

PRESBYTERY OF TAMPA BAY, INC.
Stated Meeting
Thursday, August 17, 2023; 9:00 a.m.
via Zoom

SUMMARY

Call to Order & Prayer

The Moderator, Rev. Dr. Haemin Lee, called this Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay to order at 9:00 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 and welcomed everyone participating in the meeting on Zoom or viewing the live stream on YouTube. At the moderator's invitation, Stated Clerk Bill Wildhack advised that Phyllis Hatter, wife of Rev. Norm Hatter (HR), passed away unexpectedly last Sunday; he asked for prayers for the family.

Introduction of First-Time Commissioners, new Minister Members and Corresponding Members – and new Office Manager Annel Belmont

Moderator Lee welcomed and invited new ministers **Elizabeth Morse (BayCare Regional Spiritual Care Manager)** and **Bruce Spear (retired minister formerly a member of Denver Presbytery)** to introduce themselves. He also welcomed **Synod Executive and Stated Clerk Valerie Merck Young** as a corresponding member. **First time ruling elder commissioner Larry Wheeler** from St. Andrew, New Tampa, also introduced himself and was welcomed to the meeting.

Moderator Lee also invited General Presbyter Holly Dillon to introduce **incoming Office Manager, Annel Belmont**, who will be working out of our office and locally, but also remotely a few hours each week for the Synod, starting September 5, 2023. Annel spoke briefly about looking forward to joining the staff and getting to know the Presbytery of Tampa Bay.

Greetings from Synod Executive and Stated Clerk Valerie Merck Young

Valerie Young brought greetings and updates from the Synod of South Atlantic. She spoke of the activities of the synod, including a new-and-improved website, and events recently added to the calendar.

Morning Prayer

Rev. Rebecca Harrison led a time of morning prayer before turning to the business of the day, basing her meditation on John 6:32-35.

Greetings and Updates, Part I

Moderator Lee recognized **Teresita Matos-Post, Executive Director of Beth-El Farmworker Ministry** to make a brief report. She spoke of a very busy summer, with challenges due to new Florida policies affecting immigrants. Beth-El's "Step Up for Success" transition program celebrated a recent community college graduate as he moved to the University of Florida to complete his degree. Teresita thanked the presbytery for its support and invited everyone to attend the Friends of Beth-El Brunch and open house on October 28, 2023. The Stated Clerk reminded viewers of how to add to today's offering, which is dedicated to Beth-El.

Susan McNaught, moderator of Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, was then recognized for an update on PW activities, including a video entitled "Presbyterian Women are Uniquely BOLD!" produced by the national office of Presbyterian Women of the PC(USA).

Consent Agenda

Stated Clerk Bill Wildhack moved adoption of the following actions on the consent agenda, and they were approved without objection:

Reports with Motions:

Stated Clerk (pg. 7)

That all requests for excused absences be granted for today's meeting.

Reports Being Received without Motions or Oral Report:

Board of Trustees (pg. 9)

St. John Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission (see supplement)

Committee on Nominations and Representation (CNR)

The Presbytery elected the following to the positions and classes indicated:

	<u>Church or Ministry</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Demographics</u>	<u>Class</u>
NEW WORSHIPING COMMUNITY COMMITTEE				
Ronnie Besonday	FPC Zephyrhills	C	CFW	2024
Edwin Gonzalez Gertz	St. Andrew PC, SCC	C	CMH	2024
Larry Rush	Trinity St. Pete, TGH	W	CMAA	2025
Tim Sizemore	Beacon Hill Fellowship	E	CMW	2025
Zac McGowan	FPC Lakeland	E	CMW	2026
Paula Salter	St. Andrew PC, Tampa	C	EFW	2026

COMMISSION ON CHURCH VITALITY (CCV)

Enevas Freitas	The Gathering, St. Pete	W	CMH	2023
----------------	-------------------------	---	-----	------

Rev. Roy then informed the body that an inadvertent error in the packet for the June 1, 2023, special presbytery meeting led to ruling elders Ray Stoner and Mary Ellen Kilbride being elected to nonexistent vacancies on CCV instead of to actual vacancies on the Commission on Ministry (COM). The Presbytery then acted to rescinded their election to CCV on June 1, and then elected them to COM as originally intended and as listed below:

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)

Ray Stoner	Maximo Presbyterian Church	W	EMW	2025
Mary Ellen Kilbride	Village Presbyterian Church	C	EFW	2025

Notes:

The letters in the first column immediately following the names of those nominated refer to geographic regions of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay: E- East, C- Central, W- West

The letters in the second column following the names represent the following demographic categories of ordination, gender, and race or ethnicity: C-clergy, E-elder / M-male, F-female / W-Caucasian, H- Hispanic, AA-African American, African, or Black, and A-Asian/Pacific Islander

Rev. Roy also spoke of the 226th General Assembly in 2024, and the presbytery's need to send two Teaching Elder Commissioners (TEC), two Ruling Elder Commissioners (REC), and (if possible) one Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD). The application will be available in the immediate future, and the commissioners will be elected at the November presbytery meeting.

Commission on Church Vitality (CCV)

CCV Chair, Rev. Bob Hill spoke of the work of CCV and introduced the commission's online inquiry form as a tool to begin. The form is available online at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSevBPfK696xHLI4zPbJj8KOSZ-jeSaLKO-YRT3Tm0AouLaHw/viewform>

Rev. Hill noted that grants are available for congregations that are considering new or expanded programs in education, mission, or vitality.

Administrative Commission for Lake Hamilton Presbyterian Church

Ruling Elder Ann Marshall, chair of the commission, reported that Northeast Polk County is booming with growth but the PC(USA) presence in the area is much smaller today than in prior years. She said that former members of Lake Hamilton PC have joined other churches or communities based on their circumstances, but there is need for new investment in the area.

With that in mind, the presbytery voted **to approve** the following recommendation from the AC:

That proceeds from the sale of Lake Hamilton Presbyterian Church be designated to further expand or support the presence of the PC(USA) in northeast Polk County.

The final amount received from the sale was about \$384,000.

The Presbytery also **approved:**

That the Lake Hamilton Administrative Commission be dismissed upon notification to the stated clerk that all final actions needed to close out the church's corporate entity and transfer the proceeds from the sale as well as remaining church funds to the presbytery have been completed.

Administrative Commission for Gulfport Presbyterian Church

Rev. Stephenie Maddox Hill reported for the AC on behalf of the AC Chair, Elder Marsha Rydberg, who was unable to attend the presbytery meeting. Following her comments, the Presbytery **approved:**

That the Gulfport Administrative Commission be dismissed upon notification to the Stated Clerk that all final actions to dissolve the church's corporate entity and transfer the proceeds from the sale, plus the remaining church funds, to the Presbytery have been completed.

Greetings and Updates, Part II

Vice Moderator Ann Marshall moderated the remainder of the meeting, starting by welcoming **Elder Matt Shick, Executive Director of Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center** to speak about this summer's activities and upcoming events in the fall. Matt reviewed statistics about the summer camping season, which served 764 campers on-site at Cedarkirk and with traveling camps throughout the region. He also announced that the autumn season has a full program schedule and invited congregations to participate.

Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)

As nominated by CPM, the Presbytery of Tampa Bay elected Rev. Jeff Davis (First, Safety Harbor) and Elder Michael Clark (Trinity, Clearwater) to serve as exam readers for the 2024 ordination examinations.

CPM is still seeking one more Teaching Elder and one more Ruling Elder as exam readers, along with alternates, for election at the November 2 stated presbytery meeting.

Commission on Ministry (COM)

The Presbytery of Tampa Bay approved the following action recommended by COM:

The Presbytery of Tampa Bay delegates to the Commission on Ministry (COM) the authority and responsibility to develop and implement training to prepare ruling elders "to administer

the Lord's Supper in the event of the absence of pastors" (W-3.0410) and to authorize "specific ruling elders to administer or preside at the Lord's Supper when it deems it necessary to meet the needs for the administration of the Sacrament" (G-3.0301b.).

In making the motion for COM, Rev. Hill noted that there are not enough Teaching Elders available to preside at the table, particularly for smaller churches in transition between part-time ministers.

Rev. Hill then reported on other discussions within the COM about part-time ministry, drawing attention to the following in the COM report along with the rationale for it in the report, focusing on providing for more detailed conversations about requirements and expectations for part-time service and transparency regarding eligibility for benefits or requirements for post-retirement service dues where applicable:

For any pastoral relationship that is less than 40 hours per week, the salary will be determined first as if it were a full-time position and then adjusted to the actual percentage of time the minister is expected to work. Part-time pastoral relationships will ordinarily fall within one of the following tiers.

Tier 1 – 10 to 15 hours per week (25%)

Tier 2 – 20 to 25 hours per week (50%)

Tier 3 – 30 to 35 hours per week (75%)

Exceptions will be considered as needed by the COM.

Treasurer

Presbytery's volunteer treasurer, Ruling Elder Terry Dennis, gave an update on mission and per capita receipts and disbursements through the end of July. He commented that mission giving is down somewhat compared to budget, and that per capita is also down slightly but savings from vacant positions have mitigated that shortfall. He encouraged churches to support the presbytery's mission giving and per capita.

Coordinating Team (CT)

On recommendation from CT, the Presbytery of Tampa Bay voted to:

Approve renewal of the two-year covenant among Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN), and the six presbyteries in Florida as proposed in the July 17, 2023, amended draft.

Ruling Elder Paula Salter, chair of CT, explained that the document had already been approved by FLAPDAN and several of the state's other presbyteries. Holly Dillon added that our FLAPDAN is unique in that it covers not only damage to property, but also the effects on people.

As nominated by CT, the Presbytery also elected the following ruling elder for service on the Committee on Nominations and Representation in the class indicated:

	Church or Ministry	Region	Demographics	Class
Kris Marone	Hope, Winter Haven	E	WFE	2025

Paula Salter also encouraged support for the CNR, which has several vacancies to be filled by the CT. There is a critical need, particularly in the East Region.

Staff Reports

Stated Clerk Bill Wildhack offered some comments about guidance in the newest (2020) edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR) and its application to meetings of congregations and sessions, along with briefly addressing issues of concern for pastors and clerks of session regarding amendments to the Book of Order that went into effect on July 9, 2023, following approval by a majority of the commissioners to the 225th General Assembly last summer and a majority of presbyteries earlier this year.

General Presbyter Holly Dillon gave an almost-year-in-review update on her activities. She once again welcomed Annel Belmont and explained the shared services relationship we will have with Annel also supporting the Synod of South Atlantic remotely. Holly also gave a breakdown of her many visits to churches, sessions, pastors, ministries, and community activities during her first year. After doing so, she cautioned us that “Busyness is blinding. Slow down to see.”

In Fall 2023, she plans to convene a Leadership Summit focused on looking forward. She will also continue her road visits to the regions and will host virtual conversations on topical issues. Holly closed her presentation with a blessing from John O’Donohue.

Adjournment with Prayer

With no other business remaining for this stated meeting, Vice Moderator Marshall thanked all for their participation today and adjourned the meeting with prayer at 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by,

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