

Communicate in 2008 Telling Calvary's Story

Talking Points for June “The Presbyterian Way”

Representative Government

- Elders are elected by the congregation
- Elders are limited to two 3-year terms to prevent control of the church by one or a few long standing leaders
- The first General Assembly was organized in 1789 –at the same time as the US Constitution was being written, both utilizing the same model of governance

Judicatories - or Courts of the Church

- Session = the elected elders (18) of one congregation plus the Pastor
- Presbytery of Riverside = elected commissioners from 32 congregations in Riverside and San Bernardino counties
- Synod of Southern California & Hawaii
- General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will meet June 21-28 in San Jose; -- you can watch it online with live streaming - www.pcusa.org

Board of Deacons

- 24 elected deacons
- Caring agency focused primarily on our church members
- Provides receptions after memorial services
- Visits or phones those not getting out
- Provides communion service at Plymouth Towers monthly and at Air Force Village West quarterly

Some Core Principles

- God alone is lord of conscience (Presbyterians make up their own minds – not controlled by the church or by the pastor)
- Decently and in order (1 Cor. 14:40) – due process and open parliamentary procedure are important to us
- Respect for diversity and differences of opinion
- Bible is to be read using all our faculties (heart, mind and spirit)
- Ecumenical (recognizing that God also works through other churches as well as within us)
- Recognize baptism of other churches
- Provide an “Open Table” for communion

Social Justice as Act of Faithfulness to God

- Preference for the poor and needy
- Stewardship of Creation (environmental concerns)
- Witness in the community through Hot Meals, Homeless issues, Casa Blanca, Habitat
- Historically concerned for the community's political life (example Rev. John Witherspoon, Presbyterian, only clergy signer of the Declaration of Independence)
- Willing to address broad problems such as war, race, and gender issues from Jesus' point of view

