

**PRESBYTERY OF SANTA BARBARA  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)**

A Special Called Meeting of the Presbytery of Santa Barbara, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), was convened on Saturday, June 2, 2012 at 9:34am at Santa Ynez Valley Presbyterian Church, Solvang, California by Rev. Janet Loughry, Moderator. **Purpose:** The purpose of this Called Meeting is (1) To hear and act upon a recommendation from the presbytery's Nominations Committee to set aside Standing Rule 7.71A and elect Rev. Jeff Holland to the Committee on Ministry, Class of 2015 and to serve as chair; (2) to vote on a recommendation from Presbytery Council to recognize of ECO: a Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians as a Reformed body and to recognize the Presbytery of the West as the comparable council to the Presbytery of Santa Barbara; and (3) to vote on the Plan of Union for the Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara. The meeting was properly called by the Moderator according to G-3.0304 of the Book of Order; and notice was sent not less than 10 days in advance of the meeting to each minister member and to the session of each member church. Notice correctly stated the purpose of the meeting. A quorum was present and the meeting opened with prayer by the Moderator.

**ROLL** was taken by card, 175 persons indicated attendance. (A-Absent; number after *teaching elder* name is authorized ecclesiastical occupational designation; an \* indicates Parish Associate; number before *ruling elder* commissioners indicate number of commissioners each church is entitled to for this meeting; CRE indicates Commissioned Ruling Elder.)

**CHURCHES/TEACHING ELDERS**

**RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS**

**Camarillo, Trinity**

Jerome Cooper (101)  
Jeff Kempton (103)

(3) Bill Cashdollar, Mac Dalgleish, Paige Wolf

**Cambria, Community**

Tracy Vining (101)  
Chris Milbrath, CRE (107)

(3) Dan Balfe, John Byde, Lydia Marzano

**Carpinteria Community**

Jarrett Johnson (101)

(1) Langdon Evans

**Goleta**

Deborah Kehle (101)  
Jeannie Cavender, CRE (107)

(2) Jean Blois, Don Eggebraaten

**Grover Beach, First**

Andrew Rock (101)

(1) Milt Jantzen

**Lompoc, First**

Randy Working (105)

(2) Myron Heavin, Sharyl Heavin

**Los Alamos**

Warren Einolander (101)

(1) Jim Gravitt

**Malibu**

Greg Hughes (101)

(3) Phillip Dunn, John Eisz, David Ruth

**Moorpark**

David A. Wilkinson (101)  
Janet Loughry (108)  
Daryl Fisher-Ogden\* (797)  
Emil Blattner, CRE (107)

(4) Scott Bradfield, Bob Eubank,  
Mickey Stueck, Wayne Tingley

**Morro Bay**

Dale Paulsen (101)

(2) Erika King, Karol Vogt

<b>Newbury Park, Monte Vista</b> Tom Stephen (101) Carol Benson, CRE (107)	(2)	Karl Smith
<b>Nipomo, Community</b> Eugenia Gamble (101)	(2)	Kristy Clark, Jeanne Dickey
<b>Ojai</b> Art Beals* (299)	(3)	Sylvia Narula
<b>Orcutt</b> Bruce Lethbridge (101) Israel Gonzales (193) Garry Grant, CRE (107)	(3)	Scott Astrosky, Joe Hughes, Linda Redman
<b>Oxnard, First</b> Ted Brandt (101)	(3)	Brenda Crispin, Rilla Harvey, Charlotte White
<b>Oxnard, Word of Life</b> Ron Urzua (191) Jesse Rodriguez, CRE (107)	(1)	Veronica Urzua
<b>Paso Robles, Highlands NCD</b> Graham Baird (301)		
<b>Pismo Beach, Community</b> Robert Crouch (101)	(1)	Susan Freer
<b>Port Hueneme, Westminster</b> Dan Birchfield (101)	(2)	Cassie Sorenson, Michele Southerland
<b>San Luis Obispo, First</b> James R. Blades (101)	(4)	Robert Gordon, Dorie Larson Tim Smith, Gene Starkey
<b>Santa Barbara, El Montecito</b> Jeff Bridgeman (105) Jay Shirley (193)	(3)	Carl Perry, Bob Phinney, Don Rhodes
<b>Santa Barbara, First</b> Peter Buehler (101) Judith Muller (103)	(3)	Doug DuCharme, Diane Kirkpatrick, Lee Kirkpatrick
<b>Santa Barbara, St. Andrew's</b> Brett Becker (101) Edwin Aspinwall (299) Harold Englund (299)	(3)	Lindy Moore, Sandy Thoits, Rachel Tobler
<b>Santa Paula, First</b> Bob Ramos, CRE (107)	(1)	Penny Carlson
<b>Santa Ynez Valley</b> Rick Murray (105) Glenn Beede, CRE (107)	(3)	Allen Cooper, Joe Gonzalez, Amy Tagles
<b>Simi Valley</b> Jeff Cheadle (101) Jonathan Lusche (103)	(6)	Jim Anglin, June Arnette, Rick Cadruvi, John Luis, Andy Thompson
<b>Templeton, First</b> Charlie Little (101)	(1)	Scott Scott
<b>Thousand Oaks, Emmanuel</b> Stuart Bond (101)	(4)	Mike Cook, Mike Savin
<b>Ventura, Community</b> Mark Patterson (101) E. Wayne Kempton (108) Kent Meads (108, 299)	(5)	Richard Armstrong, Bryon Cressy, Rocky Ludes, Jim McClurkin, Laura Smith

**Ventura, Eastminster**  
Matthew Hoyt (191)

(3) Robert Farrow, Barbara Morris, Tom Spears

**OTHER TEACHING ELDERS**

Jan Armstrong (302)  
Varre Cummins (797)  
Valerie De La Torre (797)  
Keith Edwards (797)  
Luanne Griguoli (299)  
Diana Hopkins (797)  
Steve Jacobsen (797)

Suzanne Malloy (701)  
Ann Martel (299)  
Fred Morgan (299)  
Jim Nielsen (299)  
Robert Ohman (299)  
Judy Rarick (299)  
Walter K. Robie (299)

Alan G. Stones (299)  
Jessica Vaughn-Lower (797)  
Jon Wilson (299)  
Kenneth C. Working (299,309)  
Marjorie Working (299)

**RULING ELDER MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY COUNCIL PRESENT:** Chuck Curtis, Bev Ford, Larry Lindsay, Frank Matthews, Jim Stueck

**ALL OTHERS PRESENT:** Karen and Tom Allin (Goleta), Alan Armstrong (Grover Beach), Tilli Bamrud (Ventura Community), Lyle Barnett (Ventura Eastminster), Doug Beverly (Santa Ynez Valley), Cherie Bonazzola (Santa Ynez Valley), Gayle Davis (Grover Beach), Christine Elmerick (Santa Ynez Valley), Lynne Farrow (Ventura Eastminster), Joe Fowler (Orcutt), Jim Friestad (Goleta), Shari and Ric Gahm (Templeton), Phyllis Grey (Ventura Community), Tina and Bruce Hamous (Moorpark), Elaine Hanko (Nipomo), Sandi Hartley (Ventura Community), Diane Keosheyen (Nipomo), Rosalie Matthews (Orcutt), Nancy McKenzie (SB St. Andrew's), Frank Mueller (Santa Ynez Valley), Marie Sue Parsons (SB St. Andrew's), Debra and John Richards (Orcutt), Donna Smith (Ventura Community), Linda Sorensen (SB St. Andrew's), Peter Stonewer (Nipomo), Linda Terry (Ventura Community), Michael Wesner (Moorpark), Hank Wollman (Morro Bay)

**PRESBYTERY STAFF PRESENT:** Rev. Jan Armstrong, Executive Presbyter; Ruling Elder Michelle Holmes, Stated Clerk; Ruling Elder Mary Curtis, Registrar

**NEW RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS** and visitors were welcomed to the presbytery.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR** was granted to all Corresponding Members, members of presbytery committees, all presenters, and to Inquirers and Candidates under Care.

**AGENDA**, the revised agenda was adopted by the presbytery.

**CONSENT AGENDA** **It was moved, seconded and carried** to adopt the Consent Agenda.

**REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK** (Consent Agenda)

The Stated Clerk

1. Robert's Rules of Order shall be operative for the presbytery meetings.
2. We have allowed 1 hour and 15 minutes on our agenda for the discussion and debate on the ECO and Union Presbytery proposals. If we exhaust that amount of time, the Moderator will entertain a motion to extend or end debate.
3. There is no longer a provision in the Book of Order for **Corresponding Members** (teaching or ruling elders in good standing in other councils of this church or in any other Christian church, who are present at any meeting of the presbytery). We have always welcomed these people to our presbytery meetings, and given them voice but not vote. Since this has been our normal practice, the presbytery will have the opportunity at this meeting to designate such visitors as Corresponding Members. Additionally, we normally give **presbytery committee members, inquirers and candidates** privilege of the floor at our presbytery meetings and this will also be done at the beginning of the meeting. At the time

we move into discussion and debate on our motions, however, the Moderator will ask for a motion to restrict debate to teaching and ruling elder commissioners to the meeting.

4. For the discussion, debate and vote,
  - (a) We will alternate speakers, pro and con.
  - (b) Persons who wish to speak must obtain the floor and be recognized by the Moderator before beginning to speak.
  - (c) Each speaker shall identify themselves by giving their name and church or relationship to the presbytery.
  - (d) Each speaker must state clearly whether they are speaking for or against the motion, or if they are simply asking a question.
  - (e) No one person may speak for more than two (2) minutes; speakers will alternate pro and con; no one may speak twice until all have had an opportunity to speak once.
  - (f) Any motion made from the floor must be submitted to the Stated Clerk in writing at the time the motion is made.
  - (g) During the debate, speakers will address the Moderator and speak to the motion; speakers must be courteous; cross-talk between members is not allowed.
  - (h) It is inappropriate to applaud.
  - (i) Meeting attendance shall be totaled prior to voting.
  - (j) For a ballot vote, we will use paper ballots.
  - (k) If a majority vote is required, it is more than half the votes cast by persons legally entitled to vote, excluding blanks or abstentions.
  - (l) If a two-thirds vote is required, it is at least two thirds of the votes cast by persons legally entitled to vote, excluding blanks or abstentions. For example,
    - If 30 votes are cast, a two-thirds vote is 20
    - If 31 votes are cast, a two-thirds vote is 21
    - If 32 votes are cast, a two-thirds vote is 22
    - If 33 votes are cast, a two-thirds vote is 22
  - (m) To be included in the packet of information for presbytery commissioners: a copy of the front page of "Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement."

**WORSHIP AND COMMUNION** Rev. Tom Stephen, Alan Satchwell, Worship Director at the host church, and Executive Presbyter Rev. Jan Armstrong led the presbytery in worship. The presbytery celebrated the Lord's Supper together.

**REV. GRAHAM BAIRD** addressed the presbytery. Graham will be moving to Colorado to serve as Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Colorado Springs. He spoke about the blessing serving as pastor at Highlands Church has been. The church currently has 305 members and averages 605 in worship. He asked the presbytery to continue to pray and support the new church. Executive Presbyter Armstrong prayed for Graham's next call to ministry.

**REPORT OF NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE** Committee chair Rev. Dan Birchfield explained that Rev. Jeff Holland's name had inadvertently been left off the Committee on Ministry last May although he is eligible for another three years' service. Jeff has been serving as chair of that committee. In order to ensure continuity on the Committee on Ministry, Rev. Birchfield presented three motions from the committee, all of which had been endorsed by the Presbytery Council; there were no nominations from the floor.

**It was moved, seconded and carried** to set aside Standing Rule 7.71A and increase the size of the Committee on Ministry to 15 people until June 30, 2015.

**It was moved, seconded and carried** to elect Rev. Jeff Holland to serve on the Committee on Ministry, Class of 2015.

**It was moved, seconded and carried** to elect Rev. Jeff Holland as chair of the Committee on Ministry.

#### **ECO and UNION PRESBYTERY**

At the Moderator's request

**It was moved, seconded and carried** to restrict debate to voting commissioners present at the meeting.

The Moderator presented a motion from Presbytery Council. Following discussion,

**It was moved, seconded and carried** to recognize ECO: a Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians as a Reformed body and recognize the Presbytery of the West as the comparable council to the Presbytery of Santa Barbara. (106 YES, 36 NO)

The Moderator presented a second motion from Presbytery Council. Following discussion,

**It was moved, seconded and carried** to adopt the "Plan of Union for the Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara." (104 YES, 38 NO) (Attachment 1)

The Moderator reminded the presbytery that this vote will start the process of becoming a Union presbytery. The recommendation will go to the Synod Assembly which meets on Saturday, November 3, 2012 at Moorpark Presbyterian Church.

**ADJOURNMENT** With completion of the business of the day and with prayer by the Moderator, the presbytery adjourned at 12:22pm. The next stated meeting is Saturday, September 22, 2012 (9:30am) in the southern part of the presbytery.

ATTEST:

Michelle Holmes, Stated Clerk

Attachment 1

**Plan of Union for the  
Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara**

Approved by the Presbytery of Santa Barbara June 2, 2012

It is resolved:

1. that the Presbytery of Santa Barbara request the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii for approval to become a union presbytery with the Presbytery of the West of ECO: a Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians [hereinafter ECO] and to approve the following Plan of Union pursuant to G-5.04;
2. that the congregations of the Presbytery of Santa Barbara become congregations of the Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara [hereinafter also referred to as Union Presbytery or presbytery] with the exception of any congregations that do not desire to affiliate with the Union Presbytery;
3. that the teaching elder members the Presbytery of Santa Barbara become teaching elders of the Union Presbytery;
4. that the Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara hold a worship service and create a liturgy to welcome congregations into its body;
5. that the Presbytery of Santa Barbara adopt the following *Plan of Union* and incorporate it in its entirety as part of this resolution; and
6. that the Presbytery of Santa Barbara adopt the following *Memorandum of Understanding* and incorporate it in its entirety as part of this resolution.

***Plan of Union***

***In order to enable greater efforts in the Mission of the Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara to:***

- A. Provide elder training and leadership preparation;
- B. Engage in worldwide mission, medium and long term mission activities, until the whole world knows of Christ our King;
- C. Carry out new church planting and starting new initiatives; and
- D. Recruit and train young men and women for the rolls of elder in the church, especially being pro-active to identify young people for the call to ministry as teaching elders. Particular regard should be given to marginalized groups and people for whom leadership and the educational requirements appear insurmountable.

***The current Presbytery of Santa Barbara hereby becomes the Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara and will abide by these provisions:***

1. The Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara shall welcome congregations from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) [hereinafter PC(USA)] and the Presbytery of the West of ECO as full members of the Union Presbytery.
2. The Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara will routinely grant, after a fair and reasonable process, congregations within the Union Presbytery permission to transfer their denominational membership to ECO. Any financial compensation (other than repayment of any existing loans or financial commitments) required will follow the

presbytery's dismissal policy. The presbytery will consider the continued participation of a congregation in the Union Presbytery as satisfying the financial guidelines for dismissal. (Dismissal policy and financial guidelines are currently being developed by presbytery committees and Council.)

3. Congregations which transfer under this Plan of Union provision may not transfer or leave ECO for five years, except to return to the PC(USA), or by two-thirds vote of the Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara.
4. Provisions will be made for congregations who do not believe they can, in good conscience, participate in the new Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara and abide by the presbytery standards of conduct.
5. Individual members of PC(USA) congregations whose congregations transfer to ECO may retain their PC(USA) membership, which shall be held at the presbytery level. They shall continue to receive pastoral care and welcome at their local congregations, and such rights as the bylaws of the local congregation grants them.
6. All congregations in the Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara will be requested to contribute an annual contribution to the presbytery, based on their active membership, equal to the amount of ministry share approved annually by the presbytery. Each congregation will individually be responsible for other fund requests from their higher councils per existing policies.
7. All teaching elder members of the Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara shall be considered to be engaged in a validated ministry, within the meaning of the PC(USA) G-2.0503a. The presbytery shall routinely grant Teaching Elders permission to serve across denominational lines between the PC(USA) and ECO.
8. All Teaching Elders either being ordained for service or entering the presbytery will be examined by the full Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara for membership.
9. Meetings of the Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara will begin with a joint meeting for all presbytery business. The first meeting shall establish appropriate committees, including ones to oversee teaching elders, congregations and candidates for ministry. Committee membership shall be proportionate to the ratio of PC(USA) and ECO congregations. The first meeting of the Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara shall elect a moderator, vice-moderator and Presbytery Council members-at-large; and shall establish a schedule for plenary meeting for the next 12 months.
10. The committees with the responsibility to oversee teaching elders, congregations and candidates for ministry shall appoint committees or commissions made up in entirety of persons from the denomination of the congregation which is receiving specific care in cases which involve the following:
  - a. Any authority to appoint an administrative commission with original jurisdiction.
  - b. Any authority to remove an installed pastor.
  - c. Any authority to prosecute remedial and disciplinary proceedings.
11. The Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara shall meet in plenary session. The Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara shall have a Presbytery Council to oversee the day-to-day activities and needs of the Union Presbytery. The Presbytery Council shall consist of all committee chairpersons, moderator, vice-moderator, immediate-past moderator, and 4 members-at-large. The member-at-large positions shall be used to ensure that

the Presbytery Council has a ratio of membership proportionate to the ratio of PC(USA) and ECO congregations. The number of member-at-large positions may be changed by the Union Presbytery at any regularly scheduled plenary meeting.

12. The Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara shall continue to employ the present staff of the current Presbytery of Santa Barbara. A personnel committee shall be established by the Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara to make recommendations concerning salaries, benefits, hiring, annual reviews, and dismissal of all Union Presbytery employees.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Memorandum of Understanding**

**1. What does union mean?**

*This union is the joining of the Presbytery of Santa Barbara with another comparable body within the Reformed tradition for the purpose of shared ministry. This plan seeks to manifest more visibly the unity of the body of Christ. It will seek to initiate, maintain, and strengthen relationships with another Reformed body as encouraged in the Book of Order (G-5.0101).*

**2. What is the goal or aim of being a union presbytery?**

*Within the current environment of the PC(USA) some churches in our presbytery have expressed their desire or intention to leave the PC(USA) while simultaneously wishing to remain part of the Presbytery of Santa Barbara. This plan seeks to allow individual churches to follow their conscience while staying in union with the presbytery and partners in its mission and ministries. The alternative, as seen nationally, is a contentious separation causing damage to congregations, breaking of relationships, and threatening the viability of congregations, presbyteries and their mission. Our goal is to avoid this.*

**3. Why bother?**

*Our vows as elders require us to work for the peace, unity, and purity of the church. This plan of union is a concrete effort to fulfill this promise. The loss of congregations from the presbytery will call into serious question the viability of the presbytery as a mission outpost. This plan is an intentional effort to keep churches in vital relationship with the presbytery and its mission.*

**4. Why now?**

*Major changes within the PC(USA) since the last general assembly have led some of our member churches to feel they can no longer remain in the denomination. Some have been actively preparing to leave. Some are exploring options and wondering how best to move forward. The presbytery council is seeking to proactively lead all its member churches into greater unity and vitality in this time of great upheaval and chaos. This is an urgent issue in which action by the presbytery is necessary to insure its viability in ministry prior to further actions by the GA in July.*

**5. Is this legal?**

*Yes, it is legal. Union presbyteries have existed successfully through the history of the Presbyterian Church. Provision for this plan may be found in the Book of Order, G-5. We are working with the synod governing body relations committee to ensure the plan is the best it can be, and have been actively putting questions before them for assistance.*

**6. Does it mean the presbytery and its member churches are under two forms of government?**

*Yes. According to G-5.0401 the union presbytery shall be subject to the constitution of each denomination represented in the union. Pastors shall hold their ordination in one or the other denomination, they are not required to be members of both. At union congregations will remain as PC(USA) or ECO congregations, and will not normally be members of both, unless they initiate the process of becoming a union congregation, or implement item 8 below.*

**7. What happens when the constitutions involved are in conflict?**

*The Book of Order requires mandatory provisions within each constitution take priority over permissive. Where mandatory provisions conflict appeal is made to the two highest governing bodies for resolution. G-5.0401*

**8. What are options for churches that do not want to be part of the union presbytery?**

*(a.) The plan calls for the provision of a relief of conscience for those who do not wish to be part of the union presbytery. (b.) A session, as the council of the church (G-3.0201), may vote to be either under the constitution of the PC(USA) only, or the ECO only. (c.) There is also provision for nuanced and sensitive presbytery-pastoral (G-2.0601 and G-3.0307) care for congregations, candidates and pastors relating to their specific identification. (d.) Under the current restrictions of non-geographic presbyteries there are no options for churches that do not desire to be part of the union presbytery to transfer to another presbytery. There is hope that this will change at the next General Assembly as it takes up the idea of non-geographic presbyteries and the GA Mid-Council Commission report encouraging experiments. The intention is to advocate that current restrictions be changed and churches be granted the opportunity to associate with the presbytery of their choice.*

**9. Could we/Will we have two CPMs and two COMs?**

*Not as part of this plan of union. The union presbytery will have one CPM and one COM for all its member churches. These committees will be sensitive to and respectful of the unique culture, values, and theology of the presbytery's member churches and will not force the values or theology of one denomination upon a congregation of another. This plan does not preclude the possibility of alternate CPM, COM or other ways to fulfill G-2.0601 and G-3.0307.*

**10. Were other alternatives considered? What are they? What pluses and minuses of these?**

*Yes. The first effort and alternative was to become a non-geographic presbytery. While this had a promising start and the plan was approved by presbytery in the Spring of 2011 it was declared impossible under current constitutional standards. While these standards may be changed at the next GA this course is currently not allowed. The easiest option is to simply do nothing. Such a course would inevitably lead to the loss of a number of the presbytery's member congregations and great damage to the presbytery's life and mission. In the end, the forming of the union presbytery is the best and only course available for keeping the presbytery united and working together.*

**11. Will I be forced to be under a more restrictive standard?**

*The presbytery will follow the constitutional standards of both denominations. While some of the standards of ECO are more restrictive than those of the PC(USA) they are not any more restrictive than current policies and practices long held within the current Presbytery of Santa Barbara. It may be best to say that current practice will not become more restrictive nor will they become less.*

**12. In the union presbytery will a church be able/allowed to call and ordain a pastor/teaching elder who is a practicing homosexual living in a same gender covenant relationship?**

*No. The union presbytery is responsible for approving calls and pastors into its membership, and that right and responsibility of the presbytery as the union council remains unchanged.*

**13. Will the Union Presbytery take in ECO Churches that are not within the geographic borders of the Presbytery of Santa Barbara?**

*The Union will be with the Presbytery of the West of the ECO so it is not up to us to make a decision that they will make as a denomination. ECO Churches from outside our geographic boundaries that desire to become part of the Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara would need to be admitted in the normal manner. However it is unlikely that a congregation that has experienced a difficult and costly fight to leave its current Presbytery for the ECO will look to reconnect with the PC(USA) under the Union Presbytery of Santa Barbara.*

**14. Will Retired Teaching Elders lose voice and vote in presbytery meetings in accordance with the ECO Polity?**

*Retired teaching elders who are members of the PC(USA) will continue to have voice and vote at meetings of the Union Presbytery. Retired teaching elders who are members of ECO will not have voice and vote in accordance with the polity of the ECO.*

(end)