

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CLAREMORE



Dear Friends in Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery,

Here at the First Presbyterian Church of Claremore, we look forward to exercising on your behalf the greatest of Christian virtues: hospitality. Our sanctuary will be beautiful and inviting for you, our building will be warm and accessible to you and, most of all, we will have ready for you a delicious lunch that will go beyond feeding your body, it will feed your soul as well. We look forward to doing everything in our power to make your time in our church pleasant and fruitful.

When Abraham rested in his tent by the oaks of Mamre, three men came along. Leaping from his rest, Abraham saw to it that the men's thirst was quenched, that they were able to wash up, that food was prepared for them while they rested. As it turns out, the men brought a message from the Lord: that Abraham and Sarah would be blessed with a child who would be an heir to all the Lord's promises.

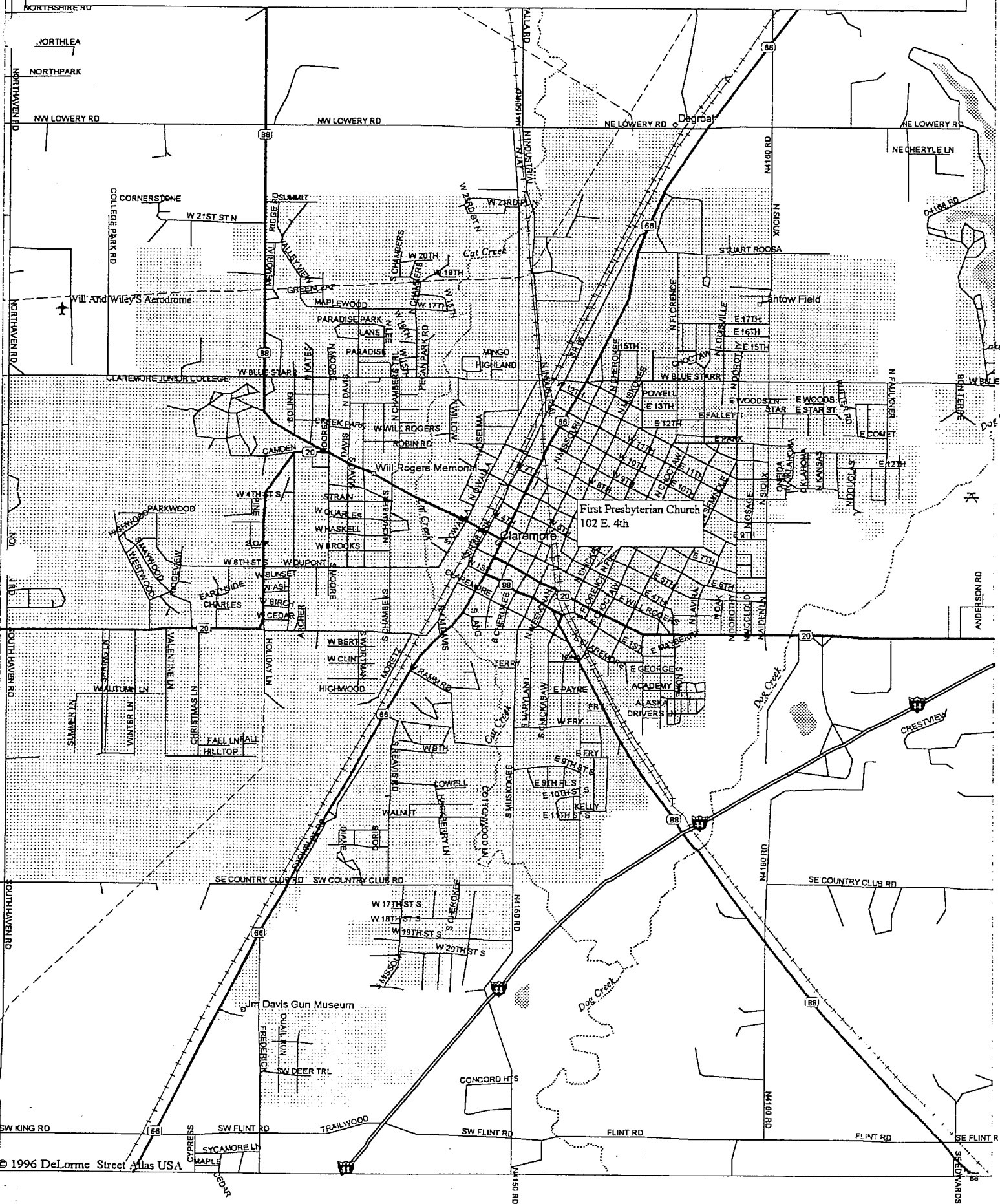
We know that you will be traveling a ways to get to Claremore, and that you will have much responsibility to bear as you carry out your work for the Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery. So, like Abraham, we fully plan to leap from our rest in order to serve you with energy. On behalf of the First Presbyterian Church, I say that we look forward to your arrival and to doing everything on your behalf to make the March 2nd meeting of presbytery one that you will be extra thankful that you got to be a part of!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas D. Launius".

Rev. Thomas D. Launius

Claremore, OK



EASTERN OKLAHOMA PRESBYTERY STATED MEETING

Tuesday - March 2, 2010

First Presbyterian Church - Claremore, OK

PLEASE BRING THIS FORM WITH YOU TO THE MEETING

NAME (Please PRINT) _____

CHURCH _____ **City** _____

Ministers and regular commissioners, please indicate changes in status or address at bottom of page.

I am (check the category that applies):

A voting member:

- _____ Minister
- _____ Elder Commissioner elected by the Session
- _____ Certified Christian Educator
- _____ Presbytery or Committee Moderator
- _____ Commissioned Lay Pastor (if commissioned with voting privileges)

A participant with voice but no vote:

- _____ Corresponding Member from _____
- _____ Other _____

An observer:

- _____ Member of Presbytery's Staff
- _____ Lay Preacher / Commissioned Lay Pastor (without vote)
- _____ Visitor

I NEED TO BE EXCUSED

(If you are requesting an excused absence, please mail this form to Dana Bailey, Stated Clerk, 700 S Boston Suite 200, Tulsa OK 74119-1629, no later than November 30, 2009.)

_____ *I request that the Presbytery excuse me from this meeting for the following reason:* _____

**THE WORSHIP AND WORK OF
EASTERN OKLAHOMA PRESBYTERY
MARCH 2, 2010
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - CLAREMORE, OK**

Items in italics are anticipated requests for action. Formal motions will be made by the committees.

All committees are assigned a docket letter, to facilitate the identification of any anticipated reports. However, not every committee will have written reports.

- 9:30 a.m. REGISTRATION AND COFFEE**
New Commissioner Orientation
- 10:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER**, Constituting Prayer (Dan Milford, Moderator)
- 10:05 a.m. WELCOME FROM HOST CHURCH** (Tom Launius, Pastor)
- 10:10 a.m. OPENING BUSINESS**
Roll
Establish Quorum
Seat Corresponding Members
Recognize New Commissioners
Adopt Agenda
Report of the Stated Clerk (Dana Bailey) **ITEM A**
Adopt Omnibus Motion **ITEM B**
- 10:25 a.m. REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER**
- 10:35 a.m. REPORT FROM SYNOD OF THE SUN**
- 10:45 a.m. REPORT FROM DEBBIE CHASE**
- 10:55 a.m. COUNCIL** (Joyce Ludwig) **ITEM C**
Care of Church Professionals Committee
- 11:05 a.m. PERSONNEL** (Cathy Hamrick) **ITEM D**
Elect Associate General Presbyter (term: 6/1/10 - 5/31/15)
- 11:15 a.m. RESOURCING CONGREGATIONS** (Kristy Rodgers) **ITEM E**
Presbyterian Planning Calendar
Dwight Mission - Elizabeth Sharp
- 11:30 a.m. CONNECTING CONGREGATIONS** (Mary Carter) **ITEM F**
Celebrations of pastors' ordinations
Anniversaries of congregations

- 11:50 a.m. DEVELOPING CONG'S & EVANG** (Ken Woodhams) **ITEM G**
 The Journey
 College Hill Hispanic Ministry
 Evangelism Grants
- 12:00 p.m. INSTRUCTIONS FOR LUNCH AND GRACE**
- 12:05 p.m. LUNCH**
- 1:00 p.m. WORSHIP**
- 1:45 p.m. PLENARY** - The Proposed New Form of Government (Rev Paul Hooker) **ITEM H**
- 2:45 p.m. NOMINATING** (Martha Barber) **ITEM I**
Elect those nominated to fill vacancies
- 2:50 p.m. FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION** (Bill Wiles) **ITEM J**
Approve 2010 Mission Budget
Approve Investment Guidelines
- 3:10 p.m. COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY** (Andy Odom) **ITEM K**
Approve all matters regarding issuance or changes in calls
- 3:35 p.m. CONCLUDING BUSINESS**
 New Business
 Evaluation of Meeting
*Please complete your evaluation form for this meeting before you depart
 and leave it in the box in the registration area marked "Evaluations."*
 Resolution of Thanks & Closing Prayer
- 3:45 p.m. ADJOURNMENT**

ALL INFORMATION ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE PACKET **ITEM O**

* * * * *

NEXT...

Committee Day	Sat, Apr 24	9:30 a.m.	Presb Churches in Brookside
Council Packet Materials Due	Mon, Apr 26		
Council Meeting	Mon, May 10	10:00 a.m.	Bernsen Center, Tulsa
Presbytery Packet Materials Due	Mon, May 10		
Presbytery Meeting	Tues, June 12		First Presbyterian, McAlester

All requests for docket time, display space, packet materials or handouts must be approved by the Council prior to the Presbytery meeting.

COMMISSIONER ORIENTATION

Are you a new elder commissioner?

Has it been a while since you last attended a Presbytery meeting?

Do you have questions about being an elder commissioner?

Are you just a friendly sort of person and would like someone to talk to prior to the opening of the meeting?

We have just the event for you!!!!

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Come to the registration table thirty minutes before the Call to Order,
- turn in your attendance sheet,
- and look for a sign directing you to the room where the Commissioner Orientation Event will be held
- Follow the signs or ask for directions

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING

Bring your questions, a Presbytery Packet, coffee, donut, and a smile.

I'LL BE LOOKING FOR YOU!



**STATED CLERK'S REPORT
EASTERN OKLAHOMA PRESBYTERY
MARCH 2, 2010**

PRESBYTERY

- Letter from the First Christian-Presbyterian Church, Pryor
(prayers for Presbytery Officers and Staff)
- Letter from Bristow Presbyterian Church, Bristow
(prayers for Presbytery Officers and Staff)
- Letter from First Presbyterian Church, Henryetta
(prayers for Presbytery Officers and Staff)
- Letter from Yale Avenue Presbyterian Church, Tulsa
(prayers for Presbytery Officers and Staff)
- Letter from Trinity Presbyterian Church, Bixby
(prayers for Presbytery Meeting at Brookside)
- Letter from Trinity Presbyterian Church, Bixby
(prayers for Council Meeting)
- Letter from Trinity Presbyterian Church, Bixby
(prayers for Youth Council)
- Minutes of Installation Commission for Daryl (Dino) Rustin,
John Knox Church, Tulsa
- Minutes of Installation Commission for Jennifer Grantham,
First Church, Okmulgee
- Minutes of Installation Commission for Thomas Lanus,
First Church, Claremore
- Minutes of Installation Commission for Teresa (Teri) Summers-
Minette, Grace Church, Grove

SYNOD

- Letter requesting assistance for the Presbytery of South Louisiana in
their Administrative Commission's Efforts
- Letter regarding 20 scholarships to "Crossing Borders: Encountering
God" Conference, April 15-17, 2010, in Phoenix, Arizona

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

- Remittance Receipt dated 12/28/2009
- Advent Message from the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
- Message from the Coordinator of Middle Governing Bodies Relations
 1. informing us of the death of Maria Showalter and
inviting us to "Reframing Presbyteries from a Missional

Perspective,” a workshop in Michigan, February 5-6, 2010

2. informing us of the death of Peter Wendell
3. informing us of Services for Arabella on January 9th in New York and January 23rd in North Carolina
4. informing us of the “Executive Leadership Assessment Seminar,” April 12-15, 2010, at Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, Virginia
5. informing us of the “Cape Cod Learning Event 2020 for Presbytery Leaders,” August 22-26, 2010, at the Paraclete Retreat House at the Community of Jesus, Orleans, Maine

Christmas Greetings from Constitutional Services

Office of Vocational Services

1. Christmas Greetings
2. Announcement – Marilyn Jones named coordinator of *For Such a Time as This*
3. Information on Board of Pensions Regional Benefits Consultations in Tampa, April 21-22, and Los Angeles, April 28-29
4. Announcement – “Linking For Ministry,” June 2-4, 2010, Thornwell Home Campus, Clinton, South Carolina

E-Mail from CLC Staff on Board of Pensions Consultations and COM/CPM Educational Opportunity, April 22-23, Tampa, and April 29-30, Los Angeles

Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries/Presbyterian Women
Nomination Form “Women with a Peaceful Heart: Guiding Paths of Peace”

Committee on Social Witness Policy

Information on *Comfort My People: A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness*

Ecumenical News

1. December 11, 2009
2. January 8, 2010
3. January 22, 2010
4. February 7, 2010

Overtures to the General Assembly

1. December 8, 2010
 - 010 – On Affirming the Biblical Teaching on the Topic of Marriage
 - 011 – On Calling for a Moratorium Until 2012 for Requests to Change, Alter, or Remove the Current Standards of Ordination
 - 012 – On Designating May 1 Every Year as a Day of Prayer for Healing
 - 013 – On Strengthening the Peacemaking Program
 - 001 – Concurrence from Redstone Presbytery with Additional Rationale
2. January 21, 2010
 - 014 – On Commending Confessions that Uphold the Oneness of All Believers, and Discontinuing Efforts to Include the Belhar Confession in the Book of Confessions
 - 015 – On Amending W-4.9000 Regarding Marriage
 - 016 – On Amending G-13.0103r to Reduce Vexatious and Improper Litigation in the Church
 - 017 – On Amending G-6.0106b, G-14.0240, and G-14.0450 Regarding Requirements for Ordained Office
 - 018 – On Deleting G-60106b with New Text
 - 019 – On Replacing G-6.0106b with New Text
 - 020 – On Amending W-4.9000 Regarding Marriage
 - 021 – On Amending G-11.0407 and G-4.0560, and Adding a New G-11.0408b Regarding Commissioned Lay Pastors
 - 022 – On the War in Afghanistan
 - 001 – Concurrence from South Alabama Presbytery with Additional Rationale

How to Submit an Overture
3. January 29, 2010
 - 023 – On Amending G-14.0553c to Allow an Interim Associate Pastor to Become the Next Installed Associate Pastor with Two-Thirds Vote
 - 024 – On Amending G-14.0480 Regarding Ordinations
 - 025 – On Protecting Christian in the Muslim World

- 026 – On Amending G-11.0407 and G-14.0730 to Affirm the Role of Certified Christian Educators
- 027 – On Amending the Directory for Worship and the Rules of Discipline to Support Equal Protection and Foster Greater Inclusiveness
- 028 – On Amending D-6.0101 Regarding Conciliation and Medication
- 029 – On Amending 3.0109 of the Report of the Form of Government Task Force to Allow Flexibility in the Composition of Committees
- 030 – On Amending G-6.0106b
- 004 – Concurrence of Muskingum Valley Presbytery with Additional Rationale
- 005 – Concurrence of Eastern Virginia Presbytery
- 4. February 5, 2010
 - 031 – On Adding a New G-3.0303 “Relations with Other Presbytery and Ecumenical Partners” to the Proposed Form of Government
 - 032 – On Encouraging all Presbyterians to Know Their HIV Status
 - 033 – On Referring the Covenant to Adopt the Lund Principle, and its Codicil, to the Committee on Ecumenical Relations
 - 034 – On Considering that All Undesignated Funds from the Foundation to the GA Level be Allocated Directly to Individual Presbyteries
 - 035 – On Amending G-5.0300 and G-10.0302a to Include the Designation of Associate Member
 - 015 – Concurrence of New York City Presbytery
 - 018 – Concurrence of New York City Presbytery with Additional Rationale
 - 019 – Concurrence of Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery
 - 019 – Concurrence of New York City Presbytery
 - 022 – Concurrence of Baltimore Presbytery
 - 022 – Concurrence of New York City Presbytery

GOODLAND ACADEMY

1. Goodland Gazette, December 2009
2. Prayer List Calendar
3. Goodland Gazetter, January 2010

DWIGHT MISSION

1. Letter, December 14, 2009, of Information
2. Poster and Invitation Request for Church Visits
3. *2010 Youth Leader Conference Brochure*

BOARD OF PENSIONS

1. News You Can Use, November 17, 2009
2. Submit Salary Changes and Confirm Salaries Online
3. Message from Rick Young, Regional Representative
4. Education Talk
5. Regional Benefits Consultations
6. News You Can Use, January 8, 2010
7. Newsletter
8. News You Can Use, February 4, 2010

PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOMES AND SERVICES

1. Help a Child Shine This Christmas
2. Christmas Greeting
3. Christmas Blessings/PCHAS Connection
4. New Year, New Opportunities/PCHAS Connection
5. PCHS Connection/ Opening Our Hearts

THE PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK

1. Attention All Worship Planners
2. Attention All Worship Planners – Discounted Price
3. A Webinar for Church Leaders, January 7
4. A Webinar for Church Leaders – Spread the Word
5. Webinar Preaching through Lent, February 2
6. Webinar Preaching through Lent, January 12/February 2
7. Alert – Delay in mailing Volume 192, January 11 Issue
8. Webinar Preaching through Lent, February 2
9. Breaking News – Same gender marriage committee concludes inconclusively
10. Webinar Preaching through Lent, February 2
11. Church Unbound Conference, August 11-14, 2010
12. What Will Your Congregation Sing this Lent?
13. Commissioners' Special Subscription Plan

AUSTIN PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY

1. *Windows, Winter 2010*
2. *The Voice of One Crying in the Desert Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord Make Straight in the Wilderness the Paths of Our God, Lenten Study Invitation*

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

1. Continuing Education Newsletter, December 10, 2009
2. Continuing Education Newsletter, January 7, 2010
3. Continuing Education Newsletter, February 4, 2010

MEDICAL BENEVOLENCE FOUNDATION

Mission Connection, Winter 2009

PRESBYTERIAN WRITERS CONFERENCE

Gotta Tell Somebody, April 28-29, 2010, Nashville, Tennessee

COMPASS INTERNATIONAL

Compass Youth Mission Trip to Israel and Jordan, June 19-29, 2010

PRESBYTERIAN GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP

1. New Year – Ancient Mission – Immediate Call, March 5-6, 2010, Second Presbyterian, Bloomington, Illinois
2. 3 Ways to Help Our Brothers and Sisters in Haiti
3. 3 Opportunities to Help Update
4. Following God – Haiti and Your Neighborhood

PRESBYTERIANS FOR RENEWAL

1. Just in Time for Advent and Christmas
2. *Eighth Day*, December 2009
3. *Eighth Day*, January 2010
4. *Wee Kirk News*, January 2010

PRESBYTERY PASTORAL CARE NETWORK

December 2009 Newsletter

THE CENTER FOR PARISH DEVELOPMENT

Missional Church Convocation, July 22-24, 2010, Chicago, Illinois

**RULES FOR DEBATE
EASTERN OKLAHOMA PRESBYTERY
JUNE 2008**

A-7

PURPOSE:

When we gather as a presbytery, we seek the mind of Christ and God's will for us here and now. During this process of discernment, we commit ourselves to work together for the good of the Presbytery as we talk together with forbearance and pray for one another as members of the Body of Christ.

GENERAL RULES AND PRINCIPLES:

The rules which govern conduct and process at meetings of Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery are contained in the Book of Order and Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised. A chart of motions is attached to the Stated Clerk's Report. However, to assist the Presbytery in its work together, the following summary of rules and procedures is offered.

AGENDA:

Our agenda, or order of business, is provided online or by mail prior to Stated Meetings. It is adopted at the beginning of the meeting with any appropriate changes noted. It is not binding unless an item is noted as an "order of the day."

ORDER OF THE DAY:

A particular item of business may be set in advance to be taken up during a given session at a specific time. It cannot be taken up prior to the time for which it is set except by reconsidering the vote that established the order (a motion which can only be made by a person that voted for the adoption of the docket with the previously identified "order of the day"). A majority vote is required for passage.

ADDRESSING THE ASSEMBLY:

1. Speakers who wish to be heard should stand until recognized by the moderator.
2. Speakers should use a microphone, that all may hear.
3. Speakers should address all comments to the moderator and should be respectful at all times.
4. Speakers should preface all remarks by identifying themselves by name, status (minister, elder commissioner, member of Council, certified educator or administrative personnel who is an elder, commissioned lay pastor, if so authorized), and (where appropriate) congregation. Guests may not speak, unless offered the privilege of the floor by a vote of the presbytery.
5. The moderator has the prerogative of not recognizing speakers and motions which are out of order. Appeals of the moderator's rulings may be made by moving to a microphone and raising a "point of order."
6. The Stated Clerk is the parliamentarian of the meeting. Appeals of the moderator's rulings should be directed to the moderator, who will seek the advice of the parliamentarian. The moderator may consult with the Stated Clerk as needed during the meeting.

MOTIONS:

1. Motions coming from a committee (or commission or task force) do not need a second (having been seconded, in effect, by the rest of the committee). New motions offered on

the floor of the meeting require a second. Motions which do not receive a second (from committee or the floor) automatically fail.

2. Once a motion has been made, seconded, and restated by the moderator, the floor will be open for debate on that motion.
3. A motion that is not included in packet material should be provided in writing to the stated clerk before being stated on the floor.
4. Only minister members of the presbytery, elder commissioners, and other persons designated by the presbytery as a matter of rule may vote on motions before the body. There may be occasions on which means of verification will be issued to identify persons eligible to vote.
5. From time to time, commissioners may feel the need to register dissent or protest. Each is appropriate at any time. A dissent registers a person's disagreement with an action taken and may be delivered to the Stated Clerk in writing – it should include the person's name, commissioner status and congregation, and the action for which the dissent is registered. A protest, alleging improper action, may also be filed in writing with the Stated Clerk – indicating name, commissioner status, congregation, and alleged irregularity and delinquency. Either action must be filed before adjournment.

DEBATE:

1. The maker of the motion has the right to be the first speaker to the motion, but not also the last (this is a change in Roberts Rules).
2. Speakers must first identify the nature of their comments: whether they are speaking for or against the motion, asking a question, or making a new motion.
3. Each speaker will be allowed two (2) minutes.
4. Speakers will alternate between those for the motion and those against the motion.
5. Speakers may only speak one time on any motion as long as anyone who has not spoken desires the floor. Speaking twice on a motion exhausts any further right of that speaker to debate that question.
6. Debate will not continue when there are no opposing speakers. The moderator may declare debate closed if there is nothing new to add.
7. At various times in the meeting, it may be appropriate for a commissioner or the moderator to request a time of silence, prayer, or praise.

QUESTIONS:

Questions for clarification will take precedence over debate and will be answered as they arise before debate continues.

CALL FOR THE QUESTION:

Occasionally a commissioner feels the debate is no longer fruitful and wishes to close debate. The motion to “call for the question” or “move the previous question,” when recognized by the moderator and seconded, calls for an end to the debate and must be considered before any further discussion on the current debate. Any request to end debate must be made from a microphone. The moderator does not have to recognize a motion to close debate. A two thirds (2/3) vote is required for passage of this motion. If such a motion passes, the moderator will state the motion on the floor and call for the vote. At the discretion of the moderator, he or she may simply ask, “Are you ready to vote?” If there is no objection, the moderator may rule, “Then we shall proceed to vote on the main motion (or amendment).”

CHART #1

RANKING MOTIONS— and their five salient parliamentary points. The order in which the thirteen motions are listed.

FIVE PRIVILEGED MOTIONS

	Must be Seconded 1	May be Debated 2	May be Amended 3	Vote 4	May be Reconsidered 5
13. To Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn	Yes	No	Yes	Maj	Yes
12. To Adjourn	Yes	No	No	Maj	No
11. To Take a Recess	Yes	No	Yes	Maj	No
10. Question of Privilege	No	No	No	—	No
9. Call for Orders of the Day	No	No	No	—	No
SEVEN SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS					
8. Lay on Table	Yes	No	No	Maj	No
7. Previous Questions	Yes	No	No	2/3	Yes
6. Modify Debate	Yes	No	Yes	2/3	Yes
5. To Postpone Definitely	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj	Yes
4. To Commit or Recommit	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Maj	Yes
3. To Amend	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj	Yes
2. Postpone Indefinitely	Yes	Yes	No	Maj	Yes Affirmative Only
1. MAIN MOTION	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj	Yes

Examples of Incidental Main Motions: rescind, ratify, amend bylaws.

*only re. desirability of referral or details of referral. The merits of the question *cannot* be debated.

CHART #2

NON-RANKING MOTIONS—and their five salient parliamentary points. These motions (incidental motions) have no rank among themselves. Their being in order depends upon their necessity at the time.

	Must be Seconded 1	May be Debated 2	May be Amended 3	Vote 4	May be Reconsidered 5
Appeal	Yes	** Yes	No	Maj	Yes
Suspend Rules	Yes	No	No	2/3	No
Point of Order, Call to Order	No	No	No	Mod	No
Objection to Consideration of a Question	No	No	No	2/3	Yes No Vote
Requests	No	No	No	Maj	No
Division of Assembly	No	No	No	—	No
To Read a Paper	Yes	No	No	Maj	Yes
To Withdraw a Motion (to be used only before debate)	No	No	No	Maj	Yes No Vote
To Divide the Question	Yes	No	Yes	Maj	No
To Close Nominations or Polls	Yes	No	Yes	2/3	No
To Consider Seriatim	Yes	No	Yes	Maj	No
TO UNCLASSIFIED MOTIONS					
Reconsider	Yes	** Yes	No	# Maj	No
To Take From the Table ^o	Yes	No	No	Maj	No
Rescind	Yes	Yes	Yes	* Maj	Neg

same Presbytery meeting

* with previous notice

^o before the end of the next regular Presbytery meeting

** if main motion is debatable

— Neither the chart nor references are inclusive but are to be used as an abridgement of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

Seeking to be Faithful Together:

Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement

In a spirit of trust and love, we promise we will...

<p>Give them a hearing... listen before we answer</p> <p><i>John 7:51 and Proverbs 18:13</i></p>	<p>1 Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — we will keep our conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange, — we will not ask questions or make statements in a way which will intimidate or judge others. <p>2 Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement.</p> <p>3 State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other.</p>
<p>Speak the truth in love</p> <p><i>Ephesians 4:15</i></p>	<p>4 Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus' teachings.</p> <p>5 Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence or integrity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — we will not engage in name-calling or labelling of others prior to, during, or following the discussion. <p>6 Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.</p>
<p>Maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace</p> <p><i>Ephesians 4:3</i></p>	<p>7 Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree.</p> <p>8 Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — we will be ready to forgive and be forgiven. <p>9 Follow these additional guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — urge persons of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously; — seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement; — be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their rights of conscience; — abide by the decision of the majority, and if we disagree with it and wish to change it, work for that change in ways which are consistent with these Guidelines. <p>10 Include our disagreement in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly, and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.</p>