

MINUTES OF THE CALLED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY
July 24, 2021
Held via Zoom

The meeting was called to order with the opening Prayer by Moderator **Russ Weekley** at 9:02.

The quorum requirement for a called meeting is the following:

- 10% of minister members
- 10% elders
- 10% of churches represented

A quorum was declared by Stated Clerk **Donna Wells**

Reading of the Purpose of the meeting was done by Moderator Weekely:

Statement of the purpose of the meeting: To act on a request from the Committee on Ministry to the Council to call a special meeting of Presbytery in order to call for an Administrative Commission to assume original jurisdiction of Atlanta Korean Presbyterian Church due to the severe level of conflict within the congregation.

There shall be no other business conducted at this meeting.

Scripture Reading, Psalm 46:1-6 was read by Executive Presbyter, **Aisha Brooks-Johnson**

Destiny Williams, Moderator of Council presented the following motion and asked Co-Chair of Committee on Ministry, Julie Ferguson to speak to the motion.

For Recommendation

MOTION: That an Administrative Commission be elected to assume original jurisdiction of the session of Atlanta Korean Presbyterian Church. That the Commission be granted the following powers:

1. take over the finances of the church
2. validate the current contract with the pastor and evaluate the viability of his continuing
3. evaluate the viability of the congregation and recommend to the presbytery whether the congregation should continue or be dissolved.

That the following people be elected to serve on this Commission:

- Elder David Kim, Korean Community Presbyterian Church
- Elder Jay Hah, Korean Central Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Katie Ricks, Validated minister serving at Columbia Theological Seminary
- Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes, Covenant Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Bill Nisbet, Honorably Retired

History behind the request for the Called Meeting:

A request from Atlanta Korean Presbyterian Church to sell their property for the purpose of relocating, was submitted to the Operations Committee of the Presbytery. On August 29, 2016 the Operations Committee approved the request and granted permission to sell the property. The Congregation then held a congregational meeting in 2017 to discuss and approve the sale of the church building in order to relocate further north where a greater population of Korean residents lived.

Efforts were made to sell the property. In November of 2020, two offers were made on the property. The result of receiving those offers increased conflict between the pastor and session as the church attempted to sell their

property. The Presbytery was contacted by two sources to help the church in the midst of the conflict. The Committee on Ministry, having received those concerns appointed an Administrative Review Team at its March 18, 2021 meeting.

The Administrative Review Team was trained, and conducted its work through interviews of members, the pastor, and active elders. Of the 25 members on the roll, 13 were interviewed by the Administrative Review Team. In addition, Session minutes; financial statements; and the church's By-Laws were reviewed. The team also reviewed the purchase offers to determine if they had expired or were pending. All had expired.

The Review team reported back to the Committee on Ministry at its June 14, 2021 with the recommendations seen in the motion before the Presbytery. The Review Team witnessed the level of conflict as irreconcilable and therefore made the recommendation to assume original jurisdiction if the Presbytery approved. Additional concerns in the report were of officer election and rotation, financial management and record keeping.

Council met on June 26, 2021 to receive the request from the Committee on Ministry to call for a meeting of the Presbytery.

The above motion was *approved with 160 votes in favor, 2 opposed and 11 abstentions.*

Rev. Russ Weekley gave the closing prayer at 9:23.