

1 Summer Presbytery Meeting
2 September 11, 2012
3 Quincy, FL
4
5

6 The Presbytery of Florida, Inc. of the Synod of South Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church
7 (U.S.A.) met for its Summer Stated Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Quincy, FL.
8

9 The following 39 teaching elders and 39 ruling elders were enrolled as commissioners:
10

11 **Teaching Elders/Commissioned Ruling Elders:** Bill Bess, James Black, Tom Borland, Mark
12 Broadhead, Sally Campbell-Evans, Bruce Chapman, Jae Wan Chung, Joseph Chung, Richard
13 Connor, Brant Copeland, Danny Dieth, Terry Dyer, Bea Edwards, Chris Erde, John Erthein, Rick
14 Gernhardt, Hugh Hamilton, Gene Harris, Emory Hingst, Victoria Isaacs, Randy Jackson,
15 Kenneth Kelley, George Kessler, John Lown, Hailey Lynch, Benjamin Lynch, Sandra Martin,
16 Ruth Mashewske, Michael Moore, Taylor Philips, Larry Plank, John Schuler, Sharon Schuler,
17 Mary Vance, Anne Veldhuisen, Kevin Veldhuisen, Joan Wooten, Stephen Yates, Ezra Yune
18

19 **Elder Commissioners:** **Chibley, First** - Joann Slay; **Crestview, First** - Ed Kitchen; **DeFuniak**
20 **Springs, Euchee Valley** – Tommy Yates; **DeFuniak Springs, First** – Vickie Jennings;
21 **DeFuniak Springs, Pleasant Grove** – Henry W. Goode, III; **Destin, First** – Jim Reagan; **Fort**
22 **Walton Beach, First** - Fred Pryor; **Fort Walton Beach, Korean First** – Yun Yarbrough;
23 **Gretna, Gretna** – Gale Thompson; **Havana, First** – Bill Brundyge; **Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill** –
24 Leon Curenton; **Marianna, First** – Scott Yant; **Milton, First** – Linda Lade; **Monticello, First** –
25 Bill Bassett; **Navarre, Navarre** – David Dick; **Pace, Pace** - Walt Reese; **Panama City, Agape**
26 – Dan Nash; **Panama City, Grace** – Laurie Combs; **Panama City, Parkway** - Andrew Jackson;
27 **Panama City, St. Andrews** – James Dean; **Pensacola, First** – Sally Coe, Mary Jean Miller,
28 Mary Newman; **Pensacola, Northminster** - Samuel Smith; **Pensacola, Trinity** – Ellis Moody,
29 Jean Norman; **Pensacola, Westminster** - Larry Newman; **Quincy, First** – Alex Hinson; **Red**
30 **Bay, Red Bay** – Walter Ray; **Shalimar, Shalimar** – Buddy Naylor; **Tallahassee, Christ** –
31 Keith Baxter; **Tallahassee, Covenant** – Christie Kimbrel; **Tallahassee, Faith** – James Mabry,
32 Bill Minion, Anita Parish; **Tallahassee, Fellowship** – Susan Cutchins; **Tallahassee, First** –
33 Walter Moore; **Tallahassee, Lafayette** – Linda Pitts; **Tallahassee, Trinity United** – Essie Ellis
34

35 **Members of Council:** Mary Howard Edwards, Jim Gibbs, Sherl Morden, Ben Powell, Gerry
36 Yandle.
37

38 **Corresponding Members:** Heahwan Rim (Synod of South Atlantic), Robert Ward (Denver
39 Presbytery)
40

41 **Christian Educators/Youth Directors:**

42 **Elders:** Jeannie Dixon (certified), Beth House (certified)

43 **Associate Executive Presbyter:** Jean Silva

44 **Certified:** Christy Williams,

45 **Non-Certified:** Lisa Wilder
46

1
2 **Presbytery Staff:** Melissa Morgan

3
4 **Visitors:** There were 15 visitors registered. Jim Smith, Susie Ellis (Trinity United, Tallahassee),
5 Ernest McNeill (Marianna), Beckie Mooney (First, DeFuniak Springs), Elena Stein (Interfaith
6 Action), Oscar Oztzy (Coalition of Immokolee Workers), Laura Safer Espinoza (Fair Food
7 Standards Council), Gerardo Reyes (CIW), Luis Gomez (Fair Food Standards Council), Leslie
8 Kelley (Sunny Hills Community Church), Rev. Noelle Damico (Presbyterian Hunger Program,
9 Presbyterian Mission Agency), Kathy Broyard (Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
10 Network), Katie Francis (Faith, Tallahassee), Anna Faye Brooks (Grace, Panama City), James
11 McQuagge (Grace, Panama City)

12
13
14 **ABSENSES**

15 **Excused Ministers:** Jerry Blacklaw, Rob Bohnsack, Tae Ho Cheong, Huw Christopher, Joanne
16 Kublik, Durl Odom, Keith Posehn, Anghaarad Teague Dees

17
18 **Unexcused Ministers:** Michael Askew, Mel Baars, Peder Carlson, Nancy Forinash, Charley
19 Grant, Lawrence Greenslit, Richard Horst, Pamela King Phillips, Stephen Kolmetz, Beth
20 McCaw, Dan Mitchell, Leo Sandon, Steven Schaick, James Stansbury, Kim Stevenau,

21
22 **Excused Churches:** Blountstown, Blountstown; Pensacola, Korean; Port St. Joe, First;
23 Sawdust, Woodland; Sunny Hills, Sunny Hills Community.

24
25 **Unexcused Churches:** DeFuniak Springs, Bethel; Freeport, Freeport; Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze;
26 Lynn Haven, First; Panama City Beach, Gulf Beach; Wewahitchka, First.

27
28 **OPENING PRAYER AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

29 The meeting was called to order at 10:10 EDT by moderator Jean Norman. A quorum was
30 present.

31 Jean thanked everyone for the prayers and cards she has received during her treatments for
32 cancer.

33 **The docket was presented.** Joan Wooten will facilitate/moderate the afternoon plenary session.
34 Rev. Noelle Damico (Associate for Fair Food, Presbyterian Hunger Program, PC(USA))
35 requested that the afternoon plenary be recorded; this was approved. Rev. Damico was granted
36 voice for the meeting. **The docket was approved.** Rev. Chris Erde gave a welcome from the
37 host church. The time for lunch was rescheduled for 12:30 instead of 12:00.

38
39 First-time elders were introduced. Robert Ward, corresponding member, was introduced. There
40 were no first-time visiting ministers. The Transitional Synod Executive, Heahwan Rim, was
41 introduced and welcomed. He brought greetings to the body and gave a brief update on the status
42 of the Synod and its mission opportunities.

43
44 The moderator asked for sharing of good news from congregations. Ben Powell shared news
45 from First, Quincy. They have received 97 new members in the past 5 years, he said. Two
46 specific programs include Terrific Tuesdays and Soccer Saturday; these are open to the entire

1 community and are supported by the congregation. Ernest McNeil, First, Marianna, shared news
2 of his church's food pantry program. They serve 140-160 families every Wednesday morning.

3
4 A morning prayer service was held with Rev. Hugh Hamilton leading worship.

5
6 The morning plenary from the Transition Team was conducted. The team members were
7 introduced, and each presented information on the transition plans.

8
9 Reports from Presbytery Staff were received:

10
11 Jean Silva, Associate EP for Church Development and Education/HAE reported. She directed
12 the body to pages 24-26 of the docket for information on "Let's get connected". All were asked
13 to reflect for one minute on gifts, services and best practices to share with someone. Several
14 churches shared their ideas.

15
16 Kevin Veldhuisen, Associate EP for Outdoor Ministry and Spiritual Development, reported. He
17 pointed out a few items in the Dogwood Acres report. The camp is almost running year-round;
18 December is the only month that is not booked with groups. In 2010, there were only 11 groups
19 who used DWA during retreat season. This year, Kevin just booked the 35th group and is
20 having to turn groups down for requests for a retreat. DWA had 210 campers attend this
21 summer, a 4 percent increase over last summer. The number of registrations was higher; there
22 were 65 children during one of the weeks – which was very full and some children's registrations
23 were declined. The ministry to the Asperger's community is going very well, he said. Kevin
24 will be expanding services to the 'high functioning end' of autism spectrum. DWA had a group
25 from Mandarin PC in Jacksonville to help with repairs at camp. St. Stephan PC from Ft. Worth
26 brought a group of 28 to help out; they also helped at St. Andrews PC with VBS.

27
28 Stephen Yates, Stated Clerk, reported on communications received. He highlighted the pastoral
29 letter following GA and commended the links included in the letter. He provided an update on
30 the easement lawsuit; Jean Silva, Kevin Velduisen, Ben Powell and Stephen Yates met at the
31 courthouse in June for a summary judgment. The presbytery was not released from the suit. Our
32 attorney will depose Mr. Roche on Oct. 3. A date for trial will be set following that. Stephen
33 will be going to Orlando in October to have the presbytery minutes for 2011 reviewed. The
34 Sexual Misconduct policy revision should be presented at the January meeting. He reminded the
35 churches that they must also have a sexual misconduct policy in place.

