

## CLERK'S REPORT

### Recognition of Native Lands and Peoples:

The Presbytery of Nevada is comprised of land faithfully stewarded by indigenous people for countless generations. Today, we acknowledge the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, the Cui—ui eaters.

The Cui-ui eaters or Pyramid Lake Paiute people have lived around and fished at Cui-ui Pah or Pyramid Lake from time immemorial. Pyramid Lake is the only habitat in the world for the Cui-ui fish that has been around for over 2 million years.

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribes' Reservation is thirty-five miles northeast of Reno, Nevada. The area of the reservation contains 742.2 square miles. Pyramid Lake is one of the most valuable assets and a part of the identity of the Tribe and is entirely enclosed within the boundaries of the Reservation. As of February 2017, living on the reservation were 1,300 individuals, with approximately 2,288 enrolled members. The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe has a 44% unemployment rate. Most of the reservation residents are under thirty-five (35) years old.

Derby Dam, completed in 1905, diverted 48% of the waters of the Truckee River for irrigation. Pyramid Lake suffered from a surface drop of 87 feet by 1967, and this, combined with pollution and over-harvesting, led to the virtual disappearance of the huge indigenous variety of the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout by the 1940s. Fishing was not only important to feed the Paiute, but it was also part of their identity. Many Paiute fishermen on Pyramid Lake had to leave the reservation to find jobs in cities. "After the last run of 1937. Nearly all the fishermen went off to Reno or somewhere and never came back." Only the efforts of the Pyramid Lake fishery operated by the tribe over the decades have saved the Lohanton Cutthroat Trout.

After the Endangered Species Act was passed in 1967, the tribe took their case to the Supreme Court, and in 1990, the Paiute reached a settlement. Through their resourcefulness, the Cui-ui people restored some of the water feeding Pyramid Lake, saving its fish and bringing national attention to the destruction caused by irrigation.

Mervin Wright, former chair of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, says: "In the time before humans — the fish and the birds, the plants and the insects — they were the ones that controlled life. They were the ones that controlled survival. Then, we came along as humans, we had to learn from them. And we did. But fast forward to today, and I wonder what happened," "Whenever man tries to control nature, man loses, and nature is damaged," "You don't have to look any further than Derby Dam"

I thank the Presbytery for taking the time to consider the people whose lands we inhabit and their witness as stewards of the land from the beginning of time through today.

- Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe website

- Nevada Current website

- National Park Service Website

**2022 03** [actions since March presbytery meeting]

ORDINATIONS	NONE
CHARTERED	NONE
INSTALLATIONS	Rev. Craig Sanders, Grace, May 7, 2023
ENROLLMENTS	NONE
DISMISSALS	NONE
REMOVED	NONE
RENUNCIATED	NONE
RELEASED	NONE
TRANSFERRED	NONE
FROM ANOTHER CHRISTIAN DENOM	Rev. Greg Hughes
VALIDATED MINISTRY	Rev. Jean Shaw, Ministry Engagement Advisor PC(USA)
STATED SUPPLY	NONE
RETIRED	NONE
INACTIVE	NONE
LABOR IN BOUNDS	NONE
LABOR OUT OF BOUNDS	NONE
MINISTER AT LARGE	NONE
CANDIDATE UNDER CARE	NONE
DECEASED	Rev. Douglas Gregg, April 29, 2023 Rev. Veron Towne, March 30, 2023

**OTHER PERMISSIONS/APPROVALS**

Conduct Baptism/Communion	NONE
Enter CLP Program	NONE
CLP Commissioning	Sylvia Cook June 17, 2023

- The meetings of the Presbytery of Nevada are recorded for the purpose of preserving and sharing significant presentations and the production of minutes. They are not the official records of the Presbytery of Nevada. The written minutes, approved by the Presbytery or the council acting as Presbytery, are the official records of the Presbytery of Nevada.
- As authorized by the Presbytery and instructed by the Presbytery Moderator, the Stated Clerk appointed the following to install Craig Sanders on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm at Grace Presbyterian Church in Las Vegas. Rev. Hilda Pecoraro, moderator’s designee, Rev. David Dendy, Elder Lynne Zenier, Rev. Jim Houston-Hencken. The installation occurred, and the commission was dismissed at the conclusion of the service. The Presbytery thanks the commission for their ministry.

