

**Winter Stated Presbytery Meeting
January 28, 2017, 9 a.m. CT/ 10 a.m. ET
Lafayette Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, FL**

The Presbytery of Florida, Inc., of the Synod of South Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met for a Stated Meeting at Lafayette Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee, FL, on January 28, 2017.

The following 34 ministers and 27 elders were enrolled as commissioners:

Teaching Elders/CREs: Bill Bess, Mark Broadhead, Tae Ho Cheong, Brant Copeland, Danny Dieth, Chris Erde, Janice Fraser, Stephen Graves, RC Griffin, Hugh Hamilton, H Eugene Harris, Jack Homoney, Harry Horne, Alan House, James Huffaker, Lee Johnson, Kenneth Kelley, John Kelsay, Joanne Kublik, John Lown, Paul Luthman, Hailey Braden Lynch, Ben Lynch, Ruth Mashewske, Dan Mitchell, Emily Proctor, Sharon Schuler, Robb Sugg, Mary Vance, John Wamsley, Trinity Whitley, Bonnie Wilkins, Carol Wood, Ju-Seob Yang

Ruling Elder Commissioners: **Chipley, First** – Monica Rehberg; **Chipley, Sunny Hill** – Helen Lovelace; **Crestview, First** – Catherine Spears; **DeFuniak Springs, First** – Hilda Jackson; **Fort Walton Beach, First** – John Schuler; **Gretna, Gretna** – Michael Clark; **Havana, First** – Bill Brundydge; **Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill** – Brian Hughes; **Lynn Haven, First** – Marti Willis; **Marianna, First** – Joe Busby; **Pace, Pace** – Marline Austin; **Panama City, Grace** – Sam Combs; **Panama City, Parkway** – Bruce Davis; **Panama City Beach, Gulf Beach** – Wanda Griffin-Pflugfelder; **Pensacola, First** – Kelley Camp, Scott Smith; **Pensacola, Korean Community** – Chong Laney; **Pensacola, Northminster** – Ken Overholt; **Pensacola, Trinity** – Cam Massengill; **Quincy, First** – Linda Bergman, George Hackney; **Quincy, Woodland** – Kathy Pack; **Tallahassee, Christ** – Bob Crabtree; **Tallahassee, Faith** – Mike Metz; **Tallahassee, Fellowship** – Nolan Raybon; **Tallahassee, First** – Holly Hohmeister; **Tallahassee, Lafayette** – Bob Henning

Christian Educations/Youth Directors: Jeannie Dixon, Jason Williams

Presbytery Staff Members: Melissa Morgan, Ben Powell

Officers/Team Chairs: W.O. Bell, Suzanne Burke, Toya O’Hora, James Vance, Leslie Yandle

Visitors: Linda Lovins, Donna Lou Askew, Lin Brannon, Leslie Kelley, Gerry Yandle, Kevin Russell, Nancy Telander, Roseanna Phillips, Nita Curkli, Duane Underwood, Linda Wamsley, Mike Burke, Oneida Monroe, Glenn Hodges, Dot Inman-Johnson

Visiting Teaching Elders: Walk Jones

ABSENCES

Excused Teaching Elders/CREs: Mary “Mel” Baars, Gary Cecil, Brad Clayton, John Erthien, Beth McCaw, Steven Schaick, Joan Wooten

38 **Unexcused Teaching Elders/CREs:** Peder Carlson, Bruce Chapman, Joseph Chung, Ric
39 Connor, Emory Hingst, Rachel Hood, Danny Loffredo, C.K. Moore, Taylor Phillips, Pamela
40 Phillips, Sheldon Steen

41 **Excused Churches:** Blountstown, Blountstown; Destin, First; Freeport, Freeport; Milton, First;
42 Navarre, Navarre; Panama City, St. Andrews; Pensacola, Westminster; Ponce de Leon, Red Bay

43 **Unexcused Churches:** Argyle, Pleasant Grove; DeFuniak Springs, Bethel; DeFuniak Springs,
44 Euchee Valley; Fort Walton Beach, Korean First; Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze; Monticello, First;
45 Port St. Joe, First; Shalimar, Shalimar; Tallahassee, Trinity United; Wewahitchka, First

46 **OPENING PRAYER AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

47 The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. ET by moderator Mary Vance. Following the
48 opening prayer, it was noted that a quorum was present. Amendments were made to the docket,
49 removing the line from the Omnibus for the examination of Linda Pitts, which was also under
50 action. **The docket was approved as amended.** Steve Graves gave a warm welcome and
51 introduction from Lafayette Presbyterian.

52 First-time ruling elders, teaching elders, corresponding members, and visitors were introduced.
53 Samford Turner was introduced by Paul Luthman. Luthman moved that Turner be given the
54 privilege of the floor. Second was made. **The motion passed.** Walk Jones was introduced. He,
55 too, requested the privilege of the floor. A second was made. **The motion passed.**

56 A morning worship/prayer service was held with candidate for ordination Linda Pitts providing
57 the message. As part of the service, Leslie Yandle was installed as Moderator of the Presbytery
58 of Florida. Communion was observed with Steve Graves presiding and Linda Pitts assisting.

59 Leslie Yandle, moderator, gave an introduction about why we are having this keynote - the state
60 of our Presbytery is up in the air structurally and financially. We hope to learn from this time.

61 A keynote address, "Being Presbyterian in 2017" was given by Samford Turner (retired former
62 Executive Presbyter of South Alabama Presbytery). This was followed by 15 minutes of small
63 group discussion for reflection.

64 Lunch recess. After lunch, Brant Copeland (TE – Tallahassee, First), Bob Crabtree (RE –
65 Tallahassee, Christ) and Roseanna Phillips (RE – Pensacola, First) gave their reflections on the
66 future of our Presbytery as members of a Presbytery Leadership Team-appointed exploratory
67 commission. This was followed by 15 minutes of discussion and reflection from the floor.

68 Walk Jones shared a report from the Westminster Retirement Communities. In the 1950's, the
69 Synod of FL came together looking for a safe, clean, and good place for seniors to live, and thus,
70 Westminster Oaks was created. Additionally, there are 12 low income senior adult housing
71 developments. Jones pointed to these communities as a reminder that we are doing good work
72 together.

73 **Good News was received from a variety of churches:**

74 Sharon Shuler extended an invitation to the Presbytery to attend the 75th anniversary celebration
75 of First Presbyterian, Fort Walton Beach.

76 Linda Wamsley, First, Marianna, reported that their food pantry now has a ramp for better access
77 to the more than 200 people they serve. They have begun a new PW circle, Men's group, and
78 prayer breakfast. They are making sleeping mats out of plastic bags for the homeless. She
79 suggested churches fast and pray for three days about the future of our Presbytery.

80 Hugh Hamilton, Trinity Presbyterian in Pensacola, shared that the Tuskegee choir would be
81 visiting their congregation and offering a concert; 120 folks participating in the study Soul
82 Keeping by John Ortberg. When they finish, the church would love to pass along the videos for
83 this study to another congregation who would use them.

84 Marline Austin, Pace Presbyterian, shared the good news that our Presbytery helped their
85 congregation find a full-time minister, and they are grateful.

86 Jo Kublik, First Presbyterian of DeFuniak Springs, reminded the body of the Presbytery-wide
87 PW Gathering that they will be hosting on March 18.

88 **Report from Presbytery Committees and Mission Partners:**

89 The following written reports were acknowledged: Stated Clerk with communications received
90 to the Presbytery, PW Coordinating Team, Self-Development of People, Disaster Preparedness
91 and Response, Committee on Ministry, Committee on Representation, Personnel, and Presbytery
92 Leadership Team.

93 **Mark Broadhead** from the **Committee on Ministry** pointed out that on page 14 there are
94 descriptions of parts of the terms of call. He requested that session members take particular note
95 that the churches portion of SECA is a required part of terms of call and is in addition to the
96 effective salary.

97 **Michael Askew** reported that the **Self-Development of People** awarded funds to Second Chance
98 of NW Florida. He called forward Bruce Davis from Parkway Presbyterian to receive this gift, as
99 their church partners with the ministry. Second Chance works with people who have severe
100 brain trauma.

101 **John Lown** corrected that the Personnel meeting is now February 13, 2017 at 11am CT.

102 **Hailey Braden-Lynch** reported for the **Preparation for Ministry Team**. The written report
103 noted Dana Anderson and Shelby Andrews are inquirers, Linda Pitts is a candidate. All are in
104 good standing with the PMT.

105 **Trinity Whitley**, interim campus minister, gave a brief report on the semester happenings at
106 UKirk Tallahassee. She requested that any churches not already keeping the 40% portion of the
107 Pentecost offering for local ministry to youth and young adult ministry, consider sending that
108 portion to UKirk Tallahassee.

109 **W.O. Bell**, chair of **Finance and Stewardship** and **Jim Davis, Treasurer** gave the budget and
110 finance report. There was a written report in the supplemental packet. We were over budget
111 because of the moving of the offices to Dogwood Acres and we plan to recoup that when the
112 Chipley office is sold. He drew attention to the minimum standards of financial accountability,
113 asking representatives to share this with their sessions. The question was asked, what the
114 timeline looks like where we can maintain the Presbytery at our current giving and spending.
115 W.O. estimates that if nothing changes, we will not be able to function past this budget year. We
116 received two more pledges that came in since the printing of the budget, putting us as \$204,295.
117 There are 12 churches that didn't give last year. If the other 15 that gave, but haven't pledged
118 yet, gave as they did last year, our budget would be \$231,884 which means we would still need
119 to cut our budget more than we have. A clerical error was noted in Fellowship's pledge on the
120 printed information.

121 **For Action (Omnibus Motion):**

122 The Commitment to Representation, and the PLT reports were pulled from the Omnibus motion.

123 According to the By-Laws, Article V.7, the stated clerk "shall recommend to presbytery
124 someone to be elected and serve as parliamentarian for a three-year term that runs concurrently
125 with his/her term as stated clerk." **Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk**, recommends Rev. Brant
126 Copeland, Teaching Elder at First, Tallahassee, to be the parliamentarian for 2017-2019.

127 **Mark Broadhead** on behalf of the **Committee on Ministry** recommended that Presbytery
128 amend the charter of the Administrative Commission to Wewahitchka to include assuming
129 original jurisdiction if needed.

130 **These motions from the omnibus were approved.**

131 **For Action:**

132 **Toya O'Hora** on behalf of the **Commitment to Representation Team** recommended the
133 following nominations to Presbytery teams:

134 **Dogwood Acres Operations, Class of 2018:** Susie Barber (Member – Marianna, First)

135 **Committee on Ministry, Class of 2019:** Susie Graves (RE – Lafayette, Tallahassee)

136 **Committee on Ministry, Class of 2019:** Ken Kelly (TE – Central District)

137 **The motion passed with these additions.**

138 As required by BOO G-3.0106, all churches must have a child protection policy. **Suzanne**
139 **Gilmore Burke** on behalf of the **Presbytery Leadership Team** recommended the adoption of
140 the Child and Youth Abuse Prevention program on pages 21 to 30 of the docket for adaptation
141 and use by all churches in our Presbytery. Questions were raised about the volunteer and
142 employee 6-month requirement with respect to Dogwood Acres summer staff. There was a
143 motion to pull section 1a out of the policy by Hailey Braden-Lynch. There was a second.
144 Discussion happened on the floor. The motion was withdrawn and a second was made. There
145 was a motion made to refer the policy back to PLT. There was a second. **The motion was**
146 **approved.**

147 **Mark Broadhead** gave the report for the **Ministry Team**. **Raymond Guterman** was introduced
148 as a newly received HR-TE. **Carol Wood** was also introduced as a newly received TE, she is
149 serving as the Moderator of the session at Port St. Joe.

150 Linda Pitts was presented to be examined for ordination. Mark moved that her sermon be
151 accepted as part of her examination. **This was approved.** Linda was then examined for
152 knowledge in the areas of worship, sacraments, theology, Scripture, and polity. Following the
153 exam, Mark moved that the examination be sustained in part and in whole, and that the
154 Presbytery of Florida grant permission to move forward with the ordination of Linda Pitts. There
155 was a second. **This was approved.**

156 **Hugh Hamilton** presented the amendments to the Constitution, changes to the Book of Order
157 that were sent out as a supplement to the docket on behalf of **Bills and Overtures**.

158 With respect to the amendment of 16-A Child and Youth Protection Policy, Bills and Overtures
159 recommends a “yes” vote from the Presbytery. There was no discussion. **The amendment**
160 **passed.**

161 Bills and Overtures recommends a “yes” vote from the Presbytery on the amendment of 16-B
162 Parity in Committees. There was no discussion. **The amendment passed with 1 against.**

163 With respect to the amendment of 16-C (1-8) Ordered Ministry Titles, the committee
164 recommends a “yes” vote from the Presbytery. There was discussion speaking both for and
165 against the amendment. **The amendment was defeated.**

166 Bills and overtures recommends a “yes” vote from the Presbytery on 16-D.1 – On Amending G-
167 2.0509. There was discussion. **The amendment passed with 2 against.**

168 With respect to 16-D.2 on Amending D-10.0401, the committee recommends a “no” vote from
169 the Presbytery. There was discussion. **The amendment passed with 4 against.**

170 For the amendment 16-E Certified Service Requirements, the committee recommends a “yes”
171 vote from the Presbytery. There was no discussion. **The amendment passed.**

172 The amendment 16-F Ministry of Members, the committee recommends a “no” vote from the
173 Presbytery. There was no discussion. **The amendment passed with 2 against.**

174 The amendment of 16-G Access To The Lord’s Table, the committee recommends a “yes” vote
175 from the Presbytery. There was discussion speaking both for and against the amendment. There
176 was clarification. **The amendment passed.**

177 The amendment of 16-H Directory for Worship: On Replacing the Current Directory for
178 Worship, the committee recommends a “yes” vote from the Presbytery. There was no
179 discussion. **The amendment passed.**


180 Coordinating Presbyter **Paul Luthman** gave a report.

181 There was no other business before the body. The next stated meeting of the presbytery will be
182 May 16, 2017, 9 a. m. CDT/10 a. m. EDT at Parkway Presbyterian Church, Panama City, FL.
183 The moderator offered a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 ET.

184 Leslie Yandle, Moderator
185 Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk
186 Trinity Whitley, Recording Clerk

187 Approval of minutes

188


Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk