

Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings & raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep & secret things things; He knows what is in the darkness and light dwells within Him. Daniel 2:20-22



2009 Annual Report



2009 – 2010 Annual Report

God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our LORD, is faithful.

I Corinthians 1:9

This word *faithful* directs our attention to the wonderful reality of God's activity in the life of First Pres throughout this last year. Amid a season of financial stress (unemployment, deficits, decreased revenues throughout the country) and discouraging news, the Lord has continued to offer the people of First Pres his constant grace and sure hope!

This year, we have continued to move forward on the path God has set for us here in the heart of downtown. This commitment to the Lord to remain faithful, even as He has been to us, has resulted in a faith-building year for our congregation:

- For more than three years, the leadership team of First Pres has prayerfully considered what *faithful* means in relationship to our denominational affiliation. After years of prayer, research, and input from all of you, our congregation overwhelmingly voted to affirm Session's resolve to affiliate with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). This decision aligns us with a denomination that holds a similar evangelical and missional emphasis as we do.
- *Faithful* was difficult as we said goodbye to Dino Rustin as his time of preparation for the role of pastor came to its rightful conclusion as he received a call to a church in Oklahoma.
- The Children's, Youth, Sports, & Mission ministry teams have continued their dedication to excellence and deep commitment to offering people numerous opportunities to personally experience the love of Jesus Christ.
- Sunday mornings remained a focal point for our congregation as First Pres continued to offer engaging, authentic and relevant worship through meaningful music and creative components.
- *Faithful* has pushed us to a place of discovery for what it means to be mature in Christ. G-Groups (small groups), fellowship, and Christian Formation classes have promoted deeper spiritual growth and greater impact for us in our lives beyond our congregation.

This coming year, as we continue to discover how we might grow in our love for God and for the people of Kern County, one thing we can be confident of... the LORD will be with us, His faithfulness is sure and true.

I look forward to participating in and watching the wonderful work of God unfold in this coming year.

Captivated by Christ,

Rev. Dr. Jeff Chandler
Senior Pastor

CLERK'S REPORT

The Sessions of 2009 and 2010 were composed of thirty elders, who met in ten regular meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m. to conduct the business of the First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, California. Exceptions were the Second Tuesday of December and no regular meetings in July and November. In addition, several special meetings were held to conduct specific business such as reception of new members and other committee actions.

Pastor Jeff Chandler was Moderator of the session throughout the year.

One regular meeting of the Congregation was held in June in accordance with the By-Laws.

An officer training class was held for newly elected elders and deacons in June. In August a Session Retreat and a joint gathering of Session and Deacons were both held at the church.

The Sessions for 2009 & 2010 were organized into working committees as follows:

<u>Standing Committees</u>	<u>2008-9 Chair</u>	<u>2009-10 Chair</u>
Music and Worship	Mike Abril	Chris Bergam
Membership and Fellowship	Greg Walker	Greg Walker
Christian Education	Scott Kuney	Scott Kuney
Property & Finance	Diane Sandidge	Mike Abril
Mission & Outreach	Brian Monroe	Brian Monroe
Personnel	Grover Waldon	David Chesney
Trustees	Harold Crawford	Jan Lockard
Nominating Committee	Mike Abril	Jeff Roberts

<u>Special (Congregation & Session) Committees</u>		
Associate Pastor Nominating	Nelson Smith	
Investigative Task Force	Jim Conners	
Denominational Transition Team	Jim Conners	Jim Conners
Sunday Worship Schedule Team	Kathy Litto	Kathy Litto

The Lord's Supper was administered on a Sunday of each month.

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee reported that after 23 months of work, reviewing 248 PIF's, inviting 8 applicants, and making 4 offers, they were unable to secure a nomination. The Committee was discharged in June with thanks and appreciation for their efforts.

In June, the Congregation, through a non-binding ballot, overwhelmingly supported the recommendation of Session to seek dismissal from the San Joaquin Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Session then voted unanimously to seek such dismissal and notified the San Joaquin Presbytery of the decision. Following research into potential denominations with which to re-affiliate, Session again voted unanimously to pursue joining the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. At year end, both tasks were in process.

General Fund Budget and Church Statistics follow. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and the privilege of being a member of this family.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Conners, Clerk of the Session

General Fund Budget 2010

Fiscal Year ending December 31

REVENUES	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET
Total REVENUES	\$ 1,693,526.06	\$ 1,696,610.00
EXPENSES		
Total MUSIC AND WORSHIP	12,363.90	23,000.00
Total MEMBERSHIP	14,949.24	19,800.00
Total CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	81,489.57	89,800.00
Total PROPERTY AND FINANCE	411,168.68	480,225.00
Total MISSIONS	168,124.66	169,800.00
Total PERSONNEL	1,052,691.64	913,985.00
Total EXPENSES	1,740,787.69	1,696,610.00
Net Total	(\$47,261.63)	\$0.00
REVENUES - Other		
Total Truxton Property Revenues	87,265.61	83,311.00
EXPENSES - Other		
Total Truxton Property Expenses	68,700.12	112,000.00
Net Operating Total	(\$28,696.14)	(\$28,689.00)

Membership Statistics

Jan 1, 2009 to Dec 31, 2009

Total Members December 31, 2008 936

Gains:

Confession of Faith	2
Letter of Transfer	6
Reaffirmation of Faith	43
Other	1
Total Gains	52

Losses:

Certificate of Transfer	
Death	22
Transferred to Inactive	1
Removed from Rolls	10
Total Losses	33

Total Membership at December 31

2007	2008	2009
960	936	955

New Members Joining

(during 12 month period ending December 31)

2007	2008	2009
30	9	52

Average Attendance at Sunday Worship

	2007	2008	2009
Jan.-June	669	643	605
July-Dec.	598	581	533
Full Year	632	612	569

“Glorifying God by worshiping faithfully”

MUSIC AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE

“God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:24

In 2009, the Music and Worship Committee spent considerable time evaluating our worship services and exploring ways to make them more meaningful for those in attendance. In the process, the committee looked at restructuring the worship services from three services, to two (which did not happen), and reducing the time length of the middle service from an hour, to 45 minutes (which did happen). A position was created and filled for a Technical Director to oversee the audio-visual needs of all services. A proposal was presented to create a Director of Volunteers position, but funds were not available to sustain such a position. The service steering teams that were created in the past continued to examine ways to improve each of their respective services.

The year 2009 saw a major change in staffing which affected both the second and third worship services. Jim Schmidt resigned as the Director of Music in the spring, and Marsha Skidmore took over the responsibilities for leading worship for both the 10:00 and 11:00 services.

Our church is widely known throughout the community for its traditional worship service at 8:30. We have been so blessed by the music of Westminster Choir under the direction of Robert Provencio and the organ music of Meg Wise. In support of this, 2009 saw the completion of the sanctuary organ upgrade as part of a Worship Space Improvement Campaign.

The Music and Worship Committee continues to plan special services for each of the seasons of the liturgical year. This requires a lot of time and energy from numerous individuals. If you would like to be a part of the planning process or have some ideas of new and/or different ways we can channel our worship, please contact the church office or one of the members of the Worship Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Bergam, Chairman

Committee Members

Elders: Kurt Hettinger, Brett Schmoll, Kathy Litto, Kevin Kerwin, Chris Bergam

Members -At-Large: Leslie Roberts, Terry Wyckoff, Anne Myers, George Wise, Helen Hess,
Bob Reed

Staff: Pastor Jeff Chandler

“Gathering in Jesus’ name”

MEMBERSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

At the beginning of the year our committee established the following goals:

- 1) Provide opportunities for members and non-members to get to know one another by providing opportunities for fellowship.
 - Implemented Sunday morning fellowship opportunity and study during the Sunday school hour.
- 2) Promote communication regarding the events taking place within our congregation that would appeal to a broad range of individuals
 - Developed and launched user friendly website including downloadable sermons, pdf's, and registration forms.
 - Implemented use of email marketing for church events.
 - Organized new Church Directory through Lifetouch Directories; including an online directory.
- 3) Create an atmosphere on Campus that encourages fellowship and reflects our need to be more outward focused.
- 4) Continue the tradition of annual events that encourage fellowship.
 - Annual events where opportunities for fellowship were promoted included the following: 11 annual Father Daughter Dance, Sending Sunday, Fall Kick-Off, Christmas Progressive Banquet (formerly Progressive Dinner). With continued support from Staff, Christian Education, Session, and Deacons we will again continue these events into 2010 always looking for ways to build on the success of the events maintaining a high regard for outreach to our members and the community.

As 2009 ended planning for 2010 events was already underway. A joint planning meeting with Staff and Christian Education was held in October to plan future events that will encourage youth and adults to engage in the life of our church with the desired outcome of deepening their commitment to Christ, each other, and the church.

Total church membership at the end of 2009 was 955 active members.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Walker, Chairman

Committee Members

Elders: Greg Walker, Bruce Elliott, Brian Tulley, Jeff Roberts, Bob Burdette, and Kurt Hettinger

Members-at-large: Rosie Walker, Laurie Collom (Deacon), Jim Conners (Clerk of Session)

Staff: Pastor Noel Anderson

“Growing into His likeness”

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6

The purpose of Christian Education is to transform the body of believers through prayer and discipleship, trusting and relying on the Holy Spirit as our guide. This includes physical, emotional, and spiritual growth through a variety of programs and activities that offer something for everyone of all ages.

We meet monthly to plan and coordinate activities for the various age levels.

Laurie Bowers works hard to keep the “Great Adventure” program of **Children’s Ministries** stimulating and exciting for children birth through 6th grade. In addition to classes offered by age level on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, Vacation Bible School and Calvin Crest Camp give children a chance to build friendships while growing in their faith. The Awana program continued to grow in 2009 and has been very successful outreach to the community. Also, the Annual Harvest Festival on October 31st brings over 400 people to the campus. An Advent Family Day was also conducted and once again was very successful. Laurie is blessed with the help of a dedicated leadership team, which allows the children’s program to grow and thrive. With over 200 children in the Great Adventure Program we are very thankful for Laurie’s organizational skills.

John Kryvoruka’s leadership and energy has greatly expanded the “Route 456” (grades 4-6) portion of **Children’s Ministries** and Afterschool Program in the beginning of the 2009 season. This program continued to have about 42 participants with over 100 on the roster. **Joseph Litto** joined the Route- 456 Program as the volunteer leader when John K. became Director of Youth Ministries. The Awana program follows on Wednesdays and a youth activity is offered on Friday evenings, which includes fellowship, games and activities. The 2009 program continued to include FP Sports as part of the children’s mission program including Upward Basketball league (with over 250 participants), Indoor Soccer, and a Summer Tennis program with 75 kids participating.

With the departure of Dino Rustin, **John K.** assumed the new position of **Director of Youth Ministries** directly responsible for the C-Side High School Ministry, and supervisory responsibility for both the College Ministry and Jr. High Ministry.

The 2009 season was a time of considerable challenge and transition for the **Jr. High Ministry**. With the departure of Steve Sherill to his own ministry in Huntington Beach, we were blessed to have **Adam DeEtorre** join the FP Team and serve as the new junior high director for the first portion of the year. Thereafter a volunteer team led by David Chesney and a network of devoted servants provided their support to this “critical bridge” program. Through Sunday school, Wednesday evening activities, lock-ins, mission trip (Los Angeles), summer camp, and retreats, Adam, David and the volunteer team have been able to connect with the students as they build relationships and trust with each other. The ministry continued to encourage students to invite friends even though their families are not connected to the FP church. Several adult volunteers help manage all of these activities and we are thankful for their dedication, patience and leadership in guiding students through their spiritual walk.

The **Senior High Ministries** or “C-Side” was transferred to John K. upon the departure of Dino Rustin to his own ministry in Oklahoma. Besides Sunday school and Sunday evening activities, high school students are given the opportunity to participate in many events such as retreats, mission trips to Mexico and Argentina, worship/leadership teams, summer camp and the AIM program. There are currently seven covenant groups involving over 50 students and several adult leaders. Many students have gone on multiple mission trips and are becoming experienced missionaries. With the help of several adult volunteers, John has been able to unite this group as a community of believers with over 140 students on the active roster. We are thankful for John’s energy and enthusiasm that he brings to the program.

The **College and Young Adult Ministries** is also directed by **John K.** as part of his responsibilities as Director of Young Ministries. This ministry has about 10-15 participants. Weekly meetings include worship, Bible study, and fellowship led by active student leaders meeting in the newly remodeled FP Café. John in coordination with the student leaders. The ministry has been developing new ways to reach this group of students and often includes guest speakers.

Summer Camp at Calvin Crest continues to be a major outreach for First Pres. In 2009, 143 students went to camp and 9 students participated in the two-week AIM leadership program. There were also 4 student interns hired for the summer, which developed leadership skills while assisting the program staff with activities. When Calvin Crest discontinued Miwok Camp for third graders, a group of third graders and counselors had a rewarding camp experience at the Forest Home camp in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Adult Ministries is under the direction of **Executive Pastor Noel Anderson**. Noel, along with several volunteer teachers, offers a variety of classes for all ages on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings.

In 2009, a new element of FP’s Children’s Ministry was commenced with the opening of the **FP Preschool** under the leadership of its **Director, Marcie Fleischer**. The **Little One’s Preschool** was licensed by the State and opened for the first classes in August 2009. Enrollment increased modestly throughout the school year up to 12 students. The CE Committee is thankful for the vision, commitment and leadership of the Pre-School Committee and Director Fleisher for making this new FP ministry a reality.

Christian Education is grateful for a program staff that is full of energy and new ideas. We are thankful for all of the volunteers, teachers, and committees that make so much possible. We appreciate your time and willingness to serve and with God’s direction and the continued support of the congregation, anything is possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Kuney, Chairman

Committee Members

Elders: Scott Kuney, Cathy Bishop, Christy Fitzgerald, Baynes Bank, Ron McCraw
Staff: Adam DeEtorre, Laurie Bowers, John Kryvoruka, Marcie Fleischer, and Pastor Noel Anderson

“Giving to Jesus’ ministry”

PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The committee met monthly on the third Thursday at 4:30 PM in the Truxton Building Practice Room. The primary responsibilities of this committee are:

- Oversight of the physical properties of the church, including building maintenance and capital expenditures;
- Through the Information Technology sub-committee, coordinate the planning, purchase and upkeep of all computer and audio/visual for the church;
- Approval of non-budgeted expenditures exceeding \$500 in cost;
- Oversight and management of the Truxton Avenue office building;
- Supervision of use of church vans; and
- In cooperation with other committees, preparation of the annual church budget.

The 2009 Committee goals and objectives were based on the Committee’s initials: P—Preserving God’s Bounty as Faithful Stewards and F—Financing the Mission of the Church.

A substantial portion of the Committee’s time in 2009 was spent addressing the devastating effects of one of the worse economic declines since the Great Depression. The challenge of the Committee was to remain faithful to God’s calling despite declining economic indicators. Toward that end, the Committee endeavored to reduce expenditures, where possible, without affecting programs or personnel. Nevertheless, the Committee was front and center in advocating reductions in the 2010 Church budget, which ultimately resulted in a reduction in the Church budget of nearly \$300,000 to ~\$1,697,000 in 2010.

Other areas that consumed Committee time included the implementation of the Facilities Use Fee initiated by the Committee, and approved by Session, in the prior year. Specifically, while the Committee proposed, and the Session approved, a Facilities Use Fee, it came to the attention of the Committee that some outside organizations had traditionally used Church facilities without the payment of a fee and that fee waivers had been granted by the Committee without clear direction from Session. Session ultimately adopted a Facilities Use Fee Waiver Policy, but remanded to the Committee the task of adopting procedures for outside groups to renew their Facilities Use Fee Waiver. Accordingly, the Committee began work on Facilities Use Fee Renewal Implementation procedures. Finally, other areas of concern for the Committee included evaluating whether to acquire a security system for the Church, reviewing the credit limits of Church issued credit cards and house accounts, and addressing financials matters related to the Church’s dismissal from the PC(USA).

As we entered 2010, we did so with great anticipation of what God has in store for us. As of the conclusion of the first quarter 2010, our expenses exceeded revenues, forcing us to draw down already reduced cash reserves. Accordingly, the primary focus for the remainder of 2010 will be to develop systems to encourage and assist the congregation in their tithing and giving.

Respectfully submitted, Committee members
Mike Abril, Chairman
Elders: Mike Abril, Rich Eckerman, Trent Jones, Ernie Schroeder, Sindee Irelan
Members-at-large: Ann Batchelder, Bob Collier, Diane Sandidge (Recording Secretary),
Archie Smith, Dick Frasch, Dean Nulton, Nadia Roberts, Greg Stone,
Mike Yama and David Whitson Mike McCarthy (Treasurer),
Staff: Pastor Jeff Chandler, Carol Barling (Church Administrator),
Eliot Henderson (Staff)

“Going as Jesus’ ambassadors”

MISSION COMMITTEE

It has been a pleasure to serve Christ and this church on the Mission Committee with Spirit-led individuals.

We continue to apply the principles and priorities developed last year to help particularly in support decisions. Our goal is that every member be engaged in the Great Commission in local and overseas arenas, according to their gifts. That there are still over 2,000 unreached people groups, and that 80% of all US mission dollars are sent to people groups that are already reached – these facts trouble us and fuel our passion. Bulletin boards, Midweek classes, Messenger articles plus our 2 annual mission celebrations, Going Sunday (October) and Sending Sunday (April/May), are the main tools we use to inform and inspire.

We continue to grow deeper in relationship with our missionaries, wanting to not just hand out checks. Thus, we have again reduced the total number of missionaries supported from 45 (2008) to 38. Our 2009 budget of \$190,000 provided \$51,350 for overseas missionaries and \$85,000 for local and US missionaries. We also appropriated special requests totaling \$48,107 to support one-time/emergency needs. In 2009, we sent out members of our church to El Salvador, Ghana, Romania, Calvin Crest, New York, San Francisco, and Dinuba and have created life-long relationships worlds apart with brothers and sisters in Christ. In addition, two young adult members responded to the missionary call to serve in full-time student outreach. Unmentioned, but NOT unnoticed by God, are those who faithfully & regularly volunteer in mission, evangelism and compassion projects of all kinds both here in Bakersfield and overseas.

Two programs deserve special mention for their outstanding level of participation. Because of the congregation’s generous donations each Sunday, the Food Pantry ((FP²)) has not needed to increase its budget in 4 years, while still serving a growing number of families both within FPC and out in the surrounding community. Likewise the Saturday mini-missions have stretched us out of our comfort zones into relationship with needy people throughout Bakersfield through Jesus Shack, Habitat for Humanity, The FLOOD, Here’s Life Inner City, the Rescue Mission and Tabitha’s House.

As the ministry which plans and implements our “Going” activities, your Mission Committee is always watching for where God is working so that we all may join Him in His work. In doing so, we know that we are indeed “blessed to be a blessing”.

Serving Him with you,

Richard Andrews, Chairman

Committee Members

Elders: Richard Andrews, Bob Green, Brian Monroe, Ed Western, Gregg Wilkerson
Members-at-large: Lisa Elliott, Linda Wesley, Skip Staley, Jeremiah and Bety Howe, and
Robin Weege
Staff: Caroline Reid (Mission Director)

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The 2010 year has presented many challenges as we prepare for a possible downturn in revenue as a result of our current national and local economy. God, as always, remains faithful.

We've had to make some heartrending staff changes this year, laying off key staff members. It is always painful to endure these cutbacks, but our obligations to be faithful stewards to God and to our church family necessitated the reduction in personnel related costs.

Many thanks go to the too numerous to list volunteers who have stepped up to help us with pastoral care ministry (and the increased workload borne by Pastor Jeff and Pastor Noel), helpers who are assisting in the front office with phones and clerical support (and the increased workload shouldered by Leslie Geissel, Erin McArdle, JoAnna Erassarret, and Carol Barling) and all the volunteers helping in the Junior High and Route 456 ministries. A very special thanks to Joseph Litto who has done an outstanding job in Route 456, carrying on that ministry without a hitch.

Youth Ministry staffing has certainly borne its share of the impact, but much appreciation goes to John Kryvoruka and Flor Hull who work to coordinate, direct, and support volunteer leaders and helpers. Our Youth Ministry remains a major emphasis, and ministry effectiveness in leading our young people to a deeper, more meaningful walk with Christ continues unabated.

No ministry or support area went unaffected by our fiscal constraints. Without exception, every staff member from music ministry to custodial support has stepped up to fill any gaps. The Personnel Committee cannot adequately express our appreciation to each employee and volunteer who has seen the need and graciously offered their service, time, and energy to accomplish the required tasks.

We are not discouraged by these challenges, but rather encouraged. God continues to supply our needs. His goodness towards us is undiminished, and we are unceasingly appreciative of the generosity and giving spirits of our church family. Our responsibility is to be faithful stewards of the gifts God has provided. We are confident God will continue to provide those gifts.

As we continue to see God's hand in our daily efforts, we pray that He will continue the blessings we have experienced for more than a century in our quest toward *Lifting Up Jesus Christ from the Heart of Downtown*.

Respectfully submitted,

David Chesney, Chairman

Committee Members

Elders: Vidson Chan, David Chesney, Harold Crawford, Jan Lockard, and Grover Waldon
Members-at-large: Walt Johnson
Staff: Pastor Jeff Chandler



**By-Laws of The Congregation
First Presbyterian Church, ~~of~~ Bakersfield, California**

Preamble

The congregation of ~~the~~ First Presbyterian Church, ~~of~~ Bakersfield, California was first organized as a church on April 15, 1906. It does hereby enact the following By-Laws for the government of the church as an ecclesiastical body, and all previous By-Laws designed for this purpose are revoked as of this date, June 64, 201008.

ARTICLE I

NAME

1. The name of the congregation shall be ~~the~~ First Presbyterian Church, ~~of~~ Bakersfield, California.
2. Principal Office. The principal office for the transaction of the business of this church, including the corporate affairs, shall be at:
1705 17th Street
Bakersfield, California 93301
3. Fiscal Year. The Fiscal Year shall be the calendar year.
4. Program Year. The Program Year shall be from July 1 – June 30, and shall include the term of church officers.

ARTICLE II

ECCLESIALICAL CONNECTION AND CONSTITUTION

1. The church, being a part of the Presbytery of the West San Joaquin, the Synod of the Pacific and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church ~~(U.S.A.)~~, is governed by the then current edition of the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church ~~(U.S.A.)~~.

ARTICLE III

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

1. There shall be one regular meeting of the congregation annually, on a date in June, as authorized by the session (“Annual Meeting”). The Annual Meeting shall include the congregational approval, disapproval, or amendment of the compensation of each minister (pastor and associate pastor(s)) as recommended by the session, electing elders and deacons, electing the congregation’s contingent to the Nominating Committee (Article VII.1.c), and the transaction of other necessary business. ~~(G 7.0302) (G 10.0102M)~~
2. Special congregational meetings shall be called by the session, by the Presbytery of the West San Joaquin or by the session when requested in writing by one ~~fifth~~^{fourth} of the church membership. ~~(G.8-1A)~~ Action shall be confined to business specified in the call. ~~(G-87.1C0303)~~
3. All congregational meetings shall be called by the session by giving public notice of the time, place and purpose of the meeting from the pulpit and in all general church publications on two successive Sundays prior to the appointed time. ~~(G.8-1B-70303)~~

4. The pastor, who is the moderator of ~~the~~ session, shall preside at all congregational meetings, with the following exceptions:
 - a. When the church is without a pastor, a Minister of the Presbytery, as the m may be ~~oderator of the session~~ appointed by the Presbytery of the West San Joaquin, to shall preside at the all congregational meetings (G-8-1D).
 - b. If it is impractical or unwise for the pastor to be the moderator, ~~of the session with the concurrence of the pastor shall~~ appointed by the Presbytery one of its members to call the meeting to order and to preside, ~~he or she shall invite, with the concurrence of the session, another minister of the Presbytery to preside.~~ (G-87.1D0306)
5. The clerk of the session shall be the clerksecretary of meetings of the congregation. If the clerk of the session is unable to attend, the moderator of sessiononecongregation shall appoint a temporary clerk ~~elect a secretary~~. The clerk shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings at congregational meetings. Notwithstanding the forgoing, the clerk may appoint a secretarial assistant to take notes necessary to assemble the meeting minutes, but such secretarial assistant shall have no power except to assist the clerk in the clerk's duties. The clerk shall sign ~~t~~he minutes of a congregational meeting, which shall be referred to the moderator ~~session~~ for approval ~~at its next stated meeting~~ and, upon approval, shall be incorporated into the permanent session book. (G-87.1F0307)
6. Congregational meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of governing bodies adopted by the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church ~~(U.S.A.)~~, so far as they apply, and when they do not apply, according to the usual legislative rules of order. Unless otherwise prescribed by the *Book of Order*, the body will operate by parliamentary procedures in Roberts Rules of Order (Newly Revised).
7. All congregational meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer.
8. A quorum shall consist of one tenth (1/10) of the active members, but not less than 20 (G-8.1E).

