



Supplemental Reports

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Report to the Presbytery from the Stated Clerk and Equipping Presbyter

1 Dios te bendiga Iglesia linda y preciosa!
2 Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

3 I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside our congregations, ministers, and leaders as we
4 continue **furthering the ministry of Jesus Christ in Northwest Florida.**

5 The following summarizes my work and ministry since our previous stated meeting.

6 **1. REPORT OF THE EQUIPPING PRESBYTER**

7 In addition to my ongoing responsibilities with Presbytery committees and ministries, I have
8 participated in the following congregational visits, worship services, and opportunities for pastoral care
9 and support:

10 **1.1 Worship and Evangelism**

- 11 • **First Presbyterian Church, Wewahitchka (August 16):** Participated in the rededication worship
12 service and recorded an interview with Pastor Carol Wood.
- 13 • **Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee:** Preached and led an impromptu Bible study on
14 baptism and the sacraments from the Book from Bruce Reyes-Chow
- 15 • **First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee (September 13):** Participated in and moderated the
16 commission for the installation of Rev. Mark Phillips.
- 17 • **Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church (September 27):** Attended Rev. Bill Lamont's final worship
18 service and moderated the congregational meeting requesting dissolution of the pastoral
19 relationship.
- 20 • **Gul Breeze Presbyterian Church (October 4)** Preach and lead Sunday Worship and offer the
21 Sacrament of Communion to the Congregation.
- 22 • **Gretna Presbyterian Church (October 12):** Participated in the congregation's final worship
23 service, giving thanks for 121 years of faithful ministry.

24 **1.2 Connectional Ministry and Leadership**

- 25 • Gathered with pastors and educators from the Western Region (September 29, eight participants)
26 and Eastern Region (16 participants) for fellowship, encouragement, and collaboration.
- 27 • Continued supporting congregations navigating pastoral transitions, leadership challenges, and
28 questions of vitality.
- 29 • Participated virtually in the **2026 Mid Council Leaders Gathering (October 11–14)** for
30 continuing education and denominational collaboration.
- 31 • Permission to execute a practicum to equip congregational leaders to recognize and nurture vitality
32 in their churches (As part of my Doctor of Ministry studies at Columbia Theological Seminary)
33 aligned with our Presbytery's vision and mission, the practicum will offer leadership training in our
34 three regions, emphasizing vitality beyond numbers and resources.

35 **1.3 Hurricane Isaias Response**

- 36 • Contacted congregations to assess storm damage, immediate needs, and community conditions.
- 37 • Coordinated with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and local partners to support recovery efforts.
- 38 • Encouraged congregations to share resources, care for neighbors, and participate in ongoing
39 recovery.

40 1.4 Presbytery Administration and Strategic Development

- 41 • Coordinated Melissa Willis's transition from full-time to part-time employment and began the
42 search for a new Administrator, including revising the position description.
- 43 • Established a communications partnership with the Synod of the Sun for website redevelopment,
44 social media strategy, and newsletter management.
- 45 • Explored centralized database options to preserve institutional knowledge and improve
46 communication, still considering options and investment.
- 47 • Continued evaluating technology infrastructure, email security, and organizational systems, with
48 the target to move towards Google Workspace for non-for profit.
- 49 • Advanced discussions concerning the proposed name **Presbytery of Northwest Florida**, aligning
50 our identity and digital presence with our geographic calling.
- 51 • Prepared and shared a stewardship letter encouraging congregational participation, gratitude, and
52 faithful financial support.

53 2. REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

54 2.1 Ecclesiastical and Constitutional Responsibilities

- 55 • **Installation of Rev. Mark Phillips (September 13):** Moderated the installation commission at
56 First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee. The commission approved and completed the installation.
- 57 • **Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church (September 27):** Moderated the called congregational meeting
58 requesting dissolution of the pastoral relationship with Rev. Bill Lamont, effective September 30.
59 The congregation approved the request.
- 60 • **Gretna Administrative Commission:** Assisted with orientation, constitutional responsibilities,
61 property, finances, records, and the process of congregational dissolution.
- 62 • **Ordination of Emily Bruno:** Coordinated with the receiving presbytery in Michigan, and Florida
63 Presbytery leadership concerning examination and ordination arrangements of Pastor Emily Bruno.
- 64 • **Ordination of Ryan Obray:** Coordinated with Salem Presbytery and Trinity Presbyterian Church,
65 Pensacola, concerning examination, ordination, and subsequent transfer of Pastor Ryan Obray
- 66 • Continued providing constitutional guidance and administrative support to congregations, sessions,
67 commissions, and presbytery leadership in matters of transition of leadership and conflict
68 transformation.

69 2.2 Records, Governance, and Institutional Responsibilities

- 70 • Continued supporting the work of the Ministry Coordinating Council and presbytery committees.
71 Thank you to our leaders of MCPC and the efforts its moderator and vice moderator, Linda Lovins
72 and Pastor Joan Wooten.
- 73 • Worked toward improved records management, organizational continuity, and secure institutional
74 information of our email network and newsletters.
- 75 • Began identifying the ecclesiastical, corporate, and administrative implications of a potential
76 presbytery name change.

77 3. BUSINESS PRESENTED FOR PRESBYTERY ACTION

78 3.1 February 2027 Stated Meeting

79 **Motion (a) :** That the Presbytery of Florida approve Faith Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, as the host
80 congregation for the February 2027 stated meeting.

81 3.2 Proposed Name Change — Presbytery of Northwest Florida

82 **Background and Rationale:** The Presbytery of Florida has a rich history as the first presbytery
83 established in the state. However, our current name no longer clearly communicates the geographic area

and communities entrusted to our care. As we continue discerning our identity and calling, we have affirmed our vision: **“Furthering the Ministry of Jesus Christ in Northwest Florida.”**

The proposed name, **Presbytery of Northwest Florida**, more accurately reflects who we are, where God has called us to serve, and the congregations and communities we seek to support. This change is not about abandoning our history, but about honoring it while embracing our present identity and future ministry. It also provides an opportunity to align our name, website, communications, and organizational identity with our shared vision.

Motion (b) : That the Presbytery of Florida formally adopt the name **Presbytery of Northwest Florida**, reflecting our vision of *“Furthering the Ministry of Jesus Christ in Northwest Florida,”* and authorize the appropriate officers and leadership to:

Undertake the necessary ecclesiastical, constitutional, corporate, and administrative processes to implement the name change.

Update the Presbytery's governing documents, official records, and denominational registrations as required.

Coordinate the transition of the Presbytery's website, email domain, logo, and communications materials to reflect the new name.

3.3 Supplemental Record — Sale of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Property

Background and Rationale: During its review of Presbytery minutes, the Synod of the South Atlantic identified that the record concerning the sale of the former St. Andrews Presbyterian Church property did not include the property's legal description. Under **G-4.0206(a) of the Book of Order**, a congregation must obtain written permission from the Presbytery before selling or encumbering its real property. Although this provision does not expressly require the legal description to appear in the minutes, the Synod's review standards require sufficient documentation to identify the property involved.

The property was sold to Elevation Church on January 30, 2025, for **\$1,200,000**, with net proceeds of **\$1,092,817.48**, as previously reported in the minutes. To address the Synod's review exception and ensure the completeness of our historical records, the following action is proposed.

Motion (c): That the Presbytery of Florida: Receive and incorporate into its official records the complete legal description of the former St. Andrews Presbyterian Church property, as contained in the recorded deed associated with the January 30, 2025, sale to Elevation Church and attach the legal description to the minutes of the October 27, 2026, meeting as an appendix, with a cross-reference to the original minutes reporting the sale from February 2025.

Clarification: This action supplements the historical record for accuracy and compliance with the Synod's review requirements. *This decision does not constitute a new authorization or approval of the previously completed sale, merely completes a requirement.*

3.4 Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship — Rev. Bill Lamont and Gulf Breeze PC

Background and Rationale: On September 27, 2026, Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church held a duly called congregational meeting, moderated by Rev. Mario Alberto Bolivar, Equipping Presbyter and Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Florida.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the request to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Rev. Bill Lamont and Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church, effective September 30, 2026, in connection with his retirement.

126 The Clerk of Session confirmed that proper notice had been given and that a quorum was present.
127 Following discussion and expressions of gratitude for Rev. Lamont's faithful ministry, the congregation
128 voted to approve the dissolution and request the Presbytery's concurrence.

129 Under **G-2.0901 and G-2.0902 of the Book of Order**, the dissolution of an installed pastoral
130 relationship requires action by the Presbytery, following consultation with the minister and
131 congregation.

132 **Motion (d): That the Presbytery of Florida:**

- 133 1. Receive the minutes of the September 27, 2026, called congregational meeting of Gulf Breeze
134 Presbyterian Church.
- 135 2. Approve the request of Rev. Bill Lamont and Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church to dissolve their
136 pastoral relationship, effective September 30, 2026.
- 137 3. Express its gratitude to Rev. Bill Lamont for his faithful service and ministry, offering prayers
138 and blessings as he enters retirement.

139 **3.5 Report of the Administrative Commission — Installation of Rev. Mark Phillips**

140 **Background and Rationale:** On September 13, 2026, the Presbytery's Installation Commission
141 gathered at First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, for the installation of Rev. Mark Phillips as Pastor.
142 The Commission met at 3:30 p.m., with Rev. Mario Alberto Bolivar serving as Moderator and
143 Chairperson. A motion to proceed with the installation was made, seconded, and unanimously
144 approved. The Service of Installation began at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church,
145 Tallahassee.

146 During the service, Rev. Phillips answered the constitutional questions presented by Rev. Bolivar. The
147 constitutional questions to the congregation were presented by Gregory Riccardi, Clerk of Session, and
148 the congregation responded affirmatively. Following the constitutional requirements of the Presbyterian
149 Church (U.S.A.), Rev. Bolivar declared Rev. Mark Phillips duly installed as Pastor of First Presbyterian
150 Church, Tallahassee.

151 The Installation Commission's minutes and the Order of Worship document the proceedings and
152 fulfillment of its assigned responsibilities.

153 **Motion (e): That the Presbytery of Florida:**

- 154 1. Receive and approve the report and minutes of the Administrative Commission appointed for
155 the installation of Rev. Mark Phillips as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, on
156 September 13, 2026.
- 157 2. Affirm the completion of the Commission's assigned responsibilities and discharge the
158 Commission with gratitude for its service, subject to the completion of any remaining
159 administrative requirements.
- 160 3. Extend its prayers and blessings to Rev. Mark Phillips and the congregation of First
161 Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, as they continue their ministry together.

162 **3.6 Report on Email Security Incident and Technology Transition**

163 **Background and Rationale:** During late July and early August 2026, the Presbytery of Florida and
164 Dogwood Acres experienced an email security incident involving attempted unauthorized access and
165 fraudulent correspondence associated with a financial transaction between the organizations. An
166 investigation conducted with the assistance of Greg Colovos of iowise, LLC, identified email spoofing

167 involving deceptive addresses designed to impersonate legitimate participants in the correspondence.

168 Although the investigation did not establish a confirmed compromise of the Presbytery's current email
169 provider, IONOS, the incident revealed limitations in security monitoring, account protection, and the
170 technological infrastructure supporting the Presbytery's operations.

171 **Thankfully, the incident was resolved without financial loss.**

172 Following the investigation and recommendations from the security consultant and banking institution,
173 the Presbytery is evaluating a transition from IONOS to **Google Workspace for Nonprofits**.

174 This platform would provide improved account security, multifactor authentication, centralized
175 administration, and expanded tools for communication, collaboration, and records management.

176 Google Workspace for Nonprofits offers eligible organizations a no-cost subscription option. However,
177 professional assistance will be required to migrate existing accounts, correspondence, and related
178 services while properly configuring the new environment.

179 Preliminary estimates for this one-time transition range from **\$2,000 to \$3,500**. Providers and proposals
180 are currently being evaluated, and no final financial commitment has been made.

181 This transition is part of the Presbytery's broader effort to develop secure, reliable, and sustainable
182 systems that support its mission of connecting, equipping, and supporting congregations and leaders
183 throughout Northwest Florida.

184 **Motion (f): That the Presbytery of Florida:**

- 185 1. Receive and accept the *Report on Email Security Incident and Technology Transition*, dated
186 October 27, 2026, as presented by the Equipping Presbyter and Stated Clerk.
- 187 2. Affirm the importance of strengthening the Presbytery's cybersecurity, communication systems,
188 and administrative infrastructure.
- 189 3. Endorse the continued evaluation and planning for a transition from IONOS to Google
190 Workspace for Nonprofits, including the identification of qualified technical assistance and
191 associated costs.
- 192 4. Request that the Equipping Presbyter and Stated Clerk, in consultation with the appropriate
193 leadership and financial officers, continue evaluating proposals and provide updates regarding
194 implementation, costs, and security improvements.

195 **Clarification:** Acceptance of this report and endorsement of continued planning do not, by themselves,
196 authorize an expenditure or establish a final contract with a technology provider. Any financial
197 commitment shall follow the Presbytery's established budgetary and authorization procedures.

198 **4. Personal Note**

199 During the end of August and beginning of September, I took previously planned time away to
200 complete our family's relocation. We are now settled in Panama City, within the bounds of our
201 Presbytery. Thank you for your prayers, patience, and support during this transition.

202 **5. Closing**

203 Our calling remains clear: **connecting, equipping, supporting, and encouraging congregations and**
204 **leaders to participate faithfully in Christ's ministry.** I give thanks to God for the faithful witness of

205 our congregations, the generosity of our leaders, and the privilege of serving this Body. Beloved
206 Presbytery of Florida, let us affirm our vision to continue...

207 *“Furthering the Ministry of Jesus Christ in Northwest Florida.”*

208 Count it all joy,

209 **Rev. Mario Alberto Bolivar**

210 *mario@presbyteryofflorida.com*

211 Equipping Presbyter and Stated Clerk

212 Presbytery of Florida

213



1 Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church Called congregational meeting
2 September 27, 2026
3 Sanctuary

4 The purpose of this called congregational meeting was to dissolve the pastoral tie between
5 Pastor Bill Lamont and Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church (GBPC). The meeting was
6 moderated by Rev. Mario Bolivar, Equipping Presbyterian of the Presbytery of Florida.

7 At 10:50, Rev. Bolivar called the meeting to order. He confirmed with the Clerk of Session that
8 two weeks notice of the congregational meeting was given and that a quorum was present.
9 Both questions were answered in the affirmative and the meeting was opened with prayer.
10 The motion presented was to approve the request of Pastor Bill Lamont and the session to
11 dissolve the pastoral relationship between Pastor Bill and GBPC on September 30, 2026, and
12 for the Presbytery of Florida to approve this request. During the time of discussion, Dean
13 Allmon offered his thanks to Pastor Bill for his service to GBPC. The question was called and
14 the motion carried.

15 Rev. Bolivar encouraged the congregation to pray for Pastor Bill and his family.

16 At 11:15, the meeting was concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

17 Submitted by Michelle Covell. Clerk of Session

First Presbyterian Church Tallahassee

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by Moderator Rev. Mario Bolívar, Chairperson, Equipping Presbyterian and Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Florida. In attendance were Rev. Mark Phillips, Pastor Elect of First Presbyterian Tallahassee, Rev. Dr. Matt Frease, Campus Minister, Ukirk, Tallahassee, Rev. Dr. Margaret "Greta" Reed, Honorably Retired, Parish Associate, First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, Gregory Riccardi, First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, Linda Shelley, Faith Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, Karen Gunter, Lafayette Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, Rev. Deb Tregaskis, Executive Presbyter, Flint River Presbytery, Rev. Julie Donoghue Thompson, Transitional Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Lynn Haven, Emily Bruno, First Presbyterian Church Tallahassee, Pierce Withers, St. John's Episcopal Church.

A motion was made and seconded to conduct the Installation of Rev. Mark Phillips as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

The Service of Installation began at 4 PM in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian. The bulletin of the service is included in this document. Rev. Phillips answered the Constitutional Questions put to him by Rev. Bolívar. The Constitutional Questions for the Congregation were asked by Gregory Riccardi, Clerk of Session of First Presbyterian. The congregation responded positively to all questions.

Rev. Bolívar declared that Rev. Phillips was installed as pastor.

This document may be found at tinyurl.com/oldfirst-install-Sep13

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The installation service ended with charge and benediction at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



**Gregory Riccardi, Clerk of the Session
First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee**

PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA
Report on Email Security Incident and Technology Transition
October 27, 2026 Presbytery Meeting
Rev. Mario Alberto Bolivar, Equipping Presbyter and Stated Clerk

Background: What Happened?

In late July and early August 2026, the Presbytery of Florida and Dogwood Acres experienced a concerning email security incident involving attempted unauthorized access and email spoofing during financial correspondence between our organizations.

According to Greg Colovos of iowise, LLC, the technology and security consultant assisting Dogwood Acres and the Presbytery, suspicious activity was first identified in late July involving an attempted intrusion into an email account. The activity was detected, passwords were changed, and precautionary measures were taken.

In early August, while the Presbytery and Dogwood Acres were communicating about the transfer of a significant amount of money, an outside party apparently intercepted or gained knowledge of the correspondence and introduced a fraudulent email address designed to resemble a legitimate Dogwood Acres and Presbytery accounts.

Beginning around August 4, the perpetrators used a deceptively similar email address, substituting **dogwoodacers.org** for the legitimate **dogwoodacres.org**, to impersonate an authorized participant in the conversation. They also did the same with My email and the treasurer email. This fraudulent correspondence continued for several days before the suspicious activity was identified and corrective action began around August 7.

The incident demonstrated how easily financial communications can be manipulated, even when an organization's email systems have not necessarily been directly compromised.

Investigation and Outcome

Following the incident, Greg Colovos assisted with an investigation and assessment of the systems involved. The investigation found no evidence of malicious software on the Presbytery's computers. Security scans were conducted, passwords were changed, email forwarding settings were examined, and control of the affected accounts was restored.

Although there was no confirmed compromise of IONOS, our current email service provider, the investigation identified limitations in the available security information and monitoring capabilities, making it difficult to determine with complete certainty how the perpetrators obtained information about the correspondence.

By the grace of God, the situation did not result in any financial loss. There were certainly concerns, additional work, and more than a few sleepless nights, but thankfully, no money was lost.

We are grateful for the vigilance of those who recognized the suspicious activity, the assistance of our banking institution, and the professional guidance provided throughout the investigation.

Recommendations and Next Steps

The incident prompted us to evaluate not only our immediate security measures but also the technology infrastructure supporting the ministry of the Presbytery.

39 Among the recommendations provided by our security consultant were stronger email authentication,
40 improved monitoring, enhanced protection of computers and devices, and additional training for those
41 handling sensitive information and financial transactions.

42 Our banking institution also recommended that we transition to a different email platform as part of
43 strengthening our security practices. **For these reasons, we are preparing to transition from IONOS**
44 **to Google Workspace for Nonprofits.**

45 Google Workspace for Nonprofits offers eligible nonprofit organizations access to a comprehensive
46 suite of communication and collaboration tools at no subscription cost under its nonprofit offering.

47 This transition will provide several important opportunities:

- 48 • **Improved security:** Stronger account protection, multifactor authentication, centralized
49 administration, and improved monitoring capabilities.
- 50 • **Better communication:** Professional email accounts, shared calendars, and Google Meet for
51 virtual meetings.
- 52 • **Greater collaboration:** Access to Google Drive, Docs, Sheets, and other resources that allow
53 our leadership, committees, and staff to work together more effectively.
- 54 • **Centralized management:** Greater oversight of accounts, permissions, records, and
55 organizational information.
- 56 • **Long-term sustainability:** Access to a widely supported technology platform without the
57 recurring subscription expense associated with its eligible nonprofit offering.

58 Of course, no technology platform can completely eliminate security risks. The effectiveness of these
59 protections will depend on proper configuration, ongoing administration, and responsible practices by
60 everyone using our systems.

61 **Financial Considerations**

62 While Google Workspace for Nonprofits is available to qualifying organizations at no subscription cost,
63 transitioning from our existing IONOS environment will require professional technical assistance.

64 I am currently evaluating providers who can assist the Presbytery with the migration of our email
65 accounts, existing correspondence, account configurations, security settings, and related services.

66 **Preliminary estimates for this one-time transition range from \$2,000 to \$3,500**, depending on the
67 scope of work and the provider selected.

68 This expense would support the migration between platforms, the proper configuration of security
69 measures, and efforts to minimize disruption to our ongoing ministry and operations.

70 We are continuing to evaluate the available options before selecting a provider or making a final
71 financial commitment.

72 **Looking Ahead**

73 This experience has reminded us that our connectional ministry depends not only on the relationships
74 we cultivate but also on the systems we use to communicate, safeguard information, and steward the
75 resources entrusted to us.

76 As we continue developing our Presbytery's communication strategy, website, administrative systems,
77 and digital presence, this transition represents another important step toward building an infrastructure
78 that better supports our congregations and leaders.

79 Our goal is not simply to replace one email provider with another. **It is to develop a safer, more**
80 **connected, and more sustainable technology environment that allows us to further the ministry of**
81 **Jesus Christ throughout Northwest Florida.**

82 I will continue working with our leadership and technology professionals to identify the most
83 responsible and cost-effective path forward and will provide additional updates as the transition
84 progresses.

85 We give thanks to God that this incident was resolved without financial loss, and we remain committed
86 to learning from this experience and strengthening our practices for the future.

87 **Respectfully submitted,**

88 Rev. Mario Alberto Bolivar
89 Equipping Presbyter and Stated Clerk
90 Presbytery of Florida

Communications to Presbytery

Report of the Meeting of the Synod of the South Atlantic

The meeting was held on Monday, October 19, 2026 via Zoom.

The following items were discussed:

1. Synod's PJC's status was discussed. Reports were favorable.
2. Transitions of Geoff McLeod to Central Florida Presbytery and Mario Bolivar to Florida Presbytery were reported.
3. Per Capita and Mission giving for 2026 – Florida Presbytery at 13%.
4. The Embody Committee presented names for co-chairs of the Synod committees. All were approved.
5. Cultivate Committee discussed the newly formed networks and the Seedling Network framework.
 - a. The Korean network reported that a gathering of Korean churches was held in late June.
 - b. The Hispanic Latino Ministry is in transition. The woman's retreat was about peace and how to bring peace to others. This network has collected items to send back to Colombia. Their focus will be on educating young people
 - c. There was a short report from the African American Racial Ethnic Network.
6. The Covenant with Agnes Scott College has been renewed. Sarah Hook at Agnes Scott spoke about the importance of the relationship between the synod and the college. She has also been working on a Teaching the Bible grant, and she is thankful for the connections provided with the synod.
7. Inspire Committee discussed the grants and scholarships and reported that they met to discuss the 38 grant applications that were submitted with over \$48,000 awarded.
8. The Coordinating Committee reported that there will be a Synod of the South Atlantic in Person Meaning and Journey event on February the 25th through the 27th 2027 with the theme of Pit Stop: Refuel, Repair, Reconnect. This event will be held at Epworth by the Sea in Georgia. The Coordinating Committee recommends that the Synod approve the changes to the manual which reflected the updates regarding the General Administrative Review Policy and Checklist and Special Administrative Review. Also put forth for approval were changes to the personnel policies. Approved.
9. The next Zoom Synod meeting will be held on September the 20th, 2027 at 6:00 PM Eastern Time.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Kublik, Synod Elder Commissioner from Florida Presbytery

1 MLD seeks to move Lauren Christian from Inquirer to Candidate for Ministry
2 Lauren is a student at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia.
3 She is under care of the session of Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church, where she formerly served as youth
4 director.

5 **Lauren Christian, Bio/Faith Journey**

6 My name is Lauren Christian, and I am an inquirer seeking candidacy. I was raised in a family with my
7 father, mother, brother, and sister and I am the youngest in the family. I was born in Texas, but moved all
8 over the place (Utah, Massachusetts, Mississippi) before finally moving to California. I have lived in
9 Southern California for most of my life, but moved all over for school and work following graduation. I
10 went to school in Colorado for my degree in youth ministry, after attending community college and getting
11 my Associates Degree. I graduated with my degree in Youth Ministry in 2008. I spent 13 years working
12 professionally in camps and conference centers, and PCUSA churches working with youth.

13 I felt the call for pastoral ministry via the Holy Spirit during a sermon my pastor was teaching. I had my
14 doubts about my qualifications and abilities and prayed about it. The following week the Holy Spirit nudged
15 me again and the sermon was on trusting the gifts God has for you. It did not feel like a coincidence. I
16 applied for seminary and was blessed to get into Columbia Theological Seminary along with my two cats,
17 Jasper and Robin. I am absolutely that cat mom who works hard so that her cats can have a nice life. They
18 are well loved and spoiled rotten. While in Seminary I have been working hard to build connections,
19 establish friendships, and have been the worship intern for the past 2 years, and am entering my 3rd year of
20 both seminary and being a worship intern. I'm seeking candidacy because I aspire to become ordained in
21 the PCUSA denomination.

22 **Lauren Christian Statement of Faith**

23 I believe in the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed. believe in the Trinity; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
24 3 beings united in one substance forever. I believe in Jesus Christ, both his humanity and divinity. I believe
25 we were once good, made in the image of God. I believe we are sinful beings since the fall of man and
26 because of the fall, that image of God was distorted; the taint of sin spread throughout our very being.
27 Because of this, we are in desperate need of a Savior. I believe in Jesus's full atonement for our sins, dying
28 on the cross and, more importantly, resurrecting from the dead and ascending. I believe in Grace alone by
29 Faith alone in Jesus Christ alone and his work on the cross. I believe that Christ is my Lord and Savior and
30 that God's grace is sufficient for me. I believe in predestination and adoption, that God chooses us for his
31 purposes to be fulfilled and that I need Jesus to save me.

32 I believe in the Church Universal, that the Church is the Bride of Christ and that one day it will stand against
33 the gates of hell. I believe in covenant; more specifically, in the covenantal community and the need for
34 fellowship amongst believers. I believe in the power of prayer and the Sovereignty of God; that God rules
35 and overrules in the affairs of people. I believe in the Holy Spirit that has been given to us as a guide to

36 show us how to please God and live by God's ways. I believe that the Spirit intercedes for us when we don't
37 have words to pray. I believe in the gifts of the Spirit, used as the Word of God defines and prescribes.

38 I believe that the Bible is God-breathed and that the Bible shows me how to live to please God, not out of
39 obligation, but out of love. I believe that the Bible is one of the main forms that God chooses to reveal
40 himself; thus, it is a revelation, a revealing of God to his people, and so the Bible leads me to God. Jesus is
41 also the full revelation of God and the word of God. Through the stories of the Old Testament, through the
42 Gospels, how Jesus and his disciples lived, and through the Epistles, the Bible shows me good and bad
43 examples. It gives me ruling principles for how I should conduct myself, and conduct myself with others in
44 community, and with non-Christians. In short, the Bible is the Word of God and tells me how to do life with
45 people.

46 I believe we have been saved for a purpose. Not what we have been saved from, so much as what we have
47 been saved for. Christ broke our chains and set us free from sin and death. Out of love and gratitude to the
48 Savior, we, too, are called to liberate others, to break chains, and set the captives free, and to challenge
49 systemic structures of sin and oppression. We are called to value all of God's creation. That includes every
50 human being, no matter race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation. It also means every one
51 of God's creatures; animals and plants as well. We are called to be God's hands and feet in the world, to
52 leave this world better than when we found it, to care for God's creation and to steward it not dominate it.
53 We are called to fight against injustice and to make no peace with evil.

**Presbytery of Florida Requested Shared Support
Calendar Year 2027**

Church	2027 Pledge Request	# Members*
First Presbyterian Church of Chipley	\$2,518.05	29
First Presbyterian Church of Crestview	\$4,341.46	50
Bethel Presbyterian Church	\$607.80	7
Euchee Valley Presbyterian Church	\$2,952.19	34
First Presbyterian Church of DeFuniak Springs	\$7,727.80	89
First Presbyterian Church of Destin	\$4,080.97	47
Freeport Presbyterian Church	\$3,212.68	37
First Presbyterian Church of Fort Walton Beach	\$5,991.21	69
Korean First Presbyterian Church of Fort Walton Beach	\$5,470.24	63
Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church	\$13,805.84	159
First Presbyterian Church of Havana	\$3,820.48	44
Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church	\$868.29	10
First Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven	\$9,117.07	105
First Presbyterian Church of Marianna	\$13,458.53	155
First Presbyterian Church of Milton	\$5,470.24	63
First Presbyterian Church of Monticello	\$2,691.71	31
Navarre Presbyterian Church	\$2,691.71	31
Grace Presbyterian Church	\$9,464.38	109
Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church	\$4,167.80	48
Parkway Presbyterian Church	\$4,775.61	55
First Presbyterian Church of Pensacola	\$30,998.03	357
Northminster Presbyterian Church	\$6,859.51	79
Pensacola Korean Community Presbyterian Church	\$1,736.58	20
Trinity Presbyterian Church	\$46,453.62	535
First Presbyterian Church of Quincy	\$30,477.05	351
Red Bay Presbyterian Church	\$607.80	7
Woodland Presbyterian Church	\$1,128.78	13
Christ Presbyterian Church	\$18,060.47	208
Faith Presbyterian Church	\$69,984.34	806
Fellowship Presbyterian Church	\$10,159.02	117
First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee	\$19,362.91	223
Lafayette Presbyterian Church	\$7,380.48	85
Trinity United Presbyterian Church	\$2,518.05	29
First Presbyterian Church of Wewahitchka	\$868.29	10
<i>Total</i>	\$353,829.00	4075
*Per 2025 year-end statistical reporting to GA		