

MEETING DOCKET

PRESBYTERY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Fall Stated Meeting

October 4, 2016

Moderator Ralph Moulder

Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center
Starke, FL

*The mission of the Presbytery of St. Augustine is to serve Jesus Christ
by strengthening our congregations in their ministries
and enabling us to accomplish together what none could accomplish alone.*

OPENING AGENDA

Welcome of Host	Terry Patterson, Executive Director, MPCC
Opening Prayer	Ralph Moulder, Moderator
Declaration of Quorum	Alexandra (Sandra) Hedrick, Stated Clerk
Approval of Docket	Stated Clerk
Welcome to First Time Commissioners/Guests	Moderator
Enrollment of Corresponding Members	Stated Clerk
Appointment of Tellers	Moderator

CONSENT AGENDA

STATED CLERK COMMUNICATIONS

Alexandra (Sandra) Hedrick, Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk recommends that the presbytery take the following actions:

1. Excuse from attendance persons who submitted requests to be excused as recorded in the roll of this meeting.
2. Record this meeting as a corporate meeting for both the Presbytery of St. Augustine, Inc. and Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center, Inc.
3. Receive and record the information that an updated list of the status of session minute reading will be provided in a handout at the presbytery meeting and included in the minutes.

4. Receive and record the following minutes of the commission to ordain Matthew Benz-Whittington, who was examined on April 21, 2016, and is serving as a pastoral care resident at Baptist Health in Jacksonville:

A commission elected by the Presbytery of St. Augustine met on June 12, 2016, before the service at Idlewild Presbyterian Church, Memphis, Tennessee, to ordain Matthew Benz-Whittington to the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament. Steve Benz called the meeting to order with prayer.

The members of the commission present: Steve Benz (Transitional Executive Presbyter, RE-Lake City), the Rev. Dr. Cindy Benz (TE-At-Large), the Rev. Bethany Benz-Whittington (TE-Peace), the Rev. Jess McCrosky (TE-Community Hospice), and Melissa McCrosky (RE-Orange Park). A quorum was present.

Guests of the commission included: the Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson (TE-Columbia Theological Seminary), the Rev. Dr. Steve Montgomery (TE-Idlewild), and the Rev. Ann Apple (TE-Idlewild).

Bethany Benz-Whittington was elected clerk of the commission, and Beth Johnson preached the sermon. The commission proceeded to conduct the ordination. The candidate responded positively to the constitutional questions with affirmative answers and was charged by Jess McCrosky. The commission welcomed the Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington pronounced the benediction, which served as the closing prayer of the commission.

5. Receive and record the information that Teaching Elder Jim Weldon filed a remedial case against the presbytery on May 18, 2016. The case is filed with the Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) of the Synod of the South Atlantic. The complaint concerns certain actions of the presbytery through the work of the Administrative Commission for the Fleming Island Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery Council appointed the following committee of counsel: Jodi Dodge (RE - Peace), Gary Hardesty (TE - First Alachua), and David Lee (TE - Highlands United). The complaint is currently pending for further review by the PJC.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

Cynthia Montgomery, Moderator

The Presbytery Council recommends that the presbytery receive the report that the Council reviewed and approved the minutes of the the 2016 Spring Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine (a copy of the minutes will be available for review at the stated clerk's table).

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bill Hoff, Moderator

The Administration and Finance Committee recommends that the presbytery receive and record financial statements of the Presbytery of St. Augustine and Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center as of August 31, 2016, along with summary cover sheets (*Appendix A*).

The committee also reports that it has received and reviewed the audit of our independent auditors, Kresge, Platt & Abare, LLC for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Ron Watson, Moderator, and David Pierce, Vice-Moderator

The Committee on Ministry (COM) recommends that the presbytery take the following actions:

1. Approve the following temporary pastor relationships (note: temporary pastor relationships are limited to one year and can be renewed):
 - a. Tom Borland and Fleming Island (temporary supply) as of April 10 (for information: was approved by the administrative commission)
 - b. Craig Davies and Memorial (interim) as of May 10
 - c. Cindy Benz and First Ocala (interim) as of June 20
 - d. David Imhoff and Fort Caroline (stated supply - renewal) as of August 15
 - e. Don Mossa and San Mateo (stated supply) - as of September 24
 - f. Kenneth Walsh and Community Presbyterian Church (parish associate) - as of September 1 (*pending interview with COM at November meeting)
 - g. Jim Black and St. Andrews (stated supply) as of September 1
 - h. Diane Wilson and St. Giles (interim) - as of November 1

2. Receive as information the following dissolutions of pastoral relationships:
 - a. Larry Hadrava (CRE) and San Mateo as of May 16 (last day the 15th)
 - b. Sandy Faison and Highlands as of May 16 (last day the 15th)
 - c. Cindy Benz and First Lake City as of June 6 (last day the 5th)
 - d. Glenn Dickson and Faith as of August 1 (last day July 31)
 - e. Susan Takis and Middleburg as of August 15, 2016 (last day the 14th)

3. Receive as information the report that the COM approved the transfer of the following members to the presbyteries noted (as of the date received by those presbyteries). Note: COM has the authority as a commission to transfer members between presbytery meetings:
 - a. Stephen Kolderup to the Presbytery of New Brunswick as of March 7
 - b. Susan Takis to the Presbytery of Central Florida as of September 13

4. Receive as information that the Committee on Ministry reviewed and approved the annual report of the College Ministry Program at First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville (2015 - 2016) and the annual plan for the ministry for the upcoming year. First Presbyterian receives proceeds from the Synod of South Atlantic for this program based on the presbytery's approval at the 2014 Spring Stated Meeting. That approval states that the Committee on Ministry will review the program each year and report to the Presbytery its approval or disapproval of the ministry. A copy of the report/plan provided by the congregation is contained in *Appendix B*.

5. Record the report that the St. Johns Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville Florida has given written notice of its denominational discernment.

6. Record the report that all COM members present at the June 2016 COM meeting received Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) Liaison training.

7. Approve seminary debt assistance in the amount of \$750.00, which will be matched by the same amount by the Board of Pensions, for the following teaching elder members of the presbytery, as requested by the session of the churches where they currently serve:

Joe Medearis (Arlington)
 Bethany Benz-Whittington (Peace)
 Ruth Elswood (Jasper)

8. Receive as information that the Committee on Ministry has conducted its annual review of the teaching elders of the presbytery in an at-large status and plans to follow up at its next meeting on any additional information that is needed.

9. Approve the validated ministries of the teaching elders of the presbytery who are listed below:

Albright, Joseph	Dial Hope
Matthew Benz-Whittington	Baptist Health
Frederick Bonkovsky	University of California, San Diego/University of Vienna
Vickie Bossuot	Chaplain, Riverside Presbyterian House
Ina Boyd	Chaplain, Haven Hospice
Scott Brooks-Cope	Dir. of Pastoral Care Services, Phoebe Ministries, Allentown, PA

Glen Busby	Chaplain, Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Hyunsung Cho	Georgia Christian University
Lester Comee	Training Director, Young Life – Florida Region
Chuck Harmon	York School, Monterey, CA
Elizabeth Haynes	Flagler College
Alexandra Hedrick	Stated Clerk, Presbytery
Kimberly Hyatt	Cathedral Arts Project
Janice Marie Clark	Chaplain, Haven Hospice
Rhonda Link-Cummings	Saint Leo University
Louis Lothman	Director of Pastoral Counseling Services
Jess McCrosky	Chaplain, Community Hospice
Tim Roberts	Stuart Congregational Church, Stuart, FL
Brice Rogers	Graduate Studies, South Korea
Eddie Soto	Fort Caroline United Methodist Church
Sheryl Sumlin-Walker	Chaplain, Halifax Health and Hospice
Tina Sweet	Chaplain, Haven Hospice
Jennie Thomas	Lead Chaplain/CPE Supervisor - Baptist Health

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Mark Hults, Moderator, and Edd Norris, Vice-Moderator

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends that the Presbytery approve, adopt, or admit to record the following actions of the committee acting on behalf of the presbytery:

1. At its meeting on May 24, 2016, the committee enrolled Carl (CJ) Dates (Palms) as an Inquirer for ministry under the care of this presbytery.
2. At its meeting on August 24, 2016, the committee enrolled Rev. Fred Lundy (First Gainesville) as an Inquirer for ministry under the care of this presbytery.
3. At its meeting on August 24, 2016, the committee enrolled Forrest Foxworth (First Fernandina Beach) as an Inquirer for ministry under the care of this presbytery.
4. At its meeting on August 24, 2016 the committee enrolled Kevin Wright (Woodlawn) as an Inquirer for ministry under the care of this presbytery.

**TRUSTEES OF THE PRESBYTERY OF ST. AUGUSTINE
AND MONTGOMERY PRESBYTERIAN CONFERENCE CENTER**

Murray Beard, President of the Corporations

The Trustees of the Presbytery of St. Augustine and Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center report that the Leonid Road property most recently occupied by the Northside Presbyterian Church and the Normandy Boulevard property most recently occupied by the Nueva Esperanza Presbyterian Church are still under contract.

In addition, the Trustees report the following actions taken since the last presbytery meeting: (1) approval of a request from the St. Andrews church to sell property received in a will; and (2) approval to order appraisals for the Fleming Island and Highlands (Gainesville) church properties. Additionally, the Trustees report that the Kanapaha and Trinity churches have paid off their loans with the Presbyterian Loan and Investment Program (PILP) for which the presbytery was a guarantor.

**REPORT ON 2016 STATED MEETING
OF THE SYNOD OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC**

Rhonda Link-Cummings and Yvan Kelly, Commissioners

The Synod of the South Atlantic held its annual stated meeting at Epworth-By-The-Sea in St. Simons Island, Georgia on September 15th and 16th. Representing the Presbytery of St. Augustine were commissioners Teaching Elder Rhonda Link-Cummings and Ruling Elder Yvan Kelly. Teaching Elder Joe Rigsby was in attendance as the African-American Consultant, Transitional Executive Steve Benz represented the Florida Cluster of Presbyteries. Teaching Elder Sandra Hedrick was also in attendance as a visitor to the Synod.

The Thursday meeting began with worship: Russell Gladding, CRE General Presbyter and Stated Clerk of the Savannah Presbytery preached on “Listening to the Music” and Communion was served by a variety of Teaching Elders in Savannah Presbytery. Heahwan Rim, Synod Executive, was not in attendance due to ongoing health treatments. Reg Parsons filled in as Stated Clerk Pro-Tem. It was reported that Heahwan expects to return to his office in mid-January and that he will retire in June 2017. The Executive Administrative Commission will serve as the Search Committee to find his replacement.

The Executive Administrative Commission reported that the Synod office will be re-locating by October 2017. The new location has not yet been determined. The Synod Resource Center has closed and the library will be given to a ministry of a third-world mission field. The positions of Treasurer and Disaster Assistance Coordinator have become volunteer positions. Other streamlining efforts were pointed out, all with a goal of reducing expenses.

The body of the Synod had a lengthy discussion about the role of the Synod and the connectedness of the Presbyterian Church. Many people gave personal reflections about the Synod and its activities. This discussion will be used to inform the Search Committee as they begin their process.

Reports were received from the Board of Pensions and Thornwell Home for Children. The Board of Pensions reported that medical dues are increasing to a flat 24.5% in 2017 and that lay employees will now be given a menu of choices concerning health care. Following committee meetings, a dinner was held at the Brunswick Country Club.

Friday began with songs and prayer. The Committees made their reports on action items. Covenants were renewed with five organizations, including Eckerd College and Presbyterian College. Several grants were awarded by the Ministry Support Committee. A task force was created to perform a five year evaluation of the Gainesville Campus Ministry as it applies to the use of funds generated by the sale of the Gainesville Campus Ministry building. This five year evaluation is part of the original agreement made between the Presbytery of St. Augustine and the Synod concerning the use of those funds. Teaching Elder Rhonda Link-Cummings will serve on the Task Force as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee of the Synod.

Representatives from the clusters of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina provided much information on the activities of the presbyteries within their state. They described Presbyteries in transition with many changes in leadership and also in technology. Many touched on the decreasing membership in the PC(USA) and within their boundaries.

In support of racial and ethnic diversity, reports were made by the Consultants from the African-American, Korean-American, and Hispanic-American groups. Their reports were uplifting and encouraging. The Disaster Assistance Coordinator reported on the Presbyterian response to the flooding in South Carolina and the hurricane preparation and training. In addition, active shooter training and responses have been planned.

The next Stated Meeting of the Synod will be September 14th and 15th, 2017 and will be held in Jacksonville, Florida.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORTS

Administrative Commission for the Northside Presbyterian Church

Jerie M. Lukefahr, Moderator

The contract on the property that was reported at the Spring Stated Meeting was cancelled due to insufficient funding. A new contract is now pending with another buyer. The commission continues to monitor the property. A plumbing issue was resolved in June, and a tree that had fallen on the property was removed in September.

The lawn continues to be maintained by Paul's Lawn Care, and the commission remains available to the trustees should a need arise that requires their assistance.

The commissioners are: Gardner Davis (RE – Riverside), Jerie Lukefahr (RE – First Fernandina Beach), Kathy McLean (TE – At-Large), Mary Mickel (RE – Woodlawn), Jesse Perry (TE – Woodlawn), Mary Kay Unkelbach (RE – Kirkwood).

Administrative Commission for the Fleming Island Presbyterian Church

Ben Samuels, Moderator

The report of this Administrative Commission is contained in the Action Agenda.

Administrative Commission for the Highlands Presbyterian Church

Larry Green, Moderator

The Administrative Commission for Highlands Presbyterian Church was formed to assist with closing the congregation, at their request. The AC began its work by meeting with the Session of Highlands to review the process and to gain a clear understanding of various aspects of their ministry and use of their buildings. The Session agreed to continue functioning for a period of time in order to assist the AC with a smooth transition.

The AC has now assumed original jurisdiction of the session of the Highlands church. Highlands continues to be a source of ministry to the community by continuing to lease space to a private school as well as to another congregation. Both of those tenants have a long history with Highlands and provide a continued ministry in the area. Additionally, their rental income means the presbytery has little, if any, financial burden. The AC has employed a part-time office assistant to manage rentals, collect rent, and assist the AC with managing and maintaining the property.

There has been a great deal of interest in the property. The Trustees have ordered an appraisal of the property to ascertain its value. Once that is complete, the AC anticipates officially marketing the property for sale.

The commissioners are: Steve Crowley (RE - First Palatka); Ruth Elswood (TE - Jasper); Charles Freeman (TE - Grace); Larry Green (TE - Westminster); and Karen Hardesty (RE - Alachua).

**ST. AUGUSTINE PRESBYTERY
DISASTER ASSISTANCE COMMISSION (SAPDAC)**

Herb Ramsdell, Moderator

The following report describes the action taken with respect to Hurricane Hermine, which made landfall on Friday, September 2, 2016:

Tuesday, August 30, 2016: Emailed SAPDAC contact persons to request they initiate hurricane response procedures, contact churches in their assigned areas and to monitor email for a possible notice of a conference call on Thursday.

Wednesday, August 31, 2016: Contacted Steve Benz at the Presbytery Office to request setting up a conference call with the SAPDAC Commission Members. Conference call was scheduled for 2:00 pm. and all members of the commission were emailed. Phone calls were made to churches in the Presbytery letting them know that we had activated the commission. Churches were informed that we would follow up with them some time on Friday after the storm was to have passed our area to determine any damage or specific needs they may have.

2:00 pm. conference call was made by Steve Benz and Herb Ramsdell from the Presbytery office. Six other members were on the call. Members were asked to contact their churches if they had not already done so. Members were asked to follow up with their churches on Friday so that a report might be ready for a FLAPDAN conference call at 3:00 pm. Some contact members were not on the call and had not been reached so steps were taken to ensure that the churches in those areas were contacted. Members were asked to call, text or email their responses from the Friday follow up call to Herb Ramsdell.

Friday, September 2, 2016: Follow up calls were made to the churches of the Presbytery. From the information reported back, it was evident that we had been blessed. Those churches in the Presbytery closest to the landfall of the hurricane were reporting some power outages but no damage and no specific needs. Other churches were reporting no damage and no specific needs. Herb Ramsdell and Sandra Hedrick were on the FLAPDAN conference call at 3:00 pm. Concerns: More information is needed in the form of contact numbers and contact names for all of our churches that would allow us to make contact with them on days they may be closed, after hours or on holidays. This should be arranged in order of priority contacts for the individual churches.

Method determined on how to ensure that members of the commission are still in their positions and that contact numbers and emails have not changed.

Applause: Many thanks to the Presbytery Staff that helped facilitate the work of those on the commission, and to those on the commission who made calls and forwarded information from our churches. Your commitment to the commission and your display of care and compassion for those in this Presbytery is noted and very much appreciated. Stay safe.

**RECOGNITION OF TEACHING ELDERS
IN VALIDATED MINISTRIES**

**ORDER OF THE DAY: MORNING WORSHIP
9:15 a.m.**

Preaching: Joe Rigsby - Woodlawn Presbyterian Church
Celebrants: Hunter Camp and Amy Lehr Camp
Offering: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

**PRESBYTERY IN FELLOWSHIP
10:15 a.m.**

ACTION AGENDA

EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

Shirley Mergan, Moderator, and Tom Walker, Vice-Moderator

The Examinations Commission reports the following actions taken on behalf of the presbytery (new minister member information is found in *Appendix C*).

In addition to introducing these new members, the Examinations Commission will introduce Jennie Thomas, Matthew Benz-Whittington, and Bill Weimer, all of whom were received before the Spring Stated Meeting but could not attend that meeting.

1. Concerning the call of Kenneth Goodrich to be Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Lake City, Florida, the Examinations Commission took the following actions following its examination on May 12, 2016:
 - a. Approved the Statement of Faith and Journey of Faith Statement.
 - b. Sustained the examination.
 - c. Approved the terms of call presented by the church and accepted by the candidate.
 - d. Recommended that he and the PNC be permitted to address the presbytery at the next stated meeting.

- e. Empowered the presbytery moderator to appoint a commission to install him as the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Lake City on an appropriate date and time.
 - f. Upon receipt of the Ex Animo Declaration, received him as an active member of the Presbytery of St. Augustine, pending the congregational vote.
 - g. Empowered the moderator to appoint a mentor.
2. Concerning request of John H. (Jack) Swann to be received as an honorably retired member of the Presbytery of St. Augustine, the Examinations Commission took the following actions following its examination on June 9, 2016:
 - a. Approved the Statement of Faith and Journey of Faith Statement.
 - b. Sustained the examination.
 - c. Upon receipt of the Ex Animo Declaration, received him as an active member of the Presbytery of St. Augustine.
 - d. Recommended that he be permitted to address the presbytery at the next stated meeting.
 - e. Empowered the moderator to appoint a mentor.
3. Concerning the request of Jessi Lee Higginbotham to be received as an at-large member of the Presbytery of St. Augustine, the Examinations Commission took the following actions in connection with its examination on July 14, 2016:
 - a. Approved the Statement of Faith and Journey of Faith Statement.
 - b. Sustained the examination.
 - c. Upon receipt of the Ex Animo Declaration, received her as an active member of the Presbytery of St. Augustine, pending the congregational vote.
 - d. Recommended that she be permitted to address the presbytery at the next stated meeting.
 - e. Empowered the moderator to appoint a mentor.
4. Concerning the request of John Harris to be received as an honorably retired member of the Presbytery of St. Augustine, the Examinations Commission took the following actions following its examination on August 11, 2016:
 - a. Approved the Statement of Faith and Journey of Faith Statement.
 - b. Sustained the examination.
 - c. Upon receipt of the Ex Animo Declaration, received him as an active member of the Presbytery of St. Augustine.
 - d. Recommended that he be permitted to address the presbytery at the next stated meeting.
 - e. Empowered the moderator to appoint a mentor.

5. Concerning the call of Heong-Seok Cho to be Pastor of the Korean Church of Jacksonville, the Examinations Commission took the following actions in connection with its examination on September 8, 2016:
 - a. Approved the Statement of Faith and Journey of Faith Statement.
 - b. Sustained the examination.
 - c. Approved the terms of call presented by the church and accepted by the candidate.
 - d. Recommended that he and the PNC be permitted to address the presbytery at the next stated meeting that they can attend.
 - e. Empowered the presbytery moderator to appoint a commission to install him as the Pastor of the Korean Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville on an appropriate date and time.
 - f. Upon receipt of the Ex Animo Declaration, received him as an active member of the Presbytery of St. Augustine, pending the congregational vote.
 - g. Empowered the moderator to appoint a mentor or mentors.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Carol Graff, Moderator

The Presbyterian Women of St. Augustine Presbytery held their third annual Bible Study event at Camp Montgomery on August 20, 2016. 84 women attended and heard Oweta Hegamen whom we had heard preach at the Gathering at Woodlawn two years ago. She came up on Friday and gave a workshop for the Coordinating Team as we set up for Saturday. It was a wonderful day of Christian fellowship and we closed with a worship service.

Our next thing we are planning is our Gathering on the last Saturday of January which will be at the First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville.

MONTGOMERY PRESBYTERIAN CONFERENCE CENTER

Terry Patterson, Executive Director

The report of the Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center is contained in *Appendix D*.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

General Assembly Commissioners

The General Assembly report - which includes the individual reports of the commissioners and young adult advisory delegate - is contained in *Appendix E*. There will also be an oral presentation.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

Cynthia Montgomery, Moderator

1. The Presbytery Council recommends that the presbytery take the following actions:
 - a. Receive a presentation on presbytery transition. See *Appendix F* on the topic of “making the culture shift.”
 - b. Receive the presbytery 2017 asking budget (*Appendix G*).
 - c. Approve increasing the authorized expenditure on the presbytery transition consultant (The Ertrachter Group) from \$30,000 to \$40,000 plus any amount received as anonymous designated donations. This is to facilitate the completion and implementation of the presbytery’s discernment and design of our identity, mission, focus, structure and funding.
 - d. Elect members of the Nominating Committee and the Representation Committees (*Appendix G-1*).
2. The Presbytery Council reports that the Fort King Presbyterian Church has been selected to host the Winter 2017 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine.
3. The Presbytery Council reports the following action taken on September 12, 2016, upon the recommendation of the Personnel Committee of the Presbytery Council:
 - a. Recognizing four years of dedicated work by Transitional Executive Steve Benz, the Presbytery Council exercises its option not to renew the existing contract of the Transitional Executive Presbyter according to the contract’s Termination Provisions. This allows the contract to expire on December 31, 2016 per the current terms of the contract.
 - b. The Personnel Committee of Council and the Design and Discernment Team are charged with presenting a temporary alternative-staffing plan to the Council for adoption by December 1, 2016 so that the work of the Presbytery may not be disrupted after the Transitional Executive Presbyter’s contract expires.
 - c. The Presbytery Council shall honor the full dollar value of the Transitional Executive Presbyter contract. This allows for a departure of Steve Benz prior to its expiration date in order to facilitate the securing of subsequent employment. The notification date for non-renewal is October 4, 2016.
 - d. A group of persons shall be selected by the Council Moderator to plan an appropriate celebration of Mr. Benz’s service to this Presbytery, and the Administration and Finance Committee will be sure that sufficient funds are set aside to pay for such a celebration.

PRESBYTERIAN TRIENNIUM

Geoffrey Brymer, Youth Director of St. Giles

A presentation will be made in addition to the following written report submitted by Geoff Brymer, Youth Director of the St. Giles church:

The Presbytery of St. Augustine's Triennium Delegation is back from Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT 2016) spiritually charged and closer than ever. Our delegation was made up of eight churches from around our presbytery, each with their own unique youth with a myriad of spiritual and cultural experiences ready to share and blend together to make a more unified and diverse presbytery. Coincidentally, diversity was a dominant theme of PYT 2016, along with loving your neighbor and the importance of social action by Christians.

During the first worship service at PYT 2016, Dr. Roger Nishioka told 5,000 youth, "If God can use a bunch of stinky shepherds in a field to share the good news of Christ's birth, than certainly God has a plan and call for you to help spread the message of Christ." Dr. Nishioka reminded these 5,000 young people that they are a worthy and an important part of God's plan and the life of the Presbyterian Church, something if I have to admit is rarely communicated to our young people on a regular basis. Dr. Nishioka not only prompted our youth to "Go and Share Christ's Message," but he also reinforced to the adult leaders in the audience the importance of reminding our youth that they are important in the life of the church.

On the second day after a huge lunch, 5,000 youth piled into Purdue's nicely air-conditioned Elliot Hall of Music for the second worship service of PYT 2016. The conditions were right for everyone to fall asleep, but by some small miracle the youth and the adult leaders were fully engaged in the worship service. The second worship service was centered on the story of the Good Samaritan and defining who our neighbor is. The youth were reminded that everyone is their neighbor, and it is their charge as Christians to go out and work to love everyone as Christ taught us to do. During this service, several PC (USA) and Cumberland Presbyterian missions were presented to the youth. Later, following the service and for the rest of the week these various missions were staged in Purdue's Student Union for our young people to see and learn more about.

On Friday night, the day before our delegation would have to leave early in the morning for home, we had an amazing worship service that is still giving me goose bumps as I'm thinking about it now. The minister that spoke (Perryn Rice of the Lake Highlands Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas) gave a sermon that truly struck a chord with our youth and me as well. He conveyed to all 5,000 that as Christians we are charged to participate in social action and social justice. Christ does not want us to pick sides or draw lines in the sand like our culture and leaders would have us think, instead Christ wants us to work for unity and love diversity. Christ wants us to look for ways we can end oppression and to open our eyes to systemic problems that plague our nation and the world.

Christ calls us to be dreamers, peacemakers, and more importantly foolish lovers of all of God's Children. At the end of the service, all 5,000 PYT participants were asked to celebrate with song and dance the world which Christ envisions for us. For those 30 minutes of joyous celebration the world which Christ envisions for us was alive and well. Our youth, as well as me, that night caught a glimpse of what can be if Christians work towards love and unity. Look out and celebrate the Presbytery of St. Augustine as 25 youth and 5 adults are ready to be fools for Christ.

PRESBYTERY/MONTGOMERY TRUSTEES

Murray Beard, President

The Trustees of the Presbytery of St. Augustine recommend that the presbytery approve listing for sale the property of the Fleming Island church. The total debt on the property, for which the presbytery is the debtor or the guarantor, is over \$2,000,000. The presbytery has been paying all of the debt and most of the expenses of the church since the month of April, 2016, for a total of over \$91,000. (This total is in addition to the debt that the presbytery regularly pays on the property in the amount of \$4,494.66 per month, which is a part of the annual budget of the presbytery.) The Fleming Island church began as a new church development of this presbytery in the early 2000s.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR THE FLEMING ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ben Samuels, Moderator

The Administrative Commission for Fleming Island Presbyterian Church recommends the presbytery give it the following additional authority:

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.

The commission's written report is contained in *Appendix H*.

The commissioners are: Mary Coxe (RE – Riverside), Craig Davies (TE – Memorial), Carol DiGiusto (TE – Lake Shore), Mac Heavener (RE – Memorial), Marjorie Phillips (RE – Orange Park), Ben Samuels (RE – South Jacksonville), Sheryl Sumlin-Walker (TE – Trinity and Halifax Health and Hospice), and Jeff Welch (TE – Dunnellon).

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Ron Watson, Moderator, and David Pierce, Vice-Moderator

The Committee on Ministry (COM) recommends that the presbytery take the following actions:

1. Approve an increase in the minimum terms of call from a total effective salary of \$42,000 to \$43,000 (*Appendix I*). (Note: The minimum is to be reviewed annually at the Fall Stated Meeting. It did not change in 2015.)
2. Approve and receive a presentation of a memorial resolution for Don Harris, who died on April 28, 2016 (*Appendix J*).
3. Approve the following retirements (resolution(s) (if any) are provided in *Appendix K*).
 - a. Douglas (Doug) Ganyo (Associate Pastor - First Fernandina Beach) on August 31, 2016
 - b. Peyton Hopkins (Associate Pastor - Community) on September 30, 2016
 - c. Troy Lewis (Pastor - St. Giles) on October 31, 2016
 - d. Terry Lucarelli (Pastor - Lakewood) on December 29, 2016
 - e. Louis (Lou) Lothman - retiring as Executive Director of Pastoral Counseling Services on December 31, 2016. (Dr. Lothman will continue as a part-time consultant in clinical services.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joe Rigbsy, Moderator

The Nominating Committee places the following slate before the presbytery for election at the Fall Stated Meeting. The terms for the individuals elected to the Class of 2019 will begin on January 1, 2017.

Administration and Finance

Class of 2019

Jodi Dodge (WFRE) - Peace

John Ragsdale (WMTE) - Honorably Retired

Class of 2017

Holly Inglis (WFTE) - Palms

Committee on Ministry

Class of 2019

Andy Gans (WMTE) - Fort King

Ken Goodrich (WMTE) - First Lake City

Kristie Hall (AFRE) - Kirkwood

Gary Hardesty (WMTE) - First Alachua

Bill Hoff (WMTE) - Riverside

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Class of 2019

- Charles Freeman (WMTE) - Grace
- Bruce Hedgepeth (WMTE) - South Jacksonville
- Kathy McLean (WFTE) - At-Large
- Bea Newhart (WFRE) - Countryside/Reddick
- Louis Venson (BMRE) - Woodlawn

Class of 2017

- John Diller (WMTE) - Orange Park
- Martha Valent (WFRE) - Lakewood

Council - At Large

Class of 2019

- Joe Albright (WMTE) - Geneva
- Andrea Mogg Jacque (BFRE) - Marion Oaks

Examinations Commission

Class of 2019

- Bethany Benz-Whittington (WFTE) - Peace
- Craig Davies (WMTE) - Memorial
- David Pierce (WMTE) - Hodges Boulevard

Mutual Mission (classes may be reassigned)

Class of 2019

- Matthew Benz-Whittington (WMTE) - Chaplain, Baptist Health
- Pat Crews (WFRE) - Middleburg
- Diane Watkins (WFRE) - First Fernandina

Class of 2018

- Mary Brown Davis (BFRE) - Woodlawn
- Ruth Elswood (WFTE) - First Jasper

Ordination Exam Readers

Class of 2017

- Rhonda Link-Cummings (WFTE) - Saint Leo University
- Greg McMillan (WMRE) - South Jacksonville
- Bea Newhart (WFRE) - Countryside/Reddick
- Jeff Welch (WMTE) - Dunnellon

Alternate: Darren Bess (WMTE) - First Ocala

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2023

- David Lee (WMTE) - Highlands United
- John Ragsdale (WMTE) - Honorably Retired
- Cathy Sanders (WFRE) - Orange Park

Trustees

Class of 2019

- Steve Goyer (WMTE) - Riverside
- Goeff Spiegel (WMRE) - First Gainesville
- James (Jim) Yancey (WMRE) - First Ocala

Montgomery Executive Operating Board

Class of 2019 (classes may be reassigned)

- Jessie Higginbotham (WFTE) - At-Large

SAPDAC (Disaster Assistance Commission)

- Bethany Benz-Whittington (WFTE) - Peace
- Matthew Benz-Whittington (WMTE) - Chaplain, Baptist South
- Charles Freeman (WMTE) - Grace
- Marcia Graham (WFTE) - Honorably Retired
- Nita Williams (WFRE) - First Ocala

MUTUAL MISSION COMMITTEE

Diane Watkins, Co-Chair/Council Member, and Bob Bell, Co-Chair

Mutual Mission gives thanks for several successful trips to Jamaica this summer. In June, our medical/dental team saw over 850 patients during their week on the island. Nearly 600 people were able to get checkups from doctors and nurses, who gave out medicine as needed.

Members of the dental team performed 136 tooth extractions and 143 cleanings. We are grateful for our medical and dental team members who give of themselves to help others in this way! Thanks also to Dawn Conti of Kanapaha who served as chaplain for the trip.

In July, our annual youth exchange took place and included participants from Kanapaha, Lake City First, Ocala First, Orange Park, Starke First and St. Giles. Along with our Jamaican counterparts, we spent five days in each country volunteering, learning about one another's culture, and worshipping with local host families.

Special thanks to Alan Cummings and Silver Springs Shores Presbyterian for hosting the group, Andy Gans and others at Fort King for providing transportation, Lake City for hosting a day on the Ichetucknee River, and families from Fort King, Ocala First, Marion Oaks and Silver Springs Shores serving as hosts for the participants in worship and fellowship afterwards. It's not too early to make plans for the youth trip in 2017 - all high school age youth are encouraged to consider applying for the trip (look for applications later this year).

We are currently working on plans for our 2017 trips. Information about our adult trip (Feb 17-22) is available (*Appendix L* to meeting docket, on line at www.mutualmission.org, or at our display table). The emphasis of the trip will be on doing mission in partnerships on different levels. Congregations that might be interested in forming a congregation to congregation partnership will have opportunities to meet with Jamaican congregations interested in partnering. Churches that are not ready for that, can learn more about our longstanding partnership with JEMM.

We plan to recognize the 5 churches that are our top supporters at the Presbytery meeting in October.

We are changing the "name" of our collection, and will be emphasizing the Hearts and Hands logo this fall, rather than the 2 cents a meal we have used in the past. We are introducing new labels for collection cans which will be available at www.mutualmission.org, for congregations to print and use. See samples at our display table.

FLORIDA PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE NETWORK

Kathy Broyard - Executive Director / Emergency Management Specialist

The Executive Director will address the presbytery. A written report is contained in *Appendix M*.

THORNWELL HOME FOR CHILDREN

Jean Homrighausen - Florida Regional Advancement Officer

A representative of the Thornwell Home for Children will address the presbytery. A "fact sheet" is contained in *Appendix N*.

REPORT OF TRANSITIONAL EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

Steve Benz - Transitional Executive Prebyter

Steve Benz will address the presbytery.

CLOSING AGENDA

CALL FOR THE FALL STATED MEETING

The Winter Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 2017, at Fort King Presbyterian Church in Ocala, Florida.

CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

LUNCH ON THE GROUNDS
