

1                                   **Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting**  
2                                   **May 16, 2017, 9 a.m. CT/ 10 a.m. ET**  
3                                   Parkway Presbyterian Church, Panama City, 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 Parkway Presbyterian Church in Panama City, FL, on May  
6   16, 2017.

7   The following 33 ministers and 28 elders were enrolled as commissioners:

8   **Teaching Elders/CREs:** Bill Bess, Mark Broadhead, Gary Cecil, Tae Ho Cheong, Brad  
9   Clayton, Ric Connor, Brant Copeland, Danny Dieth, Chris Erde, Tanya Fernandes, Janice Fraser,  
10   Stephen Graves, R. C. Griffin, Hugh Hamilton, Eugene Harris, Harry Horne, Alan House, James  
11   Huffaker, Harvey Jenkins, Kenneth Kelley, Joanne Kublik, John Lown, Ruth Mashewske, Dan  
12   Mitchell, Linda Pitts, Larry Plank, Emily Proctor, Sharon Schuler, Robb Sugg, Mary Vance,  
13   John Wamsley, Trinity Whitley, Bonnie Wilkins, Carol Wood, Joan Wooten, Ju Seob Yang

14   **Ruling Elder Commissioners:** **Chipley, First** – Ed Wood; **Crestview, First** – Tim Crawford;  
15   **Defuniak Springs, First** – Joyce Kelly; **Fort Walton Beach, First** – Krisha Brister; **Freeport,**  
16   **Freeport** – David Groover; **Gretna, Gretna** – Gale Thompson; **Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill** – Leon  
17   Curenton; **Lynn Haven, First** – Richard Walker; **Milton, First** – Tammy Mendola; **Navarre,**  
18   **Navarre** – Linda Wagoner; **Panama City Beach, Gulf Beach** – Beverly Lutz; **Panama City,**  
19   **Parkway** – Bruce Davis; **Panama City, St. Andrews** – Jimmy Whisenant; **Pensacola, First** –  
20   Chris Fowler, Tom Daniel; **Pensacola, Korean Community** – In S. Nim; **Pensacola,**  
21   **Northminister** – Ken Overholt; **Pensacola, Trinity** – Melba Powell, Angie Shehee; Port St. Joe,  
22   First – Christy McElroy; **Quincy, First** – Alex Hinson, George Hackney; **Red Bay, Red Bay** –  
23   Walter Ray; **Sawdust, Woodland** – Jon-Mark McKinley; **Tallahassee, Christ** – Kathy Harvey;  
24   **Tallahassee, Faith** – Frank Walper, Lew Shelley; **Tallahassee, Fellowship** – Zana Raybon;  
25   **Tallahassee, First** – Donna Barber; **Tallahassee, Lafayette** – Bob Henning; **Tallahassee,**  
26   **Trinity United** – Robert Woolfork

27   **Christian Educations/Youth Directors:** Jeannie Dixon, Christy Williams, Jason Williams

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

29   **Officers/Team Chairs:** Suzanne Burke, Toya O’Hora, James Vance, Leslie Yandle

30   **Visitors:** Don Mowat, Jean Homrighausen, Leslie Kelley, John Schuler, Clark Simmons, Lauren  
31   Scott, Linda Wamsley, Dixie Retherford, Shelia Palmer, Susie Ellis, Essie Ellis, Sylvia Collins,  
32   Jennifer Whisenant, Linda Lovins, Bob Lovins, Chris Rollins, Barbara Overholt, Gerry Yandle,  
33   James McQuagge, Andy Fernandez, Garry Wagoner

34   **Visiting Teaching Elders:** Denise Anderson, Robert Gamble

35 **ABSENCES**

36 **Excused Teaching Elders/CREs:** Mary “Mel” Baars, Joseph Chung, John Erthein, Jack  
37 Homoney, John Kelsay, Paul Luthman, Beth McCaw, Taylor Phillips, Steven Schaick

38 **Unexcused Teaching Elders/CREs:** Peder Carlson, Bruce Chapman, Ray Guterman, Emory  
39 Hingst, Rachel Hood, Lee Johnson, Danny Loffredo, Ben Lynch, Hailey Braden Lynch, C.K.  
40 Moore, Pamela Phillips, Sheldon Steen

41 **Excused Churches:** Blountstown, Blountstown; Havana, First; Sunny Hills, Sunny Hill

42 **Unexcused Churches:** DeFuniak Springs, Bethel; DeFuniak Springs, Euchee Valley; DeFuniak  
43 Springs, Pleasant Grove; Destin, First; Fort Walton Beach, Korean First; Gulf Breeze, Gulf  
44 Breeze; Marianna, First; Monticello, First; Pace, Pace; Panama City, Grace; Pensacola,  
45 Westminster; Shalimar, Shalimar; Wewahitchka, First

46 **OPENING PRAYER, DECLARATION OF QUORUM, AND WORSHIP**

47 The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. CT by moderator Leslie Yandle. It was noted that a  
48 quorum was present. Mary Vance offered an opening prayer. **The docket was approved.** Ric  
49 Connor gave a warm welcome and introduction from Parkway Presbyterian.

50 First-time ruling elders, teaching elders, corresponding members, and visitors were introduced.  
51 Clark Simmons and Robert Gamble were granted the privilege to speak from the floor.

52 A morning worship/prayer service was held with General Assembly Co-Moderator Denise  
53 Anderson providing the message.

54 **BUSINESS OF THE DAY**

55 **Clark Simmons** from the **Board of Pensions** brought greetings and shared about their 300<sup>th</sup>  
56 anniversary. The Pension is valued about \$8.5 million, funded at about 124%. Honorably Retired  
57 ministers are getting at 2% apportionment. Those in the plan are also getting at 2% increase to  
58 their plan. As of July 1, there are some changes. The benefits have changed for lay employees  
59 but not for pastors. The benefits can be selected as needed. Dental is open for all employees. As  
60 your church considers just compensation for the fall, please think about how you can make  
61 employees’ lives more abundant as they do the mission and work God has called them to do, he  
62 said.

63 **Robert Gamble** of **This Child Here** shared about his ministry in the Ukraine. He would love to  
64 come share at your church about how people change people. Education changes, but there’s  
65 always a teacher. Faith changes, but there is always someone involved. God knows that people  
66 change people, and we were sent Jesus. Their work includes work with street children, training  
67 foster families, and working with teens and adults around conflict management during war. Their  
68 project manager was picked as a peacemaker through the PC(USA).

69 **Mark Broadhead** of the **Committee on Ministry** introduced Janice Fraser, the newly-installed  
70 pastor for Pace and First, Milton.

71 On behalf of the **Presbytery Leadership Team, John Lown** made a motion that the Presbytery  
72 of Florida call a full-time General Presbyter. As part of this recommendation, Lown gave the  
73 background and rationale for the motion noting information in the docket from Coordinating  
74 Presbyter, Paul Luthman. Lown particularly noted a need to yolk our ministries and care for our  
75 congregations and pastors. There was discussion from the floor. Tae Ho Cheong (TE) spoke  
76 against the motion, expressing that it was not a sustainable proposal for an EP. He recommended  
77 that a moderator be given more power for the year that they serve and fill the duties suggested to  
78 be taken on by the General Presbyter. Gary Cecil (TE) spoke to his previous support of the  
79 Coordinating Presbyter model. After having seen this tried for four years, he now speaks in favor  
80 of the motion to have a full-time General Presbyter. Christy McElroy (RE, Port St. Joe) asked  
81 where the position would be located. She followed up with comments on feeling that the position  
82 should be based in metropolitan areas to encourage continued growth of the church. Brant  
83 Copeland (TE) responded to McElroy's concerns, with the thought that the GP would travel  
84 often. **The motion to seek a full-time General Presbyter was approved.** Gary Cecil made a  
85 motion that a search committee be formed and limited to seven members. A second was offered.  
86 **The motion was approved. Hugh Hamilton** was recognized to present the nominees for the  
87 Search Committee for the General Presbyter. The nominees from the Central District was John  
88 Wamsley (TE); from the Eastern District Glen Hodges (RE), Brad Clayton (TE), Christy  
89 Williams (CCE), Ruth Mashewske (RE – HR); from the Western District Roseanna Phillips  
90 (RE), Larry Plank (RE). The floor was opened for nominations. A question was asked regarding  
91 minority representation and it was noted that there was such representation. Chris Erde made a  
92 motion to close nominations and accept the ballot. A second was made. **The slate was approved**  
93 **as presented.**

