

Presbytery of
South Louisiana

June 7

2022

151st STATED MEETING



Hybrid Meeting

Hosted by

First Presbyterian
Lake Charles

4590 Corbina Road

Lake Charles, LA 70607

337-433-4667

www.firstpres-lc.org



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**for
New Orleans YAV House Deep Clean!**

On **Saturday July 30 from 9am-noon** the Young Adult Volunteers need your helping hands! Please join us for a deep clean of the beloved “**Big Green House**” as a final farewell to the 2021-2022 YAVs.

A clean house will be a wonderful welcome to the 2022-2023 YAVs.

All ages of deep cleaners are welcome!

Inside we will scrub the floors, appliances, windows, and furniture.

Outside we will weed, mow, rake gravel, and pressure wash.

YAV Site Coordinator Dan Wally Lang will coordinate volunteer signup, supplies, and snacks.

RSVP via email at dan@pbysouthla.org

YAV House Address: 4225 Franklin Ave, New Orleans

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH *of* Lake Charles

***"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore,
to send out workers into his harvest field." (Luke 10:2)***

If you were a member of 1st Pres. Lake Charles, you would likely be *painfully* familiar with this verse... because their pastor refers to it in that familiar Louisiana voting manner: 'early and often.' Ever since I came out to the 'wild, wild West' in 2011, this passage has been of special significance to me. So much so that my phone has an alarm set to go off every day at 10:02 AM... not PM, since by then it's time to come 'in' from the field to rest... reminding me of the vital importance of sending out laborers into the 'harvest field.'

About seven years ago this verse took on even greater significance after selling the historic church facility in mid-city Lake Charles (as many of you know, perhaps personally, a very difficult decision to make) in order to purchase property to build a new church facility in a new, up-and-coming subdivision in the southeast part of town. What made this purchase so unusual, however... aside from being a church with declining membership and revenues... was that we had a PARTNER in this project. After the sale of the property, for the interim until we found a new home, we 'co-habitated' with First Christian/Disciples of Christ Church (and now known as "Grace Point Christian Fellowship")... all of seven blocks from our previous location. And as our congenial relationship grew, we realized that we both had the same goal of moving to south L.C. to forge a fresh start. And before we knew it, 'Mission MorganField' was birthed.

One aspect of this location that made it so intriguing was that our facility would be more than two churches worshipping and serving in the same location. A guiding tenet of our agreement with MorganField was/is that our facility would be an integral part of the life of that development. A "community center," if you will, that could be used by residents for such things as HOA meetings, Boy Scouts, recitals, birthday parties, AA meetings, etc. And in so doing, would in truth not be too dissimilar from the 'community development' in the early history of our country, where the 'one-room schoolhouse' also served as town hall, event center, and church building. And just last week, we realized a part of that function by hosting an informational meeting concerning the new hire of the Parish School Board Superintendent.

And so, after enduring two hurricanes, a 'snow-pocalypse,' devastating flooding, and a global pandemic, the 'faithful remnant' of F.P.C.-Lake Charles held their first service in their new church facility on September 12, 2021. Yes, just a day after the anniversary of 9/11. It was very gratifying to follow a day of such loss and pain with one of celebration and thanksgiving...

Which is exactly going to be the focus of this 'hybrid' gathering of the 151st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of South Louisiana. We will have much to 'celebrate' and be 'thankful' for. First and foremost, an opportunity to have a Presbytery meeting 'face-to-face' for the first time in over TWO YEARS! Commissioning of YAV's and GA Commissioners. Service to the ongoing rebuilding efforts of SWLA. Sharing in worship and Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. And, of great importance to this particular community of faith, the dedication of a



new church home we pray will begin an exciting new chapter in the 'next' 134 years of ministry of this church to Lake Charles and beyond.

I know that for some in the Presbytery, they are not ready to gather in a 'larger' group yet. But I want to encourage as many of you as possible to come and join us for this time of JOY and GRATITUDE. Come and witness what we pray will not only be a revitalization of two churches, but of an entire region. 'Come and see' what can happen when two different groups come together for the common cause of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Come and celebrate that bedrock principle of our denomination, "connectionalism." Collegial relationships between two churches in Lake Charles and Welsh, as well as 'invaluable' contributions... quite literally... from the larger church, particularly the Presbyterian Investment Loan Program, without whom this project would likely not have seen completion. Come and consider what could, by God's blessing, become a model for other smaller membership churches to gain a 'new lease on life.' (Well, a 'mortgage' moreso than a 'lease' 😊)

Your sisters and brothers 'out west' are looking forward to seeing you! As together we celebrate and give thanks for our faithful God, may we grow in our appreciation of that truth expressed through the prophet Jeremiah: ***"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you, and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope, and a future.*** (Jeremiah 29:11) Or in the words of a classic hymn of the church, let us proclaim ***"Strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow. Blessings all mine, and ten thousand beside!"*** 'Plan' on a time of very great 'blessings' as we celebrate our 'future' together!

Faithfully yours, in Christ,

Chan

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HISTORY OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LAKE CHARLES, LA

First Presbyterian Church of Lake Charles, Louisiana, was organized in April 1888 by the Louisiana Presbytery of the Synod of Mississippi, Presbyterian Church U.S.

The Church's organizational meeting was held on April 19, 1888, in the Methodist Church on Broad and Bilbo Streets. There were eleven charter members. The first full time pastor was installed in October 1892. The church had a membership of 111 at the close of 1899.

In August 1917 ground was broken for a new church on the corner of Broad and Ford Street. The church was dedicated on April 6, 1919. Membership stood at 271. The church thrived during the 1920's and 30's – Sunday School, music programs including choruses and orchestra, Christian Endeavor, and Boy Scout Troop 6. Vacation Bible School was begun in the summer of 1938.

In March 1950 Westminster Presbyterian Church was organized. This was a mission church that we were delighted to assist with workers and finances.

First Presbyterian needed a larger plant so after a gift of property at 1801 Second Avenue was generously given, a new facility was planned. The dedication of this building was held on October 14, 1951. By the time the church was built, we had practically outgrown the educational building. Therefore, a drive for funds was started and completed, and the new wing was built in 1954.

To serve the south side of Lake Charles and McNeese University, St. Andrew Presbyterian came into being in February 1959 – our second mission church in ten years. This was a testimony to God's grace and the growth in this area at that time.

Changing times, however, led to the difficult decision to sell the property at 1801 Second Avenue which was made in 2012. The building was sold in 2015, and we moved down the street to 2525 Second Avenue. First Christian Church (now Grace Point Christian Fellowship) rented us space in their building while we looked for a new location. They were also looking to sell their property. As it turned out, this cohabitation worked! Morgan Field, a new residential area, liked the idea of two churches in one building so they offered a good deal for the property. First Churches United, Inc. was developed to own and manage the building. Groundbreaking was held on March 8, 2020, and the first service was held on September 12, 2021.

FPC is reaching out to the neighborhood sharing our mission "To know Christ and Make Christ Known." Continuing this Christian ministry of over 130 years in SWLA, we look forward to the continued blessing of God in this new chapter in the church's rich history for many years to come.

AGENDA

151st Stated Meeting

June 7, 2022

10:00am Call to Order – RE Donna Stogner

- Open with Prayer – RE Donna Stogner
- Quorum Established – TE Barry Chance, Stated Clerk
- Zoom Etiquette – TE Barry Chance, Stated Clerk

10:05am Opening Worship

- Proclamation of the Word
- Congregational Blessing & Sending

10:35am Welcome from Host Church

10:40am Report of the Stated Clerk – TE Barry Chance

- Introductions, Seating of Corresponding Members, Privilege of the Floor, New Elder Commissioners, and Guests
- Zoom Polity Tutorial
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of the Consent Agenda
 - Committee on Ministry Report
 - Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report
 - Northminster Administrative Commission Report
 - Special Committee on Racial Reconciliation
 - Synod of the Sun Commissioner Report
- Approval of Changes to the bylaws

DEADLINE FOR NEW BUSINESS

10:55am Greetings from the Synod of the Sun – RE Valerie Young

11:00am Coordinating Council – RE Loretta Credo

- Okra Abbey Walton Award
- Covenant with NOLA YAV Program

11:10am Report of the Transitional General Presbyter – TE Richard Williams

- 1 11:20am Treasurer's Report – RE Jackie Cummings
2
3 11:25am Nominating Committee – TE Chan Willis
4
5 11:30am Lake Charles Long Term Recovery Report – RE Nanette Cagney
6
7 11:45pm New Business
8
9 11:50pm Visioning Breakout Groups
10
11 12:15pm Worship Resumes
12 • Sacrament of the Lord's Table
13 • Commissioning of GA Commissioners
14 • YAV Blessing & Sending
15 • Benediction
16
17 LUNCH w/ Table Conversation Starters from the Special Committee on Racial
18 Reconciliation
19
20

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Presbytery of South Louisiana

June 7, 2022

Presbytery Minutes

The minutes of the presbytery meeting on February 15, 2022 were approved by the Council at their meeting on May 10. They are included in the packet as information.

Communications

The resolution on threats against Historically Black Colleges and Universities that was written by our Special Committee on Racial Reconciliation and endorsed by the presbytery at our meeting in February was circulated around the Synod. On February 25, 2022 the Presbytery of Indian Nations meet and endorsed the resolution as well.

Manual of Operations

I am in the process of reviewing the updating the Manual of Operations and have noted a number of areas where the current Book of Order calls for the presbytery to establish a rule where none exists. I anticipate that a draft of this manual will be circulated in advance of the annual meeting which is scheduled to be held at First Presbyterian Church in Ponchatoula in Saturday, November 12.

One of the rules that is currently lacking and will be included in the proposed manual is one for the formation of Administrative Commissions. The Coordinating Council discussed and approved the following motion which will be reflected in that proposed draft:

1 That the Manual of Operations be updated to state that no
2 Administrative Commission shall be appointed where a single
3 congregation has a majority. For the purpose of motion, pastors
4 serving a congregation will be considered as being from that
5 congregation.

6 7 Bylaws

8 The Coordinating Council has voted to recommend that section 10-1.3 of the
9 bylaws be amended to read as stated below. Text in red is added and text in
10 ~~strike through~~ is to be removed.

11 10-1.3. The membership of committees in Article X ~~that are not~~
12 ~~granted commission powers~~ shall consist of Teaching Elders and
13 ~~Ruling Elders~~ ~~members of congregations~~ in as equal numbers as is
14 possible unless otherwise stated. ~~Committees granted commission~~
15 ~~powers shall be made up of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders in as~~
16 ~~equal numbers as is possible. In all cases, committee chairs shall be~~
17 ~~a Ruling Elder or a Teaching Elder.~~

18
19 This amendment seeks to expand the number of candidates who can serve on
20 presbytery committees. At present, the membership of most presbytery
21 committees is restricted to only ruling and teaching elders which is more
22 restrictive than the Book of Order requires. This change would permit members
23 of congregations who are not ordained as ruling elders to be elected which will
24 deepen pool to include youth, spouses of pastors (who are often not ordained),
25 and others who may not be in ordained service in their local congregation but
26 have gifts to bring to presbytery ministry.

27
28 The Coordinating Council has voted to recommend that section 10-1.1 of the
29 bylaws be amended to read as stated below. Text in red is added and text in
30 ~~strike through~~ is to be removed.

10-1.4 ~~Where term limits apply, m~~Members of committees in Article X may serve six consecutive years after which they will be ineligible to serve on that committee for one year.

~~10-2.3 The term limits established in section 10-1.4 shall apply to this committee.~~

~~10-3.3 The term limits established in section 10-1.4 shall apply to this committee.~~

This amendment seeks to standardize our rule about term limits. At present only the Committee on Ministry and the New Worshipping Communities Committee have term limits. This amendment would apply the same rule to all of the committees in Article X of the bylaws which includes: Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, New Worshipping Communities Committee, Finance Committee, Nominating Committee, and the Committee on Representation. While this will limit the potential pool of committee members by forcing those who have served for six years to take a one year break, the Coordinating Council believes that this change will promote a greater diversity of leadership.

These amendments will need at 2/3 majority vote of the presbytery to be approved.

Action Items

1. Approve the amendment to article 10-1.3 of the bylaws.
2. Approve the amendment to article 10-1.4 of the bylaws and the related amendments to 10-2.3 and 10-3.3.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Report to Presbytery

Best Wishes

Rev. Ann Philbrick has requested that she be moved to the status of Honorably Retired. We appreciate the work that Rev. Philbrick has done within the Presbytery of South Louisiana and wish her well in her retirement.

COM Approved the Terms of Call/Service for the following:

- Terms of Service for Rev. Richard Williams, Transitional General Presbyter
- Terms of Call for Rev. Aaron Ochart at John Calvin PC, Metairie LA
- Terms of Service for Rev. Keith Abramowski at FPC, Slidell
- Terms of Service for CRE Nanette Cagney at St. Andrew PC, Lake Charles LA
- Terms of Call for Rev. Patti Snyder at University PC, Baton Rouge LA
- Terms of Call for Rev. Mamie Broadhurst at University PC, Baton Rouge
- Terms of Call for Rev. Jeffery Sims at Covington PC, Covington LA
- Terms of Service Rev. Hannah Quick at Okra Abbey, New Orleans LA

Additional Votes Taken:

- The Ministry Information Form (MIF) for Lakeview PC was approved.
- A Called COM meeting was held on April 13, 2022, to approve a Plan of Action for resolving the conflict between FPC DeRidder and the Korean NWC. The plan was approved.
- COM has approved a request by West Baton Rouge PC to suspend, for a period of 6 months starting in April 2022, the rule requiring that a pulpit supply pastor may only preach 2 times in a month.

Notations:

The Pulpit Supply List is continually being updated. You can find it now on the Home Page of the PSL Website!

PSL Terms of Call

COM reviewed and approved a new 2022 Terms of Service for Commissioned Ruling Elders and Others (Others are generally pastors from other denominations) form and Guidance for Churches.

No minimums were changed on the new form, only the formatting for ease of use. The new forms and guidance documents are available on the PSL Website and through each church's COM Liaison.

Sharon Fortin

COM Moderator

Theresa King – Vice-Moderator

Beth Paskoff – Clerk

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Presbytery Report

May 26, 2022

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry met on April 25, 2022, where we received Ruling Elder, Ann Rudat from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Leesville, under care as a Commissioned Ruling Elder Seeker.

On May 26th, the committee met with TE Candidate Hannah Mills for her final assessment. After reviewing all educational material and other requirements the committee concluded that she has successfully met all requirements for ordination and has approved her certified ready to receive a call. She expressed to the committee that currently she is exploring and searching for a call-in hospital chaplain ministry, while remaining open to the Spirit's leading to a possible congregational call. We wish her God's blessings and guidance as she searches for a call in the New York/Northeast area.

Additionally, please keep the following folks under care in prayers:

- Monya Crowell (CRE Seeker, Broadmoor PC, Baton Rouge)
- Miriam Hollar (CRE Seeker, St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian, New Orleans)
- Theresa King (CRE Seeker, First Bogalusa)
- Matthew McGraw - (TE Inquirer, University Presbyterian Church, Ft. Worth, TX)
- Yong Seung Noh (TE Inquirer, Korean PC, New Orleans)
- Elizabeth Ortiz Irizarry (TE Inquirer, FPC DeRidder, Puerto Rico)

The committee will be completing annual consultations with each person under care this fall in advance of the November Presbytery meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Sarah Chancellor-Watson

CPM Moderator

Northminster Administrative Commission

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 24, 2022

TO: PSL Staff, Commissioners, and those present at the June 7, 2022 Stated PSL Meeting

FROM: Jeff Sims, Chair of Northminster Administrative Commission JLS

SUBJECT: Update on Progress of Northminster AC and Sale of Building

Since the last report of this Commission in November of 2021, our process has been hampered by several unanticipated snags along the way. The major one being a reverting of the building to a residential zone. The Northminster AC on behalf of PSL granted Jeff Lindsay, our agent from Keller-Williams and/or Barry Chance, Stated Clerk of PSL to represent us in matters related to the rezoning of this property to the appropriate zone for a church, with the Parish of St. Tammany. This resulted in multiple meetings, lots of conversations, and much legwork for our agent, Jeff Lindsay and Barry Chance. The short version is that on February 1, 2022 the Zoning Commission of St. Tammany Parish recommended the requested zoning change from A-3 Suburban District to PF-1 Public Facilities District be approved. On March 3, 2022 the St. Tammany Parish Council adopted the recommendation of the Zoning Commission.

Numerous inspections and other minor repairs and issues have been resolved by the seller, Northminster/PSL and we are moving in the right direction as we have cleared DEQ hurdles with an Administrative Completeness Notice and anticipate issuance of a permit from DEQ shortly. The final inspection is scheduled and we anticipate no further issues. Funds have been expended in the process of these numerous steps and I would refer you to PSL Treasurer, Jackie Cummings, for those amounts.

Numerous extensions of the contract between Stated Clerk, Barry Chance (Seller) and The Rev. Samuel Husser, Pastor of The Crossing (Buyer) have occurred as a result of these many steps in the process. If all goes well, by the time we meet in June of 2022, the former Northminster Presbyterian Church will be sold to Samuel Husser, representing The Crossing, for the price of \$450,000 minus fees and associated costs mentioned above.

Many thanks and much appreciation to Jeff Lindsay, Agent from Keller-Williams, Barry Chance, Stated Clerk, PSL, TE Sue Loper, RE Susan Spring, RE Edwin Lee Mowe, and RE Dianne Kaack for their many hours, meetings, and conversations offered in service to the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

Special Committee on Racial Reconciliation

June 2022

Why is this committee special? There are two reasons. The first is that it deals with a specific issue that impacts the entirety of the PSL. The second, polity-specific, reason is that we were appointed by the Moderator of the PSL (and continue to be re-appointed as our work is far from done).

Our charge is threefold: Properly distribute funds received following the murder of Alton Sterling; Examine the issue of racial reconciliation including representation and our general relationship with minority specific congregations and recommend actions to Council; and Connect with the Synod Network for Dismantling Racism for further regional cooperation.

Regarding the first charge, we have worked with Council to direct these funds as well as others related to disaster recovery in areas of Lake Charles where recovery efforts and infrastructure re-establishment has neglected predominantly non-white neighborhoods. More work has been done and is needed in these areas, and the PSL disaster recovery efforts have been supportive. The issue remains less about funding and more about care and concern for people of color who do not receive the same resources before and after storms and disasters.

As to the second charge, we have advised and encouraged greater diversity on the Nominating Committee and hope to see its impact, however, the human resources of people of color are limited. We are hopeful that our member congregations will receive that as an acknowledgment that we all have work to do on the congregational level. Along those lines, we discussed how the most well-meaning of PSL congregations can and do feel unwelcoming to people of color. In order to explore how this might be, we began studying the PC(USA) policy statement *Facing Racism – A Vision of the Beloved Community* (<https://www.pcusa.org/resource/facing-racism-vision-community/>) and the accompanying *Anti-racism Study Guide* (https://facing-racism.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/facing_racism/facing-racism-study-guide.pdf)

This study was very eye-opening and encouraging, particularly because we did it in a racially diverse setting. Our hope is to facilitate similar experiences, however, we are specifically endorsing this study and encouraging our congregational leaders not to wait on us to study it together.

We have yet to approach our third task of coordinating efforts with the Synod, but it should be known that the Synod Network for Dismantling racism has a great website with an abundance of resources that are accessible to our leaders and congregations (www.n4dr.org/).

1 Our group meets monthly, and while we have much to do in this important work we
2 encourage everyone to consider how our active silence in the face of issues such as disparity
3 in health care, lending practices, sentencing, and criminalization of behavior may be a
4 calling to engage us all in the work of dismantling racism. This committee hopes to shed light
5 and provide resources, but if we are ever to become the "beloved community" described by
6 MLK wherein we live, as Calvin might say, in right relationships with God, one another, and
7 God's good creation, then this work cannot be done by a committee – no matter how
8 special. It must be done by all of us, with God's help and to God's glory.

9

10

Synod of the Sun-Commissioner Report

- Our current focus is preparing and coordinating an in-person meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dates are yet to be determined, but there is hope that it may occur this fall.
- Traditionally, Synod Sunday is becoming Synod September. Various options will be available to churches and presbyteries regarding how they present Synod material. We are still developing the content.

Submitted by: Rev. David Watson, *PSL Commissioner*

April 26th, 2022

Coordinating Council Report

VISION FOR THE PRESBYTERY

In March the Coordinating Council held a day-long retreat at West Baton Rouge Presbyterian Church led by the Rev. Richard Williams. RE Loretta Credo, Moderator of Council, has appointed the following individuals to a Vision Implementation Team:

RE Linda Trueblood, Berean Presbyterian Church (New Orleans)
TE Daniel Vanek, Albany Hungarian Presbyterian Church (Albany)
RE Nanette Cagney, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church (Lake Charles)
TE Patti Snyder, University Presbyterian Church (Baton Rouge)
RE Loretta Credo, Moderator of Coordinating Council (ex-officio)
TE Richard Williams, Transitional General Presbyter (ex-officio)

As part of that process, there will be breakout groups to discuss the vision of the presbytery as part of today's meeting.

WESTMINSTER REENGAGEMENT TEAM

The Westminster Reengagement Team attended the Westminster Housing Foundation meeting in April. This important ministry continues to operate 576 units with 12 properties across the state that provide affordable housing for seniors. The Coordinating Council is glad to see renewed interest in and communication with the Westminster Housing including the election of new Foundation members for the first time since 2016!

OKRA ABBEY

In 2018, the presbytery took a leap of faith and hired TE Hannah Quick as the full-time Evangelist to serve Okra Abbey. That leap of faith was funded, in part, by grants and matching money from the Presbytery of South Louisiana. Four years later those grants and matching funds are coming to an end and TE Hannah Quick, the Okra Abbey Board, and the Coordinating Council have agreed to reduce the terms to half-time.

The Okra Abbey Board is pleased to share that Okra Abbey has received the Walton Award (one of three given out every two years) for \$15,000. This will be celebrated by the General Assembly this summer and as part of the presbytery meeting today.

YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

After a thorough search, neither the Stated Clerk nor the YAV Site Coordinator could find any official documents governing the Young Adult Volunteer Board and the program's relationship with the Presbytery of South Louisiana even though the program has been operating in our midst for over a decade! Today we celebrate the long history of this ministry by formally establishing a relationship that has been thriving for a very long time. Attached to this report you will find *A Covenant for Ministry Between New Orleans Young Adult Volunteers and Presbytery of South Louisiana* which the presbytery is asked to approve today. Along with that Covenant is a copy of the new bylaws to govern the NOLA YAV Advisory Board.

INTERIM TRANSITIONAL GENERAL PRESBYTER

In March, the Coordinating Council met with the Rev. Richard Williams as his one-year contract and Interim General Presbyter was set to expire. The Council has agreed to renew his contract with the following changes:

- His title changes from Interim General Presbyter to Transitional General Presbyter
- His contract is extended for two years (March 10, 2022 to March 9, 2024)
- His salary is increased by 5% as follows:

	2021	2022
Salary	\$45,230.00	\$46,903.00
Board of Pensions	\$3,423.00	\$4,689.15
SECA Allowance	--	\$3,588.08
Auto/travel expense	\$8,750.00	\$5,750.00
Continuing Education	\$250.00	\$250.00
4 weeks Vacation 2 weeks Continuing Education		
Total cost to PSL	\$57,653.00	\$61,180.23

- He was given the following goals
 - Take a deeper look at its collective mission and identity,
 - Better align its operations and financial commitments and
 - Increase trust in and among our congregations, leaders, and staff.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve A Covenant for Ministry Between New Orleans Young Adult Volunteers and Presbytery of South Louisiana



**COVENANT FOR MINISTRY
BETWEEN
NEW ORLEANS YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS
AND
PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH LOUISIANA**



THIS COVENANT FOR MINISTRY, dated May 10, 2022 is established between New Orleans Young Adult Volunteer Program and the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the New Orleans Young Adult Volunteer Program (“NOLA YAV”) is a national site of the PCUSA YAV Program that offers young adults age 18-29 an opportunity to seek and serve God in the city’s tension of celebration and sorrow by serving the program needs of church mission agencies and nonprofits that address social and economic realities within the local context of New Orleans’ history, culture, and communities.

WHEREAS, Presbytery of South Louisiana (“PSL”) is a non-profit organization established, in the service of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to create, support, encourage and promote the spiritual, mental & physical health of its constituent congregations, Minister-Members, Christian Educators and other church professionals within the Presbyterian Church (USA) (“PCUSA”) located in South Louisiana.

WHEREAS, PSL has been integral to NOLA YAV since its start, NOLA YAV and PSL will continue to collaborate in the service of Christ and the Holy Spirit through Intentional Christian Community, Simple Living, Faith and Leadership Development, Multicultural Mission, and Vocational Discernment as a national site for Young Adult Volunteers.

WHEREAS, this covenant for ministry defines the collaboration for the duties and management of NOLA YAV in cooperation with the NOLA YAV Advisory Board and the NOLA YAV Site Coordinator.

THEREFORE, let us covenant together as stewards of the NOLA YAV Program as a mission and ministry of the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

I. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH LOUISIANA

- a) The Presbytery of South Louisiana will provide its not-for-profit and tax exempt status to NOLA YAV as a mission agency of the Presbytery.
- b) The Presbytery of South Louisiana will provide a bank account and credit card for use by NOLA YAV, to be overseen by the Presbytery’s Treasurer in conjunction with the NOLA YAV Advisory Board, both of whom shall receive annual financial reports and conduct annual financial reviews of NOLA YAV.
- c) The Presbytery of South Louisiana will manage and authorize use of funds designated to NOLA YAV.
- d) The Presbytery of South Louisiana will be the employer of YAVs and the YAV Site Coordinator and ensure employee background checks, HR support, and payroll services for NOLA YAV.
- e) The Presbytery of South Louisiana will provide support to the Site Coordinator as part of the Presbytery’s personnel as follows: 1) Member of Presbytery is to meet with the Site Coordinator in person or by zoom at least monthly, and 2) the Presbytery will not assign the Site Coordinator job duties that hinder their ability to devote their full time to their responsibilities of NOLA YAV.
- f) The Presbytery of South Louisiana will delegate full responsibility of the NOLA YAV Program and supervision of the Site Coordinator to the NOLA YAV Advisory Board.
- g) The Presbytery of South Louisiana will be allowed to submit two candidates for inclusion on the NOLA YAV Advisory Board.
- h) The Presbytery of South Louisiana will promote the NOLA YAV Program within the Presbytery of South Louisiana, including time at council and presbytery meetings.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF NOLA YAV Advisory Board

- a) Hire and supervise a Site Coordinator to run the NOLA YAV Program.
- b) Hire and employ other staff as necessary (Additional Facilitators, Financial Secretary).
- c) Assure that site coordinator and staff have appropriate compensation and benefits.

- d) Undertake timely dialogue with Presbytery of South Louisiana and the YAV National office on any situations which may impact the ability of a volunteer, site coordinator or the site to conduct their ministry.
- e) Approve annual budget presented by the Budget Working Group.
- f) Contribute financially and actively support funds development, sustainability, and full funding of the program.
- g) Elect officers and new Advisory Board members, including at least two members nominated by the Presbytery.
- h) Actively engage YAVs during their year of service.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES OF YAV SITE COORDINATOR

- a) The YAV Site Coordinator shall in all things be committed to teaching the faith and equipping the YAVs for the work of ministry. The Site Coordinator serves in a variety of ways, as authorized by the presbytery: preaching and teaching of the Word so that the YAVs, the Site Supervisors, Host Families and others are shaped by the pattern of the gospel and strengthened for witness and service.
- b) The YAV Site Coordinator shall implement the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program and promote the YAV Ministry overall. The site coordinator is the point person for all communication and oversight of the volunteers, placements, local partners, and local board relationships.
- c) Specific Job Duties of the NOLA YAV Site Coordinator (1-5) as described in the job position description:
 - (1) Demonstrate conformity with the mission of God's people in the world as set forth in Holy Scripture, *The Book of Confessions*, and the *Book of Order* of this church.
 - a) Serve as colleague in ministry with other clergy and YAV site coordinators.
 - b) Participate in gatherings of YAV site coordinators.
 - c) Provide orientation, and monitor and support supervisors for healthy placements.
 - (2) Serve and aid others, and enable the ministry of others.
 - a) Facilitate the development of intentional Christian community for the YAVs.
 - b) Ensure supervision for each volunteer in his or her work placement.
 - c) Actively recruit volunteers and promote the YAV program locally and nationally.
 - d) Conduct interviewing, selection, and screening of YAV candidates.
 - e) Facilitate the development of spiritual growth, leadership development, and vocational discernment of the YAV.
 - f) Work in cooperation and communicate regularly with the office for Young Adult and National Volunteers.
 - g) Regularly update site information provided on the YAV website and for recruitment/informational purposes with the office for Young Adult and National Volunteers.
 - (3) Give evidence of theologically informed fidelity to God's Word.
 - a) Interpret goals and vision of the YAV program to supporting churches and the wider PC(USA).
 - (4) Be carried on in accountability for its character and conduct to the presbytery in addition to any organizations, agencies, and institutions served.
 - a. Work in cooperation with National YAV site coordinators and provide regular reports to local boards.
 - b. Work with partner organizations to identify appropriate placements for individual volunteers.
 - c. Provide local orientation for YAV upon arrival to site.
 - d. Ensure payment of stipends and other funds provided for volunteer expenses.
 - e. Prepare annual budget for the site and maintain regular financial reporting
 - i. practices in accordance with local board requirements (national sites).
 - f. Maintain communication and development of relationships with local partners
 - g. Provide training, guidance, and support for YAV during their year of service and learning
 - h. Monitor progress and situation of YAVs through visits, communications, consultations, gatherings, and retreats.
 - (5) Include responsible participation in the deliberations, worship, and work of the presbytery and in the life of a congregation of this church or a church in correspondence with the PC(USA).
 - b) Facilitate regular YAV gatherings and retreats .
 - c) Coordinate housing for YAV.
 - d) Support the requirement of all YAV to attend the annual program-wide orientation.
 - e) Engage YAVs in worship in the Presbytery.
 - f) Advisory member of Presbytery Council with voice but no vote.
 - g) Links YAVs with local congregations.

IV. USE OF PROPERTY

- 1) The parties agree that 4225 Franklin Avenue New Orleans, Louisiana 70122 is the sole property of the Presbytery of South Louisiana and this agreement does not constitute a lease or transfer of ownership of the building, equipment, furnishings, etc.
- 2) The parties agree to the following collaborative plan of care for 4225 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70122:

Young Adult Volunteers' Property Responsibilities:

- a. Weekly house cleaning as agreed upon in each cohort's community covenant.
- b. Weekly trash removal.
- c. Mow / weed eater 2x monthly out front.
- d. Spray weed treatment on gravel monthly.
- e. Change air filters monthly.
- f. Deep clean upon departure.

YAV Site Coordinator's Property Responsibilities:

- a. Ensures that YAVs fulfill their collaborative care responsibilities.
- b. Pays utility bills.
- c. Provides air filters monthly.
- d. Coordinates maintenance:
 - a. Annual service on tankless water heaters.
 - b. Annual service on HVAC system.
- e. Coordinate repairs:
 - a. If possible, compare and contrast 3 quotes per repair.
 - b. Coordinate with NOLA YAV Advisory Board for authorization less than \$5000.
 - c. Coordinate with PSL and NOLA YAV Advisory Board for authorization more than \$5000.

NOLA YAV Advisory Board's Property Responsibilities:

- a. Ensures that the Site Coordinator fulfills their collaborative care responsibilities.
- b. Host the August Board Meeting at the YAV House for annual inspection.

Presbytery of South Louisiana's Property Responsibilities:

- a. Provides the property at 4225 Franklin Ave rent-free for NOLA YAV's occupancy and use.
- b. Ensures that NOLA YAV Advisory Board and Site Coordinator fulfill their collaborative care responsibilities.
- c. Maintains current taxes and insurances on the property.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this covenant is made between the New Orleans YAV Program and the Presbytery of South Louisiana on May 10, 2022.

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH LOUISIANA

New Orleans Young Adult Volunteer Program

REV RICHARD WILLIAMS
INTERIM GENERAL PRESBYTER

FORD J DIETH
NOLA YAV ADVISORY BOARD MODERATOR

Date: _____

Date: _____

New Orleans Young Adult Volunteer Program
New Orleans, Louisiana
Bylaws
Adopted April 27, 2022

ARTICLE I
NAME

The name of this organization shall be called the New Orleans Young Adult Volunteer Program herein referred to as NOLA YAV.

ARTICLE II
LOCATION

The principal place of operation shall be in the city of New Orleans. Intentional Christian Community is the YAV Core Tenet that guides the placement of NOLA YAV's residential programming, church and community partnerships, and Site Coordinator in New Orleans.

ARTICLE III
PURPOSE

The New Orleans YAV site offers young adults age 18-29 an opportunity to seek and serve God in the city's tension of celebration and sorrow. As a national site of the PCUSA YAV Program, our volunteers serve the program needs of church mission agencies and nonprofits that address the social and economic realities in the local context of New Orleans' history, culture, and communities.

ARTICLE IV
GOVERNANCE

YAV shall be governed by an Advisory Board. Consensus shall be the decision making process of the NOLA YAV Advisory Board.

ARTICLE V
MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings

The NOLA YAV Advisory Board shall meet a minimum of four times a year.

Section 2. Quorum and Action

A majority ($1/2 + 1$) of currently serving YAV Advisory Board members constitutes a quorum for any Regular or Special Advisory Board meeting. The consensus of members at a meeting at which a quorum is present constitutes an action of the Advisory Board.

Section 3. Decisions of the Advisory Board are made by reaching consensus.

ARTICLE VI
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Categories of Membership:

1. Advisory Board member with voice and vote
 - a. All officers and members of the Advisory Board who have been elected by consensus of the Advisory Board.
2. Advisory Board Member – voice non-voting
 - a. Site Coordinator
 - b. Currently serving YAVs as invited by the Site Coordinator or Moderator

ARTICLE VII ADVISORY BOARD

Section 1. Membership

1. The NOLA YAV Advisory Board must maintain a total membership of no less than 5 and no more than 11 voting members.
2. The Site Coordinator of NOLA YAV shall serve as a non-voting member.
3. There shall be at least one PCUSA minister of Word & Sacrament and at least one PCUSA elder on the NOLA YAV Advisory Board.
4. The Presbytery of South Louisiana will name two board members for inclusion by the NOLA YAV Advisory Board.
5. The position of a NOLA YAV Advisory Board member may be considered vacant if the member has missed three consecutive meetings, unexcused
6. Vacancies shall be filled by consensus of the NOLA YAV Advisory Board.

Section 2. Election of Advisory Board Members

1. Candidates shall be presented to the Advisory Board by any Advisory Board member. Consensus will be sought on the proposed candidate.
2. At least one Advisory Board member and the Site Coordinator are designated to interview the candidate, introduce by-laws, and confirm that they are willing and able to serve.
3. Former Advisory Board members must be off the Advisory Board for at least one full calendar year before being re-elected to the NOLA YAV Advisory Board.

Section 3. Duties

1. Shall Hire and Supervise a Site Coordinator to implement the NOLA YAV Program.
2. Hire and employ other staff as necessary (Additional Facilitators, Financial Secretary.)
3. Assure that site coordinator and staff have appropriate compensation and benefits
4. Undertake timely dialogue with YAV National office on any situations which may impact the ability of a volunteer, site coordinator or the site to conduct their ministry.
5. Approve annual budget presented by the Budget Working Group.
6. Contribute financially and actively support funds development, sustainability, and full funding of the program.
7. Elect officers and new Advisory Board members.
8. Actively engage YAVs during their year of service.

Section 4. Removal of Advisory Board Members

Any member may resign or be removed at any time by consensus of the (remaining) NOLA YAV Advisory Board members.

Section 5. Term Limits of Advisory Board Members

Term limits for NOLA YAV Advisory Board members shall be three (3) years.

ARTICLE VIII OFFICERS

Section 1. Principal Officers

The elected officers of NOLA YAV Advisory Board shall be the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. Election of Officers

1. Officers are elected annually by the Advisory Board. The slate of officers shall be presented at an Advisory Board meeting with consensus sought on the proposed slate at an Advisory Board meeting before September.
2. The term of office shall be from September through August. Officers may be elected to not more than 6 consecutive terms so long as they are eligible to remain on the Advisory Board.
3. After one year off the Advisory Board former SC members may be re-elected to the Advisory Board.

Section 3. Legal Agent

For legal purposes, the agent of NOLA YAV is the Moderator of the NOLA YAV Advisory Board.

Section 4. Removal of Officers

Any officer may resign or be removed at any time by consensus of the (remaining) NOLA YAV Advisory Board members. See the consensus decision making process for process of handling repeated blocks by a member of the committee.

ARTICLE IX DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Moderator

1. Shall preside at the meetings of the Advisory Board.
2. Shall prepare the agenda for Advisory Board meetings in conjunction with the Site Coordinator.
3. Shall be responsible for the general direction of the affairs of YAV as directed by the Advisory Board.
4. Shall serve as the interim Site Coordinator in the absence of a Site Coordinator.
5. Shall create and dissolve YAV Advisory Board Working Groups as needed.

Section 2. Vice-Moderator

1. Shall assist the Moderator.
2. Shall perform the duties of the Moderator in the Moderator's absence.
3. Shall assume the office of Moderator if a vacancy occurs.

Section 3. Secretary

1. Shall keep a complete and accurate record of the proceedings of all the meetings of the YAV Advisory Board.
2. Shall send copies of the minutes to all Advisory Board members via e-mail for approval within one week of each Advisory Board meeting.
3. Shall maintain an updated copy of the Bylaws of YAV in the record
4. Shall maintain a current copy of the budget and all financial reports in the record.

Section 4. Treasurer (Financial Secretary)

1. Shall ensure Site Coordinator is responsible for the funds of YAV by conducting an annual review.
2. Shall keep accurate and adequate records of the assets, liabilities and transactions.
3. Shall communicate regularly with the Treasurer of Presbytery of South Louisiana regarding YAV funds, and finances, including submitting needed reports.
4. Shall present financial reports with the Site Coordinator at the Advisory Board meetings.

ARTICLE XI ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL POLICIES

Section 1. Accounting and Audit

The books and accounts of this organization shall be kept in accordance with acceptable accounting practices, and shall be reviewed at each regular meeting by the Advisory Board.

The books and accounts shall be reviewed annually with an audit being conducted every five years. The financial reports shall be available for review upon request.

Section 2. Financial Year.

The Financial Year shall follow the financial year of the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

Section 3. Contracts, Checks, Bank Accounts, Investment Accounts

Any funds received by YAV shall be deposited into banks or depositories as approved by the Advisory Board. The Moderator and Treasurer may sign checks. The Moderator and Site Coordinator may negotiate contracts with the approval of the Advisory Board.

Section 4. Indemnification

Officers, members and staff handling YAV accounts shall be insured. Directors and Officers insurance is currently provided in the insurance policy of Presbytery of South Louisiana.

Section 5. Fundraisers

Income from fundraising activities shall be used solely to support NOLA YAV and its programs.

Section 6. Personal Liability

No members shall be held personally liable for the debts of NOLA YAV.

Section 7. Non-Profit Status

The Young Adult Volunteer Program is a mission agency of the Presbytery of South Louisiana which is classified as a 5013c for which the federal tax identification number is 72-0727629.

ARTICLE XII PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH LOUISIANA

Acknowledging the historical operation of NOLA YAV under Presbytery of South Louisiana, NOLA YAV shall continue in good faith partnership with the Presbytery of South Louisiana as outlined in the COVENANT FOR MINISTRY BETWEEN PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH LOUISIANA AND NEW ORLEANS YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM.

ARTICLE XIII POLICIES

Policies are the guidelines within which the YAV operates. These policies are contained with the NOLA YAV Handbook that is shared with YAVs as well as work site supervisors and the Advisory Board. A Policy may be adopted, amended or rescinded by consensus of the YAV Advisory Board present.

ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by consensus of the Advisory Board at any Regular or Special Meeting. Any proposal to amend these Bylaws shall be proposed at least 15 days prior to the Advisory Board meeting.

General Presbyter (Transitional)

PSL Transitional General Presbyter Report

Feb 22 - June 22

PSL June Meeting planning

- Presby Work day planning (6/6)
- Hybrid meeting planning

Admin

- Regular 1x monthly mtg with PSL staff (Jackie, Hannah, Zoë, Amy, Dan Julia (wkly)
- Exploring ways to move to a paperless presbytery office

Committees

- Work with Inquiry team (DeRidder)
- COM March meeting, w follow ups
- CPM - Commissioned Pastor cohort training followups
- Working with new Committee Chairs to re-initiate work groups within presbytery (Finance, New Worshiping Communities)
- Council - follow ups on Youth Protection policy, other policy reviews

Connectional Church

- Connecting with Synod of the Sun - Weekly EP forum, Synod Assembly
- Monitoring GA preparations and implications for our commissioners
- LA Interchurch Council, representing PSL in-state ecumenical network.

Pastoral

- Connecting with various pastors throughout the presbytery
- Worship participation at 4x congregations
- Public Witness: anti-death penalty, LGBT Conversion therapy ban bill

Vision/Mission

- Council Visioning retreat - follow up plans

Disaster Response

- March Tornado response - VOAD and YAV connection and support
- PDA leadership follow ups
 - Continuing work on Lake Charles Long Term grants
 - Continuing work on PDA/Synod partnership - Synod leadership team

Treasurer's Report

May 23, 2022

PSL Operating cash on hand as of May 23, 2022:

Hancock Whitney

- Preferred Business Checking: \$108,774.59
- Preferred Money Market (Savings): \$100,011.74

Various Financial Updates

- **A PSL Treasurer's Manual is in the works!**
- **Restricted Funds manual revisions will be prepared for the last meeting of the year.**
- Work is continuing with our accountant. Financial reviews are being finalized.
 - She has finalized her work on the chart of accounts, and it is with me for review.
- We are in Quickbooks under an account set up for us by the accountant.
 - There are several items for classification in my queue in Quickbooks. Upon completion, we can finalize reviews. I hope to have the 2020 and 2021 finalized by the next meeting.
 - For right now I am keeping records in Excel (my old system) and updating Quickbooks. Once we have finalized everything and there are no issues, Quickbooks will be our only system.

ASSETS AND WEALTH ASSESSMENT

Hancock Whitney Portfolio (Restricted Fund) position as of May 23, 2022

I have online access to VIEW our portfolio, so I will be able to access our amounts without having to wait on a member of our assessment team to respond. I CAN NOT MAKE ANY CHANGES ON THE SITE. Please keep in mind that funds that are with our Wealth and Asset Management Team are the same funds that are referred to on our PSL Restricted Investment worksheet. While we refer to them as different funds (Luling, Gentilly, CPUMI, etc.) they are one lump sum of money tied to a single portfolio.

The portfolio management team at Hancock Whitney recommended changes to our portfolio in December in preparation for the new year. This was a general shift recommended to each of their customers based on the roller coaster market we have been experiencing the last few years. There used to be three categories (cash and equivalents, equities, fixed assets). The new reallocation provides the same basic categories, but the equities are split to show the differences in our mutual funds (mutual funds-equity) and our bonds (equity ETF).

-Cash and Equivalents: \$43,469.86 – 3.77% of our allocation

-Equities: \$325,562.30- 32.03% of our allocation

- Fixed Income: \$808,263.73- 64.20% of our allocation

TOTAL PORTFOLIO: \$1,177,295.89 (a difference of -16,432.29 since the May Council meeting)

Texas Presbyterian Foundation (N.O. Campus Ministry) position as of December 31, 2021

1 I do not have online access to this account. Statements are mailed quarterly.

2
3 This portfolio is managed by the Texas Presbyterian Foundation. In 2018, when we did not
4 have a campus ministry in New Orleans, I inquired to the Council about disbursements being
5 reinvested in the account- that was approved. Now that the Labyrinth is open in New
6 Orleans, funds for campus ministry that are received are sent to them upon deposit.

7
8 -Cash: \$96.89 – 0.07% of our allocation

9 -Short Term Income Fund: \$194.32 – 0.15% of our allocation

10 - TPF Fixed Income Pooled Fund: \$129,662.78- 99.78% of our allocation

11 **TOTAL PORTFOLIO: \$129,953.99**

12 13 14 **OTHER ACCOUNTS UNDER THE PSL UMBRELLA**

15 16 **YAV FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

17 There is one YAV checking account maintained at Chase bank.

18 YAV operating cash on hand as of May 23, 2022:

19 YAV Operating Checking: \$128,189.56

20
21 Funds for YAV Coordinator payroll, board of pensions, and credit card are paid out of the PSL
22 General Fund and reimbursed monthly. Funds to cover YAV stipend and Food Card are paid
23 directly from YAV checking account.

24 25 26 **OKRA ABBEY**

27 A checking account has been set up strictly for use with Okra Abbey at Chase Bank.

28 Okra Abbey operating cash on hand as of May 23, 2022:

29 Okra Abbey Operating Checking: \$52,857.78

30
31 Funds for Okra Abbey payroll and a credit card are paid out of the PSL General Fund and
32 reimbursed monthly. The Board of Pensions payment is paid directly from the Okra Abbey
33 checking account.

34 35 **MISCELLANEOUS**

36 37 38 **ONLINE GIVING/PAYMENTS**

39 Just a reminder, the following entities can receive online donations through our online account:
40 Presbytery of South Louisiana, Be Well Come Together, First Korean Presbyterian Church of
41 DeRidder, Living Waters for the World, Cuba Missions and Partnership, 2016 Flood, Young Adult
42 Volunteers, Donations for Hurricane Laura, and Okra Abbey.

43
44 ***** Please note we have added a “NON-CHARITABLE PAYMENTS FUND” to the website. This will**
45 **allow camp payments to be made online! *****

46
47 We now have the link to this page displayed on the homepage of the PSL website.

48
49 *If you know of any other missions that would benefit from being able to accept a donation or*
50 *payments online, please let me know.*

Nominating Committee

April 2022

Committee on Ministry

Class of 2023	Person Nominated
1.	RE Jamie White (FPC-DeRidder)
Class of 2022	
1.	TE Chris Currie (SCAPC)
2.	VACANT

Note: The Nominating Committee is seeking someone to fill a vacancy in the COM Class of 2022. Ideally this person should be from the Northshore and be open to election to a full-term when this partial term expires in December.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Class of 2024	Person Nominated
1.	VACANT
Chair:	TE Jeff Sims
Vice Chair	RE Edward Peterson

Note: The Nominating Committee is seeking someone to fill a vacancy in the CPM Class of 2024. Ideally this person should be a Ruling Elder to provide greater parity on the committee.

Finance Committee

Class of 2022	Person Nominated
1.	VACANT
Chair	Michael OKeefe
Vice Chair	Barbara Beckmann

Note: The Nominating Committee is seeking to fill a vacancy in the Class of 2022 in the Finance Committee. Ideally this should be filled by a Teaching Elder who can advise the committee in the theology of stewardship. Given that this term expires in December, it would also be ideal for this person to be open to being elected to a full term to begin in January.

Lafayette Cemetery AC

	Person Nominated
1.	VACANCY
2.	VACANCY
Chair:	TE Neale Miller (Jefferson)

Note: The Nominating Committee is seeking to fill two vacancies on the Administrative Commission for Lafayette Cemetery. At least one of these must be a Ruling Elder.

Okra Abbey Board (Administrative Commission)

		Person Nominated
1.	Congregation Liaison	
2.	Garden Growth	

Note: The Nominating Committee is seeking two individuals to serve on the Okra Abbey Board who will serve in the following rules defined by the Okra Abbey Plan+:
Congregational Liaison and Garden Growth.

1 **YAV Advisory Board**

		Person Nominated
1.	Ruling Elder	
2.	Teaching Elder	

2

3 **Note:** The Nominating Committee is seeking one Ruling Elder and one Teaching Elder to
4 serve on the YAV Advisory Board.

5

6

Westminster Housing Boards

The Nominating Committee thanks the Westminster Housing Reengagement Team for their excellent work in restoring communication and cooperation between the Presbytery of South Louisiana and the Westminster Housing Boards. Since the presbytery has not elected members to most of these boards since 2016, the rosters below reflect the current membership of each board which are being submitted for election. Most of these members have been serving for years in the absence of any further elections from the Presbytery. They are to be thanked and commended for their continuing work to bless and support seniors with affordable housing. Most of the rosters below contain known of suspected vacancies. The work of the Reengagement Team is on-going. This includes research to discover how many members each of the local boards should have. The Nominating Committee welcomes suggestions for each of these boards and notes that they do not have to be members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in order to serve.

Westminster Housing Foundation

Class of 2022	Person Nominated
1.	Chris Levy
2.	Brenda Birkett
3.	Lee Randall
4.	VACANT
Class of 2023	
1.	Blair Sundquist
2.	J. Wayne Kreko
3.	TE Barry Chance
4.	VACANT
Class of 2024	
1.	Nancy Bourgeois

2.	Al Barron
3.	Donna Stogner
4.	Chan Willis
Leadership	
President	J. Wayne Kreko
Vice President	
Treasurer	Chris Levy
Secretary	Brenda Birkett

1

2 **Note:** The Nominating Committee is seeking two individuals to serve on the Westminster

3 Housing Board. While there is no requirement that the members of the board be

4 members of the PCUSA nor is there is a requirement that there be parity between Ruling

5 and Teaching Elders, the committee notes that among the 10 elected members there

6 are only two pastors and seek others who can help build strong relationships between

7 this important ministry, their congregations, and the presbytery.

8

9 **Westminster Housing Albany/Hammond**

Class of 2022	Person Nominated
1.	Ralph Shaw
2.	Janet Bornkessel
3.	Daniel Vanek
4.	Shelly Bland
Class of 2023	
1.	James King
2.	Chris Levy
3.	Ana Arceneaux

4.	Christie Wiltz
Class of 2024	
1.	Nina Ross
2.	Wayne Kreko
3.	Nancy Hutchison
4.	Gene Glascock
Leadership	
President	J. Wayne Kreko
Vice President	James King
Treasurer	Ralph Shaw
Secretary	Nina Ross

1

2 Westminster Housing Bogalusa

Class of 2022	Person Nominated
1.	Marsha Hunt
2.	Janola Walker, Jr.
3.	
4.	
Class of 2023	
1.	Lynne Alexander
2.	Aquinas White
3.	Bennie King
4.	

Class of 2024	
1.	Joan Hortman
2.	Debra Young
3.	Mary Boulware
4.	
Leadership	
President	Mary Boulware
Vice President	Marsha Hunt
Treasurer	
Secretary	Joan Hortman

1

2 Westminster Housing Jennings

Class of 2022	Person Nominated
1.	Herschel Bourque
2.	Walter Parker
3.	Charlie Williams
4.	
Class of 2023	
1.	Kirk Dommert
2.	Clare Cissy Harbour
3.	Jim Wright
4.	

Class of 2024	
1.	Chan Willis
2.	Clarence Prudhomme
3.	
4.	
Leadership	
President	Herschel Bourque
Vice President	
Treasurer	
Secretary	

1

2 **Westminster Housing Ponchatoula**

Class of 2022	Person Nominated
1.	Alfred Hanible
2.	Denise Fletcher
3.	Reggie Pevey
4.	Hulan Ray Stevens
Class of 2023	
1.	Lawrence J. Drude, Jr.
2.	Evon Smith
3.	Aaron Gordon
4.	
Class of 2024	

1.	C. W. Kinchen
2.	Nancy Bourgeois
3.	Rhonda Sheridan
4.	
Leadership	
President	Alfred Hanible
Vice President	
Treasurer	
Secretary	Rhonda Sheridan

1

2 **Westminster Housing Scotlandville**

Class of 2022	Person Nominated
1.	Al Barron
2.	Brenda Birkett
3.	Mildred Penson
Class of 2023	
1.	Robert McKinnis
2.	Chauna Banks
3.	Darlene Bernard
Class of 2024	
1.	Shirley Cummings
2.	Patrice Butler
3.	Eldridge Etienne

Leadership	
President	Al Barron
Vice President	
Treasurer	
Secretary	Brenda Birkett

1

2 **Westminster Housing Towers**

Class of 2022	Person Nominated
1.	Blair Sundquist
2.	Betsy Molaison
3.	
4.	
Class of 2023	
1.	Kathleen Kearns
2.	
3.	
4.	
Class of 2024	
1.	Kent Meyers
2.	Susan Hom
3.	Martha Edwards
4.	

Leadership	
President	Kathleen Kearns
Vice President	
Treasurer	
Secretary	Susan Hom

1

1 Disaster Preparedness Team

2 The Disaster Preparedness Team requests that all churches due the following:

3

- 4 1. Review your insurance to make sure it is up to date and you are covered.
- 5 2. Back up your electronic files so that they are available if your computer gets
6 damaged or you cannot access the computer
- 7 3. Make sure your contact information and church member contact information is
8 up to date so that you can contact church members in case of an emergency

9 Respectfully submitted,

10

11 Rebecca Lovingood

12 Disaster Preparedness Team Leader

13

PSL Disaster Preparation Checklist for the Local Congregation

This one-page checklist is adapted from pda.pcusa.org and best used with the 10-page PSL Disaster Preparation Plan TEMPLATE (corresponding section noted)

1. ____ (Section 1) Select and Equip Congregational Disaster Response Coordinator(s).
2. ____ (Sections 1, 8) Familiarize the congregation with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Disaster Preparation/Response Ministries of your church and presbytery.
3. ____ (Sections 2, 3) Consultation with local EMS and fire department re: possible disaster scenarios, ways to secure the building, building cutoff valves and evacuation plans.
4. ____ (Section 3) List plan for property protection.
5. ____ (Section 4) Determine if the facilities can be used as an emergency shelter / point of distribution and consult with local churches and EMA re: possible shelters in the area.
6. ____ (Section 5) Inventory (video and written) of facilities updated annually.
7. ____ (Section 5) Insurance Policies reviewed annually and saved in multiple locations.
8. ____ (Section 5) Financial and Session records saved and stored electronically monthly
9. ____ (Section 6) Congregational Directory updated at least quarterly. Include list of members with special needs.
10. ____ (Section 6) Develop a communication system within the congregation (i.e. phone tree, Shepherds, etc.)
11. ____ (Section 6) Share emergency kit information with congregation. Kits can be assembled and distributed by groups within the church to elderly and special needs members.
12. ____ (Section 7) Familiarize leadership/staff with Hurricane Immediate Response Protocol describing plan for before, during, and after a storm.
13. ____ (Section 8) Coordinate with local/state VOADs to ascertain response partners and roles of each.
14. ____ (Section 8) Help create a network of response throughout the Presbytery.

1 **NAME OF CHURCH**

2 **Address, Phone**

3
4 **DISASTER PLAN**

5 **Date Updated: xx/xx/xxxx**

6
7 This plan (or portions thereof) is to be activated in the event of a disaster or warning of
8 potential disaster.
9

10 Section 1: Contacts and Staff Responsibilities

11 Section 2: Facilities Evacuation Plan

12 Section 3: Alternate Facilities and General Communication

13 Section 4: Documentation of Property

14 Section 5: Protection of Property

15 Section 6: Caring for the Congregation

16 Section 7: Hurricane Immediate Response Protocol

17 Section 8: Addendum - Resources
18

19 **Overview**

20
21 *This document is a template to help churches work through designing a disaster*
22 *preparedness plan. It is not exhaustive and should be expanded upon, taking into*
23 *consideration the many variables found in church facilities, congregations and disasters. Add,*
24 *delete, and make it your own.*
25

26 *Disasters come in many forms:*

27 *Natural – storms, hurricanes, tornados, floods, wildfire...*

28 *Human Caused – arson, bomb threat, active shooter...*

29 *Other – equipment malfunction leading to property damage (fire, flood)...*

30 *As you work to create your plan, keep these scenarios in mind and add others that may*
31 *possibly affect your church property and congregation.*
32

33 *The first task in creating a disaster plan will be to assemble a team within the church that will*
34 *be responsible for the development and implementation of the disaster preparedness plan.*
35 *Before the plan is developed, the following questions should be addressed. Having clear*
36 *answers to these questions ahead of time will make it much easier for the team to operate*
37 *smoothly in time of disaster, when additional meetings might be difficult if not impossible.*
38

- 39 1. Who activates the plan?
- 40 2. Who is in charge of implementing the plan?
- 41 3. What is the communication plan for staff and congregation?
- 42 4. What authority does the disaster team have to spend money in case of emergency?
- 43 5. What stages of the plan are to be activated depending on the type of disaster?
- 44

45
46 **SECTION 1**

47
48 **Contacts and Staff Responsibilities**
49

CONTACTS

List all church staff, clerk of session, disaster team members, etc.

Church Contacts:

Position: Pastor

Name:

Phone: (mobile/text, home)

Email Address:

Home address:

Position: Office Administrator

Name:

Phone: (mobile/text, home)

Email Address:

Home address:

Position: Clerk of Session

Name:

Phone: (mobile/text, home)

Email Address:

Home address:

Position: Disaster Team Coordinator(s)

Name:

Phone: (mobile/text, home)

Email Address:

Home address:

Add others as necessary.

Local Community Contacts:

Emergency: 911

Police:

Sheriff:

Fire Rescue:

Emergency Management:

Insurance Agent:

Presbytery Contacts:

Presbytery Office Address: 12909 Old Hammond Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Phone: 225-725-1242

Email: secretary@pbysouthla.org

Website Address: <https://www.pbysouthla.org/>

Position: Interim Executive Director

1 Name: Richard Williams
2 Phone: (mobile/text, home) 502 554 0272
3 Email Address: Richard@pbysouthla.org

6 Position: Stated Clerk
7 Name: Donna Stogner
8 Phone: (mobile/text, home)
9 Email Address: dstogner@gmail.com

11 Position: Office Administrator
12 Name: Julia Miller Brady
13 Phone: (mobile/text, home) 225-725-1242
14 Email Address: julia@pbysouthla.org

16 *Add others as necessary.*

18 **PDA Disaster Contact:**

19 Name:
20 Mobile phone/text:
21 Email:

24 **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS DUTIES**

- 26 1. *Assign duties to staff and disaster team members to perform if adequate warning is*
27 *provided (hurricane, etc.). Also, make a list of who does what if no warning is provided*
28 *(tornado, etc.) Plan for someone to act as "backup" in case a staff member is out of*
29 *town.*
- 31 2. *Provide brief but clear descriptions of their responsibilities so everyone understands*
32 *ahead of time what is expected of them. Create checklists.*
- 34 3. *Make sure staff is briefed on alternate plans and post-disaster operating procedure.*

36 ***Examples:***

38 Office Administrator – Make backup of all important computer files and see that they are
39 stored off site.

41 Building Maintenance Staff – Prepare and secure equipment, buildings and grounds for the
42 emergency.

44 Ushers/Greeters – Follow protocol for evacuating the building (fire, bomb threat, etc.). Should
45 be trained in AED, CPR and First Aid.

47 *List everything that needs to be done in checklist form for each person and include in this*
48 *plan.*

SECTION 2

Facilities Evacuation Plan

The evacuation plan should be in a presentation format and placed on the walls in strategic locations so staff, members and visitors will know where to go in an emergency. This plan should also designate a safe room where a large group of people could weather a storm if necessary and a location to gather outside of the building that would be clear of emergency vehicles.

- 1. Make a floor plan of each of your buildings. On it, mark the exit doors to the outside, location of fire alarm pulls, fire extinguishers, first aid kits and AED unit. Post the plan throughout the building, marking "you are here" at the appropriate location. Show how to get to the nearest two exits.*
- 2. At staff meetings, at least once a year, talk about what everyone should do in case of an emergency. Discuss both evacuation and maintaining a safe area. Make this part of your Usher/Greeter training. If your facility already has evacuation plans posted, check them yearly for updates.*
- 3. Conduct a congregational fire drill once a year.*

FACILITIES EMERGENCY COORDINATION WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

In preparation for an emergency affecting your facilities it is recommended you tour your facilities with local Emergency Management Authorities including EMS and Fire Department. Make note of shutoff valves for power, water, and gas.

Position: Area EMS Coordinator

Name:

Phone: (mobile/text, home)

Email Address:

Position: Local Fire Department

Name:

Phone: (mobile/text, home)

Email Address:

EVACUATION PLAN

Attach an example of your evacuation plan to this document.

SECTION 3

Protection of Property

Equipment and supplies such as plastic bags, plastic sheeting, tarps, duct tape, rope and waterproof containers are needed to cover equipment and protect items, etc. These supplies should be purchased ahead of time and stored ready for use. Upon notification of a pending

disaster event, each area of all buildings should be secured if time allows. Items that will need special protection should be listed accordingly. Equipment that requires special procedures (tie down, gas and electrical shut-off, etc.) should also have instructions included with the checklist.

PROPERTY CHECKLIST (example)

1. Place plastic bags or sheet plastic over electronic equipment
2. Disconnect electric supply to all electronic equipment.
3. Cover large items with tarps.
4. Position equipment in hallways if feasible or move away from windows.
5. Check each room after it is secured to ensure all items are properly secured.
6. Turn off electrical breakers, shut off gas and water mains if deemed necessary.

Add other tasks.

SECTION 4

Alternate Facilities and General Communication

A disaster may render portions of your facility uninhabitable. You should have a plan for alternative work/worship space.

1. *Determine if there is an accessible location, perhaps another church, for an alternate office that can be used in an emergency situation (e.g. offices damaged, no power, etc.). Develop an agreement with that site that you will offer your facilities to them for emergency use if they will reciprocate. Decide what systems, procedures, and records should be available in an emergency, and make plans accordingly.*
2. *Plan for an off-site worship location should your building become uninhabitable. If safe to do so, meeting for worship in the church parking lot the Sunday following the disaster can be a time of great healing. It is recommended to not cancel services unless safety dictates.*
3. *Determine who will be the Public Information Officer (PIO) or sole spokesperson when speaking to the media. In most cases this would be the Pastor or Clerk.*
4. *Develop off-site capabilities to keep the website operational. Assure that several people are trained to manage the website and social media in order to post updates, schedule changes, etc. as directed.*

Name of Alternate Facility:

Address:

Contact Person(s):

Phone/Text:

Email:

Name of Media Spokesperson:

Phone/Text:

1 Email:
2
3 Name of Social Media/Website Communicator:
4 Phone/Text:
5 Email:
6
7

8 SECTION 5

9 Documentation of Property

10 **FACILITIES INVENTORY**

11
12 *Complete a facilities inventory of your property. Document the inventory with a written*
13 *description listing the items, including serial number, cost, and the date purchased if possible.*
14 *Also, take digital pictures or a room by room video/DVD (a great project for the youth). Make*
15 *copies and store this inventory in a couple of safe places off site. Update your inventory*
16 *annually about one month before hurricane season. Check your Insurance Policy yearly and*
17 *update as necessary.*
18

19 **CHURCH RECORDS**

20
21 *Determine what records need to be protected and copied. List those records below.*
22

- 23
24
25 1. Membership records
26 2. Financial records
27 3. Insurance Records
28 4. Session minutes
29 5. Other?

- 30
31 a. *Back-up Electronic Records on a routine basis and store off site or to the cloud. If you*
32 *have a pre-disaster warning, files should be backed up again before the event and*
33 *stored off site.*
34
35 b. *Place hardcopy files that are not replaceable in a waterproof container and store off the*
36 *floor, above expected flooding levels (or move off site). These tasks should be included*
37 *on one of the staff preparedness checklists, as noted in Section 1.*
38
39
40
41

42 SECTION 6

43 Caring for the Congregation

44
45
46 *Think about ways the church can assist congregation members and members of the*
47 *community. Implement the following ideas if possible.*
48

- 49 1. *Remind your congregation to be prepared for disasters. See addendum for resources.*

2. *Identify those within your congregation who may need assistance with disaster preparation. Are there elderly members who may need help shopping for supplies, putting up storm shutters or transportation if they have to evacuate? Is there a non-member in the same situation who lives nearby that the church could assist? Assemble a team who will assist those who need help.*
3. *Develop a system to check on members and neighbors post-disaster. Remember that phone lines may be down and cell phones may not work.*
4. *Google maps can be used to pinpoint addresses on a map. Perhaps clusters can be identified so members can check on nearby members. Each pin can have the member's name and address, GPS location or other information.*

Example:



5. *If your church is not damaged and it's safe to do so, open your facility to the community and responders to come in and get a cold drink, charge their cell phones, etc.*

SECTION 7

Hurricane Immediate Response Protocol

Adjust the following to fit your particular situation.

IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO AN EVENT (~2 DAYS)

1. Contact staff and volunteers. Distribute/email the written protocol to be sure everyone has the latest update.
2. Activate your preparedness plan to protect the facility and contents.
3. Take steps to prepare for an alternate office location if necessary.
4. Staff should share proposed shelter location arrangements (where will they go if unable to stay at home).

DURING THE EVENT

TAKE SHELTER and BE SAFE!

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AN EVENT

1. Executive staff / disaster team contact each other to confirm the initial response plan.
2. Initial calls are made to all staff.
3. Staff should begin to secure buildings as soon as it is safe to do so and carry out response plans. Do not turn utilities on unless it is safe to do so.
4. Activate protocol for checking on congregation members.
5. Contact your presbytery office.
6. Hold a staff meeting as soon as possible.
7. Worship together.

SECTION 8

Addendum

RESOURCES:

Disaster Preparedness:

<https://www.fema.gov/faith-resources>
www.ready.gov

The Louisiana Disaster Preparedness Guide (28pages, 2016):

http://www.lsp.org/pdf/2016EmergencyGuide_English.pdf

Active Shooter Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VcSwejU2D0>

Comprehensive Disaster Plan Sample:

<http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/disaster-response.html>

Other Sites:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - <http://pda.pcusa.org/>

FEMA Flood Zone Mapping - <https://www.fema.gov/flood-mapping-products>

Questions? Contact:

Rebecca Lovingood – Chair of PSL Disaster Preparation Team

(985) 640-0615

email: doty3689@hotmail.com

Okra Abbey Report

Reconvening Pre-COVID Programming

Okra Abbey is reconvening our Wednesday Grace and Greens Community Lunch in-person. During the pandemic we have maintained the meal by packing to-go boxes, but will now encourage people to join us at the tables for a family style meal. Our first in-person meal will be held on 4/27. On a typical Wednesday Okra Abbey will prepare 40-55 meals.

In the winter we brought back morning coffee and found the reception was slow as people reintroduced coffee at Okra Abbey into their routine. However in the last month we have seen a significant increase in neighbors joining us for morning coffee on a regular basis. Okra Abbey offers morning coffee on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. This is a small program often only serving 5 people per day, but functions as an important time for pastoral care and community building.

Fundraising

Okra Abbey is always searching for grants and foundation funds to support the work we do in the Pigeon Town neighborhood. If you have any suggestion or would like to help please reach out to Pastor Hannah Quick (hannahnielsen09@gmail.com).

Give NOLA Day is May 3rd. Support Okra Abbey at givenoladay.org/okraabbey
Our goal for Give NOLA Day 2022 is to raise \$5,000.

Volunteering

If you would like to Volunteer at Okra Abbey, we invite you to join us for drop in garden hours on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9:30am - 12noon. No experience or registration needed, just stop by and jump in to the day's work.

If you would like to host a group at Okra Abbey for a work day outside of normal hours please reach out to Pastor Hannah to schedule. The Okra Abbey team has happily welcomed groups of all ages and can incorporate time for mission education and prayer practices.

Youth Coordinator Report

Youth Events & Meetings:

The PSL wide Confirmation Class began on March 27, 2022. I am teaching the class along with Rev. Jeffrey L. Sims of Covington Presbyterian Church in Covington, LA, and Ellen Manuel (RE, CPC). We have been meeting at 9 am in person at CPC and via Zoom. We have had 6 youth participating weekly, and they are a mix of CPC youth and PSL youth. This Confirmation Class is an 8 week course (3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, & 5/22) with each session lasting about an hour. We have been using a modified version of the PCUSA's curriculum *Professing Our Faith* and Sparkhouse's *coLABorate*. Although there is no date set in stone, I would be happy to provide a similar class in the Fall if there is a need (and perhaps a host church for in-person meetings).

Date	Lesson	Topic	Teacher
27-Mar-22	Baptism & Being in communion with God & others		Amy Heintz
3-Apr-22	Presbyterian & Reformed theology		Ellen Manuel
10-Apr-22	Providence & Theodicy		Jeff Sims
17-Apr-22	Send out an "Easter Lesson" via email		n/a
24-Apr-22	Sin		Jeff Sims
1-May-22	Holy Spirit, Apostle's Creed, & Statements of Faith		Amy Heintz
8-May-22	Prayer & The Lord's Prayer		Ellen Manuel
15-May-22	God's purpose for you & Christian Living		Amy Heintz
22-May-22	Grace, Gratitude, Stewardship, 10 Commandments, & Recap		Amy Heintz

Summer 2022 Info:

The summer trips are almost here! Conferences may have different requirements regarding their Covid protocols. I will update any changes as I find them out, but remember this is an ever-changing situation.

After the last Presbytery meeting, Triennium announce that they had prayerfully decided to cancel 2022's in-person conference. The PSL youth decided to pivot to another senior high conference that we are familiar with, Montreat. I quickly sent out the change of plans, and we have 14 youth already signed up to attend.

Camp Agape is in need of volunteers of all sorts—especially for Recreation team and camp counselors. These volunteers must be at least college-aged, and will be expected to pass child protection policies. It is a fantastic way to get those service hours and looks great on a résumé! Please let us know if you or someone you know would like to serve.

Camp Agape at FRCC- June 12-18, 2022

- 3rd-12th grades (having just completed)
- Total Cost: 3-8th -- \$450 (cost increases to \$500 after 5/1/22)
- Total Cost: 9-11th --\$500 (cost increases to \$550 after 5/1/22)
- Total Cost: 12th-- \$250 (cost increases to \$300 after 5/1/22)

Mo-Ranch Intercultural Conference in Hunt, TX- June 30-July 3, 2022

- 6th-12th grades (having just completed)

- 1 -Total Cost: \$400 as deadline has passed
2 -Sign Up Deposit: \$150
3 -Final Payment was due May 1, 2022
4

5 **Mo Ranch Jr. High Jubilee** in Hunt, TX- **July 3-7, 2022**

- 6 -6th-8th grades (having just completed)
7 -Total Cost: \$450 as deadline has passed
8 -Final Payment was be due April 1, 2022
9

10 **Montreat for Senior High Youth** in Montreat, NC - **July 23-30, 2022**

- 11 -9th-12th grades (having just completed)
12 -Total Cost: \$650 as deadline has passed
13 -Final Payment was due April 1, 2022
14

15 *Remember, these prices are the TOTAL cost of the trip. Many churches will pay (and the*
16 *youth will fundraise) large portions of the cost, so as only to pass along smaller costs to the*
17 *families.*
18
19

20 **Upcoming Events:**

21 **Bold** signifies youth Event.
22

23 June 7, 2022 - Presbytery Meeting

24 **June 12-18, 2022- Camp Agape @ FRC**

25 **June 30-July 3, 2022- Intercultural Youth Conference @ Mo-Ranch**

26 **July 3-7, 2022- Junior High Jubilee @ Mo-Ranch**

27 **July 23-30, 2022 – Senior High Youth Conference @ Montreat**

28 **July 30, 2022- YAV work day @ YAV House**
29
30

31 Please let more know if you have any comments, concerns, or ideas! I love to hear from all of
32 you!
33

34 Thanks for your continued support. Like us on Facebook to see youth updates and lots of
35 pictures! **www.facebook.com/pslyouth**
36

37 Respectfully submitted,

38 Amy Heintz

39 Youth Coordinator

40 Presbytery of South Louisiana

41 amy@pbysouthla.org

42 (318) 230-4235
43
44
45

YOUNGADULT VOLUNTEERS

Presbytery Report

May 24, 2022

YAV Documents Approved by PSL Council May 10, 2022-

1. New Orleans YAV PSL Covenant for Ministry
2. New Orleans YAV Advisory Board Charter

Current YAVs-

- 2021-2022 YAVs –
- Sarah Bleile – Okra Abbey, Jefferson PCUSA, Berean Community Center
- Meg Wilder – Eden House
- Lena Kennedy -Mid City Ministries, RHINO, Berean Community Center
- Cassie Oliver – YMCA YES!

Since January 2022 Berean Community Center is a new YAV Partner and has extended open hours thanks to Linda Trueblood, Bonnie Fastring, Lena Kennedy, Sarah Bleile, and Dan Lang.

○ YAV Calendar

- June 5 – Pentecost Sunday at FPC Hammond
- June 6-7 – PSL Service Day & Presbytery Meeting in Lake Charles
- July 21-23 – PW Synod Gathering at SCAPC
- July 27-29 – Closing Retreat
- July 30 – YAV House Community Cleaning Day (Call for volunteers!)
- July 31 – Move Out Day
 - August 29 – YAV Local Orientation Begins

- 2022-2023 YAVs –
 - On May 24 we have 2 YAVs committed to New Orleans for next year
 - Recruitment and applications continue until June 1

The YAV House (4225 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans)

Praise the LORD! Since March 2021 there has been routine care and no additional maintenance expenses at the Big Green House.

Please visit our website – www.neworleansyav.com

Submitted by YAV Site Coordinator Dan Lang

MY HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS PLEASE CHOOSE 5

- **Leadership-**
 - **Pastors-** Every church has pastoral leadership- No vacant pulpits
 - All pastors are paid sufficiently
 - Pastoral support financial, emotional, social and mental
 - **Ruling Elders-** Presbytery wide training for Ruling Elders
 - Ruling elder missionaries as catalyst for congregational vitality
- **Communications-** better website with links to each church's website,
 - Updated PSL 10/20 or new mass communication
- **New Worshipping Communities(NWC)-** Commitment to plant new churches
 - Seek out communities and make NWC out of them- I.e. LBGTQIA+, of color, etc
 - Develop strategies for ministries that are not bound by property
- **Senior Housing/Westminster Foundation-** Expand building more housing
 - Consider selling some property
- **Youth-** Support Camp Agape, Montreat, MoRanch and Triennium
 - Young Adult Volunteers(YAV)- challenge our youth & college students to consider doing a YAV year
 - Find ways to attract more youth, young adults, under 50
- **Social Justice-** Advocacy for LBGTQIA+ rights
 - Racial Justice- more advocacy
 - Hunger Justice- Okra Abbey, food banks, etc
- **Financial-** Consider selling Presbytery building
 - Hire a grant writer for the entire Presbytery
 - Help to make end of life decisions for churches

Other hopes

PSL Meeting Visioning Breakout Session

Introduce yourselves to the small group. Go around circle one by one reading the responses

Brief Discussion. On Leader copy- each member will place 3 dots on their most appealing responses

Timekeeper will call out when the time is half up, and then switch to the second question

What are the things/moments you are the proudest of in the presbytery?

- **Leadership-**
 - The sense of unity and cooperation in PSL that has developed after many fights and splits of the past and our ability to hear differences of opinion
 - A sense of community among the pastors.
 - Spirit of hospitality and fellowship at meetings.
 - Spirit of collaboration and cooperation instead of competition between congregations and ministries.
 - PSL enables congregations to augment their connectivity; allowing small churches to make big impacts.
 - The care and support extended to pastors by the pastor's retreat.
 - **Social Justice-**
 - PSL is striving to be more inclusive along racial/ethnic, sexual orientation, and gender identity lines
 - The statement from the Special Committee on Racial Reconciliation regarding the threats and hatred towards Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the leadership that we showed has led four other presbyteries to ratify it.
 - The grassroots networking that has arisen within PSL, particularly around disaster response and PSL working with the larger church to support those efforts and allow churches to lead.
 - An increased visibility in the communities we serve.
 - A focus on community outreach/evangelism as demonstrated by the YAV Program, Okra Abbey, Westminster Housing, disaster relief, etc.
 - The connection established in North Lake Charles because of the work of First Presbyterian of Scotland and how that is continuing to grow new connections.
 - **Youth-**
 - The work of Amy Heinz to provide youth ministry for PSL that supports youth in small congregations that would otherwise may be not have been served.
 - The way congregations (Broadmoor, Bayou Blue and Highland in particular) pulled together to keep camping ministry going when in declined.
 - When Layne Brubaker became Moderator of PSL it showed a bridging of the gap between generations.
 - That we have the Young Adult Volunteer program and it is a model for how the program is run in relationship with the presbytery.
 - **Senior**
 - The effort to support Westminster Tower residents after Hurricane Ida.
 - **Financial**
 - PSL's grants during COVID that helped pay for pandemic essentials. These helped congregations to see how PSL was supporting ministries.
 - The Board of Pensions grants that went to church employees after Hurricane Ida.
 - **Other proud moments**
-

Presbytery of South Louisiana General Assembly Commissioning Service

Call to discipleship

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the kingdom of Heaven to the world.

The call of Christ is a call to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility.

The grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ. God has called you to particular service. Show your purpose by answering these questions:

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?

I do.

Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

I will, with God's help.

Do we, as members of the Presbytery of South Louisiana, accept these brothers and sisters as commissioners and advisory delegates to the 225th General Assembly, chosen by God through the voice of the church, to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we promise to support and encourage them as they seek to fulfill their responsibilities in this ministry?

We do.

COMMISSIONING PRAYER

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called disciples, and by the Holy Spirit, make them one church to serve you. Be with members of the General Assembly. Help them to welcome new things you are doing in the world and to respect old things you keep and use. In their deliberation, bring about what is best for us and for all people. As they meet, let your Holy Spirit guide so that the whole church may be joined in love and service to Jesus Christ, who, having gone before us, is coming to meet us in the promise of your kingdom. Amen.

CHARGE

You are commissioned to service as commissioners and advisory delegate to the 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). Whatever you do, in word and deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

-- Colossians 3:17