

**College Ministry Program  
First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville**

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**Notes:**

- Reviewed annually by our Coordinating Council (originally the annual review was done by the Committee on Ministry, but this was changed by presbytery action after the new presbytery structure went into place)
- Coordinating Council reports its approval to the presbytery
- The presbytery notifies the Synod of South Atlantic annually of its decision
- The synod sends funds semi-annually to the presbytery for the purpose of the ministry
- The presbytery forwards the funds to the First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville
- The first program year was 2014-2015

**First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville**  
**College Report 2018/2019**

**BRIEF HISTORY OF COLLEGE  
MINISTRY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA**

First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville, Florida, has been engaged in ministry to students of the University of Florida since its inception. In 1951, a major step in campus ministry was taken by First Presbyterian Church when the Session approved the building of a Gainesville Student Center. The construction of the Student Center was funded 100% by First Presbyterian Church, Gainesville. The Student Center was constructed on land donated by a member of First Presbyterian Church for the purpose of housing a Student Center. Through the years, First Presbyterian Church maintained its relationship with the Student Center in a number of ways. The church provided annual financial support to the Student Center, members of the church served on Boards at the Student Center, and the church shared staff with the Student Center.

Sometime in 2012, the Synod, which obtained ownership of the Student Center through a conveyance by First Presbyterian Church several years earlier, made the decision to sell the Student Center. The conveyance by First Presbyterian Church was a gift and no money was paid by the Synod. The property was sold by the Synod for \$2.5 million. After costs were subtracted, the Synod received \$1.8 million from the sale.

In October of 2013, after completing its investigation, the Synod consultation team issued its recommendation for disbursement of the "Gainesville Student Center" sale proceeds. In support of their recommendation, they made the following findings of fact:

1. The Gainesville Student Center was 100% funded by First Presbyterian Church, Gainesville.
2. The Gainesville Student Center was dedicated for the purpose of campus ministry in Gainesville, Florida, exclusively.

Based on their findings of fact, they made the following recommendations:

1. The Synod of South Atlantic will be the owner of the \$1.8 million realized by the sale of the Gainesville Student Center.
2. The \$1.8 million dollars shall be invested in the Presbyterian Foundation.
3. Interest earned from the investment shall be given to the Presbytery of St. Augustine for Gainesville campus ministry.
4. Presbytery of St. Augustine shall provide 100% of the yearly Synod funding (minimum \$81,000 - maximum \$90,000) to the First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) Gainesville for its Gainesville campus ministry.

Pursuant to the findings of fact and recommendations of the Synod consultation team, First Presbyterian Church has received the interest from the principal of \$1.8 million which has been invested in the Gainesville campus ministry.

## GOVERNING BODY

As a ministry of First Presbyterian Church, the College Program is under the supervision and authority of the senior pastor, Dr. Robert Shettler, the Board of Trustees, and the Session. The Session has constituted a "College Committee" which directly supervises the activities of the College Ministry. The College Committee is composed of members of First Presbyterian Church who are faculty members of the University of Florida, Elders of First Presbyterian Church, members of First Presbyterian Church, and college students. The College Committee submits an annual report to the Session. Director of College Ministry, Scott Stuart, attends Session meetings and keeps the Session updated on the various ministries in which the College Ministry is engaged.

COLLEGE MINISTRY STAFF

|                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| College Director               | Scott Stuart                      |
| College Interns                | Kristin Maine                     |
| Media Tech                     | Taylor Cook                       |
| Church Staff providing support | Senior Pastor Dr. Robert Shettler |
| Assistant to Senior Pastor     | Laura Montgomery                  |
| Director of Music Ministry     | Dr. Mark Coffee                   |

## MISSION AND MINISTRIES

The Mission Statement of First Presbyterian Church is “Glorify God, make Disciples of Jesus Christ, and meet human needs”. That Mission Statement is the Mission Statement for each of the committees and ministries of First Presbyterian Church, including the College Ministry.

