

Minutes of Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting

Via Zoom June 1, 2024

The Presbytery of Florida, Inc., of the Synod of South Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met via Zoom on Saturday, June 1, 2024 beginning at 9:00 a.m. (Central Time).

	Present	Absent	Total
Ruling Elders:			
- Session Commissioners	11	25	36
- Other Continuing Members (RE committee chairs {4}; RE officers {1}; RE educators {1})	6	0	6
- CLP/CRE	3	1	4
Total Ruling Elders	20	27	47
Ministers of Word and Sacrament	18	23	41
Total Present and Absent	38	50	88
Congregations Represented	10	26	36

MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT PRESENT (19)

Anne Apple, Michael Askew, Blair Beaver, Mark Broadhead, Kwon Cho, Brant Copeland, Matt Frease, Harvey Jenkins, John Kelsay, Sun Kim, Jim Krapf, Bill Lamont, Lisa Martin, Cathy Mooney, Linda Pitts, Erin Rosica, John Stringer, Joan Wooten (*Italics = Retired*)

MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT ABSENT (5)

Excused Ministers: Brad Clayton, Hugh Hamilton, A.J. Mealor, Robert Quiring, Sheldon Steen

Unexcused Ministers: Robert Bohnsack, Tae Ho Cheong, John Cole, Tai Cole, Jordan Goodwin, Raymond Guterman, Gene Harris, Kenneth Kelley, Ted Land, Roy Martin, Mel Baars O'Malley, Pamela Phillips, Taylor Phillips, Linda Pitts, Emily Proctor, Erin Rugh, Eric Spoon, Kim Stavenau, Luis Ocasio Torres, Mary Vance, Trinity Whitley, Carol Wood (*Italics = HR*)

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT (11)

ChIPLEY, First – Leslie Kelley
Crestview, First – Tim Crawford
DeFuniak Springs, Bethel – Sandra Macon
DeFuniak Springs, Euchee Valley – Tommy Yates
DeFuniak Springs, First – Alannah Anderson
Gretna, Gretna – Michael Clark
Lynn Haven, First – Don Mowat
Panama City, Grace – Linda Fraser
Sawdust, Woodland – Mary Yeomans
Tallahassee, Faith – J.B. Black, Theodore Baker

28 **SESSIONS NOT REPRESENTED**

29 **Excused Churches (4)**

30 Fellowship, Tallahassee

31 Christ, Tallahassee

32 Gulf Breeze

33 Red Bay

34 Wewahitchka, First

35 **Unexcused Churches (22)**

36 Blountstown, First

37 Destin, First

38 Fort Walton Beach, First

39 Fort Walton Beach, Korean

40 Freeport

41 Havana, First

42 Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill

43 Marianna, First

44 Milton, First

45 Monticello, First

46 Navarre, Navarre

47 Panama City Beach, Gulf Beach

48 Panama City, Parkway

49 Pensacola, First

50 Pensacola, Korean

51 Pensacola, Northminster

52 Pensacola, Trinity

53 Quincy, First

54 Tallahassee, First

55 Tallahassee, Lafayette

56 Tallahassee, Trinity United

57 **CONTINUING MEMBERS**

58 **CREs present (3)**

59 Joanne Kublik

60 Greg Seltzer

61 Alan House

62 **CREs absent (1)**

63 Tonya Fernandes

64 **Christian Educators with voice and vote present (0)**

65 **Christian Educators with voice present (0)**

66 **Presbytery Staff Members (3)**

67 Melissa Willis – Administrator; Christy Williams – Dogwood Acres Director; Michael Martin –

68 Accountant/Treasurer

69 **Officers/Team Chairs (3)**

70 Vicki Bell – Presbyterian Women; Jeannie Dixon – Stated Clerk/Acting Transitional Presbyter (RE); Rich

71 Kangas (RE) – Ministry of Representation

72 **Visitors**
73 James G. McQuagge, Jr. – Panama City-Grace; James Vance, Austin Banyas (YAAD), Valerie Young – Synod
74 Executive

75 **Visiting Teaching Elders (1):**
76 Rev. Lorne Bostwick – Cascades Presbytery

77 **OPENING PRAYER, QUORUM, DOCKET**

78 Moderator Mark Broadhead called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM CDT/10:00 AM EDT. A quorum (ten
79 Ministers of Word and Sacrament and ten elders, representing at least ten member congregations) was
80 present, and Moderator Mark Broadhead opened the meeting with prayer. Presbytery approved the docket
81 as amended by Stated Clerk Jeannie Dixon.

82 **MODERATOR APPOINTMENTS**

83 Moderator Mark Broadhead made several appointments under the purview of the Moderator.
84 *Parliamentarian:* Rev. Brant Copeland
85 *Bills and Overtures Committee:* Elder Austin Banyas, Rev. Brant Copeland, Elder Glenn Hodges, Rev.
86 Lisa Martin

87 **MORNING WORSHIP**

88 The Rev. Bill Lamont presented a sermon based on John 6:1-14, exploring the question of “Is the church
89 going to be a rowboat church or a sailboat church – human-led, or Spirit-led?” During worship, the
90 presbytery commissioned those representing the Presbytery of Florida at this year’s General Assembly:
91 Ruling Elder Glenn Hodges, Rev. Lisa Marting, and YAAD Austin Banyas.

92 **STAFF REPORTS**

93 **Stated Clerk:** Jeannie Dixon

94 Jeannie reported that the workload of the Stated Clerk has slacked off some during recent weeks,
95 allowing her to settle into her added responsibilities as Temporary Acting Transitional Presbyter.

96 Clark Simmons with the Presbyterian Board of Pensions met with the moderators and vice-moderators of
97 MPT, MLD and MCH recently to explain what is happening with health benefits. He will present on
98 online seminar in the near future for all in the presbytery who wish to learn more.

99 Plans are well underway for the General Assembly meeting in late June and early July. She plans to
100 attend that meeting in person in Salt Lake City for the plenary meetings and to observe the Zoom
101 committee meetings, especially the ones that our delegate and commissioners are assigned to.

102 Jeannie and Melissa Willis will be engaged in the Synod review of our 2023 minutes; that is scheduled
103 for mid-July. They will be working to get that completed well in advance of that date.

104 Minister ID cards finally arrived during Holy week. Jeannie will have them at the Presbytery meeting for
105 pick up.

106 The office phone now works to call her cell phone when you enter her extension. So don’t hesitate to
107 call the office: 850-535-2335, Ext. 3, to get to her on her cell phone.

108 She tends to be in the office on Tuesdays. Let her know if you want to come by and chat.

109 **Dogwood Acres Director:** Christy Williams

110 Christy Williams reported from Montreat, NC. She gave an update on the good progress being made in
111 making renovations on the former presbytery office as well as property matters, giving thanks to several
112 persons in particular for their dedicated work on the project and others. 1st, Quincy provided a gigantic
113 chair for people to enjoy. A new axe-throwing range has been completed, with all safety measures in
114 place. Other denominations have been utilizing Dogwood Acres. New kayaks have been purchased that
115 are easier for young campers to use. Summer camps are nearly full. Now have a full staff, but could use
116 another male for some counselor relief during the week. Counselors will be Red Cross trained for water
117 safety. All have passed level 2 background check and have received CPR training and juvenile protection
118 training. Summer theme is “Invited.” One more chaplain is still needed at this time.

119 **Presbyterian Women:** Vicki Bell

120 The Florida Presbytery Women were excited to meet for their Coordinating Team Meeting and Annual
121 Gathering in March at the Faith Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee. June Williamson and Faith’s
122 Presbyterian Women welcomed us. We were privileged to hear and enjoy the sermon from Rev. Greta
123 Reed, one of her last sermons before retiring after Easter and honoring the Presbyterian Women who
124 passed away in 2023. The business meeting included approval of the Budget for 2024; all Coordinating
125 Team Officers agreed to serve another term and were installed, and the upcoming Come See Columbia
126 Day and the August Churchwide Gathering in St. Louis was discussed.

127 Becky Rose presented a PowerPoint presentation during lunch at the Annual Gathering on the National
128 Union of Presbyterian Women of Guatemala. She has shared this presentation with the churches of our
129 Presbytery.

130 At the Florida Presbytery Meeting in February, information was presented on the PW Scholarship
131 Program. Two scholarships were approved at the CT Meeting in March, and the recipients were
132 announced at the Annual Gathering. The recipients are Rosa A. Walters and Ryan P. Obray, and both are
133 attending Austin Theological College this fall.

134 The month of May begins the annual update of the information in the Directory of the Presbyterian
135 Women Officers in our Presbytery churches.

136 The next PW CT Meeting and Leadership Workshop for moderators, treasurers, historians and Together
137 in Service officers will take place in August.

138 **MINISTRY AND COMMISSION REPORTS**

139 **Ministry Coordinating Council (MCC):** No report

140 **Ministry of Dogwood Acres (MDWA):** Bill Lamont

141 At the October 2023 meeting of the Presbytery of Florida, following a recommendation of the Strategic
142 Planning Implementation Task Force, the Presbytery voted to approve a yearlong discernment study on
143 whether Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and Summer Camp should leave their position as a ministry of
144 the Presbytery to become a separate 501c3 non-profit corporation. Those who would participate in the
145 discernment process were the Committee on Dogwood Acres and five others nominated to this special
146 task of 9 by the Presbytery.

147 Our progress to reach the goal of discernment:

148 In January, the Committee on Dogwood Acres met with Joel Winchip, Executive Director of the
149 Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association (PCCCA), to get some basic information about
150 the the “how”s and “why”s camps have moved towards 501c3 status. The meeting was recorded so that
151 the full membership of the discernment committee could review it.

152 Our February meeting welcomed new members and included a full discussion of what we had learned
153 from Joel and the questions it brought up for us. We looked at the historical background of Dogwood’s
154 relationship with the camp and walked the committee through a snapshot of our financial situation.

155 In March, the full committee met with Doug Walters, former Dogwood Acres Director, current Director
156 of Camp Hanover in Mechanicsville, Virginia, and President of PCCCA (Presbyterian Church Camp and
157 Conference Association). Under Doug’s leadership, Camp Hanover recently became 501c3, non-profit
158 corporation with a covenant relationship with the Presbytery of the James. Doug walked the committee
159 through the lengthy process to achieve 501c3 status and shared the reasons that Camp Hanover was
160 making this move. In addition, he provided advice regarding the process, including important questions
161 we should be asking ourselves as we make this discernment. Our meeting ended with a time of questions
162 and answers and general discussion.

163 The committee met in April to distill its learnings from the discernment process. The most important
164 things learned are:

- 165 • Education and Communication will be needed to explain the mutual benefits to the Dogwood
166 community and the POF regarding the transition to a not-for-profit incorporation.
- 167 • A covenant must be created which clarifies the relationship between the PoF and DWA, including
168 financial support.
- 169 • Changing DWA to a non-profit is not a silver bullet that will solve Dogwood’s nor the PoF’s financial
170 issues.
- 171 • Although some grants are easier to apply for as a non-profit, grant funding is of minimal help in
172 raising an operating budget.
- 173 • Fundraising will be more important than ever, and Dogwood must cultivate donors.
- 174 • The switch to non-profit status provides insurance “firewall” between Dogwood and Presbytery. This
175 has advantages for both Dogwood and Presbytery.
- 176 • The shift to non-profit status takes a long time. While incorporation is relatively easy, non-profit status
177 can take 18-24 months to achieve.
- 178 • Under envisioned Covenant, Dogwood would own the property, including right to sell or encumber
179 property; property would revert to presbytery only if the non-profit corporation ceases to exist.

180 The Discernment Committee requests presbytery establish a transition team composed of members of the
181 Dogwood Acres Committee and representatives of the presbytery to implement the transition of
182 Dogwood Acres into a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. This was moved, seconded and passed.

183 **Administrative Commission – St. Andrews, Panama City:** Eric Spoon

184 On March 31, 2024 the congregation held their final service as a worshipping body at St. Andrews
185 Presbyterian Church. As of April 1, 2024 the Administrative Commission for St. Andrews Presbyterian
186 Church of Panama City has exercised their right to use original jurisdiction to ensure the property and
187 funds of the church are maintained and handled properly going forward. Below are the actions the
188 Administrative Commission have taken or are working on.

- 189 1. The Administrative Commission dissolved St. Andrews Presbyterian Church of Panama City, effective
190 April 1, 2024.
- 191 2. The Administrative Commission has offered to help registered members of the congregation transfer
192 their membership to another Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation, or if desired, to a different
193 denomination.
- 194 3. All minutes, that have not previously been forwarded, of Session and Congregational Meetings, and
195 Registers of the congregation will be forwarded to the Presbyterian Historical Society.
- 196 4. The contents of the facility will be made by the Administrative Commission, and a list of those
197 contents will be forwarded to the members congregations of the Presbytery of Florida and those
198 congregations be allowed to take what they desire until the property is disposed of.
- 199 5. All funds from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church will be transferred to the Presbytery of Florida
200 effective April 17, 2024 and maintained and utilized by the Administrative Commission, until the
201 Administrative Commission is dissolved or the funds are no longer needed by the Administrative
202 Commission.
- 203 6. The Administrative Commission will engage a real estate entity to find a purchaser for the property.

204 **Items Pending**

- 205 1. The PILP loan for the property has been satisfied and the documentation has been obtained by the
206 Administrative Commission and is being filed with the Clerk of Court on behalf of the Presbytery of
207 Florida.
- 208 2. The contract of the sale of the property will be presented to the Ministry Coordinating Council of the
209 Presbytery of Florida, and/or the Presbytery of Florida for final approval.

210 **Strategic Plan Implementation Taskforce: Tim Crawford**

- 211 • All ministries are meeting and have established a schedule for regular meetings.
- 212 • Implementation Taskforce ministry liaisons are working to assist ministries in developing their Policies
213 and Procedures Handbook per the Presbytery Manual of Operations.
- 214 • The taskforce is working toward helping the presbytery establish a set of priorities based on our vision
215 and mission statements: o Our Vision: To be a presbytery of strong, healthy, energetic congregations
216 advancing the ministries of Jesus Christ.
- 217 o Our Mission: To provide guidance, training, and assistance to our congregations.
- 218 o These priorities will set the focus for the presbytery and ministries to move toward the presbytery's
219 success implementation of the strategic plan.
- 220 • Help the presbytery set additional success markers to measure the effectiveness of the strategic plan,
221 particularly with training and congregational support.

222 **Ministry Of Leadership Development (MLD): Cathy Mooney**

- 223 • *Approval of Emily Bruno as Inquirer:* Emily is an elder at First, Tallahassee, with a remarkable service
224 and community outreach history. She is a student at Iliff Theological Seminary in Denver, Colorado,
225 finishing her second year.

- 226 • *The Education Hour of Presbytery for May*: We had been working on a Christian Education format with
227 four 11 workshops but opted to use this valuable time to discuss the recent changes in the BOP offerings
228 for 2025. Clark Simmons will be at the May Presbytery meeting, and this gives us all an opportunity to
229 learn more about what is coming.
- 230 • Mission and Outreach funds are to be used to fly Eliane Menzes from Miami to Pensacola on August 24
231 to address Presbytery about the work of PW-Guatemala.
- 232 • Bob Gamble, PC(USA) minister and Executive Director of This Child Here, a validated ministry of the
233 PC(USA) serving orphans, children, youth, and families in war-torn Ukraine, will address presbytery at
234 our October 2024 presbytery meeting while he is itinerating and traveling in USA.
- 235 • We reviewed the names of our Inquirers and CRE candidates and discussed a webinar to help liaisons
236 assist candidates with the process for Ordination Exams.

237 **Ministry of Pastoral Transitions (MPT):** Lisa Martin

- 238 • MPT is actively working with the following congregations:
- 239 1. Euchee Valley, DeFuniak Springs – full-time pastor
 - 240 2. First, Fort Walton Beach – part-time pastor
 - 241 3. First, Quincy – full- time pastor
 - 242 4. First, Tallahassee – full-time pastor
 - 243 5. Lafayette, Tallahassee – full-time pastor
 - 244 6. Trinity, Pensacola – full-time associate pastor
 - 245 7. First, Crestview & Laurel Hill – part-time interim pastor

246 **Recent Actions:**

- 247 1. Established an “examination team” whose sole responsibility is to conduct examinations of persons
248 elected to serve our congregations as pastor, associate pastor, commissioned ruling elder, or other
249 contracted pastoral position.
- 250 2. Approved the commission to install the Rev. Blair Beaver as pastor of First, Marianna on July 14, 2024 at
251 4:00 PM (Central).
- 252 3. Approved the Rev. Dr. Roy Martin to serve as moderator for First, Chipley.
- 253 4. Approved Rev. Cathy Mooney to serve as moderator for Freeport.

254 • **Ongoing work:**

- 255 1. Updating the Pulpit Supply List on the presbytery website
- 256 2. Creating a Manual of Operations with policies and procedures for MPT
- 257 3. Learning about the “new” (as of Fall of 2023) Church Leadership Connection (CLC) arm of the
258 Presbyterian Mission Agency that matches clergy with congregations

259 **Ministry of Presbytery Operations (MPO):** Eric Spoon

- 260 • **Financials:** Our budget has been updated with the new ministries and shared support is coming in. Please
261 see the treasurer’s report for the actual finances of the Presbytery. There was a mistake in the approved

262 budget with the Insurance for Worker's Comp being split between MPO and MCC. That has been
263 corrected and is solely under MCC. No financial amount change has been made.

- 264 • **Stewardship:** We will begin budget work and stewardship by August so please make sure the Presbytery
265 has your information for your clerk, treasurer, and moderator of your Session.
- 266 • **Presbytery Property:** The office still has some minor work left to be done by the contractor for
267 completion such as hanging door hinges.
- 268 • **Treasurer's Report:** Michael Martin
 - 269 ○ Michael reported that he has nearly finished all the changes to the chart of accounts in QuickBooks for
270 the restructuring of the presbytery.
 - 271 ○ The presbytery is in good shape financially at this time of year, having received 120% of pledges for this
272 time of year. Some congregations have given all, many have given some, and a few have not yet begun to
273 give toward their Shared Support 2024 pledge.

274 **Ministry of Representation (MR):** Rich Kangas

- 275 • The Synod of the South Atlantic requested a nominee for their Permanent Judicial Commission for Class
276 2028. Rev. Roy Martin retired is our nominee. The Synod elects to this position.
- 277 • The Implementation Task Force input from ministry moderators has resulted in requirements for the
278 seven new ministries of the Presbytery. Listed are the ministries and their requirements;
 - 279 ○ Ministry on Church Health - 10
 - 280 ○ Ministry on Leadership Development - 9
 - 281 ○ Ministry on Pastoral Transition - 7
 - 282 ○ Ministry on New Congregation Formation - 6
 - 283 ○ Ministry on Presbytery Operations - 6, Ministry on Dogwood Acres - 8
 - 284 ○ Ministry on Representation - 6
- 285 • We presently have 3 Ministry vacancies:
 - 286 ○ Ministry on Pastoral Transition – 1, Class 2027 (Minister needed)
 - 287 ○ Ministry on New Congregation Formation – 1, Class 2027 (PNC experience needed)
 - 288 ○ Ministry on Representation – 1, Class 2027

289 **Transitional Presbyter Search Committee:** Tim Crawford

- 290 • Ministry Coordinating Council approve the Presbytery's Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) on April
291 27, 2024, along with suggestions for minor changes in the profile.
- 292 • Most of the changes were implemented and the MDP was completed, and Competency Match Criteria
293 information was entered finishing the initial work of the committee.
- 294 • This submission now starts the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) matching process for the
295 Presbytery's MDP to Personal Discernment Profiles of those seeking positions.

- 296 • In addition to using the CLC system the committee is preparing advertisements to be submitted to the
297 Presbyterian Outlook classified ads.

298 **Report From Our Synod Executive:** Valerie Young

- 299 • There will be a Synod-wide, in-person gathering on March 27-29, 2025 at the office of Charleston-
300 Atlantic Presbytery. Exec, stated clerk and members of council invited. Conversation around what synod
301 is doing, as well as presbytery borders.
- 302 • Remember First Wednesday Sack Lunch online conversation.

303 **ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER**

304 The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 10:35 AM CT/11:35 AM ET by Mark Broadhead.

305 **NEXT MEETING:** Saturday, August 24, 2024 at 9AM CT/10AM ET at Pensacola-Northminster.

306 Minutes respectfully submitted,

307 Mark Broadhead,
308 on behalf of Hugh Hamilton, Recording Clerk

309 Mark Broadhead, Moderator
310 Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk
311 Hugh Hamilton, Recording Clerk

312 *Approved by the Ministry Coordinating Council July 25, 20*