

Reports to the
Presbytery of Florida
Winter Stated Meeting

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 • 9 a.m. CST / 10 a.m. EST
@ First Presbyterian Church of DeFuniak Springs

<https://firstdefuniak.org/>



Contents

Docket	1
Minutes of Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting	2
Stated Clerk/Communications.....	13
Implementation Task Force (ITF)	21
Committee on Congregational Discernment (CCD)	22
Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDWA)	28
Committee on Ministry (COM).....	29
Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)	32
Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD).....	34
Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)	35

Attention, please!

- To help ensure accurate recording in the meeting minutes of the meeting attendance, elder commissioners should submit a completed **commissioner certification form** at meeting registration naming him/her as commissioner for the church, signed by the session moderator *or* clerk (both signatures are not necessary). This form is available along with other meeting materials at <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-meetings/meeting-dockets-documents/>
- **Additional documents to accompany this handbook** are the Revised Bylaws and Manual of Operations presented by the Strategic Planning Implementation Task Force, Accountant/Treasurer's report, and supplemental reports, available to download at <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-meetings/meeting-dockets-documents/>
- **To prepare for the meeting**, please download and review meeting documents in advance. Meeting attendees also are encouraged to bring downloaded documents to the meeting on your device to minimize consumption of paper and printing materials.
- **Requests to be excused** should be submitted by non-retired ministers who are unable to attend the meeting or sessions for whom an elder commissioner is not available for the meeting. Call the stated clerk at (850)535-2335 or email statedclerk@presbyteryofflorida.com.
- **Lunch menu** – \$10 per person: Pulled pork BBQ sandwiches, chips, coleslaw and dessert. Vegetarian option available – Contact the church office at (850) 892-5832 by Sunday, Feb. 18 if needed.
- **Child care** during the meeting is available. Contact the church office at (850) 892-5832 by Sunday, Feb. 18 if needed.

Directions to First Presbyterian Church, DeFuniak Springs, Florida

1063 Circle Drive

DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32435

850-892-5832

<https://firstdefuniak.org/>

From I-10 Exit 85

North to Highway 90, turn right at the light.

Turn right on Seventh Street.

You will deadend on Circle Drive. The church will be in front of you.

Parking can be found in front of church, along the lake side of the road, as well as the parking lot of The Methodist Church, 88 Circle Drive, about a quarter mile west.

Parking

Parking is available along the street on Circle Drive or in the First Methodist Church parking lot (88 Circle Drive). (About ¼ mile away from First Presbyterian Church.)

Golf Carts will be available to escort you from your car to First Presbyterian.

Overnight Stay

There are several hotels/motels in the area and Airbnb and VRBO options.

Holiday Inn Express

326 Coy Burgess Loop

DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

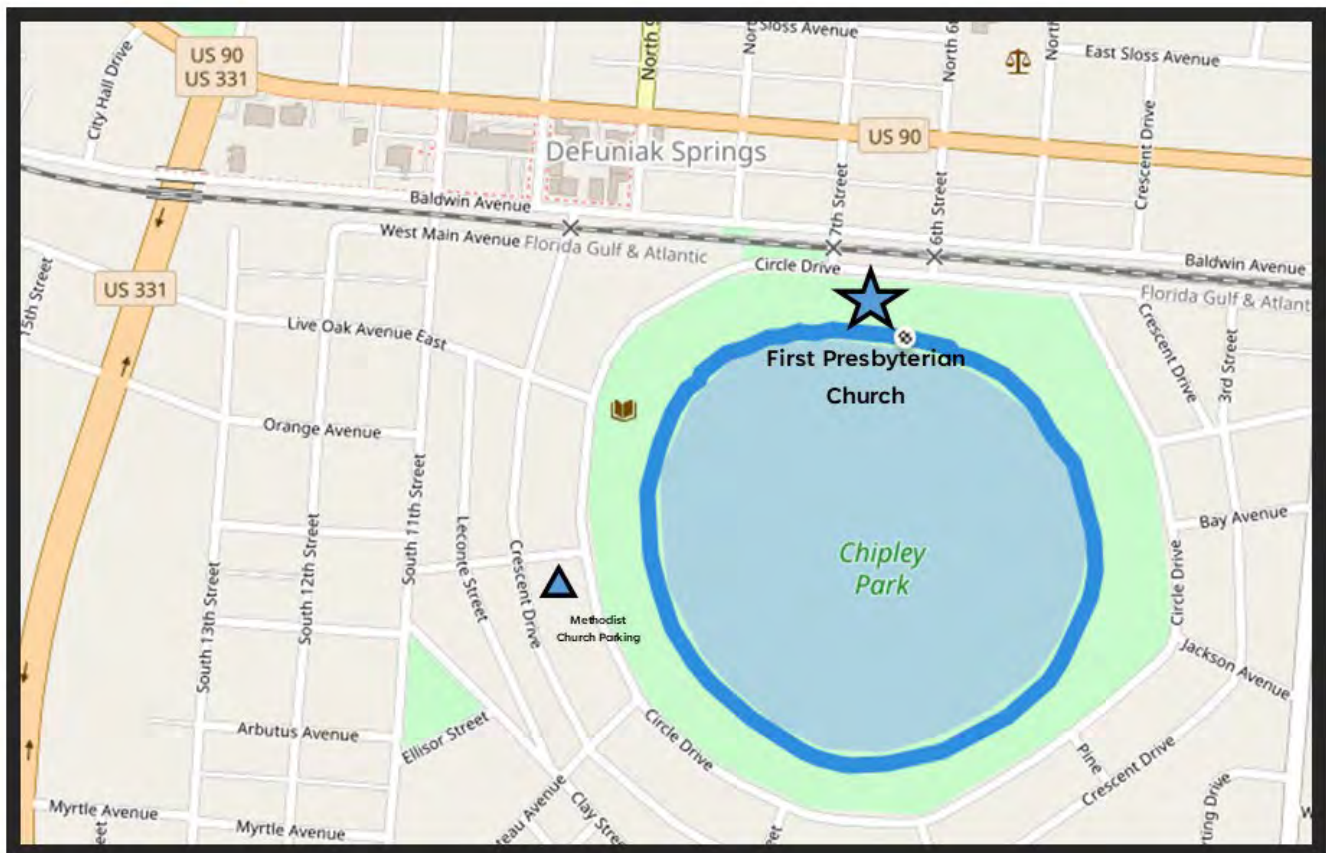
(850) 520-4660

Best Western Crossroads Inn

2343 US 331

DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

(850) 892-5111



DOCKET OF THE PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA
February 20, 2024 – 9:00 a.m. CST/10:00 a.m. EST
First Presbyterian Church, DeFuniak Springs

That which will support the ministries of our churches.

(Please note: Times listed are CST)

8:00 Registration

9:00..... Winter Meeting Convenes
· Declaration of a Quorum..... Jeannie Dixon
· Adoption of docket..... Jeannie Dixon
· Introductions Don Mowat
 First-time ruling elders, teaching elders, corresponding members, and visitors
· Welcome from host congregation Cathy Mooney

WORSHIP

9:15 Morning Worship

Partner Reports

10:15 Valerie Young – Synod of South Atlantic Executive/Stated Clerk

10:25 Vicki Bell – Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery (PHP) Moderator

EDUCATIONAL TIME

10:30 Implementation Task Force presentation on By-Laws and Manual changes

Staff Reports

11:35 Christy Williams – Dogwood Acres Interim Director

11:40 Stated Clerk – Jeannie Dixon

11:45 Treasurer – Denise Vandiver

11:50 General Presbyter – Roy Martin, Jr.

ORDER OF THE DAY

12:00 Lunch

12:45 **Committee and Commission reports**

For Action/Updates

Implementation Task Force (20 min)

Committee on Congregational Discernment (CCD) (5 min)

Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDWA) (10 min)

Committee on Ministry (COM) (15 min)

Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO) (2 min)

Committee on Nominations (CN) (5 min)

Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD) (10 min)

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) (10 min)

Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA) (10 min)

2:15 **For Information**

Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC)

Committee on Educational Resources (CER)

Committee on Representation (CR)

1:30 **New Business**

2024 Presbyterian Association of Musicians Worship & Music Conference at Montreat– Linda Lovins

1:35 Installation of New Moderator and Vice Moderator

Adjournment and Closing Prayer (anticipated around 2:00 p.m. CST)

Next Meetings: all at 9:00 Central/10 Eastern.

May 18 Dogwood Acres

August 24 Northminster, Pensacola

Oct. 29 TBD

**Minutes of Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting
At First, Lynn Haven, Lynn Haven, FL
October 24, 2023**

The Presbytery of Florida, Inc., of the Synod of South Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met at First Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven, FL, for a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, October 24, 2023.

	Present	Absent	Total
Ruling Elders:			
Session Commissioners	22	18	40
Other Continuing Members (RE committee chairs {4}; RE officers {2}; RE educators {1})	6	3	9
CLP/CRE	2	2	4
Total Ruling Elders	30	23	53
Ministers of Word and Sacrament	29	11	40
Total Present and Absent	59	34	93
Congregations Represented	19	18	37

MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT PRESENT (29):

Anne Apple, *Michael Askew*, Mark Broadhead, Kwonsoo Cho, Brad Clayton, *Brant Copeland*, Mathew Frease, Hugh Hamilton, *Gene Harris*, *Harvey Jenkins*, *James Krapf*, William Lamont, Lisa Martin, Roy Martin, A.J. Mealor, Catherine Mooney, Linda Pitts, Emily Proctor, Erin Rosica, Erin Rugh, Eric Spoon, Kim Stavenau, Sheldon Steen, John Stringer, Rob Sugg, *Mary Vance*, Trinity Whitley, *Carol Wood*, Joan Wooten. (*italics = Retired*)

MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT ABSENT (4/7):

Excused Ministers: John Kelsay, Sun Kim, Luis Ocasio Torres, Robert Quiring

Unexcused Ministers: Mary Baars O'Malley, Robert Bohnsack, John Cole, Tai Cole, Pamela Phillips, Taylor Phillips, Raymond Guterman

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT/ABSENT (22/18)

Blountstown, First – unexcused
 Chipley, First – Kevin Russell
 Crestview, First – Jim Gaylord
 Defuniak Springs, Bethel – unexcused
 Defuniak Springs, Euchee Valley – excused
 Defuniak Springs, First – Joyce Kelly
 Destin, First – unexcused
 Fort Walton Beach, First – Fred Pryor
 Fort Walton Beach, Korean- excused
 Freeport, Freeport – unexcused
 Gretna, Gretna – excused
 Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze – Sandra Stanley
 Havana, First – excused
 Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill – Leon Curenton
 Lynn Haven, First – Rich Kangas

- 43 Marianna, First – Leslie Kelley
- 44 Milton, First – excused
- 45 Monticello, First – unexcused
- 46 Navarre, Navarre – unexcused
- 47 Panama City Beach, Gulf Beach – Margie Parker
- 48 Panama City, Grace – Corey Wilson
- 49 Panama City, Parkway – Linda Bonacasa
- 50 Panama City, St. Andrews – unexcused
- 51 Pensacola, First – excused
- 52 Pensacola, Korean – unexcused
- 53 Pensacola, Northminster – Pam Nulty
- 54 Pensacola, Trinity – Cam Massengill, Charlie Gilroy
- 55 Quincy, First – Jan Bates, Bill Wert
- 56 Red Bay, Red Bay – unexcused
- 57 Sawdust, Woodland – Kathy Pack
- 58 Tallahassee, Christ – Anne Hodges
- 59 Tallahassee, Faith – Ruth Bedell, Elaine Youngblood
- 60 Tallahassee, Fellowship – Melissa Wyllie
- 61 Tallahassee, First – unexcused
- 62 Tallahassee, Lafayette – Kay Lachat
- 63 Tallahassee, Trinity United – unexcused
- 64 Wewahitchka, First – excused

65 Sessions not represented:

66 Excused Churches (7):

- 67 Defuniak Springs, Euchee Valley
- 68 Fort Walton Beach, Korean First
- 69 Gretna
- 70 Havana, First
- 71 Milton, First
- 72 Pensacola, First
- 73 Wewahitchka, First

74 Unexcused Churches (11):

- 75 Blountstown, First
- 76 DeFuniak Springs, Bethel
- 77 Destin, First
- 78 Freeport
- 79 Monticello, First
- 80 Navarre
- 81 Panama City, St. Andrews
- 82 Pensacola, Korean Community
- 83 Red Bay
- 84 Tallahassee, First
- 85 Tallahassee, Trinity United

86 Continuing Members:

87 CREs present (2):

- 88 Joanne Kublik
- 89 Greg Seltzer

90 CRES absent 2):
91 Tonya Fernandes; Alan House (excused)

92 Christian Educators with voice and vote present (0):
93 Christian Educators with voice present (0):

94 Presbytery Staff Members: Melissa Willis – Administrator; Denise Vandiver (RE) – Accountant Treasurer;
95 Eric Hearn – Dogwood Acres Program Director

96 Officers/Team Chairs: Vicki Bell – PW moderator; Jeannie Dixon (RE) – Stated Clerk; Glenn Hodges (RE)
97 – Committee on Representation; Rich Kangas (RE) – Committee on Nominations; Don Mowat (RE) –
98 Moderator

99 Visitors: Kathy Welsh (First, Lynn Haven); Jake Wilson (Texas Presbyterian Foundation); Edward Syfrelt
100 (First, Marianna); Nancy Brzozowski (First, Lynn Haven); Russell Nulty (Northminster, Pensacola); Ann
101 Fyfe (First, Lynn Haven); Hilda Jackson (First, DeFuniak Springs); James Vance (Fellowship,
102 Tallahassee); Mary Hodges (First, Tallahassee); Mary Jo Butler (Woodland); Grady McDaniel (Grace,
103 Panama City); Linda Lovins (Christ, Tallahassee); Leslie Yandle (First, Pensacola).

104 Visiting Ministers: (1): Shuford White

105 OPENING PRAYER, QUORUM, DOCKET

106 Moderator Don Mowat called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM CDT/10:02 AM EDT. A quorum (ten
107 Ministers of Word and Sacrament and ten elders, representing at least ten member congregations) was
108 present, and Moderator Mowat opened the meeting with prayer.

109 The Presbytery approved The Rev. Trinity Whitley to serve as Moderator during the report of the Strategic
110 Planning Task Force in lieu of Moderator Mowat, a Task Force member.

111 The docket was approved.

112 WELCOME: The Rev. Lisa Martin, Pastor to First Presbyterian Church-Lynn Haven, welcomed the
113 presbytery and gave instructions for the day’s activity, meals, and facilities.

114 INTRODUCTIONS: First-time ruling elders, teaching elders, corresponding members, and visitors were
115 introduced.

116 MORNING WORSHIP: The Reverend Lisa Martin, The Reverend Roy Martin and Stated Clerk Jeannie
117 Dixon served as liturgists for worship, accompanied by Brad Thoresen, Organist/Music Director – First -
118 Lynn Haven, and the Chancel Choir. Assisting with Communion were: Vicki Bell, Florida Presbytery’s
119 Presbyterian Women Moderator; Ann Fyfe, Ruling Elder, First-Lynn Haven; Glenn Hodges, Ruling Elder,
120 Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament; The Reverend Dr. Harvey Jenkins, Minister of Word and
121 Sacrament, retired, and Joanne Kublik, Commissioned Ruling Elder – Red Bay. The Rev. Lisa Martin’s,
122 “The Glimpse,” Exodus 33:12-23, inspired us to recall moments in our lives when all seemed to be falling
123 apart, and when God then responded to our need, supplying us with what we needed to move ahead.
124 Drawing on Moses’ encounter with God at the burning bush and on Annie Dillard’s book, *Pilgrim at*
125 *Tinker Creek*, Reverend Martin shared her familiarity with Tinker Creek and how the still water, when
126 disturbed, will eventually return to calm, as it was before. In the rhythm of rest – active -rest, we can see

127 glimpses of God sufficient to encourage us to move ahead, no matter how weary we may be, God moves
 128 on, and so shall we.
 129 The presbytery shared the sacrament of Lord’s Supper and heard aloud the Necrology Report of presbyters
 130 who had died since last September 30.

Church Name, City	Name of deceased elder	Date of death
Christ, Tallahassee	Robert (Bob) Yerg	2/21/2023
Christ, Tallahassee	Steve Panton	3/29/2023
Faith, Tallahassee	Barbara Dunlop	11/1/2022
First, Crestview	Lillian Collins Ankelein	3/22/2023
First, DeFuniak Springs	Bill Steadley-Campbell	2/19/2023
First, Fort Walton Beach	Christine Rollins	9/9/2023
First, Havana	John Patronis	1/4/2023
First, Lynn Haven	Jo Preziosi	7/13/2023
First, Pensacola	Nancy C. Bradley	5/3/2023
First, Pensacola	Ina B. Freeman	8/21/2023
First, Pensacola	Donald McKinley Freeman	4/9/2023
First, Quincy	Martha Jean Laslie Woodward	9/7/2023
Gretna	Walter Alexander "Cuz" Johnson	3/2/2023
Gulf Breeze	Lee Rivers, Jr	11/5/2022
Gulf Breeze	Hope Laughlin	6/15/2023
Lafayette, Tallahassee	MarthaAnn McCaskill	12/14/2022
Lafayette, Tallahassee	Janet English	3/27/2023
Lafayette, Tallahassee	Perry Max Dawson	8/12/2023
Northminster, Pensacola	Florence Pasquale	12/20/2022
Northminster, Pensacola	Kenneth Overholt	1/18/2023
Parkway, Panama City	Rev. Richard Mitchell "Ric" Connor, Sr.	7/5/2023
Presbytery of Florida	Rev. Ted Chumley	11/25/2022
Presbytery of Florida	Rev. Kerry Westerwick	1/25/2023
Trinity United, Tallahassee	Lula Allen	12/16/2022
Trinity United, Tallahassee	Robert Woolfork	1/30/2023
Trinity, Pensacola	Sue Peden	12/11/2022
Trinity, Pensacola	Robert Childs	12/24/2022
Trinity, Pensacola	John Green	1/13/2023
Trinity, Pensacola	Jane Patterson	4/12/2023
Trinity, Pensacola	Betty Nickinson	4/26/2023
Trinity, Pensacola	Joe Black	6/15/2023
Trinity, Pensacola	Ruth White	6/27/2023
Trinity, Pensacola	Al Pulford	7/10/2023
Westminster, Pensacola	Thomas “Tom” Sykes	02/15/2023

131 PARTNER REPORTS:

132 Jake Wilson – Texas Presbyterian Foundation – highlighted TPF’s resource “Texas Presbyterian
 133 Foundation Legacy Builders” and ways the TPF can help congregations develop a planned giving program
 134 and help members remember the church with end-of-year gifts and include the church in wills and estate
 135 planning. TPC is ready and available for advice and to answer questions.

136 Vicki Bell – Presbytery’s Presbyterian Women – asked us to encourage our ladies to be active in PW
137 activities and to submit nominees for presbytery’s PW Treasurer, Secretary, and Moderator-Elect.
138 Matt Frease – UKirk Tallahassee – reported on the exciting beginning to campus ministries in Tallahassee:
139 Calvin’s Coffee Shop is in full force every day; students are attending events and studies at UKirk,
140 exploring their faith and discovering a safe environment in which to question, debate, discover, and grow in
141 Christian faith. The ministry needs money for facilities updates and maintenance and volunteer assistants
142 for the weekly programs and coffee servers. Any church wishing to cook and provide a meal on Thursdays
143 for 30-plus students or to fund a meal are asked to contact Matt. UKirk will gladly host meetings for church
144 groups in their meeting rooms.

145 EDUCATIONAL HOUR: Strategic Planning Task Force: Chair Mark Broadhead reviewed the charge to the
146 Task Force in February 2023 and the scope and process of their work this year. The Task Force was asked
147 to:

- 148 • Engage in a process of discernment and make recommendations for the Presbytery's structure, staffing,
149 and ministries, being sure we remain in line with the Book of Order.
- 150 • Determine if the current Manual of Operations is/will be what is needed by the Presbytery.
- 151 • Substantiate any recommended changes, up to and including a complete makeover of the presbytery
- 152 • and show financial support for such.

153 The Rev. Hugh Hamilton then shared a synopsis of the process, general findings, and recommendations to
154 the presbytery. Using insights from Jim Collin’s book, *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the*
155 *Leap and Some Do Not*, the task force began with facing the brutal facts of our presbytery’s present reality,
156 what is our condition, and how may we face the facts of our reality while maintaining faith that we will
157 prevail in the end?

