



The Synod of the Southwest

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

in New Mexico and Arizona

401 East 4th Street, #A Tucson, AZ 85705

(520) 791-9600 fax (520) 791-9603

www.synodsw.org

Elder Conrad M. Rocha Named Interim Synod Executive/Stated Clerk

I am pleased to announce that upon recommendation from the Synod's Interim Synod Executive/Stated Clerk Search Committee (the "Search Committee"), the Synod's Expanded Executive Committee has named Elder Conrad M. Rocha to serve as Interim Synod Executive/Stated Clerk (the "Interim SE/SC").

Conrad, an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of New Mexico, is executive director of Law Access New Mexico, a not-for-profit organization that provides free legal services to New Mexico's poor. He is an elder and member of La Mesa Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque and has served in a variety of capacities in service to the church, most recently as moderator of the Synod of the Southwest.

The Rev. John Dunham, Chair of the Search Committee, in forwarding the recommendation of Conrad to serve as the Interim SE/SC, noted that "[t]he Search Committee....received four applications for this position, and....[the Search Committee members were] filled with joy and gratitude to God to recommend" Conrad. He further stated that [h]aving read Conrad's letter of interest and resume, and interviewed....him via conference...we on the committee feel that he is extremely qualified to lead us as a synod into the future. His commitment to Jesus Christ, knowledge of, experience with, and passion for serving at every level of the Presbyterian Church, and especially his intimate awareness of the history, mission, and ministry of the SSW, make him a unique candidate and nothing less than God's gift to us."

Upon learning that he was the person recommended to serve as Interim SE/SC, Conrad stated that he is "appreciative of John's kind words, but the fact is that the Synod and its people have been God's gift to me. This has been especially true over the past several months as I walked through the valley of the shadow of death, in dealing with my cancer issues.....God was with me every step of the way and so were the saints of the Synod.....its people through their prayers. Having passed through that darkness and into the light of being cancer free, I pray that I can honor the faithfulness of our God and the love of God's people expressed to me in their steadfast prayers as I now seek to serve God and God's people in this new way. That is my prayer....that is my intent....that is my promise." He further stated that he "is very excited about serving the Synod in this new way and I hope that I can live up to the expectations of the search committee, the executive committee and, most of all, God and God's people in this ministry to which I have been called."

Conrad will work full-time for the Synod, while he continues, at greatly reduced hours, his work with Law Access New Mexico. As such, he shall maintain an office in Albuquerque at 4141 Montgomery Blvd., NE, at no cost to the Synod. Conrad has begun his service to the Synod of the Southwest, effective August 17, 2010, for a one (1) year term renewable for two (2) additional terms, as may be appropriate.

Please join us in welcoming Conrad into this new facet of his ministry with us, here, in the Synod of the Southwest.

Shalom,

The Rev. Carrol Blevins,
Moderator, Synod of the Southwest