94 **Leslie Yandle** then shared about the meetings that would take place to allow for input into  
95 requirements and duties of the General Presbyter. There will be three regional meetings open to  
96 all. The meetings are as follows:

97 June 11 @ 3pm, Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee

98 July 9 @ 4pm, Northminister Presbyterian Church, Pensacola

99 July 23 @ 4pm, Grace Presbyterian Church, Panama City

#### 100 **Reports from Presbytery Teams and Staff**

101 **Stated Clerk Jeannie Dixon** drew attention to the following communications from the Synod of  
102 South Atlantic announcing The Rev. Joyce Lieberman as the new Synod Executive/Stated Clerk.  
103 The rolls are updated as of December 31, please let her know if there are corrections. On page 2  
104 of the supplement, she noted the called Presbytery meeting to examine Brian Yount for  
105 ordination as the Associate Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian, Pensacola, FL, on June 25 at 4:00 p.m.  
106 CT.

107 **Cheryl Morton**, member of the PW Coordinating Team, pointed out a few items in the  
108 Presbyterian Women written report. She called attention to the scholarships that are available for  
109 seminarians.

110 **Gary Cecil** gave report from the **Congregational Mission Support Team**. They are focusing on  
111 reaching out to small churches in hopes of engaging all in our ministry. They are interested in  
112 pursuing 1001 Worshiping Communities with those who are interested.

113 **Ben Powell**, Director of **Dogwood Acres**, gave a report noting that staff training begins on June  
114 4, 2017. They are still in need of 4 male counselors for the summer. They are in need of 5 nurses  
115 for summer camp. Please help Dogwood find people to fill these needs.

116 **Trinity Whitley** shared the report from **UKirk Tallahassee**, reading the letter of a barista in  
117 Calvin's Coffeehouse. She offered thanks for the continued support of the Presbytery for this  
118 vibrant ministry.

119 **Mark Broadhead** noted that the **Committee on Ministry** has heard the request to speed up the  
120 process to call a pastor. One way they are answering this is that when ministers coming into a  
121 call who are already ordained need to be examined, they will do so by meeting with a  
122 commission from the COM for their district. Mark Broadhead made a motion to offer the status  
123 of Honorably Retired to Mary Vance as of May 1, 2018. **The motion was approved.** A  
124 ceremony honoring her retirement will take place at a later presbytery meeting. Larry Plank and  
125 Tanya Fernandes were commissioned as Ruling Elders to serve as the CRE to the Navarre  
126 Presbyterian Church.

127 **John Lown** on behalf of the **Personnel Committee** noted that on docket pages 19 and 20 is a  
128 suggested job description for a General Presbyter. He noted that this is up for amending; it is a  
129 guide to start discussions at the regional meetings. The personnel committee made motion that  
130 Paul Luthman's contract be extended through December 31, 2017, with the current compensation  
131 package. Discussion was had about possible overlap with the General Presbyter. **The motion**  
132 **passed.**

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

134 **Rob Sugg**, shared that he has been doing pulpit supply in Navarre. He wanted to commend Larry  
135 and Tanya for their pre-commission active part in the congregations. The congregation has  
136 stepped up under the leadership of CRE model. He commended them both and the Navarre  
137 session for the good work they are doing.

138 **Steve Graves** shared that Lafayette and Christ did joint choir presentations for Maundy  
139 Thursday and Good Friday. He celebrated that Rev. Linda Pitts was here for her first time as an  
140 ordained minister.

141 **Emily Proctor**, stated supply at Red Bay, shared that there are multiple denominations  
142 worshiping together in this little community. It's a beautiful picture of the body of Christ.

143  
144 **Gary Cecil** lifted up that Grace Presbyterian Church took the matching monies of PMA to do  
145 outreach.

146 **Brant Copeland** shared that First, Tallahassee, are hosting the Table of Abraham, a Christian,  
147 Jewish, and Muslim gathering for Ramadan to share different perspectives on a common topic.

148 **Tae Ho Cheong** wished to celebrate Brant Copeland having served First Presbyterian  
149 Tallahassee for over 30 years.

150 The Pleasant Grove Administrative Commission does not yet have a report due to a death in the  
151 Bethel, DeFuniak Springs, congregation, which will be accepting the members from Pleasant  
152 Grove.

153 **FOR ACTION**

154 **Toya O’Hora** on behalf of the **Commitment to Representation Team** recommended the  
155 following nominations to Presbytery teams:

156 **Presbytery Leadership Team (PLT), Class of 2019:** Evon Emerson, RE-First,  
157 Pensacola

158 **Budget, Finance and Stewardship, Class of 2017 (then join class of 2020):** Sandra  
159 Dinsmore, RE-First, Pensacola; **Class of 2018:** Cam Massengill, RE-Trinity, Pensacola;  
160 **Class of 2019:** Annise Mock, RE-Trinity, Pensacola

161 **Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Class of 2019:** Raymond Guterman, TE-  
162 Honorably Retired

163 **Commitment to Representation (nominated by PLT), Class of 2018:** Tracy Schoppe,  
164 RE-Gulf Beach, Panama City Beach

165 **Congregational Mission Support Team, Class of 2020:** Harvey Jenkins, TE-Honorably  
166 Retired

167 **Disaster Preparedness and Response, Class of 2018:** Robin Akerman, RE-Trinity,  
168 Pensacola

169 **The motion passed.**

170 **Suzanne Gilmore Burke** presented from the **Presbytery Leadership Team** the Child Youth  
171 Protection Policy. Brant Copeland (TE) raised questions about several items in the policy and  
172 expressed his extreme opposition to this policy. It was clarified that this is a policy for the  
173 Presbytery and sent to sessions for their consideration for adoption. Mary Vance (TE) spoke  
174 against the idea that the law would have standing in many of our churches. Emily Proctor (TE)  
175 raised points about childcare at the Presbytery meeting. Rob Suggs (TE) spoke about the  
176 predators present within our communities. Bob Henning (RE, Lafayette) requests that on page 33  
177 number 5 have added “to the greatest extent possible” to the policy. He would like to add “parent  
178 or guardian” everywhere. Harvey Jenkins (TE-HR) spoke about the difference between  
179 guidelines and policies and opposes this as a policy. Chris Erde (TE) spoke about First Quincy’s  
180 insurance rider saying that the extent of this policy’s suggestions were not necessary in their  
181 congregation’s case. Christy McElroy (RE, Port St. Joe) noted that there were several “will”s as  
182 opposed to “shall” or “must,” which allows for some freedom. She raised the possibility that, if  
183 something arises, it might come back to hurt the Presbytery. Krisha Brister (RE, First, Fort  
184 Walton Beach) spoke in favor of the policy and found it to be in line with many other child  
185 organizations in our culture. Trinity Whitley (TE) rose the point that number 11 on page 33 of  
186 the policy does not take place overnight at Dogwood Acres. John Lown (TE-HR) raises that  
187 Policy is stated as needed in the Book of Order. Christy Williams (CCE) noted that rule of two  
188 adults needs to say “unrelated”. Rob Sugg (TE) recommended that Dogwood Acres be noted in  
189 the policy as exempt and instead following FL Statute 409. Harvey Jenkins (TE-HR) moved the  
190 policy be referred back to committee. Gary Cecil seconded. **The motion to refer passed.**

191 The meeting recessed for lunch.

192 **John Lown** returned to clarify the process for creating the position description for the General  
193 **Presbyter**. The description was simply informational. As the position description is refined, it  
194 will be sent to the session for refinement and affirmation, and then it will return to PLT. The  
195 PLT will bring it to the floor of Presbytery for a final vote.


196 **Jeannie Dixon** presented the financial report. **Finance and Stewardship** made motion that the  
197 draft budget being previously approved be accepted as the operating budget for 2017. **The**  
198 **motion passed.**

199 **Co-Moderator of the General Assembly, Denise Anderson** participated in a time of Q&A.

200 There was no other business before the body. The next stated meeting of the presbytery will be  
201 October 24, 2017, 9 a. m. CDT/10 a. m. EDT at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, FL. The  
202 moderator offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:51 CT.

203 Leslie Yandle, Moderator  
204 Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk  
205 Trinity Whitley, Recording Clerk

206 Approval of minutes:

  
Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk