

DOCKET
Presbytery of St. Augustine
Fall Stated Meeting
Moderator Joe Albright
October 5, 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. to 9:30 a.m. ARRIVAL/CHECK IN

Welcome to the 2021 Fall 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 opening and prayer.

OPENING AGENDA

Moderator's Opening and Prayer
Zoom Overview and Practice Vote
Quorum and Docket Approval

Welcome to First Time Commissioners/Corresponding Members
Presbytery Staff Introductions
Approval of Consent Agenda Items in Docket (pp. 5 to end)

MORNING WORSHIP

We welcome Melanie Marsh-Baum, pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church, who will bring the morning message. Please see the Order of Worship provided with our meeting materials for liturgy, hymns, and the names of worship leaders and participants.

The offering is designated for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program.

ACTION AGENDA

Coordinating Council
Edd Norris, Chair

The Coordinating Council will present the 2022 Asking Budget and provide other presbytery updates. The budget is provided in Appendix A.

Call Commission

Mary Beth Neely, Chair and Joy Laughridge, Vice Chair

The Call Commission recommends that the presbytery take the following actions (new member information is provided in Appendix B):

1. Welcome and hear from Carter Grant, new candidate for ministry.
2. Welcome and hear from Bryant Anderson, new member of the presbytery and pastor of the Palms Presbyterian Church. Rev. Anderson was received from the Presbytery of Detroit.
3. Welcome and hear from Yvan Kelly, new commissioned ruling elder of the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church.
4. Welcome and hear from Sunelle Stander Lays, new member of the presbytery and parish associate with the Riverside Presbyterian Church. Rev. Lays was received from the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley,
5. Welcome and hear from Susan Takis, returning member of the presbytery and new pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Green Cove Springs. Rev. Takis was received from the Presbytery of Central Florida.
6. Approve the new presbytery separation ethics policy provided in Appendix C.

11:30 to 11:40 a.m. BREAK

Presbyterian Women

Daryl Mullee, Moderator

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of St. Augustine will make a brief presentation and provides the report contained in Appendix D.

Administrative Commission for Reddick Presbyterian Church

Ana Lugo-Berrios, Chair

The commission provides the report contained in Appendix E and requests that the action be taken that is provided in that report.

Administrative Commission for St. Johns Presbyterian Church

Ben Samuels, Chair

The commission recommends that the presbytery dismiss the St. Johns Presbyterian Church to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO) on the terms contained in the proposal provided in Appendix F, with the dismissal on December 31, 2021 so that St. Johns will be a congregation of ECO on January 1, 2022. The commission recommends that the presbytery transfer teaching elder Jonathan Lovelady to ECO effective the same day. The commission will be dissolved when the dismissal is complete.

Call Commission (Cont.)

Mary Beth Neely, Chair and Joy Laughridge, Vice Chair

The Call Commission will continue its presentation at this time and recommends that the presbytery take the following actions:

1. Recognize the minister members who serve in validated ministries outside a Presbyterian church (such as chaplain, teacher, pastor of a church of another denomination, and many others) and those who are members at large.
2. Recognize the retirement of Bill Hoff from the Riverside church as of September 1, 2021, and record the retirement resolution provided in Appendix G.
3. Recognize the retirement of Betsy Haynes (validated ministry teaching at Flagler College) as of September and record the retirement resolution provided in Appendix H.
4. Welcome new presbytery members John Huff and Adrian (Ed) Tenhor, who have been received from the Presbytery of Blackhawk on June 15, 2021 and the Presbytery of Monmouth on September 21, 2021, respectively.

Mutual Mission Team

Diane Watkins and Bob Bell, Co-Chairs

A brief presentation will accompany the report that is provided in Appendix I.

Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center

Monica Williams, Executive Director

Alan Cummings, Treasurer

Monica Williams and Alan Cummings will make a presentation and present motions from the Board of Trustees to amend the corporate by-laws and to amend the repayment schedule for the amounts that MPCC owes to the presbytery. Written materials are provided in Appendix J.

Highlands Regional Ministry Center

Geoff Spiegel, Chair of Trustees' Highlands Committee

Larry Green, Gainesville Community Counseling Center

Geoff Spiegel and Larry Green will make a presentation. Written materials are provided in Appendix K.

Nominations - Officers/Volunteers

Joe Rigsby, Chair of Volunteer Management Committee

Nominations for General Assembly commissioners and members of teams, commissions, and presbytery offices are provided in Appendix L.

CLOSING AGENDA

Speak-out Time*

Call for the Winter Stated Meeting

Affirmation of Faith and Communion

Officiant: Amy Camp

Charge and Benediction/Adjournment

*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.

CONSENT AGENDA

Stated Clerk

Alexandra (Sandra) Hedrick

The stated clerk makes the following report:

1. Those who submitted requests to be excused will be shown as excused in the attendance records of this meeting.
2. This meeting is a corporate meeting for both the Presbytery of St. Augustine, Inc. and Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center, Inc.
3. The minutes of the ordination of Erin Thatcher Horne to the ministry of teaching elder are provided below:

A commission of the presbytery met on May 30, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., to conduct the ordination of Erin Thatcher Horne at St. Johns Presbyterian Church. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Joe Albright. Stated Clerk Sandra Hedrick was asked to serve as the secretary for the meeting and preached the sermon. The candidate answered all of the constitutional questions in the affirmative. The moderator declared that the candidate was ordained to the office of teaching elder, and the presbytery welcomed her to membership. Rev. Horne officiated at the Lord's Table and pronounced the benediction, which served as the closing prayer.

4. A session clerk workshop will be held on two dates in October (see flyer with the meeting materials). There will be an update on the reading of session minutes which will also be included in this year's minute book.

Coordinating Council

Edd Norris, Chair

The Coordinating Council provides the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements contained in Appendix M. In addition, the Coordinating Council reports the following summary/highlights actions taken (a complete record is contained in the approved Coordinating Council minutes provided as Appendix N):

1. Reviewed each monthly Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements and received the report that the 2020 audit has been completed and that the auditors issued an unqualified or "clean" opinion.

2. Approved a motion recommending that the presbytery approve the proposal of Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center regarding repayment of its indebtedness to the presbytery.
3. Approved the minutes of the 2021 Spring Stated Meeting and the July 22, 2021 Special Called Meeting (copies are available from the Stated Clerk).
4. Approved the annual plan and report of the college ministry program of the First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville, which supports the conditions of the grant funds that the church receives from the Synod of South Atlantic.
5. Approved a motion to call a special presbytery meeting on July 22, 2021 at noon by Zoom. The purposes of the meeting would include the election of an administrative commission for the Middleburg Presbyterian Church, presbytery updates, a change to the stated clerk's compensation putting all of her "effective salary" into housing allowance, and the reading of the June 16, 2021 Final Decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission in the Wain Wesberry case. Before recommending the election of an administrative commission, the Coordinating Council appointed Joe Rigsby to meet with the session of the church and otherwise inquired into the circumstances giving rise to the session's request that the church be closed.
6. Approved holding the Fall Stated Meeting by Zoom and designating the offering for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program.
7. Approved the following requests for designated funds through the Coordinating Council's grant process: (a) McIntosh Presbyterian Church - \$1,000 from small church revitalization fund and \$4,000 from the Charles J. Williams fund; (b) Kirkwood Presbyterian Church - \$5,000 from the Charles J. Williams fund; and (c) Marion Oaks Presbyterian Church - \$5,000 from the Charles J. Williams fund.
8. Revised the deadlines for submitting grant requests to the Coordinating Council and amended the definition of "small church" from 100 members or less to 200 members or less for purposes of the Charles J. Williams fund.
9. Endorsed and referred to the Presbytery Trustees a suggestion from the Finance Team to use \$1,500 from the "Armistead" designated fund to fund the upcoming event "How to Be A Hybrid Church."

10. Began and is continuing work to develop resources for congregations facing change and transition. This included hearing a presentation from Holly Dillon Inglis regarding alternative programs available for revitalization of churches, specifically "Vital Congregations," "Project Regeneration" and "New Beginnings" and a presentation by Robert Hay (Presbyterian Foundation) on the Project Regeneration program (this program is available to churches in the denomination to provide assistance with leveraging church assets).
11. Established a Generosity Ad Hoc Team of the Coordinating Council and approved sending one to two members of the team to the Stewardship Kaleidoscope 2021 this September at a cost of approximately \$2,000.
12. Appointed Robert McCrary (RE Community) as commissioner on the St. Augustine Disaster and Preparation Commission (SAPDAC). Also approved the appointment of Jake Young (Class of 2022) to the Care and Reconciliation Team and Anne Reid Broos (Class of 2021) to the Church Vitality Team, respectively. These were temporary appointments and are included in the Nominating Team's report for election at this meeting.
13. Recorded as information from the Finance Team that the \$48,500 insurance deductible previously authorized to be paid upon completion of the replacement of the Highlands Regional Ministry Center roof will be paid now that the work has been completed.
14. Designated Coordinating Council member Larry Green to put together a team including members of the Care and Reconciliation Team that would respond to a request from First Perry.
15. Endorsed sending a communication regarding how to contribute to a fund supporting those impacted by the Surfside condominium collapse (this fund is recommended by the Florida Presbyterian Disaster Network).
16. Accepted the resignation of Patti Phillips as chair and appointed Walk Jones as new chair of the Leadership Development and Care sub-part of the committee known as "Leadership Development and Care and Strategic Issues Committee."
17. Said goodbye and thank you to Cyndi Rigley for her service as Office Manager and welcomed Lisa Wells, our new Office Manager.

18. Welcomed Monica Williams, Executive Director of MPCC, to share updates regarding the summer camp plans. Also approved the recommendation of the MPCC Board of Trustees that summer staff members are strongly encouraged (but not required) to be vaccinated against COVID-19; also approved a motion that MPCC notify parents of its COVID-19 procedures including that summer staff members are strongly encouraged (but not required) to be vaccinated against COVID-19.
19. Improved its written report process by approving a template for all committees to use; also approved with gratitude an assessment tool that the Ministry and Mission Coordinator developed for use with the Care and Reconciliation Team, the Coordinating Council, and possibly other volunteer groups.

Call Commission

Mary Beth Neely, Chair and Joy Laughridge, Vice Chair

The Call Commission recommends that the presbytery increase the effective salary portion of our presbytery's minimum terms of call by two percent (from \$44,962 to \$45,861) effective October 5, 2021. (Note: at the 2020 Fall Stated Meeting, the presbytery approved increasing the effective salary by one percent.)

The Call Commission also reports the following actions taken on behalf of the presbytery:

1. Continued to nurture and guide the inquirers and candidates under our presbytery's care, and provided seminary scholarships to the following students: Carter Grant and Brian Mitchell. Brian Mitchell was also designated to receive the 2021 Spencer Grant of \$500 provided by the Synod of South Atlantic.
2. Sustained the examination of Carter Grant and enrolled her as a candidate in preparation for ministry under our care.
3. Approved new covenants with Carter Grant (candidate) and Brian Mitchell (inquirer).
4. Sustained the examination of Scott Stuart (First Gainesville) pursuant to G-2.0607 and certified him ready for examination for ordination, pending a call.

5. Approved Robert McCrary's (Community) and Jesse Bozeman's (Murray Hill) request to complete their commissioned ruling elder (CRE) polity requirement through class sessions with the stated clerk. The commission reviewed and approved the syllabus for the tutoring session, which Yvette Grant (Kirkwood) is also attending.
6. Reviewed and approved the annual reports of minister members who serve in validated ministries and those who are members at large. A listing of the reports approved and those not yet provided is contained in Appendix O.
7. Received Bryant Anderson into presbytery membership and approved his call and terms of call as pastor of the Palms church, where his work began on August 15, 2021. Rev. Anderson was received from the Presbytery of Detroit.
8. Approved the commission of ruling elder Yvan Kelly (member of Memorial Presbyterian Church) to serve in special pastoral service to the Kirkwood church.
9. Approved a parish associate agreement between Sunelle Stander Lays and the Riverside church and received her as a presbytery member from the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley effective August 9, 2021.
10. Received Susan Takis into presbytery membership and approved her call and terms of call as pastor of the First Green Cove Springs church, where her work will begin on September 27, 2021. Rev. Takis was received from the Presbytery of Central Florida.
11. Approved the work of Susan Rose through Diakonos Solutions as a validated ministry. The mission of Diakonos Solutions "is to engage, encourage and empower women in ministry through mentoring."
12. Approved the validated ministry request of Do In Kim, subject to consent of the Presbytery of Florida, to serve as chaplain with Ascension Sacred Heart Bay Hospital in Pensacola as of July 12, 2021. His residence/family remain in Jacksonville.
13. Approved the validated ministry request of Joe Medearis as chaplain at Brooks Rehabilitation effective March 1, 2021, in addition to his service as stated supply for the Peace and Arlington churches.

14. Sustained the examination of John Huff and received him from the Presbytery of Blackhawk (honorably retired) as of June 15, 2021.
15. Sustained the examination of Adrian (Ed) Tenhor and received him from the Presbytery of Monmouth (honorably retired) as of September 21, 2021.
16. Approved renewal of the following pastor agreements (all dates in 2021):
 - Cliff Lyda and Palatka effective February 28
 - Karl Kling and First Fernandina Beach effective June 1
 - Robert Mills and San Mateo effective July 1
17. Approved the interim pastor agreement between Rhonda Link-Cummings and Weirsdale as of September 6, 2021, and granted a waiver of the open posting policy.
18. Approved the following retirements: Bill Hoff from the Riverside church as of September 1, 2021; Betsy Haynes (validated ministry at Flagler College) as of September 1, 2021; and Jonathan Lovelady as of January 1, 2022.
19. Approved the following dissolutions (all dates in 2021):
 - Glen Busby and First High Springs as of May 1
 - Walter Laseter and Weirsdale as of June 16
 - Yvan Kelly and Middleburg as of June 1
 - Joe Reggin and First Green Cove Springs as of June 14
 - Jeffrey Weenink and Palms as of July 19
 - Glen Busby and Branford as of July 26
 - James Kendrick and Highlands United as of July 30
 - Earle Sickels and Calvin as of September 13
20. Approved the requests of the session of the Geneva church and the Riverside church to hold congregational meetings to elect an associate pastor nominating committee.
21. Approved a change to the terms of call of Laurie Furr-Vancini, Associate Pastor of the Palms church. The change reflects an increase in duties and pay while she served as temporary head-of-staff until Bryant Anderson, the new head-of-staff, arrived and began his work at Palms.
22. Approved a Board of Pensions (BOP) shared grant request in the amount of \$1,000 (matched by BOP) for seminary loan reduction for presbytery member Ruth Elswood.

23. Interviewed Pastor Jonathan Lovelady of the St. Johns church, in order to make a determination on whether to recommend approval of his validated ministry request. The St. Johns church is seeking dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Christians (ECO). Pastor Lovelady sought approval to continue as a member of our presbytery after dismissal and serve the church in a validated ministry. The Call Commission voted to recommend against approval of the validated ministry request.
24. Received and responded to a communication from Wain Wesberry following the entry of the June 16, 2021, order of the Permanent Judicial Commission removing him from ordered ministry. The communication from Wain Wesberry asked that the Call Commission work with him in creating a pathway to restoration. The Call Commission acted by asking its Chair to respond by suggesting that he may ask the presbytery to give the commission instructions regarding his desire to have a pathway put in place and to designate the scope of the commission's authority.
25. Received reports regarding churches in transition and approved the following moderators while the congregations did not have installed or stated supply moderators serving: Jim Black - Murray Hill; Craig Davies - Highlands; Cliff Lyda - San Mateo; Charles Freeman - Faith; Rhonda Link-Cummings - High Springs; Rhonda Link-Cummings and Alan Cummings - Weirsdale; Joe Rigsby and Chris Lieberman - First Green Cove Springs; Larry Neal - Branford.

Trustees of the Presbytery of St. Augustine

Ana Lugo-Berrios - President

The report of the Trustees of the Presbytery of St. Augustine is provided in Appendix P.

St. Augustine Presbytery Disaster Assistance Commission

Hunter Camp, Chair

The commission has recently updated the process for overseeing the care and nurture of our churches and pastors in our presbytery when any area of the presbytery is under the threat of a named storm.

Administrative Commissions for the Middleburg Presbyterian Church

The written report of the Administrative Commission for the Middleburg Presbyterian Church is provided in Appendix Q.