The Presbytery of Florida, Inc., of the Synod of South Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met for a Stated Meeting at Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and Summer Camp in Vernon, FL, on April 28, 2015.

The following 34 ministers and 31 elders were enrolled as commissioners:


**Ruling Elder Commissioners:** Chipley, First – Ed Wood; DeFuniak Springs, Euchee Valley – Tommy Yates; DeFuniak Springs, First – Beckie Moonie; Fort Walton Beach, First – Beth Crawley; Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze – Barbara Borik, Bob Currey; Lynn Haven, First – Donald Bruce Mowat; Marianna, First – Joe Busby; Navarre, Navarre – Linda Wagoner; Panama City Beach, Gulf Beach – Beve Lutz; Panama City, Grace – Gracy Stanley; Panama City, Parkway – Bruce Davis; Panama City, St. Andrews – Leo Nelson; Pensacola, First – Susan Rapier, Paula Launtz, Michael Byram; Pensacola, Northminster – Ken Overholt; Pensacola, Trinity – Charles Gilroy; Pensacola, Westminster – Richard Daniel; Quincy, First – Pat Woodward, Ben Powell; Red Bay, Red Bay – Walter Ray; Sawdust, Woodland – Jon-Mark McKinley; Sunny Hills, Sunny Hills Community – Jennifer Deinhardt; Tallahassee, Christ – Sylvia Collins; Tallahassee, Faith – Abbie Sirmans, Teresa Sarbeck, Peter Ray; Tallahassee, Fellowship – Anne Hall; Tallahassee, First – Patrick Kennedy; Tallahassee, Lafayette – Bob Lovins

**Christian Educations/Youth Directors:** Trinity Whitley, Jason Williams

**Certified:** Christy Williams

**Presbytery Staff Members:** Melissa Morgan

**Officers/Team Chairs:** Jim Davis, Bill Green, Toya O’Hora, James Vance, Scott Yant

**Visitors:** Richard Walker, Linda Lovins, Denise Moore, James McQuagge, Leslie Kelley, Barbara Overholt, Marlene Nalor, Teresa Sarbeck, Fred Pryor, Anna Jackson, Kathy Broyard, Gary Wagoner

**Visiting Teaching Elders:** Dennis Reid

**ABSENCES**

**Excused Teaching Elders/CREs:** Bill Bess, Mark Broadhead, Bruce Chapman, Tae Ho Cheong, Jae Wan Chung, Joseph Chung, Richard Connor, Alan House, John Kelsay, Beth McCaw, Bea Miller, Sharon Schuler

**Unexcused Teaching Elders/CREs:** Michael Askew, Mel Baars, Frank Beall, Peder Carlson, Terry Dyer, Nancy Forinash, Lawrence Greenslit, Emory Hingst, Jack Homoney, Rachel Hood, Lee Johnson, Pamela King Phillips, Joanne Kublik, Daniel Loffredo, Leo Sandon, Steven Shaick, Ju-Seob Yang
**Excused Churches:** Blountstown, Blountstown; Crestview, First; Destin, First; Freeport, Freeport; Gretna, Gretna; Havana, First; Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill; Milton, First; Pensacola, Korean

**Unexcused Churches:** DeFuniak Springs, Bethel; DeFuniak Springs, Pleasant Grove; Fort Walton Beach, Korean First; Monticello, First; Pace, Pace; Panama City, Agape; Port St. Joe, First; Shalimar, Tallahassee, Trinity United; Wewahitchka, First

**Other excused absences:** Jeannie Dixon

**OPENING PRAYER AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. CDT by moderator Bill Green. Following the opening prayer, it was noted that Stated Clerk Jeannie Dixon was unable to be present. Coordinating Presbyter Ted Land was appointed to act as stated clerk, and a quorum was present. There was a request from the Ted Land to have 5 minutes at the end of the meeting for personal privilege. Teaching Elder Brant Copeland requested a brief report from members of the board of the Presbyterian University Center at Florida State University just before lunch. Moderator of the PLT, Hugh Hamilton, requested that Harvey Jenkins give a brief report on the Florida Council of Churches during the PLT report. Also after lunch, the Administrative Commission needed to share. The docket was approved as amended. Jonas Georges gave a warm welcome and introduction from Dogwood Acres.

First-time ruling elder commissioners, corresponding members, and visitors were introduced.

A morning worship/prayer service was held with Jonas Georges, providing the message. Communion was celebrated during the worship service.

**Presentation on Proposed Changes to the Directory for Worship:**

Anghaarad Teague Dees (TE, Trinity, Pensacola) presented the proposed changes to the Directory for Worship. Those present were then divided into breakout groups to discuss thoughts and give feedback on the suggested changes to the Directory for Worship.

**Reports of Presbytery Staff and Officers were received:**

Ted Land, Coordinating Presbyter, provided an update on his activities. He recognized Melissa Morgan for all her service to the Presbytery and spoke about the regional meeting of the Administrative personnel Association that is happening within our bounds in May. Melissa is also doing a bulk order for Presbyterian calendars; the deadline to get in on that order is May 11. He recognized Dennis Reid as a representative of Thornwell Children’s Home. Invitation was extended from John Lown and Tom Borland (both HR) to join them for a luncheon on May 14 at noon at First, Tallahassee. The luncheon is to talk about Thornwell to extend its borders into our Presbytery through the Building Families program.

Dr. Land also gave the report for the Stated Clerk. Land moved that the statistical report of the Presbytery found on pages 2 and 3 of the supplemental dockets be approved. The motion passed.

There were communications from the PUC at FSU. Mary Vance (TE, Fellowship, Tallahassee) was recognized to speak as a member of the board for the PUC. She spoke about building issues. The board has talked often about finances and has in the past few years dipped into their endowment, she said. In February of this year, Bruce Chapman the Chaplain resigned. In April, Jason Santos, the GA’s Associate for Collegiate Ministry, led a retreat with the board and other supporting parties. Danny Dieth came and spoke as the current part-time interim at the PUC. He spoke of potential within the ministry and needing guidance to move forward. Chris Erde (TE, First, Quincy) asked if the selling of that building would be acted on without the meeting of Presbytery. Brant Copeland (TE, First, Tallahassee) spoke up in response and stated his shock to discover that the board has full control over what is done with the property as long as it is used under the auspices of ministry. He urged churches who support the PUC
financially to make sure to attend the Annual Meeting on May 12 to make their voices heard if they have an opinion about the matter in question.

Dr. Land presented the motion from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, for Exemption under G-14.0226, for term limits exemptions for session members, with the approval of the congregational vote. There was a second. The motion passed.

Jim Davis, Treasurer, reviewed the financial picture of our Presbytery and the overall budget. With regard to the current deficit shown, it is because Per Capita and Unified Giving are running behind, he said. He spoke about Divestment and Board of Pension matters and a fund that is fossil fuel-free.

Ted Land spoke on behalf of Budget, Finance and Stewardship. Missing from the docket was a Loan Request from Presbytery Loan and Investment Program for First, Fort Walton Beach. Motion was made to approve the request. The motion passed.

The Reports of Presbytery Teams were given: Toya O’Hora, on behalf of The Commitment to Representation Team, recommended the following nominations:

- **Budget, Finance and Stewardship** – Class of 2016, Ed Wood (RE, First, Chipley)
- **Florida Council of Churches Representative** – Three-year term ending 2017, Harvey Jenkins (HR)

There were no nominations from the floor and no other discussion. The motion was approved. She requested that the PLT nominate another member to the CRT at their next meeting.

John Erthein gave the report for the Preparation for Ministry Team. The written report noted Trinity Whitley (inquirer) and Linda Pitts (candidate) are in good standing with the PMT. The PMT regretfully asks that the Presbytery of Florida dissolve the covenant relationship between the PMT and candidate Glenn Hodges because of a lack of progress towards fulfilling the requirements of candidacy. Brant Copeland spoke to the fact that Glenn is interested in becoming a CRE. The motion was approved.

Meeting recessed for lunch.

As representatives of the Bills and Overtures Team, Hugh Hamilton and Joan Wooten gave a presentation on the Belhar Confession. They noted the history and rationale for voting to include this in our constitution. They presented it with a recommendation to approve. There was no discussion. A standing count vote was taken and approved 43-6.

Bills and Overtures also presented the Foothills Overture for commissioners to take back to their sessions for consideration and feedback.

Mary Vance spoke on behalf of the Administrative Team about a request from Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, recommending that they receive approval of a loan request. The motion was approved.

Scott Yant spoke for the Disaster Preparedness and Response Team. He introduced Kathy Broyard, who gave a presentation from the Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, or FLAPDAN. She mentioned a new collaboration between Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Presbyterian Women to equip PW members to be disaster preparedness trainers in their own communities.

Randy Jackson gave the report for the Ministry Team. He corrected the report to say that Bruce Chapman has accepted a position with “the Florida Conservation Corps, an AmeriCorps program serving the state of Florida’s Division of Parks and Recreation.”
Ted Land gave the report for the Personnel Team. He noted the annual reviews for Melissa Morgan and Jonas Georges that happened recently.

Hugh Hamilton gave the report for the Presbytery Leadership Team. He noted the mutual forbearance shown at the January meeting. Nothing is currently happening on the Synod boundaries, he said, adding that there will be an informal meeting in May to talk with some surrounding presbyteries to brainstorm. He recognized Harvey Jenkins (HR) to share about the Florida Council of Churches. Harvey spoke to the issue of fracking, and encouraged those present to visit floridainterfaith.com for more details on the issues the council is taking on.

Gary Cecil gave the report for the Congregational Mission Support Team. He spoke about the HOPE conference that will be held at Montreat in July.

James Vance gave the report for the Dogwood Acres Ministry Team.

Randy Jackson took a point of personal privilege and spoke about First, Pensacola’s upcoming Harbison Lecture Series.

Ted Land took a point of personal privilege and submitted a request to terminate his contract as of June 30, 2015, so that he can accept the call extended to him as the Transitional Shepherd. Gary Cecil made the motion to terminate his contract. Randy Jackson gave a second. Tom Borland encouraged us to write our thoughts of encouragement and thanks to Ted. The motion was approved.

There was no other business before the body. The next stated meeting of the presbytery will be September 8, 2015, at 9 a.m. CDT/10 a.m. EDT. Gulf Beach, Panama City Beach, will host the meeting. The moderator offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m. CDT.

Approval of minutes

Bill Green, Moderator
Ted Land, Substitute Stated Clerk
Trinity Whitley, Recording Clerk

Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk