

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON

Special Meeting

April 15, 2015

CONVENE

Moderator Rev. Kim MacInnes-Green convened the teleconference meeting at 7:04 pm with prayer.

ROLL ESTABLISHED

Teaching Elder Members Present: Curt Karns, Dan Ketchum, Dean Knapp, Ian MacInnes-Green, Kim MacInnes-Green, Israel Nelson, and Matthew Schultz

Other Members Present: Ruling Elder (RE) Commissioners Jan Burger (United Protestant Church), Kathy Christensen (First Wasilla PC), Jinhee Dickerson (Fairbanks Korean PC), Ann Geise (Delta PC), Anne Smith (Eagle River PC), Jim Powell (First Anchorage PC), and Spencer Biegel (Trinity PC); CRE Beulah Nowpakahok; Leadership Team member RE Mark Wartes; and stated clerk RE Sharon Rayt

Others Present: Presbytery treasurer Mary Kron

All other members were excused.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present in accordance with G-3.0304, that ruling elders representing at least three churches and three teaching elders constitute a quorum.

AGENDA

The special meeting was called by moderator Rev. Kim MacInnes-Green with the concurrence of Rev. Dean Knapp, Rev. Israel Nelson, RE Mark Wartes (Utqiagvik PC), and RE Sharon Rayt (Jewel Lake Parish), to act on the following business: Vote on the request of the Fairbanks Korean Presbyterian Church to purchase a manse, a 3 bedroom condominium, located at 1516 28th Ave., Fairbanks, AK 99701 and with a legal description of Unit C, lot 158A, Advance Townhomes, Plat. No. 2004-139 and secure a loan to cover repair costs and shortfall due at closing. Closing is set for the end of April, 2015.

Sales price \$123,600

Original asking price..... \$136,900

Fairbanks North Star Borough 2014 assessed value: \$190,000

Seller: Bank of New York Mellon

The church expects to use the remainder of the proceeds from the sale of the former manse to help fund the condo purchase. In February, presbytery placed conditions on the use of sale proceeds, in that the proceeds shall be held by the presbytery and that presbytery will release a set amount annually to be used for housing allowance. If presbytery amends its previous action and approves the purchase of the condo, the session plans to rent the condo until the church has the finances to pay a pastor. The Korean cultural expectation of having housing in place, shows that a church can afford a pastor.

Church conflict last year caused a significant drop in attendance; the church is not doing well financially – it is barely taking in enough income to pay non-pastoral expenses. Presbytery provided financial support for the three months ending in April, in the form of full salary support and payment of Board of Pension dues. Pastor Rev. David Jeong will be leaving in May.

The Committee on Ministry has proposed that a Korean consultant work with the church to address the church's dysfunction, i.e., a continuous pattern of conflict and departure of pastors every couple years,

Rev. Jin Suk Kim, executive presbyter for Korean ministries in Northwest Coast Presbytery, has agreed to lead the congregation in how to deal with conflict without losing the pastors. The few remaining elders are willing to work with Rev. Kim, but it is unknown if those who have left would be willing to return to the church and become part of the consultation.

Presbytery trustees have met twice to consider the purchase and are at an impasse and have no recommendation. The primary issue centers on whether this is the proper time to purchase a condo in light of the church's financial situation. Presbytery **VOTED** to postpone the church's request, until presbytery trustees have an affirmative recommendation to purchase. Presbytery **VOTED** to approve an amended motion to file a one-month extension on the closing of the purchase. The extension is not guaranteed unless accepted by the seller.

Rev. Nelson raised an issue regarding the legality of the purchase agreement which listed the Presbytery of Yukon as the buyer, yet was signed by a church elder. Presbytery **VOTED** authorize presbytery trustee Karl Reid to complete negotiations on the purchase [i.e., sign a new purchase agreement.]

Presbytery took no action on the loan request.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm with Rev. Curt Karns leading in the closing prayer.

Sharon Rayt
Stated Clerk