

MINUTES
Indian Nations Presbytery
Coordinating Council
April 19, 2023
Meeting by Zoom Video and In-Person at INP Office

Members present: RE Joan Cole; RE Maribeth Culpepper; TE Michael East; RE Melissa Gill; TE Dan Junkin; RE Mike Mize, Presbytery Moderator; RE Russell Newville, Vice-Moderator; RE Dru Orr; TE Devon Reynolds; TE Abbey Walker, Moderator; RE Elizabeth Wallace; TE Mary Ellen Waychoff;

Ex-officio: TE Tracy Evans, Stated Clerk;

Excused: TE Carl Bosteels; TE Jan Burns-Hintze; TE John McKinnon; RE Cheryl Pennington; TE Charlie Smith, Interim Presbytery Pastor;

Absent: RE Janet Labude; RE Wayne Osmond; RE Sherry Patterson;

Also in attendance: RE Sue MacHugh, RE Vicki Zimmerman

Call to order, Opening Prayer, Quorum

The meeting opened with prayer led by Moderator Walker at 1:05. A quorum was present. New members of the Coordinating Council were welcomed: Ruling Elders Joan Cole from Memorial, Norman (Region 6), Dru Orr, FPC Ardmore (Region 4), and Sherry Patterson, FPC, Chickasha (Region 2).

Approval of Voice

RE Sue MacHugh and RE Vicki Zimmerman were given voice.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was **approved**.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the February 15, 2023, meeting were **approved**.

Officer and Staff Reports:

CC Moderator Report

- Walker referred to the Interim Presbytery Pastor report and the notion of the three Oklahoma presbyteries merging. The Oklahoma Presbyterian Network has set a goal of this occurring and being approved by the General Assembly by 2026. The body had a lengthy discussion about this, expressing concerns and sharing suggestions. More discussion to come.

Interim Presbytery Pastor Report

- The IPP was not present but had submitted a written report.

- There was a good and lengthy conversation regarding the potential merger of the three Oklahoma Presbyteries.

Stated Clerk Report

- Thank you was sent to Westminster, OKC for their excellent hosting of the February 24-25 presbytery meeting.
- First Korean PC, OKC, has been secured for the Saturday, June 3, 2023 presbytery meeting. Westminster, Lawton, will host the October 6, 2023 meeting.
- The presbytery hosted Co-Moderator of the PC(USA) Shavon Starling-Louis on February 28 with lunch and good discussion with about 35 in attendance.
- Year-end reports of minister status and church status were submitted to PC(USA).
- Indian Nations voting results on the GA amendments were submitted.

INP Moderator

- RE Mize brought up the subject of hybrid presbytery meetings. Considerations of hybrid include additional workload, difficulty with technology of hybrid meetings, and greater availability of churches who can host in-person meetings. **Motion** that the June 3, 2023 meeting be held in-person only was **approved**.
- He has approved the following to serve in the interim until approved at the next presbytery meeting:
 - RE Rex Daly, Wewoka, Committee on Administration, class of 2025
 - TE Thea McKee, HR, Committee on Ministry, class of 2025

Committee Reports

Committee on Ministry:

- Covenant for Temporary Supply have been approved for Rev. Chaz Ruark and Rev. Janet Ruark and Covenant Presbyterian Church, OKC.
- Covenant for Temporary Supply was approved for Rev. Carol Waters and FPC Norman.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

- No report

Committee on Nominations and Representation

- RE Gill reported on those who had been elected to serve on various committees at the recent presbytery meeting.
- She presented the committee's annual work with a breakdown of the numbers and qualifications it takes to fill all the committees and positions. The total is 82 people, with goals or restrictions that include diversity, RE/TE, urban/rural, and small/large church representation.

- The task of filling all the positions is onerous; the committee encouraged consideration of a restructuring to better represent the current needs and membership.
- The committee was commended for their good work.

Committee on Administration (COA)

- A written report was provided. TE Dan Junkin provided a long-range projection of financial stability during the discussion of potential merger of presbyteries.
- The Long-Range Task Force is essentially on-hold until more conversation occurs from the Coordinating Council and/or Committee on Administration.
- COA recommends the **motion** that the Expense allowance for meals be raised to reflect the allowances published by the General Services Administration each year, or actual cost if less than the per diem. Rates vary based on location. **Motion carried.**

Board of Trustees

- No report.

INP Foundation Board

- A report on the first quarter earnings was provided.

Network Reports

- Moderator Walker reviewed the premise behind the existence of Networks as defined in the Standing Rules. The following is from that document:
 - “Networks shall be the gathering of representatives of no less than three congregations or entities focused on a common mission or ministry enhancing the work of the presbytery. Networks shall invite members to serve as needed, depending on their work. They shall elect a moderator from within their network who may serve for a term of 3 years and no more than 2 terms consecutively. Networks should be approved by the Coordinating Council and are required to submit annual reports to the Coordinating Council for oversight. Approved Networks may request and receive mission grants for their work. The moderator is invited to attend the CC meetings without voice or vote but may be granted the privilege of voice if the CC so desires.”

Congregational Support Network

- RE Zimmerman requested that the network be dissolved. As a request from the committee, it needed no vote. It can be reconstituted at any time using the above

Pastoral Leaders Network

- No report.

Youth Ministries Network

- No report.

New and Continuing Business

- Stated Clerk gave an update on the amendment votes status.

Sharing Time

Adjournment

- **Motion** to adjourn **passed**. The meeting was adjourned with prayer by TE Michael East at 2:10 pm.
- The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 17 at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy L. Evans
Stated Clerk