

1 **Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting**
2 April 28, 2015, 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT
3 Dogwood Acres Summer Camp and Retreat Center, Vernon, FL

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 Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and Summer Camp in Vernon, FL, on April 28,
6 2015.

7 The following 34 ministers and 31 elders were enrolled as commissioners:

8 **Teaching Elders/CREs:** Tom Borland, Gary Cecil, Brant Copeland, Anghaarad Dees, Danny Dieth,
9 Chris Erde, John Erthein, David Garnett, Jonas Georges, R.C. Griffin, Hugh Hamilton, Eugene Harris,
10 Harry Horne, Jim Huffaker, Randy Jackson, Harvey Jenkins, Kenneth Kelley, Ted Land, John Lown,
11 Ben Lynch, Hailey Braden Lynch, Dan Mitchell, James Monroe, C.K. Moore, Michael Moore, Shelia
12 Palmer, Taylor Phillips, Larry Plank, Lori Prettyman, Rob Suggs, Drucilla Tyler, Mary Vance, Bonnie
13 Wilkins, Joan Wooten

14 **Ruling Elder Commissioners:** Chipley, First – Ed Wood; DeFuniak Springs, Euchee Valley –
15 Tommy Yates; DeFuniak Springs, First – Beckie Moonie; Fort Walton Beach, First – Beth Crawley;
16 Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze – Barbara Borik, Bob Currey; Lynn Haven, First – Donald Bruce Mowat;
17 Marianna, First – Joe Busby; Navarre, Navarre – Linda Wagoner; Panama City Beach, Gulf Beach
18 – Beve Lutz; Panama City, Grace – Gracy Stanley; Panama City, Parkway – Bruce Davis; Panama
19 City, St. Andrews – Leo Nelson; Pensacola, First – Susan Rapier, Paula Launtz, Michael Byram;
20 Pensacola, Northminster – Ken Overholt; Pensacola, Trinity – Charles Gilroy; Pensacola,
21 Westminster – Richard Daniel; Quincy, First – Pat Woodward, Ben Powell; Red Bay, Red Bay –
22 Walter Ray; Sawdust, Woodland – Jon-Mark McKinley; Sunny Hills, Sunny Hills Community –
23 Jennifer Deinhardt; Tallahassee, Christ – Sylvia Collins; Tallahassee, Faith – Abbie Sirmans, Teresa
24 Sarbeck, Peter Ray; Tallahassee, Fellowship – Anne Hall; Tallahassee, First – Patrick Kennedy;
25 Tallahassee, Lafayette – Bob Lovins

26 **Christian Educations/Youth Directors:** Trinity Whitley, Jason Williams

27 **Certified:** Christy Williams

28 **Presbytery Staff Members:** Melissa Morgan

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

30 **Visitors:** Richard Walker, Linda Lovins, Denise Moore, James McQuagge, Leslie Kelley, Barbara
31 Overholt, Marlene Nalor, Teresa Sarbeck, Fred Pryor, Anna Jackson, Kathy Broyard, Gary Wagoner

32 **Visiting Teaching Elders:** Dennis Reid

33 **ABSENCES**

34 **Excused Teaching Elders/CREs:** Bill Bess, Mark Broadhead, Bruce Chapman, Tae Ho Cheong, Jae
35 Wan Chung, Joseph Chung, Richard Connor, Alan House, John Kelsay, Beth McCaw, Bea Miller,
36 Sharon Schuler

37 **Unexcused Teaching Elders/CREs:** Michael Askew, Mel Baars, Frank Beall, Peder Carlson, Terry
38 Dyer, Nancy Forinash, Lawrence Greenslit, Emory Hingst, Jack Homoney, Rachel Hood, Lee Johnson,
39 Pamela King Phillips, Joanne Kublik, Daniel Loffredo, Leo Sandon, Steven Shaick, Ju-Seob Yang

40 **Excused Churches:** Blountstown, Blountstown; Crestview, First; Destin, First; Freeport, Freeport;
41 Gretna, Gretna; Havana, First; Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill; Milton, First; Pensacola, Korean

42 **Unexcused Churches:** DeFuniak Springs, Bethel; DeFuniak Springs, Pleasant Grove; Fort Walton
43 Beach, Korean First; Monticello, First; Pace, Pace; Panama City, Agape; Port St. Joe, First; Shalimar,
44 Shalimar; Tallahassee, Trinity United; Wewahitchka, First

45 **Other excused absences:** Jeannie Dixon

46 **OPENING PRAYER AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

47 The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. CDT by moderator Bill Green. Following the opening
48 prayer, it was noted that Stated Clerk Jeannie Dixon was unable to be present. Coordinating Presbyter
49 Ted Land was appointed to act as stated clerk, and a quorum was present. There was a request from the
50 Ted Land to have 5 minutes at the end of the meeting for personal privilege. Teaching Elder Brant
51 Copeland requested a brief report from members of the board of the Presbyterian University Center at
52 Florida State University just before lunch. Moderator of the PLT, Hugh Hamilton, requested that Harvey
53 Jenkins give a brief report on the Florida Council of Churches during the PLT report. Also after lunch,
54 the Administrative Commission needed to share. **The docket was approved as amended.** Jonas
55 Georges gave a warm welcome and introduction from Dogwood Acres.

56 First-time ruling elder commissioners, corresponding members, and visitors were introduced.

57 A morning worship/prayer service was held with Jonas Georges, providing the message. Communion
58 was celebrated during the worship service.

59 **Presentation on Proposed Changes to the Directory for Worship:**

60 Anghaarad Teague Dees (TE, Trinity, Pensacola) presented the proposed changes to the Directory for
61 Worship. Those present were then divided into breakout groups to discuss thoughts and give feedback
62 on the suggested changes to the Directory for Worship.

63 **Reports of Presbytery Staff and Officers were received:**

64 **Ted Land, Coordinating Presbyter,** provided an update on his activities. He recognized Melissa
65 Morgan for all her service to the Presbytery and spoke about the regional meeting of the Administrative
66 personnel Association that is happening within our bounds in May. Melissa is also doing a bulk order for
67 Presbyterian calendars; the deadline to get in on that order is May 11. He recognized **Dennis Reid** as a
68 representative of Thornwell Children's Home. Invitation was extended from John Lown and Tom
69 Borland (both HR) to join them for a luncheon on May 14 at noon at First, Tallahassee. The luncheon is
70 to talk about Thornwell to extend its borders into our Presbytery through the Building Families program.

71 Dr. Land also gave the report for the Stated Clerk. Land moved that the statistical report of the
72 Presbytery found on pages 2 and 3 of the supplemental dockets be approved. **The motion passed.**

73 There were communications from the PUC at FSU. Mary Vance (TE, Fellowship, Tallahassee) was
74 recognized to speak as a member of the board for the PUC. She spoke about building issues. The board
75 has talked often about finances and has in the past few years dipped into their endowment, she said. In
76 February of this year, Bruce Chapman the Chaplain resigned. In April, Jason Santos, the GA's Associate
77 for Collegiate Ministry, led a retreat with the board and other supporting parties. Danny Dieth came and
78 spoke as the current part-time interim at the PUC. He spoke of potential within the ministry and needing
79 guidance to move forward. Chris Erde (TE, First, Quincy) asked if the selling of that building would be
80 acted on without the meeting of Presbytery. Brant Copeland (TE, First, Tallahassee) spoke up in
81 response and stated his shock to discover that the board has full control over what is done with the
82 property as long as it is used under the auspices of ministry. He urged churches who support the PUC

83 financially to make sure to attend the Annual Meeting on May 12 to make their voices heard if they have
84 an opinion about the matter in question.

85 Dr. Land presented the motion from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, for Exemption under
86 G-14.0226, for term limits exemptions for session members, with the approval of the congregational
87 vote. There was a second. **The motion passed.**

88 **Jim Davis, Treasurer,** reviewed the financial picture of our Presbytery and the overall budget. With
89 regard to the current deficit shown, it is because Per Capita and Unified Giving are running behind, he
90 said. He spoke about Divestment and Board of Pension matters and a fund that is fossil fuel-free.

91 **Ted Land** spoke on behalf of **Budget, Finance and Stewardship.** Missing from the docket was a Loan
92 Request from Presbytery Loan and Investment Program for First, Fort Walton Beach. Motion was made
93 to approve the request. **The motion passed.**

94 **The Reports of Presbytery Teams were given:**

95 **Toya O’Hora,** on behalf of **The Commitment to Representation Team,** recommended the following
96 nominations:

97 **Budget, Finance and Stewardship** – Class of 2016, Ed Wood (RE, First, Chipley)

98 **Florida Council of Churches Representative** – Three-year term ending 2017, Harvey Jenkins (HR)

99 There were no nominations from the floor and no other discussion. **The motion was approved.** She
100 requested that the PLT nominate another member to the CRT at their next meeting.

101 **John Erthein** gave the report for the **Preparation for Ministry Team.** The written report noted Trinity
102 Whitley (inquirer) and Linda Pitts (candidate) are in good standing with the PMT. The PMT regretfully
103 asks that the Presbytery of Florida dissolve the covenant relationship between the PMT and candidate
104 Glenn Hodges because of a lack of progress towards fulfilling the requirements of candidacy. Brant
105 Copeland spoke to the fact that Glenn is interested in becoming a CRE. **The motion was approved.**

106 Meeting recessed for lunch.

107 As representatives of the **Bills and Overtures Team, Hugh Hamilton and Joan Wooten** gave a
108 presentation on the Belhar Confession. They noted the history and rationale for voting to include this in
109 our constitution. They presented it with a recommendation to approve. There was no discussion. A
110 standing count vote was taken and **approved 43-6.**

111 Bills and Overtures also presented the Foothills Overture for commissioners to take back to their
112 sessions for consideration and feedback.

113 **Mary Vance** spoke on behalf of the **Administrative Team** about a request from Trinity United
114 Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, recommending that they receive approval of a loan request. **The**
115 **motion was approved.**

116 **Scott Yant** spoke for the **Disaster Preparedness and Response Team.** He introduced **Kathy**
117 **Broyard,** who gave a presentation from the Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, or
118 FLAPDAN. She mentioned a new collaboration between Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and
119 Presbyterian Women to equip PW members to be disaster preparedness trainers in their own
120 communities.

121 **Randy Jackson** gave the report for the **Ministry Team.** He corrected the report to say that Bruce
122 Chapman has accepted a position with “the Florida Conservation Corps, an AmeriCorps program
123 serving the state of Florida’s Division of Parks and Recreation.”

124 **Ted Land** gave the report for the **Personnel Team**. He noted the annual reviews for Melissa Morgan
125 and Jonas Georges that happened recently.

126 **Hugh Hamilton** gave the report for the **Presbytery Leadership Team**. He noted the mutual
127 forbearance shown at the January meeting. Nothing is currently happening on the Synod boundaries, he
128 said, adding that there will be an informal meeting in May to talk with some surrounding presbyteries to
129 brainstorm. He recognized **Harvey Jenkins** (HR) to share about the Florida Council of Churches.
130 Harvey spoke to the issue of fracking, and encouraged those present to visit floridainterfaith.com for
131 more details on the issues the council is taking on.

132 **Gary Cecil** gave the report for the **Congregational Mission Support Team**. He spoke about the HOPE
133 conference that will be held at Montreat in July.

134 **James Vance** gave the report for the **Dogwood Acres Ministry Team**.

135 **Randy Jackson** took a point of personal privilege and spoke about First, Pensacola's upcoming
136 Harbison Lecture Series.


137 **Ted Land** took a point of personal privilege and submitted a request to terminate his contract as of June
138 30, 2015, so that he can accept the call extended to him as the Transitional Shepherd. Gary Cecil made
139 the motion to terminate his contract. Randy Jackson gave a second. Tom Borland encouraged us to
140 write our thoughts of encouragement and thanks to Ted. **The motion was approved.**

141 There was no other business before the body. The next stated meeting of the presbytery will be
142 September 8, 2015, at 9 a.m. CDT/10 a.m. EDT. Gulf Beach, Panama City Beach, will host the meeting.
143 The moderator offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m. CDT.

144 Bill Green, Moderator
145 Ted Land, Substitute Stated Clerk
146 Trinity Whitley, Recording Clerk

147 Approval of minutes

148


Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk