

Presbytery of San Jose: Notice of Stated Meeting

Saturday January 23, 2016, 9:00 AM

Foothill Presbyterian Church 5301 McKee Road San Jose, CA, 95127

Directions:

https://search.yahoo.com/search?p=foothill+presbyterian+church&fr=dss_yset_chr

Please call the church (408) 258-8133 by January 18 to arrange child care.

9:00 **Opening Prayer, Welcome by Host Congregation**

9:05 **Presbytery Worship**

9:50 *Transition*

9:55 **Stated Clerk:** The Rev. John Kelso
Quorum call; Corresponding Members; First time attendees; Approval of the minutes of the November 21, 2015 stated meeting.

Consent Docket:

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(Any Consent Docket item may be removed to an appropriate committee report by the request of a commissioner)

10:00 **Announcements** (open mic.)

10:05 **Presbytery Council** The Rev. Evie Macway

10:25 **Financial Affairs** The Rev. Anne McAnelly

10:35 **Presbytery Executive** The Rev. Joey Lee

10:45 **Presbytery Treasurer** The Rev. Edd Breeden

10:50 **Break**

11:00 **Immanuel House Board** Elder Martha Wills

11:15 **Safe Church** Elder Jane Odell

11:25 **Presbyterian Women** Elder Rosaleen Zisch

11:30 **Polity & Government** Elder Marcia Ludwig

Requested Concurrences:
with an Overture on Administrative Personnel Association (APA)

Elder Marcia Ludwig

with an Overture on Synod Boundaries

The Rev. John Kelso

11:45 **Joys and Concerns** (open mic)

11:55 **Stated Clerk** The Rev. John Kelso

12:00 **Adjournment with Prayer**

**Presbytery of San Jose, Attendance at the Stated Meeting
November 21, 2015 First Presbyterian Church, Monterey CA**

Committee Chairs/Council Members Present

Rosaleen Zisch, P W Moderator	Charlotte Powers, Council at-large member
Frank Bernstein, COM Chair	Bruce Raby, Council at-large member
Lela Noble, Personnel Chair	Barbara Rogers, Council at-large member
Marcia Ludwig, Council at-large member	Judi Johnson, Vice Moderator
Jane Odell, Safe Church Task Force	Ruth Fong, Synod Commissioner
Lynn Viale, CPM chair	
Claudia Hamm, Past Moderator	

Teaching Elders, Present

Baker, Debra	Eschen-Pipes, Kathleen	McAnelly, Anne
Barraca, Jason	Franzen, Bryan	Olson, Robby
Browning, Geoff	Henry, Ken	Peake, Mark
Coop, Tom	Kelso, John	Sohn, Joseph
Day, Katie	Kelso, Paula	Watermulder, David
Day, Kevin	Lee, Joey	Williams, Chris
Doyal, George	Macway, Evie	
Esaki, Ted	Martin, Rob	

Teaching Elders, Honorably Retired, Present

Bartow, Jay	Kim, Kyung Jae	Newcomer, Ben
Bowles, Bob	Lewis, Charles	Rawlings, Chuck
Bracey, Dale	McCreath, David	Yeane, Darrell

Teaching Elders Not Present

Allen Stephanie Lutz	Hansen, Chris	Pak, Irene
Arishvara, Vincent	Hanson, Duncan	Pearson, Marjorie
Bales, Jennifer	Harbert, Laura	Person, Brian
Bennett, James	Harbert, Michael	Peterson-Iyer, Karen
Boles, Margaret	Hare, Sharon	Purkey, Lee
Boyer, Tim	Harrington, Nancy	Rausch, Andy
Brekke, Laura	Hejmanowski, Karin	Roberts, Craig
Burke, John	Hoffman, Dan	Schmidt, Lyle
Choi, Don	Kim, Young Rhyon	Su, Ralph
Crocker, Douglas	Ladra, Mike	Swanson, Erik
Drescher, Kent	Lai, Hsien-Chang	Tirone, Jim
Edwards, James	Matusiewicz, Stella	Whaley, Debra
Garner, Mike	Pak, Irene	Woodsmall, Dennis
Gibson, Diana	Minerva, George	
Granado, Sim	Norman, Steve	
Hahn, Tae Jinn	Norton, Karla	

Teaching Elders, Honorably Retired, Not Present

Ahn, Dong Sung
Bland, Byron
Breedon, Edd
Bristol, John
Butziger, Bob
Carr, Tom
Choi, Samuel
Dosker, Richard
Erickson, George
Gardner, Thomas
Hansen, David
Harvey, Bill
Hsieh, Stephen
Hyatt, Travis

Ignacio, Lemuel
Jenks, Steve
Joy, Judy
Kim, David Kwang
Kim, Young Han
Koopman, Peter
Kwon, Young Bai
Kwon, Young K
Longley, Jack
Lyke, Brian
Menser, Bruce
Momrow, Ed
Nelson, Jim
Palmer, Bill

Palmer, Marge
Rowlison, Bruce
Schell, Nancy
Smith, Kent
Solis, Dick
Spencer, Dick
Swanson, Nan
Takarabe, Hei
Tan, Tiat Than
Tyler, Lee
Venecia, Fred
Wilson, George
Zuverink, Dave

Ruling Elder Commissioners Present

Aptos, St. Andrew

Mihm, Eileen
Burk, Gene

Gilroy

Johnson, John
Stuart, Sherri

Gonzales

Gerbrandt, Gary

Los Altos, Cornerstone

None

Los Gatos

Dickel, Ron
Rosen, Carolyn
Loomis, Karen
Panighetti, Carlo
Schroeder, Eric

Monterey, El Estero

None

Monterey, First

Laboda, Amy
Laney, Francyne
Hannah, Bill
Robinette, Janine
Allen, Ron

Mountain View, First

None

Palo Alto, Covenant

Crocker, Meg
Dere, Beverley
Diane Jones

Palo Alto, First

Chamberlain, Susan
Kirven Brown, Melissa
Hughes, Evan
Leith, David

Salinas, Lincoln Ave.

None

Salinas, Northminster

Towle, Karen
West, Susan

Salinas, St. Philips

None

San Jose, Evergreen

None

San Jose, First

None

San Jose, Foothill

Sharon Rowser

San Jose, Onnuri

Chung, Sam
Kwon, Oh Seung

San Jose, Santa Teresa Hills

None

San Jose, Stone

McCreath, Ruth
Thorn, Alice
Nelson, Steve
Stock, Stephen
Goertz, Mel

San Jose, Taiwanese American

None

San Jose, Trinity

None

San Jose, Westminster

Notor, Nan
Schell, Melinda
Sequin, Jennifer

San Martin

None

Santa Clara, First

Fitch, Robert

Santa Cruz, Bonny Doon

Edwards, Jennifer

Santa Cruz, Trinity

Stock, Juanita

Saratoga, Westhope

None

Sunnyvale

Emery, Frank

Coll, Kay

Treitel, Beth

Hausler, Coleen

Sunnyvale, Daesung

None

Watsonville, United

Skillicorn, John

Bilstad, Jolly

Morrison, Midge

Watsonville, Westview

None

Visitors

First, Monterey:

Roger Thompson

Chris Hasegawa

George Lentz

Walt Prowell

Tom Wortham

San Jose, Stone:

Rod Thorn, Ida Raby

SF Presbytery:

Nelda Lewis

Cascades Presbytery:

The Rev. Libby Boatwright

PRESBYTERY OF SAN JOSE
Minutes of Stated Meeting
November 21, 2015
First Presbyterian Church, Monterey CA

The Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of San Jose was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by the Moderator, the Reverend Mark Peake. Opening prayer was led by Moderator Peake.

WELCOME FROM HOST CHURCH

Welcome was given by the Rev. Peake.

PRESBYTERY WORSHIP

The Presbytery met in worship, with the preaching of the Word by the Rev. Katie Day, Associate Pastor of the host church, who used the scripture selection Luke 6:12- 26 and preached on "Blessed." As part of worship the Rev. Peake installed Judi Johnson as Moderator of Presbytery 2016, and gave her the symbols of the office.

STATED CLERK

Quorum: John Kelso noted the presence of a quorum.

Corresponding Members: The Rev. Elizabeth Boatwright was seated.

First time attendees: People from individual congregations were introduced.

Approval of minutes of the stated meeting of September 26, 2015: Received and approved without corrections.

CONSENT DOCKET

No consent items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Led by Elder Lynn Viale

The Rev. Joey Lee: Presbytery Youth Triennium is to be held summer of 2016; information has been sent to churches. Contact is the Rev. Irene Pak, Stone, San Jose.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

The Rev. Evie Macway, Council chair, led an exercise designed to describe the primary functions of the Presbytery. The Council has spent parts of recent meetings working on visioning. Three functions were suggested by the Council, winnowed from that process:

1. Community for Pastors
2. Resource for churches
3. Facilitating connections among the churches' various levels and with the world.

The Presbytery gathered in small groups with leaders from the Council and discussed these proposed functions and their associated scripture passages. The Rev. Macway

thanked members for participation and indicated that results would be taken back to the Council.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

The Rev. Anne McAnelly began by noting that the Per Capita for 2016 moves to \$36 (up from \$31 in 2015), increased because of reduced numbers in members of the Presbytery. She then introduced the following motions:

1. That Presbytery approve the sale of the property at 49 N. 4th Street and the acquisition of a new site for First Presbyterian Church of San Jose to be determined. Motion Passed unanimously.

Presbytery had heard on June 6, 2015 that FPCSJ is in negotiations for possible sale of the property. The negotiation is for an Option to Purchase with a two year timeline. This means that the developer will pay an amount to the church for two years, while details of the development are worked through, and the church remains on the property. Negotiations include identifying another location for the church in the downtown area.

2. That Presbytery appoint the Financial Affairs Committee to negotiate on its behalf in both the sale and acquisition of said properties. After a number of questions for clarification and information, including information that all Presbytery staff are involved in negotiations, the motion carried unanimously.
3. For Northminster Presbyterian Church, Salinas, approval of renewing an amortized loan of \$480,000 for 60 months, with the Synod of the Pacific. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Motion to adopt the 2016 Ecclesiastical and Mission budgets (attached). Presbytery voted to adopt both budgets.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Rev. David McCreath presented motions regarding Presbytery leaders and committee members for 2016. Names of nominees are given in the list following these motions:

- (1) election of persons to 2016 Committee Memberships. With no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed and the list was approved unanimously, with the exception of Lela Noble (see next item).
- (2) that Standing Rule 4.14 be set aside to allow Lela Noble to serve a third year as chair of Personnel. Motion approved.

- (3) election of all committee Chairs to one year terms. Approved unanimously.
- (4) Election of Presbytery Engagement Team pool members . Approved unanimously.
- (5) Election of Judi Johnson, Moderator elect 2015, to the office of Moderator for 2016. There were no nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed, motion carried unanimously.

Nominees for 2016

Presbytery Council (At large)

Bruce Raby, RE Stone Church of Willow Glen, San Jose
Tim Boyer, TE First Church, Mountain View
Jason Barraca, TE Lincoln Avenue Church, Salinas
Marcia Ludwig, RE Stone Church of Willow Glen, San Jose
Evie Macway, TE Trinity Church, Santa Cruz, Chair

Committee on Ministry

Lizanne Reynolds, RE Covenant Church, Palo Alto
Kevin Day, TE Member at Large
Sherri Stuart, RE Gilroy Church, Gilroy
Laura Brekke, TE Member at Large
Woody Moore, RE Foothill Church, San Jose
Alice Thorn, RE Stone Church of Willow Glen, San Jose
Paula Kelso, TE Gonzales, Chair

Personnel

Lela Noble, RE First Church, Palo Alto, Chair
Jim Meyer, RE Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos

Preparation for Ministry

Katie Day, TE FPC, Monterey
Chris Hasegawa, RE FPC, Monterey
Frank Bernstein, RE Covenant Church, Palo Alto
Tom Coop, TE Santa Teresa Hills, San Jose, Chair

Financial Affairs

Anne McAnelly, TE St. Andrew Church, Aptos
Ruth McCreath, RE Stone Church of Willow Glen, San Jose
Charles May, RE Trinity Church, Santa Cruz
Sharon Rowser, RE Foothill Church, San Jose

Moderator Elect

Chris Hasegawa, RE First Church, Monterey

Presbytery Engagement Team Selection Pool

Taeil Bai, RE Dae Sung Church, Sunnyvale

Young K. Kwon, TE, HR

SAFE CHURCH

Elder Jane Odell reported that the Presbytery has given Safe Church training for 6 years, and has honored churches that have completed training. But she also noted that these churches have not sent members to the training—Bonny Doon, Santa Cruz; Lincoln Ave., Salinas; San Martin; and Westhope, Saratoga. The training is not optional.

Elder Odell said the committee is also considering offering training for disaster response—she asked for a show of hands for those interested, and there was a good response.

The next Safe Church training will be at St. Andrew, Aptos, January 30, 2016, with Judge Clark and Rachel Notor.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Elder Rosaleen Zisch, PWP Moderator, told of the Thank Offering, currently being received to help persons in need in the United States and internationally. More than 40 per cent of the projects funded are health ministries.

The annual Epiphany Tea, featuring a meditative service modeled after those in Taizé, France, will be held at Stone Presbyterian, San Jose, on Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 2:00 pm.

The annual Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of San Jose retreat will be held at Santa Teresa Presbyterian, San Jose, April 9, 2016.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Elder Frank Bernstein, committee chair, presented an action item: COM recommends that the Presbytery validate the ministry of Teaching Elder Elizabeth Boatwright, currently serving at Stanford Medical Center as Chaplain, Oncology Outpatient Palliative Care Medicine, and Volunteer Coordinator, and receive the Rev. Boatwright into membership in the Presbytery.

The Rev. Boatwright answered questions from members of the Presbytery, based on her written biography and statement of faith. Her answers stressed that as a chaplain she works with meaning and purpose in cancer patients' lives.

There was a motion to suspend the examination; motion carried. The Rev. Boatwright was escorted out of the room. A motion to approve the COM recommendation carried unanimously. The Rev. Boatwright returned to the room, and Frank Bernstein led in prayer.

PEACE AND JUSTICE TASK FORCE

T. E. Geoff Browning presented to the Presbytery five affirmations for discussion and vote. These come from the 221st (2014) General Assembly, which asked for advisory votes. The Rev. Browning proposed that the presbytery vote on each one at a time.

1. Motion Carried. We affirm that peacemaking is essential to our faith in God's reconciling work in Jesus Christ, whose love and justice challenge hatred and conflict, and whose call gives our church a mission to present alternatives to violence, fear, and misused power.

The presentation of motions was interrupted by conversation about the difficulty of commenting on these motions without adequate time to read and prepare. At least one church pastor responded that their session had been working on these affirmations in the last year. There was a comment that GA had handed them down 2 years ago. An attempt to postpone the votes until the next Presbytery meeting failed, and the body returned to considering the affirmations.

2. Motion Carried We confess our complicity in the world's violence even as we pray for the Spirit's courage to "unmask idolatries," to speak truth about war and oppression, and to stand with those who suffer, and to respond to acts and threats of violence with ministries of justice, healing, and reconciliation.
3. Motion Carried We reclaim the power and authority of Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace and Reconciler, who proclaims God's reign, who inspires the prophetic church, forgiving, healing, and undoing violence, and who overcomes evil through the cross and resurrection.
4. Motion Carried We seek to understand the nonviolent revolutions and armed struggles of our time by drawing on the traditions of Christian pacifism, just war, just peacemaking and active nonviolence, and by cultivating moral imagination through prayer, study, and engagement with friends and enemies. Even as we actively engage in a peace discernment process, we affirm our responsibility of continuing the long tradition of support by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for

our sisters and brothers who serve in the U.S. military, veterans, and their families.

5. Motion Carried. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves earnestly to seek and promote loving, nonviolent responses to conflict in our daily lives, in our communities, and in our world, and to risk calling our nation back from the practices of empire to the highest ideals of our heritage, and to practice boldly the things that make for peace.
6. Motion carried by a vote of 38 yes, 36 no. We encourage the Peace Discernment team, in collaboration with the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, to develop materials and processes by which individual churches may consider declaring themselves Peace Churches. A Peace Church is defined as a church embracing nonviolence as the fundamental response to the challenges of violence, terror and war. It is an expressed commitment to nonviolence as a solution to international conflicts and a statement of full support for anyone electing to be a conscientious objector to military service.

POLITY AND GOVERNMENT

Elder Marcia Ludwig, chair of the committee, presented for approval an overture to the G A for its 2016 meeting, put forward by members of First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto, regarding divestment from investment in fossil fuel industries. This overture was already passed by the Presbytery of San Francisco; this vote is to concur. (A similar overture in 2014 was referred by the General Assembly to Mission Responsibility Through Investment, MRTI.) Elders Evan Hughes and Susan Chamberlain from First Presbyterian, P A, presented the rationale for this overture.

There was a comment from the floor that in 2014 YAADs voted overwhelmingly for the overture while the “adult” delegate vote was close, showing that the next generation is supportive of this effort. After further comment from the floor, Presbytery voted to close debate, then voted in the affirmative.

SYNOD OF THE PACIFIC

Elder Odell reported on the meeting of the Synod of the Pacific which met Oct 7 -9 in the Mercy Center, Burlingame. The new Synod Moderator is Joey Mills. Elder Odell spoke of the difference between our Synod and others around the country and of services in personnel and finance offered by our Synod. The Synod now offers book keeping services for congregations; persons may call Jane Odell if this is of interest.

ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS & YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATES TO GA

The Stated Clerk, John Kelso, introduced candidates for commissioners and YAADs to the General Assembly, meeting in Portland in 2016, and placed the names in nomination.

YAAD	Brian Herrel	Covenant, Palo Alto
TE	Tom Coop	Santa Teresa Hills, San Jose
TE	Bryan Franzen	Westminster, San Jose

The Stated Clerk moved that Brian Herrel, Tom Coop and Bryan Franzen, since they are running unopposed, be elected to their respective positions and that RE elections be separated out. Motion Carried.

The Stated Clerk noted that there were nominations from the floor for the RE positions, and that the election of a second RE will be provisional until the Clerk receives an endorsement from that Session.

RE Judi Johnson, Gilroy (already nominated)
RE Mel Goertz nominated RE Ruth McCreath, Stone, San Jose
TE Robert Bowles nominated RE Ruth Fong, Los Gatos
RE Evan Hughes nominated RE David Leith, First Presbyterian, Palo Alto.

Using written ballots, the Presbytery voted; Judi Johnson and Ruth Fong were chosen as RE Commissioners to GA.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Elder Lynn Viale led in these presentations. There were prayers for Carol Holsinger (Covenant, Palo Alto) in the death of her parents, Clara and Ray Heer. Ray was administrator at Corralitos Conference Center while the Presbytery owned it, and took it through the Loma Prieta earthquake and its aftermath.

As a close to the Joys and Concerns, Lynn Viale led the Presbytery in prayer.

STATED CLERK

The Rev. Kelso

The presbytery thanks the Rev. Katie Day for the Gospel message she brought to us today. May each of us receive the blessings we have been given, and take them into the world to glorify our Lord.

Congratulations to our moderator-elect, Judi Johnson. She has been a wonderful presbyter and I look forward to working with her throughout 2016.

We are delighted to welcome the Rev. Libby Boatwright to membership in the presbytery and look forward to the ways her validated ministry will enhance the collective ministry of the presbytery.

Thank you for working with two very controversial and complex issues with decency and order - which I believe that in such cases decency and order becomes grace.

We give thanks for the life of Ray Heer and join with. The prayers of all who snared with us.

Our prayers will be with Brian Herrel, Bryan Franzen, Tom Coop, & our two RE commissioners as they prepare for General Assembly. it WILL be hard work, but it will be fulfilling work.

Last night, I returned from a denomination-wide conference in San Antonio, TX. The conference was wonderful and if it were digital there would have been gigabytes of solid information on multitude of ways the denomination and its related organizations offer services to churches. So I didn't want to miss a thing - but the speed with which good information came at me and the speech of a few presenters who didn't know how to use microphones, combined with the limitations of my old man's ears meant I couldn't take it all down.

So I have returned with a great deal of empathy for the people who work at the clerk's table as my recording clerks, and I would like to ask that if you want your announcements in the presbytery minutes, please bring a copy of your announcements to the recording clerk - the lovely person sitting next to me at the clerk's table.

Presbytery was declared adjourned by Moderator Mark Peake.

