



## 2019 FALL STATED MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center**  
**By: Alexandra (Sandra) Hedrick, Presbytery Stated Clerk**  
**October 1, 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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Our Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting began with worship! As we took our seats, a trio of Ron Watson, Wain Wesberry, and Jake Young prepared us with sacred music in a wonderful folk/bluegrass style. The morning preacher, Don Johnson (Woodlawn), did some powerful preaching from Numbers 11:16-30, with the intriguing sermon title "Decent and In Order." Although Presbyterians are sometimes quite zealous with the desire to be "decent and in order," this text shows us that only the Holy Spirit can lead us to what is decent and in order! Our morning offering was \$1,246, which will be divided equally between the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program (PDA) and the Florida Presbyterian Disaster Network (FLAPDAN). If you would like to donate to this offering, you may [click here](#) to use our presbytery meeting "donate" button through Tuesday, October 8.



After worship, our first action item was to elect our Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) for the 224th General Assembly of the PC(USA) to be held in Baltimore in June 2020. Our YAAD is Emma Cottrell (Community). Our commissioners are

ruling elders Bob Bell (First Perry) and Yvette Grant (Nueva Esperanza) and teaching elders Sandra Hedrick (Stated Clerk/Kirkwood) and Joe Medearis (Arlington/Peace). We also elected alternates for the General Assembly and many other volunteers for service on our presbytery teams and commissions.



We welcomed six new pastors: John Harland (honorably retired), Jonathan Swanson (Hodges Boulevard), Michael Wood (Kanapaha), Melanie Marsh-Baum (Community), CJ Dates (South Jacksonville), and Karl Kling (Interim - First Gainesville). After hearing from Justin Forbes (pictured), a candidate for ministry under our care and a member at the Memorial

church, we approved an alternate means for him to satisfy his Hebrew language requirements as a part of his preparation for ordination.

We gave thanks for the ministries of Bob Shettler and Tom Walker on the occasion of their retirements, and we recognized our minister members serving in validated ministries and who are members-at-large. Also upon the recommendation of the Member Preparation and Call Commission, we approved an increase to the minimum effective salary for full-time installed pastors from \$43,860 to \$44,517.

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During the presentation from our Coordinating Council, we approved an amendment to our Manual of Operations that will allow appointments to vacant volunteer positions between presbytery meetings. Our "asking budget" for 2020 was presented and received, and we approved a new employee handbook for presbytery staff.

Also upon the recommendation of the Coordinating Council, the presbytery endorsed Sandra Hedrick to stand for election as moderator, co-moderator or vice-moderator of the 224th General Assembly.

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The Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center (MPCC) gave an updated report on its financial condition, plans and projections. The presbytery approved a new payment schedule for the repayment of debt owed by MPCC to the presbytery. A motion to rescind the action taken in May 2019 to be a co-borrower on MPCC's loan from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program was made but did not pass (69 voted "no" and 29 voted "yes").

Our Mutual Mission Team shared about the Pastor's Retreat in Cuba that is planned for February and the upcoming dental and medical mission to Jamaica. Other presentations included Kathy Broyard of the Florida Presbyterian Disaster Network and Jim Pellet of the St. Augustine Disaster Assistance Commission; Clark Simmons of the Board of Pensions; and Buddy Ferguson from Thornwell.

Click on the links in this paragraph to find out more about our upcoming [Session Clerk's Workshop](#) and [initial information](#) about a PC(USA) grant that the presbytery has received to help congregations become more welcoming and supportive faith communities for people living with mental health challenges.

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The meeting ended just before 1:00 p.m., and almost everyone stayed to enjoy a delicious "low country boil." The menu was perfect for dining with friends near a



sparkling blue lake on a warm October day! We enjoyed boiled shrimp, sausage, potatoes, corn on the cob, squash casserole, Charleston Gold Rice and Sea Island Peas (garden fresh), salad, bread, and desserts (cream cheese squares and a blackberry-blueberry cobbler).

Our 2020 Winter Stated Meeting will take place on February 1, 2020, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Augustine, Florida.

[www.staugpres.org](http://www.staugpres.org)

