

PRESBYTERY OF TAMPA BAY, INC.
Stated Meeting
Saturday, June 21, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
on Zoom

SUMMARY

Call to Order & Prayer

The Moderator, Rev. Dr. John DeBevoise, called this online 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 for peace and justice and welcomed everyone participating in the meeting on Zoom or viewing the live stream on YouTube.

Declaration of a Quorum

Moderator Rev. Dr. DeBevoise explained Zoom's polling feature, which would be used to help track attendance and confirm that a quorum is present, and directed Stated Clerk Bill Wildhack to launch two polls, after which he declared that a quorum was present, with 42 teaching elders and 27 ruling elder commissioners. (The Presbytery's rules require a minimum of 40 voting members present, consisting of at least 20 ministers of the Word and Sacrament and 20 ruling elders representing at least 15 different congregations.)

Review of Procedures for Seeking Recognition and Voting

Stated Clerk Bill Wildhack reviewed Zoom procedures for seeking recognition, voting, and using the chat feature. He also showed the newly released Book of Order 2025-2027 with changes proposed by the 226th General Assembly in 2024 and approved by a majority of presbyteries, and announced that printed copies are available from the PC(USA) Store; free downloads will be available soon.

Adoption of the Docket

Two changes to the docket were proposed and approved by the voting members:

- The Consent Agenda was moved forward into the Call to Order and Prayer segment
- A report from Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (FLAPDAN) was added to Greetings and Updates, Part 2

The Consent Agenda was then accepted by acclamation.

Introduction of First-Time Commissioners, Corresponding Members, and New Minister Members

The Moderator invited first-time ruling elder commissioners, corresponding members, and new minister members of the presbytery to introduce themselves. There were no first-time

ruling elder commissioners or corresponding members. New minister members of the presbytery were:

- Rev. John Johnson, pastor at Bayshore Presbyterian in Tampa
- Rev. Deborah Haffner Hubbard, a retired minister transferring from Redwoods Presbytery

The presbytery also welcomed Rev Ginny Ellis participating from her new home in Georgia, pending release to Cherokee Presbytery.

Morning Prayer

Rev. Rebecca Harrison, pastor at Temple Terrace Presbyterian Church, greeted the participants. She introduced Rev. Sally Campbell-Evans, representing the Tampa Interfaith Committee to Welcome Refugees/Tampa Bay Refugee Task Force to support their Back-to-School program, to which the morning's offering will be dedicated.

Rev. Harrison's meditation from the PC(USA)'s Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study focused on Juneteenth, our need for accountability, and our search for anti-racist solutions. She cited Galatians 3:26-29, reminding us that we are neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female, as we are all one in Christ Jesus. (Daily entries from the Mission yearbook are available at <https://pcusa.org/worship-with-us/yearbook>.)

Greetings and Updates, Part 1

Jennifer Barr, Reference and Outreach Archivist at the Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS), introduced us to our PC(USA) Archives. PHS offers records storage for churches and mid-councils, they provide a detailed retention schedule, and can digitize church records. PHS also has documentation of the denomination's Black history.

Teresita Matos-Post, executive director of Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, provided a written report, then spoke about the people and families served by Beth-El, and the full spectrum of uncertainties and anxieties they are experiencing in these turbulent times. The ministry offers constructive events to support them, including VBS with the Nuevo Camino worshipping community. They are already collecting items for Back to School and for Christmas, and they have started preparing for Beth-El's 50th Anniversary in 2026.

REPORTS

Commission on Ministry

Rev. Ginny Simmons Ellis honored Rev. Doug McMahon upon his retirement as chaplain at Eckerd College, effective June 30, 2025. Moderator Rev. Dr. DeBevoise offered the prayer.

On behalf of the COM, Rev. Ron Watson moved that the presbytery grant an exception for the Rev. Kenneth Kim, a minister of another Reformed church who has been ordained for five or more years, from all of the examinations required of candidates for ordination, and that he be received into membership of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the

Presbytery of Tampa Bay, upon receipt by the stated clerk of evidence of his having surrendered membership in any and all other Christian churches with which he has previously been associated. This proposed action requires a two-thirds vote of approval by the voting members present, and the motion passed.

Rev. Watson reminded attendees that COM continues to review terms of call reported on Form F-1: Call and Compensation for Pastoral Relationships & Other Church Service for all ministers in installed or temporary pastoral relationships or other validated service with any of our congregations and the importance of getting those forms submitted.

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Chair Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley, on behalf of the CPM, moved that the revised CPM Handbook be approved. The revised handbook was presented at the February 20, 2025 presbytery meeting for its first reading and was included in this meeting's packet as a second reading. Rev. Norm Hatter, chair of the Committee on Racial Equity, asked if the presbytery's Anti-Racism Policy will be part of the handbook, and Stated Clerk Bill Wildhack indicated that the CPM Handbook requires instruction on all presbytery policies, and therefore the policy does not need to be re-stated in the CPM Handbook. The motion passed, and gratitude was expressed to revision team members Rev. Dr. Holly Dillon, Rev. Bill Wildhack, Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley, and Elder Michael D. Clark.

Coordinating Team, Part 1

Chair Ruling Elder Ann Marshall spoke to the planned retirement of General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Holly Dillon effective March 31, 2026. On behalf of the CT, she proposed the following motions concerning establishing a transitional presbyter; both motions were approved:

1. Direct the Committee on Nominations and Representation to nominate a broadly representative Transitional Presbyter search committee of at least five members for election by the presbytery at an upcoming meeting to
 - a. work with the Coordinating Team on developing a position description for a Transitional Presbyter for approval by the presbytery at a later meeting, and
 - b. then to search for and recommend a candidate to the presbytery.
2. Direct the Board of Trustees to propose to the presbytery a strategy for funding this position.

On behalf of the CT, Chair Marshall presented the following motion proposing a temporary associate presbyter:

Authorize CT to expeditiously create a job description for, and contract with, a Temporary Associate Presbyter, either full-time or part-time, to start as soon as practical and continue for a term of at least one year after the Transitional Presbyter arrives to focus on the day-to-day mission and operation of the presbytery while the Transitional Presbyter focuses on transitional matters.

After discussion concerning the need for such a position, the motion passed.

Committee on Nominations and Representation (CNR)

On behalf of the committee, Elder Kris Marone, Chair of CNR, nominated, and the presbytery elected:

	<u>Church or Ministry</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Demographics</u>	<u>Class</u>
COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY				
Eileen Jewell	Member at Large	E	CFW	2027
CEDARKIRK				
Kevin Weber	FPC Brandon	C	EMW	2027

The letters in the second 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 third 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.

Elder Marone indicated the CNR would be seeking five members to serve on the transitional presbyter search team.

After a brief break, the meeting reconvened.

Greetings and Updates, Part 2

Kathy Broyard, executive director of Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN) spoke to their upcoming 20th Anniversary. Given the extensive storm activity in the past years, they are creating Long Term Recovery Groups with different tasks to serve clients after disasters. FLAPDAN is partnering with a Methodist church in Seminole as the groups' host site.

REPORTS

Commission on Church Vitality (CCV)

Chair Rev. Bob Hill spoke to our relationship with the Presbytery of Honduras and the upcoming Mission Meeting on June 26, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. The CCV seeks to involve the entirety of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay as an active partner with the Presbytery of Honduras, and the Mission Meeting will be the kick-off event. The meeting will be held on

Zoom, and Rev. Hill asks that each church send one or two people to participate in the Zoom meeting.

Coordinating Team, Part 2

Chair Ann Marshall proposed the following motion on behalf of the CT; the motion passed:

1. Direct the Moderator to appoint an administrative commission (AC) for Church on the Bayou, Tarpon Springs, with the following responsibilities:
 - a. Meet with and hear from the session and members of Church on the Bayou, Tarpon Springs, Florida, in response to their requests for guidance and assistance from the presbytery in discerning their future as a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) following the loss of their property due to hurricanes Helene and Milton.
 - b. Following consultation with the session and church members, make any appropriate recommendations as needed to the presbytery and/or the Commission on Ministry and any other commission or committee of the presbytery regarding the future of the congregation under the presbytery's responsibility and power for "organizing, receiving, merging, dismissing, and dissolving congregations in consultation with their members." (G-3.0301a.)
 - c. Should the AC, following the provisions of G-3.0303e., and a full opportunity for the session to be heard, conclude that the session cannot exercise its authority or "is unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs," the AC has the authority to assume original jurisdiction of the existing session, which shall cease to act as the session until the AC or presbytery otherwise directs.

She then proposed the following amendment to action taken at the November 16, 2024 presbytery meeting regarding an Administrative Commission for Northwest Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg:

2. Amend the presbytery's action taken on November 16, 2024, to approve an administrative commission for Northwest Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg, in response to the session's request for guidance from the presbytery to seek gracious dissolution of the church to add the following additional responsibilities and powers:
 - a. Conduct a general administrative review as described in G-3.0108a. of session policies and practices and any special administrative review (3.0108b.) it determines necessary.
 - b. Should the AC, following the provisions of G-3.0303e., and a full opportunity for the session to be heard, conclude that the session cannot exercise its authority or "is unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs," the AC has the authority to assume original jurisdiction of the existing session, which shall cease to act as the session until the AC or presbytery otherwise directs.

Several spoke in favor of the motion, including the pastor and the chair of the AC, and the motion passed.

Presbytery Disaster Assistance Team

Chair Rev. John Scott indicated that the PDAT is funding smaller grants to support recovery throughout the presbytery and that he's been participating in long term recovery coordination meetings in some of the counties in the presbytery.

The chair then recognized PDAT member Rev. Sally Campbell-Evans to speak about a grant the presbytery has received that will fund a Part-Time Disaster Recovery Coordinator for the presbytery for one year. She reported that a subcommittee had conducted a search and nominated Rev. John Scott for the position. Rev. Scott was dismissed to a virtual waiting room while a discussion was conducted. The nomination was ratified, and Rev. Scott returned to the meeting.

General Presbyter's Report

“57 Churches, 10,000+ Members, 6 New Worshipping Communities”

The Rev. Dr. Holly Dillon declared that the Presbytery of Tampa Bay is more than just numbers. She said that we are “Beacons of Hope” as communities welcoming, offering inclusion and belonging, and that we are places and people of Joy. As she—and we—prepare for her retirement, she expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Presbytery of Tampa Bay.

Adjournment with Prayer

Stated Clerk Bill Wildhack reminded everyone that the next stated meeting of the presbytery will be at First Presbyterian Church in Inverness on October 30, 2025. He also pointed out that actions taken at today's meeting should require at least two special meetings before the next stated meeting.

With no other business pending, Vice Moderator Rev. Sam Picard expressed thanks to the meeting participants and adjourned the meeting with prayer at 11:07 a.m.