

1 **Minutes of Winter Stated Presbytery Meeting**
2 **Saturday, January 25, 2020, 9 a.m. CT/ 10 a.m. ET**
3 **First Presbyterian Church of Pensacola, FL**

4 The Presbytery of Florida, Inc., of the Synod of South Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met for a
5 Stated Meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Pensacola, FL, on January 25, 2020.

6 The following 38 ministers and 25 elders were enrolled as commissioners:

7 **Ministers/CLPs:**

8 Michael Askew, Mark Broadhead, Tae Ho Cheong, Brad Clayton, Brant Copeland, Chris Erde, Tanya
9 Fernandes, Steven Graves, Hugh Hamilton, H Eugene Harris, Glenn Hodges, Alan House, James Huffaker,
10 Harvey Jenkins, Kenneth Kelley, Joanne Kublik, John Kubar, Bill Lamont, Lisa Martin, Roy Martin, A. J.
11 Meador, C. K. Moore, Linda Pitts, Larry Plank, Robert Quiring, Steve Rhodes, Jim Rollins, Sharon Schuler,
12 Eric Spoon, Sheldon Steen, Rob Sugg, Charles “Chuck” Taber, Mary Vance, John Wamsley, Kerry
13 Westerwick, Trinity Whitley, Joan Wooten, Brian Yount.

14 **Ruling Elder Commissioners:**

15 **Chipley, First** – Kim Russell
16 **Crestview, First** – Joanne Kublik
17 **Defuniak Springs, Euchee Valley** – Tommy Yates;
18 **Defuniak Springs, First** – Vivian Powell;
19 **Destin, First** – Excused;
20 **Fort Walton Beach, First** – Susan Cook;
21 **Freeport, Freeport** – Unexcused
22 **Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze** –William Preston;
23 **Havana, First** – Unexcused;
24 **Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill** – Brian Hughes;
25 **Lynn Haven, First** – Kevin Jupin;
26 **Marianna, First** – Leslie Kelley;
27 **Milton, First** – Vaunda Leonard;
28 **Navarre, Navarre** – Peggy Humbert;
29 **Panama City, Grace** – James McQuagge;
30 **Panama City, Gulf Beach** – Lorraine Gilmore
31 **Panama City, Parkway** – Unexcused
32 **Panama City, St. Andrews** – Unexcused
33 **Pensacola, First** – Scott R Smith, Dana Anderson;
34 **Pensacola, Korean** – In So Choli;
35 **Pensacola, Northminster** – Unexcused
36 **Pensacola, Trinity** – Pete Clark, Walter Urquhart;
37 **Pensacola-Westminster** – Thomas Sykes;
38 **Red Bay, Red Bay** – excused
39 **Port St Joe, First** – Unexcused
40 **Quincy, First** – Linda Bergman, Vicki Bell;
41 **Tallahassee, Christ** – Linda Lovins
42 **Tallahassee, Faith** - Unexcused
43 **Tallahassee, Fellowship** – Jeannie Dixon;
44 **Tallahassee, First** – Janet Bowman;
45 **Tallahassee, Lafayette** – Denise Vandiver;
46 **Tallahassee, Trinity United** – excused;
47 **Wewahitchka, First: Unexcused**

48 **Christian Educators/Youth Directors:**

49 **Presbytery Staff Members:** Melissa Willis- Administrator; Ben Powell – Dogwood Acres Director; Denise
50 Vandiver – Treasurer; Pam McVety – Caring for Creation Enabler.

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

54 **Visitors:** Bob Gamble - "This Child Here" Mission Work In The Ukraine; John Schuler – Fort Walton
55 Beach -First; Don Mowat – Lynn Haven, First; Ken and Barbara Overholt – Northminster, Pensacola; Ruby
56 Rogers – Pensacola, First; Young Berry – Pensacola, Korean Presbyterian; Pam Dillon – DeFuniak Springs,
57 First; Gerry Yandle – Pensacola, First; Greg Seltzer, Pensacola, First; Chris Rollins – Fort Walton Beach,
58 First; John Guthrie – Tallahassee, First; Greg Greenhaw – Navarre; Jackie Sykes – Pensacola, Westminster;
59 Sandra Winslett – Pensacola, First; Linda Wamsley – Marianna, First; Susan McQuagge – Panama City,
60 Grace; Geoff Huddleston – Gulf Breeze, GBPC; Brad Schild – Pensacola, First; Ann Dent – Panama City,
61 Grace; Lauren Scott - Pensacola, Trinity; Ryan Obray – Pensacola, Trinity.

62 **Visiting Teaching Elders:** Dr. Bob Gamble - "This Child Here" Mission Work In The Ukraine

63 **ABSENCES**

64 **Excused Ministers/CLPs:**

65 John Cole, Tai Cole, Raymond Guterman, John Kelsey, Mary Ellison "Mel" Baars O'Malley; Robert
66 Bohnsack, Taylor Phillips, Emily Proctor, Steven Schaick.

67 **Unexcused Ministers/CLPs:**

68 **Excused Churches:**

69 Chipley, First; Blountstown, First; Destin, First; Gretna; Red Bay; Woodland, Sawdust; Tallahassee, Trinity
70 United.

71 **Unexcused Churches:**

72 DeFuniak Springs, Bethel; Fort Walton Beach, Korean; Freeport, Freeport; Havana, First, Monticello, First;
73 Navarre, Panama City, Parkway; Panama City, St. Andrews; Port St Joe, First; Tallahassee, Faith;
74 Wewahitchka, First.

75 **OPENING PRAYER, QUORUM, DOCKET**

76 The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM CST by moderator Sharon Schuler, a quorum (ten Ministers of
77 Word and Sacrament and ten elders, representing at least ten member congregations) was present, and
78 Moderator Schuler opened the meeting with prayer. The docket was presented by Stated Clerk Jeannie
79 Dixon. Clark Simmons with the BOP is not present so Harvey Jenkins will present a report from the FL
80 Council of Churches in his place. The Committee on Nominations has an item for approval, so their report is
81 moved to follow the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. The docket was approved with no additional
82 changes. Robert Quiring, Pastor – Pensacola-First, welcomed the presbytery to Pensacola - First
83 Presbyterian Church.

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

86 **MORNING WORSHIP AND COMMUNION** was led by the host pastor the Rev. Robert Quiring,
87 Director of Music Tina Buran, and the Rev. Sharon Schuler, who preached on Matthew 4: 18-22 and 28:16-
88 20, “Now It Begins.” After a humorous exploration on New Year’s resolutions and childhood memories,
89 Rev. Schuler offered an intriguing look at changes and challenges in our presbytery the last decade, the
90 success of our renewal efforts to revitalize our presbytery. Rev. Schuler then challenged us and inspired us
91 to build on the progress to-date, reminding us that we cannot rest on our laurels, we must build on the
92 improvements and brighter prospects in our presbytery. Now the real work begins! Maintain the momentum,
93 continue the good work in our communities, witness Jesus Christ, preach the gospel, work together to enrich
94 the vineyard, enrich our work together! The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was shared, and music by the
95 chancel choir inspired us.

96 **INSTALLATION OF MODERATOR:** During worship Ruling Elder Roseanna Phillips (Pensacola, First)
97 was installed as Moderator of the Presbytery of Florida, and the presbytery thanked outgoing moderator The
98 Rev. Sharon Schuller for her year of dedicated service.

99 **APPOINTMENTS:** none

100 **PARTNER REPORTS:**

101 **REPORT FROM UKIRK-TALLAHASSEE: Sheldon Steen**

102 Area college students are attending the Montreat, NC College Conference 2020, Sunday Night worship is
103 being led by student ministry team; Calvin’s Coffee House continues to give students space, format and
104 freedom for discussion, questions, and challenges in living the Christian faith in this modern era college
105 culture. Twelve coffee baristas are on staff and the Presbyterian UKirk Student center remains a loud, fun,
106 boisterous, enriching place, using social and print media to invite students “Come See Us!” Rev. Steen then
107 recognized UKirk alumni attending presbytery to represent their churches and to be recognized as
108 seminarians.

109 **REPORT FROM FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES: Harvey Jenkins**

110 Mr. Jenkins written report in the agenda highlighted the FCC’s continued work in support and advocacy for
111 resettling refugees of war, violence, world hunger, and civil strife. The theological imperative of Leviticus
112 19:34, “Any alien who lives among you is to be treated like a citizen” and Hebrews 13:2, “do not neglect to
113 show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels unaware,” still challenges the
114 church to be engaged in this ministry. The number of refugees worldwide by 2060 is estimated to reach 1
115 billion. The FCC delegation met with staffers from Florida’s Governor’s Office to urge Governor Santos to
116 sign the required consent letter from the Department of State to allow continued refugee settlement in
117 Florida. Six of our 50 governors have not responded to an Executive Order to sign the letter; 43 governors
118 have signed the EO to comply and thereby continue to receive refugees in their states. If Governor Santos
119 does not sign the letter of compliance, Florida cannot continue to receive refugees. The FCC urges Sessions
120 to contact the governor’s and county offices to seek compliance, so that we may continue to offer welcome,
121 hospitality, and protection to those immigrants and refugees who seek a safe haven and to give back to the
122 communities that welcome them in Jesus’ name.

123 **COMMISSIONING OF COMMISSIONERS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY JUNE 2021 IN**
124 **BALTIMORE, MD**

125 The following were duly commissioned and set apart by prayer for service to the General Assembly of the
126 PC(USA) June 2020 in Baltimore, MD

127 Teaching Elder: Brad Clayton, Tallahassee-Faith
128 Alternate TE: Sharon Schuler, Fort Walton Beach, First
129 Ruling Elder: Jo Kublik, DeFuniak Springs – First
130 Alternate RE: Linda Lovins, Tallahassee, Christ
131 Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) Ryan Obray, Pensacola-Trinity.

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

133 The Stated Clerk reported

134 1. Annual Statistics, Session Clerks have until Thursday, Feb. 20, to enter the statistics for 2019, and
135 asked that clerks report membership numbers, as this will affect the amount of shared support/per capita
136 your congregation will be asked to pay in 2021.

137 2. 2019 Session Record Review: The COM Relational Ministries Team will conduct a review of
138 the 2019 session records following soon. Churches were asked to bring the minutes to today's
139 meeting to facilitate that.

140 3. *Commissioners to Presbytery for 2020*

141 Article III of the By-Laws of the Presbytery of Florida provide for one ruling elder commissioner
142 from each congregation. Churches with membership above 500 are entitled to additional
143 commissioners.

144 Of our 39 congregations, 4 have membership between 501-1000 who are entitled to two ruling elder
145 commissioners: Pensacola, First; Pensacola, Trinity; Quincy, First; and Tallahassee, Faith.
146 This will provide for 43 ruling elder commissioners.

147 Article III further states: *each ruling elder elected moderator or other officer of the presbytery, each ruling
148 elder elected as a member of the leadership team of presbytery or as chairperson of the nominating
149 committee, and each ruling elder elected as coordinating presbyter or associate presbyter (when applicable)
150 and exempt staff (when applicable) shall be enrolled as a member of presbytery for the term of his or
151 her office, whether or not commissioned by his or her session.*

152 The ruling elders for 2020 service that would be included in this count are Roseanna Phillips, Leslie
153 Yandle, W.O. Bell, Ken Densmore, Denise Vandiver (Treasurer), Jeannie Dixon (Stated Clerk), Ben Powell
154 (Director, Dogwood Acres).

155 That gives a total of 50 ruling elders. The number of ministers of Word and Sacrament is 27 plus 9 ministers
156 serving at-large plus 2 from other traditions enrolled as members plus 4 Commissioned Ruling Elders.

157 There are 41 retired ministers of Word and Sacrament, with the expectation that 12 will be active and 8 will
158 request to be inactive in 2020. This results in 54 ministers of Word and Sacrament; there is an imbalance of
159 ministers of Word and Sacrament to ruling elders. This calls for paragraph 4 of Article III:

160 When the number of resident Ministers of Word and Sacrament entitled to vote in the presbytery is
161 greater than the number of elders so entitled, the presbytery shall redress this imbalance annually by
162 providing for the election, appointment, or selection of additional elders, paying special attention to the
163 concerns of Book of Order (G-3.0103).

164 However, due to confusion over the reporting to be considered inactive, the clerk continues to work on
165 these numbers.

166 4. Insurance Coverage

167 The Committee on Presbytery Administration has asked the Stated Clerk to gather information from
168 each congregation on insurance coverage. A Google Form for submitting that information can be found
169 at <http://bit.ly/pofins>. You may either complete the form online OR email the requested information to
170 statedclerk@presbyteryofflorida.com. The requested information includes type(s) of insurance,
171 coverage amount, deductible. Please include the name of the church (including city), name of the
172 person submitting the information and your position at the church. Please complete the requested
173 information as soon as possible. As of January 4, 2020, 12 churches had responded with the requested
174 information.

175 5. Annual Necrology
176 To facilitate the submission of names for the annual Necrology report, an online form has been created.
177 Information may be submitted throughout the year via the form <http://bit.ly/pofnecro> to complete the
178 information. The receipt of the information via email in October will be requested for those not
179 submitting via the form.

180 6. 2020 Stated Meetings of Presbytery:
181 Saturday, Jan. 25, at First, Pensacola,
182 Tuesday, May 19, at First, DeFuniak Springs.
183 Tuesday, Oct. 27, at First, Tallahassee.

184 7. Communications received by Presbytery
185 a) Florida Council of Churches Report on Refuges – Harvey Jenkins
186 b) Synod of South Atlantic Association of Smaller Congregations’ 33rd Annual Conference and
187 Retreat – Joyce Lieberman

188 8. Rolls of Presbytery as of 12-31-2019:

189 **The following ministers of Word and Sacrament are members of the Florida Presbytery engaged in a**
190 **validated ministry (G-2.0503a):**

191 Mel Baars, Rob Bohnsack, Mark Broadhead, Tae Ho Cheong, Joseph Chung, Samuel Bradley Clayton,
192 Brant Copeland, Chris Erde, Stephen Graves, Hugh Hamilton, John Kelsay, John Kubar, William
193 Lamont, Lisa Martin, Roy Martin, A.J. Mealor, Charles K. Moore, Luis Ocasio, Taylor Phillips, Robert
194 Quiring, Leo Sandon, Steven Schaick, Sharon Schuler, Charles Taber, John Wamsley, Trinity Joy Whitley,
195 Brian Yount. (27)

196 **The following ministers of Word and Sacrament are members-at-large of the Florida Presbytery (G-**
197 **2.0503b):**

198 Jae Wan Chung, James Duncan, Raymond Guterman, Pamela King-Phillips, Linda Pitts, Emily Rose
199 Proctor, Sheldon Steen, Robert Sugg, Joan Wooten. (8)

200 **The following ministers of Word and Sacrament are honorably retired members of the Florida**
201 **Presbytery (G-2.0503c):**

202 Barry Arnold, Michael Askew, Glenn Bass, Frank Beall, Bill Bess, Don Brown, Lewis Bullard, Reid
203 Cameron, Ted Chumley, Terry Dyer, Jonas Georges, Al Harris, Gene Harris, Kathleen Hodgson, Harry
204 Horne, James Huffaker, Dolores Ingraham, Owen Ireland, Harvey Jenkins, Hal Jensen, Hubert Johnston,
205 Fred Keith, Kenneth Kelley, Charles Lapp, Bill Lee, Ruth Mashewske, Steven Melamed, Dan Mitchell,
206 Lindsay Moffett, James Monroe, Durl Odom, Clarence Payne, Luther Price, Albert Reese, James Rollins,
207 Morris Springer, James Stansbury, James Urquhart, Mary Vance, Ezra Yune. (40; xx actively participating)

208 **The following are ministers from other Christian traditions who have been enrolled as members of the**
209 **Florida Presbytery:**

210 Richard Conner — ELCA and Temporary Supply at Parkway Presbyterian Church;
211 Emory Hingst — ELCA and Parish Associate at First Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee

212 **The following are Ruling Elders currently commissioned for service within the Presbytery:**

213 Tonya Fernandes — Navarre
214 Glenn Hodges — Port St. Joe
215 Alan House — Gretna/Woodland
216 Larry Plank — Navarre

217 **Annual Report on Christian Educators as of December 31, 2019**

218 The following Christian Educators meet the provisions outlined in the By-Laws (Article IV, #5) to have
219 voice at Presbytery Meetings: (certified Christian Educators or Christian Educators who have five or more
220 years paid church related Christian Education experience)

221 Christy Williams — First Presbyterian, Tallahassee (CCE)

222 Laurice Andrews — First Presbyterian, DeFuniak Springs (5+ years)

223 Jason Williams — Grace Presbyterian, Panama City (5+ years)

224 **The following Christian Educators meet the provisions outlined in the By-Laws (Article IV, #5) to**
225 **have voice and vote at Presbytery Meetings:** (certified Christian Educators who are also ruling elders, or
226 Christian Educators who have five or more years paid church related Christian Education experience and
227 also ruling elder)

228 Jeannie Dixon — Tallahassee (CCE and RE)

229 Carol Deloach Christ Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee (5+ years and RE)

230 Shannon Guse — Faith Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee (5+ years and RE)

231 Lisa Wilder — First Presbyterian, Quincy (5+ years and RE)

232 **The following Christian Educators are currently employed by churches within the bounds of the**
233 **Florida Presbytery:**

234 Lauren Christian — Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church

235 Sarah Usan — First, Pensacola

236 **REPORT FROM GENERAL PRESBYTER: ROY MARTIN**

237 1. Dr. Martin has now preached in all churches in the presbytery and in 2020 wants just to worship and
238 visit with all congregations.

239 2. Dr. Martin highlighted the Synod of South Atlantic 2019 efforts in support of new church
240 developments (NCD) and transformation/renewal of existing congregations, with emphasis on
241 racial/ethnic congregations.

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

243 Mr. Powell emphasized that

244 1. Dogwood Acres is fully vested in hurricane restoration efforts in the Florida Panhandle.

245 2. In February 2020, over sixty volunteers from presbyteries in Iowa and from three Atlanta, GA,
246 churches will be housed at DWA assisting with Long Term Recovery Groups (LTRG) in our area.

247 3. Three new recreational vehicle (RV) sites are being added to the existing two at DWA to host
248 mission groups traveling in RV's. A grant from United Way will pay for the construction of the new
249 sites.

250 4. Emma Hodges is the new program director at DWA both for retreats and summer conferences.

251 5. DWA is hosting a camp for OASIS, a health services group specializing with support to HIV/AIDS
252 Patients, their families and care givers. Hugh Hamilton, Pastor, Pensacola-Trinity, reported on
253 Trinity's grant to help OASIS purchase and equip a mobile testing van to serve a three-county area in
254 the West District. Since mobilizing to rural communities to serve the most vulnerable and
255 stigmatized population, in 18 months OASIS testing has increased 300% and those persons indicating
256 test-positive have been referred to proper medical diagnosis, treatment, support and care. OASIS is a
257 prime educational, testing, and support program with contacts to regional entities serving HIV/AIDS
258 awareness and help. DWA is a positive example of support services from the church community.

259 **REPORT FROM BOOKKEEPER/TREASURER: Denise Vandiver**

260 Ms. Vandiver highlighted the new format of financial reports submitted (See attached documents), hopefully
261 a clearer, easier to understand report. The financial team of presbytery has focused the last three years on

262 increasing our churches' funding to presbytery and bettering our returns on investments while ensuring the
263 security of our investments.

264 **FINAL REPORT OF THE PACE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION: Joan Wooten**

265 Since October 2019, the Commission accomplished the following:

- 266 1. Closed the church's remaining bank accounts and the balance of \$8,645.21 was deposited to the
267 Presbytery's reserve funds.
- 268 2. Ensured delivery of W-2 forms to employees of the New Beginnings preschool.
- 269 3. In accordance with G-3.0107, contacted the Presbyterian Historical Society regarding shipment of
270 Pace church records for archiving.
- 271 4. With tax year 2019 obligations satisfied, application for dissolution of the corporation is being made
272 prior to the annual report filing date of February 21, 2020.

273 There being no further business associated with the congregation and corporation, the presbytery approved
274 the AC's request to be dissolved and thanked the members of the Pace Administrative Commission for their
275 valiant and compassionate work.

276 Team members: Joan Hedrich Wooten, Chair; Robin Akerman (Pensacola-Trinity), Cam Massengill
277 (Pensacola-Trinity) and Mike Wiggins (Pensacola-First).

278 **11:00 ORDER OF THE DAY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES TEAM: John**
279 **Kupar**

280 **Group Discussions/Case Studies:** Commissioners and guests gathered in three groups per their interest
281 and choice to discuss three case scenarios. After forty-five minutes of discussions, the groups reconvened
282 and shared their observations/recommendations.

283 **Case Study One:**

284 Over the past fifteen years there have been many leadership changes in this 100+ year old church.
285 Previously, the church had the same, much loved and respected pastor for 25+ years. The church thrived
286 under his leadership. Since his retirement, there have been numerous interim pastors and of course, a variety
287 of pulpit supply preachers. There have also been several installed pastors serving an average of 3 years. Even
288 though it is warm and welcoming, the church has never quite recovered its "glory days." Newer members
289 have heard all the tales of how great things were back in the day and how wonderful the old preacher was.
290 When there are new leaders, including pastors, Christian educators, elders, and committee chairs, each new
291 idea is met with, "That's not how we've always done it!" or, "We did something like that back then..." It's
292 frustrating, discouraging and perhaps a contributing factor in the high turnover rate.

- 293 • How can the church move forward when so many are stuck in the past?
- 294 • How can the church honor its past while looking forward to the next decade or more?
- 295 • What can a new pastor do to help him/herself when coming into a church with a "storied" past?

296 Observations/Suggestions were:

- 297 ➤ LISTEN: There is much need for listening, getting to know the congregation's oral history and the
298 bigger stories behind the stories.
- 299 ➤ LEADERSHIP: The Session's leadership needs to be diverse and inclusive, allowing new officers
300 and members freedom to speak and act, to suggest, while appreciating the older members' history,
301 efforts, and contributions. Validate and yet allow change. Blending of new ideas with old passions,
302 not abruptly ending or disparaging old ways and practices.
- 303 ➤ There is no mention of presbytery – perhaps you need to reach out to Committee on Ministry and
304 others to address the issues and what new thing God is calling us to be and do.

- 305 ➤ MISSION: Create a timeline of the decades when things were good and what we were doing, and ask
306 what is God now asking us to do to lead us into a preferred future? What does the pastor need to do
307 to get us focused on a mission? What do the Elders need to do? The Deacons need to do? The
308 Presbyterian Women to do? Other leaders/groups need to do?

309 **Case Study Two:** A couple in the congregation moved to the area in the 1990's for their retirement and
310 donated their piano to the church. The piano was a wedding present that held significant meaning for the
311 couple. It was not the main piano used in the sanctuary, but in another room of the church used only on
312 special occasions. The couple planned to stay in the area for the remainder of their lives. As they aged and
313 became unable to completely care for themselves, they sought assistance from their children. Their children
314 offered to help only if they moved to their city, over one thousand miles away. With no other choice for their
315 wellbeing, the couple agreed to move. The couple then requested that the piano be returned to them so that
316 they could take it to a new faith community in their new town. The couple spoke with a tax lawyer and
317 offered to pay back the tax deduction received in the 90's, as well as moving expenses for the piano to be
318 moved this month. With no policy about gifts in place and no inventory of current assets of the church, the
319 session is approached with this request.

320 Observations/Suggestions were:

- 321 ➤ This group consisted of treasurers, clerks, pastors, and one attorney.
322 ➤ Don't assign a value to the piano/gift, just thank them for the gift. Tell them to consult their own tax
323 attorney to assign value to their donation.
324 ➤ Let them have the piano free of charge as a good will gesture. They will speak more favorably of the
325 church.
326 ➤ Tell them, Tough luck, it's ours, but thank you anyway.

327 **Case Study Three:**

328 Several months have passed since the new class of elders have come on board. This new class was excited
329 about the opportunity to serve their church and felt honored to be entrusted with this important role and
330 responsibility. They expected to learn a lot along the way, but it has been a bit disheartening that after several
331 months they don't know exactly what they should be doing. It seems that the other elders are engaged and
332 staying plenty busy, so they don't want to make more work for them or the pastor by speaking up and asking
333 for some clarification. As more time goes by it becomes easier to skip out on meetings than to show up and
334 contribute nothing. Many of these elders are feeling that the church gets by just fine without them, since no
335 one has asked them to take on a project or committee. This wasn't what many expected, but they wonder if
336 their expectations were wrong from the beginning.

- 337 • Identify several things that took place or didn't take place that left these new elders feeling lost and
338 disengaged.
339 • How can the session help elders make the transition onto session?

340 Observations/Suggestions were:

- 341 ➤ Ask yourselves what went wrong? Were no expectations expressed in writing by the Nominating
342 Team, no general duties explained, no time expectations clarified?
343 ➤ You need good clear, concise job descriptions for officers, team/committees, and volunteers.
344 ➤ A stronger pre-ordination/installation education program is needed. Include responsibilities of
345 committee leaders and members, Book of Order stipulations of the Session's responsibilities and Elder
346 expectations.
347 ➤ Elders need the bigger picture of the work of the congregation and how new Elders/members are to
348 become engaged in that work.

- 349 ➤ You must tell present committees/teams/leaders that they must allow changes or suggestions or even
350 different styles of doing the same tasks, else they risk minimizing and demoralizing new Elders and
351 committee members, and thereby drive them away from giving you the very “help” you say you
352 want.
- 353 ➤ To help people feel they are part of something big, stress that they need to take on projects that are 1)
354 New, 2) Meaningful, 3) Risky. People feel most alive, most productive, when meeting challenges
355 that fit all three criteria.
- 356 ➤ Might members of presbytery collectively and repeatedly present officer training for combined old
357 and new officers, each Fall and each Spring for those churches who elect officers in Fall/Spring.
358 Perhaps develop a cadre of presenters with a specialty in the identified and targeted areas of needed
359 officer training and offer combined churches officer training by districts in the presbytery, with
360 Elders/Deacons then offering back-home training or planning unique to their congregation.

361 **12:00 NOON LUNCH BREAK**

362 **1:00 PM REPORTS OF COMMITTEES REQUIRING ACTION:**

363 **REPORT OF THE BILLS AND OVERTURES COMMITTEE: A. J Mealor**

364 The Bills and Overtures Committee presented five overtures from other presbyteries seeking concurrence in
365 order to present the overture to General Assembly 2020 for action.

366 **1. *Overture-002 on establishing the authority of Presbyteries to define severance plans for installed***
367 ***ministers:***

368 **The Presbytery of Beaver-Butler overtures the 224th General Assembly (2020) to direct the**
369 **Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their**
370 **affirmative or negative votes: Shall G-3.0303c be amended as follows: [Text to be added is**
371 **shown as italic.] “c. establishing minimum compensation standards, *including provisions for***
372 ***severance payments*, for pastoral calls and Certified Christian Educators and Certified**
373 **Associate Christian Educators within the presbytery;”**

374 After discussion, the presbytery voted to concur.

375 **2. *Overture-007 on streamlining the sale of property given to a congregation as a gift to fund ministry***
376 ***and mission:***

377 **The Presbytery of Savannah overtures the 224th General Assembly (2020) to direct the Stated**
378 **Clerk to send the following amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative**
379 **votes:**

380 **1. Shall G-1.0503d be amended as follows? [Text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]**
381 **“d. buying, mortgaging, or selling real property (*with the exception as provided in G-4.0206a*);**
382 **2.. Shall G-4.0206a be amended as follows? [Text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]**
383 **“a. A congregation shall not sell, mortgage, or otherwise encumber any of its real property and**
384 **it shall not acquire real property subject to an encumbrance or condition without the written**
385 **permission of the presbytery transmitted through the session of the congregation. *Property received***
386 ***by a congregation in the form of a gift, such gift intended for the purpose of funding ministry and***
387 ***mission activities, shall be exempted from this requirement if listed for sale within ninety days of***
388 ***receipt.*”**

389 After discussion, the presbytery voted to concur.

390 **3. *Overture-018 on amending G-2.0804 regarding PC(USA) paid family leave.***

391 **The Presbytery of Hudson River overtures the 224th General Assembly (2020) to direct the**
392 **Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their**

393 affirmative or negative votes: Shall G-2.0804 be amended to read as follows: [Text to be
394 inserted is shown as italics.]

395 “The terms of call shall always meet or exceed any minimum requirement of the presbytery in
396 effect when the call is made. The session shall review annually the minister’s terms of call and
397 shall propose for congregational action (G-1.0501) such changes as the session deems
398 appropriate, provided that they meet the presbytery’s minimum requirements. The call shall
399 include paid family leave of at least twelve weeks, including, but not limited to, leave for birth
400 of a child, adoption, care of a sick family

401 After discussion and after division in the voice vote, by standing vote (31 aye, 22 no) the presbytery
402 voted to concur.

403 4. **Sponsored overtures from Session of First Presbyterian Church- Tallahassee**

404 *Overture-013 on fossil fuel divestment*

405 The Presbytery of Monmouth overtures the 224th General Assembly (2020) to:

406 1. Recognize that fossil fuels have been used by humans to create a better world for many
407 people and that the time of their usefulness is now over.

408 2. Recognize that divestment from fossil fuels is a viable approach to the climate
409 emergency, which thousands of other institutions have used to hold the fossil fuel I industry
410 accountable for their inadequate responses to this emergency.

411 3. Commend Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) for their ongoing work with
412 shareholder engagement to hold these industries accountable to the just and equitable values
413 that Presbyterians seek to uphold.

414 4. Call on the PC(USA), The Presbyterian Foundation, the Board of Pensions, and the
415 Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc., to divest from the fossil fuel industry, using
416 the Carbon Underground 200 and the S&P Global Industry Classification Standard’s list of
417 publicly traded companies engaged in coal, oil, and gas exploration, extraction, and production
418 as the criteria to identify which companies are considered to be fossil fuel companies.

419 5. Proscribe (stop) any new investments in fossil fuel industry securities.

420 6. Instruct the Presbyterian Mission Agency, through MRTI, to correspond through form letter
421 to all fossil fuel companies and presbyteries in which they are headquartered of the action and
422 the theological and moral rationale for this decision.

423 7. Encourage the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation to
424 actively seek out and invest in securities of companies whose predominant focus is in
425 renewable and/or energy efficiency.

426 8. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency, through MRTI, to monitor the Board of
427 Pensions and Presbyterian Foundation on actions to divest/invest and to report to the 225th
428 General Assembly (2022) on their progress in implementing Recommendations 4-7.

429 A team from Tallahassee-First presented their rationale for supporting this proposed amendment giving 1)
430 An explanation of what divestment is and is not (John Guthrie); 2) environmental reasons we should divest
431 (Pam McVety); and 3) theological rationale for divestment (Brant Copeland).

432 Upon motion, discussion, and vote by written ballot, the presbytery voted (31 aye, 30 no) to concur with
433 Overture 13.

434 3. *Overture-021 on affirming the United Nations framework convention on climate change (Paris
435 Agreement)*

436 The Presbytery of Seattle overtures the 224th General Assembly (2020) to continue
437 advocacy for action against global warming with these steps:

- 438 1. **Direct the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to sign the “We Are Still In” Declaration**
439 **to affirm that the PC(USA) supports the Paris Agreement. Forty-seven faith organizations,**
440 **including the PC(USA)’s Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment**
441 **(MRTI) and Second Presbyterian Church NYC have already signed this declaration.**
442 2. **Direct the Stated Clerk to request that Congress and the president of the United States**
443 **deliver on our existing commitments to the Paris Agreement.**
444 3. **Direct the Stated Clerk to request that Congress and the president of the United States**
445 **revoke the withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. The earliest possible withdrawal date is**
446 **November 4, 2020; a revocation can occur at any time before that date.**
447 4. **Direct the Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) to**
448 **a. inform the larger public of the passage and implementation of this overture and**
449 **b. send an email to all presbyteries directing them to email all churches, with a CC to youth**
450 **groups, of the passage and implementation of this overture, and include a link to an updated**
451 **guide⁶ for families and churches to go carbon neutral as a bold Christian witness to help**
452 **combat the effects of global warming.**

453 After discussion of the overture, the presbytery, by standing vote (37 aye, 17 no) voted to concur with the
454 overture.

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

456 The CPC approved on behalf of the Presbytery of Florida without dissent by email vote on January 25, 2020:

- 457 1. Linda Lovins (Elder, Christ, Tallahassee) to serve a three-year term on the Committee on
458 nominations.
459 2. Execution of an easement agreement granting the City of Gulf Breeze, FL the ability to maintain
460 improvements made by the city on a small portion of the property of Gulf Breeze Presbyterian
461 Church.

462 **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY: Mark Broadhead**

463 **For Information:** The COM has:

- 464 • Received Rev. Tai Cole as a member at large (Tallahassee area) with the Presbytery of Florida pending
465 release from Chicago Presbytery. Added to Pulpit Supply list
466 • Received Rev. John Cole as a member at large (Tallahassee area) with the Presbytery of Florida pending
467 release from Chicago Presbytery. Added to Pulpit Supply list.
468 • Received Rev. Kerry Westerwick as a member at large (Wewahitchka area) with the Presbytery of
469 Florida pending release from Eastern Virginia Presbytery. Added to the Pulpit Supply list.
470 • The committee examined Rev. William Eric Spoon as a candidate for the pastor of Panama City – Grace.
471 Eric was received as a member of the Presbytery of Florida and as pastor of the congregation pending an
472 affirmative congregational vote and release from Holston Presbytery.
473 • Added Rev. Linda Pitts to pulpit supply list.
474 • Voted to release Rev. Beth McCall to Glacier Presbytery.
475 • Entered into record the affirmative email vote on 2020 COM asking budget.
476 • Approved the Parish Associate Agreement between Pensacola–First and Rev. Dr. Joan Wooten.
477 • Received the triannual report from Rev. Ted Houston – Tallahassee–Trinity United.
478 • Approved an update to the Temporary Supply contract between Rev. Dan Mitchell and Chipley– First to
479 June 30, 2020.
480 • MIF from Euchee Valley was passed to the Pastoral Transition Team for their review.
481 • It was learned that Greg Selzer is not a Minister of Word & Sacrament as originally thought but is a
482 Ruling Elder and has served as a CLP (Baltimore Presbytery). Minutes of the September meeting will be
483 amended to reflect this information. Greg will be added to pulpit supply list once he joins a local
484 congregation.

- 485 • Information on Monticello, Korean NCD–Tallahassee, Parkway, St. Andrews, Bethel, Milton, and
- 486 Blountstown was updated.
- 487 • Approved Stated Supply Contract between Rev. Eugene Harris and Freeport.
- 488 • Approved the Validated Ministry request of Rev. Emily Proctor to serve as Director of Caring and
- 489 Sharing of South Walton County. She will also continue her role as Community Chaplain under this
- 490 organization.
- 491 • Approved the Validated Ministry request for Katherine Kupar in her position with United Ministries in
- 492 Pensacola. This provides the opportunity for her to be examined for ordination to this ministry.
- 493 • Approved Erin Rosica to be on the pulpit supply list.
- 494 • Several members of COM attended training January 3 – 4 for Holy Cow! consultant training in
- 495 conjunction with the Committee on Congregational Revitalization.

496 **Items for Action**

- 497 1. COM requests that Rev. Terry Dyer be granted Honorably Retired status effective September 11,
- 498 2011. During the time of his medical retirement, this was overlooked.
- 499 *The request was approved by the presbytery.*
- 500 2. Introduction of New Pastors to the Presbytery:
- 501 COM Chair Broadhead introduced Rev. William Eric Spoon, Pastor at Panama City – Grace.
- 502 To be introduced later and new Members at Large the Rev. John Cole and the Rev. Tai Cole
- 503 (Members–at–Large Tallahassee)

504 **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY: Trinity Whitley**
 505 **For Information: The CPM**

- 506 1. Approved Candidate Riley Pickett as certified to receive a call pending her completion of her MDiv
- 507 and our review and approval of her PIF.
- 508 2. Approved Inquirer Lauren Scott (Pensacola, Trinity) for candidacy.
- 509 3. Approved Eddy White, CLP (commissioned lay pastor transferred to our presbytery from St. James
- 510 Presbytery) as ready to be an authorized Ruling Elder in our presbytery, and recommended him to
- 511 COM.
- 512 4. Upon CPM recommendation, the CPC approved as readers for the February 2020 standard written
- 513 ordination exams Ruling Elder Jeannie Dixon and Minister of Word and Sacrament Harry Horne
- 514 (HR)
- 515 5. The following are in good standing as Candidates: Erin Rosica, Lauren Scott
- 516 6. The following are Certified Ready to Receive a Call: Shelby Baxter-Andrews, Riley Pickett

517 **For Action**

518 The CPM presented Lauren Scott for approval as a Candidate for the Ministry under care of the Presbytery.

519 After sharing of her faith journey/call story and questions and affirmations by members of the presbytery,

520 Miss Scott was approved unanimously by the presbytery and her pastor Hugh Hamilton prayed God’s

521 blessings on Miss Scott as she continues her theological education at Columbia Theological Seminary,

522 Decatur, GA.

523 **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS: Leslie Yandle**

524 **For information:** The following were elected by the Coordinating and Planning Commission on Jan. 9,

525 2020: Committee on Dogwood Acres

526 Ken Densmore, Elder, 1st Presbyterian Church of Pensacola – Chair

527 Bill Lamont, Minister, Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church – Vice Chair

528 **For Action:** The presbytery voted to approve Ruling Elder Don Mowat (Lynn Haven) as Commissioner to

529 the Synod of South Atlantic.

530 **COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

531 **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE on CHURCH REVITALIZATION (CCR): Lisa Martin**

532 For information:

533 On January 3 and 4, CCR, in partnership with COM, hosted a training event for those interested in answering
534 the call to serve as interpreters for the Holy Cow! Consulting's CATWalk, a tool that “holds a mirror up to a
535 congregation” by way of an 85-question survey meant to ascertain their current health (and in some cases
536 possibility for change).

537 Those “Interpreters” are available to begin “conversations” with our Sessions and Congregations to explore
538 partnerships in the Holy Cow! Process of in-house revitalization, personal and corporate spiritual renewal,
539 and program and ministries renewal. These interpreters and conversations are especially helpful to
540 congregations in the pastoral search process.

541 Those trained were:

- 542 • Linda Shelley, Elder, Faith (Tallahassee)
- 543 • Mark Broadhead, Minister, First Crestview and Laurel Hill (Crestview)
- 544 • Don Mowat, Elder, First (Lynn Haven)
- 545 • John Guthrie, Elder, First (Tallahassee)
- 546 • Ruth Mashewske, Minister, First (Quincy)
- 547 • Mary Vance, Minister, Member at Large (Tallahassee)
- 548 • Harvey Jenkins, Minister, Member at Large (Panama City Beach)
- 549 • Jo Kublik, Authorized Ruling Elder, First (Crestview)
- 550 • Catherine Spears, Elder, First (Crestview)
- 551 • Shelia Clark, Elder, Gulf Beach (Panama City Beach)
- 552 • Linda Lovins, Elder, Christ (Tallahassee)
- 553 • Mary Keyt, Elder, Faith (Tallahassee)
- 554 • David Dick, Elder, Navarre (Navarre)
- 555 • Ron Prottzman, Elder, Gulf Beach (Panama City Beach)
- 556 • John Wamsley, Minister, First (Marianna)
- 557 • Geoff Huddleston, Authorized Ruling Elder, Gulf Breeze (Gulf Breeze)
- 558 • Roy Martin, Minister, Presbytery of Florida (Chipley)
- 559 • Lisa Martin, Minister, First (Lynn Haven)

560 CCR meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at presbytery office. Our goal for 2020 is to begin using the
561 CATWalk (or Conversation for congregations of fewer than 40 in regular worship attendance),
562

563 **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRESBYTERY ADMINISTRATION (CPA): Jean Norman**

- 564 1. The CPA is still awaiting report of 2020 pledge from some congregations, so the finalized 2020
565 budget still cannot be submitted for approval. We continue to operate under the provisional
566 budget.
- 567 2. Mary Vance gave a brief history of the presbytery’s budget crisis 2011-2019. With three Interim
568 Presbyters, conversations about possible different alignments of presbytery and possible mergers
569 with two adjoining presbyteries, and possible structure to operate on reduced finances, Trinity
570 Presbyterian Church-Pensacola, granted the Presbytery a three-year grant of \$50,000.00 per year
571 for there years. This grant enabled us to hire Presbyter Roy Martin, to implement efforts to
572 increase our connectionalism, our camaraderie, and a financial boost to the presbytery. We are

573 doing well, but we are not yet able to guarantee our ability to employ a fulltime Presbyterian after
574 May 2021 when the three-year grant ends.
575 Rev. Vance encouraged those churches who have not reported their 2020 financial pledge to the
576 presbytery to do so immediately. To finalize and approved our 2020 budget may require a called
577 meeting of the presbytery.
578 3. Activity of the CPA:
579 a. The CPA is drafting new and revised personnel policies for 1) the presbytery and 2) Dogwood
580 Acres.
581 b. The CPA is drafting policy/guidelines for use of funds from the sale of property of churches
582 now dissolved such that approval of usage of those funds can be occur by a prioritized
583 objectives process and not a first-come, first served basis.

584 **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (CER): John Kupar**

585 For Information:

- 586 1. The CER reported on plans for the March 28, 2020 DISCIPLEFEST at Dogwood Acres.
587 Featured Leader will be Dr. Ray Jones, PC(USA) Mission Agency and three workshop options for
588 participants. Information and registration materials are forthcoming. Cost is \$15 registration and
589 lunch; overnight housing is extra.
590 2. PRESBYTERAIN PILGRIMAGE: Chris Erde reported that the inaugural Presbyterian Pilgrimage
591 retreat (aka Cursillo, Road to Emmaus, Great Banquet) April 15-19, 2020 at Dogwood Acres will
592 bolster our attempts to renew and revitalize our presbytery and to foster familiarity and connections
593 across our congregations. First Presbyterian Church, Quincy will grant \$8000.00 to fund 1/3 of the
594 cost to initiate a Cursillo/Pilgrimage program in our presbytery with hopes that presbytery funds,
595 registration fees, and contributions and sponsorships from other churches will provide the balance.
596 Registration materials are forthcoming to congregations.

597 **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MISSION AND OUTREACH: Hugh Hamilton**

598 Sparked by discussion with Michael Askew at a recent CPC meeting about the general lack of awareness of
599 the ministry context and challenges of racial-ethnic congregations, the CMO invited three pastors to speak
600 about the cultural context of their racial-ethnic congregations and/or the challenges of transforming a church
601 to meet the changing setting and community they serve. The three pastors shared the following:

602 **Tae Ho Cheong; Korean Presbyterian Church, Pensacola.** Aside from language barrier and
603 cultural differences, the Korean congregation has prospered by intentionally reaching out to their neighbors,
604 emphasizing fellowship and meals after every worship service, preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, and
605 striving to meet physical, relational, and spiritual needs of their cultural community.

606 **Michael Askew, Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church, Panama City Beach.** Sharing a humorous
607 story about his visit to a Navajo Indian reservation and the host repeatedly declaring that in Navajo
608 understanding all people are either White or Navajo, Michael, an African-American pastor, joked that all this
609 time he never knew that he really was a “white” man! Now serving a white congregation, Michael Askew’s
610 love and acceptance of all people has earned him the respect and appreciation of that congregation and is
611 reflected in the members’ openness to and appreciation of diversity. The greatest challenge to Gulf Beach
612 Presbyterian Church is ministering to and with a “snowbird” congregation that swells from 70 people in the
613 summer to 300+ in the Winter. The congregation now hosts a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance volunteer
614 village at their property which provides a home base for mission workers assisting with recovery efforts
615 following 2018’s Hurricane Michael. The Gulf Beach congregation has undertaken a new ministry to
616 homeless persons in their community. Though some members are uncomfortable with that, other embrace it
617 as God’s calling. Above all else, Rev Askew emphasizes, congregations can overcome racial, ethnic,
618 cultural, and economic barriers when they intentionally embrace their neighbors and take the time to listen
619 and to understand in order to help neighbors to find employment, housing, food, finances, and hope, doing
620 all in the name of Jesus our Lord.

621 **Robert Quiring, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Pensacola:** Sharing the challenges of a
622 downtown church with changing community needs, Mr. Quiring then shared how they engaged with HOLY

623 COW! to undertake long-range planning and mission priorities. Over the last year and half, with intense
624 congregational reflection and questionnaires, groups discussions, and further reflection, the Long-Range
625 Planning Team with the Session reported to the congregation the insightful and positive findings of the Holy
626 Cow! CAT survey. Holy Cow! Consultants then helped the Long-Range Planning Team develop and
627 implement a major goals plan. Three strategic targets of efforts the leaders and congregation must do well
628 include: 1) Utilize more intentionally gifts and talents of the congregation, 2) Tangible community
629 engagement, and 3) Improve Sessional and leadership governance, structures and processes. The Session
630 has now set two-year goals in each of their three target areas, identified measurable milestones by which they
631 will measure their progress towards those goals, and set regular and repeated intervals when they will review
632 their goals and progress.

633 **ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER**

634 The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 3:15PM CST by Rev. Sharon Schuler.

635 **NEXT MEETINGS:** May 19, 2020 First Presbyterian Church, DeFuniak Springs
636 October 27, 2020, First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee.

637 Minutes respectfully submitted,

638 Hugh Hamilton,
639 Recording Clerk.

640
641
642

Rosanna Phillips, Moderator
Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk
Hugh Hamilton, Recording Clerk

643 **Approved by CPC, Feb. 13, 2020**