

SYNOD OF THE SUN
April 26-28, 2007 – Irving, Texas

The SYNOD OF THE SUN met in stated meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2007, at the Woodhaven Presbyterian Church, Irving, Texas. Following dinner, commissioners and guests were called to order by Moderator Alan Ford who offered the opening prayer. (docket in Appendix A).

Stated Clerk Elizabeth Johnson Pense announced that there was a sufficient number of commissioners registered to constitute a quorum. The moderator declared a quorum. (G-12.0202 and Synod Bylaws 2.8) (attendance in Appendix B)

The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, pastor of the host church, welcomed everyone to Woodhaven and gave thanks for the local planning team. Greetings from Grace Presbytery, in whose bounds the Synod was meeting, were brought by the Rev. Randy Lee, Associate General Presbyter.

Stated Clerk Pense introduced guests (list in Appendix B). It was moved, seconded, and passed that all minister members of other governing bodies be seated as corresponding members with voice (G-12.0203).

Greetings from the Synod of the Sun were brought by the Rev. Shane Whisler, Associate Executive. Synod Executive Judy Fletcher brought her greetings via video-tape because her voice is not strong enough to speak in public, after having been silent for eight weeks. Associate Executive the Rev. Lemuel Garcia also spoke and gave a report on the Synod's increased cooperative work with synods in northern Mexico.

Phyllis Roush, President of Synod Presbyterian Women, gave an end-of-tenure report and was presented a certificate of thanksgiving and appreciation for her leadership.

Shane Whisler introduced the Rev. Timothy Davenport-Herbst, Goodland Academy board member (and commissioner from Grace Presbytery), and David C. Adams, Goodland Academy Director of Church Relations. Mr. Adams spoke on the history of the Academy and its current work in educational ministry. The Rev. Jane Huffstetler, commissioner from Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery in whose bounds Goodland Academy is located, offered prayer. The covenant was signed by Synod Moderator Alan Ford and by Mr. Adams.

The Synod then moved to the Sanctuary of the church for worship, a Service of Word and Sacrament. Liturgists and presiders at the Table were the host pastor, the Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, and Associate Synod Executive, the Rev. Lemuel Garcia. The Rev. Sallie S. Watson, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Bonham, preached. "Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing" was based on Romans 12:1-21. The offering was dedicated to the Goodland Academy. (Appendix C)

Following worship, the Synod was in recess.

On Friday, April 27, 2007, commissioners met in division meetings in the morning and afternoon. During the morning, members of the MultiCultural Division were deployed among the other divisions.

On Friday evening, commissioners and guests met for continued work on “The Next Right Answer,” as the future ministry of the Synod is considered. The Rev. Janne Brumbelow, Associate Executive in Palo Duro Presbytery, led the process.

Then the Synod was in recess.

The Synod reconvened at 8:50 a.m. on Saturday, April 28, 2007. Moderator Ford read 1 Corinthians 13 and offered prayer.

Gratitude was expressed to all of the folks from Woodhaven Presbyterian who have been incredibly gracious hosts during the Synod’s stay.

At the suggestion of Stated Clerk Pense, it was moved, seconded, and passed that the following elders also be seated as corresponding members with voice according to the provisions of G-12.0203: Sara Jean Jackson, Debbie Batisse Kleinman, LaNoir Dawkins Leeper, and Marion Calvert.

Judye Pistole gave the HIGHER EDUCATION DIVISION report (Appendix D). The Division brought this motion:

The Higher Education Division moved that a permanent endowment fund with appropriated spending guidelines be established with the Texas Presbyterian Foundation for the sole benefit of the Higher Education Division or its successor and further move that any money received from the final disposition of funds available from sale of campus ministry property or other campus ministry funds be designated and deposited in this endowment fund.

It was moved and seconded that this motion be refer to the Next Right Steps process. The motion failed. It was moved seconded and passed that the motion be amended by the removal of the last phrase so that the motion ends with “... from sale of campus ministry property.” Then the main motion as amended was approved.

The Division’s second motion, requesting approval for campus ministers and college chaplains to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, was approved.

Jeff Cranton gave the MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES DIVISION report (Appendix E). All motions presented for approval were approved.

Tim Davenport-Herbst gave the RESOURCING PRESBYTERIES DIVISION report (Appendix F). All motions presented by the division were approved.

Meg Garver gave the COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION report (Appendix G). There were no action items. Garver reminded the body that the Synod of the Sun is one of only two synods that still print a newspaper.

Sara Jean Jackson (commissioner in nomination in New Covenant Presbytery) gave the OPERATIONS DIVISION report (Appendix H).

The division moved that the Synod approve the recommendation of the Division regarding the review of the Synod's insurance, noting that it was found to be very adequate. It was approved.

The division moved that the Synod authorize Synod Executive Judy Fletcher to sign a letter of engagement with a new auditor, such firm to be selected by an ad hoc audit committee. It was approved.

It was moved, seconded, and approved, that the division's review of the 2006 audit be received by the plenary.

It was also moved, seconded, and approved, that the Synod actually approve the new covenant between the Synod and Goodland Academy.

Alan Ford offered prayer for the work of all the divisions.

Christianne Chase gave the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE report (Appendix I).

The Committee moved that Carlos Lopez (minister/Mission) and Thomas Freeland (elder/South Louisiana) be elected to the Synod Nominating Committee in the classes of '08 and '09 respectively. There were no nominations from the floor. They were elected.

The Committee moved that the piece of property in Hammond, Louisiana (Tangipahoa Parish) currently owned by the Synod of the Sun, be given to the First Presbyterian Church in Hammond for use in their college ministry, and that the trustees of the Synod be authorized to sign necessary documents to effect this transfer. It was approved. It also was moved that in the event that the property is sold before May 2012, then money in the amount of the appraised value as of May 2007 be returned to the Synod. It was approved.

It was moved by the Committee that a resolution of thanksgiving for the life of Helen Walton be approved (Appendix J). The motion carried.

The Committee distributed a review of the work of the Administrative Review Committee that was appointed by the Executive Committee in December 2006 to review the action of the Presbytery of South Louisiana regarding the property of the First Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The full text of the report is in Appendix K. The four motions were presented to the body as a unit. They were approved.

Marion Calvert presented the report of the SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Appendix L). Persons were nominated by the Committee, presented for approval (having been nominated by an agency or institution), and presented for confirmation (having been elected by agency). There were no nominations from the floor. All persons were elected.

Mary Carter announced that there was no report from the PERSONNEL COMMITTEE.

Alan Ford offered prayer for the work of these committees.

SYNOD EXECUTIVE Judy Fletcher gave a brief report, particularly giving thanks for the work of Presbyterian Disaster Relief folks on the Campus of Virginia Tech (in the aftermath of the shootings) and in Tulia and Cactus, TX, in the aftermath of bad storms.

STATED CLERK Elizabeth Johnson Pense presented her report (Appendix M).

The Alternate Plans for Determining Competency submitted by Indian Nations and Palo Duro Presbyteries were approved. (Appendices N and O).

Authorization was given for the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Synod sponsored events.

The review of presbytery minutes, done in peer review by nine of the eleven presbytery clerks on April 18, 2007, was approved as submitted (Appendix P).

Moderator Ford gave thanks for the hard work of all participants in this meeting and called on the Rev. Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson to offer the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.

The Synod will meet in adjourned meeting on Friday, October 26, 2007.

These minutes were reviewed by commissioners Alan Ford and Meg Garver on May 21, 2007, and approved.

Elizabeth Johnson Pense
Stated Clerk