



SPRING STATED MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center
By: Alexandra (Sandra) Hedrick, Presbytery Stated Clerk
May 7, 2019



*The mission of the Presbytery of St. Augustine is to support our faith community,
so that together we may witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

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The beloved community gathered on May 7, 2019, for worship, fellowship, discernment, and taking action. It was a warm day (high in the 80s) with a sunny blue sky. There were about 130 persons in attendance, including minister members, commissioners, and guests.

The meeting opened with a beautiful prayer by Moderator Diane Wilson and the friendliest of greetings by Lexi Green, the Director of Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center (MPCC). Once new commissioners were introduced, business began with the approval of all of the items in the consent agenda.

The morning preacher was Don McGarity, who serves as Area Relationship Coordinator for Area One. Focusing on 2 Corinthians 9:6-9 and Luke 9:10-17, he shared about giving that is a reflection of the love of Jesus "down in my heart!" From the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 (and more) in Luke, he reminded us that God can "take our little and turn it into

much," for it is "not how much we have but what we do with what we have." The morning message was emphasized as we shared the Lord's Supper, with Jess McCrosky and Deb Henning officiating at the table and our pianist, Hyun Jeong Lee (First Starke), playing a beautifully reflective offertory. The offering collected for Montgomery was \$1,043.48.



The meeting included a celebration of good news from around the presbytery. Speakers from four of our churches shared about glimpses of grace in the life of the congregation. They included Dunnellon, First Gainesville, First Green Cove Springs, and Nueva Esperanza.



Rev. Don Johnson



Rev. Marc Jones

We welcomed Don Johnson (Woodlawn) and Marc Jones (St. Andrews) as new ministers to our presbytery (pictured) and recognized Steve Goyer (Riverside) in his upcoming retirement.

The Volunteer Relationship and Nominating Team emphasized the call for applicants to serve as commissioners and a young adult advisory delegate at the 224th General Assembly (in Baltimore, Maryland). Interested applicants should complete the [application form](#) and return it to [Sandra Hedrick](#) (Stated Clerk) as soon as possible, but not later than August 1. In addition, the Nominating Team presented four individuals for election to current vacancies and encouraged others to share their gifts in serving our presbytery.

Following a presentation from Lexi Green and Board Member Jason Salvagni, the proposed \$700,000 loan to MPCC and the presbytery as co-borrowers was approved. The proceeds of this loan from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) will fund significant capital improvements in MPCC's property and facilities. In a related action, the PILP's reserve/investment requirements will be fulfilled by individuals and groups/entities who have made commitments to the MPCC board. Finally, the recent loan from the presbytery to MPCC in the total amount of \$56,600 will be paid back in installments of \$5,500 per month following an initial payment of \$25,000 at the time that the loan is closed.



Other business at the meeting included approval of the annual Terms of Call for our minister members who are working in parish ministry and assignment of responsibility to our Member Preparation and Call Commission to approve requests for ministers to serve "outside the bounds" of their presbytery of membership. In addition, our Presbyterian Women, commissions, and Coordinating Council made written reports. Our Mutual Mission Team reported about the recent trips to Jamaica and Cuba



(Rev. Amy Camp pictured).



Our "lunch on the grounds" was a highlight of the day! The menu included slow-smoked chopped pork, smoked BBQ chicken, house made coleslaw, loaded potato salad, baked beans, roasted carrots, potato chips, blueberry cobbler, and banana pudding. Treats from the garden that were part of the meal included cucumbers, nasturtium flowers, and a variety of greens, herbs, and radishes. Our walk to the pavilion took us by growing gardens, where tomatoes, cucumbers, pole beans, bush beans, radishes, cantaloupe, peppers, lettuce, spring onions, nasturtiums, corn, squash, celery, sunflowers, collard greens, mustard greens, and Swiss chard are happily growing with plenty of God's light and water!

The Fall Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center.

Please send me an email or or call me at 904-612-9766 if you have any questions about these highlights. God bless!

www.staugpres.org

