

THE PRESBYTERY OF LOS RANCHOS
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
about
GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONER NOMINEES

NAME: **PHIL CHATMAN**

CHURCH: **CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN, HUNTINGTON BEACH**

Local Church Experience: (not necessarily in chronological order, and some are currently on-going)

1. Sunday school teacher for all ages from pre-school to adult.
2. Adult Education program development and staffing.
3. Mariners Organization [PC(USA) social activities] with various positions of leadership.
4. Committee work for Building and Grounds, Stewardship, Christian Education, Administration.
5. Invited work with Mission Committee.
6. Elder for several terms.
7. Deacon for multiple terms.
8. Intimately involved with renegotiating the several CPC property loans for more favorable terms.
9. Active in leadership roles in the Men's Breakfast program.
10. Active in leadership roles for men's retreats.
11. Leadership for annual graduate recognition breakfast for more than 5 years.
12. Member of adult leadership team for multiple LRP churches' mission trip with church youth to Ghost Ranch (New Mexico).
13. Secretary of Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.
14. Prayer Team member for walking and praying for neighborhoods within several miles of CPC.
15. Member of adult leadership team for CPC summer youth bible camp for 1 week at Yosemite National Park.
16. Member of, or facilitator for, or leader of several different men's bible studies.
17. Member of couples' bible study.
18. Outreach to local community thru help with the Rooster's Foundation Christmas Turkey Dinner project.
19. Hands on, sweat-equity, church projects of various kinds (electrical, mechanical, ...)
20. Support of selected mission programs. (Africa, Wycliffe, other)
21. Bread of Life (Sunday afternoon meal service to "homeless") team member.
22. Member of Home Communion teams.
23. Member of winning team with Jr High Youth Minister in Water Balloon Distance Toss at 2011 Annual CPC Church Picnic.

Service to the Denomination: (Presbytery and beyond) (not necessarily in chronological order, and some are currently on-going)

1. Served 2 terms on the CE Committee (total of 7 years).
2. Intimately involved with start up and funding of the Youth Advisory Delegate program.
3. Provided leadership for several Presbytery-wide youth events for the several churches.
4. Member of Los Ranchos support/service team for 212th General Assembly held in 2000 at the Long Beach Convention Center.
5. Been serving the last 3 years as an Alternate Commissioner to Presbytery.
6. Participated in the several LRP Open Spaces events.
7. Participated in the pre-voting dialog guided by the LRP Moderators.
8. Recently appointed by CPC Session to be Commissioner to Presbytery.

Return to the Presbytery Office by February 13, 2012. This biographical Information sheet will be copied and provided for all the presbyters at the Presbytery meeting.

Please answer the following four questions with the total length of your answers to be a maximum of one page.

1. How would you describe your “call” to become a commissioner to the 2012 General Assembly?
Questions 1 & 3 are tightly related. My “call” flows out of awareness (1) that I have been technically trained to do careful research, to do critical thinking, and to strive for clear communications, (2) that I can work well with many different personality types, and (3) that I think that we will have serious issues to deal with at the 2012 GA. And I believe that God has been preparing me “for such a time as this” these many years with many different life experiences.
2. How do the Scriptures mold your faith?
*The Scriptures are the stories of a loving God molding His disobedient people to become the people they were created to be. Part of the Scriptures are very clear and easy to understand, but not so easy to live up to, as we see in the turmoil in the world and within our Denomination. Parts of the Scriptures are difficult and I cannot understand them at this time (e.g., some of Daniel’s and Revelation’s vivid imagery), but I trust God to provide the understanding which I need to be faithful and obedient to Him.
As Mark Twain famously said, “It ain’t those parts of the Bible that I can’t understand that bothers me, it’s the parts that I do understand.”*
3. How have you sensed God’s call to serve as a commissioner to General Assembly?
God is patient. I am impatient. I want the PC(USA) to “turn and be healed” and to restore the integrity of Scripture to our Denomination’s constitution. Following The Letter of James’ scriptural advice, I need to put my faith into action (James 2:14~25). Perhaps God can use me in some way to return to integrity. Whatever the outcome, God has plans for both the faithful and the unfaithful.
4. What do you see as the most significant issue(s) coming before this year’s general assembly?
From a brief review of about 20 Overtures, it seems to me that the “Elephant in the Room” continues to be “false teaching” which encourages scriptural “flexibility” and sexual immorality. Nevertheless, “a faithful remnant” is struggling to heal our broken relationship with our Savior and Creator Jesus Christ, and to return relevance to our now badly corrupted news of Jesus’ salvation, power, and healing.