



PROVISIONAL MINUTES

Second Called Meeting of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest July 13, 2024 Via Zoom

C2-1 Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Moderator, RE Brian Wyatt, called the second called meeting of the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest (POPS) to order at 9:02 am, opened the meeting with prayer, and welcomed the members and commissioners. The meeting was called for the purpose of receiving a report from the Ministerial Committee which included examination of TE Marcos Ortega, candidate for Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA and the approval of a Change in Status for TE Matthew McCleary. The POPS Council determined that the special meeting was appropriate given the extended amount of time between the May 2024 and October 2024 POPS meetings, as well as the current status of both Marcos and Matthew as ordained EPC teaching elders.

C2-2 Declaration of Quorum

Stated Clerk, RE Mark Eshoff, declared a quorum was present as evidenced by the following record of attendance:

TE MEMBERS

Centerpoint Community Church – Roseville, CA

TE Bryan Yeo Excused

TE Jeff Hooker Present

TE Rachel Dorsey Excused

Centerville Presbyterian Church – Fremont, CA

TE Sam Knottnerus Present

TE Ryan Bogert Present

Christ Church, Berkeley, CA

TE Jonathan St. Clair Unexcused

TE Andrew Ong Unexcused

Christ Community Church – Carmichael, CA

Dustin DeVriend Present

Clayton Community Church – Clayton, CA

TE Shawn Robinson Unexcused

Community Presbyterian Church – Danville, CA

TE Tyler Scott Excused

TE Cathy Burkholder Excused

TE Bill Haslim Unexcused

TE Ryan Pearce Excused

Cornerstone Woodlake Presbyterian Church – Woodlake, CA

RE Rick Dorr Present

(Commissioned Pastor)

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Ann Jensen, Tom Pool, Marlana Sprague

Yvonne Rhodes, Al Trimble

Brian Vaccaro, Judi Vaccaro

Covenant Community Church – Vacaville, CA

TE Nancy Duff Present

Barbara Cantrell, Candance Clemmons, Rebecca Duvall

Covenant Presbyterian Church – Orange, CA		
TE Scott Larson	Unexcused	Ken Adams, Catherine Gudvanger
TE Matt Young	Excused	
Covenant Presbyterian Church – Reno, NV		
TE James (Jay) Hull	Present	Dianne Billharz, Gerry Dunlap, Janet Goodman, Chris Rhodes
Covenant Presbyterian Church – San Diego, CA		
TE Patrick King	Present	
TE Kennerly King	Present	
Easton Presbyterian Church – Fresno, CA		
TE David Abdo	Present	
Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church – Fair Oaks, CA		
TE Donny Butkus	Present	Yvonne Robertson
First Armenian Church – Fresno, CA		
TE Greg Haroutunian	Excused	
First Presbyterian Church – Bakersfield, CA		
TE David Constance	Present	Jane Galbreath, Sally Herald, Tracie Monroe
First Presbyterian Church – Fresno, CA		
TE Jeremy Vaccaro	Present	
TE Meagan Kroeker	Excused	
First Presbyterian Church – Hanford, CA		
TE Tim Brown	Unexcused	
Fowler Presbyterian Church – Fowler, CA		
TE Erik Buhl	Unexcused	
TE Paul Irwin	Excused	
Fremont Presbyterian Church – Sacramento, CA		
TE David Pack	Present	Nancy Boersma, David Flores, Jonathan List, Bart Mehlhop, Shawn Moore
TE Matthew McCleary	Present	
Heritage EPC – Santa Maria, CA		
TE Mark Wright	Unexcused	Brian Tom
Hope Presbyterian Church – Folsom, CA		
TE David Huusko	Excused	Gordon Pipkin, Bill Whigam
Kingman Presbyterian Church – Kingman, AZ		
TE Joe Tolin	Present	
Millbrook Presbyterian Church – Fresno, CA		
Vacant		
Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church – Moraga, CA		
TE Brandon Morrow	Excused	
TE David Ricketts	Excused	
New Life Community Church – Covelo, CA		
Vacant		
Sanger Community Church – Sanger, CA		
Ralph “Joe” Mazzela	Unexcused	

San Ramon Presbyterian Church – San Ramon, CA
Vacant

Sierra Presbyterian Church – Nevada City, CA
TE Michael Griffin Present
TE Greg Flagg Present

St. John’s Assyrian Presbyterian Church – Turlock, CA
TE Edward Eissabake Present

The Table – San Francisco, CA
TE Troy Wilson Unexcused

Valley Community Church – San Jacinto, CA
TE Guy Boyer Present

Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, Santa Ana, CA
TE Ryan Teramoto Excused

OFFICERS OF THE PRESBYTERY

TE Lana Roberts, Past Moderator Present
RE Brian Wyatt, Moderator Present
RE Mark Eshoff, Stated Clerk Present

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

RE Christine Deane Present
TE David Fenska Present
RE David Sylvester Present

MILITARY CHAPLAINS ON ACTIVE DUTY

None

INSTITUTIONAL CHAPLAINS

TE Karen Bolte Unexcused
TE Marty Carpenter Unexcused

EVANGELISTS

TE Scott Downing Present
TE Jose Figueroa Unexcused

MISSIONARIES

None

SERVING OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES

TE Eric Amundson Unexcused
TE Joe Cole Unexcused
TE Greg Ehlert Present
TE Melaku Mekuria Unexcused
TE Mgrdich Melkonian Unexcused
TE Rick Nylund Unexcused
TE Ryan Suzuki Present
TE Fred Tanizaki Present
TE Tony Winterowd Unexcused

MEMBERS SERVING AS ADMINISTRATIVE MEMBERS

None

MEMBERS WITHOUT A CALL

TE Greg Alderman	Present
TE David Burke	Excused
TE Sam Fielder	Unexcused
TE Josh Hall	Unexcused
TE Ron Musch	Present
TE Rob Perkins	Unexcused
TE Dennis Tarr	Unexcused
TE Steve Tyra	Unexcused
TE Patrick Vaughn	Excused
TE Quinn Vaughn	Excused
TE Jason Yum	Excused

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – ACTIVE

TE Donald Baird	Unexcused
TE Paul Bergquam	Unexcused

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – Outside Boundaries

TE Kurt Teng	Not Present
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ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – Retired

TE Samuel Adamson	Not Present
TE Jerry Autry	Not Present
TE Robert (Bob) Badgley	Not Present
TE Jim Barstow	Not Present
TE Ed Blake	Not Present
TE Kirk Bottomly	Not Present
TE Scott Dickson	Present
TE Scott Farmer	Not Present
TE Steve Frank	Not Present
TE Cliff Graves	Not Present
TE Anton Hoffmann	Not Present
TE Heidi Johnson	Not Present
TE Robin Kelley	Not Present
TE Linda Line	Not Present
TE Greg Livingstone	Not Present
TE Tom Naylor	Not Present
TE Ron Owens	Not Present
TE Penny Proschold	Not Present
TE Greg Roth	Not Present
TE Marsha Roth	Not Present
TE Chaluay Ruangchan	Not Present
TE Richard Sanner	Not Present
TE Jerry Voss	Not Present
TE Mark Wollan	Not Present

GUESTS/OBSERVERS/CANDIDATES/MINISTERS TO BE EXAMINED

Robert Cleveland	First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield
Cathy Cole	Presbytery of the Pacific SW, Sacramento
Jim Conners	First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield
Ann Davison	Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento
Lisa Elliott	First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield
Bill Galbreath	First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield
Steve Gold	First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield
Melissa Hightower	Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento
Beth Kuney	First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield
Marcos Ortega	First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield
Steve Starr	Seattle, WA
Michael Yraceburn	First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield

NUMERICAL ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

	Present	Excused	Unexcused	Total/Parity
Teaching Elders (Full Members)	25	17	23	65
Teaching Elders (Associate - Active)	0	0	2	
Teaching Elders (Associate-Retired)	1			
Ruling Elders	28			
Officers of the Presbytery	3			
Presbytery Council	3			
Commissioned Pastors	1			
Received Pending Dismissal	0			
Transitional Members	0			
Candidates/Guests/Observers	12			
TOTAL IN ATTENDANCE	73			
Associate & Retired Members (Not Present)	24			
Inactive Members (Not Present)	0			

C2-3 Stated Clerk’s Report

Stated Clerk, Mark Eshoff reviewed the protocol for participation and voting for the meeting.