36
37 Jim Gibbs, Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report. Jim noted that the reserves are not greater
38 than previous year or month. This just means we need to watch where we are. The amount was
39 \$260,714 this July and \$292,068 last July. All are encouraged to be cautious in spending. The
40 amount of revenue received in 2012 is \$202,887 (thru July). The 12-month unified giving
41 pledge is \$363,479. In 2011, we received \$231,000; the budget was \$420,000. Our expenses
42 through seven months: \$387,449 (a bit more than it should be). This is compared to \$347,785
43 total last year (no EP last year). It is acceptable to use reserve in a planned matter but not in an
44 impulsive fashion, said Mr. Gibbs. A question was asked about per capita; there is confusion on
45 how much is owed by each congregation and what has been paid. A number of churches'
46 records, indicate they have paid per capita in full, yet the report shows 98.97% paid. It is

1 requested that a Cash Flow report be provided, as it is easier to understand than the balance sheet
2 report.

3
4 Andy Jackson presented the report of the Budget, Finance and Stewardship Committee. The
5 current (through July) per capita report is in the supplemental docket. It is acceptable to pay in
6 “installments” rather than a lump sum. A Stewardship Workshop will be held on Sept. 22.
7 Everyone was encouraged to look at the flyer and register to attend the workshop. Per capita is
8 estimated for 2013 as:

9 General Assembly \$6.80

10 Synod \$1.45

11 Presbytery not yet set, but hope to remain close to the \$4.55 of 2012.

12 Mission giving rate set for \$1.00 (in the past, the presbytery has not passed on this Mission
13 Giving amount from Synod)

14
15 John Lown dismissed the group for lunch with a return from lunch set for 1:00.

16
17 The moderator called the body to order at 1:18. The Fair Food Program was introduced. Joan
18 Wooten was introduced as the moderator of the panel. Joan introduced the panel members who
19 each gave a presentation.

20
21 The report of the General Assembly Commissioners was received. Hugh Hamilton and Henry
22 Goode reported on actions taken at the 220th General Assembly in Pittsburgh, PA. Kara
23 Copeland (member at Faith, Tallahassee and commissioner to GA) was elected vice-moderator
24 of the YAD (Youth Advisory Delegate). A study period of the Book of Confessions was
25 approved, for the 50th anniversary of the BOC.

26
27 The Administrative Commission for the Covenant Presbyterian Church report was presented by
28 Mary Vance. The process is ongoing, and communication is civilized and caring, she said.

29
30 The Administrative Commission for the Shalimar Presbyterian Church report was presented by
31 Victoria Isaacs. The commission has met several times and with the session of the church. The
32 work is not yet finished, but going well.

33
34 Reports of the Presbytery Committees/Missions were received:

35
36 Tom Borland presented the report of **Council**. The recommendations were:

37 1) That Presbytery elect a search committee for a General Presbyter at its September 11, 2012,
38 meeting. **Approved**

39 2) That the position of Associate Executive Presbyter for Church Development/HAE be
40 eliminated effective August 31, 2013. **Approved**

41 3) That the Presbytery pay Jean Silva a severance of up to six months (September 2013 –
42 February 2014) if she has not found employment. The severance will include her salary based
43 on the Associate Executive for Church Development and Education plus her medical portion.
44 **Approved**

45 4) That Presbytery’s Council offer to pay up to \$1,000 for career counseling for Jean Silva to
46 used no later than April 30, 2013. **Approved**

1 5) That the position description for the Stated Clerk proposed by the Transition Executive
2 Presbyter be adopted by Presbytery as an appendix to the Operations Manual. Council interprets
3 the rules of Presbytery to allow an appendix to the Operations Manual to be amended in a single
4 meeting of the Presbytery, without a second reading. **Approved**

5
6 6) That the Dogwood Acres Development Fund policy (R.1) of Presbytery's Financial Policies
7 (not requiring a second reading) be revised as follows: Purpose: to finance the improvement and
8 development at Dogwood Acres. Funds are disbursed by action of the Dogwood Acres Operation
9 and Development Committee and reported to the next Stated Meeting. **Approved**

10
11 Mark Broadhead presented the report of the **Committee on Ministry**. Mark reported that
12 Margie Brown (former Stated Clerk of the presbytery) has severe dementia, which is affecting
13 her physically. Prayers are requested for her, her husband, and caregivers. Cards and notes are
14 appreciated. Dru Tyler continues to heal from surgery this summer, he added. Mark noted the
15 following action by the COM: Granted permission to Rev. Dr. Len Dodson, Honorably Retired
16 Nazarene Pastor and Navy chaplain, to officiate at the Lord's Supper for First-Monticello as his
17 health permits. There were questions and discussion about granting voice at presbytery meetings
18 to those with advanced degree in education. Items for action were presented:

19 1. Recommendation: that Presbytery grant the status of Honorably Retired to Rev. Michael
20 Askew (Early retirement) **Approved**

21 1a. Recommendation: that Presbytery grant the status of honorably retired to Rev. James
22 Stansbury, effective 01-01-13. **Approved**

23 2. Recommendation: that non-ordained Advanced Degree educators (e.g. Ph.D. in
24 Education) be granted voice without vote on the floor of Presbytery. **Not approved**

25 3. COM presents the Guidelines for Dismissal to Another Reformed Denomination for a
26 second reading and recommends its approval and adoption. (See attached document)
27 **Approved**

28 4. Recommendation: that the 2013 minimum salary for Teaching Elders and Educators
29 remain the same as it is in 2012. (See attached document) **Approved**

30 5. Recommendation: That congregations considering salary increases use as a minimum the
31 Board of Pensions figures: Teaching Elders +1.3%; Exempt Lay Members +2.5%; Non-
32 Exempt Lay Members +2.4%; and those congregations that are unable to offer increases in
33 salary consider other means by which to recognize the ministry of its staff. **Approved**

34 6. Recommendation: that Presbytery review and adopt the Policy on Severance Provisions.
35 (See attached document) **Approved**

36
37 Chris Erde presented the report on the **Nominating Committee**.

38
39 The Nominating Committee offers the following slate for election by the Presbytery to serve as
40 the Search and Nominating Committee for a Presbytery of Florida General Presbyter:

41 Randy Jackson (Committee Chair) – west

42 Gary Yandle – west

43 Jo Kublik – central

44 Dan Mitchell – central

45 Art Morden – central

46 Jeannie Dixon – east

1 Tom Borland – east

2
3 **This was approved.**

4
5 Brant Copeland presented the report of the **Committee on Preparation for Ministry**. It was
6 approved to remove, with regret, Kelly Fitzgerald from the Roll of Candidates. It was noted that
7 Linda Pitts is enrolled in seminary.

8
9 Anne Veldhuisen presented the report of the **Disaster Assistance Coordinator**. Kathy Broyard
10 from FLAPDAN presented brief information on disaster preparedness.

11
12 The report from **Presbyterian Women** is included in the packet.

13
14 Henry Goode presented the report from the **Self Development of People**. A Two Cents a Meal
15 grant was given to a group in Fort Walton Beach.

16
17 Gerry Yandle presented the report of **Church Development and Evangelism**. Everyone was
18 encouraged to pick up a copy of the “Engage” curriculum. A short clip of the curriculum was
19 shown.

20
21 The reports of the **Mission for Spiritual Development** committees were presented. The reports
22 are in the packet.

23
24 No report from Personnel

25
26 Ben Powell presented the report for the **Mission for Dogwood Acres**. Most of the information
27 was presented during Kevin’s staff report. We need more of the churches in the presbytery to
28 take advantage of the camp for retreats, he said. Many improvements have been made at the
29 camp in the past few years; if you haven’t been there recently, you need to visit again, Ben said.
30 One item for approval was presented:

31 The Operations Committee is seeking permission to sell Dogwood's older Kubota tractor that
32 is no longer needed due to the purchase of the larger farm tractor that better suits current and
33 future needs. The Mission has gone through a bidding process in order to seek the highest
34 price possible, with the winning bid being \$14,000. The new tractor was purchased utilizing
35 a \$15,000 donation from Quincy Presbyterian and through available funds in the DWA
36 Timber Management Fund. The \$14,000 will be placed in the Timber Management Fund to
37 offset the costs of the new tractor. The Committee requests approval to sell the tractor for
38 \$14,000. **This was approved.**

39
40 Mary Howard Edwards presented the report for **Compassion and Social Justice**. Approximately
41 \$4,700 has been distributed via Two Cents a Meal Grants.

42
43 Thanks were given from First, Milton for assistance in repairing an organ recently struck by
44 lightning. Prayer requests were made for Carol Fastbinder, who suffered a stroke a few weeks
45 ago and is still in a coma. Thanks were given for new babies.

46

1 There was no other business before the body. The next stated meeting of the
2 Presbytery is scheduled for November 13, 2012 at Sunny Hills Community Church at
3 9:00 a.m. (CST). The moderator offered a closing prayer at 3:54 p.m. (EDT). The
4 meeting was adjourned.

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9

Jean Norman, Moderator
Stephen Yates, Stated Clerk
Jeannie Dixon, Recorder