As the Book of Order points out, we recognize that the life of the church is one, and that it’s worship, witness, and service are inseparable. The Mission Statement gives us guidance in the College Ministry and focuses us on the calling of the church which is to be a community of faith, hope, love, and witness.

### GLORIFY GOD

While our intention is that all the activities of College Ministry would Glorify God, we’ve placed under this heading those activities generally described as Worship.

**Sunday Worship** - First Presbyterian holds an 8:30 and 11:00 Worship Service on Sunday morning. College students attend those services. College students regularly participate in Worship through the following activities: *ushering, singing in the choir, and leading the Children’s Lesson*. In addition, several are involved in teaching Sunday School.

**College Café** - After the 11:00 Worship Service, we have College Café. Members of First Presbyterian Church provide a home cooked meal for students who wish to remain after the 11:00 service. While it is hard to get a grasp on the number of students that attend the 11:00 Worship Service, last year we had 75 to 80 students participating in

College Café. It is a good time for them to relax over a meal and visit with our senior pastor, other staff, and leaders of our church.

**UF Football Team** - At the end of the summer Coach Dan Mullin reached out to us asking if he could bring his players and coaching staff to worship with us before their season began. On August 8<sup>th</sup> we were grateful for the opportunity to be a welcoming face to both player and coaches. However, more importantly we were grateful to see our head football coach lead by example at the beginning of the season to take all of his players to three different churches before the start of the season.

**Dr. John Lennox on AI** - On October 4<sup>th</sup> we were graced by Dr. John Lennox of Oxford giving a message on "Artificial Intelligence, Threat or Promise." We used this time as an outreach during the week to both our students and faculty. Dr. Lennox's message centered around the warning of creating false gods for ourselves. We used the Phillip's Center that night as roughly 400 students, faculty, and community members attended.

**Dr. John Lennox's Testimony** - Dr. Lennox gave his testimony to about 100 faculty members and grad students. He encouraged them by saying, "It is more than possible to have an academic carrier and be an out spoken Christian in your field.

**College Sunday** - One Sunday out of the year is College Sunday. Students are responsible for leading the Worship Service. They hand out bulletins, take up the collection, serve as lay readers, lead prayers, and often provide the message. In the last



couple of years, the anthem has been presented by the brothers of KAPPA PHI EPSILON, a Christian fraternity which meets at First Presbyterian Church.

This year we were privileged to have Dr. Lennox give a charge and message to over 100 students and members of the congregation on the value of The Lords Supper.

**Trajectory** - Wednesday night at First Presbyterian Church is Trajectory. Trajectory is Bible Study, music, and breaking bread together. During the fall we usually focus on one or two books of the Bible, going through it together line by line. This year we studied Ephesians and Colossians. During the spring semester we did what we call "Fish Bowl." This is where students take a topic of discussion or a question and we answer it in view of scripture.

During the summer we go through a popular book and put scripture along side what the author has to say. This summer we went through College Ministry in a Post Christian Culture by Stephen Lutz. This book offered insight into how we can continue to do ministry in an ever changing college campus.

At the end of the year we have served roughly 75 students on a Wednesday night.

**Kappa Phi Epsilon** - Monday night is Kappa Phi Epsilon night. Kappa Phi Epsilon is a Christian fraternity. They use several of the classrooms in our Education Building for training. At the end of the training they gather in our Chapel for a Worship Service. Weekly attendance is between seventy-five to eighty young men. Several of the Elders at First Presbyterian Church have been closely involved with the leadership of Kappa Phi

Epsilon providing encouragement and support. Scott Stuart personally mentors the officers of Kappa Phi Epsilon.

### MAKE DISCIPLES

**Trajectory** - Trajectory falls under two categories. It is Worship as we have pointed out, but it is also making Disciples. Trajectory is a weekly Bible Study with the desire of training up tomorrow's leaders in the Word of God.

**Kappa Phi Epsilon** - The Christian fraternity, KAPPA PHI EPSILON, also properly falls in two categories. While they close their meetings each Monday night with a Worship Service at our Chapel, the evening for the 75 to 80 brothers begins with classes.

**Tabling** - It has been said that more people walk though Turlington Plaza on Wednesday than the gates of Disney. With this in mind, one of the initial activities for the First Presbyterian College Ministry at the beginning of each academic year is tabling. Students are provided information regarding the College Ministry Program at First Presbyterian Church. Students are given an item with the church's name, address, and phone number, such as a cup. It is an important way to engage in conversation with students and meet freshmen who are not familiar with Gainesville.

**Small Groups** - During the year, men's and women's small groups are formed within our college group. This is an opportunity for students to meet in smaller groups to go deeper with issues raised in our weekly Bible Study or other issues related to being a Christian on a college campus. This past year we had approximately 20-25 students participate in small groups.

**Rice Night** - It is true what they say, "Rice goes with everything". With this idea in mind, Patty Hill and Janet Heffner used this opportunity to make a giant bowl of rice and invite our international students to dinner every Tuesday night. It is at her table we celebrate a meal and discuss scripture in a cultural context. These moments are a small picture of what we believe the great wedding supper will one day look like. Last year over 30 international students participated

**Pumpkin Carving** - An event students look forward to every year is our pumpkin carving contest. This is a great time to invite friends, share a few laughs, and watch the creativity take place. Many times, students are not ready to join a Bible study for various reasons, but our hope in these moments is to build relationships with students so that when they are ready to ask questions or come to church they know where to find us. About 30 students showed up this year to show their skills and creativity.

**Thanksgiving Feast** - Many of our students are not able to go home for Thanksgiving. This is a great opportunity for us to come together to enjoy a meal and celebrate Thanksgiving. Our international students seem to particularly enjoy sharing a Thanksgiving meal. It gives us a time to remind students and visitors of the Mayflower Compact and share with them that the Pilgrims left England in part to pursue their freedom to worship Jesus Christ. This past Thanksgiving we had about 40 students show up.

**Christmas Celebration** - After a long semester this is a great time to unwind, share a meal, and participate in our annual White Elephant gift exchange. Though many

students look forward to this every year this is something that is a little extra special for our international students. It not only serves as time to participate in something unique to our country, but it also gives our students a chance to have conversations about why we celebrate Christmas. Roughly 40 students were welcomed here at the church as we celebrated the end of the semester and our Saviors birth.

**Atlanta Passion** - In January 15 us went to the Passion Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. These three days consist of speakers challenging students, great music, and encouragement to be in the presence of tens of thousands of college students seeking to live lives as Disciples of Jesus Christ.

**RZIM Hungry Week** - The purpose of Hungry week centers around continued dialogue with students through a series of lectures. Each day there were 3 different lectures, two during lunch and one in the evening. By the end of the week including outreach to Santa Fe College we were able to host eighteen different talks with the hope that at least one or two talks would resonate with students passing by. At the end of the week we were able to engage with 1000's of students on multiple levels, such as "Flyer Conversations," "Mark the Board (Tri fold board where students could chalk their answer for the day's question)," and the talks themselves with follow up conversations.

**RZIM Faculty Outreach** - During Hungry week we also reached out to the faculty and staff at the University of Florida. Dr. Aneanette Roberts spoke on "Why would a good God create Viruses. With her molecular and cell biology back ground she was able

to deliver a talk to several hundred faculty and grad students giving a message of hope through Jesus Christ.

### MEET HUMAN NEEDS

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** – At the beginning of the fall semester 13 of us went to Jacksonville to link arms with PDA. There we spent the day helping a woman whose house had been destroyed by flooding. With a supervisor’s assistance, we tore down and replaced sheet rock, hung cabinets, and gutted a bathroom. While my group may not be skilled carpenters, our hope is to be the beautiful hands and feet God has called us to be.

**Nicaragua** – Again, due to the unstable situation in Nicaragua, we were forced to cancel this year’s mission trip. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Shalom Presbyterian Church of Estelí next year.

**Hurricane Michael** – Once again we started the school year off with a hurricane. While no hurricane is anything to over-look, this year was a Category 4/5 hitting the Panhandle hard. Through various connections we reached out to First Presbyterian Marianna and asked how we could help. After taking a vision trip and meeting with Pastor John Wamsley we decided it would be best to bring back a chainsaw crew. During the spring semester 15 of us showed up ready to run saws and haul debris.

**Family Promise** - First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville is part of the Family Promise network in Gainesville, Florida. Two times a year First Presbyterian Church is home to three to four homeless families for a period of two weeks (4 weeks total). Sunday school rooms are converted into apartments. Volunteers are needed to prepare meals, provide transportation, and serve as hosts. This year approximately 15 college students served as hosts for our visiting families.

**Flowers to Homebound** - First Presbyterian Church has a large number of senior members who, because of age and other disabilities, are unable to attend the Sunday Worship service. One of the ministries the college group has been involved in is taking flowers from the worship service, breaking them down into individual arrangements, and delivering them to the homes of our elderly members. This allows our senior members to feel like they are still part of the body and our college students to visit with members who can share with them the history of First Presbyterian Church. It also gave our 10 students the chance to interact with other elderly who might not have anyone visiting them, as many of them seem to sit alone in the dining area or hall ways.

## MEASURING SUCCESS

One of the questions we were asked by the Committee on Ministry was “How do you measure success?” It is a hard question to answer when you look at the mission of the church and its ministries. The Book of Order makes clear that the mission of the church is to participate in God’s mission for the transformation of humanity by proclaiming to all people the good news of God’s love and calling all people to Discipleship in Christ.

At First Presbyterian we seek to carry out that mission through our Mission Statement, “Glorify God, makes Disciples, and meet Human Needs”. All of the ministries in the College Program are evaluated against that Mission Statement. Each one is looked at to see whether it glorifies God, makes Disciples, or meets human needs. If they do, and we believe each one does, then we believe we are engaged in the mission of transformation described in the Book of Order.

Graduates of the University of Florida and Santa Fe College are leaders in the areas of business, law, medicine, and education. The goal of college ministry is the development of spiritual leaders. Part of how we measure success is seeing students who become Sunday School teachers, lead a Worship Service, teach a Children’s Lesson, organize and lead service projects, lead mission trips, as well as train the leaders of tomorrow to take Christ into their jobs . We are seeing students taking on these rolls and be successful in them. Or as Andrew Scott said it with the cover of his latest book Scatter, “Go Therefore And Take Your Job With You.”

At the end of the day, the true measure of success is probably whether lives are being changed by inviting people to find meaning and purpose in their life through the person of Jesus Christ. In the conversations we have with students at College Café, in small groups, at Bible Study, while participating in service projects, we see lives being changed as students commit themselves to a more mature walk with Jesus Christ.



## COLLEGE EXPENSE REPORT

The attached page shows the expenses for the College Ministry at First Presbyterian Church for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019. Total expenses are \$105,244.

Revenue received from the Synod for the same time period was \$81,000.00. The difference between the expenses captured on the attached report and the income received from the Synod is \$24,244. That was paid out of the General Budget of First Presbyterian Church.

A number of regularly occurring expenses are not captured by the attached expense report. For example, college students made up a large part of our Nicaragua Mission Team. The Global Mission Budget underwrites the cost of their trip by contributing \$500 per student. In the past that support averaged \$5,500 a year.

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COLLEGE EXPENSE REPORT

(Fiscal Year July 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 – June 30<sup>th</sup> 2019)

| Ministries                                      | Amount                  |
|---|-------------------------|
| College Outreach                                |                         |
| • Trajectory (Weekly Bible Studies)             |                         |
| • Special Events (Hungary Week)                 |                         |
| • On Campus Ministry (Tabling)                  |                         |
| • College Missions (Hurricane Relief/PDA)       |                         |
| • College Ministry Support (Global Connections) | \$ 14,878               |
| Food and Meals                                  |                         |
| • College Café                                  |                         |
| • Special Event Meals                           | \$ 6,960                |
| Staffing  |                         |
| • Interns                                       |                         |
| • Personnel Costs including benefits            | \$ 83,406               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                    | <b><u>\$105,244</u></b> |
| <i>*Received from Synod</i>                     | <i>\$ 81,000.00</i>     |

## College Ministry Plan 2019-2020

**Leadership Retreat** – As the school year starts it's important for us to start off on the right foot together. This time is used to pray, reflect on the past, and plan the year before us.

**Wednesday Night Trajectory** – Wednesday night will continue to be a staple of who we are and what we are about. This will be a time where we will continue to come together, study God's word, and ask ourselves how we can apply God's Word to our daily life.

**College Sunday** – Train and lead our students to lead worship. We are a firm believer that when leaders lead, they gain a rich knowledge and understanding of what goes into the work that is before them. During this time they will preach, lay-read, do the time for young disciples, usher, sing, and conduct the various moments that it takes to lead worship.

**Tabling** – Reaching out to students in the midst of where they live is a heart pounding experience. Some students come hungry, ready to receive the Word, while others are skeptical. Our hope is to be a light on the campus, so that when students are ready to engage in meaningful conversation, we are right there to listen, give them information about who we are, and offer whatever word of hope we can.

**Tailgating** – Football continues to be a heartbeat of Gainesville. Whether one enjoys the game or not, at some point everyone goes to a game. Our plan is to continue to put ourselves right in the middle of campus, fire up the grill, pass out hamburgers, hotdogs, and create an avenue where friends can bring friends and those who pass by will feel welcomed.

**Special Meals** – For as long as there are college students, there will be hungry college students. Meals have a special way of bringing out togetherness, conversation, and fellowship. Certain meals come with an emphasis of the seasons; our goal is to use these special times to draw students in and experience the warmth of home.

**College Café** – For many student's home is not exactly around the corner; for some it may be half way around the world. While we won't ever be able to compete with Ma Ma's home cooking, we can at least try to offer a taste of home. College café is critical time for getting to know one another and expressing upcoming events throughout the year.

**Christian Fraternity** – Though the Greek life often looks polished, it can many dark sides. This is an area we continue to try to reach. By allowing the Christian Fraternity Kappa Phi Epsilon to meet on our campus here at FPCG and meeting with the officers every other week, it allows us to pour into them so that they can reach non-Christian fraternity's.

**Atlanta Passion** – For many of my students this is a large highlight of the year. Students look forward to listening to some great worship and powerful messages as they prepare for the spring semester.

**Hungry Week** – Last year we launched Hungry Week through the help of the Ravi Zacharias International Team. The vision behind this week is to cover a multitude of topics for students to connect with. Through a series of 15+ different talks that included 10 lunches, we are able to give students and faculty a chance to hear various topics that might lead them to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

**Missions** – Jesus reminds us of the Great Commission in Matthew 28, *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.* We want to continue to be a group

First Presbyterian Church Projected College Expenses

(Fiscal Year July 1<sup>st</sup> 2019- June 30<sup>th</sup> 2020)

| Ministries                          | Amount    |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| College Outreach                    |           |
| - Trajectory (Weekly Bible Studies) |           |
| - Special Events (Hungry)           |           |
| - On Campus Ministry (Tabling)      |           |
| - Atlanta Passion                   |           |
| - Rice Night                        |           |
| - Family Promise                    |           |
|                                     | \$26,600  |
| Food and Meals                      |           |
| - College Café                      |           |
| - Special Meals                     |           |
|                                     | \$8,000   |
| Missions                            |           |
| - Mission Trip                      |           |
| - Disaster Relief                   |           |
| - International Ministry            |           |
| - Local Partners                    |           |
| - Thornwell Orphanage               |           |
|                                     | 14,800    |
| Staffing                            |           |
|                                     | \$84,000  |
| Total                               | \$132,800 |