C2-4 Approval of the Docket

Stated Clerk Eshoff presented the proposed docket and recommended changes to the docket. He presented it to the Presbytery for approval.

Motion was sustained to approve the docket

C2-5 Ministerial Committee Report

Examination of TE Donny Butkus

TE David Abdo, Chair of the Ministerial Committee, opened in prayer and introduced TE Marcos Ortega, who was called as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA by the congregation of the church. He was currently a member of the EPC Presbytery of the East and was seeking to transfer his membership to the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest. He had been examined by the members of the Ministerial Committee and his current Terms of Call were reviewed and approved by the Committee. He was recommended to the Presbytery for approval.

Marcos’ examination began with a sermon on Hebrews 4:12-13, a passage assigned to him by the Ministerial Committee. The Presbytery then examined him on his views of theology and sacraments, his faith in Christ, his calling to the ministry and the nature of the office of a minister of the Word, polity, the Reformed tradition, the Bible, and his spiritual journey. Marcos had two exceptions to the Westminster Standards.

Motion was sustained to arrest the examination

Marcos was dismissed to a virtual breakout room during the Presbytery discussion.

RE’s Mike Yraceburn and Beth Kuney from First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA spoke on behalf of the congregation of the church.

Motion was sustained to approve the examination of TE Marcos Ortega, including his exceptions to the Westminster Standards, and receive him into full membership in the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest from the EPC Presbytery of the East, pending their approval of his transfer.

Motion was sustained to approve the Administrative Commission of TE's David Constance from First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA and David Abdo from Easton Presbyterian Church, Easton, CA and RE's Tyson Witcher, Tracie Monroe, and Sally Herald from First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA, and Annette Rajskup from First Presbyterian Church, Hanford, CA to install Marcos Ortega as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, CA on Sunday, October 6, 2024 at 4:00 pm..

Marcos was invited back into the main session and was greeted with a virtual standing ovation.

TE David Abdo prayed for Marcos and the church in this new season.

C2-6 Change of Status – TE Matthew McCleary

TE Abdo introduced Matthew McCleary who had been called by the congregation of Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento, CA as Associate Pastor of Congregational Life. He currently served there as Assistant Pastor of Congregational Life. This change had been reviewed by the Ministerial Committee and was recommended to the Presbytery for approval. Matthew spoke briefly about his new call and the impact it would have on his ministry and the ministry of the church. RE Shawn Moore spoke in support of the change.

Motion was sustained to approve the change in status of TE Matthew McCleary from Assistant Pastor for Congregational Life to Associate Pastor for Congregational Life at Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento, CA effective July 13, 2024.

Motion was sustained to approve the Administrative Commission consisting of TE's David Pack from Fremont Presbyterian, Sacramento, CA and Nancy Duff from Covenant Community Church, Vacaville, CA and RE's Patsy Conner from Fair Oaks Church, Fair Oaks, CA and Bart Mehlhop, Adele Ohs and Paul Wyatt from Fremont Presbyterian, Sacramento, CA to install TE Matthew McCleary as Associate Pastor for Congregational Life at Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento, CA on August 18, 2024 at 12:00 pm.

C2-7 Prayer for the Family of TE Dave Brogren

TE Abdo concluded his report by remembering TE Dave Brogren, a former member of the Presbytery, who served in several capacities including longtime Ministerial Committee Chair in the Presbytery of the West, Presbytery of the Pacific, and Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest. He had currently been a member of the Presbytery of the East. TE Abdo prayed for Dave's family and the many colleagues and friends who will miss him.

C2-8 Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Moderator Wyatt thanked the members and commissioners for their participation.

Motion was sustained to adjourn the meeting

Moderator Wyatt closed the meeting with prayer at 10:25 am.

RE Brian Wyatt, Moderator

RE Mark Eshoff, Stated Clerk