- The Stated Clerk attests that the Presbytery of Nevada Minutes for our September 2022 stated meeting, our February 2023 special meeting, and our March 2023 stated meeting were reviewed by the Synod on August 31, 2023. There were no exemptions and no warnings from the review. The Stated Clerk thanks the Journal Clerk, Rev. Kate Freeman, for her careful and complete work.
- The Stated Clerk reports he led all the Presbytery Executives of the Synod at their retreat August 29<sup>th</sup>-Sept 1<sup>st</sup> in Danville, California, and provided the devotions.
- The Stated Clerk reports he attended the final Presbytery Leader Formation residency in Marriottsville, Maryland, May 7-12, 2023
- Last January, the stated clerk allocated among the 23 churches according to size and request, ranging from 1-4 commissioners. This totals 44 ruling elders. We have three members transferred to our roll since their church of membership no longer exists. We have 5 Commissioned Lay Pastors. We have 2 members that are leaders of worshipping communities. We have 1 each of a Certified Church Educator, Chairperson of a committee, and commissioner to the General Assembly who otherwise are not members of the Presbytery.
- A summary report with actual numbers is Attachment A-5 on the Presbytery meeting page on our website and at [pbyl.ink/parity](http://pbyl.ink/parity) These were sent to churches in January but are included here to be in our minutes.
- As required by the Constitution of the PCUSA, the Stated Clerk reports that the Presbytery has a manual of Administrative Operations, which can be found linked on the Presbytery website or at [pbyl.ink/manual](http://pbyl.ink/manual). It is also linked in the Presbytery emails.
- As required by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) the Stated Clerk reports that the Presbytery has established a policy on the Committee of Representation which can be found in the Presbytery manual under Bylaws, 5.0600.
- The Stated Clerk reports that the Presbytery’s Safe Church Policy (covering sexual misconduct prevention and response) and Child and Youth Protection Policies **have not been enacted**.
- The Stated Clerk reports the following are former members of the Permanent Judicial Commission from the past 6 years and are eligible for continued service, in accord with D-5.0206b:

2018-Betty Squires	St. John’s, Reno
2018-Art Ritter	Grace, Las Vegas
2020-Bette Sylvis	Henderson, Henderson
2020-Jackie Leonard	St. John's, Reno
2020-Dr. Bertha Pendleton	Mt. View, Las Vegas
2022-David Dendy	Mt. View, Las Vegas
2022-Susan Jones	First, Elko
2024-Bob Kelley	Honorably Retired
2026-Ed Lockett	Honorably Retired
2026-Tom Hall	Spanish Springs, Sparks
2026 Jean Rey	Lake Tahoe Community

- The Stated Clerk reports that session minutes will be reviewed in person during this meeting and via other arrangements after this meeting. The results of the October 2022 review are in the clerk's report of the March 2023 minutes of presbytery. We thank Elder John Harbison for his late nights in review session minutes while hosting Presbytery in October.
- As required by the Constitution of the PCUSA, the Stated Clerk reports the following annual minimum compensation for ministers and commissioned pastors in the Presbytery is policy number 3 in our Manual of Administrative Operations:

### **POLICY NUMBER 3 MINIMUM SALARY**

The minimum compensation package for full-time clergy in the Presbytery of Nevada is; \$38,000 yearly salary, including housing and utilities, \$500 study leave, full pension, two (2) weeks study leave (study leave allowance and time to be cumulative up to a maximum of three years), four (4) week vacation, \$1,800 travel allowance (minimum, vouchered at the IRS rate)

- Reports the following names, Elder Elaine York and Minister Adrian Doll, has been approved as the ordination exam readers for the year 2023.
- Statistics submitted to General Assembly, Available on the meeting page on our website at nevadapresbytery.org as Attachment A-6
  - Active membership reported 161 gains and 263 losses for a total of 2396, down from 2439 of which 1470 (61%) were women
  - 38 Baptisms, Average Weekly Attendance was 1336, 222 from Birth through Grade 12 were reported to be in Christian Education
  - Just under 18% of the Presbytery was reported to be non-white
  - Annual reported income was just under 4 million dollars, with expenses slightly over 4 million.
- Our quorum, according to our by-laws, (3.0101) A quorum of a Presbytery meeting is three ministers of the Word and Sacrament who are members of the Presbytery and three ruling elder commissioners from three different congregations.
- There was one commission for installation, Rev. Craig Sanders, in May as associate pastor at Grace Presbyterian Church.
- There were no commissions for ordination.
- The commission for the Lee Vining Church has completed its work and is dismissed with thanks.
- There is a commission for the First Korean Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas, which is continuing its work.
- Elder Carol Sandmier, member of the Presbytery of Nevada, has transferred her church membership to Christ Presbyterian Church, Gardnerville, Nevada. Based on 3.0204a, I ask the Presbytery of Nevada to **delete Carol Sandmier's name** from the Presbytery rolls.
  - This leaves two members of the Presbytery who are not members of a Presbyterian congregation: Vernon and Carol Manke.

- There is a commission to come alongside the sessions of the Henderson Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church of the Living God to work on the merger of the two congregations. As authorized by the Council on June 17, 2023, the Administrative Commission to work with the sessions and congregation of **Henderson United Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church of the Living God** were filled by Rev. Ken Harper:

Rev. Ken Harper, Rev. Hilda Pecoraro, Elder Bruce Laird, Elder Craig Sell

- The Presbytery of Nevada is registered as a non-profit with the State of California
  - CEO – John Christy Ramsey
  - CFO – Vernon Manke
  - Resident Agent – Katherine Suzanne Freeman
- The Stated Clerk acknowledges that Reverend Greg Hughes, as required by G-2.0505b. did “furnish the presbytery with evidence of having surrendered membership in any and all other Christian churches with which the minister has previously been associated.”

## Recommendations for Action:

- The Presbytery of Nevada, registered as a non-profit with the State of California, file this annual report of officers. (Nevada officers were due in July and authorized in June by the Council. Action of the Council reported below.)
  - Secretary      JOHN CHRISTY RAMSEY
  - Resident Agent   KATE FREEMAN
  - Treasurer        VERON MANKE

## LORD’S SUPPER AUTHORIZATIONS

- The Stated Clerk recommends that the Presbytery grant permission to administer the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper to the **Rev. Dick Young, Rev Sara Tillema**, and other PC(USA) teaching elders leading worship at Zephyr Point Conference Center. In addition, Commissioned Pastors (CREs) of the Presbytery, with prior approval of the chair of the Committee on Ministry, are also authorized to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper at Zephyr Point Conference Center.
- The Stated Clerk recommends that the Presbytery grant permission to administer the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper to the following minister members of the Presbytery:
  - **Rev. Mitchell S Holley**, Chaplain
  - **Rev. Alex Aaron**, Chaplain
- The Stated Clerk recommends that Commission Pastors (CREs) of the Presbytery, when invited by a church of the Presbytery and approved by the chair of the Committee on Ministry, be authorized to administer the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper in the church that invited them.
- In addition, the Stated Clerk recommends that the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper be approved for all in-person meetings of the presbytery, typically in March and September.

**BOUNDARIES**

- The Presbytery of Nevada requests **replacing** this current definition of the boundaries of the Presbytery and communicating this request to Synod and the General Assembly for approval.

1.0100 The Presbytery of Nevada of the Presbyterian Church (USA) includes all of the counties in the State of Nevada (less the Jackpot and Owyhee area) and Alpine, Mono, and Inyo east of the Sierra Mountain Crest, and that portion of El Dorado (incorporated as the City of South Lake Tahoe) counties, and those portions of Modoc (including townships 45, 46,47,48 and Ranges 1W, 2W, 1E, 2E, 3E, 4E, and 5E), Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer and El Dorado lying east of the line from the west shore of Goose Lake at Oregon border, to Susanville, to Donner Summit, to Echo Summit, to the northeast corner of Amador County where it joins Alpine County, of the State of California, and shall be composed of all Churches and Ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

With the following description:

1.0100 The Presbytery of Nevada of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) includes all of the counties in the State of Nevada and within the State of California, those portions lying East of the line from the West shore of Goose Lake at the Oregon border to the West side of Susanville, to Donner Summit, to Echo Summit, to the Northeast corner of Amador County where it joins Alpine County near Kirkwood and the counties of Alpine, Mono, and Inyo east of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Crest, and that portion of El Dorado (incorporated as the City of South Lake Tahoe)

The Stated Clerk thanks Elder Vern Manke for his work negotiating boundaries with neighboring Presbyteries and the General Assembly. No church is affected by this change.

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REVIEWS** (*Pt. = Pastor*)

Ministers at Large	NONE
Commissioned Lay Pastors	NONE

## COUNCIL ACTIONS

**These are actions taken by the Council between Presbytery meetings.** According to our by-laws:

4.0400 The Council shall have all the authority as permitted by the Book of Order and consistent with Presbytery Policy, that is, to act with the full authority of Presbytery between Presbytery Meetings

### JUNE 17TH VIRTUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS

*(These are actions of the Presbytery and are included here to be recorded.)*

- **Council Approved** the officers of the Presbytery of Nevada, Incorporated for the State of Nevada.  
 President SCOTT PLUMMER  
 Secretary JOHN CHRISTY RAMSEY (and Resident Agent)  
 Treasurer VERNON W MANKE  
 Director LYNNE ZENIER  
 Director ROBERT C KELLEY

*Note: These officers were filed on 6/26/2023; the next filing is due within 90 days prior to 7/31/2024.  
 The filing for California is scheduled to be approved at the September Presbytery meeting.*

- Were informed of the purchase of a **new website made by Worship Times** for \$8,000 with \$47 a month hosting and maintenance.
- Were informed of the **approval of the financial review** from Steele Public Accountants of the Presbyterian finances Director of Finance, Elder Vern Manke, was thanked by the council for his service. *(Attachment A-8 of this September Presbytery meeting)*
- Approved the formation of a **Pastor Nominating Committee by Spanish Springs** Presbyterian Church

## Rev. Greg Hughes – Minister of another Christian Denomination

**Council affirmed the work of the COM and approved the following**, acting as the presbytery according to our by-laws (4.0400)

1. Approve the work and actions of the Committee on Ministry to review and approve the call of Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church to the Rev. Greg Hughes on behalf of the Presbytery of Nevada.
2. Approve COM's examination on behalf of the Presbytery of Rev. Greg Hughes, a minister of another Christian Church
3. Approve the COM reception and examination of credentials and evidence of Rev. Greg Hughes's good standing as a minister as acceptable to the Presbytery.
4. Approve the COM action finding that Rev. Greg Hughes has satisfactory evidence for the Presbytery to affirm that Rev. Greg Hughes possesses the qualifications of character and scholarship required for candidates of this church for service as teaching elders.

5. Affirm the COM's determination for the Presbytery that Rev. Greg Hughes possesses the wisdom and maturity of faith, leadership skills, compassionate spirit, honest repute, and sound judgment required of those entering service in the PCUSA ministry as a teaching elder.
6. Affirm the COM's determination that based on Rev. Greg Hughes's previous membership in the PCUSA and as a minister member of the Presbytery of Santa Barbara and his affirmation that the requirements for transcripts, course work requirements, and graduation from an accredited college or university and theological institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools has been fulfilled.
7. And thus, acting as the Presbytery, determines that the Rev. Greg Hughes is called to work properly under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Nevada.

**The Council approved and affirmed the following motion from the Committee on Ministry:**

that Rev. Greg Hughes, a minister of another Christian church having been ordained for five or more years, called to work properly under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Nevada, be granted an exception from the requirements of G-2.0607 and G-2.0610 according to G-2.0505 by a two-thirds vote of the council acting as Presbytery between meetings of Presbytery as provided by our by-laws (4.0400)

This waiver is necessary because Rev. Greg Hughes, a minister of another Christian Church, does not have copies of examination materials to submit. The Committee of Ministry notes that the Rev. Hughes has passed the PCUSA ordination examinations as evidenced by his affirmation and previous service and membership in the PC(USA). By approving this motion, the Presbytery of Nevada finds this evidence constitutes an alternative means to ascertain readiness to have his previous ordination to ministry recognized by the Presbytery of Nevada so he may work properly under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Nevada after being called to that work.

**The Council approved the call** and Presbytery membership of the Rev. Greg Hughes pending the concurring vote of the congregation of the Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church on June 25, 2023.

Upon enrollment, the Reverend Greg Hughes is required by G-2.0505b. to "furnish the presbytery with evidence of having surrendered membership in any and all other Christian churches with which the minister has previously been associated."

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**Other Committee on Ministry actions:**

- Approved **Sylvia Cook** becoming a Commissioned Ruling Elder CRE (Commissioned Pastor) after confirmation that she is an ordained ruling elder and trained by the Committee on Ministry
- Approved **Elder Scott Plummer** becoming the Director of Finance in September 2023.
- Approved contracting with **Nevada Payroll Services** to handle payroll and taxes for employees residing in both Nevada and California.



- Approved Rev. Dr. Adrian Doll and Elder Elaine York as **readers for the PC(USA) Ordination Exams** for 2023
- Approved directing the Committee on Representation to form and present an **antiracism policy** for the Presbytery of Nevada.
  
- Approved the **dissolution of the First Korean Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas** as of August 31, 2023, after consultation with members of the First Korean Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas and upon recommendation of the Administrative Commission for First Korean Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas
- Approved the change in status of the **Rev. Shin Hwang to Member at Large** pending the dissolution of the church.
  
- Approved the **dissolution of the Lee Vining Administrative Commission** with thanks.
- Approved the **dissolution of the Administrative Commission to install Rev. Craig Sanders** at Grace Presbyterian Church with thanks.
- Appointed an Administrative Commission of two ruling elders and two ministers to be named by Ken Harper with the help of the Stated Clerk to come alongside the sessions and congregation of the **Henderson United Church and Presbyterian Church of the Living God to accomplish their merger** with this commission:
  - a. Authority to approve the merger as agreed by the churches.
  - b. Authority to dissolve the old churches.
  - c. Authority to create the new church and set a date of chartering service.
  - d. Authority to approve merging the assets and liabilities with the presbytery trustees.
  - e. Authority to review the new church's bylaws.
  - f. Responsibility to report to presbytery on a regular basis.
  - g. Responsibility for keeping minutes of all meetings to be delivered to the Stated Clerk.
  - h. Authority to approve the call of their current pastor to the newly formed church.

## COUNCIL EMAIL VOTES

**The Council APPROVED a change in the dissolution date of the First Korean Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas to October 31, 2023.** An electronic vote by the Presbytery Council provided by Policy #17 of the Presbytery of Nevada was conducted electronically from August 18, 2023, and August 25, 2023. Eleven voting members of the Council of the Presbytery of Nevada were emailed the following vote text. Non-voting members were sent a copy of the vote text.

**“Shall the effective date of the dissolution of the congregation of First Korean Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas be changed to October 31, 2023?”**

All voting members voted via an online survey hosted at MailChimp via an individual link sent only to their email and additionally entered their name on the survey. There are 11 voting members. All members opened the email and responded online during the voting period. There were no motions to table the vote.

Of eleven council members, the vote was 10 YES, 1 NO, 0 members not voting. Three non-voting members were copied on the vote text but not sent a voting survey. *One member voting YES clicked the survey twice, resulting in 12 YES responses instead of 11. The duplicate YES vote was discarded, and only the original YES vote was counted.*

The minutes of the council, thankfully prepared by the Rev. Kate Freeman, Journal Clerk, are on the website post for this meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Mr. J. Christy Ramsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rev. Mr. J. Christy Ramsey (he/him/his) Stated Clerk/General Presbyter Presbytery of Nevada  
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