ARTICLE IV

VOTING MEMBERSHIP

1. All active members in good and regular standing as determined by session, but no others, are entitled to vote at congregational meetings. The moderator may not vote (G-8.1G)
2. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

ARTICLE V

BOARDS OF THE CHURCH

1. The Session.
 - a. Membership. The session consists of the pastor or co-pastors, the associate pastors and ~~up to eighteen thirty~~ (1830) ruling elders. A ruling elder's term shall be three (3) years. A ruling elder may serve consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating not more than six (6) years. A ruling elder will be ineligible to serve a further term until at least one (1) year has elapsed from the expiration of the last term for which he/she was elected. All members of the session, including the pastor, co-pastors and associate pastors, are entitled to vote. (G-16-90.0101) (G-154-6.0201a)
 - b. Classes. Up to sixteen (640) active members shall be elected as ruling elders by the congregation each year at the Annual Meeting. Notwithstanding the forgoing provision, and in recognition of the prior enacted bylaws providing for up to thirty (30) ruling elders, the reduction in ruling elders from thirty (30) to eighteen (18) shall occur as follows: At the first Annual Meeting following the adoption of these bylaws, the congregation shall elect a total of six (6) new elders resulting in the number of ruling elders on session being twenty-six (26). At the second Annual Meeting following the adoption of these bylaws, the congregation shall elect a total of six (6) new elders resulting in the number of ruling elders on session being twenty-two (22). At the third Annual Meeting following the adoption of these bylaws, the congregation shall elect a total of six (6) new elders

resulting in the number of ruling elders on session being eighteen (18), which shall be the maximum number of ruling elders on session during any term of session.

- c. Meetings. Stated meetings of the session shall be held according to a calendar adopted by the session at its first meeting. Special meetings may be called by the moderator, on his/her own initiative, when directed by the Presbytery of the West San Joaquin, or at the written request of one-fourth~~two~~ (1/42) of the members of session. Two~~One~~ third of the ruling elders and the moderator shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A minimum of seven (7) days notice shall be given to all session members prior to all special meetings, with the exception of receiving members.
(G-16-110.0201) (G 10.0202)
- d. Powers and Duties. The session is responsible for the mission and government of the church. Its specific responsibilities and powers are stated in the *Book of Order*, (G16-10.0102).
- e. Officers
 - (1) Moderator. The pastor of the church shall be the moderator of the session. (G-16-940.0103) The moderator possesses the authority necessary for preserving order and for conducting efficiently the business of the governing body. (G 9.0202) The pastor is a full member of session and has the privilege of voting. If the pastor wishes to make a motion or otherwise participate in debate, some other member of session should serve as temporary moderator. (G-16-9)
 - (2) Clerk. The session shall elect a clerk at its first meeting, who is an elder. The responsibilities of the clerk shall include those set forth in G16-13. The clerk will usually be a member of the session, but may be chosen from among the active members of the congregation. If the clerk is not a member of the session, the clerk has neither voice nor vote in the proceedings. (G 9.0203)
 - (3) Treasurer. The session shall elect a church treasurer at its first meeting, who is an elder. The treasurer shall encourage the use of the best financial principles and procedures by all treasurers or other persons handling funds of the congregation, the church school, or other societies of the local church. The minimum standards listed in the Book of Order, (G 10.0400) shall be observed.
- f. Commissioners to Presbytery. The session shall elect at its first meeting, ruling elders to represent the congregation as commissioners to the Presbytery of the West San Joaquin for a term of one year. The number of commissioners shall be equal to that allowed by the Book of Order Presbytery. An equal number of alternate commissioners shall be elected. Alternate commissioners need not be ruling elders. They shall not serve for consecutive terms either full or partial, aggregating more than six years. (G16-14.0101)
- g. Committees. The session may establish such permanent committees as it deems necessary. These committees may include Property and Finance; Music and Worship; Spiritual Formation and Christian Education; Missions and Outreach; Personnel; and Membership and Fellowship. The moderatorsession shall may delegate the appointment of committee chairmen, who shall be a ruling elder, and the elder delegates to each committee. The committee chairman shall committee appoint other committee membership members to the moderator, subject. The appointment of committee chairman, elder delegates, and other committee members shall be subject to ratification by a two-thirds majority vote of the session at its first regular meeting.
- h. Vacancies. Vacancies on the session may be filled at a regular or special meeting of the congregation as the session may determine. The clerk of the session and the pastor shall confer with any member of session who has been absent two stated meetings in one program year to ascertain his/her ability and desire to continue serving on the session. A member may be removed for cause in accordance with the *Book of Order*.
 - i. All ruling elders shall normally be elected by the congregation at the~~its~~ Annual Meeting, and shall be ordained and installed on a Sunday in July~~ne~~ prior to the August meeting of the session. All current and newly elected elders shall meet jointly at the August meeting.

2. The Board of Deacons

- a. Membership. The board of deacons shall consist of up to thirty-six (36) members. Their term of office shall be for three (3) years and their eligibility for successive terms shall be the same as provided for ruling elders in Section 1.a. above.
- b. Classes. Up to twelve (12) active members shall be elected as deacons by the congregation each year at the Annual Meeting.
- c. Meetings. Stated meetings of the deacons shall be held according to a calendar adopted at its first meeting. Special meetings shall be whenever requested by two (2) of its members or by the moderator of the deacons, or by the session, or by the pastor. The board shall keep a record of its proceedings and of all funds at its disposal and their distribution. The board shall submit its records to the session for approval at least once a year, and at other times upon request of the session. One third of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- d. Duties. Deacons shall perform the duties described in the *Book of Order*. (G1-6-7A and B-0402)
- e. Officers. The board of deacons shall elect a moderator, a recording clerksecretary and a treasurer from among its members at its first regular meeting. (G16-7C and D) The term of office shall be one (1) yeardetermined by the board. The recording clerksecretary shall keep a record of the board's proceedings.
- f. Committees. The board may establish such committees from its number as may be deemed necessary.
- g. Vacancies. The filling of vacancies in the board shall follow the method prescribed for the session, except that the resignation of a deacon is to be tendered to the session and takes effect when accepted by that body. The moderator of the board of deacons and the pastor shall confer with any member who has been absent two stated meetings in one program year to ascertain his/her ability and desire to continue serving on the board of deacons. A member may be removed for cause in accordance with the *Book of Order*.
- h. All deacons shall normally be elected by the congregation at the~~its~~ Annual Meeting, and shall be ordained and installed on a Sunday in July~~the~~.

ARTICLE VI

ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CHURCH

- 1. With the consent of, and subject to the jurisdiction of the session, organizations for men, women or mixed groups, may be formed in the church for the conduct of a special work for missions, or other benevolence purposes, for the purpose of instruction in religion and development in Christian nurture, and for fellowship.
- 2. The chief officer of every adult organization shall be an active member of this church.
- 3. No organization within this church is or can be independent of the session. The functions of an organization including the collection and distribution of monies shall be subject to the oversight and direction of the session.
- 4. Each organization shall report at least annually to the session regarding its programs and expenditures.

ARTICLE VII

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- 1. A nominating committee shall be constituted annually for the purpose of nominating persons who will serve on the boards of the Church
 - a. At least two members of the~~is~~ committee shall be active elders designated by the session, one of whom shall be appointed by~~currently on~~ the session to~~and shall~~ serve as chairman~~the moderator~~. (G11-14.0201BA)
 - b. One member shall be designated by the board of deacons from its members.

- c. The congregation at ~~the its~~ Annual Meeting shall elect four members at large from the ~~active~~ church membership. (G-11-14.0201B)
- d. The pastor shall serve as an ex officio member without vote.

2. The committee shall nominate persons who can fulfill the qualifications for the respective office as laid down in the *Book of Order* of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church ~~(U.S.A.)~~(G10-5)(G10-7). It shall nominate one person for each office to be filled representing a cross section of church membership. ~~(G 14.0201)~~ It shall also nominate persons who will serve on the nominating committee for the upcoming year to be elected as set forth in paragraphs 1c and 3 of this Article.
3. The nominations made by the nominating committee shall be announced with the call for the Annual Meeting at which the elections of ruling elders and deacons will be held. ~~At such meeting, full opportunity shall always be provided for nominations from the floor by any eligible voter.~~ (G 14.0201E)

ARTICLE VIII

PASTORAL SEARCHNOMINATING COMMITTEE

When the church is without a pastor or associate pastor(s), the nomination of the new pastor shall be in the hands of a special committee of nine (9) members, to be known as the “Pastoral SearchNominating Committee.” This committee shall be chosen at ~~the an~~ Annual Meeting or special meeting of the congregation and shall consist of at least one elder, one deacon, and seven active members of the congregation-at-large, representing a cross section of the church’s life.

The session may nominate this committee to the congregation, although the floor must also be opened for other nominations. This committee, working in cooperation with the Ministerial Committee of Ministry of the Presbytery of the West San Joaquin shall search, choose and nominate one person to the congregation as its pastor. When the committee is ready, the session shall call a special meeting of the congregation to hear their report. If the committee’s report is received and approved by the congregation, no other names shall be considered. If the report is not approved, the committee may be instructed by the congregation to continue its work, or a new committee shall be named. The call to the intended new pastor shall be in the form in use by the Presbytery of the West and according to the terms determined by the church and the Presbytery of the West San Joaquin(G11-5).

ARTICLE IX

REPORTS

An annual report summarizing the activities of the boards and organizations of the church for the Program Year shall be prepared and incorporated in the minutes of the session and made available to the congregation in JuneMarch of the following year. (G-9.0407)

ARTICLE X

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. Moderator. The moderator shall perform the duties described in the Book of Order. (G-9.0202 and G-10.0103)
2. Clerk of the session. The clerk of the session shall perform the duties described in the Book of Order. (G-10.0401)
3. Treasurer. The treasurer shall perform the duties described in the Book of Order. (G-10.0401)

ARTICLE XI

STAFF

The associate pastors of the church, together with its lay employees, both professional and non-professional, shall constitute the staff of which the moderator of the session shall be recognized as the head. Each position in the church, including the pastor, the associate pastors, and all other employees, shall be described by a position description that

includes a list of their duties, responsibilities and their relationships with other staff members. These shall be prepared in consultation with the moderator, the personnel committee, and with the staff member concerned and shall be approved by the session and engrossed in full upon the records. All ministerial position descriptions shall be submitted to the Ministerial Committee ~~on Ministry~~ of the Presbytery of the West San Joaquin for its review and recommendations.

ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENTS AND REVIEW

1. These By-Laws, except those required by the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church ~~(U.S.A.)~~, may be amended by two-thirds vote of the electors present at a properly called congregational meeting (Article III, Section 3). The session shall announce and make available the printed proposed amendments(s) on the two successive Sundays proceeding the day of such meeting.
2. A review of these By-Laws shall be conducted at least every three years by a committee named by the session.

ARTICLE XII

BY-LAWS OF THE CORPORATION

The By-Laws of the Corporation are considered as part of these By-Laws, having been set up to comply with the Laws of the State of California.

BY-LAWS OF THE CORPORATION

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ~~OF~~ BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Conforming to the Laws of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church ~~(U.S.A.)~~ and the State of California, this church is incorporated as the First Presbyterian Church ~~of~~ Bakersfield, California. It does hereby enact the following By-Laws of the Corporation and all previous By-Laws designated for this purpose are revoked as of this date.

ARTICLE I

AUTHORITY OF THE BY-LAWS AND PURPOSE

1. The By-Laws of the corporation shall be subordinate to the Constitution and the Laws of the State of California.
2. This corporation shall be formed and maintained to receive, hold, encumber, manage and transfer property, and to facilitate the management of its civil affairs in such a manner as may be directed by the session from time to time and according to the Laws of the State of California.

ARTICLE II

MEETINGS OF THE CORPORATION

1. There shall be one regular meeting of the corporation annually, on a date in June, as authorized by the session. The meeting shall include the congregational approval, disapproval or amendment of corporation business brought before it, the receipt of the report of the Trustees and the transaction of other necessary business.
2. Special meetings may be called by the Trustees, the session or the Presbytery of the West San Joaquin as deemed necessary. Action shall be confined to business specified in the call.
3. All corporation meetings shall be called by the session by giving public notice thereof from the pulpit on the two successive Sundays ~~preceding~~preceding the day of the meeting.

4. The chairman of the Trustees shall preside over the meetings of the Trustees and the moderator of the session shall preside over the meetings of the corporation unless in the absence of either the chairman of the Trustees and the moderator of the session, the congregation elects some other qualified elector to preside.
5. The secretary of the Trustees shall be the secretary of all meetings of the Trustees and the clerk of the session shall be the secretary of all meetings of the corporation. If both are unable to attend, the Trustees shall appoint a substitute. The secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings at corporate meetings and incorporate this record into the permanent minute book of the Corporation.
6. Only active members of the church shall be permitted to vote at meetings of the church corporation.
7. A quorum shall consist of one tenth (1/10) of the active members.
8. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

ARTICLE III

TRUSTEES

1. The session shall elect members of the Trustees who have demonstrated a consistent Christian life shall be elected by the session to fulfill the requirements of civil law in respect to the church corporation. (G7-7)
2. Membership. The Trustees consists of three (3) ruling elders whose terms of office shall be three years. A Trustee may serve two consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating not more than six years. A Trustee will be ineligible to serve a further term until at least one (1) year has elapsed from the expiration of the last term for which he/she was elected.
3. Election. One (1) Trustee, and any number necessary to fill vacancies, shall be elected to the committee each year by the session.
4. Nomination. Trustees shall be nominated annually by class from among those newly elected to the office of ruling elder.
5. Duties.
 - a. The duties of the Trustees shall be those only delegated to them by the laws of the State of California, the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the session of this church, and by formal actions of this corporation.
 - b. It shall be the duty of the Trustees to buy, sell, mortgage property, accept and execute deeds, to hold and defend titles to effect title to all real and personal other property of the church. (G7-7) Trustees They shall also cause to be filed with the Secretary of State of the State of California any changes in the articles of Incorporation of the church corporation. Trustees They shall also submit annual reports to the corporation at regular meetings. Trustees They may make rules for their own government not inconsistent with the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Constitution of the State of California and these By-Laws.
6. Meetings.
 - a. The Trustees shall hold a meeting in September.
 - b. The Cehairman may call other meetings of the Trustees as deemed necessary.
- 6.7. Quorum. A majority of the Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE IV

ORGANIZATION

1. Each year at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting of the congregation, the Trustees shall organize itself by the election of a the following officers:
 - a. Chairman, who shall be the trustee who is in the third year of his term;
 - b. Vice-chairman, who shall be the trustee who is in the second year of his term; and
 - c. Secretary, who shall be the trustee who is in the first year of his term.
2. These officers shall serve one year.

ARTICLE V

AMENDMENTS AND REVIEW

1. These By-Laws, except those required by the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church ~~(U.S.A.)~~ and the State of California, may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the electors present at a properly called corporation meeting (Article III, Sections 1, 2 and 3). The session shall announce and make available the printed proposed amendment(s) on the two successive Sundays proceeding the day of such meeting.
2. A review of these By-Laws shall be conducted at least every three years by a committee named by the session.

Nominations 2010-2011

ELDER CANDIDATES - Class of 2013

1	Cathy Bishop
2	Bob Schaffer
3	Barry Lillie
4	Bob Collier
5	Beth Kuney
6	Bob Reed

DEACON CANDIDATES - Class of 2013

1	Grover Waldon
2	Catherine Waldon
3	Trevor Waldon
4	Doug Heitman
5	Judy Edwards
6	Terry Wyckoff
7	Chuck Wyckoff
8	Josephine Chan
9	Russ Bigler
10	Stan Cook
11	Fay Cook
12	Ruth Kranovich

13 Jean Burdette 1-year term

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Class of 2010-2011

1	Aileen Miller
2	Betty Jones
3	Phil Balmert
4	Ernie Schroeder