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many."
Mark 10:45

The Presbytery: "Because of God's great love for us in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!"

***Glory Be to the Father**

Sermon, Text, Title: II Kings 2:1-14, "Steadfast" by Rev. Dr. John D. Williams, Chaplain - Austin College, Sherman, Texas

Sharing of Joys, Hopes and Concerns

Pastoral Prayers of the People

A Glad Sharing as an expression of worship: Tithes and offerings. Our collection will be given to Presbyterian Disaster Relief. Mail to PDP or give electronically (web button at paloduropresbytery.org).

The Communion Table Service: All are welcomed as we share our meal electronically in home or small group, singularly and tied together as the body of Christ.

Voluntary: Joshua Wright and Andrea Wright with First Central Presbyterian Church Abilene, Cello Solo
"Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us"

Benediction

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**"Listen to What God Is Saying to Us"**

You are my child.

You are written in the palm of my hand.

I have molded you in the secret of the earth.

I have knitted you together in your mother's womb.

You belong to me.

I am yours. You are mine.

I have called you from eternity and you are the one who is held safe.

And embraced in love from eternity to eternity.

You belong to me. And I am holding you safe and I want you to

Know that whatever happens to you, I am always there. I was  
Always there; I am always there; I always will be there and hold you

In my embrace.

You are mine. You are my child. You belong to my home. You

Belong to my intimate life and I will never let you go. I will be

Faithful to you.

**Resources Report   Palo Duro Presbytery   149<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting   April 30, 2021**

Items to report

1. Our efforts toward a Capital Campaign have continued. We've had three vendors present, all of whom I believe could and would do a great job. Horizon Stewardship CEO Joe Park presented a free webinar about increasing online giving to all the churches of Palo Duro on April 22, 2021, about reaching new members and increasing contributions via online proficiency. This is recorded and available on the PDP web site. He is a possible consultant-vendor that PDP for strategic planning. Resources Ministry Team will be assessing which vendor to chose and the path to take
2. Resources Ministry approved New Hope Presbyterian of Wichita Falls, TX, use of the church building emptied/vacated by the closure of United Church of Christ in Wichita Falls, beginning May 1, 2021, until the New Hope Presbyterian Church building project is completed, and they make that transition to their new building.

Items for Palo Duro Presbytery approval:

1. Resource Ministry of Palo Duro Presbytery approves the sale of Lots #3, 4, & 5, Block 5, Stark Parkside 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition, Perryton, Ochiltree County, Texas, and advances that approval inviting Palo Duro Presbytery to approve this sale.
2. Resources Ministry approves the CERTIFICATION/RESOLUTION FOR PRESBYTERY GUARANTOR for New Hope Presbyterian Church's increasing its loan from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program, Inc. for building its church building from \$350,000 to \$450,000 and seeks Palo Duro Presbytery's approval of the CERTIFICATION/RESOLUTION FOR PRESBYTERY GUARANTOR.

Rev. Doug House  
Moderator  
Resources Ministry