

**PRESBYTERY OF TAMPA BAY, INC.**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Thursday, July 27, 2022; 8:30 a.m.**  
***via Zoom***

**MEETING SUMMARY**

***Call to Order & Prayer***

The moderator, Ruling Elder Paula Salter, called this Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay to order at 8:31 a.m. The meeting served both as a meeting of the ecclesiastical governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a meeting of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, Inc., a non-profit corporation of the State of Florida.

The moderator then formally opened the meeting with prayer, welcomed everyone participating in the meeting on Zoom or viewing the live stream on YouTube, and reminded all that business in this special meeting would be limited to the items stated in the call to the meeting as reflected on the docket and in the reports in the packet. Those items are:

- hearing the report of the General Presbyter Search Committee,
- election of a new General Presbyter, and
- acting on any other nominations from the Committee on Nominations and Representation

The moderator asked participants not to post the election decision publicly until an announcement has been published by the presbytery, in order that the newly-elected General Presbyter can first inform their current call.

***Morning Prayer***

Rev. Libby Shannon, Associate Presbyter for Emerging Ministries, led the presbytery in a brief service of morning prayer. Libby spoke on Jesus as the Vine and us as the branches., including a reading from Kate Bowler.

***Declaration of a Quorum***

Moderator Paula Salter then explained Zoom's polling feature which would be used to help track attendance and confirm that a quorum is present. Stated Clerk Bill Wildhack then launched two polls, after which reported the moderator announced that a quorum was present with at least 32 ruling elders and 42 teaching elders in attendance (not all present participated in the poll, and almost 90 people attended all or most of the meeting).

***Review of Procedures for Seeking Recognition and Voting***

The moderator reminded all participants of things covered in materials distributed ahead of time and in online orientation offered before today's meeting, reminded those who had not already done so to update their display names in Zoom, and pointed out that Zoom's chat feature would be limited for participants to communicate only with the Stated Clerk for things like privileged motions, points of order, or amendments.

### ***Introduction of First-Time Commissioners, Corresponding Members, and new Minister Members***

The moderator invited First-Time Commissioners, Corresponding Members, and any new Minister Members to seek to be recognized and then introduce themselves to the presbytery when called upon. There were no First-Time Commissioners or new Minister Members present. Corresponding members recognized included:

- Joyce Lieberman, Synod Executive and Stated Clerk
- Malissa Garcia, candidate for ministry under care of this presbytery

### ***General Presbyter Search Committee***

Before calling on the committee, Moderator Salter reminded the Presbytery that the search committee asked the Coordinating Team to call this special meeting after the Commission on Ministry met with them and examined and approved---pending the Presbytery's concurrence today and dismissal from their current presbytery---their candidate for membership in the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, service as General Presbyter, and terms of call for that service.

She then introduced one needed procedural step, noting that our bylaws say that election to this position is "by written ballot for a five-year term and until a successor is elected," but also permit that "[t]he requirement for a written ballot may be suspended if there is only one candidate for the position." With only one candidate and the challenges of doing a "written ballot" on Zoom, it was moved, seconded, and approved that the requirement for a written ballot would be waived.

The Moderator then recognized Rev. Loli Reiter to present the report of the committee on behalf of Elder Jonathan Owen, committee chair, who could not be present.

Loli Reiter spoke briefly about the search process, and she and other members of the committee described how they concluded Rev. Dr. Holly J. Dillon would be their nominee. Committee members spoke of being impressed by her research and preparation, along with her listening skills, appreciating her ideas for education and training, and her broad experience and vision as an educator, pastor, and mid-council executive.

The moderator then welcomed Rev. Dr. Holly J. Dillon to introduce herself and invited questions from the presbytery. In response to questions, Holly Dillon spoke of how her background and academic work in church education informed her work, thoughts on equipping leaders, transitional ministry and transformational leadership, addressing racial equity through the Matthew 25 initiative, and helping New Worshipping Communities to thrive. After the conversation, on behalf of the committee, Rev. Loli Reiter moved:

**That the Presbytery of Tampa Bay elect the Rev. Dr. Holly Jean Dillon for a five-year term as General Presbyter with the terms of call as approved by the Commission on**

**Ministry, and an effective date in September 2022 to be determined by the Coordinating Team.**

Moderator Salter then excused the candidate, and the Presbytery discussed the committee's recommendation and motion. Following discussion, the Presbytery voted via an anonymous poll, and the motion passed electing the new General Presbyter.

Rev. Dr. Dillon was welcomed back into the meeting where she received the commissioners' congratulations. Rev. Larry Rush, search committee member, offered a prayer.

***Committee on Nominations and Representation (CNR)***

On behalf of the committee, Chair Rev. Peggie Roy nominated the following for service in the roles indicated below, and after an opportunity for nominations from the floor, the presbytery elected them as nominated:

<u>Church or Ministry</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Demographics</u>	<u>Class</u>
<b>PRESBYTERIAN HOMES &amp; HOUSING FOUNDATION</b>			
Jerry Smith	Woodlawn, St. Petersburg	W	EMW 2022

***Stated Clerk***

Rev. Bill Wildhack reminded commissioners that the next stated presbytery meeting will be on Saturday, August 27, 2022 via Zoom. The featured speaker will be Dr. Diane Moffett, President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

***Adjournment with Prayer***

With no other business pending, Moderator Paula Salter released the search committee with the profound thanks of the presbytery. She thanked all for their participation today and adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:34 a.m.

Submitted by,

Rev. William A. Wildhack III  
Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of Tampa Bay