

**Minutes of Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting via ZOOM Videoconference  
Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 9AM CT/ 10AM ET**

The Presbytery of Florida, Inc., of the Synod of South Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met electronically online via ZOOM videoconference for a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

The following 41 ministers and 28 elders were enrolled as commissioners:

**Ministers/CLPs:**

Michael Askew, Mark Broadhead, Tae Ho Cheong, Brad Clayton, Brant Copeland, Ric Connor, Brant Copeland, Chris Erde, Margaret Fox, Matt Frease, Steven Graves, Hugh Hamilton, H. Eugene Harris, Alan House, Harvey Jenkins, Ken Kelley, John Kupar, Katherine Kupar, Bill Lamont, Lisa Martin, Roy Martin, A. J. Mealor, Luis Ocasio, Taylor Phillips, Linda Pitts, Larry Plank, Emily Proctor, Robert Quiring, Greta Reed, Steve Rhodes, Sharon Schuler, Eric Spoon, Sheldon Steen, Rob Sugg, Charles “Chuck” Taber, Mary Vance, John Wamsley, Trinity Whitley, Carole Wood, Joan Wooten, Brian Yount.

**Ruling Elder Commissioners:**

**Chipley, First** – excused  
**Crestview, First** – Tim Crawford;  
**Defuniak Springs, Euchee Valley** – Tommy Yates;  
**Defuniak Springs, First** –  
**Destin, First** – Excused;  
**Fort Walton Beach, First** – Susan Cook;  
**Freeport, Freeport** – excused  
**Gretna-Gretna** – Gale Thompson  
**Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze** – Rebecca Chapman  
**Havana, First** – Eric Newhall;  
**Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill** – Tracy Curenton;  
**Lynn Haven, First** – Rich Kangas;  
**Marianna, First** – Leslie Kelley;  
**Milton, First** – Jean Mourey;  
**Navarre, Navarre** –  
**Panama City, Grace** – Laurie Combs;  
**Panama City, Gulf Beach** – Sarah Waby;  
**Panama City, Parkway** –  
**Panama City, St. Andrews** – \_\_\_\_\_  
**Pensacola, First** – Lynsey Listau, Sharon Barnett;  
**Pensacola, Korean** – \_\_\_\_\_  
**Pensacola, Northminster** – Steven Boomer;  
**Pensacola, Trinity** – Ann Copenhaver;  
**Pensacola-Westminster** – \_\_\_\_\_  
**Red Bay, Red Bay** – Walter Ray;  
**Port St Joe, First** – \_\_\_\_\_  
**Quincy, First** – Bennett Chesser, Alice Malone;  
**Tallahassee, Christ** – Ann Hodges,  
**Tallahassee, Faith** – Roy Youngblood, Linda Shelley;  
**Tallahassee, Fellowship** – Jeannie Dixon;  
**Tallahassee, First** – John Guthrie;  
**Tallahassee, Lafayette** – Joseph Faragasso;  
**Tallahassee, Trinity United** – Vivian Bush;  
**Wewahitchka, First:** Mary Gibson  
**Woodland, Woodland:** \_\_\_\_\_

49 **Christian Educators/Youth Directors:** Christy Williams – First-Tallahassee,

50 **Presbytery Staff Members:** Melissa Willis – Administrator; Ben Powell – Dogwood Acres Director;  
51 Denise Vandiver – Treasurer; Roy Martin – General Presbyter.

52 **Officers/Team Chairs:** Jeannie Dixon – Stated Clerk; Roseanna Phillips – 2020-21 Moderator; Jean  
53 Norman – Committee on Presbytery Administration Vice Chair; Ken Densmore – Dogwood Acres Ministry;  
54 Leslie Yandle -Committee on Nominations; Kelly Slorahn – Presbyterian Women.

55 **Visitors:** Bonnie Thompson – Thornwell; Joyce Lieberman – Synod of South Atlantic; Keenan Rodgers –  
56 Board of Pensions; Sharryn Smith – Port St. Joe; Erin Rosica – Tallahassee, First; Linda Lovins –  
57 Tallahassee, Christ; Sandra Winslett – Synod of South Atlantic PW Moderator; Ryan Obray – Pensacola,  
58 Trinity; Joanne Kublik – Crestview, First; Robert Hay – Presbyterian Foundation.

59 **Visiting Teaching Elders:**

60 **ABSENCES**

61 **Excused Ministers/CLPs:**

62 **Unexcused Ministers/CLPs:**

63 **Excused Churches:**

64 Blountstown, Blountstown; Destin-First;

65 **Unexcused Churches:**

66 Fort Walton Beach, Korean; Monticello, First;

67 **OPENING PRAYER, QUORUM, DOCKET**

68 The meeting was called to order at 9:14 AM CT by moderator Roseanna Phillips, with 82 participants logged  
69 in to begin the meeting, a quorum (ten Ministers of Word and Sacrament and ten elders, representing at least  
70 ten member congregations) was present. Moderator Phillips opened the meeting with prayer. Stated Clerk  
71 Jeannie Dixon instructed the participants in the operations of ZOOM and how we would conduct the meeting  
72 online. The docket was presented by Stated Clerk Jeannie Dixon and was approved by electronic vote.

73 **INTRODUCTIONS:** First-time ruling elders, teaching elders, corresponding members, and visitors were  
74 introduced.

75 **MORNING WORSHIP** was coordinated and led by the Rev. Matt Frease, Campus Minster, UKirk  
76 Tallahassee, whose sermon “Good Adventure to You,” was based on Matthew 5:1-12. Using the Spanish  
77 translation of the Latin phrase “Blessed are those” as “Good adventure to those who...,” Rev. Frease  
78 challenged us to make space for others in our lives, to advocate for the needy and ostracized, to be  
79 adventurous and courageous to respond to Jesus’ call to serve, to pursue peace, unity, and justice.

80

81 Thanks to FSU UKirk Students Florence Schreiner and Nelson Cumiskey, and Peri Flannagan, who  
82 assisted in leading worship, and Beza Alford, who led us in worship music. The service included a  
83 Recognition of Honorable Retirement for the Reverend Mr. Brant Copeland, who retired from the pastorate  
84 to First Presbyterian Church – Tallahassee. Following a presentation of a Resolution of Thanks for the  
85 Service of Brant Copland prepared and presented by the Rev Dr. Roy Martin, the presbytery expressed love  
86 and appreciation for Brant Copeland’s valiant leadership and service to our beloved presbytery and wished  
87 him well in his new ventures. Well done, good and faithful servant of the Lord!

88

89 **A RESOLUTION OF THANKSGIVING**

90 **FOR**

91 **THE MINISTRY OF THE REV. BRANT SHIVE COPELAND**

92 **Whereas:** The Reverend Brant Shive Copeland has requested and received the status of Honorably Retired  
93 from the Presbytery of Florida on behalf of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and

94 **Whereas:** in so doing, The Reverend Copeland will conclude his pastoral service to First Presbyterian  
95 Church, Tallahassee, Florida on November 1, 2020, and

96 **Whereas:** The Reverend Copeland served the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee,  
97 Florida with deep pastoral sensitivity, theological integrity, prophetic insight, and a moral compass true to  
98 the call of Christ to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the imprisoned, and welcome the sojourner  
99 within your midst, and

100 **Whereas:** The Reverend Copeland has contributed his considerable wisdom and experience to the benefit of  
101 the Presbytery of Florida through service on committees and task forces of the presbytery as well as his clear  
102 voice on the floor of presbytery, and

103 **Whereas:** The Reverend Copeland has more than honored our Scottish Presbyterian heritage by enrolling as  
104 a Divinity student at St. Andrews in Scotland, marrying his wife Alexandra, a native of Scotland,  
105 occasionally wearing a Scottish kilt, and, every now and then, attempting a Scottish burr with minimal  
106 success, and

107 **Whereas:** The Reverend Copeland demonstrated remarkable good sense in attending Union Presbyterian  
108 Seminary and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education and beginning his pastoral service at Altavista  
109 Presbyterian Church located in God's gift to the world known as the Commonwealth of Virginia, and

110 **Whereas:** The Reverend Copeland is much loved and appreciated by his colleagues in ministry both within  
111 and beyond the Presbyterian Church (USA),

112 **Therefore Be It Resolved:** That The Presbytery of Florida does herewith give thanksgiving to God for the  
113 ministry and friendship of The Reverend Brant Shive Copeland and extends its warmest and heartfelt  
114 congratulations upon the completion of his faithful service to First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, Florida  
115 and looks forward with joy to his continued service in and for the Presbytery of Florida.

116 **Be It Further Resolved:** That this Resolution of Thanksgiving be spread upon the minutes of this presbytery  
117 meeting dated 27 October 2020.

118 **APPOINTMENTS:** none

119 **MINISTRY REPORTS: Reports from the Larger Church**

120 **Reports from 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Commissioners and YAAD.** Written reports were shared in the  
121 presbytery meeting handbook from Brad Clayton, Minister/Teaching Elder Commissioner, Tallahassee-Faith  
122 Presbyterian Church; Ruling Elder Commissioner Joanne Kublik, Crestview-First Presbyterian Church; and  
123 Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) Ryan Obray, Pensacola-Trinity Presbyterian Church. Each  
124 commissioner also shared an oral report to the presbytery. Good news and positive insights were shared, as  
125 well as the frustrations of participating online with 700 other commissioners and participants. It was hard to  
126 develop online a sense of belonging and to feel that you were part of the decision making.  
127 Though much was accomplished by the GA, many matters were deferred to the next GA when, it is hoped,  
128 commissioners will gather in-person.

129 **PARTNER REPORTS:**

130 **THORNWELL- Bonnie Thompson**

131 Thornwell celebrated its 145<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2020, and Bonnie Thompson shared how Thornwell has adapted  
132 to continue their ministries to children and families under COVID-19 pandemic conditions; much work  
133 being done online and by remote virtual connections. More than a physical orphanage in Clinton, SC,  
134 Thornwell now serves on campus, online, and across the region of our Synod, providing services to over  
135 3000 families annually. From foster care services and support to children and family services, academic  
136 services to children, youth, and their families, and nutrition and health services, Thornwell is partnering with  
137 local churches to provide family support services. In October 2020 over 1000 participants shared in the

138 virtual online Foster Care conferences. Thornwell's community-based programs (like that in Quincy, FL)  
139 increased to more locations in 2020 with more participants than ever in both local and virtual services. Ms.  
140 Thompson thanked our presbytery and congregations for our support to Thornwell.

141 **PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION - Robert Hay**

142 Sharing an online PowerPoint presentation, Robert Hay described the Stewardship and Investment financial  
143 services and support to individuals and congregations. Mr. Hay highlighted the new Stewardship Navigator  
144 program of online resources and helps in creating narrative budgets. The Church Financial Leadership  
145 Academy offers TED-Talk style videos on multiple aspects of church finances. To register to view the free  
146 videos on the Presbyterian Foundation website go to <https://churchfia.com/>  
147 And enter registration code: PCUSA.

148 The Presbyterian Foundation also offers Investment Services and strategies, under categories: Endowment  
149 Funds, New Covenant Mutual Funds, Advisory Relationship/Assistance to church financial teams. For  
150 details go to [www.presbyterinafoundation.org](http://www.presbyterinafoundation.org)

151 **UKIRK TALLAHASSEE- Matt Frease**

152 The new campus minister as of August 2020 and onsite for three weeks, Matt Frease shared the challenges of  
153 campus ministry, a relational ministry, under pandemic conditions and social isolation. There are no  
154 residents in the UKirk facility. The Calvin Coffee House closed in the spring, and has reopened recently  
155 serving limited numbers, for limited hours, in outside seating, Monday -Friday, 8am-3pm. UKirk invites  
156 people in the area to stop and purchase coffee at Calvin Coffee House in financial support of UKirk. The  
157 facilities need updates and upgrades; the UKirk Team is exploring options.

158 **BOARD OF PENSIONS – Keenan Rodgers**

159 The annual BOP open enrollment for benefits in 2021 is underway – deadline is November 13. The BOP  
160 now offers new benefits, so carefully examine the information before you renew your coverage options. The  
161 November 13 deadline also applies to completing CALL TO HEALTH requirements to earn your 1000  
162 points to lower your health insurance deductible. The BOP earned 3.2% return on investments as of August  
163 31, 2020, and with the success has waived December dues for retired pastors' Social Security supplement  
164 programs and offered small churches the option of waived/deferred dues payments. Under pandemic  
165 conditions, the BOP covers 100% of medically recommended COVID-19 tests and CIGNA covers up to six  
166 sessions of counseling for anyone in the household of BOP members experiencing stress anxiety from  
167 pandemic pressures.  
168

169 **EDUCATION: Committee on Educational Resources (CER): John Kubar**

170 RACISM: The CER lead a one-hour break out session to discuss the statement from the *I Stand With You*  
171 Task Force of the presbytery regarding racism in our society. Conversations about personal experiences with  
172 racism and cultural racism prompted us to consider how we may overcome racism and make changes in our  
173 culture, our churches, and our lives. Follow up reports in the presbytery E-newsletter will share responses  
174 and recommendations as well as additional resources for congregational conversations and explorations.

175 **STAFF REPORTS:**

176 **REPORT OF STATED CLERK: Jeannie Dixon**

177 1. PRESBYTERY MINUTES: Synod will read our 2019 Presbytery minutes on November 16.

178 2. PRESBYTERY MEETING HOSTS FOR 2021 are needed. It is not yet clear which meetings (if any) will  
179 be conducted on Zoom. It is helpful to have physical hosts arranged.

180 Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021

181 Saturday, May 22, 2021

182 Tuesday, August 3, 2021

183 Saturday, November 6, 2021

184 It has been suggested that the two Saturday meetings (May 22 and November 6) be held in the Central  
185 District to make a shorter commute for everyone. We would then have the Tuesday meetings in the East and

186 West districts. Discussion followed regarding the desirability of Saturday presbytery meetings and the low  
187 turn outs for such meetings. The concerns will be considered by the CPC in further scheduling planning and  
188 decision making.

189 3. CHURCH STATISTICS: The church statistics program opens on Friday, December 4, 2020. All statistics  
190 must be completed by Thursday, Feb. 18. The statistics are to be approved by the session so plan  
191 accordingly. There are no changes to the form from last year which should help in gathering the  
192 information. The Stated Clerk will contact clerks of Sessions in January and, if needed, will ask the COM  
193 liaisons to assist in gathering the information and to assist in entering the reports online before the end of  
194 January 2021. In response to questions about reporting worship attendance while churches were closed  
195 down during the pandemic, the GA offices have offered no guidance in how to report such figures.

196 4. NECROLOGY REPORT: The report of elders who died between October 1, 2019 and September 30,  
197 2020 is available and was read during the presbytery meeting today.

198 5. CHURCH INSURANCE INFORMATION: Churches are to provide before November 13, 2020  
199 information on their insurance coverage. Information is to be entered via the online form at  
200 <http://bit.ly/pofins> and churches are to submit one form for each type of insurance the congregation has.

201 **REPORT FROM GENERAL PRESBYTER: Roy Martin**

202 Dr. Martin has continued weekly Wednesday Zoom electronic gatherings of clergy for support and  
203 enrichment. In Summer 2020 he led an online study of the Biblical book Revelation. The Stewardship Task  
204 Force has presented presbytery mission and finance information and the appeal for 2021 financial  
205 commitments to presbytery to fifteen Sessions to date. The presbytery viewed "*Living Into Our Mission,*" a  
206 brief video presenting who we are as The Presbytery of Florida. The Stewardship Task Force asks the  
207 Session to return the 2021 pledge form "The First Fruits," as soon as possible, no later than January 1, 2021

208 **REPORT FROM DOGWOOD ACRES: Ben Powell**

209 Dogwood Acres has hosted no events since March 2020 due to pandemic shut down. With loss of  
210 \$96,000.00 income, DWAC anticipates a \$60,000.00 deficit for 2020. Holding expenditures to only  
211 essential expenses, they have used the down time for updates and needed repairs. The deficit will be covered  
212 from the Rainy Day restricted fund. DWA anticipates hosting the future Pilgrimage Retreats (Cursillo type  
213 events) and with an associated \$10,000 designated gift received, plan to build a new needed storage building.  
214 DWA hopes to host gatherings, Fun Day retreats, church retreats, and summer camps in 2021. Anyone  
215 wishing to contribute funds to Dogwood Acres may send check to the presbytery office or to the Dogwoods  
216 Acres office.

217 **REPORT FROM TREASURER: Denise Vandiver**

218 The Treasurer submitted seventeen pages of reports, balance sheets, and operating statements to the  
219 presbytery meeting packet. She thanked the churches for our financial support in 2020. Year to Date  
220 income is over expenses by \$23,000.00 and Investment income is up 3%. Responding to questions about  
221 the usage/designation of proceeds from the sale of properties (primarily of churches now closed), the  
222 Treasurer offered to share with all congregations the policies approved by the Committee on Presbytery  
223 Administration (CPA) in Spring 2020. Application for used of those funds are available from the CPA.

224 **COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION REPORTS**

225 **REPORT OF THE COORDINATING AND PLANNING COMMISSION: Sharon Schuler**

226 Chairman Schuler called attention to the written report of the CPC and highlighted:

227 Actions taken by the CPC on behalf of the presbytery since the last presbytery meeting

228 CPC Addressed the end of 3-year funding for the General Presbyter position, which will occur on February  
229 28, 2021. Entered a phase of joint deliberations with Roy Martin regarding the future of the Presbytery.

230 Consulted with Synod Executive and Stated Clerk Joyce Lieberman for advice and guidance on the way  
 231 forward in determining the scope of Presbytery leadership for the future.

232 THE CPC RECOMMENDED and the presbytery voted to APPROVE funding and support the Rev. Dr. Roy  
 233 Martin’s call as General Presbyter for one year (Feb. 2021-Feb. 2022). [\*\*\*This time limitation is not due to  
 234 lack of faith in Dr. Martin, but due to the question of funding such a position for Roy or any other person  
 235 over a longer period of time.]

236 Approved requirement that all meetings of the Presbytery committees be held by Zoom.

237 The CPC RECOMMENDED and the presbytery voted to APPROVE a change to the By-Laws to move the  
 238 first meeting of the year to late February beginning 2021. The other meetings will be kept the same – May  
 239 and October. This change provides time for financial reports to be more accurate in planning for the budget.  
 240 “Presbytery will meet a minimum of three times per year (a Winter meeting, Spring meeting, and Fall  
 241 meeting). The CPC will set the dates for the coming year to be announced at the last meeting of the year.”

242 The CPC approved the COM examination and sermon by Candidate Katherine Kubar and celebrated with  
 243 Katherine her upcoming ordination.

244 Filed an application for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for the Presbytery, which has since been  
 245 approved and received.

246 The CPC recommended and the Presbytery APPROVED: the 2020 Budget and a Stewardship plan to be  
 247 implemented in early fall to connect personally with each congregation.

248 Approved honorably retired status to Rev. Joseph Chung, Pastor of First Walton Beach Korean Church, as of  
 249 August 31, 2020.

250 Approved a Four-Phased Re-Gathering Protocol which was sent to congregations of the presbytery to advise  
 251 and assist on their plans for operating during the COVID-19 pandemic.

252 Approved a Reserve Fund Policy from CPA: “On behalf of the Presbytery of Florida, the Committee on  
 253 Presbytery Administration shall establish an invested corpus, the earnings of which shall be reinvested. The  
 254 principle shall be made available as grants to presbytery programs which propose to support congregational  
 255 and/or presbytery development, redevelopment, and/or transformation. Additionally, the equivalent of up to  
 256 one-half of any year’s budget shall be held in reserve for emergency budgetary use and/or to zero-balance  
 257 the current year’s budget before closing the books for that year.”

258 • Definition of Net Proceeds from Property Sales

259 • Definition of Unspent Budgeted Income

260 • Definition of Undesignated Gifts o Definition of Other Unbudgeted Income

261 • Division of Income from the Reserve Fund: “After the equivalent of one-half of the current year’s  
 262 presbytery budget is set aside, which can be used to zero-balance the current year’s budget before closing  
 263 the books for that year, 10% of the remainder shall be set aside for special unbudgeted presbytery projects  
 264 defined by that policy, 50% shall be assigned to the Committee on Congregational Revitalization to be  
 265 used as defined by their policy for such funds, and 40% shall be assigned to the Committee on New  
 266 Congregational Development to be used as defined by their policy. Any growth in the Reserve Fund shall  
 267 be distributed pro rata.”

268 Approved a “Minor Persons and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy” for the Presbytery to minimize the risk  
 269 to minors and vulnerable adults from being subjected to sexual, physical, or mental abuse, and to respect the  
 270 rights and afford due process to persons accused of improper conduct. This policy meets the Book of Order  
 271 requirements for such a policy.

272 Approved a revised Personnel Policy for the Presbytery presented by the Personnel Subcommittee of the  
 273 Committee on Presbytery Administration.

274 After thoughtful discussion, the CPC adopted the following statement and commend it to our congregations  
275 for further discussion and action: “As the leadership of the Presbytery of Florida, we are committing our  
276 time, energy, and prayers to alleviating the issues of systemic racism in our country and in our  
277 communities. We are called to put our faith into action as we engage in positive steps to acknowledge and  
278 understand the need to “dismantle structures that put people in poverty and pain.” (quote from Rev. J.  
279 Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk of the PC(USA), “Vital Congregations Webinar”, June 3, 2020.). If you are  
280 ready to join the work to be done please contact Rev. Trinity Whitley, Associate Pastor Faith Presbyterian,  
281 Tallahassee, at 850-385-6151 or trinity@faithpcusa.org.

282 The CPC approved the Proposed Budget for 2021

283 Granted the status of Honorably Retired to the Rev. Dr. Brant Copeland, First Presbyterian Church,  
284 Tallahassee, effective November 1, 2020.

285 Approved a request from First Presbyterian Church, Fort Walton Beach, to sell a parcel of its property to  
286 Sharing and Caring, Inc.

287 Set dates for Presbytery meetings for 2021:

288 Tuesday, February 23, 2021

289 Saturday, May 22, 2021

290 Tuesday, August 3, 2021

291 Saturday, November 6, 2021

292 All meetings to convene at 9:00 a.m. Central/10:00 a.m. Eastern.

293 Decisions will be made on whether to hold the meetings by Zoom or in person as the state of the coronavirus  
294 threat is evaluated.

295 Ensuing discussion raised the concern of low participation at Saturday presbytery meeting by both clergy and  
296 non-clergy members. The concerns and opinions will be shared with the CPC before final schedule 2021  
297 decisions are made.

298 Adopted revised recommendations to churches for re-gathering for in-person worship under COVID  
299 conditions (*See Appendix*).

## 300 COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR ACTION:

### 301 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (CER): John Kupar

- 302 1. **Disciplefest 2020** will take place over Zoom on **Saturday, November 14 from 9AM – 12PM CST**.  
303 DiscipleFest online is free, but **registration is required**. Rev. Ray Jones of the PMA will be the  
304 worship leader. Music will be provided by the Gulf Breeze Boys of Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church.  
305 Registration forms are available at <https://bit.ly/disciplefest2020>. For a brochure to see workshop  
306 overviews and to print: <http://bit.ly/disciplefestbrochure>. Questions? Contact  
307 [john@fpcpensacola.com](mailto:john@fpcpensacola.com)
- 308 2. Every congregation has been contacted with questions about your needs and requests for assistance  
309 from presbytery. Response has been negligible. Please respond so this committee can best serve you.
- 310 3. Look in each issue the *Panhandle Presbyterian* for book/curriculum/resource reviews to assist your  
311 congregation in your work. To share any resource with the presbytery, contact the committee know.
- 312 4. Gulf Coast Presbyterian Pilgrimage has been postponed until 2021.  
313 The CER is **actively seeking more members** from the eastern district of the presbytery. If you are  
314 interested in helping with any of the responsibilities listed above, please contact CER chair, Rev.  
315 John Kupar at [john@fpcpensacola.com](mailto:john@fpcpensacola.com), or Leslie Yandle, chair of the Committee on Nominations,  
316 [leslie.yandle@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.yandle@gmail.com).

### 317 COMMITTEE ON MISSION AND OUTREACH (CMO): Hugh Hamilton

318 Current initiatives of the CMO include:

- 319 1. Plans for Missions workshops at Presbytery meetings: An educational hour followed by booth set-ups  
320 in dining hall displaying a) mission projects information and b) hosted by General Assembly Mission  
321 Agency staffers, other mission group staffers, and/or local church mission teams with educational

322 displays. GA Mission Staff are trained in such presentations, bring expertise and familiarity with  
323 resources, and travel/present at the expense of GA, without added cost to us. Attendees could learn  
324 what GA does for us, with us. Small group break-out sessions at presbytery at which churches may  
325 share their mission projects/programs and ideas, suggestions. CMO members could facilitate the  
326 small group discussion and idea collection, and the results be reported back to the presbytery in  
327 attendance and to in written summaries to the churches after the meeting. The format may follow a  
328 pattern such as:

- 329 a. What mission work is your congregation doing now?
  - 330 b. What would you like to do/dream of doing?
  - 331 c. What do you need to know, what help do you need, in order to do that?
  - 332 d. How can GA Mission Agency help you? What other mission group offer such help/structure?
- 333 2. Plans to pursue a presbytery-wide partnership in mission: probably partnership overseas via GA  
334 Mission Agency partnerships with existing networks and contact persons. The purposes of a  
335 presbytery-wide project being: 1 ) to boost local congregational engagement and expand their world-  
336 view and awareness of existing mission works, 2) to exposing presbytery to our partners through  
337 travel groups and reciprocal visits to/from our partnership personnel, 3) to engage smaller churches  
338 who cannot do some projects alone, building relationships with other congregations in the presbytery  
339 who share the partnership costs, communications, publicity and reporting back to the congregation.  
340 We are exploring the PCUSA Presbyterian Mission Agency's MISSION HANDBOOK for possible  
341 dissemination to congregations as structure, guidance, and policies for international mission project  
342 partnerships.
- 343 3. District Mission Coordinators: Enlistment of District Mission coordinators/liaisons to share with  
344 neighboring congregations mission information, updates, requests, opportunities.
- 345 4. FLAPDAN: a) Work continues on the new covenant agreement between PDA and FLAPDAN: final  
346 approval is pending in October. B) FLAPDAN Commuter Volunteers program Registration web site  
347 is up and running. Presbytery has access (login and password forwarded to presbytery 8/19) to pull  
348 volunteer search reports by: 1) Presbytery, 2) City, 3) Days available to work, 4) etc., 5) which helps  
349 identify local area available commuter volunteers in event of disaster
- 350 5. Tim Crawford has accepted role as FLAPDAN Presbytery Team Coordinator
- 351 6. FLAPDAN Board of Director's information/status: Three voting members elected from each  
352 Presbytery constitute the corporation Board of Directors; Method/Process of electing FLAPDAN  
353 voting members up to the presbytery; Serve a three-year term and can be elected multiple terms
- 354 7. Self-Development of People: we have spoken with PCUSA leaders of SDOP and Joe Johnson,  
355 Dothan, AL about SDOP about best practices and needed component to reestablish a SDOP  
356 Program in the presbytery. The denominational leaders shared a prevailing sentiment that SDOP may  
357 serve a critical role in fostering discussions of social justice issues in this poignant time in America.  
358 SDOP is poised for the PCUSA's One Great Hour of Sharing Easter offering to provide grants to  
359 Presbyterian social justice advocacy groups.
- 360 The Denominational leaders suggest that before we spend a lot of time and energy developing  
361 SDOP support, we need to establish a SDOP team that fits the priorities and requirements of  
362 SDOP; we will have better success than if our SDOP committee is not a good fit with SDOP  
363 policies and operations. The leaders were especially adamant that we do not allow presbytery to  
364 overrule the SDOP Committee decisions; it sets up the presbytery for divisive discussion and  
365 defeatism on the SDOP Committee. We will work up a SDOP Committee job description to help  
366 with recruitment of interested and passionate members.
- 367 8. **Hunger Action Grants. The CMO approved** a \$2500.00 grant from Presbytery's Two Cents a  
368 Meal Fund Account #4252 in the Texas Presbyterian Foundation Funds to the Defuniak Springs -  
369 First Presbyterian Church Beth's Kids' Closet program. The CMO needs to develop clear guidelines  
370 for approving and allocating funds to grantees who request funds.

