

1 **Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting**  
2 **October 25, 2016, 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT**  
3 Dogwood Acres Retreat Center & Summer Camp, Vernon, FL

4 The Presbytery of Florida, Inc., of the Synod of South Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church  
5 (U.S.A.) met for a Stated Meeting at Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and Summer Camp in  
6 Vernon, FL, on October 25, 2016.

7 The following 31 ministers and 33 elders were enrolled as commissioners:

8 **Teaching Elders/CREs:** Frank Beall, Bill Bess, Mark Broadhead, Gary Cecil, Tae Ho Cheong,  
9 Brad Clayton, Ric Connor, Brant Copeland. Danny Dieth, Chris Erde, Stephen Graves, Hugh  
10 Hamilton, H Eugene Harris, Alan House, James Huffaker, Lee Johnson, Joanne Kublik, Daniel  
11 Loffredo, John Lown, Paul Luthman, Hailey Braden Lynch, Ben Lynch, Dan Mitchell, Sheila  
12 Palmer, Larry Plank, Sharon Schuler, Mary Vance, John Wamsley, Trinity Whitley, Bonnie  
13 Wilkins, Joan Wooten

14 **Ruling Elder Commissioners:** Chipley, First – Joann Slay; Crestview, First – Shelia Russell;  
15 Defuniak Springs, Euchee Valley – Tommy Yates; Defuniak Springs, First – Hilda Jackson;  
16 Fort Walton Beach, First – Theresa Nicks; Gretna, Gretna – Gale Thompson; Havana, First  
17 – Nesta Cumbie; Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill – Midred Campbell; Lynn Haven, First – Dee Dee  
18 Broadhead; Marianna, First – Ernes McNeill; Milton, First – Betsy Dodson; Navarre,  
19 Navarre – Mike Scott; Panama City, Grace – Charles Dickson; Panama City, Parkway –  
20 Wanda Segers; Panama City, St. Andrews – Jimmy Whisenant; Panama City Beach, Gulf  
21 Beach – Lenny Zacher; Pensacola, First – Jack McNulty, Judy Dulabhan; Pensacola, Korean  
22 Community – In S. Choi; Pensacola, Trinity – Robin Akerman; Pensacola, Westminster –  
23 Ray Sandacz; Ponce de Leon, Red Bay – Walter Ray; Port St. Joe, First – Christy Negley;  
24 Quincy, First – Sherly Hinson, Steve Wilkerson; Quincy, Woodland – Jon-Mark McKinley;  
25 Tallahassee, Christ – Vickie Dieth; Tallahassee, Faith – Janet Evans, Elaine Youngblood;  
26 Tallahassee, Fellowship – Jeannie Dixon; Tallahassee, First – Patrick Kennedy; Tallahassee,  
27 Lafayette – Maree Peacock; Tallahassee, Trinity United – Robert Woolfork

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

30 **Presbytery Staff Members:** Melissa Morgan, Ben Powell

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

32 **Visitors:** Gerry Yandle, Ken Overholt, Barbara Overholt, Dot Johnson, Latasha Wade, Tamara  
33 Hodge, Vivian Bush, Derrick Bus, Jennifer Whisenant, Sandra Winslett, Jim Rollins, Jackie  
34 Sykes, Jennifer Brown, Clark Simmons

35 **Visiting Teaching Elders:** Chris Walker

36 **ABSENCES**

37 **Excused Teaching Elders/CREs:** Mary “Mel” Baars, Bruce Chapman, Ralph “R.C.” Griffin,  
38 John Kelsay, Beth McCaw, Taylor Phillips, Emily Proctor, Steven Schaick

39 **Unexcused Teaching Elders/CREs:** Peder Carlson, Joseph Chung, John Erthein, Emory Hingst,  
40 Jack Homoney, CK Moore, Pamela Phillips, Leo Sandon, Sheldon Steen, Rob Sugg, Ju-Seob  
41 Yang

42 **Excused Churches:** Blountstown, Blountstown; Destin, First; Freeport, Freeport

43 **Unexcused Churches:** Argyle, Pleasant Grove; Chipley, Sunny Hill; Defuniak Springs, Bethel;  
44 Fort Walton Beach, Korean First; Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze; Monticello, First; Pace, Pace;  
45 Pensacola, Northminister; Shalimar, Shalimar; Wewahitchka, First

#### 46 **OPENING PRAYER AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

47 The meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM CDT by moderator Mary Vance. Following the  
48 opening prayer it was noted that a quorum was present. Amendments were made from the floor  
49 to the docket. **The docket was approved as amended.** James Vance gave a warm welcome and  
50 introduction from Dogwood Acres.

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

52 An Easter Celebration was led by Ben Lynch. Hailey Braden Lynch presided at communion.

#### 53 **Report from the Synod was received:**

54 **Joan Wooten** gave a report from the Synod meeting held September 15-16, 2016 in St. Simons  
55 Island, GA. Joan offered thanks to our Presbytery for its faithfulness in giving per capita and  
56 mission giving to our Synod. 56% of the Synod budget comes from Presbytery per capita and  
57 mission giving. The meeting was unusual this year as stated clerk of the Synod, Heahwan Rim is  
58 battling cancer and was unable to be there. With this in mind please pray for Heahwan and for  
59 the Executive Administrative Commission. The EAC is having to step up in new ways in his  
60 absence. Highlights offered from the meeting: communion liturgy offered in multiple languages,  
61 our racial ethnic consultants and the gift they add to our diverse Synod population, the mission  
62 work and connectionalism the Synod offers. As the EAC begins the search for our next Synod  
63 Executive, send ideas or questions to Joan who is serving on that commission.

#### 64 **Report from mission partners were received:**

65 **Ben Powell** the director of Dogwood Acres gave a supplemental update in addition to the written  
66 report. Ben offered welcome to all, especially first time visitors. Thanks was offered to those  
67 who made it possible to finish the resurfacing of Harmony Road, the main road into Dogwood.  
68 If your church feels called to renovate a cabin as a sponsor, please contact Ben. Dogwood will be  
69 sponsoring one adult retreat in the coming year, watch for more details. Additionally, Dogwood  
70 is dreaming about how to be a better resource to support small churches. Ben made additions to  
71 the report numbers from the docket for retreats and summer camp. He requested that everyone

72 mark their calendars for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at Dogwood Acres on December 3,  
73 2016.

74 **Bill Bess** and **Mary Bevis-Schmidt** gave a report from General Assembly as commissioners.  
75 Bill shared of the encouraging worship and the final acceptance and affirmation of Belhar  
76 Confession. He also gave thanks for getting to go and noted that media blew some discussions  
77 out of hand. Mary served on the Way Forward Committee. One point that was discussed in this  
78 group was individuals longing for deeper spirituality. She echoed Quinn's thoughts on the high  
79 cost and how grateful she was for the presbytery affording her this opportunity. Quinn Schoppe,  
80 the Young Adult Delegate was not present, but submitted a written report that was distributed in  
81 the afternoon as part of the supplemental docket materials.

82 **Clark Simmons** brought greetings from the Board of Pensions. He noted that retired ministers  
83 should have gotten a 2% increase in their pension in June. All members of the BoP plans must do  
84 their annual enrollment before November 1, 2016. Please note the changes in the prescription  
85 drug plan. He reminded the body of the Christmas time Joy Offering that helps retired ministers.

86 **Trinity Whitley**, interim campus minister, gave a brief report on the semester happenings at  
87 UKirk Tallahassee. In particular giving thanks for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry  
88 and their work with college students trying to discern God's call in their lives.

89 **Steve Graves** gave an update from Disaster Preparedness and Response. He shared that they  
90 desire all churches to be insured. They are working to help churches with these plans and  
91 finding the best rates. They also desire to help churches with disaster plans.

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

93 **Paul Luthman** recognized Trinity United, Tallahassee as Dream Grant recipients. This \$10,000  
94 award will help them reach out to teens in their community.

95 **Mary Vance** shared praise for the combined youth group of Lafayette, Fellowship and First in  
96 Tallahassee. They are meeting together regularly and loving it!

97 **Mark Broadhead** shared about the joint worship Laurel Hill and Crestview did recently that was  
98 meaningful. Laurel Hill is hosting a living nativity from 5:30-8:30pm on Saturday, December  
99 10.

100 **Bonnie Wilkins** shared about the Heart and Hands helping ministry at Gulf Beach that offers  
101 care giver respite. They too were recipients of the DREAM grant. February 3 the Vienna Boys  
102 Choir will be coming as part of the 25<sup>th</sup> annual concert series.

103 **Danny Loffredo** shared about Gulf Breeze's work with Loaves and Fishes. Gulf Breeze and  
104 Northminster are planning to go to Louisiana for a summer mission trip to do disaster recovery.  
105 If your church would like to join in, contact Danny or CK Moore. Gulf Breeze celebrates the  
106 retirement of their debt.

107 **Robin Akerman** shared about Trinity's work with Stop Hunger Now. It is an intergenerational  
108 event from ages 4 to 80 working together. **Hugh Hamilton** followed up with a dementia support  
109 group that is going well if you would like to know more. This Sunday night the Legacy Concert  
110 Series begins. They have other concerts in March and April. Check out Trinity, Pensacola,  
111 website for more information.

112 **Sheila Palmer** reported that the Bay County churches put on the Bethlehem experience on  
113 December 9 and 10. St. Andrews Presbyterian has started a task-force to be a resource for  
114 churches to address domestic violence.

