

Reports to the **Presbytery of Florida** **Summer Stated Meeting**

Tuesday, August 11, 2026
9 a.m. CDT/10 a.m. EDT

First Presbyterian Church
of Milton
5203 Elmira St
Milton, FL 32570

<https://www.fpcmilton.org/>



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Attention, please!

- **Please RSVP online for the meeting [HERE](#).** If planning to have lunch, please **make a lunch reservation [at this link](#)**. You may pay for lunch in person at the meeting or pre-pay online when submitting your lunch reservation.
- **Lunch menu** – \$10 per person: Spaghetti with Marinara Sauce (vegetarian favorite), Fettucine Alfredo, Fresh Salad and Bread, Chocolate Cake with Iced Tea, Lemonade, Coffee and Assorted Teas.
- **Tuesday Table:** Every Tuesday evening, First, Milton serves a warm dinner for their food-insecure neighbors in Santa Rosa County. If you'd like to help provide a meal the evening of August 11, please bring a covered dish with you to the presbytery meeting.
- **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 www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-meetings/meeting-dockets-documents/
- **Check for additional meeting documents**, such as supplemental reports received nearer the meeting date, at www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-meetings/meeting-dockets-documents/
- **Please download and review meeting documents in advance**, if possible, as limited quantities of printed materials will be available at the meeting. 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. Contact Assistant Stated Clerk Rev. Eric Spoon at e.spoon@presbyteryofflorida.com.
- **First Presbyterian Church of Milton** is located at [5203 Elmira St, Milton, Florida](#)



Beloved Presbytery of Florida!

I am still getting to know you and, as we prepare for our August 11 educational session, “**SWOT Happens!**”, I'd love to hear from you.

Consider investing a few minutes to complete this brief survey. Your responses will help guide our conversation as we explore the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges facing our Presbytery, with a focus on grants and resources, healthy ministry policies, and leadership opportunities, and will allow me to know you even more.

Please complete the survey by Aug 5th, 2026:

<https://forms.gle/ELabd6rnoTWnnmEZA>

Thank you for helping us learn, grow, and discern God's future together.

Count it all joy!

Rev. Mario A. Bolivar
Equipping Presbyter and Stated Clerk

The Vision of the Presbytery of Florida is to be a Presbytery of strong, healthy, energetic congregations advancing the ministries of Jesus



The Mission of the Presbytery of Florida is to provide guidance, training, and assistance to our congregations to attain that Vision.

DOCKET OF THE PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA AUGUST 11, 2026 - 9:00 A.M. CT / 10:00 A.M. ET FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MILTON

(Note: All times listed are Central Time.)

THE BODY ASSEMBLING

- 8:00 Registration
- 9:00 Convene the Meeting of the Presbytery
 - Declaration of a Quorum Mario Bolivar
 - Opening Prayer Greg Seltzer
 - Adoption of the Docket Mario Bolivar
 - Welcome and Instructions from Our Host Deborah Potter
 - Introductions..... Greg Seltzer
 - o First-Time Ruling Elders
 - o First-Time Clergy
 - o Corresponding Members
 - o Others

THE BODY AT WORSHIP

- 9:10 Worship..... Deborah Potter
 - Commissioning of Deborah Potter to First, Milton

THE BODY GAINING KNOWLEDGE

- 10:25 Ministry Partner Reports
 - Christy Williams – Dogwood Acres
 - Matt Frease – UKirk Tallahassee
 - Deborah Potter/Brad Bishop – Offentsive Corp
- 10:35 Staff Reports
 - Mario Bolivar – Stated Clerk..... Page 56
- 10:45 Resourcing..... Mario Bolivar
 - SWOT Analysis
- 11:45 ORDER OF THE DAY: LUNCH**

THE BODY AT WORK

12:30 Reconvene with Prayer

12:35 Report Highlights and Items for Action

- Ministry Coordinating Council..... Page 64
- Representation Page 65
- Leadership Development..... Page 66
- Presbyterian Women Page 67
- New Congregation Formation.....
- Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force Page 68 + Handout
- Congregational and Pastoral Care Page 70
- Dogwood Acres Page 72
- Pastoral Transitions..... Page 73
- Presbytery Operations..... Page 78
 - o Treasurer's Report – Michael Martin..... Page 79
- First, Blountstown Administrative Commission Page 86
- Reports from our General Assembly Commissioners and
Young Adult Advisory Delegate Page 87

2:00 Other Items

THE BODY GOING FORTH TO FURTHER THE MINISTRIES OF JESUS CHRIST

2:05 Adjourn with Prayer

Next Meeting of the Presbytery of Florida

- Tuesday, October 27, 2026 – Quincy, First

Future Meetings of the Presbytery of Florida: (all beginning 9:00 A.M. CT)

- Tuesday, February 23, 2027
- Saturday, May 22, 2027 – Dogwood Acres
- Tuesday, August 10, 2027
- Tuesday, October 26, 2027

**Minutes of Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting
at Dogwood Acres Summer Camp and Retreat Center
May 16, 2026**

The Presbytery of Florida, Inc., of the Synod of South Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met at Dogwood Acres Summer Camp and Retreat Center for a Stated Meeting on Saturday, May 16, 2026.

	Present	Absent	Total
Ruling Elders:			
- Session Commissioners	25	13	38
- Other Continuing Members not serving as commissioners (RE ministry moderators/team chairs {3}; RE officers{0}; RE educators {0})	2	1	3
- CLP/CRE	2	2	4
Total Ruling Elders	29	16	45
Ministers of Word and Sacrament	24	32	56
Total Present and Total Absent	53	48	101
Congregations Represented	25	10	35

Member Ministers of Word and Sacrament present (24): *Michael Askew, Mario Bolivar, Lorne Bostwick, Mark Broadhead, Hanlim Chae, Brant Copeland, Matthew Frease, Eugene Harris, Glenn Hodges, Jean Homrighausen, Harvey Jenkins, Kenneth Kelley, James Krapf, William Lamont, A. J. Mealor, Cathy Mooney, Eric Spoon, Sheldon Steen, John Stringer, John Wamsley, Stacey Kaye White, Carol Wood, Joan Wooten*
Italics = retired

Member Ministers of Word and Sacrament absent (32): *Mel Baars O'Malley, Frank Beall, Robert Bohnsack, William Bess, Rebecca Bryan, Lewis Bullard, Kwonsoo Cho, John Cole, Tai Cole, Terry Dyer, Raymond Guterman, Hugh Hamilton, James Holley, Edward Horne, John Kelsay, Sun Kim, Ted Land, Ruth Mashewske, Lindsay Moffett, Luis Ocasio Torres, Linda Pitts, Trinity Proctor, Robert Quiring, Margaret Reed, James Rollins, Erin Rosica, Erin Rugh, James Stansbury, Kim Stavenau, Rob Sugg, Mary Vance, Bonnie Wilkins*
Italics = retired

Excused Absent Member Ministers (Active) (6): *Rebecca Bryan, Kwonsoo Cho, Linda Pitts, Robert Quiring, Erin Rosica, Erin Rugh*

Unexcused Absent Member Ministers (Active) (9): *Mel Baars O'Malley, Robert Bohnsack, John Cole, Tai Cole, James Holley, Sun Kim, Luis Ocasio Torres, Trinity Proctor, Rob Sugg*

Ruling Elder Commissioners present/absent (25/13)

Chipley, First – John Calverly
Crestview, First – excused
DeFuniak Springs, Bethel – unexcused
DeFuniak Springs, Euchee Valley – Tommy Yates
DeFuniak Springs, First – Caroline LaPlante

29 **Destin, First** – unexcused
 30 **Fort Walton Beach, First** – Mary Nell Stringer
 31 **Fort Walton Beach, Korean** – Greg Obermier
 32 **Freeport, Freeport** – Karen Miller
 33 **Gretna, Gretna** – excused
 34 **Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze** – Linda Henderson
 35 **Havana, First** – unexcused
 36 **Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill** – excused
 37 **Lynn Haven, First** – Robert Plank
 38 **Marianna, First** – Joe Busby
 39 **Milton, First** – Jeanne Kimberl
 40 **Monticello, First** – unexcused
 41 **Navarre, Navarre** – Chris Schuller
 42 **Panama City Beach, Gulf Beach** – Donna Acton
 43 **Panama City, Grace** – James McQuagge
 44 **Panama City, Parkway** – Diana Jones
 45 **Pensacola, First** – Judi Seltzer
 46 **Pensacola, Korean Community** – unexcused
 47 **Pensacola, Northminster** – Pam Nulty
 48 **Pensacola, Trinity** – Cherie Boyce, Sharon Oakes
 49 **Quincy, First** – unexcused
 50 **Red Bay, Red Bay** – excused
 51 **Sawdust, Woodland** – Kathy Pack
 52 **Tallahassee, Christ** – Mike Weed
 53 **Tallahassee, Faith** – Donald Bourassa, Charles Hood
 54 **Tallahassee, Fellowship** – Michael Novak
 55 **Tallahassee, First** – Jon Dodrill
 56 **Tallahassee, Lafayette** – Matt Weinell
 57 **Tallahassee, Trinity United** – unexcused
 58 **Wewahitchka, First** – excused

59 **Sessions not represented:**

60 **Excused Churches (5):** 1st, Crestview; Gretna; Laurel Hill; Red Bay; 1st, Wewahitchka
 61 **Unexcused Churches (7):** Bethal, DeFuniak Springs; 1st, Destin; 1st, Havana; 1st, Monticello; Pensacola
 62 Korean Community; 1st, Quincy; Trinity United, Tallahassee
 63

64 **Continuing Members:**

65 **CREs present (2):** Alan House – Gretna/Woodland, Sawdust; Dr. Greg Seltzer – Northminster, Pensacola
 66 **CREs absent (2):** Tanya Fernandes – Navarre; Joanne Kublik, 1st, Crestview/Laurel Hill/Red Bay
 67 **Christian Educators with voice and vote present (0):**
 68 **Christian Educators with voice present (1):** Christy Williams
 69 **Presbytery Staff Members (2):** Michael Martin – Accountant/Treasurer; Melissa Willis – Administrator
 70 **Non-TE/CRE Officers/Ministry Moderators (2):** Mary Holdges, Ministry Coordinating Council (MCC);
 71 Linda Lovins, Ministry of Congregational and Pastoral Care (MCPC)

72 **Visitors (14):** Shelia Clark-Askew (Gulf Beach, Panama City Beach), Marlyn Weinell (Lafayette,
 73 Tallahassee), Robert Kennedy (Navarre), George Vedder (Calvary OPC, Tallahassee), Becky Rose
 74 (Freeport), Kathy Welsh (1st, Lynn Haven), Brad Thoreson (1st, Lynn Haven), Deborah Potter (1st, Milton),
 75 Bob Lovins (Faith, Tallahassee), Russell Nulty (Northminster, Pensacola), Ellen Galloway (1st, Marianna),
 76 Hilda Jackson (1st, DeFuniak Springs), Denise Pentecost (Lafayette, Tallahassee), Andra Copeland (1st,
 77 Tallahassee), Lorilee Corbitt (1st, Fort Walton Beach)

78 **Visiting Ministers (0):**

79 **OPENING PRAYER, QUORUM, DOCKET**

80 Moderator CRE Greg Seltzer called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM CDT/10:00 AM EDT. A quorum (eight
81 Ministers of Word and Sacrament and eight Ruling Elders, representing at least eight member congregations)
82 was present. The moderator opened the meeting with prayer.
83 It was moved and seconded to approve the docket as submitted. The motion was approved.

84 **WELCOME**

85 Christy Williams, Director of Dogwood Acres Summer Retreat Center and Camp, welcomed the presbytery
86 and provided instructions for the day's activity, meals, and facilities.

87 **INTRODUCTIONS**

88 First-time ruling elders, teaching elders, corresponding members, and visitors were introduced.
89 It was moved and seconded to seat the Rev. Dr. Russell L. Myer, Director of the Florida Council of
90 Churches, with the privilege of voice for the Spring 2026 Presbytery Meeting. The motion was approved.

91 **MORNING WORSHIP**

92 Rev. Mario Bolivar led the assembly in worship, preaching on the scripture from John 4, with "In God's
93 Measure, Not Our Own."
94 The service continued with the installation of the Rev. Mario Bolivar to the position of as Equipping
95 Presbyterian/Stated Clerk.
96 The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

97 **MINISTRY PARTNER REPORTS**

98 **Dogwood Acres**

99 Christy Williams – Sent thanks to the presbytery and congregations for supporting Dogwood Acres making
100 the work of the ministry possible. She also reported that 2025 DWA Ministries increased by 30% over the
101 previous year.

102 **UKirk Tallahassee**

103 Campus Minister Rev. Dr. Matt Frease sent greetings from FSU and UKirk. He also sent thanks for the
104 Presbytery's support of UKirk and FSU Student body ministry. He also spoke of the importance of UKirk's
105 work and ministry, and said they look forward to the next 75 years.

106 **STAFF REPORTS**

107 Eric Spoon – Assistant Stated Clerk

108 An oral report was given.

109 **Items for Information**

110 1st, Blountstown Presbyterian Church celebrated their last service on December 28, 2025. The
111 Administrative Commission accepted an offer, and the property has been closed on.
112 Several congregations are still working on incorporating according to the mandates of the Book of Order.
113 The Moderators and Vice-Moderators of MPT, MCPC, and MLD met with Mark Broadhead, Tim Crawford,
114 and me to work on ensuring that the processes for handling churches and ministers are all in line so that there
115 is not duplicate work being done and churches and ministers do not slip through the gaps.
116 A list of church moderators, clerks of session, and treasurers has been created. This needs to be reviewed by
117 each congregation for accuracy.
118 Followup work on the 2026 budget and fund accounts has taken place to ensure the Presbytery funds are
119 being utilized in the best responsible way. This work is still ongoing.
120 The Rev. Mark Broadhead was approved by MCC to be the Recording Clerk for the May 2026 Stated
121 Presbytery meeting.

122 **Communications to Presbytery**
123 Report of the Synod of South Atlantic Meeting – RE Commissioner Joanne Kublik

124 Report of the Synod of the South Atlantic Meeting

125 The regular meeting of the Synod of the South Atlantic was held on March 14, 2026. The meeting was
126 opened by Vice Moderator Rev. Christina Greenawalt. The following is a brief synopsis of the meeting.

127 The Embody Committee was tasked to present to the assembly the name of a new Synod Moderator as the
128 Moderator elected at the October 2025 meeting had resigned. Jacquelyn Rembert was presented and was
129 elected Moderator of the Synod for 2026.

130 Synod Executive/Stated Clerk Valerie Young reported that there are 16 new Synod commissioners.

131 The following was also reported by Ms. Young.

132 *The SPJC has received two references of disciplinary allegations. Two investigating committees were
133 formed in late 2025. One has completed its work, and the other continues.

134 *Three presbyteries are actively searching for leadership.

135 *Marty Suzie, Director of Mission & Program Advancement for Savannah Presbytery, brought a report of
136 the Georgia Presbyteries gathering that took place in February.

137 *A video from Rev. Buzz Wilcoxon, moderator of the South Carolina Presbyteries Boundaries Team, was
138 shown providing an update of their work.

139 *There was an online gathering of presbytery moderators, vice-moderators, and immediate past moderators
140 on March 23rd.

141 *1st Wednesday SACK Lunch gatherings continue with much enthusiasm and many suggestions for future
142 topics.

143 *The new COM seedling network has begun a 3rd Wednesday SACK Lunch gathering around topics specific
144 to traditional Committees on Ministry.

145 The Treasurer's report was presented by Andy Schleupner. He walked commissioners through the 2025
146 financial reports and explained the synod's move toward a cash-based budget, which impacts our financial
147 situation. He also discussed the auditor's report. A motion was made to accept the results of the 2025
148 Financial Audit; this was approved

149 The Embody Committee provided an update on the committee's work in assigning commissioners to
150 committees and the 2026 Embody Leader Formation Cohort. The cohort took place from April 9-11, 2026.
151 Eleven participants from 8 Presbyteries had registered as of the Synod meeting on March 14th. The Embody
152 Committee is still working on reviewing and aligning synod policies.

153 The Cultivate Committee continues to work to update the synod's covenants and connect more intentionally
154 with ministry partners. Greeting were brought from Presbyterian College by Rev. Erin Farry. An update was
155 provided on the development of a new seedling network for those involved with COM and encouraged the
156 assembly to help spread the work about synod networks. A video introducing networks was shared. This
157 video can also be found on the synod YouTube channel. [https://youtu.be/7pcD-](https://youtu.be/7pcD-LU24hM?si=1q3CBJouDGctHxL6)
158 [LU24hM?si=1q3CBJouDGctHxL6](https://youtu.be/7pcD-LU24hM?si=1q3CBJouDGctHxL6)

159 The Inspire Committee moved that the assembly authorize the Inspire Committee to formulate the purpose
160 and criteria for, finalize, and administer the "Youth & Young Adult Grant" as proposed in the 2024
161 Visioning Task Force Report. The motion was approved. Also, it was moved that the synod adopt the final
162 2026 budget as presented. Motion was approved.

163 Coordinating Committee moved the approval of the recommended amendments to the synod's Manual of
164 Operations. Approved.

165 Coordinating Committee also moved the approval of future in-person synod meeting and Journey event for
166 February 25-27, 2027 at Epworth By the Sea at St. Simons Island, GA. Approved.

167 The next meeting of the Synod of the South Atlantic is Monday, October 19, 2026 from 6 pm to 8 pm
168 Eastern (5 pm – 7 pm Central) via Zoom.

169 Respectfully submitted,
170 Joanne Kublik, RE Synod Commissioner for the Presbytery of Florida

171 **Information from the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations**

172 Dear Mid-Council Leaders,

173 The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (PMUN) will host a delegation of Presbyterian young adults
174 (roughly ages 18-25) to attend the first week of the High Level Political Forum (July 7-10, 2026) in New
175 York City. Ideal applicants are college or graduate school students interested in international development,
176 global ministries, and social justice. Our goal is to engage young people in social witness, develop future
177 leaders, and inspire young adults to be agents of change. The link to the application is [here](#).

178 Each delegate will receive an official UN grounds pass, giving them access to the UN HLPF proceedings and
179 side events in New York. Delegates will also participate in events hosted by civil society organizations. In
180 addition to UN events, delegates will participate in events hosted by PMUN to form a network of young
181 Presbyterian advocates and activists. Delegates are expected to attend in person from Monday, July 6th to
182 Friday, July 10th.

183 Delegates are responsible for arranging their own travel and accommodation. Delegates can reach out to their
184 church, presbytery, or synod for support. The PMUN team is looking into finding affordable housing options
185 for our young adult delegates during the Forum. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

186 We look forward to continuing this exciting initiative and engaging with young adults in our denomination!
187 If you are interested in participating in this year's delegation, kindly complete this application form by
188 Tuesday, May 26th, 2026. The official UN registration deadline to receive a grounds pass for the Forum is
189 Monday, June 1st, so we highly encourage all interested applicants to submit their applications before the
190 26th. Please share this widely with any young adults you may know. If you have any questions or would like
191 any more information, please do not hesitate to contact PMUN's Advocacy Associate, Clare Balsan, by
192 email (clare.balsan@pcusa.org) or phone (502-612-6130).

193 Grace + peace,
194 Madeleine So (She/Her) Young Adult Volunteer
195 Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations



MID COUNCIL RELATIONS

196 *Mid Council Newsletter May 8, 2026*
197 *a ministry of the Interim Unified Agency, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

198 Greetings,

199 As we move into the final stages of preparation for GA, many of us are very focused on getting ready for and
200 getting to Milwaukee! If you are interested in following the business of the assembly, please make sure to
201 sign up for a [MyGA account](#). This week all the items of business were assigned to the various committees, so
202 you'll be able to see what will be on each committee's docket. Other ways to follow along are [PNS](#)
203 (Presbyterian News Service), the [Outlook](#).

204 For the months of June and July, we'll only publish this newsletter once a month since there will be so much
205 information coming from other places.

206 Between now and GA, there's plenty going on – check out the offerings below. Warmly,
207 Sarah

208 **Invitations and Information**

209 **From the Office of Faithful Innovation Innovation Network Gathering**
210 *Conversation + Connection: Ministry in a VUCA Environment*
211 **May 20, 2:00pm ET on [Zoom](#)**

212 What does faithful leadership look like in a world that feels increasingly volatile, uncertain, complex, and
213 ambiguous? In this interactive Conversation + Connection gathering, we'll explore how ministry can remain
214 grounded, responsive, and imaginative amid constant change.

215 Together, we'll engage five key pathways of influence: Moral Voice, Pastoral Guidance, Communal
216 Embodiment, Spirit-Led Innovation, and Liberative Action as lenses for navigating today's ministry
217 landscape. This isn't just theory; it's a space to reflect, share, and learn from one another's lived experiences.

218 Come ready to connect with peers, surface real challenges, and discover practices that can help you lead with
219 clarity, courage, and hope in the midst of complexity. Whether you're discerning next
220 steps or actively navigating change, this conversation is designed to spark insight and strengthen your
221 capacity for faithful, adaptive leadership. Join the conversation: <https://pcusa-org.zoom.us/j/99020923630>

222 ~~~

223 **From the Office of Christian Formation: Updated Resource Page**

224 Have you been looking for resources from the Office of Christian Formation? Look at the newly updated
225 resource page at pcusa.org/formationresources listed by topic.

226 ~~~

227 **Christian Formation Collective**

228 This is made up of the Office of Christian Formation and five partner organizations (APCE, UKIRK,
229 POAMN, PYWA, PCCCA). We collaborate on resourcing and supporting leaders. This year each
230 organization is holding an in-person event to equip and support formation leaders in particular areas of
231 ministry. We invite you to consider registering for one or more of these events and encouraging other
232 leaders in your areas to attend. See links below for more information.

233 **UKirk Collegiate Ministries National Gathering** - "[Making Room: Creating Space, Celebrating](#)
234 [Curiosity, and Blessing the Spirit's Work Among Us](#)" - July 20-23 2026 at Zephyr Point Conference
235 Center, NV.

236 **Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN) Conference** - [Rooted in Hope: Equipping](#)
237 [Leaders for Ministry with Older Adults](#)" - September 16-18, 2026 in Knoxville, TN.

238 **Presbyterian Youth Workers' Association (PYWA) Gathering** - "[Come to the Mountains](#)" October 5-
239 8, 2026 at Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, NC.

240 **Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association (PCCCA) Conference** - "[Day by Day](#)" -
241 November 8-12, 2026 at Mo Ranch in Hunt Texas.

242 **Association of Partners in Christian Education (APCE) Annual Event** - "[Can These Bones Lie?](#)
243 [Rediscovering What Matters](#)" - January 27-30, 2027 in Portland OR.

244 **Items for Action:**

245 None

246 **RESOURCING**

247 Members of the Racial Justice Subcommittee, the Rev. Dr. Harvey Jenkins and the Rev. Dr. Joan Wooten,
248 introduced the Rev. Dr. Russell L. Myer, Director of the Florida Council of Churches, who led the
249 presbytery in a presentation and discussion on matters of social justice.

250 Thanks were given for the ministry of Tallahassee-First. Most people do not live within 100 miles of the
251 city in which they were born. Most present moved to NW Florida from outside Florida. Many new
252 people but not all aspects of life/society have changed. Don't use "decline" when it comes to dwindling
253 membership. The most traumatized population currently is children in schools. What they need is love.
254 Experiencing scarcity, lack of food, etc.

255 Physics has discovered there is "something" that holds everything together, but they cannot name it. We
256 can name it – God! We are all in an unbreakable tie.

257 Jesus on the cross – I am going to show them that violence doesn't work. Nature wastes nothing, humans
258 waste everything.

259 Joan spoke regarding the Anti-Racism policy. She provided a history of the development of anti-racism
260 points within the PCUSA.

261 ORDER OF THE DAY: Lunch. Christy Williams led the Presbytery in a "camp blessing" over the meal.

262 RECONVENE
 263 The Presbytery was reconvened with prayer by Moderator Seltzer following lunch.

264 ORDER OF THE DAY: Dogwood Acres Task Force and UKirk Tallahassee
 265 RE Christy Williams and Rev. Dr. Mathew Frease presented information regarding future support for Dogwood
 266 Acres Retreat Center and Camp and Ukirk Tallahassee respectively. The successes and growth by participation
 267 with both ministries were shared with the Presbytery. Videos of four pastors who engaged in the ministries of
 268 Dogwood Acres and UKirk described how they were impacted by the ministry of these organizations.

269 The Covenant Agreement between Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and Camp, Inc. below was presented and
 270 discussed.

271 It was moved and seconded that the Presbytery of Florida approve the covenant agreement between the Presbytery
 272 of Florida and Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and Camp, Inc. allowing for transition toward attaining independent
 273 501(c)(3) status. Following discussion of pros and cons regarding the financial aspect, the motion passed.

274 **COVENANT AGREEMENT**
 275 **Between Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and Camp, Inc., A Non-Profit Organization**
 276 **and The Presbytery of Florida, A Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

277 **Preamble**

278 This Covenant Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into between Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and
 279 Camp, Inc. ("Dogwood Acres"), a non-profit organization in the state of Florida, and the Presbytery of
 280 Florida ("the Presbytery"), a council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This Agreement acknowledges
 281 the historic, present and future relationship between Dogwood Acres and the Presbytery, affirming their
 282 mutual purpose and support.

283 **Dogwood Acres**
 284 *"The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it." — Psalm 24:1*

285 **Mission Statement**
 286 Dogwood Acres is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a setting for spiritual growth,
 287 education, fellowship, environmental awareness, and recreation. It serves faith groups, associations,
 288 individuals, and community organizations by developing and offering retreats and camps, facilitating
 289 retreats and camps that are offered by other groups, and hosting retreats and camps on-site at Dogwood
 290 Acres.

291 **Vision Statement**
 292 Dogwood Acres envisions a place where people of every age step away from the noise of life to rest,
 293 renew, and reconnect in the beauty of creation. Here, children, youth, and adults are formed to lead with
 294 courage, live with purpose, and steward God's gifts faithfully—bringing transformation to communities,
 295 the church, and the world.

296 **History of Dogwood Acres as a ministry of the Presbytery of Florida**
 297 In the early 1960s, leaders in the Presbytery of Florida envisioned a place set apart for young people to
 298 connect to creation and develop their faith. In 1966 the Presbytery purchased property in Vernon/Chipley,
 299 Florida for this purpose. The rustic campground that these good saints imagined has developed into a
 300 vibrant, accessible retreat center serving people of all ages and stages of life. Through many
 301 transformations, this ministry has continued to thrive thanks to the help and support of churches,
 302 individuals, and the Presbytery.

303 From the beginning, the Presbytery of Florida and Dogwood Acres were one in the same ministry.
304 Dogwood Acres staff, supplies, equipment, insurance, and utilities - all things that made the camp viable -
305 were part of the Presbytery's budget. A designated committee of the Presbytery oversaw the operations
306 and reported to the body of the Presbytery. Congregations' per capita giving was used to support the camp
307 and its operations. Dogwood Acres did not do fundraising campaigns to churches but did accept donations
308 for scholarships and special projects.

309 Around 2016, Dogwood Acres and the Presbytery began the process of separating their finances. The
310 Presbytery and the Dogwood Acres staff all agreed that it would be easier and provide better
311 accountability for Dogwood Acres to track its own finances and for the Presbytery to simply offer
312 financial support, along with some oversight. Dogwood Acres began by formulating an annual budget
313 and tracking all income and expenses monthly, reporting to the Presbytery at least quarterly. This has
314 worked well for the past nine years. The separation process included opening new bank accounts, with
315 Dogwood Acres signatories, and adding full access by the Dogwood Acres Director and representatives to
316 all the existing Dogwood Acres funds. Eventually many of the funds were consolidated and renamed and
317 the Dogwood Acres Committee has assumed financial reporting and responsibility. Over the years, the
318 Presbytery's support has been substantial, but, in January 2024, the annual support dropped from over
319 \$104,000 to just over \$60,000. At the same time, the Presbytery voted to require Dogwood Acres to seek
320 separate designation as a 501c3 (not-for-profit) corporation.

321 Over the past fifteen years, Dogwood Acres has operated with less and less direct management assistance
322 from the Presbytery, while remaining strongly committed to its Presbyterian roots and the Presbytery of
323 Florida. It recovered from devastating damage from Hurricane Michael in 2018, got through the
324 pandemic, and continues to fully function with strong leadership from its directors, staff, and Ministry
325 Team.

326 **1. Relationship and Governance**

327 1.1 Dogwood Acres affirms its commitment to the mission and ministry of the Presbytery of Florida and
328 the broader mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

329 1.2 Dogwood Acres operates as an independent non-profit corporation, governed by its Board of Directors
330 ("Board"). The Board has full authority and responsibility for the governance, operation, ownership and
331 management of the corporation and the property.

332 1.3 The Presbytery of Florida recognizes Dogwood Acres as a ministry partner, providing spiritual,
333 programmatic, and financial support as deemed appropriate by both parties.

334 1.4 The Presbytery of Florida shall appoint 1 member in good standing to serve for a designated term on
335 the Dogwood Acres Board of Directors.

336 **2. Mutual Support and Responsibilities**

337 2.1 Both Dogwood Acres and the Presbytery shall endeavor to support each other in ways that align with
338 their respective missions, including but not limited to:

339 · Promoting the use of Dogwood Acres for Christian education, retreats, camps, and other related
340 purposes.

341 · Encouraging congregations and members within the Presbytery to participate in the programs and
 342 activities of Dogwood Acres.

343 · Providing opportunities for collaboration in areas of ministry, mission, and stewardship.

344 · Encouraging all congregations and members to provide financial support for Dogwood Acres.

345 · Dogwood Acres agrees to offer staff leadership and physical facilities for appropriate training events,
 346 programs, seminars, and meetings designed to meet the needs of the Presbytery.

347 2.2 Dogwood Acres shall provide reports at least once a year at Presbytery meetings summarizing its
 348 activities, financial health, and future plans.

349 **3. Financial Support**

350 3.1 The Presbytery shall transfer from its treasury and investments all funds currently earmarked for
 351 Dogwood Acres.

352 3.2 The Presbytery of Florida shall provide Dogwood Acres funding to address deferred maintenance, and
 353 capital improvement needs, in the amount of \$500,000.

354 3.3 In addition to these capital improvement funds, the Presbytery shall provide annual funding to
 355 Dogwood Acres equal to prior year funding.

356 **4. Transfer of Property**

357 4.1 The Presbytery agrees to transfer all property currently held for the benefit and use of Dogwood Acres
 358 to Dogwood Acres.

359 4.2 Dogwood Acres and the Presbytery intend to enter a 99-year lease, with the Presbytery leasing the
 360 building currently used as the Office of Presbytery. That lease will be for the sum of \$1 per year and
 361 renew at the option of either party at the end of the term. The Presbytery will provide maintenance and
 362 insurance for the building and will keep it up to relevant Florida Building codes while it is in possession
 363 of the building.

364 4.3 Dogwood Acres agrees to provide the Presbytery a non-exclusive easement to the land in a fifty (50)-
 365 yard radius of the Office, and to existing roads providing access to the Office, as described in Addendum
 366 A of this agreement. Dogwood Acres will be responsible for the upkeep for the easement property.

367 **5. Reversion of Assets**

368 5.1 In the event that Dogwood Acres is formally dissolved, declares bankruptcy, or has a receiver
 369 appointed, all assets remaining after the payment of debts shall revert to the Presbytery of Florida or its
 370 successor. The Presbytery will have the right to match any offer for the real property assets in the event
 371 they are made available for sale to cover outstanding debts.

372 5.2 It is the intent of the parties that the Presbytery shall use any reverted assets in a manner that honors
 373 the legacy and mission of Dogwood Acres.

374 **6. Duration and Amendment**

375 6.1 This Agreement shall remain in effect unless and until modified by mutual written consent of both
 376 parties.

377 6.2 Any amendments or modifications to this Agreement must be agreed upon in writing and approved
 378 by the Board of Directors of Dogwood Acres and the Presbytery.

379 **7. Execution**

380 This Agreement shall become effective upon execution by the duly authorized representatives of both
 381 parties.

382 Signed this _____day of _____, 2026.

383 **For Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and Camp**

384 Signature: _____

385 Name: _____

386 Title: _____

387 Date: _____

388 **For the Presbytery of Florida**

389 Signature: _____

390 Name: _____

391 Title: _____

392 Date: _____

393 **End of Agreement**

394 **Rest of the page intentionally left blank.**

395

396 **UKirk Grant Request**

397 Rev. Frease presented the following grant request for UKirk Tallahassee. It was moved and seconded to
398 approve that UKirk receive a \$500,000 gift from the Presbytery for the purpose of their capital campaign.
399 The motion carried.



548 W. Park Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32301

850-222-6320 – matt@ukirkallahassee.com – www.ukirkallahassee.com

April 9, 2026

Presbytery of Florida
P. O. Box 7
Chipley, FL 32428-0007

To the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Florida and Members of the Coordinating Council:

I am writing today on behalf of the Board of Directors and students of UKirk Tallahassee to request that the Presbytery of Florida change its operating policy regarding the distribution of reserve funds. We are requesting a two-phase investment from the Presbytery of Florida to support our capital campaign to dramatically improve the ministry's most forward-facing element, Calvin's Coffee House.

Attached to this letter is our Presbytery's grant application to demonstrate how this investment is in line with the mission and objectives of the Presbytery of Florida. The total request is \$500,000.00 with an initial one-time gift of \$250,000.00 and a dollar-for-dollar matching gift of \$250,000.00. This two-phase investment, along with funds raised in our capital campaign, will be used to upgrade the building's original electrical system to meet current code, renovate the bathrooms to be accessible to people with disabilities, remodel the Coffee House's kitchen to be more efficient and compliant with the Florida Department of Agriculture's coffee shop standards, and repair the building's original slate roof.

As this request will require action by the Presbytery, we are requesting to be added to the May Meeting Agenda as the order of the day following lunch. We are planning to present this request in collaboration with Dogwood Acres. Though distinct, both ministries collaborate and play significant roles in the Presbytery's ecosystem of faith formation.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Dr. Mathew Frease
Campus Minister
UKirk Tallahassee
matt@ukirkallahassee.com
850-222-6320

UKirk Tallahassee Board of Directors:

Dr. Suzanne Rita Byrnes, President
Alice Malone, Vice President
Rev. Dr. Brant Copeland, Treasurer
Christy Stacy, Secretary Sherri Banyas
Rev. Becky Brian
Tommy Bull
Bennett Chesser
Alan House (CRE)

Patrick Kennedy
Katherine Mealar
Rowen Miller
Rev. Erin Rugh
Rev. Lauren Scott
Joseph Torrescano
Johnny Vodenicker
Boyce White

UNBUDGETED PROJECT APPLICATION

PROJECT NAME: UKirk Tallahassee Capital Project

Date 1/18/2026

Requesting Committee: N/A

Contact person(s): Rev. Dr. Matt Frease, Campus Minister, UKirk Tallahassee

■ Summary of the project (one paragraph)

UKirk Tallahassee (formerly the Presbyterian University Center) is planning to complete a significant physical update to the ministry's outward-facing mission, Calvin's Coffee House. Established in 2009 as a pay-what-you-can coffee shop and as an expression of the Ministry's values of welcome and hospitality, Calvin's has grown to be a safe and valued third space near the FSU Campus, serving on average just under 800 students, faculty, staff, and visitors weekly. Beyond providing a space for students, faculty, staff, and visitors to gather, Calvin's has developed into a community hub where students come to study, share their art, perform music/readings during open mic nights, worship on Thursdays after supper, and host social events with student organizations. Recently, Calvin's began serving as a "project host site," where students organize to raise funds for worthy projects around campus and elsewhere. Over the past 16 years, as this aspect of the ministry of UKirk Tallahassee has grown, board members and volunteers have used their time and energy to update the space through small projects that superficially improved it. The ministry, however, has reached a point where more significant updates are needed. This project will entail updating the building's original electrical system to meet current code, renovating the bathrooms to be accessible to people with disabilities, and remodeling the Coffee House's kitchen to be more efficient and compliant with the Florida Department of Agriculture's coffee shop standards. Additionally, we are preparing for the possibility that an insurance claim for roof damage will be denied and, after protracted litigation with our insurance provider, will necessitate significant funding to repair or replace the building's slate tile roof.

■ Amount requested:

We are requesting a two-phase investment from the Presbytery of Florida. The first phase would be a *one-time gift of \$250,000*. The *second phase would be a dollar-for-dollar match* of our "So All May Be Welcomed" Capital Campaign up to *\$250,000*. This could amount to a total investment of \$500,000 by the Presbytery of Florida in the ongoing ministry of UKirk Tallahassee.

■ Which of the 6 Project Objectives (see below) does this Project address? How? Include all that apply.

1. To invite the members and congregations of Florida Presbytery to dream new dreams, imagine new ways, and begin new initiatives that lead to the development, redevelopment, and renewal of congregational life, ministry, and outreach. (Joel 2:28-29)

- The Ministry of UKirk Tallahassee is a dynamic model of ministry in the Presbytery of Florida. Along with offering an initial Christian Community in which students live and uniquely participate in ministry, they also receive affordable, safe housing well below market rate, adjacent to the FSU campus. The ministry also has a worship community that provides students with a spiritual home where they can explore and deepen their faith within a community. Additionally, Calvin's Coffee House provides students with a safe gathering space to study, rest, and hang out with friends, as well as have access to free food provided by Manna on Meridian (Faith Presbyterian's Community Food bank) every Monday, or to purchase coffee and tea drinks, as well as bagels or muffins. The staff who Calvin's employs are students from various backgrounds. For some, this is their first job; for others, it is one of the ways they can afford to attend college. Yet for others, working at Calvin's is their first experience of working with a ministry, while for others, this is a chance to begin healing from harm caused by other Christian traditions' rejection of them. From these student baristas, Calvin's hires managers to oversee and direct the coffee house's operations, allowing them to grow and develop leadership and organizational skills. These student baristas and managers develop a unique relationship with the campus minister and office administrator, where questions of faith, vocation, and life are given voice and attended to by these ministry professionals. This has led to healing in some cases, and in others, the opportunity to be heard by a trusted adult has led to a freedom to make choices that more accurately cohere with who they understand themselves to be. Yet this is not limited to the staff alone; Calvin's baristas offer this care to patrons and visitors alike and invite them to talk with the Campus Minister or Office Administrator or to participate in the worshipping community.

2. To encourage innovative attempts to develop and expand hands-on ministries that serve the people of our local communities in Christ-like ways. (Ephesians 4)

- Over the past 16 years, and rooted in the welcoming tagline "love people, love coffee," Calvin's has developed into a community hub where students come to study, share their art, perform music/readings during open mic nights, worship on Thursdays after supper, and host social events with student organizations. Recently, Calvin's began serving as a "project host site" – where students organize to help raise funds for worthy projects around campus and elsewhere. All of this activity

points to the growing impact of Calvin's Coffee House within the ethos of campus life.

Participation levels are increasing steadily post-pandemic: average weekly patron traffic this academic year (2024-'25) has exceeded 796 transactions, for a total of approximately 24,690. In 2022-'23, the average weekly number of transactions was 628, totaling 19,460; in 2023-'24, the average weekly number of transactions increased to 732, totaling 22,698. While patron transactions do not exactly reflect the total number of participants (students, faculty, and staff) who use the space, they do provide a metric of increases in activity over the past three years. Other participants, such as parents and area neighbors, also enjoy coffee, tea, snacks, and hospitality at Calvin's, which encourages healthy, often healing exchanges.

With the addition of two multi-story student apartment complexes to the north of Calvin's location within the next few years, we anticipate a significant increase in foot traffic to our building as students move back and forth to campus.

3. To encourage members and congregations to become more involved in the wholeness and wellbeing (Shalom) of their communities (Jeremiah 29:7)

- Recent research on college-aged students by the Springtide Institute reports that nearly 40% have no one to talk to or feel left out, and 45% feel no one understands them. This epidemic of loneliness has disastrous social, emotional, and academic consequences. Because of UKirk Tallahassee and Calvin's Coffee House location, we are the only Christian ministries on the east side of the FSU Campus, and we provide a space that fosters a sense of belonging. The ordering in the tagline "Love People, Love Coffee" is significant because we value people first. Over the 75 years we have been at this location, God continues to work in and through this community to be church, to be a space where Divine love is expressed to all, and belonging is experienced.

4. To seek to make disciples across all economic, racial, and ethnic boundaries. (Galatians 3:20)

- The Samaritan woman at the well in John 4, after encountering Jesus, runs back to her community, inviting her neighbors to come and see. This is campus ministry in a nutshell. UKirk Tallahassee, and by extension Calvin's Coffee House, creates opportunities of genuine welcome and hospitality that foster a sense of belonging. This has the potential to be transformative in the lives of all our students, as they invite their friends to come and see. Inherent to this is the diversity of students who encounter this ministry, which goes well beyond economic, racial, and ethnic boundaries to include students whose gender identity, sexual orientation, and faith

backgrounds have historically been denied, rejected, or undervalued in the life of the Church. Though this may not be a traditional understanding of discipleship, the impact of this ministry's intentionality to foster a welcoming and hospitable space, informed by our Reformed Tradition, to a population we serve for a finite amount of time means we may never fully see the fruit of these endeavors. This ministry, like the seed parables in Mark 4, casts wide the seeds of grace and love, not knowing how or where they will take root and grow, and may grow wildly like a mustard seed, with large branches extending beyond our imagined possibilities.

5. To foster innovation in Florida Presbytery mission and outreach. (Acts 2:46-47)

- Though the concept of a ministry-directed coffee shop is not a new idea, the longevity of this place and the intentional innovations are hallmarks of this ministry. UKirk Tallahassee and Calvin's Coffee House are constantly discerning how God is calling us to respond to the issues facing our students. This may mean attending to current research on students' mental health needs, or creating spaces for students to explore leadership opportunities or artistic expression. The hope is always to share these experiences and what is gained from them with the larger church.

6. To encourage congregations and Presbytery entities to rethink their ministries for the 21st century. (Romans 12:1-2, Acts 9:31)

- It has been said that in previous times, the Christian church ran on this formula: believe, behave, belong. What we have seen in the past several years, not just in the PC(USA) but across the Church, is a reversal of this old formula: to belong, behave, believe. As younger generations grow up in an environment where the Christian church has had less influence in their upbringing, it is vital that we create spaces where people feel they belong, are safe, and are loved. Once that is achieved, people often begin to express curiosity about the community's practices and behaviors. Belief is the last step. Places like Calvin's Coffee House and the ministry of UKirk Tallahassee are vital.

■ What is the time-line for the project?

The initial gift from the Presbytery, combined with a pledge of \$75,000 for the project, will allow us to begin step one: updating the electrical system. This critical first step would then allow remodeling Calvin's restrooms to increase use and improve disability access. Step three is updating Calvin's kitchen. The need to replace or substantially repair the roof would also have to be considered, pending the outcome of ongoing litigation and its timing.

- What are the expected outcomes? How will you measure if the project accomplished its goals?

We will know this project has achieved its purpose when we can faithfully serve all who come to Calvin's Coffee House and who can participate fully there.

- Describe the contributions to the project other than the grant: (money, time, talents, etc.).

As part of this step, please provide a proposed current income and expense budget for the project. How will this be funded in the future? Please see attached "So That All May Be Welcomed" Capital Campaign Documents and Construction Documents from Oliver Sperry Renovation Commercial Construction.

- How will this project build discipleship? Please see the answer to #2 of the Project Objectives above.

- How will this unbudgeted financial support from presbytery enable our presbytery's effort to grow in being a community of faith, hope, love, and witness?

As one of the very few Campus Ministries in the State of Florida, and one that has existed for 75 years, UKirk Tallahassee has been a ministry serving within the bounds of the Presbytery of Florida, witnessing to God's love and grace to generations of students at FSU, Florida A&M, and Tallahassee State College. UKirk Tallahassee also has a long history of helping students discern a call to vocational ministry within the PC(USA) and other mainline denominations.

- Rev. Matthew Schlageter, Chaplain, Atrium Health, Charlotte, NC
- Rev. Tripp Porch, Pastor, Indianola Presbyterian Church, Columbus, OH
- Rev. Rachel Hood Vogado, Pastor, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, VA
- Rev. Becky Bryan, Associate Pastor, 1st Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, FL
- Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise, Pastor, Tyger River Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, SC
- Rev. Lauren Scott, Associate Pastor, Riverside Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, FL
- Peri Flannigan, Director of Christian Education, Christ Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, FL
- Rose Walters, Candidate for Ministry, Austin Theological Seminary, Austin, TX

In addition, the ministry prepares students to think theologically by engaging with Scripture and Reformed Theology, as an important step, as students form a deep and vibrant faith. Many of our students come from across the southeast and from various Christian traditions. The work we do in the ministry and the partnerships we have with surrounding PC(USA) partner congregations, who, among other things, bring meals and connect our students to various aspects of their congregation's ministry, exposes our

students to a faith tradition and congregations that witness to the Love of God made known in Jesus Christ and call us to respond to grace by serving the least of these amongst us. For our students who come to the ministry through their connection to Calvin's, being in a religious space that is affirming and welcoming of all people stands as a witness to a loving God who accepts all. This can be a healing balm for those who have been rejected or hurt by the church. They will also hear an alternative expression of the Gospel, different from the one they heard growing up. In all of these cases, the witness to God's love is expansive and expressed through simple actions.

■ How will this financial support enable our presbytery to grow in vitality and faithfulness and service?

As a ministry within the bounds of the Presbytery of Florida and supported financially by both congregations and the Presbytery itself, the Presbytery is impacted by all that we do at UKirk Tallahassee. As a vital ministry, serving not just the students of FSU, Florida A&M, and Tallahassee State College, we witness to God's love to the larger University community and the wider Tallahassee community. By choosing to be informed by our values arising from our Reformed faith, we witness to doing business differently from other local coffee shops. By caring about the well-being and success of our students, giving them ownership of the ministry translates to how they interact with those we serve. Each sale of a drink or muffin is less transactional and more of a chance to express genuine care for someone in our community. This is transformative and a way of expressing care to our neighbors.

■ Who (individual(s) or team(s) will be championing this project?

The Board, made up of members of PC(USA) churches in the Tallahassee area, others in the Presbytery of Florida, and at-large Teaching Elders, is fully engaged in seeing this project through to completion. Several local PC(USA) congregations are committed to the success of this ministry and have made or will be making financial contributions to this project.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. To invite the members and congregations of Florida Presbytery to dream new dreams, imagine new ways, and begin new initiatives that lead to the development, redevelopment and renewal of congregational life, ministry and outreach. (Joel 2:28-29)
2. To encourage innovative attempts to develop and expand hands-on ministries that serve the people of our local communities in Christ-like ways. (Ephesians 4)
3. To encourage members and congregations to become more involved in the wholeness and wellbeing (Shalom) of their communities (Jeremiah 29:7)
4. To seek to make disciples across all economic, racial and ethnic boundaries. (Galatians 3:20)

5. To foster innovation in Florida Presbytery mission and outreach. (Acts 2:46-47)
 6. To encourage congregations and Presbytery entities to rethink their ministries for the 21st century. (Romans 12:1-2, Acts 9:31)
- {Please use additional paper to answer the question above}

402 Ukirk Project Application 7January 2026

403 **MINISTRY COORDINATING COUNCIL REPORT** – Mary Hodges, Moderator

404 **Items for Information**

405 MCC approved the minutes of the February 24, 2026, stated meeting of the Presbytery and the April 8,
406 2026, special meeting of the Presbytery as submitted.

407 Mario Bolivar will be installed as Equipping Presbyter/Stated Clerk at the May 16, 2026 meeting of the
408 Presbytery.

409 Dogwood Acres Task Force Covenant Agreement will be presented at the May 16, 2026 meeting of the
410 Presbytery.

411 UKirk Tallahassee Capital Campaign Request for \$500,000 in two payments of \$250,000, and this will be
412 presented at the May 16, 2026 Presbytery meeting.

413 MCC approved Raymond Gutterman being named Moderator of the Ministry of Presbytery Operations.

414 Caleb Dick will be commissioned at the May 16, 2026 Presbytery meeting to represent the Presbytery of
415 Florida as a member of the FLAPDAN Board for the class of 2027.

416 Greg Seltzer will be recommissioned as CRE at Northminster, Pensacola at the May 16, 2026 meeting of
417 the Presbytery.

418 The Presbytery requested and received a \$30,000 PDA Grant for hurricane Helene long term recovery
419 work ongoing in Madison County.

420 Candidate Emily Bruno has been Certified Ready to Receive a Call.

421 Candidate Ryan Obray has been Certified Ready to Receive a Call.

422 CRE Explorer Linda Lovins has been approved as ARE to administer The Lord's Supper and Moderate
423 Session Meetings.

424 MCC approved a resolution for the sale of Blountstown Presbyterian Church as required for the
425 underwriting of the transaction for the Title Company. The resolution gave final authority for sale of the
426 property and for Eric Spoon to sign closing paperwork on behalf of the Presbytery on April 15, 2026 and
427 a check for \$74,180.75 was sent to the Presbytery.

428 MCC approved Rev. Mark Broadhead to be the Recording Clerk for the May 16, 2026 Presbytery of
429 Florida stated meeting.

430 MCC placed before the presbytery for approval acceptance of the resignation of Presbytery staff member,
431 Rev. Dr. Nicole Richardson, pastor of the New Worshipping Community Tide and Table, with her final
432 day of service being May 29, 2026. This was passed.

433 MCC placed before the presbytery for approval the request of the Rev. Dr. Richardson that she be
434 permitted to carry with her as she moved into the bounds of the Presbytery of St. Augustine, the Tide and
435 Table Ministry materials she developed while in the employment of the Presbytery of Florida, with
436 agreement that the Presbytery of Florida maintains access and control of the materials. This was passed.

437 MCC placed before the presbytery for approval the concurrence with Michael Martin, Presbytery

438 Treasurer, to return the \$10,000 grant to 1001 Worshipping Communities, with him handling any
439 financial issues associated with this transition. This was passed.
440 MCC placed before the presbytery for approval the retirement of Chaplain Rob Sugg effective August 11,
441 2026. This was passed.
442 MCC placed before the presbytery for approval the updated policies for Antiracism, Protection of Minor
443 and Vulnerable Adults, Sexual Abuse and Misconduct, and Workplace and Sexual Harassment. This was
444 passed.

445 **For Presbytery Approval**

446 MCC presented for approval proposed updates to the Manual of Operations. The proposed updates
447 include:
448 Changing the paragraph on page 12, lines 12-15 to read, “The Equipping Presbyter/Stated Clerk, Assistant
449 Stated Clerk, and Treasurer shall serve only as advisory members to the ministries of the presbytery we
450 asked/appointed to do so. The Office Administrator shall not be an elected member of any presbytery
451 ministry, committee, or commission. Regional Advocates may be elected members on any presbytery
452 ministry, committee, or commission.” This was passed.
453 Replacing “General Presbyter” with “Equipping Presbyter/Stated Clerk” anywhere. This was passed.
454 MCC placed before the presbytery for approval the dissolution of the EP/SC Search Committee by the
455 Presbytery effective May 16, 2026 with thanks. This was passed.

456 **MINISTRY OF REPRESENTATION** – John Wamsley

457 The following names were placed in nomination for presbytery approval:
458 *Ministry of Leadership Development* - Rev. Jean Homrighausen, Class Feb. 2028, Vice Moderator; Rev.
459 Julie Thompson, Class of Feb. 2027
460 *Ministry of New Congregation Formation* - Rev. Sheldon Steen, Class Feb. 2028, Moderator
461 *Ministry of Pastoral Transitions* - Pam Nulty, Elder, Class Feb. 2028, Vice Moderator
462 *Ministry of Presbytery Operations* - Rev. Raymond Guterman, Class Feb. 2027, Moderator
463 *Permanent Judicial Commission* – Rev. Mathew Frease, Class of 2032
464 From MCC: *Ministry of Representation* – Rev. John Wamsley, Feb. Class 2028

465 **Synod**

466 *Synod Commissioner (Minister) Alternate* - Rev. Dr. Mathew Frease, Class 2028

467 **For information:**

468 Presbytery Ministry vacancies:
469 *Ministry of New Congregation Formation*
470 -2, Class Feb. 2027.
471 -1, Class Feb. 2028.
472 -1, Class Feb. 2029
473 *Ministry of Presbytery Operations*
474 -1, Class Feb. 2027
475 Other vacancies:
476 *Presbytery Vice Moderator* - Class Feb. 2027 (male, elder/minister)

477 Serving at Presbytery level on a Ministry team is about helping churches within the Presbytery of Florida.
478 You use your faith, insight and personal skills to work together effectively, making sure every church
479 within the presbytery gets the support it needs to thrive. It's sharing your ministry's workload into actions,
480 so the entire community stays strong and connected.

481 **MINISTRY OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** – Cathy Mooney, Moderator

482 **For Information:**

483 **Preparation for Ministry**

484 Candidate Emily Bruno was certified on Monday, April 10, 2026 as ready to receive a call.

485 CRE Explorer Linda Lovins was approved on Monday, April 10, 2026 as an Authorized Ruling Elder
486 (ARE) to administer The Lord's Supper and Moderate Session Meetings.

487 Candidate Ryan Obray was certified on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 as ready to receive a call.

488 **Education & Resourcing**

489 Education Hour for the Presbytery, May 16, 2026: The Racial Justice Subcommittee is hosting. Guest
490 Speaker: Russell Myers, Florida Council of Churches, to speak for 45 minutes with a 15-minute Q&A.
491 Harvey Jenkins is the event coordinator. The full hour and a half are available to the Subcommittee, if
492 needed.

493 **Outreach & Mission**

494 **FLAPDAN**

495 Calab Dick, Navarre Presbyterian Church was approved to represent the presbytery as a FLAPDAN
496 Board Member for the class 2027.

497 **Annual Meeting** - March 19, Gainesville. Received training and other briefings from FLAPDAN Board
498 Members, PDA Associate for National Disaster Response Kathy Lee-Cornell

499 Approved updated Convenient Agreement among FLAPDAN, the six Florida Presbyteries, and PDA.
500 Presbytery should be receiving the document for signature in near future.

501 **FLAPDAN Board Membership Classes** - Class of 2026 – Tim Crawford, Crestview, Class of 2028 –
502 Mary Yeomans, Woodland

503 Requests to fill the vacant 2027 term resulted in Mr. Caleb Dick - Navarre applying for the position.

504 **PDA Grant Application:** Presbytery requested and received a \$30,000 PDA Grant for Hurricane Helene
505 long term recovery work ongoing in Madison County (most eastern county in presbytery) by Starfish
506 Disaster Recovery for their ongoing case management, project management, and volunteer coordination
507 work in the county.

508 The presbytery applied for and received a PDA mid-council grant shortly after Helene for Starfish
509 Disaster Recovery

510 **NEXT FLAPDAN MEETING DATE:** May 18, 2026

511 **Racial Justice Subcommittee**

512 Looking for opportunities to sponsor minority children as campers to this year's Dogwood Acres summer
513 programs. Additionally, finding minority counselors for summer camps is also a goal being pursued.

514 **Preparation for Ministry**

515 We have released two candidates as ready to receive a call: Emily Bruno and Ryan Obray. Ryan has a call
516 to a residency program at Frist Presbytery Church, Greensboro, NC, which begins in August.

517 We have one Candidate for Ministry: Rose Walters

518 We have two Inquirers for Ministry: Lauren Christian and Dexton Teat

519 We have one Disciple for CRE: Deborah Potter and one Explorer: Linda Lovins

520 **Other Business**

521 After careful review of the use of the Ministry money in the Texas Presbytery Fund Balance, we voted to
522 make the following changes:

523 Two-Cents-a-Meal: Release interest accrued up to the current date

524 Candidate Aid: Release interest accrued up to the current date

525 Peacemaking: release all funds to Dogwood Acres and close the account

526 Self-Development of People: Release interest accrued up to the current date

527 Disciplefest: Release 50% of the fund and all interest. Rename account to Presbytery Educational Needs

528 Youth Triennium: Release all funds and close account

529 **MINISTRY OF NEW CONGREGATION FORMATION (MNCF) – Sheldon Steen**

530 **For Information**

531 Rev. Dr. Nicole Richardson submitted her resignation as organizing pastor for NWC Tide and Table,
532 effective May 31, 2026. (See below)

533 **Action by presbytery:**

534 MNCF placed before the presbytery for approval that Rev. Dr. Richardson be allowed to retain her “work
535 product” and the Presbytery will retain copies of her work and rights to use. This was passed.

536 MNCF placed before the presbytery for approval that Rev. Dr. Richardson assume full responsibility of
537 tideandtable.org effective May 31, 2026 including of the name Tide & Table. This was passed.

538 MNCF placed before the presbytery for approval that the Tide and Table Task Force be dissolve effective
539 immediately. This was passed.

540 Dear Friends,

541 I am writing to share that I am resigning as Founder of Tide & Table, effective May 15, 2025, with my
542 final day of service to the Presbytery of Florida on May 29 following two weeks of accrued vacation.
543 This decision comes from a place of joy as much as transition. My first grandson, Ellis, was born
544 April 6th, and I am relocating to Jacksonville, Florida to be present to him and to his parents in this new
545 season of life. It is a move I make with gratitude for what this chapter has given me and with genuine
546 excitement about what comes next.

547 Serving as Tide & Table's Founder has been one of the most formative experiences of my ministry. The
548 opportunity to engage in deep contextual research, to experiment with non-traditional expressions of
549 worship and community, and to trust the Spirit in ambiguous and uncharted territory has sharpened my
550 understanding of what faithful ministry looks like in complex and rapidly changing contexts. I am grateful
551 to the Presbytery of Florida for extending that trust to me.

552 Regarding the seed grant, I want to be transparent: the full \$10,000 remains unspent. I am committed to
553 ensuring those funds are returned responsibly to the 1001 New Worshipping Communities structure and
554 welcome guidance from the appropriate parties on the process for doing so.

555 I also write with a request. The visioning documents, and ministry frameworks developed through Tide &
556 Table represent significant work and learning that I believe still holds potential. I am requesting
557 permission to carry that work with me as I transition to the Presbytery of St. Augustine. We are, after all,
558 a connectional church—and I would love to think of this as the Presbytery of Florida extending its reach
559 through me into a new context, should the research support it. I would not launch anything without
560 thorough contextual discernment, as this experience has taught me more than anything else that
561 sustainable ministry must be rooted in the actual rhythms of a place.

562 If there are questions about ownership of this material or processes I need to follow, I am happy to have
563 that conversation directly with whoever is appropriate.

564 Thank you for this opportunity. For the trust. For the freedom to experiment and to name honestly what I
565 learned. That kind of institutional generosity is not something I take for granted, and I carry it with me.

566 With gratitude and warm regards,

567 ***Rev Dr Nicole J Richardson***

568 **STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TASKFORCE**
569 **For Information:**
570 Ministry Partner Meeting March 23, 2026, with MCPC, MPT, MLD, and Stated Clerk
571 Provided listing of Book of Order Requirements to help with determining minimum tasks for each
572 ministry.
573 Determined specific responsibilities for ministry taskings, deconflicting those items that may have
574 applicability to multiple ministry duties.
575 Established basic workflows for taskings and efforts that require handoffs among ministries to ensure
576 processes are completed accurately and with minimal delays.
577 Group agreed that continuing with Strategic Plan ministry structure vs. returning to a combined COM was
578 the better course of action for the presbytery.
579 Work ongoing to formalize regular meetings between the former COM ministries.

580 **Presbytery of Florida Strategic Plan Goals** – Tim Crawford, Chair
581 Provided listing of Book of Order Requirements to hep with determining minimum tasks for each
582 ministry.
583 Determined specific responsibilities for ministry tasking, deconflicting those items that may have
584 applicability to multiple ministry duties.
585 Established basic workflows for taskings and efforts that require handoffs among ministries to ensure
586 processes are completed accurately and with minimal delays.
587 Group agreed that continuing with Strategic Plan ministry structure vs. returning toa combined COM was
588 the better course of action for the presbytery.
589 Work ongoing to formalize regular meetings between the former COM ministries.

590 Adopted Winter Presbytery Meeting 2024

Year 1 March 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025
Move from static to ecstatic:
Goal
Reduce and eliminate duplication and unnecessary or detrimental efforts.
Change presbytery meetings to become more educational and supportive in nature.
Develop an atmosphere more in line of an assembly of pastors, elders, leaders, staff persons, and congregational members.
Recommended Ministry Structure

Years 2 & 3
<i>(Action Paused per 2026 Winter Stated Meeting)</i>
A New Culture In The Presbytery Is Afoot:
Goal
Develop a Directory of Talents as a resource of people willing to go to our congregations to aid, assist, encourage, train persons to help meet a congregation’s specific needs and desires.
Broadly convey the new culture within the Presbytery.
Advertise what our presbytery now “gives to you.”

Years 4 and 5
Our initial mission is fulfilled:
New life is engaged:
The new structure of the presbytery is in place and working.
Our congregations have accepted and engaged in the new structure and culture and have increased their participation and financial support for presbytery endeavors.
The presbytery has rebounded in its ministry and purpose, being a benefit to all congregations.

591 **MINISTRY OF CONGREGATIONAL AND PASTORAL CARE (MCPC)** – Linda Lovins,
 592 Moderator

593 **Items for Information**

594 Annual Code of Ethics was renewed by ministry members

595 Reviewed the Retired Ministers list in the Presbytery Directory

596 Reviewed/ Beta-tested: Terms of Call form, Stated Supply Pastor contract, and CRE contract – fillable
 597 The use of these was approved.

598 Approved Gracious Dismissal Policy edits

599 Status of Churches – needs, leadership, liaisons

600 Approved in concept (until the congregation is ready to call and install a full-time pastor) the Pastoral
 601 Leadership Grant request from Parkway Presbyterian Church.

602 Appointed Rev. John Wamsley as moderator for the Parkway Presbyterian Church session.

603 Church Connections, a devotional by this ministry, will be sent for congregational use, as desired.

604 Boundary Policies – reviewed with edits and approved to place before the Presbytery for a second
 605 reading.

606 Approved, pending the signature of the Clerk of Session the contract between CRE Tanya Fernandes and
 607 the Navarre Session

608 Moved to a Focus-Leads leadership model

609 Reviewed and approved a Non-Parish Validated Ministry Request Form

610 Reviewed and approved the Non-Parish Validated Ministry Request of Rev. Stacey Kaye White to serve
 611 as a hospice chaplain in Panama City.

612 Approved an Equipment Grant Application for Tallahassee-Lafayette Presbyterian Church

613 Corrected the amounts for medical coverage required by the Board of Pensions on the Compensation
 614 Review forms.

615 **Topics Pending**

616 Small Church Focus

617 Memory Care Worship Services

618 **Items For Presbytery Approval**

619 MCPC placed before the presbytery for approval to adopt the boundary policies: Anti-Racism Policy,
 620 Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults Policy, Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Policy, and Workplace
 621 and Sexual Harassment Policy. (See below.) All policies were approved.

622 Next Meeting Date: May 19, 2026 (in-person: 10:00am CDT / 11:00am EDT)

624 **Antiracism Policy**

625 In accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Presbytery of Florida seeks
626 to enable its members and congregations to give effective witness in the world to God's new creation in
627 Jesus Christ, and to strengthen their witness to the mission of the triune God (G-3.0106). This endeavor
628 includes mandatory antiracism training every thirty-six months, at minimum.

629 In light of the antiracism statement affirmed by the Presbytery of Florida in October 2020, this Presbytery
630 reaffirms that racism is a sin which violates our commission to love one another as Jesus loves us all. We
631 believe that we are called to advance the Kingdom of God, on earth as it is in heaven, by actively
632 countering racism.

633 This Presbytery is, therefore, committed to:
634 rejecting discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity;
635 taking and making opportunities to demonstrate our belief in the essential equality of all human beings as
636 created in the image of God;
637 working together as children of God for the advancement of love and peace throughout the world;
638 resisting injustice in every form, in keeping with what Jesus has commanded us to do;
639 demonstrating compassion and caring in support of those who have been wronged through acts of racism;
640 educating our congregations in non-discriminatory practices;
641 bearing witness to our love for Jesus and our fellow humans through congregational mission and
642 ministries and, as individuals, in our daily lives.

643 The 222nd General Assembly (2016) approved a churchwide antiracism policy titled [Facing Racism: A](#)
644 [Vision of the Intercultural Community](#), with [an accompanying study guide](#) for use by councils and
645 congregations. The Presbytery of Florida adopts this policy for its own use as it implements General
646 Assembly directives to build an intercultural church in which justice and equality prevail. The Presbytery
647 also adopts the accompanying study guide as a basis for mandatory training within its bounds. Upon
648 adoption by the Presbytery, this policy may be used as a model or standard by sessions and congregations
649 developing their own policies for dealing with allegations of racism within the local session's jurisdiction.

650 Antiracism training shall be required at least every thirty-six months for:
651 Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) serving congregations;
652 Teaching Elders in validated ministries;
653 Certified Christian Educators;
654 Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders elected to Presbytery service;
655 Candidates for ministry; and
656 Presbytery staff.

657 The Ministry of Leadership Development (MLD) shall:
658 develop antiracism training based on [Facing Racism](#) and the [accompanying study guide](#), and provide the
659 training at locations across the Presbytery. Components of the training may be offered at Presbytery
660 meetings, at dedicated in-person workshops, or remotely via Zoom.
661 authorize alternate training for those unable to attend approved training held within the Presbytery.
662 maintain a record of those who complete training. This requirement shall be included in all Terms of Call
663 and all pastoral contracts. Those who fail to complete training shall be considered "not in good standing"
664 with the Presbytery of Florida, and the Equipping Presbyter/Stated Clerk shall maintain a file of those so
665 considered.

666 The Presbytery strongly encourages all sessions and members of congregations, especially those in
667 leadership positions, to participate in approved antiracism training. The Presbytery will publish a training
668 schedule annually that includes times and locations, as well as approved alternate training.

669 **BOUNDARY POLICIES**

670 **Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults Policy**

671 *Approved for use by the Presbytery by the Coordinating and Planning Commission, May 14, 2020;*
672 *Adopted by the Presbytery of Florida, as revised, on _____, 2026.*

673 The members of the Presbytery of Florida believe we are called by God to create a safe haven for all
674 minor persons and vulnerable adults participating in activities designed to nurture, protect, and empower
675 them through faith and trust. This commitment includes taking appropriate steps to reduce the risk to
676 minors and vulnerable adults in our care, hereafter referenced collectively as minors/vulnerable adults.

677 The following policy is established to minimize the risk to minors/vulnerable adults from being subjected
678 to sexual, physical, or mental/emotional abuse. These procedures are also intended to respect the rights
679 of, and afford due process to, persons accused of improper conduct.

680 Upon adoption by the Presbytery, this policy may be used as a model or standard by sessions and
681 congregations developing their own policies for protection of minors and vulnerable adults within the
682 local session's jurisdiction.

683 Training relative to this policy shall be required at least every thirty-six months for:
684 Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) serving congregations;
685 Teaching Elders in validated ministries;
686 Certified Christian Educators;
687 Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders elected to Presbytery service;
688 Candidates for ministry; and
689 Presbytery staff.

690 **Definitions**

691
692 **Minor Person (Minor):** A minor in the state of Florida is any individual under the age of 18.

693 **Vulnerable Adult:** "A person 18 years of age or older whose ability to perform the normal activities of
694 daily living or to provide for his or her own care or protection is impaired due to a mental, emotional,
695 sensory, long-term physical, or developmental disability or dysfunction, or brain damage, or the
696 infirmities of aging." (www.flsenate.gov/laws/statutes/2012/0415.102)

697 **Paid/Contracted Staff:** Any adult who is paid or contracted to work with or in close proximity to
698 minors/vulnerable adults at a Presbytery of Florida function or event.

699 **Volunteer:** Any unpaid person who is entrusted with the care and supervision of minors/vulnerable
700 adults, or a person who directly oversees and/or exerts control or oversight of minors/vulnerable adults.

701 **Sexual Abuse:** See Florida Statute at <https://m.flsenate.gov/Statutes/827.071>.

702 **Screening, Training, and Background Checks**

703 One who works with or in close proximity to minors/vulnerable adults, whether on the basis of a paid
704 staff, contractor, or volunteer, shall be subject to:

705 1. The approval of completed and signed application and background check authorization forms, including
706 a signed form verifying the event policy has been read. The application shall include a minimum of two
707 references.

708 2. All who work with or in close proximity to minors/vulnerable adults must ordinarily be at least
709 eighteen years old.

710 3. The applicant's consent to a criminal background check. The Presbytery of Florida will conduct and
711 cover the cost of background checks for all volunteer and paid workers. These checks shall be run no
712 more than six months prior to the event, and may be valid for 2 years, depending on insurance company
713 standards. Note: Contractors will ensure that their workers have passed a Level 2 background check prior
714 to working with or in close proximity to minors/vulnerable adults.

715 4. All those who work with or in close proximity to minors/vulnerable adults - paid, contracted, or
716 volunteer - must participate in training within the year prior to the event. The training is to be provided
717 by the Presbytery of Florida through the Ministry of Leadership Development and shall cover this
718 protection policy thoroughly, as well as methods of abuse prevention and a detailed plan of reporting.
719 Outside experts may be contracted to provide this training. These trainings shall further cover:
720 What constitutes minor/vulnerable adult abuse and neglect
721 How to recognize signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect
722 Definitions of abuse and reporting
723 Mandatory criminal background checks and the security of those files
724 Explanation of the importance of the application and screening processes
725 Appropriate boundaries with minors, especially regarding adult-to-minor ratios, transportation, and use
726 of technology
727 Overnight events: appropriate sleeping arrangements and restroom/shower facilities use
728 First Aid/CPR requirement: At least one volunteer or paid staff member working directly with or in close
729 proximity to event participants must be certified in first aid and CPR.
730 Other related topics

731 5. No person may serve as a minor/vulnerable adult worker who has a conviction on his/her/their record
732 of certain felonies or misdemeanors, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
733 Criminal homicide
734 Aggravated assault
735 Crimes related to the possession, use, or sale of drugs or controlled substances
736 Sexual abuse
737 Sexual assault
738 Incest
739 Indecency with a youth
740 Inducing sexual conduct or sexual performance of a minor/vulnerable adult
741 Possession or promotion of child pornography
742 The sale, distribution, or display of harmful material to a minor/vulnerable adult
743 Abandonment or endangerment of a minor/vulnerable adult
744 Domestic violence
745 Any crime that involves abduction, kidnapping, or unlawful restraint
746 Public lewdness or indecent exposure
747 Any crime that involves sexual misconduct or sexual abuse, particularly if it involves misconduct or

748 abuse with a minor
749 Any crime that involves misuse of technology for sexual purposes, such as collecting or distributing
750 photographs of minors who are naked or in sexual or inappropriate poses (child pornography)
751 Any crime that involves the use of force, such as assault or endangerment
752 Any crime that involves drinking and driving, such as driving while intoxicated

753 In addition, if any council, as defined in the current version of the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian
754 Church (U.S.A.), of the Presbytery of Florida is aware that one who wishes to work with or in close
755 proximity to minors/ vulnerable adults has a prior conviction for one of the aforementioned crimes or a
756 related crime, that person shall automatically be ineligible to serve.

757 For the purpose of protecting minors/vulnerable adults while participating in Presbytery-sponsored
758 events, including Dogwood Acres summer camp and youth events, the Presbytery will facilitate statewide
759 and national criminal history checks through the Volunteer & Employee Criminal History System
760 (VECHS). Additionally, prospective employees, volunteers, or contractors working with or in close
761 proximity to minors/vulnerable adults will be checked through the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender
762 Public website. The criminal history checks (Level 2 Background Screening) requires fingerprinting of
763 the applicant/person to be screened.

764 **Paid or Volunteer Counselors at Dogwood Acres**

765 The Florida Department of Children and Families has specific requirements regarding summer camp
766 background screening. Personnel described as owners, operators, employees, and volunteers working in
767 summer day camps and summer 24-hour camps providing care for children must be screened (Level 2). If
768 an individual has not had or cleared a background check, an employer may not hire, select, or otherwise
769 allow such a person to have contact with any minor/vulnerable adult. Volunteers who assist on an
770 intermittent basis for fewer than 10 hours per month do not need to be screened, if a person who meets the
771 screening requirement is always present and has the volunteer in his or her line of sight.

772 The Presbytery of Florida requires a Level 2 VECHS background check and screening via the Dru Sjodin
773 National Sex Offender Public website.

774 More information related to Summer Camp requirements may be accessed at:
775 [https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-and-family-services/child-care/summer-camp-screening-](https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-and-family-services/child-care/summer-camp-screening-requirements)
776 [requirements](https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-and-family-services/child-care/summer-camp-screening-requirements)

777 **Expectations for Persons Working with or in Close Proximity to Minors and/or Vulnerable Adults**

778 It is the policy of the Presbytery of Florida to provide events free of any form of sexual abuse and
779 misconduct, including sexual intimidation by any volunteer or Presbytery employee. Sexual abuse/
780 misconduct, in any form, is unacceptable behavior and is subject to disciplinary action. Sexual abuse,
781 sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment include, but are not limited to, unwelcome and unsolicited
782 sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, discriminatory torment based on gender or sexual preference,
783 and other undesirable verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, manifested in person or via
784 any type of digital media.

785 In particular, sexual abuse and/or misconduct has occurred if:
786 submission to any kind of sexual abuse/misconduct is an explicit or implicit term or condition of
787 participation in an event;
788 submission to, or rejection of, sexually harassing behavior is used as the basis of employment or other
789 personnel decisions affecting the victim of the behavior;

790 sexual abuse/misconduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the victim's
791 participation in an event or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

792 Any Presbytery employee or volunteer who believes, in good faith, that there has been a violation of this
793 policy should report the perceived violation as soon as possible. If the perceived violation occurs during a
794 Presbytery-sponsored event, the matter must be reported immediately to the coordinator of the event and
795 the Equipping Presbyter/Stated Clerk for action in accordance with the Presbytery's policy and
796 procedures on sexual abuse/misconduct.

797 **Mandatory Event Rules for Working With Minors and Vulnerable Adults**

798 The Presbytery of Florida shall ensure that the following measures are in place for each event or activity
799 of the Presbytery involving minors/vulnerable adults.

800 Supervision: There will always be one (1) and, when feasible, two (2) adult workers present in groups of
801 minors/vulnerable adults.

802 Ratios: The adult to minor ratio for events is a minimum of two adults for every 17 minors. There shall
803 also be at least one adult of each gender when there is more than one gender in a group. Only in
804 emergency situations may the ratio and gender diversity be compromised.

805 View windows and open doors: When minors/vulnerable adults are in a room with adult workers or
806 volunteers and the door is closed, the door must have a view window installed. If no view window is
807 installed in the door, the door must remain open at all times.

808 Adult workers/caregivers should respect the privacy of the minors/vulnerable adults to whom they
809 provide care. Responsible use of digital devices and cell phones is required in all situations (e.g., taking
810 age-appropriate photographs and movies; not taking photographs of minors/vulnerable adults who are not
811 fully clothed). Adults and minors are required at all times to wear appropriate attire. Training is to be
812 provided to understand age-appropriate behaviors that need to be reported to a caregiver or leader of the
813 event.

814 All volunteers and employees at any Presbytery-sponsored event must also abide by a code of conduct
815 that recognizes the following behaviors as prohibited. Some of these prohibited behaviors include, but are
816 not limited to:

817 Display of sexual affection toward a minor/vulnerable adult

818 Use of profanity

819 Discussion of sexual encounters with or around minors/vulnerable adults or in any way involving
820 minors/vulnerable adults in personal problems or issues

821 Dating or becoming romantically involved with minors or vulnerable adults

822 Using or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs in the presence of minors/vulnerable adults

823 Possessing sexually-oriented materials – including printed or online – at such an event

824 Telling a minor/vulnerable adult to keep something secret

825 Staring at or commenting on others' bodies

826 Initiating inappropriate digital communication with minors/vulnerable adults

827 Working one-on-one with minors/vulnerable adults in a private setting

828 Abusing minors/vulnerable adults in any way; including, but not limited to, the following:

829 1) Physical abuse: hit, spank, shake, slap, unnecessarily restrain

830 2) Verbal abuse: degrade, threaten, or curse

831 3) Sexual abuse: expose oneself, or engage in sexually-oriented conversations

832 4) Shame, humiliate, act cruelly toward others

- 833 5) Neglect: withhold food, water, shelter
834 6) Permitting minors/vulnerable adults to engage in hazing, bullying, derogatory name-calling, ridicule,
835 humiliation, or sexual activity

836 **Allegation Reporting**

837 All adults working with or in close proximity to minors/vulnerable adults are to be completely familiar
838 with the procedures for reporting alleged abuse. See <https://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2018/39.201>
839 to read the State of Florida mandates for reporting allegations of abuse.
840 Anyone aware of inappropriate behavior involving a minor/vulnerable adult, regardless of where the
841 conduct occurred, must immediately report the questionable activity to the event coordinator.
842 If an incident is witnessed or reported, that person must first secure the safety of the minor/vulnerable
843 adult, calling 911, if necessary. The minor/vulnerable adult should not be left alone.
844 The coordinator is to immediately notify the Equipping Presbyter/Stated Clerk and should then contact
845 the Florida Division of Children and Families (DCF) at **1-800-962-2873** (DCF Abuse Hotline). Other
846 information regarding reporting is available at [https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/abuse/abuse-](https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/abuse/abuse-hotline)
847 [hotline](https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/abuse/abuse-hotline). A report sent to the Stated Clerk constitutes an allegation that must be investigated in accordance
848 with the PCUSA Book of Order.
849 The person who observed the offense or who initially learned of it or was contacted by the alleged victim
850 should immediately fill out a written report using the attached Incident Report form.
851 The Presbytery will maintain a readily available list of agencies to be contacted.
852 The event coordinator shall have “Incident Report” forms available at the event.
853 If an accusation by an individual who attended a Dogwood Acres camp or conference is made after the
854 camp season is over, it shall be directed to the Director of Dogwood Acres and the moderator of MDWA,
855 who will then report it to the Equipping Presbyter/Stated Clerk.

856 A Pastoral Response Team, trained and available through the Ministry of Congregational and Pastoral
857 Care, shall be initiated by the Equipping Presbytery/Stated Clerk through the moderator of MCPC. This
858 Team will then follow its prescribed responsibilities to support all parties throughout the process.
859

860 **INCIDENT REPORT – PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA**
861 Phone: 850-535-2335

862 Please use this form to report incidents of injury, medical emergencies, significant camper misbehavior,
863 sexual abuse/misconduct, workplace/sexual harassment, or endangerment of minors/vulnerable adults. If
864 possible, a report should be completed within 24 hours of the event. Reports of sexual abuse/misconduct
865 have no time limit.

866 **Danger or medical emergency?** Call **911** immediately and stay with/near the victim.
867 **Minor or vulnerable adult endangerment?** Call the Florida DCF Hotline **1-800-962-2873**.

868 Submit the completed form directly to:
869 **Dogwood Acres incidents:** staff@dogwoodacres.org
870 **All other Presbytery incidents:** Presbytery of Florida Stated Clerk or Assistant Stated Clerk:
871 statedclerk@presbyteryofflorida.com
872 A **fillable version** of this form is available at: <https://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/resources/>

873 Date of Report: [Date]

REPORTING PERSON

874 Full Name: [Name] Address: [Address]
875 Phone: [Phone Number] E-Mail: [Email Address]

INVOLVED PERSON/S

876 Full Name: [Name] Address: [Address]
877 Phone: [Phone Number] E-Mail: [Email Address]
878
879 Full Name: [Name] Address: [Address]
880
881 Phone: [Phone Number] E-Mail: [Email Address]

882 **If more space is required, attach additional sheet with contact information as above.**

INCIDENT TYPE

883 ☐ Injury ☐ Sexual Abuse/Misconduct
884 ☐ Behavioral ☐ Workplace/Sexual Harassment
885 ☐ Medical ☐ Endangerment of Minors/Vulnerable Adults
886 ☐ Other Incident: [Brief Description]

INCIDENT DETAILS

887 Date of Incident: [Date] Time: [Time] ☐ AM ☐ PM

888 Location of Incident: [Location]

889 Describe the Incident: [Describe the Incident]

890 Action Taken: [Action Taken]

INJURIES

891 Was anyone injured? ☐ Yes ☐ No

892 If yes, describe the injuries: [Description of Injuries]

WITNESSES

893 Were there witnesses to the incident? ☐ Yes ☐ No

894 If yes, enter the witnesses' names and contact info: [Name(s) / Contact Info]

POLICE / MEDICAL SERVICES

895 Police Notified? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, was a report filed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

896 Was medical treatment provided? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Refused

897 If yes, where was medical treatment provided? ☐ On-site ☐ Hospital ☐ Other: [Other]

PERSON FILING REPORT

898 Signature: _____ Date: _____

899 Print Name: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

900 Report received by : [Name] Date: [Date]

901 Follow-up action:

902 Action Taken: [Describe]

903 BOUNDARY POLICIES

904 Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Policy

905 *Adopted 10/22/96, Amended 2/14/98 and Revised 10/13/12 and 1/26/13*

906 *First Reading: February 24, 2026*

907 SECTION I – Introduction

908 The Presbytery of Florida, Inc. [hereafter, the Presbytery] recognizes and affirms that all church members,
909 officers, nonmember employees, and volunteers of governing bodies and entities of the Presbyterian
910 Church (USA) [hereafter, PC (USA)] are to maintain the Church's integrity at all times. Sexual abuse and
911 misconduct are not only a violation of the principles set forth in Scripture, but also of the ministerial,
912 pastoral, employment, and professional relationship with the Church. It is never condoned. The
913 Presbytery adopts the following guidelines for defining sexual abuse and misconduct, establishing orderly
914 procedures for dealing with allegations and accusations of sexual abuse and misconduct by those persons
915 who are subject to its jurisdiction.

916 Upon adoption by the Presbytery, this policy may be used as a model or standard by sessions and
917 congregations developing their own policies for dealing with allegations of sexual abuse and/or
918 misconduct within the local session's jurisdiction.

919 Training relative to this policy shall be required at least every thirty-six months for:
920 Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) serving congregations;
921 Teaching Elders in validated ministries;
922 Certified Christian Educators;
923 Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders elected to Presbytery service;
924 Candidates for ministry; and
925 Presbytery staff.

926 SECTION II – Standards And Definitions

927 **A. Standards of Conduct and Definitions:**

928 1. Sexual abuse and misconduct within the church violate the role of those called to ordered ministry,
929 employees, volunteers, counselors, supervisors, teachers, and advisors of any kind who are called upon to
930 exercise integrity, sensitivity, and caring in a trust relationship (G-4.0301). Sexual abuse constitutes a
931 misuse of authority and power that breaches Christian ethical principles by exploiting a trust relationship
932 to gain advantage over another for personal pleasure in an abusive and unjust manner.

933 2. Sexual Abuse is the comprehensive term used in these guidelines to include:

934 a. **Child Sexual Abuse**, which includes, but is not limited to, any contact or interaction between a child
935 and an adult when the child is being used for the sexual stimulation of the adult person or of a third
936 person. The behavior may or may not involve touching. Sexual behavior between a child under the age of
937 18 and an adult is always considered forced, whether or not consented to by the child.

938 b. **Sexual Harassment**, which is unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal
939 or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

940 Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or a condition of an individual's
941 employment or their continued status in an institution;

942 Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions
943 affecting that individual; or

944 Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance
945 by creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

946 c. **Sexual Malfeasance**, which is sexual conduct within a ministerial relationship (e.g., pastor with a
947 member of the congregation) or professional relationship (e.g., employee with a person of authority;
948 Equipping Presbyterian/Stated Clerk with a ministry member). If a congregant, student, client, or employee
949 initiates or invites sexual content in the relationship, it is the responsibility of the pastor, church officer,
950 teacher, or other supervisor to maintain the appropriate role and prohibit a sexual relationship. This
951 definition is not meant to cover relationships between spouses, nor is it meant to restrict church
952 professionals from having normal, mutual, social, intimate, or marital relationships.

953 d. **Rape or Sexual Battery**, which is sexual contact by force, threat, or intimidation.

954 e. **Sexual Misconduct**, which is offensive, obscene, suggestive language, or behavior that involves
955 unwelcomed touching or fondling that is injurious to the physical, mental, or emotional health of another
956 when committed by a person in a position of trust.

957 **SECTION III – Reporting Requirements**

958 1. The Presbytery regards any allegation of sexual abuse as a grave matter. In responding to allegations of
959 sexual abuse, the Church shall seek healing and shall assure the protection of all persons. To the
960 maximum extent possible, the privacy of all persons shall be respected and confidentiality of
961 communications assured to every degree possible.

962 2. The PC(USA) assures all persons of fair procedures in the disciplinary process through the provisions
963 of the *Book of Order*. These procedures shall be referenced and available throughout the handling of the
964 allegation(s), even before the initiation of formal proceedings.

965 3. The Presbytery will treat any written statement alleging sexual abuse as initiating a disciplinary case
966 and will respond according to procedures in accordance with the *Book of Order*. Certain cases may
967 require special handling, such as those involving accusation of child abuse or in situations where more
968 than one governing body of the PC(USA) is involved. (D-7.0102; also D-7.0201d and e)

969 4. Mandatory Reporting (G-4.0302): “Any member of this church engaged in ordered ministry and any
970 certified Christian educator employed by this church or its congregations, shall report to ecclesiastical and
971 civil legal authorities knowledge of harm, or the risk of harm, related to the physical abuse, neglect,

972 and/or sexual molestation or abuse of a minor or an adult who lacks mental capacity when
973 (1) such information is gained outside of a confidential communication as defined in G-4.0301,
974 (2) she or he is not bound by an obligation of privileged communication under law, or
975 (3) she or he reasonably believes that there is risk of future physical harm or abuse.”

976 **5. Reporting to the Presbytery:** Reports should be made immediately to the Equipping Presbyter/Stated
977 Clerk of the Presbytery or, if the Equipping Presbyter/Stated Clerk is the accused, to the Assistant Stated Clerk
978 who will report the matter immediately to the Stated Clerk, Synod of South Atlantic. Reports may initially be
979 given verbally, but must then be provided in written form. An Incident Report is attached to this policy as
980 guidance regarding the details that should be included in the written report. A report sent to the Stated
981 Clerk constitutes an allegation that must be investigated in accordance with the PCUSA Book of Order.

982 **6. Reporting to Civil Authorities:** Everyone is a mandated reporter. Mandated reporters are required to
983 call 911, if a threat remains, and then the hotline. If the victim is in immediate danger, call 911
984 immediately, before reporting it to any other authority. If the victim is safe, immediately call the **Florida**
985 **Sexual Abuse Hotline at 1 (888) 956-7273**. Local civil authorities should then be contacted, per
986 guidance via the Hotline.

987 Civil and Presbytery investigations may proceed concurrently, as appropriate to the specific parameters of
988 a given situation.

989 **SECTION IV – Pastoral Response Team**

990 A Pastoral Response Team, trained and available through the Ministry of Congregational and Pastoral
991 Care, shall be initiated by the Equipping Presbytery/Stated Clerk through the moderator of MCPC. This
992 Team will then follow its prescribed responsibilities to support all parties throughout the process.

993 **INCIDENT REPORT – PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA**

994 Phone: 850-535-2335

995 Please use this form to report incidents of injury, medical emergencies, significant camper misbehavior,
996 sexual abuse/misconduct, workplace/sexual harassment, or endangerment of minors/vulnerable adults. If
997 possible, a report should be completed within 24 hours of the event. Reports of sexual abuse/misconduct
998 have no time limit.

999 **Danger or medical emergency?** Call **911** immediately and stay with/near the victim.

1000 **Minor or vulnerable adult endangerment?** Call the Florida DCF Hotline **1-800-962-2873**.

1001 Submit the completed form directly to:

1002 **Dogwood Acres incidents:** staff@dogwoodacres.org

1003 **All other Presbytery incidents:** Presbytery of Florida Stated Clerk or Assistant Stated Clerk:

1004 statedclerk@presbyteryofflorida.com

1005 A **fillable version** of this form is available at: <https://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/resources/>

1006 Date of Report: [Date]

REPORTING PERSON

1007 Full Name: [Name] Address: [Address]

1008 Phone: [Phone Number] E-Mail: [Email Address]

INVOLVED PERSON/S

1009 Full Name: [Name] Address: [Address]

1010 Phone: [Phone Number] E-Mail: [Email Address]

1011 Full Name: [Name] Address: [Address]

1012 Phone: [Phone Number] E-Mail: [Email Address]

1013 **If more space is required attach additional sheet with contact information as above.**

INCIDENT TYPE

1014 ☐ Injury ☐ Sexual Abuse/Misconduct

1015 ☐ Behavioral ☐ Workplace/Sexual Harassment

1016 ☐ Medical ☐ Endangerment of Minors/Vulnerable Adults

1017 ☐ Other Incident: [Brief Description]

INCIDENT DETAILS

1018 Date of Incident: [Date] Time: [Time] ☐ AM ☐ PM

1019 Location of Incident: [Location]

1020 Describe the Incident: [Describe the Incident]

1021 Action Taken: [Action Taken]

INJURIES

1022 Was anyone injured? ☐ Yes ☐ No

1023 If yes, describe the injuries: [Description of Injuries]

WITNESSES

1024 Were there witnesses to the incident? ☐ Yes ☐ No

1025 If yes, enter the witnesses' names and contact info: [Name(s) / Contact Info]

POLICE / MEDICAL SERVICES

1026 Police Notified? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, was a report filed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

1027 Was medical treatment provided? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Refused

1028 If yes, where was medical treatment provided? ☐ On-site ☐ Hospital ☐ Other: [Other]

PERSON FILING REPORT

1029 Signature: _____ Date: _____

1030 Print Name: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

1031 Report received by : [Name] Date: [Date]

1032 Follow-up action:

1033 Action Taken: [Describe]

1034 BOUNDARY POLICIES

1035 Workplace and Sexual Harassment Policy

1036 *Approved for Presbytery use by the Coordinating and Planning Commission, May 14, 2020;*
1037 *Adopted by the Presbytery of Florida, as revised, on _____, 2026.*

1038 Introduction

1039 The Presbytery of Florida is committed to maintaining a workplace free from sexual and other forms of
1040 harassment. Workplace harassment is against the law and violates the teachings of Christ. All persons
1041 have a right to a workplace free from harassment, including harassment based on age, race, faith, color,
1042 ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, sex, disability, marital status, and gender identity. All
1043 Presbytery employees, volunteers, contractors, and others conducting business with the Presbytery must
1044 work in a manner that avoids harassment in the workplace.

1045 This policy is one component of the Presbytery's commitment to a harassment-free work environment.
1046 Employees, volunteers, contractors, and others doing business with the Presbytery are urged to report
1047 workplace harassment by filing a complaint with the Presbytery of Florida. A complaint may also be filed
1048 with the appropriate agency or civil authority.

1049 Upon adoption by the Presbytery, this policy may be used as a model or standard by sessions and
1050 congregations developing their own policies for dealing with allegations of workplace and sexual
1051 harassment within the local session's jurisdiction.

1052 Training relative to this policy shall be required at least every thirty-six months for:
1053 Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) serving congregations;
1054 Teaching Elders in validated ministries;
1055 Certified Christian Educators;

1056 Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders elected to Presbytery service;
1057 Candidates for ministry; and
1058 Presbytery staff.

1059 **Policy:**

1060 The Presbytery’s policy applies to all employees, volunteers, contractors, and other persons conducting
1061 business with the Presbytery. In the remainder of this document, the term “employees” refers to this
1062 collective group. The Presbytery of Florida will hereafter be referenced as “the Presbytery.”

1063 Harassment in any form will not be tolerated. Any individual covered by this policy who engages in sexual
1064 or other harassment or retaliation will be subject to remedial and/or disciplinary action (e.g., counseling,
1065 suspension, termination).

1066 Workplace harassment is a form of discrimination, offensive, a violation of our policies, unlawful, and
1067 contrary to the teachings of Christ. It could also subject the Presbytery to liability for harm to its victims.
1068 Harassers may also be individually liable. Employees and others who engage in workplace harassment,
1069 including sexual harassment, or who allow such behavior to continue, will be penalized.
1070 Unlawful workplace harassment is not limited to the physical workplace or event, itself, nor is it limited
1071 to work or event hours.

1072 The Presbytery will respond to all complaints of sexual harassment in accordance with the *Book of Order*. The
1073 Presbytery will keep the investigation confidential to the extent possible. All employees, as defined in
1074 Section 1, are expected to cooperate with investigations into sexual and workplace harassment.

1075 Employees are **required** to report all complaints they receive, or any harassment that they observe or
1076 become aware of, to the Equipping Presbyter/Stated Clerk of the Presbytery. The Presbytery will provide all
1077 employees with a complaint form for reporting an incident of harassment.

1078 Retaliation Prohibition: No person covered by this policy shall be subject to adverse action for reporting
1079 an incident of harassment, providing information, or otherwise assisting in any investigation of a
1080 harassment complaint. The Presbytery will not tolerate retaliation against anyone who, in good faith,
1081 reports or provides information about suspected harassment. Any Presbytery employee who retaliates
1082 against anyone involved in a harassment investigation will be subjected to disciplinary action, up to and
1083 including termination. All employees who believe they have been subject to such retaliation should inform
1084 a supervisor, manager, or the Equipping Presbyter/Stated Clerk of the Presbytery. All employees who
1085 believe they have been targeted of such retaliation may also seek relief in other available forums, as noted
1086 in the Legal Protections section below.
1087 This policy must be provided to all employees, posted on the website, and posted prominently at all work
1088 locations to the extent practicable. It must also be included in the Presbytery Manual of Operations.

1089 **What is “Workplace Harassment?”**

1090 Workplace harassment includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1091 **Nonverbal behavior**, including distribution, display, or discussion of any written or graphic material that
1092 ridicules, denigrates, insults, belittles, or shows hostility, aversion, or disrespect toward an individual or
1093 group because of national origin, race, color, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy,
1094 appearance, disability, sexual identity, marital, or other protected status

1095 **Offensive or unwelcome comments**, including epithets, slurs, taunting, purposeful lies, or negative

1096 stereotyping about a person’s nationality, origin, race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age,
1097 body, and/or disability

1098 **Hostile environments** that create an offensive or unpleasant work or worship environment through the
1099 use of epithets, slurs, taunting, purposeful lies, or negative stereotyping, delivered in person or through
1100 social media or other means

1101 For a claim of hostile work environment, such conduct must be subjectively abusive and objectively
1102 severe and pervasive enough to create a work environment that a reasonable person would find hostile or
1103 abusive. Several factors are considered to determine whether the conduct is severe and pervasive:
1104 frequency and severity of the conduct, whether it was physically threatening, humiliating, or an offensive
1105 utterance; whether it unreasonably interfered with work performance or the victim’s psychological well-
1106 being; and whether the harasser was a superior in the organization. None of these are necessarily
1107 conclusive alone, but rather are to be used as factors in making a determination.

1108 The definition of workplace harassment does not include reasonable challenges to work performance or
1109 negative job-related feedback, nor does it apply to reasonable discussions or respectful expressions of
1110 opinion about various convictions or beliefs.

1111 **What is “Sexual Harassment?”**

1112 Sexual harassment includes unwelcome conduct that is either of a sexual nature or directed at an individual
1113 because of that individual’s sex when:

1114 Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work performance
1115 or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment, even when the reporting individual is
1116 not the intended target of the sexual harassment;
1117 Such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment or service; or
1118 Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for decisions that affect an individual’s
1119 employment or service.

1120 A sexually hostile work environment includes, but is not limited to, words, signs, jokes, pranks,
1121 intimidation, or physical violence of a sexual nature, or that are directed at an individual because of that
1122 individual’s sex. Sexual harassment also consists of:
1123 any unwanted verbal or physical advances;
1124 sexually-explicit derogatory statements; or
1125 sexually discriminatory remarks made by someone that are offensive or objectionable to the recipient,
1126 cause the recipient discomfort or humiliation, or interfere with the recipient’s or another’s job
1127 performance.

1128 Sexual harassment also occurs when a person in authority attempts to trade job benefits for sexual favors.
1129 This can include hiring, promotion, continued employment/service, or any other terms, conditions, or
1130 privileges of employment/service. This is also called “quid pro quo” harassment.

1131 An employee who feels harassed should report it so that any violation of this policy can be corrected
1132 promptly. Any sexually-oriented harassing conduct, even a single incident, can and shall be addressed
1133 under this policy.

1134 **Examples of Sexual Harassment**

1135 The following list includes, but is not limited to, acts that may be deemed as sexual harassment:

Physical acts of a sexual nature, such as:
Touching, pinching, patting, kissing, hugging, grabbing, poking, or brushing against another employee's body;
Rape, sexual battery, molestation, or attempts to commit these assaults

Unwanted sexual advances or propositions, such as:
Subtle or obvious pressure for unwelcome sexual activities;
Sexual grooming or requests for sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt threats regarding the target's job performance evaluation, a promotion or other job benefits or detriments.
Sexually-oriented gestures, noises, remarks, jokes, or comments about a person's sexuality, sexual appeal, or sexual experience
Sex stereotyping, when conduct, personality traits, or physical characteristics may not conform to other people's perceptions about how individuals of a particular sex should act or look
Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere in the workplace, such as pictures, posters, calendars, graffiti, objects, promotional materials, reading materials, or other materials that any observer finds sexually demeaning or pornographic, including such sexual displays on workplace computers or cell phones, or sharing such displays while in the workplace
Hostile actions taken against an individual because of that individual's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or transgender status, such as:
Interfering with, destroying, or damaging a person's workstation, tools or equipment, or otherwise interfering with the individual's ability to perform the job;
Sabotaging an individual's work; or
Bullying, yelling, or name-calling

Retaliation

Unlawful retaliation is any action that could discourage a worker from coming forward to file or support a harassment claim. Adverse action need not be job-related or occur in the workplace to constitute unlawful retaliation.

Protected activity occurs when a person has:

filed a complaint of workplace harassment, either to the Presbytery or to a civil authority;
testified or assisted in a proceeding involving workplace harassment;
opposed workplace harassment by making a verbal or informal complaint to the Presbytery or a higher council;
reported that another employee has been harassed; or
encouraged a fellow employee to report harassment.

Even if the alleged harassment does not rise to the level of a violation of law, the individual is protected from retaliation if the person had a good faith belief that the practices were unlawful and immoral. The retaliation provision is not intended to protect persons making intentionally false charges of harassment.

Reporting Workplace Harassment

Preventing and reporting harassment is everyone's responsibility. The Presbytery cannot address harassment unless it is aware of it. An employee who has observed or been subjected to behavior that may constitute harassment is morally obligated to report such behavior to the Equipping Presbyter/Stated Clerk or, if the Equipping Presbyter/Stated Clerk is the accused, to the Assistant Stated Clerk who will report the matter immediately to the Stated Clerk, Synod of South Atlantic.

1178 Reports of harassment may initially be made verbally, but must be subsequently filed in writing in accordance
1179 with D-4.0102 and D-7.02. A form for filing a written complaint is attached to this policy and available
1180 on the Presbytery website.

1181 **Supervisory Responsibilities**

1182 Upon receiving a complaint or information about suspected/alleged harassment, observing what may be
1183 harassing behavior, or suspecting that harassment is occurring, all moderators in the Presbytery are
1184 **required** to report such suspected harassment to the Equipping Presbyter/Stated Clerk of the Presbytery or, if
1185 the Equipping Presbyter/Stated Clerk is the accused, to the Assistant Stated Clerk who shall report the matter
1186 immediately to the Stated Clerk, Synod of South Atlantic.

1187 Individuals who fail to report suspected harassment or otherwise knowingly allow it to continue will be
1188 subject to discipline. They may also be subject to discipline for engaging in retaliation.

1189 **Complaint and Investigation of Harassment**

1190 **All** written reports sent to the Stated Clerk constitute an allegation and must be fully investigated.
1191 Investigations will be conducted in accordance with the *Book of Order*, either as a remedial complaint, if
1192 filed against a congregation, committee, or commission (D-4.0102, D-4.02); or as a disciplinary process,
1193 if filed against an individual (D-7.0102, D-7.02).

1194 **Contacting Legal Authorities**

1195 In accordance with G-4.0302 and D-7.0501, if harassment of a minor or an adult who lacks mental
1196 capacity is alleged, or if the alleged harassment involves unwanted physical touching, coerced physical
1197 confinement, or coerced sex acts, any member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) engaged in ordered
1198 ministry, and any certified Christian educator working within or for the Presbytery or its congregations,
1199 shall report such conduct to ecclesiastical and civil legal authorities.

1200 **INCIDENT REPORT – PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA**

1201 Phone: 850-535-2335

1202 Please use this form to report incidents of injury, medical emergencies, significant camper misbehavior,
1203 sexual abuse/misconduct, workplace/sexual harassment, or endangerment of minors/vulnerable adults. If
1204 possible, a report should be completed within 24 hours of the event. Reports of sexual abuse/misconduct
1205 have no time limit.

1206 **Danger or medical emergency?** Call **911** immediately and stay with/near the victim.

1207 **Minor or vulnerable adult endangerment?** Call the Florida DCF Hotline **1-800-962-2873**.

1208 Submit the completed form directly to:

1209 **Dogwood Acres incidents:** staff@dogwoodacres.org

1210 **All other Presbytery incidents:** Presbytery of Florida Stated Clerk or Assistant Stated Clerk:

1211 statedclerk@presbyteryofflorida.com

1212 A **fillable version** of this form is available at: <https://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/resources/>

1213 Date of Report: [Date]

REPORTING PERSON

1214 Full Name: [Name] Address: [Address]

1215 Phone: [Phone Number] E-Mail: [Email Address]

INVOLVED PERSON/S

1216 Full Name: [Name] Address: [Address]

1217 Phone: [Phone Number] E-Mail: [Email Address]

1218 Full Name: [Name] Address: [Address]

1219 Phone: [Phone Number] E-Mail: [Email Address]

1220 **If more space is required attach additional sheet with contact information as above.**

INCIDENT TYPE

1221 ☐ Injury ☐ Sexual Abuse/Misconduct

1222 ☐ Behavioral ☐ Workplace/Sexual Harassment

1223 ☐ Medical ☐ Endangerment of Minors/Vulnerable Adults

1224 ☐ Other Incident: [Brief Description]

INCIDENT DETAILS

1225 Date of Incident: [Date] Time: [Time] ☐ AM ☐ PM

1226 Location of Incident: [Location]

1227 Describe the Incident: [Describe the Incident]

1228 Action Taken: [Action Taken]

INJURIES

1229 Was anyone injured? ☐ Yes ☐ No

1230 If yes, describe the injuries: [Description of Injuries]

WITNESSES

1231 Were there witnesses to the incident? ☐ Yes ☐ No

1232 If yes, enter the witnesses' names and contact info: [Name(s) / Contact Info]

POLICE / MEDICAL SERVICES

1233 Police Notified? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, was a report filed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

1234 Was medical treatment provided? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Refused

1235 If yes, where was medical treatment provided? ☐ On-site ☐ Hospital ☐ Other: [Other]

PERSON FILING REPORT

1236 Signature: _____ Date: _____

1237 Print Name: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

1238 Report received by : [Name] Date: [Date]

1239 Follow-up action:

1240 Action Taken: [Describe]

1241 **MINISTRY OF DOGWOOD ACRES (MDWA)** – Bill Lamont, Moderator

1242 MDWA is pleased to report that rentals and retreats in 2026 are on the increase thus far, keeping
1243 Dogwood busier than usual on the weekends. In the past, March has not been a busy month at camp, but
1244 this year, every weekend was booked. The Men's Retreat, held March 6-8, was a success, with a good
1245 number of new attendees to Dogwood. A date is already being considered for next year's retreat.

1246 The Covenant Committee is an 11-member committee assembled to establish a covenant agreement
1247 between the POF and DWA. This covenant must be in place in order for DWA to apply for 501c3 status.
1248 The Covenant committee held regular Zoom meetings throughout the winter months and completed their
1249 work in early March 2026 . The Covenant is ready to present to Presbytery.

1250 Claire Duren, a lawyer in Pensacola, has been hired to file Articles of Incorporation on behalf of DWA
1251 and to secure an EIN # (Employer Identification Number) on behalf of DWA. Once this is done, and the
1252 covenant is approved, we will be ready to file for 501c3 status. This is the final step in the process.

1253 As summer approaches, our focus turns to summer camp. Registration for summer camp has been open
1254 for over a month now. The chaplains for all three weeks have already been secured. We are still
1255 searching for nurses and of course, for male counselors – especially for High School Camp (June 21-26).

1256 In April, we launched our "Double the Joy" fundraising campaign to enhance our summer camp program
1257 for campers and staff. A \$5,000 matching gift has been offered, so every donation goes twice as far!
1258 Please encourage your church members to contribute.

1259 God continues to bless and grow the ministry at DWA. We ask for your prayers for our ministry team,
1260 staff, campers, and retreat attendees as our ministry ramps up with the approach of summer.

1261 **MINISTRY OF PASTORAL TRANSITIONS** – Hanlim Chae, Moderator

1262 **For Information**
1263 MPT currently works with the following churches:
1264 Trinity, Pensacola
1265 First, Quincy
1266 First, Tallahassee
1267 Parkway, Panama City
1268 First, Lynn Haven
1269 First, Marianna
1270 Faith, Tallahassee
1271 Freeport

1272 The following actions have been taken:
1273 Approved the updated Pulpit Supply list.
1274 Approved TE Julie Donohue Thompson as the interim pastor for First, Lynn Haven, effective March 1,
1275 2026.
1276 Approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Stacey Kaye White and Freeport
1277 congregation, effective March 27, 2026.
1278 Sustained the examination of EP/SC candidate, TE Mario Bolivar.
1279 Approved the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) of Faith Tallahassee for the interim pastor search and
1280 Holy Cow! Assessment Plan.
1281 Sustained the examination of the installed pastor candidate, TE Mark Phillips, for First Tallahassee.
1282 Approved Linda Lovins (CRE Explorer) to be added to the pulpit supply list.
1283 Approved the transfer of membership for TE Emily Proctor to Foothills Presbytery.
1284 Approved the reception of TE Cheryl Montgomery from the Presbytery of Ohio Valley.
1285 Approved the reception of TE Julie Thompson from the Presbytery of East Tennessee.

1286 **FOR ACTION**
1287 MPT placed before the presbytery for affirmative action to approve the retirement of Chaplain Rob Sugg,
1288 effective August 11, 2026. This passed. (See below Chaplain Sugg’s reflection on his ministry.)

1289 **Rob Sugg**
1290 Presbyterian Minister (PCUSA)

1291 **A Journey of Calling, Presence, and Grace**

1292 At Hanlim’s request, I’d like to share my ministry. Here is my story.

1293 I grew up in a non-religious home in Rhode Island—the son of a bartender-father and a stay-at-home
1294 mom. At age 18, in 1978, I enlisted in the U.S. Air Force as a munitions troop, where God found me. I
1295 wasn’t looking for Him—He introduced Himself.

1296 Discharged in 1982, I became an EMT/ paramedic, working ‘the streets’ for sixteen years, founding
1297 Rhode Island’s first paramedic service, serving seven years with a Level-1 Disaster Medical Assistance
1298 Team (DMAT), and serving as the state’s Emergency Medical Services Coordinator for Children. I met
1299 my love of this life, Karen, a Special Education teacher, and we were married in 1987. We have no
1300 children. We joined the Presbyterian Church (USA) where I was ordained a Ruling Elder, attended two
1301 General Assemblies, and then, without a bachelor’s degree, I was “hijacked” into seminary. While earning
1302 my M.Div., God spoke audibly in an empty room, saying “United States Air Force Chaplain.” The
1303 Committee on Preparation for Ministry called it “a new thing.” I completed my bachelor’s degree and, in
1304 1998, I was ordained and re-entered the Air Force as a chaplain, endorsed by the PC(USA). Karen retired
1305 a year later while maintaining two households, in two states, jet-setting back and forth every week.

1306 **Sixteen Years as a USAF Chaplain**

1307 My role was clear: advise commanders on ethics and morale, lead worship and rites, and provide pastoral
1308 counseling. I served six assignments, including a remote tour in Korea, deployments to Saudi Arabia,
1309 Kuwait, and Greenland (which is in no-way green). In sixteen years, I served two years embedded with
1310 the Army and a total of two years away from home. Karen and I moved eight times. I pastored twelve
1311 military congregations, served as chaplain to the American, Canadian, and British embassies in Saudi
1312 Arabia, completed eight units of Clinical Pastoral Education (hospital and hospice chaplaincy), earned a
1313 Master of Psychology, became a Fellow of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (3,500+
1314 client contact hours). My final posting was as the Director of the USAF chaplain Corps deployment
1315 training program.

1316 Post-9/11, the pace was unrelenting—averaging twelve-hour days, six or more days a week, for sixteen
1317 years. I walked with sixty actively suicidal service members (all but two chose life), ministered to units
1318 and families after a dozen suicides, stood with loved ones after fatal crashes, and sat with hundreds of
1319 combat veterans reliving their trauma. My military experience left me with PTSD, anxiety disorder, and
1320 flashbacks. I am not “recovered,” but Karen and I adapt by the grace of God.

1321 **Joys That Outweigh the Pain**

1322 The greatest privileges were sharing the light of Christ in the darkest moments—watching suicidal
1323 members choose life, offering hope to the morally injured, comforting families shattered by suicide or
1324 loss, advocating for the abused and overlooked, and preaching The Resurrection and forgiveness of sins
1325 on Sunday mornings. Chaplain ministry is about people, not programs. It is the ministry of presence—in
1326 the “smoke pit”, night-shifts on the flightline—being Christ’s hands, ears, and eyes. In one six month
1327 period, I ministered in 130 degree heat in Kuwaiti sandstorms followed by minus 30 degrees at Grand
1328 Forks, North Dakota, where I spent Christmas eve towing young drivers out of snow banks.

1329 Karen and I saw the world together. Karen flew on “Air Force Two”. I stood on the DMZ overlooking
1330 North Korea. We both walked upon the Great Wall of China. Karen sacrificially provided me with
1331 normalcy and stability in a profoundly abnormal and chaotic ministry. Following every move of our
1332 household goods, I would work 12 hour days while she replaced the broken dishes—alone. All day. Every
1333 day. My ministry is, and always has been Our ministry.

1334 In 2014, at age fifty-five and with twenty total years of military service, God told me my mission was
1335 complete and I could leave in peace.

1336 **Post-Retirement Ministry (2014–2026)**

1337 I was received as Member at Large in the Presbytery of Florida, where I have supplied pulpits, officiated
1338 military funerals (some of the most meaningful work of my life), and provide pro bono pastoral
1339 counseling. I am active as a chaplain in the Crestview area, and continue to research and publish on
1340 ethics, spiritual warfare, and the role of the Biblical Watchman. Karen and I sponsor a weekly “widows &
1341 orphans” dinner at our home. In the past few years, Karen has endured 11 days in ICU with Covid,
1342 followed by cancer surgery, radiation, and chemo. I am joyfully her “Caregiver”. I remain direct,
1343 transparent, and quick to love (agape—the love that meets needs). PTSD has made me short on patience,
1344 protective of solitude, and vigilant against triggers. I am not burned out—just ready to step back.

1345 **Pearls for Those Who Follow**

1346 A Calling is not a job. Be sent and be accountable.

1347 It's about identity—Own the ground God gave you.
1348 Remember Whose you are, not what you are.
1349 Keep a mentor, a confessor, and a friend—always.
1350 Relationships are everything; all programs (and churches) will die.
1351 Moral Injury: How do we remain “good” when all our choices are bad?
1352 Persevere. Run so as to win the prize.
1353 Did I handle the Word faithfully? Did I love (agape) everyone?

1354 Finally: “Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already
1355 approved what you do. Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil. Enjoy life with
1356 your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all
1357 your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun. Whatever your
1358 hand finds to do, do it with all your might...” — Ecclesiastes 9:7-10

1359 May the Lord guard your hearts and grant you His peace.

1360 Rob Sugg
1361 Minister of Word & Sacrament (PCUSA)
1362 Retired USAF Chaplain

Profit and Loss
Presbytery of Florida
January-March, 2026

	Total
Income	
60000.0 PRESBYTERY INCOME	
60000 RECEIPTS	
60001-2 Shared Support	81,651.61
60006 Other Income	
2300.1 Blountstown Income	51,507.14
Total for 60006 Other Income	\$51,507.14
Total for 60000 RECEIPTS	\$133,158.75
Total for 60000.0 PRESBYTERY INCOME	\$133,158.75
Total for Income	\$133,158.75
Gross Profit	\$133,158.75
Expenses	
70000.0 PRESBYTERY EXPENSES	
70020 PER CAPITA	
70102 Per Capita Synod	1,665.00
Total for 70020 PER CAPITA	\$1,665.00
70030 Ministry of Congregational & Pastoral Care - MCPC	53.65
70203 Liaison Church Expenses	109.20
70805.1 Ministry of Congregational & Pastoral Care - MCPC	-30.00
70850.9 Committee Expense-MCPC	-10.72
Total for 70030 Ministry of Congregational & Pastoral Care - MCPC	\$122.13
70040 Ministry of Dogwood Acres - MDWA	
70001 Dogwood Acres Support	16,646.55
Total for 70040 Ministry of Dogwood Acres - MDWA	\$16,646.55
70050 Ministry of Leadership Development - MLD	
70005 FLAPDAN Membership Dues	1,750.00
70006 Campus Ministry (Ukirk TLH)	3,500.01
70850.2 Committee Expense - MLD	50.75
Total for 70050 Ministry of Leadership Development - MLD	\$5,300.76
70060 Ministry of New Congregation Formation - MNCF	
70850.3 Committee Expense - MNCF	131.45
Total for 70060 Ministry of New Congregation Formation - MNCF	\$131.45
70070 Ministry of Pastoral Transitions - MPT	
70850.4 Committee Expense - MPT	50.18
Total for 70070 Ministry of Pastoral Transitions - MPT	\$50.18
70090 Ministry Coordinating Council - MCC	
70207 Consulting Expense	1,748.00
70513.1 Staff BOP Dues	11,894.04

70513.3 Staff Payroll Taxes	11,083.63
70513 Workers Comp Insurance	1,542.66
70620 General Presbyter Salary	7,184.42
70630 Administrator Salary	10,166.19
70631 Administrator Annuity	355.00
70632 Administrator Medical	180.00
70634 Administrator Travel	909.15
70704 Recording Clerk	500.00
70705 Presbytery Meeting Expense	540.00
70710.5 Treasurer Travel	1,002.70
70710 Treasurer Salary	3,581.05
Total for 70090 Ministry Coordinating Council - MCC	\$50,686.84
70100 Ministry of Presbytery Operations - MPO	
70510 Utilities / Office	94.53
70512 Office Telcom & Communications	1,202.95
70515 Supplies & Expenses	633.40
70517 Copier Lease	511.78
70518 Insurance & Bonding	13,072.25
70519 Bank Service Charges	132.00
Total for 70100 Ministry of Presbytery Operations - MPO	\$15,646.91
Total for 70000.0 PRESBYTERY EXPENSES	\$90,249.82
Net Operating Income	\$42,908.93

Accrual Basis Friday, April 10, 2026 11:46 AM GMTZ

Presbytery of Florida Shared Support
Calendar Year 2026

Church	2026 Pledge Request	2026 Pledge	Received	Recevd as % of Pledge	# Member
Blountstown	Closed				
Chipley	\$ 2,560.00	\$ 800.00	\$199.32	25%	32
Crestview First	\$ 4,480.00	\$ 4,480.00		0%	56
DeFuniak Springs Bethel	\$ 640.00	\$ 640.00	\$640.00	100%	8
DeFuniak Springs Euchee Valley	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$2,800.00	100%	35
DeFuniak Springs, First	\$ 7,120.00	\$ 7,120.00	\$1,780.02	25%	89
Destin, First	\$ 3,760.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$825.00	25%	47
Freeport, Freeport	\$ 4,240.00	\$ 2,800.00		0%	53
Ft. Walton Beach - First	\$ 6,640.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$1,250.01	25%	83
Ft. Walton Beach, Korean First	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$5,500.00	100%	65
Gretna, Gretna	\$ 960.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$2,000.00	100%	12
Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze	\$ 13,120.00	\$ 0.00			164
Havana, First	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$1,000.00	33%	45
Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill	\$ 480.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$2,500.00	100%	6
Lynn Haven, First	\$ 8,240.00	\$ 9,000.00		0%	103
Marianna, First	\$ 12,560.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$2,749.99	25%	157
Milton, First	\$ 3,920.00	\$ 3,920.00		0%	49
Monticello, First	\$ 2,240.00	\$ 2,240.00	\$560.00	25%	28
Navarre, Navarre	\$ 2,880.00	\$ 2,560.00		0%	36
Panama City, Grace	\$ 9,120.00	\$ 9,120.00	\$1,520.00	17%	114
Panama City Beach, Gulf Beach	\$ 4,480.00	\$ 4,480.00	\$748.00	17%	56
Panama City, Parkway	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$4,400.00	100%	55
Pensacola, First	\$ 29,200.00	\$19,219.00	\$1,601.60	8%	365
Pensacola, Northminster	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$400.00	17%	85
Pensacola, Korean	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$2,000.00	100%	25
Pensacola, Trinity	\$ 42,880.00	\$ 32,808.00	\$2,734.00	8%	536
Quincy, First	\$ 34,800.00	\$ 34,800.00	\$5,800.00	17%	435

1366 **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR FIRST, BLOUNTSTOWN – Linda Shelley, Chair**

1367 The Administrative Commission (AC) was appointed by the Presbytery to make a determination
1368 regarding the future of the First Presbyterian Church of Blountstown. The AC consisted of Rev. Brant
1369 Copeland, Rev. Stacey Kaye White, Rev. Blair Beaver, Deborah Potter and Linda Shelley.

1370 At the time the AC was appointed, there were only two members of the Blountstown church and one of
1371 those lives in a nursing home and has not attended services in years. Despite the information originally
1372 conveyed to the Presbytery that the church was ready to be closed, that was not the feeling of the few
1373 people, although not members, who attended the church.

1374 The AC met with the interested persons and spoke to several of them on many occasions to explain
1375 what would have to be done to revitalize the church, which was primarily to increase membership. No
1376 efforts were taken by those persons to join or to otherwise increase membership. A “Hail Mary”
1377 suggestion by Rev. Beaver to have Marianna Presbyterian work with the group to revitalize
1378 Blountstown was abandoned before it started, and was not supported by the AC, regardless.

1379 After prayerful consideration of the circumstances, the AC voted unanimously on August 6, 2025, to
1380 close the church effective on December 31, 2025. The AC communicated this decision in person to the
1381 two remaining members of the church.

1382 Obtaining financial records of the church was difficult, at best. Financial matters (paying bills,
1383 depositing collections) have been handled exclusively for the past few years by a non-member, Gayle
1384 Dalati. Ms. Dalati, with the approval of the two members, has paid herself \$400 per month for this job
1385 and for keeping the church clean. Due to Ms. Dalati’s lack of cooperation, the AC was unable to gain
1386 control or access to the church funds or records, other than those she partially provided after months of
1387 requests.

1388 With the assistance of Rev. Eric Spoon, Ms. Dalati has subsequently sent to the Presbytery what she
1389 says are all the remaining funds of the Blountstown Church. The AC has no way of verifying that the
1390 amount is all of the funds, but has received a notice from the bank that at least one of the accounts has
1391 been closed. Since the amount received by the Presbytery, over \$51,000, is close to the amount
1392 expected based on an earlier review of records, the AC recommends that no further action be taken on
1393 this issue.

1394 Once the church was closed, an inventory of all of the contents was prepared and has been distributed to
1395 churches in the Presbytery. Churches interested in obtaining any of the items will go to the church on
1396 April 12th, where AC member Deborah Potter will supervise distribution.

1397 On the recommendation of Rev. Spoon, Brian Hinton was engaged as a realtor to deal with the sale of
1398 the church. Although Brian listed the church on the MLS and received a couple of calls of interest, it
1399 turns out that the only serious offer was received from the neighboring property owner, Marlon Peavy.
1400 After negotiation, the AC entered into a contract with Mr. Peavy for \$80,000. The sale will be finalized
1401 following the opportunity for Presbytery churches to obtain items on the inventory.

1402 Due to various reasons, the only remaining members of the AC are Deborah Potter and Linda Shelley.
1403 We are happy to respond to any questions from the MCC regarding any of the matters relating to our
1404 work.

1405 **ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER**

1406 There being no further business to come before the Presbytery, the meeting was closed with prayer by
1407 Moderator Greg Seltzer at 2:55 p.m. (central) / 3:55 (eastern)

- 1408 Minutes respectfully submitted,
- 1409 Rev. Mark Broadhead, Ret. RE Greg Seltzer, Moderator
- 1410 Recording Secretary, Pro Tem
- 1411 Rev. Mario Bolivar, Stated Clerk
- 1412 Next Meetings of Presbytery:
- 1413 August 11, 2026 at 1st, Milton- First 9:00 central/10:00 eastern
- 1414 October 27, 2026 at 1st, Quincy-First 9:00 central/10:00 eastern
- 1415 Approved by the Ministry Coordinating Council September 16, 2026

May 1 – August 11, 2026: The First 100 Days

1 Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

2 Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

3 It is difficult to believe that by the time we gather for our August 11 Presbytery meeting, I will have
4 completed my first 102 days serving as your Equipping Presbyter and Stated Clerk. These first months
5 have been filled with learning, listening, traveling, worshiping, building relationships, and discovering
6 together the unique gifts and opportunities that God has entrusted to the Presbytery of Florida.

7 When I accepted this call, I hoped these first months would focus on three broad goals:

- 8
- 9 • **To listen well** before attempting to lead.
 - 10 • **To build relationships** throughout the presbytery.
 - 11 • **To begin laying foundations** for a ministry centered on equipping congregations and leaders
12 for the future.

13 As I reflect on these first one hundred days, I am deeply grateful to say that all three have begun to take
14 root—not because of my efforts alone, but because of your extraordinary welcome, encouragement,
15 patience, and partnership in ministry.

16 **Beginning Well**

17 Only a few days after beginning my ministry on May 1, I joined colleagues from across the
18 denomination for the **Presbyterian Leadership Formation Gathering** (May 3–7). This orientation
19 provided an invaluable opportunity to learn from experienced executive presbyters, stated clerks, and
20 denominational leaders while beginning relationships with colleagues who now serve as companions in
21 ministry across the church.

22 Those days reminded me that none of us serves alone. Every presbytery is unique, yet we share a
23 common calling to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

24 **Worshiping Among You**

25 One of the greatest joys of these first months has been standing in your pulpits, sharing meals with your
26 congregations, and hearing your stories.

27 **Presbytery Meeting Worship | May 16 – Dogwood Acres**

28 It was an incredible honor to preach during worship at our May Presbytery Meeting at Dogwood Acres.
29 Standing before the body that had recently called me into this ministry was both humbling and deeply
30 moving. That service reminded me that the ministry of an Equipping Presbyter begins in worship—not
31 in meetings, policies, or committees—but gathered around Word and Sacrament.

32 **Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church | May 17th 2026**

33 The very next day I had the privilege of worshiping with the saints at Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church
34 alongside Pastor Michael.

35 **Scripture:** Acts 1:6–14

36 **Sermon:** *"Before Their Very Eyes"*

37 The fellowship following worship was every bit as meaningful as the sermon itself. Thank you for your

38 extraordinary hospitality and for welcoming me so warmly into your congregation.

39 **Marianna Presbyterian Church | June 14th 2026**

40 My June visit to Marianna Presbyterian Church was another wonderful blessing.

41 **Scripture:** Matthew 9:35–10:8

42 **Sermon:** *"Freely You Have Received"*

43 Thank you for the beautiful basket of gifts, your generous hospitality, and especially for introducing me
44 to the rich history of Marianna. Every congregation carries a story worth telling, and yours is certainly
45 one of them.

46 **Gretna Presbyterian Church | July 12th 2026**

47 In July I worshiped with the faithful congregation of Gretna Presbyterian Church.

48 **Scripture:** Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

49 **Sermon:** *"The Foolishness of God"*

50 As Gretna discerns its future, it was a privilege to proclaim God's Word among faithful saints whose
51 witness continues to inspire the Presbytery.

52 **Looking Ahead**

53 I also look forward to continuing this ministry of presence by worshiping with additional
54 congregations:

- 55 • August 2 – Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church
- 56 • August 9 – Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee
- 57 • August 16 – Wewahitchka Presbyterian Church (Re-dedication Service)
- 58 • September 13 – Installation of Rev. Mark Phillips, FP Church of Tallahassee
- 59 • October 25 – Lynn Haven Presbyterian Church
- 60 • November 7 & 8 – First Presbyterian Church of Milton for Love & Lights Community Dinner
61 and Worship

62 In between these scheduled Sundays have been countless lunches, coffee conversations, pastoral visits,
63 committee meetings, and opportunities simply to listen.

64 These moments often become the most important ministry.

65 **Ministry Across the Presbytery**

66 During these first months I have attended every meeting of the **Ministry Coordinating Council**
67 **(MCC)** and every meeting of **Ministry for Congregational and Pastoral Care (MCPC)** with one
68 exception, when I was representing our Presbytery at the Synod Mid-Council Leadership Gathering.

69 I have also participated regularly with the work of:

- 70 • Ministry of Pastoral Transitions (MPT)
- 71 • Ministry Leadership Development (MLD)
- 72 • Ministry of Presbytery Operations (MPO)

73 Each of these ministries carries unique responsibilities, yet together they help strengthen the life of our
74 congregations and leaders.

75 **Ministry of Leadership Development**

76 One of the greatest opportunities before us is helping leaders discover one another. For our August
77 Presbytery Meeting I have the privilege of leading the educational portion through an interactive
78 SWOT Analysis. While SWOT is commonly used for organizational planning, our goal is much more
79 relational. We are still getting to know one another.

80 Before we can imagine where God is calling us next, we must better understand who God has already
81 gathered together.

82 **Ministry of New Congregation Formation**

83 This ministry remains in its early stages. Because of schedules, sabbaticals, and travel, AJ Meador,
84 Sheldon Steen, and I have not yet had the opportunity to begin the work in earnest.
85 Rather than beginning with the mechanics of new church development, my hope is that we begin with a
86 more fundamental question:

87 **Why does God continue calling the church to plant new worshiping communities?**

88 Before discussing methods, funding, or models, I believe we must first recover the theological
89 imagination behind this ministry.

- 90 • At this stage we are dreaming.
- 91 • We are listening.
- 92 • We are looking for people who may feel called to dream with us about the future of New
93 Congregation Formation in the Presbytery of Florida.

94 **Ministry of Pastoral Transitions**

95 These first months have included participation in numerous conversations regarding pastoral
96 transitions, congregational support, candidate processes, and discernment.

97 Healthy transitions matter. Congregations deserve faithful guidance, and pastors deserve thoughtful
98 partnership throughout every stage of ministry.

99 **Ministry of Presbytery Operations**

100 The Ministry of Presbytery Operations carries much of the technical, structural, financial, and
101 administrative work necessary for the life of the presbytery.

102 Many of its accomplishments are largely invisible because, when this ministry functions well, much
103 simply works. I am grateful for every member serving in this ministry.

104 At the same time, MPO continues to need additional members.

- 105 ➤ Likewise, our **Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC)** also requires additional commissioners.
106 I encourage anyone sensing a call to these important ministries to prayerfully consider serving.

107 **General Assembly 227**

108 It was a privilege to serve the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as an **Online Parliamentarian** during the
109 committee work of the 227th General Assembly from **June 22–24**.

110 Following the committee work, I attended the plenary sessions of the General Assembly in Milwaukee
111 from **June 28 through July 2**.

112 Our Presbytery delegation served faithfully, and I remain deeply grateful for their work.

113 Rather than repeat that report here, I encourage everyone to read the **General Assembly Report**
114 included in this meeting packet, where you will find summaries of major actions, observations, and
115 recommendations for our Presbytery.

116 **Synod Mid-Council Leadership Gathering**

117 From **July 19–22**, I represented the Presbytery of Florida at the Synod Mid-Council Leadership
118 Gathering hosted at the Vibrancy Center of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida.

119 During these days we worked collaboratively with Executive Presbyters and Stated Clerks from across
120 the Synod.

121 Topics included:

- 122 • General Assembly follow-up
- 123 • Mid-council collaboration
- 124 • Commissioner training

- 125 • Artificial Intelligence and church leadership
- 126 • Administrative review of presbytery minutes
- 127 • Insurance initiatives for congregations
- 128 • Shared learning among executive leaders
- 129 • Future Synod collaboration

130 The gathering reinforced how much wisdom exists across our neighboring presbyteries and how much
131 we gain by learning from one another.

132 **Balancing Two Callings**

133 One of the greatest discoveries of these first hundred days has been learning how to faithfully balance
134 two distinct but interconnected callings:
135 Serving as your **Stated Clerk** and serving as your **Equipping Presbyter**. I continue to be deeply
136 grateful for the extraordinary partnership of **Rev. Eric Spoon**. His wisdom, institutional knowledge,
137 patience, and friendship have made this transition possible. I cannot adequately express my appreciation
138 for his willingness to walk beside me as I continue learning the many responsibilities entrusted to the
139 office of Stated Clerk.

141 **Administrative Transition**

142 I also wish to express my gratitude to **Melissa Willis**. Melissa has faithfully served this presbytery with
143 remarkable dedication, professionalism, and grace. As she begins her transition toward retirement, I
144 hope every congregation will join me in celebrating her ministry and expressing our profound gratitude
145 for years of faithful service. Her work has blessed countless pastors, clerks of session, committees,
146 congregations, and leaders throughout the Presbytery of Florida. Thank you, Melissa. Gracias.

147 **Looking Toward the Future**

148 Even while learning the present, we have begun laying foundations for the future.
149 Among the initiatives currently underway are:

- 150 • Development of a renewed Presbytery website.
- 151 • Formation of a search process for our inaugural Regional Advocates.
- 152 • Strengthening communication throughout the Presbytery.
- 153 • Expanding relationships with congregations through regular visits.
- 154 • Building leadership pipelines for committees and commissions.
- 155 • Beginning long-term conversations regarding New Congregation Formation.

156 None of these efforts belong to one person.
157 They belong to all of us.

158 **A Personal Word of Thanks**

159 Many of you know that Melissa and I continue to live in the Orlando area while our home remains on
160 the market.
161 For nearly one hundred days I have been traveling back and forth across Florida while awaiting the sale
162 of our home before relocating permanently to the Panama City/Lynn Haven area.
163 Thank you for your patience.
164 Thank you for your prayers.
165 Thank you for your understanding as we navigate this season together.
166 Despite the miles traveled, every visit has confirmed something I already suspected when I accepted
167 this call: God is doing beautiful things in the Presbytery of Florida.

168 **Finally...**

169 Friends, thank you.
170 Thank you for your encouragement.
171 Thank you for your grace as I continue learning.

172 Thank you for opening your churches, your homes, your committee meetings, and your hearts.
173 The first one hundred days have not been about accomplishing everything.
174 They have been about learning your stories, earning your trust, and beginning to dream together about
175 what God may yet do among us.
176 I truly believe the best days of the Presbytery of Florida are not behind us.
177 By God's grace, they are still ahead.
178 May we continue walking together in faith, hope, humility, and joy as we seek to become the people
179 God is calling us to be.

180 Count it all joy,

181 **Rev. Mario A. Bolivar**
182 *mario@presbyteryofflorida.com*
183 Equipping Presbyter and Stated Clerk
184 Presbytery of Florida

Communications to Presbytery



Offensive Corp, a 501c3 non-profit reducing overdoses, human trafficking, and homelessness in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, is First Presbyterian Church of Milton's ministry partner for street outreach in Santa Rosa and Escambia Counties. FPC Milton provides an office, clothing and hygiene pantries, food, and other support to Offensive in the Fellowship Hall of FPC Milton.

Street outreach is the first line of contact with individuals struggling with substance abuse disorder, homelessness and human trafficking, with the goal to reduce harm first, build peer relationship, and companion people toward additional resources and healing. Offensive Outreach Angels spend their time on the streets of Pensacola and the backwoods trails of Santa Rosa County, finding people in the most desperate situations, cut off from resources, community, and hope.

In January, Offensive Corp was given a grant to provide Harm Reduction education in various settings, including churches, via a workshop entitled "Harm Reduction with Jesus". Led by Brad Bishop, Founder of Offensive Corp, and Deborah Potter, from FPC Milton, the workshop proposes to provide local congregations with both the practical knowledge and theological alignment to foster deeper insight, compassion, and--should they feel called--ministries of support to arguably the most lost, exploited, and traumatized in our culture today.

Learn more about Offensive Corp and Harm Reduction education workshops at <https://offensive.com/>.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Church Safety and Security Workshop

“Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God.” Acts 20:28

Our congregations as faith communities recognize God as sovereign over the world, and we put our trust in the Lord. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) recognizes its responsibility to the Presbytery and congregations to provide an inviting and safe environment. It is thus out of a sense of responsibility, not fear, that this workshop was developed to help provide all with a sense of welcome and peace.

We’re letting you know about a workshop that has been developed and is now available to assist Presbyteries and their member churches in creating church safety and security plans, ensuring everyone may enter our churches safely.

Safety and security planning and training for churches is vital today. The “Introduction to Church Safety and Security Workshop” aims to define, demonstrate, and practice key concepts and tools for enhancing safety and security for PC(USA) stakeholders, including worshipping communities and midcouncils. Taking an “all hazards” approach to safety and security, including armed intruders, protects the church as a place of worship and gathering. It strengthens its role as a beacon of resilience and refuge. When churches commit to a culture of preparedness and care, they affirm their commitment to serving their congregation and community in every circumstance, while preserving openness, welcome, and compassion.

This seven-hour workshop is designed to be a “hands-on” experience for churches, covering how to protect against adversarial events, mitigate damage, and respond to and recover from them. The workshop helps worshipping communities develop simple and appropriate safety plans through exercises, handouts, resources, role-playing, and team collaboration. Attendees will leave this workshop with a high-level outline of a safety and security plan for their facility, along with templates and resources for implementation. They will also receive achievable action items that will enhance safety and security within a faith-based framework centered on hope and welcome.

This program is offered through the PDA, which provides all instructors at no cost. The presbytery is responsible for delivering a church-associated location, coordinating facilities to support the program (AV equipment, etc.), and preparing printed materials, snacks, and noon meals. Potential participants (Min. 20 – Max 50) may include Pastors, church staff, elders, deacons, ushers/greeters, facility personnel, Sunday school and day school leaders, and public safety resources.

For further information, Interested Presbytery Executives and/or staff should contact Rev. Kathy Lee Cornell at Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Kathy.Lee-Cornell@pcusa.org, 502.974.0488.



SC5 School of Theology
2026 Fall Semester
 Friday, October 16
 & Saturday, October 17
 Presbyterian College Clinton, SC

FALL 2026 Semester Courses

CORE

New Testament
 Reformed Theology
 Preaching
 Pastoral Care

ELECTIVES

Celtic Christianity
 Teaching the Bible

Costs: \$80 for Enrichment Track
 \$100 for CRE/CP Track
 Includes Course and 2 meals. Hotel is separate.

The SC5 School of Theology is sponsored by the five presbyteries in South Carolina:
 Charleston-Atlantic, Foothills, New Harmony, Providence, and Trinity.

What is the SC5 School of Theology?

Theological training for elders and church leaders. There are two tracks:

Enrichment Track for Ruling Elders who have received a diploma from the SC5 School of Theology **and** for those who want personal enrichment for teaching or leading in their congregations.

**Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)/
 Commissioned Pastor (CP) Track** for Ruling Elders who want to become a CRE or CP.

Classes are for:

Church Leaders/Ruling Elders interested in learning more.

Ruling Elders interested in being commissioned to serve and lead congregations.

Faith Formation Leaders interested in better equipping themselves to teach.

For more information about the SC5 School of Theology, please talk with your Presbytery leader, or visit our website here:



Donnie Woods Scholarship

During Worship on Saturday, there will be an opportunity to donate to the Donnie Woods School of Theology Scholarship. Use this QR Code to give now:



Items for Information

- MCC approved the minutes of the May 16, 2026, stated meeting of the Presbytery as submitted.
- MCC approved the agenda for the August 11, 2026, stated meeting of the Presbytery.
- It was approved for the Ministry of Presbytery Operations to act as the Administrator Transition Group as Melissa Willis transitions from full-time to part-time employment and then retirement.
- It was approved for Cathy Mooney (Central), Greg Seltzer (West), and Brant Copeland (East) to work to make a recommendation for the Regional Advocate positions and to report back to the Ministry Coordinating Council their recommendation.
- Mario will work with the Ministry of Presbytery Operations to build a new website for the Presbytery.
- MCC approved to transfer from the Ministry of Congregation Formation Fund Account to the Presbytery Reserve Fund Account of \$500,000 and direct the Ministry of Presbytery Operations to direct Michael Martin, Presbytery Treasurer, to write a check for \$250,000 each to UKirk Tallahassee and to Dogwood Acres in August 2026 from the Presbytery Reserve Fund Account and then a second check to be written of \$250,000 each, again (to UKirk Tallahassee and Dogwood Acres) to be written in August 2027 from the Presbytery Reserve Fund Account.
- MCC approved for an Administrative Commission for Gretna, assuming original jurisdiction, consisting of Matt Frease, Sheldon Steen, Don Winstead and Linda Shelley be formed.
- MCC reviewed changes to the By-Laws of the Presbytery and are submitting them for a first reading. Changes should be sent to Tim Crawford.
- MCC was not able to review the changes to the Manual of Operations for the Presbytery but are submitting them for a first reading. Changes should be sent to Tim Crawford.
- MCC approved the following dates/locations for the 2027 Stated Presbytery meetings.
 - Tuesday, February 23, 2027
 - Saturday, May 22, 2027 – Dogwood Acres
 - Tuesday, August 10, 2027
 - Tuesday, October 26, 2027

For Presbytery Approval

None.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Hodges, Moderator of MCC

Next Meeting Date: September 24, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. (CT) 10:30 (ET)

Members

Rich Kangas, Elder, Moderator; Rev. Dr. Raymond Guterman; Rev. Dr. Michael Askew; Rev. John Wamsley; Greg Obermier, Elder; Rev. Mario Bolivar, Equipping Presbyter/Stated Clerk

1 TOPICS ADDRESSED

2 Ministry Vacancies

3 Ministry of New Congregation Formation. 2 vacancies, Class 2027; 1 vacancy, Class 2028; 1
4 vacancy, Class 2029.

5 Ministry of Presbytery Operations, 1 vacancy, Class 2027.

6 Permanent Judicial Commission, 2 vacancies, class 2032.

7 Presbytery Vice Moderator, Class 2027, Male, elder.

8 TOPICS PENDING

9 Ministry Vacancies

10 Ministry of New Congregation Formation

11 Equipping Presbyter Mario Bolivar will discuss the new direction of this Ministry with its
12 moderator.

13 Presbytery Vice Moderator, Class 2027, male, elder

14 This position needs to be approved and installed by fall presbytery meeting. The person
15 will go to a three-day class in Louisville sometime in November.

16 ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY APPROVAL

17 None

18 **NEXT MEETING DATE:** August 4, 2026

19 Respectfully submitted,

20 Rich Kangas, MR Moderator

- 2 The Resourcing Hour for the August Presbytery Meeting is being coordinated by Equipping
3 Presbyter/Stated Clerk Rev. Mario Bolivar with the help of Rev. Jean Homrighausen, Rev. Becky
4 Bryan, Rev. Julie Thomspson, and Elder Tim Crawford.
- 5 Discussion has begun on was to help implement the Boundary Policies approved at the May Presbytery
6 meeting.
- 7 A Cents-ability Grant has been given to First, Crestview for their soup kitchen ministry.
- 8 We continue to work with Explorers (CRE), Inquirers and Candidates for Ministry:
- 9 • Rose Walters, Candidate, Faith, Tallahassee
- 10 • Lauren Christian, Inquirer (ready to move to candidacy), Gulf Breeze
- 11 • Dexton Teat, Inquirer, Grace, Panama City
- 12 • Linda Lovins, Explorer (ready to complete the process), Faith, Tallahassee
- 13 We approved a request from First, Milton to invite all churches attending the August Presbytery
14 Meeting in Milton to support their unsheltered neighbors Tuesday Table Event the evening of
15 August 11.
- 16 **MLD Members:**
- 17 Greg Seltzer Tim Crawford Susan Byram
- 18 Becky Bryan Julie Thompson Hilda Jackson
- 19 Jean Homrighausen, vice moderator
- 20 Cathy Mooney, moderator

1 The Presbyterian Women recently awarded two scholarships to students pursuing degrees in theology
2 or church leadership. We have awarded scholarships to two students, one attending Columbia
3 Theological Seminary and one attending Austin Theological Seminary. We have the funds to award
4 one more scholarship this year. If anyone is interested please contact Vicki Bell for information or
5 application forms.

6 We are planning a Presbyterian Women fall meeting on August 8 at First Presbyterian Church in
7 Chipley. We have encouraged all interested women to come together to learn about PW and to
8 generate some fresh ideas for future events and projects.

9 One of the important projects for the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery is updating our annual
10 PW Directory. This directory includes the contact information for all our churches, Moderators,
11 Treasurers, Historians, and Together in Service officers as well as forms and information needed for
12 the upcoming year. This is a great source of information for all PW groups as they carry out their
13 important ministry. Please assist us in submitting all current information for your churches.

14 Respectfully submitted,
15 Denise Pentecost, PWP Moderator

TASKFORCE MEMBERS:

Mark Broadhead, Tim Crawford, Chair, Erin Rugh, and Karen Weaver

Topics Addressed

- Heard ministry partner reports from MCPC, MPT, MLD, MPO, and MNCF
 - o A significant amount of work is ongoing throughout the presbytery's ministries. Items highlighted in this report:
 - o MCPC Handbook expected to be provided for first reading at Summer Presbytery Meeting.
 - o MLD – Working on processes to meet presbytery's needs for boundary training.
 - o MPT – Working on revisions to handbook, in conversations with MCPC to better define temporary pastoral relationships.
 - Work includes looking into the definitions of Interim Pastor, Transitional Pastor, and Bridge Pastor. To help congregations and pastoral leadership better understand the roles and applications of each.

Presbytery's Transition Progress

- Strategic Plan and plans/expectations moving forward
 - o Mario Bolivar, Equipping Presbyter provided a written "report." Items will be held until he is able to converse with the taskforce.
 - He says he works best with defined expectations in order to be most effective. He is working on a document that will lay out his thoughts along this line.
 - The implementation process is not easy, but it needs to be purposeful. What are the practical things this presbytery can do to implement its ministry?
 - He recommends "The Hidden Culture of Congregations" as a book worth reading.
 - There was a discussion on utilizing SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) to evaluate how matters are progressing with the Strategic Plan to this point.
 - The Presbytery website needs to be updated. What kind of funding, and where can that funding come from for this?
 - o It was agreed to continue to hold off the resumption of years 2 and 3 in the Implementation Timeline while Mario Bolivar continues his onboarding with the Presbytery.
- Presbytery By-Laws and Manual of Operations Update
 - o The taskforce began a review of the documents at their June meeting with a first draft of needed updates provided for action at the July meeting.
 - o At the July meeting additional changes were approved to the Manual of Operations by the taskforce.
 - o The By-Laws and Manual of Operations are presented here as a first reading
 - The taskforce suggests MCC review the Presbytery's relationship with Dogwood Acres as a separate 501(c)(3) to determine if DWA needs to be in the Manual of Operations, and if so, where.

35 **Items for Further Discussion**

- 36 • Work started comparing where the presbytery is today with where it was when the strategic plan
37 process began.

38 **Presbytery of Florida Strategic Plan Goals**
39 Adopted Winter Presbytery Meeting 2024

YEAR 1 MARCH 1, 2024 – FEBRUARY 28, 2025 MOVE FROM STATIC TO ECSTATIC:	
Goal	
• Reduce and eliminate duplication and unnecessary or detrimental efforts. • Change presbytery meetings to become more educational and supportive in nature. • Develop an atmosphere more in line of an assembly of pastors, elders, leaders, staff persons, and congregational members. • Recommended Ministry Structure	
YEARS 2 & 3 (Action Paused per 2026 Winter Stated Meeting) A NEW CULTURE IN THE PRESBYTERY IS AFOOT:	
Goal	
• Develop a Directory of Talents as a resource of people willing to go to our congregations to aid, assist, encourage, train persons to help meet a congregation's specific needs and desires. • Broadly convey the new culture within the Presbytery. • Advertise what our presbytery now "gives to you."	
YEARS 4 AND 5 OUR INITIAL MISSION IS FULFILLED:	
New life is engaged:	
• The new structure of the presbytery is in place and working. • Our congregations have accepted and engaged in the new structure and culture and have increased their participation and financial support for presbytery endeavors. • The presbytery has rebounded in its ministry and purpose, being a benefit to all congregations.	

40 Respectfully submitted,
41 Tim Crawford, Chair

PERSONS PRESENT:

Members: Lorne Bostwick, Craig Chormann, Rick Clubb, Sun Kim, Linda Lovins, and Joan Wooten

Ex officio: Mario Bolivar, Equipping Presbyter/Stated Clerk; Eric Spoon, Assistant Stated Clerk

Co-opted: Mark Broadhead (MPT)

TOPICS ADDRESSED

MCPC Ethics Form

- Signed (annually), all MCPC members, and filed with Presbytery

Compensation Reviews

- Reviewed Terms of Call (ministers of Word and Sacrament) and Contracts (CREs and Stated Supply Pastors) – Bryan, Chae, Cho, Hodges, Homrighausen, Lamont, Meador, Mooney, Ocasio/Torres, Quiring, Rugh, Spoon
- Follow-ups – Steen, Stringer, Wood
- Method for reviewing for 2027 updates
- Method for scheduling contract reviews and (semi-)annual CRE and Stated Supply Pastor reports
- Assuring that correct forms are used (updated annually; posted online)
- Track and acknowledge pastoral celebrations – ordination/installation anniversaries?

Church Focus, Specific

- Red Bay, Crestview, and Laurel Hill – report from CRE Jo Kublik
- Small churches in pastoral transition: Freeport; Parkway
- First, Tallahassee – reviewed Lombard Mennonite Peace Center Report

MCPC Handbook

- Boundary Policies – approved May 16, 2026 and included in Handbook (Supplement)
 - Need to be posted on website, in appropriate Presbytery publications, and posted visibly in the Presbytery office and in various buildings of Dogwood Acres
- Finalize editing processes for first reading at August 11, 2026 Presbytery meeting

Forming an Administrative Commission (with original jurisdiction)

- Requested by Gretna Presbyterian Church
- Approved by the Ministry Coordinating Council (MCC) – July 16, 2026
- AC members: Matt Frease (UKirk, Tallahassee), Don Winstead (First, Tallahassee), Sheldon Steen (Christ, Tallahassee), and Linda Shelley (Faith, Tallahassee)

Status of Congregations

- Monthly review of joys, concerns, and status of pastoral leadership in all congregations, Presbytery-wide
- Ministry Teams for whom these updates would be helpful
- Wewahitchka – Sanctuary re-dedication service, 3:00 CDT, August 16, 2026

35 **MCPC Focus Areas (Reports)**

- 36 • Urgency of finding Regional Advocates
37 • Retired pastors – contacted periodically

38 **Grants**

- 39 • Lafayette, Tallahassee grant request (Equipment Upgrade, approved) – update
40 • Freeport grant request (Emergency Repairs, approved 7/21)
41 • First, Milton grant request (Pastoral Leadership, approved 7/21)

42 **Prayer Concerns – ongoing**

43 **TOPICS PENDING**

44 **Reporting forms**

- 45 • CREs
46 • Stated Supply Pastors
47 • Grants

48 **Presbytery Salary Minimum for 2027**

49 **ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY REVIEW / ATTENTION**

- 50
51 • **Necrology Report** – Pastors and Clerks of Session are invited to submit names to the
52 Presbytery office or directly to MCPC Moderator Linda Lovins or Assistant Stated Clerk Eric
53 Spoon to be read as part of the Necrology Report at the October Presbytery meeting. *Pastors,*
54 *certified Christian educators, ruling elders, deacons, and long-time staff members give a great*
55 *deal of their lives to the work of our Lord. Each year, the earthly lives of some of these*
56 *dedicated servants come to an end. It is highly appropriate to recognize their years of service*
57 *and to give thanks to God for their faithfulness.*
58 • [New Ministry of Congregational and Pastoral Care \(MCPC\) Handbook \(DRAFT\),](#)
59 [available at this link.](#) Please submit questions and suggestions for changes *in writing* to the
60 MCPC via the Presbytery office at office@presbyteryofflorida.com or P O Box 7, Chipley, FL
61 32428 *by September 8, 2026.* This call for a first reading *excludes* the boundary policies on
62 pages 61-86, which were unanimously approved at the May 16, 2026 Presbytery meeting.
63 • **The Presbytery Incident Report** has been updated with a new email address. Please consult
64 the website or the DRAFT MCPC Handbook,
65
66

67 **ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY APPROVAL**

68 **The MCPC Ministry Team moves the following:**

- 69 1. That, in keeping with the spirit of G-3.0106, which grants presbyteries some autonomy to
70 establish appropriate local rules, the Presbytery of Florida retroactively and in the foreseeable
71 future confers on those ministers of Word and Sacrament entering retirement, the title
72 “honorably retired.”
73 2. That the Presbytery of Florida recognize the retirement of the Rev. Rob Sugg, effective on
74 August 11, 2026.

75 **Responsive Reading:**

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

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

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

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

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

83 **who satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.**
84

85 **NEXT MEETING DATE:** September 15, 2026 (in-person)

Report to the Presbytery from the **Ministry of Dogwood Acres (MDWA)**

1 Dogwood Acres completed its Double the Joy campaign recently, and thanks to the generosity of PoF
2 Presbyterians, we not only doubled the initial gift of \$5000, but we quadrupled it! We now have
3 \$20,000, which has helped our summer camping ministry thrive.

4 As I write this report, Dogwood Acres is in the middle of its third week of summer camp. Weeks 3 and
5 4 offer three different camping options for children K-8th. The Intro camp provides 4 days/3 nights of
6 camp for younger children, Discovery provides a traditional week of on-site camping, while Adventure
7 provides a week of high-energy camp experience, extended hikes, canoeing etc.

8 Dogwood's summer season began with 70 campers and staff from the Florida Diabetes Association.
9 This is the third year of our partnership with the Diabetes Association, and together, we provide a safe
10 and hospitable camp experience for those living with diabetes, as well as their medical personnel.

11 High School Only Camp (June 21-26) brought together high school youth from across the Presbytery.
12 This week continues to allow campers to deepen their faith and grow their leadership skills. Many of
13 these youth will be part of the 2026-2027 class of Presbyterian Youth Council (PYC) leaders.

14 This is our first summer welcoming campers from Savannah and Flint River Presbyteries to Dogwood.
15 This is a new partnership that is blossoming and celebrates the connectional nature of our denomination
16 as we reach beyond the bounds of our own presbytery. We were delighted to have our new Equipping
17 Presbyter, Mario Bolivar, on site during this week. He shared breakfast and worship with campers on
18 Tuesday morning and even participated in doing energizers with them, much to their delight.

19 We owe much of summer camp's success to our dedicated staff. We are thankful for Robert
20 Commerford, who arrives early each day to keep things in working order and to keep our property
21 looking so good; for Sharon Bruner, our cook who provides tasty and nutritious meals every day; for
22 our counselors and resource staff who work non-stop to make camp both fun and safe for our campers;
23 for Eric Hearn, who connects daily with parents, staff and volunteers to keep camp running smoothly;
24 and of course, to Christy Williams, whose list of responsibilities is endless, yet somehow, she is able to
25 live in the moment anyways. We ask you to keep them all in your prayers as they finish out summer
26 camp and move on to August's plans.

27 Bill Lamont
28 MDWA Moderator

Report to the Presbytery from the Ministry of Pastoral Transitions (MPT)

Members: Ed Nickinson, Sandra Macon, Pam Nulty (Vice-Moderator), Hanlim Chae (Moderator), Mark Broadhead, Michelle McDonald

Ex-Officio: Mario Bolivar (Stated Clerk), Eric Spoon (Assistant Stated Clerk)

1 The Ministry of Pastoral Transitions (MPT) serves congregations experiencing pastoral transition.

2 **FOR INFORMATION**

3 MPT currently works with the following churches:

- 4 a. Trinity, Pensacola
- 5 b. First, Quincy
- 6 c. First, Tallahassee
- 7 d. Parkway, Panama City
- 8 e. First, Lynn Haven
- 9 f. First, Marianna
- 10 g. Faith, Tallahassee
- 11 h. Freeport
- 12 i. Gulf Breeze
- 13 f. First, Milton

14 The following actions have been taken:

- 15
- 16 • Updated Pulpit Supply list: Rev. Brant Copeland added
 - 17 • Completed Holy Cow! Consultant training with 10 people attending
 - 18 • Approved installation commission for Rev. Mark Phillips to First Tallahassee
 - 19 • Sustained the examination of CRE candidate, Deborah Potter, for First Milton.
 - 20 • Sustained the examination of Rev. William Arnold as the installed pastor of First Quincy.
 - 21 • Approved the request from Gulf Breeze to form an Interim Pastoral Search Committee with the
 - 22 Holy Cow! process to be done later.

23 MPT Manual Revision and brochure for congregations are still ongoing and will be completed soon.

24 **FOR ACTION**

25 There is no item for the action of the Presbytery.

26 **ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REPORT INCLUDE**

- 27 • The Statement of Faith of Rev. Mark Phillips
- 28 • The Request for Installation Commission of Rev. Mark Phillips
- 29 • The Statement of Faith of Deborah Potter

30 Respectfully submitted,
31 Rev. Hanlim Chae, MPT Moderator

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Rev. Mark Phillips

I believe in and commit to God, Holy Trinity, One God in Three Persons, in full communion from before the dawn of time and for all eternity. I believe in and commit to God whom Jesus called ‘Abba,’ Creator of all that is. Both sovereign and tender, God continues to create us each day and desires to be in relationship with us, redeeming Creation through the love of Christ, though we do not deserve such a turn of grace. This God who acts in the Biblical story also acts throughout time and space, and within and through the events of our own lives, to reconcile the world to God’s self.

I believe in and commit to Jesus Christ, the clearest clue as to who God is, and who, by some math higher than any I have known, is both fully human and fully God. While Jesus’ living teaches us about God’s nature (desiring to surprise by turning the culture on its head) Jesus’ dying on the cross bridges the distance of our separation from God, a chasm we ourselves have created— a brokenness we alone are helpless to mend. In Jesus Christ, God acts to forgive and restore us, and the defining event of the cross accomplishes our redemption, illustrates our Savior’s complete obedience to His Father’s will, and teaches us that our God suffers with us going even to the depths of human existence in order to triumph over death that we might do the same—that we might join in Christ’s death and in his resurrection.

I believe in and commit to the Holy Spirit, the sustaining presence of God. This same divine Spirit whose breath first filled the lungs of God’s beloved dust in the Garden— whose wind reanimated the dry bones in Ezekiel’s valley— whose presence and comfort Jesus once promised rushed aflame into the apostles on the day of Pentecost and continues to breathe life into the Church, claiming us with every Child of the Covenant,

“I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” sustaining us as we gather at the Lord’s Table, “for every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we remember the death of our risen Savior, until he comes again.” and enabling the community of faith to respond in gratitude for God’s abundant grace by working for justice, freedom, and peace for all of God’s children. This same Spirit guides my thoughts as I study God’s Word, the living and authoritative Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and guides my actions as I respond with compassion and critical thinking, in obedience and faith, as Christ commands.

The Spirit intercedes when I do not know how to pray or, for that matter, how to write a statement of faith or a sermon or how to give pastoral care to the person in front of me— the person who is Christ in disguise, the person to whom I am called to extend Christ’s love.

And this love, I believe, is the crux.

The cross, if you will.

Love God.

Love God’s children.

The Lord says that all the Law and the prophets hang on that.

Seems like a sturdy place to center my faith

REQUEST FOR INSTALLATION COMMISSION

Presbytery of Florida

A Commission to Install must consist of a minimum of 5 persons who are members of the Presbytery of Florida (3 Ministers of Word and Sacrament and 2 Ruling Elders, or 2 Ministers of Word and Sacrament and 3 Ruling Elders). Each Ruling Elder must be from a different congregation. Persons may perform more than one portion of the service. The Commission must be gender inclusive. Please have the correlation between elders as equal as possible. You are encouraged to include the MPT Liaison to be a part of the Commission.

The session and I recommend that presbytery appoint the following to serve as a Commission to Install:

REV. MARK F. PHILLIPS

(Name of Minister of Word and Sacrament)

as _____ Pastor of the FIRST Presbyterian Church
of Tallahassee, Florida at a worship service to be held on SEPT. 13, 2026
(City) (Date)

at 4:00 pm o'clock (Eastern Central time – Circle one).

1. Chairperson (to preside and ask the constitutional questions of the minister):

Name: REV. MARIO BOLIVAR Email: MARIO@presbyteryofflorida.com
(Minister X, Elder _____, Church Equipping Presbyter & Stated Clerk
PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA)

2. To deliver the Sermon:

Name: REV. DR. MATT FREASE Email: MATT@ukirktallahassee.com
(Minister X, Elder _____, Church CAMPUS MINISTER UKIRK TALLAHASSEE)

3. Elder to ask the constitutional questions of the congregation:

Name: GREGORY RICCARDI Email: riccardigreg@gmail.com
(Minister _____, Elder X, Church FIRST, TALLAHASSEE)

4. To Charge the Minister:

Name: REV. DEB TREGASKIS Email: deb@flintriverpresbytery.org
(Minister X, Elder _____, Church Executive Presbyter
FLINT RIVER PRESBYTERY)

5. To Charge the Congregation:

Name: LINDA SHELLEY Email: lshelley51@gmail.com
(Minister _____, Elder X, Church Faith, TALLAHASSEE)

6. Other persons/parts:

REV. MARGARET "GRETA" REED Email: greta.reed@comcast.net

KAREN GUNTER, ELDER Email: kjgunter@comcast.net

Email: _____

By request of:

REV. MARK Phillips

Minister

GREGORY Riccardi

Clerk of session

July 1, 2026

Date

July 1, 2026

Date

NOTE:

Because installations and ordinations are done by the local presbytery, requests for approval of persons from outside the presbytery will usually be granted to participate in the worship service, but not be officially part of the Commission. Travel and accommodation expenses must be borne by the minister or church.

An offering, with session's permission, is to be received and forwarded to the presbytery office to be utilized in the Candidate's Fund.

Statement of Faith
Deborah Potter

I believe in a Creator who made us in their image, from goodness and for goodness, that all Creation was made good from the beginning, and is destined for ultimate goodness.

I believe humans forget their goodness, and therefore fill the journey between these points, not only with awareness of beauty, but with constant fear and anxiety, not only with the revelation of love, but also with the violence of hatred, not only with an understanding of their wholeness, but with the confusion of fragmentation.

I believe the gospel story is redemptive—that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and his proclamation of God’s near kingdom is witness to the goodness humans forget. I believe that the path of Jesus charts, for all humanity, a way to walk from goodness to goodness, staying connected to, and therefore aware of, that goodness in the steps along the way. This is, I believe, abundant life. It is very good news!

I believe this redemptive work is continued in the Spirit, which beckons us always to be re-membered, to be put back together by the memory of our wholeness and the assurance of its ultimate reality, which we receive through worship and the sacraments. In this way, I believe the Spirit is re-pairing all that has been severed or shattered, re-conciling all Creation to itself and its Creator, re-storing our awareness of abundance and provision, re-forming us for the goodness for which we are destined.

I believe in our re-membering, in the walking of this way, through the church and in worship and the sacraments, we are recruited to the Spirit’s project, called to be both vessels and messengers for God’s transformative work: from soul to community, from community to soul, from community to community, multiplying exponentially outward, until finally goodness is re-connected to goodness, and spans the length of all eternity, so that, Earth is as it is in heaven.

Report to the Presbytery from the Ministry of Presbytery Operations (MPO)

Meeting date: July 9, 2026

Present: Michael Martin (Presbytery Accountant/Treasurer), Raymond Guterman (Moderator pro tem), Glenn Hodges, Mario Bolivar (Equipping Presbyter and Stated Clerk), Eric Spoon (Assistant Stated Clerk), Barbara Sawyer, Christy Williams (Dogwood Acres Director)

For information:

GA Update – Mario Bolivar

- A report was given on Mario's experience of GA and what took place.
- A letter with the details is included with the GA reports in the presbytery meeting materials.

Dogwood Acres Report – Christy Williams

- Report given by Raymond Guterman that things are going well.

Financial Report – Michael Martin

- See financial reports following this report.

Stewardship Report – Raymond Guterman

- A letter went out in July as a pre-stewardship letter of hope from Raymond and Mario.
- Mario would like this ministry to read *Generosity, Stewardship, and Abundance: A Transformational Guide to Church Finance*.

Presbytery Property Report – Raymond Guterman

- Landscaping project is completed and looks good. Here are “before and after” photos.



26

Other items

- Mario shared a proposal for MCC about updating the Presbytery website. MCC has approved for Mario to work with MPO to build a new website for the Presbytery.
- In accordance with MCC's July 16, 2026 approval, a transfer of \$500,000 will be made from the Ministry of Congregation Formation Fund Account to the Presbytery Reserve Fund Account, and Accountant/Treasurer Michael Martin will issue checks for \$250,000 each to UKirk Tallahassee and Dogwood Acres in August 2026 from the Presbytery Reserve Fund Account; additional checks of \$250,000 each will be issued from the Presbytery Reserve Fund Account to UKirk Tallahassee and DWA in August 2027.

**Presbytery of Florida Shared Support
Calendar Year 2026**

Church	2026 Pledge Request	2026 Pledge	Received	Recevd as % of Pledge	# Member
Blountstown	Closed				
Chipley	\$ 2,560.00	\$ 800.00	\$399.30	50%	32
Crestview First	\$ 4,480.00	\$ 4,480.00	\$43.00	1%	56
DeFuniak Springs Bethel	\$ 640.00	\$ 640.00	\$640.00	100%	8
DeFuniak Springs Euchee Valley	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$2,800.00	100%	35
DeFuniak Springs, First	\$ 7,120.00	\$ 7,120.00	\$3,560.04	50%	89
Destin, First	\$ 3,760.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$1,375.00	42%	
Freeport, Freeport	\$ 4,240.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$1,400.00	50%	53
Ft. Walton Beach - First	\$ 6,640.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$2,500.02	50%	83
Ft. Walton Beach, Korean First	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$5,500.00	100%	65
Gretna, Gretna	\$ 960.00	\$ 2000.00	\$2,000.00	100%	12
Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze	\$ 13,120.00	\$ 1,588.38	\$1,588.38	100%	164
Havana, First	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$1,500.00	50%	45
Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill	\$ 480.00	\$ 2500.00	\$2,500.00	100%	6
Lynn Haven, First	\$ 8,240.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$9,000.00	100%	103
Marianna, First	\$ 12,560.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$7,333.34	67%	157
Milton, First	\$ 3,920.00	\$ 3,920.00	\$3,920.00	100%	49
Monticello, First	\$ 2,240.00	\$ 2,240.00	\$1,120.00	50%	28
Navarre, Navarre	\$ 2,880.00	\$ 2,560.00	\$2,560.00	100%	36
Panama City, Grace	\$ 9,120.00	\$ 9,120.00	\$4,560.00	50%	114
Panama City Beach, Gulf Beach	\$ 4,480.00	\$ 4,480.00	\$1,870.00	42%	56
Panama City, Parkway	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$4,400.00	100%	55
Pensacola, First	\$ 29,200.00	\$19,219.00	\$9,609.40	50%	365
Pensacola, Northminster	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$1,000.00	42%	85
Pensacola, Korean	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$2,000.00	100%	25
Pensacola, Trinity	\$ 42,880.00	\$ 32,808.00	\$10,576.00	32%	536
Quincy, First	\$ 34,800.00	\$ 34,800.00	\$14,500.00	42%	435
Red Bay, Red Bay	\$ 560.00	\$ 560.00	\$560.00	100%	7
Tallahassee, Christ	\$ 15,520.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$6,000.00	50%	194
Tallahassee, Faith	\$ 66,560.00	\$ 65,000.00	\$27,500.01	42%	832
Tallahassee, Fellowship	\$ 9,760.00	\$ 9,760.00	\$4,250.00	44%	122
Tallahassee, First	\$ 18,960.00	\$ 18,960.00	\$24,376.67	129%	237
Tallahassee, Lafayette	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 6,400.00	\$3,837.00	60%	80
Tallahassee, Trinity United	\$ 2,160.00	\$ 2,160.00	\$2,160.00	100%	27
Wewahitchka, First	\$ 880.00	\$ 880.00	\$880.00	100%	11
Woodland, Sawdust	\$ 1,120.00	\$ 2,000.00		0%	14
6/30/2026	\$341,040.00	\$297,195.38	\$167,818.16	56.47%	4216
		% of year	50.00%		

Presbytery of Florida

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget_FY26_P&L - FY26 P&L

January - June, 2026

	Actual	Budget	Total	over Budget	% of Budget
Income					
60000.0 PRESBYTERY INCOME					
60000 RECEIPTS					
60001-2 Shared Support	166,192.16	170,600.02		-4,407.86	97.42%
60006 Other Income					
2300.1 Blountstown Income	73,975.95			73,975.95	
Total 60000 RECEIPTS	\$ 240,168.11	\$ 170,600.02	\$	69,568.09	140.78%
Starfish Disaster Recovery					
Total 60000.0 PRESBYTERY INCOME	\$ 240,168.11	\$ 170,600.02	\$	69,568.09	140.78%
Total Income	\$ 240,168.11	\$ 170,600.02	\$	69,568.09	140.78%
Gross Profit	\$ 240,168.11	\$ 170,600.02	\$	69,568.09	140.78%
Expenses					
70000.0 PRESBYTERY EXPENSES					
70020 PER CAPITA					
70101 Per Capita General Assembly	18,000.00	21,751.50		-3,751.50	82.75%
70102 Per Capita Synod	1,665.00	4,264.98		-2,599.98	39.04%
Total 70020 PER CAPITA	\$ 19,665.00	\$ 26,016.48	-\$	6,351.48	75.59%
70030 Ministry of Congregational & Pastoral Care - MCPC					
70203 Liaison Church Expenses	236.88	499.98		-263.10	47.38%
70805.1 Ministry of Congregational & Pastoral Care - MCPC	-70.00			-70.00	
70809 Mission Insite Demographics Sub		850.02		-850.02	0.00%
70850.9 Committee Expense-MCPC	-10.72	250.02		-260.74	-4.29%
Total 70030 Ministry of Congregational & Pastoral Care - MCPC	\$ 156.16	\$ 1,600.02	-\$	1,443.86	9.76%
70040 Ministry of Dogwood Acres - MDWA					
70001 Dogwood Acres Support	33,293.10	31,756.02		1,537.08	104.84%
Total 70040 Ministry of Dogwood Acres - MDWA	\$ 33,293.10	\$ 31,756.02	\$	1,537.08	104.84%
70050 Ministry of Leadership Development - MLD					

70005 FLAPDAN Membership Dues	1,750.00	874.98	875.02	200.00%
70006 Campus Ministry (Ukirk TLH)	7,000.02	7,000.02	0.00	100.00%
70301 Annual Consult with Candidate		250.02	-250.02	0.00%
70304 Candidate Aid Fund		124.98	-124.98	0.00%
70410 Disaster Relief		499.98	-499.98	0.00%
70707 Moderator Training		49.98	-49.98	0.00%
70801 Leader Development Events	750.00	2,500.02	-1,750.02	30.00%
70820 Guatemala Partnership Develop		499.98	-499.98	0.00%
70830 Racial Justice Subcommittee		499.98	-499.98	0.00%
70850.2 Committee Expense - MLD	50.75	250.02	-199.27	20.30%
Total 70050 Ministry of Leadership Development - MLD	\$ 9,550.77	\$ 12,549.96	-\$ 2,999.19	76.10%
70060 Ministry of New Congregation Formation - MNCF				
70850.3 Committee Expense - MNCF	131.45	250.02	-118.57	52.58%
Total 70060 Ministry of New Congregation Formation - MNCF	\$ 131.45	\$ 250.02	-\$ 118.57	52.58%
70070 Ministry of Pastoral Transitions - MPT				
70850.4 Committee Expense - MPT	352.10	750.00	-397.90	46.95%
Total 70070 Ministry of Pastoral Transitions - MPT	\$ 352.10	\$ 750.00	-\$ 397.90	46.95%
70080 Ministry on Representation - MR				
70850.5 Committee Expense-MR		250.02	-250.02	0.00%
Total 70080 Ministry on Representation - MR	\$ 0.00	\$ 250.02	-\$ 250.02	0.00%
70090 Ministry Coordinating Council - MCC				
70207 Consulting Expense	1,748.00		1,748.00	
70513 Workers Comp Insurance	3,330.54	3,000.00	330.54	111.02%
70513.1 Staff BOP Dues	28,987.64	4,500.00	24,487.64	644.17%
70513.3 Staff Payroll Taxes	16,855.00	5,450.76	11,404.24	309.22%
70620 General Presbyter Salary	24,492.98	30,000.00	-5,507.02	81.64%
70620.1 GP Housing		7,500.00	-7,500.00	0.00%
70620.2 GP Medical		16,300.02	-16,300.02	0.00%
70624 GP SECA		2,869.02	-2,869.02	0.00%
70625 GP Mileage Reimbursement	3,807.49	1,999.98	1,807.51	190.38%
70626 GP Other Prof Bus and Travel	1,304.50	1,999.98	-695.48	65.23%
70627 GP Continuing Education/Books		250.02	-250.02	0.00%
70630 Administrator Salary	20,571.72	20,392.92	178.80	100.88%

70631 Administrator Annuity	710.00	360.00	350.00	197.22%
70632 Administrator Medical	360.00	5,112.48	-4,752.48	7.04%
70634 Administrator Travel	2,106.38	2,299.98	-193.60	91.58%
70635 Adminstrator Continuing. Ed		499.98	-499.98	0.00%
70704 Recording Clerk	500.00	1,000.02	-500.02	50.00%
70705 Presbytery Meeting Expense	675.96	300.00	375.96	225.32%
70706 Asst. Stated Clerk Salary	1,500.00	4,500.00	-3,000.00	33.33%
70706.1 Regional Advocates Salary		9,000.00	-9,000.00	0.00%
70710 Treasurer Salary	7,170.79	7,359.00	-188.21	97.44%
70710.5 Treasurer Travel	1,803.70	1,249.98	553.72	144.30%
70850.6 Committee Expense -MCC		250.02	-250.02	0.00%
Total 70090 Ministry Coordinating Council - MCC	\$ 115,924.70	\$ 126,194.16	- \$ 10,269.46	91.86%
70100 Ministry of Presbytery Operations - MPO				
70505 Memorials/Flowers		75.00	-75.00	0.00%
70506 Equipment Service		250.02	-250.02	0.00%
70508 Postage	291.54	124.98	166.56	233.27%
70510 Utilities / Office	440.92	1,200.00	-759.08	36.74%
70512 Office Telcom & Communications	2,819.14	1,875.00	944.14	150.35%
70514 Property Maintenance		450.00	-450.00	0.00%
70515 Supplies & Expenses	3,976.10	664.98	3,311.12	597.93%
70517 Copier Lease	1,162.65	1,350.00	-187.35	86.12%
70518 Insurance & Bonding	26,144.50	5,061.48	21,083.02	516.54%
70519 Bank Service Charges	308.50	400.02	-91.52	77.12%
70712 Financial Records Review		499.98	-499.98	0.00%
70715 Publications/Resources		49.98	-49.98	0.00%
70716 GP Search Expenses	3,921.54		3,921.54	
70850.7 Committee Expense - MPO		250.02	-250.02	0.00%
Total 70100 Ministry of Presbytery Operations - MPO	\$ 39,064.89	\$ 12,251.46	\$ 26,813.43	318.86%
70140 PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMM - PJC				
70708 Permanent Judicial Commission		49.98	-49.98	0.00%
Total 70140 PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMM - PJC	\$ 0.00	\$ 49.98	- \$ 49.98	0.00%
Total 70000.0 PRESBYTERY EXPENSES	\$ 218,138.17	\$ 211,668.12	\$ 6,470.05	103.06%
70633 PRESBYTERY EXPENSES				

Total Expenses	\$	218,138.17	\$	211,668.12	\$	6,470.05	103.06%
Net Operating Income	\$	22,029.94	-\$	41,068.10	\$	63,098.04	-53.64%

Texas Presbyterian Foundation Fund Balances

As of 06/30/2026

Fund	Date		Fund	Date
Two Cents a Meal (MLD)	Balance		MCPC Grants (MCPC)	Balance
Starting Balance	\$35,000.00		Starting Balance	\$500,000.00
Q3 Interest			4/30/25 Bridge Loan (Wewa) -	
\$3,659.67	\$38,659.67		\$60,000	\$440,000.00
Q3 Expenses - \$5,500.00	\$32,859.67		Q3 Interest	\$36,596.73
Q4 Interest	\$932.00		Q3 Expenses -	\$25,317.00
2026 Q1	-\$778.23		Q4 Interest	\$9,320.04
Q2 Interest	\$5,477.54	\$38,490.98	2026 Q1	-\$7,782.27
			Q1 Expenses	-\$16,476.00
			Q2 Interest	\$54,775.35
Maximum	\$50,000		Bridge Loan Payment	\$15,000.00
				\$506,116.85
			Maximum	\$500,000
Minister Emergency (MCPC)			Peacemaking (MLD)	
Starting Balance	\$20,000.00		Starting Balance	\$20,000.00
Q3 Interest	\$609.65	\$20,609.65	Q3 Interest	\$1,016.58
Q4 Interest	\$155.33	\$20,764.98	Q4 Interest	\$258.89
2026 Q1	-\$129.70	\$20,635.28	2026 Q1	-\$216.17
Q2 Interest	\$912.92	\$21,548.20	Q2 Interest	\$1,521.54
				\$22,580.84
Maximum	\$50,000		Maximum	\$50,000
Disciplefest (MLD)			New Congregation Development (MNCF)	
Starting Balance	\$20,000.00		Starting Balance	\$1,000,000.00
Q3 Interest	\$813.26	\$20,813.26	Q3 Interest	\$56,928.24
Q4 Interest	\$207.11	\$21,020.37	Q3 Expenses -	\$22,922.67
2026 Q1	-\$172.94	\$20,847.43	Above Max -	\$34,005.57
Q2 Interest	\$1,217.23	\$22,064.66	Q4 Interest	\$14,497.85
			Q4 Expenses	\$30,045.18
			2026 Q1	-\$12,105.76
			Q1 Expenses	-\$34,244.17
Maximum	\$50,000		Q2 Interest	\$85,206.10
			Expenses	-\$15,640.00
			Transfer	-\$500,000.00
				\$507,668.84
			Maximum	\$1,000,000
Candidate Aid (MLD)			Emergency Relief (MCPC)	
Starting Balance	\$20,000.00		Starting Balance	\$20,000.00
Q3 Interest	\$1,423.21	\$21,423.21	Q3 Interest	\$609.65
Q4 Interest	\$362.45	\$21,785.66	Q4 Interest	\$155.33
2026 Q1	-\$302.64	\$21,483.02	2026 Q1	-\$129.70
Q2 Interest	\$2,130.15	\$23,613.17	Q2 Interest	\$912.92
				\$21,548.20
Maximum	\$50,000		Maximum	\$50,000

Fund		Date	Fund		Date
Youth Triennium (MLD)			Self Development (MLD)		
Starting Balance		\$20,000.00	Starting Balance		\$20,000.00
Q3 Interest	\$406.63	\$20,406.63	Q3 Interest	\$203.91	\$20,203.91
Q4 Interest	\$103.56	\$20,510.19	Q4 Interest	\$51.78	\$20,255.69
2026 Q1	-\$86.47	\$20,423.72	2026 Q1	-\$43.23	\$20,212.46
Q2 Interest	\$608.62	\$21,032.34	Q2 Interest	\$304.31	\$20,517.77
Maximum	\$50,000		Maximum	\$50,000	
Special Projects (MPO)			Reserve (MPO/MCC)		
Starting Balance		\$79,935.67	Starting Balance		\$707,763.74
Q3 Interest	\$16,265.21	\$96,200.88	Q3 Interest	\$23,787.87	\$731,551.61
Q4 Interest	\$4,142.24	\$100,343.12	From NCF	\$34,005.57	\$765,557.18
2026 Q1	-\$3,458.79	\$96,884.33	Q4 Interest	\$6,058.03	\$771,615.21
Q2 Interest	\$24,344.60	\$121,228.93	2026 Q1	-\$5,058.48	\$766,556.73
Expenses	-\$7,500.00	\$113,728.93	Q2 Interest	\$35,603.98	\$802,160.71
			**Transfer	\$500,000.00	\$1,302,160.71
Maximum	\$200,000		Maximum	N/A	
Staff Support (MCC)			50% of Annual Budget (Treasurer)		
Starting Balance		\$450,000.00	Fixed Balance		\$209,681.50
Q3 Interest	\$60,994.55	\$510,994.55			
Q4 Interest	\$15,533.41	\$526,527.96			
2026 Q1	-\$12,970.45	\$513,557.51			
Q2 Interest	\$91,292.25	\$604,849.76			
Maximum	\$1,000,000				

Total Fund Balance **\$3,435,602.75**



Report to the Presbytery from the **Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Blountstown**

- 1 On behalf of the First, Blountstown Administrative Commission (AC), I respectfully request that the
2 AC be dissolved at the August 11, 2026 meeting of the Presbytery, as we have concluded our work.
- 3 With the assistance of a realtor, the property was sold to the adjoining neighbor in April 2026. Prior to
4 the closing, the contents of the building were inventoried and offered to churches in the Presbytery. All
5 remaining items were included in the sale of the property. All funds net from the sale (less commission
6 and expenses of closing) have been disbursed to the Presbytery.
- 7 All of the known bank accounts have been closed, and the funds have been disbursed to the Presbytery.
8 All utility accounts have been closed or transferred to the new owner.
- 9 Thank you for this opportunity to be of service.
- 10 Respectfully submitted,
11 Linda Shelley, AC Chair

1 **From Rev. Cathy Mooney, Teaching Elder Commissioner:**

2 Some of my most meaningful observations from General Assembly had little to do with the agenda or
3 the issues we debated for hours. Going into the Assembly, I was aware that there were several people I
4 knew who would be there as commissioners.

- 5 • A seminary classmate, who happened to serve on the same committee as me.
- 6 • The daughter of college and seminary classmates of my parents who is currently serving in the
7 church her father pastored when she was younger. Her grandfather (a Presbyterian minister) grew
8 up in the church I serve (which was pastored by my father).
- 9 • A dear friend of my sister's who interned at one of the churches I was under care of during
10 seminary who serves in the first church my father served and where I was baptized.
- 11 • A CRE who is bridge interim in a church I served as Christian Educator. He and his wife were
12 heavily involved in the youth and children's ministry when I was there.
- 13 • The interim executive presbyter of the last presbytery in which I served.
- 14 • The wife of a former educator I served with for five years.

15 And the connections did not stop there. Among the supporters, observers, and exhibitors were
16 colleagues and friends I had not seen in years. As I met new people and talked with them, we often
17 discovered another Presbyterian connection. I was able to share and visit and check in with people I
18 never expected to see again and, well, that reminded me of who we as Presbyterians are. We are
19 connected, and we find connections and links and commonality in our community.

20 I served on the Reformed Identity in the World committee. We met during the regular hours on Monday
21 and Tuesday, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and continued until about 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday. The
22 work was long, difficult, and often heartbreaking, as we discussed:

- 23 • The PCUSA World Mission office and the co-workers lost their jobs, as well as the impact this
24 move had for and with the partners in the mission area, who depended on their presence and
25 support.
- 26 • Nuclear Disarmament
- 27 • Peace and Justice in Israel
- 28 • Issues for and with Korea, Syria, and Cuba

29 When our report came to the floor for discussion, many of these matters received significant time,
30 prayer, and energy. The work of the General Assembly is important, and, in the room with all the other
31 delegates and volunteers, it was easy to see how, when we work together, we can make the best impact
32 for God's world.

33 Following Jesus Christ on life's journey can be challenging. We do not always walk—or wander—on
34 the same side of the road, or even in the same direction. But when we come together and listen for one
35 another's voices, concerns, and needs, our walk is strengthened, and our journey becomes more
36 meaningful.

37 I have a small gift for each of you: a puzzle piece. As you leave Presbytery today, please look for the
38 baskets and take one. Let it remind you that you are part of something wonderful—here in the
39 Presbytery of Florida, the Synod of the South Atlantic, the PCUSA, and the worldwide family of God.

40 General Assembly Videos can be found at <https://pcusa.org/227th-general-assembly-2026/ga227-news-media/ga-video-collection>. I encourage you to find some time to watch a few minutes (or hours).

42 Worship was enlightening and uplifting—worth every minute of your time!

43 Thank you for this opportunity. I encourage you to prayerfully consider serving as a delegate or
44 volunteer for the 228th General Assembly in Puerto Rico, June 11–22, 2028.

45 Joy & peace,
46 Rev. Cathy Mooney
47 Teaching Elder Commissioner, The Presbytery of Florida
48 General Assembly 227, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

And the leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations.
Revelation 22:2 (NRSVUE)



1 **From Linda Lovins, Ruling Elder Commissioner**
2 **Report on the 227th General Assembly ([GA Worship and Session Videos](#))**

3 M19.

4 That small footnote on my nametag told me my place at the table was “M19,” and it matched a small
5 label on one table among a sea of them in the grand ballroom of the Baird Center in downtown
6 Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We each had a similar annotation on our nametags, making it possible to easily
7 find our places and for others to find us, when needed. Everything was “decent and in order.” We were
8 expected ... we belonged ... and we were part of something bigger than ourselves that, in turn, was
9 composed entirely of individuals from congregations like yours and mine.

10 We came from different places and different backgrounds with our different ideas and understandings.
11 But we were connected to one another through the love, respect, and faith we brought to the table.
12 Before I’d even checked in to pick up my nametag and other items, I realized that simply seeing the
13 PC(USA) seal on a nametag meant the person with whom I was sharing an elevator, waiting in line, or
14 eating a meal was a safe person – someone I could trust, even if we differed in opinion. Surrounded by
15 the volunteers from the Presbytery of Milwaukee, the organizers of whom all came from a small church
16 of about 35 weekly attendees just outside the city, I was heartened by the level of care and hospitality. I
17 was among friends – there were no strangers at General Assembly.

18 We worked online with our assigned committees for 3 days before arriving in Milwaukee for the
19 plenary sessions and, from then on, we drank from a proverbial “firehose.” It was exciting,
20 overwhelming, and deeply inspiring to see several hundred people—primarily commissioners like
21 Teaching Elder Commissioner (TEC) Cathy Mooney and me; and Young Adult Advisory Delegates
22 (YAADs) like Dexton Teat—working to stay on top of the business at hand and all the opinions being
23 shared. Teams behind the scenes provided tech and procedural support, and made sure the big screens
24 in the room showed what we needed to see. Representatives of various agencies and organizations
25 waited for hours on end in the back section of the room in case we needed background only they could
26 provide.

27 I was assigned to the Financial Stewardship and Witness committee, the one committee among the
28 twelve for which I felt I had literally *nothing* to offer. But God remarkably equipped my peers and me
29 to address matters of agency pay equity, stewardship of restricted world mission funds, matters of
30 investment and divestment, the effects of the proposed unified budget on per capita fees, and more that
31 came before our committee and, later, the entire body. I didn’t agree with all the results and sometimes
32 spoke and voted in the minority, yet it all felt connectional and faith-filled!

33 At home in our own congregations, it’s easy to forget how connected we are. But as I reconnected with
34 friends and colleagues from the PAM Worship & Music conference and the Pathways certification
35 program at Union Presbyterian Seminary-Richmond, I realized that I was only 1 or 2 degrees of
36 separation from everyone in the room. While helping to lead the singing during worship, I sang with a
37 woman who would offer an absolutely brilliant sermon minutes later in the closing worship service,
38 another of Puerto Rican descent who danced in jubilation when San Juan was voted overwhelmingly as
39 the site of the 228th General Assembly, and a third who was honored as a former moderator of GA. I
40 shared with the Board of Pensions president over lunch that our smallest churches are being priced out
41 of being able to afford having an installed minister of Word and Sacrament ... and then learned who he
42 was. It was an important conversation.

43 Congregation, presbytery, synod, and general assembly—we are all connected by the grace of God, the
44 ministry of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the working of the Holy Spirit among us, and the beliefs
45 we hold in common. I encourage you to consider whether you’d like to experience this amazing
46 connection and undertake this awesome responsibility. It’s a lot. It’s important. It’s worthy. Thanks
47 be to God!

1 **From Rev. Mario Bolivar, Equipping Presbyterian/Stated Clerk:**

2 Beloved Siblings of the Presbytery of Florida,

3 The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has now concluded. Like every
4 General Assembly before it, it was filled with worship, prayer, celebration, difficult conversations, long
5 meetings, constitutional business, moments of joy, opportunities for repentance, grief and opportunities
6 for faithful discernment.

7 I am sure, that in the weeks and months ahead, you will undoubtedly have access to summaries of the
8 actions taken by the 227th General Assembly. You will hear about overtures, constitutional amendments,
9 budgets, reports, committee recommendations, and vote totals. Those actions matter. They shape the
10 ministry and governance of this body of ours, however this writing is not that... I want to share
11 something else, because I am convinced of something else.

12 The story of the 227th General Assembly cannot be told by votes alone.

13 What I witnessed was a body that continues to gather around our Redeemer that lives. I witnessed people
14 who seek to love their neighbors with the self-giving love of Christ, placing the needs of others alongside
15 their own. I am delighted to say that we remain a body eager to pray when difficult decisions come our
16 way, yet still able to laugh, dance, and celebrate together. We are a body whose members come from all
17 corners, with different gifts and talents, from different regions, cultures, experiences, languages, and
18 perspectives, yet who continue to believe that the same Holy Spirit that empowered the first, is still at
19 work among us.

20 During the Assembly, and especially while following conversations online within our larger body and
21 beyond, I was reminded how easy it is to speak about our faith using a language of scarcity. Once again,
22 graphs, statistics, and predictions about denominational decline began circulating. One widely shared
23 graphic even suggested that around 2040 another denomination would become the largest in the United
24 States.

25 Perhaps. Perhaps not.

26 I'll say, before we build a theology from a graph, it is worth remembering what Nassim Nicholas Taleb
27 argues in *Fooled by Randomness*: we human beings are remarkably good at taking a trend line and
28 assuming it tells the future. We often mistake a snapshot for a destiny, momentum for permanence, or
29 today's trajectory for tomorrow's certainty.

30 Our faith history should make us especially cautious. There have been bodies that once appeared
31 unstoppable and later decayed. Others seemed small or insignificant until revival, migration,
32 demographic shifts, or new opportunities reshaped their witness, not because of size, but vitality.
33 Growth and decline are real. So are contingency, surprise, and—above all—God's providence.

34 More importantly, numbers are descriptive; they are not necessarily theological. They tell us **what** is
35 happening, but they do not automatically tell us **why**. They certainly do not tell us whom God is blessing.
36 Scripture offers a needed corrective. Ecclesiastes reminds us that "the race is not to the swift, nor the
37 battle to the strong... but time and chance happen to them all" (Ecclesiastes 9:11). James reminds us that
38 "every good and perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17).

39 Graphs can inform us. They should never become our gospel.

40 As I walked the halls of the 227th Assembly, I did not encounter a body defined primarily by decline. I
41 encountered a body, a church wrestling faithfully with difficult questions, worshiping with joy, praying
42 together, celebrating ministries, mentoring younger leaders, honoring saints who have gone before us,
43 and seeking to follow Christ in a rapidly changing world.

44 Again, I encountered vitality.

45 Not vitality measured only by membership statistics, but vitality expressed through relationships,
46 faithful service, courageous conversations, young adults embracing their voices and struggling against
47 others, congregations engaging their communities, people answering God's call to ministry, and disciples
48 committed to bearing witness to Jesus Christ.

49 Now, that does not mean we ignore the challenges before us. We should never minimize them.
50 Membership trends, financial realities, and cultural changes deserve our attention. But neither should
51 we allow them to become the only story we tell.

52 The measure of the Church has never been a line on a graph alone.

53 Our calling is not to win a demographic or numbers race. Our calling is to be faithful with what we have
54 today—to proclaim Christ, love our neighbors, instruct disciples, care for the vulnerable, seek justice,
55 and trust that the harvest ultimately belongs to God.

56 Sometimes faithfulness bears visible numerical growth. Sometimes it looks like pruning. Sometimes it
57 looks like quiet perseverance. In every season, Christ remains the head of the Church.

58 One of the greatest gifts of General Assembly is that it reminds us how much larger the body, the Church
59 is than our own congregation or even our own presbytery. Commissioners, advisory delegates, overture
60 advocates, observers, volunteers, and staff gathered from every corner of our denomination.
61 Relationships were renewed. New friendships were formed. Stories were exchanged. We celebrated the
62 work God is doing in communities very different from our own while recognizing that we all share the
63 same calling: to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and participate in God's mission in the world.

64 So, as I write this... I am especially grateful for those who represented the Presbytery of Florida. Linda
65 Lovins and Cathy Mooney faithfully served as commissioners. Dexon Teat served as our Young Adult
66 Advisory Delegate. Pam McVety served as an overture advocate, faithfully presenting the work our
67 presbytery chose to support. And then there was, Bob Lovins who accompanied our delegation as an
68 observer, offering encouragement and faithful support throughout the week. Each served differently, in
69 their own way yet together they reflected the connectional nature of our church and represented our
70 presbytery with grace, humility, and faithfulness. I have asked our delegation to consider not the
71 business, but their story in this gathering, a story that we plan to share with you.

72 We also celebrate the election of the Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero and the Rev. Dr. Kristopher D.
73 Schondelmeyer as Co-Moderators of the 228th General Assembly, and we hold them in prayer as they
74 begin this important ministry.

75 Four gifted teams, representing eight faithful candidates, stood for election as Co-Moderators.
76 Many—including myself—anticipated that the discernment process would require two or three rounds
77 of voting. I was mistaken. The Assembly elected the Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero and the Rev. Dr.
78 Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer on the very first ballot, reflecting a remarkable sense of unity,
79 confidence, and joy among the commissioners.

80 Looking ahead, we rejoice that the next General Assembly will gather in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This
81 historic decision marks the first time the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will hold a General Assembly
82 outside the continental United States, and the first time the three presbyteries and the Sínodo
83 Presbiteriano Boriquén will host the denomination on the island.

84 The proposal's journey reminded me that discernment is often a process. During committee
85 deliberations, questions were raised that reflected uncertainty, logistical concerns, and, at times,

86 implicit biases about Puerto Rico and its people. Those moments invited the church to pause, listen
87 more carefully, and learn from our Puerto Rican siblings. By the time the recommendation reached
88 the plenary, however, the tone had shifted remarkably. The Assembly embraced the proposal with
89 overwhelming affirmation, celebration, and anticipation.

90 I found that movement deeply encouraging. It was a reminder that faithful discernment can lead us
91 from assumptions to understanding, from hesitation to hospitality, and from unfamiliarity to deeper
92 relationship. I believe the 228th General Assembly will be more than a change of location; it will be
93 an opportunity for the whole church to experience the rich history, vibrant culture, and faithful
94 witness of our Presbyterian siblings in Puerto Rico. My hope is that we will approach that gathering
95 with curiosity, humility, gratitude, and a genuine desire to learn from one another as members of the
96 one body of Christ.

97 As your Equipping Presbyter and Stated Clerk, my prayer is that we remember the 227th General
98 Assembly not only for the actions it took, but for the witness it offered and the affirmations that it made.
99 The Assembly has adjourned, but the ministry continues.

100 Now the work returns home.

101 May we continue to be a presbytery rooted in prayer, shaped by Scripture, attentive to the Holy Spirit,
102 connected to one another, and committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ. May we be known not
103 first by the size of our membership, but by the depth of our faithfulness, the generosity of our love, and
104 the vitality of our witness.

105 Count it all joy,

106 **Rev. Mario A. Bolivar** | mario@presbyteryofflorida.com
107 *Equipping Presbyter & Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Florida*

Robert's Rules of Order - Briefly

Action	What to Say	May Interrupt Speaker?	Need a Second?	May be Debated?	May be Amended?	Votes Needed
Introduce Main Motion	"I move to..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a Motion	"I move to amend the motion by ..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Move item to committee	"I move that we refer the matter to committee"	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Postpone an Item	"I move to postpone the matter until..."	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
End Debate	"I move the previous question."	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Object to Procedure	"Point of order."	Yes	No	No	No	Moderator Decision
Recess the Meeting	"I move that we recess until..."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Adjourn the Meeting	"I move to adjourn the meeting."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Request Information	"Point of information."	Yes	No	No	No	No Vote
Overrule the Moderator's Ruling	"I move to overrule the moderator's ruling"	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Extend the Allotted Time	"I move to extend the time by ____ minutes."	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
Enforce the Rules or Point Out Incorrect Procedure	"Point of order."	Yes	No	No	No	No Vote
Table a Motion	"I move to table..."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Verify Voice Vote with Count	"I call for a division of the house."	No	No	No	No	No Vote

Object to Considering Some Undiplomatic Matter	"I object to consideration of this matter..."	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
Take Up a Previously Tabled Item	"I move to take from the table..."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Reconsider Something Already Disposed Of	"I move to reconsider our action to..."	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Close the Meeting for Executive Session	"I move to go into executive session."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Personal Preference	"Point of privilege."	Yes	No	No	No	No Vote

Steps for Making a Motion

1. Commissioner rises and addresses the Moderator
2. Moderator recognizes the commissioner and grants the floor.
3. Commissioner makes the motion. (Commissioner may not debate before the motion is seconded.
4. Another commissioner seconds the motion without recognition from the Moderator
5. Moderator states the motion. (Give a written copy of the motion to the Stated Clerk.)
6. Moderator calls for debate. (Maker of the motion has the privilege of first debate and last debate. All speakers must address the Moderator and be recognized by the Moderator.
7. Moderator states the motion.
8. Moderator takes the vote and announces the vote and the results of the vote.
9. Moderator states the next order of business.