371 **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (COM): Mark Broadhead**  
372 **For Information:**



- 373 1. Entered into record email vote approving terms of call for Rev. Margaret Fox, First–Tallahassee  
 374 2. Entered into record the minutes of Examination Commission for Rev. Michael Frease (UKirk)  
 375 3. Reviews were made on our smaller congregations to determine how COM may be of assistance.  
 376 4. Congregations actively seeking called and installed pastors: Euchee Valley – DeFuniak Springs,  
 377 First Korean – Ft. Walton Beach.  
 378 5. The annual presbytery necrology report was read at the October 27 presbytery meeting.  
 379 6. The following new pastors were presented to the presbytery and each shared a bit of his/her  
 380 spiritual journey and call to this new ministry: • Rev. Greta Reed – Honorably Retired; • Rev.  
 381 Margaret Fox – First–Tallahassee; • Rev. Matthew Frease – Tallahassee UKirk.

382 For Action:

- 383 1. The COM recommended and the Presbytery approved the Rev. Dr. Brant S. Copeland (First–  
 384 Tallahassee) be granted the status of Honorably Retired effective November 1, 2020.  
 385 2. The COM recommended that Presbytery approve a recommended increase in salary for 2021 in the  
 386 amount of 0.7% for clergy, and 3.4% for non–clergy. Rationale: Recommended increases are typically based  
 387 on the Board of Pensions’ annual changes in median salaries across the denomination. The Relational  
 388 Ministry Team (RMT) of COM was asked to revisit these figures, especially focusing on the  
 389 minimal increase for clergy. Following their discussion RMT members reconfirmed the original  
 390 recommendation that was in agreement with the Board of Pensions’ figures. The reasoning behind  
 391 this is that the pandemic has affected our congregations financially, and that an increase during  
 392 these extraordinary times is unwise. COM voted nearly unanimously in support of this  
 393 recommendation. After discussion and confusion as to whether COM’s duty to recommend minimum salary  
 394 requirements included annual salary recommendations, and whether those annual recommendations are  
 395 guidelines or requirements, and whether presbytery must approve the recommended salary increases, a  
 396 motion to call the question was approved, and the motion to approve the original of 0.7% increase in salary  
 397 for clergy and 3.4% for non-clergy failed, 41% yes, 59% no.

398 **COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS (CN):** Leslie Yandle

399 The slate of nominations presented by the CN and with additional nominations from the floor:  
 400 Chris Erde to Committee on Ministry Class of 2023 and Trinity Whitley to Vice-Moderator 2021; was  
 401 approved. The Slate is as follows:

402 **Congregational Revitalization**

403	<i>Chair:</i> Rev. Lisa Martin	Minister, First, Lynn Haven	
404	<i>Vice Chair:</i> Rev. Mark Broadhead	Minister, First Crestview/Laurel Hill	
405	Ron Prottzman	Elder- Gulf Beach, Panama City Beach	Class of 2021
406	Harvey Jenkins	HR Minister	Class of 2023
407	Geoff Huddleston	Elder, Gulf Breeze	Class of 2023

408 **Dogwood Acres**

409	<i>Chair:</i> Rev. Bill Lamont	Minister, Gulf Breeze	
410	<i>Vice Chair:</i> Ken Densmore	Elder, First, Pensacola	
411	Lauren Christian	Director of Youth Ministry, Gulf Breeze	Class of 2023
412	Lisa Wilder	Christian Educator, First Quincey	Class of 2023
413	Brant Copeland	HR Minister	Class of 2023

414 **Educational Resources**

415	<i>Chair:</i> Rev John Kupar	Minister, First, Pensacola	
416	<i>Vice Chair:</i> Rev Brian Yount	Minister, Trinity Pensacola	
417	Rev. Chuck Taber	Minister, 1 <sup>st</sup> , DeFuniak Springs	Class of 2023
418	(Vacancy)		

419 **New Congregational Development**  
 420 *Chair:* Rev A. J. Mealor Minister, Fellowship, Tallahassee  
 421 *Vice Chair:* Rev Steve Rhodes Minister, Northminster, Pensacola  
 422 Artie White Elder, Faith Tallahassee Class of 2023

423 **Presbytery Administration**  
 424 *Chair:* Rev Brad Clayton Minister, Faith, Tallahassee  
 425 *Vice Chair:* David Balmer Elder, Gulf Beach, Panama City Beach  
 426 Carol Allman Elder, Christ, Tallahassee Class of 2022  
 427 Grady McDaniel Elder, Grace, Panama City Class of 2023  
 428 Larry Plank CLP, Navarre Class of 2023  
 429 Eric Spoon Minister, Grace, Panama City Class of 2023  
 430 (Vacancy)

431 **Preparation for Ministry**  
 432 *Chair:* Rev. Trinity Whitley Minister, Faith, Tallahassee  
 433 *Vice Chair:* Rev Sheldon Steen Minister, Faith, Tallahassee  
 434 Katherine Kupar Minister, attends First, Pensacola Class of 2023  
 435 Sarah Waby Elder, Gulf Beach, Panama City Beach Class of 2023

436 **Mission and Outreach**  
 437 *Chair:* Rev. Luis Ocasio Minister, 1<sup>st</sup>, Havana  
 438 *Vice Chair:* Rev Hugh Hamilton Minister, Trinity, Pensacola  
 439 Ken Overholt Elder, Northminster, Pensacola Class of 2023

440 **Committee on Ministry**  
 441 *Chair:* Don Mowat Elder, First, Lynn Haven  
 442 *Vice Chair:* Linda Shelley Elder, Faith Tallahassee Class of 2023  
 443 Rev. Joan Wooten Minister, First, Pensacola Class of 2023

444 **COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

445 **COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL REVITALIZATION (CCR):** Lisa Martin

- 446 1. The CCR is reading together Tim Soerens' new book, published just prior to the pandemic:  
 447 *Everywhere You Look: Discovering the Church Right Where You Are.* It's an engaging read which  
 448 may prove helpful as we help congregations ask some of the honest questions of revitalization: •  
 449 What is the culture of our congregation? • Are we at a breakthrough moment or have we begun a  
 450 meltdown? • What inherited practices need to go so the Spirit can stir something new up? • How can  
 451 we be the church in our everyday lives together? • Is the leadership ready and prayerful for a holistic  
 452 revolution?
- 453 2. CCR is creating policies and procedures for the Congregational Revitalization Grant Fund. As we  
 454 partner with congregations that need help securing consistent installed pastoral leadership, our  
 455 goal is to implement policies and procedures that require serious accountability yet also allow for  
 456 the Spirit to move so that wonderful ministry happens in that place.
- 457 3. CCR continues on a Revitalization Toolbox that may be useful for any congregation wanting more of  
 458 a do-it-yourself approach to revitalization. The tools that will be offered are book, video, webinar, in-  
 459 person, and online.
- 460 4. CCR is re-engaging once again with Holy Cow! Consulting, which has had to take a break during  
 461 much of the pandemic. The CAT/Conversation congregational assessment is the first step in much of  
 462 our ministry with congregations. If your session is interested to learn about Holy Cow and what it has  
 463 to offer, contact Lisa Martin.

- 464 **COMMITTEE ON DOGWOOD ACRES (CDWA): NO report**
- 465 **COMMITTEE ON NEW CONGREGATIOANL DEVELOPMENT (CNCD): no report**
- 466 **COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM): no report**
- 467 **COMMITTEE ON PRESBYTERY ADMINSTRATION (CPA): no report**

468 **ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER**

469 The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 1:14PM CDT by The Rev. Mr. Brant Copeland.

470 **NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday February 23,2021

471 Saturday, May 22, 2021

472 Tuesday, August 3, 2021

473 Saturday, November 6, 2021

474 All meetings at 9AM Central/10AM Eastern. Locations/Zoom TBD.

475 Minutes respectfully submitted,

476 Hugh Hamilton,  
477 Recording Clerk

478 Roseanna Phillips, Moderator  
479 Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk  
480 Hugh Hamilton, Recording Clerk

## REGATHERING RECOMMENDATIONS

### CPC of the Presbytery of Florida

The Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC) is aware of the desire that a number of congregations have to resume worship amid the continued threats from Covid-19. We respect those feelings even as we refer congregations to the statistics indicating a continuing rise in the number of cases diagnosed daily in the State of Florida. Mindful that we are all children of God, we wish only the best for our brothers and sisters, and we rejoice that for our world today God has given us the means of communication and compassion to be shared in many ways that glorify God's name.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE** remains the best practice for maintaining consistency and accessibility while continuing to respect those in the congregation who are most at risk for Covid-19 infection. Even if in-person worship is resumed, it is hoped that online worship will continue as well. It is prudent in all cases to shorten services to a maximum of 45 minutes to decrease the time for possible exposure and maintain the highest effectiveness of cleaning procedures.

**SMALL GROUP MEETINGS**, such as Sunday School, Bible study, committee meetings, should remain online.

**OUTDOOR SPACE** is the safest option for gathering. Attendance should be limited to fifty (50) or less, and the proper protocols of hygiene, masking, and social distancing should be observed.

***IF A CONGREGATION PLANS TO RESUME IN-PERSON GATHERING IN A SANCTUARY OR CHURCH BUILDING, the CPC offers the following guidelines as a reminder of the complexity and the responsibility associated with regathering for in-person worship. Before considering any plans to regather, please check with the church's insurance representative about the liability the church assumes if such action is taken.***

**PROMOTE HEALTHY HYGIENE PRACTICES:** Provide an adequate supply of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Encourage attendees to use as they enter and exit the space.

**MASKS:** Masks have been shown to be the single most effective way to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Encourage the use of masks for all persons age 2 and older. Masks are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.

**INTENSIFY CLEANING, DISINFECTION, AND VENTILATION:**

- Clean and disinfect any surfaces in the space such as doorknobs, door push bars, railings, bathrooms, pews, chairs, carpeting. Remember that the space should be cleaned both before and after each service.
- Avoid use of items that are not easily cleaned or sanitized. Remove all hymnals, Bibles, books, paper, and writing instruments from pews. Encourage congregants to bring their own Bible to worship! Use a screen to project words and images or hand out paper bulletins that may be disposed of immediately.
- Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, etc.
- Ensure all water systems and features (drinking fountains, decorative fountains, baptismal fonts) are safe to use after a prolonged shutdown to minimize water-borne diseases.

**PROMOTE SOCIAL DISTANCING:**

- Limit the size of in-person gatherings. Encourage church attendees to reserve a seat by phone or internet prior to the day of the gathering.
- Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or walkways, signs on doors and walls to maintain a distance of six (6) feet apart. On all sides.
- Modify the method used to receive financial contributions. Consider a stationary location for offering plates, baskets, etc. Encourage electronic giving options.
- Suspend traditions of physical contact such as passing the peace, fellowship times, or shaking hands with the pastor.
- Consider using pre-packaged communion elements for use during the Lord's Supper.

**MUSIC:**

- Consider using only piano and/or organ, and no other wind instruments to prevent the spray of saliva into the air.
- Limit congregational singing. If singing is desired, it should be done with masks in place, as singing has been shown to be a primary conduit for the spread of Covid-19.

**NURSERY/CHILDCARE:**

Suspend offering these services because of the difficulties of managing appropriate social distancing and hygiene.

**CONTACT TRACING:**

Ask those worshipping to sign in with name, address, phone, and email. In case a person in attendance becomes sick, this information would be used to contact those who have potentially been exposed to the virus.

**PLAN AHEAD:**

- Be sure to make a plan ahead of time to address the need to protect those who will be gathered together. There are many factors to consider when planning to re-open church building for worship. Each church building is different and each congregation should adhere to a plan that works best for that group.

**Above all, answer the question *“Why are we doing what we are doing?”***

**Are we following our own agenda or God’s?**

**Please refer to the following chart for specific guidelines for indoor worship:**

# RECOMMENDED SACRED SPACE INDOOR USE:

## COVID-19 SAFER STANDARDS CHART SUPPLEMENT

	<b>Indoors</b>
Maximum Number of People	<p>Determined by how many people the meeting space can hold keeping a minimum of six feet apart on all sides. Families from the same household may sit together.</p> <p><i>All numbers include clergy and lay support team members.</i></p> <p>Here is a link to a social distancing room space calculator, which calculates by number of people or by room size:</p> <p><a href="https://www.banquettablespro.com/social-distancing-room-space-calculator">https://www.banquettablespro.com/social-distancing-room-space-calculator</a></p>
Spacing	<p>Designate seating or standing spaces with at least six (6) feet apart on all sides between individuals or families from the same household.</p> <p>At least every other pew/row of chairs cordoned off.</p> <p>Do not seat or position persons directly in front of/behind one another</p>
Duration	<p><b>Forty-five (45) minutes or less</b> total in the space per individual</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>One Way and Traffic Flow Markings</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Yes</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Idea is to keep people from crossing paths head-on; arrows in tape on the floor or signs may help direct traffic into and out of worship space, into and out of seating, and similar.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Online (or Alternative) Signups</b></p> <p>Including name and contact information; can also include signing up for seat/placement locations (for example, SignUp Genius)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Necessary for Contact Tracing Purposes</u></b></p> <p>If no online signups, names and contact information may be recorded by a designated usher such that only one person touches the pen and paper</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Assigned or Recorded Seating/Placement</b></p> <p>This information is necessary for contact tracing so we may let people know if they may have been exposed to COVID-19.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Necessary for Contact Tracing Purposes</u></b></p> <p>If assigned seating is not included in online signups, a designated usher may record along with names and contact information</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Masks</b></p> <p>Church must have masks available for persons who do not bring their own; medical grade masks not required</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Yes</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Choir, Singing,</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>No</b></p>



<p>Chanting</p>	
<p>Musical Instruments</p>	<p><b>Yes</b> -- other than wind instruments, which may <u>not</u> be used</p>
<p>Holy Communion</p>	<p><b>No</b> -- not safe in any form at this time</p>
<p>Offering Plate</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p>Printed Materials</p>	<p><b>No</b> -- not safe at this time  All books and material to be removed from space  (hymnals BCP, pencils, offering cards, etc.)</p>
<p>Processions</p>	<p><b>No</b> -- not safe at this time</p>
<p>Restrooms</p>	<p>Emergency use only</p>

	<p>Post signs at each restroom detailing safer restroom use and safety precautions as necessary. Otherwise cordoned off</p>
<p>Food and Beverages</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p>COVID-19 Contact Tracing Plan</p>	<p><b>Remind those using the indoor space:</b></p> <p><u>Whom to contact</u> at the church if you develop symptoms of COVID-19 and/or test positive within five (5) days after this space use.</p> <p>When such information is reported, (i) others at the gathering may be notified of potential exposure (names will not be shared), (ii) the public health department of the county in which the church is located will be contacted.</p>
<p>Cleaning</p>	<p>Before and after every use, all surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Floors should be mopped and/or vacuumed. Anything left in the pews/chairs should be disposed of. All cleaning should be done wearing latex or similar gloves and masks.</p>
<p>Designated Space and Process for Assisting a Person who</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>If a person exhibits symptoms or indicates illness while in the indoor space, escort the person (from a distance of six (6) feet) to a designated</p>

<p>Exhibits Symptoms or Becomes Ill on Site</p>	<p>outdoor space, from which such person may wait for a ride or otherwise leave the area. Follow contact tracing protocols as appropriate.</p>
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