

1 Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting

2 April 30, 2013

3 First Presbyterian, Destin, FL

4 The Presbytery of Florida, Inc., of the Synod of South Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met for its
5 Spring Stated Meeting at First Presbyterian, Destin, FL.

6 The following 40 teaching elders and 32 ruling elders were enrolled as commissioners:

7 **Teaching Elders/CREs:**

8 Frank Beall, Bill Bess, Jerry Blacklaw, Tom Borland, Mark Broadhead, Sally Campbell-Evans, Gary Cecil,
9 Bruce Chapman, Tae Ho Cheong, Joseph Chung, Richard Connor, Brant Copeland, Anghaarad Dees, Daniel
10 Dieth, Chris Erde, John Erthein, Robert Fuehrer, Hugh Hamilton, Eugene Harris, Victoria Isaacs, Randy
11 Jackson, Harvey Jenkins, Kenneth Kelley, George Kessler, Joanne Kublik, John Lown, Hailey Braden Lynch,
12 Ben Lynch, Ruth Mashewske, Cydney Bea Miller, Michael Moore, Larry Plank, Sharon Schuler, Drucilla
13 Tyler, Mary Vance, Anne Veldhuisen, Kevin Veldhuisen, Robert Ward, Joan Wooten

14 **Elder Commissioners: Chipley, First - Joann Slay Crestview, First - Ed Kitchen; DeFuniak Springs,**
15 **Euchee Valley – Tommy Yates; DeFuniak Springs, First – Lee Thomas; DeFuniak Springs, Pleasant Grove**
16 **– Henry W. Goode, III; Destin, First – Greg Anders; Fort Walton Beach, First – Wil Hugh; Laurel Hill,**
17 **Laurel Hill – Tracy Curenton; Marianna, First – Kip Blighton; Milton, First – Bill Kerrell; Navarre,**
18 **Navarre – Don Wood; Pace, Pace - Walt Reese; Panama City Beach, Gulf Beach - Beve Lutz; Panama**
19 **City, Agape – Jim Roncaglione; Panama City, Parkway - Andrew Jackson; Panama City, St. Andrews –**
20 **Vernon Ballard; Pensacola, First – Sally Coe, Susan Rapier; Pensacola, Northminster - Ken Overholt;**
21 **Pensacola, Trinity – Annise Mock, Angie Shehee; Pensacola, Westminster - JRoanne Bergman; Quincy,**
22 **First – Wayne Conrad; Red Bay, Red Bay – Walter Ray; Sawdust, Woodland - Marshall Lee; Shalimar,**
23 **Shalimar – Phil Ireton; Tallahassee, Faith – Peter Ray, Sue Wiley; Tallahassee, Fellowship – James Vance;**
24 **Tallahassee, First – Walter Moore; Tallahassee – Lafayette - Ken Johnson; Tallahassee, Trinity United –**
25 **Essie Ellis**

26 **Team Chairs/Officers (non-teaching elder/Christian educator):**

27 Joe Dobson, Jim Gibbs, Ben Powell, Gerry Yandle

28 **Christian Educators/Youth Directors:**

29 **Elders:**

30 **Certified:** Jeannie Dixon, Beth House, Jean Silva

31 **Non-Certified:**

32
33 **Presbytery Staff:**

34 Melissa Morgan

35 **Visitors:**

36 Barbara Overholt, Ruth White, Kim Do Sou, Leslie, Kelley, Sally Teer, Clark Simmons, Everett Raspberry,
37 Leslie Yandle, Cynthia Blacklaw, Faye Jackson, Susie Ellis

38 **Visiting Ministers:**

39 Bae Chul Zu, Suk Con Choi, Heahwan Rim

40 **ABSENSES**

41 **Excused Teaching Elders/CREs:**

42 George, Kessler, John Schuler

43 **Unexcused Teaching Elders/CREs:**

44 Michael Askew, Mel Baars, Jae Wan Chung, Terry Dyer, Nancy Forinash, Lawrence Greenslit, Emory Hingst,
45 Jack Homoney, Pamela King Phillips, Beth McCaw, Keith Posehn, Steven Schaick, Ezra Yune

46 **Excused Churches:**

47 Blountstown, Blountstown; Freeport, Freeport; Havana, First; Lynn Haven, First; Pensacola, Korean; Port St.
48 Joe, First; Wewahitchka, First

49 **Unexcused Churches:**

50 DeFuniak Springs, Bethel; Fort Walton Beach, Korean First; Gretna, Gretna; Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze;
51 Monticello, First; Sunny Hills, Sunny Hills Community; Tallahassee, Christ.

52 **OPENING PRAYER AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

53 The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. CDT by moderator John Lown. It was noted that a quorum was
54 present. Changes to the docket were presented. Rev. Sandra Martin was in the hospital the previous night and
55 was not expected to be available to present the report for Villa International. The Ministry Team presented a
56 recommendation on the retirement of Jerry Blacklaw before worship. **The docket was approved as amended.**
57 Rev. Stephen Yates gave a welcome from First Presbyterian, Destin.

58 First-time ruling elders were introduced.

59 Board of Pensions Regional Representative Clark Simmons was welcomed and given the privilege of voice.
60 The Transitional Synod Executive Heahwan Rim was welcomed. Visitors from Yeosu Presbytery in South
61 Korea were introduced and welcomed.

62 The delegation for Yeosu Presbytery presented words of greeting. Moderator Suk Kon Choi shared information
63 from the Presbytery.

64 Clark Simmons presented a word from the Board of Pensions. He shared information on the dues of the plan.
65 The BOP website (www.pensions.org) has information on Health Care Reform. The Pension fund is doing well
66 and is fully funded at 115 percent.

67 Ministry Team Chair Rev. Mark Broadhead presented a motion: The Ministry Team recommended that the title
68 of Honorably Retired be conferred on the Rev. Dr. Jerry Blacklaw effective May 31, 2013, and that the
69 Moderator of Presbytery lead a time of recognition during the morning worship. **This was approved.**

70 The Presbytery's Teaching Elder Commissioner to Synod, Rev. Joan Wooten, provided a summary of the recent
71 stated meeting of the Synod of South Atlantic. Heahwan Rim gave an update on the Synod.

72 A morning prayer service was held with Rev. Michael Moore leading worship. During worship, celebrations of
73 the retirement of Rev. Jerry Blacklaw and a recognition of Associate General Presbyter Jean Silva were held.

74 The Second Reading of the Bylaws and Manual of Operations was conducted by John Lown. Moderator-Elect
75 Hugh Hamilton moderated the meeting during this discussion. A motion was made to approve the Bylaws.
76 **This was approved.** A few changes in the Manual of Operations were presented. The changes are all
77 grammatical in nature. The Manual of Operations, along with the attachments, was presented for approval. The
78 Manual of Operations and attachments **were approved.**

79 Joan Wooten presented the proposed amendments from the Bills and Overtures Team. Information on the
80 Heidelberg Catechism changes was presented. The Committee recommended that the presbytery approve the
81 amendment to the Book of Confessions. Joan reviewed each of the proposed amendments to the Book of Order.

82 The Committee recommended approval of Amendment 12-A. The Committee recommended the presbytery
83 disapprove Amendment 12-B. The committee recommended approval of Amendment 12-C. The committee
84 recommended the presbytery consider the nine subparts of Amendment 12-D as whole and approve 12-D. The
85 committee recommended approval of Amendment 12-E. The committee recommended the presbytery
86 disapprove 12-F. The committee recommended approval of 12-G. The committee recommended approval of 12-
87 H. The committee recommended approval of 12-I. The committee recommended approval of 12-J. The floor
88 was open to questions.

89 Reports from the following Presbytery staff and officers were received:

90 Jean Silva, Associate General Presbyter for Church Development and Education and Hunger Action Enabler,
91 recommended her written report. She gave thanks for the privilege of serving in ministry in her home
92 presbytery.

93 Kevin Veldhuisen, Associate General Presbyter for Outdoor Ministry and Spiritual Development, presented a
94 report of his activities. Much work is underway in preparation for summer camp, he said. He has hired the
95 entire summer camp staff, and a new camp for middle schoolers – “Night Owl” – is being presented this year,
96 he said. A weekend fishing camp is available at a cost of \$320 for the whole family to attend, and the
97 Asperger’s camp is expanding its outreach, he added. According to the spreadsheet in his report, in 2010, nine
98 groups were served; so far this year, 27 groups have been served.

99 Stephen Yates, Stated Clerk, reported. Communications are included in the docket. Laurel Hill Presbyterian
100 Church requested an exemption (G-2.0404) to the two-term limit for ruling elders due to the size of membership
101 (12, with average worship attendance of 14) and that this exemption remain in place until such time that the
102 membership of the congregation increases to the point it is able to sustain the rotation mandate. **This was**
103 **approved.** Stephen shared news that, after Jean was in an accident in the presbytery car in January 2011, the
104 other person involved in the accident has filed a lawsuit against Jean and the presbytery. The insurance
105 company is working to resolve this, he noted.

106 Jim Gibbs, Treasurer, reported on the presbytery’s finances. This being his last meeting as treasurer, he thanked
107 the presbytery staff for their help. An increase in the reserve funds reported over the last year came about by
108 cutting expenses, he reported.

109 Reports from the following three administrative commissions were received:

110 The Administrative Commission for the Shalimar Presbyterian Church report was presented by Rev. Frank
111 Beall. The decline in membership and participation appears to have been arrested; the work of Rev. Bob
112 Fuehrer is going well, Rev. Beall said.

113 The AC for Pace Presbyterian Church report was presented by Leslie Yandle. Significant progress from a
114 financial and development standpoint has been made, she said. A member recently volunteered to fund a full-
115 time pastor for two years, and the congregation has also been approved for a “For Such a Time As This”
116 program, which matches new seminary graduates with churches, she said. They are currently reviewing four
117 candidates, she noted.

118 The Administrative Commission for the Covenant Presbyterian Church report was presented by Rev. Mary
119 Vance. The Agreement for Dismissal approved at the January 26, 2013, presbytery meeting has been fully
120 executed, and Covenant Presbyterian Church has been dismissed to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, she
121 reported. In addition, the lease agreement between the Presbytery of Florida and Covenant Presbyterian Church
122 approved at the January 26, 2013, stated meeting has been fully executed; the first annual payment under the
123 terms of the lease has been submitted. The Commission requested the following actions:

- 124 1. The Administrative Commission recommended that the Presbytery appoint the Stated Clerk of the
125 Presbytery to collect future payments from Covenant under the terms of the lease and provide for
126 periodic physical inspection of the premises to occur not less than once a year according to the terms
127 of the lease.
128 2. The Administrative Commission requested that it be dissolved.

129 **These were approved, with thanksgiving to the commission for its work.**

130 The reports of the presbytery teams were presented.

131 Rev. Mark Broadhead presented the report from the Ministry Team. Items reported include: the examination of
132 Rev. Dr. Gary Cecil for the position of Installed Teaching Elder for Grace – Panama City. Receipt of tri-annual
133 visit reports from First-Monticello and Rev. Mel Baars, Rev. Robert Fuehrer, Rev. Ted Land were reported.
134 The Temporary Supply Contract between Gulf Beach – Panama City and Rev. Victoria Isaacs was approved; 26
135 changes in terms of call were approved.

136 Rev. Broadhead introduced Rev. Gary Cecil. Rev. Cecil shared information on his background and his faith
137 journey. His installation will be June 23.

138 The Ministry team did not approve Rev. Rick Gernhardt's request to be dismissed to the Evangelical
139 Presbyterian Church. This means he will need to renounce jurisdiction; if he ever wishes to return to the
140 PC(USA), he will have to come back as a candidate.

141 Rev. Hugh Hamilton reported as follows on the presbytery's two chaplains: Laura Palmer has just been received
142 her commission, and Mel Baars is engaged to be married.

143 Joan Wooten, for the Bills and Overtures Team, presented their recommendations on the votes for the
144 amendments to the constitution. The vote on the Heidelberg Catechism requires 2/3 vote of the presbytery, but
145 the vote for the day was a simple majority. Joan clarified that what is to be decided is the amendment, not on the
146 committee's recommendation.

147 The following were put to the floor for discussion and vote:

148 Heidelberg Catechism **approved**

149 12-A **approved**

150 12-B **disapproved**

151 12-C **approved**

152 The meeting was adjourned for lunch with a blessing and instructions by Rev. Stephen Yates. The meeting
153 reconvened at 1:00 p.m. with prayer.

154
155 Robert Ward, corresponding member, shared thoughts as he leaves for a new appointment in San Antonio, TX.

156 Sally Campbell-Evans, parish associate at Faith, Tallahassee spoke. She and her husband are moving to a new
157 position with the United Methodist Church. She will be moving to Tampa Bay Presbytery this summer.

158 The Bills and Overtures presentation of the amendments was continued.

159 12-D **approved**

160 12-E **approved**

161 12-F **disapproved**

162 12-G **approved**

163 12-H **approved**

164 12-I **approved**

165 **12-J approved**

166 Budget, Finance and Stewardship Team Chair Joe Dobson presented the revised budget for 2013. A shortfall of
167 approximately \$100,000 is expected for the year, he said. Budget and Finance presented a revised budget using
168 funds from the reserves. Presbytery approved a deficit budget of about \$40,000 for the year; the mission giving
169 reports revealed another deficit of about \$60,000. A long-term discussion is needed, Joe explained; the team
170 presented a list of short-term items to get the presbytery through this year. The team will meet with the
171 Presbytery Leadership Team on May 11 to discuss the long-term needs, with plans to bring those to the
172 presbytery at a called meeting in June.

173 Rev. Brant Copeland presented the following motion:

174 The Presbytery of Florida suspend its search for a general presbyter and direct the Presbytery Leadership Team
175 to explore models for the organization of Florida Presbytery that:

- 176 1. Do not require the employment of a full-time general presbyter;
- 177 2. Make use of a part-time stated clerk or other approaches to leadership;
- 178 3. Take into consideration the financial condition of the Presbytery;
- 179 4. Give priority to the preservation and strengthening of the Presbytery's mission at Dogwood Acres;
- 180 5. Establish at Dogwood Acres a consolidated office for both Presbytery and Dogwood Acres.

181 The Leadership Team shall bring its recommendation to the Summer Meeting of Presbytery on September 10,
182 2013.

183 The motion was seconded. The floor was open to discussion of the motion.

184 Randy Jackson offered an amendment to eliminate items 1-5 of the motion. This was seconded. The Moderator
185 ruled that the amendment, in effect, votes down the motion and rules the amendment out of order. Randy
186 clarified his amendment to end the sentence at "...organization of Florida Presbytery. The Leadership
187 Team....." Joe Dobson requested that a meeting to discuss the budget be before September 10, as that is too
188 late in the year.

189 The amended motion read:

190 The Presbytery of Florida suspend its search for a General Presbyter and direct the Presbytery Leadership Team
191 to explore models for the organization of Florida Presbytery. The Leadership Team shall bring its
192 recommendation to the Summer Meeting of Presbytery on September 10, 2013.

193 It was voted on in two parts (each sentence). Part 1 (first sentence) was **approved** and is now the part 1 of the
194 main motion. Brant Copeland challenged the ruling of the moderator; this was defeated.

195 Part 2 (second sentence) was put on the floor for discussion. Rev. Sharon Schuler made a motion to amend the
196 motion to read:

197 The Leadership Team shall bring its recommendations to the Presbytery no later than September 10, 2013.

198 This was seconded and the floor opened to discussion.

199 Rev. Harvey Jenkins moved that the matter be **referred** to the Presbytery Leadership Team and that it brings its
200 report back to the Presbytery no later than the September 10 stated meeting. **This was defeated.**

201 The question was called for the motion: The Leadership Team shall bring its recommendations to the Presbytery
202 no later than September 10, 2013. It was **approved** and made part of the main motion.

203 The motion:

204

205 The Presbytery of Florida suspend its search for a general presbyter and direct the Presbytery Leadership Team
206 to explore models for the organization of Florida Presbytery. The Leadership Team shall bring its
207 recommendation no later than the Summer Meeting of Presbytery on September 10, 2013.

208

209 **The motion was approved.**

210

211 The Congregational Mission Support Team report was presented by CMST Chair Gerry Yandle. The Team
212 recommended that presbytery repurpose Designated Fund #225 “Small Church Pastor Grant Fund” from
213 restricted use for a \$5,000 down payment on the purchase of a house for a pastor serving a small church in the
214 presbytery to the: “Small Church Leadership Grant Fund” #225. The current balance in the fund is \$11,439.

215 **This was approved.**

216 Dogwood Acres Ministry Team Chair Ben Powell presented the report from the Team. The report is in the
217 docket. A new challenge course is available at the camp, he said. While the purpose of a challenge course is
218 physical challenge, the point is also to learn how to rely on others to finish the course, he explained. The
219 mission for Dogwood Acres needs more of that attitude (reliance on others) from within the ministry and the
220 presbytery, he added.

221 The Commitment to Representation Team put forth the following nominations:

222 Congregational Mission Support Team:

223 Class of 2013: Leslie Kelley

224 Class of 2014: Vicki Dieth

225 Class of 2015: Barbara Overholt

226 Disaster Preparedness and Response Administrative Commission Team:

227 Class of 2013: Drucilla Tyler, Harvey Mashewske

228 Class of 2014: Anne Veldhuisen, Ray Sandwicz

229 Class of 2015: Michael Moore (chair), Ben Lynch

230 Permanent Judicial Commission;

231 Class of 2017: Dan Nash

232 Ministry Team:

233 Class of 2015: Taylor Phillips

234 Commissioners to Synod:

235 Teaching Elder – Joan Wooten, Class of 2017

236 **These were approved.** There are still vacancies, especially for a commissioner to Synod, who, for parity,
237 should be a white male ruling elder. This is needed in September.

238 The following reports were received for information only:

239 GP Nominating Team/Committee, by Randy Jackson;

240 Presbytery Leadership Team, by Joan Wooten;

241 The report from the Preparation for Ministry Team by Mary Vance noted the following:

242 The following are in good standing with the PMT:

243 **Inquirers:** Lori Prettyman (Trinity, Pensacola)
244 Linda Pitts (Lafayette Tallahassee)

245
246 **Candidates:** Glenn Hodges (First, Tallahassee)

247
248 (Ready to receive a call):
249 Michael Frandsen (Faith, Tallahassee)
250 Charles (Trip) Porch (Trinity, Pensacola)
251 Rachel Hood (Faith, Tallahassee)
252

253
254 There was no other business before the body. The next stated meeting of the Presbytery is
255 scheduled for September 10, 2013, at First Presbyterian Church, Marianna, FL at 9:00 a.m.
256 (CDT)/10:00 a.m. (EDT). The moderator offered a closing prayer at 2:31 p.m. (CDT). The meeting
257 was adjourned with prayer.

258 John Lown, Moderator
259 Stephen Yates, Stated Clerk
260 Jeannie Dixon, Recorder

APPROVAL OF MINUTES



Rev. Mark Broadhead, Teaching Elder, 1st, Crestview and Laurel Hill



John Schuler, Commissioned Ruling Elder, Navarre