

1 Winter Stated Presbytery Meeting  
2 January 23, 2016  
3 Grace Presbyterian, Panama City, FL

4 The Presbytery of Florida, Inc., of the Synod of South Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met for its  
5 Winter Stated Meeting at Grace Presbyterian, Panama City, FL.

6 The following 30 teaching elders and 34 ruling elders were enrolled as commissioners:

7 **Teaching Elders/CREs:** Frank Beall, Bill Bess, Mark Broadhead, Gary Cecil, Tae Ho Cheong, Ric Connor,  
8 Chris Erde, David Garnett. Stephen Graves, Ralph Griffin, Hugh Hamilton, Gene Harris, Harry Horne, Alan  
9 House, Jim Huffaker, Ken Kelley, John Lown, Paul Luthman, Benjamin Lynch, Hailey Braden Lynch, Dan  
10 Mitchell, Sheila Palmer, Taylor Phillips, Larry Plank, Emily Proctor, Sharon Schuler, Rob Sugg, Mary Vance,  
11 Bonnie Wilkins, Joan Wooten

12 **Ruling Elder Commissioners:** **Chibley, First** - Monica Rehberg; **Crestview, First** - Catherine Spears;  
13 **DeFuniak Springs, Bethel** - Sharee Campbell; **DeFuniak Springs, Euchee Valley** – Tommy Yates;  
14 **DeFuniak Springs, First** – Hilda Jackson; **DeFuniak Springs, Pleasant Grove** – Bryant Campbell; **Fort**  
15 **Walton Beach, First** - John Schuler; **Freeport, Freeport** - Mike Standley; **Gretna, Gretna** - Michael Clark;  
16 **Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill** – Brian Hughes; **Lynn Haven, First**- Marguerite Preziosi; **Marianna, First**- Ellie  
17 Lawson; **Milton, First** – Tammy Mendiola; **Navarre, Navarre** – Billie Prevoznik; **Panama City Beach, Gulf**  
18 **Beach** - Tracy Schoppe; **Panama City, Grace**- Sandra McKinney; **Panama City, Parkway** – Lisa Davis;  
19 **Panama City, St. Andrews** - Sara Daffin; **Pensacola, First** – Shelby Andrews, Judy Dulahan; **Pensacola,**  
20 **Korean** – Myung Bhye Suh; **Pensacola, Northminster** – Lamar Wasdin; **Pensacola, Trinity** – Angie Shehee,  
21 Charlie Gilroy; **Pensacola, Westminster** – Thomas W. Sykes; **Quincy, First** – Joe May, Wayne Conrad; **Red**  
22 **Bay, Red Bay** - Walter Ray; **Shalimar, Shalimar** - Larry Sexton; **Sunny Hills, Sunny Hills Community** –  
23 Brigitte Dykes; **Tallahassee, Faith** – Leslie Lundberg, Peter Ray; **Tallahassee, Fellowship** – Hillman Brannon;  
24 **Tallahassee, First** – Patrick Kennedy; **Tallahassee – Lafayette** - Mary Keyt.

25 **Corresponding Members:**

26 **Christian Educators/Youth Directors:**

27 **Elders:**

28 **Certified: Jeannie Dixon**

29 **Non-Certified: Jason Williams**

30 **Presbytery Staff:** Melissa Morgan, Pam McVety

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

32 **Visitors:** James McQuagge, Grace; Jack and Diane Dowling, Lafayette; Samuel L. Smith, Northminster;  
33 Maree Peacock, Lafayette; Bob Keyt, Lafayette; Nancy Telander, Lafayette; Ben Powell, Dogwood  
34 Acres/Quincy First; Mary Atkeson Gibson, Port St. Joe; Tom Gibson, Port St. Joe; Wayne Warren, Lafayette;  
35 Mary Ann Vandenberg, Port St. Joe; Sharon Stebbins, Milton; Christy McElroy, Port St. Joe; David Werk, Port  
36 St. Joe; Sally Teer, St. Andrews; Kevin Neafis, Sunny Hills; Leslie Kelley, Sunny Hills; Quinn Schoppe, Gulf  
37 Beach; Charles Dickson, Grace; Mary Bevis Schmidt, Marianna; Rose Stallins, St. Andrews; Bob Lovins,  
38 Lafayette; Linda Lovins; Lafayette; Sandy Kuhn, Lafayette; Jackie Sykes, Westminster; Beckie Mooney,  
39 DeFuniak Springs First; Young Berry, Korean Pensacola; Jeannette Palmer, Port St. Joe; George Carothers, St.  
40 Andrews; Gerry and Leslie Yandle, First Pensacola; Rachel Franklin, Salem Presbytery.

41 **Visiting Teaching Elders:**

42 Ken VandenBerg

43 **ABSENCES**

44 **Excused Teaching Elders/CREs:**

45 Mary Baars, Bruce Chapman, Brant Copeland, John Erthein, Cydney Bea Miller, Drucilla Tyler

46 **Unexcused Teaching Elders/CREs:**

47 Joseph Chung, Danny Dieth, Nancy Forinash, Jack Homoney, John Kelsay, Daniel Loffredo, Beth McCaw,

48 C.K. Moore, Steven Schaick.

49 **Excused Churches:** Blountstown, Blountstown; Destin, First; Havana, First; Sawdust, Woodland

50 **Unexcused Churches:** Fort Walton Beach, Korean First; Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze; Monticello, First; Pace,

51 Pace; Panama City, Agape; Port St. Joe, First; Tallahassee, Christ; Tallahassee, Trinity United; Wewahitchka,

52 First.

53 **OPENING PRAYER AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

54 The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. CST by moderator Bill Green. Following the opening prayer it was

55 noted that a quorum was present. Changes to the docket were presented. **The docket was approved as**

56 **amended.** Gary Cecil gave a welcome from Grace Presbyterian.

57 First time ruling elders and visitors were introduced.

58 Worship was held with Rev. Paul Luthman leading worship and presiding over the table. During worship, Rev.

59 Mary Vance was installed as moderator of the Presbytery.

60 The report from Presbytery Stated Clerk was presented:

- 61 • An Investigating Committee was formed in November to investigate charges brought against a member  
62 of the presbytery. The IC was able to reach an alternative form of resolution according to the Book of  
63 Order; the AFR was presented to the Permanent Judicial Commission on January 15, 2016. The PJC  
64 unanimously approved the AFR. I will now read this into the minutes of this meeting:

The Investigating Committee of Florida Presbytery, having conducted a thorough investigation of the charges against a teaching elder member of Florida Presbytery, and having arrived at an alternative form of resolution in lieu of a trial, submits the following to the Permanent Judicial Commission of Florida Presbytery for approval and submission to the Stated Clerk.

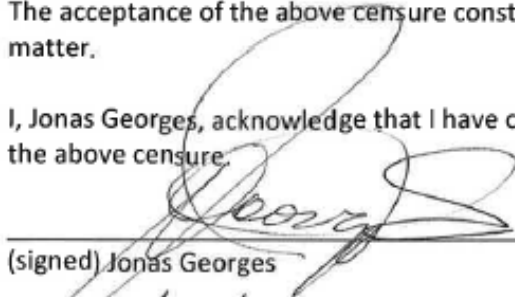
Alternative Form of Resolution

The accused, Jonas Georges, agrees to receive the following censure, to be read and entered into the minutes of the next meeting of Florida Presbytery:

Whereas you, Jonas Georges, have committed the offense of professional misconduct toward an employee under your supervision, thereby compromising your office as a teaching elder, and by such offense you have acted contrary to the Scripture and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); now therefore the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery of Florida, in the name and authority of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), expresses its disapproval of this offense, and rebukes you. You are enjoined to be more watchful and avoid such offense in the future.

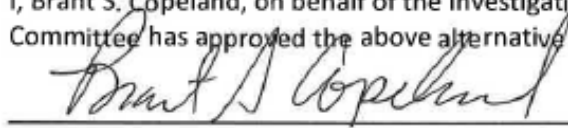
The acceptance of the above censure constitutes the alternative form of resolution in this matter.

I, Jonas Georges, acknowledge that I have committed the above offense and agree to receive the above censure.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(signed) Jonas Georges

Date: 01/11/2016

I, Brant S. Copeland, on behalf of the Investigating Committee, attest that the Investigating Committee has approved the above alternative form of resolution.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(signed) Brant S. Copeland, Chair Investigating Committee

Date: 01-11-2016

- 65 • The deadline for entry of the annual statistics is February 4;  
66 • The rolls of the presbytery were included in the report; corrections should be reported to the clerk in  
67 writing.

68 Joan Wooten presented a report from the Synod of South Atlantic. Joan encouraged members to use the  
69 Synod Resource Center. She also encouraged members of small churches to attend the Association of  
70 Smaller Congregations 2016 Conference.

71 Bill Bess provided an update from the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church in Port  
72 St. Joe. He noted a spark of hope seen recently in the church and invited Ben Powell to report on what  
73 he observed when he recently filled the pulpit. Ben Powell reported that the church has a “spark” and  
74 encouraged presbytery to continue to work with the church. Members of the church were present and

75 given the opportunity to speak and share their thoughts. The AC will continue its work and requested  
76 that an additional member to be appointed.

77 Hugh Hamilton presented the report of the Presbytery Leadership Team. The per capita for 2016 is  
78 \$14.06. Hugh provided an update on the Tri-Presbytery consultation noting that South Alabama and  
79 Mississippi presbyteries are moving forward with their combined search for a General Presbyter. The  
80 U-Kirk at University of West Florida, Pensacola, will be under Congregational Mission and Support  
81 Team (CMST) for oversight and communication. The Presbytery's \$2000 annual contract with Mission  
82 Insite has been cancelled due to lack of use. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) seeks  
83 interested individuals who are willing to serve as readers for the Ordination Exams. Hugh presented one  
84 item for action:

85       ▪ The PLT nominates the following to the Commitment to Representation Team:

86             • Class of 2018:

87                 ○ Sherl Morden (RE – Parkway, Panama City)

88                 ○ Joy Gilbert (RE – First, Marianna)

89                     **Approved**

90 Chris Erde presented the report from the Committee on Ministry. Three items for action were presented:

- 91       • Receive Rev. Stephen Elwood Graves into the Presbytery of Florida as the TE for Lafayette-  
92 Tallahassee. Rev. Graves was introduced and shared his faith journey.

93                     **Approved**

- 94       • Based upon the information provided to the COM on January 19, 2016, it is recommended that  
95 the status of Honorably Retired be granted to Rev. Jonas Georges effective February 29, 2016.

96                     **Approved**

- 97  
98       • Recommend the removal of Teaching Elder Nancy Forinash from Presbytery rolls due to  
99 inactivity and lack of response to repeated attempts to communicate.

100                    **Approved**

101 Jim Davis (Treasurer) presented the 2016 financial report/proposed budget for approval. **Approved**

102 Toya O'Hora presented the report from the Commitment to Representation Team (CRT). A number of  
103 vacancies still remain on the various committees; everyone is urged to assist in filling these. Toya presented the  
104 following for action:

105 The Commitment to Representation Team recommends the Presbytery Leadership Team (PLT) At Large  
106 Members be reduced from 12 members (4 per district) to 9 members (3 per district). **Approved**

107 The Commitment to Representation Team recommends that the Congregational Mission Support Team (CMST)  
108 be reduced in size from the current 12 members to 9 members. **Approved**

109 The Commitment to Representation Team recommends that chairpersons of each committee be selected by vote  
110 in each individual committee. (Explanation: Currently the Commitment to Representation Team is charged with  
111 the selection of chairpersons.) **Approved**

112 The Commitment to Representation Team recommends that the following nominations to the Presbytery teams  
113 be approved:

114 **Presbytery Leadership Team (PLT) at large members**

115 *Class of 2017*

116 Nesta Cumbie (RE – First, Havana)

- 117 ***Class of 2018***  
118 Hugh Hamilton (TE –Trinity, Pensacola)  
119 Anne Hall (RE – Fellowship, Tallahassee)  
120 Beckie Mooney (RE – First, DeFuniak Springs)
- 121 **Dogwood Acres Operations**  
122 ***Class of 2016***  
123 Brittany Long (Member – Faith, Tallahassee)
- 124 ***Class of 2018***  
125 Danny Dieth (TE Christ Tallahassee)  
126 Jim Love (RE Havana First)
- 127 **Dogwood Acres Program**  
128 ***Class of 2018***  
129 Trinity Whitley (Presbyterian University Center, Tallahassee)  
130 Lisa Wilder (DCE – First, Quincy)
- 131 **Congregational Mission Support Team**  
132 ***Class of 2016***  
133 Bill Mock (RE – First, Quincy)  
134 Debbie Gibson (RE – First, Tallahassee)
- 135 ***Class of 2018***  
136 Lorie Gordon (RE – Trinity United, Tallahassee)  
137 Jim Huffaker (TE , HR)  
138 Barbara Overholt (RE – Northminster, Pensacola)
- 139 **Budget, Finance & Stewardship + Treasurer (Jim Davis)**  
140 ***Class of 2017***  
141 Roseanna Phillips (RE –First, Pensacola)
- 142 ***Class of 2018***  
143 Beth Burr (RE – Fellowship, Tallahassee)  
144 Carol Davis (RE – First, Fort Walton Beach)
- 145 **Personnel**  
146 ***Class of 2018***  
147 Brant Copeland (TE – First, Tallahassee)  
148 Ric Connor Chair (TE– Parkway, Panama City)
- 149 **Committee on Ministry**  
150 ***Class of 2016***  
151 Dan Mitchell
- 152 ***Class of 2018***  
153 Harry Horne (TE – HR)  
154 Danny Loffredo (TE – Gulf Breeze)  
155 Bob Palmer (RE – Trinity, Pensacola)  
156 Bill Bess (TE – First, Havana)
- 157 **Committee on Preparation for Ministry**  
158 ***Class of 2018***  
159 Taylor Phillips (TE – Westminster Oaks, Tallahassee)  
160 Hailey Lynch (TE – First, Pensacola)

