

DOCKET

Presbytery of St. Augustine Winter Stated Meeting Moderator Edd Norris February 6, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. (via Zoom)



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

9:00 a.m. ARRIVAL/CHECK IN

Welcome to the 2021 Winter Stated Meeting! You may arrive on Zoom as early as 9:00 a.m. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the moderator's welcome and prayer and continue with worship.

9:30 a.m. PRESBYTERY WORSHIP

Preaching - Rhonda Link-Cummings
Communion - Rhonda Link-Cummings and Alan Cummings
Offering - Mutual Mission

10:15 a.m. OPENING AGENDA

Zoom Overview and Practice Vote
Quorum and Docket Approval
Welcome to First Time Commissioners and Guests
Welcome to Corresponding Members
Approval of Consent Agenda Items in Docket

CONSENT AGENDA

Stated Clerk

Alexandra (Sandra) Hedrick

The stated clerk recommends that the presbytery take the following actions:

- 1. Excuse from attendance the persons who submitted requests to be excused as recorded in the attendance roll of this meeting.
- 2. Record the meeting as a corporate meeting for both the Presbytery of St. Augustine, Inc. and Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center, Inc.

- 3. Receive and admit to record the "2020 Necrology Report" of teaching and ruling elders who died during 2020. (Appendix A)
- 4. Record the minutes of the installation of Brian Lays as the Pastor of Riverside Presbyterian Church. (Appendix B-1)
- 5. Record the minutes of the ordination of Jennifer Hallberg and her installation as the Pastor of Jasper First Presbyterian Church. (Appendix B-2)
- 6. Receive the report that on November 18, 2020, the session of St. Johns Presbyterian Church filed a remedial complaint against the presbytery with the Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) of the Synod of South Atlantic. On January 4, 2021, the Moderator and Clerk of the Synod PJC determined that the complaint was not timely filed and failed to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.
- 7. Receive the list of persons who have completed their service on the Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) in the last six years and would therefore be eligible to serve on the PJC should there be a need. (Appendix C)
- 8. Approve the list of churches that are asked to send an additional commissioner to each presbytery meeting for one year beginning with the 2021 Spring Stated Meeting. As background, the Book of Order requires the presbytery to address annually any imbalance of teaching and ruling elder commissioners by asking churches to send additional ruling elders (see G-3.0301). In addition, our Manual of Operations states that the stated clerk shall create the list of congregations by rotating through the alphabetical list of congregations in the presbytery. (Appendix D).
- 9. Receive an update on the status of session minute reading.

Coordinating Council

Diane Wilson, Chair

The Coordinating Council recommends that it be appointed as a commission to update the sexual misconduct policy of the presbytery. The Coordinating Council also reports the following summary of actions taken since the Fall Stated Meeting in addition to those contained in the Action Agenda (a complete record is contained in the approved Coordinating Council minutes provided as Appendix E.):

- 1. Approved the minutes of the 2020 Fall Stated meeting (a copy is available from the Stated Clerk).
- 2. Reviewed the presbytery's monthly financial statements, including the year-end statement dated December 31, 2020. (Appendix F)
- 3. Approved holding the Winter Stated Meeting by Zoom; designated the offering for Mutual Mission; and approved celebration of the Lord's Supper at the Winter Stated Meeting.
- 4. Approved the celebration of the Lord's Supper during 2021 at presbytery, Presbyterian Women, and presbytery-sponsored youth meetings and gatherings; on trips sponsored by the Mutual Mission Team; and in connection with summer camp at Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center (MPCC).
- 5. Endorsed holding a worship service on the evening of Martin Luther King Day.
- 6. Engaged in strategic planning, including continuing visioning and action plans.
- 7. Approved the selection and employment of Holly Dillon Inglis as the presbytery's Mission and Ministry Coordinator with terms of call (total) of \$108,793, including: 30,110 (salary), 42,000 (housing allowance), 26,677 (BOP), 5,516 (SECA), 1,000 (continuing education), and 3,500 (travel, auto, and other expenses).
- 8. Expressed their appreciation for the service of Chris Lieberman as Relationship Coordination Director, which was completed on November 30, 2020.
- 9. Revised the job description for the position of Area Relationship Coordinator. (Appendix G)
- 10. Approved the recommendation of the Finance Team that the Coordinating Council interpret the requirement for an audit of the books of MPCC to be met by a "reviewed financial statement" as compliance for calendar years 2019 and 2020.
- 11. Recommended (to the Trustees for recommendation to the presbytery) that our bylaws be amended to use the language from G-3.0113 of the Book of Order rather than requiring an audit (note: a full audit will be done for 2020). G-3.0113 provides that "A full financial review of all financial books and records shall be conducted every year by a public accountant or committee of members versed in accounting procedures. Reviewers should not be related to the treasurer(s). Terminology in this section is meant to provide general

- guidance and is not intended to require or not require specific audit procedures or practices as understood within the professional accounting community."
- 12. Received as communication MPCC's stated need to apply for a second PPP loan immediately and encouraged MPCC to do that and to place the request for approval on the presbytery docket for the Winter Stated Meeting.
- 13. Approved giving books and furniture from the presbytery office to MPCC to be offered for sale within the presbytery as a fundraiser.
- 14. Allowed the stated clerk to use part of her continuing education funds for a family retreat at MPCC.
- 15. Designated a process for approving scholarships for the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators annual event.
- 16. Upon review of the remedial complaint filed by the session of the St. Johns church in the Synod of South Atlantic, authorized Diane Wilson, Edd Norris, and Joe Albright to appoint a committee of counsel of three persons. The persons appointed were: Cindy Anderson (RE Community), Gardner Davis (RE Riverside), and Walk Jones (TE First Ocala).
- 17. Endorsed the request of the Administrative Commission for the Nueva Esperanza Presbyterian Church (NEPC) to transfer approximately \$13,000 in funds to a designated account at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church for Spanish ministry. The Finance Team supported this decision.
- 18. On a one-time basis, approved expending designated funds up to \$1,500 in excess of the total that our counseling benefit for pastors/church workers provides for one individual.

Call Commission

Mary Beth Neely, Chair

The Call Commission recommends to the presbytery that it approve the member roll as of December 31, 2020 (Appendix H) and reports the following actions taken on behalf of the presbytery in addition to those presented in the Action Agenda:

1. Continued to nurture and guide the inquirers and candidates under our presbytery's care, including approving alternate test sites/proctors for ordination examinations.

- 2. Received Rebekah Hutto into presbytery membership in an at-large status on October 20, 2020. Rev. Hutto is received by transfer from the Presbytery of Charlotte.
- 3. Received Adam Anderson into presbytery membership and approved his call and terms of call as the Pastor of South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church.
- 4. Approved the call and terms of call of Jennifer Hallberg as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Jasper, and approved her ordination.
- 5. Approved the validated ministry application of Ricardo Green to serve as a part-time associate pastor at Faith United Methodist Church in Jacksonville as of November 1, 2020.
- 6. Approved the honorable retirements of Paige Porter-Buhl as of October 1, 2020 and Chris Lieberman as of December 1, 2020.
- 7. Approved the stated supply agreement between Ruth Elswood and Covenant as of January 1, 2021.
- 8. Approved renewal of the following stated supply agreements:
 - a. Josh Braley and Bethlehem as of January 1, 2020
 - b. Jeffrey Weenink and Palms as of November 1, 2020
 - c. Marc Jones and St. Andrews as of November 19, 2020
 - d. Sandra Hedrick and Kirkwood as of December 16, 2020
 - e. Joe Medearis and Arlington as of January 1, 2021
 - f. Joe Reggin and Green Cove Springs as of January 1, 2021
- 9. Approved the following dissolutions:
 - a. James Kendrick and Mayport as of July 27, 2020
 - b. Ricardo Green and Nueva Esperanza as of October 16, 2020
 - c. James Kendrick and South Jacksonville as of November 2, 2020
 - d. Holly Dillon Inglis and Palms as of December 7, 2020
 - e. Don McGarity and Faith as of December 21, 2020
 - f. Carol DiGiusto and Riverside as of February 1, 2021

- 10. Approved a set of policies relating to preparation for ministry in our presbytery (Appendix I), and in connection with that approval:
 - a. designated the new position of Vice-Chair. The primary responsibility of this position will be to track all the inquirer/candidate status and material in conjunction with the stated clerk. Joy Laughridge was appointed to this role on January 19, 2021.
 - b. changed the title of the Call Commission "liaison/mentor" to "advisor";
 - c. established that the inquirer/candidate be accompanied for interviews for inquiry, candidacy and final assessment by the sponsoring congregation's pastor and session liaison, most especially at the inquirer stage; will consider offering a once/twice a year "seeker/inquirer" event to familiarize people with the preparation for ministry process within our presbytery;
 - d. plans to prepare a trifold printed and online document about the preparation for ministry process;
 - e. plans to prepare a document and online resource giving clear information about accommodations for persons with varying abilities, learning disabilities, and the availability of testing/course accommodations for students and those taking ordination exams.
- 11. Monitored the progress of course completion under our new boundaries training program, moved the anticipated date for completion for this group of pastors to February 28, 2021, and declined a minister's request for exemption from the boundaries training requirement.
- 12. Reaffirmed the constitutional requirement that every commissioned ruling elder have a teaching elder mentor/supervisor and assigned mentors/supervisors.
- 13. Removed Fred Lundy from the roll of inquirers at his request.
- 14. Approved a Board of Pensions shared grant request from Earle Sickels.
- 15. Received reports regarding churches in transition and approved the following moderators while the congregations did not have installed or stated supply moderators serving: Craig Davies Highlands; Jim Black Murray Hill; Cliff Lyda San Mateo; Sandra Hedrick Nueva Esperanza AC/Session; Harry Horne Jasper First; Laurie Furr-Vancini Mayport.

Trustees of the Presbytery of St. Augustine

Ana Lugo-Berrios - President

The written report of the Trustees is provided in Appendix J.

Administrative Commissions

The written reports of active Administrative Commissions are provided in Appendix K.

[END OF CONSENT AGENDA]

10:30-10:40 BREAK

ACTION AGENDA

Call Commission - Part I

Mary Beth Neely

The Call Commission recommends that the presbytery take the following actions:

- 1. Approve by a three-quarters vote the eligibility of Jeff Beebe, Interim Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, to become the installed pastor of that church, per the process described in the Book of Order, G-2.0504b. (Appendix L)
- 2. Welcome and hear briefly from the following individuals and their pastor search committees where applicable (new member information can be found at Appendix M):

Adam Anderson - Pastor, South Jacksonville Jennifer Hallberg - Pastor, First Jasper Rebekah Hutto - Member At-Large

Note: action items from the Call Commission will continue later in this meeting.

Matthew 25 Moments

Holly Dillon Inglis

We welcome new Ministry and Mission Coordinator Holly Dillon Inglis who will tell us more about her role and function in the Presbytery and share updates on the Matthew 25 initiative in the Presbytery.

Coordinating Council

Diane Wilson, Chair

The Coordinating Council recommends that the presbytery take the following actions:

- 1. Approve the 2021-2023 Presbytery of St. Augustine Strategic Plan. (Appendix N)
- 2. Approve the 2021 Operating Budget. (Appendix O)
- 3. Approve the new "Covenant within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) among Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, Inc., and the Six Presbyteries in Florida." (Appendix P)
- 4. Recognize the service of Chuck Atkins, who served the presbytery for nearly 24 years on our Administration and Finance Committee, on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, as Assistant Treasurer, and finally as Treasurer for eleven years.

Nominations - Officers/Volunteers

Joe Rigsby, Chair of Volunteer Management Committee

The nominations for service as officers, on teams, and on commissions, are listed in Appendix Q.

11:40 - 11:50 a.m. BREAK

Call Commission - Part II

Mary Beth Neely, Chair

The Call Commission recommends that the presbytery record memorial resolutions and receive a short presentation about the life and service of each of the following teaching elders, who died since the last presbytery meeting:

- 1. David Lee, Pastor of Highlands United in Jacksonville (January 22, 2021)
- 2. John Harris, honorably retired (December 3, 2020)
- 3. Eriberto (Eddie) Soto, honorably retired (January 8, 3021) (note: Rev. Soto was serving Fort Caroline United Methodist Church as a validated ministry at the time of his death)
- 4. Tom Are, Sr., honorably retired (October 7, 2020)

The memorial resolutions are contained in Appendix R.

Presbyterian Women

Daryl Mullee, Moderator

In addition to a presentation, a report is provided in Appendix S.

Mutual Mission Team

Diane Watkins and Bob Bell, Co-Chairs

In addition to a presentation, a report is provided in Appendix T.

Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center

Monica Williams, Executive Director

In addition to a presentation, a report is provided in Appendix U.

Highlands Regional Ministry Center

In addition to a presentation, a report is provided in Appendix V.

Other Introductions and Presentations

If there are other introductions and presentations, they will be made at this time.

Moderator Installation - Joe Albright

At this time, Moderator-Elect Joe Albright will be installed as the Moderator of the Presbytery of St. Augustine. Joe Albright is the Pastor of Geneva Presbyterian Church in St. Johns, Florida. Edd Norris, our outgoing Moderator, will begin his service as Chair of the Coordinating Council once Joe Albright is installed as Moderator. The new Moderator Elect will then serve on the Coordinating Council as an ex-officio member.

Speak-out Time*

Speak-out Time is open to ministers and commissioners who would like to share about glimpses of grace or expressions of gratitude in the community of the Presbytery of St. Augustine. Speak-out Time is limited to one minute per person.

Call for Spring Stated Meeting

The Spring Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, beginning at 9:30 a.m., by Zoom or in person at a place to be announced.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment