
Synod Report

Highlights from 40th Annual Meeting

Synod elects John Dunham as its moderator for 2012 - 2013

At the 40th Annual Meeting of the Synod of the Southwest, commissioners from the four presbyteries that compose the Synod elected the Rev. John Dunham, associate pastor of Valley Church in Green Valley, Arizona, as its moderator for the two-year term of 2012-2013. The meeting was held October 28- 29 at Valley Church, Green Valley, Arizona, Presbytery de Cristo.

Ruling Elder Rocky Mackey, Presbytery of Grand Canyon was elected moderator-elect at the June meeting of the Synod. She has been a long-time worker in the Synod and is serving currently as moderator of Synod's Finance and Stewardship Development Committee.

John has been Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care at the Green Valley church since 1999. Previous to that he was Assistant Pastor and then Associate Pastor (1973-1980) and Head of Staff (1980-1999) at First Presbyterian Church, Batavia, N.Y.. He earned a B.S. degree from Michigan State University and an M. Div. degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

As part of the closing worship service Dunham and Mackey were installed in their new offices for the Synod. Adding immeasurably to the meaningfulness of the service was the singing of the Valley Sanctuary Choir and celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Delivering the sermon was the Rev. Ray Thomas, pastor of Holy Way Presbyterian Church in Tucson and long-time friend of Dunham.

Name Visioning Task Force

Members of the new Strategic Plan Review/Visioning Task Force have been appointed by the four presbyteries and Synod's Executive Committee.

Appointees to the Task Force by the Presbyteries are:

- de Cristo – Steve Brownson (Ruling Elder/CLP)
- Santa Fe – Ruth Montoya (Ruling Elder)
- Sierra Blanca – Wayne Hawkins (Teaching Elder)
- Grand Canyon – Cliff Oesch (Ruling Elder)

Appointees to the Task Force by the Executive Committee are:

- de Cristo - Ray Thomas (Teaching Elder)



John Dunham

- Santa Fe - Marty Bruner (Ruling Elder)
- Sierra Blanca - Janell Kane (Ruling Elder)
- Grand Canyon - Jose' Olagues (Teaching Elder)

Serving as chair of the Task Force will be Ruling Elder Rocky Mackey.

The Task Force will review the current structure and program of the Synod looking ahead to what will be needed as a result of recommendations of the Mid-Council Commission of the General Assembly regarding synods. The General Assembly is scheduled to act upon such recommendations at its meeting next summer.

(Note: as a result of action at the General Assembly in 2010 and vote of the presbyteries this past year, what were known as "governing bodies" are now known as "councils." clergy now are referred to as "teaching elders" and elders are referred to as "ruling elders.")

Commissioners elect committee chairs

Upon nomination by the Synod's Nominating Committee, commissioners elected the following to be chairs of committees and teams for 2012. They are:

The Rev. Randy Campbell (Santa Fe Presbytery), Border Ministries Team; the Rev. Sam Lanham (Sierra Blanca Presbytery), Committee on Representation; the Rev. John McCarey (Santa Fe Presbytery), Communication Team; the Rev. Doug Baer (Grand Canyon Presbytery), Finance and Stewardship Development Committee; the Rev. José Olagues (Grand Canyon Presbytery), Hispanic Ministries Coordinating Committee; and Ruling Elder Marty Bruner (Santa Fe Presbytery), Personnel Committee.

Other action of the Synod

Other actions of the Synod included:

- Upon recommendation of its Native American Ministry Consultant, the Rev. Judy Wellington, Synod voted to convene a consultation on Native American Ministries no earlier than the summer of 2012.
- Upon recommendation of the Finance and Stewardship Development Committee, Synod voted to receive the 2010 audit of Synod's finances. It was noted that the audit was "clean." Commissioners also approved the mission and per capita budgets for the year 2012. The per capita assessment for the Synod has been reduced from \$5 to \$4 for the new year.
- Upon recommendation of its Personnel Committee and Finance and Stewardship Committee, Synod voted to extend the contract with Ruling Elder Conrad M. Rocha as Interim Synod Executive/Stated Clerk for an additional year, commencing January 1, 2012, under essentially the same terms as the present contract.

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