

**Indian Nations Presbytery
Coordinating Council
September 17, 2025
Meeting by Zoom Video and In-Person at INP Office**

Members present: ¹ RE Sharon Burton; RE Malcom Champlin; RE Rhonda George; TE Chas Gowing, CPM Moderator; RE Debra Kauffman; TE Vicki Rucker; RE Holley Sanders; RE Farrel Smith; RE Tom Willoughby.

Ex-officio: TE Tracy Evans, Stated Clerk; TE John McKinnon, INP Moderator; RE Mike Mize, Acting Moderator and Board of Trustees President; TE Mary Ellen Waychoff, INP Vice Moderator;

Excused: RE Rex Daly COA Moderator; RE Dave Delana, CC Moderator; TE Dan Junkin; TE Janet Ruark, COM Moderator; TE Charlie Smith, Presbytery Pastor;

Absent: RE Dave Butler; RE Maribeth Culpepper, Cmte on Nominations Moderator; TE Ernie Isch;

Also in attendance: INP Staff RE Sue MacHugh;

Call to order, Opening Prayer, Quorum

The meeting was called to order with a prayer led by Acting Moderator Mike Mize at 1:05 pm. A quorum was present.

Approval of Voice

None needed.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of minutes

August 20, 2025 minutes were approved.

Officer and Staff Reports:

CC Moderator Report

- No report

Presbytery Pastor Report

- Provided written report

Stated Clerk Report

- Asked for action regarding the need for a called meeting.

¹ RE refers to a Ruling Elder; TE refers to a Teaching Elder also known as Minister of Word and Sacrament.
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- **Motion** to call a Special Meeting of the presbytery on Thursday, October 2 at 10:00 am, via Zoom, for the purpose of:
 - 1) Vote to change the annual stated meeting of the Presbytery Corporation from October to November 14-15, 2025.
 - 2) Examine Inquirer Jakob Harmon to move to Candidacy.
 The motion was **seconded** and **approved**.

INP Moderator

- Joyfully reported that he participated in the ordination service of Tylar Gregg and the installation service of Stephanie Workman.
- McKinnon suggested that there may be a need for better guidance to those planning these services.

Committee Reports

Board of Trustees

- No report

Committee on Administration

- No report

Committee on Ministry

- Report submitted.
- For information:
 - COM is working to complete plans for the installation of Rev. Gi Hyun Park as pastor of OKC First Korean PC on October 26.
 - COM continues to work to help congregations find the pastoral leadership they need.
- Actions taken on behalf of Indian Nations Presbytery:
 - Approved Administrative Commission for the Commissioning Service for Ruling Elder Craig Mead Sunday, October 19, 2025 at 5 pm at Elk City FPC:
 - TE John McKinnon (moderator), RE David DeLana (El Reno FPC), RE Tony Chauncey (Elk City FPC), TE Charlie Smith, TE Janet Ruark
 - Approved the Administrative Commission for Installation Service for Rev. Stphanie Workman, Sunday, September 14, at 2 pm at Edmond, Santa Fe:
 - TE John McKinnon (Moderator), TE Kathie Luke, TE Charlie Smith, RE Glenn Dunn (OKC Westminster), RE Becky Mannel (Edmond Santa Fe)

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- Approved the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) for Yukon, Chisholm Trail Presbyterian Church

Committee on Nominations and Representation

- No report

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

- They continue discussion on CREs and the “continuum of preparation for ministry for a continuum of offices”.
- Is considering asking for a budget line item to assist individuals in earning a certificate in ministry.

INP Foundation Board

- No report

Care of Pastoral Leaders Network

- No report

New Business

- Grant Application from Covenant Presbyterian Church, OKC, was received. Request was for a comprehensive Sanctuary Systems Upgrade. There was a great deal of discussion. Questions included how much the congregation is backing the project; what is their average attendance; does INP have money to make this grant; how to proceed when the former technology network has dissolved. **Consensus** that the request be tabled.
 - The body asked the Stated Clerk to convey in a letter to the church that the request was received and that CC is considering how to proceed.
 - Consider a tech Task Force as there will likely be more requests in the near future.
- **Motion** made that Council direct the Committee on Administration to create a line item in the 2026 budget for technology grants. The motion was seconded and **passed**.
- Mike Mize reported that the committee searching for an Interim Presbytery Pastor is working on a job description.

Sharing Time

- Prayer concerns and joys were shared.

Adjournment

- **Motion** to adjourn with prayer **passed**. The meeting was adjourned with prayer given by Deb Kaufmann at 2:00pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Evans
Stated Clerk

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PRESBYTERY PASTOR REPORT TO COORDINATING COUNCIL WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2025

At a special called meeting on Saturday, August 9th, at First Presbyterian Church in Norman, Eastern Oklahoma and Indian Nations Presbyteries joined with Cimarron Presbytery in approving two motions to move forward the process of creating a new, statewide Oklahoma Presbytery. (Cimarron Presbytery had approved the two motions at an earlier meeting.)

In separate meetings, Eastern Oklahoma and Indian Nations commissioners approved a motion to commit to joining together (along with Cimarron Presbytery) in the process of together constructing and creating a new Oklahoma Presbytery. They also agreed, as a sign of unity and commitment, to meet with the other current Oklahoma Presbyteries on these dates:

- Nov 14-15, 2025 at Sequoyah Lodge in Hulbert, OK, hosted by EOP
- Feb 21, 2026 hosted by Cimarron Presbytery
- May 1-2, 2026 hosted by Indian Nations Presbytery,
- August 8, 2026 meeting (location TBA)
- November 6-7, 2026 meeting (location TBA)

While an affirmative vote commits the Presbyteries to intentional conversation about the creation of a new Oklahoma Presbytery, there will be other points along the timeline that will require affirmation to go forward.

The Oklahoma Presbytery Task Force, which brought forth the motions approved on Saturday, has been meeting for almost two years to consider plans for the future. It has suggested that the three Presbyteries spend most of the next year exploring possible paths forward and details of a new Oklahoma Presbytery.

That work will include the formation of working groups: Communication, Creating Community, Finances, Structure/Administrative, and Personnel. These work groups would be populated with individuals from each of the three presbyteries. The work groups would be moderated by current members of the Task Force, and the efforts coordinated by the Task Force. Their work would come back to the three presbyteries for approval. During discussion at Saturday's meeting, commissioners also urged the addition of a Mission work group.

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The suggestion to add a Mission work group followed a presentation by the Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson, associate director for Mid-Council relations for the PC(USA), who spoke about her experience in an unsuccessful unification of the two Presbyteries in New Mexico. Watson said key considerations for bringing together Presbyteries are geography, cultures, clarity of the envisioned mission of the new entity, staffing, and money. She said mission ought to be the top priority, and warned of the danger of money – or lack of resources – as the driving force toward consolidation.

The Task Force does not have decisive powers to act or create. Rather, it does have suggestive power and will offer frameworks as starting points. The Task Force's goal is to empower commissioners and presbyteries to participate in the decision-making process. From the work of the Task Force over the last two years, it plans to sketch out plans going forward and empower the workgroups to explore the details and join in developing the various recommendations to come before the Presbyteries.

Once the three Oklahoma Presbyteries have agreed on the details of the new Oklahoma Presbytery, they will motion the Synod of the Sun and General Assembly Administrative Commission on Mid-Councils to officially form the new presbytery.

During opening worship at Saturday's meeting, the Rev., Tony Larson, Co-Moderator of the 226th and 227th General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church (USA), preaching on the story of Elijah and Elisha (1st & 2nd Kings) and Jesus' journey to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51-62), urged commissioners not to be distracted or dissuaded by excuses in following the Spirit.

The offering during Saturday's worship service was designated for the Norman Coalition for Refugee Support, a non-profit comprised of seven churches, including FPC Norman and Memorial Presbyterian in Norman, and numerous volunteers working together to resettle and support refugees in Norman. Currently, NCRS works with more than 100 new neighbors from Afghanistan, Cameroon, Colombia, Guatemala, Ukraine and Venezuela. NCRS hosted summer STEM activities for 10 Afghan 3rd-5th graders. Through a grant from INP, NCRS hosted its third year of summer school for 16 secondary Afghan students. Five Afghan students graduated from high school and four plan to attend post-secondary schools in the fall. This fall, 53 backpacks for Pre-K through 12th-graders were blessed, packed and distributed to 14 families. In addition to education support, NCRS assists with employment, finances, individual family needs, housing, learning English, legal and transportation needs.

In a separate specially called meeting, INP commissioners approved the sale by Memorial Presbyterian Church of Norman of its building and property. The congregation is currently seeking a new home in which it will nest and continue its work, worship, mission and ministry.