

1 **Summer Stated Presbytery Meeting**
2 **September 10, 2013 9 a.m. CDT/10 a.m. EDT**
3 **First Presbyterian Church of Marianna**

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 First Presbyterian Church, Marianna, FL, on September 10th, 2013.

6 The following 36 ministers and 35 elders were enrolled as commissioners:

7 **Teaching Elders/CREs:** Frank Beall, Bill Bess, Tom Borland, Mark Broadhead, Tae Ho Cheong,
8 Joseph Chung, Jae Wan Chung, Richard Connor, Brant Copeland, Anghaarad Dees, Danny Dieth, Chris
9 Erde, Robert Fuehrer, Hugh Hamilton, Eugene Harris, Jeff Hayes, Victoria Isaacs, Randy Jackson,
10 Harvey Jenkins, Kenneth Kelley, Ted Land, William Lee, John Lown, Ruth Mashewske, Dan Mitchell,
11 Michael Moore, Taylor Phillips, Larry Plank, Keith Posehn, John Schuler, Sharon Schuler, Dru Tyler,
12 Mary Vance, Anne Veldhuisen, Kevin Veldhuisen, Joan Wooten.

13 **Ruling Elder Commissioners:** **Chipley, First** – Kathleen Rogers; **Crestview, First** – Edward Kitchen;
14 **DeFuniak Springs, Bethel - Sandra Macon DeFuniak Springs, First** – Joyce Kelly; **DeFuniak**
15 **Springs, Pleasant Grove** – Henry Goode; **Fort Walton Beach, First** – Mayrelizabeth Pryor; **Gretna,**
16 **Gretna** – Gale Thompson; **Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze** – Robert Price, Robbin Sweeney; **Laurel Hill,**
17 **Laurel Hill** – Leon Curenton; **Lynn Haven, First** – Lloyd Stanley; **Marianna, First** – Ernest L.
18 McNeill; **Navarre, Navarre** – Linda Wagoner; **Pace, Pace** – Walt Reese; **Panama City Beach, Gulf**
19 **Beach** – Tracy Schoppe; **Panama City, Agape** – Jim Roncaglione; **Panama City, Grace** – Shirley
20 Pipkin; **Panama City, Parkway** – Albert Borovich; **Panama City, St. Andrews** – Francis Priestler;
21 **Pensacola, First** – Mary Jean Miller, Susan Rapier; **Pensacola, Korean** – Jin Young Ja; **Pensacola,**
22 **Northminster** – Ken Overholt; **Pensacola, Trinity** – Jean Norman, Lori Prettyman; **Quincy, First** –
23 Alex Hinson; **Red Bay, Red Bay** – Walter Ray; **Sawdust, Woodland** – Marshall Lee; **Shalimar,**
24 **Shalimar** – Phil Ireton; **Tallahassee, Christ** – Sylvia Collins; **Tallahassee, Faith** – Jerry Williamson,
25 Peter Ray; **Tallahassee, Fellowship** – Donna Weisman; **Tallahassee, First** – Douglas Seaton;
26 **Tallahassee, Lafayette** – Ken Johnson.

27 **Christian Educators/Youth Directors:** **Elders:** Jeannie Dixon, Christy Williams; **Certified:** Trinity
28 Whitley

29 **Presbytery Staff Members:** Melissa Morgan

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31 **Team Chairs:** Jim Davis, Treasurer; Ben Powell, Dogwood Acres Ministry; Gerry Yandle, CMST.

32
33 **Visitors:** **Ft. Walton, First** – Everett Raspberry, Roger Huson, Fred Pryor, Susan Pedersen, Theresa
34 Nicks, Laurie Meyers, CH Ryder; **Insurance Board** – Jennifer Perri; **Korean Church** – Yong Brashear,
35 Berry Young; **Milton, First** – Leslie Yandle; **Navarre** – Tanya Fernandes; **Panama City, Parkway** –
36 Andrew Jackson; **Pensacola, Northminster** – Barbara Overholt; **Sunny Hills, Sunny Hills**
37 **Community** – Leslie Kelley; **Tallahassee, Faith** – Bob Lindquist; **Thornwell Home for Children** –
38 Sherri Bozardt;

39 **Visiting Teaching Elders:** Elliot Smith, Thornwell Home for Children

40 **ABSENSES**

41 **Excused Teaching Elders/CREs:** Mel Baars, Gary Cecil, Bruce Chapman, Emory Hingst, John Kelsay,
42 Jo Kublik, Hailey Braden Lynch, Ben Lynch, Cydney Bea Miller, Durl Odom

1 **Unexcused Teaching Elders/CREs:** John Erthein, George Kessler.

2 **Excused Churches:** Blountstown, Blountstown; Destin, First; Freeport, Freeport; Pensacola,
3 Westminster; Port St. Joe, First; Sunny Hills, Sunny Hills Community; Tallahassee, Trinity United;

4 **Unexcused Churches:** DeFuniak Springs, Euchee Valley; Havana, First; Monticello, First;
5 Wewahitchka, First.

6 **Other excused absences:** Beth House (CE)

7 **OPENING PRAYER AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

8 The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM CST by moderator John Lown. Following the opening
9 prayer, it was noted that a quorum was present. **The docket was presented and approved as**
10 **presented.** Ted Land gave a warm welcome and introduction from First Presbyterian Church,
11 Marianna.

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

13 A morning worship/prayer service was held with Rev. Hugh Hamilton providing the message.

14 A report from Thornwell Home for Children was given by Elliot Smith, President at Thornwell. He
15 shared information about the Building Families Program, which empowers families. He thanked the
16 presbytery for its support and encouraged us to continue our partnership with their ministry.

17 A report from the Insurance Board was given by Jennifer Perri.

18 **Reports of Presbytery Staff and Officers were received.**

19 **John Schuler, Interim Administrator,** provided a report of his activities since being appointed.

20 **Kevin Veldhuisen, Director of Outdoor Ministries and Spiritual Development,** gave a report of his
21 activities. He reported on a very successful summer camp ministry. The retreat season is underway, and
22 it's going to be a very busy time at Dogwood Acres, he said. He encouraged the churches to be in
23 conversation about how the ministry at Dogwood Acres can support their ministry.

24 **Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk** gave a report. A review of the 2012 records from sessions took place in
25 August 2013. Several churches still needed to be reviewed. There were several communications to the
26 presbytery from General Assembly Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons and one from First Presbyterian in
27 DeFuniak Springs regarding unified giving. Former moderator Rev. Huw Christopher sent his prayers
28 and regards.

29 The following records remain to be reviewed for 2012:

30 Blountstown

31 Bethel, DeFuniak Springs

32 Pleasant Grove

33 Korean, Fort Walton Beach

34 Freeport

35 Agape, Panama City

36 First, Port St. Joe

37 Red Bay

38 Sunny Hills

1 Christ, Tallahassee,
2 Korean Community NCD, Tallahassee
3 First, Wewahitchka

4 **Jim Davis, Treasurer**, gave a report. An external review for the 2012 financial year was conducted by
5 Certified Public Accountants Kerrigan and Merritt, LLC. He provided a concise report of the
6 presbytery's financials from 2008 to 2012. Our assets have increased and our liabilities have decreased
7 in the last five years, he said. Our contributions have decreased significantly and so have our expenses.
8 For the first half of 2013, we have a small surplus, and our cash and investments are higher than they
9 were at this same time last year. He discussed a fresh way of looking at the budget of Dogwood Acres as
10 a mission aspect of this presbytery instead of a financial burden to our churches. The floor was opened
11 for questions. There was a request for a description of restricted funds at the next meeting.

12 **Frank Beall** gave the report of the **Administrative Commission for Shalimar Presbyterian Church**.
13 The AC met a number of times during the last year with the Shalimar session to work on their problems
14 and they are pleased to report that all the issues have been addressed and resolved. It is the opinion of
15 the AC that the Shalimar church can continue with its work and worship with the presence of steady and
16 stable pastoral leadership. In December, 2012, the Rev. Bob Fuehrer was called to serve as a temporary
17 supply and they are pleased to report that the church is doing well under his leadership. The AC is
18 grateful to God and Mr. Fuehrer for his leadership. The issues assigned to the AC have been addressed
19 and resolved and the church has steady and stable pastoral leadership.

20 **For Action:**

- 21 1. The administrative commission for the Shalimar Presbyterian Church recommends to the
22 presbytery that it be dissolved, effective immediately.
23 a. There was no discussion, and the motion was **approved, with gratitude**.

24 **The Reports of Presbytery Teams were given.**

25

26 **Mark Broadhead** gave the report for the **Ministry Team**. He discussed the activity of the committee.
27 There was a brief discussion regarding the increase in medical dues from the Board of Pensions. He
28 brought two additional items for discussion and two items for action before the presbytery.

29 **For discussion:**

- 30 1. Addressing reasons for reduction and/or suspension of giving to the Presbytery's Unified Giving
31 and/or Per Capita Apportionment.
32 2. Assignment of Congregational Mission Support Team and Ministry Team liaisons for local
33 churches.

34 **For action:**

- 35 1. 2014 Presbytery Minimums: In light of the increase in medical dues of the Board of Pensions,
36 the Ministry Team recommends no increase to the minimum effective salary for the Presbytery
37 of Florida in 2014. However, churches are asked to prayerfully consider increases keeping in line
38 with actions of the Board of Pensions raising the mean salary for their calculations: pastors +1%,
39 exempt lay members +2%, and non-exempt lay salaries +2%. If unable to do so, please consider
40 other ways to offer support and/or show appreciation.
41 a. It was clarified that the minimum effective salary for the Presbytery of Florida is
42 \$50,998.29. The motion was **approved**.
- 43 2. Request of the Pastor Nominating Committee of First-Ft. Walton Beach: "The Pastor
44 Nominating Committee of the First Presbyterian Church in Ft. Walton Beach prayerfully
45 requests the Presbytery of Florida to grant us an exception to G-2.0504b as specified in Section

1 G-2.0504c of the Book of Order. We wish to call Rev. Sharon Schuler who is our interim
2 minister to be our installed pastor.” (See attached letter.) After working with the PNC’s request
3 for nearly a year, ensuring the call process was followed and other viable candidates sought,
4 interviewed, and prayerfully considered the Ministry Team voted at its July 2013 meeting to
5 endorse this request to Presbytery, with 11 in favor, 2 opposed, and no abstentions. **This vote**
6 **requires a supermajority or 75% of those present and voting to pass. It was requested that**
7 **a ballot be used for the vote. Based on those present, it requires 52 votes in favor;**
8 **abstentions do not count either way.**

- 9 a. It was noted that the Ministry Team is divided on the issue.
- 10 b. The floor was opened for discussion. It was noted that we may be setting a precedent
11 with this vote. The presbytery was encouraged to take similar situations in the future on a
12 case-by-case basis and not let this vote determine future actions. The specific purpose of
13 interim ministry was also highlighted, including the agreement on interim contracts that
14 interims shall not be considered for the installed position.
- 15 c. A ballot vote was taken, and the motion was **approved**, with a vote of **55 to 16**.

16 **Mary Vance** gave the report for the **Preparation for Ministry Team**.

17 **For information:**

- 18 1. The following are in good standing with the PMT:
19 Inquirers: Lori Prettyman (Trinity, Pensacola) Linda Pitts (Lafayette Tallahassee)
20 Candidates: Glenn Hodges (First, Tallahassee)
21 Candidates ready to receive a call: Michael Frandsen (Faith, Tallahassee) Charles (Trip) Porch
22 (First, Pensacola) Rachel Hood (Faith, Tallahassee)
- 23 2. The Preparation for Ministry Team has received applications for Inquirer from two members of
24 First Presbyterian Church, Pensacola.
25 Mr. Dana Francis Anderson
26 Mrs. Deborah Bonnlander Potter.
27 Under the guidelines of the Florida Presbytery Preparation for Ministry Team, they will undergo
28 a Ministry Assessment prior to being accepted as Inquirers.

29 After reporting on the activities of the team she offered one item for action.

30 **For action:**

- 31 1. The Office of Preparation for Ministry/Exams of the General Assembly has requested that the
32 Presbytery of Florida elect two Teaching Elders and two Ruling Elders and one Alternate to read
33 the January, 2014 Ordination Exams. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry sent a
34 Presbytery-wide request for volunteers in May and received responses from one Ruling Elder
35 and five Teaching Elders. The office of Preparation for Ministry/Exams advises that we may
36 elect three Teaching Elders and one Ruling Elder, although the 2/2 is preferred. Therefore, the
37 Preparation for Ministry Team of the Florida Presbytery proposes the following slate for election
38 Readers for 2014:
39 Jeannie Dixon
40 Anghaarad Teague Dees
41 Anne Veldhuisen
42 Gary Cecil
43 Bob Fuehrer (alternate)
- 44 a. There was no discussion, the motion was **approved**.

45 **Jean Norman** gave the report for the **Presbytery Leadership Team**. After reporting on the activities of
46 the team she presented two items for action.

47 **For Action:**

1. Approve nomination of the following people for the Commitment to Representation Team: Sharee Campbell – RE, Central; Harvey Jenkins –TE, Central; Jim Gibbs –RE, Central; Toya O’Hora – East.
 - a. There were no additional nominations. The motion was approved.
2. We have received an offer to purchase the current presbytery office in Chipley for \$182,500. The PLT recommends that the Presbytery of Florida not sell the current office.
 - a. A **substitute motion** was provided:
 - i. The presbytery not accept the offer of the appraised value of the building at this time.
 - ii. The substitute motion was **approved**, and becomes the main motion.
 - b. The motion was **approved**; the presbytery will not sell the office at this time.

John Schuler gave the report for the **Commitment to Representation Team** and brought forth the nominations for the following listed Teams.

Class of 2014

- Congregation Mission Support Team – Gary Cecil

Synod 2017

- Ruling Elder Commissioner – John Schuler

General Assembly 2014 Teaching Elder Commissioner – Randy Jackson

- A motion was given to approve these nominations.

- o The motion was **approved**.

The committee noted that there are still teams that have vacancies that need to be filled and they will continue to contact members of the Presbytery to fill these vacancies.

The following reports were received for information only:

Ric Connor gave the report for the **Personnel Committee** for information only.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch with a blessing. The meeting reconvened at 1:00 with prayer.

The following reports were received:

Ric Connor gave the report for the Presbyter Search Committee for information only.

- 5 applications were received for the position – 3 Teaching Elders and 2 Ruling Elders.
- Interviews will take place at the beginning of October.

Joe Dobson gave the report for the **Realignment Task Force** for information only.

- The raison d’être of this task force was to look at realignment within the presbytery. With the staff changes and the structure of the presbytery changing the focus of the task force has changed.
- The task force is now addressing short-term financial issues in the presbytery ,especially the ways to support the two priorities of this presbytery: the ministry at Dogwood Acres and church redevelopment.

Gerry Yandle gave the report for the **Congregational Mission Support Team** for information only.

Anghaarad Dees gave the report for the **Presbytery Youth Council**.

For Action: To approve the members for the 2013-2014 school year.

1. Celena Anderson, Trinity- Pensacola
2. Lauren Scott, Trinity-Pensacola
3. Abby Scott, Trinity-Pensacola
4. Bailey Porch, First-Pensacola


- 1 5. Eric Muller, First-Pensacola
- 2 6. Jon Walker, Pace Presbyterian
- 3 7. Lucas Heiker, First-Tallahassee
- 4 8. Nicholas Barrett, Faith-Tallahassee
- 5 9. Hilary Erde, First-Quincy
- 6 10. Gracie Kelleher, First-Quincy
- 7 11. Jacob Williams, First-Quincy
- 8 12. Trey Weeks, First-Marianna
- 9 13. Cami Prater, Gulf Beach-Panama City
- 10 14. Meredith Schoppe, Gulf Beach-Panama City
- 11 - Motion was **approved**.


12 Ben Powell gave the report from the **Dogwood Acres Ministry Team** for information only.
13 - He updated the presbytery on the successful summer camp season. He also gave us an update on
14 the many improvements being made throughout the camp. His report ended with an invitation for
15 volunteers.

16 There was no other business before the body. The next stated meeting of the presbytery will be
17 December 3, 2013 -- 9 a.m. CST/10 a.m. EST at Lafayette Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, FL
18 The moderator offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:50.

19 John Lown, Moderator
20 Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk
21 Anne Veldhuisen, Recording Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES


Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk


Rev. Dr. Robert Fuehrer, Teaching Elder