158 The full 28- page report of the Task Force is attached the minutes; but, in brief, the general findings were:

- 159 1. Our lack of unity in a compelling mission statement hinders us prioritizing our committee endeavors. Our
160 present mission statement is too long, too diverse. We do not know it; we do not discuss it. It appears
161 nowhere on our docket. Everything we do has equal weight and priority. We do little strategic planning
162 based on our mission priorities and/or core values.
- 163 2. Our lack of unity in a compelling mission limits our awareness, our attendance, and our attitude.
- 164 3. All committees struggle to attract and retain enough members to meet their duties and responsibilities.
165 Present members are doubling up on responsibilities.
- 166 4. All committees see the need to continue the use of Zoom online meetings in combination with in-person
167 meetings. Travel/Commute times exceed meeting time, hindering member participation at Dogwood Acres.
- 168 5. Property matters and congregational property matters need to be clearly assigned, but to whom? PC?
169 CPA? COM? CCD? (All raised that question.)
- 170 6. We struggle to secure Elder Commissioners and Clergy to routine, business-focused Presbytery meetings,
171 and little news is shared afterwards at Sessions/congregations. A shift to spiritual growth- focused
172 agendas/presentations/workshops may foster better practices in ministries common to all congregations.
- 173 7. We need to hear and heed younger voices and encourage leadership from our young pastors,
174 congregational leaders, members. We need to engage them and try innovative approaches, techniques and
175 tools, social media, styles and forms of ministry that reach, attract, and retain people in today’s culture.
- 176 8. Changes made to the Manual of Operations and committee structures were not, and have not, been well-
177 communicated, causing little “buy-in” on the part of committee members.
- 178 9. We heard consistently that congregations need and want assistance in becoming more effective in their
179 local ministries.

180 In addition:

181 Presbytery finances have diminished, declined, and all unrestricted reserves have been tapped out to balance

182 our 2023 budget. No unrestricted reserve funds remain.
183 Church membership has declined across the presbytery.
184 Dogwood Acres remains a major budget item and concern given our diminished finances.
185 The Committee on Presbytery Administration has advised the Task Force that the expected level of support
186 from churches in 2024 is \$320,000.00; 30% less than current 2023 and proposed 2024 budget of
187 \$450,653.00. We were asked to present a budget of \$320,000.00

188 The Task Force report was highlighted, and the commissioners were assigned to breakout groups for
189 discussions. Following the lunch break, the presbytery reconvened, and findings from small groups'
190 discussions were shared. The Task Force then presented their recommendations for approval by the
191 presbytery as follows. The motions were discussed, amended, and approved (changes shown in italics):

- 192 1. That the report of the Strategic Planning Task Force be received.
 - 193 2. That the Vision Statement be approved.
 - 194 3. That the Mission Statement be approved.
 - 195 4. That the recommended structure of the presbytery be approved *for further refinement and implementation*
196 *by the Implementation Task Force*
 - 197 5. That
198 a) *a period of discernment be entered to review the process of Dogwood Acres becoming a 501(C) (3)*
199 *organization*
200 b) *that CPC appoint presbyters to work with the DWA Committee in this process, and*
201 c) *that recommendations be given at the Fall 2024 Stated meeting of the presbytery.*
 - 202 6. That the recommended staffing configuration be approved. *(The Implementation Team will determine and*
203 *recommend final staffing.)*
 - 204 7. That the proposed budget adjustments be *forwarded to the current Committee on Presbytery*
205 *Administration for consideration to be presented to the presbytery for approval.*
 - 206 8. That the Strategic Planning Task Force be dissolved *with thanks and gratitude of the presbytery.*
 - 207 9. That an Implementation Taskforce be appointed *by the Committee on Nominations (CN) with approval by*
208 *the Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC) as soon as possible, but no later than January 15, 2024*
209 *to facilitate the initiation of the new structure for the Presbytery of Florida effective March 1, 2024, and*
210 *that it compose the necessary modifications to the Bylaws and Manual of Operations.*
211 *(It was suggested that the Implementation Team be composed of 7 members, with attention to representation*
212 *by young pastors and elders, and that for continuity, some members of the Strategic Planning Task Force*
213 *be nominated to serve).*
- 214 Task Force members: Rev. Mark Broadhead – Chair (First-Crestview and Laurel Hill), Elder Susan Coleman
215 (Trinity-Pensacola), Rev. Hugh Hamilton (Trinity-Pensacola), Elder Mary Hodges (First-Tallahassee),
216 Elder Don Mowat (First-Lynn Haven), Rev. Eric Spoon (Grace-Panama City), and Elder Karen Weaver
217 (First-Monticello).

218 STAFF REPORTS:

219 REPORT FROM STATED CLERK: Jeannie Dixon

220 Review of session minutes: Most minutes for the years 2019, 2020, 2021 have been reviewed. Dates have
221 not yet been set for the 2022 review, but session clerks are encouraged to prepare their minutes for the
222 review. The checklist is on the presbytery website (h04.pdf) or can be requested by emailing the stated
223 clerk (statedclerk@presbyteryofflorida.com).

224 Stated Clerk has researched and answered questions for session clerks and committee chairs/members,
225 including the status of Articles of Incorporation for those congregations formed prior to 1983 (at reunion).
226 Thirty of our congregations were formed prior to that date; most have a reference to PC(USA) in their
227 Articles. Members of COM will follow up with those who need to update their Articles of Incorporation.
228 Mrs. Dixon has been busy with the special committee of the GA on the standing rules of the assembly. And
229 has attended regular meetings of COM, CPC, and Presbytery staff.

230 On Sept. 25-26, the stated clerks from each presbytery in the Synod met together in Jacksonville to read the
231 Presbytery minutes for 2022. Our presbytery minutes were approved, with thanks to Melissa Willis for her
232 work on preparing these minutes.
233 Annual Statistics: The reporting program opens in December and closes in mid-February. Much of the data
234 can be gathered now and then easily updated after December 31. This does require session approval, so be
235 aware of the dates of your session meetings to ensure that the report is finished in time for that approval.
236 Training sessions will be held again during the statistics period.

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

238 Dr. Martin shared pastoral concerns for persons in our presbytery ill, grieving, or suffering: especially Ben
239 and Kathy Powell (cancer) and Alan House (auto accident). Dr. Martin continues worshiping with our
240 congregations and preaching. Dr. Martin highlighted 1) the Unification Task Force working to join the
241 Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Work is in progress, but they are not
242 yet unified, 2) the Mission Tool Kits offered by PMA to help congregations discern their vitality and
243 effectiveness as monitored by seven marks of vitality, and 3) Policy workshops to be offered by General
244 Assembly to help in development of four policies required by congregations, presbyteries, and synods:
245 Child protection, Sexual Misconduct, Harassment, and Anti-Racism. Templates and help will be offered
246 on the www.pcusa.org website.

247 **REPORT FROM DOGWOOD ACRES: Christy Williams and Eric Hearn**

248 The DWA Committee reports hopeful signs and indicators about DWA usage and impact. They highlighted
249 High School staffers from our churches who volunteered for Middle School retreat “Spiritfest” in October.
250 Under the theme “The Path of Love”, these students helped create, present, and conduct the retreat
251 experiences and studies emphasizing that God walks before, beside, and behind us on the path.

252 **Upcoming Dogwood Facilitated Retreats**

253 November 3-5: Reading, Writing, Resting Retreat for adults. This retreat will include a book group
254 discussion, a book swap and share, a workshop on personal creative writing, yoga, hiking, hammocking,
255 napping, “Moth Radio Hour” sharing, good food, worship and fellowship. Our workshop leader and
256 discussion facilitator will be Harriet Riley, formerly of FPC Pensacola and now a member of St Charles
257 Ave. PC in New Orleans, LA.

258 January 19 – 21: Pause -the now-annual Women’s Yoga Retreat. Eat, pray, yoga!!

259 February 2 – 4: Dogwood Youth Conference – an annual retreat for Middle and High School Youth led by
260 college students.

261 **REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ACCOUNTANT/TREASURER: Denise Vandiver**

262 Treasurer Vandiver shared an update on support pledged and given to date.

263 The operating budget shows a loss, currently we are at 66% of budgeted revenue to date, when we should be
264 at 75%. Our deficit will be larger than expected.

265 **COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION REPORTS:**

266 **Committee On Ministry (COM): Joan Wooten**

267 For information: The COM approved:

- 268 1. Co-Interim Contract for Rev. John Cole and Rev. Tai Cole at Quincy-First
- 269 2 Contract for Rev. Mary Vance (R) at Tallahassee-Lafayette
- 270 4. Letter dated July 10, 2023 from the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program (PILP) notifying the Stated
271 Clerk that FWB-Korean’s loan has been paid in full
- 272 5. Dismissal of Rev. Casey James Aldridge to Presbytery of Charlotte (received August 19, 2023)
- 273 6. Dismissal of Rev. Jordan Maire Goodwin to Presbytery of Charlotte (received August 19, 2023)
- 274 7. Dismissal of Rev. Stephen E. Graves (R) to Presbytery of Foothills (received June 1, 2023)

275 8. Dismissal of Rev. Steven Howard Rhodes (R) to Presbytery of Foothills (received June 4, 2023)
276 9. Dismissal of Rev. Sharon D. Schuler (R) to Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley (received August 17,
277 2023)
278 The Pastor Transition Team is working through its liaisons with Marianna-First, Euchee Valley, Trinity,
279 Lafayette, Tallahassee-First, Quincy-First, and Fort Walton Beach-First.
280 The Temporary Pastoral Leadership Team continues to update the pulpit supply list as changes are reported.
281 The Relational Ministry Team is working through its liaisons to visit congregations, with special emphasis
282 on those which have part-time pastoral leadership or pulpit supply.
283 The Committee is working on setting up mandatory training in accordance with our Presbytery's sexual
284 misconduct policy. There are also revisions to the COM Handbook, which they are working on with Rev.
285 Mark Broadhead.
286 For Action:
287 The Committee recommended and presbytery approved: the retirement of Rev. Mark Broadhead, effective
288 October 15, 2023, and the retirement Rev. Dr. Roy A. Martin, Jr., effective March 1, 2024

289 **Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO): Hugh Hamilton**

290 For action: Presbytery approved the new covenant between Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the
291 Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, Inc. (FLAPDAN), and the Six Presbyteries in Florida,
292 including our Presbytery of Florida. Changes: 1) PDA will now make one annual \$41,750 contribution to
293 FLAPDAN rather than matching grants equal to the sum of contributions of the annual membership
294 contributions of the six Florida 13 presbyteries. 2) FLAPDAN will provide a full financial accountability
295 report annually per Book of Order 14 G-3.0113.

296 For information:

297 Guatemala Partnership: We have signed our partnership agreement to formalize the project, we have
298 clarified how to send funds to the PW contacts in Guatemala via PC(USA) Mission Agency, and we are
299 now creating print information and videos to share with congregations and local Presbyterian Women
300 leaders to educate our presbytery about the scope of work and opportunities to partake of the work and
301 inspiration. A December 4, 2023 ZOOM conference with Presbytery of Florida, Flint River Presbytery,
302 and PW Guatemala will celebrate this year's educational, theological, and leadership scholarship recipients
303 and progress updates.

304 Literacy project: 7 ladies participating;

305 Higher Education project 35 ladies participating;

306 Theological Education 24 ladies participating.

307 CMO is now securing financial routing to submit funds: Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) Accounts and
308 descriptions for Guatemala Mission – National Union of Presbyterian Women

309 UNMP E051651 – Scholarship program for Q'eqchi Women. This is a program to educate adult women in
310 the poorest, most remote, least educated and underserved area in Guatemala. Their average level of
311 education is fourth grade. Scholarship covers costs of tuition, travel, and school supplies.

312 E051830 – Theological Scholarship Aid for Guatemalan Women: These funds are to operate the program
313 across Guatemala for women to attend college level theology classes at one of four Presbyterian seminaries
314 in Guatemala. These funds cover tuition, school supplies, operating costs, and travel for meetings with
315 seminaries and students.

316 E052177 – UNMP Literacy project: These funds support the general literacy program and the higher
317 education program of women instructed by local teachers and mentors paid a small stipend by PW-
318 Guatemala. Literacy projects are now established in all four districts served by the PW.

319 To send a check, please designate where you want your gift to go on the memo line and mail to:
320 Presbyterian Church U.S.A. P. O. Box 643700 Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

321 Community Action Grants: Reminder: CMO's Community Action Grant guidelines and application forms

322 are posted to the presbytery's website. ([www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-committees/mission-](http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-committees/mission-outreach)
323 outreach.) Forms and applications are posted for: a) Community Action Grants, b) Covenant Agreement
324 Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and the Florida presbyteries. C) 2 Cents a Meal Hunger Grants, d)
325 Disaster Emergency Assistance, e) The Presbytery of Florida Peacemaking grants

326 CMO Restricted Funds balances as of July 1, 2023
327 4203 Disaster Emergency Relief Fund \$6,203.85
328 4252 & 3129 Two Cents a Meal Hunger Fund \$32,975.02
329 4253 Peacemaking Fund \$7,997.76

330 FLAPDAN: To arrange mission trips or volunteer help, contact pda.callcenter@pcusa.org or 866-732-
331 6121.

332 Racial Justice Subcommittee/Self Development of People (SDOP): New Book of Order requires that
333 presbyteries have a racial justice policy. The Racial Justice Subcommittee will work on such a policy. RJS
334 will prepare a presbytery newsletter article with resources for teaching about racial justice in your
335 congregation.

336 Ecumenical relationships: The Florida Council of Churches is reviewing their constitution to clarify roles,
337 responsibilities, and powers of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and the Director. Recently
338 the existing executive committee restructured itself as a self-perpetuating board and completely removed
339 any oversight from judicatory leaders, especially in their role as the board of directors. The actions,
340 situation, constitution, procedures, and possible resolution are under review.

341 **Committee on Nominations (CN): Rich Kangas**

342 The Presbytery approved the following from the Committee on Nominations (CN)

343 General Assembly Nominees

344 Rev. Lisa Martin -Minister Commissioner, 1st, Lynn Haven
345 Rev. Cathy Mooney - Alternate, 1st, DeFuniak Springs
346 Glenn Hodges - Elder Commissioner, 1st, Tallahassee
347 Beth Mooney - Alternate, 1st, DeFuniak Springs
348 Austin Banyas - Young Adult Advisory Delegate, Faith, Tallahassee

349 Permanent Judicial Commission

350 Rev. Raymond Gutterman - 1st Marianna, Class 2030
351 Ann Hodges – Elder, Christ Tallahassee, Class 2030

352 Committee members

353 Committee on Ministry
354 Kevin Russell, Chipley-First, Class of 2025

355 Committee Leadership Nominees

356 Committee on Congregational Discernment

357 Karen Weaver, Chair

358 Committee on Dogwood Acres

359 Rev. Bill Lamont, Chair

360 Ken Densmore, Vice-Chair

361 Committee on Ministry

362 Rev. Joan Wooten, Chair

363 Linda Shelley, Vice-Chair

364 Committee on Educational Resources

365 Rev. Erin Rosica, Vice-Chair

366 Committee on Mission and Outreach

367 Rev. Hugh Hamilton, Chair

368 Tim Crawford, Vice-Chair

369 Committee on New Congregation Development

370 Rev. A.J. Mealer, Chair
371 Jim Rollins, Vice-Chair
372 Committee on Preparation for Ministry
373 Rev. Cathy Mooney, Chair
374 Rev. Erin Rugh, Vice-Chair
375 Committee on Presbytery Administration
376 Rev. Eric Spoon, Vice-Chair

377 CN noted that the Coordinating and Planning Commission had approved as Presbytery Vice-Moderator First,
378 Tallahassee Elder Mary Hodges so she could be registered for the denomination's moderator training
379 before the October 10 registration deadline.

380 CN also noted we have seventeen (17) vacancies on our present committees.

381 **Coordinating And Planning Commission (CPC): Trinity Whitley**

382 CPC needs nominations for the Committee on Nominations and Committee on Representation.

383 **Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM): Sheldon Steen**

384 The presbytery approved as 2024 Ordination Exam Readers Brant Copeland and Jeannie Dixon.

385 **Committee on Congregational Discernment (CCD): Mark Broadhead**

386 For Information:

387 ●DeFuniak Springs – Bethel: Members of the congregation continue to move forward in providing
388 activities for local children and adults. Guest speakers have included law enforcement officers (talking about
389 scams) and a retired librarian (storyteller). The librarian requested to put up a free library in front of the
390 church. Repairs and enhancements to the property continue.

391 ●First – Milton: They hosted a fundraising dinner for October 7, 2023.

392 ●Pensacola – Northminster: Continuing to make progress on their strategic plans.

393 ●Panama City – Grace: Harvey Jenkins, consultant, continues to work with their strategic planning team.

394 ●Panama City – Parkway –Lisa Martin, consultant, is excited by the movement taking place within the
395 congregation.

396 ●Lynn Haven First – has engaged the Holy Cow Assessment process. The assessment will finish at the end
397 of October. Mark Broadhead is their consultant.

398 ●Freeport – They have engaged in the Holy Cow Assessment process. The assessment will finish in mid-
399 November. Mark Broadhead is their consultant.

400 A request for an Emergency Repairs Grant was awarded in the amount of \$5,000.

401 A request for an Equipment Grant was awarded in the amount of \$1,000.

402 **Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDWA): Bill Lamont**

403 Following a successful summer camp program, Dogwood has turned its attention to its burgeoning fall
404 schedule. More than 40 middle school youth took part in Spiritfest this fall. The weekend was planned by 9
405 members of the Presbyterian Youth Council (PYC) who selected the theme "Path of Love" and invited Beth
406 House to be the keynote speaker and worship leader. The youth were engaged in a study of several biblical
407 characters who had been set on a journey directed by God. Weekend retreats have been booked at
408 Dogwood by several congregations within the presbytery, as well as churches outside our denomination.
409 There are also several CDWA-sponsored retreats being planned which are worthy of the attention and
410 support of our congregations and their members:

411 1. Reading, Writing, Resting Retreat is a new retreat offered for adults and takes place Nov. 3-5. This retreat
412 will include a book group discussion, a creative writing workshop, yoga, hiking and various optional camp
413 activities.

414 2. Confirmation Retreat is a weekend for youth engaged in confirmation class or those about to begin the
415 confirmation process. This retreat is back by popular demand and takes place January 12-14.

416 3. Annual Women's Yoga Retreat January 19-21, and the chosen theme is "Pause".
417 4. Dogwood Youth Conference (DYC) is a middle and high school retreat led by college students and is
418 scheduled for February 2-4. More information to follow.
419 Dogwood continues its commitment to provide quality programming that services the spiritual needs of
420 children, youth and adults within our presbytery. With the end of the pandemic, we have seen a significant
421 increase in participation in all areas of programming and a growing demand for our facility by churches
422 within the denomination and beyond. We are confident that the camp and conference ministry is not only
423 viable, but central, to the spiritual wellbeing of our presbytery.

424 **Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA): Brad Clayton**

425 2023 Budget: Our annual expenses are slightly above our budget, while our shared support has dropped
426 below our budget. Our expenses will require \$110,000 from our reserves, which is \$40,000 more than
427 anticipated. This will further deplete our reserves, meaning that we will not have undesignated reserves to
428 draw from in 2024. We have asked our staff and committees to freeze spending in any non-essential
429 budgeted items. We believe this spending freeze will save around \$24,000.
430 Stewardship 2024: Gen. Presbyter Roy Martin hosted a stewardship training for presbytery volunteers in
431 September. These volunteers will reach out to churches and share information about our budget for 2024.
432 Our current stewardship goal for next year is \$451,000, which would be a flat budget.
433 Property: The presbytery office building is still under construction, and we hope construction will be
434 complete by the end of 2023.
435 Personnel: At our October CPA meeting, we received notice that Accountant/Treasurer Denise Vandiver
436 has announced her resignation, effective January 31, 2024.
437 We also received notice that Gen. Presbyter Roy Martin has announced his retirement, effective March 2024.

438 **Committee on Representation (CR): Glenn Hodges**

439 The CR is working with the Committee on Nominations (CN) to ensure that committees in the Presbytery
440 are diverse, inclusive, and equitable. The Chair of the CR participates in CN monthly meetings.
441 The CR is developing a mission statement and will continue to work on goals and objectives for the new
442 church calendar year.
443 The CR continues to discuss ways to make participation and representation an even more viable reality
444 throughout the Presbytery.

445 New Business: none.

446 Adjournment and Closing Prayer

447 The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 2:57 pm CST/3:57 pm EST by Moderator Don Mowat.

448 Next meetings:

449 Tuesday, February 20, 2024 DeFuniak Springs-First

450 Saturday, May 18, 2024 Dogwood Acres

451 Saturday, August 24, 2024 Northminster, Pensacola

452 Tuesday, October 29, 2024 TBD (East District)

453 Minutes respectfully submitted,

454 Hugh Hamilton,

455 Recording Clerk

456 Don Mowat, Moderator

457 Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk

458 Roy Martin, General Presbyter

1 Report from the
2 **Stated Clerk/Communications**

3 **Review of session minutes**

4 Dates have not yet been set for 2023 review, but session clerks are encouraged to prepare their minutes for
5 the review. Clerks have been asked to provide information on the following:

- 6 1) Are your minutes saved in an electronic format (like Word or Google Docs)?
7 2) Do you know how to combine those individual files into one document (so all of the minutes for the year
8 are in one file)?
9 3) Do you know how to print or save that single file to PDF?

10 The information provided will assist in determining the feasibility of reading the minutes electronically.

11 **Miscellaneous items**

12 I have been busy with the special committee of the GA on the standing rules of the assembly. We usually
13 meet via zoom, but in August 2023 met in-person in Louisville where we met with numerous GA staff.

14 Our last in-person meeting will be January 25-28, 2024. Our report is due February 26, 2024.

15 I have attended regular meetings of COM, CPM, CPC and Presbytery staff.

16 In Sept. 2023 the stated clerks from each presbytery in the Synod met together in Jacksonville to read the
17 Presbytery minutes for 2022. Our minutes were approved and a huge thanks for Melissa for her work on
18 preparing these.

19 **Annual Statistics**

20 A reminder that the Annual Statistics program opened in December and closed on February 15. As of Jan.
21 29, only 15 of the 37 congregations had entered data. I sent multiple emails to clerks, and then clerks and
22 pastor/moderator as a reminder. I will give a verbal update at the meeting.

23 If there has been a change in the clerk of session, please send that information to Melissa in the office and
24 to me. Should you get an email from me, and you are no longer the clerk, it is very helpful for you to
25 forward that email to the new clerk and send me the information for the new clerk.

26 **Commissioners to Presbytery for 2024**

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

29 Our number of congregations is currently at 37. We have 3 congregations with membership between 501-
30 1000 who are entitled to two ruling elder commissioners:

- 31 Pensacola, Trinity;
32 Quincy, First;
33 Tallahassee, Faith.

34 This will provide for 40 ruling elder commissioners.

35 Article III further states:

36 *... each ruling elder elected moderator or other officer of the presbytery, each ruling elder elected as a*
37 *member of the leadership team of presbytery or as chairperson of the nominating committee, and each*
38 *ruling elder elected as coordinating presbyter or associate presbyter (when applicable) and exempt staff*
39 *(when applicable) shall be enrolled as a member of presbytery for the term of his or her office, whether or*
40 *not commissioned by his or her session.*

41 The ruling elders for 2024 service that would be included in this count are Tim Crawford, Glenn Hodges,
42 Rich Kangas, Linda Lovins.

43 That gives a total of 44 ruling elders.

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

48 Jeannie Dixon –Tallahassee (CCE and RE)

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

50 That gives an additional 1 RE (excluding Jeannie Dixon who is also Stated Clerk) for a total of 45 ruling
51 elders.

52 The number of ministers of Word and Sacrament is 26 plus 2 ministers serving at-large.

53 There are 39 retired ministers of Word and Sacrament; 21 are active (either serving on a committee, on the
54 pulpit supply list, or serving a congregation).

55 The Stated Clerk as an exempt employee of the Presbytery and a ruling elder would be counted here.

56 There are 4 Commissioned Ruling Elders serving congregations (Tonya Fernandes, Greg Seltzer, Joanne
57 Kublik, Alan House) are to be included while actively commissioned.

58 This results in 54 members/ministers of Word and Sacrament; there is no imbalance of ministers of Word
59 and Sacrament (54) to ruling elders (45).

60 Membership as of December 31, 2023

61 **Rolls as of December 31, 2023 (please submit corrections in writing to the Stated Clerk**
62 **(statedclerk@presbyteryofflorida.com)**

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

65 Anne Apple, Rob Bohnsack, Samuel Bradley Clayton, John Cole, Tai Cole, Mathew Frease, Hugh
66 Hamilton, John Kelsay, Sun Ick Kim, William Lamont, Lisa Martin, Roy Martin, A.J. Mealor, Cathy
67 Mooney, Luis Ocasio, Mary Ellison O'Malley, Linda Pitts, Emily Rose Proctor, Robert Quiring, Erin
68 Rosica, Erin Rugh, William Eric Spoon, Sheldon Steen, John Stringer, Trinity Joy Whitley, Joan Wooten.
69 (26)

70 **The following ministers of Word and Sacrament are members-at-large of the Florida Presbytery (G-**
71 **2.0503b):**

72 Jae Wan Chung, Robert Sugg. (2)

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

75 Barry Arnold, *Michael Askew*, Glenn Bass, *Frank Beall*, *Bill Bess*, *Mark Broadhead*, Don Brown, Lewis
76 Bullard, Joseph Chung, *Brant Copeland*, Terry Dyer, Jonas Georges, *Raymond Guterman*, Gene Harris,
77 Kathleen Hodgson, *Harry Horne*, *James Huffaker*, Owen Ireland, *Harvey Jenkins*, Fred Keith, Kenneth
78 Kelley, *James Krapf*, *Ted Land*, Charles Lapp, *Bill Lee*, *Ruth Mashewske*, *Lindsay Moffett*, Clarence
79 Payne, *Pamela King-Phillips*, *Taylor Phillips*, Luther Price, *Margaret Reed*, Albert Reese, *James Rollins*,

80 *Morris Springer, James Stansbury, Mary Vance, Carol Wood, Ezra Yune. (39; 21 actively participating)*

81 **The following are ministers from other Christian traditions who have been enrolled as members of**
82 **the Florida Presbytery: (none)**

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

84 Tonya Fernandes – Navarre

85 Alan House – Gretna/Woodland

86 Joanne Kublik – Red Bay

87 Greg Seltzer –Northminster, Pensacola

88 **Annual Report on Christian Educators**
89 **as of December 31, 2023**

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

93 Laurice Andrews – First, DeFuniak Springs (5+ years)

94 Jason Williams – Grace, Panama City (5+ years)

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

99 Jeannie Dixon –Tallahassee (CCE and RE)

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

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

103 (none)

104 **Communications:**

105 1. Synod of South Atlantic event announcements (2)

106 2. Email from Dr. Robert Gamble, (PC)USA Minister and Executive Director of This Child Here, Inc.

107 3. PC(USA) Mid Councils Relations e-newsletter

1st Wednesday ***SACK Lunch*** *South Atlantic Community Knowledge*

A monthly zoom for sharing across the synod!
*Join, learn and share: experience, resources,
and best practices on a new topic each month.*




April 3 - Young Ministry
May 1 - Presbytery Leadership
June 5 - Women in Ministry
July 3 - Peacemaking
August 7 - Campus Ministry




To register, follow the QR code or visit synodofsouthatlantic.org

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Dear Friends,

I am a PCUSA Minister and Executive Director of This Child Here, Inc., a validated ministry (currently of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina). I have been living and working in Ukraine since 2006, beginning with street kids, orphans, Ukrainian foster parents, families displaced in the early years of the war, and now families from the thousands who fled the Russian invasion almost two years ago. Ours are displaced families who stayed in Ukraine, swelling the population of Izmail, Ukraine from 70,000 to 120,000. We are on the southwestern edge near the Black Sea. Out my window is the Danube; across it, Romania.

Through our Center for Creative Activities and Center for Sports in Izmail and summer and winter programs in Bulgaria, we are building a supportive community, addressing the issues of trauma they have suffered and shaping the feelings and memories they will have of this war. In the words of one mother of two children, "You didn't just give us what we needed. You did the impossible. You made us family."

All our funding comes directly from Presbyterian Churches, Presbyterians, and others interested in helping the people of Ukraine. Every year, I travel across the States, from Florida to New York, LA, and Seattle to thank supporting churches and individuals. I'd love to drop by your office to say hello.

Here are some images from our work. At the bottom is my bio.



Varya races across the beaches of Bulgaria in the summer of 2023



Anderson Baker visits from New Orleans for a week in Izmail, here meeting families at the grocery store where we provide products.



Melania at our exercise program for small children



Music Club where we learn guitar, piano, and percussion instruments



Anastasia, Kierra, and Masha outside our Center for Creative Activities



Christmas party for children.



Daniel and his sister Rita at summer camp in Varna, Bulgaria



Griffin Seel, age 19 from Winter Park, FL, our youth volunteer for three months in the fall of 2023. He attended summer camp, kicked off our music program, and now helps students apply for colleges in the USA.

Robert Gamble is a graduate with honors from the US Coast Guard Academy and served five years as an officer. He is a graduate of Columbia Seminary in Atlanta, GA (D.Min.) and Princeton Seminary, Princeton NJ. (Th.M.) He has served churches in Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, New Mexico, Western Maryland, and Tennessee. He has been at work in Ukraine with This Child Here since 2006, beginning with street kids, then orphans, and then training foster families. In 2013, He received the "Pioneer in Ministry" award from Columbia Seminary for his creativity in Ukraine. In 2015, he began programs of training teens in Ukraine in peacemaking techniques and designing camps for families who lost homes in the Donbas area. This Child Here, Inc. is not a staff position of the office of the Presbyterian Church (USA), but rather a Validated Ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Since the invasion in February 2022, This Child Here has been working solely with families displaced by the war but living in Ukraine.

Dr. Robert Gamble D.Min, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Executive Director, thischildhere.org

828 318 2149 (when I am in the States; this is also my number on Viber and Telegram)

My Mobile phone when in Ukraine: +380 96 0214952.

for free WhatsApp: +380960214952

Donations by mail go to:

This Child Here

P.O. Box 2531, Ormond Beach Fl 32175

This Child Here is a validated ministry in the Presbyterian Church and a U.S. 501c3 at work in Ukraine, Believing children deserve a life grounded in justice, dignity, and peace.

To subscribe to our newsletter go here: www.thischildhere.org



MID COUNCIL RELATIONS

From the Unification Commission

The Unification Commission has shared a [letter to mid councils, OGA, and PMA](#), as well as a [report covering the commission's work with mid council leaders](#) (survey, listening sessions at the Polity, Benefits, and Mission Conference, and focus groups).

From Where I Sit #4—A message from Acting Stated Clerk Bronwen Boswell

I don't know about you, but from where I sit, my year has begun like a horse race galloping down the track! And part of the beginning was communications that really shouldn't come to me directly—but did. I have received a statistical report from a session clerk that said they don't know where it goes, notification that a pastor is gone so this is the notification they need the presbytery to help them, an appeals process because they don't like what the presbytery did—there have been a few of those! Anyway—it got me thinking that as we get further from the isolation of the pandemic, we need to be finding ways to strengthen our relationships in the church, which includes training of leadership (sessions and clerks) to know the processes in our presbyteries so they know where to go and what to do. It also reminds me that it's time to clean up our websites (I know that sounds a bit strange coming from Louisville—but the new website is coming!), so that folks can easily find contact information. I think I got some of the inquiries just because they didn't know whom to reach out to. And I want our folks to be able to reach those that can help them best in whatever process they are in or questions they have. I know that we all offer training and some of you are rolling your eyes—but—we keep at it! We do that together. Thank you for all the hard and creative work you all do to further the work God calls us to!

Blessings for 2024!

White Privilege Conference

Registration is open for the [25th White Privilege Conference](#) in Tulsa, OK, **April 3–6**.

The 20% discount code for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), **PCUSAWPC25**, should be used to register for the *non-profit/education* versions of the selected level.

Report from the Implementation Task Force (ITF)

Members of the Implementation Taskforce: Elder Tim Crawford – chair (Crestview-First), Rev. Mark Broadhead (Retired), Elder Rick Clubb (Panama City Beach-Gulf Beach), Elder Emily Evans (Lynn Haven-First), Elder Pam Nulty (Pensacola-Northminster), Rev. Erin Rugh (Tallahassee-Faith), and Elder Karen Weaver (Monticello-First).

Background

At the October meeting of the Presbytery of Florida, it was voted to receive and approve the amended report from the Strategic Planning Taskforce regarding the changes to the By-laws and Manual of Operations and the manner in which the presbytery conducts its work and ministry. It also approved the formation of an Implementation Taskforce to generate methods and means to engage in the new By-laws, Manual of Operations, and structure providing wide latitude to make changes deemed necessary and beneficial to the restructuring process.

The membership of the Implementation Taskforce was put forth by the Committee on Nominations and approved by the Coordinating and Planning Commission. The taskforce was then trained by Rev. Dr. Roy Martin and set to work.

The taskforce has met faithfully each week since January 3, 2024, seeking God’s guidance on how to implement the process set forth. Five drafts of the By-laws were written and discussed. Most changes were made to reflect the responsibility changes reflected in the new structure. Others were simply grammatical.

Six drafts to the Manual of Operations were written. The early revisions surrounded determining what current responsibilities would best fit into the new structure, which need to be postponed to be reintroduced after the new structure gets settled, and which need to be done away with altogether.

The only change of note to the structure from the Strategic Planning Taskforce recommendation is the removal of the “umbrella” Committee on Ministry and it having three sub-ministries under it. It was felt that structure would be too cumbersome for reporting purposes as well as a hardship on the time commitment for the moderators and vice-moderators. As a result, the “umbrella” was removed, making the three sub-ministries of Congregational Health, Leadership Development, and Pastoral Transitions their own separate ministries. This change was met with nodding approval from CPC.

The section on the Ministry of Dogwood Acres has not undergone any changes. This is to give honor to the work that is being done by that taskforce exploring the pros and cons of what it would mean if Dogwood Acres became a separate 501c3 entity, their report is due in October of this year.

The taskforce also recommended a position description for a Transitional (as Interims are now referred) Presbyter. As with our congregations being required to have Transitional (Interim) Pastors when a pastor accepts a new call or retires, so must the presbytery. CPC approved the position description and as of the writing of this report is close to finalizing a search committee.

The proposed By-laws and Manual of Operations are provided as separate attachments or handouts. It is understood that these may need to be tweaked as time progresses and we learn of any redundancies or holes that were made.

40 **Items for Action:**

- 41 1. The Implementation Taskforce moves approval and adoption of the By-Laws of the Presbytery of
42 Florida, Inc.
43 2. The Implementation Taskforce moves approval and adoption of the Manual of Operations.

44 Respectfully submitted,
45 Tim Crawford
46 Chair, Implementation Taskforce

1 **Report from the**
2 **Committee on Congregational Discernment (CCD)**

3 **Membership:** Chair, vice-chair, 7 members-at-large

4 **Purpose:** *To provide processes and support for congregations that have an identified need, willingness,*
5 *and ability to engage in spiritual and/or programmatic growth which can lead to deeper commitment both*
6 *within and beyond current membership.*

- 7 • **DeFuniak Springs – Bethel:** Continues to make great strides in reaching out to the community with
8 assistance, programmatic information. Renovations and updates to the church facilities continue to
9 me made. (Consultant: Shelia Clark-Askew)
- 10 • **Milton - First:** The congregation re-did the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) in July, the
11 results of which were vastly improved over the results from 2021. The congregation is moving
12 forward, reaching into the community in ways that are meeting various needs. The CCD relationship
13 with the congregation has come to an end as they move into the implementation of their strategic
14 plans. (Consultant: Mark Broadhead)
- 15 • **Pensacola - Northminster:** This congregation has made excellent strides in developing and
16 implementing strategic plans to further its work and ministry. The congregation is exhibiting strong
17 health, vitality, and enthusiasm for the work and ministry set before them. (Consultant: Linda Lovins)
- 18 • **Panama City - Grace:** CCD has concluded its work with the congregation, having set in place a
19 number of strategic steps to further its work and ministry. They will now implement the remaining
20 steps as the Lord leads. (Consultant: Harvey Jenkins)
- 21 • **Panama City – Parkway:** Lisa Martin continues her work with the Revitalization Team with great
22 enthusiasm for how the congregation and Session are responding to the development of strategic
23 plans. Anticipation for the future continues to rise to new levels. (Consultant: Lisa Martin)
- 24 • **Lynn Haven – First:** This congregation had very positive results in the Holy Cow Congregation
25 Assessment Tool. They are in the process of forming the Revitalization Team and will move forward
26 with their strategic planning. (Consultant: Mark Broadhead)
- 27 • **Freeport –** The congregation has completed the Holy Cow Congregation Assessment Tool and all
28 reports have been made. The Session is in the process of forming a Revitalization Team to begin
29 developing strategic steps for moving into the future. (Consultant – Mark Broadhead)
- 30 • **Equipment Grant** was awarded to Tallahassee-Lafayette for upgrading their sound system for the
31 benefit of congregational members, those watching online, and those hearing through telephone
32 services.

33 **Items for Action:**

- 34 1. Request Presbytery approval for a change to the CCD Handbook regarding clarifications in the
35 Pastoral Leadership Support Grant, specifying the pastoral position is for a full-time designated
36 pastor. (See attached.)

37 2. Request Presbytery approval for a change to the CCD Handbook inserting a form: Agreement For
38 Engaging in the Discernment Process. This is designed to help clarify the length of time of the
39 consultant's engagement with the strategic planning process. (See attached.)

40 Respectfully submitted,
41 Mark Broadhead
42 Chair, Committee on Congregational Discernment

Committee on Congregational Discernment (CCD)

Class of 2024

Mark Broadhead (Chair)
*Minister – 1st, Crestview/
Laurel Hill*

Harvey Jenkins
Minister – HR

Joanne Kublik
CRE – Red Bay

Class of 2025

Karen Weaver (Vice Chair)
Elder – 1st, Monticello

Sun Kim
*Minister – Korean 1st,
Fort Walton Beach*

Ernie McNeill
Elder – 1st, Marianna

Class of 2026

Shelia Clark-Askew
*Elder – Gulf Beach,
Panama City Beach*

Joyce Kelly
Elder – 1st, DeFuniak Springs

Vacancy

PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DISCERNMENT

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP GRANT DEFINITIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

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44
45
46

47 **Purpose**

48 The Presbytery of Florida has established a Congregational Revitalization Fund to provide grants to its
49 congregations with small membership in support of a congregation's specific plan for its revitalization.
50 The awarding of a grant will be based on the attraction and retention of a full-time designated pastoral
51 leadership to enable and guide the congregation's implementation of its plan for revitalization.

52 **Administration**

53 The congregation's Revitalization Plan shall be approved by the Presbytery's Committee on
54 Congregational Discernment in consultation with the Committee on Ministry. The fund shall be
55 administered, and grants awarded by the Committee on Congregational Discernment.

56 **Definitions**

57 **Small Member Congregation:** While the definition of what constitutes a small congregation may vary,
58 in the Presbytery of Florida it is generally considered to refer to congregations with an average
59 weekly attendance at worship of less than 50 persons.

60 **Pastoral Leadership:** will ordinarily be understood to mean a Minister of Word and Sacrament who
61 holds ordination in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

62 **Plan for Revitalization:** A congregation's Plan for Revitalization, also known as a *strategic plan*, shall
63 reflect findings from a Holy Cow! Vital Signs Report and a MissionInsite Consultation, and must
64 include, but not be limited to:

- 65 1. a statement of the congregation's vision and mission as it relates to congregational
66 revitalization;
- 67 2. specific strategies for implementing that vision and mission;
- 68 3. identified goals and benchmarks for assessing the congregation's progress in implementing its
69 plan;
- 70 4. a means of evaluating annually how the congregation and/or community have been transformed,
71 including the congregation's next steps in its revitalization.

72 **Qualifications**

73 To qualify for a Pastoral Leadership Grant, a congregation will have completed, with the assistance of a
74 Presbytery Consultant, both the Holy Cow! Congregational Assessment Tool and a MissionInsite
75 community demographic assessment. Those tools are essential to the development of the congregation's
76 strategic plan for revitalization.

77 A Viability Assessment Form must also be completed to determine the potential life and vitality of the

78 congregation and the promise it holds for future ministry. The Committee on Congregational
79 Discernment will review this information.

80 After review of the Viability Assessment Form, the congregation will need to submit a Grant
81 Application form which will aid CCD in determining its decision.

82 **Terms**

83 Ordinarily, a grant may be awarded annually for up to three years **for a full-time designated pastor,**
84 depending upon the Fund's financial growth and the congregation's active participation in its
85 Revitalization Plan. Failure to meet conditions of the congregation's strategic plan may constitute a
86 default of the provisions of the grant and result in its early termination. Funds are to be disbursed to the
87 congregation annually following the awarding of the grant, and each year thereafter following
88 assessment of agreed upon benchmarks and achieved goals.

89 **Evaluations**

- 90 • Evaluations shall be conducted by the Committee on Congregational Discernment every six months
91 following the call of a pastor and the initiation of a congregation's Revitalization Plan. Each
92 evaluation will be preceded by a written self-evaluation to be submitted by the Session.
- 93 • The six month evaluation will focus on the investment and energy of the members of the
94 congregation. It will include written recommendations for modifications to the Plan that may be
95 considered desirable, along with other feedback.
- 96 • The twelve month evaluation will assess the progress of the congregation toward the achievement of
97 the goals set forth in the Plan. Steps taken to date and all tangible results observed will be examined.
98 The evaluation will include any written modifications to the Plan deemed appropriate along with
99 other recommendations and feedback from the CCD.
- 100 • The eighteen month evaluation will focus on progress observed toward the goals of the revised Plan
101 and the results of the implementation of any recommendations contained in the six month evaluation.
102 The CCD will provide recommendations and additional feedback to the congregation.
- 103 • The twenty four month evaluation will examine the achievements of the congregation in the
104 fulfillment of the goals of the Plan.
- 105 • The thirty month and 36 month evaluations will examine the achievements of the congregation in the
106 fulfillment of the goals of the Plan. In addition, the congregation and the CCD will jointly determine
107 next steps for the pursuit of the congregation's continued life and ministry.

108

109 PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA
110 COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DISCERNMENT

111 **AGREEMENT FOR ENGAGING IN**
112 **THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS**

113 This agreement is between the Session of _____ and
(Church and City)
114 the Presbytery of Florida's Holy Cow Consultant _____.
(Name)

115 **The Consultant agrees to...**

- 116 • Help the Session ascertain what extra modules (if any) of the Holy Cow! Consulting Congregational
117 Assessment Tool (CAT) are desired.
- 118 • Meet with and train the Local Arrangements Team (LAT) in preparation for the congregation
119 engaging in the CAT.
- 120 • Provide encouragement to the LAT while they energize and encourage the congregation to
121 participate in the CAT.
- 122 • Provide weekly updates on congregational participation with statistics provided by Holy Cow!
123 Consulting as available.
- 124 • Prepare for presentation an interpretation of the CAT results to be presented to:
 - 125 ○ First, the Presbytery's Committee on Congregational Discernment or Committee on Ministry
126 as necessary
 - 127 ○ Second, the pastor (if one is serving the congregation.)
 - 128 ○ Next, the Session and members of the LAT
 - 129 ○ Finally, the congregation as a whole.
- 130 • Meet in with the Local Revitalization Team (LRT) appointed by the Session for the purpose of
131 planning strategic steps toward revitalization based on the CAT results for a total of 6 months.
 - 132 ○ Weekly for the first two months (preferably in person at first, then may be done via online
133 video connections.)
 - 134 ○ Bi-weekly for the next two months (may be done via online video connections.)
 - 135 ○ Monthly for two months (may be done via online video connections.)
- 136 • Provide a demographic study through MissionInsite.
- 137 • Negotiate a longer relationship with the LRT if needed/necessary.

138 **The Session agrees to...**

- 139 • Engage in the Holy Cow! Consulting Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) process.
- 140 • Reimburse the Presbytery of Florida the cost of the CAT at its current cost. (CAT results cannot be
141 presented until this obligation is met.)
- 142 • Reimburse the Consultant's mileage at the current IRS rate.
- 143 • Appoint a Local Arrangements Team (LAT) of 3-5 persons to prepare the congregation for the
144 assessment process.
- 145 • Assist in encouraging participation in the CAT process.
- 146 • Attend the CAT interpretation when scheduled and include the LAT at the presentation (generally 2
147 - 2.5 hours in length).
- 148 • Determine a time for the Consultant to present the Executive Report (a brief summary of the CAT)
149 to the congregation.

- 150 • Appoint a Local Revitalization Team (LRT) of 5-7 persons within 3 weeks of the Executive Report
151 presentation that are willing to serve weekly for a total of six (6) months (two months, bi-weekly
152 the next two months, and monthly for the final two months).
- 153 • Communicate well with the congregation and implement recommendations of the LRT moving
154 toward strengthening the work and ministry of the congregation
- 155 • Be willing to risk failure when an idea is engaged.

156 Agreed to this day _____.

157 _____
158 Moderator/Clerk of Session

Consultant

1 Report from the
2 **Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDWA)**

3 **Membership:** Chair, vice-chair, 7 members-at-large

4 **Purpose:** To provide short and long-term planning, management, development, operations, and programs
5 connected with Dogwood Acres.

6 The CDWA has held monthly Zoom meeting throughout the fall to deal with the business of managing the
7 ministry of Dogwood Acres and the monthly pace continues into 2024, with little chance of slowing. On
8 January 25th, the CPC ratified five presbyters who will join with the Dogwood Acres committee to
9 collectively study the issue of incorporation. These five were welcomed at our February 13th Zoom
10 meeting and will continue to share monthly meetings with us until we report to presbytery in October.
11 These five persons are:

12 Jean Norman, elder, Trinity Pensacola; Randy Pople, elder, First, Quincy; Mark Davis, elder, First,
13 DeFuniak (attorney); Deborah Potter, elder, First, Milton; Raymond Guterman, clergy, First, Marianna.

14 The committee recently reviewed the lodging and meal rates and has set 2024 rates, published on the DWA
15 website. A discount for congregations within our presbytery was discussed and included. The committee is
16 also focused on ways to offset the approximately \$45,000 reduction in presbytery contributions from
17 presbytery this year. We are actively working on a joint DWA/Ukirk development plan this year.

18 Dogwood is off to a busy start in the first part of the year. Over the Christmas break, Christy and Eric took
19 six youth to Montreat's College Conference. Most of these youth are expected to apply as counselors this
20 June/July for summer camp. They also hosted 32 participants at the 2nd annual yoga retreat (January 19-21)
21 and ran a confirmation retreat which attracted 10 youth and two leaders. In addition to our directors,
22 leadership at the confirmation retreat was provided by Roy and Lisa Martin and Brant Copeland. The
23 annual Dogwood Youth Conference will take place Feb 9-11 and it's hoped that youth from across the
24 presbytery will be present.

25 March is normally a quiet rental month at DWA. A presbytery-wide work day is being organized for Sat.,
26 March 16th, beginning at 9:30 am CT. A project list is being compiled, and there will be something for
27 everyone to do, regardless of one's gifts/skills.

28 We are pleased to announce that the demand for conferences and retreats is on the increase this year. 2024
29 is shaping up to be a banner year at Dogwood Acres. We are thankful for the support of all the
30 congregations in our presbytery.

31 Bill Lamont
32 CDWA Chair

Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDWA)

Class of 2024

Brant Copeland
(Minister – HR)

Lisa Wilder
(Elder – 1st, Quincy)

James Vance
(Elder – Fellowship, Tallahassee)

Class of 2025

Ken Densmore (Vice Chair)
(Elder – 1st, Pensacola)

Henry Givens
(Elder – Laurel Hill)

Vacancy

Class of 2026

Bill Lamont (Chair)
(Minister – Gulf Breeze)

Susie Barber
(Elder – 1st, Marianna)

Lisa Sweeney
(Member – 1st, Lynn Haven)

1 Report from the
2 Committee on Ministry (COM)

3 **Membership:** Chair, vice-chair, 13 members-at-large

4 **Purpose:** To fulfill all Book of Order and presbytery manual responsibilities related to oversight of and
5 assistance to congregations, Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Certified Christian Educators in their
6 ministry. These responsibilities include all matters related to matriculation of new pastors, periodic visits
7 with sessions and pastors, support for clergy and Certified Christian Educator wellness and professional
8 development, minimum standards for clergy compensation, dissolving pastoral relationships, processes
9 leading to the next pastoral call, and examining ministers for readiness and suitability to receive calls.

10 **For information:**

11 At its meetings of November 14, 2023 (in person) and January 9, 2024 (via Zoom) the Committee on
12 Ministry noted the following items for information:

- 13 1. Approval via electronic vote on October 3, 2023 of COM recommendation to Presbytery requesting
14 retirement status for Rev. Dr. Roy A. Martin Jr., effective March 1, 2024.
- 15 2. Approval via electronic vote by CPC on November 28, 2023 of COM recommendation to increase
16 the 2024 effective minimum salary of called and installed pastors from \$41,050 to \$41,871, with the
17 intent in subsequent years of recommending a 2% compounding increase.
- 18 3. Approval of examination by the Pastor Transition Team on December 13, 2024 of Rev. Hanlim
19 Chae to serve as Interim Pastor of Tallahassee-Lafayette, effective January 14, 2024.
- 20 4. Approval via electronic vote on December 16, 2023 of Interim Contract for Rev. Hanlim Chae at
21 Tallahassee-Lafayette.

22 The Committee on Ministry approved the following items:

- 23 1. Retirement request from Rev. Dr. Pamela Phillips, effective December 1, 2023. COM will
24 recommend Presbytery approval at the February 20, 2024 meeting.
- 25 2. Retirement request from Rev. Taylor Phillips, effective December 1, 2023. COM will recommend
26 Presbytery approval at the February 20, 2024 meeting.
- 27 3. Retirement request from Rev. Dr. Joan Hedrich Wooten, effective January 1, 2024. COM will
28 recommend Presbytery approval at the February 20, 2024 meeting.
- 29 4. CRE contract renewal for Tanya Fernandes and Navarre through December 31, 2023.
- 30 5. CRE contract renewal for Greg Seltzer and Northminster through April 30, 2026.
- 31 6. Interim MDP for Crestview-First and Laurel Hill.
- 32 7. Parish Associate agreement as addition to COM Handbook.
- 33 8. Request from the Session of St. Andrews to appoint an Administrative Commission to assume
34 original jurisdiction and facilitate the dissolution of the congregation. COM will request that CPC
35 approve via electronic vote the appointment of the following individuals: Elder Pam Nulty
36 (Northminster), Elder Ed Nickinson (Pensacola-Trinity), Rev. Linda Pitts (Tallahassee-Faith), and
37 Rev. Eric Spoon (Panama City-Grace).
- 38 9. Interim Pastor contract renewal for Rev. Anne H.K. Apple and Tallahassee-First through June 2,
39 2024.
40

- 41 10. Pulpit Supply contract renewal for Rev. Dr. Kwonsoo Cho and Pensacola-Korean through
 42 December 31, 2024.
- 43 11. 2024 Terms of Call Form, with worksheet and supplemental guides.
- 44 12. 2024 Terms of Call for Rev. Lisa Martin and Lynn Haven-First.
- 45 13. Request from Rev. Dr. Kwonsoo Cho to substitute the Polity study sponsored by Greater Atlanta
 46 Presbytery (March 17-20, 2024) for the polity exam, if the way be clear.
- 47 14. Transfer of Rev. Erin Rosica from Member-at-Large to Validated Ministry (Chaplain at
 48 Tallahassee-Westminster Oaks).
- 49 The Pastor Transition Team is working through its liaisons with Fort Walton Beach-First, Pensacola-
 50 Trinity, Laurel Hill & Crestview-First, Euchee Valley, Marianna-First, Tallahassee-Lafayette, Tallahassee-
 51 First, and Quincy-First.

52 The Temporary Pastoral Leadership Team continues to update the pulpit supply list as changes are
 53 reported, and alongside the Relational Ministry Team resources congregations without consistent pastoral
 54 leadership.

55 The Relational Ministry Team is in the process of assigning liaisons to all congregations with called and
 56 installed or stated supply pastors.

57 The Committee is working with the Implementation Task Force during the transition to Presbytery's new
 58 committee structure.

59 The Committee recommends the following items for action:

- 60 1. That the Presbytery grant Retired status to the Rev. Dr. Pamela Phillips.
 61 2. That the Presbytery grant Retired status to the Rev. Taylor Phillips.
 62 3. That the Presbytery grant Retired status to the Rev. Dr. Joan Hedrich Wooten.

63 At this meeting of Presbytery, the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Roy A. Martin, Jr., will also be recognized.

64 Respectfully submitted,
 65 Rev. Dr. Joan Wooten, Chair

Committee on Ministry (COM)

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Joan Wooten (Chair) <i>Minister – 1st, Pensacola</i>	Lisa Martin <i>Minister – 1st, Lynn Haven</i>	Linda Pitts <i>Minister – Faith, Tallahassee</i>
Linda Shelley (Vice Chair) <i>Elder – Faith, Tallahassee</i>	Matt Frease <i>Minister – UKirk Tallahassee</i>	Sue Coleman <i>Elder – Trinity, Pensacola</i>
Bill Wert <i>Elder – 1st, Quincy</i>	Richard Clubb <i>Elder – Gulf Beach, Panama City Beach</i>	Linda Lovins <i>Elder – Christ, Tallahassee</i>
Bob Crabtree <i>Elder – Christ, Tallahassee</i>	Pam Nulty <i>Elder – Northminster, Pensacola</i>	Vacancy
Ed Nickinson <i>Elder – Trinity, Pensacola</i>	Vacancy	Vacancy

**RECOGNITION OF RETIREMENT
FROM THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT**

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits,

who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;
who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

who satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

Roy, Taylor, Pam, and Joan: you are coming to the completion of your active service as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. Your colleagues in this presbytery rejoice with you in the evidence of the Holy Spirit in your work. We thank God for your dedicated ministry in the church of Jesus Christ, and we praise God for the grace that has allowed your ministry to touch many lives.

Now we come to mark with you the fulfillment of your calling, as the Presbytery of Florida confers upon you the status, Retired. While we know this begins a time of rest and the enjoyment of other callings, we value the experience you have gained and the skills you have acquired throughout your years of ministry. Therefore, we welcome your continued participation in the life of the church, using your gifts in meaningful ways. You remain a colleague in ministry, and we will continue to seek your wisdom and your fellowship.

Together with the whole church, you will find new opportunities to fulfill your baptismal calling, as one marked by the Holy Spirit, a disciple of Jesus Christ. May God continue to bring joy and peace to your life, just as you have blessed the Presbyterian Church with your ministry and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, through all the years of our lives your love protects and guides us. By your Spirit you call us to varied ministries in the service of Jesus Christ. We praise you for your gifts to your servants Roy, Taylor, Pam, and Joan; for their faithful proclamation of your Word; their administration of the holy sacraments of Jesus Christ; and their pastoral care and leadership in the church. Grant to each of them time for refreshment and rest, reflection and rejoicing, and the fullness of your peace.

Through your Holy Spirit bless each of us that we may remember the love of Jesus Christ which unites us in the service of our Lord. In the name of Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

1 Report from the
2 Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)

3 **Membership:** Chair, vice-chair, 5 members-at-large

4 **Purpose:** To coordinate local, national, and international mission work through congregations and mission
5 communities by providing information and resources and to oversee and coordinate presbytery-wide
6 mission work.

7 **For Action:** No items

8 **For Information:**

- 9 1. Conducting Mission-oriented workshops and fairs: What mission opportunities, success stories, current
10 mission endeavors, inspiration for other congregations to engaged mission endeavors, and examples of
11 available opportunities, do you have to share with presbytery?

12 Ukraine/*This Child Here*: Bob Gamble, PC(USA) minister, Executive Director of *This Child Here*,
13 Inc., a validated ministry of PC(USA) through the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, will address
14 Presbytery in October about conditions in Ukraine and the ministry of *This Child Here* featured in
15 communications in the Stated Clerk's report. Bob Gamble asks if we have people to suggest:
16 1) to host 4 Ukrainian girls, age 16-18, who are applying to colleges in the USA for the fall term. Their
17 level of English language would be the reason they may not succeed. In this case, Plan B is to improve
18 their language skills with placement for a year in high schools in the States.
19 2) Volunteers to go to Ukraine and/or Bulgaria this summer 2024 for 1-3 months to help students
20 improve their English. You don't have to be an English teacher-they've studied it in school. They just
21 can't speak it. You have to enjoy hanging out with teens. Interested? Contact robertgam@gmail.com.
22 "Youth Workers, associate pastors, youth leaders, or college students who will go to Bulgaria as
23 summer camp staff working with Ukrainian children and youth....summer camp in Bulgaria (no war
24 there). We have groups for three weeks beginning July 4th. It will look good on a resume!" – (Bob)
25 For More Information: Dr. Robert Gamble. Executive Director, thischildhere.org
26 828 318 2149 (when I am in the states; this is also my number on Viber and Telegram)
27 Home Office: This Child Here, 245 Seaview Ave, Daytona Beach, Fl . 32118.
28 thischildhere.org See also: <https://www.facebook.com/robertgam/>

- 29 2. Guatemala Partnership: Grant \$1000.00 was sent to Presbyterian Foundation via Presbyterian Missian
30 Agency (PMA) to assist Guatemalan women in a) general literacy program, 2) higher education
31 programs, and 3) theological education programs. We are creating an interpretive video to share with
32 our churches.
- 33 3. FLAPDAN: Board members established into classes. Florida Presbytery has two members serving:
34 George Woodward - First Mariana - Class 2024, Tim Crawford - First Crestview - Class 2026.
35 Annual In Person Retreat - March 21, 2024 - Covenant Presbyterian, Gainesville. Agenda: Establish
36 the 20-year celebration taskforce, Finalize Strategic Planning efforts, increase Congregational Outreach
37 and Involvement, Succession Planning process and procedures, Executive Board members nomination
38 and selection. Do you have members interested and willing to serve if nominated and elected?
39 Ongoing Disaster Support: Panama City area tornados - All information indicates that individual needs
40 are being met. Hurricanes Nicole and Ian recovery efforts still going strong - PDA supporting
41 recovery groups. Florida VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) continues monthly
42 meetings keeping track of status and ongoing actions.
43 Possible construction of pole barn at Dogwood Acres for flood cleanup buckets storage and other
44 emergency supplies. Funding sources being sought.

- 45 4. Community Action Grants Approved:
 46 a. Crestview – First Presbyterian Church – Hunger Action Grant - \$7500.00 for food pantry and
 47 community meal service program.
 48 b. Lynn Haven – First Presbyterian Church - \$500.00 for Black History Month presentations in
 49 the Panama City area.

50 Respectfully submitted,
 51 Hugh Hamilton, Chair

Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)

Class of 2024
 Tim Crawford (Vice Chair)
Elder – 1st, Crestview

Class of 2025
 Susan Byram
Elder – 1st, Pensacola

Class of 2026
 Hugh Hamilton (Chair)
Minister – Trinity, Pensacola

Becky Rose
Elder – Freeport

Harry Horne
Minister – HR

Anne Apple
Minister – 1st, Tallahassee

Vacancy

Report from the Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD)

Membership: Chair, vice-chair, 5 members-at-large

Purpose: To formulate and implement a comprehensive plan for the location, funding, and development of new congregations and new worshipping communities within the bounds of the presbytery.

Since August the committee has met several times to develop a new MDP (Ministry Discernment Profile) which has been completed and submitted to the new CLC (Church Leadership Connection).

Having been unsuccessful in our attempts to find someone last year, we have begun reaching out to seminaries to explore opportunities to visit and share information about South Walton NWC, particularly those with certificate programs in New Congregation Development or Adaptive/Innovative Ministries. Kathy Milton researched the cost renting space along 30A and Hwy 98. Of what is being advertised, \$3900/mon for 1200 sq ft. in a Publix-anchored new development is the best option. Others were in poor locations and not in good condition. While we will not need a space for some time, we wanted to get an idea of the expected cost.

Below is an updated expected cost analysis for the first five years. This has changed significantly after speaking with the Board of Pensions regarding their grants and programs, and why our ministry would not qualify.

	Years 1-3	Year 4	Year 5
Effective Salary	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000
SECA	\$6,885	\$6,885	\$6,885
Board of Pensions	\$35,100	\$35,100	\$35,100
Pastor's Expenses	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Mentoring	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Conferences	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Connections	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Renting Space/Incidentals	\$2,000	\$46,800	\$46,800
		\$3,900/mon	\$3,900/mon
Total	\$139,985/year \$419,955 total	\$186,785	\$186,785

1001 NWC Grants

Seed Grant Year 1: \$10,000
Investment Grant Year 2-2.5: \$30,000
Growth Grant Year 2.5-4: \$30,000

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. A.J. Mealor, Committee Chair

Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD)

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Kathy Milton (Elder – 1 st , Marianna)	A. J. Mealor (Chair) (Minister – Fellowship, Tallahassee)	Beth Mooney (Elder – 1 st , DeFuniak Springs)
Vacancy	Jim Rollins (Vice Chair) (Minister – HR)	Stan Trappe (Elder – Grace, Panama City)

1 Report from the
2 **Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)**

3 **Membership:** Chair, vice-chair, five members-at-large

4 **Purpose:** To oversee the care and examination of Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs), Inquirers, and
5 Candidates for Ministry, inform sessions of the process for CREs, inquiry and candidacy, and conduct
6 examinations of candidates seeking calls within the bounds of this presbytery.

7 Glenn Hodges has been released and certified, ready to receive a call as of January 8, 2024.

8 Ryan Obray, a student at Austin Seminary and member of Trinity Presbyterian in Pensacola, was received
9 as an Inquirer as of January 8, 2024.

10 Lauren Christin is an inquirer, and we remain in contact with her.

11 We have two prospects for Inquirer. We await paperwork for one and are scheduling a meeting with the
12 second.

13 We have some interest from two Ruling Elders interested in the CRE program, and we await paperwork
14 from them.

15 Cathy Mooney, chair, CPM

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)

Class of 2024

Sarah Waby
(Elder – Gulf Beach,
Panama City Beach)
Greg Seltzer
(CRE – Northminster, Pensacola)
Vacancy

Class of 2025

Cathy Mooney (Chair)
(Minister – 1st, DeFuniak Springs)
Vacancy

Class of 2026

Erin Rugh (Vice Chair)
(Minister – Faith, Tallahassee)
Vacancy