

The Day After...

Presbytery of the Pacific

November 15, 2006

The Day After summarizes some of what went on at our Presbytery meetings. The minutes, obviously, will continue to be the official record of the meetings, but *The Day After* will provide a tool for sharing and reporting what happened. The Presbytery's website (www.pacificpresbytery.org) is another source of information about Presbytery meetings and other Presbytery events and activities.

Hollywood First Administrative Commission - Gone But Not Forgotten

The Administrative Commission established to work with the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood presented its final report and was officially dissolved with expressions of thanks and gratitude from the Presbytery. The Reverend Catherine Hughes, Chairperson of the Commission, presented a brief verbal report and a very complete written report describing the Commission's work over the past eighteen and half months. As an indication of Presbytery's gratitude for the Commission's efforts on its behalf, the Presbytery adopted a Resolution of Appreciation which named the nine people who served on the Commission and acknowledged the faithfulness and hard work of the people of Hollywood First as well. There is still much to be done at the church, but the Commission expressed its confidence and support of the leadership at Hollywood First to carry forward with that work.

Michael Chang, Samuel Scriven, and Peter Tan-Gatue advanced to Candidacy

Michael Chang is a member of Korean Presbyterian Church of Honolulu and a graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary last May. Michael was enrolled as an Inquirer in April of 2004.

Sam Scriven is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood and a current student at Fuller Theological Seminary. Sam was enrolled as an Inquirer in June of 2005.

Peter Tan-Gatue is a member of Bel Air Presbyterian Church and a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary last May. Peter was enrolled as an Inquirer in October of 2005.

Over the past several months, the Preparation for Ministry Committee (CPM) interviewed each of these Inquirers and determined with them that they were ready to take the next steps in their preparation to become ministers of Word and Sacrament. Presbytery received a copy of the statement of Faith, Motivation, and Service for each Inquirer and had the opportunity to ask questions about the statement and about their developing sense of call to ministry. Following a separate period of questioning for each, the Presbytery VOTED to advance Michael, Samuel, and Peter to the candidacy phase of preparing to become ministers.

Welcome to an Old New Member

Many members of the Presbytery were surprised to find out that the Reverend Masaya Hibino was not already a member of the Presbytery of the Pacific. Mas is currently serving as the Interim Pastor for Union Church of Los Angeles and before that, he served as the Interim Pastor for South Bay Presbyterian Church prior to that church's calling the Reverend Sunny Kang as its Pastor. Up until this meeting, Mas had been a member of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos on loan to us for these interim assignments. The retirement of the Reverend Philip Tsuchiya at Union Church moved Mas from Co-Interim Pastor to Interim Pastor. Mas was voted into membership at this meeting and welcomed again to the fellowship of which he has been a part for the past five years.

Remembrances of an Elder

General Presbyter Linda Culbertson shared some stories about the long service of Elder Earl McLendon (Community) who died October 24, 2006. Over the years, Earl served in many capacities in this Presbytery, in the Synod, and in his local congregation. His ministry did not stop when he entered the hospital for the last time. Earl and his family were actively praying for everyone on the hospital floor with Earl.

The End of Three Judicial Matters

The Stated Clerk, Steve Smith, reported that three judicial matters involving the Presbytery had been settled. A Complaint against the Presbytery about the Stated Clerk/Associate General Presbyter position was eliminated by recent changes in the Presbytery's Standing Rules. Another Complaint against the Presbytery about the formation of the Hollywood First Administrative Commission was withdrawn at the Complainant's request. The third was a Complaint filed by the Session of La Rambla Presbyterian Church against conditions placed on that church's use of the proceeds of the sale of its manse. The Presbytery lost this case so the conditions are removed. Presbytery will be considering a policy in the future to address the weaknesses in the Presbytery's case.

Volunteers Going to New Orleans to Assist with the Recovery from Katrina

Part of the worship experience at Presbytery included the commissioning of the volunteers who are going to New Orleans to work on the recovery from Hurricane Katrina. The group consists of 13 members with one of this number being a representative from Ping Tung Presbytery in Taiwan. Of the remaining 12, one half are under the age of 30. The group, led by the Reverend Laura Krauss, will be in New Orleans for the week of Thanksgiving. In February, the National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC) will be conducting another work project to New Orleans under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Harold Kidd.

Other Business Conducted by the Presbytery

- ◆ Received the report that Alice Barnes (St. Peter's By the Sea), Samuel Chung (Wilshire), and Tamara John (Bel Air) were enrolled as Inquirers.
- ◆ Elected the Reverend Care Crawford as Presbytery Moderator for 2007, and the Reverend Vahe Simonian as Chair of the General Mission Council for 2007. Many others were elected to positions on the committees of the Presbytery. More are still needed.
- ◆ Dismissed the Reverend Rebecca Harrison to the Presbytery of New Covenant.
- ◆ Reported the death on November 10, 2006, of the Reverend Woong Taek Ra, Pastor of Korean Presbyterian Church of South Bay. General Presbyter Linda Culbertson shared some details about the life and ministry of Pastor Ra.
- ◆ Approved the Lease Agreement between Christ Church Uniting Disciples and Presbyterian and Seagulls Schools, Inc., which will include the addition of a new building on the site which the school will provide and the church will own at the end of the lease.
- ◆ Approved the sale by Hollywood First Presbyterian Church of property on Jacaranda Ave. in Burbank.
- ◆ Approved the Installation of the Reverend Virginia Brown as the Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church on December 10, 2006, at 4:00 p.m.