

APPENDIX H

Administrative Commission Report Fleming Island Presbyterian Church 2016 Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting

The Administrative Commission (AC) was established at a called special meeting of the presbytery held on December 8, 2015. The commissioners continue to work, serve and pray with the congregation of the Fleming Island Presbyterian Church during this very difficult time in the life of this congregation that was chartered in 2005. The AC assumed original jurisdiction of the session of the church in June 2016.

Worship services have continued at the church each Sunday morning, with the Rev. Dr. Tom Borland continuing to serve in a temporary part-time pastoral role. The congregation has also come together for fellowship and town hall discussions. Individuals have been added to the membership rolls, and others have asked to be removed. The AC members have attended worship at the church as often as they could.

In July, the congregation voted to lower the quorum for a congregational meeting, and it also elected a nominating committee that would identify individuals to serve as ruling elders when the time was right to reconstitute a session of the congregation. The committee has not been able to identify an adequate number of individuals to serve.

The “Fifth Quarter” ministry of the church has continued this fall, using designated funds that have been donated. This ministry provides space and hospitality for young people to gather after Friday night football games.

The AC has been in frequent communication with the Committee on Ministry, the Administration and Finance Committee, and the Trustees of the Presbytery. The presbytery’s Financial Secretary has acted as bookkeeper for the church since the departure of members who did that work in the past. The presbytery has funded nearly all of the operations and expenses of the church since April, including mortgage payments of over \$10,000 per month. The Committee on Ministry was asked to study the issue and has reported that the church property is not necessary for the mission of the presbytery in the Fleming Island area. The Trustees have retained an appraiser to determine the value of the church property in preparation for the possible sale of the property, which is being recommended at the upcoming presbytery meeting. The AC has voted to request that the Board of Pensions grant a financial waiver for dues being charged on the vacant installed pastor position.

APPENDIX H

A congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, October 2, for the purpose of voting to approve the sale of the real property. At that meeting, the AC will continue the conversation with the congregation about the possibility of ceasing operations. The counseling center that uses space on the property has been given legal notice to vacate the property.

The AC recommends that the presbytery give the AC the specific authority to:

1. Continue to consult with the members of the congregation regarding the future of the congregation, including possible relocation, cessation of operations and/or dissolution of the congregation;
2. Determine the courses of action to be taken; and
3. Carry out all actions that are reasonable and necessary in connection with the courses of action to be taken.

This is a difficult time in the life of the congregation of the Fleming Island church (which began as a new church development in the early 2000s) and a sad time for the whole Presbytery of St. Augustine. Prayers are requested for all who are most deeply affected. We remember and give thanks that the Lord “heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” (Psalm 147:3)