

Highlights of 2017 Winter Stated Presbytery Meeting
By: Alexandra (Sandra) Hedrick, Presbytery Stated Clerk
February 4, 2017

You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.
Matthew 5:13-14

Thank you to the Fort King Presbyterian Church for hosting the 2017 Winter Stated Presbytery Meeting with such warm hospitality. Your welcoming faces greeted us; your warm lunch and generous desserts nourished us; and your facilities accommodated us perfectly!

Attendance at the 2017 Winter Stated Meeting was nearly 170 persons, including members, commissioners and guests. Our primary mission focus was the Jamaica Ecumenical Mutual Mission (JEMM), and its Co-Moderator Bob Bell (Perry First) shared highlights from the recent medical, dental and housing trip to Jamaica. The morning offering for JEMM was \$1,417.

During worship, a combined church choir lifted our spirits, and we remembered by name and gave thanks for the teaching and ruling elders of the presbytery who died during 2016. Bruce Seaman (Fairfield) gave the morning message, entitled *The Meddlin' Measure* (Isaiah 58:1-12 and Matthew 5:13-20). When Jesus said, "You're the light of the world," he was "talking about the faithful work of God's people. What Jesus' faithful disciples are doing in the world should shine like a big, wide beacon of hope and promise that reflects the blessings of the Kingdom, radiates the power of the good news, and shines like a dynamo into the dark struggles that so many people face!" The message claimed that Jesus "meddles" with our church, our people, and our preaching, calling us to be faithful to the power of scripture and to stoke prophetic fires so that the the next generation will discover how faith communities should serve the Kingdom and glorify God.

Highlights of the presentations and actions during the meeting led by our Moderator Ralph Moulder included:

- We recognized Pastor Heong Seok Cho, a new member of the presbytery who is serving the Korean Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville. Other new members received since our last presbytery meeting include these honorably retired ministers: Tom Borland, Steve Hulsey, Cliff Lyda, and Dick Menzel.
- We recognized the retirements of Lou Lothman (Pastoral Counseling Services) and Joe Rigsby (Woodlawn). We also gave thanks for the life and ministry of Herb McGrath (Honorably Retired), who died in October.
- We accepted Inquirer Scott Stuart (Gainesville First) as a Candidate for Ministry under our care.
- Following a formal presentation, town hall meeting, and debate, we approved the Strategic Plan Executive Summary ([click to view](#)) and the Proposed New Structure for the Presbytery ([click to view](#)). We directed the Presbytery Council to prepare proposed revisions to the Manual of Operations and to

present them for approval at our next stated meeting. The Trustees are responsible for preparing revisions to our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

- We approved the 2017 Operating Budget (click to view).
- The Administrative Commission (AC) that was elected to respond to the request of the Northside Presbyterian Church to close the church gave its final report. We approved the AC's recommendation to donate ten percent (10%) of the proceeds of the recent sale of the church property to the Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center (MPCC). One percent (1%) was allocated to a scholarship fund for seminarians.
- In order to further support the ministry of MPCC, we voted to designate the first Sunday in June as "Montgomery Day." In addition, MPCC was authorized to begin a capital funds campaign.
- Reports were made on behalf of Presbyterian Women (Carol Graff, PW Moderator - Hodges Boulevard); Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center (Terry Patterson, Executive Director and Previn Moore, Associate Director); and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (Jim Kirk, Associate for National Disaster Response).
- We elected officers and committee members, including our new Moderator-in-Nomination, Dawn Conti (Kanapaha) and our new corporate president, Kimberly Hyatt (Cathedral Arts Project).
- As the meeting came to a close, outgoing Moderator Ralph Moulder (Starke First) led the installation of our new Moderator, Jeff Welch (Dunnellon). Our Moderator-Elect is ruling elder Mary Mickel (Woodlawn). Ralph Moulder has now begun his one-year term as Moderator of the Presbytery Council.

Next Meeting: The 2017 Spring Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine will be held at Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center on May 2, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. **The following churches are invited to send one additional commissioner** beginning with the 2017 Spring Stated Meeting: Lake Shore, Lakewood, Marion Oaks, Mayport, McIntosh, Memorial, Middleburg, Mikesville, Murray Hill, Nueva Esperanza, Ocala First, and Orange Park. The previous list of churches sending one additional commissioner will expire at that time.

***Invitation to Host:** We are looking for a church or group of churches to host the 2018 Winter Stated Meeting on Saturday, February 3. The meeting space needs to accommodate 140-190 attendees for welcoming refreshments, worship, business meeting, and lunch. The church's ability to provide child care on site will be a factor when considering the proposal. Space is also needed for table displays. If you have questions or would like to volunteer your church (or a partnership of churches in your area), please contact Stated Clerk Sandra Hedrick (cell: 904-612-9766) or email sandra@staugpres.org by March 15, 2017.

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