Report on Small Group Discussions - Nov 2015 Presbytery Meeting

I. **Connections (Matthew 22:37-40)**

- This is the over-arching purpose
- Creating, strengthening and facilitating connections
- Nurture connections through Presbytery-wide activities and ministries
- Emphasis on our worship together
- Advocate for justice
- Support and lead mission activities of presbytery
- Connect youth from churches of all sizes
- Mission outreach, mission in the world with justice
- Interfaith work
- Connections between churches (maybe clustering)

II. **Resources (Isaiah 43:19b)**

- Sharing information about Presbytery resources
- Connect churches to resources that are available
- Training - fellowship, stewardship, adult education, youth ministry, outreach, evangelism, mission, elder training, lay leadership
- Support for staffing resources
- Pastor search committees
- Pastoral care for congregations

III. **Ministries (Romans 12:9-13, Philippians 2:13)**

- Community for teaching elders, empowers clergy and supports the church
- Seek to involve TEs from churches of all sizes
- Particular attention to small churches
- Encourage and support HRs
- Build relationships among pastors through social, educational events
- As we build relationships we learn to love each other, even disagree and still hear one another
- Consider a different process for examination of pastors coming in (welcome and examination rather than “hazing”) Could COM provide different model?

IV. **Hope (Jeremiah 29:11)** - This category grew out various comments

- Be creative
- Think outside the box
- New idea
- New directions
- Consider what is unique about our denomination
- Refocus what we are about
- Risk
- Trust
- Dream

Question:

Do we, the Presbytery of San Jose, perceive “the new thing” that God is doing? (Is 43)

The Presbytery of Central Nebraska overtures the 222nd General Assembly to add to G.211 Certified Church Service the following:

G. 2.1104 Administrative Personnel Association (APA)

a. Skills and Training

Certified Administrative Personnel Assistants are persons certified and called to service in the ministry of church administration in congregations and councils. They shall have skills and training in church polity, church history, reformed theology, spiritual growth and discipline, office administration, Directory for Worship, Book of Confessions, and General Assembly Entities.

b. Councils Responsibility

The presbytery shall affirm the skill and dedication of these certified persons by providing for recognition at presbytery at the time of their certification and by inviting these employees to presbytery meetings, granting them the privilege of the floor with voice only at all presbytery meetings, and in the case of Certified APA members who are ruling elders, the privilege of voice and vote at all its meetings.

Names of those who have earned certification through APA shall be transmitted to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, which will forward them to the Office of the General Assembly and to the Stated Clerk of the presbyteries in which those persons labor.

RATIONALE

A request from twelve women attending a business administration course at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA laid the groundwork for a professional organization to be created. In 1976 the Administrative Personnel Association was founded by Joyce Bauer and in almost 40 years APA has expanded to 9 regions which includes all 50 states with a membership of 367 representing churches of all sizes, including those denominations we are with communion, presbyteries, synods, and the different agencies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

APA defines its active members as all persons engaged in administrative work in any local church or church-related institution, governing body or agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), or those denominations with which we have communion.

APA is ruled by the body but lead by the Executive Board and Council. Our Executive Board is made up of elected officials to include the president, president-elect, immediate past-president, certification chair, membership chair, secretary and treasurer. The Council is composed of the following: The National Executive Board, all Regional Presidents, Bylaws Chair, Nominating Chair, Finance Chair, Council on Accreditation Chair, Membership Chair, and National Conference Planning Chair.

The mission of APA is to offer the opportunity for professional development and personal growth for those called by God to serve as support staff of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and those

denominations we are with communion. The mission is accomplished by providing continuing education events for certification and occasions for fellowship, worship and spiritual nurture and prayer at both National and Regional meetings as well as APA sponsored training events.

We offer three levels of certification with the opportunity to receive recognition for every 50 hours of continuing education beyond level 3. Our members may also receive an additional certificate in Concentrated Studies in Polity, Communications, Administration and Facilities Management, Theology, Church History and Finance after completing another 25 hours in each of these areas of studies. Approved instructors are required to teach the requested amount of time for the class. Approval is given by our Certification Chair. The Certification Committee reviews the classes to ensure the classes being taught are current with what is happening in the church and office administration. Elective hours include conflict management, designing for communication, technology classes, financial matters, and other classes that provide professional growth and understanding of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Below explains the breakdown for each level.

LEVEL I

Core Courses

Church History (Part 1)	2.5 hours
Church History (Part 2)	2.5 hours
Polity 1 (Part 1)	2.5 hours
Polity 1 (Part 2)	2.5 hours
**Office Administration	2.5 hours
*Spiritual Growth and Discipline	2.5 hours
Theology – Christian Perspectives of the Church (Part 1)	2.5 hours
Theology (Part 2)	2.5 hours
Total Core Hours	20 hours
Total Elective Hours	20 hours
Total Hours Required	40 hours

LEVEL II

Core Courses

Directory for Worship	2.5 hours
Legal Matters	2.5 hours
PC(USA) History Since Reunion (Part 1)	2.5 hours
PC(USA) History Since Reunion (Part 2)	2.5 hours
Polity II	2.5 hours
**Office Administration	2.5 hours
*Spiritual Growth and Discipline	2.5 hours
Total Core Hours	17.5 hours
Total Elective Hours	27.5 hours
Total Hours Required	45 hours

LEVEL III

Core Courses

Book of Confessions	2.5 hours
GA Entities	2.5 hours
Polity III	2.5 hours
**Office Administration	2.5 hours
*Spiritual Growth and Discipline	2.5 hours
Total Core Hours	12.5 hours
Total Elective Hours	37.5 hours
Total Hours Required	50 hours

Prior to the changes made to the form of government, APA had been recognized previously by General Assembly, and under the former section G- 14.0740 we had been affiliated with the Office of Vocation and had a PCUSA staff liaison. We had also been listed in the directory and Book II. However, after NFOG was approved we were lost in translation and have struggled since to be specifically identified by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for our service and dedication to the larger church. Therefore, it is time after almost 40 years of service and dedication, that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) specifically recognizes the Administrative Personnel Association (APA) and its certified members in the Book of Order.

Overture: On Rescinding Item 05-04, Mid Council Commission Report, 222nd General Assembly

The Presbytery of Santa Fe respectfully overtures the 222nd General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to rescind the action taken by the 221st General Assembly (2014) regarding Item 05-04, the report of the Mid Council Commission, directing the establishment of a new configuration of synod boundaries.

Rationale:

- 1) The ability to form and re-form synod boundaries already exists in the current Form of Government, G-3.0502 (items a through e).
- 2) The requirement to reduce the number of existing synods to “10-12” is an onerous burden upon the synods in the western half of the United States because of our vast geographic reality. It is impossible to conceive how the mission and ministry of any one presbytery could be enhanced by enlarging synod boundaries to encompass a span (for example) from Canada to Mexico, Hawaii to New Mexico, or Alaska to the Dakotas to New Mexico to Hawaii.
- 3) Some plans posited to meet the requirements of this report fulfill only the letter of the requirements and change nothing else. For example, the “Synod of the West” idea seeks to combine the five westernmost synods into one, while retaining a Permanent Judicial Commission and establishing geographic administrative commissions within the existing bounds of each synod or presbytery. Each would continue to oversee its own assets, and likely continue its own ministry, without any real change. Such an exercise would be shallow at best and hypocritical at worst.
- 4) The Synod of the Southwest, in consultation and collaboration with its four Presbyteries, has embarked upon a project to enhance the leadership of its historic racial/ethnic populations which would be placed on hold, if not in fact halted, as a result of the attention which is required to effect a change in boundaries. This diminishes our joint emerging sense of purpose, partnership, context and call.
- 5) The establishment of new synod boundaries, as previously noted, does not serve to enhance our ministries or our ability to work across current synod boundaries. Already the Synod of the Southwest, in consultation with and at the encouragement of its Presbyteries, has reached out to the Synods of Mid America, Lakes & Prairies, and Lincoln Trails in establishing the

Theoacademy, for use not only with the dominant culture but also with the Native American people, and is in the process of establishing Teoacademia for people of Hispanic descent.

6) The Synod of the Southwest and its constituent presbyteries, at the direction of the Assembly, have earnestly entered into the requested collaborative process with three other synods. While those conversations have proved meaningful and fruitful, the presbyteries represented were able to find common ground for mission which could be accomplished within the present alignment of synod boundaries. None of the Presbyteries, or the Synod, of the Southwest was able to conceive of ministry which could only, or even best, be accomplished by the realignment of synod boundaries.

7) The Synod of the Southwest, in consultation and collaboration with its four Presbyteries, has established a common understanding of, and relationship based upon, their mission and ministry and an emerging sense of purpose, partnership, context and call.

8) If the report seeks to combine synods in order to save money, it is not evident that any study has been done to show actual costs and savings. In fact, in addition to other unidentified expenses, the realignment of synods is certain to create expenses associated with partitioning of restricted funds.