161 Emily Proctor (TE – Member-at-large)

162 **Self Development of People**

163 *Class of 2017*

164 James Monroe (TE – HR)

165 **Disaster Preparedness and Response Team**

166 *Class of 2016*

167 Nolan Rabon (RE-Fellowship, Tallahassee)

168 Dan Loffredo (TE – Gulf Breeze)

169 **Permanent Judicial Commission**

170 *Class of 2021*

171 Bill Bess (TE – First, Havana)

172 Michael Askew (TE – HR)

173 **Bills and Overtures (5 Members – Moderator -Appointed One Year Term)**

174 Beth Faragasso, Joan Wooten, Hugh Hamilton, Chris Erde, Jean Norman

175 **Florida Council of Churches Representative**

176 Mary Vance

177 **The above were all approved.**

178 James Vance presented the report from the Dogwood Acres Ministry Team. He noted the hiring of Ben Powell  
179 as the new part-time Dogwood Acres Director. Plans are underway for a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the  
180 camp this fall. James introduced Ben Powell, who made a short presentation outlining the future of Dogwood  
181 Acres. He noted we should look for a more energized volunteer program, better bookkeeping, development of  
182 new promotional materials and new programs.

183 Hugh Hamilton presented the report from the Bills and Overtures committee. Pam McVety, Stewardship of  
184 Creation Enabler, presented further information on an overture regarding fossil fuel divestment (OVT-12). She  
185 also shared information on a comparison of similar overtures.

186 The Committee recommends concurrence on the following overtures:

- 187 • OVT-012 (fossil fuel divestment) **fails by vote of 31 to 27**
- 188 • OVT-040 (access to the Lord's Supper) **approved to concur with overture**
- 189 • OVT-001(presentations to GA Committees) **approved to concur with overture**
- 190 • OVT-024 (recognition of APA certification) **approved to concur with overture**
- 191 • OVT-014(virtual attendance at meetings) **approved to concur with overture**

192 Following lunch, reports were received from the following:

193 Paul Luthman, Coordinating Presbyterian, reported on his activities for the past 4 months.

194 Jeannie Dixon reported for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. During lunch, several members  
195 volunteered to serve as readers for ordination exam. Taylor Phillips and Harry Horne were **elected** as  
196 ordination exam readers. Hailey Braden Lynch was **elected** an alternate reader.

197 **NEW BUSINESS**

198 Rev. Rob Sugg made the following motion:

199 That the Committee on Ministry draft a substantial letter and token of appreciation for the faithful ministry of  
200 Rev. Jonas Georges to the Presbytery of Florida.  
201 This was seconded and **approved**.

202 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

203 Jason Williams shared information on the upcoming Dogwood Acres youth retreat. Chris Erde,  
204 Quincy, First, shared information on their Enrichment Weekend set for Feb 26- 28. In March, Thornwell will  
205 begin the "Building Families Program".


206 There was no other business before the body.


207 The next stated meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for May 17, 2016 at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church,  
208 Panama City, FL, at 9 a. m. (CDT)/10 a. m. (EDT). The moderator offered a closing prayer at 1:25 p.m.  
209 (CST). The meeting was adjourned.

210  
211

Mary Vance, Moderator  
Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk

212 Approval of minutes:

 213  
214  
215  
Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk

  
Anne Hall, Ruling Elder, Fellowship - Tallahassee