

1 **Summer Stated Presbytery Meeting**
2 **September 15, 2015, 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT**
3 Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church, Panama City Beach, FL

4 The Presbytery of Florida, Inc., of the Synod of South Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met
5 for a Stated Meeting at Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church in Panama City, FL, on September 15, 2015.

6 The following 40 ministers and 35 elders were enrolled as commissioners:

7 **Teaching Elders/CREs:** Bill Bess, Tom Borland, Mark Broadhead, Gary Cecil, Bruce Chapman, Tae
8 Ho Cheong, Joseph Chung, Richard Connor, Brant Copeland, Anghaarad Dees, Danny Dieth, Chris
9 Erde, John Erthein, Jonas Georges, Hugh Hamilton, Eugene Harris, Harry Horne, Alan House, James
10 Huffaker, Randy Jackson, Harvey Jenkins, Kenneth Kelley, John Kelsay, Pamela King Phillips, Joanne
11 Kublik, Danny Lofredo, Ben Lynch, Hailey Braden Lynch, Ruth Mashewske, Bea Miller, Dan Mitchell,
12 CK Moore, Sheila Palmer, Taylor Phillips, Larry Plank, Lori Prettyman, Emily Proctor, Mary Vance,
13 Bonnie Wilkins, Joan Wooten

14 **Ruling Elder Commissioners:** Chipley, First – Joann Slay; Crestview, First – Douglas Myers;
15 DeFuniak Springs, Bethel – Bryant Campbell; DeFuniak Springs, Euchee Valley – Tommy Yates;
16 DeFuniak Springs, First – Lee Thomas; Destin, First – Dooney Tickner; Fort Walton Beach, First –
17 Wil Hugli; Gretna, Gretna – Gayle Thompson; Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze – Pat Allen; Laurel Hill,
18 Laurel Hill - Leon Cureton; Milton, First – Betsy Dodson; Navarre, Navarre – Linda Wagoner;
19 Pace, Pace – Walt Reese; Panama City Beach, Gulf Breach – Wanda Griffin-Pflugfelder; Panama
20 City, Grace – Thurman Vinson; Panama City, Parkway – Bruce Davis; Panama City, St. Andrews –
21 Jimmy Whisenant; Pensacola, First – Susan Rapier, Mark Easterlin; Pensacola, Northminster – Ken
22 Overholt; Pensacola, Trinity – Lori Prettyman; Pensacola, Westminster – Ray Sandacz; Quincy,
23 First – Richard May, Linda Bergman; Red Bay, Red Bay – Walter Ray; Sawdust, Woodland –
24 Marshall Lee; Sunny Hills, Sunny Hill Community – Pauline Hartwell; Tallahassee, Christ – David
25 Pride; Tallahassee, Faith – Vicki Weber, John Obrzut; Tallahassee, Fellowship – Anne Hall;
26 Tallahassee, First – Debbie Gibson; Tallahassee, Lafayette – Mary Keyt; Tallahassee, Trinity
27 United – Robert Woolfork

28 **Christian Educations/Youth Directors:** Jeannie Dixon, Christy Williams, Jason Williams

29 **Presbytery Staff Members:** Melissa Morgan

30 **Officers/Team Chairs:** Jim Davis, Bill Green, Toya O’Hora, James Vance

31 **Visitors:** Trinity Whitley, Leslie Kelley, Edward Bjorkmal, Eleanor Easterlin, Suzanne Burke, Faye
32 Jackson, Andrew Jackson, Linda Ladd, Gary Wagoner, Allen White, Arthur Gomillion, Vera White,
33 Barbara Overholt, Paul Luthman, Jennifer Whisenant, Clark Simmons, Rose Stallins, Sara Daffin

34 **ABSENCES**

35 **Excused Teaching Elders/CREs:** R.C. Griffin, Beth McCaw, Sharon Schuler, Rob Sugg, Drucilla
36 Tyler

37 **Unexcused Teaching Elders/CREs:** Michael Askew, Mel Baars, Frank Beall, Peder Carlson, Jae Wan
38 Chung, Terry Dyer, Nancy Forinash, Emory Hingst, Jack Homoney, Rachel HoodLeo Sanden, Steven
39 Shaick

40 **Excused Churches:** Blountstown, Blountstown; Freeport, Freeport; Lynn Haven, First; Pensacola,
41 Korean

42 **Unexcused Churches:** DeFuniak Springs, Pleasant Grove; Fort Walton Beach, Korean First; Havana,
43 First; Marianna, First; Monticello, First; Panama City, Agape; Port St. Joe, First; Shalimar, Shalimar;
44 Wewahitchka, First

45 **Other excused absences:**

46 **OPENING PRAYER AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

47 The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. CDT by moderator Bill Green. Following the opening
48 prayer, it was noted that a quorum was present. The docket was amended to move Personnel to “For
49 action.” A UKirk action item was added to the docket. Information only was added for the Port St. Joe
50 Administrative Commission. **The docket was approved as amended.** Bonnie Wilkins gave a warm
51 welcome and introduction from Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church, Panama City.

52 First-time ruling elders, teaching elders, corresponding members, and visitors were introduced.

53 Emily Rose Proctor was introduced by Ministry Team Chair Randy Jackson, and Emily shared a bit
54 about herself. Ministry Team recommends that Rev. Emily Rose Proctor be received into Florida
55 Presbytery as a Member-at-Large (pending her release from the Presbytery of St. Augustine) and
56 afforded all the rights and privileges accorded thereto. **The motion was approved.**

57 A morning worship/prayer service was held with Joan Wooten providing the message. Communion was
58 observed with Bonnie Wilkins presiding and Joan Wooten assisting.

59 Vera White made a presentation on behalf of the 1001 New Worshipping Communities.

60 **Reports of Presbytery Staff and Officers were received:**

61 **Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk,** gave a report. She shared from Beth McCaw that two Dubuque students
62 have been given 1001 grants to start a Chinese New Worshipping Community. Jeannie recognized Leslie
63 Kelley for her Level 2 certification with the Administrative Personnel Association and was given voice
64 on Presbytery floor. Valerie Marlow received Level 3 certification. Judith Barrett from Lafayette
65 Presbyterian, Tallahassee, received certification in disaster preparedness.

66 **Jim Davis, Treasurer,** reviewed the Presbytery’s financial standing. Statements to churches will come
67 out next month about unified and per capita giving, he said. The decrease in Schedule of Funds reflects
68 the building of the Lodge at Dogwood Acres, he reported.

69 **Jonas Georges, Director of Dogwood Acres,** expressed gratitude for the welcome he continues to
70 receive among congregations. He shared stories of children receiving scholarships and a retreat group
71 who have benefited from Dogwood Acres.

72 **Reports from Partner Ministries were given:**

73 **Clark Simmons** brought greetings from the Board of Pensions. He gave a reminder to complete Call to
74 Health this month. He asked for prayers for Frank Spencer, the new President of the Board of Pensions.

75 **Taylor Phillips** gave an update on the ministry of Westminster Oaks, particularly with the efforts to
76 recover, celebrate, and pass on stories of the residents. He also reminded the group of the 20
77 Presbyterian Retirement Communities in Florida.

78 **Trinity Whitley** shared about the ongoing ministry at the Presbyterian University Center on Florida
79 State University’s campus. She asked Mary Vance, Ruling Elder Fellowship Presbyterian and President

80 of the PUC Board, to address statements made at the last Presbytery meeting about PUC. Vance shared
81 that the center is no longer for sale.

82 **The Reports of Presbytery Teams were given:**

83 **Randy Jackson** gave the report for the **Ministry Team**. The Ministry Team recommends that the
84 Presbytery of Florida confer the title of Honorably Retired upon Rev. Dr. Randon Jackson effective
85 January 1, 2016. **The motion was approved.**

86 **Mary Vance** gave the report for the **Preparation for Ministry Team**. The written report noted Trinity
87 Whitley as inquirer and Linda Pitts as a candidate. Both are in good standing with the PMT. The PMT
88 presents Trinity Whitley for examination and enrollment as a candidate. Trinity Whitley shared her faith
89 story. The PMT recommends Trinity Whitley as a candidate for ministry. A motion was made to sustain
90 the examination for candidacy and that Trinity Whitley's name be entered into the role of candidates
91 effective May 27, 2015. **The motion was approved.** Prayers were offered for Trinity by Bea Miller.

92 **Toya O’Hora** gave the report for the **Commitment to Representation Team**. The following
93 nominations were made:

- 94 **Dogwood Acres Ministry Team (DWA) Operations, Class of 2016** - Jim Love (RE – First, Havana)
- 95 **Congregational Mission Support Team (CMST), Class of 2016** - Harvey Jenkins (TE – Member-at-
96 Large)
- 97 **Ministry Team (MT), Class of 2017** - Brant Copeland (TE – First, Tallahassee)
- 98 **Moderator in Nomination** - Leslie Yandle (RE – First, Pensacola)
- 99 **Commissioner to 2016 GA, Teaching Elder** - Bill Bess (First, Havana)
- 100 **Commissioner to 2016 GA, Alternate Teaching Elder** - Kenneth Kelley (Sunny Hills)
- 101 **Commissioner to 2016 GA, Ruling Elder** - Mary Schmidt (First, Marianna)
- 102 **Commissioner to 2016 GA, Alternate Ruling Elder** - Mary Keyt (Lafayette, Tallahassee)
- 103 **Youth Advisory Delegate (YAD) to 2016 GA** - Quinn Schoppe (Gulf Beach, Panama City Beach)

104 The nominees were **approved as presented.**

105 **Hugh Hamilton** gave the report for the **Presbytery Leadership Team**. The PLT recommends the
106 following three persons to represent us in the ongoing discussion with South Alabama Presbytery and
107 Mississippi Presbytery in drafting a proposal for collaborative work and hiring of a shared “presbyter” to
108 coordinate our presbyteries:

- 109 **Hugh Hamilton**, TE, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, Chair of PLT
- 110 **Jeannie Dixon**, RE, DCE – Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, Stated Clerk of the
111 Presbytery of Florida
- 112 **Melissa Morgan**, Administrator, Presbytery of Florida

113 **The recommendation was approved.** He shared about Church Officer and Leadership Training
114 (COLT) training in Mobile, AL. More information will be sent out via email. The loan for the Fort
115 Walton Beach, FL, was presented to be cosigned by the Presbytery for their roof replacement and other
116 work. There was a motion from the Floor for the Presbytery to guarantee the loan amount of \$166,400.
117 **The motion was approved.**

118 Documents regarding the right of way easement at Dogwood Acres have been signed.

119 **Ric Connor** gave the report for the **Personnel Committee and Presbyter Search Committee**. The
120 search committee presented Paul E. Luthman as Coordinating Presbyter. Dr. Luthman was given the
121 privilege of the floor in order to address Presbytery. The Manual of Operations states that the presbyter
122 position is a called position; the Search Committee requests this be suspended so that it may be a
123 contract rather than a call. **This was approved.** It was noted that he would relate to the Ministry Team.

124 The Search Committee recommends Dr. Luthman be hired for a one-year period starting October 1,
125 2015, for a salary of \$35,000 and reimbursable expenses up to \$7,000. Dr. Luthman is also approved to
126 labor within the bounds of the Presbytery of Florida. **The motion was approved.**

127 Anghaarad Teague-Dees, TE, from Trinity Presbyterian in Pensacola, FL, made a motion for the UKirk
128 at University of West Florida to become a validated ministry of the Presbytery of Florida. **The motion**
129 **was approved.** As a follow-up motion, they are seeking permission to approach sessions within the
130 Presbytery of Florida for donations beginning in January 2016. The question was asked where the
131 money would be given. They are looking to either get UKirk at UWF a checking account or to have
132 money go under the wing of a church. The request was made to have structure presented at the following
133 presbytery meeting. **The motion was approved.**

134 **James Vance** gave the report for the **Dogwood Acres Ministry Team.** He invited all available to come
135 to Dogwood Acres on Sunday, November 15, at 2:30 p.m.CST for the Monroe Lodge dedication,
136 blessing, and reception.

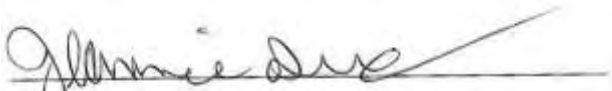
137 **Congregational Mission Support Team** recognized Jimmy West Knight, RE, from St. Andrews
138 Presbyterian Church. On behalf of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, they give thanks to the committee,
139 and presbytery for the grant given to remove their steeple.

140 **Andy Jackson** gave the report for the **Administrative Commission for Port St. Joe.** The committee
141 was established with four members: Bill Bess, Ken Kelley, Jackie Homoney, and Andy Jackson. They
142 have done due diligence with looking at the church's history as it relates to finance and session. They
143 made the decision to terminate the contract with Dru Tyler; her last Sunday was August 30, 2015. They
144 are trying to discover what is next if this church is to stay open.

145 There was no other business before the body. The next stated meeting of the presbytery will be January
146 23, 2016, 9 a. m. CDT/10 a. m. EDT. at Grace Presbyterian Church, Panama City, FL. The moderator
147 offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m CDT.

148 Bill Green, Moderator
149 Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk
150 Trinity Whitley, Recording Clerk
151

152 Approval of minutes


Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk