

**Minutes of Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting
via Zoom Videoconference
Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

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, May 18, 2021.

	Present	Absent	Total
Ruling Elders:			
- Session Commissioners	21	20	41
- Other Continuing Members (RE committee chairs {3}; RE officers {2}; RE educators {3})	5	3	8
- CLP/CRE	2	2	4
Total Ruling Elders	28	25	53
Ministers of Word and Sacrament	33	13	46
Total Present and Absent	61	38	99
Congregations Represented	19	18	37

MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT PRESENT (33):

Michael Askew, Mark Broadhead, Tae Ho Cheong, Brad Clayton, Ric Connor, Brant Copeland, Chris Erde, Margaret Fox, Matt Frease, Stephen Graves, Hugh Hamilton, Harvey Jenkins, John Kelsay, Sun Kim, Bill Lamont, Lisa Martin, Roy Martin, A. J. Meador, Luis Ocasio, Linda Pitts, Emily Proctor, Robert Quiring, Greta Reed, Steve Rhodes, Sharon Schuler, Eric Spoon, Sheldon Steen, Robert Sugg, Charles “Chuck” Taber, Mary Vance, Carol Wood, Joan Hedrich Wooten, Brian Yount. (italics = HR)

MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT ABSENT (13):

Excused Ministers: Trinity Whitley, Bill Bess, Raymond Guterman, Ted Land

Unexcused Ministers: John Cole, Tai Cole, Mel Baars, Rob Bohnsack, Jae Wan Chung, Pamela King-Phillips, Taylor Phillips, Leo Sandon, Steven Schaick

Ruling Elder Commissioners:

CHURCH	CITY	COMMISSIONER OR STATUS
Bethel	Defuniak Springs	unexcused
Blountstown	Blountstown	excused

First	Chipley	excused
First	Crestview	Catherine Spears
Euchee Valley	Defuniak Springs	unexcused
First	Defuniak Springs	Douglas Sanders
First	Destin	unexcused
First	Fort Walton Beach	unexcused
Korean	Fort Walton Beach	unexcused
Freeport	Freeport	unexcused
Gretna	Gretna	Michael Clark
Gulf Breeze	Gulf Breeze	Penny Deuth
First	Havana	Carolyn Rankine
Laurel Hill	Laurel Hill	excused
First	Lynn Haven	Richard Kangas
First	Marianna	unexcused
First	Milton	Ann Smith
Monticello	Monticello	unexcused
Navarre	Navarre	unexcused
Grace	Panama City	Robyn Cosson
Gulf Beach	Panama City	Mike Burke
Parkway	Panama City	Albert Borovich
St. Andrews	Panama City	unexcused
First	Pensacola	Lynsey Listau
First	Pensacola	unexcused
Korean	Pensacola	unexcused
Northminster	Pensacola	unexcused
Trinity	Pensacola	excused
Trinity	Pensacola	excused
Red Bay	Red Bay	Walter Ray
First	Quincy	Vicki Bell
First	Quincy	Ben Powell
Christ	Tallahassee	Richard Shelfer
Faith	Tallahassee	William McDaniel
Faith	Tallahassee	Jason Welty
Fellowship	Tallahassee	Mary Kelsay
First	Tallahassee	Esther Moring
Lafayette	Tallahassee	Faith Kinneer
Trinity United	Tallahassee	unexcused
First	Wewahitchka	Mary Gibson
Woodland	Woodland	unexcused

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Christian Educators/Youth Directors: Christy Williams

Presbytery Staff Members: Melissa Willis- Administrator; Ben Powell – Dogwood Acres Director

47 **Officers/Team Chairs:** Jeannie Dixon – Stated Clerk; Denise Vandiver – Treasurer; Michael
48 Askew – 2021-2022 Moderator; Roseanna Phillips – Committee on Planning and Coordination;
49 Jean Norman – Committee on Presbytery Administration Vice Chair; Don Mowat – Committee
50 on Ministry; Leslie Yandle - Committee on Nominations
51
52
53
54

55 **Visitors:**
56

Tim	Crawford	Shalimar	First Crestview
Marsha	Heimann	Allentown, PA	Presbyterian Historical Society
Linda	Lovins	Tallahassee	Christ, Tallahassee
Ned	Stacey	Tallahassee	Lafayette
David	Staniunas	Philadelphia, PA	Presbyterian Historical Society

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59 **Visiting Ministers:**
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61 **Present CLPs:** Alan House (Gretna and Woodland Presbyterian Churches), Joanne Kublik (Red
62 Bay)

63 **Excused CLPs:**

64 **Unexcused CLPs:** Tonya Fernandes (Navarre), Larry Plank (Navarre)
65

66 **OPENING PRAYER, QUORUM, DOCKET**

67 The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM CST/10:00 AM EST by moderator Michael Askew.
68 A quorum (ten Ministers of Word and Sacrament and ten elders, representing at least ten member
69 congregations) was present, and Moderator Askew opened the meeting with prayer. Stated Clerk
70 Jeannie Dixon instructed the participants in the operations of Zoom and how we would conduct
71 the meeting online. The docket was presented by Stated Clerk Jeannie Dixon and by consent
72 added a report by Jo Kublik on the Administrative Commission for Westminster Presbyterian
73 Church. The amended docket was approved.
74

75 **INTRODUCTIONS:** First-time ruling elders, teaching elders, corresponding members, and
76 visitors were introduced.
77

78 **MORNING WORSHIP** was coordinated and led by Ruling Elder Catherine Spears and Rev.
79 Sun Kim, Pastor, Korean First Presbyterian Church – Ft. Walton Beach, FL. Based on the text
80 John 13:1, Rev. Kim preached on “The heart of Jesus.” Jesus showed his love not by performing
81 miracles, nor by preaching, but by service, by humble, self-sacrificing service. Using the
82 background of Matthew 20, Rev. Kim spoke of the disciples arguing over position and honor in
83 contrast to Jesus who submitted to God who put all things under his power. Washing the
84 disciples’ feet, Jesus served not out of obligation, nor from expectation, but out of love. Out of

85 our desire to honor God we choose to serve others and thereby honor them. The world is changed
86 by servants who love. Duty is love, but service is joy. Ask yourself: who in my life do I need to
87 serve, love, honor? Let us serve each other with a humble heart, and thereby grow in genuine
88 love for one another. Let us also witness to others the joy of service offered in the love and
89 name of Jesus.

90

91 **APPOINTMENTS:** none

92

93 **EDUCATIONAL TIME: Presbyterian Historical Society: David Staniunas**

94 Director Staniunas shared new developments at PHS:

95 1) They hold the largest denominational archives in USA and serve the General Assembly
96 agencies, mid- councils, and congregations

97 2) If we have original Session and/or Congregational minutes, please send them to the PHS; at
98 no cost to us they will digitize and store on secure networks the minutes and records in electronic
99 files accessible to us and to researchers.

100 3) From 2017-present they have added records and reports from Presbyterian churches in Puerto
101 Rico.

102 4) Recently the PHS has been adding print records and audio/visual recordings of the lives and
103 service of

104 Black Presbyterians.

105 5) The PHS is now digitizing the full records of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

106 To submit records or for more information contact PHS at <https://history.pcusa.org>

107 To access online databases go to <https://catalog.history.pcusa.org>

108

109 **REPORT FROM THORNWELL: Bonnie Thompson**

110 In addition to the printed report submitted, Ms. Thompson also reported on Thornwell's
111 successful operations during the COVID-19 challenges in 2020-2021. Thornwell served children
112 and families both in-person on campus and virtually online. 2300 children and families were
113 served, with an increase of 22% in tutoring services and 8% increase in literacy services. Life
114 Skills programs engaged 1443 parents and children, 1008 virtual connections, 75 family
115 instructional chats, 780 virtual parent support services engagements. Foster Care Conference
116 2021 reached a 56% increase in participation by families over 2020. Fifteen new Foster
117 Families were licensed, and forty-four children were placed in foster care.

118 The COVID pandemic amplified domestic abuse and stress situations in families. The Hope and
119 Healing program to break abuse cycles served over 100 children in-residence and 93% of
120 participants received extended counseling and support services. For more information contact
121 Bonnie Thompson at bonnie.thompson@thornwell.org or www.thornwell.org.

122

123 **STAFF REPORTS**

124

125 **REPORT FROM STATED CLERK: Jeannie Dixon**

126 Annual Church Statistics: The Synod and The Office of the Stated Clerk of General Assembly
127 recognized the Presbytery of Florida as one of 24 presbyteries (out of 171 presbyteries) who had
128 100% of their churches submit information for the annual church statistics!

129 Property: Presbytery has sold the two vacant lots in Walton County and the office property in
130 Chipley. The property of Pensacola-Westminster Presbyterian Church is in process of being sold.

131 Our Book of Order (G-4.0101) requires congregations be incorporated unless state law prohibits.
132 This is not prohibited by the State of Florida. If your congregation is not incorporated, please
133 take care of this without further delay. If assistance is needed contact the Stated Clerk and
134 consider the sample at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/articles-incorporation/>.

135
136 Annual paperwork for the GA has all been completed. Church dismissal forms were entered for
137 Port St.
138 Joe and Westminster Churches.

139
140 Annual Necrology Reminder: To facilitate the submission of names for the annual Necrology
141 report, an online form has been created. Information may be submitted throughout the year.
142 This is for deaths of ruling elders (and ministers) from October 1 to September 30. Please go to
143 <http://bit.ly/pofnecro> to complete the information. A reminder will be sent in October asking for
144 the information to be submitted either via the form or by email.

145
146 Annual Forms: Please update your church leadership and session lists each year. Go to the
147 presbytery website (<http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/other-resources/for-clerks-of-session/>).
148 There are sections for Clerks of Session and for General documents/forms. These updates are
149 used to create the presbytery directories also found on the website.

150
151 Presbytery Meeting Hosts in East or West Districts are needed for in-person Presbytery meeting
152 on Tuesday, August 3, 2021. Please email statedclerk@PresbyteryOfFlorida.com if your
153 congregation is willing to host.

154
155 **REPORT FROM GENERAL PRESBYTER: Roy Martin**
156 Wednesday Clergy Zoom meetings continue, averaging 10-15 participants. These chats engage
157 the connectional nature of presbytery as we share concerns, news, prayers, ideas, resources.
158 Committees have maintained well their work via Zoom online electronic meetings.
159 Roy Martin has preached at multiple services – a privilege for a General Presbyter.
160 The Coordinating and Planning Committee (CPC) has updated guidelines for in-person worship
161 and will further update and share guidelines given the new CDC national guidelines.

162
163 **REPORT FROM DOGWOOD ACRES: Ben Powell**
164 Recent DWA work has focused on retreats, camps, conferences. Seven retreats have been held
165 since January 1, 2021, and five more are booked.
166 DWA is updating their child protection policy: DWA now requires a Level 2 background check
167 if you work ten or more hours weekly. DWA is working on how to pay/assist in paying \$75 fee
168 per background check. Other certifications (schools, churches, etc.) do not qualify; you must be
169 recertified for DWA.
170 Updated COVID protocols: Mask are recommended but not required.
171 Finances: Expenses are on budget for the first quarter; cash on hand is sufficient for the second
172 quarter.
173 DWA will have summer camps: Fifty-five children are registered for summer 2021 camps: one-
174 half the past average, but with new CDC guidelines DWA expects increased enrollment in the
175 next month.

176

177 **REPORT FROM TREASURER: Denise Vandiver**

178 The Treasurer submitted financial reports, balance sheets, and operating statements to the
179 presbytery meeting packet. Our operating income ended March 31, 2021, with deficit
180 \$46,774.00 year to date.

181 The treasure is sending churches updates of their giving and sending committees update of
182 current income/expenses.

183

184 **COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION REPORTS:**

185 Report of Pensacola-Westminster Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission: Jo Kublik

186 On April 20, 2021, a status report on Westminster Presbyterian Church was provided as
187 information to the CPC. An offer was received in the amount of \$50,000 and, because of the
188 condition of the sanctuary and adjoining building, the Administrative Commission (AC) agreed
189 that this was a fair offer and accepted the offer.

190 Original closing date was set for April 29, 2021, but there were issues with the documents for the
191 church and the underwriter would not accept what was provided. After much discussion, the
192 underwriter accepted a sworn affidavit from Tom Sykes who was a long-time member of
193 Westminster.

194 The sale was closed on May 12, 2021. The Presbytery will receive a check in the amount of
195 \$46,022.55. There are outstanding utility bills as well as an insurance premium to ensure the
196 church was insured until the closing. Also, there will be claims for mileage from AC members.

197 The Presbytery covered the insurance premium and utility bills incurred from April 1, 2021 –
198 May 1, 2021. Funds to reimburse the Presbytery will be deducted from the \$46,022.55.

199 The Commission thanked Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk, and Rev Roy Martin, General Presbyter,
200 for their assistance.

201

202 The Administrative Commission consists of Joanne Kublik, CLP, Red Bay, Larry Plank, CLP,
203 Navarre, Rev Robert Quiring, Pastor, First Pensacola, Rev Steve Rhodes, HR, and John Schuler,
204 RE, First Fort Walton Beach.

205

206 Upon approval of the report and recommendations of the Administrative Commission the
207 Presbytery of Florida accepted this report as the final report on the status of Westminster
208 Presbyterian Church; thanked the AC for their service, released the members of the AC from
209 their responsibilities, and disbanded the Administrative Commission.

210

211 **COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

212

213 **REPORT OF THE COORDINATING AND PLANNING COMMISSION: Roseanna
214 Phillips**

215 Covid-19 re-gathering recommendations have been updated. The CPC recommends the website
216 www.covidactnow.org as resource site for congregations. Pastors have been under tremendous
217 pressure during this pandemic period and need to be encouraged. General Presbyter Roy Martin
218 will do an updated video addressing the stresses pastors and sessions are under; noting the
219 website covidactnow.org and encouraging sessions to note the conditions of their communities.

220

221 The CPC is responsible for nominations to the Committee on Representation and the Committee
222 on Nominations and put forth the following nominations which presbytery:

223 Committee on Representation: Glenn Hodges (Elder, 1st Tallahassee), class of 2023,
224 Chair

225 Committee On Nominations: Frank Beall (HR), Class of 2022.
226

227 Within the CPC report it was highlighted that Candidate Shelby Baxter-Andrews has accepted a
228 call to ministry in Ohio and was successfully examined by COM in March. The next item of
229 business for her is for the Presbytery in Ohio to ask for her to be transferred.

230 Concern was expressed over sending candidates/others out of the room after examination on the
231 floor of presbytery and prior to discussion. COM was asked to provide guidance on this. Don
232 reported that COM prefers to continue sending the person out of the room for the discussion.
233 In COM meetings, those being examined are asked to leave the room for the discussion. This is
234 to provide an open forum for honestly discussing the person being examined. There is no change
235 in the practice, but COM will be clear in communicating this to presbytery and to ensure
236 consistency in the practice.

237 After much discussion, presbytery referred the matter back to COM for further review.
238

239 The CPC approved two items regarding the Committee on Church Revitalization (CRC)

240 1. The Small Church Pastor Grant Fund, originally purposed to give down payment grants to
241 pastors, has been closed and the funds (\$11,257.63) *deposited into the Congregational*
242 *Revitalization Fund under CCR responsibility until a good use for the monies be determined.*

243 2. Committee description. The list of committee responsibilities was expanded to include: 9.
244 Recommend to presbytery conferences related to congregational revitalization that come from
245 outside the presbytery, and 10. Administer funds assigned to the committee for purposes
246 according to the funds' descriptions.

247
248 RE: Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA): The two vacant lots in Walton County and
249 the office in Chipley have ben sold. The \$181,491.88 proceeds are in a presbytery reserve fund.
250 Grady McDaniel will investigate a new office building design at DWA.

251
252 **Committee On Congregational Revitalization (CCR): Lisa Martin**

253 CCR is finally able to engage with congregations that desire revitalization! CCR is implementing
254 the basic tools of Mission InSite (local demographics) and Holy Cow! Consulting
255 (congregational assessment) to aid congregations in their effort to remain or become vital centers
256 for ministry and mission. CCR's Revitalization Toolbox is now available for use by sessions
257 and/or congregations that want to explore quality online, print, and published revitalization
258 resources, authors, and links to resources. The link to the Toolbox is on the new presbytery web
259 site: <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-committees/congregational-revitalization/>
260

261 **Committee on Mission and Outreach: Luis Ocasio**

262 The CMO is compiling and will share a list of missional projects/programs in which our
263 congregations are involved (mission trips, mission partnerships, food pantries, yard sales,
264 ecumenical, etc.)

265 If we are back to in-person presbytery meetings, we hope to present a Missions Fair at the Fall
266 Stated meeting of presbytery.

267 From our partners in FLAPDAN – the new hurricane season will begin on June 1st, it is always
268 helpful to corroborate that property insurance is active, and that our members and churches,
269 camps develop a disaster plan. We will submit a FLAPDAN report in the May 2021 presbytery
270 newsletter.

271 The CMO continues discerning if creating a Presbytery Self Development of People (SDOP)
272 program is a possibility. Some of the hiccups that have been identified are not having enough
273 racial and ethnic diversity, difficulty recruiting the minimum members needed (5). However, the
274 CMO believes in this program and the potential to impact our congregations and its
275 communities.

276 Racial conversations - In our March meeting, it was brought to the CMO attention the need for
277 more than educational information on this topic. The CMO is discerning which is the best way
278 to approach this complicated subject. We are open for your suggestions and comments.

279 The committee has identified three potential international/national partners in:

280 o Guatemala – National Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Guatemala (IENPG). Potential
281 partnership includes working with the Guatemalan PW, invitations to proclaim the Word,
282 mission trips to visit communities, working with men’s ministries, help with building/repair new
283 facilities, creating retreat for the Guatemalan clergy and develop modules for continuing
284 education.

285 o Nicaragua - working with the Council of Evangelical Churches of Nicaragua (CEPAD),
286 facilitating mission teams from the United States who come to Nicaragua to work with and learn
287 from Nicaraguans. This position arranges in-country logistics, help plan educational programs.

288 o Frontera de Cristo (US/Mexico border) work and support the binational ministry of in sharing
289 the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed. They and their partners seek to put flesh on the
290 gospel through participation in new church development, permaculture, health ministries, and
291 community and economic development.

292 The CMO is drafting guidelines and applications for financial grants from restricted funds under
293 purview of CMO: 1) Emergency Fund, 2) 2 Cents a Meal Hunger Fund, 3) Peacemaking Fund.

294

295 **Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD): AJ Meador**

296 The committee presented and the presbytery approved the policy manual “Launching New
297 Worshipping Communities” (Attachment D, the 16-page manual is now available on the
298 Presbytery’s website)

299

300 **Committee on Nominations: Leslie Yandle**

301 The following nominations were presented and approved:

302 Committee on Ministry (COM)

303 Mary Mehta, Elder, Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church. Class of 2022

304 Sue Coleman, Elder, Trinity Pensacola. Class of 2022

305

306 General Assembly Commissioners 2022

307 Rev. Brad Clayton, Minister, Faith Presbyterian Tallahassee

308 Another Commissioner to be determined.

309 Ryan Obray, Trinity Presbyterian Church – Pensacola, YAD

310

311 Vacancies:

312 Congregational Revitalization 2 vacancies – preferably from the East

313 Educational Resources 3 vacancies- any region
314 New Congregational Development 1 vacancy

315

316 **COMMITTEE ON PRESBYTERY ADMINISTRATION (CPA): Brad Clayton**

317 For Information:

318 **Stewardship:**

319 The stewardship campaign for 2021 was successful and we are grateful to all the churches who
320 have made pledges for next year.

321 Budget requests for 2022 will be sent in June 2021.

322 Stewardship “asks” will be presented earlier this year, in August 2021.

323

324 **REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

325 **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY: Don Mowat**

326 Approved the transfer of membership of the Revs. John and Katherine Kubar to Mid Kentucky
327 Presbytery.

328 Approved the transfer of membership of Rev. John Wamsley to Tres Rios Presbytery.

329 Approved the Installation Commission List for Rev. Erin Rosica.

330 Approved Candidate Shelby Baxter Andrews ready to receive a call to ministry in Ohio.

331

332 **Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM): Trinity Whitley**

333 Lauren Scott is a candidate in good standing. No other persons are currently under the care of
334 CPM.

335 Approved \$2,000 scholarship for candidate Lauren Scott for the 2021-2022 school year. The
336 scholarship will be dispersed from the Candidates Aid Fund and sent directly to Columbia
337 Theological Seminary.

338 Approved the preparation process for Commissioned Ruling Elder which Greg Seltzer (RE-
339 First, 12 Pensacola) underwent in Baltimore Presbytery as congruent to the approved process in
340 the Presbytery of Florida and passed along his information to COM for consideration.

341 As a part of our continued work on the preparation process for those seeking to serve as a
342 Commissioned Ruling Elder, we are working to formalize a relationship with a local counselor to
343 have a standardized psychological assessment.

344

345 **Presbyterian Women: Kelly Slorahn**

346 The timeframe of October 2020 to April 2021 presented many challenges to the Presbytery of
347 Florida, not unlike those to all the other Presbyteries in the Synod of South Atlantic. COVID
348 and the demographics of our congregations have taken a toll.

349

350 Our historian’s report for 2020 showed a total of 2,431 women church members in our
351 Presbytery with 813 active in PW. The same report for 2021 showed 2,602 women church
352 members with only 758 active in PW.

353 Receipts were down 40%, however, due to lower operating costs and cutbacks in donations, we
354 can go into 2021 with a reasonable budget. 2021 pledges are very promising—a testament to the
355 sustaining power of the PW’s.

356 The decline in membership appears to be correlated to the demographics. Several our PW’s are
357 reaching out to the younger female members of their congregations via on-line Bible studies.

358 One such example is a book study conducted by a partnership between two churches in

359 Pensacola, Trinity Presbyterian PW and First Presbyterian PW. Several PW's assisted with
360 Trunk or Treat activities (Halloween), Christmas Shoebox, and 5-K Fund raisers—all geared
361 toward the younger women of the church.
362 We had a limited annual Gathering via Zoom in March. Our scholarship recipient, Lauren Scott,
363 a third-year student at Columbia Theological Seminary, was our speaker. We hope to host an in-
364 person event during the fall. A quarterly newsletter is sent to the PW's to keep them abreast with
365 ongoing projects and to share ideas and needs.

366
367 A major project was the review of our bylaws, standing rules, and job descriptions. Not only is it
368 a recommended task to be done every three years, but it brought our Presbytery in line with the
369 Synod of SA's updates.

370 Smaller PW's are meeting face-to-face, but many are still using Zoom exclusively. We pray that
371 as the percentage of the congregants get vaccinated, activities will increase, and our membership
372 will grow.

373
374 **Personal Privilege:** Hugh Hamilton, Pastor to Trinity Presbyterian Church requested and was
375 granted personal privilege to acknowledge Brian Yount, Associate Pastor to Trinity, as he leaves
376 Trinity and this presbytery to accept his new call as Associate Pastor to Spring Hill Presbyterian
377 Church (EPC) in Bozeman, MT. Brian Yount has served Trinity and our presbytery well and we
378 thank him and pray God's blessings upon him in his new call.

379
380 **ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER**
381 The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 11:45 PM CST/12:45 PM EST by The Rev. Michael
382 Askew.

383
384 **NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021
385 Saturday, November 6, 2021
386 All meetings at 9AM Central/10AM Eastern. Locations/Zoom TBD.

387
388 Minutes respectfully submitted,

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390 Hugh Hamilton,
391 Recording Clerk.

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395
Michael Askew, Moderator
Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk
Hugh Hamilton, Recording Clerk