115 **Theresa Nicks** shared that First, Fort Walton Beach, will have the Cramers (a Gospel singing  
116 group) lead them in Sunday worship on October 30. March 19, 2017 is their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
117 celebration and all are invited to join them for worship!

118 **Brant Copeland** spoke about First Presbyterian's returning delegation from Cuba. Four folks  
119 went for two weeks to go meet with Presbyterians in Cuba. 60% of the Cuban Presbyterian  
120 church has joined in the last 10 years.

121 **Keynote address was received:**

122 Special guest, **Chris Walker** spoke about evangelism and the church.

123 **Reports of Presbytery Staff and Teams:**

124 **Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk**, gave a report connected to the communication represented in the  
125 docket.

126 **Gary Cecil** gave the report of the **Congregation Mission Support Team**. Grant funding has  
127 been the CMST focus as of late. The grants are: New Church Development, Church Re-  
128 development, Peace Making, and Two-Cents a Meal. A handout was given about the details and  
129 deadlines.

130 Sandra Winslett gave the **Presbyterian Women** report. She spoke about the 10<sup>th</sup> triennial  
131 gathering of the Synod PW Gathering. Sandra is the moderator-elect of the Synod of South  
132 Atlantic. Roseanna Philips is the treasurer in training for this group.

133 There was no verbal report for the **Preparation for Ministry Team**. The written report noted  
134 Dana Anderson and Shelby Andrews are inquirers; Linda Pitts is a candidate ready to receive a  
135 call. All are in good standing with the PMT.

136 **Jim Davis**, treasurer gave the budget and finance report. There was a written report both in the  
137 docket and the supplemental packet. They Presbytery is operating at a deficit, but less than the  
138 previous years. Jim encouraged churches to strive to use the last two months of the year to  
139 reduce or get rid of this deficit. The proposed budget increases revenue by 2.7% and decreases  
140 expenses by 4.2%. The focus moving forward for Budget, Finance and Stewardship is to review

141 the Presbytery's investments. The budget was presented for approval noting it is subject to  
142 change based on what church pledges comes in. **The budget was approved as presented.**

143 **Hugh Hamilton** noted that Book of Order changes will come before our Presbytery at the  
144 January Meeting. He presented a letter from Grace Presbyterian Church, Panama City, FL on  
145 behalf of **Bills and Overtures. Gary Cecil** and **Jim Huffaker** were recognized to speak on  
146 behalf of Grace. Gary communicated that this was an exercise in connectionalism. Jim  
147 mentioned the desire of the church to have the denomination make public our mission. Gary  
148 noted that they are going to send this letter to the General Assembly. There was discussion about  
149 whether or not it was in order for our Presbytery to endorse the letter, as it was not an actual  
150 overture. There was a motion from Gary Cecil requesting that the Presbytery of Florida endorse  
151 this letter as an opinion of one congregation of the Presbytery to be sent on to General Assembly.  
152 There was a second from the floor and discussion. **The motion did not pass.** A secondary  
153 motion was made that The Presbytery of Florida receive the letter and communicate our  
154 appreciation to the session for the communication. The moderator and Bills and Overture will  
155 communicate this support. **The motion passed.**

156 **Mark Broadhead** gave the report for the **Ministry Team.** Brad Clayton and Jim Rollin shared a  
157 bit of their journey as they have been accepted by COM into our Presbytery as teaching elder.  
158 COM recommends the Presbytery approve the establishment of an Administrative Commission  
159 to begin the closure of the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church. There is one living member  
160 remaining and this is his request. There is research to be done with regard to property. **The**  
161 **recommendation was approved.** COM recommends that Presbytery approve a recommended  
162 2% salary increase for Teaching Elders and Christian Educators. This recommendation is based  
163 on the Board of Pensions raising the median salary. **The recommendation was approved.**  
164 COM recommends the Presbytery raise the minimum Terms of Call, which have not changed  
165 since 2012 based on the previous vote. **The recommendation was approved.** He drew attention  
166 to the guide for dissolving of a pastoral relationships found in the written report.

167 **Toya O'Hora** gave the report for the **Commitment to Representation Team.** The CRT  
168 recommends the following nominations to Presbytery teams:

169 **2017 – 2018 Moderator-in-Nomination:** Chris Erde (TE – First, Quincy)

170 **Presbytery Leadership Team (PLT), Class of 2019:** Duane Underwood (RE – First,  
171 Havana); Ric Connor (TE – Parkway, Panama City)

172 **Budget, Finance and Stewardship, Class of 2019:** Richard Daniel (RE – Westminster,  
173 Pensacola); Ed Wood (RE – First, Chipley)

174 **Committee on Ministry, Class of 2019:** Joan Wooten (TE – Member at Large), Mary  
175 Bevis Schmidt (RE – First, Marianna); Linda Shelley (RE – Faith, Tallahassee)

176 **Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Class of 2018:** Sally Zorn (RE – Trinity,  
177 Pensacola)  
178 **Class of 2019:** Bob Lovins (RE – Lafayette, Tallahassee), Nancy Henning (Lafayette,  
179 Tallahassee)

180 **Congregational Mission Support Team, Class of 2017:** Bill Mock (RE – First, Quincy)  
181 **Class of 2019:** Gail Yates (RE – Lafayette, Tallahassee); Mary Ann Gibbs (RE – First,  
182 Marianna);  
183 Cathy Connor (RE – Parkway, Panama City)

184 **Disaster Preparedness and Response, Class of 2019:** Danny Loffredo (TE – Gulf  
185 Breeze); Nolan Raybon (RE – Fellowship, Tallahassee)

186 **Dogwood Acres Operations, Class of 2019:** Terry Ward (Member – Lafayette,  
187 Tallahassee), Kay Lachet (RE – Lafayette, Tallahassee)  
188 **Dogwood Acres Program, Class of 2019:** Leigh Ramsey (DCE – Faith, Tallahassee)

189 **Personnel, Class of 2019:** Jean Norman (RE – Trinity, Pensacola); John Lown (TE –  
190 HR)

191 **Self Development of People, Class of 2019:** Tae Ho Cheong (TE – Pensacola Korean);  
192 Thaddeus Wilkins (RE – Gulf Beach, Panama City Beach)

193 **Synod Permanent Judicial Committee, Class of 2022:** Sharon Schuler (TE – 1st, Ft.  
194 Walton Beach)

195 **Villa International Representative:** Toya O’Hora (Lafayette, Tallahassee)

196 **The motion was approved.** CRT presented a request as motion from Budget, Finance and  
197 Stewardship to increase this committee from 6 to 9 members. **The motion was approved.**  
198 Vacancies on COM were noted.

199 **Ric Connor**, Chair of Personnel, presented the committee’s recommendation that Coordinating  
200 Presbyterian Paul Luthman’s contract be extended for 7 months, through April 30, 2017. **The**  
201 **motion was approved.**

202 **Hugh Hamilton** gave the report for the **Presbytery Leadership Team**. He noted the change in  
203 the called Presbytery meeting for October 2017 from October 31 to October 24. John Lown was  
204 recognized to join Hugh to share discussions about possible Presbytery realignment. Hugh noted  
205 the decreasing budget and lack of involvement. There was discussion of some western/central  
206 factions going to South Alabama. There was consideration about the central/east going to Flint  
207 River. Some suggested Dogwood Acres becoming a 501c3. Even after these discussion with  
208 others, we want to stay together. What would it take to hire a full-time Presbyter? How can we  
209 increase participation of churches and individuals? How do we reconnect our churches and  
210 clergy to one another? How do we reeducate the churches that Presbytery is us? These  
211 discussions are continuing. The teams will meet again on November 1 for discussion of ideas.  
212 The PLT recommended the per capita be raised to \$14.44. **The motion was approved.**

213 **Leslie Yandle** presented a report from the Administrative Team. The team nominated Jeannie  
214 Dixon to serve as stated clerk from a 3 year term. **The motion was approved.** The team  
215 nominated Jim Davis to serve a three-year term as treasurer. **The motion was approved.**

216 **Bill Bess** gave report on the work of the Administrative Commission to Port St. Joe and  
217 requested the commission be dissolved. Port St. Joe now has a working session. **This motion**  
218 **was approved.**


219 Coordinating Presbyter **Paul Luthman** gave a report. He commended PLT for their hard work  
220 over the past year. Finances have been made more orderly, the Presbytery manual has been  
221 updated, and the office has been moved. He noted that 33% of our budget is for mission  
222 (Dogwood, UKirk Tallahassee, FLAPDAN). Paul encouraged the body to think about what the  
223 2017 budget could say: that each church has a hunger project; that we have been invigorated by a  
224 new full-time Presbyter; that we helped two of our small churches call a full-time pastor. He  
225 commended us that in order to make a difference, to stay together and be the thriving Presbytery,  
226 we have to step up financially. He stated “that which best supports the mission and ministry of  
227 our churches” should be our focus. February 26, 2017 the Presbytery is going to do a leadership  
228 swap between congregations in each region. The pastor and some elders will go to another  
229 congregation in order to get to know and meet others in our Presbytery.

230 There was no other business before the body. The next stated meeting of the presbytery will be  
231 January 28, 2017, 9 a. m. CST/10 a. m. EST at Lafayette Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, FL.  
232 The moderator offered a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 CDT.

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236 Approval of minutes:

Mary Vance, Moderator  
Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk  
Trinity Whitley, Recording Clerk

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Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk