

1 **Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting**
2 **October 24, 2017, 9 a.m. CT/ 10 a.m. ET**
3 Trinity Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, 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 Trinity Presbyterian Church in Pensacola, FL, on October
6 24, 2017.

7 The following 31 ministers and 22 elders were enrolled as commissioners:
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9 **Ministers/CLPs:** Frank Beall, Mark Broadhead, Gary Cecil, Brad Clayton, Brant Copeland,
10 Danny Dieth, Chris Erde, John Erthein, Tanya Fernandes, Stephen Graves, Hugh Hamilton,
11 Eugene Harris, Glen Hodges, Alan House, James Huffaker, Kenneth Kelley, Joanne Kublik,
12 John Lown, Paul Luthman, Ruth Mashewske, Dan Mitchell, C.K. Moore, Larry Plank, Robert
13 Quiring, Sharon Schuler, Sheldon Steen, Rob Sugg, Mary Vance, John Wamsley, Trinity
14 Whitley, Joan Wooten

15 **Ruling Elder Commissioners:** **DeFuniak Springs, Bethel** – Sharee Campbell; **Defuniak**
16 **Springs, First** – Hilda Jackson; **Fort Walton Beach, First** – Wilber Hugli; **Freeport, Freeport**
17 **– Dave Groover; Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze** – Robert Price; **Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill** – Mildred
18 Campbell; **Lynn Haven, First** – Richard Walker; **Marianna, First** – Betty Pettis; **Milton, First**
19 **– Vaunda Leonard; Navarre, Navarre** - Linda Wagoner; **Pace, Pace** – Marline Austin;
20 **Panama City, Grace** – John Skelton; **Panama City, Parkway** – Al Borovich; **Pensacola, First**
21 **– Paula Launtz; Judy Dulabhan; Pensacola, Northminister** – Ken Overholt; **Pensacola, Trinity**
22 **– Andrew Patterson, Annise Mock; Quincy, First** – Randy Pople, Vickie Stegall; **Tallahassee,**
23 **Faith** – Janet Evans; **Tallahassee, Fellowship** – Nolan Raybon; **Tallahassee, Lafayette** – Susie
24 Graves

25 **Christian Educations/Youth Directors:** Lauren Christian

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

27 **Officers/Team Chairs:** Jeannie Dixon, Toya O’Hora, James Vance, Leslie Yandle

28 **Visitors:** John Schuler, Leslie Kelley, Mary Catherine Hinton, Betsy Dodson, Barbara Overholt,
29 Gerry Yandle, Jackie Sykes, Bob Lovins, Linda Lovins, Robert Price, Roseanna Phillips

30 **Visiting Teaching Elders:** Jean Homrighausen, Zac Morton

31 **ABSENCES**

32 **Excused Ministers/CLPs:** Mel Baars, Bill Bess, Tae Ho Cheong, Joseph Chung, R.C. Griffin,
33 John Kelsay, Daniel Loffredo, Taylor Phillips, Linda Pitts, Emily Proctor, Brian Yount

34 **Unexcused Ministers/CLPs:** Bruce Chapman; Ric Connor, Ray Guterman, Emory Hingst, Jack
35 Homoney, Beth McCaw, Leo Sandon, Steven Schaick, JuSeob Yang

36 **Excused Churches:** Blountstown, Blountstown; Chipley, First; Crestview, First; DeFuniak
37 Springs, Euchee Valley; Destin, First; Gretna, Gretna; Panama City, Gulf Beach; Pensacola,
38 Korean Community; Red Bay, Red Bay; Sawdust, Woodlands; Tallahassee, Trinity United

39 **Unexcused Churches:** Fort Walton Beach, Korean First; Havana, First; Monticello, First;
40 Panama City, St. Andrews; Pensacola, Westminster; Port St. Joe, First; Shalimar, Shalimar;
41 Sunny Hills, Sunny Hills Community; Tallahassee, Christ; Tallahassee, First; Wewahitchka,
42 First

43 **OPENING PRAYER AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

44 The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM CT by moderator Leslie Yandle. Following the
45 opening prayer by Jo Kublik, it was noted that a quorum (six teaching elders and six elders,
46 representing at least three member congregations) was present. The addition of reports from the
47 recent Synod meeting by Synod Moderator Joan Wooten, and from UKirk Tallahassee were
48 suggested. **The docket was approved as amended.** Hugh Hamilton gave a warm welcome and
49 introduction from Trinity Presbyterian. He highlighted the Church Officer Leadership Training
50 (COLT) retreat in January put on by the South Alabama Presbytery. Jean Homrighausen
51 (Thornwell Home), Zac Morton (The Mustard Seed Project), and Jake Wilson (Texas
52 Presbyterian Foundation) were given privilege of the floor.

53 First-time ruling elders, teaching elders, corresponding members, and visitors were introduced.
54 A morning worship/prayer service was held with Rev. Zac Morton, from The Mustard Seed
55 Project, preaching and presiding.

56 **Business of the Day**

57 **Jo Kublik** offered the report from the Administrative Commission for Pleasant Grove
58 Presbyterian Church with the following recommendation:

- 59 1. With great sadness, but with tremendous gratitude for its life and ministry, that the
60 Pleasant Grove Presbyterian congregation be dissolved and the church closed.
61 There was no discussion. **The motion passed.**
- 62 2. Transfer all tangible property of Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church to Bethel
63 Presbyterian Church.
64 There was no discussion. **The motion passed.**
- 65 3. The balance of all bank accounts is a little over \$7,000 as over September 1, 2017.
66 Request the amount be donated to the Pleasant Grove Cemetery Association to be
67 used for maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery.
68 There was no discussion. **The motion passed.**
- 69 4. That any real property or financial bequests known or unknown at this time which
70 may come to the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church be assigned to the Presbytery of
71 Florida.
72 There was no discussion. **The motion passed.**
- 73 5. That if the above recommendations are approved and no further action is required, the
74 Administrative Commission be dissolved.

75 **Jeannie Dixon**, Stated Clerk, gave her report drawing attention to the fact that annual statistical
76 reports will be arriving soon. She asked that those who have problems entering the data contact
77 her directly.
78 A Pace Administrative Commission has been authorized, but has not yet been established. The
79 Wewahitchka Commission, believing its work has been completed, requests to be dissolved. **The**
80 **motion to dissolve passed.**

81 Coordinating Presbyter **Paul Luthman** shared some data he finds interesting: 34 of our churches
82 have already paid their per capita for the year; Unified Mission receipts are at 71%; nationally,
83 72% of all PCUSA churches have fewer than-150 members and only 4% have more than 600; in
84 the last 10 years our denomination has ordained over 3,000 new ministers, and 52% are women.
85 He then pointed to Thom Rainer’s “10 year Trend” report (summarized in the August 11th E-
86 update) which seems to indicate that churches that are thriving today have worship gatherings,
87 smaller facilities, more emphasis on small groups, and a strong emphasis on community
88 outreach.

89 The bottom line:

- 90 • We don’t like shrinking churches, but we are doing better than the national average
- 91 • Our denomination has plenty of pastors
- 92 • While we are not rolling in money, we are holding our own
- 93 •and more and more of us are intentionally (or unintentionally) adopting the essence of
94 those 10 year trends.

95 Boil these “trends” down, and they can be summed up in one word: relationship. It’s all
96 about relationships. It is relationships that give us energy. And it’s those relationships that have
97 made us all who we are today.

98 He then told stories of three people who have been very influential in his life, and
99 encouraged all commissioners to think about the people who have had a significant impact on
100 them.

101 **Ruth Mashewske** reported for the **General Presbyter Search Committee**. The report included
102 a timeline of their work to this point, including listening groups and the composition of a
103 Ministry Information Form. The MIF was approved by the Presbytery Leadership Team and the
104 General Presbyter Search Committee is reviewing PIFs at this time.

105 **Joan Wooten**, Synod Moderator, shared the report on the recent as Synod meeting. She
106 highlighted churches’ per capita giving as a wonderful resource for the larger church with grants
107 and racial-ethnic consultants, and noted that, while we are one of the smallest presbyteries, we
108 are at the top of per capita giving for the Synod. She also pointed out that we now have installed
109 a new Synod executive/stated clerk, Rev. Joyce Peyton Lieberman.

110 **For Action**

111 **Toya O’Hora** on behalf of the **Commitment to Representation Team**, recommended the
112 following nominations to Presbytery teams:

113 **2018-2019 Moderator-Elect Presbytery of Florida:** Sharon Schuler (Minister, Fort
114 Walton Beach)

115 **Presbytery Leadership Team (PLT), Class of 2020:** Nesta Cumbie (Elder, First,
116 Havana), Suzanne Burke (Elder, Gulf Beach, Panama City Beach – Chair), Ken Overholt
117 (Elder, Northminster, Pensacola) ^{[[SEP]]}
118 **Budget, Finance and Stewardship, Class of 2020:** Rosanna Phillips (Elder, First,
119 Pensacola), W.O. Bell (Elder, First, Tallahassee – Chair) ^{[[SEP]]}
120 **Committee on Ministry (COM), Class of 2020:** John Erthein, (Minister, Euchee Valley,
121 DeFuniak Springs), Mark Broadhead (Minister, First, Crestview – Chair), Brant
122 Copeland (Minister, First, Tallahassee), Jo Kublik (CLP, First, Defuniak Springs), Dottie
123 Lee (Elder, Fellowship, Tallahassee)
124 **Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM), Class of 2020:** R.C. Griffin (Minister,
125 First, Monticello), Lisa Wilder (DCE, Quincy, First) ^{[[SEP]]}
126 **Congregational Mission Support Team (CMST), Class of 2018:** Gary Cecil (Minister,
127 Grace Panama City - Chair)
128 **Class of 2020:** Harvey Jenkins (Minister, Honorably Retired), Charles (C. K.) Moore
129 (Minister, Northminster, Pensacola)
130 **Disaster Preparedness & Response (DPR), Class of 2020:** Rob Sugg (Minister,
131 Member at Large)
132 **Dogwood Acres (DWA), Class of 2020:** Emma Hodges (Christ, Tallahassee)
133 **Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC), Class of 2023:** Leslie Yandle (Elder, First,
134 Pensacola)
135 Danny Dieth (Minister, Christ, Tallahassee), Lori Prettyman (Elder, Trinity, Pensacola)
136 **Personnel, Class of 2020:** Larry Plank (CLP, Navarre)
137 **Self- Development of People (SDOP):** Glenn Hodges (CLP, First, Port St. Joe)
138 **Synod Commissioner - Elder 2019:** John Schuler (Elder, First, Fort Walton Beach)
139 **Minister 2019:** Brad Clayton (Minister, Faith, Tallahassee)
140 **Commissioner to 2018 GA – Minister:** Kenneth Kelly (Honorably Retired)
141 **Commissioner to 2018 GA Alternate – Minister:** Mark Broadhead (First, Crestview)
142 **Commissioner to 2018 GA – Elder:** Mary Keyt (Lafayette, Tallahassee)
143 **Commissioner to 2018 GA Alternate Elder:** Jean Norman (Trinity, Pensacola)
144 **Youth Advisory Delegate (YAD) to 2018 GA:** Lauren Scott (Trinity, Pensacola)

145 **The motion passed as presented.**

146 **Mark Broadhead** gave the report for the **Ministry Team**. The Board of Pensions has increased
147 the median salary for the denomination by 1.2% for Ministers of Word and Sacrament, and by
148 3.0% for other employees. COM asks that Presbytery adopt these increases as a recommendation
149 to congregations for 2018. **The motion passed.** Robert Quiring was presented as the newly
150 installed minister for First, Pensacola.

151 A report from the **Committee on Preparation for Ministry** was presented by **John Erthein**,
152 noting that Elizabeth Riley Pickett and Shelby Andrews were both inquirers in good standing.
153 The motion to move Shelby Andrews to candidacy was deferred until she could attend
154 Presbytery meeting.

155 **Rosanna Phillips** presented the report from the Budget, Finance, and Stewardship Team. BFS
156 has reviewed all 2018 budget requests and recommends that the “2018 Draft Budget” be

157 presented for first vote. There was no discussion. **The motion passed.** Final approval, based on
158 pledges, will occur during the January Presbytery meeting. BSF recommends the 2018 per capita
159 be set at \$16.67. (GA increased by 23 cents, to \$7.73; no change from Synod, \$1.50; presbytery
160 increased by \$2.00, to \$7.44). It was noted that Presbytery per capita has not been increased in
161 over a decade. **The motion passed.**

162 The Presbytery Leadership Team Report was offered by **Mary Vance**. She presented the team's
163 policy on gifts/donations to presbytery and recommended it be accepted. There was no
164 discussion. **The motion passed.**

165 **Jake Wilson**, from the Texas Presbyterian Foundation, brought greetings and invited attendees
166 to attend his post-meeting presentation.

167 **Jean Homrighausen**, brought greetings from Thornwell. She drew attention to the fact that
168 Building Families is in four, soon to be five, Presbyteries in FL.

169 Churches shared good news including:

170 *Gary Cecil, Grace Presbyterian:* Hosted a veterans' event for Wounded Warriors,
171 offering the love of Christ to these people who suffered during war time.

172 *Hugh Hamilton, Trinity Presbyterian:* They have a lot of runners, in particular in their
173 younger members. They are partnering with Living Waters for the World to host a "Jelly
174 Bean 5K" on Easter weekend 2018.

175 *Ken Overholt, Northminster:* Hosted a community fun day, raised over \$700 for hurricane
176 relief.

177 **Gary Cecil**, from the **Congregational Mission Support Team** shared that they met recently and
178 are trying to engage peacemaking within our Presbytery. They are looking for ideas within our
179 bounds to use funds that we have designated for that ministry. They have recently disbursed
180 more 2-Cents-A-Meal Grants.

181 The report for **Disaster Preparedness and Response** was offered by Nolan Raybon. He
182 recognized Linda Lovins for the Music with a Mission concert that raised several thousand
183 dollars for hurricane relief. The Team requests your church submit your insurance policy so they
184 can know where we stand if a disaster were to hit. He urges each church to have a disaster plan.

185 From the **Dogwood Acres Ministry Team**, **James Vance** and **Ben Powell**, shared reflections on
186 our Presbytery's outdoor ministry. Ben recognized James for his service as the outgoing chair of
187 the DWAMT.

188 **John Lown** presented on behalf of the **Personnel Team**. Compensation increases were
189 recommended for the administrator, stated clerk, and treasurer. Paul Luthman, the coordinating
190 presbyter, has agreed to stay on in a month-by-month basis, and recommendation was made to
191 also give him a small increase. John expressed gratitude to Paul for this energy he has given to
192 this position during this time.

193 **Mary Katherine Hinton** brought the **Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of FL** report.
194 She shared that they have been trying to be “tech savvy” as they seek to reach more people.

195 **Sheldon Steen** spoke to offer thanks to our Presbytery for their continued support of **UKirk**
196 **Tallahassee**. He noted the hurricane changing the semester. He highlighted the student
197 leadership and the national UKirk grant that allowed them to hire an outreach intern, a student
198 who feels he or she may be called into ministry. Calvin’s Coffeehouse is becoming more and
199 more a part of the ministry, and they are looking into how they can use it to reach students in
200 Tallahassee beyond FSU.

201 A celebration of the ministry of Pleasant Grove was led by **Jo Kublik**.

202 A Necrology report was offered followed by the congregational singing of *For All the Saints*.

203 Hugh Hamilton offered a blessing for lunch. The recess for lunch at 11:40 p.m. CT and resumed
204 business at 12:30 CT.

205 Zac Morton was recognized to offer a keynote address on New Church Development. A time of
206 questions and answer followed.

207 There was no other business before the body. The next stated meeting of the presbytery will be
208 January 27, 2018, 9 a. m. CDT/10 a. m. EDT, location to be determined. The moderator offered a
209 closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:43 CT.

210 Leslie Yandle, Moderator
211 Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk
212 Trinity Whitley, Recording Clerk